Change in opinion

✓

Rating change ☑
Target price change ☑
Estimate change ☑



Company Focus

2 February 2008 | 9 pages

Oriental Bank of Commerce (ORBC.BO)

Upgrading to Buy: Value, Not Vogue

- Upgrading to Buy We are upgrading OBC to Buy (1M) from Hold (2M) on the back of: a) Cheap valuations the stock trades at 0.9x FY09E BV (20-40% discount to peers); b) Lower interest rate environment cutting risk free rate to 7.5% (from 8%); and c) Weak operating performance and low returns notwithstanding, OBC is a good bank franchise with strong geographical presence, and operating performance can be reversible in a short-time frame.
- Weak P&L performance, but recoverable OBC's P&L has been modest; another quarter running, margins are down 40bp yoy, fee income growth has been tepid, and the provisioning write-back cycle is now probably done. While flux at the top management level has probably contributed and we are not aware of any meaningful strategic push / course correction that will reverse this near term the good franchise, strong balance sheet, low cost ratios and modest size should all enable a quick operating turnaround. In sum, the P&L is not attractive and we are not saying its happening, but it is not a difficult fix.
- Balance sheet is healthy and there is capital OBC has a healthy balance sheet; NPLs are generally fine (net NPA 0.7%), and there is adequate capital. In addition, its geography (Delhi and North India), branch network and low cost ratios suggest intrinsic value well exceeds its sub book value multiples.
- Revising target to Rs310 based on EVA On lower risk free rates, revised asset quality forecasts, higher yields and industry benchmarks, in part offset by our 20-21% earnings cut over FY08-09E. Valuations also benchmarked against 1.2x FY09E PBV, the lowest amongst our coverage banks.

Buy/Medium Risk	1 M
from Hold/Medium Risk	
Price (01 Feb 08)	Rs247.65
Target price	Rs310.00
from Rs285.00	
Expected share price return	25.2%
Expected dividend yield	1.8%
Expected total return	27.0%
Market Cap	Rs62,046M
	US\$1,580M

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140				
	30	29	28	31
	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec

Price Performance (RIC: ORBC.BO. BB: OBC IN)

(RsM)	Diluted EPS (Rs)	EPS growth (%)	P/E	P/B	ROE	Yield
5 5 7 0		(,0)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)
5,572	25.15	-36.4	9.8	1.4	16.4	1.8
5,808	23.18	-7.8	10.7	1.2	12.2	1.8
6,112	24.40	5.2	10.2	1.1	11.2	1.8
7,486	29.88	22.5	8.3	0.9	11.9	1.8
11,186	44.65	49.4	5.5	0.8	15.5	1.8
d	6,112 7,486	6,112 24.40 7,486 29.88 11,186 44.65	6,112 24.40 5.2 7,486 29.88 22.5 11,186 44.65 49.4	6,112 24.40 5.2 10.2 7,486 29.88 22.5 8.3 11,186 44.65 49.4 5.5	6,112 24.40 5.2 10.2 1.1 7,486 29.88 22.5 8.3 0.9 11,186 44.65 49.4 5.5 0.8	6,112 24.40 5.2 10.2 1.1 11.2 7,486 29.88 22.5 8.3 0.9 11.9 11,186 44.65 49.4 5.5 0.8 15.5

See Appendix A-1 for Analyst Certification and important disclosures.

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Fiscal year end 31-Mar	2006	2007	2008E	2009E	2010E
Valuation Ratios					
P/E adjusted (x)	9.8	10.7	10.2	8.3	5.5
P/E reported (x)	9.8	10.7	10.2	8.3	5.5
P/BV (x)	1.4	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.8
P/Adjusted BV diluted (x)	1.4	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.8
Dividend yield (%)	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Per Share Data (Rs)					
EPS adjusted	25.15	23.18	24.40	29.88	44.65
EPS reported	25.15	23.18	24.40	29.88	44.65
BVPS	177.13	204.04	233.15	267.68	307.27
Tangible BVPS	177.13	204.04	233.15	267.68	307.27
Adjusted BVPS diluted	177.13	204.04	233.15	267.68	307.27
DPS	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
Profit & Loss (RsM)					
Net interest income	16,051	16,913	16,353	20,106	24,830
Fees and commissions	2,043	3,032	3,336	3,669	4,036
Other operating Income	3,317	3,083	3,135	3,404	3,711
Total operating income	21,411	23,029	22,824	27,180	32,577
Total operating expenses	-9,659	-9,979	-11,017	-12,412	-13,992
Oper. profit bef. provisions	11,753	13,050	11,808	14,767	18,585
Bad debt provisions	-53	1,187	-128	-1,139	-2,105
Non-operating/exceptionals	-5,967	-6,168	-2,948	-2,934	-500
Pre-tax profit	5,733	8,069	8,732	10,694	15,980
Tax	-161	-2,261	-2,620	-3,208	-4,794
Extraord./Min. Int./Pref. Div.	0	0	0	0	0
Attributable profit	5,572	5,808	6,112	7,486	11,186
Adjusted earnings	5,572	5,808	6,112	7,486	11,186
Growth Rates (%)					
EPS adjusted	-36.4	-7.8	5.2	22.5	49.4
Oper. profit bef. prov.	-5.0	11.0	-9.5	25.1	25.9
Balance Sheet (RsM)					
Total assets	582,043	734,481	879,336	1,021,084	1,172,894
Avg interest earning assets	557,539	654,742	800,347	941,597	1,087,123
Customer loans	356,876	456,001	555,193	652,411	755,157
Gross NPLs	21,163	14,541	14,644	16,696	19,467
Liab. & shar. funds	582,043	734,481	879,336	1,021,084	1,172,894
Total customer deposits	501,975	639,960	776,099	907,609	1,047,727
Reserve for loan losses	21,104	14,616	13,290	12,965	13,401
Shareholders' equity	44,378	51,121	58,413	67,065	76,982
Profitability/Solvency Ratios (%)					
ROE adjusted	16.4	12.2	11.2	11.9	15.5
Net interest margin	2.88	2.58	2.04	2.14	2.28
Cost/income ratio	45.1	43.3	48.3	45.7	43.0
Cash cost/average assets	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3
NPLs/customer loans	5.9	3.2	2.6	2.6	2.6
Reserve for loan losses/NPLs	99.7	100.5	90.8	77.7	68.8
Bad debt prov./avg. cust. loans	0.0	-0.3	0.0	0.2	0.3
Loans/deposit ratio	71.1	71.3	71.5	71.9	72.1
Tier 1 capital ratio	11.7	10.4	9.8	9.6	9.6
Total capital ratio	12.5	12.9	11.9	11.4	11.1

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Figure 1. Earnings Revision Summary

	Net Profit (Rsm)			EPS (Rs)			DPS (Rs)	
	Old	New	% change	Old	New	% change	Old	New
FY08E	7,817	6,112	-21.8	31.2	24.4	-21.8	4.5	4.5
FY09E	9,612	7,486	-22.1	38.4	29.9	-22.1	4.5	4.5
FY10E	-	11,186	-	-	44.6	-	-	4.5
Source: Citi Investment Research								

We have revised our estimates to reflect weak performance for the first nine months of the year.

Figure 2. OBC: 3QFY08 Results – Key Highlights (Rupees Million, Percent)

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	3008	3Q07	YoY %	2Q08	QoQ%	Citi Investment Research Comments
Interest Income	17,479	13,137	33.0	16,457	6.2	
Interest Expense	(13,456)	(8,924)	50.8	(12,462)	8.0	
Net Interest Income	4,024	4,213	-4.5	3,995	0.7	Margins under pressure again, slightly more than estimated - relative contrast to peers and a stable interest rate environment
Fee-Based Income	690	994	-30.6	928	-25.7	
Other Non-Interest Income	984	336	193.4	497	98.0	
Non Interest Income	1,674	1,330	25.9	1,425	17.4	Above estimates; likely supported by trading gains and recoveries during the quarte
Operating Income	5,697	5,543	2.8	5,420	5.1	
Operating Expenses	(2,730)	(2,476)	10.2	(2,698)	1.2	Costs remain fairly stable and largely in line with peers
Pre-Provision Profit	2,967	3,067	-3.2	2,722	9.0	Muted operating performance - reflecting contractions in margins and a lacklustre core fee performance
Charges for Bad Debts	(465)	224	NM	283	NM	
Other Operating Items	207	(305)	NM	(92)	NM	
Operating Profit	2,709	2,986	-9.3	2,913	-7.0	
Pre-Tax Profit	2,709	2,986	-9.3	2,913	-7.0	
Tax	(713)	(550)	29.7	(551)	29.4	
Extraordinary Items	(612)	(612)	-0.1	(612)	-0.1	
Net Profit	1,385	1,824	-24.1	1,750	-20.9	13% lower than estimates - a weak quarter with asset quality improvement (from a relatively high base) the only silver lining
EPS	5.53	8.22	-32.8	6.98	-20.9	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Customer Loans	512,240	414,898	23.5	468,650	9.3	Strong growth quarter, yoy growth is now slightly ahead o industr
Customer Deposits	741,800	607,060	22.2	691,780	7.2	Deposit accretion meaningfully lower than industry and has key pressure on margins
AIEA	685,277	622,979	10.0	652,182	5.1	·
AIBL	759,094	643,300	18.0		NM	
Total Assets	788,804	685,916	15.0	788,804	0.0	
Avg Assets	788,804	702,083	12.4	772,376	2.1	
Non-Performing Loans (NPL)	13,999	17,523	-20.1	13,892	0.8	Strong reductions in NPLs - has been the key focus area for the bank over the last yea
Loan Loss Reserves (LLR)	(10,558)	(15,732)	-32.9	(10,954)	-3.6	ŕ
Shareholders' Funds	54,989	43,093	27.6	51,724	6.3	
Book Value Per Share	219.44	172	27.6	206	6.3	
Key Ratios (%)	3008	3Q07	Bps △ YoY	2Q08	Bps △ QoQ	Citi Investment Research Comments
ROAA (annualized)	0.70	1.06	-36	0.89	-19	Profitability continues to decline, amongst the lowest relative to peer:
ROAE (annualized)	10.07	16.93	-686	13.53	-346	
Net Interest Margin (bps)	235	271	-36	245	-10	Continuous decline and significantly below peers and its ow historical level:
Fee Inc/Operating Income	12.1	17.9	-583	17.1	-502	
Other Non-Interest Inc/Op Inc	29.4	24.0	539	26.3	308	
Op. Cost/ Operating Income	47.9	44.7	324	49.8	-186	
	69.1	68.3	71	67.7	131	Some headroom remain for an acceleration in loan growth for 4
	03.1					
Loan-to-Deposit Ratio (LDR) NPL/Loan Ratio	2.7	4.2	-149	2.96	-23	

Source: Company Reports and Citi Investment Research

Oriental Bank of Commerce

Company description

Oriental Bank of Commerce was established in 1943 and nationalized in the second round of nationalization in 1980. The bank is headquartered in Delhi, and the government holds 51% of the bank's equity. OBC is a medium-sized bank with a share of about 2% in deposits and advances of the Indian banking system. OBC has a domestic network of 1,400 branches and extension counters.

Investment strategy

We rate OBC as a Buy/Medium Risk (1M) due to: 1) Relatively cheap valuations – current valuations are at a 30-40% discount to peers and are lowest amongst our coverage banks; 2) While margins and are profitability are low – and we are not making the call that there is strategic shift / course correction near term – but it can be fixed provided stability at top management level and consistency in effort and direction; 3) Basic business and franchise remains solid: the asset book is clean and OBC's geographic concentration in North India is an advantage. We believe the intrinsic / franchise value of its branches well exceeds its sub 1x BV multiples and will be a good consolidation play; 4) We believe the P&L / operating performance is levered to a lower interest rate environment, due to its higher share of term deposits and low cost ratios and can be turned around quickly; and 5) A modest sized balance sheet and lean operating structure can be aggressively turned around, supporting higher profitability and valuations, in our view.

Valuation

Our target price of Rs310 is based on our EVA methodology. We assume a risk-free rate of 7.5% and a beta of 1. Our loan loss expectation is 75bps, in line with the average for government banks. We have revised upwards asset quality forecasts and yields assumptions to reflect strong recoveries and the current interest rate environment.

We are also benchmarking our target price against 1.2x FY09E P/BV (from 1.3x earlier to reflect lower profitability and margins versus peers), the lowest amongst our coverage banks, which translates into a valuation of Rs321. We believe a valuation discount to peer banks is justified due to the quality and structure of the businesses and given pressures on operating profitability, and franchise issues on the funding front. We prefer to use EVA as our primary methodology, as we believe it adjusts well for the relatively dynamic cost of capital and captures well the long-term value of the business.

Risks

We rate OBC as Medium Risk, as implied by our quantitative risk-rating system, which tracks 260-day share price volatility and based on its business profile. Its NPLs are low, operating profitability is high and management has some gains as a cushion for its bond portfolio. The risks to our target price for OBC lie in its relatively small size, new top management team, and more negative surprises from its recently consummated acquisition. The small size of the bank suggests that a few mistakes or individuals could hurt what we believe is a safe and high-quality balance sheet. In addition, a sharp increase in interest rates could erode the bond portfolio and raise deposit mobilization costs.

Appendix A-1

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Oriental Bank of Commerce (ORBC.BO) **Ratings and Target Price History - Fundamental Research** Analyst: Manish Chowdhary, CFA (covered since September 7 2006)



Closing Target Rating Date Price Price 269.70 1: 10 Jun 05 *305.00 Oct 05 Mar 06 *325.00 *275.00 270.10 236.00 4: 20 Jul 06 5: 28 Sep 06 156.40

*Indicates change

Covered Not covered Rating/target price changes above reflect Eastern Standard Time

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