# **Another muted quarter**

Logistics → Result Update → May 10, 2024



TARGET PRICE (Rs): 1,150

TCIE reported yet another muted quarter, with revenue/EBITDA/PAT declining 3%/17%/18% YoY and missing our estimates by 2%/6%/5%, respectively. Management alluded to macro headwinds in sectors like pharma, lifestyle and textile, as well as jettisoning of a few non-profitable customers impacting its volumes. With H1FY25 expected to be muted owing to seasonality and imminent central elections, double-digit volume growth is likely to be elusive even in FY25 for TCIE. We expect strong competitive intensity to impede TCIE's top-line growth in the near term. Sustained network investments in automation (Pune hub commissioned) and margin-accretive new services provide comfort on margins. We cut our PAT for FY25/26E by 4%/5%, respectively, while retaining our ADD rating on account of TCIE's efficient cost management and reasonable valuations. Our Mar-25E TP stands revised down at Rs1,150 (DCF methodology), implying FY26E EV/EBITDA of 21x and P/E of 29x.

TCI Express: Financial Snapshot (Consolidated)								
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E			
Revenue	10,815	12,410	12,538	13,140	14,200			
EBITDA	1,747	1,945	1,872	2,031	2,236			
Adj. PAT	1,289	1,393	1,317	1,415	1,544			
Adj. EPS (Rs)	33.5	36.4	34.3	36.9	40.3			
EBITDA margin (%)	16.2	15.7	14.9	15.5	15.7			
EBITDA growth (%)	30.1	11.3	(3.7)	8.5	10.1			
Adj. EPS growth (%)	28.1	8.5	(5.6)	7.5	9.1			
RoE (%)	26.6	24.6	20.3	18.6	17.6			
RoIC (%)	34.3	31.8	25.9	24.4	24.2			
P/E (x)	33.0	30.4	32.2	29.9	27.5			
EV/EBITDA (x)	24.2	21.7	22.5	20.5	18.5			
P/B (x)	7.9	7.1	6.0	5.2	4.5			
FCFF yield (%)	1.1	1.0	2.1	1.7	1.5			

Source: Company, Emkay Research

#### Volumes continue to disappoint

TCIE reported a revenue decline of 3% YoY despite H2 being traditionally stronger for B2B express logistics players. Volumes declined 2% YoY for the second consecutive quarter and blended realizations decreased 1% YoY. Except for auto, Company saw no growth for its pharma and engineering verticals, whereas its textile and lifestyle verticals registered a negative trajectory. Lower contribution from SME (49% this quarter vs. 52% in previous quarter) may have led to the realization dip, in our view. Gross margin decreased by 126bps YoY, as volumes disappointed. EBITDA margin decreased by 245bps to 14.1%, due to contraction in gross margins exacerbated by negative operating leverage (7% YoY increase in employee costs). Other income increased 16% YoY, negating the increase in depreciation (16% YoY), and leading to the bottom line decreasing by 182bps on YoY basis. The company has announced a final dividend of Rs2/share, taking the total dividend to Rs8/share for FY24. The net cash on books stood at Rs 1.1bn, with capex for the year at Rs461mn. NWC days for FY24 were stable at 16.

## **Outlook and risks**

High competitive intensity, seasonality, and upcoming central elections are likely to plague TCIE in the near term, thereby limiting its chances to deliver double-digit volume growth in FY25, in our view. Network automation plans with 2 sorting centers (Ahmedabad and Kolkata) to be constructed by FY26E and the higher contribution of new services (Rail & Air) bode well for the margin trajectory. We expect EBITDA margins to expand by 80bps over FY24-26E and forecast 6% volume CAGR with muted realizations (1% CAGR) over the same period, as competitive intensity in the B2B express segment remains elevated with the entry of new-age express operators. Strong balance sheet (net cash of Rs1.1bn), diverse customer base (50% SME), and robust cash generation (OCF as a % of EBITDA: 73%) are likely to shield TCIE during this heighted phase of competitive intensity, in our view. **Key risks:** Slowdown in manufacturing/overall GDP growth, pricing aggression from well-funded, new-age companies entering the B2B space, competition from PTL vendors, and shortage of labor.

Target Price – 12M	Mar-25
Change in TP (%)	(8.0)
Current Reco.	ADD
Previous Reco.	ADD
Upside/(Downside) (%)	4.1
CMP (10-May-24) (Rs)	1,105.0

Stock Data	Ticker
52-week High (Rs)	1,701
52-week Low (Rs)	998
Shares outstanding (mn)	38.3
Market-cap (Rs bn)	42
Market-cap (USD mn)	507
Net-debt, FY25E (Rs mn)	-638
ADTV-3M (mn shares)	-
ADTV-3M (Rs mn)	81.8
ADTV-3M (USD mn)	1.0
Free float (%)	-
Nifty-50	22,055
INR/USD	83.5
Shareholding, Mar-24	
Promoters (%)	69.6
FPIs/MFs (%)	2.4/8.9

Price Performance						
(%)	1M	3M	12M			
Absolute	0.2	(16.4)	(26.6)			
Rel. to Nifty	3.4	(17.4)	(39.0)			



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**Exhibit 1: Summary of quarterly financials** 

Particulars (Rs mn)	Q4FY23	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	YoY	QoQ
Net sales	3,263	3,119	3,171	-3%	2%
Operating Expenses	(2,721)	(2,663)	(2,723)	0%	2%
Freight, handling and service costs	2,192	2,143	2,170	-1%	1%
Employee Costs	314	336	336	7%	0%
Other operating Expenses	216	185	217	1%	17%
Others					
EBITDA	541	456	448	-17%	-2%
Margins	16.6%	14.6%	14.1%	-15%	-3%
Depreciation	(42)	(48)	(49)	16%	2%
EBIT	499	408	400	-20%	-2%
Other Income	17	20	19	16%	-2%
Interest	(7)	(3)	(4)	-46%	21%
Extra ordinary items					
PBT	509	424	415	-18%	-2%
Tax	(124)	(103)	(99)	-20%	-3%
PAT	385	322	316	-18%	-2%
Adj. PAT	385	322	316	-18%	-2%
EPS	10.00	8.39	8.24	-18%	-2%

(%)	Q4FY23	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	YoY (bps)	QoQ (bps)
Gross margin	32.8%	31.3%	31.6%	-126	26
EBITDAM	16.6%	14.6%	14.1%	-245	-47
EBITM	15.3%	13.1%	12.6%	-270	-48
EBTM	15.6%	13.6%	13.1%	-250	-52
PATM	11.8%	10.3%	10.0%	-182	-36
Effective Tax rate	24.4%	24.2%	23.9%	-52	-25

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 2: Actuals vs. estimates (Q4FY24)

(Rs mn)	Actual	Estimate	Consensus	Varia	ation
		(Emkay)	estimate (Bloomberg)	Emkay	Consensus
Revenue	3,171	3,230	3,484	-2%	-9%
EBITDA	448	479	651	-6%	-31%
EBITDA Margin	14%	15%	19%	-68 bps	-456 bps
PAT	316	334	393	-5%	-20%

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 3: Change in estimates

Particulars (Rs mn)		FY25E			FY26E	
Particulars (KS IIIII)	Old	New	Change	Old	New	Change
Revenue	13,325	13,140	-1.4%	14,535	14,200	-2.3%
EBITDA	2,081	2,031	-2.4%	2,313	2,236	-3.3%
EBITDA Margin (%)	15.6	15.5	-16 bps	15.9	15.7	-16 bps
PAT	1,474	1,415	-4.0%	1,620	1,544	-4.7%

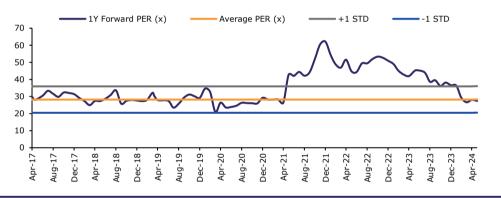
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 4: We value TCIE at a TP of Rs1,150/share now

(Rs mn)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY30E	FY35E
Revenue	12,538	13,140	14,200	20,103	31,446
NOPAT	1,274	1,344	1,466	2,412	4,698
Non-cash items	190	232	274	366	290
Change in WC	(174)	141	(102)	(138)	16
Capex	(461)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(500)	(597)
FCFF	829	717	638	2,141	4,407
WACC	12.0%				
Terminal growth	6.5%				
PV of CFs (FY24-35E)	25,018				
PV of terminal value	22,403				
Total EV	47,421				
Less net debt	(1,538)				
Total equity value	48,959				
Total no. of shares (mn)	38				
Target price/share - Mar-25E (Rs)	1,150				

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 5: TCIE is trading at its long-term historic one-year forward PER



Source: Company, Emkay Research

# **Concall highlights**

- Freight volume during the quarter was 258,000 tons, resulting in annual volume of 1mn tons (up 1% YoY).
- Company continued to maintain a high capacity utilization in the fleet, with 83.5% for the quarter and 84% for the fiscal. Management targets improvement in utilization, with the number to go up, to 90% in the long term.
- The five major sectors (pharma, textile, auto, engineering and lifestyle) continued to contribute 55% to the topline. In terms of topline, new services (rail and air) contributed  $\sim$ 18% to the topline.
- Company achieved automation of its sorting center in Pune with a 40% reduction in turnaround time, which gives confidence to the management on further improvement in margins on account of two major hubs (Gurgaon, Pune). Company expects more margin improvement than anticipated, from the automation of the Gurgaon and Pune hubs and their connectivity.
- Management guided for construction of automation centers in Ahmedabad and Kolkata to commence in FY25, with completion in the subsequent fiscal, leading to margin improvements. Pipeline for automation includes Mumbai and Chennai centers as well.
- Company saw muted growth in textiles and the electronics segment owing to high inventory pile-up with B2B customers, leading to muted volumes. Barring auto, Company did not register growth in other sectors, with pharma being flat and engineering goods being muted. Company is focusing on the defence and solar sectors owing to the government push.
- Management intends to undertake 1.5-2% price hikes this year, and anticipates margin improvement of 50-100bps.
- Company garnered 97% volumes from B2B customers and 3% from B2C. In terms of customer segment, SME customers' revenue share was 49%.
- Capex during the year was Rs250mn in machinery and other construction activities, Rs150mn in branch expansion and Rs50mn in IT related expenses.
- Other expenses increased due to Rs35mn CSR expenses for the fiscal.

## **TCI Express: Consolidated Financials and Valuations**

Profit & Loss					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Revenue	10,815	12,410	12,538	13,140	14,200
Revenue growth (%)	28.1	14.8	1.0	4.8	8.1
EBITDA	1,747	1,945	1,872	2,031	2,236
EBITDA growth (%)	30.1	11.3	(3.7)	8.5	10.1
Depreciation & Amortization	100	153	190	232	274
EBIT	1,648	1,792	1,683	1,800	1,962
EBIT growth (%)	31.4	8.8	(6.1)	6.9	9.0
Other operating income	0	0	0	0	0
Other income	82	72	72	107	113
Financial expense	9	18	15	13	8
PBT	1,720	1,845	1,740	1,894	2,067
Extraordinary items	0	0	0	0	0
Taxes	432	453	423	479	523
Minority interest	0	0	0	0	0
Income from JV/Associates	0	0	0	0	0
Reported PAT	1,289	1,393	1,317	1,415	1,544
PAT growth (%)	28.1	8.1	(5.4)	7.5	9.1
Adjusted PAT	1,289	1,393	1,317	1,415	1,544
Diluted EPS (Rs)	33.5	36.4	34.3	36.9	40.3
Diluted EPS growth (%)	28.1	8.5	(5.6)	7.5	9.1
DPS (Rs)	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Dividend payout (%)	23.9	22.1	23.3	21.7	19.9
EBITDA margin (%)	16.2	15.7	14.9	15.5	15.7
EBIT margin (%)	15.2	14.4	13.4	13.7	13.8
Effective tax rate (%)	25.1	24.5	24.3	25.3	25.3
NOPLAT (pre-IndAS)	1,234	1,352	1,274	1,344	1,466
Shares outstanding (mn)	38.5	38.3	38.4	38.4	38.4

Source: C	ompany,	Emkay	Research
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Cash flows					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
PBT	1,720	1,845	1,740	1,894	2,067
Others (non-cash items)	0	0	0	0	0
Taxes paid	(432)	(453)	(423)	(479)	(523)
Change in NWC	(125)	(71)	(153)	141	(102)
Operating cash flow	1,275	1,468	1,360	1,693	1,612
Capital expenditure	(805)	(1,063)	(461)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Acquisition of business	(283)	549	(579)	0	0
Interest & dividend income	44	48	41	107	113
Investing cash flow	(903)	(653)	(1,051)	(909)	(905)
Equity raised/(repaid)	0	0	0	0	0
Debt raised/(repaid)	(10)	(3)	22	0	0
Payment of lease liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Interest paid	(9)	(18)	(15)	(13)	(8)
Dividend paid (incl tax)	308	308	307	307	307
Others	(754)	(1,118)	(584)	(614)	(614)
Financing cash flow	(465)	(831)	(270)	(320)	(315)
Net chg in Cash	(92)	(16)	40	464	391
OCF	1,275	1,468	1,360	1,693	1,612
Adj. OCF (w/o NWC chg.)	1,150	1,397	1,207	1,833	1,510
FCFF	471	406	900	693	612
FCFE	506	436	926	787	716
OCF/EBITDA (%)	73.0	75.5	72.6	83.3	72.1
FCFE/PAT (%)	39.3	31.3	70.3	55.6	46.4
FCFF/NOPLAT (%)	38.1	30.0	70.6	51.5	41.7

Source:	Company,	Emkay	Research

Balance Sheet					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Share capital	77	77	77	77	77
Reserves & Surplus	5,285	5,887	6,963	8,071	9,308
Net worth	5,362	5,964	7,040	8,148	9,385
Minority interests	0	0	0	0	0
Deferred tax liability (net)	79	105	135	135	135
Total debt	10	7	30	30	30
Total liabilities & equity	5,450	6,076	7,205	8,313	9,549
Net tangible fixed assets	3,147	3,439	4,185	4,982	5,740
Net intangible assets	30	30	46	46	46
Net ROU assets	20	272	287	275	260
Capital WIP	61	611	161	161	161
Goodwill	0	0	0	0	0
Investments [JV/Associates]	870	321	900	900	900
Cash & equivalents	180	164	204	668	1,059
Current assets (ex-cash)	2,261	2,513	2,722	2,564	2,739
Current Liab. & Prov.	1,120	1,274	1,300	1,283	1,355
NWC (ex-cash)	1,142	1,239	1,423	1,282	1,383
Total assets	5,451	6,076	7,205	8,313	9,549
Net debt	(170)	(156)	(174)	(638)	(1,029)
Capital employed	5,450	6,076	7,205	8,313	9,549
Invested capital	4,340	4,980	5,940	6,584	7,429
BVPS (Rs)	139.5	155.7	183.6	212.5	244.7
Net Debt/Equity (x)	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.1)	(0.1)
Net Debt/EBITDA (x)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.3)	(0.5)
Interest coverage (x)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
RoCE (%)	35.1	32.3	26.3	24.6	23.2

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Valuations and key Ratios					
Y/E Mar	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
P/E (x)	33.0	30.4	32.2	29.9	27.5
P/CE(x)	30.6	27.4	28.1	25.7	23.3
P/B (x)	7.9	7.1	6.0	5.2	4.5
EV/Sales (x)	3.9	3.4	3.4	3.2	2.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	24.2	21.7	22.5	20.5	18.5
EV/EBIT(x)	25.7	23.5	25.1	23.2	21.1
EV/IC (x)	9.8	8.5	7.1	6.3	5.6
FCFF yield (%)	1.1	1.0	2.1	1.7	1.5
FCFE yield (%)	1.2	1.0	2.2	1.9	1.7
Dividend yield (%)	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
DuPont-RoE split					
Net profit margin (%)	11.9	11.2	10.5	10.8	10.9
Total asset turnover (x)	2.2	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.6
Assets/Equity (x)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
RoE (%)	26.6	24.6	20.3	18.6	17.6
DuPont-RoIC					
NOPLAT margin (%)	11.4	10.9	10.2	10.2	10.3
IC turnover (x)	2.3	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.8
RoIC (%)	34.3	31.8	25.9	24.4	24.2
Operating metrics					
Core NWC days	38.5	36.4	41.4	35.6	35.6
Total NWC days	38.5	36.4	41.4	35.6	35.6
Fixed asset turnover	3.5	3.1	2.6	2.3	2.1
Opex-to-revenue (%)	16.1	15.9	16.6	16.7	16.9

Source: Company, Emkay Research

## **RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - DETAILS**

Date	Closing Price (INR)	TP (INR)	Rating	Analyst
08-Apr-24	1,096	1,250	Add	Anshul Agrawal
12-Feb-24	1,277	1,400	Add	Anshul Agrawal
07-Jan-24	1,407	1,550	Add	Anshul Agrawal
01-Dec-23	1,404	1,550	Add	Anshul Agrawal

Source: Company, Emkay Research

### **RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - TREND**



Source:, Bloomberg, Emkay Research

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	<b>3</b>
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