China / Hong Kong Company Update

HSBC Holdings

Bloomberg: 5 HK EQUITY | Reuters: 0005.HK

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

DBS Group Research . Equity

27 Feb 2024

BUY

Last Traded Price (26 Feb 2024): HK\$59.70 (HSI: 16,635)
Price Target 12-mth: HK\$74.60 (25% upside) (Prev HK\$71.70)

Analyst

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What's New

- FY23 results below market expectations; net earnings-toshareholders c.USD22.4bn
- Negative surprise from USD3bn on impairment on BOCOM
- Core profit largely in line with expectations; HSBC remains a solid dividend yield player in FY24/25F
- Reiterate BUY with TP revised up to HKD 74.6 as valuation base rolling over to FY24F

Price Relative HKS Relative Index 70.4 65.4 60.4 55.4 50.4 40.4 40.4 40.4 35.4 30.4 25.4 Feb-20 Feb-21 Feb-22 Feb-23 Feb-24

— Relative HSI (RHS)

Forecasts and Valuation

—HSBC Holdings (LHS)

FY Dec (US\$ m) Pre-orov. Profit Pre-orov. Profit Pre-brov. Profit Pretax Profit Net Profit EPS (US\$) EPS (HK\$) EPS (HK\$) EPS (HK\$) Div Yield (%) BV Per Share (HK\$) P/Book Value (x) ROAE (%) ROAE (ex-exceptional (%) ROA (%)	2023A	2024F	2025F	2026F
	33.988	33.783	31.403	31,265
	85	(1)	(7)	0
	30.348	32.512	29.733	29,272
	22.432	25.802	22.679	22,250
	1.15	1.40	1.32	1,37
	9.01	10.99	10.30	10,71
	54	22	(6)	4
	6.6	5.4	5.8	5.6
	4.15	6.17	4.29	4,71
	6.9	10.3	7.2	7,9
	76.30	82.70	89.40	96,71
	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6
	12.0	10.9	11.4	10.9
	0.75	10.9	11.4	0,71
Earnings Rev (%)		(7)	(11)	New
Consensus EPS (US\$)		1.30	1.25	1.27
Other Broker Recs:		B:18	S:3	H:4

Source of all data on this page: Company, DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited ("DBS HK"), Thomson Reuters

Investment Thesis

Still a solid yield play. In spite of lower-than-expected FY23 results, we see HSBC remains a solid yield play and expect c.10.3% in FY24F dividend yield, including the special dividend yield related to Canada sales. Its solid CET-1 ratio of 14.8% by FY23 supports further shareholder distributions. While the market may be concerned about BOCOM being at risk of further impairment following the USD3bn impairment, the impact on capital should be not material, as HSBC still has USD 14bn in regulatory capital deductions above thresholds.

Solid yield play in interest downturn cycle

Limited earnings upside expected in FY24/25F. With the expectation that Fed Fund rate will begin the downturn cycle in 2H24F, we expect NIM downward pressure for HK banks, including HSBC in FY24/25F. Meanwhile, we expect stronger loan volume growth when the interest rate becomes lower. Credit cost expectations are in general similar to that in FY23, around 36-37bps of gross loan. Overall, we expect FY24/25F adjusted earnings to show limited upside compared to FY23.

Return on Tangible Equity (ROTE) one of HSBC's primary share price drivers, according to our empirical study. One of HSBC's key strategies is to shift capital and resources to areas that generate the highest returns and where it has competitive strength. We see HSBC is well on track to reach its mid-teen ROTE target and expect c.14%-16% ROTE to be reported in FY24/25F.

Reiterate BUY with TP revised up at HK\$74.6 with the valuation base roll over to FY24F while earnings are revised down by 7/11% for FY24/25F respectively. Our TP is based on the DDM model, assuming a 12.6% COE, 14% ROTE, and 0% terminal growth. Our TP implies 0.9x FY24F P/BV, +1SD above its five-year average of 0.7x, with a better outlook on ROTE compared to previous years, while the stock is currently trading at c.0.7x FY24F P/BV and a >7% dividend yield in FY24/25F.

Kev Risks

Geopolitical risks, global economic slowdown, and operational efficiency being lower-than-expected.

At A Glance

Issued Capital (m shrs)	19,263
Mkt Cap (HKm/US\$m)	1,150,001 / 146,981
Major Shareholders (%)	
Ping An Asset Management Co., Ltd.	8.7
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, N.A.	7.7
Free Float (%)	83.6
3m Avg. Daily Val. (US\$m)	133.2
GICS Industry: Financials / Banks	





WHAT'S NEW

FY23 results below expectation; core growth remains solid

FY23 results below expectations

HSBC (5 HK) FY23 net profit to shareholders was c.USD22.4bn vs. USD 14.3bn in FY22 (consensus: USD 25.5bn). 4Q NIM dropped by 18bps q-o-q to 1.52%, below market expectations and the drop mainly comes from 1) Argentina's hyperinflation; 2) reclassification of cash flow hedge revenue referred to previously; and 3) higher time deposit costs in HK. Other negative surprises are from 1) a 1% higher-than-guidance costs due to UK bank levy and FDIC special assessment; and 2) USD3bn of impairment on BOCOM.

Core growth remains solid

Nevertheless, we see that HSBC's core growth remains solid. FY23's reported revenue of c.USD66.1bn is largely in line with expectations. ECL charge of c.USD3.4bn represents c.36bps of average gross loans and advances, lower than consensus' expectation. Customer lending/ deposits balance by end-FY23 was largely stable q-o-q at USD939bn/ USD1612bn respectively. Reported ROTE of 14.6%, 15.6% excluding strategic transactions and the impairment of BoCom, which is on track to its guided midteen ROTE target.

Outlook:

1) Banking NII

HSBC guided for at least USD 41bn of FY24F banking NII, which is lower than the estimated consensus of c.USD 44bn. Looking ahead, we expect more downside pressure in FY24F NIM when the interest rate begins the downturn cycle. We expect the loan volume growth to remain sluggish in 1H24 while more upside in 2H24 onwards. We expect banking NII at USD 42.8bn/ 40.7bn in FY24/25F respectively, vs c.USD 44.1bn in FY23. Following a softer NII expectation, we revised down our revenue estimation (before adjustments for notable items) for FY24/25F by c.2% each year to USD 66.7/64.4bn, offset by an assumption of steady non-NII growth.

2) Operating and credit cost

Its latest cost guidance is a c.5% growth in 2024 costs on a target basis to reflect its investment in growth and efficiency and inflation, partly offset by cost management actions. We expect near c.USD 33bn of cost for FY24F, including one quarter of cost of its Canada business, which is c.1.5% higher than our previous estimation.

Our credit cost assumption is at similar level of that in FY23 at c.36-37bps for FY24/25F. The uncertainties in global macroeconomies remain, while China CRE sector is quite well provisioned at this stage.

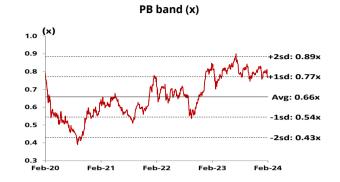
Company Background

HSBC first introduced local banking services in 1865 in Hong Kong and Shanghai. With various acquisitions, the bank conceived its "three-legged stool" strategy, representing its presence in the Asia-Pacific, the US, and the UK. It has dual listings on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and London Stock Exchange. HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial service institutions with about US\$3tn in assets (as at end-Dec 2023). It operates three global businesses and a corporate centre: 1) Retail Banking and Wealth Management, 2) Commercial Banking, 3) Global Banking and Markets. It has 11 global functions, including for risk, finance, compliance, marketing, and legal.



Historical PE and PB band

Forward PE band (x) (x) 17.1 15.1 13.1 11.1 9.1 7.1 Avg: 6.7x -1sd: 5.1x -2sd: 3.5x Feb-20 Feb-21 Feb-22 Feb-23 Feb-24



Source: Thomson Reuters, DBS HK





Key Assumptions

FY Dec	2022A	2023A	2024F	2025F	2026F
NIM (%)	1.48	1.66	1.61	1.54	1.52
Loan growth (%)	(12)	2	2	3	4
Cost-to-income (%)	64	49	49	51	51
Credit cost (%)	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Customer Deposits Growth (%) Growth (%)	(8)	3	2	3	3
Yld. On Earnings Assets (%)	2.63	5.04	4.54	4.34	4.28
Avg Cost Of Funds (%)	1.23	3.66	3.54	3.22	3.07
Source: Company, DBS HK					

Income Statement (US\$ m)

FY Dec	2022A	2023A	2024F	2025F	2026F
Net Interest Income	32,610	35,796	35,804	33,724	33,566
Non-Interest Income	19,117	30,262	30,933	30,694	29,994
Operating Income	51,727	66,058	66,737	64,418	63,560
Operating Expenses	(33,330)	(32,070)	(32,954)	(33,015)	(32,295)
Pre-provision Profit	18,397	33,988	33,783	31,403	31,265
Provisions	(3,592)	(3,447)	(3,449)	(3,630)	(3,758)
Associates	2,723	(193)	2,178	1,961	1,765
Exceptionals _	(6,482)	(150)	4,650	100	100
Pre-tax Profit	17,528	30,348	32,512	29,733	29,272
Taxation	(858)	(5,789)	(4,737)	(5,038)	(4,959)
Minority Interests	(635)	(1,026)	(872)	(916)	(961)
Preference Dividend	(1,213)	(1,101)	(1,101)	(1,101)	(1,101)
Net Profit	14,822	22,432	25,802	22,679	22,250
Net Profit bef Except	20,828	22,582	21,152	22,579	22,150
Growth (%)					
Net Interest Income Gth	23.11	9.77	0.02	(5.81)	(0.47)
Net Profit Gth	17.57	51.34	15.03	(12.11)	(1.89)
Margins, Costs & Efficiency	(%)				
Spread	1.40	1.38	1.00	1.12	1.21
Net Interest Margin	1.56	1.79	1.61	1.54	1.52
Cost-to-Income Ratio	64.4	48.5	49.4	51.3	50.8
Business Mix (%)					
Net Int. Inc / Opg Inc.	63.0	54.2	53.6	52.4	52.8
Non-Int. Inc / Opg inc.	37.0	45.8	46.4	47.6	47.2
Fee Inc / Opg Income	62.2	34.9	36.9	41.9	44.1
Oth Non-Int Inc/Opg Inc	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Profitability (%)					
ROAE Pre Ex.	10.6	12.0	10.9	11.4	10.9
ROAE	10.6	12.0	10.9	11.4	10.9
ROA Pre Ex.	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7
ROA	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7
Source: Company, DBS HK					





Interim Income Statement (US\$ m)

FY Dec	2H2021	1H2022	2H2022	1H2023	2H2023
Net Interest Income	13,391	14,451	18,159	18,264	17,532
Non-Interest Income	10,610	10,785	8,332	18,612	11,650
Operating Income	24,001	25,236	26,491	36,876	29,182
Operating Expenses	(17,533)	(16,419)	(16,911)	(15,457)	(16,613)
Pre-Provision Profit	6,468	8,817	9,580	21,419	12,569
Provisions	209	(1,090)	(2,502)	(1,345)	(2,102)
Associates	1,390	1,449	1,274	1,583	(1,776)
Exceptionals	1,899	1,497	5,135	2,707	3,622
Pretax Profit	8,067	9,176	8,352	21,657	8,691
Taxation	(1,796)	39	(897)	(3,586)	(2,203)
Minority Interests	(303)	(300)	(335)	(563)	(463)
Net Profit	5,331	8,289	6,533	16,966	5,466
Growth (%)					
Net Interest Income Gth	2.5	10.3	35.6	26.4	(3.5)
Net Profit Gth	177.5	13.9	22.5	104.7	(16.3)

Source: Company, DBS HK

Balance Sheet (US\$ m)

FY Dec	2022A	2023A	2024F	2025F	2026F
Cash/Bank Balance	327,002	285,868	242,799	99,482	3,189
Government Securities	0	0	0	0	0
Inter Bank Assets	104,475	112,902	118,547	124,474	130,698
Total Net Loans & Advs.	923,561	938,535	955,429	984,091	1,023,455
Investment	364,726	442,763	442,763	442,763	442,763
Associates	29,254	27,344	25,559	23,890	22,330
Fixed Assets	0	0	0	0	0
Goodwill	11,419	12,487	13,655	14,932	16,329
Other Assets	0	0	0	0	0
Total Assets	2,949,286	3,038,677	3,077,863	3,069,451	3,168,179
Customer Deposits	1,570,303	1,611,647	1,643,880	1,693,196	1,743,992
Inter Bank Deposits	74,586	80,458	87,521	95,265	103,758
Debts/Borrowings	100,439	118,871	135,325	155,852	181,199
Others	0	0	0	0	0
Minorities	7,364	7,281	8,153	9,069	10,030
Shareholders' Funds	0	0	0	0	0
Total Liab& S/H's Funds	2,949,286	3,038,677	3,077,863	3,069,451	3,168,179

Source: Company, DBS HK





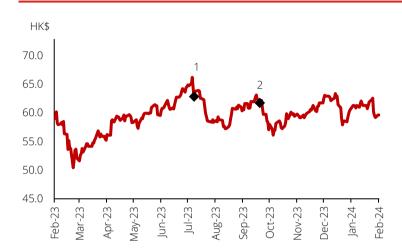
Financial Stability Measures (%)

FY Dec	2022A	2023A	2024F	2025F	2026F
Balance Sheet Structure					
Loan-to-Deposit Ratio	59.6	58.9	58.8	58.8	59.4
Net Loans / Total Assets	31.3	30.9	31.0	32.1	32.3
Investment / Total Assets	12.4	14.6	14.4	14.4	14.0
Cust . Dep./Int. Bear. Liab.	90.0	89.0	88.1	87.1	86.0
Interbank Dep / Int. Bear.	4.3	4.4	4.7	4.9	5.1
Asset Quality					
NPL / Total Gross Loans	2.1	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.7
NPL / Total Assets	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6
Loan Loss Reserve Coverage	65.3	57.5	55.5	61.4	68.6
Provision Charge-Off Rate	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Capital Strength					
Total CAR	19.3	20.0	19.7	19.5	19.3
Tier-1 CAR	16.6	16.9	16.6	16.5	16.4

Source: Company, DBS HK



Target Price & Ratings 12-mth History



S.No.	Date	Closing Price	Target Price	Rating
1	3-Aug-23	HK\$64.20	HK\$71.70	BUY
2	16-Oct-23	HK\$61.80	HK\$71.70	BUY

Source: DBS HK

Analyst: Manyi Lu

Ken Shih

Iris GAO



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STRONG BUY (>20% total return over the next 3 months, with identifiable share price catalysts within this time frame)

BUY (>15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, >10% for large caps)

HOLD (-10% to +15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, -10% to +10% for large caps)

FULLY VALUED (negative total return, i.e., > -10% over the next 12 months)

SELL (negative total return of > -20% over the next 3 months, with identifiable share price catalysts within this time frame)

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