

Stock Update

# Fusion Micro Finance Ltd.

August 28, 2023





Industry	LTP	Recommendation	Base Case Fair Value	Bull Case Fair Value	Time Horizon
NBFC-MFI	Rs. 631	Buy in the band of Rs. 625-637 & add more on dips to Rs. 562-575 band	Rs. 691	Rs. 759	2-3 quarters

HDFC Scrip Code	FUSION
BSE Code	543652
NSE Code	FUSION
Bloomberg	FUSION:IN
CMP August 25, 2023	631
Equity Capital (Rs Cr)	101
Face Value (Rs)	10
Equity Share O/S (Cr)	10.1
Market Cap (Rs Cr)	6,348
Adjusted Book Value (Rs)	224.3
Avg. 52 Week Volumes	5,12,196
52 Week High	691
52 Week Low	321

Share holding Pattern % (June, 2023)	
Promoters	68.2
Institutions	21.9
Non Institutions	9.9
Total	100.00



HDFCsec Retail research  
stock rating meter

for details about the ratings, refer at the end of the report

\* Refer at the end for explanation on Risk Ratings

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### Our Take:

Fusion Micro Finance Limited (Fusion) is the 2nd largest and one of the fastest growing NBFC-MFIs. The key product offerings include income-generating loans to women entrepreneurs in rural areas, top- up loans, cross sell loans and MSME loans. Fusion's business growth strategy has been targeting underserved and underpenetrated rural areas in both existing markets and new geographies. Over the years, it has expanded its presence in 399 districts across 20 states/UTs through 1,103 MFI branches. It has adopted a calibrated approach towards diversifying the fund raising sources and minimizing the costs of borrowings. Recent fund raise via IPO has strengthened the capital positioning. In the past few years the company has enjoyed consistent ratings upgrades in the back drop of improved growth scenario and improved financial performance. Technology is another strong point for the company; all the borrowers are now on-boarded digitally. The company has experienced promoters as well as marquee investors.

Covid led weak economic scenario had impacted the Micro Finance Industry (MFI) and small business segment. Fusion's performance had also deteriorated. There was sharp spike in NPAs and due to higher provisions the profitability was also impacted. However, we feel that the worst is over and situation has improved with the economy picking up again and the rural demand on the rise; the growth outlook looks positive for the short to medium term. RBI in March 2022 issued new directions for microfinance lending and has eased microfinance regulations. For the long term we feel that the opportunity is huge as penetration of MFI and SFB loans in Indian market is still low.

Previously, we had issued an initiating coverage report ([link](#)) on the company on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2023. The bull case target for the same was achieved on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.

### Valuation & Recommendation:

In last five years, the Asset Under management (AUM) of Fusion has grown at a CAGR of 37%, while it reported a healthy 23% CAGR in clients over the same period. FY23 has been a year full of milestones for the company. It has registered a 37% yearly growth in its AUM, reported its highest ever yearly PAT of Rs. 387 crores (up 1680% YoY), organically added ~0.8 million customers taking the total to 3.5 million spread across 20 states. The company has continuously delivered RoA above 4% and RoE above 20% on account of robust margins and declining provisions in FY23.

We expect the company to grow its loan book at 27% CAGR while NII and Net profit are expected to grow at 30% and 34% CAGR respectively over FY23-25E. ROAA is estimated to improve to 5.1% in FY25E from current 5% in Q1FY24. The asset quality should improve



further from here on as collection starts stabilizing. The company is trading at 1.8x FY25E ABV, which is at a considerable discount to its peers. Looking at the growth opportunities we believe that the discount will gradually narrow.

**We feel that investors can buy the shares of Fusion Micro Finance Ltd. in the band of Rs. 625-637 (1.8x FY25E ABV) & add more on dips to Rs. 562-575 band (1.65x FY25E ABV). We expect the base case fair value of Rs. 691 (2.0x FY25E ABV) and the bull case fair value of Rs. 759 (2.2x FY25E ABVPS) over the next 2-3 quarters.**

### Financial Summary

	Q1FY24	Q1FY23	YoY (%)	Q4FY23	QoQ (%)	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
NII	296	186	59	277	7	452	568	957	1325	1625
PPOP	235	120	96	221	6	277	393	712	989	1207
PAT	120	75	60	115	5	44	21	387	538	690
EPS (Rs)	12.0	9.1	32	12.8	-6	5.5	2.6	38.6	53.6	68.8
ABV (Rs)						144.7	149.2	224.3	277.0	344.8
P/E (x)						114.1	242.9	16.4	11.8	9.2
P/ABV (x)						4.4	4.2	2.8	2.3	1.8
RoAA (%)						0.9	0.3	4.6	5.0	5.1
RoAE (%)						3.6	1.7	21.2	20.8	21.5

(Source: Company, HDFC sec)

### Changes in Estimates

	FY24E			FY25E		
	Old	New	% Change	Old	New	% Change
Advances	10293	10374	0.8	12815	12967	1.2
NII	1286	1325	3.0	1561	1625	4.1
PPOP	966	989	2.3	1161	1207	3.9
PAT	526	538	2.2	667	690	3.5
EPS	52	54	2.3	67	69	3.5

### Recent Developments

#### Q1FY24 Result Update:

The company has continued to report strong numbers in Q1FY24. The total interest income stood at Rs. 479 crores up 45/6% YoY/QoQ, whereas the interest expenses stood at Rs. 183 crores up 28/5% YoY/QoQ. Its portfolio yield stood at 21.5% for the quarter as against 21% in Q4FY23 and 19.5% in Q1FY23, while its cost of borrowing stood at 10.6% (up 50/20bps YoY/QoQ). This healthy growth of interest

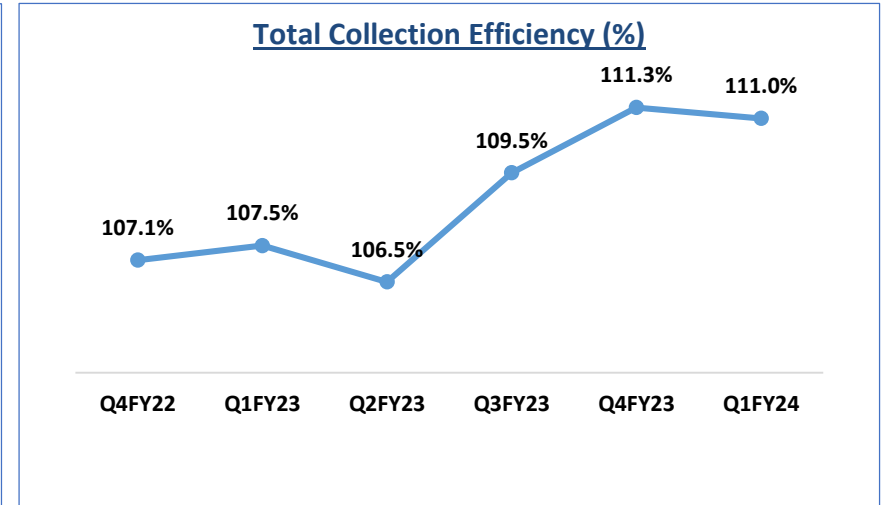
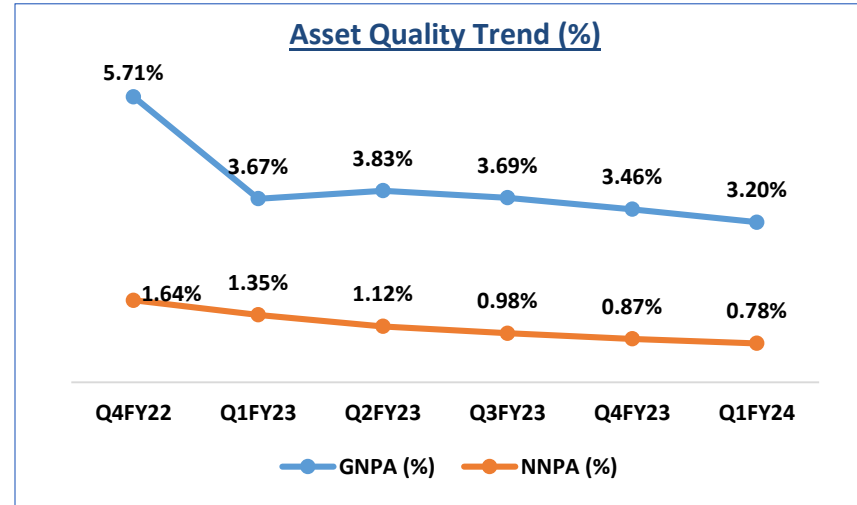


income and transmission of borrowing costs to the customers, coupled with robust growth in its loan portfolio, helped the company's Net Interest Income to grow by 59/7% YoY/QoQ, which stood at Rs. 295.5 crores. Its NIM improved by 150/30bps YoY/QoQ and stood at 10.9% for the quarter. This has been the highlight of the company's results. In the other income, fees and commission income has increased by 109% QoQ, from Rs. 7.7 crores to Rs. 16 crores, on account of higher cross sales. The Cost to Income ratio of the company improved to 36.3% for Q1FY24 vs 44.7% in Q1FY23 on account of stronger growth in its interest income compared to its finance and operating costs. The company reported 38/7% YoY/QoQ higher opex on account of continued physical expansion and digital initiatives to automate various business processes. Its pre-provision operating profit (PPOP) was up by 96/6% YoY/QoQ and stood at Rs. 235 crores. Provisions for impaired assets were significantly higher, 279/19% YoY/QoQ. Despite this, the net profit rose by 60/5% YoY/QoQ and stood at Rs. 120.5 Cr which is the highest ever quarterly profit reported by the company.

Fusion has reported strong AUM growth of 31/4.5% YoY/QoQ and stood at Rs. 9,712 Cr, while disbursements grew by 15% YoY to stand at Rs. 2,285 crores (sequentially down by 4%). GNPA as of Q1FY24 stood at 3.2% v/s 3.46% in Q4FY23 and 3.67% in Q1FY23, while its NNPA stood at 0.78% v/s 0.87% in Q4FY23 and 1.35% in Q1FY23. Further, its number of Borrowers, too rose to 36.4 lakh as of June 2023 as against 25 lakh borrowers as of June 2022. It reported RoA of 4.99% for Q1FY24 as against 4.03% in Q1FY23, and RoE of 20.2% in Q1FY24 v/s 21.81% in Q1FY23. As of June 2023, the company has a total of 1,103 branches across 20 states after adding 17 branches during the quarter.

### **Moderate but improving asset quality**

The asset quality of Fusion was impacted during Covid-19 as was observed across the MFI industry. However, it was better off than the industry as it had lower exposure to Maharashtra, Kerala, and West Bengal, where the economic activities were highly impacted by COVID-19. Things have already started to recover with improvements in write-offs, recoveries, and loan book growth. As of Q1FY24, the Gross Stage 3 are at 3.2% as against 3.46% in Q4FY23, while Net Stage 3 assets are at 0.78% as against 0.87% in Q4FY23. Further, it carries ECL provisions to the extent of 76.2% of these stage 3 assets, as of June 2023. The company has benign Stage 2 asset at 0.77% of gross loans with ECL provisions at 41.5% of these assets, implying lower risk of asset quality deterioration. Collection efficiencies including the pre-payment collection remained at 111% and excluding pre-payments stood at 97.3%. For the loans disbursed on or after April 2021, collection efficiency stood at 99.27%. This signifies improvement in its underwriting standards, extensive customer assessment methodologies and monitoring systems, etc. The outstanding restructured book is only Rs. 7.4 crores, equivalent to 0.08% of the AUM, which was as high as 2.5% in September 2021. Credit costs as a percentage of average on book loan portfolio for Q1FY24 stood at 0.88% as against 0.85% in Q4FY23 and 0.3% in Q1FY23. Management overlay stands at Rs. 57.7 crores and the company is carrying a total of Rs.328 crores as ECL Provisions. As per the provisioning policy of the company, 100% is provided on 90+ days portfolio.



(Source: Company, HDFC sec)

### Healthy capitalization level

As of June, 2023, the capital adequacy ratio of Fusion stood at 28.26%, which was further aided by the Rs. 600 crores IPO in November 2022, priced at Rs. 368 per share. Further, in the past 12 years, the capital adequacy level of the company has never dropped below 20% mark and going ahead, the management intends to maintain a similar trend, although the RBI has prescribed a minimum adequacy level of 15%.

### Concall Highlights

- The management is confident of delivering an RoA of 4.25-4.5% and RoE of 18-20% on a sustainable basis going forward. In Q1FY24, RoA stood at 5% and RoE stood at 20.2%.
- The management is in favour of adding to the management overlays specifically in the quarters where the business performance is better than expectations. During the quarter, they added Rs. 6.4 crores to management overlay. When these are excluded from credit costs, the same comes down from 0.86% to 0.79%. The management feels that its credit costs will stabilize post December 2023 and will give its guidance on the same during the next quarter's results. In the context of long term, and considering the fact that the company is in the business of unsecured lending, the management is comfortable with credit costs in the range of 1.5-2% as well.
- The company is putting in efforts to contain its cost of borrowings at the current levels, however they feel that the interest rate scenario in the country is still uncertain.



- The company has done direct assignments to the tune of Rs. 343 crores as of Q1FY24.
- Collection Efficiencies in UP & Bihar has been above 99%. In Orissa, it has improved from 93% to 99%, in MP it has increased from 93.8% to 97.2%. Tamil Nadu has also shown substantial growth from 93% to 97%. Going forward, these three states are further expected to aid the overall collection efficiency of the company. Collection Efficiencies in Haryana and Punjab have dipped to ~94% on account certain macro events like farmer's protests, COVID waves, uneven rainfall etc. Over the longer term, the company expects its collection efficiencies in these states to normalize to the industry levels.
- Out of the total customers of the company, only 20% are those with loans above Rs. 1 lakh.
- The company expects to grow at a level slightly higher than that will be witnessed in the industry in FY24.
- Around 63% of the customers are from vintage branches, who have been with the company for more than three years, and they contribute 65-66% of the portfolio. The company has a retention ratio of 70-72% for these.
- The concentration in the AUM of the top five states has gone up from 66.1% in Q1FY23 to 69.8% in Q1FY24. The management has commented that this will start to fall or stabilize in next three quarters.
- The company witnessed an increase in the cost of borrowings by 50bps on a YoY basis. Hence, it has revised its lending rates and has decided to pass on this rise to the customers w.e.f 7<sup>th</sup> July. Hence, the management expects its NIMs to expand for two quarters.
- The company has reported an average ticket size of Rs. 42,400. Going forward, the management has guided for an increase in this by 10-12% pa, which translates to the range of Rs. 45,000-46,000.
- The company has approved a policy that allows it to write off accounts after 275 instead of 365 days earlier. This change is expected to enable the company to expedite the write off process. As of Q1FY24, the company has pre COVID portfolio of Rs. 68 crores, which it expects to run down in next 2 quarters.
- The management sounded confident of handling the impact of floods in Bihar, and Orissa as these are frequent occurrences for these states.
- As a credit risk policy, the company does not fund a potential borrower, if he/she has already availed credit from more than five lenders.
- Around 83-84% of the loans advanced by the company are those which have a maximum of 2 lenders apart from Fusion.
- The company effected Rs. 340 crores worth of direct assignments during the quarter.

### Key rationale:

#### **Geographically diversified with strong foothold in rural areas:**

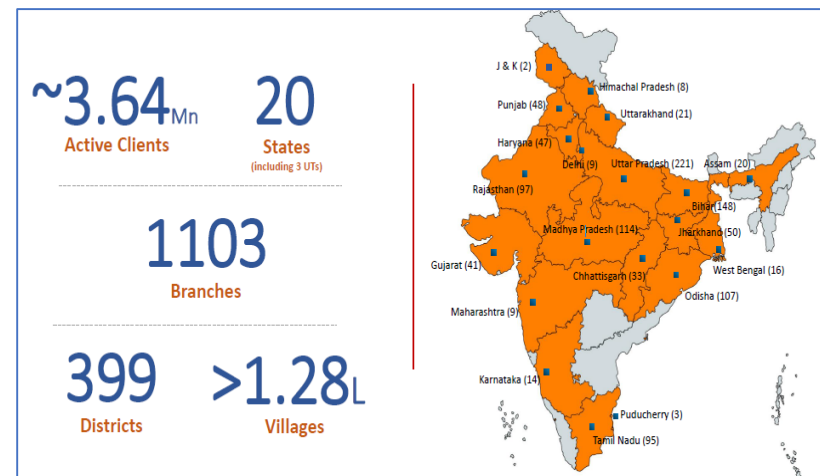
Over the years, Fusion has expanded its presence across 20 states/UTs through 1,103 MFI branches from a mere 62 branches in 5 states in FY15. This robust expansion in its physical presence has allowed the company to increase its borrower base by a CAGR of 32% over FY17-22. It added 17 branches in Q1FY24. The management had conveyed that henceforth, the company's focus is going to shift to deepening its presence in existing states rather than expanding to all the states in India. Even while increasing its geographical presence, it has made



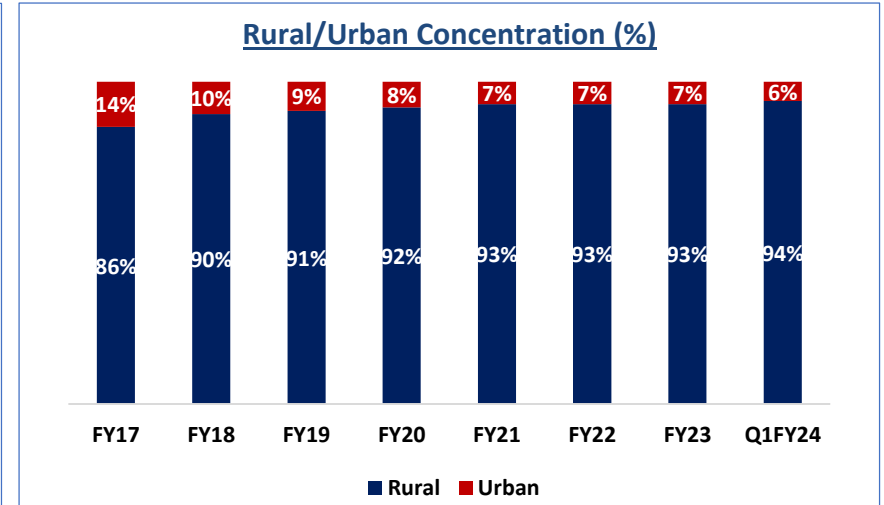
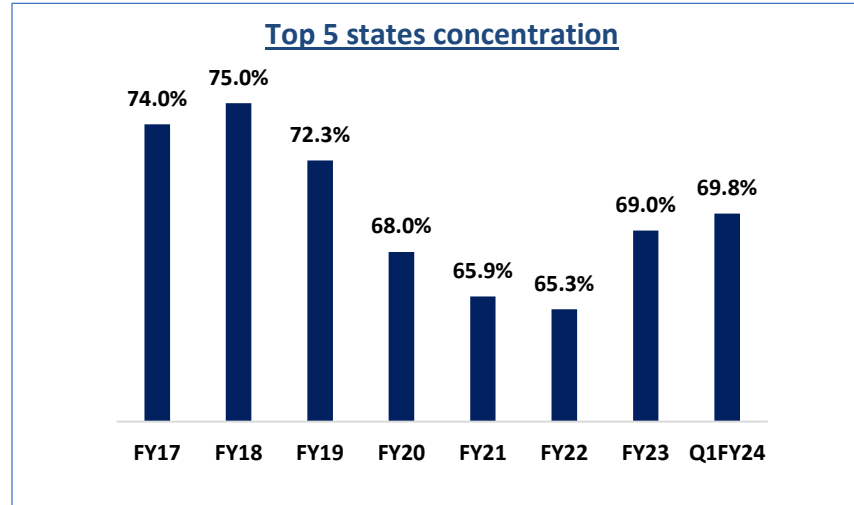
sure that the operating efficiency matrix improves. This is evident from its AUM per Branch which stands at Rs. 9.1 crores as of Q1FY24 as against Rs. 4.1 crores in FY18. Further, the number of borrowers per branch have increased to 3,513 in FY23 from 2,728 in FY18.

The company has its major operations in the state of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. As per a report issued by CRISIL, the penetration of formal credit in the rural areas of these states is in the range of 13-28%. The company’s strategy to operate and penetrate in such untapped markets should support growth prospects going forward. Further, there has also been a continuous effort on reducing state concentration risk through expansion into a few specific new states, while deepening and widening its reach to untapped markets. The company is trying to actively expand in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Punjab and it recently entered Karnataka. Its priority to diversify geographically is evident from the numbers as of Q1FY24: no single state contributes more than 20% of total AUM and no district contributes more than 3%, the share of top 5 states fell to ~ 69.8% as of June 2023 as against ~88% in FY16.

Fusion’s business growth strategy has been targeting underserved and underpenetrated rural areas in both existing markets and new geographies. The company has a long history of focusing on rural areas and has been able to manage growth while maintaining its asset quality. The customer-centric model and ability to leverage extensive distribution network and deep-rooted presence in rural markets across India, makes Fusion well placed to offer an increasing variety of financial products in areas where financial services penetration remains limited. According to CRISIL, in addition to having less competition, lower credit penetration and less migration, rural areas also benefit from overall better credit behaviors and, in turn, lower delinquency rates.



(Source: Company, HDFC sec)



(Source: Company, HDFC sec)

### Experienced management and Marquee investors

The company has an experienced and professional management team as well as marquee investors at the helm. This helps the company in actively monitoring, evaluating, and refining its corporate governance practices throughout the organization. Fusion is promoted by Mr. Devesh Sachdev, who has over two decades of experience before he started Fusion in 2010. He is also the Chairperson of the governing board of the Microfinance Institutions Network. The second line of the management team comprises professionals with an average experience of over a decade in their respective fields. Several team members at the top management are with the company for more than 5 years.

Its marquee investors include Warburg Pincus LLC, a leading private equity firm focused on growth investing across several sectors, and Creation Investments Fusion, LLC, a leading alternative investment management company with a focus on private equity and private credit investments in emerging market financial services companies serving underserved and underbanked clients, both of whom are now the promoters.





**Experienced Board of Directors**

 <p><b>Devesh Sachdev</b> Promoter, MD &amp; CEO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairperson of the governing board of Microfinance Institutions Network</li> <li>Holds a Post-Graduate Certificate Over 26 years of experience in service industry sector</li> <li>Holds a Post-Graduate Certificate from XLRI, Jamshedpur and has also completed HBS Action Program from Harvard Business School, USA</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Narendra Ostlawal</b> Nominee Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managing Director at Warburg Pincus India Limited</li> <li>20 years of experience</li> <li>Previously worked with 3i India and McKinsey &amp; Company</li> <li>Holds a PGDM in business management from IIM Bangalore</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Kenneth Dan Vander Weele</b> Nominee Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Served on the board of Creditaccess Grameen and Muthoot Microfinance, among others</li> <li>Over 15 years of experience</li> <li>Holds a PhD from the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, Open University</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Ratna Dharashree Vishwanathan</b> Independent Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 35 years of experience working with the Government of India, MFIN, and Oxfam India among others</li> <li>Currently on the board of Moneybox Finance Limited, and Dilip Buildcon Limited etc</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Namrata Kaul</b> Independent Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 34 years of experience working with companies like Grindlays Bank and Deutsche Bank</li> <li>Currently on the board of Havells India, and Schneider Electric among others</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Pankaj Vaish</b> Independent Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently on the board of IIFL Wealth Management, Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences and Indium Software (India)</li> <li>Over 35 years of work experience</li> <li>Bachelor from IIT – BHU and MBA University of Minnesota, U.S.A.</li> </ul>

**Supported by Marquee Investor Base**

Other Promoters

(Source: Company, HDFC sec)

### Diversified funding profile

Over the years, Fusion has adopted a calibrated approach towards diversifying the fund raising sources and minimizing the costs of borrowings with prudent asset liability management and effective liquidity management. As per the management, focus on building a healthy balance sheet with a good mix of assets, liability and equity and a positive net asset position has enabled the company to overcome various negative market conditions in the past.

As of June 2022, it had direct funding relationships with 56 distinct lenders, including public sector banks, private sector banks (including small finance banks (SFBs) and foreign banks), NBFCs, and development financial institutions (DFIs). In addition, the company had borrowings in the form of ECBs, NCD issuances, sub-debt and off-book funding. According to CRISIL, Fusion had the second highest number of lender relationships among the top 10 NBFC-MFIs in India as of March 31, 2022.

The average cost of borrowings for the company stood at 10.6%, up 50/20bps YoY/QoQ. The average age of maturity for liabilities stood at 23.1 months as of Q1FY24, while it is 17.4 months for assets. The company has sufficient liquidity in the balance sheet and there is no

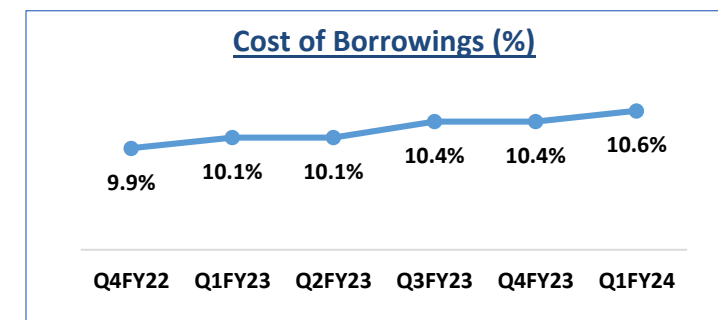


ALM mismatch across the time buckets. Further, marquee names in the promoter categories could help the company raise funds in case of emergency.

In a year of rising interest rates, persistent inflation, tightening liquidity and global uncertainty, the company had nominal impact on the cost of funds, which is commendable.

**Lender split:**

	FY21	FY22	FY23	Q1FY24
Public Sector Bank	13.3%	21.4%	25.8%	24.7%
Development financial Institutions	13.3%	11.7%	7.8%	9.5%
Private Sector Bank	36.4%	36.5%	37.5%	37.2%
Foreign-Bank	16.4%	13.7%	12.9%	15.1%
Non-Banking Financial Institutions	7.1%	8.8%	9.5%	7.3%
Non-Convertible Debentures	13.5%	8.0%	6.5%	6.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



(Source: Company, HDFC sec)

**Rating upgrades**

In past few years the company has enjoyed consistent ratings upgrades in the back drop of improved growth scenario and improved financial performance. The company’s long-term credit ratings have improved from a rating of “BBB” by CRISIL as of March 31, 2016 to a rating of “A” by CRISIL in FY23. Further, recently, in Nov-22, CRISIL has upgraded its long-term rating to A/Stable from A-/Stable.

**Diversified Product offerings and robust AUM growth**

As per CRISIL, the MFI industry is expected to grow by 18-20% CAGR over FY22-25E led by faster growth of 20-22% CAGR in the NBFC-MFI segment on account of faster growth in rural segment, increasing penetration, increasing average ticket size, etc. The target customers of the company are women entrepreneurs in rural areas with an annual household income up to Rs. 3 lakhs. It follows a lending model where in 5-7 women form a group and guarantee each other’s loans, which increases the security for the company. A gist of the company’s diverse range of products is highlighted below-

**Income generating loans:** As stated above, the company follows a group lending model, catering exclusively to women in rural areas. Under this segment, the company extends small loans to women primarily for their businesses in sectors such as agriculture and allied activities, manufacturing and production, trade and retail, services, etc. This product forms the core loan product of the company.

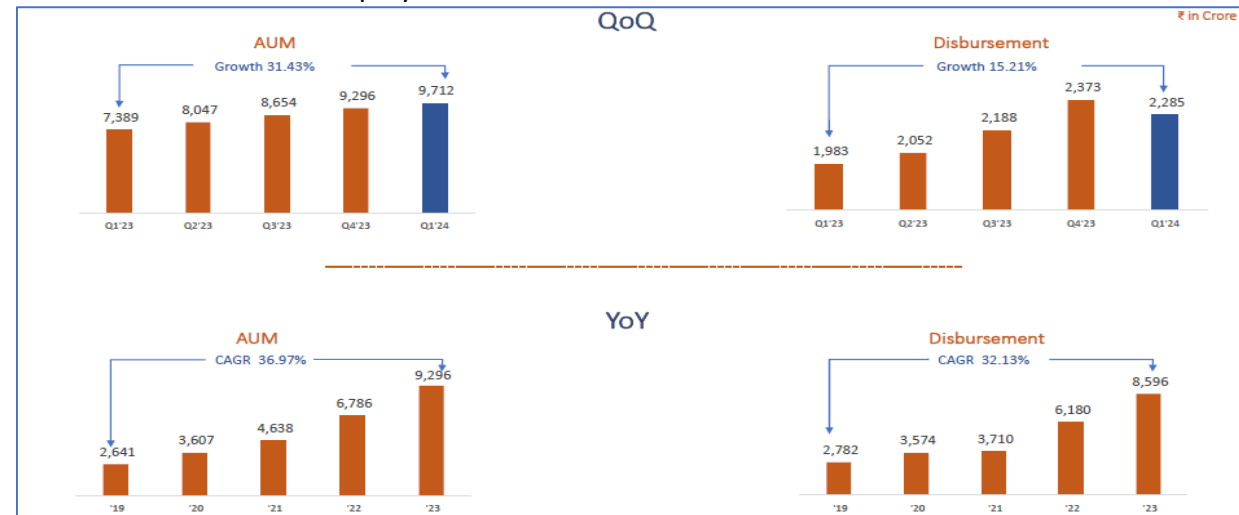


**Top-up loans:** Top-up loans are granted to existing customers to manage interim working capital requirements for their businesses. To be eligible for top-up loans, a customer must have had paid a minimum of six monthly instalments, a minimum attendance rate of 60% at the scheduled center meetings and a satisfactory track record on previous or ongoing loans with the company.

**Cross-sell loans:** It is utilized by customers for livelihood and productivity enhancing purposes. The company has entered into agreements with (i) smartphone brands for the sale of smartphones, (ii) bicycle manufacturers for the sale of a range of bicycles, (iii) kitchen appliances manufacturers for the sale of blenders and cookers, and (iv) Agriculture solutions providers for the sale of tarpaulins. In addition to interest income on such loans, Fusion also receives processing and referral fees by the aforementioned manufacturers and distributors for these services.

**Emergency loans:** It is given to existing customers to fund urgent financial requirements arising out of unforeseen events such as health emergencies, natural disasters and family bereavements. To be eligible for the emergency loans, a customer must have completed at least one cycle of income-generation loans with no delinquency and a minimum attendance rate of 60% at the scheduled center meetings.

**MSME loans:** MSME vertical was launched in Dec 2019 to tap the potential of the 'missing middle'. The company offers MSME loans to eligible enterprises who should be manufacturers, traders, or service providers, and have an investment limit of less than Rs.15 lakhs. As of Q1FY24, the company has a total of 12,397 clients under this segment and a Gross Loan Book of Rs. 349 crores, spread across 70 branches in 10 states and a team size of 785 employees.



(Source: Company, HDFC sec)



As mentioned earlier, the company's total AUM stands at Rs. 9,712 crores which saw a healthy growth of 31/4% YoY/QoQ, primarily driven by new customer acquisitions which are up 26/3% YoY/QoQ. The disbursements in Q1FY24 stood at Rs. 2,285 crores up by 15% YoY but down 4% sequentially. Generally, the lending businesses face a weak April-June quarter and report the strongest growth in January-March quarter. Hence, we feel that the slight sequential dip in the disbursements between Q1FY24 and Q4FY23 is not a big issue for the company. The company's AUM displayed strong growth from FY18-23 of 43% CAGR, while disbursements grew at a CAGR of 39% in the same period. Its average ticket size (ATS) stood at Rs. 42,400 per borrower as of Q1FY24 v/s Rs. 41,200 as of Q4FY23. The management expects its overall ATS to grow at 10% per year going forward, which translates to Rs. 44,000-45,000 by the end of the year. The company is not expected to add any further products but it is expected to raise the share of MSME loans in its total loan book. Further, it has a total of 36.4 lakh borrowers as of Q1FY24, while the net addition to borrowers in the quarter has been 1.1 lakh.

### **Technology and Digital Platforms**

Over the years, the company has consistently invested in upgrading to the latest technology. Early adoption of technology has resulted in digitization across the loan process from lead generation to loan disbursement, which in turn has improved the operating efficiencies for the company. Current platforms support mobile customer onboarding, paperless loan processing, real-time application tracking using barcodes, real-time credit checks, cloud computing, integrated credit bureau data collection, comprehensive online grievance redressal, geographic tagging for center meetings and real time notifications to customers. The technology investments and initiatives over the years have yielded substantial increases in digital customer on-boarding and online disbursements as well as a decrease in turnaround times.

With the adoption of the technology, all the borrowers were on-boarded digitally in Q1FY24 as against 30% in FY18, the share of cash-less disbursement have increased to 99.23% in Q1FY24 from 20% in 2018, and the average turn-around time of the loan approvals has reduced to ~4 days as compared to ~13 days in FY16. Over last five years, despite the continued addition in branches and employees, Fusion has reported improvement in operating leverage as it continued to improve its productivity supported by advance technology.

### **Risks & Concerns**

#### **Risky nature of business**

Micro finance is inherently risky business because of cash dealing and collateral free nature. Clients have below-average credit risk profiles and lack the access to formal credit. The borrowers of individual microfinance loans and micro & small enterprise loans are typically farmers, vegetable vendors, small machine and lathe owners, tea shops, provision stores, small fabrication units, waste paper recycling units, tailors, and power looms. They are economically weaker class and face income volatility.



### **Political risks due to nature of loans**

Loan book of Fusion is dominated by microfinance loans. Political instigation in some of the states asking people not to pay back their dues, as witnessed in the past, could result in higher NPAs. Further, micro finance businesses are also highly sensitive to natural calamities and social-economic events.

### **High growth rate**

Fusion is one of the fastest growing NBFC-MFI and has grown at a CAGR of 51% in last five years. Any economic slowdown or market share loss could impact the current growth rate of the company. Lower than expected AUM growth or build up in the NPAs are the key risks to our thesis.

### **Rising Interest rates**

We witnessed a rising interest rate environment almost throughout FY23, and the cost of borrowings is rising for the NBFCs and on the asset side, the demand for the loan products are declining due to reduced affordability. This could impact the NIMs on account of squeeze in spread and ultimately on the profitability of the company.

### **Change of regulations**

NBFCs, including NBFC-MFIs, in India are subject to strict regulation and supervision by the RBI. It requires several approvals, licenses, registrations and permissions to operate the business. Any adverse change of regulation could have a negative impact on the business of the company.

### **Company Background:**

The company was incorporated on September 5, 1994, as Ambience Fincap Private Limited and later in 2009 was takeover by Mr. Devesh Sachdev who changed its name to Fusion Microfinance. Fusion Micro Finance Limited (Fusion) started microfinance operations in 2010 and became a registered NBFC-MFI in 2014. The key product offerings are income-generating loans that provide capital for women entrepreneurs in rural areas to fund businesses operating in the agriculture-allied and agriculture, manufacturing and production, trade and retail, and services sectors. Subject to certain eligibility criteria, the company also offers top-up loans as well as cross-sell loans to the existing customers. In addition, it also offers MSME loans to eligible enterprises.

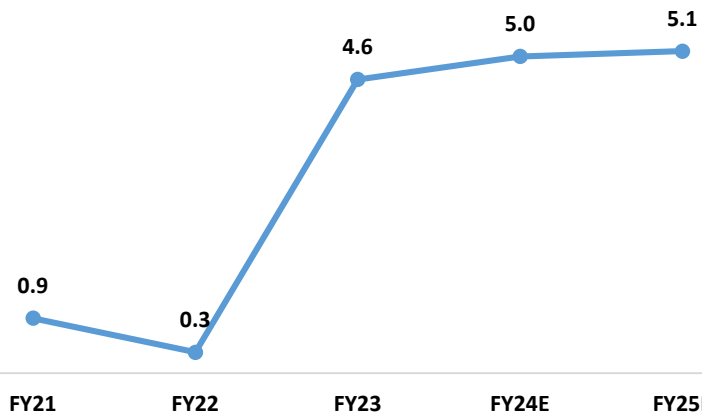
As of June 2023, Fusion has presence in 399 districts across 20 states/UTs through 1,103 MFI branches. Total Asset Under Management stood at Rs. 9,712 Cr. It is the 2nd largest and one of the fastest growing NBFC-MFIs having registered ~37% AUM CAGR over the last five years.



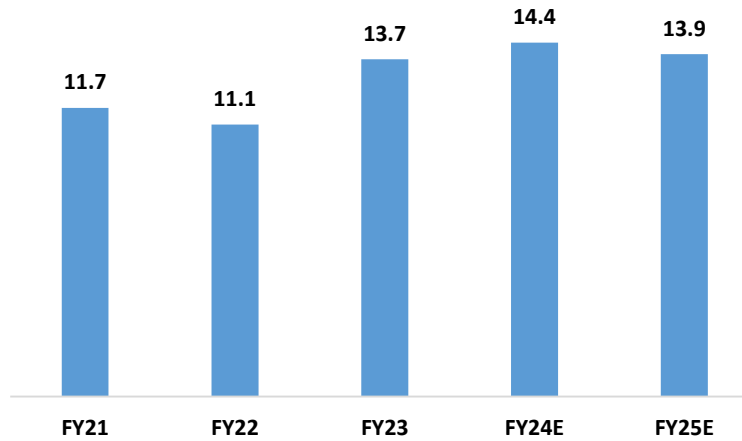
# Fusion Micro Finance Ltd.

Promoted by Mr Devesh Sachdev, the company has attracted domestic and global investors with high pedigree over the years. Until 2018, key investors such as Creation Investments, Oikocredit, Belgian Investment Company (Belgian), NMI Frontier (NMI), RIF North II (RIF), Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Global Financial Inclusion Fund (Global Financial), acquired about a 90% stake in the company. Subsequently, after capital infusion in fiscal 2019 and the third quarter of fiscal 2020, Warburg Pincus (through Honey Rose Investment Ltd) acquired a 48.6% stake in the company, making it the largest shareholder in Fusion. This marked the exit of Belgian, NMI, SIDBI and RIF from the investor group and reduction in the respective stakes held by Global Financial, Creation Investments and Oikocredit. With the recent IPO, Warburg Pincus remains the majority shareholder of the company.

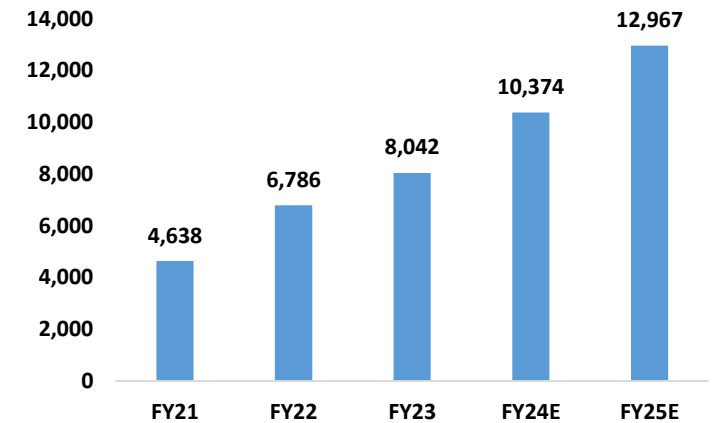
**Return Ratio (%)**



**NIM (%)**



**Loan book expected to grow at 27% CAGR between FY23-25E**





## Fusion MFI Financials Income Statement

Particulars	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Interest Income	828	1064	1600	2099	2637
Interest Expenses	375	496	643	774	1012
<b>Net Interest Income</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>1325</b>	<b>1625</b>
Non-Interest income	28	87	142	166	204
Other Income	17	50	58	64	71
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>1157</b>	<b>1555</b>	<b>1901</b>
Operating Expenses	220	312	445	567	694
<b>PPP</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>1207</b>
Prov & Cont	221	369	200	267	280
<b>Profit Before Tax</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>927</b>
Tax	13	3	125	184	236
<b>PAT</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>690</b>

## Balance Sheet

Particulars	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
Share Capital	79	83	100	100	100
Reserves & Surplus	1167	1255	2222	2759	3450
<b>Shareholder funds</b>	<b>1246</b>	<b>1338</b>	<b>2322</b>	<b>2860</b>	<b>3550</b>
Borrowings	4444	5794	6860	9025	11216
Other Liab & Prov.	148	159	182	205	230
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>	<b>5838</b>	<b>7290</b>	<b>9364</b>	<b>12089</b>	<b>14997</b>
Fixed and Other Intangible Asset	18	19	21	24	27
Cash & Bank Balance	1335	1154	1066	1329	1484
Advances	4361	5918	8042	10374	12967
Other Assets	124	200	236	363	519
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>5838</b>	<b>7290</b>	<b>9364</b>	<b>12089</b>	<b>14997</b>

(Source: Company, HDFC sec)

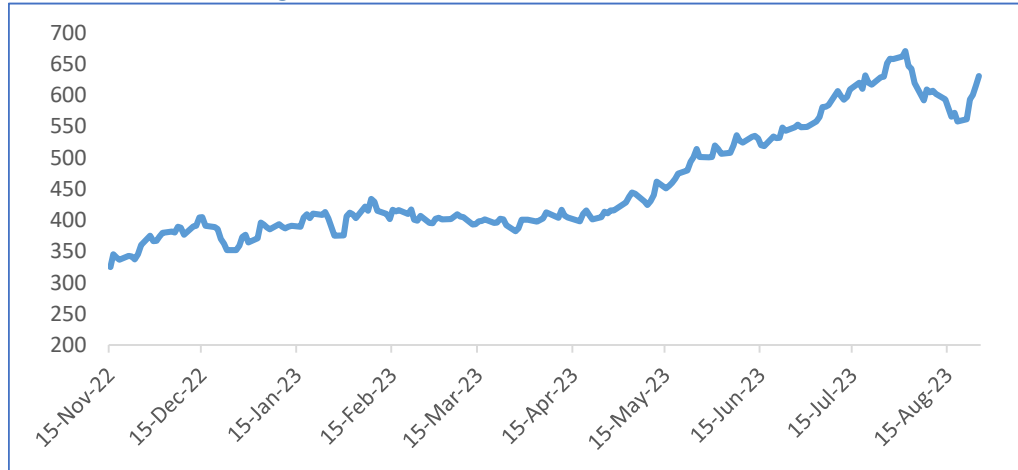


## Key Ratios

Particulars	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
<b>Return Ratios</b>					
Calc. Yield on advances	21.5%	20.7%	22.9%	22.8%	22.6%
Calc. Cost of borrowings	8.4%	8.6%	9.4%	8.6%	9.0%
NIM	11.7%	11.1%	13.7%	14.4%	13.9%
RoAE	3.6%	1.7%	21.2%	20.8%	21.5%
RoAA	0.9%	0.3%	4.6%	5.0%	5.1%
<b>Asset Quality Ratios</b>					
GNPA	5.7%	5.8%	3.6%	3.0%	2.6%
NNPA	2.3%	1.7%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%
PCR	60.0%	71.3%	75.5%	74.6%	73.1%
<b>Growth Ratios</b>					
Advances	30.4%	35.7%	35.9%	29.0%	25.0%
AUM	28.6%	46.3%	18.5%	29.0%	25.0%
Borrowings	49.2%	30.4%	18.4%	31.6%	24.3%
NII	37.6%	25.6%	68.4%	38.4%	22.7%
PPP	43.9%	41.6%	81.3%	38.8%	22.1%

Particulars	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24E	FY25E
<b>Valuation Ratios</b>					
EPS	5.5	2.6	38.6	53.6	68.8
P/E	114.1	242.9	16.4	11.8	9.2
Adj. BVPS	144.7	149.2	224.3	277.0	344.8
P/ABV	4.4	4.2	2.8	2.3	1.8
Dividend per share	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Other Ratios</b>					
Cost-Income	44.3	44.3	38.4	36.4	36.5
Avg Networth/ Avg Total Assets	4.7	5.4	4.0	4.2	4.2
CAR	27.3%	21.9%	27.9%	26.5%	28.0%
Tier 1	25.5%	19.9%	26.6%	25.4%	27.1%

## Price Chart since listing in November 2022







# Fusion Micro Finance Ltd.



## HDfC Sec Retail Research Rating description

### Green Rating stocks

This rating is given to stocks that represent large and established business having track record of decades and good reputation in the industry. They are industry leaders or have significant market share. They have multiple streams of cash flows and/or strong balance sheet to withstand downturn in economic cycle. These stocks offer moderate returns and at the same time are unlikely to suffer severe drawdown in their stock prices. These stocks can be kept as a part of long term portfolio holding, if so desired. These stocks offer low risk and lower reward and are suitable for beginners. They offer stability to the portfolio.

### Yellow Rating stocks

This rating is given to stocks that have strong balance sheet and are from relatively stable industries which are likely to remain relevant for long time and unlikely to be affected much by economic or technological disruptions. These stocks have emerged stronger over time but are yet to reach the level of green rating stocks. They offer medium risk, medium return opportunities. Some of these have the potential to attain green rating over time.

### Red Rating stocks

This rating is given to emerging companies which are riskier than their established peers. Their share price tends to be volatile though they offer high growth potential. They are susceptible to severe downturn in their industry or in overall economy. Management of these companies need to prove their mettle in handling cyclicity of their business. If they are successful in navigating challenges, the market rewards their shareholders with handsome gains; otherwise their stock prices can take a severe beating. Overall these stocks offer high risk high return opportunities.

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