

Margins pressure, Long-term Outlook Remains Intact; Maintain BUY

Est. Vs. Actual for Q1FY26: Revenue - INLINE; EBITDA - MISS; PAT - MISS

Changes in Estimates post Q1FY26

FY26E/FY27E - Revenue: -1%/-1%; EBITDA -1%/-1%; PAT -1%/-1%

Recommendation Rationale

- Mixed Performance with Margin Pressure: Nestlé reported a modest 2.5% YoY revenue growth, driven by strong double-digit growth in beverages and confectionery, along with a rebound in volumes for MAGGI noodles. However, the Milk and Nutrition segment delivered a mixed performance. EBITDA declined 1.3% YoY, with margins contracting 156 bps to 21.7%, impacted by a 250 bps drop in gross margins due to elevated input costs and higher operational expenses from expanded manufacturing. On the demand front, urban markets continued to grow, while RUrban markets also turned positive, indicating improving consumption trends.
- Improving Commodity Outlook: Input cost pressures persist, but key commodities are stabilising. Edible oil and cocoa remain range-bound, coffee prices have softened with a stable Vietnam crop outlook, and milk prices are expected to ease with a favourable monsoon and the approaching flush season. Overall, the outlook indicates a more benign cost environment ahead.
- Change in Leadership: Mr. Manish Tiwary will take over as Chairman and Managing Director of Nestlé India, effective from Aug 1, 2025, succeeding Mr. Suresh Narayanan, who retires on 31st July 2025.

Sector Outlook: Positive

Company Outlook: Positive.

A key downside risk to our call is continued volatility in raw material prices and subdued demand.

Current Valuation: 64x Mar-27 EPS (Earlier: 65x Mar-27 EPS)

Current TP: Rs 2,580/share(Earlier TP: Rs 2,675/share)

Recommendation: We remain optimistic about the company's long-term prospects. However, we have cut our estimates in FY26E/FY27E by 1% each, considering the volatility in commodity prices. With an 11% upside potential from the CMP, we **maintain our BUY rating on the stock.**

Financial Performance

Nestlé India reported revenue of Rs 5,074 Cr in Q1FY26, reflecting a 2.5% YoY growth driven by modest volume expansion of 2.5% YoY. Gross profit rose 1.2% YoY to Rs 2,789 Cr, although gross margins contracted by 250 bps due to elevated consumption prices across the commodity portfolio. EBITDA declined 1.3% YoY to Rs 1,100 Cr, with margins compressing by 156 bps owing to gross margin pressure. PAT stood at Rs 659 Cr, down ~12% YoY, impacted by higher depreciation, increased interest cost due to a temporary spike in borrowings, and a sharp decline in other income.

Key Financials (Standalone)

(Rs Cr)	Q1FY26	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	Axis Est.	Varianc e (%)
Net Sales	5,074	(6.9)	5.9	5,061	0.3
EBITDA	1,100	(20.8)	(1.3)	1,180	(6.7)
EBITDA Margin (%)	21.7	-381 bps	-156 bps	23.3	-163 bps
Net Profit	659	(25.5)	(11.7)	737	(10.5)
EPS (Rs)	7	(25.5)	(11.7)	8	(10.5)

Source: Company, Axis Research

(CMP as o	of 24 th July 2025)
CMP (Rs)	2,320
Upside /Downside (%)	11%
High/Low (Rs)	2777/2115
Market cap (Cr)	22,3698
Avg. daily vol.(6m)Shrs. '000	913
No. of shares (Cr)	96.4

Shareholding (%)

	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25
Promoter	62.8	62.8	62.8
FIIs	10.3	10.0	10.3
MFs / UTI	4.4	4.4	3.9
Fls/Banks	0.1	0.1	0.1
Others	22.5	22.7	23.0

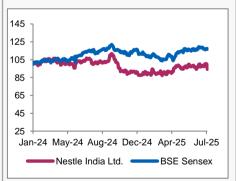
Financial & Valuations

Y/E Mar (Rs Cr)	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Net Sales	20,078	21,973	24,901
EBITDA	4,774	5,264	6,076
Net Profit	3,024	3,347	3,893
EPS (Rs)	31.4	34.7	40.4
PER (x)	74.0	66.8	57.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	47.0	42.6	36.7
P/BV (x)	54.3	46.9	37.5
ROE (%)	73.4	70.2	65.3

Change in Estimates (%)

Y/E Mar	FY26E	FY27E
Sales	-1%	-1%
EBITDA	-1%	-1%
PAT	-1%	-1%

Relative Performance



Source: Ace Equity, Axis Securities

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Outlook

The outlook on Nestlé remains positive from a long-term perspective, as current challenges such as lower volume growth and volatility in raw material prices are expected to be short-term in nature. With the rural market anticipated to recover in the coming quarters, the company is well-positioned to benefit, given its substantial expansion in rural presence over the last three years, increasing its reach from 110k to 200k villages. Additionally, its long-term initiatives include: 1) efforts toward rural penetration and market share gains through the RURBAN strategy, 2) constant focus on innovation (launching 125 products in the last seven years), thereby driving growth, 3) driving premiumisation in core categories (e.g., Maggi noodles range) and launching differentiated products, 4) entering new categories of the future (e.g., Nespresso, Purina Pet Care, and Gerber's for toddler nutrition), 5) introducing a D2C platform to engage consumer attention, and 6) renewed focus on its fast-growing nutraceutical portfolio. The company is viewed to have all the right levers for long-term growth.

Valuation & Recommendation

We expect Nestle's Sales, EBITDA, and PAT to grow at 10%, 13%, and 13% CAGR over CY22-FY27E, respectively. **We maintain our BUY stance with a TP of Rs 2,580/share, representing an 11% upside from the CMP.**

Other Highlights

Product performance:

- The Powdered and Liquid Beverages segment remained a key growth driver, delivering strong double-digit growth on a high base.

 NESCAFÉ strengthened its market leadership, gaining share through affordable offerings and premium expansions like NESCAFÉ Gold and Roastery. The Ready-to-Drink (RTD) portfolio also sustained robust momentum.
- The Prepared Dishes and Cooking Aids segment saw a strong recovery, with MAGGI noodles posting double-digit volume growth.
 Masala-Ae-Magic maintained solid traction, while the overall MAGGI portfolio benefited from improving consumption trends. Growth was supported by RUrban markets and Quick Commerce, with the Spicy range and Double Masala variants gaining strong consumer response.
- The Confectionery segment delivered strong double-digit growth, led by robust volumes. KITKAT was the key growth driver, gaining share
 and performing well in RUrban markets. MUNCH and MILKYBAR also posted solid double-digit growth. Growth was supported by rural
 acceleration, premiumisation, higher in-home consumption, and Quick Commerce. New launches included KITKAT Duo, Lemon n Lime,
 and Dark Sharebag.
- The Milk Products and Nutrition segment reported a mixed performance. While MILKMAID posted single-digit growth, the growing-up milk portfolio gained traction through renovation and market share expansion. Encouraging trends are emerging in select sub-segments.
- OHH: Nestlé India's Out-of-Home business continued its strong double-digit growth, emerging as the fastest-growing vertical within the Beverages and Foods portfolio. Nestlé Professional reached a key milestone with 1,000 Retail One kiosks, led by NESCAFÉ Corners, MAGGI Hotspots, and KITKAT Break Zones, further strengthening its position as a comprehensive solutions provider.
- **Pet Food**: The Pet Food business delivered strong growth, led by robust performance in the Cat portfolio, particularly Purina Felix and Friskies. Enhanced distribution and infrastructure in key cities supported wider market coverage. Employee-focused initiatives like the 'Staff Pet Feeding Policy' and 'pawternity leave' further reinforced Nestlé's pet care commitment.

E-commerce

 E-commerce sustained strong momentum, contributing 12.5% to domestic sales, driven by Quick Commerce, new product launches, and targeted on-platform initiatives aligned with shopper preferences.

Key Risks to Our Estimates and TP

- Increase in competitive intensity
- RM inflation
- Weakening of the demand environment



Change in Estimates

	Old est.		Revised est.		% Revision	
	FY26E	FY27E	FY26E	FY27E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	22,285	25,183	21,973	24,901	-1%	-1%
EBITDA	5,326	6,111	5,264	6,076	-1%	-1%
PAT	3,389	3,917	3,347	3,893	-1%	-1%
EPS (Rs)	35	41	35	40	-1%	-1%

Source: Company, Axis Securities

Results Review

(Rs Cr)	Q1FY25	Q4FY25	Axis Sec Est.	Q1FY26	YoY growth (%)	QoQ growth (%)	Axis Sec Est. (Var %)
Volume growth (% YoY)	1	2	3.5	2.5			
Net Sales	4,793	5,448	5,061	5,074	5.9	(6.9)	0.3
Gross Profits	2,754	3,035	2,834	2,789	1.2	(8.1)	(1.6)
Gross Margin (%)	57.5	55.7	56.0	55.0	-250 bps	-76 bps	-104 bps
Staff costs	505	522	510	516	2.0	(1.2)	1.0
Other operating expenses	1,155	1,181	1,167	1,195	3.4	1.2	2.4
EBITDA	1,114	1,389	1,180	1,100	(1.3)	(20.8)	(6.7)
EBITDA margin (%)	23.2	25.5	23.3	21.7	-156 bps	-381 bps	-163 bps
Depreciation	113	155	158	157	39.2	1.0	(1.0)
Interest Cost	32	38	38	47	48.0	25.0	22.6
Other Income	39	8	13	4	(89.7)	(52.1)	(68.1)
PBT	1,009	1,205	996	900	(10.8)	(25.2)	(9.6)
Tax	262	319	259	241	(8.1)	(24.4)	(6.8)
Tax rate (%)	26.0	26.5	26.0	26.8	78 bps	30 bps	79 bps
Reported PAT	747	885	737	659	(11.7)	(25.5)	(10.5)
EPS (Rs.)	8	9	8	7	(11.7)	(25.5)	(10.5)

Source: Company, Axis Securities



Financials (Standalone)

Profit & Loss (Rs Cr)

Y/E Mar, Rs Cr	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Net sales	24,275	20,078	21,973	24,901
Growth, %	45	(17)	9	13
Other operating income	118	124	136	150
Total income	24,394	20,202	22,110	25,051
Raw material expenses	(10,709)	(8,750)	(9,537)	(10,586)
Employee expenses	(2,336)	(2,024)	(2,186)	(2,513)
Other Operating Expenses	(5,529)	(4,654)	(5,122)	(5,875)
EBITDA (Core)	5,820	4,774	5,264	6,076
Growth, %	57	(18)	10	15
Margin, %	24	24	24	24
Depreciation	(538)	(540)	(669)	(748)
EBIT	5,282	4,234	4,595	5,328
Growth, %	60	(20)	9	16
Margin, %	22	21	21	21
Interest paid	(145)	(136)	(137)	(138)
Other Income	148	59	65	71
Non-recurring Items	(4)	(291)	-	-
Pre-tax profit	5,280	3,866	4,523	5,261
Tax provided	(1,356)	(1,133)	(1,176)	(1,368)
Profit after tax	3,924	2,733	3,347	3,893
Unadj. shares (Cr)	96	96	96	96

Source: Company, Axis Securities

Balance Sheet (Rs Cr)

Y/E Mar, Rs. Cr	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Cash & bank	779	96	280	1,570
Marketable securities at cost	40	-	-	-
Debtors	300	363	241	273
Inventory	2,089	2,850	3,119	3,535
Loans & advances	76	74	74	74
Other current assets	275	415	415	415
Total current assets	3,559	3,798	4,129	5,867
Investments	424	706	706	706
Gross fixed assets	6,119	8,543	9,543	10,543
Less: Depreciation	(2,658)	(3,069)	(3,738)	(4,486)
Add: Capital WIP	1,742	1,173	1,173	1,173
Net fixed assets	5,202	6,646	6,977	7,229
Non-current assets	1,338	1,174	1,174	1,174
Total assets	10,523	12,324	12,986	14,976
Current liabilities	3,918	4,640	4,363	4,708
Provisions	2,917	3,090	3,382	3,833
Total current liabilities	6,835	7,730	7,745	8,540
Non-current liabilities	347	476	476	476
Total liabilities	7,182	8,207	8,221	9,017
Paid-up capital	96	96	96	96
Reserves & surplus	3,244	4,021	4,669	5,863
Shareholders' equity	3,341	4,117	4,765	5,959
Total equity & liabilities	10,523	12,324	12,986	14,976

Source: Company, Axis Securities



Cash Flow (Rs Cr)

Y/E Mar, Rs. Cr	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Pre-tax profit	5,280	3,866	4,523	5,261
Depreciation	538	540	669	748
Chg in working capital	396	181	(132)	348
Total tax paid	(1,313)	(1,084)	(1,176)	(1,368)
Other operating activities	-	-	-	-
Cash flow from operating activities	4,901	3,502	3,884	4,989
Capital expenditure	(2,338)	(1,984)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Chg in investments	136	(282)	-	-
Chg in marketable securities	177	40	-	-
Other investing activities	-	-	-	-
Cash flow from investing activities	(2,024)	(2,226)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Free cash flow	2,877	1,276	2,884	3,989
Equity raised/(repaid)	(837)	1	(0)	(0)
Debt raised/(repaid)	(1)	(3)	-	-
Dividend (incl. tax)	(31,041)	(26,028)	(2,699)	(2,699)
Other financing activities	-	-	-	-
Cash flow from financing activities	(31,879)	(26,030)	(2,699)	(2,699)
Net change in cash	(29,003)	(24,754)	185	1,290
Opening cash balance	946	779	96	280
Closing cash balance	779	96	280	1,570

Source: Company, Axis Securities

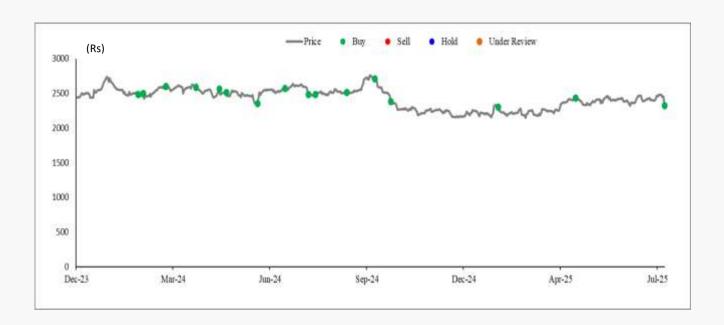
Ratio Analysis (%)

Y/E Mar	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
EPS (INR)	40.8	31.4	34.7	40.4
Growth, %	64.3	(23.0)	10.7	16.3
Book NAV/share (INR)	34.7	42.7	49.4	61.8
FDEPS (INR)	40.8	31.4	34.7	40.4
CEPS (INR)	46.4	40.0	41.7	48.1
CFPS (INR)	48.2	26.5	39.6	51.0
DPS (INR)	322.0	270.0	28.0	28.0
Return ratios				
Return on assets (%)	41.7	25.1	27.5	28.8
Return on equity (%)	117.6	73.4	70.2	65.3
Return on capital employed (%)	64.9	40.1	42.7	42.7
Turnover ratios				
Asset turnover (x)	7.7	4.1	3.4	3.5
Sales/Total assets (x)	2.5	1.8	1.7	1.8
Sales/Net FA (x)	5.6	3.4	3.2	3.5
Receivable days	4.5	6.6	4.0	4.0
Inventory days	31.4	51.8	51.8	51.8
Payable days	44.0	62.1	52.2	52.5
Working capital days	(17.7)	(17.1)	(8.5)	(6.0)
Liquidity ratios				
Current ratio (x)	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.2
Quick ratio (x)	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.5
Interest cover (x)	36.3	31.1	33.6	38.6
Total debt/Equity (%)	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1
Net debt/Equity (%)	(0.2)	0.2	0.1	(0.1)
Valuation				
PER (x)	56.9	74.0	66.8	57.5
PEG (x) - y-o-y growth	0.9	(3.2)	6.2	3.5
Price/Book (x)	66.9	54.3	46.9	37.5
EV/Net sales (x)	9.2	11.2	10.2	8.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	38.3	47.0	42.6	36.7
EV/EBIT (x)	42.2	53.0	48.8	41.8

Source: Company, Axis Securities



Nestle India Price Chart and Recommendation History



Date	Reco	TP	Research
02-Feb-24	BUY	2,800	Top Picks
08-Feb-24	BUY	2,800	Result Update
01-Mar-24	BUY	2,800	Top Picks
01-Apr-24	BUY	2,800	Top Picks
26-Apr-24	BUY	2,880	Result Update
02-May-24	BUY	2,880	Top Picks
03-Jun-24	BUY	2,880	Top Picks
01-Jul-24	BUY	2,880	Top Picks
26-Jul-24	BUY	2,800	Result Update
02-Sep-24	BUY	2,800	Top Picks
01-Oct-24	BUY	2,960	Top Picks
18-Oct-24	BUY	2,640	Result Update
05-Feb-25	BUY	2,520	Result Update
25-Apr-25	BUY	2,675	Result Update
25-Jul-25	BUY	2,580	Result Update

Source: Axis Securities



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