Basic Information

ISSUER: “World Bank” or “IBRD” (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development)

RATINGS: AAA/ Stable/ A-1+ (S&P)  
Aaa/ Stable/ Prime-1 (Moody’s)

LOCATION: Washington, DC (Headquarters) and 145 offices worldwide

PRESIDENT: David Malpass, Former U.S. Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs

Who are we?
• International organization owned by 189 countries
• World’s largest source of development finance
• World’s largest resource for development expertise and coordination services
• Frequent bond issuer rated triple-A

What’s our objective?
• Work with our members so they can meet their development goals, and achieve major, sustainable improve

Why does the World Bank issue bonds in the capital markets?
• Financial solutions, including financing, guarantees, and risk management tools to support their development-related investment programs; and
• Expertise in areas such as agriculture, health, education, transportation, energy, and legal, financial market, and institutional reform, so that they can find solutions to national, regional and global problems
The U.S. is the largest shareholder of the World Bank with 16.7% of its capital shares.

Financial Position

What are the underpinnings of the World Bank’s triple-A rating?
- Quality loan portfolio that benefits from preferred creditor status
- Prudent risk management
- Substantial liquidity and consistent profitability
- Diversified shareholder base

Who are the World Bank’s shareholders and how much capital do they own?
- 189 members countries have subscribed to US$298 billion of subscribed capital (paid in capital + callable capital)
- The largest shareholders include the United States (16.7% of total subscribed capital), Japan (7.8%), China (5.3%), Germany (4.5%), and France and the United Kingdom (with 4.1% each)

What is the World Bank’s gearing ratio limit?
- The maximum gearing ratio is 1:1 – outstanding loans and guarantees may not exceed subscribed capital, reserves and surplus

What does the World Bank loan portfolio look like?
- Lending is limited to sovereign or sovereign- guaranteed projects in eligible member countries
- Eligible countries with 2020 per capita Gross National Income (GNI) of more than $1,205 are eligible for new lending from IBRD (poorer countries receive concessional financing from a separate entity in the World Bank Group)
- Currently, the six largest country exposures are India, Indonesia, Mexico, China, Brazil, and Colombia.

What’s the World Bank’s liquidity policy?
- A large amount of liquidity support flexibility
- Actual liquidity exceeds estimated liquidity requirements. The target liquidity level represents twelve months coverage calculated at the beginning of every fiscal year

Is the World Bank profitable?
- Yes, although we are not a profit-maximizing institution, strong financial performance is important to sustainably support development goals

The World Bank’s mission to fight poverty in a sustainable way, through education, health, environment, and infrastructure makes World Bank bonds suitable for investors with investment strategies that aim to maximize social and financial returns. These strategies are known as “socially responsible”, “sustainable”, or “ethical” investment strategies.

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Recent Issues
USD 8 billion 0.625% global bond due 04/2025
USD 1.5 billion SOFR global bond due 09/2025
EUR 2 billion 0.125% global bond due 01/2051
GBP 1 billion 0.305% global bond due 07/2026
CAD 1.5 billion 0.625% global bond due 01/2026
EUR 2 billion 0.2% global bond due 01/2061
USD 6 million SOFR global bond due 02/2031
NZD 1 billion 1.625% global bond due 05/2028

Capital Markets

How much does the World Bank borrow each year?
• Approximately USD $55-60 billion per year

What are the key components of the World Bank’s funding strategy?
• Meet investor needs by offering a broad product mix with various tenors, sizes, and currency mix
• Ensure high standards of execution

What are the main features of the World Bank’s debt offerings?
• The World Bank is rated triple-A and has been issuing sustainable development bonds for over 70 years
• World Bank debt has 0% risk weighting (Basel II and III)
• World Bank liquid bonds are considered level 1 HQLA (High Quality Liquid Assets)
• World Bank bonds are now accepted as collateral by CME Clearing and London Clearing House based on liquidity and high-quality credit
• World Bank bonds have been offered in over 60 different currencies to date, with a wide variety of maturities as “plain vanilla” bonds or structured notes

Does the World Bank issue liquid, global bonds?
• USD 1-6 billion in size, benchmark maturities
• USD, EUR, and other currencies
• World Bank bonds are part of major indices such as Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Bond Index, Bank of America Merrill Lynch Global Broad Market Quasi-Government, and Citigroup World Broad Investment-Grade (WorldBIG)

What tailor-made products does the World Bank offer?
• A wide variety of plain vanilla and structured notes in many different sizes and maturities
• Green and other sustainable development bonds in different formats to meet specific investor preference

Are World Bank bonds eligible for investors pursuing strategies incorporating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria?
• Yes, based on the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and its social mandate, investors integrating ESG factors and pursuing various sustainable investment strategies buy World Bank bonds for their portfolios. The World Bank Sustainable Development Bond Impact Report describes the ESF and how the World Bank engages with investors using the Sustainable Development Goals as a framework, and reports on project impacts.

History

- IBRD was created in 1944 to rebuild Europe after World War II
- IBRD has been referred to as “World Bank” almost as soon as it was established. The term was initially coined by the media -- including The Economist and The Washington Post
- IBRD approved its first loan in the amount of USD $250 million to France for reconstruction purposes. This was one of the largest loans in real terms made by the World Bank in its first fifty years

The United States and the World Bank

The relationship between the U.S. government and the World Bank is most similar to that between the government and an instrumentality.

The U.S. Secretary of the Treasury sits on the World Bank’s Board of Governors, the World Bank’s highest governing body.

The World Bank is treated as an “exempt issuer” under US securities laws since 1949 in recognition of its status as an international organization in which the U.S. is the largest shareholder (with about 17%).

The United States’ membership in the World Bank was authorized by a federal stature known as the Bretton Woods Agreements Act (22 U.S.C 286 et seq.).

The World Bank looks forward to continuing to provide support to US investors so that they may consider supranationals when looking for safe investments.