

CMP: ₹ 2267

Target: ₹ 2370 (5%)

Target Period: 12 months

HOLD

May 18, 2023

Pricing remains under pressure, looking for some recovery in H2FY24...

About the stock: TeamLease Ltd (TLL) is one of the leading providers of human resource services in the organised segment with ~7% share in flexi staffing.

- Employment services include temporary staffing solutions, IT staffing, regulatory consultancy for labour law compliance and training & skills
- Net debt free and healthy double digit RoCE (> 14%) key positives

Q4FY23 Results: TeamLease reported decent margins in Q4FY23 results.

- Revenue reported muted growth of 0.9% QoQ to ₹ 2,027.3 crore
- EBITDA margin improved 10 bps QoQ to 1.7%
- PAM declined by ₹ 15 in the quarter

What should investors do? TeamLease's share price has declined by ~0.8x over the past five years (from ~₹ 2753 in May 2018 to ~₹ 2267 in May 2023).

- We maintain our **HOLD** rating on the stock

Target Price and Valuation: We value TeamLease at ₹ 2370 i.e. 25x P/E on FY25E.

Key triggers for future price performance:

- Key beneficiary of under penetrated temporary staffing market (0.5% in 2015 vs. global average of 1.7%) and formalisation (16% in 2018)
- The pandemic has forced enterprises to shift to a variable cost structure, which is leading to increased outsourcing of flexi staffing. Hence, we expect overall revenues to increase at 7.4% CAGR in FY22-25E
- TLL is expected to recover margins albeit gradually, led by a reversal of discounts, improving of core to associate ratio, recover in specialised staffing business and higher revenue growth

Alternate Stock Idea: Apart from TeamLease, in our IT coverage we like Newgen.

- Established player in the market of enterprise content management (ECM), business process management (BPM) & customer communications management (CCM)
- BUY with a target price of ₹ 660



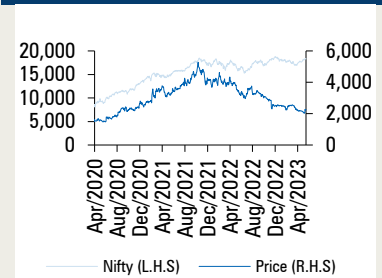
Particulars

Particular	Amount
Market Cap (₹ Crore)	3,794.8
Total Debt (₹ Crore)	19.3
Cash and Invst (₹ Crore)	438.8
EV (₹ Crore)	3,375.3
52 week H/L	4000 / 2007
Equity capital	17.1
Face value	10.0

Shareholding pattern

	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23
Promoter	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5
FII	37.3	37.1	37.2	36.5
DII	21.1	21.2	23.8	24.8
Public	10.0	10.2	7.4	7.2

Price Chart



Recent event & key risks

- Buyback of ₹ 100 crore at ₹ 3,050 per share
- **Key Risk:** (i) Higher than expected revenue (ii) Lower than expected margins

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Key Financial Summary

(₹ Crore)	FY21	FY22	FY23	5 year CAGR (FY18-23)	FY24E	FY25E	2 year CAGR (FY23-25E)
Net Sales	4,881	6,480	7,870	16.8	8,312	9,079	7.4
EBITDA	99	142	122	12.2	150	195	26.4
EBITDA Margins (%)	2.0	2.2	1.6		1.8	2.2	
Net Profit	77.5	38.4	111.3	8.5	123.9	161.5	20.4
EPS (₹)	45.3	22.5	65.1		72.5	94.5	
P/E (x)	50.0	100.9	34.8		31.3	24.0	
RoCE (%)	15.2	16.5	14.7		13.8	15.2	
RoE (%)	11.5	(4.7)	13.3		13.1	14.6	

Key highlights of quarter & conference call highlights

- The company reported muted sequential growth of 0.9% QoQ & 24.2% YoY to ₹ 2,027.3 crore largely due to muted performance in the general staffing business. General staffing (91.4% of mix) grew 0.8% QoQ to ₹ 1,854 crore. Specialised staffing revenue declined 0.6% QoQ to ₹ 140 crore. Other HR services reported strong growth of 16.1% QoQ to ₹ 34 crore due to billing of deferred revenue from Q3 during the quarter. The company in Q3 had indicated that there was billing delay, which would led to deferral of revenue booking to Q4 of ~₹ 3 crore
- EBITDA margins at company level improved by 10 bps QoQ to 1.7% while in absolute terms EBITDA increased 6.5% QoQ to ₹ 33.7 crore. At segment level general staffing business EBITDA margin declined ~15 bps to 1.6% while specialised staffing EBITDA margins were flat at 6.4%. Other HR services reported strong margin expansion of ~950 bps QoQ to 11.9% due to strong revenue growth in the segment during the quarter. The overall margin expansion was aided by a decline in SG&A expenses (240 bps QoQ decline) and strong margin expansion in other HR services
- The company during the quarter reported PAT of ₹ 23.9 crore with PAT margin of 1.2%. The net margin during the quarter was impacted by the following exceptional items: i) ₹ 9.8 crore impact due to the write off of loan given to Teamlease Skill University on account of lack of revenue visibility due to cancellation of NEEM program by the government, ii) ₹ 1.8 crore impact as provisions for buyback expenses mitigated by the recovery of ₹ 9.2 crore from PF trust. The net impact of exceptional items led to ₹ 2.4 crore decline in net profit of the company
- For FY23, the company reported revenue of ₹ 7,870 crore, up 21.5%. General staffing business grew 23% in FY23 to ₹ 7,179 crore while other HR services grew 12.9% to ₹ 125 crore. Specialised staffing due to macro headwinds in IT sector reported muted growth of 6.6%. General staffing, specialised staffing & other HR services declined 20 bps, 110 bps & 120 bps, respectively. At the company level, the margin declined 60 bps to 1.6% during the fiscal year
- In specialised staffing, the company mentioned that the impact of macro headwinds in the IT sector had a significant impact on its business in FY23. The company mentioned that it began the year on optimism growth of FY22 would continue in FY23 but the demand scenario changed during the year leading to a decline in hiring and later to a general freeze across the IT sector. The company mentioned that it was able to divert its headcounts due to a pick-up in demand of tech hiring in the non IT space. The company, however, had made investment in specialised staffing business & the change in demand impacted margins in the segment. The company also mentioned that it is not seeing a further decline in specialised staffing as of now but indicated that demand is expected to be muted until the IT sector hiring picks up. The company also mentioned that margins in specialised staffing business have bottomed out at the current level unless there is occurrence of any uncertain event
- TeamLease also said its net headcount in specialised staffing declined by 500 QoQ to 8,600. The company indicated that decline was largely due to discontinuation of large mandate with a telecom company due to payment issues and some as per the cost optimisation activities of the company. It said that it added 57 new clients in FY23. The company, however, mentioned that the ramp up with these clients will be gradual as clients generally start small and gradually ramp up their business. TeamLease mentioned that it generally works on a rate card model and margins from clients are generally in the range of 15-22% in specialised staffing business

- In general staffing business, the company added 8500 associates in Q4 on a net basis taking the total associates to 223500. On a YoY basis the company added 28900 associates in FY23 on the base of 34700 net additions in FY22. The company mentioned that the demand in large clients is picking up and it is witnessing healthy traction in the sector of BFSI, consumables & telecom. The company mentioned that consumables & BFS has grown by 20% & 18%, respectively, during FY23. TeamLease, however, mentioned that the funding freeze has impacted its business in startups & e-commerce clients. The company, however, maintained they are expecting a gradual recovery in H2FY24 based on the pipeline and discussion with clients. It expects demand to be driven by segments of BFS, FMCG, telecom and manufacturing sector
- The company mentioned that although the demand in large clients is increasing, it also pays lower PAPM, which, is impacting the overall realisations of the company. TeamLease mentioned since volumes with large clients is increasing, it is expecting pricing efficiency, which had led to a decline of ~₹ 15 in the PAPM to ~₹ 700. The company mentioned that PAPM was already under pressure since Covid as it was unable to roll back the discount offered during Covid times and lower PAPM from larger clients will further impact overall realisations of the company. The company, however, mentioned that it is working on strategies by way of opportunity to upsell and cross sell to improve its PAPM
- In Degree Apprenticeship, the company mentioned that the cancellation of NEEM program by the government continues to impact its operations. The company mentioned that it has reduced ~9000 associates during the quarter in addition to 20000 reduction in Q3. The company mentioned that impact of reduction of associates in Q3 & Q4 on the revenue of the company was ~₹ 5 crore and on the EBITDA was ₹ 2.5 crore. TeamLease added that it will further reduce ~9000 associates in the NEEM program over one to two quarters in FY24. The same will have an impact of ~₹ 3 crore on the margins of the company
- The company mentioned that its top 10 clients gave 38% of associate volume in Q4FY22 while in Q4FY23 it increased 4% to 42%. The company mentioned it consider large clients as those who employ 1000+ associate, medium clients with associate volume between 100-1000 & small clients with associates less than 100. The company mentioned that it has ~25 large clients, 200-300 medium clients and the remaining client base is made of small clients. The company mentioned that 80% of its client base is on PAPM model and 20% is on percentage markup model. TeamLease also mentioned that it charges large clients on 1x of realisations while medium & small clients are charged 1.5x & 2x of realisations, respectively
- The company mentioned that the government has not announced any alternative program in place of the NEEM program. The government, however, has allowed companies to deploy their own apprentices for the clients under NAPS program. The company mentioned that it is looking to deploy associates under the said program and it has signed a few clients however, it expects demand in the same to pick up from Q2FY24 onwards
- The company continued its cost rationalisation activities as it wants to optimise its expenses to maintain the current expenses level in FY24. The company mentioned that its core employees declined by 20 to 780 in Q4. TeamLease mentioned that the decline was largely in specialised staffing & DA business. Productivity improved by 1.2% QoQ to 350 in Q4
- The company mentioned that it will roll out wage hike and will have an impact of ₹ 4 crore per quarter in FY24. It said that it will continue its cost optimisation activities to maintain its margins
- The company mentioned that it has received income tax refund of ₹ 72 crore in FY23 and as on March 2023 its TDS receivable stands at ₹ 230 crores
- TeamLease added that its buyback program announced in February will be completed by next month in June. The company had announced buyback

327,869 shares at a buyback amount of ₹ 3,050 per share for total amount of ₹ 100 crore

- The company informed that Ritu Chakraborty (also a co-founder of the company) has resigned from the position of Executive Director and she will continue as non-executive & non-independent director with effect from 1st June 2023. She was associated with the company for over 20 years & in her last role she was largely responsible for the Degree Apprenticeship program of the company

Exhibit 1: Variance Analysis

	Q4FY23	Q4FY23E	Q4FY22	YoY (%)	Q3FY23	QoQ (%)	Comments
Revenue	2,027	2,047	1,633	24.2	2,008		General staffing revenue increased 0.8% QoQ while specialised 0.9 staffing declined 0.6% QoQ. Other HR services reported a strong revenue growth of 16.1% QoQ
Employee expenses	1,951	1,974	1,541	26.6	1,933	0.9	
Gross Profit	77	72	92	-16.7	76	1.3	
Gross margin (%)	4	4	5.6	-186 bps	3.8	1 bps	
Other expenses	43	43	38	13.4	44	-2.4	
EBITDA	34	29	54	-37.8	32	6.5	
EBITDA Margin (%)	1.7	1.4	3.3	-166 bps	1.6	9 bps	Margin expansion due to continued cost control activities of the company & higher margin expansion in other HR services
Depreciation	13	12	12	2.3	11	13.0	
EBIT	21	18	42	-49.8	20	2.9	
EBIT Margin (%)	1	1	2.6	-152 bps	1.0	2 bps	
Other income	10	12	5	106.4	10	-0.8	
PBT	31	30	46	-33.7	30	1.7	
Tax paid	2	0	10		0		
PAT	24	28	37	-34.8	29	-17.7	PAT impacted by exceptional items during the quarter
Adjusted PAT	24	28	37	-34.8	29	-17.7	

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

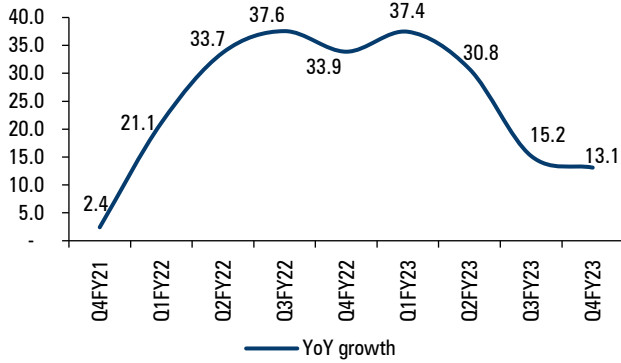
Exhibit 2: Change in estimates

	FY24E			FY25E			Comments
	Old	New	% Change	Old	New	% Change	
(₹ Crore)							
Revenue	8,581	8,312	-3.1	9,289	9,079	-2.3	Baking in recovery in hiring trends in FY25
EBITDA	159	150	-5.2	189	195	3.5	
EBITDA Margin (%)	1.9	1.8	-4 bps	2.0	2.2	12 bps	
PAT	133	124	-6.5	160	161	1.1	
EPS (₹)	77.5	72.5	-6.5	93.4	94.5	1.1	

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

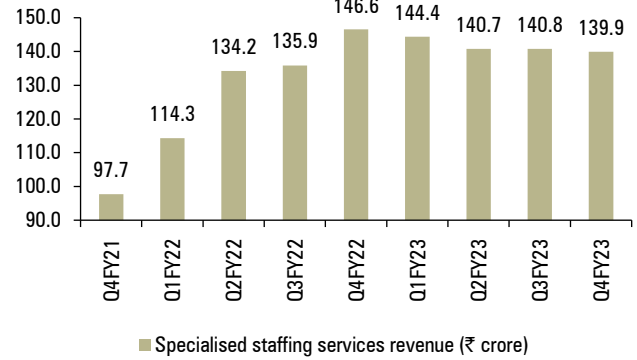
Key Metrics

Exhibit 3: General staffing impacted by NEEM cancellation



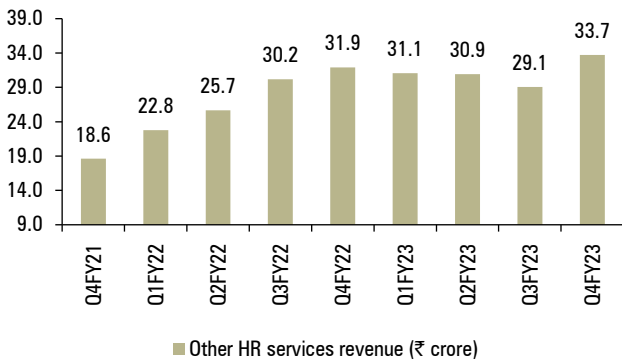
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 4: Weak demand in IT sector impacting revenues



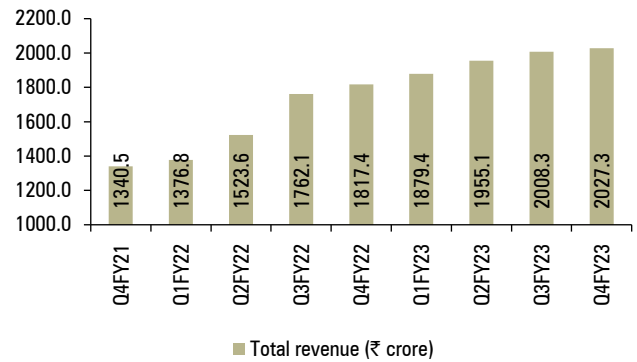
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 5: Other HR services revenue trend



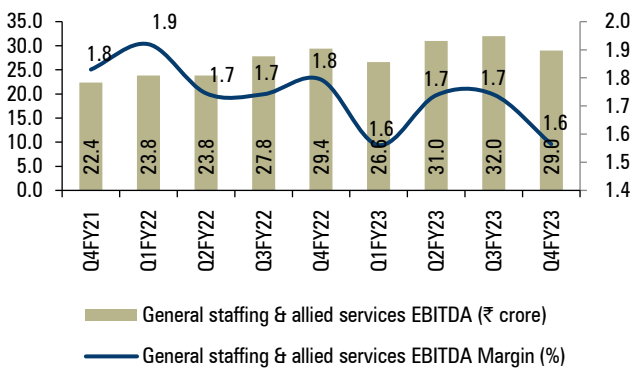
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 6: Total revenue growth muted at 0.9% QoQ



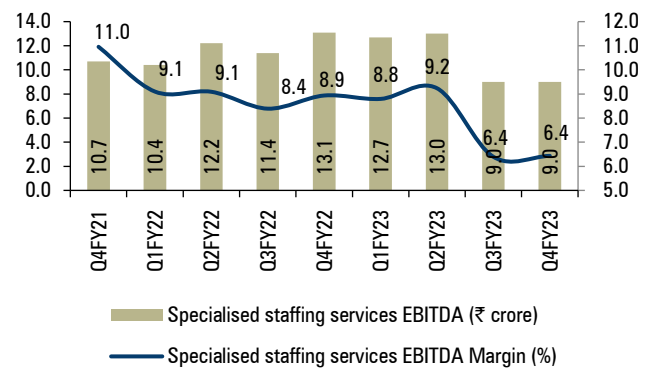
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 7: General staffing margins declining



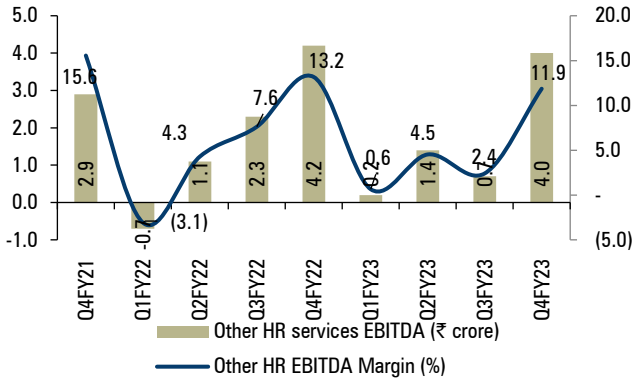
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 8: Specialised staffing flat in Q4



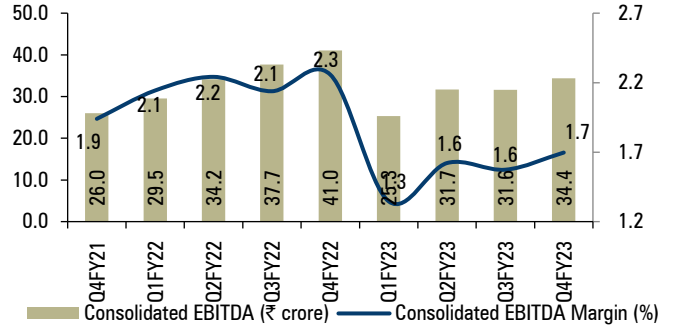
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 9: Other HR services margin strong in Q4



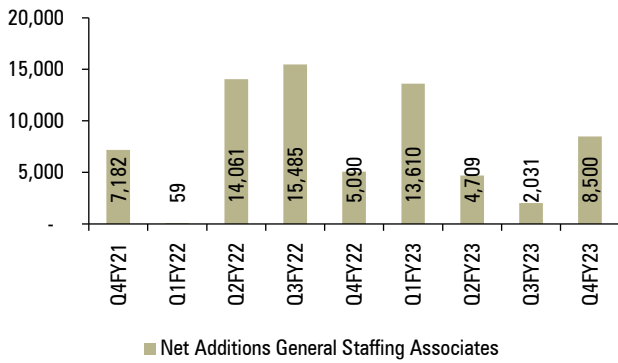
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 10: Consolidated EBITDA margin improves 10 bps



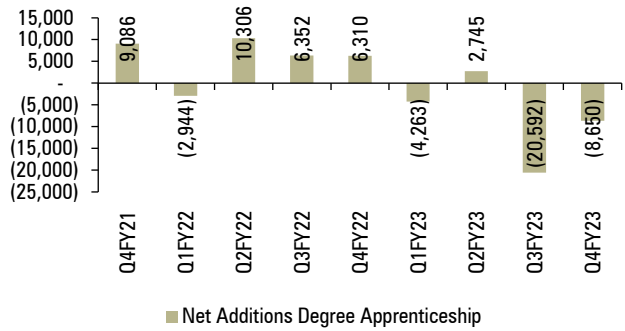
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 11: General staffing picks up in Q4



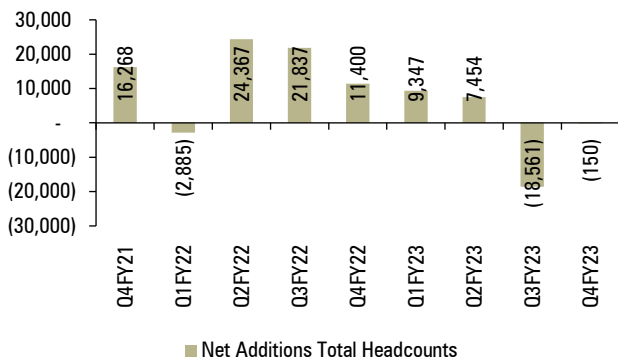
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 12: NEEM cancellation leads to decline



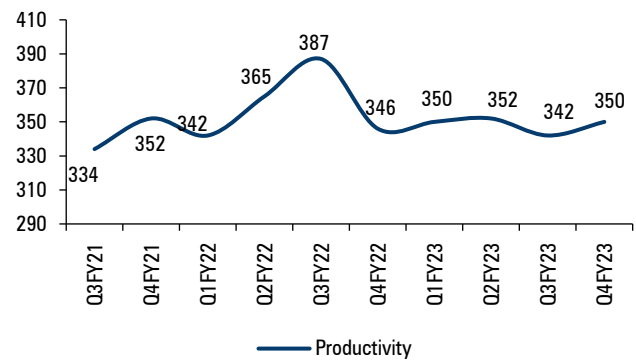
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 13: Total net additions



Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 14: Productivity improves by 1.2% QoQ



Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Financial summary

Exhibit 15: Profit and loss statement				
	₹ crore			
(₹ Crore)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY24E
Revenue from operations	6,479.8	7,870.0	8,312.1	9,079.0
Growth (%)	32.7	21.5	5.6	9.2
Other Income	19.7	43.9	34.6	34.6
Total Revenue	6,499.5	7,913.9	8,346.7	9,113.6
Employee benefits expense	6,180.7	7,569.8	7,979.6	8,679.5
Other Expenses	156.7	177.9	182.0	204.3
Total Operating Expenditure	6,337.5	7,747.7	8,161.6	8,883.8
EBITDA	142.4	122.3	150.4	195.2
Growth (%)	44.5	(14.1)	23.1	29.7
Interest	4.0	5.7	5.1	4.6
Depreciation	40.8	43.2	52.0	58.5
PBT	117.3	117.4	127.9	166.7
Tax	6.1	3.5	3.8	5.0
PAT	38.4	111.3	123.9	161.5
Growth (%)	(50.4)	189.7	11.3	30.4
Diluted EPS	22.5	65.1	72.5	94.5
Growth (%)	(50.4)	189.7	11.3	30.4

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 16: Cash flow statement				
	₹ crore			
(Year-end March)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY24E
Profit before Tax	117.3	117.4	127.9	166.7
Add: Depreciation	40.8	43.2	52.0	58.5
(Inc)/dec in Current Assets	(184.7)	(31.3)	(66.5)	(94.2)
Inc/(dec) in CL and Provisions	88.9	94.8	45.2	78.5
Taxes paid	(59.3)	(76.1)	(3.8)	(5.0)
CF from operating activities	(6.1)	126.2	154.8	204.4
(Inc)/dec in Investments	(65.4)	(103.6)	34.6	34.6
(Inc)/dec in Fixed Assets	(23.1)	(19.6)	(41.6)	(43.2)
Others	-	-	-	-
CF from investing activities	(88.5)	(123.2)	(7.0)	(8.6)
Inc/(dec) in loan funds	(10.0)	(17.7)	-	-
Dividend paid & dividend tax	-	-	-	-
Others	(3.1)	(6.6)	(5.1)	(4.6)
CF from financing activities	(13.1)	(24.4)	(5.1)	(4.6)
Net Cash flow	(107.7)	(21.3)	142.7	191.3
Opening Cash	259.1	151.4	130.1	272.8
Closing Cash	151.4	130.1	272.8	464.0

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 17: Balance sheet				
	₹ crore			
(₹ Crore)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY24E
Equity Capital	17.1	17.1	17.1	17.1
Reserve and Surplus	688.7	803.4	927.3	1,088.8
Total Shareholders funds	705.8	820.5	944.4	1,105.9
Long term borrowings	-	-	-	-
Short term borrowings	-	-	-	-
Bank overdraft	27.7	19.3	19.3	19.3
Total Debt	27.7	19.3	19.3	19.3
Other long term liabilities	142.5	190.7	201.4	220.0
Long term provisions	-	-	-	-
Liabilities Total	876	1,031	1,165	1,345
Fixed Assets	280.0	320.2	329.0	313.4
Tangible	40.1	87.8	76.4	63.7
Intangible+ Goodwill	222.0	215.5	235.7	232.8
Non-current Investments	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Deferred tax asset	2.6	6.8	7.1	7.8
Long terms loans and advances	-	-	-	-
Other non-current assets	266.2	339.8	346.3	357.6
Inventories	-	-	-	-
Trade receivables	369.7	380.3	401.6	438.7
Current Investments	166.8	289.4	289.4	289.4
Cash	176.5	149.5	272.8	464.0
Short term loans and advances	-	-	-	-
Other current assets	275.6	278.9	294.6	321.8
Total Current Assets	988.6	1,098.0	1,258.4	1,513.9
Trade Payable	41.9	44.8	47.3	51.7
Other current liabilities	622.5	692.5	731.4	798.9
Short term provisions	-	-	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	664.4	737.3	778.7	850.5
Net Current Assets	324.2	360.8	479.7	663.4
Assets Total	876	1,031	1,165	1,345

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 18: Key ratios				
	₹ crore			
(Year-end March)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY24E
Per share data (₹)				
EPS	22.5	65.1	72.5	94.5
Cash EPS	(53.4)	92.3	102.9	128.7
BV	(475.7)	490.2	552.4	646.8
DPS	-	-	-	-
Cash Per Share	(119.0)	89.3	159.5	271.4
Operating Ratios (%)				
EBIT Margin	1.6	1.0	1.2	1.5
PBT Margin	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.8
PAT Margin	(0.5)	1.4	1.5	1.8
Debtor days	21	18	18	18
Creditor days	2	2	2	2
Return Ratios (%)				
RoE	(4.7)	13.3	13.1	14.6
RoCE	16.5	14.7	13.8	15.2
RoIC	26.0	19.7	24.5	36.8
Valuation Ratios (x)				
P/E	100.9	34.8	31.3	24.0
EV / EBITDA	24.4	27.6	21.6	15.7
EV / Net Sales	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3
Market Cap / Sales	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4
Price to Book Value	(4.8)	4.6	4.1	3.5
Solvency Ratios				
Debt / EBITDA	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Debt / Equity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Current Ratio	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1
Quick Ratio	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1

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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