

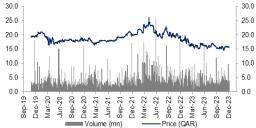
## **Banking**

#### BUY: 12M TP @ 18.36

Valuation Summary (TTM)					
Price (QAR)			16.05		
PER TTM (x)			10.3		
P/Book (x)			1.7		
Dividend Yield (%)			4.0		
Free Float (%)			45%		
Shares O/S (mn)			9,236		
YTD Return (%)			-3%		
Beta			1.0		
(mn)		QAR	USD		
Market Cap		148,245	40,665		
Total Assets		1,230,985	338,089		
Price performance (%)	1M	3M	12M		
Qatar National Bank QPSC	0%	8%	-13%		
Qatar Exchange Index	-1%	11%	-7%		
Trading liquidity (,000)	1M	3M	6M		
Avg daily turnover (QAR)	84,703	73,569	61,946		
Avg Daily Volume (,000)	6,056	4,678	3,933		
52 week	High	Low	CTL*		
Price (QAR)	18.69	14.31	12.2		
* CTL is % change in CMP to 52wk low					

Major shareholders	
Qatar Investment Aut	52%
Vanguard Group Inc/T	2.0%
BlackRock Inc	1.6%
Others	44.6%
Other details	
Exchange	Qatar
Sector	Banks

Key ratios	2020	2021	2022
EPS (QAR)	1.19	1.32	1.44
BVPS (QAR)	8.21	8.55	9.21
DPS (QAR)	0.45	0.55	0.65
Payout ratio (%)	38%	42%	45%



# Qatar National Bank - Well placed

Qatar National Bank reported 2023 operating income of QAR 38.5bn (vs. QAR 34.6bn, +11.3% YoY) and net income of QAR 15.5bn (vs. 14.4bn, + 8.1% YoY) above our estimates of QAR15.0bn. The operating income growth was driven by relatively superior growth in non-operating income (+ 41.5% YoY) aided primarily by increase in net forex income (+78% YoY) from Turkey operations as Turkish Lira remained was volatile during the year. Cost to income ratio was at 20.8%, an increase of 40bps YoY. The gross loan book stood at QAR 887bn (vs. QAR 837bn + 5.9%), driven by increase in retail loan book (+18.4%, YoY) and services sector (+12.4% YoY) and commercial segment (10.0% YoY). Geographically, the domestic net loan book grew at a faster pace of 5.9% YoY vs. international book at 4.6% YoY. Deposits grew at a relatively muted pace of 1.8% YoY, as deposits from government declined by 25% YoY, this was offset by growth in deposits from corporates (+4.3% YoY) and GREs (+6.2%). CASA too declined by from 23.2% in 2022 to 20.9% in 2023, with CA (-9.2% YoY) declining higher than SA (-2.2% YoY), the decline was offset by increase in term deposits by 4% YoY. The loan to deposit ratio stood at 99.5% in 2023 (vs. 95.9%) as the pace of growth in loan and deposit book varied. The asset quality remained stable at 2.97% (+14ps YoY), while the stage 3 coverage touched 100%.

**Secular growth to continue:** We expect the bank to continue to grow its profits at 7% in 2024e (lower end of guidance of 7%-9%), and the gross loan book to grow at 5% (guidance of 4%-6%). The bank's investments in Turkey and Egypt are paying off as the growth in these markets, besides investments in the digital banking are complemented with increase in credit demand domestically. Beyond 2025e, the domestic growth is set to get a boost as the spill over credit demand from planned LNG expansion comes into play. The rub-off effect across all sectors will help growth momentum. We have extended out forecast period to 2027e and we expect profits to grow at 6.8% CAGR (2023-2027e) over forecasted period as the effect of hyperinflation subsides. Though hyperinflation charge cannot be estimated, we are of the view that the charge of QAR 3.5bn in 2023 has peaked. In our model we have assumed a decline in hyperinflation charge going forward. Further, the bank's strategy of investing in CPI indexed linked bonds in Turkey to mitigate risk of hyperinflation charge will add cushion to the profits and reduce volatility.

In our model, we have revised the effective tax rate for 2025e to 18% (vs. 15% earlier) and 20% for 2026e-2027e, as the bank domestic operations may be liable to tax from 2025e onwards. Out of the 2023 PBT of QAR 17.9bn, the profit subject to tax is QAR 5.6bn, with over 69% of profits (70% in 2022) not liable to tax. Any deferment of implementation of tax beyond 2025e provides an upside risk.

Given the improved profitability, the bank has increased dividend per share to 0.65/share (vs. expectation of 0.60/share). We expect the bank to maintain steady dividend payout ratio at 40%+ going forward. Based on the expected decline in profits beyond 2025e due to taxation on domestic operations, we have reduced the target price from QAR 20.32/share to QAR 18.36/share.

At current levels the shares trade at 2024e normalized P/E (without effect of monetary loss arising out of hyperinflation) of 8.3x, 1.5x book value, and offers a dividend yield of 4.4%. We continue to maintain our BUY recommendation with a revised target price of QAR 18.36 per share, offering potential return of 14.4%.



Summary of key numbers										
in QAR mn	4Q23	3Q23	QoQ (%)	4Q22	YoY (%)	2023A	2022A	YoY (%)	2023A	2024E
Operating Income	9,977	10,297	-3.1%	9,381	6.4%	38,477	34,560	11.3%	38,477	39,308
Operating Expenses	-2,046	-2,077	-1.5%	-2,000	2.3%	-8,006	-7,047	13.6%	-8,006	-8,451
Operating Profit	7,931	8,220	-3.5%	7,380	7.5%	30,471	27,513	10.8%	30,471	30,857
Provision Expenses	-2,979	-1,542	93.2%	-2,744	8.6%	-9,653	-9,144	5.6%	-9,653	-9,816
Profit before tax	5,092	6,848	-25.6%	4,715	8.0%	21,464	18,914	13.5%	21,464	21,641
Taxation	-588	-1,025	-42.6%	-877	-32.9%	-2,297	-2,719	-15.5%	-2,297	-2,381
Monetary loss due to hyperinflation*	-822	-1,515	-45.8%	-450	82.5%	-3,503	-1,745	100.7%	-3,503	-2,500
Profit after tax	3,682	4,308	-14.5%	3,388	8.7%	15,665	14,449	8.4%	15,665	16,761
Tier 1 Bond	-288	-288	0.0%	-288	0.0%	-1,150	-1,083	6.2%	-1,150	-1,150
Profit attributable to shareholders/MI	3,350	3,981	-15.8%	2,588	29.4%	14,361	13,266	8.3%	14,361	15,457
Loan Book	852,987	815,472	4.6%	807,601	5.6%	852,987	807,601	5.6%	852,987	898,964
Deposits	857,106	822,449	4.2%	842,279	1.8%	857,106	842,279	1.8%	857,106	882,819
Total Equity (Excl tier 1 bond)	89,099	87,448	1.9%	85,087	4.7%	89,099	85,087	4.7%	89,099	100,744
Cost to Income	20.51%	20.17%	,	21.32%		20.81%	20.39%		20.81%	21.50%
NPL ratio	2.97%	2.99%	,	2.83%		2.97%	2.83%		2.97%	3.00%
CAR	19.80%	19.02%	,	19.61%		19.80%	19.61%		19.80%	20.82%
Net Loan to Deposit	99.52%	99.15%	, ,	95.88%		99.52%	95.88%		99.52%	101.83%

## Key takeaways from earnings call

- QNB's macro view:- Reiterate its expectation of GDP growth of 2% in 2023 and 2.5% in 2024. The policy rates
  continue to remain high over the coming months. The Bank expects two rate cuts in June and September. The
  tailwinds from investments in increasing gas production will drive economic growth, with six new LNG trains
  planned under the flagship North Field Expansion Project. The oil and gas prices remain elevated, helping robust
  fiscal and external revenues, large surpluses enabling execution of large investment projects.
- Balance sheet guidance at 4%-6% (vs. 2%-4% in 3Q23) and profits to grow by 7-9% (same level as that of 3Q23).
   Our estimates for the profit growth at 7% for 2024e.
- The key driver of loan book growth would continue to be domestic business, the bank is cautious on increasing exposure to commercial real estate.
- The bank expects local currency loan growth of 9%-11% Egypt while in Turkey it is expected to be in the range of 35%-40%. The deposit growth rate in Egypt is expected in the range of 13-15%, while in Turkey it would be in line with the loan growth. Profitability in Egypt is expected to be between 13%-15% and in Turkey at 15%-20%.
- NIMs are expected to decline by 3-5bps for 2024e. The current NIMs for Turkey operations are around 7.77%, this is expected to decline to 6% in 2024e, while the NIMs would be between 6%-6.2% for 2024e vs.6.23% during the current year. At group level, we have modeled for a NIM of 2.6% for 2024e.
- The increase in non-interest income for 2023 at 20.9% of total income has been driven by increase in fee and commission/forex income from Turkish operations. The increase in forex income has been on account of volatility in the currency.
- The hyperinflation charge cannot be estimated, to offset any adverse charge, the bank has invested in a portfolio
  of CPI linked securities that offset hyperinflation charge in the net interest income line on a pay-tax basis. This
  helps reduce or mitigate any volatility in the bottom-line earnings.
- Cost of risk at group level was at 111bps and the same declined by 9-10 bps in 2023. The 2024e target cost of
  risk is at 90bps (vs. our estimates of 100bps). The decline in cost of risk will be slow and gradual. Cost of risk in
  key entities Egypt and Turkey to be at 150-200bps for 2024e.
- The effective tax rate for 2024e will not be very different from the current year, while in 2025e, the effective tax rate may go up if the country imposes tax on domestic operations.
- There is no change in M&A strategy (focus on Southeast Asia), the status quo remains as that of 3Q23, with no concrete proposals as of now.



Income Statement (QAR Mn)	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E
Interest Income	44,736	59,672	97,133	68,295	68,219	70,095	74,066
Interest Expense	-21,700	-30,807	-66,716	-36,903	-36,691	-36,426	-37,956
Net Interest Income	23,036	28,865	30,417	31,392	31,528	33,669	36,110
Non Interest Income	4,907	5,696	8,060	7,916	9,198	9,524	9,864
Net Operating Income	27,943	34,560	38,477	39,308	40,726	43,193	45,973
Operating Expenses	-13,647	-16,191	-17,659	-18,267	-18,752	-19,806	-20,497
Share of results from associates	370	544	646	600	600	600	600
Profit Before Taxation	14,666	18,914	21,464	21,641	22,574	23,987	26,076
Tax expense	-1,390	-2,719	-2,297	-2,381	-4,063	-4,797	-5,215
Profit for the year*	13,276	16,194	19,168	19,261	18,510	19,189	20,861

<sup>\*</sup>before net monetary loss arising from hyperinflation

Balance sheet (QAR Mn)	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E
Cash and balances with Central Bank	88,551	91,564	87,820	80,147	73,351	63,076	51,937
Due from banks	69,055	96,260	86,477	89,936	93,983	98,682	103,616
Loans & advances to customers	763,652	807,601	852,987	898,964	943,912	993,247	1,045,154
Investment securities/associates	150,288	167,815	180,582	194,479	209,641	226,004	243,663
Property and Equipment/Intangibles	9,044	10,120	9,356	10,275	11,222	12,218	13,270
Other Assets	12,447	15,859	13,763	14,451	15,173	15,932	17,127
Total Assets	1,093,038	1,189,219	1,230,985	1,288,251	1,347,282	1,409,159	1,474,768
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDER'S EQUI	ГҮ						
Due to banks	111,442	142,815	156,991	172,691	185,642	199,566	209,544
Customers' deposits	785,512	842,279	857,106	882,819	913,718	945,698	983,526
Debt Securities	40,089	35,153	36,289	39,918	43,910	48,300	53,131
Other Borrowings	26,138	25,593	29,400	27,930	26,534	25,207	23,947
Other Liabilities	29,801	37,323	40,991	43,041	45,193	47,453	49,825
Total Liabilities	992,981	1,083,162	1,120,778	1,166,399	1,214,996	1,266,224	1,319,972
Paid-up Capital	9,236	9,236	9,236	9,236	9,236	9,236	9,236
Other Reserves	10,589	10,002	6,760	6,760	6,760	6,760	6,760
Retained earnings	59,118	65,849	73,102	84,747	95,180	105,831	117,691
Shareholder's Equity	78,943	85,087	89,099	100,744	111,177	121,827	133,687
Non - Controlling Interests	1,113	970	1,108	1,108	1,108	1,108	1,108
Tier 1 Perpetual subordinated bonds	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Total Equity	100,057	106,057	110,207	121,852	132,285	142,936	154,796
Total Liabilities and Equity	1,093,038	1,189,219	1,230,985	1,288,251	1,347,282	1,409,159	1,474,768

Cash Flow Statement (QAR Mn)	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E
Cash flow from operating activities	35,787	59,119	1,466	13,252	15,477	13,291	13,791
Cash flow from investing activities	-24,233	-25,894	-17,652	-15,469	-16,791	-18,091	-19,499
Cash flow from financing activities	-6,570	-9,811	-889	-5,457	-5,482	-5,475	-5,431
Net change in cash	4,984	23,413	-17,074	-7,674	-6,796	-10,275	-11,139
Cash at the end of period	106,660	127,314	108,129	80,147	73,351	63,076	51,937



Key ratios	2021	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E
Operating performance							
Yield on average earning assets	4.3%	5.4%	8.2%	5.8%	5.7%	5.5%	5.5%
Cost of funds	2.3%	3.0%	6.3%	3.4%	3.2%	3.1%	3.1%
Interest spread	2.1%	2.3%	1.9%	2.4%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
NIM	2.2%	2.50%	2.53%	2.7%	2.5%	2.6%	2.6%
Interest income/operating income	160.1%	172.7%	252.4%	173.7%	167.5%	162.3%	161.1%
Net interest income/operating income	82.4%	83.5%	79.1%	79.9%	77.4%	78.0%	78.5%
Non interest income/operating income	17.6%	16.5%	20.9%	20.1%	22.6%	22.0%	21.5%
Cost to income ratio	23.0%	20.4%	20.8%	21.5%	22.0%	22.0%	21.0%
<u>Liquidity</u>							
Net Loan to Deposit Ratio	85.1%	82.0%	84.1%	85.2%	85.9%	86.7%	87.6%
Customer deposits/total deposits	87.6%	85.5%	84.5%	83.6%	83.1%	82.6%	82.4%
Net loans to customer deposits	97.2%	95.9%	99.5%	101.8%	103.3%	105.0%	106.3%
Investments/total assets	13.1%	13.4%	14.0%	14.5%	15.0%	15.4%	15.9%
Asset quality							
Stage 1 loan ratio	91.1%	91.2%	91.5%	91.0%	91.0%	91.0%	91.0%
Stage 2 loan ratio	6.6%	5.9%	5.5%	6.0%	6.0%	5.9%	5.9%
Gross NPL ratio	2.3%	2.8%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%
Provision as a % of gross loans	3.3%	3.6%	3.9%	3.5%	3.5%	3.8%	4.0%
NPL Coverage	143.0%	126.1%	129.8%	116.7%	116.7%	121.0%	129.0%
Cost of credit	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Stage 1 coverage	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Stage 2 coverage	6.5%	8.1%	10.2%	4.8%	4.8%	7.4%	11.7%
Stage 3 coverage	116.8%	98.5%	100.1%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%
Capital adequacy							
Tier I ratio	18.2%	18.5%	18.7%	19.8%	20.7%	21.4%	22.3%
Tier II ratio	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%
CAR	19.3%	19.6%	19.8%	20.8%	21.6%	22.4%	23.1%
Net Equity to Gross Loans	10.0%	10.2%	10.0%	10.8%	11.4%	11.8%	12.3%
Net Equity to Total Assets	7.2%	7.2%	7.2%	7.8%	8.3%	8.6%	9.1%
Return ratios							
Reported ROE	17.2%	19.7%	22.0%	20.3%	17.5%	16.5%	16.3%
Adjusted ROE	15.8%	16.2%	16.5%	16.3%	14.8%	14.5%	14.9%
ROA	1.3%	1.4%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%
RoRWA	2.7%	3.2%	3.7%	3.5%	3.1%	3.1%	3.2%
Per share ratios							
EPS	1.32	1.44	1.55	1.67	1.70	1.83	2.06
BVPS	8.55	9.21	9.65	10.91	12.04	13.19	14.47
DPS	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.75	0.80	0.85
<u>Valuation</u>							
Price	20.19	18.00	16.53	16.05	16.05	16.05	16.05
P/E	15.3	12.5	10.6	9.6	9.4	8.8	7.8
P/E (w/o monetary loss on Hyper inflation)	15.3	11.1	8.5	8.3	8.6	8.3	7.6
P/B	2.4	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.1
Dividend Yield	2.7%	3.3%	3.9%	4.4%	4.7%	5.0%	5.3%



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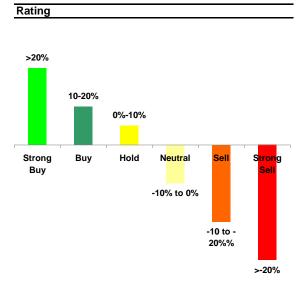
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Rating Defin	itions
Strong Buy	This recommendation is used for stocks whose current market price offers a deep discount to our 12-Month target price and has an upside potential in excess of 20%
Buy	This recommendation is used for stocks whose current market price offers a discount to our 12-Month target price and has an upside potential between 10% to 20%
Hold	This recommendation is used for stocks whose current market price offers a discount to our 12-Month target price and has an upside potential between 0% to 10%
Neutral	This recommendation is used for stocks whose current market price offers a premium to our 12-Month target price and has a downside side potential between 0% to -10%
Sell	This recommendation is used for stocks whose current market price offers a premium to our 12-Month target price and has a downside side potential between -10% to -20%
Strong Sell	This recommendation is used for stocks whose current market price offers a premium to our 12-Month target price and has a downside side potential in excess of 20%
Not rated	This recommendation used for stocks which does not form part of Coverage Universe

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