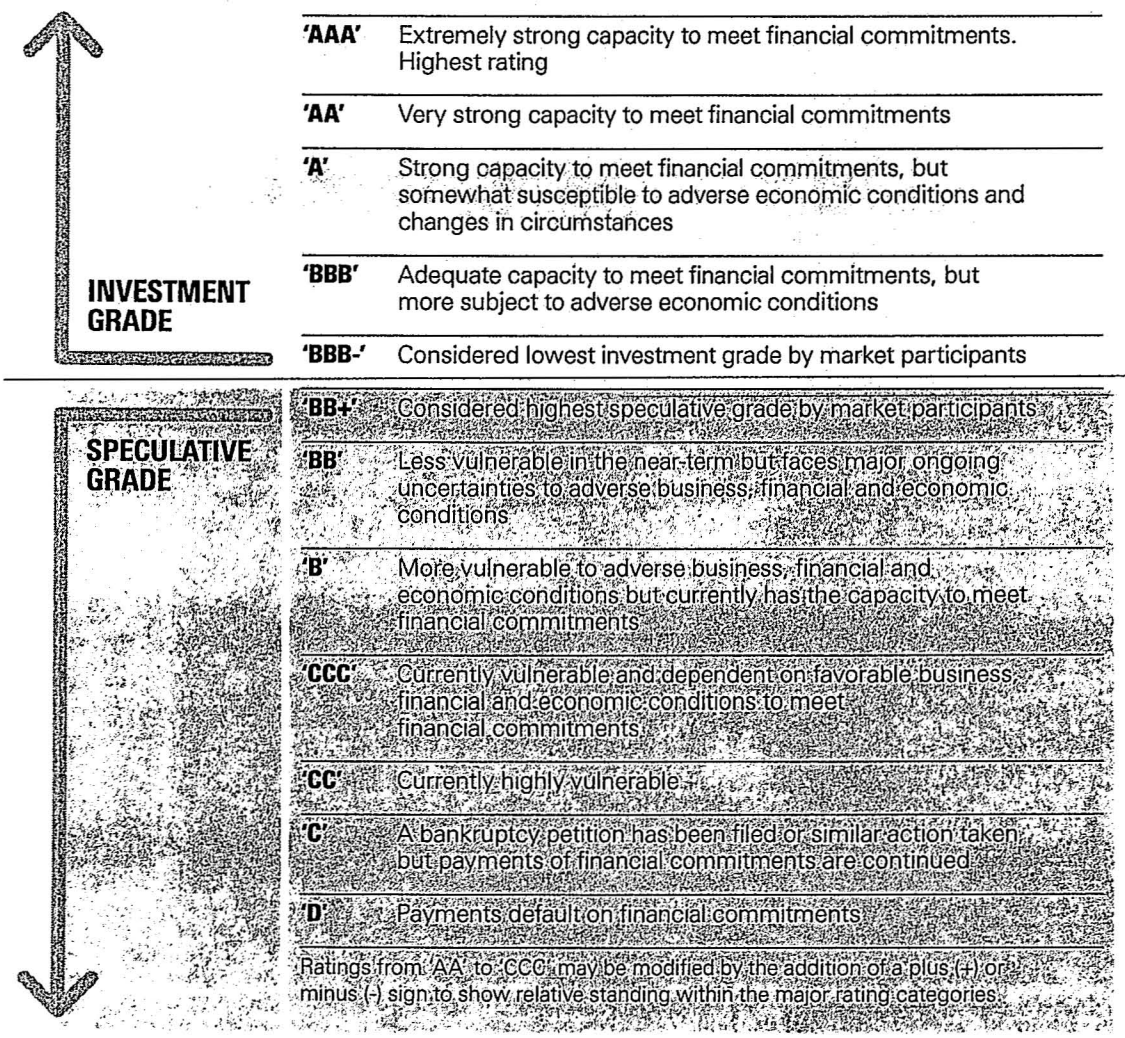
The ABCs of rating scales

Standard & Poor's credit rating symbols provide a simple, efficient way to communicate creditworthiness and credit quality.

Its global rating scale provides a benchmark for evaluating the relative credit risk of issuers and issues worldwide.

General summary of the opinions reflected by Standard & Poor's ratings



PREVIOUS NEXT

General Credit Ratings

Long-Term Corporate Obligation Ratings

Moody's long-term obligation ratings are opinions of the relative credit risk of fixed-income obligations with an original maturity of one year or more. They address the possibility that a financial obligation will not be honored as promised. Such ratings use Moody's Global Scale and reflect both the likelihood of default and any financial loss suffered in the event of default.

Aaa	Obligations rated Aaa are judged to be of the highest quality, with minimal credit risk.
Aa	Obligations rated Aa are judged to be of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk.
A	Obligations rated A are considered upper-medium grade and are subject to low credit risk.
Baa	Obligations rated Baa are subject to moderate credit risk. They are considered medium-grade and as such may possess certain speculative characteristics.
Ba	Obligations rated Ba are judged to have speculative elements and are subject to substantial credit risk.
B	Obligations rated B are considered speculative and are subject to high credit risk.
Caa	Obligations rated Caa are judged to be of poor standing and are subject to very high credit risk.
Ca	Obligations rated Ca are highly speculative and are likely in, or very near, default, with some prospect of recovery of principal and interest.
C	Obligations rated C are the lowest rated class of bonds and are typically in default, with little prospect for recovery of principal or interest.

Note: *Moody's appends numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 to each generic rating classification from Aa through Caa. The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category.*

EXHIBIT 24

Annual Credit Loss Rates by Letter Rating, 1982-2010

Year	Aaa	Aa	A	Baa	Ba	B	Caa-C	Inv-Grade	Spec-Grade	All Rated
1982	0.00%	0.00%	0.16%	0.20%	1.79%	1.51%	16.05%	0.14%	2.31%	0.67%
1983	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.43%	3.01%	19.91%	0.00%	1.81%	0.46%
1984	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.18%	0.42%	3.42%	50.59%	0.05%	1.68%	0.47%
1985	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.56%	2.98%	0.00%	0.00%	1.37%	0.38%
1986	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.49%	1.00%	5.67%	11.51%	0.12%	2.76%	0.91%
1987	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.99%	2.35%	7.25%	0.00%	1.58%	0.56%
1988	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.69%	3.40%	15.65%	0.00%	1.96%	0.75%
1989	0.00%	0.34%	0.00%	0.33%	1.67%	4.79%	13.74%	0.16%	3.18%	1.30%
1990	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.14%	9.74%	36.47%	0.00%	6.29%	2.26%
1991	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.17%	3.10%	7.83%	30.00%	0.04%	6.04%	1.91%
1992	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.16%	4.68%	15.13%	0.00%	2.64%	0.73%
1993	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.36%	2.86%	18.40%	0.00%	1.95%	0.53%
1994	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.11%	1.88%	2.44%	0.00%	0.97%	0.28%
1995	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.38%	2.23%	4.85%	0.00%	1.55%	0.49%
1996	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.51%	5.21%	0.00%	0.61%	0.20%
1997	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.08%	0.85%	6.50%	0.00%	0.90%	0.31%
1998	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.07%	0.61%	2.30%	6.89%	0.02%	1.98%	0.76%
1999	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.07%	0.82%	3.03%	11.51%	0.02%	3.37%	1.37%
2000	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.30%	0.55%	4.57%	14.83%	0.11%	4.83%	1.99%
2001	0.00%	0.00%	0.14%	0.16%	1.09%	7.54%	25.13%	0.11%	8.13%	3.13%
2002	0.00%	0.00%	0.12%	0.77%	0.97%	3.19%	20.34%	0.33%	5.68%	2.16%
2003	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.58%	1.23%	13.01%	0.00%	3.12%	1.07%
2004	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.20%	0.40%	5.89%	0.00%	1.17%	0.41%
2005	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.08%	0.00%	0.46%	3.01%	0.03%	0.79%	0.30%
2006	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.09%	0.53%	2.72%	0.00%	0.79%	0.29%
2007	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.80%	0.00%	0.45%	0.17%
2008	0.00%	0.37%	0.31%	0.32%	0.78%	1.38%	9.88%	0.31%	2.92%	1.36%
2009	0.00%	0.00%	0.11%	0.54%	1.51%	4.66%	21.61%	0.23%	8.26%	3.41%
2010	0.00%	0.00%	0.10%	0.00%	0.00%	0.24%	6.06%	0.04%	1.60%	0.65%
Average	0.00%	0.02%	0.03%	0.13%	0.73%	3.01%	13.70%	0.06%	2.78%	1.01%
Max	0.00%	0.37%	0.31%	0.77%	3.10%	9.74%	50.59%	0.33%	8.26%	3.41%
Min	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.45%	0.17%

* Based on issuer-weighted average default rates and issuer-weighted senior unsecured bond recovery rates