

INDIAN HOTELS

RESULT UPDATE

KEY DATA

Rating	HOLD
Sector relative	Neutral
Price (INR)	608
12 month price target (INR)	578
52 Week High/Low	623/331
Market cap (INR bn/USD bn)	865/10.4
Free float (%)	60.9
Avg. daily value traded (INR mn)	2,217.3

SHAREHOLDING PATTERN

	Mar-23	Dec-22	Sep-22
Promoter	38.19%	38.19%	38.19%
FII	18.24%	19%	16.25%
DII	27.59%	26.68%	29.32%
Pledge	0%	0%	0%

FINANCIALS

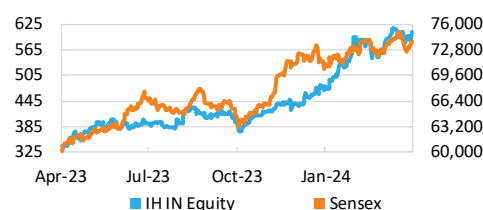
(INR mn)

Year to March	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Revenue	58,099	67,786	75,965	82,714
EBITDA	18,044	22,275	27,302	31,019
Adjusted profit	9,993	13,843	17,899	21,595
Diluted EPS (INR)	7.0	9.7	12.6	15.2
EPS growth (%)	nm	nm	79.1	56.0
RoAE (%)	12.9	15.5	17.2	17.6
P/E (x)	85.3	61.6	47.6	39.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	48.0	38.1	30.4	26.0
Dividend yield (%)	0	0	0	0

CHANGE IN ESTIMATES

	Revised estimates		% Revision	
Year to March	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E
Revenue	67,786	75,965	1.9	4.0
EBITDA	22,275	27,302	2.7	6.7
Adjusted profit	13,843	17,899	4.5	9.1
Diluted EPS (INR)	9.7	12.6	4.5	9.1

PRICE PERFORMANCE



Stable showing; stepping up capex

Indian Hotels (IHCL) reported an in-line Q4FY24 with standalone RevPar growth of 15% (LFL adjusted for Ginger Mumbai impact). Subsidiary performance is stable and overall robust, particularly that of Ginger (Roots Corp). US operations remain weak. IHCL highlighted aggressive capex plans worth INR25bn spread over FY25–27E

Given sustained business traction, we build in 9% RevPar growth for FY25 (6% earlier), which drives up FY25E EBITDA by 7%. This along with a change in our CoE assumption yields a revised DCF-based TP of INR578 (earlier INR476); retain 'HOLD'. At our TP, IHCL's valuation works out to 26x FY26E EBITDA compared to its pre-covid average of 20x. Q1FY25 could be volatile due to potential impact from elections.

Consecutive 8th quarter of best-ever performance; tailwinds at play

IHCL's consolidated revenue increased 17% YoY with standalone revenue outpacing at 19% YoY. Subsidiary revenue rose 14% YoY. Standalone RevPAR stood at ~INR13,879 in Q4FY24 (up 10% YoY) with occupancy at 79% (Q4FY23: 75%) and ARR at ~INR17,546 (up 4% YoY). However, F&B revenue increased only 13% YoY. EBITDA margin improved to 43.7%, up 150bp driven by improved occupancies and operating leverage. EBITDA, hence, shot up 23% YoY to INR5.9bn. IHCL highlighted that this is its best-ever quarter, and they closed the financial year with the best-ever numbers.

Growth robust across cities; Rajasthan records strongest growth

Looking at IHCL's performance across cities ([exhibit 3](#)), key cities reported double-digit RevPAR growth. Rajasthan clocked the highest growth—27% YoY—followed by Hyderabad (22%). Delhi & NCR sustained its strong trend with 26% YoY RevPAR growth (Q3FY24: 15%). Bengaluru/Goa posted an -1%/17% rise. IHCL is relaunching the Gateway brand to cater to tier-2 and -3 towns. It will be a full-service hotel offering in its new avatar in the upscale segment. It will roll out 15 properties and will scale up to 100 properties by FY30. By customer segment, business hotels continue to perform better ([exhibit 4](#)).

Key takeaways from Q4FY24 conference call

i) IHCL continues to outperform the industry on RevPAR with a premium of 65% over the competition on a pan-India basis. ii) The company targets to open 25 hotels in FY25. iii) Capital-light businesses contribute roughly 14% to consolidated revenue; this should rise to 20% in the near future, iv) Demand is expected to grow 10.6% annually while supply would lag the demand as per experts.

Financials

Year to March	Q4FY24	Q4FY23	% Change	Q3FY24	% Change
Net Revenue	19,053	16,254	17.2	19,638	(3.0)
EBITDA	6,598	5,355	23.2	7,324	(9.9)
Adjusted Profit	4,178	3,283	27.3	4,520	(7.6)
Diluted EPS (INR)	2.9	2.3	27.0	3.2	(7.6)

Financial Statements

Income Statement (INR mn)

Year to March	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Total operating income	58,099	67,786	75,965	82,714
Gross profit	53,370	61,622	68,981	75,187
Employee costs	15,823	18,114	19,682	21,008
Other expenses	19,503	21,233	21,996	23,160
EBITDA	18,044	22,275	27,302	31,019
Depreciation	4,161	4,505	4,650	4,801
Less: Interest expense	2,361	2,337	2,388	2,371
Add: Other income	1,390	2,001	2,068	2,997
Profit before tax	13,728	18,284	23,267	27,873
Prov for tax	3,232	3,841	4,709	5,552
Less: Other adj	0	0	0	0
Reported profit	9,993	13,843	17,899	21,595
Less: Excp.item (net)	0	0	0	0
Adjusted profit	9,993	13,843	17,899	21,595
Diluted shares o/s	1,420	1,420	1,420	1,420
Adjusted diluted EPS	7.0	9.7	12.6	15.2
DPS (INR)	0	0	0	0
Tax rate (%)	23.5	21.0	20.2	19.9

Important Ratios (%)

Year to March	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
ARR growth (S) - (%)	0	0	0	0
Occupancy (S) - (%)	41.4	13.0	8.0	6.0
Employee exp. (S)-(% YoY)	71.7	74.7	75.7	76.2
EBITDA margin (%)	31.1	32.9	35.9	37.5
Net profit margin (%)	17.2	20.4	23.6	26.1
Revenue growth (% YoY)	90.1	16.7	12.1	8.9
EBITDA growth (% YoY)	345.8	23.4	22.6	13.6
Adj. profit growth (%)	nm	38.5	29.3	20.7

Assumptions (%)

Year to March	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
GDP (YoY %)	8.7	6.4	5.8	5.8
Repo rate (%)	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
USD/INR (average)	74.5	80.0	78.0	78.0
Power (S) - (% YoY)	22.0	16.3	5.0	6.4
EBITDA margin - Sub (%)	27.5	3.4	2.5	3.8
Rooms managed (#)	19.8	22.6	26.5	27.7
Capex (INR mn)	6,955.5	8,098.0	9,806.0	12,243.5
Debt repaid (INR mn)	4,705.9	3,047.8	3,139.2	3,275.0

Valuation Metrics

Year to March	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Diluted P/E (x)	85.3	61.6	47.6	39.5
Price/BV (x)	10.7	9.2	7.8	6.6
EV/EBITDA (x)	48.0	38.1	30.4	26.0
Dividend yield (%)	0	0	0	0

Source: Company and Nuvama estimates

Balance Sheet (INR mn)

Year to March	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Share capital	1,420	1,420	1,420	1,420
Reserves	78,399	90,822	1,07,300	1,27,475
Shareholders funds	79,820	92,242	1,08,721	1,28,895
Minority interest	6,601	7,201	7,861	8,587
Borrowings	31,390	36,080	36,080	36,080
Trade payables	4,766	7,429	8,325	9,065
Other liabs & prov	11,538	16,254	18,217	19,837
Total liabilities	1,35,106	1,62,503	1,82,898	2,06,487
Net block	76,160	74,703	73,192	71,667
Intangible assets	12,032	12,032	12,032	12,032
Capital WIP	3,321	3,321	3,321	3,321
Total fixed assets	91,513	90,056	88,545	87,019
Non current inv	11,337	12,187	13,122	14,151
Cash/cash equivalent	18,108	42,776	61,833	84,365
Sundry debtors	4,465	3,714	4,162	4,532
Loans & advances	5,582	7,456	8,356	9,099
Other assets	2,361	4,571	5,138	5,579
Total assets	1,35,106	1,62,503	1,82,898	2,06,487

Free Cash Flow (INR mn)

Year to March	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Reported profit	9,993	13,843	17,899	21,595
Add: Depreciation	4,161	4,505	4,650	4,801
Interest (net of tax)	1,805	1,846	1,905	1,899
Others	2,495	2,881	3,249	3,124
Less: Changes in WC	241	6,349	1,343	1,134
Operating cash flow	16,190	25,583	24,337	27,001
Less: Capex	(4,706)	(3,048)	(3,139)	(3,275)
Free cash flow	11,484	22,535	21,197	23,726

Key Ratios

Year to March	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
RoE (%)	12.9	15.5	17.2	17.6
RoCE (%)	16.0	19.1	20.4	20.9
Inventory days	78	65	64	64
Receivable days	21	17	21	18
Payable days	307	335	342	400
Working cap (% sales)	(6.7)	(11.7)	(11.7)	(11.7)
Gross debt/equity (x)	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Net debt/equity (x)	0.2	(0.1)	(0.2)	(0.4)
Interest coverage (x)	5.9	7.6	9.5	11.1

Valuation Drivers

Year to March	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
EPS growth (%)	nm	nm	79.1	56.0
RoE (%)	12.9	15.5	17.2	17.6
EBITDA growth (%)	345.8	23.4	22.6	13.6
Payout ratio (%)	0	0	0	0

Q4FY24 conference call takeaways

Q4FY24

- The company has managed to achieve key objectives it laid down under the Avhaan 2025 scheme in 2022.
- IHCL has delivered its best-ever Q4 and full-year financial performance.
- Return ratios have improved significantly, RoE increased 7x to 14%, RoCE increased 3x to 15%, and EPS increased 11x from INR0.8 in FY17–18.
- Company has achieved Zero Net Debt objective long back and currently has cash reserves of INR22bn.
- IHCL continues to outperform the industry on RevPAR with a premium of 65% over the competition on a pan-India basis
- IHCL entered into a strategic alliance with the Ambuja Neotia Group's Tree of Life resorts, offering sales and distribution network with a portfolio of 14 resorts across the country
- Current operational portfolio has a balanced mix of 60% capital-light and 40% capital-heavy assets

Capex

- Capex spends for the next 3 years to be total of INR25bn towards renovation and IT spends. IT Spends include ERP upgradation and a PMS Upgrade. For FY25 planned capex is around INR7.5-8.0bn.
- IHCL targets to open 25 hotels in FY25.

Industry




- Leisure growth should outstrip business segment growth for IHCL
- According to the Industry Experts, Demand is expected to grow at 10.6% annually and supply will lag the demand.
- Hospitality Industry Upcycle is expected to be long and sustained one

Outlook

- New business is expected to grow approx. 30% YoY next year which going forward should come down to 25% given the base effect. It grew 35% last year.
- Capital-light businesses contribute roughly 14% to consolidated revenue which should go to 20% in the near future
- IHCL is launching Gateway Brand a full-service hotel offering in its new avatar in the upscale segment. It will start with rollout of 15 hotels and will take this to 100 by FY2030.
- The company expects double-digit revenue growth in FY25.

Exhibit 1: Presence across brands and cities

4 MARKET LEADERSHIP Presence Across Price Points

	 Mumbai	 Delhi NCR	 Bengaluru	 Chennai	 Kolkata	 Rajasthan	 Goa
Luxury	5	5	5	6	3	14	5
Upper Upscale / Upscale	4	5	3	1	3	7	4
Midscale	4	6	3	4	1	3	6
Total	13	16	11	11	7	24	15

Includes Hotels operational & in Pipeline


Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 2: Capex plans

	FY23	FY24	FY25-27	Total 5 years
Capex Spends (₹ Crores)	471	637	~2,500	~3,500

 Completed & Ongoing Renovations
Taj Mahal, New Delhi
Taj Lands End, Mumbai
St James Court, London
Usha Kiran Palace, Gwalior

 Key Upcoming Renovations & New Builds
Chambers Taj Mahal Palace, Taj Bengal
New Delhi Taj Palace & Vivanta Dwarka
Goa Taj Fort Aguada, Taj Holiday Village
New Builds & Expansion Ekta Nagar, CIAL, Ginger MOPA, Lakshadweep, Lucknow & Benares

 Digital & IT Spends (New & Ongoing)
ERP Upgrade (SAP S4 HANA RISE)
New Websites
Data Lake
PMS Upgrade

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 3: KPIs —Domestic by city

India (LFL) City Wise Statistics Q4 FY24

Domestic Hotels (Enterprise)	Occ %		ARR in ₹		RevPAR in ₹	
	FY 23/24	pp vs PY	FY 23/24	% vs PY	FY 23/24	% vs PY
Mumbai	89%	1%	16,555	8%	14,672	9%
Delhi & NCR	82%	2%	11,027	7%	9,055	10%
Bengaluru	73%	3%	10,245	-5%	7,483	-1%
Goa	80%	2%	19,391	13%	15,509	17%
Chennai	79%	6%	8,850	5%	7,032	14%
Rajasthan	65%	5%	33,158	18%	21,435	27%
Hyderabad	76%	4%	12,442	17%	9,443	22%
Kolkata	79%	10%	8,698	4%	6,899	18%
Kerala	69%	6%	8,954	10%	6,212	20%
Grand Total	75%	4%	12,582	7%	9,431	14%

Domestic Hotels including Ginger

LFL — excludes New hotels opened after 1st April 2022, hotels under renovation / Expansion in CY & PY

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 4: Performance by segment

SEGMENT STATISTICS Q4 FY24

DOMESTIC HOTELS LFL (Enterprise)	Occ %		ARR in ₹		RevPAR in ₹	
	23/24	pp vs PY	23/24	% vs PY	23/24	% vs PY
Taj	77%	3%	17,829	9%	13,757	13%
Business	81%	2%	13,775	4%	11,131	6%
Leisure	73%	5%	20,904	12%	15,205	19%
Palaces	63%	3%	53,374	22%	33,374	27%
Vivanta	75%	4%	7,918	5%	5,936	12%
Business	78%	6%	7,472	6%	5,816	15%
Leisure	64%	0%	10,017	4%	6,400	4%
SeleQtions	74%	2%	11,755	13%	8,676	17%
Business	87%	2%	10,846	15%	9,440	18%
Leisure	53%	3%	14,032	8%	7,502	15%
Total Domestic Hotels (Includes Ginger)	75%	4%	12,582	7%	9,431	13%

LFL – excludes New hotels opened after 1st April 2022, hotels under renovation / Expansion / Exit in CY & PY

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 5: KPIs – International by city

International City Wise Statistics Q4 FY24

International Hotels (Enterprise)	Occ %		ARR in \$		RevPAR in \$	
	CY 23/24	pp vs PY	CY 23/24	% vs PY	CY 23/24	% vs PY
USA	49%	-1%	550	-1%	268	-3%
UK	60%	-1%	344	3%	207	1%
Maldives	74%	-5%	584	-10%	433	-16%
Dubai	87%	3%	294	-1%	254	3%
Cape Town	80%	3%	200	19%	161	25%
Sri Lanka	60%	14%	126	33%	76	74%
Grand Total	66%	3%	275	-3%	181	2%

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 6: Performance of subsidiaries

	Q4FY23	Q4FY24	% YoY
Revenues			
UOH Inc. USA	1,200	1,280	6.7
St. James Court, London	790	830	5.1
PIEM Hotels Ltd.	1,430	1,650	15.4
Roots Corporation	820	1,080	31.7
Benares Hotels	280	370	32.1
Balancing	371	473	
Total Subsidiaries (INR mn)	4,891	5,683	16.2
EBITDA			
UOH Inc. USA	-350	-530	51.4
St. James Court, London	10	40	300.0
PIEM Hotels Ltd.	400	550	37.5
Roots Corporation	300	410	36.7
Benares Hotels	110	160	45.5
Balancing	60	153	
Total Subsidiaries (INR mn)	530	783	47.6

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 7: Valuation assumptions

WACC estimate	
Beta (x)	0.8
Equity/Total Capital (%)	50%
Cost of Debt (%)	7.0%
Marginal Tax rate (%)	25.0%
Risk free rate (%)	7.0%
Equity risk premium (%)	5.0%
Cost of equity (%)	11.0%
WACC (%)	8.1%

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 8: Valuation summary

	INR mn
Core business DCF based Mcap	8,15,290
Add: Non-current investment	13,122
Less: Minority interest	7,861
Target Mcap (INR mn)	8,20,551
NOSH (mn)	1,420
Target Price (INR)	578
CMP	600
Upside (%)	-4%

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

INDIAN HOTELS

Exhibit 9: Quarterly summary (INR mn)

Year to March	Q4FY24	Q4FY23	% YoY	Q3FY24	% QoQ	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Revenues	19,053	16,254	17.2	19,638	(3.0)	58,099	67,786	75,965
Raw material	1,398	1,255	11.4	1,532	(8.7)	4,729	6,164	6,985
Gross Profit	17,655	14,999	17.7	18,107	(2.5)	53,370	61,622	68,981
Staff costs	4,674	4,218	10.8	4,686	(0.3)	15,823	18,114	19,682
Others	6,383	5,426	17.6	6,096	4.7	19,503	21,233	21,996
Total expenditure	12,455	10,899	14.3	12,315	1.1	40,055	45,511	48,663
EBITDA	6,598	5,355	23.2	7,324	(9.9)	18,044	22,275	27,302
Depreciation	1,197	1,076	11.3	1,143	4.7	4,161	4,505	4,650
EBIT	5,401	4,279	26.2	6,181	(12.6)	13,884	17,770	22,652
Less: Interest Expense	515	570	(9.6)	532	(3.1)	2,361	2,337	2,388
Add: Other income	461	291	58.4	398	15.9	1,390	2,001	2,068
Add: Exceptional items	0	-0	NM	0	NM	33	0	0
Profit Before Tax	5,347	4,000	33.7	6,047	(11.6)	12,946	17,434	22,332
Less: Provision for Tax	1,416	980	NM	1,667	(15.1)	3,232	3,841	4,709
Less: Minority Interest	206	106	NM	250	(17.7)	502	600	660
Add: Share of profit from associates	452	368	NM	389	16.2	814	850	935
Less: Profit from Discontinued Operations								
Reported PAT	4,178	3,283	27.3	4,520	(7.6)	10,026	13,843	17,899
Adjusted net profit	3,931	3,020	30.2	4,380	(10.3)	9,993	13,843	17,899
Equity capital (FV INR 1)	1,423	1,420	0.2	1,423	0.0	1,420	1,420	1,420
No. of Diluted shares outstanding (mn)	1,423	1,420	0.2	1,423	0.0	1,420	1,420	1,420
Adjusted Diluted EPS	2.8	2.1	29.9	3.1	(10.3)	7.1	9.7	12.6
As % of net revenues								
Raw material	7.3	7.7		7.8		8.1	9.1	9.2
Staff expenses	24.5	26.0		23.9		27.2	26.7	25.9
Other expenses	33.5	33.4		31.0		33.6	31.3	29.0
EBITDA	34.6	32.9		37.3		31.1	32.9	35.9
Net profit	20.6	18.6		22.3		17.2	20.4	23.6

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Company Description

IHCL, incorporated in 1902, is among India's largest hotel operators with a presence in the luxury, business and leisure hotel segments. The company manages ~18,000 rooms (~150 properties) across India and international locations. It entered the budget hotel segment with Ginger in 2004 and also has a presence in adventure tourism with wildlife lodges. In international markets, IHCL is present via operations in Maldives, the US, South Africa, the Middle East, UK and Malaysia. International operations contribute ~30% to group sales (~15% of inventory).

Investment Theme

The hotel sector merrily sprang towards a faster-than expected full recovery in FY23 and a record Q1FY24 driven by: i) sustained domestic leisure travel demand, reviving domestic corporate and a strong wedding season in H1FY23; and ii) potential full recovery for the international business and leisure travel in H2FY23. IHCL has stronger immediate triggers — leisure demand, wedding season and a buoyant Mumbai market.

Key Risks

Any earlier-than-expected resurrection in the industry or sale of noncore assets to pare debt may prompt a relook at our view/assumptions.

Additional Data

Management

CEO	Puneet Chhatwal
CFO	Giridhar Sanjeevi
COO	
Other	
Auditor	BSR & Co.

Holdings – Top 10*

	% Holding		% Holding
HDFC AMC	3.71	Franklin Resour	1.38
Axis AMC	2.84	HDFC Life	1.31
Nippon	2.77	Republic of Sin	1.17
Blackrock	2.42	Canara Robeco A	1.17
Vanguard	2.35	SBI Funds Manag	1.16

*Latest public data

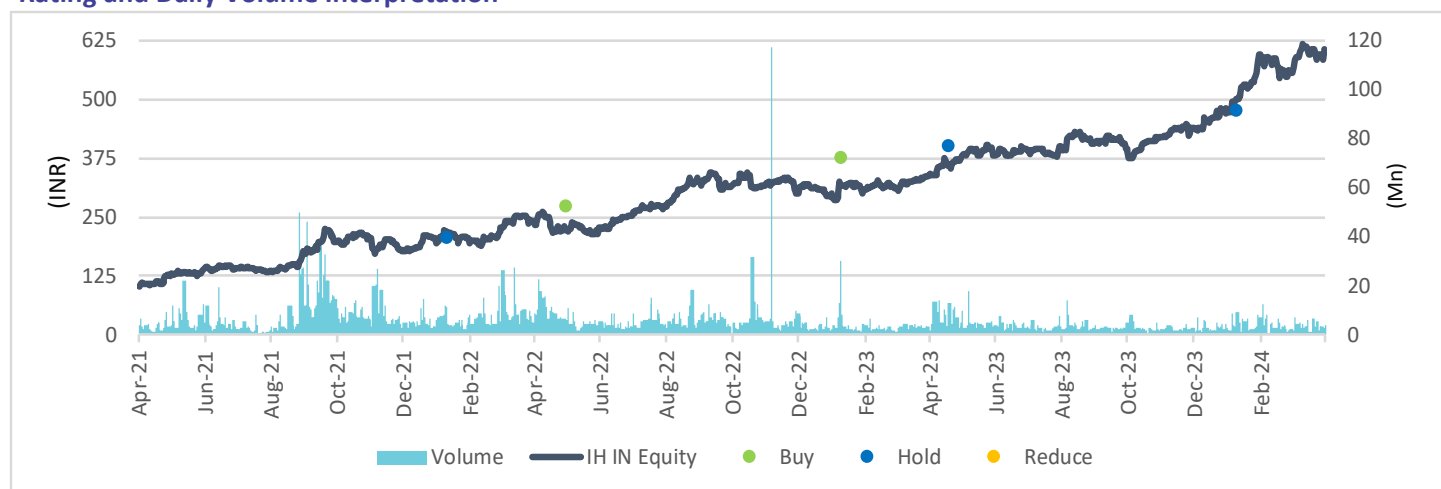
Recent Company Research

Date	Title	Price	Reco
02-Feb-24	Firm showing; sustainability key; <i>Result Update</i>	500	Hold
27-Oct-23	Robust domestic offset by international; <i>Result Update</i>	375	Hold
27-Jul-23	Steady momentum; cost catching up; <i>Result Update</i>	385	Hold

Recent Sector Research

Date	Name of Co./Sector	Title
08-Feb-24	LEMON TREE HOTEL	Stable show but undershooting peers; <i>Result Update</i>
20-Nov-23	Leisure & Hotels	Momentum sustains; limited upgrades; <i>Sector Update</i>
10-Nov-23	LEMON TREE HOTEL	Stable showing; margin miss; <i>Result Update</i>

Rating and Daily Volume Interpretation



Rating Rationale & Distribution: Nuvama Research

Rating	Expected absolute returns over 12 months	Rating Distribution
Buy	15%	209
Hold	<15% and >-5%	61
Reduce	<-5%	24

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