



#ILoveMyCommunityBank

#BankLocalGA

#CommunityBankingMonth

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COMMUNITY BANKING MONTH FACT SHEET

April is Community Banking Month, an opportunity for you and fellow bank employees to spread the word about what makes your bank special! Listed below are a few facts about the what sets community banks apart and why community banks are such a vital contributor to their local community.

- **Community banks are locally owned and operated.**
- An independent community bank is a locally owned and operated bank, where bank deposits are made in the area where the bank is located.
- Assets may range from less than **\$10 million to \$10 billion** or more. Community banks constitute **96.8%** of all banks.
- Community banks are the primary source of lending for small businesses and farms. Even though they compose just 10% of the banking industry by assets, **community banks with less than \$1 billion in assets made 37.5%** of outstanding bank loans to small businesses.
- Research has shown average fees for checking accounts and other depository services are **lower** at community banks than at large, multi-state institutions.
- Community banks reinvest deposits almost exclusively within their local communities. **Nearly 95%** of the bank's investment is put back in your community through residential mortgages, small business loans, agricultural and student loans.
- **Banks are led by local people** — neighbors, family, and friends are employed by local community banks.
- Because community banks are themselves small businesses, they understand the needs of small-business owners.
- Community banks' boards of directors are made up of local citizens who want to **advance the interests of the towns and cities** where they live and where their banks do business.
- Community banks offer a wide range of banking services and products designed to **meet the needs of consumers and businesses.**

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We are community banking.