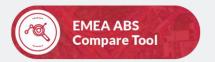


# **Structured Finance**

Unsecured Consumer Loans
Spain



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Closing occurred on 14 November 2024. The transfer of the portfolio to the issuer occurred on 11 November 2024. The ratings assigned above are based on the portfolio information as of 6 November 2024, provided by the originator.

Ratings are not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold any security. The prospectus and other material should be reviewed prior to any purchase.

Representations, Warranties and Enforcement Mechanisms Appendix

# **SANTANDER CONSUMO 7, FT**

#### **Capital Structure**

Class	Rating	Outlook	Amount (EURm)	CE (%) <sup>a</sup>	Interest rate (%)	Legal final maturity
Α	AA+sf	Stable	1,038.0	14.8%	3m Euribor + 0.85	July 2038
В	A+sf	Stable	45.0	11.05%	3m Euribor + 1.30	July 2038
С	BBB+sf	Stable	33.0	8.3%	3m Euribor + 1.65	July 2038
D	BB+sf	Stable	42.0	4.8%	3m Euribor + 2.90	July 2038
E	Bsf	Stable	42.0	1.3%	3m Euribor + 4.40	July 2038
F	NRsf		15.6		3m Euribor + 4.95	July 2038
Total			1,215.6			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Credit enhancement (CE) consists of structural subordination and a reserve fund. In addition, the structure benefits from an initial net excess spread of about 2.5% a year.

3m: Three-month.

Source: Fitch Ratings, transaction documents.

Santander Consumo 7, FT is a securitisation of a EUR1,200 million static portfolio of fully amortising general-purpose consumer loans originated by Banco Santander S.A. (Santander, A-/Stable/F2) for Spanish residents. About 87% of the portfolio balance is linked to pre-approved loans underwritten to existing Santander customers.

# **Key Rating Drivers**

Asset Assumptions Reflect Pool Profile: Fitch Ratings calibrated a base case lifetime default and a recovery rate of 4.0% and 20.0%, respectively, for the portfolio. This reflects the historical data provided by Santander, Spain's economic outlook, the pool's features and the originator's underwriting and servicing strategies. For a 'AA+' rating case commensurate with the rating of the class A notes, the lifetime default and recovery rates are 16.5% and 11.3%, respectively.

**Static and Pro Rata Amortisation:** The deal is static and does not have a revolving period. The class A to E notes will be repaid pro rata unless a sequential amortisation event occurs which is primarily linked to performance triggers like cumulative defaults exceeding certain thresholds.

Fitch views these triggers as sufficiently robust to prevent the pro rata mechanism from continuing on early signs of deterioration in performance. We believe the tail risk posed by the pro rata pay-down is mitigated by the mandatory switch to sequential amortisation when the outstanding collateral balance (inclusive of defaults) falls below 10% of the initial balance.

**Counterparty Arrangements Cap Ratings:** The maximum achievable rating for the transaction is 'AA+sf' in line with Fitch's counterparty criteria. This is due to the minimum eligibility rating thresholds defined for the transaction account bank (TAB) and the hedge provider of 'A-' or 'F1', which are insufficient to support 'AAAsf' ratings.

**Liquidity Protection Mitigates Servicing Disruption:** Servicing disruption risk is mitigated by a dedicated cash reserve, which covers senior costs, net swap payments and interest on the class A to E notes for more than three months, providing sufficient time to resume collections by a replacement servicer. While there is no back-up servicer appointed at the closing date, the management company acts as back-up servicer facilitator.

**Interest Rate Hedge**: An interest rate swap hedges the risk arising from 100% of the portfolio paying a fixed interest rate for life and the floating rate securitisation notes. The interest rate swap notional is the outstanding balance of the non-defaulted receivables.

# **Analysts**

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# **Highlights**

Effect	Highlight
+	<b>Solid Net Excess Spread:</b> The structure benefits from an initial net excess spread of around 2.5% a year after deducting senior fees, swap costs and the weighted-average (WA) cost of liabilities. This is comparable to the level in Santander Consumo 5.
Neutral	High Share of Pre-Approved Loans: About 87% of the loans in the portfolio are pre- approved by Santander, underwritten to existing customers mainly based on the borrower's credit profile and transaction record with the lender. Fitch considers the characteristics and risk profiles of the pre-approved loans to be broadly similar to those of standard loans based on data presented by Santander.
Neutral	Portfolio Broadly Comparable to Prior ABS: Fitch views Santander Consumo 7's portfolio as broadly comparable to the prior Santander Consumo 5 pool, despite the larger exposure to more newly-originated vintages that show more volatility than older vintages. The pool also benefits from positive selection as it does not include any loans with regulatory probability of default higher than 6%.
Neutral	No Credit for Replacement Servicing Fee Reserve: The transaction includes a replacement servicer fee reserve to be funded by Santander if its Issuer Default Rating (IDR) is downgraded below 'A-'. Fitch did not give credit to this reserve in its rating analysis because it would be funded up to 90 calendar days after the event, which is longer than the 60 calendar days definition of our rating criteria, and because it does not include a breach of obligations as a trigger condition for its creation.
Neutral	Insurance Premiums Securitised: About half of the loans include financed insurance. The insurance premiums are securitised and represent around 2.5% of the portfolio balance. Fitch views the risk of insurance set-off as immaterial. Spain's insurance industry has a clear regulatory framework which protects customer claims following an insurer's default.

# **Key Transaction Parties**

Source: Fitch Ratings

Role	Name	Fitch IDR unless stated otherwise
Issuer	Santander Consumo 7, F.T.	Not rated
Originator/servicer/collection account bank (CAB), TAB, hedge provider	Banco Santander, S.A. (Santander)	A-/Stable/F2 Deposit rating: A/F1 Derivative Counterparty Rating: A(dcr)
Trustee/management company/back-up servicer facilitator	Santander de Titulización, S.G.F.T, S.A	Not rated

# **Transaction Comparisons**

The most significant feature of Santander Consumo 7, FT compared to other Iberian consumer loan securitisations is the high share of pre-approved loans. All information within the table below refers to the analysis at the closing date of each transaction.

	Santander Consumo 7	Santander Consumo 5	BBVA Consumer 2024-1, FT	BBVA Consumo 13
Closing	November 2024	July 23	May 2024	March 2024
Country of assets	Spain	Spain	Spain	Spain
Originator	Santander	Santander	BBVA	BBVA
Issuance (EURm)	1,215.6	816.0	807.1	2,000.0
Class A				
Rating	AA+sf	AA+sf	AA-sf	Asf
CE (%)	14.80	22.0	16.6	10.0
Class B				
Rating	A+sf	A+sf	A-sf	BBB-sf

# Key Rating Drivers (Negative/Positive/Neutral)

Rating impact	Key rating driver	
Neutral	Asset assumptions reflect pool profile	
Positive	Static and pro rata amortisation	
Negative	Counterparty arrangements cap ratings	
Positive	Liquidity protection mitigates servicing disruption	
Positive	Interest rate hedge	
Source: Fitch Ratings		

# **Applicable Criteria**

Consumer ABS Rating Criteria (October 2024)

Global Structured Finance Rating Criteria (January 2024)

Structured Finance and Covered Bonds Counterparty Rating Criteria (November 2023)

Structured Finance and Covered Bonds Counterparty Rating Criteria – Derivative Addendum (November 2023)

Structured Finance and Covered Bonds Interest Rate Stresses Rating Criteria (October 2024)

Structured Finance and Covered Bonds Country Risk Rating Criteria (June 2024)

	Santander Consumo 7	Santander Consumo 5	BBVA Consumer 2024-1, FT	BBVA Consumo 13
CE (%)	11.05	16.6	12.6	5.0
Portfolio summary				
Revolving period (months)	Static	5	Static	Static
Pro rata amortisation since closing?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Portfolio balance (EURm)	1,200.0	800.0	800.0	2,000
Number of loans	105,980	134,011	107,351	239,848
Average balance (EUR)	11,323	9,201	8,732	12,203
Asset type		Unsecured	consumer loans	
WA remaining term (months)	65.0	61.0	70.6	67.0
WA seasoning (months)	12.4	14.0	13.6	17.0
WA interest rate (%)	6.7	6.6	7.9	7.1
Pre-approved (%)	87.3	80.3	83.0	80.9
Base case asset assumptions (%)				
Defaults (lifetime, blended)	4.0	3.75	5.5	6.2
Recoveries (blended)	20.0	20.0	30.0	30.0
Prepayments (annual)	10.0	7.0	10.0	10.0

Santander Consumo 7 portfolio data as of 6 November 2024. WA figures are weighted by outstanding portfolio balance. Source: Fitch Ratings, transaction documents

# **Sector Risks: Additional Perspective**

# **Key Sector Risks**

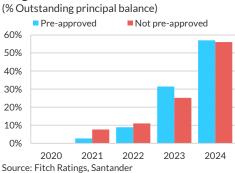
Asset performance outlook	'Neutral'. Consumer ABS transactions have continued to perform well, despite the magnitude of the interest rate and cost of living increases in 2022-2023. Among the main reasons are the continuing strength of labour markets, and the fact that lenders significantly tightened underwriting standards at the start of the pandemic. Many have not fully reversed this tightening. See: Fitch Revises its European Consumer ABS Asset Performance Outlook to 'Neutral'.
Sector outlook	'Stable'. Fitch believes that most rated Spanish ABS transactions are protected by sufficient rating headroom to withstand the most immediate consequences affecting asset performance.
Macroeconomic risks	The Spanish sovereign rating outlook was revised to Positive from Stable on 8 November 2024. Fitch projects Spain will experience real GDP growth of 2.9% in 2024, and average growth of 2.2% in 2025-2026 (compared to the eurozone's 1.5%). Fitch forecasts an unemployment rate of about 11% in Spain for the next two years.

# **Asset Analysis**

Source: Fitch Ratings

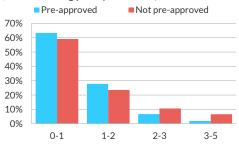
The portfolio consists of unsecured consumer loans originated by Santander to individuals residing in Spain. All borrowers pay monthly instalments, the loans amortise by the "French" method and are linked to a fixed interest rate. Moreover, around 87% of the portfolio balance is linked to pre-approved loans, and almost 90% has been originated between 2023 and 2024.



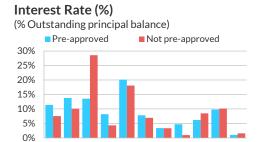


# Seasoning (in Years)

(% Outstanding principal balance)

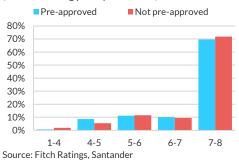


Source: Fitch Ratings, Santander



# Original Term (in Years)

(% Outstanding principal balance)



# Source: Fitch Ratings, Santander

# Key Asset Eligibility Criteria

For the asset purchase made by the SPV, the following key eligibility criteria were applied:

8-8,5

- The loans are granted for consumption purposes to Spanish residents and not employed by Santander, with a regulatory probability of default not higher than 6%.
- The loans are not restructured due to reasons of distress, and are not in arrears.
- The loans are fully amortising with monthly instalments paid by direct debit. None of the loans has an outstanding principal balance greater than EUR100,000.
- Each loan has at least one instalment paid.
- The maximum remaining term to maturity is nine years and the longest maturity date should not be later than July 2036.

# **Portfolio Credit Analysis**

Fitch derived base-case default, recovery and prepayment assumptions considering the data provided by Santander, Spain's economic outlook and the originator and servicer capabilities. Fitch set a single base case for the entire pool (pre-approved and not pre-approved) considering the similar loan characteristics and performance expectations.

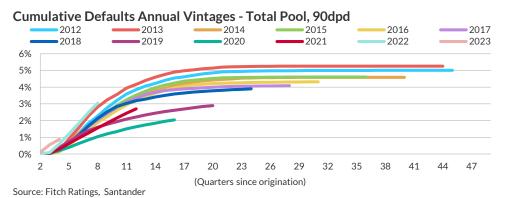
#### **Default Rates**

The default rate assumptions for the blended pool are displayed below.

#### **Default Rate Assumptions**

Product type	Base case default rate (%)	AA+ multiple (x)	AA+ default rate (%)	AAA multiple (x)	AAA default rate (%)
Unsecured consumer loans	4.0	4.1	16.5	4.75	19.0
Source: Fitch Ratings					

The charts below and on the right hand side show the cumulative balance of defaults relative to the portfolio balance originated by vintage. Defaults are loans in arrears over 90 days (90dpd).



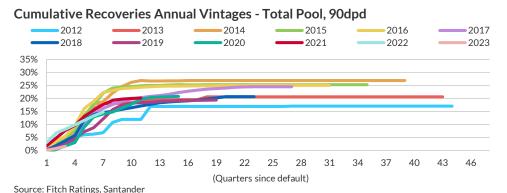
# **Recovery Rates**

To calibrate recoveries in stress scenarios, we have applied median haircuts to the base case in line with our *Consumer ABS Rating Criteria*.

#### **Recovery Rate Assumptions**

Product type	Base case recovery rate (%)		AA+ recovery rate (%)		AAA recovery rate (%)
Unsecured consumer loans	20.0	43.3	11.3	50.0	10.0

Source: Fitch Ratings



# **Prepayments**

Fitch calibrated a base-case prepayment assumption of 10% for the total pool based on comparable ABS data and considering the macroeconomic outlook linked to a normalised interest rates environment. Low and high prepayment stresses are in line with Fitch's criteria.

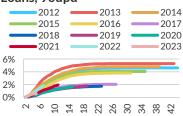
# **Financial Structure and Cash Flow Analysis**

The default and recovery rates for this portfolio, together with different timing of defaults and recoveries, levels of prepayment and interest rate stresses, were tested in Fitch's proprietary cash flow model to determine if there would be sufficient cash flows to pay interest and principal according to the terms of the notes. The default timing assumption was based on a weighted-average life (WAL) of the portfolio of about 30 months, and the recovery timing was derived based on historical observations. The analysis shows that the CE levels provided for the securitisation notes are sufficient to withstand the relevant stresses determined by Fitch for the assigned ratings.

# Cumulative Defaults Annual Vintages - Pre-Approved Loans, 90dpd



# Cumulative Defaults Annual Vintages - Not Pre-Approved Loans. 90dpd



(Qaurters since origination) Source: Fitch Ratings, Santander



The ratings address timely payment of interest on the class A notes but, for the remaining rated notes, interest is treated as timely only if the note is the most senior. The rating analysis addresses the ultimate repayment of principal for all the notes by the legal final maturity date in accordance with the transaction documentation.

#### **Priority of Payments**

The transaction operates a combined priority of payments with an implicit principal deficiency ledger (PDL) mechanism that governs how the issuer's available funds are allocated on each quarterly interest payment date (IPD). Excess spread will be available to provision for defaults.

# **Available Funds (Simplified)**

- $1. \, Interest \, and \, principal \, collections \, from \, the \, loans \,$
- 2. Recoveries from defaulted assets and any additional amounts collected from the loans
- 3. Reserve fund
- 4. Yield from cash deposited in the TAB
- 5. Net swap amounts (excluding collateral)
- 6. Replacement servicer fee reserve if funded

Source: Fitch Ratings, transaction documents

The notes target amortisation amount is defined as the difference between the collateralised notes (the class A to E notes) and the non-defaulted portfolio balance. Defaults are defined as loans in arrears over 90 days. Interest payments on the class E and F notes can be deferred to a junior position within the priority of payments if the gross cumulative defaults (GCD) ratio exceeds 3.5% relative to the initial portfolio balance.

# **Combined Priority of Payments (Simplified)**

Pre-	Pre-enforcement		Post-enforcement (if any of the mandatory early liquidation events occur)	
1	Senior fees and expenses	1	Senior fees and expenses	
2	Net swap payments (if any) and termination payments (if the SPV is the defaulting party)	2	Net swap payments (if any) and termination payments (if the SPV is the defaulting party)	
3	Class A interest	3	Class A interest	
4	Class B interest	4	Class A principal	
5	Class C interest	5	Class B interest	
6	Class D interest	6	Class B principal	
8	Class E interest (if not deferred)	7	Class C interest	
7	Reserve fund top-up	8	Class C principal	
9	Class F interest (if not deferred)	9	Class D interest	
10	Class A to E principal up to its target amount	10	Class D principal	
11	Class E interest (if deferred)	11	Class E interest	
12	Class F interest (if deferred)	12	Class E principal	
13	Subordinated amounts	13	Subordinated amounts	
Sour	ce: Fitch Ratings, transaction documents			

#### **Pro-Rata Amortisation**

Since the first IPD, class A to E notes will amortise pro rata until any of the below sequential amortisation events occur:

- The collateral trigger (defined as the ratio between non-defaulted portfolio divided by current note balance of classes A to E) is equal or lower than 99.50% for two consecutive IPDs.
- The GCD ratio exceeds the levels shown in the GCD Ratio Trigger table.
- The Reserve fund remains below its required level in two consecutive IPDs.
- The swap counterparty trigger is breached and remedial actions are not implemented.

# **GCD** Ratio Trigger

00	
IPD after closing	Trigger (%)
April 2025	1.3
July 2025	1.6
October2025	1.9
January 2026	2.3
April 2026	2.6
July 2026	3.0
October 2026	3.3
January 2027	3.6
April 2027	3.9
July 2027	4.2
October 2027	4.5
January 2028	4.8
April 2028	5.1
From July 2028	5.5
Source: Eitch Patings trans	action documents

Source: Fitch Ratings, transaction documents



- Single borrower concentration greater than 0.1% of current pool balance.
- A breach of any of the seller's obligations or a servicer replacement event.
- The exercise of any seller's call options.
- Outstanding portfolio balance (including defaults) is less than 10% of initial balance.

#### **Interest Rate Swap**

The issuer entered into a balance guaranteed swap agreement to hedge against the fixed-floating interest rate mismatch, considering the 100% fixed-rate loans and floating-rate liabilities. Under the swap agreement, the issuer will pay a fixed coupon of 2.26% and receive three-month Euribor, on a notional amount equal to the outstanding balance of the non-defaulted receivables.

# Reserve Fund

The reserve fund (RF) was funded at the closing date with the class F notes issuance proceeds, for an amount equivalent to 1.3% of the class A to E notes' initial balances. The RF can amortise from the first IPD maintaining the above-mentioned proportion subject to a floor of 0.5% of the class A to E initial balance. It cannot amortise if it was not at target on the prior IPD or if a sequential amortisation event has occurred.

The RF is available to cover senior expenses, net swap payments and interest on the class A to E notes. Moreover, any amounts in excess of its required balance will be released through the combined waterfall and so it can be used to repay the notes if there is any PDL (so it provides CE protection). The RF will be fully released once class A to E are fully redeemed, at final legal maturity, or when the performing portfolio balance is zero.

# **Call Options**

The clean-up call, the regulatory change and / or the tax change call options can only be exercised by the seller to the extent that the repurchase value, together with the rest of the available funds, is sufficient to redeem the rated notes in whole at par together with all accrued but unpaid interest. A clean-up call event is defined when the collateral balance (including defaulted loans) is equal to, or less than, 10% of the initial portfolio balance.

Regulatory events are defined as any change in any applicable law or its interpretation by any competent authority with a material negative effect on the benefit for the seller from the transaction. A tax call event takes place when the issuer becomes required by law, after the closing date, to deduct or withhold, in respect of any payment under any of the notes, current or future taxes, levies or governmental charges that materially affects the allocation of benefits among the parties of the transaction.

# **Rating Sensitivity**

# Factors that Could, Individually or Collectively, Lead to Positive Rating Action/Upgrade Include:

- For the senior notes, the modified TAB and derivative provider minimum eligibility rating thresholds compatible with 'AAAsf' ratings under Fitch's Structured Finance and Covered Bonds Counterparty Rating Criteria.
- Increasing CE ratios as the transaction deleverages to fully compensate for the credit losses and cash flow stresses commensurate with higher rating scenarios.

# Factors that Could, Individually or Collectively, Lead to Negative Rating Action/Downgrade Include:

- Long-term asset performance deterioration such as increased delinquencies or reduced portfolio yield, which could be driven by changes in portfolio characteristics, business practices or the legislative landscape.
- For the class E notes, a combination of reduced excess spread and the late reception of recovery cash flows, particularly at the tail of the life of the transaction. This considers the thin layer of CE protection from subordination available to the class E notes, which is only provided by the RF.



# Rating Sensitivities to Stressed Default and Recovery Assumptions

	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D	Class E
Original rating	AA+	A+	BBB+	BB+	В
Increased default by 10%	AA	A+	BBB+	BB	CCC
Increased default by 25%	AA-	Α	BBB	BB	CCC
Increased default by 50%	Α	BBB+	BBB-	B+	NR
Reduced recoveries by 10%	AA+	A+	BBB+	BB+	B-
Reduced recoveries by 25%	AA+	A+	BBB+	BB	CCC
Reduced recoveries by 50%	AA	A+	BBB	BB	CCC
Increased defaults and reduced recoveries by 10% each	AA	А	BBB+	BB	CCC
Increased defaults and reduced recoveries by 25% each	A+	A-	BBB	BB-	NR
Increased defaults and reduced recoveries by 50% each	A-	BBB	BB+	CCC	NR

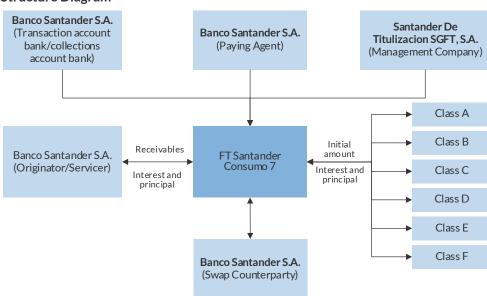
Source: Fitch Ratings

# **Best- and Worst-Case Rating Scenarios**

International scale credit ratings of structured finance transactions have a best-case rating upgrade scenario (defined as the 99th percentile of rating transitions, measured in a positive direction) of seven notches over a three-year rating horizon; and a worst-case rating downgrade scenario (defined as the 99th percentile of rating transitions, measured in a negative direction) of seven notches over three years. The complete span of best- and worst-case scenario credit ratings for all rating categories ranges from 'AAAsf' to 'Dsf'. Best- and worst-case scenario credit ratings are based on historic performance.

# **Transaction Structure**

# **Structure Diagram**



Source: Fitch Ratings, transaction documents

# **Issuer and True Sale**

The notes have been issued by Santander Consumo 7, FT, incorporated under the laws of Spain, the sole purpose of which is to acquire consumer loans from Santander as collateral for the issuance of quarterly paying notes. The credit rights sold to the issuer consist of interest and principal instalments due by the borrowers under the loans, together with any recoveries obtained from them and other ancillary rights, such as credit insurance compensation payments.

The Rating Sensitivity section provides insight into the model-implied sensitivities the transaction faces when one assumption is stressed, while holding others equal. The modelling process uses the estimation and stress of these variables to reflect asset performance in a stressed environment. The results below should only be considered as one potential outcome, as the transaction is exposed to multiple dynamic risk factors. It should not be used as an indicator of possible future performance.

No change or positive change
Negative change within same category
-1 category change
-2 category change

-3 or larger category change See report for further details



The trustee, which is supervised by the Spanish capital markets regulator, is responsible for cash reconciliation and waterfall calculations and reporting, including the monitoring of applicable triggers. It is also responsible for taking any action in the interests of noteholders, such as the replacement of ineligible counterparties if needed.

# **Representations and Warranties**

The seller provided the issuer with specific representations and warranties (R&Ws) concerning the seller's organisation and the asset characteristics. The related appendix to this report includes the main R&Ws that are available to investors. The R&Ws are substantially comparable to those typically contained in other EMEA ABS transactions, as described in Fitch's Representations, Warranties and Enforcement Mechanisms in Global Structured Finance Transactions. Fitch made no adjustments to its analysis in relation to the representations and warranties.

#### **Substitutions**

If any of the loans do not comply with the R&Ws the seller will have to remedy, replace or redeem such asset. Within 15 business days from the date the party detected the non-conforming receivable, the originator, with the management company's consent, agrees to remedy the breach, and if that is not possible, substitute the receivable. Any substitution will be made up to the outstanding principal plus interest accrued and not paid.

#### **Loan Permitted Variations**

Santander as the servicer will be allowed to renegotiate and modify the loans without the prior consent of the trustee, and within the following limits.

- The interest rate on a loan must not be lower than 6.5%, and no loans may be novated from a fixed rate to a floating rate. The maximum novation in this case maybe up to 5% of the initial portfolio balance.
- The amount of the loan balance cannot be increased and the frequency of interest payments and repayment of principal payment cannot be decreased.
- Up to 10% of the initial portfolio balance can be subjected to maturity extensions; the longest maturity must be two years prior the transaction legal maturity date.

Fitch considers these loan modifications as not material to the rating given the restrictions and limits on permitted variations which adequately prevent material alterations in the credit and cash flow profile of the portfolio.

# **Euribor Fall-Back Provisions (Simplified)**

The transaction has fall-back provisions in place in the event of the discontinuation of Euribor as summarised below. Although the procedure does not fully guarantee that any alternative base rate on the notes and the swap remain identical at all times, Fitch considers the approach sufficiently robust.

Assets	Rated notes	Swap
None	The rate determination agent will determine the replacement rate. The new rate will be endorsed or approved by the relevant regulator or any stock exchange, utilised in a publicly listed new issue of eurodenominated asset-backed floating-rate notes where the originator of	Standard fall-back provisions apply, which are aligned to the ISDA Benchmark Supplement. The new rate applicable to the derivative car result in a different rate than the one applicable on the notes.
	the relevant assets is Santander or an affiliate of the group.	Both the SPV and the swap counterparty have the right to terminate
	The change will not take place if the trustee deems it prejudicial for noteholders. All costs incurred for the base rate modification should be borne by the seller, and the trustee should notify the rating agencies and make reasonable efforts to ensure it does not negatively affect the ratings.	the swap contract if not in agreement with the alternative rate.  Nonetheless, both parties must use all reasonable efforts to agree on the actions to avoid the termination event.
	Any change to the reference rate of the floating-rate notes will apply to the interest rate swap unless the swap counterparty decides not to accept the alternative base rate.	



# Disclaimer

Fitch relies in its credit analysis on legal and/or tax opinions provided by transaction counsel for the avoidance of doubt. Fitch has always made clear that it does not provide legal and/or tax advice or confirm that the legal and/or tax opinions, or any other transaction documents, or any transaction structures, are sufficient for any purpose. The disclaimer at the end of this report makes it clear that this report does not constitute legal, tax and/or structuring advice from Fitch, and should not be used or interpreted as legal, tax and/or structuring advice from Fitch. Should readers of this report need legal, tax and/or structuring advice, they are urged to contact relevant advisers in the relevant jurisdictions. dv01, a Fitch Solutions company, and an affiliate of Fitch Ratings, may from time to time serve as loan data agent on certain structured finance transactions rated by Fitch Ratings.

# Counterparty Risk

Fitch assesses the counterparty risk under its *Structured Finance and Covered Bonds Counterparty Rating Criteria* to be in line with the ratings assigned based on the provisions in the documents and the analytical adjustments described in the following table.

# **Counterparty Risk Exposures**

Counterparty type	Counterparty name	Minimum ratings under criteria	Minimum ratings and remedial actions under documents	Analytical adjustments
TAB	Banco Santander S.A.	A- or F1 deposit rating (DR) if assigned and applicable, otherwise IDR.	Minimum DR (or IDR if not available) of A-or F1; replacement or guarantee within 60 calendar days from an eligible entity.	No adjustment. Minimum ratings and remedial actions in line with criteria up to AA+sf ratings.
Hedge provider	Banco Santander S.A.	A- or F1 Derivative Counterparty Rating (DCR) if assigned and applicable, otherwise IDR.	Minimum dynamic ratings, considering the highest rated note. DCR or IDR if not available. At closing, A-or F1 as the highest rated note is AA+sf. For example, BBB or F2 if the highest rated note is A+sf. Remedials include collateralisation within 14 calendar days, or replacement or a guarantee within 60 calendar days.	Minimum ratings and remedial actions in line with criteria up to AA+sf ratings.
Originator, servicer, CAB	Banco Santander, S.A.	None.	n.a.	Servicing disruption risk is mitigated by the RF liquidity that covers the payment interruption risk exposure amount. Collections are swept by the CAB into the TAB within two business days.
Paying agent	Banco Santander, S.A.	None.	n.a.	The exposure is characterised by operational risk. The paying agent provider has ample operational capabilities and international record.

#### **Transaction Account Bank**

Source: Fitch Ratings, transaction documents

Banco Santander, S.A. acts as TAB provider, holding the RF and the collections from the assets. Fitch classifies this exposure as a primary credit risk under its counterparty criteria. Fitch considers the structure to adequately address TAB counterparty risk by incorporating rating eligibility thresholds that would trigger remedial actions within 60 calendar days if the TAB provider's deposit rating (or IDR if not available) is downgraded below 'A-' and 'F1'. The remedial actions upon loss of eligibility include replacement or guarantee from an eligible entity. Costs related to the replacement will be borne by the counterparty.

# Hedge Provider

Banco Santander, S.A. acts as interest rate swap provider. Fitch classifies this exposure as a primary credit risk under its counterparty criteria. Fitch believes the structure adequately addresses hedge provider counterparty risk by incorporating dynamic minimum ratings that would trigger remedial actions if the hedge provider's DCR (or IDR if not available) is



downgraded below established thresholds. At closing, the minimum rating is 'A-' or 'F1'. Remedial actions include collateralisation (within 14 calendar days), replacement with an eligible counterparty, or an eligible guarantor (within 60 calendar days).

As the transaction documents link the minimum rating of the swap provider to the rating category of the most senior notes, this feature may limit upgrades of the most senior notes in the future where the hedge provider is not eligible to support higher note ratings.

# Portfolio Servicer

The issuer has appointed Santander to act as its servicer in accordance with the terms of the servicing agreement. Fitch has conducted an operational review with Santander to assess, among other features, its business strategy, underwriting practices and servicing capabilities.

# **Payment Interruption and Commingling Risk**

We view payment interruption risk as sufficiently mitigated. If a servicer event leads to a collection disruption, the RF is available to cover an estimated period of at least three months of senior costs, net swap payments (if any) and interest on the class A to E notes, a period we consider sufficient to implement alternative arrangements.

Fitch views commingling risk as immaterial for this transaction due to the transfer of direct debit collections from the CAB to the TAB within two business days, and an adequate borrower notification process upon a servicer termination event.

#### Set-Off Risk

Banco Santander is a deposit-taking institution. Fitch does not consider deposit set-off risk material for the ratings due to the legal framework in Spain, which establishes that set-off would only be applicable to debts that are due and enforceable (amounts in arrears) and that none of the debts are subject to disputes if notified to the obligor. Moreover, this risk is also protected by the Deposit Guarantee Scheme in Spain, which protects deposits of up to EUR100,000.

With respect to insurance set-off risk, around half of the loans have insurance-linked separate contracts. Potential set-off losses related to the financed insurance premium cannot be entirely ruled out in the event of the insurer defaulting and failing to pay compensation when it is claimed.

Nonetheless, Fitch views this risk as not material for the ratings as premium payments represent around 2.5% of the portfolio balance, and Spain's insurance industry has a clear regulatory framework which protects customer claims following an insurer default. In the event of the default of an insurer, the Insurance Compensation Consortium, a Spanish public entity, is in charge of liquidating the defaulted insurer and settling policyholder's obligations.

# Criteria Application, Model and Data Adequacy

# **Criteria Application**

See page 2 for the list of Applicable Criteria.

Fitch applies the *Consumer ABS Rating Criteria* as its sector-specific criteria report under the overarching framework provided by the *Global Structured Finance Rating Criteria*, the master criteria report for the sector. The *Structured Finance and Covered Bonds Country Risk Rating Criteria* report outlines Fitch's approach to assigning and maintaining structured finance and covered bond ratings, where the relevant sovereign's Local-Currency IDR is below 'AAA'. The remaining criteria listed under Applicable Criteria are cross-sector, outlining aspects of Fitch's approach to counterparty risk and interest rate change that are relevant for the ratings.

# Models

Consumer ABS Asset Model

Multi-Asset Cash Flow Model



# **Data Adequacy**

Fitch has been provided with the following data for its analysis. The list below is not exhaustive.

- Default and recovery vintages on a quarterly basis, and origination volumes from 2012 to 2Q24.
- Loan-by-loan portfolio data, and pool amortisation profile, as of November 2024.

Fitch carried out a file review as part of the originator review process with satisfactory results. Fitch also reviewed the results of a third-party assessment conducted on the asset portfolio information, and concluded that there were no findings that affected the rating analysis.

# Surveillance

Fitch will monitor the transaction regularly and as warranted by events, with a review conducted at least yearly. Performance reports will be provided by the management company on a quarterly basis. Fitch's quantitative analysis will focus on monitoring the key performance parameters (delinquencies, defaults, recoveries and prepayments) against our expectations. Fitch's structured finance performance analytics team will ensure that the assigned ratings remain an appropriate reflection of the issued notes' credit risk. Details of the transaction's performance will be available to subscribers at www.fitchratings.com.



# Appendix 1: Origination and Servicing

# **Originator Overview**

Santander is one of the largest retail banks in Spain, it is classified as an operational continuity bank and is supervised by the ECB. Santander originates consumer loans mainly through web, applications or branches.

Fitch conducted a meeting with Santander management after which it concluded that its origination and servicing capabilities are robust and generally aligned with standard market practices.

# Underwriting

Pre-approved consumer loans represented around 81% of total consumer lending in 1H24 for Santander, increasing from around 50% in 2015. Pre-approved loans as a share of origination volumes have steadily increased since 2021. Pre-approved loans are granted to existing customers with a minimum of a three-month current account record with the lender, allowing Santander to assess its credit profile and assign a pre-approved credit limit. This credit limit is re-assessed by Santander typically twice a month, reflecting the latest information available from the borrower.

The underwriting workflow is mainly driven by an automated decision process, which relies on behavioral and scoring model outcomes. Scoring models vary depending on the characteristics of the borrower, mainly depending on whether it is to assign pre-approved limits or sanctioning not pre-approved loans. Since 3Q22, Santander has tightened the pre-approval loans origination process by differentiating between first-time pre-approved customers and older customers who had been pre-approved for loans on previous occasions with longer track-records/current account history.

Loan applications are processed and scored automatically by Santander's systems that might result in an automatic rejection, automatic approval or in limited cases are directed for manual analysis. Loan applications, independent of the origination channel, are processed through the same system.

# Servicing

Santander's servicing practices for unsecured consumer loans are in line with market standards. There has been a recent change in the recovery model with focus on enhanced digital capabilities, analytics to increase personalisation, and industrial solutions to serve high volumes of customer difficulties.

The arrears management process begins from the first unpaid instalment. During all the phases of the recovery both internal and external teams co-manage the process. Santander's teams are more focused on the early stages of the process (arrears of up to 90 days) while external agencies are focused on distressed loans in arrears over 90 days.



# **Appendix 2: ESG Relevance Score**

# **Fitch**Ratings

Credit-Relevant ESG Derivation

# Santander Consumo 7, FT

# **SF ESG Navigator**

Consumer ABS - Unsecured

OHISAHIICH	ADO	Oliocoul
	ESG	Relevance to
	Ci	redit Rating

Santander Consumo 7, FT has 5 ESG potential rating drivers	key driver	0	issues	5	
<ul> <li>Santander Consumo 7, FT has exposure to macroeconomic factors and sustained structural shifts in secular preferences affecting consumer behavior but this has very low impact on the rating.</li> <li>Governance is minimally relevant to the rating and is not currently a driver.</li> </ul>	driver	0	issues	4	
	potential driver	5	issues	3	
	not a rating	5	issues	2	
	driver	4	issues	1	

#### Environmental (E) Relevance Scores

General Issues	E Score	Sector-Specific Issues	Reference	E Rel	evance
GHG Emissions & Air Quality	2	n.a.	n.a.	5	
Energy Management	2	n.a.	n.a.	4	
Water & Wastewater Management	1	n.a.	n.a.	3	
Waste & Hazardous Materials Management; Ecological Impacts	1	n.a.	n.a.	2	
Exposure to Environmental Impacts	2	Asset, operations and/or cash flow exposure to extreme weather events and other catastrophe risks, including but not limited to flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes	Surveillance	1	

#### Social (S) Relevance Scores

ootial (o) Notonial ootio					
General Issues	S Score	Sector-Specific Issues	Reference	SR	elevance
Human Rights, Community Relations, Access & Affordability	1	Risk-based pricing/repricing, social programs, services geared to underbanked/underserved communities and impact on accessibility and affordability	Surveillance	5	
Customer Welfare - Fair Messaging, Privacy & Data Security	2	Compliance with consumer protection related regulatory requirements, such as fair/transparent lending, data security, and safety standards	Surveillance	4	
Labor Relations & Practices	2	n.a.	n.a.	3	
Employee Wellbeing	1	n.a.	n.a.	2	
Exposure to Social Impacts	3	Macroeconomic factors and sustained structural shifts in secular preferences affecting consumer behavior	Asset Quality; Pool Composition; Surveillance	1	

#### Governance (G) Relevance Scores

General Issues	G Score	Sector-Specific Issues	Reference	G Re	elevance
Rule of Law, Institutional and Regulatory Quality	3	Jurisdictional legal risks; regulatory effectiveness; supervisory oversight; foreclosure laws; government support and intervention	Asset Isolation and Legal Structure; Asset Quality; Rating Caps; Surveillance	5	
Transaction & Collateral Structure	3	Asset isolation; resolution/insolvency remoteness; legal structure; structural risk mitigants; complex structures	Asset Isolation and Legal Structure; Asset Quality; Financial Structure; Rating Caps; Surveillance	4	
Transaction Parties & Operational Risk	3	Counterparty risk; origination, underwriting and/or aggregator standards; borrower/lessee/sponsor risk; originator/servicer/manager/operational risk	Asset Quality; Financial Structure; Operational Risk; Rating Caps; Surveillance	3	
Data Transparency & Privacy	3	Transaction data and periodic reporting	Asset Isolation and Legal Structure; Asset Quality; Financial Structure; Surveillance	2	
				1	

How to Read This Page
ESG relevance scores range from 1 to 5 based on a 15-level color
gradation. Red (5) is most relevant to the credit rating and green (1) is
least relevant.
The Environmental (E), Social (S) and Governance (G) tables break
out the ESG general issues and the sector-specific issues that are most
relevant to each industry group. Relevance scores are assigned to each
sector-specific issue, signaling the credit-relevance of the sectorspecific issues to the issuer's overall credit rating. The Criteria
Reference column highlights the factor(s) within which the corresponding
ESG issues are captured in Fitch's credit analysis. The vertical color
bars are visualizations of the frequency of occurrence of the highest
constituent relevance scores. They do not represent an aggregate of
the relevance scores or aggregate ESG credit relevance.
The Credit-Relevant ESG Derivation table's far right column is a
visualization of the frequency of occurrence of the highest ESG
relevance scores across the combined E, S and G categories. The
three columns to the left of ESG Relevance to Credit Raing summarize
rating relevance and impact to credit from ESG issues. The box on the
far left identifies any ESG Relevance Sub-factor issues that are drivers
or potential drivers of the issuer's credit rating (corresponding with
scores All scores of 43 and 15 are assumed to reflet a negative impact to greate and regular incorres of 14 and 15 are assumed to reflet a negative impact to

or potential drivers of the issuer's credit rating (corresponding with scores of 3, 4 or 5) and provides a brief explanation for the relevance score. All scores of '4' and '5' are assumed to reflect a negative impact unless indicated with a' + sign for positive impact.

Classification of ESG issues has been developed from Fitch's sector ratings criteria. The General Issues and Sector-Specific Issues draw on the classification standards published by the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investing (PRI), the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), and the World Bank.

CREDIT-RELEVANT ESG SCALE - DEFINITIONS								
How relevant are E, S and G issues to the overall credit rating?								
5		Highly relevant; a key transaction or program rating driver that has a significant impact on an individual basis.						
4		Relevant to transaction or program ratings; not a key rating driver but has an impact on the ratings in combination with other factors.						
3		Minimally relevant to ratings; either very low impact or actively mitigated in a way that results in no impact on the transaction or program ratings.						
2		Irrelevant to the transaction or program ratings; relevant to the sector.						
1		Irrelevant to the transaction or program ratings; irrelevant to the sector.						



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