

December 05, 2022

ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Limited: [ICRA]AAAmfs withdrawn and [ICRA]A1+mfs assigned to ICICI Prudential Liquid Fund and ICICI Prudential Money Market Fund

Summary of rating action

Instrument*	Previous Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Current Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Rating Action
ICICI Prudential Short Term Fund	-	-	[ICRA]AAAmfs; outstanding
ICICI Prudential Banking and PSU Debt Fund	-	-	[ICRA]AAAmfs; outstanding
ICICI Prudential Corporate Bond Fund	-	-	[ICRA]AAAmfs; outstanding
ICICI Prudential Savings Fund	-	-	[ICRA]AAAmfs; outstanding
ICICI Prudential Money Market Fund	-	-	[ICRA]AAAmfs withdrawn; [ICRA]A1+mfs assigned simultaneously
ICICI Prudential Liquid Fund	-	-	[ICRA]AAAmfs withdrawn; [ICRA]A1+mfs assigned simultaneously
ICICI Prudential Overnight Fund	-	-	[ICRA]A1+mfs; outstanding
Total	-	-	

*Instrument details are provided in Annexure I

Rationale and key rating drivers

For rating action taken on ICICI Prudential Liquid Fund and ICICI Prudential Money Market Fund

ICRA has withdrawn its rating of [ICRA]AAAmfs for ICICI Prudential Liquid Fund and ICICI Prudential Money Market Fund and has simultaneously assigned a fresh rating of [ICRA]A1+mfs for these schemes. The rating action follows a recent methodology review undertaken by ICRA for assigning ratings to mutual fund schemes. Among other things, the methodology review involved a revision of the benchmarks used to arrive at the ratings of mutual fund schemes as well as a reassessment of the rating scale to be applied while rating the various categories of mutual fund schemes.

Mutual fund ratings incorporate ICRA's assessment of the creditworthiness of a debt mutual fund scheme's investment portfolio. These ratings are a symbolic representation of the credit risk in the underlying investments or the degree of safety regarding the timely receipt of payments from the investments made by the mutual fund schemes. The ratings do not indicate the asset management company's (AMC) and/or any of its scheme's willingness and/or ability to make timely redemptions to its investors. The ratings do not address market risks and hence should not be construed as an indication of the expected returns, prospective performance of the mutual fund scheme, and the ability to redeem investments at the reported net asset value (NAV) or volatility in its past returns, as all these are influenced by market risks.

ICRA's assessment of debt mutual fund schemes is guided by the credit ratings of the individual investments and the relative share of the schemes' allocation towards the investments, besides the maturity schedule of such investments. ICRA's mutual fund ratings are not a reflection on the quality of the management of the AMC or its financial performance, reputation and other business practices including investment strategies, pricing, marketing and distribution activities. Furthermore, the ratings are not a reflection of whether the AMC or the fund is compliant with the applicable regulatory requirements.

The credit matrix is a tool used by ICRA for analysing the investment portfolio of the debt mutual fund schemes by assessing the portfolio's aggregate credit quality while reviewing the credit quality of each underlying debt security. The portfolio's weighted average credit quality is compared with a benchmark credit score corresponding to the higher of the weighted average maturity of the scheme's portfolio or the maturity predefined by ICRA for the scheme category. The rating outcome corresponds to the rating level for which the portfolio's weighted average credit score is less than the benchmark credit score associated with the rating level. Further, the lowest rating of the investments of the scheme acts as the floor for its rating.

Once a mutual fund scheme is rated and the rating is accepted, ICRA reviews the underlying investment portfolios for the credit scores on an ongoing basis. To this end, ICRA relies on the information provided by the AMC and/or publicly available sources. ICRA reviews the mutual fund ratings on a monthly basis or earlier, if required, which involves an evaluation of the rating corresponding to the portfolio credit score in relation to the existing rating outstanding. If the portfolio credit score meets the benchmark score for the existing rating, the rating is retained. If the portfolio credit score has a negative breach from the benchmark credit score for the existing rating, ICRA communicates the same to the fund manager/product manager or other officials of the concerned AMC and may provide a month's time to bring the portfolio credit score within the benchmark credit score for maintaining the existing rating level. If the investment composition of the fund is realigned to bring the portfolio credit score within the benchmark credit score, the rating is retained. However, if the portfolio continues to breach the benchmark credit score for the existing rating level, the rating is revised to reflect the change in the portfolio's credit quality.

In case of sharp breaches of the benchmark credit score (for instance due to a multi-notch downgrade in the underlying investment) and/or if ICRA believes that the breach may not get rectified within a month of the ongoing review, the rating is generally corrected immediately without giving a month's time for rebalancing the portfolio. If the AMC corrects its portfolio, post the rating downgrade of the scheme, or the credit score improves in any manner subsequent to the downgrade, making the scheme eligible for an upgrade, ICRA may consider a rating upgrade only if the credit score is maintained consistently for a period of at least three months.

Liquidity position: Not applicable

Rating sensitivities

Positive factors – Not applicable

Negative factors

For ICICI Prudential Overnight Fund – ICRA could downgrade the rating of the scheme if the credit quality of the underlying investment deteriorates, leading to a breach in the threshold for the rating level.

For other schemes – ICRA could downgrade the ratings of the schemes if the credit quality of the underlying investment deteriorates or the size of the AUM declines, which may result in an increase in the share of lower rated investments, leading to a breach in the threshold for the rating level.

Analytical approach

Analytical Approach	Comments
Applicable rating methodologies	Methodology for Rating Mutual Fund Schemes
Parent/Group support	Not Applicable
Consolidation/Standalone	Not Applicable

About the company

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund (ICICI Prudential MF) was established as a trust under the Indian Trust Act, 1882 by ICICI Bank and Prudential Plc, with ICICI Prudential Trust Limited as the Trustee Company and ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Limited as the investment manager. ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Limited is a joint venture between ICICI Bank (51% holding; one of the largest private sector banks in India) and Prudential Plc (49% holding), one of the United Kingdom's largest players in the financial services sector.

ICICI Prudential MF had average AUM (including overseas Fund of Funds but excluding domestic Fund of funds) of Rs. 4,76,191¹ crore as on September 30, 2022 (compared to Rs. 4,68,197 crore as on March 31, 2022).

ICICI Prudential Short Term Fund

Launched on October 25, 2001, ICICI Prudential Short Term Fund is an open-ended short-term debt scheme investing in instruments such that the Macaulay duration of the portfolio is between 1 year and 3 years. The fund's AUM stood at Rs. 14,606 crore as on October 31, 2022 with an average maturity of 5.42 years.

ICICI Prudential Banking and PSU Debt Fund

Launched on January 01, 2010, ICICI Prudential Banking and PSU Debt Fund is an open-ended debt scheme predominantly investing in the debt instruments of banks, public sector undertakings, public financial institutions and municipal bonds. The fund's AUM stood at Rs. 7,553 crore as of October 31, 2022 with an average maturity of 7.18 years on that date.

ICICI Prudential Corporate Bond Fund

Launched on June 12, 2009, ICICI Prudential Corporate Bond Fund is an open-ended debt scheme predominantly investing in corporate bonds rated AA+ and above. The fund's AUM stood at Rs. 14,985 crore as of October 31, 2022 with an average maturity of 4.62 years on that date.

ICICI Prudential Savings Fund

Launched on September 27, 2002, ICICI Prudential Savings Fund is an open-ended low duration debt scheme investing in instruments such that the Macaulay duration of the portfolio is between 6 months and 12 months. The fund's AUM stood at Rs. 21,055 crore as of October 31, 2022 with an average maturity of 5.63 years.

ICICI Prudential Money Market Fund

Launched on March 6, 2002, ICICI Prudential Money Market Fund is an open-ended debt scheme investing in money market instruments. The fund's AUM stood at Rs. 11,013 crore as of October 31, 2022 with an average maturity of 0.28 years on that date.

ICICI Prudential Liquid Fund

Launched on June 24, 1998, ICICI Prudential Liquid Fund is an open-ended liquid scheme. The fund's AUM stood at Rs. 38,270 crore as of October 31, 2022 with an average maturity of 0.08 years on that date.

ICICI Prudential Overnight Fund

Launched on November 15, 2018, ICICI Prudential Overnight Fund is an open-ended debt scheme investing in overnight securities. The fund's AUM stood at Rs. 17,725 crore as of October 31, 2022.

¹ <https://www.amfiindia.com/research-information/aum-data/average-aum>

Key financial indicators (audited): Not applicable

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA: Not applicable

Any other information: None

Rating history for past three years

S. No.	Name of Scheme	Current Rating (FY2023)					Chronology of Rating History for the Past 3 Years							
		Type	Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Amount Outstanding (Rs. crore)	Date & Rating in FY2023		Date & Rating in FY2022	Date & Rating in FY2021	Date & Rating in FY2020					
					Dec 05, 2022	May 27, 2022			Jul 02, 2021	Jul 06, 2020	Jan 03, 2020	Sep 06, 2019	Jul 31, 2019	Jun 19, 2019
1	ICICI Prudential Short Term Fund	Long term	-	-	[ICRA]AAAmfs	[ICRA]AAAmfs	[ICRA]AAAmfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	
2	ICICI Prudential Banking and PSU Debt Fund	Long term	-	-	[ICRA]AAAmfs	[ICRA]AAAmfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	
3	ICICI Prudential Corporate Bond Fund	Long term	-	-	[ICRA]AAAmfs	[ICRA]AAAmfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	
4	ICICI Prudential Savings Fund	Long term	-	-	[ICRA]AAAmfs	[ICRA]AAAmfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	
5	ICICI Prudential Money Market Fund*	Short term	-	-	[ICRA]A1+mfs	[ICRA]AAAmfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	
6	ICICI Prudential Liquid Fund*	Short term	-	-	[ICRA]A1+mfs	[ICRA]AAAmfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	[ICRA]AAA mfs	-	
7	ICICI Prudential Overnight Fund	Short term	-	-	[ICRA]A1+mfs	[ICRA]A1+mfs	[ICRA]A1+mfs	[ICRA]A1+mfs	[ICRA]A1+mfs	[ICRA]A1+mfs	[ICRA]A1+mfs	[ICRA]A1+mfs	[ICRA]A1+mfs	

Note: *[ICRA]AAAmfs withdrawn; [ICRA]A1+mfs assigned simultaneously

Complexity level of the rated instruments: Not applicable

The Complexity Indicator refers to the ease with which the returns associated with the rated instrument could be estimated. It does not indicate the risk related to the timely payments on the instrument, which is rather indicated by the instrument's credit rating. It also does not indicate the complexity associated with analysing an entity's financial, business, industry risks or complexity related to the structural, transactional or legal aspects. Details on the complexity levels of the instruments are available on ICRA's website: [Click Here](#)

Annexure I: Instrument details: Not applicable

Annexure II: List of entities considered for consolidated analysis: Not applicable

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About ICRA Limited:

ICRA Limited was set up in 1991 by leading financial/investment institutions, commercial banks and financial services companies as an independent and professional investment Information and Credit Rating Agency.

Today, ICRA and its subsidiaries together form the ICRA Group of Companies (Group ICRA). ICRA is a Public Limited Company, with its shares listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange. The international Credit Rating Agency Moody's Investors Service is ICRA's largest shareholder.

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Branches



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