

25 October 2024

India | Equity Research | Q2FY25 results review

ACC

Cement

Between a rock and a hard place

The ripple effect of sectoral headwinds (soft cement demand and weak prices) was most pronounced for ACC with its Q2FY25 EBITDA nosediving 22% YoY/37% QoQ (matching our estimate). The 15% YoY volume surge is optical, riding on the coattails of the Master Supply Agreement (MSA) with parent Ambuja Cement (ACEM). Calibrating for H1FY25's performance (EBITDA down 16% YoY) and competitive intensity likely sustaining, we chop our FY25E/FY26E EBITDA by 17%/10%. We also prune our valuation multiple to 11x FY26E EV/EBITDA (13x earlier) drawing from the facts that: 1) all recent acquisitions made by promoter, Adani Cement, are housed under ACEM; and b) ACC is not pursuing any clinker-backed expansion – thus clouding core volume growth visibility. We downgrade ACC to **HOLD** (from Add); TP revised to INR 2,235 (INR 2,933 earlier).

Sector pangs mar Q2FY25 performance

ACC reported a robust 15% volume surge (7% ahead of expectation) in Q2FY25 owing to the benefits of increased volume-swaps under MSA. But the gains were offset by high variable cost/t (up 0.5% QoQ; being 1.5% ahead of estimate) and the 12% QoQ rise in staff cost (vs. our expectation of it being flat). In the weak pricing environment (realisation down 1.8% QoQ), ACC continued to hold a tight leash on 'Other Expenses', keeping them flat QoQ (down 5% YoY). Overall, EBITDA, at INR 4.3bn, stood broadly in line while EBITDA/t, at INR 462 (down 32% YoY/30% QoQ), was 8% below expectation.

Limited visibility on core volume growth

Calibrating for H1FY25's performance and our view of cement price volatility persisting, we revise down our FY25E/FY26E EBITDA by 17%/10%. Despite the earnings cut, the stock trades at an attractive valuation of ~11x FY26E EV/EBITDA. Yet, we downgrade it to a HOLD rating (from Add) given the limited visibility on core volume growth (excluding MSA), tracking the fact that – all recent acquisitions by promoter, Adani Cement (like Sanghi Ind, Penna Cement, and its more recent stake purchase in Orient Cement), are housed under parent ACEM. Further, ACC is also not pursing any clinker-backed expansions. Thus, we now value ACC at 11x FY26E EV/EBITDA (13x earlier). Any major project announcement under ACC, or an acquisition to utilise cash of INR 29bn (as of Q2FY25), could be an upside risk to our recommendation.

Financial Summary

Y/E March (INR mn)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Net Revenue	2,22,100	1,99,522	2,03,265	2,23,559
EBITDA	19,190	30,576	24,416	35,369
EBITDA (%)	8.6	15.3	12.0	15.8
Net Profit	9,890	21,242	12,971	20,605
EPS (INR)	52.6	113.0	69.0	109.6
EPS % Chg YoY	-	-	(38.9)	58.8
P/E (x)	43.1	20.1	32.9	20.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	22.1	12.4	16.2	10.9
RoCE (%) (post-tax)	5.9	12.2	6.8	10.6
RoE (%)	7.0	14.1	7.8	11.4
* FY23 consisted 15 months for ACC				

Navin Sahadeo

navin.sahadeo@icicisecurities.com

+91 22 6807 7622 Harsh Mittal

harsh.mittal@icicisecurities.com

Market Data

Market Cap (INR)	426bn
Market Cap (USD)	5,071mn
Bloomberg Code	ACC IN
Reuters Code	ACC.BO
52-week Range (INR)	2,844 /1,803
Free Float (%)	36.0
ADTV-3M (mn) (USD)	11.5

Price Performance (%)	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	(13.3)	(11.2)	19.7
Relative to Sensex	(13.2)	(19.6)	(4.3)

ESG Score	2023	2024	Change
ESG score	63.5	66.6	3.1
Environment	51.7	50.8	(0.9)
Social	59.7	65.0	5.3
Governance	73.9	82 1	8.2

Note - Score ranges from 0 - 100 with a higher number indicating a higher ESG score.

Source: SES ESG, I-sec research

Earnings Revisions (%)	FY25E	FY26E
Revenue	(0.1)	0.2
EBITDA	(16.6)	(9.8)
EPS	(22.7)	(15.4)

Previous Reports

01-08-2024: <u>Q1FY25 results review</u> 18-05-2024: Company Update

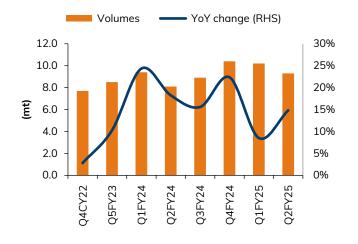
FICICI Securities

Exhibit 1: Quarterly staff cost trend



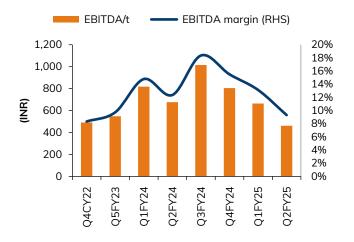
Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 3: Quarterly volumes trend



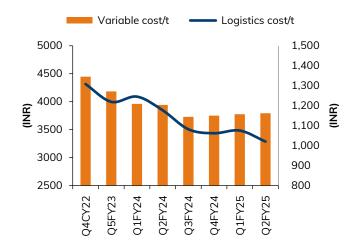
Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 5: Quarterly margin trend



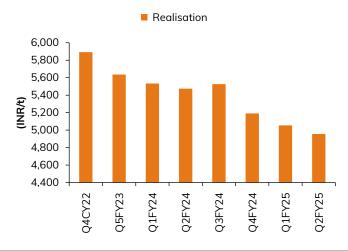
Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 2: Quarterly variable and logistics cost/t trend



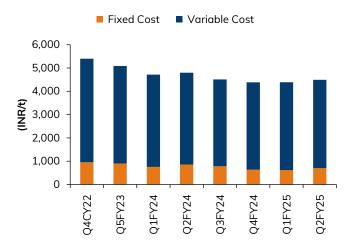
Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 4: Quarterly realisation trend



Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 6: Break-up of total cost



Source: I-Sec research, Company data



Exhibit 7: Q2FY25 result review

(INR mn)	Q2FY25	Q2FY24	YoY (%)	Q1FY25	QoQ (%)	Q2FY25E	Variance
Volume Sales (mt)	9.30	8.10	14.8	10.20	(8.8)	8.72	6.7
Blended realisation (INR/t)	4,955	5,475	(9.5)	5,054	(2.0)	4,986	(0.6)
Net Sales	46,080	44,347	3.9	51,556	(10.6)	43,470	6.0
Raw Materials	18,063	13,535	33.5	17,651	2.3	14,156	27.6
Personnel Cost	1,790	1,948	(8.1)	1,601	11.8	1,601	11.8
Power fuel costs	7,721	8,857	(12.8)	9,890	(21.9)	9,155	(15.7)
Outward freight	9,490	9,533	(0.5)	10,969	(13.5)	9,259	2.5
Other Expenses	4,725	4,990	(5.3)	4,673	1.1	4,944	(4.4)
Total Expenses	41,788	38,863	7.5	44,784	(6.7)	39,115	6.8
EBITDA	4,292	5,484	(21.7)	6,772	(36.6)	4,354	(1.4)
EBITDA / t (INR)	462	677	(31.8)	664	(30.5)	499	(7.6)
Cost/t	4,493	4,798	(6.3)	4,391	2.3	4,486	0.2
Interest	333	288	15.5	331	0.5	294	13.2
Depreciation	2,317	2,118	9.4	2,214	4.6	2,224	4.2
Other Income	1,540	2,079	(25.9)	699	120.4	724	112.8
Recurring pre-tax income	3,182	5,156	(38.3)	4,925	(35.4)	2,559	24.3
Extraordinary inc/(exp)	-	-	NA	-	NA	-	NA
Taxation	843	1,313	(35.8)	1,263	(33.2)	653	29.2
Reported Net Income	2,339	3,843	(39.1)	3,662	(36.1)	1,907	22.7
Recurring Net Income	2,339	3,843	(39.1)	3,662	(36.1)	1,907	22.7
Ratios (%)			bps		bps		bps
EBITDA margins	9.3	12.4	(305)	13.1	(382)	10.0	(70)
Net profit margins	5.1	8.7	(359)	7.1	(203)	4.4	69

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 8: Historical quarterly per-tonne analysis

(INR/t)	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25
Blended realisation	5,475	5,526	5,190	5,054	4,955
Growth % (YoY)	(5.9)	(6.2)	(7.9)	(8.7)	(9.5)
Raw material with stock adjustment	1,598	1,508	1,689	1,730	1,942
Staff costs	240	200	157	157	192
Power & fuel costs	1,093	1,139	935	970	830
Outward freight	1,177	1,082	1,062	1,075	1,020
Other expenditure	689	582	543	458	508
Total expenses	4,798	4,511	4,386	4,391	4,493
Other operating income	-	-	-	-	-
EBITDA	677	1,015	805	664	462

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 9: Performance trend and assumptions

	CY19	CY20	CY21	FY23*	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Capacity ('000te)	33,400	33,400	34,800	36,400	38,900	40,500	42,900
Capacity utilisation (%)	87	77	83	105	95	99	99
Sales ('000te)	28,900	25,560	28,870	38,320	36,800	40,225	42,639
Growth (%)	2	(12)	13	NA	NA	9	6
Realisation (INR/t) – blended	5,418	5,393	5,595	5,796	5,422	5,053	5,243
Growth (%)	4	(0)	4	NA	NA	(7)	4

Source: I–Sec research, Company data, * FY23 consisted 15 months for ACC



Exhibit 10: Per-tonne estimate analysis

(INR/t)	CY19	CY20	CY21	FY23*	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Net realisation including RMC	5,418	5,393	5,595	5,796	5,422	5,053	5,243
Raw materials consumed	941	983	993	1,424	1,600	1,765	1,702
Power & fuel costs	1,084	1,006	1,164	1,497	1,086	974	1,003
Freight costs	1,401	1,343	1,332	1,349	1,139	1,056	1,062
Other expenses	859	813	786	755	567	478	469
Total operating expenses	4,584	4,473	4,564	5,295	4,591	4,446	4,414
Other operating income	433	482	471	235	-	-	-
Blended EBITDA	834	920	1,031	501	831	607	830

Source: I-Sec research, Company data, * FY23 consisted 15 months for ACC

Exhibit 11: Valuations based on 11x Mar'26E EV/E

Particulars	Mar'26
Assumed EV/EBITDA multiple (x)	11.0
EBITDA (INR mn)	35,369
EV (INR mn)	3,89,058
Less: Net debt (INR mn)	-30,990
M-cap (INR mn)	4,20,048
Shares o/s (mn)	188
Value per share (INR)	2,235

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Key risks

- Sharp further uptick in cement prices and/or a major decline in fuel cost are key upside earnings risks.
- Sharp fall/reversal of recent hikes in cement prices and/or major surge in fuel prices are key downside risks.

Exhibit 12: Earnings revision

INR mn		FY25E			FY26E	
	Revised	Earlier	% chg	Revised	Earlier	% chg
Revenue	2,03,265	2,03,486	(0.1)	2,23,559	2,23,032	0.2
EBITDA	24,416	29,266	(16.6)	35,369	39,222	(9.8)
Recurring PAT	12,971	16,782	(22.7)	20,605	24,346	(15.4)

Source: I-Sec research

Exhibit 13: Shareholding pattern

%	Mar'24	Jun'24	Sep'24
Promoters	56.7	56.7	56.7
Institutional investors	30.8	30.5	30.0
MFs and others	14.5	15.7	15.4
Fls/Banks	0.0	0.0	0.1
Insurance	9.1	9.1	9.0
FIIs	7.2	5.7	5.5
Others	12.5	12.8	13.3

Exhibit 14: Price chart



Source: Bloomberg Source: Bloomberg



Financial Summary

Exhibit 15: Profit & Loss

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Net Sales	2,22,100	1,99,522	2,03,265	2,23,559
Operating Expenses	2,02,910	1,68,946	1,78,849	1,88,190
EBITDA	19,190	30,576	24,416	35,369
EBITDA Margin (%)	8.6	15.3	12.0	15.8
Depreciation & Amortization	8,351	8,763	9,205	9,663
EBIT	10,839	21,814	15,211	25,706
Interest expenditure	772	1,538	1,683	1,716
Other Non-operating Income	3,372	4,915	3,883	3,668
Recurring PBT	13,439	25,191	17,411	27,657
Profit / (Loss) from Associates	-	-	-	-
Less: Taxes	3,122	3,948	4,440	7,053
PAT	10,317	21,242	12,971	20,605
Less: Minority Interest	-	-	-	-
Extraordinaries (Net)	1,190	-	-	-
Net Income (Reported)	8,699	21,242	12,971	20,605
Net Income (Adjusted)	9,890	21,242	12,971	20,605

Source Company data, I-Sec research, * FY23 consisted 15 months for ACC

Exhibit 16: Balance sheet

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Total Current Assets	81,315	95,139	1,01,182	1,14,364
of which cash & cash eqv.	2,868	46,670	30,990	42,698
Total Current Liabilities &	56,304	60,505	60,449	60,855
Provisions	30,304	00,505	00,443	00,033
Net Current Assets	25,011	34,634	40,732	53,509
Investments	1,927	6,154	6,154	6,154
Net Fixed Assets	70,806	86,091	92,554	99,251
ROU Assets	-	-	-	-
Capital Work-in-Progress	20,623	13,049	12,049	10,549
Total Intangible Assets	4,057	6,182	6,182	6,182
Other assets	25,357	22,382	22,382	22,382
Deferred Tax assets	-	-	-	-
Total Assets	1,47,781	1,68,492	1,80,053	1,98,027
Liabilities				
Borrowings	-	-	-	-
Deferred Tax Liability	4,331	4,543	4,543	4,543
provisions	1,763	1,492	1,492	1,492
other Liabilities	1,257	2,238	2,238	2,238
Equity Share Capital	1,880	1,880	1,880	1,880
Reserves & Surplus	1,38,550	1,58,340	1,69,901	1,87,875
Total Net Worth	1,40,430	1,60,220	1,71,781	1,89,754
Minority Interest	_	-	-	-
Total Liabilities	1,47,781	1,68,492	1,80,053	1,98,027

Source Company data, I-Sec research, * FY23 consisted 15 months for ACC

Exhibit 17: Quarterly trend

(INR mn, year ending March)

	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24
Net Sales	49,183	53,981	51,556	46,080
% growth (YoY)	8.4	12.7	-0.9	3.9
EBITDA	9,032	8,371	6,772	4,292
Margin %	18.4	15.5	13.1	9.3
Other Income	839	1,215	699	1,540
Extraordinaries	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Net Profit	5,275	7,485	3,662	2,339

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 18: Cashflow statement

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Operating Cashflow	14,309	28,651	22,176	30,268
Working Capital Changes	(26,697)	1,153	(21,778)	(1,068)
Capital Commitments	(19,788)	(17,787)	(14,668)	(14,860)
Free Cashflow	(32,175)	12,017	(14,270)	14,339
Other investing cashflow	(26,632)	36,047	-	-
Cashflow from Investing Activities	(46,419)	18,260	(14,668)	(14,860)
Issue of Share Capital	-	-	-	-
Interest Cost	-	-	-	-
Inc (Dec) in Borrowings	-	-	-	-
Dividend paid	(10,892)	(1,753)	(1,410)	(2,631)
Others	(1,485)	(2,670)	-	-
Cash flow from Financing Activities	(12,377)	(4,423)	(1,410)	(2,631)
Chg. in Cash & Bank balance	(71,184)	43,641	(15,679)	11,708
Closing cash & balance	2,858	46,509	30,990	42,698

Source Company data, I-Sec research, * FY23 consisted 15 months for ACC

Exhibit 19: Key ratios

(Year ending March)

	E) (22 A	E) (0.4.4	EV055	E) (2.6E
	FY23A	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E
Per Share Data (INR)				
Reported EPS	52.6	113.0	69.0	109.6
Adjusted EPS (Diluted)	52.6	113.0	69.0	109.6
Cash EPS	97.0	159.6	118.0	161.0
Dividend per share (DPS)	9.3	7.5	14.0	14.0
Book Value per share (BV)	747.2	852.5	914.0	1,009.6
Dividend Payout (%)	17.6	6.6	20.3	12.8
Growth (%)				
Net Sales	_	_	1.9	10.0
EBITDA	_	_	(20.1)	44.9
EPS (INR)	-	-	(38.9)	58.8
Valuation Ratios (x)				
P/E	43.1	20.1	32.9	20.7
P/CEPS	23.4	14.2	19.2	14.1
P/BV	3.0	2.7	2.5	2.2
EV / EBITDA	22.1	12.4	16.2	10.9
EV/t (USD)	143.7	116.3	117.0	107.2
Dividend Yield (%)	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.6
Operating Ratios				
Gross Profit Margins (%)	75.4	70.8	65.1	67.5
EBITDA Margins (%)	8.6	15.3	12.0	15.8
Effective Tax Rate (%)	23.2	15.7	25.5	25.5
Net Profit Margins (%)	4.5	10.6	6.4	9.2
NWC / Total Assets (%)	16.9	20.6	22.6	27.0
Net Debt / Equity (x)	0.0	(0.3)	(0.2)	(0.2)
Net Debt / EBITDA (x)	(0.1)	(1.5)	(1.3)	(1.2)
Profitability Ratios				
RoCE (%) (Post Tax)	5.9	12.2	6.8	10.6
RoE (%)	7.0	14.1	7.8	11.4
RoIC (%)	10.6	18.0	11.2	15.2
Fixed Asset Turnover (x)	3.3	2.5	2.3	1.0
Inventory Turnover Days	50	63	61	29
Receivables Days	11	16	16	16
Payables Days	58	62	61	28
Source Company data. I-Sec resec				

Source Company data, I-Sec research, * FY23 consisted 15 months for ACC



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Name of the Compliance officer (Research Analyst): Mr. Atul Agrawal, Contact number: 022-40701000, E-mail Address: complianceofficer@icicisecurities.com

For any queries or grievances: Mr. Bhavesh Soni Email address: headservicequality@icicidirect.com Contact Number: 18601231122