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Insight
INVESTMENT

PRIME INSIGHT'S CORPORATE ESG RATINGS

MAY 2024

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INTRODUCTION

Environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks can have a clear impact on the financial performance of an investment.

Insight Investment is focused on precision investment and risk management to help our clients achieve their goals. Information on material ESG risks can be crucial for effective investment decisions, but ESG data providers often disagree on how to interpret ESG risks, and gaps remain in available information.

We decided to apply our years of experience in analyzing ESG risks in taking data from multiple inputs, adjusted using our in-house expertise, to generate ESG ratings that we believe more accurately and reliably reflect material risks relating to the strategies that we manage.

This led us to create Prime: Insight's proprietary ESG ratings.

In this brochure, we explain the Prime corporate ESG ratings, which aim to highlight the key ESG risks companies face.



Powered by Insight Investment

PRIME CORPORATE ESG RATINGS: KEY NUMBERS

95% Global investment grade corporate bonds¹

credit analysts guiding the ratings

¹ As measured using the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Credit Index, excluding non-corporate and non-debt constituents, using the total weight of the remaining benchmark instruments. This index consists mostly of investment grade corporate bonds. This data is indicative only.

HOW INSIGHT USES PRIME

- Prime corporate ESG ratings are integrated within Insight's investment processes where relevant, across many of our corporate bond investment strategies. They aim to help our analysts and portfolio managers consider material ESG risks in their investment decisions and to identify potential for constructive engagement with corporate issuers.
- For clients seeking investment strategies that reflect their views on ESG issues, Prime ratings enable dedicated solutions and portfolios with specific ESG criteria.

HOW PRIME HELPS INVESTORS

- Prime processes multiple data inputs, with our portfolio managers and analysts overlaying their expertise to ensure it reflects the risks that issuers face.
- Prime aims to generate high-quality ratings that are particularly relevant for fixed income investors, as it focuses on material risks regarding default and incorporates our analysts' qualitative judgement.
- Prime offers a transparent and powerful interface for Insight's portfolio managers and analysts to interrogate the information it provides, helping them to understand exactly why an issuer or sector receives a particular rating.

APPLYING PRIME RATINGS

 Prime ESG ratings are a valuable input into our research process alongside other factors we consider when assessing risks and opportunities in investments to define an appropriate valuation.

The use and impact of our ESG ratings in specific investment strategies will vary, potentially significantly, depending on the nature of the asset class and the structure of the investment mandate involved.

For specific details of how we use Insight's Prime ratings in our investment solutions, please contact your Insight relationship manager.



PRIME CORPORATE ESG RATINGS

AN OVERVIEW

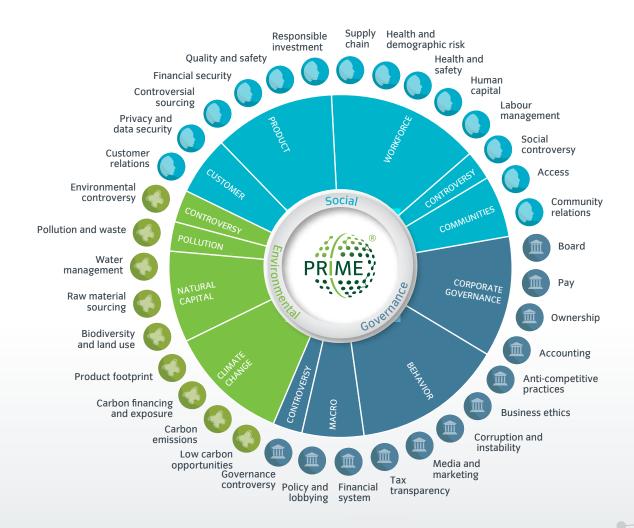
PRIME CORPORATE ESG RATINGS ARE BASED ON ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE RATINGS, WHICH IN TURN REST ON 35 SEPARATE SCORES FOR A WIDE RANGE OF KEY ESG ISSUES.

The ratings are generated using inputs from numerous ESG data providers, adjusted for quality and relevance by Insight's experts, who also weight them according to their significance for different sectors.

Prime corporate ESG ratings were created to generate ESG ratings that we believe more accurately and reliably reflect the risks that corporates face.

It aims to help our analysts and portfolio managers consider material ESG risks, informing their decision-making and engagement, and to enable portfolios for clients requesting specific ESG criteria.

Figure 1: The Insight corporate ESG framework²



² For illustrative purposes only.

IN DEPTH THE KEY ESG ISSUES

PRIME GENERATES SCORES ACROSS 35 KEY ESG ISSUES THAT COULD BE MATERIAL FOR DIFFERENT SECTORS AND COMPANIES.

Over time, these issues may become more, or less, significant for different sectors; and while some may be irrelevant to all but a few industries, others – such as governance issues – could be a key concern for analysts regardless of the sector within which a company operates.

In this section we offer examples of sectors that might be exposed to particular issues, but these should be taken as illustrative examples rather than comprehensive lists. They do not represent current weightings within Prime.

Table 1: Key ESG issues covered by Prime corporate ratings

ENVIRONMENTAL	Description	Material risk for		
CLIMATE CHANGE				
Carbon emissions	How a company manages carbon dioxide emissions that it produces directly or indirectly.	Utilities, transportation, energy		
Carbon financing and exposure	The extent to which a company uses, and/or is exposed to, financing to offset the impact of its carbon emissions.	Utilities, real estate, insurance		
Low carbon opportunities	The extent to which a company is exposed to, and leverages opportunities to reduce the carbon of its operations. $ \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \left(\frac{1}{$	Software and services, technology		
Product footprint	How a company's product or service contributes to climate change, typically measured through the carbon emissions related to the product or service.	Autos, real estate		
NATURAL CAPITAL				
Biodiversity and land use	The impact of a company's activities on the land on which it operates, and the variety and variability of living organisms, and whether it has appropriate mitigation strategies.	Energy, real estate		
Raw material sourcing	How a company sources raw materials, the extent to which its sources are sustainable or have an environmental impact, and the effect of any mitigation policies.	Materials, food and beverage, household and personal products, real estate		
Water management	The operational reliance on water, and the ability to source and utilize water reliably and without intervention.	Energy, utilities, technology hardware and equipment		
POLLUTION				
Pollution and waste	How a company manages pollution and waste; in particular, noxious gases and packaging.	Transportation, real estate, capital goods, materials, energy, utilities		
CONTROVERSY				
Environmental controversy	Active controversy over how a company manages its impact on the natural environment.	Autos, energy, real estate, capital goods, materials, transportation		
SOCIAL	Description	Material risk for		
CUSTOMER	Dosci pilon	Material Helicites		
Customer relations	The risk of financial impact to a company owing to good or bad relationships with its customers. Food and staples retail, aut			
Privacy and data security	Management and vulnerability to privacy and/or data breaches, which could bring severe legal and reputational consequences.	Retail, software and services, financials		
PRODUCT				
Controversial sourcing	The potential for controversy over how a company's product, or components for a product, are sourced.	Materials, technology hardware and equipment, telecommunication services		
Financial security	The extent to which a company's financial products may be exposed to highly indebted borrowers, or borrowers unable to repay.	Financials, insurance		

SOCIAL	Description	Material rick for		
	Description	Material risk for		
Quality and safety	The quality and safety of a product or service, including factors such as product recalls and warranty payments.	Healthcare equipment and services; pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and life sciences; household and personal		
		products, autos		
Responsible investment	The extent to which a company's investment portfolios are exposed to ESG-related risks.	Financials, insurance		
WORKFORCE				
Supply chain	How a company's network for production and distribution manages its workforce, and extent to which this may affect the company.	Consumer durables and apparel, household and personal products		
Health and demographic risk	The potential impact of health and population trends on a company.	Insurance; pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and life sciences		
Health and safety	A company's health and safety policies and practice with regard to its operations.	Transportation, retail		
Human capital	The extent to which a company depends on human skills, knowledge or experience.	Retail, media		
Labor management	How a company manages its own workforce.	Consumer services, retail, consumer durables and apparel		
CONTROVERSY				
Social controversy	Active controversy over how a company manages its impact on society.	Banks, energy		
COMMUNITIES				
Access	The extent to which a company's products and services seek to service new and previously under-serviced populations and demographics.	Pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and fife sciences, healthcare equipment and services		
Community relations	The extent to which a company engages constructively and effectively with the communities in their sphere of influence, such as those who share vital resources.	Energy, materials		
GOVERNANCE	Description	Material risk for		
CORPORATE GOVERNA	NCE			
Board	The experience, knowledge, structure and effectiveness of a company's board of directors.	Most sectors		
Pay	How remuneration is decided and structured for a company's employees.	Retail, banks, consumer durables and apparel		
Ownership		Media, most sectors		
	Who owns the company and the mechanisms by which owners exert influence over the company.	Media, most sectors		
Accounting		Media, most sectors Insurance, banks, most sectors		
Accounting BEHAVIOR	exert influence over the company. The significance of accounting in driving a company's operations			
	exert influence over the company. The significance of accounting in driving a company's operations	Insurance, banks, most sectors Capital goods, technology		
BEHAVIOR Anti-competitive	exert influence over the company. The significance of accounting in driving a company's operations and decisions. The potential for a company to engage in practices that suppress	Insurance, banks, most sectors		
BEHAVIOR Anti-competitive practices	exert influence over the company. The significance of accounting in driving a company's operations and decisions. The potential for a company to engage in practices that suppress competition.	Insurance, banks, most sectors Capital goods, technology hardware and equipment, autos		
BEHAVIOR Anti-competitive practices Business ethics Corruption	exert influence over the company. The significance of accounting in driving a company's operations and decisions. The potential for a company to engage in practices that suppress competition. Sensitivity to a potential breach in ethics affecting the business. How the potential for corruption and instability, either in the business	Insurance, banks, most sectors Capital goods, technology hardware and equipment, autos Banks, autos, capital goods Utilities, materials, capital goods,		
BEHAVIOR Anti-competitive practices Business ethics Corruption and instability Media and	exert influence over the company. The significance of accounting in driving a company's operations and decisions. The potential for a company to engage in practices that suppress competition. Sensitivity to a potential breach in ethics affecting the business. How the potential for corruption and instability, either in the business or the jurisdictions within which it operates, could affect its operations. How a company uses and is affected by media and marketing	Capital goods, technology hardware and equipment, autos Banks, autos, capital goods Utilities, materials, capital goods, banks Pharmaceuticals, biotechnology		
BEHAVIOR Anti-competitive practices Business ethics Corruption and instability Media and marketing	exert influence over the company. The significance of accounting in driving a company's operations and decisions. The potential for a company to engage in practices that suppress competition. Sensitivity to a potential breach in ethics affecting the business. How the potential for corruption and instability, either in the business or the jurisdictions within which it operates, could affect its operations. How a company uses and is affected by media and marketing activities and trends.	Capital goods, technology hardware and equipment, autos Banks, autos, capital goods Utilities, materials, capital goods, banks Pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and life sciences		
BEHAVIOR Anti-competitive practices Business ethics Corruption and instability Media and marketing Tax transparency	exert influence over the company. The significance of accounting in driving a company's operations and decisions. The potential for a company to engage in practices that suppress competition. Sensitivity to a potential breach in ethics affecting the business. How the potential for corruption and instability, either in the business or the jurisdictions within which it operates, could affect its operations. How a company uses and is affected by media and marketing activities and trends.	Capital goods, technology hardware and equipment, autos Banks, autos, capital goods Utilities, materials, capital goods, banks Pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and life sciences		
BEHAVIOR Anti-competitive practices Business ethics Corruption and instability Media and marketing Tax transparency MACRO	exert influence over the company. The significance of accounting in driving a company's operations and decisions. The potential for a company to engage in practices that suppress competition. Sensitivity to a potential breach in ethics affecting the business. How the potential for corruption and instability, either in the business or the jurisdictions within which it operates, could affect its operations. How a company uses and is affected by media and marketing activities and trends. How an organisation manages the tax it pays.	Capital goods, technology hardware and equipment, autos Banks, autos, capital goods Utilities, materials, capital goods, banks Pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and life sciences Utilities, financials		
BEHAVIOR Anti-competitive practices Business ethics Corruption and instability Media and marketing Tax transparency MACRO Financial system	exert influence over the company. The significance of accounting in driving a company's operations and decisions. The potential for a company to engage in practices that suppress competition. Sensitivity to a potential breach in ethics affecting the business. How the potential for corruption and instability, either in the business or the jurisdictions within which it operates, could affect its operations. How a company uses and is affected by media and marketing activities and trends. How an organisation manages the tax it pays. The extent to which instability in the wider financial system may affect a company's operations. How changes in regulation and government policy, or the impact	Capital goods, technology hardware and equipment, autos Banks, autos, capital goods Utilities, materials, capital goods, banks Pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and life sciences Utilities, financials Banks, financials, insurance		
BEHAVIOR Anti-competitive practices Business ethics Corruption and instability Media and marketing Tax transparency MACRO Financial system Policy and lobbying	exert influence over the company. The significance of accounting in driving a company's operations and decisions. The potential for a company to engage in practices that suppress competition. Sensitivity to a potential breach in ethics affecting the business. How the potential for corruption and instability, either in the business or the jurisdictions within which it operates, could affect its operations. How a company uses and is affected by media and marketing activities and trends. How an organisation manages the tax it pays. The extent to which instability in the wider financial system may affect a company's operations. How changes in regulation and government policy, or the impact	Capital goods, technology hardware and equipment, autos Banks, autos, capital goods Utilities, materials, capital goods, banks Pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and life sciences Utilities, financials Banks, financials, insurance		

HOW PRIME GENERATES

CORPORATE ESG RATINGS

PRIME FOLLOWS A TRANSPARENT AND ROBUST PROCESS TO GENERATE ESG RATINGS, GUIDED BY INSIGHT'S QUANTITATIVE RESEARCHERS, ANALYSTS AND EXPERTS IN SEEKING TO ENSURE THE RATINGS REFLECT THE MATERIAL RISKS THAT DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES AND CORPORATES FACE.

HOW PRIME GENERATES ESG RATINGS



Data from wide-ranging research sources



Prime incorporates inputs from multiple data providers. Insight's Responsible Investment Team identifies the strengths and weaknesses of different providers' methodologies, selecting, aggregating and weighting the data to ensure the ratings reflect the most relevant and high-quality information.



Material risks identified through quantitative and qualitative analysis

For each sector, Insight's analysts review 35 key ESG factors to ensure material risks are reflected with a larger weight within the ratings.



Generating transparent ESG ratings that reflect material industry issues

Key issue scores are thematically grouped, and aggregated to generate theme scores; separate environmental, social and governance ratings; and an overall ESG rating for each issuer. These are presented to users in a dashboard format to make clear the underlying drivers for all Prime corporate ratings (see page 15).



Normalized to follow a sector-agnostic approach

ESG ratings generated by Prime are normalized so that each rating reflects a company's performance compared to its peers, meaning Prime identifies companies which are best-inclass within an industry group, facilitating like-for-like analysis (and stock selection) even if the industry group has a large (or limited) ESG risk exposure.



DATA FROM LEADING RESEARCH SOURCES, ADJUSTED ACCORDING TO RELEVANCE AND QUALITY

Inputs from four data providers are weighted according to Insight's assessment of their **relevance** and **data quality**. The resulting scores are used to create 35 key issue scores for corporates. Data providers may be added over time to help fill gaps or to further refine Prime ratings.

Figure 2: Insight's ESG team weights data inputs according to their quality and relevance³

	Metric	Relevance	Data quality	Final weighting	
PROVIDER 1: Water management Score: 6/10	Provider 1 water management score	2.00	1.00	2.00	PRIME WATER MANAGEMENT SCORE
PROVIDER 2: Water management Score 8/10	Provider 2 water management score	0.30	0.50	0.15	Weighting and combining provider scores 6 out of 10
PROVIDER 3: Water management Score 5/10	Provider 3 water management score	0.30	0.10	0.03	

³ This is an illustrative example to demonstrate the type of datapoint weighting calculations conducted within Prime.



MATERIAL RISKS IDENTIFIED AND WEIGHTED ACCORDING TO SECTOR

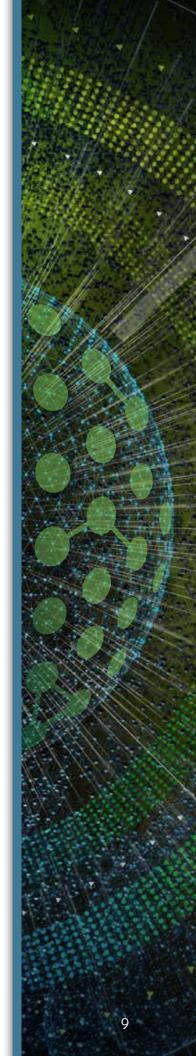
Different ESG issues matter more for specific sectors. For example, data security is a key issue for software and services firms, labor management is important for retail, and quality and safety are crucial for healthcare equipment and autos.

Prime assigns different weights to key ESG issues according to their relevance to the industry group.

Figure 3: How material ESG issues for a sample sector receive higher weights⁴

				WEIGHT	
		CATEGORY	Small	Med	Large
	Climate change	Carbon emissions			Ø
		Carbon financing and exposure		0	
		Low carbon opportunities		Ø	
S. S.		Product footprint		0	
FNUNRONMENTAL	Natural capital	Biodiversity and land use	0		
RON ENIS		Raw material sourcing		0	
MENTAL		Water management	0		
	Pollution	Pollution and waste			•
	Controversy	Environmental controversy		0	
	Customer	Customer relations		•	
		Privacy and data security	Ø		
	Product	Controversial sourcing		•	
		Financial security	Ø		
		Quality and safety		Ø	
		Responsible investment	Ø		
	Workforce	Supply chain		Ø	
3		Health and demographic risk	•		
500		Health and safety			•
		Human capital		•	
		Labor management		•	
	Controversy	Social controversy			•
	Communities	Access	0		
		Community relations			Ø
	Corporate	Board		Ø	
	governance	Pay		Ø	
		Ownership		Ø	
		Accounting		•	
GOVERNANCE	Behavior	Anti-competitive practices			•
		Business ethics		•	
		Corruption and instability		•	
		Media and marketing	0		
		Tax transparency	0		
	Macro	Financial system instability	0		
		Policy and lobbying			0
	Controversy	Governance controversy		0	

 $^{^4}$ For illustrative purposes only. Prime uses numerical weights for sectors based on inputs from data providers and Insight analysts, as described elsewhere in this document.

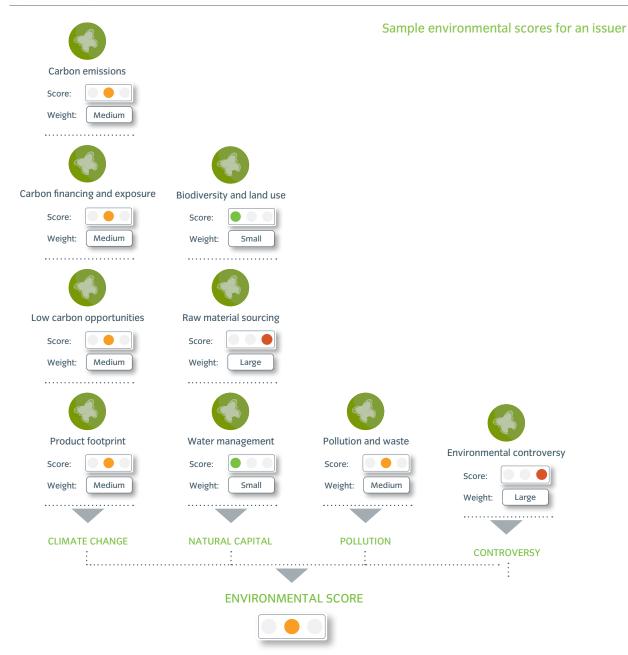




TRANSPARENT ESG SCORES GENERATED TO REFLECT THE RISKS THAT CORPORATES FACE

For each entity covered by Prime, after key ESG issue scores are generated and weighted, they are combined to generate separate environmental, social and governance scores. These in turn are combined to generate an overall ESG rating.

Figure 4: Prime generates ESG scores that reflect the material risks a company faces⁵





ESG RATINGS ARE NORMALIZED AGAINST SECTOR PEERS

The overall ESG rating is designed to indicate an issuer's performance relative to its peers.

ESG ratings for companies are therefore 'normalized' within their industry: in other words, there will be a similar proportion of highly rated companies within, for example, the banking and energy sectors – though banks and energy companies face very different ESG risks.

As a result, Prime identifies companies which are best-in-class within a sector, even if they are in an industry group exposed to more ESG risks.

⁵ For illustrative purposes only. Prime uses numerical weights for sectors based on inputs from data providers and Insight analysts, as described elsewhere in this document.



HOW INSIGHT'S PORTFOLIO MANAGERS AND ANALYSTS USE PRIME

INSIGHT IS DEDICATED TO PRECISION INVESTING THAT HELPS CLIENTS ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS, AND WE BELIEVE ANALYSIS OF ESG ISSUES CAN PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE.

Prime helps our portfolio managers and analysts to:

- **consider material ESG risks**, supporting their investment decisions and identifying potential for constructive engagement with issuers; and
- build dedicated strategies for clients seeking portfolios that reflect specific ESG criteria.

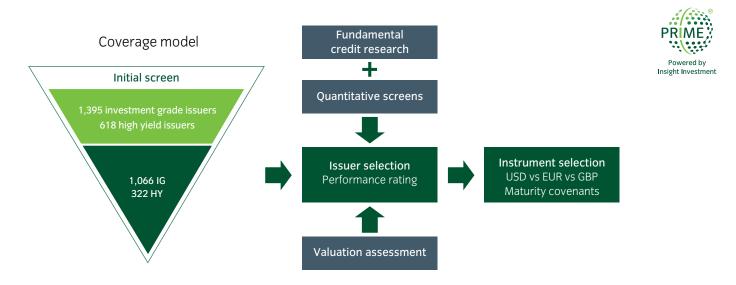
The Prime corporate ESG ratings are used for various asset classes and strategies where deemed relevant. In this section, we focus on their use within corporate bond portfolios.

INTEGRATING ESG RISKS WITHIN THE INVESTMENT PROCESS FOR CORPORATE BONDS

Default risk is the prism through which our analysts consider every issue. A full investment analysis is required to inform an investment decision and ESG risks are a necessary element in assigning a credit rating that indicates the relative risk of default loss.

Through the combination of ESG risk screening and financial analysis, Insight's extended credit risk appraisal process brings together an assessment of the financial risks associated with a company's performance with a clearly defined set of key business risks, including ESG considerations, as a part of the mainstream investment process.

Figure 5: ESG risks are integrated within Insight's credit analysis⁶



Engagements with companies about ESG issues

A financially material factor is one that is deemed relevant and likely to have a positive or negative impact on the financial value of that investment. It is a core part of our process to engage with issuers on such factors which include, but are not limited to, strategy, capital allocation and competitive positioning. ESG factors can also drive engagement where our analysts believe them to have financial relevance. In this sense engagement should be considered and essential aspect of effective financial analysis.

⁶ As of January 1, 2024. For illustrative purposes only.

How an entity behaves in terms of its societal impacts increasingly plays a role in financial materiality. We believe that issuers which effectively manage their sustainability risks and impacts are likely to represent better long-term risk/return opportunities. We therefore also engage on sustainability issues where we believe we can influence improved behavior, providing it is not detrimental to the return potential of the investment. These two rationales drive why we engage and lead, broadly, to conducting two types of engagement:

- 1. Fundamental engagements focusing on financial materiality and business fundamentals, and
- 2. ESG engagements focusing on performance or impact relating to one or more ESG issues.

Insight conducts two types of engagement:

- · engagement focusing on identifying risk, and
- engagement focusing on a company's behavior ('impact').

Classical financial analysis organically leads to fundamental engagements as analysts seek to gain full understanding of all the risk factors that may impact an investment. To identify and prioritize ESG engagements, analysts may use a combination of the following criteria:

- 1. Potential ESG risks identified through our Prime ESG and climate risk ratings, and controversy flags
- 2. Potential ESG impacts which are aligned with client desired outcomes
- 3. Size of holding

Both our Responsible Investment Team and investment professionals identify and implement engagements. Their responsibilities are outlined below:

- Responsible Investment Team: The Responsible Investment Team monitors and reviews
 wider ESG initiatives and considers appropriate collaborative initiatives. Where specific
 sustainability concerns arise, the Responsible Investment Team organize calls or meetings
 with an issuer, where they will set objectives in advance which will be discussed with the
 issuer. The Responsible Investment Team share their perspective directly with investment
 teams and complete an engagement log (see below). Issuer progress against engagement
 targets is tracked over time to understand the success of the engagements. The
 Responsible Investment Team will also be responsible for running our thematic engagement
 programme in 2024, which focuses on climate change, natural capital, and biodiversity and
 labor management.
- Investment professionals: Based on qualitative analysis and research, including
 proprietary questionnaires developed for specific markets, our investment teams identify
 the engagement issues relevant for specific issuers within their coverage universe.
 Engagement themes are identified, and relevant targets are set in order to encourage
 change with each issuer. The ESG-specific performance objectives, which account for 10-20%
 of their annual performance evaluation require our team of credit analysts to:
- Undertake company-specific deep dive engagements as agreed with the Head of Credit Analysis.
 - Ensure ESG ratings are noted and commented on as follows:
 - All '5' ratings (the worst possible in the Prime corporate ESG ratings framework) are commented on and explained.
 - All new issuers/new positions commented on regardless of ESG scores being strong/ weak.
- Undertake a minimum of two company-specific ESG deep-dive engagements as agreed
 with the Head of Credit Analysis. These have been identified based on analyst industry or
 sector focus, and cover laggards in ESG issues, such as carbon disclosure, labor rights and
 governance shortcomings.



BUILDING PORTFOLIOS WITH ESG-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

Prime ratings can be used to help build portfolios for investors seeking to invest in line with specific ESG criteria. Where appropriate, we normalize these ratings by asset class to reflect the opportunity set available; for example, in emerging markets. Other ESG criteria may include sector exclusions or a bias in favor of specific metrics (see Table 2), as well as requirements for proactive engagement on ESG issues.

The investment criteria of Insight's Responsible Horizons strategies include a commitment to avoid investments with worst-in-class ESG profiles and actively allocate towards those with best-in-class and/or improving characteristics, based on Prime ratings.

Table 2: Investors may seek to build portfolios with a wide range of ESG-specific criteria⁷

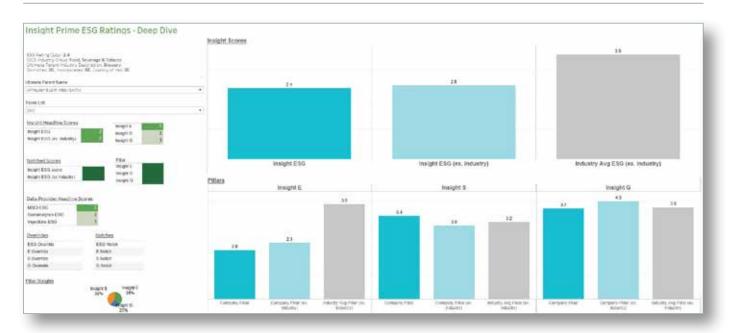
Exclusion screens	Screen out holdings using criteria to prevent investments in certain business activities, such as tobacco, weapons and alcohol.
Controversy screens	Managing exposure to companies with past high-profile events that suggest they don't meet globally respected standards such as the UN Global Compact and those set out by the International Labor Organization.
Best in class	Using ESG ratings to tilt portfolios away from companies with the worst ESG performance or the highest ESG risks, and towards companies with the best ESG performance or the lowest ESG risks.
Low carbon	Identifying companies with poor carbon emissions performance or those demonstrating greater environmental risk, using this information to reduce the carbon footprint of portfolios.
Positive impact	Tilting portfolios in favor of either individual bonds or corporate issuers that have a sustainability element. This includes impact bonds and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

⁷These descriptions are for illustrative purposes only.

HOW PRIME GIVES PORTFOLIO MANAGERS AND ANALYSTS THE INFORMATION THEY NEED

PRIME POWERS A DETAILED INTERACTIVE DASHBOARD TO HELP INSIGHT'S SPECIALISTS TO HELP THEM UNDERSTAND A COMPANY'S ESG RATING AND HOW IT WAS GENERATED.

Figure 6: Prime offers a detailed dashboard to provide users with a transparent overview of a company's ESG risks

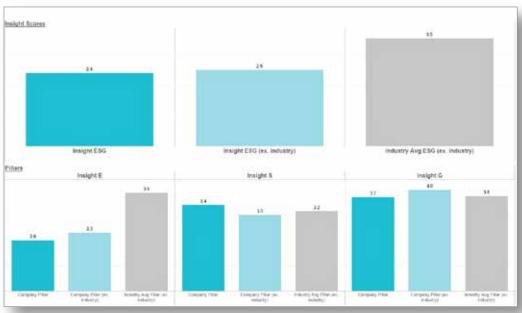




AN OVERVIEW OF A COMPANY'S ESG RATING AND UNDERLYING SCORES

Prime displays at a glance how a company scores on ESG risks relative to its industry peers.

Figure 7: How a company compares on overall ESG risks relative to its peers and the wider universe



ESG risks differ by sector. The best ESG assessments consider the materiality of each sector risk as a continuous variable to account for these differences, as well as the many nuances.

TUDOR THOMAS, HEAD OF FIXED INCOME QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH





HOW THE COMPANY SCORES ACROSS 35 KEY ESG ISSUES

Users can see how material key ESG issues are for a company, how a company's scores across these issues vary from the average across the coverage universe, and within the company's sector.

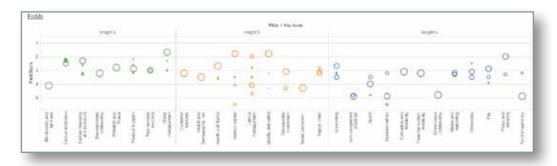
Figure 8: Users can see how a company scores across key ESG issues relative to its sector peers



UNDERLYING FACTORS DRIVING A COMPANY'S KEY ISSUE SCORES

The dashboard illustrates how key ESG issue scores for a company are derived from the underlying data sources and weightings of different underlying data inputs, allowing analysts to interrogate Prime ratings in detail. It also highlights any gaps in the underlying data.

Figure 9: Prime helps users understand the specific inputs driving a company's scores across key ESG issues



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- How often are Prime corporate ESG ratings updated?
 - Prime ratings are updated quarterly. Inputs from data providers are checked for high-level fidelity and consistency, then incorporated into Prime. These regular updates help our analysts to understand how both short and long-term risks are having an impact on the industries and companies they cover.
- Is there a mechanism for reviewing or adjusting the ratings generated by Prime?
 Prime offers a detailed interactive dashboard to help Insight's specialists to help them understand a company's ESG rating and how it was generated.
 - If an analyst believes that a rating is too high or too low as a result of incorrect data, and that this warrants adjustment, there is a formal process under which they may apply for a rating change to an independent Ratings and Exclusions Group. The Group members eligible to vote on these matters exclude portfolio managers or analysts with potential conflicts of interest. Any change to ratings made as a result of this process is documented and reviewed periodically.
- How does Prime deal with gaps in corporate ESG data?
 - The transparency within Prime, which shows in detail how ratings are generated, enables analysts and portfolio managers to identify gaps in underlying data at a glance, raising the potential for further qualitative research and engagement with company management. This activity will serve to further inform our teams of material ESG risks, and may be used to adjust the Prime rating if material risks are identified.

INSIGHT'S RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT AND FIXED INCOME CREDENTIALS

- Insight was a founding signatory to the PRI in 2006, the world's leading proponent of responsible investment.
- We have been supporters of the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC) and CDP initiatives since our founding in 2002.
- Insight manages ESG strategies including those with best-in-class, climate, positive impact and
 exclusion objectives and criteria. Alongside Prime corporate ESG ratings, Insight uses proprietary
 sovereign ESG and climate risk ratings.





Insight Investment

200 Park Avenue, 7th Floor New York, NY 10166





www.insightinvestment.com



company/insight-investment-north-america

ASSOCIATED INVESTMENT RISKS

ESG

- Investment type: The application and overall influence of ESG approaches may differ, potentially materially, across asset classes, geographies, sectors, specific investments or portfolios due to the nature of the specific securities and instruments available, the wide range of ESG factors which may be applied and ESG industry practices applicable in a particular investable universe.
- Integration: The integration of ESG factors refers to the inclusion of ESG risk factors alongside financial risk factors in investment analysis and research to judge the fair value of a particular investment and may also include the monitoring and reporting of such risks within a portfolio. Integrating ESG factors in this way will not typically restrict the potential investable universe, but rather aims to ensure that what we believe to be relevant and material ESG risks are taken into account by analysts and/or portfolio managers in their decision-making, alongside other relevant and material financial risks.
- Ratings: The use and influence of our ESG ratings in specific investment strategies will vary, potentially significantly, depending on a number of factors including the nature of the asset class and the structure of the investment mandate involved. For an investment portfolio with a financial objective, and without specific ESG or sustainability objectives, a high or low ESG rating may not automatically lead to a buy or sell decision: the rating will be one factor among others that may help a portfolio manager in evaluating potential investments consistently.
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