

CREDIT OPINION

27 September 2019

Update



Rate this Research

RATINGS

RCI Banque

Domicile	France
Long Term CRR	A3
Туре	LT Counterparty Risk Rating - Fgn Curr
Outlook	Not Assigned
Long Term Debt	Baa1
Туре	Senior Unsecured - Fgn Curr
Outlook	Stable
Long Term Deposit	Baa1
Туре	LT Bank Deposits - Fgn Curr
Outlook	Stable

Please see the <u>ratings section</u> at the end of this report for more information. The ratings and outlook shown reflect information as of the publication date.

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RCI Banque

Update to credit analysis

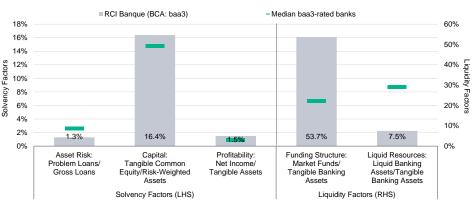
Summary

RCI Banque's (RCI) Baa1 long-term senior unsecured debt and deposit ratings reflect the bank's Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA) and Adjusted BCA of baa3; and (2) two notches of uplift under our Advanced Loss Given Failure (LGF) analysis, stemming from the large volume of senior long-term debt.

The baa3 BCA is supported by the bank's role as a strategic captive for Renault S.A. (Baa3, stable) and its sound risk management and financial fundamentals. The bank's earnings streams are strong and stable, credit losses on its retail and corporate exposures are currently low and capitalisation is commensurate with its risk profile. At the same time, the BCA is constrained by the bank's lack of business diversification and large exposures to car dealers.

RCI's strategic role within the Renault/Nissan Alliance results in its standalone creditworthiness being closely tied to the strengths and weaknesses of its parent. RCI's ratings do not benefit from any affiliate support uplift from its parent because Renault's rating is at the same level as RCI's BCA (Baa3).

Exhibit 1
Rating Scorecard - Key financial ratios



Source: Moody's Financial Metrics

Credit strengths

- » RCI is essential to its parent's strategy.
- » The bank's asset risk is moderate.
- » Capitalization is commensurate with the bank's risk profile.
- » RCI has maintained strong profitability through the credit cycle.
- » The bank has limited refinancing risk, an increasing deposit base and adequate liquidity buffer.

Credit challenges

- » RCI's risk profile remains high mainly because of its captive status and lack of business diversification.
- » The car market is cyclical.
- » The bank has some credit concentration vis-à-vis car dealers.
- » The bank relies on wholesale funding to a significant degree.

Outlook

RCI's deposit and senior unsecured debt ratings carry a stable outlook, in line with the stable outlook on Renault's rating.

Factors that could lead to an upgrade

- » Given the high probability of support, RCI's Adjusted BCA could be upgraded because of an upgrade of its parent, Renault. RCI's BCA could be upgraded following (1) a material reduction in its reliance on wholesale funding, or (2) any material improvement in asset quality or solvency. We consider that the BCA of a financial captive such as RCI is unlikely to exceed the carmaker's rating (that of Renault) by more than one notch.
- » An upgrade of the BCA or the Adjusted BCA would likely prompt an upgrade of the bank's deposit and senior unsecured ratings. Under our Advanced LGF analysis, the long-term and short-term deposit and senior unsecured debt ratings could be upgraded if there is significant issuance of more junior instruments, which we do not expect in the short term.

Factors that could lead to a downgrade

» A downgrade of RCI's ratings could materialise if (1) Renault's rating were downgraded by more than one notch; or (2) the bank's credit fundamentals deteriorated.

This publication does not announce a credit rating action. For any credit ratings referenced in this publication, please see the ratings tab on the issuer/entity page on www.moodys.com for the most updated credit rating action information and rating history.

Key indicators

Exhibit 2
RCI Banque (Consolidated Financials) [1]

	06-19 ²	12-18 ²	12-17 ²	12-16 ²	12-15 ²	CAGR/Avg. ³
Total Assets (EUR Million)	56,599.0	53,394.0	49,709.0	43,320.0	37,073.0	12.8 ⁴
Total Assets (USD Million)	64,454.7	61,037.1	59,690.4	45,691.9	40,272.2	14.4 ⁴
Tangible Common Equity (EUR Million)	5,550.0	5,192.0	4,615.0	3,976.0	3,384.0	15.2 ⁴
Tangible Common Equity (USD Million)	6,320.3	5,935.2	5,541.7	4,193.7	3,676.0	16.74
Problem Loans / Gross Loans (%)	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.5	2.5	1.6 ⁵
Tangible Common Equity / Risk Weighted Assets (%)	16.4	16.3	15.6	16.1	15.9	16.1 ⁶
Problem Loans / (Tangible Common Equity + Loan Loss Reserve) (%)	9.7	10.4	10.8	12.8	19.9	12.7 ⁵
Net Interest Margin (%)	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	3.0	2.7 ⁵
PPI / Average RWA (%)	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.4	4.6	4.3 ⁶
Net Income / Tangible Assets (%)	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5 ⁵
Cost / Income Ratio (%)	31.4	29.8	32.0	31.4	31.5	31.2 ⁵
Market Funds / Tangible Banking Assets (%)	53.7	53.7	53.4	54.5	55.7	54.2 ⁵
Liquid Banking Assets / Tangible Banking Assets (%)	8.7	7.5	7.5	7.0	9.3	8.0 ⁵
Gross Loans / Due to Customers (%)	284.2	288.2	283.5	296.3	300.1	290.4 ⁵

[1] All figures and ratios are adjusted using Moody's standard adjustments. [2] Basel III - fully-loaded or transitional phase-in; IFRS. [3] May include rounding differences due to scale of reported amounts. [4] Compound Annual Growth Rate (%) based on time period presented for the latest accounting regime. [5] Simple average of periods presented for the latest accounting regime. [6] Simple average of Basel III periods presented.

Source: Moody's Investors Service; Company Filings

Profile

RCI Banque (RCI) adopted its current name in 2002. Previously named Renault Crédit International, RCI became the sole shareholder of Diac SA (founded in 1924) and obtained its banking licence in 1991.

RCI is a captive finance company and a wholly owned subsidiary of the French auto manufacturer Renault. The bank provides sales financing for Renault Group's brands (Renault, Renault Samsung Motors and Dacia) worldwide and for Nissan Group's brands (Nissan, Infiniti and Datsun) mainly in Europe and South America. It also operates through joint ventures in Russia and India. As of June 2019, the bank operated commercially in 36 countries, divided into five major world regions: Europe, the Americas, Africa-Middle East-India, Eurasia and Asia Pacific.

For new vehicles (cars and light utility vehicles) registered by Renault and Nissan worldwide, RCI reported a 41.3% financing penetration rate¹ and a consolidated balance sheet of €56.6 billion as of the end of June 2019.

Because RCI is chartered as a bank, it has to comply with all European regulations (Capital Requirements Directive [CRD5], Capital Requirements Regulation [CRR2], Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive [BRRD2], among others). The bank has been supervised by the European Central Bank since January 2016 because it is considered a significant institution given the size of its balance sheet. In February 2016, RCI adopted a new commercial name, RCI Bank and Services.

Detailed credit considerations

RCI is a key vehicle for the strategy of its industrial parent, Renault

RCI is a wholly owned captive finance company that supports the sales of the Renault/Nissan Alliance by offering auto loans to customers (both individuals and corporates) and loans to dealers to help them finance their inventories and activities. RCI also offers related services such as maintenance, insurance and roadside assistance. Lastly, the bank collects deposits through online savings accounts in France, Germany, Austria, the UK and Brazil to diversify its funding base.

Loans to retail customers and corporate clients excluding dealers (€38 billion as of the end of June 2019) can also take the form of long-term leases. Leases are almost exclusively finance leases (€12.7 billion as of the end of June 2019) and, to a much lesser extent, operating leases (€1.1 billion net of depreciation and impairments as of the end of June 2019).

Ancillary products and services, such as insurance, warrantee extensions and maintenance contracts, have been developed so as to improve customer loyalty and are growing rapidly. While these services are an integral part of RCI's financing and mobility offering and boost RCI's revenue, we believe they do not materially enhance the bank's diversification, which remains mainly focused on existing customers of the Renault/Nissan Alliance car brands.

Asset risks are moderate despite some concentration vis-à-vis car dealers

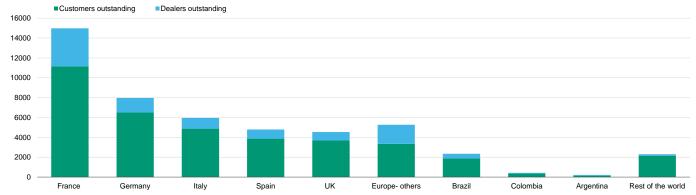
As of the end of June 2019, RCl's problem loans to customers was stable at around 1.2% of gross loans. The portfolio was well provisioned, with stage 3 loan-loss reserves accounting for 67% of problem loans in the customer loan book and 47% in the dealer loan book. Asset performance has been stable since 2015, with an annual cost of risk of less than 40 basis points (bps) of average outstanding loans. For the first half of 2019 (H1 2019), the bank's cost of risk was 40 basis points (bps) of average performing assets, slightly up from H1 2018 (33 bps).

One of RCl's main risks is the lack of business diversification because it is a captive specialised institution. As such, a downturn in sales volumes of Renault/Nissan Alliance brands would likely result in lower origination volumes and, therefore, lower revenues. Credit risk concentration in car dealers is high and represented around 20% of the bank's loan book of €49 billion as of the end of June 2019. Although we recognise that this portfolio, which comprises a large number of borrowers, has performed well in the past, we believe these exposures constitute a quasi-single risk, given the degree of correlation among car dealers' performance, in particular during a downturn.

Given that the bulk of the residual value risk on lease operations is borne by its parent company, the residual value risk at the level of RCI was limited to €1.9 billion as of the end of June 2019, slightly below the level reached as of year-end 2017 (€2 billion), resulting from both changes in the bank's commercial policy in the UK and changes in foreign-exchange rates.

Exhibit 3

Loan book mix at end-June 2019 : end-user customers and car dealers (€ million)



Source: RCI Banque's Investor presentation

Capitalisation is commensurate with the bank's risk profile

RCI reported a fully loaded Common Equity Tier 1 (CET 1) capital ratio of 14.6% as of the end of June 2019, well above the minimum regulatory requirement of 9.11%. Its fully loaded Tier 1 leverage ratio was 8.4% as of the same date (8.9% as of year-end 2018). We believe the bank's economic solvency is adequate, given its risk profile. This solvency is reflected in our assigned Capital score of aa3.

RCI has maintained strong profitability despite the cyclical nature of the car market

RCI consistently generated a comfortable net banking income exceeding 4% of average performing assets over the past five years (4.35% for H1 2019). The resilience of the bank's net interest income, representing around 70% of its net banking income, stems from profitable car-financing activities (including packaged products such as leasing associated with ancillary services, which are less price sensitive than plain vanilla loans), contained funding costs and the fact that RCI has been able to pass increases in funding costs onto its customers. The relatively long-term tenure of the car-financing contracts mitigates to some extent the effects of the car market cycles and reduces income volatility.

The bank also has good cost efficiency because of its low fixed costs, which accounted for around 1.36% of its average performing assets and resulted in a cost-to-income ratio of around 30% for H1 2019. This high cost efficiency reflects the fact that the bank benefits from various services provided by Renault (for example, distribution channels), as well as from the group's marketing initiatives.

RCI was fined by Italy's competition authority, Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e de Mercato (AGCM), on 9 January 2019, along with eight other auto captives, for exchange of commercial information on the main characteristics of their loans between 2003 and 2017. The fine imposed on RCI amounted to €125 million, representing around 15% of the bank's 2018 net profit. RCI announced that it will appeal the AGCM's decision but this will likely take more than two years to conclude. RCI also has a litigation in Switzerland on the same issue.

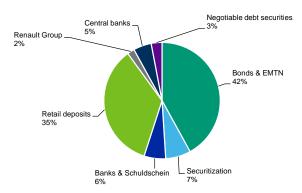
RCI relies on wholesale funding, a credit weakness, partly mitigated by its limited refinancing risk, increasing deposit base and adequate liquidity buffer

Wholesale funding represented around 65% of the bank's total funding as of the end of June 2019. This dependence on wholesale funding makes RCI vulnerable to sudden changes in investor confidence. Restricted market access could lead to higher funding costs, which would constrain loan origination. This would harm RCI's franchise and ultimately reduce its earnings generation, particularly if funding constraints coincide with higher loan impairments. Our assigned Combined Liquidity score of b1 reflects the relative weakness of the bank's funding and liquidity for the rating.

However, we recognise the facts that RCI (1) strives to match its assets and liabilities, thereby limiting maturity transformation and refinancing risk; and (2) has access to liquidity, principally in the form of committed bank credit lines to bridge any mismatches or temporary market access restrictions.

Positively, the bank (1) receives very limited funding from the Renault Group; and (2) has started collecting internet deposits from retail customers in 2012, which currently account for around one-third of net outstanding loans, at the level targeted by RCI.

Exhibit 4
Funding sources % total funding (June 2019)



Source: RCI Banque's Investor presentation

RCI claims to have a funding surplus because it finances its loan book with longer-term liabilities, resulting in little refinancing risk.

The bank has been able to issue in the markets debt of various maturities and in different currencies in the past couple of years. We also acknowledge the geographical diversification of the resources and investors. Securitisation is used both for funding purposes and to create assets eligible for central bank refinancing. As of the end of June 2019, securitisation represented 7% of the bank's funding. The bank still has a sizeable pool of assets that could be securitized. In a stress scenario, the bank should, therefore, be able to increase its recourse to securitisation to make its balance sheet more liquid and create European Central Bank-eligible assets.

Our Funding Structure score of b2 reflects the bank's large dependence on market funding.

RCI claims that it would be able to maintain its commercial business activity during 12 months while preserving a 100% liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) in a stressed liquidity scenario when it would be deprived of access to capital markets. RCI's liquidity buffer

amounted to €10.6 billion as of the end of June 2019, of which 29% were high-quality liquid assets (HQLAs) and 26% were assets eligible to European Central Bank refinancing.

Environmental, Social and Governance consideration Considerations

In line with our general view for the banking sector, RCI has a moderate exposure to Social risks, notwithstanding the aforementioned litigations in Italy and Switzerland.

Although banks have generally a low exposure to environmental risk, as explained in our Environmental risk heatmap, certain banks could however face a higher risk from concentrated lending to individual sectors or operations concentrated in disaster- prone areas or more generally to environmental risks. This is the case for RCI's because of its function as a captive bank of Renault, which like all car manufacturers, has an elevated exposure to Environmental risk (see also our Environmental risks heatmap for further information). RCI's environmental strategy is integrated with that of its parent company. Renault plans to achieve the stricter regulations on CO2 emissions through an increased share of battery electric vehicle, plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, vehicle optimizations and electrification of internal combustion engines.

Governance is highly relevant for RCI Banque, as it is to all players in the banking industry. Corporate governance weaknesses can lead to a deterioration in a company's credit quality, while governance strengths can benefit its credit profile. Governance risks are largely internal rather than externally driven, and for RCI Banque we do not have any particular governance concern. The bank's risk governance infrastructure is adequate and has not shown any major shortfall in recent years. Nonetheless, corporate governance remains a key credit consideration and requires ongoing monitoring.

Support and structural considerations

Affiliate support

We believe RCI benefits from a high probability of support from its parent, Renault. This view is underpinned by the bank's strategic importance to the car manufacturer. The bank is a wholly owned subsidiary of Renault and is fully integrated into its strategy. The bank finances around 40% of the new vehicles registered by Renault Group's brands, which highlights the critical importance of a financial captive as a means to facilitating car sales. The bank also plays a critical role for Renault through the financing of its dealer network.

To date, RCI's ratings have not benefited from any affiliate support uplift from Renault because Renault's rating was at the same level as the bank's BCA i.e. Baa3

Loss Given Failure (LGF) analysis

Our Advanced LGF analysis applies to RCI, given that the bank is subject to an operational resolution regime under the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive, which was transposed into French law on 20 August 2015.

In accordance with our methodology, we, therefore, apply our LGF analysis, considering the risks faced by the different debt and deposit classes across the liability structure should the bank be put on resolution. We assume a residual tangible common equity of 3% and post-failure losses of 8% of tangible banking assets, a 25% runoff in junior deposits and a 5% runoff in preferred deposits, and assign a 25% probability to deposits being preferred to senior unsecured debt. These are in line with our standard assumptions.

In addition, we apply a proportion of 10% of deposits considered junior, given that the deposit base is predominantly constituted of online retail deposits.

Under these assumptions, RCI's deposits and senior unsecured debt are likely to face a very low loss given failure because of the loss absorption provided by the large amount of senior unsecured debt. This results in a two-notch LGF uplift from the BCA (baa3) for both deposits and senior unsecured debt (Baa1).

Government support

We expect a low probability of government support for debt and deposits, resulting in no uplift for both the long-term deposits and senior unsecured debt issued by the bank.

Counterparty Risk (CR) Assessment

CR Assessments are opinions of how counterparty obligations are likely to be treated if a bank fails and are distinct from debt and deposit ratings in that they (1) consider only the risk of default rather than both the likelihood of default and the expected financial loss, and (2) apply to counterparty obligations and contractual commitments rather than debt or deposit instruments. The CR Assessment is an opinion of the counterparty risk related to a bank's covered bonds, contractual performance obligations (servicing), derivatives (for example, swaps), letters of credit, guarantees and liquidity facilities.

RCI's CR Assessment is positioned at A3(cr)/Prime-2(cr)

The CR Assessment, prior to government support, is positioned three notches above the Adjusted BCA of baa3, based on the buffer against default provided to the senior obligations represented by the CR Assessment by subordinated instruments, amounting to 41% of tangible banking assets. The main difference with our Advanced LGF approach used to determine instrument ratings is that the CR Assessment captures the probability of default on certain senior obligations, rather than expected loss; therefore, we focus purely on subordination and take no account of the volume of the instrument class.

Counterparty Risk Ratings (CRRs)

Our CRRs are opinions of the ability of entities to honour the uncollateralised portion of non-debt counterparty financial liabilities (CRR liabilities) and also reflect the expected financial losses in the event such liabilities are not honoured. CRR liabilities typically relate to transactions with unrelated parties. Examples of CRR liabilities include the uncollateralised portion of payables arising from derivatives transactions and the uncollateralised portion of liabilities under sale and repurchase agreements. CRRs are not applicable to funding commitments or other obligations associated with covered bonds, letters of credit, guarantees, servicer and trustee obligations, and other similar obligations that arise from a bank performing its essential operating functions.

RCI's CRRs are positioned at A3/Prime-2

The CRRs for RCI, prior to government support, are three notches higher than the Adjusted BCA of baa3, based on the level of subordination to CRR liabilities in the bank's balance sheet, and assuming a nominal volume of such liabilities.

Rating methodology and scorecard factors

Ruting methodolog	y arra scor	ccard	iuctois

Exhibit 5 RCI Banque										
Macro Factors							-			
	trong	100%								
Factor		Historic Ratio	Initial Score	Expected Trend	Assigne	ed Score	Key dr	iver #1	Key dı	river #2
Solvency							-			
Asset Risk										
Problem Loans / Gross Loans		1.3%	a1	\longleftrightarrow	a	13	Sector con	centration	_	run loss rmance
Capital										
Tangible Common Equity / Risk Weighted Ass	sets	16.4%	aa3	\longleftrightarrow	aa	a3	Risk-we	-		
(Basel III - transitional phase-in)							capital	isation		
Profitability										
Net Income / Tangible Assets		1.5%	a2	\longleftrightarrow	a	12	Earnings	s quality	Return	on assets
Combined Solvency Score			a1		a	12				
Liquidity										
Funding Structure										
Market Funds / Tangible Banking Assets		53.7%	b3	\longleftrightarrow	Ь)2	Extent o funding	f market reliance	Term s	tructure
Liquid Resources										
Liquid Banking Assets / Tangible Banking Asset	ets	7.5%	b1	$\leftarrow \rightarrow$	ba	a2	Acce committe			
Combined Liquidity Score			b2		b	1				
Financial Profile					ba	na2				
Qualitative Adjustments					Adjus	tment				
Business Diversification					-	-1				
Opacity and Complexity					(0				
Corporate Behavior					(0				
Total Qualitative Adjustments					_	·1				
Sovereign or Affiliate constraint					A	a2				
Scorecard Calculated BCA range					baa2	- ba1				
Assigned BCA					ba	ıa3				
Affiliate Support notching					(0				
Adjusted BCA					ba	ia3				
Balance Sheet				scope Million)	% in-	scope	at-fa (EUR N		% at-	-failure
Other liabilities				,018		.1%	14,			.6%
Deposits			16	5,781	35.	.0%	15,6	506	32	.5%
Preferred deposits			15	,103	31.	5%	14,3		29	.9%
Junior deposits			1,	678	3.5	5%	1,2	59		6%
Senior unsecured bank debt			16	5,744	34.	.9%		744	34	.9%
Junior subordinated bank debt				13	0.0	0%	1	3	0.	.0%
Equity			1,	440	3.0	0%	1,4	40	3.	0%
Total Tangible Banking Assets			47	,996	100	.0%	47,9	996	100	0.0%
		vaterfall		waterfall	Note	ching	LGF	Assigned	Additiona	l Preliminary
		: Sub- I			De Jure	De Facto	_ Notching		Notching	Rating
vo	lume +			ordination			Guidance	notching		Assessmen
subo	rdinatio	on su	ıbordinat	ion			vs. Adjusted BCA			
Counterparty Risk Rating	10.5%	40.5%	40.5%	40.5%	3	3	3	3	0	a3
	10.5%	40.5%	40.5%	40.5%	3	3	3	3	0	a3 (cr)
	10.5%	3.0%	40.5%	37.9%	2	3	2	2	0	baa1
	10.5%	3.0%	37.9%	3.0%	2	2	2	2	0	baa1
	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	ba1

Instrument Class	Loss Given	Additional Preliminary Rating		Government	Local Currency	Foreign
	Failure notching	notching	Assessment	Support notching	Rating	Currency
						Rating
Counterparty Risk Rating	3	0	a3	0	A3	A3
Counterparty Risk Assessment	3	0	a3 (cr)	0	A3(cr)	
Deposits	2	0	baa1	0	Baa1	Baa1
Senior unsecured bank debt	2	0	baa1	0	Baa1	Baa1
Dated subordinated bank debt	-1	0	ba1	0	(P)Ba1	

[1]Where dashes are shown for a particular factor (or sub-factor), the score is based on non-public information.

Source: Moody's Investors Service

Ratings

Exhibit 6	
Category	Moody's Rating
RCI BANQUE	
Outlook	Stable
Counterparty Risk Rating	A3/P-2
Bank Deposits	Baa1/P-2
Baseline Credit Assessment	baa3
Adjusted Baseline Credit Assessment	baa3
Counterparty Risk Assessment	A3(cr)/P-2(cr)
Senior Unsecured	Baa1
Subordinate MTN -Dom Curr	(P)Ba1
Commercial Paper	P-2
Other Short Term -Dom Curr	(P)P-2
PARENT: RENAULT S.A.	
Outlook	Stable
Issuer Rating	Baa3
Senior Unsecured -Dom Curr	Baa3
Commercial Paper -Dom Curr	P-3
Other Short Term -Dom Curr	(P)P-3
BANCO RCI BRASIL S.A.	
Outlook	Stable
Counterparty Risk Rating -Fgn Curr	Ba1/NP
Counterparty Risk Rating -Dom Curr	Baa3/P-3
Bank Deposits -Fgn Curr	Ba3/NP
Bank Deposits -Dom Curr	Ba1/NP
NSR Bank Deposits	Aaa.br/BR-1
Baseline Credit Assessment	ba3
Adjusted Baseline Credit Assessment	ba1
Counterparty Risk Assessment	Baa3(cr)/P-3(cr)
RCI BANQUE SUCURSAL ARGENTINA	
Outlook	Rating(s) Under Review
Issuer Rating -Dom Curr	B2 ¹
ROMBO COMPANIA FINANCIERA S.A.	
Outlook	Rating(s) Under Review
Bank Deposits -Fgn Curr	Caa2/NP ²
Bank Deposits -Dom Curr	Caa1/NP ²
NSR Bank Deposits	B1.ar/ ³
Baseline Credit Assessment	caa3 ³
Adjusted Baseline Credit Assessment	caa1 ³
Counterparty Risk Assessment	B3(cr)/NP(cr) ²
Senior Unsecured -Dom Curr	Caa1 ³
NSR Senior Unsecured	Ba2.ar ³

^[1] Placed under review for possible downgrade on September 5 2019 [2] Rating(s) within this class was/were placed on review on September 4 2019 [3] Placed under review for possible downgrade on September 4 2019

Source: Moody's Investors Service

Endnotes

- 1 The penetration rate represents the percentage of cars sold by Renault S.A. for which RCI Banque provided financing to the client.
- 2 This is composed of 4.5% of Pillar 1 requirement, 2% of Pillar 2 requirement, a capital conservation buffer of 2.5% and 0.11% of countercyclical capital buffer

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