

BUY (Unchanged)
Change in Numbers

TP: Bt 55.00
Upside : 33.3%

(Unchanged)
25 MAY 2022

Small Cap Research

Asia Sermkij Leasing Pcl (ASK TB)

Pullback overdone

With neither demand disruption nor asset quality deterioration, ASK appears set to post a strong 3-year EPS CAGR of 27% over 2022-24F. Its 17% share price fall from its YTD peak on high oil prices looks overdone. At 14x 2022F PE with 33% potential upside, reaffirm BUY.



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Manageable higher oil price risks

With over 60% of loans disbursed for truck hire-purchase (HP), rising oil prices, particularly diesel, pose a threat to ASK's growth and asset quality outlook. This has caused ASK's share price to fall by 17% from this year's peak of Bt49.5. We believe the concerns are valid but the pullback is overdone. 1) ASK has seen no loan demand disruption. New disbursements hit a fresh high of Bt9.1bn in 1Q22 and ASK expects the strong momentum to continue. 2) Some 50% of its truck HP customers separate oil costs from transport fees. This means they don't have to shoulder rising input costs while retail customers are still able to service debts and they have started to adjust transportation charges to reflect the rising costs. 3) COVID-19 forbearance loans have fallen from 18% in 4Q21 to 16% in 1Q22. New customers seeking debt assistance are at just 3% of loans thus far. Of a total 16% in the program, 8% are 30 days past due comprising less than 5% of NPLs.

Well prepared for higher rates

ASK has lengthened its liability duration since 1Q20. From 48% in 1Q20, the proportion of short-term borrowings has fallen to 37% in 2020, 25% in 2021 and 15% in the latest quarter. Most of ASK's long-term funding is from bank loans with fixed interest rates at tenors of two to three years. The company estimates a maximum funding cost increase of just 10bps this year. In addition to funding cost management, ASK is looking to improve lending yield via increasing exposure to SMEs, title and used-car HP loans. Lending yields of these segments are higher than 10% vs. less than 7% for new truck and luxury car HP loans.

Strong growth story intact

We trim our earnings by an average of 1% over five years. The changes are to reflect higher insurance brokerage income and higher credit costs as we expect ASK to increase management overlay provisions from Bt364m as of 1Q22 to Bt664m to cover the risk of tourist bus loans outstanding of Bt1bn. Even so, we still expect ASK to post a three-year EPS CAGR of 27% over 2022-24F, which is backed by loan growth of 26/20/18%, growing insurance sales of 23% and the operating leverage effect.

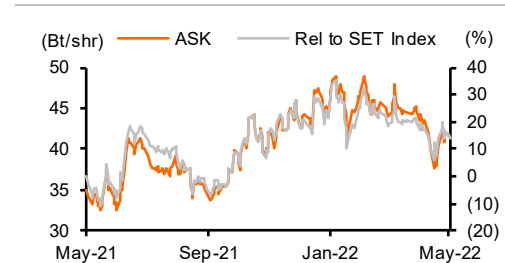
Reaffirming BUY

We continue to like ASK for its robust earnings growth story and cheap valuation. Concerns over higher oil prices look warranted but we believe the company can handle the threat well, while we conservatively incorporate higher provisions into our numbers. At 2022F PE of 14x with a 27% three-year EPS CAGR, ASK looks very cheap to us. With 33% potential upside to our DDM-based 12-month TP of Bt55/share using 2022F base year, we reaffirm our BUY rating.

COMPANY VALUATION

Y/E Dec (Bt m)	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Pre Provision Profit	2,326	3,171	3,965	4,822
Net profit	1,203	1,574	2,151	2,719
Consensus NP	—	1,634	1,892	2,064
Diff frm cons (%)	—	(3.7)	13.7	31.7
Norm profit	1,203	1,574	2,151	2,719
Prev. Norm profit	—	1,615	2,134	2,740
Chg frm prev (%)	—	(2.5)	0.8	(0.8)
Norm EPS (Bt)	2.5	3.0	4.1	5.2
Norm EPS grw (%)	14.3	18.3	36.7	26.4
Norm PE (x)	16.4	13.8	10.1	8.0
P/BV (x)	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.7
Div yield (%)	2.8	3.6	4.9	6.2
ROE (%)	16.1	16.3	20.3	23.0
ROA (%)	2.4	2.5	2.8	2.9

PRICE PERFORMANCE



COMPANY INFORMATION

Price as of 25-May-22 (Bt)	41.25
Market Cap (US\$ m)	636.1
Listed Shares (m shares)	527.8
Free Float (%)	41.9
Avg Daily Turnover (US\$ m)	1.8
12M Price H/L (Bt)	49.00/32.50
Sector	Finance
Major Shareholder	Chailease group 50.41%

Sources: Bloomberg, Company data, Thanachart estimates

Strong growth story intact

With hire-purchase (HP) accounting for 90% of Asia Sermkij Leasing's (ASK) loans and more than 60% of these being truck HP loans, rising oil prices and the upward interest rate trend are headwinds to the company's profitability. These concerns have led its share price to fall by 17% from this year's peak of Bt49.5. We do not argue that these concerns are not valid but we see the share price pullback as overdone. We do not expect the two above-mentioned negative factors incurring significant harm to ASK's growth story and profitability.

Manageable oil price impact:

Monitoring the impact of oil prices to asset quality

- 1) ASK has seen no disruption to loan demand. New disbursements hit a fresh high of Bt9.1bn in 1Q22, growing by 28% y-y and 9% q-q. The company expects the strong momentum to continue and it is maintaining its new loan growth target of at least 20% for this year.
- 2) Some 50% of its truck HP customers separate oil costs from transportation fees. This means they do not have to shoulder rising input costs while the rest of its retail customers are still able to service debts and they have started to adjust their transportation charges to reflect the rising costs.
- 3) COVID-19 forbearance loans have fallen from 18% in 4Q21 to 16% in 1Q22. New customers seeking debt-assistance programs amount to just 3% of loans. Of the total 16% in the program, 8% are 30 days past due comprising less than 5% of NPLs.

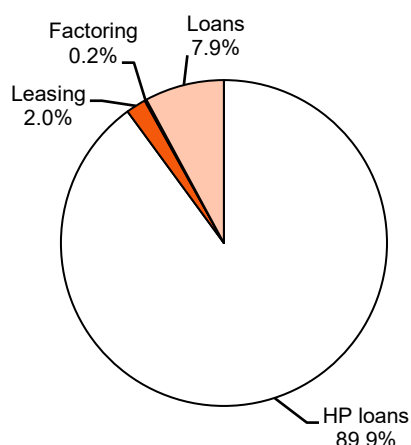
Well-prepared for higher rates:

Lengthening liability duration...

...and raising exposure to high-yield segments

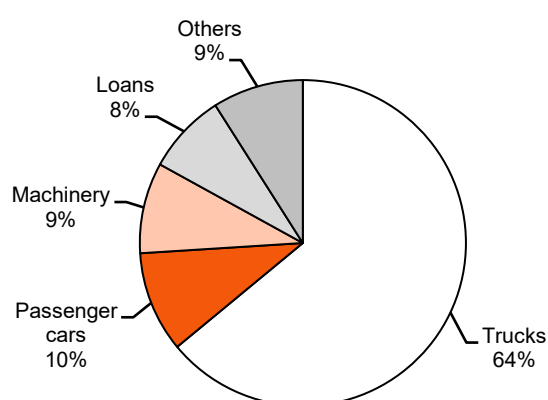
- 1) ASK has lengthened its liability duration since 1Q20. From 48% in 1Q20, the proportion of short-term borrowings have fallen to 37% in 2020, 25% in 2021 and 15% in the latest quarter.
- 2) Most of ASK's long-term funding is from bank loans with fixed interest rates at tenors of around two to three years.
- 3) The company estimates a maximum funding cost increase of just 10bps for this year but plans to improve lending yield via increasing exposure to SMEs, title and used-car HP loans to offset the increase in funding costs. The lending yield of these segments is higher than 10% compared with less than 7% for new truck and luxury car HP loans.

Ex 1: By Type Of Loan

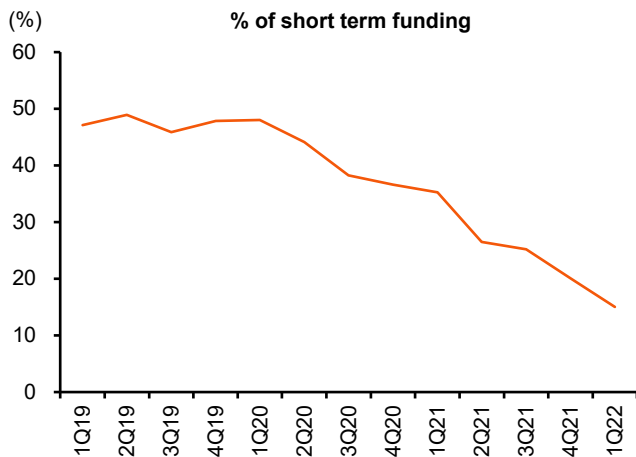


Source: Company data

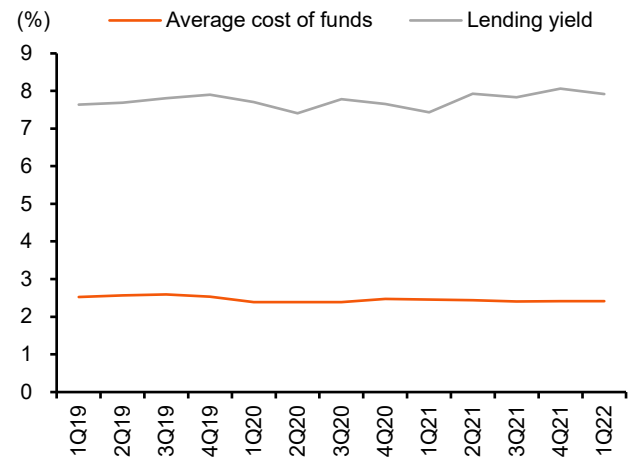
Ex 2: Loans By Product



Source: Company data

Ex 3: Lengthening Liability Duration

Source: Company data

Ex 4: Manageable Net Spread

Source: Company data

ASK's 1Q22 profits hit a record high and were pretty much in line with our forecast. With exposure to Bt1bn of tourist bus loans which are not recovering well as the country has just reopened, ASK has been setting aside management overlay provisions to mitigate the risk of a reclassification of these loans to NPLs. As of 1Q22, ASK had management overlay provisions of Bt363m. With an estimated collateral value of 30-40% for these loans, the company has open exposure of around Bt600m-700m. We conservatively expect ASK to increase management overlay provisions to cover this and we increase our provisions assumption by 9% in 2022F. This is the main reason why we have trimmed our earnings estimate by 2% this year.

Ex 5: Earnings Revisions

	2020	2021	2022F	2023F	2024F
Net profits (Bt m)					
- New	883	1,203	1,574	2,151	2,719
- Old			1,615	2,134	2,740
- Change (%)			(2.53)	0.81	(0.78)
Loan growth (%)					
- New	7.72	25.26	26.26	20.01	18.20
- Old			22.37	20.66	18.97
- Change (pp)			3.89	(0.65)	(0.77)
Non-interest income (Bt m)					
- New	412	606	782	935	1,118
- Old			753	902	1,078
- Change (%)			3.78	3.72	3.65
Provisions (Bt m)					
- New	557	817	1,203	1,276	1,424
- Old			1,108	1,244	1,393
- Change (%)			8.55	2.61	2.16

Sources: Company data, Thanachart estimates

Ex 6: 12-month DDM-based TP Calculation Using A Base Year Of 2022F

(Bt m)	2022F	2023F	2024F	2025F	2026F	2027F	2028F	2029F	2030F	2031F	2032F	Terminal value
Dividend of common shares	787	1,076	1,359	1,678	1,977	2,301	2,624	2,961	3,324	3,730	4,515	4,515
Dividend of preferred shares	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dividend payment	787	1,076	1,359	1,678	1,977	2,301	2,624	2,961	3,324	3,730	4,515	50,963
Risk-free rate (%)	2.5											
Market risk premium (%)	8.0											
Beta	0.9											
WACC (%)	10.0											
Cost of equity	10.0											
Terminal growth (%)	2.0											
Equity value	29,088											
No. of shares (m)	528											
Equity value / share (Bt)	55.00											

Source: Thanachart estimates

Even with our earnings cuts, we still expect ASK to post a three-year EPS CAGR of 27% over 2022-24F, which is backed by loan growth of 26/20/18%, insurance sales growing by an average of 23% p.a. and improving operating leverage. Trading at a 2022F PE multiple of 14x in light of the 27% three-year EPS CAGR, ASK's valuation looks very cheap to us. We see near-term catalysts from growing new disbursements and record profits. With 33% potential upside to our DDM-based 12-month TP of Bt55 using a 2022F base year, we reaffirm our BUY rating on shares of ASK.

Valuation Comparison

Ex 7: Valuation Comparison With Regional Peers

Name	BBG code	Country	EPS growth		PE		P/BV		ROE		Div. yield	
			22F	23F	22F	23F	22F	23F	22F	23F	22F	23F
Afterpay Ltd	APT AU	Australia	na	na	na	na	na	na	(0.4)	6.6	na	na
Finvolution Group	FINV US	China	375.6	10.2	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	21.1	18.8	21.7	41.6
Mahindra & Mahindra Fin Secs	MMFS IN	India	(28.5)	127.2	24.8	10.9	1.3	1.2	5.7	10.7	0.9	2.3
Bajaj Finance Ltd	BAF IN	India	(0.5)	52.1	50.2	33.0	8.2	6.6	17.4	21.7	0.2	0.4
Manappuram Finance Ltd	MGFL IN	India	1.2	7.9	5.6	5.2	0.9	0.8	17.2	16.5	3.3	3.6
GMO Payment Gateway Inc.	3769 JP	Japan	75.5	(15.0)	50.5	59.4	12.1	11.0	22.9	19.6	0.7	0.8
Infomart Corp.	2492 JP	Japan	na	201.7	632.7	209.7	9.7	9.3	2.0	5.5	0.1	0.2
Ally Financial Inc	ALLY US	US	(7.5)	(0.1)	5.0	5.0	0.9	0.8	17.3	16.5	3.1	3.3
World Acceptance Corp	WRLD US	US	37.1	(48.3)	11.2	21.6	1.9	1.9	17.3	8.4	na	na
Navient Corp	NAVI US	US	(23.3)	(6.5)	4.6	4.9	0.7	0.6	17.4	13.8	4.3	4.3
SLM Corp	SLM US	US	(20.6)	7.4	6.2	5.8	2.4	2.1	38.1	35.6	2.4	2.3
Amanah Leasing	AMANA TH	Thailand	7.7	17.6	14.9	12.7	2.6	2.3	18.5	19.4	3.3	3.9
Asia Sermkij Leasing *	ASK TB	Thailand	18.3	36.7	13.8	10.1	2.2	2.0	16.3	20.3	3.6	4.9
Bangkok Commercial Asset Mgt. *	BAM TB	Thailand	25.3	17.6	18.3	15.6	1.4	1.3	7.5	8.6	3.8	4.5
Chayo Group	CHAYO TB	Thailand	106.2	(12.5)	27.2	31.0	3.4	2.7	15.2	10.6	0.9	0.9
JMT Network Services *	JMT TB	Thailand	24.6	49.6	53.8	36.0	4.6	4.4	9.6	12.6	1.5	2.2
Krungthai Card *	KTC TB	Thailand	7.2	16.0	24.1	20.8	5.0	4.3	22.0	22.3	1.9	2.2
Muangthai Capital *	MTC TB	Thailand	19.0	30.6	15.9	12.2	3.1	2.6	21.5	23.2	1.0	1.3
Saksiam Leasing *	SAK TB	Thailand	36.1	35.5	20.9	15.4	3.2	2.9	16.1	19.5	1.9	2.6
Srisawad Corporation *	SAWAD TB	Thailand	16.1	28.0	12.8	10.0	2.5	2.2	20.3	23.1	3.9	5.0
Ratchthani Leasing *	THANI TB	Thailand	9.6	12.8	12.5	11.1	1.9	1.8	15.7	16.6	4.8	5.4
Ngern Tid Lor *	TIDLOR TB	Thailand	15.9	27.4	21.7	17.0	3.2	2.8	15.8	17.6	0.9	1.2
Average			34.7	28.4	48.9	26.1	3.4	3.0	16.1	16.7	3.2	4.7

Source: Bloomberg

Note: * Thanachart estimates using normalized EPS growth

Based on 25 May 2022 closing price

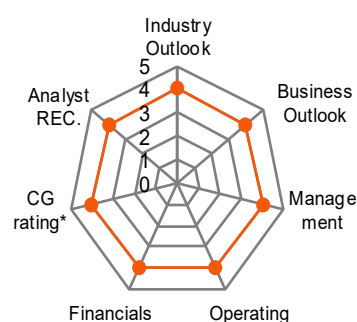
Our major shareholder TCAP (Thanachart Capital Pcl) holds 50.96% of Thanachart Securities. TCAP also holds 100% of Thanachart SPV1 Co. Ltd. TCAP and Thanachart SPV1 Co. Ltd holds 60% stake in THANI and is the major shareholder of THANI.

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Founded in 1984 by Bangkok Bank and majority owned by Chailease Holding from 1997, ASK is a well-established hire-purchase (HP) company. ASK offers all types of automobile HP and personal loans, sale and hire-purchase back services, floor plan financing, auto registration and transfers, tax renewal and insurance facilitation services. Its main subsidiary, Bangkok Grand Pacific Lease (BGPL) Pcl, leases machinery and vehicles and offers HP and domestic and international factoring. Its other subsidiary, SK Insurance Broker (SKIB), offers insurance broker services.

Source: Thanachart

COMPANY RATING



Rating Scale

Very Strong	5
Strong	4
Good	3
Fair	2
Weak	1
None	0

Source: Thanachart; * CG Awards

THANACHART'S SWOT ANALYSIS

S — Strength

- Well-established HP company with a strong foothold in the commercial truck segment
- Strong support by major shareholder
- Experienced management team

O — Opportunity

- Expansion into SME lending and truck title loans
- Expansion into non-life insurance
- Increasing penetration of non-premium car HP

W — Weakness

- Relies on external borrowings
- High focus on commercial truck HP

T — Threat

- Economic recession
- Changes in rules and regulations
- New accounting standard

CONSENSUS COMPARISON

	Consensus	Thanachart	Diff
Target price (Bt)	55.50	55.00	-1%
Net profit 22F (Bt m)	1,634	1,574	-4%
Net profit 23F (Bt m)	1,892	2,151	14%
Consensus REC	BUY: 4	HOLD: 0	SELL: 0

HOW ARE WE DIFFERENT FROM THE STREET?

- Our earnings forecasts and TP are lower than the Bloomberg consensus, which we attribute to us being more conservative on management overlay provisions.

RISKS TO OUR INVESTMENT CASE

- ASK not being able to grow truck loans or keeping asset quality at bay as planned would present the key downside risks to our call.
- Lower contribution of new lending and insurance sales presents a secondary downside risk to our earnings and TP.
- Higher funding costs and opex are also risks to our investment case.

Sources: Bloomberg consensus, Thanachart estimates

Source: Thanachart

INCOME STATEMENT

Strong growth of NII and non-NII

FY ending Dec (Bt m)	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Interest Income	3,184	3,808	4,840	5,925	7,056
Interest Expenses	930	1,039	1,292	1,625	1,955
Net Interest Income	2,254	2,769	3,547	4,300	5,101
% of total income	84.6%	82.0%	81.9%	82.1%	82.0%
Fee income	298	510	662	795	954
% of total income	11.2%	15.1%	15.3%	15.2%	15.3%
Other income	91	77	97	116	138
% of total income	3.4%	2.3%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%
Non-interest Income	412	606	782	935	1,118
% of total income	15.4%	18.0%	18.1%	17.9%	18.0%
Total Income	2,666	3,375	4,329	5,236	6,218
Operating Expenses	988	1,049	1,158	1,270	1,396
Pre-provisioning Profit	1,678	2,326	3,171	3,965	4,822
Bad debt expenses	557	817	1,203	1,276	1,424
Pre-tax Profit	1,121	1,509	1,968	2,689	3,399
Income Tax	238	307	394	538	680
After Tax Profit	883	1,203	1,574	2,151	2,719
Equity Income	0	0	0	0	0
Minority Interest	0	0	0	0	0
Extraordinary Items	0	0	0	0	0
NET PROFIT	883	1,203	1,574	2,151	2,719
Normalized Profit	883	1,203	1,574	2,151	2,719
EPS (Bt)	2.2	2.5	3.0	4.1	5.2
Normalized EPS (Bt)	2.2	2.5	3.0	4.1	5.2

BALANCE SHEET

Robust loan growth

FY ending Dec (Bt m)	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Cash and Interbank	395	471	500	500	500
Other current assets	315	622	470	480	490
Total current assets	710	1,093	970	980	990
Gross loans & accr. interest	49,777	63,004	77,693	92,448	110,911
Provisions	1,034	1,332	1,691	2,038	2,463
Net loans	43,456	54,396	68,675	82,410	97,357
Fixed assets	266	280	262	244	228
Right of use - net	42	65	82	99	116
Other assets	456	835	900	1,080	1,276
Total assets	44,931	56,669	70,888	84,813	99,966
Short term borrow ing	13,832	8,967	8,519	10,222	12,267
Due to related parties	3	1	1	1	1
Current LT portion	6,844	11,705	13,981	17,794	20,763
Other current liabilities	897	1,595	2,000	2,100	2,200
Long term borrow ing	17,687	25,146	36,386	43,628	52,316
Total borrowings	31,519	34,113	44,905	53,850	64,583
Other L-T liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Minority interest	0	0	0	0	0
Shareholders' equity	5,668	9,255	10,042	11,118	12,477
Total Liab. & Equity	44,931	56,669	70,888	84,813	99,966

Sources: Company data, Thanachart estimates

VALUATION

FY ending Dec	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Normalized PE (x)	18.7	16.4	13.8	10.1	8.0
Normalized PE - at target price (x)	24.9	21.8	18.4	13.5	10.7
PE (x)	18.7	16.4	13.8	10.1	8.0
PE - at target price (x)	24.9	21.8	18.4	13.5	10.7
P/PPP (x)	9.8	8.5	6.9	5.5	4.5
P/PPP - at target price (x)	13.1	11.3	9.2	7.3	6.0
P/BV (x)	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.7
P/BV - at target price (x)	3.4	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.3
Dividend yield (%)	4.1	2.8	3.6	4.9	6.2
Normalized EPS	2.2	2.5	3.0	4.1	5.2
EPS	2.2	2.5	3.0	4.1	5.2
DPS	1.7	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.6
PPP/Share	4.2	4.9	6.0	7.5	9.1
BV/share	16.1	17.5	19.0	21.1	23.6
P/BV to ROE	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Share price pullback is
overdone, in our view

FINANCIAL RATIOS

FY ending Dec	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Growth Rate (%)					
Net interest income (NII)	9.8	22.8	28.1	21.2	18.6
Non-interest income (Non-II)	(5.3)	47.3	28.9	19.7	19.5
Operating expenses	4.6	6.2	10.4	9.7	9.9
Pre-provisioning profit (PPP)	8.8	38.6	36.3	25.1	21.6
Net profit	1.6	36.2	30.9	36.7	26.4
Normalized profit growth	1.6	36.2	30.9	36.7	26.4
EPS	1.6	14.3	18.3	36.7	26.4
Normalized EPS	1.6	14.3	18.3	36.7	26.4
Dividend payout ratio	67.7	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0
Loan - gross	7.9	26.6	23.3	19.0	20.0
Loan - net	7.7	25.2	26.2	20.0	18.1
Borrowings	7.2	18.4	31.0	21.7	19.2
NPLs	(10.1)	18.2	15.0	20.0	20.0
Total assets	7.5	26.1	25.1	19.6	17.9
Total equity	4.5	63.3	8.5	10.7	12.2
Operating Ratios (%)					
Net interest margin (NIM)	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5
Net interest spread	5.1	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3
Loan yield	7.6	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8
Borrowing cost	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5
Yield on earnings assets	7.4	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.7
Avg cost of fund	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
NII / operating income	84.6	82.0	81.9	82.1	82.0
Non-II / operating income	15.4	18.0	18.1	17.9	18.0
Normalized net margin	33.1	35.6	36.4	41.1	43.7
Cost-to-income	37.1	31.1	26.8	24.3	22.5
Credit cost - provision exp / loans	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.5	1.4
PPP / total assets	3.9	4.6	5.0	5.1	5.2
PPP / total equity	30.3	31.2	32.9	37.5	40.9
Avg assets/avg equity (leverage)	7.8	6.8	6.6	7.4	7.8
ROA	2.0	2.4	2.5	2.8	2.9
ROE	15.9	16.1	16.3	20.3	23.0

Elevated credit costs
factored in

Sources: Company data, Thanachart estimates

FINANCIAL RATIOS

FY ending Dec	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Liquidity and Quality Ratio (%)					
Gross Loan / Borrow ings	190.5	251.4	237.9	235.9	235.9
Net Loan / Borrow ings	166.3	217.1	210.3	210.3	207.0
Net Loan / Assets	96.7	96.0	96.9	97.2	97.4
Net Loan / Equity	766.7	587.7	683.9	741.2	780.3
S-T / L-T Borrow ings	52.9	35.8	26.1	26.1	26.1
Borrow ings / Liabilities	66.6	52.9	53.7	53.2	53.8
Interest-bearing Debt / Equity	666.9	483.5	583.8	641.9	681.6
Liabilities / Equity	692.8	512.3	605.9	662.8	701.2
Equity to Gross Loan	11.4	14.7	12.9	12.0	11.2
NPLs	1,275.7	1,508.0	1,734.2	2,081.0	2,497.2
NPLs / Total Loans (NPL Ratio)	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.5
Loan-Loss-Coverage (Provision / NPLs)	81.0	88.4	97.5	97.9	98.7

Sources: Company data, Thanachart estimates

Manageable NPLs in our view

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