

July 26, 2022

Q1FY23 Result Update

☑ Change in Estimates | ■ Target | ■ Reco

Change in Estimates

	Cur	rent	Previous		
	FY23E	FY24E	FY23E	FY24E	
Rating	В	UY	В	UY	
Target Price	9	40	9	940	
NII (Rs. m)	3,90,655	4,43,697	3,81,414	4,34,670	
% Chng.	2.4	2.1			
Op. Profit (Rs. m)	2,81,513	3,37,003	2,92,839	3,34,735	
% Chng.	(3.9)	0.7			
EPS (Rs.)	49.8	60.2	50.8	59.3	
% Chng.	(2.0)	1.6			

Key Financials - Standalone

Y/e Mar	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E
NII (Rs bn)	292	331	391	444
Op. Profit (Rs bn)	257	247	282	337
PAT (Rs bn)	66	130	153	186
EPS (Rs.)	21.5	42.4	49.8	60.2
Gr. (%)	272.9	97.3	17.4	20.9
DPS (Rs.)	-	-	4.5	6.6
Yield (%)	-	-	0.6	0.9
NIM (%)	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7
RoAE (%)	7.1	12.0	13.0	14.5
RoAA (%)	0.7	1.2	1.2	1.3
P/BV (x)	2.2	1.9	1.9	1.6
P/ABV (x)	2.4	2.0	2.0	1.7
PE (x)	33.8	17.1	14.6	12.1
CAR (%)	19.1	18.5	17.7	17.0

Key Data	AXBK.BO AXSB IN
52-W High / Low	Rs.881 / Rs.618
Sensex / Nifty	55,766 / 16,631
Market Cap	Rs.2,234bn/ \$ 28,018m
Shares Outstanding	3,071m
3M Avg. Daily Value	Rs.6479.78m

Shareholding Pattern (%)

Promoter's	9.70
Foreign	46.58
Domestic Institution	31.47
Public & Others	12.25
Promoter Pledge (Rs bn)	-

Stock Performance (%)

	1M	6M	12M
Absolute	14.7	(3.3)	(3.7)
Relative	8.5	0.3	(8.5)

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Axis Bank (AXSB IN)

Rating: BUY | CMP: Rs727 | TP: Rs940

Re-rating to hinge on sustained NIM strength

Quick Pointers:

- NII and NIM was higher to estimates driven by better asset mix.
- Although loan growth was lower, profitability would be the mainstay.

Axis bank core earnings were better driven by NIM beat and lower provisions led by steady asset quality. Loan growth at -0.9% QoQ was lower as corporate declined since AXSB evaded pricing pressure while higher yielding retail (SBB, agri, CC, and PL) saw strong traction, which might continue. Bank suggested that even if corporate growth is boosted, spread would not be diluted. Preference for profitability over growth could bode well, as systemic asset quality risks are benign. Cost to assets would remain elevated although target is to reduce it from 2.2% to 2.0% over FY22-25E. Asset quality improved QoQ with controlled net slippages and reduction in stressed pool. Valuation at 1.7x on FY24 ABV is comforting and discount to ICICIBC should narrow as RoE may enhance from 12.0% to 14.5% over FY22-24E. Maintain multiple at 2.3x FY24 ABV and TP at Rs940. Retain BUY.

- Earnings beat led by better NIM and lower provisions: NII was a beat at Rs93.8bn (est. Rs90.6bn) aided by better NIM while loan growth was a miss. NIM (calc.) was a beat at 4.0% (PLe 3.84%) led by better loan yields. Loan growth was a miss at 14% YoY (PLe 17.4%) while deposits accretion too was lower at 12.6% YoY, as CA reduced sharply by 15% QoQ. Other income was a miss at Rs30bn due to higher treasury loss of Rs.6.7bn (PLe Rs.3.2bn). Opex was higher at Rs65bn due to other opex. Core PPoP was 2.6% below est. at Rs65.5bn. GNPA/NNPA was stable QoQ at 2.88%/0.65% while PCR improved by 2.6% to 77%. Provisions were much lower at Rs3.6bn (PLe Rs17.5bn). PAT was a beat at Rs41bn while core PAT was Rs46bn (PLe Rs37bn).
- Credit offtake driven by retail: Credit dipped by 0.9% QoQ as corporate/SME declined by 6%/7% while retail grew by 3.2%. Retail traction was attributable to SBB, agri, CC, home loans and PL. AXSB would continue to focus on unsecured retail. Corporate saw a de-growth as lower yielding book was shed due to pricing pressure. Management suggested that NIM expansion was driven by shift corporate to high yielding retail; currency shift (more rupee term loans) and reducing exposure to RIDF bonds. The bank expects that current spreads would sustain even if corporate sees growth. We have raised our NIM estimates slightly in FY23 and FY24. On liabilities, focus remains on accretion of granular deposits by targeting 1) premier segment customers 2) ticket size growth 3) corporate salary accounts.
- Opex to remain elevated; asset quality stable: Other opex spiked 40% YoY due to business acquisition, collection, PSLC purchase and technology (9% of total expenses). Opex might remain elevated in the near term, although target is to reach 2% cost to assets by FY25E from 2.2% in FY22. Asset quality was a tad better as gross slippages and recoveries were slightly lower/higher. OTR pool further declined QoQ from 85bps to 76bps while PCR on the same is 24.5%. The BB & below pool also shrunk QoQ from 0.75% to 0.64%. Buffer provisions were maintained at Rs50bn or ~70bps.



NII growth was decent with 21% YoY/6.4% led by better margins

Higher treasury loss leads to lower other income.

Other expenses increase with volumes, tech spends and one-time expenses related to acquisition

Provisions come off on standard & other provisioning reversal.

Loan growth driven by focus segments of the bank.

NIM expansion led by higher retail share and rise in rates

Asset quality steady with PCR at 75%

CASA mix remained steady YoY, however CA sees sharp drop QoQ

Exhibit 1: Strong NII & lower provisions partially offset by higher opex

Financial Statement (Rs m)	Q1FY23	Q1FY22	YoY gr. (%)	Q4FY22	QoQ gr. (%)
Interest Income	187,287	160,035	17.0	177,762	5.4
Interest Expenses	93,446	82,432	13.4	89,571	4.3
Net interest income (NII)	93,840	77,603	20.9	88,191	6.4
-Treasury Income	(6,670)	4,990	NA	2,310	NA
Other income	29,990	35,882	(16.4)	42,233	(29.0)
Total income	123,830	113,484	9.1	130,425	(5.1)
Operating expenses	64,960	49,324	31.7	65,765	(1.2)
-Staff expenses	21,861	18,519	18.0	18,865	15.9
-Other expenses	43,099	30,805	39.9	46,900	(8.1)
Operating profit	58,870	64,160	(8.2)	64,660	(9.0)
Core operating profit	65,540	59,170	10.8	62,350	5.1
Total provisions	3,594	35,320	(89.8)	9,872	(63.6)
Profit before tax	55,276	28,840	91.7	54,788	0.9
Tax	14,024	7,239	93.7	13,610	3.0
Profit after tax	41,253	21,602	91.0	41,178	0.2
Balance sheet (Rs m)					
Deposits	8,035,717	7,138,622	12.6	8,217,209	(2.2)
Advances	7,011,299	6,148,737	14.0	7,076,960	(0.9)
Ratios (%)					
Profitability ratios					
RoaA	1.5	0.9	14	1.5	11
NIM	3.6	3.5	62	3.5	0
RoaE	14.8	9.1	567	15.2	(43)
Asset Quality					
Gross NPL	210,368	259,498	(18.9)	218,223	(3.6)
Net NPL	47,806	78,465	(39.1)	55,122	(13.3)
Gross NPL ratio	2.9	3.9	(97)	2.8	6
Net NPL ratio	0.7	1.2	(55)	0.7	(8)
Coverage ratio (Calc)	75.0	69.8	524	74.7	26
Business & Other Ratios					
Low-cost deposit mix	43.7	43.1	(53)	45.0	(129)
Cost-income ratio	52.5	43.5	658	50.4	204
Non int. inc / total income	24.2	31.6	(581)	32.4	(816)
Credit deposit ratio	87.3	86.1	(190)	86.1	113
CAR	17.8	19.0	(58)	18.5	(71)
Tier-I	15.2	16.5	(123)	16.3	(110)

Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 2: Improving Loan Growth, focus continues on granularity

Segmental Mix (Rs m)	Q1FY23	Q1FY22	YoY gr. (%)	Q4FY22	QoQ gr. (%)
Large & mid-corporate	2,164,750	2,250,947	(3.8)	23,07,380	(6.2)
SME Advances	719,720	585,370	23.0	7,70,670	(6.6)
Retail	4,126,830	3,312,420	24.6	39,98,910	3.2
- Housing Loans	1,884,080	1,556,837	21.0	18,56,050	1.5
- Personal loans	470,310	430,615	9.2	4,52,420	4.0
- Auto loans	450,660	430,615	4.7	4,44,210	1.5

Source: Company, PL



Key Q1FY23 Concall Highlights

Assets/Liabilities

- Overall system credit growth has improved owing to better consumption demand, working capital demand and strong refinance, however overhang of higher than expected inflation, tightening of liquidity, rate hikes may result in moderation in short term, however the medium term opportunities provide significant headroom for the growth of the bank in focus & identified segments.
- Retail book The retail segment momentum continued with 24.6% YoY/3.2% QoQ growth. Secured to unsecured mix stood at 80:20. Segments like Rural Loans & Small Business Banking grew strongly with 47.8% YoY/4% QoQ and 91% YoY/10.6% QoQ growth, respectively. Credit Card segment grew 9% YoY/13.9% QoQ led by Flipkart Axis, Google and Airtel co-branded credit card has helped increase monthly acquisitions. There has been an uptick in credit card spends overall while bank focuses on retail card spends, however the revolver continues to be lower. Management expects revolver to recover faster than previous cycles. Bank would continue lending aggressively to retail unsecured segment.
- Corporate book Corporate book witnessed a de-growth by 3.8% YoY/6.2% QoQ as bank shed down lower yielding book and pricing pressure. 84% incremental sanctions to A- & above rated clients. Focus shall be to grow segments which have delivered like mid-corporate segment, Bharat Banking and would look for profitable growth in the wholesale segment in next 2 quarters.
- Deposits Focus remains on granular accretion and faster growth in deposits. Deposit accretion bank has been moving towards acquisition of premier segment customers, continuous growth in terms of ticket size, corporate salary accounts to grow the book. Retail TD – growth to come in long term with better product penetration, corporate salary, staff KRA changes & digitization.
- Citi business acquisition CCI approval is awaited (expected in 4-8 weeks). Bank expects acquisition to materialize by Q4FY23. Integration process would began post CCI approval, however bank has been working on plans to integrate people, tech and business.

Opex/NIMs

- NIMs increased by 14bps YoY/11bps QoQ. The sequential improvement has been majorly on account of spread uptick of 13bps, as also to shedding of trade linked corporate book. NIM expansion would be dependent on shift in BS mix from investments to loans and within loan mix towards higher yielding segments; currency shift (more rupee term loans), better low cost deposits and shedding of RIDF bonds. Management continues to guide margins in the range of 3.7%-3.8% over the 8-10 quarters.
- Treasury loss Bank reported treasury loss of Rs.6.67bn due to MTM losses on investments. Book comprises majorly of corporate bonds, of which 79% have been rated AA+ and above.

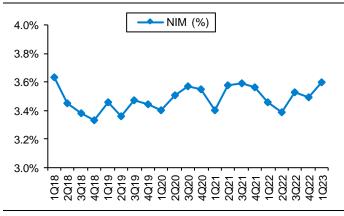


Other opex increased 40% YoY while it declined by 8.1% QoQ due to higher business acquisition expenses, collection expenses, PSLC Purchases, future growth & tech expenses and a major chunk towards onetime expenses related to reclassification of provisions to expenses and Citi business acquisition. Tech expenses are 9% of the total expenses. Bank guides for Opex/assets of 2% by FY25. The reduction would be driven by productivity gains and changes in sourcing mix and composition of liability franchise.

Asset Quality

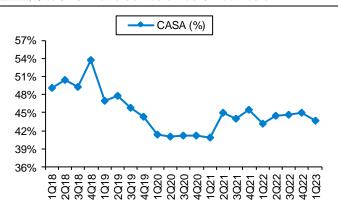
- Restructuring & BB and below book Fund based restructuring is Rs34bn or 0.5% of loans. Segmental break up was 0.3% wholesale book, 0.65% in Retail & 0.02% SME. BB & Below rated book stood at Rs81.7bn declining gradually. 27% of BB & Below Book is rated better than 1 rating agency.
- Bank saw Rs36.8bn of slippages while Recoveries & Upgrades for the quarter were Rs19.5bn and write off at Rs.15bn.
- Bank holds provisions of Rs12bn on restructured portfolio. Covid Provisions have not been invoked or utilized so far and management expects the same to be carried forward. As on March 31, 2022; total provision carried by the bank are Rs.118.3bn.

Exhibit 3: NIM expansion led by better retail growth



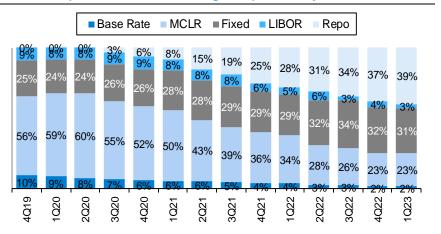
Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 4: CASA ratio comes off as CA comes off



Source: Company, PL

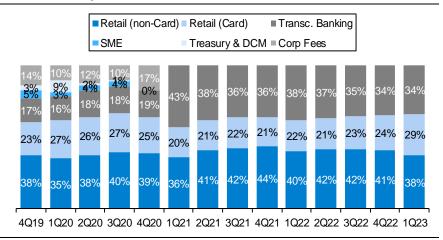
Exhibit 5: Repo linked loan share has gone up resolutely



Source: Company, PL

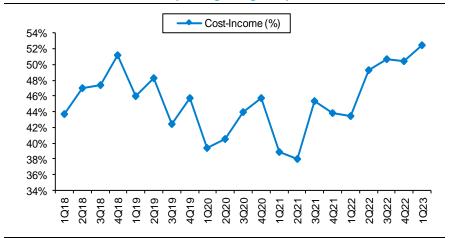


Exhibit 6: Steady flow of fees for the bank



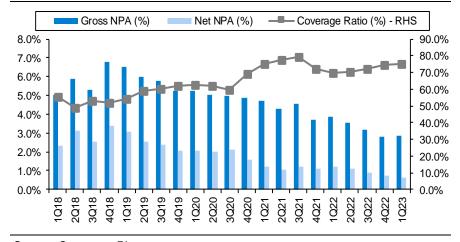
Source: Company Data, PL Research

Exhibit 7: Cost-Income shot up owing to higher spends



Source: Company, PL

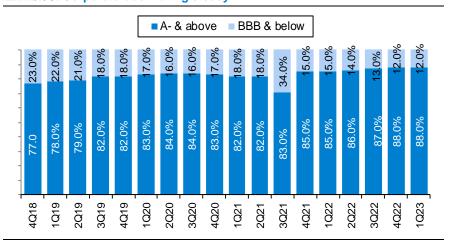
Exhibit 8: Asset quality steady, PCR increased to 75%



Source: Company, PL

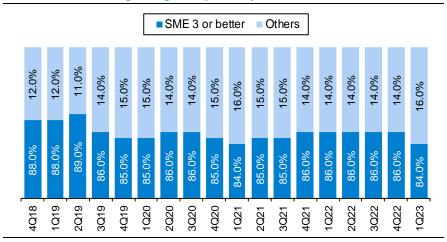


Exhibit 9: Corporate book rating steady



Source: Company, PL Note – BB book clubbed with BBB from Q4FY20

Exhibit 10: SME rating changes sequentially



Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 11: Fresh Slippages steady, recovery trends better

Stressed Loans (Rs Mn)	1Q20	2Q20	3Q20	4Q20	1Q21	2Q21	3Q21	4Q21	1Q22	2Q22	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23
Gross slippages	47,980	49,830	62,140	39,200	22,180	17,510	79,930	52,850	65,180	54,640	41,470	39,810	36,840
Recoveries+ Up gradations	21,770	22,130	24,220	24,890	6,080	20,260	21,650	34,620	25,430	25,080	17,070	37,630	29,570
Write-offs	30,050	31,040	27,900	12,700	22,840	18,120	42,570	55,530	33,410	47,570	32,880	16,960	15,130
Annualized Slippages (%)	3.88%	4.03%	5.02%	3.17%	1.55%	1.23%	5.60%	3.70%	4.24%	3.56%	2.70%	2.59%	2.08%
BB & Below book	75,040	62,910	51,280	65,280	64,200	91,180	87,220	74,430	80,420	66,970	64,960	57,780	48,580
NFB O/s to BB & Below exposures	25,000	22,000	36,700	39,060	37,210	49,280	47,960	45,740	44,240	44,390	43,240	27,800	25,190
Investments O/s in BB & Below rating		17,580	9,850	5,620	6,120	8,080	6,200	6,660	6350	6,100	6,700	8,260	7,960
Total BB & below book	100,040	102,490	97,830	109,960	107,530	148,540	141,380	126,830	131,010	117,460	114,900	93,840	81,730
% of customer assets	1.7%	1.8%	1.7%	1.9%	1.7%	2.3%	2.2%	1.9%	1.9%	1.7%	1.6%	1.2%	1.3%
Provisions held				75,872	80,648	114,376	106,035	91,318	91,707	82,222	82,728	70,380	62,932
Total Restructured Dispensation							27,090	18,480	21,920	43,420	46,430	40,290	,- ,-
% of loans							0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%

Source: Company, PL

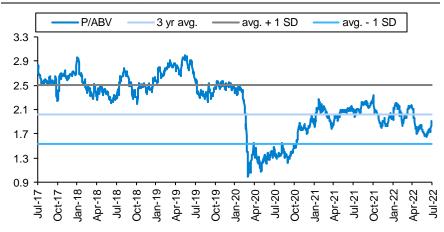


Exhibit 12: We tweak our NII & credit cost assumptions

Earning Estimate Change (Rs mn) —	Earlier		Revised	d	% Change		
Earning Estimate Change (KS IIII)	FY23E	FY24E	FY24E	FY24E	FY23E	FY24E	
Net interest income	381,414	434,670	390,655	443,697	2.4	2.1	
Operating profit	292,839	334,735	281,513	337,003	(3.9)	0.7	
Net profit	156,303	182,244	153,168	185,585	(2.0)	1.8	
Loan Growth (%)	14.2	15.0	14.2	15.0	-	-	
Credit Cost (bps)	101.1	96.1	93.1	94.4	(8.7)	(2.3)	
EPS (Rs)	50.8	59.3	49.8	60.2	(2.0)	1.6	
ABVPS (Rs)	367.5	416.4	369.3	417.7	0.5	0.3	
Price target (Rs)	940		940		-		
Recommendation	BUY		BUY				

Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 13: AXSB's one year forward P/ABV trends

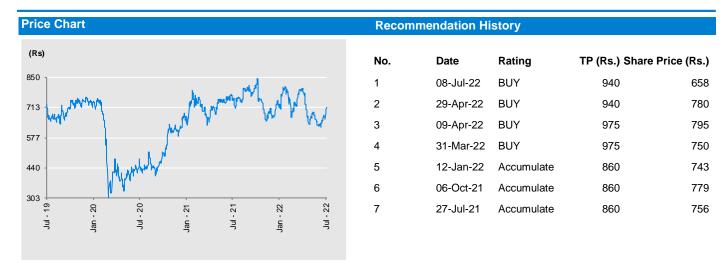


Source: Company, PL



4,79, ²	Y21 FY2 189 4,96,16		FY24E	Quarterly Financials (Rs. m) Y/e Mar	Q2FY22	Q3FY22	Q4FY22	Q1FY23
4,79, ²			FIZ4E	1/e ividi	QZF I ZZ	Q3F1ZZ	Q4F122	WIFIZS
1,25,	189 4,96,16		7 55 700	laterant laneau	4.00.000	4 70 044	4 77 700	
				Interest Income	1,63,360	1,72,611	1,77,762	1,87,287
24.5				Interest Expenses	84,357	86,086	89,571	93,446
21,3		,		Net Interest Income	79,003	86,525	88,191	93,840
6,36,4				YoY growth (%) CEB	7.8	17.4	16.7	20.9
3,44,0					32,310	33,440	37,580	35,760
2,92,				Treasury	27.004	20 404	40 000	29,990
								2,17,276
								21,861 43,099
				•				64,960
	,	,						58,870
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				• , ,				(8.2
				. •				65,540
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								3,594
•					•	•		55,276
					,			14,024
					•	•		41,253
•								91.0
30	97.	7 17.6	21.2	•				80,35,717
				YoY growth (%)	18.1		17.7	12.6
FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	Advances	62,17,193	66,48,656	70,76,960	70,11,299
				YoY growth (%)	10.1	16.7	15.2	14.0
				Key Ratios				
				Y/e Mar	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E
								727
				, ,				60.2
				, ,				443
			· ·	` '				418
								12.1
								1.6
				* *				1.7
					2.4	2.0		6.6
				, ,	-	-		
				• • • • • •	-	-		11.0
				Dividend Yield (%)	-		0.6	0.9
				Efficiency				
				Y/e Mar	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E
8.8	18.0	9.8	14.3	Cost-Income Ratio (%)	41.7	48.8	49.6	47.
				• /				
F	Y21 FY2	2 FY23E	FY24E	, ,				
2,53,	148 2,18,22	3 2,28,237	2,44,845					
55,0								
				. Total por Branon (No III)	- 14			
7				Du-Pont				
	2.4 /4.	7 72.0	00.0	Y/e Mar	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E
				NII	3.07	3.06	3.17	3.21
FY	/21 FY2	2 FY23E	FY24E	Total Income	4.63	4.47	4.53	4.65
	3.7 3.0	6 3.7	3.7	Operating Expenses	1.93	2.18	2.24	2.22
	0.7 1.:	2 1.2	1.3	PPoP	2.70	2.29	2.28	2.44
	7.1 12.0	0 13.0	14.5	Total provisions	1.78	0.68	0.62	0.64
1	6.5 16.3	3 15.7	15.2	RoAA	0.69	1.20	1.24	1.34
								14.40
	1,48,4,40, 61,1,12,1,83, 2,57, 1,22,1,68,88,822, 265,30 FY21 2 3,064 6,127 10,16,030 19.6 69,935 69,79,853 9.0 31,77,487 45.5 98,67,976 62,37,202 9.2 22,61,196 99,61,184 8.8 F 2,53, 69,	8.2 9.9 1,48,382 1,52,20 4,40,773 4,83,52 0.4 5.6 61,640 76,12 1,12,630 1,49,89 1,83,751 2,36,10 2,57,022 2,47,42 9.7 (3.3 1,22,048 47,97 1,68,963 73,59 88,058 1,73,82 22,174 43,57 25.2 25. 65,885 1,30,25 30-4.9 97. FY21 FY22 2 2 3,064 3,070 6,127 6,139 10,16,030 11,50,255 19.6 13.2 69,935 55,122 69,935 82,17,209 9.0 17.7 31,77,487 36,97,554 45.5 45.0 98,67,976 1,17,51,781 62,37,202 70,76,960 9.2 13.5 22,61,196 27,55,972 99,61,184 1,17,51,781 8.8 18.0 FY21 FY2 2,53,148 2,18,22 69,935 55,12 3.8 2. 1.1 0.0 72.4 74. FY21 FY2 1,57,47 11.2,17 11	8.2 9.7 15.4 1,48,382 1,52,205 1,67,393 4,40,773 4,83,528 5,58,048 0.4 5.2 21.9 61,640 76,126 91,774 1,12,630 1,49,898 1,84,761 1,83,751 2,36,108 2,76,535 2,57,022 2,47,420 2,81,513 9.7 (3.7) 13.8 1,22,048 47,974 47,203 1,68,963 73,595 76,743 88,058 1,73,826 2,04,770 22,174 43,571 51,602 25.2 25.1 25.2 65,85 1,30,255 1,53,168 30-4.9 9.7.7 17.6 FY21 FY22 FY23E 2 2 2 2 3,064 3,070 3,076 6,151 10,16,030 11,50,255 12,00,971 13.5 49,79,853 82,17,209 93,28,163 9.0 17.7 13.5 31,77,487 36,97,554 39,84,213	8.2	1.48,382	1,44,382	1,48,382	1.48





Analyst Coverage Universe

Sr. No.	Company Name	Rating	TP (Rs)	Share Price (Rs)
1	AAVAS Financiers	BUY	2,300	2,006
2	Axis Bank	BUY	940	658
3	Bank of Baroda	BUY	125	105
4	Can Fin Homes	BUY	675	538
5	City Union Bank	BUY	170	145
6	DCB Bank	Hold	120	81
7	Federal Bank	BUY	135	99
8	HDFC	BUY	2,908	2,246
9	HDFC Bank	BUY	1,740	1,362
10	ICICI Bank	BUY	950	800
11	IDFC First Bank	UR	-	34
12	IndusInd Bank	BUY	1,300	879
13	Kotak Mahindra Bank	Accumulate	1,950	1,827
14	LIC Housing Finance	Accumulate	435	351
15	Punjab National Bank	BUY	50	31
16	State Bank of India	BUY	600	487

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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