

Homebuilding

Not All Books (i.e. TBVs) Are Created Equal: Exploring Land Cost Basis Relative to Adjusted P/TBVs, & MSA/State Exposure

- **What's New?** — We anticipate that home price appreciation is moderating based on increasing (i.e. normalizing) inventories in a number of markets and the slowing pace of sales (YoY) in US New/Existing Home Sales starting in 2H12, both detailed in this report. Therefore, we believe long-term investors should look to gain exposure to builder shares that exhibit attractive land cost basis & relative P/TBVs.
- **Land Cost Basis versus P/TBVs: Most-to-Least Favorable** — Our proprietary analysis shows that BRP, WCIC, UCP, & WLH have the most favorable land cost basis among covered builders with a ratio of 5-9% for "(Owned) Inventory (\$ per Lot (excluding Homes Under Construction) as a % of 4Q13 Backlog ASPs" versus the coverage mean of 12.4%. Please note that: (1) this analysis sounds simple, but given the opacity of land cost basis data, it becomes a data gathering challenge; and (2) WCIC's costs associated with highly amenitized communities may cause this analysis to not be apples-to-apples vs. peers. Among larger (public float) builders, PHM, LEN, & DHI appear to have a relatively attractive ratio of 10-11% at the low-end of the range, while KBH, BZH, & MDC come in at the less favorable high-end at 16-20%. Among builders with the most favorable land cost basis, Buy-rated BRP & UCP screen best on 2014E P/TBV analysis (implied consensus) with multiples of 1.5x & 1.2x, respectively, compared to the peer median of 1.6x. Based on this proprietary analysis, both names should theoretically trade at a premium.
- **Drilling Down on Regional Exposures** — We estimate covered builders' active community exposure by state as a % of total (Figure 10) based on our proprietary analysis, which drills down to the MSA level. We pursued this analysis for the past 3 quarters to understand which builders might be impacted by stronger/weaker regional performance relative to the US average. For example, while it may be too early to tell if the Northern states have recovered from a harsh winter, our recent checks point to: (1) New Home Sales in the Southwest down materially in 1Q14 (YoY), particularly in less affluent markets there; & (2) the Texas and the Southeast markets continuing to grow (YoY), albeit at moderating (YoY) paces. Among larger (public float) builders, DHI & RYL possess the lowest Southwest exposure and are overweight well-performing TX & the Southeast exposure. MDC & KBH have the highest exposure to softening Southwest markets.
- **Near-Term Stock Views** — Near term, we remain cautious on builder shares given our expectations of a more benign than anticipated Spring Selling Season. We see US homebuilder stocks continuing to grind a bit lower here, perhaps ~10%, and anticipate that the new bar for 2014 nationwide net order (units) expectations may need to drift down to up 10% YoY or less, versus Street expectations across mid-cap covered builders to grow orders by ~14% YoY in 2014 (excluding PHM).

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See Appendix A-1 for Analyst Certification, Important Disclosures and non-US research analyst disclosures.

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We anticipate that home price appreciation is moderating based on increasing (i.e. normalizing) inventories in a number of markets and the slowing pace of sales (YoY) in US New/Existing Home Sales starting in 2H12, both detailed in this report. Therefore, we believe long-term investors should look to gain exposure to builder shares that exhibit attractive land cost basis & relative P/TBV multiples.

Lands Cost Basis: Digging for Intrinsic Value

Figure 1. Homebuilding – Land Supply & Percentage of Lots Acquired in Last 12 Months by Covered Builder

	BRP	BZH	DHI	KBH	LEN	MDC	MHO	MTH	PHM	RYL	TOL	TMHC	UCP	WCIC	WLH	TOTALS
LTM Change in Owned Lots	1,351	2,293	10,500	5,732	18,505	3,135	3,006	1,886	(7,848)	5,759	(1,392)	1,721	(25)	1,329	308	46,260
+ LTM Home Closings**	4,656	5,154	26,049	7,157	19,325	4,739	3,699	5,635	19,266	7,116	4,366	6,036	449	495	1,360	115,502
= LTM Owned Lots Acquired	6,007	7,447	36,549	12,889	37,830	7,874	6,705	7,521	11,418	12,875	2,974	7,757	424	1,824	1,668	161,762
÷ 4Q13 Owned Lots	93,024	22,886	142,600	38,355	125,643	13,038	11,479	21,497	95,212	23,540	34,108	33,728	4,163	7,831	10,901	678,005
= % of Owned Lots Acquired LTM	6%	33%	26%	34%	30%	60%	58%	35%	12%	55%	9%	23%	10%	23%	15%	26%
Note: Lot Supply Based on LTM Closings	20.0x	4.4x	5.5x	5.4x	6.5x	2.8x	3.1x	3.8x	4.9x	3.3x	7.8x	5.6x	9.3x	15.8x	8.0x	5.5x
LTM Change in Controlled Lots	1,351	3,874	100	16,343	26,159	4,343	5,953	5,351	3,603	9,837	3,535	4,835	634	1,645	1,905	89,468
+ LTM Home Closings**	4,656	5,154	26,049	7,157	19,325	4,739	3,699	5,635	19,266	7,116	4,366	6,036	449	495	1,360	115,502
= LTM Controlled Lots Acquired	6,007	9,028	26,149	23,500	45,484	9,082	9,652	10,986	22,869	16,953	7,901	10,871	1,083	2,140	3,265	204,970
÷ 4Q13 Controlled Lots	99,040	28,978	191,600	61,095	146,609	15,786	21,211	28,283	123,478	38,142	51,235	45,371	5,513	8,507	13,747	878,595
= % of Controlled Lots Acquired LTM	6%	31%	14%	38%	31%	58%	46%	39%	19%	44%	15%	24%	20%	25%	24%	25%
Note: Lot Supply Based on LTM Closings	21.3x	5.6x	7.4x	8.5x	7.6x	3.3x	5.7x	5.0x	6.4x	5.4x	11.7x	7.5x	12.3x	17.2x	10.1x	7.5x

*Note: Excludes Unconsolidated Entities

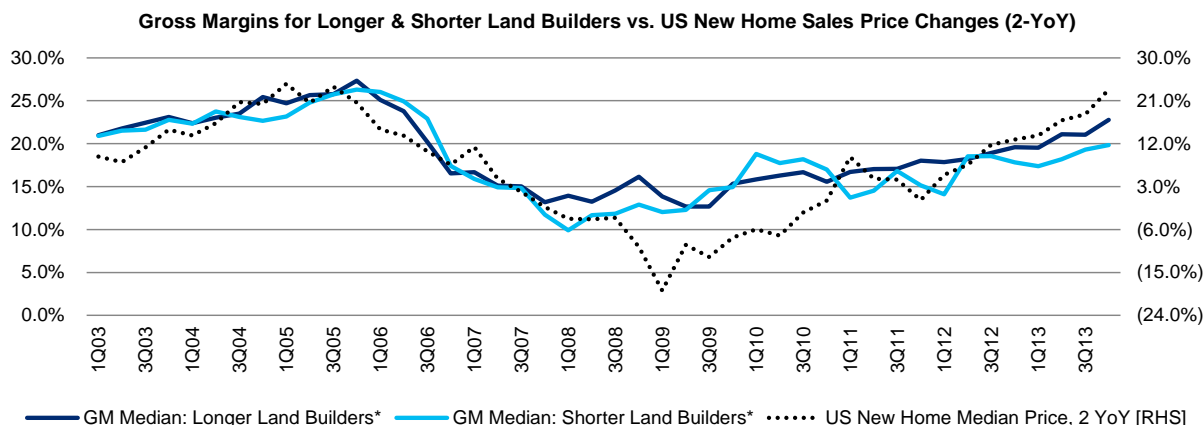
**Includes Estimates for Lot Sales

Source: Citi Research, Company Reports

We find that BRP, WCIC, UCP, WLH, PHM, LEN, and DHI have the most favorable land cost basis among covered builders – in that order. MDC, BZH, and KBH appear to have the least favorable.

Homebuilders currently (and historically) control approximately 2 years supply of developed lots (based on TTM closings), with their remaining lots in some stage of development and/or entitlement. Partly for this reason, builders' gross margins correlate well to changes in US New Home Sales prices over the prior 2 years, as shown in Figure 2. Further, historically and somewhat surprisingly, land-long versus land-short homebuilder models have generated somewhat similar gross margins, and importantly, comparable ROEs and stock returns over the past cycle. Therefore, we can't necessarily say owning a land-long homebuilder is better than land-short in this period of likely slowing home price appreciation, following a rapid rebound in price appreciation.

Figure 2. Expected slowing in home price appreciation may inhibit further gross margin expansion for the builders, unless a given builder has attractive land basis



*Longer land builders include DHI, LEN, PHM, & TOL, and shorter land (i.e. merchant builders) include BZH, KBH, MDC, MTH, & RYL

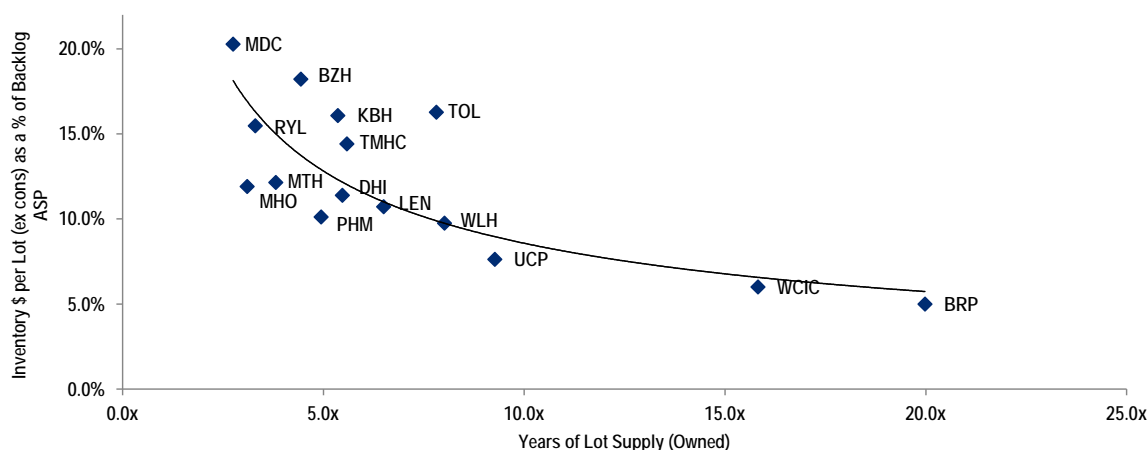
Source: Citi Research Estimates, Company Reports, Census Bureau, Haver

We believe an important differentiating factor among builders is "actual" favorable land cost basis, not just generic land-long vs. land-short investor preferences of builder business models.

However, we do believe an important differentiating factor among homebuilders is "actual" attractive land cost basis, which we attempt to measure as "(Owned) Inventory (\$ per Lot (excluding Homes Under Construction) as a % of 4Q13 Backlog ASPs". We then graph these ratios against years of owned lot supply to adjust for differing stages of development among covered builders.

For this exercise, we assessed builder inventories carefully, making as few assumptions as necessary when disclosures weren't provided upon request for a few select builders (e.g. number of homes under construction and lot sales), to estimate what we believe to be a very useful ratio in evaluating the homebuilders land cost basis: "(Owned) Inventory (\$ per Lot (excluding Homes Under Construction) as % of 4Q13 Backlog ASPs". We then plot this ratio against years of owned lots supply to account for the fact that builders typically carry roughly 2 years supply of developed lots that often have a cost basis of sometimes double that of undeveloped lots. As shown in Figure 3, homebuilders that fall on or below the curve exhibit what we perceive as a favorable land cost basis, and those well above the curve, a less favorable land basis. Our proprietary analysis shows that BRP, WCIC, UCP, and WLH have some of the most favorable land cost basis among covered builders with a ratio of 5-9% for "(Owned) Inventory (\$ per Lot (excluding Homes Under Construction) as a % of 4Q13 Backlog ASPs" versus the coverage median of 12.4%. Please note that: (1) this analysis sounds simple but getting land cost basis information is difficult in some cases ; and (2) WCIC's costs associated with the company's highly amenitized communities may cause this analysis to not be as meaningful for the company versus peers. Among larger (public float) builders, PHM, LEN, and DHI appear to have a relatively attractive ratio of 10-11% at the low-end of the range, while KBH, BZH, and MDC come in at the less favorable high-end of the range at 16-20%.

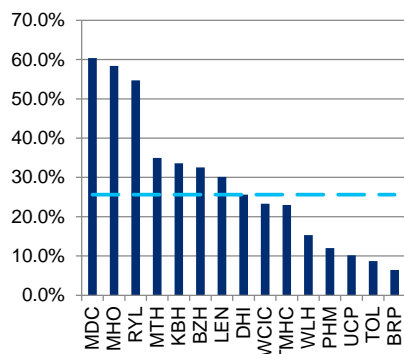
Figure 3. Homebuilding – Inventory (\$ per Lot (excl. Homes Under Construction) as a % of 4Q13 Backlog ASPs versus Years Supply of Owned Lots



Source: Citi Research Estimates, Company Reports

Not surprisingly, builders with more favorable estimated land cost basis positions also acquired a lower percentage of owned lots in the past year after the run in land prices, as depicted in Figure 4.

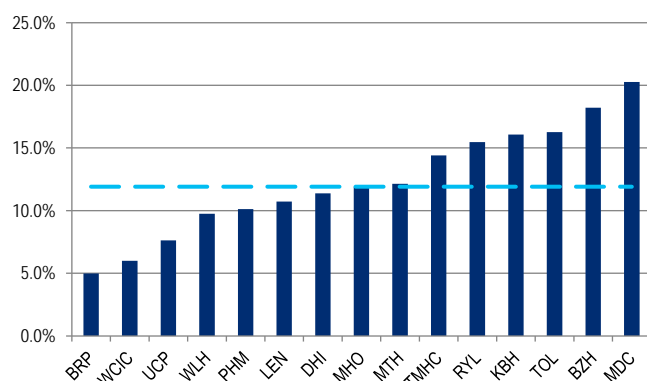
Figure 4. % of Owned Lots Acquired LTM



Source: Citi Research Estimates, Company Reports

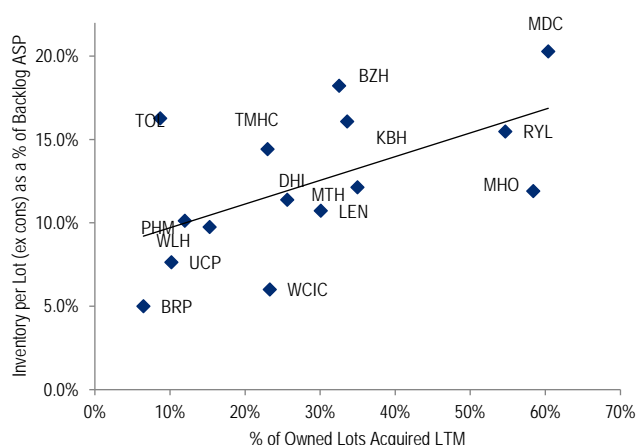
In addition, we present the caveats from homebuilders that participated in feedback (for only their own companies) for this analysis. We acknowledge the analysis has some shortcomings. For one, lots will be in various stages of development, and therefore, will have variations in associated costs within a builder's accounting book basis as well as variance across the builders as a whole. We attempted to address these potential issues through plotting our analysis against years of owned lots supply.

Figure 5. "(Owned) Inventory (\$ per Lot (excluding Homes Under Construction) as a % of 4Q13 Backlog ASPs



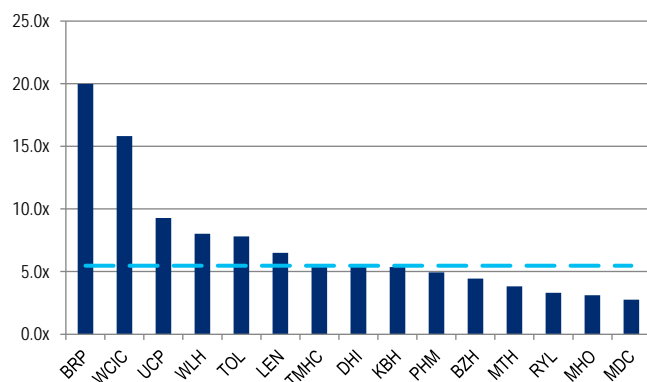
Source: Citi Research Estimates, Company Reports

Figure 6. Owned) Inventory (\$ per Lot (excl. Homes Under Construction) as a % of 4Q13 Backlog ASPs vs % of Lots Acquired LTM



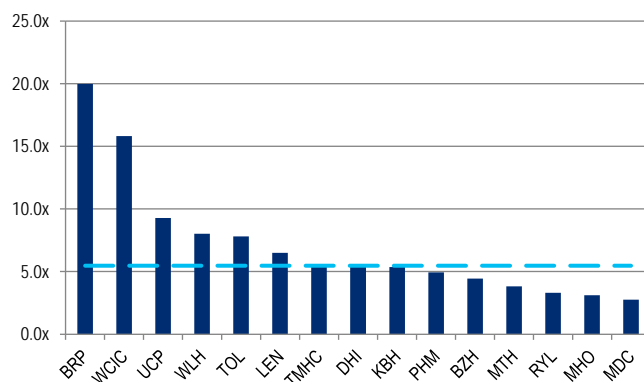
Source: Citi Research Estimates, Company Reports

Figure 7. Years of Owned Lot Supply Based on LTM Closings



Source: Citi Research Estimates, Company Reports

Figure 8. Years of Controlled Lot Supply Based on LTM Closings



Source: Citi Research Estimates, Company Reports

Among builders with the most favorable land cost basis, Buy-rated BRP and UCP screen well on 2014E P/TBV analysis (implied consensus) with multiples of 1.5x and 1.2x, respectively, compared to the peer median of 1.6x. Based on our analysis, both names should eventually trade at a meaningful premium to peers.

Figure 9. Covered Builders – Price-to-Tangible Book Value (Implied Consensus)

(Values in Millions, Except Per Share)	BRP	BZH	DHI	KBH	LEN	MDC	MTH	MHO	NWHM	PHM	RYL	TMHC	TOL	UCP	WCIC	WLH	
Current Stock Price	\$ 20.79	\$ 19.62	\$ 21.77	\$ 16.81	\$ 39.19	\$ 28.08	\$ 43.28	\$ 22.92	\$ 14.50	\$ 19.03	\$ 40.10	\$ 23.56	\$ 36.00	\$ 14.52	\$ 19.79	\$ 27.24	
Equity	1,476	241	4,061	536	4,627	1,213	841	493	138	4,649	924	1,545	3,339	218	408	451	
- Non-Controlling Interest	(72)	-	(3)	-	(459)	-	-	-	(1)	-	(16)	-	(6)	-	(2)	(23)	
= Shareholder's Equity	1,405	241	4,059	536	4,169	1,213	841	493	137	4,649	908	1,545	3,333	218	405	428	
+/- Equity Treated as Debt & Pro Forma Adj	-	31	(22)	-	(34)	-	-	(48)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
- Intangibles	-	-	(39)	-	(34)	-	(39)	-	-	(136)	-	(37)	-	-	(8)	(17)	
- Deferred Tax Assets, Net (i.e. Reversal)	-	(5)	(587)	-	(377)	(176)	(70)	(111)	-	(2,087)	(186)	(245)	(286)	-	(0)	(96)	
= 2013 Tangible Book Value ex DTA	\$ 1,405	\$ 267	\$ 3,411	\$ 536	\$ 3,725	\$ 1,037	\$ 732	\$ 334	\$ 137	\$ 2,426	\$ 722	\$ 1,263	\$ 3,047	\$ 218	\$ 398	\$ 316	
+ 2014 Net Income (Consensus)	190	16	594	119	570	81	155	41	6	453	182	241	303	8	24	68	
+ 2015 Net Income (Consensus)	236	42	733	147	733	113	189	50	40	561	242	272	418	25	39	100	
+ 2016 Net Income (Consensus)	248	72	870	188	863	145	209	65	54	762	285	342	546	32	74	120	
= Tangible Book Value ex DTA at 2016-End	\$ 2,080	\$ 397	\$ 5,608	\$ 990	\$ 5,891	\$ 1,376	\$ 1,286	\$ 490	\$ 237	\$ 4,201	\$ 1,431	\$ 2,118	\$ 4,314	\$ 283	\$ 534	\$ 603	
Basic Share	117	25	323	84	192	48	36	24	16	380	46	122	169	18	26	31	
+ Share Based Comp (Assumption 2% of Basic)	2	1	6	2	4	1	1	0	0	8	1	2	3	0	1	1	
+ Other Equity Linked Securities (Dilution), Net	-	9	16	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	0	
= Diluted Shares	119	34	345	85	211	49	37	25	17	387	49	125	173	19	27	32	
TBV Per Share ex DTA:																	
2014-End	\$ 13.36	\$ 8.25	\$ 11.60	\$ 7.67	\$ 20.35	\$ 22.60	\$ 24.00	\$ 15.10	\$ 8.53	\$ 7.43	\$ 18.63	\$ 12.06	\$ 19.38	\$ 12.05	\$ 15.89	\$ 11.95	
2015-End	\$ 15.34	\$ 9.48	\$ 13.73	\$ 9.39	\$ 23.82	\$ 24.89	\$ 29.12	\$ 17.10	\$ 10.93	\$ 8.88	\$ 23.62	\$ 14.24	\$ 21.80	\$ 13.39	\$ 17.35	\$ 15.06	
2016-End	\$ 17.42	\$ 11.57	\$ 16.25	\$ 11.59	\$ 27.91	\$ 27.82	\$ 34.78	\$ 19.71	\$ 14.18	\$ 10.84	\$ 29.48	\$ 16.98	\$ 24.96	\$ 15.12	\$ 20.13	\$ 18.81	
NPV DTA Per Share (Implied by Cons N0):	\$ 0.87	\$ 5.79	\$ 1.81	\$ 7.48	\$ 1.92	\$ 3.82	\$ 2.28	\$ 4.48	\$ -	\$ 4.84	\$ 4.22	\$ 2.09	\$ 2.20	\$ -	\$ 2.88	\$ 3.43	
P/TBV ex DTA (Implied by Cons N0):																	Min Median Max
2014-End	1.6x	2.4x	1.9x	2.2x	1.9x	1.2x	1.8x	1.5x	1.7x	2.6x	2.2x	2.0x	1.9x	1.2x	1.2x	2.3x	1.2x 1.9x 2.6x
2015-End	1.4x	2.1x	1.6x	1.8x	1.6x	1.1x	1.5x	1.3x	1.3x	2.1x	1.7x	1.7x	1.7x	1.1x	1.1x	1.8x	1.1x 1.6x 2.1x
2016-End	1.2x	1.7x	1.3x	1.5x	1.4x	1.0x	1.2x	1.2x	1.0x	1.8x	1.4x	1.4x	1.4x	1.0x	1.0x	1.4x	1.0x 1.4x 1.8x
P/TBV incl DTA (Implied by Cons N0):																	
2014-End	1.5x	1.4x	1.6x	1.1x	1.8x	1.1x	1.6x	1.2x	1.7x	1.6x	1.8x	1.7x	1.7x	1.2x	1.1x	1.8x	1.1x 1.6x 1.8x
2015-End	1.3x	1.3x	1.4x	1.0x	1.5x	1.0x	1.4x	1.1x	1.3x	1.4x	1.4x	1.5x	1.1x	1.0x	1.0x	1.5x	1.0x 1.4x 1.5x
2016-End	1.1x	1.1x	1.2x	0.9x	1.3x	0.9x	1.2x	0.9x	1.0x	1.2x	1.2x	1.2x	1.3x	1.0x	0.9x	1.2x	0.9x 1.2x 1.3x
2015 ROE (Based on Consensus Earnings)	15%	9%	17%	12%	17%	9%	21%	11%	28%	13%	25%	17%	12%	11%	8%	22%	8% 14% 28%
2016 ROE (Based on Consensus Earnings)	12%	14%	18%	14%	17%	11%	19%	13%	30%	16%	25%	19%	14%	13%	15%	25%	11% 15% 30%
2015 Return on Market Cap (New Equity)	10%	6%	10%	10%	9%	8%	12%	9%	17%	8%	12%	9%	7%	9%	7%	11%	6% 9% 17%
2016 Return on Market Cap (New Equity)	10%	11%	12%	13%	10%	10%	13%	11%	22%	10%	15%	12%	9%	12%	14%	14%	9% 12% 22%

Source: Company Reports, FactSet (Consensus), and Citi Research

Regional Exposures: Relative Positioning

Figure 10. Homebuilding – Active Community Exposure by State as % of Total for Each Builder

State	BRP	BZH	DHI	KBH	LEN	MDC	MHO	MTH	PHM	RYL	TMHC	TOL	UCP	WCIC	WLH
AZ	1%	5%	4%	9%	4%	17%	-	20%	5%	5%	21%	3%	-	-	16%
CA	39%	3%	4%	22%	13%	7%	-	12%	6%	2%	14%	9%	71%	-	54%
CO	7%	-	2%	5%	2%	24%	-	7%	-	3%	4%	3%	-	-	-
FL	-	12%	20%	17%	21%	11%	15%	9%	10%	9%	25%	8%	-	100%	-
GA	-	3%	5%	-	2%	-	-	-	5%	6%	-	-	-	-	-
IL	-	-	1%	-	-	-	9%	-	5%	6%	-	1%	-	-	-
IN	-	10%	0%	-	-	-	17%	-	5%	10%	-	-	-	-	-
MD	-	11%	1%	-	4%	9%	2%	-	2%	1%	-	4%	-	-	-
MA	-	-	-	-	0%	-	-	-	2%	-	-	4%	-	-	-
MI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%	-	-	3%	-	-	-
MN	-	-	1%	-	6%	-	-	-	4%	5%	-	2%	-	-	-
NV	-	4%	2%	6%	4%	11%	-	-	3%	4%	-	5%	-	-	30%
NJ	-	5%	1%	-	2%	1%	-	-	2%	-	-	5%	-	-	-
NY	-	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	-	-	7%	-	-	-
NC	-	10%	6%	4%	6%	-	16%	9%	6%	12%	-	5%	-	-	-
OH	-	-	-	-	-	-	25%	-	3%	-	-	-	-	-	-
PA	-	1%	0%	-	-	1%	-	-	1%	5%	-	12%	-	-	-
SC	-	8%	7%	-	5%	-	-	1%	5%	13%	-	0%	-	-	-
TN	-	4%	0%	-	0%	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-
TX	3%	17%	22%	37%	25%	-	13%	42%	20%	21%	24%	13%	-	-	-
UT	-	-	1%	-	-	6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VA	15%	6%	0%	-	-	6%	3%	-	3%	2%	-	4%	-	-	-
WA	-	-	2%	-	3%	7%	-	-	2%	-	-	8%	29%	-	-
Other US	-	3%	20%	0%	2%	-	-	-	6%	-	-	5%	-	-	-
Canada	34%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11%	-	-	-	-

Source: Citi Research Estimates, Company Reports

We estimate covered builders' active community exposure by state as a % of total (Figure 10) based on our independent proprietary analysis, which drills down to the metropolitan statistical area (MSA) level. We pursued this analysis for the past 3 quarters to understand which builders might be impacted by stronger/weaker regional performance relative to the US average. For example, while it may be too early to tell if the Northern states have recovered from a harsh winter, our recent checks point to: (1) New Home Sales in the Southwest down materially in 1Q14 (YoY), particularly in less affluent markets there; and (2) the Texas and the

Southeast markets continue to grow (YoY), albeit at moderating (YoY) paces. Among larger (public float) builders, DHI and RYL possess the lowest Southwest exposure and are overweight well-performing TX and the Southeast exposure. MDC and KBH have the highest exposure to softening Southwest markets.

Figure 11. Homebuilding – Existing Home Sales Statistics, February 2014

State	Existing Home Sales		Inventory		Median Home Prices	
	YoY Change	2 Year Change	YoY Change	2 Year Change	YoY Change	2 Year Change
AZ	-18.3%	-25.5%	70.5%	70.1%	15.7%	53.1%
CA	-14.1%	-19.2%	30.6%	-13.0%	21.3%	50.4%
FL	-1.3%	7.7%	3.6%	-30.5%	10.0%	23.6%
GA	-5.6%	-10.0%	-5.5%	-27.8%	20.8%	68.1%
IL	-6.2%	39.7%	-13.5%	N/A	6.9%	13.2%
IN	-13.1%	2.9%	-15.5%	-31.8%	9.5%	14.4%
MD	-0.2%	3.0%	9.5%	-16.9%	7.7%	13.6%
MA	-3.9%	-4.0%	-26.0%	-50.7%	7.3%	15.6%
MI	-12.9%	-16.4%	N/A	N/A	10.9%	33.6%
MN	-10.7%	-26.9%	-2.3%	-30.6%	8.6%	26.8%
NV*	-20.8%	-32.1%	23.8%	7.4%	26.6%	58.4%
NJ	-7.8%	0.2%	-23.3%	-45.2%	6.1%	5.3%
NY	-5.9%	-5.9%	-20.8%	-35.0%	6.9%	10.5%
NC	-3.3%	11.2%	N/A	N/A	5.9%	27.8%
OH	-5.5%	6.6%	0.9%	-22.0%	3.6%	12.0%
SC*	2.7%	25.9%	-15.6%	-31.1%	10.5%	15.8%
TN*	4.1%	24.6%	-5.0%	-4.2%	14.4%	30.6%
TX	5.4%	20.5%	-20.9%	-43.3%	10.7%	18.5%
UT	-0.3%	1.3%	16.6%	-18.7%	7.1%	23.5%
VA	-7.5%	-5.2%	N/A	N/A	1.7%	14.1%
WA	-0.2%	N/A	6.5%	N/A	6.3%	N/A
Median	-5.6%	0.7%	-3.6%	-29.1%	8.6%	21.0%
US	-7.1%	1.8%	26.8%	8.3%	9.1%	21.5%

Source: Citi Research, NAR, NAHB, Haver

We conclude from our affordability analysis that the US has returned to its 2000-06 median level based on the NAHB's HOI analysis.

We also assessed which top builder MSAs experienced the most adverse changes in affordability (Figure 12), following a rapid recovery in home prices since 2011 and a volatile mortgage rate environment. To do so, we utilized data from the National Association of Homebuilders' Housing Opportunity Index (HOI), which is defined as the share of homes sold in a given area that would have been affordable to a family earning the local median income. Stated differently, in 4Q13 the HOI level was 64.7, indicating that 64.7% of new and existing homes sold in the quarter were affordable to nationwide families earning the related median income.

Figure 12. Homebuilding – Housing Affordability of Top Builder MSAs (2000-Present)

	2000-2006			2007-2011			2012-2013			YoY Change	2-Year Change
	Min	Median	Max	Min	Median	Max	Min	Median	Max		
Austin	49.9	61.2	71.9	53.1	73.6	81.5	62.6	67.1	76.0	-16.1%	-20.7%
Charlotte	63.6	71.2	77.3	59.5	71.2	79.7	70.2	74.2	80.3	-6.1%	-10.0%
Dallas	57.1	65.0	75.4	53.7	69.1	79.9	60.3	71.5	75.3	-19.0%	-18.6%
DC Metro	20.5	53.1	79.8	35.0	71.6	81.2	66.4	73.9	79.8	-14.1%	-12.9%
Denver	49.7	59.7	71.8	53.4	72.9	79.1	67.7	76.7	80.1	-14.3%	-14.4%
Houston	54.2	64.4	73.7	47.4	69.7	80.5	60.2	70.0	76.4	-17.0%	-17.8%
Las Vegas	13.0	49.4	70.2	18.0	82.1	88.3	73.6	79.1	88.7	-5.2%	-16.6%
Orlando	28.9	68.7	75.5	26.1	78.6	86.6	72.4	79.4	85.4	-10.3%	-9.2%
Phoenix	26.6	66.0	75.4	30.0	81.4	86.0	67.5	76.9	83.7	-12.9%	-19.5%
San Antonio	46.5	65.5	80.3	48.0	68.6	79.8	64.8	69.7	75.4	-7.6%	-8.7%
San Francisco	5.7	7.9	16.5	5.7	22.9	37.1	14.1	28.7	39.9	-50.4%	-62.0%
Tampa/Sarasota	40.6	69.7	77.4	41.4	77.2	82.6	74.7	80.1	83.5	-6.3%	-4.4%
US Total	40.4	56.3	64.8	42.0	71.5	75.9	64.5	73.8	77.5	-13.6%	-14.8%

Source: Citi Research, NAHB

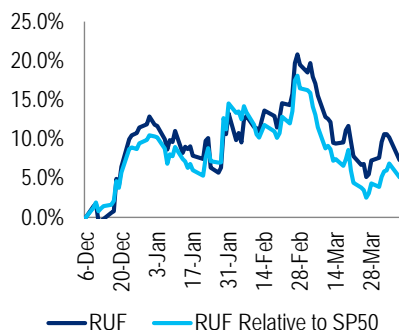
Figure 13. Jobs-to-Permit Ratios in Top Builder MSAs, 2006-13 (Cumulatively)

City-Area	Jobs-to-Permits
San Francisco	3.03x
San Antonio	1.72x
DC Metro	1.72x
Dallas	1.53x
Austin	1.50x
Orlando	1.47x
Houston	1.40x
Denver	1.26x
Charlotte	1.26x
Las Vegas	1.19x
Tampa/Sarasota	1.12x
Phoenix	0.70x
US Total	0.80x

Source: Citi Research, BLS, Census Bureau, Haver

We conclude from our affordability analysis that the US has returned to its 2000-06 median level based on the NAHB's HOI analysis. Further, among homebuilders' top MSAs, all have returned to the 2000-06 median affordability level. Only San Francisco and Las Vegas hover above the prior affordability levels. However, we would note that the San Francisco-area posted some of the strongest job-to-permit growth among top builder MSAs, as shown in Figure 13.

Figure 14. ISE Homebuilder Builder Index (RUF) Returns, Last ~4 Months



Source: FactSet

The favorable US New Home Sales pick-up that started in November 2013 and triggered our bullish stance then appears to be "slowing", and it's not just due to inclement weather.

Near-Term View: Cautious on Builder Shares

We expect US homebuilding stocks to continue to grind a bit lower here, and anticipate that the new bar for 2014 nationwide net order (units) expectations may need to drift closer to growth of 10% YoY or less, versus average Street expectations across mid-cap covered builders to grow orders by ~14% YoY in 2014 (excl. PHM). Before becoming more constructive on the group, we would await a further ~10% correction in builder shares, lower Street expectations, or acceleration in demand.

Early last month, we believed it was a good time to press the "pause" button on our previous bullish stance ([Staying Long the Builders amid Bottoming Sentiment, Evidence of Pent-Up Demand, & Seasonal Tailwind](#)) through downgrading our view on the group and a number of stocks (related March 2014 report link: [Pressing "Pause" on the Spring Selling Season Trade Post Run](#)). Our change in view early was supported by: (1) ~15% multiple expansion on covered builders on 2014-15 consensus earnings over the prior 90 days and P/TBV multiples slightly ahead of prior mid-cycle levels; (2) our channel checks indicating (YoY) softening in core Southwest markets (i.e. AZ, CA, & NV) where weather did not negatively impact demand and builders have large sales exposures (i.e. over 10% of active communities on average); and (3) to a much lesser extent, inclement weather compressing the Spring Selling Season in the North (US).

Figure 15. Consensus Net Order Growth Expectations (YoY) & Net Order Revisions (Last 30 Days)

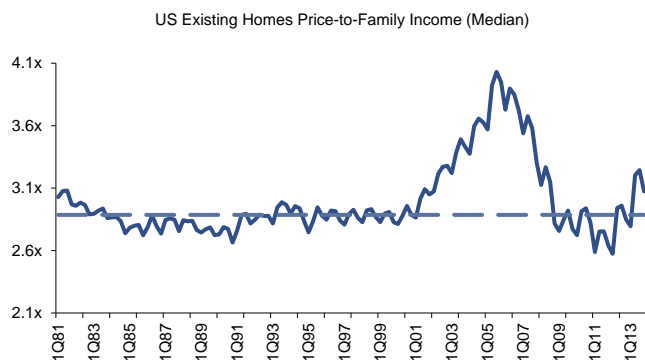
	Cons. Net Order Growth (YoY)			Cons. Order Revisions (Last 30-Days)		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
DHI	10.7%	15.6%	20.9%	-0.3%	-0.3%	-1.6%
KBH	11.4%	17.4%	11.9%	-0.1%	-2.0%	-8.1%
LEN	13.9%	15.9%	9.8%	-3.2%	-3.2%	-7.5%
MDC	14.7%	19.7%	15.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
MHO	16.8%	15.5%	NA	0.0%	0.0%	NA
MTH	11.2%	17.9%	14.7%	-1.9%	-2.3%	-14.1%
PHM	-2.6%	17.9%	17.4%	-1.6%	-1.3%	-1.6%
RYL	20.6%	19.3%	10.2%	-0.8%	-0.9%	-10.0%
TMHC	17.3%	18.7%	55.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
TOL	7.4%	21.9%	15.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Mean	12.1%	18.0%	19.0%	-0.8%	-1.0%	-4.8%
Mean (ex PHM)	13.8%	18.0%	19.2%	-0.7%	-1.0%	-5.2%

Source: Citi Research, FactSet

While we were early on calling the 4Q13 acceleration and March 2014 slowing trends, present expectations may need to be reset further, perhaps down to net order growth of 10% YoY in 2014 or less.

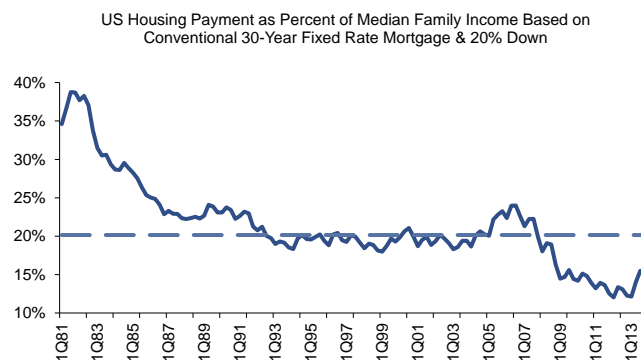
Today, the investment community seems to believe that New Home Sales demand will snap back following a slowdown in January-February 2014 (YoY) based on recent investor discussions, earnings conference calls, and multiple expansion in the stocks (e.g. 3ppt last week). While we are also hopeful, we are pretty cautious on the builder shares based on our latest findings, including our [Private Homebuilder Perspectives Survey \(PHPS\)](#) conducted last week and industry channel checks completed over the prior 2 weeks. Our findings showed that no snap-back in New Home Sales for March occurred, aside from a normal (unadjusted) seasonal (MoM) pick-up. For example, our private homebuilder survey showed that the net percentage of respondents indicating that unadjusted orders improved MoM in March 2014 was only 40-50%, which compared less favorably to our surveys for the month of March in the prior 2 years when the net percentage of respondents indicating sales improved was 65%. Further, our survey showed that traffic continued its strong MoM trend, similar to the month of March in the past 2 years, but traffic (i.e. potential future revenue) continues to not convert to orders (i.e. actual future revenue) for the builders.

Figure 16. Asking prices for homes rose 23% since the 2011 trough contributing to less favorable affordability.



Source: Citi Research

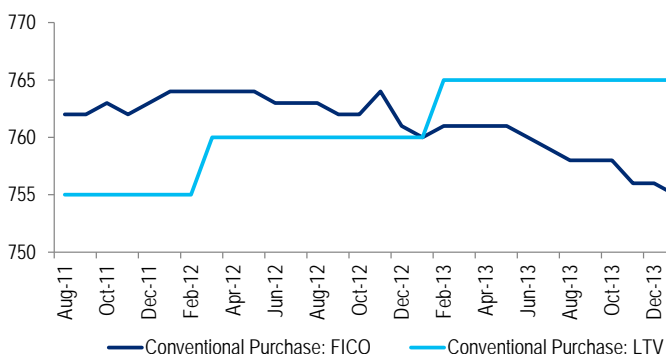
Figure 17. Further, while low rates make housing affordability still favorable, rapid price appreciation since 2011, a bump up in rates, and tight lending conditions may have put potential buyers on the sidelines.



Source: Citi Research

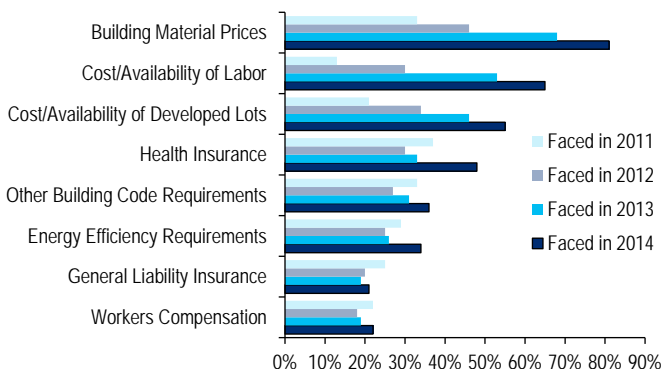
We believe the weak traffic-to-order conversion is the result of buyers being more selective since 1H13 for a number of potential reasons.

Figure 18. Conforming purchase mortgage credit score (avgs) are tracking around ~760, vs 710-730 pre-crisis. We estimate this tightening resulted in a ~15% reduction in availability of conforming mortgages...



Source: Citi Research, Ellie Mae Originations Insight Report

Figure 19. ...And it's not getting any easier for builders elsewhere. Below are NAHB's (surveyed) estimates for important issues facing builders in 1Q14 versus prior years in 1Qs.



Source: Citi Research, NAHB

These reasons likely include: (1) rapid price appreciation since the lows in 2011 through early 2012, higher effective interest rates on 15/30-year mortgages since 1H13, and related less favorable affordability; (2) a pick-up in nationwide competing Existing Homes Sales inventories, with nationwide inventories up 6% YoY in March 2014 and up materially more (i.e. normalizing) in markets that price snapped back quickly (i.e. AZ, CA, & NV); (3) tight purchase mortgage lending conditions, which we don't see easing materially over the next year (see this report for more details: [Outlook on US Housing Finance](#)); and (4) a number of constraints we have previously discussed including available lots, labor, and related rising input costs (see this transcript for more details: [Citi's Quarterly Homebuilding Lot Supply Conference Call](#)).

Figure 20. Companies Mentioned

Company	RIC	Rating	Currency	Price	TP
Brookfield Res	BRP.N	1	USD	20.79	28.00
Beazer Homes	BZH.N	3 H	USD	19.62	14.00
D R Horton	DHI.N	2	USD	21.77	26.00
KB HOME	KBH.N	2 H	USD	16.81	17.00
Lennar	LEN.N	2	USD	39.19	41.00
M.D.C. Hld	MDC.N	2	USD	28.08	29.00
M I Homes	MHO.N	2	USD	22.92	24.00
Meritage Homes	MTH.N	2	USD	43.28	44.00
New Home	NWHM.N	2	USD	14.50	16.50
PulteGroup	PHM.N	2	USD	19.03	21.00
Ryland Grp	RYL.N	2	USD	40.10	43.00
Taylor Morrison	TMHC.N	2	USD	23.56	26.00
Toll Brothers	TOL.N	2	USD	36.00	34.00
UCP	UCP.N	1	USD	14.52	20.00
WCI Communities	WCIC.N	2	USD	19.79	20.00
William Lyn Hm	WLH.N	1	USD	27.24	36.00

Source: dataCentral

Appendix A-1

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