

India

HOLD (no change)

Consensus ratings*: Buy 10	Hold 2	Sell 0
Current price:		Rs433
Target price:		Rs450
Previous target:		Rs570
Up/downside:		3.9%
InCred Research / Consensus:		-31.7%
Reuters:	F	USN.NS
Bloomberg:	FU	SION IN
Market cap:	U	S\$602m
	Rs	43,743m
Average daily turnover:	ι	JS\$2.2m
	R	s159.1m
Current shares o/s:		101.0m
Free float: *Source: Bloomberg		42.3%

Key changes in this note

Stage-3 assets rose to ~5.46% vs. ~2.89% last quarter due to over-leveraging of customers, weak collection efficiency, higher employee attrition, etc.



		Source: I	Bloomberg
Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M
Absolute (%)	(3.8)	(16.8)	(30.1)
Relative (%)	(2.1)	(22.2)	(41.3)
Major shareholders			% held
Honeyrose			32.8
Creation investment			19.8
Devesh Sachdev			4.9

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Fusion Finance Limited

Asset quality turmoil intensifies

- Fusion Finance posted a loss of Rs356.2m in 1QFY25, despite a steady operating performance, as stage-3 assets rose to ~5.46% vs. ~2.89% in 4Q.
- The extent of over-leveraging is a concern as borrowers, comprising ~25% of the FY24 loan book, are having loans from 4+ borrowers against ~6% in FY23.
- We downgraded the stock to HOLD last quarter amid rising asset quality woes, which we retain with a lower TP of Rs450 (Rs570 earlier) or ~1.1x FY26F BV.

Asset quality turmoil continues; provisioning explodes

Fusion Finance (FFL) has witnessed a sharp rise in stage-3 assets to ~5.46% in 1QFY25 as against ~2.89% last quarter. The company's management has attributed the same to various reasons, including over-leveraging of existing customers, failure of the JLG model leading to weak collection efficiency, weakness in states like Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Odisha, Jharkhand & Madhya Pradesh, higher employee attrition, etc. The company was unable to receive payment from ~55k customers during Jul 2024. Accordingly, FFL has shifted this customers to stage-3 (48k from stage-1 to stage-3 and 5.5k from stage-2 to stage-3) and management has also revised the Loss Given Default (LGD) and Probability of Default (PD) assumptions by shifting the average from five years to three years, which resulted in a sharp surge in provisioning (~4.5x on YoY basis).

Disbursement momentum to ease; concentration risk stays

The disbursements of FFL remained steady on a sequential basis at Rs29.9bn (+30.7% yoy/+1.1% qoq) despite 1Q seasonally remaining a weak quarter. However, after a rise in default risks at the customer level, the company has categorically stopped disbursements at ~104 branches and has also tightened the customer onboarding criteria which, in turn, would impact incremental disbursement growth. The fall in collection efficiency to 96.3% for the quarter from 98.3% in the last quarter (ex-Punjab) indicates unfavourable ground reality for lending. The company has always been facing concentration risk, which continues to remain intact with the share of the top five states staying elevated at ~70.4%.

Weak customer addition; adversities visible in per borrower data

We have been highlighting our concerns over the adversities visible in per borrower data since the past few quarters. FFL has added ~90,000 borrowers during 1QFY25 against 80,000 last quarter. FFL has added a net ~3,30,000 customers during FY24 against ~8,10,000 additions in FY23, which remains a disappointment. This also indicates that incremental disbursement growth is largely contributed by the rise in loan ticket size.

Outlook & valuation

We had downgraded FFL's rating to HOLD last quarter amid elevated concentration risks. We cut our estimates by 8.6%/10.4% for FY26F/27F, respectively. We retain HOLD rating on FFL with a lower target price of Rs450 (Rs570 earlier) or ~1.1x FY26F BV. Upside risks: Superior growth & a decline in fresh slippage, Downside risks: Steep improvement in asset quality.

Financial Summary	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Net Interest Income (Rsm)	9,573	13,011	17,252	20,586	24,325
Total Non-Interest Income (Rsm)	1,999	3,205	3,591	4,066	4,502
Operating Revenue (Rsm)	11,572	16,216	20,843	24,653	28,827
Total Provision Charges (Rsm)	(2,004)	(3,649)	(6,413)	(6,256)	(6,566)
Net Profit (Rsm)	3,871	5,053	5,093	6,663	7,732
Core EPS (Rs)	38.58	50.27	50.67	66.28	76.92
Core EPS Growth	1,353%	30%	1%	31%	16%
FD Core P/E (x)	11.22	8.61	8.54	6.53	5.63
DPS (Rs)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dividend Yield	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
BVPS (Rs)	231.4	283.4	334.0	400.3	477.2
P/BV (x)	1.87	1.53	1.30	1.08	0.91
ROE	21.2%	19.5%	16.4%	18.1%	17.5%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates					
InCred Research/Consensus EPS (x)					

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

Figure 1: Quarterly Earn	iings Suin	mary									
Particulars (Rs mn)	1QFY23	2QFY23	3QFY23	4QFY23	1QFY24	2QFY24	3QFY24	4QFY24	1QFY25	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)
Net Interest Income	1,861.2	2,424.5	2,522.5	2,765.0	2,955.2	3,057.9	3,385.8	3,611.8	3,978.7	34.6%	10.2%
NIM (% of AUM) Calculated	9.4%	10.2%	10.3%	10.6%	10.9%	11.1%	11.5%	11.2%	11.6%		
Fee-Based Income	309.0	524.7	461.8	699.5	737.8	744.6	732.0	990.8	854.0	15.7%	-13.8%
Operating Expenses	969.5	1,077.2	1,146.2	1,253.3	1,339.1	1,384.6	1,515.2	1,695.8	1,855.2	38.5%	9.4%
Operating Profit	1,200.7	1,872.0	1,838.1	2,211.2	2,353.9	2,417.9	2,602.6	2,906.8	2,977.5	26.5%	2.4%
Provisions	200.6	611.8	499.3	692.0	759.3	762.0	937.6	1,189.7	3,484.7	358.9%	192.9%
Exceptional Items	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
PBT	1,000.1	1,260.2	1,338.8	1,519.3	1,594.6	1,655.9	1,665.0	1,717.1	-507.2	-131.8%	-129.5%
Tax	250.2	310.0	313.9	374.0	390.0	399.0	400.5	390.2	-151.0	-138.7%	-138.7%
Tax rate (%)	25.0%	24.6%	23.4%	24.6%	24.5%	24.1%	24.1%	22.7%	29.8%		
PAT	749.9	950.2	1,024.9	1,145.2	1,204.6	1,256.9	1,264.5	1,326.9	-356.2	-129.6%	-126.8%
AUM (Rs bn)	73.9	80.5	86.5	93.0	97.1	100.3	106.9	114.8	121.9	25.5%	6.2%
Disbursements (Rs bn)	19.8	20.5	21.9	23.7	22.8	23.4	27.1	29.5	29.9	30.7%	1.1%
								SOURCE: IN	CRED RESEAF	RCH, COMPAN	Y REPORTS

V/E Mar (Da m)			FY25F			FY26F		FY27F		
Y/E Mar (Rs m)	Earlier	Revised	% change	Earlier	Revised	% change	Earlier	Revised	% change	
Net interest income	16,375	17,252	5.4%	20,202	20,586	1.9%	24,598	24,325	-1.1%	
Non-Interest Income	3,643	3,591	-1.4%	4,250	4,066	-4.3%	5,066	4,502	-11.1%	
PPOP	12,379	13,204	6.7%	15,035	15,140	0.7%	17,992	16,875	-6.2%	
PAT	6,064	5,093	-16.0%	7,292	6,663	-8.6%	8,631	7,732	-10.4%	
EPS (Rs)	60.3	50.7	-16.0%	72.5	66.3	-8.6%	85.9	76.9	-10.5%	
BV (Rs)	343.7	334.0	-2.8%	416.2	400.3	-3.8%	502.1	477.2	-5.0%	

1QFY25 earnings conference-call highlights

- The average of Loss Given Default and Probability of Default has been changed from three years to five years.
- Customers' leverage from multiple borrowers where the loan book has exposure from four other lenders - stood at 25% in FY24, which was 6% in FY23.
- Disbursement at 50-60 branches was stopped in Jul 2024 and at 40 branches in Aug 2024.
- Currently, disbursement for customers with 4+ lenders and persons having MFI loan of Rs0.2m or more has been stopped.
- An additional workforce of 100 employees has been deployed to improve collections. Incentives have been linked to collections.
- Out of 101 new branches, ~50% of branches have been split from the existing branches.
- Elevated credit costs have breached the debt agreement covenant on gross NPAs, but on the 90 plus DPD there is no such breach.
- FFL has excess liquidity of Rs16bn, and the sanctioned loan amount is Rs 25bn
- The overall rise in household income has led to more lenders entering the market, leading to an overleveraged individual loan profile.



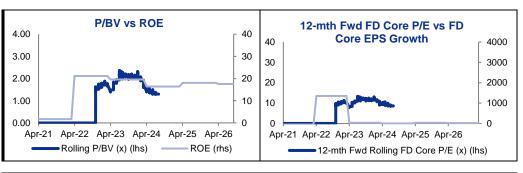
Finance Companies | India

Fusion Finance Limited | August 07, 2024

anks	Rating	CMP(Rs)	TP(Rs)		P/B\	/(x) (at TP)			ROA (%)			ROE (%
	Rating	CIVIP(RS)	IP(KS)	FY25F	FY26F	FY27F	FY25F	FY26F	FY27F	FY25F	FY26F	FY27
BI **	ADD	798	1,100	2.3	2.0	1.8	1.1%	1.2%	1.2%	17.8%	18.3%	18.29
DFC Bank **	ADD	1,601	2,000	3.1	2.8	2.6	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%	15.4%	16.3%	16.9%
ICI Bank	ADD	1,167	1,450	3.9	3.4	2.9	2.2%	2.3%	2.3%	17.2%	17.6%	17.89
xis Bank	HOLD	1,126	1,300	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	16.8%	15.9%	16.3%
dusInd Bank	HOLD	1,381	1,500	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	13.8%	14.2%	14.79
DEC.	Dating	CMD/Da)	TD(Da)		P/B\	/(x) (at TP)		ı	ROA (%)			ROE (%
BFCs	Rating	CMP(Rs)	TP(Rs)	FY25F	FY26F	FY27F	FY25F	FY26F	FY27F	FY25F	FY26F	FY27F
ajaj Finance	ADD	6,538	9,000	6.0	5.1	4.2	4.2%	4.4%	4.5%	21.0%	23.5%	25.4%
holamandalam Finance	ADD	1,335	1,650	5.9	4.8	4.0	2.4%	2.5%	2.6%	20.0%	22.2%	23.1%
MFS **	ADD	293	370	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%	12.3%	14.0%	15.7%
nriram Finance	ADD	2,837	3,750	2.6	2.2	1.9	3.3%	3.4%	3.6%	16.5%	17.5%	18.9%
BI Cards **	REDUCE	699	500	3.5	3.0	2.6	3.9%	3.6%	3.6%	18.7%	17.8%	17.5%
avas Financiers	ADD	1,630	2,000	3.6	3.0	2.6	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	14.1%	14.7%	15.8%
ome First Finance	ADD	1,041	1,350	4.9	4.2	3.7	3.6%	3.5%	3.4%	16.9%	18.3%	19.4%
oandana Sphoorty	ADD	601	900	1.5	1.3	1.1	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	15.1%	15.2%	15.3%
usion Finance	HOLD	433	450	1.4	1.1	1.0	3.9%	4.3%	4.2%	16.4%	18.1%	17.5%
MCs	Rating	CMP(Rs)	TP(Rs)		P/E	(x) (at TP)		RO	AUM (%)			ROE (%
IVICS	Natility	CIVIF (IXS)	IF(NS)	FY25F	FY26F	FY27F	FY25F	FY26F	FY27F	FY25F	FY26F	FY27F
ppon AMC	ADD	601	800	35.7	29.5	23.7	0.28%	0.26%	0.25%	35.2%	41.8%	50.7%
DFC AMC	HOLD	3,984	4,250	33.5	29.9	25.3	0.37%	0.35%	0.35%	32.8%	34.2%	37.3%
TI AMC	ADD	977	1,200	16.8	13.8	11.8	0.30%	0.30%	0.29%	19.5%	21.1%	22.0%
BSL AMC**	ADD	639	950	26.9	22.0	18.2	0.27%	0.27%	0.27%	29.9%	32.0%	33.9%
curance	Pating	CMP(Pe)	TP/Ps\			(x) (at TP)		Return o				ROE (%
		· ,	. ,		FY26F	FY27F	FY25F	FY26F	FY27F	FY25F	FY26F	FY27F
BI Life Insurance	HOLD	1,674	1,750	2.5	2.2	1.8	18.9%	18.5%	18.1%	15.4%	16.6%	16.2%
surance	Rating HOLD	CMP(Rs)	TP(Rs) 1,750	FY25F 2.5	P/EV	(x) (at TP)		Return oı	n EV (%) FY27F	FY25F 15.4%		FY26F



BY THE NUMBERS



Profit & Loss					
(Rsm)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Net Interest Income	9,573	13,011	17,252	20,586	24,325
Total Non-Interest Income	1,999	3,205	3,591	4,066	4,502
Operating Revenue	11,572	16,216	20,843	24,653	28,827
Total Non-Interest Expenses	(4,448)	(5,935)	(7,639)	(9,513)	(11,952)
Pre-provision Operating Profit	7,124	10,281	13,204	15,140	16,875
Total Provision Charges	(2,004)	(3,649)	(6,413)	(6,256)	(6,566)
Operating Profit After Provisions	5,120	6,633	6,791	8,884	10,309
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.					
Operating EBIT (incl Associates)	5,120	6,633	6,791	8,884	10,309
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)					
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	5,120	6,633	6,791	8,884	10,309
Exceptional Items					
Pre-tax Profit	5,120	6,633	6,791	8,884	10,309
Taxation	(1,248)	(1,580)	(1,698)	(2,221)	(2,577)
Consolidation Adjustments & Others					
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	3,871	5,053	5,093	6,663	7,732
Minority Interests					
Pref. & Special Div					
FX And Other Adj.					
Net Profit	3,871	5,053	5,093	6,663	7,732
Recurring Net Profit					

Balance Sheet Employment					
(Rsm)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Gross Loans/Cust Deposits					
Avg Loans/Avg Deposits					
Avg Liquid Assets/Avg Assets					
Avg Liquid Assets/Avg IEAs	115.9%	114.6%	113.7%	110.9%	110.0%
Net Cust Loans/Assets					
Net Cust Loans/Broad Deposits					
Equity & Provns/Gross Cust Loans					
Asset Risk Weighting					
Provision Charge/Avg Cust Loans					
Provision Charge/Avg Assets					
Total Write Offs/Average Assets					

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(Rsm)	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Total Gross Loans	80,416	99,479	123,319	150,530	179,630
Liquid Assets & Invst. (Current)					
Other Int. Earning Assets					
Total Gross Int. Earning Assets	80,416	99,479	123,319	150,530	179,630
Total Provisions/Loan Loss Reserve					
Total Net Interest Earning Assets	80,416	99,479	123,319	150,530	179,630
Intangible Assets					
Other Non-Interest Earning Assets	1,200	1,592	2,069	2,690	3,497
Total Non-Interest Earning Assets	1,409	1,816	2,349	3,026	3,900
Cash And Marketable Securities	10,650	15,532	15,040	14,875	18,010
Long-term Investments					
Total Assets					
Customer Interest-Bearing Liabilities					
Bank Deposits					
Interest Bearing Liabilities: Others	67,784	86,159	100,473	120,024	143,538
Total Interest-Bearing Liabilities	67,784	86,159	100,473	120,024	143,538
Banks Liabilities Under Acceptances					
Total Non-Interest Bearing Liabilities	2,632	3,103	6,660	8,170	10,032
Total Liabilities	70,416	89,262	107,133	128,193	153,571
Shareholders Equity	23,219	28,482	33,575	40,238	47,969
Minority Interests					
Total Equity					

Key Ratios					
	Mar-23A	Mar-24A	Mar-25F	Mar-26F	Mar-27F
Total Income Growth	68.4%	35.9%	32.6%	19.3%	18.2%
Operating Profit Growth	81.2%	44.3%	28.4%	14.7%	11.5%
Pretax Profit Growth	1,991%	30%	2%	31%	16%
Net Interest To Total Income	82.7%	80.2%	82.8%	83.5%	84.4%
Cost Of Funds	10.24%	10.27%	10.10%	9.70%	9.30%
Return On Interest Earning Assets	22.9%	23.3%	23.9%	22.8%	22.2%
Net Interest Spread	12.68%	12.98%	13.85%	13.14%	12.86%
Net Interest Margin (Avg Deposits)					
Net Interest Margin (Avg RWA)					
Provisions to Pre Prov. Operating Profit	28%	35%	49%	41%	39%
Interest Return On Average Assets					
Effective Tax Rate	24.4%	23.8%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio					
Return On Average Assets					

SOURCE: INCRED RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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