

BUY TP: Rs 12,972 | A 15%

ULTRATECH CEMENT

Cement

20 July 2024

Firmly on growth path; maintain BUY

- Higher single digit volume growth with 80%+ capacity utilisation aids
 UTCEM's revenue growth despite realisation dent in a challenging Q1
- Other expenses drag cost savings, to normalise for residual FY25,
 EBITDA/tonne maintained at ~Rs 900/t
- Revise FY26E EBITDA/EPS by 3%. Value UTCEM at 17x (earlier 16x)
 EV/EBITDA and raise TP to Rs 12,974 (vs Rs 11,510). Retain BUY rating

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Healthy volume in a weak quarter aids revenue gains: UTCEM reported ~2% YoY (-12% QoQ) revenue growth to Rs 175bn in Q1FY25 backed by healthy volume growth of ~7% to 30.5mn tonnes on a high base. The capacity utilisation at ~81% was the highlight in a challenging Q1FY25 marred by weak demand. Effectively, realisations adjusted to Rs40/t and incentives fell by 6%/3% YoY/QoQ to Rs 5,036/t.

Cost savings restricted due to non-recurring higher other expense: Operating cost/tonne fell 3% YoY (flat QoQ) in Q1 to Rs 4,865/t limiting the impact of the decline in realisations. Fuel cost (raw material adjusted) fell 10%3% YoY/QoQ) to Rs 2,408/t, with blended fuel consumption cost staying flat QoQ at US\$ 149/t, down 16% YoY. Logistics cost/t fell 4%/1% YoY/QoQ at Rs 1,361/t as lead distance fell by 16km YoY. Other expenses rose 36%/20% YoY/QoQ to ~Rs 26.3bn owing to non-recurring expenses of Rs 3bn without which operating cost/t would have been down by ~7% mitigating the entire realisation loss.

Expansion on course: UTCEM's Phase-II and -III expansion of 24.4mt and 21.9mt are on schedule, which will take capacity to 157.4mt by FY25 and add a further 21.9mt by FY27 (clinker capacity addition expected at 10mt-12mt). Capex guidance for FY24/FY25 are ~Rs8bn/~Rs 90bn. The total capex commitment of Rs 300bn stays intact in FY25/FY26/FY27. The proposed transaction for Kesoram Industries (KSI) has received Competition Commission of India (CCI) approval. Following mandatory procedure, UTCEM plans to merge KSI with effect from 1 April 2024.

Valuation outlook: We retain FY25 EBITDA/EPS estimates while upgrading FY26 EBITDA/EPS estimates by 3% each backed by strong operating performance. We introduce FY27E earnings with EBTIDA/EPS estimates of Rs 224bn/Rs 453.8. Our FY24-FY27 EBITDA/PAT CAGR is baked in at 18%/23%. Given effective cost management, healthy growth and a strong balance sheet, we now value UTCEM at 17x 1-year forward EV/EBITDA (16x earlier) to arrive at a TP of Rs 12,974 (from Rs 11,510) and maintain our BUY rating on the stock. Despite aggressive capex the balance sheet remains strong and is the key, in addition to strong growth backed by effective EBITDA margins assisted by strong operating efficiencies.

Key changes

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Та	rget	Rating	
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Ticker/Price	UTCEM IN/Rs 11,258
Market cap	US\$ 39.5bn
Free float	40%
3M ADV	US\$ 59.9mn
52wk high/low	Rs 12,078/Rs 7,988
Promoter/FPI/DII	60%/15%/17%

Source: NSE | Price as of 19 Jul 2024

Key financials

Y/E 31 Mar	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	6,86,406	7,66,364	9,02,211
EBITDA (Rs mn)	1,35,678	1,61,210	2,04,324
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	69,769	88,708	1,17,059
Adj. EPS (Rs)	241.7	307.3	405.5
Consensus EPS (Rs)	241.7	305.0	381.0
Adj. ROAE (%)	12.4	14.1	16.2
Adj. P/E (x)	46.6	36.6	27.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	23.7	19.9	15.9
Adj. EPS growth (%)	41.9	27.1	32.0

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

Stock performance



Source: NSE





Fig 1 - Earnings call highlights

Parameter	Q1FY25	Q4FY24	Our view
Volumes and realisations	Management indicated that Indian industry grew at ~ 3-3.5% in Q1FY25 while UTCEM beat industry growth. Demand may hover at ~7-8% in FY25 after early moderation and will stay at higher single digits. UTCEM's trade volume was 68% in 1QFY25 and blended cement sale was 71%. Moderation of cement prices was across regions in 1Q. 2Q prices are 1.5% lower than the average price of 1QFY25 and management expects a pick-up in prices in 2H.	Management indicated that Indian industry grew at ~9% in FY24 and 7-8% in 4QFY24. Demand may hover at ~7-9% in FY25 after early moderation and will stay in the higher single digits. UTCEM trade volume was 65% in 4QFY24 and premium product mix was 23.9% of trade sales, higher by 17% YoY. The All-India capacity utilisation increased by ~200bps to 71%. UTCEM achieved capacity utilisation of ~85% in FY24, thus consistently making inroads into the market. Moderation of cement prices was across regions in 4Q in addition to the decline in 3QFY24. However, in 1QFY25, prices showed healthy revival except in North and West India (on a higher base).	FY25 demand is likely to be back- ended due to elections and monsoon quarter in the 1H. Effectively, pricing softness may continue for the short term. UTCEM maintaining higher capacity utilisation despite the demand weakness is commendable.
Margins	Management expects overall cost savings of Rs 300 per tonne in the next two years. It expects fuel costs to moderate further post 3QFY25 after utilising full high-cost inventory. Fuel cost during Q1FY25 was ~2.00/kcal (vs ~2.03/kcal in Q4FY24). Blended cost of fuel consumed in Q1FY25 was US\$ 149/t flat vs 4QFY24 and UTCEM is expected to reach further lower levels by FY25-end after the use of high-end inventory.	Management expects overall cost savings of Rs100-300 per tonne in the next one to three years. It expects fuel cost to moderate further post 3QFY25 after utilising its full high-cost inventory. Fuel cost during Q4FY24 was ~2.03/kcal (vs ~2.048/kcal in Q3FY24). Blended cost of fuel consumed in Q4FY24 was US\$ 150/t flat vs 3QFY24 and UTCEM is expected to reach ~US\$ 130/t by 4QFY25	Management has guided for cost savings of Rs100-300 per tonne incrementally, contributed by better clinker conversion ratio, higher usage of green energy and logistic cost savings. Any better-than-expected cost savings will add to higher EBITDA/t. We expect UTCEM beating guidance in cost savings helping it to maintain higher utilisation levels even if prices stay range bound.
Capacity	No major change in UTCEM's capacity expansion plans till FY27 as organic expansions to continue as per earlier guidance. The Kesoram Industries-proposed transaction has received Competition Commission of India approval. UTCEM plans to merge KSI assets w.e.f 1 April 2024 following completion of mandatory procedures.	The 21.9mtpa Phase III plan is expected to be completed by FY27. Phase II & III are on track and there is no change in schedule. The organic expansion plans are on track. The Kesoram Industries-proposed transaction has received Competition Commission of India approval. UTCEM plans to merge the KSI assets and is awaiting approval from the Securities Exchange Board of India and stock exchanges, following which the scheme will be submitted to the National Company Law Tribunal. Effectively, the Hotgi grinding unit expansion in Maharashtra is currently on hold.	Capacity expansion plans are on schedule. Both organic and inorganic growth would imply UTCEM is on track to reach 200mn tonnes by FY28.
Сарех	Capex will be ~Rs 300bn, spread over FY25/FY26/FY27. The capex guidance for FY25/FY26 is ~Rs 80bn/90bn. This includes the outlay for inorganic growth following the acquisition of Kesoram Industries' cement assets. The capex commitment is intact though cash outflow may change.	The capex will be ~Rs 324bn, spread over FY25/FY26/FY27. The capex guidance for FY25 is Rs 95bn followed by Rs 100bn/Rs 110bn in FY26/FY27. This includes the outlay for inorganic growth following the acquisition of Kesoram Industries' cement assets.	Despite aggressive capital expenditure plans, healthy cash flows and sharp focus on maintaining balance sheet health have been sustained.



Fig 2 - Key quarterly metrics

Parameter	Q1FY25	Q1FY24	YoY (%)	Q4FY24	QoQ (%)
Volumes (mn mt)	30.5	28.6	6.5	33.4	(8.7)
Cement realisations (Rs/mt)	5,036	5,352	(5.9)	5,193	(3.0)
Operating costs (Rs/mt)*	4,865	5,013	(2.9)	4,729	2.9
EBITDA/t (Rs)	891	1,017	(12.4)	1,204	(26.1)

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | *Aggregate cost

Fig 3 - Quarterly performance

(Rs mn)	Q1FY25	Q1FY24	YoY (%)	Q4FY24	QoQ (%)
Net Sales	1,75,324	1,72,452	1.7	1,98,059	(11.5)
Expenditure					
Change in stock	(159)	(321)	(50.5)	4,692	(103.4)
Raw material	25,820	23,844	8.3	26,631	(3.0)
Purchased products	4,300	8,676	(50.4)	4,848	(11.3)
Power & fuel	43,378	44,794	(3.2)	46,626	(7.0)
Freight	41,465	40,458	2.5	45,876	(9.6)
Employee costs	7,055	6,610	6.7	7,197	(2.0)
Other expenses	26,338	19,305	36.4	21,986	19.8
Total Operating Expenses	1,48,197	1,43,366	3.4	1,57,857	(6.1)
EBITDA	27,128	29,086	(6.7)	40,202	(32.5)
EBITDA margin (%)	15.5	16.9	(139bps)	20.3	(483bps)
Other Income	1,789	2,582	(30.7)	1,542	16.0
Interest	2,204	1,911	15.4	2,268	(2.8)
Depreciation	8,142	6,820	19.4	7,857	3.6
PBT	18,570	22,937	(19.0)	31,619	(41.3)
Non-recurring items	325	0	0.0	(720)	0.0
PBT (after non-recurring items)	18,895	22,937	(17.6)	30,899	(38.8)
Tax	4,495	5,882	(23.6)	8,380	(46.4)
Reported PAT	14,400	17,055	(15.6)	22,520	(36.1)
Adjusted PAT	14,075	17,055	(17.5)	23,240	(39.4)
NPM (%)	8.0	9.9	(186bps)	11.7	(371bps)
Adjusted EPS (Rs)	48.8	59.1	(17.5)	80.5	(39.4)

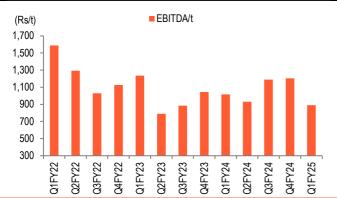


Fig 4 – Volume growth though tepid likely to be ahead of industry



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 6 – EBITDA/tonne aided by focus on cost savings, further room for improvement



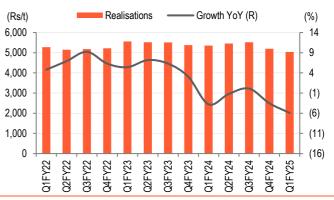
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 8 – Freight cost savings aided by strategic plant locations helping lower lead distance



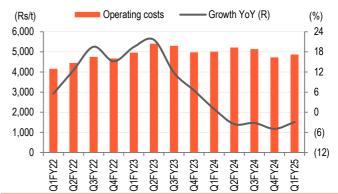
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 5 - Realisation under pressure as demand slackens



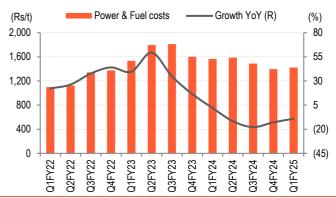
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 7 – Cost savings impacted by non-recurring other expenditure, to normalise from 2Q



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 9 – Energy cost savings limited, but headroom for improvement from Q4





Valuation methodology

UTCEM has maintained its capacity expansion plans till FY27 and beyond. This will help maintain UTCEM's capacity leadership in all the major markets despite competitive pressure. Further, despite market demand slackening the company-maintained capacity utilisation of upwards of 80% with EBITDA/t of ~Rs 1,000 (excluding Rs 3bn of other expenditure incurred in 1Q). This puts the company on a strong growth path to retain volume market share too despite maintaining margins.

Additionally, cost savings guidance augurs well for providing a boost to the EBITDA/t on a higher volume base in the next two years even if prices stay under pressure. This helps to offer added levers to enhance margins even as it is positioned as a capacity leader. The acquisition of Kesoram Industries' cement assets will consolidate its presence in the states of Telangana and Maharashtra.

Factoring in the above we retain our FY25 EBITDA/EPS estimates, while raising our FY26 EBITDA/EPS forecasts by 3% each. We introduce FY27E earnings with EBTIDA/EPS estimate of Rs 224bn/Rs 453.8. Our FY24-FY27 EBITDA/PAT CAGR bakes in 18%/23%. Given effective cost management, healthy growth and a strong balance sheet, we now value UTCEM at 17x 1-year forward EV/EBITDA (16x earlier) to arrive at a TP of Rs 12,974 (Rs 11,510) and maintain our BUY rating on the stock. Despite aggressive capex the balance sheet remains strong and is the key, in addition to strong growth backed by effective EBITDA margins.

Fig 10 - Revised estimates

(Rs mn)		New			Old		(Change (%)	
	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	7,66,364	9,02,211	9,92,527	7,66,364	8,91,821	NA	0.0	1.2	NA
EBITDA	1,61,210	2,04,324	2,24,107	1,61,210	1,98,627	NA	(0.0)	2.9	NA
Adj PAT	88,708	1,17,059	1,30,981	88,708	1,13,360	NA	0.0	3.3	NA
Adj EPS (Rs)	307.3	405.5	453.8	307.3	392.7	NA	0.0	3.3	NA

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 11 - Key assumptions

Parameter	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Volumes (mt)	107.71	128.04	149.81	164.79
Realisations (Rs/t)	5,304	5,304	5,410	5,437
Operating costs (Rs/t)	5,201	4,807	4,735	4,739
EBITDA/t (Rs/t)	1,163	1,170	1,281	1,278



Fig 12 - Valuation summary

Business (Rs mn)	FY26E
Target EV/EBITDA (x)	17.0
EBITDA	2,04,324
Target EV	35,63,413
Total EV	35,63,413
Net debt	(88,662)
Target market capitalisation	36,52,074
Target price (Rs/sh)	12,974
Weighted average shares (mn)	288.7

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research Note: Valuations based on 1-year forward earnings (includes part of FY27e earnings)

Fig 13 - Peer comparison

Ticker Rating TP		EV/EBITDA (x)		EV/tonne (US\$)		ROE (%)			ROCE (%)					
ricker	Rating (Rs)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	
UTCEM IN	BUY	12,974	23.7	19.9	15.9	274.4	238.5	218.8	12.5	14.1	16.2	14.4	17.6	20.4
ACC IN	HOLD	2,657	13.2	11.5	9.5	140.0	126.0	113.0	14	14.2	14.3	17.3	18.2	18.6
ACEM IN	HOLD	580	15.3	13	13.1	193.0	183.0	175.0	10.1	9	10.3	12.8	12.4	14.1

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Key downside risks to our estimates are:

- Increasing competitive intensity and capacity addition may have negative impacts on cement sector pricing and can be detrimental for the industry and UTCEM.
- Delays in the implementation of capex plans can hamper growth.
- Energy cost spikes due to global uncertainties could dampen profitability.



Financials

Income Statement					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23A	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Total revenue	6,04,626	6,86,406	7,66,364	9,02,211	9,92,527
EBITDA	99,312	1,35,678	1,61,210	2,04,324	2,24,107
Depreciation	(26, 192)	(30,274)	(34,815)	(36,382)	(38,019)
EBIT	80,014	1,02,548	1,35,488	1,78,380	1,98,406
Net interest inc./(exp.)	(7,550)	(8,668)	(10,111)	(10,283)	(10,561)
Other inc./(exp.)	6,894	(2,855)	9,094	10,438	12,318
Exceptional items	0	(720)	0	0	0
EBT	72,464	93,160	1,25,377	1,68,097	1,87,845
Income taxes	(23,295)	(24,111)	(36,669)	(51,039)	(56,864)
Extraordinary items	0	0	0	0	0
Min. int./Inc. from assoc.	0	0	0	0	0
Reported net profit	49,169	69,049	88,708	1,17,059	1,30,981
Adjustments	0	(720)	0	0	0
Adjusted net profit	49,169	69,769	88,708	1,17,059	1,30,981
Dalamas Chast					
Balance Sheet Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23A	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Accounts payables	1,13,015	1,26,815	1,37,661	1,54,595	1,70,208
Other current liabilities	68,224	94,541	76,240	78,320	80,400
Provisions	7,779	8,878	9,393	9,946	10,542
Debt funds	1,01,440	80,873	70,226	1,03,957	92,113
Other liabilities	54,758	64,250	65,500	66,950	68,400
Equity capital	2,887	2,887	2,887	2,887	2,887
Reserves & surplus	5,26,482	5,88,065	6,65,967	7,70,867	8,89,690
Shareholders' fund	5,29,369	5,90,952	6,68,853	7,73,754	8,92,577
Total liab. and equities	8,74,584	9,66,309	10,27,873	11,87,522	13,14,240
Cash and cash eq.	72,802	28,680	1,01,751	1,92,618	2,03,791
Accounts receivables	32,422	34,965	39,563	49,048	56,677
Inventories	60,842	80,358	90,244	1,08,712	1,22,314
Other current assets	1,03,368	83,962	1,15,283	1,36,843	1,62,565
Investments	72,602	71,397	71,397	71,397	71,397
Net fixed assets	4,69,216	4,55,902	4,92,874	5,61,912	6,27,191
CWIP	38,072	1,85,035	90,000	40,000	43,000
Intangible assets	25,260	26,010	26,760	26,991	27,304
Deferred tax assets, net	0	0	0	0	0
Other assets	0	0	0	0	0
Total assets	8,74,584	9,66,309	10,27,873	11,87,522	13,14,240
Cash Flows Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23A	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Cash flow from operations	99,263	1,47,378	72,028	1,24,946	1,41,785
Capital expenditures	(55,845)	(1,64,673)	22,497	(55,651)	(1,06,611)
Change in investments	(17,905)	42,860	(16,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)
	(17,303)	42,000	(10,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)
Other investing cash flows Cash flow from investing	(73,750)	(1,21,813)	6,497	(75,651)	(1,26,611)
	(73,730)	(1,21,013)	0,497		
Equities issued/Others				22 720	(11 042)
Debt raised/repaid	(5,434)	(20,567)	(10,647)	33,730	(11,843)
Interest expenses	(10.027)	(10.807)	(10.807)	(12.158)	(12 158)
Dividends paid	(10,927)	(10,807)	(10,807)	(12,158)	(12,158)
Other financing cash flows	(1,579)	3,342	(24.454)	0	(24,004)
Cash flow from financing	(17,940)	(28,032)	(21,454)	21,572	(24,001)
Chg in cash & cash eq.	7,573	(2,466)	57,071	70,867	(8,827)
Closing cash & cash eq.	72,803	28,681	1,01,751	1,92,618	2,03,791

Per Share					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs)	FY23A	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Reported EPS	170.3	239.2	307.3	405.5	453.8
Adjusted EPS	170.3	241.7	307.3	405.5	453.8
Dividend per share	37.9	32.0	32.0	36.0	36.0
Book value per share	1,833.9	2,047.3	2,317.2	2,680.6	3,092.2
Valuations Ratios					
Y/E 31 Mar (x)	FY23A	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
EV/Sales	5.3	4.7	4.2	3.6	3.3
EV/EBITDA	32.3	23.7	19.9	15.9	14.8
Adjusted P/E	66.1	46.6	36.6	27.8	24.8
P/BV	6.1	5.5	4.9	4.2	3.6
DuPont Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar (%)	FY23A	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Tax burden (Net profit/PBT)	67.9	74.1	70.8	69.6	69.7
Interest burden (PBT/EBIT)	90.6	91.5	92.5	94.2	94.7
EBIT margin (EBIT/Revenue)	13.2	14.9	17.7	19.8	20.0
Asset turnover (Rev./Avg TA)	71.9	74.6	76.9	81.4	79.3
Leverage (Avg TA/Avg Equity)	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5
Adjusted ROAE	9.6	12.4	14.1	16.2	15.7
Ratio Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar	FY23A	FY24P	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
YoY growth (%)	11237	1 1241	1 12JL	I IZUL	1 12/1
Revenue	21.6	13.5	11.6	17.7	10.0
EBITDA	(9.2)	36.6	18.8	26.7	9.7
Adjusted EPS	(24.7)	41.9	27.1	32.0	11.9
Profitability & Return ratios (%)	(24.1)	71.0	27.1	02.0	11.
EBITDA margin	16.2	19.5	20.8	22.4	22.3
EBIT margin	13.2	14.9	17.7	19.8	20.0
Adjusted profit margin	8.1	10.2	11.6	13.0	13.2
Adjusted ROAE	9.6	12.4	14.1	16.2	15.7
ROCE	12.0	14.4	17.6	20.4	19.9
Working capital days (days)	12.0	17.7	17.0	20.4	10.0
Receivables	20	19	19	20	2
Inventory	37	43	43	44	45
Payables	80	83	82	80	80
Ratios (x)			02		- 00
. ,	4.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	
Gross asset turnover	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1

Adjusted debt/equity 0.2 0.1

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

1.4

10.6

1.0

11.8

1.6

13.4

0.1

2.0

17.3

0.1

2.1

18.8

0.1

Current ratio

Net interest coverage ratio



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BUY - Expected return >+15%

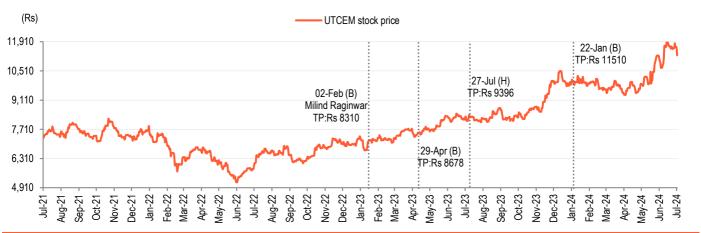
HOLD - Expected return from -6% to +15%

SELL - Expected return <-6%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

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): ULTRATECH CEMENT (UTCEM IN)



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

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