



Star Health

Estimate change	Į.
TP change	
Rating change	

Bloomberg	STARHEAL IN
Equity Shares (m)	588
M.Cap.(INRb)/(USDb)	229.1 / 2.7
52-Week Range (INR)	648 / 327
1, 6, 12 Rel. Per (%)	6/-24/-39
12M Avg Val (INR M)	564

Financials & Valuations (INR b)

2025	2026E	2027E
148.2	171.9	198.0
-3.8	-2.3	0.2
8.6	10.7	14.4
6.5	8.0	10.8
70.3	69.5	69.0
14.4	15.0	15.0
16.4	15.2	14.2
101.1	99.7	98.2
9.5	10.8	12.9
11.0	13.6	18.4
-23.9	24.1	35.1
35.5	28.6	21.2
3.3	2.9	2.6
	148.2 -3.8 8.6 6.5 70.3 14.4 16.4 101.1 9.5 11.0 -23.9	148.2 171.9 -3.8 -2.3 8.6 10.7 6.5 8.0 70.3 69.5 14.4 15.0 16.4 15.2 101.1 99.7 9.5 10.8 11.0 13.6 -23.9 24.1 35.5 28.6

Shareholding pattern (%)

As On	Mar-25	Dec-24	Mar-24
Promoter	57.7	57.7	57.9
DII	15.4	16.5	11.1
FII	18.7	17.5	26.6
Others	8.2	8.3	4.4

FII Includes depository receipts

CMP: INR390 TP: INR460 (+18%) Buy

Weak underwriting profitability due to elevated claims

- Star Health (STARHEAL)'s net earned premium rose 12% YoY to INR38b (inline) in 4Q. For FY25, the net earned premium grew 15% YoY to INR148b.
- The claims ratio at 69.2% (vs. our est. of 68.1%) grew 510bp YoY in 4QFY25, with a 21% YoY increase in net claims incurred to INR26.3b (in-line). The rise was due to a higher claim frequency and severity. Operating expenses were in line, with the expense ratio (incl. commission ratio) at 29.9% (vs. our est. of 29.2%).
- The elevated claim ratio led to a 640bp YoY surge in the combined ratio to 99.2% (vs. our est. of 97.3%) in 4QFY25.
- A flat YoY performance with respect to investment income along with elevated claims resulted in a PAT of INR5.2m in 4QFY25. For FY25, PAT declined 24% YoY to INR6.5b.
- STARHEAL expects fresh business growth momentum, price correction across the product portfolio (20-40% hike in 60% of the products), and prudent selection in the micro-segment to fuel growth and improve loss ratios.
- Considering the performance in 4QFY25, we cut our FY25/FY26 PAT estimates by 13%/2%, factoring in an elevated claims ratio and reduction of our investment income estimates. We reiterate our BUY rating with a TP of INR460 (based on 25x FY27E EPS).

Combination of elevated claims and lower investment yield hurts PAT

- Gross written premium at INR51.4b grew 35% YoY (in line), driven by 37% YoY growth in retail health premium and 6% YoY de-growth in group health premium. The decline in the group health segment is the result of a recalibrated strategy towards reducing group health contribution.
- The underwriting loss for 4QFY25 came in at INR2.8b vs. the underwriting loss of INR0.9b in 4QFY24 (our est. of INR2.1b).
- Total investment income was INR2.9b (24% below est.), flat YoY, due to lesser profit booking in equity investments vs. previous quarters.
- The renewal premium ratio was at 97% for FY25 (vs. 98.4% in FY24). In FY25, fresh business contributed 23% to the mix (22% in FY24).
- The commission ratio at 15.8% (vs. our est. of 14.0%) grew 150bp YoY, while net commission grew 17% YoY to INR7.6b (11% above). This was due to a higher share of new business in the mix.
- The expense ratio at 14.2% (vs. our est. of 15.2%) declined by 20bp YoY on account of a 3% YoY decline in employee expenses while other expenses grew 22% YoY.
- For FY25, without considering the impact of the 1/n framework, the combined ratio grew 350bp YoY to 100.2% (101.1% considering the 1/n impact). The impact of 1/n was 90bp on the expense ratio.
- Investment assets stood at INR17.9t by the end of 4QFY25, reflecting an investment leverage of 2.5x. Investment yield for FY25 was 7.8% (vs. 7.7% in FY24).
- IFRS PAT was INR7.9b in FY25 compared to INR11b in FY24. Management has set a target to triple the FY24 IFRS PAT by FY28.

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



Key takeaways from the management commentary

- The company expects product-level loss ratios to decline 2-3%, driven by price correction of the respective products.
- The company witnessed 25% YoY growth in fresh retail GWP driven by renewed agent productivity, sharpened campaigns, and acceleration of digital channels.
- The claim frequency increased by over 7%, driven by movement from secondary to tertiary care hospitals, preference towards hospitalization, higher accessibility for hospitals, and a rise in preventive screening. Earlier, the claim frequency increase used to be 3-4%.

Valuation and view

- STARHEAL is witnessing the impact of: i) the 1/n accounting framework and ii) a significant rise in claim frequency and severity on the profitability of the company. Recent pricing actions may provide some relief from rising medical inflation and hospitalization trends and likely bring the claims ratio down gradually over the next few quarters. Scale benefits will help reduce the expense ratio, while the commission ratio is expected to remain in the current range.
- Considering the performance in 4QFY25, we cut our FY25/FY26 PAT estimates by 13%/2%, factoring in an elevated claims ratio and reduction of our investment income estimates. We reiterate our BUY rating with a TP of INR460 (based on 25x FY27E EPS).

Quarterly Performance														(INR b)
Y/E March		FY	24			FY	25		FY24	FY25	4Q	4Q Act vs.	YoY	QoQ
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	F124	F125	FY25E	Est. (%)	101	QUQ
Net earned premium	30.4	32.1	32.9	34.0	35.2	37.0	38.0	38.0	129.4	148.2	38.2	-0.5	12%	0%
Investment Income	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.7	2.1	2.0	1.9	6.4	7.7	2.3	-16.7	4%	-7%
Total Income	31.9	33.6	34.6	35.8	36.9	39.1	40.0	39.9	135.8	155.9	40.4	-1.4	11%	0%
Change YoY (%)	13.6	15.0	15.9	17.1	15.7	16.6	15.8	11.5	15.4	14.8	13.1			
Incurred claims	19.9	22.0	22.3	21.8	23.8	27.0	27.1	26.3	86.0	104.2	26.0	1.1	21%	-3%
Net commission	3.7	4.9	3.5	6.5	4.3	5.5	5.0	7.6	18.5	22.4	6.9	10.7	17%	51%
Employee expense	3.6	4.0	3.9	4.7	3.7	4.5	4.1	4.6	16.1	16.9	5.1	-9.5	-3%	12%
Other expenses	1.8	2.0	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.3	7.8	8.5	2.4	-4.2	22%	2%
Total Operating Expenses	29.0	32.8	31.8	34.9	33.8	39.0	38.5	40.7	128.5	152.0	40.3	1.1	17%	6%
Change YoY (%)	14.5	17.0	16.0	17.1	16.6	18.7	21.1	16.8	-97.9	18.3	15.5			
Underwriting profit	1.5	-0.8	1.1	-0.9	1.4	-1.9	-0.5	-2.8	0.9	-3.8	-2.1		202%	462%
Operating profit	2.9	0.7	2.8	0.9	3.1	0.2	1.5	-0.9	7.3	3.9	0.2	NA	-197%	-157%
Shareholder's P/L														
Transfer from	2.9	0.7	2.8	0.9	3.1	0.2	1.5	-0.9	7.3	3.9	0.2	NA	-197%	-157%
Policyholder's	2.9	0.7	2.8	0.9	3.1	0.2	1.5	-0.9	7.3	3.9	0.2	INA	-19/%	-15/%
Investment income	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.0	4.5	5.2	1.6	-36.4	-12%	-31%
Total Income	4.0	1.8	4.0	2.0	4.4	1.6	3.0	0.1	11.8	9.1	1.8		-93%	-95%
Provisions other than	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	_	0.0	0.0	0.0	_			
taxation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0				
Other expenses	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.1	10.1	15%	22%
Total Expenses	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.1	13.4	1%	26%
PBT	3.8	1.7	3.9	1.9	4.3	1.5	2.9	-0.0	11.3	8.6	1.6	NA	-100%	-100%
Change YoY (%)	33.5	38.5	37.6	39.5	10.9	-11.0	-26.0	•	-100.1	-23.7				
Tax Provisions	1.0	0.4	1.0	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.7	-0.0	2.8	2.2	0.4	NA	-103%	-102%
Net Profit	2.9	1.3	2.9	1.4	3.2	1.1	2.2	0.0	8.5	6.5	1.2	-99.6	-100%	-100%
Change YoY (%)	35.0	34.6	37.6	39.8	10.8	-11.2	-25.7	-99.6		-24%	-13.6			
Key Parameters (%)														
Claims ratio	65.4	68.7	67.7	64.1	67.6	72.8	71.4	69.2	66.5	70.3	68.1	114bp	512bp	-220bp
Commission ratio	13.1	13.7	11.1	14.3	13.5	13.8	14.1	15.8	13.2	14.4	14.0	172bp	151bp	163bp
Expense ratio	19.3	16.8	19.0	14.4	18.1	16.4	17.7	14.2	17.0	16.4	15.2	-100bp	-20bp	-354bp
Combined ratio	97.8	99.2	97.8	92.8	99.2	103.0	103.3	99.2	96.7	101.1	97.3	186bp	642bp	-410bp
Solvency	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	-			





Key takeaways from the management commentary

Outlook

- The company is focusing on profitable growth driven by sharper underwriting, introduction of products across customer cohorts, and seamless digital execution with real-time claims and robust self-service.
- It has maintained momentum in fresh business growth, with price corrections (20–40% hikes in 60% of the product portfolio) and measures in micro-segments to ensure prudent risk selection—these will be key drivers of growth.
- Digitized operations and continued investments in digital transformation are expected to enhance operational efficiency.
- The company expects product loss ratios to decline 2–3%, driven by price corrections in the respective products.
- It maintains its guidance of doubling the topline and tripling profitability (as per IFRS) by FY28.
- The company remains selective in group business, which has led to a decline in group loss ratios; management expects further improvement going forward.

FY25 performance

- STARHEAL maintains a dominant position with a 33% market share in the retail health segment.
- The company reported 25% YoY growth in fresh retail GWP, driven by improved agent productivity, targeted campaigns, and acceleration of digital channels.
- The contribution of the group segment to total GWP declined to 7% in 4QFY25 from 9% in 2QFY25, as part of the recalibration strategy.
- The company recorded 6% YoY growth in total policies issued in FY25.
- The average sum assured increased by 10% YoY to INR1.6m per policy, with 87% of the overall portfolio having a sum assured of INR0.5m and above.
- The fresh-to-renewal ratio improved to 23:77 from 22:78.
- The company has started building its equity book, aided by improved solvency. Equity now constitutes 15% of the investment portfolio. Lower profit booking in 4Q compared to previous quarters led to a decline in investment income.

Claim experience

- The increase in the claim ratio was driven by higher severity and frequency of claims, prompting the company to strengthen its reserves.
- Claim frequency rose by over 7%, driven by a shift from secondary to tertiary care hospitals, a preference towards hospitalization, increased accessibility, and more preventive screening. Previously, frequency increases were in the 3–4% range.
- Industry medical inflation stands at over 15%, but Star Health has managed to keep it below 10%. Higher incidence of surgical procedures versus medical cases in FY25 also contributed to increased severity.
- The claim rejection rate declined to 10% in FY25 from 13% in FY24.

Price hikes

- The FHO price correction led to a 5–6% customer drop-off. However, recent price corrections are based on customers' claims experience, leading to better persistency compared to the FHO price hike.
- Cohort-based pricing has been implemented on 60% of the product portfolio to improve retention and reward good customers.



Distribution channel

- The agency channel contributed 82% of GWP in FY25, with fresh business growing 16% YoY. The company added 74,000 new agents in FY25 and aims to grow the overall agent network to 1m, with deeper penetration in non-metro regions.
- The bancassurance channel has a network of 20,000 partners, with fresh business growing 13% YoY in FY25.
- The corporate channel, which focuses on serving MSMEs, contributed 3% of GWP in FY25, with fresh business growing 21% YoY. The proprietary SME calculator has strengthened relationships with agents.
- The digital channel contributed 8% to GWP in FY25, with the company's own proprietary digital platform accounting for 78% of the digital channel's contribution.

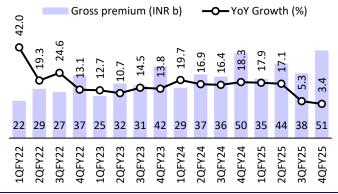
IFRS performance

- The claim ratio stood at 70.7% in FY25, compared to 66.5% in FY24.
- The expense ratio was 30.4%, compared to 30.7% in FY24.
- RoE stood at 9.5%, lower than the I-GAAP RoE, due to MTM declines in the investment portfolio in 4QFY25.



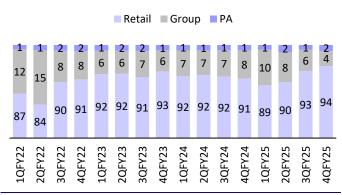
Key exhibits

Exhibit 1: Trends in gross premium



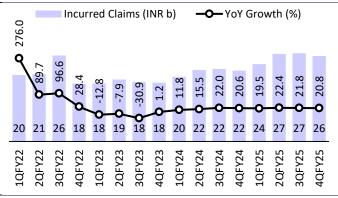
Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 2: Share of retail health stood at 94%



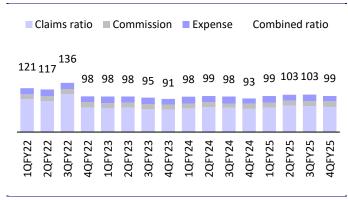
Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 3: Incurred claims of INR26b in 4QFY25



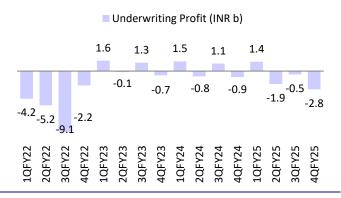
Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 4: Combined ratio on the rise YoY



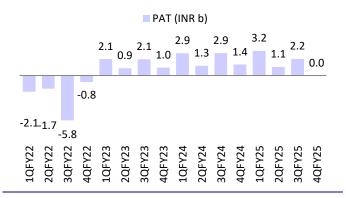
Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 5: Underwriting loss at INR2.8b in 4QFY25



Source: MOFSL, Company

Exhibit 6: Trend in PAT



Source: MOFSL, Company



Financials and valuations

Y/E March	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026E	2027E
Retail Health	58,252	82,075	1,00,870	1,19,475	1,39,512	1,54,130	1,77,250	2,05,609
Group Health	8,897	9,963	12,066	8,076	10,824	11,038	9,051	10,137
PA	1,337	1,489	1,685	1,939	2,117	1,897	2,182	2,509
Total GDPI	68,651	93,885	1,14,635	1,29,525	1,52,545	1,67,814	1,88,482	2,18,256
Change (%)	27.1	36.8	22.1	13.0	17.8	10.0	12.3	15.8
NWP	52,395	71,794	1,08,096	1,23,196	1,40,674	1,55,252	1,80,943	2,09,525
NEP	46,841	46,266	98,092	1,12,616	1,29,383	1,48,222	1,71,896	1,98,002
Change (%)	27.9	-1.2	112.0	14.8	14.9	14.6	16.0	15.2
Net claims	30,874	43,695	85,400	73,204	85,999	1,04,194	1,19,468	1,36,621
Net commission	3,404	14,922	16,828	16,828	18,537	22,407	27,141	31,429
Expenses	11,013	14,031	18,443	20,538	23,944	25,406	27,546	29,769
Employee expenses	8,526	11,765	13,436	14,537	16,122	16,929	17,775	18,664
Other expenses	2,487	2,266	5,007	6,001	7,823	8,477	9,771	11,105
Underwriting Profit/(Loss)	1,550	-17,316	-20,673	2,046	903	-3,785	-2,259	183
Investment income (PH)	1,639	2,505	4,796	5,014	6,407	7,718	8,162	9,283
Operating profit	3,303	-14,811	-15,877	7,060	7,309	3,933	5,903	9,466
Investment income (SH)	1,212	1,718	3,214	3,287	4,089	5,135	5,296	5,480
PBT	4,062	-14,458	-14,024	8,264	11,289	8,611	10,691	14,439
Tax	1,389	-3,601	-3,559	2,078	2,838	2,152	2,673	3,610
Tax rate (%)	34.2	24.9	25.4	25.1	25.1	25.0	25.0	25.0
PAT	2,633	-10,857	-10,464	6,186	8,450	6,459	8,018	10,829
Balance sheet							_	(INR m)
Y/E March	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026E	2027E
Equity Share Capital	4,906	5,481	5,755	5,817	5,853	5,878	5,878	5,878
Reserves & Surplus	14,132	29,516	40,285	59,839	60,429	64,359	72,377	83,206
Net Worth	19,038	34,996	46,040	65,656	66,282	70,236	78,255	89,084
FV change	31	-76	267	234	1,036	885	974	1,071
Borrowings	2,500	2,500	7,200	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,700
Other liabilities	38,361	67,589	81,629	92,988	1,08,525	1,32,025	1,30,019	1,46,306
Total Liabilities	59,930	1,05,010	1,35,136	1,63,577	1,80,543	2,07,846	2,13,947	2,41,161
Investments (SH)	18,110	27,941	44,939	53,459	63,361			
Investments (PH)	24,789	40,426	68,796	80,462	91,548	71,857	73,557	76,105
Net Fixed Assets	1,019	990	1,171	1,113	1,751	1,07,126	1,13,358	1,28,937
Dof Toy Assats	70	4,213	7,767	5,689	3,582	1,849	1,899	1,949
Def Tax Assets								
Current Assets	9,827	12,650	6,828	8,444	12,990	3,512	3,512	3,512
	9,827 6,114	12,650 18,790	6,828 5,635	8,444 14,410	12,990 7,312	3,512 16,817	3,512 18,888	3,512 21,872

E: MOFSL Estimates



Financials and valuations

Ratios								
Y/E March	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026E	2026E
GWP growth	27.1	36.8	22.1	13.0	17.8	10.0	12.3	15.8
NWP growth	26.9	37.0	50.6	14.0	14.2	10.4	16.5	15.8
NEP growth	27.9	-1.2	112.0	14.8	14.9	14.6	16.0	15.2
Claim ratio	65.9	94.4	87.1	65.0	66.5	70.3	69.5	69.0
Commission ratio	6.5	20.8	15.6	13.7	13.2	14.4	15.0	15.0
Expense ratio	21.0	19.5	17.1	16.7	17.0	16.4	15.2	14.2
Combined ratio	93.4	134.8	119.7	95.3	96.7	101.1	99.7	98.2
Profitability Ratios (%)								
RoE	16.8	-40.2	-25.8	11.1	12.8	9.5	10.8	12.9
Valuations								
BVPS (INR)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026E	2026E
Change (%)	38.8	63.9	80.0	112.9	113.2	119.5	133.1	151.6
Price-BV (x)	43.9	64.6	25.3	41.1	0.3	5.5	11.4	13.8
EPS (INR)	11.3	6.9	5.5	3.9	3.9	3.3	2.9	2.6
Change (%)	5.4	-19.8	-18.2	10.6	14.4	11.0	13.6	18.4
Price-Earnings (x)	15.8	-469.1	-8.2	-158.5	35.8	-23.9	24.1	35.1
Market Cap/GDPI (x)			-24.1	41.3	30.4	35.5	28.6	21.2

E: MOFSL Estimates



NOTES



Explanation of Investment Rating						
Investment Rating	Expected return (over 12-month)					
BUY	>=15%					
SELL	<-10%					
NEUTRAL	< - 10 % to 15%					
UNDER REVIEW	Rating may undergo a change					
NOT RATED	We have forward looking estimates for the stock but we refrain from assigning recommendation					

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Nainesh Rajani

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SHOTANOO TOUROUGH COM									
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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