VST Industries (VSTIND)

CMP: ₹ 3229 Target: ₹ 3425 (6%)

Target Period: 12 months

April 27, 2022

Losing market share with high competitive intensity

About the stock VST Industries (VST) is a cigarette company in India, involved in manufacturing, marketing cigarettes & trading of unmanufactured tobacco

The company has two cigarettes manufacturing facilities in Hyderabad, AP.
 It has five major brands which includes, 'Total', 'Charms', 'Moment', 'Special', & 'Edition' and a direct distribution reach of over 1.1 million outlets

Q4FY22 Results: VST reported dismal results with 5% cigarette volume de-growth.

- Sales were up 8.8% YoY while cigarettes volumes saw 5% YoY dip
- EBITDA was at ₹ 106.3 crore, up 8.2% YoY, with margins at 35.1%
- Consequent PAT was at ₹ 87.2 crore (up 19.7% YoY)

What should investors do? VST's share price has underperformed the market with mere 6% return in last five years (from ₹ 3048 in April 2017 to ₹ 3229 in April 2022).

- Though cigarette industry volumes have reached pre-Covid levels, we believe excessive duties, emergence of e-cigarettes & regulatory framework would keep volume growth in low-single digit in stable tax scenario
- We continue to maintain our HOLD rating on the stock

Target Price and Valuation: We maintain our Hold rating with a target price of ₹ 3425 valuing the business 14x FY24 earnings.

Key triggers for future price performance:

- The company saw 6% cigarette volume growth in FY22 after 10% volume de-growth last year. VST is focusing on brand building through higher adspends at point of sale, consumer promotions & product innovation
- High priced cigarettes 'Total' & 'Edition' contributing 45% to volumes. The contribution of high priced cigarettes would continue to rise
- Duties & taxes on cigarettes to remain stable given increasing prevalence of illicit & contraband cigarettes
- Dividend payout is restored at \sim 70% after two years of lower dividend due to liquidity concerns during Covid-19 disruption

Alternate Stock Idea: We like TCPL in our FMCG coverage.

 Strong innovation & premiumisation strategy in salt, tea, Sampaan & Soulful in Indian market expected to drive sales & margins

We value the stock at ₹ 910 with BUY rating



HOLD



VST Industries Ltd

Particulars	
Particulars (₹ crore)	Amount
Market Capitalization	4,986.0
Total Debt (FY22)	0.0
Cash and Investments (FY22)	777.7
EV	4,208.3
52 week H/L (₹)	3893 / 2786
Equity capital	₹ 15.4
Face value (₹)	10.0

Shareholding pattern										
(in %)	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22						
Promoter	32.2	32.2	32.2	32.2						
FII	2.4	2.1	1.8	1.8						
DII	17.3	16.2	16.3	16.6						
Others	48.1	49.5	49.7	49.5						



Recent event & key risks

- The company launched new variant cigarette in FY22
- Key Risk: (i) Any increase in GST or cess (ii) faster Increase in high price cigarette contribution

Research Analyst

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Key Financials	FY20	FY21	FY22	5 Year CAGR (FY17-22)	FY23E	FY24E	CAGR (FY22-24E)
Net Sales	1238.1	1109.8	1176.6	5.1	1293.4	1403.2	9.2%
EBITDA	414.7	410.6	411.6	10.7	463.7	511.6	11.5%
EBITDA Margin %	33.5	37.0	35.0		35.9	36.5	
Net Profit	304.1	310.8	320.2	16.1	354.0	390.5	10.4%
EPS (₹)	196.95	201.29	207.40	16.1	229.30	252.85	10.4%
P/E	16.4	16.0	15.6		14.1	12.8	
RoNW %	38.6	33.0	30.0		33.4	37.8	
RoCE (%)	52.1	43.4	39.2		44.6	50.6	

Key takeaways of recent quarter

Q4FY22 Results: Cigarette volumes continue to remain under pressure

- Consolidated sales witnessed muted growth of 8.8% to ₹ 302.6 crore on the back of ~3% dip in cigarette sales & 80% jump in tobacco sales
- Cigarette volumes have declined ~5% in Q4FY22. On a full year basis, cigarette volumes have jumped up by 6% to 834 crore cigarettes sticks. The company has lost market share in cigarettes in FY22 given market leader has aggressively uptick trade promotions in last one year
- 'Edition' is available at ₹ 11/ stick price point whereas 'Total' is available at ₹6-7 / stick price points. 'Charms, Moment & Special' brands are available between ₹4.5/stick to ₹7.0/stick price points. VST has not taken any price hikes in last two years
- Tobacco sales jumped 80% mainly on account of low base impacted by container scarcity last year. Tobacco business enjoys ~12% margin
- Gross margin has expanded 159 bps given the company has reduced the trade discounts & offers. Operating profit witnessed a growth of 8.2% to ₹ 106.3 crore. The company is spending more on product development, advertisement at point of sale & consumer promotions. Net profit grew by 19.7% to ₹ 87.2 crore mainly on account of 3x increase in other income (due to reversal of old provisioning) & lower tax provisioning
- The company declared a dividend of ₹ 140 / share (dividend pay-out of ~68%). The company reduced its pay-out to ~55% in last two years mainly to improve liquidity during Covid-19 disruptions. However, it has re-stored the dividend pay-out to its previous levels
- The company has moved away from consistent trade discounts & it is only
 continuing higher discounts & offers for a particular period. However, it has
 increased the marketing spends at the points of sales to improve the brand
 visibility & brand building
- VST would be looking to consolidate its presence in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, UP & North East States. The company has launched new variants 'Total Royal Twist' under the brand 'Total' in Q2FY22
- In last five years, the company has increased its wholesale dealers from 700 to 848 & direct retail reach from 0.8 million retail outlets to 1.1 million retail outlets. The company has enhanced its presence Delhi, Mumbai, UP & Bihar
- Legal cigarette industry in India constitutes 9% of tobacco consumption & its contribution towards duties & taxes is 80% of the total tobacco products. On the other hand, other tobacco products (bidis, non-smoke tobacco products) contributes 91% to the volumes & only 20% to the duties & taxes. Illegal & contraband is ~8% of the total volumes & consistent increase in duties & taxes on legal cigarettes industry is counterproductive with consumption shift from legal to contrabands

Exhibit 1: Peer Comp	Exhibit 1: Peer Comparison																		
Sector / Company	CMP	TP		M Cap	Sales	growt	h (%)	EBITD/	\ Margi	ns (%)		P/E(x)			RoE (%)		R	oCE (%)
Sector / Company	(₹)	(₹)	Rating	(₹ Cr)	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
ITC Limited (ITC)	259	260	Hold	287822	19.2	5.2	10.5	34.1	38.5	38.8	18.6	16.1	14.5	25.0	27.7	29.6	31.6	36.6	39.2
VST Industries (VSTIND)	3229	3425	Hold	4986	6.0	9.9	8.5	35.0	35.9	36.5	15.6	14.1	12.8	30.0	33.4	37.8	39.2	44.6	50.6

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Though, we believe cigarette companies have been able to reach pre-Covid volumes in last two quarters, VST has lost market share in FY22 mainly due to aggressive trade promotion strategy by competitor. VST is concentrating on high priced brands from last few years, which has resulted in improvement is operating margins over the years. We believe stable taxation & concomitant volume growth in cigarette category would be the key growth drivers for the industry. However, losing market share is concerning factor for the company. We maintain our HOLD rating & target price on the stock at ₹ 3425 / share.

Exhibit 2: Variance Ar	nalysis						
	Q4FY22	Q4FY22E	Q4FY21	YoY (%)	Q3FY21	QoQ (%)	Comments
Total Operating Income	302.6	329.6	278.1	8.8	328.6	-7.9	Revenue saw dismal growth due to de-growth in cigarettes volimes on account of reduction in trade discounts & offers
Other Operating Income	0.6	0.4	0.3	103.6	0.3	67.6	
Raw Material Expenses	127.3	142.9	121.5	4.8	154.1	-17.3	Gross margins were lower by 159 bps as the company reduce trade offers & discounts
Employee Expense	27.3	34.6	27.6	-1.1	28.8	-5.3	
Excise Duty	97.6	115.7	104.6	-6.7	102.9	-5.2	Excise was down in-line with cigarette volumes
Other operating Expenses	41.7	33.9	30.8	35.4	36.6	13.9	
EBITDA	106.3	118.2	98.3	8.2	109.1	-2.6	Operating profit was up by 8.2%
EBITDA Margin (%)	35.1	35.9	35.3	-21 bps	33.2	192 bps	
Depreciation	8.8	9.2	7.9	12.0	7.8	12.8	
Interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	NA	0.0	NA	
Other Income	17.5	9.2	6.3	177.0	9.7	80.2	
PBT	115.0	118.3	96.7	18.9	111.0	3.6	
Tax Outgo	27.8	32.0	23.9	16.3	28.3	-1.7	
PAT	87.2	86.3	72.8	19.7	82.7	5.4	Net profit grew by 19.7% led by higher other income & lower tax provisioning
Key Metrics							
Cigarette Sales (₹ crore)	336.7	382.2	347.4	-3.1	359.1	-6.3	Cigarette sales was down on the back of 5% decline in cigarette volumes
Tobacco Sales (₹ crore)	63.0	62.7	35.0	80.0	72.0	-12.5	Tobacco sales was up by 80% from low base, which was adverely impacted by high container prices

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 3: Change ir	n estimates					
		FY23E			FY24E	Comments
(₹ Crore)	Old	New 9	% change	Old	New '	/ % change
Net sales	1,293.1	1,293.4	0.0	1405.9	1,403.2	2 -0.2 No change in revenue estimates
						We have tweaked our operating profit estimates given company
EBITDA	480.8	463.7	-3.6	527.6	511.6	6 -3.0 is spending more towards advertisement at point of sales,
						product development & consumer promotions
EBITDA Margin (%)	37.1	35.8	-133 bps	37.5	36.5	5 -107 bps
PAT	360.9	354.0	-1.9	405.7	390.5	5 -3.8
EPS (₹)	233.8	229.3	-1.9	262.8	252.9	9 -3.8

Source: ICICI Direct Research

	Current						Earli	er	Comments
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY23E	FY24E	
Cig. Vol. (mn sticks)	8,031.1	8,753.9	7,866.0	8,338.0	8,754.9	9,105.1	9,085.2	9,448.6	Change in cigarettes volumes given lower than expected volume number in FY22
Cig. Vol. Growth (%)	9.0	9.0	-10.1	6.0	5.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	
Realization/cig (₹)	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	
Tobacco Sales(₹ crore)	238.9	238.8	200.0	212.0	226.8	236.0	229.1	240.6	

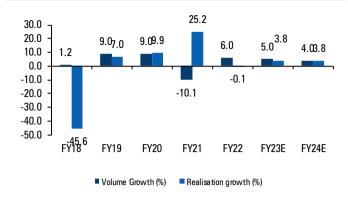
Source: ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 5: Net revenue to grow at 8.3% CAGR over FY21-24E



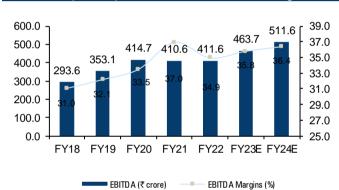
Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

Exhibit 6: Volume recovery expected in FY22E



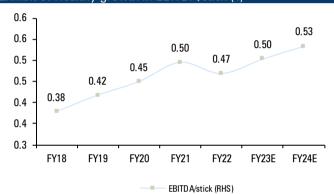
Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

Exhibit 7: Improved product mix to aid EBITDA margins



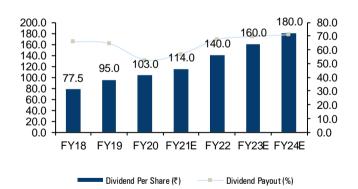
Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

Exhibit 8: Healthy growth in EBITDA/stick (₹)



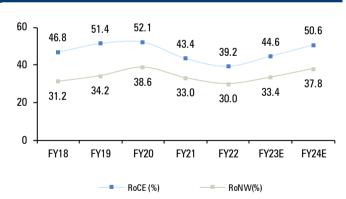
Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

Exhibit 9: High dividend pay out to continue



Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

Exhibit 10: Attractive Return ratios %



Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

	Sales	Growth	EPS	Growth	PE	EV/EBITDA	RoNW	RoCE
	(₹ cr)	(%)	(₹)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)
FY21	1109.8	-10.4	201.3	2.2	16.0	12.0	33.0	43.4
FY22	1176.6	6.0	207.4	3.0	15.6	11.5	30.0	39.2
FY23E	1293.4	9.9	229.3	10.6	14.1	10.7	33.4	44.6
FY24E	1403.2	8.5	252.9	10.3	12.8	9.6	37.8	50.6

FY22

320.2

FY23E

354.0

FY24E

390.5

Financial Summary

Exhibit 12: Profit and los	s statement			₹ crore
(Year-end March)	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E
Total Operating Income	1111.0	1178.2	1295.3	1405.4
Growth (%)	-10.4	6.0	9.9	8.5
Raw Material Expenses	478.9	513.5	567.7	614.6
Employee Expenses	114.4	116.4	126.8	136.1
Excise Duty	361.9	382.5	401.6	417.7
Administrative Expenses	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other expenses	107.1	136.7	137.1	143.1
Total Operating Expenditure	700.4	766.5	831.5	893.8
EBITDA	410.6	411.6	463.7	511.6
Growth (%)	-1.0	0.3	12.7	10.3
Depreciation	35.1	30.1	32.9	34.1
Interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PBT	417.3	428.2	475.2	524.1
Others	41.8	46.7	44.3	46.6
Total Tax	106.5	108.0	121.2	133.6
PAT	310.8	320.2	354.0	390.5
Growth (%)	2.2	3.0	10.6	10.3
EPS (₹)	201.3	207.4	229.3	252.9

Add: Depreciation	35.1	30.1	32.9	34.1
(Inc)/dec in Current Assets	-103.6	103.3	-229.5	-48.3
Inc/(dec) in CL and Provisions	-66.8	-29.9	45.3	84.2
CF from operating activities	175.4	423.7	202.6	460.4
(Inc)/dec in Investments	-0.9	-200.4	201.3	-0.2
(Inc)/dec in Fixed Assets	-41.4	-29.4	-12.8	-35.0
(Inc)/dec in LT Loans & Adv.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Others	7.6	-12.9	-19.1	0.3
CF from investing activities	-34.7	-242.7	169.4	-34.8
Issue/(Buy back) of Equity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Inc/(dec) in loan funds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dividend paid & dividend tax	-159.0	-280.9	-362.1	-419.4
Inc/(dec) in Reval. Reserve	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Inc/(dec) in Exch. Fluc. Res.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CF from financing activities	-157.4	-191.7	-362.1	-419.4
Net Cash flow	-16.7	-10.7	10.0	6.2
Opening Cash	26.2	9.6	-1.2	8.8

20.8

10.1

20.1

26.2

FY21

310.8

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

Closing Cash

Exhibit 13: Cash flow statement

(Year-end March)

Profit after Tax

Exhibit 14: Balance Sheet				₹ crore
(Year-end March)	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E
Liabilities				
Equity Capital	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.4
Reserve and Surplus	925.0	1,053.5	1,045.5	1,016.5
Total Shareholders funds	940.5	1,068.9	1,060.9	1,031.9
Total Debt	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Long Term Provisions	22.1	23.0	3.9	4.2
Total Liabilities	962.5	1091.9	1064.8	1036.2
Assets				
Gross Block	365.8	395.8	425.8	455.8
Less: Acc Depreciation	193.0	223.1	256.0	290.0
Net Block	172.8	195.0	169.8	165.8
Capital WIP	33.3	10.5	15.5	20.5
Deferred Tax Asset	25.2	21.6	21.6	21.6
Non Current Investments	2.7	203.1	1.8	1.9
LT Loans & Advances/Others	1.1	18.5	18.5	18.5
Current Assets				
Inventory	297.2	295.6	326.0	338.3
Debtors	15.2	33.3	39.0	19.2
Cash	20.8	10.1	20.1	26.2
Loans & Advances	0.0	0.4	8.9	9.6
Current Investments	884.4	767.6	947.6	997.6
Other CA	33.1	29.7	34.7	39.7
Current Liabilities				
Creditors	131.5	103.4	113.4	161.5
Provisions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other CL	391.8	390.0	425.2	461.3
Net Current Assets	727.4	643.3	837.6	807.9
Total Assets	962.5	1091.9	1064.8	1036.1

Source: Company,	ICICI Direct	Research

Exhibit 15: Key ratios			_	
(Year-end March)	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E
Per share data (₹)				
EPS	201.3	207.4	229.3	252.9
Cash EPS	224.0	226.9	250.6	274.9
BV	609.1	692.3	687.1	668.3
DPS	114.0	140.0	160.0	180.0
Cash Per Share	13.5	6.5	13.0	17.0
Operating Ratios (%)				
EBITDA Margin	37.0	34.9	35.8	36.4
PBT / Net Sales	37.6	36.4	36.7	37.3
PAT Margin	28.0	27.2	27.4	27.8
Inventory days	97.7	91.7	92.0	88.0
Debtor days	5.0	10.3	11.0	5.0
Creditor days	43.2	32.1	32.0	42.0
Return Ratios (%)				
RoE	33.0	30.0	33.4	37.8
RoCE	43.4	39.2	44.6	50.6
RoIC	21.3	24.2	22.3	24.6
Valuation Ratios (x)				
P/E	16.0	15.6	14.1	12.8
EV / EBITDA	12.0	11.5	10.7	9.6
EV / Net Sales	4.4	4.0	3.8	3.5
Market Cap / Sales	4.5	4.2	3.9	3.6
Price to Book Value	5.3	4.7	4.7	4.8
Solvency Ratios				
Debt/EBITDA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Debt / Equity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Current Ratio	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.3
Quick Ratio	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.7

Source: Company, ICICI Direct Research

	CMP	TP		M Cap EPS (₹)			P/E (x)				Price/Sales (x)			RoCE (%)			RoE (%)		
	(₹)	(₹)	Rating	(₹ Cr)	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Colgate (COLPAL)	1,625	1,575	Hold	37,937	38.5	40.8	45.0	42.2	39.8	36.2	7.4	6.8	6.2	109.6	112.7	116.7	84.9	86.6	89.7
Dabur India (DABIND)	560	745	Buy	98,242	10.9	12.2	13.6	51.6	46.0	41.2	8.9	8.1	7.3	26.0	27.3	27.8	22.7	23.2	23.2
Hindustan Unilever (HINLEV)	2,148	2,460	Hold	537,543	37.2	41.0	44.7	57.7	52.3	48.1	10.6	9.7	9.0	23.7	25.9	28.1	18.5	20.3	22.0
ITC Limited (ITC)	259	260	Hold	287,822	12.6	14.6	16.2	20.6	17.8	16.0	5.0	4.8	4.3	32.4	35.9	38.5	25.0	27.7	29.6
Jyothy Lab (JYOLAB)	158	150	Hold	5,133	4.2	6.2	6.5	37.2	25.3	24.2	2.3	2.2	2.0	19.1	26.6	28.0	16.5	23.1	23.7
Marico (MARLIM)	530	550	Buy	60,768	10.0	11.4	12.3	52.8	46.4	42.9	6.3	5.9	5.5	42.6	47.5	49.1	38.4	41.4	42.7
Nestle (NESIND)	18,416	19,050	Hold	175,243	222.4	252.9	291.6	82.8	72.8	63.2	12.0	10.8	9.8	58.7	58.8	62.9	111.3	110.4	111.8
Tata Consumer Products (TAT	822	910	Buy	70,404	11.7	14.1	16.2	70.0	58.5	50.7	5.6	5.1	4.7	8.9	9.9	10.8	7.2	8.3	9.2
VST Industries (VSTIND)	3,229	3,425	Hold	4,986	229.3	252.9	290.5	14.1	12.8	11.1	4.2	3.9	3.6	39.2	44.6	50.6	30.0	33.4	37.8
Varun Beverage (VARBEV)	1,071	1,050	Hold	41,121	17.2	20.5	25.2	62.1	52.3	42.4	4.7	4.2	3.8	17.1	20.5	24.9	18.3	18.9	21.3
Zydus Wellness (ZYDWEL)	1,670	2,200	Buy	10,819	51.4	62.6	73.0	32.5	26.7	22.9	5.3	4.8	4.3	6.7	8.0	9.1	6.9	8.3	9.4

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Buy: >15%

Hold: -5% to 15%;

Reduce: -15% to -5%;

Sell: <-15%



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