Comparative Analysis of Two German Banks

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This article explains results of a comparative to test the performance of two top banks in the German banking industry analysis using a financial ratio analysis method. The main determinants considered are solvency and liquidity indicators, which make it possible to observe the risk behaviour of banks before and after the financial crisis. The hypothesis of the study is that the behaviour of German banks depends on bank-specific variables that affect the institution’s loan policy. The universal banks in Germany can be divided into three main types of institutions: commercial, public sector and cooperative banks. The analysis is carried out on banks of the same category in a decomposed manner. Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank representing the commercial/Private sector. Checking each Bank separately is carried out to detect the similarities or differences that each bank may have in terms of bank performance. The empirical analysis involves a sample of these German banks observed during 2015–2019.

Keywords: bank, profitability, financial crisis, financial performance analysis.

Introduction

According to international standards, the most important and prominent feature of the German banking system is that it is still a three-pillar system today. The banking system is composed of three parts. Correspondingly, the three important bank groups (or types) are also very different in terms of institutional structure, and they are also fiercely competing for market share.

The first pillar consists of private credit institutions, depending on its legal form and ownership structure. Since they are mainly private owners, it can be assumed that they obviously also pay more attention to profits than banks belonging to the other two categories. The organization of private credit institutions is very different. It includes several subgroups. One of them is the so-called «big banks», which maintain a large network of branches and provide various banking services to many customers in Germany and around the world.

Then, in official statistics, there are quite a few small banks called «regional banks and other commercial banks.” In terms of total assets, the first pillar accounts for about 40% of the entire German banking system; two-thirds of them are funded by large private banks and one-third are funded by other smaller credit institutions.

The second pillar is the savings bank group. It also consists of two parts: the local savings bank and the regional bank called Landesbanken. In terms of total assets, the size of the entire savings bank group is about the same as the total size of private credit institutions, and the total assets of local savings banks and Landesbanken are almost equal.

The third pillar is the cooperative banking group. Compared with the other two categories, it contains more independent institutions, and in terms of total assets, it is only half of the other two pillars. The cooperative banking group can also be divided into two parts, one of which is a
Comparative Financial ratio analysis of the Banks

3.1 Deutsche Bank

| Net Loan to Deposit Ratio (%) | 87.68 | NA | 99.26 | 98.32 |
|------------------------------|-------|----|-------|-------|
| Gross margin TTM             | -     | 52.94% |
| Gross Margin SYA             | -     | 50.4%  |
| Operating margin TTM         | -11.37% | 9.48%  |
| Operating margin SYA         | -4.53% | 0.83%  |
| Pretax margin TTM            | -11.37% | 9.47%  |
| Pretax margin SYA            | -4.53% | 0.8%    |
| Net Profit margin TTM        | -22.72% | 9.65%  |
| Net Profit margin SYA        | -8.95% | -0.66% |
### Economics

| Metric                              | TTM      | 5YA     |
|------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| Return on Equity                  | -8.98%   | 9.41%   |
| Return on Equity 5YA              | -4.64%   | -4.04%  |
| Return on Assets                  | -0.4%    | 0.49%   |
| Return on Assets 5YA              | -0.18%   | -0.04%  |
| Return on Investment              | -        | 3.24%   |
| Return on Investment 5YA          | -        | 4.5%    |
| P/E Ratio                          |          |         |
| Price to Sales                     | 0.57     | 1.36    |
| Price to Cash Flow MRQ            |          | 4.85    |
| Price to Free Cash Flow MRQ       |          | 21.45   |
| Price to Book MRQ                 | 0.22     | 0.64    |
| Price to Tangible Book MRQ        | 0.26     | 0.77    |
| Revenue/Share TTM                 | 10.92    | 20.92   |
| Basic EPS ANN                     | -2.71    | -0.71   |
| Diluted EPS ANN                   | -2.71    | -0.72   |
| Book Value/Share MRQ              | 29.29    | 38.58   |
| Tangible Book Value/Share MRQ     | 25.89    | 31.9    |
| Cash/Share MRQ                    | 68.69    | 28.75   |
| Cash Flow/Share TTM               |          | 3.64    |

### Efficiency

| Metric                              | TTM      |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Asset Turnover TTM                 |          |
| Inventory Turnover TTM             |          |
| Revenue/Employee TTM               |          |
| Net Income/Employee TTM            |          |
| Receivable Turnover TTM            |          |
| Quick Ratio MRQ                    |          |
| Current Ratio MRQ                  |          |
| LT Debt to Equity MRQ              | 154.15%  |
| Total Debt to Equity MRQ           | 154.15%  |

#### 3.2 Commerzbank

| Metric                              | TTM      | 5YA     |
|------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| Gross margin TTM                   |          | 52.94%  |
| Gross Margin 5YA                   |          | 56.4%   |
| Operating margin TTM               | 11.51%   | 9.48%   |
| Operating margin 5YA               | 10.22%   | 0.83%   |
| Pretax margin TTM                  | 11.51%   | 9.47%   |
| Pretax margin 5YA                  | 10.22%   | 0.8%    |
| Net Profit margin TTM              | 7.77%    | 9.65%   |
| Net Profit margin 5YA              | 6.79%    | -0.66%  |
| Revenue/Share TTM                  | 7.84     | 20.92   |
| Basic EPS ANN                      | 0.53     | -0.71   |
| Diluted EPS ANN                    | 0.53     | -0.72   |
Liquidity

Liquidity analysis focuses on cash flows and measures the company's ability to meet short-term debt. Liquidity measures the rate at which assets are converted into cash. In the case of banks, the liquidity ratio can also measure the ability to repay short-term debt. With regards to Banks the loan-to-deposit ratio (LDR) is usually used.

By comparing a bank’s total loans with its total deposits over the same period, the loan-to-deposit ratio (LDR) can be used to assess bank liquidity. LDR is expressed as a percentage. If the ratio is too high, it means that the bank may not have enough liquidity to meet any unforeseen funding needs. Conversely, if the ratio is too low, the bank may not be able to obtain the income it deserves. Therefore in this comparative analysis Commerzbank has a slightly better liquidity with an average of about 85% compared to Deutsche Bank at an average of about 90%.

Profitability analysis

Profit Margin Ratio

The profit Margin Ratio shows the percentage of profitability of a business from its operations. Calculated by dividing net profit by net interest income. The comparative analysis of the two banks shows that the German commercial bank enjoys a high level of profitability, with a positive 5-year average, while Deutsche Bank’s 5-year average is negative.

Return on shareholders' equity

This ratio shows the profitability relative to shareholders' equity. A high ratio indicates an increase in shareholders' profitability and may lead to an increase in the level of dividends. Compared with Deutsche Bank, German Commerzbank has a relatively high ratio and should attract more investors to invest in its operations.

Return on assets:

Return on assets shows the profitability of using assets. A high ratio implies that there is effective use of assets in profit generation of a company. A lower ratio may indicate that the bank has invested too much money in its assets. According to the analysis, both banks have similar average levels. However, the variability of this ratio indicate that the profitability of Commerzbank once again exceeds Deutsche Bank, whose 5-year average is negative.

Share Performance/ Earnings indicators

Sales ratio

To evaluate this section, we take for instance the price to sales ratio, often called the P/S, the price-to-sales ratio (Price/Sales or P/S) is calculated by taking a company's market capitalization (the number of outstanding shares multiplied by the share price) and divide it by the company's total sales or revenue over the past 12 months. The lower the P/S ratio, the more attractive the investment.

In this case Commerzbank has a more positive indication due to the fact that it's P/S is lower than that of its counterpart.

EPS (Earnings per share)

Earnings per share: Earnings per share (EPS) is a key indicator used to determine the share of ordinary shareholders
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in the company’s profits. Earnings per share measures the profit distribution of common stock relative to the company's total profit.

There are two different types of earnings per share: basic earnings and diluted earnings per share. Basic earnings per share need to be reported because it can improve the comparability of earnings between different companies. Diluted EPS is needed to reduce moral hazard issues. Without diluting earnings per share, management is more likely to mislead shareholders about the company’s profitability. This is done through the issuance of convertible securities (such as bonds, preferred stocks, and stock options). These convertible securities do not require immediate issuance of common stock, but may be issued in the future.

Conclusion

In this comparative analysis Commerzbank has once more positive figures for both the simple and diluted whereas deutsche bank as negative 5-year average figures.

The central concern of the paper has been to conduct a comparative performance of two banks in Germany for the period of 2004–2009. five groups of parameters have been used to measure liquidity level, profitability level, management capacity, capital structure and share performance. the findings show that both banks cannot boast of a financially viable future as both have shown signs of lack of appropriate application of financial management tools and policies to manage their organizations and to adapt with their environment, in order to become more competitive and maximizing their profits.

The liquidity level in Deutsche Bank is less than in its competitor bank. The research findings also show that Commerzbank possesses high profitability level with high level of instability. As far as management capacity ratios, the analysis declared that Commerzbank use its assets more efficiently than its competitor bank, while deutsche bank allocated more money to its investments overall.

Moreover, commercial deutsche bank managed to earn its interest revenue with the less level of expenses. In addition, the analysis showed that Commerzbank has strong financial structure than its competitor bank. Finally, the overall analysis of the share performance stated that Commerzbank is better off in relation to the most important ratios, market value and earnings per share than its competitor bank.

At the time of this research, it has been reported that the shares of Deutsche Bank have plummeted to a record low even in comparison to the 2008/2009 Financial crisis, this is attributed mainly to the Corona virus, however its counterpart Commerzbank has unsurprisingly kept a more positive and stable change during the pandemic.

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