



## RATING ACTION COMMENTARY

# Fitch Affirms Peña Verde, S.A.B.'s Long-Term Local Currency IDR at 'BBB+'; Outlook Stable

Mon 22 May, 2023 - 15:27 ET

Fitch Ratings - Monterrey - 22 May 2023: Fitch Ratings has affirmed Peña Verde, S.A.B.'s (PV) Long-Term Local Currency (LC) Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'BBB+'. The Rating Outlook is Stable.

## KEY RATING DRIVERS

**Rating Derived from Patria:** PV's 'BBB+' LC IDR is derived by notching from the Insurer Financial Strength (IFS) rating of its main subsidiary, Reaseguradora Patria, S.A. (Patria), per Fitch criteria. PV's LC IDR is based on Fitch's view of Patria's IFS rating when considering only local currency risks. On such a basis, Fitch currently views Patria's international implied LC IFS rating as equivalent to the 'A-' level, and its implied LC IDR at 'BBB+'. Under Fitch criteria, in group solvency regulatory environments, as designated by Fitch in Mexico, the IDR of a holding company is set at the same level as that of the operating company.

Patria's published international IFS rating is 'BBB+', and is treated by Fitch as a foreign currency rating given its policy obligations volume in foreign currency. The implied LC ratings of Patria discussed above are applicable only in the PV notching exercise.

**Company Profile Favorable Compared with LATAM peers:** Fitch views PV's company profile as favorable compared with the Latin American insurance market. Founded in 2012, PV is the holding company of six subsidiaries. At YE 2022, PV's total assets from its main (re)insurance operating entities made up 96% of group's total assets; 75% through Patria and 21% through General de Seguros S.A.B. (General de Seguros) and subsidiary. With a global position and focus in Latin America, PV's net written premiums (NWP) and equity totaled USD620 million and USD661 million, respectively. The company has a strong franchise in the region, which allows for a very highly diversified business, with 79% of NWP in Latin America and Caribbean (40% in Mexico) and 21% overseas.

**Adequate Capitalization and Leverage:** PV's capital quality is adequate for the rating category. The entity's gross and net leverage ratios (2.1x and 1.7x at YE 2022, respectively) remain favorable. The group practices strong capital allocation policies, which include a solvency capital requirement ratio for Peña Verde.

Fitch's primary rating constraints include pressure on investments given the Mexican sovereign's related investments, which represents 102% of PV's equity at YE 2022. Fitch notes that premium growth given PV's strategic plan may affect net and gross leverage ratios relative to regulatory capital in the future. However, Fitch expects ratings subfactors to remain at the current rating category. While the company currently has no debt outstanding, the current rating assumes debt capacity of up to 30% of total adjusted capital.

**Performance Pressed by Insurance Subsidiary:** Fitch views PV's underwriting and overall profitability as adequate but pressured by General de Seguros' weaker financial performance along with volatility in financial results and operating expenses. Historically, PV's technical result has been positive. The combined ratio has consistently fallen below 100% (YE22: 96.8%; 3YA:97.1%), but is pressured by General de Seguros' losses. Fitch expects Peña Verde's financial performance assessment to be maintained at the current assigned rating in the absence of losses greater than expected in the entity's basis scenario.

**Financial Profile Likely to Improve:** Fitch believes PV's financial profile could be boosted by premium growth expectation in investment-grade-rated countries, which will potentially expand the entity's underwriting and investment diversification and reduce below-investment-grade exposure. However, such expansion comes with execution risks.

**Adequate Reinsurance Program:** PV's reinsurance utilization ratio is adequate as a result of its business model, which relies on retaining 82% of the business written to its ample base of clients. Reinsurance recoverable to capital was 43% at YE 2022.

## RATING SENSITIVITIES

Factors that could, individually or collectively, lead to positive rating action/upgrade:

--An upgrade could be driven by a positive movement in Patria's implied Local Currency IDR.

Factors that could, individually or collectively, lead to negative rating action/downgrade:

--A downgrade could be driven by a downgrade of Patria's rating or by a deterioration of PV's intrinsic financial performance, or by debt issuance that results in financial leverage ratio higher than 30%;

--Negative Rating action could be triggered by persistent losses in the insurance business line that lead to a change in Fitch's view of the subsidiaries' strategic importance.

## BEST/WORST CASE RATING SCENARIO

International scale credit ratings of Financial Institutions and Covered Bond issuers have a best-case rating upgrade scenario (defined as the 99th percentile of rating transitions, measured in a positive direction) of three notches over a three-year rating horizon; and a worst-case rating downgrade scenario (defined as the 99th percentile of rating transitions, measured in a negative direction) of four notches over three years. The complete span of best- and worst-case scenario credit ratings for all rating categories ranges from 'AAA' to 'D'. Best- and worst-case scenario credit ratings are based on historical performance. For more information about the methodology used to determine sector-specific best- and worst-case scenario credit ratings, visit <https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/10111579>

## REFERENCES FOR SUBSTANTIALLY MATERIAL SOURCE CITED AS KEY DRIVER OF RATING

The principal sources of information used in the analysis are described in the Applicable Criteria.

## RATING ACTIONS

ENTITY / DEBT ⇅

RATING ⇅

PRIOR ⇅

---

Peña Verde S.A.B.

LC LT IDR    BBB+ Rating Outlook Stable

BBB+ Rating

Outlook

Stable

Affirmed

---

**VIEW ADDITIONAL RATING DETAILS****FITCH RATINGS ANALYSTS****Eugenia Martinez**

Director

Primary Rating Analyst

+52 81 4161 7055

eugenia.martinez@fitchratings.com

Fitch Mexico S.A. de C.V.

Prol. Alfonso Reyes No. 2612, Edificio Connexity, Piso 8, Col. Del Paseo Residencial,  
Monterrey 64920**Victor Perez**

Associate Director

Secondary Rating Analyst

+52 55 5955 1620

victor.perez@fitchratings.com

**Brian Schneider, CPA, CPCU, ARe**

Senior Director

Committee Chairperson

+1 312 606 2321

brian.schneider@fitchratings.com

**MEDIA CONTACTS****Elizabeth Fogerty**

New York

+1 212 908 0526

elizabeth.fogerty@thefitchgroup.com

Additional information is available on [www.fitchratings.com](http://www.fitchratings.com)**PARTICIPATION STATUS**

The rated entity (and/or its agents) or, in the case of structured finance, one or more of the transaction parties participated in the rating process except that the following issuer(s), if any, did not participate in the rating process, or provide additional information, beyond the issuer's available public disclosure.

## **APPLICABLE CRITERIA**

[National Scale Rating Criteria \(pub. 22 Dec 2020\)](#)

[Metodología de Calificaciones en Escala Nacional \(pub. 22 Dec 2020\)](#)

[Insurance Rating Criteria \(pub. 15 Jul 2022\) \(including rating assumption sensitivity\)](#)

[Metodología de Calificación de Seguros \(pub. 04 Aug 2022\)](#)

## **ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURES**

[Dodd-Frank Rating Information Disclosure Form](#)

[Solicitation Status](#)

[Endorsement Policy](#)

## **ENDORSEMENT STATUS**

Pena Verde S.A.B.

EU Endorsed, UK Endorsed

## **DISCLAIMER & DISCLOSURES**

All Fitch Ratings (Fitch) credit ratings are subject to certain limitations and disclaimers.

Please read these limitations and disclaimers by following this link:

<https://www.fitchratings.com/understandingcreditratings>. In addition, the following <https://www.fitchratings.com/rating-definitions-document> details Fitch's rating definitions for each rating scale and rating categories, including definitions relating to default. ESMA and the FCA are required to publish historical default rates in a central repository in accordance with Articles 11(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 and The Credit Rating Agencies (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 respectively.

Published ratings, criteria, and methodologies are available from this site at all times. Fitch's code of conduct, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, affiliate firewall, compliance, and other relevant policies and procedures are also available from the Code of Conduct section of this site. Directors and shareholders' relevant interests are available at <https://www.fitchratings.com/site/regulatory>. Fitch may have provided another permissible

or ancillary service to the rated entity or its related third parties. Details of permissible or ancillary service(s) for which the lead analyst is based in an ESMA- or FCA-registered Fitch Ratings company (or branch of such a company) can be found on the entity summary page for this issuer on the Fitch Ratings website.

In issuing and maintaining its ratings and in making other reports (including forecast information), Fitch relies on factual information it receives from issuers and underwriters and from other sources Fitch believes to be credible. Fitch conducts a reasonable investigation of the factual information relied upon by it in accordance with its ratings methodology, and obtains reasonable verification of that information from independent sources, to the extent such sources are available for a given security or in a given jurisdiction. The manner of Fitch's factual investigation and the scope of the third-party verification it obtains will vary depending on the nature of the rated security and its issuer, the requirements and practices in the jurisdiction in which the rated security is offered and sold and/or the issuer is located, the availability and nature of relevant public information, access to the management of the issuer and its advisers, the availability of pre-existing third-party verifications such as audit reports, agreed-upon procedures letters, appraisals, actuarial reports, engineering reports, legal opinions and other reports provided by third parties, the availability of independent and competent third-party verification sources with respect to the particular security or in the particular jurisdiction of the issuer, and a variety of other factors. Users of Fitch's ratings and reports should understand that neither an enhanced factual investigation nor any third-party verification can ensure that all of the information Fitch relies on in connection with a rating or a report will be accurate and complete. Ultimately, the issuer and its advisers are responsible for the accuracy of the information they provide to Fitch and to the market in offering documents and other reports. In issuing its ratings and its reports, Fitch must rely on the work of experts, including independent auditors with respect to financial statements and attorneys with respect to legal and tax matters. Further, ratings and forecasts of financial and other information are inherently forward-looking and embody assumptions and predictions about future events that by their nature cannot be verified as facts. As a result, despite any verification of current facts, ratings and forecasts can be affected by future events or conditions that were not anticipated at the time a rating or forecast was issued or affirmed.

The information in this report is provided "as is" without any representation or warranty of any kind, and Fitch does not represent or warrant that the report or any of its contents will meet any of the requirements of a recipient of the report. A Fitch rating is an opinion as to the creditworthiness of a security. This opinion and reports made by Fitch are based on established criteria and methodologies that Fitch is continuously evaluating and updating.

Therefore, ratings and reports are the collective work product of Fitch and no individual, or group of individuals, is solely responsible for a rating or a report. The rating does not address the risk of loss due to risks other than credit risk, unless such risk is specifically mentioned. Fitch is not engaged in the offer or sale of any security. All Fitch reports have shared authorship. Individuals identified in a Fitch report were involved in, but are not solely responsible for, the opinions stated therein. The individuals are named for contact purposes only. A report providing a Fitch rating is neither a prospectus nor a substitute for the information assembled, verified and presented to investors by the issuer and its agents in connection with the sale of the securities. Ratings may be changed or withdrawn at any time for any reason in the sole discretion of Fitch. Fitch does not provide investment advice of any sort. Ratings are not a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any security. Ratings do not comment on the adequacy of market price, the suitability of any security for a particular investor, or the tax-exempt nature or taxability of payments made in respect to any security. Fitch receives fees from issuers, insurers, guarantors, other obligors, and underwriters for rating securities. Such fees generally vary from US\$1,000 to US\$750,000 (or the applicable currency equivalent) per issue. In certain cases, Fitch will rate all or a number of issues issued by a particular issuer, or insured or guaranteed by a particular insurer or guarantor, for a single annual fee. Such fees are expected to vary from US\$10,000 to US\$1,500,000 (or the applicable currency equivalent). The assignment, publication, or dissemination of a rating by Fitch shall not constitute a consent by Fitch to use its name as an expert in connection with any registration statement filed under the United States securities laws, the Financial Services and Markets Act of 2000 of the United Kingdom, or the securities laws of any particular jurisdiction. Due to the relative efficiency of electronic publishing and distribution, Fitch research may be available to electronic subscribers up to three days earlier than to print subscribers.

For Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan and South Korea only: Fitch Australia Pty Ltd holds an Australian financial services license (AFS license no. 337123) which authorizes it to provide credit ratings to wholesale clients only. Credit ratings information published by Fitch is not intended to be used by persons who are retail clients within the meaning of the Corporations Act 2001. Fitch Ratings, Inc. is registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization (the "NRSRO"). While certain of the NRSRO's credit rating subsidiaries are listed on Item 3 of Form NRSRO and as such are authorized to issue credit ratings on behalf of the NRSRO (see <https://www.fitchratings.com/site/regulatory>), other credit rating subsidiaries are not listed on Form NRSRO (the "non-NRSROs") and therefore credit ratings issued by those subsidiaries are not issued on behalf of the NRSRO. However, non-NRSRO personnel may participate in determining credit ratings issued by or on behalf of the NRSRO.

dv01, a Fitch Solutions company, and an affiliate of Fitch Ratings, may from time to time serve as loan data agent on certain structured finance transactions rated by Fitch Ratings.

Copyright © 2023 by Fitch Ratings, Inc., Fitch Ratings Ltd. and its subsidiaries. 33 Whitehall Street, NY, NY 10004. Telephone: 1-800-753-4824, (212) 908-0500. Fax: (212) 480-4435. Reproduction or retransmission in whole or in part is prohibited except by permission. All rights reserved.

[READ LESS](#)

## **SOLICITATION STATUS**

The ratings above were solicited and assigned or maintained by Fitch at the request of the rated entity/issuer or a related third party. Any exceptions follow below.

## **ENDORSEMENT POLICY**

Fitch's international credit ratings produced outside the EU or the UK, as the case may be, are endorsed for use by regulated entities within the EU or the UK, respectively, for regulatory purposes, pursuant to the terms of the EU CRA Regulation or the UK Credit Rating Agencies (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, as the case may be. Fitch's approach to endorsement in the EU and the UK can be found on Fitch's [Regulatory Affairs](#) page on Fitch's website. The endorsement status of international credit ratings is provided within the entity summary page for each rated entity and in the transaction detail pages for structured finance transactions on the Fitch website. These disclosures are updated on a daily basis.

---

Insurance   Latin America   Mexico

---