# India | Consumer Discretionary Quarterly Update/Target price/Rating change

## **United Breweries**



## Good volume growth; margin disappoints

#### Q4 revenue grows 20.8% YoY, led by healthy volume growth

United Breweries (UBBL IN) reported INR 21,315mn in net sales, higher than our estimates of INR 19,906mn, up 16.9% QoQ and 20.8% YoY. FY24 net sales stood at INR 81,154mn, up 8.3% YoY. Q4 gross margin was up 312bp YoY at 41.7% but down 227bp QoQ. FY24 gross margin contracted 38bp YoY to stood 42.6%. UBBL continues to invest in brands, capability along with revenue management and cost initiatives.

#### Likely healthy volume with improved margin

UBBL could continue to report momentum on volume growth, led by 1) gains in the premium beer market, 2) market share gains in select regions for the Kingfisher portfolio, and 3) rising temperatures this Summer; we expect a volume CAGR of 9.5% during FY24-26E; the company's investment plans may continue via marketing spends and pushing category growth in India, which may help the latter report growth ahead of industry average. Profitability woes persist, as gross margin was down by 890bp in FY24 and EBITDA margin by 490bp vs pre-COVID levels (FY20); however, there are levers available for margin expansion, such as: 1) price hike in Telangana, 2) reuse of old bottles, 3) stable inflationary environment, and 4) better realization growth due to premium beer offtake. We expect a steady EBITDA margin improvement, which could lead to an expansion of 370bp over a period of two years towards 12.3% in FY26E.

### Valuation: upgrade to Accumulate with a higher TP of INR 2,120

The stock has moved up 26% in the past six months after factoring in an improved volume trajectory. It is trading at fair valuations of 58.5x FY26E P/E; management focus remains on driving volume growth with steady margin improvement. We believe consistent outperformance of volume growth vs industry average in the next two years, and execution of steady margin improvement, will remain key monitorables in the medium term. We raise our revenue by 4.9% for FY25E and 6.9% for FY26E; however, we keep our earnings estimates largely unchanged, due to a cut in EBITDA margin (guidance for a steady margin improvement). We increase our TP to INR 2,120 from INR 1,725 as we roll over to September 2025E. Our new TP is based on 53x (from 50x) one-year forward P/E. We upgrade to Accumulate from Reduce based on: 1) volume outperformance vs market average, 2) focus on premiumization, and 3) potential market share gains in the beer segment, which, in turn, would share price performance over the medium term. In the near term, upside potential remains limited.

## Rating: Accumulate

Target Price: INR 2,120

Upside: 5%

CMP: INR 2,016 (as on 8 May 2024)

Key data	
Bloomberg / Reuters Code	UBBL IN/UBBW.BO
Current / Shares O/S (mn)	264/264
Mkt Cap (INR bn/USD mn)	533/6,382
Daily Volume (3M NSE Avg)	284,644
Face Value (INR)	1

#### 1 USD = INR 83.5

Note: \*as on 8 May 2024; Source: Bloomberg

#### Price & Volume 2,300 3.0 2.100 1 900 1.700 2.0 1.500 1.300 1.100 1.0 900 700 0.0 500 May-23 Jan-24 May-24 Vol. in mn (RHS) United Breweries (LHS)

Source: Bloomberg

Shareholding (%)	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	Q4FY24
Promoter	72.7	71.0	70.8	70.8
Institutional Investor	21.0	22.7	22.8	22.8
Other Investor	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6
General Public	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8
Source: BSE				

Price performance (%)	3M	6M	12M
Nifty	2.7	14.7	22.1
United Breweries	14.8	26.5	44.4
United Spirits	14.5	12.6	55.9

Source: Bloombera

(INR mn)	Q4FY24	Elara E	Diff (%)	Q3FY24	QoQ (%)	Q4FY23	YoY (%)
Revenue	21,315	19,906	7.1	18,227	16.9	17,645	20.8
EBITDA	1,420	1,792	(20.7)	1,456	(2.5)	535	165.6
Net Profit	808	1,097	(26.3)	849	(4.7)	97	730.8
EPS (INR)	3.1	4.2	(26.3)	3.2	(4.7)	0.4	730.8
EBITDA Margin (%)	6.7	9.0		8.0		3.0	
Net Margin (%)	3.8	5.5		4.7		0.6	

YE	Revenue	YoY	EBITDA	EBITDA	Adj PAT	YoY	Fully DEPS	RoE	RoCE	P/E	EV/EBITDA
March	(INR mn)	(%)	(INR mn)	margin (%)	(INR mn)	(%)	(INR)	(%)	(%)	(x)	(x)
FY24	81,154	8.3	6,949	8.6	4,094	21.6	15.5	10.1	11.8	130.2	76.6
FY25E	93,733	15.5	10,311	11.0	6,734	64.5	25.5	15.4	18.2	79.2	51.2
FY26E	107,277	14.5	13,141	12.3	9,110	35.3	34.5	18.4	21.5	58.5	39.6
FY27E	122,215	13.9	16,194	13.3	11,900	30.6	45.0	20.5	23.4	44.8	31.7

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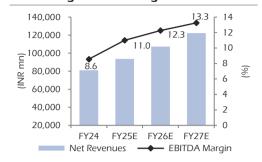


## Financials (YE March)

Financials (YE March)				
Income Statement (INR mn)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Net Revenues	81,154	93,733	107,277	122,215
EBITDA	6,949	10,311	13,141	16,194
Add:- Non operating Income	729	1,018	1,482	2,273
OPBIDTA	7,679	11,329	14,623	18,466
Less: - Depreciation & Amortization	2,116	2,274	2,388	2,498
EBIT	5,562	9,055	12,235	15,968
Less:- Interest Expenses	69	77	89	101
PBT	5,493	8,979	12,146	15,867
Less:-Taxes	1,399	2,245	3,037	3,967
Adjusted PAT	4,094	6,734	9,110	11,900
Reported PAT	4,094	6,734	9,110	11,900
Balance Sheet (INR mn)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Share Capital	264	264	264	264
Reserves	41,476	45,566	52,825	62,874
Total borrowings	774	774	774	774
Trade Payables	9,482	11,299	12,697	14,197
Other liabilities	18,436	18,474	18,515	18,561
Total Equity & Liabilities	70,433	76,378	85,076	96,671
Fixed Assets	17,677	17,403	17,015	16,317
Investments	156	156	156	156
Inventories	13,665	14,124	14,695	16,742
Trade Recievables	23,133	24,396	24,982	28,461
Cash & other bank balances	1,286	5,783	13,711	20,479
Other assets	14,516	14,516	14,516	14,516
Total Assets	70,433	76,378	85,076	96,671
Cash Flow Statement (INR mn)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Operating Cash Flow	768	8,199	10,386	8,247
Less:- Capex	(1,911)	(2,000)	(2,000)	(1,800)
Free Cash Flow	(1,143)	6,199	8,386	6,447
Investing Cash Flow	(1,477)	(982)	(518)	473
Financing Cash Flow	(1,300)	(2,721)	(1,940)	(1,952)
Net change in Cash	(2,009)	4,496	7,928	6,768
Opening Cash	3,295	1,286	5,783	13,711
Closing Cash	1,286	5,783	13,711	20,479
Ratio Analysis	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Income Statement Ratios (%)				
Revenue Growth	8.3	15.5	14.5	13.9
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EBITDA Growth	13.1	48.4	27.5	Z 3.Z
PAT Growth	13.1 21.6			30.6
		48.4	27.5	
PAT Growth	21.6	48.4 64.5	27.5 35.3	30.6
PAT Growth EBITDA Margin PAT Margin	21.6 8.6	48.4 64.5 11.0	27.5 35.3 12.3	30.6 13.3
PAT Growth EBITDA Margin PAT Margin Return & Liquidity Ratios	21.6 8.6	48.4 64.5 11.0	27.5 35.3 12.3	30.6 13.3
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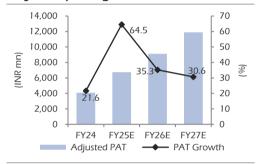
Note: pricing as on 8 May 2024; Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

### Revenue growth & margin trend



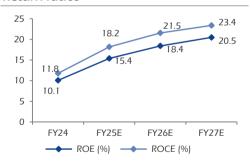
Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

#### Adjusted profit growth trend



Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

### **Return ratios**



Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate



#### Overall Q4 volume up 10.9% YoY & 1.9% YoY in FY24

Q4 EBITDA stood at INR 1,420mn, up 165.6% YoY on low base but down 2.5% QoQ, with a margin of 6.7%, up 363bp YoY but down 133bp QoQ. FY24 EBITDA margin stood at 8.6%, up 36bp YoY. In Q4, employee expenses and Other expenses grew 9.5% YoY and 22.3% YoY, respectively.

Q4 saw volume of 49.4mn cases, up 22.6% QoQ and 10.9% YoY, driven by the Southern and Eastern regions. In Q4FY24, volume grew 1% YoY in North India, 10% YoY in East India, and 21% YoY in South India but was flat YoY in West India. FY24 volume of 190mn grew 1.9% YoY.

Premium volume grew 21% YoY in Q4. Within the segment, the company saw strong growth for *Kingfisher Ultra* and *Kingfisher Ultra Max*. Net realization per case in Q4 was INR 431, up 8.9% YoY but down 4.6% QoQ whereas in FY24, net realization per case stood at INR 427, up 6.4% YoY. It undertook price increases in key markets of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Karnataka during the year.

Net profit in Q4 was INR 808mn, up 8.3x YoY on low base, but down 4.7% QoQ. In FY24, net profit stood at INR 4094mn, up 35% YoY. FY24 capex was INR 1,900mn, primarily due to investment in supply chain initiatives to cater to growth. UBBL has declared a dividend of INR 10 per share.

## Q4FY24 conference call highlights

- The business is on a state-wise business and several factors are affecting growth. It saw good growth in Goa in the past quarter. Management expects robust volume recovery in this quarter as well. Rationalized investment in Haryana which had a positive impact on margin. There are no structural issues in any of the markets
- Two factors driving premium beer growth include: 1) deep understanding of consumers, which helped to build premium proposition, 2) UBBL was able to plan well in terms of execution in on-trade and off-trade. Efforts were made to tackle supply chain issues to sustain momentum in volume growth. Focus is to extend premium footprints in in-house breweries
- As a market leader, the company was the most affected by any positive or negative change as seen during these elections. Restrictions during elections have had an impact on UBBL the most in several States. There has been an increase in demand during the ongoing Summer. Management sees recovery in States where Elections are over. States with phasewise elections have been hit the most
- There is an account receivables of INR 7-8bn from the Telangana government.

- Gross margin have improved YoY due to better price mix and volume. There was a high injection of new bottles in the markets, which dragged margin
- Management advocates being patient in terms of margin, as UBBL has moved from a single brand to a multi-brand portfolio. Moreover, it is competing with local firms, which have seen high volume growth lately. The company is focused on sequentially improving margin, although it does not plan to shy away from volume and revenue growth
- UBBL is looking at high single-digit or close to double-digit revenue growth. It is focused on a fixing portfolio, building a strong supply chain, and repairing & building breweries. Hence, there will be a sequential improvement in margin
- The focus is on absorbing consumer insights and demand spaces. Heineken Silver Draft at Mumbai saw significant repeat rates. The biggest driver of the beer category is regulations
- The company's focus is to drive volume and revenue growth, although it may have some negative impact on margins and management says there is no cause for concern. Driving premiumization of the category is important for UBBL
- There would be injection of new bottles in the premium segment as the category is growing well
- Average sourcing price of barley is better than the past year and the crop is growing well. UBBL did import barley but to a small extent. Improvement in barley prices will have a positive impact on margin in the upcoming quarters
- Management expects industry volume growth of 6-7% YoY in CY24. UBBL's aim is to grow ahead of the industry. It has gained more than 100bp volume market share at the all-India level. The current all-India markets share is ~50%
- UBBL also will invest in altering several breweries to be able to manufacture premium products as currently, in a mere ~35% of its plants, premium products are produced. The company expects strong top-line growth to offset high capex investments planned
- Work is in progress at Delhi, and the company awaits further clarity. It is a similar case for Haryana



Exhibit 1: Volume grows 10.9% YoY in Q4 and 1.9% in FY24

	Q4FY22	Q1FY23	Q2FY23	Q3FY23	Q4FY23	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	Q4FY24
Volume (mn cases)	43	62	43	37	45	54	46	40.3	49.4
Growth YoY (%)	7.0	118.4	23.0	4.0	3.0	(12.0)	7.0	8.0	10.9
Net realization/case (INR)	395	394	390	432	396	417	410	452	432
Growth YoY (%)	3.4	(0.2)	(4.3)	(2.0)	0.4	6.0	5.1	4.8	8.9

Source: Company, Elara Securities Research

Exhibit 2: South India volume grows the most in Q4FY24

YoY (%)	Q4FY22	Q1FY23	Q2FY23	Q3FY23	Q4FY23	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	Q4FY24
North India	26	87	15	13	14	(15)	1	(1)	3
East India	2	88	52	3	29	(8)	11	22	10
West India	(11)	167	22	2	10	2	2	9	0
South India	8	162	21	0	(10)	(18)	11	10	21

Source: Company, Elara Securities Research

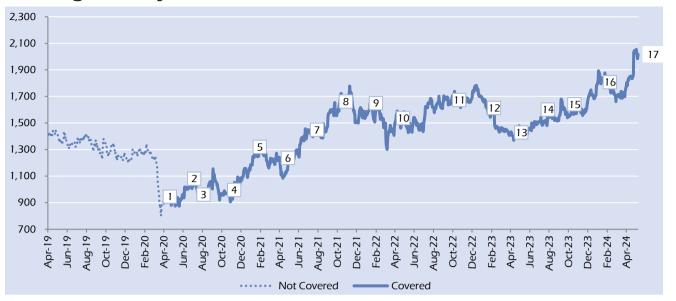
**Exhibit 3: Change in estimates** 

(INR mn)	New		Old		Change	(%)	New
	FY25E	FY26E	FY25E	FY26E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Net revenue	93,733	107,277	89,343	100,366	4.9	6.9	122,215
EBITDA	10,311	13,141	10,721	13,359	(3.8)	(1.6)	16,194
Adjusted PAT	6,734	9,110	7,001	9,165	(3.8)	(0.6)	11,900
EPS (INR)	25.5	34.5	26.5	34.7	(3.8)	(0.6)	45
Target price (INR)		2,120		1,725		22.9	
Rating		Accumulate		Reduce			

Source: Elara Securities Estimate



## **Coverage History**



	Date	Rating	Target Price	Closing Price
9	31-Jan-2022	Accumulate	INR 1,750	INR 1,619
10	27-Apr-2022	Accumulate	INR 1,850	INR 1,506
11	21-Oct-2022	Reduce	INR 1,700	INR 1,642
12	10-Feb-2023	Reduce	INR 1,500	INR 1,481
13	5-May-2023	Reduce	INR 1,400	INR 1,399
14	31-Jul-2023	Reduce	INR 1,510	INR 1,540
15	20-Oct-2023	Reduce	INR 1,575	INR 1,611
16	9-Feb-2024	Reduce	INR 1,725	INR 1,777
17	8-May-2024	Accumulate	INR 2,120	INR 2,016

## **Guide to Research Rating**

BUY	Absolute Return >+20%
ACCUMULATE	Absolute Return +5% to +20%
REDUCE	Absolute Return -5% to +5%
SELL	Absolute Return < -5%

## Elara Securities (India) Private Limited



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