

Robust MS gains in 125cc; Rural Recovery a Key Monitorable

Est. Vs. Actual for Q1FY25:Revenue- MISS; EBITDA - MISS; PAT- MISS Change in Estimates post Q1FY25

FY25E/FY65E: Revenue: 0.3%/0.3%; EBITDA: 6.5%/0.9%; PAT: 3.3%/0.9%.

Recommendation Rationale

- New Product Launches: With the launch of differentiated products (Exhibit 2) in FY24, Hero has been successful in building a strong motorcycle product portfolio. In FY25, the company plans to launch both ICE and EV models in the scooter space, as newer models in the premium motorcycle segment. The company has a clear strategy to win market share in the premium category of 2W. grow the EV business, expand Premia stores (100+ stores targeted in FY25). upgrade existing stores to Hero 2.0 (500+ by Q1) and invest in marketing (via both traditional and digital routes).
- 125cc segment MS grows: In Q1FY25, Hero's 125 cc portfolio (Xtreme and refreshed Glamour & Splendor) has seen a recovery in its market share sequentially from 13% to 20%. It is expected that the company will grow in line with the industry, marking a departure from its previous trend of lagging behind. As the execution strategy plays out in FY25, a conservative estimate of ~6.5% CAGR volume growth over FY24-27E is built in for Hero.
- Strong EBITDA Margins: The company's EBITDA margin in Q1FY25 was 14.4% (~198 bps impact due to EV-related expenses) and is expected to improve with operations scaling upwards, product localization efforts in the EV segment, cost engineering activities, and management's focus on export in key geographies. Considering the stability in commodity prices, enhanced operational efficiency in Electric Vehicles (EVs), and the upward trend in Average Selling Price (ASP) driven by premiumization, a conservative estimated EBITDA margin of ~14-15% for FY25/26E has been factored in.

Sector Outlook: Positive on 2W.

Company Outlook & Guidance: The management's focus is on new products in the premium category, expanding the EV product portfolio to the affordable segment, establishing new Premia stores and Vida Hubs, and upgrading existing stores/service centres to Hero 2.0 standards. Moreover, increased inquiries from rural areas, particularly for vehicles with engine capacities of 125cc and above, instil confidence in the management to surpass the average industry growth rate in FY25. The long-term EBITDA margin guidance by the company stands at ~14-16%.

Current Valuation: 23x core FY26 EPS (earlier 21x), Ather 1.5x FY24 and Hero Fincorp 1.5x at

Current TP: Rs 6,015/share (Earlier TP: Rs 5,530/share) Recommendation: We maintain our BUY rating on the stock.

Financial Performance: Hero MotoCorp's reported revenue/EBITDA/PAT numbers were weaker than estimates by 4%/7%/6%, respectively, largely due to lower ASP and spares business. Revenue grew by ~15.7%/7% YoY/QoQ to Rs 10,144 Cr. EBITDA grew by ~21%/7% YoY/QoQ to Rs 1,460 Cr, while EBITDA margins reached 14.4%, up 63/11 bps YoY/QoQ, respectively, led by lower RM costs and price hikes taken over the year, partly offset by higher other expenses. Adj PAT grew by ~18.8%/10.5% YoY/QoQ, a 6% miss on estimates, largely due to EBITDA being partly offset by higher other income.

Outlook: We monitor (1) Hero's roadmap in the EV product portfolio - investments in Ather, ramp up of VIDA, launch of new affordable product range. (2) Strategy in the mid-weight MC segment (Karizma, HarleyX440, Mavrick440) amidst the landscape of increasing competition (3) Expansion into new International geographies. Actual volume growth across key segments will be the key monitors. Normal monsoons, a government push to improve rural income, and the festive season are expected to foster 2W industry growth and benefit Hero specifically in the entry and 125cc segments. Consequently, an 8%/9%/9% CAGR in Revenue/EBITDA/PAT over FY24-27E is projected.

Valuation & Recommendation: The stock is currently valued at 23x core FY26 EPS (previously 21x), Ather Energy at 1.5x and Hero FinCorp at 1.5x FY24 P/B, resulting in a TP of Rs 6,015/share (up from Rs 5,530/share). The TP implies a 19% upside from the CMP, and the BUY rating is maintained.

Key Financials (Standalone)

(Rs Cr)	Q1FY25	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	Axis Est.	Variance
Net Sales	10,144	7%	15.7%	10,548	-4%
EBITDA	1,460	7%	21.0%	1,577	-7%
EBITDA Margin (%)	14.4%	11 bps	63 bps	14.9%	-56 bps
Reported Net Profit	1,123	10.5%	36.1%	1,195	-6%
Reported EPS (Rs)	56.1	10.5%	36.1%	59.8	-6%

Source: Company, Axis Securities Research

(CMP as	(CMP as of 14 th Aug 2024)				
CMP (Rs)	5,074				
Upside /Downside (%)	19%				
High/Low (Rs)	5,894/2,889				
Market cap (Cr)	102,047				
Avg. daily vol. (6m)Shrs.	7,53,599				
No. of shares (Cr)	19.99				

Shareholding (%)

	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24
Promoter	34.76	34.76	34.76
FIIs	28.34	28.93	29.86
MFs / UTI	13.73	14.02	13.75
Others	0.09	0.02	0.11

Financial & Valuations

Y/E Mar (Rs Cr)	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Net Sales	40,843	44,209	47,841
EBITDA	6,016	6,381	6,838
Net Profit	4,633	5,024	5,366
EPS (Rs.)	231.9	251.5	268.6
PER (x)	22.2	20.4	19.1
EV/ EBITDA	17.0	15.6	14.2
P/BV (x)	5.1	4.6	4.1
RoE (%)	22.7	22.2	21.4

Change in Estimates (%)

Y/E Mar	FY25E	FY26E
Sales	0.3%	0.3%
EBITDA	6.5%	0.9%
PAT	3.3%	0.9%

FSG disclosure Score**

EGG disolosaic Goole		
Environmental Disclosure	64.5	
Social Disclosure Score	33.7	
Governance Disclosure	84.9	
Total ESG Disclosure Score	61.1	
Sector Average	46.4	

Relative performance



Source: ACE Equity, Axis Securities Research

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perg, Scale: 0.1-100
pre measures the amount of ESG data a company reports publicly and does not ompany's performance on any data point. All scores are based on 2022



Key Concall Highlights

- **EV Strategy:** Currently, EBITDA margins saw a net negative impact of 198 bps due to the EV portfolio in the current quarter. This implies that the EBITDA margin of the ICE business was around ~16.4%.
- Exports: Bangladesh forms 4% of GV revenue (~0.3% of total revenue). The company is steadily expanding its footprints in Southeast Asia, the Philippines, and Brazil; also ramp-up can be witnessed in the Columbian unit.
- Capacity Expansion: The production capacity for Harley440X, Maverik440, and Karizma is expected to reach 10k units/month. Also, for Xtreme 125 cc, the company plans to increase production to 40k units/month in the next quarter from the existing 25k per month.
- Spare Parts, Accessories, and Merchandise Revenue: Spares contribution to the revenue is lower at 12.5% in Q1FY25 vs 14.5% in Q4FY24 largely on account of seasonality.
- Q1FY25Volumes: The volumes increased by 15.7%YoY (6.6% QoQ)
- Price Increase: There has been an aggregate price increase of Rs 1,300-1,400 per vehicle over FY24.
- Capex: The capex guidance for FY25 is Rs 1,000 Cr to Rs 1,500 Cr including GPC-2 expansion.

Key Risks to Our Estimates and TP

- Slower-than-expected rural demand will pose a downside risk to our target price.
- Failure to grow volumes in the EV space could drive derating.

Change in Estimates

	Revised			Old			% Change		
	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Sales Volume ('000 units)	6.02	6.39	6.78	6.11	6.50	N.A.	-1.5%	-1.7%	N.A.
Sales	40,843	44,209	47,841	40,736	44,081	N.A.	0.3%	0.3%	N.A.
EBITDA	6,016	6,381	6,838	5,647	6,322	N.A.	6.5%	0.9%	N.A.
PAT	4,633	5,024	5,366	4,486	4,979	N.A.	3.3%	0.9%	N.A.
EPS	231.9	251.5	268.6	225	249	N.A.	3.3%	0.9%	N.A.



Q1FY25 Results Review

YE March (Rs Cr)	Q1FY25	Axis Sec Estimates	Axis Sec Var (%)	Q4FY24	QoQ (%)	Q1FY24	YoY (%)
Total Revenue	10,144	10,548	-3.8%	9,519	6.6%	8,767	15.7%
ASP (Rs/Vehicle)	66,076	68,708	-3.8%	68,373	-3.4%	64,819	1.9%
Less:							
Net Raw Material consumed	6,867	7,173	-4.3%	6,325	8.6%	6,081	12.9%
Other Exp.	1,209	1,160	4.2%	1,192	1.4%	900	34.3%
Personnel	608	638	-4.7%	644	-5.5%	580	4.9%
Total Expenditure	8,684	8,971	-3.2%	8,160	6.4%	7,561	14.9%
EBIDTA	1,460	1,577	-7.4%	1,359	7.4%	1,206	21.0%
Less: Depreciation	193	181	6.5%	185	4.4%	169	14.3%
EBIT	1,267	1,395	-9.2%	1,174	7.9%	1,037	22.1%
Less: Interest	5	5	1.19%	5	5.5%	5	3.2%
Other Income	232	202	14.5%	180	28.7%	222	4.3%
Profit Before Extraordinary Items and Tax	1,493	1,593	-6.3%	1,350	10.7%	1,255	19.0%
Extraordinary Expense/(Income)	-	-	NA	-	NA	160	NA
Profit Before Tax	1,493	1,593	-6.3%	1,350	10.7%	1,095	36.4%
Less: Total Tax	371	398	-6.9%	334	11.2%	270	37.3%
Profit After Tax	1,123	1,195	-6.0%	1,016	10.5%	825	36.1%
Adj. Net Profit	1,123	1,195	-6.0%	1,016	10.5%	945	18.8%
Shares Outstanding (Cr)	20	20	0.1%	20	0.0%	20	0.1%
Reported EPS (Rs.)	56.1	59.8	-6.1%	50.8	10.5%	41.3	36.1%
Adj. EPS (Rs.)	56.1	59.8	-6.1%	50.8	10.5%	47.3	18.7%

Cost & Margin Analysis	Q1FY25	Axis Sec Estimates	Change in bps	Q4FY24	Change in bps	Q1FY24	Change in bps
Net Raw Material/Net Sales (%)	68%	68%	-30	66%	126	69%	(166)
Other Exp./Net Sales (%)	12%	11%	91	13%	(60)	10%	165
Personnel/Net Sales(%)	6%	6%	-5	7%	(77)	7%	(62)
Gross Margin (%)	32%	32%	30	34%	(126)	31%	166
EBITDA Margin (%)	14.4%	14.9%	-56	14.3%	11	13.8%	63
EBIT (%)	12%	13%	-74	12%	15	12%	65
PBT Margin (%)	15%	15%	-38	14%	55	12%	224
NPM (%)	11%	11%	-26	11%	39	9%	166
Adj. NPM(%)	11%	11%	-26	11%	39	11%	29
Effective Tax Rate(%)	25%	25%	-17	25%	12	22%	331



Exhibit 1: Expanding Product Portfolio, Upgrading Dealer Network



Source: Company PPT

Exhibit 2: Premium Motorcycles Launched In FY24



Source: Company PPT



Financials (Standalone)

Profit & Loss (Rs Cr)

Y/E March (Rs Cr)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Net revenues	37,456	40,843	44,209	47,841
Operating expenses	32,194	34,826	37,827	41,003
EBIDTA	5,261	6,016	6,381	6,838
EBITDA margin (%)	14.0	14.7	14.4	14.3
Other income	886	1,041	1,111	1,111
Interest	19	19	19	20
Depreciation	711	737	774	774
Profit Before Tax	5,418	6,301	6,699	7,155
Tax	1,290	1,514	1,675	1,789
Reported Net Profit	3,968	4,787	5,024	5,366
Net Margin (%)	10.6	11.7	11.4	11.2
Adjusted Net Profit	4,127	4,633	5,024	5,366

Source: Company, Axis Securities Research

Balance Sheet (Rs Cr)

Y/E March (Rs Cr)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Equity Capital	40	40	40	40
Reserves & surplus	17,946	20,035	22,360	25,028
Shareholders' funds	17,986	20,075	22,400	25,068
Total Loans	0	0	0	0
Deferred tax liability	435	435	435	435
Total Liabilities and Equity	18,421	20,509	22,835	25,502
Gross block	12,465	13,445	14,195	14,695
Depreciation	6,631	7,368	8,142	8,916
Net block	5,834	6,077	6,053	5,779
Capital WIP	481	500	250	250
Investments	13,086	13,486	13,886	14,286
Inventory	1,444	1,678	1,696	1,835
Debtors	2,703	3,245	3,391	3,670
Cash & Bank Bal	609	537	2,969	5,441
Loans & Advances	1,415	2,091	1,784	1,893
Current Assets	6,171	7,552	9,840	12,839
Sundry Creditors	5,528	5,483	5,572	6,029
Other Current Liability	1,622	1,622	1,622	1,622
Current Liability& Provisions	7,151	7,105	7,194	7,652
Net current assets	-980	446	2,646	5,187
Total Assets	18,421	20,509	22,835	25,502



Cash Flow (Rs Cr)

Y/E March (Rs Cr)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
EBIT	4,550	5,279	5,607	6,064
Other Income	886	1,041	1,111	1,111
Depreciation & Amortisation	711	737	774	774
Interest paid(-)	-19	-19	-19	-20
Tax paid(-)	-1,290	-1,514	-1,675	-1,789
Extra Ord Income	-159	0	0	0
Operating Cash Flow	4,679	5,524	5,798	6,140
Change in Working Capital	1,118	-1,498	232	-69
Cash flow from Operations	5,797	4,027	6,031	6,071
Capex	-801	-1,000	-500	-500
Strategic Investment	0	0	0	0
Non-Strategic Investment	-2,076	-400	-400	-400
Cash flow from Investing	-2,876	-1,400	-900	-900
Change in borrowing	0	0	0	0
Others	41	-0	0	0
Dividends paid(-)	-2,699	-2,699	-2,699	-2,699
Cash Flow from Financial Activities	-2,657	-2,699	-2,699	-2,699
Change in Cash	263	-72	2,432	2,472
Opening cash	346	609	537	2,969
Closing cash	609	537	2,969	5,441

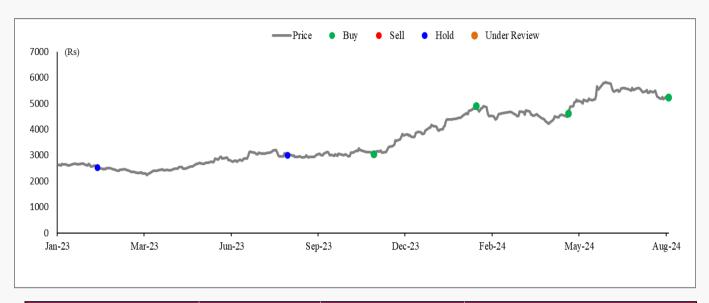
Source: Company, Axis Securities Research

Ratio Analysis (%)

Y/E March (Rs Cr)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue Growth	10.8	9.0	8.2	8.2
EBITDA Margin	14.0	14.7	14.4	14.3
Net Profit Margin	11.0	11.3	11.4	11.2
ROCE (%)	21.7	22.3	21.9	21.1
ROE (%)	22.1	22.7	22.2	21.4
EPS(Rs)	198	232	251	269
P/E (x)	22.9	22.2	20.4	19.1
P/BV (x)	5.3	5.1	4.6	4.1
EV/ EBITDA (x)	17.8	17.0	15.6	14.2
Fixed Assets Turnover Ratio (x)	5.9	6.2	7.0	7.9
Debt / Equity (x)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EV/ Sales (x)	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.0



Hero Motocorp Recommendation History



Date	Reco	TP	Research
09-Feb-23	HOLD	2,790	Result Update
08-May-23	BUY	2,900	Result Update
14-Aug-23	HOLD	3,150	Result Update
03-Nov-23	BUY	3,370	Result Update
12-Feb-24	BUY	5,500	Result Update
09-May-24	BUY	5,530	Result Update
16-Aug-24	BUY	6,015	Result Update

Source: Axis Securities Research



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HOLD	Between 10% and -10%
SELL	Less than -10%
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