

Research & Analysis

Alabama's Samson Banking tops ranking of best-performing small banks in 2021

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Samson, Ala.-based [Samson Banking Co.](#) led S&P Global Market Intelligence's 2021 ranking of the best-performing U.S. community banks under \$3 billion in assets.

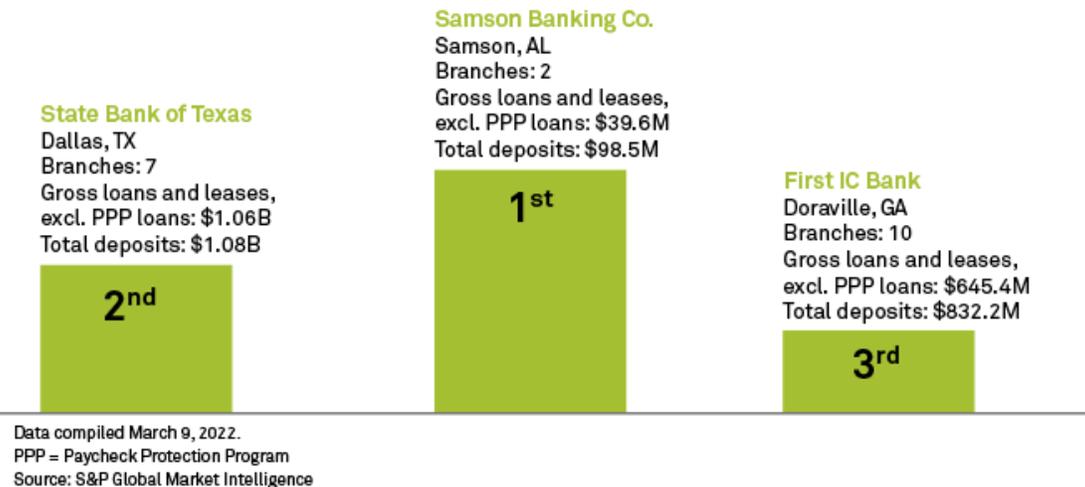
About this analysis

To compile this ranking, S&P Global Market Intelligence calculated scores for each company based on six metrics: pretax return on tangible common equity; efficiency ratio; operating revenue growth; net charge-offs to average loans and leases net of Paycheck Protection Program loans ratio; nonperforming assets and loans 90 days or more past due as a percentage of total assets, net of PPP loans; and leverage ratio.

Each company's standard deviation from the industry mean was calculated for every ranking metric, weighted, then combined to derive a performance score. To help normalize the data and mitigate the impact of outliers, caps and floors were applied for each metric.

Based on the above criteria, 4,015 banks and thrifts were eligible for this ranking.

3 best-performing community banks of 2021 under \$3B in assets



Established over 90 years ago, Samson Banking Co. operates two brick-and-mortar branches in the Alabama cities of Samson and Geneva.

Samson Banking performed strongly in 2021, posting a 14.5% increase in assets and a 38.5% jump in net interest income while maintaining a 42.65% efficiency ratio and zero nonperforming assets or loans 90-plus days past due as of Dec. 31, 2021. Overall, the bank outperformed the top 100 median in all six ranking metrics.

The bank's interest income on commercial and industrial loans more than quadrupled to \$1.4 million in 2021, which helped send the company's operating revenue soaring 87.4% last year.

Best-performing community banks of 2021 under \$3B in assets

Based on financials for the year ended Dec. 31, 2021

Rank	Company (top-level ticker)	City, state	Total assets, excl. PPP loans (\$M)	ROATCE (%)	Efficiency ratio (%)	Operating revenue growth (%)	Ranking metrics		
							NCOs/avg. loans and leases, excl. PPP loans (%)	NPAs & loans 90+ PD/total assets, excl. PPP loans (%)	Leverage ratio (%)
1	Samson Banking Co.	Samson, AL	108.8	27.71	42.65	87.4	-0.01	0.00	12.54
2	State Bank of Texas	Dallas, TX	1,310.5	28.33	22.25	40.3	-0.03	1.02	15.95
3	First IC Bank (FIEB)	Doraville, GA	912.3	28.02	47.65	53.6	-0.16	0.02	11.08
4	First General Bank	Rowland Heights, CA	1,234.0	22.89	26.29	29.0	0.01	0.09	14.60
5	Nebraska State Bank	Oshkosh, NE	67.8	25.59	38.23	17.0	0.00	0.45	15.86
6	Bank of George (GBFH)	Las Vegas, NV	608.7	23.19	55.22	36.7	0.00	0.05	15.71
7	American Plus Bank NA	Arcadia, CA	588.6	19.93	28.50	24.0	0.00	0.00	17.11
8	Bank of Houston	Houston, MO	47.5	30.26	54.33	121.1	0.00	0.00	12.77
9	Home Bank of California	San Diego, CA	196.4	24.20	40.75	21.6	0.00	0.00	13.40
10	Fresno First Bank (CFST)	Fresno, CA	1,027.0	26.42	36.77	44.9	0.01	0.29	11.44
11	CFG Community Bank	Baltimore, MD	2,594.9	35.27	42.17	71.6	-0.08	0.31	10.46
12	Maple Bank	Champlin, MN	91.8	28.20	49.55	58.9	-0.03	0.00	11.05
13	Gateway Commercial Bank	Mesa, AZ	207.4	24.62	36.83	39.0	-0.11	0.00	9.65
14	Peoples Bank	Lebanon, KY	91.5	32.23	44.57	71.6	0.01	0.00	10.29
15	Embassy National Bank	Lawrenceville, GA	116.8	19.38	61.98	52.8	0.00	0.00	16.46
16	Golden Bank NA	Houston, TX	1,263.3	19.26	43.19	42.1	-0.04	0.12	13.55
17	Readlyn Savings Bank	Readlyn, IA	141.7	15.58	46.43	78.3	0.04	0.02	17.06
18	Northeast Bank (NBN)	Portland, ME	1,460.0	48.67	29.27	71.2	0.04	2.95	15.19
19	One World Bank	Dallas, TX	126.7	19.83	59.01	52.1	-0.03	0.09	14.28
20	Murphy Bank	Fresno, CA	350.8	26.21	40.01	30.2	0.04	0.30	11.71
21	Capital Community Bank	Provo, UT	517.0	31.60	42.73	83.2	1.97	0.68	13.97
22	First Security Bank of Deer Lodge	Deer Lodge, MT	75.2	30.94	41.22	50.3	0.00	0.00	8.71
23	Pacific City Bank (PCB)	Los Angeles, CA	2,084.4	24.29	44.42	22.6	-0.03	0.08	11.85
24	VisionBank	Saint Louis Park, MN	174.8	35.81	37.75	47.4	0.01	0.00	8.49
25	Bank of New England	Salem, NH	1,253.4	19.94	31.18	21.8	0.00	0.55	15.08
26	Cumberland Security Bank Inc.	Somerset, KY	279.2	23.91	42.63	3.5	-0.08	0.11	13.08
27	US Metro Bk (USMT)	Garden Grove, CA	947.7	24.83	45.31	73.5	0.10	0.13	10.46
28	M1 Bank	Clayton, MO	619.6	27.84	31.63	41.5	0.00	0.02	8.93
29	Texas National Bank	Mercedes, TX	506.4	52.35	43.63	105.0	0.03	0.49	10.51
30	American Continental Bank	City of Industry, CA	333.6	19.31	47.79	62.7	0.00	0.02	12.13
31	First Carolina Bank	Rocky Mount, NC	1,414.3	14.37	41.34	57.7	0.00	0.00	13.54
32	Farmers & Merchants Bank of Colby	Colby, KS	329.4	16.30	37.88	16.3	-0.07	0.03	14.74
33	Flagler Bank	West Palm Beach, FL	495.4	23.40	40.11	16.8	-0.38	0.03	9.51
34	Haverford Trust Co.	Radnor, PA	177.4	45.12	76.25	20.7	0.00	0.00	16.87
35	Cornerstone Community Bank (CRSB)	Red Bluff, CA	583.0	26.90	38.36	36.1	0.00	0.00	8.80
36	Jonesboro State Bank	Jonesboro, LA	539.4	24.12	32.37	55.6	0.13	0.22	9.83
37	Bank of Cleveland	Cleveland, TN	341.2	17.83	52.73	9.0	-0.34	0.37	15.66
38	Park Ridge Community Bank	Park Ridge, IL	419.1	16.64	39.98	22.7	0.00	0.13	14.56
39	Cache Valley Bank	Logan, UT	2,811.6	36.18	35.15	35.8	-0.06	0.29	8.80
40	Titan Bank NA	Mineral Wells, TX	405.0	33.15	36.35	39.9	0.00	0.01	8.10
41	PrinsBank	Prinsburg, MN	194.0	21.37	46.73	42.0	0.81	0.20	14.13
42	Pioneer Trust Bank NA	Salem, OR	730.7	27.37	30.73	6.8	-0.02	0.00	10.94
43	Red River State Bank	Halstad, MN	133.2	24.07	41.07	39.1	-0.02	0.36	9.53
44	First Western Federal Savings Bank	Rapid City, SD	63.4	18.93	47.93	8.9	0.00	0.15	15.74
45	Peoples Community Bank	Greenville, MO	620.7	18.23	38.69	12.6	0.05	0.42	17.11
46	Freedom Bank	Freer, TX	94.4	32.52	54.41	92.8	0.00	0.00	9.07
47	First National Bank	Fort Pierre, SD	1,666.8	28.63	38.44	9.1	2.00	0.64	19.08
48	NSB Bank	Mason City, IA	435.9	36.15	46.42	73.3	-0.01	0.12	8.07
49	MRV Banks	Sainte Genevieve, MO	628.3	28.17	36.07	27.2	-0.01	0.13	9.23
50	SouthernTrust Bank	Marion, IL	194.6	28.95	46.13	103.1	0.02	0.95	10.90

51	Mountain Commerce Bank (MCBI)	Knoxville, TN	1,319.3	25.29	38.69	25.0	0.02	0.14	9.75
52	New Century Bank	Belleville, KS	56.5	26.30	59.19	23.4	0.08	0.00	12.92
53	Bank of Lake Village	Lake Village, AR	76.0	20.43	44.17	56.1	0.25	0.33	13.25
54	Open Bank (OPBK)	Los Angeles, CA	1,685.9	27.56	45.71	37.6	0.02	0.19	9.44
55	Cowboy Bank of Texas	Maypearl, TX	120.9	25.81	46.57	17.5	0.00	0.05	10.89
56	Progressive National Bank	Mansfield, LA	106.9	26.10	54.30	64.3	0.01	0.06	9.09
57	Quantum National Bank	Suwanee, GA	611.3	33.84	42.38	14.1	-0.02	0.00	10.24
58	NewBank	Flushing, NY	543.5	22.82	49.83	57.1	0.15	0.08	10.94
59	First United Bank	Dimmitt, TX	2,005.0	27.84	44.56	27.6	-0.08	0.24	9.33
60	First Eagle Bank	Chicago, IL	591.2	15.18	36.34	17.0	-0.03	0.40	17.69
61	Endeavor Bank (EDVR)	San Diego, CA	376.7	23.82	53.00	72.2	0.00	0.14	9.50
62	Century Bank of the Ozarks	Gainesville, MO	245.3	35.20	48.77	38.1	-0.02	0.14	9.10
63	First Savings Bank	Beresford, SD	1,276.8	36.83	43.24	16.7	2.29	0.59	14.84
64	Prairie Sun Bank	Milan, MN	107.3	27.99	45.68	52.7	-0.01	0.12	7.66
65	Five Star Bank (FSBC)	Rancho Cordova, CA	2,534.9	24.77	37.80	14.8	0.04	0.02	10.38
66	United Citizens Bank of Southern Kentucky Inc.	Columbia, KY	188.1	21.57	48.33	17.5	0.00	0.30	13.30
67	New Millennium Bank (NMBF)	Fort Lee, NJ	522.4	26.51	48.89	36.9	-0.10	0.53	9.45
68	Farmers State Bank	Waterloo, IA	1,370.1	23.83	40.55	19.6	0.01	0.30	10.85
69	Commonwealth Business Bank (CBBI)	Los Angeles, CA	1,773.4	23.11	50.24	49.5	-0.01	0.28	9.55
70	Wallis Bank	Wallis, TX	1,021.0	49.25	37.66	40.3	0.07	0.53	9.45
71	Citizens Bank	Carthage, TN	762.8	15.05	28.79	10.0	0.03	0.11	16.60
72	Global Bank	New York, NY	231.7	19.86	56.80	35.5	0.00	0.18	13.08
73	Community Valley Bank (CMUV)	El Centro, CA	273.5	26.82	42.12	26.4	0.01	0.65	10.73
74	Main Bank	Albuquerque, NM	247.4	30.15	37.99	29.2	0.00	0.00	8.02
75	UniBank (UNIF)	Lynnwood, WA	452.1	17.13	52.20	15.8	-0.01	0.07	15.24
76	Northern Bank & Trust Co.	Woburn, MA	2,832.0	24.01	36.02	13.2	0.02	1.21	13.87
77	CenterBank	Milford, OH	265.5	27.41	51.56	13.1	0.00	0.20	11.76
78	Pony Express Bank	Liberty, MO	319.4	28.16	50.52	27.7	-0.05	0.00	9.11
79	Metro Phoenix Bank (MPHX)	Phoenix, AZ	405.3	23.35	45.64	18.9	-0.02	0.00	10.32
80	First Security Bank of Nevada	Las Vegas, NV	335.0	13.46	41.23	11.5	0.00	0.00	16.81
81	Union National Bank	Elgin, IL	319.4	22.01	42.22	31.2	-0.01	0.19	9.92
82	Friend Bank	Slocomb, AL	183.7	31.56	47.67	36.6	0.02	0.22	9.09
83	Guardian Savings Bank	West Chester, OH	1,133.7	22.83	41.58	1.5	-0.05	0.44	12.61
84	Sibley State Bank	Sibley, IA	99.7	17.86	47.48	36.8	-0.08	0.00	10.95
85	First State Bank	Boise City, OK	105.6	33.09	42.66	30.5	0.02	0.26	8.94
86	Paradise Bank	Boca Raton, FL	376.0	29.67	53.19	38.7	0.00	0.00	8.69
87	New Omni Bank NA	Alhambra, CA	556.1	15.04	50.18	25.8	0.00	0.00	14.53
88	First Federal Savings and Loan Bank	Olathe, KS	93.5	27.62	20.35	18.0	-0.02	2.80	14.04
89	Heritage Bank & Trust	Columbia, TN	254.7	24.73	55.51	53.9	0.00	0.19	8.69
90	Union Bank & Trust Co.	Livingston, TN	106.8	33.16	36.97	45.3	-0.01	3.07	11.47
91	Bank of Lake Mills	Lake Mills, WI	291.3	22.16	51.48	2.1	0.00	0.04	13.43
92	Crown Bank	Elizabeth, NJ	590.3	19.04	35.20	20.8	-0.13	2.93	21.30
93	First Security Bank and Trust Co.	Oklahoma City, OK	59.6	52.63	46.25	85.3	-0.18	1.94	10.34
94	Heartland State Bank	Redfield, SD	121.0	25.74	50.76	23.3	-0.01	0.00	9.63
95	AMG National Trust Bank	Greenwood Village, CO	594.0	32.83	61.85	15.6	0.00	0.00	12.01
96	Bay Bank	Green Bay, WI	215.6	23.46	55.98	48.4	-0.05	0.43	9.58
97	FirstBank of Nebraska	Wahoo, NE	356.4	21.82	39.53	11.8	-0.14	0.17	9.85
98	Commercial Bank	De Kalb, MS	223.5	25.76	50.32	43.2	0.12	0.41	10.01
99	PromiseOne Bank	Duluth, GA	573.2	25.02	41.30	25.6	0.14	0.91	12.03
100	Security Bank and Trust Co.	Paris, TN	798.6	22.23	45.00	33.0	0.03	0.08	9.66
	Industry median*			12.46	65.26	7.1	0.00	0.37	9.94

Data compiled March 9, 2022.

PD = past due; PPP = Payment Protection Program

S&P Global Market Intelligence used six metrics to identify top-performing U.S. community banks under \$3 billion in asset size, adjusted to exclude PPP loans, by applying weights to each metric. The mean for each metric was identified across the data set, and standard deviations from these means were calculated for each metric for each institution and aggregated to determine a relative performance score. Scores for each metric were also capped to help normalize the data.

* Represents all eligible banks in the analysis.

Rankings are based on 2021 regulatory filings. All ranking metrics must have been reported for company to be included.

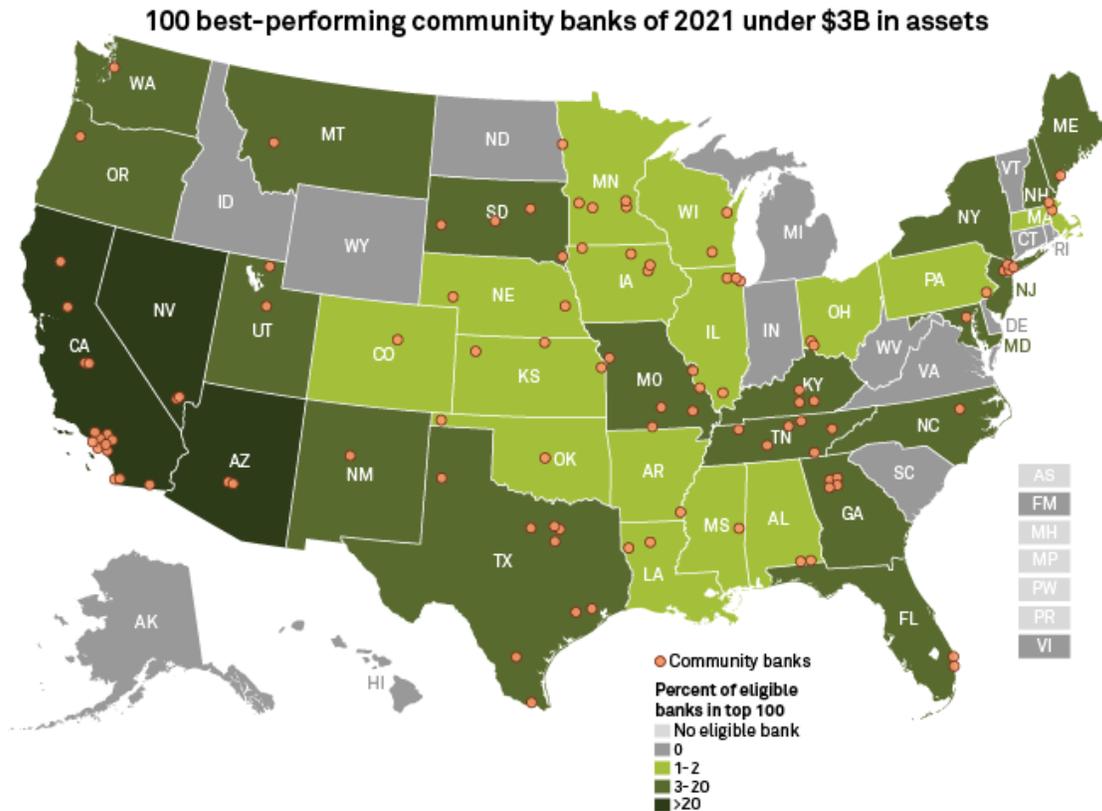
Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence

Dallas-based [State Bank of Texas](#) took the second spot in this year's ranking following a year-over-year surge in interest income on real estate loans, gains on the sale of real estate and other assets and a decline in interest

expense on deposits. Over 79% of the bank's total assets were tied to real estate loans at year-end 2021. The bank operates seven branches, five in Texas and two in Chicago.

Established a little less than 25 years ago, the institution is the largest Indian-American-owned bank in the U.S.

Meanwhile, Doraville, Ga.-based [First IC Bank](#) came in third in 2021, as its net gain on the sale of loans and leases nearly tripled during the year, helping to push the bank's return on average tangible common equity above 28%. The bank operates 10 branches across five states.



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Map credit: Joe Felizadio

Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence

Fifteen banks from California made the top 100 in 2021, more than any other state. Rowland Heights, Calif.-based [First General Bank](#) came in fourth in this year's ranking while another three Golden State banks made it into the top 10. Texas placed nine banks in the top 100, the second-most of any state.

Click [here](#) to download a refreshable template containing the underlying data used in the rankings and the list of top 100.

To see the 2020 rankings, click [here](#) for the top-performing community banks with less than \$3 billion in assets, and click [here](#) for those with \$3 billion to \$10 billion in assets.

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