

October 21, 2022

Q2FY23 Result Update

☑ Change in Estimates | ☑ Target | ■ Reco

Change in Estimates

	Cur	rent	Pre	vious
	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E
Rating	В	UY	В	UY
Target Price	1,	080	9	940
NII (Rs. m)	4,61,058	5,21,502	4,49,146	5,10,779
% Chng.	2.7	2.1		
Op. Profit (Rs. m)	3,26,423	3,72,329	3,31,849	3,81,847
% Chng.	(1.6)	(2.5)		
EPS (Rs.)	65.0	74.0	59.0	68.5
% Chng.	10.2	8.1		

Key Financials - Standalone

Y/e Mar	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
NII (Rs bn)	331	427	461	522
Op. Profit (Rs bn)	247	299	326	372
PAT (Rs bn)	130	200	200	229
EPS (Rs.)	42.4	65.0	65.0	74.0
Gr. (%)	97.3	53.1	0.0	13.9
DPS (Rs.)	-	5.8	7.1	8.1
Yield (%)	-	0.7	0.9	1.0
NIM (%)	3.6	4.0	3.8	3.8
RoAE (%)	12.0	15.9	14.4	15.0
RoAA (%)	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.5
P/BV (x)	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.6
P/ABV (x)	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.6
PE (x)	19.5	12.7	12.7	11.2
CAR (%)	18.5	18.6	17.9	17.5

Key Data	AXBK.BO AXSB IN
52-W High / Low	Rs.881 / Rs.618
Sensex / Nifty	59,203 / 17,564
Market Cap	Rs.2,537bn/\$30,661m
Shares Outstanding	3,072m
3M Avg. Daily Value	Rs.7413.16m

Shareholding Pattern (%)

Promoter's	9.69
Foreign	43.48
Domestic Institution	32.26
Public & Others	14.57
Promoter Pledge (Rs bn)	-

Stock Performance (%)

	1M	6M	12M
Absolute	1.6	3.9	2.6
Relative	2.5	0.1	6.2

Gaurav Jani

gauravjani@plindia.com | 91-22-66322235

Palak Shah

palakshah@plindia.com | 91-22-66322257

Axis Bank (AXSB IN)

Rating: BUY | CMP: Rs826 | TP: Rs1,080

Loan/deposit growth, opex decline key to rerating

Quick Pointers:

- NII and NIM were a beat due to better yields; see 30% upgrade in FY23E PAT.
- Further re-rating to depend on NIM sustainability and reduction in opex/assets.

AXSB saw its strongest quarter with core earnings beating estimates by ~14% led by beat on NIM, fees and asset quality. NIM boost was driven by better loan yields that was a function of higher repo linked pool, increased retail share, focus on rupee loans and shedding of RIDF bonds. Loan growth too was better at 4.2% QoQ mainly led by corporate/SME although deposit growth was slower. Asset quality improved again with lower slippages driving GNPA decline of 26bps QoQ while OTR reduced by 11bps to 0.65%. As per the bank, Citi acquisition may materialize in Q4FY23. We upgrade FY23/24E earnings by ~30%/10% due to higher NII and lower provisions. However, our multiple is maintained at 2.3x as RoE in FY24/25E does not surpass 15%. Levers for RoE expansion are fall in opex/assets and higher loan/deposit accretion. Rerating beyond 2.3x would hinge on RoA/RoE gap to ICICIB reducing. Rolling forward to Sep'24 ABV we raise TP from Rs940 to Rs1080. Reiterate BUY.

- Strong overall performance: NII was a beat at Rs103.6bn (est. Rs100bn) growing by ~31% YoY aided by better margins while loan growth was a tad higher. NIM (calc.) was a beat at 4.31% (PLe 4.14%) led by superior loan yields. Credit growth was higher at 17.6% YoY (PLe 16.7%). Deposit accretion was slower at 10.1% YoY. Other income was slightly higher at Rs39bn as fees were a beat Rs39bn which was offset by treasury loss of Rs8.6bn. Opex was bit lower at Rs66bn as both staff cost and other opex were lesser. Hence PPOP was a beat at Rs77.2bn. GNPA/NNPA was stronger QoQ at 2.5%/0.5% owing to lower net slippages while PCR improved QoQ from 77% to 80%. Provisions were lower at Rs5.5bn due to write back. PAT at Rs53bn was higher by 11.5%.
- Credit grew 4.2% QoQ, deposit accretion a key: Credit flow QoQ was largely led by corporate (+6%) and SME (+8.7%). Retail accretion was slower due to lower offtake in LAP/vehicle loans. CC, SBB and PL saw good traction QoQ. Bank suggested that NIM expansion was driven by YoY shift from corporate to retail; currency shift (more rupee term loans), reducing exposure to RIDF bonds and improving risk return profile of the loan book. Management expects NIM to be maintained at current levels of 4% driven by levers stated above. On liabilities, focus remains on accretion of granular deposits by targeting premier segment customers, ticket size growth, deeper penetration, decline in weighted average outflow, while hike in rates would merely contribute 5-10bps to growth.
- Opex to remain elevated; asset quality further improves: Other opex rose 14% YoY due to business acquisition, collection and technology (9% of total expenses). Opex might remain elevated in the near term, although target is to reach cost to assets of 2% by FY25E. Asset quality has been consistently improving as gross slippages were lower and declined to Rs33.8bn while recoveries were a tad better. OTR pool declined QoQ from 76bps to 65bps while PCR on the same is 23%. The BB & below pool also was steady QoQ. Buffer provisions of Rs50bn have been maintained.

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NII growth was strong with 31%
YoY/10.4% led by better margins

Despite treasury loss other income grew well.

Other expenses increase with volumes & tech spends

Provisions come off on reversal on other provisioning.

Loan growth driven by corporate & SME segments.

NIM expansion led by higher retail share and rise in rates

Asset quality shows consistent improvement with PCR at 79.9%

CASA mix remained steady YoY, however TD sees drop

Exhibit 1: Strong overall earnings performance

Financial Statement (Rs m)	Q2FY23	Q2FY22	YoY gr. (%)	Q1FY23	QoQ gr. (%)
Interest Income	202,389	163,360	23.9	187,287	8.1
Interest Expenses	98,787	84,357	17.1	93,446	5.7
Net interest income (NII)	103,603	79,003	31.1	93,840	10.4
-Treasury Income	(860)	4,730	NA	(6,670)	NA
Other income	39,412	37,984	3.8	29,990	31.4
Total income	143,014	116,987	22.2	123,830	15.5
Operating expenses	65,852	57,705	14.1	64,960	1.4
-Staff expenses	21,667	19,355	11.9	21,861	(0.9)
-Other expenses	44,186	38,350	15.2	43,099	2.5
Operating profit	77,162	59,282	30.2	58,870	31.1
Core operating profit	78,022	54,552	43.0	65,540	19.0
Total provisions	5,498	17,351	(68.3)	3,594	53.0
Profit before tax	71,664	41,931	70.9	55,276	29.6
Tax	18,367	10,776	70.4	14,024	31.0
Profit after tax	53,298	31,155	71.1	41,253	29.2
Balance sheet (Rs m)					
Deposits	8,108,067	7,362,855	10.1	8,035,717	0.9
Advances	7,308,748	6,217,193	17.6	7,011,299	4.2
Ratios (%)					
Profitability ratios					
RoaA	1.9	1.3	63	1.5	38
NIM	4.1	3.4	69	3.6	48
RoaE	18.4	12.2	621	14.8	361
Asset Quality					
Gross NPL	198,937	241,486	(17.6)	210,368	(5.4)
Net NPL	39,955	72,000	(44.5)	47,806	(16.4)
Gross NPL ratio	2.6	3.5	(91)	2.9	(14)
Net NPL ratio	0.5	1.1	(55)	0.7	(13)
Coverage ratio (Calc)	79.9	70.2	973	75.0	264
Business & Other Ratios					
Low-cost deposit mix	46.2	44.5	171	43.7	250
Cost-income ratio	46.0	49.3	(328)	52.5	(641)
Non int. inc / total income	27.6	32.5	(491)	24.2	334
Credit deposit ratio	90.1	84.4	570	87.3	289
CAR	16.5	20.0	(352)	17.8	(131)
Tier-I	14.6	17.5	(299)	15.2	(69)

Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 2: Improving Loan Growth, focus continues on granularity

Segmental Mix (Rs m)	Q2FY23	Q2FY22	YoY gr. (%)	Q1FY23	QoQ gr. (%)
Large & mid-corporate	2,294,310	2,136,000	7.4	2,164,750	6.0
SME Advances	782,090	625,000	25.1	719,720	8.7
Retail	4,232,350	3,456,000	22.5	4,126,830	2.6
- Housing Loans	1,904,470	1,658,150	14.9	1,884,080	1.1
- Personal loans	490,660	401,740	22.1	470,310	4.3
- Auto loans	453,970	407,470	11.4	450,660	0.7

Source: Company, PL



Key Q2FY23 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 was steady with 22.6% YoY/2.6% QoQ growth. Secured to unsecured mix stood at 79:21. Segments like Rural Loans & Small Business Banking with 46.3% YoY/1.5% QoQ and 69% YoY/11.7% QoQ growth, respectively. Credit Card segment grew 47.1% YoY/14.4% 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.
- Corporate book Corporate book witnessed strong growth by 7.4% YoY/6% 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.
- Deposits Deposit growth had been sluggish during the quarter, however focus remains on granular accretion and faster growth in deposits. Deposit accretion bank has been moving towards acquisition of premium 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 decline in weighted average outflow. Aspiration would be to grow CASA higher than 46%.
- Citi business acquisition CCI approval has been received. Bank expects acquisition to materialize by Q4FY23. Capital consumption to acquire the business is not expected to be significant. Management committee has been put in place to integrate tech, people, business readiness. Current performance of Citi card portfolio has been on the expected lines.
- Max Life Management remains committed to increase stake and strengthen bancassurance channel. The current challenge would also be handled according to rules & regulation.
- No plans on capital raise pre or post acquisition.

Opex/NIMs

NIMs increased by 57bps YoY/36bps QoQ. The sequential improvement has been majorly on account of spread uptick of 36bps. Which has been driven by 1) BS mix from investments to loans and within loan mix towards higher yielding segments; 2) currency shift (more rupee term loans), 3) shedding of RIDF bonds (declining by Rs46bn QoQ/Rs.83bn YoY) and 4) improving risk return profile of the loan book. Management aspires to maintain margin at current levels of 4% led by PSL requirement being met internally, RIDF book declining, MCLR rates transmission although cost of deposit may rise faster.

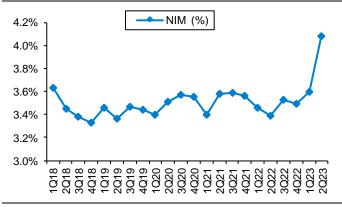


Other opex increased 19% YoY/9% QoQ due to higher volumes, future growth & tech expenses. Tech expenses are 9% of the total expenses. The benefit of investments in tech would come through which help reduce Cost/Asset and reach Opex/assets of 2% by FY25. However, such expenses would continue.

Asset Quality

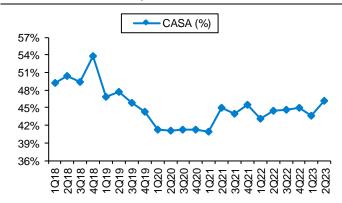
- Restructuring & BB and below book Fund based restructuring is Rs30bn or 0.4% of loans. Segmental break up was 0.3% wholesale book, 0.55% in Retail & 0.02% SME. BB & Below rated book stood at Rs79bn declining gradually. 17% of BB & Below Book is rated better than 1 rating agency.
- Bank saw Rs33.8bn of slippages while Recoveries & Upgrades for the quarter were Rs28.2bn and write off at Rs.5.6bn.
- Covid Provisions have not been invoked or utilized so far and management expects the same to be carried forward. As on Sep. 30, 2022; total provision carried by the bank are Rs111.6bn.

Exhibit 3: NIM expansion led by rise in rates



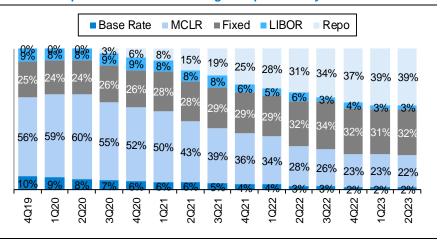
Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 4: CASA ratio improves as TD decline QoQ



Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 5: Repo linked loan share has gone up resolutely

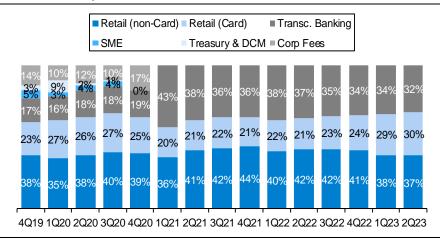


Source: Company, PL

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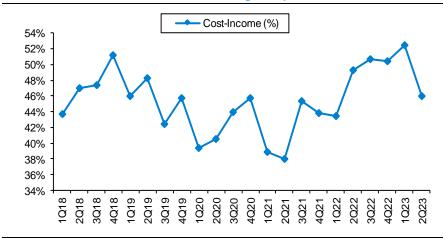


Exhibit 6: Steady flow of fees for the bank



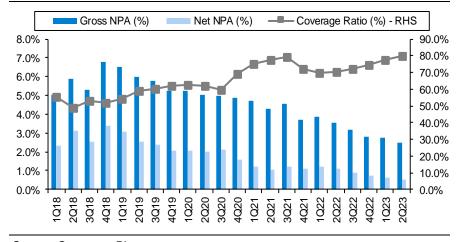
Source: Company Data, PL Research

Exhibit 7: Cost-Income decline as income goes up faster than costs



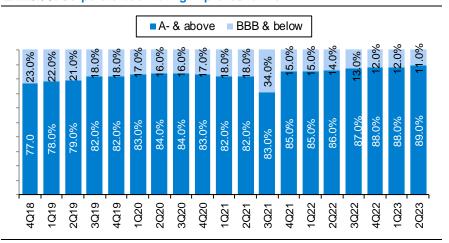
Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 8: Asset quality consistently improves, PCR increased to 79.9%



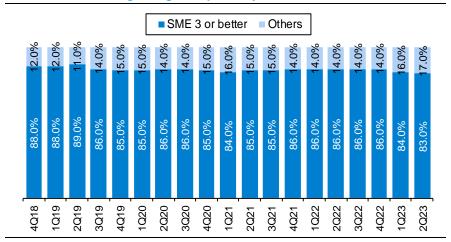
Source: Company, PL

Exhibit 9: Corporate book rating improves further



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	2Q23
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	33,830
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	28,260
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	5,570
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%	2.20%
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	49,390
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	22,610
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	7,870
Total BB & below book	100,04 0	102,49 0	97,830	109,96 0	107,53 0	148,54 0	141,38 0	126,83 0	131,01 0	117,46 0	114,90 0	93,840	81,730	79,870
% 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%	1.3%
Provisions held				75,872	80,648	114,37 6	106,03 5	91,318	91,707	82,222	82,728	70,380	62,932	63,896
Total Restructured Dispensation							27,090	18,480	21,920	43,420	46,430	40,290	34,020	29,960
% of loans							0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%

Source: Company, PL



Exhibit 12: We tweak our NII & credit cost assumptions and raise out TP

Earning Estimate Change (Rs mn) —	Earlier		Revise	d	% Change		
Earning Estimate Change (KS IIII)	FY23E	FY24E	FY24E	FY24E	FY23E	FY24E	
Net interest income	390,655	449,146	426,847	461,058	9.3	2.7	
Operating profit	281,513	331,849	299,070	326,423	6.2	(1.6)	
Net profit	153,168	181,729	199,623	200,261	30.3	10.2	
Loan Growth (%)	14.2	15.0	13.2	15.0	(1.0)	0.0	
Credit Cost (bps)	93.1	94.4	37.9	63.0	(55.2)	(31.4)	
EPS (Rs)	49.8	59.0	65.0	65.0	30.5	10.2	
ABVPS (Rs)	369.3	416.6	428.1	448.0	15.9	7.5	
Price target (Rs)	940		1,080		14.	9	
Recommendation	BUY		BUY				

Source: Company, PL

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

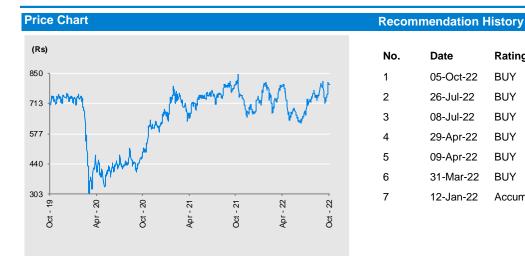


Source: Company, PL



Income Statement (Rs. m)					Quarterly Financials (Rs. m)				
Y/e Mar	F	Y22 FY2	3E FY24E	FY25E	Y/e Mar	Q3FY22	Q4FY22	Q1FY23	Q2FY23
Int. Earned from Adv.	4,96,			9,60,786	Interest Income	1,72,611	1,77,762	1,87,287	2,02,389
Int. Earned from invt.	1,46,				Interest Expenses	86,086	89,571	93,446	98,787
Others		132 14,4			Net Interest Income	86,525	88,191	93,840	1,03,603
Total Interest Income	6,73,				YoY growth (%)	17.4	16.7	20.9	31.1
Interest Expenses	3,42,				CEB	33,440	37,580	35,760	38,620
Net Interest Income	3,31,				Treasury	-	-	-	-
Growth(%)	-,,		9.9 11.5		Non Interest Income	38,404	42,233	29,990	39,412
Non Interest Income	1,52,				Total Income	2,11,015	2,19,996	2,17,276	2,41,801
Net Total Income	4,83,				Employee Expenses	19,386	18,865	21,861	21,667
Growth(%)			2.3 22.8		Other expenses	43,928	46,900	43,099	44,186
Employee Expenses	76,	126 92,8	86 1,06,197	1,18,009	Operating Expenses	63,314	65,765	64,960	65,852
Other Expenses	1,49,	898 1,87,9	2,13,855	2,41,026	Operating Profit	61,615	64,660	58,870	77,162
Operating Expenses	2,36,	108 2,80,8	3,20,052	3,59,035	YoY growth (%)	1.1	(5.8)	(8.2)	30.2
Operating Profit	2,47,	420 2,99,0	70 3,26,423	3,72,329	Core Operating Profits	57,945	62,350	65,540	78,022
Growth(%)	((3.7) 2	0.9 9.1	14.1	NPA Provision	7,900	6,020	7,770	7,510
NPA Provision		974 35,1	68 27,390	34,125	Others Provisions	13,348	9,872	3,594	5,498
Total Provisions		595 31,0			Total Provisions	13,348	9,872	3,594	5,498
PBT	1,73,				Profit Before Tax	48,267	54,788	55,276	71,664
Tax Provision		571 68,3			Tax	12,125	13,610	14,024	18,367
Effective tax rate (%)	2	25.1 2	5.5 25.2	25.2	PAT	36,142	41,178	41,253	53,298
PAT	1,30,	255 1,99,€	2,00,261	2,28,615	YoY growth (%)	223.7	53.8	91.0	71.1
Growth(%)	9	97.7 5	3.3 0.3	14.2	Deposits	77,16,702	82,17,209	80,35,717	81,08,067
					YoY growth (%)	20.3	17.7	12.6	10.1
Balance Sheet (Rs. m)					Advances	66,48,656	70,76,960	70,11,299	73,08,748
Y/e Mar	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	YoY growth (%)	16.7	15.2	14.0	17.6
Face value	2	2	2	2	Kan Badaa				
No. of equity shares	3,070	3,072	3,082	3,088	Key Ratios				
Equity	6,139	6,145	6,163	6,175	Y/e Mar	FY22	FY23E		FY25E
Networth	11,50,255	13,53,695	14,21,490	16,24,970	CMP (Rs)	826			826
Growth(%)	13.2	17.7	5.0	14.3	EPS (Rs)	42.4	65.0		74.0
Adj. Networth to NNPAs	55,122	37,197	38,433	47,238	Book Value (Rs)	375	441	461	526
Deposits	82,17,209	90,39,219	1,03,24,059	1,17,40,179	Adj. BV (70%)(Rs)	357	428		510
Growth(%)	17.7	10.0	14.2	13.7	P/E (x)	19.5			11.2
CASA Deposits	36,97,554	39,49,067	43,85,132	49,52,338	P/BV (x)	2.2			1.6
% of total deposits	45.0	43.7	42.5	42.2	P/ABV (x)	2.3			1.6
Total Liabilities	1,17,51,781	1,29,06,688	1,45,78,497	1,64,33,245	DPS (Rs)	-	5.8		8.1
Net Advances	70,76,960	80,08,748		1,05,99,485	Dividend Payout Ratio (%)	-	9.0		11.0
Growth(%)	13.5	13.2	15.0	15.1	Dividend Yield (%)		0.7	0.9	1.0
Investments	27,55,972	30,73,335	33,73,271	36,63,322	Efficiency				
Total Assets	1,17,51,781	1,29,06,688	1,45,78,497	1,64,33,245	Y/e Mar	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Growth (%)	18.0	9.8	13.0	12.7	Cost-Income Ratio (%)	48.8	48.4	49.5	49.1
Asset Quality					C-D Ratio (%)	86.1	88.6		
Y/e Mar	F	Y22 FY2	3E FY24E	FY25E	Business per Emp. (Rs m)	145	152		184
Gross NPAs (Rs m)	2,18,				Profit per Emp. (Rs lacs)	12	18		
Net NPAs (Rs m)		122 37,1			Business per Branch (Rs m)	2,823	3,035		3,651
Gr. NPAs to Gross Adv.(%)			2.3 2.1		Profit per Branch (Rs m)	24	36		37
Net NPAs to Net Adv. (%)			0.4 0.4						
NPA Coverage %	:		0.3 78.7		Du-Pont				
		-			Y/e Mar	FY22	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Profitability (%)		V00		=140==	NII	3.06	3.46	3.35	3.36
Y/e Mar		Y22 FY2		FY25E	Total Income	4.47	4.70	4.70	4.72
NIM			1.0 3.8	3.8	Operating Expenses	2.18	2.28	2.33	2.32
RoAA			1.6 1.5	1.5	PPoP	2.29	2.43	2.38	2.40
RoAE	1	2.0 15	5.9 14.4	15.0	Total provisions	0.68	0.25	0.43	0.43
Tier I	1	6.3 16	6.6 15.9	15.6	RoAA	1.20	1.62	1.46	1.47
CRAR	1	8.5 18	3.6 17.9	17.5	RoAE	11.45	16.65	14.52	15.07
Source: Company Data, PL Re	search				Source: Company Data, PL Resea	arch			





No.	Date	Rating	TP (Rs.)	Share Price (Rs.)
1	05-Oct-22	BUY	940	743
2	26-Jul-22	BUY	940	727
3	08-Jul-22	BUY	940	658
4	29-Apr-22	BUY	940	780
5	09-Apr-22	BUY	975	795
6	31-Mar-22	BUY	975	750
7	12-Jan-22	Accumulate	860	743

Analyst Coverage Universe

Sr. No.	CompanyName	Rating	TP (Rs)	Share Price (Rs)
1	AAVAS Financiers	Hold	2,300	2,197
2	Axis Bank	BUY	940	743
3	Bank of Baroda	Accumulate	130	133
4	Can Fin Homes	BUY	675	497
5	City Union Bank	BUY	190	173
6	DCB Bank	BUY	120	103
7	Federal Bank	BUY	165	130
8	HDFC	BUY	2,900	2,349
9	HDFC Bank	BUY	1,800	1,439
10	ICICI Bank	BUY	950	868
11	IDFC First Bank	UR	-	53
12	IndusInd Bank	BUY	1,300	1,217
13	Kotak Mahindra Bank	Accumulate	1,950	1,823
14	LIC Housing Finance	BUY	450	418
15	Punjab National Bank	BUY	50	36
16	State Bank of India	BUY	650	533

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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