

For Immediate Release



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To Banking or Business Editor:

40% of U.S. Banks Earn Top 5-Star Rating

September 9, 2011: BAUERFINANCIAL, Inc. Coral Gables, Florida, the nation's bank rating firm, just released its new Star-ratings on all federally insured U.S. banks and credit unions. Visit www.bauerfinancial.com to find the rating of yours today.

The latest ratings, based on June 30, 2011 financial data, show the highest percentage of top rated banks since September 30, 2007 with 40.7% earning its highest 5-Star rating! The percentage of recommended banks (those rated either 5-Stars or 4-Stars) is now at 62% of the industry. We are definitely headed in the right direction.

On the other hand, the banks on *BAUER's Troubled and Problematic Bank Report* (i.e. rated 2-Stars or below) still represent over 12% of the banking industry. Currently at 902 institutions, this category is also showing improvement. In fact, the last time we had this few banks on the Troubled & Problematic Report was the first quarter of 2009.

Credit Unions are looking good, as well, with 41% of the credit union industry earning the top 5-Star rating; those with either a 5-Star or 4-Star rating represent 69% of all federally insured credit unions. Credit Unions rated 2-Stars or below represent just over 5% of the industry.

Find out how any federally insured U.S. bank or credit union is rated!

It's Simple. It's Smart. And it's Free. Just visit www.bauerfinancial.com.

BAUERFINANCIAL has been providing the public with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions regarding their banking relationships since 1983. BAUERFINANCIAL has been the source that bankers and consumers have trusted when making important banking decisions. Let's face it, 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.