

Singapore Results Review

4 May 2022

Financial Services | Banks

Buy (Maintained)

DBS (DBS SP)

Bright NIM Prospects Moderated By Headwinds

Target Price (Return): SGD38.10 (+12%)
Price (Market Cap): SGD33.92 (USD62,999m)
ESG score: 3.20 (out of 4)
Avg Daily Turnover (SGD/USD) 158m/116m

- Maintain BUY, new TP of SGD38.10 from SGD42.70, 12% upside with c.4% FY22F yield. DBS got off to a good start in 1Q22, but its 2H22 outlook has turned somewhat hazy due to growing macroeconomic headwinds. Still, stress tests point to a limited impact on asset quality, while rising US rates will have a significant positive impact on NIM. We trim our TP, on a higher risk premium and lower ESG score to 3.2 (from 3.3), as we recalibrated the assessment of risks and regulatory requirements associated with data and cybersecurity.
- 1Q22 results in line. Its 1Q22 net profit of SGD1.8bn (+29% QoQ, -11% YoY) make up 23%/24% of our/Street FY22F earnings. Reported ROE rose to 13.1% (FY: 12.5%) while CET-1 fell 40bps to 14%. An interim DPS of SGD0.36 was declared. PPOP declined 7% YoY as net fee income dropped by 7% and other income fell by 16% from the high base in 1Q21. With opex rising 4% YoY, CIR was at a higher 43.9% (1Q21: 41.2%). NII grew 4% YoY as the 8% YoY loan growth offset a 3bps decline in NIM. A net allowance charge of SGD55m (1Q21: SGD10m) led to the 10% YoY drop in bottomline.
- FY22 guidance. Management believes the robust pipeline will lift loan growth to 3.5-4% YTD for 1H22, but headwinds from geopolitical conflict, inflation fears and China's ongoing lockdown make forecasts for 2H22 difficult. Still, its loan growth target of 6-7% YoY (FY21: +9.9%) is unchanged for now. Similarly, its fee income outlook from wealth management and investment banking has turned less certain. Offsets would come from cards and customer treasury flows. The bright spot remains tailwinds from hikes in the US Federal Funds Rate that will have a positive impact on NIM over two years. Management sees NIM at 1.58-1.6% in FY22F with the exit rate at 1.8% (FY21: 1.45%). With the CASA ratio at a high 75%, DBS has guided for a SGD18-20m rise in NII for every 1bp hike in US rates.
- Asset quality outlook. Non-performing assets (NPA) rose 2% QoQ but NPL ratio was stable at 1.3% and NPA coverage a comfortable 114% (4Q21: 116%). First-order impact from the Russia-Ukraine war is close to zero while stress tests on vulnerable segments suggest its loans portfolio should stay robust. Management believes its guidance for FY22 provisions of close to zero is still possible. FY22F specific provisions (SP) of 15-20bps (FY21: 12bps) would be matched by the release of general provisions (GP).
- Capital comfortable. Additional capital for operational risk following the digital disruption in Nov 2021 shaved 40bps off the CET-1 ratio in 1Q22. Still, management believes DBS' capital position remains comfortable, as new regional ventures would not require much additional capital. This means sustainable growth in dividends.
- **TP lowered.** We make no changes to our earnings forecasts as results were broadly within expectations. Still, we cut our TP to SGD38.90 from SGD42.70, as we raised the equity risk premium given geopolitical tensions, inflation fears and China's pandemic lockdown, and lowered the ESG premium to 4% (from 6%) based on RHB's in-house methodology (Figure 3).

Forecasts and Valuation	Dec-20	Dec-21	Dec-22F	Dec-23F	Dec-24F
Reported net profit (SGDm)	4,721	6,805	7,680	8,478	9,054
Net profit growth (%)	(26.1)	44.1	12.9	10.4	6.8
Recurring net profit (SGDm)	4,721	6,805	7,680	8,478	9,054
Recurring EPS (SGD)	1.85	2.66	2.99	3.30	3.53
BVPS (SGD)	21.41	22.40	23.98	25.69	27.41
DPS (SGD)	0.72	1.20	1.47	1.62	1.83
Recurring P/E (x)	18.34	12.76	11.34	10.28	9.62
P/B (x)	1.58	1.51	1.41	1.32	1.24
Dividend Yield (%)	2.1	3.5	4.3	4.8	5.4
Return on average equity (%)	8.9	12.1	12.9	13.3	13.3

Source: Company data, RHB

Analyst

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Share Performance (%)

	YTD	1m	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	3.9	(5.7)	(2.6)	7.6	15.4
Relative	(3.6)	(3.4)	(6.0)	2.6	11.2
52-wk Price low	/high (SGD))		29.2	- 37.3



Source: Bloomberg

Overall ESG Score: 3.20 (out of 4)

E: GOOD

DBS' sustainability agenda is centered around three sustainability pillars – responsible banking, responsible business practices, and creating social impact. To encourage carbon-intensive companies to adopt more carbon-efficient operations, DBS published the Sustainable and Transition Finance Framework and Taxanomy, a first in the world by a bank. It aims to build a sustainable finance portfolio of SGD50bn by 2024 (2020: SGD9.6bn), and is committed to ensure net zero operational carbon emissions by 2022.

S: GOOD

DBS has a comprehensive approach to talent management and retention. As skills required in banking are fast evolving, DBS is doubling down on efforts to build a future-ready workforce. In 2020, women accounted for 51% of total employees, 27% of the Board and 25% of its Group Management Committee. DBS has initiatives to onboard the underbanked, nurture healthy savings and investment habits, and provide financing to underserved businesses and customers.

G: EXCELLENT

DBS has a multi-year roadmap to modernise its data governance programme. In Feb 2022, Monetary Authority of Singapore required DBS to set aside SGD930m additional regulatory capital for the disruption of its digital banking services.



Dec-22F

8,962

8,862

(1,152)

7,680

7,680

(30)

(100)

Dec-23F

10,235

(450)

9,785

(1,272)

8,478

8,478

(35)

Dec-24F

11,116

10,516

(1,420)

9,054

9,054

(42)

(600)

Financial Exhibits

Asia Singapore Financial Services DBS DBS SP

Valuation basis

Buy

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

- i. 13.4% ROE;
- ii. 10% COE;
- iii. 4.0% long term growth.

Key drivers

Key earnings drivers:

- i. Credit cost;
- ii. NIM;
- iii. Fee income growth;
- iv. Loan growth.

Key risks

Key risks are:

- i. Higher-than-expected credit cost
- ii. Weaker-than-expected NIM;
- iii. Execution risks related to the integration of newly acquired assets.

Company Profile

DBS is the largest Singapore bank by assets. It also has significant exposure to Greater China.

EPS	1.85	2.66	2.99	3.30	3.53
Recurring EPS	1.85	2.66	2.99	3.30	3.53
DPS	0.72	1.20	1.47	1.62	1.83
BVPS	21.41	22.40	23.98	25.69	27.41
Valuation metrics	Dec-20	Dec-21	Dec-22F	Dec-23F	Dec-24F
Recurring P/E (x)	18.34	12.76	11.34	10.28	9.62
P/B (x)	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2
Dividend Yield (%)	2.1	3.5	4.3	4.8	5.4
Income statement (SGDm)	Dec-20	Dec-21	Dec-22F	Dec-23F	Dec-24F
Interest income	12,208	10,185	12,295	16,780	17,871
Interest expense	(3,132)	(1,745)	(2,660)	(5,820)	(6,111)
Net interest income	9,076	8,440	9,635	10,960	11,760
Non interest income	5,516	5,961	6,430	6,989	7,541
Total operating income	14,592	14,401	16,065	17,949	19,300
Overheads	(6,158)	(6,569)	(7,103)	(7,714)	(8,185)

8,434

(3,063)

5,368

(612)

(35)

4,721

4,721

(3)

7,832

7,780

6,805

6,805

(973)

(2)

(51)

(1)

Financial summary (SGD)

Pre-provision operating profit

Loan impairment allowances

Other impairment allowances

Pre-tax profit

Minority interests

Reported net profit

Recurring net profit

Profitability ratios	Dec-20	Dec-21	Dec-22F	Dec-23F	Dec-24F
Return on average assets (%)	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2
Return on average equity (%)	8.9	12.1	12.9	13.3	13.3
Return on IEAs (%)	2.1	1.6	1.9	2.4	2.5
Cost of funds (%)	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.9	0.9
Net interest spread (%)	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5
Net interest margin (%)	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.6
Non-interest income / total income (%)	37.8	41.4	40.0	38.9	39.1
Cost to income ratio (%)	42.2	45.6	44.2	43.0	42.4
Credit cost (bps)	82.8	1.3	2.3	9.9	12.6

Balance sheet (SGDm)	Dec-20	Dec-21	Dec-22F	Dec-23F	Dec-24F
Total gross loans	377,770	415,072	442,052	466,365	489,683
Other interest earning assets	218,641	230,708	229,388	237,170	247,088
Total gross IEAs	596,411	645,780	671,440	703,535	736,770
Total provisions	(6,599)	(6,079)	(6,100)	(6,300)	(6,400)
Net loans to customers	371,171	408,993	435,952	460,065	483,283
Total net IEAs	589,812	639,701	665,340	697,235	730,370
Total non-IEAs	60,126	46,372	48,180	46,970	52,803
Total assets	649,938	686,073	713,519	744,205	783,173
Customer deposits	464,850	501,959	529,800	556,290	586,886
Other interest-bearing liabilities	75,467	87,415	80,200	78,850	81,504
Total IBLs	540,317	589,374	610,000	635,140	668,390
Total non-IBLs	54,978	38,985	41,750	42,891	44,178
Total liabilities	595,295	628,359	651,750	678,031	712,567
Share capital	2,441	2,441	2,441	2,441	2,441
Shareholders' equity	54,626	57,526	61,579	65,979	70,410
Minority interests	17	188	190	195	196

Asset quality and capital	Dec-20	Dec-21	Dec-22F	Dec-23F	Dec-24F
Reported NPLs / gross cust loans (%)	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Total provisions / reported NPLs (%)	108.9	114.9	110.4	103.9	98.3
CET-1 ratio (%)	13.9	14.4	14.8	15.2	15.6
Tier-1 ratio (%)	15.0	15.1	15.5	15.8	16.2
Total capital ratio (%)	16.9	17.0	17.0	17.3	17.5

Source: Company data, RHB



Results At a Glance

Figure 1: DBS – summary of 1Q22 results

FYE 31 Dec (SGDm)	1Q21	4Q21	1Q22	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	Comments: 1Q22 vs 4Q21
Net interest income	2,107	2,140	2,187	2	4	Up QoQ on healthy loan growth and better NIM.
NIM (%) – reported	1.49%	1.43%	1.46%			NIM up 3bps QoQ as interest rates began to rise.
Non-interest income	1,747	1,257	1,560	24	-11	
Net fee & commission income	953	815	891	9	-7	QoQ growth was led by fees from loan-related (+87% QoQ) and wealt management (+7% QoQ).
Other non-interest income	794	442	669	51	-16	Up QoQ, on higher net trading income due partly to seasonal effects 4Q21.
Non-II/total income (%)	45.3%	37.0%	41.6%			
Operating income	3,854	3,397	3,747	10	-3	
Overhead expenses	(1,587)	(1,771)	(1,644)	-7	4	Core expenses dropped by 2% QoQ, with higher staff costs that were more than offset by declines in other opex.
CIR (%)	41.2%	52.1%	43.9%			
PIOP	2,267	1,626	2,103	29	-7	
Impairments charges	(10)	(33)	(55)	67	450	Specific provision credit cost normalised to 15bps, from 6bps in 4Q2 while general provision write-backs were at a higher SGD112m v SGD34m in 4Q21.
Annualised credit cost (bps)	1	3	5			
Operating profit	2,257	1,593	2,048	29	-9	
Associates	-	-	-			
Pre-tax profit	2,257	1,593	2,048	29	-9	
Tax	(240)	(207)	(239)			
Effective tax rate (%)	10.6%	13.0%	11.7%			
Minorities	(8)	7	(8)			
Net profit	2,009	1,393	1,801	29	-10	1Q22 earnings at 23%/24% of our/Street FY22F net profit.
Other key data and ratios						
Gross loans	393,000	415,072	422,000	2	7	Loans grew 2% YTD or an annualised 8%, with trade loans (+5% QoC on rising commodity prices. Non-trade corporate loans ticked up by 2'QoQ, led by Singapore and Hong Kong across a broad range industries. Housing loans were little changed due to property coolin measures in Dec 2021.
Customer deposits	478,095	501,959	519,723	4	9	CASA deposits grew 3% QoQ or an annualised 12%. Its CASA ratio 75% is higher than pre-pandemic levels.
Non-performing assets	6,585	5,849	5,981	2	-9	Up QoQ, due to the impairment of significant corporate exposure. Sti NPL ratio was stable at 1.3%.
Total assets	660,609	686,073	723,681	5	10	
Shareholders' funds	55,708	57,526	56,495	-2	1	
ROAA (%)	1.25	0.81	1.04			
ROAE (%) - Reported	15.4	9.9	13.1			
LDR (%)	80.8	81.5	80.1			
NPA ratio	1.50	1.30	1.30			
Loan loss coverage	109.0	114.9	114.0			
CET-1 ratio (%)	14.3	14.4	14.0			
Total capital ratio (%)	17.5	17.0	16.5			

Source: Company data, RHB



Management guidance

Figure 2: DBS - management guidance and financial targets

	FY21 Actual	1Q22 Actual	2022 Targets	Comments on FY22 targets
Loan growth (YoY)	+9.9%	+8%	Mid-single-digit or better	Pipeline remains healthy and should lift loan growth to 3.5-4% in 1H22. Outlook for 2H22 loan demand is somewhat dampened by macroeconomic headwinds and geopolitical conflict.
NIM	1.45%	1.46%	1.50%	Management guided for NII enhancement of SGD18-20m per bp of the US rate hike. NIM expected to average at 1.58-1.60%, given the expectation of more aggressive US rate hikes ahead.
Fee income growth (YoY)	+15%	-16%	Double-digit	Environment for fee income growth from wealth management and investment banking has turned more challenging.
Opex growth (%)	+5%	+4%	+6-7%	Increase would be led mainly by the full-year impact of wage growth in 2H21. Expects mild negative JAWS in FY22 – this could turn neutral, should the US rate hikes be more aggressive than expected.
Provision allowances	SGD52m	SGD55m	SGD0-100m	With asset quality improving, management sees SP credit cost of 15-20bps being offset by a further release of GP in FY22. At end-2021, GP reserves were at SGD3.88bn, which includes an GP overlay of SGD1.5bn.

Source: Company data, RHB

Valuation and TP

We revise our TP to SGD38.10 from SGD42.70, based on an intrinsic value of SGD36.68 (from SGD40.26) and with a lower 4% (from 6%) ESG premium applied over it, in line with RHB's in-house ESG methodology.

The lower intrinsic value is mainly due to the assumption of a higher cost of equity on account of geopolitical tensions, uncertainty arising from China's pandemic-related lockdown, and the risk of recession stemming from spiralling inflation. We revised the ESG score to 3.2 from 3.3, as we recalibrated the assessment of risks and regulatory requirements associated with data and cybersecurity.

The GGM-derived P/BV of 1.57x (from 1.76x) is above +1SD from the historical mean, against a multi-year high ROE of above 13%.

Figure 3: DBS – GGM valuation

Cost of equity (COE) computatio	n:	Sustainable ROE (%)	13.4
Risk free rate (%)	2.50	COE (%)	10.0
Equity premium (%)	7.50	Long-term growth (g)	4.00
Beta (x)	1.00	Implied P/BV (x)	1.57
Cost of equity - CAPM (%)	10.0	BVPS - rolling 12-mth forward	SGD23.40
		Intrinsic value	SGD36.68
ESG premium/(discount) (%)	4.0	ESG premium/(discount)	SGD1.47
		TP (rounded)	SGD38.10

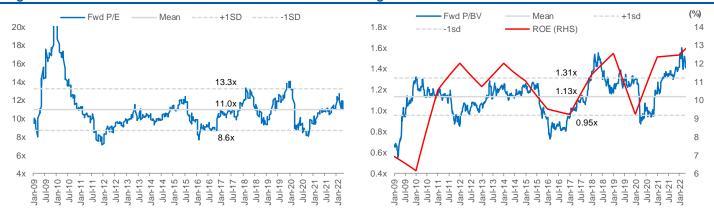
Source: Company data, RHB



4 May 2022



Figure 5: DBS' 12-month forward consensus P/BV



Source: Bloomberg, RHB

Source: Bloomberg, RHB

Recommendation Chart



Source: RHB, Bloomberg

Date	Recommendation	Target Price	Price
2022-02-14	Buy	42.7	37.2
2021-11-07	Buy	40.4	32.3
2021-08-05	Buy	35.5	30.8
2021-05-02	Buy	34.0	29.9
2021-03-30	Buy	33.0	29.0
2020-12-09	Buy	30.0	25.5
2020-11-05	Buy	25.2	22.4
2020-08-07	Neutral	18.5	20.6
2020-04-30	Neutral	18.7	20.0
2020-03-12	Neutral	21.5	20.2
2020-02-13	Neutral	24.8	25.4
2020-02-13	Neutral	25.8	25.4
2020-02-13	Neutral	24.8	25.4
2020-01-14	Neutral	25.8	26.3

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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