

SELL
 TP: Rs 687 | ▼ 19%

JK LAKSHMI CEMENT

Cement

03 August 2024

Changed dynamics lead to challenges; maintain SELL

- Q1 revenue fell 11.5% YoY on the back of low volume growth, down 8%, and weak realisations that fell by 4.6% YoY
- Operating cost fell ~7% to Rs 5,417 aided by lower energy cost which helped EBITDA margin add 250bps YoY to 12.8% on a weak base
- We value JKLC at 9x EV/EBITDA 1-year forward earnings (unchanged) and lower our TP to Rs 687 on revised earnings. Retain SELL

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Volumes impacted; realisations stayed weak: JKLC reported ~11.5% YoY revenue fall (-12.3% QoQ) to Rs 14.5bn in Q1FY25 as volumes fell by 8.1% YoY (8.8% QoQ) to 2.32mt (standalone) due to weak demand in a traditionally healthy Q1. Realisations (ready mix concrete-adjusted) remained weak at Rs 5,901/t, down 4.6%/3.6% YoY/QoQ. Intense competitive pressure in a weak quarter was the key reason for the overall weakness in the topline.

Operating performance stays rangebound: Operating cost fell 6.5% YoY (flat QoQ) to Rs 5,417/t driven by lower raw material-adjusted energy cost of 9.1% YoY but rose 7.6% QoQ to Rs 2,320/t. Logistics cost fell 6% YoY to 1,224/t as lead distance was cut by 12km to 372km YoY. EBITDA grew 10.1% YoY (-33% QoQ) to ~Rs 1.8bn. EBITDA margin at 12.8% was higher YoY on a weak base. EBITDA/t rose 19.8% YoY (-26.5% QoQ) to Rs 793. APAT was flat YoY at Rs 763mn factoring in Rs 800mn of non-recurring income. Reported PAT was Rs 1.56bn.

Capacity expansion on track: JKLC is adding a 1.5mnt grinding unit at Surat by FY25-end. It is expanding its clinker capacity by 2.3mnt at its Durg plant backed by four cement grinding units aggregating 4.6mnt over the next three years. It will add GUs in Bihar and Jharkhand. Its Northeast India expansion plans await clearances.

JKLC announces merger of Udaipur Cement Works: Following the merger announcement JKLC will issue four equity shares of face value Rs 5 for every 100 equity shares of Rs 4 held in UCWL to the latter's shareholders (other than JKLC) as consideration based on the fair value swap ratio.

Revise estimates downward, maintain SELL: We cut our FY25E/FY26E EBITDA by 16% each to factor in the changing dynamics in its operating areas following intense supply pressure from large cement companies. We introduce FY27 estimates with weak EBITDA/PAT CAGR of 5%/6% given pricing pressure may be partially offset by better cost structure. Retaining lost market share will be a key challenge in competitive conditions. We value JKLC at 9x EV/EBITDA 1-year forward earnings (unchanged) and cut TP to Rs 687 (from Rs 710). Maintain SELL.

Key changes

Target	Rating
▼	◀ ▶

Ticker/Price	JKLC IN/Rs 848
Market cap	US\$ 1.2bn
Free float	54%
3M ADV	US\$ 2.8mn
52wk high/low	Rs 1,000/Rs 626
Promoter/FPI/DII	46%/14%/26%

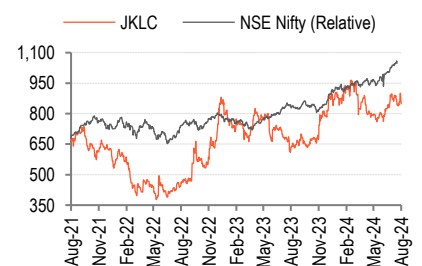
Source: NSE | Price as of 2 Aug 2024

Key financials

Y/E 31 Mar	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	63,198	66,585	68,940
EBITDA (Rs mn)	8,637	8,362	9,346
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	4,243	4,140	4,700
Adj. EPS (Rs)	36.1	35.2	39.9
Consensus EPS (Rs)	36.1	46.1	52.5
Adj. ROAE (%)	14.4	12.8	13.1
Adj. P/E (x)	23.5	24.1	21.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	11.0	13.0	10.5
Adj. EPS growth (%)	28.3	(2.4)	13.5

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research | P – Provisional

Stock performance



Source: NSE



Fig 1 – Earnings call highlights

Parameter	Q1FY25	Q4FY24	Our view
Volume and realisations	JKLC's sales volume declined 8% YoY. JKLC indicated demand growth would be at least 1-2% higher than the industry's revised forecast of 6-7% for FY25. JKLC plans to achieve 60% capacity utilisation by FY25-end with an overall target of 70-75% capacity utilisation.	JKLC's sales volume was flat YoY in Q4FY24 and management indicated volume growth of 5% in FY24 against its earlier guidance of 8-10%. The company has now indicated volume growth of 10% in FY25.	The loss of market share is evident as JKLC lags well behind industry growth. It will be challenging to regain lost ground.
Margin	Fuel cost was at Rs 1.63kcal vs. 1.66/kcal in Q4FY24 and management expects this to be in the range of Rs 1.63-1.65/kcal going forward. JKLC is working on cost reduction and expects to achieve cost savings of Rs 50-75/t.	Fuel cost stood at Rs 1.68kcal vs. 1.78/kcal in Q3FY24. However, management expects fuel cost to stay flat or reverse up due to input cost inflation in the medium term. Management indicated that cement prices have softened in operating markets in Q1FY25 by 1% in addition to the fall in Q4FY25. No commentary on EBITDA/t guidance in the near term.	In our view the pricing challenges will offset the operating efficiencies benefit.
Capacity	JKLC's subsidiary Udaipur Cement works (UCWL) had commissioned a second clinker line of 1.5mt per annum, resulting in its clinker capacity doubling to 3mt p.a. JKLC is also expanding its cement grinding capacity at its Surat grinding unit (GU) from 1.35mt to 2.7mt and its clinker capacity at its cement plant in Durg by putting up an additional 2.3mt of clinker. This will be commensurate with the four cement grinding units of 4.6mt at Durg and three split-location GUs with aggregate cement grinding capacity of 3.4mt p.a. at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, Madhubani in Bihar, and Patratu in Jharkhand.	The 2.5mt GU expansion at Udaipur was commissioned in Mar'24. JKLC's 1.35mt GU expansion in Surat will be completed in tranches in FY25/FY26. JKLC is expanding clinker/cement capacity by setting up a 2.3mt clinker line at Durg (Chhattisgarh), 4.6mt of grinding capacity at Durg (1.2mt) and three split GUs. It is also setting up a railway siding in the Durg facility to be completed in FY25/FY26. The Northeast India capacity expansion will span the next three years (may stretch beyond too).	Capacity expansion will be effective post FY26, though we note that the company's execution capabilities have remained below par in the past. Cost-saving initiatives need to be expedited as well.
Capex	Management has spent Rs 0.9bn of capex in Q1FY25 and expects to spend an additional Rs 8bn-9bn in 9MFY25. JKLC will spend Rs 2.2bn at the Surat grinding location, railway siding of Rs 23.25bn. Rs 25bn will be spent on brownfield expansion in Durg in the next three years.	Management estimates capex towards announced expansion projects in FY25 at Rs 12bn including Durg expansion. The Northeast India expansion will be at a cost of Rs 18bn, spread over the next two to three years till FY27 and even beyond. JKLC expects to spend Rs 15bn on the capacity expansion and Rs 3bn on other capex.	Aggressive expansion plans imply that the capex trajectory is likely to remain elevated.
Other key points	Gross debt stays at Rs 7bn and Rs 3.75bn of cash with net debt of Rs 3.25bn. On a consolidated level, gross debt was Rs 20.5bn and Rs 4bn of cash and Rs 16.5bn of net debt. Non-cement revenue was at Rs 1.32bn in Q1FY25, of which ready-mix concrete (RMC) made up ~Rs 0.72mn and the other segment made up ~Rs 0.6bn. The conveyor belt project at the Durg plant remains delayed due to approval and procedural issues.	Non-cement revenue was at Rs 1.5bn in Q4, of which RMC made up ~Rs 860mn and the other segment made up ~Rs 680mn with EBITDA margin of ~5%. The conveyor belt project at the Durg plant remains delayed due to approval and procedural issues. Management expects these issues to be resolved in Q1FY25. The proposed railway siding at Durg will be completed in phases and management expects phase-I/phase-II completion by Q2FY25/Q4FY26.	The Durg conveyor belt has been delayed for longer than expected. Debt-EBITDA will remain elevated if capex is executed as planned in the interim period.

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 2 – Key metrics (standalone)

(Rs mn)	Q1FY25	Q1FY24	YoY (%)	Q4FY24	QoQ (%)
Volumes (mt)	2.3	2.5	(8.1)	2.6	(8.8)
Cement realisations (Rs/t)	5,901	6,185	(4.6)	6,122	(3.6)
Operating costs (Rs/t)*	5,417	5,791	(6.5)	5,380	0.7
EBITDA (Rs/t)	793	662	19.8	1,080	(26.5)

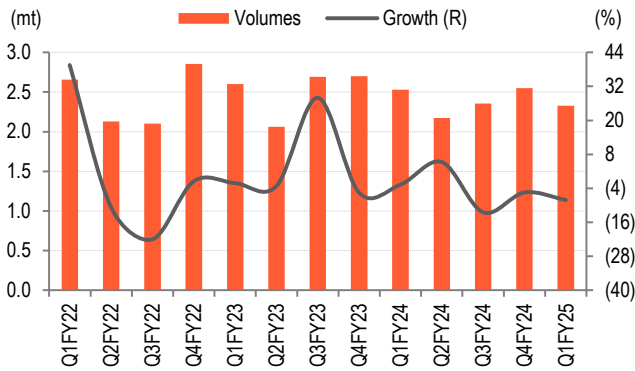
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | * Aggregate cost

Fig 3 – Quarterly performance (standalone)

(Rs mn)	Q1FY25	Q1FY24	YoY (%)	Q4FY24	QoQ (%)
Net Sales	14,445	16,333	(11.6)	16,478	(12.3)
Expenditure					
Change in stock	436	347	25.4	(358)	(221.8)
Raw material	2,303	2,409	(4.4)	2,660	(13.4)
Purchased products	1,786	2,095	(14.7)	2,256	(20.8)
Power & fuel	2,659	3,708	(28.3)	3,200	(16.9)
Freight	2,846	3,305	(13.9)	3,207	(11.3)
Employee costs	875	976	(10.4)	849	3.0
Other expenses	1,696	1,818	(6.7)	1,909	(11.2)
Total Operating Expenses	12,600	14,657	(14.0)	13,723	(8.2)
EBITDA	1,846	1,676	10.1	2,755	(33.0)
EBITDA margin (%)	12.8	10.3	252bps	16.7	(394bps)
Other Income	122	139	(12.3)	180	(32.4)
Interest	190	229	(17.0)	209	(9.1)
Depreciation	469	470	(0.3)	492	(4.7)
PBT	1,308	1,115	17.3	2,233	(41.4)
Non-recurring items	800	0	0.0	0	0.0
PBT (after non-recurring items)	2,108	1,115	89.1	2,233	(5.6)
Tax	545	366	48.8	810	(32.7)
Tax Rate (%)	26	33	(700bps)	36	(1040bps)
Reported PAT	1,563	749	108.7	1,424	9.8
Adjusted PAT	763	749	1.9	1,424	(46.4)
NPM (%)	5.3	4.6	70bps	8.6	(336bps)
Adjusted EPS (Rs)	6.5	6.4	1.9	12.1	(46.4)

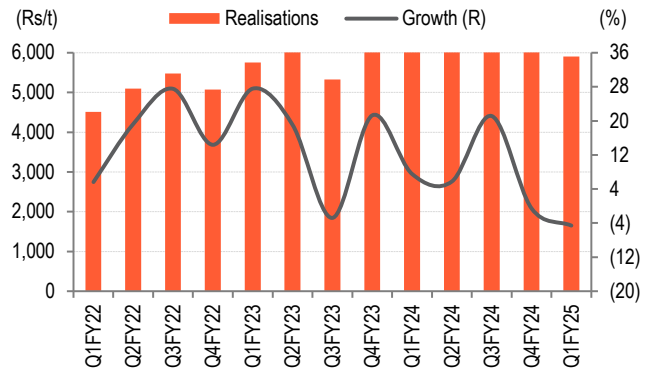
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 4 – Volume gains to be limited in future



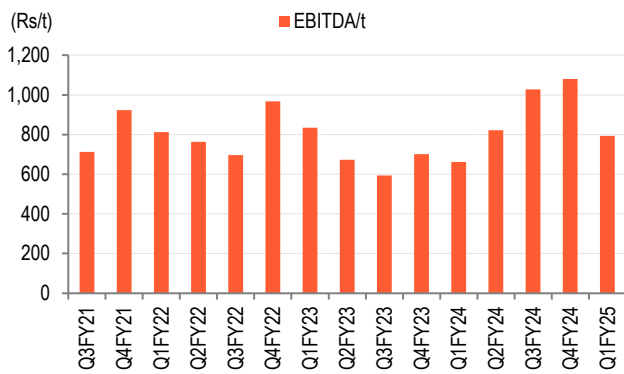
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | Volume numbers from Q1FY22 have been restated by management

Fig 5 – Realisation weak despite volume fall



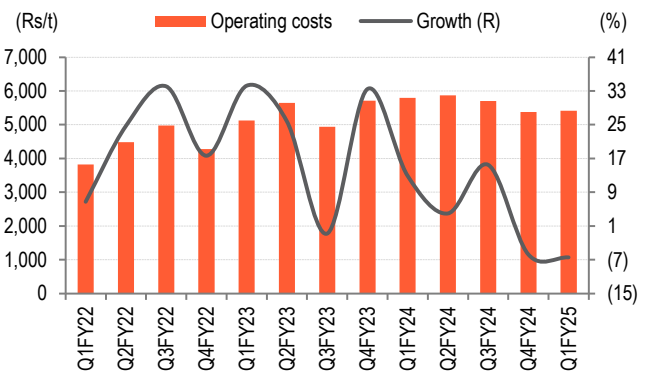
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | Volume numbers from Q1FY22 have been restated by management

Fig 6 – EBITDA/t may continue to be under pressure



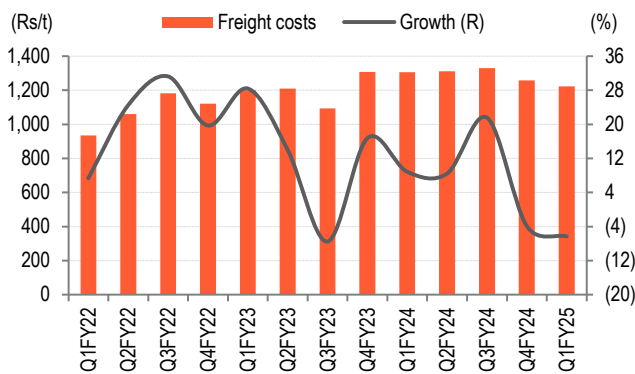
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | Volume numbers from Q1FY22 have been restated by management

Fig 7 – Operating cost only respite



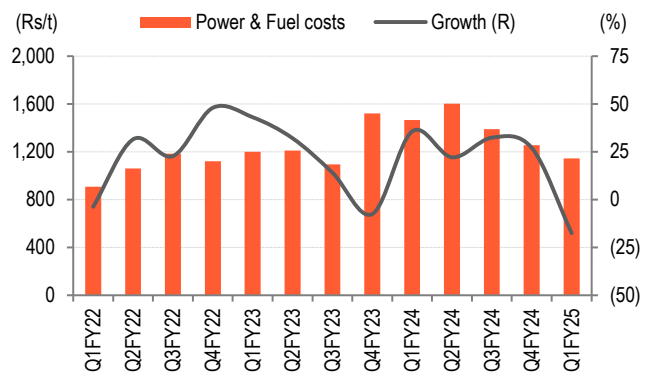
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | Volume numbers from Q1FY22 have been restated by management

Fig 8 – Freight cost savings due to lower lead distance



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | Volumes numbers from Q1FY22 have been restated by management

Fig 9 – Fuel cost savings commendable



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | Volumes numbers from Q1FY22 have been restated by management

Valuation methodology

We revise our FY25E/FY26E EBITDA by 16% each to factor in changing dynamics in its operating areas following intense supply pressure by large cement companies. We introduce FY27 estimates with weak EBITDA/PAT CAGR of 5%/6% given that pricing pressure may be partially offset by better cost structure.

In our view, JKLC's performance will be determined by its ability to deliver volumes from the new capacity as its capex is largely backed by debt. Regaining lost market share during the capacity constraint phase will be a key challenge in competitive conditions. The changed dynamics of the cement sector with aggressive pricing for market penetration and capability of large size companies to sustain pricing pressure will be the key pressure points for regional companies. Growing competition in JKLC's operating regions, balance sheet pressure in the capex phase and weak execution capabilities in the past remain key challenges.

We value JKLC at 9x EV/EBITDA 1-year forward earnings (unchanged) and arrive at a TP of Rs 687 (from Rs 710). Maintain SELL.

Fig 10 – Revised estimates

(Rs mn)	New			Old			Change (%)		
	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	66,585	68,940	74,122	68,635	71,756	NA	(3.0)	(3.9)	NA
EBITDA	8,362	9,346	10,465	9,769	11,028	NA	(14.4)	(15.3)	NA
Adj PAT	4,140	4,700	5,331	4,892	5,626	NA	(15.4)	(16.5)	NA
Adj EPS (Rs)	35.2	39.9	45.3	41.6	47.8	NA	(15.4)	(16.4)	NA

Source: BOBCAPS Research

Fig 11 – Key assumptions

Parameter	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Volumes (mt)	9.61	10.6	10.8	11.6
Realisations (Rs/t)	6,360	6,329	6,392	6,456
Operating costs (Rs/t)	5,559	5,493	5,512	5,503
EBITDA/t (Rs/t)	880	789	864	905

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 12 – Valuation summary

(Rs mn)	FY26E
Target EV/EBITDA (x)	9
EBITDA	11,028
Target EV	99,248
Total EV	99,248
Net debt	15,746
Target market capitalisation	83,503
Target price (Rs/sh)	687
Weighted average shares (mn)	118

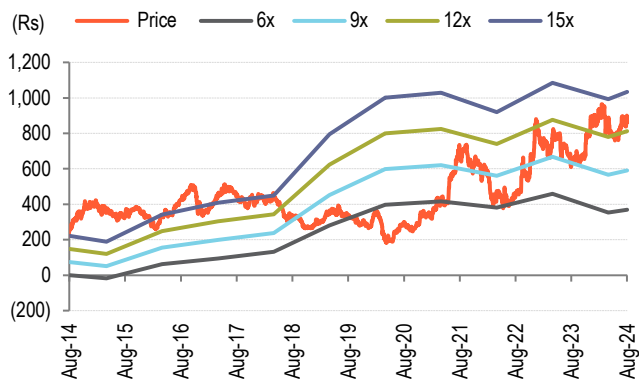
Source: BOBCAPS Research

Fig 13 – Peer comparison

Ticker	Rating	Target Price (Rs)	EV/EBITDA (x)			EV/tonne (US\$)			ROE (%)			ROCE (%)		
			FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E
JKLC IN	SELL	687	11.0	13.0	10.5	81	84	93	14.4	12.8	13.1	19.1	15.4	14.7
TRCL IN	SELL	737	12.8	11.0	10.0	134	133	135	6.4	7.8	8.5	8.6	9.9	10.4
JKCE IN	HOLD	4,431	22.8	17.2	10.8	225	165	137	17.2	19.6	20.3	16.0	16.6	17.3

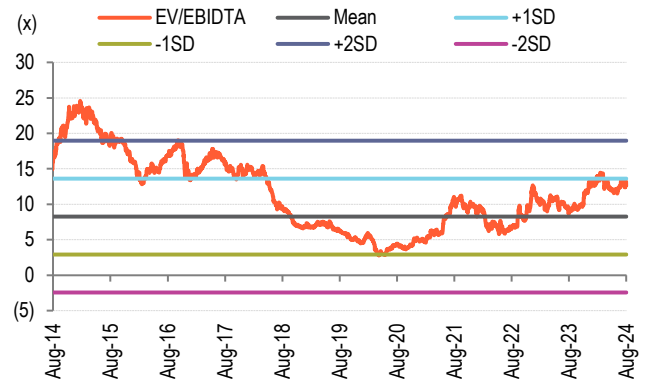
Source: BOBCAPS Research

Fig 14 – EV/EBITDA band: Valuations far ahead of earnings



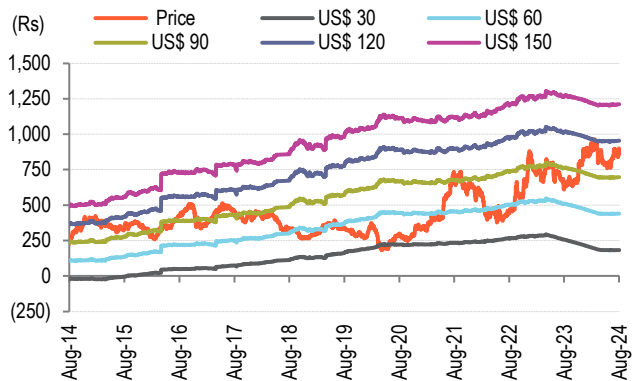
Source: Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 15 – EV/EBITDA 1Y fwd: Expect reversion to mean



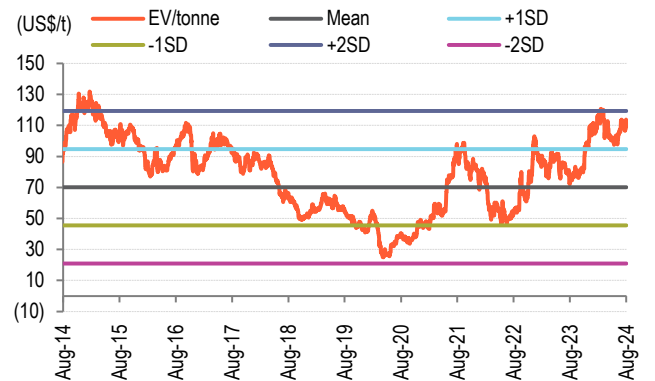
Source: Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 16 – EV/tonne band: Replacement cost may stay elevated



Source: Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 17 – EV/tonne 1Y fwd: Expect reversion to mean



Source: Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Key risks

Key upside risks to our estimates are:

- strong pricing gains in key operating regions,
- further softening of energy cost lending a boost to margins, and
- aggressive capex execution, leading to an above-expected performance.

Financials

Income Statement

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23A	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Total revenue	60,711	63,198	66,585	68,940	74,122
EBITDA	7,043	8,637	8,362	9,346	10,465
Depreciation	(1,935)	(1,950)	(2,142)	(2,290)	(2,443)
EBIT	5,730	7,328	7,078	7,955	8,963
Net interest inc./(exp.)	(915)	(872)	(1,036)	(1,337)	(1,455)
Other inc./(exp.)	622	640	858	898	941
Exceptional items	0	0	0	0	0
EBT	4,815	6,456	6,041	6,617	7,508
Income taxes	(1,507)	(2,212)	(1,901)	(1,917)	(2,177)
Extraordinary items	0	0	0	0	0
Min. int./Inc. from assoc.	0	0	0	0	0
Reported net profit	3,308	4,243	4,140	4,700	5,331
Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted net profit	3,308	4,243	4,140	4,700	5,331

Balance Sheet

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23A	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Accounts payables	7,841	13,603	14,197	14,694	15,696
Other current liabilities	8,724	4,132	9,296	9,573	9,859
Provisions	156	181	838	863	890
Debt funds	5,846	7,668	16,720	18,939	24,180
Other liabilities	1,596	2,683	198	198	198
Equity capital	588	588	588	588	588
Reserves & surplus	25,960	30,226	33,477	37,262	41,653
Shareholders' fund	27,949	30,815	34,065	37,851	42,241
Total liab. and equities	52,112	59,081	75,314	82,118	93,065
Cash and cash eq.	8,450	12,596	8,145	9,935	10,933
Accounts receivables	605	402	1,915	1,889	2,031
Inventories	7,004	7,622	7,571	7,744	8,326
Other current assets	4,190	4,159	5,009	5,131	5,261
Investments	4,141	4,196	4,253	4,310	4,369
Net fixed assets	26,943	27,168	40,272	49,448	58,471
CWIP	649	2,801	8,000	3,500	3,500
Intangible assets	129	137	148	161	174
Deferred tax assets, net	0	0	0	0	0
Other assets	0	0	0	0	0
Total assets	52,112	59,081	75,314	82,118	93,065

Cash Flows

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23A	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Cash flow from operations	2,861	8,115	7,899	7,522	8,235
Capital expenditures	(1,049)	(4,358)	(20,456)	(6,979)	(11,479)
Change in investments	136	(5,258)	4,248	(58)	(59)
Other investing cash flows	0	0	0	0	0
Cash flow from investing	(913)	(9,616)	(16,207)	(7,037)	(11,538)
Equities issued/Others	884	(1,400)	0	0	0
Debt raised/repaid	(2,107)	1,822	9,053	2,219	5,241
Interest expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Dividends paid	(588)	(765)	(588)	(588)	(588)
Other financing cash flows	(177)	788	(302)	(326)	(351)
Cash flow from financing	(1,989)	444	8,162	1,304	4,301
Chg in cash & cash eq.	(41)	(1,056)	(146)	1,789	998
Closing cash & cash eq.	8,450	12,596	8,145	9,935	10,934

Per Share

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs)	FY23A	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Reported EPS	28.1	36.1	35.2	39.9	45.3
Adjusted EPS	28.1	36.1	35.2	39.9	45.3
Dividend per share	5.0	6.5	5.0	5.0	5.0
Book value per share	237.5	261.9	289.5	321.6	359.0

Valuations Ratios

Y/E 31 Mar (x)	FY23A	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
EV/Sales	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.2
EV/EBITDA	13.8	11.0	13.0	10.5	8.7
Adjusted P/E	30.2	23.5	24.1	21.2	18.7
P/BV	3.6	3.2	2.9	2.6	2.4

DuPont Analysis

Y/E 31 Mar (%)	FY23A	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Tax burden (Net profit/PBT)	68.7	65.7	68.5	71.0	71.0
Interest burden (PBT/EBIT)	84.0	88.1	85.4	83.2	83.8
EBIT margin (EBIT/Revenue)	9.4	11.6	10.6	11.5	12.1
Asset turnover (Rev./Avg TA)	120.8	113.7	99.1	87.6	84.6
Leverage (Avg TA/Avg Equity)	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.2
Adjusted ROAE	12.6	14.4	12.8	13.1	13.3

Ratio Analysis

Y/E 31 Mar	FY23A	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
YoY growth (%)					
Revenue	20.4	4.1	5.4	3.5	7.5
EBITDA	(12.1)	22.6	(3.2)	11.8	12.0
Adjusted EPS	(26.4)	28.3	(2.4)	13.5	13.4
Profitability & Return ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	11.6	13.7	12.6	13.6	14.1
EBIT margin	9.4	11.6	10.6	11.5	12.1
Adjusted profit margin	5.4	6.7	6.2	6.8	7.2
Adjusted ROAE	12.6	14.4	12.8	13.1	13.3
ROCE	16.7	19.1	15.4	14.7	14.5
Working capital days (days)					
Receivables	4	2	11	10	10
Inventory	42	44	42	41	41
Payables	53	91	89	90	90
Ratios (x)					
Gross asset turnover	1.5	1.5	1.1	1.0	0.9
Current ratio	1.2	1.4	0.9	1.0	1.0
Net interest coverage ratio	6.3	8.4	6.8	5.9	6.2
Adjusted debt/equity	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.6

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

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SEBI Research Analyst Registration No: **INH000000040 valid till 03 February 2025**

Brand Name: **BOBCAPS**

Trade Name: **www.barodaetrade.com**

CIN: **U65999MH1996GOI098009**



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Recommendation scale: Recommendations and Absolute returns (%) over 12 months

BUY – Expected return >+15%

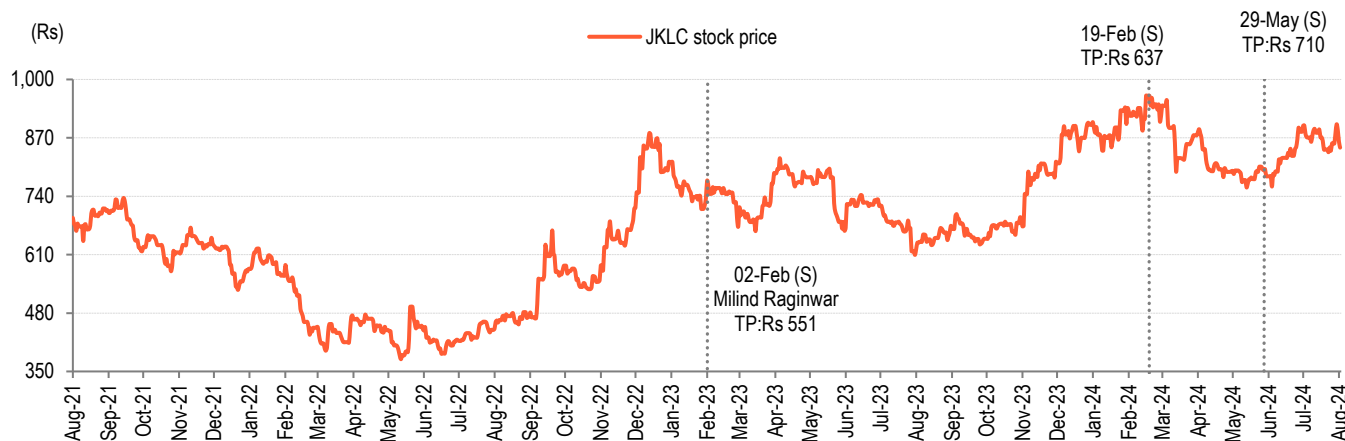
HOLD – Expected return from -6% to +15%

SELL – Expected return <-6%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

Our recommendation scale does not factor in short-term stock price volatility related to market fluctuations. Thus, our recommendations may not always be strictly in line with the recommendation scale as shown above.

Ratings and Target Price (3-year history): JK LAKSHMI CEMENT (JKLC IN)



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

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