SELL Colgate-Palmolive

Valuation considers new narrative, discounts stress ahead



Consumer Goods → Company Update → October 23, 2023

TARGET PRICE (Rs): 1,800

Colgate India has registered toothpaste-portfolio MRP CAGR of 10-18% over the last three years, except in mass-end Cibaca (~5%), to bridge the product price gap with other global markets. This compares with its muted 2-5% price CAGR over 2013-20. A closer look at the various segments in Toothpaste reveals Colgate is now priced at a premium to most incumbents. Advocated further by its global CEO Noel Wallace, Colgate India will now focus on scientific expertise and technical superiority of offerings, with a view to premiumize the category. The Naturals segment, which forms ~30% of the market, is likely to be a defocus segment for the company. We still see lack of structural growth as a fundamental concern for the stock. Hence, we maintain SELL with Sep-24E TP of Rs1,800/share, on 35x P/E (based on the last 5Y avg. fwd. P/E).

Colgate-Palmolive: Financial Snapshot (Consolidated)									
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E				
Revenue	50,998	52,262	57,112	60,949	65,294				
EBITDA	15,659	15,470	18,268	19,383	20,836				
Adj. PAT	10,783	10,584	12,634	13,450	14,552				
Adj. EPS (Rs)	39.6	38.9	46.4	49.4	53.5				
EBITDA margin (%)	30.7	29.6	32.0	31.8	31.9				
EBITDA growth (%)	3.7	(1.2)	18.1	6.1	7.5				
Adj. EPS growth (%)	4.1	(1.9)	19.4	6.5	8.2				
RoE (%)	74.4	61.3	70.6	69.4	69.7				
RoIC (%)	187.2	125.9	195.6	275.9	428.4				
P/E (x)	52.2	53.1	44.5	41.8	38.7				
EV/EBITDA (x)	35.4	35.8	30.1	28.2	26.1				
P/B (x)	32.4	32.8	30.2	27.9	26.0				
FCFF yield (%)	3.0	2.1	2.6	2.7	3.0				

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Oral care opportunity muted, need for diversification to drive growth

With the toothpaste category's penetration at ~85% in urban and ~75% in rural, volume growth ahead would be a factor of converting non-users and users into 'twice-brushing' users. We see Toothpaste volume CAGR of ~3% over coming 5 years. Fathoming the existing core business set-up, Colgate India is now looking to drive growth via price actions and premiumization. Overall, the strategy ahead is focused on offering sciencebacked and technically-superior products, which would empower the company to effect price hikes. From a structural growth perspective, we see the need for diversification.

Enhanced pricing helps in margin, but may trigger a competitive action

In this report, we gauge the pricing behavior of Colgate. Ex-Cibaca, we see Colgate has effected MRP CAGR of 10-18% across the portfolio over the last 3 years as against lowto-mid single-digit CAGR in the previous seven (FY13-20). Also, Company's price gap with competition is widening; if competition sticks to rational hikes for price parity, Colgate's strategy would aid sector profitability. But through the competition's lens, this also makes space for rivals to seize market share. MNC contenders (P&G) may see this as an opportune time to re-enter the category. HUL still looks to re-establish Pepsodent.

Stock riding the new narrative wave; prospects beyond FY24 look grim

We see the new CEO's measures turning around the business, with steady price hikes aiding margin growth. Our bull case scenario reveals this would lead to mid-teen earnings growth, which has already been built-in the stock price up-move. Our deep-dive assesses usage of consumer cohorts in urban & rural markets, and suggests ~3% volume CAGR over the next 5 years. This, along with inflation pass-through, is expected to generate ~6% value growth in the category. We are concerned about growth beyond FY24, when we anticipate a stock de-rating. While our base case implies Sep-24E TP of Rs1,800 (on 35x target P/E), our bull case TP is ~Rs2,300 (40x target P/E), and our bear case TP is Rs1,465 (31x target P/E). The stock's historical (last 5Y) avg fwd P/E is 39x; retain SELL.

Target Price – 12M	Sep-24
Change in TP (%)	-
Current Reco.	SELL
Previous Reco.	SELL
Upside/(Downside) (%)	(13.0)
CMP (23-Oct-23) (Rs)	2,068.0

Stock Data	Ticker
52-week High (Rs)	2,129
52-week Low (Rs)	1,435
Shares outstanding (mn)	272.0
Market-cap (Rs bn)	562
Market-cap (USD mn)	6,761
Net-debt, FY18E (Rs mn)	-4,241
ADTV-3M (mn shares)	1
ADTV-3M (Rs mn)	1,221.3
ADTV-3M (USD mn)	14.7
Free float (%)	49.0
Nifty-50	19,282
INR/USD	83.2
Shareholding, Sep-23	
Promoters (%)	51.0
FPIs/MFs (%)	24.1/5.9

Price Performance								
(%)	1M	3M	12M					
Absolute	3.3	12.8	30.3					
Rel. to Nifty	5.4	15.5	18.8					



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Colgate India is looking to bridge the price gap to global product prices

Colgate's urge to enhance product pricing

In a recent media interview (*link*), Noel Wallace, Colgate-Palmolive Chairman and CEO, noted the company's perspective on the low average product price in India. With an evolving middle class, there is an opportunity for price hikes. In an ideal world, with raw-material prices easing, companies would focus on driving structural growth with benefit pass-through. However, we see the strategy of effecting pricing as quite unique. Aligning with its strategy with its parent entity, Colgate India is effecting price hikes across its portfolio.

The last three years saw double-digit MRP hikes

As can be seen in Exhibit 1 below, over the last three years, the company has effected doubledigit price hikes, except for the mass-end offering of Colgate Cibaca. This price hike is quite stark compared with the low to mid-single-digit hike in the previous seven years.

Exhibit 1: Assessing Colgate toothpaste prices over the last decade

	SKU (gm)		MRP (Oct-20)	MRP (Oct-13)	CAGR (20-23)	CAGR (13-23)	CAGR (13-20)
Colgate Strong Teeth	100	69	52	37	10%	6%	5%
Colgate Cibaca	175	63	55	40	5%	5%	5%
Colgate Max Fresh	150	125	92	78	11%	5%	2%
Colgate Herbal	200	152	100	78	15%	7%	4%
Colgate Active Salt	100	85	58	44	14%	7%	4%
Colgate Total Advanced	120	120	85	74	12%	5%	2%
Colgate Sensitive Original	80	97	60	90	18%	1%	-6%

Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 2: Assessing toothpaste prices by other incumbents over the last decade

	SKU (gm)	MRP (Oct-23)	MRP (Oct-20)	MRP (Oct-13)	CAGR (20-23)	CAGR (13-23)	CAGR (13-20)
Pepsodent 2 in 1	150	97	97	78	0%	2%	3%
Dabur Red	200	125	97	75	9%	5%	4%
Dabur Meswak	200	120	97	78	7%	4%	3%
Sensodyne	75	125	99	96	8%	3%	0%
Pepsodent Whitening	150	100	95	82	2%	2%	2%

Source: Emkay Research

Sharp price hikes have a bearing on volume growth

Colgate India's volume, which has maintained a healthy low double-digit CAGR in the past till FY13, has seen growth moderating to ~2% and ~3% over the last 5 and 10 years, respectively. Part of the moderation can be attributed to rural demand slowdown, but it has largely been a factor of its inability to gain leadership in the quick-evolving natural segment. Additionally, recent price hikes have impacted its volume growth trajectory.

Muted volume growth for Colgate can be attributed to rural slowdown and steady price hikes



Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 3: Colgate India's annual volume growth

Adjusted for product

couple of years

relaunches in Q1FY24,

growth show in the last

Colgate had a weak volume

A closer look at the quarterly volume growth performance of Colgate India suggests that pricing does have a bearing on structural volume growth. Colgate India has been seeing a 2-3% volume decline from Q4FY22 to Q4FY23. In Q1FY24, the company saw mid-single-digit growth on the back of planned product launches and on a low-volume base.

Exhibit 4: Quarterly volume growth trends



Source: Company, Emkay Research

Widening price gap to competition

A closer look at the toothpaste segment's product pricing in the last three years suggests that Colgate has been widening the gap to other category incumbents. Being a category leader with a wider distribution reach, Colgate has so far managed to drive growth and margins.

"The average price of a toothpaste is still quite low in India. So, we have this real opportunity, as the middle class grows, to continue to premiumize" – Noel Wallace

Exhibit 5: Toothpaste segment and key branded offerings								
	SKU (gm)	Oct-23 MRP (Rs)	Rs /arm	Oct-20 MRP (Rs)	CAGR (20-23)			
Low-priced products	(giii)	MRP (RS)	/grm	MKP (KS)	(20-23)			
	350	121	0.25					
Dabur Babool	350	121	0.35		F0/			
Colgate Cibaca Family - Normal	175	63	0.36	55	5%			
	300	176	0.59	120	110/			
Pepsodent Germi Check		176		129	11%			
Colgate Strong Teeth Freshness - Gel	200	130	0.65	95	11%			
	150	100	0.67	00	00/			
Dabur Red Gel	150	100	0.67	80	8%			
Dabur Bae Gel	150	100	0.67					
Close Up Red Hot	150	110	0.73	85	9%			
Colgate Max Fresh	150	125	0.83	92	11%			
Family - Naturals								
Dant Kanti	200	115	0.58	85	11%			
Meswak	200	120	0.60	97	7%			
Dabur Dantrakshak	175	110	0.63	85	9%			
Dabur Red	200	125	0.63	97	9%			
Dabur Herbal Tulsi / Clove	200	130	0.65	90	13%			
Colgate Active Salt	200	132	0.66	100	10%			
Colgate Swarna Vedshakti	100	70	0.70	52	10%			
Colgate Herbal	200	152	0.76	100	15%			
Vicco Vajradanti	100	82	0.82	73	4%			
Colgate Charcoal Clean	120	173	1.44	99	20%			
Kids								
Patanjali Junior	100	35	0.35	38	-3%			
Colgate 2-5Y	40	71	1.78	40	21%			
Colgate Barbie	80	147	1.84	90	18%			
Colgate Spiderman	80	147	1.84	90	18%			
Colgate 0-2Y	70	158	2.26	150	2%			
Colgate 6-9Y	80	230	2.88	150	15%			
Colgate 3-5Y	80	230	2.88	150	15%			
Source: Emkay Research								

Source: Emkay Research

Except for the sensitive premium segment, we see Colgate's product prices widening vs. peers

Exhibit 6: Toothpaste segment and key branded offerings

	CKII ()	Oct-23 MRP	Rs	Oct-20	CAGR (20-
	SKU (gm)	(Rs)	/grm	MRP (Rs)	23)
Premium - Sensitive					
Colgate Sensitive Clove	160	185	1.16	120	16%
Colgate Sensitive Original	160	195	1.22	120	18%
Sensodyne Fresh mint	75	130	1.73	110	6%
Sensodyne	70	125	1.79	92	11%
Colgate Sensitive Plus	70	195	2.79	125	16%
Premium - whitening					
Pepsodent Whitening	150	100	0.67	95	2%
Colgate Total Advanced Whitening	120	120	1.00	85	12%
Colgate Visible White	100	165	1.65	99	19%
Premium - Multi benefit					
Pepsodent Gumcare +	140	104	0.74	98	2%
Pepsodent Expert Protection Complete	140	118	0.84	114	1%
Colgate Total Advanced Health	120	140	1.17	99	12%
Colgate Total Charcoal Deep Clean	120	173	1.44	99	20%

Source: Emkay Research

Premium-sensitive segment still has room for price hikes

Colgate India, as a part of its strategy to drive premiumization in the portfolio, has been promoting its premium offerings and driving new launches to meet the unmet needs of consumer cohorts. Recently, the company has effected a sharp ~50% price hike for Colqate Sensitive Clove and Colgate Sensitive Original.

Exhibit 7: Sensitive segment's product pricing

	Company	SKU	MRP (Rs)	per grm	Selling Price (Rs)	per grm
Colgate						
Colgate Sensitive Clove	Colgate	80 gm+80gm free	185	1.16	148	0.93
Colgate Sensitive Original	Colgate	80 gm+80gm free	195	1.22	167	1.04
Colgate Sensitive plus	Colgate	70gm	195	2.79	176	2.51
GSK Consumer						
Sensodyne	GSK	75gm	125	1.67	125	1.67
Sensodyne Fresh Mint	GSK	75gm	130	1.73	130	1.73
Sensodyne Herbal Multi Care	GSK	70gm	130	1.86	130	1.86
Sensodyne Whitening	GSK	70gm	145	2.07	145	2.07
Sensodyne Rapid Relief	GSK	80gm	190	2.38	190	2.38
Sensodyne Repair and Protect	GSK	70gm	205	2.93	205	2.93

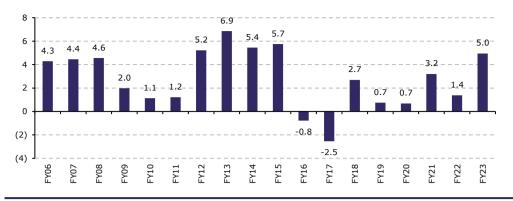
Source: Emkay Research

A closer look at the category leader in the sensitive toothpaste segment suggests a wider price gap for Colgate India. Our ground checks suggest that Sensodyne has built strong brand perceptions with consumers, addressing sensitive oral care needs. Historically, Colgate tried to become an affordable brand in the segment, but perception lagged.

Pricing likely to remain key for growth ahead

Pricing growth normally contributes to 25-30% of revenue growth for FMCG companies; for Colgate, contribution has been ~50% in the last decade. Looking at the strategy that the company has adopted, we may see a scenario like baby foods (essentials for kids), where growth is price-led. Management's thrust on increasing product prices and driving premiumization may make pricing a prime growth driver for the company ahead. Over FY25-26E, we have built a ~4% volume and ~3% realization CAGR.

Exhibit 8: Colgate India's realization growth (YoY, %)



Source: Company, Emkay Research

Disconnect in MRP increases and price growth

Looking closely at the products' MRP increases and realization growth for the company, it is clear that the company has adopted promotions as a tool to entice consumers. We see a good part of the price increases getting absorbed in promotions.

Trade promotions

Exhibit 9: Colgate India's revenue growth and trade promotion spends

	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Revenue as per contracted price	47,393	48,588	50,173	51,677	54,799	57,464
Change (%)		2.5%	3.3%	3.0%	6.0%	4.9%
Sales return	193	114	306	272	267	291
As a %	0.4%	0.2%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Variable consideration	3,916	3,850	4,640	2,993	3,534	4,912
Change (%)		-1.7%	20.5%	-35.5%	18.1%	39.0%
As a %	8.3%	7.9%	9.2%	5.8%	6.4%	8.5%
Reported net sales	43,284	44,624	45,227	48,412	50,998	52,262
Change (%)		3.1%	1.4%	7.0%	5.3%	2.5%

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Consumer promotions

Exhibit 10: Toothpaste Freshness - Assessing consumer promotion (in Modern trade)

	MRP (Rs)	SKU (grm)	Per grm	Selling price (Rs)	Effective price per grm	Effective promotion
Colgate May Fresh Blue	125	150	0.83	115	0.77	-8%
Colgate Max Fresh Blue	72	80	0.90	67	0.84	-7%
Colgate Max Fresh Red	300	230	1.30	155	0.67	-48%
Dabur Red Gel Ayurvedic Paste	55	50	1.10	50	1.00	-9%
Close up Cool Breeze	222	300	0.74	172	0.57	-23%
Close-up Ever Fresh Red Hot	110	150	0.73	92	0.61	-16%
Close-up lemon mint	121	150	0.81	113.5	0.76	-6%
Close Up Fresh Multi Vitamin paste	135	150	0.90	115	0.77	-15%
Close up EF Blue Cool Breeze	121	150	0.81	113	0.75	-7%

Exhibit 11: Toothpaste Normal - Assessing consumer promotion (in Modern trade)									
	MRP	SKU	Per grm	Selling	Effective	Effective			
	(Rs)	(grm)		price (Rs)	price per grm	promotion			
	69	100	0.69	62	0.62	-10%			
Colgate Strong Teeth	130	200	0.65	120	0.60	-8%			
Colgate Strong Teeth	199	300	0.66	169	0.56	-15%			
	294	500	0.59	218	0.44	-26%			
Dabur Babool	63	100	0.63	59	0.59	-6%			
Dabui Babooi	125	350	0.36	105	0.30	-16%			
	62	100	0.62	58	0.58	-6%			
Pepsodent Germi check H&F	175	300	0.58	163	0.54	-7%			
	270	550	0.49	220	0.40	-19%			
Pepsodent 2 in 1	194	300	0.65	162	0.54	-16%			

Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 12: Toothpaste Natu			ımer pron			Eff. ations
	MRP (Rs)	SKU (grm)	Per grm	Selling	Effective price per grm	Effective
			0.70			
	73	100	0.73	70	0.70	-4%
Colgate Active Salt	137	200	0.69	127	0.64	-7%
	192	300	0.64	175	0.58	-9%
	70	100	0.70	65	0.65	-7%
Colgate Swarna Vedshkti	135	200	0.68	125	0.63	-7%
	250	400	0.63	130	0.33	-48%
Colgate Herbal	150	200	0.75	140	0.70	-7%
Dahun Dad Dasta	125	200	0.63	110	0.55	-12%
Dabur Red Paste	295	500	0.59	229	0.46	-22%
Dabur Clove Paste	110	200	0.55	99	0.50	-10%
Dabur Tulsi Paste	130	200	0.65	110	0.55	-15%
Dataniali Dant Kanti	105	200	0.53	95	0.48	-10%
Patanjali Dant Kanti	280	600	0.47	250	0.42	-11%
Vicco Vajradanti	82	100	0.82	72	0.72	-12%
Dabur Dant Rakshak	209	175+ 175	0.60	209	0.60	0%
	70	100	0.70	65	0.65	-7%
Dabur Meswak	125	200	0.63	112.5	0.56	-10%
	195	300	0.65	149	0.50	-24%
Pepsodent Lavang and Salt	101	200	0.51	95	0.48	-6%

Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 13: Toothpaste premium - Assessing consumer promotion (in Modern trade)								
	MRP	SKU	Per grm	Selling	Effective	Effective		
	(Rs)	(grm)	rei giiii	price	price per grm	promotion		
Colgate Sensitive	195	80+80	1.22	195	1.22	-50%		
Colgate Visible White	288	200	1.44	199	0.50	-31%		
	190	100	1.90	170	0.85	-11%		
Colgate Total Advanced Health	162	120	1.35	111	0.93	-31%		
Sensodyne Fresh Mint	220	150	1.47	203	1.35	-8%		
Sensodyne Repair and	235	100	2.35	215	2.15	-9%		
Protect	370	300	1.23	280	0.93	-24%		

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 14: Toothpowder - Assessing consumer promotion (in Modern trade)								
	MRP (Rs)	SKU (grm)	Per grm	Selling price (Rs)	Effective price per grm	Effective promotion		
Colgate Tooth Powder	65	100	0.65	61	0.61	-6%		
	120	240	0.50	115	0.48	-4%		
Dabur Red Powder	99	150	0.66	90	0.60	-9%		

Source: Emkay Research

With the natural category's

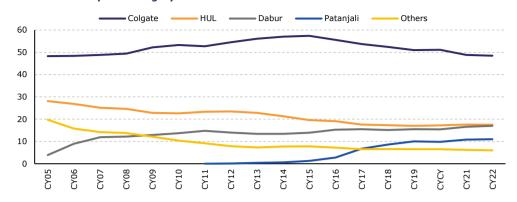
contribution plateauing,

Colgate India's market share looks stable ahead

Competitive intensity remains a key watch out

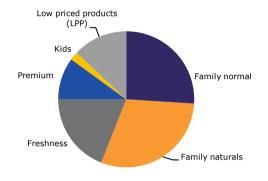
With growth rates normalizing across toothpaste segments, we expect Colgate to maintain its market share, which was eroding earlier, given faster growth in the natural segment.

Exhibit 15: Toothpaste category's volume market share



Source: Industry, Emkay Research

Exhibit 16: Segments of the toothpaste category



Source: Emkay Research

Competition reaction key for Colgate's strategy

Given high consumer loyalty to a brand (cost per usage is low vs. other FMCG categories), we may see continued brand consumption despite sharp price hikes. However, in case competition looks to drive share advocating similar benefits at an affordable pricing, there is an opportunity for consumer shifts.

So far, competition is largely considered natural as a proposition to shift consumer. It is important to note that the second and third participant in the category has $\sim 1/3^{\rm rd}$ share of Colgate Palmolive's share in the category. Moreover, HUL and Dabur have a much-diversified portfolio to look after vs. Colgate generating $\sim 90\%$ revenue from oral care offerings, which have limited aggression. For HUL, we see $\sim 70\%$ of revenue is concentrated in the freshness segment under *Close Up*. While for Dabur, most of the revenue is concentrated in family natural segments.

We see an opportunity for competition to drive volume market share, as Colgate is aggressive with price actions. However, in case other incumbents look to drive profitability in-line with the category leader, it will be positive for Colgate India.

GSK Consumer to up the ante in the premium sensitive segment

With HUL and GSK Consumer tie-up ending in Nov-23, we see GSK to get aggressive on product push under its own distribution set-up. The company has already appointed distributors to look after the OTC range. We see competitive intensity firming up, where GSK holds category leadership in the sensitive segment.

Strong category profitability may entice P&G to re-enter the toothpaste category

P&G's previous attempts in toothpaste did not bode well, given counter actions from the category leader. However, in the current setting (when natural salience plateaued), when Colgate is looking to drive growth with price, which helped expand margin over 30%, it may be an opportune time for P&G to enter India.

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"...driving per capita consumption, driving

premiumization, and

that deals with people

bringing unique innovation

centricity orientation in the

market. If we can do those

three consistently and not

be distracted, I think India

can obviously become one of our fastest-growing markets in the world" -

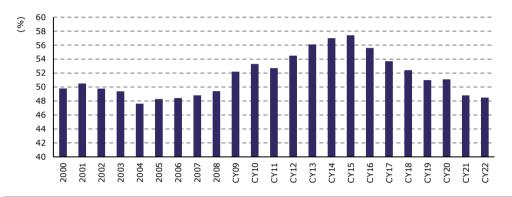
Noel Wallace

Thrust on science and its technical superiority

After struggling to make headway in the evolving naturals segment, which is also reflected in its market share loss from the peak of CY15, the company is now looking to leverage its core expertise, which is offering scientific and technically superior offerings for consumers. Naturals incrementally is a tactical segment for the company; the company has a strategic thrust on products with science and technical superiority.

From a volume growth perspective, \sim 55% of the population in rural areas does not brush daily, and \sim 80% of urban users only brush once a day. This offers a long-term opportunity. While Colgate India generates \sim 4% revenue for the parent entity, it is the third biggest market for the parent entity. Colgate India has been important for parent entity, where India has gained importance from a talent, innovation, and growth perspective.

Exhibit 17: Colgate's volume market share in the toothpaste category



Source: Industry, Emkay Research

Exhibit 18: Colgate India's thrust on science-backed technically superior products

"...we play naturals because we know how to play naturals. But the bridge from naturals to ayurvedic is a big bridge to cross to have that credibility. We want to bring products to the market that clearly bring scientific and tangible healthcare benefits to the

consumer" - Noel Wallace





Unique Arginine Technology 2X Remineralization of Teeth





Powerful Dual zinc + Arginine formula Prevents all dental problems*





Superior freshness technology v/s eyeball competition





Specially curated portfolio

Source: Company

Exhibit 19: Summary financials for Colgate Palmolive and Colgate India, highlighting contribution from India to the parent

	CY17	CY18	CY19	CY20	CY21	CY22
Colgate Palmolive Global (USD mn)						
Net sales	15,454	15,544	15,693	16,471	17,421	17,967
Growth		0.6%	1.0%	5.0%	5.8%	3.1%
Emerging market revenue salience	50.0%	48.0%	48.0%	44.0%	45.0%	45.0%
Revenue from oral care and personal care	67.0%	67.0%	66.0%	65.0%	64.0%	62.0%
Gross margin	59.4%	60.0%	59.4%	60.8%	59.6%	57.0%
EBITDA	3,707	3,694	3,554	3,885	3,903	3,614
EBITDA margin	24.0%	23.8%	22.6%	23.6%	22.4%	20.1%
PAT	2,024	2,400	2,367	2,695	2,737	2,506
Growth		18.6%	-1.4%	13.9%	1.6%	-8.4%
PAT margin	13.1%	15.4%	15.1%	16.4%	15.7%	13.9%
Colgate India (Rs mn)						
Revenue	43,866	43,709	45,719	45,978	50,481	51,395
Growth		-0.4%	4.6%	0.6%	9.8%	1.8%
Contribution to global sales	4.4%	4.1%	3.7%	3.8%	3.9%	3.6%
Contribution to emerging market sales	8.7%	8.6%	7.7%	8.6%	8.7%	8.1%
Contribution to oral care and personal care sales	6.5%	6.1%	5.6%	5.8%	6.1%	5.9%
Gross margin	65.7%	65.1%	64.9%	67.1%	67.3%	65.4%
EBIDTA	10,492	12,331	12,438	13,508	15,583	15,245
growth		17.5%	0.9%	8.6%	15.4%	-2.2%
EBIDTA Margin	23.9%	28.2%	27.2%	29.4%	30.9%	29.7%
PAT	6,105	7,165	7,776	8,939	10,379	10,295
Growth		17.4%	8.5%	15.0%	16.1%	-0.8%
PAT Margin	13.9%	16.4%	17.0%	19.4%	20.6%	20.0%
Contribution to parent PAT	4.6%	4.4%	4.2%	4.5%	5.1%	5.2%

~90% revenue for Colgate India is from oral care vs. parent dependence on oral care at 43%

Category growth opportunity looks muted

Penetration of the toothpaste category is $\sim 85\%$ in the urban market and $\sim 75\%$ in the rural market. Overall, $\sim 55\%$ of households in the rural market are not regular category users, as per management. India's national per-capita toothpaste consumption is ~ 300 gm on average, where usage in urban is at $\sim 1.7x$ (i.e. ~ 500 gm), while usage in rural is 0.7x (i.e. ~ 210 gm). Over the coming five years, we expect the toothpaste category's volume growth at $\sim 3\%$; this growth will be a factor of the $\sim 1.5\%$ population growth and the $\sim 1\%$ per-capita consumption expansion. With $\sim 3\%$ expected price growth, we see value growth to be $\sim 6\%$.

Volume growth likely to remain muted in the category

As highlighted by Colgate India, in rural, 55% of the users do not brush daily. Additionally, in urban areas, with $\sim\!85\%$ penetration, we see $\sim\!15\%$ users do not use toothpaste as a category. With focus on aligning product prices with other markets and to drive premiumization, we see the shift to be limited. If companies look to drive consumption to the bottom of the pyramid, we see growth acceleration. This task is largely reliance on Colgate, which has nearly half of the share in the category and has $\sim\!90\%$ revenue concentrated in oral care. We estimate $\sim\!3\%$ volume growth for the category over the next five years.

Exhibit 20: Toothpaste category - Growth outlook

			Now		FY28E							
	Share	Population (mn)	Per capita (kg)	Volume (mn kg)	Value size (Rs mn)	Share	Population (mn)	Per capita (kg)	Volume (mn kg)	CAGR (%)	Value size (Rs mn)	CAGR
India	100%	1,420	0.31	446	130,143	100%	1,530	0.34	516	3%	167,370	5%
Urban	35%	497	0.50	249	80,763	38%	581	0.52	301	4%	107,944	6%
- Brushing once daily	65%	323	0.50	162	52,496	65%	378	0.50	189	3%	67,791	5%
- Brushing twice daily	20%	99	0.88	87	28,267	22%	128	0.88	112	5%	40,153	7%
- No brushing	15%	75	0.00	0	0	13%	76	0.00	0		0	
Rural	65%	923	0.21	198	49,381	62%	948	0.23	215	2%	59,426	4%
- Brushing once daily	43%	397	0.40	159	39,689	47%	446	0.40	178	2%	49,216	4%
- Brushing twice daily	2%	18	0.60	11	2,769	2%	19	0.60	11	1%	3,141	3%
- Occasional users	30%	277	0.10	28	6,923	27%	256	0.10	26	-2%	7,068	0%
- No brushing	25%	231	0.00	0	0	24%	228	0.00	0		0	

Source: Emkay Research

Key volume growth drivers

Volume growth with the existing consumer cohort to be negligible given limited product usage. Case in point is twice brushing users, where the quantum of toothpaste needed remains firm. Similar is the case with daily brush users. Delta volume growth would be a factor of users moving from non-users/non-daily users and users moving to twice brushing.

Interestingly, once a consumer is hooked to the category, there is no exit from the category (quite unique vs. other FMCG categories). Consumers may look to up trade/down trade. As such, volume growth in the sector is unlikely to see major movements.

We see the strategy of pricing emanating from the thought of limited volume growth in the cohorts. Driving volume growth would be a factor of converting non-users, which is likely to be an expensive proposition. As such, premiumizing the portfolio with price hikes looks like an easy route to drive growth, which also helps in margin growth and earnings.

Exhibit 21: Toothpaste category - Growth								
	As on date	FY28E	CAGR					
Population (mn)	1,420	1,530	1.5%					
Per capita (kg)	0.31	0.34	1.1%					
Penetration	79%	80%	0.3%					
Volume growth			2.9%					
Price growth			3.0%					
Value growth			5.9%					

Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 22: Advocating twice brushing with latest Brush Tonight / The Sweet Truth campaign



Effective today, the company started with it's The Sweet Truth campaign, which highlights need for brushing in night to reduce changes of developing cavities by 50%.

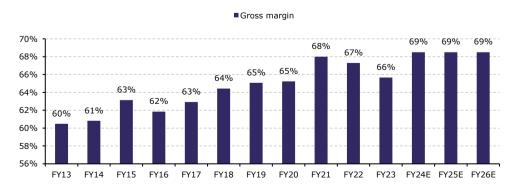


Source: Company

Recent price actions to strengthen gross margin profile

We see Colgate India to witness healthy gross margin expansion in FY24, over a low base of FY23, driven from easing raw-material prices and steady price actions. This margin shift is likely to help the company with better earnings growth, which with near full dividend payout is accredited to the investor. Our biggest worry is the margin trajectory ahead. In case Colgate looks to effect the sharp price hikes, competition will react and look to gain share in the category. We see margins to be stable where price growth will largely be a factor of inflation.

Exhibit 23: Annual gross margin trend



Maize and menthe oil prices are down 13-14% in the last 12 months

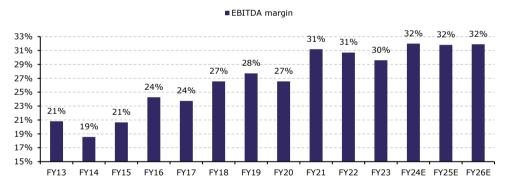


Source: NCDEX, Emkay Research

Exhibit 25: Menthe oil price trend 1.900 1,700 (Rs/kg) 1,500 1,300 1,100 900 700 Dec 19 -Aug 20 -Oct 20 -Dec 20 -Feb 21 -Apr 21 -Jun 21 -Aug 21 -Feb 22 -Apr 22 -Jun 22 -Aug 22 -Oct 22 -Feb 23 -Apr 23 -Jun 23 -19. Oct 21 · Dec 21 · Dec 22 · 19 19 20 20 20 23 Dec 1 Apr 1 Jun 1 Aug 1 Oct 1 Feb ; Jun 2 Oct Apr

Source: Bloomberg, Emkay Research

Exhibit 26: Annual EBITDA margin trends



Valuations: Sustenance of growth critical

Our SELL rating on Colgate has been a factor of weak topline delivery and restricted diversification in the business. Unlike our expectations of the company focusing on its structural growth trajectory, Colgate instead has been driving its topline with steady price hikes in the portfolio, despite easing raw-material prices. We see near-term performance to be better, given improved growth and margin trajectory. However, lack of initiatives is expected to drive structural growth and remains our key concern over the long term. We maintain our Sep-24 TP of Rs1,800/share.

Scenario analysis

Given the anomaly in stock price performance and our/street expectations, we have visited three scenarios to assess the true potential of Colgate.

- In our **Bull case** scenario, we assumed a higher price CAGR at ~5% over FY24-26E and share gains in the portfolio, driving the volume CAGR higher at ~5%. With a gradual 50bps expansion in gross margin (pricing > inflation), we see EBITDA CAGR at ~15% over the next three years.
- In our **Base case** scenario, we see higher pricing in FY24 to aid better margins and drive 18% EBITDA growth. However, over FY25-26E, we see the sales CAGR to be at ~7%, which with steady margin is expected to flow to earnings growth. We estimate volume growth to be aligned with sector growth at ~3%, which implies a stable market share. With accelerated growth in FY24, EBITDA CAGR over the next three years is expected to be at ~10%
- In a **Bear case** scenario, we can consider a case of aggression from other category incumbents, which will have a bearing on its market share. Sharp price actions in the past are expected to erode its price power, leading to ~3% price hikes over FY25-26. EBITDA margin is likely to contract to ~30% by FY26. EBITDA CAGR over FY23-26E is expected to be ~7%. Over FY24-26E, EBITDA CAGR is likely to be muted at ~3%.

Exhibit 27: Scenario analysis

		Emkay Ba	se case			Bull c	ase			Bear o	ase	
(Rs mn)	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	CAGR	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	CAGR	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	CAGR
Net sales	56,775	60,589	64,909	8%	57,136	62,849	69,134	10%	56,097	58,902	61,847	6%
Growth	9%	7%	7%		10%	10%	10%		8%	5%	5%	
Volume growth	4%	3%	3%		5%	5%	5%		3%	2%	2%	
Realization growth	5%	4%	4%		5%	5%	5%		5%	3%	3%	
Other income	336	360	385		336	360	385		336	360	385	
Total income (TI)	57,112	60,949	65,294	8%	57,472	63,209	69,519	10%	56,433	59,262	62,232	6%
Gross profit	39,121	41,750	44,726	9%	39,368	43,614	48,316	12%	38,657	40,446	42,318	7%
Gross margin	68.5%	68.5%	68.5%		68.5%	69.0%	69.5%		68.5%	68.3%	68.0%	
Employee costs	3,923	4,159	4,409	5%	3,923	4,159	4,409	5%	3,923	4,159	4,409	5%
Change	4%	6%	6%		4%	6%	6%		4%	6%	6%	
As a % of TI	7%	7%	7%		7%	7%	6%		7%	7%	7%	
A&P spends	7,381	8,028	8,600	11%	7,381	8,119	8,931	12%	7,381	7,750	8,137	9%
Change	16%	9%	7%		16%	10%	10%		16%	5%	5%	
As a % of TI	13%	13%	13%		13%	13%	13%		13%	13%	13%	
Royalty	2,806	2,994	3,207	8%	2,823	3,105	3,415	10%	2,772	2,911	3,057	6%
Change	9%	7%	7%		10%	10%	10%		8%	5%	5%	
As a % of TI	5%	5%	5%		5%	5%	5%		5%	5%	5%	
Other operating spends	6,744	7,186	7,674	8%	6,744	7,284	7,866	8%	6,744	7,284	7,866	8%
Change	9%	7%	7%		9%	8%	8%		9%	8%	8%	
As a % of TI	12%	12%	12%		12%	12%	11%		12%	12%	13%	
EBITDA	18,268	19,383	20,836	10%	18,497	20,948	23,695	15%	17,837	18,343	18,848	7%
Growth	18%	6%	7%		20%	13%	13%		15%	3%	3%	
As a % of TI	32%	32%	32%		32%	33%	34%		32%	31%	30%	

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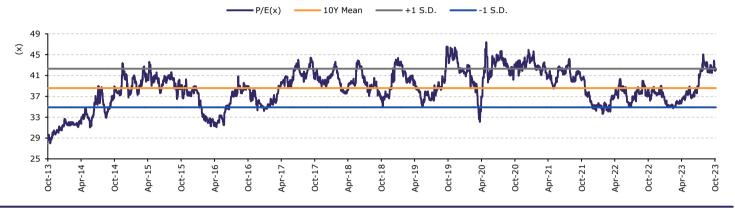
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Exhibit 28: Target price across scenarios

	Base case	Bull case	Bear case
Sep-24 EPS (Rs)	51.47	57.53	47.33
Target multiple (PE)	35x (10% discount to last 10Y avg. fwd. P/E, factoring slow growth ahead)	` 3 '	31x (20% discount to last 10Y avg. fwd. P/E, factoring weaker earnings visibility)
Target price (Rs)	1,800	2,300	1,465
CMP (Rs)	2,068	2,068	2,068
Upside (%)	-13%	11%	-29%

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 29: Colgate India's one-year forward P/E



Source: Bloomberg, Emkay Research

Exhibit 30: Emkay vs. Consensus estimates

(Do mm)	Emk	ay estimates		Conse	nsus estimate	es	Emkay vs. Consensus		
(Rs mn)	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY24	FY25	FY26
Sales	56,775	60,589	64,909	56,815	61,248	65,803	0%	-1%	-1%
Growth (%)	9.3%	6.7%	7.1%	9.4%	7.8%	7.4%			
EBITDA	18,268	19,383	20,836	17,750	19,292	20,890	3%	0%	0%
Growth (%)	18.1%	6.1%	7.5%	14.7%	8.7%	8.3%			
EBITDA margin	32.0%	31.8%	31.9%	31.2%	31.5%	31.7%			
Adj PAT	12,634	13,450	14,552	12,184	13,498	14,533	4%	0%	0%
Growth (%)	19.4%	6.5%	8.2%	15.1%	10.8%	7.7%			

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 31: Key assumptions

(%)	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Net sales growth	6.6%	1.4%	7.0%	5.3%	2.5%	9.3%	6.7%	7.1%
Toothpaste volume growth	5.8%	1.0%	4.0%	3.5%	-2.5%	4.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Gross margin	65.1%	65.2%	68.0%	67.3%	65.7%	68.5%	68.5%	68.5%
A&P spends as a % of sales	12.7%	13.8%	12.9%	12.6%	12.1%	12.9%	13.2%	13.2%
Employee costs	6.6%	7.3%	7.6%	7.6%	7.2%	6.9%	6.8%	6.8%
EBITDA margin	27.7%	26.6%	31.2%	30.7%	29.6%	32.0%	31.8%	31.9%
EBITDA growth	11.1%	-2.8%	25.6%	3.7%	-1.2%	18.1%	6.1%	7.5%
EBIT growth	12.7%	-6.8%	32.2%	4.6%	-1.2%	19.7%	6.3%	7.9%
PBT growth	11.8%	-6.2%	29.4%	4.4%	0.8%	19.4%	6.5%	8.2%
Effective tax rate	35.4%	21.7%	23.3%	23.5%	25.5%	25.5%	25.5%	25.5%
Adjusted PAT growth	10.4%	13.7%	26.8%	4.1%	-1.9%	19.4%	6.5%	8.2%
EPS (Rs)	26.4	30.0	38.1	39.6	38.9	46.4	49.4	53.5
DPS (Rs)	23.0	29.0	38.0	40.0	39.0	42.0	46.0	50.0
Dividend payout	87%	97%	100%	101%	100%	90%	93%	93%
Avg ROE	48%	54%	75%	74%	61%	71%	69%	70%
Avg ROCE	71%	62%	90%	90%	76%	88%	87%	87%

Colgate-Palmolive: Consolidated Financials and Valuations

V/E May (Da may)	FY22	EV22	FY24E	EVOEE	EVACE
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)		FY23		FY25E	FY26E
Revenue	50,998	52,262	57,112	60,949	65,294
Revenue growth (%)	5.3	2.5	9.3	6.7	7.1
EBITDA	15,659	15,470	18,268	19,383	20,836
EBITDA growth (%)	3.7	(1.2)	18.1	6.1	7.5
Depreciation & Amortization	1,773	1,748	1,842	1,916	1,996
EBIT	13,886	13,722	16,426	17,467	18,839
EBIT growth (%)	4.6	(1.2)	19.7	6.3	7.9
Other operating income	289	320	336	360	385
Other income	263	536	582	639	746
Financial expense	59	49	50	51	52
РВТ	14,090	14,209	16,958	18,054	19,533
Extraordinary items	0	0	0	0	0
Taxes	3,307	3,625	4,324	4,604	4,981
Minority interest	0	0	0	0	0
Income from JV/Associates	0	0	0	0	0
Reported PAT	10,783	10,471	12,634	13,450	14,552
PAT growth (%)	4.1	(2.9)	20.7	6.5	8.2
Adjusted PAT	10,783	10,584	12,634	13,450	14,552
Diluted EPS (Rs)	39.6	38.9	46.4	49.4	53.5
Diluted EPS growth (%)	4.1	(1.9)	19.4	6.5	8.2
DPS (Rs)	39.0	39.0	41.0	44.0	48.0
Dividend payout (%)	98.4	101.3	88.3	89.0	89.7
EBITDA margin (%)	30.7	29.6	32.0	31.8	31.9
EBIT margin (%)	27.2	26.3	28.8	28.7	28.9
Effective tax rate (%)	23.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5
NOPLAT (pre-IndAS)	10,627	10,221	12,238	13,013	14,035
Shares outstanding (mn)	272.0	272.0	272.0	272.0	272.0

Source:	Company,	Emkay	Research

Balance Sheet

Cubii iioiib					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
PBT	14,090	14,209	16,958	18,054	19,533
Others (non-cash items)	103	65	0	0	0
Taxes paid	(3,699)	(3,809)	(4,324)	(4,604)	(4,981)
Change in NWC	4,151	(89)	761	358	534
Operating cash flow	16,257	11,763	14,704	15,137	16,389
Capital expenditure	(495)	(695)	(852)	(909)	(974)
Acquisition of business	0	0	0	0	0
Interest & dividend income	1,018	1,014	1,252	1,355	1,414
Investing cash flow	(1,076)	(75)	(270)	(270)	(228)
Equity raised/(repaid)	0	0	0	0	0
Debt raised/(repaid)	(225)	(191)	0	0	0
Payment of lease liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Interest paid	(109)	(102)	(50)	(51)	(52)
Dividend paid (incl tax)	(10,572)	(10,575)	(11,152)	(11,968)	(13,056)
Others	0	0	0	0	0
Financing cash flow	(10,906)	(10,867)	(11,202)	(12,019)	(13,108)
Net chg in Cash	4,275	820	3,233	2,848	3,052
OCF	16,257	11,763	14,704	15,137	16,389
Adj. OCF (w/o NWC chg.)	12,107	11,852	14,794	14,779	15,855
FCFF	15,762	11,068	13,853	14,228	15,415
FCFE	16,721	12,033	15,055	15,533	16,776
OCF/EBITDA (%)	103.8	76.0	80.5	78.1	78.7
FCFE/PAT (%)	155.1	113.7	119.2	115.5	115.3
FCFF/NOPLAT (%)	148.3	108.3	113.2	109.3	109.8

Source:	Company,	Emkay	Research

Cash flows

Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Share capital	272	272	272	272	272
Reserves & Surplus	17,075	16,892	18,374	19,856	21,352
Net worth	17,347	17,164	18,646	20,128	21,624
Minority interests	0	0	0	0	0
Deferred tax liability (net)	(173)	(288)	(288)	(288)	(288)
Total debt	987	942	976	1,013	1,051
Total liabilities & equity	18,161	17,817	19,334	20,852	22,386
Net tangible fixed assets	9,630	8,618	7,628	6,620	5,598
Net intangible assets	0	0	0	0	0
Net ROU assets	0	0	0	0	0
Capital WIP	1,218	1,141	1,141	1,141	1,141
Goodwill	0	0	0	0	0
Investments [JV/Associates]	281	325	341	357	375
Cash & equivalents	7,547	9,230	12,463	15,310	18,363
Current assets (ex-cash)	10,169	9,228	9,585	9,985	10,295
Current Liab. & Prov.	10,684	10,724	11,824	12,562	13,384
NWC (ex-cash)	(515)	(1,496)	(2,238)	(2,577)	(3,090)
Total assets	18,161	17,817	19,334	20,852	22,386
Net debt	(7,530)	(9,214)	(12,446)	(15,294)	(18,347)
Capital employed	17,191	16,892	18,374	19,856	21,352
Invested capital	9,114	7,122	5,390	4,044	2,508
BVPS (Rs)	63.8	63.1	68.6	74.0	79.5
Net Debt/Equity (x)	(0.4)	(0.5)	(0.7)	(0.8)	(0.8)
Net Debt/EBITDA (x)	(0.5)	(0.6)	(0.7)	(0.8)	(0.9)
Interest coverage (x)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	98.2	83.7	96.5	94.7	95.1

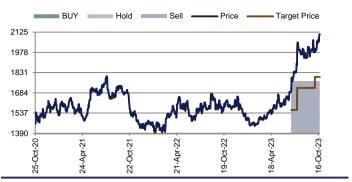
Valuations and key Ra	atios				
Y/E Mar	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
P/E (x)	52.2	53.1	44.5	41.8	38.7
P/CE(x)	42.8	43.6	37.1	35.0	32.5
P/B (x)	32.4	32.8	30.2	27.9	26.0
EV/Sales (x)	10.9	10.7	9.7	9.0	8.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	35.4	35.8	30.1	28.2	26.1
EV/EBIT(x)	38.2	38.5	32.0	29.9	27.5
EV/IC (x)	58.1	74.2	97.4	129.1	206.9
FCFF yield (%)	3.0	2.1	2.6	2.7	3.0
FCFE yield (%)	3.1	2.2	2.8	2.9	3.1
Dividend yield (%)	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.3
DuPont-RoE split					
Net profit margin (%)	21.1	20.3	22.1	22.1	22.3
Total asset turnover (x)	3.5	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2
Assets/Equity (x)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
RoE (%)	74.4	61.3	70.6	69.4	69.7
DuPont-RoIC					
NOPLAT margin (%)	20.8	19.6	21.4	21.4	21.5
IC turnover (x)	9.0	6.4	9.1	12.9	19.9
RoIC (%)	187.2	125.9	195.6	275.9	428.4
Operating metrics					
Core NWC days	(71.2)	(49.9)	(49.8)	(50.8)	(50.5)
Total NWC days	(3.7)	(10.5)	(14.3)	(15.4)	(17.3)
Fixed asset turnover	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8
Opex-to-revenue (%)	36.6	36.1	36.5	36.7	36.6

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - DETAILS

Date	CMP (INR)	TP (INR)	Rating	Analyst
20-Oct-23	2,111	1,800	Sell	Nitin Gupta
03-Oct-23	1,978	1,800	Sell	Nitin Gupta
28-Aug-23	1,936	1,720	Sell	Nitin Gupta
22-Aug-23	1,940	1,720	Sell	Nitin Gupta
15-Aug-23	1,963	1,720	Sell	Nitin Gupta
27-Jul-23	2,002	1,720	Sell	Nitin Gupta
04-Jul-23	1,705	1,560	Sell	Nitin Gupta

Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - TREND



Source: Bloomberg, Company, Emkay Research

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Ratings	Expected Return within the next 12-18 months.			
BUY	Over 15%			
HOLD	Between -5% to 15%			
SELL	Below -5%			

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