

For Immediate Release



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To Banking or Business Editor:

BauerFinancial Releases New Star-Ratings On all U.S. Banks and Credit Unions

March 15, 2017: BAUERFINANCIAL, Inc., Coral Gables, FL, the nation's leading independent bank rating firm, has newly released bank and credit union star ratings available by visiting bauerfinancial.com. Star-ratings on the nation's 11,000-plus banks and credit unions are free; reports with historical ratings, financial highlights and now featuring peer group comparison graphs start at just \$15.

While the vast majority of U.S. banks (and credit unions) are well rated, **Bauer's *Troubled and Problematic Bank Report*** (banks rated 2-stars or below) currently contains 146 banks with assets of \$32.9 billion and 734 branches across the country.

Only three states still have double-digit percentages at this low end: Arizona (11.8% are rated 2-stars or less); Georgia (the highest at 12.1%); and New Jersey (10.5%). South Carolina was in that group a year ago but has just 7.1% of its banks rated 2-stars or below at this time. Recommended banks in South Carolina rose from 58.3% a year ago to 75% now. While that's a huge improvement, it is still well below the national average of 87.6%.

It is important to remember, though, the numbers above are only representative of where the banks are headquartered. All branches of any given bank have the same rating.

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. When it comes to money, all decisions are important.

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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 emailing research@bauerfinancial.com.