



ASHOK LEYLAND

Automobiles

17 November 2022

# Healthy performance all round

- Q2 topline healthy at Rs 83bn backed by volume growth of 15% QoQ to 45.3k vehicles (+65% YoY on a weak base)
- Gross margins improved 130bps QoQ to 22% as easing commodity inflation offset higher inventory cost
- We assume coverage with BUY, valuing AL at 22x FY24E EPS of Rs7 (+Rs12/sh HLF) for a TP of Rs 169

**Healthy quarter:** AL's Q2FY23 net sales at Rs 82.6bn were driven by volume growth of 15% QoQ to 45.3k vehicles (+65% YoY on a weak base). Net realisation per vehicle (NRPV) stood at Rs 1,824k (flat QoQ, +13% YoY). Raw material cost spiked 13% QoQ but appears to have peaked at 78% of sales. Gross margin expanded 130bps QoQ to 22%. With other expenditure reined in (+4% QoQ), EBITDA jumped 68% QoQ to Rs 5.4bn and EBITDA margin swelled to 6.5% from 4% in Q1FY23. PAT nearly quadrupled QoQ to Rs 1.9bn despite higher interest cost.

**Price hikes and easing cost to boost margins:** AL took price hikes of 1.8-1.9% in Q1FY23 followed by a 1% increase in Q2 and 1.5% in Q3 thus far. Despite the frequent hikes, customer retention remains high and the company has managed to gain market share across geographies. We expect lower costs and improved pricing to aid margin improvement in the medium term.

**Market share addition:** AL's domestic market share in medium & heavy commercial vehicles (MHCV) has risen 10ppt YoY to ~32% (27% end-FY22). Though the uptick in the CV cycle has been a contributing factor, the company's advanced vehicle transformation (AVTR) range of products has also supported gradual market share gains. In the bus segment, AL retains its leadership and is looking to expand volumes. Its network expansion strategy has also supported growth

**New launches in LCVs and EVs:** Volume growth in the 'Dost' and 'Bada Dost' light commercial vehicles (LCV) has been healthy in Q2 but would have been stronger if not for the semiconductor shortage. These products carry export potential for AL. In the EV segment, the company plans to launch the electric version of Dost and Bada Dost by mid-2023, which should lend a boost to volumes and margins.

**BUY, TP Rs 169:** We expect AL's EBITDA margin to expand 290bps over FY23-FY25 to 10% baking in softer raw material cost, revival in the key CV market, leadership in the bus segment, new launches and entry into EVs. Revival in exports will add further comfort. We assume coverage with BUY and a TP of Rs 169, valuing AL at Rs 157/sh (22x FY24E EPS) plus Rs 12/sh for Hinduja Leyland Finance.

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Key ch	anges			
	Target	Rating		
	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>		
Ticker/Price		AL IN/Rs 145		
Market cap		US\$ 5.2bn		
Free float		49%		
3M ADV		US\$ 25.1mn		
52wk high/low		Rs 169/Rs 93		
Promoter/F	PI/DII	52%/17%/15%		

Source: NSE | Price as of 17 Nov 2022

### Key financials

Y/E 31 Mar	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	216,883	315,621	368,421
EBITDA (Rs mn)	9,945	21,788	36,031
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	310	9,460	20,403
Adj. EPS (Rs)	1.8	3.2	7.0
Consensus EPS (Rs)	1.8	5.9	7.1
Adj. ROAE (%)	0.4	11.7	20.6
Adj. P/E (x)	78.4	44.9	20.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	45.2	20.7	12.2
Adj. EPS growth (%)		2951.5	115.7

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

### Stock performance



Source: NSE





# Earnings call highlights

### Revenue

- AL's domestic truck business (32% market share) posted a 10% YoY increase in revenue in Q2FY23. With new launches and continued network expansion, management expects to sustain the market share achieved in the last four quarters.
- Higher LCV and MHCV truck sales were supported by improved freight availability and growth in end-user industries, in addition to pent-up replacement demand. AL expects domestic CV industry volumes to grow in FY23, in line with economic recovery.
- LCVs Dost and Bada Dost have been growing stronger, but volumes are limited by the availability of semiconductors. Per management, both products hold large export potential and are an apt fit for their addressable markets.
- Regarding funding of EV subsidiary Switch, management is actively looking for suitable investors. AL will launch the electric version of Dost and Bada Dost in the middle of 2023.
- The excellent performance of the AVTR range of products has helped ALL earn marginally better realisations.

### Margins

- The softening of commodity prices, particularly steel, should benefit margins. With volumes increasing, economies will start to kick in with larger suppliers.
   Management expects commodity prices to ease further going forward
- AL took price hikes of 1.8-1.9% in Q1FY23 followed by a 1% increase in Q2 and 1.5% in Q3 thus far. Despite the frequent hikes, customer retention remains high
- The benefits of price hikes and easing steel cost will be fully reflected in Q3 and Q4FY23 as the opening stock had to be sold first this quarter

### Capex

- Capex was at Rs 1bn in Q2FY23 and Rs 2.2bn in H1FY23. Management expects to spend a total of Rs 6bn for FY23. A majority of the outlay that AL had envisaged has already been incurred with BS6 and 'Avatar', so management expects capex to be in the range of Rs 5bn-7bn annually.
- This does not include capex to be incurred on EVs, which is guided at US\$ 200mn-250mn cumulatively for the next 2-3 years.



## Working capital

- Operating working capital in Q2 was at Rs 4.9bn against the negative Rs 1.7bn as on Jun'22. The increase is because the company is keeping inventory slightly higher in case of any sudden upside in sales.
- Management indicated that the working capital situation is under control.

## Net Debt and D/E

- Net debt has increased by Rs 4bn in Q2FY23 and the D/E ratio is at 0.4x.
- The company indicated that there will be a significant reduction in short-term debt.

## Other highlights

- AL has given short-term loans of Rs 2bn to its own subsidiary Switch in order to help it execute orders.
- Hinduja Leyland Finance is expected to be listed around Jun'23. The subsidiary has AUM of Rs 317bn, Revenue of Rs16.2bn, PAT of Rs 2.2bn, GNPA of 6.3% and NNPA of 4.4%. It has also raised capital of Rs 9.1bn from qualified institutional buyers.



# Fig 1 – Quarterly performance (Standalone)

(Rs mn)	Q2FY23	Q2FY22	YoY (%)	Q1FY23	QoQ (%)	H1FY23	H1FY22	YoY (%)
Volume	45,295	27,543	64.5	39,372	15.0	84,667	45,530	86.0
Avg. Realisation per Vehicle	1,824,914	1,618,506	12.8	1,834,514	(0.5)	1,829,379	1,627,244	12.4
Net Revenues	82,660	44,579	85.4	72,229	14.4	154,888	74,088	109.1
Other Operating Income	-	-	NA	-	NA	-	-	NA
Total Income (A)	82,660	44,579	85.4	72,229	14.4	154,888	74,088	109.1
Operating Expenses:								
Raw materials consumed	64,466	34,185	88.6	57,281	12.5	121,746	56,058	117.2
Employee Expenses	5,271	4,003	31.7	4,454	18.3	9,725	8,246	17.9
Other Expenses	7,550	5,043	49.7	7,291	3.5	14,841	9,839	50.8
Total Expenditure (B)	77,286	43,232	78.8	69,026	12.0	146,312	74,143	97.3
EBITDA (A-B)	5,373	1,347	298.9	3,203	67.8	8,576	(54)	
Other Income	199	209	(4.9)	256	(22.4)	455	343	32.7
Depreciation	1,768	1,843	(4.1)	1,824	(3.1)	3,592	3,678	(2.3)
EBIT	3,804	(286)	(1,427.9)	1,635	132.7	5,440	(3,388)	(260.5)
Finance Costs	771	871	(11.5)	689	11.9	1,459	1,578	(7.5)
PBT before exceptional items	3,034	(1,157)	(362.2)	946	220.6	3,980	(4,967)	(180.1)
Exceptional items	(82)	(2)	-	(130)	-	212	(15)	NA
PBT after exceptional items	3,116	(1,155)	(369.8)	1,077	189.5	4,193	(4,981)	(184.2)
Tax expense	1,124	(325)	(446.0)	396	183.9	1,520	(1,328)	(214.5)
Reported PAT	1,992	(830)	(340.0)	681	192.8	2,673	(3,653)	(173.2)
Adjusted PAT	1,910	(832)	(329.4)	550	247.0	2,460	(3,639)	(167.6)
Adj EPS (Rs)	0.7	(0.3)	(329.4)	0.2	247.0	0.8	(1.2)	(167.6)
Key ratios (%)			(bps)		(bps)			(bps)
Gross Margin	22.0	23.3	(130)	20.7	131	21.4	24.3	(294)
EBITDA Margin	6.5	3.0	348	4.4	207	5.5	(0.1)	561
EBIT Margin	4.6	(0.6)	525	2.3	234	3.5	(4.6)	809
PBT Margin	3.7	(2.6)	627	1.3	236	2.6	(6.7)	927
Tax Rate	36.1	28.1	794	36.8	(71)	36.3	26.7	959

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



# Valuation methodology

We expect AL's EBITDA margin to expand 290bps over FY23-FY25 to 10% by FY25 baking in softer raw material cost, revival in the key CV market, leadership in the bus segment, new launches and entry into EVs. Revival in exports will add further comfort. We assume coverage with BUY and a TP of Rs 169, valuing AL at Rs 157/sh (22x FY24E EPS) plus Rs 12/sh for Hinduja Leyland Finance. The multiple assigned is in line with the long-term average commanded by AL.

Fig 2 – Key assumptions			
Key Assumptions	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
M&HCV volumes (nos)	96,051	107,577	123,175
LCV volumes (nos)	68,051	74,856	84,213
Total volume sold (Nos)	164,102	182,433	207,389
M&HCV (%)	59	59	59
LCV (%)	41	41	41
Revenue per vehicle (Rs)	1,923,323	2,019,489	2,140,659
RMC per vehicle (Rs)	1,495,384	1,514,617	1,616,197
As a % of revenue	77.8	75.0	75.5
Gross margin per vehicle (Rs)	427,939	504,872	524,461
As a % of revenue	22.3	25.0	24.5
Staff cost per vehicle (Rs)	117,206	114,918	109,176
As a % of revenue	6.1	5.7	5.1
Other expense per vehicle (Rs)	182,716	191,851	207,644
As a % of revenue	9.5	9.5	9.7
EBITDA per vehicle (Rs)	128,018	198,103	207,641
As a % of revenue	6.7	9.8	9.7
Other Income (Rs mn)	972	1,065	1,251
Depreciation (Rs mn)	7,730	7,905	8,887
Interest (Rs mn)	2,824	2,864	3,016
PAT per vehicle (Rs)	57,644	111,837	122,181
As a % of revenue	3.0	5.5	5.7

### Fig 2 – Key assumptions

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

# **Key risks**

Key downside risks to our estimates are:

- The cost inflation reviving that can dent our margin assumptions.
- Slower economic revival leading to lower CV/bus segment demand.
- Delay in new launches in the EV segment



# Financials

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Total revenue	155,984	216,883	315,621	368,421	443,948
EBITDA	5,351	9,945	21,788	36,031	43,347
Depreciation	7,477	7,528	7,730	7,905	8,887
EBIT	(931)	3,179	15,030	29,190	35,712
Net interest inc./(exp.)	(3,068)	(3,011)	(2,824)	(2,864)	(3,016)
Other inc./(exp.)	1,195	761	972	1,065	1,251
Exceptional items	(121)	5,108	0	0	0
EBT	(4,119)	5,276	12,206	26,326	32,696
Income taxes	(983)	(142)	2,746	5,923	7,356
Extraordinary items	0	0	0	0	0
Min. int./Inc. from assoc.	0	0	0	0	0
Reported net profit	(3,136)	5,418	9,460	20,403	25,339
Adjustments	121	(5,108)	0	0	0
Adjusted net profit	(3,016)	310	9,460	20,403	25,339
	(0,000)		-,		
Balance Sheet					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Accounts payables	51,647	70,342	73,410	91,361	108,028
Other current liabilities	14,859	16,408	8,338	(17,031)	(17,543)
Provisions	6,545	6,705	7,040	7,603	8,363
Debt funds	37,163	35,071	27,680	28,198	30,368
Other liabilities	2,805	0	0	0	0
Equity capital	2,936	2,936	2,936	2,936	2,936
Reserves & surplus	66,837	70,433	77,642	96,103	119,403
Shareholders' fund	69,772	73,369	80,578	99,039	122,339
Total liab. and equities	182,792	201,894	197,046	209,170	251,556
Cash and cash eq.	8,230	10,470	4,986	3,124	6,900
Accounts receivables	28,160	31,110	40,642	46,431	54,125
Inventories	21,423	20,752	26,806	32,300	37,705
Other current assets	16,603	24,858	21,618	24,225	31,624
Investments	30,687	48,196	38,216	35,216	48,216
Net fixed assets	70,504	62,342	62,722	66,317	69,430
CWIP	3,719	1,111	3,500	3,000	5,000
Intangible assets	0	4,499	0	0	0
Deferred tax assets, net	(1,708)	(1,444)	(1,444)	(1,444)	(1,444)
Other assets	5,174	0	0	0	0
Total assets	182,792	201,895	197,046	209,170	251,556
Cash Flows	51/04 4	51/00 4	EVOOE	51/045	51/055
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Cash flow from operations	6,443	26,951	(3,618)	3,634	26,377
Capital expenditures Change in investments	(7,722)	(1,257)	(6,001) 9,981	(11,000) 3,000	(14,000)
-	(3,491) 1,195	(17,509)			(13,000)
Other investing cash flows Cash flow from investing	,	761 (18,005)	972	1,065	1,251
-	(10,018)		4,952	(6,935)	(25,749)
Equities issued/Others	0	(2 002)	(7 301)	0 518	2 170
Debt raised/repaid	4,349	(2,092)	(7,391)	518	2,170
	(3,068)	(3,011)	(2,824) (1,849)	(2,864) (1,942)	(3,016)
Interest expenses	(1 704)		11 8/101	11 947	(2,039)
Dividends paid	(1,761)	(1,761)	/		
Dividends paid Other financing cash flows	(940)	157	(401)	0	C
			/		(2,885) (2,257)

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Reported EPS	(1.0)	0.1	3.2	7.0	8.6
Adjusted EPS	(1.1)	1.8	3.2	7.0	8.6
Dividend per share	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
Book value per share	23.8	25.0	27.4	33.7	41.7
Valuations Ratios					
Y/E 31 Mar (x)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
EV/Sales	2.8	2.1	1.4	1.2	1.0
EV/EBITDA	80.5	45.2	20.7	12.2	9.9
Adjusted P/E	(135.5)	78.4	44.9	20.8	16.8
P/BV	6.1	5.8	5.3	4.3	3.5
DuPont Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar (%)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Tax burden (Net profit/PBT)	73.2	5.9	77.5	77.5	77.5
Interest burden (PBT/EBIT)	442.6	166.0	81.2	90.2	91.6
EBIT margin (EBIT/Revenue)	(0.6)	1.5	4.8	7.9	8.0
Asset turnover (Rev./Avg TA)	142.8	198.8	291.3	312.9	317.2
Leverage (Avg TA/Avg Equity)	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3
Adjusted ROAE	(4.2)	0.4	12.3	22.7	22.9
Datia Analysia					
Ratio Analysis Y/E 31 Mar	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
YoY growth (%)	FIZIA	FIZZA	FIZJE	FIZ4E	FIZJE
Revenue	(12.8)	39.0	45.5	16.7	20.5
EBITDA	(54.4)	85.8	119.1	65.4	20.3
Adjusted EPS	(34.4)	00.0	2951.5	115.7	20.3
Profitability & Return ratios (%)			2901.0	113.7	24.2
EBITDA margin	3.4	1.0	6.9	9.8	9.8
LDHDA margin			0.9	5.0	5.0
•		4.6	10	70	0.0
EBIT margin	(0.6)	1.5	4.8	7.9	
EBIT margin Adjusted profit margin	(0.6) (1.9)	1.5 0.1	3.0	5.5	5.7
EBIT margin Adjusted profit margin Adjusted ROAE	(0.6) (1.9) (4.3)	1.5 0.1 0.4	3.0 11.7	5.5 20.6	5.7 20.7
EBIT margin Adjusted profit margin Adjusted ROAE ROCE	(0.6) (1.9)	1.5 0.1	3.0	5.5	5.7 20.7
EBIT margin Adjusted profit margin Adjusted ROAE ROCE Working capital days (days)	(0.6) (1.9) (4.3) (0.6)	1.5 0.1 0.4 3.0	3.0 11.7 10.8	5.5 20.6 19.2	5.7 20.7 19.8
EBIT margin Adjusted profit margin Adjusted ROAE ROCE <b>Working capital days (days)</b> Receivables	(0.6) (1.9) (4.3) (0.6) 47	1.5 0.1 0.4 3.0 50	3.0 11.7 10.8 41	5.5 20.6 19.2 43	5.7 20.7 19.8 41
EBIT margin Adjusted profit margin Adjusted ROAE ROCE <b>Working capital days (days)</b> Receivables Inventory	(0.6) (1.9) (4.3) (0.6) 47 40	1.5 0.1 0.4 3.0 50 35	3.0 11.7 10.8 41 27	5.5 20.6 19.2 43 29	8.0 5.7 20.7 19.8 41 29
EBIT margin Adjusted profit margin Adjusted ROAE ROCE Working capital days (days) Receivables Inventory Payables	(0.6) (1.9) (4.3) (0.6) 47	1.5 0.1 0.4 3.0 50	3.0 11.7 10.8 41	5.5 20.6 19.2 43	5.7 20.7 19.8 41 29
EBIT margin Adjusted profit margin Adjusted ROAE ROCE Working capital days (days) Receivables Inventory Payables Ratios (x)	(0.6) (1.9) (4.3) (0.6) 47 40 125	1.5 0.1 0.4 3.0 50 35 133	3.0 11.7 10.8 41 27 107	5.5 20.6 19.2 43 29 109	5.7 20.7 19.8 41 29 109
EBIT margin Adjusted profit margin Adjusted ROAE ROCE Working capital days (days) Receivables Inventory Payables Ratios (x) Gross asset turnover	(0.6) (1.9) (4.3) (0.6) 47 40 125 0.7	1.5 0.1 0.4 3.0 50 35 133 0.5	3.0 11.7 10.8 41 27 107 0.4	5.5 20.6 19.2 43 29 109 0.3	5.7 20.7 19.8 41 29 109
EBIT margin Adjusted profit margin Adjusted ROAE ROCE Working capital days (days) Receivables Inventory Payables Ratios (x) Gross asset turnover Current ratio	(0.6) (1.9) (4.3) (0.6) 	1.5 0.1 0.4 3.0 50 35 133 0.5 0.9	3.0 11.7 10.8 41 27 107 0.4 1.1	5.5 20.6 19.2 43 29 109 0.3 1.3	5.7 20.7 19.8 41 29 109 0.3 0.3 1.3
EBIT margin Adjusted profit margin Adjusted ROAE ROCE Working capital days (days) Receivables Inventory Payables Ratios (x) Gross asset turnover	(0.6) (1.9) (4.3) (0.6) 47 40 125 0.7	1.5 0.1 0.4 3.0 50 35 133 0.5	3.0 11.7 10.8 41 27 107 0.4	5.5 20.6 19.2 43 29 109 0.3	5.7 20.7 19.8 41 29 109

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research | Note: TA = Total Assets



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BUY – Expected return >+15%

HOLD - Expected return from -6% to +15%

SELL - Expected return <-6%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

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### Ratings and Target Price (3-year history): ASHOK LEYLAND (AL IN)



B - Buy, H - Hold, S - Sell, A - Add, R - Reduce

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