



## STANDARD RATING SCALE & DEFINITIONS

### LONG TERM RATINGS

**AAA: Highest credit quality.** 'AAA' ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in case of exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

**AA: Very high credit quality.** 'AA' ratings denote a very low expectation of credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

**A: High credit quality.** 'A' ratings denote a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.

**BBB: Good credit quality.** 'BBB' ratings indicate that there is currently a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse changes in circumstances and in economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity. This is the lowest investment-grade category.

**BB: Speculative.** 'BB' ratings indicate that there is a possibility of credit risk developing, particularly as a result of adverse economic change over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met. Securities rated in this category are not investment grade.

**B: Highly speculative.** 'B' ratings indicate that significant credit risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is contingent upon a sustained, favourable business and economic environment.

**CCC, CC, C: High default risk.** Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon sustained, favourable business or economic developments. A 'CC' rating indicates that default of some kind appears probable. 'C' ratings signal imminent default.

### SHORT TERM RATINGS

**A1+:** Obligations supported by the highest capacity for timely repayment.

**A1:** Obligations supported by a strong capacity for timely repayment.

**A2:** Obligations supported by a satisfactory capacity for timely repayment, although such capacity may be susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions.

**A3:** Obligations supported by an adequate capacity for timely repayment. Such capacity is more susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions than for obligations in higher categories.

**B:** Obligations for which the capacity for timely repayment is susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions.

**C:** Obligations for which there is an inadequate capacity to ensure timely repayment.

**D:** Obligations which have a high risk of default or which are currently in default.

- Notes:**
1. PACRA's ratings are an assessment of the credit standing of entities in Pakistan. They do not take into account the potential transfer / convertibility risk that may exist for foreign currency creditors.
  2. A plus (+) or minus (-) may be appended to a rating to denote relative status within major rating categories. Such suffixes are not added to the 'AAA' long-term rating category, to categories 'CCC' and below, or to short-term ratings.
  3. PACRA's rating is not a recommendation to purchase, sell or hold a security, in as much as it does not comment on the security's market price or suitability for a particular investor.