



First Capital

EQUITY | SRI LANKA | BANKS

EARNINGS UPDATE | 20 JUL 2026

NATIONS TRUST BANK PLC [NTB.N0000]

MAINTAIN BUY

“THE PACE MODERATES, THE STORY ENDURES”

Fair Value: 2026E - LKR 380.00 [+24%]

Total Return with DPS: 2026E - 28% [AER 73%]

2027E - LKR 460.00 [+51%]

2026E - 54% [AER 35%]

NTB reported net profit of LKR 4.6Bn in 1Q2026, representing growth of 12.0%YoY (5.2%QoQ), underpinned by an 11.3%YoY expansion in Net Interest Income (NII) alongside a stronger 17.0%YoY increase in Net Fee and Commission Income. Total operating income advanced 11.6%YoY as stronger trading gains offset the moderation in other operating income. Balance sheet expansion also remained a defining feature of the quarter, with the loan portfolio growing 48.0%YoY (9.6%QoQ) to LKR 471.7Bn, accompanied by a commensurate increase in impairment charges to LKR 623.0Mn (39.8%YoY). Meanwhile, operating expenses rose 13.2%YoY to LKR 4.4Bn, primarily reflecting higher personnel and depreciation costs, while the tax burden remained broadly stable. Despite the accelerated pace of growth, NTB continued to preserve capital adequacy and liquidity buffers comfortably above regulatory thresholds, with asset quality remaining resilient. Quarterly earnings, however, were approximately 15.0% below FCR's estimate of LKR 5.2Bn, largely attributable to a softer-than-anticipated profit outturn, as the earnings contribution from the HSBC retail portfolio has yet to materialise. Looking ahead, the 100bps increase in the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) in May is expected to moderate private sector credit expansion and economic activity, tempering the near-term earnings outlook and prompting a recalibration of our forecasts. Accordingly, we revise our 2026E and 2027E net profit estimates to LKR 22.1Bn (from LKR 23.9Bn) and LKR 25.2Bn (from LKR 27.2Bn), respectively. Even so, we expect earnings momentum to strengthen following the integration of HSBC's retail portfolio from May-26, with net profit projected to grow by 15.0%YoY in 2026E and a further 13.9%YoY in 2027E. Consequently, we revise our target prices to LKR 380.0 for 2026E (from LKR 420.0) and LKR 460.0 for 2027E (from LKR 510.0), which continue to imply upside potential of 28.0% and 54.0%, respectively. **MAINTAIN BUY.**

LKR (Mn)	1Q2025	1Q2026	YoY	2024	2025	YoY
Earnings (LKR 'Mn)						
NII	9,280	10,329	+11%	35,916	38,778	+8%
Total Operating Income	12,372	13,803	+12%	44,402	52,200	+18%
Net Operating Income	11,927	13,180	+11%	47,599	52,306	+10%
Profit Before Tax	6,308	7,021	+11%	25,737	28,403	+10%
Net Profit	4,085	4,573	+12%	16,802	19,258	+15%
Balance Sheet (LKR 'Mn)						
Loans	318,662	471,706	+48%	287,363	430,368	+50%
Shareholders' Equity	82,562	98,488	+19%	79,477	96,916	+22%
NAVPS	249.7	295.4	+18%	243.7	293.1	+20%

Profitability remains resilient despite earnings miss

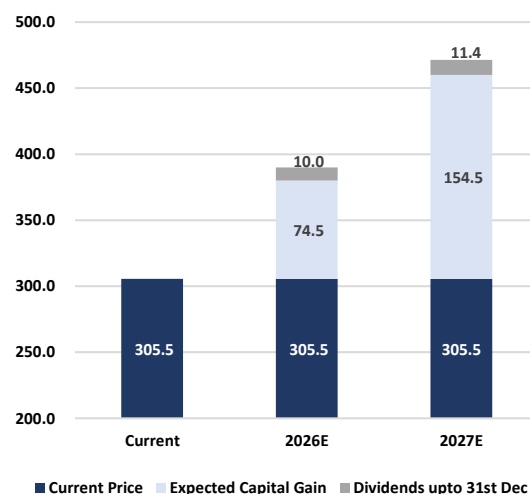
NTB registered a quarterly net profit of LKR 4.6Bn in 1Q2026, marking a 12.0%YoY (5.2%QoQ) increase. Earnings growth was underpinned by an 11.3%YoY expansion in Net Interest Income (NII), complemented by a stronger 17.0%YoY increase in Net Fee and Commission Income. Total operating income advanced by 11.6%YoY, supported by improved trading income during the quarter despite weaker contributions from other operating income. Impairment charges increased to LKR 623.0Mn (39.8%YoY), reflecting the significant expansion of the loan book to LKR 471.7Bn (48.0%YoY; 9.6%QoQ) in 1Q2026. Operating expenses rose to LKR 4.4Bn (13.2%YoY), driven primarily by higher personnel and depreciation costs. On the tax front, VAT and SSCL expenses increased by a modest 1.3%YoY and 1.5%YoY, respectively, while income tax expense rose by 10.1%YoY. NTB's quarterly net earnings of LKR 4.6Bn fell approximately 15.0% short of FCR's forecast of LKR 5.2Bn. Against the backdrop of an anticipated moderation in private sector credit growth and broader economic activity, particularly following the 100bps increase in the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) in May, FCR has revised its earnings forecasts for 2026E and 2027E. Accordingly, NTB's 2026E net profit forecast has been lowered to LKR 22.1Bn (from LKR 23.9Bn previously), while the 2027E estimate has been revised to LKR 25.2Bn (from LKR 27.2Bn). Nevertheless, the Bank's medium-term earnings trajectory remains compelling, with net profit projected to grow by 15.0%YoY in 2026E and a further 13.9%YoY in 2027E.

Loan growth remains robust, margins poised to recover

NTB's net loans stood at LKR 471.7Bn in 1Q2026, registering a 48.0%YoY (9.6%QoQ) increase. Gross LKR-denominated loans expanded by 37.2%YoY (9.0%QoQ), primarily driven by growth in term loans, trade finance, lease facilities and overdrafts. Foreign currency-denominated loans, which accounted for approximately 25% of the Bank's gross loan portfolio, grew by 75.7%YoY (10.1%QoQ), largely reflecting the depreciation of the LKR during 1Q2026 relative to the corresponding period of 2025. NTB's deposit base expanded by 29.4%YoY (6.5%QoQ) in 1Q2026, with LKR-denominated deposits rising by 23.3%YoY (5.8%QoQ), supported predominantly by higher savings deposits. Foreign currency-denominated deposits increased by 43.1%YoY (7.9%QoQ), primarily owing to the upward revaluation following the depreciation of the LKR. Net Interest Margin (NIM) moderated to 5.66% in 1Q2026 from 6.51% in 1Q2025 and 6.05% in the preceding quarter. Looking ahead, interest margins are expected to improve as market lending rates adjust upwards following the 100bps increase in the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) in May 2026. Meanwhile, tighter monetary conditions and a moderation in economic activity are expected to temper private sector credit growth from the elevated levels witnessed in recent quarters.

Asset quality remains resilient

NTB's impairment allocations increased to LKR 623.0Mn (39.8%YoY) in 1Q2026 from LKR 445.5Mn in 1Q2025. The increase primarily reflected the Bank's robust loan growth during the quarter, while underlying asset quality remained resilient. Accordingly, the Stage 3 loans ratio improved to 1.10% from 1.38% in 1Q2025, although it edged up modestly from 0.91% recorded in the preceding quarter.

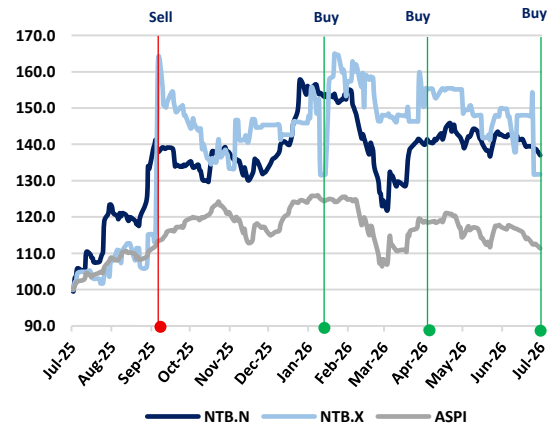


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Price movement of NTB Vs ASPI (Indexed and rebased to 100)



Source: CSE

Minimum Return for BUY:

Buy Below for 2027E [AER of 15.0% with DPS]: LKR 375.7
NTB categorized as 'Grade A' counter.

Disclosure on Shareholding:

First Capital Group do not hold shares in NTB and will not trade in this share for three trading days following the issue of this document.

Capital adequacy remains well above regulatory thresholds

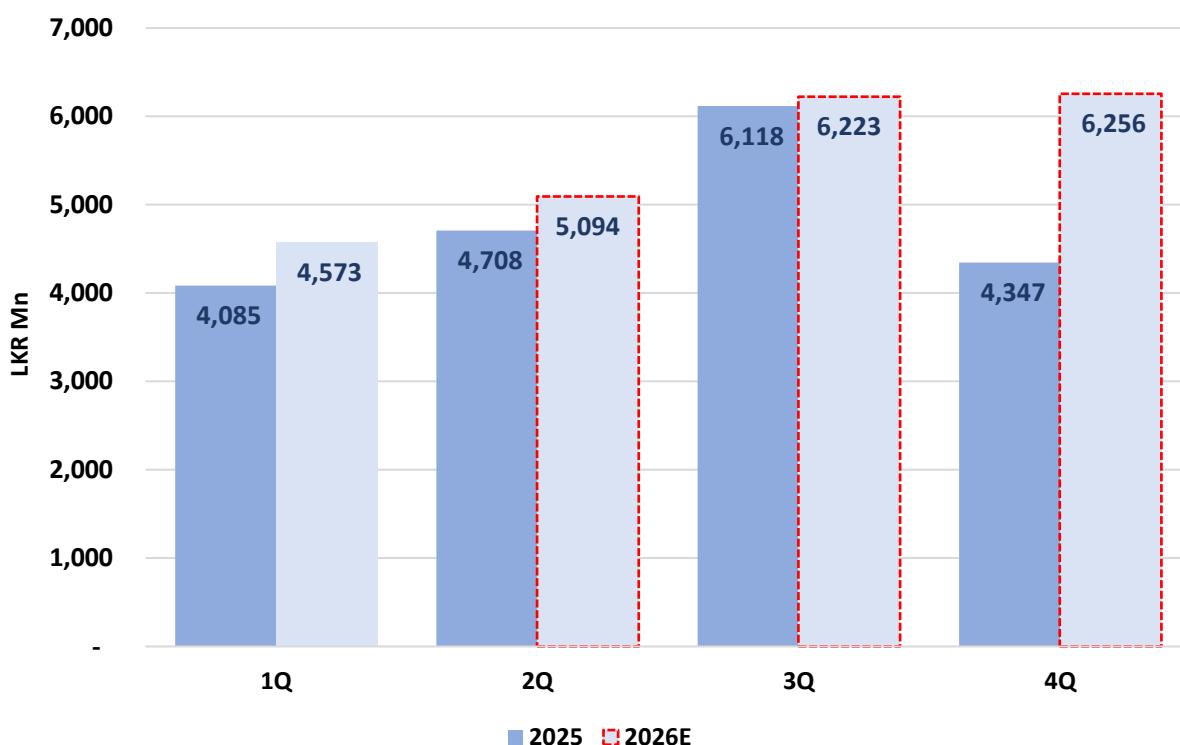
NTB's regulatory capital ratios remained comfortably above the minimum requirements throughout the quarter. The Bank's Common Equity Tier 1 (minimum requirement: 7.00%) and Tier 1 (minimum requirement: 8.50%) ratios both stood at 16.80% in 1Q2026, while the Total Capital Ratio (minimum requirement: 12.50%) was maintained at 17.90%. Liquidity metrics also remained robust, with the Rupee Liquidity Coverage Ratio at 280.19% and the All-Currency Liquidity Coverage Ratio at 181.27%, significantly exceeding the regulatory minimum threshold of 100.00%.

FV for 2026E and 2027E revised to LKR 380.00 and LKR 460.00 respectively; Maintain Buy

NTB's underlying earnings trajectory remains well supported despite a softer-than-expected 1Q2026 earnings outturn. While quarterly earnings fell short of expectations, core operating performance continued to strengthen, underpinned by robust loan growth, steady expansion in Net Interest Income and fee income, alongside robust capital adequacy, liquidity and asset quality. Nevertheless, reflecting a more measured macroeconomic outlook following the 100bps increase in the OPR, which is expected to moderate private sector credit expansion and overall economic activity, FCR has recalibrated its earnings forecasts to LKR 22.1Bn for 2026E and LKR 25.2Bn for 2027E. Consequently, our target prices have been revised to LKR 380.0 for 2026E and LKR 460.0 for 2027E, which continue to imply attractive upside potential of 28.0% and 54.0%, respectively. Moreover, the revised target prices for NTB.X now stands at LKR 410.0 for 2026E and LKR 490.0 for 2027E.

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Quarterly Earnings



Estimate Revision

In LKR Mn	2026E - O	2026E - R	% Change	2027E - O	2027E - R	% Change
Earnings Estimate						
Net Interest Income	40,267	39,831	-1%	44,934	46,179	+3%
Total Operating Income	67,646	65,091	-4%	77,801	74,953	-4%
Net Operating Income	64,553	61,616	-5%	74,578	70,556	-5%
Profit Before Tax	33,601	31,193	-7%	38,371	35,517	-7%
Net Profit	23,857	22,147	-7%	27,243	25,217	-7%
Adjusted EPS	72.2	67.0		82.4	76.3	
Growth YoY	24%	15%		14%	14%	
Balance Sheet Estimate						
Shareholders' Equity	117,457	116,003	-1%	140,855	137,739	-2%
Adjusted NAVPS	255.2	350.8		426.0	416.6	
Ratio Estimate						
ROE (%)	22.3%	20.8%		21.1%	19.9%	
PER (x)	4.4	4.6		3.8	4.0	
PBV (x)	0.9	0.9		0.9	0.9	

Note: The upward revision to 2027E Net Interest Income reflects improved margin assumptions following the 100 bps policy rate adjustment in May-26.

Valuation Table

<i>P/E 31 December</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2026E</i>	<i>2027E</i>	<i>2028E</i>
Estimates (LKR 'Mn)								
Net Interest Income	14,078	29,301	34,951	35,916	38,778	39,831	46,179	52,179
Total Operating Income	23,269	38,867	45,032	44,402	52,200	65,091	74,953	83,947
Net Profit	6,694	7,228	11,471	16,802	19,258	22,147	25,217	28,515
Net Recurring Profit	6,694	7,228	11,471	14,565	19,258	22,147	25,217	28,515
Adjusted EPS (LKR)	20.2	21.9	34.7	44.1	58.2	67.0	76.3	86.2
YoY Growth (%)	65%	8%	59%	27%	32%	15%	14%	13%
Valuations								
<i>PER (x)</i>	<i>15.1x</i>	<i>14.0x</i>	<i>8.8x</i>	<i>6.9x</i>	<i>5.2x</i>	<i>4.6x</i>	<i>4.0x</i>	<i>3.5x</i>
<i>PBV (x)</i>	<i>2.4x</i>	<i>2.1x</i>	<i>1.6x</i>	<i>1.3x</i>	<i>1.0x</i>	<i>0.9x</i>	<i>0.7x</i>	<i>0.6x</i>
<i>DY (%)</i>	<i>0.7%</i>	<i>1.1%</i>	<i>0.8%</i>	<i>1.6%</i>	<i>2.1%</i>	<i>3.3%</i>	<i>3.7%</i>	<i>4.2%</i>
<i>Adjusted NAVPS</i>	<i>125.6</i>	<i>144.0</i>	<i>191.2</i>	<i>243.6</i>	<i>293.1</i>	<i>350.8</i>	<i>416.6</i>	<i>490.9</i>
<i>DPS (LKR)</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>4.90</i>	<i>6.41</i>	<i>10.0</i>	<i>11.4</i>	<i>12.9</i>
<i>Payout ratio</i>	<i>9.9%</i>	<i>15.1%</i>	<i>7.2%</i>	<i>11.1%</i>	<i>11.0%</i>	<i>15.0%</i>	<i>15.0%</i>	<i>15.0%</i>

Ratio Analysis

		<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2026E</i>	<i>2027E</i>	<i>2028E</i>
Growth	Asset	12.1%	8.4%	25.3%	5.7%	28.4%	19.3%	9.3%	10.7%
	Deposit	11.4%	10.9%	17.0%	10.6%	30.6%	20.7%	8.0%	10.0%
	Net Loans	17.6%	-2.5%	12.0%	6.1%	49.8%	24.7%	15.6%	13.0%
Profitability	Return on Equity	17.8%	16.8%	21.4%	23.9%	21.8%	20.8%	19.9%	19.0%
	Return on Average Assets	1.9%	1.8%	2.5%	3.2%	3.1%	2.9%	2.9%	3.0%
	Net Interest Spread	3.7%	8.3%	8.5%	6.7%	5.8%	4.9%	5.1%	5.2%
	Net Interest Margin	5.3%	9.9%	10.1%	9.1%	8.3%	6.8%	6.9%	6.9%
Funding & Liquidity	Loan/ Deposits	92.5%	81.4%	77.9%	74.7%	85.7%	88.5%	94.7%	97.3%
	Loan/ Assets	65.3%	58.7%	52.5%	52.7%	61.5%	64.2%	67.9%	69.3%
	Deposit/ Liabilities	79.0%	80.6%	76.4%	82.5%	83.2%	84.3%	84.5%	84.9%
	CASA	39.9%	31.6%	31.2%	31.1%	30.1%	47.0%	44.0%	42.0%

Valuation Summary

Expected NTB.N price	2026E	2027E
Justified PBV based target price	378.9	445.0
PER Valuation based target price	401.9	457.6
RI Valuation based target price	370.9	486.9
Average Target Price	383.9	463.1
Target Price after Rounding off	380.0	460.0

Return	2026E	2027E
Target Price	380.0	460.0
Current Price	305.5	305.5
Capital Gain (LKR)	75	155
Dividends upto 31st Dec (LKR)	10.0	11.4
Capital Gain %	24%	51%
Dividend Yield %	3%	4%
Total Return %	28%	54%
Annualized Return %	73%	35%

Justified PBV Valuation

Justified PBV based Valuation	2026E	2027E
ROAE	20.8%	19.9%
Growth	3%	3%
COE	18.8%	18.8%
PBV	1.1	1.1
NAVPS	350.8	416.6
Target Price	378.9	445.0

PER Valuation

PER based Valuation	2026E	2027E
Earnings (LKR 'Mn)	22,147	25,217
No. of Shares ('Mn)	331	331
EPS	67.0	76.3
Expected PER	6x	6x
Price at 6x Earnings	401.9	457.6

Residual Income Valuation

Residual Income based Valuation	2026E	2027E
PV of Residual Income	25,718.3	44,971.1
No. of Shares ('Mn)	330.6	330.6
RI per Share	77.8	136.0
Opening Book value per Share	293.1	350.8
Value per Share	370.9	486.9

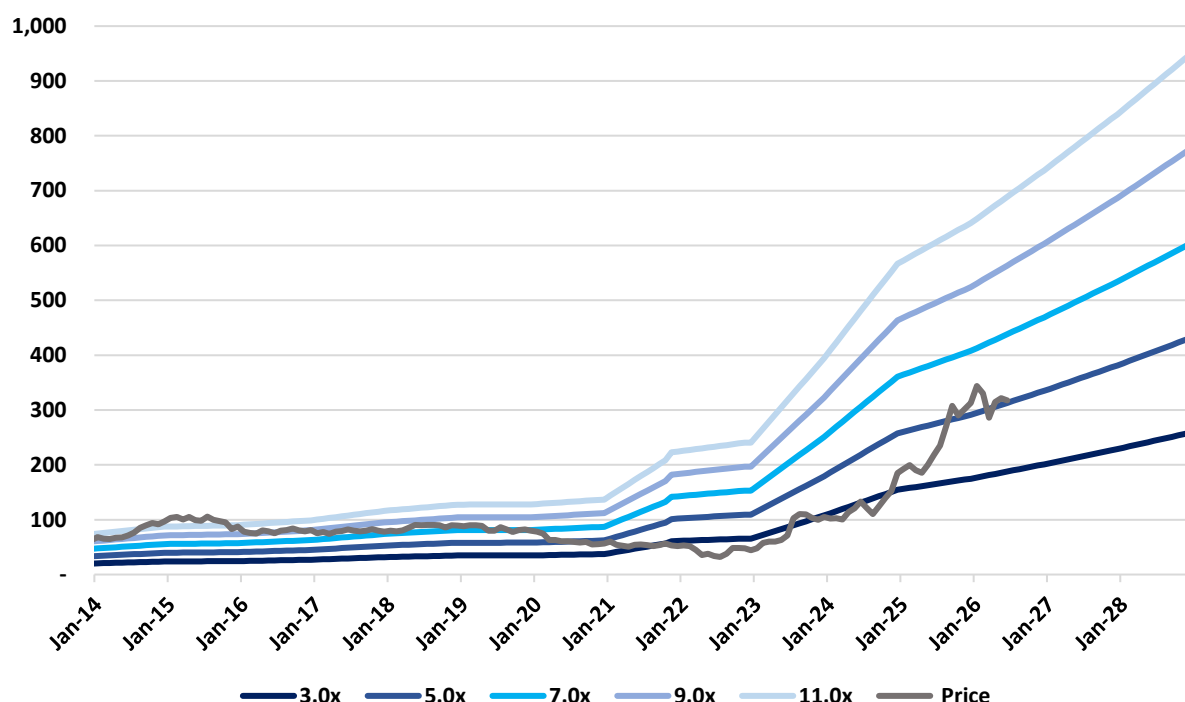
COE	2026E	2027E
Rf	10%	10%
Rm	18%	18%
Growth %	3%	3%
β	1.1	1.1
$Ke=Rf+\beta(Rm-Rf)$	18.8%	18.8%

Recommendation Criteria

Categorization	Company Category	Buy	Hold	Sell
Grade A	S&P SL20 Companies	T.Bill + 5% & Above	T.Bill + 1% & Above	Below T.Bill + 1%
Grade B	Rest of the Companies	T.Bill + 8% & Above	T.Bill + 3% & Above	Below T.Bill + 3%
Grade C	Companies less than LKR 1Bn Market Cap	T.Bill + 11% & Above	T.Bill + 6% & Above	Below T.Bill + 6%

Categorization	Company Category	Buy	Hold	Sell
Grade A	S&P SL20 Companies	15.00%	11.00%	11.00%
Grade B	Rest of the Companies	18.00%	13.00%	13.00%
Grade C	Companies less than LKR 1Bn Market Cap	21.00%	16.00%	16.00%

PER Chart



Appendix I: Statement of Income and Expenses

Income Statement (LKR Mn)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026E	2027E	2028E
P/E 31st December								
Interest Income	28,657	54,308	70,558	64,013	70,346	75,562	89,409	101,903
Interest Expense	(14,580)	(25,007)	(35,607)	(28,097)	(31,568)	(35,731)	(43,231)	(49,724)
Net Interest Income	14,078	29,301	34,951	35,916	38,778	39,831	46,179	52,179
Fees and Commission Income	6,670	7,738	8,335	9,502	10,634	19,060	21,978	24,473
Fees and Commission Expense	(529)	(944)	(1,234)	(1,436)	(1,772)	(3,050)	(3,516)	(3,916)
Net Fees and Commission Income	6,140	6,794	7,100	8,066	8,863	16,011	18,461	20,557
Net Trading Income	2,472	14,233	(1,267)	(1,712)	6,139	6,262	6,387	6,515
Other Operating Income	79	(11,490)	3,775	5,268	(2,435)	2,987	3,925	4,696
Total Operating Income	23,269	38,867	45,032	44,402	52,200	65,091	74,953	83,947
Impairment (Charge) / Reversal for Loans and Advances	(3,742)	(13,842)	(7,500)	3,196	106	(3,476)	(4,397)	(4,240)
Net Operating Income	19,527	25,025	37,532	47,599	52,306	61,616	70,556	79,708
Personnel Expenses	4,620	5,999	7,441	8,563	9,608	11,408	12,891	14,669
Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment	436	346	248	242	343	296	290	284
Amortization of Intangible Assets	339	279	329	331	318	1,157	1,789	1,698
Other Operating Expenses	3,333	4,547	5,663	5,447	6,316	8,211	9,443	10,859
Less: Total Operating Expenses	9,122	11,559	14,079	14,974	16,957	21,072	24,413	27,510
Operating Profit Before Value Added Tax (VAT)	10,405	13,466	23,453	32,624	35,349	40,544	46,143	52,198
Less: Value Added Tax (VAT) on Financial Services	1,985	3,021	5,145	6,888	6,945	9,351	10,626	12,036
Profit Before Income Tax	8,420	10,445	18,308	25,737	28,403	31,193	35,517	40,162
Less: Income Tax Expense	1,726	3,217	6,837	8,934	9,145	9,046	10,300	11,647
Profit for the Year	6,694	7,228	11,471	16,802	19,258	22,147	25,217	28,515
EPS	20.2	21.9	35.9	51.51	58.25	67.0	76.3	86.2

Appendix II: Statement of Financial Position

Statement of Financial Position (LKR Mn)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026E	2027E	2028E
As at 31st December								
Assets								
Cash and Cash Equivalents	13,428	58,748	40,180	20,814	19,864	26,624	33,492	45,300
Balances with Central Bank of Sri Lanka	6,915	6,074	2,684	1,183	2,046	2,273	5,401	6,481
Reverse Repurchase Agreements	3,001	1,502	1,502	2,389	646	659	672	685
Derivative Financial Instruments	473	103	4	224	613	805	930	1,051
Financial Assets - Held for Trading	6,151	3,734	10,934	17,195	11,590	18,184	16,365	14,401
Financial Assets - Available for Sale	67,521	30,350	79,923	107,015	133,113	139,408	130,923	136,814
Financial Assets - Held to Maturity	26,140	59,928	97,358	96,796	88,898	79,100	74,037	75,176
Other Financial Assets	-	-	3,144	863	855	898	943	990
Loans and Advances to Customers	247,986	241,910	270,945	287,363	430,368	536,558	620,094	700,646
Other Assets	2,047	3,400	3,378	4,966	3,882	5,366	6,201	7,006
Property, Plant and Equipment	3,299	3,495	3,500	4,084	5,111	4,715	4,327	3,947
Intangible Assets	1,506	1,286	1,354	1,409	1,783	19,026	17,637	16,339
Total Assets	379,819	411,842	516,134	545,586	700,309	835,309	912,885	1,010,887
Liabilities								
Due to Banks	2,016	3,989	49,682	27,403	42,773	49,188	54,107	59,518
Repurchase Agreements	35,305	33,533	6,631	19,529	20,909	20,634	21,046	21,467
Derivative Financial Instruments	166	39	659	372	38	39	39	40
Due to Customers	267,988	297,253	347,769	384,655	502,219	606,124	654,613	720,075
Debt Issued and Other Borrowed Funds	12,353	12,355	27,187	15,098	15,526	20,992	21,622	22,271
Current Tax Liabilities	2,461	5,243	5,667	4,640	5,632	5,428	6,180	6,988
Other Liabilities	9,675	12,629	16,163	12,941	14,627	15,066	15,518	15,984
Deferred Tax Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Liabilities	339,393	368,903	455,008	466,109	603,393	719,306	775,146	848,564
Equity Attributable to Equity Holders of the Parent								
Stated Capital	9,408	10,401	11,427	12,106	13,008	13,008	13,008	13,008
Statutory Reserve Fund	1,882	2,228	2,784	3,610	4,554	5,606	6,804	8,159
Retained Earnings	28,073	32,027	41,624	55,917	72,070	89,799	109,985	132,811
Other Reserves	796	1,384	5,292	7,844	7,284	7,590	7,942	8,346
Total Equity	40,159	46,041	61,126	79,477	96,916	116,003	137,739	162,323
Total Liabilities and Equity	379,552	414,944	516,135	545,586	700,309	835,309	912,885	1,010,887
NAVPS	125.6	144.0	191.2	243.6	293.1	350.8	416.6	490.9



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CORPORATE DEBT SALES

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EQUITY SALES

CEO	Jaliya Wijeratne	+94 723 055 000	Equity Branches		
Colombo			Negombo	Priyanka Anuruddha	+94 77 4546 070
Isuru Jayawardana	+94 76 7084 953			Priyantha Wijesiri	+94 77 9065 779
Nishantha Mudalige	+94 77 3204 929		Jaffna	Gratian Nirmal	+94 77 4510 000
Anushka Buddhika	+94 71 4310 600				
Thushara Pathiraja	+94 77 0076 314		Agents		
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Dillon Lowe	+94 76 6160 647		Galle	Nuwan Abeynayake	+94 77 7288 274
Evelyn John	+94 77 779 2452		Kandy	Ajith Ihalawatta	+94 77 8477 530
Yudheshan Kannadasan	+94 77 415 5809		Embilipitiya	Ruwan Wanniarachchi	+94 77 3877 734
Yumeth Samarakoon	+94 72 4444 135				

UNIT TRUST SALES

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