Arap Turk Bankasi A.S.

Update

Key Rating Drivers

Standalone Creditworthiness Drives Ratings: Arap Turk Bankasi A.S.'s (ATB) Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) are driven by its standalone strength, as reflected by its Viability Rating (VR). The ratings reflect the bank's concentration in the volatile Turkish operating environment, small niche franchise within trade finance, and weakening profitability. It also reflects contained asset-quality risks, only adequate capitalisation and stable, but concentrated, funding.

The Positive Outlook on the IDRs reflects that on the operating environment.

Improving Operating Environment: ATB's operations are concentrated in the improving but challenging Turkish operating environment. The normalisation of monetary policy has reduced near-term macro-financial stability risks and decreased external financing pressures. Banks remain exposed to high inflation, lira depreciation, slowing growth expectations, and multiple macroprudential regulations, despite the recent simplification efforts.

Niche Trade-Finance Bank: ATB is a niche trade finance bank primarily specializing in trade between Turkey and Libya and the wider MENA region. It also offers short-term working-capital loans to large, prime Turkish corporates on a limited basis. The bank has close ties with its largest shareholder, Libyan Foreign Bank (LFB; 62.4%), which provides it with low-cost foreign-currency (FC) funding.

High FC Lending: ATB lends almost exclusively to Turkish corporates, primarily in FC (end-2023: 82%) and short term. However, loans only constitute a moderate 29% of total assets.

Within trade finance, the bank mainly offers letters of credit and letters of guarantee in relation to foreign trade (equivalent to 85% of total assets at end-2023). ATB's underwriting standards compare fairly well with Fitch-rated trade finance peers', although high on-balance-sheet single-obligor concentration, exposure to challenging operating environments and its above-sector-average share of FC loans amid lira depreciation heighten asset-quality risks.

Asset-Quality Risks: ATB's asset quality benefits from the short-term nature of its loan book, and the counter-guarantees against a significant proportion of its Libyan country risk by Turkish banks in its trade-finance operations. The bank's impaired loans ratio was a low 0.1% at end-2023, while Stage 2 loans were negligible. Nevertheless, high FC lending and concentration in the volatile Turkish operating environment heighten asset-quality risks.

Deteriorating Profitability: ATB's operating profit/risk weighted assets (RWAs) fell to 0.8% in 2023 from 3.0% in 2022 driven by higher impairment charges, mainly reflecting Stage 1 charges on non-cash loans as the bank increased credit impairment reserves. ATB's cost-to-income ratio also deteriorated to 77% in 2023 (2022: 56%) as inflationary pressures increased operating expenses. Interest income growth stayed muted, reflecting below-sector-average loan growth, although the net interest margin (NIM; 2023: 6.2%; sector: 4.3%) compares well with peers.

Only Adequate Capitalisation: ATB's common equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio fell to 17% (net of forbearance: 13.4%) at end-2023 (end-2022: 20.0%), mainly due to RWA growth, driven by the tightening of forbearance measures on the calculation of RWAs. ATB's CET1 ratio is above the sector average (15.1%), but is only adequate given the sensitivity of capital to lira depreciation, as 84% of the balance sheet is FC, and due to the small capital base.

High Parent Funding: ATB is mainly wholesale funded (64% of total non-equity funding at end-2023), similar to other trade finance banks. ATB relies heavily on FC funding from its parent, both directly and indirectly, which accounted for 40%-50% of total non-equity funding at end-2023. This supports the bank's cost of funding but also leads to high concentration, although these accounts have been stable historically.

Banks Wholesale Commercial Banks Turkiye

Ratings

Ratings	
Foreign Currency	
Long-Term IDR	B-
Short-Term IDR	В
Local Currency	
Long-Term IDR	B-
Short-Term IDR	В
Viability Rating	b-
Government Support Rating	ns
National Rating	
National Long-Term Rating	BBB(tur)
Sovereign Risk (Turkiye)	
Long-Term Foreign-Currency IDR	B+
Long-Term Local-Currency IDR	B+
Country Ceiling	B+
Outlooks	
Long-Term Foreign-Currency IDR	Positive
Long-Term Local-Currency IDR	Positive
National Long-Term Rating	Positive
Sovereign Long-Term Foreign- Currency IDR	Positive
Sovereign Long-Term Local- Currency IDR	Positive

Applicable Criteria

Bank Rating Criteria (March 2024) National Scale Rating Criteria (December 2020)

Related Research

Fitch Upgrades 18 Turkish Banks; Places 5 VRs on Rating Watch Positive on Sovereign Upgrade (March 2024) Fitch Upgrades Turkiye to 'B+'; Outlook Positive (March 2024)

Reduced Risks for Turkish Banks Following Policy Shift (November 2023)

Turkish Banks' Short-Term Debt Still High; Refinancing Pressures Reduced (November 2023)

EMEA Trade Finance Banks: Global Trade Rebound to Boost Results; Geopolitical Tensions Ahead (October 2023)

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Rating Sensitivities

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

ATB's Long-Term IDRs are sensitive to a downgrade of the bank's VR. The VR could be downgraded following a multinotch downgrade of the operating environment.

ATB's ratings could also be downgraded due to a substantial withdrawal in parent funding, prompting a significant reduction in the bank's FC liquidity, or if the bank's CET1 ratio had a sustained fall to levels not commensurate with the bank's risk profile and small equity size. This could derive from an event risk or from structural profitability weakness debilitating the bank's internal capital generation capacities. ATB's IDRs are also potentially sensitive to a multi-notch sovereign downgrade, but this is not our base case.

The Short-Term IDRs are sensitive to changes in the bank's Long-Term IDRs.

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

ATB's Long-Term IDRs are sensitive to a upgrade of the bank's VR.

An upgrade of ATB's VR is primarily sensitive to the strength of the bank's capital buffers (including net of forbearance) and FC liquidity buffers in the context of improving operating environment conditions.

The Short-Term IDRs are sensitive to changes in the bank's Long-Term IDRs.

Other Debt and Issuer Ratings

The bank's National Long-Term Rating of 'BBB(tur)'/Positive reflects our view of the bank's creditworthiness in local currency (LC) relative to other Fitch-rated Turkish issuers'.

Significant Changes from Last Review

Bank's Outlook Revised to Positive

Fitch revised ATB's Long-Term (LT) FC and LC IDRs to Positive from Stable in March following the upgrade and the revision of the Outlooks on Turkiye's LT IDRs to Positive. This reflects our expectation of the positive impact over the medium term of the improving operating environment on the bank's intrinsic credit profile, and particularly its financial and business profile.

National Ratings Revised on Recalibration

Fitch revised ATB's National Long-Term Rating to 'BBB(tur)' from 'A-(tur)' in May. The revision reflects changes in Turkiye's National Rating scale solely driven by the recalibration of Fitch's National Ratings Correspondence Table and is not related to credit quality. The Positive Outlook reflects that on the bank's LTLC IDR.

Sovereign Upgraded, Outlook Revised to Positive

We upgraded Turkiye's sovereign rating to 'B+' from 'B', and revised the Outlook to Positive from Stable in March 2024. The upgrade reflects increased confidence in the durability and effectiveness of policies implemented since June 2023, including greater-than-expected frontloading of monetary policy tightening, in reducing macroeconomic and external vulnerabilities. The revision of the Outlook reflects Fitch's expectation that Turkiye's overall macroeconomic policy stance should be consistent with a significant decline in inflation (albeit inflation is likely to remain significantly higher than at rating peers), and a continued reduction in external vulnerabilities in terms of lower current account deficits and stronger liquidity buffers.

The central bank has increased the policy rate to 50%, a continuation of the tightening cycle begun in June 2023, representing a total increase of 4,150bp. The policy rate was held at its current level in the monetary policy meeting in April 2024.

GDP increased by 4.5% in 2023, having outstripped forecasts due to still-strong consumer spending and fiscal stimulus ahead of the March 2024 elections. Fitch forecasts GDP growth to slow to 2.8% in 2024 and 3.1% in 2025. Inflation was 69.8% at end-April 2024 (end-2023: 65%). We expect the inflation rate to decrease to 40% at end-2024.

Policy Normalisation Steps

The Central Bank of Turkiye (CBRT) launched a monetary tightening phase and simplification of the policy framework to address high inflation and regulate domestic demand following the May 2023 elections. We expect the simplification process to take time, and therefore expect the regulatory environment to continue to weigh on banks'

credit profiles. The change in CBRT governorship in February had a muted response in the markets due to reassurances of policy continuity.

The CBRT abolished the securities maintenance requirement based on loan growth in April 2024, although the monthly growth rate cap remains (excluding certain sectors), and on lira deposit conversion targets in May 2024, as part of the simplification process.

The central bank removed the soft-tier interest rate cap on lending for most loan types, allowing banks to adjust loan pricing due to rising rates. The exporters' access to rediscount loans was enhanced, and the additional 30% mandatory sale of export proceeds on rediscount utilisation was eliminated.

The CBRT also raised the maximum interest rates for cash withdrawals with credit cards and overdrafts. In addition, the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency increased risk weights for retail loans, decreasing banks' retail lending, and announced higher risk weights for mortgages for those with existing primary residences.

Efforts to increase the share of Turkish lira deposits include terminating the need for banks to maintain long-term local-currency government bonds based on their lira deposit share, raising mandatory reserves for FC deposits, and offering renumeration for Turkish lira mandatory reserves to incentivise LC deposits, slightly reducing lira deposit costs for the sector. On the contrary, the CBRT has recently increased the withholding tax rate on various lira deposit maturities, which may put pressure on the lira deposit costs.

We expect regulatory forbearance on RWAs to remain, including the exchange rate used for capital adequacy calculations. However, the exchange rate that the banks are permitted to use for capital adequacy calculations has been tightened on several occasions (26 June 2023 exchange rate to be used from end-1Q24). This significantly reduced the benefit to banks' reported capital ratios, although at times of relative lira stability, and without threatening the banking sector's reported solvency. Regulatory forbearance also permits the suspension of mark-to-market losses on banks' securities portfolios through equity, and could have a more meaningful effect amid the rising lira interest rates.

The authorities have announced that Turkish banks will begin to apply hyperinflationary accounting as of 1 January 2025. Reported profitability metrics will be much weaker adjusting for this, although CPI linkers provide some hedge.

FX-Protected Lira Deposit Scheme

FX-protected lira deposits accounted for 14% of sector deposits, or 25% of sector lira customer deposits, as of 19 April. The authorities have signalled their intention to reduce FX-protected deposits (USD70.1 billion in April), although this hinges on the sustained improvement in inflation and lira depreciation expectations. The CBRT has recently decreased the mandatory reserve requirement for FX-protected deposits to 25% (previously 30%). The requirement remains at 10% for longer maturities. The mandatory reserve requirements weigh on the cost of these deposits for banks.

The authorities have abolished new FX-protected deposits converted from standard lira deposits, another signal of their intention to reduce and phase out the scheme.

Ratings Navigator

Arap Turk Bankasi A.S.						ESGRelevance	-		Banks Ratings Navigator		
	1.926			8	Financia			1		1.10	
	Operating Environment	Business Profile	Risk Profile	Asset Quality	Earnings & Profitability	55 Capitalisation & & Leverage	Funding& Liquidity	Implied Viability Rating	Viability Rating	Government Support Rating	lssuer Default Rating
aaa		2076	10/0	2070	1370	2.370	1070	888	aaa	888	AAA
aa+								aa+	aa+	aa+	AA+
aa								aa	aa	aa	AA
aa-								aa-	aa-	aa-	AA-
a+								a+	a+	a+	A+
а								а	а	а	A
a-								a-	a-	a-	A-
bbb+								bbb+	bbb+	bbb+	BBB+
bbb								bbb	bbb	bbb	BBB
bbb-								bb b-	bbb-	bbb-	BBB-
bb+	1							bb+	bb+	bb+	BB+
bb								bb	bb	bb	BB
bb-								bb-	bb-	bb-	BB-
b+								b+	b+	b+	B+
b								b	b	b	В
b-								b-	b-	b-	B-Pos
CC C+								ccc+	CCC+	ccc+	CCC+
ccc								CCC	CCC	CCC	CCC
-030								CCC-	CCC-	CCC-	CCC-
CC								CC	CC	CC	CC
с								c	c	c	C
f								f	f	ns	D or RD

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 operating environment score of 'b' for Turkish banks is lower than the category implied score of 'bb', due to the following adjustment reasons: sovereign rating (negative) and macroeconomic stability (negative).

Financials

Summary Financials

	31 Dec 2	23	31 Dec 22	31 Dec 21	31 Dec 20	
	12 months					
	(USDm)	(TRYm)	(TRYm)	(TRYm)	(TRYm)	
	Audited – unqualified					
Summary income statement	-	-	-	-	-	
Net interest and dividend income	21	633	533	367	247	
Net fees and commissions	5	144	109	70	55	
Other operating income	1	40	30	15	10	
Total operating income	28	816	672	452	311	
Operating costs	21	628	375	208	170	
Pre-impairment operating profit	6	188	297	244	142	
Loan and other impairment charges	3	86	14	28	11	
Operating profit	3	103	283	216	131	
Other non-operating items (net)	0	0	0	0	0	
Тах	-2	-60	67	53	30	
Net income	6	163	215	163	101	
Other comprehensive income	6	167	295	22	3	
Fitch comprehensive income	11	330	511	185	104	
Summary balance sheet	·	· · · · ·				
Assets						
Gross loans	152	4,480	4,184	3,139	2,036	
– Of which impaired	0	4	3	4	8	
Loan loss allowances	1	21	11	14	19	
Net loans	151	4,459	4,174	3,125	2,018	
Interbank	44	1,297	890	1,659	873	
Derivatives	_	_	_	_	_	
Other securities and earning assets	186	5,490	4,562	3,462	1,942	
Total earning assets	382	11,246	9,626	8,246	4,833	
Cash and due from banks	107	3,158	1,926	1,666	833	
Other assets	40	1,173	677	293	195	
Total assets	529	15,577	12,229	10,205	5,861	
Liabilities						
Customer deposits	158	4,642	3,580	2,380	1,337	
Interbank and other short-term funding	252	7,436	4,160	3,108	2,079	
Other long-term funding	28	831	2,281	3,162	1,147	
Trading liabilities and derivatives	_	_	_	_	_	
Total funding and derivatives	438	12,908	10,021	8,651	4,563	
Other liabilities	16	467	336	193	122	
Preference shares and hybrid capital	_	_	_	_	_	
Total equity	75	2,202	1,872	1,362	1,177	
Total liabilities and equity	529	15,577	12,229	10,205	5,861	
Exchange rate		USD1 = TRY29.46475	USD1 = TRY18.71515	USD1 = TRY13.341	USD1 = TRY7.42605	
Source: Fitch Ratings, Fitch Solutions, ATB						

Key Ratios

31 Dec 22	31 Dec 21	31 Dec 20
	·	
· · ·	· · · ·	
3.0	3.7	2.9
5.9	6.0	5.1
55.9	46.0	54.5
14.2	12.9	9.0
0.1	0.1	0.4
33.3	54.1	0.6
311.8	331.0	224.1
-0.1	0.3	-0.3
· · · ·		
20.0	24.0	26.0
15.3	13.2	20.0
7.7	10.3	10.7
-0.4	-0.7	-0.9
116.9	131.9	152.3
273.9	411.3	256.9
35.7	27.5	29.3
N/A	N/A	N/A
_		

Support Assessment

Commercial Banks: Government Suppo	ort				
Typical D-SIB GSR for sovereign's rating level (assuming high propensity)	b+				
Actual jurisdiction D-SIB GSR	ns				
Government Support Rating	ns				
Government ability to support D-SIBs					
Sovereign Rating	B+/ Positive				
Size of banking system	Neutral				
Structure of banking system					
Sovereign financial flexibility (for rating level)	Negative				
Government propensity to support D-SIBs					
Resolution legislation	Neutral				
Support stance	Neutral				
Government propensity to support bank					
Systemic importance	Negative				
Liability structure	Negative				
Ownership					

The colours indicate the weighting of each KRD in the assessment.

Higher influence Moderate influence Lower influence

No Government Support

The bank's 'no support' Government Support Rating (GSR) reflects Fitch's view that support from the Turkish authorities cannot be relied upon, given the bank's small size and limited systemic importance. In addition, support from ATB's shareholders, while possible, cannot be relied upon given the political situation in Libya.

Banks

Environmental, Social and Governance Considerations

FitchRatings

Arap Turk Bankasi A.S.

Credit-Relevant ESG Derivation

Environmental (E) Relevance Scores

Anap Turk Bankasi A.S. has 1 ESG rating driver and 4 ESG potential rating drivers

- Arap Turk Santasi A.S. has exposure to operational implementation of sinalagy which, in combination with other factors, impacts the rating
- Anap Turk Series A.S. her exposure to compliance risks including fair lending practices, mis-setting, repossession/forectosure practices, core er dala prolacitor
- For a contrast of the instrument of the comparison of the contrast of the instrument of the contrast of the
- Anap Turk Bankasi A.S. has exposure to quality and frequency of financial reporting and auditing processes but lifts has very low impact on the rating

Ratings Navigator E SG M as Plateto key driver 8 1000.000 4 Ŷ 4 dr Iver Transa a 4 poiential driver (anter a 4 ź Taxa a mile raing drive 3 15 (source)

Ceneral Issues	E Score	Sector-Specific has use	Plan file man more	2 Ha	e vance		
SHG Emissions & Air Quality		0.4.	n.a.	5		ESG releva	d This Page ince scores maps from 1 to 5 based on a 15-level column s d (5) is most relevant to the credit rating and given () out.
Energy Management		na.	n.a.	4		break out 0 that are mo	emental (E), Social (S) and Governance (G) table to ESG general issues and the sector-specific tocus if relevant to each industry group. Relevances scores are or each sector-specific tosos, signaling the cred
Malar & Wastewater Maragament		n.a.	n.a.	з		rating. The which be c analysis. Th	The sector-specific issues to the towar's overall cred Criteria Reference column highlights the factor(s) with immegoring USG towars are captured in Fictors cred a vertical color bars are visualitations of the frequence of the highest constituent reference access. They it
Waste & Hazardous Materials Management. Ecological Impacts		na.	na	2		not represe ESG credit	ni an uppregale of the relevance accres or appregal elevance.
Exposure to Environmental Impacts	2	httpact of extreme weather exerts on assets and/or operations and corresponding tols appetite & management, catastrophe risk, credit concentrations	Buanais Profile (Incl. Management & governance), Plak Profile, A seat Coality	(1)		visualitation relevance a three colum summarize	Relevant ESG Derivation latie's far right column is of the frequency of occurrence of the highest ESC cores across the combined E, S and G categories. The mis to the left of ESG Relevance to Credit Patient siting relevance and impact to credit from ESG is seen
Social (S) Relevance Scores						bases that	the far tell identifies any ESG Relevance Sub-facto are drivers or potential drivers of the issuer's credit
General Issues	S Score	Sector-Specific has use	Pie fis ne mice	2.114	a Varioce	explanation	eponding with scores of 3, 4 or 5) and provides a brief for the relevance score. At scores of 4' and 5' are
Human Rights , Community Relations, Access & Alfordability	2	Services for underbanked and underserved communities: SWE and community development programs, financial literacy programs	Suaneas Profe (ncl. Management & governance), Plak Profe			for positive	reflect a negative impact unless indicated with a '*' algo impact.h. accrea of 3, 4 or 5) and provides a brief for the accrea.
Customer Weifare - Fair Messaging, Privacy & Data Security	3	Compliance risks including fair landing practices, mix-swilling, repose widenför eclosure practices, consumer dete protection (data security)	Operating Environment, Business Profile (Ind.: Management & governance), Risk Profile	4		sector ratio fasces draw Nations Prin	on of ESG tesses has been developed from Rich's ga criteria. The General locase and Sector-Specifi on the desoff-actor standards published by the Unite cipies for Responsible Investing (PRI), the Sustainability Standards Board (SASS), and the World Bank.
Labor Helalions & Practices	2	Impact of labor negotiations, including board/employee companiation and composition	Suameas Profee (nct. Management & governance)	.a			
Employee Welbeing		па.	п.а.	2			
Exposure to Social Impacts	2	Shift in accluior consumer preferences as a result of an initiation's accluip calibra, or social and/or political disapproval of core banking practices	Suanses Profile (ncl. Management & governance), Financial Profile				
Governance (G) Relevance Sc	oree					-	CREDIT-RELEVANT ESG SCALE
General basues	GScore	s Sector-Specific fasues	Plate remos	G 76	b vance		Now relevant are E, S and C secure to the overall credit rating?
Managamani Siralagy	4	Operational implementation of strategy	Stateas Profe (not. Management & governance)	e		5	Plighty relevant, a key raing driver that has a significant impact on the raing constraind state basis. End value 10 "higher" relative importance within fewgator.
Governance Structure	з	Board Independence and effectiveness, ownership concentration, protection of creditor's takeholder rights, tegal /complementertex, boainees continuity, key person risk, related party transactores	Statness Profile (Incl. Management & governance); Earnings & Profitability, Capitalisation & Lavierage			a	Nelevant torsting, not a key niting driver but has an impact on the rating in comfare ton with other factors. Equivalent to "mode set" reliative importance within Newspation:
Group Structure	з	Organizational structure, appropriateness ratative to business model, opecity, intra-group dynamics, ownership	States Profe (ncl. Management & governance)	Salt.		з	Minimally relevant to naling, either very toe impact or actively managed in a way that read is in no impact on the entity naling. Explaint either to "toese" reliative impactance within Navigator.
Financial Transparency	з	Quality and frequency of financial reporting and subling processes	Suanese Profile (not. Management & governance)	2		2	Translessant to the sentity nating but as lessent to the sector.
				860		4	Intelevant is the entity rating and intelevant is the sector.

The ESG Relevance Management Strategy score of '4' reflects increased regulatory intervention in the Turkish banking sector, which hinders the operational execution of management strategy, constrains management ability to determine strategy and price risk and creates an additional operational burden for banks. This has a moderately negative credit impact on the bank's rating in combination with other factors.



Unless otherwise disclosed in this section, the highest level of ESG credit relevance is a score of '3'. This means ESG issues are credit neutral or have only a minimal credit impact on ATB, either due to their nature or to the way in which they are being managed by the bank. 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 www.fitchratings.com/esg.

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