

LafargeHolcim

Price CHF35.99

Easy comparison helps LH Indian subsidiaries in Q4 2015

Fair Value CHF60 (+67%)

SELL

Bloomberg	HOLN VX
Reuters	HOLZn.VX
12-month High / Low (CHF)	72.9 / 34.1
Market Cap (CHF)	21,843
Ev (BG Estimates) (CHF)	40,379
Avg. 6m daily volume (000)	1,981
3y EPS CAGR	30.4%

	1 M	3 M	6 M	31/12/15
Absolute perf.	-21.8%	-35.8%	-45.7%	-28.4%
Cons & Mat	-6.1%	-12.3%	-16.4%	-12.1%
DJ Stoxx 600	-7.7%	-16.2%	-21.2%	-13.8%

YEnd Dec. (EURm)	2014	2015e	2016e	2017e
Sales	31,564	29,968	31,571	33,640
% change		-5.1%	5.3%	6.6%
EBITDA	6,495	5,899	6,751	7,907
EBIT	3,765	3,273	4,111	5,268
% change		-13.1%	25.6%	28.1%
Net income	1,247	1,249	1,983	2,769
% change		0.1%	58.8%	39.6%

	2014	2015e	2016e	2017e
Operating margin	11.9	10.9	13.0	15.7
Net margin	5.3	3.8	5.6	8.6
ROE	3.3	3.3	5.2	6.9
ROCE	3.4	3.8	4.7	6.1
Gearing	41.6	39.9	37.0	31.0

(EUR)	2014	2015e	2016e	2017e
EPS	2.06	2.06	3.27	4.57
% change	-	0.1%	58.8%	39.6%
P/E	17.5x	17.5x	11.0x	7.9x
FCF yield (%)	2.2%	8.2%	9.6%	14.4%
Dividends (EUR)	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30
Div yield (%)	3.6%	3.6%	3.6%	3.6%
EV/Sales	1.3x	1.3x	1.3x	1.1x
EV/EBITDA	6.2x	6.8x	5.9x	4.8x
EV/EBIT	10.6x	12.3x	9.7x	7.2x

Both entities of LafargeHolcim in India, ACC and Ambuja, yesterday reported decent results for Q4, with a combined 4.6% y/y cement volume growth and a flattish EBITDA margin (-29bps at 11.7%). This might be seen as early signs of market improvement, but comparison basis was pretty easy. Long-term outlook comments are positive, which is not a surprise. Investors will have to wait for LafargeHolcim FY 2015 results on 17 March, to get a proper guidance on 2016 trends.

Last year, India has generated CHF3.1bn of revenues and CHF460m of EBITDA, ie c10.5% and c8% of the LafargeHolcim figures expected in 2015, respectively. With the US, India is the only country to weigh more than 10% of the consolidated top line. India is the first of the group in terms of cement capacities, with 62 mt, i.e. 17% of the group 374 mt capacities. The current structure is a bit complex, with two different entities, ACC and Ambuja, but it will be streamlined as soon as LH will receive proper approvals from local authorities. It worths underlying a new head of India as been appointed (Martin Kriegner, previously Area Manager Central Europe), as from the 1st of March. All figures exclude Lafarge India (11 mt) which has to be divested due to anti-trust demands.

Hence India is an important country for LafargeHolcim (which benefits from a well spread footprint) and a promising zone for cement (consumption of 200kg per inhabitant vs a 500kg world average). However cement volumes have been subdued in India in 2015 (less than 3% of cement production for the market as whole in 2015) and competition is likely to be intense.

The two subsidiaries of LafargeHolcim have published improving figures in Q4 2015. Combined cement volumes are up 4.6% in Q4 vs -3.2% at end September. Combined EBITDA margin stands at 11.7% in Q4, a -29bps decline y/y vs a -160bps at end September. Trends are also clearly better, but comparison bases were particularly easy, with a -3.7% volume decline in Q4 2014 and a 200bps decline of the margin. Full year numbers are not impressive. Volumes are down -1.3%, sales down -2.8% which suggest prices or mix were not favourable, EBITDA is down -11% and margin stands at 14.7% (vs 20% expected for LafargeHolcim) a 134bps y/y decline. Combined profit after tax is down -47% at CHF209m.

Quarterly y/y % apparent growth (from ACC and Ambuja combined reported figures in INR)

y/y	Q1 14	Q2 14	Q3 14	Q4 14	FY 14	Q1 15	Q2 15	Q3 15	Q4 15	FY 15
Cement volumes (%)	-0.2	5.6	0.3	-3.7	0.5	-9.6	-0.5	1.4	4.6	-1.3
Net Sales (%)	2.8	11.3	9.3	5.5	7.1	-5.3	-4.6	-1.9	1.2	-2.8
EBITDA (%)	-3.0	2.7	39.0	-9.9	4.4	10.4	-30.9	-19.3	-1.3	-10.8
EBITDA margin (%)	18.1	18.2	15.7	12.0	16.1	21.1	13.2	12.9	11.7	14.7
EBITDA margin Δbps	-108	-153	334	-204	-42	299	-501	-277	-29	-134
PBT (%)	6.4	-23.8	-47.3	-38.8	-16.5	-33.2				
PAT (%)	-0.7	11.3	51.5	10.3	11.2	-39.8	-44.9	-37.6	-67.6	-47.5

Source : ACC, Ambuja; Bryan Garnier & Co. ests.

ANALYSIS

- 2015 has been a subdued year for ACC and Ambuja, with flattish or declining volumes and sales.
- However, Q4 has been better, both in terms of top line growth and margin improvement, although its looks as if the easy comparison basis explains much of this improvement.
- Both ACC and Ambuja are optimistic about the Indian long-term trends, but not a lot of color is provided for 2016. Investors will have to wait until 17th of March for a more precise outlook.

VALUATION

- CHF60 derived from the application historical multiples on our 2017 estimates, then discounted.

NEXT CATALYSTS

- FY 2015 results on the 17th of March.

[Click here to download document](#)



Analyst :

Eric Lemarié
33(0) 1.70.36.57.17
elemarie@bryangarnier.com

Bryan Garnier stock rating system

For the purposes of this Report, the Bryan Garnier stock rating system is defined as follows:

Stock rating

BUY	Positive opinion for a stock where we expect a favourable performance in absolute terms over a period of 6 months from the publication of a recommendation. This opinion is based not only on the FV (the potential upside based on valuation), but also takes into account a number of elements that could include a SWOT analysis, momentum, technical aspects or the sector backdrop. Every subsequent published update on the stock will feature an introduction outlining the key reasons behind the opinion.
NEUTRAL	Opinion recommending not to trade in a stock short-term, neither as a BUYER or a SELLER, due to a specific set of factors. This view is intended to be temporary. It may reflect different situations, but in particular those where a fair value shows no significant potential or where an upcoming binary event constitutes a high-risk that is difficult to quantify. Every subsequent published update on the stock will feature an introduction outlining the key reasons behind the opinion.
SELL	Negative opinion for a stock where we expect an unfavourable performance in absolute terms over a period of 6 months from the publication of a recommendation. This opinion is based not only on the FV (the potential downside based on valuation), but also takes into account a number of elements that could include a SWOT analysis, momentum, technical aspects or the sector backdrop. Every subsequent published update on the stock will feature an introduction outlining the key reasons behind the opinion.

Distribution of stock ratings

BUY ratings 61.9%

NEUTRAL ratings 29.1%

SELL ratings 9%

Research Disclosure Legend

1	Bryan Garnier shareholding in Issuer	Bryan Garnier & Co Limited or another company in its group (together, the "Bryan Garnier Group") has a shareholding that, individually or combined, exceeds 5% of the paid up and issued share capital of a company that is the subject of this Report (the "Issuer").	No
2	Issuer shareholding in Bryan Garnier	The Issuer has a shareholding that exceeds 5% of the paid up and issued share capital of one or more members of the Bryan Garnier Group.	No
3	Financial interest	A member of the Bryan Garnier Group holds one or more financial interests in relation to the Issuer which are significant in relation to this report	No
4	Market maker or liquidity provider	A member of the Bryan Garnier Group is a market maker or liquidity provider in the securities of the Issuer or in any related derivatives.	No
5	Lead/co-lead manager	In the past twelve months, a member of the Bryan Garnier Group has been lead manager or co-lead manager of one or more publicly disclosed offers of securities of the Issuer or in any related derivatives.	No
6	Investment banking agreement	A member of the Bryan Garnier Group is or has in the past twelve months been party to an agreement with the Issuer relating to the provision of investment banking services, or has in that period received payment or been promised payment in respect of such services.	No
7	Research agreement	A member of the Bryan Garnier Group is party to an agreement with the Issuer relating to the production of this Report.	No
8	Analyst receipt or purchase of shares in Issuer	The investment analyst or another person involved in the preparation of this Report has received or purchased shares of the Issuer prior to a public offering of those shares.	No
9	Remuneration of analyst	The remuneration of the investment analyst or other persons involved in the preparation of this Report is tied to investment banking transactions performed by the Bryan Garnier Group.	No
10	Corporate finance client	In the past twelve months a member of the Bryan Garnier Group has been remunerated for providing corporate finance services to the issuer or may expect to receive or intend to seek remuneration for corporate finance services from the Issuer in the next six months.	No
11	Analyst has short position	The investment analyst or another person involved in the preparation of this Report has a short position in the securities or derivatives of the Issuer.	No
12	Analyst has long position	The investment analyst or another person involved in the preparation of this Report has a long position in the securities or derivatives of the Issuer.	No
13	Bryan Garnier executive is an officer	A partner, director, officer, employee or agent of the Bryan Garnier Group, or a member of such person's household, is a partner, director, officer or an employee of, or adviser to, the Issuer or one of its parents or subsidiaries. The name of such person or persons is disclosed above.	No
14	Analyst disclosure	The analyst hereby certifies that neither the views expressed in the research, nor the timing of the publication of the research has been influenced by any knowledge of clients positions and that the views expressed in the report accurately reflect his/her personal views about the investment and issuer to which the report relates and that no part of his/her remuneration was, is or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed in the report.	Yes
15	Other disclosures	Other specific disclosures: Report sent to Issuer to verify factual accuracy (with the recommendation/rating, price target/spread and summary of conclusions removed).	No

A copy of the Bryan Garnier & Co Limited conflicts policy in relation to the production of research is available at www.bryangarnier.com

London	Paris	New York	Geneva	New Delhi
Beaufort House	26 Avenue des Champs Elysées	750 Lexington Avenue	rue de Grenus 7	The Imperial Hotel
15 St. Botolph Street	75008 Paris	New York, NY 10022	CP 2113	Janpath
London EC3A 7BB	Tel: +33 (0) 1 56 68 75 00	Tel: +1 (0) 212 337 7000	Genève 1, CH 1211	New Delhi 110 001
Tel: +44 (0) 207 332 2500	Fax: +33 (0) 1 56 68 75 01	Fax: +1 (0) 212 337 7002	Tel +4122 731 3263	Tel +91 11 4132 6062
Fax: +44 (0) 207 332 2559	Regulated by the	FINRA and SIPC member	Fax+4122731 3243	+91 98 1111 5119
Authorised and regulated by the	Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and		Regulated by the	Fax +91 11 2621 9062
Financial Conduct Authority	the Autorité de Contrôle prudentiel et de		FINMA	
(FCA)	resolution (ACPR)			

Important information

This document is classified under the FCA Handbook as being investment research (independent research). Bryan Garnier & Co Limited has in place the measures and arrangements required for investment research as set out in the FCA's Conduct of Business Sourcebook.

This report is prepared by Bryan Garnier & Co Limited, registered in England Number 03034095 and its MIFID branch registered in France Number 452 605 512. Bryan Garnier & Co Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (Firm Reference Number 178733) and is a member of the London Stock Exchange. Registered address: Beaufort House 15 St. Botolph Street, London EC3A 7BB, United Kingdom

This Report is provided for information purposes only and does not constitute an offer, or a solicitation of an offer, to buy or sell relevant securities, including securities mentioned in this Report and options, warrants or rights to or interests in any such securities. This Report is for general circulation to clients of the Firm and as such is not, and should not be construed as, investment advice or a personal recommendation. No account is taken of the investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any person.

The information and opinions contained in this Report have been compiled from and are based upon generally available information which the Firm believes to be reliable but the accuracy of which cannot be guaranteed. All components and estimates given are statements of the Firm, or an associated company's, opinion only and no express representation or warranty is given or should be implied from such statements. All opinions expressed in this Report are subject to change without notice. To the fullest extent permitted by law neither the Firm nor any associated company accept any liability whatsoever for any direct or consequential loss arising from the use of this Report. Information may be available to the Firm and/or associated companies which are not reflected in this Report. The Firm or an associated company may have a consulting relationship with a company which is the subject of this Report.

This Report may not be reproduced, distributed or published by you for any purpose except with the Firm's prior written permission. The Firm reserves all rights in relation to this Report.

Past performance information contained in this Report is not an indication of future performance. The information in this report has not been audited or verified by an independent party and should not be seen as an indication of returns which might be received by investors. Similarly, where projections, forecasts, targeted or illustrative returns or related statements or expressions of opinion are given ("Forward Looking Information") they should not be regarded as a guarantee, prediction or definitive statement of fact or probability. Actual events and circumstances are difficult or impossible to predict and will differ from assumptions. A number of factors, in addition to the risk factors stated in this Report, could cause actual results to differ materially from those in any Forward Looking Information.

Disclosures specific to clients in the United Kingdom

This Report has not been approved by Bryan Garnier & Co Limited for the purposes of section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 because it is being distributed in the United Kingdom only to persons who have been classified by Bryan Garnier & Co Limited as professional clients or eligible counterparties. Any recipient who is not such a person should return the Report to Bryan Garnier & Co Limited immediately and should not rely on it for any purposes whatsoever.

Notice to US investors

This research report (the "Report") was prepared by Bryan Garnier & Co Limited for information purposes only. The Report is intended for distribution in the United States to "Major US Institutional Investors" as defined in SEC Rule 15a-6 and may not be furnished to any other person in the United States. Each Major US Institutional Investor which receives a copy of this Report by its acceptance hereof represents and agrees that it shall not distribute or provide this Report to any other person. Any US person that desires to effect transactions in any security discussed in this Report should call or write to our US affiliated broker, Bryan Garnier Securities, LLC, 750 Lexington Avenue, New York NY 10022. Telephone: 1-212-337-7000.

This Report is based on information obtained from sources that Bryan Garnier & Co Limited believes to be reliable and, to the best of its knowledge, contains no misleading, untrue or false statements but which it has not independently verified. Neither Bryan Garnier & Co Limited and/or Bryan Garnier Securities LLC make no guarantee, representation or warranty as to its accuracy or completeness. Expressions of opinion herein are subject to change without notice. This Report is not an offer to buy or sell any security.

Bryan Garnier Securities, LLC and/or its affiliate, Bryan Garnier & Co Limited may own more than 1% of the securities of the company(ies) which is (are) the subject matter of this Report, may act as a market maker in the securities of the company(ies) discussed herein, may manage or co-manage a public offering of securities for the subject company(ies), may sell such securities to or buy them from customers on a principal basis and may also perform or seek to perform investment banking services for the company(ies).

Bryan Garnier Securities, LLC and/or Bryan Garnier & Co Limited are unaware of any actual, material conflict of interest of the research analyst who prepared this Report and are also not aware that the research analyst knew or had reason to know of any actual, material conflict of interest at the time this Report is distributed or made available..