

Cement

Cost inflation continues, margin contracts

- **High volume growth on a low base YoY:** We estimate that 15 companies under coverage would report ~7% QoQ aggregate seasonal sales volume decline. However, on a low base of last year (COVID impact), aggregate volumes are expected to rise 16% YoY. We estimate average utilisation of ~80% vs 86% QoQ and 73% YoY.
- **Mixed realisation gains QoQ:** While energy cost continues to rise QoQ, the industry could not fully pass on the inflation across all regions. In our view, cement prices recovered ~5-7% QoQ in the north and central regions, 3-5% QoQ in the east and west regions and ~1-3% QoQ in the southern region. Thus, we estimate pan-India prices recovered ~4-5% QoQ. Despite good demand, price recovery in south has been inferior. Even east market prices fell off sharply in June, muting the recovery seen in April/May. We estimate average NSR for coverage universe would rise 4% QoQ (5% YoY).
- **Cost inflation elevated:** We estimate that overall fuel costs would soar 7/42% QoQ/YoY amid rising imported coal and pet coke prices. Further, we estimate freight cost would rise 3/5% QoQ/YoY on increased diesel prices. Additionally, op-lev loss QoQ should further inflate total opex by 7/20% QoQ/YoY and pull down margins. Thus, we expect aggregate industry EBITDA (unitary) to fall 6/33% QoQ/YoY to INR 927 per MT.
- **Performance of companies:** On a low base, we expect aggregate revenue for our coverage universe in Q1FY23 to rise 22% YoY on 16/5% higher volume/realisation. However, we expect EBITDA/APAT to fall 22/27% YoY on account of sharp energy inflation. Owing to sub-par pricing gains in the south region, we expect the players in the southern regions to report subdued margins on weak cost pass-through. Three-year revenue/EBITDA/APAT CAGRs are expected at 9/(3)/2%, impacted by sharp cost inflation.
- **Sector outlook and recommendations:** Energy inflation continues to rise in H1FY23, with little signs of a cool-off. Companies have not been able to fully pass on the inflationary impact, leading to margin contraction in Q1FY23. With seasonally weak demand during monsoon, we expect margin pressure to accelerate in Q2 (~INR 200-300 per MT fall QoQ). Factoring in soaring energy costs, we trim our average unitary EBITDA estimates for FY23/24E by ~INR 50/40 per MT, leading to earnings downgrades. However, we expect the margin to remain buoyant at ~INR 1,050 per MT in FY24E and, hence, we remain positive on the sector. We maintain BUY ratings on UltraTech, ACC, Dalmia Bharat, Nuvoco Vistas, Birla Corp, Star Cement, JK Lakshmi, Orient Cement and Sagar Cement. We maintain ADD ratings on Ramco Cement and Deccan Cement. We maintain REDUCE ratings on Heidelberg Cement and Shree Cement. We have upgraded JK Cement to ADD (from REDUCE) and downgraded Ambuja Cement to REDUCE (from ADD).

| COMPANY | RATING | TP (INR) |
|----------------|--------|----------|
| UltraTech Cem | BUY | 7,295 |
| Shree Cem | REDUCE | 20,200 |
| Ambuja Cem | REDUCE | 360 |
| ACC | BUY | 2,515 |
| Dalmia Bharat | BUY | 1,890 |
| Nuvoco Vistas | BUY | 591 |
| Ramco Cem | ADD | 725 |
| JK Cement | ADD | 2,360 |
| Birla Corp | BUY | 1,337 |
| Heidelberg Cem | REDUCE | 180 |
| Star Cement | BUY | 115 |
| JK Lakshmi | BUY | 680 |
| Orient Cem | BUY | 160 |
| Sagar Cement | BUY | 230 |
| Deccan Cem | ADD | 505 |

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Cement: Q1FY23 Results Preview

Q1FY23E estimates

| Y/E March (INR mn) | Net sales (INR mn) | | | EBITDA (INR mn) | | | EBITDA Margin (%) | | | Adj. PAT (INR mn) | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Jun-22 | YoY (%) | QoQ (%) | Jun-22 | YoY (%) | QoQ (%) | Jun-22 | YoY (pp) | QoQ (pp) | Jun-22 | YoY (%) | QoQ (%) |
| ACC \$ | 41,099 | 5.8 | (7.2) | 5,332 | (38.7) | (16.0) | 13.0 | (9.4) | (1.4) | 3,152 | (44.7) | (20.5) |
| Ambuja | 38,781 | 15.0 | (1.2) | 6,333 | (34.0) | (19.9) | 16.3 | (12.1) | (3.8) | 7,683 | 6.2 | 55.1 |
| Birla Corp \$ | 20,666 | 18.2 | (8.7) | 2,299 | (33.1) | (16.9) | 11.1 | (8.5) | (1.1) | 319 | (77.5) | (78.7) |
| Dalmia \$ | 33,073 | 27.8 | (2.1) | 6,145 | (13.8) | (10.0) | 18.6 | (9.0) | (1.6) | 1,907 | (31.1) | (67.9) |
| Deccan Cem | 1,899 | (15.3) | 2.0 | 219 | (60.5) | (9.3) | 11.5 | (13.2) | (1.4) | 118 | (67.9) | (37.3) |
| Heidelberg Cem | 6,285 | 13.1 | 1.4 | 1,157 | (11.8) | (2.4) | 11.5 | (5.2) | (0.7) | 619 | (9.9) | (33.9) |
| JK Cement\$ | 22,235 | 29.7 | (5.4) | 3,225 | (20.0) | (16.1) | 14.5 | (9.0) | (1.8) | 1,258 | (34.5) | (37.5) |
| JK Lakshmi \$ | 15,548 | 17.3 | (2.8) | 2,909 | 12.6 | (10.4) | 18.7 | (0.8) | (1.6) | 1,531 | 16.6 | (27.3) |
| Nuvoco Vistas \$ | 27,511 | 24.9 | (6.1) | 3,724 | (27.6) | (12.4) | 13.5 | (9.8) | (1.0) | 55 | (95.2) | (81.2) |
| Orient Cem | 7,379 | 6.8 | (8.2) | 1,244 | (33.2) | (18.9) | 16.9 | (10.1) | (2.2) | 558 | (37.7) | (23.9) |
| Ramco Cem | 16,383 | 33.3 | (4.1) | 2,501 | (31.3) | (15.2) | 15.3 | (14.4) | (2.0) | 768 | (54.5) | (38.1) |
| Sagar Cem \$ | 5,331 | 35.8 | 6.3 | 598 | (44.1) | (2.1) | 11.2 | (16.1) | (1.0) | (105) | - | - |
| Shree Cement | 40,555 | 17.6 | (1.1) | 8,377 | (17.3) | (8.0) | 20.7 | (8.7) | (1.6) | 4,183 | (36.8) | (35.2) |
| Star Cem \$ | 6,501 | 27.2 | (13.2) | 1,137 | 22.7 | 0.3 | 17.5 | (0.6) | 2.4 | 834 | 22.7 | (5.6) |
| UltraTech Cem \$ | 1,53,401 | 29.7 | (2.7) | 27,695 | (16.3) | (9.9) | 18.1 | (9.9) | (1.4) | 13,463 | (20.9) | (8.8) |
| Total | 4,36,647 | 22.2 | (3.6) | 72,894 | (21.8) | (11.8) | 16.7 | (9.4) | (1.6) | 36,342 | (27.3) | (20.7) |

Source: Company, HSIE Research, \$ - Consol numbers, For ACC/Ambuja, estimates to pertain to Q2CY22E.

Q1FY23E operational estimates

| Y/E March | Sales volume (mn MT) | | | NSR (INR/MT) | | | EBITDA (INR/MT) | | | Opex (INR/MT) | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| | Jun-22 | YoY (%) | QoQ (%) | Jun-22 | YoY (%) | QoQ (%) | Jun-22 | YoY (%) | QoQ (%) | Jun-22 | YoY (%) | QoQ (%) |
| ACC \$ | 7.2 | 5.0 | (6.8) | 5,385 | 1.5 | 3.0 | 720 | (42.8) | (7.6) | 4,665 | 15.2 | 4.9 |
| Ambuja | 7.1 | 10.8 | (5.0) | 5,450 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 890 | (40.5) | (15.7) | 4,560 | 21.4 | 9.0 |
| Birla Corp \$ | 3.9 | 16.7 | (8.0) | 5,299 | 7.0 | 4.5 | 561 | (43.7) | (13.5) | 4,738 | 19.7 | 7.1 |
| Dalmia \$ | 6.3 | 28.2 | (5.0) | 5,275 | (0.3) | 3.0 | 980 | (32.8) | (5.3) | 4,295 | 12.1 | 5.1 |
| Deccan Cem | 0.4 | (22.9) | - | 4,481 | 9.9 | 2.0 | 516 | (48.7) | (9.3) | 3,965 | 29.1 | 3.7 |
| Heidelberg Cem | 1.2 | 1.1 | (3.0) | 5,251 | 11.8 | 4.5 | 966 | (12.7) | 0.6 | 4,284 | 19.4 | 5.4 |
| JK Cement \$ | 3.2 | 16.0 | (9.6) | 5,313 | 10.8 | 5.0 | 760 | (34.3) | (5.8) | 4,553 | 25.1 | 7.1 |
| JK Lakshmi \$ | 3.1 | 8.3 | (7.0) | 5,080 | 8.3 | 4.5 | 950 | 4.0 | (3.7) | 4,129 | 9.3 | 6.6 |
| Nuvoco Vistas \$ | 4.9 | 17.0 | (10.0) | 5,013 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 752 | (38.4) | (5.0) | 4,261 | 15.4 | 4.6 |
| Orient Cem | 1.5 | 7.2 | (10.0) | 5,058 | (0.4) | 2.0 | 852 | (37.7) | (9.9) | 4,206 | 13.4 | 4.8 |
| Ramco Cem | 3.0 | 38.7 | (7.0) | 5,453 | (3.5) | 2.0 | 796 | (51.3) | (14.7) | 4,657 | 16.0 | 5.5 |
| Sagar Cem \$ | 1.2 | 33.6 | 4.2 | 4,537 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 509 | (58.2) | (6.0) | 4,028 | 24.1 | 3.1 |
| Shree Cement | 7.6 | 11.6 | (4.9) | 5,309 | 5.3 | 4.0 | 1,097 | (26.0) | (3.3) | 4,212 | 18.3 | 6.1 |
| Star Cem \$ | 1.0 | 28.9 | (14.9) | 6,634 | (1.4) | 2.0 | 1,160 | (4.9) | 17.9 | 5,473 | (0.6) | (0.8) |
| UltraTech Cem \$ | 25.8 | 19.7 | (6.9) | 5,951 | 8.3 | 4.5 | 1,074 | (30.1) | (3.2) | 4,876 | 23.2 | 6.4 |
| Total | 77.3 | 16.1 | (6.7) | 5,512 | 5.3 | 3.8 | 927 | (32.9) | (5.7) | 4,585 | 19.1 | 6.0 |

Source: Company, HSIE Research, \$ - Consol numbers, For ACC/Ambuja, estimates to pertain to Q2CY22E.

Estimates revision summary

Estimates revision summary

| | Sales vol (mn MT) | | Vol chg. (%) | | Net sales (INR bn) | | Net sales chg. (%) | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| | FY23E | FY24E | FY23E | FY24E | FY23E | FY24E | FY23E | FY24E |
| UltraTech \$ | 101.5 | 113.5 | - | - | 607.7 | 679.4 | (1.5) | (0.5) |
| Shree Cem | 30.1 | 32.5 | - | - | 161.2 | 173.7 | (2.3) | (2.4) |
| Ambuja Cem | 28.6 | 30.6 | (0.9) | (0.9) | 153.5 | 165.8 | (3.7) | (3.2) |
| ACC \$ | 30.7 | 34.0 | (0.2) | (0.2) | 180.8 | 199.9 | (1.4) | (0.5) |
| Dalmia Bharat \$ | 25.5 | 29.4 | (0.0) | (0.0) | 136.3 | 157.5 | (1.9) | (1.4) |
| Nuvoco Vistas \$ | 20.3 | 22.3 | - | - | 115.3 | 127.9 | (0.4) | (0.4) |
| Ramco Cem | 12.4 | 13.4 | - | - | 68.7 | 76.0 | (0.9) | (0.4) |
| JK Cement \$ | 15.7 | 17.9 | - | - | 95.3 | 107.7 | (0.4) | (0.4) |
| Birla Corp \$ | 16.1 | 17.9 | (4.6) | (1.3) | 88.3 | 98.2 | (4.3) | (1.3) |
| Heidelberg | 5.2 | 5.4 | - | - | 26.0 | 27.5 | - | - |
| Star Cem \$ | 3.9 | 4.4 | - | - | 26.0 | 30.2 | - | - |
| JK Lakshmi \$ | 12.0 | 12.9 | - | - | 61.5 | 67.4 | (1.4) | (0.9) |
| Orient Cem | 5.9 | 6.3 | - | - | 30.0 | 32.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Sagar Cem \$ | 5.1 | 5.6 | (1.1) | 0.1 | 23.4 | 26.3 | (1.9) | (0.7) |
| Deccan Cem | 1.8 | 1.9 | - | - | 8.2 | 8.7 | (1.9) | (0.9) |

Source: Company, HSIE Research, \$ - Consol numbers, For ACC and Ambuja, the financial year is CY22E/23E resp.

| | EBITDA (INR bn) | | EBITDA chg. (%) | | APAT (INR bn) | | APAT chg. (%) | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|--------|
| | FY23E | FY24E | FY23E | FY24E | FY23E | FY24E | FY23E | FY24E |
| UltraTech \$ | 102.82 | 129.12 | (8.6) | (6.8) | 46.36 | 73.25 | (17.1) | (10.0) |
| Shree Cem | 30.61 | 38.86 | (11.1) | (9.8) | 14.86 | 19.75 | (13.4) | (7.2) |
| Ambuja Cem | 24.16 | 33.92 | (7.1) | (3.5) | 17.84 | 24.76 | 11.5 | 9.6 |
| ACC \$ | 23.35 | 31.50 | (8.7) | (2.3) | 13.97 | 18.75 | (10.5) | (2.9) |
| Dalmia Bharat \$ | 22.39 | 29.27 | (7.1) | (8.7) | 5.75 | 7.55 | 4.2 | (5.7) |
| Nuvoco Vistas \$ | 15.94 | 22.52 | (4.6) | (3.7) | 1.64 | 6.19 | (23.4) | (8.4) |
| Ramco Cem | 10.80 | 14.96 | (5.6) | (2.2) | 3.64 | 6.04 | (11.4) | (4.3) |
| JK Cement \$ | 14.08 | 19.33 | (7.8) | (3.6) | 4.61 | 6.78 | (14.6) | (8.6) |
| Birla Corp \$ | 11.04 | 14.96 | (10.4) | (8.8) | 2.18 | 4.25 | (28.3) | (20.2) |
| Heidelberg | 3.87 | 5.10 | - | - | 1.75 | 3.00 | (0.1) | 0.0 |
| Star Cem \$ | 4.03 | 5.08 | - | - | 2.66 | 3.45 | (0.1) | (0.1) |
| JK Lakshmi \$ | 9.74 | 10.91 | (8.2) | (5.4) | 4.69 | 5.42 | (10.7) | (7.5) |
| Orient Cem | 4.73 | 5.74 | (9.0) | (0.9) | 1.85 | 2.29 | (14.0) | (3.0) |
| Sagar Cem \$ | 3.22 | 4.73 | (5.4) | (2.1) | 0.31 | 1.38 | (24.9) | (10.6) |
| Deccan Cem | 1.23 | 1.69 | (11.4) | (3.1) | 0.70 | 0.94 | (14.2) | (4.0) |

Source: Company, HSIE Research, \$ - Consol numbers, For ACC and Ambuja, the financial year is CY22E/23E resp.

Operating assumptions summary

Operational assumptions/estimates for coverage universe

| | Sales Vol (mn MT) | | Sales Vol YoY (%) | | NSR (INR/MT) | | EBITDA (INR/MT) | | Opex (INR/MT) | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|--------------|-------|-----------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| | FY23E | FY24E | FY23E | FY24E | FY23E | FY24E | FY23E | FY24E | FY23E | FY24E |
| UltraTech \$ | 101.5 | 113.5 | 8.0 | 11.8 | 5,987 | 5,987 | 1,013 | 1,138 | 4,974 | 4,849 |
| Shree Cem | 30.1 | 32.5 | 8.5 | 8.0 | 5,357 | 5,343 | 1,017 | 1,195 | 4,340 | 4,147 |
| Ambuja Cem | 28.6 | 30.6 | 5.8 | 7.0 | 5,369 | 5,421 | 845 | 1,109 | 4,524 | 4,312 |
| ACC \$ | 30.7 | 34.0 | 6.4 | 10.7 | 5,437 | 5,431 | 733 | 899 | 4,704 | 4,531 |
| Dalmia Bharat \$ | 25.5 | 29.4 | 15.0 | 15.0 | 5,338 | 5,365 | 877 | 997 | 4,461 | 4,368 |
| Nuvoco \$ | 20.3 | 22.3 | 14.0 | 10.0 | 5,152 | 5,152 | 750 | 971 | 4,402 | 4,182 |
| Ramco Cem | 12.4 | 13.4 | 12.0 | 8.0 | 5,502 | 5,637 | 839 | 1,089 | 4,663 | 4,548 |
| JK Cement \$ | 15.7 | 17.9 | 12.4 | 14.0 | 6,063 | 6,014 | 896 | 1,079 | 5,167 | 4,935 |
| Birla Corp \$ | 16.1 | 17.9 | 13.1 | 11.5 | 5,192 | 5,200 | 657 | 807 | 4,535 | 4,392 |
| Heidelberg | 5.2 | 5.4 | 8.0 | 5.0 | 5,049 | 5,074 | 751 | 942 | 4,298 | 4,132 |
| Star Cem \$ | 3.9 | 4.4 | 14.6 | 13.0 | 6,660 | 6,859 | 1,034 | 1,153 | 5,626 | 5,707 |
| JK Lakshmi \$ | 12.0 | 12.9 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 5,130 | 5,207 | 813 | 843 | 4,317 | 4,364 |
| Orient Cem | 5.9 | 6.3 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 5,123 | 5,071 | 806 | 907 | 4,317 | 4,165 |
| Sagar Cem \$ | 5.1 | 5.6 | 40.9 | 11.2 | 4,611 | 4,657 | 634 | 838 | 3,978 | 3,819 |
| Deccan Cem | 1.8 | 1.9 | - | 3.0 | 4,447 | 4,581 | 673 | 895 | 3,774 | 3,686 |

Source: Company, HSIE Research, \$ - Consol number, For ACC and Ambuja, the financial year is CY22E/23E resp.

Peer set valuations and TP revisions

Rating and target price revision summary

| Company | Mcap (INR bn) | CMP (INR/sh) | New Rating | Old Rating | New TP | Old TP | Valuation multiple^ | EV/EBITDA (x) | | | EV/MT (INR bn) | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------|--------|---------------------|---------------|-------|-------|----------------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | FY22 | FY23E | FY24E | FY22 | FY23E | FY24E |
| UltraTech | 1,687.7 | 5,847 | BUY | BUY | 7,295 | 7,960 | 16.0 | 15.1 | 16.7 | 13.1 | 14.3 | 13.2 | 12.2 |
| Shree Cem | 716.3 | 19,854 | REDUCE | REDUCE | 20,200 | 22,200 | 16.5 | 17.9 | 21.5 | 17.2 | 13.3 | 13.2 | 11.8 |
| Ambuja Cem | 732.7 | 369 | REDUCE | ADD | 360 | 380 | 14.0 | 18.8 | 23.0 | 16.1 | 19.2 | 17.7 | 16.6 |
| ACC | 410.1 | 2,184 | BUY | BUY | 2,515 | 2,570 | 12.0 | 11.2 | 14.2 | 10.9 | 9.8 | 8.9 | 8.8 |
| Dalmia Bharat | 273.8 | 1,450 | BUY | BUY | 1,890 | 2,030 | 13.0 | 10.5 | 12.4 | 10.4 | 7.4 | 8.0 | 6.8 |
| Nuvoco Vistas | 91.4 | 290 | BUY | BUY | 591 | 620 | 11.0 | 10.4 | 9.5 | 6.4 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 5.7 |
| Ramco Cem | 152.9 | 648 | ADD | ADD | 725 | 745 | 13.0 | 14.8 | 17.8 | 12.9 | 9.8 | 9.4 | 9.4 |
| JK Cement | 172.6 | 2,234 | ADD | REDUCE | 2,360 | 2,485 | 11.5 | 13.3 | 15.0 | 11.2 | 10.3 | 10.8 | 9.2 |
| Birla Corp | 70.1 | 910 | BUY | BUY | 1,337 | 1,472 | 9.0 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 5.2 | 5.1 |
| Heidelberg | 39.9 | 176 | REDUCE | REDUCE | 180 | 190 | 8.0 | 8.8 | 10.2 | 8.4 | 6.1 | 6.3 | 6.4 |
| Star Cem | 35.9 | 87 | BUY | BUY | 115 | 115 | 8.0 | 8.3 | 8.0 | 7.1 | 6.6 | 6.9 | 7.3 |
| JK Lakshmi | 51.0 | 433 | BUY | BUY | 680 | 735 | 8.0 | 6.1 | 5.9 | 5.7 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.2 |
| Orient Cem | 23.8 | 116 | BUY | BUY | 160 | 160 | 8.0 | 4.5 | 6.9 | 7.0 | 3.1 | 3.8 | 3.8 |
| Sagar Cem | 20.4 | 174 | BUY | BUY | 230 | 240 | 7.5 | 12.3 | 9.6 | 6.3 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 3.6 |
| Deccan Cem | 6.7 | 480 | ADD | ADD | 505 | 515 | 6.0 | 3.4 | 5.4 | 5.8 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 4.4 |

Source: Company, HSIE Research, For ACC and Ambuja, the financial year is CY21/22E/23E resp, ^ Target multiples are EV/EBITDA based on Mar'24E CMP as on date July 11, 2022.

Rating Criteria

BUY: >+15% return potential
ADD: +5% to +15% return potential
REDUCE: -10% to +5% return potential
SELL: > 10% Downside return potential

Disclosure:

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