

FIG  
Commercial Banks  
Equity – India

## Underweight

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Target price (INR)         | 840.00 |
| Share price (INR)          | 935.15 |
| Potential total return (%) | -10.2  |

| Performance               | 1M  | 3M   | 12M  |
|---------------------------|-----|------|------|
| Absolute (%)              | 6.8 | -5.7 | 65.2 |
| Relative <sup>A</sup> (%) | 0.8 | -3.1 | 40.6 |

Index<sup>A</sup> BOMBAY SE IDX

RIC ICBK.BO  
Bloomberg ICICIBC IN

Market cap (USDm) 20,457  
Market cap (INRm) 840,587

Free float (%) 100

30 April 2007

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Issuing office: Mumbai

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# ICICI Bank

## Profitability drivers weaker than expected

- ▶ **Q4 spurt in general provision, slower growth in fees pulled down net profit growth to 4.5% y-o-y, 13% below forecast**
- ▶ **Potential for c25% dilution if USD5bn new equity were raised**
- ▶ **Target price revised to INR840 from INR817 following rise in the benchmarks for PE, P/B and in the sum-of-parts. We retain Underweight rating**

## Timing, size of new equity a surprise

Two striking elements in the results for ICICI Bank (ICBK) were the disappointing net profit for Q4FY07 and the plan to raise USD5bn in new equity.

The below-consensus net profit of INR8.25bn (+4.5% y-o-y) was largely the result of spurt in general provisions on capital market, commercial real estate and personal loans. Other underlying reasons are the high growth in specific provisions, low growth in fees and an increase in the cost/income ratio.

The issue of USD5bn of new equity would potentially dilute earnings by close to 25%. Its timing is a surprise to us, particularly when loan growth is slowing and ROE for FY07 is reported at 13.4%, the lowest in the five years after the erstwhile ICICI Limited converted to a bank. The rationale for this issuance is stated as the opportunity presented by the unprecedented growth in the Indian infrastructure market and increased requirement for capital stemming from regulatory changes.

Our forecasts assume ICBK's loans would grow above industry levels in FY08. We also forecast a 10-bp rise in NIM over the next three years. We lower our net profit forecasts for FY08 and FY09, by 0.2% and 1.9% to INR40.7bn and INR52.4bn, respectively. Our forecasts now include FY10, with an estimated net profit of INR65.7bn.

We continue to value ICBK using a combination of DCF, PE and P/B. Our revised target price of INR840, up from INR817 previously, is a weighted average where the DCF is assigned a weight of 50% and the PE and P/B derived forecasts are assigned weights of 25% each.

The potential return for the stock is below the threshold of 8.5% for a rating of Neutral on a non-volatile stock. Therefore, we continue to rate ICBK Underweight.

## Margin expansion does not offset weak fee growth, higher provisions

### NIM expansion persists, Q4 NIM rises to 2.66%

Net interest margin for Q4FY07 was reported to be 2.66%. It had been reported to be in the range between 2.5% and 2.6% in the preceding three quarters, and at 2.47% for FY06. NIM for FY07 is reported to be 2.57%. These ratios are computed after excluding capital gain from sell-down of loans; until FY06, this item had been included within the net interest income.

The gentle rise in NIM in FY07 indicates the larger rise in loan yield relative to the rise in deposit cost. We estimate the average yield for FY07 to have risen by 110-bp y-o-y and that for Q4FY07 to have risen by 130-bp y-o-y.

### Distinct slowdown in retail and overall loan growth

Customer assets (loans) grew 35% y-o-y, a nine-quarter low, to end FY07 at INR1277bn. Q4FY07 was the fourth successive quarter to see a decline in growth. The decline in growth of the retail portfolio has now been seen for five successive quarters. The share of retail in aggregate loans decreased for the second successive quarter to reach 62%.

### Fee growth slows down to 29%, cost / income ratio rises

Fee income for Q4FY07 grew 29% y-o-y to INR14.3bn while that for FY07 grew 45% y-o-y to INR50.1bn. A distinct slowdown is seen in growth of fees compared with 53% y-o-y growth for the nine-month period ended December 2006. It appears that the streak of very high growth in fees that began in FY04 may have come to an end. For most of the past four years, fee income had grown faster than loans.

The ratio of operating expense to operating income rose to 51.8% for Q4FY07. It was 46.4% for the nine-month period ended December 2006, and was 48.8% for FY06.

### Spurt in loan provisions largely driven by mandated rise in general provisions

General provisions (GP) for Q4FY07 grew 402% y-o-y to INR4.6bn. Of this amount, INR3.1bn is attributed to the mandated increase in GP on loans made to some categories of standard assets to 2%. These include personal loans, capital market exposure, commercial real estate and loans to non-bank finance companies. Overall GP for FY07 grew 116% y-o-y. The spurt in GP for Q4FY07 is the single biggest element that pulled down the net profit below expectations.

However, the larger stress on profitability has been the 230% y-o-y rise in specific provisions (net of write-off) for FY07. If annualised, the specific provisions for FY07 are 84-bp of loans compared with 36-bp for FY06. If adjusted for recoveries in FY06, the provisions for FY07 would appear to have grown by c50%, still in excess of loan growth. It also points to rising delinquency during the year. FY07 has seen a sustained and large rise in lending yields. Some of the increases that were applied in Q4FY07 may only be effective in early FY08. Therefore, the trend in asset quality and provisions needs to be watched closely in the near term.

## Ambitious plan to raise USD5bn

The board of ICBK has approved a proposal to raise INR200bn (USD5bn) of new equity by way of a public offer in India, and issue of American Depository Shares in the United States. No further details are currently available on these proposed issuances. In response to questions in the analyst meeting held on 28 April 2007, ICBK's management referred to the plans in India to invest several hundred billions of USD in investments that could potentially double the infrastructure of the country within a decade. The proposed offering of equity is planned in the context of this unprecedented wave of economic activity. Management also referred to China as a benchmark.

At the closing price of the local stock on 27 April, ICBK had a market capitalisation of INR840bn (USD20.5bn). The proposed issue would therefore dilute the current equity capital by 24.4%.

## We commence forecasts for FY10

We lower our net profit forecasts for FY08 and FY09, by 0.2% and 1.9% to INR40.7bn and INR52.4bn, respectively. Our forecasts now include FY10, with an estimated net profit of INR65.7bn. These forecasts are based on estimated loan growth of 28%, 19% and 16%. We also forecast a 10-bp rise in NIM over these three years.

## Revise target price to INR840, maintain Underweight

We continue to value ICBK using a combination of DCF, PE and P/B. The three-stage DCF uses explicit forecasts until FY10 followed by 10 years of semi-explicit forecasts where we assume 18% loan CAGR and 30% dividend payout. The final stage of 12 years assumes the ROE declines to reach the COE (assumed to be 13.5%). This method results in a value of INR795.5 per share. This includes INR117 being the estimated value of ICBK's stakes in associates and subsidiaries.

We apply the mean PE (21.7x) and the mean P/B (2.7x) for the 12-month period ended March 2007 to the forecast EPS and book value at March 2008. These methods result in values of INR984 and INR784 respectively. These benchmarks have risen in the past quarter leading to higher values.

Our target price of INR840, up from INR817 previously, is a weighted average where the DCF is assigned a weight of 50% and the PE and P/B derived forecasts are assigned weights of 25% each.

The potential return for the stock is below the threshold of 8.5% for a rating of Neutral on a non-volatile stock. Therefore, we continue to rate ICBK Underweight.

## Risk factors

*Net interest margin may rise above our forecasts resulting in a higher net profit.* Loan yields may rise faster than deposit costs leading to margin expansion extending beyond our estimates.

*Asset quality may stabilise leading to lower NPL provisions.* ICBK's lending processes have improved over the past decade and this could contain loan delinquency leading to lower NPLs.

## Financials & valuation

### Financial statements

| Year to                       | 03/2007a | 03/2008e | 03/2009e | 03/2010e |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>P&amp;L summary (INRm)</b> |          |          |          |          |
| Net interest income           | 66,358   | 87,823   | 106,790  | 129,505  |
| Net fees/commissions          | 50,528   | 57,617   | 69,847   | 79,390   |
| Trading profits               | 150      | -4,085   | -6,132   | -6,710   |
| Other income                  | 8,614    | 6,439    | 6,290    | 6,336    |
| Total income                  | 125,650  | 147,795  | 176,794  | 208,522  |
| Operating expense             | -66,906  | -76,901  | -89,874  | -103,846 |
| Bad debt charge               | -22,264  | -22,291  | -23,251  | -23,305  |
| Other                         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| HSBC PBT                      | 36,480   | 48,603   | 63,669   | 81,371   |
| Exceptionals                  | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| PBT                           | 36,480   | 48,603   | 63,669   | 81,371   |
| Taxation                      | -5,378   | -7,904   | -11,299  | -15,646  |
| Minorities + preferences      | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| Attributable profit           | 31,102   | 40,699   | 52,370   | 65,725   |
| HSBC attributable profit      | 31,102   | 40,699   | 52,370   | 65,725   |

### Balance sheet summary (INRm)

|                          |           |           |           |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Ordinary equity          | 243,130   | 271,228   | 300,939   | 340,464   |
| HSBC ordinary equity     | 243,130   | 271,228   | 300,939   | 340,464   |
| Customer loans           | 248,478   | 333,331   | 405,533   | 482,203   |
| Debt securities holdings | 963,840   | 1,172,045 | 1,385,230 | 1,576,429 |
| Customer deposits        | 2,149,683 | 2,906,541 | 3,559,809 | 4,209,573 |
| Interest earning assets  | 1,555,889 | 1,911,051 | 2,278,532 | 2,661,970 |
| Total assets             | 1,587,274 | 1,947,678 | 2,300,033 | 2,669,259 |

### Capital (%)

|               |           |           |           |           |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| RWA (INRm)    | 2,899,930 | 3,589,358 | 4,015,003 | 4,654,439 |
| Core tier 1   | 0.0       | 0.0       | 0.0       | 0.0       |
| Total tier 1  | 7.4       | 6.3       | 6.2       | 6.0       |
| Total capital | 11.7      | 9.9       | 9.5       | 8.9       |

### Ratio, growth & per share analysis

| Year to                      | 03/2007a | 03/2008e | 03/2009e | 03/2010e |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Year-on-year % change</b> |          |          |          |          |
| Total income                 | 50.2     | 17.6     | 19.6     | 17.9     |
| Operating expense            | 49.4     | 14.9     | 16.9     | 15.5     |
| Pre-provision profit         | 51.1     | 20.7     | 22.6     | 20.4     |
| HSBC EPS                     | 21.2     | 30.9     | 28.7     | 25.5     |
| DPS                          | 7.7      | 19.4     | 16.7     | 7.1      |
| NAV (including goodwill)     | 8.4      | 11.6     | 11.0     | 13.1     |

### Ratios (%)

|                              |      |      |      |      |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Cost/income ratio            | 53.2 | 52.0 | 50.8 | 49.8 |
| Bad debt charge              | 10.6 | 7.7  | 6.3  | 5.3  |
| Customer loans/deposits      | 11.6 | 11.5 | 11.4 | 11.5 |
| NPL/loan                     | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  |
| NPL/RWA                      | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  |
| Provision to risk assets/RWA | 64.8 | 65.9 | 69.8 | 69.5 |
| Net write-off/RWA            | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  |
| Coverage                     | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  |
| ROE (including goodwill)     | 13.4 | 15.8 | 18.3 | 20.5 |

### Per share data (INR)

|                              |        |        |        |        |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| EPS reported (fully diluted) | 50.46  | 66.03  | 84.96  | 106.63 |
| HSBC EPS (fully diluted)     | 50.46  | 66.03  | 84.96  | 106.63 |
| DPS                          | 10.05  | 12.00  | 14.00  | 15.00  |
| NAV                          | 270.44 | 301.70 | 334.75 | 378.71 |
| NAV (including goodwill)     | 270.44 | 301.70 | 334.75 | 378.71 |

### Core profitability (% RWAs) and leverage

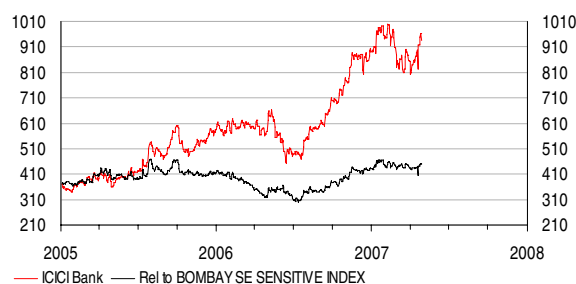
| Year to                  | 03/2007a | 03/2008e | 03/2009e | 03/2010e |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Net interest income      | 2.7      | 2.7      | 2.8      | 3.0      |
| Trading profits          | 0.0      | -0.1     | -0.2     | -0.2     |
| Other income             | 0.3      | 0.2      | 0.2      | 0.1      |
| Operating expense        | -2.7     | -2.4     | -2.4     | -2.4     |
| Pre-provision profit     | 2.4      | 2.2      | 2.3      | 2.4      |
| Bad debt charge          | -0.9     | -0.7     | -0.6     | -0.5     |
| HSBC attributable profit | 1.2      | 1.3      | 1.4      | 1.5      |
| Leverage (x)             | 10.7     | 12.6     | 13.3     | 13.5     |
| Return on average tier 1 | 14.5     | 18.0     | 21.1     | 23.6     |

### Valuation data

| Year to                    | 03/2007a | 03/2008e | 03/2009e | 03/2010e |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| PE*                        | 18.5     | 14.2     | 11.0     | 8.8      |
| Pre-provision multiple     | 14.3     | 11.9     | 9.7      | 8.0      |
| P/NAV                      | 3.5      | 3.1      | 2.8      | 2.5      |
| Equity cash flow yield (%) | -3.1     | -0.9     | 2.7      | 2.5      |
| Dividend yield (%)         | 1.1      | 1.3      | 1.5      | 1.6      |

Note: \* = Based on HSBC EPS (fully diluted)

### Price relative



Source: HSBC

Note: price at close of 27 Apr 2007

# Disclosure appendix

## Analyst certification

The following analyst(s), who is(are) primarily responsible for this report, certifies(y) that the views expressed herein accurately reflect their personal view(s) about the subject security(ies) and issuer(s) and that no part of their compensation was, is or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendation(s) or views contained in this research report: Anand Shanbhag and Saumya Agarwal

## Important disclosures

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HSBC believes that investors utilise various disciplines and investment horizons when making investment decisions, which depend largely on individual circumstances such as the investor's existing holdings, risk tolerance and other considerations. Given these differences, HSBC has two principal aims in its equity research: 1) to identify long-term investment opportunities based on particular themes or ideas that may affect the future earnings or cash flows of companies on a 12 month time horizon; and 2) from time to time to identify short-term investment opportunities that are derived from fundamental, quantitative, technical or event-driven techniques on a 0-3 month time horizon and which may differ from our long-term investment rating. HSBC has assigned ratings for its long-term investment opportunities as described below.

This report addresses only the long-term investment opportunities of the companies referred to in the report. As and when HSBC publishes a short-term trading idea the stocks to which these relate are identified on the website at [www.hsbcnet.com/research](http://www.hsbcnet.com/research). Details of these short-term investment opportunities can be found under the Reports section of this website.

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## Rating definitions for long-term investment opportunities

### Stock ratings

HSBC assigns ratings to its stocks in this sector on the following basis:

For each stock we set a required rate of return calculated from the risk free rate for that stock's domestic, or as appropriate, regional market and the relevant equity risk premium established by our strategy team. The price target for a stock represents the value the analyst expects the stock to reach over our performance horizon. The performance horizon is 12 months. For a stock to be classified as Overweight, the implied return must exceed the required return by at least 5 percentage points over the next 12 months (or 10 percentage points for a stock classified as Volatile\*). For a stock to be classified as Underweight, the stock must be expected to underperform its required return by at least 5 percentage points over the next 12 months (or 10 percentage points for a stock classified as Volatile\*). Stocks between these bands are classified as Neutral.

Our ratings are re-calibrated against these bands at the time of any 'material change' (initiation of coverage, change of volatility status or change in price target). Notwithstanding this, and although ratings are subject to ongoing management review, expected returns will be permitted to move outside the bands as a result of normal share price fluctuations without necessarily triggering a rating change.

\*A stock will be classified as volatile if its historical volatility has exceeded 40%, if the stock has been listed for less than 12 months (unless it is in an industry or sector where volatility is low) or if the analyst expects significant volatility. However, stocks which we do not consider volatile may in fact also behave in such a way. Historical volatility is defined as the past month's average of the daily 365-day moving average volatilities. In order to avoid misleadingly frequent changes in rating, however, volatility has to move 2.5 percentage points past the 40% benchmark in either direction for a stock's status to change.

Prior to this, from 7 June 2005 HSBC applied a ratings structure which ranked the stocks according to their notional target price vs current market price and then categorised (approximately) the top 40% as Overweight, the next 40% as Neutral and the last 20% as Underweight. The performance horizon is 2 years. The notional target price was defined as the mid-point of the analysts' valuation for a stock.

From 15 November 2004 to 7 June 2005, HSBC carried no ratings and concentrated on long-term thematic reports which identified themes and trends in industries, but did not make a conclusion as to the investment action that potential investors should take.

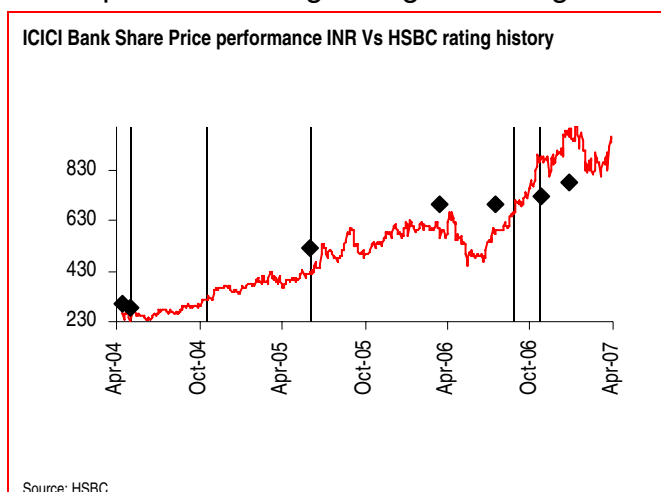
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As of 30 April 2007, the distribution of all ratings published is as follows:

|                           |     |  |
|---------------------------|-----|--|
| <b>Overweight (Buy)</b>   | 42% | (16% of these provided with Investment Banking Services) |
| <b>Neutral (Hold)</b>     | 37% | (17% of these provided with Investment Banking Services) |
| <b>Underweight (Sell)</b> | 21% | (14% of these provided with Investment Banking Services) |

## Share price and rating changes for long-term investment opportunities



### Recommendation & price target history

| From         | To          | Date              |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Hold         | Buy         | 01 June 2004      |
| Buy          | N/R         | 15 November 2004  |
| N/R          | Overweight  | 01 July 2005      |
| Overweight   | Neutral     | 22 September 2006 |
| Neutral      | Underweight | 21 November 2006  |
| Target Price | Value       | Date              |
| Price 1      | 300.00      | 14 May 2004       |
| Price 2      | 285.00      | 01 June 2004      |
| Price 3      | N/R         | 15 November 2004  |
| Price 4      | 518.44      | 01 July 2005      |
| Price 5      | 695.00      | 11 April 2006     |
| Price 6      | 691.00      | 15 August 2006    |
| Price 7      | 728.00      | 21 November 2006  |
| Price 8      | 781.00      | 22 January 2007   |
| Price 9      | 817.00      | 13 February 2007  |

Source: HSBC

## HSBC & Analyst disclosures

### Disclosure checklist

| Company    | Ticker  | Recent price | Price Date  | Disclosure |
|------------|---------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| ICICI BANK | ICBK.NS | 935.15       | 27-Apr-2007 | 2, 6, 7, 9 |

Source: HSBC

- 1 HSBC\* has managed or co-managed a public offering of securities for this company within the past 12 months.
  - 2 HSBC expects to receive or intends to seek compensation for investment banking services from this company in the next 3 months.
  - 3 At the time of publication of this report, HSBC is a market maker in securities issued by this company.
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  - 9 A covering analyst/s or a member of his/her household has a financial interest in the securities of this company, as detailed below.
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