

CIO Office
Viewpoint

US's 'March'
bank crisis
is likely to
linger longer

Investment Solutions

15 May 2023

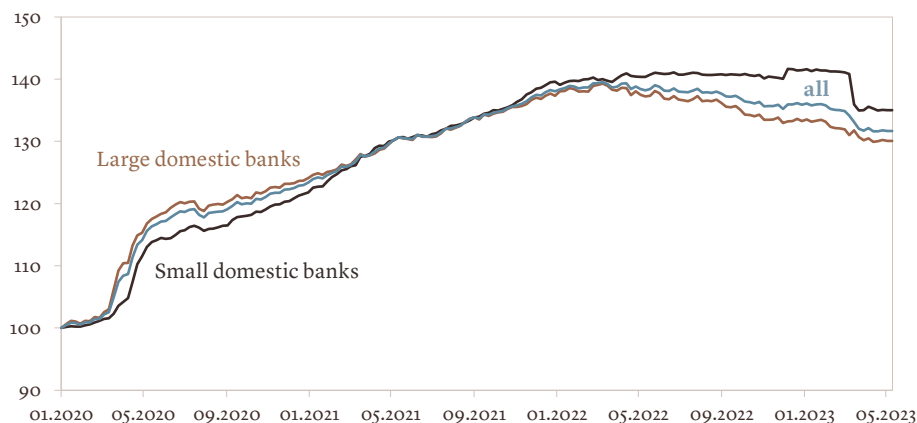
March's banking crisis is not over yet. Investors are closely watching US bank stocks as worries about the deposit outflows of regional lenders drag on. Higher interest rates and tightening credit conditions are curtailing smaller lenders' ability to reinforce their balance sheets, and all US banks face the possibility of higher regulatory costs. Still, the crisis looks limited, and the European banking sector is much healthier.

Amid these concerns, US banks posted solid earnings for the first three months of 2023. That is largely thanks to rising interest rates, leading to a 33% gain in net interest income and a 15% improvement in revenues. However, earnings per share estimates were slightly trimmed as investors took into consideration lower net interest income guidance. Many banks report that they plan to halt, or at least slow share buy-backs in the face of current economic uncertainties and rising regulatory costs.

Overshadowing the quarter's earnings however were worries about balance sheets. After the failures of Silicon Valley Bank, Silvergate Bank and Signature Bank in March, the Federal Reserve's efforts to contain investor fears looked to be working. The US central bank introduced a lending facility to give banks access to liquidity to meet customer demands for cash. Then JPMorgan stepped in to buy First Republic Bank's assets on 1 May, and last week, following reports that it was exploring its options and holding talks with potential investors, Pacific Western Bank reported withdrawals of 9.5% of its deposits.

1. Deposit levels stabilising after a difficult March

US commercial banks' outstanding deposits, normalised to Jan. 2020 = 100



Sources: Bloomberg, Lombard Odier.

Key takeaways

- US banks posted solid first-quarter earnings, but concerns over smaller lenders' balance sheets persist
- Fed steps to stem contagion to the financial sector have helped; further actions may include higher deposit guarantees. However, tighter regulation is likely, and it will weigh on US banks' profitability
- Tougher lending conditions are slowing economic activity. We believe that this increases the likelihood of a mild US recession
- While risks of contagion appear limited to smaller lenders, we remain cautious on the US banking sector, and prefer European bank stocks.

Important information: Please read the important information at the end of the document.

Weekly publication of Lombard Odier - Contacts: Investment Solutions, investment-solutions@lombardodier.com

Data as of 15 May 2023 unless otherwise stated.

Lombard Odier · CIO Office Viewpoint · 15 May 2023

What could stop this negative feedback loop? The [Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation \(FDIC\) is studying options](#) to lift the existing USD 250,000 guarantee on deposits to boost customers' faith in the banking system. Banks with high levels of deposits over this existing threshold, including PacWest, have to date borne the brunt of outflows, that customers then mostly placed with larger institutions (see chart 1). The FDIC's preferred option looks to be an increase in the guarantee for specific segments, notably for business payments accounts. Federal insurance already covers a record USD 10.4 trillion in customer savings and any changes to the insurance ceiling, including removing the limit entirely, would require Congressional approval. That carries political risk at a time when [the nation's debt ceiling is in question](#).

Banking profitability in the US will also be challenged by tighter regulatory demands. Stricter requirements will especially impact lenders with assets of less than USD 250 billion. These banks benefit from looser regulation: they are for instance not subject to the US's Total Loss Absorbing Capacity (TLAC) requirements, dating from 2015, and designed make sure that systemically important banks have adequate equity to absorb or 'bail in' losses, rather than depend on a government 'bail out.' Large US banks, and most European lenders of every size, are already subject to 'bailable debt' requirements. This is likely to change and tighter regulation on a number of fronts has the potential to reduce profitability and lead banks to build capital, which will also slow loan growth. If phased in over several years, it should prove manageable.

While it is too early to say whether we have seen the last US bank failure, nor do we see any signs of contagion set to sweep the US banking sector and create widespread economic damage.

Tighter monetary policy, tightening credit

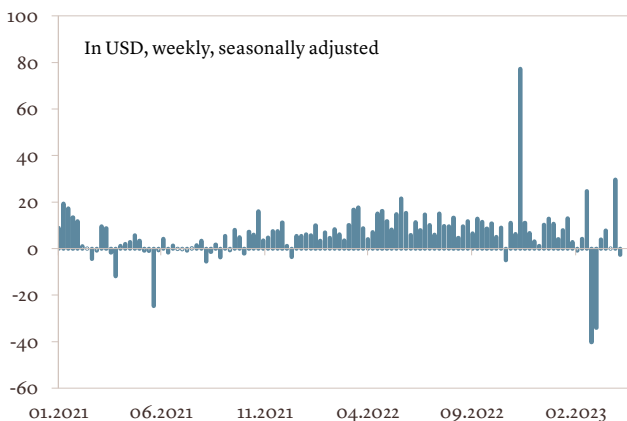
From a macroeconomic perspective, more restrictive credit may be one of the roads that increases the likelihood of a mild US recession before the end of 2023. Lending conditions are now consistent with historic downturns. Weaknesses are visible in the most interest-rate sensitive economic sectors, such as manufacturing, housing, and private investment, as well as commercial real estate. That said, the Fed has taken note of the banking system's stresses, and adjusted its policy. The risk of further aggressive monetary policy tightening has decreased significantly after it signalled a pause on 3 May, following a 25 basis point increase in the policy rate to 5.25%. We expect this to represent [the peak of this hiking cycle](#).

The lenders most vulnerable to pressure on deposits are those small and regional banks with less than USD 250 bn in assets. They are also key to financing the US real estate market. Since the Great Financial Crisis, small banks have increased their share of the commercial real estate market from 55% to 70% of all loans and leases.

The Fed's latest weekly data suggest that while loans by small banks are not growing rapidly, they have not collapsed (see chart 2). Similarly, while loan and small business

2. Small bank loans have not collapsed

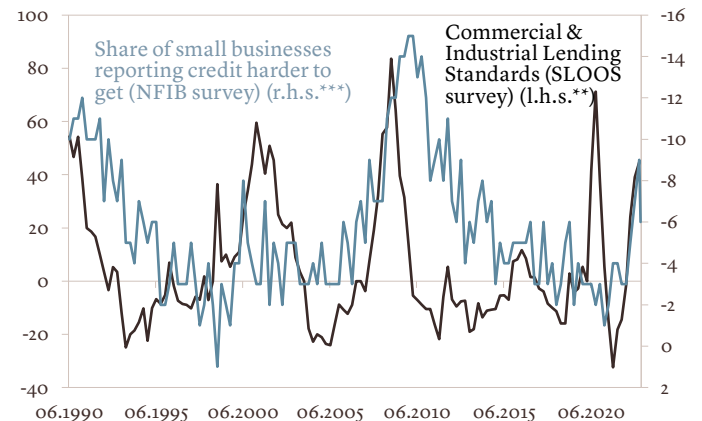
Loans and leases in bank credit, small domestically chartered commercial banks



Source : Federal Reserve, Lombard Odier

3. Tighter credit conditions, but not dramatically

SLOOS vs NFIB*



* Senior Loan Officer Opinion Survey, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) small business survey
 ** left hand scale, *** right hand scale
 Sources: SLOOS and NFIB

surveys point to tighter credit ahead, we see little evidence of serious risk of a systemic crisis (see chart 3).

Still, unlike many economic cycles of the past, the current strength in the US is not driven by credit. Despite stresses in the banking system, loans continue to be made, and so the impact of tighter monetary policy on the wider economy may remain modest. We continue to expect the US to experience a mild recession later in 2023, making it likely that the Fed will pause its rate hikes for the rest of this year at least.

The ramifications of March 2023's banking crisis will be felt for months to come. The US banking sector faces numerous headwinds, and while the country's regional lenders will be most affected, large American banks should emerge relatively unscathed. Even without the events of March, at this point in the interest rate cycle deposit pricing typically increases, while deposit growth slows or even turns negative. While that should be manageable, we remain cautious on US banks' equities, which, in the medium term, face profitability pressures from more expensive deposits, and higher charges for deposit insurance after the recent bank failures, and a likely increase in regulation.

Within global financials, we prefer European and Japanese banks. Europe's banking sector looks healthier. The continent's interest rate cycle lags the US, and large and small European banks are already subject to quite stringent capital requirements, have more liquid balance sheets, and are returning capital to shareholders. So do Japanese lenders, which are increasing their stock repurchase plans. Elsewhere, while the asset management industry continues to deal with structural challenges of declining fees, we see secular tailwinds for exchange platforms and opportunities in payment companies.

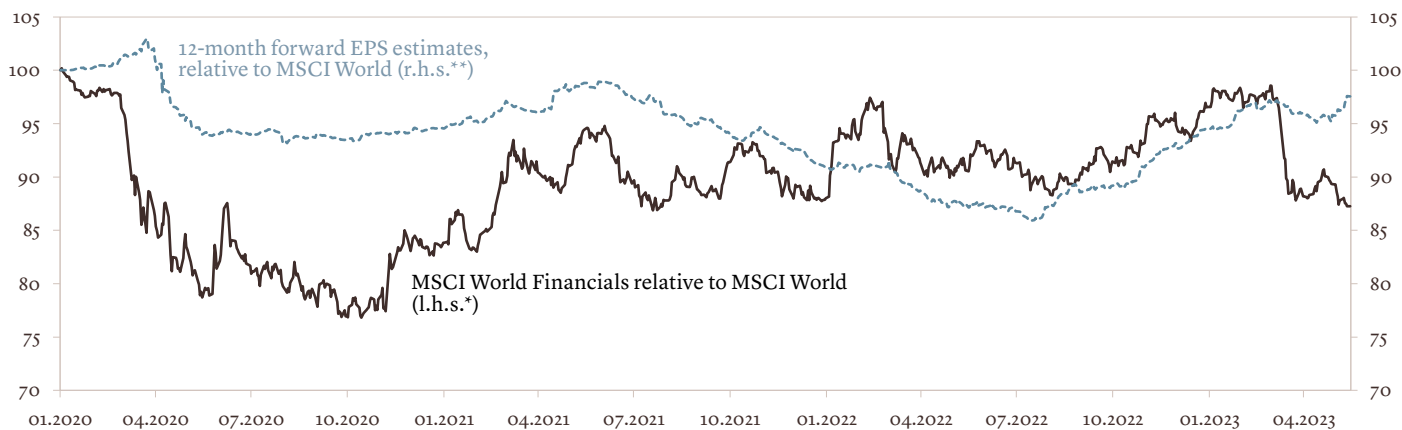


Claudia von Türk
Senior Equity Research Analyst,
banking sector



Bill Papadakis
Senior Macro Strategist

4. Recent financials' performance at odds with earnings



* left hand scale, ** right hand scale
Source: Bloomberg, Lombard Odier

Important information

This is a marketing communication issued by Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd (hereinafter "Lombard Odier"). It is not intended for distribution, publication, or use in any jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, or use would be unlawful, nor is it aimed at any person or entity to whom it would be unlawful to address such a marketing communication. This marketing communication is provided for information purposes only. The contents of this marketing communication have not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in any jurisdiction. It does not constitute an offer or a recommendation to subscribe, purchase, sell or hold any security or financial instrument. It contains the opinions of Lombard Odier, as at the date of issue. **These opinions and the information contained herein do not take into account an individual's specific circumstances, objectives, or needs. No representation is made that any investment or strategy is suitable or appropriate to individual circumstances or that any investment or strategy constitutes personalised investment advice to any investor.** Each investor must make his/her own independent decisions regarding any securities or financial instruments mentioned herein. Tax treatment depends on the individual circumstances of each person and may be subject to change in the future. Lombard Odier does not provide tax advice. Therefore, you must verify the above and all other information provided in the marketing communication or otherwise review it with your external tax advisors. Some investment products and services, including custody, may be subject to legal restrictions or may not be available worldwide on an unrestricted basis. The information and analysis contained herein are based on sources considered reliable. Lombard Odier uses its best effort to ensure the timeliness, accuracy, and comprehensiveness of the information contained in this marketing communication. Nevertheless, all information and opinions as well as the prices, market valuations and calculations indicated herein may change without notice.

Investments are subject to a variety of risks. Before entering into any transaction, an investor should consult his/her investment advisor and, where necessary, obtain independent professional advice in respect of risks, as well as any legal, regulatory, credit, tax, and accounting consequences. The investments mentioned in this marketing communication may carry risks that are difficult to quantify and integrate into an investment assessment. In general, products such as equities, bonds, securities lending, forex, or money market instruments bear risks, which are higher in the case of derivative, structured, and private equity products; these are aimed solely at investors who are able to understand their nature and characteristics and to bear their associated risks. On request, Lombard Odier will be pleased to provide investors with more detailed information concerning risks associated with given instruments. **Past performance is no guarantee of current or future returns, and the investor may receive back less than he/she invested.** The value of any investment in a currency other than the base currency of a portfolio is subject to the foreign exchange rates. Exchange rates may fluctuate and adversely affect the value of the investment when it is realised and converted back into the investor's base currency. The liquidity of an investment is subject to supply and demand. Some products may not have a well-established secondary market or in extreme market conditions may be difficult to value, resulting in price volatility and making it difficult to obtain a price to dispose of the asset. **This marketing communication is not issued by the organisational unit of the Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd responsible for the production of financial research**, as defined under the Swiss Bankers Association Directives on the Independence of Financial Research. Consequently, it is not prepared in accordance with the provisions of the referred Directives or any other legal requirements designed to promote the independence of the production of financial research. Opinions expressed in this marketing communication may differ from the opinions expressed by other divisions of Lombard Odier, including Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd's Research Department. Nevertheless, if opinions from financial analysts belonging to the Research Department are contained herein, such analysts attest that all of the opinions expressed accurately reflect their personal views about any given instruments. In order to ensure their independence, financial analysts are expressly prohibited from owning any securities that belong to the research universe they cover. Lombard Odier may hold positions in securities as referred to in this marketing communication for and on behalf of its clients and/or such securities may be included in the portfolios of investment funds as managed by Lombard Odier or affiliated Group companies. Lombard Odier recognises that conflicts of interest may exist as a consequence of the distribution of financial instruments or products issued and/or managed by entities belonging to the Lombard Odier Group. Lombard Odier has a Conflict of Interests policy to identify and manage such conflicts of interest.

European Union Members: This marketing communication has been approved for use by Lombard Odier (Europe) S.A. in Luxembourg and by each of its branches operating in the following territories: **Belgium:** Lombard Odier (Europe) S.A. Luxembourg · Belgium branch; **France:** Lombard Odier (Europe) S.A. · Succursale en France; **Italy:** Lombard Odier (Europe) S.A. · Italian Branch; **Spain:** Lombard Odier (Europe) S.A. · Sucursal en España. Lombard Odier (Europe) S.A. is a credit institution authorised and regulated by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF) in Luxembourg. In addition, this marketing communication has also been approved for use by the following entity domiciled within the European Union: **Spain:** Lombard Odier Gestión (España) S.G.I.I.C., S.A.U., an investment management company authorised and regulated by the Comisión Nacional del Mercado de Valores (CNMV), Spain.

Hong Kong: This marketing communication is distributed in Hong Kong by Lombard Odier (Hong Kong) Limited, a licensed corporation registered by the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong (“SFC”) to carry on Type 1, Type 4 and Type 9 regulated activities under the Securities and Futures Ordinance (“SFO”) in Hong Kong.

Singapore: This marketing communication is distributed in Singapore by Lombard Odier (Singapore) Ltd for the general information of accredited investors and other persons in accordance with the conditions specified in Sections 275 and 305 of the Securities and Futures Act (Chapter 289). Recipients in Singapore should contact Lombard Odier (Singapore) Ltd, an exempt financial adviser under the Financial Advisers Act (Chapter 110) and a merchant bank regulated and supervised by the Monetary Authority of Singapore, in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with this marketing communication. The recipients of this marketing communication represent and warrant that they are accredited investors and other persons as defined in the Securities and Futures Act (Chapter 289). **This advertisement has not been reviewed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore.**

Panama: This marketing communication has been approved for use in Panama by Lombard Odier (Panama) Inc., an entity authorised and regulated by the Superintendencia del Mercado de Valores de Panamá. Licensed to operate as an Investment Adviser. Res. SMV No.528-2013.

Israel: This marketing communication has been approved for use in Israel by the Israel Representative Office of Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd, an entity not supervised by the Bank of Israel, but by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority, which supervises the activities of Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd.

South Africa: This marketing communication has been approved for use in South Africa by the South Africa Representative Office of Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd, an authorised financial services provider Registration number 48505.

Switzerland: This marketing communication has been approved for use in Switzerland by Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd Geneva, a bank and securities firm authorised and regulated by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA).

United Kingdom: This marketing communication has been approved for use in the United Kingdom by Lombard Odier (Europe) S.A. – UK Branch, a bank authorised and regulated by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (“CSSF”) in Luxembourg and authorised in the UK by the Prudential Regulation Authority (“PRA”). Subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority (“FCA”) and limited regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority. Financial Services Firm Reference Number 597896. **Details about the extent of our authorisation and regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority are available from us on request.**

United States: Neither this document nor any copy thereof may be sent to, taken into, or distributed in the United States of America, any of its territories or possessions or areas subject to its jurisdiction, or to or for the benefit of a United States Person. For this purpose, the term “United States Person” shall mean any citizen, national or resident of the United States of America, partnership organised or existing in any state, territory or possession of the United States of America, a corporation organised under the laws of the United States or of any state, territory or possession thereof, or any estate or trust that is subject to United States Federal income tax regardless of the source of its income.

This marketing communication may not be reproduced (in whole or in part), transmitted, modified, or used for any public or commercial purpose without the prior written permission of Lombard Odier.

Data protection: You may be receiving this communication because you have provided us with your contact details. If this is the case, note that we may process your personal data for direct marketing purposes. If you wish to object to this processing, please address your objection to the Group’s Data Protection Officer: Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd, Group Data Protection Officer, 11, Rue de la Corraterie, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland. E-Mail: group-dataprotection@lombardodier.com. For more information on Lombard Odier’s data protection policy, please refer to www.lombardodier.com/privacy-policy.

© 2023 Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd – all rights reserved. Ref. *LOCH/LOESA/LOASIA-MWNP-en-032022*.

SWITZERLAND

GENEVA

Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd¹

Rue de la Corraterie 11 · 1204 Genève · Suisse
geneva@lombardodier.com

Lombard Odier Asset Management (Switzerland) SA

Avenue des Morgines 6 · 1213 Petit-Lancy · Suisse
Support-Client-LOIM@lombardodier.com
Management Company regulated by the FINMA.

FRIBOURG

Banque Lombard Odier & Cie SA · Bureau de Fribourg¹

Rue de la Banque 3 · 1700 Fribourg · Suisse
fribourg@lombardodier.com

LAUSANNE

Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd¹

Place St-François 11 · 1003 Lausanne · Suisse
lausanne@lombardodier.com

VEVEY

Banque Lombard Odier & Cie SA · Agence de Vevey¹

Rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau 5 · 1800 Vevey · Suisse
vevey@lombardodier.com

ZURICH

Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd¹

Utoschloss · Utoquai 29-31 · 8008 Zürich · Schweiz
zurich@lombardodier.com

EUROPE

BRUSSELS

Lombard Odier (Europe) S.A. Luxembourg · Belgium branch²

Avenue Louise 81 · Box 12 · 1050 Brussels · Belgium
brussels@lombardodier.com

Credit institution supervised in Belgium by the National Bank of Belgium (NBB) and the Financial Services and Markets Authority (FSMA).

LONDON

Lombard Odier (Europe) S.A. · UK Branch²

Queensberry House · 3 Old Burlington Street · London
W1S 3AB · United Kingdom
london@lombardodier.com

The Bank is authorised in the UK by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA). Subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and limited regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority. Financial Services Firm Reference Number 597896. Details about the extent of our authorisation and regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority are available from us on request.

Lombard Odier Asset Management (Europe) Limited

Queensberry House · 3 Old Burlington Street · London
W1S 3AB · United Kingdom
london@lombardodier.com

Investment firm authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA register No.515393).

LUXEMBOURG

Lombard Odier (Europe) S.A.

291, route d'Arlon · 1150 · Luxembourg · Luxembourg
luxembourg@lombardodier.com

Credit institution authorised and regulated by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF) in Luxembourg.

Lombard Odier Funds (Europe) S.A.

291, route d'Arlon · 1150 · Luxembourg · Luxembourg
luxembourg@lombardodier.com

MADRID

Lombard Odier (Europe) S.A. · Sucursal en España²

Paseo de la Castellana 66 · 4ª Pl. · 28046 Madrid · España · madrid@lombardodier.com
Credit institution supervised in Spain, by the Banco de España and the Comisión Nacional del Mercado de Valores (CNMV).

Lombard Odier Gestión (España) S.G.I.I.C, S.A.U.

Paseo de la Castellana 66 · 4ª Pl. · 28046 Madrid · España · madrid@lombardodier.com
Management Company supervised by the Comisión Nacional del Mercado de Valores (CNMV).

MILAN

Lombard Odier (Europe) S.A. · Succursale in Italia²

Via Santa Margherita 6 · 20121 Milano · Italia
milano-cp@lombardodier.com
Credit institution supervised in Italy by the Commissione Nazionale per le Società e la Borsa (CONSOB) and la Banca d'Italia.

PARIS

Lombard Odier (Europe) S.A. · Succursale en France²

8, rue Royale · 75008 Paris · France. RCS PARIS
B 803 905 157 · paris@lombardodier.com
Credit institution supervised in France by the Autorité de contrôle prudentiel et de résolution (ACPR) and by the Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF) in respect of its investment services activities. Business permit No.23/12. Registered in Luxembourg · No.B169 907. Insurance intermediary authorised by the Commissariat aux Assurances (CAA) No.2014 CM002. The registration with the CAA can be verified at www.orias.fr.

AFRICA | AMERICAS | MIDDLE EAST

ABU-DHABI

Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd · Abu Dhabi Global Market Branch

Al Maryah Island · Abu Dhabi Global Market Square · Al Khatem Tower · 8th floor · P.O. Box 764646 · Abu Dhabi · UAE · abudhabi@lombardodier.com
Arranging Deals in Investments · Advising on Investment or Credit · Arranging Credit. Regulated by the ADGM Financial Services Regulatory Authority.

BERMUDA

Lombard Odier Trust (Bermuda) Limited

3rd Floor, Victoria Place · 31 Victoria Street · Hamilton
HM 10 · Bermuda · bermuda@lombardodier.com
Licensed to conduct Trust, Investment and Corporate Service Provider Business by the Bermuda Monetary Authority.

BRASIL

Lombard Odier (Brasil) Consultoria de Valores Mobiliários Ltda.

Avenida 9 de Julho No. 3624, Torre DGN 360, 6º andar · Jardim Paulista · CEP 01406-000 · São Paulo · Brasil
sao.paulo.office@lombardodier.com
Supervised by the Comissão de Valores Mobiliários of Brazil.

DUBAI

Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd · Representative Office Dubai

Conrad Business Tower · 12th Floor · Sheikh Zayed Road · P.O. Box 212240 · Dubai · UAE
dubai@lombardodier.com
Under the supervisory authority of the Central Bank of the UAE.

ISRAEL

Israel Representative Office ·

Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd
Alrov Tower 11th floor · 46 Rothschild Blvd. · Tel Aviv
6688312 · Israel · telaviv@lombardodier.com
Not supervised by the Bank of Israel, but by Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority which supervises the activities of Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd.

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa Representative Office ·

Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd
4 Sandown Valley Crescent · Sandton · Johannesburg
2196 · South Africa · johannesburg@lombardodier.com
Authorised financial services provider Registration number 48505.

NASSAU

Lombard Odier & Cie (Bahamas) Limited

Lyford Cay House · Western Road · P.O. Box N-4938 · Nassau · Bahamas · nassau@lombardodier.com
Supervised by the Central Bank of the Bahamas and the Securities Commission of the Bahamas.

PANAMA

Lombard Odier & Cie (Bahamas) Limited · Representative Office in Panama

Oceania Business Plaza Torre 2000 · Oficina 38-D · Blvd. Pacifica · Urb. Punta Pacifica · Corregimiento de San Francisco · Panamá · panama@lombardodier.com
Supervised by the Central Bank of the Bahamas and the Superintendencia de Bancos de Panamá.

Lombard Odier (Panama) Inc.

Oceania Business Plaza Torre 2000 · Oficina 38-D · Blvd. Pacifica · Urb. Punta Pacifica · Corregimiento de San Francisco · Panamá · panama@lombardodier.com
Supervised by the Superintendencia del Mercado de valores de Panamá. Licensed to operate as an Investment Adviser. Res. SMV No.528-2013.

ASIA - PACIFIC

HONG KONG

Lombard Odier (Hong Kong) Limited

1601 Three Exchange Square · 8 Connaught Place · Central · Hong Kong · hongkong@lombardodier.com
A licensed entity regulated and supervised by the Securities and Futures Commission in Hong Kong.

SINGAPORE

Lombard Odier (Singapore) Ltd.

9 Raffles Place · Republic Plaza #46-02 · Singapore
048619 · singapore@lombardodier.com
A merchant bank regulated and supervised by the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

TOKYO

Lombard Odier Trust (Japan) Limited

Izumi Garden Tower 41F · 1-6-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku · Tokyo 106-6041 · Japan · tokyo@lombardodier.com
Regulated and supervised by the Financial Services Agency (FSA) in Japan. It holds a trust business license (FSA No.208) and is registered with Kanto Local Finance Bureau for Financial Instruments Business Operator (No.470).

¹ Private bank and securities firm authorised and regulated by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA).

² Branch of Lombard Odier (Europe) S.A., a credit institution based in Luxembourg, authorised and regulated by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF) in Luxembourg.