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Greater China Technology Hardware | Asia Pacific

TFT-LCD Panel Prices for Sep-26: TVs, Monitors and NBs Flat MoM

Chinese panel makers are planning to raise panel prices in the coming months to mitigate the cost pressure, which we believe could find some resistance among their brand customers. Glass opportunities in advanced packaging remain the key reasons that major panel makers are trading at 1.5-2.0x P/B.

Key Takeaways

- Current valuation of 1.5-2.0x P/B have already priced in the expectation of glass in advanced packaging from 2H28.
- Nonetheless, the risk in commercialization and competition are worth monitoring.

TV panel prices stayed flat MoM in September: Mainstream 32", 43", 55", 65" and 75" TV panel prices all stood flat for the month of September, in line with our expectations. While the overall TV panel demand was lackluster, there is still some seasonal demand as brands are preparing for year-end promotions. Recently, the major Chinese panel makers have notified their customers of price hikes from September/October in order to mitigate increasing margin pressure caused by rising costs of various components, including driver ICs, glass substrates and PCB. Although major Chinese panel makers might leverage their annual maintenance of three to seven days during October 2026 as a bargaining chip, we think it might take more negotiations with brand customers before they can really raise panel prices, since order momentum will slow down in the coming months. On a quarterly average basis, TV panel prices declined in the low-single-digits % QoQ in 3Q26.

IT panel prices were flat MoM in September: Monitor and notebook panel prices stayed flat MoM during the month. Both applications continues to see slower demand in 2H26 post the earlier restocking in 1H26 amid concerns about increasing component costs. That said, panel makers are under cost pressure and reluctant to given more price concessions. On a quarterly average basis, we expect IT panel prices to remain flat QoQ in 3Q26.

Risk/reward less attractive: We think that the current valuation of Taiwanese panel makers, AUO (2409.TW) and Innolux (3481.TW) both at 1.7x P/B, has already baked in some expectations of glass in advanced packaging for revenue contribution in 2028. However, some supply chain players think this might take longer, and there seem to be more suppliers from different supply chains vying for this opportunity. In China, while expectations are also building for the glass core substrate, we have a relative preference for BOE (000725.SZ; 1.5x P/B) over TCL (000100.SZ; 1.8x P/B), on its scale advantage and faster progress in glass core substrates.

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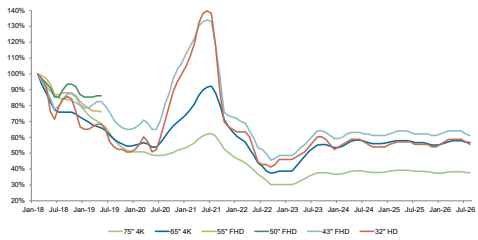
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Asia Pacific Industry View	In-Line
S. KOREA TECHNOLOGY	
Asia Pacific Industry View	Attractive

Exhibit 1 : TFT-LCD TV Panel Price Trends



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Pricing Chart

Exhibit 2: TFT-LCD Panel Prices – September 2026

Screen Size	Format	Resolution	BLU	1/1/2025	2/1/2025	3/1/2025	4/1/2025	5/1/2025	6/1/2025	7/1/2025	8/1/2025	9/1/2025	10/1/2025	11/1/2025	12/1/2025	1/1/2026	2/1/2026	3/1/2026	4/1/2026	5/1/2026	6/1/2026	7/1/2026	8/1/2026	Sept-26 (A)	Sept-26 (E)	Diff %
75"	4K2K	3840x2160	Open-Cell	253	256	257	257	257	256	253	253	253	251	248	245	245	247	250	251	251	251	248	247	247	247	0.0%
Change (%)				1.2%	1.2%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	-0.4%	-1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	-0.8%	-1.2%	-1.2%	0.0%	0.8%	1.2%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	-1.2%	-0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	
65"	4K2K	3840x2160	Open-Cell	184	186	187	187	187	186	183	183	183	181	178	178	179	182	185	187	187	187	184	183	183	183	0.0%
Change (%)				1.1%	1.1%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	-0.5%	-1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	-1.1%	-1.7%	0.0%	0.6%	1.7%	1.6%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	-1.6%	-0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	
55"	4K2K	3840x2160	Open-Cell	135	136	137	137	137	136	134	134	134	133	131	131	132	134	136	136	136	136	134	133	133	133	0.0%
Change (%)				0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	-0.7%	-1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	-0.7%	-1.5%	0.0%	0.8%	1.5%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-1.5%	-0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	
32"	HD	1366x768	Open-Cell	35	35.5	36	36	36	36	35	35	35	35	34	34	35	36	37	37	37	37	36	35	35	35	0.0%
Change (%)				2.9%	1.4%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-2.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-2.9%	0.0%	2.9%	2.9%	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-2.7%	-2.8%	0.0%	0.0%	
23.8"	FHD	1920x1080	Edge-LED	49.2	49.2	49.4	49.7	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.9	50.1	50.4	50.7	50.9	51	51	51	51	51	0.0%
Change (%)				0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
14.0"	WUXGA	1920x1200	Flat-LED	42.10	42.10	42.10	42.10	42.10	42.10	42.10	42.10	42.10	42.10	42.00	41.90	41.70	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	0.0%
Change (%)				0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-0.2%	-0.2%	-0.5%	-0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
11.6"	HD	1366x768	Flat-LED	25.05	25.05	25.05	25.05	25.05	25.05	25.05	25.05	25.05	25.05	25.05	25.05	24.95	24.85	24.85	24.85	24.85	24.85	24.85	24.85	24.85	24.85	0.0%
Change (%)				0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-0.4%	-0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	

Note: To be more consistent with the industry practice, WitsView changed the way it publishes panel price quotes in January 2025. It now only provides expectations of the full-month panel price outlook on the 5th of every month, instead of specific quotes for the first half of the month. It will then provide finalized prices for the month on the 20th of every month, which will be similar to the original 2H panel pricing quotes.

TV Panel Prices Trending Down from 3Q26

TV panel prices started to edge up at the beginning of this year, rising 1% MoM in January, 2% MoM in February and 2% MoM in March. April, May and June were largely flat, while July was down 2% MoM, August was down 1% MoM, and September was flat MoM, in line with our expectation that TV panel prices would start trending down from 3Q26. That said, we do not expect a significant decline as supply-side discipline should provide downside support.

Exhibit 3: TV Panel Price Trend (QoQ)

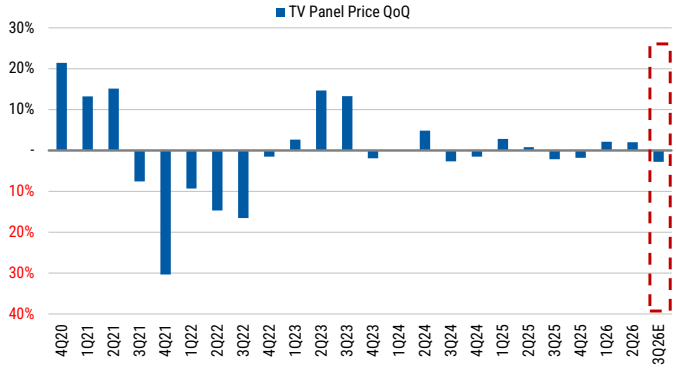
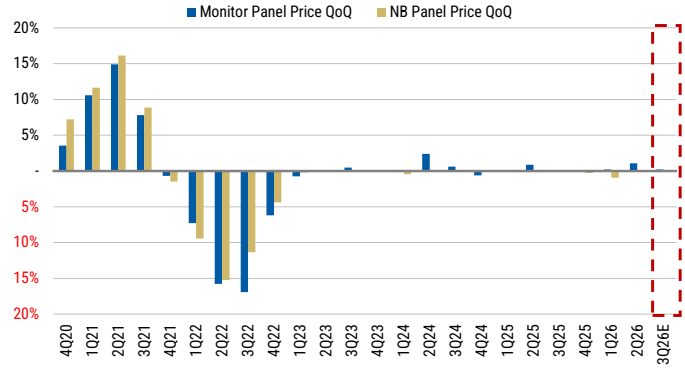


Exhibit 4: IT Panel Price (QoQ)



Below-seasonal Panel Shipments in 2H26

Over the past decade, TV panel shipments have typically been split 49%:51% between 1H and 2H. In 2026, we expect the mix to skew toward 1H, as TV brands restocked ahead of major promotional events, including the Winter Olympics in February, the FIFA World Cup in June-July, and China's 618 shopping festival. We see no clear evidence that these events will materially boost global TV demand, but they have historically shifted shipment timing across quarters. As a result, we expect the restocking momentum seen since the start of the year to fade, with panel order momentum slowing in 2H26.

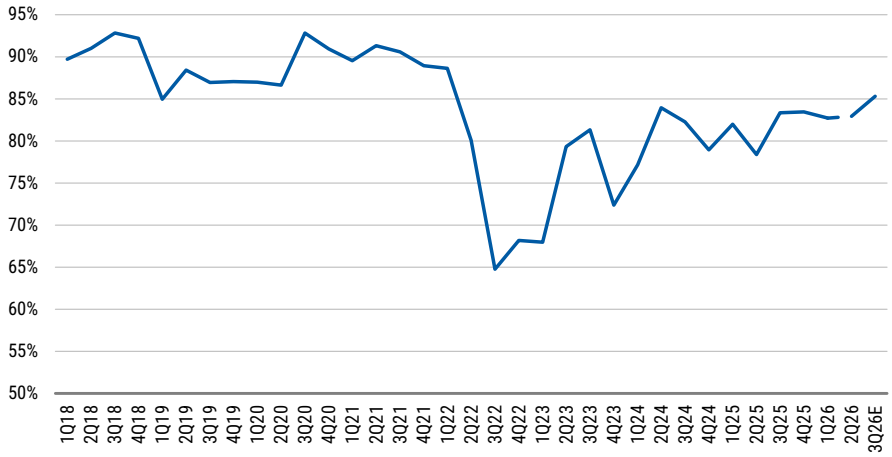
Display Fab Utilization at ~85% in 3Q26

Stronger TV panel shipments supported display fab utilization of ~80% in 4Q24 and 82% in 1Q25. Utilization declined to 78% in 2Q25 as brands adopted a more cautious stance following earlier pull-ins and as the impact of China's trade-in program moderated. Utilization rebounded to 80-85% in 3Q25 as brands restocked for year-end promotions and remained at similar levels in 4Q25 despite seasonal softness as well as in 1Q26. Industry utilization stayed broadly flat QoQ, at 80-85% in 2Q26, reflecting continued supply discipline, followed by a slight uptick in 3Q26.

Over the medium to long term, we continue to believe the display industry is undergoing structural change. Chinese panel makers have shifted their focus from top-line growth to profitability, while lower government subsidies have reinforced supply discipline. We believe investors increasingly recognize that the industry's production-to-order model can remain sustainable, particularly as panel price cycles shortened to quarters in 2023-24 vs. multiyear cycles in the previous decade. Consolidation actions, including LG Display's sale of its Gen 8.5 Guangzhou fab to TCL and Sharp's closure of its Gen 10 Sakai fab, also

support a healthier supply backdrop (for more information, see Display – Structural Changes on Supply Side Not Fairly Priced In, June 17, 2021).

Exhibit 5: Industry Average Utilization at Display Fabs



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Risk/Reward Fair After Recent Correction

We view risk-reward as broadly balanced following the recent correction in panel stocks. Below are our current views:

- **AUO (2409.TW, Derrick Yang):** We rate AUO Equal-weight with a PT of NT $27.00, based on a 1.4x 2026e P/B multiple. While we believe the current round of TV panel price increases is nearing an end, major panel makers should continue to demonstrate solid supply discipline, providing downside support. We appreciate AUO's efforts to diversify its business, but meaningful earnings contributions are likely to take time.
- **BOE (000725.SZ, Derrick Yang):** We prefer BOE due to its scale advantage, higher exposure to display and faster progress in glass core substrates. Our PT of Rmb9.30 is based on 2.5x 2026e P/B, which we view as reasonable given our estimated ROE of 5-8% over 2026-28 compared with BOE's average P/B of 1.1x and ROE of 2-4% during 2023-25.
- **Innolux (3481.TW, Derrick Yang):** In semiconductors, our supply-chain checks suggest that Innolux is participating in a foundry customer's glass core substrate project. However, we do not expect meaningful contributions before 2028, and additional competitors could enter as the industry moves toward mass production. We maintain our Equal-weight rating and PT of NT$60.00, based on a 2.1x 2026e P/B multiple.
- **LG Display (034220.KS, Ryan Kim):** Meaningful OLED revenue contribution should increasingly improve earnings from 2H25, but potentially weaker end-markets keep us from turning bullish on LGD. The stock trades at 0.6x 2026e P/B vs. a historical mid-cycle level of 0.5x.
- **TCL (000100.SZ, Derrick Yang):** We are EW with a price target of Rmb4.70 (1.7x 2026e P/B). The stock is trading at 1.8x 2026e P/B vs. its mid-cycle average of 1.4x since 2022.

- **Greater China DDIC supply chain implications – Novatek (3034.TW, Daniel Yen):** Our Underweight thesis reflects weaker PC, smartphone and automotive demand, gross margin pressure, and a lack of new growth drivers. That said, Novatek's OLED DDI roadmap appears more competitive than those of its key Korean peers in terms of both performance and cost, helping it gain share in Apple's iPhone supply chain.

Exhibit 6: AUO Share Price vs. Panel Price

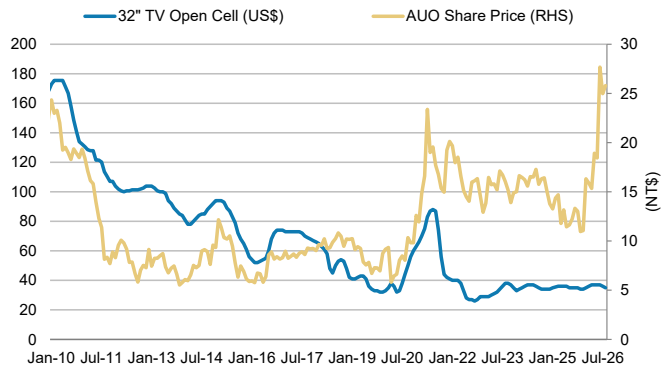


Exhibit 7: Innolux Share Price vs. Panel Price

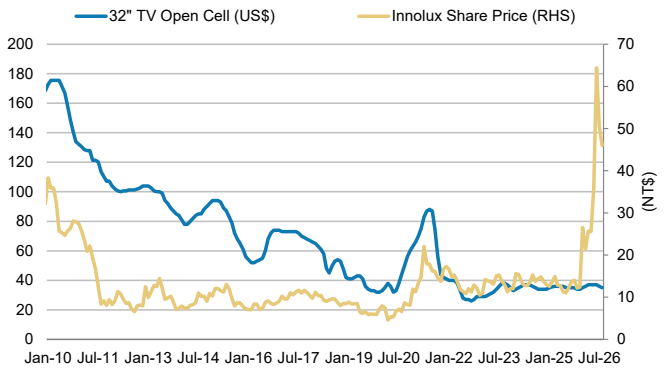


Exhibit 8: BOE Share Price vs. Panel Price

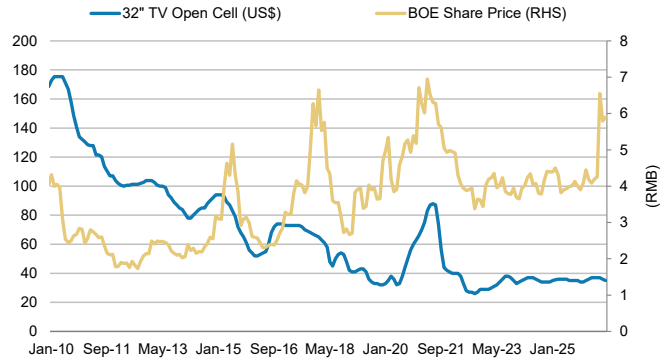
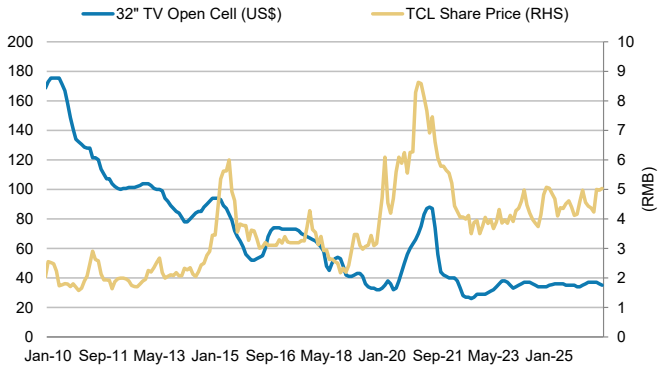


Exhibit 9: TCL Share Price vs. Panel Price



Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Results shown do not include transaction costs.

Exhibit 10: GLW Display Volumes vs. Utilization

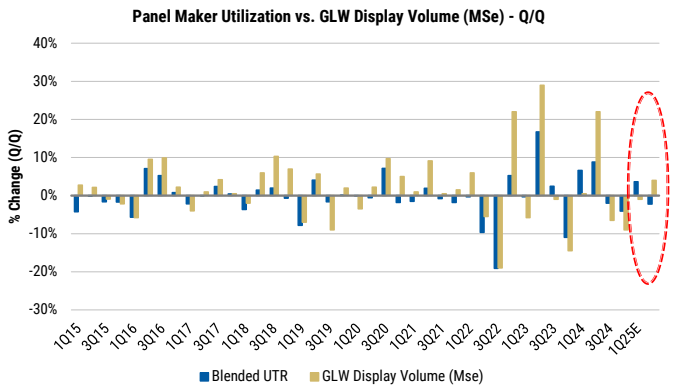
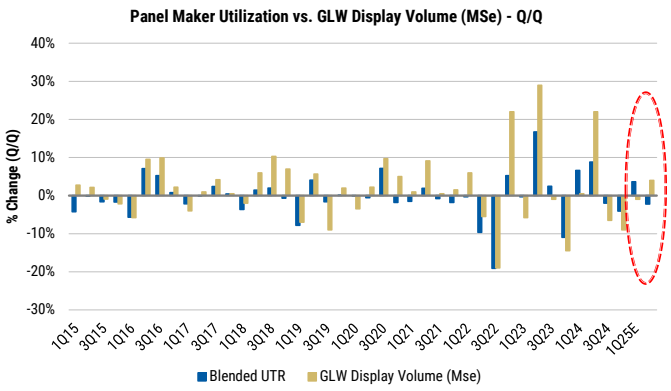


Exhibit 11: GLW Display Revenue vs. Utilization



Where We Could Be Wrong

- **Stronger end demand:** If end demand for major applications turns out to be better than expected, there could be stronger panel shipments and less panel price pressure.
- **More stringent output control:** If major panel makers collectively adjust utilization to an extreme extent, they could mitigate pricing pressure in the case of softer demand.
- **Non-commodity display business:** If the non-commodity business progresses faster than expected, panel makers could show better financial results.