

09 November 2024

India | Equity Research | Q2FY25 results review

Prince Pipes & Fittings

Plastic

Inspid quarter; guiding for better times ahead

Prince Pipes and Fittings (PRINCIPI) reported muted Q2FY25 pipe volume growth of 4.3% YoY (+2.7% QoQ; 5-year CAGR of 4.6%) while revenue receded 6.3% YoY and realisation declined 10.1% YoY (flat QoQ). EBITDA/kg plummeted 49.4% YoY to INR 11.5/kg (22.3% QoQ dip) due to inventory loss of INR 120–150mn (adj. EBITDA/kg of INR 14–15) and higher trade discounts offered amid tepid market conditions. OPM contracted 700bps YoY to 7.3% (230bps QoQ fall), leading to EBITDA/APAT plunging 51.5%/73.1% YoY. Management states that demand in Q2 was impacted by channel de-stocking (as PVC price fell ~16%), but it sees it improving Nov'24 onwards (due to PVC price uptrend) and guides for 8–10% pipe volume growth in FY25. We cut our FY25–27E EBITDA estimates by 9-13% and roll over TP to Sep'25E of INR 643 (earlier INR 716). Maintain **BUY** due to reasonable valuations.

Pipe volume growth of 4.3% YoY

PRINCIPI posted Q2FY25 pipe volume growth of 4.3% YoY (+2.7% QoQ; 5-year CAGR of 4.6%), whereas revenue declined 6.3% YoY (5-year CAGR of 7.5%) and realisation fell 10.1% YoY (flat QoQ). Management stated that demand was adversely impacted in Q2 due to channel de-stocking (as PVC prices fell ~16% in Q2FY25) and adverse weather conditions. It indicated that channel inventory remained low in Oct'24 amid festivities, but has started improving Nov'24 onwards as PVC prices are stabilising and moving on an uptrend, which will likely lead to normalised channel inventory. It expects end-user demand to remain healthy in the medium term across all segments (plumbing, infrastructure and agri) due to affordable PVC price and healthy plumbing market. Management guides for 8–10% YoY pipe volume growth in FY25. Bathware revenue was INR 70mn (+40% QoQ) in Q2FY25. NWC was 93 days (+27 days YoY) in Q2, primarily due to +26 days YoY inventory.

Operating margins contract due to inventory loss

EBITDA margin shrunk 700bps YoY to 7.3% (-230bps QoQ) as gross margin contracted 429bps YoY (-72bps QoQ), leading to EBITDA/APAT declining 51.5%/73.1% YoY. Pipe EBITDA/kg fell 49.4% YoY to INR 11.5 (-22.3% QoQ) due to inventory loss of INR 120–150mn (adj. EBITDA/kg of INR 14–15) and higher channel discounts offered. Management expects margin tailwinds in H2FY25 driven by operating leverage and stable PVC prices. We model pipe EBITDA/kg of INR 17.4-18.2 for FY25–27E (vs. FY18–24 avg. of ~INR19.7/kg).

Financial Summary

Y/E March (INR mn)	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Net Revenue	25,687	28,523	32,936	37,269
EBITDA	3,107	3,155	3,990	4,560
EBITDA %	12.1	11.1	12.1	12.2
Net Profit	1,673	1,627	2,159	2,581
EPS (INR)	15.1	14.7	19.5	23.3
EPS % Chg YoY	39.5	(2.8)	32.7	19.6
P/E (x)	30.7	31.6	23.8	19.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	16.5	15.9	12.1	10.4
RoCE (%)	10.2	8.7	10.4	11.2
RoE (%)	11.5	10.1	12.1	12.9

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Market Data

Market Cap (INR)	51bn
Market Cap (USD)	609mn
Bloomberg Code	PRINCIPI IN
Reuters Code	PRCE BO
52-week Range (INR)	776 /461
Free Float (%)	38.0
ADTV-3M (mn) (USD)	1.4

Price Performance (%)	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	(23.3)	(25.8)	(35.5)
Relative to Sensex	(24.1)	(34.0)	(57.9)

ESG Score	2022	2023	Change
ESG score	NA	69.1	NA
Environment	NA	46.4	NA
Social	NA	73.8	NA
Governance	NA	81.4	NA

Note - Score ranges from 0 - 100 with a higher number indicating a higher ESG score.

Source: SES ESG, I-sec research

Earnings Revisions (%)	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	(5.2)	(4.0)	(3.1)
EBITDA	(13.0)	(8.9)	(9.4)
EPS	(19.6)	(14.7)	(13.1)

Previous Reports

03-08-2024: [Q1FY25 results review](#)

23-06-2024: [Company Update](#)

Valuation and view

PRINCPIP's operational performance in Q2FY25 was below expectations – marred by inventory losses. Going ahead, PRINCPIP will likely see demand and margin tailwinds with normalised profitability as PVC prices have stabilised (at lower rates) and end-user industry (plumbing and infra) remains healthy. Maintain **BUY** with a Sep'25E target price of INR 643, set at an unchanged 30x Sep'26E P/E due to reasonable valuations and a healthy balance sheet.

Exhibit 1: Q2FY25 result review

INR mn	Q2FY25	Q2FY24	YoY(%)	Q1FY25	QoQ(%)	H1FY25	H1FY24	YoY(%)
Total revenues	6,221	6,565	(5.2%)	6,045	2.9%	12,265	12,100	1.4%
Raw Materials	4,542	4,511	0.7%	4,370	3.9%	8,911	8,653	3.0%
% of sales	73.0%	68.7%	429 bps	72.3%	72 bps	72.7%	71.5%	114 bps
Employee expense	446	405	10.2%	382	16.9%	828	725	14.1%
% of sales	7.2%	6.2%	101 bps	6.3%	86 bps	6.7%	6.0%	76 bps
Other expense	776	707	9.8%	710	9.2%	1,486	1,327	12.0%
% of sales	12.5%	10.8%	170 bps	11.8%	72 bps	12.1%	11.0%	115 bps
Total expenditure	5,764	5,623	2.5%	5,462	5.5%	11,226	10,705	4.9%
% of sales	92.7%	85.7%	700 bps	90.4%	230 bps	91.5%	88.5%	305 bps
EBIDTA	457	942	(51.5%)	583	(21.6%)	1,040	1,395	(25.5%)
% of sales	7.3%	14.3%	-700 bps	9.6%	-230 bps	8.5%	11.5%	-305 bps
Depreciation	276	225	22.3%	257	7.0%	533	443	20.2%
EBIT	181	716	(74.7%)	325	(44.3%)	507	951	(46.7%)
EBIT Margin (%)	2.9%	10.9%	-800 bps	5.4%	-247 bps	4.1%	7.9%	-373 bps
Interest Expenses	16	7	137.4%	14	13.1%	31	24	26.8%
Other income	39	40	(0.4%)	26	53.5%	65	78	(16.1%)
PBT	204	749	(72.7%)	337	(39.3%)	541	1,005	(46.2%)
Income Tax Expense	49	221	(78.1%)	90	(46.1%)	138	281	(50.7%)
Extraordinary Items	-9	179	nm	0	#DIV/0!	-9	179	(104.9%)
Reported PAT	147	706	(79.2%)	247	(40.4%)	394	903	(56.4%)
APAT	154	570	(73.1%)	247	(37.7%)	400	766	(47.8%)

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 2: Q2FY25 key operating metrics

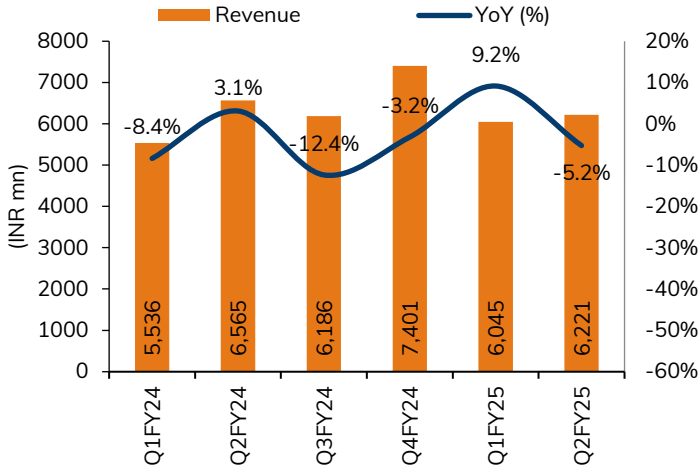
	Q2FY25	Q2FY24	YoY(%)	Q1FY25	QoQ(%)	H1FY25	H1FY24	YoY(%)
Sales Volume (MT)	43,301	41,529	4.3%	42,180	2.7%	85,481	78,684	8.6%
Realisation (INR/kg)	142	158	(10.1%)	142	(0.1%)	142	154	(7.6%)
Rep. EBITDA-per-unit (INR/kg)	11.5	22.7	(49.4%)	14.8	(22.3%)	13.1	17.7	(26.1%)
Adj. EBITDA-per-unit (INR/kg)	14.2	22.7	(37.2%)	14.8	(3.5%)	14.5	19.0	(23.7%)
Cash Conversion Cycle								
Debtor (Days)	55	63	-8 days	61	-6 days	55	63	-8 days
Inventory (Days)	88	62	26 days	70	18 days	88	62	26 days
Creditor (Days)	50	59	-9 days	50	0 days	50	59	-9 days
Working Capital (Days)	93	66	27 days	80	13 days	93	66	27 days

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Takeaways from Q2FY25 earnings conference call

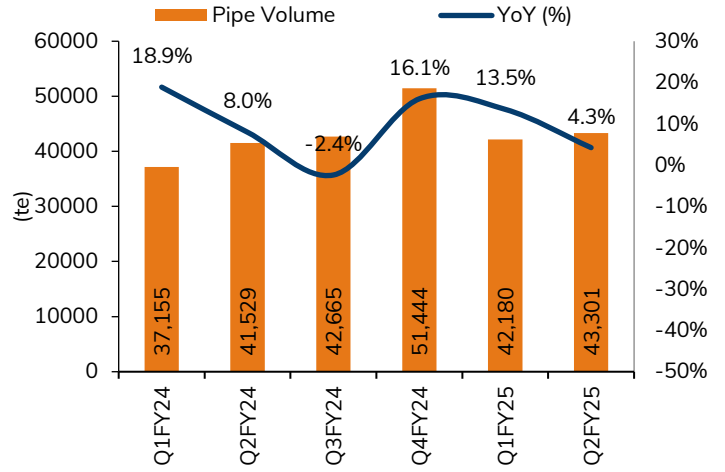
- **Demand** remains healthy for plumbing and SWR segment. Agri segment is expected to do well due to affordable PVC prices. PVC prices declined by ~16% in Q2, leading to severe channel de-stocking in the industry, which impacted both volume and profitability. Stocking activity has now resumed, and there is optimism for a strong performance in H2FY25. Margins are expected to improve in H2FY25, driven by operating leverage.
- **Inventory loss** of INR 120–150mn was incurred in Q2FY25 due to falling PVC prices in Q2FY25.
- **Bathware:** The company sees continued growth in the bathware segment generating revenue of INR 70mn and operating loss of INR 30–40mn in Q2FY25. The company launched its first Aquel brand showroom in two locations in north India and also introduced a dedicated website for it. Management expects higher revenues in H2FY25 with EBITDA break-even to be achieved by Q3FY26. Management also indicated a potential increase in manpower expenses in H2FY25 to support expansion in bathware.
- **Water tank** revenue in Q2 was INR 120mn.
- **Distribution:** The company continues to focus on developing the eastern India market. Eastern India is seeing fastest growth with Prince among the top two players in the region.
- **Capacity expansion:** Production at the Bihar plant shall begin in end-Q4FY25 (delayed from Jan'25 due to extended monsoons). Bihar plant is expected to have a 50,000te capacity initially with phase-2 expansion to increase total capacity to 55,000te. The acquisition of Aquel facility in Bhuj is also underway. Prince has completed de-bottlenecking at its Jaipur and Chennai pipe plants during Q2FY25.
- **Capex:** Capex in FY25 shall be INR 3.3–3.5bn in FY25 (includes Bihar plant capex of INR 1.7bn, de-bottlenecking capex of INR 0.3–0.35bn, maintenance capex of INR 0.8–0.9bn, Aquel second tranche acquisition of INR 0.43bn and INR 50–70mn maintenance capex in Aquel).
- **Pricing:** The company passed on trade discounts of ~2% to incentivise volume growth in Q2. Channel discount continued in Oct'24, but is expected to phase out as PVC prices have started moving up.
- **Guidance:** The company guides for 8–10% pipe volume growth for FY25.
- **Branding:** A&P expenses in Q2FY25 were 2.5% of revenue and are expected to remain the same for H2FY25. Branding initiatives have been carried out at high footfall travel ports to enhance visibility.
- **Working capital:** Inventory days are expected to moderate to ~70 days by end-FY25 (vs. 88 days in Sep'24). Receivable days is down to 55 days in Sep'24 (vs. 83 days in Mar'24).

Exhibit 1: Quarterly revenue



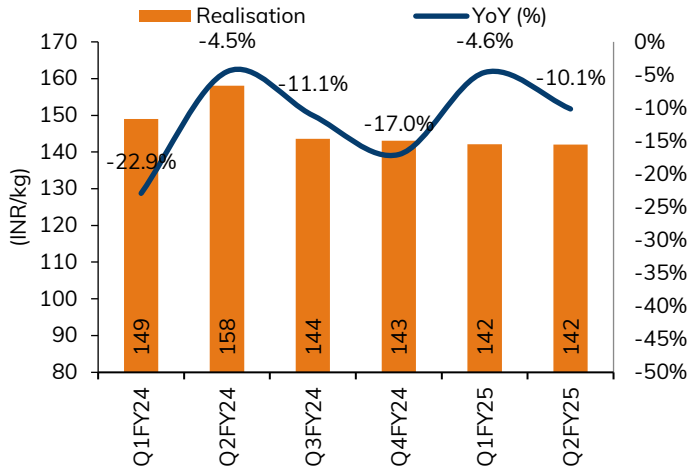
Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 2: Quarterly volume



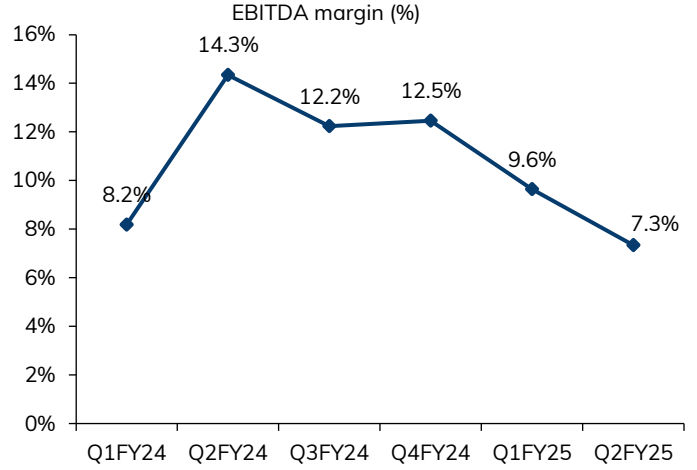
Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 3: Quarterly realisation



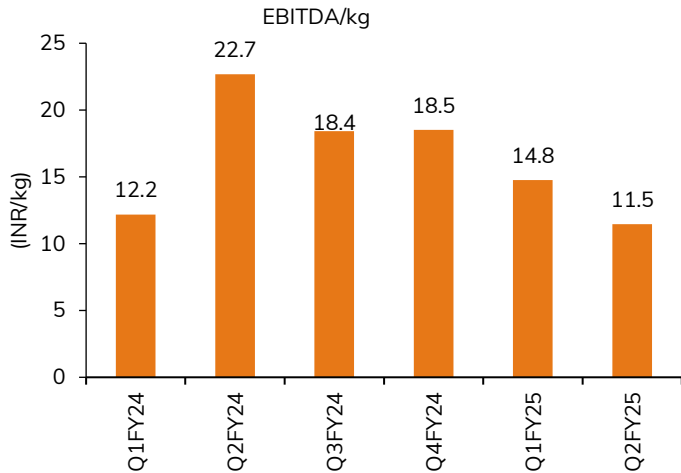
Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 4: Quarterly EBITDA margin



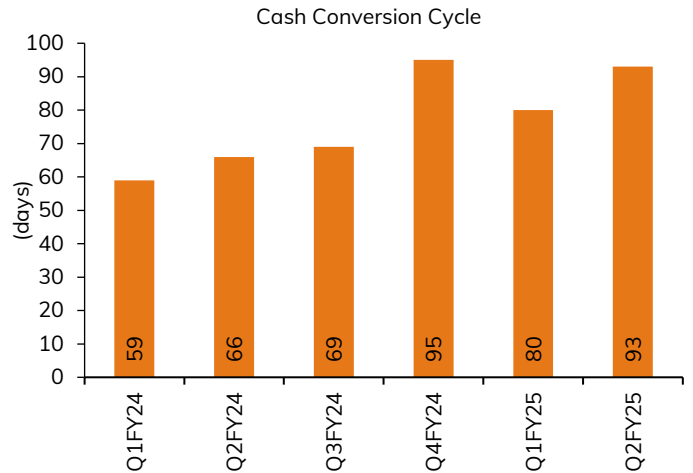
Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 5: Quarterly reported EBITDA per unit



Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 6: Quarterly cash conversion cycle



Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Valuation

PRINCPIP is one of the major pipe players in the industry. It has plants in seven locations and manufactures pipes and fittings on a wide base of polymer resins (CPVC, UPVC, HDPE, PPR). It also has multiple collaborations, which enable it to have a wider distribution reach (via UltraTech business solutions platform) and has a secure CPVC supply (via Lubrizol), which may enable it to benefit from the growing preference for organised players. Maintain **BUY** with a Sep'25E target price of INR 643, set at an unchanged 30x Sep'26E P/E.

Key downside risks

- **Slowdown in housing market:** Any unexpected demand slowdown in housing market may adversely affect growth in the pipe segment.
- **Sharp fall in PVC resin prices:** A sharp and sudden fallen in PVC resin prices may adversely affect the profitability of the company.
- **Adverse product mix:** Any change in the product mix away from CPVC/plumbing segment could adversely affect profitability.

Exhibit 7: Shareholding pattern

%	Mar'24	Jun'24	Sep'24
Promoters	60.9	60.9	60.9
Institutional investors	23.7	24.8	24.8
MFs and others	15.6	16.1	16.5
FIs/Banks	0.0	1.7	0.5
Insurance	0.6	0.6	0.6
FIIIs	7.5	6.4	7.3
Others	15.4	14.3	14.3

Source: Bloomberg

Exhibit 8: Price chart



Source: Bloomberg

Financial Summary

Exhibit 9: Profit & Loss

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Net Sales	25,687	28,523	32,936	37,269
Operating Expenses	22,580	25,367	28,946	32,709
EBITDA	3,107	3,155	3,990	4,560
EBITDA Margin (%)	12.1	11.1	12.1	12.2
Depreciation & Amortization	912	1,111	1,300	1,379
EBIT	2,196	2,044	2,690	3,181
Interest expenditure	65	66	59	44
Other Non-operating Income	96	197	255	332
Recurring PBT	2,227	2,175	2,886	3,470
Less: Taxes	(612)	(548)	(727)	(888)
PAT	1,615	1,627	2,159	2,581
Profit / (Loss) from Associates	-	-	-	-
Less: Minority Interest	-	-	-	-
Extraordinaries (Net)	210	-	-	-
Net Income (Reported)	1,825	1,627	2,159	2,581
Net Income (Adjusted)	1,673	1,627	2,159	2,581

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 10: Balance sheet

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Assets				
Inventories	4,379	4,865	5,472	6,094
Cash & cash eqv.	1,156	2,552	4,101	4,541
Sundry Debtors	5,849	4,142	4,873	5,616
Other Current Assets	1,516	1,641	1,805	2,042
Trade payables	2,491	3,104	3,595	4,052
Other Current Liabilities	1,810	1,921	2,189	2,469
Net Current Assets	8,599	8,174	10,467	11,772
Investments	3	3	3	3
Net Fixed Assets	8,089	10,278	9,678	10,246
Other Non Current Assets	240	240	240	240
Total Assets	16,931	18,695	20,388	22,261
Liabilities				
Borrowings	1,144	1,444	1,194	744
Other Non Current Liabilities	343	343	343	343
Total Liabilities	1,487	1,787	1,537	1,087
Equity Share Capital	1,106	1,106	1,106	1,106
Reserves & Surplus	14,338	15,802	17,745	20,069
Total Net Worth	15,444	16,908	18,851	21,174
Minority Interest	-	-	-	-
Total Liabilities & Net Worth	16,931	18,695	20,388	22,261

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 11: Quarterly trend

(INR mn, year ending March)

	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24
Net Sales	6,186	7,401	6,045	6,221
% growth (YOY)	-12.4	-3.2	9.2	-5.2
EBITDA	757	923	583	457
Margin %	12.2	12.5	9.6	7.3
Other Income	30	53	26	39
Extraordinaries	-0	-	-	-9
Adjusted Net Profit	377	546	247	154

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 12: Cashflow statement

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Operating Cashflow	569	4,558	2,715	3,095
Working Capital Changes	(2,222)	1,820	(743)	(865)
Capital Commitments	(2,093)	(3,300)	(700)	(1,947)
Free Cashflow	(1,525)	1,258	2,015	1,148
Other investing cashflow	-	-	-	-
Cashflow from Investing Activities	(2,093)	(3,300)	(700)	(1,947)
Issue of Share Capital	-	-	-	-
Inc (Dec) in Borrowings	563	300	(250)	(450)
Dividend paid	(111)	(163)	(216)	(258)
Others	88	0	0	0
Cash flow from Financing Activities	541	137	(466)	(708)
Chg. in Cash & Bank balance	(984)	1,396	1,550	440
Closing cash & balance	1,156	2,552	4,101	4,541

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 13: Key ratios

(Year ending March)

	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Per Share Data (INR)				
Reported EPS	16.5	14.7	19.5	23.3
Adjusted EPS (Diluted)	15.1	14.7	19.5	23.3
Cash EPS	23.4	24.8	31.3	35.8
Dividend per share (DPS)	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.3
Book Value per share (BV)	139.7	152.9	170.5	191.5
Dividend Payout (%)	6.6	10.0	10.0	10.0
Growth (%)				
Net Sales	(5.2)	11.0	15.5	13.2
EBITDA	23.4	1.6	26.4	14.3
EPS (INR)	39.5	(2.8)	32.7	19.6
Valuation Ratios (x)				
P/E	30.7	31.6	23.8	19.9
P/CEPS	19.9	18.8	14.9	13.0
P/BV	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.4
EV / EBITDA	16.5	15.9	12.1	10.4
EV / Sales	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.3
Dividend Yield (%)	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
Operating Ratios				
Gross Profit Margins (%)	29.2	27.8	28.9	29.1
EBITDA Margins (%)	12.1	11.1	12.1	12.2
Effective Tax Rate (%)	27.5	25.2	25.2	25.6
Net Profit Margins (%)	6.5	5.7	6.6	6.9
NWC / Total Assets (%)	35.1	23.7	24.3	25.1
Net Debt / Equity (x)	0.0	(0.1)	(0.2)	(0.2)
Net Debt / EBITDA (x)	0.0	(0.4)	(0.7)	(0.8)
Profitability Ratios				
RoCE (%) (post-tax)	10.2	8.7	10.4	11.2
RoE (%)	11.5	10.1	12.1	12.9
Cash Conversion Cycle (on net sales)				
Inventory Days	62	62	61	60
Receivables Days	83	53	54	55
Payables Days	35	40	40	40

Source Company data, I-Sec research

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