

Acceptances

A bill of exchange or negotiable instrument drawn by the borrower for payment at maturity and accepted by a bank. The acceptance constitutes a guarantee of payment by the bank and can be traded in the money market. The bank earns a “stamping fee” for providing this guarantee.

Allowance for credit losses

The amount deemed adequate by management to absorb identified credit losses as well as losses that have been incurred but are not yet identifiable as at the balance sheet date. This allowance is established to cover the lending portfolio including loans, acceptances, guarantees, letters of credit, and unfunded commitments. The allowance is increased by the provision for credit losses, which is charged to income and decreased by the amount of write-offs, net of recoveries in the period.

Assets-to-capital multiple

Total assets plus specified off-balance sheet items, as defined by the OSFI, divided by total regulatory capital.

Assets under administration (AUA)

Assets administered by us which are beneficially owned by clients. Services provided in respect of assets under administration are of an administrative nature, including safe-keeping, collecting investment income, settling purchase and sale transactions, and record keeping.

Assets under management (AUM)

Assets managed by us which are beneficially owned by clients. Services provided in respect of assets under management include the selection of investments and the provision of investment advice. We have assets under management that are also administered by us and included in assets under administration.

Average balances

Average balances are calculated using methods intended to approximate the average of the daily balances of the period.

Average earning assets

The average carrying value of assets that give rise to our reported net interest income including deposits with banks, securities, assets purchased under reverse repurchase agreements and securities borrowed, and loans based on daily balances for the period ending October 31 in each financial year.

Basis point (bp)

One one-hundredth of a percentage point (.01%).

Canadian GAAP

Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Capital adequacy

The level of capital that is sufficient to underpin risk and accommodate potential unexpected increases in risk within specified regulatory targets while maintaining our business plans. This includes risks for which minimum regulatory capital requirements may not be specified.

Capital position

Quantifies the extent to which illiquid assets are funded by non-core liabilities and represents a formula-based measure of both comparative and directional structural liquidity risk.

Cash capital position

Quantifies the extent to which illiquid assets are funded by non-core liabilities and represents a formula-based measure of both comparative and directional structural liquidity risk.

Collateral

Assets pledged as security for a loan or other obligation. Collateral can take many forms, such as cash, highly rated securities, property, inventory, equipment and receivables.

Collateralized debt obligation (CDO)

An investment grade security that is backed by a pool of bonds, loans and/or any other type of debt instrument.

Covered bonds

Full recourse on-balance sheet obligations issued by banks and credit institutions that are also fully collateralized by assets over which investors enjoy a priority claim in the event of an issuer's insolvency.

Commitments to extend credit

Unutilized amount of credit facilities available to clients either in the form of loans, bankers' acceptances and other on-balance sheet financing, or through off-balance sheet products such as guarantees and letters of credit.

Derivative

A contract between two parties which requires little or no initial investment and where payments between the parties are dependent upon the movements in price of an underlying instrument, index or financial rate. Examples of derivatives include swaps, options, forward rate agreements and futures. The notional amount of the derivative is the contract amount used as a reference point to calculate the payments to be exchanged between the two parties, and the notional amount itself is generally not exchanged by the parties.

Dividend payout ratio

Common dividends as a percentage of net income after preferred share dividends.

Dividend yield

Dividends per common share divided by the average of the high and low share prices in the relevant period.

Documentary and commercial letters of credit

Written undertakings by a bank on behalf of its client (typically an importer), authorizing a third party (typically an exporter) to draw drafts on the bank up to a stipulated amount under specific terms and conditions. Such undertakings are established for the purpose of facilitating international trade.

Earnings per share (EPS), basic

Calculated as net income less preferred share dividends divided by the average number of shares outstanding.

Earnings per share (EPS), diluted

Calculated as net income less preferred share dividends divided by the average number of

shares outstanding adjusted for the dilutive effects of stock options and other convertible securities.

Economic Capital

An estimate of the amount of equity capital required to underpin risks. It is calculated by estimating the level of capital that is necessary to support our various businesses, given their risks, consistent with our desired solvency standard and credit ratings.

Fair value

The amount of consideration that would be agreed upon in an arm's-length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties who are under no compulsion to act.

Guarantees and standby letters of credit

Primarily represent irrevocable assurances that a bank will make payments in the event that its client cannot meet its financial obligations to third parties. Certain other guarantees, such as bid and performance bonds, represent non-financial undertakings.

Hedge

A risk management technique used to insulate financial results from market, interest rate or foreign currency exchange risk (exposure) arising from normal banking operations. The elimination or reduction of such exposure is accomplished by establishing offsetting positions. For example, assets denominated in foreign currencies can be offset with liabilities in the same currencies or through the use of foreign exchange hedging instruments such as futures, options or foreign exchange contracts.

Hedge funds

A type of fund, usually used by wealthy individuals and institutions, which is allowed to use aggressive strategies that are unavailable to mutual funds, including selling short, leverage, program trading, swaps, arbitrage and derivatives.

Impaired loans

Loans are classified as impaired when there has been a deterioration of credit quality to the extent that management no longer has reasonable assurance of timely collection of the full amount of principal and interest in accordance with the contractual terms of the loan agreement. Credit card balances are not classified as impaired as they are directly written off after payments are 180 days past due.

Innovative capital instruments

Capital instruments issued by special purpose entities (SPEs), whose primary purpose is to raise capital. We issue innovative capital instruments, RBC Trust Capital Securities (TruCS) and RBC Trust Subordinated Notes (TSNs), through three SPEs: RBC Capital Trust, RBC Capital Trust II and RBC Subordinated Notes Trust. As per the OSFI guidelines, innovative capital can comprise up to 15% of net Tier 1 capital with an additional 5% eligible for Tier 2 capital.

Managed basis

We report our segments on a managed basis, which is intended to measure the performance of each business segment as if it were a stand-alone business and reflect the way each segment is managed.

Mark-to-market

Valuation of financial instruments using prevailing market prices or fair value as of the balance sheet date.

Master netting agreement

An agreement between us and a counterparty designed to reduce the credit risk of multiple derivative transactions through the creation of a legal right of offset of exposure in the event of a default.

Net interest income

The difference between what is earned on assets such as loans and securities and what is paid on liabilities such as deposits and subordinated debentures.

Net interest margin (average assets)

Net interest income as a percentage of total average assets.

Net interest margin (average earning assets)

Net interest income as a percentage of total average earning assets.

Non-bank sponsored asset-backed commercial paper

A short-term promissory note issued primarily by corporations, which is securitized with loans or other receivables.

Normal course issuer bid (NCIB)

A program for the repurchase of our own common shares, for cancellation through a stock exchange, that is subject to the various rules of the relevant stock exchange and securities commission.

Notional amount

The contract amount used as a reference point to calculate payments for derivatives.

Off-balance sheet financial instruments

A variety of credit-related arrangements offered to clients, which generally provides liquidity protection.

Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions Canada (OSFI)

The primary regulator of federally chartered financial institutions and federally administered pension plans in Canada. The OSFI's mission is to safeguard policyholders, depositors and pension plan members from undue loss.

Options

A contract or a provision of a contract that gives one party (the option holder) the right, but not the obligation, to perform a specified transaction with another party (the option issuer or option writer) according to specified terms.

Prepaid pension benefit cost

The cumulative excess of amounts contributed to a pension fund over the amounts recorded as pension expense.

Provision for credit losses

The amount charged to income necessary to bring the allowance for credit losses to a level determined appropriate by management. This includes both specific and general provisions.

Repurchase agreements

Involve the sale of securities for cash at a near value date and the simultaneous repurchase of the securities for value at a later date.

Residential mortgage-backed securities

Securities created through the securitization of residential mortgage loans.

Return on common equity (ROE)

Net income, less preferred share dividends, expressed as a percentage of average common equity.

Reverse repurchase agreements

Involve the purchase of securities for cash at a near value date and the simultaneous sale of the securities for value at a later date.

Risk

Financial institutions face a number of different risks that expose them to possible losses. These risks include credit risk, market risk, operational risk, liquidity and funding risk, reputation risk, regulatory and legal risk, environmental risk, insurance risk, strategic risk, competitive risk and systemic risk.

Risk-adjusted assets

As prescribed by the OSFI guidelines and used in the calculation of risk-based capital ratios. The face value of on-balance sheet assets is discounted using specified risk-weighting factors that reflect the relative risk of the asset. The risk inherent in off-balance sheet instruments is also recognized, first by determining a credit equivalent amount, and then by applying appropriate risk-weighting factors.

Securities lending

Transactions in which the owner of a security agrees to lend it under the terms of a prearranged contract to a borrower for a fee. The borrower must collateralize the security loan at all times. An intermediary such as a bank often acts as agent for the owner of the security. There are two types of securities lending arrangements: lending with and without credit or market risk indemnification. In securities lending without indemnification, the bank bears no risk of loss. For transactions in which the bank provides an indemnification, it bears risk of loss if the borrower defaults and the value of the collateral declines concurrently.

Securities sold short

A transaction in which the seller sells securities and then borrows the securities in order to deliver them to the purchaser upon settlement. At a later date, the seller buys identical securities in the market to replace the borrowed securities.

Securitization

The process by which high-quality financial assets are packaged into newly issued securities backed by these assets.

Special purpose entities (SPEs)

Entities that are typically organized for a single discrete purpose, have a limited life and serve to legally isolate the financial assets held by the SPE from the selling organization. SPEs are principally used to securitize financial and other assets in order to obtain access to funding, to mitigate credit risk and to manage capital.

Structured investment vehicle

Managed investment vehicle that holds mainly highly rated asset-backed securities and funds itself using the short-term commercial paper market as well as the medium-term note (MTN) market.

Subprime loans

Subprime lending is the practice of making loans to borrowers who do not qualify for the best market interest rates because of their deficient credit history. Subprime lending

carries more risk for both lenders and borrowers due to the combination of higher interest rates, poorer credit histories, and adverse financial situations usually associated with subprime applicants.

Survival horizon

Measures the length of time over which we would have sufficient funds to repay our maturing liabilities and finance off-balance sheet commitments if access to wholesale unsecured funding became suddenly unavailable and liquid assets, but no portion of mortgages and loans, were monetized.

Synthetic securitization

The transfer of risks relating to selected elements of our financial assets to unaffiliated third parties through the use of certain financial instruments such as credit default swaps and guarantees.

Taxable equivalent basis (teb)

Income from certain specified tax-advantaged sources is increased to a level that would make it comparable to income from taxable sources. There is an offsetting adjustment in the tax provision, thereby generating the same after-tax net income.

Tier 1 capital and Tier 1 capital ratio

Tier 1 capital is considered to be the most permanent in nature without creating a fixed charge against income. As defined by the OSFI, it includes common equity, retained earnings, non-cumulative preferred shares, and innovative capital instruments. The Tier 1 capital ratio is calculated by dividing Tier 1 capital by risk-adjusted assets.

Total capital ratio

The percentage of risk-adjusted assets supported by capital using the guidelines of the OSFI based on standards issued by the Bank for International Settlements and Canadian GAAP financial information.

Trust Capital Securities (TruCS)

Transferable trust units issued by special purpose entities, RBC Capital Trust or RBC Capital Trust II, for the purpose of raising innovative Tier 1 capital.

Trust Subordinated Notes (TSNs)

Transferable trust units issued by RBC Subordinated Notes Trust for the purpose of raising innovative Tier 2 capital.

U.S. GAAP

U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Value-at-Risk (VaR)

A generally accepted risk-measurement concept that uses statistical models based on historical information to estimate within a given level of confidence the maximum loss in market value we would experience in our trading portfolio from an adverse one-day movement in market rates and prices.

Variable interest entity (VIE)

An entity which either does not have sufficient equity at risk to finance its activities without additional subordinated financial support, or where the holders of the equity at risk lack the characteristics of a controlling financial interest.