Vacse

BBB+ rating from NCR

- Vacse gets a BBB+ rating from NCR with a stable outlook
- Lower LTV target
- Recommendation upgraded to Outperform (from Market Perform)

BBB+ rating with a stable outlook

The rating justification by NCR contained few, if any, surprises. The company has a set of fairly well known strengths and weaknesses in its credit profile. The increasing project portfolio and the short maturity profile got its fair share of attention in the report.

A lower LTV target...finally

In the Q3 report, Vacse lowered its LTV target from a maximum of 60% previously to not to exceed 50% for an extended period of time. We have always considered the previous LTV target as outdated, both in relation to the rest of the market and to the company's actual leverage and future plans.

Recommendation upgraded to Outperform

We believe the entire SEK real estate sector trades wide. In addition, Vacse trades wide relative to the sector, at about 12 basis points outside the generic BBB property curve. Thus, we upgrade our recommendation to Outperform.

Johan Sahlström, +46 8 463 4537, josa23@handelsbanken.se

Key figures*

SEKm	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Rental revenues	187	268	336	339	334
Op. net (NOIRE)	164	236	293	293	285
EBITDA adj	159	226	277	268	264
EBITDA adj margin (%)	85.0	84.1	82.5	79.3	79.1
Income fr property mgmt adj	116	168	214	200	197
Net income adj	175	148	344	417	313
Property value	3,247	4,764	5,025	5,344	5,257
Gross debt adj	1,643	2,546	2,517	2,444	2,138
Net debt to prop value adj (%)	48.9	51.8	49.2	43.8	38.9
Total debt to total assets adj (%)	49.7	52.4	49.0	44.7	39.7
FFO/gross debt adj (%)	8	7	8	7	9
Gross debt/EBITDA adj (x)	10.4	11.3	9.1	9.1	8.1
EBITDA/interest expense adj (x)	3.6	3.9	4.4	3.9	3.9
Dividends/FFO adj (%)	56.6	50.3	42.6	49.3	47.4
Pledged assets to total assets (%)	37.2	28.0	27.7	34.4	38.7
Secured debt to total assets (%)	25.1	17.1	16.2	13.6	13.7

Source: Company reports and Handelsbanken Capital Markets *Shareholder loan treated as equity

Recommendation, SEK senior unsecured



Public ratings

	Long-term	Outlook
NCR:	BBB+	Stable

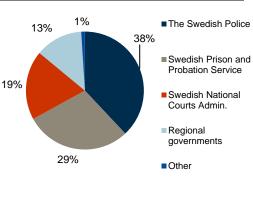
Company data

Web address:	www.vacse.se
CEO:	Fredrik Linderborg
CFO:	Henrik Molin

Company profile

Vacse is a relatively small property company that focuses on long-term leasing to public entities. The company plans to grow its property portfolio from SEK 5.3bn as of year-end 2017. The company is owned by seven pension foundations.

Property values 2017



Source: Company reports

Company news

Vacse became the first company to receive a rating from the newly established Nordic Credit Rating (NCR), at BBB+ with a stable outlook.

BBB+ rating from NCR

Yesterday, Vacse received a BBB+ public rating (stable outlook) from the newly established Nordic Credit Rating (NCR). It was the agency's first rating ever.

The rating justification

No real surprises in rating justification

Lowered LTV target

the only real news in the Q3 report

Short maturity profile

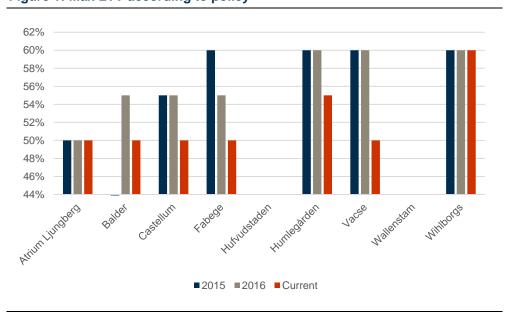
50 is the new 60 when it comes to max LTV (%) for a Swedish real estate company The rating analysis included no major surprises, but pointed to a set of well-known factors, such as the strong portfolio of modern properties leased to highly credit-worthy public-sector authorities under long-term contracts.

The real news was the company's adjusted LTV target (announced in the Q3 report, which was also released yesterday). The LTV target was changed from a maximum of 60% to not to exceed 50% for an extended period (our translation from Swedish). The new target puts Vacse in line with many peers (Figure 1). We have always considered the previous LTV target as somewhat outdated, both in relation to the rest of the market and in relation to the company's actual leverage and future plans. As of Q3, the LTV metric stood at 43%; NCR expects it to increase modestly, to 44-45%, in 2018-20.

The credit weaknesses that NCR points to include an increasing share of development property, short debt maturities and risks at the expiration of lease contracts. The rating agency notes that uses of liquidity outweigh the sources over the next 12 months. NCR specifically noted the SEK 773m bond that matures in June 2019, which the agency expects to be refinanced well in advance

NCR classifies shareholder loans as equity and presents its figures accordingly; again, no surprise.

Figure 1: Max LTV according to policy



Source: Company reports and press releases

Relative value

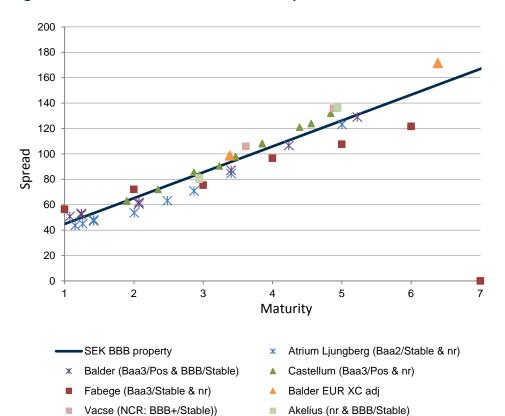
The SEK real estate sector trades wide relative to other sectors and Vacse also trades wide relative to its sector. We upgrade our recommendation to Outperform (from Market Perform).

Vacse trades wide, about 12 basis points outside our generic SEK BBB property curve in the five-year segment (Figure 2). It is worth noting, however, that Vacse has not widened along with the more traded names during the autumn and thus looks, in relative terms, less wide than a few months ago.

Still, we think Vacse trades wide to the sector and because we expect the sector to perform well going into 2019, we upgrade our recommendation for Vacse to Outperform (from Market Perform).

Recommendation upgraded to Outperform We do not expect the NCR rating to result in the same positive announcement effect as seen from previous rating announcements (Figure 4) from the incumbent agencies (i.e. Moody's or S&P). Accordingly, there appear to have been little effect on Vacse's spreads on the day of the announcement. However, we expect the rating to have a gradual positive impact on Vacse's spread as the market digests the news. It is plausible that the next company taking out a NCR rating may see more of an announcement effect than has been the case of Vacse.

Figure 2: Vacse and BBB rated real estate peers



Vacse trades about 12 basis points over the generic property BBB curve

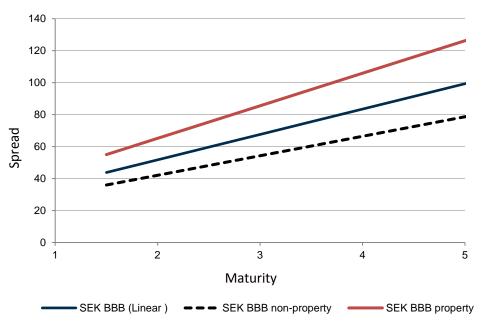
Source: Bloomberg and Handelsbanken

The SEK property premium

The SEK real estate premium (Figure 3) in the BBB rating category continues to be very wide, at 32bp, adjusted for differences in credit quality. However, it appears to have fallen slightly from its peak of 34 basis points a week ago. Still, we think a more normal level going into 2019 should be 20-25 basis points.

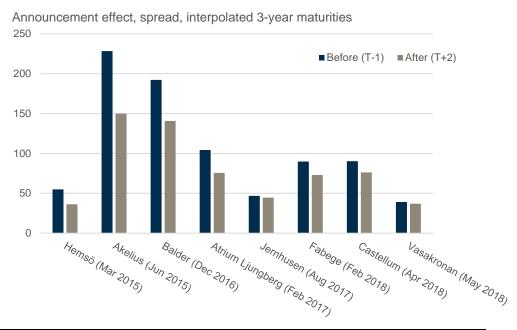
Figure 3: The SEK property premium

Adjusted for rating differences, the property premium is now 32bp in the five-year segment



Source: Bloomberg and Handelsbanken

Figure 4: Announcement effect on public ratings, interpolated three-year



Source: Bloomberg and Handelsbanken

Significant impact on spreads from rating announcements in most cases

Key figures

Key financials credit*

SEKm	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	,				_
P&L accounts					
Revenues	187	268	336	339	334
Total op expenses	-28	-43	-59	-70	-70
EBITDA	159	226	277	268	264
EBITDA adj	159	226	277	268	264
EBIT	159	226	277	268	264
Interest income	0.8	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1
Interest expense	-119	-144	-152	-157	-156
EBT	130	78	328	389	284
Paid tax	-0.3	-2	-5	-1	-3
Net income	99	61	256	328	224
Balance sheet	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total tangible assets	3,247	4,764	5,025	5,345	5,259
Cash and equivalents	55	81	46	106	92
Total assets	3,307	4,863	5,135	5,472	5,389
	-,	,	-,	-,	-,
Equity	155	516	772	1,100	1,324
LT interest-bearing debt	830	2,226	1,397	2,137	2,130
ST interest bearing debt	813	320	1,120	308	8
Other current liabilities	8	23	20	20	7
Total equity and liabilities	3,307	4,863	5,135	5,472	5,389
Total equity and liabilities adj	3,307	4,863	5,135	5,472	5,389
Total debt	1,643	2,546	2,517	2,444	2,138
Total debt adj	1,643	2,546	2,517	2,444	2,138
Cash flow	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Funds from operations (FFO)	58	86	119 208	91	98
FFO adj	134 -7	172 57		180	187
Change in working capital	- <i>r</i> 51	142	-36 83	61 153	-23 75
Operating cash flow (OCF) Cash flow from investments	-1,205	-1,380	-89	-19	218
Capex	-1,203	-0.5	-8	-18	-15
Discretionary cash flow	- 51	142	-6 76	135	60
	-	300	-	-	-
New equity Net change in debt	1,113	963	-29	- -74	-308
Cash flow from financing	1,113	1,263	-29	-74 -74	-308
Net cash flow	-41	26	-29 -35	60	-308 -15
Net cash now	-41	20	-55	00	-13
Key credit metrics (%)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
EBITDA adj margin	85.0	84.1	82.5	79.3	79.1
EBIT adj margin	85.0	84.1	82.5	79.3	79.1
Equity ratio	4.7	10.6	15.0	20.1	24.6
Equity ratio adj	4.7	10.6	15.0	20.1	24.6
Net debt/equity (x)	10.2	4.8	3.2	2.1	1.5
Net debt/EBITDA (x)	10.0	10.9	8.9	8.7	7.7
Net debt/EBITDA adj (x)	10.0	10.9	8.9	8.7	7.7
Debt/EBITDA (x)	10.4	11.3	9.1	9.1	8.1
Debt/EBITDA adj (x)	10.4	11.3	9.1	9.1	8.1
EBITDA/Net interest adj (x)	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7
EBIT/interest (x)	1	2	2	2	2
FFO/net debt	3.7	3.5	4.8	3.9	4.8
FFO/total debt adj	8.2	6.8	8.2	7.4	8.7
FFO/net debt adj	8.4	7.0	8.4	7.7	9.1
FOCF/debt	3.1	5.6	3.0	5.5	2.8

Source: Company reports and Handelsbanken Capital Markets *Shareholder loan treated as equity

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Recommendations: definitions and allocations

HCM recommendation ¹	HCM universe unsecured ²	HCM universe secured ²	IB services ³
Underperform	14%	0%	50%
Market Perform	63%	80%	46%
Outperform	23%	20%	54%

¹ Recommendation definitions:

Outperform: Over the next 12 months, the bond's total return is expected to exceed the total return of the relevant benchmark
Market Perform: Over the next 12 months, the bond's total return is expected to be in line with the total return of the relevant benchmark
Underperform: Over the next 12 months, the bond's total return is expected to be below the total return of the relevant benchmark

Source: Handelsbanken Capital Markets, as per 25/10 2018

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Vacse

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Oct 25. 2018:

Vacse

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