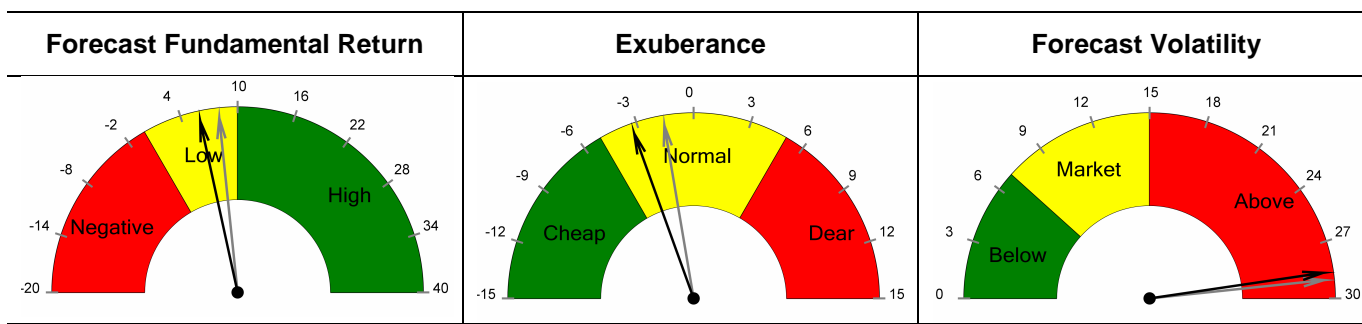


Commonwealth Bank Agri indicators

17 June 2009

- The Agribusiness sector continued to have another positive month, making this month the third in a row despite some stocks in the sector revising down future profits. The Agri index has had a strong rally over the last three months returning 19.1%, this month Agribusiness delivered a total return of 1.0%. The sector was unable to keep up with the resource led recovery in the broader S&P/ASX 200 accumulation index which delivered 5.4% over the same period.
- Great Southern Limited (GTP) and Timbercorp Limited (TIM) are no longer part of the Agribusiness index after going into voluntary administration during the previous month. Now 14 stocks compose the Agribusiness index. Even after their departure, the index continued to deliver a positive result due to the strong performance of AWB Limited (AWB), ABB Grain Limited (ABB) and Incitec Pivot Limited (IPL).
- The consensus forecast return for the year to June 2010 is 5.9%. This forecast is slightly less than last month's as earnings forecasts were downgraded. On a risk-adjusted basis Agribusiness is in the middle of the pack – broadly in line with the expectations for Consumer Staples and Financials sectors.
- Forecast volatility remains high at 29% for the next 12 months, signalling to investors that a return to normality is still not here. Those investors entering the market in the coming weeks should do so cautiously.

Table 1: Current indicators Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness sector



Source: Investment Research, Reuters Knowledge

Note: The grey marker represents the previous month's dial value.

Forecast Fundamental Return: Forecast return (ignoring exuberance) for the sector over the next 12 months. Derived using our proprietary forecasting technique based on consensus forecasts of earnings and dividends for the individual stocks in the sector (sourced from Reuters Knowledge). Pricing bounds (eg negative, low and high) are relative to the S&P/ASX 200 and are the same across sectors to allow for comparison between sectors.

Exuberance: Proprietary measure of market mis-pricing. Defined as the ratio of the sector accumulation index to our estimate of fair value. Exuberance should be subtracted from the forecast fundamental return to derive an actual forecast from today's price. Experience shows that exuberance changes far more rapidly than our forecasts of fundamental returns. Pricing bounds (eg cheap, normal and dear) are sector specific and are based on the sector exuberance mean and standard deviation.

Forecast Volatility: Forecast volatility for the sector over the next 12 months. Derived using our proprietary methods of modelling realised volatilities, detecting changes in long-run levels (including at the end of the sample) and correcting for switchbacks and other correlation patterns in the data. Pricing bounds (eg low, normal and high) are relative to the S&P/ASX 200 and are the same across sectors to allow for comparison between sectors.

Figure 1: Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness index vs. S&P/ASX 200 index^

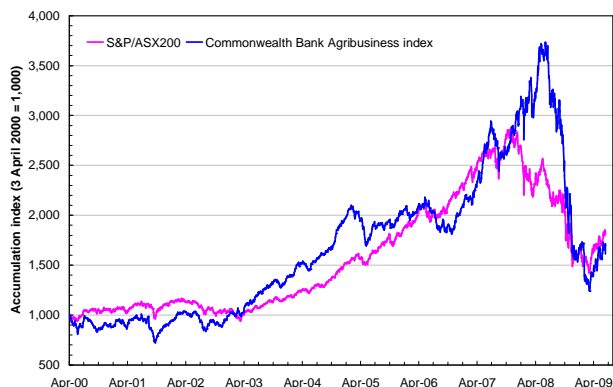


Table 2: Total Shareholder Return (%) (including dividends)^

| | Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness index | S&P/ASX 200 index |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Last month | 1.0 | 5.4 |
| 3 months | 19.1 | 19.2 |
| 6 months | 0.8 | 14.4 |
| 12 months | -54.8 | -22.3 |
| Since April 00* | 61.2 | 80.8 |

* Start of the Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness index

^ Data to 16 June 2009

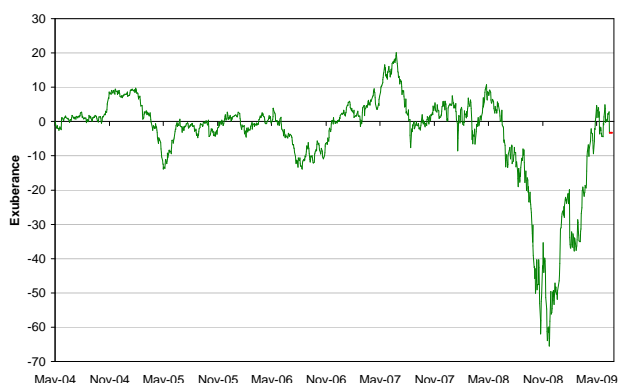
Source: Investment Research, PCS

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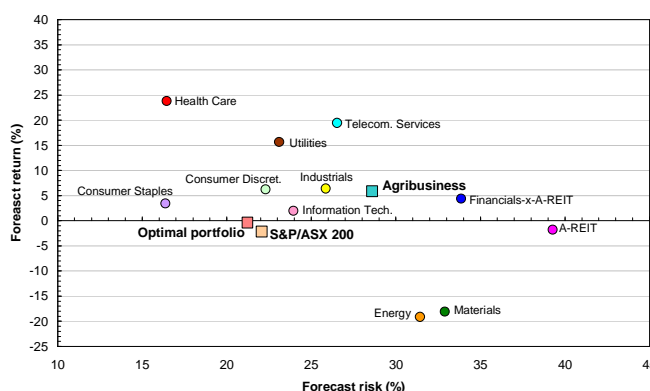
Figure 2: Exuberance



Source: Investment Research, PCS

Note Figure 2: We show the relative pricing of the Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness index to 'fair value' in Figure 2. The fundamental of the Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness index is constructed using a proprietary method based on consensus forecasts of earnings and dividends (sourced from Reuters Knowledge) for the companies in the Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness sector. Exuberance is a proprietary measure of market mis-pricing, defined as the ratio of the index to the fundamental. Positive exuberance indicates over-pricing, while negative exuberance indicates under-pricing. We do not advocate using exuberance as a trading signal but as part of a 'scientifically' based market entry strategy.

Figure 3: Forecast risk-return profile of Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness sector vs. S&P/ASX 200 sectors



Note Figure 3: We compare the forecast risk-return profile of the Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness sector to the S&P/ASX 200 index and its sectors in Figure 3. The 'Optimal Portfolio' is the Maximum Sharpe Ratio portfolio in the efficient frontier optimisation of the S&P/ASX 200 sectors. This portfolio represents the best risk-adjusted return of all efficient portfolios. In the Optimal Portfolio we restrict sectoral weight to be between 0.5 and 2.0 times index weight. Allocation to the Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness sector is not included in the Optimal Portfolio. To be consistent with our other publications, forecasts of returns are quoted in simple terms while forecasts of risk are quoted in $\ln(1+r)$ terms. Forecasts are for the next 12 months.

Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness index details

The Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness index measures the performance of the Commonwealth Bank defined 'Agribusiness' sector over time. The Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness sector currently consists of 14 rural-dependent companies: Australian Agricultural Company Limited (AAC), ABB Grain Limited (ABB), AWB Limited (AWB), Elders Limited (ELD), Forest Enterprises Australia Limited (FEA), GrainCorp Limited (GNC), Gunns Limited (GNS), Incitec Pivot Limited (IPL), Nufarm Limited (NUF), Primeag Australia Limited (PAG), Ruralco Holdings Limited (RHL), Ridley Corporation Limited (RIC), Select Harvests Limited (SHV), Tassal Group Limited (TGR). Companies previously included in the sector but since removed due to delisting or exiting the All Ordinaries index include Queensland Cotton Holdings Limited (QCH), Auspine Limited (ANE), Great Southern Limited (GTP) and Timbercorp Limited (TIM).

The Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness index is a non-float adjusted, market-cap weighted index constructed using the same methodology as the S&P index series. To be considered for inclusion in the index, each stock must be a in the All Ordinaries index. The Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness index begins on 3 April 2000 which is the same date as the launch of the S&P/ASX index series in Australia. At inception there were 8 stocks included in the index. This number is currently 14.

Table 3: Current Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness index membership and weights

| Code | GICS Tier 1 | GICS Tier 2 | Current Market Cap (\$mil) | Current index weight (%) |
|------|------------------|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| AAC | Consumer Staples | Packaged Foods & Meats | \$362 | 3.2 |
| ABB | Consumer Staples | Food Distributors | \$1,599 | 14.2 |
| AWB | Consumer Staples | Food Distributors | \$458 | 4.1 |
| ELD | Consumer Staples | Agricultural Products | \$279 | 2.5 |
| FEA | Materials | Forest Products | \$57 | 0.5 |
| GNC | Consumer Staples | Agricultural Products | \$553 | 4.9 |
| GNS | Consumer Staples | Forest Products | \$650 | 5.8 |
| IPL | Materials | Fertilizers & Agricultural Chemicals | \$4,187 | 37.3 |
| NUF | Materials | Fertilizers & Agricultural Chemicals | \$2,208 | 19.7 |
| PAG | Consumer Staples | Agricultural Products | \$152 | 1.3 |
| RHL | Industrials | Div Commercial & Professional Services | \$97 | 0.9 |
| RIC | Consumer Staples | Agricultural Products | \$242 | 2.2 |
| SHV | Consumer Staples | Agricultural Products | \$104 | 0.9 |
| TGR | Consumer Staples | Packaged Foods & Meats | \$285 | 2.5 |

Source: Investment Research, IRESS

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