

Media Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

To the Editor:

Problem Banks Multiply But 67% of Industry Still Shines At Which End of the Spectrum is Your Bank?

June 13, 2008: BAUERFINANCIAL, Inc. Coral Gables, Florida's eagerly awaited bank and credit union star-ratings based on first quarter '08 financial data are now available. It should come as no surprise that the Problem institutions (rated 2-Stars or below) have multiplied since year-end 2007. In fact, after increasing 50% last quarter our Problem list now includes 281 banks which accounts for another 61% jump.

It's not as bad as it seems though. That 281 represents just 3.3% of all U.S. banks and savings and loans, a far cry from numbers we saw during the savings and loan crisis in the 1980s. What's more, over 67% of the industry still qualifies for a recommended rating (either 5-Stars or 4-Stars). Another 25% fall in the middle (3½-Stars or 3-Stars). The remaining 4.3% of the industry is too new to rate.

"The bottom line is, there are plenty of strong banks and thrifts for consumers to choose from", emphasizes Karen Dorway, president of the research firm. "In fact, there are well over 5,500. The key is to do a little homework before you open an account at a bank you don't know, and certainly before depositing more than \$100,000 into any bank. It's easier than you might think to check on the rating of your bank."

To ensure you are banking with a healthy bank, thrift or credit union, simply visit our web site: www.bauerfinancial.com (free) or call 1.800.388.6686 to speak with one of our friendly representatives (\$4 for the first rating, \$2 for additional ratings on the same call).

For more information call 1.800.388.6686 or log on to www.bauerfinancial.com.

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Members of the press may request a free spreadsheet of all the bank and/or credit union star ratings in their state, along with financial highlights, by calling Karen Dorway at 1.800.388.6686 or emailing her at kdorway@bauerfinancial.com.

If you are absolutely certain you will not need bank data or spreadsheets and would like to be removed from our fax list, simply call 800.388.6686 or fax 800.230.9569. (Please include the fax number you wish to remove.)

Like what you see? **BAUERFINANCIAL** is here for all you bank related questions and answers .

Why Bauer? **BAUERFINANCIAL** has been reporting on and analyzing the performance of U.S. banks and credit unions since 1983. Nobody knows the industry better nor is better respected than **BAUERFINANCIAL** .

How can we get more information? Simply phone 1.800.388.6686, fax 1.800.230.9569 or email customerservice@bauerfinancial.com.

For more information on bank star-ratings or the highest CD rates in the country , visit our website at www.bauerfinancial.com.

How do we know we can trust **BAUER**'s ratings?

- A) The **FDIC** refers thousands of people to **BAUERFINANCIAL** each year because we are completely independent and unbiased.
- B) No bank pays for its rating, nor can any bank elude it.
- C) We have over 25 years of experience in this business!

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Star Rating Key:

5-Star = Superior
4-Star = Excellent
3½-Star = Good
3-Star = Adequate
2-Star = Problematic
1-Star = Troubled
Zero-Star = Our lowest rating
S.U. = Start up. Too new to rate

Other Useful Information:

For **FDIC** Decisions on Applications, visit:

<http://www.fdic.gov/regulations/laws/bankdecisions/DepIns/index.html>

To find any FDIC-Insured Institution (or to do searches based on date established), visit: <http://www2.fdic.gov/idasp/main.asp>



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