RESULT REPORT Q4 FY24 | Sector: Insurance (Life)

HDFC Life Insurance

Dual growth and margin pangs cap RoEV

Our view - Management flags irrational pricing in the system

Margin performance has been soft and guidance in this regard has been cautious: VNB margin for FY24 was 26.3% compared with 27.6% for FY23. Of the 130 bps decline in annual VNB margin, 70 bps is explained by lower operating leverage due to upfronting of Rs 10bn worth of APE in the last quarter of FY23. Another 40 bps decline is explained by higher share of unit-linked products. In terms of margin guidance, the company would like VNB to grow at broadly the same pace as APE but is willing to allow margin to fluctuate to some extent in order to deliver growth. Management stated that there is pressure on pricing due to irrationality, especially from aggregators for protection business but, at some point, rationality in pricing would return.

Management expects HDFL to at the upper end of industry growth expectation band or slightly better: On an un-adjusted basis, the individual APE growth in FY24 was 1% YoY. Growth of large-ticket products was impacted due to tax rule changes with share of policies above Rs 0.5mn ticket size declining from 12% earlier to about 6-7% of APE. Policies with ticket size less than Rs 0.5mn are growing in the high teens. In terms of growth guidance, the industry would grow at 12-15% and HDFC Life would at the upper end of this band or somewhat better. The counter share on HDFC Bank was 63% in FY24 compared with 56% in FY23. The counter share on HDFC Bank would continue to improve going forward and hence, HDFC Bank would grow faster than the company.

We maintain a less-than-bullish 'ADD' rating on HDFL with a revised price target of Rs 725: We value HDFL at 2.4x FY26 P/EV for an FY25E/26E RoEV profile of 17.1%/17.2%.

(See Comprehensive con call takeaways on page 2 for significant incremental colour.)

Result Highlights (See "Our View" above for elaboration and insight)

- VNB margin: Calculated post-merger VNB margin de-grew by -72bps QoQ (comparable) and -317bps YoY (comparable) to 26.1%
- VNB: The post-merger VNB growth was 44.2% QoQ (comparable), aided by growth in APE
- APE: The post-merger APE was Rs 47,270 mn up by 48.1% QoQ (comparable) but down -8.4% YoY (comparable)
- Expense control: Post-merger Expense ratio decreased -68bps QoQ to 19.1% as opex ratio decreased -305bps QoQ but comm. ratio increased by 238bps QoQ
- Persistency: Post-merger, 37th month ratio rose 220bps QoQ to 73.4% and 61st month ratio rose 90ps QoQ to 52.0% (comparable)

Exhibit 1: Result table

Rs mn	Q4 FY24	Q4 FY23	% yoy	Q3 FY24	% qoq
NBP	95,316	103,720	-8.1%	71,297	33.7%
Renewal premium	114,060	92,542	23.3%	83,962	35.8%
Income from investments	72,514	11,895	509.6%	113,698	-36.2%
Surplus/(Deficit)	2,728	5,718	-52.3%	613	345.2%
PAT	4,117	3,587	14.8%	3,651	12.8%
Expense ratio	19.1%	20.8%	-161bps	19.8%	-68bps
37th mo. Persistency*	73.4%	71.5%	190bps	71.2%	220bps
Total APE	47,270	51,620	-8.4%	31,910	48.1%
Individual APE	42,380	45,270	-6.4%	27,930	51.7%
VNB	12,340	15,110	-18.3%	8,560	44.2%
VNB Margin	26.1%	29.3%	-317bps	26.8%	-72bps



Recommendation : **ADD**Current Price : Rs 606

Target Price : Rs 725

Potential Return : +19.7%

Stock data (as on April 18, 2024)

Nifty	21,996
52 Week h/I (Rs)	711/511
Market cap (Rs/USD mn)	1300134/15559
Outstanding Shares (mn)	2,150
6m Avg t/o (Rs mn):	2,290
Div yield (%):	0.3
Bloomberg code:	HDFCLIFE IN
NSE code:	HDFCLIFE

Stock performance



Shareholding pattern (As of Dec'23 end)

Promoter	50.4%
FII+DII	37.9%
Others	11.8%

∧ in stance

(1-Yr)	New	Old
Rating	ADD	ADD
Target Price	725	700

Financial Summary

Rs mn	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
APE	132,910	154,532	179,735
% yoy	-0.3%	16.3%	16.3%
VNB	35,010	40,951	48,079
VNB Margin	26.3%	26.5%	26.8%
Reported PAT	15,689	17,289	19,147
% yoy	15.3%	10.2%	10.7%
EPS (Rs)	7.3	8.0	8.9
EV/Share (Rs)	220.7	256.3	298.3
RoEV	17.5%	17.1%	17.2%
P/EV (x)	2.7	2.4	2.0
P/VNB (x)	37.2	31.8	27.1

Δ in earnings estimates

Rs bn	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
VNB (New)	NA	41.0	48.1
VNB (Old)	NA	45.8	53.8
% change	NA	-10.6%	-10.6%

SHIVAJI THAPLIYAL

Head of Research & Lead Analyst shivaji.thapliyal@ysil.in



SIDDHARTH RAJPUROHIT, Analyst

COMPREHENSIVE CON-CALL HIGHLIGHTS

VNB margin

- VNB Margin and VNB
 - VNB margin for FY24 was 26.3% compared with 27.6% for FY23.
 - VNB has declined 5% YoY to Rs 35bn for FY24.
- Reasons for decline
 - Of the 130 bps decline in annual VNB margin, 70 bps is explained by lower operating leverage due to upfronting of Rs 10bn worth of APE in the last quarter of FY23.
 - Another 40 bps decline is explained by higher share of unit-linked products.
- Margin guidance
 - The company would like VNB to grow at broadly the same pace as APE but is willing to allow margin to fluctuate to some extent in order to deliver growth.
 - There is pressure on pricing due to irrationality, especially from aggregators for protection business.
 - Management believes that, at some point, rationality in pricing would return.

Overall APE (revenue) growth

- APE growth in 4Q was 20% YoY, adjusting for the one-off (high base due to revenue upfronting) in 4Q last year.
- The APE growth in FY24 amounted to 11% on normalized basis.
- On an un-adjusted basis, the individual APE growth in FY24 was 1% YoY.
- Ticket size aspects
 - Growth of large-ticket products was impacted due to tax rule changes with share of policies above Rs 0.5mn ticket size declining from 12% earlier to about 6-7% of APE.
 - Policies with ticket size less than Rs 0.5mn are growing in the high teens.
- Nature of customers
 - More than 70% of retail customers are new to HDFC Life.
 - Two thirds of new business in FY24 has come from outside Tier 1 centres.
- Growth guidance
 - The industry would grow at 12-15% and HDFC Life would at the upper end of this band or somewhat better.

Product growth and mix

- Product mix
 - Linked 35%
 - Non par savings 30%
 - Par 23%
 - Retail term 5%
 - Annuities 6%
- Non-par savings
 - Non-par savings was driven by the new Click2protect product.

(Con call takeaways continue on the next page)



Protection

- Annuity and protection contributed to more than half of new business premium.
- Credit protect business was up 13% YoY despite slowdown in disbursement in 4Q (presumably for NBFC partners).
- Sum assured
 - Sum assured saw a growth of 47% YoY driven by pure term, ROP and high protection cover embedded in savings products and riders.

Channel growth and mix

- Bancassurance
 - HDFC Bank
 - The counter share on HDFC Bank was 63% in FY24 compared with 56% in FY23.
 - The counter share on HDFC Bank would continue to improve going forward and hence, HDFC Bank would grow faster than the overall company.
 - O HDFC Bank contributed 52-53% of retail individual business.
 - Non-HDFC Bank
 - Other banks grew 13-15%, driven by tier 2 and 3 centres.
 - The contribution of Non-HDFC Bank partners to overall business is about 12-13%.
- Direct channel
 - 75 branches were added during FY24.
 - The intention is to take touch points to more than 600 in FY25.
- Agency
 - Agency channel has been impacted since it used to sell a material amount of policies above Rs 0.5mn.
 - However, this rebasing process has played out management expects this channel to make a comeback.
 - The company has added 80,000 agents, of which 85-90% are in tier 2 and 3 centres.

Embedded value

- Embedded value
 - EV has risen 20% YoY to Rs 474.68bn.
- Return on embedded value
 - The operating RoEV amounted to 17.5%.
 - Guidance
 - o The RoEV would in the 17-18% range.
- Economic variance
 - Of the total economic variance of Rs 13bn, more than Rs 12bn is due to equity markets.
 - The remaining is due to the impact of lower interest rates on the fixed income portfolio.

Solvency

The solvency ratio amounted to 187%.

Persistency

• The 13th and 61st month persistency amounted to 87% and 53%, respectively.

(Con call takeaways continue on the next page)



HDFC Pension

- AUM has crossed Rs 750bn, up 70% YoY.
- The market share is 43% (presumably among private sector players).

IFRS

- Depending on the readiness of life insurers, IFRS could get implemented in 24-36 months.
- There will no material change in the way HDFC Life conducts its business due to IFRS.

Regulation

• The final circular on surrender does not have any material impact on HDFC Life.

New business strain

- The strain on unit linked products is actually on the higher side since the reserves are linked to the value of the fund.
- Linked products require more capital in the beginning but this comes down with time.



Exhibit 2: Quarterly Actuals Vs Estimates

Q4FY24 (Rs. mn)	Actuals	Estimates	Diff, %
New Business Premium	95,316	88,299	7.9
Total APE	47,270	44,504	6.2
VNB	12,340	12,007	2.8

Source: Company, YES Sec – Research

Exhibit 3: Other Business Parameters

	Q4 FY24	Q4 FY23	% yoy	Q3 FY24	% qoq
APE by Product (Rs mn)					
ULIP	17,652	7,081	149.3%	10,498	68.1%
Par	6,581	10,647	-38.2%	6,723	-2.1%
Non par saving	14,719	24,225	-39.2%	7,619	93.2%
Non par protection	1,493	1,783	-16.3%	1,633	-8.5%
Annuity	1,936	1,534	26.2%	1,457	32.9%
Total Individual APE	42,380	45,270	-6.4%	27,930	51.7%
Group	4,890	6,350	-23.0%	3,980	22.9%
Total APE	47,270	51,620	-8.4%	31,910	48.1%
Product Mix (% in APE)	07.00/	10.70/	00/01	22.22/	4.44
ULIP	37.3%	13.7%	2363bps	32.9%	444bps
Par	13.9%	20.6%	-670bps	21.1%	-715bps
Non par saving	31.1%	46.9%	-1579bps	23.9%	726bps
Non par protection	3.2%	3.5%	-30bps	5.1%	-196bps
Annuity	4.1%	3.0%	112bps	4.6%	-47bps
Total individual	89.7%	87.7%	196bps	87.5%	213bps
Group	10.3%	12.3%	-196bps	12.5%	-213bps
APE by Channel (Individual AP	F Rs mn)				
Bancassurance	27,804	23,691	17.4%	18,186	52.9%
Brokers & others	2,499	6,416	-61.1%	1,303	91.8%
Agency	7,496	10,551	-29.0%	5,239	43.1%
Direct	4,581	4,612	-0.7%	3,202	43.1%
	,	,		,	
Channel mix (% in APE)					
Bancassurance	66%	52%	1327bps	65%	50bps
Brokers & others	6%	14%	-828bps	5%	123bps
Agency	18%	23%	-562bps	19%	-107bps
Direct	11%	10%	62bps	11%	-65bps
Develotency*					
Persistency* 13 month	07.007	0.5.20/	00h	02.40/	2001
	86.2%	85.3%	90bps	83.4%	280bps
61 month	52.0%	52.5%	-50bps	51.1%	90bps
Expense ratio					
Commission ratio	10.6%	5.7%	483bps	8.2%	238bps
Opex ratio	8.6%	15.0%	-644bps	11.6%	-305bps
Solvency					
Solvency ratio	187.0%	203.0%	-1600bps	190.0%	-300bps
Source: Company VES Sec - Pesearci					

Source: Company, YES Sec - Research, *N.B. Regular and Limited Pay, Both YoY and QoQ numbers are comparable



ANNUAL FINANCIALS

Exhibit 4: Policyholder account

Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Net premium	453,965	567,640	619,592	705,231	806,955
Income from investments	192,159	125,975	383,543	458,667	535,843
Other income	1,765	4,644	3,357	3,692	4,061
Contri from shareholders A/C	5,694	8,795	1,251	1,376	1,514
Total income	653,584	707,055	1,007,743	1,168,966	1,348,373
Commission	19,403	28,869	52,563	59,828	68,458
Employee expenses	20,290	30,490	32,420	36,311	40,668
Other opex	35,835	53,884	36,590	66,945	76,601
Benefits paid	318,638	388,723	396,965	469,760	555,427
Change in valuation of liability	246,815	185,862	484,194	511,927	580,686
Others	1,162	4,047	3,183	4,668	5,342
Provision for Tax	1,845	1,591	-5,924	3,202	3,701
Surplus/(Deficit)	9,597	13,589	7,751	16,325	17,490
Transfer to shareholders A/C	10,093	14,689	7,991	9,227	10,667

Source: Company, YES Sec - Research

Exhibit 5: Shareholder account

Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Transfer from Policyholders' account	10,093	14,689	7,991	9,227	10,667
Income from Investments	7,894	7,197	10,022	10,978	11,690
Total A	17,987	21,887	18,013	20,205	22,356
Expenses (apart from insurance)	825	1,246	1,209	1,330	1,463
Contribution to Policyholders' Acc	5,694	8,795	1,251	1,376	1,514
Others	-333	-247	45	0	0
Total B	6,186	9,794	2,505	2,706	2,977
Profit/(Loss) before tax	11,801	12,724	15,638	17,642	19,538
Provision for Taxation	-276	-877	-50	353	391
Profit/(Loss) after tax	12,077	13,601	15,689	17,289	19,147

Source: Company, YES Sec - Research



Exhibit 6: Balance sheet

Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Shareholders' Funds:					
Share Capital	21,126	21,494	21,509	21,509	21,509
Reserve and surplus	133,733	108,374	125,008	137,953	152,755
Policyholders' Funds					
Policy Liabilities	1,065,122	1,452,455	1,813,745	2,207,909	2,667,929
Provision for Linked Liabilities	765,190	753,836	921,145	967,218	1,018,820
Discontinued policies	40,854	38,040	34,137	34,137	34,137
Funds for future appropriation	9,409	12,354	12,115	19,213	26,035
Sources of Funds	2,041,605	2,396,192	2,937,293	3,397,573	3,930,819
Investments - Shareholders	152,379	131,319	148,819	158,046	168,713
Investments Policyholders	1,889,325	2,256,500	2,773,382	3,241,688	3,785,489
Fixed Assets + Loans	9,856	19,655	23,131	23,131	23,131
Net Current Assets	-9,955	-11,283	-8,038	-25,292	-46,513
Misc. Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Application of funds	2,041,605	2,396,192	2,937,293	3,397,573	3,930,819

Source: Company, YES Sec - Research

Exhibit 7: Embedded Value Walk

Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Opening EV	266,170	329,580	395,260	474,670	551,386
Unwind of Discount	22,960	26,240	32,400	37,974	44,111
Value of New Business	26,750	36,740	35,010	40,951	48,079
Operating Assumption Changes	(5,650)	1,900	1,800	2,136	2,481
Economic Variance	(520)	(15,940)	13,500	0	0
Dividend & ESOP	(9,230)	16,740	(3,300)	(4,345)	(4,345)
Closing EV	300,480	395,260	474,670	551,386	641,712

Source: Company, YES Sec - Research

Exhibit 8: Change in annual estimates

Y/e 31 Mar (Rs mn)	Revised Estimate			Earlier Estimate			% F	% Revision		
	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	
Annual Premium Equivalent	NA	154,532	179,735	NA	165,009	192,018	NA	(6.3)	(6.4)	
Value of new business	NA	40,951	48,079	NA	45,790	53,765	NA	(10.6)	(10.6)	

Source: Company, YES Sec - Research



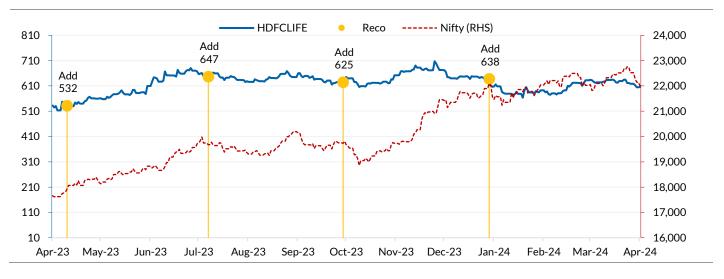
Exhibit 9: Ratio analysis

Y/e 31 Mar	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
Growth (%) - P&L					
New business premium	20.1%	20.4%	1.9%	16.3%	16.3%
Renewal premium	18.0%	30.4%	17.6%	12.0%	13.1%
Net premium	19.1%	25.0%	9.2%	13.8%	14.4%
PAT	-11.2%	12.6%	15.3%	10.2%	10.7%
VNB	22.4%	37.3%	-4.7%	17.0%	17.4%
Growth (%) - Balance Sheet					
Total AUM	17.4%	17.0%	22.4%	16.3%	16.3%
Total Assets	18.0%	17.4%	22.6%	15.7%	15.7%
Embedded value	12.9%	31.5%	20.1%	16.2%	16.4%
Profitability ratios (%)					
VNB Margins	27.4%	27.5%	26.3%	26.5%	26.8%
Commission ratio	4.3%	5.1%	8.5%	8.5%	8.5%
Opex ratio	12.4%	14.9%	11.1%	14.6%	14.5%
Expense ratio	16.6%	19.9%	19.6%	23.1%	23.0%
Conservation Ratio	86.1%	95.3%	84.1%	84.1%	84.1%
Return ratios (%)					
ROE	7.8%	10.5%	10.7%	10.8%	11.0%
RoEV	16.6%	19.7%	17.5%	17.1%	17.2%
RoA	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%
Investment Return (%)					
Invest. Yield - Sh.	6.6%	5.5%	7.2%	7.2%	7.3%
Invest. Yield - Ph.	10.8%	6.1%	15.3%	15.3%	15.3%
Solvency					
Solvency Ratio	176%	203%	187%	195%	195%
Underwriting					
Claims ratio	70.2%	68.5%	64.1%	66.6%	68.8%
Claims / AUM	15.6%	16.3%	13.6%	13.8%	14.0%
Per share data (Rs)					
EPS	5.7	6.3	7.3	8.0	8.9
VNBPS	12.66	17.09	16.28	19.04	22.35
BVPS	73.3	60.4	68.1	74.1	81.0
EVPS	142.2	183.9	220.7	256.3	298.3
Valuation (x)					
P/E	105.9	95.7	83.0	75.3	68.0
P/VNB	47.8	35.4	37.2	31.8	27.1
P/BV	8.3	10.0	8.9	8.2	7.5
P/EV	4.3	3.3	2.7	2.4	2.0

Source: Company, YES Sec – Research



Recommendation Tracker





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YES Securities (India) Limited

Registered Address: 2nd Floor, North Side, YES BANK House, Off Western Express Highway, Santacruz East, Mumbai - 400 055, Maharashtra, India.

Correspondence Address: 7th Floor, Urmi Estate Tower A, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Opp. Peninsula Business Park, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai – 400 013, Maharashtra, India.

 $\boxtimes \mathsf{research@ysil.in} \,|\, \mathsf{Website:www.yesinvest.in}$

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Details of Compliance Officer: Name: Aditya Goenka, **Email id:** compliance@ysil.in, **Contact No:** 022-65078127 (Extn: 718127)

Grievances Redressal Cell: customer.service@ysil.in/igc@ysil.in



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Name of the Research Analyst: Shivaji Thapliyal, Siddharth Rajpurohit

The analyst hereby certifies that opinion expressed in this research report accurately reflect his or her personal opinion about the subject securities and no part of his or her compensation was, is or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendation and opinion expressed in this research report.

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BUY: Upside greater than 20% over 12 months

ADD: Upside between 10% to 20% over 12 months

NEUTRAL: Upside between 0% to 10% over 12 months

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