# The Ratings View

#### January 10, 2024

This report does not constitute a rating action.

## Key Takeaways

- We published our Industry Credit Outlook 2024.
- We look at gender wage gaps through the lens of sectoral labor force trends.
- European securitization issuance could pick up by 7% to €95 billion in 2024.

**Industry Credit Outlook 2024.** S&P Global Ratings has published its Industry Credit Outlook series for 2024. The 24 reports draw on assessments of more than 5,500 corporate and infrastructure entities we rate globally. They set out our industry credit views, covering ratings trends, our main assumptions for the year ahead, and key risks and opportunities versus our base-case scenario. All the reports are accessible from the link below:

#### Industry Credit Outlook 2024

S&P Global Ratings is looking at gender wage gaps through a new lens--analyzing labor force allocations and output per worker by sector. For North America, we find differing sectoral labor allocations and sectoral output per worker between men and women create labor productivity gaps--or implied wage gaps--of 10%-20%. This result reflects only the distribution of workers across sectors since we assume men and women are equally productive within sectors. Importantly, closing gaps in participation rates between men and women isn't all that's needed to narrow the implied wage gaps. To the extent that noneconomic factors affect sectoral labor supply choice, tackling these influences could help narrow the gender wage gaps.

# Economic Research: Gender Disparities In The Labor Force Across Sectors Fuel Wage Gaps In North America

**European Structured Finance Outlook 2024.** European securitization issuance could rise to €95 billion in 2024, given a larger call pipeline, a recovery in some areas of underlying lending, and rising market engagement from bank originators, after their recent limited activity. Structured finance ratings are weathering the effects of higher prices and interest rates, remaining largely stable through the current period of stress, especially at investment-grade levels.

#### European Structured Finance Outlook 2024: Pushing On Through

**U.S. Local Governments 2024 Outlook**. U.S. local governments continue to experience financial stability that stems from federal stimulus distributed during the pandemic. Despite elevated inflation and rising interest rates, ongoing credit strength has led to increasing revenues and improved reserve levels. However, if local or macroeconomic conditions prevent revenues from keeping pace with expenditure growth, management teams could be pressured to balance budgets while still addressing persistent issues requiring longer-term solutions, such as demographic changes and extreme weather.

U.S. Local Governments 2024 Outlook: Stimulus Shelters Governments In 2024; Preventing Long-Term Leaks Requires Fiscal Focus Now

#### Contacts

#### **Gareth Williams**

London Head of Corporate Credit Research +44-20-7176-7226 gareth.williams@spglobal.com

#### **Gregoire Rycx**

Paris Senior Analyst gregoire.rycx@spglobal.com

#### Gregg Lemos-Stein

New York Chief Analytical Officer, Corporate Ratings +1-212-438-1809 gregg.lemos-stein@spglobal.com

#### Joe Maguire

New York Lead Research Analyst joe.maguire@spglobal.com



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# **Asset Class Highlights**

## **Corporates**

Notable publications include:

- Eastern Europe: Higher Yields Will Weaken Credit Metrics And Liquidity
- Benelux, France, Italy, Iberia: Energy Transition Shapes Credit Quality
- <u>U.S. Telecom And Cable 2024 Outlook: High Interest Rates Will Weigh On Credit Quality, But Industry Fundamentals Remain Solid</u>
- <u>U.S. Media And Entertainment Industry: Looking For Bright Spots Amid The Industry's Sea Of Gloom</u>
- Full-Year 2023 U.S. Corporate Rating Actions Tracker
- Japan IT Services' Digital Transformation Conundrum

#### **Financial Institutions**

- In Europe, decreasing sovereign and financial system risks have boosted investor sentiment and enabled Greek banks to regain access to debt markets abroad, repay targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTRO) borrowings while remaining liquid.
- Banks in Greece have also individually made significant progress toward improving their risk profiles and creditworthiness. We therefore raised our long-term ratings on Eurobank, Eurobank Holdings, National Bank of Greece, Piraeus Bank, and Piraeus Financial Holdings, with positive outlooks.
- We also revised our outlooks to positive from stable on Aegean Baltic Bank S.A., Alpha Bank S.A., and Alpha Services and Holdings S.A., and affirmed our ratings on these entities.
- In Latin America, we raised the global scale ratings on 16 Brazilian financial services companies and their subsidiaries following the same action on the sovereign. We also affirmed the short-term and global and national scale ratings on these entities.
- We published several commentaries, including:
  - o Rescued European Banks: The Long Stream Of Divestments Continues
  - o <u>Federal Home Loan Banks Should Maintain Key Financing Role Despite</u>

    <u>Potential Reforms</u>
  - o Rating Component Scores For U.S., Canadian, And Bermudian Banks (December 2023)
  - Rating Component Scores For The Top 200 Banks Globally--January 2024
  - o U.K. Banks Credit Outlook 2024: Earnings Stay Solid As Margins Ease

# Research Contributors

Corporate

**Gregoire Rycx** 

gregoire.rycx@spglobal.com

**Financial Institutions** 

Alexandre Birry

alexandre.birry@spglobal.com

Mehdi El mrabet

mehdi.el-mrabet@spglobal.com

Structured Finance

**Winston Chang** 

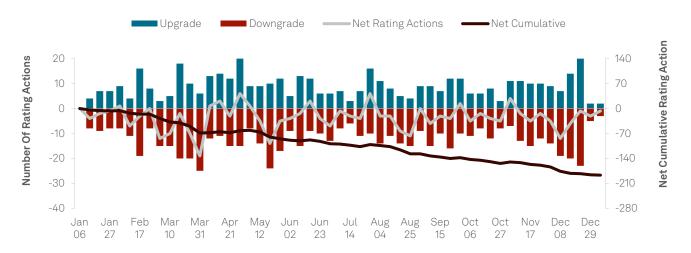
winston.chang@spglobal.com

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#### The Ratings View

Chart 1
Global Rating Actions (Rolling 52-Weeks)



Source: S&P Global Ratings. Net rating actions means downgrades minus upgrades. Net cumulative means total net rating actions. Data as of Jan. 5, 2023. Global rating actions include actions on both financial and nonfinancial corporates and sovereign issuers.

Table 1

#### **Recent Rating Actions**

Date	Action	Issuer	Industry	Country	То	From	Debt vol (mil. \$)
2-Jan	Downgrade	Dexia (Dexia S.A.)	Bank	France	BBB-	BBB	26,439
3-Jan	Upgrade	<u>Diversified Healthcare Trust</u>	Homebuilders/Real Estate Co.	U.S.	CCC+	CCC-	3,791
4-Jan	Downgrade	Hughes Satellite Systems Corp. (EchoStar Corporation)	Telecommunications	U.S.	CCC+	ВВ	1,500
5-Jan	Upgrade	NASCAR Holdings, LLC	Media & Entertainment	U.S.	BBB	BB+	1,410
2-Jan	Downgrade	Resolute Investment Managers Inc., (American Beacon Advisors, Inc.)	NBFI	U.S.	D	CC	641

Source: S&P Global Ratings Credit Research & Insights. Data as of Jan. 5, 2023. U.S. means United States, U.K. means United Kingdom and U.A.E. means United Arab Emirates. NBFI - NonBank Financial Institutions (ex. Insurance)

For further credit market insights, please see our This Week In Credit newsletter.



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