

# Cholamandalam Investment

# **HOLD**

## NIMs improved; AUM growth remain strong

## **Summary**

CIFC's AUM growth remained strong at 27% YoY led by 14% YoY (FY25) growth in disbursements and lower repayment ratio. Management guided for 20-25% AUM growth led by 17-20% disbursement growth for longer term. NIM improved by 30bps YoY led by increase in yield on advances. We expect benefit of lower interest rate environment on account of fixed rate VF book. Asset quality improved slightly with GS3 at 2.81% vs 2.91%. NII grew by 29% YoY led by improvement in NIMs YoY; however, PPoP grew by 43% YoY led by increase in other income (up 33% YoY). PAT grew by 20% YoY led by higher provisions (up 228% YoY). We have largely maintained our estimates and downgrade to "HOLD" with a new TP of Rs.1,630 (earlier Rs.1,590) based on P/BV of 4.1x FY27E as stock has run up by ~21% in last few months.

## **Key Highlights and Investment Rationale**

- Robust AUM growth; disbursements up 14% YoY: For FY25, AUM growth remained strong at 27% YoY. Disbursements grew by 14% YoY led by non vehicle portoflio. We expect AUM to grow at 19% CAGR (FY25-27E) compared to 32% CAGR (FY23-25) due to slowdown in disbursments.
- NIMs improved QoQ: NIMs improved by 30bps QoQ to 8.0% (up 20bps YoY) due to increase in yield on advacnes. Management guided for benefit of rate cut on fixed rate portfolio going forward.
- Asset quality improved slightly: GS3 stood at 2.81% vs 2.91% QoQ. In newer segment (others), NPA was key concern area; has slighly inched up; CSEL 2.06% vs 1.83% QoQ & SBPL 2.59% vs 1.85% QoQ.
- Outlook: We believe premium valuation should sustain backed by strong growth. With a diverse product portfolio and a widespread distribution network, CIFC is well-positioned to capitalize on the growth potential.

TP i	Rs.1,	630
CMP I	Rs.1,	541
Potential upside/downside		6%
Previous Rating		BUY

Price Performance (%)							
	-1m	-3m	-12m				
Absolute	0.8	31.1	31.5				
Rel to Sensex	(1.3)	26.0	24.0				

V/s Consensus		
EPS (Rs)	FY26E	FY27E
IDBI Capital	63.0	77.9
Consensus	63.7	79.8
% difference	(1.2)	(2.4)

# Bloomberg / Reuters CIFC IN /CHLA.BO Sector Finance Shares o/s (mn) 841 Market cap. (Rs mn) 1,296,184 3-m daily avg Trd value (Rs mn) 35.3

52-week high / low

Sensex / Nifty

Shareholding Pattern (%)	
Promoters	49.9
FII	28.2
DII	13.9
Public	8.0

## **Financial snapshot**

(Rs mn)

Rs1.683 / 1.151

79,213 / 24,039

					,
Year	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026E	FY2027E
NII	63,334	83,831	1,32,607	1,62,633	1,94,556
Change (yoy, %)	20%	32%	58%	23%	20%
Net Profit	26,662	34,228	42,585	54,024	66,833
Change (yoy, %)	24%	28%	24%	27%	24%
EPS (Rs)	32.4	40.7	50.6	63.0	77.9
Change (yoy, %)	24%	26%	24%	24%	24%
ABV (Rs)	157.7	212.9	251.9	326.6	396.7
PER (x)	47.5	37.8	30.4	24.5	19.8
P/ABV (x)	9.8	7.2	6.1	4.7	3.9
ROE (%)	20.5	20.2	19.7	19.8	19.6
ROA (%)	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.6
GNPA (%)	3.0	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.8
NNPA (%)	1.7	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6
CAR (%)	14.8	18.6	19.8	19.4	20.0

Source: IDBI Capital Research;

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## **Conference Call Highlights**

## **Operational Aspects**

- The company managed to get good deals with better rates to maintain the cost of foreign borrowings, including the cost of hedge.
- Around 20% of the borrowings are linked to Repo or T-bills, while 50% of the borrowings are from banks, which are linked to MCLR. The reduction in MCLR rate is yet to come through.
- The company has been able to negotiate the marginal borrowings both from the market as well as banks considering the reduction in rates.
- Opex have come down in Q4 as all the major costs pertaining to new businesses were completed. However, the company may see opex increasing due to the launch of gold business. The target is to keep opex in the range of 3.0-3.1% of the asset in FY26.
- Total headcount in sales 30,700; collections 22,000; credit operations 10,000; business enabler 1,600.
- Chola Home Finance was formed to move the home loan portfolio to the subsidiary. However, the regulatory gap between NBFC and HFC narrowed down. So the company decided to rename it to Chola Leasing to conduct leasing operations.

#### **Vehicle Finance Business**

- The company expects disbursements in VF segment to improve further to 15-17% in FY26.
- The March quarter typically trends better in terms of higher income due to the improved asset quality and better collection efficiencies, and better recovery of assets.
- The company is depending on good performance and capacity utilisation of small CV and LCV to play out in the coming quarters.
- The company believes there is enough scope for business in the tractor and two wheeler segments.
- Non-starter and the early default of the VF segment has come down than last year.



The company's presence in the tier-3 and tier-4 cities have helped in the market share growth of PV financing. The company was also able to increase the market share especially in the Maruti segment.

#### **Non-Vehicle Finance Business**

- Drop in disbursements in SME segment is due to the conscious decision to slow down on lower ROTA products such as supply chain finance.
- The company took a conscious stance to reduce supply chain financing in SME segment as it generates low ROA. However, the company will look for small term loan and equipment financing opportunities.
- Drop in CSEL disbursements is due to the company's decision progressively exit from some of the partnership-led volumes.
- De-growth in the fintech partnership led business will be compensated through the consumer durable, PL, BL and in-house digital lending business.
- CSEL segment is expected to catch up pace in the coming quarters.
- Disbursements in SME and LAP is expected to remain flat YoY, while AUM growth will be still be maintained at 30% in FY26.
- The company is targeting 15-20% growth in home loan disbursements for the next 2 years, and 30% AUM growth. Currently, around 60% of the disbursements are coming from the Southern region.
- The company expects 25-30% growth in disbursements of LAP portfolio in FY26, translating to 30% AUM growth as there are enough opportunities available to grow the business.
- The company will focus on improving the productivity across branches for LAP and HL segment rather than aggressively expanding branch network. However, in the subsequent years, the company will add around 100 branches.

## **Asset Quality and Provisioning**

- While the run down in asset of fintech book is fast, the net credit costs in absolute value remains steady.
- The company expects the net credit costs will remain at the same level in H1FY26, and will trend downwards in H2FY26.



- The management expects the net credit loss of SME segment will reduce in FY26.
- The company made additional provision of Rs.350mn in CSEL segment during the quarter.
- Credit costs of vehicle finance segment can be reduced by 20 bps, which will eventually have a net benefit
  of 10 bps on the overall credit costs, as it forms 50-55% of the book.
- CSEL and SME portfolios typically sees higher credit costs in Q1 and Q2, and later decline during the year.
   However, the net benefit could be 5 bps reduction on the overall credit costs in FY26.
- SBPL, HL and LAP could see some increase in credit costs by around 10 bps. However, reduction in SME and CSEL credit costs can be adjusted against the increase in SBPL, LAP and HL credit costs.
- Overall, the company expects the net credit costs to come down to 1.3% in FY26 from 1.4% in FY25.
- Credit costs of Home Loan and LAP could be around 0.4-0.5% in FY26.

#### **Future Guidance**

- The company maintains its AUM growth guidance of 20-25% in FY26.
- The company expects 20% growth in vehicle financing business and 30% growth in non-vehicle finance business in FY26.
- Cost of funds is expected to improve by 10 bps in FY26, net of the benefit that needs to passed on to the floating rate book.
- The company will be launching gold loan business in certain geographies. It will add 120 new gold loan branches in Southern and Eastern regions.
- The company is targeting gold loan AUM of Rs.20 bn in the next 1.5 years.
- The company has conservatively guided for 3.4% ROTA (PBT) in FY26 due to the launch of gold loan business. However, the company will eventually move towards 3.5% target in the medium term.
- The company may do 1-2 securitisation deals in in FY26.



**Exhibit 1: Quarterly Snapshot** 

(Rs mn)

Year-end: March	Q4FY25	Q4FY24	Q3FY25	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)
Interest Income	70,251	54,202	67,092	29.6	4.7
Interest Expenses	33,623	25,793	32,718	30.4	2.8
Net Interest Income	36,628	28,409	34,374	28.9	6.6
NIM (%)	8.0	7.8	7.7	20 bps	30 bps
Fee & Other Income	956	718	1,031	33.1	-7.3
Operating Income	37,584	29,127	35,406	29.0	6.2
Staff Cost	9,218	7,658	8,807	20.4	4.7
Other Op Exp	5,051	5,192	5,323	-2.7	-5.1
Total Operating Expenses	14,269	12,850	14,130	11.0	1.0
Cost to Income (%)	38.0	44.1	39.9	-615 bps	-194 bps
Cost to AUM (%)	3.2	3.7	3.3	-50 bps	-16 bps
Operating Profit	23,315	16,278	21,276	43.2	9.6
Provisions	6,253	1,908	6,640	227.7	-5.8
Credit Cost (%)	0.3	0.1	0.4	21 bps	-4 bps
PBT	17,062	14,369	14,636	18.7	16.6
Tax	4,395	3,788	3,771	16.0	16.6
-effective tax rate	25.8	26.4	25.8	-60 bps	0 bps
PAT	12,667	10,581	10,865	19.7	16.6
EPS (Rs)	15.1	12.6	12.9	19.6	16.6
BV (Rs)	280.9	232.7	268.6	20.7	4.6
Loans	18,19,299	14,44,243	17,27,260	26.0	5.3
AUM	18,47,460	14,55,720	17,45,670	26.9	5.8
Disbursement	2,64,170	2,47,840	2,58,060	6.6	2.4
Source: Company: IDPI Capital Research					



**Exhibit 2: ROE Decomposition** 

(%)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
NII	6.5	6.2	7.4	7.4	7.6
Other Income	0.9	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Net Revenue	7.4	7.4	7.6	7.7	7.8
Ор.Ехр	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1
Op.Profit	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.7
Provisions	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.3
PBT	3.7	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.5
Tax	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9
PAT	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.6
Leverage (x)	7.5	8.0	8.3	8.0	7.5
ROE	20.5	20.2	19.7	19.8	19.6



Exhibit 3: One-year forward P/ABV (FY14-19)

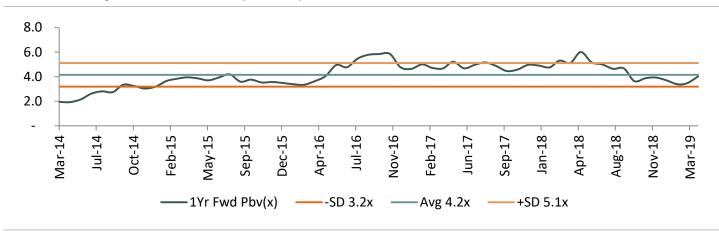


Exhibit 4: One-year forward P/ABV (FY16-25)

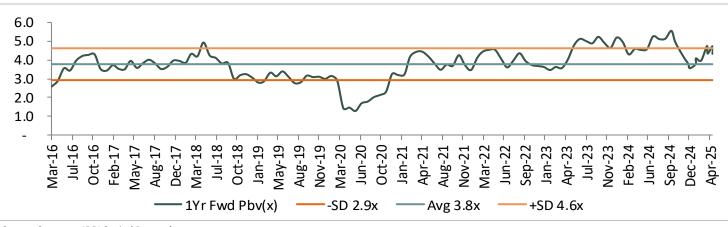




Exhibit 5: AUM showcased a slowdown in March quarter

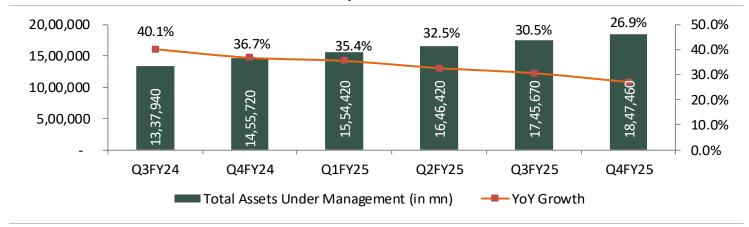
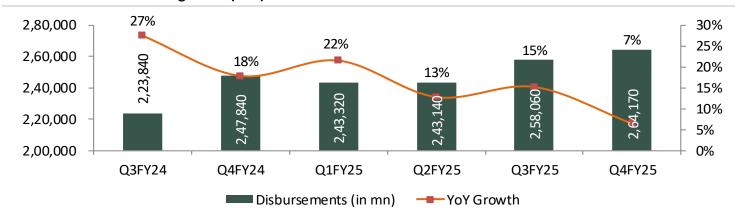
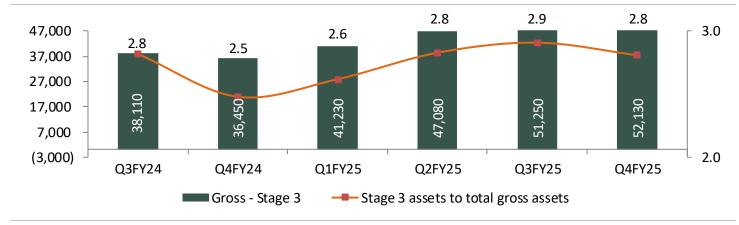


Exhibit 6: Disbursements growth (YoY) slowed down





**Exhibit 7: Asset quality remained stable** 



**Exhibit 8: Borrowings growth decreased sequentially** 

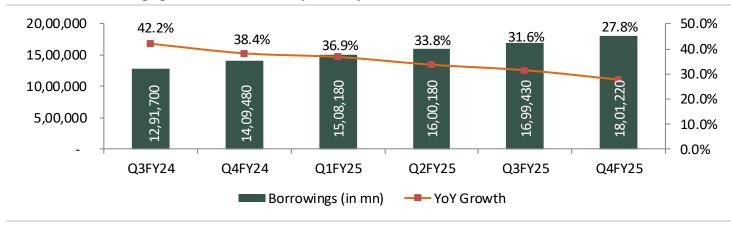




Exhibit 9: ROA (PBT) increased sequentially

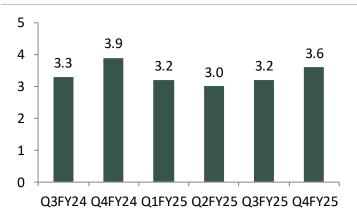
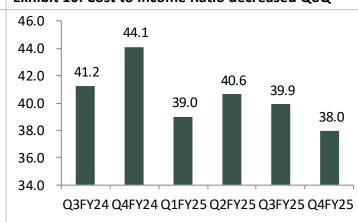
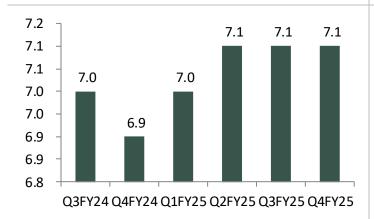


Exhibit 10: Cost to Income Ratio decreased QoQ



Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Exhibit 11: Cost of Funds were stable on QoQ basis



Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

**Exhibit 12: Yields increased sequentially** 

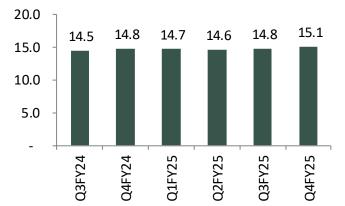
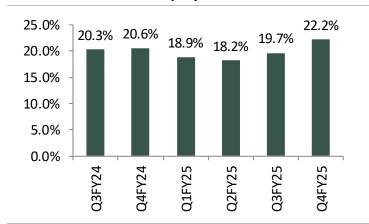
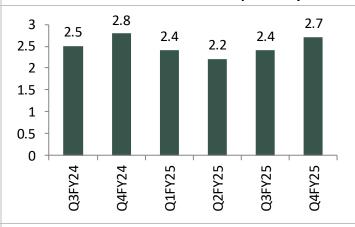




Exhibit 13: Return on Equity increased QoQ



**Exhibit 14: ROTA-PAT increased sequentially** 



Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Exhibit 15: Losses and provisions - after additional provision

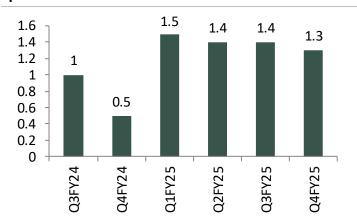


Exhibit 16: CAR remains comfortable



Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research



## **Asset Ratios - Vehicle Finance PF**

Exhibit 17: ROTA-PBT improved sharply

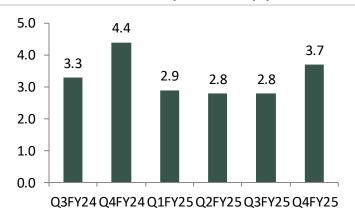
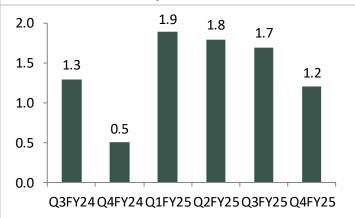


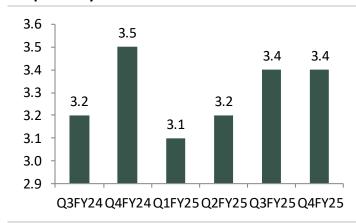
Exhibit 18: Losses and provisions declined QoQ



Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Exhibit 19: Expenses Ratio remained stable sequentially



Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

**Exhibit 20: Net Income Margin increased sequentially** 

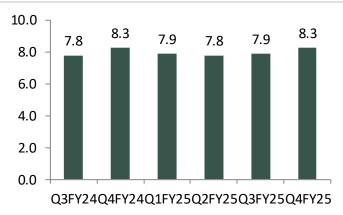




Exhibit 21: Cost of Funds remained stable on a QoQ basis

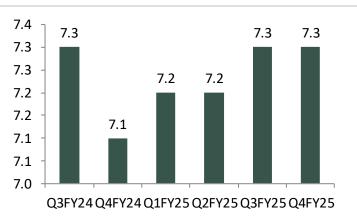
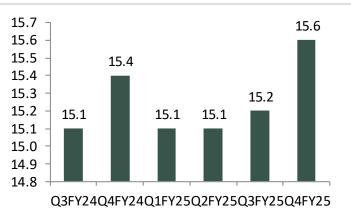


Exhibit 22: Yields on AUM increased stable sequentially





## **Asset Ratios - Home Equity PF**

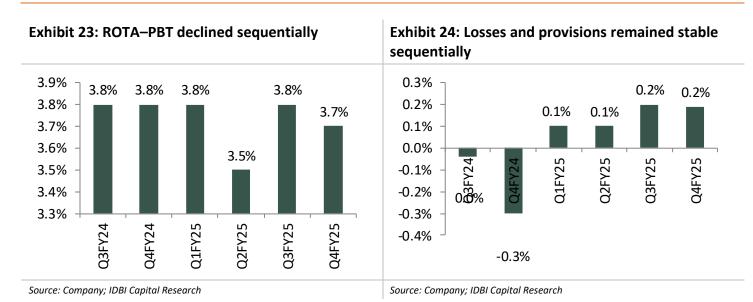
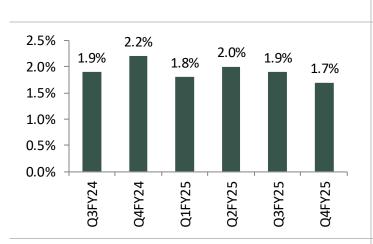
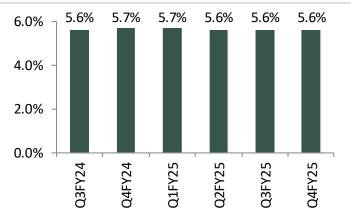


Exhibit 25: Expenses Ratio improved QoQ



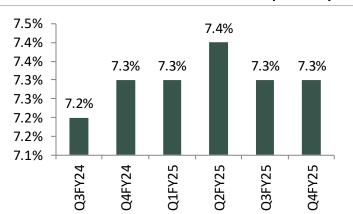
Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

**Exhibit 26: Net Income Margin were stable sequentially** 

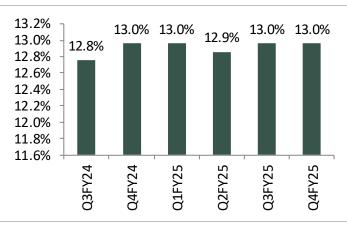








**Exhibit 28: Yields remained stable** 





(Rs mn)

# **Financial Summary**

## Profit & Loss Account

Year-end: March	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Net interest income	52,680	63,334	83,831	1,32,607	1,62,633	1,94,556
Change (yoy, %)	13%	20%	32%	58%	23%	20%
Other Income	5,720	8,958	16,026	3,092	4,873	5,782
Net Revenue	58,400	72,292	99,857	1,35,699	1,67,506	2,00,339
Operating expenses	20,687	27,799	40,818	53,388	67,609	78,844
Employee expenses	8,945	12,657	23,306	32,805	38,010	43,999
Other expenses	11,742	15,142	17,512	20,583	29,599	34,845
Pre-Provision Profit	37,712	44,494	59,039	82,311	99,897	1,21,494
Change (yoy, %)	10%	18%	33%	39%	21%	22%
Provision	8,803	8,497	13,218	24,943	27,701	32,181
PBT	28,909	35,997	45,821	57,369	72,196	89,313
Taxes	7,442	9,335	11,593	14,783	18,172	22,480
Effective tax rate (%)	26%	26%	25%	26%	25%	25%
Net profit	21,467	26,662	34,228	42,585	54,024	66,833
Change (yoy, %)	42%	24%	28%	24%	27%	24%
EPS	26.1	32.4	40.7	50.6	63.0	77.9
Return on Equity (%)	20.2	20.5	20.2	19.7	19.8	19.6
Return on Assets (%)	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.6



Balance Sheet (Rs mn)

Year-end: March	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Equity Capital	1,643	1,644	1,681	1,683	1,716	1,716
Reserves & Surplus	1,15,434	1,41,315	1,93,884	2,34,592	3,07,295	3,72,840
Shareholder's Funds	1,17,077	1,42,959	1,95,564	2,36,274	3,09,011	3,74,557
Borrowings	6,53,256	9,28,686	12,93,239	16,82,515	19,66,724	23,11,374
Sub-ordinated debt	53,301	63,511	75,704	97,687	83,629	89,625
Total liabilities	8,23,633	11,35,155	15,64,507	20,16,476	23,59,365	27,75,556
Cash	42,200	29,614	43,202	94,007	90,798	88,408
Investments	20,762	36,200	41,002	63,904	70,294	77,324
Advances	7,41,492	10,47,483	14,44,243	18,19,299	21,53,663	25,59,134
Fixed Assets	2,916	4,591	15,695	17,718	19,829	22,194
Other Assets	16,264	17,267	20,365	21,548	24,780	28,497
Total assets	8,23,633	11,35,155	15,64,507	20,16,476	23,59,365	27,75,556



Financial Ratios (%)

Year-end: March	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Growth				5		
Advances	12.6	41.3	37.9	26.0	18.4	18.8
NII	13.3	20.2	32.4	58.2	22.6	19.6
Pre-Provision Profit	10.4	18.0	32.4	39.4	21.4	21.6
Net Profit	41.7	24.2	28.4	24.4	26.9	23.7
Spreads	12.2	12.2	42.0	45.6	45.6	45.6
Yield on Loans	13.3	13.2	13.8	15.6	15.6	15.6
Cost of Borrowings	6.5	6.9	8.0	8.1	8.0	8.0
NIM (on AAUM)	7.2	6.9	6.7	8.0	8.0	8.0
Spread	6.9	6.3	5.8	7.5	7.6	7.6
Operating Efficiency						
Cost-to-Income	35.4	38.5	40.9	39.3	40.4	39.4
Cost-to-AUM	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3
Asset Quality						
GNPA	4.4	3.0	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.8
NNPA	2.7	1.7	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6
Provision Coverage	39.7	46.0	46.4	45.3	46.0	46.0
Credit Cost	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.4	1.2	1.2
Capital Adequacy						
CAR	18.1	14.8	18.6	19.8	19.4	20.0
Tier I	15.1	12.8	15.1	14.4	15.4	16.0
Valuation						
EPS	26.1	32.4	40.7	50.6	63.0	77.9
BV	126.0	157.7	212.9	251.9	326.6	396.7
P/E	59.0	47.5	37.8	30.4	24.5	19.8
P/BV	12.2	9.8	7.2	6.1	4.7	3.9
ROE	20.2	20.5	20.2	19.7	19.8	19.6
ROA	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.6
ROAAUM	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.8



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**Key to Ratings Stocks:** 

BUY: 15%+; HOLD: -5% to 15%; SELL: -5% and below.

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