

January 23, 2020

Q3FY20 Result Update

☑ Change in Estimates | ☑ Target | ■ Reco

Change in Estimates

	Cur	rent	Previous		
	FY21E	FY22E	FY21E	FY22E	
Rating	ACCUM	IULATE	ACCU	IULATE	
Target Price	7	90	8	00	
NII (Rs. m)	297,371	351,204	297,041	353,850	
% Chng.	0.1	(0.7)			
Op. Profit (Rs. m)	285,288	337,798	283,852	334,233	
% Chng.	0.5	1.1			
EPS (Rs.)	48.9	63.5	49.1	64.2	
% Chng.	(0.5)	(1.1)			

Key Financials - Standalone

Y/e Mar	FY19	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
NII (Rs bn)	217	250	297	351
Op. Profit (Rs bn)	190	235	285	338
PAT (Rs bn)	24	53	138	179
EPS (Rs.)	9.3	19.6	48.9	63.5
Gr. (%)	733.3	111.2	150.0	29.9
DPS (Rs.)	-	1.0	6.4	8.0
Yield (%)	-	0.1	0.9	1.1
NIM (%)	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.6
RoAE (%)	3.7	6.8	14.7	16.7
RoAA (%)	0.3	0.6	1.5	1.7
P/BV (x)	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7
P/ABV (x)	3.5	2.6	2.2	1.9
PE (x)	76.9	36.4	14.6	11.2
CAR (%)	15.8	17.7	17.5	17.4

Key Data	AXBK.BO AXSB IN
52-W High / Low	Rs.828 / Rs.623
Sensex / Nifty	41,115 / 12,107
Market Cap	Rs.2,009bn/ \$ 28,209m
Shares Outstanding	2,820m
3M Avg. Daily Value	Rs.12609.01m

Shareholding Pattern (%)

Promoter's	16.08
Foreign	48.35
Domestic Institution	23.10
Public & Others	12.47
Promoter Pledge (Rs bn)	-

Stock Performance (%)

	1M	6M	12M
Absolute	(3.7)	(2.0)	7.7
Relative	(2.4)	(9.4)	(4.5)

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Axis Bank (AXSB IN)

Rating: ACCUMULATE | CMP: Rs713 | TP: Rs790

Asset quality issues not resolved as yet

Quick Pointers

- Slippages remain at elevated levels of Rs51.2bn + Rs10.9bn from investment book and has kept asset quality improvement at bay
- Loan growth was better led by both corporate & retail with improved margins surprised us positively

Axis bank's earnings of Rs17.6bn (PLe:27.0bn) were below expectations on back of continued elevated provisions and muted PPOP despite NII being better. NIMs improved, loan growth held up with contribution from both corporate & retail but slippages continue to be high albeit coming from disclosed stressed watchlist pool. There have been some additions to the watchlist pool but rate of addition is slower and hence overall watchlist has slightly come off to 1.7% of assets. Bank has been focusing on RTDs and improving presence to improve overall branch banking and garner liabilities which is seeing some positive effects. Recovery towards 16-17% ROEs by FY22 looks stretched if credit cost & slippages do not normalize as gains from operating leverage will be gradual. We retain Accumulate, with TP of Rs790 (from 800) based on 2.2x Sep-21 ABV as we adjust credit cost on higher side.

- NII better but earnings lower: NII growth came in better than expected as loan growth held up well at 15% YoY leading to higher spreads and improvement in margins by 6bps QoQ to 3.57% from positive carry through capital raise, interest reversals negated some more gains. Adjusted one-off recovery in other income last year core PPOP grew by 20% YoY but internals were weak with fees growth at 6% YoY and opex being front loaded for costs leading to 11% QoQ growth (10% YoY) leading to mediocre PPOP. Higher provisioning led to miss in earnings as slippages remained high.
- Asset quality issues still not lowering: Slippages came in higher at Rs51.2bn & Rs10.9bn from investment book for one HFC exposure. Although, most corporate slippages which were 76% of overall were from the stress BB & below rating pool identified by the bank. The overall BB & Below rating pool saw a gross addition of Rs12.0bn in FB pool, while a higher addition to the NFB pool from a telecom account. BB & below stress pool incl. the investments & NFB stood at Rs97.8bn or 1.7% of assets v/s Rs102.5bn or 1.8% of assets not changing much of status sequentially and still has potential of slippages. Bank's credit cost trajectory remains slightly elevated in near term as bank decides on PCR & remains contingent on recoveries, although bank has PCR of 60% & additional Rs20.5bn of contingency provisions. We assume slippages at 3.6% of loans & credit cost to 210bps in FY20 marginally increased.
- Loan growth better in industry; CASA slower: Loan growth of 15.8% YoY was better with 9% YoY growth in corporate which was surprise to us and 25% YoY growth in retail (continued trends). Retail was led from LAP/Unsecured/vehicle, while corporate was from mid-corporate. On liabilities, average CASA growth was slower at 9.5%, while focus remained on RTDs inorder to improve LCR and steady deposits.



NII growth came in decent with rise in NIMs and loan growth at 16% YoY

Other income de-grows on recoveries factored in the base and one time adverse impact on fee income

Opex rises on accelerated investments in branch network

Provisions continue to remain on an elevated level

Deposits grow slower at 15% YoY

NIMs improve to 3.6% on benefit from both better yields & lower cost of funds

Asset quality has been steady despite slippages being up but helped by upgrades/recoveries though coverage ratio came down to 60%

Cost-Income ratio rose as Bank made higher investments towards branch expansion

Exhibit 1: Q3FY20 Financials – Better topline but provisions remain high

Financial Statement (Rs m)	Q3FY20	Q3FY19	YoY gr. (%)	Q2FY20	QoQ gr. (%)
Interest Income	1,57,083	1,41,297	11.2	1,54,378	1.8
Interest Expenses	92,553	85,261	8.6	93,360	(0.9)
Net interest income (NII)	64,530	56,037	15.2	61,018	5.8
Other income	37,866	40,007	(5.4)	38,958	(2.8)
Total income	1,02,396	96,044	6.6	99,976	2.4
Operating expenses	44,969	40,797	10.2	40,460	11.1
-Staff expenses	13,652	12,026	13.5	12,750	7.1
-Other expenses	31,316	28,771	8.8	27,711	13.0
Operating profit	57,427	55,247	3.9	59,516	(3.5)
Core operating profit	52,277	51,457	1.6	51,426	1.7
Total provisions	34,709	30,545	13.6	35,184	(1.3)
Profit before tax	22,718	24,701	(8.0)	24,332	(6.6)
Tax	5,148	7,893	(34.8)	25,453	(79.8)
Profit after tax	17,570	16,809	4.5	(1,121)	NA
Balance sheet (Rs m)					
Deposits	59,16,755	51,40,921	15.1	58,39,585	1.3
Advances	55,01,377	47,51,049	15.8	52,15,937	5.5
Ratios (%)					
Profitability ratios					
RoaA	0.9	0.9	-	(0.1)	92
NIM	3.6	3.5	10	3.5	6
Cost of Funds	5.4	5.4	(2)	5.6	(20)
Asset Quality					
Gross NPL	3,00,730	3,08,547	(2.5)	2,90,714	3.4
Net NPL	1,21,603	1,22,333	(0.6)	1,11,383	9.2
Gross NPL ratio	5.0	5.8	(75)	5.0	(3)
Net NPL ratio	2.1	2.4	(27)	2.0	10
Coverage ratio (Calc)	59.6	60.4	(79)	61.7	(212)
Business & Other Ratios					
Low-cost deposit mix	41.0	46.0	(500)	41.0	=
Cost-income ratio	43.9	42.5	144	40.5	345
Non int. inc / total income	37.0	41.7	(468)	39.0	(199)
Credit deposit ratio	93.0	92.4	56	89.3	366
CAR	18.7	16.4	232	18.5	27
Tier-I	15.5	13.1	247	15.3	29

Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 2: With a slowing SME/Corp book, Retail continues to support growth

(Rs m)	Q3FY20	Q3FY19	YoY gr. (%)	Q2FY20	QoQ gr. (%)
Large & mid-corporate	19,68,430	18,04,690	9.1	18,70,000	5.3
SME Advances	6,17,410	6,22,380	(0.8)	6,13,710	0.6
Retail	29,15,540	23,23,970	25.5	27,32,230	6.7
- Housing Loans & LAP	10,49,594	9,06,348	15.8	10,10,925	3.8
- Personal loans	3,49,865	2,55,637	36.9	3,27,868	6.7
- Auto loans	3,79,020	2,55,637	48.3	3,27,868	15.6

Source: Company, PL



Key Q3FY20 Concall Highlights

Business Outlook & Strategy

- Retail Quality of portfolio has been stable and with fair amount of acceleration seen in the form of 25% YoY growth where Home Loan, LAP segment saw robust growth and shares of used cars in auto segment increased to 15%. MFI book has seen issues in the states of Assam and Karnataka and the SME segment continues to see under-utilization of limits
- Outlook –The Bank sees opportunities in the mid-corporate segment and would like to take exposure in the same. The Bank's domestic loan growth will continue to be 5 to 7% higher than industry growth while the de-growth in overseas loans book may have bottomed.

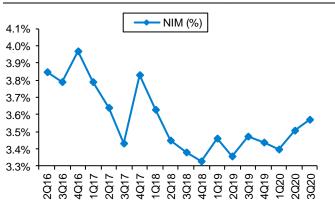
Margins/Opex/Fees

- Cost of Assets target remains at 2.0% over the medium term with an adverse impact on Q4FY20 owing to increased investments on the branch expansion strategy. Opex this quarter was front loaded by Rs1.2bn on significant investments on presence increase.
- Margins Lower cost of funds and capital raised helped margin growth in spite of interest reversals. For FY20, management sees improvement in margins compared to FY19 of 3.4% and maintains medium term range of 3.5-3.8%
- Fees income continue to be supported by Retail (40% non-card retail) with tepid support from Corporate/SME segments

Asset Quality

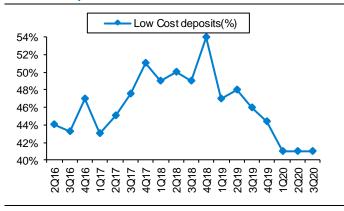
- Slippages of Rs51.2bn (3.8% annualized of loans) have remained elevated in the unfavorable macro environment. Slippages of Rs 10.9bn from the investment book were from a major holding belonging to an HFC with significant downgrades in the quarter coming from accounts in Telecom and Broking sectors. Corporate Loans of Rs 4.1bn slipped due to technical reasons but also got upgraded within the quarter itself.
- Watchlist Fund based BB & below book shrinks with higher slippages while the Non-Fund based book rose 66% sequentially to Rs36.7bn driven by a significant downgrade of a Telecom company during the quarter while the Investment book came down sequentially on slippage of an HFC account. The major contribution to the BB & below book comes from Infra Construction, Power and Hotels sector as being top 3 sectors. On gross basis Rs12.0bn was added to BB & Below book and now Total BB % Below incl investment & NFB stood at 1.7% of customer assets with all parts of stress covering in this watchlist now.
- Management expects credit costs of Q4FY20 to depend on recoveries from an IBC pipeline of large cases (1 large power project) and management of PCR.
- Bank holds a good contingency provisions pool of Rs 26.0bn acting as a cushion over and above the regular PCR of 60% (excl. technical w.off) with the SMA-2 book at almost 0.35% Bank received RBI's supervision report with divergence below reporting levels.

Exhibit 3: NIMs come in better as both yields & CoF benefit



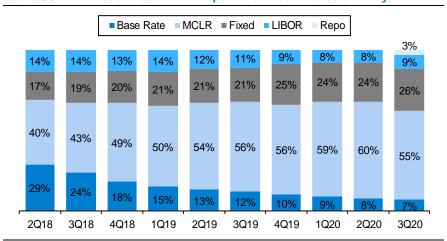
Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 4: Tepid trends in CASA Ratio continue



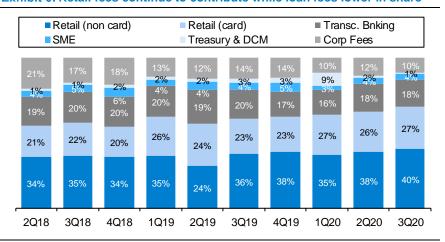
Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 5: Fixed book rises while Repo-linked book makes an entry



Source: Company, PL

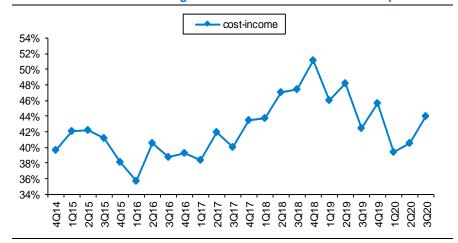
Exhibit 6: Retail fees continue to contribute while loan fees lower in share



Source: Company Data, PL Research

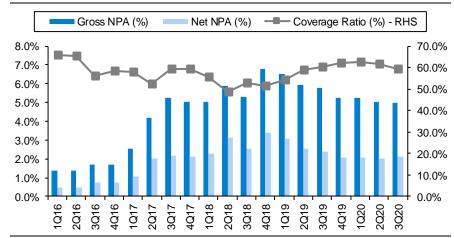
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Exhibit 7: C/I ratio rises on higher investments towards branch expansions



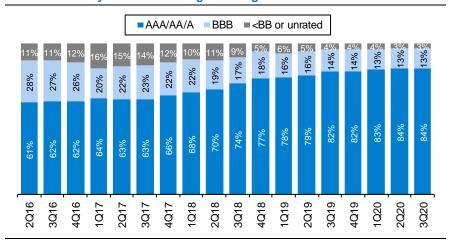
Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 8: Asset quality saw marginal improvement on upgrades/recoveries



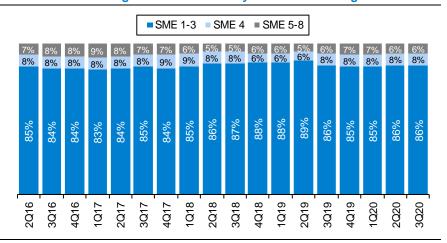
Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 9: Steady shift towards higher ratings continues



Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 10: SME rating has remains broadly stable with no large stress



Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 11: BB & Below coming off but overall still remains elevated on additions from downgrade to NFB exposure

Exhibit 11. BB & Below Colling of but overall still femalis elevated on additions from downgrade to NFB exposure											
Stressed Loans (Rs Mn)	1Q18	2Q18	3Q18	4Q18	1Q19	2Q19	3Q19	4Q19	1Q20	2Q20	3Q20
Gross slippages	35,190	89,360	44,280	165,360	43,370	27,770	37,460	30,120	47,980	49,830	51,240
Recoveries+ Up gradations	3,060	10,480	40,080	34,010	29,170	21,860	16,220	23,760	21,770	22,130	24,220
Write-offs	24,620	25,170	28,220	38,870	30,070	23,150	22,070	17,010	30,050	31,040	27,900
Slippages (%)	3.71%	8.98%	4.26%	15.37%	3.94%	2.48%	3.22%	2.48%	3.87%	3.91%	3.82%
BB & Below Book	194,600	158,150	161,200	89,940	103,960	88,600	76,450	74,670	75,040	62,910	51,280
% of customer assets	4.6%	3.5%	3.5%	1.8%	2.2%	1.7%	1.4%	1.3%	1.3%	1.1%	0.9%
NFB O/s to BB & Below exposures						28,000	25,000	22,000	25,000	22,000	36,700
Investments O/s in BB & Below rating										17,580	9,850
Watch List	79,410	60,520	53,090	4,280							
Corp Restructured Advances	54,320	38,600	35,250	10,810	11,588	11,987	8,737	10,339			
SDR / S4A / 5-25 Advances	49,720	52,770	52,880	10,890	16,882	15,573	14,823				
Total Restructured Dispensation	96,450	73,900	69,850	20,650	28,470	27,560	23,560				
% of loans	2.5%	1.8%	1.7%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0.3%				
Total stress (adjusted for overlaps)	189,910	174,420	159,260	91,060	122,360	109,280	66,510	98,230	171,040	102,490	97,830
% of Customer Assets	4.5%	3.9%	3.5%	1.9%	2.5%	2.1%	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%	1.8%	1.7%

Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 12: Estimates change table – We slightly lower business estimate and increase credit cost & slippage estimates

(Po mn)	Old			Revised			%Change			
(Rs mn)	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E	
Net interest income	250,801	297,041	353,850	249,931	297,371	351,204	(0.3)	0.1	(0.7)	
Operating profit	237,728	283,852	334,233	235,164	285,288	337,798	(1.1)	0.5	1.1	
Net profit	58,338	138,482	180,924	52,720	137,804	178,947	(9.6)	(0.5)	(1.1)	
EPS (Rs)	21.6	49.1	64.2	19.6	48.9	63.5	(9.6)	(0.5)	(1.1)	
ABVPS (Rs)	280.2	329.7	389.8	277.4	327.5	383.2	(1.0)	(0.7)	(1.7)	
Price target (Rs)		800			790			(1.2)		
Recommendation	AC	CUMULATE		ACCUMULATE						

Source: Company, PL

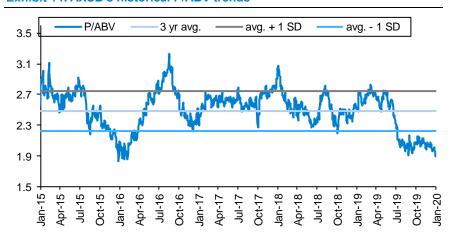


Exhibit 13: We slightly revise our TP to Rs790 (from Rs800) based on 2.2x Sep-21 ABV

PT calculation and upside	
Terminal growth	5.0%
Market risk premium	6.5%
Risk-free rate	7.5%
Adjusted beta	1.05
Cost of equity	14.3%
Fair price - P/ABV	790
Target P/ABV	2.2
Target P/E	14.1
Current price, Rs	713
Upside (%)	11%
Dividend yield (%)	1%
Total return (%)	12%

Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 14: AXSB's historical P/ABV trends

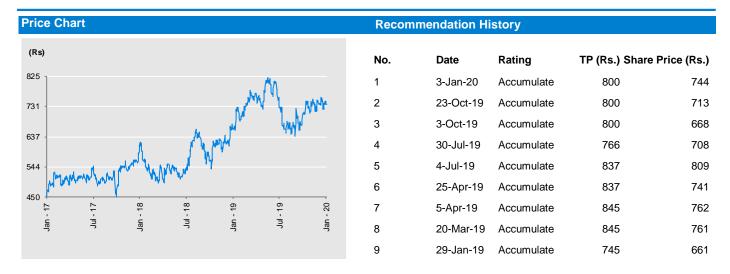


Source: Company, PL



Income Statement (Rs. m)					Quarterly Financials (Rs. m)				
Y/e Mar	FY19	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E	Y/e Mar	Q4FY19	Q1FY20	Q2FY20	Q3FY20
Int. Earned from Adv.	413,220	483,616	567,193	661,539	Interest Income	147,980	152,550	154,378	157,083
Int. Earned from invt.	113,491	114,658	114,559	126,793	Interest Expenses	90,924	94,113	93,360	92,553
Others	23,147	28,307	26,940	27,410	Net Interest Income	57,056	58,437	61,018	64,530
Total Interest Income	549,858	626,581	708,692	815,742	YoY growth (%)	29.1	23.7	16.0	8.6
Interest Expenses	332,776	376,650	411,321	464,538	CEB	30,200	26,630	26,490	27,750
Net Interest Income	217,082	249,931	297,371	351,204	Treasury	25.002	-	20.050	27.000
Growth(%)	17.8	16.2	16.7	15.8	Non Interest Income	35,263 183,243	38,688	38,958	37,866
Non Interest Income Net Total Income	131,303	154,938	175,080	196,090	Total Income	•	191,237	193,336	194,949
Growth(%)	348,385 20.0	404,869 14.7	472,451 13.1	547,294 14.5	Employee Expenses	11,423 30,752	13,068 25,128	12,750 27,711	13,652 31,316
Employee Expenses	47,473	52,221	58,487	66,675	Other expenses	42,175		40,460	44,969
Other Expenses	103,764	108,952	119,847	134,229	Operating Expenses	50,144	38,197 58,928	59,516	57,427
•	158,334	169,705	187,163	209,496	Operating Profit	36.6	34.8	45.4	3.9
Operating Expenses Operating Profit	190,051	235,164	285,288	337,798	YoY growth (%) Core Operating Profits	46,604	50,608	51,426	52,277
Growth(%)	21.9	233,104	203,200	18.4	NPA Provision	11,150	28,860	27,010	29,620
NPA Provision	102,215	112,220	92,982	93,478	Others Provisions	27,114	38,146	35,184	34,709
Total Provisions	143,285	135,763	101,132	98,660	Total Provisions	27,114	38,146	35,184	34,709
PBT	46,766	99,402	184,156	239,138	Profit Before Tax	23,030	20,782	24,332	22,718
Tax Provision	22,975	46,681	46,352	60,191	Tax	7,979	7,081	25,453	5,148
Effective tax rate (%)	49.1	40,061	25.2	25.2	PAT	15,051	13,701	(1,121)	17,570
PAT	23,791	52,720	137,804	178,947	YoY growth (%)	(168.8)	95.4	(1,121)	4.5
Growth(%)	763.0	121.6	161.4	29.9	Deposits	5,484,713	5,406,777	5,839,585	5,916,755
Growth (76)	703.0	121.0	101.4	23.3	YoY growth (%)	20.9	20.9	21.7	15.1
Balance Sheet (Rs. m)					, ,				
Y/e Mar	FY19	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E	Advances	4,947,980 12.5	4,972,760 12.7	5,215,937 <i>14.4</i>	5,501,377
Face value	2	2	2	2	YoY growth (%)	12.5	12.7	14.4	15.8
No. of equity shares	2,572	2,818	2,818	2,818	Key Ratios				
Equity	5,143	5,636	5,636	5,636	Y/e Mar	FY19	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
Networth	666,763	882,570	998,496	1,150,094	CMP (Rs)	713	713	713	713
Growth(%)	5.1	32.4	13.1	15.2	EPS (Rs)	9.3	19.6	48.9	63.5
Adj. Networth to NNPAs	165,917	113,619	79,266	70,234	Book Value (Rs)	259	313	354	408
Deposits	5,484,713	6,307,420	7,316,608	8,560,431	Adj. BV (70%)(Rs)	204	277	328	383
Growth(%)	20.9	15.0	16.0	17.0	P/E (x)	76.9	36.4	14.6	11.2
CASA Deposits	2,433,941	2,876,184	3,365,640	3,980,600	P/BV (x)	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7
% of total deposits	44.4	45.6	46.0	46.5	P/ABV (x)	3.5	2.6	2.2	1.9
Total Liabilities	8,009,965	8,676,194	9,784,616	11,251,246	DPS (Rs)	-	1.0	6.4	8.0
Net Advances	4,947,980	5,739,656	6,658,002	7,723,282	Dividend Payout Ratio (%)	-	6.2	15.9	15.3
Growth(%)	12.5	16.0	16.0	16.0	Dividend Yield (%)	-	0.1	0.9	1.1
Investments	1,749,693	1,601,914	1,721,100	1,981,433	Efficiency				
Total Assets	8,009,965	8,676,194	9,784,616	11,251,246	Y/e Mar	FY19	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
Growth (%)	15.9	8.3	12.8	15.0					
Asset Quality					Cost-Income Ratio (%)	45.4	41.9		
Y/e Mar	FY19	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E	C-D Ratio (%)	90.2	91.0		
					Business per Emp. (Rs m)	156	163		178
Gross NPAs (Rs m)	297,894	295,572	240,481	223,362	Profit per Emp. (Rs lacs)	2.576	2 5 9 7		
Net NPAs (Rs m)	165,917	113,619	79,266	70,234	Business per Branch (Rs m)	2,576	2,587		2,644
Gr. NPAs to Gross Adv.(%)	6.0		3.6	2.9	Profit per Branch (Rs m)	6	11	26	29
Net NPAs to Net Adv. (%)	3.4		1.2	0.9	Du-Pont				
NPA Coverage %	44.3	61.6	67.0	68.6	Y/e Mar	FY19	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E
Profitability (%)					NII	3.16	3.26	3.51	3.63
Y/e Mar	FY19	FY20E	FY21E	FY22E	Total Income	5.07	5.28	5.58	5.65
NIM	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.6	Operating Expenses	2.30	2.21	2.21	2.16
RoAA	0.3	0.6	1.5	1.7	PPoP	2.77	3.07	3.37	3.49
RoAE	3.7	6.8	14.7	16.7	Total provisions	2.09	1.77	1.19	1.02
Tier I	12.5	13.6	13.9	14.2	RoAA	0.35	0.69	1.63	1.85
CRAR	15.8	17.7	17.5	17.4	RoAE	3.66	6.81	14.65	16.66
Source: Company Data, PL Research				****	Source: Company Data, PL Researc				
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Analyst Coverage Universe

Sr. No.	Company Name	Rating	TP (Rs)	Share Price (Rs)
1	Axis Bank	Accumulate	800	744
2	Bank of Baroda	BUY	115	102
3	Bank of India	Reduce	58	70
4	Federal Bank	BUY	108	94
5	HDFC	BUY	1,406	1,278
6	HDFC Bank	BUY	1,406	1,267
7	HDFC Life Insurance Company	Hold	624	630
8	ICICI Bank	BUY	605	538
9	ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company	Accumulate	529	489
10	IDFC First Bank	BUY	44	46
11	IndusInd Bank	Accumulate	1,640	1,478
12	Jammu & Kashmir Bank	Under Review	-	30
13	Kotak Mahindra Bank	Hold	1,586	1,618
14	Max Financial Services	BUY	596	554
15	Punjab National Bank	Reduce	57	65
16	SBI Life Insurance Company	BUY	991	975
17	South Indian Bank	BUY	18	11
18	State Bank of India	BUY	413	334
19	Union Bank of India	Reduce	44	55
20	YES Bank	Hold	59	47

PL's Recommendation Nomenclature (Absolute Performance)

 Buy
 : > 15%

 Accumulate
 : 5% to 15%

 Hold
 : +5% to -5%

 Reduce
 : -5% to -15%

 Sell
 : < -15%</td>

Not Rated (NR) : No specific call on the stock
Under Review (UR) : Rating likely to change shortly



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(Indian Clients)

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