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September, 2024

NOVA BANK LIMITED

Long-Term Rating:



Short Term Rating: A1
Previous Rating: A+
Rating Outlook: Stable
Trend: UP
Currency: Naira

Date Issued: 20 Sept., 2024 **Valid Till:** 19 Sept., 2025

Reference:

Abiodun Adeseyoju, FCA. Abimbola Adeseyoju Oladele Adeoye This report is provided by DataPro subject to the Terms & Condition stipulated in our Terms of Engagement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

	2023 ₩′000	2022 № ′000	2021 № ′000	2020 ₩′000
Gross Earnings	30,598,413	22,964,903	16,875,520	13,260,455
Profit Before Tax	3,616,119	3,459,329	1,664,258	3,425,301
Shareholders' Funds	31,119,449	26,739,873	23,512,642	22,765,344
Deposit Liabilities	177,920,622	178,965,726	143,702,876	111,325,783
Loans & Advances	104,695,462	97,363,297	90,382,235	49,971,622
Total Assets	328,215,073	279,872,560	242,580,814	182,259,871
Property & Equipment	1,384,604	1,450,686	1,363,500	931,272

The Short-Term Rating of **A1+** indicates *Good Credit Quality* and satisfactory capacity for timely payment of financial commitments.

The Long-Term Rating of A^+ indicates *Low Risk*. It shows very good Financial Strength, Operating Performance and Business Profile when compared to the standard established by *DataPro*. This Bank, in our opinion, has strong ability to meet its ongoing obligations.

RATING SYNOPSIS

The Rating took into consideration all relevant qualitative and quantitative factors to arrive at the assigned risk indicator.

The qualitative information used were based on industry and market intelligence including public information. The quantitative information were obtained from the Bank's Audited and Management Accounts.

The risk factors were assessed using the Bank's Capitalization, Earnings Profile, Liquidity, Corporate Governance, Regulatory Compliance and Sustainability of its current healthy profile in the medium to long term period.

Overall, the following were observed:

Positive Rating Factors:

- Experienced Management Team
- Good Liquidity
- Very Good Asset Quality

Negative Rating Factors:

- Concentration Risk
- High Interest Cost

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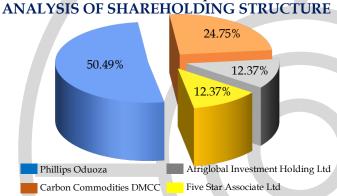


BACKGROUND

Nova Bank formally known as Nova Merchant Bank was incorporated on 17th May 2017. In July 2024, the Bank transitioned from a Merchant Bank to a National Commercial Bank. This milestone follows the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) approval of the final license for the Bank to commence operations as a National Commercial Bank.

The principal activities of the Bank include the provision of Corporate Banking, Investment Banking, Advisory Services, Securities, Wealth & Asset Management services to private and public sector clients. It specifically focuses on the Oil & Gas sector, Commodity & Agricultural business, Utility & Infrastructure, Fast Moving Consumer Goods, Trade & Services and Financial Institutions.

The Bank has its headquarters in Victoria Island, Lagos with one branch in the state. However, it intends to set up other branches in other parts of the state, Abuja, Port



Source: Nova Bank Audited Accounts

Harcourt and Kano as part of its transformation to a National Commercial Bank.

The ownership of the Bank is shared amongst four (4) Shareholders. *Phillips Oduoza holds* the majority stake in the Bank accounting for 50.49% of its Total Shares. Other significant Shareholders are: *Carbon Commodities Ltd, Five Star Associate Ltd and Afriglobal Holdings Ltd.*

KEY FINANCIAL INDICATORS

Item Year	Gross Earning N '000	PBT N ′000	Equity N ′000	Deposit Labs N ′000	Loan & Advances N '000	Total Assets N '000
2023	30,598,413	3,616,119	31,119,449	177,920,622	104,695,462	328,215,073
2022	22,964,903	3,459,329	26,739,873	178,965,726	97,363,297	279,872,560
2021	16,875,520	1,664,258	23,512,642	143,702,876	90,382,235	242,580,814
2020	13,260,455	3,425,301	22,765,344	111,325,783	49,971,622	182,259,871

Source: Nova Bank Audited Accounts

The Bank's Gross Earnings recorded significant growth which was driven by increases in income from financing activities and investments. In 2023, Gross Earnings rose to N30.63b, reflecting a 33% increase compared with N22.96b in the year 2022. This sustained growth highlights the Bank's ability to generate higher revenues from its core operations.

Key financial indicators grew moderately during the period. The Bank's Total Deposit Liabilities decreased marginally by 1% in 2023, reaching N177.9b as against N178.97b



in 2022. However, Total Assets grew by 17%, rising to $\frac{N}{3}$ 28.22b in 2023 from $\frac{N}{2}$ 79.87b in the previous year.

Equity also increased by 16% from N26.74 billion in 2022 to N31.12b in 2023, driven by profit retention. Loans and Advances as well as Profit Before Tax recorded marginal increase of 8% and 5% respectively in the year 2023.

DIRECTORS' PROFILE

There was a minor change to the Board in the year 2023. This was due to the retirement of the pioneer Managing Director during the year. The following are the serving member of the Board: *Mr. Phillips Oduoza – Chairman; Adebowale Oyedeji - Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director; Mr. Shams Butt; Chief Malachy Nwaiwu; Mrs. Funke Okoya; Mr. Emmanuel Onokpasa; Mrs. Funmi Oyetunji; Mrs. Gbemisola Laditan and Mr. Chinedu Uzoho*

The profile of the Bank Directors is as stated:

1. **Name**: Mr. Phillips Oduoza

Position: Chairman

Education: • B. Sc. in Civil Engineering

• MBA in Finance, University of Lagos

 Advanced Management Programme, Harvard Business School

• Chartered Institute of Bankers (FCIB).

Experience (Years.): 32 years **Year of Appointment:**2017

2. **Name:** Adebowale Oyedeji

Position: Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director

Education: • Advanced Management Program (AMP) – Havard

Business School

M.Sc. Financial Economics- University of London
B.Sc. Agricultural Economics- University of London

Experience (Years.): 30 years **Year of Appointment:** 2024

3. **Name:** Mr. Shams Butt

Position: Independent Director

Education: • Bachelor of Business Administration - George

Washington University, Washington DC

• MBA - George Washington University, Washington DC

Experience (Years.): 27years **Year of Appointment:** 2017

4. **Name:** Chief Malachy Nwaiwu **Position:** Independent Director

Education: • B. Sc. Agric Economics, University of Ibadan

• MBA in Management and Finance, University of Lagos



• B.L, University of Abuja

 Nigerian Institute of Management and the Association of Management and Administration (AMA) USA

Experience (Years.): 37 years **Year of Appointment:**2017

5. **Name:** Mrs. Funke Okoya **Position:** Executive Director

Education: • B. Sc, Business Administration, University of Lagos

• MBA, The Business School Netherlands

• Advanced Corporate Finance Programme at INSEAD

Business School

Experience (Years.): 21 years **Year of Appointment:** 2020

6. **Name:** Mr. Emmanuel Onokpasa (FCA)

Position: Executive Director

Education: • B. Sc in Accounting, University of Benin

• General Management Programme, Harvard Business

School

•Senior Management Programme, Lagos Business School

Experience (Years.): 32 years **Year of Appointment:**2021

7. **Name:** Mr. Chinedu Uzoho

Position: Non-Executive Director

Education: •B.Sc - University of Lagos

•MBA

• INSEAD Business School

Experience (Years.): 41 years Year of Appointment: 2021

8. **Name:** Mrs. Gbemisola Laditan (FCA)

Position: Independent Non-Executive Director

Education: •HND Accounting, The Federal Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti

•MBA, Obafemi Awolowo University

Experience (Years.): 31 years Year of Appointment: 2021

9. **Name:** Mrs. Funmi Oyetunji (FCA, FCCA)

Position: Independent Non-Executive Director **Education:** •B.Sc - University of Nigeria Nsukka

•Harvard Business School

•Risk Management in Banks and Other Corporation & Value Creation or Owners, INSEAD Business School

Experience (Years.): 41 years Year of Appointment:2021



BANKING SECTOR REVIEW

Nigeria is the leading economy in Africa. It has a population in excess of 200 million. In the first quarter of 2024, the Country's GDP grew by 2.98% (year-on-year) in real terms. This growth rate is higher than the 2.31% recorded in the first quarter of 2023 and lower than the fourth quarter of 2023 growth of 3.46%.

According to National Bureau of Statistics, the performance of GDP in the first quarter was driven mainly by the Services sector. It recorded a growth of 4.32% and contributed 58.04% to the aggregate GDP.

In real terms, growth in the Finance Sector totaled 31.24%. This was higher by 9.87% points from the rate recorded in 2023 first quarter and higher by 1.46% points from the rate recorded in the preceding quarter.

The contribution of Finance and Insurance to real GDP totaled 6.81%, higher than the contribution of 5.35% recorded in the first quarter of 2023 by 1.47% points, and higher than 4.95% recorded in Q4 2023 by 1.86% points.

The Oil benchmark for the year 2024 budget is \$77.96per barrel at 1.78million barrel per day. This compared well with the current selling price of Oil which is above the benchmark (\$73.32 as at 20th of September, 2024 according to oil price.com). Nigeria is battling with the challenge of foreign currency scarcity arising from lower Oil receipt and limited export capacity of the Country.

In order to achieve a Unified Foreign Exchange regime, the CBN collapsed the multiple exchange rate windows. This is in addition to allowing the free float of the Naira against the US dollars. The value of the Naira to the Dollar at the CBN official rate is N1,639.45/\$1 as at September 20, 2024.

On July 23rd, 2024 the CBN increased the MPR to a new record of 26.75%. This marks the third-rate hike in the year 2024. This was done to manage inflation which is 33.2% as at September, 2024.

The most significant intervention in the Nigerian Banking Industry is the requirement for all operating banks in Nigeria to recapitalize within the next two years. The circular which was issued in March 2024 required that National Banks operating in Nigeria must have a minimum of N200b in Share Capital and Premium. The deadline for the exercise is March 31, 2026.

It is expected that fringe operators within the Banking sector of the economy will consider Mergers and Acquisition while the big banks will embark on raising Capital from existing shareholders' and capital market.

CAPITAL ADEQUACY

Total Assets was N328b as at the year ended 2023. This is a growth rate of 17% compared with the previous year.



2023 N ′000	2022 N'000	2021 N ′000
31,119,449	26,739,871	23,512,642
328,215,073	279,872,559	242,580,814
1,384,604	1,450,686	1,363,500
104,695,462	97,363,297	90,382,235
9.48	9.55	9.69
29.72	27.46	26.01
4.45	5.43	5.80
	N'000 31,119,449 328,215,073 1,384,604 104,695,462 9.48 29.72	2023 N'000 N'000 31,119,449 26,739,871 328,215,073 279,872,559 1,384,604 1,450,686 104,695,462 97,363,297 9,48 9,55 29,72 27,46 4,45 5,43

The increase was significantly influenced by the rise in Investment Securities and Loans and Advances as well as other assets held during the period.

The Bank grew its Loans and Advances customers to during the year under review by 8% from N97b (Yr. 22) to N104b (Yr. 23). The moderate

growth in Loans and Advances translated to static movement in the risk profile of the Bank in the year 2023. Loans and Advances as a proportion of Total Assets remained same at 10% in the years 2022 and 2023.

COMPONENTS OF TOTAL ASSETS

Year Item	2023 N ′000	%	2022 N ′000	%	2021 ₩′000	%
Liquid Assets	124,897,847	38	94,455,505	34	75,531,636	31
Net Loans & Advances	104,695,462	32	97,363,297	35	90,382,235	37
Property & Equipment	1,384,604	0	1,450,686	1	1,363,500	1
Other Assets	98,621,764	30	86,603,051	31	75,303,443	31
TOTAL ASSETS	328,215,073	100	279,872,559	100	242,580,814	100

Source: Nova Bank Audited Accounts

Shareholders' Funds grew by 16% N31b (Yr.23)N26.7b from (Yr.22)driven majorly by growth Deposit for Share, Retained **Earnings** and Statutory Reserves. The Share Capital

remained at N16b the years 2022 and 2023.

Equity — Equity/Total Asset 35.00 14% 13% 30.00 12% 10% 25.00 10% 10% 20.00 8% 15.00 6% 31 10.00 4% 27 5.00 2% 23.50 22.7 0%

COMPARISON OF SHAREHOLDERS' FUND

Source: Nova Bank Audited Accounts

2022

2023

2021

The funding of operation provided by Equity remained relatively same in the years 2022 and 2023. This was 10% for both years. However, the Equity coverage of Loans and Advances grew to 30% (Yr. 23) from 27% (Yr. 22).

The Bank's Risk Weighted Assets dipped during the year from N133b (Yr. 22) to $\cancel{N}128b$ (Yr. 23). This was

contrary to the growth in Total Regulatory Capital. Consequently, Capital Adequacy Ratio improved from 23% (Yr. 22) to 28% (Yr. 23). The Capital Adequacy metric is well above the regulatory minimum stipulated by the CBN for a National Commercial Banking operation.

2024



The Bank transition into a National Commercial Bank will require it to shore up its Capital base to N200b in line with the new Capital requirements of the CBN. This is significantly above the Bank's current balance of N31b as at the year end 2023. The timeline for achieving this is March, 2026.

ASSET QUALITY

Year Item	2023 № ′000	2022 N ′000	2021 № ′000
Gross Loans & Advances	104,695,462	97,363,297	90,382,235
Classified Loan	113,080	148,989	338,868
Provisions	379,832	35,361	41,461
Classified Loan Provision/Classified Loans (%)	335.90	24	12
Classified Loan / Equity (%)	0.36	0.56	1.44
Classified loans/Gross loans (%)	0.11	0.15	0.37

Source: Nova Bank Audited Accounts

Gross Loans and Advances of the Bank grew marginally by 8% to \$\frac{105}{2}\$ (Yr. 23). The Loans were domiciled within Nigeria.

The Bank's Loan were significantly distributed among the Manufacturing, Oil & Gas,

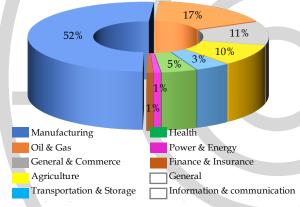
General Commerce Sectors to the tune of 52%, 17% and 11% of its total loan exposure respectively. Aside these sectors no other one got up to 10% in the year under review.

The Bank secured its Loans against various forms of Collateral during the year 2023. The Loans were largely secured by other assets which provided coverage of 59% for the total Loan book. All Asset Debenture and Corporate/Cross Company Guarantee were other major forms of Collateral held by the Bank representing 21% and 13% coverage respectively. The impaired portion of the Bank's Loan waned to an insignificant level of less than 1%. Similarly, Equity portion impaired by Loans and Advances was less than 1% (Yr.23).

The Bank's Provisions for Classified Loans grew significantly

in 2023 from N35m (Yr. 22) to N379m (Yr. 23). The provision made for Classified Loans went up from 24% (Yr. 22) to 336% (Yr. 23).

DISTRIBUTION OF LOAN PORTFOLIO



Source: Nova Bank Audited Accounts

DISTRIBUTION OF LOAN PORTFOLIO BY SECURITY (2023)



Source: Nova Bank Audited Accounts



LIQUIDITY

The Bank's Deposit Liabilities decreased marginally by less than 1% in 2023, reaching N177.9b from N178.97b in 2022.

Year	2023 ₩′000	2022 ₩′000	2021 № ′000
Loan & Advances/Total Assets (%)	31.90	34.79	37.01
Liquid Assets/Total Assets (%)	52.11	33.75	43.45
Liquid Assets/Total Deposits (%)	96.13	37.31	90.79
Loans & Advances/Total Deposits (%)	58.84	38.46	77.32

Source: Nova Bank Audited Accounts

ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES BASED ON MATURITY

Year	2022 N '000	%
Less than 3 months	64,901,656	62
12 months	14,595,806	14
Over 1 year	25,577,832	24
Gross Total	104,695,462	100

Source: Nova Bank Audited Accounts

ANALYSIS OF DEPOSIT BASED ON MATURITY

Year	2023 ₩′000	%
Less than 3 months	154,599,890	86
12 months	25,699,746	14
Gross Total	177,920,622	100

Source: Nova Bank Audited Accounts

Due to the nature of the Banks Business, Term Deposits accounted for the largest portion of obligations to Customers. It constituted 84% of the total Customers' Deposits in the year 2023.

The Bank's Total Deposits were short term in nature as at the year ended 31st December 2023. The Bank's Deposits were all set to mature within a 12-month period. However, Deposits fallen due within a 3-month period accounted for 86% of Total Deposits amounting to N154b (Yr. 23) in absolute term.

The Bank's customers Deposits were short term in nature as at the year ended 31st December 2023. The Bank's Deposits were all set to mature within a 12month period.

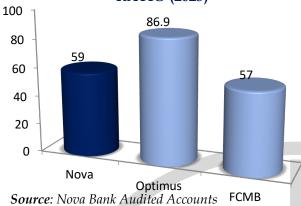
The Bank deployed 59% of its Depositors Fund to Loans and Advances in the year 2023. This

was significantly less than 64% recorded in the previous year. However, it is within the range recorded by similar operators in the year under review.

Total Loans with maturity of less than 3 months represented 62% of the Loan Portfolio for the year ended 2023. Loans and



PEER COMPARISON: LOAN TO DEPOSIT RATIO (2023)



LIQUIDITY GAP ANALYSIS

Year	2023 Loans & Advances N ′000	2023 Deposit Liabilities ₩′000	Net Liquidity Gap N ′000
Liquid Assets	171,027,595	-	171,027,595
Less than 3 months	64,901,656	154,599,890	81,329,361
12 Months	14,595,806	22,016,195	73,908,972
Over 1 Year	25,577,832	0	99,486,804

Source: Nova Bank Audited Accounts

Advances maturing for payments after one year constituted 24% of the Loan Books.

The Liquid Assets for the financial year included Cash and Cash Equivalents (excluding restricted balances with CBN) and Investment Securities. These Assets summed up to N171b (Yr. 23).

The Liquid Assets of the Bank as well as its Short-Term Loans were sufficient to meet Short Term Liquidity Demands. There existed a net liquidity surplus of N99.4b. The Bank Liquidity Ratio at 52% is above the regulatory limit. However, the Bank's Loan to Deposit Ratio was below the CBN's regulatory minimum limit of 65%.

PROFITABILITY

The rate of expansion of the Bank's Operations was reflected in its Gross Earnings in the year under review. Gross Earnings of the Bank went up from N22.9b (Yr. 22) to N30.6b (Yr. 23) representing over 33% growth. This was driven majorly by increased Interest Income. Interest earned on Loans and Advances grew from N13.5b (Yr. 22) to N21.9b (Yr. 23). Other sources of Interest income declined in the year 2023.

Interest Expenses related to Deposits, Margin, Bank and Lease Liabilities. The Bank incurred a total amount of N22b. Therefore, Net Interest Income in the year 2023 was N1.8b. Net Interest Margin for the year improved significantly to 8% as against 4% attained in the prior year.

Non-Interest Income only accounted for 22% of the Gross Earnings in the year ended 2023. It comprised of Fees and Commission Income, Gains on Financial Instrument at Fair Value, Foreign Exchange Gain as well as other Operating Income including Gain on Disposal of Property and Equipment.

The Bank's Operating Expenses comprised Personnel Costs, Depreciation, Amortization and Others. These items aggregated to N4.5b (Yr. 23) as against N3.8b (Yr.22). In view of significant growth in Interest Expenses as well as rising Operating Expenses, the Bank recorded a 5% marginal increase in Profit Before Tax to N4.5b in



the year 2023. Consequently, Net Profit Margin declined from 15% (Yr.22) to 12% (Yr.23).

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

The Bank has a Board comprising of a Non-Executive Chairman, five (5) Non-Executive Directors and two (2) Executive Directors.

The activities of the Bank are directed by its various Board Committees. The Committees are: Board Risk Management and Audit, Board Finance and General-Purpose, Board Nomination & Governance and the Board Credit and Investment Committees.

The activities of the Committees are detailed in the Annual Reports.

RISK FACTORS

In the course of our review, we observed the following risk factors:

REGULATORY RISK

This is the risk that a Bank may cease to operate due to its inability to meet regulatory requirements of its primary regulator (*Central Bank of Nigeria*).

The major requirement for the Bank is to maintain a *Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)* of 10%.

Based on our review, the Bank maintained CAR of 27.8% as at 31 December, 2023.

CONCENTRATION RISK

This is the risk of loss to income as a result of significant exposure to an individual, connected entity or a particular sector.

Based on our review, the *Bank* is significantly exposed to the Manufacturing sector. This sector accounted for 52% of the Bank's Loans and Advances

We therefore consider that adverse changes in the highlighted sector may have negative impact on the Bank's Earnings.

LIQUIDITY RISK

This is the risk arising from inability to meet obligations as they fall due.

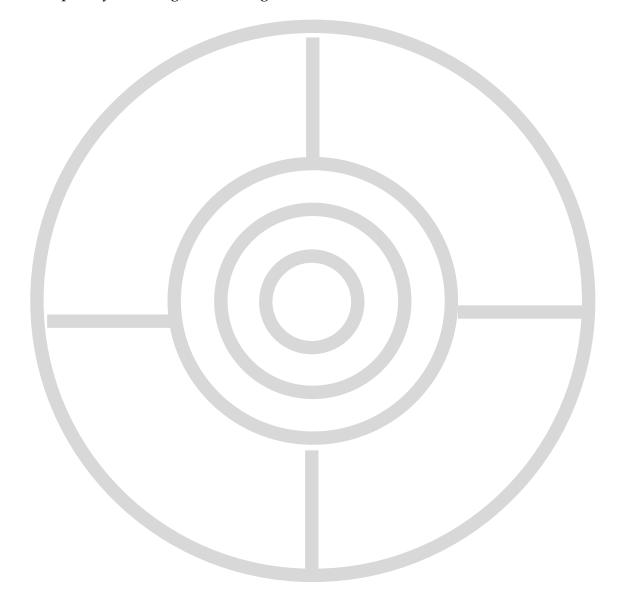
Based on our review, the Bank achieved a Statutory Liquidity ratio of 52% (Yr. 23) which is above the Regulatory minimum.



CONCLUSION

We have reviewed the document presented by *the Bank*. The Rating is supported by the Bank's Very Good Earning Profile, Good Liquidity and Very Good Asset Quality.

Consequently, we assigned a Rating of A+.





FINANCES

	Dec., 2023	De	c., 2022	Dec.,	, 2021
	N ′000	Δ%	N ′000	∆% ₽	¥′000
Assets					
Balances with banks	65,284,072	(18.27)	79,877,938	42.37	56,107,54
Loans to banks and other financial institutions		-	_ '	#DIV/0!	-
Loans and advances to customers	104,695,462	316.20	97,363,297	7.72	90,382,23
investment securities	59,613,775	308.94	14,577,567	(24.95)	19,424,09
investment in subsidiaries	431,167	-	431,167	-	431,16
Deriavtive financial assets	-	(100.00)	9,214,855	192.60	3,149,31
Pledged assets	7,083,899	(83.92)	44,055,112	(11.92)	50,016,53
Property and equipment	1,384,604	(4.56)	1,450,686	6.39	1,363,50
Right of use asset	217,280	(6.81)	233,167	(6.38)	249,05
Intangible assets	532,536	107.86	907,539	(51.41)	544,97
Other assets	88,856,339	183.73	31,317,735	53.00	20,468,89
Deferred tax assets	115,939	102.87	443,497	(53.28)	443,49
Total assets	328,215,073	(136.30)	279,872,560	(80.09)	242,580,814
Liabilities					
Due to banks	15,353,153	(43.12)	26,993,262		26,813,40
Due to customers	162,567,469	6.97	151,972,464	30.01	116,889,46
Deriavtive financial liabilities		(100.00)	9,160,449	198.18	3,072,16
Lease liabilities	150,449	16.08	129,607	(53.93)	111,65
Current Tax Liabilities	329,463	25.36	262,804		80,646
Other liabilities	108,167,172	99.44	54,235,631		61,739,14
Debt securities issued	10,527,916	1.44	10,378,471		10,361,697
Total liabilities	297,095,622	17.37	253,132,688	15.55	219,068,172

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

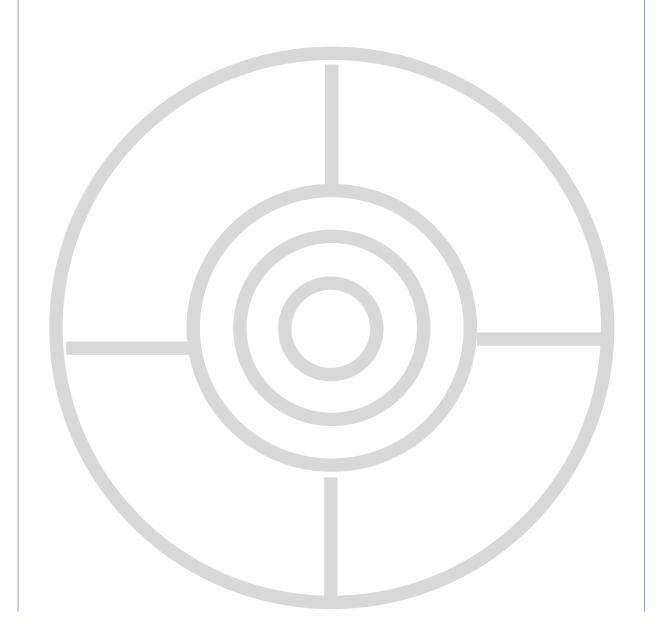
Dec., 2023 Dec., 2022 Dec., 2021 Ν'000 Δ% Ν'000 Δ% Ν'000



Nova Bank Limited

PROFIT OR LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE

Total Income	11,808,903	(50.23)	5,877,514	(88.06)	701,690
Profit before income tax expenses	2,227,617	(73.27)	595,333	(298.61)	(1,182,363)
Income tax expenses	797208	(27.35)	579,195	0.47	581,936
Profit after income taxation	3.024.825	(61.17)	1.174.528	(151.12)	(600.427)





Signed: Name:

Date:

Designation:

Oladele Adeoye Chief Rating Officer

20th September, 2024

For and on behalf of: **DataPro Limited**

Ground Floor, Foresight House

By Marina Water Front

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DataPro's credit rating is an opinion of an issuer's/issues overall creditworthiness and its capacity to meet its financial commitment.

Our *short-term* ratings have a time horizon of less than 12 months in line with industry standards reflecting risk characteristics. The ratings place greater emphasis on the liquidity to meet financial commitment in a timely manner.

The long-term risk indicator is divided into 8 bands ranging from AAA through DD. Each band could be modified by + or -. With + representing slightly less risk than -. Such suffixes are not added to the 'AAA' long -term rating category and to categories below 'CCC'. Or to short-term rating older than A1+.

LONG-TERM RATING

Investment Grade

Indicator	r Meaning	Explanation
AAA	Lowest Risk.	(Superior) Assigned to banks which have superior financial strength, operating performances and profile when compared to the standards established by DataPro Limited. These banks, in our opinion, have a strong ability to meet their ongoing obligations.
AA	Lower Risk	(Excellent) Assigned to banks which have excellent financial strength, operating performance and profile when compared to the standards established by DataPro Limited. These banks, in our opinion, have a very strong ability to meet their ongoing obligations.
A	Low Risk	(Very Good) Assigned to banks which have very good financial strength, operating performance and profile when compared to the standards established by DataPro Limited. These banks, in our opinion, have a strong ability to meet their ongoing obligation.
BBB	Slight Risk	(Fair) Assigned to banks which have fair financial strength, operating performance and profile when compared to the standards established by DataPro Limited. These banks, in our opinion, have an ability to meet their current obligations, but their financial strength is vulnerable to adverse changes in economic conditions.



Non-Investment Grade

Indicator Meaning Explanation

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ВВ	Moderate Risk	(Marginal) Assigned to banks which have, marginal financial strength, operating performance and profile when compared to the standards established by DataPro Limited. These banks, in our opinion have an ability to meet their current obligation, but their financial strength is vulnerable to adverse changes in economic conditions.
В	High Risk	(Weak) Assigned to banks which have, weak financial strength, operating performance and profile when compared to the standard established by DataPro Limited. These banks, in our opinion have an ability to meet their current obligation, but their financial strength is vulnerable to adverse changes in economic conditions.
CCC	Higher Risk	(Poor) Assigned to banks, which have poor

(Poor) Assigned to banks, which have poor financial strength, operating performance and profile when compared to the standards established *DataPro Limited*. These banks, in our opinion may not have an ability to meet their current obligation and their financial strength is extremely vulnerable to adverse changes in economic conditions.

DD Highest Risk

(Very Poor) Assigned to banks, which have very poor financial strength, operating performance and profile when compared to the standards established by DataPro Limited. These banks, in our opinion may not have an ability to meet their current obligation and their financial strength is extremely vulnerable to adverse changes in economic conditions.

SHORT-TERM RATING

Indicator Meaning Explanation

DataPro®

Nova Bank Limited

A1+	Highest credit quality	Indicates the strongest capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. May have an added "+" to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.
A1	Good credit quality	A satisfactory capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, but the margin of safety is not as great as in the case of the higher ratings.
A2	Fair credit quality	The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is adequate. However, near term adverse changes could result in reduction to non-investment grade.
В	Speculative	Minimal capacity for timely payment offinancial commitments, plus vulnerability to near term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.
C	High default risk	Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meetingfinancial commitments is solely reliant upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment. Indicates an entity that has defaulted on all its financial obligations.