

# India

# Overweight (no change)

#### **Highlighted Companies**

# APL Apollo Tubes ADD, TP Rs1611, Rs1317 close

We expect a strong quarter for APL Apollo Tubes driven by higher sales volume salience of its new Raipur plant aiding a better sales mix and higher margins. We estimate EBITDA/t of Rs5,150 in 1QFY24F.

# Astral Ltd. ADD, TP Rs1978, Rs1779 close

We expect margin recovery in Astral across all its product segments, namely plastic products, adhesives, bathware and paints. The company is nearing capex completion, and we expect a significant improvement in FCF generation over FY24F-25F.

# Kajaria Ceramics

#### ADD, TP Rs1376, Rs1268 close

Although sales volume growth of Kajaria Ceramics is still not in the best shape (high single-digit yoy), cheaper natural gas will lead to better margins for tiles business qoq. We also expect early signs of a recovery in revenue growth for bathware and plywood products in 1QFY24F.

### **Summary Valuation Metrics**

P/E (x)	Mar22-A	Mar23-A	Mar24-F
APL Apollo Tubes	59.16	56.9	41.71
Astral Ltd.	73.88	101.14	82.46
Kajaria Ceramics	53.54	58.59	45.95
P/BV (x)	Mar22-A	Mar23-A	Mar24-F
APL Apollo Tubes	14.56	12.15	9.9
Astral Ltd.	15.3	17.63	14.95
Kajaria Ceramics	9.51	8.68	7.87
Dividend Yield	Mar22-A	Mar23-A	Mar24-F
APL Apollo Tubes	0.27%	0.38%	0.53%
Astral Ltd.	0.17%	0.13%	0.2%
Kajaria Ceramics	0.87%	0.71%	0.99%



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# **Industrial - Overall**

# 1Q preview: Durables and building materials

- No more price hikes amid cheaper input prices would lead to our coverage universe witnessing weak revenue growth but higher margins yoy/qoq.
- Management interaction and channel check reveal weak summer sales in North/West India. Cable/wire, steel tube, bathware and PVC products did well.
- Good 1Q: Havells, Polycab, Finolex Cables, KEI, Astral, APL Apollo and Cera.
   Weak 1Q: CG Consumer, Orient Electric, Century Ply and Finolex Industries.

# Building materials fare better than consumer durables

B2C demand remained weak in 1QFY24 due to inflationary pressure as products were expensive owing to repeated price hikes taken in CY22. B2B/B2G demand has been supportive driven by public/private capex aiding cables, lighting, plastic pipe and steel tube sales volume growth in 1QFY24F. As regards summer sales, unseasonal rains negatively impacted sales of fans, coolers and room air-conditioners, more so in North and West India. South India saw a relatively better 1Q. We believe cables have done better vs. wires, switchgear continues to do well owing to decent real estate demand and also demand recovery for voltage stabilizers (room AC-related) and B2G lighting. As regards building materials, cheaper PVC and HRC prices boosted the demand for plastic pipes (agri season) and steel tubes (vs. low quality tubes). Bathware was stable while tiles and wood panel saw a relatively lower sales volume due to an oversupply problem.

# **Expectations from consumer durable companies**

We expect revenue growth of 10% yoy while a higher EBITDA/PAT growth of 20% yoy (on a low base) for our coverage universe cumulatively in 1QFY24F. C&W companies would see higher sales volume growth vs. durables, in our view. Flat selling prices yoy and cheaper input prices would lead to much higher gross/EBITDA margins yoy. We note that the base quarter (1QFY23) saw a significant margin erosion and hence, yoy performance appears to be optically better than average. We expect Havells, Polycab, KEI and Finolex Cables to report better results vs. CG Consumer and Orient Electric in 1QFY24F.

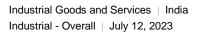
### **Expectations from building material companies**

We expect revenue growth of 15% yoy (6% excl. APL Apollo) and EBITDA/PAT growth of 25%+ yoy (16% excl. APL Apollo) for our coverage universe cumulatively. Cheaper PVC resin prices (down 15% qoq) led to strong sales volume growth of 20%+ yoy (good agriseason sales) for plastic pipe companies in 1Q, in our view. Raipur plant commissioning led to higher-than-average sales volume growth of 56% yoy for APL Apollo in 1Q. Cera's results should be in line with management's guidance while Kajaria Ceramics and Century Ply are likely to post sub-par sales volume growth yoy due to weakening demand trend.

# What do we prefer?

On the back of P/E-G matrix, we prefer APL Apollo, Astral and Kajaria in our coverage universe. Market share gain, improving sales mix, unutilized capacity, improving margins, high RoCE and higher incremental FCF generation over FY24F-25F are key positives.

Figure 1: 1QFY24F earnin	gs estimates s	ummary				
	Revenue	% yoy	<b>EBITDA</b>	% yoy	PAT	% yoy
Havells India	46,319	9.1	4,840	33.9	3,199	31.5
CG Consumer Electricals	19,776	6.2	2,343	6.6	1,448	19.7
V-Guard Industries	11,282	10.8	1,072	30.7	569	6.6
Orient Electric	6,147	-1.1	433	13.6	215	13.5
Polycab India	31,490	15.1	3,747	20.5	2,559	16.4
Finolex Cables	11,238	10.6	1,371	15.1	1,399	17.0
KEI Industries	17,439	11.4	1,787	12.0	1,219	17.5
Astral	12,822	5.7	2,180	27.0	1,276	43.5
Supreme Inds.	23,947	8.6	3,484	29.6	2,490	16.5
Finolex Inds.	11,486	-3.5	1,546	22.7	1,092	10.1
APL Apollo	45,565	32.5	3,405	75.6	2,080	94.2
Kajaria Ceramics	10,992	9.0	1,671	8.8	991	7.4
Cera Sanitaryware	4,578	15.2	732	16.6	527	33.3
Century Plywood	9,495	7.7	1,519	4.6	967	0.2
Total	2,62,577	12.2	30,132	24.8	20,031	23.9
		SOUR	CE: INCRED	RESEARCH	, COMPANY	REPORTS





1	Bloomberg		Market cap	Closing	Price	_	P/E (x)		EV/E (x)		CAGR % (FY23-25F)		FY24F		FY25F	
Company Name	ticker	Rating	US\$m	price Rs/share	Target Rs/share	Upside [%]	FY24F	FY25F	FY24F	FY25F	Revenue	EPS	RoE (%)	RoCE (%)	RoE (%)	RoCE (%)
Building Materials																
Astral Ltd.	ASTRA IN	ADD	6,582	1,779	1,978	11.2	82.5	67.5	48.9	41.2	12.5	9.9	19.6	23.8	20.3	25.0
Supreme Industries	SI IN	ADD	5,580	3,190	3,247	1.8	39.9	35.4	28.0	24.2	11.9	19.6	21.5	23.7	21.2	23.8
APL Apollo Tubes	APAT IN	ADD	5,029	1,317	1,611	22.3	41.7	29.4	26.4	19.4	17.0	36.0	26.2	29.3	30.2	36.8
Kajaria Ceramics	KJC IN	ADD	2,781	1,268	1,376	8.5	46.0	35.0	26.7	21.3	15.0	17.7	18.0	22.1	21.0	25.8
Finolex Industries	FNXP IN	REDUCE	1,469	172	177	2.8	12.6	17.5	12.7	11.3	2.7	12.9	9.1	12.6	10.7	13.1
Century Plyboards	CPBI IN	ADD	2,061	674	734	8.9	35.4	32.1	23.5	20.3	16.1	24.1	20.1	22.5	18.5	20.4
Cera Sanitaryware	CRS IN	HOLD	1,302	7,269	6,929	-4.7	38.9	32.5	25.9	21.6	18.0	23.5	19.3	24.6	20.1	25.7
Simple Average							42.4	35.6	27.4	22.7	13.3	20.5	19.1	22.7	20.3	24.4
Electricals																
Havells India	HAVL IN	ADD	11,282	1,308	1,488	13.8	57.7	48.3	37.3	31.3	14.5	18.2	20.2	25.3	21.5	27.1
Polycab India	POLYCAB IN	REDUCE	7,791	3,775	3,126	-17.2	43.5	38.6	27.3	24.0	12.6	13.9	18.3	24.5	18.1	24.2
KEI Industries	KEII IN	ADD	2,937	2,365	2,104	-11.0	35.5	30.3	24.1	20.5	15.5	19.8	21.0	27.4	20.3	26.8
CG Consumer Electricals	CROMPTON IN	ADD	2,614	297	320	7.9	33.7	27.8	21.0	18.0	11.9	6.3	19.9	20.5	21.6	23.7
Finolex Cables	FNXC IN	REDUCE	1,731	822	621	-24.5	16.9	15.8	15.6	12.9	13.0	15.3	13.9	13.9	15.0	14.9
V-Guard Industries	VGRD IN	ADD	1,734	291	290	-0.2	46.3	36.0	26.2	21.6	16.1	13.0	15.9	18.1	18.1	21.0
Orient Electric	ORIENTEL IN	ADD	758	258	250	-3.2	44.1	36.1	23.2	18.8	13.6	14.0	19.9	27.3	21.4	29.1
Simple Average							39.7	33.3	25.0	21.0	13.9	14.4	18.4	22.4	19.4	23.8

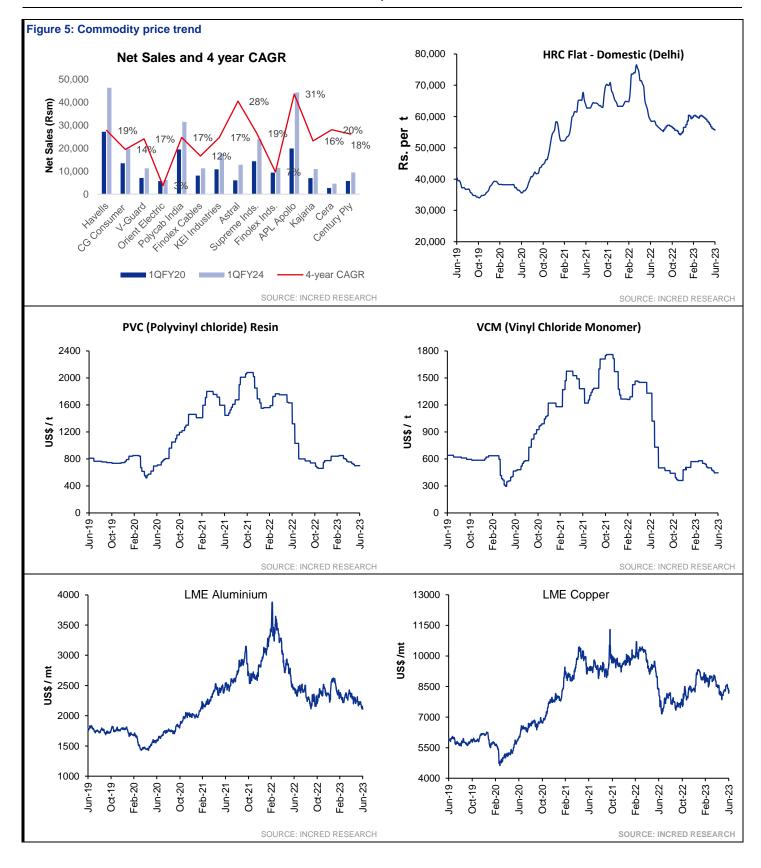


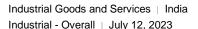
	1QFY24F	1QFY23	4QFY23	Chang yoy	(%) Comments
FMEG					
Havells					
Net Sales	46,319	42,445	48,592	9.1	-4.7 # Base quarter saw significant and sudden volatility in raw material prices, leading to
EBITDA	4,840	3,615	5,364	33.9	-9.8 destocking in a few product segments and sub-optimal margins.
EBITDA margin (%)	10.5	8.5	11.0	193bp	-252bp # We expect muted revenue growth in 1QFY24F vs. full-year growth expectations, given
Consolidated PAT	3,199	2,432	3,673	31.5	-12.9 volatile summer season sales impacted by unseasonal rains. Also, please note that B2B
Consolidated 1 A1	3,133	2,432	3,073	37.3	demand was soft in the base quarter of 1QFY23. # Gross margin is expected to keep recovering qoq and is headed towards the pre-Covid level.
CG Consumer (consolid	lated includir	ng Butterfly	/ Gandhima	ıthi)	
Net Sales	19,776	18,629	17,910	6.2	10.4 # CG Consumer's strong presence in South India should yield relative benefits in terms of
EBITDA	2,343	2,199	2,114	6.6	10.8 revenue growth vs. peers as demand was relatively stable vs North and West India in
EBITDA margin (%)	11.9	11.8	11.8	5bp	0bp 1QFY24.
Consolidated PAT	1,448	1,210	1,312	19.7	10.4 # We expect Butterfly's revenue at Rs2.7bn with stable gross margin qoq. We expect EBITDA of Rs314m at a margin of 11.5% in 1Q. # Consolidated margin is expected to be flat yoy.
V-Guard					
Net Sales	11,282	10,183	11,401	10.8	-1.0 # South India saw relatively better demand for consumer durables vs North and West India.
EBITDA	1,072	820	987	30.7	8.6 # First full quarter consolidation for Sunflame. We expect a gradual revenue growth recovery
EBITDA margin (%)	9.5	8.1	8.7	144bp	-60bp gog over FY24F. 1QFY24F revenue: Rs740m.
Consolidated PAT	569	534	527	6.6	8.0 # We expect gross/EBITDA margins to improve yoy and qoq given softening of input prices
	303	334	321	0.0	and Sunflame's consolidation. # Acqusition debt of Rs4bn would lead to higher interest expenses yoy.
Orient Electric					
Net Sales	6,147	6,216	6,579	-1.1	-6.6 # Subdued summer season sales due to unseasonal rains. Fans and coolers' sales growth
EBITDA	433	382	464	13.6	-6.6 should be lower vs. lighting.
EBITDA margin (%)	7.1	6.1	7.0	91bp	-91bp # Price hikes in Apr 2023 should marginally offset low sales volume growth in 1QFY24F
Consolidated PAT	215	190	246	13.5	-12.7 # Margins are a priority over sales growth, as per management. The quarter could see better gross/EBITDA margins vs. past 1Q trends on the back of lower raw material prices and efficiency in opex.
C&W					
Polycab					
Net Sales	31,490	27,366	43,237	15.1	-27.2 # Wire and cable segment's volume growth is expected to be 15%+ yoy, given strong
EBITDA	3,747	3,111	6,095	20.5	-38,5 demand tailwinds from industrial and infrastructure capex.
EBITDA margin (%)	11.9	11.4	14.1	53bp	-273bp # Average copper prices were down 11% yoy in 1QFY24.
Consolidated PAT	2,559	2,198	4,247	16.4	-39.8 # Based on management guidance, the FMEG segment is expected to see a meaningful recovery in revenue growth. However, subdued summer demand would lead to sub-optimal sales growth yoy.
Finolex Cables					
Net Sales	11,238	10 157	12,243	10.6	-8.2 # We expect a stable quarter for the C&W segment's sales.
EBITDA	1,371	10,157 1,191	1,457	15.1	-5.9 # FMEG demand trends were weak for the industry nationally. However, strong South India
					-3.9 # FINES demand trends were weak for the industry hadionally. However, strong South India -17bp presence could aid sales growth.
EBITDA margin (%) Consolidated PAT	12.2	11.7	11.9	47bp	
Consolidated PAT	1,399	1,196	1,750	17.0	and operating leverage for communication cables.  # Dividend income from Finolex Industries will be received in the next quarter or 2QFY24F.
KEI Industries					
Net Sales	17,439	15,654	19,545	11.4	-10.8 # Cables continue to witness strong demand from industrial and infrastructure segments,
EBITDA	1,787	1,596	2,038	12.0	-12.3 both from B2B and B2G customers.
EBITDA margin (%)	10.3	10.2	10.4	5bp	-23bp # KEI's wire business continued to gain market share.
Consolidated PAT	1,219	1,038	1,381	17.5	-11.7 # Copper prices were down 11% yoy, impacting value growth, in 1QFY24. # We expect stable margins yoy and qoq # EHV cable sales are expected to see a recovery yoy.
Cumulative Financials					
Net Sales	1,43,692	1,30,649	1,59,508	10.0	-9.9
EBITDA	15,595	12,915	18,519	20.8	- <del>15.8</del>
EBITDA margin (%)	10.9	9.9	11.6	97bp	-13.8 -173bp
Consolidated PAT	10,608	8,797	13,137	20.6	-17-30p -19.2



	1QFY24F	1QFY23A	4QFY23A -	Change	• •	
				yoy	qoq	Comments
Plastic Pipes						
Astral	10.000					#BV0/0BV0
Net Sales	12,822	12,129	15,062	5.7		# PVC/CPVC resin prices have largely been stable or declined marginally qoq aiding good
EBITDA	2,180	1,717	3,089	27.0		demand from customers.
EBITDA margin (%)	17.0	14.2	20.5	284bp		# We expect plastic products' sales volume at ~45kt in 1QFY24F.
Consolidated APAT	1,276	889	2,075	43.5		# Bathware segment's EBITDA loss is expected to decline qoq towards a path o breakeven by the end of Mar 2024F # We expect adhesives and paints segments' sales revenue growth at 12% yoy and the EBITDA margin at 15%.
Supreme Industries						
Net Sales	23,947	22,060	25,983	8.6		# We expect plastic pipe sales volume of 110kt, +42% yoy. Consolidated sales volume a
EBITDA	3,484	2,689	4,803	29.6		147kt, +30% yoy.
EBITDA margin (%)	14.6	12.2	18.5	236bp		# Realization across segments is expected to decline in line with PVC price decline.
Consolidated APAT	2,490	2,139	3,594	16.5	-30.7	# We estimate consolidated EBITDA/t of Rs24k.
Finolex Industries						
Net Sales	11,486	11,898	11,411	-3.5		# We expect PVC resin sales volume of 64kt, flat yoy, while realization would decline by
EBITDA	1,546	1,259	2,174	22.7		40% yoy.
EBITDA margin (%)	13.5	10.6	19.1	287bp		# We expect strong performance of the pipes and fittings division with a sales volume of
Consolidated APAT	1,092	992	1,665	10.1		90kt, +25% yoy. # The PVC-EDC and PVC-VCM spreads were adverse on a qoq basis.
Steel Pipes						
APL Apollo Tubes						
Net Sales	45,565	34,386	44,311	32.5	2.8	# Sales volume of 661kt was disclosed in the quarterly business update on 1 Jul 2023
EBITDA	3,405	1,939	3,229	75.6		Raipur plant's sales volume was not disclosed separately.
EBITDA margin (%)	7.5	5.6	7.3	183bp		# HRC prices were flat qoq. Hence, most realization/t improvement expected qoq will be
Consolidated APAT	2,080	1,071	2,018	94.2	3.1	driven by the sales mix. # Gross margin is expected to marginally improve qoq on the back of higher VAP sales mix.
						# We estimate EBITDA/t of approx. Rs5,150.
Sanitaryware & Tiles						
Kajaria Ceramics	40.000		10010			// // / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /
Net Sales	10,992	10,082	12,048	9.0		# We expect tile sales volume of 25.3msm, +8% yoy.
EBITDA	1,671	1,536	1,759	8.8		# Based on our channel check, no price cuts for tiles in 1QFY24. Channel incentives
EBITDA margin (%)	15.2	15.2	14.6	-3bp		continued gog to aid sales volume of Kajaria.
Consolidated APAT	991	923	1,124	7.4		# We estimate bathware and plywood revenue at Rs814m, +14% yoy and at Rs211m +3.5% yoy, respectively, in 1QFY24F. # We expect a higher gross margin, in line with the past 1Q trends, in the current fiscal The EBITDA margin should improve gog owing to lower fuel cost.
Cera Sanitaryware						· · · · · ·
Net Sales	4,578	3,972	5,325	15.2	-140	# We expect a steady revenue growth of 15-17% yoy for sanitaryware and faucets in
EBITDA				16.6		
EBITDA margin (%)	732 16.0	15.8	872 16.4	18bp		1QFY24F. # Gross and EBITDA margins are expected to be steady yoy and gog.
Consolidated APAT	527	395	678	33.3		# New faucet plant is expected to start commercial production anytime now.
Plywood						
Century Plyboards						
Net Sales	9,495	8,815	9,618	7.7	10	# Demand trend was weaker for wood panels in 1QFY24F. We expect revenue decline in
EBITDA	1,519	1,453	1,626	4.6		# Demand trend was weaker for wood panels in TQF124F. We expect revenue decline in plywood and laminate segments yoy.
EBITDA margin (%)	1,519	1,455	1,020	-48bp		# Expanded capacity of MDF at Punjab plant would lead to sales volume growth of 23%
Consolidated APAT	967	965	1,127	0.2	-14.2	yoy. We expect flat realization qoq. # Timber prices hardened while chemical prices declined in 1QFY24. Consolidated gross margin to decline qoq.
Cumulative Financials						
Net Sales	1,18,885	1,03,341	1,23,758	15.0	-3.9	
EBITDA	14,537	11,221	17,552	29.5	-17.2	
EBITDA margin (%)	12.2	10.9	14.2	137bp	-196bp	









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