4. Financial institutions[21]

4.1 Deposit-taking institutions[22]

Size and market share

Deposit-taking institutions held a total of NT$37.92 trillion in assets at the end of June 2008, climbing by 1.82% from the previous year's end and equivalent to 3.00 times of the DGBAS-estimated GDP of 2008. Total loans and total deposits amounted to NT$20.09 trillion and NT$28.64 trillion, respectively. Compared to the end of the previous year, total loans rose slightly by 2.34%, while total deposits increased by 0.84% (Table 4.1).

Domestic banks dominated nearly 74% of assets and deposits, and had a share of more than 90% in loans in all deposit taking institutions, while their market share in each category dropped slightly from the end of 2007, mainly because the assets and liabilities of the Chinese Bank and Bowa Bank were taken over by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and DBS Bank, respectively. After the aforementioned takeover, the individual market share of the local branches of foreign banks rose moderately from the end of 2007.

Table 4.1 Size and market share of deposit-taking institutions

Unit: %

Items	End of period	Balance (trillion)	Market Share					
			Domestic banks	Local branches of foreign banks	Chunghwa Post Co.	Credit departments of farmers' associations	Credit departments of fishermen's associations	Credit cooperatives
Assets	2004	32.91	76.77	6.00	10.79	4.28	0.11	2.05
	2005	34.81	76.99	5.85	11.03	4.16	0.11	1.86
	2006	36.38	76.20	6.36	11.57	4.00	0.11	1.76
	2007	37.24	75.76	7.13	11.57	3.88	0.10	1.56
	June 2008	37.92	74.53	8.36	11.69	3.79	0.10	1.53
Deposits	2004	24.61	74.66	3.80	13.57	5.28	0.14	2.55
	2005	26.30	74.78	3.73	13.99	5.07	0.14	2.29
	2006	27.66	74.23	4.05	14.62	4.84	0.13	2.13
	2007	28.40	74.41	4.37	14.56	4.65	0.13	1.88
	June 2008	28.64	74.04	4.52	14.88	4.57	0.13	1.86
Loans	2004	16.90	92.03	2.53	0.01	3.23	0.08	2.12
	2005	17.98	92.15	2.61	0.01	3.23	0.08	1.92
	2006	18.75	91.69	2.90	0.01	3.44	0.09	1.87
	2007	19.63	91.25	3.32	0.01	3.58	0.09	1.75
	June 2008	20.09	90.42	4.20	0.01	3.56	0.10	1.71

Sources: CBC and CDIC.

[21] Unless otherwise indicated, all data in the section on financial institutions is taken from call reports submitted by financial institutions to the competent authorities and has not been audited by a certified public accountant.

[22] "Deposit-taking institution" stated in this report includes domestic banks (including small and medium business banks), the local branches of foreign banks, credit cooperatives, credit departments of farmers' associations, credit departments of fishermen's associations, and the Remittances & Savings Department of Chunghwa Post Co.

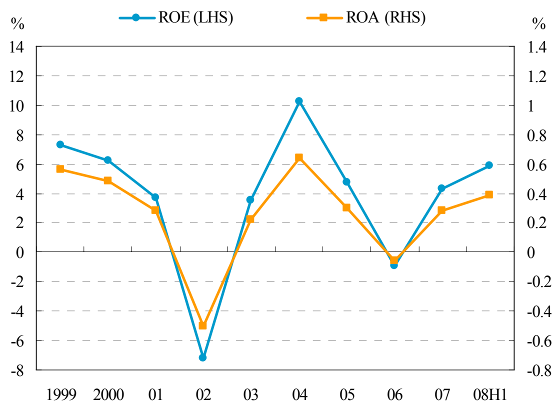
The Remittances & Savings Department of Chunghwa Post Co. held a slightly increasing market share of 14.88% in deposits. Community financial institutions, including credit departments of farmers' and fishermen's associations and credit cooperatives, commanded small market shares, which either remained stable or declined in all categories, except for a slight increase in market share for loans of the credit departments of fishermen's associations (Table 4.1).

4.1.1 Domestic banks

Domestic banks were subject to declining profitability in the first half of 2008, while asset quality continued to improve. The average capital adequacy ratio rose slightly, whereas only a few banks had ratios below the statutory minimum. Average external credit ratings of domestic banks increased slightly on the whole. Domestic banks held ample liquidity, except for a few banks faced with a temporary problem of insufficient liquidity in the second half of 2008. However, the liquidity tensions in these banks eased afterwards.

Domestic bank credit exposures at the end of June 2008 remained concentrated in the real estate market as well as the electronics and electrical machinery manufacturing sectors. Credit risk appeared to increase as the real estate market turned to a slowdown and the global economy worsened. In respect to market risks, the VaR (value at risk) for equity risk increased as a result of the sharp fluctuations in the stock market in 2008 Q3. However, the impact on domestic banks was limited due to relatively small positions. The VaR for interest rate risk and foreign exchange risk once rose owing to the higher volatility in these markets. Nevertheless, both of them declined substantially when the markets gradually stabilized at the end of September, leading to a considerable decrease in total VaR on domestic banks as a whole compared to the end of the previous year.

Chart 4.1 ROE & ROA of domestic banks

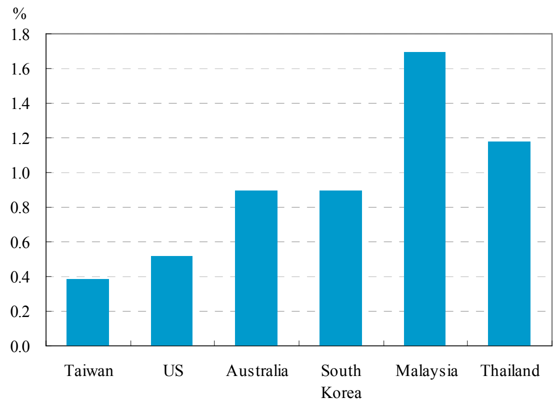


Notes: 1. ROE (return on equity) = net income before income tax / average equity. ROA (return on assets) = net income before income tax / average total assets.
2. Ratios for 2008 H1 had been annualized.
Source: CBC.

Domestic banks' overall profitability[23] declined

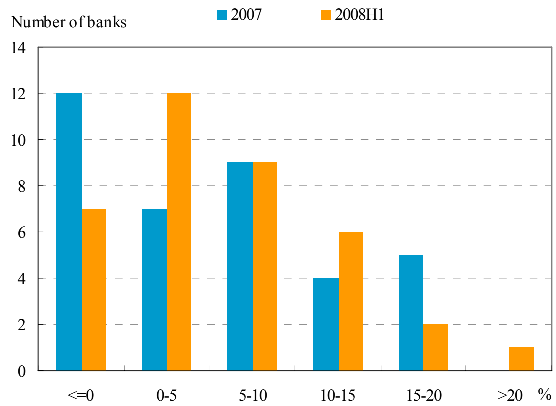
Domestic banks as a whole posted a net income before tax of NT$54.6 billion in the first half of 2008, decreasing by 22.34% on a year-on-year basis. This was mainly due to an increase in investment losses stemming from sharp falls on the local and foreign stock markets and continuously increasing provisions in investment positions associated with American subprime mortgage products. Return on equity (ROE) and return on assets (ROA) came to 5.84% and 0.39%, respectively, in the first half of 2008. These figures reflected a slight increase from the yearly figures of 4.32% and 0.28% in 2007, yet showed a decrease from 8.14% and 0.51% year on year, respectively (Chart 4.1). Compared to the US and other Asia-Pacific neighboring countries, the profitability of domestic banks in Taiwan still needs to be improved (Chart 4.2).

Chart 4.2 Comparison of ROA in selected countries



Note: Data for Australia is for end-March 2008, while the others are for end-June 2008.
Sources: CBC, FDIC, APRA, FSS, BNM, and BOT.

Chart 4.3 Distribution of ROE of domestic banks



Note: Excludes Chinfon Bank, who had negative net worth and the banks set up during the assessment period.
Source: CBC.

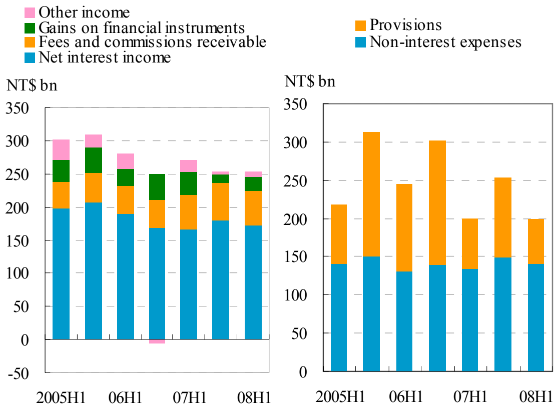
Among individual banks, seven banks[24] suffered losses and posted negative ROEs in the first half of 2008, fewer than the twelve banks in the previous year. This was mainly because some weak banks improved their profitability after being merged or taken into conservatorship. Moreover, the number of banks achieving an ROE of 15% or more decreased from five in the previous year to three owing to the reduced profitability (Chart 4.3).

[23] The Chinese Bank and Bowa Bank were both taken into conservatorship in 2007 and exited the market in March and May 2008, respectively. In order to prevent their losses from affecting analyses of overall profitability at domestic banks, the data of the Chinese Bank and Bowa Bank for 2006 and 2007 were excluded in this section. The Chinese Bank and Bowa Bank suffered losses of NT$6.7 billion and NT$8.0 billion, respectively, in 2006, and NT$4.6 billion and NT$41.3 billion, respectively, in 2007.

[24] These exclude Chinfon Bank, which suffered losses of NT$5.5 billion in the first half of 2008. Due to the negative net worth at the end of June 2008, its ROE could not be calculated.

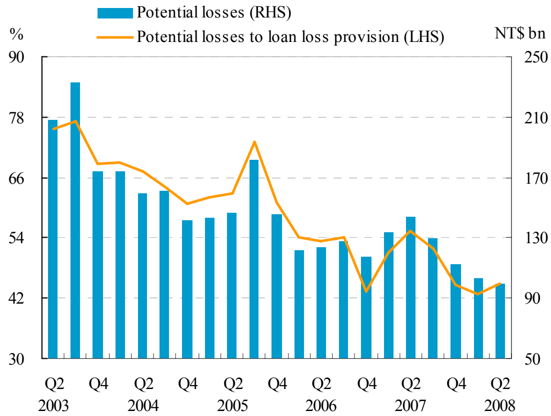
As for operating revenues and costs, net interest income, the primary source of operating revenues for domestic banks, leveled off due to a continued low interest rate spread between deposits and loans.[25] Net fee and commission income decreased materially under the influence of a sharp drop in the sales volume of structured notes and mutual funds. The net revenues from financial instruments and other net revenues fell dramatically, mainly due to the weakened financial market and increasing provisions for impairment losses on assets linked to the US subprime mortgage-related products. As a result, the total operating revenues declined by 5.91% year on year. On the cost side, although non-interest expenses rose in the first half of 2008 as employee bonuses were recognized as expenses, total operating costs fell slightly by 0.16% compared to the first half of 2007 as a result of a sharp decline in provisions (Chart 4.4).

Chart 4.4 Composition of income and cost of domestic banks



Source: CBC.

Chart 4.5 Potential classified asset losses of domestic banks



Notes: 1. End-of-period figures.
2. Excludes interbank loans.
Source: CBC.

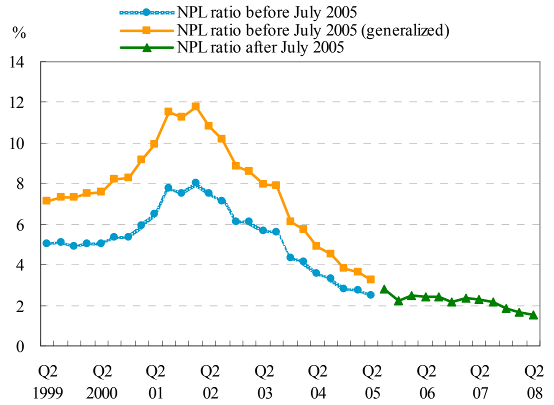
As of the end of June 2008, domestic banks reported limited exposure to or losses from outstanding investments associated with subprime mortgage-related products. Some financial institutions in the US and Europe have experienced severe financial distress since July 2008. As leading countries adopted measures to stabilize their financial systems such as liquidity injection, bailout programs, and an urgent rescue of some vulnerable countries through financial aid from the IMF, the systemic crisis was relieved temporarily. However, the financial emergency condition showed little notable improvement and global stock markets continued to decline due to increasing concerns about the economic downturn. These developments, which are likely to cause more losses on the investments and credit positions of domestic banks and undermine their profitability, need to be closely monitored.

[25] The average interest rate spread between deposits and loans was a mere 1.69 percentage points in 2008 Q2, shrinking from 1.70 percentage points in 2007 Q4.

Asset quality continued to improve

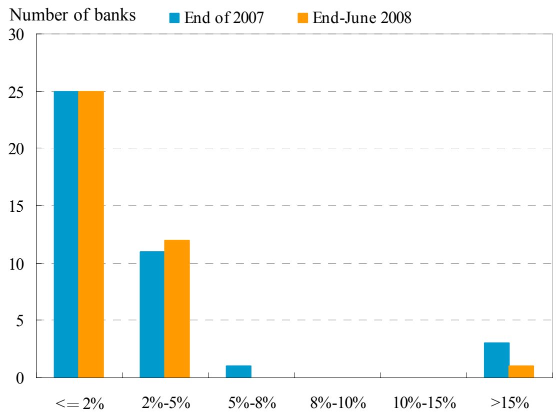
At the end of June 2008, the outstanding classified assets[26] of domestic banks as a whole stood at NT$579.8 billion, and the average classified asset ratio was 2.05%, decreasing by 11.69%, or 0.27 percentage points, compared to the end of 2007, respectively. Expected losses on classified assets were estimated at NT$99.5 billion,[27] also decreasing from the end of the previous year by 11.72%. The asset quality of domestic banks improved steadily. Expected losses from classified assets were equal to 44.78% of loan loss provisions and other reserves, indicating that the provisions and reserves were sufficient to cover expected losses (Chart 4.5).

Chart 4.6 Average NPL ratio of domestic banks



Notes: 1. End-of-period figures.
2. Excludes interbank loans.
Source: CBC.

Chart 4.7 Distribution of NPL ratio of domestic banks



Note: Excludes interbank loans.
Source: CBC.

At the end of June 2008, the outstanding NPL of domestic banks as a whole stood at NT$281.2 billion, and the average NPL ratio was 1.55%, down by 14.29% and 0.28 percentage points when compared with the end of 2007, respectively (Chart 4.6). The drop was mainly due to the ongoing write-off and sales of non-performing loans. Among individual banks, all had NPL ratios of less than 5%, except for one bank[28] with an NPL ratio as high as 28.15; among them, twenty-five had ratios below 2% (Chart 4.7). Compared to the US and other Asian neighboring countries, the NPL ratio of domestic banks in Taiwan is lower than in the US, Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia, but higher than in Hong Kong and South Korea (Chart 4.8).

[26] The Regulations Governing the Procedures for Banking Institutions to Evaluate Assets and Deal with Non-performing/Non-accrual Loans break down credit assets into five different categories as follows: Category One – normal credit assets; Category Two – credit assets requiring special mention; Category Three – substandard credit assets; Category Four – doubtful credit assets; Category Five – loss assets. Other assets are broken down into four different categories as follows: Category One for normal assets, while Category Two, Category Four, and Category Five are for specially mentioned, doubtful, and loss assets, respectively. The term "non-performing assets" includes all classified assets other than those in Category One.

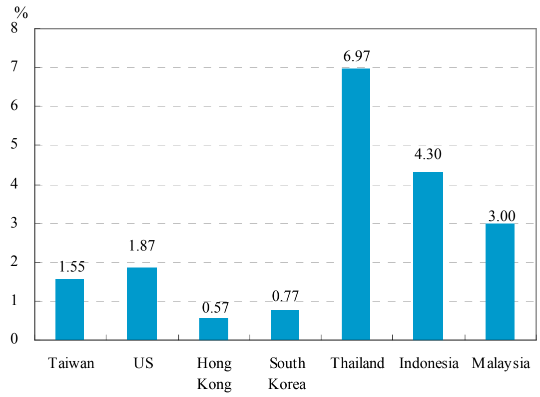
[27] The loss herein refers to the losses from loans, acceptance, guarantee, credit card revolving balance, and factoring without recourse.

[28] Chinfon Bank was taken into conservatorship by the CDIC on 26 September 2008.

As to loan loss provisions, the NPL coverage ratio at the end of June 2008 was 67.36%, advancing 3.30 percentage points from the end of the previous year, primarily due to a sharp drop in non-performing loans. The loan loss reserve ratio fell to 1.04% from 1.17% at the end of 2007 as loan loss provisions decreased and loans outstanding continued to grow (Chart 4.9).

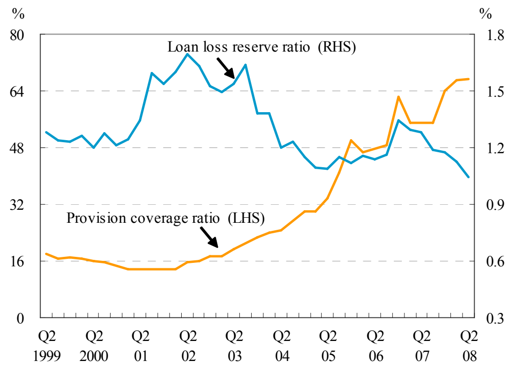
Asset quality of domestic banks has been steadily improving , but may be affected by remaining uncertainties including the following factors: (1) the cumulative repayment rate on modified payment plans for delinquent loans has continued to drop,[29] adding to the uncertainty about the prospects for future repayment; (2) pursuant to the Consumer Debt Clearance Act, in force as of April 2008, financial institutions engaged in preliminary negotiations with debtors outside the court,[30] but whether such debtors can continue to repay normally in accordance with payment terms needs to be watched closely; (3) for deliquent debtors under modified payment plans and debtors performing repayment normally but almost on the brink of default, banks agreed to renegotiate with them the terms of repayment, which may increase the incentive of moral hazard for debtors; and (4) domestic and global economic growth was expected to slowdown, which may weaken the financial health of the business sector and the repayment ability of the household sector, hence heightening credit risk.

Chart 4.8 NPL ratio in selected countries



Note: Figures for Hong Kong, South Korea, and Malaysia are for end-March 2008, while Indonesia is for end-May 2008. The others are for end-June 2008.
Sources: CBC, FDIC, HKMA, FSS, BOT, BI, and BNM.

Chart 4.9 Provision coverage ratio and loan loss reserve ratio of domestic banks



Notes: 1. Provision coverage ratio = loan loss provisions / non-performing loans. Loan loss reserve ratio = loan loss provisions / total loans.
2. Excludes interbank loans.
Source: CBC.

[29] Based on the reported data submitted by domestic banks, the outstanding amount under modified plans for delinquent loans stood at NT$274.3 billion. The cumulated repayment rate (monthly number of successful payment / number of signed contracts) dropped from 54.91% at the end of 2007 to 48.08% at the end of June 2008.

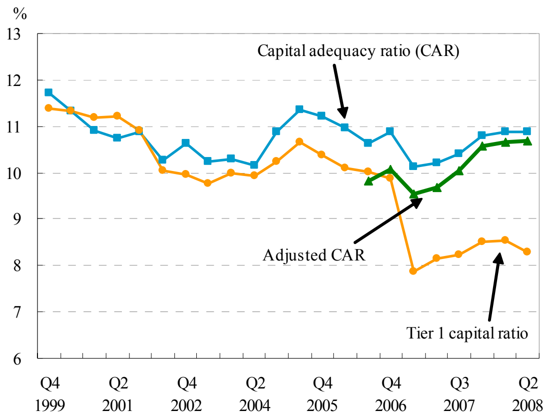
[30] According to the Bankers Association of the Republic of China as of end-August 2008, the financial institutions have held preliminary negotiations with 18,774 debtors holding a total debt of NT$33.2 billion.

Capital adequacy ratios increased slightly

The average capital adequacy ratio stood at 10.87% by the end of June 2008, slightly higher than the 10.80%[31] registered at the end of 2007. The average ratio of Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets was 8.28%, down by 0.22 percentage points from the end of 2007 due to the sharp capital reduction by one bank and cash dividends paid by banks in the second quarter. Given unamortized deferred assets of NT$33.5 billion[32] arising from losses recorded on the sale of classified assets were deducted from regulatory capital, the adjusted capital adequacy ratio at the end of June 2008 came to 10.68%, up from the 10.57% of the end of 2007. The average capital adequacy ratio increased slightly (Chart 4.10). Compared to the United States and some Asia-Pacific neighboring countries, the average capital adequacy ratio of domestic banks is slightly higher than in Australia, but lower than in the United States and other Asian neighbors (Chart 4.11).

Further breaking down the component of regulatory capital, Tier 1 capital, which features the best risk bearing capacity, accounted for 76.21% of eligible capital at the end of June 2008, decreasing by 2.48 percentage points from the end of 2007. Tier 2 capital registered at 23.46%, up by 2.47 percentage points from the end of 2007, owing to some banks increasing the issue of

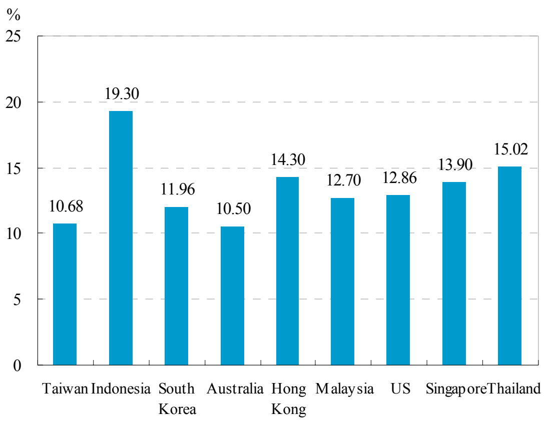
Chart 4.10 Capital adequacy ratio of domestic banks



Notes: 1. End-of-period figures.
2. The data are on semiannual basis before June 2006 and on quarterly basis after September 2006.
3. Adjusted capital adequacy ratio = (eligible capital - unamortized deferred assets arising from losses recorded on the sale of non-performing assets) / risk -weighted assets.

Source: CBC.

Chart 4.11 Comparison of capital adequacy ratio in selected countries



Notes: 1. Figures for Indonesia and South Korea are as of end-2007, while those for Hong Kong and Australia are as of end-March 2008. The others are as of end-June 2008.
2. The figure for Taiwan is adjusted for unamortized deferred assets arising from losses recorded on the sale of classified assets.

Sources: BI, FSS, APRA, HKMA, BNM, FDIC, MAS, BOT, and CBC.

---

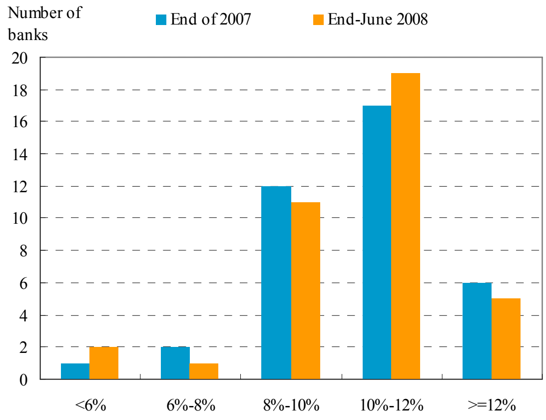
31 The capital adequacy ratio at the end of 2007 had been revised by a Certified Public Accountant.

32 Article 4 of the Regulations Governing the Capital Adequacy of Banks as amended on 5 January 2007 requires that unamortized losses recorded on the sale of non-performing assets in 2007 or later should be deducted from Tier 1 capital, but this requirement does not apply to sales made on or before 31 December 2006.

long-term subordinated debt, while Tier 3 capital contributed a mere 0.33%.

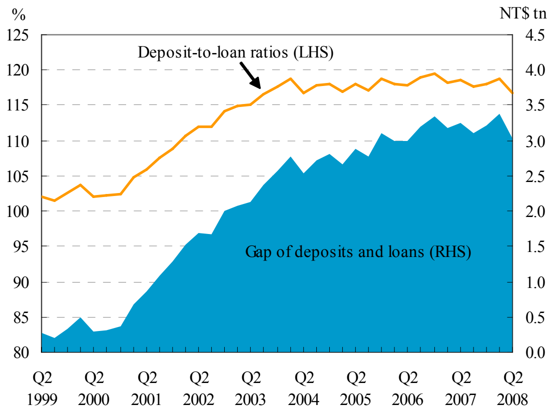
There was only one bank with a capital adequacy ratio under the statutory minimum (8%) at the end of June 2008. As for adjusted capital adequacy ratios, three banks, with combined assets accounting for only 2.21% of all domestic bank assets, had ratios below the statutory minimum, posing limited impact on the banking system. In addition, there were twenty-four banks with ratios above 10%, unchanged from the end of the previous year (Chart 4.12).

Chart 4.12 Distribution of adjusted capital adequacy ratio of domestic banks



Source: CBC.

Chart 4.13 Deposit-to-loan ratio in domestic banks



Notes: 1. Deposit-to-loan ratio = total deposits / total loans.
2. Gap of deposits and loans is defined as total deposits minus total loans.
3. End-of-period figures.

Source: CBC.

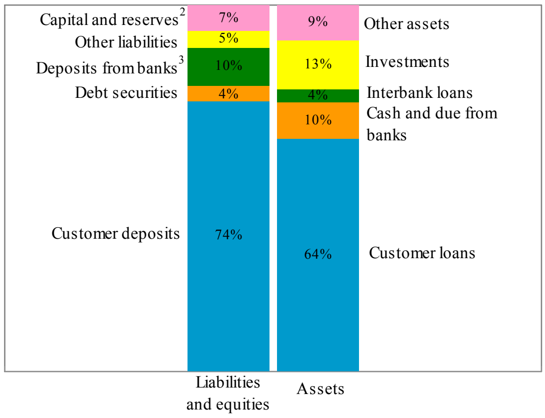
Funding remained in good supply, and liquidity tension eased at a few banks

Funding remained ample

The deposit-to-loan ratios of domestic banks as a whole have been standing above 115% since June 2003 and reached 117.98% at the end of 2007. With the annual growth rate of deposits lower than that of loans in the first half of 2008, the deposit-to-loan ratios slightly dropped to 116.72% at the end of June 2008, while the funding surplus (i.e. deposits exceeding loan demand) stood at NT$3.04 trillion, reflecting ample liquidity in domestic banks (Chart 4.13).

The sources and uses of funds in domestic banks at the end of June 2008 remained broadly unchanged. On the sources side, customer deposits accounted for the largest share at 74%, followed by deposits from banks at 10%, while debt securities in issue contributed a mere 4%. On the uses side, customer loans accounted for the biggest share at 64%, followed by investments in debt securities and equities at 13% (Chart 4.14).

Chart 4.14 Sources and uses of funds in domestic banks

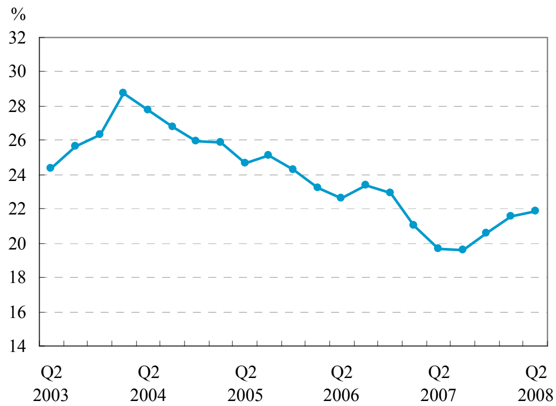


Notes: 1. End-June 2008 figures.
2. Includes provision.
3. Includes "due to Central Bank" and "borrowing funds."
Source: CBC.

Average liquid reserve ratio kept high, and liquidity tension eased at some banks

The average NT dollar liquid reserve ratio of domestic banks escalated to 21.85% in June 2008, well above the statutory minimum of 7% (Chart 4.15), and the reserve ratio of each bank was higher than 12%. Tier 1 liquid reserves,[33] mainly consisting of certificates of deposit issued by the CBC, accounted for 86.63% of total liquid reserves in June 2008, while Tier 2 and Tier 3 reserves accounted for 2.41% and 10.96%, respectively. This reflected the fact that the quality of liquid assets remained satisfactory and overall liquidity risk was low.

Chart 4.15 Liquid reserve ratio of domestic banks



Note: Figures are the average of the last month in each quarter.
Source: CBC.

In September 2008, Lehman Brothers and other financial institutions in the US were mired in financial difficulties successively, which in turn affected domestic depositors' confidence in Taiwan. A few private banks suffered from drainage of deposits and faced funding difficulty (Chart 4.16). To bolster public confidence, the government announced in October 2008 that it would provide a blanket guarantee on deposits of all insured financial institutions (i.e. banks and community financial institutions) and actively strengthen financial supervision. The

[33] Tier 1 liquid reserves include excess reserves, treasury bills, certificates of deposit issued by the CBC, government bonds, bank debentures, and deposits at designated banks with term to maturity of no more than one year. Tier 2 liquid reserves include net due from banks in the call-loan market, negotiable certificates of deposit, and banker's acceptances. Tier 3 liquid reserves include commercial paper, trade acceptances, corporate bonds, and other liquid assets as approved by the CBC.

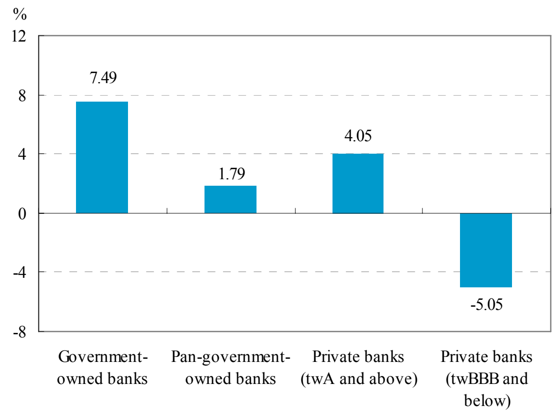
liquidity tension had hence been relieved.

Average credit ratings improved

The rankings of Taiwan's banking system in the Standard & Poor's Banking Industry Country Risk Assessment (BICRA)[34] and the Fitch Ratings Banking System Indicator /Macro-Prudential Indicator (BSI/MPI)[35] remained unchanged in the first half of 2008 at Group 4 and D/1, respectively. In October 2008, Fitch Ratings upgraded Taiwan's ranking on BSI from D to C, reflecting an improvement in both capital and loss reserves of Taiwan's banking sector (Table 4.2). Compared to other Asian economies, risks in Taiwan's banking industry are higher than in Hong Kong, Singapore, and Japan, about the same as those in South Korea and Thailand, but much lower than in China, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

According to statistics from the rating agencies,[36] two banks received rating downgrades in the first half of 2008 due to weakened capital adequacy and poor profitability, while two other banks were upgraded and one weak bank had its credit rating withdrawn. As a result, the credit rating

Chart 4.16 Changes in the balances of domestic bank deposits



Notes: 1. Figures are the percentage of change between balances at end-September 2008 and end-2007.
2. Government-owned banks include Bank of Taiwan and Land Bank of Taiwan. Pan government-owned banks include Taiwan Cooperative Bank, First Bank, Hua Nan Bank, Mega Bank, and Taiwan Business Bank.
Source: CBC.

Table 4.2 Systemic risk indicators for banking system

Banking System	Standard & Poor's	Fitch
	BICRA	BSI/MPI
Hong Kong	2	B/1
Singapore	2	B/1
Japan	3	B/1
South Korea	4	B/3
Taiwan	**4**	**C/1**
Thailand	6	C/1
China	6	D/1
Indonesia	8	D/1
Philippines	8	D/1

Note: Figures are as of end-October 2008.
Sources: Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings.

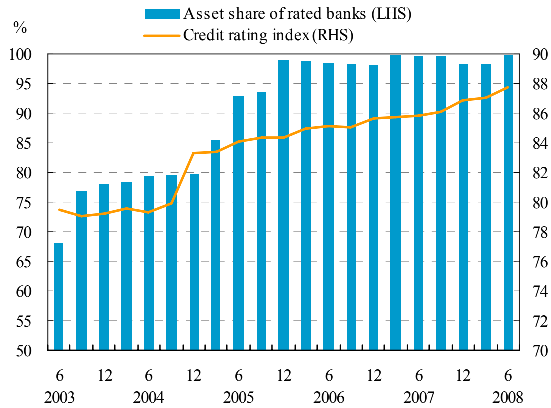
[34] The classification scheme used by the Banking Industry Country Risk Assessment (BICRA) is a synthetic assessment developed by Standard & Poor's Corporation that is based on the credit standing of financial institutions in the context of the structure and performance of the economy, legal and regulatory infrastructure supporting the financial system, and the competition and operation environment of the banking sector, while factoring out the potential for government support for banks. Assessment results reflect relative country risk and banking sector credit quality, and are indicated with a score of 1 (strongest) to 10 (weakest).

[35] Fitch Ratings has devised two complementary measures, the Banking System Indicator (BSI) and Macro-Prudential Indicator (MPI), to assess banking system vulnerability. The two indicators are brought together in a Bank Systemic Risk Matrix that emphasizes the complementary nature of both indicators. The BSI, based on the synthetic assessment results composed of individual ratings and systematic risks in the banking system, measures intrinsic banking system quality or strength on a scale from A (very high quality) to E (very low quality). On the other hand, the MPI indicates the vulnerability of stress on above-trend level of private sector credit, a bubble in real asset prices, and/or major currency appreciation, measuring the vulnerability of the macro environment on a scale from 1 (low) to 3 (high) in terms of banking system vulnerability.

[36] Include Taiwan Ratings Corporation ratings (tw~) and Fitch ratings (~(twn)).

indices[37] for rated banks in Taiwan continued to rise (Chart 4.17), reflecting improvement in the overall credit rating level of domestic banks.

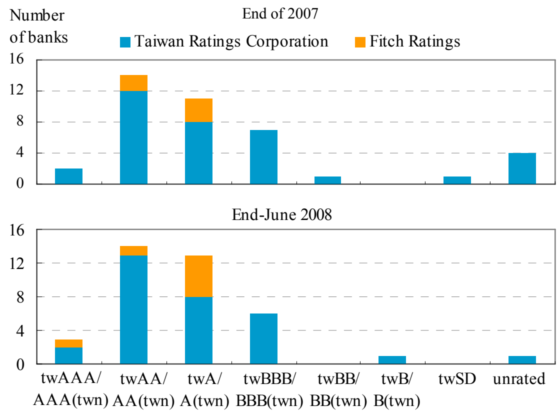
Chart 4.17 Credit rating indices of rated domestic banks



Note: End-of-period figures.
Sources: CBC, Taiwan Ratings Corporation, and Fitch Ratings.

Most rated banks received credit ratings of twAA/twA (Taiwan Ratings Co.) or A(twn) (Fitch Ratings) at the end of June 2008, while there was only one bank with a credit rating of twB+ (Chart 4.18). All banks had a rating outlook or credit watch of either "stable" or "positive," except for two banks with a negative rating outlook or creditwatch due to poor profitability or under-capitalization and one bank with a "developing" rating outlook. In addition, there was one bank without a long-term issuer credit rating at the end of June 2008.

Chart 4.18 Distribution of credit ratings of rated domestic banks



Note: Credit rating "twSD" refers to selective default.
Sources: CBC, Taiwan Ratings Corporation, and Fitch Ratings.

Credit exposure concentration sustained, and credit risk increased

Customer loans[38] were the major credit exposures for the local business units of domestic banks, equaling NT$16.36 trillion, or 57.88% of total assets, at the end of June 2008. The annual growth rate in loans saw a modest decline of 2.73% over the same period (Chart 4.19), attributable mainly to a sharper decelerating growth in individual loans.

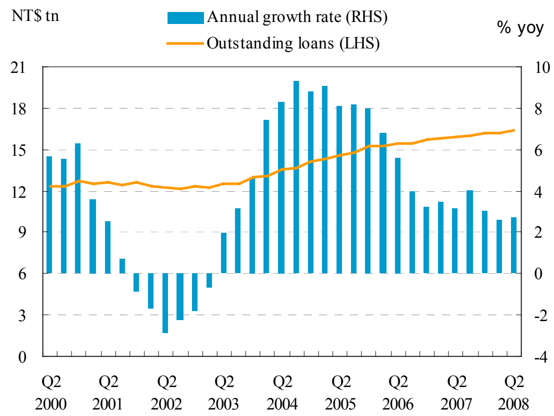
[37] The credit rating index is an asset-weighted average rating score of rated domestic banks, measuring the overall creditworthiness of those banks on a scale from 1 (weakest) to 100 (strongest). The rating score for banks is determined according to their long-term issuer ratings from Taiwan Ratings Corporation or national long-term ratings from Fitch Ratings.

[38] The term "loan" herein refers to amounts lent by local business units of domestic banks to their customers. It excludes interbank lending.

Risk on real estate-related loans increased

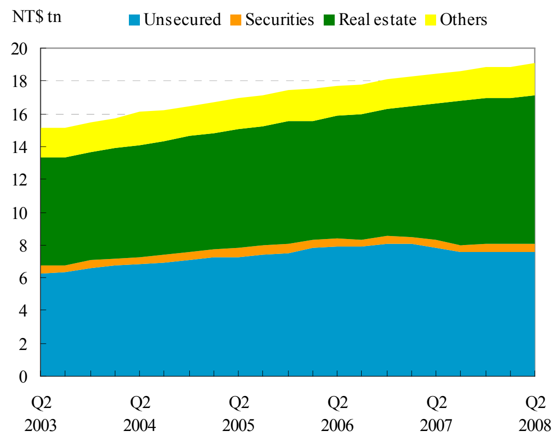
As of the end of June 2008, the outstanding real estate-related loans[39] of domestic banks reached NT$6.45 trillion and accounted for 35.50% of total loans. In addition, the real estate secured credit extended by domestic banks amounted to NT$9.1 trillion, or 47.69% of the total, slightly up from the end of the previous year (Chart 4.20). Among individual banks, eleven had ratios of real estate secured credit to total credit of over 60%, reflecting a high concentration of credit exposure in the real estate market. Despite the fact that the NPL ratio of real estate-related loans remains at a lower level, the credit risk of banks may rise in the future because the borrower's debt repayment capacity would be undermined by some adverse developments, such as a downturn in the real estate market, sluggish economic growth, and the continuous wave of expiration for the grace period for high leveraged loans.

Chart 4.19 Outstanding loans of domestic banks and annual growth rate



Note: Outstanding loans are end-of-period figures.
Source: CBC.

Chart 4.20 Credits by type of collaterals of domestic banks



Note: End-of-period figures.
Source: CBC.

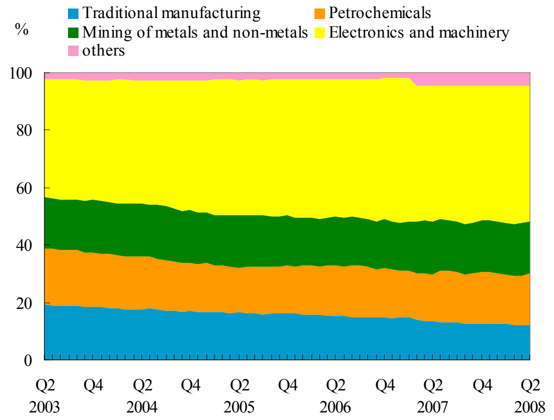
Loans to SMEs made up a considerable share

The outstanding corporate lending of domestic banks stood at NT$7.32 trillion at the end of June 2008, with loans to the manufacturing sector accounting for the largest share (44.62%). Within the manufacturing category,[40] loans to electronics and machinery-related industries accounted for the biggest proportion (NT$1.5 trillion, or 47.00%[41]), and the percentage was slowly rising (Chart 4.21). In addition, analyzed by type of corporate loan borrowers, domestic banks' loans to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) stood at NT$3.17 trillion, registering a high 41.99% of

[39] The term "real estate-related loans" includes loans for construction, house purchases, and house refurbishments.
[40] Loans to the manufacturing sector are divided into four categories by industries, including electronics and machinery-related industries, mining of metals and non-metals related-industries, petrochemicals related-industries and traditional manufacturing industries. The remainder is classified as "others."
[41] The production value of electronics and machinery-related industries accounts for 37.45% of total manufacturing production value, which is less than loans to electronics and machinery makers as a percentage of total loans to the manufacturing sector.

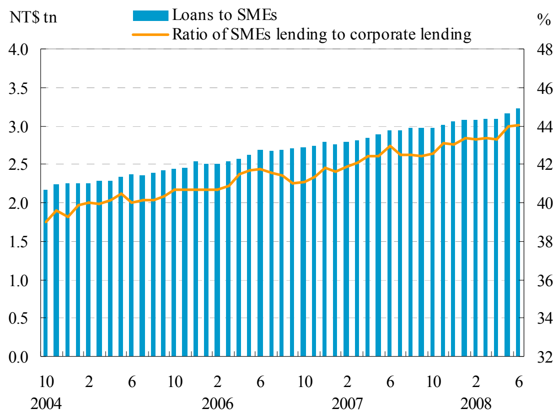
total corporate lending at the end of June 2008 (Chart 4.22). Among loans to SMEs, the amount supported by the Small and Medium Enterprise Credit Guarantee Fund of Taiwan (SMEG) reached NT$517.5 billion, or 16.05% of the total, while the guaranteed amount and guarantee coverage percentage stood at NT$333.7 billion and 64.48%, respectively. The prevailing global economic slowdown and elevated raw material costs, coupled with the more conservative attitude toward banks' credit policies, may cause a rise in business risk for the corporate sector, particularly posing a far greater challenge to SMEs as they tend to be less transparent in financial disclosure and weaker in loss tolerance. As the business sector is one of the main driving forces of Taiwan's economic growth, and the SMEs in particular serve as a pivotal foundation of Taiwan's economy, the government continues to support enterprises (especially SMEs) in funding through bank loans. However, banks should focus more on strengthening the effectiveness of risk management and ensuring operational performance as well as keeping in line with the government policy.

Chart 4.21 Loans to the manufacturing sectors by domestic banks



Note: End-of-period figures.
Source: CBC.

Chart 4.22 Outstanding loans to SMEs in domestic banks



Source: FSC.

Equity risk was on the rise, but interest and foreign exchange risk were on the decline

Calculated on the basis of market information at the end of September 2008, the estimated value-at-risk (VaR) for market exposures[42] of domestic banks over a ten-day period stood at NT$130 billion, dropping significantly from the end of March 2008. Among the market risks, interest rate risk once reached to a peak as the volatility of long-term bonds shot up, but then

[42] The VaR (Value at Risk) with each category of risks for the test period as estimated by multivariate historical simulation model for foreign exchange risk, constant correlation generalized autoregressive conditional heteroscedasticity model for interest rates risk, and quantile autoregression model for equity risk are presented in this report, given that a confidence level is 99% using a holding period of ten trading days and exposure positions are assumed unchanged. The models are estimated using 250 exchange rate, interest rate, and stock price samples (with sampling periods of 1 October 2007 - 30 September 2008 for exchange rates, 26 September 2007 - 30 September 2008 for interest rates, and 28 September 2007 - 30 September 2008 for stock prices).

decreased appreciably after the interest rate turned to a stable level at the end of September 2008. Meanwhile, the foreign exchange rate risk also diminished sharply due to a reduction both in position held and volatility of the US dollar against the NT dollar. The equity risk of domestic banks, despite a drop in the net positions of equity securities, eventually rose due to an increasing expansion of stock market fluctuations (Table 4.3).

Table 4.3 Market risk in domestic banks

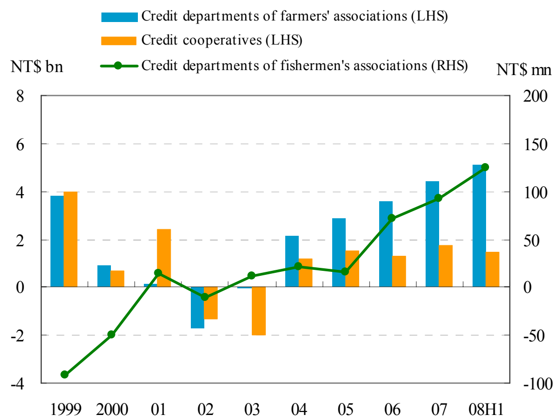
Units: NT$ bn; %

Types of market risk	Items	End-March 2008	End-Sep. 2008	Changes	
				Amount	%
Foreign Exchange	Net position	90.9	87.6	-3.3	-3.63
	VaR	6.5	3.1	-3.4	-52.31
	VaR/net position	7.15	3.54		-3.61
Interest rate	Net position	2,833.8	3,058.9	225.1	7.94
	VaR	184.6	64.3	-120.3	-65.17
	VaR/net position	6.51	2.10		-4.41
Equity	Net position	559.1	525.4	-33.7	-6.03
	VaR	59.1	62.6	3.5	5.92
	VaR/net position	10.57	11.91		1.34
Total VaR		250.2	130.0	-120.2	-48.04

Note: Figures for net position of respective market risks are end-June 2008.
Source: CBC.

As of the end of September 2008, the effects of VaR for exchange rates, interest rates, and stock prices upon capital adequacy ratios were 0.01, 0.06, and 0.28 percentage points,[43] respectively. Assuming that the above-mentioned risks are mutually independent and occur simultaneously, market risk would cause a change of 0.35 percentage points in the capital adequacy ratio of the domestic banks as a whole, and the current ratio would fall to 10.33% from 10.68%.[44]

Chart 4.23 Pre-tax net income of community financial institutions



Sources: CBC and CDIC.

4.1.2 Community financial institutions

Profitability in every category of community financial institutions (which include credit cooperatives, credit departments of farmers'

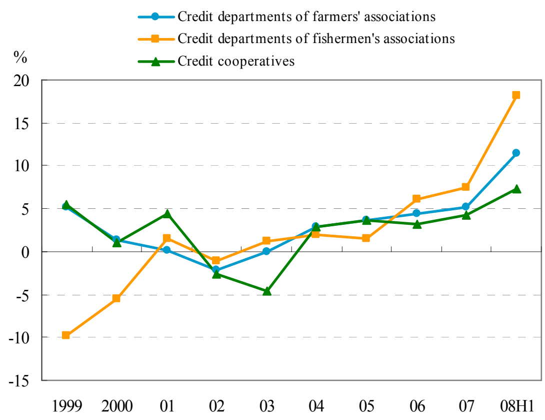
[43] To avoid double counting, the regulatory capital required for market risks is deducted from the effects of VaR on the capital adequacy ratio.
[44] The term "capital adequacy ratio" used herein is based on the regulatory capital which has deducted unamortized deferred losses on the sale of NPLs.

associations and credit departments of fishermen's associations) continued to grow in the first half of 2008, coupled with an improvement in asset quality and higher capital adequacy ratios in most institutions. However, some individual institutions still showed a need for further improvement.

Profitability continued to grow

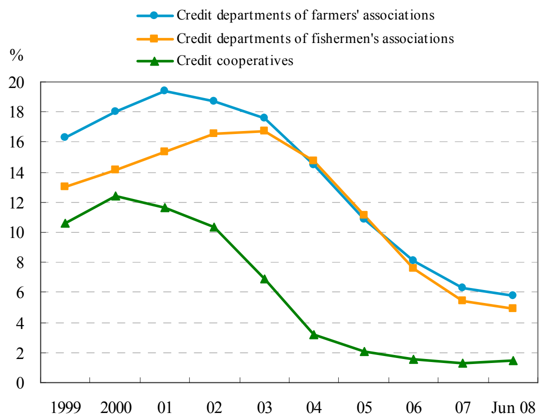
All categories of community financial institutions not only posted positive earnings in the first half of 2008, but also surpassed their performance over the same period in 2007. Net income before tax in the first half of 2008 was NT$1.4 billion at credit cooperatives, NT$5.1 billion at the credit departments of farmers' associations, and NT$120 million at the credit departments of fishermen's associations (Chart 4.23). The average ROE also improved significantly. Among those institutions, the highest ROE was registered by the credit departments of fishermen's associations (18.24%), followed by the credit departments of farmers' associations (11.47%) and credit cooperatives (7.28%) (Chart 4.24).

Chart 4.24 ROE of community financial institutions



Sources: CBC and CDIC.

Chart 4.25 NPL ratio of community financial institutions



Note: End-of-period figures.
Sources: CBC and CDIC.

Asset quality remained satisfactory at credit cooperatives and continuously improved in the credit departments of farmers' associations and fishermen's associations

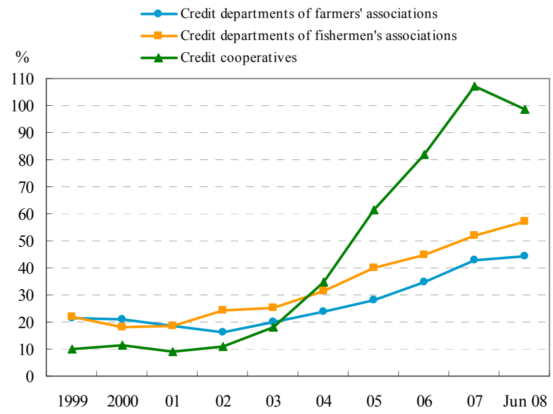
The average NPL ratio at credit cooperatives registered 1.44% at the end of June 2008, slightly higher than the figure at the end of 2007, but asset quality remained satisfactory. The average NPL ratios for the credit departments of farmers' and fishermen's associations were still high at 5.81% and 4.90%, respectively (Chart 4.25). Among the credit departments of farmers' and fishermen's associations, some institutions suffering high NPL ratios need to be further improved.

The NPL coverage ratio at credit cooperatives reached 98.52% at the end of June 2008, which was the highest among community financial institutions, reflecting sufficient reserve provisions. The ratios at the credit departments of farmers' and fishermen's associations stood at 44.30% and 56.92%, respectively (Chart 4.26), reflecting an upward trend, but still registered at a lower level compared to all categories of deposit institutions.

Capital adequacy ratios slightly increased at credit cooperatives

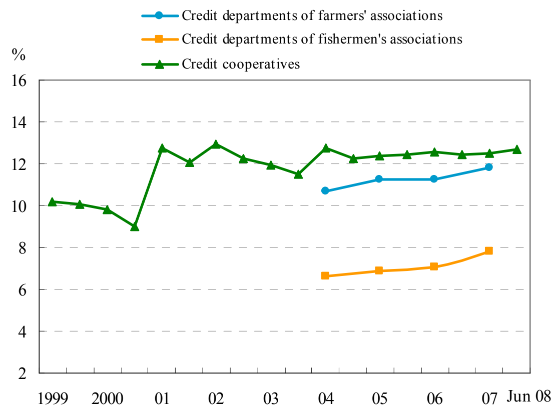
At the end of June 2008, the average capital adequacy ratio at credit cooperatives increased to 12.68% contributed by their earnings, slightly higher than the 12.50% registered at the end of 2007. There were no updated data for the credit departments of farmers' associations and fishermen's associations at the end of June 2008[45] as these financial institutions are required to calculate their own capital adequacy ratio on a yearly basis in accordance with applicable regulations (Chart 4.27).

Chart 4.26 NPL coverage ratio of community financial institutions



Note: End-of-period figures.
Sources: CBC and CDIC.

Chart 4.27 Capital adequacy ratio of community financial institutions



Notes: 1. End-of-period figures.
2. Figures for credit cooperatives are on a semiannual basis, while those for credit departments of farmers' and fishermen's associations are on an annual basis.
Sources: CBC and CDIC.

[45] The average capital adequacy ratios at credit departments of farmers' associations and fishermen's associations were 11.82% and 7.84%, respectively. The ratio at the credit departments of fishermen's associations was below the statutory minimum of 8%. Among individual institutions, some credit departments of farmers' associations and fishermen's associations had insufficient capital, but with their smaller scale, the impact on the average capital adequacy ratio of all deposit-taking institutions was limited.