Equisearch Pvt Ltd



Atul Ltd	
No. of shares (m)	29.51
Mkt cap (Rs crs/\$m)	19524/2360.3
Current price (Rs/\$)	6615/80
Price target (Rs/\$)	8248/99.7
52 W H/L (Rs.)	9813/6530
Book Value (Rs/\$)	1548/18.7
Beta	0.7
Daily volume NSE (avg. monthly)	54710
P/BV (FY23/24e)	4.5/3.7
EV/EBITDA (FY23/24e)	22.1/16.1
P/E (FY23/24e)	39.7/28.1
EPS growth (FY22/23/24e)	-7.6/-14.2/34.5
OPM (FY22/23/24e)	17.9/14.9/17.7
ROE (FY22/23/24e)	15.0/11.6/14.2
ROCE(FY22/23/24e)	14.2/11.2/13.9
D/E ratio (FY22/23/24e)	0.0/0.0/0.0
BSE Code	500027
NSE Code	ATUL
Bloomberg	ATLP IN
Reuters	ATLP.NS

Shareholding pattern	%
Promoters	45.1
MFs / Banks / FIs	25.2
FPIs	8.2
Govt. Holding	0.0
Public & Others	21.5
Total	100.0

As on March 31, 2023

Recommendation

BUY

Analyst

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Company Brief

Atul Ltd manufactures value added chemicals for diverse industries agriculture, construction, textiles, pharmaceuticals and automobiles.

Quarterly Highlights

- Trampled by falling finished product prices and deferment of orders by several clients, Atul reported some 22% drop in revenues of its performance and other chemicals business last quarter followed by no meager drop in margins - 2% EBIT when compared to 12.9% in the same period last fiscal and 2.8% in Q3. Thence allocable EBIT of POC business nosedived to Rs 15.73 crs when compared with Rs 127.63 crs in the same period a year before. High fuel prices precipitated by Ukraine -Russia war played spoilsport too.
- Yet, its life science chemicals ruled the roost for it reported 11.2% growth in topline followed by higher margins. After logging record margins in last few quarters (Q2: 24.7%; Q3: 22.5%), Q4 showed up margins of 22.2%, perceptibly higher than 14.1% reported in the same quarter a year ago.
- Still record profits of LSC business barely saved blushes for overall operating profit fell by 27.2% while post tax earnings plunged by nervewracking 31.3% to Rs 93.56 crs as compared to Rs 136.26 crs in the same quarter a year ago. As a result of dismal showing in the last few quarters, post tax earnings (adjusted) for full year plunged by 14.5% at a time when full year revenues advanced by some 7% to Rs 5427.52 crs. Dreadful outcome of the POC business (EBIT: Rs 240.25 crs Vs Rs 575.89 crs in FY22) explain much of the sclerosis in demand in both domestic and overseas markets. Its colors business suffered much of the brunt of the slowdown in textile sector in last few quarters.
- The stock currently trades at 28.1x FY24e EPS of Rs 235.67. Pummeled by global slowdown in user industries, Atul's margins fell short of estimates last fiscal, thus precipitating over 30% cut in estimates for the current fiscal. Yet competitive advantage in terms of no small market share in some key products coupled with benefits of integration and overseas market presence has envious business scaling power. Capital cost has been contained due to product specialization and debottlenecking. Scarcely small free cash flows coupled with surplus liquidity to fund capex would provide floor to stock price. Weighing odds, we retain our buy recommendation on the stock with revised target of Rs 8248 (previous target: Rs 11961) based on 35x FY24e earnings.

(Figures in Rs crs)	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24e
Income from operations	4093.06	3731.47	5080.89	5427.52	6188.83
Other Income	78.04	102.98	76.00	114.87	69.52
EBITDA (other income included)	980.05	1020.10	987.44	889.72	1162.81
Adjusted PAT	666.24	655.12	604.68	517.27	695.54
EPS(Rs)	224.61	221.17	204.37	175.26	235.67
EPS growth (%)	53.8	-1.5	-7.6	-14.2	34.5



Outlook & Recommendation

Global Specialty Chemicals Update

According to a report by Grand View Research, the global specialty chemicals industry is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 5.1% during 2023 to 2030 not least due to growing demand for construction, water treatment, and electronics chemicals, along with advancements in process technology and trade liberalization. Rising demand from pharmaceuticals, food and fuel additives and flavors and fragrances has it role to play in fueling demand. Developed nations, the report contends, are seeing increased of take of flavoring agents as processed food and beverages are becoming more popular.

The European geopolitical conflict significantly affected the specialty chemicals market as oil price rose, which adversely impacted the cost of production of chemicals. Due to war, the movement of goods (export & import) was impacted by supply disruptions which adversely hindered the growth of specialty chemicals market.



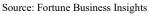
Source: Grandview Research

Source: Grandview Research

Grand View Research projects that the US specialty chemicals market could see notable growth during the forecast period has increased opportunities are foreseen in end-user industries including water treatment, automobile and electronics. Furthermore, rising demand for personal care products, detergents, as well as crop protection chemicals and cleaning products will fuel specialty chemicals demand over the forecast period.

As per a report by KPMG, the Indian specialty chemicals market is estimated to grow at a CAGR of more than 12 per cent from 2020 to 2025 as the country is seeing significant demand from end-user sectors such as food, automobile, real estate, clothing, cosmetics, among others. Much of the emergence of this industry in India is owed to strong process engineering capabilities, low-cost manufacturing capabilities, and abundant manpower. Further, government initiatives such as the petroleum, chemicals, and petrochemicals investment region (PCPIR) policy and production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes have strengthened the confidence of manufacturers to invest within the country. Increasing pollution control regulations in other countries of the world are prompting manufacturers to diversify their production capabilities.





Source: Fortune Business Insights

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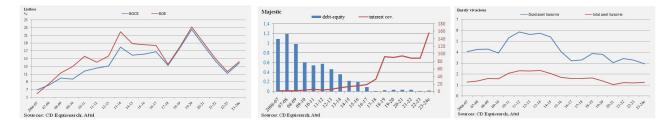
Financials & Valuation

Distinct slowdown in Atul's both domestic and overseas markets - barely less perceptibly in the last few quarters when margins have all but collapsed - have scarcely deterred its expansion plans with projects totaling Rs 1420 crs are at different stages of implementation at its standalone entity (Rs 561 crs) and various entities including Atul Products (Rs 817 crs) and Atul Finserv. Further capex (consolidated) hardly remain suppressed last fiscal for it zoomed to a record Rs 874 crs from some Rs 591 crs the year before. Capacity of caustic soda is expected to come on stream sometime in the current quarter, while the reconstruction of pharmaceutical plant, which was affected by fire, is expected to get over by Q2 of current fiscal.

Multitude of factors affected margins last fiscal prompting delay in implementation of projects. Disproportionate fall in finished product prices, increase in energy prices and subdued demand in key user industries such as textiles, fragrance, personal care and pharmaceuticals, made matters worse, triggering some 58% drop in EBIT of POC business last fiscal. Yet now with moderation in both energy prices and fall in raw material prices, margins of POC business is estimated to improve to 13% this fiscal, though miles off from peak margin of some 24% in FY21, thus resulting in more than doubling of EBIT, though on a puny base.



Hugh inventory at customers end generated friction in passing on high raw material prices, thus affecting earnings last fiscal. Aromatics and colors business suffered as demand dried out from export markets of China and Europe due to high inventory at their end. But now export markets. Atul's domestic colors business has seen demand challenges largely due to subdued textile of take as cotton prices turned volatile and raw material price inflation surged. Of take of Rudolf Atul dwindled not least due to economic slowdown in US and Europe which impact brand sales and also due to low capacity utilization of home furnishings segment.



The stock currently trades at 28.1x FY24e EPS of Rs 235.67. Expected recovery in Atul's performance and other chemicals business would barely help stymie earnings in the current fiscal - PAT projected to advance by some 35%, but on low base, thus helping augmentation in return on capital. Free cash flows (standalone) of some Rs 280 crs last fiscal saw marked improvement from negative cash flows the previous fiscal for working capital dwindled. Atul's competitive advantage in terms of market reach and large installed capacities would help scale business as and when export markets stabilize. Weighing odds, we retain our buy recommendation on the stock with revised target of Rs 8248 (previous target: Rs 11961) based on 35x FY24e earnings. For more info, refer to our August report.



Cross Sectional Analysis

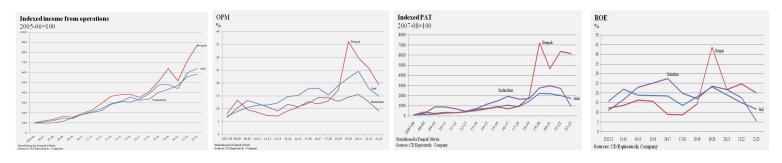
	Equity			Inc. from								
	(Rs	CMP	Mcap (Rs	ops.	Profit	OPM	NPM	Int.	ROE	Mcap		
Company	crs)	(Rs crs)	crs)	(Rs crs)	(Rs crs)	(%)	(%)	cov.	(%)	/ IO	P/BV	P/E
Atul Ltd	30	6615	19524	5428	517	14.9	9.3	88.1	11.6	3.6	4.3	37.7
Deepak Nitrite	27	2135	29120	7972	852	16.2	10.7	47.2	23.6	3.7	7.3	34.2
Sudarshan	14	440	3046	2302	45	9.2	1.9	2.4	5.6	1.3	3.8	68.0

;calculations on ttm basis

ROE of IC adjusted for revaluation reserves; book value adjusted for goodwill & revaluation reserves wherever applicable;

Driven by strong demand revival in pigments business in both domestic and export markets (after few quarters of lackluster activity), Sudarshan's revenues rose by 10.2% to Rs 691.18 crs as compared to Rs 627.15 crs in the same period a year ago. Export markets for pigments saw a stronger revival with its revenues advancing by 7.7%. It expects future revenue growth to come from gradual ramp of new capex and through deeper penetration in select international markets. Product portfolio expansion and commencement of value chain integration projects will continue to be cornerstones of its business expansion strategy. Q4 saw revival of sorts not least due to massive jump in post tax earnings to Rs 32.57 crs from a little pleasing Rs 0.58 crs in Q3.

Probably influenced by China +1 outsourcing strategy, Deepak Clean Tech Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Deepak Nitrite, has signed MoU with Government of Gujarat for investing Rs 5000 crs over the next four years for setting up projects related to speciality chemicals, phenol/acetone and Bisphenol. Besides providing no insignificant employment opportunities, the projects are expected to reduce imports. Despite DNL's phenolics business operating at record levels last quarter (utilization at over 120%), its EBIT barely grew not least due to margin pressures resulting from drop in realizations. However, commissioning of capacities of its downstream products would help recover some of the decline in margins seen last fiscal.





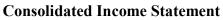
Figures in Rs crs

Financials

Quarterly Results

	Q4FY23	Q4FY22	% chg.	FY23	FY22	% chg.
Income from operations (net)	1195.15	1370.42	-12.8	5427.52	5080.89	6.8
Other Income	24.21	22.22	9.0	114.87	76.00	51.1
Total Income	1219.36	1392.64	-12.4	5542.39	5156.89	7.5
Total Expenditure	1045.78	1165.22	-10.3	4652.67	4169.45	11.6
EBIDTA (other income included)	173.58	227.42	-23.7	889.72	987.44	-9.9
Interest	2.19	3.41	-35.8	7.90	9.17	-13.8
Depreciation	51.07	44.05	15.9	197.81	176.69	12.0
РВТ	120.32	179.96	-33.1	684.01	801.58	-14.7
Tax	29.73	45.23	-34.3	181.21	205.00	-11.6
РАТ	90.59	134.73	-32.8	502.80	596.58	-15.7
Profit/loss of associate & JV	1.62	1.83	-11.5	3.83	8.16	-53.1
MI	-1.35	0.30	-550.0	-7.46	0.48	-1654.2
Net profit after MI & JV	93.56	136.26	-31.3	514.09	604.26	-14.9
Extraordinary Item	-	-	-	-3.18	-0.42	661.9
Adjusted Net Profit	93.56	136.26	-0.3	517.27	604.68	-14.5
EPS (F.V. 10)	31.69	46.05	-31.2	175.26	204.37	-14.2

Segment Results					Figures i	n Rs crs
	Q4FY23	Q4FY22	% chg.	FY23	FY22	% chg
Segment Revenue						
Life Science Chemicals	408.56	367.32	11.2	1959.16	1465.10	33.7
Performance & Other Chemicals	829.90	1052.63	-21.2	3706.17	3759.18	-1.4
Others	13.00	14.61	-11.0	49.64	69.98	-29.1
Sub Total	1251.46	1434.56	-12.8	5714.97	5294.26	7.9
Inter - Segment Revenue	56.31	64.14	-12.2	287.45	213.37	34.7
Income from ops.	1195.15	1370.42	-12.8	5427.52	5080.89	6.8
Segment EBIT						
Life Science Chemicals	90.61	51.90	74.6	422.65	178.88	136.3
Performance & Other Chemicals	15.73	127.63	-87.7	240.25	575.89	-58.3
Others	1.06	4.07	-74.0	1.15	24.43	-95.3
Sub Total	107.40	183.60	-41.5	664.05	779.20	-14.8
Interest	2.19	3.41	-35.8	7.90	9.17	-13.8
Other Unallocable Exp. (net of income)	-15.11	0.23	-6669.6	-27.86	-31.55	-11.7
PBT	120.32	179.96	-33.1	684.01	801.58	-14.7



			0	
FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24e
4093.06	3731.47	5080.89	5427.52	6188.83
1.4	-8.8	36.2	6.8	14.0
78.04	102.98	76.00	114.87	69.52
4171.10	3834.45	5156.89	5542.39	6258.36
3191.05	2814.35	4169.45	4652.67	5095.54
980.05	1020.10	987.44	889.72	1162.81
9.40	9.35	9.17	7.90	5.98
970.65	1010.75	978.27	881.82	1156.83
130.21	136.32	176.69	197.81	230.81
174.51	221.66	205.00	181.21	236.14
665.93	652.77	596.58	502.80	689.89
4.98	7.25	8.16	3.83	7.15
4.45	4.26	0.48	-7.46	1.50
666.46	655.76	604.26	514.09	695.54
0.22	0.64	-0.42	-3.18	-
666.24	655.12	604.68	517.27	695.54
224.61	221.17	204.37	175.26	235.67
			Figu	res in Rs crs
FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24e
	 4093.06 1.4 78.04 4171.10 3191.05 980.05 9.40 970.65 130.21 174.51 665.93 4.98 4.45 666.46 0.22 666.24 224.61 	4093.063731.471.4-8.878.04102.984171.103834.453191.052814.35980.051020.109.409.35970.651010.75130.21136.32174.51221.66665.93652.774.987.254.454.26666.46655.760.220.64666.24655.12224.61221.17	4093.063731.475080.891.4-8.836.278.04102.9876.004171.103834.455156.893191.052814.354169.45980.051020.10987.449.409.359.17970.651010.75978.27130.21136.32176.69174.51221.66205.00665.93652.77596.584.987.258.164.454.260.48666.46655.76604.260.220.64-0.42666.24655.12604.68224.61221.17204.37	4093.06 3731.47 5080.89 5427.52 1.4 -8.8 36.2 6.8 78.04 102.98 76.00 114.87 4171.10 3834.45 5156.89 5542.39 3191.05 2814.35 4169.45 4652.67 980.05 1020.10 987.44 889.72 9.40 9.35 9.17 7.90 970.65 1010.75 978.27 881.82 130.21 136.32 176.69 197.81 174.51 221.66 205.00 181.21 665.93 652.77 596.58 502.80 4.98 7.25 8.16 3.83 4.45 4.26 0.48 -7.46 666.46 655.76 604.26 514.09 0.22 0.64 -0.42 -3.18 666.24 655.12 604.68 517.27 224.61 221.17 204.37 175.26

CHANGING DIMENSIONS

Figures in Rs crs

Segment Revenue					
Life Science Chemicals	1251.95	1216.37	1465.10	1959.16	2221.92
Performance & Other Chemicals	2984.50	2621.88	3759.18	3706.17	4219.94
Others	36.83	48.48	69.98	49.64	59.57
Income from operations	4273.28	3886.73	5294.26	5714.97	6501.42
Inter - Segment Revenue	180.22	155.26	213.37	287.45	312.59
Net Segment Revenue	4093.06	3731.47	5080.89	5427.52	6188.83
Segment EBIT					
Life Science Chemicals	223.16	219.57	178.88	422.65	444.38
Performance & Other Chemicals	603.97	594.16	575.89	240.25	507.96
Others	11.13	11.30	24.43	1.15	2.98
Sub Total	838.26	825.03	779.20	664.05	955.32
Interest	9.40	9.35	9.17	7.90	5.98
Other Unallocable Exp. (net of income)	-11.58	-58.75	-31.55	-27.86	23.31
PBT	840.44	874.43	801.58	684.01	926.03



onsolidated Balance Sheet				Figure	s in Rs crs
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24e
SOURCES OF FUNDS					
Share Capital	29.68	29.61	29.61	29.53	29.53
Reserves	3125.22	3796.91	4399.35	4641.85	5333.12
Total Shareholders Funds	3154.90	3826.52	4428.96	4671.38	5362.65
Minority Interest	26.37	30.63	30.88	48.04	49.54
Long term debt	86.58	98.21	61.05	28.71	20.00
Total Liabilities	3267.85	3955.36	4520.89	4748.13	5432.19
APPLICATION OF FUNDS					
Gross Block	1603.28	1999.09	2345.00	2676.05*	3676.05
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	493.15	597.33	728.50	926.31	1157.12
Impairment					
Net Block	1110.13	1401.76	1616.50	1749.74	2518.93
Capital Work in Progress	368.14	249.70	420.47	1032.85	800.0
Investments	1137.31	1361.05	1338.70	880.94	840.17
Current Assets, Loans & Advances					
Inventory	503.37	594.14	864.12	789.36	928.32
Sundry Debtors	719.73	733.23	989.01	844.61	928.32
Cash and Bank	35.37	348.18	68.92	52.03	60.70
Other Assets	171.65	148.20	216.80	215.40	238.80
Total CA & LA	1430.12	1823.75	2138.85	1901.40	2156.15
Current liabilities	694.10	768.36	951.75	819.40	890.49
Provisions	37.67	37.76	46.80	20.83	23.78
Total Current Liabilities	731.77	806.12	998.55	840.23	914.27
Net Current Assets	698.35	1017.63	1140.30	1061.17	1241.88
Net Deferred Tax	-107.84	-132.88	-127.13	-117.41	-118.59
Other Assets (Net of liabilities)	61.76	58.10	132.05	140.84	149.80
Total Assets	3267.85	3955.36	4520.89	4748.13	5432.19

*estimated



Key Financial Ratios

	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24e
Growth Ratios					
Revenue (%)	1.4	-8.8	36.2	6.8	14.0
EBIDTA (%)	22.0	4.0	-3.1	-9.5	30.1
Net Profit (%)	53.8	-1.7	-7.7	-14.5	34.5
EPS (%)	53.8	-1.5	-7.6	-14.2	34.5
Margins					
Operating Profit Margin (%)	22.0	24.6	17.9	14.9	17.7
Gross Profit Margin (%)	23.7	27.1	19.3	16.3	18.7
Net Profit Margin (%)	16.3	17.5	11.7	9.3	11.1
Return					
ROCE (%)	22.6	18.4	14.4	11.2	13.9
ROE (%)	23.2	19.1	15.0	11.6	14.2
Valuations					
Market Cap / Sales	2.9	5.6	6.0	3.8	3.2
EV/EBIDTA	11.0	19.0	29.6	22.1	16.1
P/E	17.8	32.0	50.4	39.7	28.1
P/BV	3.8	5.6	7.0	4.5	3.7
Other Ratios					
Interest Coverage	90.4	94.4	88.5	88.1	155.9
Debt-Equity Ratio	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Current Ratio	3.5	3.6	3.2	2.9	2.8
Turnover Ratios					
Fixed Asset Turnover	3.8	3.0	3.4	3.3	2.9
Total Asset Turnover	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
Debtors Turnover	5.8	5.1	5.9	5.9	7.0
Inventory Turnover	6.3	5.1	5.7	5.6	5.9
Creditors Turnover	7.4	5.4	7.0	7.9	9.3
WC Ratios					
Debtor Days	63.2	71.1	61.9	61.7	52.3
Inventory Days	58.1	71.2	63.8	65.4	61.5
Creditor Days	49.0	67.5	52.4	46.4	39.2
Cash Conversion Cycle	72.3	74.7	73.3	80.6	74.6



Cumulative Financial Data

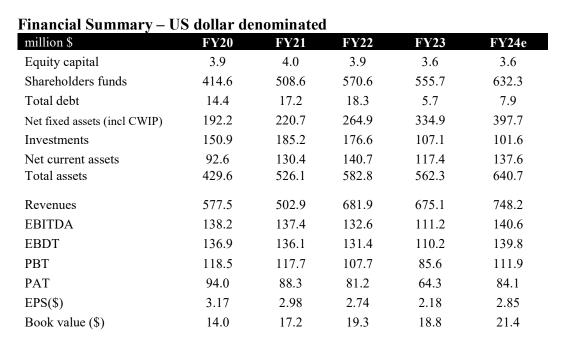
Figures in Rs crs	FY13-15	FY16-18	FY19-21	FY22-24e
Income from operations	7157	8724	11862	16697
Operating profit	1015	1476	2588	2815
EBIT	886	1311	2417	2440
PBT	793	1246	2390	2416
PAT after EO	541	871	1754	1817
Dividends	78	117	214	273
OPM (%)	14.2	16.9	21.8	16.9
GPM (%)	13.5	17.4	23.4	18.1
NPM (%)	7.7	9.9	14.7	10.7
Interest coverage	9.6	20.0	92.4	105.8
ROE (%)	17.5	16.4	19.8	13.5
ROCE (%)	15.0	15.6	19.3	13.1
Debt-equity ratio*	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fixed asset turnover	5.6	3.8	3.3	2.9
Total asset turnover	2.1	1.6	1.3	1.2
Debtors turnover	6.0	5.0	5.4	6.7
Inventory turnover	5.5	5.9	6.1	6.1
Creditors turnover	7.5	6.6	6.0	8.3
Debtors days	61.0	73.0	67.2	54.5
Inventory days	66.4	62.2	59.4	60.0
Creditor days	48.8	55.7	60.3	44.2
Cash conversion cycle	78.7	79.4	66.3	70.4
Dividend payout ratio (%)	13.5	13.6	12.3	24.7

FY13-15 implies three years ending fiscal 15; *as on terminal year

Despite expected recovery in overseas markets for Atul's PoC business and no small drop in raw material prices in general, Atul's cumulative operating profits would advance by a dispiritingly 8.8% during FY22-24e period at a time when cumulative sales is estimated to rise by little unpleasing 40.8% (see table). Wherefore, OPMs would slid by a menacing all but 500 bps to 16.9% from 21.8% in the previous three year period. Expansion of new capacities over the next few quarters coupled with improved outlook of Atul Biosciences and Rudolf Atul would barely save blushes for cumulative post tax earnings would scarcely rise in the projected period.

Despite record capex under implementation both in standalone entity and subsidiaries & JVs, gestation in stabilization of newer projects would all but stymie asset utilization - fixed asset turnover is projected to decline to 2.9 from 3.3 in FY19-21 period. Despite no dreadful recovery in earnings in the current fiscal, ROE would fail to demonstrate perceptible improvement not least due to barely small piling of fixed assets. Cash conversion would all but flat line to some 70 days from 66 days in the preceding three year period (see table).

CD Equisearch Pvt Ltd



CHANGING DIMENSIONS

*income statement figures translated at average rates; balance sheet and cash flow at year end rates; projections at current rates(Rs 82.72\$)

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Disclosure & Disclaimer

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buy: >20% accumulate: >10% to \leq 20% hold: \geq -10% to \leq 10% reduce: \geq -20% to <-10% sell: <-20%

Exchange Rates Used- Indicative

Rs/\$	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Average	69.89	70.88	74.20	74.51	80.39
Year end	69.17	75.39	73.50	75.81	82.22

All \$ values mentioned in the write-up translated at the average rate of the respective quarter/ year as applicable. Projections converted at current exchange rate. Cumulative dollar figure is the sum of respective yearly dollar value.

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