
Note 38.1

Credit risk

Credit risk is defined as the risk of a counterparty failing to complete its contractual obligations when they fall due. The consequent loss is either the amount of the loan not paid back, or the loss incurred in replicating a trading contract with a new counterparty.

The responsibility for approval of credit exposures is delegated to specific individuals by the Board. Credit risk analysis is focused on ensuring that risks have been fully identified and that the downside risk is properly understood and acceptable. After this analysis is undertaken, limits are set for an acceptable level of potential exposure. All wholesale limits and ratings are reviewed at least once a year, or more frequently if necessary. Retail credit exposures are monitored on a portfolio basis.

All credit exposures are monitored regularly against limits. Credit exposures for loans are evaluated as either the full current face value or, for distressed debt, the acquisition cost when acquired in the secondary market. Exposures for derivatives depend on potential future asset prices. To mitigate credit risk, the Consolidated Entity makes use of margining and other forms of collateral or credit enhancement techniques (including guarantees, letters of credit, the purchase of credit default swaps and mortgage insurance) where appropriate.

All wholesale exposures are allocated to a Macquarie rating on a scale that broadly corresponds to Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Services credit ratings. Each Macquarie rating maps to a Probability of Default estimate. All wholesale counterparties and certain individual facilities are assigned a Loss Given Default estimate reflecting the estimated economic loss in the event of default occurring.

Macquarie determines the credit quality of a financial asset by the credit rating assigned to the specific counterparty by the RMG Credit Team. The RMG Credit Team assigns ratings of MQ1 to MQ99 to individual counterparties that equate to ratings assigned by external rating agencies as follows:

Credit Grading	Internal Rating	External Equivalent
Investment Grade	MQ1 to MQ8	AAA to BBB-
Below Investment Grade	MQ9 to MQ16	BB+ to C
Default	MQ99	Default

All loan assets are subject to recurring review and assessment for possible impairment. Where there is a deteriorating credit risk profile, the exposures are monitored on a monthly basis through the CreditWatch reports. The business remains responsible for the management of the counterparty and of the risk position, but RMG oversight is increased to ensure that positions are managed for optimal outcomes. When counterparties default, RMG and the business work together to resolve the issues and ensure provisioning is adequate.

A review of the credit portfolio that involves monitoring credit concentrations by counterparty, country, risk type, industry and credit quality is carried out quarterly and reported to the Board semi-annually. Policies are in place to regulate large exposures to single counterparties or groups of counterparties.

The Consolidated Entity has a country risk framework which covers the assessment of country risk and the approval of country risk limits. Where appropriate the country risk is covered by political risk insurance.

The balances disclosed in the credit risk tables below exclude financial assets that are subject to risks other than credit risk, such as equity investments, commodities, interests in associates and joint ventures or bank notes and coins.