



About ICBA

The Independent Community Bankers of America, the nation's voice for more than 6,000 community banks of all sizes and charter types, is dedicated exclusively to representing the interests of the community banking industry and its membership through effective advocacy, best-in-class education and high-quality products and services.

With 52,000 locations nationwide, community banks employ 700,000 Americans, hold \$3.6 trillion in assets, \$2.9 trillion in deposits, and \$2.4 trillion in loans to consumers, small businesses and the agricultural community.

Whether located in small towns, suburbia or big-city neighborhoods, community banks improve our towns and cities by funding small businesses and using local dollars to help families purchase homes, finance college and build financial security.

ICBA supports fair competition for financial institutions, maintaining the separation of banking and commerce, and a balanced financial system to prevent the concentration of economic and financial-services resources. ICBA member community banks create symbiotic relationships with the communities they serve, favor local decision-making, while adhering to the highest business practices and ethical standards, and support a democratically governed association where each member bank has a voice and a vote.

ICBA is committed to upholding the highest professional standards in community banking and providing programs tailored specifically for community bankers. Through ICBA educational courses, certification options and continuing education programs, community bankers are better able to serve their customers and stay profitable.

Advocacy

ICBA works to protect the interests of community banks in Washington by monitoring federal activities that affect community banks and their customers. ICBA has a broad reach with lawmakers, regulators and policy-setting boards and helps ensure that the needs of community bankers are heard and met.

Current ICBA Priority Issues include:

- Enacting meaningful regulatory relief to help community banks support the credit needs of their customers, serve their communities, and contribute to their local economies.
- Reforming the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB's) mortgage rules to better recognize the strong performance of community bank mortgage lending.
- Supporting legislation that ensure broad input and expertise into consumer-protection regulations.
- Advocating data-security principles to prevent additional data breaches at national retail chains and others.
- Calling for consistent and transparent standards for evaluating community bank fair-lending practices.
- Ensuring any federal cybersecurity legislation recognizes existing community bank mandates.
- Supporting payment systems that are competitive, progressive and secure.
- Urging Congress to review the credit union industry's unwarranted federal tax subsidy.

- Urging Congress to restrict the Farm Credit System to its historical mission of serving the agricultural market place.
- Prohibiting any impairment model for loans and investment securities that places undue cost burdens on community banks.
- Ensuring reforms of the housing-finance system preserve community bank access and protect taxpayers from another bailout.
- Supporting legislative and regulatory changes that would improve the ability of community banks to raise capital to better serve their local communities.
- Advocating tax laws that promote robust economic activity and a vibrant community banking sector and foster saving and investment.
- Supporting legislation and regulatory changes that would end megabank advantages.

Community Bank Advantages

- Community banks focus attention on the needs of local families, businesses and farmers. Conversely, many of the nation's megabanks are structured to place a priority on serving large corporations.
- Unlike many larger banks that may take deposits in one state and lend in others, community banks channel most of their loans to the neighborhoods where their depositors live and work, helping to keep local communities vibrant and growing.
- Community bank officers are generally accessible to their customers on-site. CEOs at megabanks are often headquartered in office suites, away from daily customer dealings.
- Community bank officers are typically deeply involved in local community affairs, while large-bank officers are likely to be detached physically and emotionally from the communities where their branches are located.
- Many community banks are willing to consider character, family history and discretionary spending in making loans. Megabanks, on the other hand, often apply impersonal qualification criteria, such as credit scoring, to all loan decisions without regard to individual circumstances.
- Community banks offer nimble decision-making on business loans because decisions are made locally. Megabanks must often convene loan-approval committees in another state.
- Because community banks are themselves small businesses, they understand the needs of small-business owners. Their core concern is lending to small businesses and farms. The core concern of the mega banks is corporate America.



Community Banking Facts

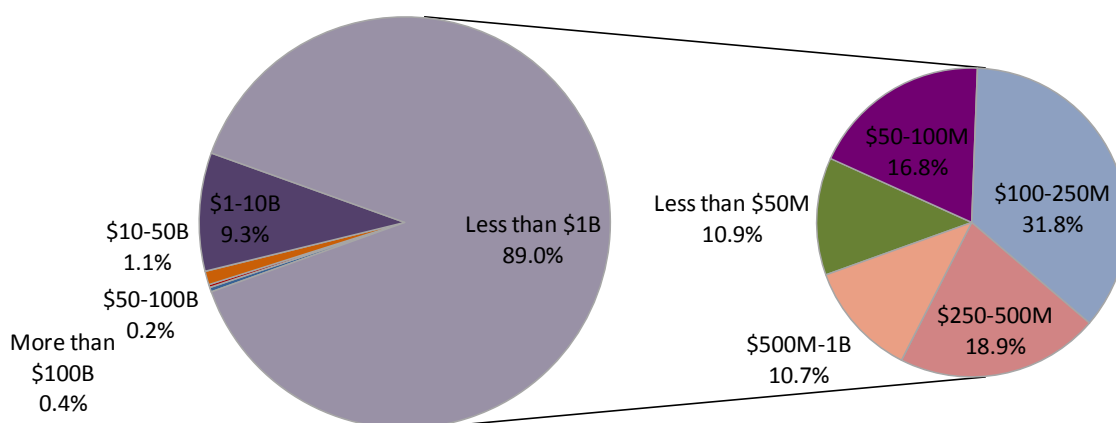
There are more than 6,000 community banks, including commercial banks, thrifts, stock and mutual savings institutions, with more than 52,000 locations throughout the United States. Assets may range from less than \$10 million to \$10 billion or more. Community banks constitute 98 percent of all banks.

Community Banks by Region

North Central	24.3%
Midwest	19.6%
Southeast	19.3%
Southwest	15.5%
Northeast	10.4%
West	8.6%

Of all U.S. banking organizations, 89 percent have assets under \$1 billion and almost 60 percent have assets under \$250 million.

Percentage of US Banks by Asset Size



Source: FDIC, 12/31/2014

- Community banks are the primary source of lending for small businesses and farms. Even though they compose 8 percent of the banking industry by assets, community banks with less than \$1 billion in assets made 33.1 percent of outstanding bank loans to small businesses. Community banks with less than \$10 billion in assets made 18 percent of outstanding bank loans to small businesses.
- Community banks' boards of directors are made up of local citizens who want to advance the interests of the towns and cities where they live and where their banks do business.
- Most community bank loans benefit the neighborhoods where depositors live and work.
- Research has shown average fees for checking accounts and other depository services are lower at community banks than at large, multi-state institutions.
- Community banks offer a wide range of banking services and products designed to meet the needs of consumers and business including:
 - o Anytime, anywhere electronic banking,
 - o Automated teller machines, often with little or no surcharge fees,
 - o Credit and debit cards with competitive rates and features,
 - o Competitive mortgage- and consumer-loan products
 - o Competitive checking, saving and investment products and rates, and
 - o Small-business and agricultural lending.