



The bank for a changing world

## **Personal Introductions**

#### Bank Advisory provides strategic financial advice to BNP Paribas' bank clients



**Adrian Docherty** 



**Daniel Patton** 

Background in strategy consulting (Booz Allen)

COO for Barclays Investment Banking

20 years at BNP Paribas as Head of Bank Advisory

Better Banking: Understanding and Addressing the Failures in Risk Management, Governance and Regulation (Wiley, 2014)

7 years at BNP Paribas as part of Bank Advisory



"Better Banking by Adrian Docherty and Frank Viort is an outstanding introduction to the recent financial crisis. It starts from first principles and provides many useful new insights, delivering detailed case studies of the banks that got into trouble as well as critiques of past and proposed regulations. I recommend this book to those who want to learn the basics about banking crises and to those looking for a fresh and sophisticated perspective on risk taking by banks."

—Douglas W. Diamond, Merton H. Miller Distinguished Service Professor of Finance, University of Chicago Booth School of Business

...and 2022 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences

The views expressed in this presentation are the author's personal views, not the views of BNP Paribas S.A.

# You Go Your Way, I'll Go Mine

Yesterday Today Tomorrow

#### **MODERNISATION**

- Decision support tools
- Basel II
- · Risk as a discipline
- Globalisation

#### **GFC**

#### **REACTION**

- Distrust
- Nostalgism, back to basics
- Misguided policies, errors
- Regulatory pendulum in excess

## **DEGLOBALISATION**

- Trade and military tensions
- · Shift in global order
- · Decline of international consensus

#### **FRAGMENTATION**



#### **FOCUS ON VALUE**

- · Banks in the valuation doghouse
- · Capital: a precious resource
- Risk constraints (or is it RWAs?)

# WELCOME TO THE FUTURE

- End of the peace dividend
- Trapped resources
- Drop in liquidity, flows

#### A GOLDEN AGE OF CPM

- Economic value management
- Active not passive
- · Challenging shibboleths

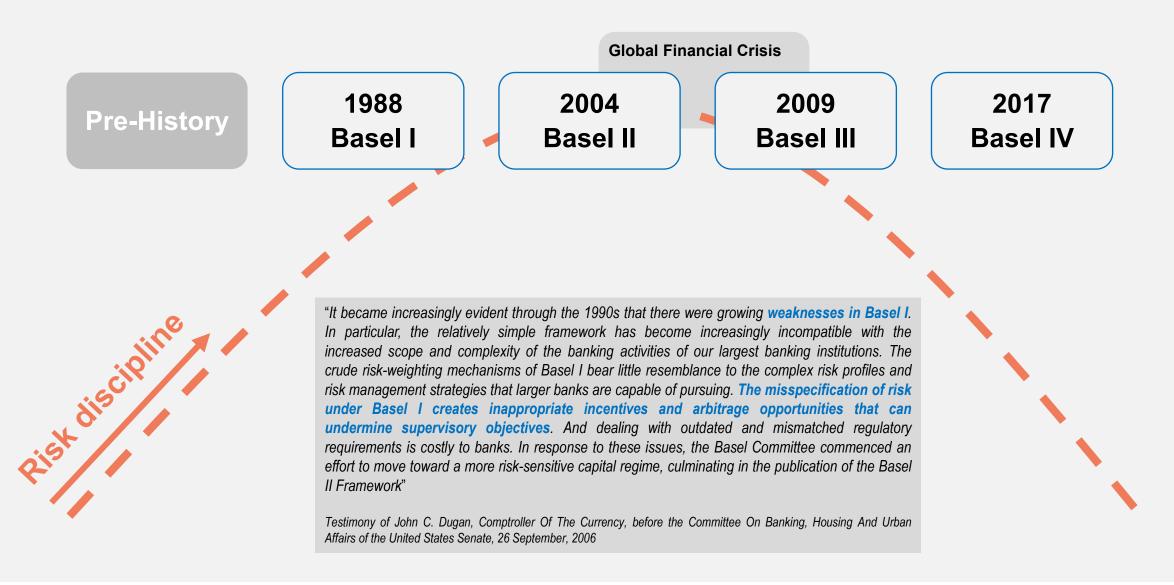
# RISE OF NON-BANK FINANCE

- Have we overregulated the banks?
- Do we risk a credit crunch?
- Where does all the risk go?





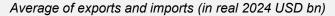
# "Risk management has been regressing since the GFC"

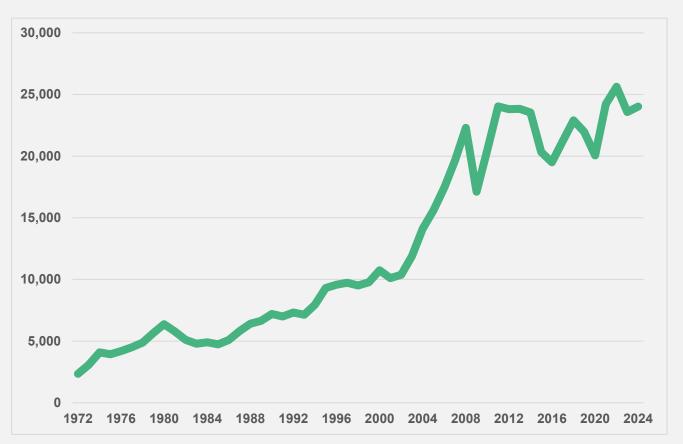


# Jurce: WTO BCBS

# A Globalised World Needs Globalised Banking Regulations

#### **Evolution of International Trade**





BIS was founded in 1930 to coordinate reparations from the Treaty of Versailles

Crises in the 1970s "brought the issue of regulatory supervision of internationally active banks to the fore"

#### Basel I (1988)

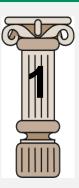
- A. Strengthen soundness and stability of the international banking system
  - B. Diminish sources of competitive inequality



# Basel II aimed for sophistication, judgement and discipline

#### Pillar 1

Minimum Capital Requirements

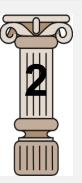


Essentially, all the "bottom up" risks that are represented as RWAs

**Sophisticated:** Based on the statistics of a bank's own experience and judgement ("IRB")

#### Pillar 2

Supervisory Review Process



**Risks not covered by RWAs:** interest rate risk, pension risk, concentration risk...

Holistic risk views: internal/supervisory ("ICAAP" for capital, "ILAAP" for liquidity, public stress tests)

# **Pillar 3 Market Discipline**



Full and clear disclosure

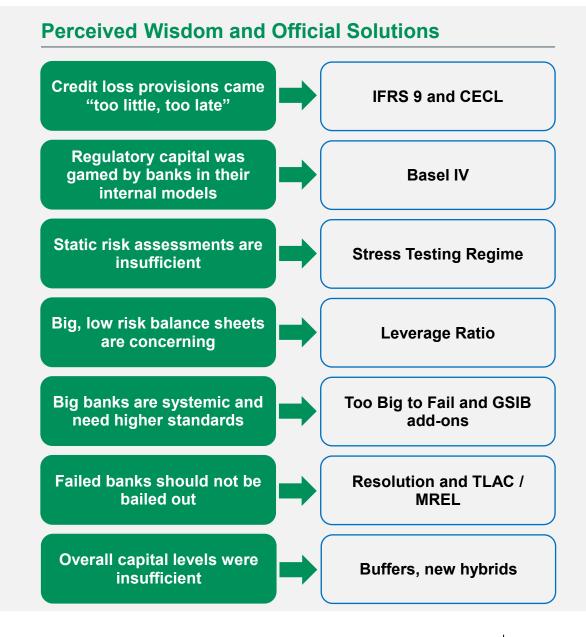
Philosophical Underpinnings: Belief in Self-Regulation and Free Markets

"Market discipline can contribute to a safe and sound banking environment"



# Some Policy Responses to the GFC were Misguided

Reality and "Better Banking"





# **Basel IV: Designed to Override Reality**

#### Modelled capital requirements led to perceived problems

Issues addressed by capital floors and leverage ratios

Table 1

Issue	Addressed by risk- weighted capital floor	Addressed by the leverage ratio	
Use of low RWAs to boost financial leverage	No	Yes	
<ul> <li>Unexpectedly large losses in low-RWA portfolios</li> </ul>	No	Yes	
Lack of market confidence in RWAs	No	Yes	
RWA inconsistency and dispersion	Yes	No	
Low level of models-based RWAs	Yes	No	
Horizontal inequity in risk-weighted capital	Yes	No	

During the depths of the crisis, did some banks reduce model conservatism to boost reported solvency?

Quantitative studies have been inconclusive.

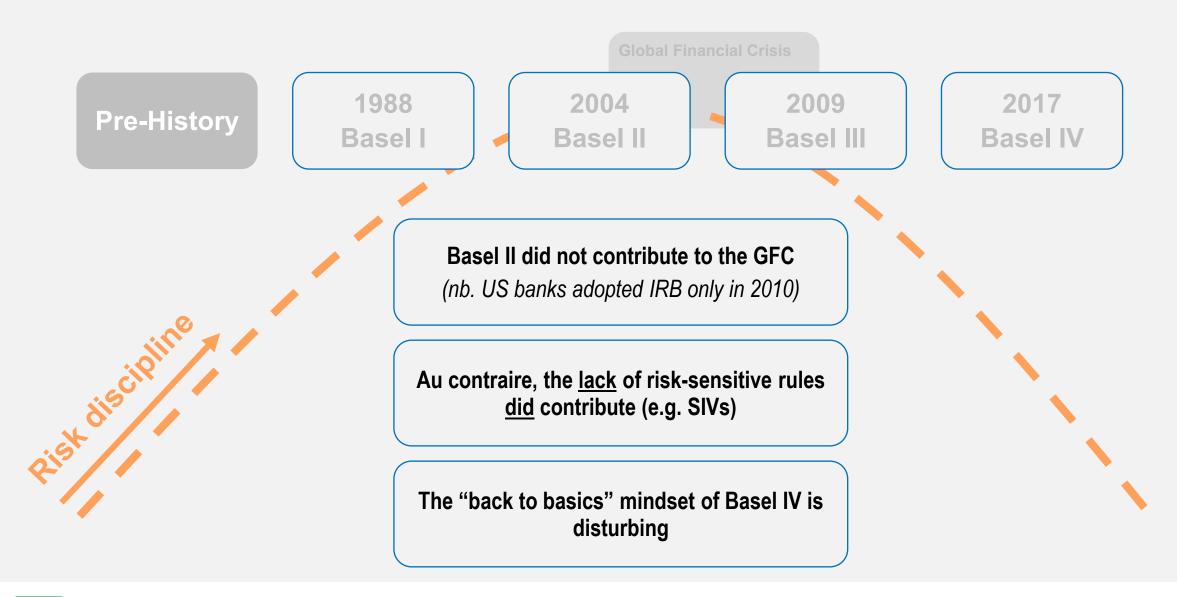
Regulators concluded that banks' models

gave inconsistent outputs

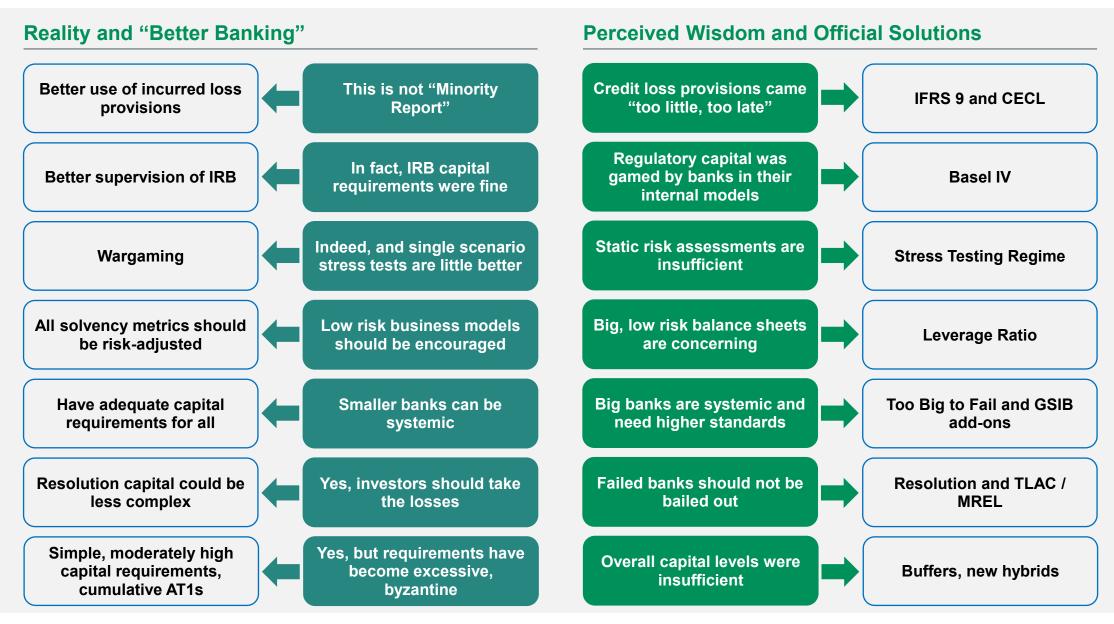
In December 2014, Basel proposed a floor based on standardised look-ups

Of course, the real answer is to improve supervision of banks' models

# To be clear, Basel IV is misguided



# Policy responses to the GFC were often misguided





# Source: World Bank, BNP Paribas

# Meanwhile, the world deglobalizes

#### Deglobalisation is beginning to show



#### The end of the Basel Accord? So what?

The global banking industry post-Basel would be fragmented, disharmonious, uncoordinated and lacking leadership

Local rather than consolidated supervision would lead to wastefully trapped capital and liquidity (cf. new rules for UBS)

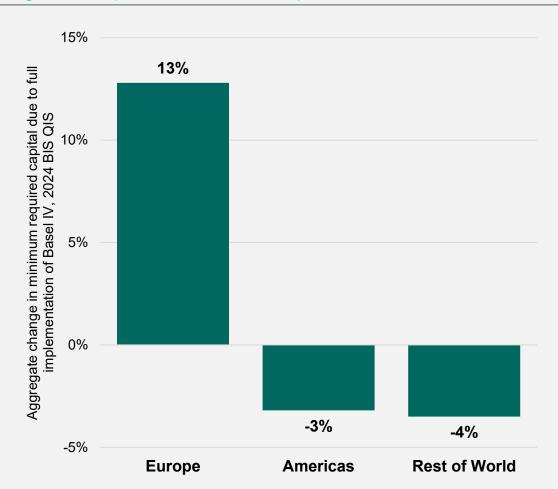
Problems would emerge (e.g. crypto, cyber, resolution)



# Source: Basel III Monitoring Report, Basel Committee, October 2024; BNP Paribas

# Basel IV was agreed to be capital neutral

#### Regional impact of Basel IV implementation



Basel IV was agreed to be capital neutral overall

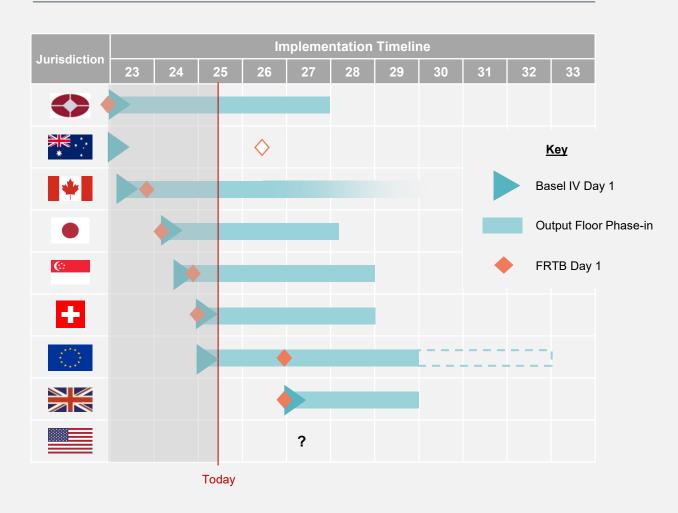
Basel IV was designed to impact banks with a low risk weight density – and that is mostly Europe

If the US were to simply implement the global Basel IV rules, the outcome would be capital neutral

# Source: Regulatory authorities, BIS Basel RCAP, BNP Paribas

# Basel IV has been slow to go live

#### Basel IV: Live in the EU but what about the US?



EU has now gone live with its tweaked version, but FRTB is delayed to 2027

Smaller jurisdictions have implemented largely compliantly

US will plot their own course, with a capital neutral implementation expected

Canada has indefinitely frozen the output floor at 67.5%. UK has delayed to 2027

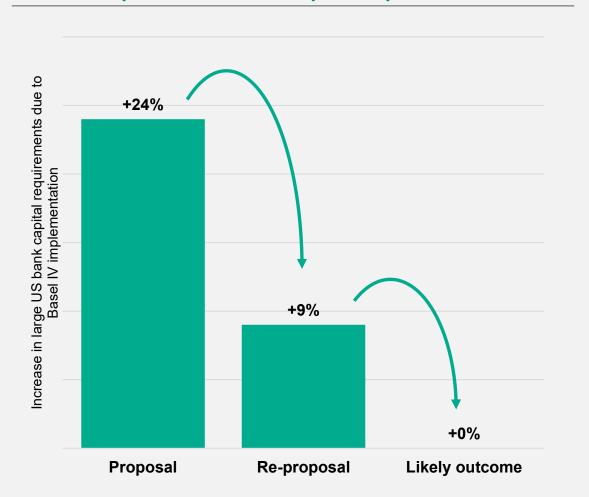
Other jurisdictions are considering further dilution, reportedly to preserve a "level playing field"



# Source: US Fed NPR Jul23; US Fed Barr Re-proposal speech Sep24; Speech by Governor Bowman on a fresh look at supervision and regulation, Federal Reserve, 6 June 2025; BNP Paribas

# **US Basel IV will be capital neutral**

#### **Basel IV impact on US bank capital requirements**



The original proposal of Jul 2023 has significant gold-plating, resulting in a +24% increase in capital requirements

The re-proposal of Sep 2024 decreased the impact to +9%

We expect new proposals from Miki Bowman et al. in 6 months' time... Capital-neutral and "Basel compliant"?

**Expected revisions include:** 

- Leverage Ratio ("SLR" and "eSLR")
- Tailoring for mid-size banks
- Reduced fee component for op risk
- "Driving all risk out of the banking system is at odds with the fundamental nature of the business of banking"



# Superpowers don't follow the Basel rules

#### **Basel III compliance**

Jurisdiction	Compliance grade for Basel III risk-based capital requirements
Australia	Compliant
Canada	Compliant
China	Compliant
EU	Materially non-compliant
Hong Kong	Compliant
Japan	Compliant
Korea	Compliant
Singapore	Compliant
Switzerland	Compliant
UK	Materially non-compliant
US	Largely compliant

Most jurisdictions are "compliant" and follow the Basel Framework almost word for word

The superpowers (EU, UK & US) deviate from the Basel Standards

Basel hasn't yet done a compliance test on Basel IV

# Globally, regulatory practices are already divergent

#### Divergent prudential regulations – the playing field is already bumpy









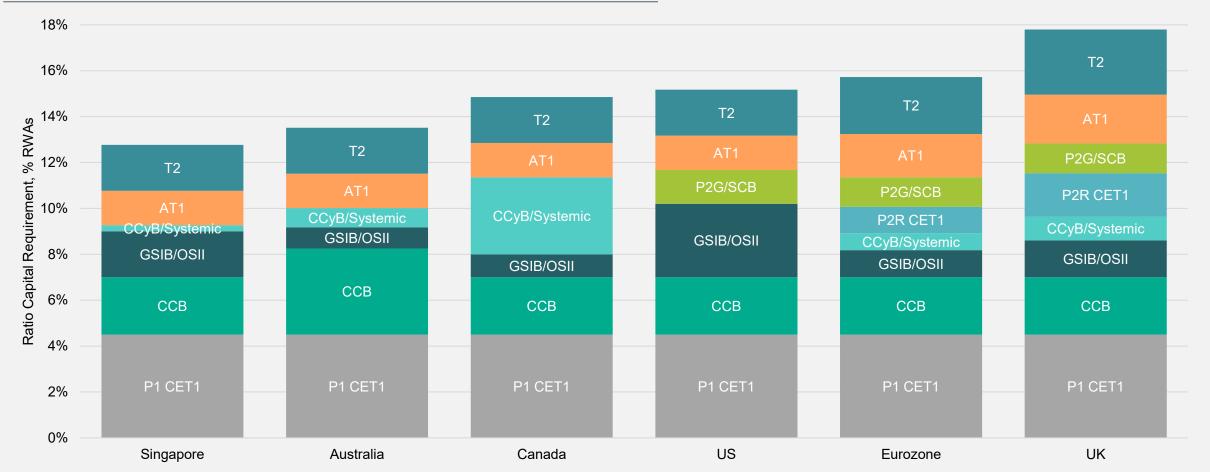




Danish Compromise	Collins floor	Basel IV floor EL adjustment	Basel IV floor EL adjustment	Risk weight floors	Foreign subsidiary deduction
Corporate CVA exemption	SCB	P2A, P2B		Larger capital conservation buffer	
SME support factor	Higher mortgage risk weights			RW floors and multiplier	
P2R, P2G, OSII				IRRBB RWAs	

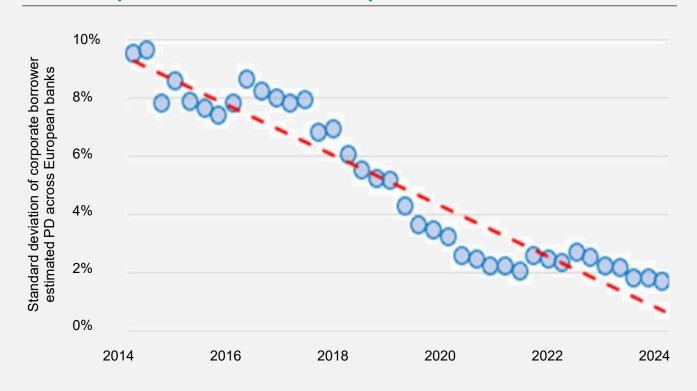
# Capital requirements are fragmented and needlessly complex

### The global buffer framework is not consistent across jurisdictions



# While the "excessive variability" of IRB has reduced...

#### Model dispersion has fallen at European banks



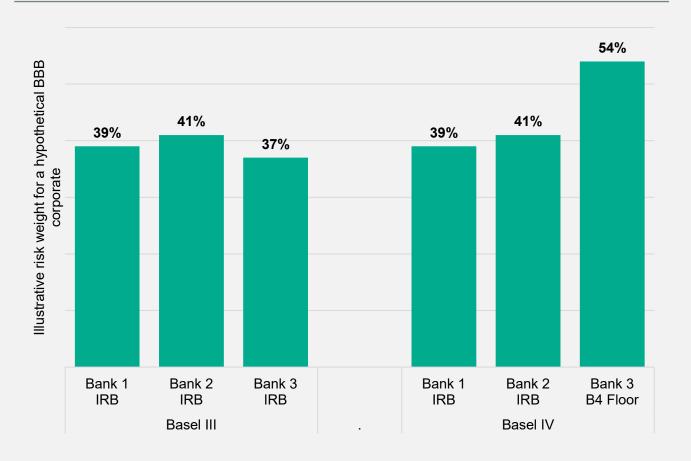
Each year, the EBA assesses the disparity in credit IRB parameters across European banks

Since 2015, the dispersion in estimated PD for IRB credit assessments at European banks has fallen

The fall in the standard deviation of PD estimates has occurred across all asset classes

# ...Basel IV will cause risk weight variation to increase

#### For IRB banks, Basel IV leads to increased risk weight variation



There has always been dispersion in the assessment of borrower riskiness

Some heterogeneity in credit risk assessment is a good thing, limiting systemic risk

For a 'BBB' rated corporate, the Basel IV floor gives 54% risk weight

The effect of Basel IV is to increase risk weight variation, rather than decrease (which was the stated intention)



# Source: BNP Paribas

# Our simulation explores jurisdictional differences in capital ratios

#### The simulation is applied to four hypothetical banks

Simulated Bank	Business Mix		
A Diversified	Similar amounts of corporate lending and mortgages. Some retail, SME and CRE. Mid-sized insurance sub and some equity stakes. Foreign sub		
B Focus on HY Corporates	Loan book dominated by high yield corporate lending. Some retail, SME and CRE. Some equity stakes		
C Focus on Prime Mortgages	Loan book dominated by prime mortgages. Modest corporate and retail lending		
D Major Bancassurer	Large insurance sub. Similar amounts of corporate lending and mortgages. Some retail		

The "level playing field" can be simulated by taking different regulatory regimes and applying them to hypothetical banks

Capital headroom is the focus, and it is driven by both the changes in actual capital ratio and changes in ratio requirements

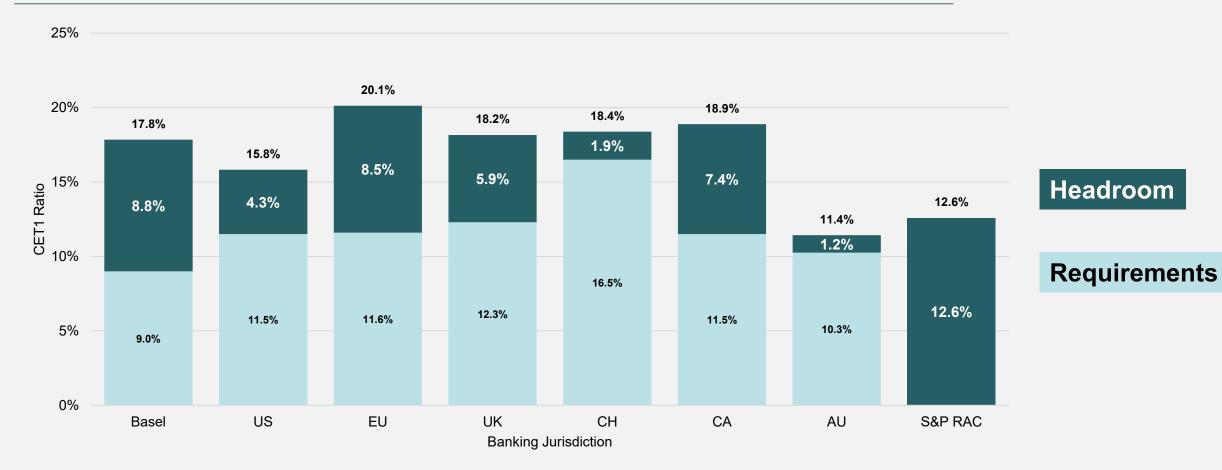
Divergence in capital ratio stems from credit risk weights, deductions, accounting provisions, Basel IV floors, IRRBB

Ratio requirements diverge due to differences in GSIB buffers, foreign subsidiary treatment, and the presence of P2R, P2G, SCB

# The diversified bank fares well under Basel, US, EU, UK, CA, less so CH, AU

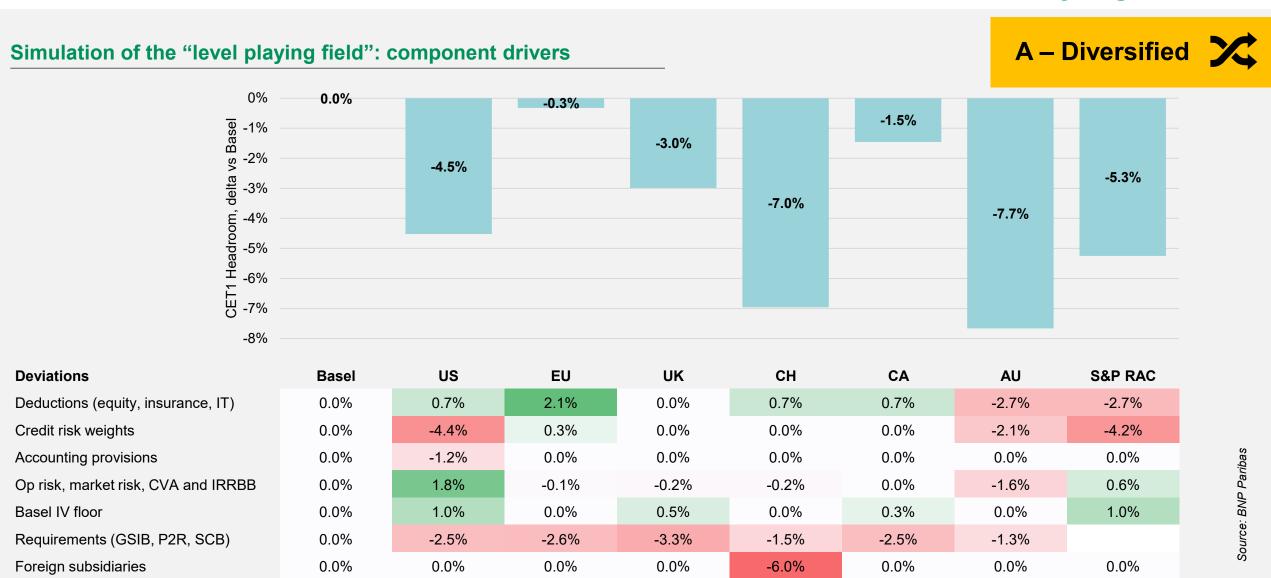
A – Diversified

## Simulation of the "level playing field": bank solvency under different regulatory regimes





# Jurisdictional differences drive the relative levelness of the "playing field"



-3.0%

-7.0%

-1.5%

-7.7%



Total

0.0%

-4.5%

-0.3%

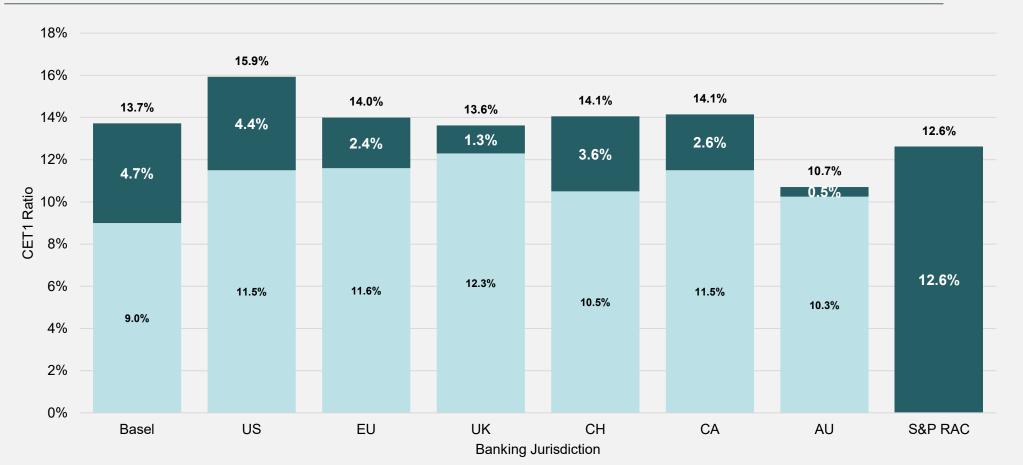
-5.3%

# The second simulated bank (HY Corporate focused) fares better in the US

B – HY Corporate



#### Simulation of the "level playing field": bank solvency under different regulatory regimes



Headroom

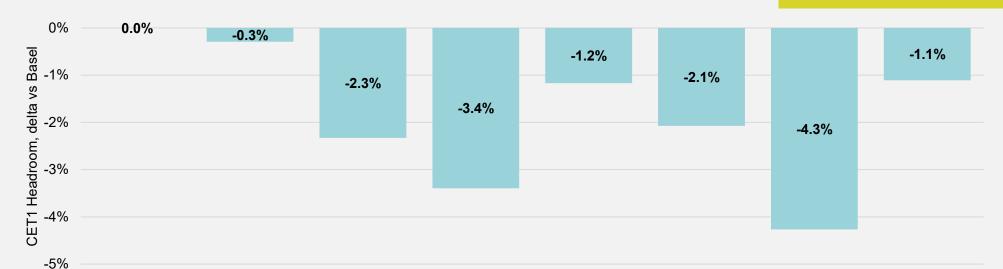
Requirements

ource: BNP Parib

# Lower US risk weights for HY corporates leads to a higher ratio

Simulation of the "level playing field": component drivers



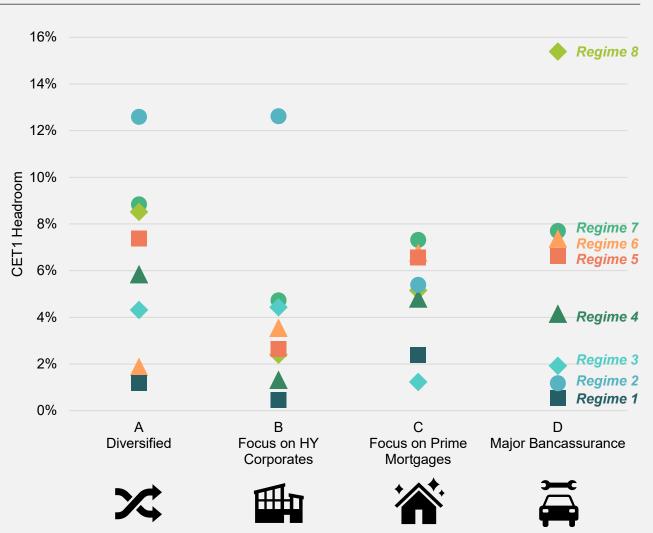


Deviations	Basel	US	EU	UK	СН	CA	AU	S&P RAC
Deductions (equity, insurance, IT)	0.0%	0.4%	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	-1.0%	-1.0%
Credit risk weights	0.0%	1.6%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-1.3%	-0.1%
Accounting provisions	0.0%	-0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Op risk, market risk, CVA and IRRBB	0.0%	0.9%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	0.0%	-0.6%	0.0%
Basel IV floor	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Requirements (GSIB, P2R, SCB)	0.0%	-2.5%	-2.6%	-3.3%	-1.5%	-2.5%	-1.3%	
Foreign subsidiaries	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	0.0%	-0.3%	-2.3%	-3.4%	-1.2%	-2.1%	-4.3%	-1.1%



# Methodologies aren't homogenised, but they are compatible

#### Capital headroom under different regulatory regimes



Different regimes favour different business models

Business models and regulations coexist, evolving together

For a US bank, European rules may seem more lax...

...but the same is true for a European bank looking at US rules

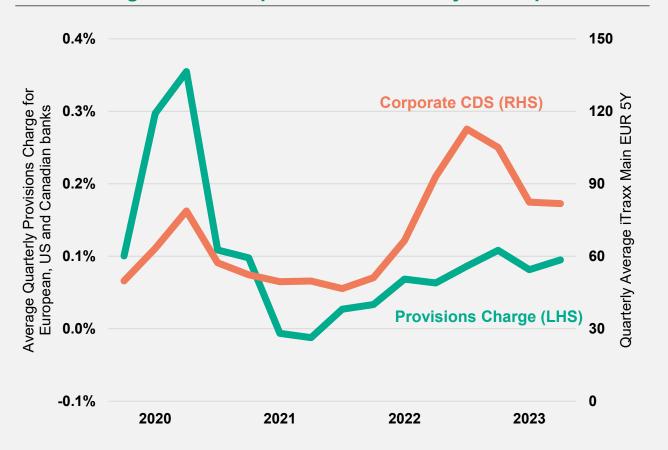




# Source: Bank Financial Reporting; Bloomberg; BNP Paribas

# ECL has turned into a general provision

#### Provisioning and credit spreads are not always in step



The advent of expected credit loss (ECL) provisioning was a process error

Expected credit loss frameworks have distracted and soaked up a huge amount of risk management resource

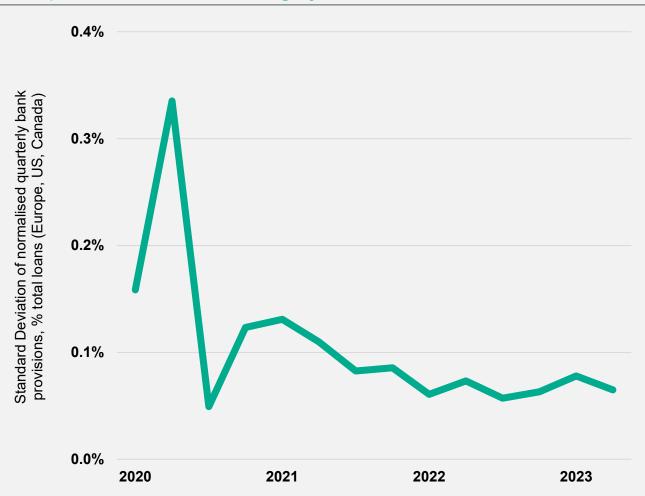
Rather than a forward looking "shock absorber", the result of IFRS 9 and CECL is a statistical general provision

Bank provisioning increased with corporate CDS during Covid but not after Russia invaded Ukraine



# Provisioning moves are remarkably similar across banks

## Bank provisions are becoming synchronised



Bank expected credit loss provisioning had a high degree of variation between banks during COVID

As the years have progressed, the variation between banks' provisioning has decreased

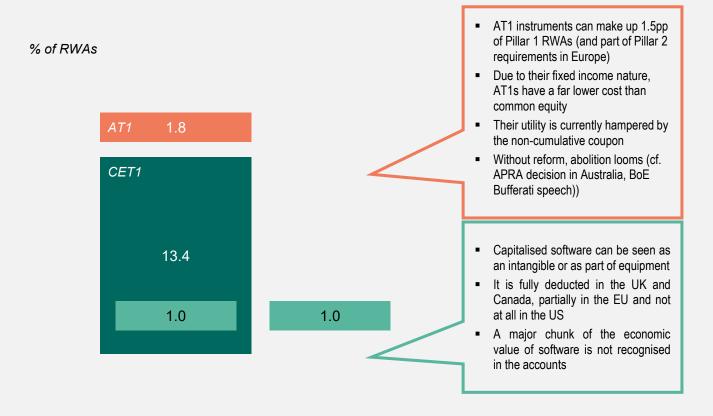
The end state of such practices is a statistical general provision above pre-ECL levels



# Source: Basel III Monitoring Report March 2025, BNP Paribas

# Confusion on "capital" is costly

#### Software and AT1s make up about 25% of banks' Tier 1 resources



Banks' capital mix is dominated by the "CET1 fetish" from Basel III (2009)

Regulation is confused about the nature of "going concern" capital (firesale valuation of assets, loss absorption of liabilities)

International treatment is inconsistent

Software treatment increasingly key
AT1s can be fixed by cum coupon, bigger role



# Is banking being deregulated?

The following ideas have been termed deregulation; but do they really constitute deregulation?

**Simplicity** 

**Tailoring** 

Competition

**Economics over risk** 



ECB – simplification without deregulation

Exemption of more banks from ECB oversight

Banking Union and Capital Markets Union

Lowering of securitisation capital requirements



Regulatory freeze order

Further tailoring in the US prudential regime

**US Genius Act** 

Exclusion of Treasuries form US SLR



Removal of ring fencing

Raising of threshold for UK leverage ratio

Promotion of neo banks

Re-introduction of SME support factor (via P2)

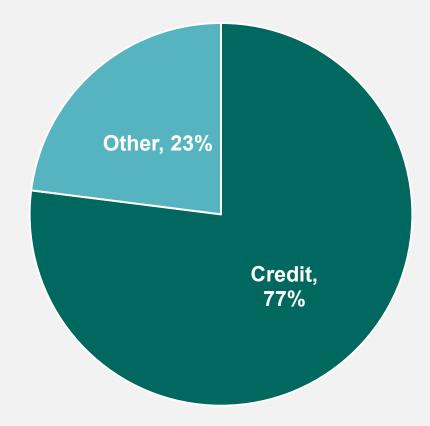


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# Value management = capital management = active CPM

### Credit consumes the lion's share of banks' capital

Breakdown of Banks' Capital Requirements (RWAs)



Bank valuations are recovering, in large part due to improvements in capital management

Credit portfolios are capital-intensive; active CPM is now accepted as imperative for value management; "book-and-hold" is obsolete

Best practice active CPM addresses capital allocation, EP discipline, business strategy (e.g. pricing) and risk transfer decisions

# Active CPM for capital efficiency and risk management purposes

### Active CPM – in this case, SRT – offers several benefits

### **Optionality**

SRT provides banks with another tool in the capital management toolkit

### **Efficiency**

SRT transactions are capital efficient with transactions typically achieving an equivalent cost of equity of 8-10%

### **Capital Velocity**

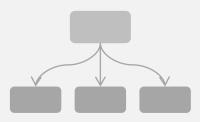
The recycling of RWA capacity, whilst maintaining steady regulatory solvency, boosts bank profitability

### **High Organic Growth**

SRT transactions enable a bank's credit business to grow organically whilst maintaining steady regulatory solvency

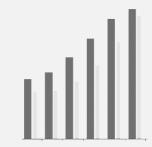
## Balanced Franchise Growth

A sector-specific SRT transaction frees-up sectoral capacity for increased lending without increasing the economic exposure









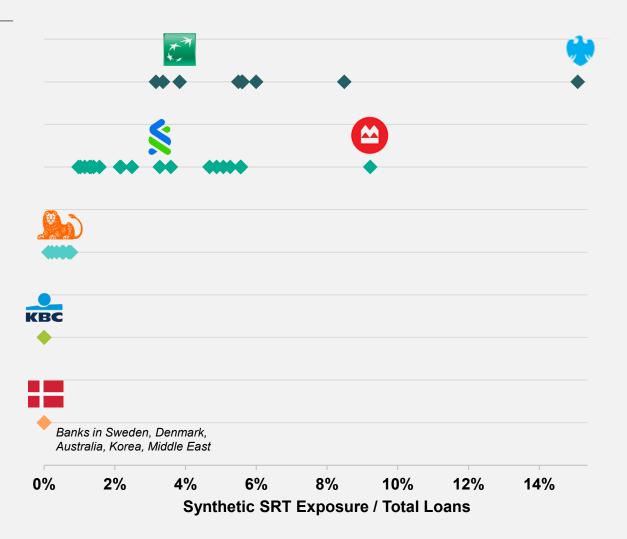


# ource: Bank Pillar 3 Reports: BNP Paribas

# For some banks, SRT is strategically "core"

### **SRT** strategy segmentation

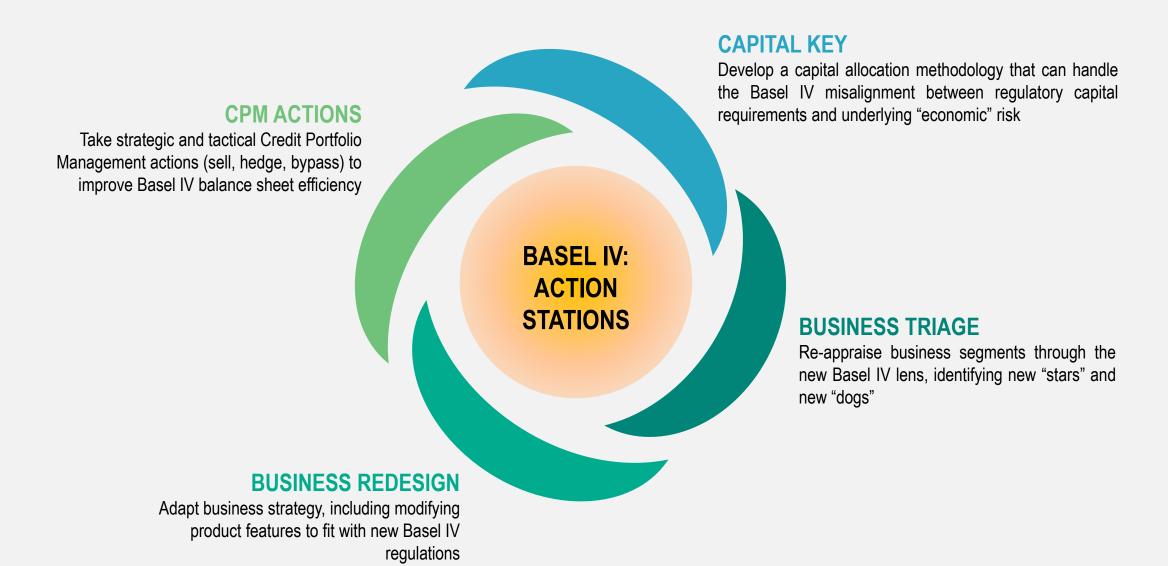
Core	SRT issuance programme is core to the effective capital management of the bank
Episodic	Established SRT programme; frequency of issuance can be regular or event-driven
Dabbling	Have issued at least one SRT, considering further issuance and diversifying into new asset classes
Exploratory	Yet to issue an SRT; potentially in the process of developing the tool
Restricted	Currently not permitted to issue SRT; supervisory or regulatory changes may be required







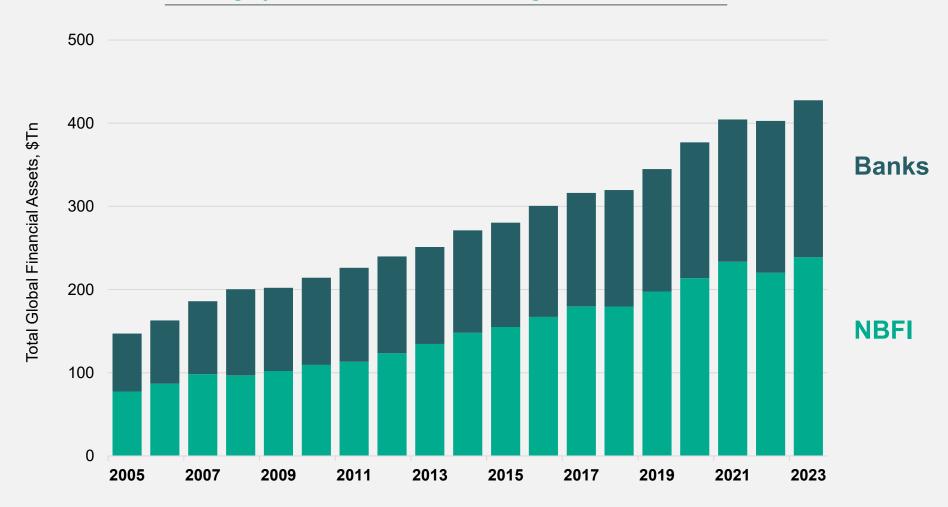
# **Basel IV adaptation is under way**





## Non-bank finance is on the rise

### Lending by NBFIs has been increasing

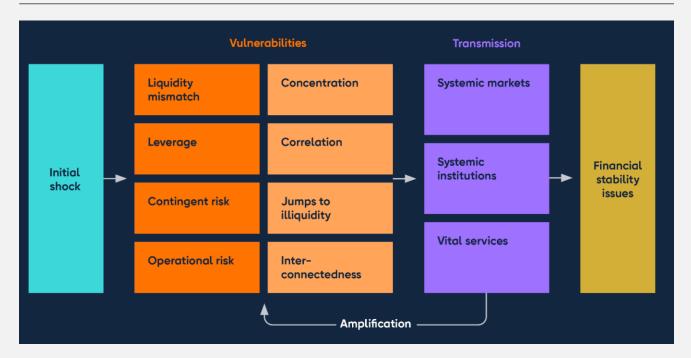




# Is Non-Bank Finance a Good Thing?



### **Financial Instability = excessive risk x structural amplification**



"Policymakers are directly or inadvertently fuelling the rise of the asset manager lender, the consequences of which are not known"

(FT Lex, 3 July 2024)

### Non-bank finance gives diversification

...but where does the money come from?

### Risk transfer markets can be efficient

...or they may just be regulatory arbitrage

### Banks were the source of weakness in 2008

...and maybe non-bank finance next time

Non-banks aren't leveraged or systemic ...or are they?

### Credit funds are committed and reliable

...enough to avoid a credit crunch?



# urce: EBA Risk Assessment Report. June 2025: BNP Paribas

# Worries Over SRTs: The Dog That Didn't Bark



How much of banks' 16% solvency is from SRT capital relief?

Each block represents 1pp solvency (ie. 1% RWAs) 95th percentile Median

EBA finds half of banks use SRT and more will do so. 2% of loan book used for SRTs

Capital relief is good "for the economy, as it enables banks to expand lending without raising new capital"

EBA's data do not indicate excessive reliance upon SRT capital relief, nor any "maturity wall"

Also, "investor base is well distributed between different kinds of investors"

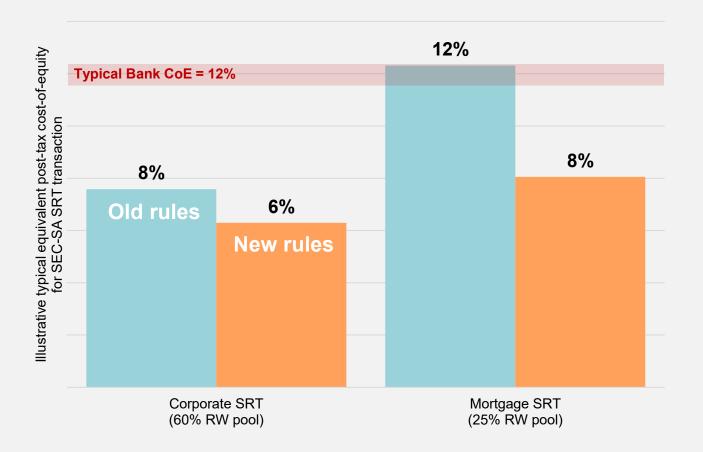


# Source: EC proposal to revive the EU Securitisation Framework, 17 Jun 2025; BNP Paribas

# EC proposals to catalyse a new wave of risk transfer activity



Illustration: new rules improve the economics of SRT transactions



The EC has proposed loosening the securitisation rules, improving the economics of SRT securitisations for banks

For a typical corporate transaction, the costof-equity relief could fall from 8% to 6%

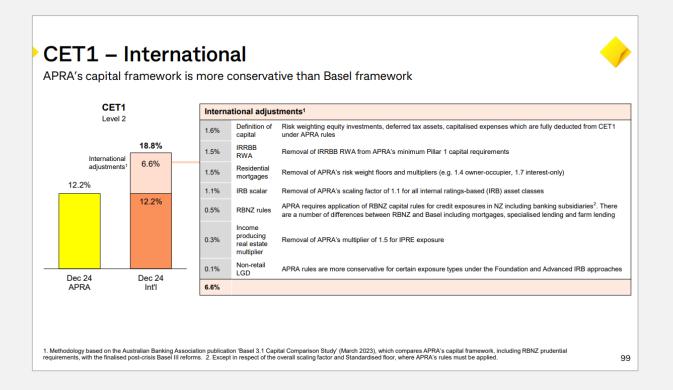
The increased efficiency could act as a catalyst for growth in the SRT market

The rule changes may spur activity in formerly non-suitable asset classes, such as prime mortgages

# Banks could consider showing adjusted capital ratios, as in Australia



Case study: CBA reports an internationally comparable capital ratio



Australian banks have lower regulatory capital ratios due to the presence of additional prudential measures

Australian banks deal with such gold-plating by showing "international" ratios in investor relations materials

The "international" capital ratios reverse out conservatism to make the metrics more comparable

With the introduction of floors, and global fragmentation, banks may consider a similar approach to their IR

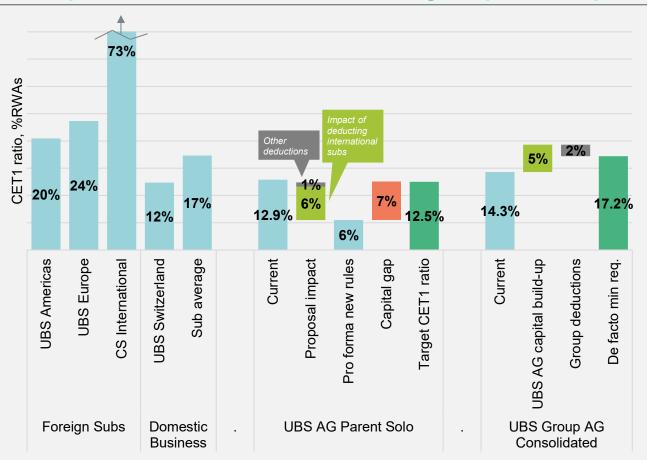
# Source: UBS Assessment of the impact of the proposed Swiss regulatory capital measures 6 Jun 2025; UBS Pillar 3 Q1 2025; BNP Paribas

# The future: Trapped capital due to greater "solo" focus





### Over-capitalised international subs lead to tight capital at the parent



Typically, banks are supervised at a consolidated level, regardless of the capitalisation of the subsidiaries

Proposed changes in Switzerland treat UBS AG parent on a solo basis with full deduction of (overcapitalised) subsidiaries

Proposals push up UBS de facto capital requirement: could this ringfencing be a sign of life post-Basel?



# Harmonisation: nice, but maximising it is not essential

### Harmonisation is a Trade-Off

Global consistency is vital

We need to avoid a regulatory race to the bottom

A level playing field rewards the more efficient business models - not the most risky or protected ones Economies and markets have differences

My banks should be more competitive / safer

If Basel IV reduces the risk of a future banking crisis, then the competitiveness of Basel IV banks will be better than others

Harmonisation is a noble goal – but to what extent?

**Compatibility** is undoubtedly important

LESS

The harmonisation trade-off depends on systemic <u>risk appetite</u>

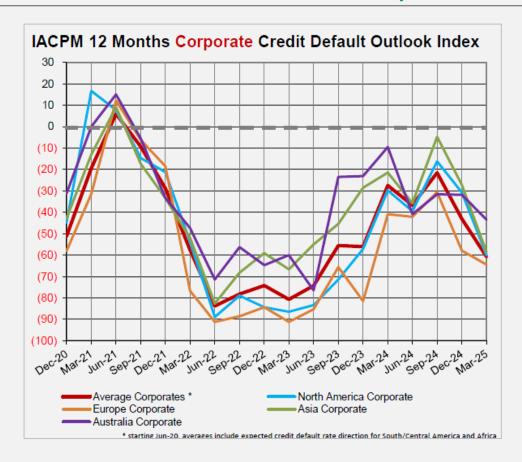
Source: "Global financial centre and its regulators: what's the strateg dog?", Bank of England, 27 Feb 2025, "Basel III implementation: glo February 2024; "A level playing field in banking", Agustín Carstens, I



# Source: IACPM Q125 Credit Survey

## **Balanced but Risky**

### The credit outlook has worsened in recent quarters



Credit risk outlook is "challenging", competition is intense, costs are sticky and valuations are based on high expectations

Basel IV and IFRS 9: "It is what it is" but the struggle continues

Active CPM increasingly "core", more emphasis on economic risk capital (and Basel IV floors! (2))

New and structural risks (e.g. crypto) to be considered

"You go your way": Management decisions will drive performance



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