Marico | BUY

Margin guidance for FY24E upped one more time

Marico's 3Q revenue was inline but gross margin progression again turned out much better than expected. Volume trajectory remained soft (+2%) - a function of rural weakness, and stock-corrections taken in general trade (c.2% impact). The company has upped its FY24E margin guidance again - now looking at a potential gross margin gain of 450-500bps (vs 200-250bps back in May) and EBITDA margin expansion of c.250bps (vs >100bps in May). With inventory corrections done and price-cuts getting into the base, management is hopeful of value growth turning positive from 4Q, and is targeting double-digit sales growth and at least low-teens growth in profits for FY25E – the maths being a function of pick-up in core brands' volume growth, possible price-hikes (Parachute) due to anticipated uptick in copra prices, improved mix, and improved strength in international business. We believe the stock, and indeed the sector, could stay subdued in the near-term given a way slower-than-desired demand trajectory; valuation of c.42x NTM EPS, however, places it better on a relative basis.

- Operating profitability tad above expectations: Marico's 3QFY24 consolidated revenue fell 1.9% to INR24.2bn, but EBITDA and net profit grew well by 12.5% and 16.8% to INR5.1bn and INR3.8bn. Revenue performance was inline with what management stated in its pre-result operational update. Domestic volumes grew 2% after cognizing for the channel-inventory corrections taken in the core categories (possible impact of c.2%) given persistent demand weakness. Operating profit was c.2% better than our estimates helped by a sharper-than-expected expansion in GPM (+634bps vs JMFe +516bps), which along with lower tax rate (22% vs 24.8% LY) drove a c.7% beat in bottomline forecast.
- Domestic volumes remained soft; some moderation in international growth too: 1) Parachute volumes grew 3% - an improvement vs recent quarters helped by loose-tobranded conversion picking up pace with copra prices slowly firming up. However, pricecuts in the segment resulted in flat value-sales for the guarter. Management expects trajectory to turn +ve from 4Q. 2) Saffola edible-oils' volumes declined in mid-single digit - high base plus lower primary offtake due to weak trade sentiments. Value-sales fell 26% including the impact of the steep price-corrections taken in recent past. 3) VAHO grew 3% with premium-portfolio growth in mid-to-high single-digit but bottom-ofpyramid range continued to be impacted by weak rural demand and high competitive intensity. 4) Newer businesses' performance is seeing some moderation as well - Foods grew in mid-single-digit like-to-like (18% including M&A) - some moderation seen in urban demand plus the business took a decision to trade off some growth for improved profitability. The Premium Personal Care portfolio was also weak and declined vs LY. 5) International growth moderated to 6% CC - mainly due to macro headwinds in the key market of Bangladesh (-6% CC) and slower HPC demand in Vietnam. MENA and South Africa delivered strong growth.
- Gross margin progression surprised positively once again: Gross margin expanded 634bps yoy (+80bps qoq) to 51.3% (vs JMFe: 50.1%), aided by continued benefits from lower input costs. Staff costs grew 18% but Other Expenses were just 7% higher. A&P spends grew 11.8% overall but standalone A&P was 11.7% lower (cut-down in spends on Saffola, rationalised ATL on VAHO and spends in alternate channels). Resultant scale-deleverage, however, led to lower flowthrough to operating margin (+272bps to 21.2%).

Financial Summary					(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Net Sales	94,520	96,890	96,568	108,373	120,657
Sales Growth (%)	18.3%	2.5%	-0.3%	12.2%	11.3%
EBITDA	16,810	18,100	20,411	22,400	24,710
EBITDA Margin (%)	17.8%	18.7%	21.1%	20.7%	20.5%
Adjusted Net Profit	12,250	13,020	14,771	16,212	17,721
Diluted EPS (INR)	9.5	10.1	11.5	12.6	13.7
Diluted EPS Growth (%)	5.4%	6.3%	13.5%	9.8%	9.3%
ROIC (%)	59.8%	53.3%	57.4%	59.4%	62.0%
ROE (%)	37.2%	36.4%	36.7%	36.1%	35.8%
P/E (x)	54.4	51.2	45.1	41.1	37.6
P/B (x)	19.9	17.5	15.7	14.1	12.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	39.0	36.1	31.8	28.8	26.0
Dividend Yield (%)	1.8%	0.9%	1.6%	1.7%	2.0%

Source: Company data, JM Financial. Note: Valuations as of 29/Jan/2024



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Recommendation and Price Tai	rget
Current Reco.	BUY
Previous Reco.	BUY
Current Price Target (12M)	615
Upside/(Downside)	19.0%
Previous Price Target	620
Change	-0.8%
Key Data – MRCO IN	
Current Market Price	INR517
Market can (bn)	INR668 4/US\$8 0

Market cap (bn)	INR668.4/US\$8.0
Free Float	37%
Shares in issue (mn)	1,290.0
Diluted share (mn)	1,290.0
3-mon avg daily val (mn)	INR764.0/US\$9.2
52-week range	595/463
Sensex/Nifty	71,942/21,738
INR/US\$	83.1

Price Performance			
%	1M	6M	12M
Absolute	-5.8	-10.1	2.5
Relative*	-6.6	-16.6	-14.2

* To the BSE Sensex

JM Financial Research is also available on: Bloomberg - JMFR <GO>, Thomson Publisher & Reuters, S&P Capital IQ, FactSet and Visible Alpha

Please see Appendix I at the end of this report for Important Disclosures and Disclaimers and Research Analyst Certification. Exhibit 1. 3Q & 9MFY24 consolidated snapshot: Much stronger-than-expected gross margin expansion offset by higher growth in Staff Costs and scale deleverage (INR mn)

and scale deleverage							(11)	K IIII)
	3QFY24	3QFY23	YoY chg	3QFY24E	% Var	9MFY24	9MFY23	YoY chg
Net Sales	24,220	24,700	-1.9%	24,224	0.0%	73,750	75,240	-2.0%
Gross Profit	12,420	11,100	11.9%	12,137	2.3%	37,300	33,510	11.3%
Gross Profit Margin %	51.3%	44.9%	634 bps	50.1%	118 bps	50.6%	44.5%	604 bps
Staff Cost	1,890	1,600	18.1%	1,793	5.4%	5,570	4,820	15.6%
Ad & Sales Promotion	2,460	2,200	11.8%	2,422	1.6%	7,260	6,320	14.9%
Other Expenses	2,940	2,740	7.3%	2,874	2.3%	8,630	8,200	5.2%
EBITDA	5,130	4,560	12.5%	5,048	1.6%	15,840	14,170	11.8%
EBITDA margin %	21.2%	18.5%	272 bps	20.8%	34 bps	21.5%	18.8%	264 bps
Depreciation	420	390	7.7%	412	2.0%	1,170	1,120	4.5%
EBIT	4,710	4,170	12.9%	4,636	1.6%	14,670	13,050	12.4%
Interest Expense	190	140	35.7%	200	-5.0%	560	390	43.6%
Financial Other Income	430	400	7.5%	388	10.9%	1,130	760	48.7%
PBT pre-exceptionals	4,950	4,430	11.7%	4,824	2.6%	15,240	13,420	13.6%
PBT post exceptionals	4,950	4,430	11.7%	4,824	2.6%	15,380	13,420	14.6%
Taxes	1,090	1,100	-0.9%	1,182	-7.8%	3,560	3,250	9.5%
Minority Interest	30	50		60		190	170	
Reported Net Profit	3,830	3,280	16.8%	3,582	6.9%	11,630	10,000	16.3%
Adjusted Net Profit	3,830	3,280	16.8%	3,582	6.9%	11,522	10,000	15.2%

Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 2. 3Q & 9MFY24 costs breakdown								
3QFY24	3QFY23	3QFY24E	9MFY24	9MFY23				
48.7%	55.1%	49.9%	49.4%	55.5%				
7.8%	6.5%	7.4%	7.6%	6.4%				
10.2%	8.9%	10.0%	9.8%	8.4%				
12.1%	11.1%	11.9%	11.7%	10.9%				
	3QFY24 48.7% 7.8% 10.2%	3QFY24 3QFY23 48.7% 55.1% 7.8% 6.5% 10.2% 8.9%	3QFY24 3QFY23 3QFY24E 48.7% 55.1% 49.9% 7.8% 6.5% 7.4% 10.2% 8.9% 10.0%	3QFY24 3QFY23 3QFY24E 9MFY24 48.7% 55.1% 49.9% 49.4% 7.8% 6.5% 7.4% 7.6% 10.2% 8.9% 10.0% 9.8%				

Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 3. Volumes across categories stayed largely muted										
	2QFY22	3QFY22	4QFY22	1QFY23	2QFY23	3QFY23	4QFY23	1QFY24	2QFY24	3QFY24
Domestic Consumer Vol Growth	8%	0%	1%	-6%	3%	4%	5%	3%	3%	2%
Parachute Volume growth - Rigid Packs	7%	1%	-1%	-2%	-3%	2%	9%	-2%	1%	3%
Saffola Volume Growth	1%	-5%	0%	-23%	7%	13%	-5%	11%	3%	-5%
Value Added Hair Oil Volume Growth	16%	0%	-4%	0%	-3%	-5%	9%	-3%	1%	3%
International Revenue growth %	14%	19%	16%	20%	9%	5%	10%	2%	7%	2%

Source: Marico, JM Financial. *Represents reported growth including the impact of currency translation. Note: Saffola volume growth and VAHO volume growth are based on our estimates due to discontinuation of disclosures for the same.

Exhibit 4. 3Q & 9MFY24 Segment Break-up: Domestic and International margins each expanded by >250-300bps								
	3QFY24	3QFY23	YoY chg	9MFY24	9MFY23	YoY chg		
Domestic & International Break-up								
Domestic Consumer Business								
Revenue	17,930	18,510	-3.1%	54,520	56,680	-3.8%		
EBIT (Before unallocable exp)	3,800	3,440	10.5%	11,840	10,710	10.6%		
Margin %	21.2%	18.6%	261 bps	21.7%	18.9%	282 bps		
International Business								
Revenue	6,290	6,190	1.6%	19,230	18,560	3.6%		
EBIT (Before unallocable exp)	1,560	1,340	16.4%	4,870	4,170	16.8%		
Margin %	24.8%	21.6%	315 bps	25.3%	22.5%	286 bps		

Source: Company, JM Financial

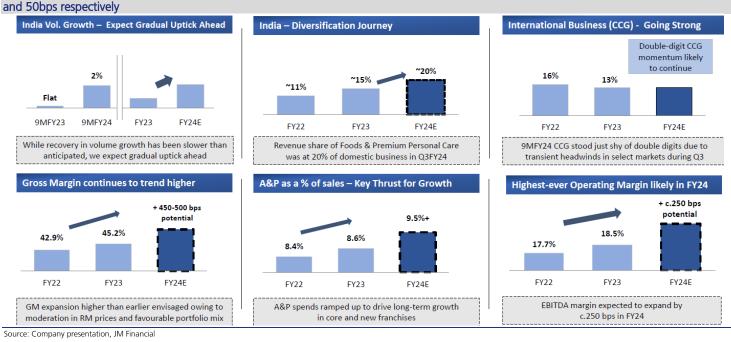


Exhibit 5. Management expects all-round improvement in FY24; gross margin and operating margin guidance upped once again – by 100bps and 50bps respectively

Exhibit 6. Consolidated revenue growth trend Net Sales (Consolidated) - YoY Growth % - LTL Domestic -3% (Vol +2%) Intl +2% (CC: +6%) 34% 36% 31% 24% 22% 16% 13% 12% 9% 4% 3% 3% 0% -1% -2% -2% -3% -11% -7% -12% 3QFY21 1QFY22 3QFY22 1QFY23 3QFY23 1QFY24 3QFY24 3QFY20 1QFY21

Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 7. Consolidated EBITDA margin expanded 272bps yoy Consolidated EBITDA Margin %

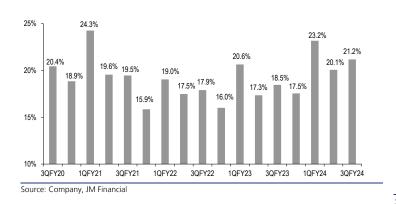
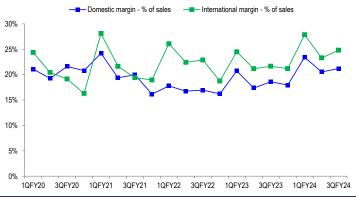


Exhibit 8. Domestic margin expanded 261bps yoy and International margin expanded 315bps yoy



Source: Company, JM Financial

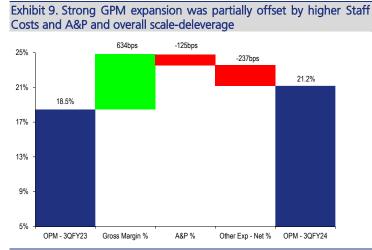
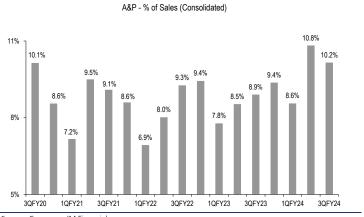


Exhibit 10. Ad-spends grew 11.8% yoy but down 8.2% qoq



Source: Company, JM Financial

Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 11. Marico: one-year forward PE Band



Source: Company, Bloomberg, JM Financial

Financial Tables (Consolidated)

Profit & Loss statement					(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Net sales (Net of excise) - IGAAI	94,520	96,890	96,568	108,373	120,657
Sales Growth	18.3%	2.5%	-0.3%	12.2%	11.3%
Other Operating Income	600	750	748	839	934
Total Revenue	95,120	97,640	97,315	109,212	121,591
Cost of Goods Sold/Op. Exp.	54,360	53,510	48,237	55,063	61,691
Personnel cost	5,860	6,530	7,387	8,204	9,098
Other expenses	18,090	19,500	21,279	23,545	26,093
EBITDA	16,810	18,100	20,411	22,400	24,710
EBITDA (%)	17.7%	18.5%	21.0%	20.5%	20.3%
Growth (%)	5.7%	7.7%	12.8%	9.7%	10.3%
Depreciation and amort.	1,390	1,550	1,684	1,924	2,186
EBIT	15,420	16,550	18,727	20,476	22,524
Other Income	980	1,440	1,380	1,546	1,719
Finance Cost	390	560	527	499	473
Pre tax profit	16,010	17,430	19,580	21,523	23,771
Excep & forex Inc/Loss(-)	0	0	0	0	0
PBT	16,010	17,430	19,580	21,523	23,771
Taxes	3,460	4,210	4,582	5,062	5,777
Extraordinary Inc/Loss(-)	0	0	0	0	0
Assoc. Profit/Min. Int.(-)	-300	-200	-227	-249	-272
Reported net profit	12,250	13,020	14,771	16,212	17,721
Adjusted net profit	12,250	13,020	14,771	16,212	17,721
Net Margin (%)	12.9%	13.3%	15.2%	14.8%	14.6%
Diluted share capital (mn)	1,290	1,290	1,290	1,290	1,290
Diluted EPS (INR)	9.5	10.1	11.5	12.6	13.7
Growth (%)	5.4%	6.3%	13.5%	9.8%	9.3%
Total Dividend + Tax	11,953	5,805	10,340	11,348	13,291
Dividend Per Share (Rs)	9.3	4.5	8.0	8.8	10.3

Balance Sheet					(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Shareholders' Fund	33,480	37,990	42,421	47,285	51,715
Share capital	1,290	1,290	1,290	1,290	1,290
Reserves & Surplus	32,190	36,700	41,131	45,995	50,425
Preference Share Capital	0	0	0	0	C
Minority Interest	570	1,570	1,797	2,046	2,318
Total Loans	3,450	4,750	4,275	3,848	3,463
Def. Tax Liab / Assets (-)	-780	320	986	1,528	2,147
Sources of Funds	36,720	44,630	49,479	54,706	59,643
Net Fixed Assets	16,650	21,800	23,022	24,336	25,742
Gross Fixed Assets	15,240	18,000	20,897	24,127	27,710
Intangible Assets	6,540	8,620	8,620	8,620	8,620
Less: Depn. & Amort.	5,960	5,910	7,594	9,518	11,704
Capital WIP & Net Lease Asset	830	1,090	1,099	1,108	1,116
Investments	8,280	10,960	13,152	15,782	18,939
Current Assets	29,720	33,910	32,632	36,368	39,252
Inventories	14,120	12,250	13,228	14,846	16,528
Sundry Debtors	6,520	10,150	7,937	8,907	9,917
Cash & Bank Balances	5,790	7,560	7,748	8,443	8,162
Loans & Advances	860	1,130	1,062	1,192	1,327
Other Current Assets	2,430	2,820	2,656	2,980	3,318
Current Liab. & Prov.	17,930	22,040	19,327	21,780	24,290
Current Liabilities	16,130	19,750	16,856	19,027	21,234
Provisions & Others	1,800	2,290	2,471	2,753	3,056
Net Current Assets	11,790	11,870	13,305	14,588	14,962
Application of Funds	36,720	44,630	49,479	54,706	59,643

Source: Company, JM Financial

Source: Company, JM Financial

Cash Flow Statement					(INR mn)
Y/E March	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Profit before Tax	16,010	17,430	19,580	21,523	23,771
Depn. & Amort.	1,390	1,550	1,684	1,924	2,186
Net Interest Exp. / Inc. (-)	-590	-880	-853	-1,047	-1,247
Inc (-) / Dec in WCap.	-3,420	-590	-1,280	-728	-803
Others	280	370	0	0	0
Taxes Paid	-3,510	-3,690	-3,882	-4,380	-5,011
Operating Cash Flow	10,160	14,190	15,249	17,292	18,896
Capex	-1,290	-1,570	-2,897	-3,230	-3,584
Free Cash Flow	8,870	12,620	12,352	14,063	15,312
-Inc/dec in investments	4,970	-8,200	-2,192	-2,630	-3,156
Other current assets	600	480	1,380	1,546	1,719
Investing Cash Flow	4,280	-9,290	-3,709	-4,314	-5,021
Inc/(dec) in capital	410	90	0	0	0
Dividend+Tax Thereon	-11,950	-5,820	-10,340	-11,348	-13,291
Inc/dec in loans	-250	1,030	-475	-428	-385
Other assets	-1,110	-900	-536	-507	-481
Financing Cash Flow	-12,900	-5,600	-11,351	-12,283	-14,157
Inc / Dec (-) in Cash	1,540	-700	188	695	-282
Opening cash balance	4,250	8,260	7,560	7,748	8,443
Closing cash balance	5,790	7,560	7,748	8,443	8,162

Source: Company, JM Financial

Dupont Analysis					
Y/E March	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Net Margin	12.9%	13.3%	15.2%	14.8%	14.6%
Asset Turnover (x)	2.6	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.1
Leverage Factor (x)	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
RoE	37.2%	36.4%	36.7%	36.1%	35.8%
Key Ratios					
Y/E March	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
BV/Share (INR)	26.0	29.4	32.9	36.7	40.1
ROIC	59.8%	53.3%	57.4%	59.4%	62.0%
ROE	37.2%	36.4%	36.7%	36.1%	35.8%
Net Debt/Equity (x)	-0.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.5
P/E (x)	54.4	51.2	45.1	41.1	37.6
P/B (x)	19.9	17.5	15.7	14.1	12.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	39.0	36.1	31.8	28.8	26.0
EV/Sales (x)	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.0	5.3
Debtor days	25	38	30	30	30
Inventory days	55	46	50	50	50
Creditor days	75	91	80	80	80

Source: Company, JM Financial

Marico

Date	Recommendation	Target Price	% Chg.
8-Jul-20	Buy	375	
27-Jul-20	Buy	390	4.0
8-Oct-20	Buy	390	0.0
29-Oct-20	Buy	410	5.1
1-Jan-21	Buy	440	7.3
28-Jan-21	Buy	455	3.4
30-Apr-21	Buy	455	0.0
30-Jul-21	Buy	595	30.8
28-Oct-21	Buy	620	4.2
28-Jan-22	Buy	550	-11.3
6-May-22	Buy	560	1.8
6-Aug-22	Buy	565	0.9
7-Oct-22	Buy	565	0.0
5-Nov-22	Buy	575	1.8
3-Feb-23	Buy	575	0.0
5-May-23	Buy	585	1.7
28-Jul-23	Buy	615	5.1
9-Oct-23	Buy	600	-2.4
30-Oct-23	Buy	600	0.0
8-Jan-24	Buy	620	3.3



APPENDIX I

JM Financial Institutional Securities Limited

Corporate Identity Number: U67100MH2017PLC296081

Member of BSE Ltd. and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.

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Definition of ratings			
Rating	Meaning		
Buy	Total expected returns of more than 10% for stocks with market capitalisation in excess of INR 200 billion and REITs* and more than 15% for all other stocks, over the next twelve months. Total expected return includes dividend yields.		
Hold	Price expected to move in the range of 10% downside to 10% upside from the current market price for stocks with market capitalisation in excess of INR 200 billion and REITs* and in the range of 10% downside to 15% upside from the current market price for all other stocks, over the next twelve months.		
Sell	Price expected to move downwards by more than 10% from the current market price over the next twelve months.		

* REITs refers to Real Estate Investment Trusts.

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