

Home First Finance Company | BUY

Strong and in-line

Home-First Finance Company (HFFC) reported yet another strong quarter with PAT beat of +3% on our estimates at INR 1bn (+25%/+8% YoY/QoQ) leading to healthy RoA/RoE of 3.5%/17%. AUM growth was healthy at +31%/+6% YoY/QoQ supported by strong disbursements growth of +16%/+7% YoY/QoQ. Margins moved up +20bps QoQ leading to strong NII growth of +26%/+6% YoY/QoQ. Steady opex and other income led to in-line operating profit of INR 1.46bn (+28%/+4% QoQ YoY/QoQ). GS3/NS3 was marginally down at 1.7%/1.3% (-6bps/-4bps QoQ). Management guidance for FY26E remains strong: i) ~26-30% AUM growth with aim to reach INR 200bn in FY27E, ii) margins improvement led by recent fund raise and ratings upgrade with spreads of 5%+, iii) Opex/assets at 2.7-2.8% (vs 2.7% in FY25) and iv) credit costs of 30-40bps. We believe that the guidance laid out by the management coupled with its history of consistently delivering exactly in-line performance, is sufficient to justify its premium valuations. We expect HFFC to outperform its peers during a favourable rate-cuts scenario and expect the company to deliver avg. RoA/RoE of 3.5%/14.2% over FY26E/FY27E (lower RoEs are on account of recent capital raise from QIP). Maintain BUY with a revised TP of INR 1,360 (valuing HFFC at 2.9x FY27E BVPS) against our previous TP of INR 1,200 based on 2.6x FY27E BVPS.

- **Sustained growth momentum:** AUM demonstrated healthy growth, reaching INR 127bn (+31% YoY, +6% QoQ) supported by strong disbursements of INR 12.7bn (+16% YoY, +7% QoQ). Growth was led by LAP (+50% YoY, +10% QoQ), followed by HL (+28% YoY, +6% QoQ). Shop loans were up +19% YoY, +7% QoQ. Mgmt. guided for 26-30% growth in FY26E led by disbursements growth of 20-25% and run-off rate of 17-18%. The growth will be largely supported by new branch expansion for which guidance was revised from earlier 25-30 branches per year to 30-35 branches. Management highlighted that 25% of the growth will be contributed by new branch additions and remaining to come from existing branches. Company remains confident to reach INR 200bn AUM by FY27E and INR 350bn by FY30E. We build in AUM CAGR of ~27% over FY25-27E.
- **In-line operating performance:** PAT stood healthy at INR 1bn (+25% YoY, +8% QoQ) which was +3% above our estimates. This was driven by strong NII growth of +26% YoY, +6% QoQ as NIMs moved up +20bps QoQ. Spreads were down -10bps QoQ led by -10bps decline in yield while CoFs were sequentially steady at 8.4% (vs its guidance of 8.5%). Steady opex and other income led to in-line operating profit of INR 1.46bn (+28% YoY, +4% QoQ) while continued lower credit costs of 25bps (vs 34bps QoQ) led to largely in-line PAT. Mgmt. remains confident in their ability to sustain spreads within 5-5.25% on a steady state and guided for NIMs to expand in the near-term due to its recent QIP fund raise. 60% of the borrowings of the company are bank borrowings (Pvt+PSU) out of which 18-19% is repo linked where company has started benefiting while T-bill rate cuts will start flowing in going forward. Company also expects credit rating upgrade from AA- to AA in next 6 months leading to further cost tailwinds. We expect EPS CAGR of ~28% over FY25-27E.



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Recommendation and Price Target

Current Reco.	BUY
Previous Reco.	BUY
Current Price Target (12M)	1,360
Upside/(Downside)	14.0%
Previous Price Target	1,200
Change	13.3%

Key Data – HOMEFIRS IN

Current Market Price	INR1,193
Market cap (bn)	INR122.8/US\$1.5
Free Float	66%
Shares in issue (mn)	103.2
Diluted share (mn)	
3-mon avg daily val (mn)	INR694.4/US\$8.2
52-week range	1,383/777
Sensex/Nifty	80,502/24,347
INR/US\$	84.5

Price Performance

%	1M	6M	12M
Absolute	16.4	0.1	32.4
Relative*	8.9	-1.1	21.5

* To the BSE Sensex

Financial Summary

(INR mn)

Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26A	FY27E	FY28E
Net Profit	3,057	3,821	4,878	6,287	7,455
Net Profit (YoY) (%)	33.9%	25.0%	27.7%	28.9%	18.6%
Assets (YoY) (%)	41.5%	28.1%	34.3%	17.0%	20.7%
ROA (%)	3.8%	3.5%	3.4%	3.5%	3.5%
ROE (%)	15.5%	16.5%	14.5%	14.0%	14.5%
EPS	34.5	42.4	47.3	60.9	72.2
EPS (YoY) (%)	33.2%	22.8%	11.4%	28.9%	18.6%
P/E (x)	34.5	28.1	25.2	19.6	16.5
BV	240	280	408	464	530
BV (YoY) (%)	16.1%	16.8%	45.9%	13.6%	14.2%
P/BV (x)	4.98	4.26	2.92	2.57	2.25

Source: Company data, JM Financial. Note: Valuations as of 02/May/2025

JM Financial Institutional Securities Limited

JM Financial Research is also available on:
Bloomberg - JMFR <GO>,
Thomson Publisher & Reuters,
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Please see Appendix I at the end of this report for Important Disclosures and Disclaimers and Research Analyst Certification.

- **Marginal improvement in asset quality:** Asset quality improved marginally GS3/NS3 at 1.7%/1.3% (-6bps/-4bps QoQ) with PCR at 25.2 (-29bps QoQ). Early delinquencies improved sequentially with 1+ DPD at 4.5% (-38bps QoQ) and 30+ DPD at 3% (-9bps QoQ) as Q3 was affected due to seasonality. However, given the product segment that HFFC operates in, we do not foresee any major asset quality headwinds in the near term. We build avg. credit costs of ~30bps over FY26-27E in line with management guidance.
- **Valuation and view:** We believe that the guidance laid out by the management coupled with its history of consistently delivering exactly in-line performance, is sufficient to justify its premium valuations. We expect HFFC to outperform its peers during a favourable rate-cuts scenario and expect the company to deliver avg. RoA/RoE of 3.5%/14.2% over FY26E/FY27E (lower RoEs are on account of recent capital raise from QIP). Maintain BUY with a revised TP of INR 1,360 (valuing HFFC at 2.9x FY27E BVPS) against our previous TP of INR 1,200 based on 2.6x FY27E BVPS.

HFFC – 4QFY25 key result highlights

Exhibit 1. HFFC: 4QFY25 Results Snapshot

Earnings Table (INR mn.)	Q4FY24	Q3FY25	Q4FY25	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)	Q4FY25E	A/E (%)
Net Interest Income	1,368	1,631	1,726	26.2%	5.8%	1,751	-1.4%
Total Non-Interest income	351	517	533	51.9%	3.1%	521	2.2%
Total Income	1,719	2,148	2,259	31.4%	5.2%	2,272	-0.6%
Employee Cost	366	508	518	41.7%	2.0%		
Other expenses & Depreciation	218	244	285	30.5%	16.7%		
Total Operating Expenses	584	752	803	37.5%	6.7%	820	-2.1%
Operating Profit (PPP)	1,135	1,396	1,456	28.3%	4.3%	1,452	0.3%
Total Provisions	27	98	77	180.6%	-21.3%	96	-19.5%
PBT	1,107	1,298	1,379	24.5%	6.2%	1,357	1.6%
Tax	273	324	332	21.7%	2.4%	335	-1.0%
Reported Profit	835	974	1,047	25.4%	7.5%	1,021	2.5%
Balance Sheet Data (INR bn)							
AUM	97.0	119.5	127.1	31.1%	6.4%	127.5	-0.3%
Disbursements	11.0	11.9	12.7	15.5%	6.7%	12.6	0.8%
Ratios Analysis (%)							
Cost to Income (%)	34.0%	35.0%	35.5%	157 bps	53 bps	36.1%	(55) bps
Yield on AUM (Calc.)	12.1%	12.3%	11.8%	(31) bps	(51) bps	12%	(45) bps
Cost of Funds (Calc)	8.2%	8.5%	8.1%	(13) bps	(41) bps	8.6%	(53) bps
NIM	5.8%	5.6%	5.6%	(25) bps	(3) bps	6%	(7) bps
Gross S3 (%)	1.70%	1.74%	1.68%	(1) bps	(6) bps	1%	73 bps
Net S3 (%)	1.19%	1.30%	1.26%	7 bps	(4) bps	1%	57 bps
Coverage	29.7%	25.5%	25.2%	(455) bps	(29) bps	28%	(281) bps
Capital Adequacy (%)				0 bps	0 bps		
Tier I (%)	39.1%	32.7%	32.4%	(670) bps	(30) bps		
CAR (%)	39.5%	33.1%	32.8%	(670) bps	(30) bps		
Return ratios (%)				0 bps	0 bps		
ROA (%)	3.6%	3.4%	3.5%	(11) bps	12 bps	3.4%	0.1%
ROE (%)	16.1%	16.6%	17.0%	91 bps	41 bps	16.6%	0.4%

Source: Company, JM Financial

HFFC- Key takeaways from concall:

Growth:

- Affordable Housing growth in FY26 to remain similar to that of FY25.
- LAP to be maintained 15-20% over next 5 years. Share of disbursal is 15-17% of total.
- Disbursements targeted at 20%+. 20-25% from new branches and remaining from existing branches. Run offs expected at 17-18% of which BT out ranges 7-8%. Company should be able to get 26-30% AUM growth in FY26.
- Company remains confident to reach INR 200bn AUM by FY27 and INR 350bn by FY30.
- Market share of company is ~2% and the ambition is to reach 4-5% in medium term in 3-5 yrs.
- ATS to grow 3-5% every year.
- Branches to expand at 30-35 per year from 25-30 previously.
- Tamil Nadu (TN) has 24 branches and the company is currently exploring options on where they can expand more here. It has not capped out on the state. The company is looking to invest in MP more as it has worked well so far.
- Company has 50-60 branches in smaller category with AUM per branch of <INR 250mn, 50 branches with age of 2+ years having AUM per branch of 250-500mn. And 50 branches with age of 3-4 yrs (Mid-size) with AUM per branch of >INR 750mn.

Asset quality:

- Credit cost guidance maintained at 30-40bps for medium-term.
- As per ECL model, PCR requirement is 25% on stage 3. Model refresh happens every year and last it was done in Mar'25.
- For stage 1, company uses 12month PD in its ECL model.
- Large part of customers pay immediately after bounce, hence the reported bounce rates are largely inflated due to payments which are captured during month end.
- Write off for FY25 was 170mn and recoveries from write-offs was 20mn leading to INR 15cr net write offs. Write-offs in Q4 was INR 50mn
- Company maintains ECL overlay of INR 130mn (0.1% of AUM).

Margins and opex:

- In the book stage, spreads is 5%+ while incremental spread is 4.7% during Q4. However, 5%+ spreads will be maintained. If the spread goes below 5%, company will pass the rates to customers and return back to ~5% spreads immediately.
- Asset origination yield is currently at 13-13.5%. Company has a fully floating rate book. Hence once CoFs go down, company has flexibility to move their yields down.
- CoFs were targeted at ~8.50% in Q4 end, while the company ended with 8.4%. Marginal CoBs are not re-priced and is currently ranging 8.4-8.5%. This is expected to go down from Q1FY26.
- NIMs will expand in next few quarters; currently it will remain lower due to QIP funds raised during the quarter. And as leverage moves above 6x, margins will fall again.
- 60% of the borrowings are bank borrowings (Pvt+PSU) out of which repo linked is 18-19% where company has started benefiting while Tbill rate cuts will start flowing from Q1FY26. 17% is assignment + colending, 16% NHB (will maintain 15-20% mix).
- Company expects credit rating upgrade from AA- to AA in next 6 months.

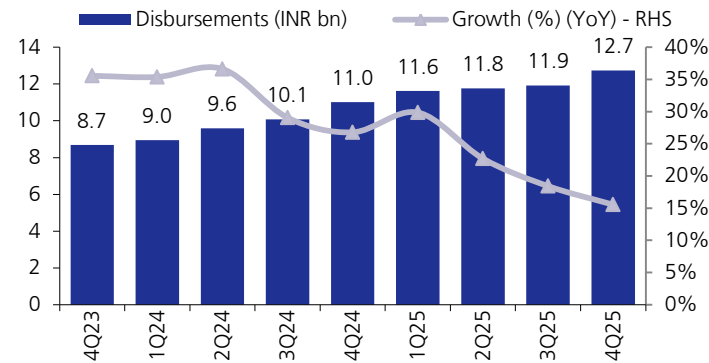
- Assuming 100bps rate cut, ~60% transmission takes around 12 months to flow (considering 10 years data). Currently no change is done in PLR rates.
- NIMs were up 20bps due to better liquidity management. NIMs are likely to expand on the back of capital raise.
- Opex/assets to be maintained at 270-280bps.
- Company manages avg 10-11 employees per branch at organization level.
- Not too much increase or decrease is expected in productivity going forward.

Other highlights:

- RoEs will return back to 15%+ levels in next 6-7 quarters.
- HFFC successfully raised INR 12.5bn by issuing 13mn of equity shares in a QIP transaction. It won't need to raise funds for next 4 years unless company growth faster than its guidance.
- Campus hiring is done majorly in Q1, hence largely the employee addition is lower in Q4. Attrition stands at 25-30% and has gone down 2-3% YoY. Will remain same going forward.
- Pvt banks are less competitive as compared to PSU banks in mortgage business while large SFBs are also active here
- LAP LTV will always be maintained at <60% in all the cases.
- Active connectors are 3,800. And no of RMs are 1,200. Top 10 exposure is <4%.
- Connector commission in 40-50bps.
- Company is still awaiting clarity on CLM2 whether it is allowed or nit. CLM1 is tedious as disbursements have to be done by both entities at same time here. CLM2- entire loan is disbursed by HFFC and later is paid back by bank.
- Partnership acquisition inched up as it partnered with Phonepe a few quarters back.

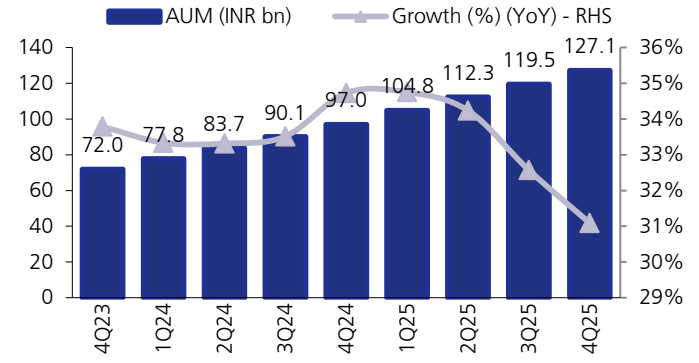
HFFC - Quarterly Trends

Exhibit 2. Strong disbursements trend



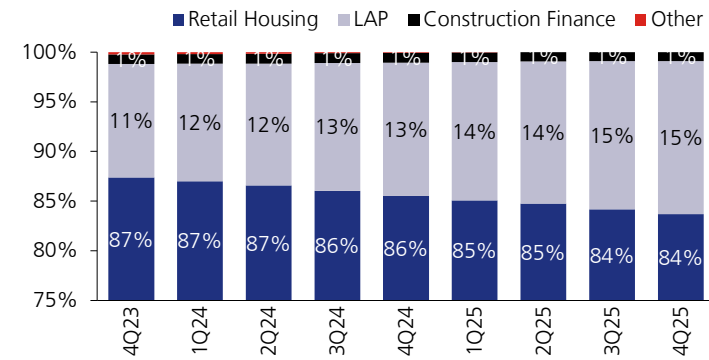
Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 3. AUM growth normalizing with increase in base



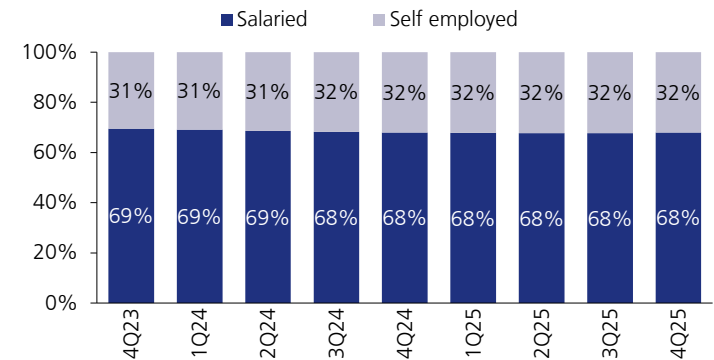
Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 4. AUM Mix to remain intact with LAP to range 15-20%



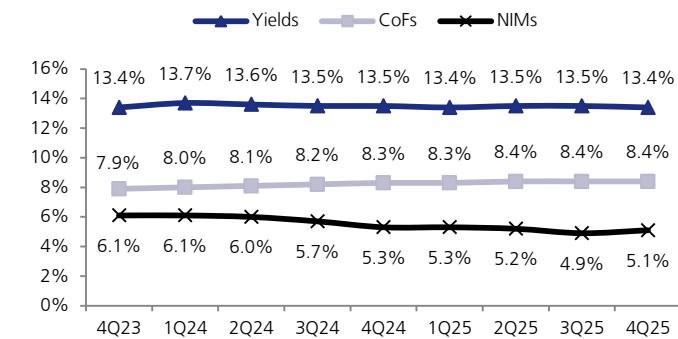
Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 5. Higher salaried mix



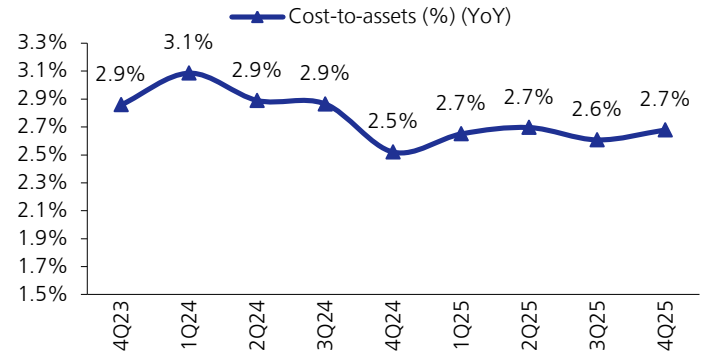
Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 6. Margins improved sequentially



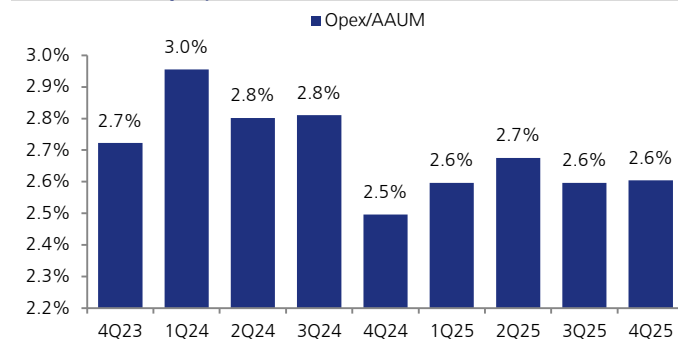
Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 7. Cost-to-assets largely steady



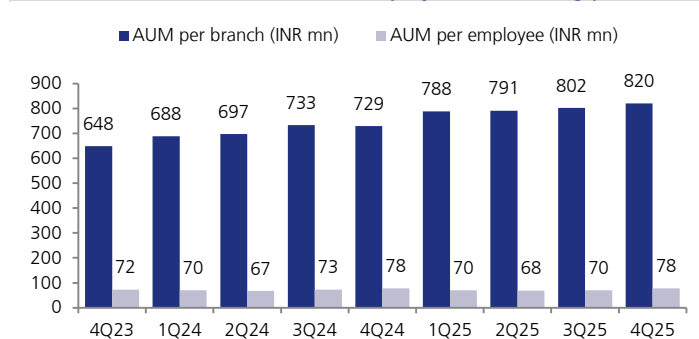
Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 8. Steady Opex/AAUM

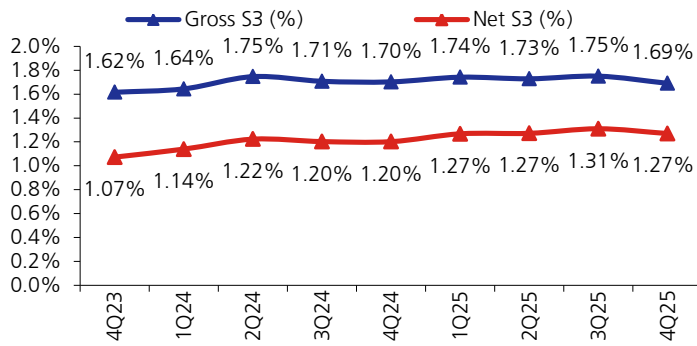


Source: Company, JM Financial

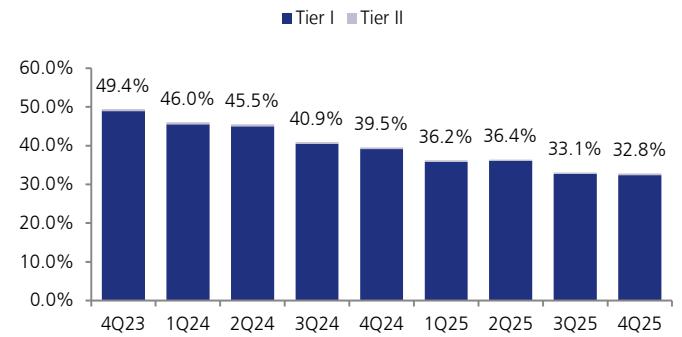
Exhibit 9. AUM/Branch and AUM/Employee best among peers



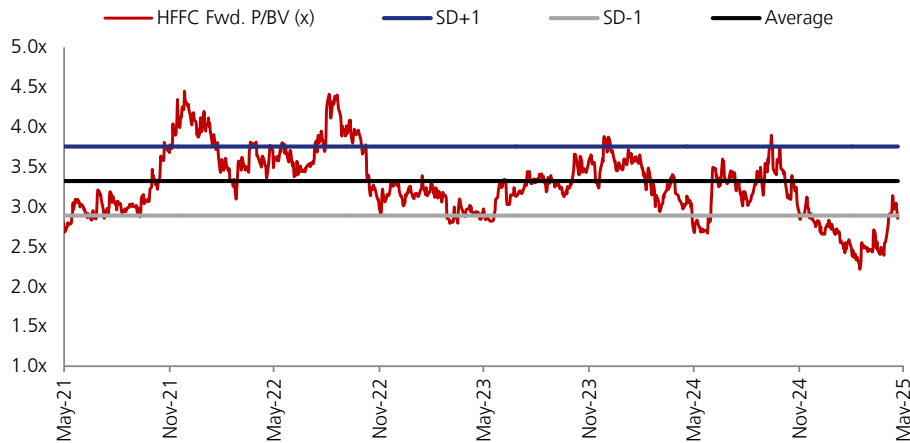
Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 10. Asset Quality improved sequentially

Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 11. Comfortable Liquidity

Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 12. HFFC: 1-yr fwd PB Chart

Source: Company, JM Financial

Exhibit 13. HFFC: Change in our estimates

Old vs. New Estimates	FY26E, Old FY26E, New Change			FY27E, Old FY27E, New Change			FY28E, New
Income Statement (Rs mn)							
Net Interest Income	8,426	8,657	3%	11,263	11,143	-1%	13,453
Fee & Other Income	120	548	356%	132	658	398%	789
Profit on sale of investments	1,406	1,401		1,542	1,561		1,748
Other Income	650	163		650	195		234
Non-Interest Income	2,176	2,112	-3%	2,325	2,414	4%	2,771
Total Income	10,603	10,769	2%	13,588	13,556	-0%	16,224
Operating Expenses	3,654	3,827	5%	4,536	4,647	2%	5,527
Pre-provisioning Profits	6,949	6,942	-0%	9,051	8,909	-2%	10,697
Total Provisions	380	438	15%	471	527	12%	757
PBT	6,568	6,504	-1%	8,581	8,382	-2%	9,940
Tax	1,642	1,626	-1%	2,145	2,096	-2%	2,485
PAT (Pre-Extra ordinaries)	4,926	4,878	-1%	6,435	6,287	-2%	7,455
Key Ratios (%)							
NIM (%)	5.90%	6.17%	0.3%	6.20%	6.37%	0.2%	6.50%
ROA (%)	3.34%	3.41%	0.1%	3.46%	3.53%	0.1%	3.52%
ROE (%)	14.8%	14.5%	-0.3%	14.4%	14.0%	-0.4%	14.5%
EPS (Rs.)	48.5	47.3	-2%	63.3	60.9	-4%	72.2
BV (Rs.)	410.5	408.4	-1%	468.7	463.8	-1%	529.6

Source: Company, JM Financial

Financial Tables (Standalone)

Income Statement (INR mn)					
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26A	FY27E	FY28E
Net Interest Income (NII)	5,290	6,388	8,657	11,143	13,453
Non Interest Income	1,289	1,852	2,112	2,414	2,771
Total Income	6,579	8,239	10,769	13,556	16,224
Operating Expenses	2,325	2,936	3,827	4,647	5,527
Pre-provisioning Profits	4,254	5,304	6,942	8,909	10,697
Loan-Loss Provisions	253	288	438	527	757
Others Provisions	0	0	0	0	0
Total Provisions	254	288	438	527	757
PBT	4,000	5,016	6,504	8,382	9,940
Tax	942	1,195	1,626	2,096	2,485
PAT (Pre-Extra ordinaries)	3,057	3,821	4,878	6,287	7,455
Extra ordinaries (Net of Tax)	0	0	0	0	0
Reported Profits	3,057	3,821	4,878	6,287	7,455
Dividend	301	333	439	566	671
Retained Profits	2,756	3,488	4,439	5,721	6,784

Source: Company, JM Financial

Key Ratios					
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26A	FY27E	FY28E
Growth (YoY) (%)					
Borrowed funds	51.7%	30.8%	19.0%	21.0%	23.0%
Advances	35.8%	30.8%	27.3%	25.1%	23.8%
Total Assets	41.5%	28.1%	34.3%	17.0%	20.7%
NII	26.3%	20.7%	35.5%	28.7%	20.7%
Non-interest Income	75.6%	43.7%	14.0%	14.3%	14.8%
Operating Expenses	32.4%	26.3%	30.3%	21.4%	18.9%
Operating Profits	34.3%	24.7%	30.9%	28.3%	20.1%
Core Operating profit	30.0%	21.2%	36.2%	32.1%	22.0%
Provisions	18.2%	13.1%	52.2%	20.2%	43.8%
Reported PAT	33.9%	25.0%	27.7%	28.9%	18.6%
Yields / Margins (%)					
Interest Spread	5.48%	5.04%	5.03%	4.99%	4.99%
NIM	6.65%	6.00%	6.17%	6.37%	6.50%
Profitability (%)					
ROA	3.76%	3.51%	3.41%	3.53%	3.52%
ROE	15.5%	16.5%	14.5%	14.0%	14.5%
Cost to Income	35.3%	35.6%	35.5%	34.3%	34.1%
Asset quality (%)					
Gross NPA	1.70%	1.69%	1.68%	1.70%	1.66%
LLP	0.36%	0.31%	0.36%	0.35%	0.40%
Capital Adequacy (%)					
Tier I	39.08%	32.40%	42.39%	41.46%	39.52%
CAR	39.48%	32.80%	42.68%	41.72%	39.73%

Source: Company, JM Financial

Balance Sheet (INR mn)					
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26A	FY27E	FY28E
Equity Capital	177	180	206	206	206
Reserves & Surplus	21,038	25,033	41,945	47,666	54,451
Borrowed Funds	73,021	95,507	1,13,653	1,37,521	1,69,150
Preference Shares	1,104	1,397	8,200	6,525	7,877
Total Liabilities	95,340	1,22,117	1,64,005	1,91,918	2,31,685
Net Advances	81,434	1,06,487	1,35,585	1,69,664	2,10,059
Investments	3,788	3,602	10,847	8,483	8,402
Cash & Bank Balances	8,215	9,382	14,914	10,180	7,352
Other Current Assets	1,573	2,197	2,057	2,888	5,021
Fixed Assets	298	448	602	704	850
Total Assets	95,340	1,22,117	1,64,005	1,91,918	2,31,685

Source: Company, JM Financial

Dupont Analysis					
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26A	FY27E	FY28E
NII / Assets	6.50%	5.87%	6.05%	6.26%	6.35%
Other Income / Assets	1.58%	1.70%	1.48%	1.36%	1.31%
Total Income / Assets	8.09%	7.58%	7.53%	7.62%	7.66%
Cost / Assets	2.86%	2.70%	2.67%	2.61%	2.61%
PPP / Assets	5.23%	4.88%	4.85%	5.01%	5.05%
Provisions / Assets	0.31%	0.26%	0.31%	0.30%	0.36%
PBT / Assets	4.92%	4.61%	4.55%	4.71%	4.69%
Tax rate	23.6%	23.8%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%
ROA	3.76%	3.51%	3.41%	3.53%	3.52%
Leverage	4.5	4.8	3.9	4.0	4.2
ROE	15.5%	16.5%	14.5%	14.0%	14.5%

Source: Company, JM Financial

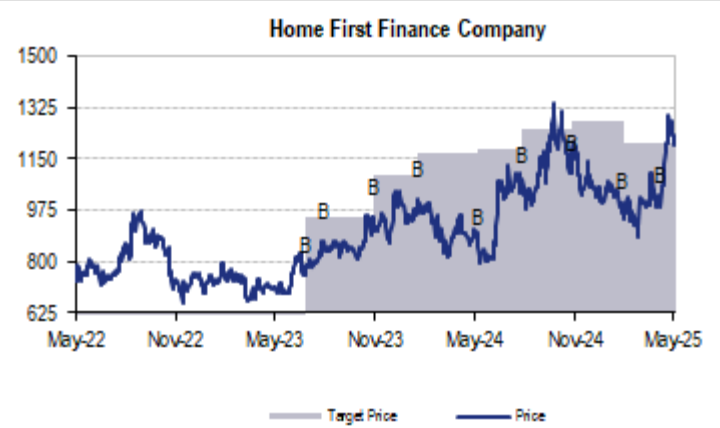
Valuations					
Y/E March	FY24A	FY25A	FY26A	FY27E	FY28E
Shares in Issue	88.5	90.1	103.2	103.2	103.2
EPS (INR)	34.5	42.4	47.3	60.9	72.2
EPS (YoY) (%)	33.2%	22.8%	11.4%	28.9%	18.6%
P/E (x)	34.5	28.1	25.2	19.6	16.5
BV (INR)	240	280	408	464	530
BV (YoY) (%)	16.1%	16.8%	45.9%	13.6%	14.2%
P/BV (x)	4.98	4.26	2.92	2.57	2.25
DPS (INR)	3.4	3.7	4.3	5.5	6.5
Div. yield (%)	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%

Source: Company, JM Financial

History of Recommendation and Target Price

Date	Recommendation	Target Price	% Chg.
26-Jun-23	Buy	950	
31-Jul-23	Buy	950	0.0
29-Oct-23	Buy	1,095	15.3
19-Jan-24	Buy	1,170	6.8
9-May-24	Buy	1,180	0.9
28-Jul-24	Buy	1,250	5.9
27-Oct-24	Buy	1,275	2.0
29-Jan-25	Buy	1,200	-5.9
8-Apr-25	Buy	1,200	0.0

Recommendation History



APPENDIX I

JM Financial Institutional Securities Limited

Corporate Identity Number: U67100MH2017PLC296081

Member of BSE Ltd. and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.

SEBI Registration Nos.: Stock Broker - INZ000163434, Research Analyst - INH000000610

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Definition of ratings	
Rating	Meaning
Buy	Total expected returns of more than 10% for stocks with market capitalisation in excess of INR 200 billion and REITs* and more than 15% for all other stocks, over the next twelve months. Total expected return includes dividend yields.
Hold	Price expected to move in the range of 10% downside to 10% upside from the current market price for stocks with market capitalisation in excess of INR 200 billion and REITs* and in the range of 10% downside to 15% upside from the current market price for all other stocks, over the next twelve months.
Sell	Price expected to move downwards by more than 10% from the current market price over the next twelve months.

* REITs refers to Real Estate Investment Trusts.

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