# **Equity Research**

April 22, 2022 BSE Sensex: 57912

**ICICI Securities Limited** is the author and distributor of this report

Q4FY22 result review and earnings revision

# Technology

Target price: Rs1,150

### **Earnings revision**

| (%)   | FY23E | FY24E |
|-------|-------|-------|
| Sales | ↑ 1.8 | ↑ 1.3 |
| EBIT  | ↓ 2.8 | ↓ 1.3 |
| EPS   | ↓ 2.7 | ↓ 1.3 |

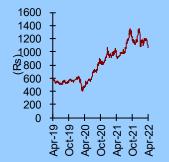
**Target price revision** Rs1,150 from Rs1,177

### **Shareholding pattern**

|                | Sep<br>'21 | Dec<br>'21 | Mar<br>'22 |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Promoters      | 60.3       | 60.3       | 60.7       |
| Institutional  |            |            |            |
| investors      | 34.8       | 34.2       | 33.7       |
| MFs and others | 7.8        | 9.0        | 9.7        |
| Fls/Bank       | 0.2        | 0.1        | 0.1        |
| Insurance Cos. | 4.3        | 4.4        | 4.8        |
| FIIs           | 22.5       | 20.7       | 19.1       |
| Others         | 4.9        | 5.5        | 5.6        |

Source: www.nseindia.com

### **Price chart**



#### **Research Analysts:**

+91 22 6807 7504

**Aniket Pande** aniket.pande@icicisecurities.com +91 22 6807 7573 **Heenal Gada** heenal.gada@icicisecurities.com

INDIA



# **HCL Technologies**

HOLD Maintain

Deja vu

Rs1.099

HCLT's results exhibited a similar theme as the last three quarters: strong services growth, margin performance impacted by weak Products business, and a healthy TCV. HCLT reported a miss on revenue growth at 1.1% QoQ CC (vs Isec: +1.5%). Miss was on account of 24% QoQ CC decline in Products and Platforms but Services (ITBS and ERS) posted strong growth of 5% QoQ CC. We would like to highlight that since last three quarters, Services business has consistently grown organically at 5.0% CC QoQ or higher (highest amongst Tier-I). Among Services, IT services posted strong growth of 5.2% QoQ and ER&D posted 4% QoQ CC growth. Q1 is a seasonally weak quarter because of pass-through of productivity benefits and HCLT expects Q1FY23 to be no different. HCLT has guided for 12-14 YoY CC growth for FY23, and we expect revenue growth of 13%/12.3% YoY USD in FY23/24.

On P&P business, management mentioned 20 products have high growth potential and large market opportunities. HCLT will continue investing in these products (HCLT invests \$200mn every year in P&P R&D). These will become the bed-rock of P&P growth going forward. Total revenue of P&P segment is at \$1.4bn and 73% of the revenue (non-licence) is stable and growing, while 27% of the business is volatile based on quarterly booking. Subscription-support services, Professional services and Product and license sales account for 67%, 5% and 28% of revenue.

Product and license sales are a volatile component and revenue recognition depends on quarterly bookings. HCLT's focus is to convert this stream of revenue into subscription-based model. Many of these products are already available in SAAS versions, which will reduce quarterly volatility of P&P segment going forward. We continue to believe that Products business has low growth characteristics; hence, we model a revenue decline over the next two years.

HCLT reported EBIT margins at 17.9%(-110bps QoQ) vs our estimate of 18.5%. Margin decline was on account of lower mix of P&P revenue. IT services margins expanded 90bps QoQ to 17.5% and ER&D services margins rose 50bps QoQ to 19.1%. HCLT has guided for EBIT margin range at 18-20%(in line with our estimates) for FY23, below its earlier guidance of 19-21%. We are estimating EBIT margins at the lower end of the guidance at 18% in FY23 and 19% in FY24. Our EPS estimates get reduced by 3%/1% for FY23/24 on account of cut in margin estimates. HCLT trades at 21x/18x PE on EPS of Rs.52/61 for FY23/24. HCLT's pre-covid (FY18-20) average PE multiple stands at 13.4x vs 20x avg. PE multiple for FY20-24 – a premium of 43% but EPS CAGR stands at 12% for FY22-24 vs 14% for FY18-20. We do believe that HCLT's underperformance in growth and margins w.r.t. to peers will continue, but risk-reward looks favourable to us. We maintain HOLD rating with multiple of 19x on FY24E EPS of Rs61 to arrive at a target price of Rs1,150 (prior: Rs1,177).

| Market Cap           | Rs2983bn/US\$39.1bn |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Reuters/Bloomberg    | HCLT.BO/HCLT IN     |
| Shares Outstanding ( | (mn) 2,713.7        |
| 52-week Range (Rs)   | 1358/899            |
| Free Float (%)       | 39.7                |
| FII (%)              | 19.1                |
| Daily Volume (US\$'0 | 00) 65,150          |
| Absolute Return 3m ( | (%) (5.9)           |
| Absolute Return 12m  | (%) 19.0            |
| Sensex Return 3m (%  | <b>6)</b> (1.8)     |
|                      |                     |

Sensex Return 12m (%)

| Year to March      | FY21     | FY22     | FY23E    | FY24E     |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Revenue (Rs mn)    | 7,53,790 | 8,55,023 | 9,85,536 | 11,04,720 |
| Net Income (Rs mn) | 1,24,330 | 1,32,762 | 1,40,847 | 1,65,914  |
| EPS (Rs)           | 45.8     | 48.9     | 51.9     | 61.2      |
| % Chg YoY          | 12.4     | 6.8      | 6.1      | 17.8      |
| P/E (x)            | 24.0     | 22.5     | 21.2     | 18.0      |
| CEPS (Rs)          | 60.5     | 64.3     | 68.9     | 79.2      |
| EV/E (x)           | 14.6     | 13.8     | 12.8     | 11.3      |
| Dividend Yield     | 2.4      | 2.4      | 6.6      | 6.6       |
| RoCE (%)           | 18.0     | 17.8     | 20.1     | 25.2      |
| RoE (%)            | 22.0     | 21.5     | 23.8     | 30.2      |
|                    |          |          |          |           |

- ▶ Revenue below estimates. Revenue for the quarter was at US\$2993mn (+1.1% QoQ CC) below consensus of 1.5% QoQ CC. Services business (IT services + ER&D) grew 5% QoQ CC, while Products & Platforms (P&P) segment declined 24% QoQ CC due to seasonality. Services segment has consistently grown at 5%+ QoQ (CC) CQGR (highest among Tier-1) on the back of strong momentum in digital, cloud and engineering services.
  - Growth was led by Europe (+2.4% QoQ) and RoW (+3.5% QoQ). In terms of verticals, growth was led by Communication (+6.8% QoQ), Manufacturing (+4.3% QoQ), Lifesciences (+4.1% QoQ) and Public services (+3.2% QoQ).
- ▶ Healthy deal wins. Company reported new deal TCV of US\$2.3b, +6% QoQ but declining 27% YoY on a high base. Services TCV was at US\$2.2bn (6 net new deals) while Products TCV was at US\$54mn (4 net new deals).
  - Deal pipeline has a good mix of transformation deals and healthy mix of large and small deals as well. The pipeline is strong across geographies.
- ▶ Strong demand environment. Demand for digital services continues to be strong, and is particularly high for cloud adoption services, agility, modernising applications for SAAS, data and analytics, operating model transformation (dev-ops and intelligent transformation) and cyber security. Clients in the telecom vertical are investing in 5G and telecom modernisation. In Q4FY22, HCLT launched two new 5G applications.
  - Within Lifesciences, clients are investing in remote patient monitoring devices (like BP monitoring). For manufacturing clients, HCLT launched "M vision" a framework to migrate the legacy firms to next-generation enterprises to make the organisation resilient.
- ▶ Services segment outlook. Management expects Q1FY23 to be seasonally weak given absence of pass-through productivity benefits. In the last six months, HCLT has increased focus on cross selling services to P&P clients and is witnessing good synergies between its services and P&P business. HCLT has already seen few RFPs which would not have been possible otherwise. P&P clients now contribute 10% of the deal pipeline.
  - Growth in ER&D is being driven by 5G, telecom modernisation and industry 4.0. Acquisition of Starschema should further add to HCLT's data engineering capabilities.
- ▶ **P&P segment outlook.** HCLT invests \$200mn every year in P&P R&D. It will continue to invest in 20 products which have high growth potential and large market opportunities. These should help propel P&P growth going forward. Further, company has invested to modernise "Unico" and "Commerce".
  - Of total revenues, 67% is subscription based, 5% is professional services around products and balance is license sales which is causes lumpiness in the business. HCLT's focus is to convert this stream of revenue into subscription-based model. Many of these products are already available in SAAS versions, which will reduce the quarterly volatility of the P&P segment going forward. This is a multiyear journey and HCLT is at the start of this journey.

- ► FY23 guidance. Management guided to grow at 12-14% YoY in FY23 driven by deal pipeline, solution accelerations and HCLT's strengthened application and data modernisation capability. EBIT margins were guided to be in the range of 18-20%. This will imply improvement in margins from FY22 exit rate.
- ▶ Miss on margins. EBIT margins for the quarter stood at 17.9% down 110bps QoQ (30bps below consensus). Margin decline was largely due to lower mix of P&P revenues in the quarter. IT services margins increased 90bps QoQ to 17.5% while ER&D service margins increased 50bps QoQ to 19.1%. P&P margins declined 11ppts to 19.1% due to revenue decline.

In FY22, HCLT made significant investments in talent model transformation— near shore delivery, large fresher hiring and employee training. HCLT has invested in 12 countries, including 5 focused countries (these investments will continue in FY23 also); these will deliver returns in the next few quarters.

Further, management indicated that customers are receptive of price increase especially for Mode 2 services. However, it will take few quarters to release price hikes while wage hikes will come sooner.

- ▶ Strong hiring continues. Net addition for the quarter was at 11.1k, +5.6% QoQ. Management intends to proactively invest to create talent pool to address upcoming growth opportunities.
- ▶ Other highlights. Given there is no large acquisition in the pipeline, management intends to focus more on payouts to shareholders as its capital allocation policy. Company announced Rs.18 per share as interim dividend for FY23.

Table 1: Q4FY22 actuals vs estimates (INR mn)

|              |        |        |          |        |           | Q4FY22E-I- | vs our    |
|--------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|-----------|------------|-----------|
|              | Q4FY22 | Q3FY22 | QoQ      | Q4FY21 | YoY       | Sec        | estimates |
| Sales (\$ m) | 2,993  | 2,978  | 0.5%     | 2,696  | 11.0%     | 2,987      | 0.2%      |
| Rs bn        |        |        |          |        |           |            |           |
| Sales        | 226    | 223    | 1.2%     | 196    | 15.1%     | 225        | 0.5%      |
| EBIT Margin  | 17.9%  | 19.1%  | -106 bps | 17.5%  | 53 bps    | 18.5%      | -49 bps   |
| PBT          | 43     | 44     | -2.5%    | 35     | 22.8%     | 44         | -2.6%     |
| Tax          | 7      | 10     | -26.6%   | 12     | -39.2%    | 10         | -26.1%    |
| Tax Rate     | 16.7%  | 22.2%  | -548 bps | 33.7%  | -1702 bps | 22.0%      | -531 bps  |
| Reported PAT | 35     | 34     | 2.8%     | 11     | 221.2%    | 34         | 2.7%      |
| EPS          | 13.1   | 12.7   | 3.1%     | 4.1    | 222.0%    | 12.7       | 2.9%      |

Source: Company data, I-Sec research

**Table 2: Change in estimates** 

|                          | Revised |        | Old    |        | Change (%) |        |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|------------|--------|
|                          | FY23E   | FY24E  | FY23E  | FY24E  | FY23E      | FY24E  |
| Rs bn                    |         |        |        |        |            |        |
| Revenues                 | 986     | 1,105  | 968    | 1,090  | 1.8        | 1.3    |
| EBIT                     | 178     | 210    | 183    | 213    | (2.8)      | (1.3)  |
| EBIT margin              | 18.0    | 19.0   | 18.9   | 19.5   | -90bps     | -50bps |
| EPS (Rs/share)           | 51.9    | 61.2   | 53.4   | 62.0   | (2.7)      | (1.3)  |
| Revenues (US\$ mn)       | 12,968  | 14,347 | 12,733 | 14,158 | 1.8        | 1.3    |
| Revenue growth (US\$, %) | 12.9    | 10.6   | 11.0   | 11.2   | 200bps     | -60bps |

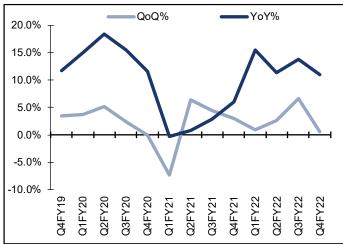
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

**Table 3: Segmental growth (Q4FY22)** 

|                            | Revenues  |            | V V 00 (0/) | 0/ 5/ /    |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|
|                            | (US\$ mn) | QoQ CC (%) | YoY CC (%)  | % of total |
| Total Revenues             | 2,993     | 1.1        | 13.3        | 100.0      |
| Revenue by geography       |           |            |             |            |
| US                         | 1,880     | 0.2        | 13.0        | 62.8       |
| Europe                     | 847       | 2.3        | 13.6        | 28.3       |
| AsiaPac                    | 266       | 3.5        | 15.0        | 8.9        |
| Revenue by verticals       |           |            |             |            |
| Financial Serivces         | 626       | 0.4        | 10.2        |            |
| Manufacturing              | 539       | 4.3        | 16.6        | 18.0       |
| Life Sciences + Healthcare | 446       | 4.1        | 18.5        | 14.9       |
| Public Services            | 320       | 3.2        | 7.8         | 10.7       |
| Retail, CPG                | 281       | (5.6)      | 6.0         | 9.4        |
| Telecom/ Media/ publishing | 257       | 6.8        | 20.2        | 8.6        |
| Technology & Services      | 524       | (3.8)      | 14.3        | 17.5       |
| Revenue by segment         |           | , ,        |             |            |
| IT and Business Services   | 2,200     | 5.2        | 16.2        | 73.5       |
| Engineering and R&D        |           |            |             |            |
| Services                   | 491       | 3.9        | 23.7        | 16.4       |
| Products & Platforms       | 305       | (24.0)     | (13.9)      | 10.2       |

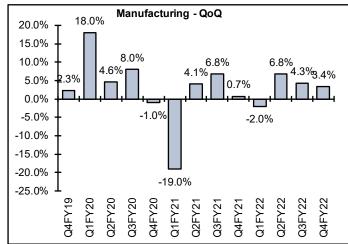
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Chart 1: HCLT reported 1.1% QoQ CC growth



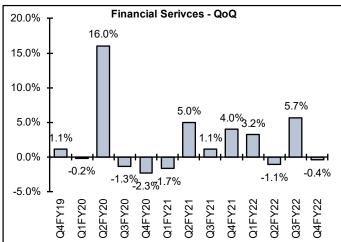
Source: Company, I-Sec research

**Chart 3: Steady growth in Manufacturing** 



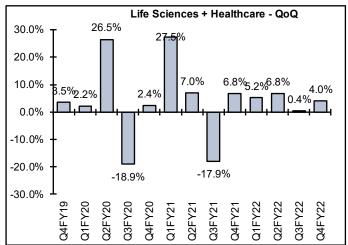
Source: Company, I-Sec research

Chart 2: Financial Services was largely flat QoQ



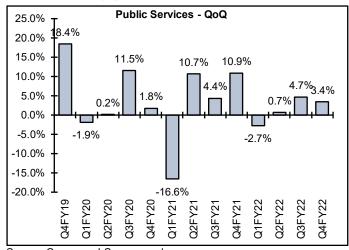
Source: Company, I-Sec research

Chart 4: Pickup in Lifesciences & Healthcare



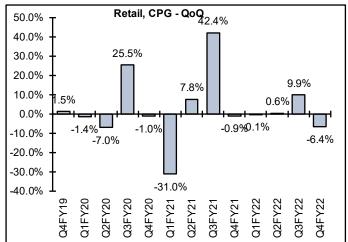
Source: Company, I-Sec research

### Chart 5: Steady growth in Public services



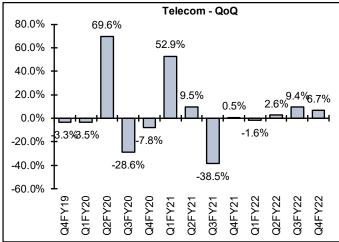
Source: Company, I-Sec research

## Chart 6: Retail & CPG declined QoQ



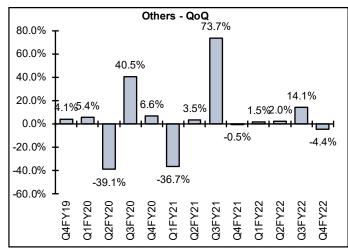
Source: Company, I-Sec research

## Chart 7: Steady growth in Telecom



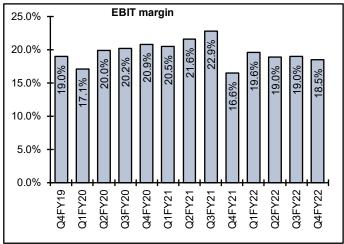
Source: Company, I-Sec research

### **Chart 8: Growth in others declined**



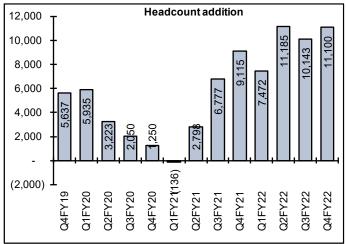
Source: Company, I-Sec research

### **Chart 9: Margins declined sequentially**



Source: Company, I-Sec research

### Chart 10: Net addition remained strong



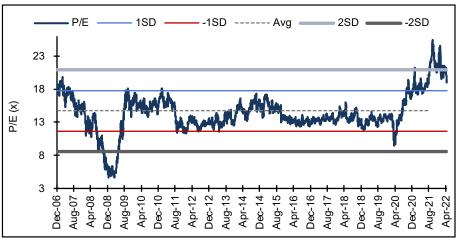
Source: Company, I-Sec research

**Table 4: HCLT summary** 

| Rs bn        | FY18  | FY19  | FY20  | FY21   | FY22   | FY23E  | FY24E  |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| USD Rev (mn) | 7,837 | 8,633 | 9,936 | 10,175 | 11,481 | 12,968 | 14,347 |
| YoY          | 12.4% | 10.1% | 15.1% | 2.4%   | 12.8%  | 12.9%  | 10.6%  |
| Revenues     | 506   | 604   | 707   | 754    | 855    | 986    | 1,105  |
| YoY          | 8.2%  | 19.5% | 17.0% | 6.6%   | 13.4%  | 15.3%  | 12.1%  |
| EBIT         | 100   | 118   | 139   | 153    | 161    | 178    | 210    |
| Margin       | 19.8% | 19.6% | 19.6% | 20.4%  | 18.9%  | 18.0%  | 19.0%  |
| PAT          | 88    | 101   | 111   | 124    | 133    | 141    | 166    |
| EPS (Rs)     | 31    | 37    | 41    | 46     | 48.9   | 51.9   | 61.2   |
| Payout       | 86%   | 66%   | 21%   | 57%    | 53%    | 139%   | 118%   |
| OCF          | 83    | 90    | 134   | 196    | 145    | 172    | 202    |
| FCF          | 65    | 27    | 54    | 165    | 153    | 122    | 150    |
| RoE          | 25%   | 26%   | 24%   | 22%    | 22%    | 24%    | 30%    |
| P/E          | 35.1  | 29.9  | 26.9  | 24.0   | 22.5   | 21.2   | 18.0   |

Source: Company data, I-Sec research

### Chart 11: 1-year forward P/E



Source: Bloomberg, I-Sec research.

# Financial summary

**Table 5: Profit and loss statement** 

(Rs mn, year ending March 31)

|                           | FY21     | FY22     | FY23E    | FY24E     |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Revenues (US\$mn)         | 10,175   | 11,481   | 12,968   | 14,347    |
| Operating Revenues        |          |          |          |           |
| (Sales)                   | 7,53,790 | 8,55,023 | 9,85,536 | 11,04,720 |
| Operating Expenses        | 5,60,510 | 6,51,954 | 7,61,834 | 8,45,988  |
| EBITDA                    | 1,93,280 | 2,03,068 | 2,23,702 | 2,58,732  |
| % margins                 | 25.6     | 23.8     | 22.7     | 23.4      |
| Depreciation/Amortisation | 39,850   | 41,666   | 46,129   | 48,835    |
| EBIT                      | 1,53,430 | 1,61,402 | 1,77,572 | 2,09,897  |
| % margins                 | 20.4     | 18.9     | 18.0     | 19.0      |
| Other Income              | 6,570    | 8,800    | 4,920    | 4,920     |
| Recurring PBT             | 1,60,000 | 1,70,202 | 1,82,492 | 2,14,817  |
| Less: Taxes               | 35,100   | 36,870   | 41,086   | 48,342    |
| Less: Minority Interest   | 570      | 570      | 560      | 560       |
| Net Income (Reported)     | 1,24,330 | 1,32,762 | 1,40,847 | 1,65,914  |
| 0 1 10                    |          |          |          |           |

Source: Company data, I-Sec research

**Table 6: Balance sheet** 

(Rs mn, year ending March 31)

|                                      | FY21     | FY22     | FY23E    | FY24E    |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|--|--|
| Assets                               |          |          |          |          |  |  |  |
| Total Current Assets                 | 4,30,520 | 4,80,410 | 4,51,823 | 4,39,233 |  |  |  |
| Total Current Liabilities &          |          |          |          |          |  |  |  |
| Provisions                           | 1,67,550 | 1,80,140 | 2,05,860 | 2,26,739 |  |  |  |
| Net Current Assets                   | 2,62,970 | 3,00,270 | 2,45,963 | 2,12,493 |  |  |  |
| Investments                          | 890      | 1,120    | 1,120    | 1,120    |  |  |  |
| Net Fixed Assets                     | 3,77,870 | 3,29,010 | 3,33,010 | 3,37,010 |  |  |  |
| Other Assets                         | 67,750   | 79,790   | 79,790   | 79,790   |  |  |  |
| Total Assets                         | 7,09,480 | 7,10,190 | 6,59,883 | 6,30,413 |  |  |  |
| Liabilities                          |          |          |          |          |  |  |  |
| Borrowings                           | 39,070   | 39,850   | 39,850   | 39,850   |  |  |  |
| Other Liabilities                    | 49,500   | 50,280   | 50,280   | 50,280   |  |  |  |
| Net Worth                            | 6,20,910 | 6,20,060 | 5,69,753 | 5,40,283 |  |  |  |
| Total Liabilities                    | 7,09,480 | 7,10,190 | 6,59,883 | 6,30,413 |  |  |  |
| Source: Company data, I-Sec Research |          |          |          |          |  |  |  |

**Table 7: Cashflow statement** 

(Rs mn, year ending March 31)

|                                  | FY21     | FY22     | FY23E      | FY24E      |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| <b>Operating Cashflow before</b> |          |          |            |            |
| W Cap changes                    | 1,59,290 | 1,68,798 | 1,84,056   | 2,11,830   |
| Working Capital Inflow /         |          |          |            |            |
| (Outflow)                        | 36,890   | (23,370) | (11,628)   | (9,439)    |
| Operating Cashflow               | 1,96,180 | 1,45,428 | 1,72,428   | 2,02,390   |
| Capex                            | (31,150) | 7,194    | (50, 129)  | (52,835)   |
| Other investing activities       | (26,270) | (6,640)  | 2,920      | 2,920      |
| Proceeds from Issue of Share     | • ` ′    | , ,      |            |            |
| Capital                          | -        | (63,057) | 4,230      | -          |
| Inc/(Dec) in Borrowings /        |          | , ,      |            |            |
| other L.Term Liabs               | (79,240) | 1,560    | -          | -          |
| Dividend paid                    | (32,560) | (70,555) | (1,95,384) | (1,95,384) |
| Increase/(Decrease) in           |          |          | •          |            |
| Cash                             | 26,960   | 13,930   | (65,935)   | (42,909)   |
| 0 0 11 10                        |          |          |            |            |

Source: Company data, I-Sec research

### **Table 8: Key ratios**

(Year ending March 31)

| (Teal eliding Maich 31)          |       |       |       |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                  | FY21  | FY22  | FY23E | FY24E |
| Per Share Data (in Rs)           |       |       |       |       |
| Adjusted EPS                     | 45.8  | 48.9  | 51.9  | 61.2  |
| Recurring Cash EPS               | 60.5  | 64.3  | 68.9  | 79.2  |
| Dividend per share (DPS)         | 26.0  | 26.0  | 72.0  | 72.0  |
| Book Value per share (BV)        | 226.7 | 228.2 | 208.1 | 197.2 |
| Growth Ratios (%)                |       |       |       |       |
| Operating Income (Sales) - US\$  |       |       |       |       |
| terms                            | 2.4   | 12.8  | 12.9  | 10.6  |
| Operating Income (Sales)         | 6.6   | 13.4  | 15.3  | 12.1  |
| EBITDA \ /                       | 15.8  | 5.1   | 10.2  | 15.7  |
| Reported Net Income              | 12.4  | 6.8   | 6.1   | 17.8  |
| Adjusted EPS                     | 12.4  | 6.8   | 6.1   | 17.8  |
| Recurring Cash EPS               | 18.1  | 6.2   | 7.2   | 14.9  |
| Valuation Ratios (x)             |       |       |       |       |
| P/E                              | 24.0  | 22.5  | 21.2  | 18.0  |
| P/CEPS                           | 18.2  | 17.1  | 15.9  | 13.9  |
| P/BV                             | 4.8   | 4.8   | 5.3   | 5.6   |
| EV / EBITDA                      | 14.6  | 13.8  | 12.8  | 11.3  |
| EV / Sales                       | 3.7   | 3.3   | 2.9   | 2.6   |
| Operating Ratios                 |       |       |       |       |
| Other Income / PBT (%)           | 4.1   | 5.2   | 2.7   | 2.3   |
| Effective Tax Rate (%)           | 21.9  | 21.7  | 22.5  | 22.5  |
| Receivables (days)               | 85    | 88    | 87    | 86    |
| Return/Profitability Ratios (%)  |       |       |       |       |
| Reported Net Income Margins      | 16.5  | 15.5  | 14.3  | 15.0  |
| RoCE (Based on Avg)              | 18.0  | 17.8  | 20.1  | 25.2  |
| RoNW (Based on Avg)              | 22.0  | 21.5  | 23.8  | 30.2  |
| Dividend Yield                   | 2.4   | 2.4   | 6.6   | 6.6   |
| EBITDA Margins                   | 25.6  | 23.8  | 22.7  | 23.4  |
| Source: Company data I See reces | roh   |       |       |       |

Source: Company data, I-Sec research

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