

## Various Rating Actions Taken In Spanish RMBS Transaction Hipocat 9 Following Review

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OVERVIEW

- We have reviewed Hipocat 9 by conducting our credit and cash flow analysis under our European residential loans criteria and our current counterparty criteria.
- Following our review, we have taken various rating actions in this transaction.
- Hipocat 9 is a Spanish RMBS transaction that closed November 2005 and securitizes first-ranking mortgage credits. Catalunya Banc (formerly named Caixa Catalunya and now part of BBVA) originated the pool, which comprises credits secured over owner-occupied properties, mainly in Catalonia.

MADRID (S&P Global Ratings) Aug. 7, 2017--S&P Global Ratings today took various credit rating actions in Hipocat 9, Fondo de Titulizacion de Activos.

Specifically, we have:

- Raised our ratings on the class A2a, A2b, and B notes;
- Lowered our rating on the class C notes; and
- Affirmed our rating on the class D notes (see list below).

Today's rating actions follow our credit and cash flow analysis of the most recent transaction information that we have received and the July 2017 investor report. Our analysis reflects the application of our European residential loans criteria and our current counterparty criteria (see "

Methodology And Assumptions: Assessing Pools Of European Residential Loans," published on Dec. 23, 2016, and "Counterparty Risk Framework Methodology And Assumptions," published on June 25, 2013).

The transaction features an interest deferral trigger for the class B to D notes. If triggered, the interest payments are subordinated below principal in the priority of payments. These triggers are based on cumulative gross defaults in the transaction. The class C and D interest deferral triggers have been breached, so the interest on these classes of notes is subordinated to senior principal payment.

Available credit enhancement for the class A2a, A2b, B, and C notes has increased since our previous review, due to the amortization of the class A2a and A2b notes (see "Various Rating Actions Taken In Spanish RMBS Transaction Hipocat 9 Following Application Of Updated Criteria," published on Nov. 6, 2014). At the same time, available credit enhancement has decreased for the class D notes due to the increase in defaults and the fact that the reserve fund is fully depleted.

Class	Available credit enhancement, excluding defaulted credits (%)
A2a	17.21
A2b	17.21
B	8.07
C	0.46
D	(9.30)

Hipocat 9 features a reserve fund, which was fully funded at closing with the proceeds of the issuance of class E notes and which can amortize to a target amount. At present it is fully depleted because it was used to provision for defaulted assets in the past.

Severe delinquencies of more than 90 days, excluding defaults, are 1.88%, which is below our Spanish residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS) index, although they have been above the index in the past (see "Spanish RMBS Index Report Q1 2017," published on June 1, 2017).

Mortgage credits in arrears for more than 18 months are classified as defaulted in this transaction, and, consequently, artificially written off. The outstanding balance of defaulted assets is significantly higher than in other Spanish RMBS transactions that we rate, at about 14%, because severe delinquencies rolled into defaults in the past. Due to the lack of available resources, as of July 2017 the balance of defaulted collateral that the transaction was not able to provision for in advance totaled €20.20 million. Prepayment levels remain low and we believe that the transaction is unlikely to pay down significantly in the near term.

About 67% of the collateral pool is concentrated in Catalonia, which was the

home region of the originator. Specifically, approximately 60% of the pool is concentrated in the province of Barcelona. We have considered this high concentration limit in our analysis. Since the pool exceeds both the threshold province and region concentration limits, we have applied the higher province adjustment.

After applying our European residential loans criteria to this transaction, our credit analysis results show a decrease in the weighted-average foreclosure frequency (WAFF) and a decrease in the weighted-average loss severity (WALS) for all rating levels.

Based on recent information received from the trustee on the low use of the payment holiday flexibility by borrowers on this pool and our analysis of the performance of credits that used this flexibility in the past and once the payment holiday period had elapsed, we have reassessed our view of the risks in relation to payment holidays. We have concluded that the use of the payment holiday flexibility feature in Hipocat transactions does not imply a potential payment shock. At the same time, we have reflected the recent performance data, in combination with improved macroeconomic conditions, and more specifically the decrease in the unemployment rate, by not projecting arrears in addition to the existing arrears in the pool in our credit analysis. The combination of these two variables has had a positive effect on our credit analysis. In addition, the current WAFF level reflects the benefit from the increased seasoning. The decreased WALS factors in the decrease in the current loan-to-value ratio, due to the amortization of the pool, coupled with the application of our revised market value decline assumptions. The overall effect is a decrease in the required credit coverage for all rating levels.

Rating level	WAFF (%)	WALS (%)	CC (%)
AAA	25.99	35.44	9.21
AA	19.62	31.53	6.19
A	16.22	24.21	3.93
BBB	11.84	20.26	2.40
BB	7.76	17.47	1.36
B	6.60	14.89	0.98

CC--Credit coverage.

We have considered in our cash flow analysis the credits with the payment holiday option, by delaying a proportion of scheduled interest and principal receipts in line with our European residential loans criteria.

The collection account is held with Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria, S.A. (BBVA; BBB+/Positive/A-2) in the name of the servicer, BBVA. As a consequence, the transaction is exposed to commingling risk. However, since our ratings in this transaction are at or below the rating on the servicer, we have not stressed commingling loss in our cash flow analysis in line with our current counterparty criteria. Consequently, our ratings on the notes are constrained by our long-term issuer credit rating on BBVA.

BBVA is the swap counterparty. The replacement language in the swap agreement is in line with our current counterparty criteria. The hedge agreement mitigates basis risk arising from the different indexes used by the securitized assets and the notes, based on a notional. Under this agreement, the swap counterparty pays the coupon on the notes and includes an additional margin of 65 basis points. If the balance of credits taking a payment holiday exceeds 35% of the outstanding collateral balance, the swap notional (which is the performing balance up to 90 days in arrears) will include the balance of credits in payment holiday. The swap counterparty also pays the servicer fees in case of substitution.

Our credit and cash flow analysis indicates that the class A2a, A2b, and B notes now have sufficient credit enhancement to pass our stresses at higher ratings than those currently assigned, without giving credit to the swap. We have therefore raised our ratings on these classes of notes.

Due to the negative reference index (three-month Euro Interbank Offered Rate [EURIBOR]) the coupon accrued by the class C notes is zero. Therefore, this class of notes has not missed any timely interest payments to date, despite the fact that interest on this class was deferred after senior class principal amortization in the priority of payments. However, under our criteria for assigning 'CCC' category ratings, we rate an issue 'CC' when we expect default to be a virtual certainty, regardless of the time to default (see "Criteria For Assigning 'CCC+', 'CCC', 'CCC-', And 'CC' Ratings," published on Oct. 1, 2012). Given the insufficiency of available resources, we expect that the class C notes will default even under the most optimistic collateral performance scenario because the default will be due to interest rate movement. Therefore, we have lowered to 'CC (sf)' from 'CCC- (sf)' our rating on the class C notes.

The class D notes do not pay timely interest due to the lack of excess spread in the transaction. Our ratings in Hipocat 9 address the timely payment of interest and ultimate principal during the transaction's life. We have therefore affirmed our 'D (sf)' rating on the class D notes, in line with our criteria (see "Timeliness Of Payments: Grace Periods, Guarantees, And Use Of 'D' And 'SD' Ratings," published on Oct. 24, 2013).

Our European residential loans criteria set the minimum projected losses at 0.35% at the 'B' rating level. The projected losses that we compare with these credit coverage floors include the negative carry resulting from interest due on the rated liabilities during the foreclosure period. Projected losses with interest meet the minimum floor level at the 'B' rating level.

In our opinion, the outlook for the Spanish residential mortgage and real estate market is not benign, and we have therefore increased our expected 'B' foreclosure frequency assumption to 3.33% from 2.00%, when we apply our European residential loans criteria, to reflect this view (see "Outlook Assumptions For the Spanish Residential Mortgage Market," published on June

24, 2016). We base these assumptions on our expectation of modest economic growth, continuing high unemployment, and house price stabilization during 2017.

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#### RELATED CRITERIA

- Legal Criteria: Structured Finance: Asset Isolation And Special-Purpose Entity Methodology, March 29, 2017
- Criteria - Structured Finance - General: Methodology And Assumptions: Assessing Pools Of European Residential Loans, Dec. 23, 2016
- Criteria - Structured Finance - General: Ratings Above The Sovereign - Structured Finance: Methodology And Assumptions, Aug. 8, 2016
- Criteria - Structured Finance - General: Structured Finance Temporary Interest Shortfall Methodology, Dec. 15, 2015
- Criteria - Structured Finance - General: Methodology: Criteria For Global Structured Finance Transactions Subject To A Change In Payment Priorities Or Sale Of Collateral Upon A Nonmonetary EOD, March 2, 2015
- Criteria - Structured Finance - General: Global Framework For Assessing Operational Risk In Structured Finance Transactions, Oct. 9, 2014
- General Criteria: Methodology: Timeliness Of Payments: Grace Periods, Guarantees, And Use Of 'D' And 'SD' Ratings, Oct. 24, 2013
- General Criteria: Methodology Applied To Bank Branch-Supported Transactions, Oct. 14, 2013
- Criteria - Structured Finance - General: Counterparty Risk Framework Methodology And Assumptions, June 25, 2013
- Criteria - Structured Finance - General: Global Derivative Agreement Criteria, June 24, 2013
- General Criteria: Criteria For Assigning 'CCC+', 'CCC', 'CCC-', And 'CC' Ratings, Oct. 1, 2012
- Criteria - Structured Finance - General: Criteria Methodology Applied To Fees, Expenses, And Indemnifications, July 12, 2012
- General Criteria: Methodology: Credit Stability Criteria, May 3, 2010
- Criteria - Structured Finance - General: Standard & Poor's Revises Criteria Methodology For Servicer Risk Assessment, May 28, 2009

#### RELATED RESEARCH

- 2017 EMEA RMBS Scenario And Sensitivity Analysis, July 6, 2017
- Credit Conditions: Europe Displays Financial Calm, But What About The Brexit And QE Clouds Ahead?, June 30, 2017
- Spanish RMBS Index Report Q1 2017, June 1, 2017
- European Economic Snapshots For 2Q 2017 Published, May 15, 2017
- Outlook On Spain-Based BBVA And Santander Consumer Finance Revised To Positive Following Action On Sovereign, April 3, 2017

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- Credit Conditions: Europe's Recovery Is On Track, But Not Without Risks Of Derailment Or Disruption, March 31, 2017
- Kingdom of Spain Outlook Revised To Positive On Strong And Balanced Economic Performance; 'BBB+/A-2' Ratings Affirmed, March 31, 2017
- Economic Research: Europe's Housing Markets Continue To Recover Amid Extended QE, Feb. 15, 2017
- Global Structured Finance Scenario And Sensitivity Analysis 2016: The Effects Of The Top Five Macroeconomic Factors, Dec. 16, 2016
- European Structured Finance Scenario And Sensitivity Analysis 2016: The Effects Of The Top Five Macroeconomic Factors, Dec. 16, 2016
- Outlook Assumptions For the Spanish Residential Mortgage Market, June 24, 2016
- Various Rating Actions Taken In Spanish RMBS Transaction Hipocat 9 Following Application Of Updated Criteria, Nov. 6, 2014

RATINGS LIST

Class	To	Rating	From
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Hipocat 9, Fondo de Titulizacion de Activos  
€1.016 Billion Residential Mortgage-Backed Floating-Rate Notes

Ratings Raised

A2a	BBB- (sf)	BB- (sf)
A2b	BBB- (sf)	BB- (sf)
B	BB- (sf)	B- (sf)

Rating Lowered

C	CC (sf)	CCC- (sf)
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Rating Affirmed

D	D (sf)
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