

Outlooks Revised On Certain U.S. Not-For-Profit Higher Education Institutions Due To COVID-19 Impact

April 30, 2020

CHICAGO (S&P Global Ratings) April 29, 2020--S&P Global Ratings revised the outlooks to negative from stable and affirmed its ratings on certain U.S. not-for-profit colleges and universities (including all related entities), due to the heightened risks associated with the financial toll caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and related recession (see tables 1 and 2). For the same reasons, S&P Global Ratings revised the outlooks to stable from positive and affirmed the ratings on certain other U.S. not-for-profit higher education institutions (see table 3).

The public and private colleges and universities affected by these actions include primarily those with lower ratings ('BBB' rating category and below), but also those entities that, in our opinion, have less holistic flexibility (from both a market position and financial standpoint) at their current rating level. Although liquidity, as measured by available resources compared to debt and operating expenses, was the primary metric assessed, an institution's overall credit profile, including draw, selectivity, matriculation rates, operating margins, and revenue diversity, was also considered. For public institutions, reliance on state operating appropriations and expectations around future funding levels was also an important part of our assessment.

A negative outlook reflects our view that there is at least a one-in-three chance that operating and economic conditions will worsen to a degree that affects the ability of the college or university to maintain credit characteristics in line with the current rating level.

We will review all ratings individually to assess the degree to which each is affected by COVID-19 and the related recession, and assess underlying financial performance. However, on a case-by-case basis, if credit metrics are upheld and economic activity resumes at a pace greater than currently expected, we could revise the negative outlook to stable on specific ratings during the outlook period.

All Rated Higher Education Institutions Face COVID-19-Related Credit Pressures

U.S. higher education providers are under pressure, and if on-campus classes can't be resumed in fall 2020, could be under greater pressure. While S&P Global Ratings' outlook on the U.S. not-for-profit higher education sector has been negative for three consecutive years now, we believe that the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic and financial impacts exacerbate pressures already facing colleges and universities. The financial impact on institutions from the loss of auxiliary revenue from housing and dining fees, and parking fees; as well as revenues from

PRIMARY CREDIT ANALYSTS

Jessica L Wood

Chicago
(1) 312-233-7004
jessica.wood
@spglobal.com

Laura A Kuffler-Macdonald

New York
(1) 212-438-2519
laura.kuffler.macdonald
@spglobal.com

SECONDARY CONTACTS

Jessica H Goldman

New York
(1) 212-438-6484
jessica.goldman
@spglobal.com

Ying Huang

San Francisco
(1) 415-371-5008
ying.huang
@spglobal.com

Ken W Rodgers

New York
(1) 212-438-2087
ken.rodgers
@spglobal.com

Mary Ellen E Wriedt

San Francisco
(1) 415-371-5027
maryellen.wriedt
@spglobal.com

Outlooks Revised On Certain U.S. Not-For-Profit Higher Education Institutions Due To COVID-19 Impact

athletics, theater, and other events, is material for many. For schools with health care systems, lost revenue from cancelled elective surgical procedures could also be significant. The recently passed CARES Act will provide some budgetary relief to higher education institutions; however, despite this aid, we expect to see stressed operating budgets, the scope of which will ultimately be determined by the magnitude of lost revenues, the duration of the pandemic, fall 2020 mode of instruction, and ultimate enrollment figures.

Colleges and universities have reacted rapidly to the challenges presented by the pandemic. They have moved classes online to adhere to social-distancing rules, adjusted admission policies to accommodate disruptions to high school exams, and suspended academic conferences and travel. At the same time, many have implemented material expense cuts, including deferring capital expenditures, and imposing furloughs and layoffs, in some cases, with plans to continue to ramp up cost containment under various fall scenarios. Many colleges and universities have disclosed estimates of 2020 budget shortfalls, despite the inclusion of CARES stimulus funds. We expect that the colleges and universities we rate will face an unprecedented level of operating stress and tightened liquidity, which will worsen the longer and deeper the pandemic lasts. For fiscal 2020, and likely fiscal 2021, we believe margins will be further compressed and will be negative at some institutions, potentially weighing on their financial performance assessments. In our view, the credit pressures colleges and universities face will grow the longer campuses remain largely virtual or are governed by social-distancing rules.

Many of the colleges and universities that we rate have some headroom to absorb the impacts associated with COVID-19 at their current credit ratings, as they have built up reserves over recent years, hold solid balance sheets, and have relatively low debt levels. However, colleges and universities will face increased downward pressure on their current ratings depending on the extent to which economic disruptions associated with COVID-19 persist. If global travel restrictions are prolonged, or the imminent recession diminishes foreign students' financial means, then some could opt to study or work in their home countries instead. In our opinion, a fall 2020 with significantly fewer international students, as well as lower domestic enrollments overall, will cause serious operational pressures. At the same time, most U.S. colleges and universities depend on endowments and fundraising for a significant portion of revenues, and declining investment performance and endowment market values along with weaker fundraising results could negatively affect credit metrics during the outlook period. We assess a college or university's balance sheet strength using a measure of unrestricted financial resources, which excludes financial assets that aren't available for debt service because they are restricted for various reasons, and compare available resources (expendable resources for private institutions and adjusted unrestricted net assets for public institutions) to operating expenses and total debt outstanding. If these ratios fall significantly, we could lower our assessments of universities' financial resources and debt and contingent liabilities. We believe there will be greater pressure on those schools with limited revenue and expense flexibility, lack of liquidity or balance sheet cushion, and weaker fundraising capabilities.

As described in "An Already Historic U.S. Downturn Now Looks Even Worse," published April 16, 2020, the recession's trajectory is much deeper and faster than previously anticipated. S&P Global Economics now projects that U.S. GDP will contract by 5.3% in 2020. Although we expect the economy will begin to recover in the second half of 2020, we anticipate that the recovery will be gradual and will be constrained by some form of continued social distancing as fears persist over the continued spread of COVID-19.

Importantly, if COVID-19's effect on university revenues is transitory and offset by prudent management of expenditures and liquidity, these colleges and universities' financial profile assessments might not come under downward pressure. In addition, students who are partially through academic courses have a strong motivation to return once campuses reopen. This means

Outlooks Revised On Certain U.S. Not-For-Profit Higher Education Institutions Due To COVID-19 Impact

revenues are deferred rather than lost forever. If, on the other hand, the duration of virtual teaching extends into 2021, we expect the financial damage will be more severe and the pressure on credit ratings will grow.

Outlook Revisions To Negative

The outlook revisions to negative on these college and university ratings reflect our belief that these issuers have less flexibility at their current rating level, and are more susceptible to financial stress that could result in lower ratings over the outlook period because they have limited financial cushion to absorb an economic crisis such as the one we are experiencing at their current rating level. In many cases, issuers with these characteristics also have more limited market positions compared with those of peers at their current rating level. The negative outlook on these ratings reflects intensifying pressure on the institutions' financial performance and liquidity, driven by lost revenue streams as well as the current and forecast economic conditions.

Several of our public and private college and university ratings have multiple bond securities, or have associated entities, with ratings that are directly linked to, and thus also affected by this outlook revision to the related institution.

Table 1

Private Universities With Outlooks Revised To Negative

Institution	State	Rating	Revised outlook	Previous outlook
Alvernia University	Pennsylvania	BB+	Negative	Stable
Arcadia University	Pennsylvania	BBB	Negative	Stable
Ave Maria University Inc.	Florida	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Barry University	Florida	BBB	Negative	Stable
Barton College	North Carolina	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Cabrini University	Pennsylvania	BBB	Negative	Stable
Carlow University	Pennsylvania	BBB	Negative	Stable
Chaminade University of Honolulu	Hawaii	BB+	Negative	Stable
Champlain College	Vermont	BBB	Negative	Stable
Chatham University	Pennsylvania	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Cleveland Institute of Art	Ohio	BB	Negative	Stable
College of Saint Elizabeth	New Jersey	BB	Negative	Stable
Eastern University	Pennsylvania	BB	Negative	Stable
Emerson College	Massachusetts	BBB+	Negative	Stable
Fisher College	Massachusetts	BBB+	Negative	Stable
Florida Institute of Technology	Florida	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Florida Southern College	Florida	A-	Negative	Stable
Georgian Court University	New Jersey	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Guilford College	North Carolina	BBB	Negative	Stable
Gwynedd-Mercy College	Pennsylvania	BBB	Negative	Stable
Harrisburg University of Science and Technology	Pennsylvania	BB	Negative	Stable

Outlooks Revised On Certain U.S. Not-For-Profit Higher Education Institutions Due To COVID-19 Impact

Table 1

Private Universities With Outlooks Revised To Negative (cont.)

Institution	State	Rating	Revised outlook	Previous outlook
Hartwick College	New York	BB+	Negative	Stable
Hendrix College	Arkansas	BBB	Negative	Stable
Hodges University, Inc	Florida	BB+	Negative	Stable
Houston Baptist University	Texas	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Howard University	District of Columbia	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	New York	A-	Negative	Stable
Kings College	Pennsylvania	BBB+	Negative	Stable
La Salle University	Pennsylvania	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Lake Forest College	Illinois	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Lawrence Technological University	Michigan	BB+	Negative	Stable
Lewis University	Illinois	BBB+	Negative	Stable
Lindsey Wilson College	Kentucky	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Lipscomb University	Tennessee	BBB	Negative	Stable
Long Island University	New York	BBB+	Negative	Stable
Manchester University	Indiana	A-	Negative	Stable
Marian University	Indiana	BBB	Negative	Stable
Marymount University	Virginia	BB+	Negative	Stable
Marywood University	Pennsylvania	BB+	Negative	Stable
Masters University	California	BB+	Negative	Stable
Medaille College	New York	BB	Negative	Stable
Mercyhurst University	Pennsylvania	BB	Negative	Stable
Meredith College	North Carolina	BBB+	Negative	Stable
Merrimack College	Massachusetts	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Methodist University	North Carolina	BB+	Negative	Stable
Moravian College	Pennsylvania	BBB+	Negative	Stable
Mount St. Mary's University	Maryland	BB+	Negative	Stable
Neumann University	Pennsylvania	BBB	Negative	Stable
New York Law School	New York	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Notre Dame of Maryland University	Maryland	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Oklahoma City University	Oklahoma	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Pace University	New York	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Pacific Lutheran University	Washington	BB+	Negative	Stable
Pacific University	Oregon	BBB	Negative	Stable
Polytechnical University of Puerto Rico	Puerto Rico	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Providence College	Rhode Island	A	Negative	Stable
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	New York	BBB+	Negative	Stable

Outlooks Revised On Certain U.S. Not-For-Profit Higher Education Institutions Due To COVID-19 Impact

Table 1

Private Universities With Outlooks Revised To Negative (cont.)

Institution	State	Rating	Revised outlook	Previous outlook
Rider University	New Jersey	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Ringling College of Art and Design	Florida	BBB+	Negative	Stable
Roseman University	Nevada	BB	Negative	Stable
Saint Francis University	Pennsylvania	BBB	Negative	Stable
Saint Leo University	Florida	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Sarah Lawrence College	New York	BBB	Negative	Stable
Sistema Universitario Ana G Mendez	Puerto Rico	BB+	Negative	Stable
Southwest Baptist University	Missouri	BBB-	Negative	Stable
Springfield College	Massachusetts	BBB	Negative	Stable
St. Edward's University	Texas	BBB	Negative	Stable
St. Michael's College	Vermont	BBB	Negative	Stable
The New School	New York	A-	Negative	Stable
Tiffin University	Ohio	BBB-	Negative	Stable
University of Findlay	Ohio	BBB-	Negative	Stable
University of Hartford	Connecticut	BBB-	Negative	Stable
University of Indianapolis	Indiana	BBB+	Negative	Stable
University of Miami	Florida	A-	Negative	Stable
University of New Haven	Connecticut	BBB	Negative	Stable
University of the Sacred Heart	Puerto Rico	BB	Negative	Stable
Ursinus College	Pennsylvania	BBB	Negative	Stable
Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology	New York	BB-	Negative	Stable
Western New England University	Massachusetts	BBB	Negative	Stable
Westminster College	Utah	BBB	Negative	Stable
Wilkes University	Pennsylvania	BBB	Negative	Stable
Wingate University	North Carolina	BBB	Negative	Stable
Wofford College	South Carolina	A-	Negative	Stable
Yeshiva University	New York	BBB-	Negative	Stable

For public institutions, while almost all major revenue sources described above are under pressure, we also expect that most states will make cuts to higher education funding. While public colleges and universities have benefited from annual increases in state operating appropriations for several years now, funding for higher education still remains below pre-recession levels in certain states, and some schools are still coping with the lingering effects of funding cuts on their finances. While the impact from the pandemic and the current recession will vary greatly by state, for some schools, it could mean significant reductions in state funding. Even though the majority of public universities rely on net tuition revenue for a greater percentage of their overall budget than state funds, these state appropriations still make up a considerable portion of schools' operating budgets, and strain on these resources can have major negative impacts. Many states

Outlooks Revised On Certain U.S. Not-For-Profit Higher Education Institutions Due To COVID-19 Impact

are facing a structural gap in fiscal 2020, and while a few have already withheld funds from higher education institutions for the remainder of the fiscal year (including New Jersey and Missouri), we believe the risk of state funding cuts and delays is much greater in fiscal 2021. While decreases in state operating appropriations will range in magnitude, we will continue to monitor state revenue projections and budgets, and any possible adjustments to state funding levels, on a state-by-state basis. As more details become available on state budgets, we could take further action on other public institutions that are not part of this outlook revision.

Table 2

Public Universities With Outlooks Revised To Negative

Institution	State	Rating	Revised outlook	Previous outlook
Cleveland State University	Ohio	A+	Negative	Stable
College of New Jersey	New Jersey	A	Negative	Stable
Delaware State University	Delaware	BBB	Negative	Stable
Eastern Kentucky University	Kentucky	A-	Negative	Stable
Emporia State University	Kansas	A-	Negative	Stable
Fayetteville State University	North Carolina	BBB+	Negative	Stable
Indiana University of Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	A-	Negative	Stable
Jacksonville State University	Alabama	A-	Negative	Stable
Kansas State University	Kansas	A+	Negative	Stable
Kean University	New Jersey	A-	Negative	Stable
Lake Superior State University	Michigan	BBB+	Negative	Stable
Mayville State University	North Dakota	BBB+	Negative	Stable
Missouri State University	Missouri	A+	Negative	Stable
Missouri Western State University	Missouri	BBB+	Negative	Stable
Nebraska State College	Nebraska	A	Negative	Stable
New Jersey Institute of Technology	New Jersey	A	Negative	Stable
Northern Arizona University	Arizona	A+	Negative	Stable
Northern Kentucky University	Kentucky	A	Negative	Stable
Ramapo College	New Jersey	A	Negative	Stable
Rowan University	New Jersey	A	Negative	Stable
Rutgers University	New Jersey	A+	Negative	Stable
University of Kansas	Kansas	AA-	Negative	Stable
University of Massachusetts System	Massachusetts	AA-	Negative	Stable
University of Montevallo	Alabama	A-	Negative	Stable
University of North Carolina At Pembroke	North Carolina	A-	Negative	Stable
University of North Florida	Florida	A	Negative	Stable
University of Northern Colorado	Colorado	A-	Negative	Stable
University of Oregon	Oregon	AA-	Negative	Stable
University of South Alabama	Alabama	A+	Negative	Stable
University of Toledo	Ohio	A	Negative	Stable
Vermont State College	Vermont	A-	Negative	Stable

Outlooks Revised On Certain U.S. Not-For-Profit Higher Education Institutions Due To COVID-19 Impact

Table 2

Public Universities With Outlooks Revised To Negative (cont.)

Institution	State	Rating	Revised outlook	Previous outlook
Western Kentucky University	Kentucky	A-	Negative	Stable
Winston-Salem State University	North Carolina	BBB+	Negative	Stable

Outlook Revisions To Stable

As of Dec. 31, 2019, only 3.2% of our rated colleges and universities carried positive outlooks--with this action, all have been revised to stable (see table 3). The outlook revisions to stable from positive reflect our view that previous upward momentum will likely be stunted by the broad financial challenges facing these colleges and universities due to the pandemic and recession. While we no longer think a higher rating is likely during the outlook period, we still consider these organizations' ratings stable at this time.

Table 3

Outlooks Revised To Stable From Positive

	State	Rating	Revised outlook	Previous outlook
Private institutions				
Babson College	Massachusetts	A	Stable	Positive
Belmont University	Tennessee	A	Stable	Positive
Hiram College	Ohio	BB	Stable	Positive
Molloy College	New York	BBB	Stable	Positive
Nazareth College of Rochester	New York	BBB+	Stable	Positive
Sweet Briar College	Virginia	BB-	Stable	Positive
Widener University	Pennsylvania	BBB	Stable	Positive
Public institutions				
Temple University	Pennsylvania	A+	Stable	Positive
University of Alabama Birmingham	Alabama	AA	Stable	Positive
Valley City State University	North Dakota	BBB+	Stable	Positive

Issuer-Specific Reviews Will Be Conducted

These outlook revisions reflect our view that the risks posed by COVID-19 to public health and safety, which we view as a social risk under our environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors, could continue to pressure individual college and university enterprise and financial profiles over the near term. In our opinion, the uncertainty about the timing and duration of social-distancing directives across the country to protect the health and safety of individuals from the community spread of COVID-19 adds unprecedented lack of clarity to enrollment levels for fall 2020 as well as mode of instruction, both of which will affect tuition revenues.

We intend to review all ratings individually to assess underlying financial performance as well as the degree to which each is affected by COVID-19-related events, including the recession. This will

Outlooks Revised On Certain U.S. Not-For-Profit Higher Education Institutions Due To COVID-19 Impact

include a case-by-case analysis of management's efforts to offset revenue declines, and in certain cases where applicable, the ability to bridge cash flow imbalances caused by the pandemic and recession.

A negative outlook is not necessarily a precursor to a rating change, so we believe it is possible that we could revise some outlooks to stable from negative as we assess risk mitigation; however, we could also lower ratings during the outlook period.

As of today, S&P Global Ratings had 436 public ratings on U.S. private (287) and public (149) colleges and universities, which are secured by a general obligation or the equivalent. Our U.S. higher education ratings range from 'AAA' to 'CC', with approximately 41% of our ratings in the 'A' category, and 31% rated 'BBB+' or below. Approximately 8% of our rated universe is in the speculative-grade category. Both the lower investment-grade ('BBB') rating category and non-investment grade categories ('BB+' and below) have grown over the past few years, as more regional institutions have been increasingly challenged by enrollment and operating pressures.

As of Dec. 31, 2019, only 9.2% of our rated higher education institutions carried negative outlooks. Year to date and inclusive of these outlook revisions today, that percentage has risen to 38%.

Certain Not-For-Profit Higher Education Institutions Excluded From These Outlook Revisions

We have excluded from this rating action 50 not-for-profit colleges and universities that already carry a negative outlook prior to this event-driven outlook revision (see table 4).

Table 4

Ratings With Negative Outlooks Before Outlook Revision

	State	Rating	Outlook
Private institutions			
Agnes Scott College	Georgia	A	Negative
Assumption College	Massachusetts	A-	Negative
Benedictine University	Illinois	BBB	Negative
Bethany College	West Virginia	B-	Negative
Bethel University	Minnesota	BBB-	Negative
Drake University	Iowa	A-	Negative
Earlham College	Indiana	A	Negative
Goucher College	Maryland	A-	Negative
Hawaii Pacific University	Hawaii	BB	Negative
Johnson & Wales University	Rhode Island	A-	Negative
Judson College	Alabama	BB	Negative
Juniata College	Pennsylvania	BBB+	Negative
Lasell College	Massachusetts	BB+	Negative
Loyola University of New Orleans	Louisiana	BBB	Negative
Lubbock Christian University	Texas	BBB	Negative
Messiah College	Pennsylvania	A-	Negative
Mount Aloysius College	Pennsylvania	A-	Negative

Outlooks Revised On Certain U.S. Not-For-Profit Higher Education Institutions Due To COVID-19 Impact

Table 4

Ratings With Negative Outlooks Before Outlook Revision (cont.)

	State	Rating	Outlook
Mount St. Mary's University	California	A	Negative
Northwestern University	Illinois	AAA	Negative
Oberlin College	Ohio	AA	Negative
Regent University	Virginia	BB+	Negative
Saint Louis University	Missouri	AA-	Negative
Simmons University	Massachusetts	BBB+	Negative
St. Louis College of Pharmacy	Missouri	BBB	Negative
Thomas M Cooley Law School	Michigan	BB	Negative
University of St. Thomas	Texas	BBB+	Negative
University of Tampa	Florida	A-	Negative
Wayland Baptist University	Texas	A-	Negative
Public institutions			
Colorado School of Mines	Colorado	A+	Negative
Eastern Illinois University	Illinois	BB-	Negative
Governors State University	Illinois	BB+	Negative
Illinois State University	Illinois	A-	Negative
Longwood University	Virginia	BBB+	Negative
Metropolitan State University of Denver	Colorado	A	Negative
Michigan State University	Michigan	AA	Negative
Missouri Southern State University	Missouri	BBB	Negative
New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology	New Mexico	A+	Negative
Nicholls State University	Louisiana	BBB+	Negative
Northeastern Illinois University	Illinois	BB	Negative
Southeast Missouri State University	Missouri	A	Negative
Southern Illinois University	Illinois	BB+	Negative
University of Central Missouri	Missouri	A+	Negative
University of Illinois	Illinois	A-	Negative
University of Louisiana at Lafayette	Louisiana	A-	Negative
University of Missouri	Missouri	AA+	Negative
University of North Alabama	Alabama	A	Negative
University of Oklahoma	Oklahoma	A+	Negative
University of Puerto Rico	Puerto Rico	CC	Negative
Western Illinois University	Illinois	BB	Negative
University of Alaska	Alaska	A+	Negative

During the next few months, as we have more visibility on the mode of instruction for fall, and what enrollments look like, we will continue to evaluate the remainder of our portfolio and may take

Outlooks Revised On Certain U.S. Not-For-Profit Higher Education Institutions Due To COVID-19 Impact

further actions on specific issuers or groups of issuers as more details become available.

Certain terms used in this report, particularly certain adjectives used to express our view on rating relevant factors, have specific meanings ascribed to them in our criteria, and should therefore be read in conjunction with such criteria. Please see Ratings Criteria at www.standardandpoors.com for further information. Complete ratings information is available to subscribers of RatingsDirect at www.capitaliq.com. All ratings affected by this rating action can be found on S&P Global Ratings' public website at www.standardandpoors.com. Use the Ratings search box located in the left column.

Copyright © 2020 by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC. All rights reserved.

No content (including ratings, credit-related analyses and data, valuations, model, software or other application or output therefrom) or any part thereof (Content) may be modified, reverse engineered, reproduced or distributed in any form by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC or its affiliates (collectively, S&P). The Content shall not be used for any unlawful or unauthorized purposes. S&P and any third-party providers, as well as their directors, officers, shareholders, employees or agents (collectively S&P Parties) do not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness or availability of the Content. S&P Parties are not responsible for any errors or omissions (negligent or otherwise), regardless of the cause, for the results obtained from the use of the Content, or for the security or maintenance of any data input by the user. The Content is provided on an "as is" basis. S&P PARTIES DISCLAIM ANY AND ALL EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE, FREEDOM FROM BUGS, SOFTWARE ERRORS OR DEFECTS, THAT THE CONTENT'S FUNCTIONING WILL BE UNINTERRUPTED OR THAT THE CONTENT WILL OPERATE WITH ANY SOFTWARE OR HARDWARE CONFIGURATION. In no event shall S&P Parties be liable to any party for any direct, indirect, incidental, exemplary, compensatory, punitive, special or consequential damages, costs, expenses, legal fees, or losses (including, without limitation, lost income or lost profits and opportunity costs or losses caused by negligence) in connection with any use of the Content even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

Credit-related and other analyses, including ratings, and statements in the Content are statements of opinion as of the date they are expressed and not statements of fact. S&P's opinions, analyses and rating acknowledgment decisions (described below) are not recommendations to purchase, hold, or sell any securities or to make any investment decisions, and do not address the suitability of any security. S&P assumes no obligation to update the Content following publication in any form or format. The Content should not be relied on and is not a substitute for the skill, judgment and experience of the user, its management, employees, advisors and/or clients when making investment and other business decisions. S&P does not act as a fiduciary or an investment advisor except where registered as such. While S&P has obtained information from sources it believes to be reliable, S&P does not perform an audit and undertakes no duty of due diligence or independent verification of any information it receives. Rating-related publications may be published for a variety of reasons that are not necessarily dependent on action by rating committees, including, but not limited to, the publication of a periodic update on a credit rating and related analyses.

To the extent that regulatory authorities allow a rating agency to acknowledge in one jurisdiction a rating issued in another jurisdiction for certain regulatory purposes, S&P reserves the right to assign, withdraw or suspend such acknowledgment at any time and in its sole discretion. S&P Parties disclaim any duty whatsoever arising out of the assignment, withdrawal or suspension of an acknowledgment as well as any liability for any damage alleged to have been suffered on account thereof.

S&P keeps certain activities of its business units separate from each other in order to preserve the independence and objectivity of their respective activities. As a result, certain business units of S&P may have information that is not available to other S&P business units. S&P has established policies and procedures to maintain the confidentiality of certain non-public information received in connection with each analytical process.

S&P may receive compensation for its ratings and certain analyses, normally from issuers or underwriters of securities or from obligors. S&P reserves the right to disseminate its opinions and analyses. S&P's public ratings and analyses are made available on its Web sites, www.standardandpoors.com (free of charge), and www.ratingsdirect.com and www.globalcreditportal.com (subscription), and may be distributed through other means, including via S&P publications and third-party redistributors. Additional information about our ratings fees is available at www.standardandpoors.com/usratingsfees.