# Ambuja Cement (AMBCE)

CMP: ₹ 201

Target: ₹ 211 (5%) Target Period: 12 months



# Lower volumes more than offset by reduced costs...

Ambuja Cements recorded a strong operating performance (standalone) with EBITDA margin expansion of 389 bps YoY to 27.3%. In spite of complete lockdown in April, volume decline of 28% YoY was more than offset by lower costs, which fell 30.6% YoY. Revenues for the guarter were at ₹ 2177 crore (vs. I-direct estimate of ₹ 2091 crore). Sales volumes declined 28% YoY to 4.19 MT (vs. I-direct estimate of 4.08 MT), realisations improved sharply by 6.0% QoQ to ₹ 5195/t (vs. I-direct estimate of ₹ 5,121/t) mainly due to a firm pricing environment. EBITDA margins expanded 389 bps YoY to 27.3% (far ahead of I-direct estimate of 18.9%). EBITDA expansion was driven by better realisations, enhanced focus on supply chain management, contract negotiations and fuel efficiencies that helped addressing the impact of lower volumes. Other income was also up 231% YoY to ₹ 192 crore as it included dividend income of ₹ 132 crore from ACC that led to net profit growth of 10% YoY to ₹ 453 crore (vs. I-direct estimate: ₹ 217 crore).

### Topline growth to revive from CY21

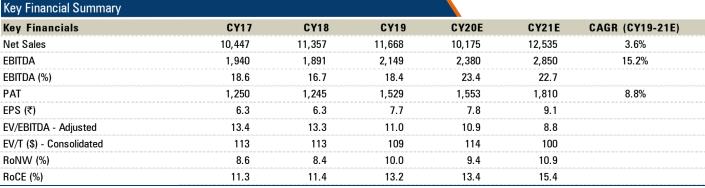
Ambuja Cement remains the fourth largest cement player in individual capacity terms with 29.7 MT spread across North, Central (40%), West, South (37%) and eastern region (23%) in India. However, combined with ACC, the Holcim group stays second largest cement player in India. Despite the strong position, the company has been unable maintain its market share over the past five years. While all-India cement dispatches grew at a CAGR of 4.4%, the company managed to grew dispatches at 2.7% CAGR in CY15-19. Ambuja is adding new capacity at Marwar to address growth concerns. However, the same is not enough to capture the lost market share. The new capacity will likely get commissioned by Q1CY21E. Thus, volume growth is expected to revive only from CY21E while CY20E would remain challenging due to Covid pandemic. We model 14.6% decline, 24.4% growth in volumes in CY20E, CY21E, respectively. Thus, we expect revenues to decline 13% in CY20E and grow 23% in CY21E to ₹ 12,535 crore.

# Margin profile, liquidity to remain firm

The average CoP of Ambuja has remained broadly in line with the industry average helping the company to maintain healthy margins aided by trade mix. Further, being conservative on the expansion front, the company's liquidity profile remains superior compared to the industry. While Ambuja has undertaken capacity expansions, a strong cash buffer would not lead to any compromise on the balance sheet strength.

#### Valuation & Outlook

Although the company has managed to offset the lower business through cost control, it would continue to remain a laggard in terms of gaining market share and growth in the long run. After the recent run-up in the stock price, we now downgrade the stock to HOLD with a revised target price of ₹ 211 (implying a consolidated EV/t of \$110, 9.5x CY21E EV/EBITDA).





HOLD



Amount
₹ 39912 crore
₹ 72 crore
₹ 4699 crore
₹ 35284 crore
₹ 240 / 136
₹ 397.1 crore
₹2

#### **Key Highlights**

- Topline decline driven mainly by drop in volumes
- Firm pricing and stricter cost control helped company to achieve highest ever margin of over 27% after CY12
- Return ratios to improve led by higher operating profits
- Downgrade from BUY to HOLD with a target price of ₹ 211 (earlier: ₹ 195)

#### **Research Analyst**

Rashesh Shah rashes.shah@icicisecurities.com

Exhibit 1: Variance				N. M.(0/ )	0401/00	0.0(0()	
	U2CY20	Q2CY20E	U2CY19	YOY(%)	U1CY20	<b>QoQ</b> (%)	Comments
Net Sales	2,177	2,091	2,978	-26.9	2,828	-23.0	Volumes de-grew 28.7% YoY while realisations were up 2.4% YoY
Other Incomes	192	60	58	231.6	88	118.0	
Raw Material Expenses	187	196	259	-27.6	290	-35.6	Cost of flyash and gympsum helped to control RM cost per tonne
Employee Expenses	149	172	169	-11.5	172	-13.2	
Change in stock	44.4	0.0	33.2	N.A	-39.0	N.A	
Power and fuel	414	394	609	-32.0	562	-26.4	
Freight	503	535	740	-32.0	742	-32.2	
Others	283	400	470	-39.8	496	-42.9	
EBITDA	595	394	698	-14.8	603	-1.3	Better realisations, lower fuel costs along with savings in logistics on account of re-negotiations with contracts led to margin expansion
EBITDA Margin (%)	27.3	18.9	23.4	389 bps	21.3	601 bps	
Interest	18	27	21	-12.3	23	-20.8	
Depreciation	129	139	131	-1.5	138	-6.5	
PBT	640	288	605	5.9	530	20.7	
Total Tax	186.8	71.3	192.6	-3.0	131.3	42.3	
Adjusted PAT	453	217	412	10.0	399	13.6	
Key Metrics							
Volume (MT)	4.19	4.08	5.87	-28.6	5.77	-27.4	
Realisation (₹)	5,195	5,121	5,074	2.4	4,900	6.0	
EBITDA per Tonne (₹)	1,421	966	1,190	19.4	1,045	35.9	

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

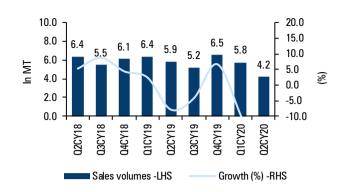
Exhibit 2: Change in estimates								
		CY20E			CY21E			
(₹ Crore)	Old	New	% Change	Old	New	% Change		
Revenue	10,260	10,175	-0.8	12407	12,535	1.0		
EBITDA	1,760	2,386	35.6	2518	2,850	13.2	Firm pricing and tight cost control as visible in Q2CY20 should led to far better margin profile, going forward	
EBITDA Margin (%)	17.2	23.4	629 bps	20.3	22.7	244 bps		

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 3: Key assumptions								
		Curr	ent		Ear	lier		
	CY18	CY19	CY20E	CY21E	CY20E	CY21E		
Volume (MT)	24.2	24.0	20.5	25.5	21.7	25.5		
Realisation (₹)	4,697	4,860	4,962	4,913	4,721	4,862		
EBITDA per Tonne (₹)	782	895	1,151	1,117	828	987		

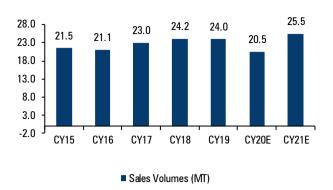
# Financial story

## Exhibit 4: Sales volumes decline 28.6% YoY



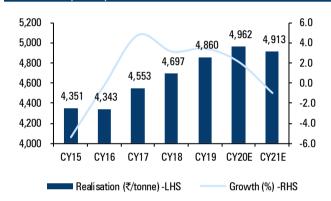
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

#### Exhibit 5: Volumes to grow at 3.1% CAGR over CY19-21E



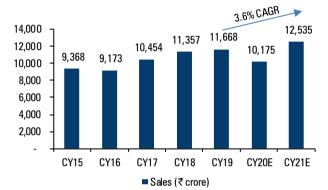
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 6: Realisations to rebound in CY20E, moderate in CY21E with pick-up in volumes



Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

#### Exhibit 7: Revenue growth expected at 3.6% CAGR CY19-21E



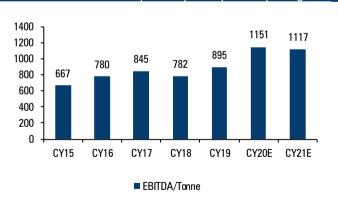
Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

# Exhibit 8: EBITDA/t for Q2CY20 grows 19.4% YoY

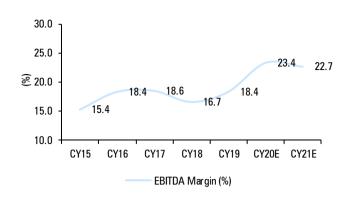


Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 9: EBITDA/t to stay healthy led by better pricing



## Exhibit 10: Margins to rebound in CY20E, moderate in CY21E

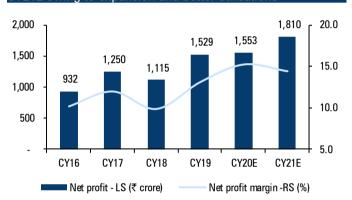


Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

#### Exhibit 11: Expect EBITDA CAGR of 15.2% during CY19-21E 2,850 3,000 2,380 2,500 2,149 1,940 1,891 2,000 1,692 1,438 1,500 1,000 500 CY15 CY16 CY17 CY18 CY19 CY20E CY21E ■ EBITDA

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

# Exhibit 12: PAT to remain flattish in CY20; to rebound in CY21E owing to expansion and better utilisations



Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 13: Capacity expansion plans	
Particulars	Capacity (MT)
Existing Grinding capacity(MT)	29.7
Ongoing expansion:	
Marwar, Rajasthan (3.1 MT clinker capacity)	1.8
Total	1.8
Total capacity by CY20E (MT)	31.5

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 14: Fair value calculation - SOTP	
Fair value calculation	in ₹ crore
EBITDA Estimates CY21E	2850
Target EV/EBITDA	10
Target Enterprise value	27076
Debt	72
Balance Cash and cash equivalents	4217
Target equity value	31221
No. of shares outstanding	199
Fair value of Ambuja [A]	157
ACC's fair equity valuation	27231
Valuation of 50% stake [B]	13616
Holding company discount	20%
Net value to Ambuja	10892
No. of shares outstanding	199
Fair value of Investment in ACC [B]	54
Fair value per share [A+B]	211
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Source: Bloomberg, Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 16	6: Top 10 Shareh	olders			
Rank	Investor Nar	Filing Date	% 0/S P	osition (m)	Change
1	Holderind Invst	31-Mar-20	63.1	1,253.16m	0.00m
2	Life Insurance	31-Mar-20	3.9	77.79m	(17.89)m
3	Hdfc Asset Ma	30-Jun-20	3.7	72.92m	(3.50)m
4	Republic Of Sin	31-Mar-20	2.1	42.49m	(0.14)m
5	Vanguard Grou	30-Jun-20	1.3	26.13m	(2.27)m
6	Nomura	20-Jul-20	1.2	24.58m	(0.00)m
7	Sbi Funds Man	30-Jun-20	1.0	19.14m	0.14m
8	Blackrock	17-Jul-20	0.9	17.27m	(4.32)m
9	Jpmorgan Chas	31-Mar-20	0.8	15.41m	(6.40)m
10	Uti Asset Mana	30-Jun-20	0.6	11.09m	1.14m

Source: Reuters, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 17: Shar	eholding Pattern				
(in %)	Jun-19	Sep-19	Dec-19	Mar-20	Jun-20
Promoter	63.45	63.42	63.39	63.28	63.27
FII	17.67	17.04	16.38	15.66	16.25
DII	11.24	12.66	13.27	14.16	13.60
Others	7.64	6.88	6.96	6.90	6.88

# Financial summary

Exhibit 18: Profit and loss statement ₹ crore									
(Year-end March)	CY18	CY19	CY20E	CY21E					
Total operating Incor	11,356.8	11,667.9	10,174.7	12,535.0					
Growth (%)	8.7	2.7	-12.8	23.2					
Raw material	942.3	1125.5	983.7	1250.2					
Power & Fuel	2549.0	2586.4	2018.6	2500.5					
Employees	679.5	672.6	664.6	754.7					
Freight	3277.6	3094.2	2498.9	3138.3					
Others	2016.9	2040.3	1623.2	2041.2					
Total Operating Exp.	9,465.3	9,519.0	7,788.9	9,684.9					
EBITDA	1,891.5	2,148.9	2,385.8	2,850.1					
Growth (%)	-2.1	13.6	11.0	19.5					
Depreciation	548.1	543.8	556.2	623.9					
Interest	82.3	83.5	95.1	208.0					
Other Income	375.0	426.5	465.3	400.0					
Exceptional items	130.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					
PBT	1,506.1	1,948.1	2,199.8	2,418.2					
Total Tax	391.1	419.5	640.9	608.7					
PAT	1,115.0	1,528.6	1,558.8	1,809.6					
Adjusted PAT	1,245.0	1,528.6	1,553.5	1,809.6					
Growth (%)	-0.4	22.8	1.6	16.5					
Adjusted EPS (₹)	5.6	7.7	7.8	9.1					

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 19: Cash flow statement ₹								
(Year-end March)	CY18	CY19	CY20E	CY21E				
Profit after Tax	1,115.0	1,528.6	1,553.5	1,809.6				
Add: Depreciation	548.1	543.8	556.2	623.9				
(Inc)/dec in Current Assets	-613.8	188.3	362.4	-1,285.2				
Inc/(dec) in CL and Provisions	-484.8	587.7	-1,254.7	1,460.2				
CF from operating activit	564.5	2,848.3	1,217.4	2,608.4				
(Inc)/dec in Investments	30.9	24.8	0.0	0.0				
(Inc)/dec in Fixed Assets	-701.8	-1,191.3	-1,950.0	-500.0				
Others								
CF from investing activit	-670.9	-1,166.6	-1,950.0	-500.0				
Issue/(Buy back) of Equity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
Inc/(dec) in loan funds	15.0	23.7	0.0	0.0				
Dividend paid & dividend tax	-929.3	-929.3	-929.3	-929.3				
Inc/(dec) in Sec. premium	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
Others	853.6	593.4	0.0	0.0				
CF from financing activit	-60.7	-312.2	-929.3	-929.3				
Net Cash flow	-167.1	1,369.5	-1,661.9	1,179.1				
Opening Cash	3,497.1	3,330.0	4,699.5	3,037.6				
Closing Cash	3,330.0	4,699.5	3,037.6	4,216.7				

Exhibit 20: Balance sheet ₹ crore								
(Year-end March)	CY18	CY19	CY20E	CY21E				
Liabilities								
Equity Capital	397.1	397.1	397.1	397.1				
Reserve and Surplus	20,615.4	21,808.1	22,432.2	23,312.5				
Total Shareholders funds	21,012.5	22,205.2	22,829.4	23,709.6				
Total Debt	48.1	71.7	71.7	71.7				
Deferred Tax Liability	977.3	1,122.3	1,022.3	872.3				
Total Liabilities	22,037.8	23,399.2	23,923.4	24,653.6				
Assets								
Gross Block	13,420.2	14,112.9	14,411.6	17,581.6				
Less: Acc Depreciation	7,756.6	8,300.4	8,856.6	9,480.5				
Net Block	5,663.6	5,812.5	5,554.9	8,101.1				
Capital WIP	610.0	1,108.7	2,760.0	90.0				
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	6,273.6	6,921.2	8,314.9	8,191.1				
Investments	11,813.8	11,789.0	11,789.0	11,789.0				
Inventory	1,277.8	954.1	746.4	1,245.5				
Debtors	470.3	513.2	323.1	707.2				
Other assets	2,021.3	2,113.8	2,149.3	2,551.2				
Cash	3,330.0	4,699.5	3,037.6	4,216.7				
Total Current Assets	7,099.3	8,280.6	6,256.3	8,720.6				
Creditors	2,403.1	2,673.8	2,065.1	3,429.7				
Provisions	745.8	917.8	371.7	617.3				
Total Current Liabilities	3,148.9	3,591.5	2,436.9	4,047.0				
Net Current Assets	3,950.5	4,689.0	3,819.4	4,673.6				
<b>Application of Funds</b>	22,037.8	23,399.2	23,923.4	24,653.6				

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 21: Key ratios				
(Year-end March)	CY18	CY19	CY20E	CY21E
Per share data (₹)				
Adjusted EPS	5.6	7.7	7.8	9.1
Cash EPS	8.4	10.4	10.6	12.3
BV	105.8	111.8	115.0	119.4
DPS	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Cash Per Share	16.8	23.7	15.3	21.2
Operating Ratios (%)				
EBITDA Margin	16.7	18.4	23.4	22.7
PAT Margin	9.8	13.1	15.3	14.4
Inventory days	37.4	34.9	30.5	29.0
Debtor days	12.5	15.4	15.0	15.0
Creditor days	79.1	79.4	85.0	80.0
Return Ratios (%)				
RoE	8.4	10.0	9.4	10.9
RoCE	11.4	13.2	13.4	15.4
RoIC	10.5	13.4	13.9	15.5
Valuation Ratios (x)				
P/E	32.1	26.1	25.7	22.1
EV / EBITDA	13.3	11.0	10.9	8.8
EV / Net Sales	3.2	3.0	3.6	2.9
Market Cap / Sales	3.5	3.4	3.9	3.2
Price to Book Value	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7
Solvency Ratios				
Debt/EBITDA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Debt / Equity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Current Ratio	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.2
Quick Ratio	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.1

Exhibit 22: ICICI Direct coverage universe (Cement)																			
Company	CMP M Cap				EPS(₹)			EV/EBITDA (x)			EV/Tonne (\$)			RoCE (%)			RoE (%)		
	(₹)	Rating	(₹ Cr)	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY20	FY21E	F <b>Y22E</b>	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	
ACC*	1,390	HOLD	26,124	73	64	82	10.2	11.1	9.0	92	95	81	17.4	14.0	16.4	11.9	9.7	11.2	
Ambuja Cem*	201	HOLD	39,912	7.7	7.8	9.1	11.0	10.9	8.8	109	114	100	13.2	13.4	15.4	10.0	9.4	10.9	
UltraTech Cem	3,783	BUY	103,806	189	59	135	14.0	20.2	13.1	153	153	143	11.4	6.6	11.4	14.2	4.3	9.1	
Shree Cement	21,350	BUY	77,038	435	223	453	20.9	27.4	19.7	226	214	212	13.8	7.7	13.4	12.1	6.0	11.1	
Heidelberg Cem	180	BUY	4,079	11.8	8.7	12.7	8.2	10.9	8.1	110	96	94	22.3	19.0	26.2	20.4	16.6	22.1	
JK Cement	1,440	HOLD	11,127	74.9	29.5	52.8	11.4	16.9	12.1	124	119	115	16.2	9.4	13.0	18.5	7.0	11.4	
JK Lakshmi Cem	276	BUY	3,249	22.6	13.3	27.0	6.2	7.0	5.0	45	43	42	17.1	13.3	19.2	15.5	8.4	14.8	
Star Cement	86	BUY	3,605	6.9	4.3	8.7	7.9	9.4	5.7	117	117	80	17.1	10.3	18.9	15.4	9.0	16.4	
Ramco Cement	640	BUY	15,237	25.7	12.1	22.1	15.9	19.9	13.4	140	131	125	7.5	4.7	7.3	12.3	5.6	9.2	
Sagar Cement	450	BUY	1,058	17.1	-4.7	10.8	8.3	15.6	9.9	38	40	32	7.2	1.7	5.1	4.2	-1.1	2.4	

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Buy: >15%

Hold: -5% to 15%;

Reduce: -15% to -5%;

Sell: <-15%



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