

July 15, 2025

Q1FY26 Result Update

🗹 Change in Estimates | 🗹 Target | 🗹 Reco

Change in Estimates

	Cur	rent	Previous			
	FY26E	FY27E	FY26E	FY27E		
Rating	нс	DLD	RED	UCE		
Target Price	1,5	50	1,530			
Sales (Rs bn)	1,266	1,378	1,234	1,331		
% Chng.	2.6	3.5				
EBITDA (Rs bn)	267	301	272	297		
% Chng.	(2.0)	1.5				
EPS (Rs.)	64.5	73.7	66.6	72.8		
% Chng.	(3.1)	1.3				

Key Financials - Consolidated

Y/e Mar	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Sales (Rs. bn)	1,099	1,171	1,266	1,378
EBITDA (Rs. bn)	242	255	267	301
Margin (%)	22.0	21.8	21.1	21.9
PAT (Rs. bn)	157	174	175	200
EPS (Rs.)	58.0	64.1	64.5	73.7
Gr. (%)	5.7	10.6	0.6	14.3
DPS (Rs.)	52.0	60.0	58.1	66.4
Yield (%)	3.2	3.7	3.6	4.1
RoE (%)	23.5	25.2	24.8	27.6
RoCE (%)	21.7	22.5	22.7	25.3
EV/Sales (x)	3.8	3.5	3.2	2.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	17.1	16.2	15.4	13.4
PE (x)	27.9	25.3	25.1	22.0
P/BV (x)	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.0

Key Data	HCLT.BO HCLT IN
52-W High / Low	Rs.2,005 / Rs.1,303
Sensex / Nifty	82,253 / 25,082
Market Cap	Rs.4,396bn/ \$ 51,120m
Shares Outstanding	2,714m
3M Avg. Daily Value	Rs.4644.7m

Shareholding Pattern (%)

Promoter's	60.99
Foreign	19.14
Domestic Institution	15.48
Public & Others	4.39
Promoter Pledge (Rs bn)	-

12M

4.2

2.0

Stock Performance (%)								
	1M	6M						
Absolute	(4.5)	(10.4)						
Relative	(5.8)	(16.7)						

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HCL Technologies (HCLT IN)

Rating: HOLD | CMP: Rs1,620 | TP: Rs1,550

Near-term hit, securing future growth

Quick Pointers:

- Revised guidance to 3-5% CC revenue growth & EBIT margin guidance reduced to 17-18% for FY26
- Weak Deals wins of USD 1.8 bn, down 7% YoY due to deal closing delays

The revenue growth performance was tad below our estimates, largely attributed to the P&P business (down 7.1% QoQ CC), while Service business growth was flat CC QoQ despite macro volatility. The revenue guidance improvement at the lower band by 100bps eliminates the odds of hitting the worst, while improved discretionary spends on Financial Service and Technology verticals further boosts management confidence to deliver growth within the guidance band. However, the tariff sensitive verticals (Manufacturing, Retail, Healthcare) continue to see execution deferrals and slowdown in decision making, which might pose additional risk to achieve the upper end of the guidance. ER&D vertical continued to be on a weak footing, down 0.5% QoQ CC, due to weakness in Automotive and Life Science, which create additional growth headwinds. Despite the fact, the management is doubling down on AI investments and fuel S&M engines to drive differentiated offerings through agentic Al. Hence, the company is consciously taking a margin hit in the near-term, lowering margin guidance to 17-18% (18-19% earlier), to secure long-term growth. We are baking revenue growth of 3.4% and 5.8% YoY CC over FY26E & FY27E respectively, while expecting a decline in margins of 80bps YoY in FY26E followed by an improvement of 80bps in FY27E. Post the near-term correction, the stock is currently trading at 25x/22x FY26E/FY27E, hence we upgrade to HOLD (earlier REDUCE).

Revenue: HCLT in Q1 reported revenue of USD 3.5 bn, down 0.8% QoQ CC compared to PLe of 0.4% decline & consensus estimate of 1% decline. Services segment was declined marginally by 0.1% QoQ CC with IT Services remaining flat sequentially in CC while ER&D declined by 0.5% QoQ CC. P&P business declined by 0.8% QoQ CC.

Margins: Consolidated EBIT margin during the quarter came at 16.3%, down 170 bps QoQ, lower than our & consensus estimate of 70 bps each largely due to lower utilization. IT Services, ER&D and P&P margin declined by 190 bps, 20 bps & 190 bps QoQ respectively. Services (IT + ER&D) margin declined by 170 bps QoQ.

Guidance: HCLT has revised its revenue guidance to 3-5% YoY CC for Services & Consolidated business from 2-5% given earlier. However, due to weak operating performance in Q1 and anticipating the headwinds of continued investment & lower utilization in near term HCLT has lowered its EBIT margin guidance from 18-19% to 17-18% for FY26.

Valuations and outlook: We are baking in USD revenue/Earnings CAGR of 5.8%/7.3% between FY25-27E. The stock is currently trading at a PE of 25x/22x FY26E/FY27E earnings. We are assigning a PE multiple of 21x to FY27E earnings and arrive at a TP of INR 1,550. We upgrade our rating on the stock from Reduce to **HOLD**.



Miss on both revenue & margins, Margin guidance lowered by 100 bps

- USD rev of 3.54b, down 0.8% QoQ in CC (up 0.3% QoQ reported), below our estimates (-0.4% CC) and consensus est. (-1.0% CC)
- Services business down 0.1% QoQ in CC, with IT services flat QoQ in CC and ER&D down 0.5% QoQ in CC.
- HCL Software (P&P) revenue growth was down 7.1% QoQ CC and down 3.0% YoY CC
- Q1 new Deal TCV down to \$1.8bn vs Q4 at \$2.99bn in Q4
- Geography wise Europe grew by 5% QoQ while US grew by 0.4% QoQ.
 Vertical wise Tech services grew by 6.6% QoQ while FS, Manufacturing & Retail grew by 2% QoQ each
- FY26 Revenue guidance narrowed to 3-5% CC YoY (vs 2-5% CC), while our number stands at 2.3% YoY CC. Surprisingly, EBIT margin guidance revised to 17-18% (vs 18-19% earlier)
- Q1 EBIT margin declines by 170bps to 16.3%, against our and consensus estimated decline of 70bps QoQ, respectively
- Services EBIT margin down 150bps QoQ, while P&P was down 190 bps QoQ
- Net employees decline by 269 after 2 quarters of net additions with fresher additions of ~2k during the quarter, LTM Attrition declined marginally by 20 bps QoQ to 12.8%
- Reported PAT of Rs. 38.4b, down 10.8% QoQ & 9.8% YoY, vs our estimates of Rs42b due to miss in margins
- The Board declared an interim dividend of Rs12/share
- FCF/NM at 121% on LTM basis

Concall Highlights

- Management mentioned that the demand environment remains stable with some volatility existing due to tariff uncertainty and geo-political conflicts. They further mentioned that they have witnessed traction in discretionary spending in FS & Tech segment while weakness continues in Manufacturing, Retail & Lifescience segments.
- Management mentioned that the strong performance of tech segment was due to ramp up of large deal. The management indicated that the ramp up was slower than expected but it was not due to client specific or macro issue rather it being a timing difference which led to lower utilization of resources on the project. They further mentioned that they expect this deal to ramp up by Q2/Q3. The management further expressed confidence that the growth in FY26 will be driven by FS & Tech segment despite some weakness in other segments.
- EBIT margin during the quarter declined sharply by ~160-170 bps sequentially and the decline was due to the headwinds of lower utilization (-80 bps), investment in sales team (-30 bps), impact due client bankruptcy (-30 bps), and lower software business impact (-20 bps). The management further indicated that drag on margins will impact Q2 also as it will continue to invest in sales team for its restructured GTM.
- The management mentioned that its restructuring its GTM for AI-led strategy for which it will continue making investments which will impact the margins in FY26. They also indicated that utilization will be impacted by short-term due training of its employees which were recently released by a client due to productivity passback. They also mentioned that utilization than anticipated due to slower ramp of large deal for which high-cost resources were deployed. Due to these headwinds management lowered EBIT margin guidance for FY26 from 18-19% earlier to 17-18%.
- Deal wins during the quarter was weak at USD 1.8 bn compared to USD 3 bn in Q4FY26. The management mentioned that this was largely due to delay in closing 2 large deals to Q2. The management expressed confidence that these 2 deals would be closed in Q2, and the delay was structural in nature and not related to macro issues. The management also expressed confidence of closing a large vendor consolidation deal apart from the 2 large deals which together gives them confidence in achieving the revised revenue guidance of 3-5% YoY CC growth.
- The management mentioned that they have strengthened their AI offerings by expanding their partnerships with OpenAI. They mentioned that they partnership was to help OpenAI clients for adoption & transformation, for internal use & to co-sell solutions with OpenAI.
- The management mentioned that they are pro-actively passing productivity benefits with clients which is leading to cannibalization of some revenue but expressed confidence that it will lead to increase wallet share in future
- Top 5/10/20 clients revenue grew by 1.2%/2%/0.3% QoQ respectively.

Exhibit 1: 1QFY26 Results: USD revenues declined by 0.8% QoQ CC, EBIT margin declined by 170bps QoQ

Consolidated (Rs bn)	1QFY26	4QFY25E	% Var.	4QFY25	QoQ gr. (%)	1QFY25	YoY gr. (%)	FY25	FY24	YoY gr. (%)
IT Services Revenue (USD mn)	3,545	3,547	-0.1	3,498	1.3	3,364	5.4	13,840	13,270	4.3
Overall Revenue (Rs bn)	303	304	-0.1	302	0.3	281	8.2	1,171	1,099	6.5
Gross Profit	102	103	-0.7	105	-2.7	97	5.4	409	394	3.7
Gross Margin (%)	33.7	33.9	-20bps	34.7	-110bps	34.5	-90bps	34.9	35.9	-90bps
SG&A and Other Costs	41.9	39.5	6.0	40.2	4.1	39.0	7.4	153.9	152	1.0
% of Rev	13.8	13.0	80bps	13.3	50bps	13.9	-10bps	13.2	13.9	-70bps
EBITDA	60	63	-4.9	65	-6.9	58	4.2	255	242	5.4
EBIT Margin (%)	19.9	20.9	-100bps	21.4	-150bps	20.7	-80bps	21.8	22.0	-20bps
Depreciation	11	11	0.0	10	5	10	9.5	41	42	-2.1
% of Rev	3.6	3.6	Obps	3.4	20bps	3.6	Obps	3.5	3.8	-30bps
EBIT	49	53	-5.9	54	-9.2	48	3.0	214	200	7.0
EBIT Margin (%)	16.3	17.3	-100bps	18.0	-170bps	17.1	-80bps	18.3	18.2	10bps
Other Income (net)	2	3	-26.1	3	-15.7	9	-72.9	18	9	95.9
РВТ	52	56	-7.1	57	-9.5	57	-9.1	233	210	10.9
Тах	13	14	-3.7	14	-5.7	14	-7.1	59	53	11.5
Effective tax rate (%)	25.9	25.0	90bps	24.9	110bps	25.4	60bps	25.2	25.1	10bps
Adjusted PAT	38	42	-8.2	43	-10.8	43	-9.8	174	157	10.8
Exceptional items	0	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	0	NA
Reported PAT	38	42	-8.2	43	-10.8	43	-9.8	174	157	10.8
Reported EPS (Rs)	14.2	15.4	-8.2	15.9	-10.8	15.7	-9.8	64	58	10.7

Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 2: Regional growth (%)

Geographies	Contr. To rev. (%)	QoQ Gr. (%)
Americas	56.5	0.4
Europe	28.3	5.0
RoW	11.9	1.2
Source: Company, PL		

Exhibit	3:	Vertical	Growth (%)

Verticals	Contr. To rev. (%) Qo	Gr. (%)
Financial Services	21.1	2.0
Manufacturing	18.6	2.0
Technology	14.0	6.6
Life Sciences & Healthcare	14.5	0.6
Telecom MP&E	13.1	-3.9
Retail & CPG	9.7	2.0
Public Services	8.5	0.8
Source: Company, PL		

Exhibit 4: Key Performance Indicator

	2QFY24	3QFY24	4QFY24	1QFY25	2QFY25	3QFY25	4QFY25	1QFY26	FY24*	FY25*
Revenue (QoQ CC %)	1.0	6.0	0.3	-1.6	1.6	3.8	-0.8	-0.8	5.0	4.7
Margins										
Gross Margin	36.2	36.7	35.0	34.5	34.9	35.6	34.7	33.7	35.9	34.9
EBIT Margin	18.5	19.7	17.6	17.1	18.6	19.5	18.0	16.3	18.2	18.3
Net Margin	14.4	15.3	14.0	15.2	14.7	15.4	14.2	12.7	14.3	14.9
Headcount (k)	221	225	227	219	219	221	223	223	227	223
Attrition (%)	14.2	12.8	12.4	12.8	12.9	13.2	13.0	12.8	12.4	13.0
Source: Company DI	* VoV CC									

Source: Company, PL, * YoY CC

Exhibit 5: Revenue declined by 0.8% QoQ CC



Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 7: P&P declined in Q1



Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 9: Attrition declined by 20 bps QoQ



Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 6: Services business (IT & ER&D) revenue growth %



Source: Company, PL





Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 10: New Deal TCV weak due to delay in closing



Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 11: Operating Metrics

Consolidated (Rs bn)	2QFY23	3QFY23 4	QFY23	1QFY24 2	2QFY24	3QFY24 4	QFY24	1QFY25 2	QFY25	3QFY25 4	4QFY25	1QFY26
Service Line wise (%)												
IT and Business Services	73.6	71.7	73.8	74.7	74.6	71.7	74.4	74.5	74.6	73.0	73.3	74.0
Engineering and R&D Services	17.0	16.6	16.1	15.4	16.0	16.4	16.1	15.9	15.8	16.0	17.1	17.0
Products and Platform	9.4	11.7	10.1	9.9	9.4	11.9	9.5	9.6	9.6	11.0	9.6	9.0
Vertical wise (%)												
BFSI	20.6	19.9	21.2	22.6	22.6	21.7	21.6	21.0	20.5	20.3	21.1	21.1
Manufacturing	18.3	18.3	19.0	19.0	19.0	20.1	20.4	19.4	19.5	19.1	18.6	18.6
Technology & Services	15.4	15.4	14.4	14.4	14.4	12.8	12.3	13.0	13.1	13.3	13.4	14.0
Retail & CPG	9.2	8.9	9.0	9.1	9.6	9.6	9.1	9.4	9.6	10.6	9.7	9.7
Telecom MP&E	9.2	9.4	8.8	7.6	8.0	9.7	11.5	12.2	12.1	12.3	13.9	13.1
Life Sciences	16.5	17.1	17.5	17.5	17.5	16.4	16.3	15.9	16.0	15.5	14.7	14.5
Public Services	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.0	9.9	9.7	8.8	9.1	9.2	8.9	8.6	8.5
Geography wise (%)												
US	64.8	63.5	63.8	64.5	64.5	64.5	65.2	66.0	65.1	65.5	57.4	56.5
Europe	27.5	29.1	28.9	28.7	28.5	29.0	28.9	27.9	28.4	28.2	27.5	28.3
ROW	7.7	7.4	7.3	6.8	7.0	6.4	5.9	6.1	6.5	6.3	12.0	11.9
Client wise (%)												
Top 5 clients	10.7	10.3	10.1	9.8	9.8	9.8	10.4	11.4	12.1	12.6	12.7	12.6
Top 10 clients	18.8	18.2	17.7	17.2	17.2	17.7	18.8	19.6	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.2
Top 20 clients	28.6	28.2	27.8	27.2	27.3	28.0	29.0	30.1	30.8	30.9	30.4	29.9
Source: Company, PL												

Financials

Y/e Mar	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Net Revenues	1,099	1,171	1,266	1,378
YoY gr. (%)	8.3	6.5	8.2	8.8
Employee Cost	705	762	828	895
Gross Profit	394	409	439	483
Margin (%)	35.9	34.9	34.6	35.1
Employee Cost	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-
EBITDA	242	255	267	301
YoY gr. (%)	6.9	5.4	4.5	13.1
Margin (%)	22.0	21.8	21.1	21.9
Depreciation and Amortization	42	41	46	50
EBIT	200	214	221	252
Margin (%)	18.2	18.3	17.5	18.3
Net Interest	-	-	-	-
Other Income	9	18	13	15
Profit Before Tax	210	233	234	267
Margin (%)	19.1	19.9	18.5	19.4
Total Tax	53	59	59	67
Effective tax rate (%)	25.1	25.2	25.2	25.0
Profit after tax	157	174	175	200
Minority interest	0	0	0	0
Share Profit from Associate	-	-	-	-
Adjusted PAT	157	174	175	200
YoY gr. (%)	5.7	10.8	0.7	14.3
Margin (%)	14.3	14.9	13.8	14.5
Extra Ord. Income / (Exp)	-	-	-	-
Reported PAT	157	174	175	200
YoY gr. (%)	5.7	10.8	0.7	14.3
Margin (%)	14.3	14.9	13.8	14.5
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	157	174	175	200
Equity Shares O/s (bn)	3	3	3	3
EPS (Rs)	58.0	64.1	64.5	73.7

Source: Company	Data, PL	Research
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Balance Sheet Abstract (Rs bn)

Y/e Mar	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Non-Current Assets				
Gross Block	643	694	707	721
Tangibles	370	408	420	434
Intangibles	273	287	287	287
Acc: Dep / Amortization	291	332	378	427
Tangibles	291	332	378	427
Intangibles	-	-	-	-
Net fixed assets	352	362	329	294
Tangibles	79	76	43	7
Intangibles	273	287	287	287
Capital Work In Progress	-	-	-	-
Goodwill	-	-	-	-
Non-Current Investments	1	1	1	1
Net Deferred tax assets	-	-	-	-
Other Non-Current Assets	52	71	73	74
Current Assets				
Investments	177	205	205	205
Inventories	-	-	-	-
Trade receivables	255	258	279	305
Cash & Bank Balance	95	82	121	165
Other Current Assets	66	75	76	83
Total Assets	998	1,055	1,085	1,126
Equity				
Equity Share Capital	5	5	5	5
Other Equity	677	691	709	729
Total Networth	683	697	714	734
Non-Current Liabilities				
Long Term borrowings	22	1	1	1
Provisions	-	-	-	-
Other non current liabilities	66	78	79	83
Current Liabilities				
ST Debt / Current of LT Debt	1	22	22	22
Trade payables	59	62	68	73
Other current liabilities	168	196	201	214
Total Equity & Liabilities	998	1,055	1,085	1,126

Source: Company Data, PL Research

HCL Technologies

PL Capital	INSTITUTIONAL EQUITIES
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Cash Flow (Rs bn)

Y/e Mar	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
PBT	210	233	175	200
Add. Depreciation	42	41	46	50
Add. Interest	-	-	-	-
Less Financial Other Income	9	18	13	15
Add. Other	(50)	(19)	-	-
Op. profit before WC changes	201	255	221	250
Net Changes-WC	23	(32)	(12)	(12)
Direct tax	-	-	-	-
Net cash from Op. activities	224	223	209	238
Capital expenditures	(31)	(31)	(13)	(14)
Interest / Dividend Income	-	-	-	-
Others	(37)	(18)	-	-
Net Cash from Invt. activities	(67)	(49)	(13)	(14)
Issue of share cap. / premium	-	-	-	-
Debt changes	(2)	(1)	-	-
Dividend paid	(141)	(163)	(158)	(180)
Interest paid	-	-	-	-
Others	(12)	(22)	-	-
Net cash from Fin. activities	(155)	(186)	(158)	(180)
Net change in cash	3	(12)	39	44
Free Cash Flow	214	212	196	224

Y/e Mar	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Per Share(Rs)				
EPS	58.0	64.1	64.5	73.7
CEPS	73.4	79.2	81.3	92.0
BVPS	252.1	256.9	263.2	270.5
FCF	79.1	78.1	72.4	82.5
DPS	52.0	60.0	58.1	66.4
Return Ratio(%)				
RoCE	21.7	22.5	22.7	25.3
ROIC	22.3	23.0	22.8	24.7
RoE	23.5	25.2	24.8	27.6
Balance Sheet				
Net Debt : Equity (x)	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.5)
Net Working Capital (Days)	65	61	61	61
Valuation(x)				
PER	27.9	25.3	25.1	22.0
P/B	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.0
P/CEPS	22.1	20.5	19.9	17.6
EV/EBITDA	17.1	16.2	15.4	13.4
EV/Sales	3.8	3.5	3.2	2.9
Dividend Yield (%)	3.2	3.7	3.6	4.1

Source: Company Data, PL Research

Source: Company Data, PL Research

Quarterly Financials (Rs bn)

Y/e Mar	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	Q4FY25	Q1FY26
Net Revenue	289	299	302	303
YoY gr. (%)	2.9	3.6	1.2	0.3
Raw Material Expenses	188	193	197	201
Gross Profit	101	106	105	102
Margin (%)	34.9	35.6	34.7	33.7
EBITDA	64	69	65	60
YoY gr. (%)	-	-	-	-
Margin (%)	22.1	23.0	21.4	19.9
Depreciation / Depletion	10	10	10	11
EBIT	54	58	54	49
Margin (%)	18.6	19.5	18.0	16.3
Net Interest	-	-	-	-
Other Income	3	3	3	2
Profit before Tax	57	61	57	52
Margin (%)	19.7	20.5	19.0	17.1
Total Tax	15	15	14	13
Effective tax rate (%)	25.5	25.1	24.9	25.9
Profit after Tax	42	46	43	38
Minority interest	-	-	-	-
Share Profit from Associates	-	-	-	-
Adjusted PAT	42	46	43	38
YoY gr. (%)	(0.5)	8.4	(6.2)	(10.8)
Margin (%)	14.7	15.4	14.2	12.7
Extra Ord. Income / (Exp)	-	-	-	-
Reported PAT	42	46	43	38
YoY gr. (%)	(0.5)	8.4	(6.2)	(10.8)
Margin (%)	14.7	15.4	14.2	12.7
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	42	46	43	38
Avg. Shares O/s (bn)	3	3	3	3
EPS (Rs)	15.6	16.9	15.9	14.2

Key Operating Metrics

Y/e Mar	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue (USD mn)	13,270	13,840	14,611	15,485
Courses Commence Data DI Doocarsh				

Source: Company Data, PL Research



HCL Technologies

Price Chart

Recommendation History



Date	Rating	TP (Rs.)	Share Price (Rs.)
01-Jul-25	Reduce	1,530	1,729
23-Apr-25	Hold	1,540	1,480
03-Apr-25	Accumulate	1,740	1,528
27-Mar-25	Accumulate	1,860	1,633
14-Jan-25	Accumulate	2,080	1,989
07-Jan-25	Accumulate	2,120	1,947
15-Oct-24	BUY	2,130	1,856
03-Oct-24	BUY	2,080	1,817

Analyst Coverage Universe

Sr. No.	Company Name	Rating	TP (Rs)	Share Price (Rs)
1	Cyient	Reduce	1,150	1,289
2	HCL Technologies	Reduce	1,530	1,729
3	Infosys	Accumulate	1,680	1,602
4	KPIT Technologies	Accumulate	1,390	1,259
5	L&T Technology Services	Hold	4,300	4,402
6	LTIMindtree	Hold	5,060	5,312
7	Mphasis	Hold	2,900	2,845
8	Persistent Systems	Hold	5,890	6,042
9	Tata Consultancy Services	BUY	3,920	3,382
10	Tata Elxsi	Sell	4,750	6,138
11	Tata Technologies	Sell	550	711
12	Tech Mahindra	Reduce	1,490	1,687
13	Wipro	Reduce	250	266

PL's Recommendation Nomenclature (Absolute Performance)

Buy	:	> 15%
Accumulate	:	5% to 15%
Hold	:	+5% to -5%
Reduce	:	-5% to -15%
Sell	:	< -15%
Not Rated (NR)	:	No specific call on the stock
Under Review (UR)	:	Rating likely to change shortly



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