

Global Finance announces a half-yearly update World's 50 Safest Banks: April 2012

NEW YORK, March 1, 2012 – Bank stability is an ever-more pressing concern for the world's corporations and investors. It is within this context that **Global Finance** announces the half-yearly update to its **Ranking of the World's 50 Safest Banks**.

The sovereign debt crisis is still raging in Europe, the Arab Spring outcome is far from clear and global elections have put political stability at risk in some markets. As a result, the credit ratings of European and global banks have been affected, and have moved down the ranking of the World's Safest Banks. In contrast, a number of banks—particularly in Asia and the Middle East—have benefitted by moving up the ranking.

In addition, even in the face of tough market conditions some banks have actually improved their score by having their ratings upgraded since the last ranking was released. With these factors in mind, *Global Finance* has launched the **World's 50 Safest Banks: April 2012**; and launched a list of the **Most Improved Ratings**—those banks who have increased their score since October.

The ranking was created through an evaluation of long-term credit ratings—from Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings—and total assets of the 500 largest banks worldwide. *Global Finance's* ranking of the **World's 50 Safest Banks** is a recognized and trusted standard of creditworthiness for the entire financial world. "Counterparty creditworthiness has seldom been of more concern to companies and investors worldwide," says *Global Finance* publisher Joseph D. Giarraputo. "Knowing how their counterparties are faring in the face of global economic uncertainty is key. This ranking helps companies and investors to get a view on the relative strength of their counterparties—and global financial institutions."

This exclusive survey will be published in the April issue of **Global Finance**.

Find the full list of the
Safest Banks: April 2012
on the following pages.

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The reach of *Global Finance*

Global Finance, founded in 1987, has a circulation of 50,050 and readers in 163 countries. Its circulation is audited by BPA. *Global Finance's* audience includes chairmen, presidents, CEOs, CFOs, treasurers and other senior financial officers responsible for making investment and strategic decisions at multinational companies and financial institutions. *Global Finance* also targets the 8,000 international portfolio investors responsible for more than 80% of all global assets under professional management. Its website — Gfmag.com — offers analysis and articles that are the heritage of 25 years of experience in international financial markets, and provides a valuable source of data on 192 countries. Headquartered in New York, with offices in London and Milan.

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GLOBAL FINANCE names the WORLD'S 50 SAFEST BANKS

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 1. | KfW
<i>(Germany)</i> | 25. | BNY Mellon
<i>(United States)</i> |
| 2. | Bank Nederlandse Gemeenten (BNG)
<i>(Netherlands)</i> | 26. | Pohjola Bank
<i>(Finland)</i> |
| 3. | Zürcher Kantonalbank
<i>(Switzerland)</i> | 27. | BNP Paribas
<i>(France)</i> |
| 4. | Landwirtschaftliche Rentenbank
<i>(Germany)</i> | 28. | China Development Bank
<i>(China)</i> |
| 5. | Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations(CDC)
<i>(France)</i> | 29. | DZ Bank **
<i>(Germany)</i> |
| Tie* | 6. Landescreditbank Baden-Württemberg Förderbank (L-Bank)
<i>(Germany)</i> | 30. | Agricultural Development Bank of China
<i>(China)</i> |
| Tie* | 6. Nederlandse Waterschapsbank
<i>(Netherlands)</i> | 31. | CoBank ACB
<i>(United States)</i> |
| 7. | Banque et Caisse d'Épargne de l'État
<i>(Luxembourg)</i> | 32. | National Bank of Abu Dhabi
<i>(United Arab Emirates)</i> |
| 8. | Rabobank Group
<i>(Netherlands)</i> | 33. | National Bank of Kuwait
<i>(Kuwait)</i> |
| 9. | NRW.Bank
<i>(Germany)</i> | 34. | Pictet & Cie
<i>(Switzerland)</i> |
| 10. | Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)
<i>(Canada)</i> | 35. | Deutsche Bank
<i>(Germany)</i> |
| 11. | Toronto-Dominion Bank (TD Bank)
<i>(Canada)</i> | 36. | JPMorgan Chase
<i>(United States)</i> |
| Tie* | 12. National Australia Bank
<i>(Australia)</i> | 37. | Banque Fédérative du Crédit Mutuel (BFCM)
<i>(France)</i> |
| Tie* | 12. Commonwealth Bank of Australia
<i>(Australia)</i> | 38. | U.S. Bancorp
<i>(United States)</i> |
| 13. | Westpac Banking Corporation
<i>(Australia)</i> | 39. | DNB Bank **
<i>(Norway)</i> |
| 14. | Scotiabank (Bank of Nova Scotia)
<i>(Canada)</i> | 40. | National Bank of Canada **
<i>(Canada)</i> |
| 15. | DBS Bank
<i>(Singapore)</i> | 41. | Northern Trust Corporation
<i>(United States)</i> |
| 16. | Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation
<i>(Singapore)</i> | 42. | Qatar National Bank **
<i>(Qatar)</i> |
| 17. | United Overseas Bank
<i>(Singapore)</i> | 43. | SAMBA Financial Group **
<i>(Saudi Arabia)</i> |
| 18. | Caisse centrale Desjardins
<i>(Canada)</i> | 44. | La Banque Postale **
<i>(France)</i> |
| 19. | HSBC Holdings
<i>(United Kingdom)</i> | 45. | Bank of Taiwan **
<i>(Taiwan)</i> |
| 20. | Nordea Bank
<i>(Sweden)</i> | Tie* | 46. Shizuoka Bank
<i>(Japan)</i> |
| 21. | Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ)
<i>(Australia)</i> | Tie* | 46. Banco del Estado de Chile (BancoEstado) **
<i>(Chile)</i> |
| 22. | Svenska Handelsbanken
<i>(Sweden)</i> | 47. | Barclays Group
<i>(United Kingdom)</i> |
| 23. | Bank of Montreal (BMO)
<i>(Canada)</i> | 48. | Crédit Agricole
<i>(France)</i> |
| 24. | Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC)
<i>(Canada)</i> | 49. | Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ
<i>(Japan)</i> |
| | | 50. | Banco Santander
<i>(Spain)</i> |

****NEW
ENTRANTS**

*A tie is assigned when two banks with the same score have total assets within a \$5 billion range.

PR date: *Global Finance* magazine March 1, 2012
Ratings as of: February 22, 2012

Most Improved Ratings: April 2012

A listing of those banks who have increased their score since October

Name	Score April	Score October	Score Change	Country
Agricultural Development Bank of China	20	18.5	+1.5	China
Corpbanca	9.5	8	+1.5	Chile
Overseas-Chinese Banking Corp	23	22	+1	Singapore
United Overseas Bank	23	22	+1	Singapore
DZ Bank	20	19	+1	Germany
Banco de Crédito e Inversiones	15	14	+1	Chile
Bendigo and Adelaide Bank	13	12	+1	Australia
Banco do Brasil	6	5	+1	Brazil

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