

For Immediate Release



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To Banking or Business Editor:

New Bank & Credit Union Ratings Best in 7 Years

September 9, 2014: Newly released star-ratings from **BAUERFINANCIAL, Inc.**, the nation's bank rating firm, show continued progress by U.S. Banks and Credit Unions. Nationwide, the percentage of recommended banks increased from 71.2% to 75.5% from a year ago. That's the highest since the first quarter of 2007. Credit Union's rated 5-Stars or 4-Stars now represent 77.5% of the industry.

At the top: New Hampshire was the solitary state with 100% of its banks on our Recommended Report last year; it has now been joined by Alaska.

Three states lost ground at the top end: Delaware, Vermont and West Virginia had a year over year decline in their percent of banks rated 5-Stars or 4-Stars.

At the bottom: The percent of banks rated 2-Stars and below is 5.6%, slightly better than the 6.0% last quarter and a significant improvement over the 8.3% of a year ago. Only 3.25% of credit unions are rated 2-stars or below.

All but five states showed year over year improvement in the banks rated 2-Stars or below. Those states are: Delaware, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico and Rhode Island. All others either improved or stayed the same.

Find out how your bank or credit union rates today at www.bauerfinancial.com.

It's Simple. It's Smart. And it's Free.

BAUERFINANCIAL has been providing the public with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions regarding their banking relationships since 1983. **BAUERFINANCIAL** is the source that bankers and consumers trust when making important banking decisions. Let's face it, when it comes to money, all decisions are important.

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