



FEDERAL BANK

Banking

Strong PAT on higher other income and lower provisions

- Higher other income plus lower provisions aided 67% YoY PAT growth in Q4; NIM contracted due to deposit repricing
- Quarter in line with midterm guidance of high-teens growth in business and stable asset quality
- Expect discount to peers to narrow as return ratios improve; we assume coverage with BUY for a TP of Rs 165

Strong PAT: FB posted strong Q4FY23 net profit of Rs 9bn, up 67% YoY, buoyed by higher other income along with lower provisions. An increased cost of funds (up 36bps QoQ vs. a 13bps rise in yield on assets) led to a 24bps QoQ decline in NIM to 3.2%. NII dipped 2% QoQ but other income rose 37% QoQ (58% YoY) due to treasury gains. Employee expenses reduced YoY in the absence of one-time family pension expense for employees, aiding a 1,000bps drop in C/I ratio. Lower provisions (Rs 1.2bn vs. Rs 2bn in Q3) further boosted PAT.

Deposit repricing peaking out: Credit grew 4% QoQ (20% YoY) in Q4 aided by both the retail and corporate books. Deposits increased 6% QoQ led by term deposits, with CASA down 156bps to 32.7%. Management indicated that deposit repricing is peaking out and already 80% factored in. GNPA/NNPA/PCR at 2.4%/ 0.7%/71.2% improved 7bps/4bps/82bps QoQ.

Unsecured lending to sustain NIM: FB is broadly moving in line with its midterm guidance of high-teens growth in business, NIM of ~3.3% and a gradual decline in C/I ratio by 100bps each over FY24-FY25. We expect the retail business to underpin a credit CAGR of 18% over FY22-FY25 and pencil in a 16% deposit CAGR with a 33% CASA ratio. The focus on retail lending is likely to aid margins, though we conservatively bake in lower NIM than guided for FY25, at 3.2%, considering high, sticky deposit rates. We model for a 19% PPOP CAGR on healthy core and non-core income.

Asset quality stable: We believe the bank's focus on risk-adjusted margins coupled with controlled slippages and higher recoveries will support stable asset quality (GNPA/NNPA/PCR of 2.3% 0.7%/71% over FY24-FY25E). As against credit cost of 47bps in FY23, we conservatively estimate 60bps each for FY24/FY25 considering the growing unsecured book. FB's restructured book stood at Rs 34.7bn as at Q4.

BUY, TP Rs 165: The stock is currently trading at 1x FY25E P/ABV, cheaper than most large-cap peers. We expect FB to gradually improve its return ratios (ROE/ROA 14.5%/ 1.2% in FY25E), narrowing the gap with peers and aiding a rerating. We thus assume coverage with BUY for a TP of Rs 165, set at 1.3x FY25E ABV (Gordon Growth Model).

08 May 2023

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Key changes

	Target	Rating	
Ticke	er/Price	FB IN/Rs 128	
Mark	et cap	US\$ 3.3bn	
Free	float	100%	
3M A	DV	US\$ 15.1mn	
52wk	high/low	Rs 143/Rs 83	
Prom	noter/FPI/DII	0%/27%/73%	

Source: NSE | Price as of 5 May 2023

Key financials

Y/E 31 Mar	FY23P	FY24E	FY25E
Net interest income	72,322	84,473	95,642
NII growth (%)	21.3	16.8	13.2
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	30,106	33,137	37,552
EPS (Rs)	14.3	15.7	17.7
Consensus EPS (Rs)	14.3	16.1	18.8
P/E (x)	9.0	8.2	7.2
P/BV (x)	1.3	1.1	1.0
ROA (%)	1.3	1.2	1.2
ROE (%)	14.9	14.5	14.6

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research | P - Provisional

Stock performance



Source: NSE





Fig 1 – Quarterly snapshot: Income statement

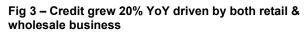
Income statement (Rs mn)	Q1FY22	Q2FY22	Q3FY22	Q4FY22	Q1FY23	Q2FY23	Q3FY23	Q4FY23	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)
Interest Income	26,711	26,749	27,293	27,545	28,868	32,227	35,849	37,974	37.9	5.9
Income on investments	5,906	5,812	5,740	5,929	6,295	6,674	7,207	7,780	31.2	8.0
Int. on bal. with RBI & inter-bank funds & Others	940	1,232	1,393	1,359	1,126	1,307	1,277	1,453	6.9	13.8
Interest income	33,557	33,793	34,426	34,832	36,289	40,208	44,333	47,207	35.5	6.5
Interest expense	19,373	18,998	19,037	19,580	20,244	22,590	24,767	28,115	43.6	13.5
Net interest income	14,184	14,794	15,389	15,252	16,045	17,618	19,565	19,093	25.2	(2.4)
Growth YoY (%)	9.4	7.2	7.1	7.4	13.1	19.1	27.1	25.2	1,780bps	(196bps)
Non-interest income	5,518	4,444	4,842	4,650	4,526	6,095	5,340	7,339	57.8	37.4
Growth YoY (%)	13.0	(12.8)	0.5	(0.1)	(18.0)	37.2	10.3	57.8	5,790bps	4,753bps
Total income	19,702	19,238	20,231	19,902	20,571	23,714	24,905	26,432	32.8	6.1
Growth YoY (%)	10.4	1.8	5.4	5.5	4.4	23.3	23.1	32.8	2,727bps	970bps
Staff expenses	5,283	5,719	5,831	6,373	4,993	5,156	5,608	5,972	(6.3)	6.5
Other operating expenses	4,051	4,871	5,257	5,548	5,844	6,435	6,555	7,114	28.2	8.5
Operating expenses	9,334	10,590	11,088	11,920	10,838	11,591	12,163	13,086	9.8	7.6
Pre-Provisioning Profit (PPoP)	10,368	8,648	9,143	7,982	9,734	12,122	12,742	13,346	67.20	4.7
Growth YoY (%)	11.2	(14.1)	(5.0)	(9.8)	(6.1)	40.2	39.4	67.2	7,701bps	2,783bps
Provisions	5,435	2,453	2,140	752	1,667	2,679	1,987	1,167	55.1	(41.3)
РВТ	4,934	6,195	7,003	7,230	8,067	9,444	10,755	12,179	68.5	13.2
Tax	1,261	1,592	1,786	1,824	2,060	2,407	2,719	3,153	72.8	16.0
РАТ	3,673	4,603	5,217	5,405	6,007	7,037	8,036	9,026	67.0	12.3
Growth YoY (%)	(8.4)	49.6	29.1	13.1	63.5	52.9	54.0	67.0	5,385bps	1,296bps
Per Share										
FV (Rs)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0.0	0.0
EPS (Rs)	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	66.1	12.4
Book Value (Rs)	83	84	86	89	92	93	97	101	14.1	4.6

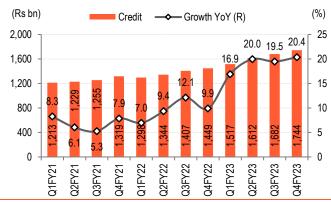


Fig 2 – Quarterly snapshot: Key Balance sheet parameters & ratios

Q1FY22	Q2FY22	Q3FY22	Q4FY22	Q1FY23	Q2FY23	Q3FY23	Q4FY23	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)
1,693,930	1,719,948	1,754,320	1,817,006	1,833,550	1,891,457	2,014,080	2,133,860	17.4	5.9
9.3	9.7	8.5	5.2	8.2	10.0	14.8	17.4	1,219bps	263bps
1,297,650	1,344,046	1,407,430	1,449,283	1,516,890	1,612,403	1,681,730	1,744,469	20.4	3.7
7.0	9.4	12.1	9.9	16.9	20.0	19.5	20.4	1,047bps	88bps
373,910	369,767	374,950	391,795	411,860	435,713	462,650	489,834	25.0	5.9
164,880	177,280	182,520	187,938	193,930	197,488	205,880	215,062	14.4	4.5
2,000,380	2,068,743	2,088,770	2,209,463	2,253,520	2,371,124	2,504,720	2,603,418	17.8	3.9
7.7	9.4	6.1	9.7	12.7	14.6	19.9	17.8	811bps	(208bps)
7.14	7.10	7.12	6.99	7.01	7.50	7.84	7.98	99bps	13bps
4.30	4.20	4.16	4.11	4.09	4.42	4.60	4.96	84bps	36bps
2.84	2.90	2.96	2.87	2.93	3.08	3.24	3.02	15bps	(22bps)
3.02	3.11	3.18	3.06	3.10	3.29	3.46	3.23	17bps	(24bps)
28.0	23.1	23.9	23.4	22.0	25.7	21.4	27.8	440bps	632bps
47.4	55.0	54.8	59.9	52.7	48.9	48.8	49.5	(1,039bps)	67bps
34.8	36.2	36.7	36.9	36.8	36.4	34.2	32.7	(426bps)	(156bps)
76.6	78.1	80.2	79.8	82.7	85.2	83.5	81.8	199bps	(175bps)
18.7	17.9	18.0	17.7	18.3	18.4	18.5	18.8	108bps	34bps
46,493	44,458	44,013	41,367	41,553	40,311	41,479	41,838	1.1	0.87
15,932	15,024	14,712	13,926	14,203	12,624	12,286	12,050	(13.5)	(1.9)
30,561	29,434	29,301	27,441	27,351	27,687	29,193	29,788	8.6	2.0
3.50	3.24	3.06	2.80	2.69	2.46	2.43	2.36	(44bps)	(7bps)
1.23	1.12	1.05	0.96	0.94	0.78	0.73	0.69	(27bps)	(4bps)
65.73	66.21	66.57	66.34	65.82	0.69	70.38	71.20	486bps	82bps
2.09	1.04	1.35	1.13	1.23	1.03	1.02	1.08	(5bps)	6bps
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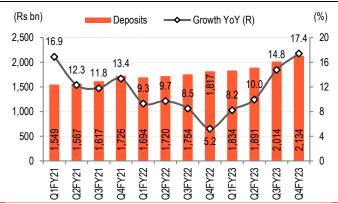
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research





Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 4 – Deposits grew 17% YoY driven by term deposit inflow





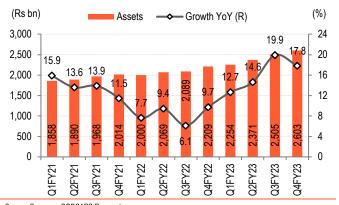
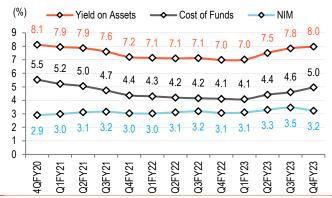


Fig 5 – Assets grew 18% YoY

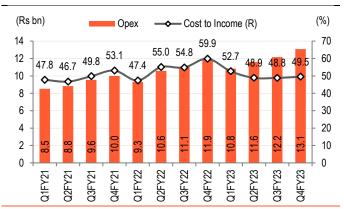
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 7 – NIM (calc.) down 24bps QoQ on higher cost of funds



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 9 – C/I ratio likely to remain elevated at 50%



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 6 – Decline in CASA due to subdued SA mobilisation

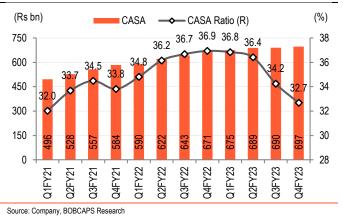


Fig 8 – NIM (calc.) expected to sustain at 3.2%, FY24E-FY25E



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

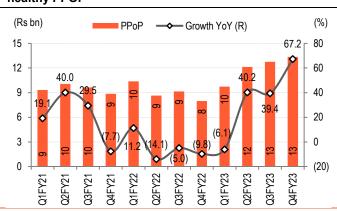


Fig 10 – Higher other income and lower provisions led to healthy PPOP



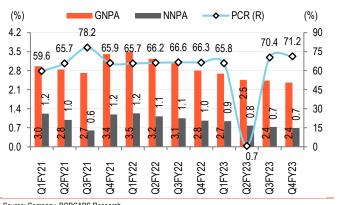
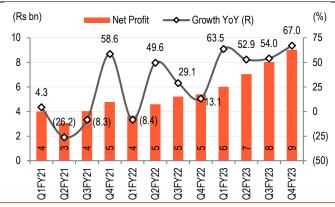


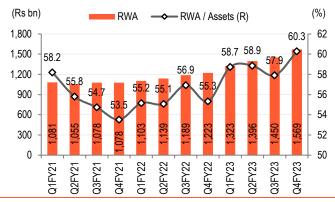
Fig 11 – Continued improvement in asset quality and PCR

Fig 13 – Lower opex and provisions led to 67% YoY PAT growth



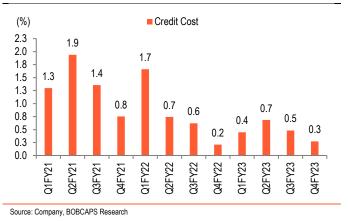
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 15 – RWA higher on change in regulatory requirement



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 12 – Sustained low credit cost boosted profit



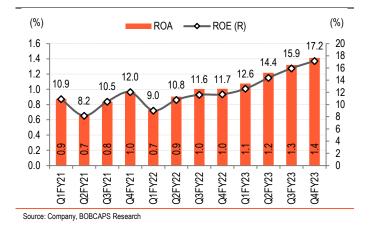


Fig 14 - Steady improvement in return ratios

Fig 16 – CAR at lower end of peer matrix



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research



Earnings call highlights

Asset quality

- Despite higher slippages (Rs 4.4bn in Q4FY23 vs. Rs 4bn in Q3FY23), FB's asset quality improved during the quarter on the back of increased upgrades and recoveries (Rs 4.2bn vs. Rs 2.9bn in Q3). GNPA and NNPA stood at 2.4% and 0.7% respectively with PCR at 71.2% (vs. 70.4% in Q3).
- Stable asset quality led to improvement in credit cost to 27bps from 48bps in Q3.
- Management expects asset quality to remain stable with credit cost holding in a range of 40-50bps over FY24-FY25. We incorporate credit cost of 60bps over FY24/FY25 as a conservative measure given FB's growing unsecured portfolio.
- Risk weighted assets (RWA) stood at 60% of total assets, wherein 200bps was added sequentially in Q4 due to a change in strategy towards unrated borrowers. Tier-1 CAR at 13% is at the lower end of the peer group.

Loans and Deposits

- Advances and deposits grew 20.4% and 17.4% YoY respectively in Q4FY23 in keeping with management guidance of high-teens growth for FY24-FY25.
- FB witnessed strong growth in the corporate loan book at 23.5% YoY while commercial banking grew 18% and retail was up 17.2%.
- The bank is targeting a retail-to-wholesale loan mix of 55:45 wherein the focus would be on credit cards, personal loans, commercial vehicle loans and microfinance within retail. It has seen good traction in the gold loan book and expects 20-25% growth annually for FY24 and FY25. Gold loans form 10-11% of the total book and have headroom to grow up to a 15% internal cap.
- Of the total loan book, 50% is linked to repo, 13-14% to MCLR and the balance is fixed rate where management expects further repricing tailwinds to aid margins.
- On the liability side, deposits jumped 17.4% YoY in Q4 led by term deposits (up 25% vs. CASA growth of 4%). The bank justified the flow into wholesale deposits with competitive pricing to fund the assets. Current accounts grew 13.3% YoY (+10% QoQ) while savings accounts were up 2% YoY (-1% QoQ). The sequential decline came from a shift in customer savings towards term deposits as rates moved up, leading to a 156bps QoQ drop in CASA ratio to 32.7%.

NII and NIM

- NII declined 2.4% QoQ (+25% YoY) due to higher interest expenses. Other income grew 37.4% QoQ (+58% YoY) boosted by treasury gains of Rs 1.9bn vs. a loss of Rs 90mn in Q3 (+Rs 120mn in Q4FY22). FB witnessed strong growth in fee income at 11.5% QoQ (+34% YoY) owing to traction in wholesale fees.
- NIM (calc.) for the quarter contracted 24bps sequentially as deposit repricing led to a higher cost of funds (up 36bps vs. a 13bps rise in yield on assets). Management indicated that ~80% of deposits have already been repriced in Q4 and margins would thus follow guidance in the absence of further rate hikes.



- Operating expense increased 7.6% QoQ (+10% YoY). Moderation in opex growth was in the absence of one-time family pension expense for employees, aiding a 1,000bps drop in C/I ratio (+67bps QoQ) to 49.5%. Management has guided for a gradual 100bps improvement in C/I ratio over FY24/FY25. Nevertheless, we expect it to remain stable in the range of 50% for these years given the bank's thrust on the retail business.
- Higher other income and moderation in opex led to PPOP growth of 5% QoQ and 67% YoY.

Others

• FB plans to add 100 branches during FY24 vs. 73 branches added in FY23.



Valuation methodology

FB's Q4FY23 performance was healthy, supported by non-core income and lower provisions. The bank plans to maintain a retail-to-wholesale portfolio mix of 55:45 wherein it will continue to focus on retail business, specifically the unsecured book, to maintain margins.

We estimate a credit CAGR of 18% during FY22-FY25 and deposit CAGR of 16%, leading to a CD ratio of 85% over our forecast period. NIM is projected to hover in the range of 3.2-3.3%, a tad below management guidance considering the sticky, high cost of deposits. The current rate environment does not point to an uptick in low-cost CASA deposits – we factor in a CASA ratio of 33-34%, in line with FB's three-year average.

In terms of operating expenses, the bank is guiding for higher branch network expansion (100 branch additions vs. 73 in FY23), which is likely to keep operating cost elevated. Though management expects 100bps improvement in C/I ratio each for FY24 and FY25, we have factored in a flat 50% for these years. PPOP is estimated to post a 19% CAGR over FY22-FY25.

We believe FB's focus on risk-adjusted margins coupled with controlled slippages and higher recoveries will support stable asset quality and bake in GNPA/NNPA/PCR of \sim 2.3% 0.7%/71% over FY24-FY25. As against the 40-50bps credit cost guidance, we conservatively estimate 60bps each for FY24 and FY25 considering the growing unsecured book.

FB's CAR stood at 14.8% in Q4FY23 wherein tier-1 was at 13% – at the lower end when compared to peers as the bank added 200bps of RWA sequentially during Q4 itself. While this could pose a challenge to growth, the bank has board approval in place for fund raising which could aid capitalisation. Considering a healthy business growth and asset quality outlook, we estimate higher ROE/ROA of 14.5%/1.2% in FY25 vs. 11%/1% in FY22.

At current valuations of 1x FY25E P/ABV, the stock is one of the cheapest among the large-cap peer basket considering its relatively lower return ratios. We expect higher growth and a focus on risk-adjusted returns to take return ratios above the FB's historical average, gradually narrowing the gap with peers. We thus assume coverage with BUY, valuing the stock at 1.3x FY25E ABV based on the Gordon Growth Model. The bank's ability to generate capital internally without dilution would be key to watch.

Parameter (%)	FY22	FY23P	FY24E	FY25E
Advances	9.9	20.4	17.1	16.5
Net Interest Income	7.7	21.3	16.8	13.2
PPoP	(1.1)	27.6	16.4	14.2
PAT	18.8	59.3	10.1	13.3
NIM	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.2
GNPA	2.8	2.3	2.3	2.3
CAR	15.8	14.8	13.8	13.5

Fig 17 – Key operational assumptions



Fig 18 – Valuation assumptions (Gordon growth model)

Parameter (%)	Assumptions
Cost of equity (%)	12.3
Blended ROE (%)	13.5
Initial high growth period (yrs)	10.0
Payout ratio of high-growth phase (%)	20.0
Long-term growth (%)	5
Long term dividend payout ratio (%)	60
Justified P/BV Multiple (x)	1.3
Source: BOBCAPS Research	

Source: BOBCAPS Research

Key risks

Key downside risks to our estimates are:

- reversal in credit cycle, which can lead to higher deterioration in asset quality and . thus overall profitability owing to higher provisions, and
- inability to manage cost of funds, which may drag down NIM as well as overall profitability.

Sector recommendation snapshot

Company	Ticker	Market Cap (US\$ bn)	Price (Rs)	Target (Rs)	Rating
Axis Bank	AXSB IN	32.6	865	1,111	BUY
Federal Bank	FB IN	3.3	128	165	BUY
HDFC Bank	HDFCB IN	111.0	1,626	1,956	BUY
ICICI Bank	ICICIBC IN	79.2	927	1,015	HOLD
Indusind Bank	IIB IN	10.2	1,073	1,550	BUY
Kotak Mahindra Bank	KMB IN	46.9	1,929	2,122	HOLD

Source: BOBCAPS Research, NSE | Price as of 5 May 2023

Glossary

Glossary of	Abbreviations		
CASA	Current Account and Savings Account	LCR	Liquidity Coverage Ratio
CAR	Capital Adequacy Ratio	MCLR	Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rate
CET1	Common Equity Tier 1	NII	Net Interest Income
CD	Credit-Deposit Ratio	NIM	Net Interest Margin
C/I	Cost-Income Ratio	NNPA	Net Non-Performing Assets
CV	Commercial Vehicle	PCR	Provision Coverage Ratio
CE	Construction Equipment	PPOP	Pre-Provision Operating Profit
EBLR	External Benchmark-based Lending Rate	PSU	Public Sector Unit
GNPA	Gross Non-Performing Assets	RWA	Risk-weighted Assets
LAP	Loans Against Property		



Financials

Income Statement

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23P	FY24E	FY25E
Net interest income	55,337	59,620	72,322	84,473	95,642
NII growth (%)	19.0	7.7	21.3	16.8	13.2
Non-interest income	19,587	20,891	23,310	27,755	32,941
Total income	74,924	80,510	95,632	112,227	128,583
Operating expenses	36,917	42,932	47,678	56,423	64,843
PPOP	38,007	37,579	47,954	55,804	63,740
PPOP growth (%)	18.6	(1.1)	27.6	16.4	14.2
Provisions	16,634	12,218	7,499	11,362	13,268
PBT	21,373	25,361	40,455	44,442	50,473
Tax	5,470	6,463	10,339	11,305	12,921
Reported net profit	15,903	18,898	30,106	33,137	37,552
Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted net profit	15,903	18,898	30,106	33,137	37,552

Balance Sheet

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23P	FY24E	FY25E
Equity capital	3,992	4,205	4,232	4,232	4,232
Reserves & surplus	157,252	183,733	210,830	237,340	267,381
Net worth	161,245	187,938	215,062	241,572	271,613
Deposits	1,726,445	1,817,006	2,133,860	2,441,136	2,807,307
Borrowings	90,685	153,931	193,193	216,376	244,938
Other liab. & provisions	35,299	50,588	61,303	104,473	131,577
Total liab. & equities	2,013,674	2,209,463	2,603,418	3,003,558	3,455,434
Cash & bank balance	195,914	210,103	176,887	190,320	202,590
Investments	371,862	391,795	489,834	560,764	633,783
Advances	1,318,786	1,449,283	1,744,469	2,042,773	2,379,831
Fixed & Other assets	127,112	158,282	192,229	209,701	239,231
Total assets	2,013,674	2,209,463	2,603,418	3,003,558	3,455,434
Deposit growth (%)	13.4	5.2	17.4	14.4	15.0
Advances growth (%)	7.9	9.9	20.4	17.1	16.5

Per Share

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23P	FY24E	FY25E
EPS	8.0	9.2	14.3	15.7	17.7
Dividend per share	0.7	1.8	1.0	3.1	3.5
Book value per share	80.8	89.4	101.6	114.2	128.3

Y/E 31 Mar (x)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23P	FY24E	FY25
P/E	16.0	13.9	9.0	8.2	7.
P/BV	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.0
Dividend yield (%)	0.5	1.4	0.8	2.5	2.
DuPont Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar (%)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23P	FY24E	FY25
Net interest income	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.
Non-interest income	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.
Operating expenses	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.
Pre-provisioning profit	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.
Provisions	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.
PBT	1.1	1.2	1.7	1.6	1.
Tax	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.
ROA	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.
Leverage (x)	12.5	12.1	11.9	12.3	12.
ROE	10.4	10.8	14.9	14.5	14.
Y/E 31 Mar YoY growth (%)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23P	FY24E	FY25
	FIZIA	FIZZA	FIZJE	F1Z4E	FIZJ
Net interest income	19.0	7.7	21.3	16.8	13.
Pre-provisioning profit	18.6	(1.1)	27.6	16.4	14.
EPS	2.8	15.6	54.8	9.7	13.
Profitability & Return rat	tios (%)				
Net interest margin	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.
Fees / Avg. assets	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.
Cost-Income	49.3	53.3	49.9	50.3	50.
ROE	10.4	10.8	14.9	14.5	14.
ROA	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.
Asset quality (%)					
GNPA	3.4	2.8	2.3	2.3	2.
NNPA	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.
or: r:	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.
Slippage ratio			o -	0.6	0.
	1.3	0.9	0.5	0.0	0.
Credit cost		0.9 65.4	0.5	70.3	
Credit cost Provision coverage	1.3				
Credit cost Provision coverage Ratios (%)	1.3				70.
Slippage ratio Credit cost Provision coverage Ratios (%) Credit-Deposit Investment-Deposit	1.3 64.7	65.4	70.4	70.3	84. 22.
Credit cost Provision coverage Ratios (%) Credit-Deposit	1.3 64.7 76.4	65.4 79.8	70.4 81.8	70.3 83.7	70. 84.

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