

Metals & Mining

Jul-Sep'24 Earnings Preview

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Quarter affected by sharp fall in steel prices

We expect our metals coverage universe to report weak performance in 2QFY25 with revenue/EBITDA/PAT growth of 1%/9%/0% YoY (2%/-7%/-6% QOQ), impacted by a sharp fall in steel prices and lower demand due to monsoon. Domestic demand remained muted (2-4% YoY) during the quarter affected by lower construction activities amidst monsoon. Average NSR for domestic steel companies declined 4-5% QoQ as both long and flat product prices fell sharply in line with Chinese prices. Average flat steel prices dropped by Rs3,068/t QoQ affected by higher imports and weak global demand. Average long product prices too declined sharply by Rs5,577/t QoQ due to the absence of government infrastructure projects. Coking coal prices have declined sharply (-13%) QoQ due to poor China demand, which is expected to negate the sharp fall in steel prices to a certain extent.

Domestic steel pricing scenario is expected to improve in coming weeks led by the sharp jump in steel prices in China aided by government measures to improve economic growth. Imports would reduce in coming months as domestic prices are currently at 4-5% discount to Chinese prices as the latter jumped from lows of USD450 to USD510 in the last 2 weeks. We expect domestic pricing to improve in coming weeks and aid 2H earnings for steel companies. Key monitorables to watch out are: 1) Gol's stand on rising imports, 2) uptick in domestic demand post festivities, 3) progress on capex and 4) demand indicators from China & developed countries. Our top picks are Hindalco Industries (HNDL) and Jindal Stainless (JDSL).

Weak performance for steel: Steel companies having higher longs exposure are expected to get affected due to the sharp fall in pricing during 2QFY25. HRC prices too continued the downward trend affected by falling global prices. As global prices have fallen 8-9% QoQ, domestic HRC prices were trading at 5-8% premium on import parity basis, which led to higher imports, affecting domestic pricing. Sales volumes for steel universe are estimated to have increased just 1% YoY (5-6% QoQ), which would impact operating leverage. Benefits of lower coking coal prices would partially aid EBITDA/t. Domestic iron ore prices too declined 12-15%, which would also aid non-integrated players, but with lag. As a result, EBITDA/t for our universe would see an average QoQ decline of Rs600-700. We expect JSTL and SAIL to report sequentially higher EBITDA/t on account of lower RM prices and better volume growth on a weak base.

We expect NMDC to deliver 29% YoY increase in EBITDA/t to Rs1,609 on higher pricing, although volumes were muted due to weak demand in the monsoon quarter. We expect sequential improvement in JDSL's EBITDA/t to Rs17,919 (+3% QoQ) aided by higher stainless steel prices.

October 7, 2024

Exhibit 1: PL Universe

Companies	Rating	CMP (Rs)	TP (Rs)
Hindalco Industries	BUY	748	847
Jindal Stainless	Acc	779	849
Jindal Steel & Power	Acc	1,021	1,090
JSW Steel	Acc	1,034	1,106
National Aluminium Co.	Sell	220	186
NMDC	Acc	237	266
Steel Authority of India	Reduce	139	131
Tata Steel	Acc	167	181

Source: PL Acc=Accumulate

Top Picks

Hindalco Industries

Jindal Stainless

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Continued rally in LME prices to benefit non-ferrous companies in 2H: Performance of non-ferrous companies under our universe is expected to remain stable, despite the fall in LME prices during Q2FY25. Sharp rise in alumina prices and higher volume would aid HNDL and NACL. LME prices have started improving again on weak USD, which would aid 2HFY25 earnings. Novelis volume is expected to remain flat QoQ, despite its Swiss facility getting affected by floods. We factor in ~USD500/t EBITDA for Novelis. NACL's ramping up of other captive coal mine and higher alumina prices (~9% QoQ) are expected to benefit FY25E EBITDA; however, continued delays in execution is likely to limit volume growth over FY24-27E.

Key changes in estimates/ratings:

Ferrous companies: We cut our FY25E EBITDA estimates for steel companies under coverage by 6-15% given the recent sharp fall in steel prices, and introduce FY27E estimates. We cut our FY25E/26E EBITDA for Jindal Steel and Power (JSP) by 6% each on lower steel price assumptions. With recovery in Chinese steel prices, we expect domestic pricing to improve, while ongoing capacity expansion at JSP is expected to deliver volumes from Q1FY26. We upgrade our rating from **'Hold'** to **'Accumulate'** with revised TP of Rs1,090 based on 6x EV of Sep'26 EBITDA (earlier Rs978).

As SAIL remains a price play on domestic steel prices in the near to medium term, we upgrade its rating from **'Sell'** to **'Reduce'** as we tweak FY25E/26E estimates. We cut FY25E EBITDA by 4% on lower steel price assumptions, but upgrade its TP to Rs131 based on 5.5x EV of Sep'26 EBITDA (earlier Rs112).

We cut our FY25E/26E EBITDA for Tata Steel (TATA) by 13%/8% on lower steel price assumptions. With shutdown of both furnaces at TSUK, we expect earnings leakage to stop from 2HFY25. We raise TSE EV/EBITDA multiple from 5x to 6x in our SOTP as TSE hangover is almost over, and the company can now focus on faster growing Indian markets. Maintain 'Accumulate' with revised TP of Rs181 (earlier Rs175).

We cut our FY25E/26E EBITDA for JSW Steel (JSTL) by 15%/2% on lower steel price assumptions. Maintain 'Accumulate' with revised TP of Rs1,106 based on 7x EV of Sep'26 EBITDA (earlier Rs1,022).

Non-ferrous companies: For every USD100/t increase in LME price assumption, NACL's EPS gets upgraded by ~10.4%, while HNDL's EPS gets upgraded by ~5.6%. NACL's ramping up of other captive coal mine and higher alumina prices (~9% QoQ) are expected to benefit FY25E EBITDA, but continued delays in execution is likely to limit volume growth over FY24-27E. Maintain 'Sell' with revised TP of Rs186 (earlier Rs142). For Hindalco, we have tweaked our FY25E/26E EBITDA estimates by ~2% each on higher aluminum price assumption. Maintain 'Buy' with revised TP of Rs847 (earlier Rs749) as we roll forward to Sep'26 EBITDA.



Top Pick:

Hindalco Industries: HNDL is well placed amongst our metals universe as a) Novelis is expected to witness gradual improvement in EBITDA/t over the next few quarters (given resilient developed economies and gradual improvement in consumer demand from China); and b) softer thermal coal prices, opening of captive coal mines, rising focus on high-margin value-added products and sharp jump in LME prices, which are expected to benefit India business.

Jindal Stainless: We expect JDSL to deliver strong 15%+ CAGR volume growth on the back of ongoing evolution of SS demand across sectors in India. Due to its corrosion resistance, high strength & durability properties, SS usage has improved significantly in India. Some GoI initiatives such as replacement of carbon steel in coastal areas, railway station modernization & increasing metro network are expected to aid volume growth. With newly announced Indonesian capex plan and Chromeni asset buy-out, JDSL has enough capacities to cater to strong domestic volume growth.

Exhibit 2: Volumes to remain muted YoY due to monsoon and lower demand

	3QFY23	4QFY23	1QFY24	2QFY24	3QFY24	4QFY24	1QFY25	2QFY25E	YoY gr.	QoQ gr.
TATA India	4,740	5,150	4,790	4,820	4,880	5,420	4,940	5,100	6%	3%
JSW Std	4,950	5,680	4,930	5,410	5,200	5,690	5,090	5,506	2%	8%
SAIL	4,151	4,680	3,884	4,770	3,810	4,560	4,010	4,627	-3%	15%
JSP	1,900	2,030	1,840	2,010	1,810	2,010	2,090	1,869	-7%	-11%
NMDC	9,580	12,410	10,975	9,571	11,394	12,510	10,080	9,740	2%	-3%
JDSL	468	508	549	544	512	570	578	561	3%	-3%

Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 3: NSR to witness 4-5% QoQ decline as steel prices fell sharply following global pricing

Realisations (Rs/t)	3QFY23	4QFY23	1QFY24	2QFY24	3QFY24	4QFY24	1QFY25	2QFY25E	YoY gr.	QoQ gr.
TATA India	71,581	73,880	72,427	70,924	71,069	67,592	66,720	64,051	-10%	-4%
JSW Std	62,495	65,410	66,513	62,362	64,058	62,111	64,153	61,156	-2%	-5%
SAIL	60,327	62,245	62,713	58,625	61,274	58,162	59,845	56,853	-3%	-5%
JSP	62,275	65,972	66,905	60,108	63,624	60,443	61,449	58,131	-3%	-5%
NMDC	3,826	4,669	4,851	4,145	4,679	5,138	5,300	4,823	16%	-9%
JDSL	1,92,385	1,86,046	1,82,776	1,78,808	1,77,486	1,66,925	1,65,788	1,66,617	-7%	0%

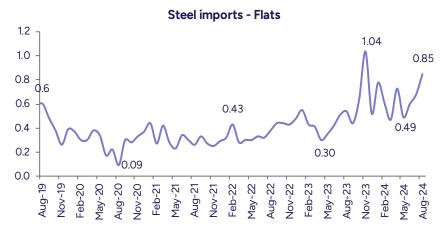
Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 4: EBITDA/t scenario is mixed depending upon volume growth and weak NSR

EBITDA/ton (Rs)	3QFY23	4QFY23	1QFY24	2QFY24	3QFY24	4QFY24	1QFY25	2QFY25E	YoY gr.	QoQ gr.
TATA India	10,835	16,806	13,808	14,248	16,905	14,846	13,711	11,350	-20%	-17%
JSW Std	8,141	10,998	9,860	12,750	11,113	7,807	8,399	9,424	-26%	12%
SAIL	5,003	6,226	4,241	4,444	5,617	4,472	5,535	6,753	52%	22%
JSP	11,813	10,543	14,420	11,503	15,021	12,533	12,915	10,357	-10%	-20%
NMDC	1,191	1,742	1,816	1,244	1,762	1,680	2,321	1,609	29%	-31%
JDSL	20,246	21,611	20,375	19,679	19,937	14,505	17,373	17,919	-9%	3%

Source: Company, PL





Source: SteelMint, PL

Exhibit 6: Avg Indian HRC prices declined by Rs3,068/t QoQ



Source: SteelMint, PL

Exhibit 7: Avg China HRC prices declined 9.7% QoQ (USD/t)



Source: SteelMint, PL

Exhibit 8: Iron ore fines (62%) declined ~10% QoQ (USD/t)



Source: SteelMint, PL

Exhibit 9: Coking coal prices declined ~13% QoQ (USD/t)



Source: SteelMint, PL

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Exhibit 10: Rebar prices declined ~10% QoQ (Rs/t)



Source: SteelMint, PL

Exhibit 12: Avg pig iron prices declined ~9% QoQ (Rs/t)



Source: SteelMint, PL

Exhibit 14: LME aluminum prices declined ~6% QoQ (\$/t)



Source: PL

Exhibit 11: Sponge iron avg prices increased 7% QoQ (Rs/t)



Source: SteelMint, PL

Exhibit 13: SS 304 grade prices increased 1.3% QoQ (Rs/t)



Source: SteelMint, PL

Exhibit 15: Spot alumina (E China) grew ~9% QoQ (USD/t)



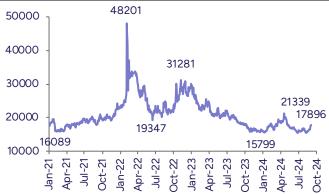
Source: PL

Exhibit 16: LME copper prices declined ~5.6% QoQ (USD/t)



Exhibit 17: LME nickel prices declined ~12% QoQ (USD/t)

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Source: PL Source: PL

Exhibit 18: Q2FY25 Result Preview (Rs bn)

Company Name		Q2FY25E	Q2FY24	YoY gr. (%)	Q1FY25	QoQ gr. (%)	Remark
	Sales	572.4	541.7	5.7	570.1	0.4	Average LME AL declined ~6% QoQ while alumina prices
Hindalco	EBITDA	67.0	56.1	19.3	75.0	(10.7)	•
Industries	Margin (%)	11.7	10.4	134 bps	13.2	-146 bps	higher volumes to balance India ops. Copper volumes assumed at ~127kt while AL volumes at 335kt. Novelis
	PBT	43.9	32.0	37.4	51.8	(15.1)	
	Adj. PAT	33.5	21.3	57.1	37.3	(10.3)	
	Sales	98.2	98.0	0.3	94.3	4.2	Expect volume growth to slow down at 5 +70 for to
	EBITDA	12.2	12.3	(0.9)	12.1		~562kt due to maintenance shutdown and weak exports; NSR to remain flattish QoQ to ~Rs167k/t (-6-7% YoY);
Jindal Stainless	Margin (%)	12.4	12.6	-14 bps	12.8	-43 bps	expect standalone EBITDA/t in the range of Rs17.5k-18k
	PBT	8.8	8.8	(0.7)	8.9	(1.0) 0.5	
	Adj. PAT	6.5	7.7	(15.9)	6.5		·
	Sales	116.8	122.5	(4.7)	136.2	(14.2)	Expect sharp 5.4% QoQ decline in NSR as long product
Jindal Steel &	EBITDA	20.8	22.9	(8.9)	28.4	(26.6)	prices declined ~8-10% during quarter due to weak
Power	Margin (%)	17.8	18.7	-82 bps	20.9	-302 bps	demand; steel volumes to decline ~6-7% YoY to 1.87mt on weak demand and maintenance shutdown; EBITDA/t
	PBT	11.3	13.8	(18.2)	18.6	(39.1)	to decline by ~Rs2500 QoQ to ~Rs10,357.
	Adj. PAT	8.2	13.9	(41.0)	13.4	(38.9)	
	Sales	444.1	445.8	(0.4)	429.4	3.4	Expect ~4.5% QoQ decline in NSR as both HRC and longs
	EBITDA	62.0	78.9	(21.4)	55.1	12.5	declined during the quarter along with export prices; std volume to grow ~2% YoY to ~5.5mt (incl. BPSL ~6.27mt);
JSW Steel	Margin (%)	14.0	17.7	-373 bps	12.8	113 bps	EBITDA/t to improve by Rs1025 QoQ to ~Rs9,424 on
	PBT	25.0	40.2	(37.9)	13.9	79.5	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Adj. PAT	15.5	23.9	(35.2)	8.5	83.3	RM prices.
	Sales	35.1	30.4	15.5	28.6	23.0	
	EBITDA	10.1	4.0	154.2	9.3	<i>7</i> .9	Expect alumina and metal volumes to grow ~15% (on
National Aluminium Co.	Margin (%)	28.7	13.0	1565 bps	32.7	-403 bps	weak base) & 1% YoY to ~268kt & 118kt respectively;
Aldriniani Go.	PBT	8.9	2.7	222.1	8.2	8.4	EBITDA to grow 8% QoQ on higher alumina prices.
	Adj. PAT	6.5	2.1	213.4	6.0	<i>7</i> .5	
	Sales	47.5	40.1	18.3	54.1	(12.3)	
	EBITDA	15.7	11.9	31.6	23.4	(33.0)	Iron ore volume of 9.74mt (-3% QoQ) affected by weak
NMDC	Margin (%)	33.0	29.7	333 bps	43.2	-1023 bps	demand amidst monsoon quarter; expect realisation to decline ~9% QoQ (+16% YoY) to Rs 4,823/t as NMDC had
	PBT	18.2	14.0	29.6	26.1	(30.2)	taken price hikes earlier. We factor in EBITDA/t to decline
	Adj. PAT	13.1	10.3	27.8	19.6	(33.3)	31% QoQ to Rs1,609/t (+29% YoY).
	, .sg. 1 / .1	13.1	10.5	27.0	15.0	(55.5)	



Company Name		Q2FY25E	Q2FY24	YoY gr. (%)	Q1FY25	QoQ gr. (%)	Remark
	Sales	263.1	279.6	(5.9)	240.0	9.6	
Ctaal Authority	EBITDA	31.2	21.2	47.4	22.2	40.8	Expect ~5% QoQ decline in NSR as long product prices fell sharply in Q2FY25; expect volumes to improve ~12%
Steel Authority of India	Margin (%)	11.9	7.6	430 bps	9.2	263 bps	QoQ to ~4.6mt on weak base (-3% YoY); with lower
Or mana	PBT	12.6	3.6	248.2	3.3	286.4	coking coal prices expect EBITDA/t to see improvement of ~Rs1,200 QoQ to ~Rs6,753/t.
	Adj. PAT	9.4	12.4	(23.9)	0.1	8,735.2	
	Sales	542.6	556.8	(2.6)	547.7	(0.9)	Expect ~4% QoQ decline in NSR at TSI; volumes grew 6%
	EBITDA	53.4	42.7	25.2	66.9	(20.2)	YoY to 5.1mt; EBITDA/t to see decline of Rs2,361 QoQ to ~Rs11,350/t. TSE contribution to decline QoQ as
Tata Steel	Margin (%)	9.8	7.7	218 bps	12.2	-238 bps	shutdown of second BF can add to costs; factoring in
	PBT	10.1	0.6	1,673.2	26.4	(61.9)	TSUK EBITDA loss of GBP230/t; TSN volume grew 28% YoY but prices were weak which can affect EBITDA/t to
,	Adj. PAT	3.2	4.7	(31.4)	10.9	(70.2)	GBP10.

Source: Company, PL; Consolidated estimates



Exhibit 19: Valuation Summary

Company Names S/ Rating			CMP TP		MCap		Sales (I	Rs bn)			EBITDA	(Rs bn)			PAT (R	s bn)			EPS (Rs)			RoE ((%)			PE (x)	
Company Names	С	Rating	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs bn)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Hindalco Industries	С	BUY	748	847	1,660.3	2,159.6	2,339.8	2,530.6	2,693.4	242.5	307.6	341.3	357.6	101.4	150.9	170.3	178.9	45.7	68.0	76.7	80.6	10.1	13.3	13.2	12.3	16.4	11.0	9.8	9.3
Jindal Stainless	С	Acc	779	849	641.1	385.6	483.1	572.3	628.3	47.0	59.6	73.6	80.7	26.4	33.8	44.3	51.2	32.1	41.0	53.8	62.1	20.1	21.2	22.6	21.2	24.3	19.0	14.5	12.5
Jindal Steel & Power	С	Acc	1,021	1,090	1,023.6	500.3	532.4	685.2	836.3	102.0	122.0	163.4	211.4	59.4	60.7	90.1	124.8	59.2	60.5	89.9	124.5	14.3	12.8	16.5	19.2	17.2	16.9	11.4	8.2
JSW Steel	С	Acc	1,034	1,106	2,498.8	1,750.1	1,875.1	2,267.9	2,410.1	282.4	318.1	429.4	485.7	82.2	111.3	179.4	206.9	34.0	46.1	74.2	85.6	11.5	13.5	18.9	18.4	30.4	22.4	13.9	12.1
National Aluminium Co	o. S	Sell	220	186	404.7	131.5	148.4	167.3	187.4	28.7	43.2	53.5	66.0	20.6	28.9	35.4	44.7	11.2	15.7	19.3	24.3	14.8	18.5	19.7	21.3	19.7	14.0	11.4	9.1
NMDC	S	Acc	237	266	693.3	213.1	235.5	269.1	296.7	72.9	86.7	103.5	117.7	57.7	68.5	79.7	89.8	19.7	23.4	27.2	30.7	23.9	24.7	24.7	24.1	12.0	10.1	8.7	7.7
Steel Authority of India	a S	Reduce	139	131	574.2	1,027.5	1,028.5	1,118.5	1,223.8	85.1	124.1	142.4	150.4	14.1	38.4	52.2	55.7	3.4	9.3	12.6	13.5	2.7	6.9	8.8	8.7	40.7	15.0	11.0	10.3
Tata Steel	С	Acc	167	181	2,080.1	2,291.7	2,392.2	2,832.9	3,057.2	223.1	308.3	445.9	517.6	29.9	107.7	207.5	272.5	2.4	8.6	16.6	21.8	3.1	11.3	19.4	21.6	69.7	19.3	10.0	7.6

Source: Company, PL S=Standalone / C=Consolidated / Acc=Accumulate

Exhibit 20: Change in Estimates

	Rating		Ŧ				Sales						PAT					EPS					
	Kati	ing	Tar	Target Price			FY25E			FY26E			FY25E			FY26E		FY25E			FY26E		
	С	P	С	Р	% Chng.	С	P	% Chng.	С	Р	% Chng.	С	Р	% Chng.	С	Р	% Chng.	С	Р	% Chng.	С	P % Chng.	
Hindalco Industries	BUY	BUY	847	749	13.1%	2,339.8	2,325.6	0.6%	2,530.6	2,498.3	1.3%	150.9	147.4	2.4%	170.3	162.8	4.6%	68.0	66.4	2.4%	76.7	73.4 4.6%	
Jindal Stainless	Acc	Acc	849	836	1.6%	483.1	504.9	-4.3%	572.3	591.3	-3.2%	33.8	36.5	-7.5%	44.3	47.8	-7.3%	41.0	44.3	-7.5%	53.8	58.0 -7.3%	
Jindal Steel & Power	Acc	Hold	1,090	978	11.4%	532.4	565.9	-5.9%	685.2	695.6	-1.5%	60.7	69.3	-12.4%	90.1	94.8	-4.9%	60.5	69.1	-12.4%	89.9	94.6 -4.9%	
JSW Steel	Acc	Acc	1,106	1,022	8.2%	1,875.1	2,032.0	-7.7%	2,267.9	2,397.8	-5.4%	111.3	149.2	-25.4%	179.4	186.3	-3.7%	46.1	61.7	-25.4%	74.2	77.1 -3.7%	
National Aluminium Co.	Sell	Sell	186	142	31.5%	148.4	149.4	-0.6%	167.3	160.6	4.2%	28.9	29.6	-2.4%	35.4	30.5	16.2%	15.7	16.1	-2.4%	19.3	16.6 16.2%	
NMDC	Acc	Acc	266	253	5.2%	235.5	233.2	1.0%	269.1	273.5	-1.6%	68.5	65.9	4.0%	79.7	78.8	1.1%	23.4	22.5	4.0%	27.2	26.9 1.1%	
Steel Authority of India	Reduce	Sell	131	112	16.6%	1,028.5	1,059.4	-2.9%	1,118.5	1,159.6	-3.5%	38.4	42.1	-8.9%	52.2	50.2	4.1%	9.3	10.2	-8.9%	12.6	12.1 4.1%	
Tata Steel	Acc	Acc	181	175	3.0%	2,392.2	2,507.2	-4.6%	2,832.9	2,903.3	-2.4%	107.7	144.2	-25.3%	207.5	236.1	-12.1%	8.6	11.6	-25.3%	16.6	18.9 -12.1%	

Source: Company, PL C=Current / P=Previous / Acc=Accumulate



Analyst Coverage Universe

Sr. No.	Company Name	Rating	TP (Rs)	Share Price (Rs)
1	ACC	BUY	3,457	2,439
2	Ambuja Cement	BUY	756	611
3	Dalmia Bharat	Accumulate	2,076	1,929
4	Hindalco Industries	BUY	749	621
5	Jindal Stainless	Accumulate	836	741
6	Jindal Steel & Power	Hold	978	972
7	JSW Steel	Accumulate	1,022	890
8	National Aluminium Co.	Sell	142	199
9	NMDC	Accumulate	253	217
10	Nuvoco Vistas Corporation	Accumulate	386	354
11	Shree Cement	Accumulate	27,481	26,034
12	Steel Authority of India	Sell	112	129
13	Tata Steel	Accumulate	175	163
14	Ultratech Cement	Accumulate	13,084	11,450

PL's Recommendation Nomenclature

 Buy
 : > 15%

 Accumulate
 : 5% to 15%

 Hold
 : +5% to -5%

 Reduce
 : -5% to -15%

 Sell
 : < -15%</td>

Not Rated (NR) : No specific call on the stock
Under Review (UR) : Rating likely to change shortly



ANALYST CERTIFICATION

(Indian Clients)

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