CICI Securities – Retail Equity Research

Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC

Price Band ₹ 695-712

September 27, 2021

Aditya Birla Sun Life (ABSL) AMC, a JV between Aditya Birla Capital Ltd and Sun Life AMC, is one of the leading asset management services in India. ABSL AMC is ranked as the largest non-bank affiliated AMC in India in terms of Quarterly Average AUM (QAAUM) since 31st March 2018, and ranks among four largest AMCs in India by QAAUM since September 2011. As on June 2021, the company's total AUM stood at ₹ 293642 crore.

ABSL AMC, since inception in 1994, has established strong geographical presence comprising 194 branches (covering 284 locations) spread over 27 states and 6 union territories. ABSL has extensive & multi-channel distribution network with over 66000 mutual fund distributors, over 240 national distributors and over 100 banks/financial intermediaries.

In terms of mutual fund business, ABSL manages 118 schemes with QAAUM of ~₹ 2.7 lakh crore as on June 2021. Apart from mutual fund business, ABSL also offers PMS, offshore and real estate offerings which comprises of AUM ₹ 11515 crore. In FY21, revenue stood at ₹ 1191 crore, i.e ~39 bps of AAUM. PAT came at ₹ 526 crore (~19 bps of AAUM), with RoE at 33.7%.

Growth driven by strong systematic flows

ABSL's individual investor MAAUM has seen growth at a CAGR of 18.38% in FY16-21. The company offers a range of systematic transaction options and add-on features including SIPs, STPs and SWPs. As of June 30, 2021, SIPs have become a material portion of AUM accounting for ~41.7% of total equity-oriented mutual fund AUM and ~34% of total individual investor mutual fund AUM.

Focused on B-30 penetration to increase customer acquisition

ABSL is focused on expansion in B-30 cities which has helped to grow retail customer acquisition and retention rates. As of June 30, 2021, MAAUM from B-30 cities was ₹ 44701 crore; market share of individual MAAUM from B-30 cities at 7.8%. A large part of industry growth is expected to come from B-30 cities, and ABSL with an existing large presence & distribution capabilities in B-30 cities, remain well placed to attract customers.

Key Risks and Concerns

- Increased competition may lead to decrease in market share
- Underperformance of investment portfolio could impact AUM
- Concentration risk of investment portfolio to persist

Priced at 7.4% Q1FY22 P/QAAUM on upper band

Post issue, market capitalisation at upper band will be ₹ 20505 crore. At ₹ 712, the stock is available at \sim 7.4% Q1FY22 QAAUM and at \sim 33.1x Q1FY22 PAT (annualised basis).

Key Financial Summary FY19 **FY20** Q1FY22 2 year CAGR (FY19-21) (₹ crore) **FY21** Total Income 1407.3 1234.8 1205.8 336.2 -7% PAT 446.8 494.4 526.3 154.9 9% EPS (₹) 15.5 17.2 18.3 5.4 BV (₹) 42.4 45.7 59.2 62.4 RoA (%)* 29.8 31.5 26.5 29.7 RoE (%)* 37.5 30.9 36.6 34.4 P/E (x)* 45.9 39.0 33.1 41.5 P/BV (x) 12.0 16.8 15.6 11.4 8.3% 7.6% 7.4% P/QAAUM (%) 8.3%



NOT RATED



Particulars	
Issue Details	
Issue Opens	29th Septermber 2021
Issue Closes	1st October 2021
Issue Size	₹ 2702-2768 crore
Fresh Issue	0
Price Band	₹ 695-712
No. of shares on offer (in crore)	3.88 crore
QIB (%)	50
Retail (%)	35
Minimum lot size (no of shares) 1944000 equity shares i	20 reserved for ABCL
employees	

Shareholding Pattern (%)						
	Pre-Issue	Post-Issue				
ABCL	51.00	50.01				
Sun Life	49.00	36.49				
Public	0.00	13.50				

Objects of issue	
Objects of the Issue	
The objects of the offer are to	
achieve the benefits of listing the	₹ 2702-2768
Equity Shares on the Stock	crore
Exchanges.	

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Company background

Aditya Birla Sun Life (ABSL) AMC, is currently set up as a JV between Aditya Birla Capital Ltd and Sun Life AMC. ABSL is one of the leading asset management services in India and it manages the investment portfolios of Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund. ABSL AMC is ranked as the largest nonbank affiliated AMC in India in terms of Quarterly Average AUM (QAAUM) since 31st March 2018 and among four largest AMCs in India by QAAUM since September 2011. As on June 2021, the company's total AUM stood at ₹ 293642 crore.

ABSL AMC, since inception in 1994, has established strong geographical presence comprising 194 branches (covering 284 locations) spread over 27 states and 6 union territories. The company has extensive and multi-channel distribution network with significant physical and digital presence. As of 30th June 2021, it has over 66000 mutual fund distributors, over 240 national distributors and over 100 banks/financial intermediaries.

In terms of mutual fund business, the company manages 118 mutual fund schemes comprising 37 equity, 68 debt, 2 liquid, 5 ETFs and 6 domestic FoFs with a QAAUM of ~₹ 2.7 lakh crore as on June 2021. Apart from mutual fund business, the company provides PMS, offshore and real estate offerings which comprises of AUM ₹ 11515 crore. ABSL's caters to wide range of customers including individual and institutional investors. Institutional investors contribute ~51.2% of closing AUM 45.4% is from individual investors.

Exhibit 1: ABSL's AUM breakup									
(in ₹ crore)	FY19		FY20		FY2	FY21		Q1FY22	
Category of Fund	AUM	% of Total							
Mutual Fund - Equity	94105	36.8%	65602	30.5%	96323	35.6%	107285	36.5%	
Mutual Fund - Fixed Income	144413	56.5%	136793	63.5%	163099	60.2%	174842	59.5%	
Mutual Fund SubTotal	238518	93.3%	202395	94.0%	259422	95.8%	282127	96.1%	
Portfolio Management Services (PMS)	2949	1.2%	2055	1.0%	1759	0.6%	1828	0.6%	
Offshore	13293	5.2%	10326	4.8%	9077	3.4%	9194	3.1%	
Real Estate	855	0.3%	493	0.2%	493	0.2%	493	0.2%	
Alternate Assets Sub Total	17097	6.7%	12874	6.0%	11329	4.2%	11515	3.9%	
Total	255615	100.0%	215269	100.0%	270751	100.0%	293642	100.0%	

Source: RHP, ICICI Direct Research

The company continues to focus on equity-oriented scheme mix which proves to be a significant factor in enhancing the profitability, as equity-oriented schemes generally generate higher management fees compared to other schemes. Between 2016 and 2021, Monthly Average AUM (MAAUM) grew at a CAGR of ~24.9%, correspondingly the share of equity oriented MAAUM in total MAAUM increased from 23.66% as on March 2016 to 38.09% as on June 2021. The increase in equity mix was greater than industry's increase of 13.65% over the same period.

The company has achieved substantial growth in the individual investor MAAUM and customer base. The company is the fifth largest player in terms of market share in individual MAAUM. The individual MAAUM grew at a CAGR of 18.38% taking the MAAUM mix to 47.01% as on June 2021, which was second highest increase among five largest AMCs in India.

Exhibit 2: Customer wise AUM breakup (MAAUM)							
MAAUM (in ₹ crore)	FY19	FY20	FY21	Q1FY22			
Individual	124948	106496	126982	133353			
Institutional	122683	118890	144021	150304			

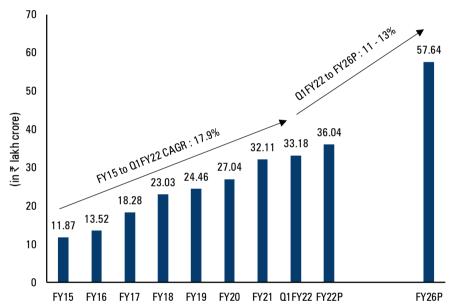
Industry & Peer Comparison

Exhibit 3: Peer Co	mparison									
(in ₹ crore)	AAUM (June'21)	Market Share (%)	Proportion of Equity MAAUM	Revenue (FY21)	Rev as % of AAUM*	PAT (FY21)	PAT as % of AAUM**	ROE (%)	Мсар	Price to
SBI AMC	537700	15.8%	29.0%	1617.5	0.32%	862.8	0.17%	37.84%		
HDFC AMC	426900	12.5%	45.2%	2201.7	0.54%	1325.8	0.32%	30.11%	68400.2	16.0%
ICICI Prudential AMC	423200	12.4%	44.3%	2233.7	0.55%	1245.4	0.31%	80.28%		
Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC	283700	8.3%	38.1%	1054.9	0.39%	517.1	0.19%	33.70%	20505.6	7.2%
Kotak Mahindra AMC	253400	7.4%	41.6%	645.3	0.28%	323.3	0.14%	35.17%		
Nippon AMC	248100	7.3%	42.0%	1325.7	0.58%	649.4	0.28%	23.30%	27022.5	10.9%
Axis AMC	218600	6.4%	56.3%	655.3	0.33%	243.7	0.12%	43.07%		
UTI AMC	193600	5.7%	37.5%	968.2	0.52%	351.7	0.19%	12.85%	13916.1	7.2%
IDFC AMC	126300	3.7%	23.2%	371.1	0.31%	143.00	0.12%	42.56%		
DSP AMC	104800	3.1%	60.5%	580.6	0.59%	259.2	0.27%	19.11%		
Top 10 total/average	2816400	82.6%	44.7%	11449.0	0.43%	5921.4	0.22%	35.80%		

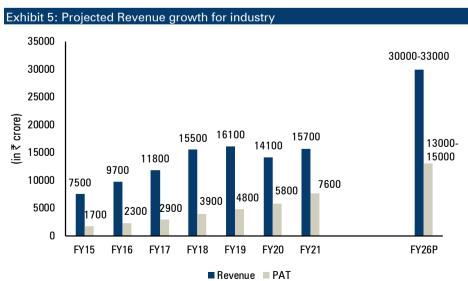
^{*} This number is calculated as Revenue/AAUM ** This number is calculated as PAT/AAUM

Source: RHP, BSE, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 4: Projected growth for industry QAAUM



Source: RHP, ICICI Direct Research

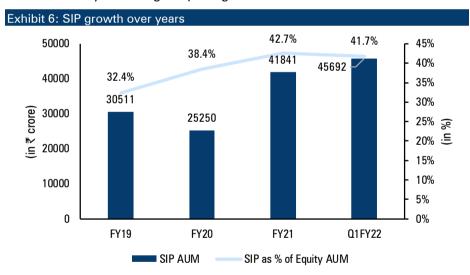


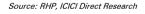
Investment Rationale

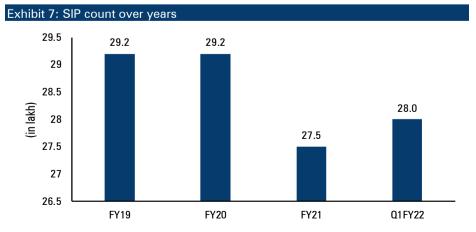
Growth driven by strong systematic flows

ABSL's individual investor MAAUM has seen growth at a CAGR of 18.38% from ₹ 54613 crore in March 2016 to ₹ 126982 crore in March 2021 and ₹ 133353 crore in June 2021. It is the fifth largest player in terms of market share in individual MAAUM among top 10 AMCs. Investor folios were more than doubled from 29.3 lakh in March 2016 to 71.8 lakh in June 2021, taking the market share to 7.13%. The growth in customer base and individual investor MAAUM has been largely driven by development of its digital platforms, particularly in the utilization of systematic transactions, as well as focus on building relationships with distributors, especially through deepening the B-30 cities presence.

The investments through systematic transaction have become a popular form of investing in the mutual funds as it offers customers the opportunity to invest smaller amounts over longer periods and helps mitigate the risk of market timing. The company offers a range of systematic transaction options and add-on features including SIPs, STPs and SWPs. As of June 30, 2021, SIPs have become a material proportion of the AUM accounting for ~41.7% of total equity-oriented mutual fund AUM and ~34% of total individual investor mutual fund AUM. The outstanding SIPs grew from 8.6 lakhs as of March 31, 2016, to 28 lakhs as of June 30, 2021, and SIP AUM grew from ₹ 8523 crore to ₹ 45692 crore over the same period. The share of SIP AUM in total equity-oriented mutual fund AUM increased from 25.7% to 41.7% during the same period, which was higher than the industry shares of 31.36% as of June 30, 2021. As of June 30, 2021, 86.31% of outstanding SIPs had more than 5-year vintage, while 77.05% of outstanding SIPs had a more than 10-year vintage depicting customer stickiness.

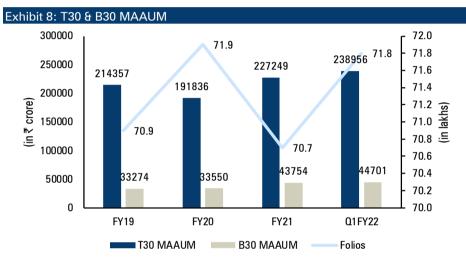






Focused on B-30 penetration to increase customer acquisition

ABSL is focused on expansion on underpenetrated B-30 cities which has helped to grow its retail customer acquisition and retention rates. The MAAUM from B-30 cities was ₹ 44701 crore as of June 30, 2021. The share of MAAUM from B-30 cities in total MAAUM as of June 30, 2021, was second highest amongst the five largest AMCs in India (in terms of MAAUM). The share of individual MAAUM from B-30 cities in total individual MAAUM increased from 19.32% as of March 31, 2016, to 27.35% as of June 30, 2021. The share of equity-oriented MAAUM from B-30 cities in total equity-oriented MAAUM increased from 24.51% as of March 31, 2016, to 28.82% as of June 30, 2021. As of June 30, 2021, the market share of individual MAAUM from B-30 cities was 7.8% and the market share of MAAUM from B-30 cities was 8.03%. A large part of industry growth is expected to come from B-30 cities, and AMCs with an existing large presence in B-30 cities will be well placed to attract customers in these locations due to their established position, infrastructure and distribution capabilities.



Source: RHP, ICICI Direct Research

Diversified distribution network with widespread reach

ABSL has established a geographically diversified pan-India distribution that is not only extensive but multi-channelled, with a significant physical as well as digital presence. As of June 30, 2021, the company had a presence in 284 locations, comprising 194 branches in India, spread over 27 states and 6 union territories; of these 143 branches were located in B-30 cities. Emerging Market (EM) areas are untapped markets in India which have high growth potential without material capital expenditure.

ABSL's hub and spoke model further enables them to more effectively leverage its extensive branch and EM representatives network while keeping its distribution costs low. Diversification of distribution base had led to a reduction in the concentration of AUM sourced from top 10 distributors from 49% in 2016 to 37% in 2021.

Mutual Find Distributor's (MFDs), national distributors and banks/financial intermediaries contribute 30.18%, 14.37% and 8.59%, respectively, of the total QAAUM as of June 30, 2021, while direct marketing efforts contribute to 46.86%. Investment in MFDs has led to increase in equity oriented QAAUM from MFDs from ₹ 12754 crore in March 2016 to ₹ 51932 crore in June 2021. Since 2019, the company has added over 8000 MFDs to the distribution network. MFDs have become a significant channel for growth of equity oriented schemes.



The company intends to continue to increase its footprint across India by focusing on growing its presence in B-30 cities and rural markets that remain underpenetrated and have less competition. The company believes that entering these markets at an early stage will enable them to maximize both consumer mindshare and market share in such areas. ABSL have an established team dedicated towards deepening its EM presence. The team operates on a Build, Operate & Transfer ("BOT") model, and evaluates each potential location meticulously in consideration of several parameters. While it continually seeks to strengthen and expand its distribution network through engagements with public/ co-operative banks and national distributors, preferably with robust online presence, the company focuses to remain investing in and expanding its MFD network.

Key risks and concerns

Increased competition may lead to decrease in market share

The mutual fund industry is rapidly evolving and is intensely competitive and is further expected to intensify in the future. Further, low barriers to entry has also resulted in a large number of smaller participants entering in the market. It is further possible that there may be in the future be consolidation in the market. Any consolidation may create stronger competitors in the market overall, or leave it at a competitive disadvantage.

ABSL faces significant competition from companies seeking to attract investors' financial assets, including traditional and online brokerage firms, other mutual fund companies and financial institutions. Competitors may offer a wide range of financial products and services, at lower investment management fee, with a wider distribution network. Increased competition may result either in a decrease in AUM market share, or force to reduce its management fees so as to preserve such market share, either of which would decrease the revenue from operations.

Underperformance of investment portfolio could impact AUM

The investment products in respect of which asset management services is provided may not outperform either relevant benchmarks, or similar investment products provided by the competitors. The investments held by the mutual fund may be illiquid or volatile which can result into loss. Such underperformance may have adverse effect on the business, like existing investors may withdraw funds which can reduce the AUM, or the ability to attract funds from new investors, or negative absolute performance may directly reduce the value of AUM.

Concentration risk of investment portfolio to persist

A large portion of ABSL's AUM is concentrated in few schemes. As of June 30, 2021, its top five schemes accounted for ₹111017 crores, i.e. 40.3% of the total QAAUM, whereas its top five equity-oriented schemes accounted for ₹61333 crores, i.e. 59.73% of total equity-oriented QAAUM and its top five debt-oriented schemes accounted for ₹89494 crores, i.e. 69.03% of debt-oriented QAAUM. The performance of these schemes may have a significant impact on AUM and consequently on the revenues. Underperformance by any of these funds may cause increased redemptions and have a disproportionate adverse impact on the liquidity, AUM & income.

Exposure to regulatory risk

As an asset management company, ABSL is regulated by SEBI through a variety of regulations, guidelines, circulars and notifications issued from time to time as applicable for mutual funds, PMS and AIFs. Failing to comply with any regulations or guidelines could lead to fines, sanctions and court proceedings. Compliance or other costs may rise due to changes in regulations which may reduce profit. In the event the company is unable to comply with the observations made by SEBI, it could be subject to penalties and restrictions which may be imposed by SEBI.

Financial Summary

Exhibit 9: Profit & Loss Statement			(₹ crore)
Particulars	FY19	FY20	FY21	Q1FY22
Revenue from Operations	1406.1	1233.8	1191.0	333.2
Other Income	1.2	0.9	14.8	3.0
Total Income	1407.3	1234.8	1205.8	336.2
Expenses				
Fees & Commision Expense	143.5	75.1	47.1	6.2
Finance Cost	5.7	5.4	5.6	1.3
Employee Expenses	277.5	242.0	240.7	69.0
Depreciation and amortization	32.4	36.5	37.4	9.0
Other Expenses	302.3	215.0	179.2	44.9
Total Expenses	761.5	574.0	510.0	130.4
PBT	645.8	660.7	695.9	205.9
Tax	199.0	166.3	169.6	50.9
PAT	446.8	494.4	526.3	154.9

Source: RHP, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 10: Balance Sheet				(₹ crore)
Particulars	FY19	FY20	FY21	Q1FY22
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	38.5	46.9	56.8	52.3
Receivables	25.7	40.5	31.0	25.7
Loans	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Investments	1138.1	1263.4	1726.3	1852.1
Non Financial Assets	267.7	208.2	151.3	143.0
Other Assets	28.5	12.9	19.2	12.7
Total	1498.5	1572.0	1984.6	2085.9
Equity & Liabilities				
Equity	18.0	18.0	18.0	144.0
Reserves & Surplus	1202.6	1298.9	1686.6	1658.2
Networth	1220.6	1316.9	1704.6	1802.2
Provisions	50.3	70.5	94.5	95.5
Deferred Tax Liabilities (Net)	7.0	14.6	13.7	9.9
Other liabilities	220.5	169.9	171.7	178.2
Total	1498.5	1572.0	1984.6	2085.9

Source: RHP, ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 11: Key Ratios				
	FY19	FY20	FY21	Q1FY22
No. of shares (crore)	28.80	28.80	28.80	28.88
BV (₹)	42.4	45.7	59.2	62.4
EPS (₹)	15.5	17.2	18.3	5.4
P/E (x)*	45.9	41.5	39.0	33.1
P/BV	16.8	15.6	12.0	11.4
RoA (%)*	29.8	31.5	26.5	29.7
RoE (%)*	36.6	37.5	30.9	34.4

^{*} Figures for Q1FY22 are annualised

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