

Singapore Results Review

7 August 2023

Financial Services | Banks

OCBC Bank (OCBC SP)

Neutral (Maintained)

Charting a Path Towards Sustaining Higher ROEs

Target Price (Return): SGD13.70 (+6%)
Price (Market Cap): SGD12.94 (USD43,339m)
ESG score: 3.1 (out of 4)
Avg Daily Turnover (SGD/USD) 57.2m/42.7m

Stay NEUTRAL, new SGD13.70 TP from SGD13.20, 6% upside with c.6% FY24F yield. OCBC Bank's 1H23 earnings are in line, despite a jump in loan allowances as it bulked up LLC. Management also gave more details on the SGD3bn incremental revenue it expects to achieve from its earlier announced refreshed strategy, which it estimates will lead to a 1ppt uplift in ROE. While positive, we think China's macroeconomic softness and NIM headwinds in the near term will likely cap its share price performance.

Analyst

Singapore Research sg.research@rhbgroup.com

• 1H23 results are in line, with net profit of SGD3.6bn (+38% YoY) at 51% of our and Street FY23F earnings. Reported ROAE improved to 14.3% (FY22: 11.1%) while CET-1 remained robust at 15.4% (4Q22: 15.5%). An interim DPS of 40 SG cents (1H22: 28 SG cents) was declared, which translates to a payout ratio of 50% and in line with its guidance. 2Q23 net profit fell 10% QoQ due to higher loan allowances (+116% QoQ, +194% YoY) as OCBC booked in higher general provisions for non-impaired assets. Part of this is for its commercial real estate (CRE) exposure, despite the portfolio holding up. That aside, PIOP rose 1% QoQ on higher non-II from insurance and trading, partly offset by a 4bps QoQ NIM squeeze and negative JAWS. Opex rose 7% QoQ while CIR grew 140bps QoQ to 38.5%, albeit below the 40-45% target.

Loan growth ticked up. OCBC added 1% QoQ (flat YoY) to its loan book, driven by the Singapore division – bringing YTD growth to 1%. Meanwhile, deposits rose 2% QoQ or 7% YoY, led by new money inflows into fixed deposits. Group LDR was at 78.8% (1Q23: 79.2%, 2Q22: 84.4%). The stronger deposit growth and mix led to the sequential NIM pressure. Nevertheless, 2Q23 and exit NIM of 2.26% (1H23: 2.28%) remain north of its >2.2% guidance. Coupled with July's US Federal Funds Rate (FFR) hike, this has given OCBC more confidence over its NIM guidance.

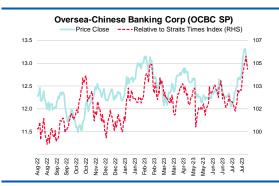
- Credit cost guidance stayed at c.20bps. Non-performing assets fell 2% QoQ on recoveries and upgrades in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. This was partly offset by the 40% QoQ rise in NPLs from "Rest of the World" following the downgrade of a corporate account in the CRE space in the US. That said, OCBC thinks this was an isolated case, and does not see any signs of stress in its loan portfolio. Loans to the CRE office sector made up 14% of group loans, with exposure to developed markets and the US at 4.5% and 0.8% of group loans. Average LTV is 50-60%. As such, while the NPL ratio was stable QoQ at 1.1%, its LLC rose to 131% (1Q23: 121%).
- Other highlights: OCBC shared more colour on its strategy to deliver an incremental SGD3bn in revenue over the next three years. Wealth and trade is expected to form 70% of the incremental revenue, while new economy and sustainability make up the rest. The bulk of this revenue is expected to be backloaded, ie 17%, 33% and 50% to be felt in 2023, 2024 and 2025.
- Earnings forecasts are unchanged. However, we raise our TP to SGD13.70 from SGD13.20 after rolling forward our BVPS to end-2024. Our TP includes a 2% ESG premium, based on our in-house ESG methodology.

Forecasts and Valuation	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Reported net profit (SGDm)	4,858	5,748	7,090	7,037	7,298
Net profit growth (%)	35.5	18.3	23.3	(0.7)	3.7
Recurring net profit (SGDm)	4,858	5,748	7,090	7,037	7,298
Recurring EPS (SGD)	1.09	1.28	1.58	1.57	1.63
BVPS (SGD)	11.72	11.83	12.63	13.38	14.14
DPS (SGD)	0.53	0.65	0.78	0.82	0.87
Recurring P/E (x)	11.92	10.07	8.17	8.23	7.93
P/B (x)	1.10	1.09	1.02	0.97	0.92
Dividend Yield (%)	4.1	5.0	6.0	6.3	6.7
Return on average equity (%)	9.5	10.7	12.4	12.4	12.8

Source: Company data, RHB

Share Performance (%)

	YTD	1m	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	6.2	4.8	2.1	(0.5)	6.0
Relative	4.9	2.0	1.4	2.2	5.3
52-wk Price low	high (SGD)			11.5	- 13.3



Source: Bloomberg

Overall ESG Score: 3.1 (out of 4)

E: GOOD

OCBC has a responsible lending framework, and is working towards enhancing the integration of climate-related considerations into its ESG risk assessment processes by 2022. In 2020, it developed a new Responsible Investing Policy to integrate ESG considerations into investment decisions. It aims to build a sustainable finance portfolio of SGD50bn by 2025 (2021: SGD34bn) and be carbonneutral in its banking operations in 2022.

S: GOOD

OCBC aims to maintain a balanced gender mix across its workforce, with 42% of women in leadership positions by 2022. In 2021, women accounted for 58% of total employees, 39% in leadership positions, and 20% in the board of directors. OCBC is active in talent management, and places the health, safety and wellbeing of staff at the top of its priorities as an employer.

G: EXCELLENT

OCBC is proactive in its approach to ensure resilience against risks of cyber-attacks, data breaches, fraud and money laundering. That said, a highly sophisticated phishing scam in Dec 2021 has highlighted the need for enhanced security measures.



Financial Exhibits

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Singapore

Financial Services

OCBC Bank

OCBC SP

Neutral

Valuation basis

GGM-derived intrinsic value with an ESG overlay. Key GGM assumptions are:

- i. COE of 12%;
- ii. ROE of 12%;
- iii. 3% long-term growth

Key drivers

Our net profit forecast is most sensitive to changes in:

- Credit costs;
- ii. Net interest margin;
- iii. Non-interest income growth.

Key risks

Key risks include:

- i. Higher-than-expected allowances;ii. Weaker-than-expected NIM;
- iii. Macroeconomic uncertainty and geo-political

Company Profile

OCBC is the second largest banking group in Singapore by asset size. It also has sizeable operations in Malaysia, Greater China and Indonesia.

Financial summary (SGD)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
EPS	1.09	1.28	1.58	1.57	1.63
Recurring EPS	1.09	1.28	1.58	1.57	1.63
DPS	0.53	0.65	0.78	0.82	0.87
BVPS	11.72	11.83	12.63	13.38	14.14
Valuation metrics	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Recurring P/E (x)	11.92	10.07	8.17	8.23	7.93
P/B (x)	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9
Dividend Yield (%)	4.1	5.0	6.0	6.3	6.7
Income statement (SGDm)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Interest income	7,425	11,590	14,893	15,305	15,929
Interest expense	(1,570)	(3,902)	(5,667)	(6,022)	(6,400)
Net interest income	5,855	7,688	9,226	9,282	9,529
Non interest income	4,741	3,987	3,948	4,197	4,504
Total operating income	10,596	11,675	13,174	13,480	14,033
Overheads	(4,867)	(5,130)	(5,241)	(5,553)	(5,846)
Pre-provision operating profit	5,729	6,545	7,933	7,927	8,187
Loan impairment allowances	(867)	(505)	(500)	(495)	(491)
Other impairment allowances	(6)	(79)	(7)	(6)	(6)
Income from associates	824	978	1,027	1,089	1,143
Pre-tax profit	5,680	6,939	8,453	8,514	8,833
Taxation	(648)	(1,057)	(1,183)	(1,277)	(1,325)
Minority interests	(174)	(134)	(180)	(200)	(210)
Reported net profit	4,858	5,748	7,090	7,037	7,298
Recurring net profit	4,858	5,748	7,090	7,037	7,298
Profitability ratios	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Return on average assets (%)	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3
Return on average equity (%)	9.5	10.7	12.4	12.4	12.8
Return on IEAs (%)	2.1	3.1	3.8	3.9	4.0
Cost of funds (%)	0.5	1.1	1.6	1.7	1.8
Net interest spread (%)	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.3
Net interest margin (%)	1.6	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.4
Non-interest income / total income (%)	44.7	34.1	30.0	31.1	32.1
Cost to income ratio (%)	45.9	43.9	39.8	41.2	41.7
Credit cost (bps)	31.5	17.3	16.2	16.1	15.9
Balance sheet (SGDm)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Total gross loans	289,716	294,980	303,829	319,021	334,174
Other interest earning assets	87,217	101,064	105,405	110,631	116,532
Total gross IEAs	376,933	396,044	409,235	429,652	450,707
Total provisions	(3,904)	(3,991)	(4,250)	(4,380)	(4,400)
Net loans to customers	285,812	290,989	299,579	314,641	329,774
Total net IEAs	373,029	392,053	404,985	425,272	446,307
Total non-IEAs	169,158	167,903	182,064	188,854	200,151
Total assets	542,187	559,956	587,048	614,126	646,458
Customer deposits	342,395	350,081	371,086	389,640	411,070
Other interest-bearing liabilities	8,239	10,046	8,840	9,106	9,470
Total IBLs	350,634	360,127	379,926	398,746	420,540
Total non IDI o	407.045	145 161	140.012	452.050	420,340

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Total IBLs	350,634	360,127	379,926	398,746	420,540
Total non-IBLs	137,215	145,161	148,813	153,656	160,740
Total liabilities	487,849	505,288	528,740	552,402	581,281
Share capital	19,238	19,744	19,744	19,744	19,744
Shareholders' equity	52,663	53,087	56,677	60,035	63,430
Minority interests	1,675	1,581	1,632	1,689	1,748

Asset quality and capital	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Reported NPLs / gross cust loans (%)	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Total provisions / reported NPLs (%)	92.6	118.0	123.8	122.6	118.6
CET-1 ratio (%)	16.0	16.0	15.5	15.9	0.0
Tier-1 ratio (%)	16.0	16.0	15.5	15.9	0.0
Total capital ratio (%)	17.6	17.6	16.9	17.3	0.0

Source: Company data, RHB



Results At a Glance

Figure 1: OCBC - summary of 2Q23 and 1H23 results

FYE Dec (SGDm)	2Q22	1Q23	2Q23	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	1H22	1H23	YoY (%)	Comments: 1H23 vs 1H22
Net interest income	1,700	2,338	2,389	2	41	3,203	4,727	48	Robust YoY growth was boosted by NIM expansion, while average asset growth was at a more modest 6%.
NIM (%) – reported	1.71%	2.30%	2.26%	-4bps	55bps	1.63%	2.28%	65bps	Exit NIM was 2.26%.
Non-interest income	964	1,012	1,066	5	11	2,020	2,078	3	
Net fee & commission income	477	453	430	(5)	(10)	999	883	(12)	Lower wealth, brokerage and fund management fees from global risk-off investment sentiment, cushioned by stronger cards and loan-related fees. Net new money inflows in 1H23 was SGD16bn.
Income from insurance	208	238	262	10	26	454	500	10	
Other non-interest income	279	321	374	17	34	567	695	23	Higher trading income (non-customer flow income) and net gains from the sale of investment securities.
Non-II/total income (%)	36.2%	30.2%	30.9%			38.7%	30.5%		
Operating income	2,664	3,350	3,455	3	30	5,223	6,805	30	
Overhead expenses	(1,304)	(1,244)	(1,329)	7	2	(2,458)	(2,573)	5	
CIR (%)	48.9%	37.1%	38.5%			47.1%	37.8%		
PIOP	1,360	2,106	2,126	1	56	2,765	4,232	53	
Impairments charges	(99)	(135)	(278)	106	181	(168)	(413)	146	Higher general allowances (1H23: SGD254m vs 1H22: SGD79m) set aside for non-impaired assets.
Annualised loan credit cost (bps)	8	12	31			7	21		In line with its guidance of c.20bps.
Operating profit	1,261	1,971	1,848	(6)	47	2,597	3,819	47	
Associates	245	260	250	(4)		499	510		
Pre-tax profit	1,506	2,231	2,098	(6)	39	3,096	4,329	40	
Tax	(200)	(300)	(363)			(454)	(662)		
Effective tax rate (%)	13.3%	13.4%	17.3%			14.7%	15.3%		
Minorities	(25)	(53)	(26)	(51)	2	(50)	(78)	56	
Net profit	1,281	1,879	1,710	(9)	33	2,592	3,589	38	
Other key data and ratios									
Gross loans	297,920	294,000	297,356	1	(0)				YTD growth of 1%, led by the Singapore unit.
Customer deposits	348,821	366,850	372,462	2	7				YTD growth of 6% was driven by fixed deposits. CASA deposits declined 7% YTD, lowering the CASA ratio to 45.3% from 51.8% in 4Q22.
Gross NPLs	3,849	3,234	3,181	(2)	(17)				Down 6% YTD on higher recoveries and upgrades in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.
Total assets	554,862	565,808	584,440	3	5				
Shareholders' funds	52,821	53,727	52,604	(2)	(0)				
ROAA (%) – reported	1.15	1.63	1.43			1.18	1.53		
ROAE (%) - reported	10.3	14.7	13.5			10.4	14.3		
LDR (%)	84.4	79.2	78.8						
GIL ratio	1.3	1.1	1.1						
Loan loss coverage	101.6	121.3	131.3						
CET-1 ratio (%)	14.9	15.9	15.4						
Total capital ratio (%)	17.5	18.4	17.8						

Source: Company data, RHB



Management guidance

Figure 2: OCBC - management guidance and financial targets

	2022 actual	1H23 achieved	FY23 guidance	Comments – FY23 targets
ROE	11.1%	14.3%	c. 14%	NIM stability, coupled with stronger wealth fees as sentiment improves and sustained trends in customer and non-customer flows underpin 2H operating income.
NIM	1.91%	2.28%	>2.2%	1H achievement together with July's FFR hike gives management more confidence that NIM guidance should be met. OCBC is not expecting any rate cuts this year.
CIR	43%	37.8%	Lower end of 40- 45% range	
Credit cost	24bps	21bps	c. 20bps	Management expects the global growth momentum to decelerate heading into 2024, and is watchful of the impact from persistent inflationary pressures and higher interest rates on asset quality.
Loan growth	2%	Flat YoY	Low- to mid-single digit growth	
Dividend payout	53%	50%	50%	A payout ratio of >50% remains a possibility, depending on its capital position.

Source: Company data, RHB

Further details to last month's incremental revenue from the refreshed strategy

Figure 3: Refreshed strategy to deliver an incremental SGD3bn revenue underpinned by four growth pillars, leading to a +1ppt enhancement to 2025F ROE



Source: Company data, RHB

Valuation and TP

Our TP rises to SGD13.70 from SGD13.20, based on an intrinsic value of SGD13.38 (from SGD12.98), with a 2% ESG premium applied, based on RHB's in-house ESG methodology.

The upward revision in intrinsic value is due to a refresh in BVPS as we roll forward the base year to end-2024. The intrinsic value, based on the GGM-derived P/BV of 1x, is in line with its historical mean.

Figure 4: OCBC – GGM valuation

Cost of equity (COE) computation:		Sustainable ROE (%)	12.0
Risk free rate (%)	3.0	COE (%)	12.0
Equity premium (%)	8.2	Long-term growth (g)	3.0
Beta (x)	1.1	Implied P/BV (x)	1.0
Cost of equity - CAPM (%)	12.0	BVPS	SGD13.40
		Intrinsic value	SGD13.38
ESG premium/(discount) (%)	2.0	ESG premium/(discount)	SGD0.27
		TP (rounded)	SGD13.70

Source: Company data, RHB



Figure 5: OCBC's 12-month forward consensus P/E

Figure 6: OCBC's 12-month forward consensus P/BV



Source: Bloomberg, RHB

Source: Bloomberg, RHB

Recommendation Chart

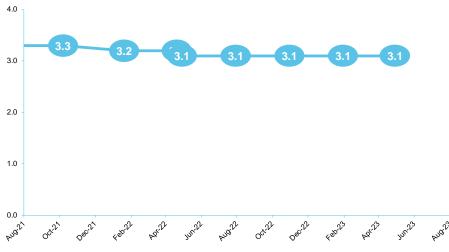


Source: RHB, Bloomberg

Date	Recommendation	Target Price	Price
2023-07-04	Neutral	13.2	12.4
2023-05-10	Buy	14.0	12.3
2023-02-26	Buy	14.8	12.7
2022-11-07	Buy	15.0	12.1
2022-08-03	Buy	13.9	12.0
2022-05-03	Buy	13.9	12.4
2022-02-24	Buy	14.4	12.0
2022-01-24	Buy	14.8	12.3
2021-11-04	Buy	15.1	11.9
2021-08-05	Buy	14.3	12.4
2021-05-09	Buy	14.3	12.6
2021-04-09	Buy	13.3	11.8
2021-02-25	Buy	12.5	11.1
2020-11-06	Neutral	9.5	8.9
2020-08-10	Neutral	8.7	8.7

Source: RHB, Bloomberg

ESG Rating History



Source: RHB

RHB Guide to Investment Ratings

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

12 months

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

Stock is not within regular research coverage Not Rated:

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