■ FFA Private Bank | Equity Research – Coverage Universe – January 2018

Industry

Commercial Banks

Commercial Banks

Real Estate

Management & Dev.

Commercial Banks

Commercial Banks

Commercial Banks

Const. Materials

Const. Materials

Specialty Retail

Commercial Banks 2,358.5

Bloomberg

Ticker

AUDI LB

BLOM LB

BYB LB

SOLA LB

SOLB LB

BOB LB

BLC LB

BEMO LB

HOLC LB

CBB LB

CBN LB

RYM LB

Source: FFA Private Bank, Company Reports, BSE website, Bloomberg

Sector

Financials

Financials

Financials

Financials

Materials

Materials

Cons. Disc.

management which would respectively improve interest margins and core income.

Listed Securities

Coverage Universe BANK AUDI

BLOM BANK

BYBLOS BANK

SOLIDERE - A

SOLIDERE - B

BLC BANK

BEMO BANK

BANK OF BEIRUT

HOLCIM (LIBAN)

CIMENTS BLANCS BEARER

CIMENTS BLANCS NOMINAL

RASAMNY-YOUNIS MOTOR

N/A: Not Available, N/C: Not Covered

Market close on January 31, 2018

Other Lebanese Listed Equities

Market

Cap.

(USD

mn)

2,580.0

904.8

1,418.5

948.8

198.2

92.5

302.1

28.7

88.7

Last

Price

(*)

5.90

12.00

1.60

8.66

8.50

18.80

0.93

1.17

15.48

3.50

2.56

3.25

YTD %

2.6

3.1

0.0

8.1

6.5

0.0

0.0

-10.0

7.1

0.0

13.8

0.0

52-Week

Range

5.46-6.97

10.31-12.39

1.52-1.75

7.35-10.37

7.18-10.27

18.80-18.80

0.93-0.99

1.17-1.70

10.28-15.49

2.66-3.85

1.57-2.56 3.25-3.25 **FFA**

Recommendation

Marketweight

Overweight

Marketweight

Marketweight

Not Covered

Not Covered

Not Covered

Not Covered

Not Covered

Not Covered

FFA Fair

Value

7.00

13.00

1.50

8.00

N/C

N/C

N/C

N/C

N/C

N/C

	- Diluted EPS, EPS growth, BVPS, and ROE for non-covered companies are from Bloomberg and may not refer to common - Bank Audi EPS and ROE do not include exceptional gains registered in Q2/17
INVESTMENT OPINION:	
Bank Audi	
We value Bank Audi's domestic leadership, asset quality and margins, and expect investors to gain confidence in its growth plan a	s higher quality earnings accelerate and risk diversifies away from its domestic market
Bank Audi is the largest Alpha bank in Lebanon in terms of balance sheet size with a demonstrated franchise and the confidence of	its clients in Lebanon and abroad. We value its fundamentals mainly from the preservation of its asset
quality and interest margins as well as an ambitious expansion strategy in Turkey that is materializing into assets diversifying away	from Lebanon's risk and towards gradually higher margins and trade finance driving higher quality core
income despite some room for improvement on Tier 1 capital. We continue to rate Bank Audi shares at Marketweight although we s	ee upside on account of: i) Turkey expansion with balance sheet expected to increase from one-quarter
to one-third of total balance sheet by M-T ii) Egypt balance sheet expansion potentially reaching USD 10 billion by M-T iii) internati	onal expansion coupled with continued growth in domestic market should drive assets to target USD 55
billion by M-T, which on improved profitability should accelerate earnings and diversify risk.	
Blom Bank	
We view Blom Bank's higher returns and solid liquidity and capitalization levels as a reflection of a prudent management team an	d highlight the Bank's ability to propose higher dividends on account of lower than average payouts
and excess capital buffers	

We recognize Blom Bank's solid positioning in its domestic market. We highlight the firm's conservative strategy focusing on preserving asset quality and higher capitalization ratios which translates in lower cost of risk and excess common equity Tier 1 capital respectively. We highlight Blom Bank's superior profitability and return ratios relative to its domestic peers from relatively higher operating efficiencies and margins, despite sizeable liquidity buffers. We also value Blom Bank's higher quality core income which translates into steady earnings growth while dividends should continue to benefit from lower than average payouts and above average excess Tier 1 common equity capital.

While we like Byblos Bank's solid domestic retail franchise with strong risk management practices, we believe additional value could be generated for investors by providing additional visibility on its growth plan via geographic

We recognize Byblos Bank's position in its domestic retail market as well as its capacity to show sizeable liquidity buffers and superior asset/liability management practices, a validation of management's risk practices although at the detriment of profitability ratios. We also recognize the firm's leadership at better managing its asset/liability mismatch with the issuance of costlier longer term liabilities. We believe Byblos Bank's shares could generate more value once the firm provides visibility on its business plan. We favor further efforts towards both organic and inorganic growth targeting geographical expansion and new business segments with focus on new markets and private banking/asset

Disc./Prem. Div. Yield

8.5

8.3

8.3

N/A

3.5

9.3

4.5

5.5

15.2

3.4

(*) - Listed shares market price

0.50

1.00

0.13

0.00

0.66

0.09

0.05

0.85

0.48

0.11

Value

-16%

-8%

7%

7%

N/C

N/C

N/C

N/C

N/C

N/C

Div.

Payout

Ratio

49%

44%

60%

N/A

21%

34%

18%

33%

100%

49%

Diluted

EPS ()**

1.03

2.25

0.22

N/A

3.10

0.25

0.30

2.60

0.49

0.22

- BVPS for covered companies is to common and based on latest reported results

YoY EPS

Growth %

(**)

-1.1

6.0

7.6

N/A

5.6

-99.9

16.2

179.2

58.4

101.4

(**) - Diluted EPS, EPS growth and ROE for covered companied are TTM, to common and based on latest reported results

FFA EPS BVPS

(**)

7.98

13.74

2.58

12.10

30.96

2.56

2.79

N/A

2.10

1.91

2018e

1.05

1.99

0.22

0.09

N/C

N/C

N/C

N/C

N/C

N/C

P/E

2018e

5.6

6.0

7.3

N/A

N/C

N/C

N/C

N/C

N/C

N/C

P/E

5.7

5.3

7.3

N/A

6.1

3.7

4.0

5.9

6.6

14.7

BVPS

2018e

8.32

13.69

2.65

12.10

N/C

N/C

N/C

N/C

N/C

N/C

P/B

2018e

0.9

0.6

ROE %

11.8

16.3

9.2

N/A

10.2

N/A

11.6

N/A

24.2

9.5

P/B

0.7 0.7

0.9

0.6

0.7 0.7

0.6 N/C

0.4 N/C

0.4 N/C

N/A N/C

1.5 N/C

1.7 N/C

Solidere Lower visibility on future land sales driving our cautious view on Solidere shares amid lack of near term catalyst that would significantly boost demand factors, in addition to uncertain outcome of recent reform efforts as shares

Byblos Bank

diversification and new business segments

generally trade as a political proxy.

tensions regarding Syrian crisis.

We reiterate our cautious view on Solidere shares as pick up in land sales remains to be seen following marginal improvement in real estate indicators likely reflecting investor optimism after key political developments and reform efforts. In addition to subdued domestic demand in the high end real estate segment, we expect Solidere earnings to be further weighed by low appetite from expats and GCC nationals. We also expect higher provisions on persisting credit quality concerns to challenge Solidere's capacity to generate cash flow given unfavorable revenue mix which would weigh on profitability metrics. Longer term, we still recognize unlocked value in Solidere from a rebound in land sales and the completion of the real estate pipeline once domestic/regional pressure eases. Upside risks include a reactivation of political institutions through parliamentary elections and budget ratification, and improved political

Contacts

Head of Research: Anna Maria Chaaraoui

a.chaaraoui@ffaprivatebank.com +961 1 985195

Analyst: Nadine Mezher

n.mezher@ffaprivatebank.com +961 1 985195

Sales and Trading, FFA Private Bank (Beirut)

+961 1 985225

Sales and Trading, FFA Dubai Itd (DIFC)

+971 4 3230300



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FFA Private Bank s.a.l.

One FFA Gate - Marfaa 128 - Foch Street

Beirut Central District

☐PO Box 90-1283 - Beirut - Lebanon

□Tel: +961.1.985 195

□Fax: +961.1.985 193

□http://www.ffaprivatebank.com

FFA Dubai Ltd

☐ Building 5 – Office 410

Gate Precinct

□ Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC)

☐PO Box 506567 - Dubai - UAE

Tel: +971.4.363 74 70

□Fax: +971.4.363 74 71

□http://www.ffadubai.com