# India

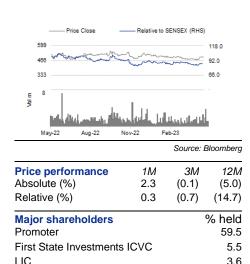
HOLD (no change)

Consensus ratings*: Buy 26 H	old 13 Sell 3
Current price:	Rs494
Target price:	Rs520
Previous target:	Rs545
Up/downside:	5.3%
InCred Research / Consensus:	-5.1%
Reuters:	MRCO.NS
Bloomberg:	MRCO IN
Market cap:	US\$7,803m
	Rs638,266m
Average daily turnover:	US\$8.5m
	Rs694.8m
Current shares o/s:	1,291.2m
Free float: *Source: Bloomberg	40.5%

#### Key changes in this note

Lower target price to Rs520.

Lower FY24F/25F EPS by 2-3%.



# Marico Ltd

# Pricing to drag FY24F India sales growth

- Marico's 4QFY23 consol. sales grew 3.7% yoy. Domestic sales grew 1%/5% in value/volume terms. Reported growth in IBD was at 10% (16% in CC terms).
- FY24F gross margin/EBITDA margin likely to improve by 200-250bp/100bp yoy, respectively, notwithstanding the rise in advertising spends (up 50bp+).
- Maintain HOLD rating on the stock with a lower target price of Rs520.

### FY24F domestic sales growth outlook not promising

Marico's 4QFY23 domestic value/volume growth was led by 1) VAHO, which reported a volume-driven value growth of 13%, and 2) the foods portfolio, which registered 19% sales growth led by oats. Parachute rigids' volume growth of 9% was offset by pricing corrections leading to 3% value growth, while Saffola edible oils declined by c.6%/14% in volume/value terms, respectively. The management commentary for domestic sales growth for FY24F did not sound promising for double-digit sales growth. Parachute rigids/Saffola are expected to deliver volume growth in line with medium-term aspirations while price corrections (both copra and edible oil) will lead to subdued value growth. Based on management guidance, we estimate more than 50% of FY24's domestic sales growth to be contributed by foods, premium personal care and digital-first brands put together (combined salience is expected to increase from 15% in FY23 to 20% in FY24F, entailing 40%+ revenue growth), which underscores the need for impeccable execution.

### Bangladesh drags IBD's performance

The international business division or IBD posted 16% constant currency (CC) growth in 4QFY23. Bangladesh reported the second consecutive quarter of single-digit growth, clocking a 9% CC growth while reported growth would have been lower owing to currency depreciation. Vietnam grew 16% yoy in CC terms, while South Africa and the MENA region grew 21%/37% yoy in CC terms, respectively. Management is confident of driving double-digit CC growth for the IBD. Reported sales might be affected by currency depreciation.

### FY24F margin outlook aided by benign input cost

With raw material pressure easing (copra/rice bran prices down 7%/19% yoy, respectively) management expects healthier gross margin in FY24F. Consolidated gross margin/EBITDA margin expanded 290bp/150bp yoy to 47.4%/17.5% in 4Q and expanded 230bp/90bp to 45.2%/18.5% in FY23, respectively. For FY24F, management expects a 200-250bp yoy expansion at the gross margin level owing to benign input cost and c.100bp yoy expansion in EBITDA margin notwithstanding the rise in advertising expenses (50bp+).

### Maintain HOLD rating with a lower target price of Rs520

Management's guidance on FY24F domestic sales growth entails heavy lifting to be done by foods, personal care and D2C portfolios, which involves execution risk. We maintain a HOLD rating on the stock with a lower target price of Rs520 (40x Mar 2025F EPS) from Rs545 earlier. Downside risks: Input cost volatility, and slower-than-expected ramp-up in food, personal care & D2C portfolios. Upside risk: Faster recovery in rural markets.

Financial Summary	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
Revenue (Rsm)	80,480	95,120	97,640	106,782	118,408
Operating EBITDA (Rsm)	15,920	16,810	18,100	20,993	23,714
Net Profit (Rsm)	11,620	11,270	13,020	14,993	16,814
Core EPS (Rs)	9.0	8.7	10.1	11.6	13.0
Core EPS Growth	10.7%	(3.0%)	15.5%	15.2%	12.1%
FD Core P/E (x)	54.80	56.50	48.91	42.47	37.87
DPS (Rs)	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.8	7.6
Dividend Yield	1.41%	1.41%	1.43%	1.62%	1.79%
EV/EBITDA (x)	39.24	37.39	34.79	29.42	25.80
P/FCFE (x)	35.16	67.31	46.55	31.85	44.16
Net Gearing	(37.6%)	(25.7%)	(21.9%)	(47.3%)	(54.2%)
P/BV (x)	19.65	19.02	16.89	15.05	13.42
ROE	37.1%	34.2%	36.6%	37.8%	37.6%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates				(2.45%)	(1.75%)
InCred Research/Consensus EPS (x)					

Analyst(s)



Harsh SHAH T (91) 22 4161 1568 E harsh.shah@incredcapital.com Rohan KALLE T (91) 22 4161 1561 E rohan.kalle@incredcapital.com

SOURCES: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

Pricing to drag FY24F India sales growth

## Key takeaways from the earnings call

#### Demand and operating environment

- Over the last nine months, there has been a moderation in key commodity prices and retail inflation, which led to a gradual recovery in FMCG consumption.
- **Prospects of sustained recovery improve**: Urban markets were steady while rural showed signs of having bottomed out.
- Channel performance: General trade declined in low single digits owing to 1) higher skewed in innovation towards digital and more urbanfocused segments, and 2) consumption stress in rural markets. Modern trade and e-commerce channels grew in double digits, contributing 29% to domestic sales in FY23.
- Industry trends: Foods segment has an urban skew and top-down MT/E-com skew. Conversion is unbranded to branded along with trends like healthy snacking, etc has aided sales growth. Home and personal care or HPC is more secular across income classes and hence, in times of higher stress, HPC gets more impacted than the food segment. HPC also has a higher penetration and thus premiumization leads to shrinkflation. Slowly, HPC will come out of the lull. The headroom for foods is slightly higher than that for HPC.

#### India business

- **Parachute**: Strong volume growth driven by the pick-up from loose to branded conversions and penetration gains. Stable copra prices and pricing actions aided growth. Copra prices are likely to remain at a comfortable level. The volume next year is expected to be in line with the medium-term outlook.
- Saffola Edible Oils:
  - Saffola edible oil declined by c.6%/14% in volume/value terms while Foods business grew by 19% yoy in 4Q clocking c5.92bn sales, based on our estimates.
  - The global vegetable oil market is stable and is expected to be stable next year as well. If the environment is stable, management believes Saffola edible oils can deliver mid-single digit growth in FY24F and maintain threshold margin levels.
- VAHO:
  - Mid and premium segments fared better in 4Q, leading to a 13% value growth owing to a combination of the focus on 1) bottom of pyramid, 2) growth in mid-pyramid brands, 3) innovations (aloe, mustard oil, etc.), and 4) participation across price points vs. peers who have seen growth at either top or bottom-end of the pyramid brands. Recovery in growth is expected to be broad-based. Going ahead, the premium segment is also expected to recover, leading to volume and value growth. Onion oil will be expanded to GT channels.
  - Dissecting VAHO growth: Till Dec 2022, significant growth was seen in Rs10-20 packs across mustard and other LUPs. In Nov-Dec 2022, lot of competitors were not taking price hikes, despite input cost inflation, but eventually took price hikes later. Also, players moved to trade schemes/activations (Below-the-line) vs. ad spends (Above-the-line) to protect margins vs creating brand equity, which has now reversed, leading to growth in other price points (ex-LUPs).
  - **VAHO outperformance vs. peers:** Marico's brands under VAHO (Shanti Amla, Jasmine, Hair Care, Nihar Amla, Aloe) operate between 0.7-1.6

Relative price index (RPI). Marico grew across all these RPI tiers vs. peers, who only grew in lower RPI and declined in higher RPI categories (or vice versa).

- **Outlook: If rural markets stage a comeback, they can deliver doubledigit growth**. Management believes there is more sanity in the category now. The aspiration is to hit double-digit growth in the next three years.
- Foods: Oats recorded 43% value market share (reach of 200,000 outlets; most distributed food brand for Marico). Topped c.Rs6bn in FY23 led by Go-t-market (GTM) expansion and the focus on the value-added foods segment. Expected to close above Rs8.5bn in revenue in FY24F. Earlier, the food segment was not aligned for GT, which will now be a focus area. Now, there are around 10k food GTM outlets, which will be in the limelight. Food has a lower shelf life and hence, supply chain, replenishment, etc. is different. Hence, Marico is more careful about scaling up.
- Premium personal care: Clocked a revenue of Rs3.5bn in FY23.
- **Digital-first brands:** The current portfolio expected to have an exit ARR of Rs4bn (ex-acquisitions).

#### International business

- **Bangladesh** was resilient. Shampoo and baby care segments are seeing healthy traction. Marico is among the top 2 players in Bangladesh. The playbook will be replicated in Vietnam and MENA region.
  - o Inflation moderated slightly.
  - **Reduction of dependence on coconut oil from 90% to below 60%** has also aided the growth in Bangladesh.
  - **Macros are not deteriorating**. Management believes the structural growth opportunity is intact.
- **MENA region** delivered a 37% growth in CC terms. Prospects of high growth opportunities.
- South Africa continued its strong journey, growing 21% yoy in CC terms.

#### Input cost and margins

- Employee cost in FY23 was higher (11% yoy) due to consolidation of acquisitions. Excluding these, it was c.7-8% yoy.
- Copra prices are likely to remain at a comfortable level in FY24F.

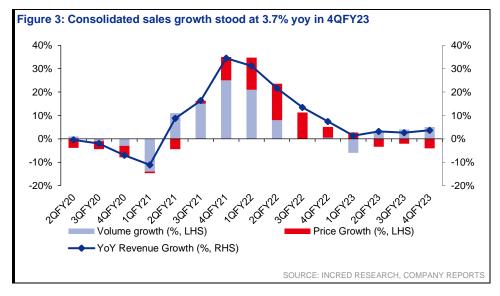
#### **Outlook for FY24F**

- Revenue is expected to inch up in FY24F led by growth in core segments. Volume is expected to be relatively better in FY24F compared to FY23.
- The diversification journey (Foods, premium personal care and D2C brands combined) led to a shift from 11% sales contribution in FY22 to 15% in FY23 and is expected to touch 20% in FY24F led by new launches.
- Will improve profitability in the food portfolio in FY24F as it has achieved significant scale.
- Gross margin is expected to expand by 200-250bp yoy in FY24F.
- A&P spending will remain a key thrust as the company will continue to invest in its brands.
- Operating margin is expected to expand by 100bp yoy in FY24F.
- Confident of posting an improvement across volume, revenue and operating margins in FY24F, albeit on a low base of FY23.
- On competitive intensity from new entrants in the coconut oil space: Over the last three-to-four years, Marico hasn't lost market share. Management is confident that market share will be protected.

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Figure 1: Quarterly summary - Consolidated								
Y/E, Mar (Rs. M)	4QFY22	3QFY23	4QFY23	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)	FY22	FY23	Gr (%)
Revenue	21,610	24,700	22,400	3.7	-9.3	95,120	97,640	2.6
Expenditure	18,150	20,140	18,470	1.8	-8.3	78,310	79,540	1.6
Consumption of RM	12,000	13,600	11,780	-1.8	-13.4	54,360	53,510	-1.6
as % of sales	55.5	55.1	52.6			57.1	54.8	
Employee Cost	1,390	1,600	1,710	23.0	6.9	5,860	6,530	11.4
as % of sales	6.4	6.5	7.6			6.2	6.7	
Other expenditure	4,760	4,940	4,980	4.6	0.8	18,090	19,500	7.8
as % of sales	22.0	20.0	22.2			19.0	20.0	
EBITDA	3,460	4,560	3,930	13.6	-13.8	16,810	18,100	7.7
Depreciation	370	390	430	16.2	10.3	1,390	1,550	11.5
EBIT	3,090	4,170	3,500	13.3	-16.1	15,420	16,550	7.3
Other Income	240	400	680	183.3	70.0	980	1,440	46.9
Interest	110	140	170	54.5	21.4	390	560	43.6
PBT	3,220	4,430	4,010	24.5	-9.5	16,010	17,430	8.9
Total Tax	650	1,100	960	47.7	-12.7	3,460	4,210	21.7
PAT	2,570	3,330	3,050	18.7	-8.4	12,550	13,220	5.3
(Profit)/loss from JV's/Ass./MI	60	50	30	NA	-40.0	290	200	-31.0
APAT after MI	2,510	3,280	3,020	20.3	-7.9	12,260	13,020	6.2
Extra ordinary items	0	0	0	NA	NA	0	0	NA
Reported PAT	2,510	3,280	3,020	20.3	-7.9	12,260	13,020	6.2
EPS	1.9	2.5	2.3	20.3	-7.9	9.5	10.1	6.2
Margins (%)	4QFY22	3QFY23	4QFY23	YoY (bp)	QoQ (bp)	FY22	FY23	(bp)
Gross margin	44.5	44.9	47.4	290	250	42.9	45.2	230
EBITDA	16.0	18.5	17.5	150	-90	17.7	18.5	90
EBIT	14.3	16.9	15.6	130	-130	16.2	17.0	70
EBT	14.9	17.9	17.9	300	0	16.8	17.9	100
PAT	11.9	13.5	13.6	170	10	13.2	13.5	30
Effective Tax rate	20.2	24.8	23.9	380	-90	21.6	24.2	250

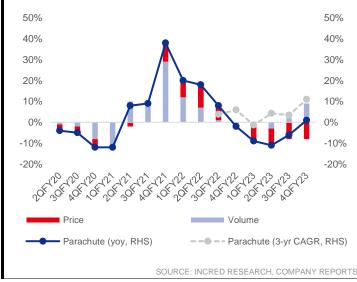




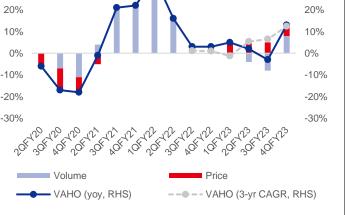
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during 4QFY23 40% 30% 20% 10%



SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

60% 60% 50% 50% 40% 40% 30% 30% 20% 20% 10% 10% 0% 0% -10% -10% -20% -20% -30% -30% , 6F722 40F722 OFT 23 A01729 201721 301121 A01721 20473 304723 120 12 12 12 12 20 30 10 120 123 204 NOF zot Volume Price - Saffola (yoy, RHS) 

Figure 8: Saffola volume declined by 6% yoy in 4QFY23

Figure 9: Food segment revenue grew 18% yoy to Rs1.5bn in 4QFY23



SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

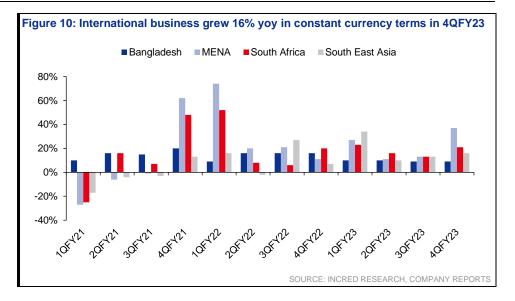
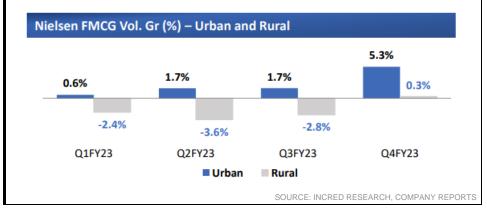
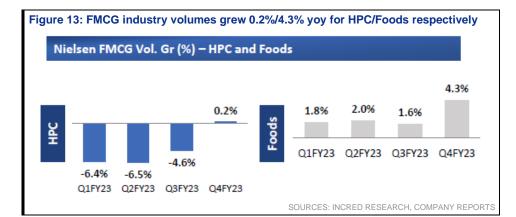


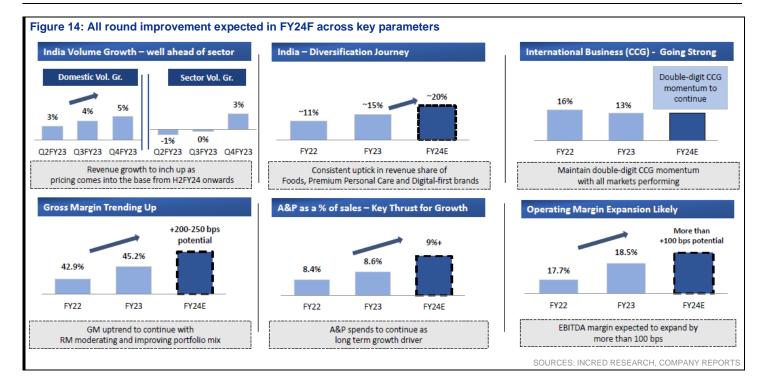
Figure 11: Urban markets grew 5.3% yoy in FMCG volumes while rural markets grew 0.3% yoy in 4QFY23



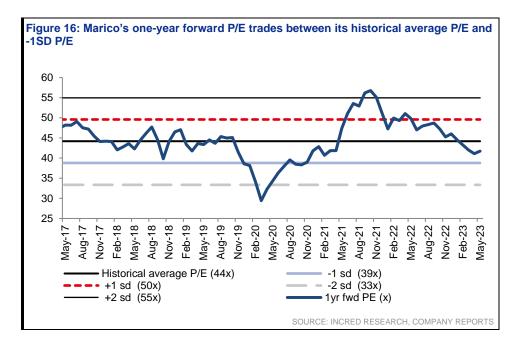




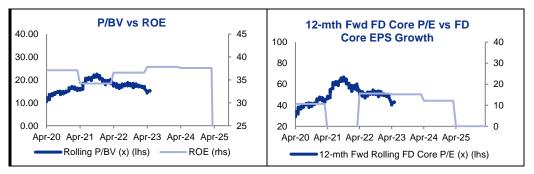




		FY24F			FY25F	
Y/E, Mar (Rs. m)	Earlier	Revised	% Change	Earlier	Revised	% Change
Net Sales	1,08,382	1,06,782	-1.5	1,19,497	1,18,408	-0.9
EBITDA	20,690	20,993	1.5	23,261	23,714	1.9
EBITDA Margin (%)	19.1	19.7	60 bp	19.5	20.0	50 bp
APAT	15,370	14,993	-2.5	17,113	16,814	-1.7
EPS	11.9	11.6	-2.5	13.3	13.0	-1.7



### BY THE NUMBERS



Profit	&	Loss

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(Rs mn)	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
Total Net Revenues	80,480	95,120	97,640	106,782	118,408
Gross Profit	37,780	40,760	44,130	50,872	57,438
Operating EBITDA	15,920	16,810	18,100	20,993	23,714
Depreciation And Amortisation	(1,390)	(1,390)	(1,550)	(1,860)	(2,169)
Operating EBIT	14,530	15,420	16,550	19,133	21,545
Financial Income/(Expense)	600	(390)	880	1,120	1,288
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.					
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)					
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	15,130	15,030	17,430	20,253	22,833
Exceptional Items					
Pre-tax Profit	15,130	15,030	17,430	20,253	22,833
Taxation	(3,240)	(3,460)	(4,210)	(4,960)	(5,720)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	11,890	11,570	13,220	15,293	17,114
Minority Interests	(270)	(300)	(200)	(300)	(300)
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	11,620	11,270	13,020	14,993	16,814
Recurring Net Profit	11,620	11,270	13,020	14,993	16,814
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	11,620	11,270	13,020	14,993	16,814

Cash Flow					
(Rs mn)	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
EBITDA	15,920	16,810	18,100	20,993	23,714
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	6,580	(3,720)	(1,670)	7,706	85
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense					
Other Operating Cashflow	940	980	1,440	1,580	1,748
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	(340)	(390)	(560)	(460)	(460)
Tax Paid	(3,240)	(3,460)	(4,210)	(4,960)	(5,720)
Cashflow From Operations	19,860	10,220	13,100	24,859	19,369
Сарех	(540)	(1,020)	3,260	(1,868)	(1,950)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries					
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments					
Other Investing Cashflow	(1,210)	260	(2,680)	(3,000)	(3,000)
Cash Flow From Investing	(1,750)	(760)	580	(4,868)	(4,950)
Debt Raised/(repaid)					
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares					
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid	(10,290)	(12,170)	(5,820)	(10,284)	(11,413)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow					
Cash Flow From Financing	(10,290)	(12,170)	(5,820)	(10,284)	(11,413)
Total Cash Generated	7,820	(2,710)	7,860	9,707	3,006
Free Cashflow To Equity	18,110	9,460	13,680	19,991	14,419
Free Cashflow To Firm	18,450	9,850	14,240	20,451	14,879

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

Effective Tax Rate

Inventory Days

ROIC (%)

ROCE (%)

**Key Drivers** 

EBIDTA margin

Net Dividend Payout Ratio

Accounts Payables Days

Return On Average Assets

Domestic revenue growth

Accounts Receivables Days

#### BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

(Rs mn)	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
Total Cash And Equivalents	15,720	12,200	13,340	25,487	31,316
Total Debtors	3,880	6,520	10,150	4,853	5,380
Inventories	11,260	14,120	12,250	16,065	16,577
Total Other Current Assets	3,760	3,290	4,640	3,983	4,414
Total Current Assets	34,620	36,130	40,380	51,023	58,180
Fixed Assets	7,930	12,930	5,580	5,600	5,381
Total Investments	2,260	1,870	5,180	5,180	5,180
Intangible Assets	8,430	3,060	5,600	5,588	5,588
Total Other Non-Current Assets	780	730	1,480	1,480	1,480
Total Non-current Assets	19,400	18,590	17,840	17,848	17,629
Short-term Debt	3,400	3,450	4,730	4,730	4,730
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	11,340	13,440	14,520	20,425	21,967
Other Current Liabilities	4,950				
Total Current Liabilities	19,690	16,890	19,250	25,155	26,697
Total Long-term Debt	80		20	20	20
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	1,460				
Total Non-current Liabilities	1,540		20	20	20
Total Provisions	210	220	480	141	156
Total Liabilities	21,440	17,110	19,750	25,317	26,873
Shareholders Equity	32,400	33,480	37,690	42,303	47,435
Minority Interests	180	570	1,570	1,570	1,570
Total Equity	32,580	34,050	39,260	43,873	49,005
Key Ratios			M	N 045	M
Revenue Growth	Mar-21A	Mar-22A	Mar-23A	Mar-24F	Mar-25F
	10.0%	18.2%	2.6%	9.4%	10.9%
Operating EBITDA Growth	8.4%	5.6%	7.7%	16.0%	13.0%
Operating EBITDA Margin	19.8%	17.7%	18.5%	19.7%	20.0%
	0.40				
Net Cash Per Share (Rs)	9.49	6.78	6.66	16.08	20.59
	9.49 25.12 42.73	6.78 25.95 39.54	6.66 29.22 29.55	16.08 32.79 41.59	20.59 36.77 46.84

21.4%

77.5%

21.02

107.11

90.27

73.6%

41.6%

21.7%

Mar-21A

8.3%

19.8%

23.0%

79.7%

19.95

85.21

83.19

56.7% 41.9%

22.0%

Mar-22A

18.4%

17.7%

24.2%

69.9%

31.16

89.94

95.36

65.7%

40.6%

21.9%

Mar-23A

(0.3%)

18.5%

24.5%

68.6%

25.64

92.43

114.07

109.0%

41.5%

22.5%

Mar-24F

9.0%

19.7%

25.0% 67.9%

15.77

97.71

126.89

124.8%

42.0%

21.9%

Mar-25F

10.8%

20.0%

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