

India

REDUCE (no change)

Buy 6 Hold 6 Sell 10 Consensus ratings*: Current price: Rs3.445 Rs2.385 Target price: Previous target: Rs2.071 Up/downside: -30.8% InCred Research / Consensus: -11.0% ESCO.NS Reuters: **ESCORTS IN** Bloombera: US\$4,559m Market cap: Rs380,705m US\$11.4m Average daily turnover: Rs953.0m Current shares o/s: 110.5m Free float: 33.7% *Source: Bloomberg

Key changes in this note

- Sales cut by 3-4% for FY25F-26F.
- EBITDA cut by around 6-8%.
- FY25F-26F EPS cut by 5-6%.



		Source: B	loomberg
Price performance Absolute (%)	<i>1M</i> 14.0	3M 22.7	12M 65.7
Relative (%)	18.2	21.4	41.7

Major shareholders	% held
Kubota Corporation	53.5
Nanda Family	12.8
HDFC Mutual Fund	1.6

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Escorts Kubota Ltd

Tractor demand yet to bottom out

- 4Q EPS grew 15% yoy to Rs21.9, a 2% miss to our estimate but in line consensus estimate, as the railway and tractor segments disappointed.
- Management stated that tractor demand is yet to bottom out but is hopeful of 2H recovery leading to low single-digit growth vs. our 6% dip. We cut EBITDA.
- Sharp stock price rally in recent months pulled up valuation to +2SD above the five-year mean and factors in industry demand recovery. Retain REDUCE.

Tractor and railway divisions disappoint in 4QFY24

Escorts Kubota's 4Q EBITDA fell 15% qoq but was up 13% at Rs2.7bn, 4% below our estimate but in line with Bloomberg consensus estimate. The EBITDA margin dip of 70bp qoq to 12.8% was due to higher other expenses. The strong construction division's EBIT performance (up 35% qoq) helped overcome the tractor segment EBIT margin slip of 270bp qoq and a consecutive quarter dip in railway segment EBIT. PAT grew 15% yoy to Rs2.4bn, a 2% miss vs. our estimate. Dividend per share raised to Rs18, leading to the highest payout ratio of 19%.

Management conference-call highlights

Management indicated that no signs of tractor demand bottoming out were seen yet. However, building in the above normal monsoon benefit in 2HFY25F, management gave guidance of lower single-digit tractor industry sales volume growth for FY25F. The company expects to gain market share in North India after three years of consolidation. The slowdown in railway projects led to qoq weakness in the railway segment's sales for the second quarter in a row. Management gave guidance of Rs3bn capex for FY25F, excluding the land purchased in Rajasthan for a new plant at a cost of Rs4bn.

Cut EBITDA by 6-8% for FY25F-26F

We feel the tractor industry is witnessing a typical cyclical downfall, as financers' non-performing assets, large dealer inventory and reclaimed vehicle park will overweigh for a few quarters. Strong rainfall and a low base can help in volume growth recovery in 2HFY25F. The Kubota export plan roll-out is gradual and may not help to limit the impact of domestic tractor demand dip assumption of 6% for FY25F. Also, building in weakness in the railway segment, we have cut EBITDA by 6-8% for FY25F-26F.

Rich valuation undermines cyclical tractor demand risk

The mid-cap and automobile sector stock rally in recent months led to a sharp 25% stock price run in the last two months, making the forward P/E and P/BV valuations rise above +2SD of the five-year mean. We feel the above-normal monsoon is factored in current valuation while the recovery will be gradual and back-ended. We maintain our REDUCE rating on the stock with a higher rolled-forward target price of Rs2,385 (Rs2,071 earlier), valuing it at 21x one-year forward P/E, which is the five-year mean level. Government policy on agriculture will be a key upside risk.

Financial Summary	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Revenue (Rsm)	83,450	87,767	91,615	108,251	123,348
Operating EBITDA (Rsm)	7,805	11,687	11,860	13,898	15,974
Net Profit (Rsm)	6,070	10,371	10,621	12,367	14,049
Core EPS (Rs)	61.6	93.9	96.1	111.9	127.1
Core EPS Growth	(11.2%)	52.5%	2.4%	16.4%	13.6%
FD Core P/E (x)	62.72	36.71	35.85	30.78	27.10
DPS (Rs)	7.0	13.0	18.0	21.0	25.0
Dividend Yield	0.24%	0.38%	0.52%	0.61%	0.73%
EV/EBITDA (x)	48.18	31.58	31.49	27.18	23.68
P/FCFE (x)	125.91	40.81	(154.41)	(202.13)	169.17
Net Gearing	(5.6%)	(12.6%)	(7.1%)	(2.7%)	(2.0%)
P/BV (x)	4.51	4.13	3.78	3.44	3.12
ROE	8.3%	11.8%	11.0%	11.7%	12.1%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates			(3.34%)	(4.80%)	
InCred Research/Consensus EPS (x)					

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



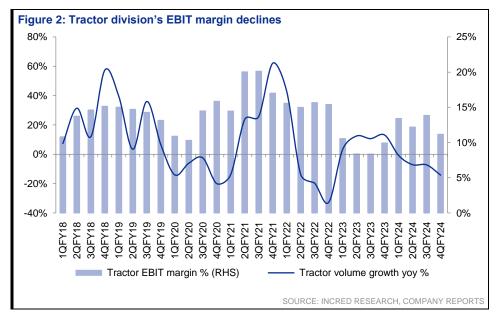
Tractor demand yet to bottom out

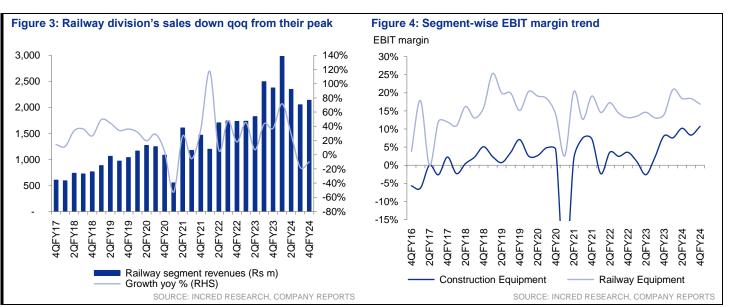
Management conference-call highlights ➤

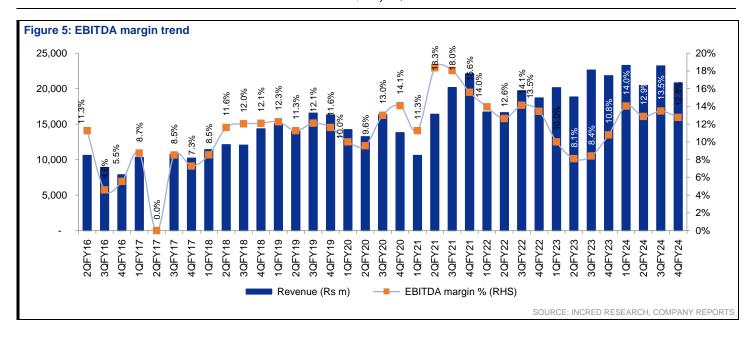
- Agri machinery: Management expects the domestic tractor industry to grow in low to mid-single digits in FY25F but the first half of FY25F is likely to decline in volume terms due to unfavourable rainfall and the ongoing general elections in India.
- Financial performance: EBIT margin in FY24 expanded by 344bp yoy, driven by softening commodity prices, richer product mix and price action taken during the year. Going ahead, management endeavour is to keep the EBIT margin in the range of 13-14%. Management plans to launch new products in the agri business to cover white spaces in its portfolio.
- Region-wise performance: Southern and western regions remain under pressure due to low water levels at reservoirs and northern and central regions witnessing decent growth. Escort Kubota's target is to gain market share in the northern and western regions as it sees market share loss in these regions.
- **Export business:** It is likely to grow faster than the domestic industry due to a low base. Major growth is likely to come from FY26F.
- Construction equipment: The segment witnessed EBIT margin growth of 640bp on the back of higher volume, government push to the infrastructure sector, softening cost pressure, product mix, and better realization. Management witnessed some slowdown recently as spending by the government has slowed down due to general elections. Within the segment, pick-and-carry sub-segments witnessed the fastest growth of 52% yoy led by China +1, where Escorts Kubota has market share of 40%.
- Railway equipment division: Revenue for the year grew by 13% on yoy basis. The EBIT margin expanded by 510bp yoy and the order book stood at Rs9.5bn at the end of 4QFY24. During the quarter, the company launched three new products for Indian Railways and it expects double-digit revenue growth in FY25F, with the EBIT margin in the range of 17-20%.
- Capex: In FY24, the total capex stood at Rs.1.75bn. Management is in discussions with Rajasthan state government for land acquisition to set up the manufacturing plant at a cost of ~Rs.4bn. After the land acquisition, the plant will start production in four-to-five years. For FY25F, management has planned Rs.3bn capex for product development in all three business divisions and the construction of infrastructure.
- **Joint venture and total capacity:** The JV is producing 18-20k units of tractors for the Kubota brand, with 45% of capacity utilization, and making the contract range of tractors for Escorts Kubota at 50% capacity utilization. Escorts Kubota has a total capacity to produce 170,000 units per annum (120k units own and 50k from the JV). The company is importing farm equipment through the JV and trading in it domestically. It is expected to start supplying spare parts to Kubota this year.
- New NBFC vertical: The company has submitted an application to the RBI.
 Typically, it takes 6-8 months for getting the licence. Thus, management is hopeful of receiving the NBFC licence in FY25F.
- Inventory: Channel issue is under control while it is 37-39 days for Escorts Kubota.

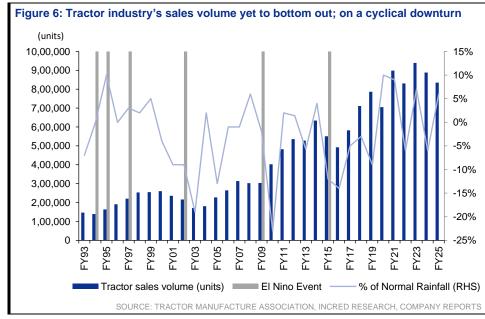


Figure 1: Results comp	arison								
Y/E Mar (Rs m)	4QFY24	4QFY23	yoy % chg	3QFY24	qoq % chg	FY24	FY23	yoy % chg	Comments for the quarter
Revenue	20,825	21,830	(4.6)	23,204	(10.3)	87,767	83,450	5.2	1% below our estimate.
Raw Material costs	14,181	15,615	(9.2)	16,092	(11.9)	60,371	60,669	(0.5)	
RM as % of revenue	68.1	71.5	(343)	69.4	(125.3)	68.8	72.7	(391.6)	30bp below our estimate.
EBITDA	2,659	2,358	12.8	3,127	(15.0)	11,687	7,805	49.7	4% below our estimate.
EBITDA margin (%)	12.8	10.8	196.6	13.5	(70.6)	13.3	9.4	396.4	43bp below our estimate.
Depreciation & amortization	441	380	15.9	415	6.2	1,664	1,484	12.2	-
EBIT	2,218	1,978	12.1	2,712	(18.2)	10,023	6,321	58.6	
Interest expenses	35	28	25.5	24	45.0	108	103	5.2	
Other income	1,053	763	38.1	1,035	1.8	3,983	2,806	41.9	5% higher than our estimate.
Pretax profit	3,237	2,714	19.3	3,723	(13.0)	13,898	9,024	54.0	2% below our estimate.
Tax	817	615	32.8	950	(14.0)	3,527	1,982	77.9	
Tax rate (%)	25.2	22.7	257	25.5	(29)	25.4	22.0	341.0	
Normalized net profit	2,421	2,099	15.3	2,773	(12.7)	10,371	7,042	47.3	2% below our estimate.
Exceptionals	-	(244)		-	nm	-	(972)	nm	
Reported net profit	2,421	1,855	30.5	2,773	(12.7)	10,371	6,070	70.9	
Normalized EPS (Rs)	21.9	23.6	(7.0)	25.1	(12.7)	93.9	63.7	47.3	
Tractor Volume (nos)	21,253	24,765	(14.2)	25,999	(18.3)	95,858	1,03,290	(7.2)	
Tractor realization (Rs)	6,54,331	6,28,912	4.0	6,37,848	2.6	6,37,412	6,11,492	4.2	0.6% above our estimate.
								SOURCE	E INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORT









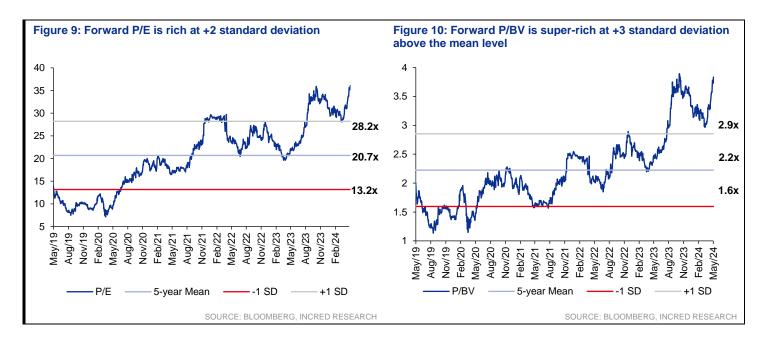
	FY25F		FY26F	:
Rs m	Old	New	Old	New
Tractor volume (nos)	88,488	87,396	96,309	95,129
% change		-1.2%		-1.2%
Net sales	95,092	91,615	1,11,189	1,08,251
% change		-3.7%		-2.6%
EBITDA	12,581	11,860	15,042	13,898
% change		-5.7%		-7.6%
EBITDA margin	13.2%	12.9%	13.5%	12.8%
bp change		(22)		(51)
PAT	11,118	10,621	13,144	12,367
% change		-4.5%		-5.9%
	SOUR	CE: INCRED RE	SEARCH, COMPA	NY REPORTS



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Escorts Kubota Ltd | May 10, 2024

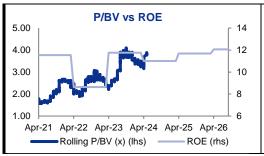
Figure 8: Key assumptions					
Volume assumptions	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Tractor Volume (units)	1,03,290	95,858	87,396	95,129	1,01,505
Growth yoy %	9.6%	-7.2%	-8.8%	8.8%	6.7%
Construction Equipment volume (units)	4,620	6,548	8,185	9,822	11,295
Growth yoy %	12.2%	41.7%	25.0%	20.0%	15.0%
Total Revenue (Rs m)	83,450	87,767	91,615	1,08,251	1,23,348
Growth yoy %	16.7%	5.2%	4.4%	18.2%	13.9%
EBITDA margin %	9.4%	13.3%	12.9%	12.8%	13.0%
Segment-wise Assumptions					
Tractor Revenue (Rs m)	63,161	61,101	58,697	67,596	74,953
EBIT margin %	9.3%	12.7%	13.5%	13.2%	14.0%
Construction Equipment Revenue (Rs m)	11,790	17,097	22,654	28,543	34,466
EBIT margin %	2.9%	9.3%	9.0%	9.5%	9.0%
Railway Equipment Revenue (Rs m)	8,419	9,504	10,264	12,112	13,929
EBIT margin %	13.8%	18.9%	19.5%	20.0%	19.0%
		SOURCE:	INCRED RESEA	ARCH, COMPAN	Y REPORTS







BY THE NUMBERS





Profit & Loss					
(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Total Net Revenues	83,450	87,767	91,615	108,251	123,348
Gross Profit	22,781	27,396	29,042	33,883	38,238
Operating EBITDA	7,805	11,687	11,860	13,898	15,974
Depreciation And Amortisation	(1,484)	(1,664)	(1,890)	(2,046)	(2,348)
Operating EBIT	6,321	10,023	9,969	11,852	13,626
Financial Income/(Expense)	(103)	(108)	(70)	(50)	(50)
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.					
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	2,806	3,983	4,262	4,688	5,157
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	9,024	13,898	14,161	16,490	18,733
Exceptional Items	(972)				
Pre-tax Profit	8,052	13,898	14,161	16,490	18,733
Taxation	(1,982)	(3,527)	(3,540)	(4,122)	(4,683)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	6,070	10,371	10,621	12,367	14,049
Minority Interests					
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	6,070	10,371	10,621	12,367	14,049
Recurring Net Profit	6,802	10,371	10,621	12,367	14,049
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	6,802	10,371	10,621	12,367	14,049

Cash Flow					
(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
EBITDA	7,805	11,687	11,860	13,898	15,974
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	(3,803)	(437)	(525)	(1,047)	(847)
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions	(392)	1,827	608	300	200
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense					
Other Operating Cashflow	(972)				
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	2,703	3,875	4,192	4,638	5,107
Tax Paid	(1,982)	(3,527)	(3,540)	(4,122)	(4,683)
Cashflow From Operations	3,360	13,426	12,595	13,666	15,750
Capex	(2,304)	(1,842)	(8,491)	(5,500)	(3,500)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries					
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments					
Other Investing Cashflow	1,968	(2,255)	(6,569)	(10,050)	(10,000)
Cash Flow From Investing	(336)	(4,097)	(15,060)	(15,550)	(13,500)
Debt Raised/(repaid)					
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares		(931)			
Shares Repurchased					
Dividends Paid	(924)	(1,437)	(1,989)	(2,321)	(2,763)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow					
Cash Flow From Financing	(924)	(2,367)	(1,989)	(2,321)	(2,763)
Total Cash Generated	2,100	6,962	(4,455)	(4,204)	(512)
Free Cashflow To Equity	3,024	9,329	(2,466)	(1,884)	2,250
Free Cashflow To Firm	3,127	9,438	(2,396)	(1,834)	2,300

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(Rs mn)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Total Cash And Equivalents	4,685	11,647	7,192	2,988	2,476
Total Debtors	12,076	12,086	11,797	13,346	14,531
Inventories	11,590	11,581	12,550	13,346	14,531
Total Other Current Assets	4,405	4,512	4,881	5,231	5,531
Total Current Assets	32,756	39,826	36,420	34,911	37,070
Fixed Assets	20,725	23,689	26,798	30,252	31,404
Total Investments	50,306	52,826	59,326	69,326	79,326
Intangible Assets					
Total Other Non-Current Assets					
Total Non-current Assets	71,030	76,514	86,124	99,578	110,730
Short-term Debt					
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	12,329	11,893	12,048	13,346	14,869
Other Current Liabilities	4,300	6,076	6,576	7,076	7,576
Total Current Liabilities	16,628	17,969	18,624	20,422	22,445
Total Long-term Debt					
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities					
Total Non-current Liabilities					
Total Provisions	2,105	2,743	3,151	3,251	3,251
Total Liabilities	18,733	20,711	21,775	23,673	25,696
Shareholders Equity	84,348	92,138	100,770	110,817	122,103
Minority Interests					
Total Equity	84,348	92,138	100,770	110,817	122,103

Key Ratios					
	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Revenue Growth	16.7%	5.2%	4.4%	18.2%	13.9%
Operating EBITDA Growth	(18.0%)	49.7%	1.5%	17.2%	14.9%
Operating EBITDA Margin	9.4%	13.3%	12.9%	12.8%	13.0%
Net Cash Per Share (Rs)	42.39	105.40	65.09	27.04	22.41
BVPS (Rs)	763.33	833.82	911.94	1,002.86	1,105.01
Gross Interest Cover	61.37	92.46	142.42	237.04	272.52
Effective Tax Rate	24.6%	25.4%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	13.1%	13.9%	18.7%	18.8%	19.7%
Accounts Receivables Days	44.51	50.24	47.58	42.39	41.25
Inventory Days	59.04	70.05	70.38	63.55	59.78
Accounts Payables Days	63.49	73.22	69.83	62.32	60.50
ROIC (%)	18.5%	23.3%	22.1%	23.8%	24.5%
ROCE (%)	7.7%	11.2%	10.2%	11.1%	11.6%
Return On Average Assets	7.2%	9.5%	8.9%	9.7%	10.0%

Key Drivers					
	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
ASP (% chg, main prod./serv.)	4.4%	4.2%	5.4%	5.8%	3.9%
Unit sales grth (%, main prod./serv.)	9.6%	(7.2%)	(8.8%)	8.8%	6.7%
ASP (% chg, 2ndary prod./serv.)	6.6%	2.3%	6.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Unit sales grth (%,2ndary prod/serv)	12.2%	41.7%	25.0%	20.0%	15.0%

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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