



Wednesday, March 14, 2012 6:50 AM ET Exclusive

# A king of Queens tops SNL ranking of community banks with less than \$500M in assets

[Article](#) [Related Content](#)

To receive real-time alerts for this regular feature, click here.

By Sam Carr and Tyler Hall

[Amerasia Bank](#) topped SNL's annual ranking of the top 100 community banks with less than \$500 million in assets for 2011. The Flushing, N.Y.-based bank, with its two branches situated within walking distance of Citi Field, produced the kind of stats that should be the envy of its Citi Field neighbors. Led by President and CEO James Huang, the Asian-American-focused bank scored consistently well across all metrics, even though it did not post the top number in any one area.

SNL ranked the best-performing community banks using six core financial performance metrics that focus on profitability, asset quality and growth for the 12-month period ended Dec. 31, 2011. SNL measured each company's standard deviation from the mean of each metric. The standard deviations, which were each equally weighted, were then added together to calculate a performance score for each company.

Amerasia grew its balance sheet 17.6% year over year, with a loan growth rate of 21.9% over the same period. Over the year, the bank saw its interest income increase, while at the same time experiencing lower interest expense compared to the prior year.

Nabbing the No. 2 spot in the ranking was Oklahoma City, Okla.-based [Bank 7](#), followed by Greenville, Mo.-based [Peoples Community Bank](#) in third. It bears noting that two [Dentel Bancorp.](#) subsidiaries placed in the top 25 — Victor, Iowa-based [Victor State Bank](#) placed fifth and Pocahontas, Iowa-based [Pocahontas State Bank](#) took 11th place. Additionally, Dentel Bancorp. had three other subsidiaries make the top 100 ranking: Corydon, Iowa-based [Corydon State Bank](#); Maxwell, Iowa-based [Maxwell State Bank](#); and Panora, Iowa-based [Panora State Bank](#).

For this ranking, SNL looked at commercial banks with less than \$500 million in assets, 60 or fewer offices and loan portfolios greater than one-third of their total assets. Additionally, the banks' loan portfolios had to consist of less than 50% credit card loans, and no more than half of the banks' revenue could be from nontraditional banking activities. Companies with a parent with more than \$500 million in assets were also excluded, except for those whose parent grew to more than \$500 million in 2011 but have not yet filed on a consolidated basis. Moreover, banks had to be well-capitalized according to regulatory standards.

Based on the above criteria, 4,316 banks were eligible for the rankings. Companies meeting the criteria received scores based on their rank in each of the following six metrics: return on average tangible assets before tax, net charge-offs as a percent of average loans, efficiency ratio, adjusted Texas ratio, net interest margin and loan growth.

Click [here](#) to see the full list of the top 100 best performing community banks with less than \$500 million in assets.

Tools

A+ A-

Related Companies	
Amerasia Bank	Flushing, NY
Badger State Bank	Cassville, WI
Bank 7	Oklahoma City, OK
<a href="#">More &gt;&gt;</a>	

Sources

[Industry Document: SNL Community Bank Ranking Less than \\$500M in Assets 2011 3/9/2012](#)

Users Also Read

- [Data Dispatch: State Bank Financial tops SNL's ranking of best-performing community banks with more than \\$500M in assets - Wednesday, March 14, 2012 6:50 AM](#)
- [Data Dispatch: SNL's 2011 ranking of top 100 community banks with less than \\$500M in assets - Wednesday, March 14, 2012 6:50 AM](#)
- [Data Dispatch: SNL's 2011 ranking of top 100 community banks with assets between \\$500M and \\$5B - Wednesday, March 14, 2012 6:50 AM](#)
- [Treasury takes TARP action on 6 financial institutions - Thursday, March 15, 2012 6:07 AM](#)
- [12 banks added to KBW's 'potential buyers' tally - Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:22 PM](#)

## Best-performing community banks under \$500M in assets

Based on financials for the year ended Dec. 31, 2011

Rank	Company	City, state	Parent	Scoring metrics						
				Total assets (\$M)	ROATA before tax (%)	NCOs/avg loans (%)	Efficiency ratio (%)	Adj NPA + adj loans 90+ PD/ tang equity + LLR (%)	Net interest margin FTE (%)	Loan growth rate (%)
1	Amerasia Bank	Flushing, NY		268.30	3.34	0.00	38.37	3.23	5.87	21.90
2	Bank 7	Oklahoma City, OK	Haines Financial Corp.	211.57	8.62	-0.22	27.25	18.77	5.67	53.30
3	Peoples Community Bank	Greenville, MO	Greenville Bancshares Inc.	136.46	3.64	0.09	42.37	5.60	5.92	29.95
4	Prime Bank	Edmond, OK	Prime Bank Group Inc.	144.49	2.61	0.00	44.59	1.38	5.00	48.85
5	Victor State Bank	Victor, IA	Dentel Bancorp.	43.49	3.44	0.30	20.50	0.07	5.93	12.86
6	Exchange Bank	Gibbon, NE	Exchange Co.	389.06	2.74	0.70	41.18	5.88	6.57	67.28
7	First National Bank of Hughes Springs	Hughes Springs, TX	Chalybeate Springs Corp.	186.45	2.33	-0.21	50.10	4.06	5.88	16.62
8	Community First Bank of the Heartland	Mount Vernon, IL	Cedar Bancorp Inc.	143.35	2.46	0.02	49.93	1.61	4.95	73.40
9	Crestmark Bank	Troy, MI	Crestmark Bancorp Inc.	362.97	5.29	-0.16	61.81	9.20	15.92	45.58
10	Charter Bank	Corpus Christi, TX	Charter Bancshares Inc.	207.64	2.94	0.40	50.25	6.30	7.37	25.42
11	Pocahontas State Bank	Pocahontas, IA	Dentel Bancorp.	85.73	3.22	0.00	17.89	0.00	6.16	3.25
12	Bank of Billings	Billings, MO	First Miami Bancshares Inc.	57.45	2.25	0.13	53.12	5.70	5.82	23.53
13	First Security Bank - Canby	Canby, MN	First Sleepy Eye Bancorp. Inc.	59.04	2.22	0.04	56.48	6.90	5.61	81.68
14	Peoples State Bank	McDonald, KS	Big Mac Bancshares Inc.	115.82	2.58	0.07	54.12	11.48	5.50	20.74
15	Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Fairview	Fairview, OK	Fairview Bancshares Inc.	92.24	2.64	-0.22	44.01	0.18	5.23	2.02
16	First National Bank of Kinmundy	Kinmundy, IL	South Central Bancorp Inc.	36.74	3.44	0.03	42.06	0.61	5.96	3.26
17	Premier Bank of Jacksonville	Jacksonville, IL	West Plains Investors Inc.	225.66	2.32	0.24	40.39	16.02	4.92	46.39
18	Royal Bank	Elroy, WI	Royal Bancshares Inc.	309.76	5.80	0.16	31.84	21.07	4.70	30.98
19	Verus Bank of Commerce	Fort Collins, CO	Verus Acquisition Group Inc.	249.28	2.24	0.11	43.66	11.11	4.82	144.38
20	USNY Bank	Geneva, NY		109.54	2.09	0.00	52.74	3.30	4.93	27.74
21	Heartland State Bank	Redfield, SD	Wessington Bankshares Inc.	70.96	2.29	0.07	57.27	0.55	5.99	16.61
22	Curtis State Bank	Curtis, NE	Western Investment Group LLC	36.09	2.61	0.14	51.75	1.03	4.72	21.45
23	RepublicBankAz NA	Phoenix, AZ		65.79	4.20	-0.62	58.20	23.56	4.88	21.05
24	Farmers State Bank	Hosmer, SD	H2H Bancshares Inc.	17.94	2.45	-0.11	56.85	3.09	5.86	11.71
25	St. Martin Bank and Trust Co.	St. Martinville, LA	Saint Martin Bancshares Inc.	351.54	2.66	-0.04	54.08	12.40	6.06	13.49

FTE = fully taxable equivalent

ROATA = return on average tangible assets

As of March 7, 2012

For the purposes of this ranking, SNL defined community banks as commercial banks with 60 or fewer offices, gross loans/assets greater than 33.3% and credit card loans less than 50% of the loan portfolio.

Excludes banks with a parent over \$500M in assets, except for those whose parent grew to more than \$500M in 2011 but has not yet filed on a consolidated basis at the parent level.

Excludes industrial, cooperative and trust chartered banks.

Excludes banks with a Tier 1 risk-based ratio less than 6%, total risk-based capital ratio less than 10% or a leverage ratio less than 5%.

Companies with significant other non-interest income from nontraditional banking activities are excluded.

Data is based on 2011 regulatory data. All rankings metrics must be reported for the company to be included.

Source: SNL Financial

## About This Feature

Data feature produced by SNL's research groups in cooperation with the news department, leverages SNL's unrivaled data resources to highlight emerging trends and topics of interest.

Despite losing the top spot, Middle America banks, in aggregate, made a strong showing. Oklahoma boasts the most banks, 13, in the top 100 banks within the asset range. Close behind the Sooner State are Midwestern neighbors Iowa and Nebraska, with 12 and 11, respectively. Texas followed with eight banks, edging out the Dakotas, Louisiana and Kansas.

States by number of banks in top 100			
State	Number of banks in top 100	Number of banks in analysis	Percent in top 100
Oklahoma	13	190	6.84
Iowa	12	263	4.56
Nebraska	11	174	6.32
Texas	8	349	2.29
South Dakota	6	47	12.77
North Dakota	5	71	7.04
Louisiana	5	92	5.43
Kansas	5	245	2.04
Kentucky	4	131	3.05
Missouri	4	230	1.74
Minnesota	4	286	1.40
Illinois	4	348	1.15
Utah	2	19	10.53
New York	2	52	3.85
Colorado	2	66	3.03
Arkansas	2	82	2.44
Wisconsin	2	186	1.08
Arizona	1	17	5.88
Wyoming	1	21	4.76
New Mexico	1	26	3.85
Maryland	1	34	2.94
New Jersey	1	34	2.94
Montana	1	57	1.75
Michigan	1	82	1.22
California	1	138	0.72
Georgia	1	147	0.68
<b>Analysis totals</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4,316</b>	<b>2.32</b>

Only states with a bank in the top 100 are represented.  
Source: SNL Financial







Troy, Mich.-based [Crestmark Bank](#) posted the highest NIM, a hefty 15.92% for the year. Of its total loan portfolio, 93.01% consists of commercial and industrial loans yielding 17.64%.

Fort Collins, Colo.-based [Verus Bank of Commerce](#) recorded the largest loan growth rate from the prior year. On April 16, 2010, Verus parent [Verus Acquisition Group Inc.](#) purchased three subsidiaries from Lansing, Mich.-based [Capitol Bancorp Ltd.](#) and consolidated their operations into Verus Bank.

Elroy, Wis.-based [Royal Bank](#) chalked up the largest pretax return on average tangible assets of banks making the top 25, with 5.80%. On February 11, 2011, the [Royal Bancshares Inc.](#) subsidiary acquired Cassville, Wis.-based [Badger State Bank](#) from the FDIC. In the deal, Royal Bancshares purchased essentially all the assets of Badger State Bank at a discount of \$21.5 million. As a result, Royal Bank recorded a \$12.4 million gain on bargain purchase in the third quarter of 2011 that boosted its return.

*Note: SNL has changed the ranking methodology used in the prior year ranking. Previously, companies were measured based on their percent rank on each of the following, equally weighted metrics: return on average tangible assets before tax, net charge-offs as a percentage of average loans, adjusted nonperforming loans as a percentage of total loans, operating expense as a percentage of operating revenue, net interest margin and loan growth.*

Click [here](#) to read an article about 2010's best performing community banks with less than \$500 million in assets, and click [here](#) to see the full 2010 list of top 100 community banks with less than \$500 million in assets.

 Article Feedback
  Email this story
  Printable View
  Tweet
  Share
  Share