

HDFC Life Insurance

Estimate change

TP change

Rating change



Bloomberg	HDFCLIFE IN
Equity Shares (m)	2155
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	1630.8 / 19
52-Week Range (INR)	821 / 584
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	-1/19/16
12M Avg Val (INR M)	2489

Financials & Valuations (INR b)

Y/E March	2025	2026E	2027E
Net Premiums	696.2	807.4	934.3
PBT	18.7	21.1	24.6
Surplus / Deficit	10.4	11.5	13.4
Sh. PAT	18.0	21.1	24.6
NBP gr - APE (%)	15.8	14.4	16.7
Premium gr (%)	12.6	16.0	15.7
VNB margin (%)	25.6	25.5	26.0
RoEV (%)	16.8	16.3	16.5
Total AUMs (INRt)	3.4	4.3	5.1
VNB (INRb)	39.6	45.2	53.7
EV per share	257.6	299.6	348.9

Valuations

P/EV (x)	2.9	2.5	2.2
P/EVOP (x)	20.6	17.9	15.2

Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Mar-25	Dec-24	Mar-24
Promoter	50.3	50.3	50.4
DII	14.1	13.7	7.9
FII	25.0	25.2	30.1
Others	10.6	10.8	11.6

FII includes depository receipts

CMP: INR757

TP: INR910 (+20%)

Buy

APE in line; VNB margin flat on YoY basis

- HDFC Life Insurance (HDFCLIFE) reported APE of INR32.3b (in-line) in 1QFY26, up 13% YoY, driven by 13%/12% YoY growth in individual/group APE.
- VNB grew 13% YoY to INR8.1b in 1QFY26 (5% below our estimates). Margins stood at 25.1%, a 90bp decline from our estimate of 26%, primarily due to the shift in the product mix towards lower yield offerings.
- For 1QFY26, HDFCLIFE reported a 14% YoY growth in shareholders' PAT to INR 5.5b, (11% beat), supported by a 15% increase in back-book profits.
- VNB margins are expected to remain range-bound due to slower growth and the reinvestment of surplus into distribution expansion and fixed cost absorption.
- We trim VNB margin assumptions by 50bp each for FY26/FY27, factoring in 1QFY26 performance and guidance of flattish margins. **We reiterate BUY with a TP of INR 910 (2.6x FY27E EV).**

Share of non-PAR business to improve

- For 1QFY26, HDFCLIFE reported 16% YoY growth in gross premium to INR148.8b (in line), driven by 19%/17% YoY growth in renewal/single premium.
- Overall APE growth of 13% YoY was driven by the growth of 117%/16%/17% YoY in Par/ULIP/Term business, while non-par and group business reported a YoY decline of 36%/16%. Individual APE growth was 13% YoY, led by 13%/125% YoY growth in the ULIP/Par segment.
- Share of ULIPs was stable at 33% on an overall APE basis despite expectations of a slowdown, aided by favorable market conditions. Management guides for the share to gradually shift towards traditional products.
- The share of the par segment increased to 27% from 14% in 1QFY25 on account of new product offerings and the relaunch of the existing retirement product. The share of the non-par segment, however, dipped temporarily due to an irrational pricing environment. Management guides for these trends to normalize in the near term.
- The credit protect segment showed signs of recovery, supported by higher disbursements, better attachment rates, and entry into new lending segments.
- On the distribution front, management guides for similar growth across channels, with the agency channel driving the uptrend due to strong additions and improved efficiency via transformation programs.
- On an individual APE basis, the banca/agency/brokers mix grew 4%/6%/141% YoY, while the direct channel saw a decline of 8% YoY.
- The 61st month persistency across cohorts improved, supported by stronger retention in long-term savings products. However, a decline was observed in the 13th month persistency, driven by a reduced proportion of large-ticket policies due to changes in taxation.

Prayesh Jain - Research Analyst (Prayesh.Jain@MotilalOswal.com) | Nitin Aggarwal (Nitin.Aggarwal@MotilalOswal.com)

Research Analyst: Kartikeya Mohata (Kartikeya.Mohata@MotilalOswal.com) | Muskan Chopra (Muskan.Chopra@motilaloswal.com)

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- ~70% of new customers acquired in 1QFY26 were first-time buyers, with a presence across Tier 1, 2, and 3 cities. Growth during the quarter was driven by higher average ticket sizes and increased traction in selected unit-linked and par products.
- As of Jun'25, total AUM increased by 15% YoY to INR3.6t.
- Embedded Value (EV) grew 18% YoY to INR584b as of Jun'25, reflecting RoEV of 17.6%. Solvency ratio for the quarter stood at 192%.

Highlights from the management commentary

- Management expects growth in H2 to outpace H1; however, full-year FY26 growth is likely to come in below FY25 levels.
- Management expects the non-par product mix to rise to the mid-20% range, while the share of par products is expected to decline to around 25% during the year.
- While the counter share in the parent bank remained stable, strong growth from other bank partnerships and ongoing digital integration with the parent bank are expected to support a better channel mix in 2HFY26.

Valuation and view

- HDFCLIFE continues to focus on enhancing channel economics through a multi-pronged strategy—diversifying the product mix, driving cross-sell and upsell, leveraging the bank's digital assets, and improving customer experience.
- We have trimmed our VNB margin assumptions by 50bp each for FY26/27 to reflect the 1QFY26 performance and management's guidance of flattish margins. **We reiterate BUY with a TP of INR910 (based on 2.6x FY27E EV).**

Quarterly Performance

Policy holder's A/c (INR b)	FY25				FY26				FY25	FY26E	FY26E 1Q	V/s est	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2QE	3QE	4QE						
First year premium	23.6	32.5	29.7	44.0	25.5	36.0	34.9	51.9	129.8	148.3	26.5	-3.9	8.2	-42.0
Growth (%)	27.4%	26.8%	10.8%	9.5%	8.2%	10.8%	17.4%	18.1%	16.8%	14.3%	12.5%			
Renewal premium	64.1	88.3	93.8	130.6	76.0	101.4	110.3	153.3	376.8	441.1	75.0	1.4	18.6	-41.8
Growth (%)	10.5%	12.7%	11.7%	14.5%	18.6%	14.9%	17.6%	17.4%	12.7%	17.1%	17.0%			
Single premium	40.4	48.4	49.3	65.7	47.2	54.0	56.3	77.1	203.9	234.6	52.0	-9.3	16.8	-28.2
Growth (%)	0.6%	6.8%	10.8%	19.1%	16.8%	11.4%	14.2%	17.3%	10.1%	15.1%	28.7%			
Gross premium inc.	128.1	169.3	172.8	240.3	148.8	191.5	201.4	282.4	710.4	824.0	153.5	-3.1	16.1	-38.1
Growth (%)	9.7%	13.3%	11.3%	14.8%	16.1%	13.1%	16.6%	17.5%	12.6%	16.0%	19.9%			
Surplus/(Deficit)	5.6	5.1	-1.9	1.6	0.8	2.9	3.2	4.6	10.4	11.5	2.8	-70.3	-85.2	-48.9
Growth (%)	165.7%	122.6%	-415.7%	-40.1%	-85.2%	-43.9%	-265.9%	178.8%	35%	9.9%	-50%			
PAT	4.8	4.3	4.1	4.8	5.5	5.0	5.1	5.6	18.0	21.1	4.9	10.6	14.4	14.7
Growth (%)	15.0%	14.9%	13.7%	15.9%	14.4%	14.5%	22.0%	17.8%	14.9%	17.1%	3.4%			
Key metrics (INRb)														
New business APE	28.7	38.6	35.7	51.9	32.3	42.7	41.7	60.5	154.8	177.1	32.7	-1.3	12.5	-37.8
Growth (%)	23.1	26.7	11.8	9.7	12.5	10.6	16.8	16.6	16.5%	14.4%	14.1			
VNB	7.2	9.4	9.3	13.8	8.1	10.8	10.6	15.6	39.6	45.2	8.5	-4.8	12.7	-41.2
Growth (%)	17.7	17.1	8.6	11.5	12.7	15.1	14.3	13.6	13.2%	14.0%	18.4			
AUM (INR b)	3,102	3,249	3,287	3,363	3,559	3,773	3,999	4,336	3,363	4,336	3,632	-2.0	14.7	5.8
Growth (%)	22.5	22.7	17.5	15.1	14.7	16.1	21.7	28.9	15.1%	28.9%	17.1			
Key Ratios (%)														
VNB Margins (%)	25.0	24.3	26.1	26.5	25.1	25.3	25.5	25.9	25.6	25.5	26.0	-90bp	10bp	-143bp

Exhibit 1: Revised estimates

	New Estimates		Old Estimates		Change in Estimates (%)	
Y/E MARCH	FY26E	FY27E	FY26E	FY27E	FY26E	FY27E
Net Premiums (INRb)	807.4	934.3	812.5	940.2	-0.6	-0.6
PBT (INRb)	21.1	24.6	21.5	25.4		
Surplus / Deficit (INRb)	11.5	13.4	11.2	13.7	2.0	-2.1
Sh. PAT (INRb)	21.1	24.6	21.5	25.4	-1.7	-2.9
NBP gr - APE (%)	14.4	16.7	16.7	16.7		
Premium gr (%)	16.0	15.7	16.7	15.7		
VNB margin (%)	25.5	26.0	26.0	26.5	-0.5	-0.5
RoEV (%)	16.3	16.5	16.9	17.0		
Total AUMs (INRt)	4.3	5.1	4.3	5.1		
VNB (INRb)	45.2	53.7	47.0	55.9	-3.9	-3.9
EV per share	299.6	348.9	301	352	-0.5	-0.9
Valuations						
P/EV (x)	2.5	2.2	2.7	2.3		
P/EVOP (x)	17.9	15.2	18.8	15.9		



Highlights from the management commentary

Business performance

- 1QFY26 started on a strong note with healthy growth in top-line, value of new business, and stable margins.
- The company continues to focus on enhancing channel economics through a multi-pronged strategy—diversifying the product mix, driving cross-sell and upsell, leveraging the bank's digital assets, and improving customer experience.
- Management guides for H2 growth to be better than H1, but on an overall basis, the growth for FY26 would be lower than FY25 growth.
- The company outperformed both the overall industry and the private sector, leading to a 70bp increase in overall market share to 12.1%, marking a new milestone.
- ~70% of new customers acquired in 1QFY26 were first-time buyers, with a presence across Tier 1, 2, and 3 cities. Growth during the quarter was driven by higher average ticket sizes and increased traction in select unit-linked and par products.
- Retail sum assured grew in double digits and recorded a 30% CAGR over two years. The company maintained its leadership position in overall sum assured, reinforcing its market leadership in protection.
- 117 branches were added in FY25, bringing the total to 658. Branches opened in the last 18 months now contribute a high single-digit share, in line with the company's expectations. The focus remains on improving branch-level profitability.
- A decline was observed in 13th month persistency, driven by a reduced proportion of large-ticket policies due to changes in taxation.
- 61st month persistency improved across cohorts, supported by stronger retention in long-term savings products.

Product mix

- The par segment gained momentum during the quarter due to new product offerings and the re-launch of the existing retirement product.

- The non-par savings mix saw a temporary dip during the quarter due to an irrational pricing environment. However, it is expected to recover going forward, leading to favorable growth in margins.
- Management expects the non-par product mix to rise to the mid-20% range, while the share of par products is expected to decline to around 25% during the year.
- The share of ULIPs remained stable despite expectations of a slowdown (though lower than the industry), aided by favorable market conditions. Management indicates a gradual shift in focus toward traditional products.
- The credit protect segment showed signs of recovery, supported by higher disbursements, better attachment rates, and entry into new lending segments. The MFI segment remains strong, with the pace of decline among larger partners easing, supported by a more stable regulatory landscape and a favorable base effect.

Margins:

- The 30bp margin impact due to surrender charges was offset by an improved product mix.
- Management continues to reinvest margin gains into expanding distribution and absorbing fixed costs. Margins are expected to remain range-bound for the year due to slower expected growth, but are projected to expand over the longer term.

Financial:

- PAT grew 14% YoY in 1QFY26, driven by 15% growth in back-book profits.
- Renewal collections registered robust growth of 19% YoY during the quarter.

Distribution

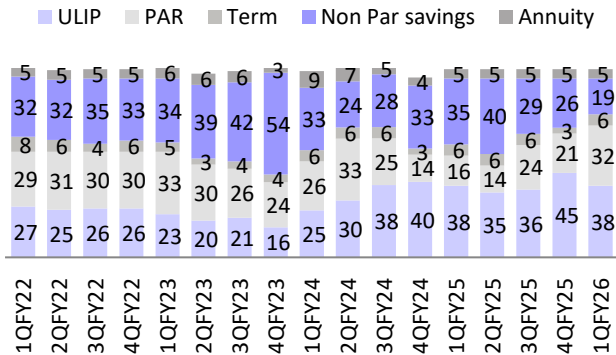
- Management expects consistent growth across all distribution channels.
- ~23k new agents were added in 1QFY26, reflecting strong recruitment momentum. Continued agent additions and investments in the agency transformation program are expected to support growth in the channel.
- The agency channel delivered a 10% CAGR over two years following the surrender regulation changes, maintaining a healthy double-digit protection mix and profitable growth despite uneven trends in the broader industry.
- The counter share in the parent bank remained stable, while other bank partnerships recorded healthy growth.
- Digital integration with the parent bank is expected to support an improved product mix in 2HFY26.

Others

- On the regulatory front, the company remains aligned with the broader vision and continues to proactively strengthen disclosures, sales practices, and customer experience.
- It believes that balanced regulation will support long-term growth and deeper penetration, especially as bancassurance and open architecture emerge as key enablers for expanding insurance access
- MSCI has upgraded the company's ESG rating from A to AA, making it the highest-rated insurer in India.

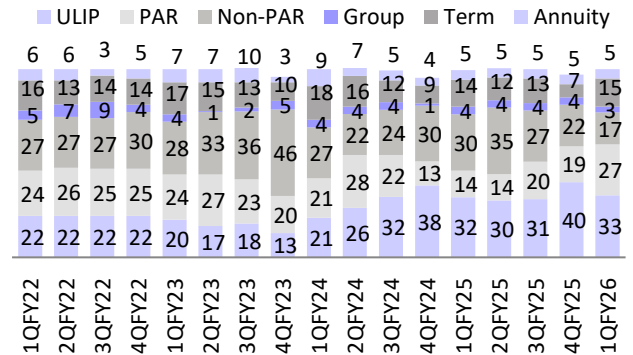
Key exhibits

Exhibit 2: Share of ULIP was stable YoY at 38% of individual APE



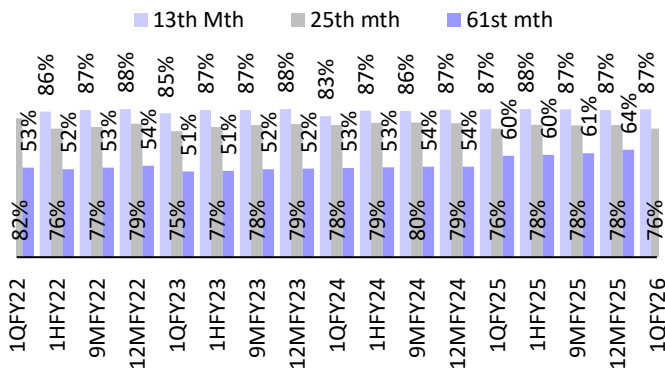
Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 3: Share of ULIP/Par/Non-par savings at 33%/27%/17% of total APE, respectively



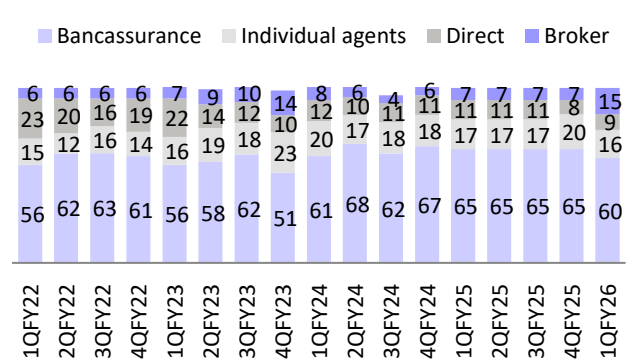
Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 4: Improving trends in the 61st persistency ratio



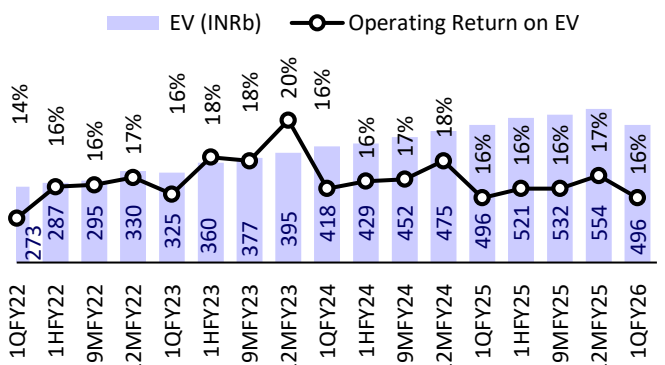
Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 5: Distribution mix for individual APE



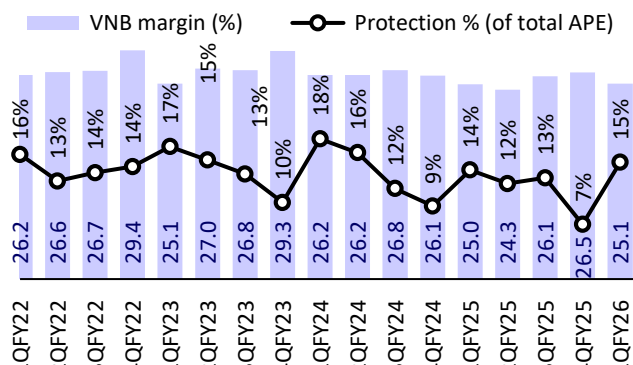
Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 6: Operating RoEV healthy at 16%



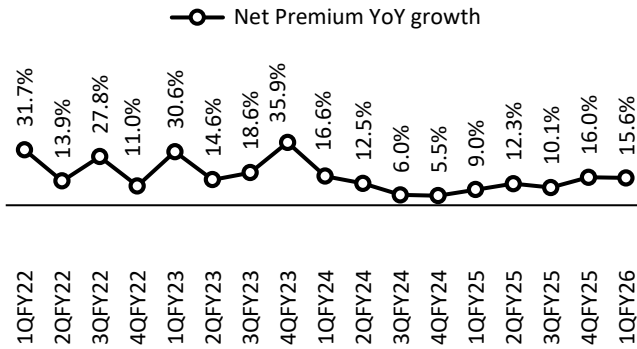
Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 7: VNB margin at 25.1% for 1QFY26



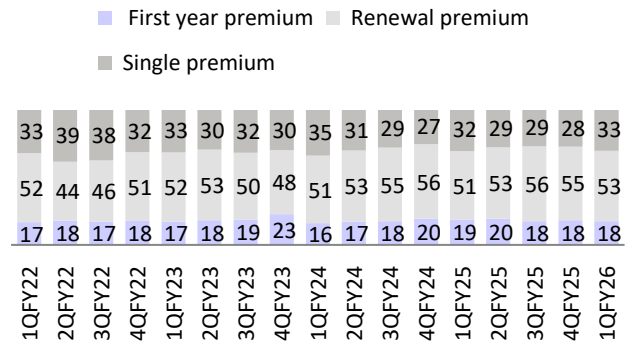
Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 8: Net premium income grew 15.6% YoY



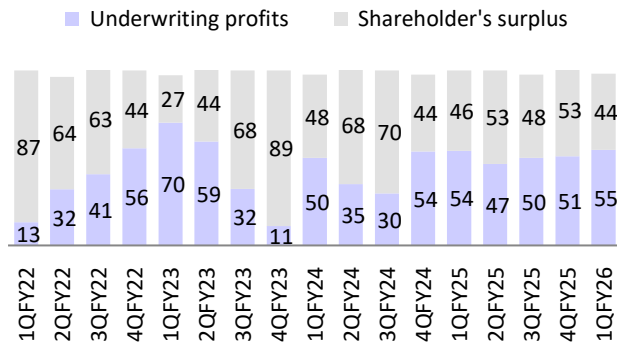
Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 9: Proportion of premium trends among first year, single, and renewal premiums



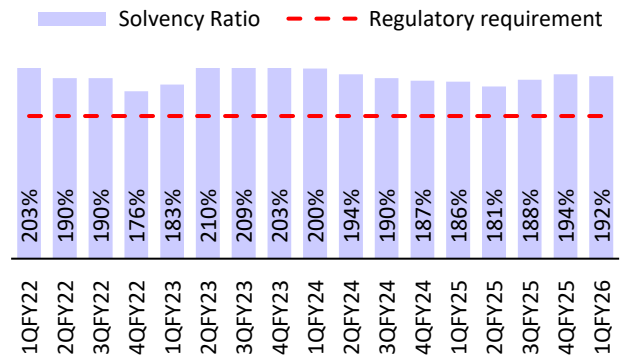
Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 10: Trend in underwriting profit and shareholders' surplus



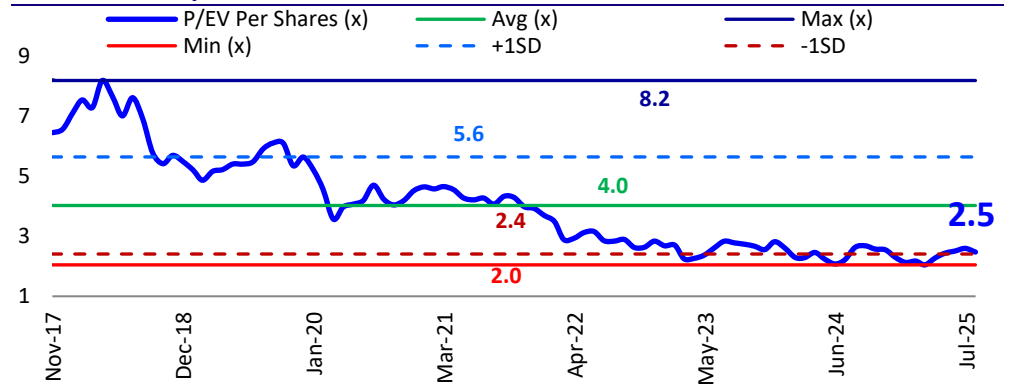
Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 11: Solvency ratio stood at 192% in 1QFY26



Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 12: One-year forward P/EV



Source: MOFSL, Company

Financials and valuations

Technical account (INRm)	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Gross Premiums	3,27,069	3,85,835	4,59,628	5,75,334	6,30,765	7,10,449	8,24,014	9,53,444
Reinsurance Ceded	(4,833)	(4,612)	(5,664)	(7,694)	(11,173)	(14,288)	(16,572)	(19,175)
Net Premiums	3,22,236	3,81,223	4,53,964	5,67,640	6,19,592	6,96,161	8,07,442	9,34,270
Income from Investments	(33,109)	3,26,776	1,92,160	1,25,975	3,83,543	2,59,453	3,49,765	3,96,619
Other Income	3,487	4,420	7,460	13,439	4,608	3,834	4,218	4,639
Total income (A)	2,92,614	7,12,418	6,53,584	7,07,054	10,07,743	9,59,448	11,61,425	13,35,528
Commission	14912	17104	19403	28869	52563	78353	89833	104703
Operating expenses	42,669	45,860	56,125	84,374	69,010	62,218	68,440	75,284
Total commission and opex	57,581	62,964	75,528	1,13,242	1,21,574	1,40,571	1,58,273	1,79,987
Benefits Paid (Net)	1,90,215	2,25,748	3,18,637	3,88,723	3,96,965	3,93,459	4,79,996	5,47,621
Chg in reserves	24,408	4,08,296	2,46,815	1,85,862	4,84,194	4,15,156	5,02,993	5,84,356
Prov for doubtful debts	9,207	1,682	1,162	4,047	3,183	5,715	6,678	7,808
Total expenses (B)	2,81,410	6,98,690	6,42,142	6,91,875	10,05,915	9,54,901	11,47,939	13,19,772
(A) - (B)	11,204	13,729	11,442	15,180	1,828	4,547	13,485	15,756
Provn for tax	1,490	2,744	1,845	1,591	-5,924	-5,882	2,023	2,363
Surplus / Deficit	9,714	10,985	9,597	13,589	7,752	10,429	11,463	13,393

Shareholder's a/c (INRm)	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Transfer from technical a/c	11,914	9,909	10,093	14,689	7,991	9,968	11,463	13,393
Income From Investments	4,378	6,476	7,894	7,197	10,022	11,251	12,452	14,320
Total Income	16,478	16,385	17,987	22,519	18,144	21,220	23,916	27,714
Other expenses	334	637	825	1,246	1,209	1,429	1,572	1,730
Contribution to technical a/c	1,047	2,586	5,694	8,795	1,251	1,004	1,105	1,215
Total Expenses	3,360	2,850	6,186	9,794	2,505	2,559	2,815	3,097
PBT	13,117	13,535	11,801	12,724	15,639	18,661	21,101	24,618
Prov for Tax	(165)	66	275	877	50	(640)	-	-
PAT	12,953	13,601	12,077	13,601	15,689	18,021	21,101	24,618
Growth	1%	5%	-11%	13%	15%	15%	17%	17%

Balance sheet (INRm)	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Sources of Fund								
Share Capital	20,244	20,229	21,159	21,526	21,509	21,536	21,536	21,536
Reserves And Surplus	49,675	64,074	1,32,852	1,08,146	1,20,503	1,35,260	1,60,670	1,89,597
Shareholders' Fund	67,999	86,377	1,54,859	1,29,868	1,46,517	1,61,256	1,86,666	2,15,593
Policy Liabilities	6,52,708	8,55,230	10,43,425	14,32,696	17,53,488	21,07,778	25,19,571	30,08,332
Prov. for Linked Liab.	5,08,442	7,09,635	7,65,190	7,53,836	9,21,145	9,77,434	15,03,738	17,00,345
Funds For Future App.	42,209	47,866	50,435	50,533	46,386	51,424	56,567	62,223
Current liabilities & prov.	49,769	65,159	62,287	83,030	87,777	95,992	1,05,591	1,16,150
Total	13,21,624	17,95,817	21,03,892	24,79,222	30,25,071	34,91,333	43,50,596	50,81,108
Application of Funds								
Shareholders' inv	58,555	85,421	1,52,379	1,31,319	1,48,819	1,83,863	2,11,443	2,43,159
Policyholders' inv	6,71,886	9,05,378	10,83,110	14,64,485	18,17,966	21,62,671	27,94,538	33,35,116
Assets to cover linked liab.	5,41,821	7,47,595	8,06,215	7,92,015	9,55,416	10,16,282	12,03,546	13,47,972
Loans	2,991	4,240	6,428	15,853	18,972	23,783	26,161	28,777
Fixed Assets	3,301	3,401	3,427	3,802	4,158	6,011	6,311	6,627
Current assets	43,070	49,781	52,333	71,748	79,739	98,724	1,08,597	1,19,457
Total	13,21,624	17,95,817	21,03,892	24,79,222	30,25,071	34,91,333	43,50,596	50,81,108

Financials and valuations

Operating ratios (%)	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Investment yield	-2.7%	22.8%	10.8%	6.1%	15.2%	8.5%	9.5%	9.1%
Commissions / GWP	4.6%	4.4%	4.2%	5.0%	8.3%	11.0%	10.9%	11.0%
- first year premiums	17.9%	18.5%	17.0%	17.9%	28.4%	45.2%	45.2%	45.2%
- renewal premiums	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%	1.8%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%
- single premiums	1.3%	1.0%	1.3%	1.6%	8.5%	6.8%	6.8%	6.8%
Operating expenses / GWP	13.0%	11.9%	12.2%	14.7%	10.9%	8.8%	8.3%	7.9%
Total expense ratio	16.9%	17.6%	16.3%	16.4%	19.7%	19.3%	19.8%	19.2%
Claims / NWP	59.0%	59.2%	70.2%	68.5%	64.1%	56.5%	59.4%	58.6%
Solvency ratio	184%	201%	176%	203%	187%	194%	182%	179%

Persistency ratios (%)	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
13th Month	90.1%	90.0%	87.5%	87.5%	87.1%	86.9%	86.8%	86.8%
25th Month	80.2%	81.0%	78.8%	78.7%	79.2%	78.1%	78.0%	77.9%
37th Month	73.8%	71.0%	67.5%	72.4%	73.2%	73.6%	73.3%	73.2%
49th Month	67.2%	67.0%	63.2%	64.0%	69.7%	70.2%	71.2%	71.8%
61st Month	55.0%	53.0%	54.0%	52.3%	53.5%	63.5%	64.2%	65.2%

Profitability ratios (%)	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
VNB margin (%)	25.9%	26.1%	27.4%	27.5%	26.3%	25.6%	25.5%	26.0%
RoE (%)	20.8%	17.6%	10.0%	9.6%	11.4%	11.7%	12.1%	12.2%
RoIC (%)	56.8%	56.7%	21.6%	14.1%	14.7%	16.9%	19.8%	23.1%
Operating ROEV (%)	18.2%	18.5%	16.5%	19.7%	17.5%	16.7%	16.4%	16.6%
RoEV (%)	12.8%	28.9%	12.9%	31.5%	20.1%	16.7%	16.3%	16.5%

Valuation data points	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Total AUMs (INRb)	1,272	1,738	2,042	2,388	2,922	3,363	4,336	5,074
DPS	-	2.02	1.70	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.00	2.00
Dividend payout ratio (%)	0%	0%	33.82	26.41	26.03	-0.00	20.41	17.50
EPS, INR	6.0	6.3	5.6	6.3	7.3	8.4	9.8	11.4
Value of new business (INRb)	19.2	21.9	26.7	36.7	35.0	39.6	45.2	53.7
Embedded Value (INRb)	157.8	266.2	329.4	395.1	474.5	554.1	644.4	750.6
EV per share (INR)	73.4	123.7	153.1	183.7	220.6	257.6	299.6	348.9
VIF as % of EV	85%	66%	64%	68%	69%	71%	72%	73%
P/VIF (x)	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3
P/AUM (%)	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3
P/EV (x)	10.3	6.1	4.9	4.1	3.4	2.9	2.5	2.2
P/EPS (x)	125.7	119.7	134.8	119.7	103.8	90.4	77.2	66.1

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Grievance Redressal Cell:

Contact Person	Contact No.	Email ID
Ms. Hemangi Date	022 40548000 / 022 67490600	query@motilaloswal.com
Ms. Kumud Upadhyay	022 40548082	servicehead@motilaloswal.com
Mr. Ajay Menon	022 40548083	am@motilaloswal.com

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