

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd. (JCR) announces the following credit rating.

Republic of Italy (security code: -)

<Rating Change>

Foreign Currency Long-term Issuer Rating: from A+ to A
Outlook: from Negative to Stable
Local Currency Long-term Issuer Rating: from A+ to A
Outlook: from Negative to Stable

Rationale

- (1) The downgrading is based on JCR's assessment that, due mainly to the change in economic and fiscal policies made by the Conte administration, a turnaround of the slow economic growth stemming from stagnated productivity and reduction of the general government debt/GDP ratio will be unlikely for the time being. While pursuing an expansionary fiscal policy to accelerate growth, the administration may work to curb the general government deficit to around 3% of GDP in the face of the European Commission's call for compliance with the EU's fiscal rules and market pressure. Therefore, the rating outlook is Stable. The ratings continue to be supported by the country's diversified and developed economic base and relatively favorable external positions.
- (2) Italy is the third-largest core economy in the euro area, with a population of about 60.4 million, a nominal GDP of about USD2 trillion and a per capita GDP of more than USD40,000 (in PPP terms) in 2018. The coalition government, inaugurated in June 2018, consists of the Eurosceptic and populist Lega and the Five-Star Movement. While the two parties have different policies mirroring their different support bases, their coalition looks to boost economic growth through increased spending in a shift from the fiscal consolidation policy pursued by their predecessors. The country's economic growth decelerated to 0.9% in real GDP terms in 2018 from 1.7% a year earlier as private consumption and exports both slowed down. JCR expects that the growth will stay bleak amid restrained investments and consumption and that there will be no growth in 2019 due in part to shrinking external demand. In the banking sector, the nonperforming loan ratio remained high at 9.4% at the end of 2018, despite the continued disposal of NPLs through sales of the portfolio and securitization through the government-guaranteed institutions. It will take time for banks to adequately recover their financial intermediation functions and support growth.
- (3) Upon compilation of its FY2019 budget, the government was cautioned by the European Commission against deviation from the EU fiscal rules. The government avoided the launch of an excessive deficit procedure by means of delaying the timing of lowering the pensionable age and the introduction of the minimum income guarantee scheme (citizenship income) for low-income earners. JCR holds that the general government deficit/GDP ratio in 2019 will exceed the government's target of 2.0%, coming closer to 3% due in part to reduced tax revenues caused by deceleration of growth and an expansion of social security spending. The general government debt /GDP ratio is expected to rise further from 132% at the end of 2018. This ratio is already extremely high among sovereigns rated in A range by JCR. The government's fiscal management will continue to be monitored by the European Commission, with necessary modifications to be required.

Toshihiko Naito, Sakura Yamamoto

Rating

Issuer: Republic of Italy

<Rating Change >

Foreign Currency Long-term Issuer Rating: A Outlook: Stable
Local Currency Long-term Issuer Rating : A Outlook: Stable

Rating Assignment Date: April 9, 2019

The criteria used for identifying matters which serve as assumptions for the assessment of the credit status, and the criteria used for setting of grades indicating the results of the assessments of the credit status are published as "Types of Credit Ratings and Definitions of Rating Symbols" (January 6, 2014) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (<https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/>).

Outline of methodology for determination of the credit rating is shown as "Sovereign and Public Sector Entities" (November 7, 2014) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (<https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/>).

The aforementioned credit ratings are unsolicited. Except in cases of a credit rating for a sovereign, JCR indicates affix "p" after a rating symbol to distinguish it from a rating with solicitation. The undisclosed information, which has material influence on the credit rating, was not obtained from the rating stakeholder.

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JCR publishes its press releases regarding the rating actions both in Japanese and in English on the same day. In case that it takes time to translate rating rationale, JCR may publicize the summary version, which will be replaced by the full translated version within three business days. (Regarding Structured Finance products, JCR only publicize the summary version in English.)

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE FORM

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

Disclosure Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of Rule 17g-7

Issuer:	Republic of Italy
Rating Publication Date:	April 12, 2019

1

The Symbol, Number, or Score in the Rating Scale used to Denote Credit Rating Categories and Notches and, the Identity of the Obligor or the Identity and a Description of the Security or Money Market Instrument as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(A) of Rule 17g-7

- Please see the news release.

2

The version of the procedure or methodology used to determine the credit rating; as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(B) of Rule 17g-7

- Please see the news release.

3

The Main Assumptions and Principles used in Constructing the Procedures and Methodologies used to Determine the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(C) of Rule 17g-7

- The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, to be applied to assess the likelihood of a given debt payment in light of its issuer's condition and business environment, etc. in the relevant future. There is certain limitation, however, in the time horizon that the rating foresees.
- The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, that the factors posted in the below are particularly important for such likelihood to be determined, and that the rating determination is made by evaluating each of them not only quantitatively but also employing qualitative analyses.

A) Economic Base

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly conditional to the issuing government's ability to maintain/expand the economic base into the future with maintaining soundness of financial systems.

B) Fiscal Base

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly correlated to fiscal balance, public debt and other factors of the issuing government's fiscal condition.

C) External Positions

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly correlated to the liquidity positions which change along with the international balance of payments and the international investment position.

D) Social and Political Bases and Economic Policy

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly conditional to the social and political stability, effectiveness of economic and monetary policies as well as international economics.

E) Related Parties' Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Government

The likelihood of a given debt payment is affected by the stance of the credit enhancement provider and other related parties with regard to their stance of support/ assistance for the issuing government.

F) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment

The likelihood of debt payment can be different between given debts of the same issuer. The likelihood of debt payment for an individual debt is dependent on the issuing government's will, and/ or its rank relative to other debts of the same government in the order of seniority in principal/ interest payment which is determined by design as financial product or by international practice, etc.

4 The Potential Limitations of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(D) of Rule 17g-7

- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- The objective of the credit rating herewith presented does not include any concerns other than the likelihood of debt payment, such as risks of price changes, market liquidity, etc.
- The credit rating herewith presented is necessary to be reviewed along with possible changes of the issuer of rated objects in its business performance and/ or circumstances which include regulatory environment, and hence subject to possible alteration.

5 Information on the Uncertainty of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(E) of Rule 17g-7

- The information used for the determination of credit rating as herewith presented is obtained by JCR from the issuer of rated objects and other sources that JCR trusts in terms of accuracy and reliability but possibly contains errors due to human, non-human or other causes. Consequently, the credit rating determined on the grounds of such information does not constitute, explicitly or implicitly, any representation or warrant of JCR on the information itself or any consequences of its use in terms of accuracy, relevance, timeliness, wholeness, market value, or usefulness for any specific purposes.

6 Use of Due Diligence Services of a Third Party in Taking the Rating Action as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(F) of Rule 17g-7

- There is no use of any third-party due diligence service in the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.

7 Use of Servicer or Remittance Reports to Conduct Surveillance of the Credit Rating Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(G) of Rule 17g-7

- There is no use of any servicer or remittance report to conduct surveillance of the credit rating herewith presented.

8 The Types of Data Relied Upon for the Purpose of Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(H) of Rule 17g-7

- The information posted in the below, which includes data, is used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.
- A) Informational and explanatory materials published by the rating stakeholders with regard to the economy and fiscal management policy, etc. of the issuing government
- B) Statistics and reports published by an independent organization with regard to the economy and fiscal status, etc. of the issuing government

9 Overall assessment of the Quality of Information Available and Considered in Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(I) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR holds its basic policies for securing the quality of information as a base of due diligence for the determination of credit ratings. The information used as a base for the determination of credit rating herewith presented satisfies such policies, which include the publication by the issuer or some independent media etc.
- JCR sees no particular weakness in the quality of information used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented as compared to the information used in other cases of the credit rating for comparable issuers or ratable objects.

10 Information Relating to Conflicts of Interest as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(J) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR does not receive payment of compensation for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented from either one of those parties who are issuer, underwriter, depositor or sponsor.
- JCR did not receive in the last fiscal year in the past payment of compensation from the same party for any kind of JCR's service other than the determination of credit rating, such as one in the ancillary business.

11 Explanation or Measure of the Potential Volatility of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(K) of Rule 17g-7

A) Economic Base

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is an improvement or deterioration of the issuer's economy or financial systems, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

B) Fiscal Base

The credit rating is subject to alteration if the issuer increases/ decreases its fiscal deficit/ surplus and its public debt and thereby makes given debt payment liability less/ more bearable. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

C) External Positions

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's international balance of payments and international investment position and thereby an improvement/ deterioration of its liquidity positions. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

D) Social and Political Bases and Economic Policy

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's social and political conditions or economic/ monetary policies, etc. and thereby an improvement/ deterioration of its economy and fiscal positions. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

E) Related Parties' Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Issuer

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the credit enhancement provider or other related parties with regard to their stance of support/ assistance for the issuing government and thereby an improvement/ deterioration of its economy, fiscal positions and liquidity positions. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

F) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the rated debt's status in the order of seniority relative to other debts, due to improvement/ deterioration of the issuer's fiscal condition and/or will. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

G) International Economies

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the international economies, commodity or foreign exchange markets, etc. and thereby, through international balance of payments, an improvement/ deterioration in the issuer's fiscal balance or debt payment capacity. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is exceptionally large.

H) Various Events

The credit rating is subject to alteration on occurrence of various events, such as domestic unrest, war, natural disaster, etc. which are unforeseeable at the time when the credit rating is determined, causing a significant change on the issuer's economy, fiscal positions, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating could be by a notch but more often than not as much as a few notches.

12

Information on the Content of the Credit Rating, Including the Historical Performance of the Credit Rating and the Expected Probability of Default and the Expected Loss in the Event of Default as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(L) of Rule 17g-7

- Historical records of the credit rating herewith presented are posted in the end of this paper.
- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- Facts of the probability of default are posted as Form NRSRO Exhibit 1 on the JCR website under the URL:

<https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/service/company/regu/nrsro/>

13

Information on the Sensitivity of the Credit Rating to Assumptions Made as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(M) of Rule 17g-7

A) Economic Base

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's economy or financial systems, etc. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's economy or financial systems on some drastic change in environments, etc.

B) Fiscal Base

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's fiscal conditions in terms of annual balance or public debt. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's fiscal condition on some drastic change in its economy.

C) External Positions

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's liquidity positions reflecting

improvement or deterioration of the international balance of payments and the international investment position. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's liquidity positions on some drastic change in the country's economic/ fiscal conditions and financing activities, etc.

D) Social and Political Bases and Economic Policies

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's social and political bases and economic/ monetary policies. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the country's situation changes drastically, making the issuer's social and political bases and economic/monetary policies significantly improved or deteriorated.

E) International Economics

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the prospects of the international economies or commodity/ foreign exchange markets, etc. JCR expects the change should be most likely by a notch but could be as much as a few notches, should the economy or the markets change so greatly.

14 Information on the Representations, Warranties, and Enforcement Mechanisms of an Asset-backed Security as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(N) of rule 17g-7

- The credit rating herewith presented is not for an ABS product, and hence no relevant issue.

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The Historical Performance of the Credit Rating

Issuer Name	Issue Name	Publication Date	Rating	Outlook/Direction
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	November 1, 2000	AA+	
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	April 15, 2002	AA+	Stable
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	June 13, 2002	AA+	Stable
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	July 16, 2003	AA+	Stable
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	May 20, 2004	AA+	Stable
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	June 17, 2005	AA+	Stable
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	August 28, 2006	AA+	Negative
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	August 13, 2007	AA+	Negative
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	September 18, 2008	AA+	Stable
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	October 14, 2009	AA	Stable
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	March 30, 2011	AA	Stable
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	January 19, 2012	AA-	Negative
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	April 10, 2013	AA-	Negative
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	July 23, 2014	AA-	Negative
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	August 5, 2015	A+	Stable
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	September 27, 2016	A+	Negative
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	December 15, 2017	A+	Negative
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	July 16, 2003	AA+	Stable
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	May 20, 2004	AA+	Stable
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	June 17, 2005	AA+	Stable
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	August 28, 2006	AA+	Negative
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	August 13, 2007	AA+	Negative
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	September 18, 2008	AA+	Stable
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	October 14, 2009	AA	Stable
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	March 30, 2011	AA	Stable
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	January 19, 2012	AA-	Negative
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	April 10, 2013	AA-	Negative
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	July 23, 2014	AA-	Negative
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	August 5, 2015	A+	Stable
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	September 27, 2016	A+	Negative
Republic of Italy	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	December 15, 2017	A+	Negative

Attestation Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of Rule 17g-7

I, Atsushi Masuda, have responsibility to this Rating Action and to the best of my knowledge:

- A) No part of the credit rating was influenced by any other business activities.
- B) The credit rating was based solely upon the merits of the obligor, security, or money market instrument being rated.
- C) The credit rating was an independent evaluation of the credit risk of the obligor, security, or money market instrument.



Atsushi Masuda
General Manager of International Rating Department

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