

Expect Flattish MHCV Industry Volumes in FY25E

Est. Vs. Actual for Q1FY25: Revenue - INLINE; EBITDA - Miss; PAT -Miss.

Change in Estimates post Q1FY25

FY25E/FY26E: Revenue:-0.2%/-0.2%; EBITDA: -2.5%/0.5%; PAT:-1.4%/0.9%

Recommendation Rationale

- CV Industry Outlook: We expect the domestic CV industry growth outlook to remain subdued in the near term owing to the high base of last year; however, long-term demand appears moderately favourable, backed by i) A strong macroeconomic environment, ii) Healthy replacement demand (specifically in the passenger vehicles), iii) Good traction on infrastructure projects, iv) The vehicle scrappage policy, and v) Stable freight demand.
- LCV Business: AL aims to expand its addressable footprint from 50% to 80% of the domestic market. The company has launched two models in Q1FY25 and is expected to launch four more by Mar'25 covering the white spaces in the portfolio (Switch India has started delivery of e-LCV in Q4FY24 and will further launch new products/platforms over the next few quarters).
- Target of mid-teens EBITDA Margins: AL reported 10.6% EBITDA margins in Q1FY25 (vs 12% in FY24) and the management is confident of achieving the mid-teen EBITDA margins target over the medium term. We estimate 13% EBITDA margins approximately on account of i) Expected stability in commodity prices, ii) Improving net sales realisations on pricing discipline, iii) Cost reduction efforts and iv) Growth in International business, Defence, Power Solutions, and Aftermarket which are higher-margin businesses.

Sector Outlook: Cautiously Positive

Company Outlook & Guidance: AL is focused on gaining market share by improving its India presence, and meeting customers' requirements by investing in product development of diverse powertrain technologies. Furthermore, optimizing operational efficiencies, material cost reduction efforts and pricing discipline are expected to generate strong positive cash flows.

Current Valuation: 17x P/E onSep26E EPS and Rs 21/share for stake in HLF Ltd. (earlier 17x PE on FY26E EPS and 17/share in HLF Ltd.)

Current TP: Rs 230/share (earlier Rs 222/share)

Recommendation: The CV industry has grown at a CAGR of ~19% over FY21-24. After a strong upcycle, we factor stability in tonnage capacity within the industry over the next few quarters because of a high base. Thus, we maintain our HOLD rating on the stock with a limited upside potential.

Financial Performance: In Q1FY25, Ashok Leyland reported revenue in line with our estimates while EBITDA/PAT were a miss. Revenue grew by 5% YoY (down 24% QoQ), led by 6% volume growth and flattish ASP. EBITDA grew by 11% YoY (down 43% QoQ) to Rs 911 Cr, a 6.6% miss on our estimate mainly due to higher other manufacturing expenses. EBITDA margin stood at 10.6%, up 57bps YoY (down 354bps QoQ) against our estimate of 11.2%. Adj. PAT missed our estimates by 14.5% largely following the EBITDA and lower other income.

Outlook: Though we remain positive on the long-term prospects of AL, factoring in the slowing industry momentum, we arrive at a conservative volume guidance of 4% CAGR volume growth over FY24-27E. We estimate AL to post Revenue/EBITDA/PAT growth of 6%/6%/11% CAGR over FY24-27E.

Valuation & Recommendation: We maintain our HOLD rating on the stock with the TP at Rs 230/share (earlier Rs 222/share); valuing the stock at 17x P/E on Sep'26E EPS (11x FY26 EV/EBITDA) and assign Rs 21/share (earlier Rs 17/share) for stake in Hinduja Leyland Finance Ltd.

Key Financials (Standalone)

(Rs Cr)	Q1FY25	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	Axis Est.	Variance
Net Sales	8,599	-23.7%	5.0%	8,715	-1.3%
EBITDA	911	-42.8%	11.0%	975	-6.6%
EBITDA Margin	10.6%	-354 bps	57 bps	11.2%	-60 bps
Adj Net Profit	526	-44.6%	-8.9%	615	-14.5%
Adj EPS (Rs)	1.79	-44.6%	-8.9%	2.09	-14.5%

Source: Company, Axis Securities Research

	(CMP as of 26 th July 24)
CMP (Rs)	246
Upside /Downside (%)	-6.4%
High/Low (Rs)	248/158
Market cap (Cr)	72,339
Avg. daily vol. (6m)Shrs	1,85,06,996
No. of shares (Cr)	293.64

Shareholding (%)

	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24
Promoter	51.53	51.52	51.52
FII	20.48	21.45	22.03
Mutual Funds / UT	8.71	5.84	6.80
Others	0.12	0.24	0.07
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Financial & Valuations

Y/E Mar (Rs Cr)	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Net Sales	41,093	43,039	45,077
EBITDA	5,132	5,425	5,556
Adj. Net Profit	3,049	3,499	3,597
EPS (Rs.)	10.4	11.9	12.2
PER (x)	23.7	20.7	20.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	13.8	12.2	11.4
P/BV (x)	6.3	4.9	4.0
ROE (%)	29.5	26.3	21.7

Change in Estimates (%)

Y/E Mar	FY25E	FY26E
Sales	-0.2%	-0.2%
EBITDA	-2.5%	0.5%
PAT	-1.4%	0.9%

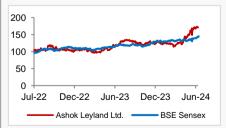
ESG disclosure Score**

Total ESG Disclosure Score Sector Average	69.9
Governance Disclosure Score	84.9
Social Disclosure Score	50.6
Environmental Disclosure	74.1

Source: Bloomberg, Scale: 0.1-100

**Note: This score measures the amount of ESG data a company reports publicly and does not measure the company's performance on any data point. All scores are based on 2022 disclosures, Sector average is for NSE500 companies

Relative performance



Source: Ace Equity, Axis Securities

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Key Highlights

- Volume Performance: Overall volumes for AL were up 6.2% YoY at 43,893 units in Q1FY25. The company's domestic MHCV Passenger segment in Q1 grew by 82% YoY, while the domestic MHCV Goods segment decreased by 3% in Q1FY25. The domestic LCV segment grew by 3.5% YoY in Q1FY25.
- Commodity Outlook: As per the management, commodity prices like steel are expected to remain largely stable in the near term, and no provision is required in Q2FY25.
- **EV Outlook:** The company's focus is to get Switch Mobility into a strong mode by developing products for both Buses and LCVs. At the operating level, Switch India is expected to be self-sufficient and become cash-positive/neutral to meet its operational requirements. (Switch UK may need investment support in FY25 as the UK market does not show strength.)
- Defense, Power Solution and Spares Business: The defence segment revenue was slightly below Rs 1,000 Cr in FY24, and the management expects it to double over the next two to three years, led by a strong order pipeline and visibility for FY25/26E (similar commentary received from Bharat Forge management).

Others:

- Capex for FY25/26 is expected to be ~Rs 500-700 Cr approximately.
- Debt: The company had negligible standalone net Debt at the end of FY24.
- o **Tax Rate:** The tax rate is likely to move to a lower slab of 25% from FY26 onwards.
- Hinduja Leyland Finance Ltd: The overall AUM is approximately 51,500 Cr (including the Housing Finance business).
 The management stated that HLFL will be reverse-merged into NXTDIGITAL and the restructuring is expected to be completed in the Current FY25E.

Key Risks to Our Estimates and TP

- An increase in commodity prices impacting the gross margins of the business, thereby impacting our TP and Rating.
- Slower than expected industry growth.

Change in Estimates

		Revised			Old			% Change		
	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	
Sales	41,093	43,039	45,077	41,179	43,129	-	-0.2%	-0.2%	-	
EBITDA	5,132	5,425	5,556	5,263	5,398	-	-2.5%	0.5%	-	
PAT	3,049	3,499	3,597	3,092	3,470	-	-1.4%	0.9%	-	

Source: Company, Axis Securities Research



Q1FY25 Results Review

			Axis Sec				Axis Sec
YE March (Rs Cr)	Q1FY24	Q4FY24	Estimates	Q1FY25E	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)	Var (%)
M&HCV	24,286	34,716	26,214	26,214	7.9%	-24.5%	
LCV	14,821	17,951	15,345	15,345	3.5%	-14.5%	
Total Domestic	39,107	52,667	41,559	41,559	6.3%	-21.1%	
M&HCV	2,517	2,139	1,671	1,671	-33.6%	-21.9%	
LCV	419	762	663	663	58.2%	-13.0%	
Total Exports	2,222	3,602	2,334	2,334	5.0%	-35.2%	
Total Volume (units)	41,329	56,269	43,893	43,893	6.2%	-22.0%	0.0%
	Q1FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25E	Q1FY25E	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)	Axis Sec Var (%)
Net Sales	8,189	11,267	8,715	8,599	5.0%	-23.7%	-1.3%
ASP (Rs/vehicle)	19,81,488	20,02,291	19,85,451	19,58,975	-1.1%	-2.2%	-1.3%
Less:							
Net Raw Material consumed	6,037	8,091	6,292	6,205	2.8%	-23.3%	-1.4%
Other Manufacturing & Sales Exp.	794	1,030	845	933	17.6%	-9.4%	10.4%
Personnel	538	554	602	550	2.3%	-0.7%	-8.7%
Total Expenditure	7,369	9,675	7,739	7,688	4.3%	-20.5%	-0.7%
EBITDA	821	1,592	975	911	11.0%	-42.8%	-6.6%
Less: Depreciation	179	180	179	173	-3.7%	-3.9%	-3.7%
EBIT	641	1,412	796	738	15.1%	-47.7%	-7.3%
Less: Interest	70	59	53	59	-15.5%	-0.3%	11.9%
Add: Other income	51	118	99	22	-56.4%	-81.1%	-77.4%
Profit Before Extraordinary Items and Tax	623	1,471	842	701	12.6%	-52.3%	-16.7%
Less: Extraordinary Expense/(Income)	1	70	-	-	-	-	NA
Profit Before Tax	622	1,401	842	701	12.8%	-49.9%	-16.7%
Less: Total Tax	46	501	227	176	284.9%	-64.9%	-22.7%
Profit After Tax	576	900	615	526	-8.8%	-41.6%	-14.5%
Adj. PAT	577	949	615	526	-8.9%	-44.6%	-14.5%
Shares Outstanding (Cr)	294	294	294	294	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Reported EPS (Rs.)	2.0	3.1	2.1	1.8	-8.8%	-41.6%	-14.5%
Adj. EPS (Rs.)	2.0	3.2	2.1	1.8	-8.9%	-44.6%	-14.5%
Margin Analysis	Q1FY24	Q4FY24	Axis Sec Estimates	Q1FY25E	Change in bps	Change in bps	Change in bps
Gross Margins	26.3%	28.2%	27.8%	27.8%	156bps	-35bps	4bps
EBITDA Margin	10.0%	14.1%	11.2%	10.6%	57bps	-354bps	-60bps
Adj. NPM	7.0%	8.4%	7.1%	6.1%	-93bps	-231bps	-94bps
Effective Tax Rate	7.3%	34.1%	27.0%	25.1%	1773 bps	-899bps	-193bps
Cost Analysis						•	'
RM/Net Sales	73.7%	71.8%	72.2%	72.2%	-156 bps	35bps	-4bps
Other Mfg & Sales Exp/Net Sales	9.7%	9.1%	9.7%	10.9%	116bps	171bps	115bps
Personnel/Net Sales	6.6%	4.91%	6.9%	6.4%	-17 bps	148bps	-52bps

Source: Company, Axis Securities Research.



Financials (Standalone)

Profit & Loss (Rs Cr)

Y/E March (Rs Cr)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Net revenues	38,367	41,093	43,039	45,077
Operating expenses	33,760	35,961	37,614	39,521
EBIDTA	4,607	5,132	5,425	5,556
EBIDTA margin (%)	12.0	12.5	12.6	12.3
Other income	247	192	234	234
Interest	249	206	132	132
Depreciation	718	776	798	798
Profit Before Tax	3,792	4,343	4,729	4,860
Tax	1,174	1,294	1,230	1,264
Reported Net Profit	2,618	3,049	3,499	3,597
Net Margin (%)	6.8	7.4	8.1	8.0
Adjusted Net Profit	2,618	3,049	3,499	3,597

Source: Company, Axis Securities Research

Balance Sheet (Rs Cr)

Y/E March (Rs Cr)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Equity capital	294	294	294	294
Reserves & surplus*	8,517	11,272	14,477	17,781
Shareholders funds	8,810	11,565	14,771	18,074
Total Loans	2,255	1,955	1,655	1,355
Deferred tax liability	556	556	556	556
Total Liabilities and Equity	11,621	14,076	16,982	19,985
Gross block	10,972	11,423	11,923	12,423
Depreciation	4,469	5,245	6,043	6,841
Net block	6,502	6,178	5,880	5,582
Capital WIP	202	250	250	250
Investments	5,560	5,760	5,960	6,160
Inventory	3,191	3,149	2,948	3,087
Debtors	3,570	4,278	4,127	4,322
Cash & Bank Bal	3,438	3,503	7,461	10,191
Loans & Advances	1,149	2,559	3,069	3,599
Current Assets	11,348	13,490	17,605	21,200
Sundry Creditors	6,305	6,716	7,729	8,121
Other Current Liability	5,685	4,885	4,984	5,086
Current Liability& Provisions	11,991	11,601	12,713	13,207
Net current assets	(642)	1,889	4,892	7,993
Total Assets	11,621	14,076	16,982	19,985

Source: Company, Axis Securities Research.



Cash Flow (Rs Cr)

Y/E March (Rs Cr)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
EBIT	3,889	4,356	4,627	4,758
Other Income	247	192	234	234
Depreciation & Amortization	718	776	798	798
Interest paid(-)	-249	-206	-132	-132
Tax paid(-)	-1,174	-1,294	-1,230	-1,264
Extra Ord Income	-94	0	0	0
Operating Cash Flow	3,336	3,825	4,297	4,395
Change in Working Capital	1,958	-2,466	954	-371
Cash flow from Operations	5,294	1,359	5,252	4,024
Capex	-354	-500	-500	-500
Investment	1,104	-200	-200	-200
Cash flow from Investing	749	-700	-700	-700
Change in borrowing	-926	-300	-300	-300
Others	-1,887	0	0	0
Dividends paid(-)	-294	-294	-294	-294
Cashflow from Financial Activities	-3,106	-594	-594	-594
Change in Cash	2,937	65	3,958	2,730
Opening cash	501	3,438	3,503	7,461
Closing cash	3,438	3,503	7,461	10,191

Source: Company, Axis Securities Research

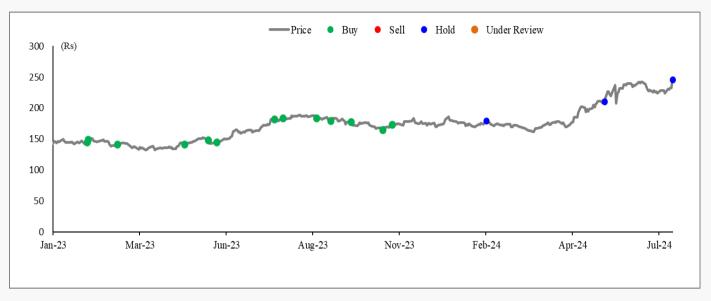
Ratio Analysis (%)

Y/E March	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue Growth	6.2	7.1	4.7	4.7
EBITDA Margin	12.0	12.5	12.6	12.3
Net Profit Margin	6.8	7.4	8.1	8.0
ROCE (%)	22.6	24.0	22.5	19.5
ROE (%)	29.9	29.5	26.3	21.7
EPS	8.9	10.4	11.9	12.2
P/E (x)	19.2	23.7	20.7	20.1
P/ BV (x)	5.7	6.3	4.9	4.0
EV/ EBITDA (x)	10.6	13.8	12.2	11.4
Fixed Assets Turnover Ratio (x)	7.6	8.7	9.7	10.9
Debt / Equity (x)	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
EV/ Sales (x)	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.4

Source: Company, Axis Securities Research



Ashok Leyland Price Chart and Recommendation History



Source: Axis Securities research

Reco	TP	Research
BUY	175	Top Picks
BUY	175	Top Picks
BUY	175	Result Update
BUY	175	Top Picks
BUY	175	Top Picks
BUY	175	Top Picks
BUY	175	Result Update
BUY	175	Top Picks
BUY	190	Top Picks
BUY	210	Result Update
BUY	210	Top Picks
BUY	210	Top Picks
BUY	210	Company Update
BUY	210	Top Picks
BUY	210	Top Picks
BUY	205	Result Update
HOLD	185	Result Update
HOLD	222	Result Update
HOLD	230	Result Update
	BUY	BUY 175 BUY 190 BUY 210

Source: Axis Securities Research



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HOLD	Between 10% and -10%	
SELL	Less than -10%	
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NO STANCE	We do not have any forward-looking estimates, valuation or recommendation for the stock	

Note: Returns stated in the rating scale are our internal benchmark

List of Research Analyst (Fundamental):

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