

Community Banking Reference Data Notes to Users

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1. Business Problem

The FDIC has developed a community bank definition for research purposes and this definition is being used for publicly available papers.¹ The demographic and financial data behind the FDIC’s definition, sourced from the Research Information System (RIS), Summary of Deposits (SOD), and Structure Information Management System (SIMS) needs to be publicly available so that external analysts can build upon the FDIC’s research. RIS is a series of data sets used in time series analysis of institution financial statements. The SOD is the annual survey of branch office deposits for all FDIC-insured institutions. SIMS contains geographic information on branches operated by FDIC-insured institutions, such as their location.

2. Solution

Create data sets available to the public that contain community bank designations from Q1-1984 onward, as well as the demographic and financial data underlying those designations, for all FDIC-insured institutions.

In addition, the data sets contain variables indicating reason(s) an organization may have been excluded from the FDIC’s definition of community bank (variables with the prefix “EXCL”), as well as variables indicating whether an organization meets the six tests imposed to be considered a community bank according to the FDIC’s definition (variables with the prefix “MEETS”). These six tests—measuring loan to asset and core deposits to asset ratios, determining the deposit size of the largest office, counting the number of offices, and counting the number of large metro areas and states with an office—are imposed on all organizations that are not excluded and that meet or exceed an indexed asset size threshold.

¹ The FDIC’s definition of a community bank can be found in either of the FDIC’s Community Banking Studies, available at <https://www.fdic.gov/community-banking-research-program/community-banking-studies>.

Large organizations that are not excluded must meet all six tests to be considered a community bank according to the FDIC’s definition. For more detail, see the FDIC’s Community Banking Studies in footnote 1.

This data is provided to the public to supplement existing FDIC research on community banks and encourage further academic and professional research.

Community bank designations for the most recent quarter only are contained in the file available at the link, “Download Current Data.” Community bank designations for quarters beginning with Q1-1984 and up through the most recent quarter are contained in files available at the link, “Download Data File: [Year X to Year Y].” “Year X to Year Y” indicates that the file contains the data between Year X and Year Y, inclusive.

a. Table Layout

The following table outlines the structure of each file.

Name	Source	Type	Definition
ID	RIS	Num	Unique banking organization identification number. Designation of community bank status is at the banking organization level. Institutions in a multibank holding company take the RSSD ID (unique identifying number assigned by the Federal Reserve for all financial institutions, main offices, and branches) of the parent holding company, identified as their regulatory high holder, as their banking organization’s unique identifier (ID). Institutions not in a bank holding company or in a one-bank holding company take the bank’s FDIC certificate number as their organization’s unique identifier. Data for each banking organization is aggregated over all the institutions in the organization.
NAMEHCR	RIS	Char	The name of the top regulatory bank holding company.
RSSDHCR	RIS	Num	The regulatory top holder RSSD ID number.

EXCL_SPECIALTY	RIS	Num	Any banking organization where more than 50 percent of total assets are held in certain specialty banking charters (e.g. credit card specialists, consumer nonbank banks, industrial loan companies, trust companies, and bankers banks) have a value of "1." All others have a value of "0."
EXCL_FOREIGN	RIS	Num	Foreign assets greater than or equal to 10 percent flag where a "1" indicates that foreign assets are greater than or equal to 10% of total assets. A "0" indicates that foreign assets are less than 10% of total assets.
EXCL_NOCORE	RIS	Num	No core deposits flag where a "1" indicates that this organization does not have core deposits. A "0" indicates that this organization has core deposits.
EXCL_NOLOANS	RIS	Num	No loans flag where a "1" indicates that this organization does not have loans. A "0" indicates that this organization has loans.
EXCL_CREDIT	RIS	Num	Credit card flag where a "1" indicates that this organization is a credit card organization. A "0" indicates that this institution is not a credit card organization.
CERT	RIS	Num	FDIC certificate number.
NAMEFULL	RIS	Char	Full name of the institution.
ADDRESS	RIS	Char	Address of the headquarters of the institution.
CITY	RIS	Char	The city where the headquarters of the institution is located.
STALP	RIS	Char	The state abbreviation of the location of the institution's headquarters.
ZIP	RIS	Char	The ZIP code associated with the physical address of the institution's headquarters.
STCNTY	RIS	Num	The Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code associated with the state and county of the institution's headquarters.
YEAR	RIS	Num	The year of community bank designation.
CALLYM	RIS	Num	Reporting quarter, expressed as yyyyymm. Quarters are expressed using the number of the last month in the quarter. For example, the third quarter of 2001 is expressed as 200109.
CB	CALC	Num	Community bank flag where a "1" designates community bank status. A "0" designates non-community bank status. See 2b for further explanation.

ASSET	RIS	Num	The total assets of the institution (in thousands).
HCASSET	RIS	Num	The total assets of the banking organization, represented by the sum of total assets across each FDIC-insured bank or thrift subsidiary belonging to the organization identified by the variable ID (in thousands).
SIZE	RIS	Char	An "S" indicates the total assets of the banking organization (HCASSET) are below the indexed asset size threshold that quarter. An "L" indicates the organization's total assets meet or exceed the quarter's threshold.
FORASSET	RIS	Num	The foreign asset ratio of the organization.
LOANTOASSET	RIS	Num	The loan to asset ratio of the organization.
CORERATIO	RIS	Num	The core deposit to asset ratio of the organization.
MAX_DEPOSITS	SOD	Num	The largest amount of deposits held at any branch of the organization (in thousands).
OFFICE_COUNT	RIS, SIMS	Num	Number of offices the organization operates.
UNIQUE_METROS	CALC	Num	The number of unique large metro areas in which the organization operates (has branches). A "large metro area" is defined as any MSA with a population of over 500,000 people.
STATE_COUNT	SIMS	Num	Number of states in which the organization has branches.
BUSINESS_LINE	CALC	Char	The lending specialization of the institution. See 2b for further explanation.
MEETS_LTA	RIS	Char	A "1" indicates the organization's loan to asset ratio is greater than 33 percent, a "0" indicates otherwise, while "NA" indicates that this threshold does not apply because either the organization is excluded, or is not excluded and has total assets below the quarter's indexed asset size threshold (size = "S").
MEETS_CORE	RIS	Char	A "1" indicates the organization's core deposits to assets ratio is greater than 50 percent, a "0" indicates otherwise, while "NA" indicates that this threshold does not apply because either the organization is excluded, or is not excluded and has total assets below the quarter's indexed asset size threshold (size = "S").

MEETS_DEPOSITS	SOD	Char	A “1” indicates the organization has no office with deposits in excess of the quarter’s indexed maximum office deposit size, a “0” indicates otherwise, while “NA” indicates that this threshold does not apply because either the organization is excluded, or is not excluded and has total assets below the quarter’s indexed asset size threshold (size = “S”).
MEETS_OFFICES	RIS, SIMS	Char	A “1” indicates the organization has at least two offices, and no more than that quarter’s indexed maximum number of offices, a “0” indicates otherwise, while “NA” indicates that this threshold does not apply because either the organization is excluded, or is not excluded and has total assets below the quarter’s indexed asset size threshold (size = “S”).
MEETS_LRGMSA	CALC	Char	A “1” indicates the organization has offices in less than 3 large metro areas, a “0” indicates otherwise, while “NA” indicates that this threshold does not apply because either the organization is excluded, or is not excluded and has total assets below the quarter’s indexed asset size threshold (size = “S”).
MEETS_STATES	SIMS	Char	A “1” indicates the organization has offices in less than 4 states, a “0” indicates otherwise, while “NA” indicates that this threshold does not apply because either the organization is excluded, or is not excluded and has total assets below the quarter’s indexed asset size threshold (size = “S”).
RUN_DATE	CALC	Num	The date when the current data set was created, expressed as yyymmdd. This date is the same for every record.

Sources: RIS = Research Information System (updated quarterly), CALC = calculated by the Division of Insurance and Research (updated quarterly), SOD = Summary of Deposits (updated June 30 annually) SIMS = Structure Information Management System (the FDIC’s system of record for branch structure data).

b. Derivation of Calculated Variables

CB (Community Bank Flag)

The CB flag designates community bank status based on the FDIC’s research definition of a community bank. This definition can be found in the FDIC’s 2012 and 2020 Community Banking Studies, at <https://www.fdic.gov/community-banking-research-program/community-banking-studies>. To make it readily available to, and enable its use by, other researchers, the FDIC has adapted the original definition to utilize regularly updated data sources.

BUSINESS_LINE

BUSINESS_LINE identifies asset concentration and is calculated by comparing relative concentrations of loans to an institution's total assets at the institution-level. This variable is ultimately based on RIS data.

Every institution is in one, and only one, of the categories below (the criteria are mutually exclusive).

Reference #	BUSINESS_LINE Values	Definition
Retail Loans		
1	Mortgage Lending	Residential loans are more than 30% of total assets.
2	Other Consumer Lending Specialization	Other consumer loans are more than 20% of total assets.
Commercial Loans		
3	Commercial Real Estate Lending Specialization	Construction and Development (C&D) loans are more than 10% of assets or Commercial Real Estate (CRE) loans are more than 30% of total assets.
4	C&I Lending Specialization	Commercial and Industrial (C&I) loans are more than 20% of total assets.
5	Ag Lending Specialization	Agricultural loans are more than 20% of assets.
6	Multiple Specializations	Retail loans are greater than 40% of assets, or commercial loans are greater than 40% of total assets, or the institution meets any two of 1 through 5 in this table.
7	No Specialty	Total loans are less than 33% of assets or the institution meets none of 1 through 6 in this table.

c. Methodological Changes From the 2012 Study

Metro Population Estimates

Beginning with the first quarter of 2014, the metro area population estimates used to calculate the number of large MSAs in which banks operate offices will lag one year. That is, the 2013 metro area population estimates will be in use through 2014, and the 2014 estimates will be in use through 2015, and so on. The numbers of large MSAs in which banks operate offices calculated for prior years reflect the population estimates for those years.

Number of Offices and Their Locations

In 2023 the FDIC incorporated the creation of the Community Bank Flag into the Research Information System, or RIS. With this change, the number of offices operated by an organization, and their locations, can be sourced from the FDIC’s SIMS data and there is no longer a need to merger-adjust the SOD, although the SOD will continue to provide data on office deposits.

SIMS provides more frequently updated information about an organization’s office footprint than the SOD. It also bridges a gap in the SOD data for the periods Q1-1984 through Q2-1987. Thus, relying on SIMS data allowed the FDIC to vary the maximum number of offices thresholds applicable to “large” banking organizations for those periods.

d. Notes

A “large” banking organization that is not otherwise excluded must meet certain criteria to be considered a community bank under the FDIC’s definition. One of these criteria is that a large organization must not operate any office with deposits—as reported on the SOD—greater than a maximum amount. This maximum amount increases each quarter by a fixed percentage beginning in Q3-1987 and is held constant for prior periods because deposit data at the branch level are not available electronically. For such prior periods data from Q4-1987 are used as a proxy.

3. Maintenance

Users combining this data with other FDIC maintained data such as RIS should be aware that other FDIC maintained data are refreshed according to different schedules. For instance, RIS data is updated quarterly, capturing newly filed Call Report data for the current quarter in addition to amendments and other corrections to prior quarter data. Information generated using RIS or other FDIC maintained data may not correspond exactly to analysis posted on FDIC.gov produced using prior versions of that data.

The Community Banking Reference Data files will be updated quarterly by the FDIC’s Division of Insurance and Research.

Any changes made to the data set will be recorded in all subsequent notes to users.

4. Revisions

June 5, 2014 – Notes revised to reflect changes associated with the quarterly designation of Community Banks.

June 13, 2014 – Section 2c added.

November 28, 2016 – Eight variables were added to all the historical data sets: SIZE, FORASSET, MEETS_LTA, MEETS_CORE, MEETS_DEPOSITS, MEETS_OFFICES, MEETS_LRGMSA, and MEETS_STATES.

The definitions of ID, ASSET, HCASSET, and MAX_DEPOSITS were clarified.

December 4, 2020 – The definitions of CALLYM, CORERATIO, OFFICE_COUNT, and MEETS_OFFICES were clarified.

December 2, 2025 – Notes revised to reflect the incorporation of the Community Bank Flag into RIS.