

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

**CURRENT REPORT
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

February 4, 2019
Date of Report
(Date of earliest event reported)

SYNCHRONY FINANCIAL

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
**(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)**

001-36560
**(Commission
File Number)**

51-0483352
**(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)**

777 Long Ridge Road, Stamford, Connecticut
(Address of principal executive offices)

(203) 585-2400
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

06902
(Zip Code)

N/A
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.

The information contained in this Item 7.01 of this Current Report on Form 8-K, including Exhibit 99.1, is furnished pursuant to Item 7.01 of Form 8-K and shall not be deemed to be "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, except as shall be expressly stated by specific reference in such filing.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

The following exhibits are being furnished as part of this report:

| <u>Number</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|---------------|--|
| 99.1 | Synchrony Financial - Investor Supplement - 4th Quarter 2018 |

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

SYNCHRONY FINANCIAL

Date: February 4, 2019

By: /s/ Jonathan Mothner
Name: Jonathan Mothner
Title: Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

EXHIBIT INDEX

Number

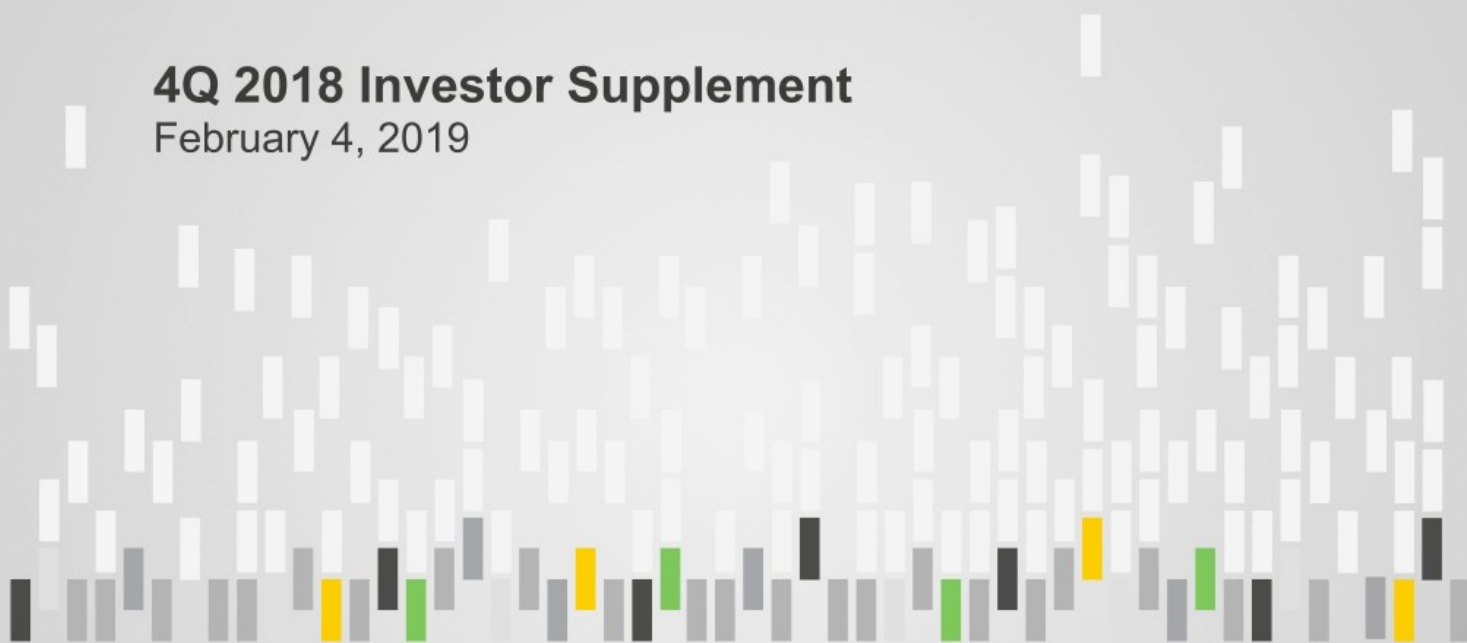
Description

[99.1](#)

[Synchrony Financial - Investor Supplement - 4th Quarter 2018](#)

4Q 2018 Investor Supplement

February 4, 2019



Disclaimers

Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This presentation contains certain forward-looking statements as defined in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which are subject to the "safe harbor" created by those sections. Forward-looking statements are based on management's current expectations and assumptions, and are subject to inherent uncertainties, risks and changes in circumstances that are difficult to predict. As a result, actual results could differ materially from those indicated in these forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially include global political, economic, business, competitive, market, regulatory and other factors and risks, such as: the impact of macroeconomic conditions and whether industry trends we have identified develop as anticipated; retaining existing partners and attracting new partners, concentration of our revenue in a small number of Retail Card partners, promotion and support of our products by our partners, and financial performance of our partners; cyber-attacks or other security breaches; higher borrowing costs and adverse financial market conditions impacting our funding and liquidity, and any reduction in our credit ratings; our ability to grow our deposits in the future; our ability to securitize our loan receivables, occurrence of an early amortization of our securitization facilities, loss of the right to service or subservice our securitized loan receivables, and lower payment rates on our securitized loan receivables; changes in market interest rates and the impact of any margin compression; effectiveness of our risk management processes and procedures, reliance on models which may be inaccurate or misinterpreted, our ability to manage our credit risk, the sufficiency of our allowance for loan losses and the accuracy of the assumptions or estimates used in preparing our financial statements; our ability to offset increases in our costs in retailer share arrangements; competition in the consumer finance industry; our concentration in the U.S. consumer credit market; our ability to successfully develop and commercialize new or enhanced products and services; our ability to realize the value of acquisitions and strategic investments; our ability to realize the benefits of and expected capital available from strategic options; reductions in interchange fees; fraudulent activity; failure of third parties to provide various services that are important to our operations; disruptions in the operations of our computer systems and data centers; international risks and compliance and regulatory risks and costs associated with international operations; alleged infringement of intellectual property rights of others and our ability to protect our intellectual property; litigation and regulatory actions; damage to our reputation; our ability to attract, retain and motivate key officers and employees; tax legislation initiatives or challenges to our tax positions and/or interpretations, and state sales tax rules and regulations; a material indemnification obligation to GE under the Tax Sharing and Separation Agreement with GE if we cause the split-off from GE or certain preliminary transactions to fail to qualify for tax-free treatment or in the case of certain significant transfers of our stock following the split-off; regulation, supervision, examination and enforcement of our business by governmental authorities, the impact of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and the impact of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's regulation of our business; impact of capital adequacy rules and liquidity requirements; restrictions that limit our ability to pay dividends and repurchase our common stock, and restrictions that limit the Synchrony Bank's ability to pay dividends to us; regulations relating to privacy, information security and data protection; use of third-party vendors and ongoing third-party business relationships; and failure to comply with anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism financing laws.

For the reasons described above, we caution you against relying on any forward-looking statements, which should also be read in conjunction with the other cautionary statements that are included elsewhere in this presentation and in our public filings, including under the heading "Risk Factors" in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, as filed on February 22, 2018. You should not consider any list of such factors to be an exhaustive statement of all of the risks, uncertainties, or potentially inaccurate assumptions that could cause our current expectations or beliefs to change. Further, any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which it is made, and we undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which the statement is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events, except as otherwise may be required by law.

Non-GAAP Measures

The information provided herein includes a financial measure that is not prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"). We refer to "managed-basis" as presenting certain loan performance measures as if loans sold by us to our securitization trusts were never sold and derecognized in our GAAP financial statements. We believe it is useful to consider these performance measures on a managed-basis for 2009 when comparing to similar GAAP measures in later years since we serviced the securitized and owned loans, and related accounts, in the same manner without regard to ownership of the loans. The reconciliation of the managed-basis loan performance measures in this presentation to the comparable GAAP measures for the twelve months ended December 31, 2009 is included at the end of this presentation in "Appendix-Non-GAAP Reconciliations."

Synchrony Financial Overview

Leading Consumer Finance Business

- A leading Private Label Credit Card (PLCC) provider in US
- A leader in financing for major consumer purchases and healthcare services
- Long-standing and diverse partner base

Strong Value Proposition for Partners & Consumers

- Advanced data analytics and targeted marketing capabilities
- Dedicated team members support partners to help maximize program effectiveness
- Enhanced sales growth and additional economic benefits for partners
- Access to instant credit, promotional financing, and rewards for customers

Robust Data and Technology Capabilities

- Deep partner integration enables customized loyalty products across channels
- Partner and cardholder focused mobile payments and e-commerce solutions
- Leveraging digital, loyalty, and analytics capabilities to augment growth

Attractive Growth and Ample Opportunities

- Strong receivables growth
- Significant opportunity to leverage long-standing partnerships to increase penetration
- Opportunity to attract new partners
- Developing broad product suite to build a leading, full-scale online bank

Strong Financial Profile and Operating Performance

- Solid fundamentals with attractive returns
- Strong capital and liquidity with diverse funding profile

Partner-Centric Business with Leading Sales Platforms

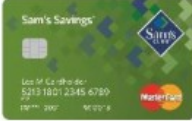

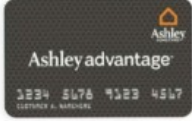


| | Retail Card | Payment Solutions | CareCredit |
|--|---|---|--|
| | Private label credit cards, Dual Cards™, general purpose co-branded credit cards and small- and medium-sized business credit products | Promotional financing for major consumer purchases, offering private label credit cards & installment loans | Promotional financing to consumers for health, veterinary and personal care procedures, products, and services |
| |  |  |  |

| | | | |
|---|----------|---------|---------|
| Interest and Fees on Loans^(a) | \$13,137 | \$2,356 | \$2,151 |
| Loan Receivables^(b) | \$65.2 | \$18.4 | \$9.5 |



(a) For the twelve months ended December 31, 2018. \$ in millions.
 (b) \$ in billions, as of December 31, 2018.

Customized Credit Products and Growing Online Bank

| Retail Card | | | Payment Solutions | CareCredit | |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| Private Label | Dual Card™ | Co-Brand | Private Label | Private Label | Dual Card™ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Retailer only acceptance | Accepted at network locations | Accepted at network locations | Retailer and private network acceptance | Accepted at provider network locations | Accepted at network locations |
| Affinity to retailer, provides customized benefits & features | | | Big-ticket focus, offering promotional financing | Offering promotional financing, expanded card utility | |

Synchrony Bank

Strong Direct Deposit Growth

\$ in billions



Long-Standing and Diverse Partnerships

Average Relationship Length with Ongoing Retail Card Partners is 20 Years

Diversified Retail Card Partners

Retail Card Interest and Fees on Loans by Retail Market^(a)

Legend includes a sample of partners, with length of relationship in years at December 31, 2018

Mass Merchandisers

LOWE'S 39

Sams 25

Specialty Retailers

AMERICAN EAGLE 22

GAP 20

DICK'S 15
SPORTING GOODS

TJX 7

Chevron 11

PHILLIPS 5
66

bp 3

E-Retailers

PayPal 14

amazon 11

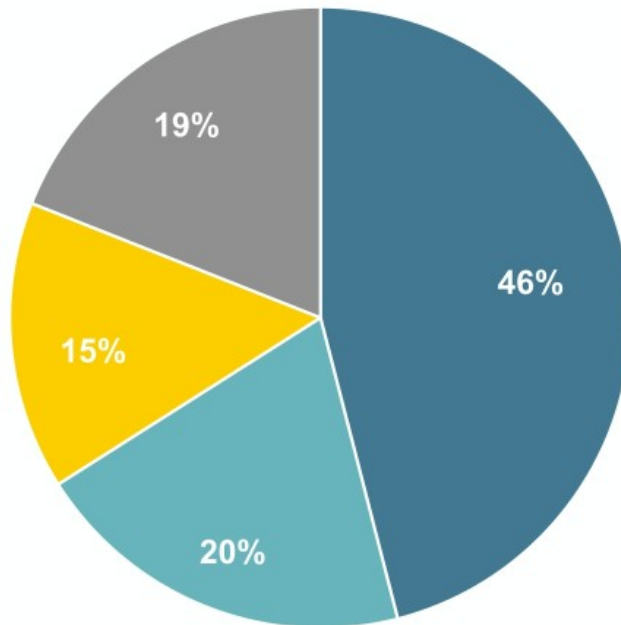
QVC 13

Department Stores

JCPenney 19

belk 13

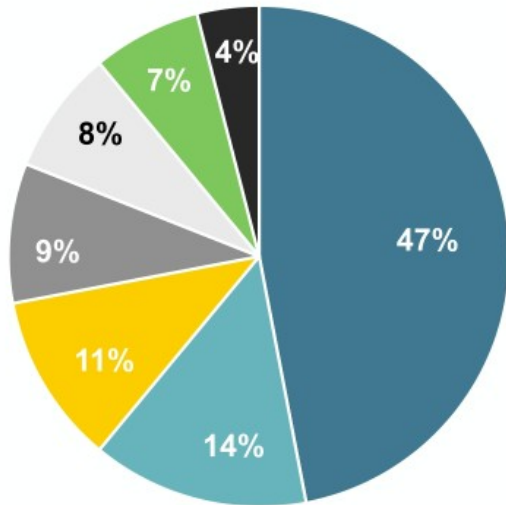
Stein Mart 12



Diversified Across Sales Platforms

Payment Solutions Retail Markets

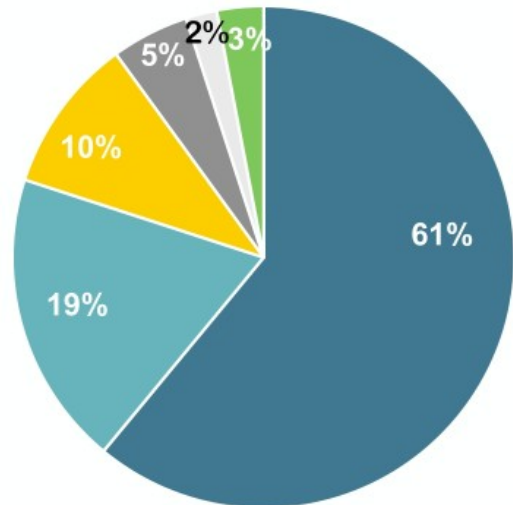
Interest and Fees on Loans^(a)



- Home Furnishings/Flooring
- Electronics/Appliances
- Automotive
- Home Specialty
- Power
- Other Retail
- Jewelry & Other Luxury

CareCredit Specialties

Interest and Fees on Loans^(a)



- Dental
- Veterinary
- Cosmetic & Dermatology
- Vision
- Audiology
- Other Markets

Deep Integration Drives 2-3x Market Growth Rate^(a)



- Over 85 years of retail heritage
- Significant scale across platforms
- Robust data capture enables more customized offers
- Analytics and data insights help drive growth
- Joint executive management of programs—1,000+ SYF FTEs dedicated to drive partner sales
- Collaboration with partners ensures sales teams are aligned with program goals
- Economic benefits and incentives align goals and drive profitable program growth

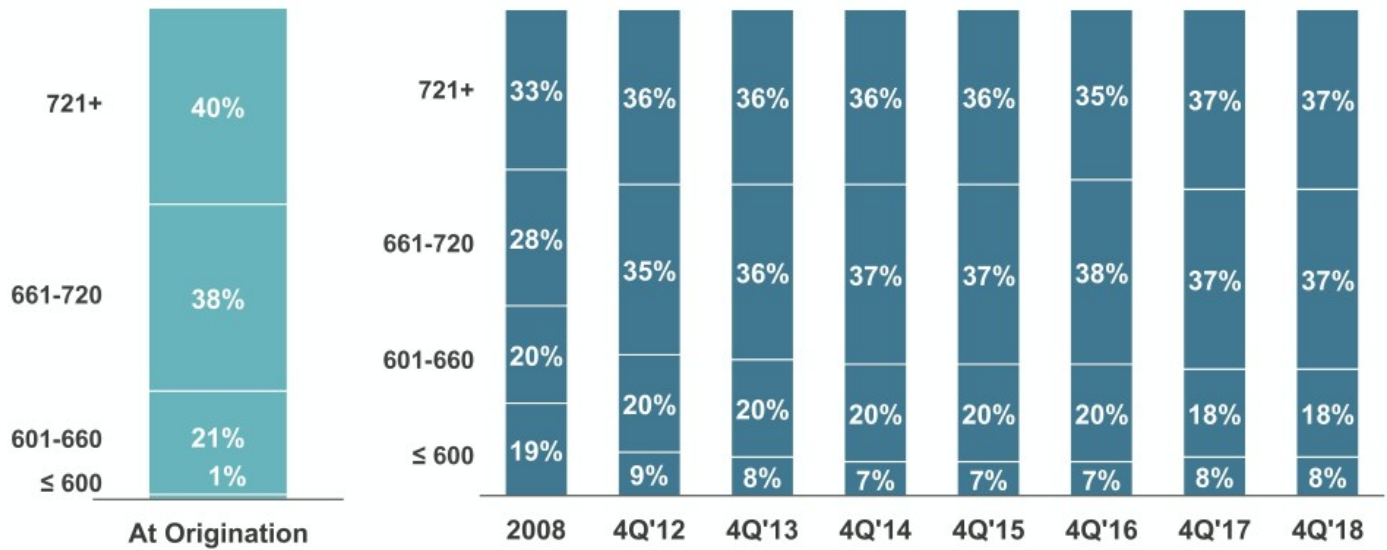
Focus on Higher Quality Asset Base

Disciplined Underwriting

FICO, consumer accounts opened since beginning of 2010

Stronger Portfolio

Consumer FICO^(a)



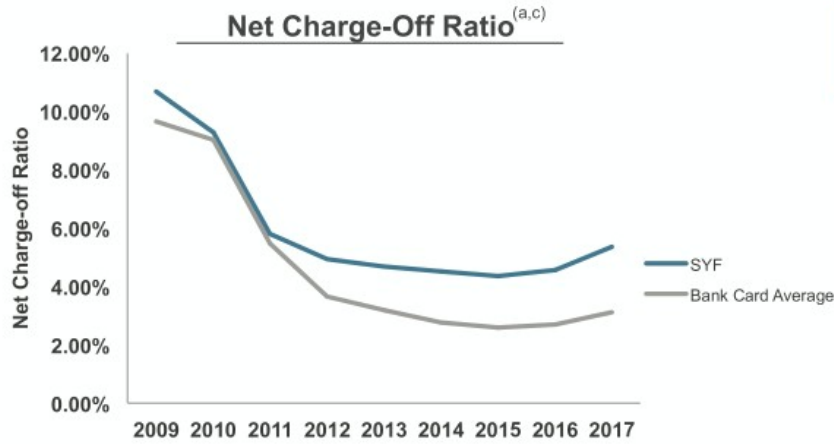
- Synchrony Financial controls underwriting and credit line decisions
- Focus on stronger underwriting has led to higher quality portfolio
 - 74% of loan receivables have FICO > 660



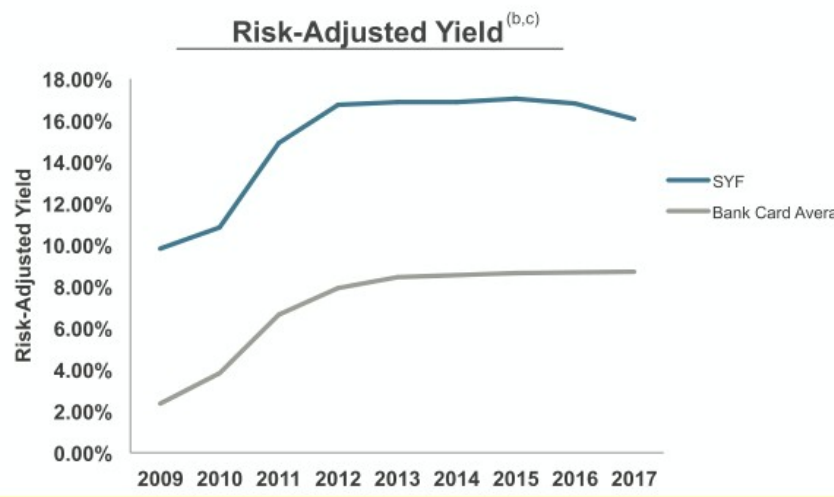
(a) Based on most recent FICO scores available for our customers in each period, weighted by balance, as a % of period-end receivables. If FICO score was not available credit bureau based scores were mapped to a FICO equivalent. If neither score was available, the account was excluded.

Historical Net Charge-Offs & Risk-Adjusted Yield

Delivered Strong Risk-Adjusted Returns



- Net charge-off performance was generally consistent with general purpose card issuers during the financial crisis
- Risk-adjusted yield outperformed general purpose card issuers by >700 bps through the financial crisis
- Risk-adjusted yield outperformance has remained >700 bps post-crisis



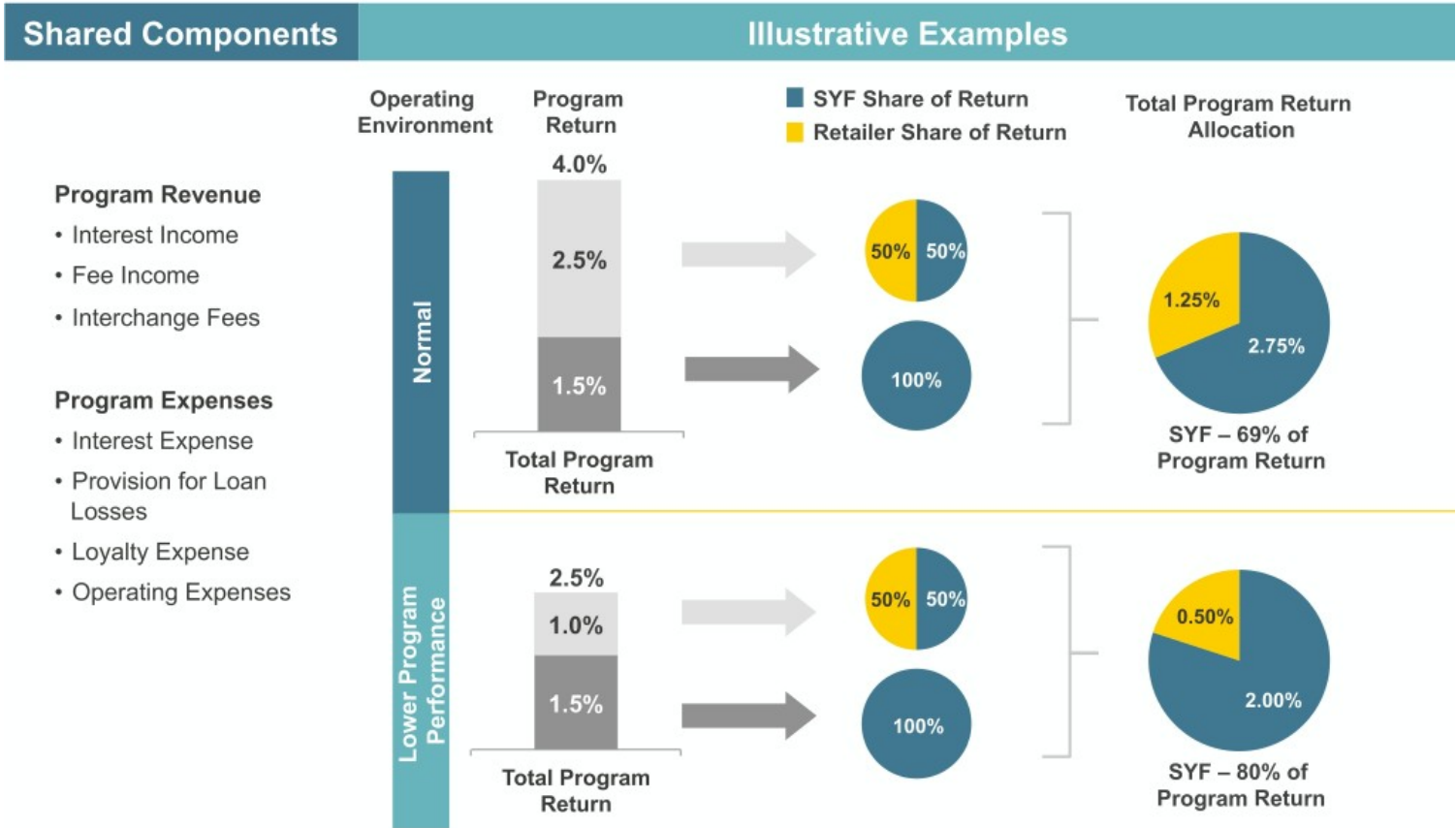
(a) Peers include: AXP U.S. Card Services prior to 2014 and AXP U.S. Consumer Services starting in 2014, BAC U.S. Credit Card, C Citi-Branded Cards North America, COF Domestic Card, DFS Credit Card, JPM Credit Card, and WFC Consumer Credit Card. SYF – total company level.

(b) Peers include: AXP U.S. Card Services prior to 2014 and AXP U.S. Consumer Services starting in 2014, BAC U.S. Credit Card, C Citi-Branded Cards North America, COF Domestic Card, DFS Credit Card, and WFC Consumer Credit Card. SYF – total company level. SYF yield calculated as loan receivable yield less net charge-off rate. Peer information calculated as credit card yield less net charge-off rate on credit cards. Citi-Branded Card yield calculated as average quarterly yield less net charge-off rate on credit cards (average quarterly net charge-off rate).

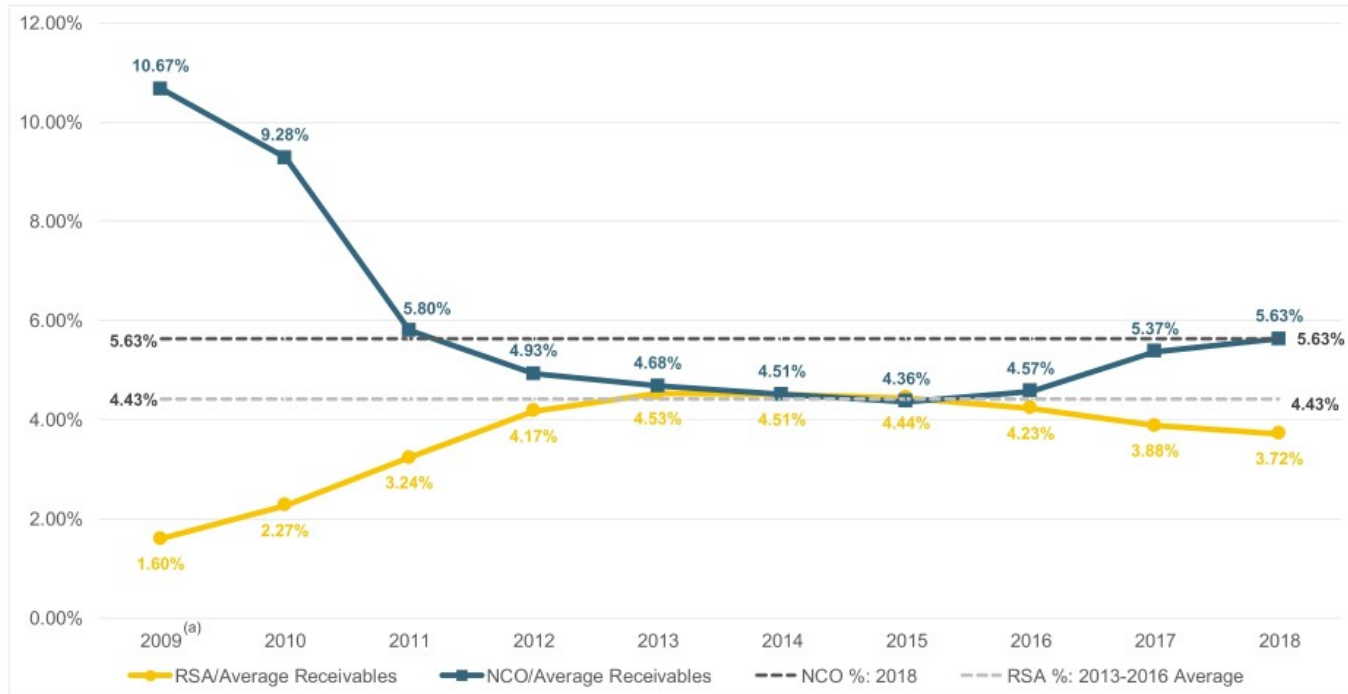
(c) Data on a managed-basis for 2009. See non-GAAP reconciliation in appendix.

Sources: Company filings. Risk-adjusted yield involved calculations by SYF based upon company filings.

Retailer Share Arrangements (RSA)



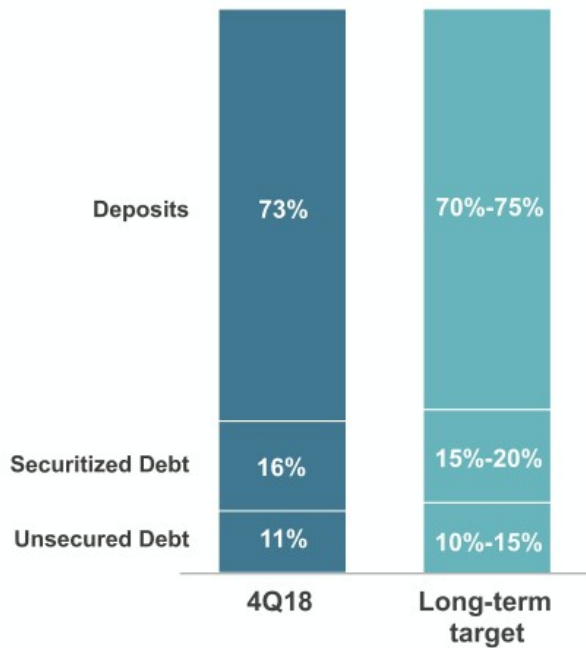
RSA Provides a Countercyclical Buffer



- In 2009, compared to benchmark levels, the lower RSA % offset 56% of the higher NCO %
 - RSA % was 283 bps lower than average RSA % for 2013-2016; NCO % was 504 bps higher than the 2018 NCO %
- In 2018, compared to benchmark levels (2015 - low point prior to credit normalization), the lower RSA % offset 57% of the higher NCO %
 - RSA % was 72 bps lower than the 2015 RSA %; NCO % was 127 bps higher than the 2015 NCO %
- A driver of the countercyclical nature of the RSA is credit-related, other factors also impact the RSA (ex. program revenue, expenses, and mix)

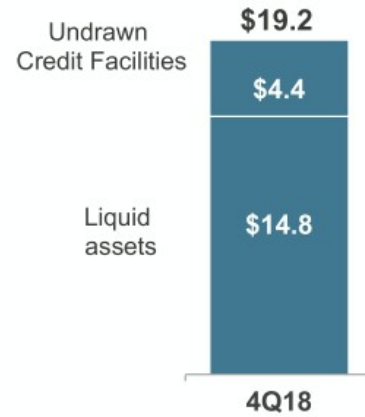
Diverse Funding Sources and Strong Liquidity

Diverse Funding Sources



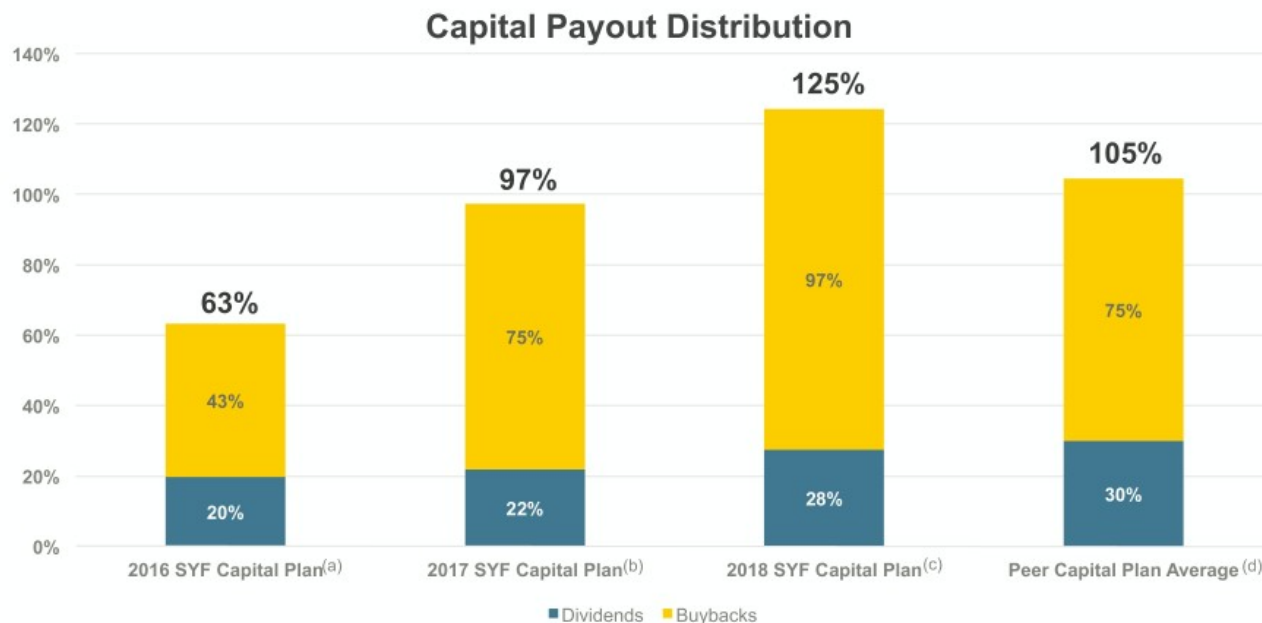
Strong Liquidity Profile

\$ in billions



- Diverse and stable funding sources
- Fast-growing direct deposit platform to support growth
- Positioned slightly asset sensitive

Capital Deployment



- Improved capital payout distribution, with stronger buyback weighting
 - With loan receivables growth of 5%, an additional ~30% of capital consumed^(e)
- Opportunity to enhance components of capital return

(a) 2016 SYF Capital Plan is for illustrative purposes only. It incorporates the 7/7/16 capital plan announcement of \$0.13/share quarterly dividend and \$952 million buyback over the prior four quarters of net earnings ending 2Q16.
 (b) 2017 SYF Capital Plan is for illustrative purposes only. It incorporates the 5/18/17 capital plan announcement of \$0.15/share quarterly dividend and \$1.64 billion buyback over the prior four quarters of net earnings ending 2Q17.
 (c) 2018 SYF Capital Plan is for illustrative purposes only. It incorporates the 5/17/18 capital plan announcement of \$0.21/share quarterly dividend and \$2.2 billion buyback over the prior four quarters of net earnings ending 2Q18.
 (d) Data captures announced capital plans over the prior four quarters of earnings ending 2Q18. Peers include AXP, COF, and DFS.
 (e) Allocation for growth is estimated by applying 2Q18 CET1 Ratio to the 2Q18 period-end loan receivables growth rate of 5% over the prior four quarters of net earnings ending 2Q18.
 Sources: Company filings and SNL.

Strategic Priorities

Grow our business through our three sales platforms

- Grow existing partner penetration
- Continue to innovate and provide robust cardholder value propositions
- Add new partners and programs with attractive risk and return profiles

Invest in 'Next Generation' data analytics, AI, and digital capabilities

- Continue expansion of advanced analytics leveraging SKU level data & consumer behaviors driving sales and customer loyalty
- Further develop frictionless customer experiences and digitized environment through the use of customer journey insights
- Leverage alternative data and machine learning to further drive innovation, advanced underwriting and authentication

Position the business for long-term growth

- Explore opportunities to expand and diversify the business (e.g., healthcare finance, small business and proprietary networks)
- Continue to grow our Bank — launch new products and capabilities to increase loyalty, diversify funding and drive profitability
- Investment in core infrastructure to drive scale, efficiency and agility

Operate with a strong balance sheet and financial profile

- Maintain strong capital and liquidity
- Deliver earnings growth at attractive returns

Leverage strong capital position

- Drive organic growth, program acquisitions, and start-up opportunities
- Continue capital plan execution through dividends and share repurchase program, subject to Board and regulatory approvals
- Invest in capability-enhancing technologies and businesses

Appendix



Non-GAAP Reconciliation

The following table sets forth a reconciliation between GAAP results and non-GAAP managed-basis results for 2009.

| | Twelve months ended December 31, 2009 |
|---|--|
| <u>Net charge-offs as a % of average loan receivables, including held for sale:</u> | |
| GAAP | 11.26% |
| Securitization adjustments | <u>(0.59)%</u> |
| Managed-basis | 10.67% |
| <u>Interest and fees on loans as a % of average loan receivables, including held for sale:</u> | |
| GAAP | 19.74% |
| Securitization adjustments | <u>0.75%</u> |
| Managed-basis | 20.49% |
| <u>Retailer share arrangements as a % of average loan receivables, including held for sale:</u> | |
| GAAP | 3.40% |
| Securitization adjustments | <u>(1.80)%</u> |
| Managed-basis | 1.60% |
| <u>Risk-adjusted yield^(a):</u> | |
| GAAP | 8.48% |
| Securitization adjustments | <u>1.34%</u> |
| Managed-basis | 9.82% |

(a) Risk-adjusted yield is equal to interest and fees on loans as a % of average loan receivables less net charge-offs as a % of average loan receivables.

