

Danske Bank A/S

Key Rating Drivers

High Credit Quality: Danske Bank A/S's ratings are driven by its strong Nordic focus, particularly its leading position in Denmark, diversified and stable relationship-based business model, low risk appetite and robust capitalisation. The ratings are also underpinned by Danske's well-balanced funding profile, structural improvement in profitability and strong asset quality through the cycle.

Leading Danish Bank: Danske is the largest bank in Denmark and the second-largest in the Nordic region. It is a challenger in Sweden, Norway and Finland, and the market leader in Northern Ireland. Its business model is diversified, focused on traditional commercial banking, and captures a larger share of its customers' spending by offering wealth and life insurance products.

Low Risk Profile: Danske's healthy risk profile incorporates prudent underwriting standards and the bank has a moderate growth appetite, underpinned by close customer relationships. The bank's loan book is diversified by industry and geography and is prudently collateralised. Exposures to market and non-financial risks are modest.

Stable Asset Quality: Danske's impaired loans ratio is weaker than that of highly rated Nordic peers, but loan impairment charges (LICs) have been low, reflecting robust collateralisation. Credit quality also benefits from its focus on sectors with moderate risk profiles in the Nordic region and its prudent corporate loan origination. Fitch Ratings expects the impaired loans ratio to remain close to 2% in the short term and credit losses to widen moderately, albeit from a very low base.

Profitability Turnaround: A higher interest rate environment and a gradual completion of compliance-related remediation projects have significantly strengthened Danske's profitability. We believe that this improvement is sustainable. The bank's 2026 strategic profitability targets are ambitious, but achievable as we expect the bank to keep costs under control.

We forecast the 2025 operating profit/risk-weighted assets (RWAs) ratio at 3.6%. It is consistent with the upper range of Danske's net profit guidance of DKK21 billion-DKK23 billion. We expect the ratio to decrease only modestly in 2026, to 3.4%.

Strong Capitalisation: Danske's risk-weighted capital ratios compare well with peers', with a common equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio of 18.7% at end-September 2025. We expect the ratio to remain above 16% over the long term, in line with management's target, which results in a prudent buffer over regulatory requirements. Danske's leverage ratio of 4.7% is only moderate but should be viewed in light of the bank's historically low LICs, high share of low-risk, non-loan assets and structurally improved internal capital generation.

Stable Diversified Funding: Danske is reliant on wholesale funding, like most Nordic banks, due to a well-developed covered bond market matching mortgage lending, and a structural deposit shortage in the region. Its well-diversified funding base and an established presence in international debt markets have been resilient to adverse news flows and economic downturns, enabling the bank to execute its funding plan. The bank's low refinancing risk is also underpinned by well-spread maturities, a strong captive domestic investor base and an ample liquidity surplus.

Ratings

Foreign Currency

Long-Term IDRA+Short-Term IDRF1Derivative Counterparty RatingAA-(dcr)

Viability Rating a+

Government Support Rating ns

Sovereign Risk (Denmark)

Long-Term Foreign-Currency IDR AAA Long-Term Local-Currency IDR AAA Country Ceiling AAA

Outlooks

Long-Term Foreign-Currency IDR Stable
Sovereign Long-Term ForeignCurrency IDR
Sovereign Long-Term LocalCurrency IDR
Stable

Highest ESG Relevance Scores

Environmental 2 Social 3 Governance 3

Applicable Criteria

Bank Rating Criteria (March 2025)

Related Research

Fitch Affirms Danske Bank at 'A+'; Outlook Stable (November 2025)

Fitch Affirms Denmark at 'AAA'; Outlook Stable (October 2025)

Nordic Banking M&A Activity: Q&A (October 2025)

Global Economic Outlook (September 2025)

Large European Banks Quarterly Credit Monitor: September 2025

Analysts

Jakub Kopiec, CFA +48 22 103 3020 jakub.kopiec@fitchratings.com

Anders Viden +46 85051 7806 anders.viden@fitchratings.com



Rating Sensitivities

Factors that Could, Individually or Collectively, Lead to Negative Rating Action/Downgrade

Danske's robust financial profile provides a lot of rating headroom. We could downgrade the ratings on a lasting weakening of Danske's CET1 ratio to materially below 16%, coupled with a structural increase in risk appetite leading to durably higher LICs, an impaired loans ratio of about 3% and the operating profit/RWAs ratio declining below 2.5%.

Factors that Could, Individually or Collectively, Lead to Positive Rating Action/Upgrade

Positive rating action would require a stronger risk profile and asset-quality metrics, for example due to greater geographic diversification, provided this was executed with a conservative risk appetite and resulted in a structurally stronger earnings capacity.

Other Debt and Issuer Ratings

Rating level	Rating
Long- and short-term deposits and senior preferred debt	AA-/F1+
Senior non-preferred debt	A+
Tier 2 subordinated debt	A-
Additional Tier 1 notes	BBB
Source: Fitch Ratings	

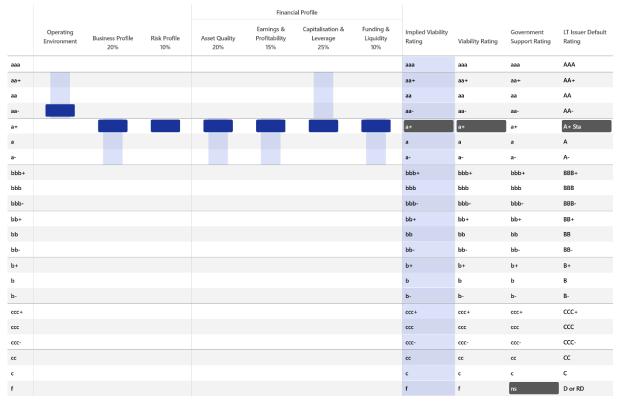
Danske's Short-Term IDR of 'F1' is the lower of the two options that map to a Long-Term IDR of 'A+', driven by a funding and liquidity score of 'a+'.

Danske's long-term senior preferred debt and deposit ratings of 'AA-' and Derivative Counterparty Rating of 'AA-(dcr)' are one notch above its Long-Term IDR. This reflects the protection from the bank's resolution debt and equity buffers, which we expect to remain comfortably above 10% of the resolution group's RWAs in the long term (end-September 2025: about 18%). For the same reason, Danske's long-term senior non-preferred debt is equalised with the Long-Term IDR. The short-term senior preferred debt and deposit ratings of 'F1+' are the only option mapping to their respective long-term ratings.

Danske's Tier 2 subordinated debt and additional Tier 1 (AT1) securities are notched down from its VR. We rate the Tier 2 debt two notches below the VR for loss severity due to poor recovery prospects for this type of debt. The AT1 securities are four notches below the VR to reflect loss severity (two notches) and their high risk of non-performance (two notches). We expect Danske to operate with a CET1 ratio comfortably above maximum distributable amount thresholds.



Ratings Navigator



The Key Rating Driver (KRD) weightings used to determine the implied VR are shown as percentages at the top. In cases where the implied VR is adjusted upwards or downwards to arrive at the VR, the KRD associated with the adjustment reason is highlighted in red. The shaded areas indicate the benchmark-implied scores for each KRD.



VR - Adjustments to Key Rating Drivers

The capitalisation and leverage score of 'a+' is below the 'aa' category implied score due to the following adjustment reason: risk profile and business model (negative).



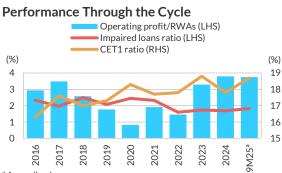
Company Summary and Key Qualitative Factors

Business Profile

Danske's geographically diversified footprint in the Nordic region offers one of the best opportunities in Europe for profitable banking. The bank provides a wide array of services, such as investment banking and capital markets, asset management, private banking, real estate brokerage and leasing. It has a big Nordic fixed-income and currency business, in particular in interest rate swaps, cash management and trade finance.

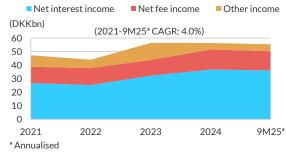
Danske is the largest Danish bank, and its domestic operations generate about 60% of the bank's revenue. Mortgage lending is mainly carried out through Danske's largest subsidiary, Realkredit Danmark, the second-largest specialist mortgage bank in Denmark, with a domestic market share of about 25%. Danske also has a leading position in domestic pension and life insurance. The bank is a challenger outside Denmark, with only a material lending market share in Finland (about 10%).

Danske targets a 13% return on equity and about a 45% cost/income ratio in 2026, which Fitch believes is achievable. The strategy is ambitious and, if well-executed, should structurally improve Danske's profitability. However, it will remain below those of better-performing large Nordic peers. The bank mainly expects organic growth, but small bolton acquisitions, focusing on profitability improvements, are also possible.





Revenue Breakdown



CAGR: compound annual growth rate Source: Fitch Ratings, Fitch Solutions, Danske

Risk Profile

Danske's underwriting standards focus on cash-flow generation and client selection. The bank applies a holistic risk-management framework, in particular making use of portfolio analysis, stress tests and concentration limits on selected industries. Customer lending is about half of total assets. The rest consists of debt securities (mainly held for liquidity purposes), insurance assets and well-collateralised repo lending and derivatives. Market and insurance risk are well-controlled using advanced methods.

The retail sector (about one third of total credit exposure) is concentrated in the mortgage bank subsidiary, which complies with all supervisory requirements for Danish mortgage credit institutions. Lending has been based on prudent LTVs and repayment capacity stress-testing at considerably higher rates. At end-September 2025, the average LTV in domestic residential mortgage loan book was 51%. Outside Denmark, retail lending is mainly conducted through partnerships with labour organisations, targeting mostly highly educated professionals, which correlates with low credit losses.

Non-retail exposure is well diversified by sector and single name. Corporate lending has some sector concentration in property management, accounting for about 13% of total exposure. It is split almost fifty-fifty between residential and commercial property. About half of the exposure is towards Danish companies, with cash flows stressed for interestrate hikes and ample collateral well diversified by geography and real-estate type. About 25% of property management exposures is to Swedish companies, which we view as more vulnerable. This is a lower share than for Danske's large Nordic peers.

Danske's recent loan growth was fairly muted amid strong competition and low credit demand. Lending volumes are likely to pick up in 2026, as credit demand will be supported by more certainty around interest rate levels, global trade policy and increasing household consumption.



Financial Profile

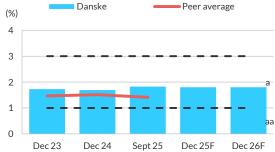
Asset Quality

We expect asset quality to remain resilient in 2026, supported by falling interest rates and stable labour markets in the Nordics. We expect LICs to remain low at about 4bp of loans in 2026, but the ultimate level will depend on the use of the bank's management overlay of DKK5.7 billion, which could cushion LICs equivalent to about 35bp of loans.

The property-management portfolio should not deteriorate materially. Refinancing conditions in the sector, particularly in Sweden, has significantly improved and the risk for a fire-sale scenario has subsided. Increasing vacancy rates coupled with an economic downturn could reduce rental income, leading to pressured interest coverage ratios in the sector. However, credit losses should be cushioned by Danske's diversified portfolio by segment and geography, as well as its prudent collateralisation.

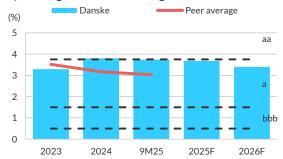
At end-September 2025, the impaired loans ratio in lending to personal customers was 1.4%. This portfolio is concentrated in Denmark and dominated by residential mortgage loans. We expect credit quality to remain resilient due to prudent stress-testing of customers' repayment capacity and resilient labour markets.

Impaired Loans/Gross Loans



Source: Fitch Ratings, Fitch Solutions, banks

Operating Profit/Risk-Weighted Assets



Source: Fitch Ratings, Fitch Solutions, banks

Earnings and Profitability

Danske's profitability is solid by international standards, but weaker than its highly rated Nordic peers. Fitch expects profitability to weaken slightly in 4Q25 and 2026, mainly due to lower NII as negative repricing of assets picks up following lower interest rates.

Fitch views Danske as structurally less sensitive to interest rate changes than most Nordic peers, reflecting the bank's hedging strategy and the structure of its domestic mortgage business. NII remained broadly stable in 9M25, as client volume growth and structural hedges offset the negative effects of lower policy rates on deposit margins. The bank's strong commercial momentum and hedging strategy will continue to offset revenue pressure from lower interest rates into 2026.

The bank's investments in front-office staff and product delivery capabilities have led to strong commercial growth across most business lines, particularly within corporates. Lending grew by a robust 4% year-on-year. Danske is also on track to deliver on its ambitious asset management strategy that aims to grow volumes in both institutional and private banking segments. Meanwhile, the personal customer business was stagnant amid intense competition. Meaningful growth in this segment is likely to remain difficult in the current environment.

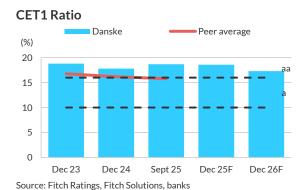
Danske's business model makes it well-positioned to benefit from higher fees as lower interest rates continue to feed through to the economy, as lower interest rates is likely to support higher transaction activity and asset values. This effect was already evident in 9M25. We believe the bank's profitability targets are achievable, given the growth in non-NII revenue generation and controlled costs despite high investment levels.

Capitalisation and Leverage

Similarly to its Nordic peers, Danske treats strong capitalisation as a strategic priority in light of its wholesale funding reliance and the need to maintain investor confidence. We expect Danske's internal capital generation to remain strong at around 2.7% of RWAs over 2025-2027. This will enable the bank to absorb higher RWAs from loan growth, while maintaining its dividend policy.

In October 2025, Danske reiterated its CET1 ratio strategic target of above 16% by 2026. We believe the CET1 ratio is likely to decrease closer to 16% over the next two years, through a combination of dividends, share buy-backs, organic growth and potential bolt-on acquisitions.





Gross Loans/Customer Deposits+Covered Bonds



Source: Fitch Ratings, Fitch Solutions, banks

Funding and Liquidity

Danske's funding is dominated by deposits (almost half) and covered bonds (about 35%). The former is diversified geographically and stable, given the bank's relationship-based business model. The structural deposits shortage in Denmark is neutral for mortgage lending as Danske does not use its own liquidity to generate loans given the pass-through between covered bond investors and borrowers in the Danish mortgage lending model.

The high reliance on wholesale funding is offset by a well-developed domestic covered bond market. The Danish mortgage bonds market remained operational during periods of market disruption, underpinned by a strong legislation, a captive investor base and a high-quality cover pool. At end-September 2025, Danske's ratio of gross loans/deposits plus covered bonds was a healthy 86%.

Danske also issues senior unsecured debt internationally through its geographically diversified funding platform, in both US dollars and euros. Danske's refinancing risk is also mitigated by diversified funding maturities and an ample liquidity buffer (DKK561 billion, about 15% of assets at end-September 2025), which fully covered the wholesale funding falling due in 2026 and 2027.

Additional Notes on Charts

The forecasts in this report reflect Fitch's forward view on the bank's core financial metrics per Fitch's *Bank Rating Criteria*. They are based on a combination of Fitch's macro-economic forecasts, outlook at the sector level and company-specific considerations. As a result, Fitch's forecasts may materially differ from the guidance provided by the rated entity to the market.

To the extent Fitch is aware of material non-public information with respect to future events, such as planned recapitalisations or merger and acquisition activity, Fitch will not reflect these non-public future events in its published forecasts. However, where relevant, such information is considered by Fitch as part of the rating process.

Black dashed lines represent boundaries for indicative quantitative ranges and implied scores for Fitch's core financial metrics for banks operating in the environments that Fitch scores in the 'aa' category. Years denoted with an 'F' represent Fitch's forecasts.

Peer average includes Nordea Bank Abp (VR: aa-), Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB (publ) (aa-), Lloyds Banking Group plc (a+), ING Groep N.V. (a+), ABN AMRO Bank N.V. (a), Credit Agricole (a+). Unless otherwise stated, financial year (FY) end is 31 December for all banks.



Financials

Financial Statements

25 31 Dec 25F	31 Dec 26
ths 12 months	12 month
(m) (DKKm)	(DKKm
L57 -	
568 -	
388 -	
56,186	55,184
991 25,675	25,859
30,511	29,324
258 431	714
30,080	28,610
534 -	
730 22,861	22,030
170 -	
200 -	
322 1,765,342	1,812,122
124 -	
763 -	
)59 -	
)40 -	
937 -	
538 -	
574 -	
189 -	
290 -	
153 3,767,732	3,877,205
395 -	
380 -	
365 -	
173 -	
313 -	
)41 -	
)99 -	
153 -	
)1= - 580	
)1= 580	-



Key Ratios

31 Dec 22	31 Dec 23	31 Dec 24	30 Sep 25	31 Dec 25F	31 Dec 26F
1.5	3.3	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.4
0.7	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0
68.9	51.2	45.6	45.6	45.6	46.3
-2.8	12.7	13.4	12.9	-	-
1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8
-1.8	-7.4	0.3	4.2	4.0	3.0
58.2	58.2	59.6	61.5	60.5	60.5
0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
17.8	18.8	17.8	18.7	18.6	17.3
-	18.6	17.7	18.7	-	-
4.1	4.5	4.5	4.6	-	-
4.9	5.1	4.6	4.7	-	-
8.2	7.9	7.9	8.3	-	-
155.5	152.1	154.5	166	-	-
91.2	85.4	86.1	86	-	-
151	170.4	167	157.6	-	-
46.1	42.9	41.1	39.4	-	-
122.9	125.9	118	117	-	
	0.7 68.9 -2.8 1.6 -1.8 58.2 0.1 17.8 - 4.1 4.9 8.2 155.5 91.2 151 46.1	0.7 0.9 68.9 51.2 -2.8 12.7 1.6 1.7 -1.8 -7.4 58.2 58.2 0.1 0.0 17.8 18.8 - 18.6 4.1 4.5 4.9 5.1 8.2 7.9 155.5 152.1 91.2 85.4 151 170.4 46.1 42.9	0.7 0.9 1.1 68.9 51.2 45.6 -2.8 12.7 13.4 1.6 1.7 1.7 -1.8 -7.4 0.3 58.2 58.2 59.6 0.1 0.0 0.0 17.8 18.8 17.8 - 18.6 17.7 4.1 4.5 4.5 4.9 5.1 4.6 8.2 7.9 7.9 155.5 152.1 154.5 91.2 85.4 86.1 151 170.4 167 46.1 42.9 41.1	0.7 0.9 1.1 1.0 68.9 51.2 45.6 45.6 -2.8 12.7 13.4 12.9 1.6 1.7 1.7 1.8 -1.8 -7.4 0.3 4.2 58.2 58.2 59.6 61.5 0.1 0.0 0.0 0.0 17.8 18.8 17.8 18.7 - 18.6 17.7 18.7 4.1 4.5 4.5 4.6 4.9 5.1 4.6 4.7 8.2 7.9 7.9 8.3 155.5 152.1 154.5 166 91.2 85.4 86.1 86 151 170.4 167 157.6 46.1 42.9 41.1 39.4	0.7 0.9 1.1 1.0 1.0 68.9 51.2 45.6 45.6 45.6 -2.8 12.7 13.4 12.9 - 1.6 1.7 1.7 1.8 1.8 -1.8 -7.4 0.3 4.2 4.0 58.2 58.2 59.6 61.5 60.5 0.1 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 17.8 18.8 17.8 18.7 18.6 - 18.6 17.7 18.7 - 4.1 4.5 4.5 4.6 - 4.9 5.1 4.6 4.7 - 8.2 7.9 7.9 8.3 - 155.5 152.1 154.5 166 - 91.2 85.4 86.1 86 - 151 170.4 167 157.6 - 46.1 42.9 41.1 39.4 -



Support Assessment

Government Support

Sovereign		Denmark
Sovereign LT Issuer Default Rating/Outlook	•	AAA/Stable
Total adjustment (notches)		_
Typical D-SIB Government Support for sovereign's rating level		a+ to a-
Actual jurisdiction D-SIB Government Support		ns
Government Support Rating		ns
Government ability to support D-SIBs		
Size of banking system	•	Negative
Structure of banking system	•	Negative
Sovereign financial flexibility (for rating level)	•	Positive
Government propensity to support D-SIBs		
Resolution legislation	•	Negative
Support stance	•	Neutral
Government propensity to support bank		
Systemic importance	•	Neutral
Liability structure	•	Neutral
Ownership	•	Neutral
The colours below indicate the influence of each support factor in our assessment. Influence: Light blue = lower; Dark blue = moderate; Red = higher Source: Fitch Ratings		

Danske's Government Support Rating of 'no support' reflects Fitch's view that senior creditors cannot rely on receiving full extraordinary support from the sovereign in the event of the bank becoming non-viable. The EU's Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive provides a framework for resolving banks that will require senior creditors to participate in losses, if necessary, instead of or ahead of a bank receiving sovereign support.



Environmental, Social and Governance Considerations



Environmental Relevance Scores

General issues	Score	Sector-specific issues	Reference
GHG Emissions & Air Quality	1	n.a.	n.a.
Energy Management	1	n.a.	n.a.
Water & Wastewater Management	1	n.a.	n.a.
Waste & Hazardous Materials Management; Ecological Impacts	1	n.a.	n.a.
Exposure to Environmental Impacts	2	Impact of extreme weather events on assets and/or operations and corresponding risk appetite & management; catastrophe risk; credit concentrations	Business Profile (incl. Management & governance); Risk Profile; Asset Quality

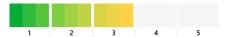


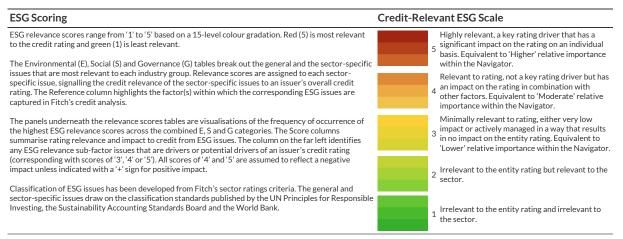
General issues	Score	Sector-specific issues	Reference
Human Rights, Community Relations, Access & Affordability	2	Services for underbanked and underserved communities: SME and community development programs; financial literacy programs	Business Profile (incl. Management & governance); Risk Profile
Customer Welfare - Fair Messaging, Privacy & Data Security	3	Compliance risks including fair lending practices, misselling, repossession/foreclosure practices, consumer data protection (data security)	Operating Environment; Business Profile (incl. Management & governance); Risk Profile
Labor Relations & Practices	2	Impact of labor negotiations, including board/employee compensation and composition	Business Profile (incl. Management & governance)
Employee Wellbeing	1	n.a.	n.a.
Exposure to Social Impacts	3	Shift in social or consumer preferences as a result of an institution's social positions, or social and/or political disapproval of core banking practices	Business Profile (incl. Management & governance); Financial Profile

Governance Relevance Scores

General issues	Score	Sector-specific issues	Reference
Management Strategy	3	Operational implementation of strategy	Business Profile (incl. Management & governance)
Governance Structure	3	Board independence and effectiveness; ownership concentration; protection of creditor/stakeholder rights; legal /compliance risks; business continuity; key person risk; related party transactions	Business Profile (incl. Management & governance); Earnings & Profitability; Capitalisation & Leverage
Group Structure	3	Organizational structure; appropriateness relative to business model; opacity; intra-group dynamics; ownership	Business Profile (incl. Management & governance)
Financial Transparency	3	Quality and frequency of financial reporting and auditing processes	Business Profile (incl. Management & governance)







The highest level of ESG credit relevance is a score of '3', unless otherwise disclosed in this section. A score of '3' means ESG issues are credit neutral or have only a minimal credit impact on the entity, either due to their nature or the way in which they are being managed by the entity. Fitch's ESG Relevance Scores are not inputs in the rating process; they are an observation on the relevance and materiality of ESG factors in the rating decision. For more information on Fitch's ESG Relevance Scores, visit https://www.fitchratings.com/topics/esg/products#esg-relevance-scores.



SOLICITATION & PARTICIPATION STATUS

For information on the solicitation status of the ratings included within this report, please refer to the solicitation status shown in the relevant entity's summary page of the Fitch Ratings website.

For information on the participation status in the rating process of an issuer listed in this report, please refer to the most recent rating action commentary for the relevant issuer, available on the Fitch Ratings website.

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