

Pick of the Week

Banks

Bank of Baroda Ltd.

#

BUY
Target Price
275

28th September, 2024

About the Company

Bank of Baroda (BoB) is the second-largest PSU bank in India and is focused on unlocking its value by improving its retail distribution network and leveraging digitization across the value chain. BoB has a strong domestic presence of 8,200 branches and 11,401 ATMs and cash recyclers supported by self-service channels. It also has a significant international presence with a network of 93 overseas branches in 17 countries.

Investment Rationale

- A. Business momentum to improve: In Q1FY25, Advances growth stood modest at 9% YoY and de-grew by 2% QoQ. However, Retail advances growth was healthy at 21/4% YoY/QoQ (25% Mix vs 23% YoY). The management indicated that the credit growth momentum, particularly in the corporate segment, was muted with BoB's endeavour to protect margins. Pricing pressures have been visible in corporate lending and BoB was selective in pursuing growth in this segment where risk-adjusted returns were favourable. Thus, BoB remains confident of delivering credit growth of 10-12% in FY25 and a steady CAGR growth of 13.5% CAGR over the next 5 years.
- B. Maintaining a steady C-D Ratio: In Q1FY25, Deposit growth was disappointing at 9% YoY and reported de-growth of 2% QoQ. CASA Ratio stood at 40.6% vs. 40.3/41.3% YoY/QoQ. The C-D Ratio stood steady at 82% vs. 82.2% QoQ. The bank expects to maintain its C-D Ratio at 80-82% on a steady state basis. BoB has been reducing its focus on bulk deposits (to maintain margins as pricing is higher) and has shifted its focus to retail and CASA deposit mobilization. However, the bank will not shy away from growing its bulk deposits to support corporate book growth. Thus, the deposit franchise is expected to grow in line with credit growth at ~11% CAGR over the medium term.
- C. Stable Asset Quality: In Q1FY25, Asset quality was stable with GNPA/NNPA at 2.88/0.69% vs. 2.92/0.68% QoQ. The slippage ratio stood at 1% vs. 1.1% QoQ. Borrower cashflows have improved post-COVID and the bank expects trends to normalise. Taking the cue from the industry trends around stress build-up in the unsecured portfolio, BoB revised and tightened its filters in the personal loan segment to control slippages. The management remains confident of capping its slippages at 1-1.25% in FY25. With the visibility on incremental stress formation being low, GNPA is likely to trend downwards over FY25. Thus credit costs should be contained at ~75bps in FY25.
- D. Outlook: While FY25 started on a subdued note, the bank will look to accelerate growth over the coming quarters. Given the bank's comfortable positioning w.r.t C-D ratio, improving the share of retail advances and focus on retail/CASA deposits alongside reducing the share of higher-cost bulk deposits should enable BoB to maintain its margins. Driven by accelerating business momentum, stable NIMs, focus on improving fee income, lower Opex growth with the bank having upfronted wage-related expenses in FY24 and stable asset quality prompting credit costs to remain under control, we expect BoB to deliver a steady state RoA/RoE of 1.1%/15-17% over FY25-27E. We recommend a BUY on the stock with a target price of Rs 275/share, implying an upside of 10% from the CMP.

Financial Summary (Standalone)

Y/E March	NII (Rs Bn)	PPOP (Rs Bn)	PAT (Rs Bn)	EPS (Rs)	ABV (Rs)	P/ABV (x)	RoA (%)	NNPA (%)
FY24	447.2	319.7	177.9	34.4	202.8	1.2	1.2	0.7
FY25E	484.1	308.2	192.8	37.2	232.6	1.1	1.1	0.6
FY26E	544.8	360.5	215.2	41.6	264.7	0.9	1.1	0.6
FY27E	611.0	410.9	235.4	45.5	299.4	0.8	1.1	0.6

Duration: 6-9 Months

CMP (Rs)	Target (Rs)	Potential Upside (%)
249	275	10%

MARKET DATA

No. of Shares	517.1 Cr
Market Cap (Rs Cr)	1,28,302 Cr
52-week High / Low	298/188
BSE Code	532134
NSE Code	BANKBARODA

Why Bank of Baroda?

- ✓ Ability to maintain RoA at 1.1% over medium term
- Steady growth delivery with stableC-D Ratio
- ✓ Improving Asset Quality

Source: Axis Securities; CMP as on 27th September, 2024



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