

For Immediate Release



CONTACT:

Karen Dorway
BAUERFINANCIAL, Inc.

TEL: 1.800.388.6686

FAX: 1.800.230.9569

www.bauerfinancial.com
research@bauerfinancial.com

To Banking or Business Editor:

Q1'11 Bank, CU Data Shows Progress, Not Out of Woods

June 10, 2011: BAUERFINANCIAL, Inc. Coral Gables, Florida, the nation's bank rating firm, has newly released Star-ratings on all federally insured U.S. banks and credit unions available now on its website.

Based on March 31, 2011 financial data, nearly 40% of the nation's banks have earned BauerFinancial's highest 5-Star rating. The percentage of recommended banks (those rated either 5-Stars or 4-Stars) remains at 60% of the industry.

At the low end of the spectrum: The number of banks on *BAUER'S Troubled and Problematic Bank Report* (i.e. rated 2-Stars or below) now stands at 915. The last time this list fell below that number was two full years ago—first quarter 2009. Bauer's star ratings contain predictive measures so our list is generally higher than the FDIC's, which is currently at 888. The fact that these numbers are getting closer together, though, is a good sign for the future.

Of course the total number of banks is also shrinking, so you also have to look at the number as a percent of the industry. Currently Bauer has 12.1% of the banking industry rated 2-Stars or below. Still high, but it's down from 13.2% last quarter and 13.7% a year ago.

Like banks, 5-Star Credit Unions represent nearly 40% of that industry, while those with either a 5-Star or 4-Star rating represent 67%. Credit Unions rated 2-Stars or below represent less than 6% of the industry.

To check the rating of your bank or credit union simply visit www.bauerfinancial.com. 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 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.