

# **Capital Securities Corporation**

# **Key Rating Drivers**

**Established Securities Franchise:** Capital Securities Corporation's ratings reflect its stable and well-established stockbroking franchise in Taiwan and adequate capital profile. The company is Taiwan's largest independent full-service securities firm, with a 3.9% brokerage market share in 1H25 (2023: 3.6%). This was supported by its strong position in sub-settlement accounts and a shift from transaction-based to client asset-based business that enhances client retention.

The firm also maintains strong underwriting, warrant issuance and futures and options brokerage positions. However, reliance on volatile capital-market activities limits the ratings relative to larger and more diversified financial holding companies in Taiwan.

Stable Operating Environment: We anticipate Taiwan's steady economic growth and prudent regulatory oversight will sustain stable operating conditions for the financial sector, despite global economic and geopolitical headwinds and market volatility. Tighter regulatory limits on leverage in the securities sector, measured by business risk exposure, should curb excessive risk-taking, while regulatory relaxation in ancillary investments, margin financing and assetmanagement services should support further business diversification.

Market activity recovered in 3Q25, with average daily turnover on the Taiwan Stock Exchange up by 24% and the index up by 16% over the quarter. This followed a 15% fall in average daily turnover in 1H25 on weak investor confidence amid tariff and geopolitical uncertainty. Corporate financing also slowed on delayed capex. We expect trade policy, geopolitical and US rate uncertainty to persist, but the end of US monetary tightening should support equity turnover, and artificial intelligence adoption should bolster technology sector fundraising.

**Improving Earnings Prospects:** We expect earnings to improve in 2026 as more accommodative US monetary policy and an end to Taiwanese rate hikes lift equity market sentiment and fixed-income spreads. Earnings weakened in 1H25 in line with lower market activity, which pressured brokerage and trading income. Annualised operating profit/average equity fell to 6.8% (2024: 8.5%), though earnings remained steadier than at most rated monoline securities firms, buoyed by the company's better revenue diversity and risk management.

Adequate Capital Position: Net tangible leverage stood at 7.3x at end-1H25, unchanged from end-2024. We expect tighter regulatory capital requirements and stricter leverage limits for securities companies in Taiwan to ensure sufficient capital buffers against potential market shocks.

Short-Term Wholesale Funding Reliance: Capital Securities is exposed to funding-market volatility due to its reliance on short-term wholesale funding, including the use of repos to finance bond investments. That said, liquidity risk is mitigated by adequate collateral management, with repos backed by government, financial institution and high-quality corporate bonds.

#### **Ratings**

**Foreign Currency** 

Long-Term IDR

BBB-

**National Rating** 

National Long-Term Rating A(twn)
National Short-Term Rating F1(twn)

Sovereign Risk

Long-Term Foreign-Currency DR
Long-Term Local-Currency IDR
Country Ceiling AAA

Outlooks

Long-Term Foreign-Currency IDR

National Long-Term Rating Stable
Sovereign Long-Term Foreign-Currency IDR

Sovereign Long-Term Local-Currency IDR

Stable Stable

### **Applicable Criteria**

Non-Bank Financial Institutions Rating Criteria (January 2025)

National Scale Rating Criteria (December 2020)

#### **Related Research**

Large Taiwanese Securities Firms' Financial Resilience Widens Divergence (September 2025)

Global Economic Outlook (September 2025)

#### **Analysts**

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# **Rating Sensitivities**

# Factors that Could, Individually or Collectively, Lead to Negative Rating Action/Downgrade

The ratings could face pressure if intense market competition leads to a sustained deterioration in the firm's market position and if an increased risk appetite leaves its capital position more vulnerable to market volatility, such that net adjusted leverage exceeds 10x or if its funding or liquidity buffers are affected significantly. Indications of an increased risk appetite include higher balance-sheet exposure to market risk from trading activities.

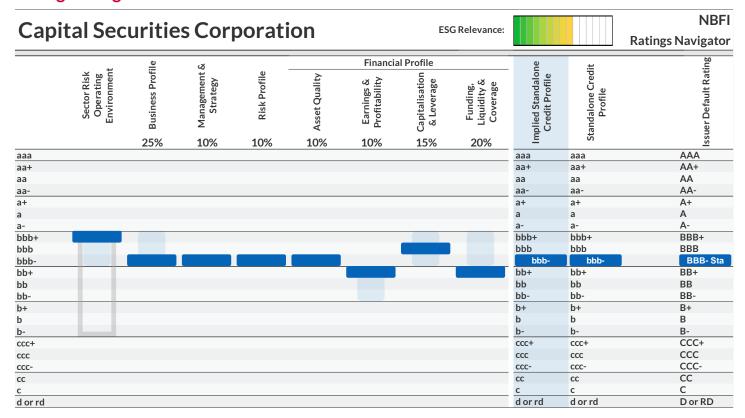
Operational or risk-management lapses that result in unexpected substantial losses and pressure the capital position would also be credit negative.

# Factors that Could, Individually or Collectively, Lead to Positive Rating Action/Upgrade

Improved business diversity and earnings quality – such as an increased contribution from relatively stable, recurring income streams – would be positive for the ratings. A stronger market position in stock brokerage, approaching that of the top-three industry participants, together with better profitability from efficiencies of scale, would also be credit positive.



# **Ratings Navigator**



The Key Rating Driver (KRD) weightings used to determine the implied Standalone Credit Profile (SCP) are shown as percentages at the top. In cases where the implied SCP is adjusted upwards or downwards to arrive at the SCP, the KRD associated with the adjustment reason is highlighted in red. The shaded areas indicate the benchmark-implied scores for each KRD. The sector risk assessment acts as a sector-specific constraint on the typical implied operating environment range and is shown as an overlay on the operating environment.

# Adjustments

The funding, liquidity and coverage score has been assigned below the implied score for the following adjustment reason: funding flexibility (negative).

# **Key Qualitative Factors**

# **Business Profile**

Capital Securities is a top-tier Taiwanese broker, ranking sixth in domestic stock brokerage with a 3.9% share in 1H25 (2023: 3.6%), and consistently among the top five in domestic fixed-income underwriting. As the largest independent securities firm, it runs a full-service model offering a comprehensive range of capital-market products and services.

Earnings are tied to capital-market activity, but a more diversified revenue stream supports better earnings stability than smaller standalone peers that lean on proprietary trading.

The company aims to expand client asset-based revenue from a transaction-based model, with the goal to leverage its strong position in sub-settlement accounts to deepen client relationships and reduce earnings cyclicality through cycles.



## Capital Securities' Profit Breakdown



Note: Others in 2024 include profits from futures and derivatives department

Source: Fitch Ratings, Fitch Solutions, Capital Securities

# **Financial Profile**

## **Adequate Asset Quality**

We assess Capital Securities' asset quality through the risk profile and performance record of its investment and lending portfolio. Asset quality is generally stable and adequately managed through an established risk framework and consistent policy execution.

The investment portfolio comprised 32.5% of consolidated assets in 1H25, dominated by fixed-income holdings (over 60% of the portfolio). We consider the fixed-income portfolio to be of good quality, given a high portion of government and investment-grade private-sector bonds. Equity investments account for about one-third of the portfolio, with most positions in listed equities that offer higher liquidity.

Margin lending and securities-backed lending were 5% and 9.5% of consolidated assets in 1H25. Risk is contained through tight management of maintenance ratios. The firm has avoided material credit losses due to disciplined collateral controls and limited concentration.

# **Earnings Remain Sensitive to Capital-Market Conditions**

A more accommodative US monetary backdrop, sustained AI investment themes, and clearer global trade policy could boost capital-market sentiment and turnover in 2026. However, we believe macroeconomic risks, ongoing geopolitical and trade-policy uncertainty, and high market valuations will keep volatility elevated.

Capital Securities' earnings softened in 1H25, due primarily to sharp capital market moves in April following the announcement of intended US trade tariffs. However, earnings remained above most standalone peers due to more effective risk control and better revenue diversity.

### **Healthy Capital and Liquidity Positions**

The capital position remains generally commensurate with balance-sheet risks, providing a buffer against earnings and mark-to-market fluctuations. Stricter regulatory requirements on capital and leverage constrain securities companies from taking excessive business risk.

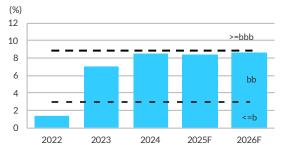
The funding and liquidity profile remains stable, with liquid assets consistently covering short-term funding needs. Reliance on short-term repo funding is high, in line with peers in Taiwan's relatively liquid domestic financial system. Associated risks are mitigated by collateral quality, as repo transactions are backed by investment-grade bonds.

# **Capital Securities Investment Breakdown**



Source: Fitch Ratings, Fitch Solutions, Capital Securities

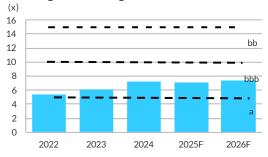
## Operating Profit/Average Equity



Source: Fitch Ratings, Fitch Solutions Capital Securities

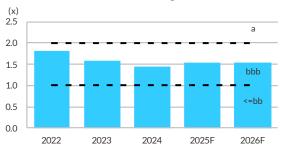


# Net Tangible Leverage



Source: Fitch Ratings Fitch Solutions, Capital Securities

# Liquid Assets + Undrawn Committed Facilities/Short-Term Funding



Source: Fitch Ratings Fitch Solutions, Capital Securities

#### **Additional Notes on Charts**

The forecasts in the charts in this section reflect Fitch's forward view on the non-bank financial institution's core financial metrics per Fitch's *Non-Bank Financial Institutions Rating Criteria*. They are based on a combination of Fitch's macro-economic forecasts, outlook at the sector level and company-specific considerations. As a result, Fitch's forecasts may differ materially from the guidance provided by the rated entity to the market.

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Dashed lines represent boundaries for indicative quantitative ranges and implied scores for Fitch's core financial metrics for the relevant sector risk operating environment. "F" represents Fitch's forecasts.



# **Environmental, Social and Governance Considerations**

FitchRatings		Capital Securities Corpor	ation						Ratii	NBFI ngs Navigator		
Credit-Relevant ESG Derivation	on								ESG Relevano	e to Credit Rating		
Capital Securities Corporation has 5 ESG potential rating drivers						0	issues		5			
Capital Securities Corporation has exposure to fair lending practices; pricing transparency, repossession/foreclosure/collection practices; consumer data protection; legal/regulatory fines stemming from any of the above but this has very low impact on the rating.												
Governance is minimally rele	evant to t	he rating and is not currently a driver.			driver	0	issues	anner	4			
				poter	ntial drive	r 5	issues		3			
				not a r	ating driv	3	issues		2			
				notar	acing ciriv	6	issues		1			
Environmental (E) Relevance S	cores											
General Issues	E Score	Sector-Specific Issues	Reference	E Rel	evance							
GHG Emissions & Air Quality	1	Regulatory risks, emissions fines or compliance costs related to owned equipment, which could impact asset demand, profitability, etc.	Sector Risk Operating Environment	5					Read This Page			
Energy Management	1	Investments in or ownership of assets with below-average energy/fuel efficiency which could impact future valuation of these assets	Risk Profile	4		ESG relevance scores range from 1 to 5 based on a 15-level color gradation. Red (5) is most relevant to the credit rating and green (1) is least relevant.						
Water & Wastewater Management	1	n.a.	n.a.	3		The Environmental (E), Social (S) and Governance (G) tables break out the ESG general issues and the sector-specific issues that are most relevant to each industry group. Relevance scores are assigned to each sector-specific issue, signaling the credit-relevance of the sector-specific issues to the issuer's overall						
Waste & Hazardous Materials Management; Ecological Impacts	1	n.a.	n.a.	2		credit rating. The Criteria Reference column highlights the factor(s) within which the corresponding ESG issues are captured in Fitch's credit analysis. The vertical color bars are visualizations of the frequency of occurrence of the highest constituent relevance scores. They do not represent an aggregate of the relevance scores or aggregate ESG credit relevance.  The Credit-Relevant ESG Derivation table's far right column is a visualization of						
Exposure to Environmental Impacts	2	Impact of extreme weather events on assets and/or operations and corresponding risk profile & management; catastrophe risk; credit concentrations	Business Profile; Asset Quality	1								
Social (S) Relevance Scores						the frequ	uency of	occurrence of the hig	hest ESG relevance so	ores across the		
General Issues	S Score	Sector-Specific Issues	Reference	S Rel	evance	Credit R	ating sun	nmarize rating releva	nce and impact to cred			
Human Rights, Community Relations, Access & Affordability	1	n.a.	n.a.	5		The box on the far left identifies any ESG Relevance Sub-factor issues that drivers or potential drivers of the issuer's credit rating (corresponding with 63,4 or 5) and provides a brief explanation for the relevance score. All sc '4' and '5' are assumed to reflect a negative impact unless indicated with a						
Customer Welfare - Fair Messaging, Privacy & Data Security	3	Fair lending practices; pricing transparency; repossession/foreclosure/collection practices; consumer data protection; legal/regulatory fines stemming from any of the above	Sector Risk Operating Environment; Risk Profile; Asset Quality	4		for posit	ive impa	it.				
Labor Relations & Practices	2	Impact of labor negotiations, including board/employee compensation and composition	Business Profile; Management & Strategy; Earnings & Profitability; Capitalisation & Leverage; Funding, Liquidity & Coverage	3		Classification of ESG issues has been developed from Fitch's sector ratings criteria. The General Issues and Sector-Specific Issues draw on the classificatic standards published by the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investing (PRI), the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), and the World Ba						
Employee Wellbeing	1	n.a.	n.a.	2								
Exposure to Social Impacts	2	Shift in social or consumer preferences as a result of an institution's social positions, or social and/or political disapproval of core activities	Business Profile; Earnings & Profitability	1								
Governance (G) Relevance Sco	res					CREDIT	Γ-RELEV	ANT ESG SCALE				
General Issues	G Score	Sector-Specific Issues	Reference	G Rel	evance	How rel	evant are	E, S and G issues to	the overall credit rat	ing?		
Management Strategy	3	Operational implementation of strategy	Management & Strategy	5		5	ŀ	the rating on an indi	rating driver that has vidual basis. Equivaler portance within Navig	a significant impact on nt to "higher" relative ator.		
Governance Structure	3	Board independence and effectiveness; ownership concentration; protection of creditor/stakeholder rights; legal /compliance risks; business continuity; key person risk; related party transactions	Management & Strategy	4		4	f	Relevant to rating, no ating in combination	t a key rating driver b	ut has an impact on the uivalent to "moderate		
Group Structure	3	Organizational structure; appropriateness relative to business model; opacity; intra-group dynamics; ownership	Business Profile	3		3		managed in a way th	to rating, either very lo nat results in no impac er" relative importano	t on the entity rating.		
Financial Transparency	3	Quality and timing of financial reporting and auditing processes	Management & Strategy	2		2		Irrelevant to the	entity rating but relev	rant to the sector.		
				1		1		Irrelevant to the	entity rating and irrele	vant to the sector.		

The highest level of ESG credit relevance is a score of '3', unless otherwise disclosed in this section. A score of '3' means ESG issues are credit-neutral or have only a minimal credit impact on the entity, either due to their nature or the way in which they are being managed by the entity. Fitch's ESG Relevance Scores are not inputs in the rating process; they are an observation on the relevance and materiality of ESG factors in the rating decision. For more information on Fitch's ESG Relevance Scores, visit www.fitchratings.com/topics/esg/products#esg-relevance-scores.



# **Financials**

## **Income Statement**

	30 Ju	in 25	31 Dec 24	31 Dec 23	31 Dec 22 Year end	
		6 months - interim	Year end	Year end		
	(USDm)	(TWDm)	(TWDm)	(TWDm)	(TWDm)	
	Audited - unqualified					
Net revenues	196	5,870.9	11,974.2	9,226.3	6,037.6	
Operating profit	51	1,536.3	3,799.2	2,875.6	537.5	
Pre-tax income	92	2,750.0	6,572.4	5,108.8	1,846.1	
Net income	76	2,281.1	5,402.1	4,571.0	1,179.0	
Exchange rate		USD1 = TWD29.902	USD1 = TWD32.781	USD1 = TWD30.735	USD1 = TWD30.708	



# **Balance Sheet**

	6 months -	30 Jun 25		31 Dec 24		31 Dec	23	31 Dec 22	
		6 months - interim	As % of	Year end	As % of	Year end	As % of	Year end	As % of
	(USDm)	(TWDm)	Assets	(TWDm)	Assets	(TWDm)	Assets	(TWDm)	Assets
Assets									
Total cash and cash equivalents	346	10,339.5	3.4	8,264.3	2.7	8,241.3	3.3	9,054.5	4.7
Securities under agreements to resell	8	250.5	0.1	250.1	0.1	60.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Securities available for sale	1,078	32,221.6	10.5	35,769.5	11.6	27,757.0	11.2	16,407.5	8.6
Securities held to maturity	185	5,541.3	1.8	6,567.0	2.1	5,310.1	2.2	3,268.8	1.7
Securities owned (trading securities)	2,052	61,368.8	20.0	69,541.0	22.5	64,269.1	26.0	42,583.6	22.2
Receivables from brokers, dealers & clearing org's	737	22,035.7	7.2	12,401.8	4.0	15,419.6	6.2	5,289.6	2.8
Receivables from customers	3,294	98,484.3	32.2	88,716.8	28.7	74,011.9	30.0	67,491.3	35.2
Net loans	1,489	44,516.3	14.5	55,084.5	17.8	23,284.3	9.4	16,360.4	8.5
Other receivables	82	2,456.7	0.8	1,880.8	0.6	1,054.5	0.4	1,012.5	0.5
Total other assets	967	28,921.6	9.4	30,212.8	9.8	27,502.8	11.1	30,148.6	15.7
Total assets	10,238	306,136.3	100.0	308,688.5	100.0	246,910.7	100.0	191,616.6	100.0
Liabilities and equity			•	·		·	•		
Total short-term funding	2,340	69,968.5	22.9	102,442.4	33.2	70,389.8	28.5	42,105.6	22.0
Total long-term funding	318	9,498.6	3.1	4,497.1	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total other liabilities	6,068	181,440.8	59.3	156,112.5	50.6	133,156.4	53.9	110,819.9	57.8
Total equity	1,513	45,228.5	14.8	45,636.5	14.8	43,364.5	17.6	38,691.1	20.2
Total liabilities and equity	10,238	306,136.3	100.0	308,688.5	100.0	246,910.7	100.0	191,616.6	100.0
Exchange rate		USD1 = TWD29.902		USD1 = TWD32.781		USD1 = TWD30.735		USD1 = TWD30.708	

Source: Fitch Ratings, Fitch Solutions, Capital Securities



# **Summary Analytics**

	30 Jun 25	31 Dec 24	31 Dec 23	31 Dec 22
	6 months - interim	Year end	Year end	Year end
Operating profit/average equity (%)	6.8	8.5	7.0	1.3
ROAA (%)	1.5	1.9	2.1	0.6
ROAE (%)	10.0	12.1	11.1	2.9
Net adjusted leverage (x)	7.3	7.3	6.1	5.4
Assets/equity (x)	6.8	6.8	5.7	5.0
Total capital ratio (%)	267.0	278.0	276.0	337.0
(Liquid assets + undrawn committed facilities)/short-term funding (%)	183.3	145.5	158.1	181.4
Long-term funding/illiquid assets (%)	89.5	80.9	90.0	86.1



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