

Federal Republic of Germany

Rating report

Rating rationale

Wealthy, large, and diversified economy: Germany’s economy proved resilient during the Covid-19 pandemic and the energy crisis. However, the country’s high value-added, export-oriented, energy imports-dependent economy has been slow to recover compared with peer countries, due to persistent high energy prices and ongoing trade tensions. Scope expects real GDP growth of 1% this year and an average of 1.15% over 2027-2030, supported by the implementation of the federal government’s infrastructure special fund and other measures, including the ‘growth-booster’.

Robust fiscal framework: Germany’s solid fiscal policy framework and strong track record of fiscal discipline are anchored by its constitutional debt brake. Following wide-ranging amendments to the debt brake in early 2025, the federal government is expanding its borrowing activities significantly to fund infrastructure investment and defence spending. Scope projects the debt-to-GDP ratio to increase from an expected 62.8% at YE 2025 to around 71% by 2030.

Highly competitive external sector: The economy’s external strength is reflected in robust and persistent current account surplus, expected at 4.5% of GDP in 2025, down from 5.8% in 2024. The current account surplus is projected to remain solid but markedly below pre-pandemic levels in the medium term, partly due to higher the public sector investments.

Rating challenges include: i) implementation of structural reforms and transition risks for energy-intensive industries, given carbon neutrality targets; ii) an ageing population, resulting in rising pension liabilities and downward pressure on the country’s medium-term growth potential; and iii) vulnerabilities related to global geopolitical, trade and external competitiveness risks.

Foreign currency

Long-term issuer rating/Outlook

AAA/Stable

Senior unsecured debt/Outlook

AAA/Stable

Short-term issuer rating/Outlook

S-1+/Stable

Local currency

Long-term issuer rating/Outlook

AAA/Stable

Senior unsecured debt/Outlook

AAA/Stable

Short-term issuer rating/Outlook

S-1+/Stable

Figure 1: Germany's sovereign-rating drivers

Risk pillars	Quantitative		Reserve currency*	Political risk**	Qualitative****	Final rating
	Weight	Indicative rating	Notches	Notches	Notches	
Domestic economic risk	35%	aaa	EUR	Germany	-1/3	AAA
Public finance risk	20%	a+			0	
External economic risk	10%	aaa			2/3	
Financial stability risk	10%	aaa			1/3	
ESG risk	Environmental factors	5%	[+1]	[-0]	- 1/3	
	Social factors	7.5%			0	
	Governance factors	12.5%	aaa			
Sovereign Quantitative Model***		aaa			0	
Additional considerations					0	

*The reserve-currency quantitative adjustment applies to currencies in the IMF’s Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket.

**The political-risk quantitative adjustment is based on the World Bank’s Political Stability & Absence of Violence/Terrorism index.

***Scope’s SQM signals an indicative credit rating of ‘aaa’ for Germany, which was approved by the rating committee.

****The qualitative scorecard analyst adjustments, capped at one notch per rating pillar, are weighted equally with an aggregate adjustment rounded to the nearest integer. For details, please see Scope’s [Sovereign Rating Methodology](#).

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Credit strengths and challenges

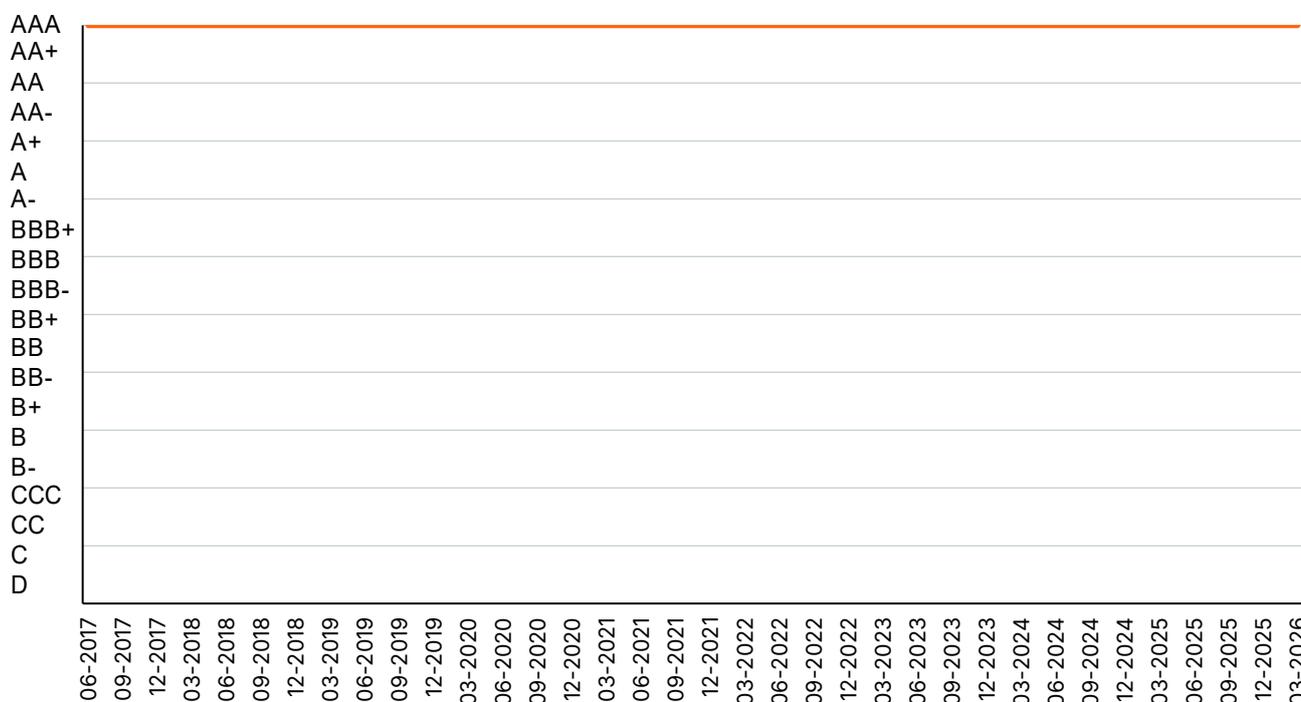
Credit strengths	Credit challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wealthy, large and diversified economy Robust fiscal framework and strong track record of fiscal discipline Very competitive external sector, albeit external pressures are increasing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural reforms and transition risks for energy-intensive industries Ageing population, resulting in rising pensions liabilities and downward pressure on growth potential Vulnerabilities related to global geopolitical, trade and external competitiveness risks

Outlook and rating triggers

The **Stable Outlook** reflects the view that risks for the ratings are balanced.

Positive rating-change drivers	Negative rating-change drivers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant fiscal deterioration, resulting in a material increase in the public debt-to-GDP ratio over the long term Severe macroeconomic or financial system shock, resulting in a weaker growth outlook

Figure 2: Rating history



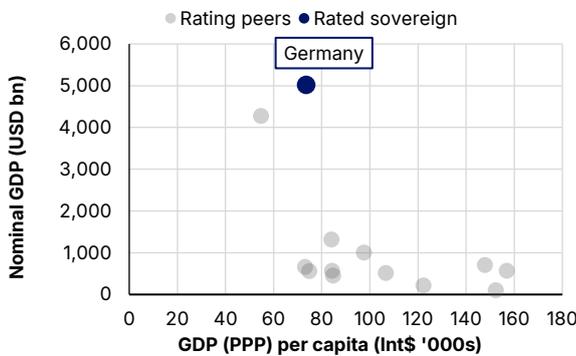
Foreign-currency long-term issuer rating. Positive/Negative Outlooks are treated with a +/-0.33-notch adjustment. Credit Watch positive/negative with a +/-0.67-notch adjustment. Source: Scope Ratings.

Domestic economic risk

Overview of Scope's assessments of Germany's Domestic Economic Risk

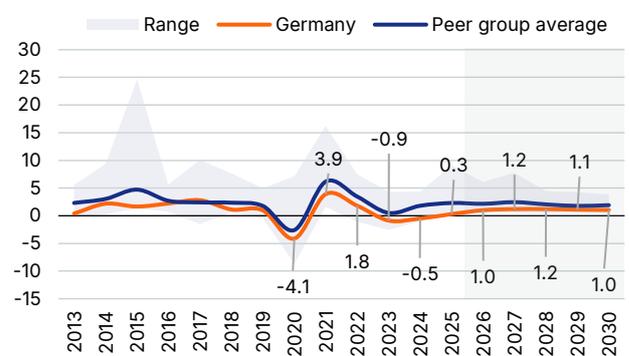
SQM ¹ indicative rating	Analytical component	Assessment	Notch adjustment	Rationale
aaa	Growth potential and outlook	Weak	-1/3	Demographic challenges, significant investment gap and structural challenges in key industries but medium-term boost through fiscal package expected
	Monetary policy framework	Neutral	0	ECB is a highly credible and effective central bank; effective policy framework and transmission over the cycle
	Macroeconomic stability and sustainability	Neutral	0	Competitive and diversified economy but weaknesses in digitalisation, labour market challenges related to ageing; high resource dependence and trade links with other countries

Figure 3: Nominal GDP and GDP per capita (2025E)



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook (WEO), Scope Ratings

Figure 4: Real GDP growth, %



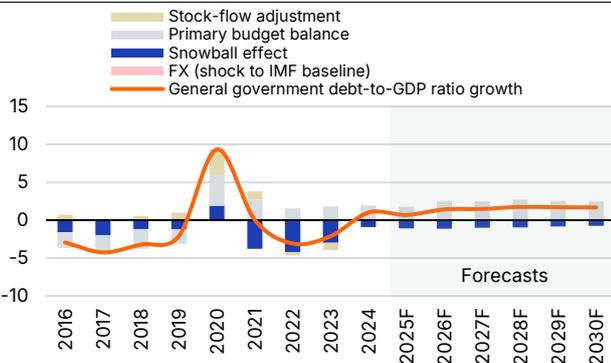
Source: IMF WEO, Scope Ratings forecasts

Public finance risk

Overview of Scope's assessments of Germany's Public Finance Risk

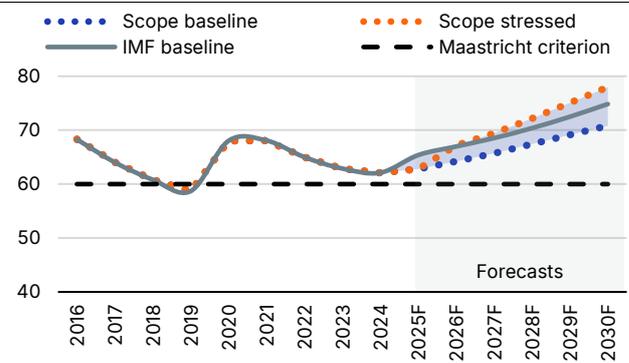
SQM indicative rating	Analytical component	Assessment	Notch adjustment	Rationale
a+	Fiscal policy framework	Neutral	0	Constitutionally anchored debt brake at federal and regional level; strong policy response aimed at raising defence spending and infrastructure investment
	Long-term debt trajectory	Weak	-1/3	Moderate public debt with high resilience to adverse scenarios; rising debt trajectory to fund defence and infrastructure spending; rising pension liabilities
	Debt profile and market access	Strong	1/3	Primary benchmark issuer in euro area, reflected in low interest payments despite heightened debt levels

Figure 5: Contributions to change in debt levels, pps of GDP



Source: IMF WEO, Scope Ratings forecasts

Figure 6: Debt-to-GDP forecasts, % of GDP



Source: IMF WEO, Scope Ratings forecasts

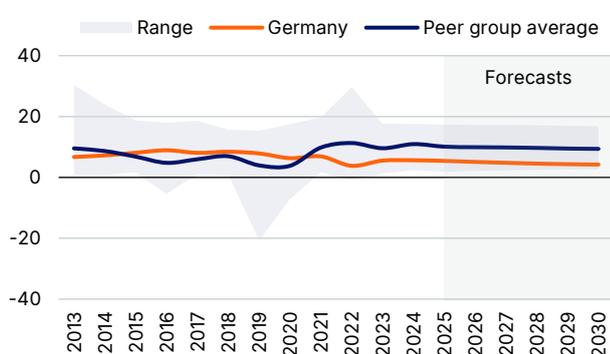
¹ Sovereign Quantitative Model

External economic risk

Overview of Scope's assessments of Germany's External Economic Risk

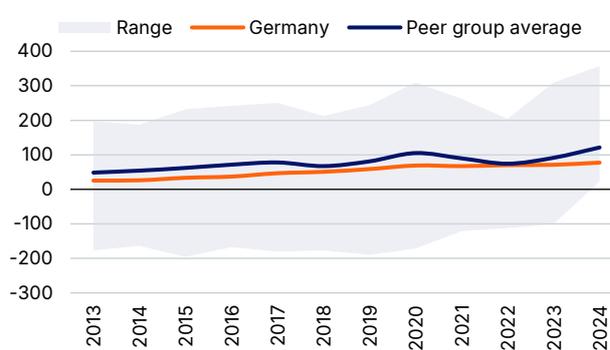
SQM indicative rating	Analytical component	Assessment	Notch adjustment	Rationale
aaa	Current account resilience	Strong	1/3	Diversified and competitive export base; strong track record of current account surpluses, albeit some moderation expected in the mediumterm
	External debt structure	Neutral	0	Moderate external debt
	Resilience to short-term external shocks	Strong	1/3	Benefits from euro area membership; large external-creditor position

Figure 7: Current-account balance, % of GDP



Source: IMF WEO forecasts, Scope Ratings

Figure 8: Net international investment position (NIIP), % GDP



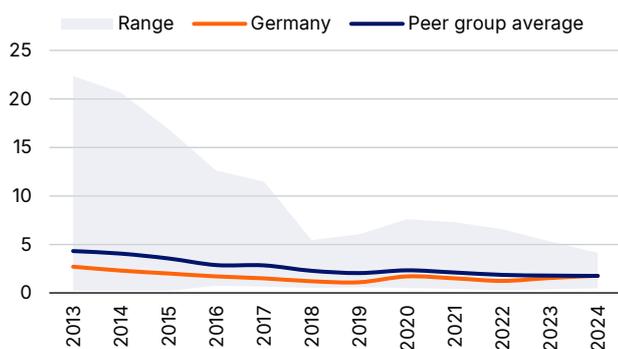
Source: IMF, Scope Ratings

Financial stability risk

Overview of Scope's assessments of Germany's Financial Stability Risk

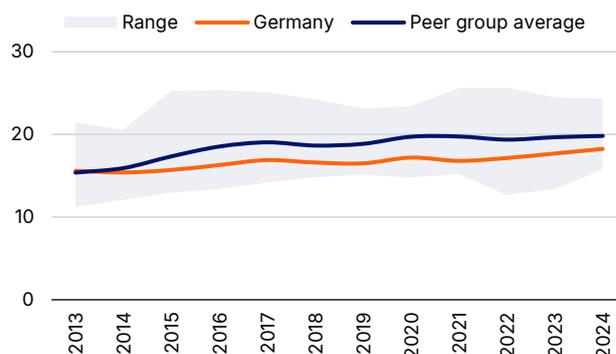
SQM indicative rating	Analytical component	Assessment	Notch adjustment	Rationale
aaa	Banking sector performance	Neutral	0	Relatively low aggregate profitability and high cost base of banks balanced by adequate capitalisation and moderate exposure risk to nonfinancial corporate debt
	Financial sector oversight and governance	Neutral	0	Oversight under National Supervisory Authority and ECB as part of banking union
	Financial imbalances	Strong	1/3	Moderate household and private sector indebtedness; closely monitored systemic risks in financial system

Figure 9: Non-performing loans (NPLs), % of total loans



Source: World Bank (WB), Scope Ratings

Figure 10: Tier 1 capital, % of risk-weighted assets



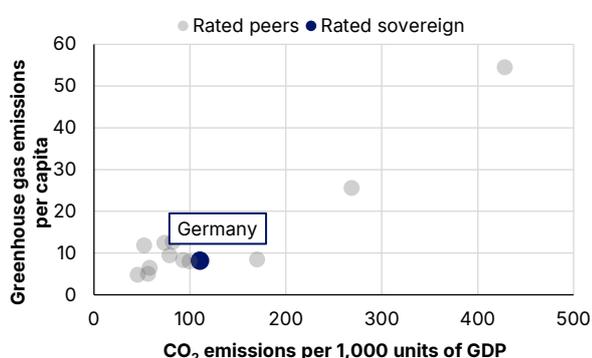
Source: IMF, Scope Ratings

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) risk

Overview of Scope's assessments of Germany's ESG Risk

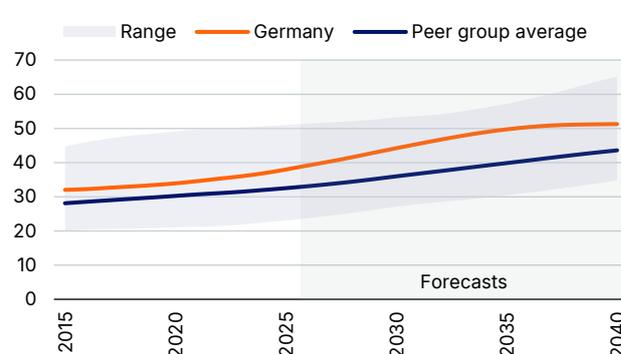
SQM indicative rating	Analytical component	Assessment	Notch adjustment	Rationale
aa-	Environmental factors	Weak	- 1/3	Structural challenges related to transition risk given carbon neutrality targets and economic importance of energy-intensive key industries
	Social factors	Neutral	0	Weak demographics given an ageing workforce, balanced by high social inclusion and improving labour force participation; inequality risks in line with peers
	Governance factors	Neutral	0	High-quality institutions but highly fragmented political environment

Figure 11: GHG emissions per capita & CO₂ intensity of GDP



Source: European Commission (EC), Scope Ratings

Figure 12: Old-age dependency ratio, %



Source: United Nations (UN), Scope Ratings

Reserve-currency adjustment

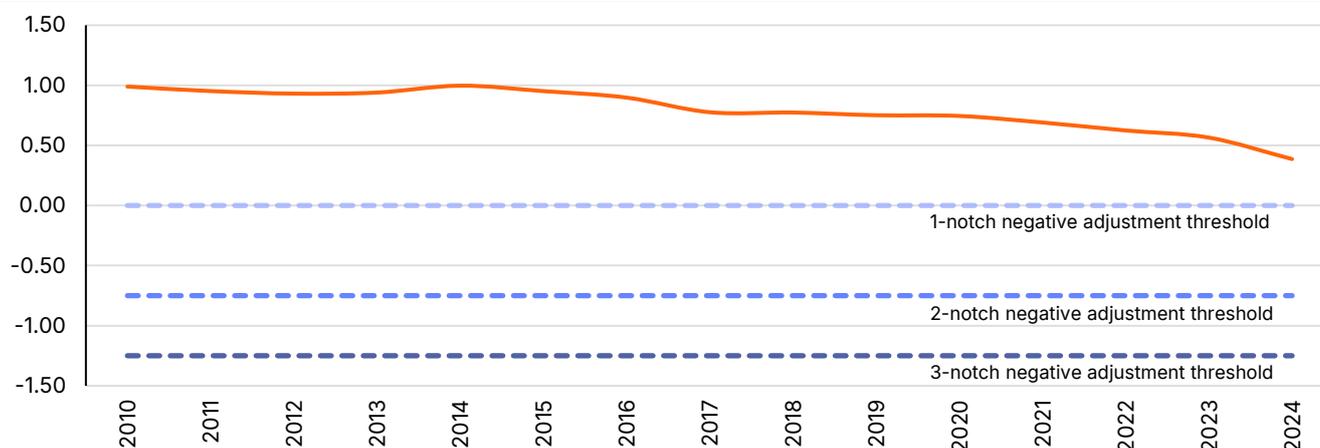
IMF SDR basket and Scope reserve-currency adjustment

Currency	U.S. dollar	Euro	Chinese yuan	Japanese yen	Pound sterling	Other
IMF SDR basket weights, %	43.4	29.3	12.3	7.6	7.4	0.0
Positive adjustment, notches	3	1	1	1	1	0

Source: IMF, Scope Ratings

Political-risk adjustment

Figure 13: WB Political Stability & Absence of Violence/Terrorism index, Germany, three-year moving average



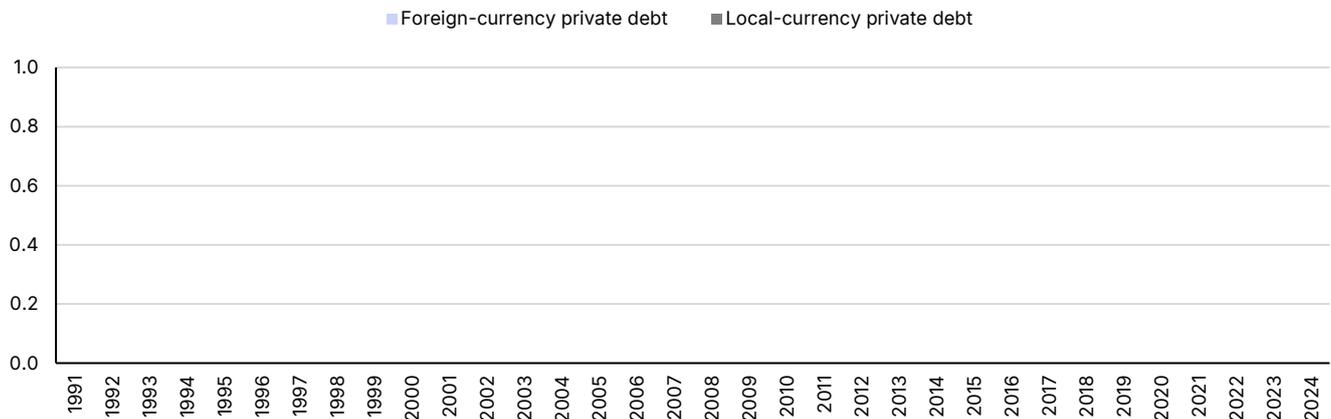
Source: WB, Scope Ratings

Additional considerations

No adjustment was applied to the rating from additional considerations.

Appendix 1. Sovereign default history

Sovereign default history, USD bn



Depicted private-debt defaults may not always constitute a credit event under [Scope's credit-rating definitions](#).

Source: [Bank of Canada-Bank of England Sovereign Default Database](#), Scope Ratings.

Appendix 2. Rating peers

Rating peers are related to sovereigns with an indicative rating in the same rating category or adjacent categories, as assigned by Scope's sovereign quantitative model after accounting for methodological reserve-currency and political-risk adjustments.

Peer group*
Denmark
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Norway
Sweden
Switzerland

*Selected publicly-rated sovereigns only; the full sample of sovereign-rating peers may be larger.

Appendix 3. Economic development and default indicators

IMF Development Classification Advanced economy

5-year USD CDS spread (bps) as of 2 March 2026 8

Appendix 4. Statistical table for selected SQM indicators

This table presents a selection of the indicators (24 out of 30 – with the governance indicator reflecting a composite of five indicators) used in Scope's quantitative model, in line with Scope's Sovereign Rating Methodology. The metrics and sources for the data presented here ensure comparability across global country peers and may therefore differ from data from national and other international statistical series and may not immediately reflect latest national updates.

Pillar	Core variable	Source	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025E
Domestic Economic	GDP per capita (PPP), Int\$ '000s	IMF	59.4	64.0	69.3	70.6	71.8	73.6
	Nominal GDP, USD bn	IMF	3,938	4,358	4,204	4,564	4,684	5,014
	Real growth, %	IMF	-4.1	3.9	1.8	-0.9	-0.5	0.2
	CPI inflation, %	IMF	0.4	3.2	8.7	6.0	2.5	2.1
	Unemployment rate, %	WB	3.9	3.6	3.1	3.1	3.4	-
Public Finance	Public debt, % of GDP	IMF	68.0	68.0	64.4	62.4	63.5	64.4
	Net interest payment, % of government revenue	IMF	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.8	1.9
	Primary balance, % of GDP	IMF	-3.9	-2.7	-1.3	-1.9	-1.8	-1.6
External Economic	Current-account balance, % of GDP	IMF	6.3	6.9	3.8	5.5	5.6	5.4
	Total reserves, months of imports	WB	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.9	2.2	-
	NIIP, % of GDP	IMF	69.0	67.2	70.2	71.1	77.4	-
Financial Stability	NPL ratio, % of total loans	IMF	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.5	1.8	-
	Tier 1 ratio, % of risk-weighted assets	IMF	-	-	-	17.3	17.6	17.8
	Credit to the private sector, % of GDP	WB	83.8	82.7	81.1	77.3	77.3	-
ESG	CO ₂ per EUR 1,000 of GDP, kg CO ₂ e	EC	128.0	128.9	124.8	112.1	110.5	-
	Income share of bottom 50%, %	WID	19.2	19.2	19.1	19.1	19.1	-
	Labour-force participation rate, %	WB	78.5	78.7	79.5	79.9	80.0	-
	Old-age dependency ratio, %	UN	33.9	34.6	35.3	36.0	36.9	38.0
	Composite governance indicators*	WB	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	-
	Political stability, index	WB	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.4	-

*Average of the following five World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators: Control of Corruption, Voice and Accountability, Rule of Law, Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality.

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Applied methodology

[Sovereign Rating Methodology](#), January 2025

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