Equity Research

April 20, 2022 BSE Sensex: 56463

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Q4FY22 result review, rating and earnings revision

Technology

Target price: Rs4,986

Earnings revision

(%)	FY23E	FY24E
Sales	↓ 2.6	↓ 3.8
EBIT	↓ 5.3	↓ 3.8
EPS	↓ 5.1	↓ 3.8

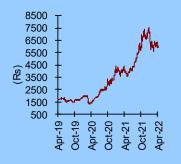
Target price revision Rs4,986 from Rs5,921

Shareholding pattern

	Sep '21	Dec '21	Mar '22
Promoters	74.1	74.1	74.1
Institutional			
investors	18.0	17.9	17.6
MFs and others	4.0	4.4	5.7
Fls/Bank	0.0	0.0	0.0
Insurance Cos.	0.3	0.7	1.5
Flls	13.7	12.8	10.4
Others	7.9	8.0	8.3

Source: www.nseindia.com

Price chart



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Larsen & Toubro Infotech

Downgrade from HOLD

Uninspiring show

INDIA

Larsen & Toubro Infotech (LTI) disappointed with a weak set of Q4FY22 earnings on various fronts. Revenues were way below our estimate at US\$570mn (+3.6% QoQ CC vs lsec. est. of +5.3% QoQ CC). We would like to highlight that in LTI also (like Infy and TCS), we have seen softening of BFS growth – just 2.8% QoQ vs avg. of 10% in last 3 quarters. For LTI, H1 is seasonally weak and we expect more moderation of BFS growth ahead. Even Top-5 client growth was at a six-quarter low at ~3% QoQ (avg. of 6% in last four quarters). *BFS revenue growth always moves in tandem with overall revenue growth of LTI (Chart 1).*

US posted soft growth of 2.5% QoQ but Europe continued to grow at 5.8% QoQ. Though management guided for strong demand momentum in Europe and hasn't seen any impact on client conversations, we believe uncertainty, rising cost and wage inflation may delay client budget decisions which may soften growth momentum in Europe (Link).

Even gross margin for FY22 stands at 31% vs average of 34% from FY16-20 vs MTCL ending FY22 at 40% – a staggering difference. EBIT margins came in at 17.3%, -60bps QoQ, largely in line with our estimates (Isec: 17.4%). LTM attrition further increased to 24% (+150bps QoQ). Onsite volume growth was flat at -0.4% QoQ and management mentioned this will stabilise in H2FY23. Further, LTI has rolled out salary hikes effective from 1st April which is expected to have ~290bps impact in Q1FY23 and most tailwinds (cost savings, pyramid optimisations) will be backended, according to us. We believe margin pressure will likely remain elevated on account of higher demand fulfilment costs, rising cost/wage inflation and attrition. We forecast EBIT margin of 16.8%/18% for FY23/24.

LTI has impressed with strong growth and rebound in large deal wins in FY22. Our view on the business is unchanged and the company is well positioned to gain market share with its strong business model but valuations of 38x/31x on FY23/24 EPS look expensive to us in the current macro environment and given likely slowdown in revenue/earnings momentum ahead. We were below consensus estimates by ~6% for FY23/24 earlier. However, now due to a cut in our revenue/margin estimates, our EPS cuts stand at 5%/4% for FY23/24, respectively, and we believe for consensus it could be much higher. We are estimating revenue growth of 19%16% with EPS of Rs143/178 for FY23/24, respectively. LTI trades at an expensive valuation of 38x/31x for FY23E/24E; we downgrade to REDUCE from Hold. We value LTI at 28x (vs 32x earlier) on FY24E EPS of Rs178 to arrive at a TP of Rs4,986 (prior: Rs5,921).

Market Cap	Rs959bn/US\$12.6bn	Year to March	FY21	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Reuters/Bloomberg	LRTI.BO / LTI IN	Revenue (Rs mn)	1,23,698	1,56,687	1,90,176	2,23,970
Shares Outstanding (m	in) 175.3	Net Income (Rs mn)	19,381	22,986	24,942	31,159
52-week Range (Rs)	7562/3584	EPS (Rs)	111.0	131.4	142.5	178.1
Free Float (%)	25.9	% Chg YoY	27.2	18.4	8.5	24.9
FII (%)	10.4	P/E (x)	49.3	41.7	38.4	30.7
Daily Volume (US\$'000) 34,321	CEPS (Rs)	130.0	151.7	168.3	208.4
Absolute Return 3m (%	o) (18.3)	EV/E (x)	33.5	30.2	25.0	19.6
Absolute Return 12m (%) 36.1	Dividend Yield	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.8
Sensex Return 3m (%)	(5.9)	RoCE (%)	24.6	22.8	22.8	24.1
Sensex Return 12m (%	o) 19.0	RoE (%)	30.5	28.5	25.8	26.7

Please refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

ch REDUCE

Rs5,472

Revenue below estimates. Revenue came in below our estimates at US\$570mr; +3.6% QoQ (CC) (Isec: 5.3% QoQ CC). Growth was led by CPG, retail and pharma (+7.7% QoQ CC) followed by E&U (+4.1% QoQ CC) and insurance (+3.8% QoQ CC). Growth in BFS was tepid at 3.3% QoQ CC (vs 9.9% average for the last 3 quarters). Soft growth in BFS dragged down overall company growth given both have moved in tandem historically (Chart 1).

Even in case of manufacturing, after 2 quarters of strong QoQ growth, growth in Q4FY22 was at a meager 2.3% QoQ CC. Hi-tech remained stable at 2.2% QoQ CC. In terms of geography, growth was led by Europe (+8.2% QoQ CC) followed by India (+6.4% QoQ CC). North America grew 2.6% QoQ CC while RoW remained largely flat (-0.3% QoQ CC).

Within service lines, Enterprise Integration & Mobility (+8.4% QoQ CC) and Cloud Infrastructure & Security (+8% QoQ CC) reported strong growth. Analytics, AI & Cognitive grew 4.7% QoQ CC while ADM & Testing (+1.8% QoQ CC) and Enterprise Solutions (+2% QoQ CC) were tepid.

Strong demand pipeline. Customer spend on digital initiatives still remained the key driver for growth in FY22. LTI closed 4 large deals with net new TCV of over US\$80m in Q4FY22. Three deals were with the existing clients and 1 with a new logo. Further, two deals were in BFS space, 1 in retail & CPG and 1 with key government body in public healthcare.

Large deal pipeline still stood at US\$2bn, with 50% in the last stage and 40% coming from new logos. Management continues to see broad-based demand which will drive growth in coming quarters.

- Broad-based growth across verticals. BFS continues to see holistic growth and the management is optimistic of sustaining growth momentum. Further, healthy traction is opening new company logos within insurance. Growth in manufacturing was driven by ramp-up in new logos and mining of existing clients while in case of Hi-tech, past deals ramp ups have helped growth. Retail & CPG is seeing good demand and the management is watchful of conversions in energies and utilities due to fuel price increases.
- Strong outlook despite macro concerns. Management is sceptic of the current economic slowdown and stated that macro environment is more volatile than before. However, it has not seen any slowdown in demand as yet though input costs have been rising. Given all revenue pillars are on a strong footing, management guided to be in the leader's quadrant of growth for FY23 and maintained its PAT margin guidance of 14-15%.

Despite strong commentary from the management, we understand rising inflation and macro uncertainties should creep into discussions in coming quarters and lead to slowdown in spending especially on the discretionary side as decision cycles elongate.

In-line margin. EBIT margin came in at 17.3%, -60 bps QoQ largely in-line with our estimates (Isec: 17.4%). Margin was impacted to the tune of -40bps due to increase in employee cost which was offset by SG&A leverage and -60 bps due to lower working days and business mix.

Offshore effort mix further increased to 84.6%, +60bps QoQ. This was on account of high onsite attrition. We believe as onsite attrition normalises, offshore effort

should come down and tailwinds from here should subside. Utilisation (incl. trainees) dropped marginally to 80.1% (vs 80.3% in Q3FY22) while that excl. trainees increased 10bps QoQ to 81.5%.

LTM attrition further increased to 24% (+150bps QoQ). Though quarterly annualised attrition was down 200bps QoQ, we believe this should again increase post a wage hike quarter. Management specifically called out high onsite attrition which impacted volumes in Q4FY22 and will stabilise by H2FY23. To maintain this attrition, LTI has set up a new development centre in Hartford, US to create new talent pool.

Management stated it has seen price increase in few pockets which would be a margin lever. However, given rising inflation, we believe the benefits should be backended. Further, LTI has rolled out salary hikes effective 1st April which is expected to have 290bps impact in Q1FY23. It is noteworthy that gross margin for FY22 was 30.7%, lower than pre-covid levels. We expect margins to contract in coming quarters given increasing headwinds and benefits from tailwinds to still take time to kick in.

- Strong hiring continues. The quarter saw net headcount addition of 2,448. For FY22, LTI onboarded ~10.6k employees which is higher than hiring in prior 2 years combined. Further, 5,200 freshers were hired in FY22 and now management intends to hire at least 6,500 in FY23. As a way of investing back into the business, LTI intends to hire at least 100 sales employees in the US by Q1FY23 to capture client mining opportunities.
- Other highlights. OCF/net income conversion for the quarter was 97.8% while that for FY22 was 71.9%. Management expects robust conversion levels going ahead as working capital management improves. Capex for FY22 was higher on account of investments made into building a delivery centre in Mahpe, Navi Mumbai with 7.5k capacity. It is guided to continue into FY23 as well. The company announced final dividend of Rs30 per share.

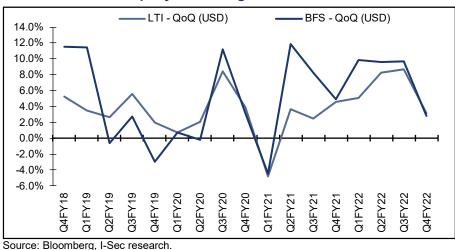


Chart 1: Overall company and BFS growth move in tandem

Table 1: Q4FY22 actuals vs estimates (INR mn)

						Q4FY22E-I-	vs our
	Q4FY22	Q3FY22	QoQ	Q4FY21	YoY	Sec	estimates
Sales (\$ m)	570	553	3.1%	447	27.5%	581	-1.8%
Sales	43,016	41,376	4.0%	32,694	31.6%	43,719	-1.6%
EBIT Margin	17.3%	17.9%	-64 bps	19.4%	-205 bps	17.4%	-9 bps
PBT	8,596	8,237	4.4%	7,168	19.9%	8,514	1.0%
Тах	2,221	2,112	5.2%	1,711	29.8%	2,183	1.7%
Tax Rate	25.8%	25.6%	20 bps	23.9%	197 bps	25.6%	20 bps
Reported PAT	6,375	6,125	4.1%	5,457	16.8%	6,331	0.7%
EPS	36.3	35.0	3.7%	31.2	16.4%	36.2	0.3%

Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Table 2: Change in estimates

	Revise	d	Old		Change (%)	
	FY23E	FY24E	FY23E	FY24E	FY23E	FY24E
Rs mn						
Revenues	1,90,176	2,23,970	1,95,317	2,32,866	(2.6)	(3.8)
EBIT	31,931	40,315	33,714	41,916	(5.3)	(3.8)
EBIT margin	16.8	18.0	17.3	18.0	-50bps	Òbps
EPS (Rs/share)	142.5	178.1	150.1	185.0	(5.1)	(3.8)
Revenues (US\$ mn)	2,502	2,909	2,570	3,024	(2.6)	(3.8)
Revenue growth (US\$, %)	19.0	16.2	21.6	17.7	-260bps	-14Òbpś

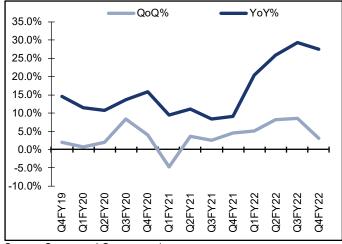
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Table 3: Segmental growth (Q4FY22)

	Revenues				YoY CC
	(US\$ mn)	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	% of total	growth (%)
Total Revenues	570	3.1	27.5	100.0	29.0
Revenue by geography					
North America	374	2.5	26.3	65.6	26.3
Europe	92	5.8	25.3	16.2	32.6
RoW	47	(0.3)	25.5	8.3	26.6
India	56	6.0	42.1	9.9	45.0
Revenue by verticals					
BFS	187	2.8	35.5	32.7	37.3
Insurance	76	3.7	17.6	13.4	18.1
Manufacturing	96	1.9	26.5	16.8	28.4
Energy & Utilities	50	3.6	23.0	8.8	24.3
CPG, Retail	59	7.0	21.9	10.3	24.2
Hi-tech & Media	67	2.0	27.1	11.7	27.8
Others	36	2.7	30.6	6.3	32.9
Revenue by service lines					
ADM & Testing	188	1.4	26.3	26.1	27.6
Enterprise Solutions	176	1.3	21.6	30.8	23.3
Cloud Infrastructure &					
Security	78	7.3	15.9	13.7	17.3
Analytics, AI & Cognitive	73	4.5	46.8	12.8	47.9
Enterprise Integration &					
Mobility	55	8.0	51.8	9.7	53.5
Client metrics					
Top 5 clients	161	3.1	29.5	28.2	
Top 10 clients	230	3.0	25.6	40.4	
Top 20 clients	318	3.7	28.0	55.8	

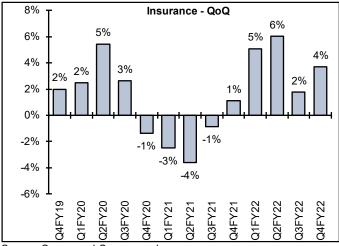
Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Chart 2: LTI reported 3.6% QoQ CC growth



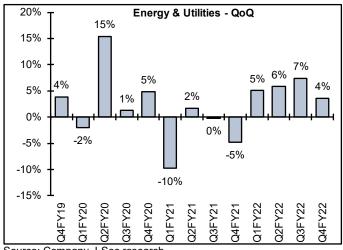
Source: Company, I-Sec research

Chart 4: Robust performance in insurance



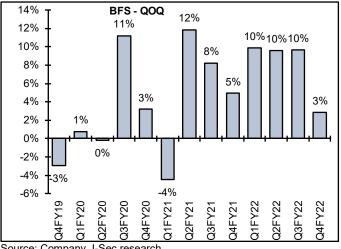
Source: Company, I-Sec research

Chart 6: Healthy growth in E&U segment



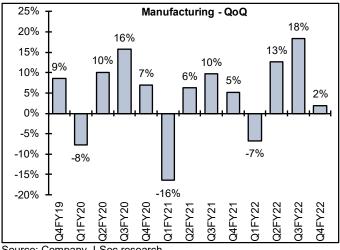
Source: Company, I-Sec research

Chart 3: BFS reported softer growth in Q4FY22



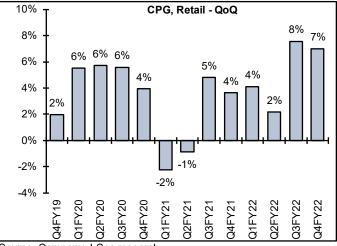
Source: Company, I-Sec research

Chart 5: Manufacturing posted tepid growth



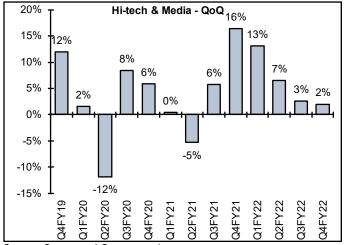
Source: Company, I-Sec research

Chart 7: Retail & CPG led growth



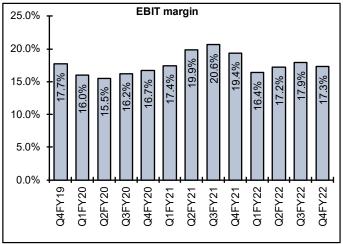
Source: Company, I-Sec research

Chart 8: Stable growth in Hi-tech & media



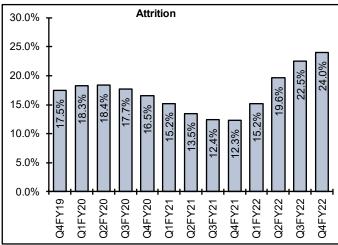
Source: Company, I-Sec research

Chart 10: Margins declined sequentially



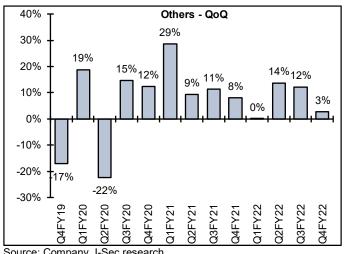
Source: Company, I-Sec research

Chart 12: Attrition peaked in-line with industry



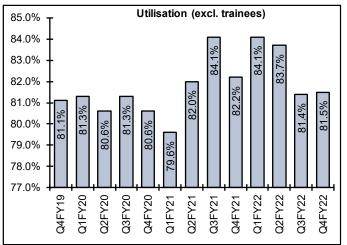
Source: Company, I-Sec research

Chart 9: Growth in others normalised



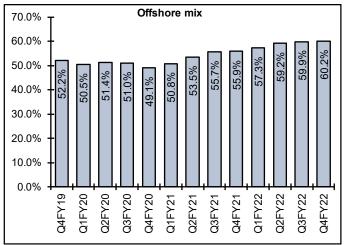
Source: Company, I-Sec research

Chart 11: Utilisations marginally increased



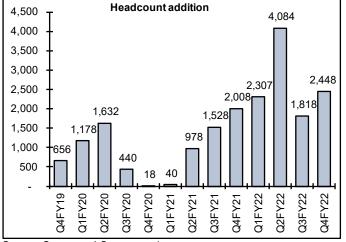
Source: Company, I-Sec research

Chart 13: Offshore effort increased marginally



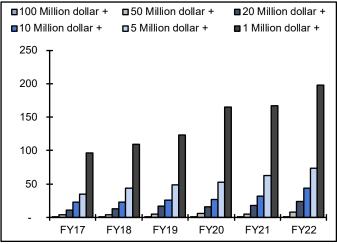
Source: Company, I-Sec research

Chart 14: Strong headcount addition



Source: Company, I-Sec research

Chart 15: Robust client additions



Source: Company, I-Sec research

Table 4: LTI summary

Rs bn	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E
USD Rev (mn)	1,132	1,349	1,525	1,670	2,103	2,502	2,909
YoY	16.6%	19.1%	13.0%	9.5%	25.9%	19.0%	16.2%
Revenues	73,064	94,458	1,08,786	1,23,698	1,56,687	1,90,176	2,23,970
YoY	12.4%	29.3%	15.2%	13.7%	26.7%	21.4%	17.8%
EBIT	10,929	17,364	17,561	23,926	27,036	31,931	40,315
Margin	15.0%	18.4%	16.1%	19.3%	17.3%	16.8%	18.0%
PAT	11,610	15,157	15,199	19,381	22,986	24,942	31,159
EPS (Rs)	68	87	87	111	131	143	178
Payout	38%	38%	38%	36%	42%	32%	25%
OCF	8,438	13,951	16,435	23,996	16,520	23,241	29,018
FCF	7,419	12,385	13,970	21,259	7,578	18,732	23,708
RoE	33%	35%	30%	31%	29%	26%	27%
P/E	81.1	62.6	62.7	49.3	41.7	38.4	30.7

Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Chart 16: 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	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Revenue (US\$mn)	1,670	2,103	2,502	2,909
Total Income (Sales)	1,23,698	1,56,687	1,90,176	2,23,970
Operating Expenses	96,447	1,26,102	1,53,740	1,78,350
EBITDA	27,251	30,585	36,436	45,620
% margin	22.0	19.5	19.2	20.4
Depreciation & Amortisation	3,325	3,549	4,505	5,306
EBIT	23,926	27,036	31,931	40,315
% margin	19.3	17.3	16.8	18.0
Other Income (net)	1,955	3,939	1,700	1,700
Recurring PBT	25,881	30,975	33,631	42,015
Tax expense	6,500	7,989	8,689	10,856
Reported net income	19,381	22,986	24,942	31,159
Extraordinary items	-	-	-	-
Restatement adjustments	-	-	-	-
Reported net income	19,381	22,986	24,942	31,159
Source: Company data, I-Se	c research			

Source: Company data, I-Sec research

Table 6: Balance sheet

(Rs mn, year ending March 31)

FY21	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
73,034	88,146	1,05,194	1,28,458
7,734	7,364	7,364	7,364
80,768	95,510	1,12,558	1,35,822
19,722	25,790	25,794	25,798
6,056	10,247	10,247	10,247
81,313	88,656	1,08,698	1,35,609
26,323	29,183	32,182	35,831
54,990	59,473	76,517	99,777
80,768	95,510	1,12,558	1,35,822
	73,034 7,734 80,768 19,722 6,056 81,313 20,323 54,990	73,034 88,146 7,734 7,364 80,768 95,510 19,722 25,790 6,056 10,247 81,313 88,656 26,323 29,183 54,990 59,473	73,034 88,146 1,05,194 7,734 7,364 7,364 80,768 95,510 1,12,558 19,722 25,790 25,794 6,056 10,247 10,247 81,313 88,656 1,08,698 20,323 29,183 32,182 54,990 59,473 76,517

Source: Company data, I-Sec Research

Table 7: Cashflow statement

(Rs mn, year ending March 31)

	FY21	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Op. CF before W Cap				
changes	27,344	33,610	37,636	46,820
Working Capital change	3,052	(8,977)	(5,706)	(6,947)
Taxes	(6,400)	(8,113)	(8,689)	(10,856)
Capex	(2,737)	(8,942)	(4,509)	(5,310)
Free Cashflow	21,259	7,578	18,732	23,708
CF from other Invst Act (Ex				
Capex)	(13,823)	(652)	500	500
Dividend paid	(5,319)	(8,749)	(7,894)	(7,894)
Others	231	(1,709)	-	-
Increase/(Decrease) in		. ,		
Cash	2,348	(3,532)	11,337	16,314
Source: Company data, I-Sec	research			

Table 8: Key ratios

FY21	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
111.0	131.4	142.5	178.1
418.3	503.8	601.2	734.2
130.0			208.4
40.0	55.0	45.0	45.0
9.5	25.9	19.0	16.2
13.7	26.7	21.4	17.8
34.3	12.2	19.1	25.2
27.5	18.6	8.5	24.9
27.2	18.4	8.5	24.9
49.3	41.7	38.4	30.7
13.1	10.9	9.1	7.5
33.5	30.2	25.0	19.6
7.4	5.9	4.8	4.0
7.6	12.7	5.1	4.0
25.1	25.8	25.8	25.8
6.3	6.1	7.4	8.7
79	87	84	84
15.7	14.7	13.1	13.9
22.0	19.5	19.2	20.4
24.6	22.8	22.8	24.1
30.5	28.5	25.8	26.7
0.7	1.0	0.8	0.8
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Dividend Yield Source: Company data, I-Sec research

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