

July 25, 2025

**Weak Q1; recovery in operating performance will be gradual**

**About the stock:** Nestle India (Nestle) is a subsidiary of NESTLÉ S.A. of Switzerland. With nine manufacturing facilities and a strong distribution network of 5.2mn outlets, the company is one of largest food processing companies in India. The company's product portfolio includes renowned international brands such as NesCafe, Maggi, Milkybar, Milkmaid and Nestea. Innovation is one of the key pillars of the growth, which currently contributes ~7% to the turnover vs 3% in 2018.

**Q1FY26 performance:** Nestle's consolidated revenues grew by 6% YoY to Rs.5074 crore. Domestic business revenues grew by 5.5% YoY to Rs.4860 crore while exports came back to positive growth trajectory recording 16% YoY to Rs.214 crore. Inflated input prices led to 249 bps decline in the gross margins. This along with higher operating cost led 156bps decline in EBIDTA margins to 21.6%. This along with interest cost due to commercial borrowing towards near term working capital requirement led to decline 13% YoY in PAT to Rs.646 crore.

**Investment Rationale:**

- **Domestic revenues grew by 5.5%; witness sequential improvement:** Nestle's domestic business revenues grew by 5.5% YoY to Rs.4,860 crore, improved from 4% revenue growth witnessed in Q4FY25. Prepared Dishes and Cooking Aids (including Maggie), Powdered and Liquid Beverages and Confectionery (including KitKat) have bounced back to volume-led growth in Q1. Seven out of twelve brands registered double digit growth during the quarter. Moderating inflation and rising wallets due to tax benefits and dropping interest rates might provide some boost to the consumer sentiments. This along with innovation and expansion in the rural markets will Nestle's revenue growth to improve to high single digit in H2FY26.
- **Commodity inflation and lower Opex affected margins:** Inflated coffee and cocoa prices led to 249 bps decline in the gross margins to 55%. This along with higher operating cost due to incremental capacities in last six to eight months led 156 bps YoY decline in EBIDTA margins to 21.6%. International coffee prices have seen correction and are expected to remain range bound while cocoa prices have stabilised and milk prices are declining. This will help gross margins to gradually improve in the quarters ahead. Improved utilisation levels at new facilities will lead to better operating leverage in the medium to long run.
- **Revenues and PAT to grow at a CAGR of 9% and 11.5% over FY25-27E:** Nestle delivered 5th consecutive quarter of low-to-mid single digit revenue growth and 4th consecutive quarter of margin decline. Improvement in the urban consumption and expanding reach in the rural market might lead to sequential improvement in the revenue growth. However heightened competition in Milk products and Nutrition segment will keep revenue growth in single digits in the near term. We expect Nestle's revenues and PAT to grow at CAGR of 9% and 10.5% over FY25-27E. All eyes will be on strategies implement by new leadership to improve growth in the near term.

**Rating and Target Price**

In view of muted near-term earnings growth and premium valuations we recommend Hold on the stock with a **price target of Rs2,460 (valuing at 63x FY27E EPS of Rs.39).**

**Key Financial Summary**

Key Financials (₹ crore)	CY22	FY24 (15 months)	FY25	2 year CAGR (FY23-25)	FY26E	FY27E	2 year CAGR (FY25-27E)
Revenues	16897.0	24393.9	20201.6	9.3	21809.0	24054.0	9.1
EBIDTA	3712.6	5819.8	4773.7	13.4	5003.6	5645.5	8.7
EBIDTA Margins(%)	22.0	23.9	23.6		22.9	23.5	
Adjusted PAT	2390.5	3928.5	3081.8	13.5	3270.5	3761.4	10.5
EPS (Rs.)	24.8	40.8	34.4		33.9	39.0	
PE (x)	93.6	71.2	72.6		68.4	59.5	
EV to EBIDTA (x)	60.1	38.4	46.8		44.4	39.2	
RoE (%)	108.5	122.1	83.4		73.0	67.3	
RoCE (%)	42.1	61.0	43.7		40.9	40.9	

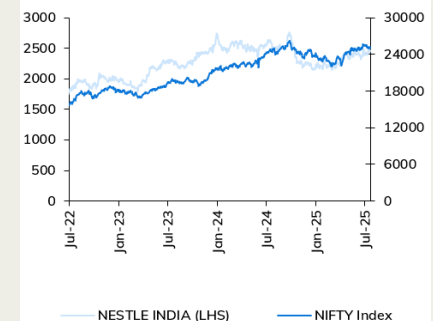
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

**Particulars**

Particular	Amount
Market Capitalisation (₹ crore)	223694
Debt (FY25) - ₹ crore	413
Cash (FY25) - ₹ crore	1,058
EV (₹ crore)	225166
52 week H/L (₹)	2,777 / 2,115
Equity capital (₹ crore)	96
Face value (₹)	1

**Shareholding pattern**

	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25
Promoters	62.8	62.8	62.8	62.8
FII	11.9	10.3	10.0	10.3
DII	9.5	10.8	11.3	11.2
Others	15.9	16.2	15.9	15.8

**Price Chart****Key risks**

- Sustained slowdown in rural demand will continue to affect the volume growth.
- Raw material inflation to dent margins.
- Increase in the competition from new brands in key categories.

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## Key Performance Highlights

- Consolidated Revenues grew by 6% YoY to Rs.5074 crore with Domestic business reporting 5.5% YoY growth to Rs.4860 crore and international business growing by 16% YoY to Rs.214 crore. Domestic Business volumes grew by 3% YoY in Q1FY26. Recovery was seen across Beverages, Prepared Dishes & Cooking aids and Confectionary. 7 out of top 12 brands grew in double-digits.
- Powdered and Liquid beverages reported double-digits growth in Q1FY26 which came off a high double-digit growth in Q1FY25. Nescafe gained market share while Nescafe RTD also continued its strong growth trajectory.
- In Prepared Dishes and Cooking Aids, Both Maggi and Masala-ae-magic delivered double-digit growth journey. Consumption trends in this segment have shown uptick.
- High Double-digit growth was witnessed in Confectionary portfolio. Kitkat and Munch enhanced the portfolio performance recording double-digit growth while Milky bar grew in high double-digits.
- Milk Products and Nutrition delivered mixed performance. Milkmaid delivered single-digit growth while certain segments delivered muted performance.
- Nestle Breakfast cereals reported high double-digit growth while Pet food business performance was aided by Cat portfolio. The company has increased coverage of the pet segment by restructuring the distribution methodology.
- Nestle Out-of-Home grew in double-digits and achieved landmark milestone of 1000 kiosks.
- International business grew by 16% YoY driven by foods, coffee, instant tea despite higher input costs.
- E-Commerce has maintained its momentum which now contributes 12.5% to domestic sales while RUrban continued to aid the portfolio's performance.
- Higher input cost continued to impact the margins of the business. As a result, Gross margins declined by 249 bps YoY to 55.2%. Higher operating cost due to expansion in manufacturing led to impact on EBITDA margins which declined by 156bps YoY to 21.6% in Q1FY26.
- Higher Finance cost (Due to Borrowings which was done to fund temporary operational cash flow requirements) and Higher depreciation led to impact on Reported PAT which declined by 13.4% YoY to Rs.646.6 crore in Q1FY26.

## Management Outlook

- The management in its commentary said that the coffee prices are expected to remain range-bound at these lower levels. Cocoa and Edible oil prices have also stabilized and the management expects both the commodities also to stay range-bound.
- Favourable monsoon and flush season are expected to positively impact the Milk prices leading to relief.
- The management said it is witnessing significant growth in urban markets with robust demand coming in the recent quarters. RUrban market have also shown positive growth.

## Revision in earnings estimates

We have reduced our earnings estimates for FY26 and FY27 by 4.5% and 3.3% respectively to factor in lower-than-expected EBITDA margins.

### Exhibit 1: Changes in headline estimates

(₹ crore)	FY26E			FY27E		
	Old	New	% Chg	Old	New	% Chg
Net Revenues	21809.0	21809.0	0.0	24054.0	24054.0	0.0
EBIDTA	5199.9	5003.6	-3.8	5825.7	5645.5	-3.1
EBIDTA margin (%)	23.8	22.9		24.2	23.5	
PAT	3424.8	3270.5	-4.5	3890.4	3761.4	-3.3
EPS (Rs.)	35.5	33.9	-4.5	40.3	39.0	-3.2

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

### Exhibit 2: Key Operating Assumptions

Particulars	CY22	FY24 (15 mths)	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
<b><u>Milk products &amp; Nutrition</u></b>					
Sales Volume - metric tonnes	1,34,034	1,68,143	1,35,860	1,38,577	1,42,734
Volume growth (%)	-0.5	25.4	-19.2	2.0	3.0
Realisation (Rs.)	509	587	599	617	635
Value growth (%)	9.2	15.4	2.0	3.0	3.0
Revenues (Rs cr)	7,293	9,869	8,133	8,545	9,065
yoy%	7.0	35.3	-17.6	5.1	6.1
<b><u>Prepaid dishes &amp; cooking aids</u></b>					
Sales Volume - metric tonnes	3,48,225	4,42,827	3,50,719	3,80,530	4,07,167
Volume growth (%)	6.3	27.2	-20.8	8.5	7.0
Realisation (Rs.)	152	167	172	180	189
Value growth (%)	9.6	9.7	3.0	4.5	5.0
Revenues (Rs cr)	5301	7391	6030	6837	7681
yoy%	16.5	39.4	-18.4	13.4	12.4
<b><u>Powder &amp; liquid beverages</u></b>					
Sales Volume - metric tonnes	28,020	38,039	32,257	34,838	37,973
Volume growth (%)	14.3	35.8	-15.2	8.0	9.0
Realisation (Rs.)	720	794	850	875	901
Value growth (%)	4.4	10.2	7.0	3.0	3.0
Revenues (Rs cr)	2,019	3,021	2,741	3,049	3,423
yoy%	19.3	49.6	-9.3	11.2	12.3
<b><u>Confectionary</u></b>					
Sales Volume - metric tonnes	62,401	85,934	61,872	68,678	74,173
Volume growth (%)	12.1	37.7	-28.0	11.0	8.0
Realisation (Rs.)	425.4	464.9	516.0	531.5	547.4
Value growth (%)	11.5	9.3	11.0	3.0	3.0
Revenues (Rs cr)	2,654	3,995	3,193	3,650	4,060
yoy%	25.0	50.5	-20.1	14.3	11.2

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

## Exhibit 3: Q1FY26 consolidated result snapshot (₹ crore)

Particulars	Q1FY26	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)
<b>Net Sales</b>	<b>5,074.0</b>	<b>4,793.0</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5,447.6</b>	<b>(6.9)</b>
Other Operating income	22.2	21.0	5.8	56.2	(60.5)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>5,096.2</b>	<b>4,814.0</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5,503.9</b>	<b>(7.4)</b>
Raw Material Cost	2,285.4	2,038.8	12.1	2,412.4	(5.3)
Employee Cost	515.7	505.4	2.0	522.0	(1.2)
Other Expenses	1,194.8	1,155.4	3.4	1,180.5	1.2
Total Operating Cost	3,995.9	3,699.6	8.0	4,114.9	(2.9)
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>1,100.3</b>	<b>1,114.3</b>	<b>(1.3)</b>	<b>1,389.0</b>	<b>(20.8)</b>
Other Income	4.0	39.1	(89.7)	8.4	(52.1)
Interest & Other Financial Cost	46.9	31.7	48.0	37.5	25.0
Depreciation	156.9	112.7	39.2	155.3	1.0
Profit Before Tax	900.5	1,009.1	(10.8)	1,204.6	(25.2)
Tax Expense	241.2	262.5	(8.1)	319.2	(24.4)
<b>Adjusted PAT</b>	<b>659.2</b>	<b>746.6</b>	<b>(11.7)</b>	<b>885.4</b>	<b>(25.5)</b>
Share of profit from associates	(12.6)	-		(12.4)	1.8
<b>Reported PAT</b>	<b>646.6</b>	<b>746.6</b>	<b>(13.4)</b>	<b>873.0</b>	
Adj. EPS (Rs)	6.7	7.7	(13.4)	9.1	(25.9)
<b>Margins</b>	<b>Q4FY25</b>	<b>Q4FY24</b>	<b>bps</b>	<b>Q3FY25</b>	<b>bps</b>
GPM (%)	55.2	57.6	(249)	56.2	(101)
OPM (%)	21.6	23.1	(156)	25.2	(365)
NPM (%)	12.7	15.5	(282)	15.9	(317)
Tax rate (%)	26.8	26.0	78	26.5	30

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

## Financial summary

## Exhibit 4: Profit and loss statement

₹ crore

(Year-end March)	FY24 (15mths)	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Net revenues	24275.5	20077.5	21666.3	23889.9
Other operating income	118.4	124.1	142.7	164.1
Total operating income	24393.9	20201.6	21809.0	24054.0
y-o-y (%)	44.4	-17.2	8.0	10.3
Raw Material Expenses	10708.6	8749.8	9519.6	10475.5
Gross Profit	13685.3	11451.8	12289.3	13578.5
Gross Profit Margins (%)	56.1	56.7	56.4	56.5
Employee Expenses	2336.1	2023.7	2226.1	2448.7
Advertisement expenses	1287.7	1010.1	1090.4	1178.6
Other Expenditure	4241.8	3644.3	3969.2	4305.7
Total Operating Expenditure	18574.1	15427.9	16805.4	18408.5
EBITDA	5819.8	4773.7	5003.6	5645.5
Growth (%)	56.8	-18.0	4.8	12.8
Interest	145.5	136.0	140.0	112.0
Depreciation	537.8	539.9	578.5	612.7
Other Income	148.0	58.9	85.5	105.7
PBT	5284.5	4156.7	4370.5	5026.5
Less Tax	1356.0	1074.8	1100.1	1265.2
Adjusted PAT (before excepti	3928.5	3081.8	3270.5	3761.4
Growth (%)	64.3	-21.6	6.1	15.0
Exceptional item	-4.4	-232.7	0.0	0.0
Reported PAT	3932.8	3314.5	3270.5	3761.4
Growth (%)	64.5	-15.7	-1.3	15.0
EPS (Adjusted)	40.8	34.4	33.9	39.0

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

## Exhibit 6: Balance sheet

₹ crore

(Year-end March)	FY24 (15mths)	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Equity Capital	96.4	96.4	96.4	96.4
Reserve and Surplus	3244.5	3955.6	4815.6	6166.5
Total Shareholders funds	3340.9	4052.1	4912.0	6262.9
Total Debt	344.5	413.1	313.1	200.0
Deferred Tax Liability	12.0	13.8	15.9	18.3
Long-Term Provisions	2917.2	3092.2	3267.2	3467.2
Other Non Current Liabilities	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5
Total Liabilities	6630.1	7586.7	8523.7	9963.9
Gross Block - Fixed Assets	6333.7	8575.4	9225.4	9625.4
Accumulated Depreciation	2873.4	3399.1	3977.7	4590.3
Net Block	3460.3	5176.3	5247.7	5035.1
Capital WIP	1741.7	150.0	150.0	150.0
Leased Assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fixed Assets	5202.0	5326.3	5397.7	5185.1
Investments	423.9	424.7	424.7	424.7
Other non-Current Assets	1402.5	1755.8	2015.7	2314.2
Inventory	2089.4	2213.9	2390.0	2636.1
Debtors	300.5	299.0	296.8	327.3
Current Investments	40.0	400.0	650.0	850.0
Other Current Assets	228.8	263.1	302.6	348.0
Loans & Advances	57.3	85.9	94.4	103.9
Cash & bank deposits	778.9	678.5	1622.7	2828.6
Total Current Assets	3494.7	3940.3	5356.6	7093.8
Creditors	2237.9	1858.8	2532.3	2773.9
Provisions	261.6	260.7	310.7	360.7
Other Current Liabilities	1393.4	1740.8	1827.9	1919.3
Total Current Liabilities	3892.9	3860.4	4670.9	5053.9
Net Current Assets	-398.2	80.0	685.7	2039.9
Application of Funds	6630.1	7586.7	8523.7	9963.9

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

## Exhibit 5: Cash flow statement

₹ crore

(Year-end March)	FY24 (15mths)	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Profit/(Loss) after taxation	3780.5	3023.0	3185.0	3655.6
Add: Depreciation & Amortiza	537.8	539.9	578.5	612.7
Increase/decrease in working	-662.0	-396.8	503.7	-46.9
Other income	148.0	58.9	85.5	105.7
CF from Operating activities	3804.3	3224.9	4352.7	4327.2
Investments & Bank bal	261.6	-360.8	-240.0	-210.0
(Purchase)/Sale of Fixed Asse	-1472.9	-664.2	-650.0	-400.0
Others	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CF from Investing activities	-1211.4	-1025.0	-890.0	-610.0
(inc)/Dec in Loan	3.0	68.6	-100.0	-113.1
Change in equity & reserves	13916.3	232.7	0.0	0.0
Dividend paid	-17596.7	-2603.3	-2410.5	-2410.5
Other	32.0	21.8	12.1	22.4
CF from Financing activities	-3645.3	-2280.3	-2498.4	-2501.2
Net Cash Flow	-1052.3	-80.4	964.2	1215.9
Cash and Cash Equivalent	1831.2	758.9	658.5	1612.7
Cash	778.9	678.5	1622.7	2828.6
Free Cash Flow	2331.4	2560.7	3702.7	3927.2

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

## Exhibit 7: Key ratios

(Year-end March)	FY24 (15mths)	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
<b>Per share data (I)</b>				
Adjusted EPS	32.6	32.0	33.9	39.0
Cash EPS	37.1	37.6	39.9	45.4
BV per share	27.7	42.0	50.9	65.0
Cash per Share	8.3	11.0	23.5	37.9
Dividend per share	182.5	27.0	25.0	25.0
<b>Operating Ratios (%)</b>				
Gross Profit Margins	56.1	56.7	56.4	56.5
EBITDA margins	23.9	23.6	22.9	23.5
PAT Margins	16.1	15.3	15.0	15.6
Cash Conversion Cycle	-10.3	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0
Asset Turnover	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.6
<b>Return Ratios (%)</b>				
RoE	122.1	83.4	73.0	67.3
RoCE	61.0	43.7	40.9	40.9
<b>Valuation Ratios (x)</b>				
P/E	71.2	72.6	68.4	59.5
EV / EBITDA	38.4	46.8	44.4	39.2
EV / Net Sales	9.2	11.1	10.3	9.3
Market Cap / Sales	9.2	11.1	10.3	9.3
Price to Book Value	83.7	55.2	45.5	35.7
<b>Solvency Ratios</b>				
Debt / EBITDA	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Debt / Equity	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Current Ratio	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.4

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

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Buy: >15%

Hold: -5% to 15%;

Reduce: -15% to -5%;

Sell: <-15%



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## ANALYST CERTIFICATION

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