

通用準則

方法論:信用穩定性準則

評等準則 2010/05/03

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Analytics Policy Board:

Mark Adelson, Managing Director and Chief Credit Officer, New York (1) 212-438-1075; mark_adelson@standardandpoors.com

Gail I Hessol, Managing Director and Analytics Policy Board Analytical Manager, New York (1) 212-438-6606; gail_hessol@standardandpoors.com

Structured Finance:

Francis Parisi, Ph.D., Managing Director and Senior Credit Officer, New York (1) 212-438-2570; francis_parisi@standardandpoors.com

Corporates and Governments:

Colleen Woodell, Managing Director and Senior Credit Officer, New York (1) 212-438-2118; colleen_woodell@standardandpoors.com

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方法論:信用穩定性準則

(編接:本文取代標準普爾於2008年10月15日公布之「Standard & Poor's To Explicitly Recognize Credit Stability As An Important Rating Factor」一文)

1. 標準普爾評級服務(Standard & Poor's Ratings Services)在此闡明其評等準則,確認信用穩定性(credit stability)係爲一項重要的評等因子。標準普爾發表此篇文章,主要是希望能協助市場參與者更加瞭解標準普爾是如何將信用穩定性納入其評等考量當中。本文與標準普爾 2007 年 6 月 26 日公布的「Principles Of Corporate And Government Ratings」,以及 2007 年 5 月 29 日公布的「Principles-Based Rating Methodology For Global Structured Finance Securities」具有相關性。

準則範圍

2. 本準則適用於所有型態之發行體與債務發行之信用評等。

準則修訂摘要

- 3. 標準普爾在其評等意見中,視信用穩定性爲一項重要考量因素。在授予評等與評等監視期間,標準 普爾會就受評發行體或證券在中度壓力情境下,其信用品質發生不尋常的大幅度負向變動情況的可 能性是否偏高進行分析考量。若認爲前述情況發生機會偏高,則標準普爾授予該發行體或證券之評 等等級,可能會較一般情況下授予的評等等級爲低。
- 4. 本準則修正旨在釐清用於這些評等準則中的「中度壓力(moderate stress)」之意義,並取代 2008 年 10 月 15 日公布之「Standard & Poor's To Explicitly Recognize Credit Stability As An Important Rating Factor」一文。

適用日期

5. 對所有最新與目前流通在外評等,本篇準則即日起生效。

方法論

6. 在授予評等與評等監視期間,標準普爾會就受評發行體或證券在中度壓力情境下(例如,中等程度的景氣衰退,如美國 1982 年的衰退與英國 1990 年代初期的經濟衰退或適當的特定產業壓力情境等),其信用品質發生不尋常的大幅度負面變動情況的可能性是否偏高進行考量。為促進評等等級的可比較性,標準普爾會以假設壓力情境為指標之方式,對各個不同產業部門與不同時間的準則進行校正(詳見 2009 年 6 月 3 日公布的「Understanding Standard & Poor's Rating Definition」)。每一個情境大致會對應到「AAA」至「B」評等等級表中的一個評等類別。每一個評等類別的假設壓力情境,反映的是標準普爾認為該受評類別之發行體或債務應能因應而不致發生違約情況的受壓水準。「BBB」評等等級類別的壓力情境代表中度壓力水準。

信用品質之不尋常大幅下降的定義

7. 下表爲在中度壓力情況下,標準普爾連結到各評等等級在一年與三年之中發生的最大預期惡化程度 之推估值。舉例而言,標準普爾不會對其相信評等等級可能在中度壓力情境下,於一年之內即降低 至「A」等級以下者,授予「AA」等級的評等。

在中度壓力情況下各評等等級在一年與三年之中發生的最大預期惡化程度推估值							
	AAA	AA	Α	BBB	ВВ	В	
一年	AA	А	BB	В	CCC	D	
三年	BBB	BB	В	CCC	D	D	

- 8. 這些信用品質變動,並不是代表標準普爾認為受評發行體或受評證券會在該指明之時間內發生的惡化程度預估,亦非代表受評發行體與受評證券以往的信用品質惡化程度。事實上,上述信用惡化之幅度與速度相對而言並不常見。設定這些準則標準,並不意味標準普爾認為發行體或證券的信用品質應會或可能會趨於不穩定。
- 9. 相反地,上表各欄中的評等等級推估值,代表的是在特定的假設性壓力情境下,任一發行體或證券可能發生之預期信用惡化程度的最大理論值。然而實際的情況很可能不同於假設情境,因此,全體受評發行體及證券(以及全體範圍中的子群)之實際信用品質惡化程度有可能大於或小於上表中所示之評等等級推估值。例如,在有利的市場情況或溫和(「B」壓力情境)或小幅壓力(「BB」壓力情境)的情況下,標準普爾預期的信用惡化程度自然相對較小。反之,在嚴重(「AA 情境」)或極端嚴重(「AAA 情境」)壓力期間,發行體及證券可能發生的信用惡化程度則相對較大。此外,特定的產業——諸如房地產、能源、零售及運輸等,在特定期間也可能遭遇程度不一的壓力程度。
- 10.標準普爾並不是想用此一方法,來調升信用穩定性一直維持在平均水準以上之產業。相反地,標準 普爾希望運用此一架構,做爲一些標準普爾認爲其信用情況可能高度不穩定者的評等限制因素。
- 11.信用穩定性的主要考量重點在於一般性的營運風險,而非特殊型態的風險,如法規變動、詐欺、或 是企業購倂等。
- 12.本方法論實係採非對稱性架構,因爲其著重信用惡化層面而非信用改善層面。主要的原因有二,其一是:投資人與債權人對信用惡化的關切程度向來要比對信用改善的關注程度來得高;其二是:基本信用理論本質上的下/上不對稱性。

爲什麼標準普爾要採用此一方法?

- 13.標準普爾係鑑於近幾年來某些衍生性證券表現出的高度信用波動性,而將信用穩定性納入標準普爾的評等分析考量因素當中。藉由明確地將信用穩定性納入評等分析中的考量因素之一,標準普爾希望能使信用評等的意義與我們所認知的投資人願望及期許更爲一致。
- 14.市場人士對標準普爾於 2008 年 7 月 16 日就此主題發出之「Request For Comment (意見徵詢)」回應,增強了標準普爾認爲投資人普遍偏好高評等等級應比低評等等級具有較高之穩定性的看法。高評等等級應代表較高的穩定度。
- 15.一般而言,標準普爾評等表達的是標準普爾對發行體及特定證券信用品質的意見。不過,這些對信用品質的看法有時在各市場部門中會有不同的解讀。特別是在資產證券化市場中的某些領域裡會較偏好狹義解釋,亦即是指在不考慮其它因素下之「違約可能性」的本質意義。標準普爾的看法超出此一狹義解釋範圍,並認爲此舉能對市場參與者提供更爲務實且更有用的方向。因此,儘管標準普爾認爲違約可能性仍爲評等考量的核心因素所在,但其並非唯一的考量重點(請見 2009 年 6 月 3日公布之「Understanding Standard & Poor's Rating Definitions」)。

相關準則與研究

- Big Changes in Standard & Poor's Rating Criteria , 2009 年 11 月 3 日。
- Understanding Standard & Poor's Rating Definitions,2009 年 6 月 3 日。
- Standard & Poor's Reaffirms Its Commitment To The Goal Of Comparable Ratings Across Sectors And Outlines Related Actions,2008 年 5 月 6 日。

本文所敘述之評等準則爲評等基本原則的特定應用,此類評等基本原則定義了信用風險與評等意見。評等準則的應用取決於發行人或債務發行本身獨有的特性,以及標準普爾評級服務對某一發行人或債務發行的信用風險與可能之結構風險所進行的評估。評等方法與假設可能會隨市場與經濟情勢、債務發行或發行人特定因素、以及出現可能會影響標準普爾評級服務信用判斷之新實證證據而有所改變。

Additional Contacts:

Blaise Ganguin, Paris (33) 1-4420-6698; blaise_ganguin@standardandpoors.com lan Thompson, Melbourne (61) 3-9631-2100; ian_thompson@standardandpoors.com

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