

# Giving Credit: Emerging Markets Banks

December 2020

More prepared to face today's unique crisis than at any other time

While bank stocks suffered as investors contemplated meaningful COVID-related credit losses, our research indicates that today's environment bears little resemblance to the notorious emerging markets banking crises of the past.

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At current valuations, banks present a compelling risk/reward opportunity.

Country (Figure 1) and company balance sheets (Figure 2) are much stronger than in the past.

Figure 1.  
Foreign Exchange Reserves Are Significantly Higher

Reserves to GDP	1997	2019
Brazil	6%	19%
Indonesia	8%	12%
India	7%	16%
Korea, Rep.	4%	25%
Thailand	18%	41%
Turkey	10%	14%

Source: IMF Balance of Payments Yearbook, World Bank

Figure 2.  
Emerging Market Banks are in a Strong Position to Absorb Credit Losses

Percent of Loans (2019)	Brazil	Turkey	Thailand	USA
Systemwide Excess Capital	2.7%	2.7%	7.8%	7.8%
Provision	2.7%	5.5%	5.7%	1.2%
3 Year PPOP*	24.1%	13.2%	11.2%	10.1%
Total	29.4%	21.5%	24.8%	19.1%

\*Pre-provisioning operating profit. Source: Company reports, Pzena analysis

We believe it's at this intersection of supportive macro and better-governed institutions that the best value opportunities lie.

Selection is key. Country factors and company fundamentals must be evaluated individually.



### Thailand

Weak economic growth, but strong bank balance sheets



### Brazil

Strong banking industry fundamentals



### Turkey

Challenging macro, selectivity is critical

Some countries have learned from the past, while others continue to repeat mistakes. Within our related material we spotlight these three countries, comparing how each has managed key macro issues and the fundamentals of their banking systems.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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