

Rating Action: Moody's Ratings downgrades IKB Deutsche Industriebank AG's long-term deposit and issuer ratings to Baa2 from Baa1, outlook remains negative

19 Jun 2024

Frankfurt am Main, June 19, 2024 -- Moody's Ratings (Moody's) has today downgraded IKB Deutsche Industriebank AG's (IKB) long- and short-term deposit and issuer ratings to Baa2/P-3 from Baa1/P-2; the outlook on the long-term ratings remains negative. Concurrently, the rating agency affirmed the bank's A3/P-2 long-and short-term Counterparty Risk Ratings (CRR).

Further, Moody's affirmed the bank's baa3 Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA) and Adjusted BCA, and the A3(cr)/P-2(cr) long- and short-term Counterparty Risk Assessments (CRA).

RATINGS RATIONALE

--AFFIRMATION OF BCA AND ADJUSTED BCA

The affirmation of IKB's baa3 BCA reflects its sustained good asset quality with a non-performing loan ratio of around 2% and the bank's profile as a specialized lender to mostly German mid-sized corporates (Mittelstand), paired with sound and rising capitalization as well as good core profitability. Further, IKB's quasi-monoline business model and the resulting limited business diversification remains captured in the baa3 BCA.

Despite IKB's reliance on stable and fully matched development bank funding for most of its lending activities, the affirmation also incorporates the bank's overall relatively weaker funding and liquidity profile, with dependencies on price-sensitive deposits, central bank and other short-term (repurchase agreement, or repo) funding and a somewhat improved, but still contained volume of available liquidity to compensate for any unexpected funding outflows.

IKB's capitalisation provides an improved and sound buffer to regulatory

requirements, the rating agency expects the bank to maintain its Common Equity Tier 1 ratio above 15%, taking into account the persistent capital-add on, which resulted from regulatory findings related to risk management shortcomings, were implemented in spring 2022 and lowered in the second half of 2023 to reflect the bank's progress in resolving the regulatory finding.

The affirmation of IKB's Adjusted BCA of baa3 follows the affirmation of the BCA.

--DOWNGRADE OF DEPOSIT AND ISSUER RATINGS

The downgrade of IKB's long-term deposit and issuer ratings to Baa2 from Baa1 reflects the affirmation of the bank's baa3 BCA and a declining amount of the overall volume of bail-in-able debt in relation to total liabilities, resulting from maturing junior senior unsecured bonds and subordinated debt liabilities as well as the partial buy-back of outstanding preference shares. The lower protection for senior creditors is reflected in a reduction of ratings uplift to one notch from the rating agency's Advanced Loss Given Failure (LGF) analysis for the deposit and issuer ratings.

Moody's does not apply rating uplift from government support, which the rating agency assumes to be low because of IKB's small importance to the German banking system.

The downgrade of the bank's short-term deposit and issuer ratings to P-3 from P-2 follows the downgrade of the long-term ratings.

The affirmation of the CRR and CRA follows the affirmation of IKB's BCA and Adjusted BCA and an unchanged uplift from Moody's Advanced LGF analysis.

-- NEGATIVE OUTLOOK

The negative outlook for the long-term deposit and issuer ratings continues to reflect the potential downwards pressure on the bank's intrinsic strength. Despite improved capitalisation and slightly recovered liquidity, the available liquid resources continue to provide only limited protection from unexpected funding challenges.

FACTORS THAT COULD LEAD TO AN UPGRADE OR DOWNGRADE OF THE RATINGS

A ratings upgrade could be prompted by an upgrade of the BCA or by an additional rating uplift from Moody's Advanced LGF analysis for the deposit and issuer ratings as a result of a higher volume of instruments designed to absorb losses in resolution.

An upgrade of IKB's baa3 BCA could be prompted by a significant improvement of its combined solvency and combined liquidity. Alternatively, IKB's BCA could be upgraded if the bank substantially diversifies its business profile without taking undue strategic and operational risks as a result of such a shift.

A downgrade of IKB's issuer and deposit ratings could be prompted by a BCA downgrade or a weaker result from Moody's Advanced LGF analysis as a result of a decline in instruments designed to absorb losses in case of failure, such that is increases the loss severity of instrument classes and reduces the uplift provided by Moody's Advanced LGF analysis could result in a downgrade of the bank's ratings.

IKB's BCA could be downgraded in case the weakened liquidity profile, with a very limited level of unencumbered liquidity combined with its recourse to market funding and its online retail deposit franchise is not mitigated by an improved solvency profile, including a recovery in profitability, increased capital targets while retaining solid asset quality.

PRINCIPAL METHODOLOGY

The principal methodology used in these ratings was Banks Methodology published in March 2024 and available at https://ratings.moodys.com/rmc-documents/409852. Alternatively, please see the Rating Methodologies page on https://ratings.moodys.com for a copy of this methodology.

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For further specification of Moody's key rating assumptions and sensitivity analysis, see the sections Methodology Assumptions and Sensitivity to Assumptions in the disclosure form. Moody's Rating Symbols and Definitions can be found on https://ratings.moodys.com/rating-definitions.

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