

# **Singapore Company Update**

4 February 2020

remains our preferred pick.

Financial Services | Banks

## **Neutral** (from Buy)

 Target Price (Return):
 SGD25.8 (2.0%)

 Price:
 SGD25.3

 Market Cap:
 USD30,857m

 Avg Daily Turnover (SGD/USD)
 54.8m/40.4m

# Analyst

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# Downgrade to NEUTRAL from Buy with new SGD25.80 TP from SGD29.50, 2% upside, on 1.11x 2020F P/BV. Economic disruption from the coronavirus outbreak is expected to adversely impact Singapore banks' operations not just in Greater China, but also Singapore – the tourism sector is one example. We downgrade our ROE expectation to 11.6% (from 12.7%). 2020F earnings are also cut by 3% as we assume slower loan expansion and higher provisions. Amongst banks under our coverage, UOB

United Overseas Bank (UOB SP)

**Wuhan Virus May Dampen Forward Earnings** 

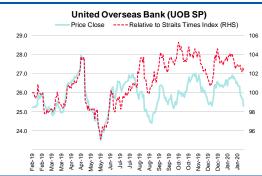
- For 2020F, we lower loan growth assumption, and raise provisions. Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing said that the Wuhan virus outbreak is likely to have a much wider and deeper impact on the world economy than the SARS episode of 2003. We note that Singapore was removed from WHO's list of SARS "Infected Areas" in May 2003 and Singapore's systemic loan expansion for May 2003 YoY was a mild 2.6%, although there was a marked loan recovery to 6.3% YoY by Dec 2003.
- Softer 3-month SIBOR in 4Q19 to keep NIM narrow. The 3-month Singapore Interbank Offered Rate (SIBOR) averaged 1.8% in 4Q19 (3Q19: 1.92%). This should contribute to softer lending yields and exert downside pressure on NIMs. However, as UOB had in 3Q19 front-loaded its funding, which lowered 3Q19 NIM to 1.77% (from 2Q19's 1.81%), we believe 4Q19F NIM will not fall much sequentially. For 2020, we forecast UOB's NIM to be narrower by 6bps YoY, due to lagged effects of past FFR cuts.
- Expect marginal sequential 4Q19 loan contraction, whilst we cut 2020 loan forecast. Corporate loan repayments at the end of 2019 could have contributed to some marginal 4Q19 loan sequential contraction. Given the economic headwinds, we cut UOB's 2020F loan growth to 2% (from 4.5%).
- UOB has lowest percentage loan exposure to Greater China (amongst three banks). 16% of the bank's loans are to Greater China. This is lower than DBS' (DBS SP, NEUTRAL, TP: SGD25.80) and Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp's (OCBC SP, NEUTRAL, TP: SGD11.50) 30% and 25% respectively. Disruptions in China brought about by the Wuhan virus are negative for banks with operations there. As such, despite downgrading UOB to NEUTRAL, it remains our preferred bank pick.
- Dividend yield to support share price. We forecast a 2019 dividend of SGD1.30/share (5% yield).
- Our TP is based on 1.11x 2020F P/BV. Our valuation on UOB is based on a sustainable ROE assumption of 11.6% vs 9M19's 11.9% – the reduction is attributed to the Wuhan virus outbreak and increased future competition from digital banks. This yields a 2020F target P/BV of 1.11x, which is lower than the 7-year historical average of 1.23x. From this, we derive our SGD25.80 TP.

Forecasts and Valuation	Dec-17	Dec-18	Dec-19F	Dec-20F	Dec-21F
Reported net profit (SGDm)	3,391	4,009	4,353	4,216	4,419
Net profit growth (%)	9.5	18.2	8.6	(3.1)	4.8
Recurring net profit (SGDm)	3,391	4,009	4,353	4,216	4,419
Recurring EPS (SGD)	2.06	2.41	2.61	2.53	2.65
BVPS (SGD)	22.16	22.59	23.53	24.73	25.93
DPS (SGD)	1.00	1.20	1.30	1.30	1.40
Recurring P/E (x)	12.30	10.50	9.69	10.01	9.56
P/B (x)	1.14	1.12	1.08	1.02	0.98
Dividend Yield (%)	4.0	4.7	5.1	5.1	5.5
Return on average equity (%)	9.7	10.8	11.3	10.5	10.4
Return on average assets (%)	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0

Source: Company data, RHB

#### **Share Performance (%)**

	YTD	1m	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	(4.2)	(5.0)	(4.8)	(2.7)	(0.2)
Relative	(0.9)	(1.2)	(1.3)	1.8	2.1
52-wk Price low/high (SGD)				23.5	- 28.0



Source: Bloomberg



## **Financial Exhibits**

Asia Singapore Financial Services **United Overseas Bank** UOB SP

Neutral

#### Valuation basis

Our GGM assumptions are:

- i. COE of 10.8%; ii. ROE of 11.6%;
- iii. Growth of 3.2%

#### Key drivers

Our net profit forecast is most sensitive to:

- i. Credit cost;
- ii. Changes in NIM; iii. Non-interest income growth.

#### Key risks

The risks include:

- i. Higher-than-expected impairment charges;
- Weaker than expected NIM;
- iii. Softer-than-expected non-interest income

#### **Company Profile**

UOB is the second largest Singapore bank by loan size. It also has significant operations in Malaysia, Thailand & Indonesia.

Financial summary (SGD)	Dec-17	Dec-18	Dec-19F	Dec-20F	Dec-21F
EPS	2.06	2.41	2.61	2.53	2.65
Recurring EPS	2.06	2.41	2.61	2.53	2.65
DPS	1.00	1.20	1.30	1.30	1.40
BVPS	22.16	22.59	23.53	24.73	25.93
Valuation metrics	Dec-17	Dec-18	Dec-19F	Dec-20F	Dec-21F
Recurring P/E (x)	12.30	10.50	9.69	10.01	9.56
P/B (x)	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0
Dividend Yield (%)	4.0	4.7	5.1	5.1	5.5
Income statement (SGDm)	Dec-17	Dec-18	Dec-19F	Dec-20F	Dec-21F
Interest income	9,077	11,141	12,756	12,804	13,306
Interest expense	(3,548)	(4,921)	(6,158)	(6,207)	(6,442)
Net interest income	5,529	6,220	6,598	6,597	6,864
Non interest income	3,034	2,897	3,567	3,787	4,104
Total operating income	8,563	9,117	10,165	10,384	10,968
Overheads	(3,739)	(4,003)	(4,529)	(4,745)	(5,124)
Pre-provision operating profit	4,824	5,114	5,636	5,639	5,844
Loan impairment allowances	(727)	(393)	(439)	(630)	(580)
Income from associates	110	106	47	72	81
Pre-tax profit	4,207	4,827	5,244	5,081	5,345
Taxation	(800)	(805)	(876)	(849)	(909)
Minority interests	(16)	(13)	(15)	(16)	(17)
Reported net profit	3,391	4,009	4,353	4,216	4,419
Recurring net profit	3,391	4,009	4,353	4,216	4,419
Profitability ratios	Dec-17	Dec-18	Dec-19F	Dec-20F	Dec-21F
Return on average assets (%)	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0
Return on average equity (%)	9.7	10.8	11.3	10.5	10.4
Return on IEAs (%)	2.8	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.4
Cost of funds (%)	1.3	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9
Net interest spread (%)	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5
Net interest margin (%)	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.8
Non-interest income / total income (%)	35.4	31.8	35.1	36.5	37.4
Cost to income ratio (%)	43.7	43.9	44.6	45.7	46.7
Credit cost (bps)	31.5	15.8	16.3	22.6	20.1

Balance sheet (SGDm)	Dec-17	Dec-18	Dec-19F	Dec-20F	Dec-21F
Total gross loans	236,202	262,263	276,001	281,819	294,640
Other interest earning assets	94,782	94,867	99,010	100,687	103,752
Total gross IEAs	330,984	357,130	375,011	382,506	398,392
Total provisions	(3,990)	(3,635)	(3,667)	(4,038)	(4,359)
Net loans to customers	232,212	258,628	272,334	277,781	290,281
Total net IEAs	326,994	353,495	371,344	378,468	394,033
Total non-IEAs	31,598	34,598	36,809	38,866	41,416
Total assets	358,592	388,093	408,153	417,334	435,449
Customer deposits	272,765	293,186	305,207	319,551	334,570
Other interest-bearing liabilities	11,440	13,800	19,437	11,958	12,318
Total IBLs	284,205	306,986	324,644	331,510	346,888
Total non-IBLs	37,350	43,294	44,045	44,329	44,927
Total liabilities	321,555	350,280	368,689	375,839	391,815
Share capital	7,766	7,014	7,872	8,012	8,012
Shareholders' equity	36,850	37,623	39,258	41,257	43,358
Minority interests	187	190	207	238	276

Asset quality and capital Dec-17 Dec-18 Dec-19F Dec-20F Dec-21F Reported NPLs / gross cust loans (%) 1.9 1.6 1.6 1.7 1.7 Total provisions / reported NPLs (%) 90.9 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 CET-1 ratio (%) 15.1 13.9 14.1 15.3 15.9 Tier-1 ratio (%) 15.1 16.2 14.9 15.9 16.5 Total capital ratio (%) 18.5

Source: Company data, RHB



Figure 1: UOB's financial data

UOB (SGDm)	FY17	FY18	FY19F	FY20F	FY21F
Net Interest Income	5,528	6,220	6,598	6,597	6,864
Non-interest Income	3,034	2,897	3,567	3,787	4,104
- Dividends	23	27	49	35	37
- Fee & Commission Income	1,873	1,967	2,103	2,255	2,501
- Rental Income	119	119	113	119	121
- Other Operating Income	1,019	784	1,302	1,378	1,445
Total operating income	8,563	9,116	10,165	10,384	10,968
Operating Expenses	(3,739)	(4,003)	(4,529)	(4,745)	(5,124)
Operating Profit	4,824	5,113	5,636	5,639	5,844
Provisions	(727)	(393)	(439)	(630)	(580)
Associates	110	106	47	72	81
Pre-tax profit	4,207	4,826	5,244	5,081	5,345
Taxation	(800)	(805)	(876)	(849)	(909)
Profit after tax	3,407	4,021	4,368	4,232	4,436
Minorities	(16)	(13)	(15)	(16)	(17)
Net Profit	3,390	4,008	4,353	4,216	4,419
EPS (SGD¢)	199.0	234.0	258.2	249.8	261.7
Book value (SGD)	20.37	21.31	22.25	23.45	24.66
Revalued book (SGD)	23.18	24.19	25.13	26.33	27.53
P&L ratios (%)					
ROE (Avg)	10.2	11.3	11.9	11.4	11.8
Net Interest Margin	1.77	1.82	1.79	1.73	1.76
Net interest income / income	64.6	68.2	64.9	63.5	62.6
Operating Expenses / income	43.7	43.9	44.6	45.7	46.7
P&L YoY change (%)					
Net Interest Income	10.8	12.5	6.1	(0.0)	4.0
Non-interest income	(1.2)	(4.5)	23.1	6.2	8.4
Fee & commission income	(3.0)	5.0	6.9	7.2	10.9
Total income	6.2	6.5	11.5	2.2	5.6
Operating expenses	1.2	7.1	13.1	4.8	8.0
Operating profit	10.5	6.0	10.2	0.1	3.6
Provisions	22.4	(45.9)	11.7	43.5	(7.9)
Pre-tax Profit	11.4	14.7	8.7	(3.1)	5.2
Net Profit	9.7	18.4	8.6	(3.1)	4.9
BS data (SGDm)					
Assets	358,592	388,093	408,153	417,334	435,449
Non-bank loans	232,212	258,627	272,334	277,781	290,281
Customer deposit	272,765	293,186	305,207	319,551	334,570
Non-performing assets	4,389	4,166	4,330	4,676	4,961
Cumulative loan loss provisions	3,990	3,636	3,667	4,038	4,359
Balance sheet ratios (%)					
Loans deposit ratio	85.1	88.2	89.2	86.9	86.8
Non-bank loans growth (YoY %)	4.7	11.4	5.3	2.0	4.5
Customer deposit growth (YoY %)	6.8	7.5	4.1	4.7	4.7
NPL / Non-bank loans	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6
Loan loss coverage	90.9	87.3	84.7	86.4	87.9
Total CAR	18.7	17.0	17.1	17.9	18.5
Tier 1 CAR	16.2	14.9	15.1	15.9	16.5

Source: Company data, RHB



4 February 2020

Financial Services | Banks

## **Recommendation Chart**



Source: RHB, Bloomberg

Date	Recommendation	Target Price	Price
2019-11-01	Buy	29.5	26.6
2019-08-02	Buy	30.8	26.0
2019-05-03	Buy	30.8	27.8
2019-04-24	Buy	30.8	27.1
2019-02-22	Buy	29.8	25.6
2019-01-29	Buy	29.8	25.5
2018-10-26	Buy	33.3	24.1
2018-09-28	Buy	33.3	27.1
2018-08-03	Buy	33.3	26.6

Source: RHB, Bloomberg

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Buy: Share price may exceed 10% over the next 12 months

Trading Buy: Share price may exceed 15% over the next 3 months, however longer-

term outlook remains uncertain

Neutral: Share price may fall within the range of +/- 10% over the next

12 months

Take Profit: Target price has been attained. Look to accumulate at lower levels
Sell: Share price may fall by more than 10% over the next 12 months

Not Rated: Stock is not within regular research coverage

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