

HOLD TP: Rs 1,200 | ¥ 3%

KAJARIA CERAMICS

Building Materials

22 July 2025

Beats Q1 on cost optimisation; D/G to HOLD on rich valuations

- Weak tiles sales volume in Q1 on a tepid demand environment, but sharp EBITDA beat on the benefit of cost rationalisation projects
- Management expects demand conditions to improve post Q2FY26; full benefit of cost optimisation is expected to flow in the coming quarters
- Downgrade from BUY to HOLD on rich valuation; TP raise by 30% to Rs 1,200 per share

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Mixed Q1: KJC tiles sales volume came below our estimates (+0.7% YoY vs +4.8% estimated) on a muted demand environment; still beats EBITDA estimate by 23.9% given the sharp improvement in operating margin (+134bps YoY to 16.9% vs 13.2% estimated) on the back of an unexpected improvement in gross margin (+75bps YoY) and lower other expense (-61bps YoY due to cost rationalisation). Overall, KJC revenue/EBITDA/APAT grew by 0.6%/9.3%/23.8% YoY in Q1FY26.

Highlights: Tiles sales volume grew by 0.7% YoY in Q1FY26, mainly driven by higher volumes. Despite lower tiles realisation (-1.1% YoY), segment margin improved by 115bps YoY to 13.7% due to a better mix (on account of discontinuation of economy products) and cost rationalisation (promoter voluntarily forgoes salary, sales force integration, lower brand spend). Bathware revenue grew by 0.5% YoY, but EBIT margin improved by 190bps YoY to 4.7%. Nepal JV plant operated at 69% in Q1FY26 (vs 50% rate in Q4FY25), but JV profit has gone down to Rs 9mn (vs Rs 70mn in Q4FY25).

Outlook: KJC guides that domestic demand remains soft due to weak real estate activity, but is expected to improve post Q2FY26. Management believes that the tiles exports scenario is expected to pick up in the coming months. The company has not shared tiles volume and margin guidance for FY26 but expects to see the full benefit of cost rationalisation in the coming quarters. Bathware/adhesive revenue is targeted to grow at 24%/56% YoY in FY26.

Downgrade from BUY to HOLD; TP raise by 30% to Rs 1,200: We expect KJC's EPS to grow at a strong 20.1% CAGR over FY25-FY28E. However, we downgrade our rating from BUY to HOLD, as the positive earnings trigger is already factored in the current rich valuation (trades at 40.0x on 1YF P/E vs pre-Covid 5Y average of 35.0x). We have raised our TP to Rs 1,200 per share (Rs 925 earlier), due to earnings upgrade (+18.7%/+8.6% for FY26E/ FY27E) mainly to factor the benefit of cost savings projects as well as the increase in our target P/E multiple (from 30x to 35x) on Jun'27 estimates (Mar'27 earlier).

Key changes

-		
Target	Rating	
A	▼	

Ticker/Price	KJC IN/Rs 1,242	
Market cap	US\$ 2.3bn	
Free float	53%	
3M ADV	US\$ 7.0mn	
52wk high/low	Rs 1,579/Rs 759	
Promoter/FPI/DII	47%/13%/27%	
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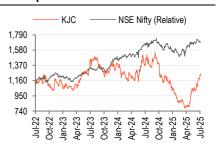
Source: NSE | Price as of 22 Jul 2025

Key financials

Y/E 31 Mar	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Total revenue (Rs mn)	46,351	49,397	53,998
EBITDA (Rs mn)	6,262	7,791	8,637
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	3,426	4,739	5,336
Adj. EPS (Rs)	21.5	29.7	33.5
Consensus EPS (Rs)	18.5	27.0	33.2
Adj. ROAE (%)	12.5	16.2	16.8
Adj. P/E (x)	57.7	41.7	37.1
EV/EBITDA (x)	31.9	25.8	23.4
Adj. EPS growth (%)	(21.0)	38.3	12.6

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Stock performance



Source: NSE





Fig 1 – Quarterly performance - Consolidated

Particulars (Rs mn)	Q1FY26	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)	BOBCAPS Q1FY26E	Variance (%)
Total operating income	11,027	10,958	0.6	12,219	(9.7)	11,459	(3.8)
Raw-Material expense	4,425	4,577	(3.3)	5,395	(18.0)		
Gross Profit	6,603	6,381	3.5	6,824	(3.2)		
Employee expense	1,360	1,350	0.7	1,433	(5.1)		
Power & Fuel costs	2,240	2,127	5.3	2,340	(4.3)		
Other expense	1,135	1,194	(5.0)	1,667	(31.9)		
EBITDA	1,869	1,710	9.3	1,384	35.0	1,508	23.9
D&A	436	419	4.1	434	0.5		
EBIT	1,432	1,291	11.0	949	50.9		
Interest cost	52	33	57.3	60	(13.4)		
Non-operating expense/(income)	(141)	(78)	81.0	(195)	(27.3)		
PBT	1,522	1,336	13.9	1,084	40.4		
Tax	396	358	10.6	344	15.1		
Reported PAT from continued operations	1,126	978	15.1	740	52.1		
Profit/(loss) from discontinued operations	(23)	(55)	(58.7)	(308)	(92.7)		
Reported PAT	1,103	923	19.5	432	155.4		
Minority Interest	13	25	(46.8)	7	101.5		
Reported PAT after Minority Interest	1,090	898	21.3	425	156.2		
Adjusted PAT	1,090	898	21.3	733	48.6	817	33.4
As % of net revenues			(bps)		(bps)		
Gross margin	59.9	58.2	164	55.8	403		
Employee cost	12.3	12.3	1	11.7	61		
Power costs	20.3	19.4	90	19.1	116		
Other cost	10.3	10.9	(61)	13.6	(336)		
EBITDA margin	16.9	15.6	134	11.3	562		
Tax rate	26.0	26.8	(77)	31.8	(572)		
APAT margin	9.9	8.2	169	6.0	388		

Fig 2 - Segment performance

Particulars	Q1FY26	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)
Revenue (Rs mn)					
Tiles	10,113	10,048	0.6	11,113	(9.0)
Non-Tile (Bathware)	915	910	0.5	1,105	(17.2)
Total	11,027	10,958	0.6	12,219	(9.7)
EBIT margin (%)					
- Tile	13.7	12.6	115bps	8.3	547bps
- Non-Tile (Bathware)	4.7	2.8	190bps	2.8	194bps
Total	13.0	11.8	121bps	7.8	522bps
Operational Data					
Tiles Sales Volume (msm)	27.2	27.0	0.7	30.1	(9.7)
Tiles Realization (Rs/sqm)	363	367	(1.1)	362	0.4
Tiles EBIT per unit (Rs/sqm)	51	47	9.0	31	67.5

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Earnings call highlights

- Tiles demand scenario: The company guides that domestic demand remains soft due to weak real estate activity. Management expects demand conditions to improve post Q2FY26, to be driven by increased government spending on infrastructure projects.
- Tiles exports scenario: Indian tiles exports are estimated to be around Rs 45bn in Q1FY26. Management expects Indian tiles exports to be Rs 180-200bn in FY26 in anticipation of a pickup in exports in the coming months.
- Tiles pricing scenario: remains stable in Q1FY26. Management does not expect
 any price hike to be implemented in the domestic market in near future, due to a
 muted demand environment.
- Cost optimisation projects: KJC has discontinued the economy-range products and would sell its product under the Kajaria brand name. Promoters have voluntarily foregone salary (Rs 170mn in FY25) till the time the company's annual operating profit reaches Rs 10bn (vs Rs 6.3bn in FY25). KJC has integrated its ceramic, PVT, and GVT tile sales force into a single marketing and sales team to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and improve responsiveness to market dynamics. The integration project is partially completed in Q1FY26 and is expected to be fully implemented in the near future. The company has reduced its brand spend by concentrating its effort to spend more on tier 2 & 3 cities.
- Tiles: Revenue grew by 0.6% YoY, driven by higher volumes (+0.7%). Tiles realisation was relatively stable (+0.4% QoQ) in Q1FY26. Segment EBIT margin improved by 115bps YoY to 13.7%, owing to lower raw-material cost and the benefit of cost optimisation projects.
- Fuel: Average fuel costs were Rs37/unit (North: Rs 38/unit; South: Rs 39/unit; West: Rs 36/unit) in Q1FY26. Fuel cost will likely be stable on a QoQ basis in Q2FY26.
- Dealers: KJC has now 1,850 dealers across India, out of which 440 are exclusive dealers.
- Nepal plant: Operating rate has gone up from 50% in Q4FY25 to 69% in Q1FY26. However, the share of profit from JV has gone down from Rs 70mn in Q4FY25 to Rs 9mn in Q1FY26. Management does not expect much contribution from this plant in the near term, due to low capacity utilisation.
- Bathware: Revenue grew at a muted pace of 0.5% YoY in Q1FY26. However, segment EBIT margin improved by 190bps YoY to 4.7%. The company expects segment revenue to grow at 24% YoY in FY26.
- Plywood: Operation has been discontinued in Q4FY25. The segment has booked salary expense of Rs 25mn in Q1FY26. Management expects the impact of Rs 10mn in Q2FY26 and nil from Q3FY26 onwards.
- Adhesive: Revenue grew by 63.5% YoY in Q1FY26. The company expects segment revenue to grow at 56% YoY in FY26.



- Working Capital: Net working capital (WC) cycle has remained relatively stable at 73 days in Q1FY26 (vs 72 days in Q1FY25).
- Capital allocation: Net cash position has gone up from Rs 4.2bn in Mar'25 to Rs 5.2bn in Jun'25.
- Capex: KJC plans to spend Rs 2.0bn in FY26, of which Rs 0.75bn would be used for building up a new corporate office, Rs 1.0bn for maintenance capex, Rs 0.25bn for adhesive project and Rs 0.15-0.2 bn for the Nepal JV project. The company has no major growth capex plan in FY26.

Fig 3 – KJC's tile volumes grew at 0.7% YoY in Q1FY26 due to a muted demand environment

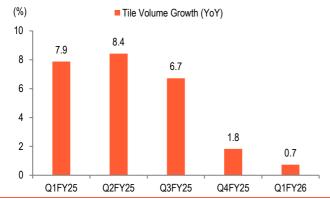
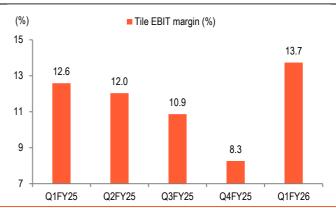
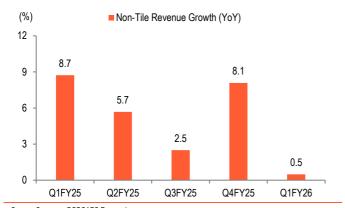


Fig 4 – However, tile EBIT margin improved by 115bps YoY to 13.7% on lower RM cost and better mix



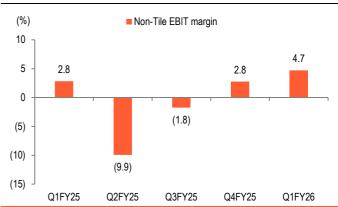
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 5 – Non-tile (i.e. bathware) revenue grew by 0.5% YoY in Q1FY26



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 6 – Non-tile EBIT margin also improved by 190bps YoY to 4.7% in Q1FY26



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Fig 7 – KJC's revenue projected to grow at 8.6% CAGR over FY25-FY28E

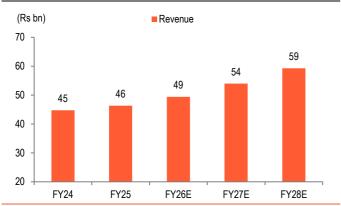
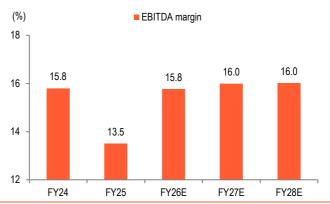
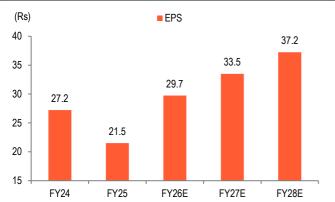


Fig 8 – KJC EBITDA margin is projected to be near to its 10Y avg level of 16.3% over FY26E-FY28E



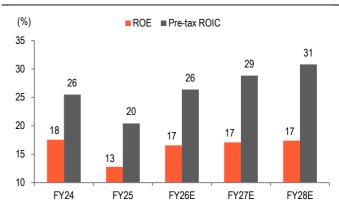
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 9 – EPS is forecast to grow at 20.0% CAGR over FY25-FY28E



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 10 – KJC is likely to generate a healthy return ratio over FY26E-FY28E



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Valuation Methodology

We expect KJC's EPS to grow at a strong 20.1% CAGR over FY25-FY28E. However, we downgrade our rating on the stock from BUY to HOLD, as the positives earnings trigger is already factored in the current rich valuation (trades at 40.0x on 1YF P/E vs pre-Covid 5Y average of 35.0x).

KJC stock has traded at 45.2x on 1YF P/E basis over the last 5 years. We believe the stock is not expected to trade at such premium to its pre-Covid average level due to moderation in the tiles volume growth run-rate (from 9.1% CAGR over FY14-FY19 to 6.1% over FY19-FY25) and ROE profile (from 23.5% over FY14-FY19 to 16.4% over FY20-FY25).

Fig 11 - KJC volume growth and ROE profile during pre and post Covid period

Particulars	FY14-FY19	FY19-FY25	FY25-FY28E
Tiles volume growth CAGR (%)	9.1	6.1	5.6
ROE (%)	23.5	16.4	17.0
Average P/E multiple (x)	35.1	44.1	NA

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

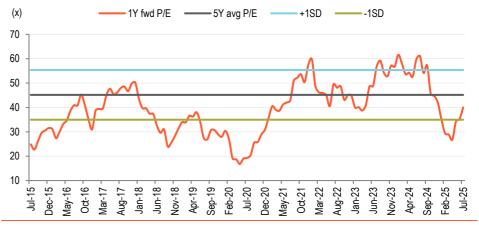
We have raised our TP to Rs 1,200 per share (Rs 925 earlier), due to earnings upgrade (+18.7%/+8.6% for FY26E/ FY27E), mainly to factor the benefit of cost savings projects as well as the increase in our target P/E multiple (from 30x to 35x) on Jun'27 estimates (Mar'27 earlier). We project KJC tiles volume to grow at a modest 5.6% CAGR over FY25-FY28E. We expect EBITDA margin to be around 16.0% over FY26E-FY28E, — near to its 10Y avg of 16.3%.

Fig 12 – Revised estimates

Particulars	New		New Old		Change (%)		
Consolidated (Rs bn)	FY26E	FY27E	FY26E	FY27E	FY26E	FY27E	
Total operating income	49.4	54.0	50.3	55.5	(1.9)	(2.6)	
EBITDA	7.8	8.6	7.0	8.4	11.3	3.3	
EBITDA Margin	15.8	16.0	13.9	15.1	187bps	92bps	
Adjusted PAT	4.7	5.3	4.0	4.9	18.7	8.6	
EPS (Rs)	29.7	33.5	25.1	30.8	18.7	8.6	

Source: BOBCAPS Research

Fig 13 - KJC trading at 40.0x on 1Y forward P/E vs. pre COVID 5Y avg of 35.0x



 $Source: Bloomberg, BOBCAPS \ Research \\$



Fig 14 - Key assumptions

Particulars (%)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Tile Volume Growth	6.3	6.1	4.5	6.5	5.8
Tile Realization Growth	(3.3)	(3.1)	(0.3)	1.0	2.0
Tile Revenue Growth	2.8	2.7	4.2	7.6	7.9
Non-Tile Revenue Growth	20.2	(1.2)	16.2	21.7	22.1
Non-Tile Revenue Share	11.3	10.9	12.0	13.4	14.9

Key risks

Key upside/downside risks to our estimates:

- Better-than-expected recovery in real estate demand and sharp improvement in non-tile segment margins are key upside risks.
- Market share loss in tiles and a steep decline in tile exports from India are key downside risks.



Financials

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Total revenue	44,740				59,303
		46,351	49,397	53,998	
EBITDA Depresiation	7,068	6,262	7,791	8,637	9,501
Depreciation	1,476	1,654	1,759	1,828	1,889
EBIT	5,593	4,608	6,032	6,810	7,612
Net interest inc./(exp.)	(173)	(200)	(208)	(208)	(208)
Other inc./(exp.)	462	427	530	530	530
Exceptional items	113	483	0	0	0
EBT	5,768	4,352	6,354	7,132	7,934
Income taxes	1,435	1,360	1,630	1,816	2,018
Extraordinary items	0	0	0	0	0
Min. int./Inc. from assoc.	(113)	(49)	15	20	13
Reported net profit	4,221	2,943	4,739	5,336	5,929
Adjustments	113	483	0	0	0
Adjusted net profit	4,335	3,426	4,739	5,336	5,929
Balance Sheet					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Accounts payables	2,933	3,381	3,603	3,939	4,326
Other current liabilities	2,385	2,352	2,352	2,352	2,352
Provisions	278	299	318	348	382
Debt funds	1,706	1,759	1.729	1,731	1,747
Other liabilities	1,372	1,670	1,670	1,670	1,670
Equity capital	159	159	159	159	1,070
Reserves & surplus	26,006	27,284	29,715	32,452	35,493
Shareholders' fund	26,756	28,101	30,475	33,148	36,118
Total liab. and equities	35,429	37,562	40,147	43,187	46,595
Cash and cash eq.	5,141	5,829	7,727	9,350	11,161
Accounts receivables	6,194	5,702	6,077	6,643	7,295
Inventories	5,322	6,181	6,225	6,864	7,650
Other current assets	970	474	501	541	587
Investments	148	302	302	302	302
Net fixed assets	15,336	15,839	16,080	16,253	16,364
CWIP	679	1,087	1,087	1,087	1,087
Intangible assets	1,041	1,335	1,335	1,335	1,335
Deferred tax assets, net	185	53	53	53	53
Other assets	412	760	760	760	760
Total assets	35,429	37,562	40,147	43,187	46,595
Cash Flows					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Cash flow from operations	6,525	5,312	6,265	6,263	6,740
Capital expenditures	(3,249)	(2,859)	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)
Change in investments	(129)	(154)	0	0	0
Other investing cash flows	225	190	293	293	293
Cash flow from investing	(3,153)	(2,823)	(1,707)	(1,707)	(1,707)
Equities issued/Others	0	0	0	0	0
Debt raised/repaid	(387)	54	(30)	2	16
Interest expenses	(173)	(200)	(208)	(208)	(208)
Dividends paid	(1,963)	(1,434)	(2,308)	(2,599)	(2,888)
Other financing cash flows	353	(222)	(113)	(128)	(142)
Cash flow from financing	(2,169)	(1,802)	(2,659)	(2,933)	(3,221)
Chg in cash & cash eq.	1,203	688	1,899	1,623	1,811
	5,141	5,829	7,727	9,350	11,161

Per Share					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Reported EPS	26.5	18.5	29.7	33.5	37.2
Adjusted EPS	27.2	21.5	29.7	33.5	37.2
Dividend per share	12.0	9.0	14.5	16.3	18.1
Book value per share	164.3	172.3	187.5	204.7	223.8
Valuations Ratios					
Y/E 31 Mar (x)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
EV/Sales	4.5	4.3	4.1	3.7	3.4
EV/EBITDA	28.2	31.9	25.8	23.4	21.5
Adjusted P/E	45.6	57.7	41.7	37.1	33.4
P/BV	7.6	7.2	6.6	6.1	5.5
DuPont Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar (%)	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
Tax burden (Net profit/PBT)	75.1	78.7	74.6	74.8	74.7
Interest burden (PBT/EBIT)	103.1	94.4	105.3	104.7	104.2
EBIT margin (EBIT/Revenue)	12.5	9.9	12.2	12.6	12.8
Asset turnover (Rev./Avg TA)	126.3	123.4	123.0	125.0	127.3
Leverage (Avg TA/Avg Equity)	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3
Adjusted ROAE	17.1	12.5	16.2	16.8	17.1
Ratio Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E	FY28E
YoY growth (%)					
Revenue	2.1	3.6	6.6	9.3	9.8
EBITDA	19.1	(11.4)	24.4	10.9	10.0
Adjusted EPS	23.3	(21.0)	38.3	12.6	11.1
Profitability & Return ratios (%)	20.0	(2)	00.0	.2.0	
EBITDA margin	15.8	13.5	15.8	16.0	16.0
EBIT margin	12.5	9.9	12.2	12.6	12.8
Adjusted profit margin	9.7	7.4	9.6	9.9	10.0
Adjusted ROAE	17.1	12.5	16.2	16.8	17.1
ROCE	21.3	16.9	20.4	21.0	21.5
Working capital days (days)	21.0	10.0	20.1	21.0	21.0
Receivables	51	45	45	45	45
Inventory	43	49	46	46	47
				27	
Pavables	24	7/	//	//	//
Payables Ratios (x)	24	27	27	21	21
Payables Ratios (x) Gross asset turnover	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9

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

2.6

32.3

(0.1)

2.6

23.0

(0.1)

2.8

29.1

(0.2)

3.0

32.8

(0.2)

3.2 36.7

(0.3)

Current ratio

Net interest coverage ratio

Adjusted debt/equity



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Brand Name: BOBCAPS

Trade Name: www.barodaetrade.com CIN: U65999MH1996GOI098009





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Recommendation scale: Recommendations and Absolute returns (%) over 12 months

BUY - Expected return >+15%

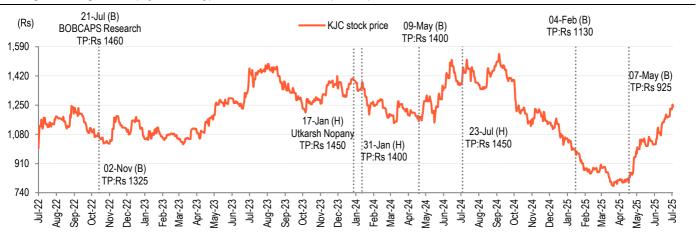
HOLD - Expected return from -6% to +15%

SELL - Expected return <-6%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

Our recommendation scale does not factor in short-term stock price volatility related to market fluctuations. Thus, our recommendations may not always be strictly in line with the recommendation scale as shown above.

Ratings and Target Price (3-year history): KAJARIA CERAMICS (KJC IN)



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

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