



India

REDUCE (previously HOLD)

InCred Research / Consensus:

Consensus ratings*: Buy 17 Hold 9 Sell 11

Current price: Rs1,006

Target price: Rs900

Previous target: Rs900

Up/downside: -10.5%

Reuters: TRCE.BO
Bloomberg: TRCL IN
Market cap: US\$2,790m

-5.4%

Rs237,734m
Average daily turnover: US\$6.9m
Rs588.2m

Current shares o/s: 236.3m
Free float: 44.5%
*Source: Bloomberg

Key changes in this note

- Broadly maintain our EBITDA estimates for FY26F-27F.
- Downgrade to HOLD rating with an unchanged target price of Rs900.



Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M
Absolute (%)	3.0	18.0	27.6
Relative (%)	(0.2)	7.8	17.8

Major shareholders	% held
Promoter & Promoter Group	42.6
LICI ULIP	7.1
Kotak MF	6.2

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Ramco Cements Ltd

Miss on all fronts; 1Q offers a sigh of relief

- In 4QFY25, TRCL's volume dipped by ~4% yoy to 5.3mt with EBITDA/t reaching a multi-year low at ~Rs607, down Rs33 qoq and Rs153 yoy, on weak realization.
- Net debt declined qoq on the back of TRCL monetizing Rs4.6bn of non-core assets. Capex to be at Rs12bn, with ~30mtpa cement capacity by Mar 2026F.
- We broadly maintain our FY26F-27F EBITDA to factor in the higher pricing in South India. We downgrade TRCL's rating to REDUCE (vs. HOLD earlier).

Soft conditions drag volume; price hikes sustaining provides hope

The 4QFY25 cement volume of The Ramco Cements (TRCL) declined by ~4% yoy and rose by ~21% qoq to 5.29mt (~9% below our estimate). The company highlighted that demand and pricing pressure dragged sales during the quarter. South India B2B business was flat while B2C volume declined, leading to a fall in the region's share by 100bp yoy. In the eastern region, B2B volume declined while B2C volume grew. Capacity utilization was 85% vs. 96% yoy. Blended realization was flat qoq and down by ~7% yoy due to continued price weakness in key markets. However, TRCL highlighted substantial price hike in the southern region, which should improve the realization going ahead. We have factored in ~6% volume CAGR over FY24-27F as we believe that rising pressure from top players in its markets amid a subdued demand environment will continue to hit TRCL's performance.

EBITDA/t hits a multi-year low of Rs607/t; hikes likely to aid recovery

Total operating costs/t were up by ~1% qoq and down ~5% yoy at Rs3,916 where: a) P&F costs/t were down 9% yoy & 3% qoq at Rs1,030 and blended fuel consumption costs stood at US\$121/t in 4QFY25 vs. US\$122/t qoq and US\$141 yoy, while on Kcal basis they were at Rs1.5 in 4QFY25 vs. Rs1.45 qoq and Rs1.65 yoy. b) Logistics costs/t rose by ~3% qoq to Rs1,299, with the lead distance at 278km vs. 259km qoq. c) Fixed costs fell by ~6% qoq to Rs779/t on account of qoq positive operating leverage. EBITDA/t declined to a multiyear low of Rs607, down by Rs33 qoq and Rs153 yoy. Green power share touched 36% in FY25 vs. 34% yoy. We expect unit EBITDA to improve going ahead, with a steep hike (especially in the southern region, up by Rs30-35/bag in the trade segment vs. 4Q exit price) holding firm in its markets QTD1QFY26.

Net debt eases to Rs44.8bn; monetization, capex on track in FY26F

Net debt fell to Rs44.8bn vs. Rs46.2bn qoq as TRCL took steps to monetize non-core assets worth Rs10bn, of which it achieved ~46% of the target in FY25 & expects to complete the rest by Jul 2025F. The net debt-to-EBITDA ratio is likely to dip to 2.5-2.75x in FY26F vs. 3.51x in FY25. TRCL incurred capex of Rs10.24bn in FY25 and maintained its guidance of Rs12bn for FY26F. TRCL aims to have ~30mtpa capacity by FY26F.

Downgrade to REDUCE rating with an unchanged TP of Rs900

TRCL trades at an EV/EBITDA multiple of 14.3x for FY27F. We have downgraded the stock's rating to REDUCE (HOLD earlier) because of volatility in earnings due to concerns over regional dynamics and high leverage. Our target price remains unchanged at Rs900, set at 13x FY27F EV/EBITDA. **Upside risks:** Better demand and pricing growth in South & East India markets, sharp deleveraging, and better-than-expected cost control.

Financial Summary	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25A	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Revenue (Rsm)	81,353	93,498	84,951	94,460	105,473
Operating EBITDA (Rsm)	11,820	15,525	12,319	16,624	19,652
Net Profit (Rsm)	3,435	3,950	4,174	3,942	5,998
Core EPS (Rs)	14.5	16.7	4.8	16.7	25.4
Core EPS Growth	(61.6%)	15.0%	(71.4%)	249.4%	52.1%
FD Core P/E (x)	69.20	60.19	56.96	60.31	39.64
DPS (Rs)	2.0	2.5	2.0	1.9	2.9
Dividend Yield	0.20%	0.25%	0.20%	0.19%	0.29%
EV/EBITDA (x)	23.77	18.39	22.91	16.98	14.27
P/FCFE (x)	80.07	57.58	40.58	23.65	21.18
Net Gearing	63.6%	66.9%	59.3%	56.8%	51.1%
P/BV (x)	3.50	3.33	3.17	3.03	2.85
ROE	5.2%	5.7%	1.5%	5.1%	7.4%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates				(0.65%)	(0.57%)
InCred Research/Consensus EPS (x)					

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



Miss on all fronts; 1Q offers a sigh of relief

4QFY25 results review

Key operational highlights of the quarter

- **Volume:** Volume: Cement sales volume was 5.29mt (including dry mortar products), -4% yoy and +21% qoq (-9% vs. Incred estimate).
- During 4QFY25, capacity utilization was 85% vs. 96% yoy and 75% goq.
- During 4QFY25, the volume mix for the southern region was 75% vs. 76% yoy and for the eastern region it was 25% vs. 24% yoy.
- B2B sales stood at 35% vs. 33% qoq and 35% yoy.
- Blended realization came in at Rs4,522/t, flat qoq and -7% yoy (-1% vs. Incred estimate) due to cement prices remaining sluggish in core markets during the quarter. However, prices have been flat qoq and down by 7% yoy.
- The share of premium products was 27% in 4QFY25 vs. 29% yoy in the southern region and 23% vs. 20% yoy in the eastern region.
- Total operating costs/t were up by ~1% qoq and down by 5% yoy at Rs3,916 (~3% above Incred estimate) where: a) P&F costs/t declined 9% yoy and 3% qoq to Rs1,030 and where blended fuel consumption stood at US\$121 in 4QFY25 vs. US\$122/t qoq and US\$141 yoy, while on Kcal basis they stood at Rs1.5 in 4QFY25 vs. Rs1.45 qoq and Rs1.65 yoy. b) Logistics cost/t were up by ~3% qoq at Rs1,299. c) Fixed costs were down by ~6% qoq at Rs779/t.
- Pet-coke consumption stood at 66% in 4QFY25 vs. 51% yoy and 69% qoq.
- In 4Q, the overall green power consumption declined to 31% vs. 36% yoy and 39% qoq.
- EBITDA and EBITDA/t: For the quarter, EBITDA was ~26% below our estimate at ~Rs3.2bn, down ~24% yoy and up ~15% qoq. EBITDA/t was at Rs607 during the quarter (vs. our estimate of Rs753) vs. Rs639 in 3QFY25 and Rs760 in 4QFY24.
- Reported PAT came in at Rs310m in 4Q vs. Incred's estimate of Rs1.3bn.
 TRCL recognized a gain of Rs108m on the sale of land during the quarter.
- Net debt stood at ~Rs44.8bn as of Mar 2025-end vs. Rs46.2bn qoq. The cost of debt stood at 7.9% vs. 7.7% in FY24. Net debt-to-EBITDA ratio stood at 3.51x, which is expected to be at 2.5-2.75x in FY26F in line with its targeted debt reduction.

Other updates

- Capex: TRCL will be incurring a capex of Rs12bn in FY26F vs. Rs10.2bn in FY25. The company has monetized non-core assets worth Rs4.6bn (Rs4.43bn in 3Q) vs. a target of Rs10bn by Jul 2025F.
- Capacity update: TRCL is on track to achieve cement capacity of ~30mtpa by Mar 2026F by commissioning the second rail line in Kolimigundla along with de-bottlenecking of existing facilities and adding grinding capacity at existing locations. The Kolimigundla railway siding is expected to be completed by 1QFY26F.
- 54% of mining land vs. 13% for factory land in respect of a new project in Karnataka has been acquired.
- The waste heat recovery system or WHRS plant with a capacity of 10MW in Ramasamy Raja Nagar, along with 15MW of WHRS in Kolimigundla, are scheduled to be commissioned by 1QFY26F. Green power usage to reach 236MW by FY26F vs. 211MW currently.
- Tamil Nadu limestone tax: The government of Tamil Nadu has imposed a tax
 of Rs160/t on limestone (the highest among all states in India) mining, effective
 from the first week of Apr 2025, which will result in Rs200/t of additional costs.



The Tamil Nadu Cement Industry Association is seeking relief on the same from the state government.

- Expansion of capacity in building products: The new unit in Odisha to be commissioned in Jun 2025F.
- Average lead distance in 4Q stood at 278km vs. 294km yoy and 259km qoq.
 Rail co-efficient for cement despatches during 4Q stood at 13% vs. 11% yoy & 9% qoq.
- Current prices: As per TRCL, in the southern region, post Mar 2025, the average cement price increased by Rs30-35/bag in the trade segment and Rs60-70/bag in the non-trade segment and in the eastern region, the trade segment price remained stable whereas the non-trade segment price improved by around Rs10/bag from the exit price of Mar 2025. The company expects this price hike to sustain.

Particulars (Rs m)	4QFY25	4QFY25F	3QFY25	4QFY24		% Change	
, ,					4QFY25F	3QFY25	4QFY24
Net Sales	23,920	26,332	19,766	26,733	-9.2%	21.0%	-10.5%
Raw Materials Consumed	4,271	4,348	3,199	4,221	-1.8%	33.5%	1.2%
Freight and Forwarding Expenses	6,871	7,218	5,537	7,932	-4.8%	24.1%	-13.4%
Power and Fuel Costs	5,448	6,068	4,632	6,192	-10.2%	17.6%	-12.0%
Employee Costs	1,235	1,344	1,316	1,245	-8.1%	-6.1%	-0.7%
Other Expenses	2,886	3,002	2,287	2,973	-3.9%	26.2%	-2.9%
Total Expenditure	20,711	21,980	16,971	22,562	-5.8%	22.0%	-8.2%
EBITDA	3,209	4,352	2,794	4,171	-26.3%	14.8%	-23.1%
Depreciation	1,821	1,717	1,738	1,651	6.1%	4.8%	10.3%
EBIT	1,388	2,635	1,056	2,520	-47.3%	31.4%	-44.9%
Interest	1,133	1,048	1,125	1,038	8.1%	0.7%	9.2%
Other Income	130	143	113	140	-9.3%	15.0%	-7.5%
PBT	493	1,730	3,334	1,623	-71.5%	-85.2%	-69.6%
Tax	183	432	80	409	-57.8%	127.5%	-55.3%
Recurring PAT	202	1,297	-37	1,214	-84.5%	NA	-83.4%
Extraordinary Items	108	0	3,290	0			
Reported PAT	310	1,297	3,253	1,214	-76.1%	-90.5%	-74.5%
EPS (Rs)	1.3	5.5	13.8	5.1	-76.1%	-90.5%	-74.5%
Gross Margin	30.6%	33.0%	32.4%	31.4%	-239bp	-172bp	-73bp
EBITDA Margin	13.4%	16.5%	14.1%	15.6%	-311bp	-72bp	-219bp
EBIT Margin	5.8%	10.0%	5.3%	9.4%	-420bp	46bp	-362bp
PBT Margin	2.1%	6.6%	16.9%	6.1%	-451bp	-1,481bp	-401bp
PAT Margin	1.3%	4.9%	16.5%	4.5%	-363bp	-1,516bp	-325bp
Tax Rate	37.1%	25.0%	2.4%	25.2%	1,209bp	3,468bp	1,190bp
Cost Items as a % of Sales							
Raw Material Costs	69.4%	67.0%	67.6%	68.6%	239bp	172bp	73bp
Employee Costs	5.2%	5.1%	6.7%	4.7%	6bp	-149bp	51bp
Other Expenses	12.1%	11.4%	11.6%	11.1%	66bp	49bp	94bp

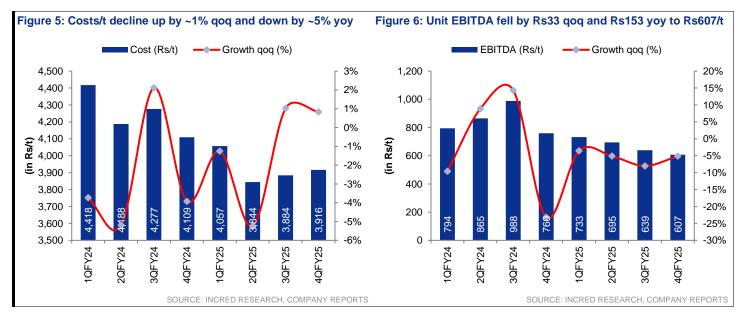
Per tonne analysis	4QFY25	4QFY25F	3QFY25	4QFY24	% Change		
	1 1				4QFY25F	3QFY25	4QFY24
Sales Volume (Cement + Clinker)	5.29	5.78	4.37	5.49	-8.5%	21.0%	-3.7%
Realization	4,522	4,556	4,523	4,869	-0.7%	0.0%	-7.1%
EBITDA/t	607	753	639	760	-19.4%	-5.1%	-20.1%
RM Costs/t	808	752	732	769	7.3%	10.3%	5.0%
P&F Costs/t	1,030	1,050	1,060	1,128	-1.9%	-2.8%	-8.7%
Freight Costs/t	1,299	1,249	1,267	1,445	4.0%	2.5%	-10.1%
Employee Costs/t	234	233	301	227	0.4%	-22.4%	3.1%
Other Expenses/t	546	519	523	541	5.0%	4.3%	0.8%
Total Cost/t	3,916	3,803	3,884	4.109	3.0%	0.8%	-4.7%



Key charts **>**

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Figure 3: Cement sales volume declined by ~4% yoy and was up Figure 4: Blended realization was flat qoq; however, lower by ~7% by ~29% qoq at 5.3mt yoy, in a trend similar to prices in core markets Cement volume (MT) Growth yoy (%) Realization (Rs/t) Growth qoq (%) 6.0 40% 5,400 6% 35% 4% 5,200 5.0 30% 2% 25% 5,000 4.0 0% 20% **ફ્ર** 4,800 3.0 15% -2% 4,600 ع 10% -4% 2.0 5% 4,400 -6% 0% 1.0 4,522 4,200 -8% -5% 0.0 -10% 4,000 -10% 2QFY24 2QFY24 IQFY25 1QFY24 3QFY24 4QFY24 2QFY25 3QFY25 4QFY25 3QFY24 4QFY24 2QFY25 IQFY24 I QFY25 3QFY25 **4QFY25** SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



FY26F				Change (%	u <i>)</i>
1 120	FY27F	FY26F	FY27F	FY26F	FY27I
94,460	1,05,473	97,180	1,08,115	-3%	-3%
16,623	19,652	16,656	19,846	0%	-19
3,942	5,997	4,161	6,384	-6%	-69
16.7	25.4	17.6	27.0	-6%	-6%
	16,623 3,942	16,623 19,652 3,942 5,997	16,623 19,652 16,656 3,942 5,997 4,161	16,623 19,652 16,656 19,846 3,942 5,997 4,161 6,384 16.7 25.4 17.6 27.0	16,623 19,652 16,656 19,846 0% 3,942 5,997 4,161 6,384 -6%

Rs. m	Incr	Incred Consensus		Incred Consensus		Change	(%)
	FY26F	FY27F	FY26F	FY27F	FY26F	FY27F	
Sales	94,460	1,05,473	96,858	1,07,315	-2%	-2%	
EBITDA	16,623	19,652	17,396	20,664	-4%	-5%	
PAT	3,942	5,997	4.859	7.076	-19%	-15%	

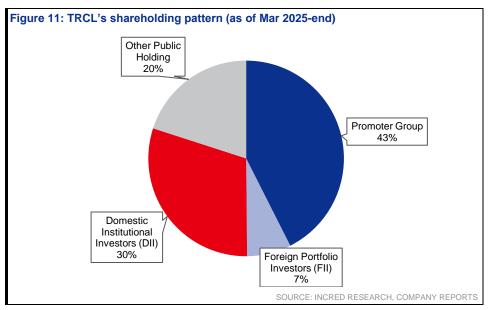


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	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26F	FY27F
Volume (mtpa)	15	18	19	20	22
Yoy	36%	23%	1%	6%	10%
Realisation (per tonne)	5,416	5,081	4,592	4,817	4,894
Yoy	0%	-6%	-10%	5%	2%
Cost (per tonne)	4,629	4,238	3,926	3,969	3,982
Yoy	9%	-8%	-7%	1%	0%
EBITDA (per tonne)	787	844	666	848	912
Yoy	-32%	7%	-21%	27%	8%
EBITDA (Rs m)	11,818	15,525	12,319	16,623	19,652
Yoy	-8%	31%	-21%	35%	18%
	S	OURCE: INCRED	RESEARCH EST	IMATES, COMPA	ANY REPORTS

Figure 10: Maintain HOLD rating w change) EV/EBITDA	rith a Mar 2026F target price of Rs900, set at 13x (no
Valuation	TP
Target EV/EBITDA (x)	13
Target EV (Rs m)	2,56,652
Net debt / (cash) (Rs m)	44,511
No. of shares (m)	236
Fair value per share (Rs)	900
	SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH ESTIMATES, COMPANY REPORTS

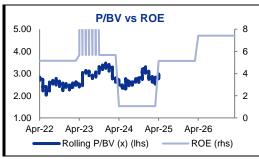








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(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25A	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Total Net Revenues	81,353	93,498	84,951	94,460	105,473
Gross Profit	81,353	93,498	84,951	94,460	105,473
Operating EBITDA	11,820	15,525	12,319	16,624	19,652
Depreciation And Amortisation	(5,044)	(6,359)	(6,912)	(7,396)	(7,839)
Operating EBIT	6,775	9,167	5,407	9,228	11,813
Financial Income/(Expense)	(2,405)	(4,155)	(4,588)	(4,358)	(4,184)
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.					
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	367	423	440	458	476
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	4,737	5,435	1,259	5,327	8,105
Exceptional Items			3,398		
Pre-tax Profit	4,737	5,435	4,657	5,327	8,105
Taxation	(1,302)	(1,485)	(484)	(1,385)	(2,107)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	3,435	3,950	4,174	3,942	5,998
Minority Interests					
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	3,435	3,950	4,174	3,942	5,998
Recurring Net Profit	3,435	3,950	1,128	3,942	5,998
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	3,435	3,950	1,128	3,942	5,998

Cash Flow					
(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25A	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
EBITDA	11,820	15,525	12,319	16,624	19,652
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	(3,224)	(3,652)	(1,444)	(262)	108
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense	367	423	440	458	476
Other Operating Cashflow	8,794	12,216	7,778	8,778	9,278
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	(2,405)	(4,155)	(4,588)	(4,358)	(4,184)
Tax Paid	(1,302)	(1,485)	(484)	(1,385)	(2,107)
Cashflow From Operations	14,050	18,872	14,022	19,855	23,224
Capex	(17,628)	(19,141)	(9,412)	(12,500)	(12,500)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries					
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments					
Other Investing Cashflow	759	142	3,960	1,700	1,000
Cash Flow From Investing	(16,869)	(18,999)	(5,452)	(10,800)	(11,500)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	5,788	4,256	(2,711)	1,000	(500)
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares				(540)	(822)
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid	(473)	(591)	(473)	(540)	(822)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	(2,571)	(3,945)	(4,636)	(8,038)	(8,257)
Cash Flow From Financing	2,745	(280)	(7,819)	(8,118)	(10,400)
Total Cash Generated	(75)	(407)	751	936	1,324
Free Cashflow To Equity	2,969	4,129	5,859	10,055	11,224
Free Cashflow To Firm	(414)	4,029	13,158	13,413	15,908

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25A	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Total Cash And Equivalents	1,686	1,352	2,074	3,010	4,333
Total Debtors	4,650	8,522	7,219	7,764	8,091
Inventories	8,823	9,823	10,150	10,093	10,981
Total Other Current Assets	3,715	2,750	2,865	3,023	3,375
Total Current Assets	18,874	22,446	22,308	23,889	26,780
Fixed Assets	99,557	118,266	120,458	125,062	129,223
Total Investments	4,209	4,397	4,272	4,772	5,272
Intangible Assets	19,873	13,784	13,865	11,665	10,165
Total Other Non-Current Assets	2,656	2,789	2,838	3,338	3,838
Total Non-current Assets	126,295	139,237	141,433	144,837	148,498
Short-term Debt	8,653	9,896	12,731	13,231	13,231
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	6,373	9,910	9,349	9,457	10,236
Other Current Liabilities	15,812	19,833	20,978	21,254	22,149
Total Current Liabilities	30,837	39,639	43,057	43,941	45,616
Total Long-term Debt	36,222	39,272	33,791	34,291	33,791
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	10,175	11,331	11,956	12,156	12,356
Total Non-current Liabilities	46,397	50,603	45,746	46,446	46,146
Total Provisions					
Total Liabilities	77,234	90,242	88,803	90,387	91,763
Shareholders Equity	67,935	71,441	74,938	78,339	83,515
Minority Interests			<u> </u>		
Total Equity	67,935	71,441	74,938	78,339	83,515

Key Ratios					
	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25A	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Revenue Growth	36.0%	14.9%	(9.1%)	11.2%	11.7%
Operating EBITDA Growth	(7.9%)	31.4%	(20.7%)	34.9%	18.2%
Operating EBITDA Margin	14.5%	16.6%	14.5%	17.6%	18.6%
Net Cash Per Share (Rs)	(182.77)	(202.35)	(188.10)	(188.37)	(180.65)
BVPS (Rs)	287.50	302.33	317.13	331.53	353.43
Gross Interest Cover	2.82	2.21	1.18	2.12	2.82
Effective Tax Rate	27.5%	27.3%	10.4%	26.0%	26.0%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	13.8%	15.0%	60.9%	11.3%	11.3%
Accounts Receivables Days	18.28	25.71	33.82	28.95	27.43
Inventory Days	38.49	36.40	42.91	39.11	36.46
Accounts Payables Days	29.57	38.11	48.39	44.09	41.88
ROIC (%)	5.8%	7.3%	4.3%	7.1%	8.9%
ROCE (%)	6.2%	7.9%	4.5%	7.5%	9.2%
Return On Average Assets	4.2%	5.3%	3.3%	5.0%	5.9%

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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Recommendation Framework

Stock Ratings Definition

Add The stock's total return is expected to exceed 10% over the next 12 months.

Hold The stock's total return is expected to be between 0% and positive 10% over the next 12 months.

Reduce The stock's total return is expected to fall below 0% or more over the next 12 months.

The total expected return of a stock is defined as the sum of the: (i) percentage difference between the target price and the current price and (ii) the forward net dividend yields of the stock. Stock price targets have an investment horizon of 12 months.

Sector Ratings Definition:

Overweight An Overweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a positive absolute recommendation.

Neutral A Neutral rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a neutral absolute recommendation.

Underweight An Underweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a negative absolute recommendation.

Country Ratings Definition

Overweight An Overweight rating means investors should be positioned with an above-market weight in this country relative to benchmark.

Neutral A Neutral rating means investors should be positioned with a neutral weight in this country relative to benchmark.

Underweight An Underweight rating means investors should be positioned with a below-market weight in this country relative to benchmark.