

## Otra Información Relevante de HIPOCAT 7 FONDO DE TITULIZACIÓN DE ACTIVOS

En virtud de lo establecido en el Folleto Informativo de **HIPOCAT 7 FONDO DE TITULIZACIÓN DE ACTIVOS** (el "**Fondo**") se comunica a la COMISIÓN NACIONAL DEL MERCADO DE VALORES la presente información relevante:

• La Agencia de Calificación **Fitch Ratings** ("**Fitch**"), con fecha 5 de octubre de 2021, comunica que ha elevado las calificaciones asignadas a las siguientes Series de Bonos emitidos por el Fondo:

• Serie C: AAAsf (anterior AAsf)

• Serie D: Asf (anterior A-sf)

Asimismo, Fitch ha afirmado las calificaciones asignadas las restantes Series de Bonos emitidos por el Fondo:

Serie A2: AAAsf

Serie B: AAAsf

Se adjunta la comunicación emitida por Fitch.

Madrid, 4 de noviembre de 2021.



DECOVEDY

## Fitch Takes Rating Action on 3 Spanish RMBS

Fitch Ratings - Madrid - 05 Oct 2021: Fitch Ratings has upgraded two tranches of Hipocat 7, FTA and one tranche of Hipocat 8, FTA, affirmed the others and removed two tranches from Rating Watch Positive (RWP). Fitch has also affirmed Bancaja 13, FTA. A full list of rating actions is below.

## **Rating Actions**

CNITITY/DEDT

DATING

ENTITY/DEBT RATING			RECOVERY	PRIOR
Hipocat 7, FTA				
• Class A2 LT ES0345783015	AAAsf <b>©</b>	Affirmed		AAAsf <b>O</b>
• Class B LT ES0345783023	AAAsf <b>©</b>	Affirmed		AAAsf <b>©</b>
• Class C LT ES0345783031	AAAsf <b>©</b>	Upgrade		AAsf <b>©</b>
• Class D LT ES0345783049	Asf <b>©</b>	Upgrade		A-sf ♦
Hipocat 8, FTA				

ENTITY/DEBT	RATING			RECOVERY	PRIOR
• Class A2 ES03457		A+sf <b>●</b>	Affirmed		A+sf •
• Class B ES03457		A+sf <b>©</b>	Affirmed		A+sf <b>©</b>
• Class C ES03457		A+sf <b>□</b>	Affirmed		A+sf <b>○</b>
• Class D ES03457		BBB-sf <b>©</b>	Upgrade		BBsf <del>♦</del>
Bancaja 13, FTA					
• Class A ES03128	LT 47009	A+sf <b>©</b>	Affirmed		A+sf <b>©</b>
RATINGS KEY	OUTLOOK '	WATCH			
POSITIVE	•	<b>♦</b>			
NEGATIVE	•	<b>\$</b>			
EVOLVING	•	•			
STABLE	0				

**Transaction Summary** 

The transactions comprise residential mortgages serviced by BBVA S.A. for the Hipocat deals (BBVA, BBB+/Stable/F2) and Caixabank S.A. for Bancaja 13 (Caixabank, BBB+/Stable/F2).

#### **KEY RATING DRIVERS**

**Performance Outlook, Removal of Additional Stresses:** The upgrades and removals from RWP mainly reflect the removal of the additional stresses in relation to the coronavirus outbreak and legal developments in Catalonia as announced on 22 July 2021 (see "Fitch Retires EMEA RMBS Coronavirus Additional Stress Scenario Analysis, Except UK Non-Conforming", "Fitch Retires Additional Stress Scenario Analysis for Spanish RMBS Linked to Catalonia Decree Law", and "Correction: Fitch Places or Maintains 121 EMEA RMBS Ratings on RWP on Additional Stress Scenario Retirement" at www.fitchratings.com).

All rating actions are based on the broadly stable asset performance outlook. This is driven by the low share of loans in arrears over 90 days (ranging between 0.3% and 0.8% of the current portfolio balance (CPB)) and the improved macro-economic outlook for Spain, as described in Fitch's latest Global Economic Outlook dated September 2021.

**Rating Caps due to Counterparty Risks:** Fitch views Hipocat 8 as exposed to payment interruption risk (PIR) in the event of a servicer disruption. Current liquidity sources are sufficient to cover senior fees, net swap payments and senior notes' interest during a minimum three months needed to implement alternative servicing arrangements. However, as the reserve fund can be drawn to cover credit losses, we believe its balance can be depleted in a stress scenario, as it has been in the past, and not be available to cover PIR. As a result, the notes' maximum achievable rating is in the 'Asf' category, in line with Fitch's Structured Finance and Covered Bonds Counterparty Rating Criteria.

Hipocat 7's class D notes' rating is capped at the long-term deposit rating (LT-DR) of the issuer's account bank provider (Société Génerale; 'A /F1') because all the available credit enhancement (CE) for this class of notes is the reserve deposited with this entity. Hipocat 8's class D notes could also be capped for the same reason, but are currently rated below this level.

Bancaja 13's class A notes' rating is limited to 'A+sf' due to documented counterparty provisions. The replacement trigger on the account bank is set at 'BBB', which according to our Structured Finance and Covered Bonds Counterparty Criteria cannot support ratings in the 'AAsf' or above categories.

**CE Trends:** The rating actions reflect Fitch's view that the notes are sufficiently protected by CE to absorb the level of losses commensurate with prevailing and higher rating scenarios. We expect CE ratios for Hipocat 7 and Hipocat 8 to remain broadly stable in the short to medium term, due to the current pro-rata amortisation of the notes, and to increase after the mandatory switch to sequential once the portfolio balances fall below 10% of the initial amount (currently at 10.9% and 12.2%, respectively). For Bancaja 13, CE ratios could continue to increase in the short term as the transaction is currently amortising sequentially, due to the reserve fund being below its target (currently 70.2%).

Fitch's analysis of Hipocat 7 and Hipocat 8 is subject to a performance adjustment factor floor of 100%, reflecting the absence of data on outstanding defaults in the servicer's reporting between January 2017

and August 2018.

**Regional Concentration:** The portfolios are exposed to geographical concentration in the regions of Catalonia (between 62.9% and 81.4% of the CPB for the Hipocat deals) and Valencia (43.3% of CPB in Bancaja 13). In line with Fitch's European RMBS rating criteria, higher rating multiples are applied to the base foreclosure frequency assumption to the portion of the portfolios that exceeds two and a half times the population share of these regions relative to the national count.

**ESG Considerations:** Bancaja 13 has an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Relevance Score of '5' for "Transaction Parties and Operational Risk" due to account bank eligibility thresholds, which has a negative impact on the credit profile, and is highly relevant to the rating, resulting in a downward adjustment to the ratings by at least one notch.

Hipocat 8 has an ESG Relevance Score of '5' for Transaction & Collateral Structure due to unmitigated payment interruption risk, which has a negative impact on the credit profile, and is highly relevant to the rating, resulting in a downward adjustment to the ratings by at least one notch.

#### **RATING SENSITIVITIES**

# Factors that could, individually or collectively, lead to negative rating action/downgrade:

- For Hipocat 7's class A and B notes, a downgrade of Spain's Long-Term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) that could decrease the maximum achievable rating for Spanish structured finance transactions. This is because these notes are rated at the maximum achievable rating, six notches above the sovereign IDR.
- For Hipocat 7's class D notes, a downgrade of Sociétés Générale LT-DR as it is the SPV account bank provider, and the notes' rating is capped at the bank's rating due to excessive counterparty risk exposure.
- Long-term asset performance deterioration such as increased delinquencies or larger defaults, which could be driven by changes to macroeconomic conditions, interest rate increases or borrower behavior.

## Factors that could, individually or collectively, lead to positive rating action/upgrade:

- Hipocat 7's class A, B and C notes are rated at the highest level on Fitch's scale and cannot be upgraded.
- For Hipocat 7's class D notes, an upgrade of Société Générale's LT-DR as the notes' rating is capped at the bank's rating due to excessive counterparty risk exposure to the account bank.
- For Hipocat 8's class D notes, CE ratios increase as the transactions deleverage, able to fully compensate the credit losses and cash flow stresses commensurate with higher rating scenarios, all else being equal.
- Hipocat 8's class A, B and C notes' ratings could be upgraded if improved liquidity protection fully

mitigates PIR. This is because the ratings are currently capped at 'A+sf' due to unmitigated PIR.

- Bancaja 13's senior notes' rating is limited to 'A+sf'. To be upgraded above this level, the contractual provisions for account bank replacement would need to be amended to a level commensurate with a higher rating. Fitch would also request an explicit commitment from the issuer to comply with the reviewed eligibility triggers.

#### **Best/Worst Case Rating Scenario**

International scale credit ratings of Structured Finance transactions have a best-case rating upgrade scenario (defined as the 99th percentile of rating transitions, measured in a positive direction) of seven notches over a three-year rating horizon; and a worst-case rating downgrade scenario (defined as the 99th percentile of rating transitions, measured in a negative direction) of seven notches over three years. The complete span of best- and worst-case scenario credit ratings for all rating categories ranges from 'AAAsf' to 'Dsf'. Best- and worst-case scenario credit ratings are based on historical performance. For more information about the methodology used to determine sector-specific best- and worst-case scenario credit ratings, visit https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/10111579.

### USE OF THIRD PARTY DUE DILIGENCE PURSUANT TO SEC RULE 17G -10

Form ABS Due Diligence-15E was not provided to, or reviewed by, Fitch in relation to this rating action.

## **DATA ADEQUACY**

Bancaja 13, FTA, Hipocat 7, FTA, Hipocat 8, FTA

Fitch has checked the consistency and plausibility of the information it has received about the performance of the asset pools and the transactions. Fitch has not reviewed the results of any third-party assessment of the asset portfolio information or conducted a review of origination files as part of its ongoing monitoring.

Fitch did not undertake a review of the information provided about the underlying asset pools ahead of the transaction's initial closing. The subsequent performance of the transactions over the years is consistent with the agency's expectations given the operating environment and Fitch is therefore satisfied that the asset pool information relied upon for its initial rating analysis was adequately reliable.

Overall, and together with any assumptions referred to above, Fitch's assessment of the information relied upon for the agency's rating analysis according to its applicable rating methodologies indicates that it is adequately reliable.

#### REFERENCES FOR SUBSTANTIALLY MATERIAL SOURCE CITED AS KEY DRIVER OF RATING

The principal sources of information used in the analysis are described in the Applicable Criteria.

#### PUBLIC RATINGS WITH CREDIT LINKAGE TO OTHER RATINGS.

Hipocat 7's class D notes are capped at Société Générale's LT-DR because they are exposed to excessive counterparty dependency risk. Although not currently at the cap, Hipocat 8's class D notes 'BBB-sf' rating is also limited by Société Générale's LT-DR for the same reason.

#### **ESG Considerations**

Bancaja 13 has an ESG Relevance Score of '5' for "Transaction Parties and Operational Risk" due to account bank eligibility thresholds, which has a negative impact on the credit profile, and is highly relevant to the rating, resulting in a downward adjustment to the ratings by at least one notch.

Hipocat 8 has an ESG Relevance Score of '5' for Transaction & Collateral Structure due to unmitigated payment interruption risk, which has a negative impact on the credit profile, and is highly relevant to the rating, resulting in a downward adjustment to the ratings by at least one notch.

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 the entity, either due to their nature or the way in which they are being managed by the entity. For more information on Fitch's ESG Relevance Scores, visit www.fitchratings.com/esg

## **Fitch Ratings Analysts**

#### **Pablo Rubio**

Senior Analyst
Secondary Rating Analyst
+34 91 076 1984

#### **Pablo Rubio**

Senior Analyst
Surveillance Rating Analyst
+34 91 076 1984
Fitch Ratings Spain - Madrid Paseo de la Castellana 31 9°B Madrid 28046

#### **Raul Domingo Gonzalez**

Senior Director Committee Chairperson +33 1 44 29 91 70

#### **Media Contacts**

#### **Athos Larkou**

London +44 20 3530 1549 athos.larkou@thefitchgroup.com

## **Applicable Criteria**

European RMBS Rating Criteria (pub.15 Sep 2021) (including rating assumption sensitivity)

Global Structured Finance Rating Criteria (pub.24 Mar 2021) (including rating assumption sensitivity)

Structured Finance and Covered Bonds Counterparty Rating Criteria (pub.29 Jan 2020)

Structured Finance and Covered Bonds Counterparty Rating Criteria: Derivative Addendum (pub.29 Jan 2020)

Structured Finance and Covered Bonds Country Risk Rating Criteria (pub.23 Sep 2020)

Structured Finance and Covered Bonds Interest Rate Stresses Rating Criteria (pub.20 Sep 2021)

## **Applicable Models**

Numbers in parentheses accompanying applicable model(s) contain hyperlinks to criteria providing description of model(s).

Multi-Asset Cash Flow Model, v2.11.0 (1)

ResiGlobal Model: Europe, v1.7.1 (1)

#### **Additional Disclosures**

**Solicitation Status** 

#### **Endorsement Status**

Bancaja 13, FTA EU Issued, UK Endorsed

Hipocat 7, FTA EU Issued, UK Endorsed

Hipocat 8, FTA EU Issued, UK Endorsed

#### Disclaimer

ALL FITCH CREDIT RATINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN LIMITATIONS AND DISCLAIMERS. PLEASE READ THESE LIMITATIONS AND DISCLAIMERS BY FOLLOWING THIS LINK:

HTTPS://www.fitchratings.com/understandingcreditratings. In addition, the following https://www.fitchratings.com/rating-definitions-document details fitch's rating definitions for each rating scale and rating categories, including definitions relating to default. Published ratings, criteria, and methodologies are available from this site at all times. Fitch's code of conduct, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, affiliate firewall, compliance, and other relevant policies and procedures are also available from the code of conduct section of this site. Directors and shareholders relevant interests are available at https://www.fitchratings.com/site/regulatory. Fitch may have provided another permissible service or ancillary service to the rated entity or its related third parties. Details of permissible service(s) for which the lead analyst is based in an esma- or fca-registered fitch ratings company (or branch of such a company) or ancillary service(s) can be found on the entity summary page for this issuer on the fitch ratings website.

## Copyright

Copyright © 2021 by Fitch Ratings, Inc., Fitch Ratings Ltd. and its subsidiaries. 33 Whitehall Street, NY, NY 10004. Telephone: 1-800-753-4824, (212) 908-0500. Fax: (212) 480-4435. Reproduction or retransmission in whole or in part is prohibited except by permission. All rights reserved. In issuing and maintaining its ratings and in making other reports (including forecast information), Fitch relies on factual information it receives from issuers and underwriters and from other sources Fitch believes to be credible. Fitch conducts a reasonable investigation of the factual information relied upon by it in accordance with its ratings methodology, and obtains reasonable verification of that information from independent sources, to the extent such sources are available for a given security or in a given jurisdiction. The manner of Fitch's factual investigation and the scope of the third-party verification it obtains will vary depending on the nature of the rated security and its issuer, the requirements and practices in the jurisdiction in which the rated security is offered and sold and/or the issuer is located, the availability and nature of relevant public information, access to the management of the issuer and its advisers, the availability of pre-existing third-party verifications such as audit reports, agreed-upon procedures letters, appraisals, actuarial reports, engineering reports, legal opinions and other reports provided by third parties, the availability of independent and competent third- party verification sources with respect to the particular security or in the particular jurisdiction of the issuer, and a variety of other factors. Users of Fitch's ratings and reports should understand that neither an enhanced factual investigation nor any third-party verification can ensure that all of the information Fitch relies on in connection with a rating or a report will be accurate and complete. Ultimately, the issuer and its advisers are responsible for the accuracy of the information they provide to Fitch and to the market in offering documents and other reports. In issuing its ratings and its reports, Fitch must rely on the work of experts, including independent auditors with respect to financial statements and attorneys with respect to legal and tax matters. Further, ratings and forecasts of financial and other

information are inherently forward-looking and embody assumptions and predictions about future events that by their nature cannot be verified as facts. As a result, despite any verification of current facts, ratings and forecasts can be affected by future events or conditions that were not anticipated at the time a rating or forecast was issued or affirmed.

The information in this report is provided "as is" without any representation or warranty of any kind, and Fitch does not represent or warrant that the report or any of its contents will meet any of the requirements of a recipient of the report. A Fitch rating is an opinion as to the creditworthiness of a security. This opinion and reports made by Fitch are based on established criteria and methodologies that Fitch is continuously evaluating and updating. Therefore, ratings and reports are the collective work product of Fitch and no individual, or group of individuals, is solely responsible for a rating or a report. The rating does not address the risk of loss due to risks other than credit risk, unless such risk is specifically mentioned. Fitch is not engaged in the offer or sale of any security. All Fitch reports have shared authorship. Individuals identified in a Fitch report were involved in, but are not solely responsible for, the opinions stated therein. The individuals are named for contact purposes only. A report providing a Fitch rating is neither a prospectus nor a substitute for the information assembled, verified and presented to investors by the issuer and its agents in connection with the sale of the securities. Ratings may be changed or withdrawn at any time for any reason in the sole discretion of Fitch. Fitch does not provide investment advice of any sort. Ratings are not a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any security. Ratings do not comment on the adequacy of market price, the suitability of any security for a particular investor, or the tax-exempt nature or taxability of payments made in respect to any security. Fitch receives fees from issuers, insurers, guarantors, other obligors, and underwriters for rating securities. Such fees generally vary from US\$1,000 to US\$750,000 (or the applicable currency equivalent) per issue. In certain cases, Fitch will rate all or a number of issues issued by a particular issuer, or insured or guaranteed by a particular insurer or guarantor, for a single annual fee. Such fees are expected to vary from US\$10,000 to US\$1,500,000 (or the applicable currency equivalent). The assignment, publication, or dissemination of a rating by Fitch shall not constitute a consent by Fitch to use its name as an expert in connection with any registration statement filed under the United States securities laws, the Financial Services and Markets Act of 2000 of the United Kingdom, or the securities laws of any particular jurisdiction. Due to the relative efficiency of electronic publishing and distribution, Fitch research may be available to electronic subscribers up to three days earlier than to print subscribers.

For Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan and South Korea only: Fitch Australia Pty Ltd holds an Australian financial services license (AFS license no. 337123) which authorizes it to provide credit ratings to wholesale clients only. Credit ratings information published by Fitch is not intended to be used by persons who are retail clients within the meaning of the Corporations Act 2001 Fitch Ratings, Inc. is registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization (the "NRSRO"). While certain of the NRSRO's credit rating subsidiaries are listed on Item 3 of Form NRSRO and as such are authorized to issue credit ratings on behalf of the NRSRO (see <a href="https://www.fitchratings.com/site/regulatory">https://www.fitchratings.com/site/regulatory</a>), other credit rating subsidiaries are not listed on Form NRSRO (the "non-NRSROs") and therefore credit ratings issued by those subsidiaries are not issued on behalf of the NRSRO. However, non-NRSRO personnel may participate in determining credit ratings issued by or on behalf of the NRSRO.

## **Endorsement policy**

Fitch's international credit ratings produced outside the EU or the UK, as the case may be, are endorsed for use by regulated entities within the EU or the UK, respectively, for regulatory purposes, pursuant to the terms of the EU CRA Regulation or the UK Credit Rating Agencies (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, as the case may be. Fitch's approach to endorsement in the EU and the UK can be found on Fitch's Regulatory Affairs page on Fitch's website. The endorsement status of international credit ratings is provided within the entity summary page for each rated entity and in the transaction detail pages for structured finance transactions on the Fitch website. These disclosures are updated on a daily basis.