


**CEMENT**

Q1FY25 Preview

11 July 2024

**Headed for a relatively slow start**

- Q1FY25 demand likely to be weak due to limited infrastructure demand, extreme summer and lull in new real estate project announcements
- Weak pricing is reflected in our coverage companies as realisations dropped on average by ~7%/3% YoY/QoQ
- EBITDA margin of our cement coverage estimated on average at ~18% vs ~17% YoY. We expect EBITDA/t to be flat at ~Rs 960 YoY

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**Volume growth driven by capacity addition due to higher demand:** Cement demand momentum was weak in Q1FY25; however, our coverage universe delivered on average growth of 8%. This was driven by companies that added capacity in FY24, though volumes declined YoY for companies with limited capacity addition, including JK Lakshmi Cement and Orient Cement. QoQ growth fell by 5% following a lull in 1Q after busy period sales in Q4FY24. Q1FY25 demand remained weak due to various factors that include limited infrastructure demand owing to lack of clear policy framework in election phase, extreme summer climate in the northern and central India belt and lull in real estate demand with deferred real estate project announcements.

**Enough supply across regions:** Enough availability of headroom capacity following organic and inorganic capacity expansion by cement majors in FY24 implied strong supply. Adani Cement, UltraTech Cement, Dalmia Cement, Shree Cement and JK Cement added capacities in FY24, leading to a supply glut across regions in Q1FY25. With limited demand revival pressure on pricing imminent, Pan-India cement prices weakened by 6.7%/3.2 YoY/QoQ in Q1FY25. Most of the impact was felt in the eastern and southern regions as prices fell by 7-9% YoY and Central and West India fared better with limited fall in prices.

**Effective realisations remain weak:** Weak pricing is reflected in the coverage companies as realisations dropped on average by ~7%/3% YoY/QoQ. However, with no major negative cost headwinds the margins drop was to the extent of the fall in realisations only or relatively better in more efficiently driven companies.

**EBITDA/t and margins flat YoY, slips QoQ:** We estimate EBITDAM of our cement coverage on average at ~18% in 1QFY25 vs ~17% in Q1FY24/~19% in Q4FY24, aided by better-managed companies. We expect flat EBITDA/t at ~Rs 960 YoY.

**Mergers & acquisitions activity picks up:** Adani Cement through its major Ambuja Cement is acquiring Penna Cement, and UltraTech Cement is acquiring ~23% stake in India Cements apart from acquiring Kesoram Industries towards FY24-end.



**Fig 1 – BOBCAPS Cement universe: Q1FY25 preview – EBTIDA growth driven by better operating efficiencies offsets muted topline growth**

Y/E March	Net Sales (Rs mn)			EBITDA (Rs mn)			EBITDA Margin (%)			Adj. PAT (Rs mn)		
	Q1FY25E	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)	Q1FY25E	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)	Q1FY25E	YoY (bps)	QoQ (bps)	Q1FY25E	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)
ACC	51,714	(0.6)	(4.2)	7,960	3.5	(4.9)	15.4	60.8	(11.4)	4,373	(5.7)	(11.0)
ACEM	48,721	3.0	1.9	9,396	(0.9)	17.8	19.3	(77.0)	259.6	5,653	(12.3)	3.1
DALBHARA	37,603	3.8	(12.7)	5,376	(11.9)	(17.8)	14.3	(253.4)	(89.3)	1,405	8.1	(55.4)
JKCE	26,664	1.6	(9.3)	3,993	(0.8)	(27.1)	15.0	(36.4)	(365.5)	1,438	1.8	(36.5)
JKLC	15,387	(5.8)	(6.6)	1,698	1.3	(38.4)	11.0	77.3	(568.3)	809	8.0	(43.2)
ORCMNT	7,858	(4.8)	(11.5)	925	(6.7)	(37.5)	11.8	(24.7)	(490.4)	354	(4.5)	(48.2)
TRCL	21,386	(4.6)	(20.0)	3,261	(4.5)	(21.8)	15.2	1.2	(35.4)	509	(35.5)	(58.1)
SRCM	47,832	(4.3)	(6.2)	11,002	18.0	(17.1)	23.0	434.7	(301.6)	4,312	(25.8)	(34.8)
STRCEM	7,330	(3.6)	(19.8)	1,461	13.0	(18.7)	19.9	293.3	26.0	956	2.5	9.0
UTCEM	1,80,905	4.9	(8.7)	35,327	21.5	(12.1)	19.5	266.1	(77.0)	20,142	18.1	(10.6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,45,400</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>(8.1)</b>	<b>80,400</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>(12.7)</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>139.6</b>	<b>(94.5)</b>	<b>39,949</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>(18.7)</b>

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

**Fig 2 – Muted realisations keep margins gains and EBITDA/t subdued**

Y/E March	Sales Volume (mn tonnes)			Realisation (Rs/tonne)			EBITDA (Rs/tonne)		
	Q1FY25E	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)	Q1FY25E	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)	Q1FY25E	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)
ACC	10.39	10.5	(0.1)	4,708	(9.3)	(4.1)	766	(6.3)	(4.8)
ACEM	9.92	9.0	4.4	4,912	(5.5)	(2.4)	947	(9.1)	12.8
DALBHARA	8.10	15.7	(8.0)	4,645	(10.3)	(5.1)	637	(24.6)	(11.1)
JKCE	4.79	6.1	(6.0)	5,572	(4.2)	(3.5)	834	(6.5)	(22.4)
JKLC	2.51	(1.0)	(1.8)	6,429	(0.4)	(0.5)	678	2.3	(37.3)
ORCMNT	1.59	-	(7.9)	4,945	(4.8)	(3.9)	582	(6.7)	(32.1)
TRCL	4.53	7.0	(16.3)	4,725	(10.8)	(4.4)	698	(10.9)	(7.3)
SRCM	9.45	6.0	(0.9)	4,840	(13.7)	(1.8)	1,164	11.3	(13.8)
STRCEM	1.15	(1.2)	(18.5)	6,374	(2.4)	(1.6)	1,271	14.4	(0.2)
UTCEM	31.03	8.5	(7.0)	5,093	(4.9)	(1.9)	1,138	11.9	(5.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>83.44</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>(5.0)</b>	<b>5,014</b>	<b>(7.2)</b>	<b>(2.8)</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>(7.7)</b>

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

**Fig 3 – ACC**

Particulars	Q1FY25E	Q1FY24	YoY (%)	Q4FY24	QoQ (%)	Comment
Sales volume (mn tonnes)	10.4	9.4	10.5	10.4	(0.1)	
Realisations (Rs/tonne)	4,708	5,189	(9.3)	4,908	(4.1)	
<b>Sales (Rs mn)</b>	<b>51,714</b>	<b>52,011</b>	<b>(0.6)</b>	<b>53,981</b>	<b>(4.2)</b>	ACC dispatches include sales under market supply agreement to ACEM. Strong volume push in the northern and western regions, by tapping the non-trade segment, will likely help volume growth beat the industry average. New capacities too add to growth. Overall performance muted as realisations stay weak.
<b>EBITDA (Rs mn)</b>	<b>7,960</b>	<b>7,690</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>8,371</b>	<b>(4.9)</b>	
EBITDA margin (%)	15.4	14.8	61bps	15.5	(11bps)	
EBITDA (Rs/tonne)	766	818	(6.3)	805	(4.8)	
<b>Adj PAT (Rs mn)</b>	<b>4,373</b>	<b>4,639</b>	<b>(5.7)</b>	<b>4,913</b>	<b>(11.0)</b>	
Adj PAT margin (%)	8.5	8.9	(46bps)	9.1	(65bps)	

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

**Fig 4 – ACEM**

Particulars	Q1FY25E	Q1FY24	YoY (%)	Q4FY24	QoQ (%)	Comment
Sales volume (mn tonnes)	9.92	9.10	9.0	9.50	4.4	
Realisations (Rs/tonne)	4,912	5,197	(5.5)	5,032	(2.4)	
<b>Sales (Rs mn)</b>	<b>48,721</b>	<b>47,297</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>47,803</b>	<b>1.9</b>	ACEM focused on the trade segment keeping volume lower than ACC. That has helped in keeping the decline in realisations relatively low. The overall YoY performance has been muted with EBITDA margin and EBITDA/t weakening.
<b>EBITDA (Rs mn)</b>	<b>9,396</b>	<b>9,485</b>	<b>(0.9)</b>	<b>7,978</b>	<b>17.8</b>	
EBITDA margin (%)	19.3	20.1	(77bps)	16.7	260bps	
EBITDA (Rs/tonne)	947	1,042	(9.1)	840	12.8	
<b>Adj PAT (Rs mn)</b>	<b>5,653</b>	<b>6,449</b>	<b>(12.3)</b>	<b>5,481</b>	<b>3.1</b>	
Adj PAT margin (%)	11.6	13.6	(203bps)	11.5	14bps	

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

**Fig 5 – DALBHARA**

Particulars	Q1FY25E	Q1FY24	YoY (%)	Q4FY24	QoQ (%)	Comment
Sales volume (mn tonnes)	8.10	7.00	15.7	8.80	(8.0)	
Realisations (Rs/tonne)	4,645	5,177	(10.3)	4,895	(5.1)	
<b>Sales (Rs mn)</b>	<b>37,603</b>	<b>36,240</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>43,073</b>	<b>(12.7)</b>	We believe the eastern region will likely help gain volumes alongside new capacities in South India, together contributing to volume growth. However, there is a strong dent in realisations pointing to poor demand support. EBITDA margin and EBITDA/t take a hit as realisations are likely to drag performance in the quarter.
<b>EBITDA (Rs mn)</b>	<b>5,376</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>(11.9)</b>	<b>6,543</b>	<b>(17.8)</b>	
EBITDA margin (%)	14.3	16.8	(253bps)	15.2	(89bps)	
EBITDA (Rs/tonne)	637	844	(24.6)	717	(11.1)	
<b>Adj PAT (Rs mn)</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>3,153</b>	<b>(55.4)</b>	
Adj PAT margin (%)	3.7	3.6	15bps	7.3	(358bps)	

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

**Fig 6 – JKCE**

Particulars	Q1FY25E	Q1FY24	YoY (%)	Q4FY24	QoQ (%)	Comment
Sales volume (mn tonnes)	4.8	4.5	6.1	5.1	(6.0)	
Realisations (Rs/tonne)	5,572	5,820	(4.2)	5,773	(3.5)	
<b>Sales (Rs mn)</b>	<b>26,664</b>	<b>26,236</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>29,389</b>	<b>(9.3)</b>	JKCE's volume growth is restricted due to excess supply in the key western and northern region. Better operating efficiencies aid relatively better operating performance with flat EBITDA margin. EBITDA/t too indicates likely pressure.
<b>EBITDA (Rs mn)</b>	<b>3,993</b>	<b>4,024</b>	<b>(0.8)</b>	<b>5,475</b>	<b>(27.1)</b>	
EBITDA margin (%)	15.0	15.3	(36bps)	18.6	(366bps)	
EBITDA (Rs/tonne)	834	893	(6.5)	1,075	(22.4)	
<b>Adj PAT (Rs mn)</b>	<b>1,438</b>	<b>1,412</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2,265</b>	<b>(36.5)</b>	
Adj PAT margin (%)	5.4	5.4	1bps	7.7	(231bps)	

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

**Fig 7 – JKLC**

Particulars	Q1FY25E	Q1FY24	YoY (%)	Q4FY24	QoQ (%)	Comment
Sales volume (mn tonnes)	2.5	2.5	(1.0)	2.6	(1.8)	
Realisations (Rs/tonne)	6,429	6,453	(0.4)	6,459	(0.5)	
<b>Sales (Rs mn)</b>	<b>15,387</b>	<b>16,333</b>	<b>(5.8)</b>	<b>16,478</b>	<b>(6.6)</b>	JKLC's topline is likely to remain listless YoY/QoQ due to capacity constraints and competition in key regions (keeping realisations under pressure). However, margins retrace to the weak base of 11% and EBITDA/t clamps down below Rs 700/t.
<b>EBITDA (Rs mn)</b>	<b>1,698</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2,755</b>	<b>(38.4)</b>	
EBITDA margin (%)	11.0	10.3	77bps	16.7	(568bps)	
EBITDA (Rs/tonne)	678	662	2.3	1,080	(37.3)	
<b>Adj PAT (Rs mn)</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>1,424</b>	<b>(43.2)</b>	
Adj PAT margin (%)	5.3	4.6	67bps	8.6	(338bps)	

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

**Fig 8 – ORCMNT**

Particulars	Q1FY25E	Q1FY24	YoY (%)	Q4FY24	QoQ (%)	Comment
Sales volume (mn/tonnes)	1.59	1.59	0.0	1.73	(7.9)	ORCMNT's volume growth will be capped due to strong competition in its key regions. This is likely to impact topline growth in the medium term. Restoring EBITDA/t will be an uphill task for the company. Its presence in oversupply regions and weak prices in the non-trade segment (~45% of total sales) will likely impact the performance, in our view.
Realisations (Rs/tonne)	4,945	5,193	(4.8)	5,145	(3.9)	
<b>Sales (Rs mn)</b>	<b>7,858</b>	<b>8,252</b>	<b>(4.8)</b>	<b>8,880</b>	<b>(11.5)</b>	
<b>EBITDA (Rs mn)</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>(6.7)</b>	<b>1,481</b>	<b>(37.5)</b>	
EBITDA margin (%)	11.8	12.0	(25bps)	16.7	(490bps)	
EBITDA (Rs/tonne)	582	624	(6.7)	858	(32.1)	
<b>Adj PAT (Rs mn)</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>(4.5)</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>(48.2)</b>	
Adj PAT margin (%)	4.5	4.5	1bps	7.7	(318bps)	

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

**Fig 9 – TRCL**

Particulars	Q1FY25E	Q1FY24	YoY (%)	Q4FY24	QoQ (%)	Comment
Sales volume (mn tonnes)	4.5	4.2	7.0	5.4	(16.3)	We expect TRCL's topline to be driven by volume growth, even as pricing pressure due to its presence in oversupplied regions is likely to keep realisations weak YoY. Overall EBITDA stays muted and EBITDA/t is likely to fall sharply in Q1FY25, in our view.
Realisations (Rs/tonne)	4,725	5,298	(10.8)	4,945	(4.4)	
<b>Sales (Rs mn)</b>	<b>21,386</b>	<b>22,411</b>	<b>(4.6)</b>	<b>26,733</b>	<b>(20.0)</b>	
<b>EBITDA (Rs mn)</b>	<b>3,261</b>	<b>3,415</b>	<b>(4.5)</b>	<b>4,171</b>	<b>(21.8)</b>	
EBITDA margin (%)	15.2	15.2	1bps	15.6	(35bps)	
EBITDA (Rs/tonne)	698	784	(10.9)	753	(7.3)	
<b>Adj PAT (Rs mn)</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>(35.5)</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>(58.1)</b>	
Adj PAT margin (%)	2.4	3.5	(114bps)	4.5	(216bps)	

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

**Fig 10 – SRCM**

Particulars	Q1FY25E	Q1FY24	YoY (%)	Q4FY24	QoQ (%)	Comment
Sales volume (mn tonnes)	9.5	8.9	6.0	9.5	(0.9)	We expect SRCM's EBITDA margin to improve YoY partially due to a very weak base and due to softening pet coke prices. EBITDA/t is likely to beat the industry average due to better-than-industry operating efficiencies. However, with muted demand realisations slackened YoY as the company shifted its focus back to volume and overall branding (which kept realisations elevated in Q1FY24).
Realisations (Rs/tonne)	4,840	5,607	(13.7)	4,930	(1.8)	
<b>Sales (Rs mn)</b>	<b>47,832</b>	<b>49,991</b>	<b>(4.3)</b>	<b>51,010</b>	<b>(6.2)</b>	
<b>EBITDA (Rs mn)</b>	<b>11,002</b>	<b>9,326</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>13,272</b>	<b>(17.1)</b>	
EBITDA margin (%)	23.0	18.7	435bps	26.0	(302bps)	
EBITDA (Rs/tonne)	1,164	1,046	11.3	1,350	(13.8)	
<b>Adj PAT (Rs mn)</b>	<b>4,312</b>	<b>5,811</b>	<b>(25.8)</b>	<b>6,618</b>	<b>(34.8)</b>	
Adj PAT margin (%)	9.0	11.6	(261bps)	13.0	(396bps)	

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

**Fig 11 – STRCEM**

Particulars	Q1FY25E	Q1FY24	YoY (%)	Q4FY24	QoQ (%)	Comment
Sales volume (mn tonnes)	1.15	1.16	(1.20)	1.41	(18.5)	Topline gains were muted as volumes took a hit due to monsoons in May and June disrupting construction activities. Logistics costs are likely to stay high due to road connectivity disruptions during the quarter. However, a very weak base will help STRCEM deliver on EBITDA margin and EBITDA/t.
Realisations (Rs/tonne)	6,374	6,533	(2.4)	6,474	(1.6)	
<b>Sales (Rs mn)</b>	<b>7,330</b>	<b>7,605</b>	<b>(3.6)</b>	<b>9,135</b>	<b>(19.8)</b>	
<b>EBITDA (Rs mn)</b>	<b>1,461</b>	<b>1,293</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>1,797</b>	<b>(18.7)</b>	
EBITDA margin (%)	19.9	17.0	293bps	19.7	26bps	
EBITDA (Rs/tonne)	1,271	1,111	14.4	1,274	(0.2)	
<b>Adj PAT (Rs mn)</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>9.0</b>	
Adj PAT margin (%)	13.0	12.3	77bps	9.6	344bps	

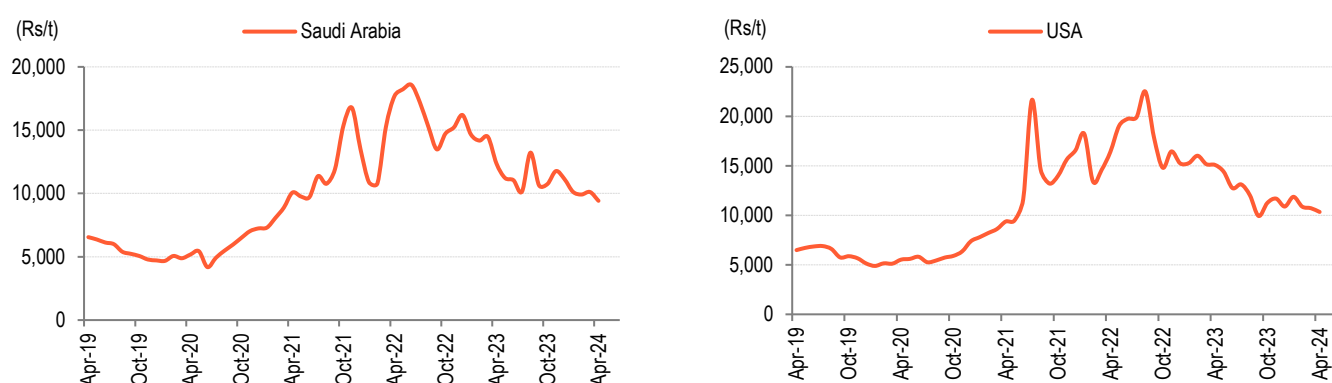
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

**Fig 12 – UTCEM**

Particulars	Q1FY25E	Q1FY24	YoY (%)	Q4FY24	QoQ (%)	Comment
Sales volume (mn tonnes)	31.0	28.6	8.5	33.4	(7.0)	
Realisations (Rs/tonne)	5,093	5,352	(4.9)	5,193	(1.9)	UTCEM growth stayed at a higher single digit after a very strong 4QFY24 as the company focuses on retaining price at relatively better levels than its peers. Volume growth of ~8.5% is despite strong competition from the peer set.
<b>Sales (Rs mn)</b>	<b>1,80,905</b>	<b>1,72,452</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>1,98,059</b>	<b>(8.7)</b>	
<b>EBITDA (Rs mn)</b>	<b>35,327</b>	<b>29,086</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>40,202</b>	<b>(12.1)</b>	
EBITDA margin (%)	19.5	16.9	266bps	20.3	(77bps)	Operating efficiencies likely to move margins into positive territory.
EBITDA (Rs/tonne)	1,138	1,017	11.9	1,204	(5.5)	
<b>Adj PAT (Rs mn)</b>	<b>20,142</b>	<b>17,055</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>22,520</b>	<b>(10.6)</b>	
Adj PAT margin (%)	11.1	9.9	124bps	11.4	(24bps)	

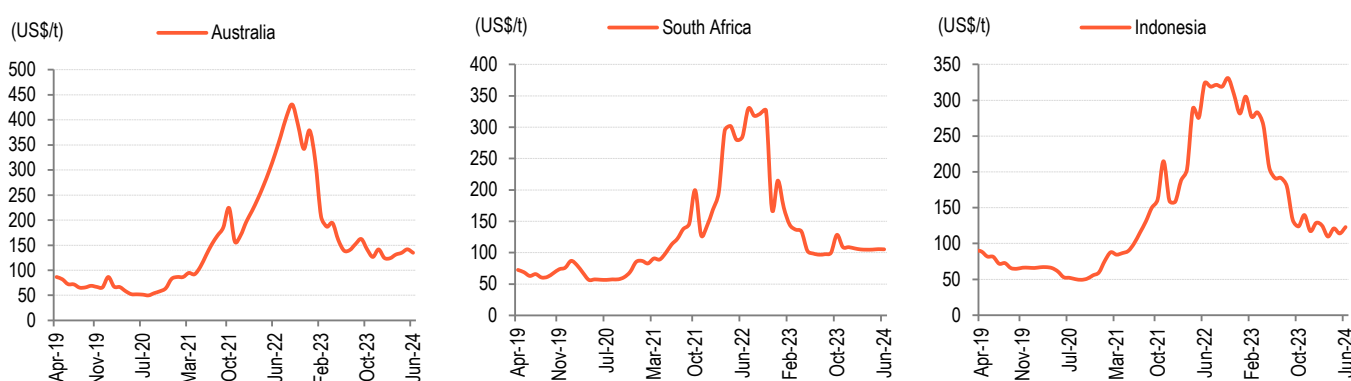
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

**Fig 13 – Softening pet coke prices to yield cost benefit for cement companies**



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research, CME

**Fig 14 – Coal prices overall remained listless in the recent past**



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research, CME

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