

Glossary

Acceptances

A bill of exchange or negotiable instrument drawn by the borrower for payment at maturity and accepted by a bank. The acceptance constitutes a guarantee of payment by the bank and can be traded in the money market. The bank earns a “stamping fee” for providing this guarantee.

Allowance for credit losses

The amount deemed adequate by management to absorb identified and probable credit related losses in the portfolio of loans, acceptances, guarantees, letters of credit, deposits with other banks and derivatives. The allowance is increased by the provision for credit losses, which is charged to income and decreased by the amount of charge-offs (write-offs in Canadian GAAP), net of recoveries.

Assets under administration (AUA)

Assets administered by a financial institution, which are beneficially owned by clients and are therefore not reported on the consolidated balance sheet. Services provided in respect of assets under administration are of an administrative nature, including safekeeping, collecting investment income, settling purchase and sale transactions, and record keeping.

Assets under management (AUM)

Assets managed by a financial institution, which are beneficially owned by clients and are therefore not reported on the consolidated balance sheet. Services provided in respect of assets under management include the selection of investments and the provision of investment advice. Assets under management may also be administered by the financial institution.

Basis point (bp)

One one-hundredth of a percentage point (.01%).

Beta

The measure of a security's volatility relative to a market index.

Canadian GAAP

Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Capital ratio (Canadian basis)

The percentage of risk-adjusted assets supported by capital using the guidelines of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions of Canada based on standards issued by the Bank for International Settlements and Canadian GAAP financial information.

Capital ratio (U.S. basis)

The percentage of risk-adjusted assets supported by capital using the guidelines issued to U.S. banks by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and U.S. GAAP financial information.

Cash capital position

Quantifies the extent to which illiquid assets are funded by non-core liabilities and represents a formula-based measure of both comparative and directional structural liquidity risk.

Collateralized Debt Obligation (CDO)

An investment-grade security backed by a pool of bonds, loans and/or any other type of debt instrument.

Commercial clients

Generally, mid-market private companies with sophisticated financial needs (e.g., financing requirements between \$5 million and \$100 million), served by our RBC Banking segment. Large corporations with a frequent need to access capital markets and greater financing requirements are served by RBC Capital Markets.

Commitments to extend credit

Credit facilities available to clients either in the form of loans, bankers' acceptances and other on-balance sheet financing, or through off-balance sheet products such as guarantees and letters of credit.

Cost of capital

Management's estimate of its weighted average cost of equity and debt capital.

Derivative

A contract between two parties where payments between the parties are dependent upon the movements in price of an underlying asset, index or financial rate. Examples of derivatives include swaps, options, forward rate agreements and futures. The notional amount of the derivative is the contract amount used as a reference point to calculate the payments to be exchanged between the two parties and the notional amount itself is generally not exchanged by the parties.

Dividend payout ratio

Common dividends as a percentage of net income after preferred share dividends.

Dividend yield

Dividends per common share divided by the average of the high and low share prices.

Documentary and commercial letters of credit

Written undertakings by a bank on behalf of its client (typically an importer), authorizing a third party (e.g., an exporter) to draw drafts on the bank up to a stipulated amount under specific terms and conditions. Such undertakings are established for the purpose of facilitating international trade.

Earnings per share, basic

Net income less preferred share dividends divided by the average number of shares outstanding.

Earnings per share (EPS), diluted

Net income less preferred share dividends divided by the average number of shares outstanding adjusted for the dilutive effects of stock options and other convertible securities.

Economic Capital (EC)

An estimate of the amount of equity capital required to underpin risks. It is calculated by estimating the level of capital that is necessary to support our various businesses, given their risks, consistent with our desired solvency standard and credit ratings.

Efficiency ratio

Non-interest expense expressed as a percentage of total revenues. Used as a measure of productivity and for comparison with peers.

Guarantees and standby letters of credit

Primarily represent irrevocable assurances that a bank will make payments in the event that its client cannot meet its financial obligations to third parties. Certain other guarantees, such as bid and performance bonds, represent non-financial undertakings.

Hedge

A risk management technique used to insulate financial results from market, interest rate or foreign currency exchange risk (exposure) arising from normal banking operations. The elimination or reduction of such exposure is accomplished by establishing offsetting positions. For example, assets denominated in foreign currencies can be offset with liabilities in the same currencies or through the use of foreign exchange hedging instruments such as futures, options or foreign exchange contracts.

International

In the context of the annual report, the term international refers to Royal Bank of Canada's operations and clients outside Canada.

Mark-to-market

Valuation of financial instruments using prevailing market rates as of the balance sheet date.

Net interest income

The difference between what is earned on assets such as loans and securities and what is paid on liabilities such as deposits and subordinated debentures.

Net interest margin

Net interest income as a percentage of average assets.

Nonaccrual loans/Impaired loans

Loans are classified as nonaccrual (impaired in Canadian GAAP) when, in the opinion of management, there is no longer reasonable assurance of the timely collection of principal and interest. Loans, other than credit card balances and government guaranteed loans, are automatically classified as nonaccrual when a payment is 90 days past due, unless the loan is well secured and in the process of collection.

Notional amount

The contract amount used as a reference point to calculate payments for derivatives.

Off-balance sheet financial instrument

A variety of products offered to clients which fall into two broad categories: (i) credit related arrangements, which generally provide clients with liquidity protection, and (ii) derivatives, which are defined on the previous page.

Prepaid pension benefit cost

The cumulative excess of amounts contributed to a pension fund over the amounts recorded as pension expense.

Provision for credit losses

The amount charged to income necessary to bring the allowance for credit losses to a level determined appropriate by management.

Repurchase agreements (REPOS)

Involve the sale of securities for cash at a near value date and the simultaneous repurchase of the securities for value at a later date.

Return on equity (ROE)

Net income, less preferred share dividends, expressed as a percentage of average common equity.

Reverse repurchase agreements (reverse REPOS)

Involve the purchase of securities for cash at a near value date and the simultaneous sale of the securities for value at a later date.

Risk

Financial institutions face a number of different risks that expose them to possible losses. These risks include credit risk, market risk, liquidity risk, insurance risk and operational risk.

Risk-adjusted assets

Used in the calculation of risk-based capital ratios. The face value of assets is discounted using risk-weighting factors in order to reflect a comparable risk per dollar among all types of assets. The risk inherent in off-balance sheet instruments is also recognized, first by determining a credit equivalent amount, and then by applying appropriate risk-weighting factors.

Securities lending

Transactions in which a bank acts as an agent for the owner of a security, who agrees to lend the security under the terms of a pre-arranged contract to a borrower for a fee. The borrower must fully collateralize the security loan at all times. There are two types of securities lending arrangements, lending with and without credit or market risk indemnification. In securities lending without indemnification, the bank bears no risk of loss. For transactions in which the bank provides an indemnification, risk of loss occurs if the borrower defaults and the value of the collateral declines concurrently.

Securities sold short

A transaction in which the seller sells securities it does not own. The seller borrows the securities in order to deliver them to the purchaser. At a later date, the seller buys identical securities in the market to replace the borrowed securities.

Securitization

The process by which high-quality financial assets are packaged into newly issued securities backed by these assets.

Special purpose entities (SPEs)

SPEs are entities that are typically organized for a single discrete purpose, have a limited life and serve to legally isolate the financial assets held by the SPE from the selling organization. SPEs are principally used to securitize financial and other assets in order to obtain access to funding, to mitigate credit risk and to manage capital.

Superintendent of Financial Institutions Canada (OSFI)

The primary regulator of federally chartered financial institutions and federally administered pension plans in Canada. OSFI's mission is to safeguard policyholders, depositors and pension plan members from undue loss.

Trust Capital Securities (RBC TruCS)

Transferable trust units issued by RBC Capital Trust or RBC Capital Trust II for the purpose of raising Innovative Tier 1 capital.

U.S. GAAP

U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Value-At-Risk (VAR)

A generally accepted risk-measurement concept that uses statistical models to estimate within a given level of confidence the maximum loss in market value that the bank would experience in its trading portfolios from an adverse one-day movement in market rates and prices.