

Melhus Sparebank

Rating Action Report

LONG-TERM RATING

A-

OUTLOOK

Stable

SHORT-TERM RATING

N2

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Melhus Sparebank 'A-' long-term issuer rating affirmed with stable outlook; removed from criteria review

Nordic Credit Rating has affirmed its 'A-' long-term issuer rating on Norway-based Melhus Sparebank (Melhusbanken). The outlook is stable. The 'N2' short-term rating, 'A-' senior unsecured issue rating, 'BBB+' Tier 2 issue rating, and 'BBB-' Tier 1 issue rating have also been affirmed, in accordance with NCR's revised financial institutions rating methodology. The ratings are no longer under criteria review.

Rating rationale

The long-term issuer rating reflects Melhusbanken's robust capital position, low risk appetite, and strong earnings. The bank has a cooperation agreement with the Eika banking alliance, which we view as positive, as it provides product diversity, shared development costs, and the opportunity to finance residential retail mortgages through mortgage company Eika Boligkreditt. We expect strong cost efficiency to support the bank's core earnings despite a likely decline in net interest margins and somewhat elevated loan losses over the next few years.

The rating is constrained by the bank's concentrated exposure to real estate in the municipalities of Melhus and Trondheim in central Norway. We have revised our assessment of risk governance to reflect the bank's higher level of high-risk loans than peers. Additional constraints include strong competition in its core market and a low market share in the larger municipality of Trondheim.

Stable outlook

The outlook is stable, reflecting our view that the bank's strong earnings metrics and solid capitalisation will offset elevated late-cycle credit losses. We also believe the bank's low risk appetite and robust real estate collateral to support its resilience to a moderate economic slowdown. In addition, we expect that the real estate market in the bank's core area will benefit from lower interest rates.

We could raise the rating to reflect a consolidated Tier 1 ratio sustainably above 25%, pre-provision income to risk exposure amount sustainably above 3%, and reduced uncertainty about credit risk together with improved asset quality metrics.

We could lower the rating to reflect a lack of improvement in credit quality, a lasting reduction in the Tier 1 capital ratio to below 20%, or risk-adjusted earnings metrics below 2% of risk exposure amount or cost/income above 50% over a protracted period.

Rating list

	To	From
Long-term issuer credit rating:	A-	A-
Outlook:	Stable	Stable
Short-term issuer credit rating:	N2	N2
Senior unsecured issue rating:	A-	A-
Tier 2 issue rating:	BBB+	BBB+
Additional Tier 1 issue rating:	BBB-	BBB-

Figure 1. Melhusbanken rating scorecard

Subfactors	Impact	To	From
National banking environment	10.0%	a	-
Sector exposure assessment	-	-	-
Regional assessment	10.0%	a-	-
Cross border assessment	-	-	-
National factors	-	-	a
Regional, cross border, sector	-	-	a-
Operating environment	20.0%	a-	a-
Risk governance	7.5%	a-	a
Capital	17.5%	a+	a+
Funding and liquidity	15.0%	a-	a-
Credit and market risk	10.0%	bbb-	-
Credit risk	-	-	bbb-
Market risk	-	-	-
Other risks	-	-	a-
Risk appetite	50.0%	a-	a-
Competitive position	15.0%	bb+	bb+
Earnings	7.5%	a	a
Loss performance	7.5%	bbb+	bbb+
Performance indicators	15.0%	a-	a-
Indicative credit assessment		a-	a-
Peer comparison		Neutral	Neutral
Transitions		Neutral	Neutral
Borderline assessments		Neutral	Neutral
Stand-alone credit assessment		a-	a-
Ownership		Neutral	Neutral
Capital structure protection		Neutral	-
Rating caps		Neutral	Neutral
Material credit enhancement		-	Neutral
Issuer rating		A-	A-
Outlook		Stable	Stable
Short-term rating		N2	N2

Figure 2. Capital structure ratings

Seniority	To	From
Senior unsecured	A-	A-
Tier 2	BBB+	BBB+
Additional Tier 1	BBB-	BBB-

Type of credit rating:	Long-term issuer credit rating Short-term issuer credit rating Issue credit rating
Publication date:	The rating was first published on 03 Oct. 2024.
Office responsible for the credit rating:	Nordic Credit Rating AS (NCR), Oslo, Norway. NCR is a registered credit rating agency under Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009.
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Were ESG factors a key driver behind the change to the credit rating or rating outlook?	No.
Methodology used when determining the credit rating:	NCR's Financial Institutions Rating Methodology published on 12 May 2025 NCR's Rating Principles published on 14 Feb. 2024 NCR's Group and Government Support Rating Methodology published on 14 Feb. 2024 The methodology and principles documents provide analytical guidance to NCR's rating activities including but not limited to, assumptions, parameters, cash flow analysis, and stress-testing. NCR's methodologies and principles can be found on our website nordiccreditrating.com/governance/policies . The historical default rates of entities and securities rated by NCR will be viewed on the central platform (CEREP) of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) .
Materials used when determining the credit rating:	Annual- and quarterly reports of the rated entity, Bond prospectuses, Company presentations, Data provided by external data providers, Meetings with management of the rated entity, Non-public information, Press reports/public information, Website of rated entity.
Potential conflicts of interest:	The rating is NCR's independent opinion of the rated entity's relative creditworthiness. The rating is solicited, i.e. it is prepared for a fee paid by the rated entity. At the time of analysis and publication neither NCR nor any of the analysts or persons involved in the rating process held any interest, ownership interest or securities in the rated entity. NCR does not have any direct or indirect shareholder with a holding of more than 5% of NCR's shares and votes. For further information, please refer to NCR's conflict of interest policy which is available on: https://nordiccreditrating.com/governance/policies
Additional information:	Prior to publication, the rating was disclosed to the rated entity. The issuer was given 24 hours (of which 8 business hours) to remark on factual errors and/or the inadvertent inclusion of confidential information, if applicable. The rating was not amended after the review by the issuer. No stress test or cash flow forecasting was performed. NCR's rating is an opinion regarding the relative creditworthiness of an entity or an instrument. It is not a prediction, guarantee or recommendation to buy, hold or sell securities. NCR assigns outlooks to issuer ratings to indicate where they could move in the near term, normally 12–18 months. Further information on the rating process, rating definitions and limitations is available on our website: nordiccreditrating.com/governance/policies .
Ancillary services provided:	No ancillary services have been provided in the last 12 months.
Regulations:	This rating was issued and disclosed under Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009.
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