Pakistan Cement Sector: Result Preview 4QFY25







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Profitability is expected to rise due to DGKC, FCCL and CHCC stronger earnings



Cement sector to report core earnings of PkR 22.9bn: BMA Cement Universe is anticipated to report core earnings of PkR 22.6bn in 4QFY25, reflecting a 46% YoY increase compared to PkR 15.6bn in 4QFY24, but a 12% QoQ decline. The YoY growth is primarily driven by higher earnings from DGKC, FCCL, and CHCC, while the QoQ decline is attributed to a reduction in cement dispatches and lower earnings from LUCK due to decreased other income.

Net sales are expected to grow by 4% YoY: Net sales are expected to grow by 4% YoY, reaching PkR 114.1bn in 4QFY25. This growth is driven by a 12% YoY increase in average cement prices and a 33% YoY rise in exports.

Local cement dispatches on YoY basis are flattish due to (i) higher cost of construction, and (ii) muted government spending on infrastructure. Capacity utilization of the cement sector clocked in at 55.6% in 4QFY25, compared to 52.9% in 4QFY24 and 55.0% in 3QFY25.

Gross margin to settle at 34.8%: The sector's gross margin is expected to improve by 4.9 ppts YoY to 34.8% in 4QFY25, compared to 30.0% in 4QFY24 and 32.5% in 3QFY25, driven by higher cement prices and lower coal prices. Cement prices for 4QFY25 are estimated at PkR 1,407per bag in the North (up 12% YoY, up 3% QoQ) and PkR 1,377 per bag in the South (up 12% YoY, up 2% QoQ).

YoY decline in coal prices: During 4QFY25, cement producers in the South region primarily relied on Richards Bay coal, while those in the North region utilized a mix of Afghan and local coal. Richards Bay coal prices averaged USD 89.5 per ton in 4QFY25, reflecting a 17% YoY and 6% QoQ decline from USD 107.5 per ton and USD 95.7 per ton in 4QFY24 and 3QFY25 respectively.

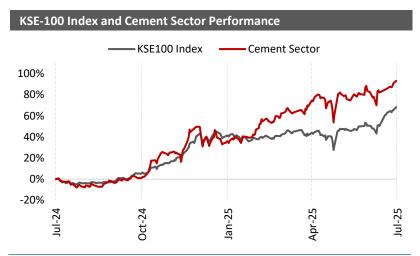
Lower financial charges: The sector's financial charges are expected to decline by 51% YoY and 21% QoQ to PkR 2.7bn. This decline is attributed lower debt on the balance sheet along with the reduced KIBOR.

Cement Price					
PkR/Bag	4FY25A	4QFY24A	YoY	3QFY25A	QoQ
North	1,407	1,259	12%	1,371	3%
South	1,377	1,230	12%	1,343	2%

Source: PBS, BMA Research

Other income to drop to PkR 6.5bn: Other income of the sector is estimated to clock in at PkR 6.5bn in 4QFY25, down 39% YoY and 53% QoQ. LUCK is expected to contribute 50% in sector's other income.

We have an **Overweight stance** on Pakistan Cement sector with **Thatta Cement (THCCL), Fauji Cement (FCCL), Lucky Cement (LUCK) and Maple Leaf Cement (MLCF)** as our top picks.



Source: PSX, BMA Research

Pakistan Cement Dispatches									
Mn Tons	4QFY25A	4QFY24A	YoY	3QFY25A	QoQ				
Local	8.8	8.8	0%	9.6	-9%				
North	7.4	7.3	1%	7.8	-5%				
South	1.4	1.5	-5%	1.8	-23%				
Exports	2.7	2.0	33%	1.7	55%				
Total	11.5	10.8	6%	11.3	1%				

Source: APCMA, BMA Research

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Company wise earnings estimates



Lucky Cement (LUCK): We expect LUCK's consolidated earnings to increase by 38% YoY and 13% QoQ to PkR 13.8 per share in 4QFY25, primarily driven by higher profits from portfolio companies.

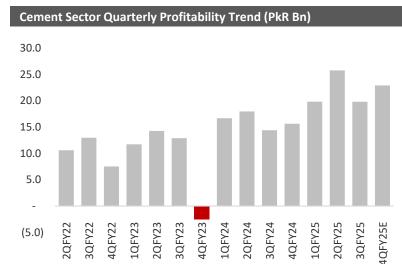
On an unconsolidated basis, LUCK is expected to report an EPS of PkR 4.8, reflecting a 26% YoY and 48% QoQ decline. This decrease is mainly due to lower other income and reduced local dispatches. The gross margin is projected to reach 36% in 4QFY25, compared to 32% in 4QFY24 and 33% in 3QFY25. Along with the results, we expect LUCK to announce a cash dividend of PkR 3.5 per share.

Maple Leaf Cement (MLCF): MLCF is expected to report a consolidated EPS of PkR 3.0 in 4QFY25, reflecting a 104% YoY and 13% QoQ increase. The growth is primarily driven by higher total cement dispatches, increased cement prices, and improved gross margins. Gross margins are projected at 40% for 4QFY25, compared to 38% in 4QFY24 and 35% in 3QFY25. Along with the results, we do not expect a cash dividend from MLCF, given potential investment needs arising from its hospital venture.

Fauji Cement (FCCL): We expect FCCL's earnings to reach PkR 1.5 per share in 4QFY25, reflecting a more than 3.0x YoY increase and a 1.1x QoQ rise. This growth is driven by higher total dispatches, lower finance costs, and increased cement prices. The gross margin is expected to reach 35% in 4QFY25, compared to 36% in 4QFY24 and 32% in 3QFY25. Along with the results, we expect FCCL to announce a cash dividend of PkR 2.0 per share.

DG Khan Cement (DGKC): We expect DGKC to report an unconsolidated EPS of PkR 5.3 in 4QFY25, compared to a loss of PkR 3.9 in the same period last year. The YoY improvement in earnings is driven by a lower effective tax rate, higher cement prices, and reduced finance costs. On a QoQ basis, earnings are also expected to rise, supported by a 3% increase in cement prices and lower finance costs. Gross margins are projected to reach 25% in 4QFY25, compared to 8% in 4QFY24 and 26% in 3QFY25. Along with the results, we expect DGKC to announce a cash dividend of PkR 4 per share.

Kohat Cement (KOHC): KOHC is expected to report an EPS of PkIR 13.0 in 4QFY25, reflecting a 7% YoY and 9% QoQ increase. The YoY growth is primarily driven by higher cement prices, improved gross margins, and lower finance costs. The QoQ increase is attributed to a 4% rise in total cement dispatches and a 3% increase in cement prices. Gross margins are expected to reach 39% in 4QFY25, compared to 32% in 4QFY24 and 40% in 3QFY25. Along with the results, we do not anticipate any cash dividend from KOHC.



Source: Company Accounts, BMA Research

Pakistan Cement EPS estimates									
PkR	4QFY25E	4QFY24A	YoY	3QFY25A	QoQ	FY25E	FY24A	YoY	
LUCK*	13.8	10.0	38%	12.3	13%	52.9	44.7	18%	
MLCF*	3.0	1.5	104%	2.7	13%	10.5	6.6	59%	
FCCL	1.5	0.5	205%	0.9	68%	5.3	3.4	58%	
DGKC	5.3	(3.9)	NM	4.6	17%	17.9	1.2	NM	
конс	13.0	12.2	7%	11.9	9%	60.1	45.4	32%	
CHCC	12.0	4.4	173%	8.7	38%	47.2	28.3	67%	
PIOC	6.0	5.9	1%	4.3	39%	22.5	22.8	-1%	
THCCL	1.2	1.2	-4%	1.1	5%	4.6	3.0	52%	

Source: Company Accounts, BMA Research, * Consolidated

Company wise earnings estimates



Cherat Cement (CHCC): CHCC is expected to report an EPS of PkR 12.0 in 4QFY25, compared to PkR 4.4 in the same period last year. The YoY increase in earnings is primarily driven by higher gross margins. On a QoQ basis, earnings are expected to rise by 38%, supported by higher cement prices and increased cement dispatches. Gross margins are projected to reach 38% in 4QFY25, compared to 28% in 4QFY24 and 40% in 3QFY25. Along with the results, we expect CHCC to announce a cash dividend of PkR 4 per share.

Pioneer Cement (PIOC): We expect PIOC to report an EPS of PkR 6.0 in 4QFY25, compared to PkR 5.9 in 4QFY24, reflecting a 1% YoY increase, driven by higher cement prices and lower finance costs. On a QoQ basis, earnings are projected to rise by 39%, supported by a 3% increase in cement prices, 1% growth in cement dispatches, and improved gross margins. Gross margins are expected to settle at 35% in 4QFY25, in line with 35% in 4QFY24 and up from 26% in 3QFY25. Along with the results, we expect PIOC to announce a cash dividend of PkR 10 per share.

Thatta Cement (THCCL): THCCL is expected to report an EPS of PkR 1.2 in 4QFY25, unchanged from the same period last year. The YoY decline in earnings is primarily due to a 24% decrease in cement dispatches. On a QoQ basis, earnings are projected to improve by 5%, supported by a higher gross margin and increased other income. Gross margins are anticipated to reach 34% in 4QFY25, compared to 31% in 4QFY24 and 24% in 3QFY25. Along with the results, we expect THCCL to announce a cash dividend of PkR 0.25 per share.

Company wise cement dispatches								
Mn Tons	4QFY25	4QFY24	YoY	3QFY25	QoQ			
LUCK	2.23	2.16	3%	2.25	-1%			
Local	1.39	1.42	-2%	1.53	-9%			
Exports	0.84	0.74	13%	0.72	17%			
DGKC	1.28	1.29	-1%	1.35	-5%			
Local	0.80	0.84	-5%	0.90	-11%			
Exports	0.48	0.45	5%	0.45	6%			
MLCF	1.00	0.90	11%	0.97	4%			
Local	0.91	0.85	7%	0.94	-3%			
Exports	0.09	0.05	75%	0.03	234%			
FCCL	1.38	1.30	7%	1.19	16%			
Local	1.18	1.16	2%	1.15	2%			
Exports	0.20	0.14	45%	0.04	427%			
PIOC	0.53	0.53	-1%	0.52	1%			
Local	0.53	0.53	-1%	0.52	1%			
Exports	-	-		-				
CHCC	0.64	0.65	-1%	0.51	27%			
Local	0.52	0.52	0%	0.49	6%			
Exports	0.13	0.13	-5%	0.02	610%			
конс	0.56	0.57	-1%	0.54	4%			
Local	0.56	0.56	-1%	0.54	4%			
Exports	0.00	0.01	-61%	0.00	191%			
THCCL	0.11	0.15	-24%	0.12	-2%			
Local	0.11	0.15	-24%	0.12	-2%			
Exports	-	-		-				

Source: APCMA. BMA Research

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Old rating system

Valuation Methodology

To arrive at our period end target prices, BMA Capital uses different valuation methodologies including

- Discounted cash flow (DCF, DDM)
- Relative Valuation (P/E, P/B, P/S etc.)
- Equity & Asset return based methodologies (EVA, Residual Income etc.)

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