RESULT REPORT Q3 FY24 | Sector: Energy

Gujarat Gas Ltd

Weaker performance on lower volumes and EBITDA spreads

Our View

Gujarat Gas' Q3FY24 results fell short of expectations due to lower volumes and weaker EBITDA spreads. Volumes missed estimates at 9.16 mmscmd, while the EBITDA spread of Rs 4.8/scm was significantly lower than anticipated. This weaker performance stemmed primarily from higher gas costs exceeding price hikes and limited availability of priority allocated gas. We retain our Add rating on the stock with a revised target price of Rs 660/share.

Result Highlights

- Performance: The company reported volumes of 9.16mmscmd, lower than our estimates of 9.51mmscmd. The EBITDA spread at Rs4.8/scm was significantly lower than our expectation of Rs 6/scm. Compared to our and consensus, the performance is weak attributed to poor EBITDA spreads on higher gas costs. EBITDA/PAT was Rs4bn/2.2bn, down 31%/41% YoY on weaker spreads, QoQ down by 19%/26%, despite price hikes at Morbi on higher gas costs and lower availability of priority allocated gas.
- Volumes at 9.16mmscmd were up 25.7% YoY but down 1.7% QoQ. CNG volumes were 2.78mmscmd (at quarterly high) up 14.4% YoY, 6.1% QoQ. D-PNG volumes at 0.71mmscmd were up 6% YoY, 1.4% QoQ. Industrial volumes were lower at 5.53mmscmd (Morbi assumed at ~3.65mmscmd) up 36.5% YoY but down 5.6% QoQ.
- Margins: The gross margin at Rs8.38/scm down 36% YoY, 9.3% QoQ despite price hikes at Morbi as it was unable to cover increased gas cost. Opex was Rs3.05/scm; vs Rs3.43 a year ago and Rs2.85 the previous quarter. Gas cost. The average blended gas cost was at Rs 38.2/scm (USD12.8/mmbtu) higher than our expectations of USD12.4mmbtu, on higher-than-expected spot LNG price. EBITDA/scm was Rs4.8, down 46% YoY, 18% QoQ, impacted by a larger increase in gas costs.
- Connections: The company added 38,000 new domestic customers, 197 commercial, and 69 industrial customers in the quarter. The company operates in CNG with over 815 stations.
- New gas sourcing contract: The company has contracted 0.5mmscmd of priority sector domestic gas under an auction for 4-years from an upstream player.
- Capex target for FY24 at Rs 10bn of which Rs 6bn already invested.
- 9MFY24 performance: EBITDA/PAT was at Rs 12.9/7.3bn vs Rs 18.3/11.6bn last year same period. The volumes at 9.23mmscmd (vs 8.19 last year same period), of which CNG was at 2.67mmscmd vs 2.37 last year. The EBITDA spread was at Rs 5.1/scm vs 8.1 last year same period.

Valuation

Given robust cashflows and reasonable capex the company is rapidly de-levering and maintaining a strong RoCE. We forecast spreads of Rs/scm 5.8/7.1/7.3 for FY24/25/26. The stock trades at fair 24x/21.1x FY25e/26e PER. We value it on a PER basis assigning a 24x multiple and, believing it to be slightly undervalued, recommend an ADD with a revised target price of Rs 660/share.



Reco	:	ADD
СМР	:	Rs 581
Target Price	:	Rs 660
Potential Return	:	+14%

Stock data (as on Feb 15, 2024)

Nifty	21,911
52 Week h/I (Rs)	620 / 397
Market cap (Rs/USD mn)	385326 / 4642
Outstanding Shares (mn)	688
6m Avg t/o (Rs mn):	663
Div yield (%):	1.6
Bloomberg code:	GUJGA IN
NSE code:	GUJGASLTD

Stock performance



Shareholding pattern (As of Dec'23 end)

Promoter	60.9%
FII+DII	23.9%
Others	15.2%

∆ in stance

(1-Yr)	New	Old
Rating	ADD	ADD
Target Price	660	605

Δ in estimates

(1-Yr)	FY24e	FY25e	FY26e
EPS (New)	17.3	24.2	27.5
EPS (Old)	18.1	24.4	27.5
% Change	(4.2)	(0.9)	0.1

Financial Summary

(Rs bn)	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Revenue	142.3	149.1	148.7
YoY Growth	(15.1)	4.8	(0.3)
EBIDTA	19.8	26.5	30.1
OPM %	13.9	17.8	20.2
PAT	11.9	16.6	18.9
YoY Growth	(21.7)	39.4	13.8
ROE	15.2	18.5	18.3
EPS	17.3	24.2	27.5
P/E	33.5	24.0	21.1
BV	113.8	130.7	149.9
EV/EBITDA	3.5	2.8	2.6

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Exhibit 1: Actual vs estimate

Do way	Astusl	Est	imate	% Va	ariation	Damayla
Rs mn	Actual	YES Sec	Consensus	YES Sec	Consensus	Remarks
Sales	39,291	40,603	40,400	-3.23%	-2.75%	
EBITDA	4,007	5,285	4,664	-24.19%	-14.09%	Weaker performance on lower volumes and EBITDA spreads
EBITDA Margin (%)	10.20%	13.02%	11.54%	-282bps	-135bps	weaker performance of lower volumes and EBITDA spreads
Adjusted PAT	2,203	3,318	2,705	-33.60%	-18.54%	

Exhibit 2: Earnings snapshot

Particulars										
(Rs mn)	Q3 FY23	Q4 FY23	Q1 FY24	2QFY24	3QFY24	y/y (%)	q/q (%)	9M FY23	9M FY24	y/y (%)
Revenue	36,843	39,286	37,815	38,454	39,291	6.6	2.2	128,308	115,560	(9.9)
Expenditure	31,020	33,683	33,935	33,488	35,284	13.7	5.4	109,992	102,707	(6.6)
-Raw Material	28,280	30,797	30,945	30,535	32,230	14.0	5.6	101,937	93,710	(8.1)
-Staff Cost	486	495	520	507	481	(1.1)	(5.2)	1,461	1,508	3.2
- Other expenses	2,253	2,391	2,470	2,446	2,573	14.2	5.2	6,593	7,489	13.6
Operating Profit	5,823	5,603	3,880	4,966	4,007	(31.2)	(19.3)	18,317	12,853	(29.8)
OPM(%)	15.8	14.3	10.3	12.9	10.2	-561 bps	-272 bps	14.3	11.1	-315 bps
Other Income	320	318	239	298	230	(28.0)	(22.8)	695	767	10.3
Depreciation	1,093	1,094	1,151	1,179	1,201	9.9	1.8	3,188	3,531	10.7
Interest	76	61	74	78	72	(5.8)	(7.6)	343	224	(34.8)
Excpnl Loss/(Profit)	-	-	-	-	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	-	n.a.
PBT	4,974	4,766	2,894	4,007	2,964	(40.4)	(26.0)	15,480	9,865	(36.3)
Tax	1,261	1,074	743	1,029	761	(39.7)	(26.1)	3,918	2,533	(35.4)
PAT	3,713	3,692	2,151	2,978	2,203	(40.7)	(26.0)	11,563	7,332	(36.6)
Adj PAT	3,713	3,692	2,151	2,978	2,203	(40.7)	(26.0)	11,563	7,332	(36.6)

Exhibit 3: Operating highlights

Particulars	Q3 FY23	Q4 FY23	Q1 FY24	2QFY24	3QFY24	y/y (%)	q/q (%)	9M FY23	9M FY24	y/y (%)
Volumes (mmscmd)	7.3	8.9	9.2	9.3	9.2	25.7	(1.7)	8.2	9.2	12.7
CNG	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.8	14.4	6.1	2.4	2.7	12.8
Domestic PNG	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.7	6.0	1.4	0.6	0.7	5.2
Morbi	2.3	3.5	4.0	3.9	3.7	58.0	(7.4)	3.2	3.9	20.8
Other Industrials	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	8.0	(2.1)	1.8	1.9	3.8
Industrial PNG	4.1	5.4	5.9	5.9	5.5	36.5	(5.6)	5.1	5.8	14.0
Commercial PNG	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	-	0.1	0.1	-
										-
Margins (Rs/scm)										
Revenue	56.2	49.3	45.1	44.8	46.6	(17.0)	4.0	57.0	45.5	(20.1)
GM	13.1	10.6	8.2	9.2	8.4	(35.8)	(9.3)	11.7	8.6	(26.2)
Opex	3.4	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.1	(11.1)	7.0	3.5	3.5	0.3
EBITDA	8.9	7.0	4.6	5.8	4.8	(46.4)	(17.9)	8.1	5.1	(37.8)



Exhibit 4: Volume split

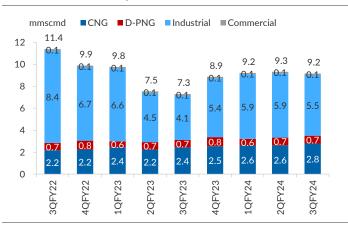
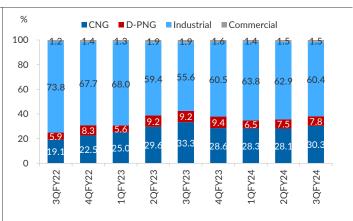


Exhibit 5: % share of Volumes



Source: Company, YES Sec

Source: Company, YES Sec

Exhibit 6: Margins and Opex

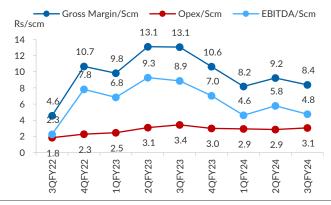
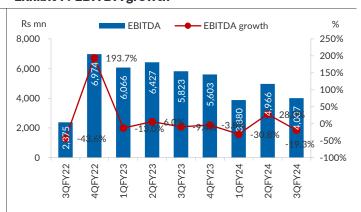


Exhibit 7: EBITDA growth



Source: Company, YES Sec

Source: Company, YES Sec

CONCALL HIGHLIGHTS

- Connection adds: Is Catering to D-PNG: 2.64mn customers, Commercial: 14,900, Industrial: 4,350 customers. New Industrial customers volumes of 0.43mmscmd has been signed. Achieved highest ever CNG volume of 2.78mmscmd in Q3FY24 up 14% YoY.
- CNG stations: Operating 817 CNG stations, of which 562 are in Gujarat and 255 in other GAs. Daily vehicles served at 0.39mn, a total base is of 1mn. Increasing the CNG infrastructure to cover major town, increase adoption in LCV, HCV, and Dumpers. Newer GA have more CNG volume potential than industrial.
- CNG stations added on FDODO model: Gujarat Gas has launched Full Dealer Owned Dealer Operated (FDODO) scheme for fast-track development of CNG stations infrastructure. Company plans to add more than 200 CNG stations in next 2-3 years under the scheme. This would reduce the investment by the company.
- Sourcing: CNG and D-PNG, ~80% is sourced from APM and rest 20% from HP/HT, term and spot LNG while, for Industrial, 30% gas is sourced through spot and remaining through term contracts. Expectations of LNG supply to increase, in mid-term to get better terms than currently offered. Recently GUJGA executed a contract of 0.5mmscmd of priority sector volumes.
- Term contract: Have long-term LNG contracts of 4.5mmscmd. New volume contracted ~0.50mmscmd of domestic gas under auction from one of the upstream suppliers for 4 years during this quarter.



- Morbi: Ceramic cluster volumes were stable at 3.65mmscmd, for couple of months volumes to be ~4mmscmd. Current price for ceramic cluster at Rs 45/scm, non-ceramic at Rs 48/scm. Morbi has a total volume potential of 8.5mmscmd, given the macro conditions they are operating at ~75%. New capacities being built in Morbi and companies coming up in the region will result in volumes growth. As of today, due to red sea disruption, the export market is not doing well.
- Non-Morbi Industrial: Current demand of 1.9mmscmd of which 1.5 was from Surat, Bharuch, Ankleshwar and have a potential of 2.5mmscmd. 0.5mmscmd volume tied up for upcoming brownfield/greenfield projects upcoming in 6 months. New industrial area is coming up in Surat while there are clusters in Thane rural, Ahmedabad rural, Punjab and MP. Connecting industrial areas with pipeline infrastructure, to be available there since commercialization.
- **EBITDA Guidance:** Q3FY24 EBITDA/scm was Rs 4.8. To maintain in the range of Rs 4.5 to 5.5/scm, with an aim to balance between the volume and margins.
- Growth Guidance: Volumes to grow at 8-10% YoY, led by CNG and followed by D-PNG and commercial. The volumes from newer GA will take time to grow while older GAs is expected to lead the growth.
- LNG: Most of the long-term LNG contracts are coming under review around mid of CY25 with an expected volumes of ~3.3mmscmd (total 4.5 contracted).
- Hydrogen Blending: After successfully running operation of green hydrogen blending in pilot project at Azera at 5 percent. The company has now been authorized by PNGRB to increase blending level from 5% to 8%.
- Pricing: PNG for Industrials is expensive by Rs 2-3/scm on landed cost to customers as against propane. Currently seeing upward trajectory in propane prices reaching Rs 43 while NG at Rs 45. Spot prices price declined moderately in December by 25% at ~USD 9.5/mmbtu.
- Capex: To incur Rs 9-10bn each year for FY24 & FY25. 6bn already used in FY24 and going ahead will remain below 10bn as the new FDODO scheme would not require much capex for new CNG stations.
- Non-binding MoU: Entered into MoU with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) which includes setting up of CNG facility at HPCL outlets, HPCL to provide Liquid Fuels, automotive lubricants, greases etc at GGL Outlets. FEV India Pvt. Ltd (part of FEV Group, Headquartered in Germany), for Hydrogen and CBG in Mobility and other Industrial application. AIUT Technologies LLP, for improving Safety, Efficiency and Overall sustainability aiming towards digitization.
- Government support & initiatives: APM gas price of USD6.5/mmbtu locked for two years, VAT reduction from 15% to 5%. Government industrialization efforts through various programs to fast-track investment in high potential areas like Thane rural, Ahmedabad Rural, Dadra & Nagar Haveli UT and Jhagadia phase II.

VIEW & VALUATION

ADD with a TP of Rs 660/share

We believe that the company's large geographical footprint with access to 27 GAs, increased environmental activism, lower VAT, and difference vis-à-vis alternative fuels for CNG would entail double-digit volume growth. Given robust cashflows and reasonable capex the company is rapidly de-levering and maintaining a strong RoCE. We forecast spreads of Rs/scm 5.8/7.1/7.3 for FY24/25/26. The stock trades at fair 24x/21.1x FY25e/26e PER. We value it on a PER basis assigning a 24x multiple and, believing it to be slightly undervalued, recommend an ADD with a revised target price of Rs 660/share.

Exhibit 8: Valuation table

Valuation	FY26E
EPS (Rs)	27.5
PER (x)	24.0
Target (PER based)	660

Exhibit 9: PER (x) band, one-year-forward



Source: Company, YES Sec



FINANCIALS

Exhibit 10: Income statement

Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Revenue	164,562	167,594	142,310	149,089	148,683
Total Expense	143,799	143,674	122,519	122,579	118,629
Operating Profit	20,763	23,920	19,791	26,510	30,054
Other Income	907	1,013	1,138	1,205	1,224
Depreciation	3,849	4,283	4,826	5,321	5,815
EBIT	17,821	20,650	16,103	22,394	25,463
Interest	568	404	151	151	151
Extraordinary Item	(119)	-	-	-	-
PBT	17,134	20,247	15,952	22,243	25,312
Tax	4,278	4,992	4,015	5,599	6,371
PAT	12,856	15,255	11,937	16,645	18,941
Adj. PAT	12,856	15,255	11,937	16,645	18,941
Eps	18.7	22.2	17.3	24.2	27.5

Exhibit 11: Balance sheet

Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Equity capital	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377	1,377
Reserves	54,616	68,579	76,935	88,586	101,845
Net worth	55,993	69,956	78,312	89,963	103,222
Debt	5,035	284	284	284	284
Deferred tax liab (net)	8,077	8,461	8,461	8,461	8,461
Capital Employed	69,105	78,701	87,057	98,708	111,967
Fixed assets	76,235	83,208	88,927	93,852	98,367
Investments	5,442	5,951	5,951	5,951	5,951
Net working capital	(12,571)	(10,458)	(7,821)	(1,096)	7,649
Inventories	534	612	479	475	452
Sundry debtors	9,301	10,212	8,188	8,578	8,554
Cash & Bank Balance	211	6,810	9,317	15,610	24,167
Other current assets	3,831	2,159	2,159	2,159	2,159
Sundry creditors	4,456	7,156	4,870	4,823	4,589
Other liabilities	21,991	23,094	23,094	23,094	23,094
Application of Funds	69,106	78,701	87,057	98,708	111,967



Exhibit 12: Cash flow statement

Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
PBT	17,134	20,247	15,952	22,243	25,312
Depreciation & amortization	3,849	4,283	4,826	5,321	5,815
Interest expense	232	(115)	151	151	151
(Inc)/Dec in working capital	(95)	4,052	(130)	(433)	(187)
Tax paid	(4,363)	(4,608)	(4,015)	(5,599)	(6,371)
Less: Interest/Dividend Income Received	-	-			
Other operating Cash Flow	(139)	(78)			
Cash flow from operating activities	16,618	23,780	16,785	21,684	24,720
Capital expenditure	(13,663)	(10,865)	(10,546)	(10,246)	(10,330)
Inc/(Dec) in investments	-	-	-	-	-
Add: Interest/Dividend Income Received	727	451	-	-	-
Cash flow from investing activities	(12,935)	(10,413)	(10,546)	(10,246)	(10,330)
Inc/(Dec) in share capital	-	-	-	-	-
Inc/(Dec) in debt	(4,378)	(5,024)	-	-	-
Dividend Paid	(1,375)	(1,379)	(3,581)	(4,993)	(5,682)
Others	(531)	(381)	(151)	(151)	(151)
Cash flow from financing activities	(6,284)	(6,784)	(3,732)	(5,145)	(5,833)
Net cash flow	(2,602.2)	6,582.6	2,506.9	6,293.6	8,556.5

Exhibit 13: Du-pont analysis

Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Tax burden (x)	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7
Interest burden (x)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
EBIT margin (x)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Asset turnover (x)	1.8	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.1
Financial leverage (x)	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4
RoE (%)	25.6	24.2	16.1	19.8	19.6

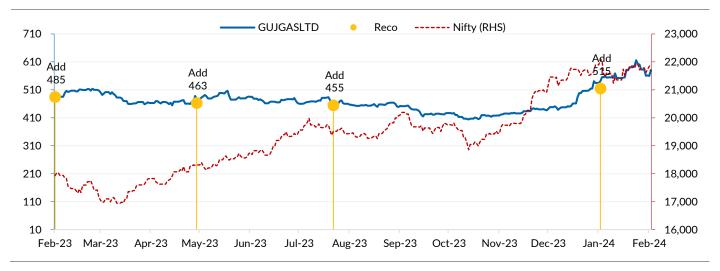


Exhibit 14: Ratio analysis

Y/e 31 Mar	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Growth matrix (%)					
Revenue growth	67.0	1.8	(15.1)	4.8	(0.3)
Op profit growth	(0.6)	15.2	(17.3)	33.9	13.4
EBIT growth	(2.1)	15.9	(22.0)	39.1	13.7
Net profit growth	0.8	18.7	(21.7)	39.4	13.8
Profitability ratios (%)					
OPM	12.6	14.3	13.9	17.8	20.2
EBIT margin	10.8	12.3	11.3	15.0	17.1
Net profit margin	7.8	9.1	8.4	11.2	12.7
RoCE	25.8	26.2	18.5	22.7	22.7
RoE	23.0	21.8	15.2	18.5	18.3
RoA	14.2	14.9	10.7	13.8	14.2
Per share ratios					
EPS	18.7	22.2	17.3	24.2	27.5
Dividend per share	2.0	6.6	5.2	7.3	8.3
Cash EPS	24.3	28.4	24.4	31.9	36.0
Book value per share	81.3	101.6	113.8	130.7	149.9
Valuation ratios					
P/E	26.9	20.7	33.5	24.0	21.1
P/CEPS	20.7	16.2	23.9	18.2	16.2
P/B	6.2	4.5	5.1	4.4	3.9
EV/EBIDTA	2.9	2.7	3.5	2.8	2.6
Payout (%)					
Dividend payout	10.7	29.8	30.0	30.0	30.0
Tax payout	25.0	24.7	25.2	25.2	25.2
Liquidity ratios					
Debtor days	20.6	22.2	21.0	21.0	21.0
Inventory days	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.4
Creditor days	11.3	14.8	17.9	14.4	14.5



Recommendation Tracker





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