

BUY TP: Rs 1,092 | A 25%

LIC

Insurance

28 May 2025

Margin improvement, strategic execution on track

- APE and VNB growth slows, expected to normalise going ahead
- VNB margins expanded 154bps YoY to 18.8% in Q4FY25; expect this upward trajectory to continue
- Maintain BUY on LICI with revised TP to Rs 1,092 (from Rs 1,064), assigning a multiple of 0.7x its FY27 EV

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Mixed performance: LICI reported a mixed quarterly performance with APE and VNB growth above the consensus estimates, while VNB margin was below expectations. This was primarily on account of redesign, relaunch of products and changes in the commission structures, owing to surrender value changes in Oct'24. Thus, the impact of regulatory changes spilled over in Q4 as well. Going ahead, we expect APE and VNB to improve, given the improving trend in monthly numbers and the impact of regulatory changes to subside leading to normalcy.

APE and VNB growth decelerates: APE de-grew 11% YoY in Q4FY25 and was flat YoY in FY25. Individual APE fell 9% YoY and 1% YoY in Q4FY25 and FY25. Group APE was down 16% YoY on a strong base of Q4FY24 and was flat Q4FY25 and FY25. However, VNB margins witnessed expansion in both Q4 and FY25, despite muted growth in APE and VNB driven by continued shift in the product mix towards non-par products. VNB de-grew by 3% YoY in Q4FY25 with VNB margin at 18.75% (up 154bps YoY). For FY25, VNB saw a growth of 5% YoY with VNB margins expanding by 80bps YoY to 17.6%. We expect VNB margins to be in the 12-14% range in FY25E-FY27E. Its APE fell 1% YoY while NBP rose 10% YoY, outpacing the industry growth of 8% YoY in Apr'25.

Persistency continues to decline: The 13th and 49th month (on premium basis) came in at 78.84% and 61.51% in FY25 vs 77.66% and 66.31% in FY24. Management remains confident of significant improvement in persistency going ahead as it has undertaken measures such as increase in ticket size, changes in the premium and commission structures.

We maintain BUY on LICI: LICI reported muted APE and VNB growth in Q4FY25, although VNB margin showed expansion. Continued focus on ramping up the share of non-par products, along with strategic changes in product offerings and pricing bode well. Additionally, emphasis on higher-yielding non-par products is expected to further support VNB margin expansion. We value LICI at 0.7x multiple with a BUY, arriving at TP of Rs 1,092 (earlier Rs 1,064).

Key changes

Target	Rating	
A	< ▶	

Ticker/Price	LICI IN/Rs 871
Market cap	US\$ 64.6bn
Free float	0%
3M ADV	US\$ 10.4mn
52wk high/low	Rs 1,222/Rs 715
Promoter/FPI/DII	97%/0%/1%

Source: NSE | Price as of 27 May 2025

Key financials

Y/E 31 Mar	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
NBP (Rs mn)	22,67,855	25,27,349	27,92,721
APE (Rs mn)	5,68,270	6,17,982	6,82,045
VNB (Rs mn)	1,00,110	1,12,473	1,27,542
Embedded Value (Rs mn)	77,68,750	85,14,948	93,30,960
VNB margin (%)	17.6	18.2	18.7
EVPS (Rs)	1,228.3	1,346.2	1,475.3
EPS (Rs)	76.1	80.6	86.6
Consensus EPS (Rs)	0.0	0.0	0.0
P/EV (x)	0.7	0.6	0.6

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Stock performance



Source: NSE





Earnings Call Highlights

Business performance

- Gross premium income came in at Rs 14,78,860 mn in Q4FY25, a decline of 3% YoY, primarily due to a 20% decline in first-year premium. First year premium was down owing to the implementation of new surrender regulations and the relaunching of products thereon. However, for FY25, it increased by 3% and stood at Rs 48,88,489 mn, supported by a 4% rise in renewal premium and 3% growth in single premium.
- Market share in first year premium income is at 57.1% in FY25. LIC continues to be the market leader in individual and group businesses with 37.5% and 71.2% market share respectively.
- There was a significant decline in H2FY25 APE, largely driven by premium income decline in Q3, owing to regulatory changes that doubled the minimum ticket size, adversely affecting the participating segment. Management expects APE growth to improve going forward.
- Employee expenses declined by 57% YoY in Q4FY25, due to provisions made for pensions and other retirement liabilities in Q4FY24 and hence had a higher base.
- Out of the Rs 6,475.40 bn fair value change reported in the balance sheet, approximately Rs 2,770 bn gains are attributable to the par business, with the remainder linked to the non-par segment.

Value of New Business and VNB Margins

- VNB stood at Rs 35,340 mn in Q4FY25, a de-growth of 3% from Q4FY24. For the full year, it grew by 4.5% at Rs 1,00,110 mn. Margins stood at 18.7% while for FY25, it came in at 7.6%. Margin in the individual business is close to 21% in Q4FY25.
- VNB margins are the highest for non-par products, given their lower equity exposure and higher fixed-income component.
- Management highlighted that VNB sensitivity is higher at lower risk-free interest rates and declines as rates increase.

EV Walk

- EV increased from Rs 7,273.44 bn to Rs 7,768.76 bn, driven by positive impact in Value of New Business: Rs 100.11 bn, Unwinding of discount: Rs 700.93 bn, Operating Variance: Rs 6.68 bn, Changes in Operating Assumptions: Rs 18.48 bn and negative impact in economic assumption changes and variance: Rs 292.94 bn and dividend Payout: Rs 37.95 bn. The -2.8% impact from economic assumption changes and variance is primarily attributable to a decline in interest rates and mark-to-market (MTM) adjustments in FY25.
- The Indian Embedded Value registered a CAGR of 12.8% over FY22–FY25, reaching Rs 7,768.76 bn.



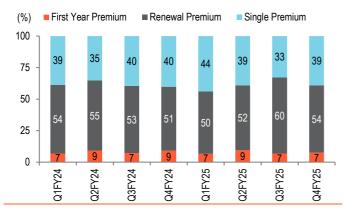
Persistency

- There is decline in the 13th month in persistency ratios. For the 13th month, larger weightage is towards the policies given in FY23-24. That period saw significant changes such as increased ticket sizes, premium hikes, and commission restructuring, impacting 13th month persistency.
- The 49th-month persistency ratio saw a temporary dip, influenced by the COVID cohort.
- LICI highlighted non-par business shows marginally better persistency compared to par business.

Others

- Since the implementation of the IRDAI Insurance Product Regulation 2024, the company has launched 51 products as of March 2025 that includes 31 individual products, 12 group products, 5 individual riders and 1 group rider
- LIC sold 17.78 mn policies in FY25 against 23.09 policies in FY24. 98% of the policies were sold by the agency force.
- **Total Agents:** 1.5 mn (vs 1.4 mn in FY24), a net addition of over 72,000 agents. Market share for the same stands at 47.61%.
- Claims Processed: 22.52 mn, including 21.67 mn maturity and survival benefit claims.

Fig 1 – Gross premium down 3% YoY due to 20% YoY degrowth in First Year Premium



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

muted performance in H2FY25

Fig 2 - APE growth de-grew 11% in FY25 mainly owing to



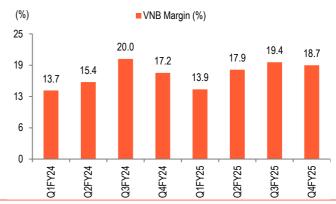
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 3 - VNB growth de-grew 3% in Q4FY25



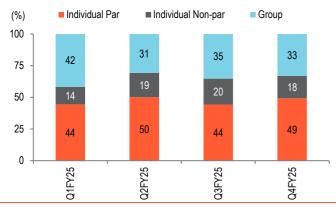
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 4 – VNB margin expanded 154bps YoY in Q4FY25



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 5 – Individual non-par business growing substantially within LICI's APE mix



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 6 – Opex ratio continues to decline led by strong decrease in employee expenses

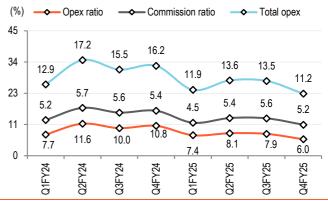




Fig 7 - Policyholders' account

(Rs mn)	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	Q4FY25	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)
Net premium income	11,70,169	15,22,931	11,37,701	11,99,010	10,68,915	14,75,856	(3.1)	38.1
Income from investments (Net)	9,52,669	8,44,255	9,61,826	10,89,724	9,43,357	9,31,327	10.3	(1.3)
Other income	1,638	1,41,609	1,455	1,448	1,499	2,224	(98.4)	48.4
Total Income	21,24,470	25,09,232	21,09,098	22,96,197	20,19,937	24,16,250	(3.7)	19.6
Net Commission	65,198	82,457	50,901	65,416	59,657	77,115	(6.5)	29.3
Operating expenses	1,16,741	1,64,633	84,312	97,502	84,501	87,836	(46.6)	3.9
Benefits Paid (Net)	9,54,977	13,51,032	8,18,643	9,75,623	9,46,829	14,22,452	5.3	50.2
Change in actuarial liability	8,89,937	7,64,011	10,31,515	10,82,463	7,99,136	6,20,229	(18.8)	(22.4)
Surplus/Deficit	84,737	1,28,324	1,08,874	72,532	1,09,519	1,88,195	46.7	71.8

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 8 - Shareholders' account

(Rs mn)	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	Q4FY25	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)
Amounts transferred from Policyholders	84,375	1,27,937	1,07,799	72,423	1,08,985	1,84,028	43.8	68.9
Income From Investments	10,610	11,240	11,767	14,579	15,962	17,611	56.7	10.3
PAT	94,444	1,37,626	1,04,611	76,212	1,10,565	1,90,128	38.1	72.0



Valuation Methodology

LICI reported muted APE and VNB growth in Q4FY25, although its VNB margin showed expansion. Continued focus on increasing the share of non-par products, along with strategic changes in product offerings and pricing, bode well. Additionally, emphasis on higher-yielding non-par products is expected to further support VNB margin expansion. We value LICI at 0.7x multiple with a BUY, arriving at a TP of Rs 1,092 (earlier Rs 1,064.

Fig 9 - Actual vs Estimates

Rs mn	Q4FY25A	Q4FY25E	Actual vs Estimates (%)
Gross Premium	14,78,860	15,14,403	(2.3)
APE	1,88,530	2,15,872	(12.7)
VNB	35,340	42,442	(16.7)
VNB Margin	18.7	19.7	(90 bps)

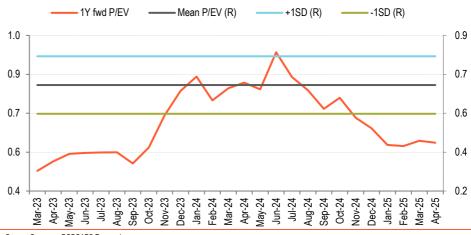
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 10 - EV Walk

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Y/E March	FY24	FY25	FY26E	FY27E
Opening EV	58,22,430	72,73,440	77,68,750	85,14,948
Bifurcation impact	0	0	0	0
Unwind of Discount	5,21,980	7,00,930	7,02,490	7,56,549
Value of New Business	95,830	1,00,110	1,12,473	1,27,542
Operating Assumption Changes	48290	18480	0	0
Operating Experience Variance	3,680	6,680	7,135	7,820
EV Operating Profit (EVOP)	6,69,780	8,26,200	8,22,098	8,91,912
Economic Variance	9,54,640	(292940)	0	0
EV Profit	16,24,420	5,33,260	8,22,098	8,91,912
Net Capital Inflow/Outflow (dividend pay out)	(1,73,410)	(37,950)	75,900	75,900
Closing EV	72,73,440	77,68,750	85,14,948	93,30,960

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 11 - P/EV Band





Key Risks

Key downside risks to our estimates:

- Intense competition: Market leader LICI faces tough competition from private peers who are chipping away at its market dominance by the way of unique offerings and better services. The company generates most of its business from the agency channel, whereas private players are focused on the bancassurance channel for growth.
- Strong linkage with capital markets: LIC's embedded value is highly sensitive to capital market movements.
- Regulatory challenges.

Glossary

Glossary			
APE	Annual Premium Equivalent	ULIP	Unit Linked Insurance Plan
EV	Embedded Value	VNB	Value of New Business
IRDAI	Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority	WRP	Weighted Received Premium
NBP	New Business Premium		



Financials

	Revenue Account ((Technical)
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Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Gross premium income	47,46,681	47,57,519	48,88,489	53,77,338	59,41,959
First year premium	3,90,899	3,90,380	3,70,254	4,30,187	4,75,357
Renewal premium	24,26,175	25,30,805	26,20,634	28,49,989	31,49,238
Single premium	19,29,607	18,36,335	18,97,601	20,97,162	23,17,364
Net written premium	47,40,046	47,50,696	48,81,482	53,69,810	59,30,075
Income from investments	30,63,901	36,39,439	39,26,234	44,75,907	51,47,293
Other Income	77,786	1,46,933	33,767	6,989	7,409
Total income	78,81,734	85,37,068	88,41,482	98,52,706	1,10,84,776
Commissions	2,55,804	2,59,591	2,53,088	2,99,856	3,49,464
Operating expenses	4,81,456	4,81,217	3,54,152	3,69,304	3,87,986
Benefits and bonuses paid	34,25,768	38,88,093	41,63,547	48,29,714	56,02,469
Change in liabilities (net)	34,33,828	35,30,361	35,33,343	37,80,677	41,20,938
Others	(1,47,371)	(27,851)	(19,492)	(21,804)	(22,953)
Total expenses	74,49,484	81,31,411	82,84,637	92,57,747	1,04,37,904
Surplus before tax	4,32,250	4,05,656	5,56,845	5,94,959	6,46,872
Provision for tax	52,429	58,252	77,725	89,244	97,031
Surplus after tax	3,79,822	3,47,405	4,79,120	5,05,715	5,49,841
Trf to shareholders' a/c	3,59,077	3,74,554	4,73,234	4,99,240	5,32,016
Balance being FFA	20,745	(27,150)	5,887	6,475	17,826

Income Statement (Non-technical)								
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E			
Trf from policyholders' a/c	3,59,077	3,74,554	4,73,234	4,99,240	5,32,016			
Income from investments	11,478	36,946	59,917	71,901	86,640			
Contr. to policyholders' fund	1,301	449	45,399	49,938	54,932			
Others	4	2,463	6,422	9,634	14,450			
PBT	3,64,568	4,07,872	4,81,512	5,11,568	5,49,273			
Provision for taxation	594	1,114	0	1,535	1,648			
PAT	3,63,974	4,06,758	4,81,512	5,10,033	5,47,625			
Dividend+Interim div.+DDT	0	0	0	0	0			

Balance Sheet

Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY23A	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
Equity	4,56,694	8,19,382	12,61,877	16,96,011	21,67,736
Policyholders' funds	4,44,13,661	5,13,84,775	5,44,63,230	5,81,65,979	6,21,55,369
FFA	39,187	12,147	18,284	24,759	42,585
Others	1,772	4,079	8,154	16,418	32,835
Total liabilities	4,49,11,314	5,22,20,383	5,57,51,546	5,99,03,167	6,43,98,525
Shareholders' funds	2,93,635	6,37,440	10,40,258	17,18,134	22,25,637
Policyholders' funds	4,18,91,778	4,87,65,124	5,13,62,788	5,46,22,297	5,83,74,554
Assets to cover linked liab.	2,63,095	3,52,578	4,83,120	4,94,911	5,05,738
Others	24,62,806	24,65,241	28,65,380	30,67,825	32,92,596
Total assets	4,49,11,314	5,22,20,383	5,57,51,546	5,99,03,167	6,43,98,525

Key Metrics

Y/E 31 Mar	FY23A	FY24A	FY25A	FY26E	FY27E
AUM (Rs mn)	4,39,72,050	5,12,18,870	5,45,22,970	6,01,92,371	6,68,13,532
NBP (Rs mn)	23,20,506	22,26,714	22,67,855	25,27,349	27,92,721
APE (Rs mn)	5,66,820	5,69,700	5,68,270	6,17,982	6,82,045
VNB (Rs mn)	91,560	95,830	1,00,110	1,12,473	1,27,542
VNB margin (%)	16.2	16.8	17.6	18.2	18.7
Embedded value (Rs mn)	58,22,430	72,73,440	77,68,750	85,14,948	93,30,960
ROEV (%)	7.7	27.9	7.3	10.6	10.5
ROE (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Opex ratio (%)	15.5	15.6	12.4	12.4	12.4
Cost ratio (%)	5.4	5.5	5.2	5.6	5.9
Solvency ratio (%)	187.0	198.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EPS (Rs)	57.5	64.3	76.1	80.6	86.6
BVPS (Rs)	72.2	129.5	199.5	268.1	342.7
EVPS (Rs)	920.5	1,150.0	1,228.3	1,346.2	1,475.3



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Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

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Ratings and Target Price (3-year history): LIC (LICI IN)



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