

24 July 2024

## M&M Financial Services

*Steady growth, better asset quality; maintaining a Buy*

Q1 core income was in line with estimates, but lower provisions led to M&M Financial Services' earnings beat. On its strong parentage, healthy growth and potential for improvement, we retain our Buy rating. We raise our FY26e. At our higher TP of Rs340, the stock would trade at 1.7x FY26e BV (earlier 1.6x FY26e).

**Steady AUM growth, led by premiumization.** Barring tractors, disbursements were healthy, which drove AUM up 23% y/y, 4% q/q. The share of pre-owned vehicles continued to improve (up 100bps y/y) to 13%. SME finance grew faster than other products. We build in a modest 21% loan CAGR over FY24-26.

**Lower spread; to further improve.** Spreads reduced 20bps sequentially on more prudent lending. Management aspires to operating income increasing as all products have seen upward repricing of rates. Besides, fee income is likely to pick up traction. Cost-income increased 58bps q/q to 50.01% on subdued income. This is one of the core improvement areas for management.

**Credit cost improves in a seasonally weak quarter.** Asset quality improved, with GS3 at 3.6%, 80bps lower q/q. Stress asset formation was 30bps y/y lower at 6.1%. Management expects asset quality to be stable. This, in a quarter when peer NBFCs are facing credit cost pressures.

**Valuation.** Our TP of Rs340 is based on the two-stage DDM model. This implies ~1.9x and ~1.7x P/BV multiples on FY25e and FY26e. **Risks:** Higher slippages, less-than-expected loan growth.

Key financials (YE Mar) (Rs m)	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e
Net interest income	68,489	75,799	88,106	1,04,324	1,23,490
PPoP	41,742	39,991	44,878	54,345	65,125
Provisions	26,904	11,826	19,558	20,524	23,524
PAT	11,503	20,712	18,869	25,027	30,785
EPS (Rs.)	9	17	16	20	25
NIM (%)	8.3	8.3	7.9	7.9	7.8
Cost-to-income (%)	40.2	48.3	50.2	49.0	48.2
RoE (%)	6.5	11.6	9.5	11.8	12.9
RoA (%)	1.3	2.2	1.6	1.8	1.9
AUM growth (%)	42.1	47.9	48.0	47.0	46.0
GNPA (%)	6.9	4.1	3.7	3.4	3.1
CRAR (%)	27.8	22.5	18.9	17.8	17.1
P/E (x)	29.6	15.8	16.8	13.1	10.6
P/BV (x)	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.3
P/ABV (x)	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.4

Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

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Rating: Buy

Target Price (12-mth): Rs.340

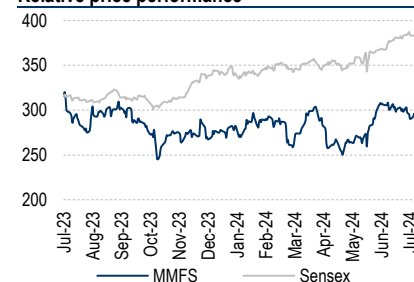
Share Price: Rs.295

Key data	MMFS IN
52-week high / low	Rs.327 / 237
Sensex / Nifty	80429 / 24479
3-m average volume	\$14.8m
Market cap	Rs.366bn / \$4,367.5m
Shares outstanding	1236m

Shareholding pattern (%)	Jun'24	Mar'24	Dec'23
Promoters	52.2	52.2	52.2
- of which, Pledged	-	-	-
Free float	47.8	47.8	47.8
- Foreign institutions	10.1	12.0	12.7
- Domestic institutions	30.7	28.6	27.0
- Public	7.1	7.3	8.2

Estimates revision (%)	FY25e	FY26e
NII	(0.1)	(0.4)
PPOP	1.3	2.3
PAT	(2.0)	3.6

### Relative price performance



Source: Bloomberg

Kaitav Shah, CFA

Research Analyst

Yuvraj Choudhary, CFA

Research Analyst

## Quick Glance – Financials and Valuations

**Fig 1 – Income statement (Rs m)**

Year-end: Mar	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e
Net interest income	68,489	75,799	88,106	1,04,324	1,23,490
Growth (%)	2.3	10.7	16.2	18.4	18.4
Non-interest income	1,343	1,582	2,006	2,206	2,316
<b>Income</b>	<b>69,831</b>	<b>77,381</b>	<b>90,111</b>	<b>1,06,530</b>	<b>1,25,807</b>
Income growth (%)	1.8	10.8	16.5	18.2	18.1
Operating expenses	28,089	37,390	45,233	52,185	60,682
of which, emp. benefit exp.	16,131	21,153	22,614	26,233	30,692
<b>PPoP</b>	<b>41,742</b>	<b>39,991</b>	<b>44,878</b>	<b>54,345</b>	<b>65,125</b>
PPoP growth (%)	(10.5)	(4.2)	12.2	21.1	19.8
Provisions	26,904	11,826	19,558	20,524	23,524
<b>PBT</b>	<b>14,838</b>	<b>28,038</b>	<b>25,321</b>	<b>33,821</b>	<b>41,601</b>
Tax	3,991	7,326	6,451	8,793	10,816
<b>PAT</b>	<b>11,503</b>	<b>20,712</b>	<b>18,869</b>	<b>25,027</b>	<b>30,785</b>
PAT growth (%)	111.7	80.1	(8.9)	32.6	23.0

Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research \* PAT (excl. extraordinary items)

**Fig 2 – Balance sheet (Rs m)**

Year-end: Mar	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e
Share capital	2,466	2,467	2,469	2,471	2,473
Other equity	1,67,912	1,84,547	1,97,280	2,22,069	2,51,617
<b>Net worth</b>	<b>1,70,378</b>	<b>1,87,014</b>	<b>1,99,749</b>	<b>2,23,126</b>	<b>2,52,676</b>
Borrowings	6,50,005	8,43,941	10,10,933	12,22,424	14,82,350
Growth (%)	(4.9)	29.8	19.8	20.9	21.3
Other liabilities	17,428	19,892	26,476	35,833	46,158
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>8,37,811</b>	<b>10,50,848</b>	<b>12,37,158</b>	<b>14,81,383</b>	<b>17,81,185</b>
Cash & cash equivalents	48,542	40,669	34,550	47,119	76,957
Investments	89,250	1,17,271	1,04,701	1,09,936	1,15,433
Loans	6,76,597	8,64,561	10,63,440	12,86,762	15,44,114
Growth (%)	0.9	27.8	23.0	21.0	20.0
Other assets	23,422	28,347	34,467	37,566	44,681
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,37,811</b>	<b>10,50,848</b>	<b>12,37,158</b>	<b>14,81,383</b>	<b>17,81,185</b>
<b>AUM</b>	<b>6,49,610</b>	<b>8,27,700</b>	<b>10,17,197</b>	<b>12,13,926</b>	<b>14,31,554</b>
<b>RWA</b>	<b>5,64,826</b>	<b>7,85,465</b>	<b>12,26,548</b>	<b>14,66,533</b>	<b>17,42,525</b>

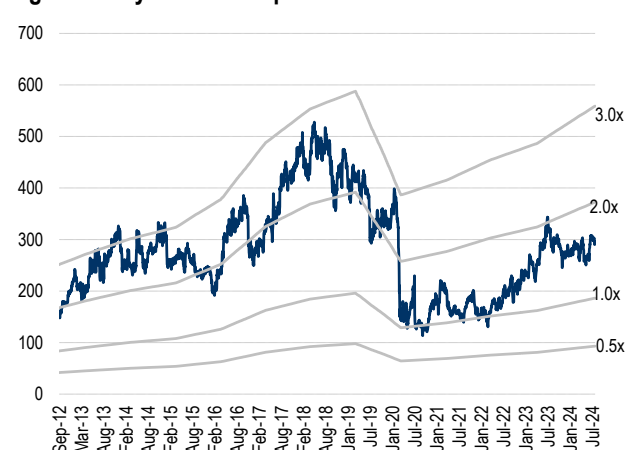
Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

**Fig 3 – Ratio analysis (%)**

Year-end: Mar	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e
NIMs	8.3	8.3	7.9	7.9	7.8
Cost-to-income	40.2	48.3	50.2	49.0	48.2
Credit cost	4.0	1.5	2.0	1.7	1.7
RoA	1.3	2.2	1.6	1.8	1.9
RoE	6.5	11.6	9.5	11.8	12.9
GNPA	6.9	4.1	3.7	3.4	3.1
NNPA	3.1	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4
RWA / Assets	67.4	74.7	99.1	99.0	97.8
CRAR	27.8	22.5	18.9	17.8	17.1
Tier 1	24.3	19.9	16.3	15.2	14.5
EPS (Rs)	9	17	16	20	25
BVPS (Rs)	138	152	162	181	204
ABVPS (Rs)	121	139	148	165	187
Dividend yield (%)	-	-	1.7	1.9	1.9
P/E (x)	29.6	15.8	16.8	13.1	10.6
P/B (x)	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.3
P/ABV (x)	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.4

Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

**Fig 4 – One-year-forward price-to-book band**



Source: Bloomberg

**Fig 5 – One-year-forward price-to-book-value**



Source: Bloomberg

**Fig 6 – Price movement**



Source: Bloomberg

## Earnings Call Key Highlights

### Guidance

- The company expects write-offs to fall 25bps.
- It revised RoA targets to 2.2% for FY25 (from 2.5% stated earlier).
- It expects NIM to be maintained at 7-7.5% for FY25.
- Branch network additions in FY25: 150-180.
- While Q1 was muted in terms of loan growth, FY25 should see loan book growth of 18-20%, with 14-15% growth in disbursements.

### Fraud story update

- Recent events unfolded with complexity and intrigue, involving over 20 employees in a web of deceit. Initial investigations led to the arrest of 11 individuals, with more expected to follow as exhaustive portfolio analysis continues.
- A staggering 2,287 accounts were found to be affected, prompting a thorough stress test across all branches in India.
- The heart of the matter was a localized anomaly, where the northeast bore the brunt of a potential loss of Rs1.36bn. Despite a branch AUM of Rs4bn, the discrepancy had evaded detection due to robust but ultimately inadequate systems and controls.
- The involvement of external entities, collaborating with dealers and bank employees, further complicated matters.
- The Rs1.36bn loss marked a significant outlier fraud. Swift action was taken, with the amount promptly classified under GS3 and full provision made.
- Yet, the depth of collusion among multiple stakeholders highlighted inherent challenges, particularly in de-centralized approval processes prevalent in Mizoram.
- Recognizing the need for a centralized approach to due diligence on customer onboarding, the company swiftly moved to institutionalise support and control functions.
- Management reviews became more stringent, with concerted efforts to bolster portfolio quality under risk and underwriting functions.
- In response to geographical challenges, a dedicated team was deployed to overcome obstacles in Mizoram, with plans underway to centralise checks across all branches.
- Monthly huddles now serve as a forum to discuss alert mechanisms and glean insights from market trends, ensuring the company remains vigilant in safeguarding its operations against future risks.

### Credit cost

- The recent quarter defied typical seasonal trends, with higher-than-usual figures. Excluding the impact of the fraud incident, Q4FY24 saw a notable decline in write-offs and settlements, a staggering Rs5bn less than the previous year's annual figures.
- Despite this overall reduction, Q4FY24 was subdued in comparison to the preceding year. The pace of bad debt write-offs was consistent,

indicative of ongoing efforts to address non-performing assets. A decline in the number of accounts progressed to later stages, contributing to the stabilisation of credit metrics.

- In Q4FY24, settlement amounts increased markedly, primarily driven by the heightened sale of repossessed vehicles.
- This uptick in disposals typically characterizes the final quarter, reflecting strategic efforts to optimise asset recovery and mitigate losses.

### **Other income**

- Over the past 2-3 quarters, strategic investments have been diligently deployed to bolster other income streams within the organization.
- The fruit of these endeavours is now evident in the latest quarter, particularly in insurance income and other diversified modes.
- A structural shift in management focus is evident, as efforts intensify to optimise the organisation's revenue streams beyond core operations.
- This concerted approach underscores a commitment to maximising value and diversifying income sources, ensuring sustained financial resilience and growth.

### **RoA**

- In projecting targets for FY25, a recalibration has been necessitated, with the RoA target adjusted from 2.5% to 2.2%. Notably, this revision stems from an oversight regarding the movement of cost of funds.
- By end-Q3 FY24, an anticipated softening of rates failed to materialise, significantly impacting the NII deviation.
- The disparity between the original cost of funds and the RoA has emerged as a critical factor necessitating target restatement.
- This gap highlights the intricate relationship between interest income and operational efficiency. While credit cost and opex are pivotal levers, sequential reductions in opex have been seen, offering a measure of operational optimization.
- The revised target of 2.2% RoA is deemed reasonable and forms the base case for aspiration, with potential upside envisaged.
- It's imperative to acknowledge the inherent volatility in cost of funds, which represents the most unpredictable variable in this equation.
- A nuanced approach to managing this variable will be instrumental in navigating toward the revised target with precision and agility.

### **Cost of funds**

- Cost of funds persists at 8%, with no imminent easing.
- Despite hopes of rate reductions in H2 FY25, uncertainty lingers. Attention is directed toward optimising NII and fee income streams, with a strategic shift toward used vehicles, representing a concerted and consultative effort to diversify revenue sources.

### **Collection Efficiency**

- Collection strategies have evolved, focusing on portfolio selection and underwriting to control credit costs. A novel approach to collections, incorporating analytics and refined toolkits, has reduced contract ownership noise and enhanced effectiveness.

- Headcount fell 5%, attributed to strategic shifts toward prime customers in the last two years, minimizing frontline collection needs.
- While Apr experienced deviation due to holidays, it's not a significant outlier.
- Anticipated trends suggest Q1 FY25 may mirror Q1 FY24 in collections performance.

**Opex**

- Opex optimization is targeted with a projected gain of 10-15bps from current levels, despite continued investments in critical areas such as underwriting and fraud control.
- Recruitment was focused on levels 1 and 2, with plans underway for level 3 expansion.
- Branch network augmentation is on track, with an anticipated addition of 150/180 branches in FY25, predominantly in H2.
- Further, strategic tie-ups and partnerships with banks are being pursued to augment operational efficiency.

## Key highlights

### Quarterly snapshot

**Fig 7 – Income statement**

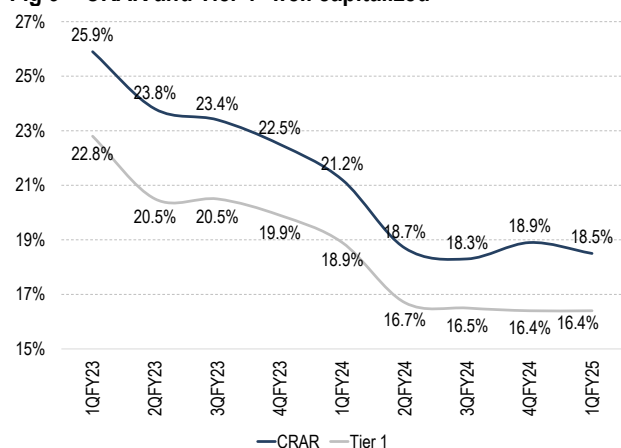
(Rs m)	Q4 FY23	Q1 FY24	Q2 FY24	Q3 FY24	Q4 FY24	Q1 FY25
Income from operations	33,431	34,177	35,458	37,754	39,732	40,355
Interest expense	14,774	15,972	17,034	17,978	18,609	19,603
<b>Net interest income</b>	<b>18,657</b>	<b>18,205</b>	<b>18,425</b>	<b>19,776</b>	<b>21,123</b>	<b>20,752</b>
Growth (%)	8.3	3.3	7.2	7.4	13.2	14.0
Other income	1,933	2,192	3,177	3,616	3,598	3,194
<b>Income</b>	<b>20,590</b>	<b>20,397</b>	<b>21,601</b>	<b>23,392</b>	<b>24,721</b>	<b>23,946</b>
Income growth (%)	11.6	9.6	17.6	18.2	20.1	17.4
Operating expenses	10,534	9,779	11,445	11,788	12,221	11,977
of which, emp. benefit exp.	5,992	5,585	5,761	5,668	5,601	5,916
<b>PPoP</b>	<b>10,055</b>	<b>10,619</b>	<b>10,156</b>	<b>11,605</b>	<b>12,499</b>	<b>11,970</b>
PPoP growth (%)	1.3	4.6	10.4	9.7	24.3	12.7
Provisions	841	5,928	6,464	3,469	3,696	5,546
<b>PBT</b>	<b>9,215</b>	<b>4,690</b>	<b>3,691</b>	<b>8,136</b>	<b>8,803</b>	<b>6,424</b>
Tax	2,590	1,206	960	2,034	2,251	1,645
<b>PAT</b>	<b>6,625</b>	<b>3,485</b>	<b>2,731</b>	<b>6,102</b>	<b>6,552</b>	<b>4,779</b>
PAT growth (%)	6.4	52.7	(49.1)	(7.1)	(1.1)	37.2

Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

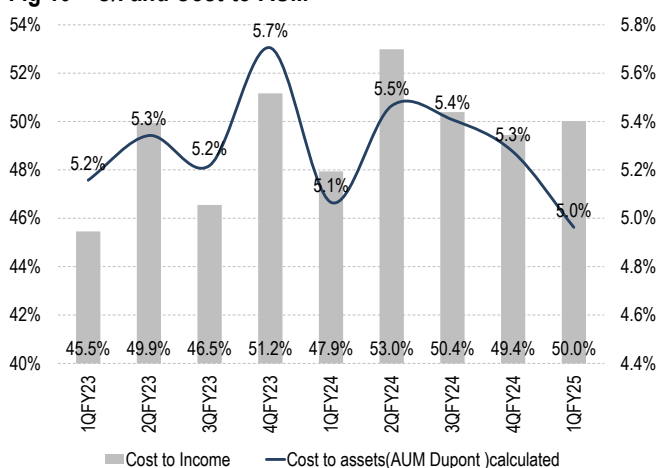
**Fig 8 – Disbursements**

(Rs m)	Q4 FY23	Q1 FY24	Q2 FY24	Q3 FY24	Q4 FY24	Q1 FY25
Auto / Utility vehicles	45,467	51,093	50,597	60,200	59,639	52,238
Tractors	16,534	15,815	13,315	16,980	12,234	15,289
Cars	24,800	-	25,299	29,328	-	-
Commercial vehicles and Construction equipment	16,534	27,980	14,647	16,980	38,230	30,578
Pre-owned vehicles, others	23,423	20,681	23,967	24,698	25,996	21,660
SME & Others	11,022	6,083	5,326	6,174	10,704	7,645
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,37,780</b>	<b>1,21,650</b>	<b>1,33,150</b>	<b>1,54,360</b>	<b>1,46,803</b>	<b>1,27,410</b>

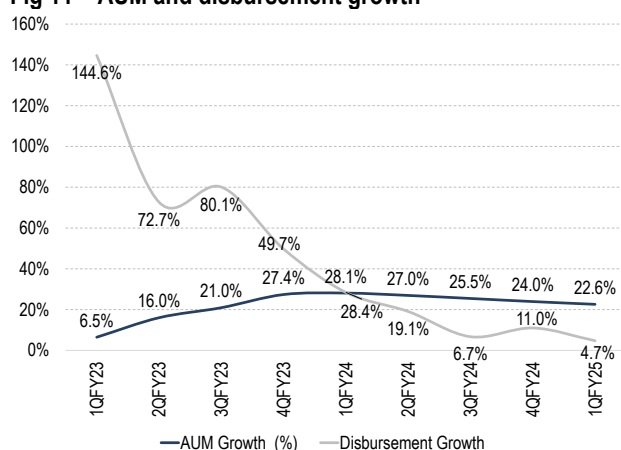
Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

**Fig 9 – CRAR and Tier 1- well capitalized**

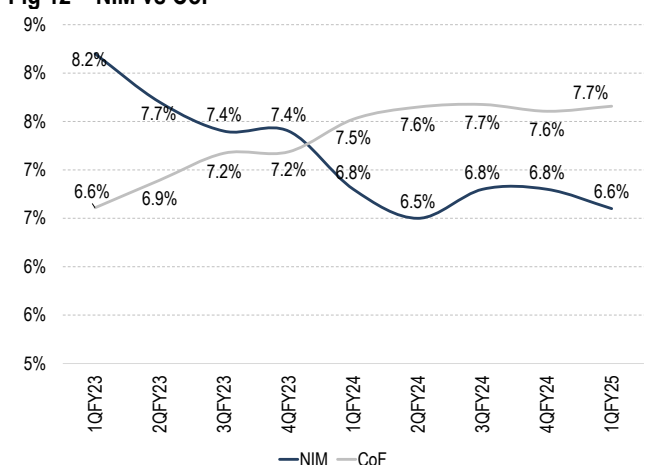
Source: Company, Anand Rath Research

**Fig 10 – C/I and Cost-to-AUM**

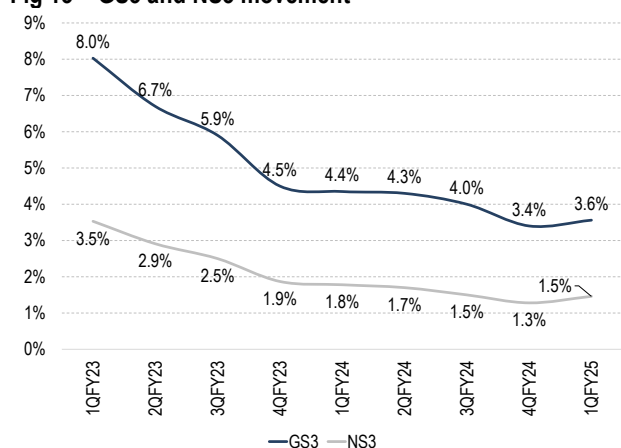
Source: Company, Anand Rath Research

**Fig 11 – AUM and disbursement growth**

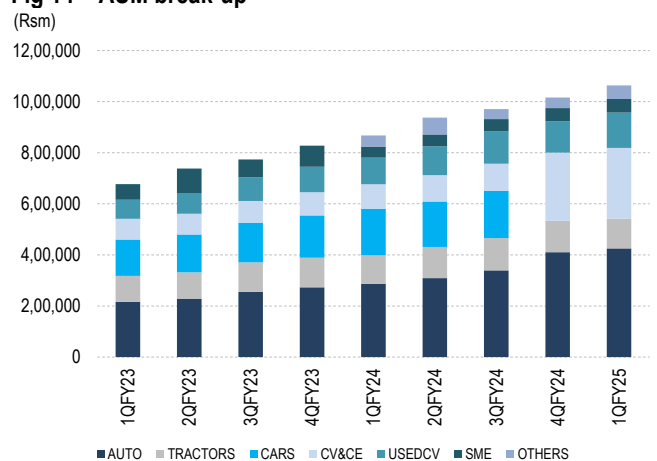
Source: Company, Anand Rath Research

**Fig 12 – NIM vs CoF**

Source: Company, Anand Rath Research

**Fig 13 – GS3 and NS3 movement**

Source: Company, Anand Rath Research

**Fig 14 – AUM break-up**

Source: Company, Anand Rath Research

## Valuation

M&M Financial Services' Q1 core income was in line with estimates, but lower provisions led to the beat in earnings. On its strong parentage, healthy growth and potential for improvement, we retain our Buy on the stock. We raise our FY26e 3%. At our higher TP of Rs340, the stock would trade at 1.7x FY26e BV (earlier 1.6x FY26e)

**Fig 15 – Change in estimates**

(Rs m)	FY25e			FY26e		
	New	Old	Chg %	New	Old	Chg %
Net interest income	1,04,324	1,04,432	(0.1)	1,23,490	1,23,964	(0.4)
Pre-provisioning profit	54,345	53,631	1.3	65,125	63,690	2.3
PAT	25,027	25,535	(2.0)	30,785	29,723	3.6

Source: Anand Rathi Research

**Fig 16 – Key assumptions**

(%)	FY25e	FY26e
<b>Balance-sheet assumptions</b>		
AUM growth	19.3	17.9
Borrowings growth	20.9	21.3
<b>Asset quality</b>		
Credit cost	1.7	1.7
Provision coverage	56.9	56.2

Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

**Fig 17 – du-Pont analysis**

(%)	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25e	FY26e
Operating income	13.3	13.4	13.8	13.9	13.8
Interest expense	5.2	5.4	6.1	6.2	6.2
<b>Net interest income</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Other income	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
<b>Total income</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>7.7</b>
Operating expenses	3.3	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.7
of which, salary	9.5	11.3	11.3	11.8	12.1
<b>PPOP</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Provisions	3.2	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.4
<b>PBT</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Tax	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.7
<b>RoA</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Equity multiplier	5.1	5.3	5.9	6.4	6.9
<b>RoE</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>12.9</b>

Source: Company, Anand Rathi Research

## Risk

- Higher slippages.
- Less-than-expected loan growth.



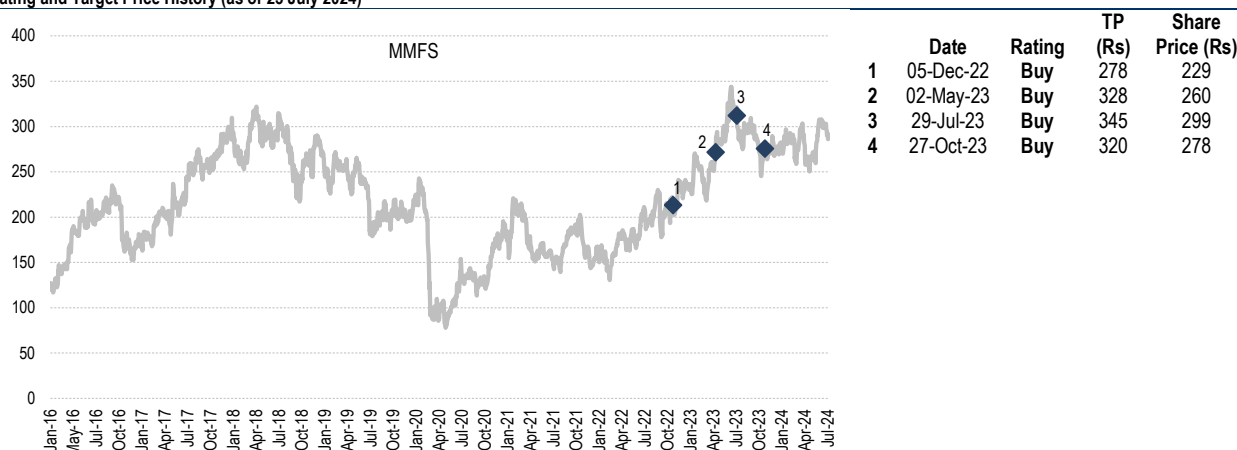
## Appendix

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#### Ratings Guide (12 months)

	Buy	Hold	Sell
Large Caps (Top 100 companies)	>15%	0-15%	<0%
Mid Caps (101st-250th company)	>20%	0-20%	<0%
Small Caps (251st company onwards)	>25%	0-25%	<0%

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