

Key re-rating triggers in place; Mixed bag for Q3

- A fraud at Can Fin Homes' (CANF) Ambala branch in Q2FY24 led to the complete overhaul of its underwriting process. The transition to a centralised disbursement and reconciliation system in October 2023 resulted in a sequential moderation in disbursement and overall credit growth in Q3FY24. Disbursements fell 23% YoY and 7% QoQ to INR1,879cr in Q3 which led to a moderation in AUM growth against the management's earlier guidance of an acceleration in disbursements in H2FY24.
- CANF reported healthy NIM expansion (up 45bp YoY and 12bp QoQ) at 3.92%, leading to NII growth of 31% YoY and 4% QoQ. We expect NIM to stay elevated for the next few quarters due to: i) a rating upgrade by ICRA to AAA from AA; and ii) expectations of NHB refinancing. Other income was steady at INR7cr. Net revenue grew 31% YoY and 4% QoQ to INR336cr (3% beat).
- Opex came in lower than anticipated aided by lower employee expense. Total opex fell 6% QoQ, translating into a C/I ratio of 15% (est. 17%). Opex is expected to stay higher due to an IT expense of INR15-20cr in FY25. PPOP grew 35% YoY and 6% QoQ to INR287cr (6% beat).
- We had estimated a credit cost of 40bp due to a higher restructured book. CANF reported an in-line credit cost. A higher-than-expected margin expansion and lower operating expenses led to an 8% beat on PAT at INR200cr, up 32% YoY and 27% QoQ. We expect credit cost to stay in the 10–15bp range over the next few quarters.
- It reported healthy return ratios in Q3FY24, with a RoA/RoE of 2.3%/19.4%. We expect a RoA of 2.1%/2.2% and a RoE of 18%/18.5% in FY24/FY25.
- The entire restructured book emerged from the moratorium in November 2023. Slippages from the restructured pool were elevated, resulting in a further deterioration in asset quality.
- We expect credit growth to accelerate from FY25 with the tightening of systems and processes, a strong distribution channel, the centralising of the credit underwriting process, a stable NIM and return ratios, and an improvement in asset quality. We reiterate 'BUY' with a TP of INR900.

Credit growth moderates, pares guidance for FY24

An overhaul of its credit underwriting procedure led to a moderation in disbursement, which reduced the pace of AUM growth in Q3FY24. Advances grew at a moderate 13% YoY and 2% QoQ to INR34,053cr due to the aforesaid reasons. Overall credit growth was aided by top-up loans (up 17% YoY and 3% QoQ) and mortgage loans/flexi LAP (up 14% YoY and 1% QoQ). Housing loans grew 13% YoY and 2% QoQ and constituted 89.1% (unchanged sequentially) of overall advances. The management is targeting a disbursement of ~INR2,500cr/INR1,000cr in Q4FY24/FY25, translating into a loan growth of 13–14%/16–18% in FY24/FY25. We believe a credit growth of 16–18% is achievable on account of the modernisation of the entire system and processes, strengthening of the distribution channel, a higher ticket size, and a centralised credit underwriting process.

Deterioration in asset quality due to slippages from the restructured book

The entire restructured book emerged from the moratorium in November 2023. Slippages from the restructured pool were elevated (added ~0.28% to GNPA), leading to a deterioration in asset quality. GNPA/NNPA rose 15bp/6bp to 0.91%/0.49%. PCR stood at 45.8%. To counter the elevated slippages from the restructured book, it provided a management overlay of ~INR34cr. Asset quality remained stable despite adjusting for slippages from the restructured book. Stage-2 assets grew 130bp QoQ to 4.7%. The management guided at a GNPA of 0.7–0.8% for FY24.

Valuation and view

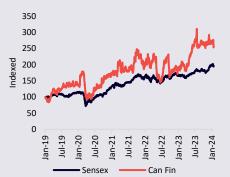
CANF posted a mixed bag of earnings in Q3FY24. A subdued disbursement led to muted loan growth and a deterioration in asset quality. A significant expansion in NIM resulted in healthy operational numbers as well as return ratios. We expect an acceleration in credit growth with a stable NIM, elevated return ratios, and an improvement in asset quality. Given the attractive valuations and expected improvement in most parameters, we reiterate 'BUY' with a revised TP of INR 900 from INR 920 due to 4-5% earning cut, implying an upside of 20% from its CMP.

Key financials

Year to March (INR cr)	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Net revenue	810	835	1,042	1,278	1,470
PAT	456	470	621	730	877
EPS (INR)	2	3	4	4	5
Adjusted BV (INR)	193	228.5	272.1	322.5	389.5
P/E ratio (x)	21.8	21.1	16.0	13.6	11.3
P/ABV ratio (x)	3.9	3.3	2.7	2.3	1.9
RoA (%)	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2
RoE (%)	19.2	16.6	18.5	18.3	18.5

CMP: INR747 Rating: BUY Target price: INR900 Upside: 20% Date: January 25, 2024

Bloomberg:	CANF:IN
52-week range (INR):	508/909
M-cap (INR cr):	9,659
Promoter holding (%)	30



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Q3FY24 result highlights

INR cr	Q3FY24	Q3FY23	YoY change	Q2FY24	QoQ change
Interest income	895	705	27%	865	3%
Interest expense	566	453	25%	548	3%
Net interest income	329	252	31%	317	4%
Other income	7	5	40%	6	22%
Net revenue	336	257	31%	323	4%
Operating expense	49	44	13%	52	(6%)
Operating profit	286	213	35%	270	6%
Provisions and contingencies	31	8	266%	72	(57%)
РВТ	256	205	25%	198	29%
Тах	56	53	5%	40	39%
РАТ	200	151	32%	158	27%
Equity capital	13.3	13.3	0	13.3	0
Adjusted EPS (INR)	15	11.4	32%	11.9	27%

Ratios	Q3FY24	Q3FY23	YoY change	Q2FY24	QoQ change
C/I ratio	14.71	17.08	(236bp)	16.25	(154bp)
Reported yield on advances	9.91	8.87	104bp	10.07	(16bp)
Reported cost of funds	7.35	6.63	72bp	7.32	3bp
Spread	2.56	2.24	32bp	2.75	(19bp)
Reported NIM	3.92	3.47	45bp	3.80	12bp

Balance Sheet	Q3FY24	Q3FY23	YoY change	Q2FY24	QoQ change
AUM	34,053	30,115	13%	33,359	2.1%
Disbursement	1,879	2,444	(23%)	2,019	(7%)

Asset quality	Q3FY24	Q3FY23	YoY change	Q2FY24	QoQ change
GNPA (%)	0.91	0.6	31bp	0.76	15bp
NNPA (%)	0.49	0.3	19bp	0.43	6bp
PCR (%)	45.8	50.7	(491bp)	44	178bp

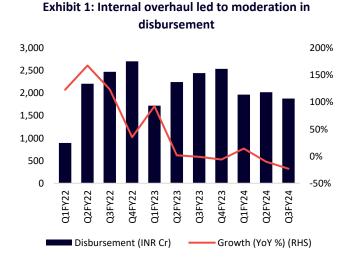


Exhibit 3: AUM growth moderates

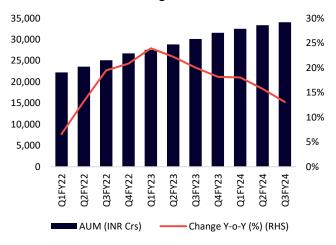


Exhibit 2: The repayment rate has remained stable

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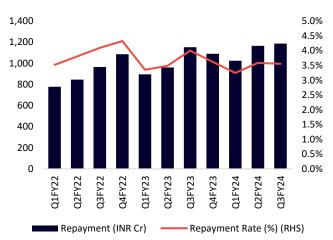


Exhibit 4: NIM expands QoQ

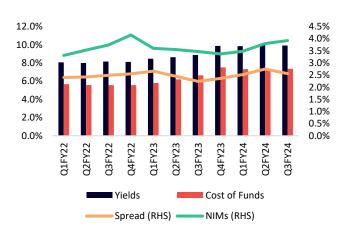
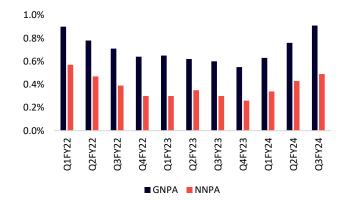


Exhibit 5: Asset quality witnessed a deterioration

Financials in charts



Source: Nuvama Wealth Research



Previous outlook

Q2FY24: CANF posted a mixed Q2FY24, which was along anticipated lines. An impressive NIM expansion offset by higher credit cost. The deterioration in asset quality was expected due to an elevated restructuring book. We expect high-teen credit growth with elevated NIM. A tight leash on credit and operating cost will result in a firm-up in return ratios. We reiterate 'BUY' with a revised TP of INR920 (target price cut from INR 980 to 920 due to earning cut), an upside of 20% from its CMP.

Q1FY24: CANF posted healthy operational numbers and return ratios. Credit growth was along its guided path. However, asset quality weakened marginally. We expect high-teen credit growth. Asset repricing will lead to an improvement in margin. A tight leash on credit and operating cost will result in a firm-up in return ratios. We reiterate 'BUY' with a revised TP of INR980 (earlier INR780), an upside of 17% from its CMP.







Company profile

CANF is a South India-based housing finance company focusing on Tier II, III, and IV cities. It was set up by Canara Bank in 1987, which holds a 29.99% stake. Its customer profile includes salaried and professional individuals (72% of total loans, mostly low risk) and self-employed and non-professionals (26% of total loans). It primarily caters to the medium ticket-size segment (incremental average ticket size of ~INR25lk for housing loans). AUM grew 13% YoY to INR34,053cr in Q3FY24.

Key risks

- An economic slowdown can impact the growth trajectory and result in asset quality deterioration.
- Possible impact of a stake sale by CBK on the cost of funds.
- Possible impact of aggressive BT cuts due to interest rate hikes.



Financials

Income Statement					(INR cr)
Year to March	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Interest income	2,006	1,970	2,715	3,439	3,922
Interest charges	1,208	1,154	1,701	2,186	2,486
Net interest income	798	816	1,015	1,253	1,436
Fee & other income	12	19	28	25	34
Net revenues	810	835	1,042	1,278	1,470
Operating expense	124	154	176	205	242
- Employee exp	70	77	84	96	113
- Other opex	54	77	93	110	129
Preprovision profit	686	681	866	1,073	1,228
Provisions	69	47	42	125	59
PBT	618	634	824	948	1,170
Taxes	162	164	203	218	292
PAT	456	470	621	730	877
Extraordinaries	0	0	0	0	0
Reported PAT	456	470	621	730	877
Basic number of shares (cr)	13	13	13	13	13
Basic EPS (INR)	34	35	47	55	66
Diluted number of shares (cr)	13	13	13	13	13
Diluted EPS (INR)	34	35	47	55	66
DPS (INR)	2	3	4	4	5
Payout ratio (%)	6	8	8	7	7

Balance Sheet					(INR cr)
Year to March	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Paid Capital	27	27	27	27	27
Reserve & Surplus	2,583	3,040	3,621	4,297	5,115
Shareholder's Fund	2,610	3,067	3,647	4,324	5,141
Total Borrowings	19,293	24,648	29,258	33,208	38,854
Other Liabilities	171	230	165	185	207
Total Liabilities	22,074	27,944	33,070	37,717	44,202
Cash & Bank Balance	22	324	308	287	296
Investment	50	1,126	1,459	1,614	1,691
Loan & Advances	21,891	26,378	31,193	34,962	40,982
Net Fixed Assets	38	35	45	47	51
Other assets	73	82	64	807	1,182
Total Assets	22,074	27,944	33,070	37,717	44,202

Growth ratios (%)					
Year to March	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
NII growth	18.3	2.3	24.3	23.5	14.6
Net revenues growth	18.0	3.1	24.8	22.7	15.0
Opex growth	15.2	24.2	14.6	16.4	17.9
PPP growth	18.6	(0.7)	27.1	23.9	14.5
Provisions growth	13.6	-31.5	-11.0	198.8	-53.0
PAT growth	21.3	3.1	32.1	17.5	20.2



Operating ratios (%)

Year to March	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Yield on advances	9.4	7.9	8.9	9.8	9.7
Cost of funds	6.4	5.3	6.3	7.0	6.9
Spread	3.0	2.7	2.6	2.8	2.8
Net interest margin	3.7	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.6
Cost-to-income ratio	15.3	18.4	16.9	16.1	16.5
Tax rate	26.2	25.9	24.6	23.0	25.0

Balance Sheet ratios (%)

Year to March	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Loan growth	6.7	20.5	18.3	13.3	17.9
EA growth	4.9	26.7	18.4	13.0	17.2
Gross NPA ratio	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.7
Net NPA ratio	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
Provision coverage	33	53	53	50	42

RoE decomposition (%)

Year to March	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Net interest income/assets ratio	3.7	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.6
Other income/assets ratio	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Net revenue/assets ratio	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.6
Operating expense/assets ratio	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Provisions/assets ratio	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1
Taxes/assets ratio	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7
Total costs/assets ratio	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.5
RoA	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2
Equity/assets ratio	9.0	8.8	9.1	8.8	8.5
RoAE	19.2	16.6	18.5	18.3	18.5

Valuation metrics

Year to March	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Diluted EPS (INR)	34.3	35.3	46.7	54.8	65.9
EPS growth (%)	21.3	3.1	32.1	17.5	20.2
Adjusted BV per share	193.0	228.5	272.1	321.3	382.4
Diluted P/E (x)	21.8	21.1	16.0	13.6	11.3
Price/Adj. Book Value(x)	3.9	3.3	2.7	2.3	1.9
Price/ Earning (x)	21.8	21.1	16.0	13.6	11.3



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