The Value and Strength of America’s Largest Financial Institutions

June 2020
The Financial Services Forum is an economic policy and advocacy organization whose members are the chief executive officers of the eight largest and most diversified financial institutions headquartered in the United States. Forum member institutions are a primary source of lending and investment in the United States and serve millions of consumers, businesses, investors, and communities throughout the country. The Forum promotes policies that support savings and investment, deep and liquid capital markets, a competitive global marketplace, and a sound financial system.

OUR MEMBERS

Bank of America
BNY Mellon
Citi
Goldman Sachs
JP Morgan Chase & Co.
Morgan Stanley
State Street
Wells Fargo
Our value to the economy

We support economic growth by lending to consumers, businesses, and other financial institutions, and foster deep and liquid capital markets that allow the U.S. government and private institutions to finance public spending and investment.
Supporting Savings and Investment Through Lending
Total Lending

Forum members hold $4.4 trillion in loans, accounting for 43 percent of total lending by banks to businesses and households.


Note: Chart represents a rolling four-quarter average
Lending to Consumers

Forum members provide more than $690 billion in consumer loans, accounting for nearly half of all consumer loans by banks in the United States. Consumer lending supports loans for a variety of household needs, such as the purchase of a car or furnishing a new home.


Note: Consumer lending defined as credit cards, other revolving credit plans, automobile loans, and other personal loans held for trading
Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Lending

We have increased C&I lending in each of the past eight years, accounting for 43 percent of total C&I lending by banks in the market, helping businesses grow and contribute to the economy.


Note: Chart represents a rolling four-quarter average.
Small Business Lending

We are a major source of lending to small businesses, helping the economy grow at both a community and national level. Our members hold more than $90 billion in small business loans.

- For example, we provide $90 billion in business loans less than $1 million, representing one-quarter of all such loans by banks to small businesses.

- We also provide $57 billion in business loans less than $100,000, representing more than one-third of all such loans by banks to small businesses.

Forum members lend to small businesses across the United States

Forum member small business lending supports entrepreneurship across the nation and in a wide array of communities.

• These data reflect originations of small business loans from 2010-2018 by Forum members

• Small business lending is spread throughout the United States and areas with the highest percentage of small business lending per capita represent a diversity of geographic regions

Lending to Other Financial Institutions

We meet over three-quarters of the bank funding needs of other financial institutions. Lending to financial institutions supports the needs of community banks, insurance companies, and mortgage finance companies, which provide important services to businesses and households.


Note: Chart represents a rolling four-quarter average
Supporting Deep and Liquid Capital Markets
Total Debt and Equity Underwriting Activity

Our members underwrite nearly three-quarters of debt and equity transactions—such as initial public offerings—among large institutions in the U.S., providing a critical service that other U.S. institutions cannot offer on a similar scale.

Four-quarter average for periods ending Q2 2019 and Q1 2020

- $874 billion ($742 billion from foreign banks)
- $2.34 trillion


Note: The data cover debt and equity underwriting for all holding companies with total consolidated assets in excess of $50 billion.

Our underwriting activities:

- foster deep and liquid capital markets
- support corporate investment in the real economy
Mutual Funds and Annuities

With over $3.3 trillion of mutual funds and annuities under management, we support retirement and other saving needs.

Note: Chart represents a rolling four-quarter average
Municipal Securities Holdings

With more than $130 billion in municipal securities holdings, we finance a significant portion of state and local government expenditures for vital projects, such as hospitals, roads, bridges, and schools.

U.S. Treasury Securities

With $926 billion in U.S. Treasury securities holdings, we also finance a significant portion of federal government expenditures.

- Our holdings of U.S. Treasury securities also foster liquid secondary markets, thus improving the ease and cost with which the U.S. government can access capital markets and finance public spending and investment.

Note: Chart represents a rolling four-quarter average
Improvements in resiliency, resolvability, and supervision

- We have substantially improved our capital and liquidity positions in the past several years
- In addition, a number of regulatory and supervisory changes have led to further improvements in our resiliency and resolvability
- These changes have resulted in a more robust banking system that supports a strong economy
- Prudential regulation should promote safe and sound institutions that can lend in both good and bad times
Improvements in Capital and Liquidity
Improvements in Tier 1 Capital and Resiliency

We have significantly enhanced the quality and quantity of our capital. Since 2010, Tier 1 capital has increased by 40 percent and has grown as a share of risk-weighted assets and total capital. Our members currently maintain $910 billion of Tier 1 capital.

- Both dollar amounts of capital and capital ratios have improved markedly since 2010
- The share of capital accounted for by high-quality and loss-absorbing Tier 1 capital has improved markedly

Note: Capital amounts are reflective of the regulatory definition of capital at each point in time; Line chart represents a rolling four-quarter average
Forum Member Total Loss Absorbency

Since 2008, Forum member’s total loss absorbency—measured by convertible long-term debt, Tier 2 capital, common equity Tier 1 and additional Tier 1 capital—has grown by $895 billion, a doubling that substantially improves Forum members’ ability to withstand losses.

- Common equity Tier 1, the most loss absorbing form of capital, has grown more than $515 billion since 2008, and has increased as a percent of total Tier 1 capital, from 45 percent to 87 percent.


• Estimated convertible long-term debt, debt that may be converted into equity to absorb losses
Stress tests have become an important part of the capital regime for Forum members. While losses sustained from stress tests are significant, they pale in comparison to the amount of Forum member Tier 1 capital.

- Forum aggregate stress test losses range from 13.7 percent to 26.5 percent of Forum aggregate Tier 1 capital, demonstrating that Forum members maintain substantial capital to sustain losses as severe as those contemplated in the stress tests.

- In addition, stress test losses are significantly more severe than the experience of the financial crisis.

Forum members maintain significantly more capital than their foreign counterparts. This enhanced resiliency leads to a strong banking system that supports economic growth.

- Forum members have a higher capital-to-asset ratio when compared to their EU/Canadian and Asian counterparts.
- This difference is especially large compared to EU and Canadian GSIBs, with Forum members maintaining 37% more capital relative to assets.

Sources: Capitalization Ratio (2017 Q4), available at https://www.fdic.gov/about/learn/board/hoenig/capitalizationratio4q17.pdf
Improvements to Liquidity Profile

We have also greatly increased our liquidity profiles and now hold over $2.4 trillion in high-quality liquid assets (HQLA). Since 2010, HQLA has more than doubled.

- Increased liquidity complements increased capital and improves resiliency to adverse shocks
- We have substantially increased HQLA, both in dollar amount and relative to total assets

Note: HQLA is reported according to Basel III at the Bank Holding Company level; Chart represents a rolling four-quarter average; 2020 Q1 HQLA data from firms’ LCR disclosures
Post-Crisis Reforms and Resiliency

The collapse of Lehman Brothers is often regarded as the turning point of the 2007-2009 recession. A similarly sized financial entity subject to today's regulatory standards would be significantly more resilient to large shocks like those experienced during the financial crisis.

- In 2008, Lehman held low levels of cash and liquid resources making it susceptible to adverse shocks. Post-crisis liquidity regulations require much higher levels of liquidity.
- Post-crisis capital requirements would result in a near doubling of capital levels relative to 2008.
- Large banks now issue significant amounts of debt that can be “bailed in” to support a resolution event. Such debt was not available in 2008.
- A number of additional regulatory and supervisory enhancements have strengthened the resiliency of the financial system.

Improvements in Regulation and Supervision
### Additional Regulatory and Supervisory Developments

In conjunction with significantly higher levels of capital and liquidity, several post-crisis regulatory and supervisory reforms have greatly increased the resiliency of the U.S. financial system.

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<td><strong>1.</strong> Enhanced Supervision</td>
<td>Increased supervision at member institutions further promotes safety and soundness</td>
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<td><strong>2.</strong> Title II – OLA</td>
<td>A new legal and structural framework for resolving large banks lowers the cost of resolving a member institution</td>
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<td><strong>3.</strong> Living Wills</td>
<td>Members have undertaken an extensive review and planning process designed to improve their resolvability under bankruptcy</td>
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<td><strong>4.</strong> Total Loss-Absorbing Capacity and Long-Term Debt Requirements</td>
<td>New requirements to issue long-term debt and equity support the Title II resolution process</td>
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<td><strong>5.</strong> Derivative Reforms</td>
<td>Mandates for central clearing, margin, and recognition of stays reduce systemic risks from derivatives</td>
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Resolution: Overview and Improvements

In concert with a regulatory requirement to submit resolution plans (often referred to as “living wills”), U.S. GSIBs have made significant progress to reduce their organizational complexity and increase their resolvability.

Through the regular submission of resolution plans to the FRB and FDIC, large banks explain how they would undergo a rapid and orderly resolution in the event of material financial distress or failure – decreased organizational complexity would facilitate such a resolution proceeding.

Total subsidiaries at U.S. GSIBs have declined by roughly 40% since 2009, which suggests a significant decrease in organizational complexity.