REDUCE AU Small Finance Bank

Asset quality deteriorates further

BFSI - Banks > Result Update > January 28, 2024



TARGET PRICE (Rs): 625

Despite stable NIMs due to increased interest income on securitization and higher fees including cards, AU SFB reported 14% miss on earnings with PAT at Rs3.8bn (Emkay est.: Rs4.4bn) as provisions accelerated to Rs1.6bn due to rising stress in its VF and now even seasoning card portfolio. Fresh slippages were elevated at 2.9% of loans (Rs4bn) due to which GNPA ratio jumped 7bps QoQ to 2% for the third quarter in a row, indicating rising stress. The bank expects credit card book to break-even in FY25, but we believe rising asset-quality stress in cards for seasoned players like SBIC, RBL and so on indicates that stress could remain elevated for AU SFB as well. Separately, the bank has counter-intuitively cut down its specific PCR to 66% amid rising stress.

We believe the merger with Fincare prima-facie could be EPS/BVPS/RoA positive, but we reckon managing HR/tech integration and MFI portfolio management will be an arduous task. Separately, we believe rising asset-quality stress in the bank's card portfolio and VF portfolio could keep provisions elevated. Thus, we cut our earnings estimates by 7-10%. Factoring in RoA/RoE moderation, rising asset-quality risk, likely merger drag, and potential delay in the universal banking license, we cut our TP further to Rs625/share (earlier Rs650), valuing the bank at 2.8x Dec-25E ABV. We maintain our REDUCE rating.

AU Small Finance Bank: Financial Snapshot (Standalone)									
Y/E March (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E				
Net profit	11,298	14,279	15,727	17,875	20,658				
Loan growth (%)	33.2	26.7	22.8	24.3	22.0				
NII growth (%)	36.7	36.8	17.6	19.6	19.4				
NIM (%)	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.1	5.0				
PPOP growth (%)	(14.7)	11.3	26.4	26.0	22.0				
Adj. EPS (Rs)	18.0	22.0	23.6	26.7	30.9				
Adj. EPS growth (%)	(5.1)	22.3	6.9	13.5	15.6				
Adj. BV (INR)	116.6	166.0	181.5	204.0	229.9				
Adj. BVPS growth (%)	25.8	42.4	9.3	12.4	12.7				
RoA (%)	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4				
RoE (%)	16.4	15.4	13.4	13.5	13.7				
P/E (x)	39.3	32.1	30.1	26.5	22.9				
P/ABV (x)	6.1	4.3	3.9	3.5	3.1				

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Growth moderates further and so do the margins

AU SFB took a cautious call to limit its lending growth amid rising asset-quality risk, reflecting relatively moderate credit growth at 20% YoY/4% QoQ. Wheels book (40% portfolio share) declined QoQ, while the bank continues to report strong growth in mortgages, as planned, to increase the share of the secured book. However, deposit growth remained robust at 31% YoY/6% QoQ, led by strong growth in savings and TDs, leading to a moderation in LDR to 83%. The bank also securitized loans worth Rs27.4bn to release cost pressure, which helped the bank limit margin contraction by 6bps QoQ to 5.5%. The bank expects growth to normalize from Q4, but we believe margin pressure could continue on account of rising funding costs and asset-quality deterioration.

Asset-quality woes continue for the third quarter in a row

Fresh slippages were elevated at Rs4bn, leading to 2.9% of loans, which resulted in a jump in GNPA ratio to 2% (up 7bps) for the third quarter in a row. Management attributes higher NPA formation to rising stress in the wheels portfolio, while the seasoning card portfolio has added to the stress (Rs0.4bn write-off), though it claims it is still BAU-level stress. However, we believe stress in the credit card business is on the rise, even for seasoned players like SBIC, RBL and so on and should remain so for AU SFB. Separately, the bank has counter-intuitively cut down its specific PCR to 66% amid rising stress, which we believe the bank will need to shore up and, thus, should keep LLP elevated.

Retain REDUCE

We believe the merger with Fincare prima-facie could be EPS/BVPS/RoA positive, but we reckon that managing HR/tech integration and MFI portfolio management will be an arduous task, more so given the deal was concluded without the management buy-in. Separately, we believe rising asset-quality stress in AU SFB's card portfolio and VF portfolio could keep provisions elevated. Thus, we cut our earnings estimates by 7-10%. Factoring in RoA/RoE moderation, rising asset-quality risk, likely merger drag, and potential delay in Universal banking license, we cut our TP further to Rs625/share (earlier Rs650/share), valuing the bank at 2.8x its Dec-25E ABV. We retain our REDUCE rating on the stock.

Target Price - 12M	Jan-24
Change in TP (%)	(3.8)
Current Reco.	REDUCE
Previous Reco.	REDUCE
Upside/(Downside) (%)	(11.7)
CMP (25-Jan-24) (Rs)	707.9

Stock Data	Ticker
52-week High (Rs)	813
52-week Low (Rs)	548
Shares outstanding (mn)	668.8
Market-cap (Rs bn)	473
Market-cap (USD mn)	5,696
Net-debt, FY24E (Rs mn)	NA
ADTV-3M (mn shares)	2
ADTV-3M (Rs mn)	1,676.6
ADTV-3M (USD mn)	20.2
Free float (%)	72.0
Nifty-50	21,353
INR/USD	83.1
Shareholding, Sep-23	
Promoters (%)	25.5
FPIs/MFs (%)	41.7/19.6

Price Performance							
(%)	1M	3M	12M				
Absolute	(7.5)	0.2	14.9				
Rel. to Nifty	(7.5)	(10.2)	(3.7)				



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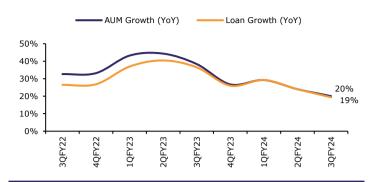
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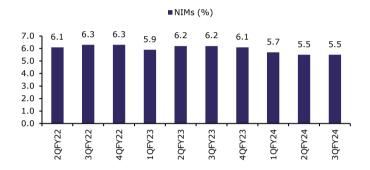
Story in Charts

Exhibit 1: Credit growth moderates due to higher securitization



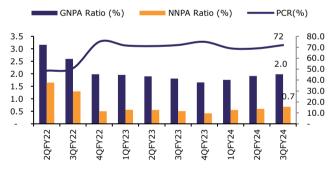
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 3: Rising CoFs exert pressure on NIMs



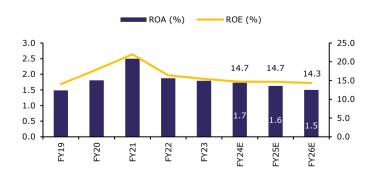
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 5: Higher slippages led to increased GNPA/NNPA



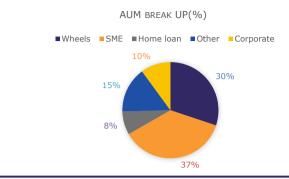
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 7: Higher LLP, rising asset-quality risk, and likely merger drag to weigh on return ratios



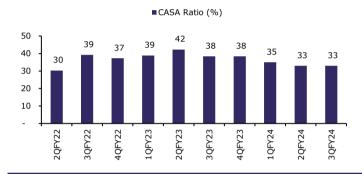
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 2: AUM mix dominated by Wheels and SBL, but could change post the merger



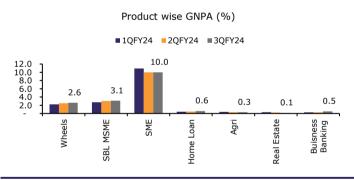
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 4: CASA slips further owing to strong growth in TD



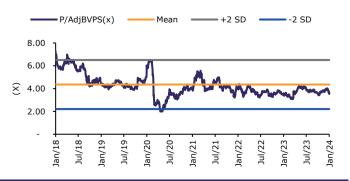
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 6: Wheels and SBL MSME segments saw increased GNPA



Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 8: The stock trades at 2.8x one-year forward P/ABV



Source: Company, Emkay Research

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Exhibit 9: Actuals vs. Estimates (Q3FY24)

Rs mn	Actuals	Esti	imates	Variation		Comments
		Emkay	Consensus	Emkay	Consensus	
Net income	17,746	16,756	15,000	6%	18%	Higher NII and other income led to the beat
PPOP	6,571	6,425	5,645	2%	16%	Higher net income partially offset by higher opex led to a slight beat
PAT	3,752	4,376	3,857	-14%	-3%	Higher provisions led to a miss

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 10: Quarterly Summary

Rs mn	3QFY23	4QFY23	1QFY24	2QFY24	3QFY24	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)	FY23	FY24E	YoY (%)
Interest Earned	21,181	22,749	24,583	25,311	27,358	29	8	82,054	105,273	28
Interest Exp.	9,653	10,616	12,121	12,821	14,109	46	10	37,801	53,731	42
Net Interest Income	11,527	12,132	12,462	12,490	13,249	15	6	44,253	51,542	16
Global NIMs (reported)	6.20	6.10	5.70	5.50	5.50	-70bps	0bps	5.43	5.03	-41bps
Non-interest Income	2,949	3,331	3,151	4,255	4,497	52	6	10,345	15,123	46
Operating Expenses	8,919	9,753	10,153	10,267	11,175	25	9	34,403	41,599	21
Pre-Provisioning Profit	5,557	5,709	5,460	6,477	6,571	18	1	20,195	25,066	24
Provision & Contingencies	326	409	330	1,143	1,589	387	39	1,548	2,427	57
PBT	5,231	5,300	5,131	5,334	4,981	-5	-7	18,646	22,639	21
Income Tax Expense (Gain)	1,302	1,054	1,262	1,315	1,229	-6	-7	4,367	5,320	22
Net Profit/(Loss)	3,928	4,246	3,869	4,018	3,752	-4	-7	14,279	17,319	21
Gross NPA (%)	1.81	1.66	1.76	1.91	1.98	17bps	7bps	1.66	1.78	12bps
Net NPA (%)	0.51	0.42	0.55	0.60	0.68	17bps	8bps	0.49	0.54	5bps
Deposits (Rs bn)	611	694	693	757	801	31	6	694	882	27
Net Advances (Rs bn)	556	584	629	642	667	20	4	584	723	24

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 11: Revision in Estimates

Y/E March (Rs mn)	FY24E			FY25E			FY26E		
T/E March (KS IIII)	Earlier	Revised	Change	Earlier	Revised	Change	Earlier	Revised	Change
Net income	66,968	66,665	-0.5%	83,804	84,002	0.2%	103,174	101,701	-1.4%
PPOP	24,994	25,066	0.3%	32,852	33,972	3.4%	41,583	41,607	0.1%
PAT	17,319	17,319	0.0%	19,865	19,865	0.0%	22,196	22,196	0.0%
EPS (Rs)	26.0	26.0	0.0%	29.8	29.8	0.0%	33.3	33.3	0.0%
BV (Rs)	189.1	189.1	0.0%	216.9	216.9	0.0%	247.7	247.7	0.0%

Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 12: Exhibit 13: Key Assumptions

(%)	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
AUM Growth	26.0	25.0	23.0	22.0
Deposit Growth	35.8	27.1	24.4	22.9
NIM	5.4	5.0	5.0	5.0
GNPA	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.2
Credit Cost	0.5	0.6	1.0	1.2

Source: Emkay Research

Exhibit 13: Key Ratios and Trends

	3QFY22	4QFY22	1QFY23	2QFY23	3QFY23	4QFY23	1QFY24	2QFY24	3QFY24
Loans (Rs mn)	420,230	478,310	501,790	533,835	573,629	602,731	648,533	662,022	684,793
Growth YoY (%)	26.5	26.8	37.0	40.4	36.5	26.0	29.2	24.0	19.4
Growth QoQ (%)	10.6	13.8	4.9	6.4	7.5	5.1	7.6	2.1	3.4
Composition (%)									
Corporate	15	17	17	18	19	21	21	22	24
Retail and Treasury	85	83	83	82	81	79	79	78	76
Liability Profile									
Deposits (Rs mn)	442,780	525,846	546,310	583,354	611,010	693,650	693,150	757,429	801,200
Growth YoY (%)	49.0	46.2	47.6	49.4	38.0	31.9	26.9	29.8	31.1
Growth QoQ (%)	13.4	18.8	3.9	6.8	4.7	13.5	(0.1)	9.3	5.8
CASA (%)									
CA (%)	39.2	37.3	38.8	42.3	38.4	38.4	35.0	33.0	33.0
SA (%)	4.0	4.9	4.0	4.9	4.6	5.3	4.7	5.4	5.0
No. of Branches	35.2	32.4	34.8	37.4	33.8	33.1	30.4	27.6	28.0
NIM (%)	830	863	953	980	1,015	1,027	1,038	1,042	1,049
Asset Quality	6.3	6.3	5.9	6.2	6.2	6.1	5.7	5.5	5.5
GNPA (%)									
NNPA (%)	2.6	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0
PCR (%)	1.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7
Slippages (Rs mn)	50.8	75.0	71.7	71.1	72.1	75.0	69.0	69.0	72.0
Slippages – Annualized (%)	2,490	1,950	2,530	2,620	2,310	1,910	3,170	3,490	4,030
CAR (%)	3.0	2.1	2.8	2.8	2.2	1.6	2.5	2.6	2.8
Tier I (%)	19.5	21.0	19.4	23.4	22.0	23.6	21.5	22.4	20.8
ROE Decomposition (on total assets)	18.2	19.7	18.4	21.3	20.0	21.8	20.7	21.0	19.1
NII (%)									
Other Income (Ex. Treasury; %)	5.9	5.9	5.6	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.4
Opex (%)	1.9	2.0	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.8	1.8
PPOP (%)	4.6	4.8	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.5
Provisioning Cost (%)	3.3	3.0	2.3	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.8	2.7
PBT (%)	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.6
Tax (%)	2.9	2.4	2.0	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.0
ROA (%)	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5
ROE (%)	2.16	2.17	1.53	1.84	1.98	1.99	1.70	1.71	1.52

Source: Company, Emkay Research

FY25E

6,688

134.367

141,055

1,089,932

1,140,715

50.783

37,309

319.079

891.707

321,362

68,443

12,508

25,059

210.9

204.0

81.8

27.7

6.2

67.6

24.3

24.3

13.1

816.949

1,281,512

1,319,079

FY26E

153,353

160,041

1,354,532

1,402,073

1.590.461

1.087.883

371,881

84,124

16,261

30,311

239.3

229.9

80.3

27.8

6.0

68.4

22.0

24.3

13.5

1,590,461

1.006.762

1,543,888

47.540

28,348

6,688

AU Small Finance Bank: Standalone Financials and Valuations

Profit and Loss					
Y/E March (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Interest Income	59,217	82,054	105,639	126,611	150,423
Interest Expense	26,876	37,801	53,579	64,334	76,096
Net interest income	32,341	44,253	52,060	62,276	74,328
NII growth (%)	36.7	36.8	17.6	19.6	19.4
Other income	9,937	10,345	16,856	23,156	28,981
Total Income	42,278	54,597	68,917	85,432	103,308
Operating expenses	24,128	34,403	43,381	53,257	64,056
PPOP	18,150	20,195	25,535	32,175	39,252
PPOP growth (%)	(14.7)	11.3	26.4	26.0	22.0
Core PPOP	16,721	20,638	25,335	30,675	37,252
Provisions & contingencies	3,610	1,548	4,842	8,655	12,071
PBT	14,541	18,646	20,693	23,520	27,181
Extraordinary items	0	0	0	0	0
Tax expense	3,242	4,367	4,966	5,645	6,523
Minority interest	0	0	0	0	0
Income from JV/Associates	0	0	0	0	0
Reported PAT	11,298	14,279	15,727	17,875	20,658
PAT growth (%)	(3.5)	26.4	10.1	13.7	15.6
Adjusted PAT	11,298	14,279	15,727	17,875	20,658
Diluted EPS (Rs)	17.8	21.8	23.3	26.5	30.6
Diluted EPS growth (%)	(5.7)	22.3	7.0	13.5	15.6
DPS (Rs)	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5
Dividend payout (%)	2.8	4.7	6.4	7.5	8.1
Effective tax rate (%)	22.3	23.4	24.0	24.0	24.0
Net interest margins (%)	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.4	5.3
Cost-income ratio (%)	57.1	63.0	62.9	62.3	62.0
Shares outstanding (mn)	314.9	666.7	668.8	668.8	668.8

Deposit growth (%)					
Book value growth (%)					
Source: Company, Emkay Research					

Balance Sheet Y/E Mar (Rs mn)

Reserves & surplus

Interest-bearing liab.

Other liabilities & prov.

Total liabilities & equity

Cash, other balances

Interest earning assets

Share capital

Net worth

Borrowings

Net advances

Investments

Other assets

Total assets

Adj. BVPS (INR)

Gross advances

CASA ratio (%)

Credit to deposit (%)

Cost of deposits (%)

Loans-to-Assets (%) Net advances growth (%)

BVPS (Rs)

Deposits

FY22

3,149

71,991

75,140

525,846

59.908

585,754

29,884

690.778

460.953

153,065

59,285

6,226

11,250

690,778

119.8

116.6

87.7

38.4

5.1

66.7

33.2

46.2

17.7

410.725

673,303

FY23

6,667

103,106 **109,773**

693,650

52.987

746,636

45,751

902.161

584.215

200,720

94,252

879,187

7,401

15.573

902,161

169.3

166.0

84.2

38.4

5.5

64.8

26.7

31.9

41.3

529.527

FY24E

6,688

117.829

124,517

876,510

55.039

931,549

19,854

1.075.920

717.491

272,329

55.893

9,622

20.584

186.5

181.5

81.9

30.8

6.4

66.7

22.8

26.4

10.1

659,490

1,045,713

1.075.920

Source:	Company,	Emkay	Research

Asset Quality and Other Metrics					
Y/E Mar (Rs mn)	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Asset quality					
Gross NPLs	9,243.8	9,813.1	14,745.9	20,537.4	27,939.4
Net NPLs	2,718.5	2,861.6	4,423.8	6,161.2	8,381.8
GNPA ratio (%)	2.0	1.7	2.0	2.3	2.5
NNPA ratio (%)	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8
Provision coverage (%)	70.6	70.8	70.0	70.0	70.0
Gross slippages	14,421.2	12,398.8	14,947.7	19,305.0	24,673.6
Gross slippage ratio (%)	3.0	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.2
LLP ratio (%)	0.5	0.5	0.9	1.2	1.3
NNPA to net worth (%)	3.5	2.5	3.5	4.2	5.1
Capital adequacy					
Total CAR (%)	21.0	23.7	21.9	20.5	19.5
Tier-1 (%)	19.7	21.9	20.5	19.0	17.9
CET-1 (%)	19.7	21.9	20.5	19.0	17.9
RWA-to-Total Assets (%)	52.7	53.2	55.0	55.0	55.0
Miscellaneous					
Total income growth (%)	8.5	33.6	32.6	22.3	19.8
Opex growth (%)	45.5	42.6	26.1	22.8	20.3
Core PPOP growth (%)	31.3	23.4	22.8	21.1	21.4
PPOP margin (%)	26.2	21.9	20.8	21.5	21.9
PAT/PPOP (%)	62.2	70.7	61.6	55.6	52.6
LLP-to-Core PPOP (%)	21.6	7.5	19.1	28.2	32.4
Yield on advances (%)	12.4	13.2	13.1	13.0	12.7
Cost of funds (%)	5.3	5.6	6.4	6.2	6.0

Source:	Company,	Emkay	Research

Valuations and K Ra	tios				
Y/E Mar	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
P/E (x)	39.3	32.1	30.1	26.5	22.9
P/B (x)	5.9	4.2	3.8	3.4	3.0
P/ABV (x)	6.1	4.3	3.9	3.5	3.1
P/PPOP (x)	12.3	23.4	18.5	14.7	12.1
Dividend yield (%)	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4
DuPont-RoE split (%)					
NII/avg assets	5.4	5.6	5.3	5.2	5.1
Other income	1.6	1.3	1.7	1.9	2.0
Fee income	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.8	1.9
Opex	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4
PPOP	3.0	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.7
Core PPOP	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
Provisions	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8
Tax expense	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
RoA (%)	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4
Leverage ratio (x)	8.8	8.6	8.4	9.0	9.7
RoE (%)	16.4	15.4	13.4	13.5	13.7
Quarterly data					
Rs mn, Y/E Mar	Q3FY23	Q4FY23	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24
NII	11,527	12,132	12,462	13,249	13,249
NIM (%)	6.2	6.1	5.7	5.5	5.5
PPOP	5,557	5,709	5,460	6,571	6,571
PAT	3,928	4,246	3,869	3,752	3,752
EPS (Rs)	5.90	6.37	5.80	5.63	5.63

Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - DETAILS

Date	Closing Price (INR)	TP (INR)	Rating	Analyst
30-Nov-23	741	650	Reduce	Anand Dama
06-Nov-23	674	650	Hold	Anand Dama
30-Oct-23	666	650	Hold	Anand Dama
23-Jul-23	767	730	Hold	Anand Dama
26-Apr-23	643	700	Hold	Anand Dama
09-Mar-23	624	650	Hold	Anand Dama
20-Jan-23	616	650	Hold	Anand Dama
19-Oct-22	626	650	Hold	Anand Dama
21-Jul-22	587	630	Hold	Anand Dama
30-Jun-22	592	650	Hold	Anand Dama
27-Apr-22	681	670	Hold	Anand Dama
11-Feb-22	660	638	Hold	Anand Dama
29-Jan-22	636	638	Hold	Anand Dama
04-Jan-22	548	638	Hold	Anand Dama
30-Oct-21	608	638	Hold	Anand Dama
31-Aug-21	565	615	Hold	Anand Dama
07-Aug-21	624	615	Hold	Anand Dama
01-May-21	502	500	Hold	Anand Dama
30-Apr-21	502	500	Hold	Anand Dama
09-Mar-21	616	500	Hold	Anand Dama
30-Jan-21	436	500	Hold	Anand Dama

Source: Company, Emkay Research

RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - TREND



Source: Bloomberg, Company, Emkay Research

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ADD	5-15% upside
REDUCE	5% upside to 15% downside
SELL	<15% downside

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