

Industry: Financial Services
GICS Sector: Financials Sector (GIC Code: 40)

Company Summary: RM is a diversified consumer lender with \$525 mm in finance receivables. RM provides cash, auto financing and furniture and appliance installment loans to customers with limited access to consumer credit. Loans are sourced through company branches, direct mail, auto dealerships, online credit application networks, and furniture and appliance retailers. Loans range from \$300 to \$27,500. All loans, regardless of origination channel, are serviced and collected through 306 company branches enabling frequency contact with customers.

Analyst Notes:

Analysis by Bruce Roberts (917) 701-3357 & Allen Gillespie, CFA (864) 288-2849

- For the 2nd quarter in a row, RM reported significant progress putting its 2014 credit quality issues in the rear view mirror as well as substantial, although incomplete, results Vis a Vis the lender's next phase of restoring and expanding shareholder value – growing the loan book. In just 2 quarters, the company has (1) sharply improved its credit prospects and (2) at great expense installed the necessary home office senior leaders to expand the business. The shares continue to trade at a low PEG ratio. Therefore we are raising our rating to BUY and setting a price target of \$21.3, or 26.9% upside, for risk-tolerant investors solely.
- In 1Q 2015, Regional reported \$52.5 million, \$32.6 million, and \$0.32 in sales, G&A expenses, and EPS, respectively. Sales advanced 5.9% y-o-y. We were expecting \$53.7 million, \$27.6 million and \$0.38. The Street was looking for \$51 million in sales and \$0.39 in EPS. RM ended the quarter with \$525.9 million in finance receivables, up 4.8% y-o-y, versus our expectation of \$520.3 million. **Of note, the lender's large loan growth initiative is bearing fruit.** Large loan receivables (\$3,800 average per loan) grew 51.3% y-o-y and 37.3% sequentially, reaching \$63.3 million, or 12.0% of the total loan book. We note 3 items re: large loans. First they draw lower yields which makes them less likely to be targeted by the CFPB (2) the entire branch office sales personnel recently completed their training to sell large loans and (3) management is confident that despite significant growth, large loan credit quality is strong.
- While Interest and Fee income grew faster than loans (5.9% versus 4.8%), due to an increase in convenience check yield to 45.9% from 43.5% in 1Q 2014, G&A expense, however, jumped 64% y-o-y, to \$32.6 million. Excluding non-recurring operating expenses in both 1Q 2014 and 1Q 2015, G&A grew 42.4% y-o-y in 1Q 2015 and equaled \$29.9 million, or 57.0% of sales, up from 42.5% in 1Q 2014. In particular, Home Office G&A and Marketing expenses expanded significantly. On a y-o-y basis adjusted Home Office expenses climbed to \$8.7 million in 1Q 2015, from \$5.5 million in 1Q 2014, a 57.8% y-o-y increase. Home Office headcount increased 62.3% to 125 persons. The increase reflects several factors including (1) the need to hire Chief Marketing, Risk and Compliance officers and (2) our estimation that in the year-earlier period and throughout much of 2014, Regional was operating without sufficient senior leadership functionality. For example, in 1Q 2014, we estimate that Personnel expenses equaled ~ 25% of revenues versus 33% for installment lender World Acceptance Corp. (WRLD \$94.46, SELL). In 1Q 2015, Personnel expenses equaled 33.5% of sales. However, based on our discussions with management, we expect that Home Office headcount is largely intact, and that RM is set up to enjoy economies of scale as the book grows. In addition as large loans become a more prominent aspect of the overall book, RM's Personnel expense / sales ratio is set to decline.
- Management also gave us additional color regarding its auto loan strategy. Although on the analyst call management said that it will decide whether or not to expand (or slowly wind down) its auto lending business by the end of 2Q 2015, management asserted that Regional 'has the branches and community connections' needed to serve the auto market and that their customers want auto loans, and that 'there's a place for (RM) to play' in the auto space.

Fintrust Recommendation

Fintrust Rating:	BUY
Target Price:	\$21.30
Current Share Price	\$16.78
Expected Return	26.9%
52 Week Price Range	\$22.51 - \$11.16

Fintrust Brokerage Services, LLC rates companies a BUY, HOLD, SELL, or SHORT.

- A BUY rating is given when the security is expected to outperform the broad equity market as measured by the S&P 500 on a risk adjusted basis over the next year.
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Key Figures

Key figures pricing data reflects previous trading day's closing price. Other applicable data are trailing 12-months unless otherwise specified.

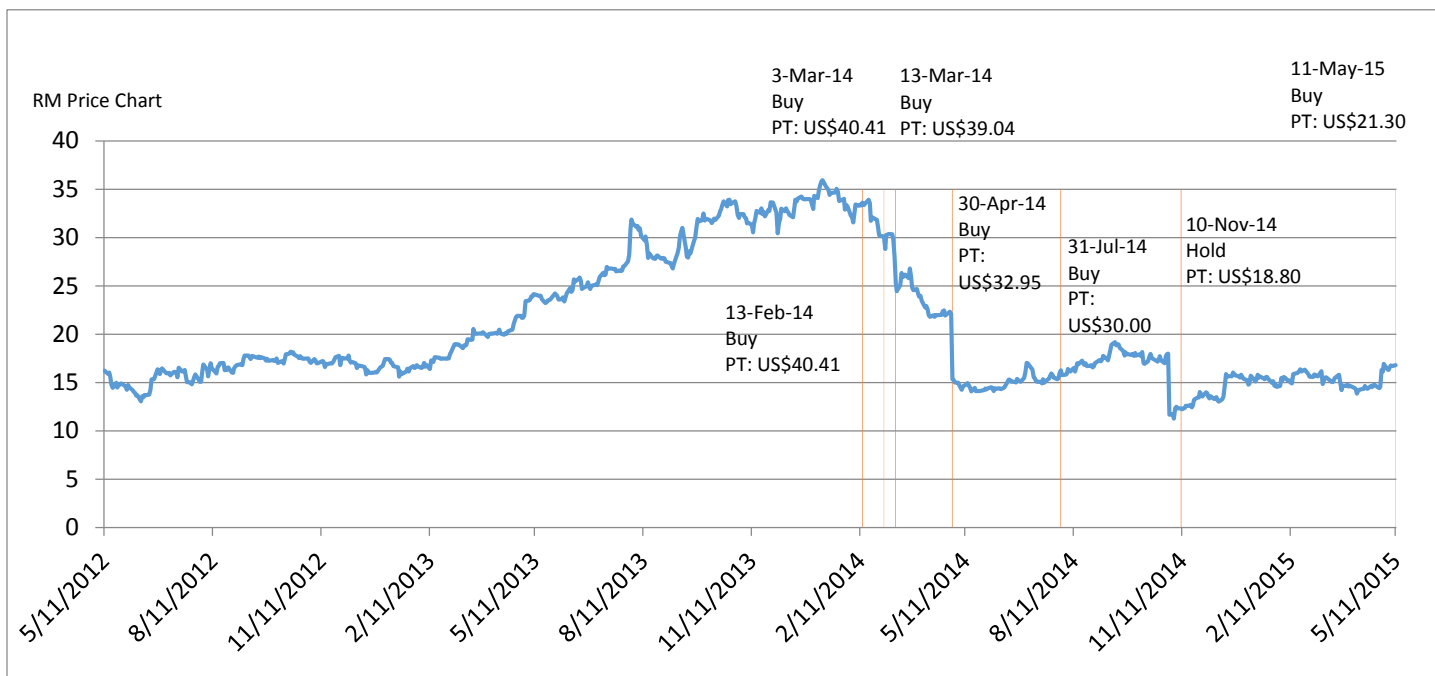
Debt/Capital Ratio	62.9%
Return on Equity	8.70%
Net Margin	7.7%
Payout Ratio	n/a
Revenue (000's)	\$222,400
Net Income (000's)	\$22,700
Outstanding (mi)	12.9 Shares
Short (mil)	1.12
Market Capitalization (\$ mil)	\$216.5
Finance Receivables (\$ mil)	\$525.2
Beta	1.41x

Valuation

Price/Book	1.17x
Book Value/Share	\$14.30
EPS (14A)	\$1.14
EPS ('15E)	\$1.77
EPS ('16E)	\$2.27
P/E (14)	14.7x
P/E (15)	9.5x
P/E (16)	7.4x
Est. 2015-2019 CAGR	19.0%

Please see pages 6 and 7 of this publication for important certification and disclosure information

Analyst's Notes....Continued



SUMMARY OF KEY RESULTS

Results

Comments

Credit quality and corporate support cost structures in place

Home office 'fully staffed'. Personnel / sales ratio set to decline gradually. Now must grow loan book by (1) opening new branches (2) expanding into new territories (3) more branch training (4) re-expand mailings for both small and large loans.

Large loans are growing rapidly

Branches all trained in LL sales. Lower yield (~27%) more palatable for CFPB?

Branch offices still in transition

B/O headcount to be further reduced as credit issues subside; according to Regional, branch office loan production is 'spotty', thus more branch sales training is needed.

Reduced 'bad' convenience check receivables to \$17.9 million

Should run off or charge off by end of 2Q 2015

Will decide auto lending strategy by end of 2Q 2015

We estimate that RM, like Springleaf (LEAF, \$51, HOLD), will gravitate toward larger-balance / lower yielding auto loans

Marketing costs also jumped in 1Q 2015

50% of the increase due to large loan selling and 50% due to desire to maintain small loan growth momentum into 1Q 2015, the seasonally slow quarter.

Non GAAP EPS were \$0.44

Adds back \$2.1 million in non-recurring compensation expense and \$600k in Goldpoint company-wide 'ERP' system termination costs.

Sources: Regional and FinTrust Brokerage Services

Analyst's Notes....Continued

ESTIMATES AND CONCLUSION

We expect RM to earn \$1.77 and \$2.27, in 2015 and 2016, respectively. Our 2016 EPS estimate suggest 28% EPS growth, driven by (1) 11.0% y-o-y growth in the lender's loan portfolio (assuming no auto loan growth), to \$694 million, from \$625 million this year, and a subsequent 16.9% y-o-y growth rate in interest and fee income and (2) a decline in G&A / sales to 52%, from 55% this year. Our earnings model assumes that the recent pick up in branch small loans growth continues this year and that the recent significant jump in large loan growth continues. Specifically, our 2015 – 2019 model calls for large loans outstanding to expand to \$205 million by YE 2019, up from \$103.5 million by YE 2015, or 14.8% CAGR. Overall, we estimate 14.5% and 10.9% total loan growth this year and next, respectively; note loans grew just 0.3% in 2014. Powered by large loan expansion, total loans should expand 8.9% per year through 2019. Our assumptions don't include auto loan growth.

Our dividend discount model pegs the value of RM shares at \$21, or 11.8X 2015 EPS and 9.3X 2016 EPS. On a preliminary basis, we anticipate that EPS will grow 19.0% per year through 2019. Our target represents 25.3% upside. In light of the early turnaround in the company's strategic direction, and attractive valuation based on both a dividend discount model and EPS PEG basis, we recommend purchase only for high-risk tolerant investors. **Risks include, but are not limited to (1) potentially negative rule making by the CFPB this year as it pertains to subprime installment lenders (2) the potential inability of RM to digest its recent influx of employees such that their expense is unrewarded by commensurate results (3) that management enumerates a radical auto lending strategy, which may include jettisoning the auto business entirely, which would cause the stock to potentially decline significantly (4) that the remaining problem convenience check portfolio proves to not be fully provisioned and (5) that Regional can't sustain its large loan growth trajectory to meet our earnings target.**

Regional Management ('RM') Valuation Matrix

		Cost of Equity					
		10.00%	10.50%	11.00%	11.50%	12.00%	12.50%
Perpetual EPS Growth Rate	2.50%	\$ 19.9	\$ 18.9	\$ 18.1	\$ 17.3	\$ 16.7	\$ 16.1
	3.00%	\$ 21.0	\$ 19.9	\$ 19.0	\$ 18.1	\$ 17.4	\$ 16.7
	3.50%	\$ 22.3	\$ 21.1	\$ 20.0	\$ 19.0	\$ 18.2	\$ 17.5
	4.00%	\$ 23.9	\$ 22.4	\$ 21.2	\$ 20.1	\$ 19.1	\$ 18.3
	4.50%	\$ 25.7	\$ 24.0	\$ 22.5	\$ 21.2	\$ 20.1	\$ 19.2
	5.00%	\$ 28.0	\$ 25.8	\$ 24.1	\$ 22.6	\$ 21.3	\$ 20.2
	5.50%	\$ 30.7	\$ 28.1	\$ 25.9	\$ 24.2	\$ 22.7	\$ 21.4

Source: Fintrust Brokerage Services estimates.

Analyst's Notes....Continued

Regional Management Corp.										
Quarterly Income Statement										
(\$ in Millions)										
	1Q 2014A	2Q 2014A	3Q 2014	4Q 2014	FY2014	1Q 2015	2Q 2015	3Q 2015	4Q 2015	FY2015E
Revenues:										
Interest and fee income	43.9	42.97	48.8	48.9	184.5	47.0	47.1	51.4	55.0	200.6
Insurance commissions	3.4	2.48	2.7	2.3	10.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	11.7
Other Income	2.2	2.0	2.4	2.6	9.2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	10.1
Total revenues	49.5	47.4	53.9	53.8	204.6	52.5	52.6	56.9	60.5	222.4
Expenses:										
Provision for loan losses	16.9	13.56	22.5	16.0	69.0	9.7	12.8	13.1	13.1	48.8
General and administrative expenses:										
Personnel	11.1	13.1	14.0	17.0	55.2	19.8	17.7	18.2	18.7	74.2
Occupancy and equipment	3.4	3.7	4.2	4.1	15.4	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.1	16.4
Advertising	1.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	6.4	2.5	2.1	2.0	2.0	8.6
Other	4.3	4.7	5.3	5.3	19.6	6.3	5.7	5.7	5.7	23.4
Total general and administrative expenses	19.8	23.2	25.3	28.3	96.6	32.6	29.5	30.1	30.5	122.6
Interest expense	3.8	3.6	3.9	3.9	15.1	3.6	3.6	3.9	3.9	15.0
Total expenses	40.5	40.3	51.7	48.1	180.7	45.9	45.8	47.1	47.5	186.4
Income before income taxes	8.9	7.1	2.2	5.7	23.9	6.6	6.7	9.8	13.0	36.0
Income taxes	3.3	2.6	0.8	2.3	8.8	2.5	2.6	3.6	4.8	13.3
Net income	\$5.6	\$4.5	\$1.4	\$3.4	\$15.1	\$4.1	\$4.1	\$6.2	\$8.2	\$22.7
Net income per common share:										
Basic	\$0.44	\$0.35	\$0.11	\$0.27	\$1.19	\$0.32	\$0.32	\$0.48	\$0.63	\$1.77
Diluted	\$0.43	\$0.35	\$0.11	\$0.26	\$1.16	\$0.31	\$0.31	\$0.47	\$0.62	\$1.74
Weighted average common shares outstanding:										
Basic	12,654,927	12,691,227	12,713,532	12,743,534	12,700,805	12,838,000	12,848,000	12,858,000	12,868,000	12,853,000
Diluted	13,005,639	12,915,673	12,934,015	12,954,887	12,952,554	13,061,000	13,071,000	13,081,000	13,091,000	13,076,000
as a % of Revenues										
Interest and Fee Income	89%	91%	91%	91%	90%	90%	90%	90%	91%	90%
Insurance and Other	7%	5%	5%	4%	5%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%
Provision for loan losses	34%	29%	42%	30%	34%	19%	24%	23%	22%	22%
Personnel	22.4%	27.6%	26.0%	26.0%	27.0%	37.6%	33.6%	31.9%	30.9%	33.4%
Occupancy and equipment	6.9%	7.8%	7.8%	7.6%	7.5%	7.9%	7.6%	7.4%	6.8%	7.4%
Other	8.7%	9.9%	9.8%	9.9%	9.6%	11.9%	10.8%	10.0%	9.4%	10.5%
Total G&A	40%	49%	47%	53%	47%	62%	56%	53%	50%	55%
EBT	18%	15%	4%	11%	12%	13%	13%	17%	21%	16%
Net Income	11%	9%	3%	6%	7%	8%	8%	11%	14%	10%
Year-over-year Growth										
Interest and Fee Income	28.9%	23.0%	22.9%	12.0%	21.1%	7.2%	9.7%	5.4%	12.5%	8.7%
Insurance and Other	15.0%	-15.0%	5.0%	5.0%	15.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total Revenues	28.2%	20.6%	21.2%	10.9%	19.9%	6.2%	10.8%	5.5%	12.4%	8.7%
Provision for loan losses	110.0%	61.4%	103.3%	37.1%	76.0%	-42.7%	-5.4%	-41.7%	-17.6%	-29.2%
Total G&A	20.8%	35.3%	45.8%	45.2%	36.4%	64.9%	26.9%	18.8%	7.7%	26.9%
Net Income	-18.6%	-32.5%	-82.2%	-59.5%	-47.5%	-27.7%	-8.6%	351.0%	139.8%	50.7%
EPS	-20.0%	-32.7%	-82.2%	-59.4%	-47.7%	-28.0%	-9.7%	345.9%	137.3%	49.3%
Portfolio Yield on Fin Rec Balance										
Total Portfolio	33.6%	33.9%	36.3%	36.8%	34.5%	0.0%	33.9%	0.0%	0.0%	17.2%
	33.6%	33.9%	36.8%	35.9%	34.8%	34.8%	37.2%	37.7%	37.8%	36.9%
Credit Quality										
Provision for LL / Finance Rec	3.4%	2.6%	4.1%	2.9%	12.6%	1.8%	2.3%	2.1%	2.1%	7.8%
Net Chargeoffs	12.7	13.3	13.7	18.7	58.4	13.2	12.8	13.1	13.1	52.3
Y-o-Y Growth	72%	78%	70%	83%	77%	4%	-4%	-4%	-30%	-10%
as a % of avg Finance Rec	9.70%	10.50%	10.30%	13.85%	11.09%	9.90%	9.50%	9.00%	8.50%	8.90%
ALL / NCO, annualized	54.4%	65.2%	79.5%	54.2%	69.6%	70.3%	72.4%	70.8%	70.7%	71.0%
Receivables / Yield Analysis										
	1Q 2014A	2Q 2014A	3Q 2014	4Q 2014	FY2014	1Q 2015	2Q 2015	3Q 2015	4Q 2015	FY2015E
Finance Receivables - EOP										
Branch Small Loan	100.0	101.8	114.1	128.2	128.2	121.6	114.7	138.0	145.9	145.9
Convenience Checks	155.0	173.5	195.9	191.3	191.3	170.0	187.4	211.6	206.6	206.6
Large Loans	41.9	42.9	42.1	46.2	46.2	63.3	80.5	92.0	103.5	103.5
Auto Loans	175.1	171.7	163.8	154.4	154.4	146.7	146.7	146.7	146.7	146.7
Retail Loans	29.6	27.8	26.9	26.1	26.1	24.1	25.5	23.4	23.0	23.0
Total	501.5	517.9	542.8	546.2	546.2	525.7	554.8	611.7	625.8	625.8

Analyst's Notes....Continued

Regional Management Corp.						
<i>Annual Income Statement</i>						
(\$ in millions)	FY Ended December 31					
	2014A	2015E	2016E	2017E	2018E	2019E
Revenues:						
Interest and fee income	\$184.5	\$200.6	\$235.4	\$261.2	\$284.8	\$308.1
Insurance commissions and other income	10.9	\$11.7	11.4	11.0	10.7	10.4
Other Income	9.2	\$10.1	10.6	11.2	11.7	12.3
Total revenues	204.6	222.4	257.4	283.4	307.2	330.8
Expenses:						
Provision for loan losses	69.0	48.8	55.5	58.3	60.1	61.4
General and administrative expenses:						
Personnel	55.2	74.2	78.7	83.4	88.4	93.7
Occupancy and equipment	15.4	16.4	18.8	20.5	22.1	23.6
Advertising	6.4	8.6	9.8	10.7	11.5	12.3
Other	19.6	23.4	27.1	30.8	34.6	38.3
Total general and administrative expenses	96.6	122.6	134.4	145.5	156.6	167.9
Interest expense	15.1	15.0	20.8	22.2	25.7	27.2
Total expenses	180.7	186.4	210.8	225.9	242.4	256.5
Income before income taxes	23.9	36.0	46.7	57.4	64.9	74.3
Income taxes	8.8	13.3	17.3	21.2	24.0	27.5
Net income	\$15.07	\$22.7	\$29.4	\$36.2	\$40.9	\$46.8
Net income per common share:						
Basic	\$1.19	\$1.77	\$2.27	\$2.78	\$3.12	\$3.55
Diluted	\$1.16	\$1.74	\$2.24	\$2.73	\$3.07	\$3.49
Weighted average common shares outstanding:						
Basic	12,700,805	12,853,000	12,933,000	13,013,000	13,093,000	13,173,000
Diluted	12,952,554	13,076,000	13,156,000	13,236,000	13,316,000	13,396,000
as a % of Revenues						
Interest and Fee Income	90%	90%	91%	92%	93%	93%
Insurance and Other	5%	5%	4%	4%	3%	3%
Provision for loan losses	34%	22%	22%	21%	20%	19%
Personnel	27%	33%	31%	29%	29%	28%
Total G&A	47%	55%	52%	51%	51%	51%
EBT	12%	16%	18%	20%	21%	22%
Net Income	7%	10%	11%	13%	13%	14%
Income Tax Rate	37%	37%	37%	37%	37%	37%
Year-over-year Growth						
Interest and Fee Income	21.1%	8.7%	17.4%	10.9%	9.1%	8.2%
Insurance and Other	-5.4%	8.0%	-3.0%	-3.0%	-3.0%	-3.0%
Total Revenues	19.9%	8.7%	15.7%	10.1%	8.4%	7.7%
Provision for loan losses	76.0%	-29.2%	12.7%	7.1%	5.4%	4.7%
Total G&A	36.4%	26.9%	9.6%	8.2%	7.6%	7.2%
Total Expenses	45.6%	3.2%	13.1%	7.2%	7.3%	5.8%
Net Income	-48.0%	50.7%	29.5%	23.0%	12.9%	14.6%
EPS	-48.3%	49.3%	28.7%	22.3%	12.3%	13.9%
Credit Quality						
Net Chargeoffs / Avg Finance Receivables	10.3%	8.9%	8.5%	8.1%	7.7%	7.3%
ALL / NCO	69.6%	71.0%	64.6%	60.6%	57.7%	55.5%
Receivables / Yield Analysis						
	2014A	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Finance Receivables - EOP						
Branch Small Loan	128.2	145.9	163.5	179.8	194.2	209.7
Convenience Checks	191.3	206.6	231.4	254.5	274.9	296.9
Large Loans	46.2	103.5	129.4	155.3	178.5	205.3
Auto Loans	154.4	146.7	146.7	146.7	146.7	146.7
<u>Retail Loans</u>	<u>26.1</u>	<u>23.0</u>	<u>23.0</u>	<u>23.0</u>	<u>23.0</u>	<u>23.0</u>
Total	546.2	625.8	694.0	759.3	817.4	881.7

Analyst's Notes....Continued

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Analyst's Notes....Continued

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