# **Sugar Industry**

## Sugar production registers marginal YoY dip

As of February 15, 2024, the State-wise crushing data for SSY24 indicates an improvement in sugar production numbers, with a notable narrowing of the YoY difference. Sugarcane crushing activity has decreased by 4%, compared to a 7% reduction a month ago, reaching 227 MMT as opposed to 236 MMT during the same period in SSY23. Similarly, sugar production has decreased by only 2.3%, compared to a >3% reduction two weeks ago, totaling 22.4 MMT compared to 22.9 MMT in SSY23. On a national scale, the sugar recovery numbers for SSY24 have improved on YoY basis at 9.86% - thanks to UP which is witnessing an impressive 90bps improvement. Currently, the revised expectations for sugar production in SSY24 stands at 31.7 MMT, compared to 33.1 MMT in SSY23. This decline is primarily attributed to decreased sugar production in Maharashtra (down 8.4%) and Karnataka (down 6.6%). Our overall outlook on the sugar sector remains negative. This perspective is influenced by recent notifications from the Government of India affecting ethanol volumes, with a likelihood of a more significant impact next year. Additionally, the increase in sugar production is expected to exert downward pressure on sugar prices.

## Sugarcane crushing lower...

As of February 15, 2024, there is a 4.0% decrease in sugarcane crushing compared to the previous year, primarily attributed to a significant decline in Maharashtra (down 8.8%) and decrease in Karnataka (down 3.2%). Notably, this reduction in crushing activity has led by lower count of operational mills in Karnataka. Contrastingly, in the state of UP, sugarcane crushing has seen a growth of 2.1%. This uptick aligns with a modest increase in the number of operational mills for the SSY24, totaling 119 mills compared to 116 in SSY23 during the corresponding period.

## ...leading to lower sugar production

Decline in sugarcane crushing has led to decrease in sugar production to 22.4 MMT vs. 22.9 MMT in SSY23 during the same period. <u>However, for UP state, sugar production has increased by impressive ~12% to 6.8 MMT vs. 6.1 MMT with recovery numbers at impressive 10.2% vs. 9.3% in SSY23 for last season during the same period.</u>

## **Expect higher sugar production at 31.7MMT**

As per industry data, sugar production would be lower for SSY24 at ~31.7MMT vs. ~33MMT in SSY23 primarily due to lower sugar production in Maharashtra/Karnataka due to lower yields/recovery. However, due to lower diversion for ethanol production and no export quota it is expected to pile up the inventory levels.

## Domestic prices have started to decline

Sugar prices were favorable in last few months have started to correct in line with increase in sugar production in recent times (Maharashtra sugar prices are quoting at ~Rs34 to Rs34.5/kg). We have been highlighting this risk in our earlier notes (link). This negative stance is shaped by recent notifications from the Government of India, particularly those affecting ethanol volumes (direct route contracts cancelled and BH suspended in future tenders) and CH ethanol pricing upward revision (to encourage higher sugar production).

Fig 1: SSY24 sugar season data as on 15.02.2024

| State         | Operational Mills |       |                     | Cane crushed (MMT) |       |               | Sugar Production (MMT) |       |               | Avg. sugar<br>Recovery (%) |       |
|---------------|-------------------|-------|---------------------|--------------------|-------|---------------|------------------------|-------|---------------|----------------------------|-------|
|               | SSY24             | SSY23 | YoY change<br>(No.) | SSY24              | SSY23 | YoY<br>change | SSY24                  | SSY23 | YoY<br>change | SSY24                      | SSY23 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 119               | 116   | 3                   | 67.1               | 65.7  | 2.1%          | 6.8                    | 6.1   | 11.9%         | 10.20                      | 9.30  |
| Maharashtra   | 203               | 194   | 9                   | 80.3               | 88.0  | (8.8%)        | 7.9                    | 8.7   | (8.4%)        | 9.90                       | 9.85  |
| Karnataka     | 59                | 66    | (7)                 | 43.9               | 45.3  | (3.2%)        | 4.3                    | 4.6   | (6.6%)        | 9.75                       | 10.10 |
| Rol           | 126               | 127   | (1)                 | 35.6               | 37.2  | (4.2%)        | 3                      | 4     | (6.4%)        | na                         | na    |
| All India     | 507               | 503   | 4                   | 226.8              | 236.2 | (4.0%)        | 22.4                   | 22.9  | (2.3%)        | 9.86                       | 9.69  |

Source: National federation of cooperative sugar factories, Centrum Broking

**Flash Note** 

India I Sugar Sector

16 February 2024

NIFTY 50: 22,041

BSE Sensex: 72,427

## Stock price performance (%)\*

| 1 Mth | 3 Mth  | 6 Mth                     | 1 Yr |
|-------|--------|---------------------------|------|
| (5.3) | (14.5) | (5.5)                     | 0.6  |
| 1.3   | (5.9)  | 17.4                      | 20.2 |
| 3.1   | 17.7   | 30.0                      | 60.2 |
|       | (5.3)  | (5.3) (14.5)<br>1.3 (5.9) | - (, |

Source: Centrum Broking, \*as on 16 February 2024

#### **Rating and Target prices**

| Company Name                                     | Rating | Price* (Rs) | TP (Rs) |  |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------|---------|--|
| BRCM                                             | Reduce | 372         | 335     |  |
| TRE                                              | Reduce | 337         | 286     |  |
| Source: Centrum Broking, *as on 16 February 2024 |        |             |         |  |

#### Nifty Midcap100 Vs BRCM Vs TRE



Source: Bloomberg



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Sugar Industry 16 February 2024

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