

## RATINGS DIRECT®

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### **Bulletin:**

# Glitnir Bank Ratings Unaffected By Republic of Iceland Outlook Revision

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STOCKHOLM (Standard & Poor's) Nov. 20, 2007--Standard & Poor's Ratings Services said today that its ratings and outlook on Iceland-based Glitnir Bank (A-/Stable/A-2) remain unchanged following a revision of the outlook on the ratings on the Republic of Iceland to negative from stable (see "Republic of Iceland Outlook To Negative On Macroeconomic Imbalances; Ratings Affirmed" published on RatingsDirect Nov. 20, 2007).

The factors behind the sovereign rating action are already reflected in the ratings on Glitnir Bank. Moreover, the ratings on the bank are underpinned by its strong domestic franchise, as well as by geographic diversification through its growing presence in Norway, Sweden, and Finland. They also recognize the bank's consistently high profitability and current good asset quality, both in Iceland and elsewhere. The ratings continue to reflect our view that Glitnir Bank's liquidity management is prudent and transparent, even though the bank remains highly reliant on wholesale foreign currency funding. Given the bank's increased geographical and product diversification, the ratings reflect our expectation that it should be able to maintain profitability at comfortable levels, despite Iceland's challenging economic environment and the potential for higher loan losses and lower financial gains. A negative rating action could follow, however, if a further economic slowdown in Iceland were to lead to a significant increase in the bank's loan

losses and a deterioration in its asset quality.

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