

CREDIT QUARTERLY

SEPTEMBER 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1 Recent News

- Credit Trends and Commentary
- 2 Banking Trends
- 2 Profitability
- 2 The Prudent Man Analysis

RECENT NEWS

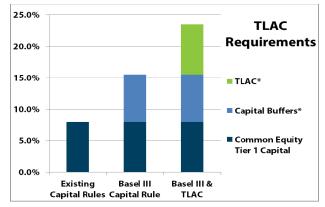
Bail-Out Solution Creates Mixed Reactions

In order to protect taxpayers from another financial 'bail-out,' the Financial Stability Board (FSB) recently proposed a new policy titled Total Loss-Absorbing Capacity (TLAC). TLAC is intended to be an additional layer of debt, added on top of the new Basel III capital requirements. If a bank fails, the TLAC debt will be converted into equity, allowing critical functions to continue without taxpayer funding or impacting global financial stability. This 'bail-in' rule will apply to the thirty global systemically important banks (G-SIBs) and will also include a subjective component based on factors

like the bank's size and risk profile.

The proposed TLAC requirements will such a great impact that the rating agencies are already adjusting their methodologies in preparation. Moody's Investors Service updated their fundamental credit factors and support and structural analysis for banks, while Standard & Poor's created a new Additional Loss Absorbing Capacity (ALAC) criteria. Fitch upgraded the long-term Issuer Default Ratings of eight U.S. G-SIBs in May 2015 due to TLAC.

While the rating agencies feel TLAC is positive for the banking industry,



*Required TLAC and capital buffers may be adjusted based on firm-specific risks.

Source: MRV Associates, Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP

opposition to the new rule has expressed several concerns, including that the rule penalizes banks that take large amounts of traditional deposits, while rewarding banks that issue potentially more expensive long-term debt. Additionally, some fear the higher cost of debt will force banks to participate in riskier activities to compensate for higher expenses. Currently, the FSB is completing a Quantitative Impact Study, with the final rule to be announced at the next G-20 Summit in November 2015.

Sources: Financial Stability Board, Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investors Services, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Standard & Poor's

CREDIT TRENDS AND COMMENTARY

S&P RATING CHANGES:

The number of Standard & Poor's U.S. rating changes and the ratio of upgrades to downgrades.



Year to date, Standard & Poor's upgraded 440 corporate issuers, compared to 527 downgrades. The rating agency stated "defaults and downgrades rose to their highest quarterly levels (for the second quarter) since 2009." Oil and gas companies accounted for 28% of those second quarter downgrades. Positively, 80% of U.S. companies have a stable rating outlook.

Source: Standard & Poor's

CREDIT QUARTERLY

PROFITABILITY

 2015
 94.4%

 2014
 94.0%

 2013
 92.8%

Percentage of banks generating positive 2nd quarter earnings

Source: SNL Financial

BANKING TRENDS

2nd Quarter 2015 Highlights

Earnings continue to be an area of improvement for the banking industry. FDIC-insured banks earned \$43 billion in net income for the quarter, an increase of 7.3% compared with the second quarter of 2014. Nearly 60% of banks reported year-over-year growth in quarterly net income, with only 5.6% of banks reporting losses. Additionally, banks are earning more income from noninterest income, as servicing income grew by 63.9% from the first quarter.

Asset quality has been another source of strength for the banking industry. Noncurrent loans and leases fell by 5.4% since the first quarter of 2015, marking the 21st consecutive quarterly decline in noncurrent loan balances. Net chargeoffs declined for a 20th consecutive quarter, falling 11.2% from the 2014 level. The average net chargeoff rate fell to 0.42%, which is the lowest quarterly rate since the third quarter 2006.

The second quarter saw the total number of banks fall from 6,419 to 6,348, due to 66 institutions merging and one bank failure. This is the first time since the fourth quarter 2007 that there has been only one failure in a quarter. The number of insured institutions on the FDIC's "Problem List" declined for a 17th consecutive quarter, from 253 to 228. Total assets of problem institutions fell from \$60.3 billion to \$56.5 billion.

Source: FDIC: Quarterly Banking Profile

PRUDENT MAN PROCESS

The Prudent Man Analysis

The Prudent Man Process includes four steps which begin with gathering data and analyzing a bank's credit quality and continues with ongoing risk management throughout the life of a deposit. The process helps public funds investors avoid repayment, reinvestment and reputation risk that may be associated with a bank failure.

Step 2: Data Analysis - Quantitative

PMA conducts quantitative ratio analysis utilizing a proprietary model to analyze bank and holding company data. Ratios are compared to historical trends, bank peers, and performance benchmarks. PMA begins its quantitative analysis of a bank's regulatory capital, asset quality and earnings by analyzing the following ratios, amongst many others:

- 1. Total Risk Based Capital
- 2. Nonperforming Assets
- 3. Return on Average Assets
- 4. Net Interest Margin

Additionally, PMA prepares a credit report for each bank that analyzes financial performance over a four year period. The analysis covers more than 50 ratios and delves further into a bank's balance sheet, income statement and off-balance sheet exposure.

CONTACT

BRIAN D. HEXTELL

630.657.6485 bhextell@pmanetwork.com

LAURA A. PAULI

630.657.6400 lpauli@pmanetwork.com

This document was prepared for PMA Financial Network, Inc., PMA Securities, Inc. and Prudent Man Advisors, Inc. (hereinafter "PMA") clients. It is being provided for informational and/or educational purposes only without regard to any particular user's investment objectives, financial situation or means. The content of this document is not to be construed as a recommendation, solicitation or offer to buy or sell any security, financial product or instrument; or to participate in any particular trading strategy in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or solicitation, or trading strategy would be illegal. Nor does it constitute any legal, tax, accounting or investment advice of services regarding the suitability or profitability of any security or investment. Although the information contained in this document has been obtained from third-party sources believed to be reliable, PMA cannot guarantee the accuracy or completeness of such information. It is understood that PMA is not responsible for any errors or omissions in the content in this document and the information is being provided to you on an "as is" basis without warranties or representations of any kind. Securities, public finance services and institutional brokerage services are offered through PMA Securities, Inc. PMA Securities, Inc. is a broker-dealer and municipal advisor registered with the SEC and MSRB, and is a member of FINRA and SIPC. Prudent Man Advisors, Inc., an SEC registered investment adviser, provides investment advisory services to local government investment pools and separately managed accounts. All other products and services are provided by PMA Financial Network, Inc. PMA Financial Network, Inc. PMA Financial Network, Inc.