

## State Government

### Indicator 3: Adequacy of Safeguards for Public Funds

#### Measure a: History of Washington State Bond Ratings

#### Description:

In investment, the bond credit rating assesses the credit worthiness of a corporation's debt issues. It is analogous to credit ratings for individuals and countries. The credit rating is a financial indicator to potential investors of debt securities such as bonds. These are assigned by credit rating agencies such as Standard & Poor's and have letter designations such as AAA, B, CC. In the United States, there are seven rating agencies that have received the Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization (NRSRO) designation, and are overseen by the SEC in their assignment of credit ratings: Standard & Poor's (S&P), Moody's, Fitch, A. M. Best, Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd., Ratings and Investment Information, Inc. and Dominion Bond Rating Service. S&P, Moody's, and Fitch are far larger than Japan CRA, R&I, A.M. Best and Dominion, and dominate the market with approximately 90-95 percent of world market share.

Washington State Bond Rating History				
	Date	Action	Rating	Outlook
<b>Fitch</b>	Jul-90	Initial Rating	AA	n/a
	Nov-97	Rating Upgrade	AA+	n/a
	Nov-02	Rating Downgrade	AA	n/a
	Jul-06	Outlook Added	AA	Stable
	Dec-07	Outlook Change	AA	Positive
	Jul-08	Outlook Change	AA	Stable
	Apr-10	Rating Upgrade	AA+	Stable
<b>Moody's</b>	Jan-81	Initial Rating	Aa to A1	n/a
	Jan-82	Rating Downgrade	A1 to A	n/a
	Jul-86	Rating Upgrade	A to A1	n/a
	Jan-90	Rating Upgrade	A1 to Aa	n/a
	Jan-97	Rating Upgrade	Aa to Aa2	n/a
	Jun-97	Rating Upgrade	Aa2 to Aa1	n/a
	Dec-01	Outlook Change	Aa1	Negative
	Jan-06	Outlook Change	Aa1	Stable
	Dec-09	Outlook Change	Aa2	Negative
	May-10	Outlook Change	Aa3	Stable
<b>Standard &amp; Poor's</b>	Nov-69	Initial Rating	A	n/a
	Mar-70	Rating Upgrade	AA	n/a
	Nov-75	Rating Upgrade	AA+	n/a
	Oct-81	Rating Downgrade	AA	n/a
	Jan-82	Rating Downgrade	AA-	n/a
	Jul-86	Rating Upgrade	AA	n/a
	Aug-91	Outlook Assigned	AA	Positive
	Mar-93	Outlook Change	AA	Stable
	Jun-96	Outlook Change	AA	Positive
	Jul-97	Rating Upgrade	AA+	Stable
	Mar-02	On CreditWatch	AA+	WatchNeg
	Jul-02	Off CreditWatch	AA+	Negative
	Jan-04	Rating Downgrade	AA	Stable
	Nov-07	Rating Upgrade	AA+	Stable
	May-10	Rating Affirmed	AA+	Stable

#### Sources:

[State Treasurer's Office](#)