Bupa Arabia

Insurance – Finance BUPA AB: Saudi Arabia

29 November 2022

US\$5.716bn 49.40% US\$5.92mn

Market cap Free float Avg. daily volume

Target price Current price 179.00 at par

179.00 as at 29/11/2022

الراجحى المالية Al Rajhi Capital



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Underweight Neutral Overweight



Earnings

Period End (SAR)	2021A	2022E	2023E	2024E
GWP	11,382	13,921	16,009	17,770
Growth	9%	22%	15%	11%
NEP	10,618	12,911	14,927	16,657
Growth	-1%	22%	16%	12%
NCI	(9,047)	(11,041)	(12,464)	(13,825)
Loss Ratio	85.2%	85.5%	83.5%	83.0%
Net Underwriting income	1,228	1,303	1,850	2,195
ROE	15.5%	17.1%	21.7%	22.2%
P/E	25.1x	27.3x	22.0x	19.4x
P/B	3.7x	4.6x	4.6x	4.1x

Source: Company data, Al Rajhi Capital.

Bupa Arabia

Target price raised, but rating revised to neutral

Bupa Arabia, being the largest health insurance player in KSA, is at the forefront of benefitting from the ongoing growth in insured lives (+19% YTD). We believe the growth in insured lives would continue as the insurance coverage enforcement (gap between employees in GOSI records and insured lives should ideally shrink) picks up and the job additions continue led by return of expats (as per Bupa 3022 presentation, about 1.0 m jobs added this year). The other catalyst for the industry in general and for Bupa in particular is the price hikes (15-20% y-o-y). Although, the price hikes are mainly on the back of higher medical inflation in 2022 as well as various other developments such as Article 11, NPHIES implementation and new table of benefits (ToB). We believe the price hikes indicate the bargaining power of Bupa, indicating strong business moat. GWP for Bupa this year is up over 20% y-o-y on an average, we believe the strong GWP growth (+15%) to continue in 2023 as well. However, we remain cautious about the elevated level of loss ratios, about 84% in 9M 2022, higher than the ideal level of 80-82%. Despite the price hikes, we estimate loss ratio to be around 83.5% in 2023 and 83% in 2024. In our view, the uncertainty remains around the impact of new ToB on loss ratio as the first phase of new ToB has been implemented in October, thus the industry has not seen the impact yet. Further, once the NPHIES implementation is streamlined, there would be more clarity on the loss ratio. On the positive, Bupa has been conservative and accounted for higher IBNR (incurred but not received) reserves this year. We raise our target price to SAR 179/share from SAR 155/share before. However, we downgrade the rating to neutral as our new target price is at par with the current market price.

Figure 1 Bupa Q3 2022 results

(SAR mn)	Q3 2022	Q3 2021	Q2 2022	Q3 2020	ARC Est.	у-о-у	q-o-q	% chg vs 2020	vs ARC
GWP	4,176	3,459	3,001	3,076	4,081	20.7%	39.2%	35.8%	2.3%
Reinsurance ceded	(11)	(13)	(31)	(9)	(15)				
NWP	4,165	3,446	2,970	3,068	4,066	20.9%	40.2%	35.8%	2.4%
NWP as a % of GWP	99.7%	99.6%	99.0%	99.7%	99.6%				
NEP	3,361	2,712	3,141	2,700	3,200	23.9%	7.0%	24.5%	5.0%
NEP as a % of GWP	80.5%	78.4%	104.7%	87.8%	78.4%				
NCI	2,761	2,247	2,584	2,180	2,688	22.9%	6.8%	26.6%	2.7%
Loss ratio	82.1%	82.9%	82.3%	80.8%	84.0%				
Net profit before zakat	375	228	291	170	241	64.4%	NM	120.7%	55.5%
PBT margin	9.0%	6.6%	9.7%	5.5%	5.9%				

Source: Company data, Al Rajhi Capital

Results: GWP for 3Q22 increased 20.7% y-o-y to SAR 4,176mn (2.3% above our estimate), due to a recovery in total insured lives coupled with higher pricing. NEP rose relatively at a faster pace at 23.9% y-o-y (+5% above our estimates), mainly due to favorable changes in unearned premiums. During the quarter, net claims incurred surged by 22.9% y-o-y (higher than our estimates), resulting in a loss ratio of 82.1% flat q-o-q, but below our estimate of 84.0%. Further, higher investment profits (+132% y-o-y) benefitted the bottom line, with profit before zakat increasing 64% y-o-y to SAR 375mn.

Valuations: The stock is currently trading at a price to book ratio of 4.6x on our estimated 2023 book value, higher than its recent historical average of 3.5x. In terms of P/E multiple, it trades around 22x on 2023e. We are valuing the stock using a mix of P/B, P/E as well as residual income (RI) method. We are using a 2023e P/B multiple of 4.0x, higher than its historical average considering the sharp growth in GWP and a forward P/E multiple of 25x. The key inputs for RI are cost of equity of 10.5%, terminal growth of 4.0% and a 14% CAGR growth in net income during 2030e-2022e. Our new target price derived through equal weights to each valuation methodology is SAR 179/share, at par with the current market price.

Figure 2 Valuations

Method	Target Price	Weight	Avg. TPs
P/B	156	33%	52
P/E	202	33%	67
RI	179	33%	60
Target Price			179
CMP			179
Upside			0%

Source: Company data, Al Rajhi Capital



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