

## India

### HOLD (no change)

Consensus ratings\*: Buy 16 Hold 6 Sell 14

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Current price:	Rs1,022
Target price:	Rs1,060
Previous target:	Rs905
Up/downside:	3.7%
InCred Research / Consensus:	17.1%
Reuters:	TRCE.BO
Bloomberg:	TRCL IN
Market cap:	US\$2,900m
	Rs241,538m
Average daily turnover:	US\$5.9m
	Rs493.7m
Current shares o/s:	235.6m
Free float:	46.3%
*Source: Bloomberg	

#### Key changes in this note

- Raise EBITDA by 4% for FY24F-26F.
- Raise target price to Rs1,060 from Rs905 earlier.



		Source: B	loomberg
Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M
Absolute (%)	7.6	18.3	45.1
Relative (%)	9.7	19.8	35.7

Major shareholders	% held
Promoter & Promoter Group	42.1
Kotak Equity Hybrid	6.8
LIC of India	7.0

#### Research Analyst(s)



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# Ramco Cements Ltd

# Strong 2Q, but rich valuation limits upside

- TRCL's 2QFY24 EBITDA was at Rs3.99bn (our est. Rs3.4bn), up 1.2x yoy and 17% qoq, mainly due to strong volume and lower costs (outperforming its peers).
- We raise our FY24F-25F EBITDA estimates by 4% to factor in a higher sales volume and profitability in 2Q. Net debt rose gog driven by higher capex.
- Retain our HOLD rating on the stock with a higher target price of Rs1.060 (Rs905 earlier). Current EV/t limits the upside in the stock price.

### Strong volume growth in 2QFY24; realization down 3% gog

2QFY24 cement volume of The Ramco Cements (TRCL) grew by ~38% yoy and 7% goq to 4.61mt (~10% above our/consensus estimates). Capacity utilization was at 82% vs. 79% qoq. In 2Q, South India's volume growth was much stronger than that of East India. The eastern region volume fell to 19% vs. 21% goq as it was impacted due to heavy rains. Further, TRCL hopes to maintain the same volume (or slightly higher) run-rate in 2HFY24F. Blended realization was down by ~3% gog, much below our estimate and that of peers. Prices improved in Oct 2023 and management hopes the higher prices will sustain. We factor in FY24F/25F volume growth of 22%/8%, respectively.

### Blended EBITDA/t up at ~Rs865 led by a decline in costs

Total cost/t was down 5% qoq and 12% yoy at Rs4,188, with raw material + P&F cost/t falling by 10% qoq and 21% yoy, and fuel consumption cost at US\$148/t (on per kcal basis down to Rs1.45 vs. Rs2.03 qoq and Rs2.58 yoy) vs. US\$170/t qoq and US\$199/t yoy. Fixed cost rose by only 1% due to operating leverage benefits. Spot pet-coke/coal (4,200kCal) costs were at US\$138/69/t, respectively. However, power & fuel or P&F cost/t may come down in the coming quarters, as per TRCL. Green energy consumption was 38% vs. 29% qoq due to a change in the usage of wind power for captive purposes (133MW shifted from sale to the grid to captive use); this should rise to ~40%/45% by FY24F/25F. Freight cost/t was down by 1% qoq, with the lead distance in 2Q at 259km vs. 274km qoq and 279km yoy. Going ahead, we feel cost deflation to be in line with coal/pet-coke prices.

Net debt rises qoq; TRCL likely to announce clinker unit expansion Net debt rose to Rs49.7bn as of Sep 2023-end (peaked out) vs. Rs44bn as of Jun 2023end (out of which Rs4.8bn was for working capital). TRCL incurred a huge capex of

~Rs12.2bn in 1HFY24 (Rs9.4bn in 2Q) and gave guidance of Rs16.5bn for FY24F (Rs8.5bn earlier). The 0.9mt grinding unit or GU in Odisha may be commissioned in Jan 2024F. The Kurnool line-2 (~2.5mt) will remain TRCL's priority, which it can commission in 12-15 months at a capex of <US\$40/t. TRCL has purchased limestone- bearing land in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh during 2Q.

### Retain HOLD rating with higher TP of Rs1,060; further upside capped

TRCL trades at EV/EBITDA multiple of 16.5/14.3x for FY24F/25F, respectively. We retain HOLD rating on it with a Sep 2024F target price of Rs1,060 (Rs905 earlier), set at oneyear forward EV/EBITDA of 14x (13x earlier). TRCL trades at EV/t of US\$155 on FY25F, and we believe the current EV/t limits any further upside. Downside risks: Weak demand, pricing pressure, delay in capacity & a rise in input costs. Upside risks: Better-thanexpected demand recovery & pricing growth, and better-than-expected cost control.

Financial Summary	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Revenue (Rsm)	59,800	81,353	95,440	104,467	113,305
Operating EBITDA (Rsm)	12,838	11,820	17,471	19,750	21,976
Net Profit (Rsm)	8,927	3,435	5,453	6,947	8,347
Core EPS (Rs)	37.8	14.5	23.1	29.4	35.3
Core EPS Growth	17.1%	(61.6%)	58.7%	27.4%	20.1%
FD Core P/E (x)	27.02	70.31	44.30	34.77	28.94
DPS (Rs)	3.0	2.0	3.2	4.0	4.9
Dividend Yield	0.29%	0.20%	0.31%	0.40%	0.48%
EV/EBITDA (x)	21.71	24.09	16.51	14.35	12.52
P/FCFE (x)	167.09	81.36	21.12	12.85	12.67
Net Gearing	57.5%	63.6%	64.8%	53.5%	39.3%
P/BV (x)	3.70	3.56	3.33	3.09	2.83
ROE	14.7%	5.2%	7.8%	9.2%	10.2%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates			(0.53%)	(0.49%)	(0.46%)
InCred Research/Consensus EPS (x)					

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



# Strong 2Q, but rich valuation limits upside

### 2QFY24 results review

### **Key operational highlights of the quarter**

- Volume: Cement sales volume (including dry mortar products) stood at 4.61mtpa, up ~38% yoy (~10% above Incred estimate and ~15% above consensus estimate). Capacity utilization was at ~82% during the quarter vs. ~79% qoq.
- Blended realization was at Rs5,053/t, down ~3.1% qoq and ~5% yoy (2% below Incred estimate) due to soft pricing during the quarter. Further, cement prices improved from Oct 2023 and are expected to have a positive impact on the operating margin in the coming quarters.
- Total operating cost/t was down ~5% qoq and 12% yoy to Rs4,188 vs. our estimate of Rs4,345 while P&F cost/t declined to Rs1,358 from Rs1,989 yoy and Rs1,758 qoq (blended fuel consumption stood at US\$148 vs. US\$170 qoq and US\$199/t yoy during the quarter on Kcal basis at Rs1.75 in 2Q vs. Rs2.03 qoq and Rs2.58 yoy). Logistics cost/t declined by ~1% qoq to Rs 1,266, as the lead distance fell marginally. Fixed cost increased by only ~1% yoy on account of improved operating leverage.
- The overall green power usage significantly improved to ~38% in 2QFY24 from ~22% in 2QFY23 in view of change in the usage of wind power to captive purpose. The green power share is likely to reach 40% in FY24F and 45% in FY25F.
- The current spot CIF prices of pet-coke and 4,200 GAR coal from Indonesia have come to the levels of US\$138/t and US\$69/t, respectively. Even though fuel prices have come down in 2QFY24 for a brief span, power & fuel cost/t of cement in 2QFY24 remain at an elevated level due to the high base effect of the carrying value of fuel inventory.
- **EBITDA:** For the quarter, it was at Rs3.99bn vs. our expectation of Rs3.42bn, up 117% yoy and 17% qoq. EBITDA/t stood at Rs865 during the quarter (vs our estimate of Rs815/t) vs. Rs794/t in 1QFY24 and Rs549/t in 2QFY23.
- TRCL reported that PAT was up ~7.8x yoy and 28% qoq at ~Rs1bn vs. our expectation of Rs768m. Interest cost increased by 112% yoy and 25% qoq to Rs1.17bn due to commissioning of the integrated plant at Kolimigundla, Line-3 at RR Nagar & dry mortar plants. During 2QFY24, the average interest cost increased to 7.80% vs. 7.68% goq and 6.35% in FY23.

### Other updates:

- Net debt stood at Rs49.66bn as of Sep 2023-end (Rs3.74bn is short-term loan)
   vs. Rs44.06bn qoq and Rs43.51bn as of Mar 2023-end. Net debt/EBITDA stood at 3.01x vs. 3.15x qoq and 6.15x yoy.
- Capex: The company has incurred a capex of Rs12.25bn during 1HFY24.
- Acquired limestone-bearing lands in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka for long-term augmentation of mining reserves, which is a continuous process.
- TPP of 18MW will be commissioned during Dec 2023F and railway siding will be commissioned in Jun 2024F. Expansion of dry mortar plant: two units in Andhra Pradeh & Odisha will be commissioned in Dec 2023F.
- Odisha grinding unit Line II with a cement capacity of 0.9mtpa is likely to be commissioned in Jan 2024F.



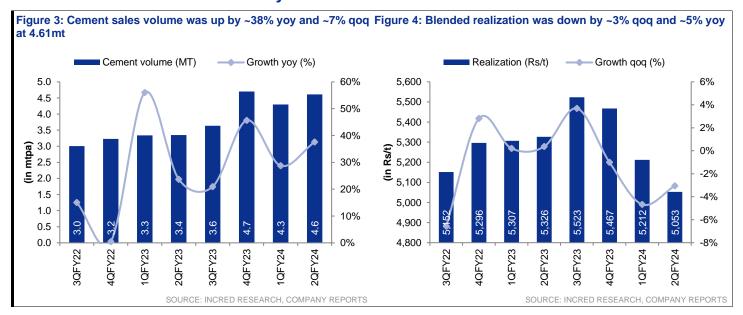
# **Quarterly performance**

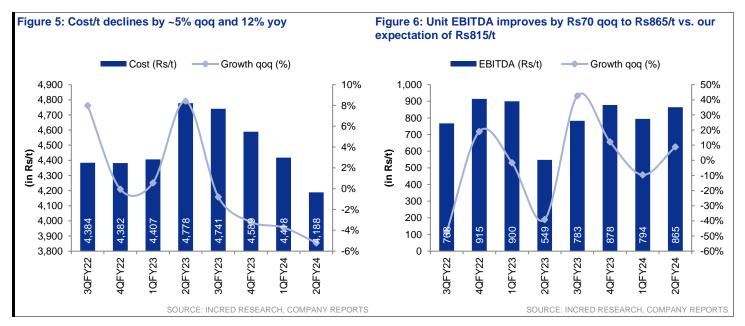
Particulars (Rs m)	2QFY24	2QFY24F	1QFY24	2QFY23 -		% Change	
<u> </u>					2QFY24F	1QFY24	2QFY23
Net Sales	23,293	21,664	22,411	17,844	8%	4%	31%
Raw Materials Consumed	3,308	2,462	2,350	2,135	34%	41%	55%
Freight and Forwarding Expenses	5,835	5,309	5,496	4,044	10%	6%	44%
Power and Fuel Costs	6,262	7,036	7,559	6,664	-11%	-17%	-6%
Employee Costs	1,385	1,210	1,266	1,121	14%	9%	24%
Other expenses	2,517	2,226	2,327	2,042	13%	8%	23%
Total Expenditure	19,307	18,243	18,996	16,006	6%	2%	21%
EBITDA	3,986	3,421	3,415	1,838	16%	17%	117%
Depreciation	1,574	1,502	1,479	1,216	5%	6%	29%
EBIT	2,412	1,919	1,936	622	26%	25%	288%
Interest	1,165	967	934	551	20%	25%	112%
Other Income	135	86	79	88	57%	71%	52%
PBT	1,382	1,038	1,081	160	33%	28%	762%
Tax	369	270	292	46	37%	26%	710%
Recurring PAT	1,013	768	789	115	32%	28%	783%
Extraordinary Items	0	0	0	0			
Reported PAT	1,013	768	789	115	32%	28%	783%
EPS (Rs)	4.3	3.3	3.3	0.5	32%	28%	783%
Gross Margin	33.9%	31.7%	31.3%	28.0%	221 bp	260 bp	583 bp
EBITDA Margin	17.1%	15.8%	15.2%	10.3%	132 bp	188 bp	681 bp
EBIT Margin	10.4%	8.9%	8.6%	3.5%	150 bp	172 bp	687 bp
PBT Margin	5.9%	4.8%	4.8%	0.9%	114 bp	111 bp	503 bp
PAT Margin	4.3%	3.5%	3.5%	0.6%	80 bp	83 bp	371 bp
Tax Rate	26.7%	26.0%	27.0%	28.4%			
Cost Items as a % of Sales							
RM Costs	66%	68%	69%	72%	-221 bp	-260 bp	-583 bp
Employee Costs	6%	6%	6%	6%	36 bp	30 bp	-34 bp
Other Expenses	11%	10%	10%	11%	53 bp	42 bp	-64 br

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Per tonne analysis	2QFY24		TQF124	2QF123	2QFY24F	1QFY24	2QFY23
Sales volume (Cement + Clinker)	4.61	4.20	4.30	3.35	10%	7%	37.6%
Realization	5,053	5,160	5,212	5,326	-2%	-3.1%	-5%
EBITDA/t	865	815	794	549	6%	9%	58%
RM Costs/t	717	586	546	637	22%	31%	13%
P&F Costs/t	1,358	1,676	1,758	1,989	-19%	-23%	-32%
Freight Costs/t	1,266	1,264	1,278	1,207	0%	-1%	5%
Employee Costs/t	300	288	294	335	4%	2%	-10%
Other Expenses/t	546	530	541	610	3%	1%	-10%
Total Cost/t	4,188	4,345	4,418	4,778	-4%	-5%	-12%



### Key charts ➤





Rs. m		New Old Change (%)			Old Ch			·)	
	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F
Sales	95,440	1,04,467	1,13,305	93,695	1,02,556	1,11,747	2%	2%	1%
EBITDA	17,470	19,750	21,975	16,835	19,006	21,015	4%	4%	4%
PAT	5,452	6,947	8,346	5,436	6,916	8,303	0%	0%	1%
EPS (Rs.)	23.1	29.4	35.3	23	29	35	0%	0%	1%

Rs. m		Incred		Consensus			(	Change (%)	
	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F
Sales	95,440	1,04,467	1,13,305	93,186	1,01,960	1,07,805	2%	2%	5%
EBITDA	17,470	19,750	21,975	16,445	19,285	21,757	6%	2%	1%
PAT	5,452	6,947	8,346	5,716	7,601	9,280	-5%	-9%	-10%

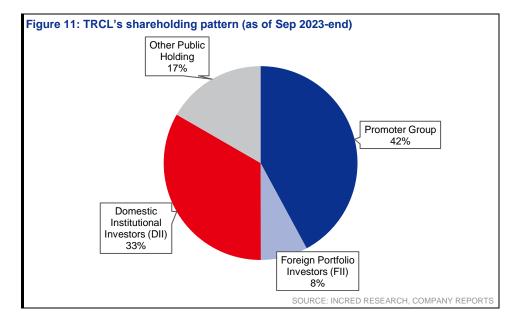


Cement | India

Ramco Cements Ltd | November 10, 2023

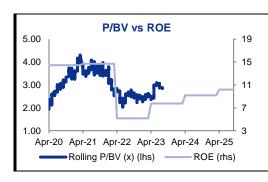
	FY22	FY23F	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F
Volume (mtpa)	11	15	18	20	21
yoy	11%	34%	22%	8%	7%
Realisation (per tonne)	5,413	5,488	5,230	5,303	5,377
yoy	3%	1%	-5%	1%	1%
Cost (per tonne)	4,251	4,690	4,311	4,337	4,370
yoy	14%	10%	-8%	1%	1%
EBITDA (per tonne)	1,162	797	966	1,011	1,051
yoy	-25%	-31%	21%	5%	4%
EBITDA (Rs m)	12,837	11,818	17,470	19,750	21,975
yoy	-17%	-8%	48%	13%	11%
	SOU	RCE: INCRED RE	SEARCH ESTIMA	ATES, COMPANY	/ REPORTS







### BY THE NUMBERS





(Rs mn)	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Total Net Revenues	59,800	81,353	95,440	104,467	113,305
Gross Profit	59,800	81,353	95,440	104,467	113,305
Operating EBITDA	12,838	11,820	17,471	19,750	21,976
Depreciation And Amortisation	(4,008)	(5,044)	(6,154)	(6,647)	(7,045)
Operating EBIT	8,830	6,775	11,316	13,104	14,930
Financial Income/(Expense)	(1,124)	(2,405)	(4,329)	(4,113)	(4,072)
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.					
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	306	367	382	397	421
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	8,012	4,737	7,369	9,388	11,279
Exceptional Items					
Pre-tax Profit	8,012	4,737	7,369	9,388	11,279
Taxation	915	(1,302)	(1,916)	(2,441)	(2,933)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	8,927	3,435	5,453	6,947	8,347
Minority Interests					
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	8,927	3,435	5,453	6,947	8,347
Recurring Net Profit	8,927	3,435	5,453	6,947	8,347
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	8,927	3,435	5,453	6,947	8,347

Cash Flow					
(Rs mn)	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
EBITDA	12,838	11,820	17,471	19,750	21,976
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	(84)	(3,224)	(66)	(1,190)	(927)
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense	306	367	382	397	421
Other Operating Cashflow	(1,561)	8,794	10,294	11,794	13,294
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	(1,124)	(2,405)	(4,329)	(4,113)	(4,072)
Tax Paid	915	(1,302)	(1,916)	(2,441)	(2,933)
Cashflow From Operations	11,291	14,050	21,836	24,198	27,759
Capex	(18,095)	(17,628)	(16,200)	(5,700)	(6,200)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries					
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments					
Other Investing Cashflow	(8)	759	1,300	(700)	1,300
Cash Flow From Investing	(18,103)	(16,869)	(14,900)	(6,400)	(4,900)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	8,256	5,788	4,500	1,000	(3,800)
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares	23		(908)	(1,157)	(1,390)
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid	(709)	(473)	(908)	(1,157)	(1,390)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	(416)	(2,571)	(8,886)	(10,437)	(11,704)
Cash Flow From Financing	7,154	2,745	(6,202)	(11,751)	(18,284)
Total Cash Generated	342	(75)	733	6,047	4,575
Free Cashflow To Equity	1,444	2,969	11,436	18,798	19,059
Free Cashflow To Firm	(5,689)	(414)	11,265	21,910	26,931

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



# BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(Rs mn)	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Total Cash And Equivalents	1,760	1,686	2,419	8,465	13,040
Total Debtors	3,498	4,650	4,707	5,438	5,898
Inventories	8,333	8,823	9,936	10,876	11,486
Total Other Current Assets	3,454	3,715	4,867	5,328	5,892
Total Current Assets	17,046	18,874	21,929	30,107	36,316
Fixed Assets	75,309	99,557	109,403	108,256	107,211
Total Investments	4,220	4,209	4,409	4,609	4,809
Intangible Assets	30,340	19,873	18,373	18,873	17,373
Total Other Non-Current Assets	3,641	2,656	2,856	3,056	3,256
Total Non-current Assets	113,510	126,295	135,041	134,794	132,649
Short-term Debt	10,727	8,653	10,153	10,353	9,353
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	4,892	6,373	8,216	8,145	7,961
Other Current Liabilities	12,165	15,812	16,225	17,237	18,129
Total Current Liabilities	27,784	30,837	34,594	35,735	35,442
Total Long-term Debt	28,573	36,222	39,222	40,022	37,222
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	8,949	10,175	10,675	10,875	11,075
Total Non-current Liabilities	37,522	46,397	49,897	50,897	48,297
Total Provisions					
Total Liabilities	65,307	77,234	84,490	86,632	83,739
Shareholders Equity	65,249	67,935	72,480	78,269	85,226
Minority Interests					
Total Equity	65,249	67,935	72,480	78,269	85,226

Key Ratios					
	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Revenue Growth	13.5%	36.0%	17.3%	9.5%	8.5%
Operating EBITDA Growth	(17.1%)	(7.9%)	47.8%	13.0%	11.3%
Operating EBITDA Margin	21.5%	14.5%	18.3%	18.9%	19.4%
Net Cash Per Share (Rs)	(158.86)	(182.77)	(198.71)	(177.36)	(141.91)
BVPS (Rs)	276.13	287.50	306.73	331.23	360.67
Gross Interest Cover	7.86	2.82	2.61	3.19	3.67
Effective Tax Rate		27.5%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	7.9%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%
Accounts Receivables Days	22.12	18.28	17.89	17.72	18.26
Inventory Days	43.68	38.49	35.87	36.36	36.02
Accounts Payables Days	33.14	29.57	34.15	35.25	32.18
ROIC (%)	8.2%	5.8%	9.0%	10.4%	11.9%
ROCE (%)	9.2%	6.2%	9.6%	10.5%	11.5%
Return On Average Assets	8.2%	4.2%	6.5%	6.9%	7.4%

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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