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# **Global Research**

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**Ryanair Holdings plc** 

**Airlines: Low Cost Carriers** 

March 8, 2016
Company Brief

(RYAAY-NASDAQ)

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Rating\_\_\_\_\_Outperform 2

Current Price

Current Price (Mar-08-16 close) \$81.43
52-Week Range \$88.24 - \$64.08
Suitability Medium Risk/Growth

 Market Data
 265.8

 Shares Out. (mil.)
 \$265.8

 Market Cap. (mil.)
 \$21,644

 Avg. Daily Vol. (10 day)
 483,215

 Dividend/Yield
 \$0.00/0.0%

 Book Value (Dec-15)
 \$16.43

 Adj. Net Debt (mil.)/% Cap.
 \$305/6%

Earnings & Valuation Metrics							
	2015A	2016E	2017E	2018E			
Non-GAAP EPS							
	\$4.25	\$5.26	\$6.15	\$6.75			
P/E Ratios (Non-GAAP)							
	19.2x	15.5x	13.2x	12.1x			
Revenues (mil.)							
	€5,654	€6,558	€6,758	€7,434			
Non-GAAP EPS (CY)							
	\$5.05	\$5.97	\$6.83	NA			
P/E Ratios (CY Non-GAAP)							
	16 1x	13 6x	11 9x	NM			

Ryanair Holdings plc, headquartered in Dublin, Ireland, is Europe's largest low cost carrier, with 58 bases and 1,600 routes across 29 countries. As of September 30, 2015, it had a fleet of over 300 Boeing 737 aircraft and offered approximately 1,800 scheduled short-haul flights per day serving approximately 200 airports primarily in Europe.

**Company Description** 

**Footnotes:** UR: Under Review. Revenues in euros. Non-GAAP figures use the average exchange rate effective for that respective period and excludes non-recurring charges. Figures are based on ADRs/ADSs. Reported figures are in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

# **Raymond James Institutional Investors Conference Highlights**

Ryanair CFO Neil Sorahan presented Monday morning at the Raymond James Institutional Investors Conference. Below are highlights from the presentation and breakout.

**Fuel hedging:** Unlike many U.S. airlines, Ryanair is maintaining its fuel hedging strategy with much of its fuel needs hedged out 12-18 months. It currently has 95% of fuel needs hedged at an average Brent price of \$90 in FY16 (March YE), 95% at \$62 in FY17, and 29% at \$52 in FY18. In the recent past, Ryanair has only once deviated from its hedging strategy, which was in 2008 when Brent was ~\$140/bbl and appeared to have decoupled from supply-demand fundamentals.

**Cost clarity:** In addition to fuel hedges, Ryanair has visibility into costs over the next few years having obtained attractive aircraft ownership costs (including locking in capex with currency hedges), finalized five-year labor contracts, and secured long-term airport deals. From a cost perspective, the next game changer for Ryanair is expected to be the 737 MAX deliveries in 2019 (FY20) as these aircraft will have 197 seats vs. the current 189 (with no requirement for an additional flight attendant).

**Load factor opportunity:** With greater cost clarity, the largest uncertainty remains yields with likely pressure from elevated industry capacity growth as European airlines (that generally hedge a large portion of fuel needs) finally start to benefit from lower fuel prices. Despite large load factor improvements at Ryanair over the last couple of years, there is likely another 1-2 ppts of potential improvement remaining before reaching structural constraints. Such improvements in load factor should help offset some yield weakness. Additionally, it appears demand has recovered following the Paris attacks in November 2015.

**Brexit:** Ryanair is a staunch advocate for the U.K. to remain in the EU. A weakened sterling from a possible "Brexit" poses risk as Ryanair is naturally long the sterling. However, a weak sterling could potentially be offset by an increase in travel to the U.K.

**Growth opportunities:** As stated previously, Ryanair intends to grow its market share in Germany from 5% to 15-20% over the next five years. However, Frankfurt's congested operations make it untenable given Ryanair's targeted 25-minute turnaround times. Additionally, while Ryanair still foresees further opportunity to grow in France, it does not plan on establishing a base in the country due to the country's draconian labor laws (double taxation). As such, France will continue to be more of a leisure destination for Ryanair.

Please read domestic and foreign disclosure/risk information beginning on page 2 and Analyst Certification on page 2.

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Market Perform (MP3) Expected to perform generally in line with the S&P 500 over the next 12 months.

Underperform (MU4) Expected to underperform the S&P 500 or its sector over the next six to 12 months and should be sold.

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Market Perform (MP3) The stock is expected to perform generally in line with the S&P/TSX Composite Index over the next twelve months and is potentially a source of funds for more highly rated securities.

**Underperform (MU4)** The stock is expected to underperform the S&P/TSX Composite Index or its sector over the next six to twelve months and should be sold.

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Market Perform (MP3) Expected to perform in line with the underlying country index.

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Outperform (2) Expected to appreciate and outperform the Stoxx 600 over the next 12 months.

Market Perform (3) Expected to perform generally in line with the Stoxx 600 over the next 12 months.

Underperform (4) Expected to underperform the Stoxx 600 or its sector over the next 6 to 12 months.

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	Coverag	Coverage Universe Rating Distribution*				Investment Banking Distribution			
	RJA	RJL	RJ Arg	RJEE/RJFI	RJA	RJL	RJ Arg	RJEE/RJFI	
Strong Buy and Outperform (Buy)	57%	66%	56%	48%	20%	38%	0%	0%	
Market Perform (Hold)	37%	34%	44%	38%	5%	18%	0%	0%	
Underperform (Sell)	6%	1%	0%	14%	7%	0%	0%	0%	

<sup>\*</sup> Columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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**High Risk/Growth (H/GRW)** Medium to higher risk equities of companies in fast growing and competitive industries, with less predictable earnings (or losses), more leveraged balance sheets, rapidly changing market dynamics, financial or legal issues, higher price volatility (beta), and potential risk of principal.

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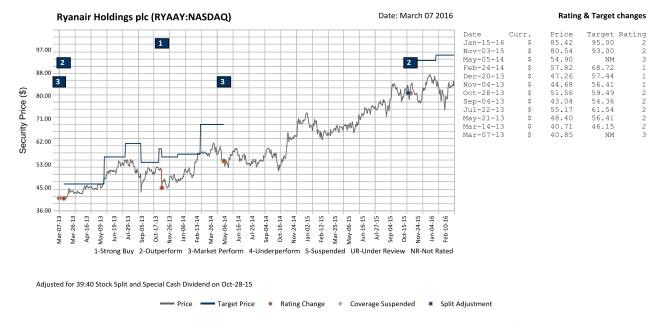
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Company Name	Disclosure
Ryanair Holdings plc	Raymond James & Associates makes a market in shares of RYAAY.

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Target Prices: The information below indicates our target price and rating changes for RYAAY stock over the past three years.



**Valuation Methodology:** To estimate the value of Ryanair's ADSs, we utilize its price-to-earnings, or P/E ratio, comparison, which is based on our long-range earnings model that is available upon request.

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Companies within the airline industry are exposed to risks relating to general economic and market conditions. External economic factors include the fluctuations in the price of jet fuel and capacity changes by competing airlines, which can negatively impact operating costs and revenue, respectively.

Airlines operating in international markets may also be exposed to fluctuations in foreign currencies. Also, the airline industry is highly unionized, which implies that a significant number of employees may be subject to risks associated with labor contract negotiations and potential strikes.

Moreover, Airlines are subject to various federal, state, local, and foreign laws and regulations and, as a result, are highly exposed to the impacts of new regulation. Greater U.S. government scrutiny on ancillary revenue and the European Union's recently enacted carbon emissions tax are examples of recent concerns faced by the industry.

## Company-Specific Risk Factors for Ryanair Holdings plc

#### U.S. Dollar Strength vs. the Euro

Majority of Ryanair's costs are in U.S. dollars while a majority of its revenue is in British pounds and euros. Ryanair has hedged 95% of its FY16 (March year-end) and 95% of its FY17 fuel purchases (most of the USD cost) at an exchange rate of €1.33 and €1.21 per USD, respectively, and has hedged its capex needs as well. Therefore, the strengthening of the USD against the euro is unlikely to have a material negative impact on its earnings through early 2017. However, while the USD strength does not impact earnings, it has a material impact in the translation to EPS (per ADR share).

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