

16 October 2023

India | Equity Research | Q2FY24 Results Review

HDFC Life Insurance Company

Life Insurance

Business reorientation towards higher volume growth is a longer-term positive

We like HDFC Life (HDLI) from a volume execution perspective, considering stable margins and market share. There is a tailwind of higher growth in bancassurance (600bps increase in parent bank channel QoQ), while business reorientation of agency/partnership channels towards beyond-tier-1 locations is a strategic priority (underlined by the Exide Life acquisition, addition of 37k agents in H1, tie-ups with Bandhan Bank/SFBs). As such, despite the 50% reduction in mix of large-ticket-size business in H1FY24 versus FY23, 9% YoY APE growth with 26.3% VNB margin in H1FY24 along with flat average-ticket-size are testament to good performance. H2 can surprise positively, in our view, considering unchanged volume/margin guidance for FY24 further helped by possible improvement in non-bank channel and the high-ticket-size segment. Maintain **BUY**. Risks include overall weakness in volume growth.

FY24 guidance remains at mid-teen APE growth (ex ~INR10bn spike seen in Mar'23) and flat VNB margin YoY

HDLI will require INR 88.1bn APE in H2FY24 to reach ~15% APE growth in FY24 (ex-INR 10bn spike seen in Q4FY23). This would imply: 1) 4.6% requisite YoY growth in H2FY24; and 2) 18.7% requisite YoY growth in H2FY24, adjusted for Mar'23 one off. Basis the aforesaid APE in FY24, HDLI will require INR 24.9bn VNB in H2FY24 to maintain flat full-year margin of 27.5% in FY24. This would imply 28.3% VNB margin in H2FY24E. The improvement in margin from 26.3% in H1FY24 will likely happen primarily through better fixed-cost absorption.

Maintain BUY with unchanged target price of INR 753

We factor-in a VNB margin of 27.5% with APE growth of 6.9%/15% in FY24E/FY25E. This results in an EV of INR 541bn with RoEV of 16.1% in FY25E. We value the stock based on 3x (unchanged) FY25E EV per share to arrive at a TP of INR 753.

Financial Summary

Y/E March (INR mn)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E
Weighted APE	100	131	140	161
Embedded Value (bn)	300.5	395.3	466.1	541.3
New value business (bn)	26.8	36.7	38.5	45.1
VNB margin (%)	27.4	27.6	27.0	28.0
PAT (Rs mn)	13,269	13,683	14,512	16,047
P/EV (x)	4.6	3.5	3.0	2.6
EVOP as % of IEV	16.6	19.7	17.7	17.2
RoE (%)	10.9	9.6	10.8	11.3
RoEV (%)	12.9	19.9	17.9	16.1
Core RoEV (%)	18.7	19.1	17.7	17.2

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Market Data

Market Cap (INR)	1,344bn
Market Cap (USD)	16,147mn
Bloomberg Code	HDFCLIFE IN
Reuters Code	HDFL BO
52-week Range (INR)	691/458
Free Float (%)	46.0
ADTV-3M (mn) (USD)	24.5

Price Performance (%)	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	(8.1)	17.9	20.5
Relative to Sensex	(9.6)	7.2	3.1

ESG Disclosure	2021	2022	Change
ESG score	37.7	38.6	1.0
Environment	3.3	3.6	0.3
Social	26.0	28.5	2.6
Governance	83.6	83.6	_

Note - Score ranges from 0 - 100 with a higher score indicating higher ESG disclosures.

Source: Bloomberg, I-sec research

Previous Reports

24-07-2023: Q1FY24 results review 27-04-2023: Q4FY23 results review



Bancassurance strength will be a key growth lever; gain in HDFC Bank channel is strong

This is suggested by the 24% YoY growth in bancassurance retail APE in H1FY24.and expansion in HDLI market share within the HDFC Bank channel from 56.5% in Q1FY24 to 62.2% market share in Q2FY24 (exit market share being 70%).

Product mix likely to largely remain neutral for margins driven by increasing protection as well as ULIPs

This is evident from the 16.3% YoY growth in protection APE in H1FY24. Within protection, retail term has grown 63.4% YoY while credit life has grown by 3.4% YoY in H1FY24. Total protection growth in terms of new business premium was 28% YoY while retail protection growth was 46% YoY in H1FY24. Unit linked individual APE increased 45.2% YoY in H1FY24 to INR 12.4bn. Unit linked individual mix increased to 28% in H1FY24 compared to 19% in FY23. Individual Par APE mix also increased to 30% in H1FY24, from 27% in FY23. Non-par savings mix declined to 28% in H1FY24, from 45% in FY23.

Business surplus has a longer span in new business versus past

This is due to shift in product profile to longer-term savings over last three-four years wherein 75% of profits emerge after five years (although total profit is higher). This is evident from the perspective that business surplus as a percentage of VIF has decreased from 25% in FY19 to 19% in FY23. Despite longer tail, the positive operating variance track-record underlines the high likelihood of ultimate profit realisation.

Channel performance

In terms of individual APE, banca mix improved from 56% in FY23 to 65% in H1FY24. Agency/broker mix have declined from 20/11% in FY23 to 18/7% in H1FY24. Direct mix decreased from 13% in FY23 to 11% in H1FY24.

Market share is largely stable but small dip in H1FY24 vs FY23

- HDLI's individual WRP market share dipped from 16.5% in FY23 to 15.7% in H1FY24. HDLI's total WRP market share declined from 16.0% in FY23 to 15.0% in H1FY24. HDLI's overall NBP market share dipped from 21.1% in FY23 to 20.0% in H1FY24.
- HDLI's retail/overall sum assured increased by 61%/45%, as against industry growth of 21%/36%, resulting in market share expansion of 320bps/90bps YoY to 12.9%/15.6% when compared between FY23 and H1FY24.
- HDLI saw an increase of 9.1% YoY in NOP to 476,192 in H1FY24 from 434,741 in H1FY23. On a QoQ-basis, NOP increased 10.3% from 244,153 in Q1FY24 to 269,337 in Q2FY24.

Key details

- Persistency for 25/49/61 months increased 2.1/3.6/0.9 bps on a YoY basis to 79.4/67.6/53.1% in H1FY24 compared to 78.7/64.0/52.3% in FY23. 13/37-month persistency ratio saw a decline of 0.9/0.6bps in H1FY24 to 86.5/71.8% from 87.5/72.4% in FY23.
- Solvency ratio declined from 210 in H1FY23 to 200 in Q1FY24 to 194 in H1FY24.
- AUM increased 18% YoY to INR 2.7trn in H1FY24, while the equity AUM mix declined from 37% in H1FY23 to 32% in H1FY24.
- Renewal premium share of total premium declined 32bps in H1FY24 to 51.9% from 52.2% in H1FY23. On an absolute-basis, renewal premium has increased 13.6% YoY to INR 136bn in H1FY24.



- Embedded value stood at INR 429.1bn in H1FY24. EVOP for this period was INR 31.1bn while economic variances were INR 6.5bn.
- Sensitivity percentages have risen.
 - Overall sensitivity of EV to +/-1% change in interest rates increased from (2.4%)/2.1% in FY23 to (2.8%)/2.7% in H1FY24.
 - o For non-Par products sensitivity of EV to +/-1% change in interest rates increased from (2.2)/1.4% in FY23 to (2.8%)/2.4% in H1FY24.
 - \circ Sensitivity of EV to decrease of 10% in equity markets changed from (1.3%) in FY23 to (1.4%) in H1FY24
- Ratio of new business strain to back-book surplus stood at 77.4/87.4/86.7% in FY 21/22/23. Ratio for H1FY24 stood at 85.4% compared to 77.7% in H1FY23.
- Average customer age (excluding annuity) increased to 36.1 years in H1FY24 from 35.4 years in H1FY23. Average policy term (excluding annuity) also increased to 23.4 years in H1FY24 compared to 23.1 years in H1FY23.

Exhibit 1: APE and VNB projections

INR bn	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Weighted Standalone APE	100	131	140.0	161.0
VNB	26.8	36.7	38.5	45.1
VNB margins- calculated	26.7%	28.0%	27.5%	28.0%

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 2: EV projections

EV change - INR bn	FY22E	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Opening EV	266.2	329.6	395.3	466.1
Assumption changes	-	-	-	
New business profits	26.8	36.7	38.5	45.1
Expense overrun				
Expected return on inforce	23.0	26.2	31.6	35.0
- Unwind rate (%)	8.6%	7.9%	8.0%	7.5%
Operating variance / Tax changes	(5.7)	1.9	-	
EVOP	44.1	64.8	70.1	80.0
Changes in economic assumptions				
Economic variance	(0.5)	(15.8)	5.0	
Dividend Payout	(9.2)	16.7	(4.4)	(4.8)
Closing MCEV	300.5	395.3	466.1	541.3
- Closing VIF	211.9	333.0	395.9	461.6
- Closing Networth	88.6	62.3	70.2	79.8

Source: I-Sec research, Company data



Exhibit 3: Individual APE, protection APE and VNB/VNB margin trend

	Q1FY23	Q2FY23	H1FY23	Q3FY23	Q4FY23	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	H1FY24	YoY Growth (%)
Individual APE (INR bn)									
UL	3.88	4.76	8.6	5.94	7.09	4.70	7.84	12.54	65%
Par	5.56	7.18	12.7	7.33	10.71	4.89	8.55	13.43	19%
Non par savings	5.73	9.48	15.2	11.74	24.36	6.20	6.33	12.54	-33%
Term	0.84	0.80	1.6	1.31	1.60	1.13	1.56	2.69	94%
Annuity	1.01	1.46	2.5	1.66	1.58	1.69	1.89	3.58	30%
Total	16.9	24.3	41.1	27.6	45.3	18.8	26.0	44.8	7%
INR bn									
Total Protection	3.5	4.2	7.7	4.4	5.7	4.3	4.7	8.9	12%
Individual	0.8	0.8	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.1	1.6	2.7	94%
Group	2.7	3.3	6.0	3.1	4.1	3.1	3.1	6.2	-7%
INR bn									
VNB	5.2	7.7	12.88	8.8	15.1	6.1	8.0	14.1	4%
VNB Margin	25.1	27.0	26.2	26.8	29.3	26.2	26.3	26.3	-3%
EV	325	330	330	377	395	418	429	429	30%

Source: I-Sec research, Company data



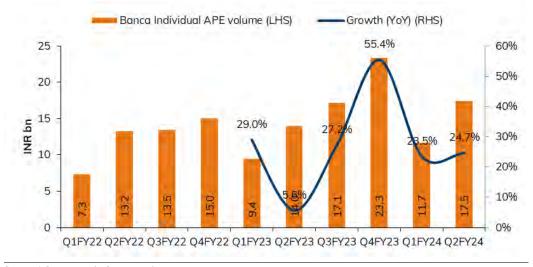
Exhibit 4: Q2FY24 result review

		FY	23		FY24	1	Cho	ange
	Q1FY23	Q1FY23	Q3FY23	Q4FY23	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	YoY (%)	QoQ (%
Policyholder's account (INR mn)								
Net premium income	98,701	1,31,379	1,44,022	1,94,686	1,15,079	1,47,972	12.6	28.6
First year premium	17,087	24,231	27,249	44,673	18,514	25,656	5.9	38.0
Renewal premium	51,005	69,066	71,870	92,542	58,041	78,389	13.5	35.:
Single premium	32,405	39,528	46,632	59,047	40,173	45,358	14.7	12.9
Reinsurance ceded	(1,796)	(1,447)	(1,728)	(1,575)	(1,649)	(1,431)	(1.1)	(13.2
Income from investments	(33,011)	97,842	49,298	11,915	1,16,307	81,065	(17.1)	(30.3
Other income	596	652	725	2,678	864	1,008		
Transfer from S/H A/C	83	149	3,137	5,426	179	132	(11.3)	(26.0
Total income	66,368	2,30,022	1,97,182	2,14,705	2,32,429	2,30,178	0.1	(1.0
Commission paid	3,911	6,713	6,763	10,893	6,511	11,815	76.0	81.
Operating expense	15,699	18,539	21,405	29,477	16,424	17,516	(5.5)	6.7
Total commission & Opex	19,611	25,252	28,168	40,370	22,935	29,331	16.2	27.9
Benefits paid	72,968	1,17,568	86,918	1,12,261	80,950	93,567	(20.4)	15.6
Change in acturial liability	(29,565)	83,484	79,123	52,860	1,25,652	1,10,328	32.2	(12.2
Total Expenses	63,014	2,26,303	1,94,209	2,05,491	2,29,537	2,33,226	3.1	1.0
Provisions	234	71	(9)	(6)	(361)	(231)	(427.3)	(36.0
Service Tax on linked products	873	920	998	966	907	995	8.1	9.
PBT	2,246	2,728	1,984	8,254	2,346	(3,811)	(239.7)	(262.4
Tax	148	244	(1,313)	2,512	218	(6,115)	(2,609.1)	(2,907.4
Surplus/(Deficit)	2,098	2,485	3,297	5,742	2,128	2,304	(7.3)	8.3
Check	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Shareholders' Account								
Transfer from P/H A/C	2,506	2,196	4,158	5,862	2,327	1,366	(37.8)	(41.3
Investment income	1,272	1,679	2,448	1,971	2,328	2,379	41.7	2.:
Other income	-	-	78	719	95	209		
Total income	3,778	3,875	6,684	8,552	4,751	3,953	2.0	(16.8
Other expenses	293	432	393	400	457	364	(15.8)	(20.4
Amounts trf to P/H account	83	149	3,137	5,426	179	132	(11.3)	(26.0
Provisions	(227)	(12)	-	(8)	(65)	135	(1,247.5)	(307.0
PBT	3,630	3,306	3,153	2,734	4,181	3,322	0.5	(20.5
Tax	16	15	(6)	(886)	14	(460)		
PAT	3,614	3,291	3,159	3,620	4,167	3,782	14.9	(9.2
Ratios	Q1FY23	H1FY23	9MFY23	FY23	Q1FY24	H1FY24	YoY (%)	QoQ (%
Commission expense- weighted premium	5.5	6.3	6.4	6.8	8.1	9.7	338.7	५०५ (७
Opex ratio -weighted premium	22.0	20.3	20.4	20.5	20.4	17.9	(236.6)	
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Reported APE Data	Q1FY23	H1FY23	9MFY23	FY23	Q1FY24	H1FY24	YoY (%)	QoQ (%
Individual APE	15,480	37,880	68,740	1,14,000	18,800	44,780	18.2	
Group APE	3,560	7,610	13,000	19,000	4,480	8,930	25.8	
New Business APE	19,040	45,490	81,740	1,33,000	23,280	53,710	22.3	
Other ratios (%)	Q1FY23	H1FY23	9MFY23	FY23	Q1FY24	H1FY24	YoY (bps)	QoQ (bps
Solvency ratio	178.0	210.0	209.0	203.0	200.0	194.0	-7.6	
Op. ROEV	16.5	16.9	17.5	19.7	16.0	16.4	-3.0	
ROE	9.5	12.4	11.9	11.9	12.6	12.0	-3.2	
VNB margins	27.2	28.3	26.5	27.6	26.2	26.3	-3.7	
Persistency ratios (%)	Q1FY23	H1FY23	9MFY23	FY23	Q1FY24	H1FY24	YoY (bps)	QoQ (bps
13th Month	93.0	87.1	87.2	87.00	83.30	86.50	-0.7	
25th Month	86.0	77.4	78.0	79.00	78.00	79.40	2.6	
37th Month	80.0	70.3	70.9	72.00	69.80	71.80	2.1	
49th Month	72.0	62.9	63.6	64.00	66.30	67.60	7.5	
61st Month	58.0	52.2	52.2	52.00	52.70	53.10	1.7	
Key Metrics (INR bn)	Q1FY23	H1FY23	9MFY23	FY23	Q1FY24	H1FY24	YoY (%)	QoQ (%
VNB	5.18	12.88	21.63	36.74	6.10	14.11	9.5	
EV	297	330	377	395	418	429	30.0	
AUM	2,001	2,044	2,338	2,388	2,533	2,649	29.6	
equity portion(%)	35	37	32	30	32	32	-8.6	

Source: I-Sec research, Company data

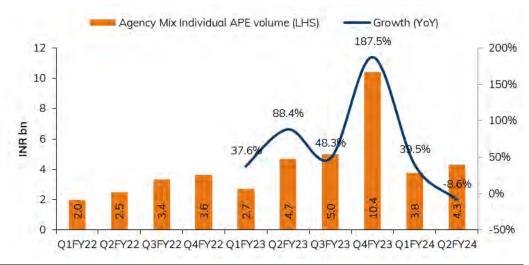


Exhibit 5: Individual APE banca mix trend



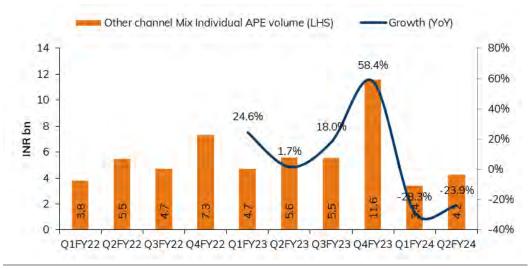
Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 6: Individual APE agency mix trend



Source: I-Sec research, Company data

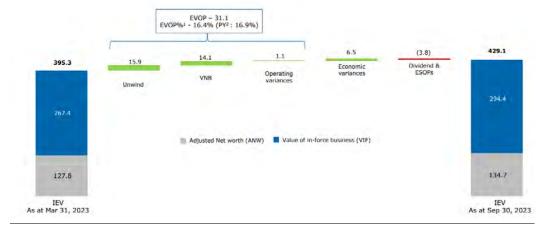
Exhibit 7: Individual APE other channel mix trend



Source: I-Sec research, Company data



Exhibit 8: EV movement in H1FY24



Source: I-Sec research, Company data

Exhibit 9: Shareholding pattern

%	Dec'22	Mar'23	Jun'23
Promoters	50.3	50.3	50.3
Institutional investors	36.4	36.5	37.1
MFs and other	4.1	4.1	4.0
Banks/ Fls	0.1	0.1	0.1
Insurance Cos.	1.4	1.8	1.6
FIIs	30.9	30.5	31.4
Others	13.3	13.2	12.6

Source: Bloomberg, I-Sec research

Exhibit 10: Price chart



Source: Bloomberg, I-Sec research



Financial Summary

Exhibit 11: Technical Account

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E
Gross Premiums	4,72,899	5,75,334	6,54,190	7,76,355
Reinsurance Ceded	(4,890)	(6,547)	(5,840)	(5,840)
Net Premiums	4,68,010	5,68,788	6,48,350	7,70,515
Income from Investments	1,95,118	1,26,044	2,22,344	2,65,698
Other Income	7,467	13,445	9,333	9,886
Total income	6,70,595	7,08,277	8,80,027	10,46,099
Commission	(20,078)	28,281	(28,608)	(34,100)
Operating expenses	(58,530)	(84,495)	(83,334)	(98,829)
Total commission and	(78,607)	(56,214)	(1,11,941)	(1,32,928)
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Benefits Paid (Net)+ bonus	(3,26,163)	(3,89,715)	(2,97,761)	(3,56,702)
Chg in reserves	(2,52,370)	(1,85,902)	(4,43,991)	(5,24,918)
Total expenses	(6,57,141)	(6,31,831)	(8,53,693)	(10,14,548)
Prov for doubtful debts	2,534	(290)	(1,300)	(1,300)
PBT	15,988	76,156	25,034	30,251
Surplus / Deficit before tax	13,454	76,446	26,334	31,551
Tax (incl. Service Tax &GST)	(5,555)	(5,349)	(10,427)	(11,802)
Prov for Tax	(1,845)	(1,591)	(6,353)	(7,524)
Surplus / Deficit	10,434	70,807	14,606	18,449

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 12: Shareholder's Account

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E
Transfer from technical a/c	11,057	14,722	12,475	15,846
Income From Investments	8,131	7,239	9,011	7,829
Total Income	19,378	22,889	22,413	24,602
Other expenses	(1,322)	(1,518)	(1,746)	(2,008)
Contribution to P/H A/C	(5,362)	(8,795)	(6,105)	(6,467)
Total Expenses	(6,351)	(10,067)	(7,605)	(8,228)
PBT	13,027	12,822	14,809	16,374
Prov for Tax	242	861	(296)	(327)
PAT	13,269	13,683	14,512	16,047

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 13: Balance Sheet

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E
Share Capital	21,159	21,492	21,492	21,492
Reserves And Surplus	1,34,126	1,08,243	1,16,308	1,25,907
Shareholders' Fund	1,56,133	1,29,932	1,37,749	1,47,349
Policy Liabilities	20,20,062	22,07,043	26,58,249	31,83,167
Prov. for Linked Liab.	7,87,119	7,53,836	9,53,322	10,48,654
Funds For Future App.	55,672	50,533	46,825	49,790
Current liabilities & prov.	-	-	-	-
Borrowings	6,000	9,500	9,500	9,500
Total	22,37,867	23,97,008	28,52,324	33,89,806
Shareholders' investment	97,646	1,31,928	1,08,354	1,00,411
Policyholders' investment	12,44,934	14,64,485	17,30,177	21,73,194
Assets to cover linked liab.	8,29,336	7,92,015	10,03,496	11,03,846
Loans	12,719	15,853	19,024	22,828
Fixed Assets	3,700	3,824	4,589	5,506
Current assets	49,532	(11,097)	(13,316)	(15,979)
Total	22,37,867	23,97,008	28,52,324	33,89,806

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 14: Premium Details

(INR mn, year ending March)

	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E
New business premium	2,44,243	2,75,994	3,17,394	3,65,003
Total weighted APE	99,711	1,31,001	1,39,975	1,60,972
Renewal premium	2,15,386	2,69,643	3,36,797	4,11,353
Total premium	4,59,628	5,45,637	6,54,190	7,76,355
APE growth (%)	21.8	31.4	6.9	15.0
Renewal premium growth (%)	16.6	25.2	24.9	22.1
Total premium growth (%)	19.1	18.7	19.9	18.7

Source Company data, I-Sec research

Exhibit 15: Key ratios

(Year ending March)

Operating Ratios (%) Investment yield (%) 10.4 5.8 8.8 Commissions / GWP 4.2 5.0 4.4 Operating expenses / GWP 12.4 14.7 12.7	8.8 4.4 12.7 17.1
Commissions / GWP 4.2 5.0 4.4	4.4 12.7 17.1
	12.7 17.1
Operating expenses / GWP 12.4 14.7 12.7	17.1
Total expense / GWP 16.6 19.7 17.1	4 01
Total expense ratio (16.3) (17.8) (11.3)	1.3)
Benefits Paid / Total 15.4 17.8 10.7	107
Liability 15.4 17.8 10.7	10.7
Solvency ratio (%)	-
Total AUMs (Rs bn) 2,171.9 2,388.4 2,842.0 3,33	77.5
(Equity (%)) 0.4 0.4 -	-
Persistency ratios (%)	
13th Month 0.9 0.9 0.9	0.9
25th Month 0.8 0.8 0.8	8.0
37th Month 0.7 0.7 0.7	0.7
49th Month 0.7 0.6 0.6	0.6
61st Month 0.5 0.5 0.5	0.5
Profitability ratios (%)	
VNB margin, basis effective	20.0
tax rate (%) 27.4 27.6 27.0	28.0
RoE (%) 10.9 9.6 10.8	11.3
Core EVOP(unwind +VNB) 18.7 19.1 17.7	-
EVOP as % of IEV 16.6 19.7 17.7	17.2
RoEV (%) 19.0 18.7 19.1	17.7
Valuation ratios	
Dividend per share (Rs) 2.5 1.9 3.0	3.0
Dividend payout ratio (%)	-
EPS (Rs) 6.2 6.4 6.8	7.5
VNB (Rs bn) 26.8 36.7 38.5	-
EV (Rs bn) 300.5 395.3 466.1 54	41.3
VIF (Rs bn) 211.9 333.0 395.9 46	61.6
ANW (Rs bn) 88.6 62.3 70.2	79.8
VIF as % of EV 70.5 84.2 84.9	35.3
EV per share (Rs) 139.8 184.0 216.9 25	51.9
P/EV (x) 4.6 3.5 3.0	2.6
P/EPS (x) 101.3 98.2 92.6	33.7

Source Company data, I-Sec research



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