

May 18, 2017

Hindustan Unilever (HINLEV)

₹ 1009

Margin expansion in the spotlight...

- HUL reported a healthy set of numbers with domestic business growth at 8% YoY with volume growth of 4% YoY. Gross sales for the quarter grew by 7.1% YoY to ₹ 8773 crore. The gross revenue for refreshment segment grew 10.5% YoY, followed by personal & home care segments, which grew 8.1% & 7.4% YoY, respectively. The foods segment grew marginally by 2.4% YoY
- Led by lower employee & advertisement expense, operating margin expanded 91 bps YoY to 18.6% (I-direct estimate: 18.7%). Employee cost & advertisement expenses to net sales were down 98 bps and 84 bps YoY, respectively, for the quarter
- On a segmental basis, home care segment's EBIT margin expanded 216 bps YoY to 12.9%, whereas, for personal care & refreshment it remained largely flat. The EBIT margin of the foods segment, on the other hand, contracted 370 bps to 9.5%
- Led by healthy sales growth and margin expansion, net profit for the quarter increased 6.2% YoY to ₹ 1183 crore vs. our estimate of ₹ 1229.5 crore

Premiumisation, media efficiency to lead way for margin expansion

We believe that in sync with the global parent's outlook on margin expansion, HUL's margin will also improve led by premiumisation and thrust on rationalisation of marketing expense. The company is taking initiatives for effective and efficient marketing spends by rationalising on campaigns and media platforms. We are, thus, factoring in ~100 bps reduction in advertisement to 9.2% of net sales in FY19E. Additionally, HUL is focused on premium play across segments. Premium brands like *Surf* & liquid detergents, *Dove*, *TRESemme*, *Sunsilk* Keratin range, *Vim Liquid*, *Bru Gold*, *Magnum*, *Lipton Green Tea*, flavoured tea bags will continue to drive growth for the company. Additionally, HUL expects uptrading by customers to further aid volume growth of premiumisation products. We thus, expect the company to report revenue CAGR of 9.2% in FY17-19E with operating margin expansion of 210 bps to 19.6% in FY19E.

Traction in homecare coupled with premiumisation to drive growth

We believe that the home care segment, second highest contributor to HUL's revenues at ~34% in FY17 with EBIT margin of 11.1%, 136 bps YoY expansion will remain one of the key drivers of the company's growth. *Surf Excel*, HUL's largest brand (>₹ 3000 crore in FY16), *Wheel*, *Rin* are ₹ 2000+ crore brands while *Vim* is a ₹ 1000+ crore brand. *Surf Excel* has been a beneficiary of the growing premiumisation trend in detergents category and has grown in strong double digits in FY17. With an improving mix towards premium products and effective campaigning, we expect segment revenues to grow at 8.0% CAGR in FY17-19E along with EBIT margin improvement.

Revenue mix & marketing initiatives to drive growth; reiterate BUY

We remain confident about the company's commitment towards growth led by innovation, volume growth, premiumisation and, thus, market share gains. Though we are broadly keeping our estimates for revenue, led by the company's initiatives to improve EBITDA margin, we have revised our EBITDA estimates upwards. We are, thus, estimating revenue, PAT CAGR of 9.2%, 13.4%, respectively, in FY17-19E with 210 bps margin expansion in the same period to 19.6% in FY19E. We reiterate our **BUY** recommendation on the stock with a revised target price of ₹ 1120/share.

| Rating matrix | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Rating | Buy |
| Target | ₹ 1120 |
| Target Period | 12 months |
| Potential Upside | 11% |

| What's changed? | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Target | Changed from ₹ 978 to ₹ 1120 |
| EPS FY18E | Changed from ₹ 21.9 to ₹ 22.8 |
| EPS FY19E | Changed from ₹ 24.4 to ₹ 26.7 |
| Rating | Unchanged |

| Quarterly performance | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Q4FY17 | Q4FY16 | YoY (%) | Q3FY17 | QoQ (%) |
| Gross Sales | 8773.0 | 8193.0 | 7.1 | 8124.5 | 8.0 |
| EBITDA | 1651.0 | 1472.0 | 12.2 | 1355.4 | 21.8 |
| EBITDA % | 18.6 | 17.7 | 91 bps | 16.3 | 228 bps |
| PAT | 1183.0 | 1114.2 | 6.2 | 1037.9 | 14.0 |

| Key financials | | | | |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| ₹ Crore | FY16 | FY17 | FY18E | FY19E |
| Revenue | 32,929 | 33,895 | 36,660 | 40,390 |
| EBITDA | 5,749 | 6,047 | 6,925 | 8,070 |
| Net Profit | 4,137 | 4,490 | 4,921 | 5,773 |
| EPS(₹) | 19.2 | 20.8 | 22.8 | 26.7 |
| Adj. EPS(₹) | 19.3 | 20.0 | 22.8 | 26.7 |

*FY16 onwards, financials are reported as per Ind AS

| Valuation summary | | | | |
|-------------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| | FY16 | FY17 | FY18E | FY19E |
| P/E | 52.7 | 48.6 | 44.3 | 37.8 |
| Target P/E | 58.5 | 53.9 | 49.2 | 41.9 |
| Div. Yield | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.2 |
| Mcap/Sales | 6.6 | 6.4 | 5.9 | 5.4 |
| RoNW (%) | 66.2 | 66.6 | 66.7 | 69.0 |
| RoCE (%) | 74.7 | 74.9 | 82.2 | 85.6 |

*From FY16 onwards, financials are reported as per Ind AS

| Stock data | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Particular | Amount |
| Market Capitalization (₹ Crore) | 216,086.4 |
| Total Debt (FY17) (₹ Crore) | 0.0 |
| Cash and Investments (FY17) (₹ Crore) | 5,190.0 |
| EV (₹ Crore) | 210,896.4 |
| 52 week H/L | 1010 / 783 |
| Equity capital | ₹ 216 crore |
| Face value | ₹ 1 |
| FII Holding (%) | 14.2 |
| DII Holding (%) | 5.2 |

| Price performance | | | | |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Return % | 1M | 3M | 6M | 12M |
| HUL | 10.2 | 19.5 | 23.9 | 20.8 |
| ITC | 1.0 | 5.1 | 21.3 | 28.0 |
| GCPL | 10.9 | 15.2 | 32.6 | 34.7 |
| Colgate | -2.6 | 7.4 | 5.5 | 17.9 |

| Research Analyst | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
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Variance analysis

| | Q4FY17 | Q4Y17E | Q4FY16 | YoY (%) | Q3FY17 | QoQ (%) | Comments |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---|
| Gross Sales | 8,773.0 | 8,128.5 | 8,193.0 | 7.1 | 8,124.5 | 8.0 | Healthy revenue growth on led by 4% volume growth |
| Operating Income | 113.0 | 207.5 | 136.0 | -16.9 | 193.5 | -41.6 | |
| Raw Material Expenses | 4,022.0 | 3,987.1 | 3,769.0 | 6.7 | 3,744.6 | 7.4 | |
| Employee Expenses | 388.0 | 399.1 | 443.0 | -12.4 | 409.3 | -5.2 | Due to lower variable pay, the employee expense was lower |
| Marketing Expenses | 853.0 | 957.9 | 865.0 | -1.4 | 885.1 | -3.6 | Efficient media spend led to 84 bps reduction in marketing expense as percent of net sales |
| Excise Duty | 673.0 | 146.3 | 608.0 | 10.7 | 612.0 | 10.0 | |
| Other operating expenses | 1,299.0 | 1,045.7 | 1,172.0 | 10.8 | 1,311.5 | -1.0 | |
| EBITDA | 1,651.0 | 1,560.5 | 1,472.0 | 12.2 | 1,355.4 | 21.8 | Healthy topline growth couple with saving on employee & media expense led to 12.2% growth in EBITDA |
| EBITDA margin (%) | 18.6 | 18.7 | 17.7 | 91 bps | 16.3 | 228 bps | |
| Depreciation | 108.0 | 91.7 | 88.0 | 22.7 | 100.2 | 7.8 | |
| Interest | 6.0 | 0.0 | 2.0 | NA | 4.6 | 31.6 | |
| Other Income | 83.0 | 134.6 | 101.0 | -17.8 | 82.4 | 0.7 | Lower interest rate on investment led to a decline in other income |
| PBT | 1,620.0 | 1,603.4 | 1,483.0 | 9.2 | 1,486.2 | 9.0 | |
| Exceptional Items | -1.0 | 0.0 | 51.2 | -102.0 | 153.1 | -100.7 | |
| Tax Outgo | 436.0 | 373.9 | 420.0 | 3.8 | 448.2 | -2.7 | |
| PAT | 1,183.0 | 1,229.5 | 1,114.2 | 6.2 | 1,037.9 | 14.0 | Led by sales growth and EBITDA expansion, sales grew by 6.2% |

Key Metrics growth YoY (%)

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|----|------|----------|------|----------|--|
| Home care | 7.4 | NA | NA | | 1.0 | 633 bps | Home care segment grew strongly led by volume growth in premium brands |
| Personal care | 8.1 | NA | NA | | -2.7 | 1079 bps | Growth was driven by soaps on account of stabilising input cost. Fair & Lovely's re-launch added to growth. However, oral care continued to remain subdued |
| Foods | 2.4 | NA | NA | | 0.5 | 196 bps | |
| Refreshments | 10.5 | NA | NA | | 8.1 | 240 bps | Premium coffee and ice cream drove the growth of the segment; tea sales also grew in double digit |
| EBIT margin (%) | | | | | | | |
| Home care | 12.9 | NA | 10.8 | 216 bps | 8.7 | 424 bps | Premiumisation and operational efficiency led expansion |
| Personal care | 24.1 | NA | 24.0 | 19 bps | 23.1 | 101 bps | |
| Foods | 9.5 | NA | 13.2 | -370 bps | 9.4 | 11 bps | |
| Refreshments | 16.8 | NA | 16.5 | 35 bps | 14.7 | 213 bps | |

Source: Company, ICICIdirect.com Research; Both, reported and estimated financials are represented in IND-AS format

Change in estimates

| (₹ Crore) | FY18E | | | FY19E | | | Comments |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---|
| | Old | New | % Change | Old | New | % Change | |
| Sales | 36,662.4 | 36,659.7 | 0.0 | 39,921.0 | 40,390.1 | 1.2 | |
| EBITDA | 6,245.7 | 6,925.1 | 10.9 | 6,893.3 | 8,070.2 | 17.1 | Upward revision in EBITDA considering efficient marketing expense and focus on premiumisation |
| EBITDA Margin (%) | 16.8 | 18.6 | 182 bps | 17.0 | 19.6 | 267 bps | |
| PAT | 4,732.4 | 4,920.6 | 4.0 | 5,277.8 | 5,772.5 | 9.4 | Led by upward revision in EBITDA |
| EPS (₹) | 21.9 | 22.8 | 4.2 | 24.4 | 26.7 | 9.6 | |

Source: Company, ICICIdirect.com Research; Note: Have reported the earlier as well as the new estimates in the IND-AS

Assumptions

| (₹ crore) | Current | | | Earlier | | | |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|
| | FY16 | FY17E | FY18E | FY19E | FY18E | FY19E | |
| Home care | 10,812.0 | 11,346.0 | 12,026.8 | 13,229.4 | 11,825.4 | 12,534.9 | Upward revision on account of company's initiative on premiumisation |
| Personal care | 16,011.0 | 16,304.0 | 17,282.2 | 19,010.5 | 17,367.1 | 19,103.8 | |
| Foods | 1,095.7 | 1,124.0 | 1,213.9 | 1,347.5 | 1,266.2 | 1,405.4 | Revised estimates based on FY17 performance |
| Refreshments | 4,482.0 | 4,848.0 | 5,235.8 | 5,811.8 | 5,272.2 | 5,852.2 | |

Source: Company, ICICIdirect.com Research

Conference call highlights

- The company clocked 4% volume growth after a decline in the past two quarters led largely by urban demand. Rural still remains under pressure post demonetisation
- HUL expects de-stocking to continue ahead of GST. Wholesale will continue to remain under pressure as uncertainty about GST implementation is there among the traders. However, company remains upbeat on the rollout of GST and its benefits to the industry
- The company indicated that the benefit of GST rates would be passed on completely to customers. HUL will, however, enjoy the benefits of operational efficiencies arising out of GST implementation through removal of various supply chain bottlenecks
- HUL is set to continue rationalising advertisement expenses, which started in December 2016. The company would focus on effectiveness of advertisements rather than duration. For instance, HUL would look at additional revenue inflow with the media spending on an existing brand, and would continue to invest behind new launches. Additionally, it is exploring all media platforms for effective campaigning
- The company indicated that raw material cost moderated in Q4FY17 and is stable at present and hence, no significant price hikes are on the cards in near future
- To tap the growing herbal market, the company extended a few brands and launched their herbal variants e.g. TRESemme Botanic, Clinic Plus Ayurveda and Fair & Lovely Ayurvedic Care during the quarter. Additionally, it is planning a pan-India rollout of the newly launched ayurvedic brand, Ayush Lever, after successful acceptance of the brand in the southern market. Company also is set to launch another ayurvedic brand under the name of *Citra*
- The company indicated that premium products continued to do well across segments. Additionally, HUL gained market share in the mass segment and is focusing on uptrading by customers to drive premiumisation
- Oral care remained a laggard and continued to lose market share due to competition. However, the company remains committed to the revival of the category and re-launched Close up with a new campaign
- The tax rate for HUL is expected to come down by 50 bps for FY18E on account of commencement of Assam factory and R&D spends
- FY18 capex is expected to be on the higher side considering some residual capex from investments in Assam plant
- Dividend payout for FY17 stood at ~95%

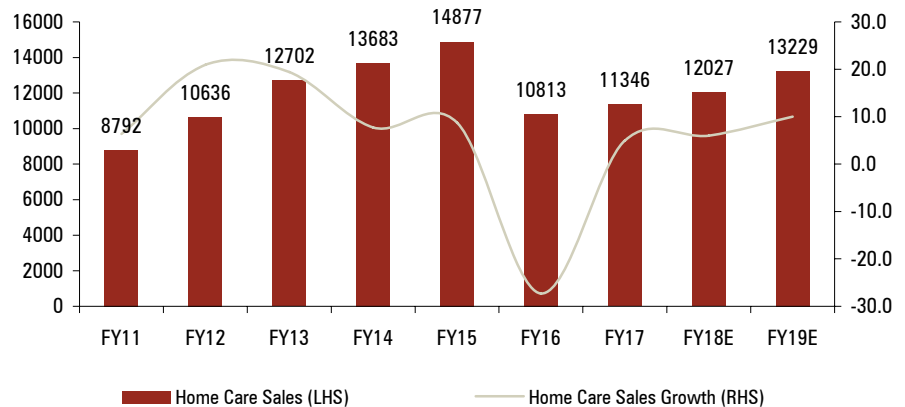
Company Analysis

Volume growth coupled with premiumisation to aid home care revenue

The home care segment is the second highest contributor to HUL's revenues at ~34% in FY17 with EBIT margin of 11.1%, 136 bps YoY expansion. It consists of fabric wash, household care & water business of HUL. HUL's strong brands in soaps (Lifebuoy, Lux, Liril and Rexona) and detergents (Wheel, Surf Excel, Surf, Vim) aided the company's dominant position in both segments (~40% of value share in detergents & ~45% value share in soaps) over the years despite the constant tough competition from global player, P&G. Hence, despite the high penetration in the segment (~99%), S&D revenue growth of 12.5% CAGR in FY10-15 has been a mix of volume and price led growth.

Going ahead, we expect volumes to drive the home care segment coupled with realisation growth led by favourable sales mix. HUL's largest brand Surf Excel (>₹ 3000 crore in FY16) has been a key beneficiary of the growing premiumisation trend in the detergents category and has growth in double digits in FY17. To increase the penetration of Surf Excel, the company had launched a ₹ 10 pack also targeting users of low priced detergents. We expect home care revenues to grow at a CAGR of 8.0% in FY17-19E. With improving contribution of premium products in the sales mix, we believe margins from the segment would improve and, thereby, contribute more to the company's overall EBIT.

Exhibit 1: Home care revenue (₹ crore) and YoY growth (%)*



Source: Company, ICICIdirect.com Research

*Until FY15, the above chart reflects numbers of soaps & detergents segment

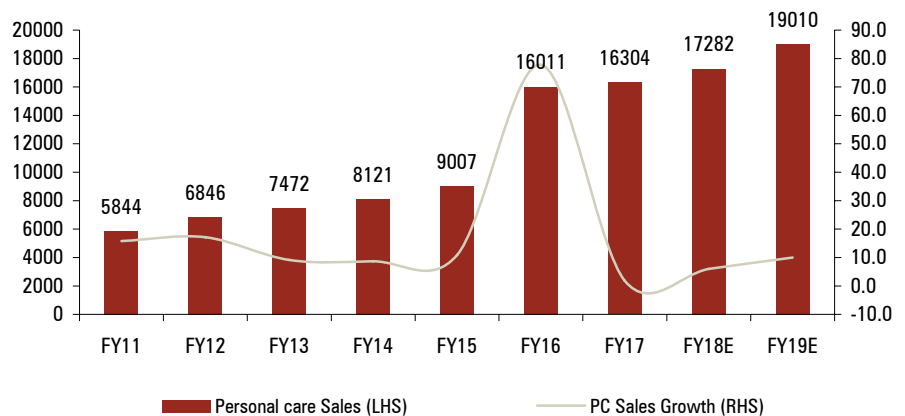
Innovative launches, continued investment on brands to drive personal care

Personal care remains the highest contributor to HUL's revenues, 48.5% in FY16 with an EBIT margin of 23.6%. From FY16 onwards, personal wash category is also a part of this segment [formerly, personal products (PP)]. HUL has a strong brand portfolio across the value pyramid (Premium - Pond's, Axe, Dove, Close Up; Popular - Vaseline, Sunsilk, Pepsodent; Mass - Fair & Lovely, Clinic Plus) and presence across all categories of personal care (hair care, oral care, skin care, men's grooming, cosmetics & services). We believe the company will be the key beneficiary of a revival in discretionary demand and booming personal products demand in the economy. HUL's premium hair care brand TRESemme became a ₹ 100 crore brand in FY15 further helping the company in the implementation of its premiumisation strategy. The baby care range under brand Dove, launched in Q2FY17, is also perceived well by consumers.

HUL is focusing on the natural/ayurvedic segment in the backdrop of increasing popularity and demand from the category. In sync with the strategy, it acquired Indulekha brand from Mosons Group (for ₹ 330 crore) in FY16, and is continuously increasing its geographical presence. During Q3FY17, it launched the ayurvedic personal care range under the brand Ayush, targeting the mass segment in south India. After the successful acceptance of the same in the southern market, it is planning a pan-India rollout of the same in the near future. Additionally, it has extended its existing brands and launched their herbal variants - TRESemme Botanic, Clinic Plus Ayurveda and Fair & Lovely Ayurvedic Care during the quarter.

Though the personal segment is currently under pressure due to intense competition, we expect the innovative product launches and re-launches (Close-up, Lux) and continued investment on branding to aid growth, going forward. We expect the personal care segment to post 8.0% CAGR in FY17-19E.

Exhibit 2: Personal care revenues (₹ crore) and growth (%) trend*



Source: Company, ICICIdirect.com Research

*Until FY15, the above chart reflects numbers of personal products segment

Changing consumption habits in tea, coffee & ice creams bode well

HUL reorganised its foods & refreshments (F&R) business into two separate units viz. foods and refreshments to sharpen its focus on each of them. From FY16 onwards, the former segment of beverages, which included tea & coffee would also include ice cream & frozen desserts and be rechristened as 'refreshment'. HUL's beverage business' (tea brands: *Lipton, Taj Mahal, Red Label*; coffee brands: *Bru*) growth at 11.1% CAGR (FY10-15) has been led largely by prices following the high penetration of tea consumption in India, keeping volume growth muted. HUL is the second largest branded tea company in the country and is growing aggressively in the branded coffee business with its brand Bru. Bru coffee became market leader by volume and value in Q3FY16. HUL (*Magnum, Cornetto, Paddle Pop and Kwaliti Wall's*) is India's second largest player in the ice cream segment. The segment reported 8.2% revenue growth in FY17 to ₹ 4848 crore.

With India's per capita consumption of ice cream itself low at 400 ml in comparison to 1.6 litre in Indonesia and 7 litre in Brazil, we believe the segment offers huge potential for growth for the company on the back of strong brand equity of HUL's ice cream brands. Also, with increasing green tea and coffee culture in the country (home and out-of-the home) and shift of consumers to premium flavoured teas and tea bags, premiumisation would be the key revenue driver for HUL's refreshments portfolio at 9.5% CAGR (FY17-19E), going ahead.

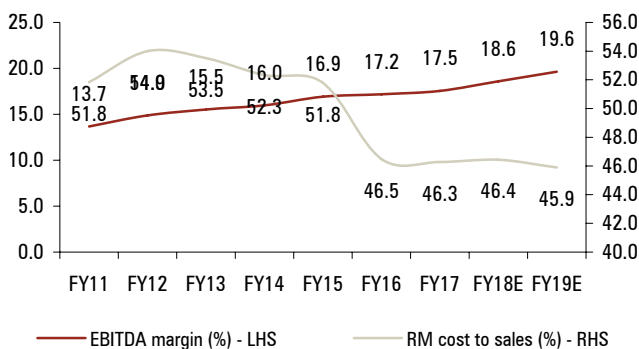
Foods business growth expected at 9.5% CAGR in FY17-19E

Earlier, HUL used to report its foods (Kissan, Knorr, Annapurna, Modern Foods), ice cream & frozen desserts as one segment under 'packaged foods' while from FY16 onwards, it has moved ice cream & frozen desserts under 'refreshment' segment & exited modern foods business. The new segment is now known as 'foods'. The foods segment, the biggest opportunity for the future but the weakest performer in HUL's portfolio, posted healthy revenue growth of 21% CAGR in FY10-15 but remained a dragger on the earnings front. We believe that though HUL has strong brands in the segment, Kissan, Knorr, the company has been unable to establish itself in the higher growth segments of packaged food (noodles, dairy, biscuits), keeping earnings growth muted. However, going forward, exit from the modern food business, extension of Knorr portfolio to masalas, cooking mixes and instant soups, and launch of premium range of Kissan jams will improve the growth outlook of the segment. In FY17, it grew marginally by 2.6% in FY17 due to various unfavourable situation throughout the year – noodle crisis, hiving off of bread business, demonetisation, etc. With HUL's increasing focus on developing its foods portfolio while driving premiumisation, we expect foods revenue growth at 9.5% CAGR (FY17-19E).

Operating margin expansion on the cards for company

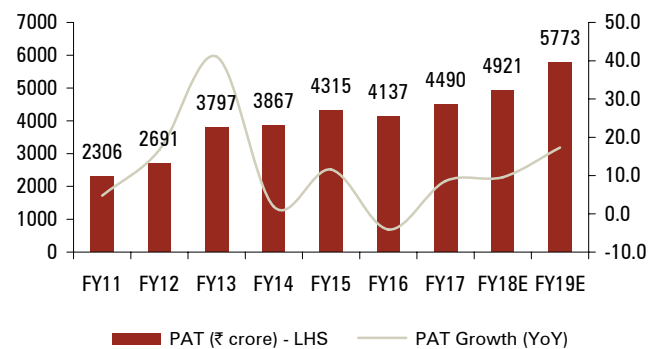
We believe that in sync with the global parent's outlook on margin expansion, HUL's margin will also improve led by premiumisation and thrust on rationalisation of marketing expense. The company is taking initiatives for effective and efficient marketing spends by rationalising on campaigns and media platforms. We are thus, factoring in ~100 bps reduction in advertisement to 9.2% of net sales in FY19E. Additionally, the company is focused on premium play across segments. Premium brands like Surf, Dove, TRESemme, Vim Liquid, Bru Gold will continue to drive growth for the company. Additionally, HUL expects uptrading by customers to further aid volume growth of premiumisation products. Thus, we expect the company to report EBITDA CAGR of 15.5% in FY17-19E with operating margin expansion of 210 bps to 19.6% in FY19E. Further, HUL's effective tax rate has increased over the years from ~17% in CY07 to 30.3% in FY15 and 30.4% in FY16 as a result of phasing out of tax benefits. However, going ahead, with tax benefits arising from the newly commissioned Assam plant, the company's tax rate would be at 29%. Thus, we are factoring in 13.4% CAGR in earnings of the company in FY17-19E.

Exhibit 3: EBITDA margin and raw material trend



Source: Company, ICICIdirect.com Research

Exhibit 4: PAT to grow at CAGR of 13.4% over FY17-19E



Source: Company, ICICIdirect.com Research

Outlook & valuation

HUL's key growth driver would be the company's presence across the value pyramid across segments. Also, with HUL's increasing focus towards premiumisation (launch of liquid detergents, Magnum, *Sunsilk* Keratin range, TRESemme, Lipton Green Tea, *Bru* Gold, flavoured tea bags, etc), we believe revenue and margins would continue to remain healthy with a revival in discretionary demand.

HUL's home care growth would be driven by a mix of volume & realisation growth on the back of premiumisation especially in the detergents. We expect home care revenue growth at 8.0% CAGR (FY17-19E). For personal care, we believe higher innovation and premiumisation, supported by brand investment, would drive the personal care segment. Hence, we estimate revenue growth at 8.0% CAGR (FY17-19E) for personal care. Led by premium tea, coffee & ice cream, the refreshment segment is estimated to grow at 9.5% CAGR (FY16-19E). The food business is also expected to register healthy growth of 9.5% (CAGR over FY16-19E) largely led by realisation growth.

HUL's Board of Directors has approved a scheme of arrangement to return ₹ 2187.3 crore (excess cash reserve) to shareholders. The company has got approval of shareholders. However, the approval of the High Court of Mumbai is still awaited. Once implemented, this move by the company is expected to drive the efficiency of the balance sheet and significantly improve return ratios. The timeline of the corporate action is unclear as the court approval is still pending.

We remain confident about the company's commitment towards growth led by innovation, volume growth, premiumisation and, thus, market share gains. We are revising our revenue estimates marginally upwards by 1.2% for FY19E. However, led by the company's initiatives to improve EBITDA margin through improving sales mix and cost rationalisation, we have revised our EBITDA estimates upwards by 10.9% and 17.1% for FY18E and FY19E (in Ind-As). Thus, our EPS estimates are also getting revised upwards by 4.2% and 9.6%, for FY18E and FY19E, respectively. We are estimating revenue and PAT CAGR of 9.2% and 13.4% in FY17-19E with 210 bps margin expansion at 19.6% in FY19E. We reiterate our **BUY** recommendation on the stock, with a revised target price of ₹ 1120/share valuing it at 42x FY19E EPS of ₹ 26.7.

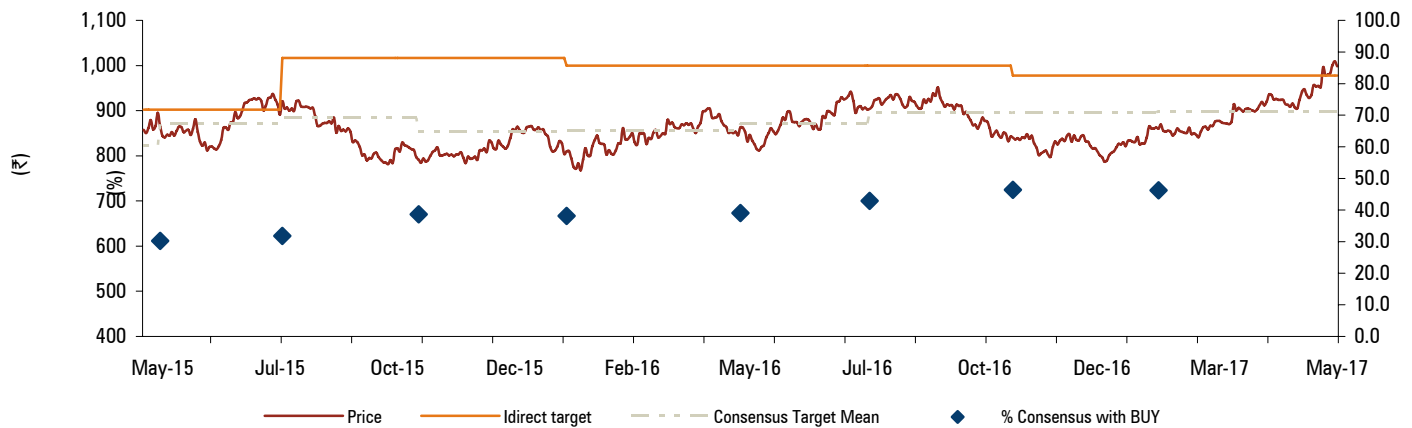
Exhibit 5: Valuations

| | Sales (₹ cr) | Growth (%) | EPS (₹) | Growth (%) | PE (x) | EV/EBITDA (x) | RoNW (%) | RoCE (%) |
|-------|-----------------|---------------|------------|---------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| FY16 | 32929.0 | 9.1 | 19.2 | -4.0 | 52.7 | 37.4 | 66.2 | 74.7 |
| FY17 | 33895.0 | 2.9 | 20.8 | 8.5 | 48.6 | 35.8 | 66.6 | 74.9 |
| FY18E | 36659.7 | 8.2 | 22.8 | 9.6 | 44.3 | 31.2 | 66.7 | 82.2 |
| FY19E | 40390.1 | 10.2 | 26.7 | 17.3 | 37.8 | 26.6 | 69.0 | 85.6 |

Source: Company, ICICIdirect.com Research

*From FY16 onwards, financials are reported as per Ind AS

Recommendation history vs. Consensus



Source: Bloomberg, Company, ICICIdirect.com Research

Key events

| Event | Description |
|--------|---|
| Feb-10 | Launches 'Must Win, 2010' programme involving strategic pricing & huge distribution push to mop up the company's falling performance |
| Dec-10 | Though profit growth remains moderate at 15%, the stock posts a return of ~28% following strong volume growth and marketing initiatives of HUL |
| Q4FY11 | Soaps & detergents margins get dented drastically due to exceptional increase in input (LAB) costs leading the stock to correct ~21% from January-March, 2011 |
| Q1FY12 | Hikes prices (5-8% overall & ~21% in S&D) to pass on input cost inflation. Gains market share from unorganised players with rising input costs |
| H1FY13 | from April, 2013) mirroring the FMCG Index as defensives were the safest bet in the market considering the slowing economic scenario |
| H2FY13 | Stock declines ~12% led by consistent weakness in volume growth (low single digits) |
| Apr-13 | Unilever announces open offer at ₹ 600/share to increase its stake in HUL to 75% from 52.5% |
| Jul-13 | The stock soars ~12% on account of FTSE and MSCI re-balancing post the closure of open offer |
| Oct-14 | Volume growth remains subdued at 4% as urban discretionary demand remain dismal |
| Dec-14 | Commodity prices including palm oil, crude and related derivatives witness significant decline |
| Sep-15 | HUL divests its bread and bakery business under the brand 'Modern' to Nimman Foods Private Ltd., an investee company of the Everstone Group |
| Dec-15 | HUL signs an agreement with Mosons Group to acquire Indulekha, a premium Ayurvedic hair oil brand, for a consideration of ₹ 330 crore |
| Mar-16 | HUL signs an agreement for sale of its rice exports business to LT Foods for a consideration of ₹ 25 crore |

Source: Company, ICICIdirect.com Research

Top 10 Shareholders

| Rank | Name | Latest Filing Date | % O/S | Position (m) | Change (m) |
|------|---|--------------------|-------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | Unilever PLC | 31-Mar-17 | 55.54 | 1,202.0 | 0.0 |
| 2 | Brooke Bond Group, Ltd. | 31-Mar-17 | 4.93 | 106.7 | 0.0 |
| 3 | Unilever UK & CN Holdings, Ltd. | 31-Mar-17 | 2.78 | 60.1 | 0.0 |
| 4 | Brooke Bond South India Estates, Ltd. | 31-Mar-17 | 2.44 | 52.7 | 0.0 |
| 5 | Life Insurance Corporation of India | 31-Mar-17 | 1.66 | 35.9 | 2.4 |
| 6 | Brooke Bond Assam Estates, Ltd. | 31-Mar-17 | 1.52 | 32.8 | 0.0 |
| 7 | Aberdeen Asset Management (Asia) Ltd. | 31-Mar-17 | 1.09 | 23.5 | 0.3 |
| 8 | The Vanguard Group, Inc. | 31-Mar-17 | 0.99 | 21.4 | 0.2 |
| 9 | BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, N.A. | 30-Apr-17 | 0.89 | 19.3 | 0.5 |
| 10 | Aberdeen Asset Managers Ltd. | 31-Mar-17 | 0.70 | 15.1 | 1.1 |

Source: Reuters, ICICIdirect.com Research

Shareholding Pattern

| (in %) | Mar-16 | Jun-16 | Sep-16 | Dec-16 | Mar-17 |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Promoter | 67.2 | 67.2 | 67.2 | 67.2 | 67.2 |
| FII | 14.2 | 14.4 | 14.2 | 13.1 | 13.3 |
| DII | 4.8 | 5.0 | 5.2 | 5.8 | 5.7 |
| Others | 13.8 | 13.4 | 13.4 | 13.9 | 13.9 |

Recent Activity

| Buys | | | Sells | | |
|---|--------|--------|--|---------|--------|
| Investor name | Value | Shares | Investor name | Value | Shares |
| Life Insurance Corporation of India | 34.38m | 2.45m | Lyxor Asset Management | -34.72m | -2.47m |
| Columbia Threadneedle Investments (US) | 25.53m | 1.76m | Fidelity Management & Research Company | -28.25m | -2.01m |
| ARISAIG Partners (Asia) Pte. Ltd. | 21.82m | 1.55m | Vontobel Asset Management, Inc. | -20.89m | -1.49m |
| Aberdeen Asset Managers Ltd. | 15.1m | 1.07m | L&T Investment Management Limited | -12.27m | -0.98m |
| BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, N.A. | 6.9m | 0.47m | Norges Bank Investment Management (NBIM) | -11.59m | -0.95m |

Source: Reuters, ICICIdirect.com Research

Financial summary

| Profit and loss statement | | ₹ Crore | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|
| (Year-end March) | FY16 | FY17 | FY18E | FY19E | |
| Total operating Income | 33491.0 | 34487.0 | 37268.7 | 41098.4 | |
| Growth (%) | 8.7 | 3.0 | 8.1 | 10.3 | |
| Raw Material Expenses | 15,305.0 | 15,685.0 | 17,024.6 | 18,540.3 | |
| Employee Expenses | 1,573.0 | 1,620.0 | 1,691.8 | 1,864.0 | |
| Marketing Expenses | 3,600.0 | 3,470.0 | 3,552.9 | 3,728.0 | |
| Administrative Expenses | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2,165.6 | 2,385.9 | |
| Other expenses | 4,834.0 | 5,068.0 | 3,085.9 | 3,399.9 | |
| Total Operating Expenditure | 27,742.0 | 28,440.2 | 30,343.6 | 33,028.2 | |
| EBITDA | 5749.0 | 6046.8 | 6925.1 | 8070.2 | |
| Growth (%) | 10.4 | 5.2 | 14.5 | 16.5 | |
| Depreciation | 321.0 | 396.0 | 326.5 | 341.7 | |
| Interest | 15.0 | 22.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Other Income | 564.0 | 526.0 | 331.8 | 401.8 | |
| Exceptional Income | -30.8 | 241.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| PBT | 5,946.2 | 6,396.4 | 6,930.4 | 8,130.3 | |
| Total Tax | 1,809.0 | 1,906.0 | 2,009.8 | 2,357.8 | |
| PAT | 4137.2 | 4490.4 | 4920.6 | 5772.5 | |
| Growth (%) | -4.1 | 8.5 | 9.6 | 17.3 | |
| EPS (₹) | 19.2 | 20.8 | 22.8 | 26.7 | |

Source: Company, ICICIdirect.com Research

*From FY16 onwards, financials are reported as per Ind AS

| Balance sheet | | ₹ Crore | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|--|
| (Year-end March) | FY16 | FY17 | FY18E | FY19E | |
| Liabilities | | | | | |
| Equity Capital | 216.0 | 216.0 | 216.0 | 216.0 | |
| Reserve and Surplus | 6,063.0 | 6,274.0 | 7,158.9 | 8,150.2 | |
| Total Shareholders funds | 6,279.0 | 6,490.0 | 7,374.9 | 8,366.2 | |
| Other Non Current Liabilities | 395.0 | 574.0 | 574.0 | 574.0 | |
| Long Term Provisions | 594.0 | 485.0 | 73.8 | 86.6 | |
| Total Liabilities | 7268.0 | 7549.0 | 8022.7 | 9026.8 | |
| Assets | | | | | |
| Gross Block | 5,064.7 | 6,212.7 | 6,712.7 | 6,812.7 | |
| Less: Acc Depreciation | 2,162.7 | 2,558.7 | 2,885.2 | 3,227.0 | |
| Net Block | 2,902.0 | 3,654.0 | 3,827.5 | 3,585.7 | |
| Capital WIP | 386.0 | 203.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Total Fixed Assets | 3,288.0 | 3,857.0 | 3,827.5 | 3,585.7 | |
| Net Intangible Assets | 12.0 | 370.0 | 370.0 | 370.0 | |
| Other Investments | 451.0 | 374.0 | 474.0 | 574.0 | |
| Liquid Investments | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Inventory | 2,528.0 | 2,362.0 | 2,510.9 | 2,766.4 | |
| Debtors | 1,064.0 | 928.0 | 1,104.8 | 1,217.2 | |
| Loans and Advances | 162.0 | 196.0 | 200.9 | 221.3 | |
| Investments & Other CA | 740.0 | 931.0 | 1,004.4 | 1,106.6 | |
| Cash | 2,759.0 | 1,671.0 | 2,282.0 | 3,351.7 | |
| Total Current Assets | 9,714.0 | 9,607.0 | 10,618.3 | 12,536.3 | |
| Creditors | 5,498.0 | 6,006.0 | 6,528.4 | 7,192.8 | |
| Provisions & other CL | 1,154.0 | 1,194.0 | 1,305.7 | 1,438.6 | |
| Total Current Liabilities | 6,652.0 | 7,200.0 | 7,834.1 | 8,631.3 | |
| Net Current Assets | 3,062.0 | 2,407.0 | 2,784.2 | 3,905.0 | |
| Others Non-Current Assets | 455.0 | 541.0 | 566.0 | 591.0 | |
| Application of Funds | 7268.0 | 7549.0 | 8022.7 | 9026.8 | |

Source: Company, ICICIdirect.com Research

*From FY16 onwards, financials are reported as per Ind AS

| Cash flow statement | | ₹ Crore | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|
| (Year-end March) | FY16 | FY17E | FY18E | FY19E | |
| Profit after Tax | 4,137.2 | 4,490.4 | 4,920.6 | 5,772.5 | |
| Add: Depreciation | 321.0 | 396.0 | 326.5 | 341.7 | |
| (Inc)/dec in Current Assets | -229.0 | -981.0 | -400.3 | -848.3 | |
| Inc/(dec) in CL and Provisions | -2,130.8 | 548.0 | 634.1 | 797.2 | |
| CF from operating activities | 2098.4 | 4453.4 | 5480.9 | 6063.1 | |
| (Inc)/dec in Investments | 203.1 | 77.0 | -100.0 | -100.0 | |
| (Inc)/dec in loans & advances | 296.5 | -94.0 | -25.0 | -25.0 | |
| (Inc)/dec in Fixed Assets | -684.4 | -1,323.0 | -297.0 | -100.0 | |
| Others | -109.1 | 78.0 | -412.2 | 12.7 | |
| CF from investing activities | -293.9 | -1262.0 | -834.2 | -212.3 | |
| Issue/(Buy back) of Equity | -0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Inc/(dec) in loan funds | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Dividend paid & dividend tax | 0.0 | -4,139.5 | -4,277.9 | -4,781.2 | |
| Inc/(dec) in Sec. premium | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Others | 19.6 | -1,500.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| CF from financing activities | 19.3 | -5639.5 | -4277.9 | -4781.2 | |
| Net Cash flow | 1,823.7 | -2,448.1 | 368.9 | 1,069.7 | |
| Opening Cash | 2,537.6 | 4,361.3 | 1,913.2 | 2,282.0 | |
| Closing Cash | 2759.0 | 1671.0 | 2282.0 | 3351.7 | |

Source: Company, ICICIdirect.com Research

| Key ratios | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|--|
| (Year-end March) | FY16 | FY17 | FY18E | FY19E | |
| Per share data (₹) | | | | | |
| EPS | 19.2 | 20.8 | 22.8 | 26.7 | |
| Cash EPS | 20.6 | 22.6 | 24.3 | 28.3 | |
| BV | 29.1 | 30.0 | 34.1 | 38.7 | |
| DPS | 16.0 | 17.0 | 19.0 | 22.5 | |
| Cash Per Share | 12.8 | 7.7 | 10.6 | 15.5 | |
| Operating Ratios (%) | | | | | |
| EBITDA/Total Operating Income | 17.2 | 17.5 | 18.6 | 19.6 | |
| PBT Margin | 17.8 | 17.8 | 18.6 | 19.8 | |
| PAT Margin | 12.4 | 13.0 | 13.2 | 14.0 | |
| Inventory days | 28 | 25 | 25 | 25 | |
| Debtor days | 12 | 10 | 11 | 11 | |
| Creditor days | 61 | 65 | 65 | 65 | |
| Return Ratios (%) | | | | | |
| RoE | 66.2 | 66.6 | 66.7 | 69.0 | |
| RoCE | 74.7 | 74.9 | 82.2 | 85.6 | |
| Valuation Ratios (x) | | | | | |
| P/E | 52.7 | 48.6 | 44.3 | 37.8 | |
| EV / EBITDA | 37.4 | 35.8 | 31.2 | 26.6 | |
| EV / Net Sales | 6.5 | 6.4 | 5.9 | 5.3 | |
| Market Cap / Sales | 6.6 | 6.4 | 5.9 | 5.4 | |
| Price to Book Value | 34.7 | 33.6 | 29.6 | 26.1 | |
| Solvency Ratios | | | | | |
| Debt/EBITDA | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Debt / Equity | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Current Ratio | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | |
| Quick Ratio | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.7 | |

Source: Company, ICICIdirect.com Research

ICICIdirect.com coverage universe (FMCG)

| Sector / Company | CMP | | | M Cap (₹ Cr) | EPS (₹) | | | P/E (x) | | | Price/Sales (x) | | | RoCE (%) | | | RoE (%) | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-----------------|---------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| | (₹) | TP(₹) | Rating | | FY17E | FY18E | FY19E | FY17E | FY18E | FY19E | FY17E | FY18E | FY19E | FY17E | FY18E | FY19E | FY17E | FY18E | FY19E |
| Colgate (COLPAL) | 977 | 990 | Hold | 27,045 | 21.2 | 23.6 | 26.0 | 46.0 | 41.5 | 38.0 | 6.0 | 5.5 | 5.0 | 64.1 | 71.4 | 70.4 | 45.3 | 50.2 | 49.3 |
| Dabur India (DABIND) | 276 | 305 | Hold | 50,368 | 7.2 | 7.5 | 8.0 | 38.1 | 36.9 | 38.0 | 6.5 | 6.1 | 5.6 | 28.0 | 25.6 | 25.5 | 26.4 | 23.4 | 22.6 |
| GSK CH (GLACON) | 5,324 | 6,074 | Buy | 22,079 | 156.1 | 176.3 | 199.2 | 34.1 | 30.2 | 30.5 | 5.0 | 4.4 | 3.8 | 30.8 | 30.3 | 31.3 | 21.0 | 21.2 | 21.7 |
| Hindustan Unilever (HINLEV) | 1,009 | 1,100 | Buy | 216,086 | 20.8 | 22.8 | 26.7 | 48.6 | 44.3 | 41.2 | 6.4 | 5.9 | 5.3 | 74.9 | 82.2 | 85.6 | 66.6 | 66.7 | 69.0 |
| ITC Limited (ITC) | 282 | 300 | Buy | 347,639 | 8.5 | 9.6 | 10.4 | 33.3 | 29.4 | 28.9 | 6.4 | 6.0 | 5.3 | 44.4 | 49.0 | 50.3 | 31.0 | 34.6 | 35.4 |
| Jyothy Lab (JYOLAB) | 382 | 397 | Buy | 6,690 | 8.8 | 10.9 | 13.3 | 43.2 | 35.1 | 29.9 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 16.4 | 17.8 | 22.8 | 14.7 | 17.4 | 20.0 |
| Marico (MARLIM) | 308 | 341 | Hold | 40,641 | 6.3 | 6.9 | 8.4 | 48.9 | 44.6 | 40.4 | 6.9 | 5.9 | 5.0 | 44.6 | 45.1 | 49.4 | 34.9 | 34.6 | 37.7 |
| Nestle (NESIND) | 6,558 | 7,420 | Buy | 63,637 | 103.9 | 133.4 | 154.5 | 63.1 | 49.2 | 48.0 | 6.8 | 5.9 | 5.3 | 34.9 | 36.7 | 44.3 | 36.2 | 40.0 | 44.1 |
| Tata Global Bev (TATGLO) | 153 | 147 | Hold | 9,041 | 8.2 | 8.8 | 9.4 | 18.6 | 17.4 | 15.7 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 9.5 | 9.9 | 10.1 | 8.0 | 8.7 | 8.7 |
| VST Industries (VSTIND) | 2,958 | 3,320 | Hold | 4,790 | 108.3 | 127.1 | 150.8 | 27.3 | 23.3 | 22.0 | 5.1 | 4.5 | 4.0 | 45.0 | 47.2 | 49.5 | 31.1 | 32.8 | 34.8 |

Source: Company, ICICIdirect.com Research

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