

Land Transport Sector

Taxi turnaround in sight

SINGAPORE | TRANSPORT SERVICES | UPDATE

- Maintain Overweight on the Land Transport sector, on the positive industry restructuring and the worst being over for the Taxi industry
- Maintain Accumulate on <u>ComfortDelGro</u>; unchanged target price of \$2.69

What is the news?

 Land Transport Authority (LTA) has published motor vehicle population and Taxi Driver Vocational Licence (TDVL) data for June 2018.

Figure 1: Taxi and Rental cars population, Taxi Driver Vocational Licence (TDVL) data

Y/E Dec	Jun-18	Jun-17	YoY	Dec-17	YTD		May-18	MoM
Taxi	21,164	25,699	-17.6%	23,140	-8.5%		21,237	-0.3%
Rental cars	68,817	63,259	+8.8%	68,083	+1.1%		68,341	+0.7%
Valid TDVL holders	96,336	98,369	-2.1%	96,085	+0.3%		96,090	+0.3%
	Jun-18	Jun-17	YoY			6M18	6M17	YoY
TDVLissued	344	133	+159%			2,019	965	+109%

Source: Bloomberg, LTA, PSR

- New entrant Tada has launched its ride-hailing app that uses blockchain to keep a record of rides. The platform has 2,000 drivers and does not charge them a commission. Tada does not feature dynamic pricing, but imposes a surcharge during peak periods. Tada joins Filo Technologies, Ryde, Kardi, Jugnoo and incumbent Grab in the ride-hailing space. Go-Jek has expressed its intention to launch in Singapore too.
- ComfortDelGro Corp will be buying up to 1,200 petrol-electric Hyundai Ioniq hybrid taxis. The taxis will be delivered by the middle of 2019. This includes the 200 hybrid taxis that were already purchased in May this year, and the subsequent tender for 500 more. There is an option for another 500 taxis.

How do we view this?

The Positives

- + Rate of decline in Taxi population shows sign of bottoming. YoY contraction had peaked in April 2018 at -19%, and the pace of contraction has slowed down for two consecutive months. We believe the worst is over for the Taxi industry, in view of the positive impact following the exit of Uber and resultant restructuring of the ridehailing industry. ComfortDelGro has also started buying new taxis.
- + Rental cars YoY growth continues to taper down, reaching single-digit growth rate for the first-time in four years and seven months. The last time there was single-digit growth was in November 2013, and the growth rate had remained double-digit ever since.
- + Momentum for TDVL issued has been maintained. Each of the six months YTD saw at least +22% YoY growth in TDVL issued. The total number of TDVL issued for 6M18 period has doubled YoY, and has been sufficient to offset the natural attrition of licence expiries. The number of valid TDVL holders remains flat at +0.3% YTD. We maintain our view that a sustained average of about 400 new TDVLs issued monthly would be sufficient to result in growth in number of valid TDVL holders.

The Negatives

+0.7% MoM growth in Rental cars population. This comes as a surprise, as we were expecting a MoM decline instead. Our expectation was based upon earlier media reports of unhired cars from Lion City Rentals (LCR) being put up for sale in the used-car market, and only 51% of private hire chauffeurs had passed the Private Hire Car Driver's Vocational Licence (PDVL) by the June 30 deadline.

Note: ComfortDelGro Corp will be releasing 2Q FY18 financial results after market hours on Aug. 10.



30 July 2018

OVERWEIGHT (Maintained)

STOCK & INDEX PERFORMANCE (%)

	1M TH	3 M T H	1YR
COMFORTDELGRO	3.9	8.2	7.5
SBSTRANSIT	(0.4)	8.0	3.4
STIRETURN	2.5	(5.8)	2.8

COMFORTDELGRO VS. STI



SBS TRANSIT VS. STI



Source: Bloomberg, PSR

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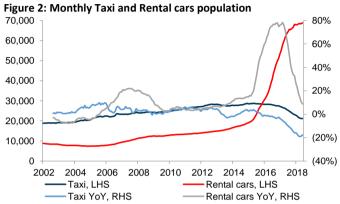


Investment Action

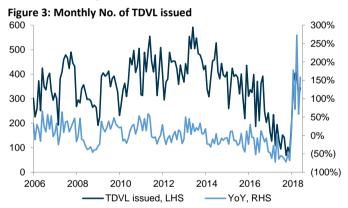
We maintain Overweight on the Land Transport sector, on the **positive industry** restructuring following the exit of Uber and the **worst being over for the Taxi industry**. We maintain our Accumulate rating on ComfortDelGro, with unchanged target price of \$2.69.

Our previous Land Transport sector report was published on 9 July.

Appendix



Source: Bloomberg, LTA, PSR



Source: LTA, PSR

Figure 4: Monthly total No. of valid TDVL holders 120,000 15% 100,000 10% 80,000 5% 60,000 0% 40,000 (5%) 20,000 (10%) 2006 2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 Valid TDVL holders, LHS YoY, RHS

Source: LTA, PSR

- Taxi population continues to contract, but YoY contraction shows sign of bottoming
- Rental cars YoY growth continues to taper down, reaching singledigit growth rate

Sustained spike in TDVL issued

 Number of valid TDVL holders remain flat YTD



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