

National Scale Rating (NSR) Definitions

Long-Term Debt Ratings:

AAA

Issuers or issues rated “AAA” demonstrate the **strongest** creditworthiness and the lowest likelihood of credit loss relative to other domestic issuers.

AA

Issuers or issues rated “AA” demonstrate **very strong** creditworthiness and a low likelihood of credit loss relative to other domestic issuers.

A

Issuers or issues rated “A” represent **above-average** creditworthiness relative to other domestic issuers.

BBB

Issuers or issues rated “BBB” represent **average** creditworthiness relative to other domestic issuers.

BB

Issuers or issues rated “BB” demonstrate **below-average** creditworthiness relative to other domestic issuers.

B

Issuers or issues rated “B” demonstrate **weak** creditworthiness relative to other domestic issuers.

CCC

Issuers or issues rated “CCC” are **speculative** and demonstrate **very weak** creditworthiness relative to other domestic issuers.

CC

Issuers or issues “CC” are **highly speculative** and demonstrate **extremely weak** creditworthiness relative to other domestic issuers.

C

Issuers or issues rated “C” are **extremely speculative** and demonstrate **the weakest** creditworthiness relative to other domestic issuers.

Short-Term Debt Ratings:

Prime1

Issuers or issues rated “Prime1” have the **strongest** ability to repay short-term senior unsecured debt obligations relative to other domestic issuers

Prime2

Issuers or issues rated “Prime2” have an **above-average** ability to repay short-term senior unsecured debt obligations relative to other domestic issuers.

Prime3

Issuers or issues rated “Prime3” have an **average** ability to repay short-term senior unsecured obligations relative to domestic issuers.

Prime4

Issuers or issues rated “Prime4” have a **below-average** ability to repay short-term senior unsecured obligations relative to other domestic issuers.

Note: MERIS appends modifiers to each generic rating classification from AA through CCC. The modifier (+) indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier (-) indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category. The (sf) insertion stands for structured finance.