<u>Motilal Oswal</u>

Hindustan Lever

STOCK INFO. BSE Sensex: 14,253	BLOOMBERG HLVR IN REUTERS CODE	20 Feb	oruary 200	7								Buy
S&P CNX: 4,107	HLL.BO	Previo	us Recomm	endation	n: Buy							Rs200
Equity Shares (m)	2,201.2	YEAR	NET SALES	РАТ	EPS	EPS	P/E	P/BV	ROE	ROCE	EV/	EV/
52-Week Range	296/180	END	(RSM)	(RSM)	(RS)	GROWTH (%)	(X)	(X)	(%)	(%)	SALES	EBITDA
1,6,12 Rel. Perf. (9	%) -11/-39/-58	12/06A	121,034	15,397	7.0	17.5	28.5	16.6	58.0	70.5	3.4	25.0
M.Cap. (Rs b)	439.5	12/07E	133,847	18,019	8.2	17.0	24.4	15.6	63.8	78.2	3.0	20.9
M.Cap. (US\$ b)	10.0	12/08E	146,700	20,855	9.5	13.5	21.1	13.9	66.1	80.9	2.7	18.0

HLL's results for 4QCY06 were below expectations, with sales (from continuing operations) growing 6.9% YoY (v/ s our estimate of 14% growth). EBITDA grew just 3.8% YoY, as margins contracted by 35bp. PAT excluding exceptional items grew 10.2% YoY, as other income increased by 66% YoY.

- Personal care, which has been the growth engine of the company, delivered sales growth of just 4.4% YoY from continuing businesses in 4QCY06 as against 18.5% growth in 9MCY06. Slow onset of winter resulted in skin cream sales being much lower than in 4QCY05. Hair care sales were flat due to high sales in 4QCY05 associated with launch of *Clinic All Clear*. We are disappointed with the sharp decline in personal care sales growth rates.
- Soaps & detergents sales increased 10.1% YoY, with 9bp decline in PBIT margin. Price increases and cost control enabled the company to mitigate the impact of higher prices of crude-based inputs and palm oil derivatives, to a large extent. We expect further price hikes in toilet soaps ahead of the peak summer season.
- ✓ We are reducing our sales growth estimates from 11.3% for CY07 and 10.7% for CY08 to 10.6% and 9.6%, respectively. We believe that high input costs and initial expenses relating to the national rollout of water project during CY07 would limit margin expansion to 90bp for CY07 and 70bp for CY08. We are lowering our EPS estimates from Rs8.7 for CY07 and Rs10.6 for CY08 to Rs8.2 and Rs9.5, respectively. The stock has underperformed the Sensex by more than 60% in the past nine months. We maintain **Buy**, with a reduced price target of Rs240 (Rs278 earlier). The stock trades at 24.4x CY07E and 21.1x CY08E earnings.

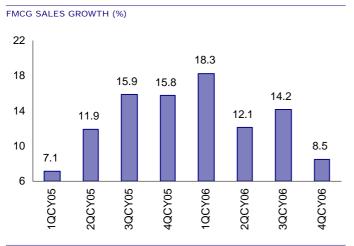
QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE									(F	ts Million)
Y/E DECEMBER		CYC	5			CYO	6		CY05	CY06
	1Q	2 Q	3 Q	4Q	1Q	2 Q	3 Q	4 Q		
Net Sales (incl service inc)	25,064	28,363	27,315	29,743	27,981	30,832	30,660	31,561	110,606	121,034
YoY Change (%)	6.5	10.3	13.8	14.4	11.6	8.7	12.2	6.1	11.4	9.4
Total Expenditure	22,629	24,906	23,872	24,925	24,675	26,686	26,631	26,561	96,172	104,553
EBITDA	2,435	3,457	3,444	4,818	3,306	4,146	4,029	5,000	14,433	16,481
YoY Change (%)	-32.4	8.4	1.7	14.7	35.8	19.9	17.0	3.8	0.4	14.2
Margins (%)	9.7	12.2	12.6	16.2	11.8	13.4	13.1	15.8	13.0	13.6
Depreciation	-310	-318	-325	-316	-339	-301	-320	-342	-1,245	-1,302
Interest	-46	-56	-48	-36	-21	-34	-34	-18	-192	-107
Other Income	746	794	849	642	694	814	968	1,070	3,048	3,545
PBT	2,826	3,877	3,920	5,108	3,640	4,625	4,643	5,709	16,045	18,617
Tax	-606	-872	-666	-796	-655	-833	-812	-875	-2,500	-3,220
Rate (%)	21.4	22.5	17.0	15.6	18.0	18.5	17.5	15.3	15.6	17.3
Adjusted PAT	2,220	3,005	3,254	4,312	2,985	3,793	3,830	4,834	13,545	15,397
YoY Change (%)	-22.7	17.2	15.2	20.3	34.5	26.2	17.7	12.1	14.3	13.7
Extraordinary Inc/(Exp)	283	-188	6	897	1,444	13	1,377	278	536	3,157
Reported Profit	2,503	2,817	3,260	5,209	4,429	3,806	5,208	5,112	14,081	18,554
YoY Change (%)	-17.4	15.2	0.5	56.1	77.0	35.1	59.8	-1.8	17.6	31.8
E: MOSt Estimates										

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Lowest growth in last eight quarters

HLL reported revenue growth of 6.1% YoY in 4QCY06, much below our estimate. Overall, domestic FMCG grew by 8.6% YoY, backed by a 4.3% volume growth. For the full year, the company reported 9.4% growth in sales. Given the nominal GDP growth of 12-13%, this does not seem very encouraging. Management has attributed the lower sales growth to the personal care segment, which was considered as the main growth engine for the company until now. Personal care reported just 4.4% sales growth from continuing businesses – a late winter led to lower growth in skin care and hair care sales growth was adversely impacted by high base (*Clinic All Clear* was launched in 4QCY05). Lower marine exports and decline in HPC exports adversely impacted overall exports.



Source: Company/Motilal Oswal Securities

Cost pressures continue; more price increases likely

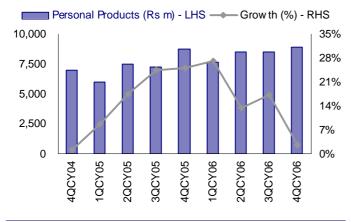
Cost pressures remained intense, with rising prices of crudebased raw material, palm oil and fuel, and higher cost of freight and advertising. HLL's sales mix deteriorated during the quarter, mainly due to lower sales growth for personal care. The company took price increases in detergents and toilet soaps in November 2006, which enabled it to limit margin decline to 9bp in soaps and detergents. Palm oil prices have increased by 12-15% since the last price increase by the company. We expect HLL to raise prices of toilet soaps ahead of the summer season to neutralize the cost increase.

SEGMENT WISE	REVENU	ES (RS M)	1			
SEGMENTAL	4Q	4Q	CHG.	CY05	CY06	CHG.
	CY05	CY06	(%)			(%)
Net Sales						
Soaps & Det.	12,969	14,281	10.1	49,617	55,959	12.8
Pers. Products	8,713	8,934	2.5	29,519	33,598	13.8
Beverages	3,388	3,670	8.3	12,775	13,307	4.2
Proc. Foods	865	1,022	18.1	3,137	3,849	22.7
Ice Creams	172	263	53.3	982	1,371	39.7
Exports	3,573	3,473	-2.8	13,478	12,789	-5.1
Others	553	603	9.1	2,505	1,802	-28.0
EBIT						
Soaps & Det.	2,035	2,227	9.5	6,837	7,731	13.1
Pers. Products	2,751	2,846	3.4	8,452	9,431	11.6
Beverages	678	722	6.5	2,424	2,205	-9.0
Proc. Foods	-34	64	-292.2	-161	129	-179.9
Ice Creams	-12	28	-336.1	51	187	268.5
Exports	213	205	-3.9	491	664	35.3
Others	-51	-249	384.4	-277	-674	143.4
EBIT Margin (%)					
Soaps & Det.	15.7	15.6		13.8	13.8	
Pers. Products	31.6	31.9		28.6	28.1	
Beverages	20.0	19.7		19.0	16.6	
Proc. Foods	-3.9	6.3		-5.1	3.3	
Ice Creams	-6.9	10.7		5.2	13.7	
Exports	6.0	5.9		3.6	5.2	
Others	-9.3	-41.3		-11.1	-37.4	

Source: Company/Motilal Oswal Securities

Personal care – winter blues; but likely to bounce back

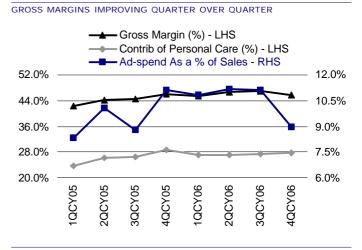
Personal care grew 2.5% YoY in 4QCY06, with EBIT margins expanding 30bp to 31.9%. A late and short winter impacted revenue growth in skin care while growth in hair care was flat – a high base in effect due to launch of *Clinic* All Clear in 4QCY05. For the full year, personal care grew 13.8% and EBIT margins contracted 70bp to 28.1%, probably due to investment in brands. To get a pie of the fastest growing market, HLL has launched a slew of products in the top-end. Personal care contributes 27.7% of total sales and 48% of PBIT and is the fastest growing category in the company's product basket. The skin care market (especially the top-end) has been recording robust growth following the entry of the foreign players like L'oreal, Lancome, Garnier, Lancaster and even Kaya products. With increasing number of working women, the demand for aspirational brands is growing rapidly.



PERSONAL PRODUCTS: SHARP SLOWDOWN IN SALES

- HLL has recently launched the *Ponds* top-end range of creams (anti-ageing, moisturizer, fairness) in the Rs400 plus range and face-washes for different skin types in the Rs100 plus range.
- In the existing range of products, *Ponds* and *Vaseline* were re-launched in new and much improved packaging.
- ∠ Under *Fair & Lovely (FAL)* the company has launched a men's fairness cream and *FAL* skin clarity creams.
- HLL extended its *Sunsilk* range to launch top-end hair color shampoos, conditioners and leave-on. HLL also plans to extend its premium brand – *Dove* to enter the top-end shampoos.

HLL's gross margins have been improving quarter over quarter, with higher contribution of personal care. Newer brands in the top-end will increasingly help in improving gross margins. The company has cut back on advertising spend from 11% of sales in 9MCY06 to 9% in 4QCY06, which has enabled it to prevent the slide in margins. The company has increased advertising spend by 250bp in the last two years. We expect advertising spends to increase to 10.7% of sales in CY07 and 11.2% in CY08. Lower ad spend increase and favorable change in sales mix will enable the company to post 90bp margin expansion in CY07.

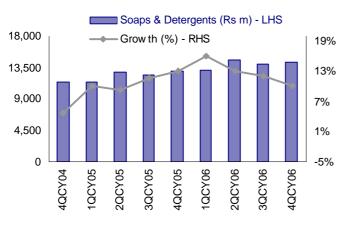


Source: Company/Motilal Oswal Securities

Soaps & detergents – input price pressure continues

Soaps & detergents reported a 10.1% increase in sales and 9.5% increase in EBIT for 4QCY06. Detergents recorded better growth than soaps, which we believe was dragged by Lux and Breeze. Growth in revenues has been the slowest in the last eight quarters. EBIT margins were flat at 15.6% for the quarter, following commensurate price increases taken to pass on the rise in input costs. For the full year CY06, soaps & detergent revenues grew by 12.8% while EBIT margins were flat at 13.8%. Prices of key inputs such as palm oil, soda ash and LAB have been on an uptrend over the last year. Palm oil prices have moved by more than 27% in the past few months. However, the company has taken price increases in various soaps brands and with a dominant 54% market share in the category, it should not be difficult to pass on the price hikes. We expect HLL to take further price increase in toilet soaps ahead of the peak summer season, as palm oil prices have increased by 12-15% since the last price hike in November 2006.

Source: Company/Motilal Oswal Securities



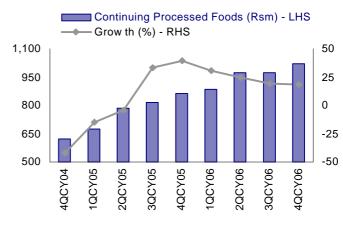
SOAPS & DETERGENTS

Beverages – tea market showing sings of improvement

Beverages reported an encouraging 8.3% increase in sales but EBIT margins declined by 30bp to 19.7% on account of higher tea prices. The tea segment bounced back to growth after the successful re-launch of *Taj Mahal* and *Red Label* in 4QCY06. The company's long-term strategy involves targeting the premium end of the market, with valued-added offerings. Coffee business continued its growth momentum, with strong market share gains. For the full year, revenues grew 4.2%. We expect the beverages business to show low growth in the medium term, with flat margins.

Processed foods and ice creams post strong growth

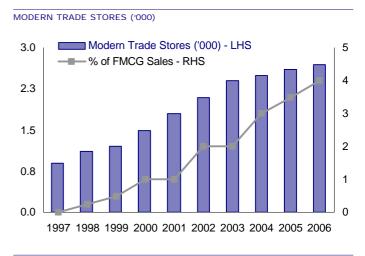
Continuing processed foods business reported strong 18.1% sales growth, with EBIT turnaround in 4QCY06. HLL achieved EBIT of Rs 64m in 4QCY06 as against a loss of Rs34m in 4QCY05. All the key brands like *Annapurna*, *Knorr* and *Kissan* contributed to growth. Ice creams business grew by a robust 53.3% in a non-season quarter, with PBIT of Rs28m compared to a loss of Rs12m in 4QCY05 – high growth was driven by impulse as well as take-home category. During the year, HLL has announced merger of Modern Foods and shifting of foods division from Bangalore to Mumbai. We see this move as a precursor to new initiatives in the foods business. We expect HLL to enter new food product categories in the coming year.



CONTINUING PROCESSED FOODS: HIGH GROWTH CONTINUES

Modern retailing will boost long-term prospects

The modern trade is growing at a scorching pace. Today it accounts for 10% of sales in the metros, 20% in southern India and 4% of the entire FMCG sector. Large MNCs, and Indian corporate houses like Reliance, Bharti - Walmart, Metro - Cash & Carry, Subhiksha, Aditya Birla Group, RPG Group, Pantaloon, Hypercity are talking big about their retail plans. We believe that HLL would be one of the biggest beneficiaries of the fast expanding retail wave in India. Sheer inventory filling for these retail chains would require large offtake from HLL. Modern trade accounts for 4% of FMCG sales today and we expect this to double in the next five years.



Source: HLL Presentation/Motilal Oswal Securities

Source: Company/Motilal Oswal Securities

Source: Company/Motilal Oswal Securities

Management of HLL seems quite optimistic about their prospects in modern trade, as the sales mix is better. The big retailers' focus on national brands acts to the advantage of these companies. Management hinted that that their market share in modern trade is higher than the general trade. Management hinted that the strong relationships Unilever has with global retailers has enabled both parties to share the fruits of growth. The company believes that foods business could be a big beneficiary of the growth in modern trade.

Reducing estimates and target price

We are reducing our sales growth estimates from 11.3% for CY07 and 10.7% for CY08 to 10.6% and 9.6%, respectively. We believe that high input costs and initial expenses relating to the national rollout of water project during CY07 would limit margin expansion to 90bp for CY07 and 70bp for CY08. We are lowering our EPS estimates from Rs8.7 for CY07 and Rs10.6 for CY08 to Rs8.2 and Rs9.5, respectively. The stock has underperformed the Sensex by more than 60% in the past nine months. We maintain **Buy**, with a reduced price target of Rs240 (Rs278 earlier). The stock trades at 24.4x CY07E and 21.1x CY08E earnings.

Hindustan Lever: an investment profile

Company description

HLL is the largest company in the FMCG industry, with market leadership in soaps, detergents and personal care categories.

It has a wide distribution network with direct reach of over1m retail outlets. The company is a subsidiary of Unileverthe Anglo Dutch FMCG giant.

Key investment arguments

- ZQCY06 FMCG sales growth of 12.1%, is higher than FMCG industry growth of 10.2%.
- Favorable change in sales mix as higher margin, personal care and toilet soaps record strong volume growth.
- Longer term prospects bright due to expected pick up in consumer demand.

Key investment risks

- Competitive pressure could intensify with more companies entering personal care and toilet soaps which account for more than 50% of HLL sales.
- Solution Failure of monsoons could dampen rural demand pickup.
- ✓ High crude prices would increase material costs.

COMPARATIVE V	ALUATIONS			
		HLL	ITC	NESTLE
P/E (x)	CY06E	28.5	24.0	34.2
	CY07E	24.4	20.1	27.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	CY06E	25.0	15.7	21.0
	CY07E	20.9	13.0	14.3
EV/Sales (x)	CY06E	3.4	5.0	4.2
	CY07E	3.0	4.2	3.8
P/BV (x)	CY06E	16.6	6.3	18.5
	CY07E	15.6	5.5	16.2

SHAREHOLDING PATTERN (%)

	DEC.06	SEP.06	DEC.05
Promoter	51.4	51.4	51.6
Domestic Inst	16.1	15.4	14.8
Foreign	13.2	14.3	14.1
Others	19.3	18.9	19.5

Recent developments

- Announced national roll out of water project in CY07.
- Proposed change in the name of the company to Hindustan Unilever Ltd.
- Z Launched new products like Clinic All Clear Scalp Control, Ponds Age Miracle and variants of Fair & Lovely.

Valuation and view

- We expect an earnings CAGR of 16.4% over CY06-08E.
- ∠ The stock quotes at 24.4x CY07E and 21.1x CY08E earnings. We maintain Buy.

Sector view

- We are positive on the sector. The sector is showing strong volume growth across product categories with improving pricing power for leading players.
- Companies with low competitive pressures and brought product portfolios will be able to better with stand any slowdown in a particular segment.
- Longer term prospects bright, given rising incomes and low penetration.

EPS: MOST FORECAST VS CONSENSUS (RS)

MOST	CONSENSUS	VARIATION
FORECAST	FORECAST	(%)
8.2	8.7	-5.3
9.5	-	-
	FORECAST 8.2	FORECASTFORECAST8.28.7

TARGET PRICI	E AND RECOMMENDA	TION	
CURRENT	TARGET	UPSIDE	RECO.
PRICE (RS)	PRICE (RS)	(%)	
200	240	20.2	Buy

STOCK PERFORMANCE (1 YEAR)



INCOME STATEMENT				(RSM	ILLION)
Y/E DECEMBER	2004	2005	2006E	2007E	2008E
Net Sales	99,269	110,605	121,034	133,847	146,700
Change (%)	-2.1	11.4	9.4	10.6	9.6
Total Expenditure	-84,896	-96,172	-104,553	-114,381	-124,431
EBITDA	14,374	14,433	16,481	19,467	22,269
Change (%)	-27.3	0.4	14.2	18.1	14.4
Margin (%)	14.5	13.0	13.6	14.5	15.2
Depreciation	-1,209	-1,245	-1,302	-1,352	-1,402
Int. and Fin. Charges	-1,300	-192	-107	-110	-110
Other Income - Recurring	3,188	3,048	3,545	3,976	4,655
Profit before Taxes	15,053	16,045	18,617	21,981	25,412
Change (%)	-32.9	6.6	16.0	18.1	15.6
Margin (%)	15.2	14.5	15.4	16.4	17.3
Тах	-2,660	-2,530	-2,952	-3,413	-3,922
Deferred Tax	-547	-410	-268	-550	-635
Tax Rate (%)	-213	-18.3	-17.3	- 18.0	-17.9
Profit after Taxes	11,846	13,105	15,397	18,019	20,855
Change (%)	-32.6	10.6	17.5	17.0	15.7
Margin (%)	119	11.8	12.7	13.5	14.2
Non-rec. (Exp)/Income	128	976	3,157	0	0
Reported PAT	11,973	14,081	18,554	18,019	20,855

BALANCE SHEET				(RSN	ILLION)
Y/E DECEMBER	2004	2005	2006E	2007E	2008E
Share Capital	2,201	2,201	2,201	2,201	2,201
Reserves	18,726	20,855	24,352	26,060	29,349
Net Worth	20,927	23,056	26,553	28,261	31,550
Loans	14,711	569	0	0	0
Capital Employed	35,638	23,626	26,553	28,261	31,550
Gross Block	23,142	23,751	25,251	26,251	27,251
Less: Accum. Depn.	-8,911	-9,896	-11,198	-12,549	-13,951
Net Fixed Assets	14,231	13,855	14,053	13,702	13,300
Capital WIP	944	980	980	980	980
Investments	22,296	20,142	22,926	29,646	34,818
Deferred Charges	2,260	2,201	2,142	2,167	2,193
Curr. Assets, L&A	33,050	27,630	29,996	30,644	32,296
Inventory	14,704	13,218	15,129	16,224	17,259
Account Receivables	4,893	5,228	5,471	5,867	6,029
Cash and Bank Balance	6,980	3,550	4,176	3,485	4,082
Others	6,472	5,634	5,219	5,067	4,926
Curr. Liab. and Prov.	37,143	41,183	43,544	48,878	52,038
Account Payables	20,292	23,450	24,883	28,023	30,486
Other Liabilities	10,773	11,572	11,382	12,358	12,937
Provisions	6,077	6,162	7,280	8,497	8,616
Net Current Assets	-4,093	-13,553	-13,548	-18,235	-19,742
Application of Funds	35,638	23,626	26,553	28,261	31,550

Y/E DECEMBER	2004	2005	2006E	2007E	2008E
Basic (Rs)					
EPS	5.4	6.0	7.0	8.2	9.5
Cash EPS	5.9	6.5	7.6	8.8	10.1
BV/Share	9.5	10.5	12.1	12.8	14.3
DPS	5.0	5.0	6.0	6.5	7.0
Payout %	92.9	84.0	85.8	79.4	73.9
Valuation (x)					
P/E		33.5	28.5	24.4	21.1
Cash P/E		30.6	26.3	22.7	19.7
EV/Sales		3.8	3.4	3.0	2.7
EV/EBITDA		28.8	25.0	20.9	18.0
P/BV		19.1	16.6	15.6	13.9
Dividend Yield (%)		2.5	3.0	3.3	3.5
Return Ratios (%)					
RoE	56.6	56.8	58.0	63.8	66.1
RoCE	45.9	68.7	70.5	78.2	80.9
Working Capital Ratios					
Debtor (Days)	18	17	17	16	15
Asset Turnover (x)	2.8	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.6
Leverage Ratio					
Debt/Equity (x)	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CASH FLOW STATEMENT					IILLION)
Y/E DECEMBER	2004	2005	2006E	2007E	2008E
OP/(loss) before Tax	13,165	13,189	15,179	18,115	20,867
Int./Div. Received	3,188	3,048	3,545	3,976	4,655
Depreciation and Amort.	1,209	1,245	1,302	1,352	1,402
Interest Paid	-1,300	-192	-107	-110	-110
Direct Taxes Paid	-2,660	-2,530	-2,952	-3,413	-3,922
(Incr)/Decr in WC	-679	6,030	621	3,996	2,104
CF from Operations	12,923	20,789	17,587	23,915	24,996
Extraordinary Items	128	976	3,157	0	0
(Incr)/Decr in FA	-1,931	-645	-1,500	-1,000	-1,000
(Pur)/Sale of Investments	3,454	2,154	-2,784	-6,721	-5,172
CF from Invest.	1,650	2,485	- 1, 127	-7,721	-6,172
Issue of Shares	0	0	0	0	0
(Incr)/Decr in Debt	-2,332	-14,141	-569	0	0
Dividend Paid	-11,006	-11,006	-15,057	-16,311	- 17,566
Others	-2,320	-1,557	-209	-575	-662
CF from Fin. Activity	-15,659	-26,704	-15,835	-16,886	-18,228
Incr/Decr of Cash	-1,085	-3,430	626	-691	596
Add: Opening Balance	8,065	6,980	3,550	4,176	3,485
Closing Balance	6,980	3,550	4,176	3,485	4,082

E: M OSt Estimates



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