

China Economic Perspectives

How Serious Could the Evergrande Spillover Effect be?

Economics

China

What's the end game for Evergrande?

We think it is difficult for Evergrande to meet its liabilities. Project delivery will be the most important from social stability point of view. Hence, home buyers and suppliers are most important among its stakeholders. We think a possible scenario is segregation of project companies from the group to ensure the asset value is materialized and the cash flow is used for project construction only, whilst we expect a debt restructuring with a haircut will be needed. For the sector, we expect rising concerns on property delivery and refinancing for the other developers. We estimate there are 10 developers with potentially risky positions with a combined contract sales of Rmb1.86trn (or 2.7x of Evergrande size).

Banking system risk manageable so far; JSB under higher NPL risk

Our channel check with banks suggest that loans to Evergrande were still treated as normal loans by 1H21. To gauge the potential NPL risk from property developers, we conduct three levels of stress tests with progressively higher severity: 1) a default by Evergrande; 2) a default by nine high-risk property developers (including Evergrande, excluding two developers with no data available) we identify; 3) a spike in entire property developer sector NPL ratio by 15ppts. Under these cases, our stress tested banks collectively see an uptick in NPL ratio by 11bp/ 29bp/ 80bp, with the newly formed NPL (before recovery) accounting for 0.9%/ 2.4%/ 6.6% of CET-1 capital. While this appears manageable from a banking system perspective, the impacts will be felt disproportionately, with Joint-stock Bank (JSB) hit harder given their higher exposure to property developers. By individual bank, Minsheng Bank appears the most vulnerable under all scenarios. Importantly, given limited data our stress test does not cover banks' non-loan exposure or ramification impacts from potential suppliers defaults, which could bring up the potential impacts under our stress tests.

Potential impact on growth and policy

Our baseline forecast assumes property sales declining by 8%/y and new starts falling 8-10% y/y in H2 2021, with real estate FAI dropping by 2-3% in H2 2021. In a worst-case Evergrande outcome leading to major spillover effects, property new starts could decline by 20%/y or more in the next few months, and real estate FAI could fall by as much as 10%/y, potentially dragging down China's GDP growth by 1-2ppts in the next few months. Nevertheless, macro impact from the worst case contagion effect would likely be smaller than the 2014-15 property downturn as inventories remain low and excess capacity in upstream construction material sectors have declined. In the case of a sharper property correction, we would expect both fiscal and monetary policies to ease further towards end 2021, and with a delay, some modest adjustment in property policies as well.

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The financial difficulties of Evergrande, one of China's largest property developers, has deteriorated further in recent weeks. Media reported that China's Ministry of Construction and Housing has asked banks to allow for extension of payment by Evergrande. Investors are concerned that a credit event stemming from Evergrande could spill over to other developers, suppliers, the financial system and the overall economy. What might be the end game for Evergrande? How serious could the spillover effect be?

What's the end game for Evergrande? (by John Lam)

- **More like a solvency issue:** We think it is difficult for Evergrande to meet its liabilities (payables and debt) based on its assets. Based on our balance sheet analysis (See our [July 26 note](#)), we estimate that if Evergrande property asset value drop by 16%, its asset value would not be able to meet its liability, and 16% is a small figure under a distressed sale situation.

Figure 1: We estimate Hengda Real Estate (Evergrande's major property arm) equity value would be wiped out if inventory value drops by 16%

Hengda Real Estate Balance Sheet, as of Dec 31 2020 (Rmb bn)	Reported value	Proforma analysis	Change	Change %
Total Asset	1,856	1,522	(334)	-18%
Cash	137	137	-	0%
Accounts receivable	237	237	-	0%
Inventory	1,222	1,024	(198)	-16%
Investment properties	154	18.5	(135)	-88%
Others	105	105	-	0%
Total Liabilities	1,522	1,522	-	0%
Interest-bearing debt	500	500	-	0%
Bills payable	206	206	-	0%
Accounts and others payable	611	611	-	0%
Others	206	206	-	0%
Total Equity (incl. MI)	334	0	(334)	-100%

Source : UBS, Company Data.

- **Property delivery is the most important:** Among Evergrande's stakeholders (ie homebuyers, suppliers and banks incl. bond investors), homebuyers are most important from social stability's point of view, and hence projects delivery and paying suppliers' payables will be prioritized.
- **Possible Scenario - Segregation of project companies from the group:** Next, the key is to materialize the asset value and ensure the cash generated from asset disposal will flow to suppliers. We think a possible scenario is segregation of Evergrande's project companies away from the group. Cash flow from project companies would need to be put into a custodian account, with local government supervision, to ensure the cash inflow from property sale or land sale will be used for construction and suppliers payables only, aiming to restore the confidence from homebuyers to buy its properties. At the same time, the project companies may also pay its suppliers by properties.
- **Debt restructuring:** At the group level, the banks and bond investors would need to undergo a debt restructuring and bear a loss from hair cut. We expect a debt restructuring (ie hair cut on debts and extension of debt) will be needed.
- **Signposts ahead:** 1) Set up of a debt restructuring committee, 2) segregation of project companies, 3) asset disposals (Evergrande Property Services, its Hong Kong and Guangzhou headquarter office building, urban redevelopment projects). 4) SOE or local government may step in to supervise the project construction.

Sector implication: Evergrande accounts for ~5% of the national contract sales. We estimate its liability (Rmb2.0trn) accounts for 6.5% of total sector liability. Also, Evergrande is the biggest offshore USD bond issuer in the market, account for 9% of total offshore bond market and 12% of the total high yield offshore bond market.

- **We view property is a sector based on trust from home buyers, banks and suppliers.** If there is no government relaxation on the property sector, we see homebuyers could become more skeptical on other developers' capability to complete their properties. Banks/bond investors could be more skeptical to lend or rolling over their debt. The recent Evergrande issue has caused high yield bond price to fall, causing difficulties for other developers' refinancing. Suppliers could demand

cash payment instead of receivables. A worse situation is falling property price which means even less demand, which feeds into a negative feedback loop.

- **Who could be next after Evergrande?** Assuming no relaxation, we expect more developers may default. We look at 1) bond maturity profile, 2) leverage (three red lines), 3) off-balance sheet debt, to gauge which are the next companies with rising liquidity risks. We estimate there are 10 developers with potentially risky position on their liquidity on slowing contract sales or unable to refinance its debt. Those 10 developers' contract sales amount to Rmb1.86trn, **or 2.7x of Evergrande size**.

Banking sector implication (by May Yan and Alex Ye)

The rapid deterioration of Evergrande's liquidity situation has caused wide market concerns about banks' exposure to Evergrande Group and potential repercussions to the banking system if more property developers come into troubles.

In the following section, we try to estimate the potential impacts to banks under our coverage and major unrated joint-stock banks (JSB) through three layers of stress tests, based on banks' direct loan exposure to (1) Evergrande Group, (2) a list of potentially risky property developers identified by UBS property sector analyst, and (3) the entire property developer sector. In our stress tests, we adopt a static approach and assume loans at risk are reclassified as NPL immediately, and estimate the pro forma impacts to NPL ratio, NPL coverage, and such new NPL as a percentage of CET-1 capital. The banks covered in our stress test collectively account for 76% of China's banking system loans.

Overall, our stress tests show that as a percentage of loan book, JSB as a group are more exposed to property developer sector (avg.8.1% of loan book as of Jun 2021) and a list of high-risk property developers. Large banks (avg. 4.5%) and most regional banks we cover are generally less exposed (avg. 6.3%). Assuming all loan exposure to above high-risk property developers turn into NPL, our stress tested banks in aggregate may see **(1) a 11bp rise in NPL ratio, 16ppts decline in NPL coverage, and 0.9% downside to CET-1 capital** under a Evergrande default scenario, or **(2) 29bps rise in NPL ratio, 39ppts decline in NPL coverage, and 2.4% downside to CET-1 capital**, if a list of nine high-risk property developers (including Evergrande but excluding 2 developers with no data available) default.

In terms of individual banks, **Minsheng Bank (MSB)** appears to be the most vulnerable bank to both an Evergrande Group default and broader defaults by our identified list of high-risk property developers, followed by **Bank of Shanghai** and **Industrial Bank (IB)**. Among large banks, **ABC** has relatively higher exposure. Separately, Ping An Bank has the second-highest loan book exposure to property developers at 10.1% by 1H21 (after MSB's 10.6%), but we note that so far it appears to have limited exposure to the high-risk names we identify.

In terms of potential exposure to property developers through corporate bond investments and other wrapped financial products, our estimates show that the percentage of investment book invested into such investments are in general much lower for large banks and CMB (avg. 8%), and higher for JSB (avg. 30%) and regional banks (avg.31%). While this may come as a red flag to investors during a time of heightened focus on hidden NPL risks, to what extent such investments are exposed to the property developers is difficult to assess.

Stress test #1: Banks' entire loan exposure to Evergrande becomes NPL

Domestic media (i.e. [Caixin](#)) reported in September 2020 that an internal document by Evergrande was released, which contains a full list of its creditors as of Jun 2020. While Evergrande denied the authenticity of the document, it is widely believed by the market to be accurate. We have cross checked with some banks and find their latest loan exposure to the company to be quite close to what were reported. According to this list, MSB and ABC were among the two banks with the highest direct loan exposure to the company.

Based on our channel checks with banks at our recent UBS Financials & Fintech Conference, the loan exposures to Evergrande Group are still generally accounted for under the normal category despite several risk alerts for the company. In our stress test, we assume the media reported numbers of bank loans remain unchanged throughout the past year, and assume all of these loan amount to be reclassified as NPL immediately.

We estimate the implied rise in NPL ratio, decline in NPL coverage, and such new NPL as a percentage of banks' CET-1 capital, based on above assumptions. Overall, the stress results show a 11bp rise in NPL ratio and 16ppts decline in NPL coverage ratio for banks under our coverage and major unrated JSB. The new NPL in this scenario is equivalent to 0.9% of these banks' CET-1 capital.

By individual bank, MSB could be subject to greatest impacts to balance sheet, given its high amount of loan exposure to Evergrande group, followed by CEB and CITIC Bank. Large banks in general are subject to less deterioration on these metrics given their sizable balance sheet, although ABC could see a more visible impact.

In above stress test as well as the following, we only cover banks' direct loan exposure to developers. Due to limited information available, we do not cover ramification impacts from suppliers defaults, which could bring up the potential impacts under our stress test results somewhat.

Figure 2: List of banks' loan balance with Evergrande Group as of Jun-2020

Domestic bank loans (Rmb bn)								
#	Bank name	Loan balance	#	Bank name	Loan balance	#	Bank name	Loan balance
1	China Minsheng Bank	29.3	16	Bank of Cangzhou	3.4	31	Bank of Guiyang	1.6
2	Agricultural Bank of China	24.2	17	Guiyang Rural Commercial Bank	3.1	32	Bank of Tianjin	1.5
3	China Zheshang Bank	11.3	18	Bank of Shanghai	3.0	33	Bank of Ganzhou	1.5
4	China Everbright Bank	10.5	19	Bank of Jiujiang	2.9	34	Bank of Shangrao	1.5
5	ICBC	10.3	20	China Construction Bank	2.8	35	Bank of Guizhou	1.4
6	CITIC Bank	9.4	21	Hankou Bank	2.7	36	Bank of Changsha	1.3
7	SPDB	9.2	22	Qingdao Rural Commercial Bank	2.3	37	Bank of Jiangsu	1.2
8	Industrial Bank	8.1	23	Bank of Chongqing	2.2	38	Baoshang Bank	1.0
9	Bank of Jiangxi	7.7	24	Xiamen International Bank	2.1	39	Bank of Nanjing	0.9
10	Shengjing Bank	7.0	25	Bank of Hebei	2.1	40	Bank of Suzhou	0.9
11	China Development Bank	6.3	26	Hengfeng Bank	1.9	41	Guangfa Bank	0.8
12	Nanyang Commercial Bank	5.5	27	Guangzhou Rural Commercial Bank	1.8	42	PSBC	0.8
13	Bank of Jilin	5.4	28	Huaxia Bank	1.8	43	Xiamen Bank	0.8
14	Bohai Bank	4.0	29	Bank of China	1.7		Others	13.70
15	Bank of Luoyang	3.4	30	Huishang Bank	1.6		Sub-total	215.9

Overseas bank loans (Rmb bn)								
#	Bank name	Loan balance	#	Bank name	Loan balance	#	Bank name	Loan balance
1	CITIC Bank	3.7	4	Wing Lung Bank	1.8	7	Luso International Banking	0.5
2	CCB Asia	3.7	5	CMB HK	1.7	8	Chiyu Bank	0.4
3	China Everbright Bank	1.8	6	ABC HK	1.5		Sub-total	15.6

Source : Media reports.

Figure 3: Stress test on banks' loan exposure to Evergrande Group

Rmb bn	Reported as of 1H21						Assumed all loan balance at risk becomes NPL					
	NPL balance	Loan loss reserve	NPL ratio	Gross loan	CET-1 capital	NPL coverage	Loan exposure to Evergrande Group	Pro forma NPL ratio	Pro forma NPL coverage	% rise in NPL ratio	% chg. in NPL coverage	New NPL as % of CET-1 capital
ICBC	308	591	1.54%	19,989	2,720	192%	10	1.59%	186%	5bp	-6ppts	0.4%
CCB	277	615	1.53%	18,103	2,335	222%	7	1.57%	217%	4bp	-5ppts	0.3%
ABC	247	679	1.50%	16,490	1,925	275%	26	1.66%	249%	16bp	-26ppts	1.3%
BOC	200	369	1.30%	15,411	1,748	184%	2	1.31%	183%	1bp	-2ppts	0.1%
BOCOM	101	151	1.60%	6,340	743	149%	-	1.60%	149%	-	-	-
PSBC	51	216	0.83%	6,169	590	421%	1	0.84%	415%	1bp	-6ppts	0.1%
CMB	55	240	1.01%	5,400	636	439%	4	1.07%	413%	6bp	-27ppts	0.5%
PAB	31	80	1.08%	2,869	285	260%	-	1.08%	260%	-	-	-
CITIC	71	134	1.50%	4,712	488	189%	13	1.78%	160%	28bp	-30ppts	2.7%
SPDB	78	117	1.64%	4,740	535	151%	9	1.83%	135%	19bp	-16ppts	1.7%
MSB	72	103	1.80%	4,022	479	143%	29	2.53%	102%	73bp	-41ppts	6.1%
IB	48	124	1.15%	4,201	552	257%	8	1.34%	220%	19bp	-37ppts	1.5%
CEB	44	80	1.36%	3,245	355	182%	12	1.74%	142%	38bp	-40ppts	3.5%
Huaxia	38	61	1.78%	2,162	226	157%	2	1.86%	150%	8bp	-7ppts	0.8%
Bank of Shanghai	14	46	1.19%	1,183	173	324%	3	1.44%	267%	25bp	-57ppts	1.7%
Bank of Beijing	24	55	1.45%	1,655	205	228%	-	1.45%	228%	-	-	-
Bank of Jiangsu	15	45	1.16%	1,332	145	290%	1	1.25%	269%	9bp	-21ppts	0.8%
Bank of Nanjing	7	28	0.91%	767	104	395%	1	1.03%	350%	12bp	-45ppts	0.9%
Bank of Ningbo	6	32	0.79%	794	114	510%	-	0.79%	510%	-	-	-
Bank of Hangzhou	5	28	0.98%	538	68	530%	-	0.98%	530%	-	-	-
Chongqing Rural	7	22	1.28%	560	97	312%	-	1.28%	312%	-	-	-
Changshu Rural	1	7	0.90%	151	19	522%	-	0.90%	522%	-	-	-
Total	1,703	3,823	1.41%	120,834	14,543	224%	127	1.51%	209%	11bp	-16ppts	0.9%
Large banks	1,185	2,621	1.44%	82,502	10,061	221%	45	1.49%	213%	5bp	-8ppts	0.4%
JSB	437	939	1.39%	31,351	3,558	215%	77	1.64%	183%	25bp	-32ppts	2.2%
Regional banks	81	262	1.15%	6,981	924	325%	5	1.23%	306%	7bp	-19ppts	0.6%

Source : Company data, media reports, UBS estimates. Note: Above bank loan exposure to Evergrande Group include overseas bank loans.

Stress test #2: Banks' loan exposure to property developers at risk

In our second layer of stress test, we look into individual banks' loan exposure to a list of ten property developers identified by UBS Property Sector analyst John Lam to be potentially at risk of running into liquidity troubles up next, based on several metrics including 1) bond maturity profile, 2) leverage (3 red lines), 3) off-balance sheet debt. We include eight out of these ten property developers with available data disclosure into our stress test. Total contract sales of these property developers in 2020 add up to Rmb1.86trn, 2.7x of Evergrande contract sales of Rmb700bn.

We consolidate the bank loan balance from the core bond-issuing subsidiary under each property developer group identified above. Aggregate bank loan balance of these companies amounted to Rmb533bn by the latest date with available data disclosure, of which Rmb353bn were borrowed from banks under our coverage or major unrated JSB (i.e. 2.8x of bank loan exposure to Evergrande Group alone).

Similar to the previous stress test on Evergrande Group loan exposure, we assume all of these bank loan balance to property developers at risk to be reclassified as NPL immediately and measure the impacts to individual banks. Under this stress test scenario, the banks included in our stress test in aggregate would be subject to 29bps increase in NPL ratio and 39ppts decline in NPL coverage. The new NPL in this scenario is equivalent to 2.4% of these banks' CET-1 capital.

JSB (and some regional banks) again are subject to a higher potential NPL risk given their bank loan exposure to these property developers at risk, in particular for MSB, IB, CEB, and Bank of Shanghai. In particular, CMB has a total of Rmb30bn loan exposure to a few property developers. Nevertheless, our Property Sector analyst believes the projects by some property developers are located in higher-tier cities and thus should have a high recovery rate, which should help to alleviate the eventual loss by banks.

Figure 4: Individual banks' loan balance to property developers at risk

Rmb bn	Evergrande Group As of Jun-20	Developer A As of Dec-20	Developer B As of Dec-20	Developer C As of Dec-20	Developer D As of Sept-20	Developer E As of Dec-20	Developer F As of Dec-20	Developer G As of Jun-20	Developer H As of Dec-20	Total
ICBC	10.3	10.5	1.8	1.5	2.3	1.5	1.8	0.5		30.2
CCB	6.5	2.5	5.2	0.7	3.0	0.7	0.9	1.3		20.7
ABC	25.7	10.8	1.5	2.7	1.5	0.5	1.9	0.4		45.1
BOC	1.7	8.0	1.2	2.0	0.8	0.7	0.4	1.4	1.3	17.6
BOCOM			1.2	0.8	0.1		1.1			3.2
PSBC	0.8			0.6					1.2	2.5
CMB	3.5	11.2	7.0						8.1	29.7
PAB		1.7		0.4	1.0	2.2	3.9			9.3
CITIC	13.1	4.8	6.6		0.4	0.6	0.0	0.8		26.2
SPDB	9.2	3.3	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.2		2.7		16.2
MSB	29.3		16.0	6.6	8.7	5.8	2.3			68.6
IB	8.1	7.6	4.1	3.8	0.7				6.6	30.9
CEB	12.3	5.1	1.8	0.7	1.6		1.2	1.6		24.3
Huaxia	1.8	2.7	0.3	0.6			1.4			6.8
Bank of Shanghai	3.0		3.2		2.1				3.8	12.0
Bank of Beijing		3.1	1.2		0.5					4.8
Bank of Jiangsu	1.2		0.2	1.6						3.0
Bank of Nanjing	0.9				0.0					0.9
Bank of Ningbo										-
Bank of Hangzhou				0.5						0.5
Chongqing Rural										-
Changshu Rural										-
Total	127.4	71.3	51.6	22.7	23.1	12.1	15.0	8.7	20.9	352.7

Source : Company data. Note: 1) Above data are based on latest publicly available data (Jun-2020 or Dec-2020); 2) Above data represents bank loans by the core bond-issuing subsidiary under each property developer group; 3) bank loan exposure to Evergrande Group include overseas bank loans.

Figure 5: Stress test on banks' loan exposure to a list of property developers at risk

Rmb bn	Reported as of 1H21				Assumed all loan balance at risk becomes NPL						
	NPL balance	Loan loss reserve	NPL ratio	NPL coverage	Loan exposure to developers at risk	Pro forma NPL ratio	Pro forma NPL coverage	% rise in NPL ratio	% chg. in NPL coverage	New NPL as % of CET-1 capital	
ICBC	308	591	1.54%	192%	30	1.69%	175%	15bp	-17ppts	1%	
CCB	277	615	1.53%	222%	21	1.64%	207%	11bp	-15ppts	1%	
ABC	247	679	1.50%	275%	45	1.77%	232%	27bp	-42ppts	2%	
BOC	200	369	1.30%	184%	18	1.41%	169%	11bp	-15ppts	1%	
BOCOM	101	151	1.60%	149%	3	1.65%	145%	5bp	-5ppts	0%	
PSBC	51	216	0.83%	421%	3	0.87%	402%	4bp	-20ppts	0%	
CMB	55	240	1.01%	439%	30	1.56%	285%	55bp	-155ppts	5%	
PAB	31	80	1.08%	260%	9	1.40%	200%	32bp	-60ppts	3%	
CITIC	71	134	1.50%	189%	26	2.06%	138%	56bp	-51ppts	5%	
SPDB	78	117	1.64%	151%	16	1.98%	125%	34bp	-26ppts	3%	
MSB	72	103	1.80%	143%	69	3.51%	73%	171bp	-70ppts	14%	
IB	48	124	1.15%	257%	31	1.89%	157%	74bp	-100ppts	6%	
CEB	44	80	1.36%	182%	24	2.11%	117%	75bp	-65ppts	7%	
Huaxia	38	61	1.78%	157%	7	2.09%	134%	31bp	-24ppts	3%	
Bank of Shanghai	14	46	1.19%	324%	12	2.21%	175%	102bp	-149ppts	7%	
Bank of Beijing	24	55	1.45%	228%	5	1.74%	190%	29bp	-38ppts	2%	
Bank of Jiangsu	15	45	1.16%	290%	3	1.39%	243%	23bp	-47ppts	2%	
Bank of Nanjing	7	28	0.91%	395%	1	1.03%	350%	12bp	-45ppts	1%	
Bank of Ningbo	6	32	0.79%	510%	-	0.79%	510%	-	-	-	
Bank of Hangzhou	5	28	0.98%	530%	1	1.07%	484%	9bp	-46ppts	1%	
Chongqing Rural	7	22	1.28%	312%	-	1.28%	312%	-	-	-	
Changshu Rural	1	7	0.90%	522%	-	0.90%	522%	-	-	-	
Total	1,703	3,823	1.41%	224%	353	1.70%	186%	29bp	-39ppts	2.4%	
Large banks	1,185	2,621	1.44%	221%	119	1.58%	201%	14bp	-20ppts	1.2%	
JSB	437	939	1.39%	215%	212	2.07%	145%	68bp	-70ppts	6.0%	
Regional banks	81	262	1.15%	325%	21	1.46%	257%	30bp	-68ppts	2.3%	

Source : Company data, media reports, UBS estimates.

Stress test #3: Banks' loan exposure to property developers sector

Further to previous analysis on individual banks' loan exposure to a few property developers at risk, we look into banks' total loan exposure to the entire property developers sector.

Among the banks under our coverage and major unrated JSB, large SOE banks in general have a lower percentage of their loan book allocated to property developer sector (<6% of total loans), despite a higher absolute amount. On the other hand, JSB and some regional banks are more exposed, in particular for Bank of Shanghai (15%), Minsheng Bank (11%), and Ping An Bank (10%).

In this broader-scope stress test, we take into account banks' entire loan exposure to property developers sector, and assume the sector NPL ratio to go up by 5ppts/ 10ppts/ 15ppts, respectively. The magnitude of NPL ratio uptick is similar to the ones assumed by the PBOC's stress test of property loan risk in its annual stability report.

- Under the scenario of a milder uptick in property developer sector NPL ratio (+5ppts), only MSB would have its NPL coverage falling to under the minimum regulatory requirement of 120%, and thus may entail escalated provisioning in the near term;
- Under the scenario of a moderate uptick in property developer sector NPL ratio (+10ppts), more banks (BOCOM, SPDB, Huaxia) would have their NPL coverage falling to below 120%;
- Under the most severe case of a +15ppts rise in property developer sector NPL ratio, nearly all JSB (except for CMB) would see their NPL coverage below or close to 120%, coupled with Bank of Shanghai and Bank of Beijing. Impacts to large banks and regional banks with less exposure to property developers appear more manageable.

While this stress test shows banks with higher loan exposure to the property developers sector are in general more vulnerable to an industry-wide spike in NPL, one important caveat is that some banks with higher property developers exposure may fare better if they have been able to implement effective risk screening on their property developer counterparties amid a polarising trend of property developers. For example, despite PAB's high exposure to property developer sector, so far it appears less exposed to the high-risk names we identify.

Figure 6: Listed banks' property-related loan exposure versus regulatory caps (as of 1H21)

	Property-related loans as % of total loans			Mortgage loans as % of total loans			As % of CET-1 capital (1H21)		
	1H21	Upper limit	Excessive exposure	1H21	Upper limit	Excessive exposure	Property developers	Mortgages	Property-related loans
Tier 1 (large banks)									
ICBC	36.3%	40.0%	n.a.	32.3%	32.5%	n.a.	27.4%	218.9%	246.2%
CCB	40.2%	40.0%	0.2ppt	35.8%	32.5%	3.3ppt	31.8%	261.5%	293.3%
ABC	36.2%	40.0%	n.a.	30.8%	32.5%	n.a.	44.7%	256.2%	300.9%
BOC	39.1%	40.0%	n.a.	33.6%	32.5%	1.1ppt	39.0%	238.5%	277.5%
BOCOM	28.4%	40.0%	n.a.	22.8%	32.5%	n.a.	44.7%	183.0%	227.7%
PSBC	35.1%	40.0%	n.a.	33.0%	32.5%	0.5ppt	22.1%	346.0%	368.1%
Tier 2 (JSB and mid-sized city banks)									
CMB	32.7%	27.5%	5.2ppt	26.1%	20.0%	6.1ppt	52.2%	207.3%	259.6%
PAB	19.1%	27.5%	n.a.	9.0%	20.0%	n.a.	102.1%	90.7%	192.8%
CITIC	27.1%	27.5%	n.a.	20.9%	20.0%	0.9ppt	56.3%	189.8%	246.0%
SPDB	27.2%	27.5%	n.a.	19.6%	20.0%	n.a.	64.6%	167.7%	232.3%
MSB	24.7%	27.5%	n.a.	14.1%	20.0%	n.a.	87.0%	115.7%	202.7%
IB	34.6%	27.5%	7.1ppt	25.9%	20.0%	5.9ppt	66.0%	197.5%	263.5%
CEB	24.3%	27.5%	n.a.	17.1%	20.0%	n.a.	63.4%	151.0%	214.3%
Huaxia	23.5%	27.5%	n.a.	15.7%	20.0%	n.a.	66.2%	133.4%	199.6%
Bank of Shanghai	26.7%	27.5%	n.a.	12.2%	20.0%	n.a.	99.8%	83.3%	183.2%
Bank of Beijing	29.8%	27.5%	2.3ppt	20.7%	20.0%	0.7ppt	73.8%	167.2%	241.0%
Bank of Jiangsu	25.4%	27.5%	n.a.	17.8%	20.0%	n.a.	70.0%	163.1%	233.1%
Tier 3 (regional banks)									
Bank of Nanjing	15.2%	22.5%	n.a.	10.5%	17.5%	n.a.	35.2%	77.7%	112.9%
Bank of Ningbo	8.8%	22.5%	n.a.	4.3%	17.5%	n.a.	31.9%	29.9%	61.8%
Bank of Hangzhou	22.0%	22.5%	n.a.	14.3%	17.5%	n.a.	60.9%	113.5%	174.4%
Chongqing Rural	18.6%	22.5%	n.a.	17.7%	17.5%	0.2ppt	5.7%	102.5%	108.2%
Changshu Rural	9.2%	22.5%	n.a.	8.4%	17.5%	n.a.	6.1%	68.3%	74.4%

Source : Company data.

Figure 7: Listed banks' property-related loan exposure (1H21 vs FY20)

	Property-related loans as % of total loans			Mortgage loans as % of total loans			Property developer loans as % of total loans		
	FY20	1H21	% chg.	FY20	1H21	% chg.	FY20	1H21	% chg.
Tier 1 (large banks)									
ICBC	37.1%	36.3%	-0.7ppt	33.0%	32.3%	-0.7ppt	4.1%	4.0%	-0.1ppt
CCB	41.1%	40.2%	-0.9ppt	36.8%	35.8%	-0.9ppt	4.3%	4.4%	0.0ppt
ABC	37.0%	36.2%	-0.9ppt	31.7%	30.8%	-0.9ppt	5.3%	5.4%	0.0ppt
BOC	40.3%	39.1%	-1.2ppt	34.7%	33.6%	-1.1ppt	5.6%	5.5%	-0.1ppt
BOCOM	28.7%	28.4%	-0.4ppt	23.1%	22.8%	-0.4ppt	5.6%	5.6%	0.0ppt
PSBC	35.2%	35.1%	-0.2ppt	33.6%	33.0%	-0.6ppt	1.6%	2.1%	0.5ppt
Tier 2 (JSB and mid-sized city banks)									
CMB	33.3%	32.7%	-0.7ppt	26.7%	26.1%	-0.6ppt	6.6%	6.6%	0.0ppt
PAB	19.2%	19.1%	0.0ppt	9.0%	9.0%	0.0ppt	10.2%	10.1%	-0.1ppt
CITIC	27.4%	27.1%	-0.3ppt	21.1%	20.9%	-0.2ppt	6.3%	6.2%	-0.1ppt
SPDB	27.4%	27.2%	-0.2ppt	19.5%	19.6%	0.2ppt	7.9%	7.6%	-0.4ppt
MSB	25.4%	24.7%	-0.7ppt	13.7%	14.1%	0.4ppt	11.7%	10.6%	-1.1ppt
IB	34.6%	34.6%	0.1ppt	26.6%	25.9%	-0.6ppt	8.0%	8.7%	0.7ppt
CEB	24.6%	24.3%	-0.3ppt	16.9%	17.1%	0.2ppt	7.7%	7.2%	-0.5ppt
Huaxia	23.7%	23.5%	-0.3ppt	15.2%	15.7%	0.5ppt	8.6%	7.8%	-0.8ppt
Bank of Shanghai	25.5%	26.7%	1.2ppt	11.3%	12.2%	0.9ppt	14.3%	14.6%	0.3ppt
Bank of Beijing	30.7%	29.8%	-0.9ppt	20.9%	20.7%	-0.2ppt	9.8%	9.1%	-0.7ppt
Bank of Jiangsu	26.1%	25.4%	-0.6ppt	18.6%	17.8%	-0.8ppt	7.4%	7.6%	0.2ppt
Tier 3 (regional banks)									
Bank of Nanjing	14.7%	15.2%	0.5ppt	10.8%	10.5%	-0.3ppt	4.0%	4.7%	0.8ppt
Bank of Ningbo	8.7%	8.8%	0.1ppt	3.4%	4.3%	0.9ppt	5.3%	4.6%	-0.8ppt
Bank of Hangzhou	24.4%	22.0%	-2.4ppt	14.9%	14.3%	-0.6ppt	9.5%	7.7%	-1.8ppt
Chongqing Rural	19.1%	18.6%	-0.5ppt	18.0%	17.7%	-0.3ppt	1.1%	1.0%	-0.1ppt
Changshu Rural	8.7%	9.2%	0.4ppt	7.7%	8.4%	0.7ppt	1.0%	0.8%	-0.2ppt

Source : Company data.

Figure 8: Stress test on banks' loan exposure to property developers sector

Rmb bn	Reported as of 1H21					Scenario A (NPL ratio +5ppts)				Scenario B (NPL ratio +10ppts)				Scenario C (NPL ratio +15ppts)			
	Property developer loan balance	NPL balance	Loan loss reserve	NPL ratio	NPL coverage	New NPL formation	Pro forma NPL ratio	Pro forma NPL coverage	New NPL as % of CET-1 capital	New NPL formation	Pro forma NPL balance	Pro forma NPL coverage	New NPL as % of CET-1 capital	New NPL formation	Pro forma NPL balance	Pro forma NPL coverage	New NPL as % of CET-1 capital
ICBC	744	308	591	1.54%	192%	37	1.73%	171%	1.4%	74	1.91%	155%	2.7%	112	2.10%	141%	4.1%
CCB	743	277	615	1.53%	222%	37	1.74%	196%	1.6%	74	1.94%	175%	3.2%	111	2.15%	158%	4.8%
ABC	861	247	679	1.50%	275%	43	1.76%	234%	2.2%	86	2.02%	204%	4.5%	129	2.28%	180%	6.7%
BOC	681	200	369	1.30%	184%	34	1.52%	157%	1.9%	68	1.74%	137%	3.9%	102	1.96%	122%	5.8%
BOCOM	332	101	151	1.60%	149%	17	1.86%	128%	2.2%	33	2.12%	112%	4.5%	50	2.39%	100%	6.7%
PSBC	130	51	216	0.83%	421%	7	0.94%	374%	1.1%	13	1.04%	336%	2.2%	20	1.15%	305%	3.3%
CMB	332	55	240	1.01%	439%	17	1.32%	337%	2.6%	33	1.63%	273%	5.2%	50	1.93%	230%	7.8%
PAB	291	31	80	1.08%	260%	15	1.59%	177%	5.1%	29	2.10%	134%	10.2%	44	2.60%	108%	15.3%
CITIC	274	71	134	1.50%	189%	14	1.79%	159%	2.8%	27	2.08%	136%	5.6%	41	2.37%	120%	8.4%
SPDB	345	78	117	1.64%	151%	17	2.00%	123%	3.2%	35	2.37%	104%	6.5%	52	2.73%	90%	9.7%
MSB	417	72	103	1.80%	143%	21	2.32%	111%	4.4%	42	2.84%	91%	8.7%	63	3.36%	77%	13.1%
IB	365	48	124	1.15%	257%	18	1.58%	187%	3.3%	36	2.02%	146%	6.6%	55	2.45%	121%	9.9%
CEB	225	44	80	1.36%	182%	11	1.71%	145%	3.2%	23	2.05%	120%	6.3%	34	2.40%	103%	9.5%
Huaxia	150	38	61	1.78%	157%	7	2.13%	132%	3.3%	15	2.47%	113%	6.6%	22	2.82%	99%	9.9%
Bank of Shanghai	173	14	46	1.19%	324%	9	1.92%	201%	5.0%	17	2.65%	146%	10.0%	26	3.38%	114%	15.0%
Bank of Beijing	151	24	55	1.45%	228%	8	1.91%	173%	3.7%	15	2.36%	140%	7.4%	23	2.82%	117%	11.1%
Bank of Jiangsu	102	15	45	1.16%	290%	5	1.54%	218%	3.5%	10	1.92%	175%	7.0%	15	2.31%	146%	10.5%
Bank of Nanjing	36	7	28	0.91%	395%	2	1.15%	313%	1.8%	4	1.39%	259%	3.5%	5	1.62%	221%	5.3%
Bank of Ningbo	36	6	32	0.79%	510%	2	1.02%	396%	1.6%	4	1.25%	323%	3.2%	5	1.47%	273%	4.8%
Bank of Hangzhou	41	5	28	0.98%	530%	2	1.37%	380%	3.0%	4	1.75%	297%	6.1%	6	2.14%	243%	9.1%
Chongqing Rural	5	7	22	1.28%	312%	0	1.33%	301%	0.3%	1	1.38%	290%	0.6%	1	1.43%	280%	0.9%
Changshu Rural	1	1	7	0.90%	522%	0	0.94%	501%	0.3%	0	0.98%	482%	0.6%	0	1.01%	464%	0.9%
Total	6,439	1,703	3,823	1.41%	224%	322	1.68%	189%	2.2%	644	1.94%	163%	4.4%	966	2.21%	143%	6.6%
Large banks	3,492	1,185	2,621	1.44%	221%	175	1.65%	193%	1.7%	349	1.86%	171%	3.5%	524	2.07%	153%	5.2%
JSB	2,400	437	939	1.39%	215%	120	1.78%	169%	3.4%	240	2.16%	139%	6.7%	360	2.54%	118%	10.1%
Regional banks	546	81	262	1.15%	325%	27	1.55%	243%	3.0%	55	1.94%	194%	5.9%	82	2.33%	161%	8.9%

Source : Company data, UBS estimates.

Exposure through banks' financial investments also a risk to watch; Shengjing Bank's reported exposure to Evergrande a concern

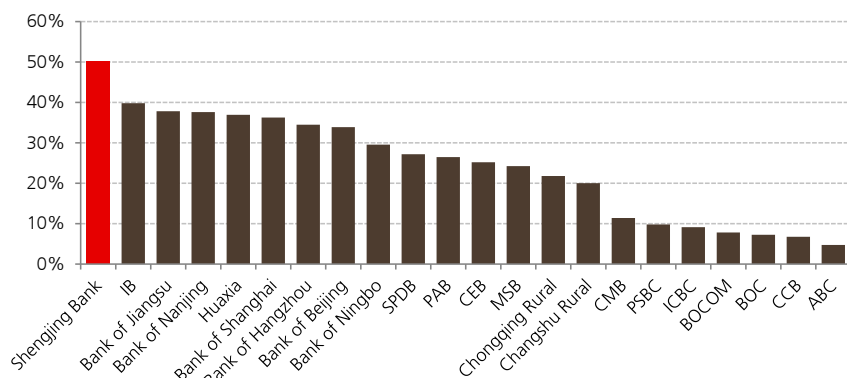
Other than banks' direct loan balance with property developers, another potential source of risk comes from indirect exposure to property developers through bond investments or wrapped financial products such as trust beneficiary rights or asset management plans.

Specifically, in the case of Shengjing Bank, it was reported by Caixin that the bank has around Rmb130bn-150bn risk exposures to Evergrande. If the media report is true, we think some of such exposure might have been booked under investments through various financial products such as trust beneficiary rights or asset management plans. It is also not clear whether this reported exposure includes lending to Evergrande's suppliers collateralised on accounts receivable against the developer, which may also have high credit risk if Evergrande defaults. By our estimate, if Shengjing Bank does have a high exposure to Evergrande Group through financial investments, the maximum amount of funding that Shengjing Bank could have possibly directed to Evergrande or other related parties amounted to Rmb165bn as of end 2020 (For more details, please refer to our note: [Are investors pricing in too much banking system risk?](#)).

Given a lack of detailed disclosure, we think banks' percentage of financial investments invested to corporate bonds or other wrapped financial products could serve as an indirect indicator for gauging banks' potential non-loan exposure. In the case of Shengjing Bank which is reportedly having a close tie with Evergrande, we estimated that such investments accounted for close to 50% of its total financial investments as of Jun 2021.

Our estimates show that the percentage of investment book invested into corporate bonds or other wrapped financial products are in general much lower for large banks and CMB (avg. 8%), and higher for JSB (avg. 30%) and regional banks (avg. 31%). While this may come as a red flag to investors during a time of heightened focus on hidden NPL risks, to what extent such investments are exposed to the property developers is difficult to assess.

Figure 9: % of banks' financial investments invested to corporate bonds or other wrapped financial products (1H21)



Source : Company data. Note: Other wrapped financial products could include wealth management products, trust beneficiary rights products, directional asset management plans, etc, excluding funds.

Figure 10: Maximum funding Shengjing Bank could have potentially directed to Evergrande Group if the bank has a high exposure to Evergrade as reported (Rmb mn)

Maximum credit lines from Shengjing Bank	13,143
Shengjing Bank's total capital	87,618
Capped at 15% total capital	13,143
Financial investments (a)	165,092
On balance sheet investments (b)	143,831
Directional asset management plans	65,268
Trust beneficiary rights products	78,563
Off-balance sheet investments (c)	21,261
WMPs	60,745
Non-standard asset investments capped at 35% of WMPs	21,261
Funds available from Shengjing Bank	178,235

Source : Company disclosure, UBS; note: 1) as of end 2020; 2) a=b+c

Macro implication (by Tao Wang and Ning Zhang)

From the macro perspective, our current baseline case assumes the government maintaining the current relatively tight property policy stance in the next few months, with no additional tightening or any obvious easing. In this case, we expect overall property activities to weaken further in the rest of 2021, with property sales declining by 8% y/y and property new starts shrinking by 8-10% y/y in H2 2021, and both declining by low-mid single digits in 2022. Real estate FAI would decline by 2-3% in H2 2021, with whole year growth at 5-6% before dropping to flattish growth in 2022. This baseline assumed an orderly resolution for Evergrande with very limited spillover effect on the rest of the property sector and economy at large. However, as described above, the chance of such a scenario for Evergrande has declined and spillover has already started to emerge, though we still expect the authorities to act to limit the spillover effect and avoid a credit crunch.

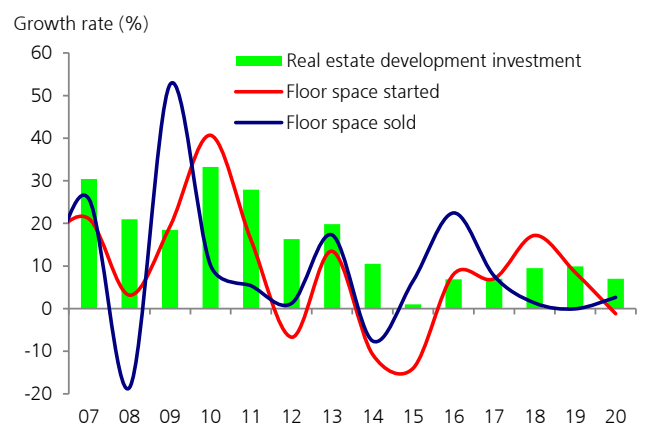
There are several key spill-over channels from the Evergrande case. First, **other property developers** would face increasing costs of and harder access to credit, as banks and bond investors seek to contain related risk, which could intensify cash flow issues for these developers. Both offshore and onshore bond market have already reflected this contagion effect. Second, Evergrande's failure to honor payables to its

thousands of **suppliers** (RMB 950bn as of H1 2021) would worsen suppliers' financial condition, disrupt their supply to the market and increase their risks of default. Third, housing sales price cut by Evergrande, followed by other developers, may lead to **weaker market sentiment and property sales**, which may feed into slower new starts and investment. Fourth, some developers and related suppliers may need to cut jobs or lower wages, leading to softer **household consumption**. Finally, property related sectors including construction materials would see weaker demand and lower production, with some delay.

The worst case scenario could lead to a sharper decline in property activity and lower GDP growth... In the case of a worst-case Evergrande outcome leading to major spillover effects through the above channels, China's total housing new starts could decline by 20%/y/y or more in the next 6 months, and real estate FAI could drop by 10%/y/y during this period (such a property FAI decline has not been recorded before). In such a case, property FAI growth would average 3% for 2021 and may record a sharp contraction in H1 2022 partly due to the base effect. Property FAI accounts for 24% of total FAI as of 2020 and we estimate that property sector contributes to almost a quarter of China's GDP if both direct value added and indirect contribution (through other sectors including construction material, appliances, services etc) are included (see [earlier report](#)). This means a sharper property downturn could drag down China's GDP growth by 1-2ppts in the next few months, with growth possibly falling below 3% y/y in Q4 2021 (versus our current [baseline of 4% y/y](#)).

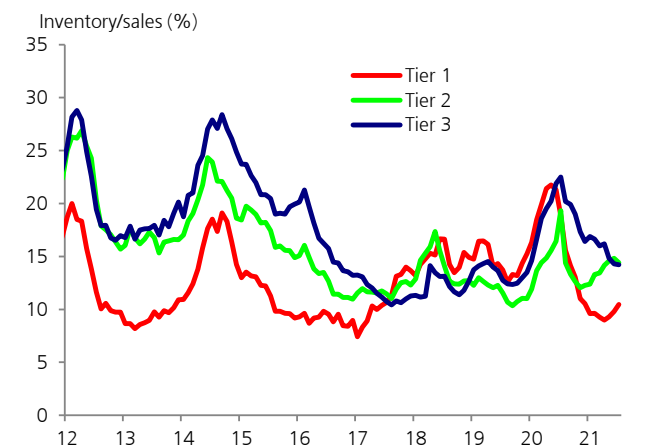
...though the macro impact would likely be smaller than the 2014-15 property downturn. Although property FAI could record an annual contraction in 2022, the peak-trough change will likely be smaller than during 2014-15, when property investment slowed from about 20% in 2013 to 1% in 2015 (Figure 11). This is partly because residential inventories are relatively low compared to back then (Figure 12). More importantly, the spillover effect to upstream industries will likely be smaller, as excess capacity in industries such as coal and steel has come down significantly since 2015, as has their leverage.

Figure 11: Property investment slowed sharply in 2014-15



Source : CEIC, UBS estimates

Figure 12: Property inventories are lower than 2014-15



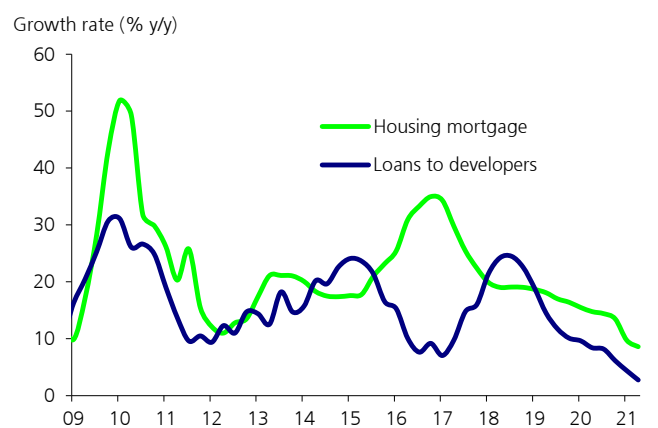
Source : CRIC, UBS estimates

Bigger downward pressure is likely to lead to more fiscal and monetary policy easing... In the case of a sharper property downturn and in light of weak consumption recovery, we expect fiscal easing to pick up pace. LG bond issuance will likely accelerate, some LG bond quota and new projects from next year may be brought forward, and controls on LGFV financing may become less tight, all helping to support a more notable infrastructure investment rebound to over 5%/y/y growth (vs our baseline of 2%/y/y) in the coming months. The PBC will likely increase liquidity offering and cut RRR again to ensure ample liquidity and keep market rates low, and banks will likely be persuaded to increase lending, including on mortgages, and extend loans for some troubled sectors. De-leveraging related credit and regulatory policies may be relaxed at the margin, leading to a more pronounced credit growth rebound at end 2021 and early 2022 than we currently envisage. In addition, de-carbonization related production cuts may also be relaxed. However, much of such notable policy easing (except LG bond issuance) will likely be implemented only towards end year or early 2022, after more negative property

data have come through. Policy easing would then pick up pace further in March and Q2 2022, after tight Covid-related restrictions around the Winter Olympics have put more downward pressure on consumption and the economy.

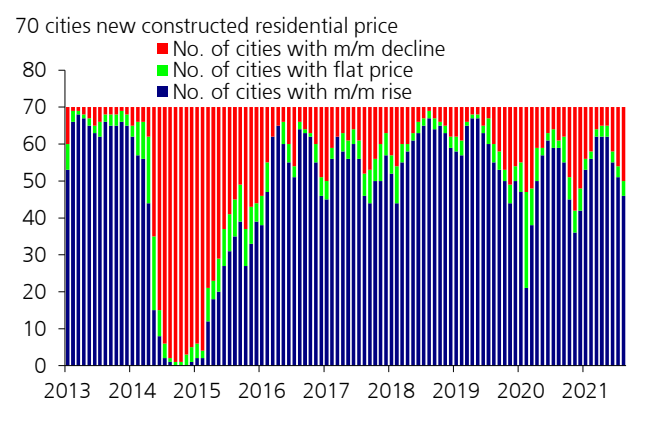
...including some property policy adjustment. Given the importance of the property sector in overall economy and financial system stability, we think property new starts declining by 20% and real estate FAI falling by 10%/y for a few months would likely lead to the government adjust property policies as well, though we do not expect a 2015-16 style de-stocking campaign or a wholesale easing of national policies. While reiterating "housing is for living, not for speculation", we think the government may grant developers a longer transition period for meeting the "[three red lines](#)" of debt reduction, ease developer access to domestic bond market, and ask banks to extend loan repayment for developers and related suppliers. Local governments will likely ease property policies earlier, including on price controls and land supply, while increasing investment in rental properties.

Figure 13: Housing mortgage growth has slowed



Source : CEIC, UBS estimates

Figure 14: Property prices



Source : CEIC, UBS estimates

Valuation Method and Risk Statement

We derive our price targets for H-share China banks based on a three-stage dividend discount model (DDM). For A-share banks, we derive PT using PB-ROE valuation method. We think the major risks for China banks are: 1) deterioration in asset quality, underpinned by a slower macro environment and domestic property market activity; 2) regulatory risks related to capital, liquidity and off-balance-sheet activities of banks; 3) deterioration in funding structure and balance-sheet liquidity positions, driven by a potential roll-over of loans and a lengthening of asset durations; and 4) liberalisation of interest rates in the medium term and the consequent pressure on bank profitability.

We base our price target for Evergrande on a target PB multiple.

We believe the key risks for Evergrande are: 1) government policies restricting demand and mortgage lending; 2) banks tightening financing for developers; 3) weakening purchasing power and intention especially in lower tier cities.

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