

# UnionBank of the Philippines (UBP PM)

FUNDAMENTAL VIEW 1 As of 19 May 2025 KEY MET

- The bank has historically generated higher returns than peers, but it geared its
  focus significantly towards the retail segment through acquiring Citi's Philippine
  retail portfolio in 2022 and organic growth, which brought retail loans to more
  than half the total book.
- Returns have suffered despite the good boost to core revenues, as asset quality
  deterioration from the riskier growth direction resulted in high credit costs which
  we have forewarned. Continued rounds of capital infusions from shareholders
  have thus been required. The reserve cover is maintained relatively thin.

#### **RISKS & CATALYSTS**

As of 19 May 2025

- Any rating downgrade of the Philippine sovereign or reduction of shareholding by Aboitiz Equity Ventures would negatively impact UBP.
- The bank's aggressive retail expansion has improved the NIM, but negatively impacted overall profitability because of high credit costs (particularly since 2H23) which we have forewarned. We continue to dislike its focus on riskier retail given the already large loan book exposure. It is now focusing on lower risk, shorter term loans at UnionDigital, but the improvement in credit costs have been slow to come through given fallout from higher risk taking in other segments.
- The bank however benefits from good shareholder support; it successfully completed a third stock rights offering of PHP 10 bn in 2Q24 (2023: PHP 12 bn; 2022: PHP 40 bn) to shore up capital. Lower opex from 2Q24 onwards is also aiding the bottomline.

# **CREDIT QUALITY SCORE (CQS)**<sup>2</sup> As of 16 Oct 2025 **CURRENT CQS COS OUTLOOK 3** 46 HISTORICAL RATINGS: AVERAGE AGENCY RATING (ACR) VS CQS CQS ACR 70 65 BBB 60 55 50 40 35 30 Apr 25 Jun 25 Aug 25 Dec 24 Feb 25 Oct 25 ACR

KEY METRICS	As of 19 May 2025
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FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	1Q25
4.60%	4.80%	5.50%	6.00%	6.30%
1.6%	1.3%	0.8%	1.1%	0.5%
11.5%	9.7%	5.6%	6.4%	2.9%
2.59%	2.17%	2.31%	3.08%	2.74%
16.3%	11.3%	13.9%	15.6%	14.9%
13.5%	13.6%	15.3%	17.1%	16.8%
5.00%	4.80%	6.27%	6.89%	6.90%
63.1%	67.4%	73.8%	77.3%	74.6%
272%	148%	163%	250%	n/m
149%	124%	124%	128%	n/m
	4.60% 1.6% 11.5% 2.59% 16.3% 13.5% 5.00% 63.1% 272%	4.60%       4.80%         1.6%       1.3%         11.5%       9.7%         2.59%       2.17%         16.3%       11.3%         13.5%       13.6%         5.00%       4.80%         63.1%       67.4%         272%       148%	4.60%       4.80%       5.50%         1.6%       1.3%       0.8%         11.5%       9.7%       5.6%         2.59%       2.17%       2.31%         16.3%       11.3%       13.9%         13.5%       13.6%       15.3%         5.00%       4.80%       6.27%         63.1%       67.4%       73.8%         272%       148%       163%	4.60%       4.80%       5.50%       6.00%         1.6%       1.3%       0.8%       1.1%         11.5%       9.7%       5.6%       6.4%         2.59%       2.17%       2.31%       3.08%         16.3%       11.3%       13.9%       15.6%         13.5%       13.6%       15.3%       17.1%         5.00%       4.80%       6.27%       6.89%         63.1%       67.4%       73.8%       77.3%         272%       148%       163%       250%

## **BUSINESS DESCRIPTION**

As of 19 May 2025

- UnionBank of the Philippines was incorporated in 1968, and listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange in June 1992. Principal shareholders are Aboitiz Equity Ventures (49.66%), Insular Life (16%), & Social Security System (18%).
- UBP undertook mergers with International Corporate Bank in 1994 and International Exchange Bank in 2006. City Savings Bank (a thrift bank) was purchased in Jan 2013. City Savings received merger approval with PR Savings (a bank engaged in motorcycle, agri-machinery, & teachers' salary loans) in Dec 2018 from the BSP. It acquired the Citi Philippines retail franchise in 2022.
- The loan book is broadly split 38% wholesale loans and 62% retail loans (comprising 34% credit cards, 21% mortgages and 7% salary loans at the parent, 36% teachers loans, salary loans and motorcycle loans by the thrift bank subsidiary, City Savings Bank, and 1% UnionDigital) at Mar-25.

## **GLOSSARY**

- <sup>1</sup> The **Fundamental View** is our current assessment of credit quality and our expectation of how credit quality will trend over the next year or longer.
- <sup>2</sup> The **Credit Quality Score (CQS)** is a number between 5 and 100. It is a medium-term credit score for corporates and financial institutions that utilizes a combination of sector fundamental scores and equity market signals. Values of CQS above 50 generally indicate investment grade credit quality.
- <sup>3</sup> The **Credit Quality Score (CQS) Outlook** is the near-term (3 month) outlook for the CQS, based on its trend, volatility and distance from the adjacent CQS risk bucket.
- <sup>4</sup>The **Agency Composite Rating (ACR)** is the average senior unsecured rating from one or more major rating agencies.

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