RESULT REPORT Q1 FY25 | Sector: Building Materials

Century Plyboards (I) Ltd

New capacities installed, growth to accelerate from FY26E, upgrade to NEUTRAL!

Result Synopsis

CPBI registered a decent revenue growth of 13%YoY. Plywood segment (56% revenue) reported a strong revenue growth of 15%YoY (2-year CAGR 9%) wherein volumes increased by 13.4% and ASP improved by 1.3% over similar period owing to price hikes of 2% taken in June'24. Laminates (15% revenue), sales stood flattish at Rs1.54Bn wherein volumes declined by 6.5%YoY while ASP expanded by 5.7%YoY. MDFs (21% revenue), sales grew by 25.4%YoY (2-year CAGR 25%) owing to stellar 47.3%YoY volume growth and decline of 15% in realizations. Particle boards revenue degrew by 7%YoY on account of 3% decline in volumes and 4.4% degrowth in ASP over similar period.

Overall operating margins contracted to 11.1% Vs 14.9%/14% in Q1FY24/Q4FY24 respectively. Plywood/Laminates/MDF/Particle Boards EBITDA margins came in at 14.5%/10.8%/7.6%/18.8% respectively in Q1FY25 Vs 13.6%/10%/26.2%/22.7% in Q1FY24. Plywood margins were better than estimates as company cushioned the impact of higher timber cost with higher volumes and better product-mix coupled with price hike taken in June. MDF margins declined sharply owing to incremental cost due to commencement of new Andhra plant and lower ASP from the new plant. On standalone basis also, MDF margins came in at 14.1% Vs 26.2% on account of higher timber cost and competitive pricing. Similarly, particle board margins were lower due to lower volumes and price reductions along with higher timber cost.

Management maintained their topline guidance of 10%+/20%/40%/flat growth for Plywoods/Laminates/MDF/Particle boards respectively with EBITDA margins of 12-14%/10-12%/15% (standalone basis)/15% respectively for FY25E. Consolidated MDF margins by Q4FY25E should be ~15% with Andhra plant expected to ramp-up over coming quarters.

We believe overall demand for woodpanels should improve materially from H2FY25E which will augur well for CPBI's growth. Incrementally, with commencement of new capacities in MDFs and Laminates and Particle board plant to start by end of FY25E, we reckon healthy growth across segments. Hence, we expect overall revenue to grow by 12%/23%YoY in FY25E/FY26E respectively. We have maintained our EPS estimate for FY26E at Rs20 and given the healthy growth in plywoods, MDF prices and margins nearing-bottom, incremental growth from laminates and particle boards new plants, we have revalued the company at P/E(x) of 35x on FY26E EPS. Hence, we have upgraded the stock to NEUTRAL from REDUCE with a revised target price of Rs701.

Result Highlights

 Revenue for Q1FY25 stood at Rs10.1Bn (4% above est), a growth of 13%YoY & degrowth of 5%QoQ.

Exhibit 1: Actual vs estimates

Do was	Actual	Est	imate	% Va	riation	Remarks
Rs mn	Actuai	YES Sec	Consensus	YES Sec	Consensus	Remarks
Sales	10,054	9,666	10,083	4.0	(0.3)	Revenue
EBITDA	1,112	1,267	1,337	(12.3)	(16.9)	above
EBITDA Margin (%)	11.1	13.1	13.3	-205 bps	-220 bps	estimate but miss on profitability
Adjusted PAT	474	713	784	(33.5)	(39.5)	front

Source: Company, YES Sec



Reco	:	NEUTRAL
СМР	:	Rs 700
Target Price	:	Rs 701
Potential Return	:	+0.1%

Stock data (as on Aug 07, 2024)

Nifty	24,315
52 Week h/I (Rs)	850 / 594
Market cap (Rs/USD mn)	152,522 / 1,817
Outstanding Shares (mn)	222
6m Avg t/o (Rs mn):	173
Div yield (%):	-
Bloomberg code:	CPBI IN
NSE code:	CENTURYPLY

Stock performance



Shareholding pattern (As of Jun'24 end)

Promoter		72.6%
FII+DII		20.9%
Others		6.5%

Δ in stance

(1-Yr)	New	Old
Rating	NEUTRAL	REDUCE
Target Price	701	603

Δ in earnings estimates

	FY25E	FY26E
EPS (New)	13.5	20.0
EPS (Old)	15.1	20.1
% change	-11 0%	-0.3%

Financial Summary

(Rs mn)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Net Revenue	38,859	43,404	53,402
YoY Growth	6.6	11.7	23.0
EBIDTA	5,209	5,245	7,351
EBIDTA (%)	13.4	12.1	13.8
PAT	3,254	2,994	4,455
YoY Growth	(13.7)	(8.0)	48.8
ROE	15.8	12.7	16.5
EPS	14.6	13.5	20.0
P/E	43.8	51.9	34.9
BV/Share	99.4	111.9	130.9
P/BV	6.4	6.2	5.3

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- EBITDA margins for the quarter came in at 11.1% (Vs est of 13.1%) Vs 14.9%/14.0% in Q1FY24/Q4FY24, respectively owing to an increase in input costs and employee expenses. Absolute EBITDA for the quarter decreased by 16.5%YoY & 25%QoQ to Rs1.1Bn.
- Net profit declined by 45.6%YoY & 39.5%QoQ to Rs474Mn (excl exceptional loss of Rs133Mn) in Q1FY25. The effective tax rate for the quarter was higher at 41% Vs 25%/28.4% for Q1FY24/Q4FY24 respectively.

Segmental Highlights for Q1FY25

- Plywood (56% of revenue): reported revenue growth of 14% YoY & degrowth of 7%QoQ to Rs5.7Bn. EBIT margin came in at 15.1% Vs 13.1%/12.7% in Q1FY24/Q4FY24, respectively. Absolute EBIT came in at Rs860Mn, a growth of 31.5%YoY & 11%QoQ.
- Laminates (15% of revenue): revenue stood at Rs1.5Bn, flattish YoY & a decline of 8.4%QoQ. Absolute EBIT degrew sharply by 24.4%YoY & 52%QoQ to Rs106Mn with a margin of 6.9% Vs 9%/13.1% in Q1FY24/Q4FY24, respectively.
- MDF (21% of revenue): reported a revenue growth of 25.5%YoY & 6% QoQ to Rs2.1Bn. However, EBIT declined sharply by 92%YoY & 84.5%QoQ to Rs31Mn. Consequently, EBIT margins decreased from 24.2%/10.1% in Q1FY24/Q4FY24, respectively to 1.5% in Q1FY25.
- Particle boards (4% of revenue): revenue stood at Rs367Mn, a degrowth of 7%YoY & 14%QoQ. EBIT decreased by 27%YoY & remained flattish QoQ to Rs61Mn. EBIT margin stayed contracted by 463bps YoY & expanded by 221bps QoQ to 16.8%.
- Container Freight Station Services (2% of revenue): the revenue from the CFS business of the company grew by 15%YoY & declined by 6%QoQ to Rs246Mn and EBIT came in at Rs33Mn as compared to Rs19Mn in Q1FY24 & Rs38Mn in Q4FY24. EBIT margin came in at 13.3% Vs 8.8%/14.5% in Q1FY24/Q4FY24 respectively.
- Others: revenue improved by 16%YoY & declined by 6.4%QoQ to Rs140Mn. EBIT decreased by 20%YoY & 83%QoQ to Rs9Mn. Hence, EBIT margin also contracted to 6.3% from 9.2%/35.6% in Q1FY24/Q4FY24 respectively.



Exhibit 2: Quarterly Snapshot:

Rs mn	Q4 FY23	Q1 FY24	Q2 FY24	Q3 FY24	Q4 FY24	Q1 FY25	% yoy	% qoq
Revenue	9,654	8,910	9,968	9,374	10,607	10,054	12.8	(5.2)
Expenditure	8,016	7,578	8,525	8,313	9,124	8,942	18.0	(2.0)
- RM	5,002	4,601	5,142	4,953	5,657	5,382	17.0	(4.9)
- Staff Cost	1,239	1,310	1,343	1,340	1,405	1,596	21.8	13.6
- Other cost	1,775	1,667	2,040	2,020	2,061	1,964	17.8	(4.7)
Operating Profit	1,638	1,332	1,443	1,061	1,484	1,112	(16.5)	(25.1)
OPM(%)	17.0	14.9	14.5	11.3	14.0	11.1	-389 bps	-293 bps
Other Income	160	122	146	93	78	84	(30.9)	7.2
Depreciation	200	231	234	229	254	336	45.7	32.6
Interest	45	61	61	83	102	150	143.5	46.4
Impairment	-	-	-	-	111	-	-	-
Exceptional	-	-	-	-	-	133	-	-
PBT	1,554	1,161	1,294	842	1,095	577	(50.3)	(47.4)
Tax	408	290	322	215	311	236	(18.7)	(24.3)
PAT	1,147	871	972	627	784	341	(60.9)	(56.5)
OCI	27	(1)	(27)	(9)	35	(28)	3,828.6	(178.6)
Reported PAT	1,173	871	944	618	819	314	(64.0)	(61.7)
Adjusted PAT	1,147	871	972	627	784	474	(45.6)	(39.5)

Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 3: Operational Numbers:

Particulars	Q4 FY23	Q1 FY24	Q2 FY24	Q3 FY24	Q4 FY24	Q1 FY25	% yoy	% qoq
Plywood								
Revenue (Rs mn)	5,674	4,886	5,416	5,111	6,057	5,615	14.9	(7.3)
EBITDA (Rs mn)	902	666	730	495	928	815	22.3	(12.2)
EBITDA%	15.9	13.6	13.5	9.7	15.3	14.5	88 bps	-81 bps
Laminates								
Revenue (Rs mn)	1,602	1,558	1,717	1,619	1,672	1,540	(1.1)	(7.9)
EBITDA (Rs mn)	226	157	201	198	173	166	5.8	(4.1)
EBITDA%	14.1	10.0	11.7	12.2	10.3	10.8	71 bps	43 bps
MDF								
Revenue (Rs mn)	1,611	1,669	1,967	1,876	1,972	2,093	25.4	6.2
EBITDA (Rs mn)	435	437	521	360	326	159	(63.5)	(51.1)
EBITDA%	27.0	26.2	26.5	19.2	16.5	7.6	-1855 bps	-892 bps
Particle Boards								
Revenue (Rs mn)	373	395	384	368	425	367	(7.1)	(13.7)
EBITDA (Rs mn)	67	90	87	58	84	69	(23.0)	(18.0)
EBITDA%	18.1	22.7	22.6	15.8	19.8	18.8	-389 bps	-98 bps
Others								
Revenue (Rs mn)	128	109	134	124	131	135	24.1	2.7
EBITDA (Rs mn)	9	11	20	18	13	12	10.7	(6.1)
EBITDA%	7.0	10.3	15.0	14.1	10.1	9.2	-111 bps	-86 bps

KEY CON-CALL HIGHLIGHTS

- Guidance: Management maintained their annual guidance of 10%+/20%/40%/flat revenue growth for Plywood/Laminates/MDF/ParticleBoards respectively with EBITDA margins of 12-14% for plywood, 10-12% for laminates, 15% for Particle Boards, 15% for MDF on standalone basis (excluding Andhra plant). However by Q4FY25E, consolidated MDF margins should be ~15%.
- Company expects new MDF plant to be EBITDA positive in 3-quarters.
- Company commenced PVC boards at Andhra plant in May'24 & management expects to achieve a turnover of Rs1Bn by next year from this product.
- Price hikes: In Plywood company took 2% price hike on 1st June and another 2% on 1st August. For laminates, management took price hike of 3% to negate the impact of higher input cost.
- Timber cost for MDF in north stood at Rs6.5-7/kg and in South the same is Rs5.5/kg, which was higher by 5-7% on sequential basis.
- MDF Hoshiarpur plant operated at 85-87% utilization while Andhra plant operated below 20% utilization. For laminates the new plant operated below 10% utilization and existing unit was at 75% utilization.
- Particle boards pricing and margins are under-pressure for the industry. For new particle board plant management expects to achieve 50% utilization in Year-1 of operations, which is when the plant will break-even. This plant will have a continuous process and hence, the quality will be better.
- ASP at new laminate plant is higher as the plant manufactures compact sheets (large in size).
 At peak utilization, this plant can achieve a turnover of Rs2.5Bn.
- Hoshiarpur plywood expansion is still on Hold as the plantation is not as per company's expectations.
- For MDF imports the cost will be 20% higher to match the standard and quality post BIS implementation. Current monthly run-rate is ~15-16,000cbm Vs 25-30,000cbm owing to container issues.
- There are no major MDF capacities coming up in short-medium term.
- Price of imported timber is 3-4% higher Vs domestic, but the quality is superior.
- Plywood capacity is operating at 75% utilization, company is in-process of adding ~5-10% capacities at existing locations via de-bottlenecking.

QUARTERLY TRENDS

Exhibit 4: Plywood volume increased by 13.4%YoY...

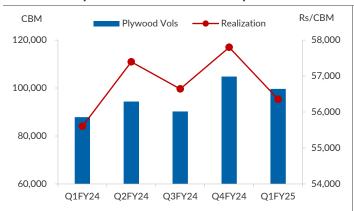
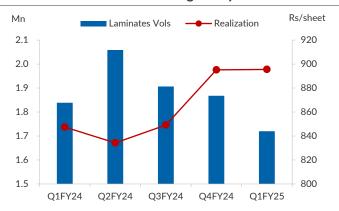


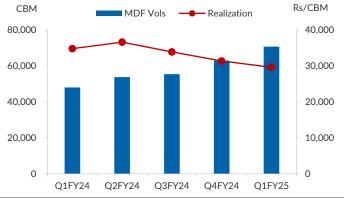
Exhibit 5: Laminates volume degrew by 6.5%YoY...



Source: Company, YES Sec

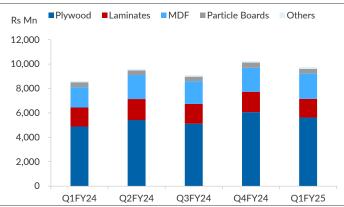
Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 6: MDF volume grew by 47.3%YoY...



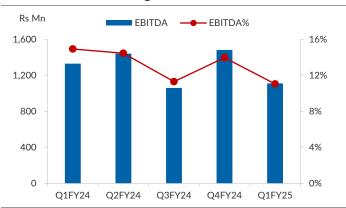
Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 7: Overall revenue grew by 12.8%YoY...



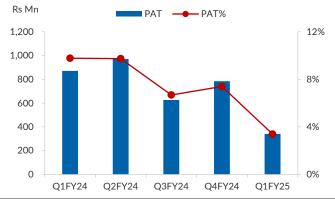
Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 8: Blended margin came in at 11.1%...



Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 9: Net profit declined to Rs341Mn...





FINANCIALS

Exhibit 10: Income Statement

Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Revenues	30,270	36,465	38,859	43,404	53,402
Growth (%)	42.1%	20.5%	6.6%	11.7%	23.0%
EBITDA	5,309	5,587	5,209	5,245	7,351
EBITDA margin (%)	17.5%	15.3%	13.4%	12.1%	13.8%
Growth (%)	58.2%	5.2%	-6.8%	0.7%	40.2%
Depreciation & Amortization	743	775	947	1,267	1,435
Other income	231	477	439	447	456
EBIT	4,797	5,289	4,700	4,425	6,372
EBIT margin (%)	15.8%	14.5%	12.1%	10.2%	11.9%
Interest	114	170	308	433	433
PBT	4,682	5,119	4,392	3,992	5,940
Tax	1,520	1,349	1,138	998	1,485
Net profit	3,163	3,770	3,254	2,994	4,455
Net profit margin (%)	10.4%	10.3%	8.4%	6.9%	8.3%
EPS	14.2	17.3	14.6	13.5	20.0
Growth (%)	70.1%	21.9%	-15.4%	-8.0%	48.8%

Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 11: Balance Sheet

Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Equity Share Capital	223	223	223	223	223
Reserves	15,346	18,850	21,894	24,666	28,899
Total Shareholders' Funds	15,568	19,072	22,117	24,889	29,121
Non-current liabilities					
Long term borrowings	153	131	2,094	2,094	2,094
Other Non-current Liabilities	302	428	519	519	519
Current liabilities					
Short term borrowings	2,211	3,137	5,616	5,616	5,616
Trade payables	2,528	2,749	2,861	3,497	4,383
Other financial liabilities	1,568	1,683	2,369	2,369	2,369
Total equity and liabilities	22,304	27,162	35,525	38,932	44,052
Non-current assets					
PPE	7,684	10,610	19,056	21,788	23,353
CWIP	1,766	2,362	2,666	2,666	2,666
Current assets					
Inventories	5,264	5,290	6,456	6,993	8,767
Trade receivables	3,524	3,903	4,168	4,655	5,728
Cash	2,610	2,782	671	321	1,029
Loans and advances	33	25	25	25	25
Other current assets	722	944	1,529	1,529	1,529
Total assets	22,304	27,162	35,525	38,932	44,052



Exhibit 12: Cash Flow

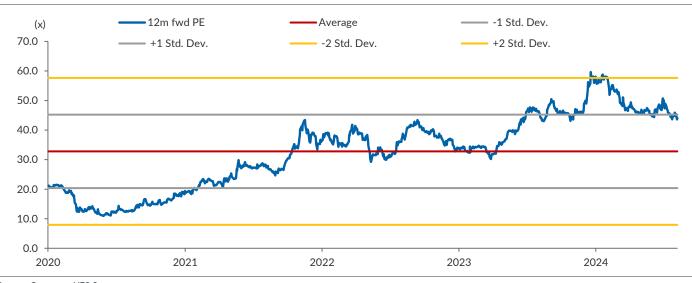
Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
PBT	4,682	5,119	4,392	3,992	5,940
Depreciation & Amortization	743	775	947	1,267	1,435
Finance cost	114	170	308	433	433
(Incr)/Decr in Working Capital	(1,632)	(467)	(1,958)	(389)	(1,959)
Taxes	(1,084)	(1,131)	(1,177)	(998)	(1,485)
Cash from ops.	2,762	4,379	2,517	4,305	4,363
(Incr)/ Decr in PP&E	(2,576)	(4,830)	(8,446)	(4,000)	(3,000)
Cash Flow from Investing	(3,199)	(4,796)	(5,781)	(4,000)	(3,000)
(Decr)/Incr in Borrowings	737	915	4,049	0	0
Finance cost	(103)	(129)	(254)	(433)	(433)
Dividend	(223)	(333)	(222)	(222)	(222)
Cash Flow from Financing	349	389	3,530	(655)	(655)
Incr/(Decr) in cash	(88)	(29)	266	(350)	708
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	258	170	141	671	321
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	170	141	407	321	1,029

Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 13: Ratios

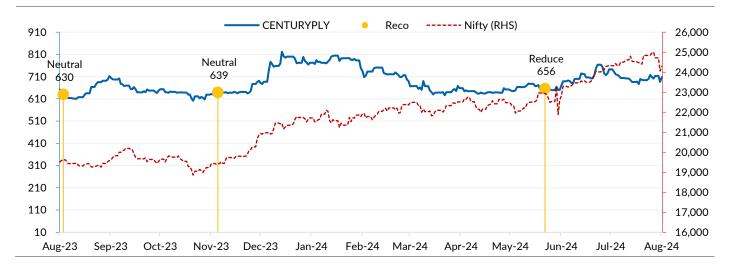
Key Ratios	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Growth Matrix (%)					
Revenue growth	42.1%	20.5%	6.6%	11.7%	23.0%
EBITDA growth	58.2%	5.2%	-6.8%	0.7%	40.2%
EBIT growth	15.8%	14.5%	12.1%	10.2%	11.9%
PAT growth	65.4%	19.2%	-13.7%	-8.0%	48.8%
Profitability ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	17.5%	15.3%	13.4%	12.1%	13.8%
EBIT margin	15.8%	14.5%	12.1%	10.2%	11.9%
PAT margin	10.4%	10.5%	8.4%	6.9%	8.3%
RoCE	32.8%	29.7%	21.2%	16.9%	21.5%
RoE	22.4%	21.8%	15.8%	12.7%	16.5%
Per share values					
EPS	14.2	17.3	14.6	13.5	20.0
CEPS	17.6	20.4	18.9	19.2	26.5
BVPS	70.0	85.7	99.4	111.9	130.9
Valuation ratios (x)					
P/E	37.9	29.7	43.8	51.9	34.9
P/CEPS	30.7	25.1	33.9	36.4	26.4
P/B	7.7	6.0	6.4	6.2	5.3
EV/EBITDA	23.0	21.0	28.7	31.0	22.0
Leverage ratios (x)					
Debt/ Equity	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Net debt/Equity	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
Net debt/EBITDA	0.4	0.6	1.4	1.4	0.9
Int coverage	42.0	31.2	15.3	10.2	14.7
NWC days					
Receivables	42	39	39	39	39
Inventory	128	101	116	110	110
Payables	61	52	51	55	55

Exhibit 14: 1-year forward P/E (x) chart



Source: Company, YES Sec

Recommendation Tracker





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