

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:

Percent of Top Rated Banks, CUs Continues to Climb

December 8, 2011: Updated quarterly star-ratings on all U.S. banks and credit unions have just been released by **BAUERFINANCIAL, Inc., the nation's bank rating firm**. The new ratings show a continuation of positive trends at the nation's federally insured depository institutions. That should be welcome news to all this Holiday Season.

The latest ratings, based on September 30, 2011 financial data, clearly indicate the nation's financial system is on the mend with over 42% of U.S. banks and credit unions earning its highest 5-Star rating.

At the other end of the spectrum, however, over 11% of U.S. banks are rated 2-Stars or below, putting them on ***BAUER's Troubled and Problematic Bank Report***. Currently at 884 institutions, this report is shrinking. The last time there were this few banks on the Troubled & Problematic Report was the first quarter of 2009, 2½ years ago.

That does not mean you should be complacent. Just as an example, over 38% of the banks headquartered in the state of Georgia are rated 2-Stars or below. And, even if you live in a state with few troubled banks and/or credit unions, it is always a good idea to make sure your financial institution is not one of them. Treat yourself by visiting www.bauerfinancial.com to get the rating of yours today.

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** 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.

BAUERFINANCIAL.... because peace of mind matters!

##

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.