### 21 December 2015



Weak demand hurts prices across regions

**India Cement Dealer Check** 

Cement prices have corrected across most regions in the last one month on weak demand. While price declines have been more pronounced in the North, the southern market has been rather resilient. We expect profits to remain muted QoQ for most cement players in Q3. Major cement stocks have remained under performers in last three months, with volume growth only for players with new capacities. We think a meaningful demand revival would be the key for any strong upmove in cement stocks.

- Prices decline sharply in North; South bucks the trend: Amid continued demand pressure, prices in North India have declined by Rs 50-70/bag during the last 1-1.5 months, touching the lows of Rs 200-210/bag from Rs 270-290/bag earlier. In contrast, though demand remains feeble in South India in the absence of an expected pick-up in government demand, prices have seen only a marginal dip in major states except Andhra Pradesh. While prices in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have declined by Rs 10-15/bag, those in Andhra Pradesh have increased by Rs 50-60/bag in the last one month. However, dealers pointed that the actual increase in prices in Andhra Pradesh was insignificant due to the ongoing heavy discounts in the market.
- Prices remain weak in West: Prices in the western market have declined by Rs 25-30/bag in the last one month. While rural Maharashtra is under pressure due to lack of rainfall, Gujarat has seen supply pressures from the Rajasthan market. Prices are hovering at Rs 240-250/bag in Gujarat and at Rs 250-260/bag in Mumbai.
- Central, eastern region also witness declines: In the central market, both Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have seen a price decline of Rs 10-15/bag in the last one month due to sluggish demand. The eastern market has also seen a decline of Rs 10-20/bag, with new supply from SRCM and JKLC also disturbing the demand-supply equilibrium. While the Patna market is yet to see a demand recovery, dealers are hopeful of some price revival in January.
- Demand slump continues in most regions: Our discussions with dealers across cities suggest continued weakness in demand still persists due to (1) subdued government investment, (2) poor housing demand, and (3) a poor monsoon hurting rural demand.
- Realisations to decline QoQ: With most markets seeing a price decline, we expect QoQ realisations to be lower, thereby hurting profitability. Overall, we expect a 2-3% decline in cement prices QoQ, with the maximum drop in the eastern and western markets. While dealers expect price increases in most regions from January (particularly North where correction has been the sharpest), we think overall demand remains feeble and is the key for any meaningful recovery in the sector. Top picks: UTCEM and ORCMNT.

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Company	Ticker	CMP (Rs)	TP (Rs)	REC
ACC	ACC IN	1,349	1,400	HOLD
Ambuja Cement	ACEM IN	201	230	BUY
Birla Corp	BCORP IN	452	500	BUY
Century Textiles	CENT IN	576	620	HOLD
Grasim Industries	GRASIM IN	3,701	5,000	BUY
India Cements	ICEM IN	88	105	HOLD
JK Cement	JKCE IN	646	750	BUY
JK Lakshmi Cement	JKLC IN	328	360	BUY
Orient Cement	ORCMNT	166	210	BUY
Sanghi Industries	SNGIIN	66	75	BUY
Shree Cement	SRCM IN	10,752	11,800	BUY
Ultratech Cement	UTCEM IN	2,800	3,300	BUY

#### **Survey statistics**

### Sample set

40+ dealers across the country

Number of cities and towns covered 30



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### India Cement Dealer Check

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### Region-wise snapshot

### **Demand slump hits prices across markets**

### West India: Higher supply from North players brings down prices in Gujarat

In Gujarat, dealers have seen a decline of Rs 25-30/bag in the last one month amid sluggish demand and higher supply from Rajasthan-based players in the Gujarat market. In Maharashtra, a poor monsoon has hurt demand and no pick up has been seen in rural demand as the slump in real estate continues. As per a Pune-based dealer, December-year ending companies are also cutting prices to push volumes. He also opined that the rural real estate market is going through a rough patch as water shortage has hampered construction activity coupled with lower income. Mumbai prices have also corrected by Rs 20-30/bag since November.

### North India: Prices down by Rs 50-70/bag in last 45 days

Following a weak Q2, demand has failed to improve in the northern market, preventing several attempted price hikes. At current trends, cement prices could be 2% lower QoQ for regional players in Q3FY16. As per our checks, NCR region may see price hikes in January due to disruption in supply (due to SC order on diesel vehicles). In some markets such as Chandigarh, prices are likely to fall by Rs 10-15/bag this week as well. In the non-trade segment, prices have fallen to sub-Rs 200/bag levels owing to tepid institutional demand. In Rajasthan, non-trade prices have gone to as low as Rs 170-180/bag. Dealers opined that prices have bottomed out and can see an uptick by January beginning.

### Central India: Prices decline in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

In Uttar Pradesh, prices have dropped by Rs 10-15/bag in the last one month as demand remains weak. While the region is not facing any new supply issues, prices have been undercut by JPA's aggressive strategy. As per a dealer, the social sector initiatives undertaken by the state government have done little to boost construction activity. Demand in Madhya Pradesh is tepid, and price correction in the state has been similar to that in Uttar Pradesh (~Rs 10-20/bag in last one month). Dealers opined that lack of funding availability to the State government is restricting government-led project growth.

### East India: Prices decline as new players play spoilsport

The eastern market has witnessed some price correction in the last one month as demand remains feeble. Government project offtake has remained slow post the recent Bihar elections. As per a Patna dealer, there is no demand from government projects but January should see some revival. New supply from SRCM and JKLC has disturbed the demand-supply equilibrium in the East. Not surprisingly, attempts to raise prices in some markets have been followed by rollbacks. A West Bengal dealer though opined that prices have remained stable since the last 3-4 months.

### South India: Prices fall; but trend remains strongest despite demand Iull

In the southern market as well, demand remains feeble with no pick up in new government projects (in select markets). Remarkably, price trends have remained strong, with only a marginal correction of Rs 10-20/bag and down from 400+ levels earlier in most markets. While Andhra Pradesh has seen an increase of Rs 50-60/bag last month, dealers pointed that the actual increase in prices was insignificant due to the ongoing heavy discounts in the market. Lower construction offtake due to delayed payments and tight liquidity in the real estate market has hurt demand in the South. Dealers opined that no new players have disrupted the market in recent months.

	Price	Trend
	Current	Expected
West		
Ahemdabad	1	Ť
Baroda	1	<b>↑</b> /₩
Mumbai	1	$\leftrightarrow$
Nagpur	<b>+</b>	1
Pune	•	<b>↓</b> /↔
Surat	1	<b>↓</b> /⇔
North		
Delhi	1	<b>↑</b> /⇔
Dehradun	<b>↓</b>	<b>1</b> /↔
Chandigarh	1	$\leftrightarrow$
Jaipur	1	<b>↑</b> /₩
Jodhpur	1	$\Leftrightarrow$
Ludhiana	1	<b>1</b> /⇔
Central		
Agra	1	$\iff$
Allahabad	1	$\iff$
Bhopal	1	<b>↑</b> /₩
Gw alior	1	<b>↓</b> /⇔
Indore	1	$\leftrightarrow$
Lucknow	1	$\Leftrightarrow$
East		
Bhubaneshw ar	1	<b>↑</b> /⇔
Guw ahati	1	1
Kolkata	<b>↓</b> /⇔	1
Patna	1	<b>1</b> /↔
Raipur	1	1/↔
Ranchi	1	1
South	•••••••	
Bangalore	1	1
Chennai	1	$\leftrightarrow$
Cochin	<b>↓</b> /⇔	$\leftrightarrow$
Hyderabad	<b>1</b> /⇔	$\leftrightarrow$
Panji	1	$\leftrightarrow$
Ernakulum	<b>↑</b> /↔	$\leftrightarrow$

Source: RCML Research



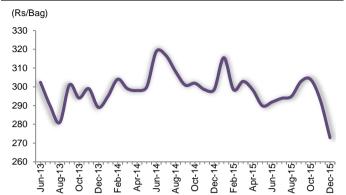
# **India Cement Dealer Check**

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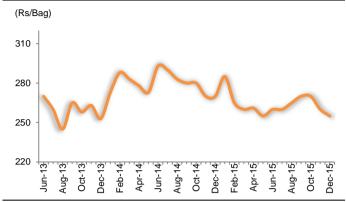
### Region-wise price trends

Fig 1 - All India



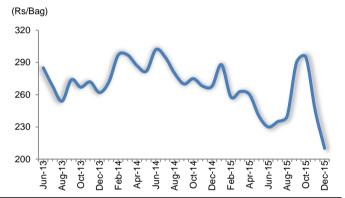
Source: RCML Research

Fig 2 - Central India



Source: RCML Research

Fig 3 - North India



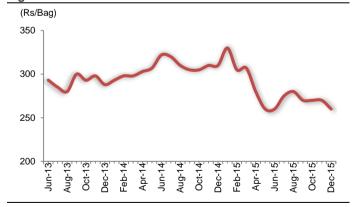
Source: RCML Research

Fig 4 - South India



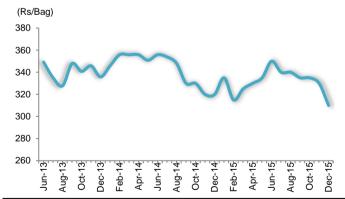
Source: RCML Research

Fig 5 - West India



Source: RCML Research

Fig 6 - East India



Source: RCML Research

# **India Cement Dealer Check**

Weak demand hurts prices across regions



# **Valuation snapshot**

Fig 7 - Financial snapshot

Compony	CMP (Rs)	Target	Reco	MCap	Sales (Rs mn)			Sales Growth (%)			EBIT	TDA (Rs mn)	)	EPS (Rs)		
Company	CIVIP (KS)	(Rs)			FY15	FY16E	FY17E	FY15	FY16E	FY17E	FY15	FY16E	FY17E	FY15	FY16E	FY17E
ACC*	1,349	1,400	Hold	2,53,337	1,14,803	1,13,737	1,27,933	5.1	(0.9)	12.5	12,548	12,589	17,745	42.8	36.3	57.9
Ambuja*	201	230	Buy	3,07,944	99,107	98,506	1,13,790	9.2	(0.6)	15.5	18,530	15,155	20,191	9.7	6.5	9.0
Birla Corp.	452	500	Buy	34,808	31,523	32,859	37,257	11.5	4.2	13.4	2,440	1,428	2,786	24.4	9.7	24.2
Grasim	3,701	5,000	Buy	3,39,313	3,24,376	3,55,771	3,88,326	11.8	9.7	9.2	47,348	51,710	61,435	190.9	217.1	296.0
India Cements	88	105	Hold	27,032	44,796	49,521	56,612	0.9	10.5	14.3	8,023	8,309	9,731	5.0	0.9	4.7
JK Cement	646	750	Buy	45,173	33,874	37,325	44,714	21.8	10.2	19.8	4,308	5,535	7,313	18.1	18.0	38.5
JK Lakshmi	328	360	Buy	40,141	23,071	28,781	33,718	12.2	24.8	17.2	3,495	3,898	5,721	12.4	6.8	18.5
Sanghi Indus.	66	75	Buy	14,431	9,310	11,178	14,290	(11.0)	20.1	27.8	1,561	1,808	2,855	1.4	2.5	4.6
Shree Cem	10,752	11,800	Buy	3,74,600	64,399	56,192	88,887	9.6	(12.7)	58.2	13,302	13,586	23,599	127.8	147.4	362.5
Orient Cement	166	210	Buy	33,301	15,353	15,151	23,867	7.4	(1.3)	57.5	2,950	2,614	5,113	9.5	7.6	12.2
UltraTech Cem	2,800	3,300	Buy	7,67,872	2,26,565	2,56,445	2,91,215	12.8	13.2	13.6	39,154	46,925	61,222	73.4	84.2	115.0

Source: RCML Research

Fig 8 - Key ratios & Valuations

Commons	EBITDA Margin (%)		ROE (%)		ROCE (%)		P/E (x)		EV/EBITDA (x)		P/BV (x)			EV / Tonne (US\$/MT)							
Company	FY15	FY16E	FY17E	FY15	FY16E	FY17E	FY15	FY16E	FY17E	FY15	FY16E	FY17E	FY15	FY16E	FY17E	FY15	FY16E	FY17E	FY15	FY16E	FY17E
ACC*	10.9	11.1	13.9	10.0	8.3	13.0	6.5	5.3	9.7	31.5	37.2	23.3	18.2	18.1	12.8	3.1	3.1	3.0	125	119	111
Ambuja*	18.7	15.4	17.7	15.3	9.8	13.2	11.5	6.7	10.0	20.7	30.9	22.2	14.5	17.7	13.3	3.0	2.9	2.8	148	151	153
Birla Corp.	7.7	4.3	7.5	7.3	2.8	6.9	2.0	0.1	2.4	18.5	46.4	18.7	12.6	21.5	11.0	1.3	1.3	1.2	55	52	53
Grasim	14.6	14.5	15.8	7.8	8.2	10.0	7.0	7.3	8.5	19.4	17.0	12.5	8.0	7.3	6.1	1.5	1.3	1.2	-	-	-
India Cements	17.9	16.8	17.2	4.0	0.8	3.8	8.4	5.8	8.4	17.6	93.2	18.6	6.7	6.5	5.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	59	59	58
JK Cements	12.7	14.8	16.4	7.5	7.6	14.8	6.2	8.0	11.5	35.7	35.9	16.8	16.2	12.6	9.5	2.8	2.7	2.3	111	110	104
JK Lakshmi	15.1	13.5	17.0	11.1	5.9	14.7	7.1	6.6	9.5	26.4	48.2	17.8	14.5	13.0	8.9	2.8	2.7	2.4	120	88	77
Sanghi Indus.	16.8	16.2	20.0	3.4	6.0	10.2	3.6	7.8	9.9	47.2	26.0	14.3	11.4	9.8	6.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	66	70	57
Shree Cem	20.7	24.2	26.5	8.9	9.2	19.1	7.1	7.8	15.8	84.2	73.0	29.7	25.2	24.7	14.2	7.1	6.3	5.1	239	209	187
Orient Cement	19.2	17.3	21.4	21.6	15.1	20.8	11.9	8.9	13.5	17.1	21.4	13.3	15.4	17.4	8.9	3.3	3.0	2.5	95	89	89
UltraTech Cem	17.3	18.3	21.0	11.2	11.6	14.1	7.9	8.5	10.6	38.1	33.3	24.4	19.7	16.5	12.6	4.0	3.6	3.2	196	188	187

Source: RCML Research \*Note: ACC & Ambuja December ending; All prices as on 21 December 2015



21 December 2015 Page 4 of 7

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