U.S. Banking Sector

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Financial Institutions Ratings
March 2016
Our 2016 Outlook For U.S. Banks

Revenue
- Expect revenues to remain essentially flat, weighed down by weaker fee income (capital markets and wealth management likely down) and less-than-expected tailwind from margin improvement.

Expenses
- Expect positive operating leverage. Lower expenses--as a result of systematic cost rationalizations and a receding of litigation-related costs--will offer a reprieve.

Profitability
- Core profitability could come under pressure due to revenue headwinds and higher credit provisions.

Credit Quality
- Expect asset quality, which has been holding steady, to slip, driving a transition to reserve build from reserves releases. Specific areas of potential risk include: energy, leveraged loans, and autos.

Capital
- Capital to remain steady at levels much higher than their required regulatory minimums. Capital distributions are likely to stay high but consistent per the more punitive CCAR 2016. We expect some banks to ramp up additional loss-absorbing capacity (ALAC).

Funding & Liquidity
- Most banks are largely asset sensitive; Funding mix could change if interest rates rise. We will monitor the outflows of noninterest-bearing deposits out of larger LCR-constrained banks into regional banks or other nonbanks, and the pace of funding repricing with an eye on deposit betas.

Source: Standard & Poor's Financial Institutions Research
Finally Some Reserve Build After Several Years…

We expect provisions to outpace charge-offs at most banks in 2016

Source: S&P Capital IQ and SNL
All rated banks, excludes GS & MS
Current U.S. Bank Holding Company Ratings Distribution

HoldCo Ratings Distribution

Source: Standard & Poor’s Financial Institutions Research.  
Includes Puerto Rican banks.  
As of 02/08/2016