

INDIA



Banking

Bank Credit Outlook 2021: On the cusp of releveraging
(post deleveraging phase)

With collection efficiency trends and credit cost expectations reining in a lot of enthusiasm for financial stocks, another critical vector driving earnings and valuation rerating is going to be credit growth. We believe India Inc, after undergoing a phase of deleveraging over the past few years, is now better positioned and confident to anvil on the path of releveraging. Indian financiers, too, have saddled themselves with ample liquidity/capital buffer to tap the emerging opportunity. Does this mean we are at an inflection point with respect to credit growth outlook? Evaluating macro-economic variables including trends in private/government capex, aggregate demand, high frequency lead indicators, YTD trends of credit flow, and corporate/government/consumer ability to spend, we pen down credit growth estimate at 4.4% for FY21E, 9.5% for FY22E and significant spike to 13-15% over FY22-25E.

- ▶ **Macro – a mixed bag – capex ability improved but confidence and demand derailed.** Postponement of existing capex plans on weak aggregate demand, underutilisation of existing capacities, low business confidence and rising fiscal deficit limiting government spending has hurt the prospects of capex in FY21. However, economy is expected to post positive growth in all quarters of CY21. Structural policy initiatives (labour law reforms, PLI, etc), competitive corporate tax rates etc, conducive investment climate, relocation of global value chains, rise in aggregate demand, improved business sentiments, ample balance sheet resources (to absorb capex spend) and corporate asset quality cycle nearing its end should see some boost in capex FY22 onwards. We are building in more than 6% growth for FY22 and 13-15% over FY22-25E in corporate credit. *(Refer table 2.5)*
- ▶ **Pent up household spending to drive retail lending growth.** Credit growth held up well in H1FY21 in retail and services segment with housing, vehicle, credit card, transport, hotels etc witnessing 2% YTD (8-10% YoY) growth. Household spending, after remaining weak during Covid-19 pandemic with shaken consumer confidence and risk of job and income security, we expect pent-up spending as situation normalises. Retail lending will sustain 8% growth in FY21E and on lower base and improved spending sentiment will effectively grow 14% in FY22E. Recovery in economic activity and derivative effect of increased investments and corporate/government spending on consumption will sustain the momentum of 15% plus growth over FY22-25E. *(Refer table 1,4)*
- ▶ **ECLGS 2.0 to support SME credit; bank lending to NBFCs will stabilise.** Expansion of scope of ECLGS 2.0 scheme will further provide impetus for medium corporate growth in the range of 15-20% all through FY22E. NBFCs after having consolidated for almost 2 years now, significantly deleveraging the balance sheet by running down high risk profile assets, and improved capital market sentiment will pursue growth opportunities in risk calibrated manner. Consequently, bank lending to NBFCs should stabilise in FY22E rather than decelerate like FY21.
- ▶ **Who tends to gain, who tends to lose?** Flow of resources to commercial and household sector though will settle in single digit or low double digit, there will still be a rejig in market share amongst players in financial ecosystem. PSU banks, in the last decade, have been consistently losing market share. Also NBFCs, after having consolidated to a large extent post liquidity crisis and amidst Covid-19 pandemic, are now in a relatively better position to tap the upcoming opportunities. Also, it has been demonstrated in the past that asset quality deterioration reduces the efficacy of the credit channel, while strong capital position and robust deposit growth reinforce it. We have, therefore, based our assumption of credit growth for various players based on their performance on these critical parameters. *(Refer table 6,7)*

Research Analysts:

Kunal Shah

kunal.shah@icicisecurities.com
+91 22 6637 7572

Renish Bhuva

renish.bhuva@icicisecurities.com
+91 22 6637 7465

Chintan Shah

chintan.shah@icicisecurities.com
+91 22 6637 7658

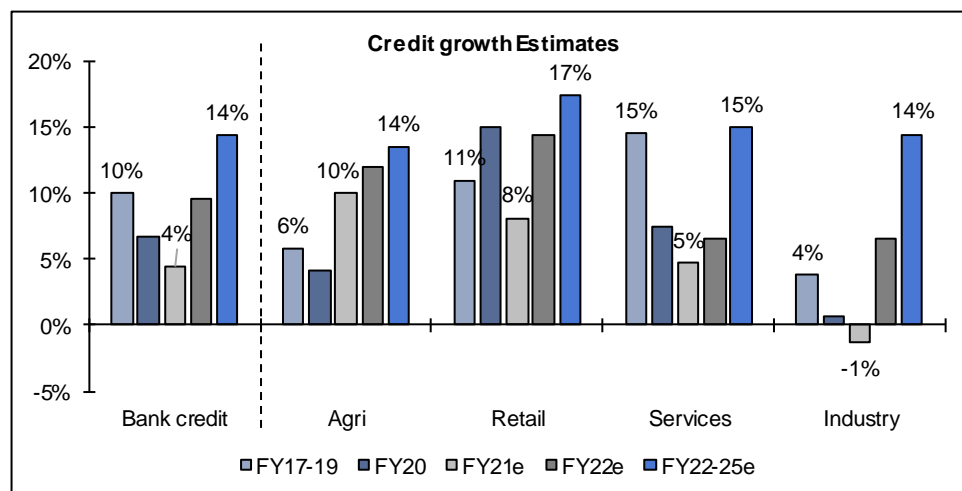
Gauging credit growth outlook is of prime relevance

With collection efficiency trends and credit cost expectations reining in lot of enthusiasm for financial stocks, another critical vector driving earnings and valuation rerating in 2021/22 is going to be credit growth. Gauging the outlook on credit growth is of prime relevance especially in the backdrop of corporate deleveraging cycle over the past several years leading to mere 9% CAGR in bank credit over FY15-FY20. The pandemic has further impacted credit flow to multiple sectors in H1FY21, reflected in bank credit growth settling at mere 5.6% YoY in October'20.

However, government has undertaken several structural initiatives (labour reforms, PLI, etc), competitive corporate tax rates etc that are conducive for manufacturing investments in India and can aid relocation of global value chains. Corporates, too, are now echoing optimism with respect to regained momentum of high frequency lead Indicators and demand/activity level trending towards return to normalcy. Financiers, too, drawing comfort from stabilising collection trends, improving consumer/business confidence level, adequate liquidity/capital buffer on the balance sheet, are now looking towards kick-starting growth in a risk calibrated manner. Nonetheless, macro variable including private capex, government spending, household balance sheet, aggregate domestic and export demand, coupled with financial indicators namely interest rates, liquidity, asset quality stress, financial savings etc become key to base the argument when does the process of releveraging start. Not only this, how various participants are positioned in the financial ecosystem, with respect to capitalisation, product offerings, liability flows, and cost advantage, to leverage emerging opportunities will determine winner and losers in the game.

Evaluating private/government capex and aggregate demand estimates going forward, high frequency lead indicators for respective segments, YTD trends of credit flow, collection efficiency across product segments, we pen down credit growth estimate at 4.4% for FY21E, 9.5% for FY22E and significant boost to 13-15% over FY22-25E.

Chart 1: Bank credit – at an inflection point of releveraging: ~4% (FY21E), 9.5% (FY22E), 13-15% (FY22-25E)



Source: RBI, I-Sec research

What are the key levers and which segments will drive credit growth?

- Postponement of existing capex plans on weak aggregate demand, underutilisation of existing capacities, low business confidence and limited government spending has hurt the prospects of capex in FY21.
- However, structural initiatives (labour reforms, PLI, etc), competitive corporate tax rates etc are conducive for manufacturing investments in India and can aid relocation of global value chains. Also, corporates have ample balance sheet resources to absorb capex spend and are confident of corporate asset quality cycle nearing its end. What would actually boost capex in FY22 is rise in aggregate demand and improvement in consumer and business confidence. We are building in 6% plus growth for FY22 and 13-15% over FY22-25E in corporate credit.
- Government's continued support to SME segment (expansion of scope of ECLGS 2.0 scheme) will sustain growth momentum for medium corporate credit in the range of 15-20% all through FY22E and beyond.
- Household spending, after remaining weak during pandemic with shaken consumer confidence and risk of job and income security, we expect pent up spending as situation normalises. Retail lending will sustain 8% growth in FY21E, and on lower base and improved spending sentiment will effectively grow 14% in FY22E. Recovery in economic activity and derivative effect of increased investments and corporate/government spending on consumption will sustain the momentum of 15%-plus growth over FY22-25E.
- NBFCs, after having consolidated for almost 2 years now, significantly deleveraging the balance sheet by running down high risk profile assets, and improved capital market sentiment will pursue growth opportunities in risk calibrated manner. One of the channels for funding this growth will be bank credit lines and bank lending to NBFCs should stabilise in FY22E rather than decelerate like FY21.

Table 1: Credit growth, post deleveraging phase, is expected to bounce back post FY21

	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY22-25E
Non-Food Credit	37.9	16.8	20.6	17.0	14.2	13.6	7.9	9.1	9.0	7.7	12.3	6.7	4.4	9.5	13.0-15.0
Agri	51.1	22.9	10.6	13.5	13.3	13.0	14.4	15.3	12.4	3.8	7.9	4.2	10.0	12.0	12.0-14.0
Industry	52.8	24.4	23.6	21.3	14.2	12.4	5.3	2.7	(1.9)	0.8	6.9	0.7	(1.3)	6.6	13.0-15.0
Services	32.3	12.5	23.9	14.7	12.1	15.5	5.7	9.1	19.5	11.3	17.8	7.4	4.7	6.6	9.0-11.0
Retail	12.2	4.1	17.0	12.1	17.7	14.6	12.5	19.4	16.7	17.5	16.4	15.0	8.2	14.4	16.0-18.0

Note: Green indicates higher growth than non-food credit, Red indicates lower growth than non-food credit

Source: RBI, I-Sec research

Table 2: Environment conducive for capex coupled with ample resources

	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY22-25E
Micro & Small	55.5	22.1	11.0	13.1	10.2	23.1	8.1	(2.3)	(0.4)	0.8	0.7	1.7	(1.5)	5.0	8.0-10.0
Medium	19.7	8.6	39.2	11.4	(39.6)	2.6	(0.7)	(9.3)	(8.7)	(1.1)	2.6	(0.7)	20.0	15.0	15.0-17.0
Trade (Services)	32.8	13.9	13.2	18.6	26.1	15.9	13.3	4.2	12.3	9.1	13.1	4.6	12.0	10.0	13.0-15.0
Large	58.2	27.4	24.1	24.3	22.2	11.4	5.3	4.3	(1.8)	0.9	8.2	0.6	(2.2)	6.4	13.0-15.0

Source: RBI, I-Sec research

Table 3: NBFCs and CRE to take some more time to regain lost momentum

	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY22-25E
NBFCs	43.7	14.8	54.8	26.3	18.0	12.6	5.8	13.2	10.9	26.9	29.2	25.9	-	2.0	5.0-10.0
CRE	45.8	(0.3)	21.4	7.8	4.7	22.4	7.8	6.7	4.5	0.1	8.9	13.6	2.0	7.0	8.0-10.0

Source: RBI, I-Sec research

Table 4: Retail credit derailment seem to have bottomed out in FY21

	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY22-25E
Housing	15.6	7.7	15.0	12.1	19.1	17.0	16.2	18.8	15.2	13.3	19.0	15.4	8.0	15.0	16.0-18.0
Vehicle	8.8	2.9	24.3	19.7	17.4	17.0	(4.5)	22.7	12.5	10.3	6.5	9.1	5.0	10.0	13.0-15.0
Credit Card	(24.6)	(28.1)	(10.2)	12.9	23.8	(1.8)	22.6	23.7	38.4	31.6	28.6	22.5	9.0	20.0	20.0-25.0
Other personal loans	7.7	(1.2)	19.0	7.9	33.0	12.4	18.2	25.2	27.6	34.6	19.4	19.7	12.0	15.0	15.0-18.0

Source: RBI, I-Sec research

Table 5: Reforms will aid investments in manufacturing units

	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21E	FY22E
Power	97.6%	50.9%	43.3%	22.2%	27.4%	16.6%	14.2%	4.0%	-9.4%	-1.1%	9.5%	-1.6%	1.0%	10.0%
Telecom	55.1%	18.0%	69.2%	-6.8%	-4.9%	1.6%	2.3%	-1.3%	-6.8%	-0.6%	36.7%	24.4%	-20.0%	5.0%
Metals	51.4%	26.5%	28.8%	21.8%	23.9%	14.3%	6.9%	7.5%	1.3%	-1.3%	-10.7%	-5.7%	-1.0%	5.0%
Engineering	35.6%	12.2%	26.5%	21.6%	12.6%	13.8%	5.8%	0.1%	-2.8%	3.6%	8.6%	-6.7%	-10.0%	5.0%
Textiles	25.9%	18.2%	19.2%	10.4%	16.2%	9.8%	-0.3%	1.2%	-4.4%	6.7%	-3.0%	-5.5%	-0.5%	5.0%
Food processing	33.0%	22.1%	29.3%	20.6%	16.9%	23.6%	16.9%	-13.2%	-2.9%	6.7%	1.1%	-1.9%	2.0%	5.0%

Source: RBI, I-Sec research

Who tends to gain, who tends to lose?

Flow of resources to commercial and household segment though would settle in single digit or low double digit, there will still be a rejig in market share amongst players in financial ecosystem. PSU banks, in the last decade, have been consistently losing market share (by more than 15% points) in favour private banks, NBFCs and SFBs. Also NBFCs, after having consolidated to a large extent post liquidity crisis and amidst Covid-19 pandemic, are now in a relatively better position to tap the upcoming opportunities. Also, it has been demonstrated in the past that asset quality deterioration reduces the efficacy of the credit channel, while strong capital position and robust deposit growth reinforce it. We have, therefore, based our assumption of credit growth for various players based on their performance on these critical parameters.

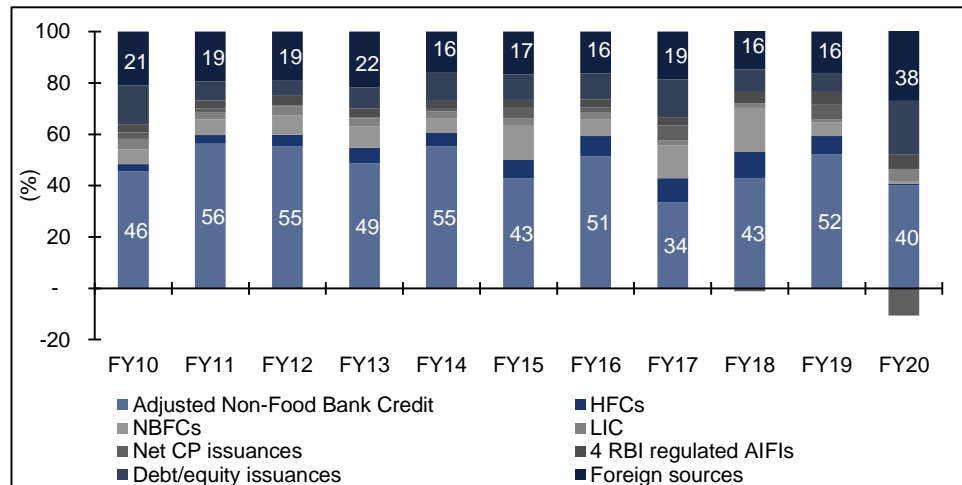
Table 6: Credit growth post a drag in H1FY21 to see a sharp rebound

Name	Credit growth				Deposit growth			
	FY20	FY21YTD	FY21E	FY22E	FY20	FY21YTD	FY21E	FY22E
SBIN	6.4%	-1.3%	7.3%	11.9%	11.3%	14.4%	12.0%	12.0%
HDFCB	21.3%	4.5%	14.6%	17.8%	24.3%	20.3%	12.0%	17.0%
AXIS	15.5%	0.9%	10.4%	17.9%	16.7%	8.8%	10.0%	15.0%
KOTAK	6.8%	-6.8%	7.1%	16.7%	16.4%	12.2%	8.0%	17.0%
INDUSIND	6.5%	-2.7%	5.8%	14.6%	3.7%	10.0%	13.0%	17.0%
YES	-29.0%	-2.6%	3.9%	10.5%	-53.7%	-35.2%	45.0%	8.0%
BANDHAN	17.0%	10.0%	22.0%	25.3%	32.0%	34.4%	20.0%	28.0%
FB	10.9%	0.5%	7.9%	17.0%	12.8%	2.9%	10.0%	14.5%
CUBK	3.8%	2.6%	4.0%	18.0%	6.2%	1.4%	4.0%	16.0%
DCB	7.5%	-1.8%	2.0%	15.0%	6.8%	-5.3%	3.0%	15.0%
KVB	-5.1%	3.7%	8.0%	15.0%	-1.3%	3.5%	8.0%	15.0%
AU SFB	29.0%	-1.0%	4.5%	23.1%	34.7%	3.1%	11.8%	21.3%

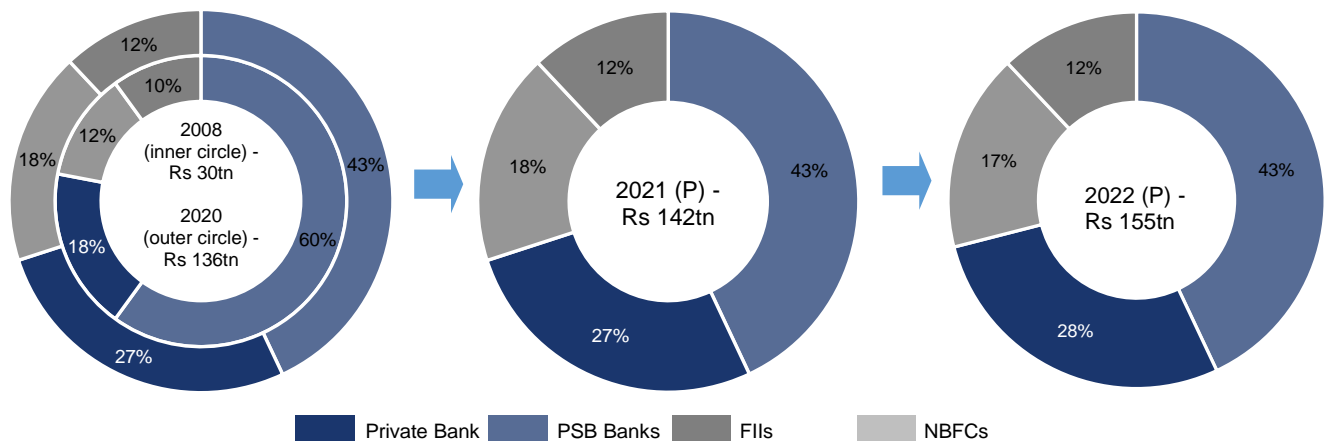
Table 7: Credit efficacy: Credit cost reduces, capital/deposit position enhances

Name	FY17-20 Credit	FY17-20 Deposit	FY17-20 Avg credit cost	Sep'20 CET 1
SBIN	8%	8%	2.9	10.5
HDFCB	21%	21%	1.0	17.0
AXIS	15%	16%	3.2	15.4
KOTAK	17%	19%	0.5	21.2
INDUSIND	22%	17%	1.6	14.5
YES	9%	-10%	4.9	13.5
BANDHAN	58%	35%	0.8	22.2
FB	15%	17%	1.0	13.3
CUBK	10%	11%	1.4	16.3
DCB	12%	12%	0.8	14.2
KVB	1%	2%	3.0	16.4
AU SFB	42%	82%	0.9	18.3

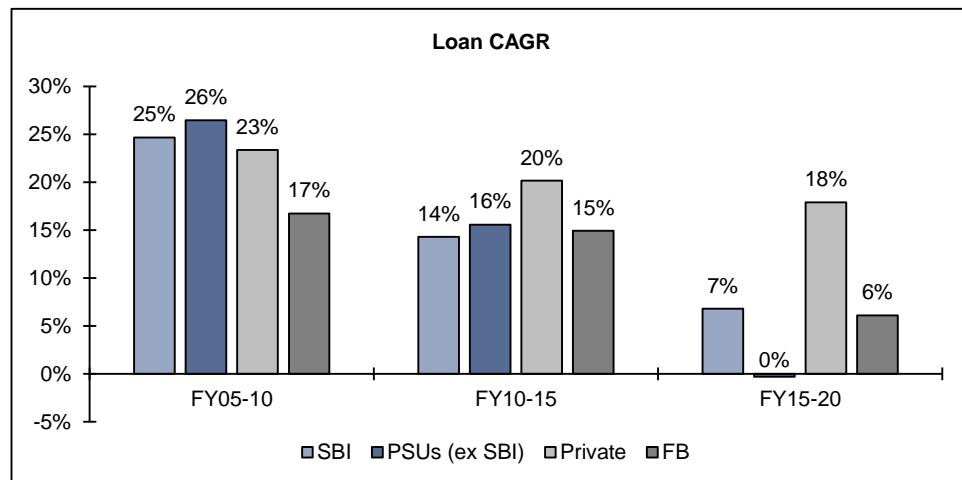
Source: Company, I-Sec Research

Chart 2: Credit substitution at relatively lower cost has led to lower reliance on bank credit by India's commercial sector

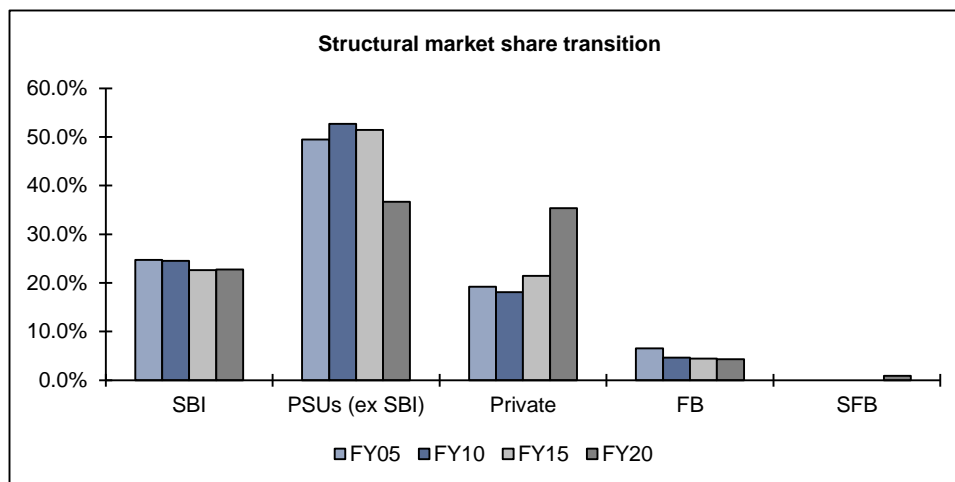
Source: RBI, I-Sec Research

Chart 3: Composition of credit in Indian financial ecosystem

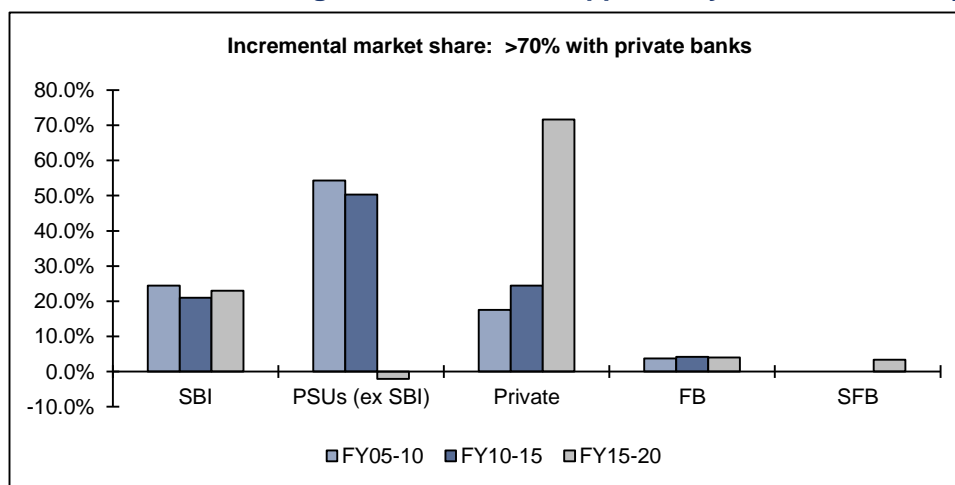
Source: CRISIL, RBI, I-Sec Research

Chart 4: Loan growth of banking groups across phases

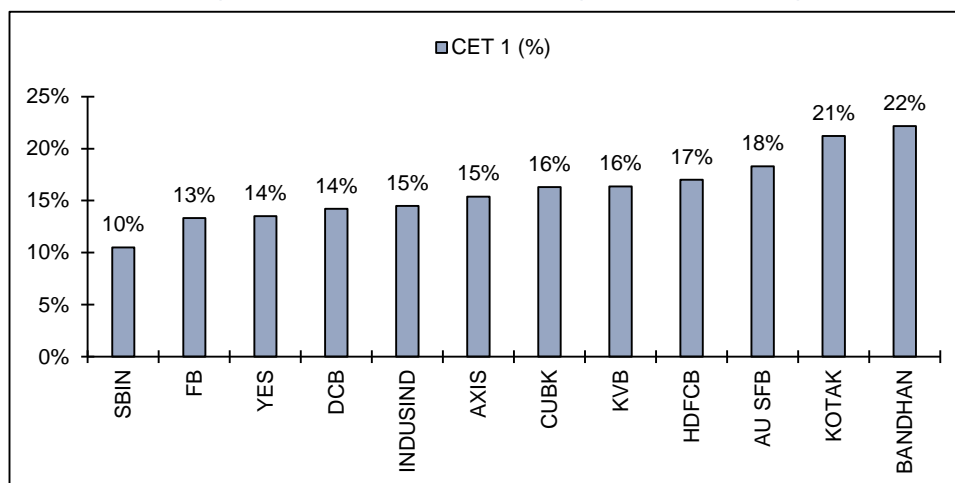
Source: Company, RBI, I-Sec Research

Chart 5: PSU banks consistently losing market share over the decade

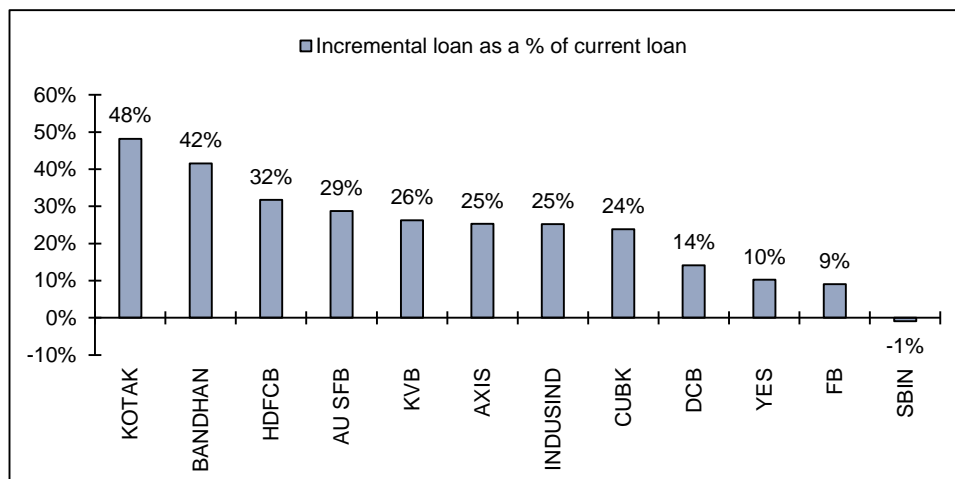
Source: Company, RBI, I-Sec Research

Chart 6: Private banks grab the maximum opportunity; SBI share steady

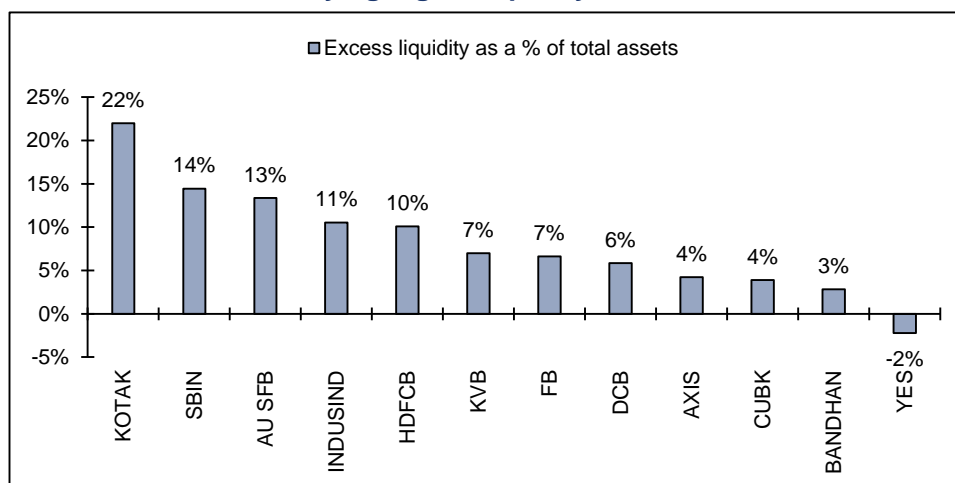
Source: Company, RBI, I-Sec Research

Chart 7: Leading banks well capitalised to grasp the lending opportunity

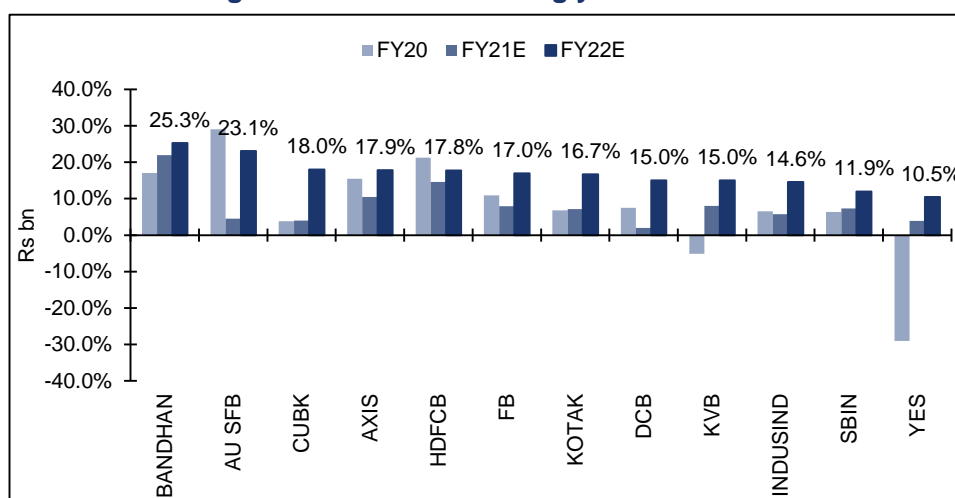
Source: Company, I-Sec Research

Chart 8: Excess capital buffer leaves enough headroom for incremental growth

Source: Company, I-Sec Research

Chart 9: Most Bank carrying higher liquidity on balance sheet

Source: Company, I-Sec Research

Chart 10: Credit growth to rebound strongly in FY22

Source: Company, I-Sec Research

Macro outlook – a mixed bag – capex ability improved but confidence and demand derailed

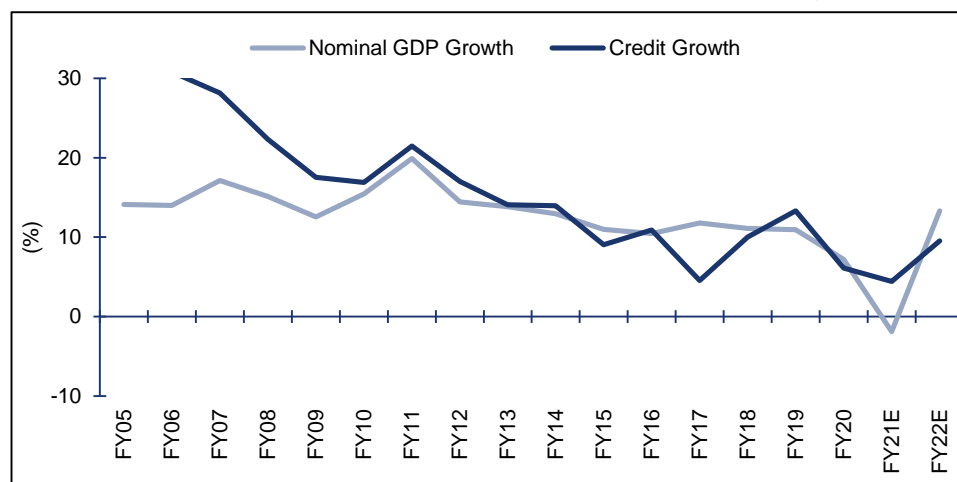
- Indian economy, after recording a technical recession with GDP contracting for two consecutive quarters, is recovering faster than expected. Our economist expects the economy to post positive growth in all quarters of CY21, starting with a modest growth of ~0.8% YoY in Q4FY21 (Q1CY21) and increasing sharply to ~20% in Q1FY22 (Q2CY21) due to low base effect and sequential momentum. We expect Indian economy to contract 7.5% in FY21 and grow 8.5% in FY22.

Table 8: GDP to recover faster after a technical recession in FY21

% YoY	FY21 (E)	FY22 (E)
Agriculture	3.6%	3.2%
Industry	-10%	10.5%
Services	-9%	9.1%
Real GDP	-7.5	8.5

Source: Mospi, I-Sec research

Chart 11: Increased economic activity levels to boost credit growth



Source: Mospi, RBI, I-Sec research

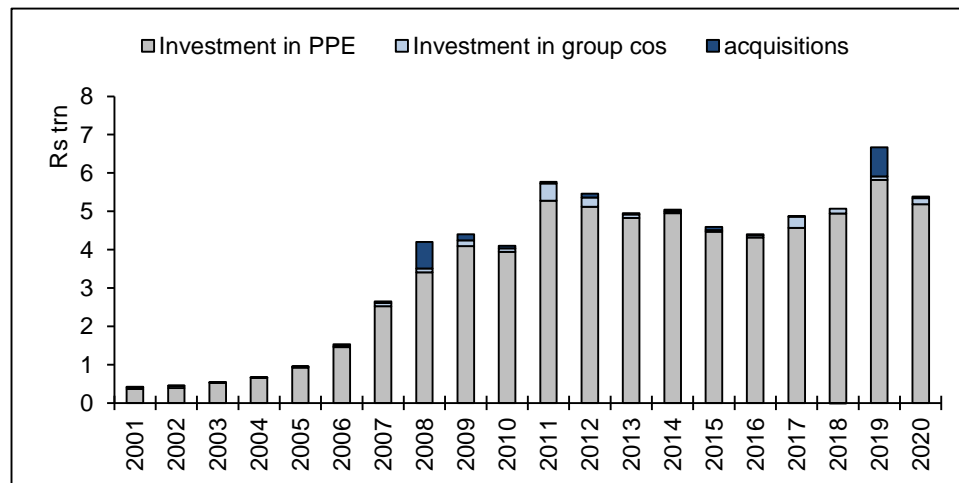
- Our economist expects inflation to remain elevated in early CY21 due to supply-side constraints. CPI inflation may average 6% in Q4FY21 (Q1CY21) and 5.6% in Q1FY22 (Q2CY21). However, we expect inflation to ease and decline to ~4.3% towards the end of CY21.

Table 9: Expected trajectory of CPI inflation

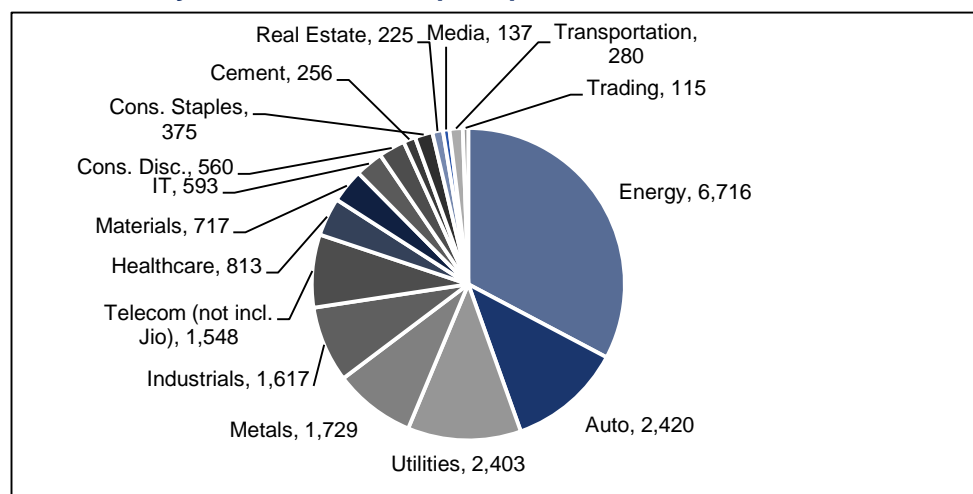
	FY21E					FY22E				
	Q1	Q2	Q3(E)	Q4(E)	Full yr (E)	Q1(E)	Q2(E)	Q3(E)	Q4(E)	Full yr(E)
Headline CPI inflation										
Actual CPI inflation	6.6%	6.9%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Headline CPI (I-Sec)	-	-	6.7%	6.0%	6.5%	5.6%	5.1%	4.3%	4.4%	4.8%
MPC forecast	-	-	6.8%	5.8%	6.5%	4.6% to 5.2%	-	-	-	-
RBI Professional Forecasters' Survey (Dec 2020)	-	-	6.6%	5.4%	6.3%	5.0%	4.5%	-	-	4.5%
Core CPI inflation										
Actual Core inflation	5.0%	5.6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Core (I-Sec)	-	-	5.7%	6.0%	5.6%	5.2%	4.7%	4.7%	4.6%	4.8%
RBI Professional Forecasters' Survey (Dec 2020)	-	-	5.4%	5.3%	5.3%	4.8%	4.3%	-	-	4.2%

Source: Mospi, I-Sec research

- Annual capex (in PPE) over the past 5 years has averaged around Rs5trn – few important characteristics: 1) Largest contributors to capex spend were energy, auto, utilities, industrials, and metals (>70% share); 2) PSUs continue to dominate capex spend with 31%; 3) key impediment for large scale pick-up in private capex cycle was missing private sector participation in infrastructure and real estate development.

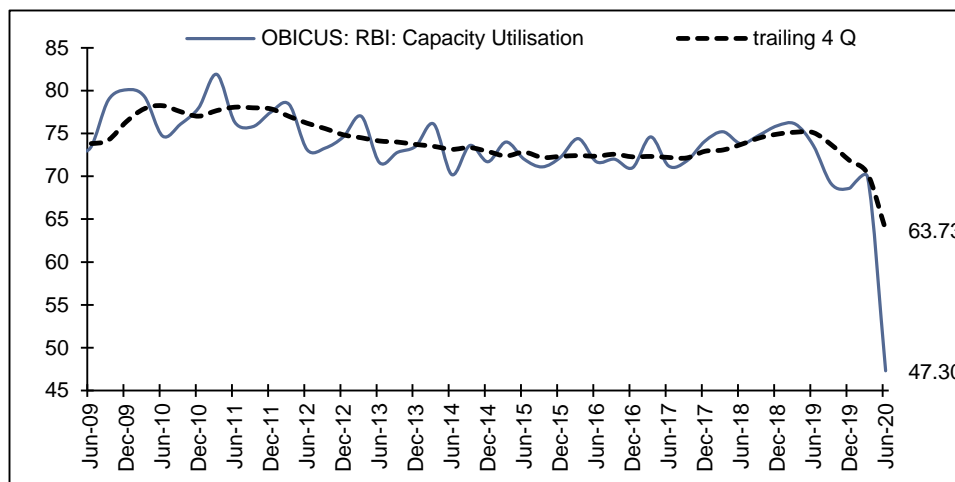
Chart 12: Investment in PPE averaged around Rs5tn

Source: Capitaline, I-Sec Research

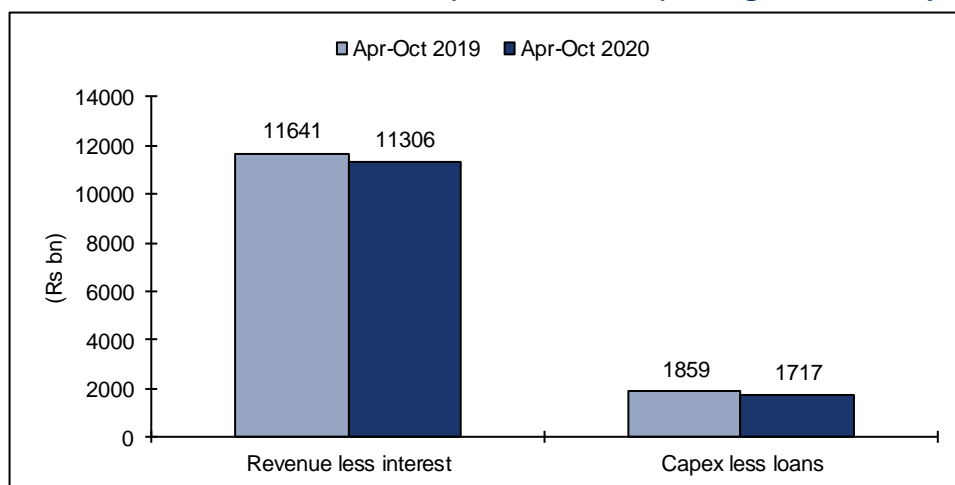
Chart 13: Key contributors to capex spend over FY17-20

Source: Capitaline, I-Sec Research

- Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in slowdown of capex execution during H1FY21. Postponement of existing capex plans on weak aggregate demand, underutilisation of existing capacities, low business confidence and rising combined fiscal deficit limiting government spending has hurt the prospects of capex in FY21 significantly. Improvement in export demand will be contingent on how soon global growth recovers.

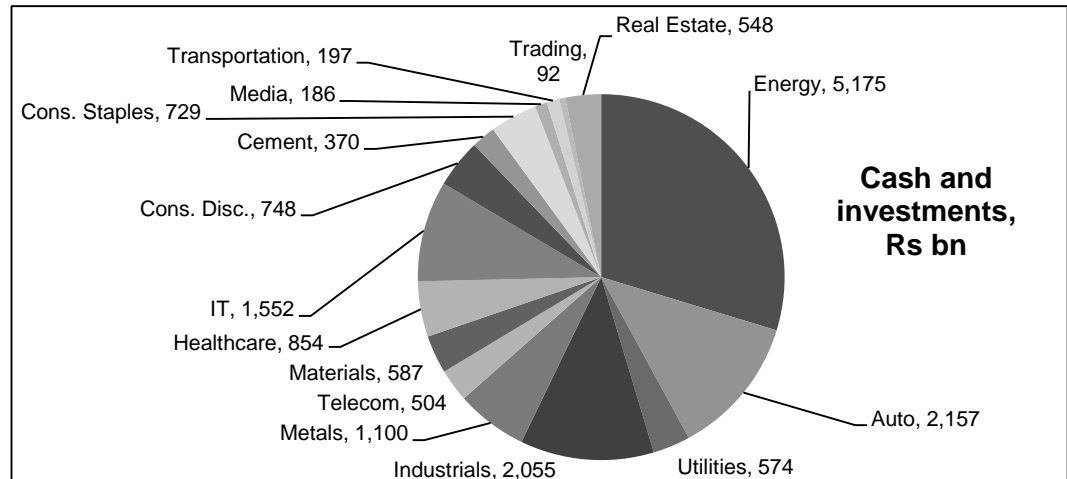
Chart 14: Postponement of existing capex plans due to weak aggregate demand

Source: CEIC, RBI, I-sec Research

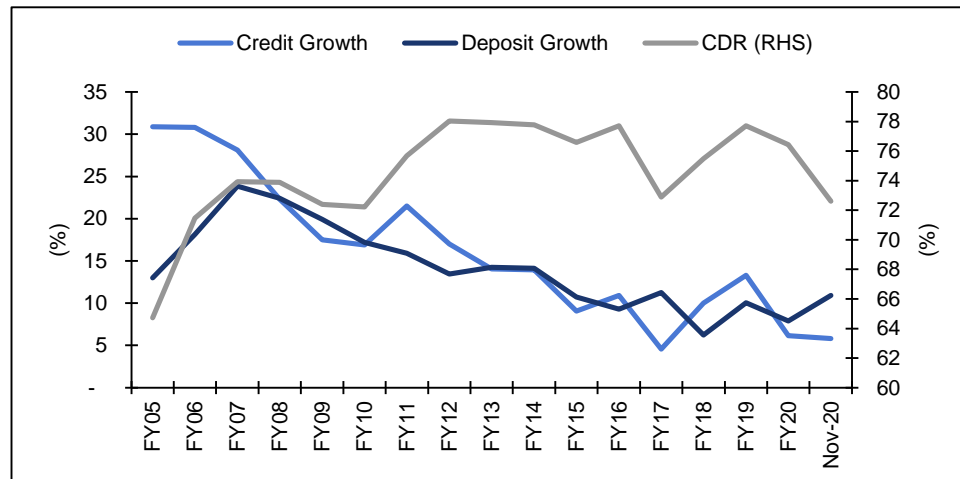
Chart 15: Fiscal deficit concerns (lower revenues) limit government spending

Source: CGA, CEIC, I-sec Research

- However, structural policy initiatives (labour law reforms, PLI, etc), competitive corporate tax rates etc are conducive for manufacturing investments in India and can aid relocation of global value chains. Also, corporates have ample balance sheet resources to absorb capex spend and are confident of corporate asset quality cycle nearing its end. What would actually boost capex in FY22 is rise in aggregate demand and improvement in consumer and business confidence.
- However, capacity to absorb capex spend is only improving with ample balance sheet resources – liquid assets of Rs17trn (as of FY20), buoyant capital markets facilitating equity and bond issuances, improving net financial savings of households etc.

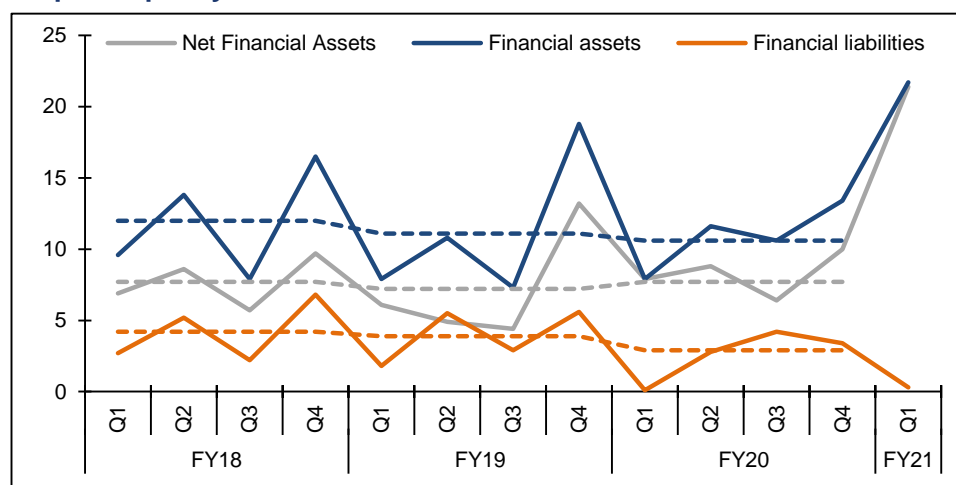
Chart 16: Large cash and investment reserves among India Inc (Rs17tn in FY20)

Source: Capitaline, I-Sec Research

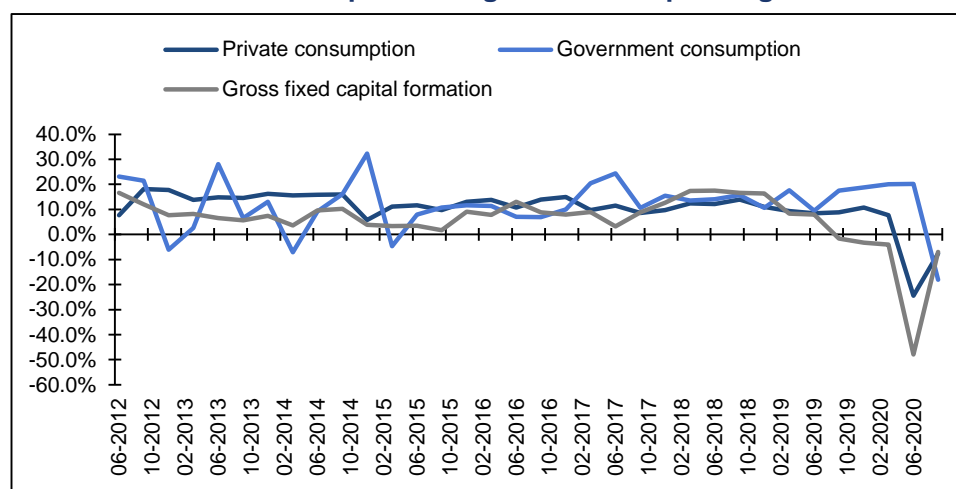
Chart 17: Financiers too flushed with liquidity buffer, CD ratio at 72%

Source: RBI, I-Sec Research

- **On the contrary, with respect to household spending**, after remaining weak during the pandemic with shaken consumer confidence and risk of job and income security, we expect pent-up spending there as situation normalises. Recovery in economic activity and derivative effect of increased investments and corporate/government spending on consumption will sustain the momentum.

Chart 18: Households too have deleveraged to a larger extent and saddled with surplus liquidity

Source: RBI, I-Sec Research

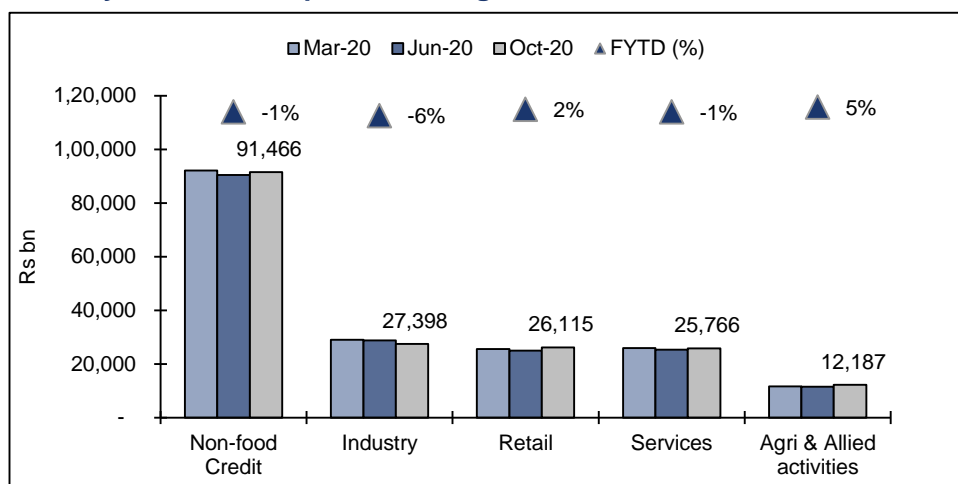
Chart 19: Private consumption and government spending to normalise

Source: MOSPI, CEIC, I-Sec research

Evaluating YTD trend in credit flow

The pandemic has impacted credit flow to multiple sectors in H1FY21, reflected in bank credit growth settling at mere 5.6% YoY in October'20. However relative to expectations (when the crisis had set in March) of sharp contraction, credit decelerated merely Rs650bn till October (down less than 1% YTD).

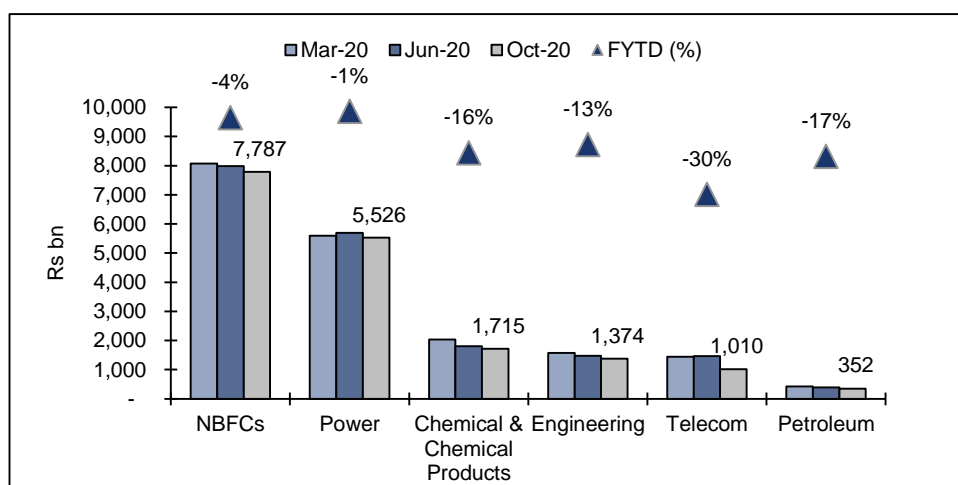
Chart 20: Credit offtake (YTD) was supported by rural, retail, SME lending while industry and services pulled down growth



Source: RBI, I-Sec Research

- Analysing sectoral distribution suggests dominating factor dragging credit growth was corporate deleveraging – large industry credit contracted Rs1.6trn - especially for telecom (down Rs430bn), petroleum (down Rs145bn), chemical products (down Rs315bn), engineering (contracted Rs200bn).
- Risk aversion from banks towards lending to NBFCs (down 3.5% YTD by Rs300bn), CRE (flat YTD), power (down 1.3%) etc.

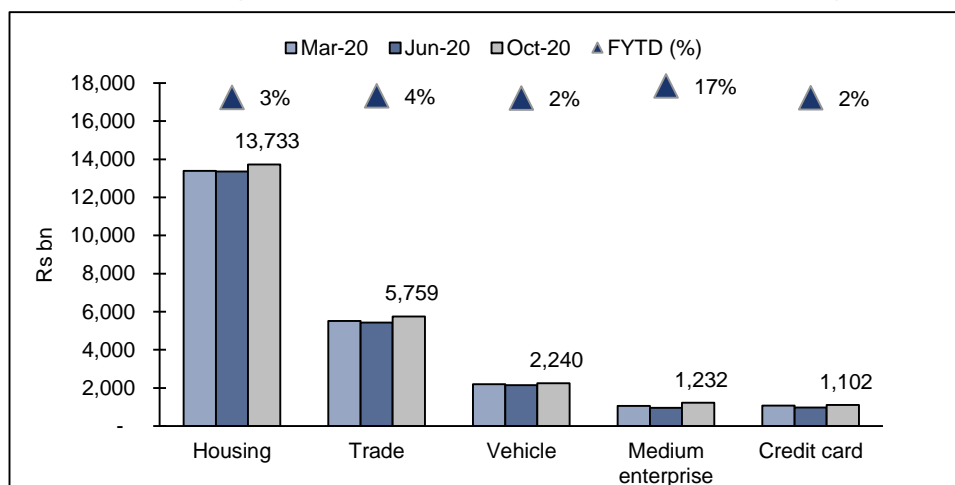
Chart 21: Telecom, petro, chemicals & engineering were the laggards YTD in credit offtake



Source: RBI, I-Sec Research

- Moratorium benefit (lower repayment run-rate) and interest capitalisation provided a boost.
- Lending to SMEs under ECLGS scheme support 17% YTD growth in medium corporates and 4% YTD growth in wholesale/retail trade segment – compared to disbursements of Rs1.6trn under this scheme, net accretion to credit was to the tune of Rs410bn.
- Rural buoyancy was reflected in agri credit being better at 7% YoY and 5% YTD.
- Also, credit growth held up well in retail and services segment with housing, vehicle, credit card, transport, hotels etc witnessing 2% YTD (8-10% YoY) growth.
- Retail lending growth as anticipated moderated to sub-10% from 15-20% - nonetheless, positively MoM trend in home loan accretion is encouraging – post moratorium, when collections/repayments have risen sharply, it still witnessed absolute accretion. With disbursements reaching/breaching last year's level, it seems home loan growth has bottomed out at 8% in October.
- Even credit card outstanding after decelerating >15% in initial three months, has gathered momentum in spending and was positively up 2% YTD.
- Risk aversion stance of financiers towards unsecured personal/small business loans was partially offset by improved offtake for gold loans.

Chart 22: Housing, trade, auto & MSME supported YTD credit growth



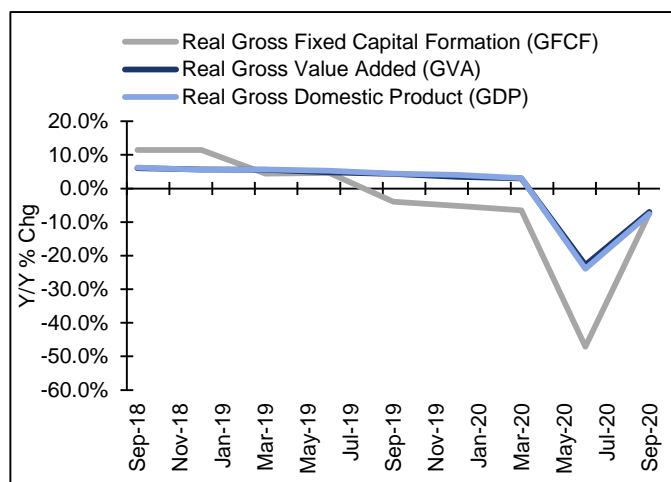
Source: RBI, I-Sec Research

Regained momentum of high frequency lead indicators

Corporates are now echoing optimism with respect to regained momentum of high frequency lead Indicators and demand/activity level trending towards return to normalcy. Financiers, too, drawing comfort from stabilising collection trends, improving consumer/business confidence level, adequate liquidity/capital buffer on the balance sheet, are now looking towards kick-starting growth in a risk calibrated manner.

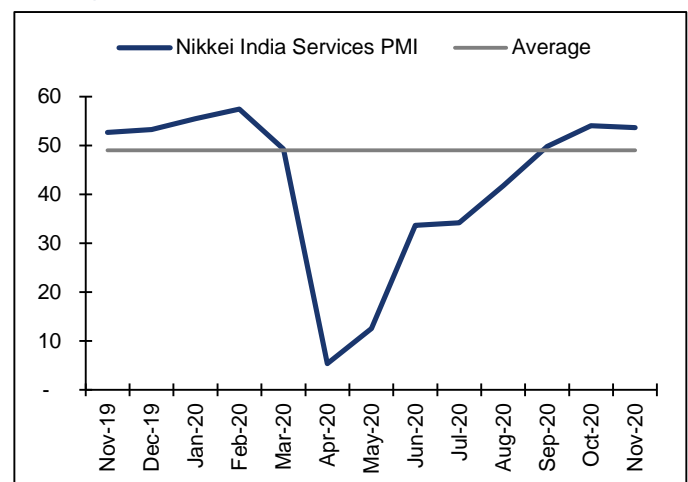
- Google mobility index indicates that in October movement has increased around groceries, pharmacies and residential places above pre-Covid levels but remained lower at workplaces, areas of recreation and around retail shops.
- Movement of goods also increased in October/November, as reflected in an YoY increase in the issuance of e-way bills – intra-state as well as inter-state.
- Electricity consumption increased 11.5% YoY for the second successive month after remaining in contraction over the year so far.
- Consumption of petrol and diesel also emerged out of contraction and posted growth rates of 4% and 6.6%, respectively.
- Sales of consumer durables surged across categories such as smartphones, consumer electronics and automobiles. E-commerce platforms recorded an acceleration of 50% in sales.
- Mirroring these indicators of the revival in domestic spending, GST collections broke through Rs1trn mark in October for the first time in this fiscal – up 10.2% YoY.
- Unemployment rate has receded almost continuously from a high of 23.5% in April 2020 to 7% in October.
- Services PMI for October at 54.1 emerged out of contraction zone for the first time since the Covid-19 outbreak. Manufacturing PMI surged in a broad-based acceleration to 58.9 in October, driven mainly by new orders and output amidst restocking of inventories.

Chart 23: GDP & GVA indicators recover from stress; will take time to be back to normal levels

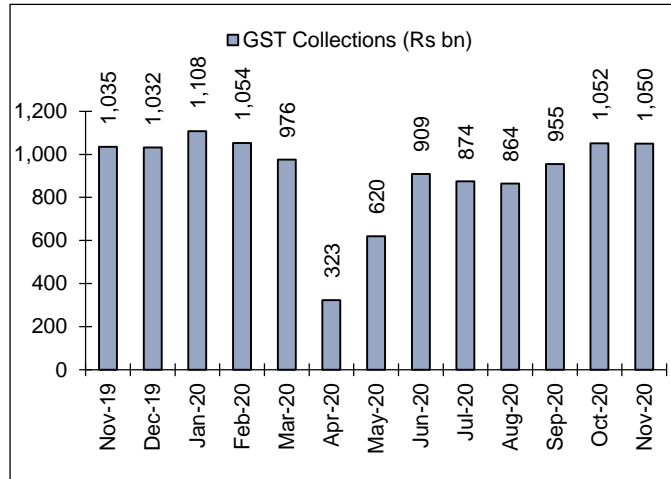


Source: CEIC, I-Sec Research

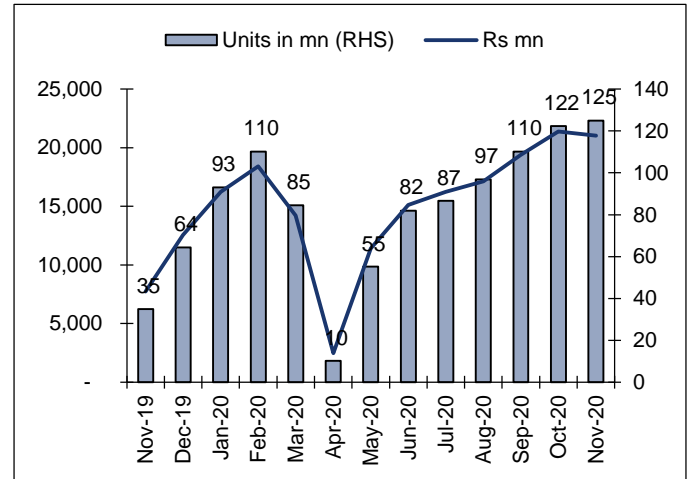
Chart 24: PMI suggests activity levels now above average and just a tad below pre-Covid levels



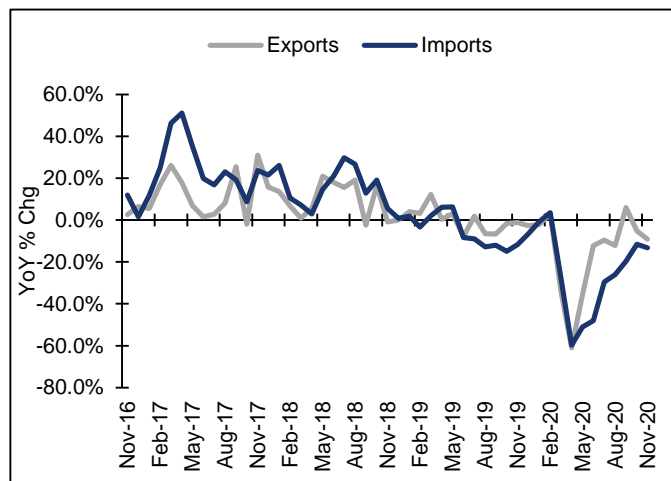
Source: Nikkei, I-Sec Research

Chart 25: GST collections back to pre-Covid levels

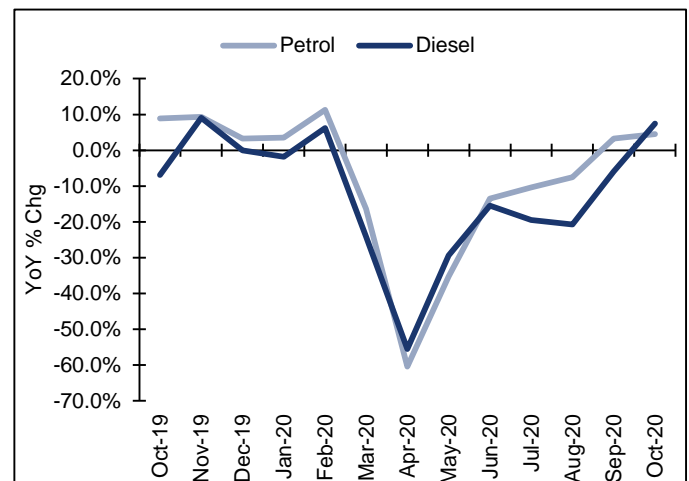
Source: CEIC, GSTN, I-Sec Research

Chart 26: Toll collections bounce meaningfully

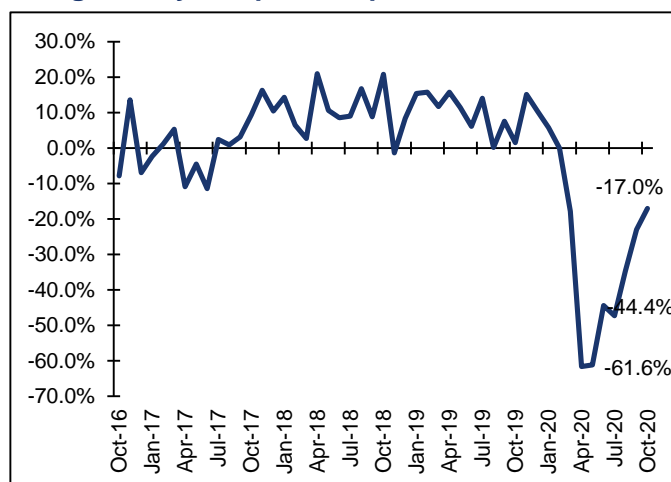
Source: NPCI, I-Sec Research

Chart 27: Foreign trade still under pressure

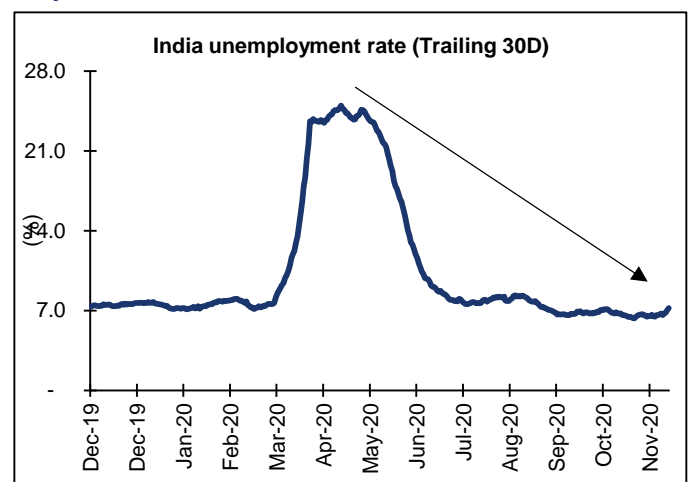
Source: CEIC, I-Sec Research

Chart 28: Fuel consumption suggests resumption in domestic activity

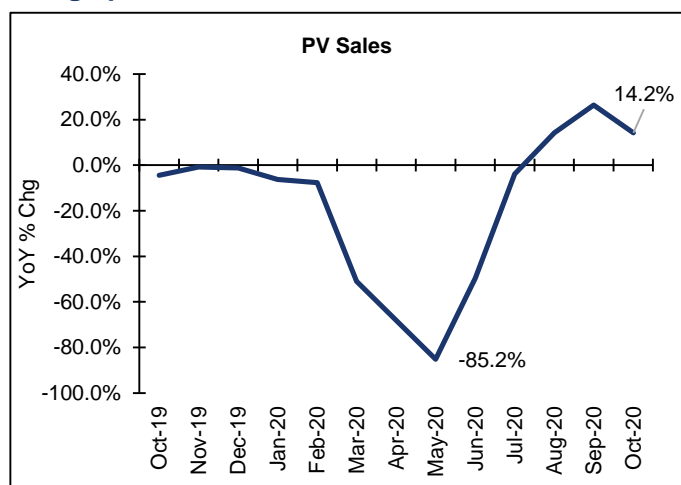
Source: CEIC, I-Sec Research

Chart 29: Naukri JobSpeak Index suggests that hiring activity has picked up momentum

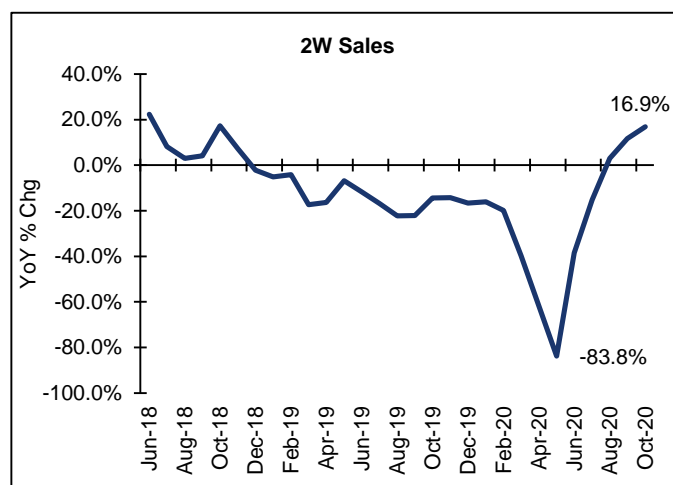
Source: Naukri, I-Sec Research

Chart 30: Unemployment, after spike to 25% in May, cools-off and normalise in December

Source: CMIE, I-Sec Research

Chart 31: PV sales growth in positive territory post a large phase of consolidation

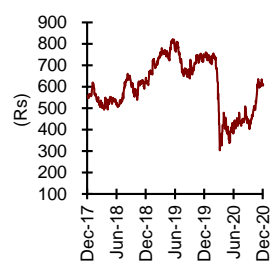
Source: CEIC, SIAM, I-Sec Research

Chart 32: 2W sales witnessing robust demand

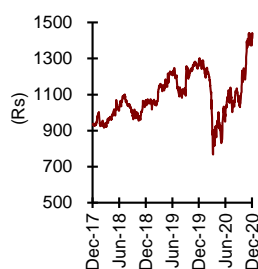
Source: CEIC, SIAM, I-Sec Research

Price charts

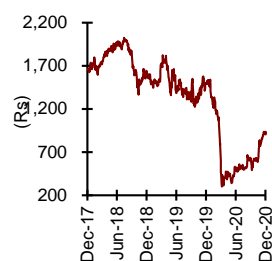
Axis Bank



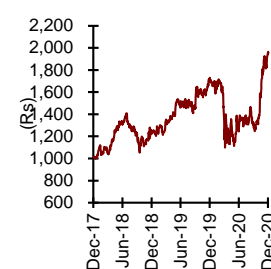
HDFC Bank



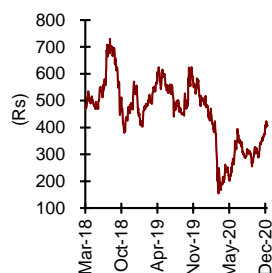
IndusInd Bank



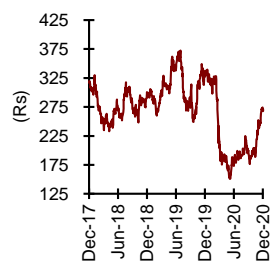
Kotak Mahindra Bank



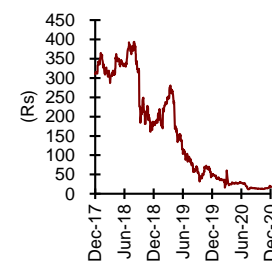
Bandhan Bank



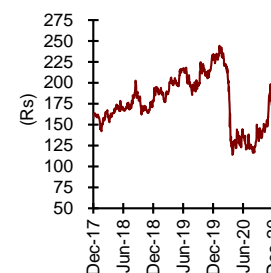
State Bank of India



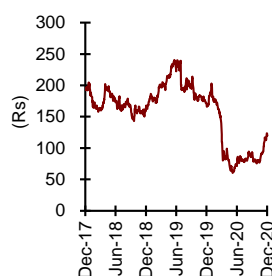
Yes Bank



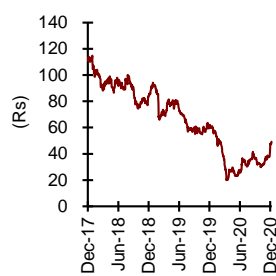
City Union Bank



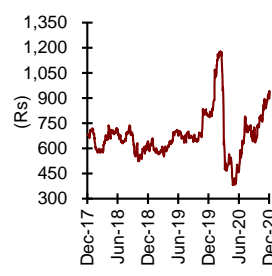
DCB Bank



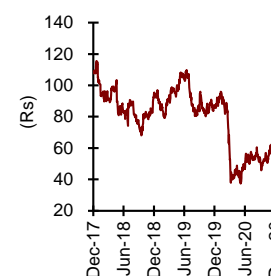
Karur Vysya Bank



AU SFB



Federal Bank



Source: Bloomberg

In case of industry/sector reports or a report containing multiple stocks, the rating/recommendation for a particular stock may be based on the last released stock specific report for that company.

This report may be distributed in Singapore by ICICI Securities, Inc. (Singapore branch). Any recipients of this report in Singapore should contact ICICI Securities, Inc. (Singapore branch) in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with, this report. The contact details of ICICI Securities, Inc. (Singapore branch) are as follows: Address: 10 Collyer Quay, #40-92 Ocean Financial Tower, Singapore - 049315, Tel: +65 6232 2451 and email: navneet_babbar@icicisecuritiesinc.com, Rishi_agrawal@icicisecuritiesinc.com.

"In case of eligible investors based in Japan, charges for brokerage services on execution of transactions do not in substance constitute charge for research reports and no charges are levied for providing research reports to such investors."

New I-Sec investment ratings (all ratings based on absolute return; All ratings and target price refers to 12-month performance horizon, unless mentioned otherwise)

BUY: >15% return; ADD: 5% to 15% return; HOLD: Negative 5% to Positive 5% return; REDUCE: Negative 5% to Negative 15% return; SELL: < negative 15% return

ANALYST CERTIFICATION

I/We, Kunal Shah, CA; Renish Bhuva, CFA (ICFAI); Chintan Shah, CA; authors and the names subscribed to this report, hereby certify that all of the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect our views about the subject issuer(s) or securities. We also certify that no part of our compensation was, is, or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendation(s) or view(s) in this report. Analysts are not registered as research analysts by FINRA and are not associated persons of the ICICI Securities Inc. It is also confirmed that above mentioned Analysts of this report have not received any compensation from the companies mentioned in the report in the preceding twelve months and do not serve as an officer, director or employee of the companies mentioned in the report.

Terms & conditions and other disclosures:

ICICI Securities Limited (ICICI Securities) is a full-service, integrated investment banking and is, inter alia, engaged in the business of stock brokering and distribution of financial products. ICICI Securities Limited is a SEBI registered Research Analyst with SEBI Registration Number – INH000000990. ICICI Securities Limited SEBI Registration is INZ000183631 for stock broker. ICICI Securities is a subsidiary of ICICI Bank which is India's largest private sector bank and has its various subsidiaries engaged in businesses of housing finance, asset management, life insurance, general insurance, venture capital fund management, etc. ("associates"), the details in respect of which are available on www.icicibank.com.

ICICI Securities is one of the leading merchant bankers/ underwriters of securities and participate in virtually all securities trading markets in India. We and our associates might have investment banking and other business relationship with a significant percentage of companies covered by our Investment Research Department. ICICI Securities generally prohibits its analysts, persons reporting to analysts and their relatives from maintaining a financial interest in the securities or derivatives of any companies that the analysts cover.

Recommendation in reports based on technical and derivative analysis centre on studying charts of a stock's price movement, outstanding positions, trading volume etc as opposed to focusing on a company's fundamentals and, as such, may not match with the recommendation in fundamental reports. Investors may visit icidirect.com to view the Fundamental and Technical Research Reports.

Our proprietary trading and investment businesses may make investment decisions that are inconsistent with the recommendations expressed herein.

ICICI Securities Limited has two independent equity research groups: Institutional Research and Retail Research. This report has been prepared by the Institutional Research. The views and opinions expressed in this document may or may not match or may be contrary with the views, estimates, rating, target price of the Retail Research.

The information and opinions in this report have been prepared by ICICI Securities and are subject to change without any notice. The report and information contained herein is strictly confidential and meant solely for the selected recipient and may not be altered in any way, transmitted to, copied or distributed, in part or in whole, to any other person or to the media or reproduced in any form, without prior written consent of ICICI Securities. While we would endeavour to update the information herein on a reasonable basis, ICICI Securities is under no obligation to update or keep the information current. Also, there may be regulatory, compliance or other reasons that may prevent ICICI Securities from doing so. Non-rated securities indicate that rating on a particular security has been suspended temporarily and such suspension is in compliance with applicable regulations and/or ICICI Securities policies, in circumstances where ICICI Securities might be acting in an advisory capacity to this company, or in certain other circumstances.

This report is based on information obtained from public sources and sources believed to be reliable, but no independent verification has been made nor is its accuracy or completeness guaranteed. This report and information herein is solely for informational purpose and shall not be used or considered as an offer document or solicitation of offer to buy or sell or subscribe for securities or other financial instruments. Though disseminated to all the customers simultaneously, not all customers may receive this report at the same time. ICICI Securities will not treat recipients as customers by virtue of their receiving this report. Nothing in this report constitutes investment, legal, accounting and tax advice or a representation that any investment or strategy is suitable or appropriate to your specific circumstances. The securities discussed and opinions expressed in this report may not be suitable for all investors, who must make their own investment decisions, based on their own investment objectives, financial positions and needs of specific recipient. This may not be taken in substitution for the exercise of independent judgment by any recipient. The recipient should independently evaluate the investment risks. The value and return on investment may vary because of changes in interest rates, foreign exchange rates or any other reason. ICICI Securities accepts no liabilities whatsoever for any loss or damage of any kind arising out of the use of this report. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Investors are advised to see Risk Disclosure Document to understand the risks associated before investing in the securities markets. Actual results may differ materially from those set forth in projections. Forward-looking statements are not predictions and may be subject to change without notice.

ICICI Securities or its associates might have managed or co-managed public offering of securities for the subject company or might have been mandated by the subject company for any other assignment in the past twelve months.

ICICI Securities or its associates might have received any compensation from the companies mentioned in the report during the period preceding twelve months from the date of this report for services in respect of managing or co-managing public offerings, corporate finance, investment banking or merchant banking, brokerage services or other advisory service in a merger or specific transaction.

ICICI Securities or its associates might have received any compensation for products or services other than investment banking or merchant banking or brokerage services from the companies mentioned in the report in the past twelve months.

ICICI Securities encourages independence in research report preparation and strives to minimize conflict in preparation of research report. ICICI Securities or its associates or its analysts did not receive any compensation or other benefits from the companies mentioned in the report or third party in connection with preparation of the research report. Accordingly, neither ICICI Securities nor Research Analysts and their relatives have any material conflict of interest at the time of publication of this report.

Compensation of our Research Analysts is not based on any specific merchant banking, investment banking or brokerage service transactions.

ICICI Securities or its subsidiaries collectively or Research Analysts or their relatives do not own 1% or more of the equity securities of the Company mentioned in the report as of the last day of the month preceding the publication of the research report.

Since associates of ICICI Securities are engaged in various financial service businesses, they might have financial interests or beneficial ownership in various companies including the subject company/companies mentioned in this report.

ICICI Securities may have issued other reports that are inconsistent with and reach different conclusion from the information presented in this report.

Neither the Research Analysts nor ICICI Securities have been engaged in market making activity for the companies mentioned in the report.

We submit that no material disciplinary action has been taken on ICICI Securities by any Regulatory Authority impacting Equity Research Analysis activities.

This report is not directed or intended for distribution to, or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or other jurisdiction, where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law, regulation or which would subject ICICI Securities and affiliates to any registration or licensing requirement within such jurisdiction. The securities described herein may or may not be eligible for sale in all jurisdictions or to certain category of investors. Persons in whose possession this document may come are required to inform themselves of and to observe such restriction.

This report has not been prepared by ICICI Securities, Inc. However, ICICI Securities, Inc. has reviewed the report and, in so far as it includes current or historical information, it is believed to be reliable, although its accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed.