# MOTILAL OSWAL

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

31 October 2023 2QFY24 Results Update | Sector: Consumer

# Marico

Estimate changes		_
TP change	Ļ	
Rating change		_ E

Bloomberg	MRCO IN
Equity Shares (m)	1290
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	688.5/8.3
52-Week Range (INR)	595 / 463
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	-3/1/-5
12M Avg Val (INR M)	788

#### Financials & Valuations (INR b)

Y/E March	2023	2024E	2025E
Sales	97.6	101.6	112.5
Sales Gr. (%)	2.6	4.1	10.7
EBITDA	18.1	20.6	22.2
EBITDA Margin. %	18.5	20.3	19.8
Adj. PAT	13.0	14.8	15.9
Adj. EPS (INR)	10.1	11.5	12.3
EPS Gr. (%)	6.3	13.5	7.6
BV/Sh.(INR)	29.4	33.4	35.2
Ratios			
RoE (%)	36.1	36.5	35.9
RoCE (%)	31.4	30.7	30.4
Payout (%)	44.6	65.5	85.4
Valuations			
P/E (x)	52.7	46.4	43.2
P/BV (x)	18.1	15.9	15.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	37.4	32.6	30.0
Div. Yield (%)	0.8	1.4	2.0

#### Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Sep-23	Jun-23	Sep-22				
Promoter	59.4	59.4	59.5				
DII	9.8	10.5	10.3				
FII	26.0	25.2	25.1				
Others 4.8 5.0 5.1							
FII Includes depository receipts							

CMP: INR532 TP: INR640 (+20%)

Buy

# Broadly in-line earnings; sales likely to recover in 2H

- Marico (MRCO) reported subdued revenue growth in 2QFY24, attributed to domestic price cuts and currency headwinds in the overseas business. A sequential improvement was noted in urban areas, while the rural recovery was slow. The management was optimistic about 2HFY24, citing the festive season, controlled food inflation, and upcoming elections.
- Gross margin hit a 26-quarter high of 50.5%, driven by softer input costs. Accordingly, the management has raised its margin expansion guidance to 350-400bp for FY24.
- The domestic business is expected to grow as deflation eases, supported by growth in the food and premium personal care portfolios. Additionally, the international business is anticipated to maintain strong performance.
- It expects operating margin to surpass 20% in FY24, driven by effective cost management and strategic brand-building investments, enhancing MRCO's earnings growth outlook. We reiterate our BUY rating on the stock.

# Results broadly in line with estimates; volume up 3% Consolidated

- Consolidated net sales were flat YoY at INR24.8b (est. INR24.3b) in 2QFY24.
- EBITDA/PBT/Adj. PAT grew 14.8%/19%/17.3% YoY to INR5.0b/INR4.8b/ INR3.5b (est. INR4.9b/INR4.5b/INR3.4b).
- **Domestic volumes** grew 3% YoY (est. +2%).
- Consolidated gross margin expanded by 690bp YoY/50bp QoQ to 50.5% (est. 48.9%).
- As a percentage of sales, higher staff costs (up 90bp to 7.6%), A&P expenses (up 230bp to 10.8%) and other expenditure (up 90bp to 12%) led to EBITDA margin expansion of 270bp YoY to 20.1% in 2QFY24 (est. 20.1%).
- In 1HFY24, net sales declined 2% YoY, whereas EBITDA/adj. PAT grew 11.4%/16.1% YoY.
- The board has declared an interim dividend of INR3 per share.

### Standalone

- Sales declined 6.2% YoY to INR17.9b. EBITDA grew 11% YoY to INR3.4b, while Adj. PAT declined 22.8% YoY to INR2.6b.
- EBITDA margin expanded 300bp YoY to 19.1%.
- In 1HFY24, net sales declined 6.5% YoY. EBITDA grew 8% YoY, whereas adj. PAT declined 21.6% YoY.

### Highlights from the management commentary

The management expects a better performance in 2HFY24 with the onset of the festive season, controlled retail and food inflation, and increased government spending ahead of elections.

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- The management has increased its gross margin expansion expectation to 350-400bp in FY24.
- MRCO is on course to achieve its FY24 revenue targets, with Food and Premium Personal Care contributing 20% to the domestic business in 2Q.
- The management expects to maintain a dividend payout ratio of 80-90%.
- MT and e-commerce grew in high-double digits (20%+), while GT declined in low-single digit.

## Valuation and view

- There is no material change to our FY24E EPS, but we cut FY25E EPS by 7.2% owing to the management's commentary on volatility and its expectation of lower EBITDA in FY25 vs. FY24.
- MRCO's core portfolio has performed well, and the company is working hard to accomplish its medium-term growth objectives. Its earnings growth prospects are healthy, with expectations of a ~10-11% CAGR over FY 23-25 and RoE of over 35%.
- The much-needed diversification is gathering momentum in the Foods and digital-first brands.
- If sustained, this can lead to higher multiples for MRCO compared to the past. We reiterate our BUY rating on the stock with a TP of INR640 (based on 52xFY25E EPS).

Quarterly Performance												(INR m)
Y/E March		FY	23			FY2	4E		FY23	FY24E	FY24	Var.
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3QE	4QE			2Q	(%)
Domestic volume growth (%)	-5.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	3.0	3.0	8.0	6.0	1.8	5.0	2.0	
Net Sales	25,580	24,960	24,700	22,400	24,770	24,760	27,466	24,621	97,640	1,01,618	24,261	2.1%
YoY Change (%)	1.3	3.2	2.6	3.7	-3.2	-0.8	11.2	9.9	2.6	4.1	-2.8	
Gross Profit	11,520	10,890	11,100	10,620	12,380	12,500	13,074	11,551	44,130	49,505	11,864	5.4%
Gross margin (%)	45.0	43.6	44.9	47.4	50.0	50.5	47.6	46.9	45.2	48.7	48.9	
EBITDA	5,280	4,330	4,560	3,930	5,740	4,970	5,274	4,643	18,100	20,626	4,876	1.9%
Margins (%)	20.6	17.3	18.5	17.5	23.2	20.1	19.2	18.9	18.5	20.3	20.1	
YoY Change (%)	9.8	2.4	5.8	13.6	8.7	14.8	15.6	18.1	7.7	14.0	12.6	
Depreciation	360	370	390	430	360	390	435	468	1,550	1,653	429	
Interest	100	150	140	170	170	200	175	181	560	726	173	
Other Income	170	190	400	680	460	380	320	304	1,440	1,464	266	
РВТ	4,990	4,000	4,430	4,010	5,670	4,760	4,984	4,297	17,430	19,711	4,541	4.8%
Тах	1,220	930	1,100	960	1,310	1,160	1,206	1,055	4,210	4,731	1,112	
Rate (%)	24.4	23.3	24.8	23.9	23.1	24.4	24.2	24.5	24.2	24.0	24.5	
Adjusted PAT	3,710	3,010	3,280	3,020	4,270	3,530	3,728	3,252	13,020	14,780	3,368	4.8%
YoY Change (%)	4.2	-2.6	5.8	20.8	15.1	17.3	13.6	7.7	6.3	13.5	11.9	

E: MOFSL Estimates

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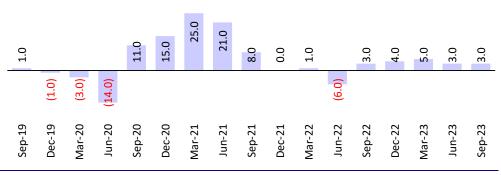
### **Key Performance Indicators**

Y/E March		FY	23		FY2	24
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q
2Y average growth (%)						
Volume	8.0	5.5	2.0	3.0	-1.0	3.0
Sales	16.2	12.4	8.0	5.5	-0.9	1.2
EBITDA	6.4	5.6	5.1	11.0	9.2	8.6
РАТ	5.9	0.7	3.4	12.9	9.7	7.3
% of Sales						
COGS	55.0	56.4	55.1	52.6	50.0	49.5
Operating Expenses	24.4	26.3	26.5	29.9	26.8	30.4
Depreciation	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.9	1.5	1.6
YoY change (%)						
COGS	-5.6	1.1	0.4	-1.8	-11.9	-12.9
Operating Expenses	12.4	8.6	5.3	8.8	6.4	14.8
Other Income	-37.0	-24.0	81.8	183.3	170.6	100.0
EBIT	9.8	1.5	5.6	13.3	9.3	15.7

E: MOFSL Estimates

#### **Exhibit 1: Domestic volume growth**

Domestic volume growth (%)



#### **Exhibit 2: Consolidated segmental details**

	2QFY22	3QFY22	4QFY22	1QFY23	2QFY23	3QFY23	4QFY23	1QFY24	2QFY24
Sales growth (%)									
Domestic	24.0	11.7	5.1	(3.6)	1.4	1.9	1.8	(4.9)	(3.4)
International	14.1	19.2	15.1	19.5	9.3	4.9	10.5	2.0	7.3
Total	21.6	13.4	7.3	1.3	3.2	2.6	3.8	(3.2)	(0.8)
EBIT margin (%)									
Domestic EBIT margin	16.7%	17.2%	16.2%	20.7%	17.4%	18.6%	17.9%	23.4%	20.5%
International EBIT margin	22.4%	22.9%	18.8%	24.5%	21.2%	21.6%	21.2%	27.8%	23.3%
Total	18.0%	18.6%	16.8%	21.7%	18.3%	19.4%	18.8%	24.6%	21.2%

Source: Company, MOFSL

Exhibit 3: Market share of key categories in the India business

Franchise	~MS%	Rank
📀 Coconut Oil Franchise	62%	1 <sup>st</sup>
Parachute Rigids within Coconut Oil	53%	1 <sup>st</sup>
😔 Saffola Oats	42%	1 <sup>st</sup>
Value Added Hair Oils	27%	1 <sup>st</sup>
📀 Post wash Leave-on Serums	55%	1 <sup>st</sup>
Search Hair Gels/Waxes/Creams	53%	1 <sup>st</sup>

^ Volume market share, \*Value market share

Source: Company

### Exhibit 4: Seizing Growth & Sustainability by MRCO in 2QFY24



The eight focus areas of ESG 2.0 are achievement of Climate Change, Water Stewardship, Circular Economy, Responsible Sourcing, Brands with Purpose, Inclusion and Diversity, Sustainable Agriculture and Corporate Governance.

Source: Company



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# Highlights from the management commentary

### **Business environment and outlook**

- Urban sentiment improved sequentially, while the rural recovery was slower than expected due to higher food inflation and uneven rainfall distribution.
- The management expects a better performance in 2HFY24 with the onset of the festive season, controlled retail and food inflation, and increased government spending ahead of elections.
- A possible easing in deflation in 2HFY24 may also lead to improvements.
- In India business, discrepancies were seen between reported volume and offtake growth due to lower realization, which impacts the distributor ROIs.
- The reduction in credit availability to retailers led to a drop in their retail inventory levels.
- There is increased participation from small local players in specific mass categories, mainly in the VAHO portfolio.
- Volatility was seen in edible oil prices, but trade inventory remained low.
- MT and e-commerce grew in high-double digits (20%+), while GT declined in low-single digit.
- NCD and exports reported 18% growth.
- The management is on course to achieve FY24 revenue targets, with Food and Premium Personal Care contributing 20% to the domestic business in 2QFY24.
- The management expects to maintain a dividend payout ratio of 80-90%.

### Material costs, margin and guidance

- A better-than-expected gross margin expansion was led by incrementally softer input costs.
- The management increased its gross margin expansion expectation to 350-400bp in FY24.

- The company has increased its A&P spending by 26% in absolute terms to 10.8% of sales. The management has guided that it will be 9-10% of sales in FY24.
- It expects EBITDA margin expansion of ~200bp YoY in FY24.

## Segmental performance

## Parachute coconut oil

- Volume was up 1%, while value declined 1%.
- With pricing cuts coming into the base, value growth should mirror volume growth in 3Q.
- Volume growth is expected in off-seasons owing to a gradual pickup in loose-tobranded conversions due to cost advantages.

## Saffola edible oil

- Edible oil posted low- single digit volume growth on a high base despite volatility in vegetable oil prices.
- Foods business delivered a steady performance with 25% YoY value growth.
- Saffola oats grew in double digits, with honey and soya nearing INR1b in annual revenue run rate.
- The management continues to focus on scaling up its foods business with investments in market development, strengthening the cost structure, and refining the supply chain and GTM strategies.
- The management plans to optimize operations and accelerate food growth beyond 30% next year.

## VAHO

- VAHO value growth was only 1%, indicating a slower recovery in personal care categories.
- Focus on market share gains in the mid-segment and expanding presence in premium segments through innovation.

# Premium-personal care

- On track to contribute ~10% of domestic revenue in FY24.
- The Digital-first portfolio reported annual recurring revenue of ~INR3.5bn+ in 2QFY24.
- Digital business will deliver EBITDA levels similar to India business in the next three years.

## **International business**

- International business delivered strong growth of 13% in CC terms amid the challenging operating environment.
- Bangladesh registered 2% CCG amid ongoing macroeconomic headwinds, anticipating economic improvement in the next calendar year.
- Vietnam grew 13% in CCG terms, with a steady performance in both the HPC and Foods portfolios.
- MENA delivered 34% CCG with both the Gulf region and Egypt growing in double digits. Egypt showed a good performance in the hair oil category.
- South Africa posted 23% CCG, led by the ethnic haircare segment.

# Valuation and view

## What has happened in the last 10 years?

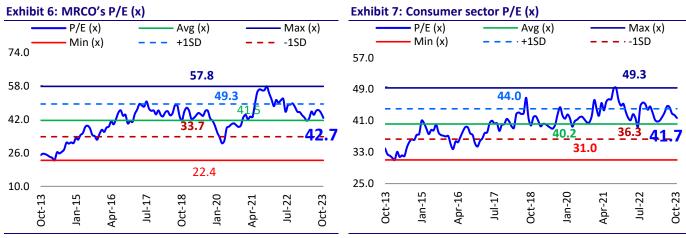
- In key categories such as Coconut Oil and VAHO, MRCO reported healthy sales growth, with volume growth for Parachute actually improving in recent years.
- In Saffola Foods (Oats), the company was able to strengthen its market share. It grew significantly in the Masala Oats category.
- Growth in Saffola (Edible Oil brand) has tapered off in recent years because of:
  a) strategic mistakes in terms of pricing, and b) inability to cater to the recently emerged Super Premium market segment.
- Similarly, the growth potential of brands Livon, Set Wet, and Zatak acquired from Paras/Reckitt has not been realized as they have not scaled up as expected.
- Growth in revenue and earnings has been healthy for the past 10 years, with a CAGR of ~8%/11%/13% in revenue/EBITDA/PAT. Over the past five years, growth has been robust, but has decelerated compared to previous years (sales/EBITDA/ PAT growth of ~9%/10%/~10%).

# Our view on the stock

- There is no material change to our FY24E EPS but we cut FY25E EPS by 7.2% owing to the management's commentary on volatility and its expectation of lower EBITDA in FY25 vs. FY24.
- The core portfolio of MRCO has performed well, and the company is working hard to accomplish its medium-term growth objectives. Its earnings growth prospects are healthy, with expectations of a ~10-11% CAGR over FY 23-25 and RoE of over 35%.
- The much-needed diversification is gathering momentum in the Foods and digital-first brands.
- If sustained, this can lead to higher multiples for MRCO compared to the past. We reiterate our BUY rating on the stock with a TP of INR640 (based on 52xFY25E EPS).

## Exhibit 5: No material change in FY24E EPS, but we cut FY25E EPS by 7.2%.

	Old		Ne	ew	Change (%)		
	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E	
Sales	1,03,072	1,13,956	1,01,618	1,12,511	-1.4%	-1.3%	
EBITDA	21,097	23,854	20,626	22,243	-2.2%	-6.8%	
PAT	14,962	17,122	14,780	15,898	-1.2%	-7.2%	



Source: Company, MOFSL

Source: Company, MOFSL

Source: Company, MOFSL

# **Financials and valuations**

Income Statement								(INR m)
Y/E March	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
Net Sales	63,220	73,340	73,150	80,480	95,120	97,640	1,01,618	1,12,511
Change (%)	6.8	16.0	-0.3	10.0	18.2	2.6	4.1	10.7
COGS	33,720	40,170	37,680	42,700	54,360	53,510	52,113	58,044
Gross Profit	29,500	33,170	35,470	37,780	40,760	44,130	49,505	54,467
Margin (%)	46.7	45.2	48.5	46.9	42.9	45.2	48.7	48.4
Operating Expenses	18,130	19,920	20,820	21,870	23,950	26,030	28,879	32,224
EBITDA	11,370	13,250	14,650	15,910	16,810	18,100	20,626	22,243
Change (%)	-1.9	16.5	10.6	8.6	5.7	7.7	14.0	7.8
Margin (%)	18.0	18.1	20.0	19.8	17.7	18.5	20.3	19.8
Depreciation	890	1,310	1,400	1,390	1,390	1,550	1,653	1,794
Int. and Fin. Charges	160	400	500	340	390	560	726	765
Other Income - Recurring	850	1,030	1,240	940	980	1,440	1,464	1,497
Profit before Taxes	11,170	12,570	13,990	15,120	16,010	17,430	19,711	21,182
Change (%)	-2.8	12.5	11.3	8.1	5.9	8.9	13.1	7.5
Margin (%)	17.7	17.1	19.1	18.8	16.8	17.9	19.4	18.8
Current Tax (excl MAT Ent)	2,840	3,310	3,470	3,350	3,430	3,770	4,632	4,978
Deferred Tax	60	-180	-160	-110	30	440	99	106
Tax Rate (%)	26.0	24.9	23.7	21.4	21.6	24.2	24.0	24.0
Profit after Taxes	8,140	9,260	10,460	11,610	12,250	13,020	14,780	15,898
Change (%)	0.4	13.8	13.0	11.0	5.5	6.3	13.5	7.6
Margin (%)	12.9	12.6	14.3	14.4	12.9	13.3	14.5	14.1
Reported PAT	8,140	11,140	10,170	11,720	12,250	13,020	14,780	15,898

Balance Sheet								(INR m)
Y/E March	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
Share Capital	1,290	1,290	1,290	1,290	1,290	1,290	1,290	1,290
Reserves	24,140	28,700	28,940	31,110	32,760	36,700	41,815	44,129
Net Worth	25,430	29,990	30,230	32,400	34,050	37,990	43,105	45,419
Minority Interest	120	110	130	180	570	1,570	1,570	1,570
Loans	3,090	3,490	3,350	4,700	4,360	8,320	8,770	9,220
Capital Employed	28,640	33,590	33,710	37,280	38,980	47,880	53,445	56,209
Gross Fixed Assets	8,120	9,140	13,440	13,400	15,340	15,600	16,400	17,280
Intangibles	600	550	410	2,300	3,060	5,600	3,060	3,060
Less: Accum. Depn.	-2,480	-3,250	-5,270	-5,710	-7,340	-7,360	-9,013	-10,807
Net Fixed Assets	6,240	6,440	8,580	9,990	11,060	13,840	10,447	9,533
Capital WIP	270	450	580	240	390	670	670	670
Goodwill	4,860	5,030	5,380	6,130	6,540	8,620	8,720	8,770
Investments	5,430	4,500	7,330	8,540	8,280	10,960	11,394	8,688
Curr. Assets, L&A	23,920	29,120	26,560	28,340	30,290	33,910	42,079	50,444
Inventory	15,110	14,110	13,800	11,260	14,120	12,250	14,227	14,626
Account Receivables	3,400	5,170	5,390	3,880	6,520	10,150	11,686	11,251
Cash and Bank Balance	2,010	5,520	2,790	9,440	5,790	7,560	11,427	18,641
Others	3,400	4,320	4,580	3,760	3,860	3,950	4,740	5,925
Curr. Liab. and Prov.	11,880	13,710	16,250	<b>16,980</b>	18,360	19,800	19,545	21,575
Current Liabilities	10,560	12,260	14,920	15,750	17,230	18,380	17,948	19,868
Accounts Payable	8,220	9,440	9,780	11,340	13,440	14,520	13,756	15,343
Provisions	1,320	1,450	1,330	1,230	1,130	1,420	1,597	1,707
Net Current Assets	12,040	15,410	10,310	<b>11,360</b>	11,9 <mark>30</mark>	14,110	22,535	28,868
Deferred Tax Liability	-200	1,760	1,530	1,020	780	-320	-320	-320
Application of Funds	28,640	33,590	33,710	37,280	38,980	47,880	53,445	56,209

E: MOFSL Estimates

# **Financials and valuations**

Y/E March	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
Basic (INR)								
EPS	6.3	7.2	8.1	9.0	9.5	10.1	11.5	12.3
Cash EPS	7.0	9.7	9.0	10.2	10.6	11.3	12.7	13.7
BV/Share	19.7	23.2	23.4	25.1	26.4	29.4	33.4	35.2
DPS	4.6	6.6	7.8	7.7	9.3	4.5	7.5	10.5
Payout %	72.4	76.3	98.5	84.4	97.4	44.6	65.5	85.4
Valuation (x)						_		
P/E	84.3	74.1	65.6	59.1	56.0	52.7	46.4	43.2
Cash P/E	76.0	55.1	59.3	52.3	50.3	47.1	41.8	38.8
EV/Sales	10.8	9.3	9.3	8.4	7.1	6.9	6.6	5.9
EV/EBITDA	60.0	51.3	46.4	42.3	40.2	37.4	32.6	30.0
P/BV	27.0	22.9	22.7	21.2	20.2	18.1	15.9	15.1
Dividend Yield (%)	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.7	0.8	1.4	2.0
Return Ratios (%)								
RoE	33.4	33.4	34.7	37.1	36.9	36.1	36.5	35.9
RoCE	30.8	31.3	32.9	34.2	33.7	31.4	30.7	30.4
RoIC	40.7	40.7	43.9	54.2	55.5	47.2	49.2	53.4
Leverage Ratio						_		
Debt/Equity (x)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Cash Flow Statement								(INR m)
Y/E March	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E
OP/(loss) before Tax	11,170	12,570	13,740	15,230	16,010	17,430	19,711	21,182
Int./Div. Received	-280	-130	-270	-140	-110	-580	-1,464	-1,497
Depreciation	890	1,310	1,500	1,390	1,390	1,550	1,653	1,794
Interest Paid	-180	-140	-220	-250	-200	70	726	765
Direct Taxes Paid	-2,950	-3,200	-2,900	-2,850	-3,510	-3,690	-4,632	-4,978
(Incr)/Decr in WC	-3,490	210	330	7,300	-3,420	-590	-4,558	881
CF from Operations	5,160	10,620	12,180	20,680	10,160	14,190	11,436	18,146
(Incr)/Decr in FA	-1,280	-1,430	-1,860	-2,690	-1,840	-4,980	1,740	-880
Free Cash Flow	3,880	9,190	10,320	17,990	8,320	9,210	13,176	17,266
(Pur)/Sale of Investments	700	1,030	280	-4,270	3,370	-3,890	-434	2,706
Others	740	270	-1,870	4,120	-2,440	2,050	-2,585	-2,558
CF from Invest.	160	-130	-3,450	-2,840	-910	-6,820	-1,278	-732
Issue of Shares	0	0	0	60	410	90	0	C
(Incr)/Decr in Debt	0	110	-530	-310	-670	870	450	450
Dividend Paid	-6,360	-6,820	-10,250	-10,290	-11,950	-5,820	-5,805	-9,675
Others	690	-270	-680	-650	-690	-740	-936	-975
CF from Fin. Activity	-5,670	-6,980	-11,460	-11,190	-12,900	-5,600	-6,291	-10,200
Incr/Decr of Cash	-350	3,510	-2,730	6,650	-3,650	1,770	3,867	7,214
	2 2 6 0	2 010	F F 20	2,790	9,440	5,790	7,560	11,427
Add: Opening Balance	2,360	2,010	5,520	2,790	9,440	5,790	7,500	11,427

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Explanation of Investment Rating		
Investment Rating	Expected return (over 12-month)	
BUY	>=15%	
SELL	< - 10%	
NEUTRAL	< - 10 % to 15%	
UNDER REVIEW	Rating may undergo a change	
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