

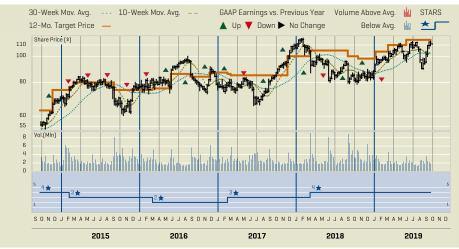
#### Recommendation Price 12-Mo. Target Price **Report Currency Investment Style** BUY $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ USD 111.07 (as of Sep 20, 2019 4:00 PM ET) USD 115.00 USD Large-Cap Value **Equity Analyst Camilla Yanushevsky**

**GICS Sector** Consumer Discretionary Sub-Industry General Merchandise Stores Summary This company is a leading U.S. operator of discount variety stores, with more than 14,800 stores in the U.S. and Canada.

# Key Stock Statistics (Source: CFRA, S&P Global Market Intelligence (SPGMI), Company Reports)

52-Wk Range	USD 113.67 - 78.78	Oper. EPS 2020 <b>E</b>	USD 5.02	Market Capitalization(B)	USD 26.28	Beta	0.54
Trailing 12-Month	n EPS NM	Oper. EPS 2021 <b>E</b>	USD 6.17	Yield (%)	NA	3-Yr Proj. EPS CAGR(%)	12
Trailing 12-Month	n P/E <b>NM</b>	P/E on Oper. EPS 2020 <b>E</b>	22.13	Dividend Rate/Share	NA	SPGMI's Quality Ranking	В
\$10K Invested 5 Y	′rs Ago <b>\$19,483</b>	Common Shares Outstg.(M)	236.62	Institutional Ownership (%)	98		

# **Price Performance**



#### Source: CFRA, S&P Global Market Intelligence

Past performance is not an indication of future performance and should not be relied upon as such. Analysis prepared by Equity Analyst Camilla Yanushevsky on Aug 29, 2019 03:23 PM, when the stock traded at USD 99.60.

# Highlights

- ► We expect sales to be up 3.7% in FY 20 [Jan.] and 4.5% in FY 21, reflecting renovation of 1,000 Family Dollars, opening of 350 new Dollar Tree and 200 new Family Dollars, as well as re-bannering of 200 Family Dollars, offset by closure of 390 Family Dollars. In FY 20, we forecast comp growth of 2.2%, with Dollar Tree up 2.8%, and Family Dollar up 1%. We forecast comp growth of 2.4% in FY 21, reflective of innovation in offerings like Snack Zone. We expect top performers to be snacks & beverage, health & personal care, and consumables.
- ▶ We forecast gross margin will expand to 30.5% in FY 20 and 30.6% in FY 21, reflecting higher domestic freight, shrink and distribution costs, offset by lower merchandise costs. We expect operating margin to narrow to 7.5% in FY 20, reflecting higher SG&A expense driven by higher payroll expenses related to reinvestment in a portion of tax savings, partly offset by lower depreciation & amortization costs and lower store maintenance costs. We expect operating margin to expand to 8.0% in FY 21
- ► DLTR has \$882M remaining in its current share repurchase program and we see DLTR temporarily halting repurchases in H2 of FY 20.

# **Investment Rationale/Risk**

- ► Our positive investment view reflects DLTR's sustainable comp momentum [+2.4%] with turnaround in Family Dollar (+2.4%, representing the third consecutive quarter of sequential acceleration], a rapidly expanding footprint amid thousands of closures in retail to date and our larger positive outlook on general merchandisers. We like the industry's gear toward value-conscious consumers, notably during a softer macro environment, which increases the allure of bargain hunting. (Q2 personal savings was \$1.32T vs. \$1.25T in Q4 2018; the Q2 savings rate was 8.1% vs. Q4's 7.8% and we see savings rate above 9% this vear.)
- ► Risks to our view include margin headwinds from List 1, 2, 3 and 4 tariffs. While tariffs threaten to reduce consumer confidence, a primary driver of the industry, we view DLTR as a compelling tariff play, given DLTR generates a large portion of its sales in necessities like food and consumables (76%), where demand leans more inelastic.
- Our 12-month target of \$115 is 22.9x our FY 20 estimate of \$5.02, above the 3-year historical forward P/E average.

# **Analyst's Risk Assessment**

LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH

Our risk assessment reflects DLTR's history of steady earnings growth and strong cash flow generation. With the exception of more discretionary categories, demand for the company's merchandise is generally stable.

# **Revenue/Earnings Data**

Revenue (Million USD)										
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Year					
2020	5,809	5,741								
2019	5,554	5,526	5,539	6,205	22,823					
2018	5,287	5,281	5,317	6,361	22,246					
2017	5,086	4,996	5,002	5,636	20,719					
2016	2,177	3,011	4,945	5,365	15,498					
2015	2,000	2,031	2,095	2,476	8,602					

# Earnings Per Share (USD)

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Year
2021	<b>E</b> 1.33	<b>E</b> 1.19	<b>E</b> 1.35	<b>E</b> 2.30	<b>E</b> 6.17
2020	1.12	0.76	<b>E</b> 1.12	<b>E</b> 2.00	<b>E</b> 5.02
2019	0.67	1.15	1.18	-9.69	-6.69
2018	0.85	0.98	1.01	4.36	7.21
2017	0.98	0.72	0.72	1.35	3.78
2016	0.34	-0.46	0.35	0.97	1.26

Fiscal year ended Jan 31. Next earnings report expected: Late Nov. EPS Estimates based on CFRA's Operating Earnings; historical GAAP earnings are as reported in Company reports.

### **Dividend Data**

No cash dividends have been paid in the last year.

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# Business Summary August 29, 2019

CORPORATE OVERVIEW. Dollar Tree, Inc. (DLTR) is a leading operator of discount variety stores. As of February 2, 2019, DLTR operated 15,237 stores under the Dollar Tree, Family Dollar and Dollar Tree Canada banners. The Dollar Tree segment, which includes Dollar Tree and Dollar Tree Canada stores, offers merchandise at the fixed price point of a dollar. The segment primarily serves middle income customers in suburban locations. By merchandising mix, consumables accounted 48.7% of FY 19 [Jan.] sales, 46.6% variety; and 4.7% seasonal. Family Dollar segment consists of 8,236 stores, with merchandise priced between \$1.00 and \$10.00. By merchandising mix, consumables accounted for 76.2% of revenues; home products 8.2%; apparel and accessories 6.3%; and seasonal and electronics 9.3%. Family Dollar banner primarily serves lower income customers in urban and rural locations.

CORPORATE STRATEGY. Going forward, we expect DLTR to continue to grow the Dollar Tree and Family Dollar banners, pursue opportunities to relocate or remodel locations within its existing store base and develop digital tools and technology to provide consumers with more shopping access points. To support new store growth and enhance productivity, we expect DLTR to continue to invest in its distribution center network, primarily in Canada, which we view to be an under-penetrated market.

Additionally, we expect increased customer traffic and average transaction amounts to drive same-store-sales growth momentum. Initiatives in place include an assortment expansion in beverage and snacks, hair care and frozen food, as well as updates to front-end checkout to provide customers with an improved shopping experience. That said, we also view the sale of private brand items as an important element of DLTR's sales growth and gross margin enhancement plans. We note, however, that an increase in sales of DLTR's private brands can adversely impact the sale of vendors' products, which, in turn, has the risk of adversely impacting DLTR's relationship with certain vendors.

MARKET PROFILE. DLTR operates in the highly competitive discount retail industry, with competition from other general merchandise, discount, food, furniture, arts and crafts and dollar store retailers, which market both in-store and online. DLTR's main competitors include Dollar General, Big Lots, Fred's, 99 Cents Only and various local, independent operators, as well as Walmart, Target, Kroger, Aldi, Lidl, Walgreens, CVS and RiteAid, among others. We believe DLTR's key differentiator is its gear towards value conscious consumers, notably during a slowing economy, where we expect consumers to divert more disposable income to savings. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, personal saving was \$1.32 trillion in the second quarter of 2019, compared with \$1.25 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2018. The personal saving rate -- personal saving as a percentage of disposable personal income -- was 8.1% in the second quarter of 2019, compared with 7.8% in the fourth quarter of 2018. We see the personal saving rate rising about 9% this year, alongside more consumers hunting for bargains.

LEGAL/REGULATORY ISSUES. President Trump's 25% duties on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports, effective May 10, 2019, heavily target the U.S. textiles, apparel & luxury goods industry and can adversely impact DLTR's ability to produce and market its offerings at competitive prices. Further, tariffs threaten to reduce consumer confidence, a primary driver of the industry. That said, we view DLTR as a tariff safe haven, as company generates a large portion of the sales in necessities like food and consumables.

IMPACT OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS. In January 2019, activist investor, Starboard Value, which has a 1.7% stake in DLTR, asked DLTR to divest its under-performing Family Dollar banner and replace seven directors of its 12-member board. On April 5, 2019, Starboard Value announced its withdrawal of director nominations for DLTR's board. We see a decision to end proxy fight as merited, given progress DLTR has made to right-size its portfolio. In Jan-Q, same-store sales in underperforming Family Dollar posted strongest quarterly FY 19 comp, up 1.4%, suggesting positive results in renovated stores, for which DLTR said delivered average comp lifts of more than 10%. On March 6, 2019, DLTR said it plans to complete at least 1,000 renovations, 390 closures and 200 rebanners at Family Dollar, which we see driving sustainable comp improvements and long-term value creation.

In January 2015, Family Dollar Stores, Inc. shareholders approved the sale of the company for \$74.50 in cash and DLTR common stock, or about \$9.2 billion on an enterprise value basis. The value was subsequently increased based on \$59.60 cash per FDO share plus 0.3036 DLTR shares. The transaction closed in July 2015. The Federal Trade Commission approval required divestment 330 stores of the combined company. The sales of these stores closed in November 2015.

Before 2015, DLTR also added stores through mergers and acquisitions. In FY 07, the company acquired the 138-store Deal\$-Nothing Over a Dollar chain, which operates in 16 states, from SUPERVALU, Inc. for about \$30.5 million of store-related assets and \$22.2 million of store and distribution center inventory.

FINANCIAL TRENDS, Revenues increased 2.6% in FY 19, after increasing 7.4% in FY 18, Aggregate same-store sales were up 1.7% and 1.9%, respectively, during those periods. Gross margin narrowed 120 basis points to 30.4% in FY 19, after expanding 80 basis points to 31.6% in FY 18.

Looking at DLTR's balance sheet, DLTR's liquidity position weakened slightly between FY 15 and FY 19. The current ratio stood at 2.0x in FY 19 compared to 2.3x in FY 15. The quick ratio stood at 0.2x in FY 19 compared to 1.0x in FY 15. During the same time frame, DLTR's solvency position weakened. Total debt to equity ratio stood at 75.6% in FY 19 compared to 38.2% in FY 15. Total debt to capital stood at 43.0% in FY 19 compared to 27.7% in FY 15. Looking at profitability ratios, return on assets stood at 7.5% in FY 19, compared to 21.4% in FY 15. Return on capital stood at 9.9% in FY 19 compared to 30.3% in FY 15. Return on equity stood at -24.8% in FY 19 compared to 40.5%.

# **Corporate Information**

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# Telephone

757-321-5000

#### Website www.dollartree.com

#### Officers

President, CEO & Director G. M. Philbin Chief Financial Officer K. S. Wampler Chief Legal Officer, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary W. A. Old	Senior VP & Principal Accounting Officer K. E. Mallas Executive Chairman B. Sasser
Board Members	
<b>Board Members</b> A. S. Barron	J. G. Naylor
	J. G. Naylor L. E. Lewis
A. S. Barron	,

C. M. Hall	I. A.
C. P. Zeithaml	T. E.
G. M. Bridgeford	T. W
G. M. Philhin	

# /. Dickson

Whiddon

#### Domicile Virginia

Auditor KPMG LLP - Klynyeld Peat Marwick Goerdeler

Founded 1986

#### Employees 119,650

Stockholders

2.507



Quantitative Ev	aluations							
Fair Value Rank	NR	1	2	3	4	5		
		LOWEST HIGHEST Based on CFRA's proprietary quantitative model, stocks are ranked from most overvalued (1) to most undervalued (5).						
Fair Value Calculation	NA							
Volatility		LOW	/	AVERAGE		HIGH		
Technical Evaluation	BULLISH	Since Sept DLTR have		19, the tech .ISH.	nical indic	ators for		
Insider Activity		UNFAVOR	RABLE	NEUTRAL	FAV	ORABLE		

# **Expanded Ratio Analysis**

	2019	2018	2017	2016
Price/Sales	1.01	1.16	0.85	1.17
Price/EBITDA	9.50	9.89	7.47	10.56
Price/Pretax Income	-17.57	15.18	13.19	40.55
P/E Ratio	-14.46	15.09	19.59	64.54
Avg. Diluted Shares Outsg.(M)	238	238	237	224

Figures based on fiscal year-end price

Key Growth Rates and Averages			
Past Growth Rate (%)	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
Sales	2.60	13.77	23.83
Net Income	NM	77.93	21.67
Ratio Analysis (Annual Avg.)			

Net Margin (%)	NM	NM	NM
% LT Debt to Capitalization	43.05	NA	NA
Return on Equity (%)	-24.81	NA	NA

Company Financials Fiscal year ending Jan. 31										
Per Share Data (USD)	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Tangible Book Value	-0.18	-5.55	-13.58	-18.26	7.87	4.80	6.65	5.07	5.21	4.94
Free Cash Flow	3.99	3.71	4.70	1.45	3.00	2.13	1.60	1.81	1.34	1.55
Earnings	-6.69	7.21	3.78	1.26	2.90	2.72	2.68	2.01	1.55	1.19
Earnings (Normalized)	4.17	4.52	3.53	2.25	2.97	2.72	2.49	2.01	1.60	1.18
Dividends	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Payout Ratio (%)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Prices: High	114.89	116.65	99.93	84.22	72.59	60.19	56.81	43.32	29.00	17.40
Prices: Low	78.78	65.63	72.52	60.31	49.59	38.43	37.12	24.25	15.67	10.98
P/E Ratio: High	25.9	27.6	68.6	67.7	24.7	21.2	53.8	45.8	52.8	54.7
P/E Ratio: Low	11.1	18.2	21.8	24.8	18.2	15.8	15.3	31.3	33.4	41.9
Income Statement Analysis (Million USD)										
Revenue	22,823	22,246	20,719	15,498	8,602	7,840	7,395	6,631	5,882	5,231
Operating Income	1,801	2,005	1,709	1,234	1,070	971	921	783	657	514
Depreciation + Amortization	621	611	638	488	206	191	175	164	160	158
Interest Expense	215	292	373	428	80	15	3	3	6	5
Pretax Income	-1,309	1,704	1,329	448	954	954	979	780	630	508
Effective Tax Rate	-21.5	-0.6	32.6	37.0	37.2	37.5	36.7	37.4	36.9	36.9
Net Income	-1,591	1,714	896	282	599	597	619	488	397	321
Net Income (Normalized)	992	1,075	835	502	615	597	574	488	411	318
Balance Sheet and Other Financial Data (Million USD)										
Cash	422	1,098	870	740	864	268	400	288	486	599
Current Assets	4,293	4,576	3,938	3,936	1,995	1,379	1,474	1,209	1,333	1,306
Total Assets	13,501	16,333	15,702	15,901	3,493	2,772	2,752	2,329	2,381	2,290
Current Liabilities	2,096	2,859	2,106	2,095	862	686	676	581	533	476
Long Term Debt	4,265	4,762	6,170	7,238	683	757	257	250	250	250
Total Capital	9,908	12,860	11,711	11,753	2,468	1,941	1,939	1,610	1,726	1,697
Capital Expenditures	817	632	565	481	326	330	312	250	179	165
Cash from Operations	1,766	1,510	1,673	803	943	794	678	687	519	581
Current Ratio	2.05	1.60	1.87	1.88	2.31	2.01	2.18	2.08	2.50	2.74
% Long Term Debt of Capitalization	43.0	37.0	52.7	61.6	27.7	39.0	13.3	15.5	14.5	14.7
% Net Income of Revenue	-6.97	7.71	4.33	1.82	6.97	7.61	8.38	7.36	6.75	6.13
% Return on Assets	7.54	7.82	6.76	7.95	21.35	21.97	22.65	20.78	17.60	14.86
% Return on Equity	-24.8	27.3	18.3	9.1	40.5	42.1	41.1	34.8	27.5	23.9

Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence. Data may be preliminary or restated; before results of discontinued operations/special items. Per share data adjusted for stock dividends; EPS diluted. E-Estimated. NA-Not Available. NM-Not Meaningful. NR-Not Ranked. UR-Under Review.



# Sub-Industry Outlook

Our fundamental outlook for general merchandisers is positive. Sales at general merchandisers have increased 1.7% year-to-date through August 31. Sub-industry sales increased 3.2% in 2018, following a 2.5% gain in 2017, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Looking ahead, we see these figures accelerating in FY 20 and FY 21, as industry players buck the current retail trend and accelerate growth of new stores. We expect Dollar General to execute on more than 2,075 real estate projects, including over 975 openings, 1,000 remodels and 100 store relocations in FY 20. Similarly, we expect Dollar Tree to execute on the renovation of 1,000 Family Dollars, the opening of 350 new Dollar Tree stores and 200 new Family Dollar stores as well as the re-bannering of 200 Family Dollar stores. These aggressive store fleet expansions come amid nearly 8,000 announced U.S. retail store closures, according to Coresight Research.

We like the general merchandising industry's defensive features and gear toward value-conscious consumers, notably during a slowing economic environment, where we expect consumers to divert more disposable income to savings and see bargain hunting picking up pace. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, personal saving was \$1.32 trillion in the second quarter of 2019, compared with \$1.25 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2018. The personal saving rate -- personal saving as a percentage of disposable personal income -- was 8.1% in the second quarter of 2019, compared with 7.8% in the fourth quarter of 2018. We see the personal saving rate rising about 9% this year.

That said, we note potential headwinds to margins from the implementation of President Trump's List 1, 2, 3 and 4 tariffs. In our view, the tariffs currently in place are too large for general merchandisers to absorb and will mean higher prices for the U.S. consumer. Tariffs also threaten to reduce consumer confidence, a key industry driver. That said, many industry players, such as Dollar General and Dollar Tree, generate a large portion of sales in necessities like food and consumables where we believe demand leans more inelastic and, as such, we see sub-industry's margins staying resilient. [Consumables accounted for 77.5% of Dollar General's sales in FY 19 and 48.7% of Dollar Tree's.]

That said, we recognize increasing competitive pressures in the food and consumables category from Aldi's expanding U.S. footprint. (The German family-owned discount supermarket chain plans to operate 2,500 stores in the U.S. by 2022, which would make it the third largest grocery store by count in the U.S.1 We also see intensifying competition in home furnishings from Walmart and Amazon, notably for Big Lots, which generates about 50% of its sales in the furniture, soft home and hard home category. On February 8, Walmart announced the launch of a new home brand, MoDRN, exclusively for Walmart's digital platform. Similarly, Amazon rolled out Amazon Showroom, a visualization tool that assists users to make online furniture purchasing decisions in early January. The roll-out follows Amazon's launch of its third private label furniture brand, Ravenna Home, in October 2018.

Year-to-date through September 13, the S&P Composite 1500 General Merchandise Stores Index increased 44.7% versus the S&P 1500 Composite Index, which rallied 19.7%. In 2018, the sub-industry index was flat compared to the 6.8% decline for the broader benchmark.

#### /Camilla Yanushevsky

### **Industry Performance**

#### GICS Sector: Consumer Discretionary Sub-Industry: General Merchandise Stores

Based on S&P 1500 Indexes

Five-Year market price performance through Sep 21, 2019

— S&P 1500 — Sector — Sub-Industry



NOTE: All Sector  $\varpi$  Sub-Industry information is based on the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS).

Past performance is not an indication of future performance and should not be relied upon as such.

Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence

·		-										
	Stock			Recent Stock	Stk. Mkt.	30-Day Price	1-Year Price	P/E	Fair Value		Return on Equity	LTD to
Peer Group	Symbol	Exchange	Currency	Price	Сар. (М)	Chg. (%)	Chg. (%)	Ratio	Calc.	[%]	[%]	Cap [%]
Dollar Tree, Inc.	DLTR	NasdaqGS	USD	111.07	26,282	15.6	28.8	NM	NA	Nil	-24.8	43.0
Big Lots, Inc.	BIG	NYSE	USD	22.90	893	10.4	-44.7	7	28.46	5.2	23.0	30.9
Canadian Tire Corporation, Limited	CTC.A	TSX	CAD	148.82	10,953	11.9	-5.5	13	96.72	2.8	14.3	18.4
Dollar General Corporation	DG	NYSE	USD	156.23	40,162	12.6	42.6	50	149.12	0.8	25.3	30.7
Dollarama Inc.	DOL	TSX	CAD	47.96	15,098	-6.6	12.4	28	24.07	0.4	NM	113.4
Fred's, Inc.	FRED.Q	ОТСРК	USD	0.0700	2	-77.5	-96.5	NM	NA	Nil	-79.2	6.1
Ollie's Bargain Outlet Holdings, Inc.	OLLI	NasdaqGM	USD	62.54	3,977	-22.6	-32.8	30	72.80	Nil	15.5	NA
Pan Pacific International Holdings Corporation	DQJC.Y	ОТСРК	USD	16.39	10,373	8.0	34.5	96	NA	0.5	15.0	55.3
Ryohin Keikaku Co., Ltd.	RYKK.Y	ОТСРК	USD	18.96	4,979	12.2	-37.6	18	NA	1.8	18.5	0.3
Tuesday Morning Corporation	TUES	NasdaqGS	USD	1.660	74	20.3	-44.7	NM	NA	Nil	-7.1	16.8
Wesfarmers Limited	WFAF.Y	OTCPK	USD	13.44	30,453	2.1	-25.7	8	NA	7.3	11.9	20.6

\*For Peer Groups with more than 10 companies or stocks, selection of issues is based on market capitalization.

Sub-Industry: General Merchandise Stores Peer Group\*: General Merchandise Stores

NA-Not Available NM-Not Meaningful.

Note: Peers are selected based on Global Industry Classification Standards and market capitalization. The peer group list includes companies with similar characteristics, but may not include all the companies within the same industry and/or that engage in the same line of business.

# **Analyst Research Notes and other Company News**

# August 29, 2019

09:50 am ET... CFRA Maintains Buy Opinion on Shares of Dollar Tree, Inc. [104. 25\*\*\*\*]: We keep our 12-month target at \$115, a forward P/E of 22.9x our FY 20 [Jan.] estimate of \$5.02, above the 3-year historical forward P/E average. We keep FY 21's at \$6.17. DLTR posts Jul-Q EPS of \$0.76 vs. \$1.15, missing consensus. Revenues rose 3.9% to \$5.7B, beating consensus. Our positive view reflects DLTR's sustainable comp momentum [+2.4%] with turnaround in Family Dollar (+2.4%, representing third consecutive quarter of sequential acceleration), a rapidly expanding footprint amid thousands of closures in retail to date, and our larger positive outlook on general merchandisers. We like the industry's gear toward value-conscious consumers, notably during a softer macro environment, which increases the allure of bargain hunting. While tariffs threaten to reduce consumer confidence, a primary driver of the industry, we view DLTR as a compelling tariff play, given DLTR generates a large portion of its sales in necessities like food and consumables, where demand leans more inelastic. /Camilla Yanushevsky

#### August 15, 2019

10:26 am ET... CFRA Maintains Neutral Retailing Outlook [15.96\*\*\*]: Retail sales rose 0.7% in July, following a 0.3% gain in June, the Census Bureau reported. These figures suggest that the U.S. consumer remains healthy, amid low unemployment and modest wage growth, and that Wednesday's industry-wide sell-off, following Macy's earnings report [M 16 \*\*\*] was over-done. Despite significant macroeconomic noise surrounding tariffs, we remain bullish on general merchandisers [Dollar General and Dollar Tree] and value retailers [Five Below, TJX, and Ross Stores]. With personal savings accelerating, we see these players thriving as bargain hunting picks up pace. On department stores, valuation stands at record-low levels, but we see industry players in for more pain, given their lower hand in the trade war and long-term headwinds as consumer bypass wholesalers and connect directly with brands. On home furnishings and computer electronics, we see sales decelerating in H2. In our view, consumers were accelerating purchases in H1 in anticipation of price hikes. /Camilla Yanushevsky

# August 01, 2019

02:02 pm ET... CFRA Maintains Neutral Retailing Outlook (70.33\*\*): President Trump announced today that U.S. will impose a 10% tariff on \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods, beginning September 1. In our view, the tariff will take a big bite out of retailers' profits and consumers' wallets. It will force retailers to pass on costs, and co.'s margins will also take a hit as price hikes will likely come with a drop in demand. We highlight high risk in electronics space, given the complexities of redrawing supply chain, and notably for those retailers like Best Buy (BBY 70 \*\*) that primarily function as distributors, where bargaining power is low. That said, we see safe havens among general merchandisers Dollar General (DG 132 \*\*\*\*\*) and Dollar Tree (DLTR 95 \*\*\*\*), which generate a large portion sales in necessities like food and consumables. While value retailers, like Five Below (FIVE 112 \*\*\*\*), have announced selective price hikes, we believe that demand among the group leans more inelastic, given psychological savings proposition. /Camilla Yanushevsky

#### June 17, 2019

01:01 pm ET... CFRA Maintains Neutral Retailing Outlook [66.54\*\*]: Seven days of testimony regarding proposed \$300B tariff start today and more than 300 businesses are expected to testify, including BBY, VFC and American Apparel & Footwear Association. In our view, \$300B tariff, if effective, will be detrimental to the U.S. consumer. It'll force retailers to pass on costs, and companies' margins will also take a hit as price hikes will likely come with a drop in demand. We highlight high risk in electronics space, given complexities of redrawing supply chain, and notably for those retailers, such as Best Buy, who primarily function as distributors, and, as such, for which bargaining power is low. That said, we see safe havens among general merchandisers, Dollar General and Dollar Tree, which generate a large portion of the sales in necessities like food and consumables. While value retailers, like Five Below, have announced selective price hikes, we believe that demand among this group leans more inelastic, given the psychological savings proposition. /Camilla Yanushevsky

# June 03, 2019

02:54 pm ET... CFRA Maintains Neutral Retailing Outlook [128.67\*\*\*\*\*]:

May's retail sell-off [SPDR Retail ETF down nearly 13%, marking worst month since November 2008] was overdone, in our view. Expectations coming out of a strong holiday season were set way too high, as evidenced by a string of disappointing earnings results. Despite lingering tariff concerns and accelerating savings rate trends, we don't see the consumer going into hibernation anytime soon. We see compelling Buy opportunities across three 'thematic' investments: [1] value; [2] expanding retail empire; and [3] social activism. [1] <strong>Value trumps tariffs in our books.</strong> We have Buys on TJX, ROST, FIVE, DG and DLTR. [2] <strong>Rapid store openers to outshine in midst of avalanche of closings.</strong> We highlight TJX, ROST, ULTA, FIVE, DG, DLTR and TSCO. [3] <strong>Social activism is a key differentiator.</strong> According to PR firm Edelman, 64% of people will buy or boycott a brand solely because of its position on social or political issues. We recommend DKS, AEO and ANF. /Camilla Yanushevsky

#### May 30, 2019

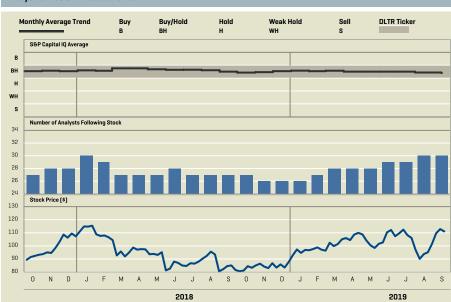
09:31 am ET... CFRA Maintains Buy Opinion on Shares of Dollar Tree, Inc. (94. 6\*\*\*\*): We lift our 12-month target \$5 to \$115, a forward P/E of 22.9x our FY 20 (Jan.) estimate of \$5.02 (cut from \$5.74), above the 3-year historical forward P/E average. We lower FY 21's to \$6.17 from \$6.52. DLTR posts Apr-Q EPS of \$1.14 vs. \$1.19, meeting the Street. Sales rose 4.6% to \$5.88, beating the Street. Our positive view reflects sustainable comps [+2.2%] with turnaround in Family Dollar [+1.9%], expanding footprint (500+) amid thousands of retail store closures and our positive industry outlook. We like the industry's gear toward value-conscious consumers, notably during a softer macro environment, which increases the allure of bargain hunting. (Q1 personal savings were \$1.11T vs. \$1.07T in Q4; we see saving rates above 7% this year.) While we recognize margin risks from an escalation of U.S.-China trade tensions, value trumps tariffs in our book. General merchandise sales are up 1.8% year-to-date according to the Census Bureau and we see figures accelerating in the latter half. /Camilla Yanushevsky

Note: Research notes reflect CFRA's published opinions and analysis on the stock at the time the note was published. The note reflects the views of the equity analyst as of the date and time indicated in the note, and may not reflect CFRA's current view on the company.





# Analysts' Recommendations



	No. of Recommendations	% of Total	1 Mo.Prior	3 Mos.Prior
Buy	11	37	11	12
Buy/Hold	6	20	6	6
Hold	12	40	13	10
Weak Hold	1	3	0	1
Sell	0	0	0	0
No Opinion	0	0	0	0
Total	30	100	30	29

### Wall Street Consensus Estimates

E	stimates	20	19 🗖		2020		20	21 -				•	2019	Actual	(Norm	alized D	liluted	d] \$4.17
8																		
7	L _																	
										L .		_						
6												· · · ·						
5														*****				
4																		
4	A	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D	J	F	м	A	м	J	J	A	S
			20	018											20	19		
			21	110											20	13		
Fiscal	Years							Α	vg Es	t.	High	Est	Low	/ Est.	#	of Est		Est. P/E
2021									5.9	4	6	.22		5.65		25	5	18.7
2020									5.1	0	5	.41		4.86		24	4	21.8
2021	/s. 202	0							<b>16</b> %	6	<b>1</b>	5%		16%		<b>4</b> %		▼-14%
													_					
03'21									1.3	0	1	.37		1.21		11	L	85.3
03'20									1.1	3		.20		1.04		23	3	98.4
Q3'21	vs. Q3'	20							<b>15</b> %	-	<b>1</b>			16%	•	-52%	-	▼-13%

Forecasts are not reliable indicator of future performance.

Note: A company's earnings outlook plays a major part in any investment decision. S&P Global Market Intelligence organizes the earnings estimates of over 2,300 Wall Street analysts, and provides their consensus of earnings over the next two years, as well as how those earnings estimates have changed over time. Note that the information provided in relation to consensus estimates is not intended to predict actual results and should not be taken as a reliable indicator of future performance.

Note: For all tables, graphs and charts in this report that do not cite any reference or source, the source is S&P Global Market Intelligence.

# Wall Street Consensus Opinion

#### **BUY/HOLD**

#### Wall Street Consensus vs. Performance

For fiscal year 2020, analysts estimate that DLTR will earn USD \$5.10. For the 2nd quarter of fiscal year 2020, DLTR announced earnings per share of USD \$0.76, representing 14.9% of the total revenue estimate. For fiscal year 2021, analysts estimate that DLTR's earnings per share will grow by 16% to USD \$5.94.



# Glossary

#### STARS

Since January 1, 1987, CFRA Equity and Fund Research Services, and its predecessor S&P Capital IQ Equity Research has ranked a universe of U.S. common stocks, ADRs [American Depositary Receipts], and ADSs [American Depositary Shares) based on a given equity's potential for future performance. Similarly, we have ranked Asian and European equities since June 30, 2002. Under proprietary STARS (Stock Appreciation Ranking System), equity analysts rank equities according to their individual forecast of an equity's future total return potential versus the expected total return of a relevant benchmark [e.q., a regional index (S&P Asia 50 Index, S&P Europe 350® Index or S&P 500® Index)), based on a 12-month time horizon. STARS was designed to meet the needs of investors looking to put their investment decisions in perspective. Data used to assist in determining the STARS ranking may be the result of the analyst's own models as well as internal proprietary models resulting from dynamic data inputs.

# S&P Global Market Intelligence's Quality Ranking

[also known as S&P Capital IQ Earnings & Dividend Rankings] - Growth and stability of earnings and dividends are deemed key elements in establishing S&P Global Market Intelligence's earnings and dividend rankings for common stocks, which are designed to capsulize the nature of this record in a single symbol. It should be noted, however, that the process also takes into consideration certain adjustments and modifications deemed desirable in establishing such rankings. The final score for each stock is measured against a scoring matrix determined by analysis of the scores of a large and representative sample of stocks. The range of scores in the array of this sample has been aligned with the following ladder of rankings:

A+ Highest А

A-

B+

- B **Below Average** R-Lower
- High Above Average
  - С Lowest
    - D In Reorganization
- Average NR Not Ranked

#### **EPS Estimates**

CFRA's earnings per share [EPS] estimates reflect analyst projections of future EPS from continuing operations, and generally exclude various items that are viewed as special, non-recurring, or extraordinary. Also, EPS estimates reflect either forecasts of equity analysts; or, the consensus (average) EPS estimate, which are independently compiled by S&P Global Market Intelligence, a data provider to CFRA. Among the items typically excluded from EPS estimates are asset sale gains; impairment, restructuring or merger-related charges; legal and insurance settlements; in process research and development expenses; gains or losses on the extinguishment of debt; the cumulative effect of accounting changes; and earnings related to operations that have been classified by the company as discontinued. The inclusion of some items, such as stock option expense and recurring types of other charges, may vary, and depend on such factors as industry practice, analyst judgment, and the extent to which some types of data is disclosed by companies.

### **12-Month Target Price**

The equity analyst's projection of the market price a given security will command 12 months hence, based on a combination of intrinsic, relative, and private market valuation metrics, including Fair Value.

#### **CFRA Equity Research**

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### Abbreviations Used in Equity Research Reports

CAGR - Compound Annual Growth Rate CAPEX - Capital Expenditures CY - Calendar Year DCF - Discounted Cash Flow DDM - Dividend Discount Model EBIT - Earnings Before Interest and Taxes EPS - Earnings Per Share EV - Enterprise Value FCF - Free Cash Flow

EBITDA - Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation & Amortization

FFO - Funds From Operations

FY - Fiscal Year P/E - Price/Earnings

P/NAV - Price to Net Asset Value PEG Ratio - P/E-to-Growth Ratio PV - Present Value

R&D - Research & Development ROCE - Return on Capital Employed ROE -

Return on Equity

ROI - Return on Investment

ROIC - Return on Invested Capital

ROA - Return on Assets

SG&A - Selling, General & Administrative Expenses

SOTP - Sum-of-The-Parts

WACC - Weighted Average Cost of Capital

#### Dividends on American Depository Receipts (ADRs) and American Depository Shares (ADSs) are net of taxes (paid in the country of origin).

# **Qualitative Risk Assessment**

Reflects an equity analyst's view of a given company's operational risk, or the risk of a firm's ability to continue as an ongoing concern. The Qualitative Risk Assessment is a relative ranking to the U.S. STARS universe, and should be reflective of risk factors related to a company's operations, as opposed to risk and volatility measures associated with share prices. For an ETF this reflects on a capitalization-weighted basis, the average qualitative risk assessment assigned to holdings of the fund.

# STARS Ranking system and definition:

# \* \* \* \* \* 5-STARS [Strong Buy]:

Total return is expected to outperform the total return of a relevant benchmark, by a notable margin over the coming 12 months, with shares rising in price on an absolute basis.

### $\star \star \star \star \star \star 4$ -STARS (Buy):

Total return is expected to outperform the total return of a relevant benchmark over the coming 12 months, with shares rising in price on an absolute basis.

# $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ 3-STARS (Hold):

Total return is expected to closely approximate the total return of a relevant benchmark over the coming 12 months, with shares generally rising in price on an absolute basis.

#### ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 2-STARS (Sell):

Total return is expected to underperform the total return of a relevant benchmark over the coming 12 months, and the share price is not anticipated to show a gain.

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 1-STAR (Strong Sell):

Total return is expected to underperform the total return of a relevant benchmark by a notable margin over the coming 12 months, with shares falling in price on an absolute basis.

#### **Relevant benchmarks:**

In North America, the relevant benchmark is the S&P 500 Index, in Europe and in Asia, the relevant benchmarks are the S&P Europe 350 Index and the S&P Asia 50 Index, respectively.



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#### **Quantitative Stock Reports:**

Quantitative recommendations are determined by ranking a universe of common stocks based on 5 measures or model categories: Valuation, Quality, Growth, Street Sentiment, and Price Momentum. In the U.S., a sixth sub-category for Financial Health will also be displayed. Percentile scores are used to compare each company to all other companies in the same universe for each model category. The five (six) model category scores are then weighted and rolled up into a single percentile ranking for that company. For reports containing quantitative recommendations refer to the Glossary section of the report for detailed methodology and the definition of Quantitative rankings.

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#### STARS Stock Reports:

Global STARS Distribution as of March 31, 2019

Ranking	North America	Europe Asia		Global		
Buy	35.5%	32.4%	39.4%	35.4%		
Hold	54.8%	54.4%	41.7%	53.2%		
Sell	9.7%	13.2%	18.9%	11.3%		
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		

#### Analyst Certification:

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