

Housing Finance Companies

The outlook stays bright

Summary

The demographic drivers for housing demand in India have remained fairly unchanged, particularly the favourable demographics (favourable risk profile for mortgages due to young population) and rising prosperity (sustained move towards becoming a middle income country). While housing finance has been a rare growth driver for both banks and HFCs in an otherwise tepid growth scenario, it looks to sustain a stronger trend as some of the new structural changes begin to take effect over the medium term. Prominent amongst these are the PMAY-G & U, Real Estate Regulation Act as well as the innovative changes being ushered in by various state governments for acquiring land for housing projects. These changes are likely to provide a strong foundation for housing demand over medium term.

We initiate coverage on HDFC (BUY, TP Rs1,429), LICHF (BUY, TP Rs560), and Repco Home Finance (ACCUMULATE, TP Rs820). HDFC and LICHF are firmly entrenched HFCs with strong operating history while Repco Home Finance, though relatively younger has created a niche for itself by focusing on the low income as well as self-employed category. We believe these companies are a strong play on the dominant themes in housing finance – urbanization, rising prosperity, and affordable housing.

Investment rationale and outlook

■ Mortgage penetration higher in urban areas

RBI's data on commercial bank credit for housing shows a higher distribution in urban areas and therefore a higher concentration in states which have a higher urban population. Rising urbanization, as seen in the decadal population trends alongwith low ownership in the urban areas forms a strong theme for housing finance demand in India. Secondly, with a significant quantum of existing housing stock in single, two room accommodations, demand based on aspiration for ownership of bigger homes can be strong going forward. We also look at other structural drivers – smart cities, RERA, rural and urban housing schemes of Govt.

■ HFCs doing well in a tough game

Over the last few years, commercial banks have focused on getting a slice of the housing finance market. The aggressively played pricing game saw banks offering rates close or at par to their base rates. HFCs differentiated by making the difference in their lending rates vis-à-vis banks' rates less meaningful and concentrating on delivering their product faster. This gave the HFCs edge to compete strongly with banks and we believe they could in fact have increased their market share.

■ Initiating coverage on HDFC, LICHF, REPCO

Broadly, we see a) strong growth rates, b) sustainable spreads, c) supported by low delinquency levels as key financial theme for the housing finance sector. The medium term outlook offers strong growth opportunities if recent regulatory changes go through and we find HFCs well placed to exploit this opportunity.

Table: Standalone financial projections

Particulars	Operating Income (Rs mn)			Operating Profit (Rs mn)			Adjusted PAT (Rs mn)			EPS (Rs)		
	FY16	FY17E	FY18E	FY16	FY17E	FY18E	FY16	FY17E	FY18E	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
HDFC	111,321	116,051	129,768	103,731	108,026	121,182	70,931	73,505	81,543	44.9	46.5	51.6
LICHF	31,787	35,834	41,179	27,100	30,374	34,778	16,608	18,708	21,423	32.9	37.0	42.4
REPCO	3,335	4,188	5,216	2,692	3,439	4,344	1,501	1,951	2,449	24.1	31.3	39.3

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Table: Valuation

Particulars	CMP (Rs)	Target Price (Rs)	Reco	P/ABV (x)*			RoE (%)			RoA (%)		
				FY16	FY17E	FY18E	FY16	FY17E	FY18E	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
HDFC	1,231	1,429	BUY	5.7	5.1	4.6	21.8	20.3	20.1	2.6	2.4	2.3
LICHF	473	560	BUY	2.7	2.3	2.0	19.6	18.9	18.7	1.4	1.3	1.2
REPCO	740	820	ACCUMULATE	4.8	4.1	3.4	17.0	18.7	19.7	2.2	2.2	2.1

*P/BV for HDFC

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Table of Contents

	Page No.
■ Summary	1
■ Investment rationale and outlook	1
■ Valuation and recommendation	3
■ Trends and drivers of housing demand growth	4-7
• Mortgage penetration higher in urban areas	
• India is steadily urbanizing	
• Size of households in urban India is slowly shrinking...	
• The urban housing paradox: high mortgage penetration but low home ownership in urban areas	
■ Structural drivers for medium term: Smart cities, rural housing, real estate law	8-10
• Role of new townships and smart cities	
• Significant shortfall in affordable housing	
• Will rural housing pick up strongly?	
• New Real Estate Regulation Act can be a game changer	
• An upgrade in size? Large proportion of homes are single room tenements	
■ Business scenario: It's a tough game and HFCs are doing well	11-13
• HFCs' market share creeping up	
• Mix of HFCs' portfolio between housing and non-housing loans steady	
• Interest rate game – softening borrowing costs could be zero sum game	
• Do HFC valuations improve in a softer rate scenario? The correlation is weak...	
■ Company section	17-40
• HDFC Ltd.	17
• LIC Housing Finance Ltd.	25
• Repco Home Finance Ltd.	33
<i>Disclaimer</i>	41
<i>Disclosures</i>	42

Valuation and recommendation

■ **HDFC Ltd. (TP – Rs1,429; 16% upside; BUY)**

Though HDFC shall continue to be identified with retail housing finance, given its pioneering foray into a segment when it did not exist, the company has over the years grown into a valuable financial conglomerate. Our SOTP value for HDFC finds ~40% value accruing from its associates and subsidiary companies, which are leaders in their respective businesses. HDFC's ~24% capital is leveraged for associate/subsidiary company business and value accretion in these businesses has been significant even as housing finance business continues to grow steadily. We believe HDFC shall continue to deliver value as its strong franchise across businesses keeps it anchored as a leading financial conglomerate.

Our **BUY** rating and price target of Rs1,429 is based on SOTP valuation.

■ **LIC Housing Finance Ltd. (TP – Rs560; 18% upside; BUY)**

The introduction of a new loan product in LAP category has boosted LICHF's earnings momentum while supporting growth, which though robust, had remained concentrated in the traditional housing finance segment. LIC Housing Finance Ltd. (LICHF)'s loan mix had suffered adversely when its corporate loan book kept unwinding (declining from ~9% in FY11 to ~2% in FY14) and an asset quality event made the company go slow in the non-individual space. This alongwith pricing competition from aggressive banks kept up the pressure on spreads.

We expect LICHF to remain in a healthy earnings trajectory supported by a benign funding environment and strong growth in high yield LAP segment. Initiate with **BUY** and price target of Rs560.

■ **Repc Home Finance Ltd. (TP – Rs820; 11% upside; ACCUMULATE)**

Repc's niche since inception has been its focus on self-employed segment of housing finance. As housing finance gained acceptability amongst lenders, it evolved around the salaried customer while the potentially creditworthy but difficult to assess self-employed class remained out of the ambit of lenders. Repco has over the years exploited this niche and established itself firmly in the self-employed segment while continuing to generate equal quantum of growth in the traditional salaried segment. The company's recent, aggressive focus on LAP has given added momentum to earnings. Initiate coverage with **ACCUMULATE** recommendation and a 1-year price target of Rs818 valuing Repco at 21x FY18E EPS Rs39.3 and 3.9x FY18E ABV Rs209.6.

Trends and drivers of housing demand growth

The demographic drivers for housing demand in India have remained fairly unchanged, particularly the favourable demographics (favourable risk profile for mortgages due to young population) and rising prosperity (sustained move towards becoming a middle income country).

We believe these factors shall continue to remain key structural drivers for housing demand. While demand side has been robust, the constraints have traditionally been observed on the supply side, particularly the LIG (low income group) segment.

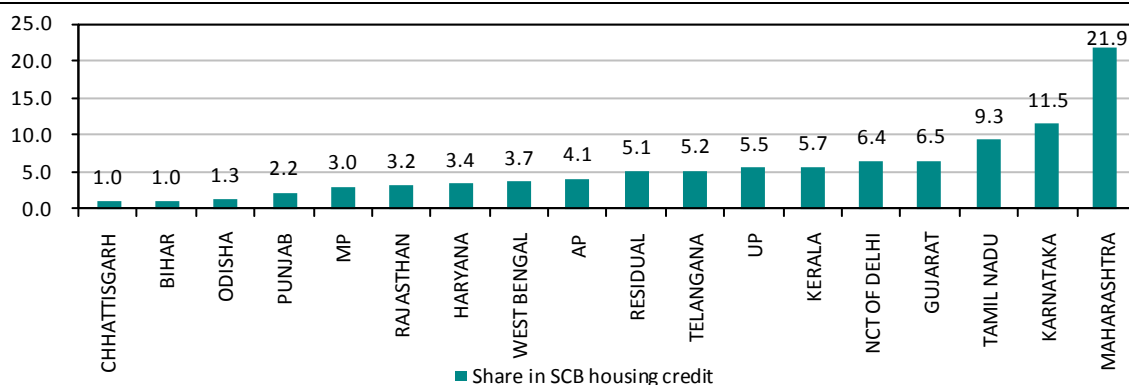
The other structural factors, notably the PMAY-G, Real Estate Regulation Act etc are likely to provide a strong structural framework to housing demand over medium term.

■ Mortgage penetration higher in urban areas

RBI's data on commercial bank credit for housing shows a higher distribution in urban areas and therefore a higher concentration in states which have a higher urban population. Thus, the housing mortgage to GSDP (gross state domestic product) is highest for Maharashtra and Karnataka (amongst most urbanized and prosperous states) and lowest for Bihar (amongst least urbanized), based on data for FY15 (RBI publishes data with a one year lag). We consider Chandigarh and NCT of Delhi as outliers (15.8% and 8.3% respectively) given these are city governments / states with mostly urban population.

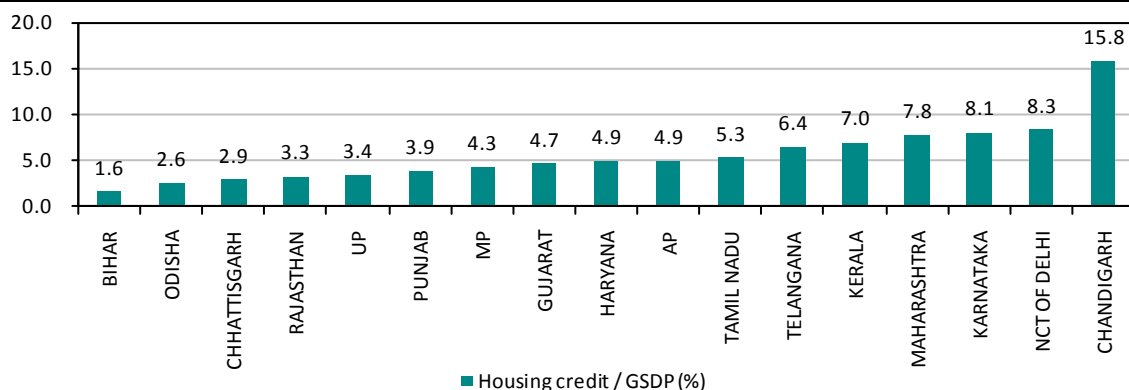
A similar state-wise dataset for HFCs is not available from NHB (National Housing Bank – regulator for housing finance). However, penetration patterns based on geographic area (metro, urban, semi-urban, and rural) exhibit similar distribution pattern.

Figure: Mortgage penetration amongst India's states (SCB data)



Source: RBI; IDBI Capital Research

Figure: Mortgages as % of GSDP: States with high urbanization show higher penetration (SCB data)



Source: RBI; IDBI Capital Research

In terms of mortgage penetration, states like Bihar, Chattisgarh, Odisha, and Rajasthan are at a stage where India was in early 90s whereas states with relatively higher penetration have a still stronger scope for penetration if compared with middle income SE Asian economies.

■ India is steadily urbanising

Except the first two census decades post-independence, the trend in India's urbanization has been steady with the latest census decade (2001-2011) showing a faster pick-up in urbanization trend (refer to the tables below) even as decadal population growth slowed. By urbanization, we refer to the phenomenon of rising urban population, as identified in the census of India.

Table: Rural-urban differential in population growth

Period	Avg. annual population growth (%)		
	Rural	Urban	Total
1951-1961	2.06	2.64	2.16
1961-1971	2.19	3.82	2.48
1971-1981	1.93	4.61	2.47
1981-1991	2.00	3.64	2.38
1991-2001	1.81	3.15	2.15
2001-2011	1.22	3.18	1.76

* Urban population as % of total population, # Values in percentage

Source: Registrar General of India, Socio Economic Statistics of India, 2011

Table: Trend in urbanization in India

Year	Ur.pop.*#	Change#
1951	17.30	
1961	18.00	0.70
1971	19.90	1.90
1981	23.30	3.40
1991	25.70	2.40
2001	27.80	2.10
2011	31.20	3.40

The steady pick-up in urbanization post-1971 also coincides with the launch of new cities (post completion of basic infrastructure), prominent examples being Chandigarh (Union Territory, 1966), Gandhinagar (Gujarat, 1970), Pimpri-Chinchwad New Township (1972) and Navi Mumbai (1979) (both in Maharashtra) etc. This is not to argue the pick-up in urbanization was because of creation of new cities, which were far fewer and cumulatively still constitute a small portion of India's overall urban population. Nevertheless, decadal trends do confirm urbanization is here to stay and new cities – greenfield or satellite townships (extensions to existing urban agglomerations) shall have no dearth of demand for housing.

■ Size of households in urbanizing India slowly shrinking...

...or in other words, number of households in India is rising even as population growth slows. We believe rising urbanization caused by migration of labour (skilled and unskilled) as well as shrinking size of families due to nuclearisation is driving the demand for housing in India.

Table: Size of rural and urban households has shrunk faster than slowdown in population growth rate

Year	Average size of household			Avg. no. of persons / dwelling		
	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1961	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.5	5.7	5.5
1971	5.5	5.2	5.5	6.0	6.0	6.0
1981	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.9	5.7	5.8
1991	5.6	5.3	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.7
2001	5.4	5.1	5.3	4.9	5.1	5.1
2011	4.9	4.6	4.8	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Source: Registrar General, India; Census of India 2011; IDBI Capital Research

The urbanization trend is therefore leading to villages on the periphery of expanding cities getting subsumed into urban areas (becoming part of urban local bodies). In the latter case, such subsuming typically leads to better civic infrastructure – most importantly in terms of access roads and electricity. This usually creates new urban growth centres. A typical example of such an expansion is the Shil Phata area near Dombivli (Dombivli-Navi Mumbai), which in the last 8 years has added significant housing stock.

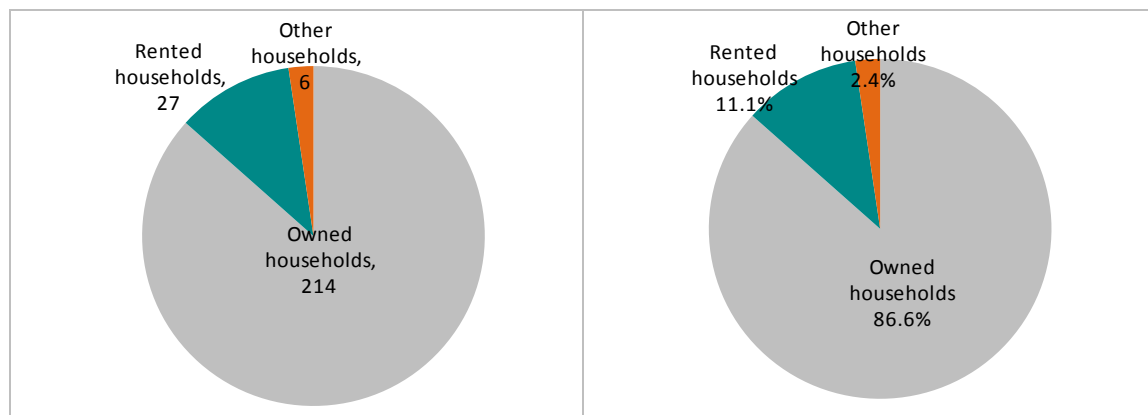
■ **The urban housing paradox: high mortgage penetration but low home ownership in urban areas**

Our analysis shows urban areas check all boxes for a high home ownership rate. However, the census data actually presents a paradox. The driving factors of mortgage penetration – urbanization, falling home ownership age – are not necessarily leading to high ownership rates though ownership overall is indeed rising. In other words, while mortgage penetration continues to rise in urban areas, home ownership is not rising at the same pace.

The latest Census of India (2011) data throws up some interesting data points on the supply and type of housing in India. The census data shows a significant 86.6% housing stock is owned with a high, 94.7% ownership in rural areas and a low 69.2% ownership in urban areas. This also explains the challenge of low cost affordable housing in urban areas, which remain major centres of growth and new employment.

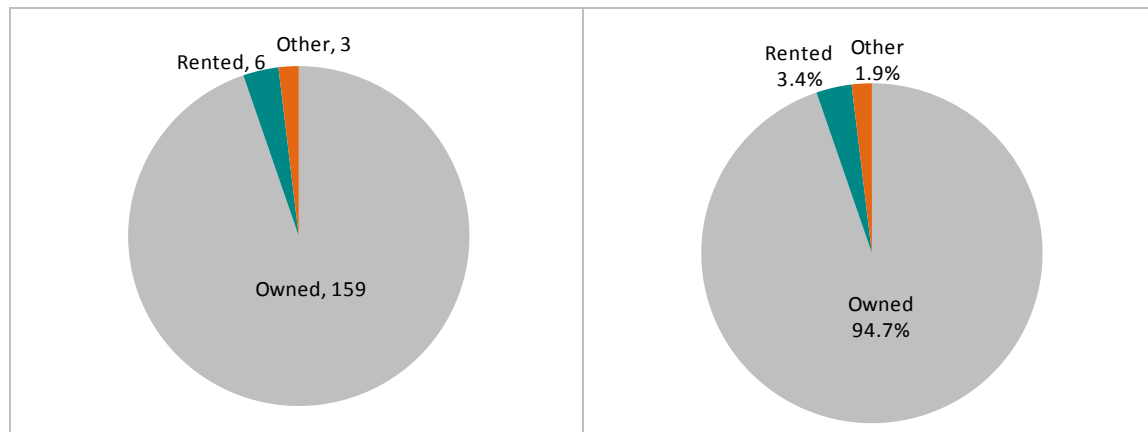
One reason for low ownership in urban areas is likely to be prevalence of slums which are often illegal structures. Other reason could be demand for rental housing by migrants who may take time to create equity before making a house purchase. This is likely to be true in places like Mumbai which typically see significant migration from other parts of the country.

Figure: Home ownership in India



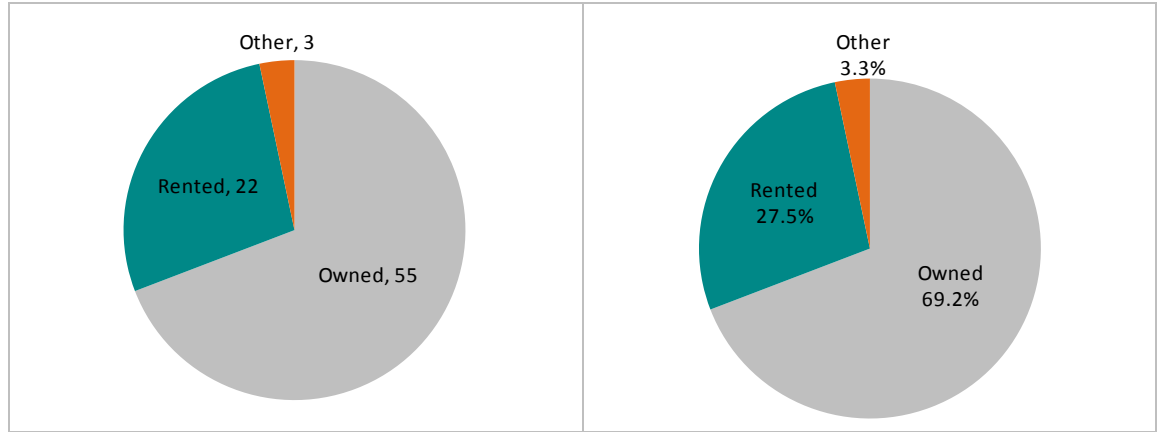
Source: Census of India 2011; IDBI Capital Research

Figure: Home ownership in rural areas



Source: Census of India 2011; IDBI Capital Research

Figure: Home ownership in urban areas



Source: Census of India 2011; IDBI Capital Research

Structural drivers for medium term: Smart Cities, Rural Housing, Real Estate Law

■ Role of New Townships and Smart Cities

Independent India has seen creation of new, planned cities that today count amongst prominent cities offering good quality of life. Most of these cities have been created out of erstwhile scattered villages which have now become seamlessly connected with a rise in population. Some of these cities are summarized below.

Table: Greenfield cities created in post-independent India

City	Created By	Year founded#	Area (sq.km.)	Population in inception year	Population in latest census
Chandigarh	Govt. of India	1966	114 sq.km.	0.02mn	1.05mn
Navi Mumbai	Govt. of Maharashtra	1979	344 sq.km.	0.16mn	1.12mn
Pimpri Chinchwad New Township	Govt. of Maharashtra	1972	43 sq.km.	n.a.	0.50mn
New Town Kolkata	Govt. of West Bengal	2007	28 sq.km.	n.a.	0.40mn
Gandhinagar	Govt. of Gujarat	1970	177 sq.km.	n.a.	0.29mn
Lavasa [^]	HCC	n.a.	100 sq.km.	n.a.	0.20mn*

Year when planned basic infrastructure was ready, *on completion, [^]Lavasa is a hill town

Source: Respective city websites; IDBI Capital Research

The number of metropolitan cities with a population of 1mn and above increased from 35 in 2001 census to 50 in 2011 and is estimated to further increase to 87 by 2031 (NHB). This therefore brings into focus the need to add capacity – modern urban infrastructure – to cities that shall expand future metropolises. The planned 100 smart cities – a mission mode plan to turn India’s mega cities into world class cities by rejuvenating their infrastructure is a promising intervention. The initial outlay of USD15bn is likely to see further investments by the government to modernize basic infrastructure of these cities. A total 33 cities have been currently shortlisted through a Smart City Challenge to receive direct Government of India funding under the Smart Cities Mission through SPV route.

■ Significant shortfall in affordable housing

Affordable housing has been talked about for a long time now. Most of the shortfall in housing supply, variously estimated at 62.5mn homes (MHUPA, NHB), is in the affordable housing category. The Government of India defines affordable housing both in terms of value of home / dwelling unit as well as the carpet area. The following table compares two prevalent definitions:

Table: Affordable housing definitions

Parameter	RBI (for purposes of ECB)	Government of India (PMAY-G)*
Housing project	Min 60% FSI for affordable housing	-
Unit area (sq.ft.)	Max 60 sq.m. carpet (645 sq.ft.)	Max 25 sq.m.
Value of home (for purpose of housing loan)	Max Rs3mn	-
Max permissible home loan	Rs2.5mn	-
Other parameters	-	a) Direct government assistance between Rs120,000 to Rs130,000, b) Government facilitation for home loan up to Rs70,000.

* Prime Minister Awaas Yojana - Gramin (Prime Minister Housing Scheme - Rural)

Source: RBI; GoI; IDBI Capital Research

■ Will housing demand pick up more strongly?

So far, trends analysed above show a clear correlation between urbanization and housing demand with higher mortgage penetration rates in more urbanized states. Secondly, census data, as analysed earlier, also shows a high home ownership rate (94.5%) in rural areas. This is not surprising given the high prevalence of land ownership, howsoever marginal, in the rural areas. Still, the ~6.5% non-ownership does present a significant rural housing opportunity, given the still high rural population.

Secondly, the quality of housing differs and this is also an area where the government's rural housing scheme shall look to make a difference. The new housing scheme is meant for all the homeless as well as home owners with dilapidated homes.

Assuming all the beneficiaries of PMAY-G (target of 10mn houses) are fully entitled to the government facilitated loan of Rs70,000 per beneficiary, it could open up a lending opportunity of up to Rs700bn in rural housing over the implementation period (FY17E-FY19E).

Table: Progress under PMAY (as of mid-May'16)

Name of the State	Cities (nos.)	Projects (nos.)	EWS Houses (nos.)	Gol Assis. (Rs.bn.)	Assis. Rel. (Rs.bn.)
Andhra Pradesh	59	110	193,147	29	3
Bihar	85	85	30,216	5	1
Chhattisgarh	9	11	12,670	2	1
Gujarat	12	77	66,983	9	3
Himachal Pradesh	9	9	1,077	0	0
Jammu & Kashmir	2	2	224	0	0
Jharkhand	38	38	20,239	3	1
Karnataka	15	21	16,522	2	0
Madhya Pradesh	37	45	43,393	6	2
Maharashtra	10	17	71,701	11	0
Mizoram	8	8	10,286	2	0
Orissa	2	6	11,548	1	0
Punjab	1	1	1,280	0	0
Rajasthan	19	23	12,307	2	0
TamilNadu	175	197	34,013	5	0
Telangana	63	144	80,481	12	3
Uttrakhand	19	21	2,757	0	0
West Bengal	108	108	74,880	11	1
TOTAL	671	923	683,724	100	16

Source: MHUPA, Gol; IDBI Capital Research

■ New Real Estate Regulation Act can be a game changer

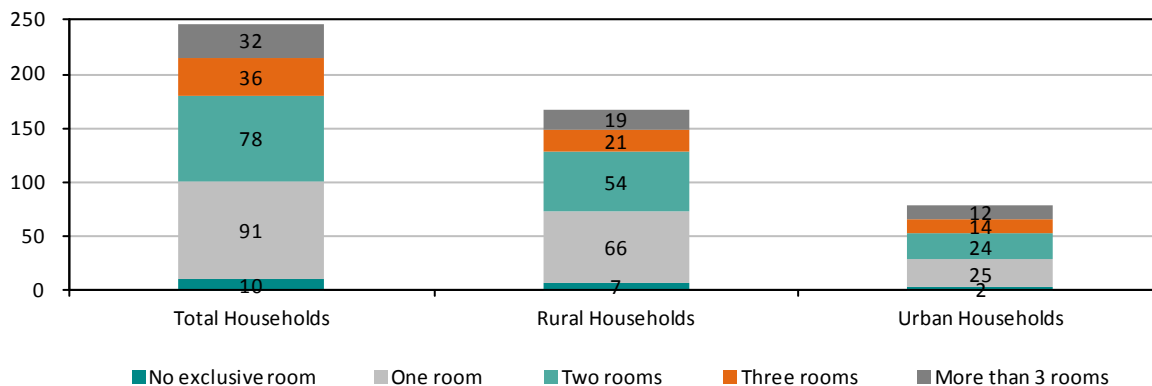
The new Real Estate Regulation Law seeks to set right many shortcomings that currently plague the housing segment in India. Prominent amongst these are 1) inordinate delays in delivering homes to owners, often caused by diversion of funds to other projects / purchasing land banks, 2) illegally constructing and selling flats, the plans for which are not approved by concerned competent authority.

The new law seeks to pin responsibility on developer to deliver the homes on time. This is expected to push non-serious players / speculators out of the arena and bring in transparency as well as confidence in the housing market. Our interaction with sector participants suggests the new law should a) provide a fillip to residential sales, b) attract more FDI into Indian realty, and c) cut down speculator participation. On the flip side, it could slow down number of new project launches initially.

■ **An upgrade in size? Large proportion of homes are single room tenements**

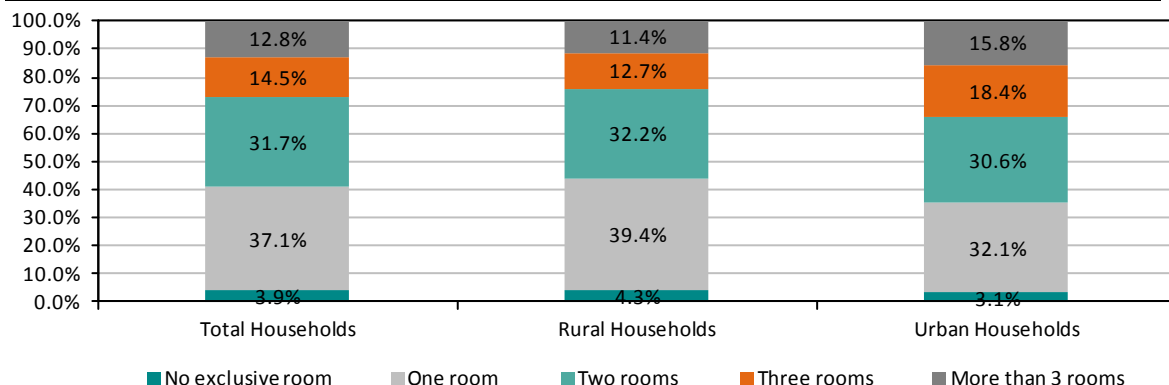
Another element which could be a structural driver for housing can be the size (in terms of area) of homes. The quality of housing differs significantly with accommodations with no exclusive room or one room constituting 41% of total households. These could be slums (legal or illegal) or apartment blocks (1RK flats) that could come up for rehabilitation / redevelopment. This typically should lead to higher housing stock though it has its own set of challenges – the Dharavi redevelopment in Mumbai being a case in point. Nevertheless, registered co-operative housing societies continue to get redeveloped with existing owners typically getting higher carpet area in the new redeveloped buildings.

Figure: Significant households are single room tenements



Source: Census of India 2011; IDBI Capital Research

Figure: ~41% homes on all India basis are without an exclusive room or have one room



Source: Census of India 2011; IDBI Capital Research

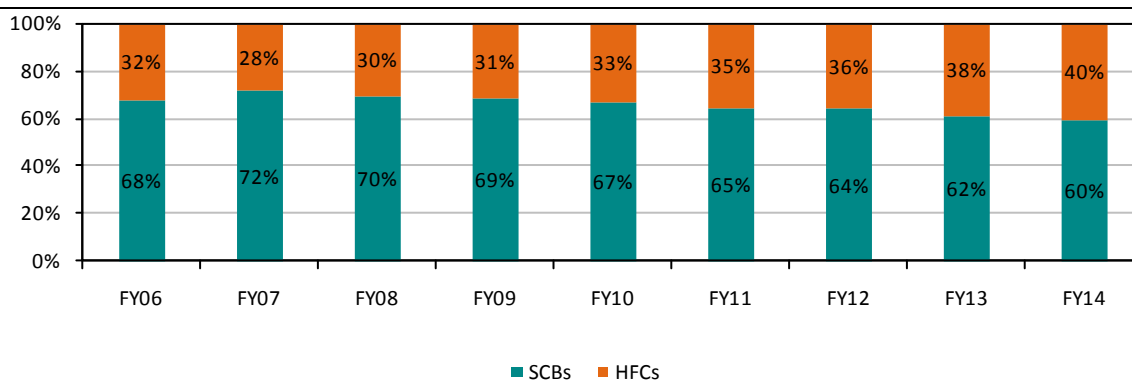
Business Scenario: It's a tough game and HFCs are doing well

■ HFCs market share creeping up

Despite the stiff pricing competition from SCBs, HFCs market share in retail housing loans has seen a steady improvement from FY08. A comparison of housing loan growth rates for SCBs (housing loans data from RBI) and HFCs (housing loan data from NHB) shows HFCs improved their share in housing loans by ~10% FY08-FY14 (NHB releases annual housing report with one year lag, FY16 yet to be released). While aggregating SCB and NHB housing data for this comparison, we presume bank financing to HFCs is reported/classified separately in the NBFC category by RBI/Banks. But assuming bank lending to NBFCs adds up in the housing loan data, it could mean HFCs have a better market share compared to banks.

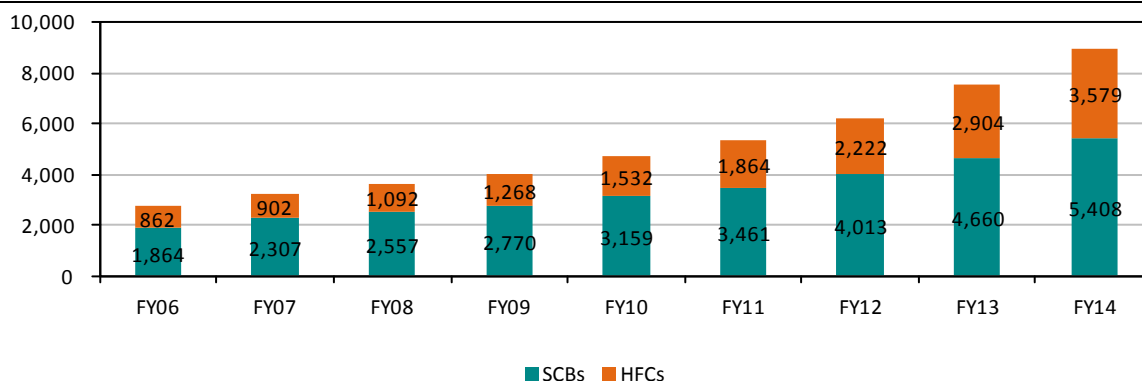
The rising market share of HFCs in our opinion confirms few key fundamental growth drivers for HFCs: a) the service proposition of fast turnaround time remains a key consideration for borrowers, b) pricing difference between SCBs and HFCs has narrowed enough to make the borrower price agnostic.

Figure: Rising share of HFCs in housing loans



Source: NHB; RBI; IDBI Capital Research

Figure: Rising share of HFCs in housing loans

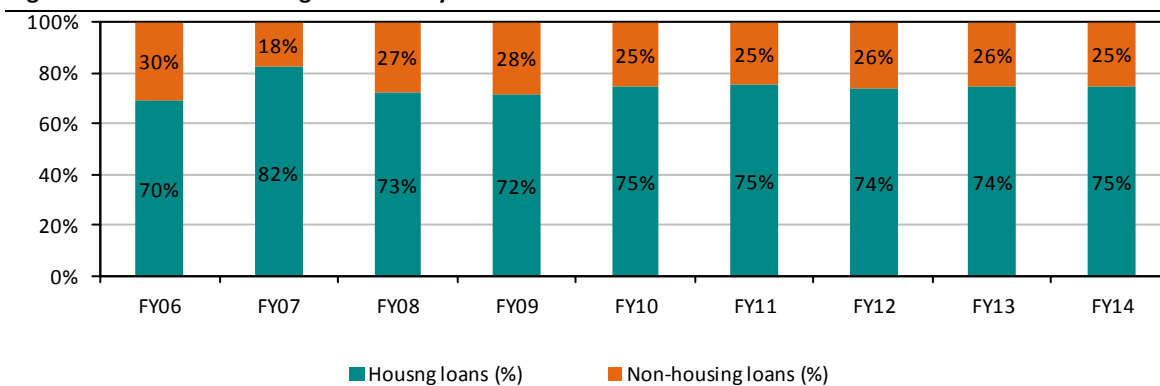


Source: NHB; RBI; IDBI Capital Research

■ Mix of HFCs' portfolio between housing and non-housing loans steady

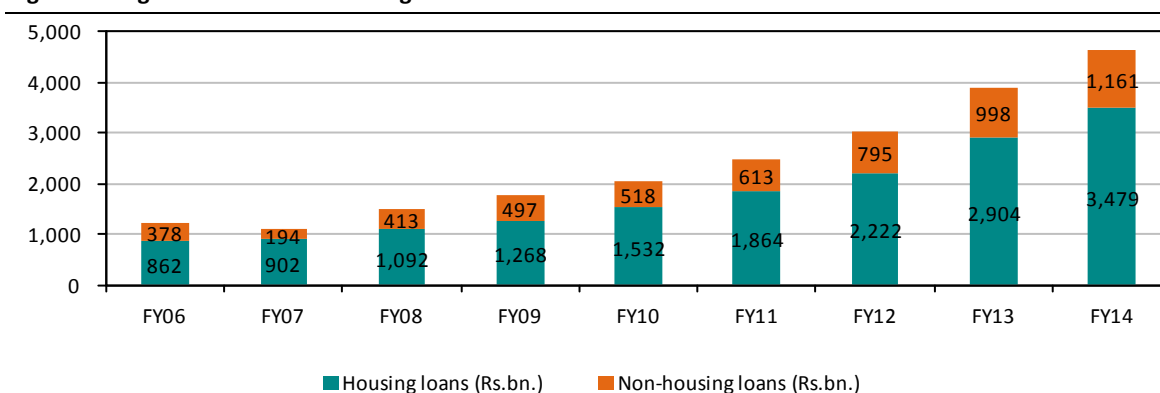
Though HFCs have recently focused aggressively on growing the non-individual as well as individual non-housing (typically LAP, LRD, developer loans) piece, the growth nevertheless has held strong in the core housing loans business too. While growth in non-individual piece did accelerate for some HFCs, it's overall proportion in the loan book remains below the decadal peak of 30% observed in FY06. We see this as strength of momentum in HFCs' core business of housing finance. Since latest aggregated data for HFCs is not available, a look at the portfolios of top 4 HFCs, which constitute a lion's share of HFC loans suggests the share of non-individual loans has remained fairly steady since FY10.

Figure: Share of non-housing loans steady...



Source: NHB; IDBI Capital Research

Figure: Rising share of HFCs in housing loans

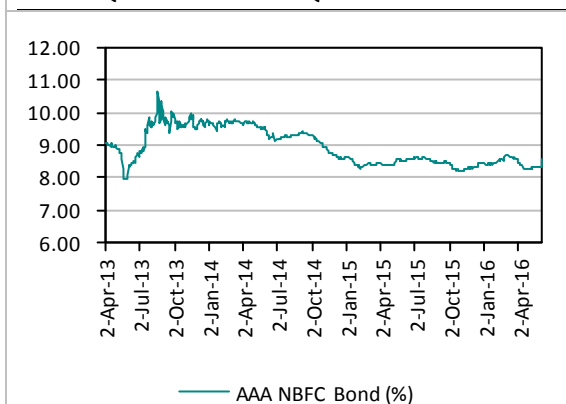


Source: NHB; IDBI Capital Research

■ **Borrowing costs are softening**

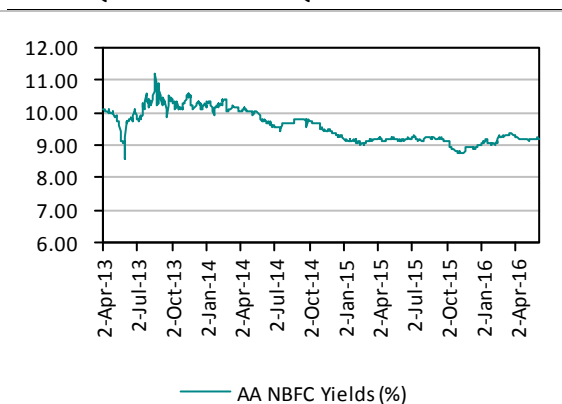
Borrowing costs have softened for HFCs over the course of last two years. The softening has however been higher for AAA compared to AA borrowers (see charts below). Nevertheless, the relatively stable spreads shows the HFCs have been able to manage the pricing pressure on lending side well. Also, the strengthening of spreads in some cases like LICHF is also a combination of changing product mix as well as softening borrowing costs. HFCs have a spread improvement opportunity. We believe spread improvement opportunity purely due to softening borrowing costs could be limited unless HFCs are running a mismatched ALM (that can hurt when rates turn).

Figure: AAA NBFC bond yields averaged 8.34% in Q1FY17 vs. 9.5% in Q1FY15



Source: Bloomberg; IDBI Capital Research

Figure: AA NBFC bond yields averaged 9.2% in Q1FY17 vs. 9.9% in Q1FY15

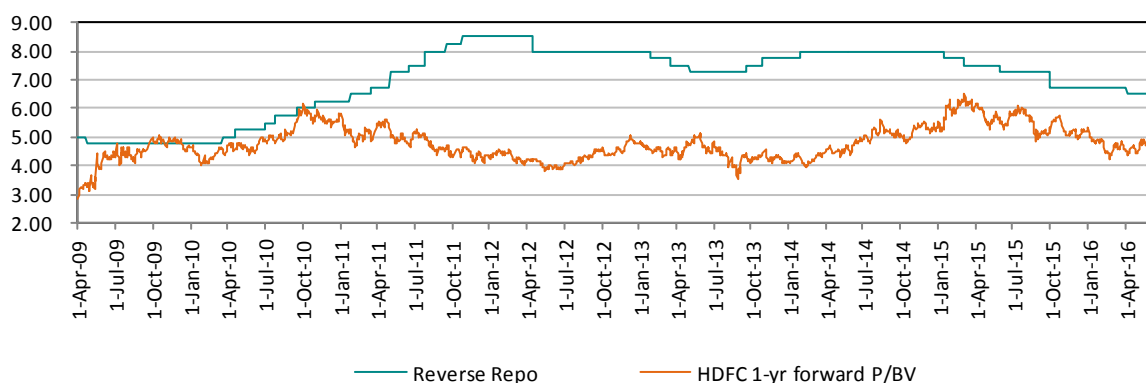


Source: Bloomberg; IDBI Capital Research

■ **Do HFC valuations improve in a softer rate scenario? The correlation is weak...**

...and in fact over the cycles, the 1-year forward P/BV shows almost nil correlation to the RBI Repo cycle. Nevertheless, if observed closely, the charts below do tell a story. The valuations appear to improve in the initial tightening phase of monetary cycle but discontinue and begin to de-rate after a period if tightening continues. Similarly, valuations begin improving as monetary easing begins and stay stable till initial phase of next tightening. However, in the last one year, HDFC's valuations have weakened even as monetary easing has continued!

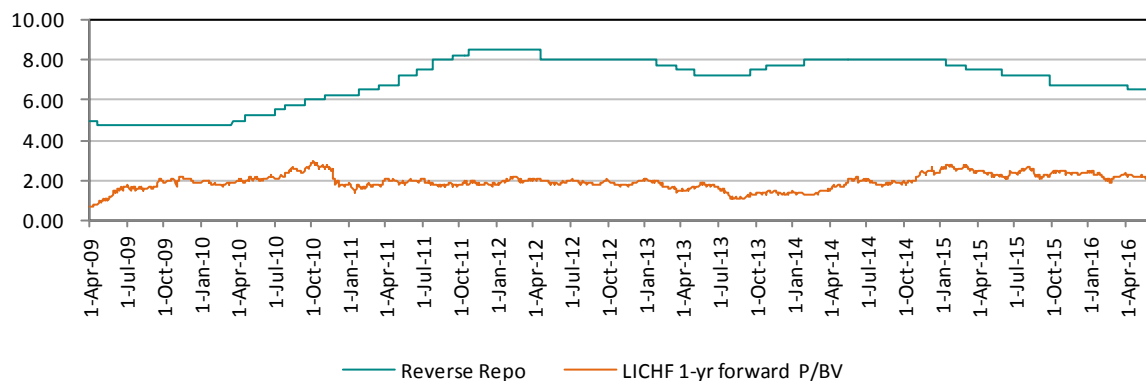
Figure: HDFC 1-yr fwd P/BV valuation and RBI Repo rate over rate cycles – nil statistical correlation



Source: NHB; IDBI Capital Research

LICHF's valuation trends appear more agnostic to Repo movement (flattish graph) though the correlation is similar to that of HDFC exhibiting close to nil correlation.

Figure: LICHF 1-yr fwd P/BV valuation and RBI Repo rate over rate cycles – nil statistical correlation



Source: NHB; IDBI Capital Research

We haven't plotted Repco since its public listing history is a short (just over three years). Secondly, it has seen a strong and sustained valuation improvement, the reasons for which we believe are less correlated to RBI's actions and more geared to its business segment.

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Company Section

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COMPANY REPORT

HDFC Ltd.

Housing finance + much more

BUY

Nifty: 8,170; Sensex: 26,636

CMP	Rs1,231
Target Price	Rs1,429
Potential Upside/Downside	+16%

Key Stock Data

Sector	Housing Finance
Bloomberg / Reuters	HDFC IN / HDFC.BO
Shares o/s (mn)	1,580
Market cap. (Rs mn)	1,944,664
Market cap. (US\$ mn)	29,129
3-m daily average vol.	168,245

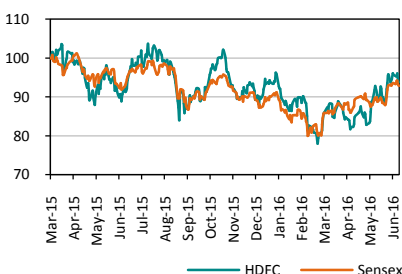
Price Performance

52-week high/low	Rs1,371/1,012		
	-1m	-3m	-12m
Absolute (%)	1	7	3
Rel to Sensex (%)	(2)	(1)	4

Shareholding Pattern (%)

FII/NRIs/OCBs/GDR	77.39
MFs/Banks/FIs	10.39
Govt.	0.08
Public & Others	12.13

Relative to Sensex



Source: Capitaline

Summary

Though HDFC shall continue to be identified with retail housing finance, given its pioneering foray into a segment when it did not exist, the company has over the years grown into a valuable financial conglomerate. Our SOTP value for HDFC finds ~40% value accruing from its associates and subsidiary companies, which are leaders in their respective businesses. HDFC's ~24% capital is leveraged for associate/subsidiary company business and value accretion in these businesses has been significant even as housing finance business continues to grow steadily. We believe HDFC shall continue to deliver value as its strong franchise across businesses keeps it anchored as a leading financial conglomerate. Our BUY rating and price target of Rs1,429 is based on SOTP valuation.

Outlook and Investment Rationale

Healthy loan growth rate despite higher sell-downs

The overall pace remains in HDFC's loan book remains healthy with the changing loan book composition reflecting the some of the slowdown in real estate sector. The non-housing piece has declined from ~36% in FY12 to ~29% in FY16. We expect HDFC's loan book to show steady momentum and grow at ~17% CAGR FY16-FY18E with a likelihood of non-individual business picking up in near future.

Softening spreads to stabilise

HDFC's conservative ALM management – near neutral liquidity risk and hedging of interest rate risk has kept volatility out of its spreads. Nevertheless, changing loan book composition has brought in some softness that is likely to persist in the current interest rate scenario. We estimate (calculated) spreads to average 3% going forward.

Profit to grow at ~7% CAGR FY16-FY18E

We are currently not factoring any value unlocking from HDFC's life insurance subsidiaries in our estimates. Hence, while NII should show a double-digit momentum, the overall profit growth should be lower. We don't expect asset quality or operating costs to disturb earnings momentum and estimate net profit to grow at ~7% CAGR FY16-FY18E.

A valuable franchise to own, initiate with BUY

Our call is based on SOTP valuation of HDFC and its associate/subsidiary companies. We value HDFC's standalone equity by stripping its core equity investments. We find HDFC generates a significant, +20% RoE on the portion of capital leveraged for housing finance business. **BUY** to our price target of Rs1,429.

Table: Financial snapshot

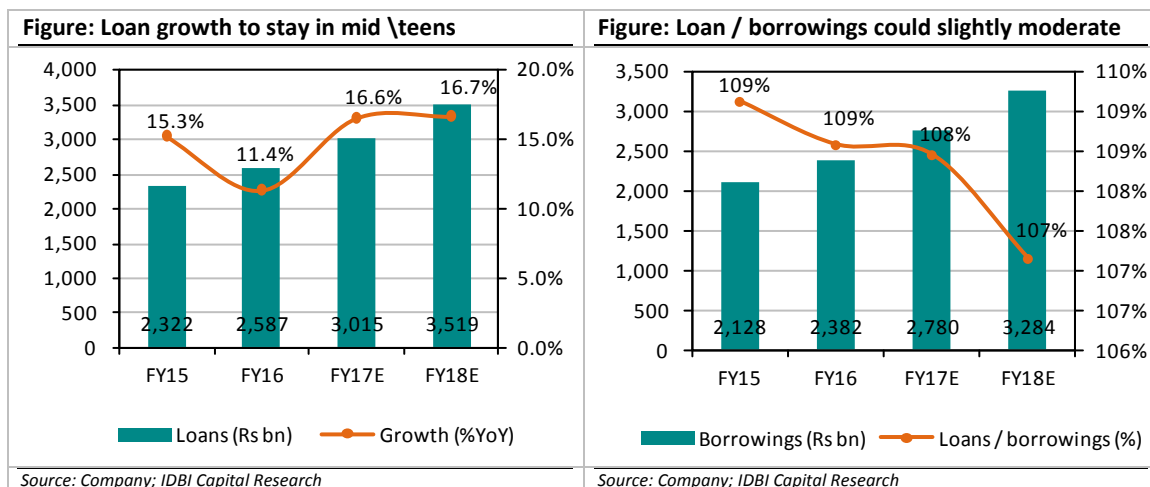
Y/E:	NII	PAT	EPS	BV	PE	P/BV	ROE	ROA	GNPA	CAR
March	(Rs mn)	(Rs mn)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
FY15	76,305	59,901	38.0	196.7	19.2	6.3	20.3	2.5	0.8	17.9
FY16	83,875	70,931	44.9	216.0	16.3	5.7	21.8	2.6	0.7	16.6
FY17E	93,261	73,505	46.5	242.1	15.7	5.1	20.3	2.4	0.7	13.1
FY18E	102,929	81,543	51.6	271.2	24.0	4.6	20.1	2.3	0.8	12.5

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Investment Rationale

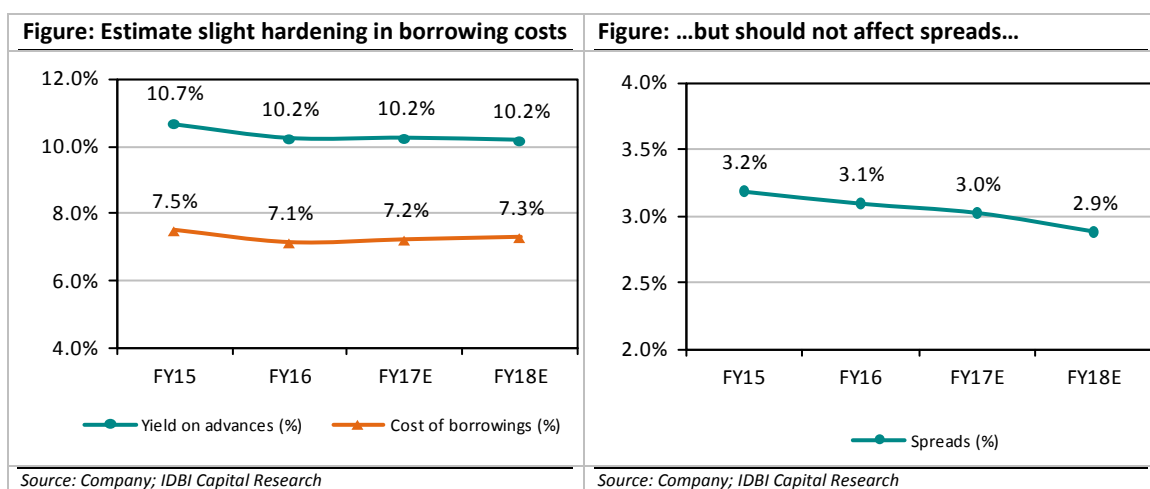
Steady momentum in loan growth

We expect HDFC’s loan momentum to stay healthy at mid-teens despite HDFC Bank recently beginning to retain a higher portion of loans it originates. We see the decline in non-housing piece from ~36% in FY12 to ~29% in FY16 as reflective of the slowdown in real estate sector. However, there is a likelihood of the same picking up momentum in near future. We expect HDFC’s loan book to show steady momentum and grow at ~17% CAGR FY16-FY18E with a likelihood of non-individual business picking up in near future.



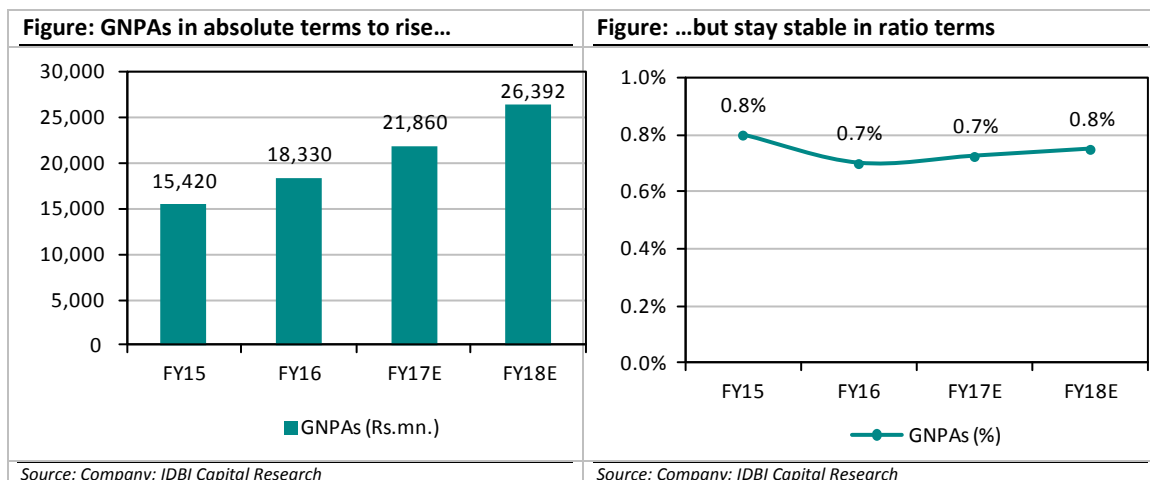
Spreads could have a slight downward bias

HDFC’s conservative ALM management – near neutral liquidity risk and hedging of interest rate risk has kept volatility out of it’s spreads. Nevertheless, changing loan book composition has brought in some softness that is likely to persist in the current interest rate scenario. Past experience shows HDFC manages to maintain spreads at +2.2% levels across rate cycles (reported, corresponds to ~3% calculated in FY16). We expect stability in spreads around and estimate the calculated spreads at ~3% going forward.



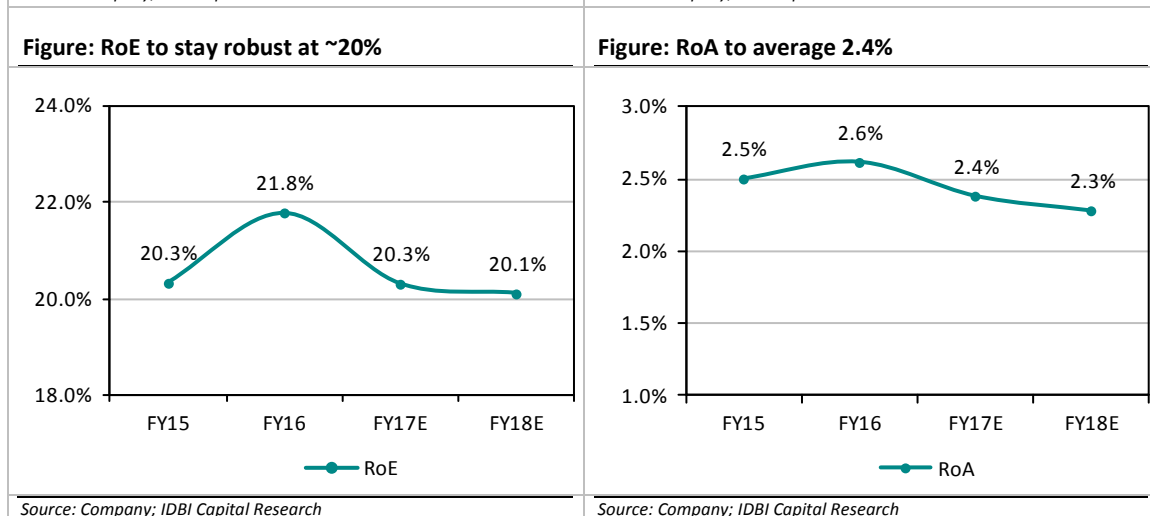
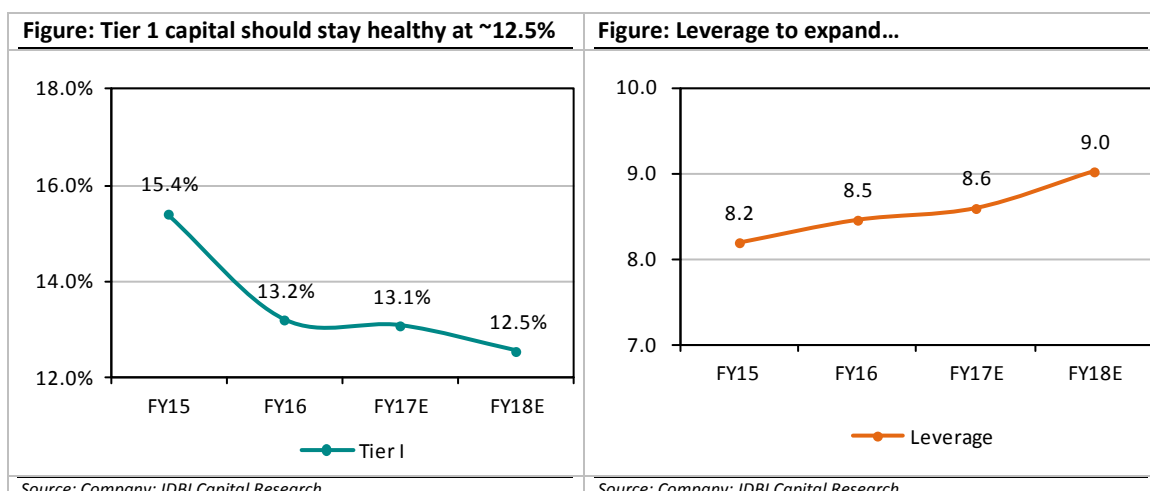
Stable asset quality

Housing finance companies in general exhibit strong asset quality and HDFC’s track record has been extremely sound on asset quality. The costs too have stayed steady over cycles. The rising absolute level of GNPA’s should be in line with the increasing book size though the ratio should not exceed recently observed patterns of 70-80bps.



■ **Capitalisation to stay healthy**

HDFC could likely unlock value in HDFC Life through an IPO during FY17E. The company realized Rs14bn through sale of 9% stake in HDFC Life in FY16. The IPO could see the company realizing some of the value of its investment in the leading life insurance company. Our capital estimate does not include the profit on sale of investment.



Valuation and Recommendation

■ Business leadership and consistent earnings performance keeps SOTP valuation at a premium

Given HDFC's financial strength and leadership, it commands a valuation premium to its peers. As stated at outset, HDFC's associate/subsidiaries contribute ~40% to the SOTP value with the rest being generated by the mortgage business. We value the company using SOTP method, assigning housing finance company 4x FY18E ABV. We have chosen to value life insurance business based on recent transactions, asset management business is valued at 5% of the average AUM and bank is valued at fair value – giving us Rs553 per share of HDFC for the investments in subsidiaries/associates. The SOTP target price of Rs1,429 gives us a potential upside of +16% from CMP.

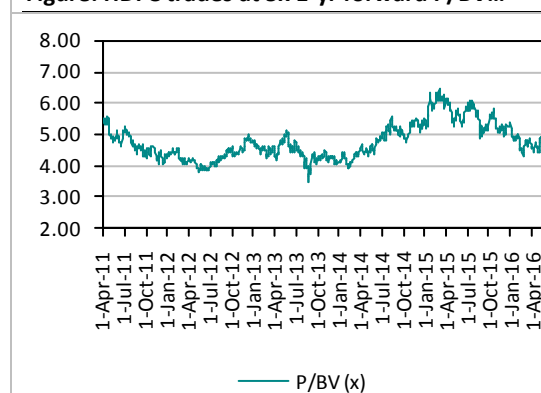
Table: Sum of the parts valuation for HDFC and its subsidiaries, associates

HDFC & HDFC Subsidiaries	Metho- dology	Inv. (BV) Rs.mn.	Val. (x)	Val. Rs.mn.	Eq. stake (%)	Attributable Val. (Rs.)	Value/share Rs.
HDFC Ltd. (core mortgage business)	P/ABV	346,542	4.0	1,386,168	100.0	1,386,168	877
Listed subs. / asso.							
HDFC Bank Ltd.	Value at TP (Rs1,224)	55,497	3.5	3,094,517	19.6	606,525	384
Gruh Finance Ltd.	CMP	607	-	103,667	58.6	60,739	38
Value of listed subsidiaries / associate cos.							422
Unlisted subsidiaries / associate companies							
HDFC Asset Management Co. Ltd.	Avg. AUM (FY18E)	2,359	5%	93,708	60.0	56,225	36
HDFC Standard Life Insurance Co. Ltd.	Latest transaction	13,162	-	188,889	61.6	116,412	74
HDFC Ergo General Insurance Co. Ltd.	Latest transaction	4,444	-	49,001	50.7	24,858	16
Residual equity investment	P/BV	5,818	1.5	8,727	100.0	8,727	6
Value of unlisted subs. / asso.							131
Total equity investment in subs. / asso.		81,887					
SOTP valuation / share (Rs.)							1,429

Source: Company, IDBI Capital Research

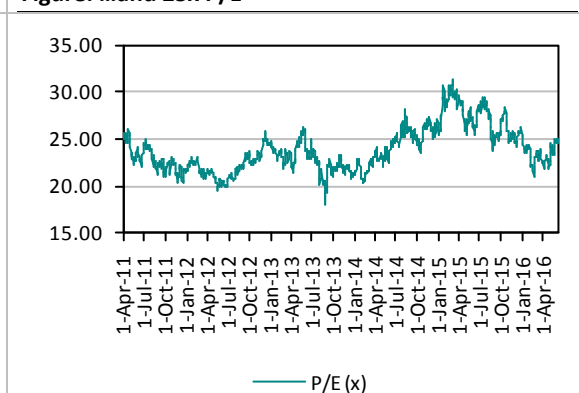
We do not attribute any holding company discount to the value of unlisted subsidiaries of HDFC Ltd. Holding company discount is typically applied for either a) lack of control over subsidiary company, b) poor marketability of subsidiary company securities including likely difficulties in raising capital. We believe neither of these conditions apply to HDFC's subsidiaries and certainly not to HDFCB. We also believe the discount applicable to HDFC Life shall also dilute as the company gears for listing. We therefore do not apply holding company discount to HDFC's stake in HDFCB and HDFC Life.

Figure: HDFC trades at 5x 1-yr forward P/BV...



Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Figure: ...and 25x P/E



Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

About the Company

Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC Ltd) was founded in 1977 by Mr. H T Parekh with the primary objective of encouraging home ownership by providing long-term finance to households. It was a pioneering foray in a segment that was considered risky and where lending precedence did not exist. HDFC became a leading retail mortgage financier eventually spawning into a diversified financial conglomerate. The company has its presence in ~2,400 towns and cities across the country with a network of 304 branches. It also has offices in Dubai, London and Singapore and service associates in the Middle-East region, to provide housing loans and property advisory services to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs).

Table: Subsidiary And Associate Companies

	Ownership %	Shares owned mn.	BV of equity* Rs.mn.
Subsidiary Companies			
GRUH Finance Ltd.	58.6	213	607
HDFC Asset Management Co. Ltd.	59.8	15	2,359
HDFC Standard Life Insurance Co. Ltd.*	70.7	1,409	15,088
HDFC ERGO General Insurance Co. Ltd.*	73.6	397	6,450
HDFC Property Ventures Ltd.	80.5	1	10
HDFC Venture Capital Ltd.	80.5	0	4
Credila Financial Services Pvt. Ltd.	89.5	42	480
HDFC Developers Ltd.	100.0	3	31
HDFC Education and Development Services Pvt. Ltd.	100.0	15	151
HDFC Holdings Ltd.	100.0	2	1,024
HDFC Investments Ltd.	100.0	27	662
HDFC Realty Ltd.	100.0	8	73
HDFC Sales Pvt. Ltd.	100.0	4	40
HDFC Trustee Co. Ltd.	100.0	0	1
HDFC Ventures Trustee Co. Ltd.	100.0	0	1
Associate Companies			
HDFC Bank Ltd.	21.7	393	55,497
India Value Fund Advisors Pvt. Ltd.	21.5	1	0
RuralShores Business Services Pvt. Ltd.	27.5	0	25
Total*			82,502

* Based on FY15 annual report. HDFC's stake in HDFC Life Insurance has since declined to 61.6% and that in HDFC ERGO General Insurance to 50.7%. The book value of equity investments in associates and subsidiaries stood at Rs81,887mn in FY16. These changes are factored in our SOTP valuation.

Source: Company, IDBI Capital Research

Financial Summary

Profit & Loss Account

(Rs mn)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Interest income	256,056	277,620	316,344	364,008
Interest expense	179,751	193,745	223,083	261,079
Net interest income	76,305	83,875	93,261	102,929
Growth (% YoY)	14.5	9.9	11.2	10.4
Other income	18,653	27,446	22,789	26,839
Operating income	94,958	111,321	116,051	129,768
Growth (% YoY)	16.3	17.2	4.2	11.8
Staff cost	3,285	3,491	3,491	3,491
Other operating expenses	3,782	4,099	4,534	5,095
Total operating expenses	7,066	7,590	8,025	8,586
Growth (% YoY)	12.5	7.4	5.7	7.0
Operating profit	87,891	103,731	108,026	121,182
Growth (% YoY)	16.6	18.0	4.1	12.2
Non-tax provisions	1,650	2,650	3,019	4,692
Profit before tax	86,241	101,081	105,007	116,490
Growth (% YoY)	15.9	17.2	3.9	10.9
Taxes	26,340	30,150	31,502	34,947
Tax rate (%)	30.5	29.8	30.0	30.0
Profit after tax	59,901	70,931	73,505	81,543
Growth (% YoY)	10.1	18.4	3.6	10.9

Balance Sheet

(Rs mn)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Equity	3,149	3,160	3,160	3,160
Reserves	306,550	338,051	381,547	431,404
Networth	309,700	341,211	384,706	434,564
Borrowings	2,127,874	2,381,930	2,792,889	3,290,667
Current liabilities	101,943	164,388	129,629	158,874
Total liabilities	2,539,516	2,887,528	3,307,224	3,884,105
Loans	2,322,311	2,586,580	3,028,211	3,525,754
Investments	142,943	153,454	153,454	153,454
Current assets	67,496	140,849	118,846	197,849
Fixed assets	6,766	6,645	6,712	7,047
Total assets	2,539,516	2,887,528	3,307,224	3,884,105

Growth

(%)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Total assets	12.7	13.7	13.9	17.6
Housing loans	15.3	11.4	16.6	16.7
Borrowings	14.7	11.9	16.7	18.1

Earnings Ratios

(%)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Average yield on funds	10.7	10.2	10.2	10.2
Average cost of funds	7.5	7.1	7.2	7.3
Spread	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9
RoE	20.3	21.8	20.3	20.1
RoA	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.3

Cost Ratios

(%)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Op. exps. / avg. assets	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Op. exps / income	7.4	6.8	6.9	6.6

Asset Quality

(%)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Gross NPAs (Rs.mn.)	15,420	18,330	21,860	26,392
Gross NPAs (%)	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8

Capital Adequacy

(%)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Capital adequacy	17.9	16.6	13.1	12.5
Tier I	15.4	13.2	13.1	12.5
Leverage (x)	8.2	8.5	8.6	9.0

Valuation

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
EPS (Rs.)	38.0	44.9	46.5	51.6
Adjusted book value (Rs.)	196.7	216.0	242.1	271.2
P / E	19.2	16.3	15.7	24.0
P / BV	6.3	5.7	5.1	4.6
Div. payout (%)	39.4	37.9	37.5	37.5

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

RoAA decomposition

(%)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Interest earned	10.68	10.23	10.24	10.15
Interest expended	7.50	7.14	7.05	7.01
Net interest income	3.18	3.09	3.19	3.14
Other income	0.78	1.01	0.74	0.75
Operating income	3.96	4.10	3.92	3.89
Operating expenses	0.29	0.28	0.26	0.24
Pre-provision profits (PPP)	3.67	3.82	3.66	3.65
Provisions	0.07	0.10	0.10	0.13
Profit before taxes	3.60	3.73	3.57	3.52
Taxes	1.10	1.11	1.07	1.06
Profit after taxes	2.50	2.61	2.50	2.46

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

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COMPANY REPORT

LIC Housing Finance

Reverting to stronger earnings

BUY

Nifty: 8,170; Sensex: 26,636

CMP	Rs473
Target Price	Rs560
Potential Upside/Downside	+18%

Key Stock Data

Sector	Housing Finance
Bloomberg / Reuters	LICHF IN / LIC.BO
Shares o/s (mn)	505
Market cap. (Rs mn)	239,042
Market cap. (US\$ mn)	3,581
3-m daily average vol.	151,321

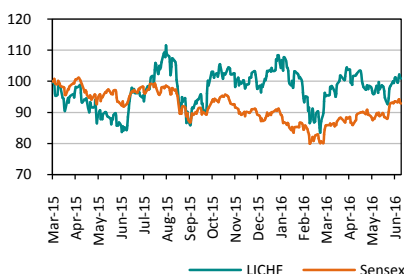
Price Performance

52-week high/low	Rs526/389		
	-1m	-3m	-12m
Absolute (%)	3	3	18
Rel to Sensex (%)	(1)	(5)	19

Shareholding Pattern (%)

Promoters	40.31
FII's/NRI's/OCBs/GDR	27.84
MFs/Banks/FIs	4.67
Govt.	1.46
Public & Others	25.72

Relative to Sensex



Source: Capitaline

Summary

The introduction of a new loan product in LAP category has boosted LICHF's earnings momentum while supporting growth, which though robust, had remained concentrated in the traditional housing finance segment. LICHF's loan mix had suffered adversely when its corporate loan book kept unwinding (declining from ~9% in FY11 to ~2% in FY14) and an asset quality event made the company go slow in the non-individual space. This alongwith pricing competition from aggressive banks kept up the pressure on spreads.

We expect LICHF to remain in a healthy earnings trajectory supported by a benign funding environment and strong growth in high yield LAP segment. Initiate with BUY and price target of Rs560.

Outlook and Investment Rationale

■ Pick up in high yield loan product

LICHF introduced LAP product in FY14 and has since seen a strong pick up in its disbursements, adding ~100%YoY in FY16. This product, which is typically sold to salaried segment, belongs to high yield segment of +12% and has provided a strong fillip to LICHF's earnings, replacing the yet tepid developer portfolio. We expect LAP proportion to move to ~12% of LICHF portfolio FY16-FY18E taking a strong share in incremental loan growth.

■ Strong asset quality

LICHF has maintained a strong asset quality, with GNPA's at just 60bps thus comparing at par with HDFC. While the new LAP product may appear as a high risk product, its relatively conservative LTV of ~60% at origination as well as the fact that it is sold to past, salaried customers builds risk mitigation buffers at origination itself.

■ Estimate net profit CAGR ~14%/RoE ~19% FY16-FY18E

We expect LICHF to benefit from softening cost of funds as well as an expanding high yield LAP portfolio with origination and overall operating costs staying muted. This should provide a healthy upside to the profit growth going forward, which we expect to stay at +14% CAGR FY16-FY18E and generate a RoE of ~19% FY16-FY18E.

■ Valuations to stay strong on back of robust earnings

We initiate coverage on LICHF with a BUY rating and a price target of Rs560. We believe LICHF's valuations shall improve to cyclically stronger levels given the RoE outlook supported by a changing asset mix. We value LICHF at 2.4x FY18E ABV Rs235.5.

Table: Financial snapshot

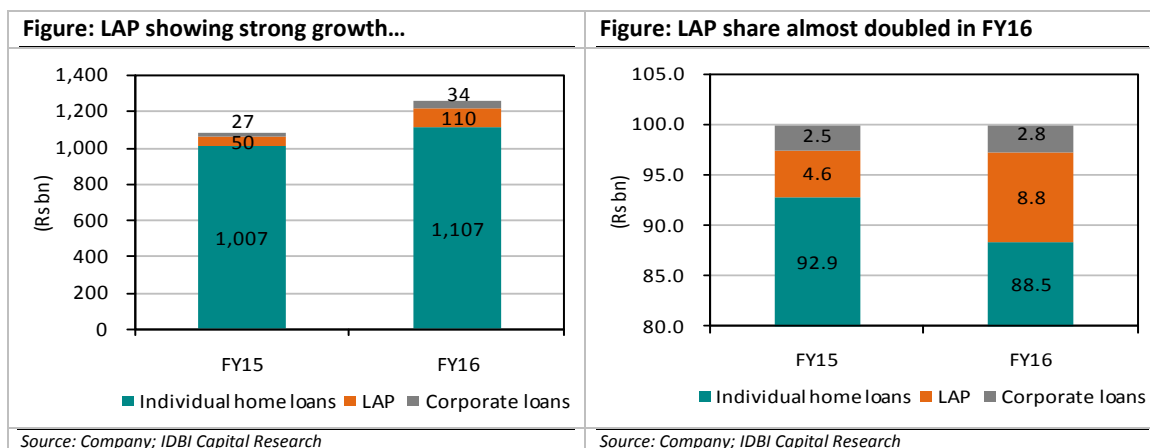
Y/E:	Op. inc.	PAT	EPS	BV	PE	P/BV	ROE	ROA	GNPA	NNPA
March	(Rs mn)	(Rs mn)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
FY15	24,884	13,862	27.5	149.7	17.2	3.2	18.1	1.3	0.6	16.5
FY16	31,787	16,608	32.9	175.2	14.4	2.7	19.6	1.4	0.6	15.5
FY17E	35,834	18,708	37.0	202.6	12.8	2.3	18.9	1.3	0.6	14.8
FY18E	41,179	21,423	42.4	235.5	11.2	2.0	18.7	1.3	0.6	14.0

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Investment Rationale

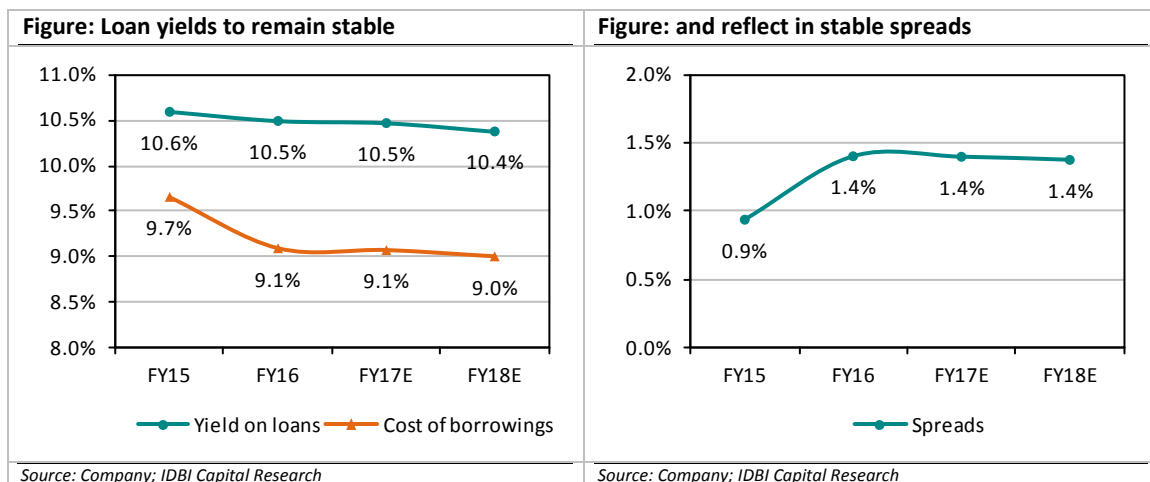
■ New individual LAP product driving growth

Based on net outstanding advances, LICHF has derived a strong 50% and 60% incremental growth from LAP in FY15 and FY16 respectively. The proportion of LAP loans increased significantly from close to nil in FY14 to 4.5% in FY15 and 8.7% in FY16 in the overall loan mix. The company expects proportion of LAP to further increase to ~12% in FY17E and stabilize around those levels.



■ Better margins led by yield improvement

LICHF went through long period of relatively weaker spread post FY12 as it's non-individual portfolio shrank pulling down overall earnings yield. The subdued phase got over as growth returned in the non-individual loan segment from FY14. As the company continues to build non-individual loan portfolio, we expect LICHF to report stable to improving spreads going forward.



■ Asset quality in a stable trajectory

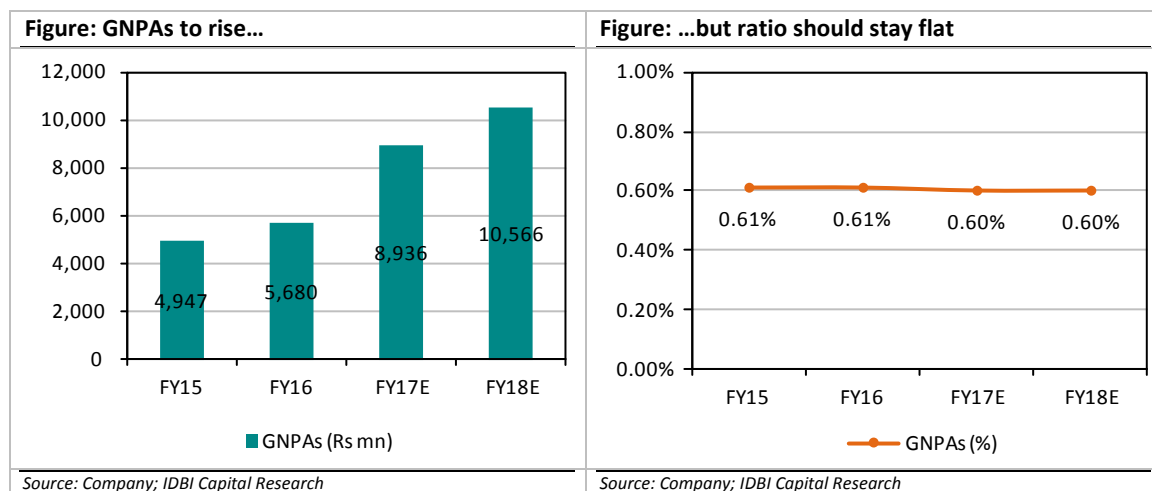
LICHF has maintained stable asset quality for almost a decade now. It achieved a major turnaround in asset quality post FY07. Prior to 2007, internal risk management had been a weak link creating asset quality troubles. Its GNPA's kept increasing during F00-F05 and peaked at 4.4% in FY05. The NPAs began declining thereafter and have averaged 54bps FY09-FY16.

LICHF improved its asset quality in a two pronged manner:

- 1) It initiated and implemented stringent credit appraisal system. The automation of the whole loan sanction procedure, separation of various departments as marketing and appraisals along with introduction of credit scorecards were some of the key initiatives taken in this regard.

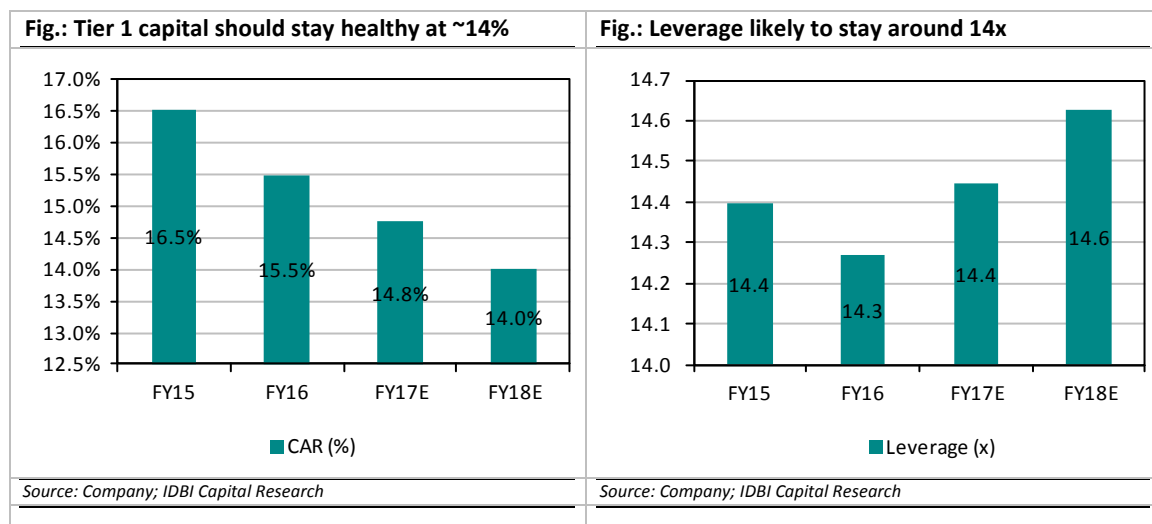
2) It vigorously pursued recovery efforts in non-performing accounts.

LICHF continues to maintain prudent lending practices with a low incremental LTV of 46.6%. The LAP product also has a modest 60% LTV with significant borrowers from salaried class. We therefore believe LICHF’s asset quality is likely to stay stable going forward.



■ **Highest leverage among peers but comfortable capital**

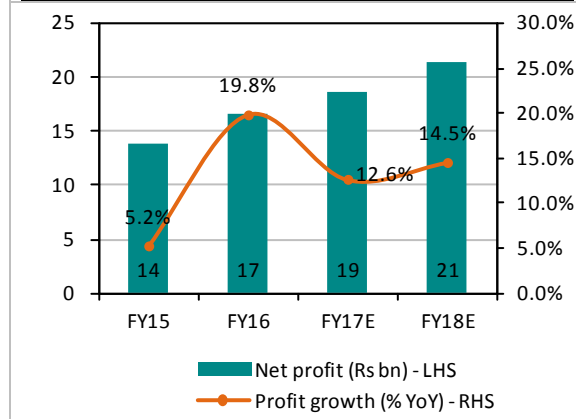
The high leverage-high capital adequacy (including DTL) is on account of continuing low ticket size of loans – Rs1.2mn size of legacy loans and Rs2mn on incremental loans, thereby keeping the risk weights low and freeing up capital to book higher volume of business. The continuing healthy RoEs ensure LIC continues to add sufficient incremental equity to keep Tier 1 at healthy levels.



■ **Estimate net profit CAGR of ~14% FY16-FY18E**

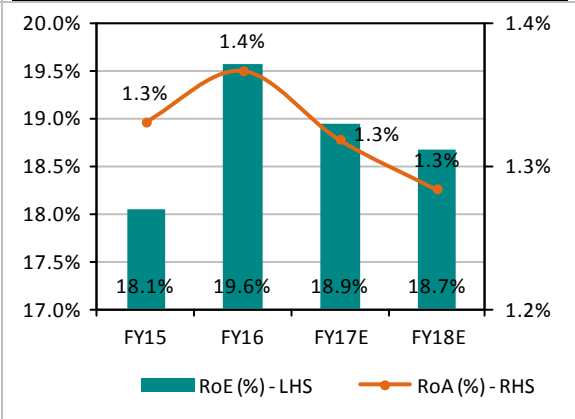
Compared to the ~12% CAGR FY14-FY16, we expect LICHF net profit to improve to ~14% CAGR FY16-FY18E while the RoE should stay stable at 18.8% FY17E-FY18E. LICHF’s changing loan mix and stable asset quality provide strong support to it’s earnings which can improve with stronger portfolio growth momentum. Our assumption of absolutely stable asset quality also remains key earnings risk in our estimates.

Figure: Profit to touch Rs21bn in FY18E



Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Figure: RoEs to stay in high teens



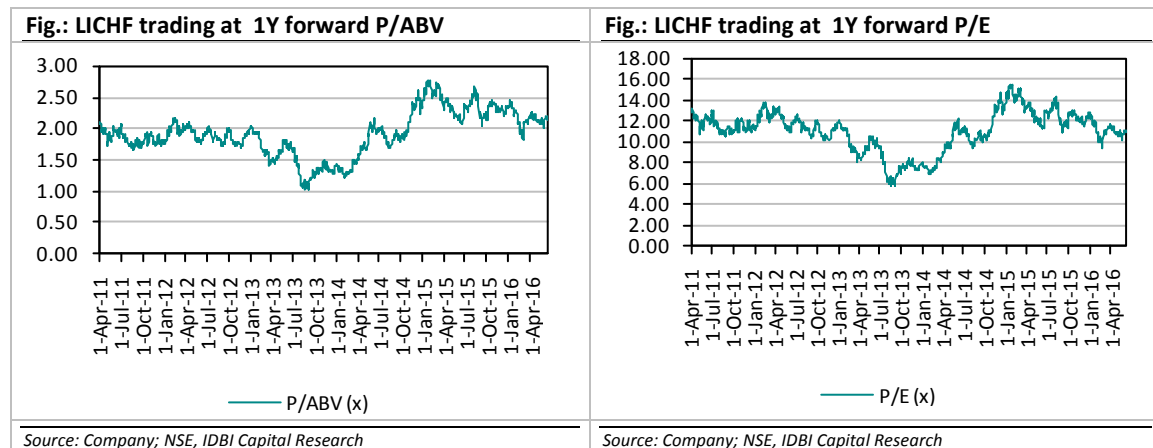
Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Valuation and Recommendation

■ **Valuations improving on back of better earnings, initiate with BUY**

Despite a higher current tax rate, LICHF has been able to improve its profitability driven by a robust core income growth. This has pulled up the RoE from mid-teens to high-teens between FY12-FY16 even as the corporate tax rate, due to a regulatory requirement, went up from 27% to 34%. LICHF’s valuations have begun reflecting this positive trend.

We initiate coverage on LICHF with a **BUY** recommendation and price target of Rs560 based on 2.4x FY18E ABV while our FY18E EPS Rs42.4 discounts the target price 13.2x. We don’t anticipate any dilution in BV / EPS due to equity dilution (which is unlikely to happen given the robust capitalization and healthy earnings).



About the Company

Promoted by Life Insurance Corporation in 1989, LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HF) is among the top-3 housing finance companies in India. It went public in 1994 and launched its maiden GDR issue in 2004, which is listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange.

LICHF's core area of operations is long term finance to individuals for purchase / construction / repair and renovation of new / existing flats / houses. It also provides finance on existing property for business / personal needs and gives loans to professionals for purchase / construction of clinics / nursing homes / diagnostic centres / office space and purchase of equipments.

The company had a network of 234 marketing offices across India in addition to several hundred direct sales agents (DSAs), a few thousand home loan agents (HLAs) and customer relationship associates (CRAs) to extend its marketing reach. The company has a representative office in Dubai and Kuwait to cater to the NRI in the GCC countries

■ Subsidiaries

- **LICHFL Care Homes Ltd.:** Incorporated on September 11, 2001, the company aims to address the gap in housing for the senior citizens of the country.
- **LICHFL Financial Services Ltd.:** Founded on October 31, 2007, LICHFL Financial Services Ltd undertakes non-fund based activities like marketing of housing loans, insurance products, credit card, mutual fund and personal loan. It became operational in 2008-09.
- **LICHFL Trustee Company Private Ltd.:** The company was established on March 5, 2008 to foray into the business of trustees of venture capital funds in India and offshore fund. The company acts as trustee of the fund raised through private placement and public offer.
- **LICHFL Asset Management Company Private Ltd.:** The company was incorporated on February 14, 2008 for undertaking the business of managing, advising, administering venture funds, unit trust and investment trust in India and abroad.

Financial Summary

Profit & Loss Account

(Rs mn)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Interest income	105,761	122,509	143,296	168,225
Interest expense	83,102	93,068	110,169	130,178
Net interest income	22,658	29,441	33,128	38,047
Growth (% YoY)	18.3	29.9	12.5	14.8
Other income	2,226	2,346	2,706	3,132
Operating income	24,884	31,787	35,834	41,179
Growth (% YoY)	15.2	27.7	12.7	14.9
Staff cost	1,293	1,503	1,967	2,310
Other operating expenses	2,499	3,183	3,493	4,091
Operating expenses	3,792	4,687	5,460	6,401
Growth (% YoY)	20.0	23.6	16.5	17.2
Operating profit	21,092	27,100	30,374	34,778
Growth (% YoY)	14.4	28.5	12.1	14.5
Non-tax provisions	73	1,465	2,029	2,319
Profit before tax	21,019	25,636	28,345	32,459
Growth (% YoY)	15.1	22.0	10.6	14.5
Taxes	7,158	9,028	9,637	11,036
Tax rate (%)	34.1	35.2	34.0	34.0
Profit after tax	13,862	16,608	18,708	21,423
Growth (% YoY)	5.2	19.8	12.6	14.5

Balance Sheet

(Rs mn)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Equity	1,010	1,010	1,010	1,010
Reserves	77,174	90,450	105,038	122,342
Networth	78,184	91,460	106,048	123,352
Borrowings	965,319	1,109,360	1,319,851	1,572,818
Current liabilities	81,947	104,158	106,199	108,272
Total liabilities	1,125,450	1,304,978	1,532,098	1,804,442
Loans	1,083,607	1,251,732	1,485,963	1,756,642
Investments	2,371	2,718	2,718	2,718
Fixed assets	797	920	1,104	1,325
Current assets	38,675	49,607	42,313	43,757
Total assets	1,125,450	1,304,978	1,532,098	1,804,442

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Growth

(%)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Total assets	17.5	16.0	17.4	17.8
Loans	18.6	15.5	18.7	18.2
Borrowings	17.7	14.9	19.0	19.2

Earnings ratios

(%)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Average yield on funds	10.6	10.5	10.5	10.4
Average cost of funds	9.7	9.1	9.1	9.0
Spread	0.9	1.4	1.4	1.4
NIM	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.3
RoE	18.1	19.6	18.9	18.7
RoA	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3

Operating ratios

(%)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Op. exps / income	15.2	14.7	15.2	15.5
Op. exps. / avg. assets	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4

Asset quality

(%)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Gross NPAs (Rs.mn.)	4,947	5,680	8,936	10,566
Gross NPAs (%)	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6

Capital adequacy

(%)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Capital adequacy	16.5	15.5	14.8	14.0
Tier I	12.5	12.5	12.3	12.0
Leverage (x)	14.4	14.3	14.4	14.6

Valuations

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
EPS	27.5	32.9	37.0	42.4
Adjusted book value	149.7	175.2	202.6	235.5
P / E	17.2	14.4	12.8	11.2
P / ABV	3.2	2.7	2.3	2.0
Div. payout (%)	18.2	20.1	18.9	16.5

RoAA decomposition

(%)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Interest earned	10.2	10.1	10.1	10.1
Interest expended	8.0	7.7	7.8	7.8
Net interest income	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.3
Other income	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Operating income	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.5
Operating expenses	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Pre-provision profits (PPP)	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.1
Provisions	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Profit before taxes	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9
Taxes	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Profit after taxes	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

COMPANY REPORT

Repco Home Finance

Strong play on affordable housing

ACCUMULATE

Nifty: 8,170; Sensex: 26,636

CMP	Rs740
Target Price	Rs820
Potential Upside/Downside	+11%

Key Stock Data

Sector	Housing Finance
Bloomberg / Reuters	REPCO IN / RHFL.BO
Shares o/s (mn)	63
Market cap. (Rs mn)	46,708
Market cap. (US\$ mn)	700
3-m daily average vol.	15,911

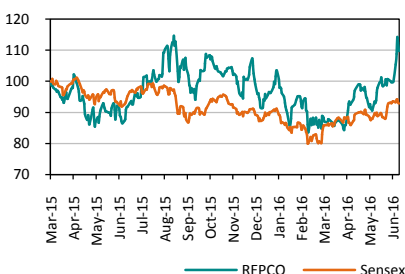
Price Performance

52-week high/low	Rs794/552		
	-1m	-3m	-12m
Absolute (%)	18	25	24
Rel to Sensex (%)	15	17	25

Shareholding Pattern (%)

Promoters	37.1
FIIIs/NRIs/OCBs/GDR	29.7
MFs/Banks/FIs	19.2
Non Promoter Corporate	2.8
Public & Others	11.2

Relative to Sensex



Source: Capitaline

Summary

Repco's niche since inception has been its focus on self-employed segment of housing finance. As housing finance gained acceptability amongst lenders, it evolved around the salaried customer while the potentially creditworthy but difficult to assess self-employed class remained out of the ambit of lenders. Repco has over the years exploited this niche and established itself firmly in the self-employed segment while continuing to generate equal quantum of growth in the traditional salaried segment. The company's recent, aggressive focus on LAP has given added momentum to earnings. We expect Repco to improve RoE to ~20% in FY18E as leverage expands and spreads stay stable with positive bias.

Initiate coverage with ACCUMULATE recommendation and a 1-year price target of Rs820 valuing Repco at 21x FY18E EPS Rs39.3 and 3.9x FY18E ABV Rs209.6.

Outlook and Investment Rationale

Net advances to grow at ~30% CAGR FY16-FY18E

Repco's has achieved a healthy mix between its consumer segments and product mix which should help the company stay in a strong growth trajectory going forward. With a sanctions growth rate of over 30% and disbursements staying a strong +92% of incremental sanctions, we believe Repco can touch a loan growth CAGR of ~30% FY16-FY18E.

Asset quality should stay healthy

Repco's NPAs normalize following seasonal spike, typically in first and third quarter, every year. However, in proportion terms, NPAs have actually shown a declining trend in the last few years with Repco utilizing earnings to improve coverage ratio. Repco's cumulative write-offs of just Rs50mn since inception (0.04% of cumulative disbursements) points to underlying robustness of its origination and monitoring processes.

Estimate net profit CAGR ~29% FY16-FY18E

Our profit estimate trends in-line with our key assumptions of a strong 30% loan CAGR FY16-FY18E and expectations of softer cost of funds leading to a strong profit growth over estimate period. We expect Repco's RoE (calculated) to touch ~20% in FY18E from 17% in FY16.

Initiate with ACCUMULATE

We believe the re-rating in Repco's valuation multiples has been driven by a) its sustained high loan growth post IPO b) matched by equally robust earnings growth. The earnings strength also derives from rising share of high yielding products which has provided the company both diversification as well as hedge for its spreads. This we believe has led to the valuation re-rating we have seen in Repco. We initiate coverage with an **ACCUMULATE** recommendation and 1-yr price target of Rs820 based on a fair value P/E multiple of 21x FY18E EPS Rs39.3.

Table: Financial snapshot

Y/E:	NII	PAT	EPS	BV	PE	P/BV	ROE	ROA	GNPA	CAR
March	(Rs mn)	(Rs mn)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
FY15	2,375	1,231	19.7	130.2	37.5	5.7	15.9	2.3	1.3	20.3
FY16	3,034	1,501	24.1	153.1	30.7	4.8	17.0	2.2	1.3	20.7
FY17E	3,798	1,951	31.3	180.8	23.6	4.1	18.7	2.2	1.4	20.2
FY18E	4,717	2,449	39.3	217.8	18.8	3.4	19.7	2.1	1.4	19.2

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Investment Rationale

■ Net advances to grow at ~30% CAGR FY16-FY18E

As discussed in the industry section, there exists a strong growth opportunity in the low cost housing segment, typically the sub Rs3mn category. While Repco has never bound itself with loan sizes, having lent even in higher ticket size segment (+Rs3mn), those remain outliers based on specific cases. Repco’s overwhelming business continues to accrue from the affordable segment.

We believe Repco’s niche in lending to non-salaried segment should help the company stay in a strong growth trajectory going forward. Repco’s net advances grew at a 42% CAGR FY05-FY16. The growth rate has moderated but nevertheless steady at ~30% CAGR in the post-listing period (FY13-FY16). With a sanctions growth rate of over 30% and disbursements staying a strong +90% of incremental sanctions, we expect Repco’s loan growth to stay comfortably high at ~30% FY16-FY18E.

We also expect Repco to continue maintaining a mix of 80/20 between housing and LAP products. Within housing, the company believes it shall be able to maintain the current mix of 55/45 between non-salaried and salaried segments. Our earnings estimates are based on these assumptions.

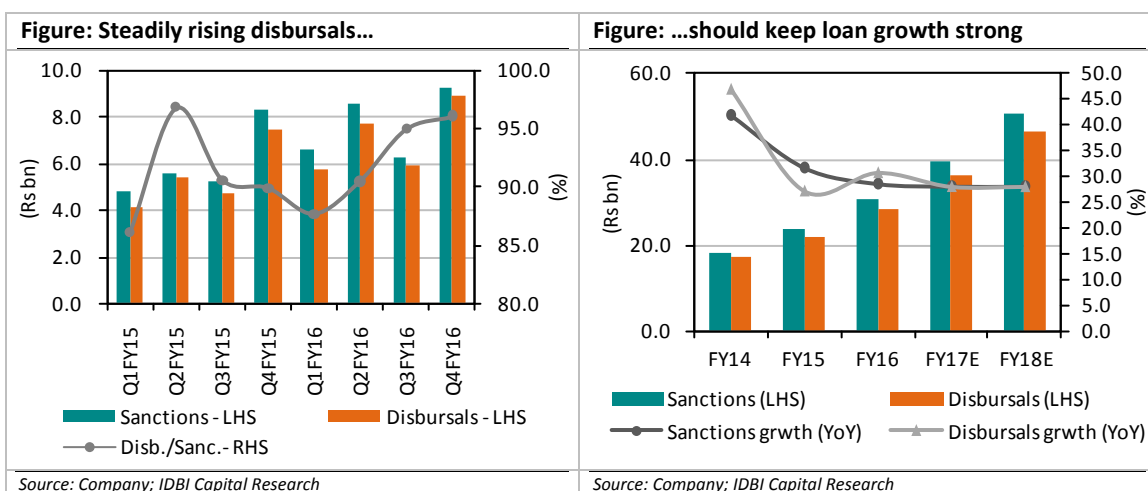
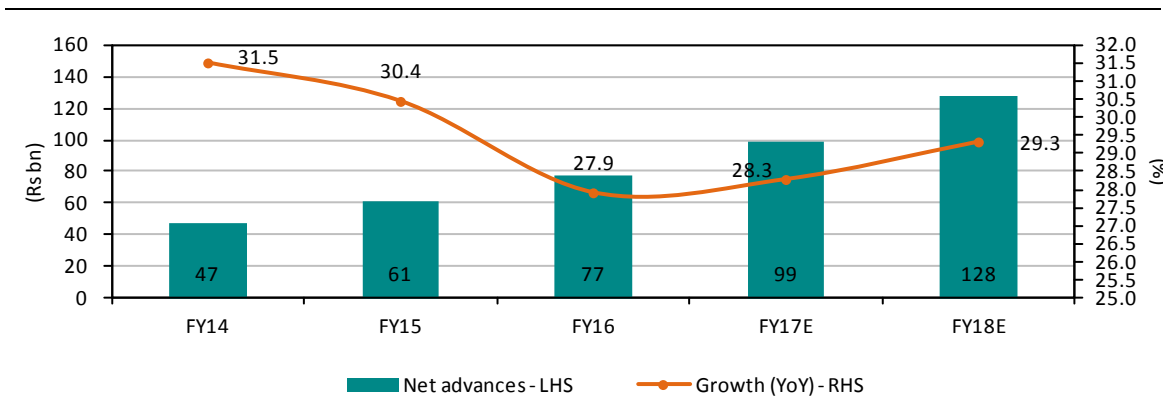


Figure: Net loans to grow at ~29% CAGR FY16-FY18E



Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

■ LAP giving steady momentum to loan growth

Repco gave a steady push to the LAP product taking it to constitute ~20% of the overall loan portfolio in FY14 compared to ~14% in FY10. The loan mix has been kept steady over past two years and is likely to stay so going forward. Thus, while FY10-FY14 saw an outsized and rising share of LAP in the incremental loan mix, it has stayed steady over FY15-FY16 in the incremental loan mix. Given Repco’s competitive pricing in LAP, which is comparable to SCBs (~15% yield), we believe this product easily offers Repco strong growth opportunity.

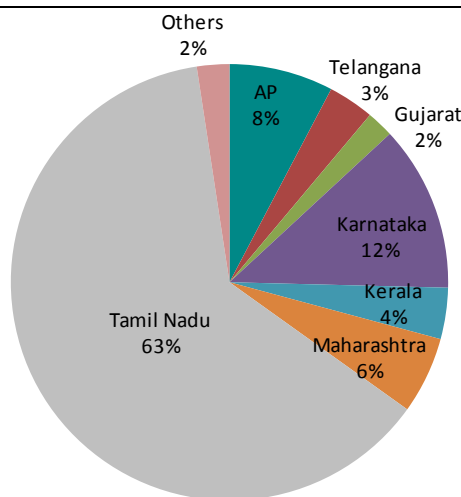
■ **Steady network expansion to help maintain momentum**

Repco has been expanding footprint in newer areas, specifically, contiguous states. The company scouts new geographies with a ‘satellite office’, typically a small branch which over a 18-24 month period gets upgraded to a full fledged branch.

Repco has been expanding it’s network by 5-6 outlets every year. The branch additions are typically upgradation of existing satellite branches with greenfield expansion happening in the form of new satellite branches. In states like Maharashtra, Repco is present in fringes of metropolitan areas like Pimpri-Chinchwad (Pune), Dombivali (Thane-Mumbai-Navi Mumbai). These fringes are strong catchment areas for attracting it’s target customers.

While the company continues to derive significant business from Tamil Nadu with ~62.5% of the portfolio exposure, it is not surprising given the company’s decade and half existence in the state. Secondly, new expansion is evenly split between TN and non-TN geographies keeping the incremental portfolio exposure unchanged. Newer geographies are slowly catching up and should provide strong growth opportunities as the network expands and matures.

Figure: Statewise portfolio exposure (FY16)



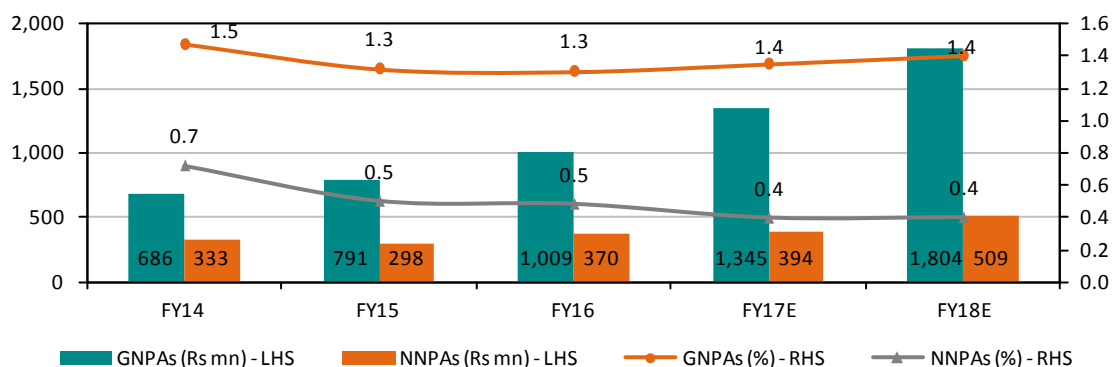
Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Asset quality has stayed robust

Seasonality in asset quality lasts one quarter

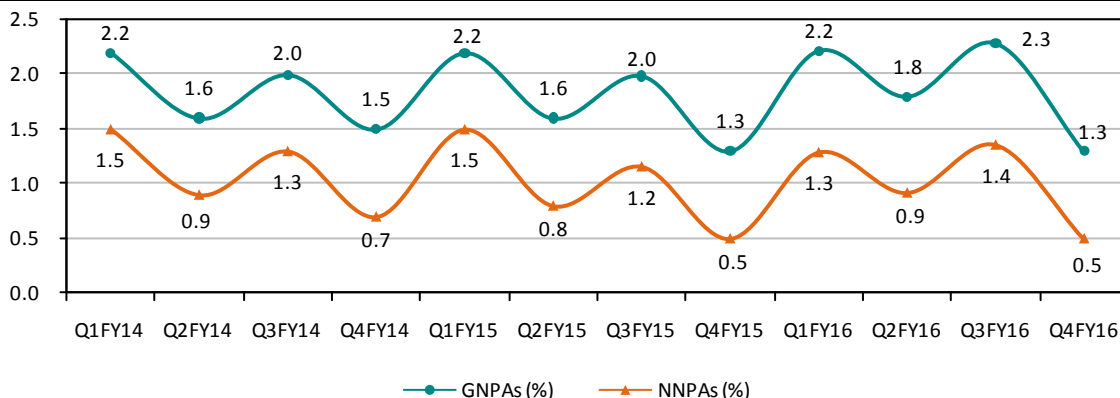
Repco’s NPAs typically spike in the first and third quarter of every financial year and are resolved in the subsequent quarter. This short seasonality is caused by the typical cash flow issues faced by low income segment due to personal expenses – typically education related (start of new academic year) or religious celebrations (period of major religious festivals). Repco’s NPAs normalize following spike every year and in proportion terms, have actually shown a declining trend in the last few years. Repco’s cumulative write-offs of just Rs50mn since inception (0.04% of cumulative disbursements) points to underlying robustness of it’s asset quality.

Figure: GNPA’s have stayed stable, PCR improving



Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Figure: Asset quality getting incrementally better though seasonality persists



Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Estimate net profit CAGR ~29% FY16-FY18E

We expect Repco’s net profit to increase at ~29% CAGR FY16-FY18E compared to a softer 23% CAGR FY13-FY16. We estimate Repco’s net profit at Rs2,481mn in FY18E compared to Rs1,501mn in FY16. A key earnings risk in our estimates shall be asset quality, which we have estimated to stay steady over FY16-FY18E period. We estimate GNPA at 1.4% over FY17E-FY18E compared to average 1.3% FY15-FY16 (the recent NPA peak was in FY13 at 1.5%).

Valuation and Recommendation

Valuations have steadily re-rated

Repco’s valuations have steadily re-rated and risen since it’s listing in April 2013. The following tables summarise Repco’s valuations at the time of it’s IPO and since listing.

Table: Repco forward valuations at IPO offer price of Rs172/share

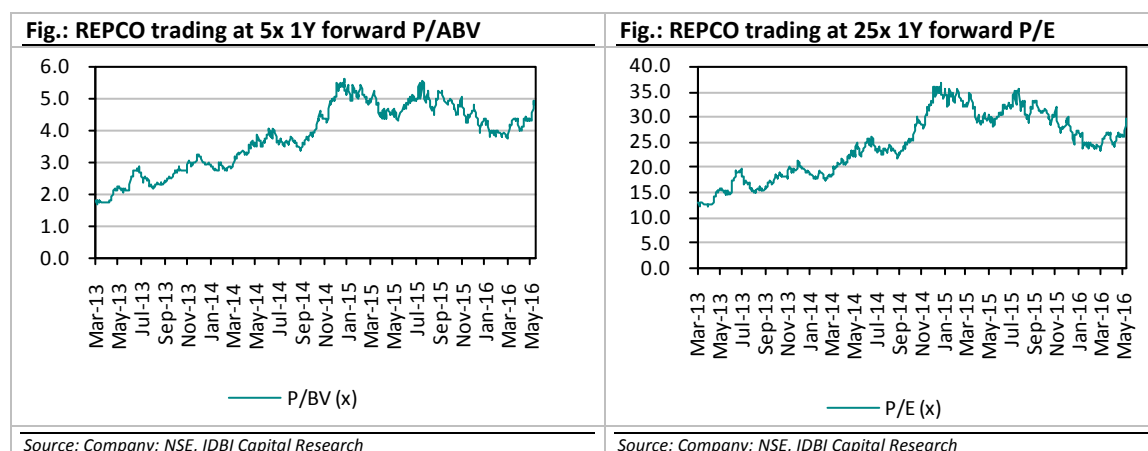
Metric	FY14	FY15
EPS (Rs)	14.1	15.8
P/E (x)	12.2	10.9
ABV (Rs)	91.6	105.2
P/ABV (x)	1.9	1.6

Source: Bloomberg; IDBI Capital Research

Table: Repco one year forward valuations since listing

Metric	P/E (x)	P/ABV (x)
Median since listing	20.4	3.4
Max since listing	30.7	5.0

Source: Bloomberg; IDBI Capital Research



We believe the re-rating in Repco’s valuation multiples has been driven by a) it’s sustained, high loan growth post IPO, b) matched by strong earnings, also a result of improving mix of LAP product. While LAP as a product did exist, it picked up strong momentum post IPO.

Initiate with ACCUMULATE, price target Rs820

Our price target is based on a P/E of 21x FY18E EPS Rs39.3 and our fair value P/E multiple is also Repco’s median P/E ratio since listing. Our FY18E ABV Rs209.6 discounts the target price 3.9x. While we don’t foresee further re-rating, we do believe Repco shall continue to exhibit strong earnings growth going forward and hence, continue to trade at premium multiples.

About the Company

Repco Home Finance was founded in FY01 as a 100% owned housing finance subsidiary of The Repatriates Co-operative Bank Ltd or Repco Bank, a special purpose co-operative banking institution founded in 1969 for rehabilitation and financial upliftment of refugees from Myanmar and Sri Lanka. The first major non-promoter investment in Repco Home Finance came in 2007 with the induction of Carlyle PE on Repco Board following its equity investment. In Mar-Apr'13, Repco concluded its IPO and listed on BSE and NSE.

Table: Shareholding Pattern (Mar'16)

Share holder	Shareholding (%)
Repco Bank (Promoter)	37.1
FIIIs	28.4
MFs	18.8
Others	15.7
Total	100.0

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Repco first crossed Rs1 bn loan booking FY04 and has grown at a 42% CAGR between FY04 FY16. The growth rate though moderating has continued to stay strong at 29% CAGR post listing (FY13-FY16). Repco Home overtook its parents overall loan book size and profitability in FY14 and since then continues to lead.

■ Management Overview

Repco top management comprises of career bankers with extensive experience with PSBs as well as the housing regulator NHB. Most of Repco's current top management has been with the company for a fairly longtime. Repco MD Mr. Varadarajan has been associated with the parent Repco Bank since the year 2001.

Name	Designation	With Repco since
T S Krishnamurthy	Non-Exec. Chairman	Sep'11
R Varadarajan	MD	Oct'10
T Karunakaran	CFO	Jul'04
K Prabhu	CS	Dec'08
P Natarajan	ED	Aug'12
V Raghu	ED	Nov'12
K Ashok	CGM	Dec'05
Poonam Sen	GM	Oct'06
K S Madhukar	GM	Apr'08

Financial Summary

Profit & Loss Account

(Rs mn)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Interest income	6,693	8,521	10,868	13,892
Interest expense	4,318	5,487	7,070	9,175
Net interest income	2,375	3,034	3,798	4,717
Growth (% YoY)	24.0	27.7	25.2	24.2
Other income	237	301	390	499
Operating income	2,613	3,335	4,188	5,216
Growth (% YoY)	24.1	27.7	25.6	24.5
Staff cost	335	399	473	559
Other operating expenses	212	244	277	312
Operating expenses	547	643	750	872
Growth (% YoY)	41.1	17.5	16.6	16.3
Operating profit	2,065	2,692	3,439	4,344
Growth (% YoY)	20.2	30.4	27.7	26.3
Non-tax provisions	203	392	483	634
Profit before tax	1,862	2,300	2,956	3,710
Growth (% YoY)	24.9	23.5	28.5	25.5
Taxes	631	799	1,005	1,261
Tax rate (%)	33.9	34.8	34.0	34.0
Profit after tax	1,231	1,501	1,951	2,449
Growth (% YoY)	11.8	21.9	30.0	25.5

Balance Sheet

(Rs mn)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Equity	624	624	624	624
Reserves	7,497	8,925	10,653	12,957
Networth	8,121	9,548	11,277	13,581
Borrowings	51,044	65,379	86,003	112,101
Current liabilities	1,592	2,706	2,591	3,579
Total liabilities	60,757	77,633	99,871	129,261
Loans	60,129	76,912	98,662	127,592
Investments	124	124	124	124
Fixed assets	89	107	126	147
Current assets	414	490	959	1,398
Total assets	60,757	77,633	99,871	129,261

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research

Growth

(%)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Total assets	28.3	27.8	28.6	29.4
Housing loans	29.0	27.9	28.3	29.3
Borrowings (sec+unsc.)	30.8	28.1	31.5	30.3

Earnings ratios

(%)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Average yield on funds	12.4	12.4	12.3	12.2
Average cost of funds	9.6	9.4	9.3	9.3
Spread	2.8	3.0	3.0	2.9
NIM	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2
RoE	15.9	17.0	18.7	19.7
RoA	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.1

Cost ratios

(%)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Op. exps / income	21.0	19.3	17.9	16.7
Op. exps. / avg. assets	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8

Asset quality

(%)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Gross NPAs (Rs.mn.)	791	1,001	1,345	1,804
Gross NPAs (%)	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4

Capital adequacy ratio

(%)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Capital adequacy	20.3	20.7	20.2	19.2
Tier I	20.3	20.7	20.2	19.2
Leverage (x)	7.5	8.1	8.9	9.5

Valuations (x)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
EPS	19.7	24.1	31.3	39.3
Book value	125.5	148.2	174.5	209.6
P / E	37.5	30.7	23.6	18.8
P / ABV	5.9	5.0	4.2	3.5
Div. payout (%)	7.6	7.5	5.6	5.1

RoAA decomposition

(%)

Year-end: March	FY15	FY16	FY17E	FY18E
Interest earned	12.38	12.31	12.25	12.13
Interest expended	7.99	7.93	7.97	8.01
Net interest income	4.39	4.38	4.28	4.12
Other income	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44
Operating income	4.83	4.82	4.72	4.55
Operating expenses	1.01	0.93	0.84	0.76
Pre-provision profits (PPP)	3.82	3.89	3.87	3.79
Provisions	0.38	0.57	0.54	0.55
Profit before taxes	3.44	3.32	3.33	3.24
Taxes	1.17	1.16	1.13	1.10
Profit after taxes	2.28	2.17	2.20	2.14

Source: Company; IDBI Capital Research



Notes

Dealing	(91-22) 6637 1150	dealing@idbicapital.com
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Key to Ratings**Stocks:**

BUY: Absolute return of 15% and above; **ACCUMULATE:** 5% to 15%; **HOLD:** Upto $\pm 5\%$; **REDUCE:** -5% to -15%; **SELL:** -15% and below.

IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Ltd. (Formerly known as IDBI Capital Market Services Ltd.)

Equity Research Desk

3rd Floor, Mafatlal Centre, Nariman Point, Mumbai – 400 021. Phones: (91-22) 4322 1212; Fax: (91-22) 2285 0785; Email: info@idbicapital.com

SEBI Registration: BSE & NSE (Cash & FO) – INZ000007237, NSDL – IN-DP-NSDL-12-96, Research – INH000002459, CIN – U65990MH1993GOI075578

Compliance Officer: Christina D'souza; Email: compliance@idbicapital.com; Telephone: (91-22) 4322 1212

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