

Pre-Budget 2007-08

Hoping for no negatives

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Summary

- The importance of budgets has been waning over the years thanks to a sharp fall in peak duty and the government's penchant for 'reform by stealth' on key contentious issues
- However, FY08 being the first year of XIth Plan and with general elections slated for 2009, the markets would be wary of any negative surprises
- The time for fiscal consolidation is ripe NOW, expect reforms to continue
 - Rationalization in taxes & tariffs will have an anti-inflationary thrust, given rapid growth momentum and runaway inflation, widening of tax base to continue
 - With buoyant revenue collections, fiscal deficit could be brought down significantly below targetted
 3.8% in FY07 and eventually closer to 3% by 2008 instead of 2009 as per FRBM final target
 - **Positive Potential:** Reduced fiscal deficit could boost savings and investment
 - Negative Surprise: Big-ticket populist expenditure schemes, new tax levies, restriction on housing loan deduction
 - Main sectoral possibilities: Excise cut on large cars, boost to agriculture and infra i.e. power and construction



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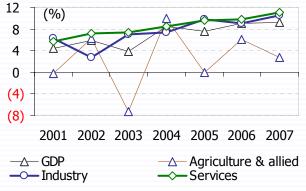
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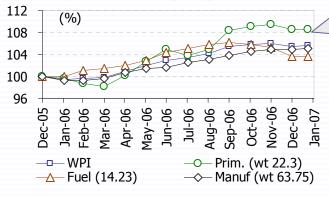


Macro backdrop remains encouraging

GDP led by strong non-agri growth..

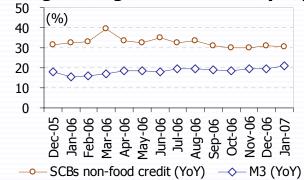


Rising inflationary expectations..

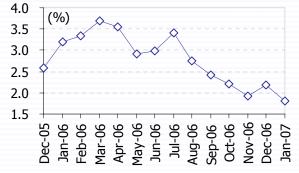


Food articles shortage exacerbates situation

..fuelling credit growth and money supply ...



.. have led to a rise in interest rates, but low real rates leave room for further hikes



Source: Bloomberg

- ⇒ GDP growth rate of 8-9% sustainable, given current rates of capital formation at ~35-36%, savings rate of 32-33%, capital flows of ~2-3% and ICOR of 4
- Average inflation likely to remain at ~ 5.5% for FY07, as primary articles supply gets augmented thru duty cuts, export-bans
 & seasonal supplies
- □ Interest rates likely to move up by further 25 bps in repo/ CRR shortly; however, lagged result of previous hikes on demand-side & liquidity cushion thru SLR cuts provide some cap
- ⇒ INR appreciation likely to continue through FY08



Enough fiscal room for maneuvering

Strong GDP growth and tax revenue buoyancy...

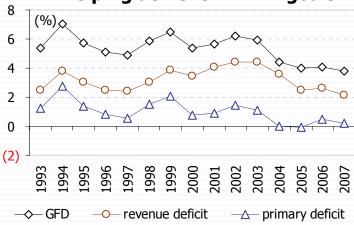
(Rs bn)	2005 Actuals	2006 Actuals	2007 BE	budgeted YoY grwth	Actual gwth Apr-Dec
Gross tax revenue	3,050	3,701	4,422	19	32
Income tax	493	662	774	17	27
Corporate tax	827	1,036	1,330	28	55
Custom	576	642	771	20	33
Excise	991	1,120	1,190	6	6.6

... has boosted tax/ GDP ratio...

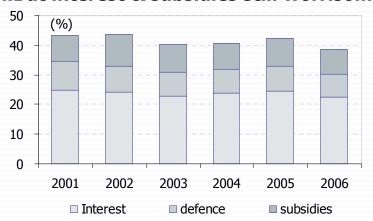
Country	Tax/GDP %
India *	17
China	18
Brazil	34
USA	27
UK	37
Korea	26

Source: OECD, * total (incl centre + states)

... helping achieve FRBM* goals..



..But interest & subsidies still worrisome



Fiscal deficit could fall to 3.5% vs targeted 3.8% in 2006/07, FRBM mileposts could be achieved sooner than 2009



Q3 Corporate performance: Remains upbeat

Sector Name	Q3 Sales	Gwth	Q3 EBIDT.	A Gwth	9M Sale	s Gwth	9M EBID	TA Gwth	EBIDTA	Abs m	argin	
(%)	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y		9M FY07/ 9M FY 06		9M FY07/ 9M FY 06	9M FY05	9M FY06	9M FY07	Comments
Auto	8	26	8	9	15	27	18	20	13.5	13.9	13.2	Volume remains key driver, with realizations having increased for 4-Wheelers. Margins impacted primarily on account of rising input costs.
Banking	27	34	24	31	28	26	20	25				Robust credit growth supported by stable NIMs and improving asset quality.
Cement	20	52	32	144	27	41	15	110	22.6	20.4	30.3	Margin expansion on the back of high cement realizations YoY. Volume growth will be a key driver going forward.
Energy	18	23	16	3	16	20	13	11	27.5	26.7	24.8	Strong operating performance and higher treasury income boosts PAT
Engineering	19	20	85	51	27	20	69	49	7.4	9.9	12.2	Strong growth continues. Margins helped by raw material fall. However, interest costs up.
FMCG	7	15	17	19	20	17	16	18	25.1	24.3	24.5	Despite inflationary cost environment, operating margins have been maintained. Thus reflecting volume backed pricing power.
IT Services	8	44	10	36	30	45	31	37	26.3	26.7	25.3	Volume remains key driver, with pricing uptrend observed. Margins impacted by currency appreciation, though partially offset by scale benefits.
Metals	3	39	5	43	9	39	2	28	35.7	33.5	30.9	
Petro, Oil & Gas	(1)	37	13	34	18	33	13	24	34.9	33.3	31.1	Higher net realization for crude oil & robust refining performance.
Pharmaceuticals	(7)	49	(21)	106	9	55	(21)	124	18.1	13.2	19.0	YoY spike in sales and EBIDTA due to acquisitions of Terapia & Betapharm by Ranbaxy & Dr. Reddy's respectively. Recovery in EBIDTA margins in 9MFY07 due to 180-day exclusivity on Zocor.
Telecom	7	26	13	80		43		106			39.3	
Overall Sensex	7	33	17	35	24	32	22	32	34.3	33.8	33.7	5p5.63

Source: Company, ENAM Research

For Banking: Net Sales= Net Interest Income, EBIDTA = Net Income

Lower RM costs in Q3 helped margins. However going forward, effect of higher interest costs to kick-in in Q4. No signs of slowing volume growth anywhere yet

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Long term measures, albeit with antiinflationary thrust in the short run



- Anti-inflationary thrust, given rapid growth momentum and runaway inflation
 - Containing expenditure and deficits
 - Reduction in Customs & Excise duties
- **⇒** FY08 will be the 1st year of the 11th Five Year Plan and a road map facilitating higher spending on infra and social sectors is expected to be laid out
- Centre's XI Plan Gross Budgetary Support to rise by 2.5% of GDP esp in:
 - **Agriculture & Rural:** With XI plan calling for another "Green Revolution", major boost to Agriculture expected:
 - Increased funding for Irrigation and enhancing agricultural productivity
 - Tax concessions for private investment in Agriculture and in Agri-logistics chain
 - Announcements in Integrated Food law, Warehouse Receipt Act and Essential Commodities Act
 - ▶ **Increased outlay** for rural development: 27% increase in Gross Budgetary Support for 2007/08
 - **Social spending:** Boost to social spending i.e. Public Health, Education
 - Infrastructure
 - Outlays to be raised significantly to meet investment requirement of **USD 320bn** during the XI plan
 - Infrastructure status to sectors such as Oil & Gas pipelines, LNG terminals etc.
 - ► Tax breaks for infrastructure and logistics investments

Strong growth affords opportunity to rationalize tax rates & widen base



Direct taxes:

- Reduction/ removal of 10% surcharge on Income/ Corporate tax
- Reduction in corporate tax for foreign cos from 40% to 35% in India, changes in non-resident taxation on the anvil
- Imposition of sunset clauses for select tax holidays i.e. on EOUs unlikely to be extended
- Tax on savings instruments: Announcement likely on shift towards EET (Exempt, Exempt, Tax) regime

Indirect taxes:

- **Customs**: Peak rates may be aligned to Asean levels at one go i.e. at ~7-8% from the existing 12.5%
 - Duty on petrol and diesel to be reduced from 7.5% to 5%
 - Further cuts in basic metals, chemicals and machinery sectors
- **Excise**: Peak duty could be gradually pushed to a single rate of 16%: main beneficiary large cars/ CVs currently 24%
 - Ad valorem excise duty expected to be reduced from 8% to 6%
 - Selective cuts in consumer goods
- Focus areas: Specific duty cuts and concessions aimed at agri-imports, processed foods and consumer goods.
- **Service tax**: Rate could be pushed up from 12% to 14%
 - 44 new items to be included ie. lending services, sports, amusement parks, health, hotel and lodging, electricity distribution etc.
- Goods and Services Tax (GST): A clear blue print to be unveiled
 - Service tax and CENVAT could be unified to 14% as a beginning
 - If done right, GST will be accompanied by the removal of all other taxes, thus leaving only Income tax, GST and Property tax

Removing various exemptions:

■ Revenues foregone due to various exemptions in FY 05 stood at ~Rs 1,760bn= 1.2x Fiscal Deficit, major heads of which are as follows. Hence, many of these may be removed

Item head A	mt (Rs bn)
Corporate Tax Customs Excise Income Tax (u/s 10A/B alone)	578 570 300 11



Further improvement in investment climate

Investment norms:

- To be simplified for foreign investors
- To be relaxed further for Banking, Retail, Real Estate & Insurance
- Agri, Power, Urban Infrastructure, Financial sector & Water privatization high on agenda
- Media, Coal and Mining sectors to be liberalized further

Capital market:

- Section 80C deduction may be raised by Rs 50,000 to Rs 1,50,000
 - This could be a positive for ELSS and other such market instruments/ MFs
- Further measures to channelize pension fund and long term money into the markets
- Facilitate increased access to foreign debt
- FBT & STT: Expected to continue
- Banking: Tax-break on interest earned on deposits expected
- Disinvestment of PSUs such as Power Grid Corporation etc. on the anvil. However, no major headway expected on disinvestment and labor reform

Sectoral Expectations



Auto

Sector	Item	Companies Impacted	Current status	Possible changes in Budget	Impact
Auto	Excise Duty- Medium cars	Maruti (MUL) and Tata Motors (TAMO)	▶ 16% - Small cars▶ 24% others	▶ Uniform duty at 16%	 Marginal (positive) Volume growth, in non core category, not to impact earnings substantially
	Commercial Vehicles	Ashok Leyland, Tata Motors (TAMO)	▶ 24% - M&HCV	▶ 16% for M&HCV	 Positive Will boost CV volume growth Possibly offset any adverse interest rate hike
	2 wheelers	Bajaj, Hero Honda, TVS	▶ 16% excise duty	▶ 8% excise duty (low probability of cut)	PositiveGreater volumes and possibility of higher realizations



Banking

Sector	Item	Companies Impacted	Current status	Possible changes in Budget	Impact
Banking	Tax breaks	All Banks	Interest earned on Bank deposits < 5 yrs are taxed	 Interest earned on bank deposits across maturities likely to get a tax break 	Positive Banks can effectively compete with small savings - can offer more competitive rates
		All Banks	Rebate on housing loans	Could be restricted to only 1 house	Negative
	FII Limit*	All Public Sector Banks	FII investments currently restricted to 20%	Limit can be raised to 24%	Positive ► Will lead to higher valuations



Commodities

Sector	Item	Current status	Possible changes in Budget	Impact
Cement	Import duty	▶ 0%	► None	No Impact
	Excise duty	Rs 400/ tonne	Reduction by Rs 50 to Rs 350/ tonne	Neutral ➤ Reduction would be passed through to customers
Metals	Import duty Non Ferrous	▶ Product - 5%▶ Raw material (Copper concentrate -2%)	Reduction to 2.5%Reduction to 0%	Marginally negativeUpswing in international prices to offset duty cut
	Import duty Ferrous	▶ 5%	▶ Reduction to 2.5%	Marginally negativeUpswing in international prices to offset duty cut
	Excise duty	▶ 16%	▶ Reduction to 12%	NeutralReduction to be a pass through to customers
Ferrous	Tax Concession for mega projects	 No special income tax benefits 	 Income tax benefits for mega steel projects 	Positive
Paper	Import duty	▶ 12.5%	▶ Reduction to 10%	Negative



Commodities

Sector	Item	Current status	Possible changes in Budget	Impact
Viscose Staple Fibre	Import duty	Product - 10%Raw material (Pulp) - 5%	Reduction to 7.5%Reduction to 2.5%	Marginally negative
	Excise duty	▶ 8%	► No change	Neutral



Engineering, Infrastructure

Item	Current status	Possible changes in budget	Impact
Custom duty	 12.5% duty on general machinery/capital goods 10% duty on captive power (>5MW), power transmission projects 7.5% duty on key raw materials 	 Recently reduced to 7.5% Recently reduced to 7.5% Recently reduced to 5% 	Neutral ➤ Reduction in duties on key inputs – copper, stainless steel etc. to negate impact
Excise duty	 16% duty on power related capital goods 16% excise duty on non-power related 	Reduction to 8%Reduction to 8%	 Positive For power related engineering cos Neutral Domestic consumers (mfrs.) under excise net get credit
Income tax	 80IA benefit for power plant and infrastructure projects expires in 2009 Exemption on interest, dividend & capital gains tax for infrastructure cos 	 Benefit to be extended beyond 2009 till 2012 Exempt for power and infra sector developers 	 Positive For power generators and infra developers Positive For infrastructure developers
APDRP scheme	 APDRP scheme expires in March 2007 Grants given by centre via state government 	 Extend beyond 2007 till 2012 Bypass state gov.and disburse benefits directly to utilities 	Positive ► For power related engineering companies



FMCG

Item	Categories	Current status	Possible changes in Budget	Impact
Excise	All categoriesCigarettes	 Currently at 16% Not under the VAT regime. Attracts only AED. 	 Reduced to 14% AED on cigarettes will be transferred to the states to impose VAT at 4% or 12.5% 	 Positive: All companies ▶ Reduction to offset cost inflation Negative for ITC: ▶ A 5% increase in excise will not impact volumes significantly ▶ However, a potential ~10% rise in prices due to VAT introduction @ 12.5% will impact volumes negatively
Customs	 Personal care and Home care products 	Peak custom duty range from 13%- 15%	 No further reduction expected 	Neutral



IT Services

Item	Current status	Possible changes in Budget	Impact
Section 10A/ 10B benefits	Exports are exempt for 10 years from inception of facility, with FY09 being last year to claim tax benefits	Expect status quo on current act	 Negative Early removal of this benefit would impact earnings negatively. Current effective tax rate ranges between 8-23% Small and mid-sized companies will be affected if exemption is not extended
Education Thrust	 Union Budget 2006 saw substantial increase in K-12 related programs like Sarva Siksha Abhiyan 	 Higher Allocation to K-12 oriented education programs FDI in education sector 	Positive ▶ Key beneficiaries: Educomp, NIIT Ltd

Other positives include higher budgetary allocation on rapid computerisation of Govt departments, infrastructure upgrades to IITs/ educational institutes. These measures would be positive for IT education and domestically focused IT services firms



Oil & Gas, Petchem

Item	Companies Impacted	Possible changes in Budget	Impact
Changes in duty structure for petro products	► HPCL, BPCL, IOCL, CPCL, MRPL	 Reduction in customs duty on MS and HSD (down to 5% from 7.5%) Reduction in excise duty to 6% from 8% 	 Reduction in excise and customs duty may partially compensate for marketing losses Reduction in import duties to impact the refinery GRMs by ~USD 0.5/bbl
Reduction in the import duty on petchem products (PTA, MEG, Polymers etc)	► RIL, IPCL, GAIL, IOCL	 Import duty on PTA, MEG to be reduced to 5% from 8% Polymers import duty to be reduced to 0% from 5% Excise duty on polyesters to be reduced further 	 Reduction in PTA, MEG duties to improve the polyester "value add". Neutral for integrated players like RIL Polymer import duty reduction to have a marginal negative impact Polyester to be competitive v/s cotton. Positive for RIL
Infra status for pipeline companies	► GAIL, GSPL, Gujarat Gas, IGL	 May get the tax holiday 80 IA benefit for <u>new</u> pipelines 	▶ Tax is a pass through. Lower tax rate to make tariffs competitive



Pharmaceuticals

Item	Current status	Possible changes in Budget	Impact
MRP* based excise	▶ 42.5% Abatement	▶ 50% Abatement	 Positive For large Pharma cos, mainly MNCs. impact will be reduced if benefit is passed on to consumers
FBT	▶ 5% of the expenditure incurred on conveyance, tour and travel, use of hotels, boarding etc. Currently this matter is pending with the Supreme Court	 Abolish or ambit restricted to cases where Employee- Employer relationship can be established eg.(free samples) 	 Positive For all Pharma cos. Even removal of expenses such as free samples and seminar expenses will give some relief to the industry
R&D expense tax deduction	▶ 150% weighted-average tax deduction for R&D expenses for a year	 Likely to continue but to be extended for a longer time 	Positive ➤ Long term clarity of deduction under 35(2)(a)(b) is essential as R&D is a long gestation activity
Excise Customs Duty	16% on formulations12.5% on imports (mainly API imports)	 8% on formulations 10% on imports or even to ASEAN rates of 5% 	 Positive For all companies who do not have manufacturing facilities in excise exempt areas, largely MNCs. Reduction in customs duty will be a minor positive for companies who import APIs

The New Pharmaceutical Policy has been under consideration for quite some time. The Government should announce it soon, to remove uncertainty surrounding its implementation

Note: * - MRP = Maximum Retail Price,



Real Estate

Item	Current status	Possible changes in Budget	Impact
Section 80 IB:	▶ 100% tax deduction of profits from housing projects approved before March 31, 2007 in the 1,000 sq. ft. (Delhi & Mumbai) and 1,500 sq. ft. (rest of India) category	 Withdrawal of section 80 IB Extension of last date of project approvals but with additional riders 	 Negative: Withdrawal of tax free status on a significant portion of project portfolio of developers Positive: Majority of real estate players cater to this segment of home buyers
Tax Benefits Sec 24(I)(vi) Sec 80 C	 Sec 24(I)(vi): Deduction of interest on home loans up to Rs 150,000 p.a. for self occupied houses Sec 80 C: Deduction of principal repayment of a home loan up to Rs 100,000 for a self occupied house 	 Although there has been contemplation of a reduction/withdrawal, tax benefits on housing loans to continue unchanged 	Neutral: Continued tax exemptions under Sec 24(I)(vi) and Sec 80C to help maintain property off take, esp to those catering to the middle class
FDI regulations	▶ FDI allowed only in under construction projects with a lock in period of 3 years for repatriation	 Restrictions to continue on completed projects Repatriation lock in for initial 3 years also to be maintained 	Neutral



Telecom

Item	Current status	Possible changes in Budget	Impact
Broadband Thrust	Current subscriber base low at sub 2mn.	 Fiscal incentives on PC and broadband associated accessories 	 Positive For all listed telecom service providers. Other players that stand to gain include HCL Infosystems, Redington
Spectrum Allocation	 Currently allotted 6.2 MHz 10 MHz of spectrum depending on subscriber base Spectrum charges range between 2-6% of Adjusted Gross Revenues (AGR) depending on allotted Spectrum 	 Additional award of spectrum from defense department to telecom sector Reduction in spectrum charges 	 Positive: Additional award of spectrum would be beneficial Would aid further reduction in tariffs and raise wireless penetration
Reduction in license fees	 Currently service providers pay 6% to 10% AGR in different circles as license fees. Part of this is apportioned towards USO fund 	► Likely reduction in license fees	Positive: Would further reduce tariffs and increase wireless penetration
80 IA benefit	▶ 100% tax benefits for profits in the first 5 years and thereafter 30% per cent of profits for 5 out of the remaining 10 years	 Bring telecom at par with other infrastructure providers with tax exemption at 100% for 10 years Extension of tax period from 15 to 20 years Extend tax holiday to 1/4/2008 	Positive For private sector operators – Bharti, RCOM and Idea Cellular

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