Growth to take center stage

Result Update



Max Financial

revised TP of Rs1.060.

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

CMP Rs 876 as of (August 2, 2022)

Target Price Rs 1,060 (A)

Rating **BUY** (**■**) **Upside** 21.0 %

2

5.0

Max Life reported a good set of numbers in Q1FY23. VNB growth stood at 23% YoY, led by 1.4ppts YoY VNB margin expansion and 15% APE growth. Struggle in retail protection and the impact of Axis Bank going fully open architecture from Q3FY22 had its bearing on growth. Going forward, retail protection growth and Axis Bank channel performance should improve from Q3FY23. Max Life reiterated its commitment to deliver growth by continued investments in its proprietary distribution channel and Axis Bank-led distribution channel, while responding to competition by improving product attractiveness for customers. In this backdrop, Max Life is guiding for 25-26% VNB margin target, in line with our estimates. On the non-operational front (Max Financial-Max Life merger, purchase of ~5.2% stake in Max Life by Max Financial from Mitsui Sumitomo, and up to 7% additional stake transfer to Axis Bank group), the status was broadly unchanged

from FY22. Overall, Q1FY23 performance was good. We reiterate our Buy rating with a

- Max Life delivers satisfactory operational and financial performance: Max Life, the sole operating company of Max Financial, posted an overall satisfactory set of numbers in Q1FY23, with VNB growth of 23% YoY to Rs2.13bn and VNB margin expanding 1.4ppts YoY to 21.1%. It is important to note that Max Life calculates its APE on actual quarterly costs. Hence, Q1 margins are lower. APE growth was satisfactory at 15% YoY in Q1FY23 but was weaker than peers. However, on a 3Y CAGR basis, APE growth for Max Life at 14% comes better than the sector's growth. The proprietary channel (Agency + Direct) grew at an impressive 32%, but banca growth at 8% was muted. This was largely led by the impact of Axis Bank channel, which should normalize from Q3FY23, when the complete opening of Axis Bank channel for Bajaj Allianz Life is already in base. On the product side, retail protection premium declined ~19% YoY due to demand weakness, led by increased prices and some upfronting of retail protection sales in the past two years in the backdrop of Covid-19. Operating RoEV at 13.5% (20.1% adjusted for excess Covid mortality) was very impressive. Solvency ratio at 196% was quite robust and comfortable to support FY23 growth.
- Growth remains the core of strategy: In Q1FY23, the company delivered weaker topline growth owing to a host of factors, including stronger base (on 2,3,5Y CAGR, Max Life has one of the best APE growth). The current challenge on the growth front appears to be largely driven by Axis Bank channel, where Bajaj Allianz Life got all branch access starting from Q3FY22. Now with proprietary distribution channels firing up and Axis Bank channel's growth likely returning starting Q3 (on base becoming comparable), management is confident of delivering good growth. Driven by focus on growth leading to investments in distribution and offering competitive products, management has reiterated its 25-26% VNB margin guidance.
- Minor changes to estimates; Reiterate Buy with a revised TP of Rs1,060: We have slightly tweaked our estimates to reflect Q1FY23 developments. These changes have led to minor reduction in APE estimates and an increase in VNB margins (Exhibit 10). Using appraisal value method for valuing Max Life and then applying 20% holdco discount, we have arrived at Sep'23E TP from Max Financial at Rs1,060 (from Jun'23E TP of Rs1,030 earlier). We reiterate our Buy rating on the stock with a new TP of Rs1,060 (implying FY23E P/EV of 2.7x) and find the stock attractively valued, offering a good upside.

Please see our sector model portfolio (Emkay Alpha Portfolio): BFSI-Insurance (Page 8)

Financial Snapshot

Y/E March (Rs bn)	FY21	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Annualised Premium Equivalent (APE)	49.6	55.9	64.1	74.2	86.0
New Business Value (NBV)	12.5	15.3	16.9	20.3	24.0
NBV Margin (% of APE)	25.2	27.3	26.3	27.3	27.8
Embedded Value	118.3	141.7	169.3	202.0	240.6
Operating RoEV (%)	18.6	19.2	20.4	20.4	20.1
EVPS (Rs)	281.2	336.8	392.6	468.4	557.8
EPS (Rs)	14.51	7.34	14.16	19.47	23.27
BVPS (Rs)	96.9	114.0	128.2	147.6	170.9
P/EV (x)	3.1	2.6	2.2	1.9	1.6

Change in Estimates	
EPS Chg FY23E/FY24E (%)	-/
Target Price change (%)	2.91
Target Period (Months)	12
Previous Reco	BUY

Emkay vs Consensus

	FY23E	FY24E
Emkay	14.16	19.47
Consensus	10.4	17.86
Mean Consensus TP	(12M)	Rs 1,026

EPS Estimates

Stock Details Bloomberg Code MAXF IN Face Value (Rs) Shares outstanding (mn) 345

52 Week H/L 1,140 / 697 M Cap (Rs bn/USD bn) 302 / 3.83 Daily Avg Volume (nos.) 4,97,967 Daily Avg Turnover (US\$ mn)

Shareholding Pattern Jun '22

Promoters	14.7%
Flls	23.8%
DIIs	53.3%
Public and Others	8.2%

Price Performance								
(%)	1M	3M	6M	12M				
Absolute	9	16	(6)	(22)				
Rel. to Nifty	(1)	14	(4)	(29)				

Relative price chart



Source: Bloomberg

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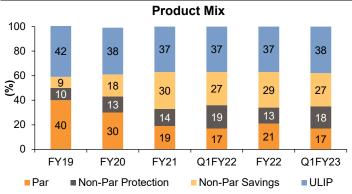
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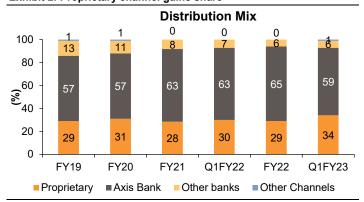
Story in Charts

Exhibit 1: Product mix broadly stable with marginal increase in ULIP



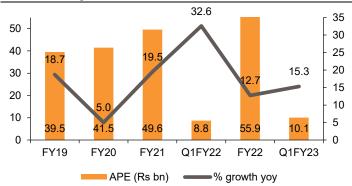
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 2: Proprietary channel gains share



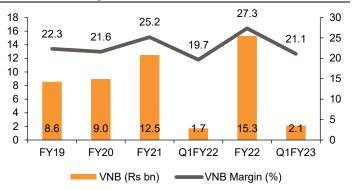
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 3: APE growth remains muted on a favorable base



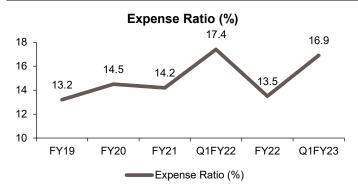
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 4: VNB margins rise to 21.1%



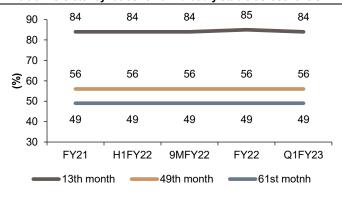
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 5: Expense ratio improves marginally YoY.



Source: Company, Emkay Research Note: Expense ratio (reported) is policyholders' expense to GWP ratio

Exhibit 6: Persistency ratios remain broadly stable across levels



Source: Company, Emkay Research Note: Persistency ratio is calculated on individual policies excluding single premium

Exhibit 7: Quarterly Financials

Rs bn except %	Q1FY23	Q1FY22	%yoy	Q1FY21	Q1FY20	3Y CAGR (%)	Q4FY22
Annualised Premium Equivalent (APE)	10.1	8.8	15.3	6.6	6.9	13.8	18.4
o/w Savings	8.3	7.1	16.7	5.0	5.7	13.2	16.4
o/w Protection	1.8	1.7	9.2	1.7	1.1	16.8	2.0
Protection (% of APE)	18.0	19.0	-1.0ppts	25.0	16.6	1.4ppts	11.0
Value of New Business	2.1	1.7	23.8	1.1	1.3	16.7	5.9
New Business Margin (%)	21.1	19.7	1.5ppts	17.1	19.6	1.5ppts	31.9%
Embedded Value	141.5	122.9	15.2	106.7	93.1	15.0	141.7
Operating RoEV (%)	13.5	13.5	0.0ppts	15.9	14.8	-1.3ppts	-
Total New Business Premium	14.8	12.4	19.8	9.0	9.1	17.7	26.2
Renewal premium	26.2	22.4	16.7	18.5	17.4	14.6	53.8
Gross written premium	41.0	34.8	17.8	27.5	26.5	15.7	80.0
PBT - Max Life	0.91	0.77	18.2	2.63	4.17	(39.79)	1.5
PAT – MAXF	0.56	0.21	166.0	1.36	2.53	(39.41)	1.2
AUM	1,071	937	14.3	732	639	18.8	1075.1
13th month persistency (%)	84.0	84.0	0.0ppts	-	-	-	-
49th month persistency (%)	56.0	55.0	1.0ppts	-	-	-	-
61st month persistency (%)	50.0	50.0	0.0ppts	-	-	-	-
Solvency ratio (%)	196	197	-1ppts	212	225	-28ppts	201

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 8: Appraisal value method valuation of Max Financial

Parameter (Rs bn)	Value
FY23E-38E APE CAGR	10.1%
FY23E-38E VNB CAGR	10.4%
Terminal growth rate	4.5%
Cost of Equity	13.5%
FY23 EV	169
Present value of future new business	367
FY 23 Appraisal value	536
Max Financial ownership in Max Life	80.0%
FY23 Fair value of Max Financials (20% Holdco discount)	343
No. Of shares	345.1
FV per share (Rs)	994
Sep-23 Target Price (Rs)	1060

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 9: Implied valuation multiples

Target multiples on FY23 estimates	1060
Implied P/EV	2.7x
RoEV (%)	20.4
P/EVoP	15.8x
Implied FY24E VNB multiple	17.0x
Current price multiple on FY23 estimates	876
P/EV	2.2x
RoEV (%)	20.4
P/EVOP	13.1x
Implied FY24E VNB multiple	10.3x

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 10: Changes in estimates

(Rs bn)	Old			Revised			(%) Var		
(RS DII)	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
APE	65.2	75.5	87.4	64.1	74.2	86.0	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6
VNB	17.2	19.9	23.5	16.9	20.3	24.0	-1.6	2.1	2.1
VNB margin (%)	26.3	26.3	26.8	26.3	27.3	27.8	0.0pts	1.0pts	1.0pts
Embedded Value	169.6	201.9	240.0	169.3	202.0	240.6	-0.2	0.1	0.3
Consolidated EPS (Rs)	14.2	19.6	23.4	14.2	19.5	23.3	-0.3	-0.5	-0.7

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Conference Call Highlights

- Management is focusing on building a predictable and sustainable growth engine and the company has maintained its growth trajectory during the quarter. On the distribution side, management is focusing on building the proprietary channel and has experienced strong growth momentum in the online as well as offline channel.
- Management stated that the impact of the open architecture of the banca partners led to slow growth in the banca channel for the quarter.
- As per management, the base impact of the counter share in the Axis Bank channel is expected to run off by Q3FY23. Management stated that the counter share in Axis Bank is being maintained since January 2022 and multiple initiatives are being taken to ensure the return of growth momentum.
- The company received certificate of registration from PFRDA for Max Life Pension Fund Management and all necessary requirements for obtaining certificate of commencement were complied. Management expects operations to start in Q2FY23.
- The company launched small fix return digital plan with simplified on-boarding purpose along with instant confirmation offers.
- Management said that ULIP grew by 21%, led by the launch of the new Flexi Well Advantage Plan with industry-first features such as auto debit boosters.
- NPS scores improved by 2 points from 49 to 51.
- Management said that it expects some moderation in growth as the company progresses to the coming quarters on account of moderation in ULIP owing to volatility in markets and the macroeconomic scenario.
- Management stated that online sales accounted for 5-6% of the APE, of which 40% was contributed by the direct channel and the rest by other online partners. The online channel contributed to ~22% of the total number of policies sold.
- Retail protection volumes are expected to recover by Q2FY23.
- Management said that the increase in interest rates would not result in a major impact on margins from non-par products, as the company passes on the benefits to customers to stay competitive in the market.
- Management reiterated margin guidance of ~26% by FY23-end.
- The economic variance amounted to negative Rs4.77bn.
- Management stated that, over a period of 2-3 years, the share of proprietary channel would increase to 35% from current levels on annual basis.

Exhibit 11: Key Financials (Max Life) Y/E March (Rs mn)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Policyholders' account	2019	2020	2021	2022	Z0Z3E	20240	ZUZUE
•	1 45 750	1 61 000	1.00.470	0.04.440	2 62 205	2.00.072	2 02 425
Gross written premium Net earned premium	1,45,752 1,44,184	1,61,836	1,90,179	2,24,142	2,63,205	3,09,073 3,05,982	3,63,135
		1,59,788	1,87,390	2,19,870	2,60,573		3,59,504
Investment income	48,643	21,589	1,21,656	87,615	94,057	1,10,959	1,30,801
Total revenue	1,93,578	1,81,989	3,09,628	3,08,157	3,54,630	4,16,941	4,90,305
Commission expense	9,901	10,244	12,270	14,028	16,625	19,522	22,937
Operating expenses	19,261	23,441	27,006	30,192	35,782	42,017	49,367
Benefits cost	1,54,544	1,32,616	2,66,234	2,57,354	2,94,566	3,46,411	4,07,438
Total expense	1,85,334	1,69,073	3,07,412	3,03,994	3,49,206	4,10,573	4,82,823
Surplus/Deficit	8,244	12,916	2,217	4,163	5,423	6,368	7,482
Shareholders' account	4 400	4.000	0.000	0.700	5.400	0.000	7 400
Transfer from policyholders' account	4,402	4,690	3,862	2,780	5,163	6,368	7,482
Investment income	2,177	2,074	2,360	3,204	2,510	3,608	4,290
Expenses	377	802	1,249	1,862	695	721	763
Profit before tax	6,226	5,978	5,099	4,170	6,978	9,465	11,255
Tax expense	662	585	-131	303	507	688	818
Profit after tax	5,564	5,394	5,230	3,867	6,471	8,777	10,437
Balance Sheet							
Sources of Funds							
Shareholders' Funds	27,609	25,739	30,079	31,960	37,136	44,157	52,507
Borrowings	0	0	0	4,960	4,960	4,960	4,960
Policyholders' Funds: Insurance reserves and provisions	5,85,765	6,40,747	8,52,331	10,19,007	12,02,704	14,18,259	16,71,388
Others	22,498	30,962	29,819	27,408	-4,960	-4,960	-4,960
Total	6,35,872	6,97,448	9,12,228	10,83,335	12,39,840	14,62,417	17,23,895
Application of Funds							
Shareholders' Investments	35,187	32,581	38,484	51,477	59,813	71,123	84,571
Policyholders' Investments	3,94,173	4,60,484	5,81,847	6,89,187	8,13,427	9,59,214	11,30,413
Assets Held to Cover Linked Liabilities	1,98,619	1,91,642	2,83,736	3,34,432	3,94,720	4,65,464	5,48,539
Net Current Assets (C) = $(A - B)$	2,706	6,290	626	-1,025	-38,724	-45,891	-54,371
Other Asset	5,186	6,452	7,535	9,265	10,603	12,507	14,743
Total	6,35,872	6,97,448	9,12,228	10,83,335	12,39,840	14,62,417	17,23,895
Embedded Value Account							
Embedded Value	89,710	99,770	1,18,340	1,41,740	1,69,331	2,02,034	2,40,594
o/w Adjusted Net Worth	23,980	25,450	27,690	31,110	36,286	43,307	51,657
o/w Value-in-Force	65,730	74,320	90,650	1,10,630	1,33,045	1,58,727	1,88,937
Annualised Premium Equivalent (APE)	39,500	41,490	49,570	55,880	64,118	74,241	86,035
New Business value	8,560	8,970	12,490	15,280	16,891	20,301	23,956
New Business Margin (%)	21.7	21.6	25.2	27.3	26.3	27.3	27.8
EV Operating Profit	16,790	18,130	18,510	22,760	28,885	34,459	40,647
Operating RoEV (%)	22.4	20.2	18.6	19.2	20.4	20.4	20.1
Per share data (Rs)							
EPS	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.0	3.4	4.6	5.4
DPS	2.1	3.4	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.9	1.1
EVPS	46.8	52.0	61.7	73.9	88.3	105.3	125.4
BVPS	14.4	13.4	15.7	16.7	19.4	23.0	27.4
EV Op. Profit per share	8.8	9.5	9.7	11.9	15.1	18.0	21.2
Key Ratio							
Return on Equity (%)	20.4	20.2	18.7	12.5	18.7	21.6	21.6
Commission expense/TWRP (%)	7.5	7.0	7.2	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.4
	44.0	16.9	16.1	15.0	15.4	15.6	15.8
Operating expenses/TWRP (%)	14.8	10.5	10.1				
	14.8 22.2	23.9	23.3	22.0	22.5	22.8	23.2
Operating expenses/TWRP (%) Total expense (% of TWRP) Total expense (% of Avg AUM)						22.8 4.5	23.2 4.4

Source: Company, Emkay Research

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Exhibit 12: Key Financials (Max Financial - Consolidated)

Y/E March (Rs mn)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Income statement							
Max Life Profit before Tax	6,190	5,978	5,099	4,170	6,978	9,465	11,255
Holding company expenses net of income	1,382	1,554	-830	284	298	313	328
Profit before Tax	4,808	4,425	5,929	3,887	6,681	9,153	10,927
Tax expense	644	1,696	332	703	507	688	818
Profit after Tax	4,165	2,729	5,598	3,184	6,173	8,465	10,109
Minorities	1,539	1,279	1,344	650	1,288	1,747	2,077
Group Net Income	2,626	1,450	4,254	2,534	4,886	6,718	8,032
Balance Sheet							
Source of Funds							
Shareholders' Equity	20,590	21,465	33,430	39,346	44,232	50,950	58,982
Minorities	7,741	6,723	2,621	5,503	11,137	13,243	15,747
Financial Liabilities	6,20,750	7,09,710	9,35,352	11,24,176	11,42,569	13,47,346	15,87,819
Non-financial Liabilities	23,026	7,364	9,253	8,461	1,45,699	1,72,024	2,03,010
Total	6,72,107	7,45,262	9,80,656	11,77,486	13,43,637	15,83,563	18,65,557
Application of Funds							
Investments	6,14,060	7,08,703	9,55,071	11,49,688	12,08,147	14,24,678	16,78,952
Other Financial Assets	34,997	216	509	2,361	93,657	1,11,043	1,31,629
Cash and Bank balance	5,084	4,475	5,072	5,689	7,573	8,932	10,529
Non-financial Assets	17,967	31,869	20,004	19,747	34,260	38,910	44,447
Total	6,72,107	7,45,262	9,80,656	11,77,486	13,43,637	15,83,563	18,65,557
No. Of shares outstanding (mn)	269.4	269.4	345.1	345.1	345.1	345.1	345.1
Weighted average number of shares (mn)	269.4	269.4	293.2	345.1	345.1	345.1	345.1
Weighted average diluted shares (mn)	268.7	268.7	293.2	345.1	345.1	345.1	345.1
Return on Equity (%)	13.54	6.90	15.50	6.96	11.69	14.12	14.61
BVPS	76.4	79.7	96.9	114.0	128.2	147.6	170.9
Basic EPS (Rs)	9.77	5.38	14.51	7.34	14.16	19.47	23.27
Diluted EPS (Rs)	9.77	5.38	14.51	7.34	14.16	19.47	23.27

Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY TABLE

	TION THO TOTAL				
Date	Closing Price	TP	Period (months)	Rating	Analyst
09-Jun-22	830	1,030	12m	Buy	Avinash Singh
08-Jun-22	825	1,030	12m	Buy	Avinash Singh
17-May-22	739	1,030	12m	Buy	Avinash Singh
12-May-22	709	1,030	12m	Buy	Avinash Singh
11-May-22	721	1,030	12m	Buy	Avinash Singh
09-May-22	708	1,110	12m	Buy	Avinash Singh
06-May-22	710	1,110	12m	Buy	Avinash Singh
19-Apr-22	741	1,110	12m	Buy	Avinash Singh
06-Apr-22	777	1,110	12m	Buy	Avinash Singh
08-Feb-22	859	1,240	12m	Buy	Avinash Singh
29-Jan-22	913	1,240	12m	Buy	Avinash Singh
18-Jan-22	1,018	1,290	12m	Buy	Avinash Singh
07-Dec-21	969	1,290	12m	Buy	Avinash Singh
10-Nov-21	993	1,290	12m	Buy	Avinash Singh
09-Nov-21	1,001	1,230	12m	Buy	Avinash Singh
07-Sep-21	1,091	-	12m	UR	Avinash Singh

Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY CHART



Source: Bloomberg, Company, Emkay Research



Analyst: Avinash Singh

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Sector

Insurance and Non-lending Financials

Analyst bio

Avinash Singh holds a PGDM and CFA. He has over 13 years of experience, including 10 years of research experience on the sell side. His team currently covers four insurance and one asset management stocks.

Emkay Alpha Portfolio - BFSI-Insurance

EAP sector portfolio

Company Name	BSE200 Weight	EAP Weight		OW/UW (bps)	EAP Weight based on Current NAV	Change vs last published EAP (bps)
BFSI-Insurance	1.62	1.54	-5%	-8	100.00	
HDFC Life Insurance	0.52	0.51	-2%	-1	31.42	0
ICICI Pru Life	0.21	0.11	-47%	-10	6.96	0
LIC	0.11	0.08	-25%	-3	5.04	0
Max Financial	0.19	0.20	6%	1	12.20	0
SBI Life	0.57	0.64	13%	8	39.52	0
Star Health	0.03	0.08	142%	5	4.78	0
Cash	0.00	0.08	NA	8	4.88	0

Source: Emkay Research

■ High Conviction/Strong Over Weight
■ High Conviction/Strong Under Weight

Sector portfolio NAV

	Base					Latest
	1-Apr-19	2-Aug-21	1-Feb-22	2-May-22	1-Jul-22	1-Aug-22
EAP - BFSI-Insurance	100.0	179.3	172.5	154.9	156.1	176.6
BSE200 Neutral Weighted Portfolio (ETF)	100.0	180.3	172.6	155.2	155.4	169.0

*Performance measurement base date 1st April 2019

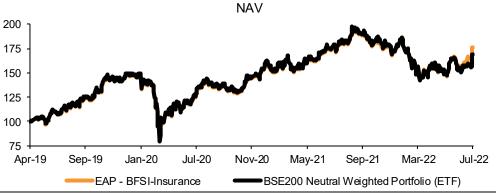
Source: Emkay Research

Price Performance (%)

	1m	3m	6m	12m
EAP - BFSI-Insurance	13.1%	14.0%	2.3%	-1.6%
BSE200 Neutral Weighted Portfolio (ETF)	8.7%	8.9%	-2.1%	-6.3%

Source: Emkay Research

NAV chart



Source: Emkay Research

Please see our model portfolio (Emkay Alpha Portfolio): Nifty

Please see our model portfolio (Emkay Alpha Portfolio): SMID

"Emkay Alpha Portfolio – SMID and Nifty are a supporting document to the Emkay Alpha Portfolios Report and is updated on regular intervals"

Emkay Rating Distribution

Ratings	Expected Return within the next 12-18 months.
BUY	Over 15%
HOLD	Between -5% to 15%
SELL	Below -5%

Completed Date: 02 Aug 2022 17:46:53 (SGT) Dissemination Date: 02 Aug 2022 17:47:53 (SGT)

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