



Household net financial savings at 8.3% of GDP in FY22

However, liabilities at an 18-year low of just 2.5% of GDP is perplexing

- According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), household gross financial savings (GFS) in India touched a five-year low of 10.8% of GDP in FY22, as compared to a 14-year high of 16% of GDP in FY21. In contrast, financial liabilities of households touched an 18-year low of 2.5% of GDP last year, as compared to ~4% of GDP each in the preceding four years. Consequently, household net financial savings (NFS) dropped to 8.3% of GDP in FY22, as compared to the near record high of 12% of GDP (it was 12.1% of GDP in FY10) in FY21 and slightly higher than the average of ~8% of GDP in the preceding five years.
- Details of GFS reveal that the share of 'deposits' was just 27.2% of GFS in FY22, the second-lowest in the last 50 years, and the share of 'currency in hand' was also at a five-year low of 10.5% of GFS. In contrast, the share of Insurance, provident, and pension fund (IP&PF) rose to a multi-decade high of 40% (with a higher share only in FY17). The share of small savings (i.e. claims on the government) is estimated to have touched a 16-year high of 13.3% and the share of risky assets (i.e. shares and debentures) was also at a five-year high of 8.9% of GFS.
- The share of small savings and risky assets has averaged 9.5%/7.3% over the past six years, registering a multifold increase from an average share of just 0.6%/2.9% in the previous decade.
- At the same time, household liabilities from Banks, as per the RBI's estimates, shrank by ~24% YoY in FY22 the sharpest decline in 14 years, which is perplexing. As per the RBI's quarterly Basic Statistical Return (BSR-1), the share of the household sector in bank lending rose to 53.8% in FY22 from 52.6% in FY21. This was due to the 13% growth in lending to the household sector in FY22, while total loans rose by just 11%.
- We have prepared our own in-house estimates of household savings. A comparison of RBI data vis-à-vis MOFSL estimates suggests that while our GFS estimates show a divergence of +/-5% (or -0.4/+0.6pp of GDP), the divergence in liabilities over FY19-21 was between -5% (-0.2pp) and +2% (0.1pp). Our estimates suggest that household liabilities stood ~4% of GDP in FY22.
- This is important because if household liabilities are revised upward, then household NFS can be revised to ~7% of GDP the lowest in more than three decades (it was 7.1% of GDP in FY15). Household debt will also be revised to 36.8% of GDP in Mar'22, as against RBI's data of 35.3% of GDP. In any case, it is down from its peak of 39.3% in FY21, but higher than 33.4% of GDP as of Dec'19.
- The analysis of HH savings is incomplete without physical savings as NFS accounts for 35-40% of total HH savings in India. As per our estimates, physical savings rose by one-third to 11.8% of GDP in FY22, from a multi-year low of 10.6% of GDP in FY21. It means that: a) Total HH savings stood at 20.1% of GDP (or 25.2% of PDI, as per our estimates) in FY22, down from 22.6% (or 27.1% of PDI) in FY21, but similar to the pre-COVID levels; b) The share of (net) financial savings fell to 41% (from a 24-year high of 53.2% in FY21) of HH total savings in FY22; and c) Unlike most Western economies, there were (and are) no excess savings in India.
- As per our estimates, HH GFS fell to just 7.1% of GDP in 1QFY23, while liabilities eased to 3.6% of GDP. HH NFS, thus, eased to ~3.5% of GDP in the quarter-ending Jun'22, marking the lowest level in any quarter since 1QFY19, when the quarterly data became available. Financial savings are generally weaker in the first quarter and the strongest in the fourth quarter of any fiscal.
- Going forward, we expect household savings and India's domestic savings to weaken sharply in FY23. The sharp surge in India's current account deficit (CAD) towards 3.8% of GDP in FY23 can be attributed either to a rise in investments or a fall in savings. Our forecasts suggest that total investments may remain unchanged ~31% of GDP in FY23. If so, it implies that almost the entire widening of CAD is due to a reduction in savings, at least partly led by high inflation. At 27% of GDP, GDS in FY23 will be the lowest in the past two decades. This is, in fact, a direct cause of higher GDP growth in a rising inflation environment.



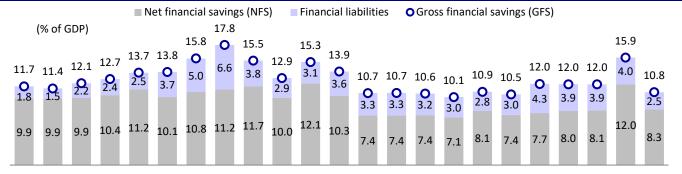
Household GFS in India fell to a five-year low of 10.8% of GDP in FY22 as compared to a 14-year high of 16% of GDP in FY21

HH NFS fell to 8.3% of GDP in FY22, slightly higher than the pre-COVID level:

According to the RBI, household GFS in India touched a five-year low of 10.8% of GDP in FY22, as compared to a 14-year high of 16% of GDP in FY21 (refer Exhibit 1). It means that GFS in FY22 was comparable to the lows seen between FY12 and FY17 (barring FY15, when it was just 10.1% of GDP). It was, however, much lower than the pick-up seen during the pre-COVID years – 12% of GDP each in the FY18-20 period.

In contrast, financial liabilities of households touched an 18-year low of 2.5% of GDP last year, as compared to $^{\sim}4\%$ of GDP each in the preceding four years. Household liabilities peaked at 6.6% of GDP in FY07, after which it has broadly stayed between 3% and 4% of GDP in the past decade.

Exhibit 1: HH NFS fell to 8.3% of GDP in FY22



FY00 FY01 FY02 FY03 FY04 FY05 FY06 FY07 FY08 FY09 FY10 FY11 FY12 FY13 FY14 FY15 FY16 FY17 FY18 FY19 FY20 FY21 FY22

NFS = GFS less financial liabilities

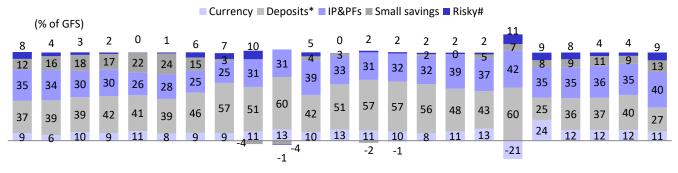
Source: Central Statistics Office (CSO), RBI, CEIC, MOFSL

Consequently, household NFS dropped to 8.3% of GDP in FY22, as compared to the near record high of 12% of GDP (it was 12.1% of GDP in FY10) in FY21 and slightly higher than the average of ~8% of GDP between FY16and FY20 (refer Exhibit 1).

Currency and deposits dipped, while the share of other assets surged in FY22:

There are six major financial assets in which households park their savings: currency in hand; deposits (Banks and non-Banks); Insurance, provident and pension funds; small savings (which is an indirect exposure to government bonds), and risky assets (into shares and debentures in financial markets).

Exhibit 2: Key components of HH GFS



FY00 FY01 FY02 FY03 FY04 FY05 FY06 FY07 FY08 FY09 FY10 FY11 FY12 FY13 FY14 FY15 FY16 FY17 FY18 FY19 FY20 FY21 FY22

Insurance, provident and pension funds (IP&PF)
Source: CSO, RBI, MOFSL

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^{*}Banks and non-Banks #Shares and debentures (financial markets)



Details of GFS reveal that the share of 'deposits' was just 27.2% of GFS in FY22, the second-lowest in the last 50 years, and the share of 'currency in hand' was also at a five-year low of 10.5% of GFS (refer Exhibit 2 above).

The share of small savings/ risky assets has averaged 9.5%/7.3% in the past six years, registering a multifold increase from just 0.6%/2.9% in the previous decade In contrast, the share of IP&PF rose to a multi-decade high of 40% (with a higher share only in FY17 when demonetization was implemented). The share of small savings (i.e. claims on the government) is estimated to have touched a 16-year high of 13.3%. The share of risky assets (i.e. shares and debentures) was at a five-year high of 8.9% of GFS.

The share of small savings and risky assets has averaged 9.5%/7.3% over the past six years, registering a multi-fold increase from an average share of just 0.6%/2.9% in the previous decade.

Exhibit 3: Key components of HH financial savings

	INR t				As a percentage of GDP			
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
GFS	22.6	24.1	31.6	25.6	12.0	12.0	16.0	10.8
Deposits*	7.8	8.8	12.2	7.0	4.1	4.4	6.2	2.9
Currency	2.8	2.8	3.8	2.7	1.5	1.4	1.9	1.1
Insurance	3.9	3.7	5.6	4.4	2.1	1.9	2.8	1.9
Provident and Pension Funds	4.0	5.0	5.5	5.8	2.1	2.5	2.8	2.5
Investments#	1.7	1.0	1.2	2.3	0.9	0.5	0.6	1.0
Mutual Funds	1.5	0.6	0.6	1.6	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.7
Small savings	2.1	2.6	2.8	3.4	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.4
Financial Liabilities (FL)	7.7	7.7	7.9	5.9	4.1	3.9	4.0	2.5
SCBs	14.9	16.3	23.8	4.9	7.9	8.1	12.0	2.1
NBFCs + HFCs	7.3	8.3	12.2	0.9	3.9	4.1	6.2	0.4
Net Financial Savings (NFS)	14.9	16.3	23.8	19.7	7.9	8.1	12.0	8.3

^{*}Banks and non-Banks

#Shares and debentures (financial markets)
Source: CSO, RBI, MOFSL

Household liabilities shrank by ~24% YoY in FY22, the sharpest decline in 14 years

The sharp fall in household liabilities in FY22 is perplexing...: At the same time, the fall in household liabilities in FY22 is perplexing. As per the RBI's estimates, household liabilities from Banks shrank by ~24% YoY in FY22 – the sharpest decline in 14 years (refer Exhibit 4). After growing at an average of 15% for 12 successive years (up to FY21), the decline of almost a quarter in financial liabilities was notable in FY22.

Exhibit 4: HH liabilities fell for the first time in 13 years in FY22 – the sharpest fall in 14 years

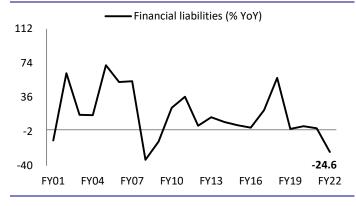
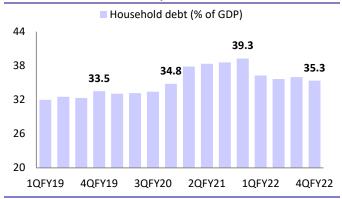


Exhibit 5: Household debt, as per RBI, eased to 35.3% of GDP in FY22, down from its peak of 39.3% in FY21



Source: CSO, RBI, MOFSL



Household debt was estimated at INR83.6t, or 35.3% of GDP, in 4QFY22. At its peak, it stood at 39.3% of GDP in FY21 from 32%-33% of GDP in FY19 and FY20 (refer Exhibit 5).

...and is in contrast to our estimates: We have prepared our own in-house estimates of household savings (refer here and here for detailed notes). A comparison of RBI data vis-à-vis MOFSL estimates suggests that while our GFS estimates show a divergence of +/-5% (or -0.4/+0.6pp of GDP), the divergence in liabilities over FY19-21 was between -5% (-0.2pp) and +2% (0.1pp). Our estimates suggest that household liabilities stood ~4% of GDP in FY22 (refer Exhibit 6 and 7).

Our estimates of financial liabilities confirm they were ~4% of GDP in FY22, same as in the past few years, but higher than RBI's estimate of 2.5% of GDP

As per MOFSL's estimates, HH GFS stood at 11.1% of GDP in FY22, which is not very different from RBI's estimate of 10.8% of GDP. However, our estimates of financial liabilities confirm that they were ~4% of GDP in FY22, same as in the past few years, but much higher than RBI's estimate of 2.5% of GDP. While NFS fell to 8.3% of GDP, as per the RBI, our estimates suggest a decline to ~7% of GDP.

Exhibit 6: The divergence between our GFS estimates v/s that of RBI stood at +/-5%...

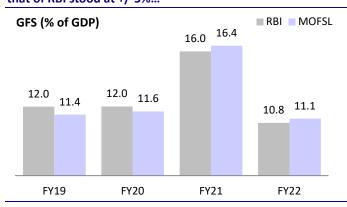
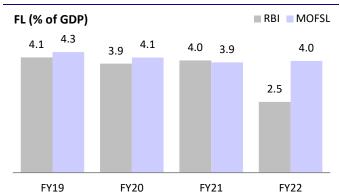


Exhibit 7: ...with a similar divergence in liabilities, except FY22



Source: RBI, CSO, SEBI, CEIC, MOFSL

It is even more surprising because our estimates of HH liabilities are based on RBI's other quarterly publication: BSR-1. As per BSR-1, the share of the household sector in lending by SCBs rose to 53.8% in FY22 from 52.6% in FY21. This was due to the 13% growth in lending to the household sector in FY22, while total loans increased by just 11%. This is what makes RBI's estimate of a 24% decline in household liabilities (from Banks) so unbelievable.

If household liabilities are revised upward, then NFS can fall to ~7% of GDP, the lowest in over three decades

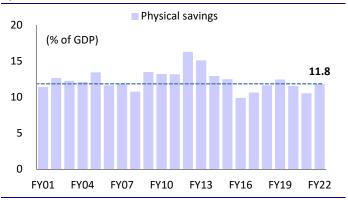
It is important because if household liabilities are revised upward, then their NFS can fall to $^{\sim}7\%$ of GDP – the lowest in more than three decades (it was 7.1% of GDP in FY15). Household debt has been revised to 36.8% of GDP in Mar'22, as against RBI's data of 35.3% of GDP.

Physical HH savings grew to 11.8% of GDP in FY22...: Indian household savings have two components: (net) financial savings and physical savings. The analysis of HH savings is incomplete without physical savings as NFS accounts for 35-40% of total HH savings in India.



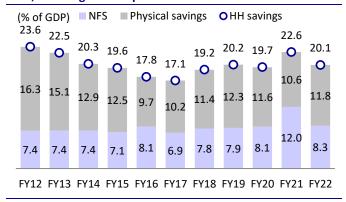
As per our estimates, physical savings rose by one-third to 11.8% of GDP in FY22, from a multi-year low of 10.6% of GDP in FY21 As per our estimates, physical savings rose by one-third to 11.8% of GDP in FY22, from a multi-year low of 10.6% of GDP in FY21 (refer Exhibit 8). Beginning in the 21st century, physical household savings grew rapidly in India. While it had rarely touched 10% of GDP in the 20th century, it has never fallen below 10% (except in FY16 when it stood at 9.9%) in the first two decades of the 21st century. This has been one of the primary supporters of India's GDP growth.

Exhibit 8: HH physical savings rose to 11.8% of GDP in FY22 v/s 10.6% in FY21...



*Estimate physical HH savings based on data for 26 states, accounting for more than 92% of all S&RC receipts

Exhibit 9: ...implying that total HH savings were ~20% of GDP, unchanged from pre-COVID levels



* MOFSL estimate Source: RBI, CSO, SEBI, CEIC, MOFSL

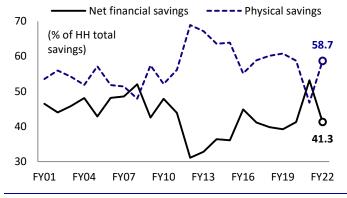
...implying total HH savings of ~20% of GDP, same as in the pre-COVID period:

Total HH savings stood at 20.1% of GDP (or 25.2% of PDI, as per our estimates) in FY22, down from 22.6% (or 27.1% of PDI) in FY21, but similar to the pre-COVID levels (refer Exhibit 9).

Our calculations suggest that the share of financial savings fell to 41% of total HH savings in FY22 from a 24-year high of 53.2% in FY21 Our calculations suggest that the share of financial savings fell to 41% (from a 24-year high of 53.2% in FY21) of HH total savings in FY22, while physical savings account for the rest (refer Exhibit 10).

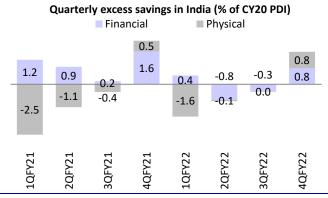
As discussed in our previous <u>report</u>, although there were excess financial savings in India in FY21, it was offset by lower physical savings. In FY22, even financial savings fell to pre-COVID levels, leaving no scope for excess personal or HH savings in India, unlike Western nations (refer Exhibit 11).

Exhibit 10: The share of physical savings is back to $^{\sim}60\%$ of total HH savings in FY22



FY22 physical savings are MOFSL estimates

Exhibit 11: Unlike the West, India never experienced excess personal or HH savings



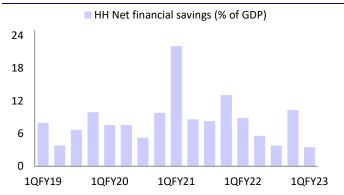
Source: RBI, CSO, SEBI, CEIC, MOFSL



As per our estimates, HH
NFS eased to ~3.5% of GDP
in the quarter-ending
Jun'22, marking the lowest
level since 1QFY19

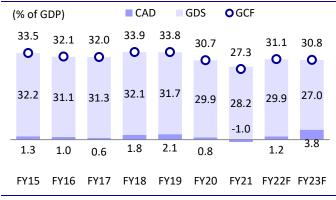
HH NFS is estimated to have fallen further in 1QFY23: As per our estimates, HH GFS fell to just 7.1% of GDP in 1QFY23, while liabilities eased to 3.6% of GDP. HH NFS eased to ~3.5% of GDP in the quarter-ending Jun'22, marking the lowest level in any quarter since 1QFY19, when the quarterly data became available (refer Exhibit 12). Financial savings are generally weaker in the first quarter and the strongest in the fourth quarter of any fiscal.

Exhibit 12: HH financial savings are estimated to have fallen further in 1QFY23



This chart is based on MOFSL estimates

Exhibit 13: We expect India's domestic savings to fall to two-decade low in FY23



F = Forecasts Source: RBI, CSO, CEIC, MOFSL

India's domestic savings can fall to a two-decade low of 27% of GDP in FY23 as higher inflation failed to dent consumption and GDP

growth

Conclusion: Expect lower domestic savings in FY23

Going forward, we expect household savings and India's gross domestic savings (GDS) to weaken sharply in FY23. The sharp surge in India's CAD towards 3.8% of GDP in FY23 can be attributed either to a rise in investments or a fall in savings. Based on available data for 1Q, our <u>forecasts</u> suggest that total investments may remain unchanged $^{\sim}31\%$ of GDP in FY23. If so, it implies that almost the entire widening of CAD – to 3.8% from 1.2% of GDP in FY21 – is due to a reduction in savings (refer Exhibit 13). At 27% of GDP, GDS in FY23 will be the lowest in the past two decades.

One of the primary causes of this sharp reduction in GDS will be higher inflation. Although consumption and GDP growth are expected to remain reasonably strong in FY23, the high inflation implies that it will be possible only due to a sharp reduction in savings, resulting in a wider CAD. Without a strong revival in GDS, any pickup in investments will drive CAD higher. Therefore, India must strive to push savings higher to achieve higher growth on a sustainable basis for a long period of time.



NOTES

26 September 2022



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