Quick Insight | BFSI | 27 January 2011



Incorporating Execution Noble

LIC Housing Finance

Pent-up demand to drive growth in Q4

LIC's share price crashed 42% post the "bribe for loan" scam, driven by concerns around loan book growth and quality and corporate governance. The current results have allayed investors' concerns around growth and credit quality. However, we remain cautious on the impact of the bribe for loan scam on the growth of the business and hence, reduced our loan book growth forecast by c.5ppts for FY'12 Fair Value (Ps) onwards leading to a reduction to our fair value by c.20% from Rs321 to Rs255. At Rs176, LICHF is trading at a FY'12E P/B of 1.8x and still has substantial upside potential of c.40% even on our reduced fair value.

Q3'11 results ahead of expectations

Driven by a 21bps QoQ improvement in net interest margin and 9% QoQ increase in loan book, the group's operating profits, excluding one-off provisions for teaser loans (mandated by NHB) and profit on account of capital gains from sale of the LIC mutual fund business, were c.15-20% ahead of our and consensus estimates. This helped allay concerns around credit quality and growth created by the bribe for loan scam. We believe this earnings momentum should continue given:

- Continued loan growth momentum: The loan book grew sequentially at 9% QoQ and 36% YoY, and this growth should continue given: a) higher retention of clients by LICHF (average duration of six to seven years compared with three years for HDFC); b) an underpenetrated mortgage market providing ample opportunity for structural growth; and c) management further emphasising that loan growth in Q4'11 would be higher because of the release of backlog builder loans created in Q3'11 owing to the bribe for loan controversy. However, we reduce our loan book growth assumptions for FY12 onwards by c.5ppts as we expect a cautious approach from management after the bribe for loan scam.
- NIMs to remain strong: Although we expected the NIMs to remain strong, a 21bps sequential increase comes as a surprise given that interest rates increased in Q3'11. With the cost of funds expected to go up further, given the tight liquidity situation and expectation of a further increase in repo rates, we would estimate some rise in cost of funds and reduction in NIMs. However, we do not expect the NIM to go down substantially and believe it will remain in the 2.7-2.9% range as: a) LICHF is one of better placed players in the rising interest rate environment given that 45% of its liabilities and only 65% of assets are on floating rates; any increase in interest rates would be beneficial for the company and should help it maintain net interest margins in the 2.7-2.9% range; and b) with the promotional rate scheme "8.9% fixed for 3 years" loan portfolio starting to be converted into floating rates in the next 12-18 months, we think there could be further support for net interest margins.
- Improvement in operating margin: The operating margin excluding exceptionals, at 86.5%, is better than our full-year estimate of 85%, and we expect margins to improve further because of economies of scale to 87-88% by FY'15E.
- Improved credit quality: Credit quality improved further in Q3'11 with gross NPLs declining sequentially to 0.67% from 0.74% and net NPLs declining to 0.18% from 0.21%. NPLs on the controversial builders loans were negligible at 0.08%, suggesting the scam had no impact on the credit quality of the loan book.

Valuation

Pricing in the impact of the "bribe for loan scam" by reducing our loan book growth assumptions by 5ppts from FY12 onwards, our "excess return to equity" calculation values LICHF at Rs. 255 (20% lower than our earlier valuation of Rs321) suggesting 40% upside potential, implied FY12E BV of 2.5x, FY12E earnings of 11.3x. Consensus EPS estimates imply that LICHF is currently trading at more than a 50% discount on FY'12E P/BV to its housing finance peers and a 16% discount on FY'12E P/BV to other NBFCs. We expect this discount to narrow as the market gains more confidence in the new CEO and concerns regarding the "bribe for loan scam" slowly subside.

Accounting & corporate governance	Amber
Franchise Strength	Green
Earnings Momentum	Green

1	_			-				
ı	0		11	•			10%	upside
ı		L	J١	•			4070	upside

raii value (RS)	
	_
Bloomberg Code	LICHF.IN
Share Price (Rs)	176
Market Cap (Rs bn / US\$ bn)	88.5 / 1,936
Free Float / FII holding	63%/33%
ADV (\$ mn/ Rs mn)	\$5 mn/Rs 225 mn

255

Rs m (unless stated) March YE	2010A	2011E	2012E	2013E
Income	10,796	16,743	18,163	21,708
Pre-prov. profit	8,868	14,546	15,577	18,831
Operating margin	82%	87%	86%	87%
PBT	9,086	11,823	14,666	17,913
EPS (Rs.)	15.3	18.1	22.4	27.4
DPS (Rs.)	3.2	3.7	4.6	5.7
ROE	24.1%	22.8%	23.7%	24.1%

Valuation (x)	2010A	2011E	2012E	2013E
P/E	12.2	10.3	8.3	6.8
P/B	2.6	2.2	1.8	1.5
Dividend Yield				
(%)	1.7%	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%

Historical share price performance



Source: Bloomberg

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Q3'11 ahead of expectations

Table 1: Q3'11 performance vs consensus

(Rs million)	Q3 FY10	Q3 FY11 A	YoY growth	Q2 FY11	QoQ growth	Q3 FY11E Consensus	% Gap
Interest Income	8336	11615		10429			
Interest Expense	6057	8093		7378			
Net Interest Income	2280	3522	54%	3051	15%	3504	1%
NIM		3.14%		2.93%			
Fee Income	446	516		573		126	
Other Income	22	1413		72		75	
Total Income	2748	5451	98%	3696	47%	3705	47%
Operating expenses	408	545		487		568	
Operating Costs	285	348		322			
Employee Costs	123	198		165			
Pre Provisioning Profit	2340	4906	110%	3209	53%	3137	56%
Provisions (inc. 200bps one off provisioning on teaser loans)	158	2328		3		60	3780%
Operating Profit	2182	2578	18%	3206	-20%	3077	-16%
Operating profit excl exceptional	2182	3578	62%	3206	11%	3077	17%
Depreciation	17	15		16		33	
PBT	2165	2563	18%	3190	-20%	3110	-18%
Net Profit	1536	2135		2342		2345	
EPS (Rs)-Diluted	3.24	4.5	39%	4.93	-9%	4.74	-5%

Source: Company filings, ESIB inc Execution Noble estimates

Changes to estimates

Post Q3 FY'11 results, we adjust our loan book growth assumptions for FY'12 onwards. We reduce our loan book growth assumptions for FY'12 from 30% YoY to 25% YoY given there is a new CEO at the helm and he is likely to be cautious in the near term regarding growth. The lower loan book is compensated by higher NIMs for FY'12 given that NIMs remained strong in Q3 FY'11. We increase our FY'12 NIM from 2.69% to 2.75%, still below the 3.14% seen during Q3 FY'11; hence, our total income estimate is only marginally below our previous estimate. We reduce our expense estimate because of economies of scale in the business. Overall, our PBT estimate for FY'12 remains broadly unchanged. However, the impact of lower loan book growth would be more profound on our estimates from FY'12 onwards, since we have kept our NIM forecasts at the earlier level of 2.7%.

Table 2: Old vs New

	Old		Ne	ew	% Cha	nge
Rs millions	FY'11	FY'12	FY'11	FY'12	FY'11	FY'12
Loan Book	512,562	666,331	512,036	640,046	-0.1%	-3.9%
Net Interest Income	12,677	15,837	12,956	15,849	2.2%	0.1%
Total Income	14,885	18,435	16,743	18,163	12.5%	-1.5%
Operating expenses	2,304	2,725	2,197	2,586	-4.6%	-5.1%
Pre Provisioning Profit	12,581	15,710	14,546	15,577	15.6%	-0.8%
Provisions	689	861	2,662	844	286.4%	-2.0%
Operating Profit	11,892	14,849	11,884	14,733	-0.1%	-0.8%
PBT	11,831	14,782	11,823	14,666	-0.1%	-0.8%
PAT	8,590	10,732	8,584	10,647	-0.1%	-0.8%
EPS (Rs)-Diluted	18.1	22.6	18.1	22.4	-0.1%	-0.8%
Dividend per share(Rs)	3.7	4.7	3.7	4.6	-0.1%	-0.8%

Source: Company filings, ESIB inc Execution Noble estimates

Key assumptions & estimates

Table 3: Key assumptions and estimates

All figures in Rs m	FY10	FY11E	FY12E	FY13E	Comments
Yield and margins (%)*					
Yield on advances	10.2%	10.1%	10.7%	10.9%	We expect the company to end FY'11 with a 100bps YoY decline in yields to 10.1%. Yields increase in FY12 and FY13 as we expect general interest rates in the market to increase.
Cost of funds	8.0%	8.2%	8.5%	8.5%	We expect the cost of funds to increase by 20bps in FY'11 owing to the higher interest rate regime in the year. We expect a further increase in cost of funds in FY12 with an increase in general interest rate in the economy.
Net interest margin	2.7%	2.9%	2.8%	2.7%	Although we believe LICHF is well placed to tackle the interest rate hikes, we forecast a slight decline to NIMs being on the conservative side.
Balance sheet (Rs bn)	FY10	FY11E	FY12E	FY13E	Comments
Advances YoY growth (%)	38%	34%	25%	20%	We have marginally reduced our FY10-13 CAGR from 30% to 25% (credit grew at a CAGR of 30% between FY08-10) on account of conservative loan book growth by the new management team post the "bribe for loan" scandal.
Debt to equity ratio (x)	10.1	11.4	12.4	12.4	We increase our debt-to-equity ratio to 12.4x, still within the comfort zone of credit rating agencies.
Key outputs (Rs m)	FY10	FY11E	FY12E	FY13E	Comments
Net interest income (NII) YoY growth (%)	20%	46%	22%	22%	We expect NII growth in FY11 to be 46% owing to: (a) 20bps increase in NIM; and (b) credit growth at 35%.
Other income YoY growth (%)	29%	97%	-39%	4%	
Operating expenses YoY growth (%)	28%	14%	18%	11%	We expect operating expenses to increase slower than revenues because only 25% of expenses are variable in nature.
Pre-provisioning profit YoY growth (%)	21%	64%	7%	21%	(Please refer to above.)
Provisions YoY growth (%)	-639%	-1039%	-68%	0%	Assuming gross NPAs of 0.70% in FY'11, FY'12 and FY'13, and the company maintaining a provisioning coverage of 80%.
Net profit Source: Bloomberg, ESIB inc Execution	24%	30%	24%	22%	(Please refer to above.)

Source: Bloomberg, ESIB inc Execution Noble estimates

, "We use historical data for yield on advances, cost of deposits and net interest margins on calculated basis to ensure data consistency

Valuation

We value the company on "excess return to equity" model. Our excess return metric is 'net profits - (cost of equity*beginning book value)' for all future years discounted back to present day at cost of equity.

Our excess return to equity model has three distinct phases:

- 1) FY'11-FY'14: We model each year discretely, resulting in net profit CAGR of 21% (25% earlier) to hit an ROE of 24% in FY'14.
- 2) FY'15-FY'20: Net profit CAGR of 15% (18% earlier) and ROE gradually fades to 22% (higher ROEs owing to 12x leverage) by FY'20.
- 3) From FY'20: Net profit CAGR of 4%, maintaining an ROE of 15%.

Based on the assumptions shown in Table 3 and assuming (a) cost of equity of 15% and (b) terminal growth of 5%, our "excess return to equity" model values LICHF at Rs 255 (implied FY'12E BV of 2.5x, FY'12E earnings of 11x) implying upside potential of 37% from these levels. This is 20% lower than our earlier valuation of Rs 321 given that the scandal is likely to have a damaging impact on the group's reputation and, consequently, on future business, felt both on the asset side with a slower growth trajectory under a new cautious 'once bitten, twice shy' management, and on the liability side, LICHF could also face rising funding costs as a result of the scam.

Relative valuation

Despite providing comparable ROEs, LICHF trades at a 41% discount on FY'12 P/BV and a 50% discount on FY'12 P/E to its HFC peers, and a 16% discount to other NBFCs on FY'12 P/BV. In the immediate aftermath of such a scandal we think that is understandable, but given its sustainable competitive advantages of access to low-cost funds, access to the LIC name and access to LIC's distribution agents, this discount should narrow in time as investors gain confidence in the company's new CEO and corporate governance practices.



Table 4: LICHF trades at a discount to other HFCs and NBFCs

Company	Price (INR)	Market CAP	Asset Size	ROE (%)		ROA (%)		P/E	BV(x)	P/E (x)	
		(\$ mn)	(US\$ mn)	FY10E	FY11E	FY10E	FY11E	FY11E	FY12E	FY11E	FY12E
Housing Finance Cos.											
HDFC Ltd.	664	21,247	31,494	20.0	20.8	2.7	2.7	5.3	4.6	28.1	23.7
Dewan Housing Finance	267	606	2,269	22.0		1.7	1.6	2.0	1.7	13.5	10.7
Average	-	-	-	21.0	20.8	2.2	2.3	3.6	3.2	20.8	17.2
LIC Housing Finance	185	1,919	8,819	22.8	23.7	1.9	1.8	2.1	1.8	10.2	8.3
Other NBFCs											
IDFC	155	4,962	7,617	15.0	14.4	3.3	3.1	2.1	1.8	16.7	13.6
Shriram Transport Finance	725	3,588	5,903	29.3	31.1	4.6	5.1	3.3	2.6	12.9	9.5
Indiabulls Financial Services	168	1,140	2,959	13.2	NA	2.7	NA	NA	NA	8.9	6.8
Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services	697	1,477	2,012	23.9	23.6	4.5	4.3	3.2	2.5	14.3	11.5
Power Finance Corporation	277	6,951	18,569	17.7	16.8	2.6	2.6	2.1	1.7	11.9	10.4
Rural Electrification Ltd.	274	5,923	15,226	20.8	22.2	3.2	3.2	2.1	1.8	10.7	8.4
Average	-	-	-	18.2	20.1	3.4	3.6	2.6	2.1	12.6	10.0

Source: Bloomberg, ESIB inc Execution Noble estimates

Traffic lights

Table 5: Traffic lights: criteria for judgement

Parameter	Traffic signal	Reasons
Accounting & governance	Amber	We give a amber flag to the company because of: a) The involvement of top management in the "Bribe for loan" scandal; and b) Concerns around governance issues raised because of the "Bribe for loan" scandal.
Franchise strength	GREEN	A strong brand that helps on both sides of balance sheet along with a competitive advantage on cost of funding and two decades of experience in the industry.
Earnings momentum	GREEN	Earning momentum remains strong with the loan book expected to grow at c.20% for the next 3-4years.

Source: Bloomberg, ESIB inc Execution Noble estimates

Summary financials

All figures in Rs m unless stated. Financial year-end is March

Income Statement	2008A	2009A	2010E	2011E	2012E	2013E
Net Interest Income	5,626	7,381	8,877	12,956	15,849	19,298
Fee Income	526	682	1,274	2,122	2,016	2,112
Other Income	747	802	645	1,665	298	298
Total Income	6,899	8,864	10,796	16,743	18,163	21,708
Operating expenses	1,305	1,508	1,928	2,197	2,586	2,878
Operating Costs	956	1,056	1,404	1,477	1,842	2,053
Employee Costs	349	452	524	719	745	825
Pre Provisioning Profit	5,594	7,356	8,868	14,546	15,577	18,831
Provisions	243	53	-283	2,662	844	844
Operating Profit	5,352	7,304	9,151	11,884	14,733	17,987
Depreciation	38	51	65	61	67	74
PBT	5,314	7,253	9,086	11,823	14,666	17,913
Less:Tax	1,451	1,948	2,492	3,239	4,018	4,908
PAT	3,862	5,304	6,594	8,584	10,647	13,005
Share of Profit of Associate	53	78	285	0	0	0
Net Profit	3,916	5,382	6,879	8,584	10,647	13,005
EPS (Rs)-Diluted	9.2	12.7	15.3	18.1	22.4	27.4
Diluted EPS (Rs)	9.2	12.7	15.3	18.1	22.4	27.4
Dividend per share(Rs)	0.4	0.5	3.2	3.7	4.6	5.7

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Balance Sheet	2008A	2009A	2010E	2011E	2012E	2013E
Sources of Funds						
Equity	850	850	950	950	950	950
Reserves and Surplus	17,694	21,776	33,478	39,986	48,058	57,917
Net Worth	18,544	22,626	34,428	40,936	49,008	58,867
Borrowings	203,444	254,217	347,582	466,012	609,567	731,481
Total Sources of funds	221,988	276,843	382,010	506,948	658,575	790,347
Application of Funds						
Loan Book	219,364	276,793	380,814	512,036	640,046	768,055
Investments	7,936	11,485	14,332	19,215	25,134	30,161
Fixed Assets	297	438	450	450	450	450
Other Assets	1,021	992	935	890	890	890
Net working Capital	-6,632	-12,867	-14,523	-25,646	-7,947	-9,210
Total Application of funds	221,988	276,843	382,010	506,948	658,575	790,347

Operating Metrics	2008A	2009A	2010E	2011E	2012E	2013E
Spread analysis						
Yield on Loans	10.3%	11.3%	10.2%	10.1%	10.7%	10.9%
Cost of funds	8.1%	8.8%	8.0%	8.2%	8.5%	8.5%
Spread	2.2%	2.5%	2.3%	1.9%	2.2%	2.3%
NIM	2.8%	3.0%	2.7%	2.9%	2.8%	2.7%
Efficiency ratios (%)						
Operating Cost/Income	19%	17%	18%	13%	14%	13%
Credit Quality (%)						
Gross NPAs	1.70%	1.10%	0.69%	0.67%	0.70%	0.72%
Net NPAs	0.6%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Provisioning Coverage	62.2%	80.9%	82.4%	80.4%	80.4%	80.4%
Capital ratios						
Debt to Equity	11.0	11.2	10.1	11.4	12.4	12.4
Capital Adequacy Ratio	13.3%	13.5%	14.3%	13.7%	13.3%	13.3%
Return ratios						
ROA	1.9%	2.1%	2.0%	1.9%	1.8%	1.8%
ROE	22.9%	26.1%	24.1%	22.8%	23.7%	24.1%
Valuation ratios						
P/E	20.3	14.8	12.2	10.3	8.3	6.8
P/BV	21.4	17.5	2.6	2.2	1.8	1.5
Dividend Yield	0.2%	0.3%	1.7%	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%

Source: Bloomberg, ESIB inc Execution Noble estimates

Net interest income CAGR of 30% between FY'10-FY'13 driven by loan CAGR of 26% during the period

Net profit CAGR of 24% between FY'10-FY'13

Loan book CAGR of 30% between FY'10-FY'13

NIM to decrease marginally from FY'11 to FY'13

Slight increase in gross NPAs between FY'10-13



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A rating of Sell indicates that the analyst has a high conviction that the stock will underperform their relevant sector index over the next twelve months.

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Hold	56	23.43%	0	%	
Sell	72	30.13%	1	7.690%	

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Negative	Sell	
Neutral	Hold	
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