

Volume momentum continues; Cost inflation dents margin

Deccan Cements (DCL) registered 19% YoY volume growth in Q4FY18, buoyed by sustained demand in AP/Telangana markets and demand recovery in other south markets. Still, aggressive pricing across south and elevated energy and freight costs continued to impact profitability - EBITDA/PAT down 17%/19% YoY. We continue to like DCL owing to (1) its strong balance sheet and (2) as we expect pricing to recover in south which should help the industry pass on the energy cost inflation. DCL is trading at extremely cheap valuations (13% AOCF/EV yield, 5x FY20E EBITDA and USD41/MT replacement cost). We reiterate BUY with a revised TP of Rs670.

- Strong regional demand in AP/T boosted 19% YoY volume uptick in Q4FY18:** DCL's sales volume rose 19% YoY and 19% QoQ to 0.43mn MT in Q4FY18, leading to 76% utilisation vs 64% YoY and 64% QoQ. Management said sustained strong demand in AP/T helped them register strong volume growth. However, the management said that there is good competitive pressure from all brands in the region and hence there is no pricing gain despite robust demand. NSR rose 3% QoQ and 2% YoY. While actual NSR is down YoY, the reported NSR is higher owing to FOR based reporting, which has led to both increased realisation and freight cost. On QoQ basis, the NSR growth is led by better pricing as the management remained selective in terms of pricing.
- Rising costs further dent margins:** DCL's unitary cost inflation (+10% YoY and 4% QoQ) is led by rising fuel and diesel prices. Thus unitary input cost rose 8% YoY and 5% QoQ. DCL guided that coal prices continued to increase QoQ. Employee cost fell on QoQ and YoY basis, mainly on account of annual adjustment under IndAS reporting. Freight cost per MT is also very high YoY owing to FOR based reporting impact and on higher diesel prices. Other expense per MT fell 3% YoY on better utilisation (despite higher packaging costs). Thus, unitary EBITDA fell 30% YoY to Rs503/MT (flat QoQ). Subsequently, EBITDA fell 17% YoY despite 19% volume growth. As DCL further cut its debt during FY18 (halved YoY), interest expense fell 43% YoY in Q4FY18. However, amid weak EBITDA, PAT fell 19% YoY.
- While earnings declined, cashflows recovered in FY18, DCL turned net cash in FY18:** During FY18, DCL reduced its non-cash working capital on the books. Cash conversion cycle also marginally improved to 45days vs 48days YoY. Thus, despite lower EBITDA/PAT, OCF recovered ~30% YoY to ~Rs0.8bn. As interest outgo fell, adjusted OCF (OCF-interest exp) also rose 35% YoY to Rs0.73bn. As against large op cash generation, DCL is currently incurring only maintenance capex, leading to surge in free cashflow. Thus, DCL reduced debt by ~50% in FY18 and is now a net cash company with net D:E of (0.1)x. The management indicated that they don't have any expansion plans for FY19, as DCL still has surplus capacity (FY18 utilisation at 65%).
- Trading at very cheap valuations, Maintain BUY:** We trim FY19/20 EBITDA estimates by 6% each owing to slower price recovery in south and on account of elevated cost pressure. We understand DCL would accumulate cash over next 1-2 years before taking major expansion plans and thus it can avoid stress on the balance sheet. We maintain BUY on DCL with a revised TP of Rs670 valuing it at 8.9% AOCF/EV yield on its FY16-20E average AOCF (implying 7.2x FY20 EBITDA). Despite strong demand outlook for south and DCL's robust balance sheet, DCL's stock is currently trading at cheap valuations of ~13% AOCF yield on FY16-20E avg AOCF, at 5x FY20E EBITDA and at replacement cost of USD41/MT. Even if the pricing recovery is delayed, leading to further earnings downgrades, the valuations would still be attractive (ie AOCF yield at ~11% and replacement value below USD45/MT).

Y/E Mar (Rsmn)	Q4FY18	Q4FY17	YoY (%)	Q3FY18	QoQ (%)	Q4FY18E	Variance(%)
Net Sales	1,636	1,352	21.0	1,341	22.0	1,533	6.8
Op. cost	1,423	1,094	30.0	1,159	22.7	1,347	5.6
EBITDA	214	258	(17.2)	182	17.4	186	15.3
EBITDA margin (%)	13.1	19.1	(604)bps	13.6	(52)bps	12.1	96bps
Depreciation	57	60	(5.0)	57	(0.8)	56	1.6
Interest	14	24	(42.9)	14	(3.3)	15	(6.8)
Other Income	6	9	(32.4)	21	(69.2)	20	(68.1)
PBT	150	184	(18.6)	131		135	11.0
Taxes paid	63	76	-	42	-	47	32.8
Adjusted PAT	87	108	(19.4)	89	(2.8)	88	(0.7)

Source: Company, Centrum Research Estimates

Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	Revenue	YoY (%)	EBITDA	EBITDA (%)	APAT	YoY (%)	DEPS (Rs)	RoE (%)	RoCE (%)	P/E (x)	EV/EBITDA (x)
FY16	5,396	32.5	1,146	21.2	456	129.2	32.5	17.2	11.9	7.7	3.5
FY17	4,962	(8.0)	997	20.1	469	2.9	33.5	15.2	11.5	14.0	6.8
FY18	5,702	14.9	852	14.9	385	(17.8)	27.5	11.1	9.0	21.0	9.0
FY19E	6,374	11.8	1,014	15.9	528	36.9	37.7	13.6	11.3	12.4	5.5
FY20E	7,125	11.8	1,217	17.1	676	28.1	48.3	15.4	13.0	9.7	4.9

Source: Company, Centrum Research Estimates, Standalone Financials

In the interest of timeliness, this document is not edited

Centrum Equity Research is available on Bloomberg, Thomson Reuters and FactSet

Target Price	Rs670	Key Data	
CMP*	Rs467	Bloomberg Code	DECM IN
Upside	43%	Curr Shares O/S (mn)	14.0
Previous Target	Rs720	Diluted Shares O/S(mn)	14.0
Previous Rating	Buy	Mkt Cap (Rsbn/USDmn)	6.5/96.3
Price Performance (%)*		52 Wk H / L (Rs)	660/459.4
	1M 6M 1Yr	5 Year H / L (Rs)	660/71
DECM IN	(11.5) (17.7) (17.0)	Daily Vol. (3M NSE Avg.)	3720
NIFTY	(0.6) 2.6 10.7		

*as on 29 May 2018; Source: Bloomberg, Centrum Research

Shareholding pattern (%)*

	Mar - 18	Dec - 17	Sep - 17	Jun - 17
Promoter	56.2	56.2	56.2	56.2
FIs	1.8	1.4	1.2	1.0
Dom. Inst.	13.9	12.3	12.3	15.6
Public & Others	28.2	30.1	30.3	27.2

Source: BSE, *as on 9 February 2018

Operational performance

	Q4FY18	Q4FY17	YoY (%)	Q3FY18	QoQ (%)
Sales vol (mn MT)	0.43	0.36	18.6	0.36	18.6
Rs/ MT trends					
NSR	3,845	3,767	2.1	3,737	2.9
Raw materials	440	412	6.7	329	33.6
Power & fuel	1,181	1,094	8.0	1,219	(3.0)
Freight/Distn	1,069	787	35.9	1,062	0.7
Employee	116	205	(43.4)	174	(33.1)
Other Exp	535	549	(2.5)	445	20.2
Opex	3,342	3,047	9.7	3,229	3.5
EBITDA	503	720	(30.2)	508	(1.0)

Source: Company, Centrum Research

Earning Revisions

Particulars (Rs mn)	FY19E			FY20E		
	New	Old	Chg (%)	New	Old	Chg (%)
Sales	6,374	6,432	(0.9)	7,125	7,158	(0.5)
EBITDA	1,014	1,080	(6.1)	1,217	1,288	(5.5)
Ebitda margin (%)	15.9	16.8		17.1	18.0	
Adj PAT	528	570	(7.4)	676	721	(6.2)

Source: Centrum Research Estimates

Centrum vs. Bloomberg Consensus*

Particulars (Rs mn)	FY19E			FY20E		
	Centrum	BGG	Var (%)	Centrum	BGG	Var (%)
Net Sales	6,374	6,457	(1.3)	7,125	7,220	(1.3)
EBITDA	1,014	1,047	(3.2)	1,217	1,245	(2.3)
PAT	528	519	1.7	676	661	2.3

Bloomberg Consensus*				Centrum Target Price (Rs)	Variance (%)
BUY	SELL	HOLD	Target Price (Rs)		
6	0	0	736	670	(9.0)

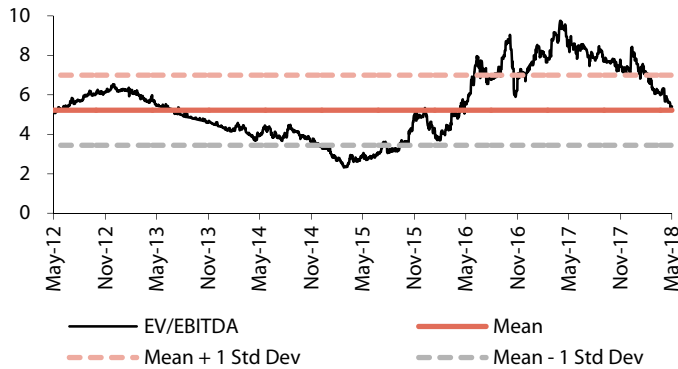
*as on 29 May 2018; Source: Bloomberg, Centrum Research Estimates

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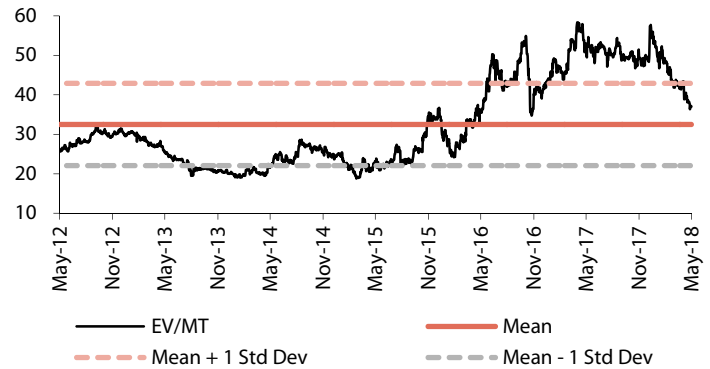
Valuations, peer comparisons and key assumptions

Exhibit 1: 1-yr forward EV/EBITDA chart



Source: Bloomberg, Company, Centrum Research Estimates

Exhibit 2: 1-yr forward EV/MT chart



Source: Bloomberg, Company, Centrum Research Estimates

Exhibit 3: Comparative Valuations

Company	Mkt Cap (Rs bn)	CAGR FY18-20E (%)			EBITDA margin (%)			RoCE (%)			RoE (%)			EV/EBITDA (x)			EV/MT (x)		
		Rev.	EBITDA	PAT	FY18	FY19E	FY20E	FY18	FY19E	FY20E	FY18	FY19E	FY20E	FY18	FY19E	FY20E	FY18	FY19E	FY20E
Deccan Cements	6.5	11.8	19.5	32.4	14.9	15.9	17.1	9.0	11.3	13.0	11.1	13.6	15.4	9.0	5.5	4.9	52	38	41
Orient Cement	25.2	33.6	49.5	98.5	13.7	14.9	17.2	5.2	6.0	7.9	4.4	6.6	9.5	12.4	12.4	7.6	73	81	78
Ramco Cements	185.7	14.5	18.5	27.6	25.0	25.7	26.7	9.4	11.8	13.5	14.3	16.3	17.9	16.3	15.0	12.5	184	200	175
JK Cement	66.6	10.8	18.4	28.9	16.2	17.2	18.6	9.7	11.1	11.8	16.6	19.6	19.9	11.9	9.8	8.6	101	95	87

Source: Company, Centrum Research Estimates

We retain BUY on the stock, with a revised TP of Rs670. We expect DCL to deliver 5-year avg AOCF of Rs791mn during FY16-20E. We apply target AOCF/EV yield of 8.9%. Our TP implies 7.2x EV/EBITDA on our FY20 estimates and replacement value of USD60/MT (FY20E). Given the strong company fundamentals (unlevered balance sheet, good return ratios) and rising demand outlook for south market, we believe the valuations to rebound.

Exhibit 4: Cash flow-based valuation

Average AOCF/EV Yield - % - FY14-18	8.9
Premium assigned - %	0
Target AOCF/EV Yield - %	8.9
Implied EV/5-yr AOCF Multiple (x)	11.2
5-yr avg. AOCF (Rs mn) - FY16-20E	793
EV (Rs mn)	8,873
Less: Net Cash – FY20E (Rs mn)	(550)
Fair value mkt cap (Rs mn)	9,423
No. of shares (mn)	14.0
Target price/share (Rs)	670

Source: Company, Centrum Research Estimates

Exhibit 5: Key Operational Assumptions

Particulars	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18E	FY19E	FY20E
Capacity (mn MT)	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
Sales Volume (mn MT)	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.7
YoY change (%)	0.1	22.0	1.5	9.8	8.0	8.0
Utilisation (%)	48.0	58.5	59.4	65.2	70.5	76.1
(Rs/ MT trend)						
NSR	3,772	4,097	3,712	3,885	4,021	4,162
YoY change (%)	10.6	8.6	(9.4)	4.7	3.5	3.5
Raw Materials & stock adj	324	376	339	403	400	410
Power & Fuel	1,247	1,123	1,067	1,155	1,212	1,249
Freight costs	835	940	815	1,075	1,113	1,140
Employee cost	156	166	168	165	163	163
Other expense	612	622	577	507	493	488
Total Opex	3,174	3,227	2,966	3,304	3,381	3,451
EBITDA per MT	598	870	746	581	640	711
YoY change (%)	12.5	45.5	(14.3)	(22.2)	10.1	11.1

Source: Company, Centrum Research Estimate

Exhibit 6: Quarterly financials trend

Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	Q1FY17	Q2FY17	Q3FY17	Q4FY17	Q1FY18	Q2FY18	Q3FY18	Q4FY18
Net Sales	1,174	1,291	1,139	1,352	1,355	1,362	1,341	1,636
Total Expenditure	940	1,019	904	1,094	1,110	1,151	1,159	1,423
Raw Materials	131	118	56	148	151	134	118	187
Power and Fuel	330	357	347	393	381	373	437	503
Employee	55	47	48	74	61	69	62	49
Selling & Distn exp	343	402	365	282	411	498	381	455
Others	81	94	88	197	106	76	160	228
EBITDA	234	272	234	258	245	210	182	214
Depreciation	52	53	53	60	56	57	57	57
EBIT	182	219	182	199	190	153	125	157
Interest	19	18	16	24	15	15	14	14
Other Income	10	6	5	9	5	9	21	6
PBT	174	207	170	184	180	147	131	150
Taxes	61	71	59	76	67	52	42	63
Exceptional inc/ (exp)	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	-
Reported PAT	113	136	111	108	114	95	89	87
Adjusted PAT	113	136	111	108	114	95	89	87
YoY Growth (%)								
Revenue	(20.9)	(10.0)	(2.8)	3.6	15.4	5.5	17.8	21.0
EBITDA	(17.5)	(27.5)	9.9	(14.7)	4.7	(22.8)	(22.1)	(17.2)
PBT	(5.8)	(38.4)	30.1	(20.8)	3.8	(29.1)	(22.9)	(18.6)
Adj PAT	(18.7)	(41.7)	78.1	8.4	0.6	(29.9)	(19.6)	(19.4)
Margins (%)								
EBITDA	20.0	21.1	20.6	19.1	18.1	15.4	13.6	13.1
PBT	14.8	16.0	15.0	13.6	13.3	10.8	9.8	9.1
Adj PAT	9.6	10.5	9.8	8.0	8.4	7.0	6.7	5.3
Operational Trends								
Sales Vol (mn MT)	0.35	0.34	0.29	0.36	0.34	0.34	0.36	0.43
YoY Growth (%)	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.5	(1.0)	0.5	23.1	18.6
Trends (Rs/mt)								
Net avg realisation	3,404	3,797	3,903	3,767	3,970	3,984	3,737	3,845
YoY Growth (%)	(21.9)	(11.8)	(3.7)	2.0	16.6	4.9	(4.3)	2.1
Raw material cost	381	346	190	412	443	392	329	440
Power and fuel cost	956	1,051	1,190	1,094	1,116	1,093	1,219	1,181
Employee cost	160	139	166	205	178	202	174	116
Selling & Distn exp	995	1,181	1,252	787	1,202	1,458	1,062	1,069
Other expenses	234	277	302	549	311	224	445	535
Operating cost	2,725	2,996	3,101	3,047	3,251	3,369	3,229	3,342
EBITDA - Cement (Rs/MT)	680	801	802	720	719	615	508	503

Source: Company, Centrum Research, We have made the IndAS adjustment, thereby reducing revenue and Selling & Distn exp for the 'Rebates, discounts and price differences

Financials- Standalone

Exhibit 7: Income Statement

Y/E March (Rsmn)	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19E	FY20E
Revenues	5,396	4,962	5,702	6,374	7,125
Materials cost	495	453	591	634	702
% of revenues	9.2	9.1	10.4	9.9	9.9
Employee Cost	218	224	242	259	279
% of revenues	4.0	4.5	4.2	4.1	3.9
Others	3,536	3,288	4,017	4,467	4,927
% of revenues	65.5	66.3	70.4	70.1	69.1
EBITDA	1,146	997	852	1,014	1,217
EBITDA Margins (%)	21.2	20.1	14.9	15.9	17.1
Depreciation & Amortisation	203	217	227	232	237
EBIT	943	780	626	782	980
Interest expenses	152	68	57	30	20
PBT from operations	791	712	569	752	960
Other Income	15	24	40	60	80
Exceptional loss/(gain)	-	-	-	-	-
PBT	806	736	608	812	1,040
Taxes	350	267	223	284	364
Effective tax rate (%)	43.5	36.3	36.6	35.0	35.0
PAT	456	469	385	528	676
Reported Net Profit	456	469	385	528	676
Adj Net Profit	456	469	385	528	676

Source: Company, Centrum Research Estimates

Exhibit 8: Key Ratios

Y/E March	FY16	FY17	FY18P	FY19E	FY20E
Growth ratios (%)					
Revenues	32.5	(8.0)	14.9	11.8	11.8
EBITDA	77.5	(13.0)	(14.5)	18.9	20.0
Adj Net Profit	129.2	2.9	(17.8)	36.9	28.1
Margin ratios (%)					
EBITDA Margin	21.2	20.1	14.9	15.9	17.1
PBT from operations Margin	14.7	14.3	10.0	11.8	13.5
Adj PAT Margin	8.4	9.4	6.8	8.3	9.5
Return Ratios (%)					
RoE	17.2	15.2	11.1	13.6	15.4
RoCE	11.9	11.5	9.0	11.3	13.0
RoIC	12.6	12.4	9.9	13.2	14.8
Turnover Ratios (days)					
Gross block turnover (x)	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1
Debtors	6	8	9	8	8
Inventory	36	42	38	37	37
Creditors	14	2	2	2	2
Cash conversion cycle	28	48	45	43	44
Solvency Ratio					
Net debt-equity	0.2	0.1	(0.1)	(0.2)	(0.1)
Debt-equity	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Interest coverage ratio	6.2	11.4	11.0	26.0	48.8
Gross debt/EBITDA	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.2
Current Ratio	1.7	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.0
Per Share (Rs)					
Adjusted EPS	32.5	33.5	27.5	37.7	48.3
BVPS	204.4	237.2	260.8	292.5	332.3
CEPS	47.1	49.0	43.7	54.2	65.2
DPS	2.5	3.0	3.0	5.0	7.0
Dividend payout %	9.2	10.8	13.1	16.0	17.5
Valuations (x)(Avg Mkt Cap)					
P/E (adjusted)	7.7	14.0	21.0	12.4	9.7
P/BV	1.2	2.0	2.2	1.6	1.4
EV/EBITDA	3.5	6.8	9.0	5.5	4.9
EV/ton (USD \$)	27	46	52	38	41
Dividend yield %	1.0	0.6	0.5	1.1	1.5
5 Yr Avg AOCF/EV yield %	12.5	7.2	7.8	12.9	13.1

Source: Company, Centrum Research Estimates, FY16/FY17 valuations are on historical annual average market caps

Exhibit 9: Balance Sheet

Y/E March (Rsmn)	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19E	FY20E
Equity Share Capital	70	70	70	70	70
Reserves & surplus	2,791	3,253	3,584	4,027	4,585
Total Shareholders' Fund	2,861	3,323	3,654	4,097	4,655
Total Debt	795	702	351	251	251
Def tax liab. (net)	579	612	651	651	651
Total Liabilities	4,235	4,637	4,655	4,999	5,557
Gross Block	5,683	6,248	6,335	6,515	6,615
Less:- Accumulated Depreciation	2,261	2,478	2,705	2,937	3,174
Net Block	3,422	3,770	3,630	3,578	3,442
Capital WIP	340	1	44	14	1,014
Net Fixed assets	3,763	3,771	3,674	3,593	4,456
Investments	1	1	1	1	1
Inventories	538	575	589	637	727
Sundry Debtors	82	107	134	147	164
Cash & bank balances	350	531	762	1,202	801
Loans & Advances	180	3	2	6	7
Other Assets	14	358	434	478	534
Total current assets	1,163	1,574	1,921	2,470	2,233
Trade payables	204	31	26	32	36
Other current liabilities	446	636	870	924	998
Provisions	42	42	45	108	100
Net current assets	471	865	980	1,406	1,100
Total	4,235	4,637	4,655	4,999	5,557

Source: Company, Centrum Research Estimates

Exhibit 10: Cash Flow

Y/E March (Rsmn)	FY16	FY17	FY18E	FY19E	FY20E
Op profit before WC changes	969	780	669	730	853
Working capital changes	433	(178)	116	14	(95)
Cash from Operations	1,402	602	785	744	758
Adj. OCF (OCF-Interest)	1,242	534	728	714	737
Net capex	(77)	(225)	(130)	(150)	(1,100)
Adj. FCF (AOCF-Capex)	1,165	310	598	564	(363)
Cash from investing	(68)	(214)	(91)	(90)	(1,020)
Cash from financing	(1,247)	(242)	(458)	(214)	(138)
Net change in cash	87	146	235	440	(401)

Source: Company, Centrum Research Estimates

Appendix A

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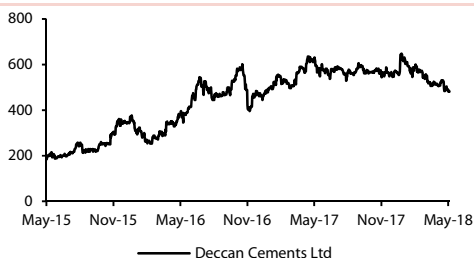
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Deccan Cements price chart



Source: Bloomberg, Centrum Research

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Hold	Upside between -20% to +20%	Upside between -15% to +15%	Upside between -10% to +10%
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