

India

ADD (no change)

Consensus ratings*: Buy 18 Hold 5 Sell 1

Current price: Rs160

Target price: Rs215

Previous target: Rs214

Up/downside: 34.4%

InCred Research / Consensus: 9.2%

Reuters: Bloomberg: Market cap:

US\$1,869m Rs135,745m US\$4.6m

EXID IN

Average daily turnover: US\$4.6m Rs335.4m

Current shares o/s: 850.0m
Free float: 54.0%
*Source: Bloomberg

Key changes in this note

- ➤ Net sales raised by 8-10% for FY23F-24F.
- ➤ EBITDA cut by 2-7% for FY23F-24F.
- ➤ EPS cut by 4-10% for FY23F-24F.



		Source: Bloomberg		
Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M	
Absolute (%)	0.8	10.3	1.3	
Relative (%)	0.1	6.4	(0.6)	

Major shareholders	% held
Raheja Family	46.0
LIC	5.5
ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund	2.5

Analyst(s)



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Exide Industries Ltd

Sales growth momentum fails to boost EPS

- Strong sales momentum, aided by the industrial division and exports, is much ahead of peers which is impressive, leading to an upgrade in sales estimates.
- However, prolonged lead cost pressure on EBITDA margin led to a cut in EPS.
- With P/E and P/BV valuation below 15-year -1SD and -2SD, respectively, we feel the lithium-ion battery risk is well captured. Retain Add rating on the stock.

Strong sales momentum for the year

Exide Industries' 1QFY23 EBITDA was 8% above ours and Bloomberg consensus estimate at Rs3.9bn, up 48% yoy and 11% qoq. Sales growth revival (up 14% qoq) is key highlight of the quarter, beating our/Bloomberg consensus estimates by a big margin. This helped overcome EBITDA margin disappointment (210bp) because of higher raw material cost. EPS at Rs2.66 showed a growth of 49% qoq, beating our estimate by 11% and 21% Bloomberg consensus estimate, aided by higher other income.

FY22 annual report highlights strong growth in exports & industrials

Management highlighted about the company's higher exports to West Asia, Africa, America, and other regions, a growth of 60% yoy to Rs11.5bn in FY22. Exports through its collaborator East Penn helped expand in North American markets with a rise in market share. UPS vertical grew 30% yoy in FY22 on the back of the government's digitalization push, growth in e-commerce, and the company's strong service network to support sales. In telecom vertical, sales nearly doubled yoy as it achieved a higher market share because of optimized product portfolio in FY22.

Margin pressure fails to negate sales momentum benefit

Sales momentum of Exide Industries in the recent quarter was impressive as it beat lead competitor Amara Raja Batteries by a wide margin (Fig. 1). Favourable tailwinds in the industrial division seem to favour the company. However, a gradual pass-through of the rise in lead cost impacted EBITDA margin, leading to a cut in our FY23F-24F EBITDA estimates by 2-7%, despite a 8-10% upgrade in sales estimates. Building in higher interest cost leads to a cut in our EPS estimates by 4-10% for FY23F-24F.

Maintain Add rating on the stock

We retain Add rating on Exide Industries as its lead-acid battery business continues to generate healthy cashflow, while expansion into lithium-ion battery-making will provide option value for the new electric vehicle or EV business. Considering that the stock's valuation is very attractive at a 15-year low P/E (-1 SD level) and P/BV (-2 SD level), we roll forward our SOTP-based target price to Rs215 (Rs214 earlier), where the core battery business is valued at 12x one-year EPS and the insurance business is valued at the CMP of HDFC Life Insurance, or Rs46.5 per share, at a 20% holding discount for Exide Industries' shareholders. Downside risks: Loss of pricing power in lead-acid battery business, and long gestation period for profitability in the new lithium-ion battery business.

Financial Summary	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23F	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
Revenue (Rsm)	100,408	123,817	145,253	161,010	175,931
Operating EBITDA (Rsm)	13,556	13,956	16,122	18,916	21,674
Net Profit (Rsm)	7,583	7,158	9,307	11,202	13,027
Core EPS (Rs)	8.9	8.4	10.9	13.2	15.3
Core EPS Growth	(10.5%)	(5.6%)	30.0%	20.4%	16.3%
FD Core P/E (x)	17.90	18.96	14.59	12.12	10.42
DPS (Rs)	3.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	8.0
Dividend Yield	1.88%	3.13%	3.76%	4.38%	5.01%
EV/EBITDA (x)	7.69	5.28	4.53	3.63	2.91
P/FCFE (x)	121.53	34.27	33.04	24.71	18.70
Net Gearing	(1.3%)	(1.5%)	(0.7%)	(0.2%)	(0.6%)
P/BV (x)	1.97	1.28	1.23	1.18	1.12
ROE	11.5%	8.2%	8.6%	9.9%	11.0%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates			(10.50%)	(3.71%)	
InCred Research/Consensus EPS (x)					

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH ESTIMATES, COMPANY REPORTS



Sales growth momentum fails to boost EPS

Industry trends from annual reports of Exide Industries & Amara Raja Batteries ➤

- Shrinking market for lead-acid batteries: Management expects telecom tower companies to continue to use VRLA (Valve Regulated Lead Acid) batteries, at least for the next two to three years, while running pilot programs for lithium-ion cell batteries. With 5G telecom services to be launched in India soon, the requirement may move in favour of lithium-ion batteries as cell cost reduces, thus posing a threat to existing lead-acid battery players. The replacement of old air-conditioned rail coaches to LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) rakes by Indian Railways would result in requirement of only a few batteries for running electric utilities. This would further reduce the market for lead-acid batteries. In the material handling equipment segment, replacement of lead-acid batteries with lithium-ion batteries and cheap lead-acid batteries offered by small competitors remain as threats in this market.
- Case for lead-acid batteries to survive: Amara Raja Batteries (ARBL) stated that electric vehicles still require lead-acid batteries to meet low-voltage electrical requirements. Also, these electrical features are increasing in modern vehicles. ARBL's management stated that lead-acid batteries are the safest and most dependable power source for critical functions in a vehicle and hence, these batteries will remain. The demand for reliable power solutions has also been increasing with the need for technology, automation, and uninterrupted communication.
- **Industry consolidation:** ARBL expects consolidation opportunities in the near term, with respect to the lead-acid battery business.
- UPS: Pent-up demand after the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic resulted in healthy overall demand in the UPS segment. The OEM business growth was lower due to lack of government/ private project orders but was boosted by rising demand from various sectors such as healthcare, education, and construction as the country's economy reopened.
- **Telecom:** Demand was a mix of increment in O&M (Operations & Maintenance) replacement, energy-saving projects and new site rollouts.
- Renewable energy: The delay in signing of power sale agreements (PSAs) and lack of clarity regarding applicable duties led to a slowdown in tender and auction activity. The industry faces headwinds because of rapid technology changes, falling cost of renewable energy sources, and rising battery storage system competitiveness.

Exide Industries' FY22 annual report highlights >

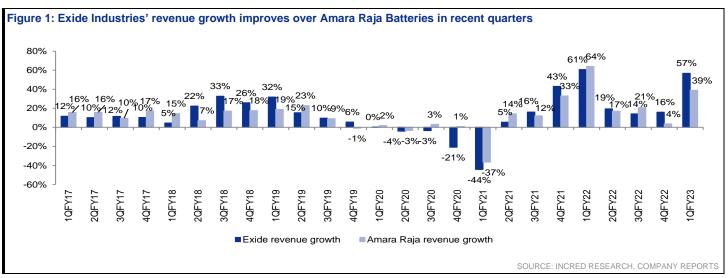
Outlook: Management indicated that the company is well positioned considering that the Exide brand continues to strengthen its leadership position while the SF and Dynex brands are witnessing rapid growth. It expects the industrial UPS business to grow in double digits in FY23F, led by the upcoming NXT+ range of products and the stage set by higher government and private spending on infrastructure projects over the last few years. Management expects end-user verticals, which represent a reasonable share of the industrial business, to continue to achieve high growth. For the solar vertical, it expects new products and a large trade network to ensure brand presence and gain market share in the emerging Grid Tie segment. It mentioned that the company's outlook on the infra power and projects segment is promising as it has been awarded a contract for providing batteries for a nuclear plant. Management indicated that the company is well positioned to secure export orders for submarine batteries in the near term. It foresees strong demand for the traction vertical continuing in FY23F. Management expects a huge opportunity in the 2V standby business in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and South-East Asian markets while the 12V business is also



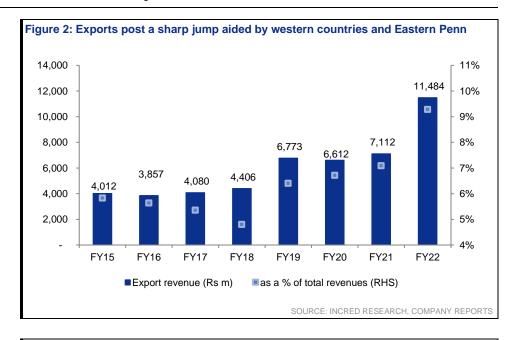
- expected to expand globally. The company cautioned about higher input cost, uncertainty regarding the timely availability of imported components and ocean freight cost hurting margins.
- Business plan: Management plans to focus on enhancing the product portfolio, strengthen the company's position in the domestic market, increase penetration in existing export markets as well as explore new geographies. It targets to increase operational efficiency by revamping the company's distribution model with a supply chain transformation project. Going ahead, it seeks to improve the product mix towards more premium products to achieve higher growth and better margins. It will also focus on enriching the mix towards the replacement market for IUPS (Industrial Uninterruptible Power Supply) and traction verticals.
- Product launches in the replacement market: Recent product launches like
 Exide Integra (lithium-ion battery-based home power back-up system) and
 Exide Mileage ISS (Idle Start Stop) has strengthened the company's position
 in the replacement market.
- Exports: The company reported higher exports to West Asia, Africa, America, and other regions. There was a degrowth in Southeast Asia as the Covid-19 pandemic slowed down business. Exports through its collaborator East Penn helped the company to expand in North American markets with a rise in market share. It will continue to expand distribution network and add manpower to export markets. The company made significant inroads into the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to become a leading supplier of batteries to the region. It will seek to launch new products and technology, explore private labelling and contract manufacturing possibilities along with investment in brand development. The company started exports to newer markets such as France and South Korea in FY22.
- **Industrial batteries:** This division contributed 28% to overall revenue in FY22. Healthy demand and double-digit yoy growth was witnessed in segments like IUPS, telecom and traction.
 - UPS: IUPS vertical grew 30% yoy on the back of the government's digitalization push, growth in e-commerce, and the company's strong service network to support sales.
 - Telecom: This vertical nearly doubled its revenue yoy as it achieved a higher market share because of an optimized product portfolio, enhanced quality and strong customer connect.
 - Infra power and projects: The company received large orders in this vertical. Management mentioned that the order book remains robust. It expects the infra power and projects business to do well due to the approval for several metro rail projects across India.
 - Traction: The domestic traction business did well on the back of India's warehousing boom propelled by high growth in the e-commerce space and modern logistic hubs across the country. In the traction vertical, the company consolidated its high market share as it plans to roll out its ORC (Opportunity Rapid Charge) batteries that can be charged faster and intermittently enable double-shift operation with a single battery. It has also planned improved quality traction batteries which offer a higher level of corrosion resistance. There batteries are currently in the validation phase and would enable the company to compete against global players in the market, thereby substituting imports.
 - Submarine batteries: Production capacity utilization and sales of submarine batteries were subdued in FY22 because of lack of adequate demand and the delay in two export orders due to the pandemic. The company secured an export order for mini-submarine batteries in FY22. It received an order from the Indian Navy to build submarine batteries along with a full set of accessories and spares for a nuclear submarine. The company has indicated to the Indian Navy that it is prepared to use its surplus capacity to produce submarine batteries, and that it will deliver a set of Type-I submarine batteries along with accessories and spares in FY23F.

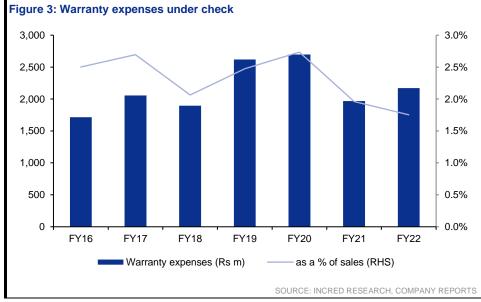


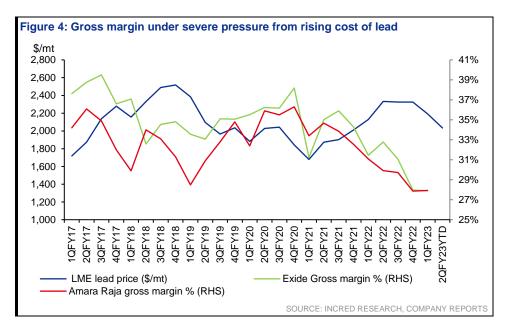
- Railways: The Indian Railways is running a trial with lithium-ion cells for its applications, in which the company is actively engaged.
- EV batteries: The company is already supplying lithium-ion battery modules and packs through its subsidiary Exide Leclanche Energy Pvt. Ltd (known as Nexcharge). Management stated that the company has gained experience in Indian climatic conditions and safety requirements as it sets up its lithium-ion battery pack and module facility. Exide Industries will be foraying into lithiumion cell manufacturing through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Exide Energy Solutions.
- Nexcharge update: Nexcharge started commercial production in FY22, and it has onboarded a few marquee customers including a global CV manufacturer and large producers of electric two-wheelers in India. The facility manufactures batteries of various chemistries such as Nickel-Manganese-Cobalt (NMC), Lithium-Iron-Phosphate (LFP) and Lithium-Titanium-Oxide (LTO), as well as modules and racks along with BMS (Battery Management System). The production lines are fungible towards different shapes and sizes. The facility has three production lines for module assembly for cylindrical, pouch and prismatic cells. It has two lines for pack assembly for high and low voltage packs. It also has 20 testers for capacity measurement. The subsidiary is also in the process of developing a battery with many built-in protection mechanisms that would control and safeguard it from extreme climatic conditions as well as protect it from misuse. It is engaged with several marquee clients in the EV, telecom, and power sectors.
- Exide Energy Solutions (EESL): The subsidiary plans to set up a multigigawatt greenfield project for manufacturing lithium-ion battery cells in multiple formats. It will also manufacture, assemble, and sell battery modules and packs. Total project capacity will be 12GWh and it is expected to be completed in phases over 8-10 years. The company has procured 80 acres of land for the purpose. The company's board has approved a plan to set up a multi-GWh lithium-ion cell manufacturing facility through EESL.
- SVOLT collaboration: The company has entered into a multi-year technical
 collaboration agreement with SVOLT for lithium-ion cell manufacturing.
 SVOLT would grant Exide Industries an irrevocable right and license to use,
 exploit and commercialize necessary technology and knowhow for lithium-ion
 cell manufacturing in India. SVOLT will also support the setting up of a
 manufacturing plant on a turnkey basis.
- Production capacity: The company expanded its small-VRLA and medium-VRLA capacities at its Hosur plant by 18-20%. Its traction cell-making capacity at the Haldia plant has been expanded by 30% to cater to export market.



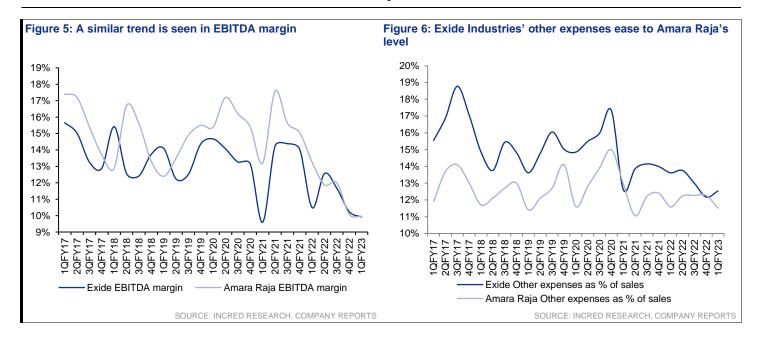












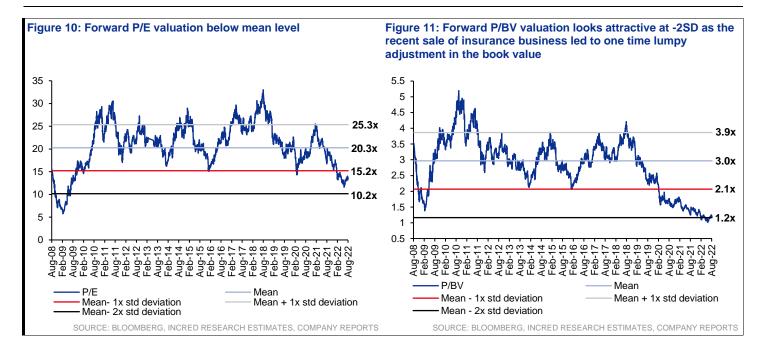
		FY23F		FY24F
Rs m	Old	New	Old	New
Net Sales	1,34,361	1,45,253	1,46,142	1,61,010
Change (%)		8.1%		10.2%
EBITDA	17,273	16,122	19,266	18,916
Change (%)		-6.7%		-1.8%
EBITDA Margins	12.9%	11.1%	13.2%	11.7%
Change (bp)		-176		-143
PAT	10,398	9,307	11,634	11,202
Change (%)		-10.5%		-3.7%
EPS (Rs)	12.23	10.95	13.69	13.18
Change (%)		-10.5%		-3.7%

	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23F	FY24F	FY25F
Gross Revenues						
4W OEM	8,394	8,801	11,224	14,025	16,371	18,278
% Growth	-23%	5%	28%	25%	17%	12%
4W Replacement	35,015	41,199	52,602	60,219	66,952	74,437
% Growth	2%	18%	28%	14%	11%	11%
2W OEM	7,599	7,725	8,167	9,428	10,909	12,180
% Growth	-22%	2%	6%	15%	16%	12%
2W Replacement	13,828	16,123	19,864	22,529	24,120	25,823
% Growth	5%	17%	23%	13%	7%	7%
Total Auto	64,835	73,848	91,858	1,06,202	1,18,352	1,30,718
% Growth	-5%	14%	24%	16%	11%	10%
Industrial	33,677	26,436	31,826	38,891	42,489	45,043
% Growth	-10%	-22%	20%	22%	9%	6%

	Methodology	Amount in Rs m	Per share	Value per share (Rs
Core battery business	12x 1 year forward P/E		14.07	169
Holding in HDFC Life	Value post 20% holding discount	39,543	46.5	46.5

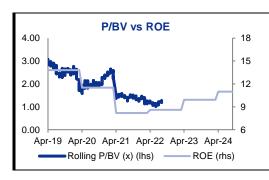








BY THE NUMBERS





Profit & Loss					
(Rs m)	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23F	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
Total Net Revenue	100,408	123,817	145,253	161,010	175,931
Gross Profit	34,613	38,065	44,828	52,128	58,209
Operating EBITDA	13,556	13,956	16,122	18,916	21,674
Depreciation And Amortisation	(3,794)	(4,126)	(4,819)	(5,302)	(5,782)
Operating EBIT	9,762	9,830	11,303	13,614	15,891
Financial Income/(Expense)	(238)	(384)	(140)	(100)	(80)
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.					
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	654	803	924	1,035	1,107
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	10,179	10,249	12,087	14,548	16,919
Exceptional Items					
Pre-tax Profit	10,179	10,249	12,087	14,548	16,919
Taxation	(2,596)	(3,091)	(2,780)	(3,346)	(3,891)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	7,583	7,158	9,307	11,202	13,027
Minority Interests					
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	7,583	7,158	9,307	11,202	13,027
Recurring Net Profit	7,583	7,158	9,307	11,202	13,027
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	7,583	7,158	9,307	11,202	13,027

Cash Flow					
(Rs m)	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23F	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
EBITDA	13,556	13,956	16,122	18,916	21,674
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	3,862	(4,480)	(4,339)	(1,794)	(1,489)
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions	1,956	1,189	450	388	517
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense	14	(979)			
Other Operating Cashflow		39,678			
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	417	419	784	935	1,027
Tax Paid	(2,858)	(3,466)	(2,659)	(3,201)	(3,722)
Cashflow From Operations	16,947	46,316	10,358	15,244	18,007
Capex	(5,812)	(6,543)	(4,500)	(4,500)	(5,500)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries					
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments	(10,017)	(35,813)	(1,750)	(5,250)	(5,250)
Other Investing Cashflow					
Cash Flow From Investing	(15,830)	(42,355)	(6,250)	(9,750)	(10,750)
Debt Raised/(repaid)					
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares					
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid	(2,550)	(4,250)	(5,100)	(5,950)	(6,800)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow					
Cash Flow From Financing	(2,550)	(4,250)	(5,100)	(5,950)	(6,800)
Total Cash Generated	(1,433)	(289)	(992)	(456)	457
Free Cashflow To Equity	1,117	3,961	4,108	5,494	7,257
Free Cashflow To Firm	1,355	4,345	4,248	5,594	7,337

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(Rs m)	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23F	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
Total Cash And Equivalents	914	1,612	732	226	733
Total Debtors	10,153	13,115	15,228	16,498	17,024
Inventories	23,462	24,585	28,653	29,996	31,812
Total Other Current Assets	2,449	1,962	2,100	2,400	2,600
Total Current Assets	36,978	41,273	46,713	49,120	52,169
Fixed Assets	28,724	31,140	30,821	30,018	29,736
Total Investments	30,586	60,434	61,934	66,934	71,934
Intangible Assets					
Total Other Non-Current Assets					
Total Non-current Assets	59,310	91,574	92,755	96,953	101,670
Short-term Debt					
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	16,483	16,175	17,908	18,527	19,280
Other Current Liabilities	6,856	8,009	8,410	8,830	9,272
Total Current Liabilities	23,338	24,185	26,318	27,358	28,552
Total Long-term Debt					
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities					
Total Non-current Liabilities					
Total Provisions	4,015	2,607	2,888	3,201	3,546
Total Liabilities	27,353	26,792	29,205	30,558	32,098
Shareholders' Equity	68,935	106,056	110,263	115,515	121,742
Minority Interests					
Total Equity	68,935	106,056	110,263	115,515	121,742

Key Ratios					
	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23F	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
Revenue Growth	1.9%	23.3%	17.3%	10.8%	9.3%
Operating EBITDA Growth	(0.7%)	3.0%	15.5%	17.3%	14.6%
Operating EBITDA Margin	13.5%	11.3%	11.1%	11.7%	12.3%
Net Cash Per Share (Rs)	1.07	1.90	0.86	0.27	0.86
BVPS (Rs)	81.10	124.77	129.72	135.90	143.23
Gross Interest Cover	41.07	25.58	80.73	136.14	198.64
Effective Tax Rate	25.5%	30.2%	23.0%	23.0%	23.0%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	33.6%	59.4%	54.8%	53.1%	52.2%
Accounts Receivables Days	30.95	30.66	32.48	32.79	31.56
Inventory Days	125.89	102.25	96.75	98.30	95.82
Accounts Payables Days	74.46	69.50	61.94	61.07	58.61
ROIC (%)	21.5%	23.7%	24.2%	27.0%	30.8%
ROCE (%)	13.9%	10.8%	10.2%	11.7%	13.0%
Return On Average Assets	8.8%	6.6%	6.9%	7.9%	8.7%

Key Drivers					
	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23F	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
Unit sales growth (%, main prod./serv.)	4.9%	8.1%	9.5%	9.8%	8.4%
Unit sales growth (%,2ndary prod/serv.)	(21.5%)	20.4%	22.2%	9.2%	6.0%

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



Auto Parts | India Exide Industries Ltd | August 30, 2022

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