# Achmea Bank N.V.

## **Key Rating Drivers**

**Long-Term IDR Equalised with Parent:** Achmea Bank N.V.'s Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) and Shareholder Support Rating (SSR) are based on Fitch Ratings' view of a very high probability that the bank would receive extraordinary support from its parent Achmea B.V. (Achmea; A/Stable) in the event of need. Our view is primarily driven by Achmea Bank's key role within the group in complementing its retirement services offering and by tight integration with the parent. The Stable Outlook on Achmea Bank's Long-Term IDR mirrors that on Achmea.

**Key to Group Strategy:** The bank is part of Achmea's strategy of offering a full range of financial products to the group's clients and growing the group's retirement services business. Achmea Bank provides mortgages and tax-efficient savings, which complement the group's product offering, and distributes the group's retail investment products.

**Strong Integration with Parent:** Our view of support also reflects the bank's deep integration with Achmea in strategy, operations, liquidity management and common branding. The bank shares several services and back-office functions with the parent, and its strategy is designed to support the group's targets. Although highly integrated with the parent, Achmea Bank has direct access to external funding.

**No Viability Rating Assigned:** Fitch does not assign a Viability Rating to Achmea Bank due to its close integration with the group and Fitch's view that the bank does not have a meaningful standalone franchise that could exist without the ownership of the parent. Achmea Bank's retail savings are part of the integrated product proposition under the group's brand, Central Beheer, and the bank has limited standalone access to retail savings clients.

**Healthy Asset Quality:** The loan book (end-2024: 88% of assets) is dominated by low-risk Dutch residential mortgage loans, which generate low through-the-cycle impaired loans and credit losses. The 2021–2024 average impaired loans ratio of about 0.7% is reasonably in line with that of larger Dutch peers' residential mortgage loan portfolios. Loan impairment charges have been consistently very low (2024: 1bp of average loans).

**Modest Profitability:** Fitch's view of Achmea Bank's profitability considers its strong integration within Achmea and its record in supporting the group's business objectives through cross-selling. It has strongly benefitted from higher interest rates as its revenue is heavily reliant on net interest income. However, the lack of product diversification and its small size constrain through-the-cycle profitability. The bank aims to continue scaling up its balance sheet, both organically and through additional loan portfolio acquisitions.

**Solid Capitalisation:** The common equity Tier 1 ratio is strong (end-2024: 16.6%; end-2023: 16.9%). The issuance of EUR125 million Tier 2 notes led to the total capital ratio strengthening to 19.1%. The regulatory leverage ratio of 4.3% was also satisfactory for a Dutch retail-focused bank.

**Diversified Funding, Sound Liquidity:** Achmea Bank's healthy funding mix consists of customer deposits (60% of funding at end-2024; mostly guaranteed), and secured and unsecured wholesale funding.

Liquidity is underpinned by a sizeable amount of liquid assets comprising on-demand central bank deposits, retained covered bonds and EU government bonds. The latter are available through an 'asset switch' agreement whereby Achmea Bank may swap, with a sister company, mortgage loans for bonds that can be re-pledged to obtain funding from the European Central Bank.

### Banks Retail & Consumer Banks Netherlands

### Ratings

Foreign Currency	
Long-Term IDR	А
Short-Term IDR	F1

Shareholder Support Rating a

#### Sovereign Risk (Netherlands)

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 Foreign- Currency IDR	Stable
Sovereign Long-Term Local- Currency IDR	Stable

### Highest ESG Relevance Scores

Environmental	2
Social	3
Governance	3

### **Applicable Criteria**

Bank Rating Criteria (March 2025)

### **Related Research**

Benelux Banking M&A Driven by Diversification and Fee Income (March 2025) Netherlands Mortgage Index Monitor: 1H25 (March 2025) Global Economic Outlook (March 2025) Fitch Affirms the Netherlands at 'AAA'; Outlook Stable (January 2025) Western European Banks Outlook 2025 (December 2024) Fitch Affirms Achmea at 'A'; Outlook Stable (June 2024)

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## **Rating Sensitivities**

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

Achmea Bank's ratings could be downgraded if Achmea's Long-Term IDR was downgraded or if Fitch perceives a decrease in Achmea's propensity or ability to support its banking subsidiary, particularly if the bank's activities become less strategic for the parent.

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

Achmea Bank's IDRs could be upgraded if the parent's Long-Term IDR were upgraded.

### **Other Debt and Issuer Ratings**

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Achmea Bank's senior unsecured debt ratings are aligned with the bank's IDRs as we view the probability of default on senior unsecured obligations as the same as that of the bank.

The rating of the subordinated notes is two notches below Achmea Bank's 'A' Long-Term IDR. The anchor rating is the Long-Term IDR as Fitch believes support from the parent, Achmea B.V., would be extended to these instruments. The notes are notched down twice for loss severity, in line with the baseline approach in our criteria, as we expect poor recovery prospects in the event of failure. We did not apply additional notching for non-performance risk, as the notes do not have any going-concern loss-absorption, such as coupon omission or deferral features.

## **Financials**

### **Financial Statements**

	31 Dec 24		31 Dec 23	31 Dec 22	31 Dec 21	
	Year end	Year end Year end		Year end	Year end	
	(USDm)	(EURm)	(EURm)	(EURm)	(EURm)	
	Audited - unqualified	- Audited unqualified	- Audited unqualified	- Audited unqualified	Audited - unqualified	
Summary income statement		· · ·		· · ·		
Net interest and dividend income	238	229	205	118	138	
Net fees and commissions	13	13	1	1	1	
Other operating income	-4	-4	-8	9	6	
Total operating income	247	238	198	127	145	
Operating costs	150	144	115	105	102	
Pre-impairment operating profit	97	93	83	22	43	
Loan and other impairment charges	2	1	2	4	-9	
Operating profit	95	92	81	18	52	
Тах	25	24	21	5	13	
Net income	71	68	60	13	39	
Fitch comprehensive income	71	68	60	13	39	
Summary balance sheet	·					
Assets		-				
Gross loans	17,842	17,167	14,161	11,893	11,378	
- Of which impaired	119	114	76	78	100	
Loan loss allowances	25	24	28	22	14	
Net loans	17,817	17,143	14,133	11,871	11,364	
Interbank	606	584	638	642	636	
Derivatives	340	328	371	538	62	
Other securities and earning assets	0	0	31	0	C	
Total earning assets	18,763	18,054	15,172	13,051	12,061	
Cash and due from banks	1,238	1,191	599	774	737	
Other assets	311	299	164	109	50	
Total assets	20,312	19,544	15,935	13,933	12,848	
Liabilities	·			<u>.</u>		
Customer deposits	11,297	10,869	9,377	8,086	7,515	
Interbank and other short-term funding	1,456	1,401	1,183	1,723	526	
Other long-term funding	6,126	5,895	4,009	2,850	3,582	
Trading liabilities and derivatives	433	416	437	411	340	
Total funding and derivatives	19,311	18,581	15,007	13,070	11,962	
Other liabilities	95	91	94	74	67	
Total equity	906	872	835	790	818	
Total liabilities and equity	20,312	19,544	15,935	13,933	12,848	
Exchange rate		USD1 = EUR0.962186	USD1 = EUR0.912742	USD1 = EUR0.937559	USD1 = EUR0.884173	

Source: Fitch Ratings, Fitch Solutions, Achmea Bank

### **Key Ratio**

	31 Dec 24	31 Dec 23	31 Dec 22	31 Dec 21
Ratios (%; annualised as appropriate)				
Profitability				
Operating profit/risk-weighted assets	1.8	1.8	0.4	1.4
Net interest income/average earning assets	1.4	1.5	1.0	1.1
Non-interest expense/gross revenue	60.8	58.0	82.7	70.2
Net income/average equity	7.9	7.4	1.7	4.7
Asset quality				
Impaired loans ratio	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.9
Growth in gross loans	21.2	19.1	4.5	-6.1
Loan loss allowances/impaired loans	21.2	37.4	27.7	14.0
Loan impairment charges/average gross loans	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1
Capitalisation				
Common equity Tier 1 ratio	16.6	16.9	18.2	20.9
Tangible common equity/tangible assets	4.5	5.2	5.6	6.4
Basel leverage ratio	4.3	4.8	5.4	6.5
Net impaired loans/common equity Tier 1 capital	10.7	6.1	7.3	11.0
Funding and liquidity		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Gross loans/customer deposits	157.9	151.0	147.1	151.4
Gross loans/customer deposits + covered bonds	110.8	110.1	112.5	119.7
Liquidity coverage ratio	191.0	164.0	211.0	297.0
Customer deposits/total non-equity funding	59.8	64.4	63.9	64.7
Net stable funding ratio	129.0	129.0	130.0	133.0
Source: Fitch Ratings, Fitch Solutions, Achmea Bank				

## Support Assessment

Shareholder Support	
Parent IDR	А
Total Adjustments (notches)	0
Shareholder Support Rating	а
Shareholder ability to support	
Shareholder Rating	A/ Stable
Shareholder regulation	Equalised
Relative size	1 Notch
Country risks	Equalised
Shareholder propensity to support	
Role in group	Equalised
Reputational risk	Equalised
Integration	Equalised
Support record	1 Notch
Subsidiary performance and prospects	1 Notch
Legal commitments	2+ Notches

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

Higher influence Moderate influence Lower influence

Fitch's assessment of a very high likelihood of shareholder support is driven by the bank's key role in the group, its strong integration with the parent, and reputational risk for Achmea should the subsidiary default. Achmea's ability to support Achmea Bank is strong, as reflected in its Long-Term IDR of 'A'.

We believe a default of the bank would constitute a high reputational risk for Achmea, given the deep integration with the parent. We believe the Dutch Central Bank, which is the common regulator for Dutch banks and insurance companies, would likely encourage Achmea to support Achmea Bank, if needed. We also believe the cost of any support would likely be manageable for the group, given Achmea Bank's moderate size compared with its parent.

## **Environmental, Social and Governance Considerations**

#### Achmea Bank N.V. **Fitch**Ratings

#### Banks **Ratings** Navigator

Credit-Relevant ESG Derivation					
Achmea Bank N.V. has 5 ESG potential rating drivers Achmea Bank N.V. has exposure to compliance risks including fair lending practices, mis-selling, repossession/foreclosure practices, consumer data protection	key driver	0	issues	5	
<ul> <li>(data security) but this has very low impact on the rating.</li> <li>Governance is minimally relevant to the rating and is not currently a driver.</li> </ul>		0	issues	4	
	potential driver	5	issues	3	
	not a rating driver	4	issues	2	
	not a rating driver	5	issues	1	

Environmental (E) General Issues	E Score	Contex Canailia Insues	Reference		cale	
General issues	E Score	e Sector-Specific Issues	Kelerence	E 8	Cale	Haw to Dood This Down
GHG Emissions & Air Quality	1	n.a.	n.a.	5		How to Read This Page ESG scores range from 1 to 5 based on a 15-level colo gradation. Red (5) is most relevant and green (1) is least relevant
Energy Management	1	n.a.	n.a.	4		The Environmental (E), Social (S) and Governance (C tables break out the individual components of the scale. The rig hand box shows the aggregate E, S, or G score. General Issue are relevant across all markets with Sector-Specific Issue unique to a particular industry group. Scores are assigned
Water & Wastewater Management	1	n.a.	n.a.	3		each sector-specific issue. These scores signify the credi relevance of the sector-specific issues to the issuing entity overall credit rating. The Reference box highlights the factor( within which the corresponding ESG issues are captured Fitch's credit analysis.
Waste & Hazardous Materials Management; Ecological Impacts	1	n.a.	n.a.	2		The Credit-Relevant ESG Derivation table shows the overa ESG score. This score signifies the credit relevance of combine E, S and G issues to the entity's credit rating. The three column
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	1		to the left of the overall ESG score summarize the issuing entity: sub-component ESG scores. The box on the far left identifier some of the main ESG issues that are drivers or potential drivers of the issuing entity's credit rating (corresponding with scores c
Social (S)						3, 4 or 5) and provides a brief explanation for the score.
General Issues	S Score	Sector-Specific Issues	Reference	S S	icale	Classification of ESG issues has been developed from Fitch's sector ratings criteria. The General Issues and Sector-Specific
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	5		Issues draw on the classification standards published by the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investing (PRI) and the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB).
Customer Welfare - Fair Messaging, Privacy & Data Security	3	Compliance risks including fair lending practices, mis- selling, repossession/foreclosure practices, consumer data protection (data security)	Operating Environment; Business Profile (incl. Management & governance); Risk Profile	4		Sector references in the scale definitions below refer to Sector as displayed in the Sector Details box on page 1 of the navigator.
Labor Relations & Practices	2	Impact of labor negotiations, including board/employee compensation and composition	Business Profile (incl. Management & governance)	3		
Employee Wellbeing	1	n.a.	n.a.	2		
Exposure to Social Impacts	2	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	1		
Governance (G)						CREDIT-RELEVANT ESG SCALE
General Issues	G Score	e Sector-Specific Issues	Reference	G S	icale	How relevant are E, S and G issues to the overall credit rating?
Management Strategy	3	Operational implementation of strategy	Business Profile (incl. Management & governance)	5		5 Highly relevant, a key rating driver that has a significant impact on the rating on an individual basis. Equivalent to 'higher' relative importance within Navgator.
Governance Structure	3		Business Profile (incl. Management & governance); Earnings & Profitability; Capitalisation & Leverage	4		4 Relevant to rating, not a key rating driver but has an impact on the rating in combination with other fractors. Equivalent to "moderate" relative importance within Navigator.
Group Structure	3	Organizational structure; appropriateness relative to business model; opacity; intra-group dynamics; ownership	Business Profile (incl. Management & governance)	3		3 Minimally relevant to rating, either very low impact or actively managed in a way that results in no impact on the entity rating, Equivalent to "lower" relative importance within Navigator.
Financial Transparency	3	Quality and frequency of financial reporting and auditing processes	Business Profile (incl. Management & governance)	2		2 Irrelevant to the entity rating but relevant to the sector.

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 www.fitchratings.com/esg.

rrelevant to the entity rating and irrelevant to the sector.

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