

# Reliance Communications (RLCM.BO)

## 2Q – Global Segment Hurts EBITDA

- Company Update
- Target Price Change
- Estimate Change

- **2Q EBITDA slightly below** – 2Q13 EBITDA at Rs16.4bn (-1%qoq; +2%yoy) came in slightly below estimates primarily on weaker-than-expected Global business. Wireless trends were in line with peers - EBITDA declined qoq due to seasonality. Losses in “Other” segment, which has been relatively sticky, unexpectedly contracted. PAT at Rs1.3bn (-30%qoq; -59%yoy) was hit by higher interest outgo.
- **Wireless was stable** – RPM was flat qoq. 6-7% of the subscribers have migrated to higher tariffs following the 25% hike in Sep. 3Q could see some benefit but the full impact will be visible only from 1Q14. Margins too were flat qoq. RCOM, after a long time, disclosed non-voice rev% at 21%, which is higher than the GSM incumbents due to its legacy CDMA business (read data dongles). Data growth is also supported by its 4.8m 3G subs (3% of base).
- **Global was weak; “Others” did well** – Global business topline was lackluster, likely on weak global macro. Segmental EBITDA too declined 5%qoq on weak topline and higher license fees (6% to 7%). Losses in “others” (DTH, owned stores), which have remained high, fell 30% qoq.
- **Balance sheet details** – Leverage remains high with FY13E Net debt/EBITDA expected at 5x. The company has however been focusing on deleveraging, which is reflected in the sharp reduction in its capex intensity in the last two years (7% capex/sales in FY12/13E).
- **Attractive assets available below replacement cost** — RCOM provides decent risk-adjusted returns with news flow of potential business tie-up/asset sale being the key stock trigger. While high leverage is a risk, its asset base remains attractive and we estimate replacement cost at Rs76. FY13-15E EBITDA is cut 3-5% to factor 2Q trends. SOTP-based TP is at Rs72 (Rs70) as we roll-fwd to Mar-14E (Sep-13E), keeping multiple unchanged (5.5x). Maintain Buy/High Risk.

<b>Buy/High Risk</b>	<b>1H</b>
Price (09 Nov 12)	Rs57.40
Target price	Rs72.00
	<i>from Rs70.00</i>
Expected share price return	25.4%
Expected dividend yield	0.4%
<b>Expected total return</b>	<b>25.9%</b>
Market Cap	Rs118,475M
	US\$2,179M

### Price Performance (RIC: RLCM.BO, BB: RCOM IN)



### Statistical Abstract

Year to	Net Profit	Diluted EPS	EPS growth	P/E	P/B	ROE	Yield
31 Mar	(RsM)	(Rs)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)
2011A	14,937	7.24	-69.2	7.9	0.3	3.6	0.9
2012A	9,913	4.80	-33.6	12.0	0.3	2.4	0.4
2013E	9,366	4.54	-5.5	12.6	0.3	2.2	0.4
2014E	15,487	7.50	65.4	7.7	0.3	3.6	0.4
2015E	21,552	10.44	39.2	5.5	0.3	4.8	0.4

Source: Powered by dataCentral

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### See Appendix A-1 for Analyst Certification, Important Disclosures and non-US research analyst disclosures.

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RLCM.BO: Fiscal year end 31-Mar						Price: Rs57.40; TP: Rs72.00; Market Cap: Rs118,475m; Recomm: Buy/High Risk					
Profit & Loss (Rsm)						Valuation ratios					
	2011	2012	2013E	2014E	2015E		2011	2012	2013E	2014E	2015E
Sales revenue	205,577	203,454	219,795	235,876	249,722	PE (x)	7.9	12.0	12.6	7.7	5.5
Cost of sales	-179,800	-178,702	-186,621	-195,751	-203,722	PB (x)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Gross profit	25,777	24,752	33,174	40,125	46,000	EV/EBITDA (x)	7.3	8.1	7.3	6.3	5.3
Gross Margin (%)	12.5	12.2	15.1	17.0	18.4	FCF yield (%)	-100.9	21.6	24.3	45.7	52.0
<b>EBITDA (Adj)</b>	<b>65,316</b>	<b>64,535</b>	<b>70,318</b>	<b>78,819</b>	<b>85,886</b>	Dividend yield (%)	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
EBITDA Margin (Adj) (%)	31.8	31.7	32.0	33.4	34.4	Payout ratio (%)	7	5	6	3	2
Depreciation	-39,539	-39,783	-37,144	-38,694	-39,885	ROE (%)	3.6	2.4	2.2	3.6	4.8
Amortisation	0	0	0	0	0	<b>Cashflow (Rsm)</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013E</b>	<b>2014E</b>	<b>2015E</b>
<b>EBIT (Adj)</b>	<b>25,777</b>	<b>24,752</b>	<b>33,174</b>	<b>40,125</b>	<b>46,000</b>	EBITDA	65,316	64,535	70,318	78,819	85,886
EBIT Margin (Adj) (%)	12.5	12.2	15.1	17.0	18.4	Working capital	-56,017	-29,226	-25,999	-8,170	-5,048
Net interest	-10,723	-15,901	-23,315	-22,117	-19,718	Other	-117	1,062	-493	-2,521	-4,731
Associates	0	0	0	0	0	<b>Operating cashflow</b>	<b>9,182</b>	<b>36,371</b>	<b>43,826</b>	<b>68,128</b>	<b>76,106</b>
Non-op/Except	0	0	0	0	0	Capex	-128,840	-15,070	-15,048	-14,010	-14,526
<b>Pre-tax profit</b>	<b>15,054</b>	<b>8,851</b>	<b>9,859</b>	<b>18,008</b>	<b>26,282</b>	Net acq/disposals	0	0	0	0	0
Tax	-117	1,062	-493	-2,521	-4,731	Other	0	0	0	0	0
Extraord./Min.Int./Pref.div.	0	0	0	0	0	<b>Investing cashflow</b>	<b>-128,840</b>	<b>-15,070</b>	<b>-15,048</b>	<b>-14,010</b>	<b>-14,526</b>
<b>Reported net profit</b>	<b>14,937</b>	<b>9,913</b>	<b>9,366</b>	<b>15,487</b>	<b>21,552</b>	Dividends paid	-1,161	-581	-581	-581	-581
Net Margin (%)	7.3	4.9	4.3	6.6	8.6	<b>Financing cashflow</b>	<b>87,353</b>	<b>-16,482</b>	<b>-23,895</b>	<b>-22,697</b>	<b>-20,298</b>
Core NPAT	14,937	9,913	9,366	15,487	21,552	<b>Net change in cash</b>	<b>-32,305</b>	<b>4,820</b>	<b>4,883</b>	<b>31,420</b>	<b>41,282</b>
<b>Per share data</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013E</b>	<b>2014E</b>	<b>2015E</b>	<b>Free cashflow to s/holders</b>	<b>-119,535</b>	<b>25,594</b>	<b>28,778</b>	<b>54,117</b>	<b>61,580</b>
Reported EPS (Rs)	7.24	4.80	4.54	7.50	10.44						
Core EPS (Rs)	7.24	4.80	4.54	7.50	10.44						
DPS (Rs)	0.50	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25						
CFPS (Rs)	4.45	17.62	21.23	33.01	36.87						
FCFPS (Rs)	-57.91	12.40	13.94	26.22	29.84						
BVPS (Rs)	196.22	200.44	204.70	211.92	222.08						
Wtd avg ord shares (m)	2,064	2,064	2,064	2,064	2,064						
Wtd avg diluted shares (m)	2,064	2,064	2,064	2,064	2,064						
<b>Growth rates</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013E</b>	<b>2014E</b>	<b>2015E</b>						
Sales revenue (%)	-7.6	-1.0	8.0	7.3	5.9						
EBIT (Adj) (%)	-37.2	-4.0	34.0	21.0	14.6						
Core NPAT (%)	-69.2	-33.6	-5.5	65.4	39.2						
Core EPS (%)	-69.2	-33.6	-5.5	65.4	39.2						
<b>Balance Sheet (Rsm)</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013E</b>	<b>2014E</b>	<b>2015E</b>						
Cash & cash equiv.	53,189	62,301	67,184	98,604	139,885						
Accounts receivables	39,840	39,429	42,595	45,712	48,395						
Inventory	5,172	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000						
Net fixed & other tangibles	729,409	700,403	678,307	653,623	628,264						
Goodwill & intangibles	47,473	47,473	47,473	47,473	47,473						
Financial & other assets	72,143	61,848	60,586	59,833	60,299						
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>947,226</b>	<b>916,453</b>	<b>901,145</b>	<b>910,244</b>	<b>929,317</b>						
Accounts payable	78,731	38,626	14,532	8,725	6,827						
Short-term debt	216,928	216,928	216,928	216,928	216,928						
Long-term debt	201,071	201,071	201,071	201,071	201,071						
Provisions & other liab	37,259	37,259	37,259	37,259	37,259						
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>533,989</b>	<b>493,884</b>	<b>469,791</b>	<b>463,984</b>	<b>462,085</b>						
Shareholders' equity	404,992	413,715	422,501	437,407	458,378						
Minority interests	8,245	8,854	8,854	8,854	8,854						
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>413,237</b>	<b>422,569</b>	<b>431,355</b>	<b>446,261</b>	<b>467,232</b>						
<b>Net debt</b>	<b>364,811</b>	<b>355,698</b>	<b>350,815</b>	<b>319,396</b>	<b>278,114</b>						
Net debt to equity (%)	88.3	84.2	81.3	71.6	59.5						

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For definitions of the items in this table, please click [here](#).

## Quarterly summary

Figure 1. Quarterly Summary

Rs m	Sep-11	Dec-11	Mar-12	Jun-12	Sep-12	Q/Q%	Y/Y%
Net Revenues	50,402	50,551	53,100	53,192	52,020	(2.2)	3.2
Access and IUC	(4,106)	(3,883)	(3,128)	(3,129)	(4,259)	36.1	3.7
Other operating exp	(25,056)	(25,355)	(28,382)	(28,128)	(26,126)	(7.1)	4.3
License Fees	(5,189)	(5,172)	(5,268)	(5,433)	(5,253)	(3.3)	1.2
EBITDA	16,051	16,141	16,323	16,502	16,382	(0.7)	2.1
PBT	3,234	2,579	837	1,875	1,323	(29.4)	(59.1)
PAT	3,220	2,438	2,030	1,914	1,323	(30.9)	(58.9)

Source: Company and Citi Research

### Earnings call takeaways

1. Segmented its markets into two categories – 900MHz circles and 1800MHz circles. In the 900MHz circles, where it is relatively more established, RCOM intends to behave more like an incumbent. However, RCOM started GSM operations in its 1800MHz circles in 2008-10. In these markets, it intends to be more aggressive and aims to win over high-value subs from incumbents.
2. RCOM has already implemented increased prepaid tariffs of 1.5p/s across all its circles. Moreover, it has also rationalized its Special Tariff Vouchers to ensure that the impact of hikes is not diluted. According to management ~6-7% of the existing sub base has already moved to the higher base tariff and expects the full migration by 1QFY14.
3. Management noted that tariff hikes of 2011 took places in a 14-player market. In contrast, today we effectively have a 5-6 player market. This is reflective of reduction in competitive intensity and should be supportive of sustainable tariff hikes. According to the company, competition has selectively started raising tariffs.
4. The company has rationalized retail margins across circles according to market conditions. While the management did not disclose the quantum of benefit from lower retail margins, it did indicate that amount of cost reductions were in line with those seen for other large operators.
5. Churn during the quarter shot up to 10% from its normal range of 4-5%. This was due to removal of inactive subs. Management expects churn to stabilize around 4% going forward.
6. The company continues to wait for opportune time to list FLAG telecom or dilute stake in tower assets to help deleverage its balance sheet.

Figure 2. Wireless Summary

Rs m	Sep-11	Dec-11	Mar-12	Jun-12	Sep-12	Remarks
Wireless Revenue	44,170	44,471	45,055	45,270	44,223	Decline due to lower usage on account seasonality
Net revenue	31,963	32,201	32,924	34,161	32,551	
Wireless EBITDA	11,756	11,823	12,022	12,093	11,795	
Wireless EBITDA margin (%)	26.6	26.6	26.7	26.7	26.7	Margins steady for 3 qtrs in a row
ARPU	101	100	99	98	102	Subscriber clean up helps increase ARPU
MoU	227	224	227	228	236	Healthy increase; primarily due to removal of inactive subs
Pre-paid as % of net adds	95.7	100.8	96.9	97.3	100.0	
Minutes of usage (bn min)	98.9	99.9	103.0	105.1	102.5	Decline broadly in line with GSM incumbents
Revenue per min (Rs)	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.43	0.43	Steady for 2 qtrs
EBITDA per min (Rs)	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	

Source: Company and Citi Research

Figure 3. Global business and broadband summary

Rs m	Sep-11	Dec-11	Mar-12	Jun-12	Sep-12	Remarks
NLD mins (m)	16,924	15,882	15,444	14,746	15,023	
ILD mins (m)	5,043	4,771	4,996	5,344	5,397	Continues to grow
Global Business Revenue	17,429	18,057	18,948	19,069	18,901	Includes higher margin broadband segment
Global Business EBITDA	3,768	3,919	4,122	4,145	3,869	
Margins (%)	21.6	21.7	21.8	21.7	20.5	Impacted by sluggish topline and higher license fees
Net retention per LD min (Rs)	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	
<b>Broadband Business</b>						
Towns active (wireline only)	44	44	44	44	44	
Buildings directly connected (nos)	1,133,924	1,145,263	1,156,710	1,158,023	1,153,838	Some rationalization of network

Source: Citi Research

Figure 4. Data usage metrics

Data Metrics	Jun-12	Sep-12	Q/Q%
Non-voice revenue (Rs mn)	9,145	9,198	1%
Non-voice revenue %	20.2%	20.8%	
Total data subs (mn)	24	26	8%
% of total subs	16%	19%	
3G subs	4	5	20%
% of total subs	3%	4%	
Total data volume (mn MB)	15,840	17,400	10%
Data usage per customer (MB)	240	232	-3%

Source: Company reports

Figure 5. Balance Sheet Details

Rs m	Sep-10	Dec-10	Mar-11	Jun-11	Sep-11	Dec-11	Mar-12	Jun-12	Sep-12
Gross block	814,503	821,324	820,902	821,227	929,484	991,667	995,639	1,025,993	1,018,552
Capital WIP	173,938	199,644	181,912	180,953	92,105	83,036	50,230	50,425	47,471
<b>Capex</b>									
Wireless	6,021	16,820	5,780	2,008	2,127	1,720	2,598	2,264	1,190
<i>Global</i>	1,841	400	530						
<i>Broadband</i>	595	340	270						
Global Enterprise	2436	740	800	1544	1,219	958	1559	1176	2790
Others	830	1,580	10	49	157	876	173	248	270
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,287</b>	<b>19,140</b>	<b>6,590</b>	<b>3,601</b>	<b>3,503</b>	<b>3,554</b>	<b>4,330</b>	<b>3,688</b>	<b>4,250</b>
<b>Net debt</b>	<b>291,896</b>	<b>324,470</b>	<b>320,485</b>	<b>319,754</b>	<b>319,036</b>	<b>367,627</b>	<b>358,393</b>	<b>356,488</b>	<b>367,234</b>

Source: Company and Citi Research

## Earnings revision

Figure 6. Earnings revision

	2013E	2014E	2015E
<b>EBITDA (Rs m)</b>			
Old	74,072	82,347	89,376
New	70,318	78,819	85,886
Change	-5.1%	-4.3%	-3.9%
<b>EPS (Rs)</b>			
Old	5.9	8.7	11.4
New	4.5	7.5	10.4
Change	-23.6%	-14.0%	-8.3%

Source: Citi Research estimates

## TP at Rs72

RCOM's target price is based on SOTP of the core business and towerco value -

1. Core business value continues to be benchmarked off Bharti's imputed domestic business EV/EBITDA multiple and increases marginally to Rs72 from Rs70 despite the EBITDA cut as we roll-forward to 5.5x Mar-14E EV/EBITDA v/s Sep-13E earlier.
2. Towerco value remains unchanged at Rs20

## Reliance Communications

### Company description

RCOM is an integrated player in the Indian telecoms sector. It was listed on the Indian stock exchanges following the de-merger of Reliance Industries. RCOM is the second-largest player in the mobile segment, has an 80,000km-long India-wide optic-fiber network and owns the FLAG submarine cable network. RCOM has three business units: 1) Wireless, which includes a nationwide wireless network on CDMA and GSM; 2) Global Business comprising wholesale voice and data; and 3) Broadband for both retail and enterprise.

### Investment strategy

We rate RCOM as Buy/High Risk (1H) with a target price of Rs72. The company has been hit by a combination of deterioration in its business and high leverage (dual network strategy and 3G). On the positive side, the wireless business has been stable - rev/min has stabilized around 43p/min (in-line with GSM incumbents' rev/min) - and margins seem to have settled around 27% levels. However, tariff growth remains a notch below that of Idea and Bharti and remains key to improving business momentum. The Global Enterprise Business Unit (GEBU) is levered to global macro and the slowdown under way will likely impact it through: (a) pricing pressure and (b) delayed/reduced corporate spend, with a weak rupee providing some offset. Given the decent risk adjusted returns on stabilizing business and potential deleveraging, we rate it Buy/High Risk.

### Valuation

Our target price of Rs72 comprises (i) core business value of Rs52/sh, based on 5.5x Mar-14E EV/EBITDA; at a discount to Bharti's implied target multiple; plus (ii) towerco value accretion of Rs20/sh based on long-term external tenancy of 0.35x. We believe a discount to Bharti on the core business valuation is justified on account of the inherent risks of dual network and higher leverage. Our towerco net value accretion of Rs20/sh is based on the following assumptions: 1) Long-term tenancy of 2.00x with captive tenancy of 1.65x; 2) Capex recovery of 12%; 3) WACC of 11.3% and terminal growth rate of 3%. Note that the incremental value accretion to RCOM is calculated after netting off the contribution from the captive tenancy. Thus, it only reflects the value of the external revenues.

### Risks

We assign a High Risk rating to RCOM given that the stock is deemed to be relatively volatile by our quantitative risk-rating model (based on stock price movements in the past year). Lower than expected hit from the spectrum payments and newsflow around corporate action (stake sale/business tie-up) remain the key upside risks to our target price and investment thesis on RCOM. Key downside risks that could prevent the stock from reaching our target price include: 1) Further deterioration in the core business; 2) Business disruption/balance sheet hit by higher-than-expected spectrum payments; and 3) Inability to deleverage through asset sale or tie-up for asset lease.

# Appendix A-1

## Analyst Certification

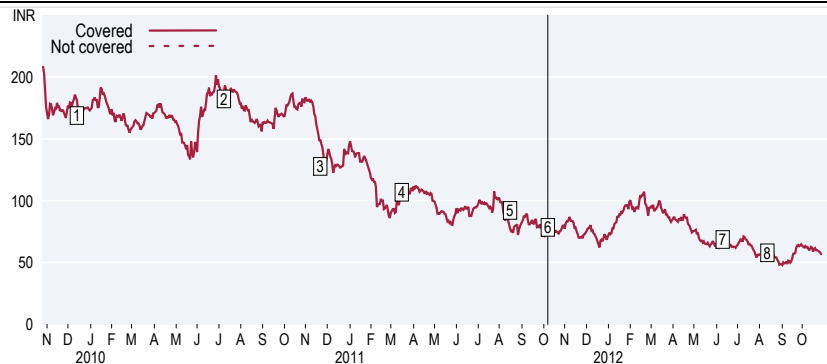
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### IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

#### Reliance Communications (RLCM.BO)

##### Ratings and Target Price History Fundamental Research

Analyst: Gaurav Malhotra, CFA  
Covered since June 18 2010



	Date	Rating	Target Price	Closing Price
1	12-Dec-09	3M	*160.00	183.65
2	8-Jul-10	3M	*165.00	187.95
3	22-Nov-10	3M	*155.00	149.30

	Date	Rating	Target Price	Closing Price
4	16-Mar-11	*1H	*127.00	102.95
5	16-Aug-11	1H	*117.00	77.40
6	7-Oct-11	Stock rating system changed		

	Date	Rating	Target Price	Closing Price
7	11-Jun-12	1H	*85.00	65.40
8	13-Aug-12	1H	*70.00	55.70

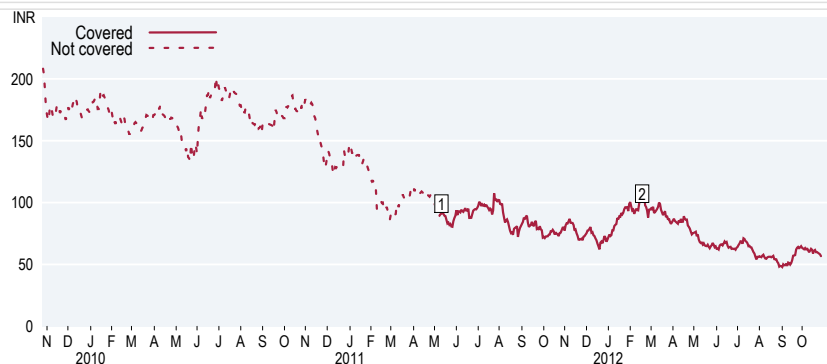
\* Indicates change

Rating/target price changes above reflect Eastern Standard Time

#### Reliance Communications (RLCM.BO)

##### Ratings and Target Price History Best Ideas Research Relative Call (3 Month)

Analyst: Gaurav Malhotra, CFA  
Covered since June 18 2010



	Date	Rating	Target Price	Closing Price
1	11-May-11	*ADD LP	-	91.55

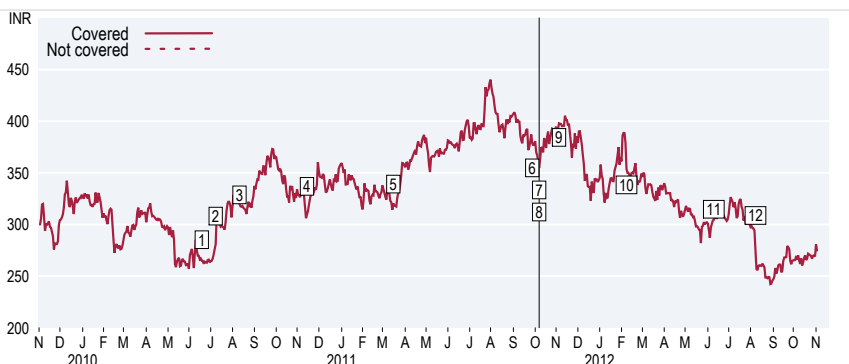
	Date	Rating	Target Price	Closing Price
2	17-Feb-12	*REM LP	-	104.30

\* Indicates change

Rating/target price changes above reflect Eastern Standard Time

**Bharti Airtel (BRTI.BO)**  
**Ratings and Target Price History**  
**Fundamental Research**

Analyst: Gaurav Malhotra, CFA  
Covered since June 18 2010



	Date	Rating	Target Price	Closing Price
1	18-Jun-10	2L	*303.00	264.85
2	8-Jul-10	2L	*300.00	280.85
3	11-Aug-10	2L	*350.00	319.70
4	15-Nov-10	*1L	*400.00	309.50

	Date	Rating	Target Price	Closing Price
5	16-Mar-11	1L	*415.00	320.45
6	28-Sep-11	1L	*453.00	378.75
7	7-Oct-11	Stock rating system changed		
8	7-Oct-11	*1	453.00	354.80

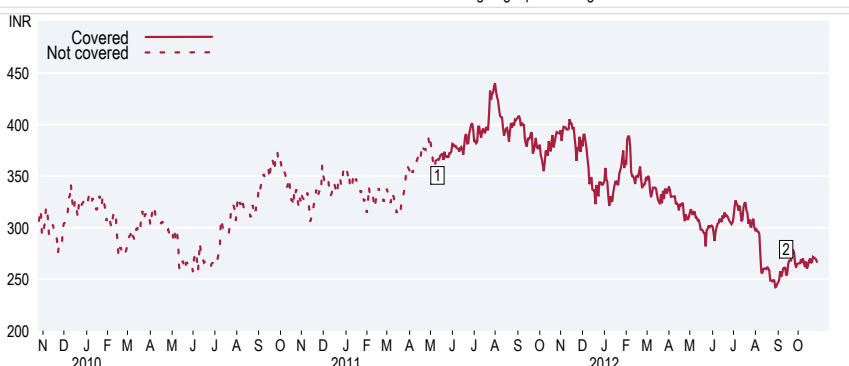
	Date	Rating	Target Price	Closing Price
9	4-Nov-11	1	*452.00	397.95
10	8-Feb-12	1	*425.00	354.00
11	11-Jun-12	1	*420.00	304.55
12	8-Aug-12	1	*325.00	274.40

\* Indicates change

Rating/target price changes above reflect Eastern Standard Time

**Bharti Airtel (BRTI.BO)**  
**Ratings and Target Price History**  
**Best Ideas Research**  
**Relative Call (3 Month)**

Analyst: Gaurav Malhotra, CFA  
Covered since June 18 2010



	Date	Rating	Target Price	Closing Price
1	11-May-11	*ADD MP	-	366.35

	Date	Rating	Target Price	Closing Price
2	13-Sep-12	*REM MP	-	253.65

\* Indicates change

Rating/target price changes above reflect Eastern Standard Time

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12 Month Rating			Relative Rating		
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50%	47%	45%	59%	47%	50%



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