# GROUP 1 AUTOMOTIVE

**Driving Value in an Inflated Market**June 24, 2015





### Group 1 Automotive

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Ticker: GPI

Stock Price: \$82.53 \*

- Group 1 owns and operates auto dealerships
  - Third largest dealership group in the U.S. retailing 275,000 new and used vehicles annually
  - 104 US dealerships, 17 UK dealerships, 17 Brazil dealerships
  - Market capitalization of \$2.0 billion
- Recent valuation multiples
  - ▶ '15e P/E: 11.5x

<sup>\*</sup> All financials assume June 1, 2015 share price of \$82.53

### Local Monopolies

- Dealers provided a great deal of protection in different states (receive long-term operating agreements because they are independently owned and capitalized)
- Franchise agreements provide geographic exclusivity in densely populated areas
- Law requires that the sales channel for new cars must be directed through the dealer network
- Manufacture paid maintenance service required to be completed at dealership
- Expensive OEM specific tools and diagnostics provide barriers to entry for service techs at independent shops



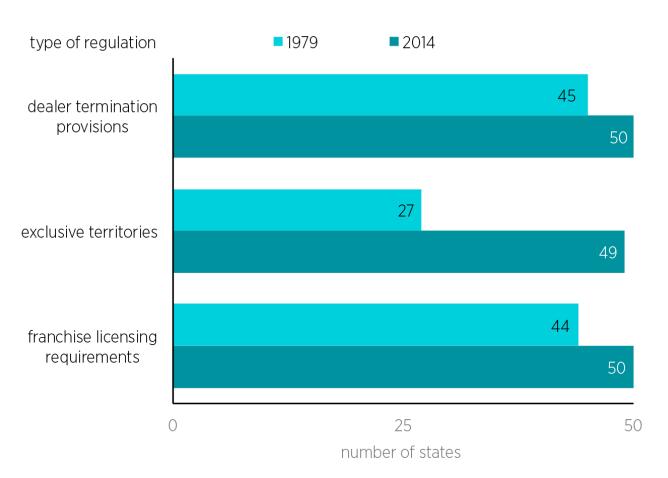
#### **Economic Moat**

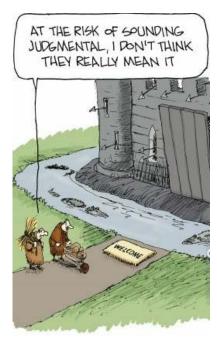
AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING JUDGMENTAL, I DON'T THINK THEY REALLY MEAN IT



#### **Economic Moat**

#### Number of States with Auto Regulations, 1979 vs. 2014

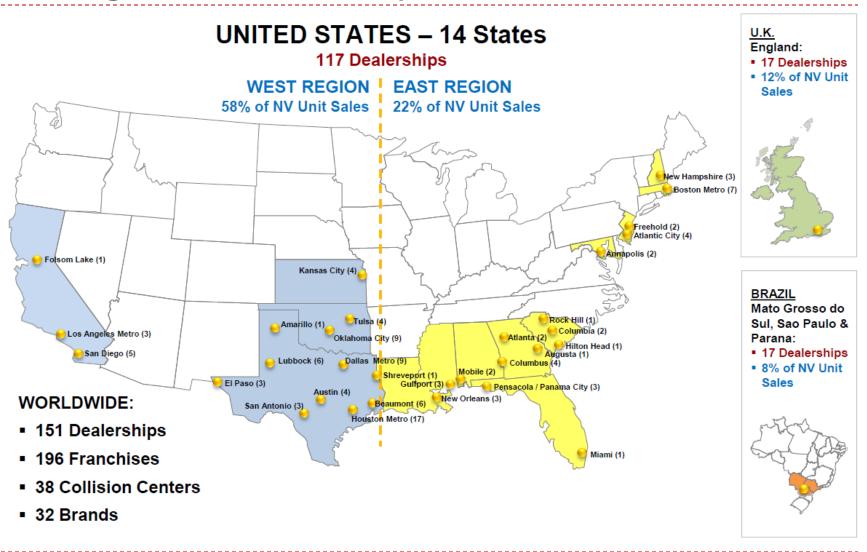




### Deceptively High-Quality Business

- Inventory is financed through vehicle floorplan notes payable from various OEMs
  - Notes accrue like other types of borrowing, but OEMs extend "floorplan assistance" to offset the expense
  - Little inventory risk as the OEMs provide retailers with significant incentives to move inventory and dealers are often *paid to carry*
- Dealership decline has improved the competitive environment
  - Dealers down 20% over the past seven years
  - GM allowed to rationalize its dealer network during bankruptcy (cut network by 30%)

### Strong National Footprint



#### **Business Mix**

- ▶ New Vehicle- 54% of sales, 20% of gross profit
  - Roughly \$1,850 in gross profit per vehicle, with certain luxury vehicles bringing in more than twice this amount.
  - ▶ These per car margins are lower than historical norms
- ▶ Used Vehicle- 30% of sales, 13% of gross profit
  - Roughly \$1,600 in gross profit per vehicle
  - Unwanted cars sold at breakeven into the wholesale market
- ▶ Finance & Insurance- 4% of sales, 26% of gross profit
  - Fees and spreads on car loans and leases
  - Purely a fee-based earnings stream for arranging third-party financing, insurance, etc.
- ▶ Parts & Service- 12% of sales, 41% of gross profit
  - The real profit center of the dealership

#### Finance & Insurance

- ▶ Pure margin business— GPI receives roughly \$1,350 per unit for arranging financing, service, and insurance contracts
  - ▶ **Financing:** 1/3 of F&I (\$450) comes in the form of flat fees or financing spreads paid to arrange a loan
  - ▶ **Vehicle Warranty and Protection:** 2/3 of F&I comes from fees earned from selling third-party extended warranty, vehicle service, and insurance products

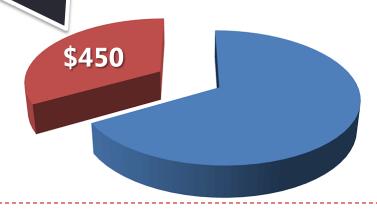
### Financing

Buyer qualifies for a lender offered 3.5% 60-month amortizing loan

Dealership tells the buyer that 5.5% is the best available rate

The difference between the buy rate and the dealer rate known as the **yield spread premium** is calculated and capitalized

The dealer receives the majority of this markup as a kick-back from the lender



#### CFPB- Headline Risk



The **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau** believes dealer discretion in setting interest rates can potentially lead to discrimination in the form of higher prices for certain groups



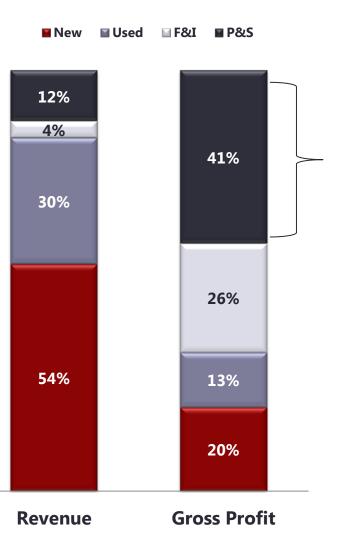
**Implication:** The extremely profitable F&I segment for auto dealers is set to be impacted.

#### CFPB- Headline Risk

- The CFPB's intent is to monitor discrimination practices not set pricing the CFPB agrees that dealers should be compensated for processing financing
- Any impact is *limited to financing*—dealer markups represent 1/3 or less of F&I income
- ▶ The expectation is that lenders will be forced to move from dealer reserves (interest rate markups) to flat fees
- ➤ Certain lenders including BMO Harris Bank in Chicago have moved to flat fees (3% of finance amount) with no change of consequence to dealer economics
- Dealer economics are unlikely to change as they will continue to choose which lenders get the financing business

"Spread and yield is like a balloon in our mind, you can push in one place and it will expand in another place" - Craig Monaghan CEO Asbury Automotive

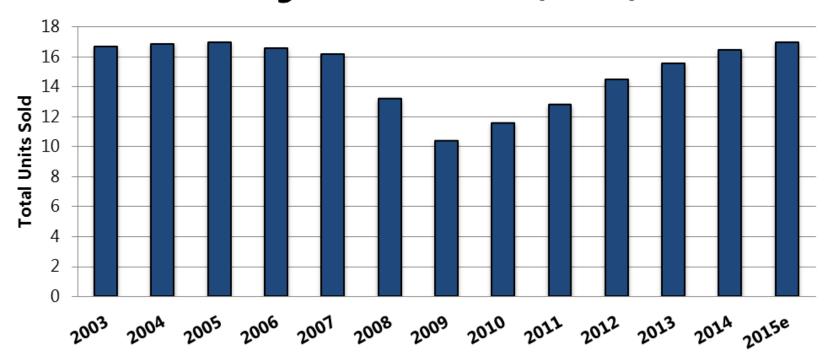
### Parts & Service (The Real Profit Driver)



- ➤ Gross margins run at 52% (half is service at 70-80% margin, half is parts at 35% margin)
- ▶ Trends in manufacture-paid maintenance have improved economics for dealers since service is free to customers, the dealer retains the entire service stream
- Customers may look outside hometown for a new car purchase, but they are a captive customer for car servicing
- Price & Servicing is driven by the servicing base (0-5 year fleet)

### Near-Term Catalysts: SAAR Rebound

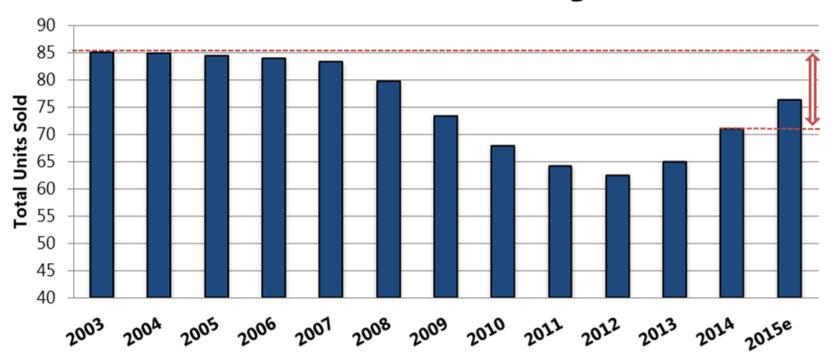
#### **U.S. Light Vehicle Sales (SAAR)**



US auto sales have now fully recovered from the last financial crisis

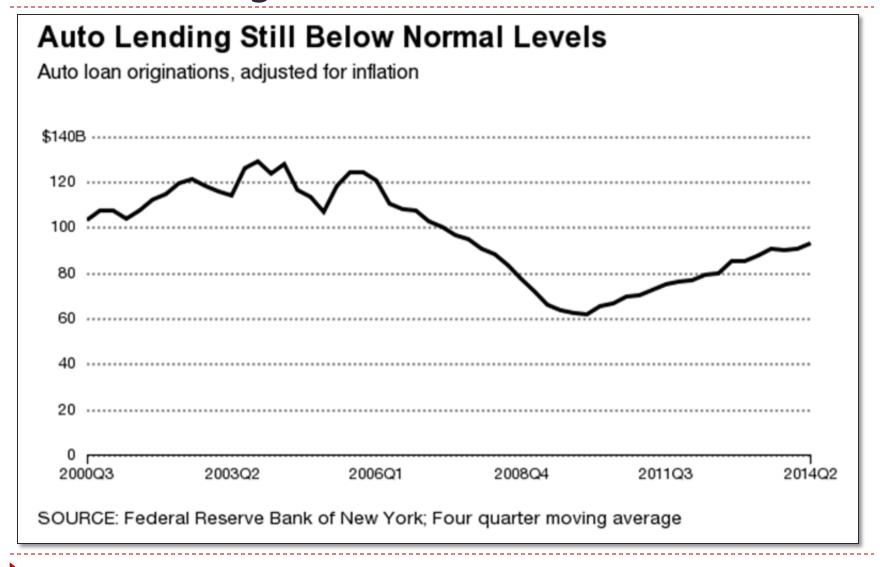
### Auto Recovery Tailwind

#### **SAAR- Five Year Rolling**

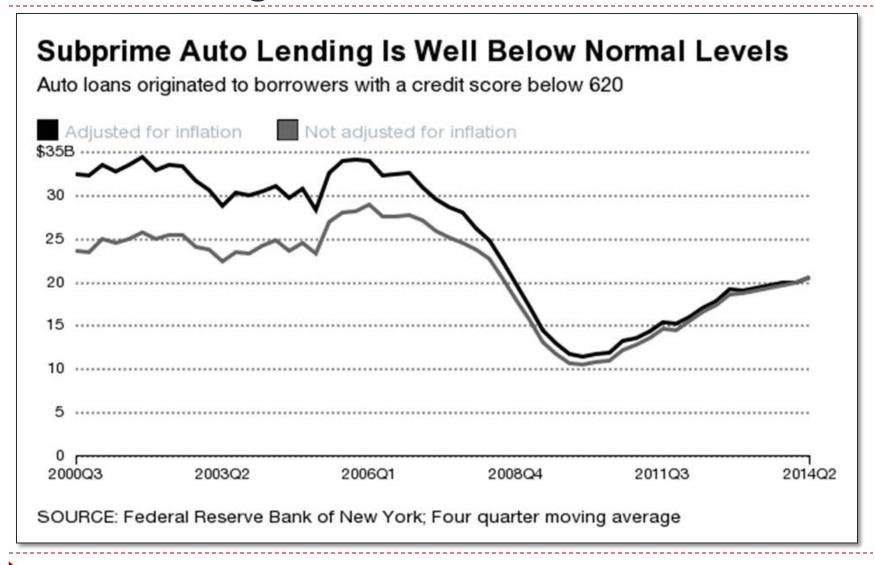


Parts & service sales base of 0-5 year old vehicles is still more than 15% below its pre-2008 average, providing a mult-year tailwind for the business

### Auto Lending—Is there a Bubble?

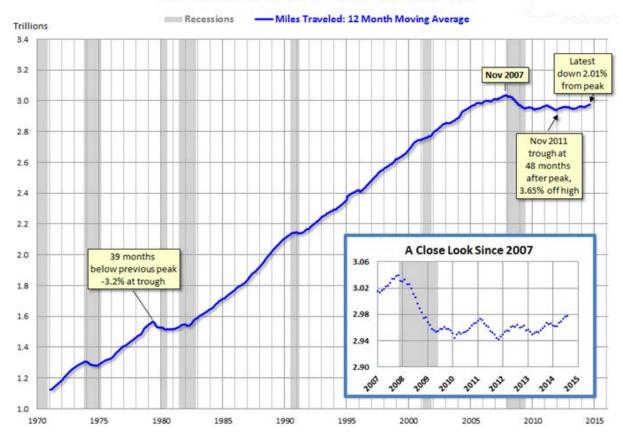


### Auto Lending—Is there a Bubble?



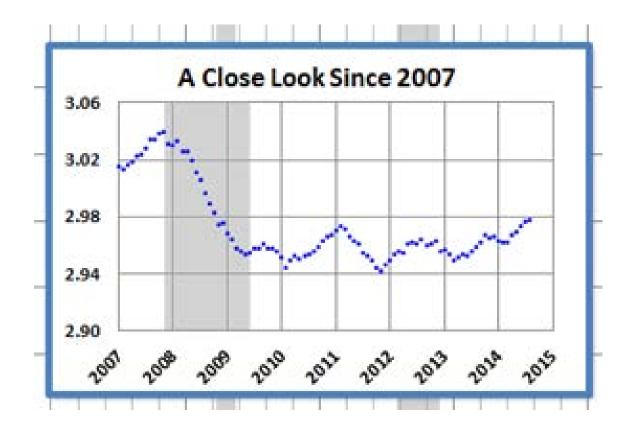
#### Normalized SAAR

#### **Estimated Vehicle Miles Traveled on All Roads**



Total vehicles miles traveled remains remarkably steady and suggests a replacement rate similar to the early 2000's

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#### Normalized SAAR

#### Replacement SAAR

Annual miles driven (in millions) 3,000,000 (3 trillion)

Average vehicle scrap mileage 180,000 (includes totalled vehicles)

Implied average life 14.4 years

Normalized replacement demand 16.7 million cars

Current fleet size 250 million cars

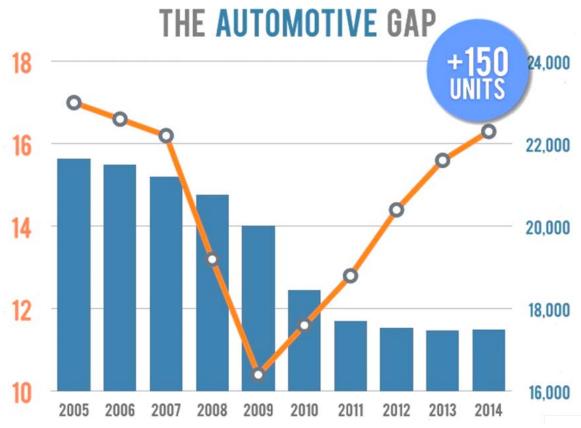
Mileage consumption 12,500 yearly miles per car

Average fleet age 11.4 years



Average Age of a Registered Vehicle

### The Automotive Gap



Then (2008	)	Now (2015)					
Total Dealerships	20,000+	Total Dealerships	16,400				
New Vehicle Sales	16,000,000	New Vehicle Sales	16,000,000				
Units Per Dealer	800	Units Per Dealer	976				

### **GPI Acquisition Strategy**

- Over the past five years, GPI has purchased 89 franchises with expected annual revenues of \$3.6 billion
- ▶ Purchase dealerships at 15-20% of revenues (excluding real estate and floorplan liabilities)
- Increase operating efficiency in areas such as used vehicle sourcing, advertising, purchasing, data processing, personnel utilization, and cost of floorplan financing
- Improving pre-tax margins to 2.5% results in an unlevered return of 10%
- Target 15% returns on acquisitions

Less than 10% of US dealerships are held by publicly traded companies, leaving a huge opportunity for dealership consolidation

## Comparables

Comparables										
	Enterprise									
	Value To	<b>EBITDA Margin</b>	<b>EBITDA</b>	Price/	Debt to					
Company Name	<b>EBITDA</b>	(3-Year Average)	Growth	<b>Earnings</b>	<b>EBITDA</b>					
Group 1 Automotive	7.9	3.7%	22.5%	11.5	6.2					
AutoNation	9.9	4.7%	11.1%	17.8	5.6					
Carmax	10.0	5.1%	19.9%	26.2	8.6					
Asbury Automotive Group	10.6	4.7%	17.7%	18.0	5.0					
Pensky Automotive Group	10.6	3.3%	16.7%	15.1	7.1					
Sonic Automotive	6.9	3.4%	1.3%	13.3	6.8					

#### Valuation

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Revenue	\$	7,476,100	\$ 8,918,581	\$ 9,937,889	\$ 10,387,363	\$ 10,857,889	\$ 11,267,050
Cost of Sales	\$	6,358,848	\$ 7,626,035	\$ 8,489,951	\$ 8,871,099	\$ 9,271,204	\$ 9,619,675
Gross Margin	\$	1,117,252	\$ 1,292,546	\$ 1,447,938	\$ 1,516,265	\$ 1,586,685	\$ 1,647,375
		14.94%	14.49%	14.57%	14.60%	 14.61%	 14.62%
Same Store Sales Growth		13.7%	6.2%	5.6%	4.5%	4.5%	3.8%
Total Expenses		879,980	1,012,752	1,104,308	1,167,524	1,221,747	1,268,479
Tax %		25.5%	27.8%	23.6%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%
EPS	\$	4.53	\$ 4.96	\$ 5.87	\$ 7.05	\$ 7.48	\$ 7.85
(+) Improved of Brazilian Ops					0.05	0.25	0.50
(+) Addt. Acquisition Accetion					0.42	0.84	1.26
PF Cash EPS					\$ 7.52	\$ 8.57	\$ 9.61
P/E Multiple	<u>l</u>				15.0x	 15.0x	15.0x
Value Per Share					\$ 112.86	\$ 128.61	\$ 144.20
(+) Cumulative Dividend					0.60	1.40	2.20
Adj. Value Per Share					\$ 113.46	\$ 130.01	\$ 146.40
% Premium to Current					37%	58%	77%

Group 1 trades at 12x earnings, a substantial discount to the current market multiple

#### Conclusion



Competition for Existing Units	Local Monopoly					
Barriers to Entry	High					
Maintenance CAPEX	.2% of Revenue					
Returns on Capital	High					

Group 1 is a high quality business selling at a significant discount to intrinsic value

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