

HOLD TP: Rs 3,580 | A 10% TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Technology & Internet

12 April 2023

Steady quarter but macro headwinds cloud outlook

- Q4 dollar revenue growth of 1.7% QoQ in line with our estimate and broad-based across verticals
- EBIT margin strong at 24.5% but 40bps below our forecast; order book stable at US\$ 10bn
- Maintain HOLD with unchanged TP of Rs 3,580, set at 25x FY25E EPS

Saptarshi Mukherjee research@bobcaps.in

Broad-based revenue growth: Considering recent global headwinds in the BFSI space, TCS has reported a steady Q4FY23 performance with dollar revenue growth of 1.7% QoQ and 7.5% YoY to US\$ 7.2bn. The quarter saw a broad-based uptick across services, led by cloud, consulting & service integration, cognitive business operations and enterprise application services. Revenue growth was driven by North America (+9.6% CC YoY) and the UK (+17% CC YoY), along with market share gains through vendor consolidation. All the verticals grew, with a strong uptick in retail & CPG (+13% CC YoY) and life sciences & healthcare (+12.3% CC YoY).

Deal wins to drive growth: TCS registered deal bookings worth US\$ 10bn in Q4, with a book-to-bill ratio of 1.4x (vs. 1.1x in Q3FY23), above the average deal TCV of US\$ 8.4bn for the last six quarters. Wins included contracts worth US\$ 3.1bn in BFSI and US\$ 1.3bn in retail & CPG, with US\$ 5bn coming from North America. TCS also saw positive traction in cost takeout and transformation projects

Hiring strategy led to higher utilisation: A meagre addition of ~900 employees in Q4 led to a total addition of ~22,000+ staff which pushed up the utilisation Attrition decreased to 20% in Q4 (-120bps QoQ), and management expects further moderation in FY24.

Margin expected to stabilise at 25% near term: TCS's EBIT margin remained flattish at 24.5% in Q4 as pressure from higher onsite expenses offset utilisation gains. We are likely to see improvement by end-H1FY24 on the back of a more efficient employee pyramid, lower subcontracting costs and productivity gains as it appears that the high costs towards backfilling attrition, wage revision, subcontracting and capacity building have peaked out.

Maintain HOLD: The stock is trading at 24.7x/22.6x FY24E/FY25E EPS. We believe TCS is well positioned to deliver industry-leading growth and margins in the long run. However, considering the current volatile macro environment, poor quality of deal wins and delays in client decision-making, we retain HOLD and continue to value the stock at 25x FY25E EPS for an unchanged TP of Rs 3,580.

Key changes

Target	Rating	
< ▶	< ▶	

Ticker/Price	TCS IN/Rs 3,242
Market cap	US\$ 144.5bn
Free float	28%
3M ADV	US\$ 72.4mn
52wk high/low	Rs 3,710/Rs 2,926
Promoter/FPI/DII	72%/17%/11%

Source: NSE | Price as of 12 Apr 2023

Key financials

Y/E 31 Mar	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	19,17,540	22,23,757	24,76,435
EBITDA (Rs mn)	5,30,570	5,82,248	6,66,207
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	3,83,270	4,16,294	4,80,791
Adj. EPS (Rs)	103.6	113.8	131.4
Consensus EPS (Rs)	103.6	113.8	131.4
Adj. ROAE (%)	43.3	43.5	44.5
Adj. P/E (x)	31.3	28.5	24.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	22.3	20.3	17.7
Adj. EPS growth (%)	13.9	9.8	15.5

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Stock performance



Source: NSE



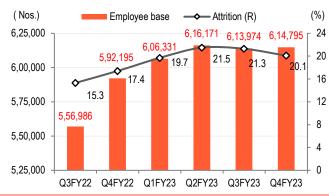


Fig 1 - Quarterly performance

(Rs mn)	Q4FY23	Q3FY23	Q2FY22	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	Estimates	Variance (%)
US\$ Revenue (US\$ mn)	7,195	7,075	6,696	1.7	7.5	7,195	0.0
INR Revenue	5,91,620	5,82,290	5,05,910	1.6	16.9	5,95,027	(0.6)
EBIT	1,44,800	1,42,840	1,26,478	1.4	14.5	1,47,864	(2.1)
PAT	1,13,920	1,08,830	99,158	4.7	14.9	1,16,030	(1.8)
EBIT Margin (%)	24.5	24.5	25.0	(5bps)	(52bps)	24.9	(37bps)
PAT Margin (%)	19.3	18.7	19.6	56bps	(34bps)	19.5	(24bps)

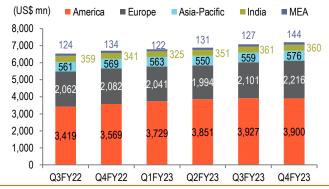
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 2 - Employee base & Attrition



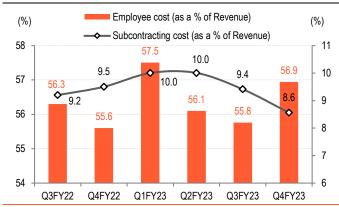
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 4 - Revenue contribution by geography



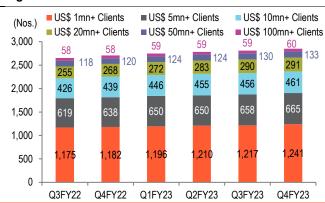
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 6 - Employee cost and Subcontracting cost



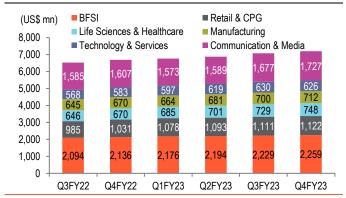
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 3 - Client contribution



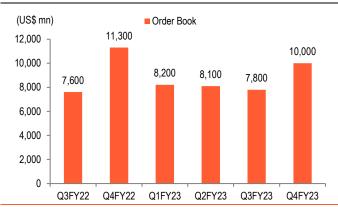
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 5 – Revenue contribution by vertical



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 7 - Order book



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Earnings call highlights

- Despite macro concerns, TCS indicated that it is not seeing any further weakness
 in terms of budget cuts or clients spend deferrals. The company, however, pointed
 to a potential reduction in discretionary spends along with elongated decisionmaking cycles in some pockets.
- TCS witnessed strong deal wins in Q4FY23, especially in continental Europe and the UK whereas the US market has faced recent challenges in the BFSI segment.
 However, the company has not reported any project cancellations or client strategy shifts so far.
- A majority of the Q4 BFSI deal wins were from the UK/Continental Europe and Asia Pacific markets, with the largest win (~US\$ 750mn) coming from Phoenix Group in the UK. Other major BFSI wins include clients such as Bitcoin Suisse AG, M&G, Scot West Credit Union, and Taiwan's CTBC Bank.
- Growth in the retail and consumer packaged goods (CPG) verticals during the
 quarter was led by higher spending on channel strategy transformation by retailers
 (mostly regional), along with an uptick in travel and hospitality (like to normalise in
 the near term). BFSI growth, barring the mortgage and insurance segments, was
 powered by strong spending on cloud, data, analytics and customer experience (CX).
- With the hiring slowdown in the technology sector and moderating salary expectations, supply-side issues have started to ease and could soften further in H2FY24.
- Management indicated that attrition has begun to taper down and should continue to head south in the coming quarters.
- The plan to hire 40,000+ freshers in FY23 has already been achieved with ~46,000+ recruited thus far.
- Easing of supply-side constraints and onsite travel restrictions led to lower subcontracting cost at 8.5% of revenue in Q4, which TCS expects will reduce further, aiding positive margin traction.
- The company announced a dividend of Rs 24/sh.



Valuation methodology

The stock is trading at 24.7x/22.6x FY24E/FY25E EPS. We believe TCS is well positioned to deliver industry-leading growth and margins in the long run, given its size, steadfast market leadership, best-in-asset class execution and robust order book (especially its exposure to longer duration contracts). However, considering the current volatile macro environment, poor quality of deal wins and delays in decision-making, we retain HOLD and continue to value the stock at 25x FY25E EPS for an unchanged TP of Rs 3,580.

Fig 8 - Peer comparison

Company	Ticker	Dating	Rating Target Price (Rs)	Revenue CAGR FY23-25E (%)	EPS (Rs)		ROE (%)		Target
	rickei	Kaung			FY23E	FY24E	FY23E	FY24E	P/E (x)
TCS	TCS IN	HOLD	3,580	10.7	113.8	131.4	41.3	38.7	25.0
Infosys	INFO IN	BUY	1,760	14.9	58.7	73.0	30.6	33.5	20.5
HCL Tech	HCLT IN	BUY	1,240	10.4	52.0	59.8	21.7	22.3	18.7
Wipro	WPRO IN	HOLD	440	9.9	20.1	23.9	16.7	19.5	16.0
Tech Mahindra	TECHM IN	HOLD	1,160	12.4	60.5	77.9	18.4	21.4	12.5

Source: BOBCAPS Research

Key risks

- Multiple digital deal wins, including in the domestic market, represent an upside risk to our estimates.
- A further decline in interest rate would be a key downside risk.

Sector recommendation snapshot

Company	Ticker	Market Cap (US\$ bn)	Price (Rs)	Target (Rs)	Rating
HCL Technologies	HCLT IN	36.2	1,095	1,240	BUY
Infosys	INFO IN	73.2	1,428	1,760	BUY
Tata Consultancy Services	TCS IN	144.5	3,242	3,580	HOLD
Tech Mahindra	TECHM IN	11.8	1,110	1,160	HOLD
Wipro	WPRO IN	24.9	372	440	HOLD

Source: BOBCAPS Research, NSE | Price as of 12 Apr 2023



Financials

Income Statement Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
, ,		19,17,540			
Total revenue	16,41,770		22,23,757	24,76,435	27,26,137
EBITDA Depresiation	4,65,460 40,650	5,30,570	5,82,248 50,377	6,66,207	7,37,388
Depreciation		46,040		55,894	61,731
EBIT	4,24,810	4,84,530	5,31,871	6,10,313	6,75,658
Net interest inc./(exp.)	0	0	0	0	1
Other inc./(exp.)	24,970	32,340	29,203	39,021	34,471
Exceptional items	0	0	0	0	7 10 100
EBT	4,49,780	5,16,870	5,61,074	6,49,333	7,10,128
Income taxes	1,11,980	1,32,380	1,43,430	1,67,342	1,84,633
Extraordinary items	0	0	0	0	1
Min. int./Inc. from assoc.	(1,320)	(1,220)	(1,350)	(1,200)	(1,200)
Reported net profit	3,36,480	3,83,270	4,16,294	4,80,791	5,24,295
Adjustments	0	0	0	0	1
Adjusted net profit	3,36,480	3,83,270	4,16,294	4,80,791	5,24,296
Balance Sheet					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Accounts payables	0	0	0	0	1
Other current liabilities	3,71,480	4,53,000	5,17,861	5,08,857	5,60,165
Provisions	0	0	0	0	
Debt funds	65,030	63,680	63,680	63,680	63,680
Other liabilities	0	0	0	0	(
Equity capital	3,700	3,660	3,660	3.660	3,660
Reserves & surplus	0	0	0	0	(
Shareholders' fund	8,71,080	8,98,460	10,15,700	11,46,238	12,69,338
Total liab. and equities	13,07,590	14,15,140	15,97,241	17,18,775	18,93,183
Cash and cash eq.	68,580	1,24,880	1,87,896	2,55,510	3,10,158
Accounts receivables	3,00,790	3,40,740	3,96,011	4,07,085	4,48,132
Inventories	0	0	0	0	(
Other current assets	2,95,170	2,47,870	3,04,624	3,39,238	3,73,443
Investments	3,18,440	3,62,180	3,62,180	3,62,180	3,62,180
Net fixed assets	1,96,690	1,96,150	2,01,367	2,07,384	2,13,807
CWIP	0	0	2,01,007	2,07,004	2,10,007
Intangible assets	22,780	28,880	28,880	28,880	28,880
Deferred tax assets, net	39,310	37,080	37,080	37,080	37,080
Other assets	65,830	77,360	79,202	81,417	1,19,502
Total assets	13,07,590	14,15,140	15,97,241	17,18,775	18,93,183
Total assets	13,07,390	14,13,140	13,97,241	17,10,773	10,93,103
Cash Flows					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Cash flow from operations	3,72,880	5,30,710	3,89,811	4,41,958	4,90,727
Capital expenditures	(38,930)	(29,490)	(55,594)	(61,911)	(68,153)
Change in investments	44,680	(15,220)	(1,00,000)	(1,20,000)	(1,50,000)
Other investing cash flows	24,970	27,000	29,203	39,021	34,471
Cash flow from investing	30,720	(17,710)	(1,26,391)	(1,42,890)	(1,83,683)
Equities issued/Others	(2,59,499)	0	0	0	C
Debt raised/repaid	0	(14,170)	0	0	C
Interest expenses	0	(6,980)	0	0	(
Dividends paid	(1,61,981)	(1,33,170)	(2,00,404)	(2,31,453)	(2,52,396)
Other financing cash flows	0	0	0	0	-
Cash flow from financing	(4,21,480)	(1,54,320)	(2,00,404)	(2,31,453)	(2,52,395)
Chg in cash & cash eq.	(17,880)	3,58,680	63,016	67,615	54,650
Closing cash & cash eq.	68,580	1,24,880	1,87,896	2,55,510	3,10,158

Per Share					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Reported EPS	90.9	103.6	113.8	131.4	143.3
Adjusted EPS	90.9	103.6	113.8	131.4	143.3
Dividend per share	36.4	41.4	45.5	52.6	57.3
Book value per share	235.4	242.8	277.6	313.3	346.9
Valuations Ratios					
Y/E 31 Mar (x)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
EV/Sales	7.2	6.2	5.3	4.8	4.3
EV/EBITDA	25.4	22.3	20.3	17.7	15.9
Adjusted P/E	35.6	31.3	28.5	24.7	22.6
P/BV	13.8	13.3	11.7	10.3	9.3
DuPont Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar (%)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Tax burden (Net profit/PBT)	74.8	74.2	74.2	74.0	73.8
Interest burden (PBT/EBIT)	105.9	106.7	105.5	106.4	105.1
EBIT margin (EBIT/Revenue)	25.9	25.3	23.9	24.6	24.8
Asset turnover (Rev./Avg TA)	130.5	140.9	147.6	149.4	151.0
Leverage (Avg TA/Avg Equity)	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5
Adjusted ROAE	39.2	43.3	43.5	44.5	43.4
Ratio Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
YoY growth (%)					
Revenue	4.6	16.8	16.0	11.4	10.1
EBITDA	10.5	14.0	9.7	14.4	10.7
Adjusted EPS	5.5	13.9	9.8	15.5	9.0
Profitability & Return ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	28.4	27.7	26.2	26.9	27.0
EBIT margin	25.9	25.3	23.9	24.6	24.8
Adjusted profit margin	20.5	20.0	18.7	19.4	19.2
Adjusted ROAE	39.2	43.3	43.5	44.5	43.4
ROCE	37.6	42.3	45.8	49.1	50.6
Working capital days (days)					
Receivables	67	61	60	59	57
Inventory	0	0	0	0	(
Payables	103	108	108	104	98
i dyddica					
Ratios (x)					
•	8.3	9.8	11.2	12.1	12.9

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | Note: TA = Total Assets

2.0

NA

0.0

1.7

NA

(0.1)

1.9

NA

(0.1)

2.1

NA

(0.2)

2.2

NA

(0.2)

Current ratio

Net interest coverage ratio

Adjusted debt/equity

TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES



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BUY - Expected return >+15%

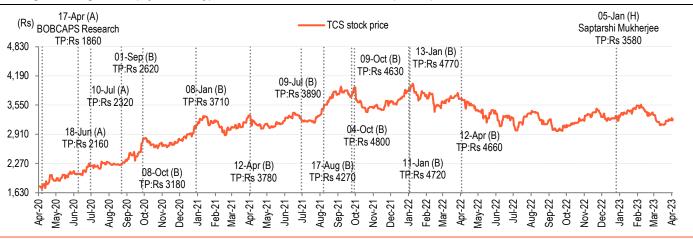
HOLD - Expected return from -6% to +15%

SELL - Expected return <-6%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

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Ratings and Target Price (3-year history): TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (TCS IN)



B - Buy, H - Hold, S - Sell, A - Add, R - Reduce

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