

Rating Action: Moody's Ratings affirms DNB Bank ASA's long-term deposit ratings at Aa1 and senior unsecured ratings at Aa2, outlook stable

05 Sep 2025

Stockholm, September 05, 2025 -- Moody's Ratings (Moody's) today affirmed DNB Bank ASA's (DNB) deposit and senior unsecured ratings at Aa1/P-1 and Aa2, respectively. Furthermore, we affirmed the junior senior unsecured (also referred to as non-preferred senior unsecured) ratings at A2, the subordinated debt ratings at A3 and the preferred stock non-cumulative ratings (used on Additional Tier 1 notes) at Baa2(hyb).

The Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA) and Adjusted BCA were affirmed at a2.

The outlook on the long-term deposit and senior unsecured ratings remains stable.

Please click on this link https://www.moodys.com/viewresearchdoc.aspx?docid=PBC_ARFTL512110 for the List of Affected Credit Ratings. This list is an integral part of this Press Release and identifies each affected issuer.

RATINGS RATIONALE

AFFIRMATION OF THE BASELINE CREDIT ASSESSMENT

The affirmation of DNB's BCA of a2 reflects our expectation that the bank will maintain its low asset risk, resilient earnings generation and solid capital position, supported by its strong risk management culture and market leading position in Norway. Similar to many Nordic peers, the BCA is constrained by the bank's high reliance on market funding, mitigated by its excellent access to international capital markets and different funding instruments.

Asset risk is low, as demonstrated by low levels of problem loans following active de-risking to exposure in the shipping and offshore sectors, and further explained by a well-balanced loan portfolio encompassing personal (48% of loan book) and corporate (52%) exposure across various industries, combined with prudent underwriting standards and a supportive economic backdrop in Norway despite a higher interest rate environment compared to neighboring Nordic countries.

DNB's fee-based earnings generation capacity has improved following the acquisition of Carnegie Group, a Nordic investment bank and wealth manager, in March 2025, although net interest income remains the main earnings driver, representing more than 70% of revenues in the first half of 2025. We forecast net income to tangible assets at or above 1% over the next two years.

DNB maintains a robust capital base, despite a slight decline in the reported Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio from 19.4% at end December 2024 to 18.3% at end June 2025, compared to regulatory expectation of 16.5%. The CET1 ratio is expected to drop further by about 60 basis points following increased risk weight floors on residential mortgages in Q3 2025, but we expect DNB to maintain a solid buffer over regulatory requirements over the next 12-18 months.

LOSS GIVEN FAILURE (LGF) AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT ANALYSIS

The bank's long-term deposit and senior unsecured debt ratings of Aa1 and Aa2 respectively, are underpinned by the bank's Adjusted BCA of a2 and our analysis of the severity of loss faced by the different liability classes in the event of a failure, resulting in three and two notches uplift in the relevant ratings, respectively. Our assessment of moderate government support reflecting DNB's systemic importance and 34% ownership by the Government of Norway, translates into a further notch of uplift.

OUTLOOK

The stable outlook on the long-term deposit and senior unsecured ratings reflects our view that DNB will continue to generate sound recurring earnings, supporting a robust capitalisation and manage asset risk prudently. We also assume continued excellent access to capital markets and prudent liquidity management.

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

DNB's BCA could be upgraded if the bank further improves its profitability and asset quality on a sustainable basis and reduces its dependence on market funding. The senior unsecured debt ratings could be upgraded as a result of further uplift in the Advanced LGF analysis if DNB maintains additional volumes of senior unsecured and junior senior unsecured debt so that the volume and subordination of senior unsecured debt remains above 12% of tangible banking assets on a sustainable basis.

DNB's ratings could be downgraded as a result of (i) lower volumes of loss absorbing liabilities protecting creditors in case of failure; or (ii) a downgrade in its standalone BCA due to asset quality deteriorating beyond our expectations, for example through rapid growth, international expansion into weaker operating environments, or lower capitalisation resulting in tangible common equity to risk weighted assets falling below 18%.

PRINCIPAL METHODOLOGY

The principal methodology used in these ratings was Banks published in November 2024 and available at https://ratings.moodys.com/rmc-documents/432741. Alternatively, please see the Rating Methodologies page on https://ratings.moodys.com for a copy of this methodology.

The net effect of any adjustments applied to rating factor scores or scorecard outputs under the primary methodology(ies), if any, was not material to the ratings addressed in this announcement.

REGULATORY DISCLOSURES

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- Rating Solicitation
- Issuer Participation
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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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