

e-banking Review

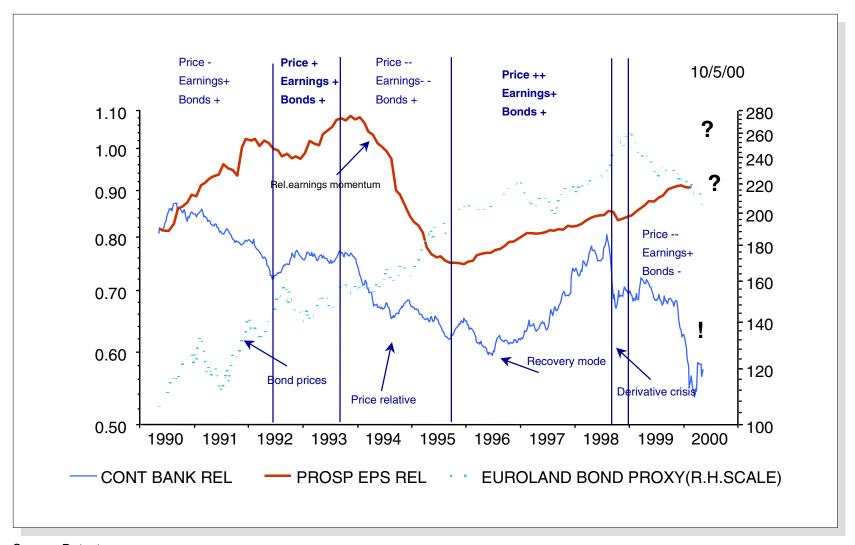
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- EPS paradox
- The economic cycle
- Retail Wholesale debate
- Top recommendations

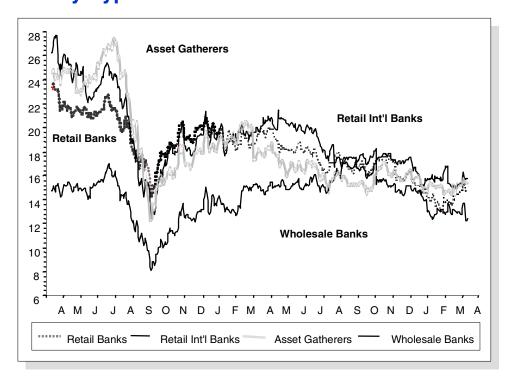


Merrill Lynch Sector De-coupled from EPS Momentum. Bonds Peaking?



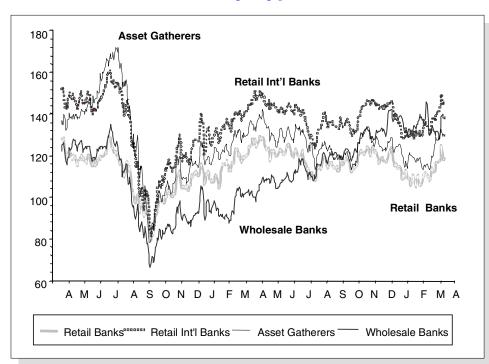
Source: Datastream

P/E by Type of Bank



Source: Datastream, Merrill Lynch

Market Performance by Type of Bank



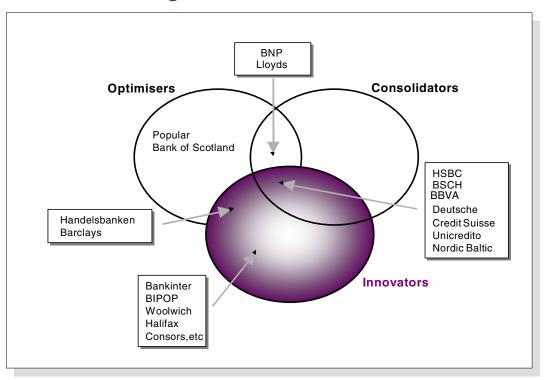
Source: Datastream, Merrill Lynch

Recommendations:

Large Players: HSBC, BSCH, Unicredito

Niche Players: Bankinter, Halifax

Favoured Strategies and Banks



Source: Merrill Lynch

- The World is chaning
 - Increasing competition
 - Cross Subsidisation
- Margin Pressure (driven by established banks)
- Convergence of Models
 - The US experience
 - Established and pure e-banks need to change
- Bottom up approach



Technology Accelerates Competition

Information availability = pricetransparency = margin squeeze



- De-commoditise the product
- Manage change with <u>cost</u> rationalisation

 New channels (branches no longer sine qua non of banking)



- First entrant in the market
- Raise entry barriers with <u>brand</u> and <u>economies of scale</u>
- Alliance with TMT

Cross-border competition



 Partners with local know-how for Pan-EU internet launch

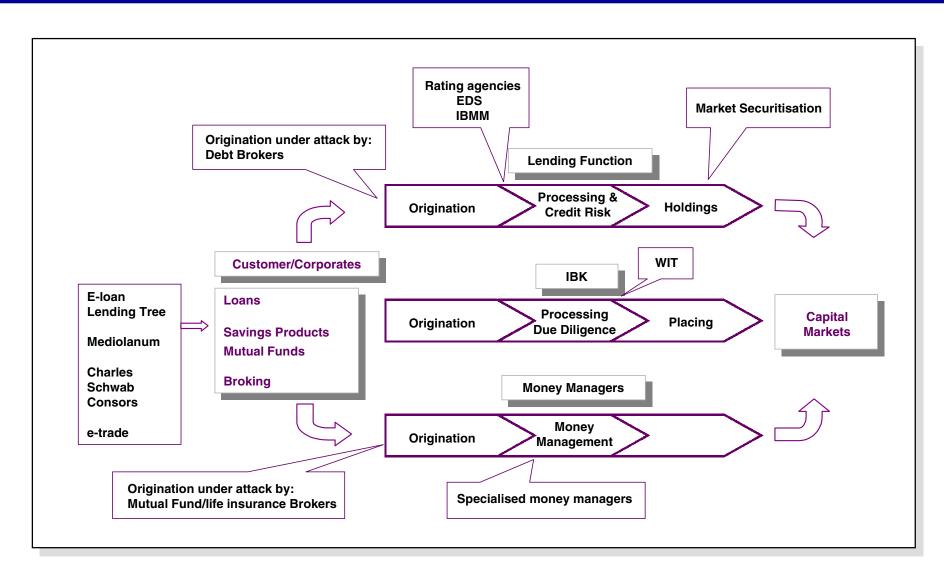
The aggregator threat



- Deconstruct value chain in:
 - a) Manufacturing (unit costs/size)
 - b) Distribution (multi-channel)
 - c) Customer relationship (brand)



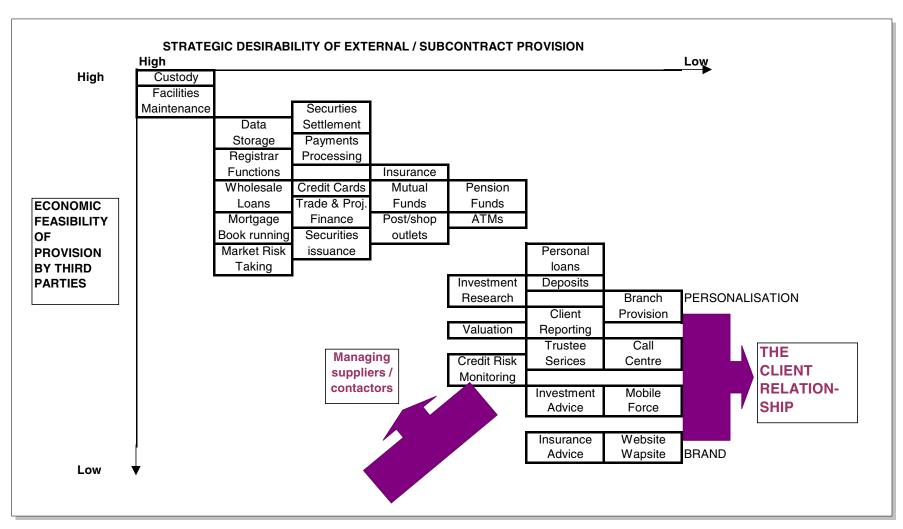
Deconstructing the Banks Value Chain



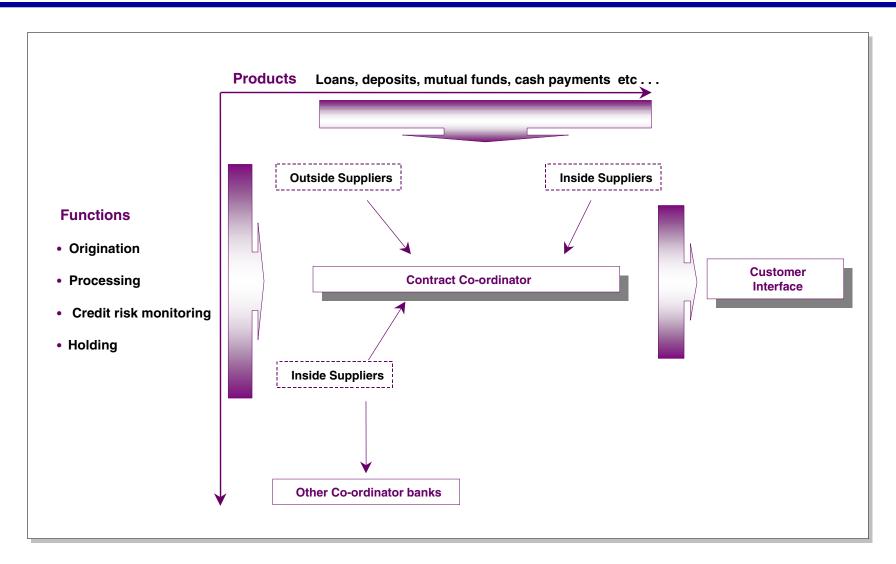


Deconstructing What Does de-Constructing the Value Chain Mean?

More and more functions can be provided by 3rd parties, making new market entry easier



Contract Banking



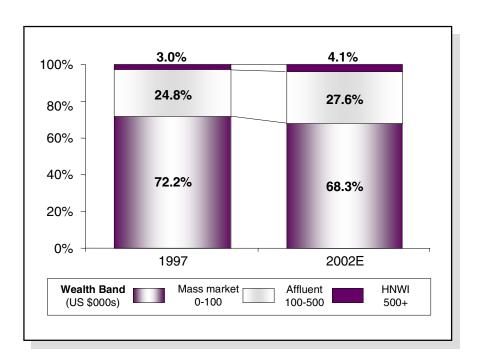
Increasing competition from:

- e-banks
- new entrants: retailers
- but above all.. aggressive established banks

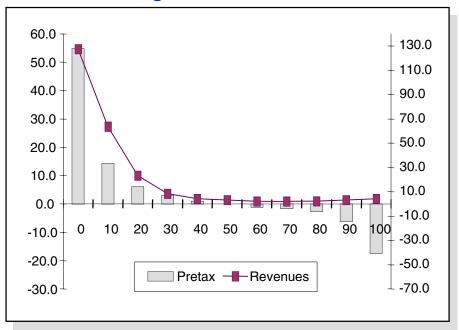
- Cross subsidisation between products / clients makes universal banks vulnerable
- New entrants / attackers focus on subsidising products
 - Mortgages
 - Mutual funds
 - Life insurance, etc
 - See example of new IF initiative
- ... or on subsidising clients
 - HNW individuals
 - Affluent clients

What Does De-constructing the Value Chain Mean?

Wealth Distribution in Europe



Net Profit Distribution per Client in French banking



Picking the best clients = Targeting mass-affluent & HNWIs' part of response

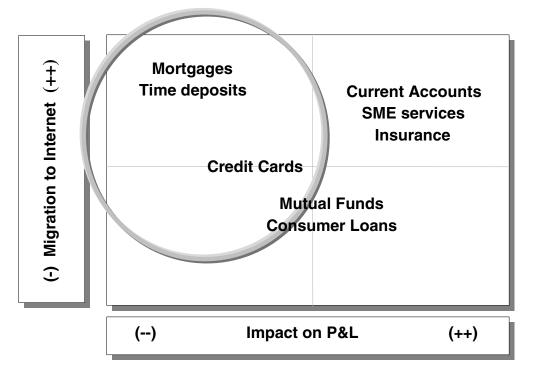


Customer relationship management: IT, brand, sales force

Which Banks are More at Risk?: (I) By Product Cluster

Banks exposed to dangerous *product* mix

Products Easily Targeted by New Entrants

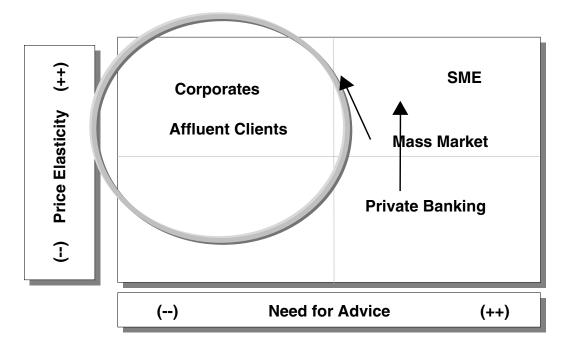


Source: Merrill Lynch

Which Banks are More at Risk?: (II) By Client Cluster

Banks exposed to dangerous *client* mix

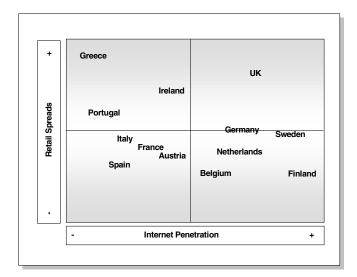
Clients Easily Targeted by New Entrants



Source: Merrill Lynch



Margin Pressure Follows



Ireland, UK, Portugal and Greece on the high margin area (see appendix)

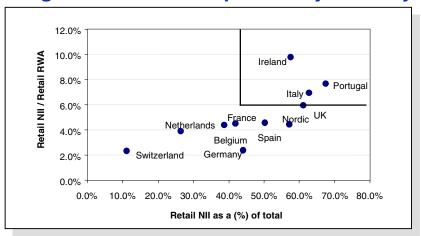
| | Consumer | Fixed Mortgage | ST SME | Current Accounts | Saving Accounts | Time Deposits |
|-------------|----------|-------------------|--------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Greece | 11.6 | 1.40 | 5.1 | 2.95 | 1.5 | 1.6 |
| Sweden | 5.4 | 1.70 | 1.68 | 3.25 | | 2.22 |
| UK | 9.4 | 1.39 | na | na | 3.84 | 1.31 |
| Netherlands | 0.0 | 0.71 | 0.5 | 3.25 | na | -0.15 |
| Belgium | 3.5 | 0.69 | 3.69 | na | 0.89 | 0.58 |
| Germany | 6.7 | 0.69 | 4.43 | 2.54 | 1.47 | 1.18 |
| France | 4.7 | 0.66 | 1.35 | na | 1.08 | 0.16 |
| Italy | na | 0.70 | 2.32 | 3.25 | 1.94 | na |
| Austria | 3.3 | na | 2.61 | 1.96 | na | 1.19 |
| Portugal | 5.6 | na | 4.05 | na | 0.95 | 0.66 |
| Spain | 4.5 | 0.50 | 1.14 | 1.62 | 1.55 | 0.94 |
| Finland | 2.6 | na | 0.98 | 2.80 | 2.21 | -0.14 |
| Ireland | 7.2 | na | 5.26 | na | 3.33 | na |
| Average | 5.4 | 0.9 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 1.9 | 0.9 |

^(*) Prices are not fully comparable due to legal and tax issues

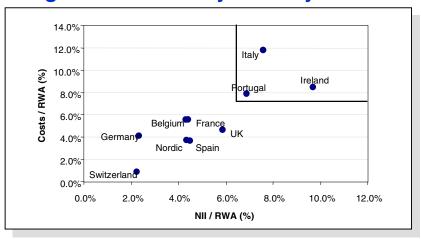
Source: ECB and Merrill Lynch



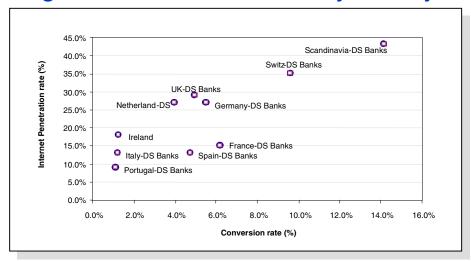
Margins and Retail Exposure by Country



Margins and Costs by Country



Margins and Conversion Rates by Country



- Ireland, Portugal, Italy and the UK combine high retail exposure and high margin
- Ireland, Portugal and Ireland also have high cost base and low conversion rates
- Best combination of margins, costs and relative conversion are Nordics, Spain, France and Germany



The US Experience

- Slow take up
- Need to keep expensive customer relationship centres
- ... because customer behaviour is additive not substitutive
- Failure of pure e-banks based on pricing (Net Bank, Wingspan,...)

US Online Banking Penetration

| | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Online Households | 37.6 | 44.9 | 51.5 | 57.2 | 62.6 | 67.6 |
| Online Banking Households | 3.8 | 6.4 | 10.2 | 14.0 | 19.4 | 26.4 |
| Online Banking HH as % of all US HH | 3.8 | 6.3 | 9.9 | 13.5 | 18.4 | 24.7 |
| Online Banking HH as a % of Online HH | 10.2 | 14.2 | 19.8 | 24.6 | 20.9 | 39.0 |

Source: Jupiter Communications



Problems of e-banks

- Lack of customer relationship
- Niche market
- Service
- Infrastructure penetration

Problems of established banks

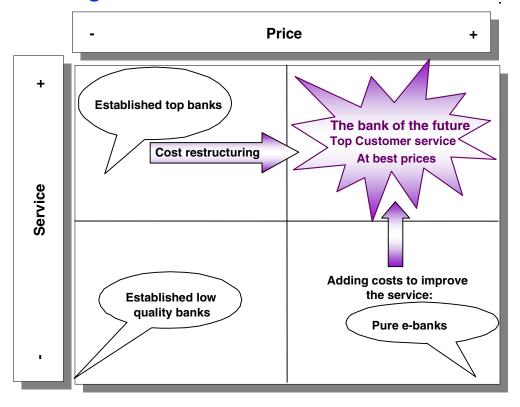
- Lack of competitive pricing
- Cross subsidies
- Not taking advantage of strengths: pool of customers, client knowledge



First Banks to Reach Click & Mortar Status Should be Winners

- Few banks approaching that status:
 - It is a relative status
 - BIPOP
 - Bankinter
 - Nordic Banks

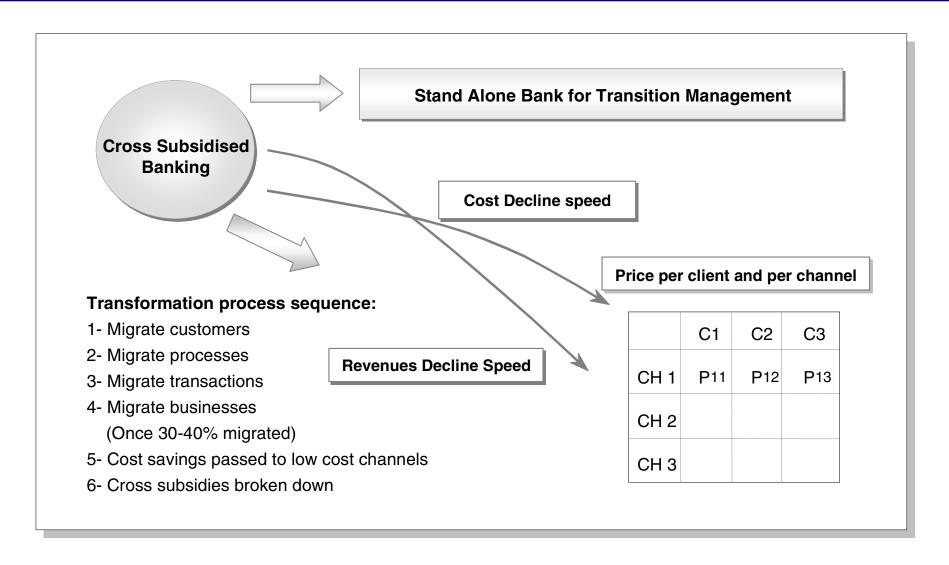
Convergence of Models



Source: Merrill Lynch



Towards a Multi-Channel / Multi-Pricing Model



Incumbents Need to Change...

The Magic Formula

Market share (economies of scale)

X

Share of wallet

Χ

Efficiency

=

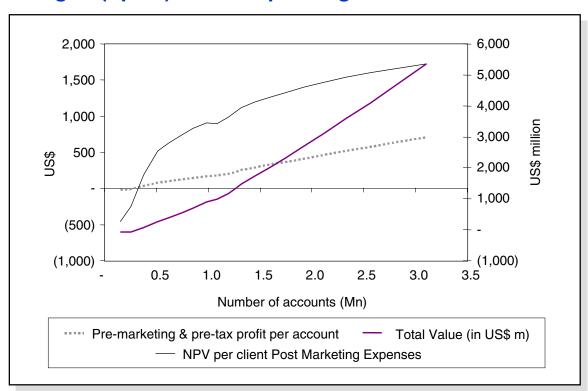
Top ROE

- Re-engineer processes
 - Prepare for a world of more demands at a lower price
 - Client migration
- Customer centric banking
 - First relationships more important
- Top IT
 - To engineer the restructuring and the CRM
- Growth strategies
 - Strong growth in emerging markets
- TMT alliances
 - Control of access to new channels
 - Convergence: co-operation, competition or mergers?

- Economies of scale
 - Human talent and marketing expenses
 - Difficulties in Europe
 - (See following page case)
- Service improvement
 - Call centres
 - Some bricks
- Partnerships with the old economy
 - Retailers
 - Utilities?



Patagon (Spain) Value Depending of Economies of Scale





Favoured Strategies Among Established Banks

- Management that understand core competences (distribution, production or both) - A vision
- Customer centric banking (first banking relationships)
- Aggressive restructuring is a must
 - Automation of processes
 - Migration of transactions on line, etc
- IT: without it nothing can be achieved
- TMT alliances (co-operation model)
- Vision: on-line banking lowers entry barriers and provides opportunities for aggressive established banks
- Economies of scale: minimum size



| | UK | Germany | Iberia | France | Italy | Nordic | Switzerland |
|--|--|----------|--|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Established Banks e-banking winners | Barclays, HSBC, Halifax, Woolwich | Deutsche | Bankinter, BBVA, BSCH, BCP | BNP | Unicredito, BIPOP | Nordic Baltic, Handles | Credit Suisse |
| Established Banks e-banking losers | Northern Rock, Alliance & Leicester, Lloyds (?) | Dresdner | Small banks and savings banks, Popular (?) | Credit Lyonnais | Small banks Banca di Roma | Real Dannmark (Kapital) | Julius Baer |