

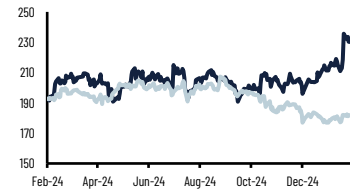
Market: OMXC Large Cap

Ticker: DANSKE

Share price (DKK): 230.2

Market cap (DKKbn): 191.7

Share information



Ytd 27.6% 1 year: 19.0%
1 month: 8.0% 3 year: 76.5%

Note: We apply the closing price from 14 February 2025
Index rebased to 14 February 2024. Source: S&P Capital IQ

Financials

(DKKbn)	2023	2024	2025E*
Net interest income	35.0	36.7	
Total income	52.4	56.4	
Total costs	25.5	25.7	Up to 26.0
Income before tax	26.7	31.2	
Net income	21.3	23.6	21.0-23.0
Shareholder's equity	175.7	175.7	
Deposits	1,083	1,095	
Total assets	3,729	3,716	

Note: * Company's own guidance. Source: Danske Bank

Valuation multiples

	2023	2024	2025E*
P/E (x)	7.3	7.3	8.8
P/B (x)	0.88	0.97	1.04
ROE (%)	12.7	13.4	12.0
Dividend/share (ord.)	14.5	28.7	17.2
Dividend yield (%)	8.0	14.1	7.5
Adj. C/I ratio (%)	48.6	45.6	47.1
Total capital ratio (%)	23.1	22.4	N/A
CET 1 Capital ratio (%)	18.8	17.8	17.6

Note: Multiples for 2023 and 2024 are based on historical numbers. Source: *Based on consensus analyst estimates from S&P Capital IQ. **Adjusted for extraordinary items. Capital ratios are from latest financial report.

Company description

Danske Bank is a leading Nordic bank and the largest bank in Denmark. The company provides a wide range of financial services, such as personal banking, corporate banking, wealth management, and insurance. Danske Bank operates five commercial business units, Personal Customers, Business Customers, Large Corporates & Institutions, Danica Pension, and Northern Ireland. Its largest geography is Denmark, with operations in Sweden, Norway, Finland, the UK and others.

Investment case

Danske Bank benefitted from stronger interest rates the last two years, growing net interest income (NII) by 39% in 2023 and 5% in 2024, while stronger-than-expected economic conditions have led to very limited impairment charges. That led to three upgrades in 2023 and two upgrades of guidance in 2024.

Danske Bank is focused on strengthening its position as a leading bank in the Nordics, particularly for business and institutional customers across Scandinavia following the settlement of the Estonia matter. Danske Bank can drive market share gains with its sharpened focus on specific customer segments, aspiring to be the leading business and institutional bank in the Nordics and retain and grow its number of retail and private banking customers.

The higher rate environment continues to support the earnings outlook in 2025 although at a lower level than the two previous years. Danske Bank also looks to further close the valuation gap to its peers by delivering on its Forward '28 strategy. Its new 2026 financial targets are for an ROE of 13%, a C/I ratio around 45%, and a CET1 ratio >16%, while maintaining its dividend policy for 40-60% of net profit, with ambitions to pay total dividends ≥DKK 50bn 2023-2026, (around 30% of market cap when announced). DKK 12.5bn was paid in dividends in 2023 and DKK 18.6bn in 2024.

For 2025 cash return to shareholders could potentially reach a level of DKK 17-19bn if the board opts for a 60% payout ratio, including the current buy-back of DKK 5bn.

Key investment reasons

Higher interest rates, despite the recent decline, can support net interest income in a higher-for-longer rate environment, as higher rates increase income from loans and deposits. The greater earnings level is the basis for cash redistribution as dividends/buybacks, with a dividend payout ratio of 79% and a total payout ratio, incl. buybacks, of around 100% in 2024.

Danske Bank has traded at a relative discount to its peer group of large Nordic banks following a period of uncertainty and weaker earnings. Some of this gap has been closed as the share price has developed positively on strong results and the Forward '28 strategy. However, some discount on P/E and P/B can still be found.

Since 2017 a significant portion of management's time has been focused on resolving the Estonia matter and other remediation matters. The primary resolution may generate long-term benefits to shareholders resulting from efficiency and market share gains. Something we have started to see signs of during 2024.

Key investment risks

During 2024 we have not seen a meaningful deterioration in credit quality, and many banks have reduced loan impairment provisions. However, a worsening of macro or market conditions could see future loan impairment losses and impact earnings in 2025.

Danske Bank has a high cost/income (C/I) ratio relative to its peers. Analysts expect Danske's C/I ratio to be the highest of its peers FY 2025E (see peer group below). Lowering the C/I ratio to competitive levels may be challenging as Danske Bank's efforts to improve compliance may have created stickiness in its cost base.

Structural risks exist within banking, highlighted by bank closures in the US and Europe in 2023. Risks relating to poor asset-liability management, liquidity, solvency, and others can potentially arise to a greater or lesser extent at most banks and are not specific to Danske Bank.

Peer group

Table: Nordic Large-Cap Banks

Company	MCAP (EURm)	Share price	YTD Performance	1-year Performance	P/B				P/E				ROE		Cost / Income		
					2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E	2023A	2024E	2023A	2024E	
Danske Bank A/S (OB:DANSKE)	25.696	DKK 230.2	13.0%	18.4%	0.97	1.04	1.01	0.96	7.3	8.8	8.6	8.3	13.4	12.0	11.1	45.6	47.3
DNB Bank ASA (OB:DNB)	30.480	NOK 238.8	5.7%	17.1%	1.29	1.29	1.26	1.18	7.7	9.1	9.5	9.1	17.5	14.6	14.4	35.2	37.3
Nordea Bank Abp (HLSE:NDA FI)	41.258	EUR 11.85	12.9%	10.3%	1.16	1.24	1.19	1.13	7.3	8.6	8.2	7.6	16.7	14.5	16.0	44.1	46.2
Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB (publ) (OM:SEB A)	29.786	SEK 165.5	9.3%	11.2%	1.32	1.45	1.38	1.30	8.7	10.7	10.2	9.7	16.2	13.6	14.6	38.0	43.8
Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) (OM:SHB A)	23.093	SEK 130.05	13.9%	6.9%	1.08	1.26	1.26	1.24	8.2	11.0	11.2	10.6	14.6	11.1	11.8	40.4	43.7
Swedbank AB (publ) (OM:SWED A)	25.382	SEK 253.3	16.0%	18.4%	1.12	1.31	1.28	1.24	7.1	10.0	10.1	10.5	17.1	13.4	15.4	34.0	40.3
Simple Average			11.8%	13.7%	1.16	1.27	1.23	1.18	7.7	9.7	9.7	9.3	15.9	13.2	13.9	39.6	43.1
Median			12.9%	14.2%	1.14	1.28	1.26	1.21	7.5	9.6	9.8	9.4	16.5	13.5	14.5	39.2	43.8

Disclaimer: HC Andersen Capital receives payment from Danske Bank for a Digital IR/Corporate Visibility subscription agreement.

Source: S&P Capital IQ, data pr. 16/02/2025

Peer Group Selection: Danske Bank's peer group consists of other large-cap Nordic banks with cross-border activities, reflecting a similar business model and market structure to Danske Bank.

Nordea: is a Nordic financial services group with headquarters in Helsinki, Finland. It is the largest financial services group in the Nordics, with employees in around 20 countries. Nordea offers a wide range of financial products and services, including retail banking, corporate banking asset management, and life insurance.

DNB Bank: is a Norwegian financial services group with headquarters in Oslo, Norway. It is the largest financial services group in Norway and has a strong presence in the Nordic region. DNB Bank provides a wide range of financial products and services, including retail banking, corporate banking asset management, and life insurance.

Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken (SEB): is a Swedish financial services group with headquarters in Stockholm, Sweden. It is one of the largest banks in the Nordic region, also operating in Germany and the Baltics. SEB provides a wide range of financial products and services, including retail banking, corporate banking asset management, and life insurance.

Svenska Handelsbanken: is a Swedish financial services group headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden. It is one of the largest banks in the Nordic region, also operating in the UK. It provides a wide range of financial products and services, including retail banking, corporate banking asset management, and life insurance.

Swedbank: is a Swedish financial services group headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden. It is one of the largest banks in the Nordics, also operating in the Baltics. Swedbank's business segments include Retail Banking, Corporate Banking, and Asset Management & Insurance.

Estimates and assumptions: Some of the data in the peer group has not been calculated by HC Andersen Capital but is instead consensus analyst estimates from S&P Capital IQ. HC Andersen Capital assumes no responsibility for the correctness of the numbers in the peer group; however, considers S&P Capital IQ a credible source of information.