

BUY TP: Rs 189 | ▲ 29%

FEDERAL BANK

Banking

18 January 2024

Higher other income supports PAT growth

- Business growth healthy in Q3 despite deposit mobilisation challenges;
 PAT grew 25% YoY on higher other income
- NIM came in at 3.2% (-3bps QoQ), in line with guidance for FY24; credit cost normalised at 31bps from 13bps in Q2
- We raise FY24/FY25 PAT estimates 3%/8% for a new TP of Rs 189 (vs. Rs 180), set at 1.3x FY26E ABV (vs. 1.4x on FY25E); retain BUY

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Strong business growth: FB's business growth held strong in Q3FY24, with deposits outpacing credit growth at 19% YoY (+2.9% QoQ) mainly led by term deposits which grew 26% YoY (compared to CASA growth of 6.4% YoY). Correspondingly, the CASA ratio fell 54bps QoQ to 30.6%. Loan growth was backed by a healthy rise in retail (+5% QoQ) and agri (+6%) business, even as microfinance witnessed strong growth of 12% off a low base. Management maintained its business growth guidance of 18-20% for FY24 with a target LDR of 80%.

NII muted; NIM dips QoQ: Higher interest expenses led to muted NII growth of 8.5% YoY (+3.3% QoQ), whereas other income increased 61% YoY (+18% QoQ) due to the stake sale in NBFC arm Fedfina. Cost of deposits moved up 21bps QoQ, in line with guidance, leading to a 3bps dip in reported NIM to 3.19%. Management maintained NIM guidance at 3.25% for FY24. Increased operational cost driven by higher branch addition and additional provisions towards wage revision slowed PPOP growth to 13% YoY, while PAT was up 25% YoY to Rs 10bn. Management guidance of additional costs towards the pension bill is likely to keep the C/I ratio elevated in Q4 as well.

Slippages up QoQ but asset quality stable: Slippages rose to Rs 4.9bn from Rs 3.7bn in Q2 as a single corporate account slipped into NPA. Management is confident of upgrading the same in Q4. GNPA/NNPA were stable at 2.3%/0.6% with 72.3% PCR. Credit cost normalised to 19bps from 9bps in Q2 and management retained guidance of 40bps for FY24. Considering stable asset quality and low credit cost, we cut our FY24/FY25 provision estimates by 44%/26% and raise PAT forecasts by 3%/8%.

Maintain BUY: FB's conservative approach towards asset quality versus asset pricing along with risk-adjusted growth over the past year is paying off. At current valuations of 1x FY26E P/ABV, the bank is one of the cheapest stocks among large-cap peers due to its relatively low return ratios. We expect strong growth with stable margins and a focus on risk-adjusted returns to raise ROE/ROA to 14%/1.2% by FY26, gradually narrowing the gap with peers. Alongside estimate revision, we now value the stock at 1.3x FY26E ABV (vs. 1.4x on FY25E earlier) based on the Gordon Growth Model, translating to a revised TP of Rs 189 (vs. Rs 180). BUY.

Key changes

Target	Rating	
A	< ▶	

Ticker/Price	FB IN/Rs 147
Market cap	US\$ 4.4bn
Free float	100%
3M ADV	US\$ 22.7mn
52wk high/low	Rs 159/Rs 121
Promoter/FPI/DII	0%/29%/44%

Source: NSE | Price as of 18 Jan 2024

Key financials

Y/E 31 Mar	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E
Net interest income	72,322	82,630	98,379
NII growth (%)	21.3	14.3	19.1
Adj. net profit (Rs mn)	29,086	37,595	41,688
EPS (Rs)	13.8	16.5	17.1
Consensus EPS (Rs)	13.8	15.7	17.4
P/E (x)	10.6	8.9	8.6
P/BV (x)	1.4	1.3	1.1
ROA (%)	1.2	1.3	1.3
ROE (%)	14.4	15.1	13.9

Source: Company, Bloomberg, BOBCAPS Research

Stock performance



Source: NSE





Fig 1 – Quarterly snapshot: Income statement

(Rs mn)	Q3FY23	Q4FY23	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)
Income Statement							
Interest Income	35,849	37,974	40,396	43,555	45,976	28.2	5.6
Income on investments	7,207	7,780	8,149	8,940	9,502	31.9	6.3
Int. on bal. with RBI & inter-bank funds & Others	1,277	1,453	1,701	2,058	1,823	42.8	(11.4)
Interest income	44,333	47,207	50,245	54,553	57,301	29.3	5.0
Interest expense	24,767	28,115	31,059	33,989	36,067	45.6	6.1
Net interest income	19,565	19,093	19,186	20,564	21,234	8.5	3.3
Growth YoY (%)	27.1	25.2	19.6	16.7	8.5	(1,861bps)	(819bps)
Non-interest income	5,340	7,339	7,324	7,304	8,626	61.5	18.1
Growth YoY (%)	10.3	57.8	61.8	19.8	61.5	5,124bps	4,169bps
Total income	24,905	26,432	26,510	27,868	29,859	19.9	7.1
Growth YoY (%)	23.1	32.8	28.9	17.5	19.9	(321bps)	237bps
Staff expenses	5,608	5,972	6,167	6,263	6,932	23.6	10.7
Other operating expenses	6,555	7,114	7,319	8,361	8,554	30.5	2.3
Operating expenses	12,163	13,086	13,487	14,624	15,486	27.3	5.9
Pre-Provisioning Profit (PPoP)	12,742	13,346	13,024	13,245	14,373	12.8	8.5
Growth YoY (%)	39.4	67.2	33.8	9.3	12.8	(2,656bps)	355bps
Provisions	1,987	1,167	1,556	439	912	(54.1)	107.8
Growth YoY (%)	(7.1)	55.1	(6.7)	(83.6)	(54.1)	1,486bps	(4,694bps)
PBT	10,755	12,179	11,468	12,806	13,461	25.2	5.1
Tax	2,719	3,153	2,930	3,267	3,394	24.8	3.9
PAT	8,036	9,026	8,537	9,538	10,067	25.3	5.5
Growth YoY (%)	54.0	67.0	42.1	35.5	25.3	(2,875bps)	(1,026bps)
Per Share							
FV (Rs)	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0
EPS (Rs)	3.8	4.3	4.0	4.2	4.2	9.5	(0.2)
Book Value (Rs)	97	101	105	111	115	19.3	4.3

Source: BOBCAPS Research, Company

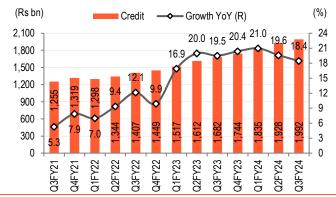


Fig 2 - Quarterly snapshot: Key balance sheet parameters & ratios

(Rs mn)	Q3FY23	Q4FY23	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)
Deposits	2,014,080	2,133,860	2,224,960	2,328,684	2,395,910	19.0	2.9
Growth YoY (%)	14.8	17.4	21.3	23.1	19.0	415bps	(416bps)
Advances	1,681,730	1,744,469	1,834,870	1,928,167	1,991,850	18.4	3.3
Growth YoY (%)	19.5	20.4	21.0	19.6	18.4	(105bps)	(114bps)
Investment	462,650	489,834	519,420	551,691	573,730	24.0	4.0
Equity	210,110	219,295	228,000	265,892	286,590	36.4	7.8
Assets	2,504,720	2,603,418	2,741,960	2,874,260	2,962,130	18.3	3.1
Growth YoY (%)	19.9	17.8	21.7	21.2	18.3	(165bps)	(296bps)
Yield (%)							
Yield on Funds	7.84	7.98	8.11	8.35	8.40	56bps	5bps
Cost of Funds	4.60	4.96	5.22	5.49	5.67	107bps	18bps
Spread	3.24	3.02	2.89	2.86	2.73	(51bps)	(13bps)
Net Interest Margin (calc.)	3.46	3.23	3.10	3.15	3.11	(35bps)	(3bps)
Ratios (%)							
Other Income / Net Income	21.4	27.8	27.6	26.2	28.9	745bps	268bps
Cost to Income ratio	48.8	49.5	50.9	52.5	51.9	303bps	(61bps)
CASA ratio	34.2	32.7	31.8	31.2	30.6	(361bps)	(54bps)
C/D ratio	83.5	81.8	82.5	82.8	83.1	(36bps)	33bps
Investment to Assets	18.5	18.8	18.9	19.2	19.4	90bps	17bps
Assets Quality							
GNPA	41,479	41,838	44,348	44,361	46,288	11.6	4.34
NNPA	12,286	12,050	12,746	12,298	12,844	4.5	4.4
Provision	29,193	29,788	31,602	32,062	33,444	14.6	4.3
GNPA (%)	2.43	2.36	2.38	2.26	2.29	(14bps)	3bps
NNPA (%)	0.73	0.69	0.69	0.64	0.64	(9bps)	0bps
PCR (%)	70.4	71.2	71.3	72.3	72.3	187bps	(2bps)

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 3 – Credit growth remained healthy supported by retail



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 4 – Deposits outpaced credit growth led by term deposits

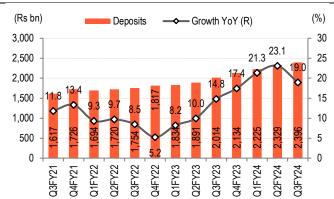
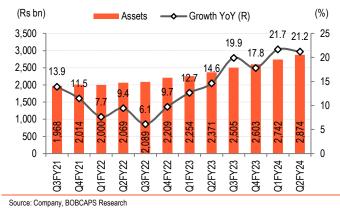




Fig 5 - Assets grew 21% YoY

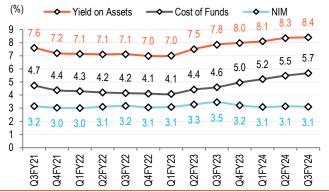


(Rs bn) (%) CASA CASA Ratio (R) 734.5 33.8 34.8 36.2 36.7 36.9 36.8 36.4 34.2 32.7 31.8 31.2 800 40 35 700 600 30 25 500 400 20 300 15 200 10 5 100 0 Q2FY22 Q3FY22 Q1FY23 Q2FY23 Q3FY23 Q4FY23 Q1FY22 Q4FY22 Q1FY24

Fig 6 - CASA declined due to subdued SA mobilisation

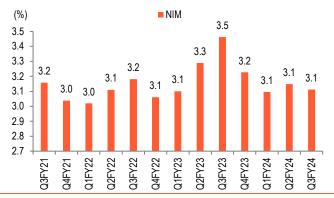
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 7 - NIM (calc.) remained flat despite higher cost of funds



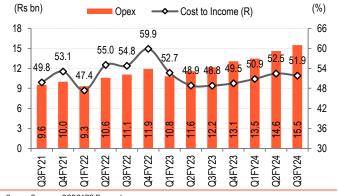
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 8 - NIM guidance maintained at 3.25% for FY24



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 9 - C/I ratio elevated at 52%



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 10 - Higher opex led to slowdown in PPOP growth

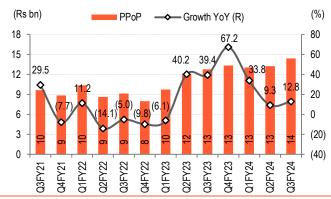
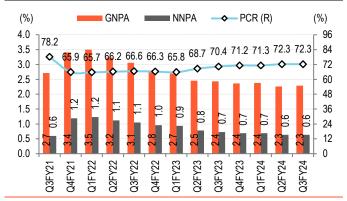


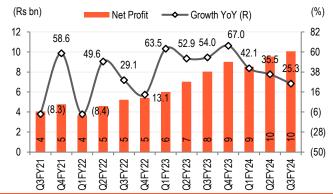


Fig 11 - Stable asset quality and PCR



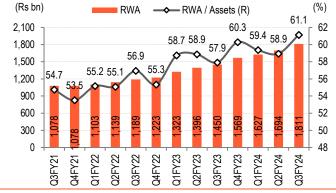
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 13 - Higher other income led to 25% YoY PAT growth



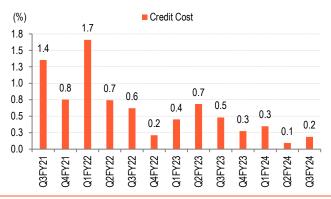
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 15 - RWA moved up due to change in regulation



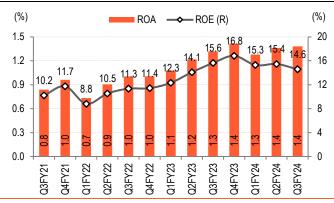
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 12 - Sustained low credit cost aided profit



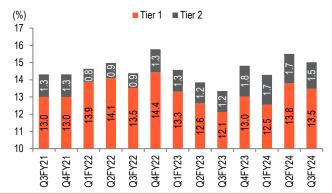
Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 14 - Return ratios in line with management guidance



Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 16 - CAR stable at 15%





Earnings call highlights

Guidance

- FB is confident of maintaining growth momentum and reiterated its guidance of an 18-20% YoY rise in both loans and deposits for FY24.
- Management reiterated guidance of 3.25% NIM and 40bps credit cost for FY24.
- As the bank get closer to its ROA target of 1.4%, it now aspires to achieve 1.5% levels going ahead.

Asset quality

- Slippages during Q3FY24 were higher at Rs 5bn vs. Rs 3.6bn in Q2FY24, while upgrades and recoveries stood at Rs 3bn vs. Rs 3.6bn in Q2.
- Increased slippages arose largely from a single Rs 0.7bn account from the corporate segment that slipped into NPA. Management is confident of upgrading the same in Q4.
- GNPA and NNPA were flat at 2.3% and 0.6% respectively with PCR at 72.3

Loans and Deposits

- Management expects broad-based loan growth across segments and indicated that its strategy of targeting growth in high-yielding newly launched businesses is working well.
- Net advances increased 18% YoY (3% QoQ) for the quarter, wherein the retail segment grew 20%, business banking 18%, commercial banking 26% and corporate advances 14%. Within retail, CV/CE advances where the bank is a relatively new entrant increased 66% YoY.
- Deposits jumped 19% YoY in Q3 led by term deposits that grew 26% vs. CASA growth of 6.4%. Management indicated a structural change in deposit mobilisation towards term deposits due to rate repricing, as non-resident business has shifted towards consumption.
- Current accounts grew 25.5% YoY (+4% QoQ) while savings accounts were up 4% YoY (+2% QoQ). The CASA ratio declined to 30.6% from 31.2% in Q2FY24.
- NRE term deposits, where the bank has 8.4% market share, grew 6% YoY.

NII and NIM

- NII growth was subdued at 3% QoQ (+8% YoY) mainly due to a higher cost of funds wherein the cost of deposits increased 21bps QoQ while yield on assets grew by a mere 2bps sequentially.
- Other income for the quarter surged 18% QoQ (61.5% YoY) backed by a one-off stake sale in its in NBFC subsidiary Fedfina.
- Opex increased mainly due to wage provisions. Further, management guidance of additional costs towards the pension bill is likely to keep the bank's C/I ratio elevated in Q4 as well.



Valuation methodology

Considering FB's strong growth momentum across segments over the last 2-3 quarters despite a challenging environment, we raise our deposit estimates by 2%/4% for FY24/FY25 while revising our credit estimate for FY25 up by 1%. We also introduce FY26 forecasts for the bank. Management is guiding for stable NIM at 3.25% in FY24 supported by a change in mix towards the retail business and we accordingly model for margins of 3.2% over our forecast period.

In terms of operating expenses, FB has retained its expansion target of 100 branches per year (63 branches in 9MFY24 vs. 73 in FY23), while expecting some additional costs from wage revision and pension liability during Q4FY24, which is likely to keep operating cost elevated. Accordingly, we adjust our PPOP growth expectations by -3%/+2% for FY24/FY25.

We expect stable asset quality and the bank's risk-averse approach to limit credit cost to 20bps in FY24 as against 40bps guided. We, therefore, cut our provision estimates by 44%/26% for FY24/FY25, leading to a rise in bottomline by 3%/8% from our previous assumptions. FB's CAR has declined 50bps YoY in Q3FY24 to 15% as a result of an increase in risk weights on the retail book. Tier-1 capital stood at 13.5% (vs. 13.8% in Q2FY24) – at the lower end when compared to peers.

FB's conservative approach towards asset quality versus asset pricing along with risk-adjusted growth over the past year is paying off, in our view. At current valuations of 1x FY26E P/ABV, the bank is one of the cheapest stocks among large-cap peers due to its relatively low return ratios. We expect strong growth with stable margins and a focus on risk-adjusted returns to raise ROE/ROA to 14%/1.3% by FY26, gradually narrowing the gap with peers. Alongside estimate revision, we now value the stock at 1.3x FY26E ABV (vs. 1.4x on FY25E earlier) based on the Gordon Growth Model, which translates to a revised TP of Rs 189 (vs. Rs 180). Maintain BUY.

Fig 17 - Revised estimates

(Po mn)	New		Old		Change (%)	
(Rs mn) —	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E	FY24E	FY25E
Loan	2,074,173	2,447,525	2,074,173	2,430,931	0.0	0.7
Deposits	2,545,695	3,026,832	2,498,751	2,918,541	1.9	3.7
Assets	3,068,568	3,536,459	3,045,405	3,535,652	0.8	0.0
NII	82,630	98,379	84,940	96,809	(2.7)	1.6
PPOP	54,240	64,171	55,704	62,805	(2.6)	2.2
Provision	3,819	8,139	6,874	11,038	(44.4)	(26.3)
PAT	37,595	41,688	36,409	38,515	3.3	8.2

Source: BOBCAPS Research



Fig 18 - Key operational assumptions

(%)	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Advances growth	20.4	18.9	18.0	17.1
NII growth	21.3	14.3	19.1	17.8
PPoP growth	27.6	13.1	18.3	17.1
PAT growth	53.9	29.3	10.9	15.6
NIM	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2
GNPA	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2
CAR	14.8	14.5	14.9	14.2

Source: Company, BOBCAPS Research

Fig 19 - Valuation assumptions

Gordon Growth Model	Assumptions
Cost of equity (%)	12.8
Blended ROE (%)	14.1
Initial high growth period (yrs)	10.0
Payout ratio of high-growth phase (%)	20.0
Long-term growth (%)	6
Long term dividend payout ratio (%)	60
Justified P/BV Multiple (x)	1.3

Source: BOBCAPS Research

Key risks

Key downside risks to our estimates are:

- reversal in credit cycle, which can lead to higher deterioration in asset quality and thus overall profitability owing to higher provisions, and
- inability to manage cost of funds, which may drag down NIM as well as overall profitability.

Sector recommendation snapshot

Company	Ticker	Market Cap (US\$ bn)	Price (Rs)	Target (Rs)	Rating
Axis Bank	AXSB IN	41.1	1,098	1,155	BUY
Bandhan Bank	BANDHAN IN	4.5	228	276	BUY
Federal Bank	FB IN	4.4	147	189	BUY
HDFC Bank	HDFCB IN	136.3	1,486	1,896	BUY
ICICI Bank	ICICIBC IN	83.8	986	1,090	BUY
Indusind Bank	IIB IN	15.2	1,613	1,755	BUY
Kotak Mahindra Bank	KMB IN	43.0	1,777	2,007	BUY
RBL Bank	RBK IN	2.0	270	258	HOLD
State Bank of India	SBIN IN	68.2	628	747	BUY

Source: BOBCAPS Research, NSE | Price as of 18 Jan 2024



Glossary

Glossary of Abbreviations					
AUCA	Advance Under Collection Account	MTM	Mark to Market		
CASA	Current Account and Savings Account	NII	Net Interest Income		
CAR	Capital Adequacy Ratio	NIM	Net Interest Margin		
CET1	Common Equity Tier 1	NNPA	Net Non-Performing Assets		
CD	Credit-Deposit Ratio	NRE	Non-Resident (External) Account		
C/I	Cost-Income Ratio	NRO	Non-Resident Ordinary Account		
CV/CE	Commercial Vehicle/Construction Equipment	PCR	Provision Coverage Ratio		
EBLR	External Benchmark-based Lending Rate	PPOP	Pre-Provision Operating Profit		
ECL	Expected Credit Loss	PSU	Public Sector Unit		
FCNR	Foreign Currency Non-Resident Account	RWA	Risk-weighted Assets		
GNPA	Gross Non-Performing Assets	SA	Savings Account		
LCR	Liquidity Coverage Ratio	SLR	Statutory Liquidity Ratio		
LDR	Loan to Deposit Ratio	SMA	Special Mention Account		
MCLR	Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rate	SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises		
MFI	Microfinance Institution				



Financials

Income Statement					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Net interest income	59,620	72,322	82,630	98,379	115,902
NII growth (%)	7.7	21.3	14.3	19.1	17.8
Non-interest income	20,891	23,300	31,621	36,658	41,503
Total income	80,510	95,622	114,251	135,037	157,405
Operating expenses	42,932	47,678	60,011	70,866	82,263
PPOP	37,579	47,944	54,240	64,171	75,142
PPOP growth (%)	(1.1)	27.6	13.1	18.3	17.1
Provisions	12,218	7,986	3,819	8,139	10,361
PBT	25,361	39,958	50,421	56,032	64,780
Tax	6,463	10,872	12,826	14,344	16,584
Reported net profit	18,898	29,086	37,595	41,688	48,197
Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted net profit	18,898	29,086	37,595	41,688	48,197
Balance Sheet					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E

Balance Sheet					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs mn)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Equity capital	4,205	4,232	4,870	4,870	4,870
Reserves & surplus	183,733	210,830	278,780	312,130	350,687
Net worth	187,938	215,062	283,650	317,000	355,557
Deposits	1,817,006	2,133,860	2,545,695	3,026,832	3,571,662
Borrowings	153,931	193,193	175,806	186,354	197,535
Other liab. & provisions	50,588	61,303	63,417	6,274	24,449
Total liab. & equities	2,209,463	2,603,418	3,068,568	3,536,459	4,149,203
Cash & bank balance	210,103	176,887	208,783	215,100	254,702
Investments	391,795	489,833	588,577	658,750	775,044
Advances	1,449,283	1,744,469	2,074,173	2,447,525	2,866,051
Fixed & Other assets	158,282	192,229	197,034	215,085	253,405
Total assets	2,209,463	2,603,418	3,068,568	3,536,459	4,149,203
Deposit growth (%)	5.2	17.4	19.3	18.9	18.0
Advances growth (%)	9.9	20.4	18.9	18.0	17.1

Per Share					
Y/E 31 Mar (Rs)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
EPS	9.2	13.8	16.5	17.1	19.8
Dividend per share	1.8	2.8	3.3	3.4	4.0
Book value per share	89.4	101.6	116.5	130.2	146.0

Valuations Ratios					
Y/E 31 Mar (x)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
P/E	15.9	10.6	8.9	8.6	7.4
P/BV	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.0
Dividend yield (%)	1.3	1.9	2.3	2.3	2.7

DuPont Analysis					
Y/E 31 Mar (%)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Net interest income	2.8	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0
Non-interest income	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1
Operating expenses	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1
Pre-provisioning profit	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0
Provisions	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3
PBT	1.2	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7
Tax	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
ROA	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3
Leverage (x)	12.1	11.9	11.4	11.0	11.4
ROE	10.8	14.4	15.1	13.9	14.3

Ratio Analysis						
Y/E 31 Mar	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E	
YoY growth (%)						
Net interest income	7.7	21.3	14.3	19.1	17.8	
Pre-provisioning profit	(1.1)	27.6	13.1	18.3	17.1	
EPS	15.6	49.5	19.8	3.6	15.6	
Profitability & Return rat	tios (%)					
Net interest margin	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	
Fees / Avg. assets	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
Cost-Income	53.3	49.9	52.5	52.5	52.3	
ROE	10.8	14.4	15.1	13.9	14.3	
ROA	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	
Asset quality (%)						
GNPA	2.8	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	
NNPA	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	
Slippage ratio	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.3	
Credit cost	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.4	
Provision coverage	65.4	70.5	71.6	71.9	71.4	
Ratios (%)						
Credit-Deposit	79.8	81.8	81.5	80.9	80.2	
Investment-Deposit	21.6	23.0	23.1	21.8	21.7	
CAR	15.8	14.8	14.5	14.9	14.2	
Tier-1	14.4	13.0	13.0	14.0	13.3	



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HOLD - Expected return from -6% to +15%

SELL - Expected return <-6%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

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Ratings and Target Price (3-year history): FEDERAL BANK (FB IN)



B - Buy, H - Hold, S - Sell, A - Add, R - Reduce

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