Result Update

13th Aug 2024

NALCO Metals & Mining



Overall Miss Led by Weakness in the Chemical Segment

Est. Vs. Actual for Q1FY25: Revenue - MISS; EBITDA - MISS; PAT - MISS

Change in Estimates YoY for NALCO post Q1FY25 results:

FY25E/FY26E: Revenue -9%/-5%; EBITDA: -9%/-5%; PAT: -12%/-6%.

Recommendation Rationale

- Overall Miss: Nalco's consolidated EBITDA grew by 57% YoY to Rs 934 Cr, on the lower base of Q1FY24 which was impacted by higher power and RM costs last year. EBITDA degrew by 16% QoQ and missed our/consensus estimate by 22%/18% respectively, despite LME Aluminium prices rising by 15% QoQ (up 11% YoY) to \$2,525/t and coal prices remaining soft in the quarter. This was due to lower revenue from the Chemical segment.
- Chemicals (Alumina) business' EBIT fell sharply by 71%/94% YoY/QoQ to Rs 31 Cr. The drop is mainly due to the drop in revenue, which fell sharply by 27%/46% YoY/QoQ to Rs 852 Cr, 43% below our estimate, potentially due to lower external Alumina sales. We note that Alumina prices have averaged ~ \$431/t, up 25%/18% YoY/QoQ in Q1FY25.
- Aluminium segment's revenue at Rs 2,535 Cr grew by 4%/3% YoY/QoQ which lagged the 11%/15% YoY/QoQ increase in LME Aluminium prices in Q1FY25. The underperformance could be due to lower metal sales volume and lower metal premiums. Ministry of Mines production data shows that Aluminium production in Q1FY25 stood at 117kt, down 1% YoY, up 1% QoQ and 3% below our estimate. EBIT stood at Rs 806 Cr, up 113%/72% YoY/QoQ, with EBIT margin growing to 32% from 16%/19% in Q1/Q4FY24 respectively. The strong EBIT margin reflects the soft power and RM costs.
- Alumina refinery expansion: The 5th stream Alumina refinery of 1 mtpa is expected to be commissioned by H2FY26. The company executed a lease deed for Pottangi Bauxite Mine with the Odisha government in Jun'24. The 3.5 mtpa will secure the bauxite mine for the alumina refinery expansion. Utkal coal blocks D & E of 2 mtpa each will be operated as a single block for cost optimisation. Utkal D has already ramped up to 2 mtpa capacity by the end of FY24.

Sector Outlook: Neutral.

Company Outlook & Guidance: In Jan'24, NALCO's JV Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) & Argentina's CAMYEN SE signed an agreement for exploration and mining of 5 Lithium brine blocks in Argentina, at an initial cost of Rs 200 Cr. The stock's valuation has re-rated since the news and it peaked at 9.6x 12MF consensus EV/EBITDA in May'24 (A significant premium to the LT average of 4.8x). However, with the recent drop in LME Aluminium prices, the stock is trading at 6.7x EV/EBITDA. We value NALCO at 6.0x now vs 7.0x its FY26E EBITDA given its operating at peak smelting capacity with its earnings sensitive to volatile LME aluminium prices.

Current Valuation: 6.0x EV/EBITDA on FY26E EBITDA (from 7.0x).

Current TP: Rs 180/share (Earlier TP: Rs 215/share)

Recommendation: We downgrade to HOLD from BUY.

Financial Performance: NALCO's Revenue/EBITDA/PAT missed ours and consensus on lower external Alumina sales. Consolidated revenue at Rs 2,856 Cr (down 10%/20% YoY/QoQ), missed our/consensus estimate by ~25%. EBITDA at Rs 934 Cr (up 57% YoY, down 16% QoQ), missed consensus by 18% led by lower topline. PAT stood at Rs 588 Cr (up 76%/3% YoY/QoQ), 20%+ miss vs. our and consensus estimate, led by an EBITDA miss. The company has declared a final dividend of Rs 2/share after the interim dividend to Rs 3/share for FY24.

Outlook: NALCO is consistently operating at its peak refining and smelting capacity (460 ktpa), and the recent softness in thermal coal prices has led to lower Power costs. We revise our LME Aluminium and Alumina prices downwards post the correction in LME Aluminium prices. Our earnings changes reflect an EBITDA decrease over previous estimates led by these lower prices. Furthermore, the valuation is not cheap, in our view, which limits material upside from the CMP.

Valuation & Recommendation: We value the company at 6.0x FY26E EBITDA (from 7.0x) and 0.5x book value of CWIP (unchanged). The TP at Rs 180/share (From 215/share) implies an upside of 3% from the CMP. We **downgrade to HOLD** from BUY rating on the stock.

Key Financials (Consolidated)

Rs Cr	Q1FY25	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	Axis Est.	Variance
Net Sales	2,856	-20%	-10%	3,769	-24%
EBITDA	934	-16%	57%	1,203	-22%
EBITDA %	33%			32%	
PAT (excl Exceptional)	588	3%	76%	804	-27%

Source: Company, Axis Research

	(CMP as of 12 th Aug 2024)
CMP (Rs)	174
Upside /Downside (%)	3%
High/Low (Rs)	210/86
Market cap (Cr)	31,994
Avg. daily vol. (6m) Shrs	2,30,14,773
No. of shares (Cr)	184

Shareholding (%)

	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24
Promoter	51.28	51.28	51.28
FII	11.56	8.99	10.43
Mutual Funds / UTI	13.42	13.69	13.31
Financial Institutions	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	23.74	26.04	24.98

Financial & Valuations

Y/E Mar (Rs Cr)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Net Sales	13,148	13,849	14,764
EBITDA	2,871	4,368	4,526
Net Profit	1,135	2,824	2,927
EPS (Rs.)	10.8	15.4	16.0
PER (x)	16.1	11.3	10.9
P/BV (x)	2.2	1.9	1.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	10.3	6.5	6.1
ROE (%)	14.5%	18.3%	16.7%

Change in Estimates (%)

Y/E Mar	FY25E	FY26E
Sales	-9%	-5%
EBITDA	-9%	-5%
PAT	-12%	-6%

ESG disclosure Score**

Sector Average	50.6
Total ESG Disclosure Score	NA
Governance Disclosure Score	NA
Social Disclosure Score	NA
Environmental Disclosure	NA

Source: Bloomberg, Scale: 0.1-100

"Note: This score measures the amount of ESG data a company reports publicly and does not measure the company's performance on any data point. All scores are based on 2022 disclosures, The Sector average is for NSE500 companies

Relative performance



Source: ACE Equity, Axis Securities

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Key Risks to Our Estimates and TP

- Capex overrun at the 5th Stream Alumina Refinery expansion can put pressure on the cash flows. Nalco is in the process of setting up of 5th stream in its existing Alumina Refinery which will add 1.0 Million Tonnes (MT) to its existing installed capacity of 2.1 MT. The projected Capex for the expansion has been revised to Rs 6,435 Cr in FY23 from the earlier estimate of Rs 5,540 Cr in FY20. The project cost is likely to be further revised upwards to the Mar'23 price level from the Dec'18 price level.
- Lower/Higher Aluminium/Alumina prices than our assumption could post a downside/upside risk to our TP.
- Lower/higher-than-expected power costs could pose an upside/downside risk to our TP.
- The Lithium exploration is at the nascent stage and any adverse results from the project will lead to risk to our TP/rating.

Change in Estimates

		New			Old		% Change		
	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Sales	13,148	13,849	14,764	13,148	15,224	15,473	0%	-9%	-5%
EBITDA	2,871	4,368	4,526	2,871	4,824	4,751	0%	-9%	-5%
PAT	1,135	2,824	2,927	1,135	3,212	3,109	0%	-12%	-6%
LME Aluminium (\$/t)	2,207	2,395	2,409	2,207	2,462	2,450	0%	-3%	-2%
Alumina (\$/t)	345	440	393	345	380	380	0%	16%	3%

Source: Company, Axis Securities



NALCO Results Review

Consolidated	Q1FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q1FY25	Q1FY25	YoY	QoQ	vs Axis	vs Consensus
	Actual	Actual	Axis Est	Consensus	Actual	%	%	%	%
Total Alumina Sales (Kt)	346	302	378			NA	NA	NA	
Total Metal Sales (Kt)	118	116	121		117	-5%	-4%	-7%	
LME Aluminium	2,269	2,202	2,525		2,525	11%	15%	0%	
Revenues	3,178	3,579	3,769	3,882	2,856	-10%	-20%	-24%	-26%
Consumption of Raw Materials	740	681	695		487	-34%	-28%	-30%	
Changes in inventories	-149	18	-		-293	NA	NA	NA	
Power & Fuel	918	735	751		686	-25%	-7%	-9%	
Employees Cost	629	512	661		467	-26%	-9%	-29%	
Other Expenses	445	525	458		575	29%	10%	26%	
Total Expenditure	2,584	2,472	2,566		1,922	-26%	-22%	-25%	
EBITDA	594	1,108	1,203	1,138	934	57%	-16%	-22%	-18%
EBITDA margin (%)	19%	31%	32%	29%	33%				
Depreciation	170	240	179		174	3%	-27%	-3%	
Other Income	49	84	75		61	25%	-28%	-20%	
Interest Expense	2	9	2		3	51%	-62%	74%	
Share Of P/L Of Associates	-15.6	-19.1	-19.1		-13	NA	NA	NA	
Exceptional loss/(gain)					-				
PBT (excl Exceptional items)	455	924	1,078		804	77%	-13%	-25%	
PBT	455	924	1,078		804	77%	-13%	-25%	
Tax	122	354	274		216	78%	-39%	-21%	
Tax Rate (%)	27%	38%	25%		27%				
PAT (excl Exceptional items)	334	570	804	741	588	76%	3%	-27%	-21%
PAT	334	997	804		588	76%	-41%	-27%	
EPS (Rs)	1.82	5.44	4.39		3.21	76%	-41%	-27%	
Segmental Results									
Chemicals	1,169	1,588	1,485		852	-27%	-46%	-43%	
Aluminium	2,447	2,450	2,679		2,535	4%	3%	-5%	
Unallocated Common	20	-10	21		-2	NA	NA	NA	
Less: Inter-segment revenue	-457	-448	-416		-529	NA	NA	NA	
Total Revenue from Operations	3,178	3,579	3,769		2,856	-10%	-20%	-24%	
Chemicals	109	529			31	-71%	-94%	NA	
Aluminium	378	468			806	113%	72%	NA	
Segmental EBIT	487	997			838	72%	-16%	NA	
EBIT Margin %									
Chemicals	9.3%	33.3%			3.7%				
Aluminium	15.5%	19.1%			31.8%				
Segmental EBIT	15.3%	27.9%			29.3%				
Aluminium Share of EBIT	77.6%	46.9%			96%				

Source: Company, Axis Securities, Bloomberg Consensus.



NALCO Financials (Consolidated)

Profit & Loss (Rs Cr)

Y/E March	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Total Operating income	14,234	13,148	13,849	14,764
Consumption of Raw Materials	3,172	2,792	2,318	2,412
Increase/Decrease in Stocks	(17)	(146)	(293)	-
Power & fuel	4,694	3,548	3,215	3,463
Employees Cost	1,832	2,034	1,949	2,007
Other Expenses	2,123	2,049	2,293	2,356
Total Expenditure	11,804	10,276	9,482	10,238
EBITDA	2,429	2,871	4,368	4,526
Depreciation and Amortization	716	750	833	906
EBIT	1,714	2,122	3,535	3,621
Other Income	254	252	280	295
Share Of P/L Of Associates (Net of Tax)	(110)	(71)	(13)	-
Less: Interest & Fin Chg.	13	17	17	13
Less: Exceptional Items	-	427	-	-
Profit before tax	1,845	1,858	3,785	3,903
Provision for Tax	411	724	961	976
Reported PAT	1,435	1,135	2,824	2,927
EPS (Rs/sh)	7.8	10.8	15.4	16.0
DPS (Rs/sh)	4.5	3.0	4.0	4.0

Source: Company, Axis Securities

Balance Sheet (Rs Cr)

Y/E March	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Net Block	6,916	7,020	7,187	7,282
CWIP	2,745	3,961	4,961	5,961
Intangible assets	910	974	974	974
Investments	359	342	342	342
Inventories	1,840	1,830	1,927	2,055
Trade Receivables	91	154	162	172
Cash / Bank balance	2,118	2,575	3,472	4,536
Misc. Assets	2,647	2,379	2,379	2,379
Total assets	17,627	19,235	21,404	23,701
Equity capital	918	918	918	918
Reserves	12,208	13,470	15,559	17,752
Borrowings	48	39	39	39
Def Tax Liabilities	958	841	841	841
Other Liabilities	1,984	2,126	2,126	2,126
Provisions	248	344	344	344
Trade Payables	1,263	1,496	1,576	1,680
Capital employed	17,627	19,235	21,404	23,701

Source: Company, Axis Securities



Cash Flow (Rs Cr)

Y/E March	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Profit after tax	1,435	1,988	2,824	2,927
Depreciation	716	750	833	906
Interest Expenses	13	17	17	13
Non-operating / EO item	(373)	(28)	-	-
Change in W/C	(883)	(8)	(26)	(34)
Operating Cash Flow	908	2,719	3,648	3,812
Capital Expenditure	(1,305)	(1,561)	(2,000)	(2,000)
Free cash Flow	(397)	1,159	1,648	1,812
Other Investments	971	(440)	-	-
Investing Cash Flow	(334)	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)
Proceeds / (Repayment) of Borrowings	(4)	(4)	-	-
Payments for buy-back of equity shares	-	-	-	-
Finance cost paid	(2)	(0)	(17)	(13)
Dividend paid	(918)	(735)	(735)	(735)
Financing Cash Flow	(924)	(739)	(752)	(748)
Change in Cash	(350)	(20)	896	1,064
Opening Cash	413	63	2,575	3,472
Closing Cash	63	43	3,472	4,536

Source: Company, Axis Securities

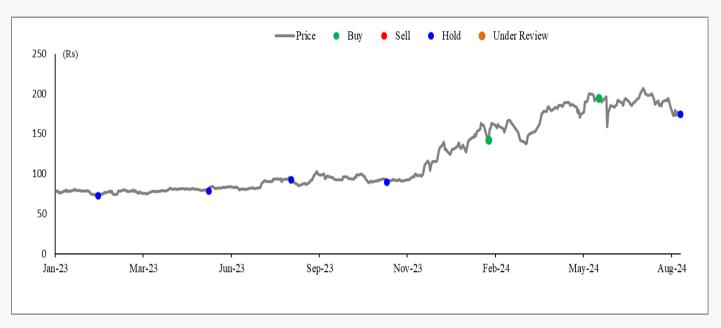
Ratio Analysis (%)

Y/E March	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Operational Ratios				
Sales growth (% YoY)	0%	-8%	5%	7%
EBITDA growth (% YoY)	-46%	18%	52%	4%
Op. profit growth (% YoY)	-53%	24%	67%	2%
Net Profit growth (% YoY)	-51%	39%	42%	4%
EBITDA Margin %	17%	22%	32%	31%
Net profit Margin %	10%	15%	20%	20%
Tax Rate %	21%	26%	25%	25%
Efficiency Ratios				
Total Asset turnover (x)	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7
Sales/Gross block (x)	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1
Sales/Net block(x)	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.0
Working capital/Sales (x)	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04
Valuation Ratios				
PER (x)	22.3	16.1	11.3	10.9
P/BV (x)	2.4	2.2	1.9	1.7
EV/Ebitda (x)	12.3	10.3	6.5	6.1
EV/Sales (x)	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.9
Dividend Yield (%)	2.6%	1.7%	2.3%	2.3%
Return Ratios				
ROE	11.2%	14.5%	18.3%	16.7%
ROCE	10.8%	12.6%	19.0%	17.3%
ROIC	8.9%	9.3%	13.3%	11.7%

Source: Company, Axis Securities



NALCO Price Chart and Recommendation History



Source: Axis Securities

Date	Reco	TP	Research
22-Feb-22	BUY	150	Initiating Coverage
03-Mar-22	BUY	150	Top Picks
04-Apr-22	BUY	150	Top Picks
02-May-22	BUY	150	Top Picks
26-May-22	BUY	107	Result Update
10-Aug-22	HOLD	85	Result Update
14-Nov-22	HOLD	70	Result Update
13-Feb-23	HOLD	83	Result Update
24-May-23	HOLD	90	Result Update
11-Aug-23	HOLD	95	Result Update
10-Nov-23	HOLD	83	Result Update
14-Feb-24	BUY	160	Result Update
28-May-24	BUY	215	Result Update
13-Aug-24	HOLD	180	Result Update

Source: Axis Securities



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HOLD	Between 10% and -10%		
SELL	Less than -10%		
NOT RATED	We have forward looking estimates for the stock, but we refrain from assigning valuation and recommendation.		
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