

COMMERCIAL LOAN OVERVIEW

A BORROWER'S GUIDE

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COMMERCIAL LOAN OVERVIEW GUIDE

Commercial Mortgage Underwriting Guidelines and Process

Commercial financing for commercial properties is underwritten on a case by case basis. Every loan application is unique and evaluated on its own merits, but there are a few common criteria lenders look for in commercial loan packages.

Financial Analysis

A key component in making an underwriting evaluation is the personal debt coverage ratio. The PDCR is defined as the monthly debt compared to the adjusted gross monthly income of the borrower in question. Using a PDCR of 1:1.10 a lender is saying that they are looking for a \$1.10 in net income for each \$1.00 mortgage payment. Typically they will determine the PDCR ratio based on monthly figures, the monthly mortgage payment compared to the monthly net borrower income. The higher the PDCR ratio the more conservative the lender. Most lenders will never go below a 1:1 ratio (a dollar of debt payment per dollar of income available). Anything less than a 1:1 ratio will result in a negative cash flow situation raising the risk of the loan for the lender. PDCR's are set by property type and what a lender perceives the risk to be. Today, apartment properties are considered to be the least risky category of investment lending. As such, lenders are more inclined to use smaller PDCR's when evaluating a loan request. Your BMC loan officer can assist you to understand the PDCR policies of each of the major commercial lenders.

Loan to Value

Unlike residential lending, commercial investment properties are viewed more conservatively. Many lenders will require a minimum of 35% of the purchase price to be paid by the buyer. However, some lenders will loan up to 80% of the purchase price to buyers based upon credit worthiness and property analysis. What a bank/lender will do is subject to their appetite and the quality of the buyer and property. Loan to value is the percentage calculation of the loan amount divided by purchase price. If you know what a lender's LTV requirements are, you can also calculate the loan amount by multiplying the purchase price by the LTV percentage. Keep in mind that the purchase price must also be supported by an appraisal. In the event that the appraisal shows a value less than the purchase price, the lender will use the lower of the two numbers to determine the loan that will be made.

Credit Worthiness

In many cases the personal credit of principals will be evaluated. For corporations, business performance and credit ratings will also be evaluated.

Property Analysis

Fair Market Value and Fair Market Rent will be analyzed. Special use property may require additional underwriting. Age, appearance, local market, location, and accessibility are some other factors considered.

Tenant Analysis

A thorough analysis of the current tenant(s) will be conducted. Lenders will evaluate the financial strength of the tenant, how many years are left on the current lease, and other relevant information regarding the tenant.

COMMERCIAL MORTGAGE LENDING RATIOS

Most of real estate lending can be boiled down to the results of three ratios:

- Loan-To-Value Ratio (LTV)
- Personal Debt Coverage Ratio (PDCR)
- Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR)

The bulk of the energy spent "processing" a loan is merely an attempt to verify the numbers that go into the numerator and denominator of these ratios.

The Loan-To-Value Ratio is defined as follows:

Loan-To-Value = Total loan balances (1st mtg+2nd mtg) / Fair market value (as determined by appraisal)

For COMMERCIAL mortgages, Loan-To-Value Ratios seldom exceed 65%.

The Personal Debt Coverage Ratio is the second ratio that lenders use when underwriting a loan. The Personal Debt Ratio compares the amount of bills that the borrower must pay each month to the amount of monthly income he earns. More precisely, the Personal Debt Coverage Ratio is defined as:

Personal Debt Coverage Ratio = Monthly Personal Debt / Monthly Personal Income

Obviously someone whose Personal Debt Coverage Ratio is 150% is in trouble. A Personal Debt Ratio of 150% would mean that a borrower's obligations are one and a half times his income. Personal Debt Ratios seldom are allowed to exceed 50% in practice.

Debt Service Coverage Ratio evaluates the debt coverage of the property itself. The Debt Service Coverage Ratio is defined as:

Debt Service Coverage Ratio = Net Operating Income / Debt Service

Net Operating Income is the income from a rental property after deducting for real estate taxes, fire insurance, repairs, and all other operating expenses. Debt Service is the mortgage payment on the property. Most lenders insist that this ratio exceed 1.1. A debt service coverage ratio of less than 1.0 would mean that the property did not produce enough net rental income for the owner to make the mortgage payments without supplementing the property from his personal budget.

INITIATING YOUR COMMERCIAL LOAN PROCESS

To initiate your commercial lending application process, the following information is required by financial institutions. Your BMC loan officer can assist you in preparing this information:

1. Marketing package or property overview
2. Copy of Purchase/Sale Agreement
3. YTD + Two most recent year-end financial statements for tenant including balance sheets
4. Background summary on tenants including how many units operated, and years in business (if not public company)
5. Borrower's background summary or resume
6. Last two years personal federal tax returns from the principal borrower(s) – including all schedules
7. Last two years' corporate tax returns if self-employed or own more than 25% of corporation, and year-to-date Profit and Loss statement
8. Any relevant 1031 information you have
9. Current personal financial statement of principal borrower(s) including real estate all schedules (dated and signed with original signature)

Lending Institution fees

Various lending institutions have different fee schedules for commercial loan applications and processing. The range of fees varies widely amongst these institutions. Your BMC loan officer will be happy to provide more information on the schedule of fees for each institution. A range of potential fees for several leading institutions is as follows:

- Attorney: \$0 - \$5,000
- Underwriting: 0 - \$2,000
- Appraisal: \$0 - \$3,000
- Opinion letters for non-recourse loans: \$500 - \$750

**note: some lenders may charge higher fees*

How to get started

BMC specializes on providing a full service solution to customers interested in any size commercial loan. Call us for a free consultation on initiating your loan process.

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