

Table 1

SENIOR LOAN OFFICER OPINION SURVEY ON BANK LENDING PRACTICES  
AT SELECTED LARGE BANKS IN THE UNITED STATES  
(Status of policy as of January 1999)

(Number of banks and percentage of banks answering question)  
(By volume of total domestic assets as of September 30, 1998<sup>1</sup>)

**Questions 1-7 ask about commercial and industrial loans at your bank: Questions 1-4 and 7 deal with changes in your bank's lending policies over the past three months, and questions 5 and 6 deal with changes in demand over the same period. If your bank's lending policies have not changed over the past three months, please report them as unchanged even if the policies are either restrictive or accommodative relative to longer-term norms. If your bank's policies have tightened or eased over the past three months, please so report them regardless of how they stand relative to longer-term norms. Also, please report changes in enforcement of existing standards as changes in standards.**

1. Over the past three months, how have your bank's credit standards for approving applications for C&I loans or credit lines--other than those to be used to finance mergers and acquisitions--to large and middle-market firms and to small firms changed? If your bank defines firm size differently from the categories suggested below, please use your definitions and indicate what they are.

A. Standards for large and middle-market firms (annual sales of more than \$50 million)

	All Respondents		Large Banks		Other Banks	
	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct
Tightened considerably	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tightened somewhat	6	11.1	4	14.3	2	7.7
Remained basically unchanged	46	85.2	23	82.1	23	88.5
Eased somewhat	2	3.7	1	3.6	1	3.8
Eased considerably	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100.0</b>

B. Standards for small firms (annual sales of less than \$50 million)

	All Respondents		Large Banks		Other Banks	
	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct
Tightened considerably	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tightened somewhat	4	7.4	1	3.7	3	11.1
Remained basically unchanged	48	88.9	25	92.6	23	85.2
Eased somewhat	2	3.7	1	3.7	1	3.7
Eased considerably	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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1. The sample is selected from among the largest banks in each Federal Reserve District. In the table, large banks are defined as those with total domestic assets of \$20 billion or more as of September 30, 1998. The combined assets of the 28 large banks totaled \$1.76 trillion, compared to \$2.04 trillion for the entire panel of fifty-five banks, and 4.49 trillion for all domestically chartered, federally insured commercial banks.

2. For applications for C&I loans or credit lines--other than those to be used to finance mergers and acquisitions--from large and middle-market firms and from small firms that your bank currently is willing to approve, how have the terms of those loans changed over the past three months? (Please assign each term a number between 1 and 5 using the following scale: 1=tightened considerably, 2=tightened somewhat, 3=remained basically unchanged, 4=eased somewhat, 5=eased considerably.)

A. Terms for large and middle-market firms (annual sales of more than \$50 million)

	All Respondents	Large Banks	Other Banks
	Mean	Mean	Mean
Maximum size of credit lines	3.02	3.07	2.96
Costs of credit lines	2.80	2.68	2.92
Spreads of loan rates over your bank's cost of funds (wider spreads=tightened,narrower spreads=eased)	2.70	2.43	3.00
The premium charged on riskier loans	2.46	2.39	2.54
Loan covenants	2.81	2.75	2.88
Collateralization requirements	2.93	2.93	2.92
Other (please specify)	2.98	2.96	3.00
Number of banks responding	54	28	26

B. Terms for small firms (annual sales of less than \$50 million)

	All Respondents	Large Banks	Other Banks
	Mean	Mean	Mean
Maximum size of credit lines	3.06	3.07	3.04
Costs of credit lines	2.94	2.93	2.96
Spreads of loan rates over your bank's cost of funds(wider spreads=tightened,narrower spreads=eased)	2.96	2.78	3.15
The premium charged on riskier loans	2.74	2.81	2.65
Loan covenants	2.94	2.96	2.92
Collateralization requirements	2.96	2.96	2.96
Other	3.00	3.00	3.00
Number of banks responding	53	27	26

3. If your bank has tightened or eased its credit standards or its terms for C&I loans or credit lines over the past three months (as described in questions 1 and 2), how important have been the following possible reasons for the change? (Please respond to either A or B or both as appropriate.) (Please rate each possible reason using the following scale: 1=not important, 2=somewhat important, 3=very important.)

A. Possible reasons for tightening credit standards or loan terms:

	All Respondents	Large Banks	Other Banks
	Mean	Mean	Mean
A deterioration in your bank's current or expected capital position	1.17	1.25	1.07
A less favorable or more uncertain economic outlook	1.89	1.75	2.07
A worsening of industry-specific problems	1.69	1.55	1.87
Less aggressive competition from other banks	1.23	1.40	1.00
Less aggressive competition from nonbank lenders (other financial intermediaries or the capital markets)	1.40	1.60	1.13
A reduced tolerance for risk	1.43	1.40	1.47
Decreased liquidity in the secondary market for these loans	1.63	1.85	1.33
Other	1.06	1.10	1.00
Number of banks responding	35	20	15

B. Possible reasons for easing credit standards or loan terms:

	All Respondents	Large Banks	Other Banks
	Mean	Mean	Mean
An improvement in your bank's current or expected capital position	1.33	1.50	1.29
A more favorable or less uncertain economic outlook	1.00	1.00	1.00
An improvement in industry-specific problems	1.00	1.00	1.00
More aggressive competition from other banks	2.33	1.50	2.57
More aggressive competition from nonbank lenders (other financial intermediaries or the capital markets)	2.33	1.50	2.57
An increased tolerance for risk	1.44	1.00	1.57
Increased liquidity in the secondary market for these loans	1.11	1.50	1.00
Other	1.56	1.56	1.57
Number of banks responding	9	2	7

4. If your bank tightened standards or terms on C&I loans to large and middle-market firms (as described in questions 1A and 2A), for which group were standards or terms predominantly tightened? (Please define large firms as those with annual sales of more than \$250 million, or use your bank's definition and indicate what it is.)

	All Respondents		Large Banks		Other Banks	
	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct
Large firms	11	36.7	8	44.4	3	25.0
Middle-market firms	5	16.7	1	5.6	4	33.3
Tightening approximately equivalent for both groups	14	46.7	9	50.0	5	41.7
Total	30	100.0	18	100.0	12	100.0

5. How has demand for C&I loans (actual extensions of credit as opposed to undrawn lines) changed over the past three months (apart from normal seasonal variation)?

A. Demand for C&I loans from large and middle-market firms (annual sales of more than \$50 million)

	All Respondents		Large Banks		Other Banks	
	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct
Substantially stronger	1	1.9	0	0.0	1	3.7
Moderately stronger	15	27.8	8	29.6	7	25.9
About the same	33	61.1	15	55.6	18	66.7
Moderately weaker	5	9.3	4	14.8	1	3.7
Substantially weaker	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100.0</b>

B. Demand for C&I loans from small firms (annual sales of less than \$50 million)

	All Respondents		Large Banks		Other Banks	
	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct
Substantially stronger	1	1.9	0	0.0	1	3.7
Moderately stronger	9	17.0	4	15.4	5	18.5
About the same	39	73.6	19	73.1	20	74.1
Moderately weaker	4	7.5	3	11.5	1	3.7
Substantially weaker	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100.0</b>

6. If demand for C&I loans has strengthened or weakened over the past three months (as described in questions 5), how important have been the following possible reasons for the change? (Please respond to either A or B or both as appropriate.) (Please rate each possible reason using the following scale: 1=not important, 2=somewhat important, 3=very important.)

A. If stronger loan demand (answer 1 or 2 to question 5 A or B), possible reasons:

	All Respondents	Large Banks	Other Banks
	Mean	Mean	Mean
Customer inventory financing needs increased	1.50	1.55	1.44
Customer investment in plant or equipment increased	1.55	1.55	1.56
Customer internally generated funds decreased	1.40	1.27	1.56
Customer borrowing shifted from other sources to your bank because these other sources became less attractive	2.05	2.27	1.78
Customer merger or acquisition financing increased	1.70	2.00	1.33
Other	1.20	1.18	1.22
<b>Number of banks responding</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>

B. If weaker loan demand (answer 4 or 5 to question 5 A or B), possible reasons:

	All Respondents	Large Banks	Other Banks
	Mean	Mean	Mean
Customer inventory financing needs decreased	1.33	1.40	1.00
Customer investment in plant or equipment decreased	1.50	1.60	1.00
Customer internally generated funds increased	1.17	1.20	1.00
Customer borrowing shifted from your bank to other sources because these other sources became more attractive	1.33	1.40	1.00
Customer merger or acquisition financing decreased	1.33	1.40	1.00
Other	1.17	1.20	1.00
Number of banks responding	6	5	1

7. Regarding existing revolving lines of credit and other formal commitments to lend currently in place at your bank, on about what percent would your bank tighten terms -- including fees and spreads over base rates -- if they were maturing and being repriced today?

	All Respondents		Large Banks		Other Banks	
	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct
0-20 percent	40	76.9	16	64.0	24	88.9
21-40 percent	7	13.5	5	20.0	2	7.4
41-60 percent	4	7.7	3	12.0	1	3.7
61-80 percent	1	1.9	1	4.0	0	0.0
81-100 percent	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	52	100.0	25	100.0	27	100.0

**Questions 8-12** ask about **commercial real estate loans** at your bank, including construction and land development loans and loans secured by nonfarm nonresidential real estate: Questions 8-10 deal with changes in your bank's lending policies over the past three months, and questions 11 and 12 deals with changes in demand over the same period. If your bank's lending policies have not changed over the past three months, please report them as unchanged even if the policies are either restrictive or accommodative relative to longer-term norms. If your bank's policies have tightened or eased over the past three months, please so report them regardless of how they stand relative to longer-term norms. Also, please report changes in enforcement of existing standards as changes in standards.

8. Over the past three months, how have your bank's credit standards for approving applications for commercial real estate loans changed?

	All Respondents		Large Banks		Other Banks	
	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct
Tightened considerably	1	1.9	1	3.7	0	0.0
Tightened somewhat	10	18.5	4	14.8	6	22.2
Remained basically unchanged	40	74.1	21	77.8	19	70.4
Eased somewhat	3	5.6	1	3.7	2	7.4
Eased considerably	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	54	100.0	27	100.0	27	100.0

9. Over the past three months, how has your bank changed the following terms on commercial real estate loans? (Please assign each term a number between 1 and 5 using the following scale: 1=tightened considerably, 2=tightened somewhat, 3=remained basically unchanged, 4=eased somewhat, 5=eased considerably.)

	All Respondents	Large Banks	Other Banks
	Mean	Mean	Mean
Maximum loan size	3.00	2.96	3.04
Maximum loan maturity	2.98	2.96	3.00
Spreads of loan rates over your bank's cost of funds	2.81	2.74	2.89
Loan-to-cost ratios	2.87	2.89	2.85
Requirements for take-out financing	2.96	3.00	2.93
Debt-service coverage ratios	2.78	2.81	2.74
Other	3.02	3.04	3.00
Number of banks responding	54	27	27

10. If your bank tightened or eased its credit standards or its terms for commercial real estate loans over the past three months (as described in questions 8 and 9), how important were the following possible reasons for the change? (Please respond to either A or B or both as appropriate.) (Please rate each possible reason using the following scale: 1=not important, 2=somewhat important, 3=very important.)

A. Possible reasons for tightening lending standards or terms:

	All Respondents	Large Banks	Other Banks
	Mean	Mean	Mean
A deterioration in your bank's current or expected capital position	1.11	1.13	1.08
A less favorable or more uncertain economic outlook	1.75	1.81	1.67
A worsening of the condition of or the outlook for the commercial real estate markets in which your bank operates	1.50	1.44	1.58
Less aggressive competition from other commercial banks	1.32	1.50	1.08
Less aggressive competition from nonbank sources of finance	1.56	1.80	1.25
A reduced tolerance for risk	1.48	1.47	1.50
Disruption in the the commercial mortgage-backed securities market	1.93	2.07	1.75
Increased concern about the reliability of take-out financing	1.59	1.67	1.50
Other	1.08	1.07	1.09
Number of banks responding	28	16	12

B. Possible reasons for easing lending standards or terms:

	All Respondents	Large Banks	Other Banks
	Mean	Mean	Mean
A improvement in your bank's current or expected capital position	1.27	1.00	1.60
A more favorable or less uncertain economic outlook	1.27	1.50	1.00
An improvement of the condition of or the outlook for the commercial real estate markets in which your bank operates	1.27	1.50	1.00
More aggressive competition from other commercial banks	1.55	1.17	2.00
More aggressive competition from nonbank sources of finance	1.55	1.33	1.80
An increased tolerance for risk	1.36	1.17	1.60
Increased liquidity in the the commercial mortgage-backed securities market	1.09	1.17	1.00
Decreased concern about the reliability of take-out financing	1.09	1.17	1.00
Other	1.27	1.00	1.60
Number of banks responding	11	6	5

11. Over the past three months, how has demand for commercial real estate loans changed (apart from normal seasonal variation)?

	All Respondents		Large Banks		Other Banks	
	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct
Substantially stronger	1	1.9	1	3.7	0	0.0
Moderately stronger	18	33.3	10	37.0	8	29.6
About the same	32	59.3	13	48.1	19	70.4
Moderately weaker	3	5.6	3	11.1	0	0.0
Substantially weaker	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	54	100.0	27	100.0	27	100.0

12. If demand for commercial real estate loans has strengthened or weakened over the past three months (as described in question 11), how important have been the following possible reasons for the change? (Please rate each possible reason using the following scale: 1=not important, 2=somewhat important, 3=very important.)

A. If stronger loan demand (answer 1 or 2 to question 11), possible reasons:

	All Respondents	Large Banks	Other Banks
	Mean	Mean	Mean
Customer borrowing shifted to your bank from competitors that have faced increased difficulty securitizing their commercial mortgages.	2.00	2.27	1.63
Customer borrowing shifted to your bank from other sources, besides lenders dependent on commercial mortgage-backed securities for funding, because these other sources became less attractive.	1.84	1.91	1.75
Customer financing needs for commercial real estate holdings, construction, or land development increased.	1.68	1.64	1.75
Other	1.11	1.00	1.25
Number of banks responding	19	11	8

B. If weaker loan demand (answer 4 or 5 to question 11), possible reasons:

	All Respondents	Large Banks	Other Banks
	Mean	Mean	Mean
Customer borrowing shifted away from your bank to competitors that have been finding it easier than it was three months ago to securitize their commercial mortgages.	1.00	1.00	NA
Customer borrowing shifted from your bank to other sources, besides lenders dependent on commercial mortgage-backed securities for funding, because these other sources became more attractive.	1.33	1.33	NA
Customer financing needs for commercial real estate holdings, construction, or land development decreased.	1.67	1.67	NA
Other	1.00	1.00	NA
Number of banks responding	3	3	0

**Questions 13 and 14** ask about **home mortgage loans** at your bank: Question 13 deals with changes in your bank's credit standards over the past three months, and question 14 deals with changes in demand over the same period. If your bank's credit standards have not changed over the past three months, please report them as unchanged even if the standards are either restrictive or accommodative relative to longer-term norms. If your bank's credit standards have tightened or eased over the past three months, please so report them regardless of how they stand relative to longer-term norms. Also, please report changes in enforcement of existing standards as changes in standards.

13. Over the past three months, how have your bank's credit standards for approving applications from individuals for mortgage loans to purchase homes changed?

	All Respondents		Large Banks		Other Banks	
	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct
Tightened considerably	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tightened somewhat	1	2.0	1	4.3	0	0.0
Remained basically unchanged	49	98.0	22	95.7	27	100.0
Eased somewhat	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Eased considerably	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	50	100.0	23	100.0	27	100.0

14. Over the past three months, how has demand for mortgage loans to purchase homes (as opposed to refinancing existing mortgages) changed (apart from normal seasonal variation)?

	All Respondents		Large Banks		Other Banks	
	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct
Substantially stronger	1	2.0	1	4.3	0	0.0
Moderately stronger	9	18.0	4	17.4	5	18.5
About the same	35	70.0	13	56.5	22	81.5
Moderately weaker	4	8.0	4	17.4	0	0.0
Substantially weaker	1	2.0	1	4.3	0	0.0
Total	50	100.0	23	100.0	27	100.0

**Questions 15-20** ask about **consumer lending** at your bank: Questions 15-17 deal with changes in your bank's willingness to make, and in its credit standards for, consumer loans over the past three months; questions 18 and 19 deal with changes in loan terms over the same period; and question 20 deals with changes in demand over the same period. If your bank's lending policies have not changed over the past three months, please report them as unchanged even if the policies are either restrictive or accommodative relative to longer-term norms. If your bank's policies have tightened or eased over the past three months, please so report them regardless of how they stand relative to longer-term norms. Also, please report changes in enforcement of existing policies as changes in policies.

15. Please indicate your bank's willingness to make consumer installment loans now as opposed to three months ago.

	All Respondents		Large Banks		Other Banks	
	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct
Much more	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Somewhat more	7	13.5	4	16.0	3	11.1
About unchanged	45	86.5	21	84.0	24	88.9
Somewhat less	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Much less	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100.0</b>

16. Over the past three months, how have your bank's credit standards for approving applications for credit cards from individuals or households changed?

	All Respondents		Large Banks		Other Banks	
	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct
Tightened considerably	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tightened somewhat	4	9.8	4	19.0	0	0.0
Remained basically unchanged	36	87.8	16	76.2	20	100.0
Eased somewhat	1	2.4	1	4.8	0	0.0
Eased considerably	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>

17. Over the past three months, how have your bank's credit standards for approving applications for consumer loans other than credit card loans changed?

	All Respondents		Large Banks		Other Banks	
	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct
Tightened considerably	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tightened somewhat	3	5.8	3	12.0	0	0.0
Remained basically unchanged	45	86.5	20	80.0	25	92.6
Eased somewhat	4	7.7	2	8.0	2	7.4
Eased considerably	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100.0</b>

18. Over the past three months, how has your bank changed the following terms on new or existing credit card accounts for individuals or households? (Please assign each term a number between 1 and 5 using the following scale: 1=tightened considerably, 2=tightened somewhat, 3=remained basically unchanged, 4=eased somewhat, 5=eased considerably.)

	All Respondents	Large Banks	Other Banks
	Mean	Mean	Mean
Credit limits	2.93	2.86	3.00
Spreads of interest rates charged on outstanding balances over your bank's cost of funds (wider spreads=tightened, narrower spreads=eased)	2.90	2.81	3.00
Minimum percent of outstanding balances required to be repaid each month	3.02	3.00	3.05
Other	2.98	2.95	3.00
Number of banks responding	42	21	21

19. Over the past three months, how has your bank changed the following terms on consumer loans excluding credit card loans? (Please assign each term a number between 1 (tightened considerably) and 5 (eased considerably) as in question 18.)

	All Respondents	Large Banks	Other Banks
	Mean	Mean	Mean
Maximum maturity	3.04	3.00	3.08
Spreads of loan rates over your bank's cost of funds (wider spreads=tightened, narrower spreads=eased)	2.92	2.84	3.00
Minimum required down payment	3.00	3.00	3.00
Other	3.00	3.00	3.00
Number of banks responding	51	25	26

20. Over the past three months, how has demand for consumer loans of all types changed (apart from normal seasonal variation)?

	All Respondents		Large Banks		Other Banks	
	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct
Substantially stronger	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Moderately stronger	7	13.5	1	4.0	6	22.2
About the same	40	76.9	21	84.0	19	70.4
Moderately weaker	4	7.7	3	12.0	1	3.7
Substantially weaker	1	1.9	0	0.0	1	3.7
Total	52	100.0	25	100.0	27	100.0

Responses to **questions 21 and 22** will help the Federal Reserve improve its estimate of household debt service burden.

21. On average, what is the minimum percent of outstanding credit card balances that your bank requires individuals or households to repay each month?

	All Respondents		Large Banks		Other Banks	
	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct
0-1 percent	3	7.5	2	9.5	1	5.3
2-3 percent	32	80.0	17	81.0	15	78.9
4-5 percent	5	12.5	2	9.5	3	15.8
More than 5 percent	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.0</b>

22. In the late 1980s, on average, what was the minimum percent of outstanding credit card balances that your bank required individuals or households to repay each month?

	All Respondents		Large Banks		Other Banks	
	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct
0-1 percent	2	5.0	1	4.8	1	5.3
2-3 percent	24	60.0	13	61.9	11	57.9
4-5 percent	14	35.0	7	33.3	7	36.8
More than 5 percent	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Commercial banks' holdings of securities grew rapidly in the last quarter of 1998. **Questions 23 and 24** ask about the growth in securities at your bank.

23. How did your bank's holdings of securities change in the fourth quarter of 1998?

	All Respondents		Large Banks		Other Banks	
	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct
Increased substantially	4	7.7	2	7.7	2	7.7
Increased somewhat	15	28.8	6	23.1	9	34.6
About the same	22	42.3	12	46.2	10	38.5
Decreased somewhat	8	15.4	4	15.4	4	15.4
Increased substantially	3	5.8	2	7.7	1	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100.0</b>

24. If securities have grown at your bank (answer 1 or 2 to question 23), to what factors do you attribute the growth? (Please rate each possible reason using the following scale: 1=not important, 2=somewhat important, 3=very important.)

	All Respondents	Large Banks	Other Banks
	Mean	Mean	Mean
The yields on some securities have increased relative to your bank's cost of funds, making these securities more attractive investments.	1.70	2.11	1.36
An increased willingness on the part of your bank to boost leverage in an effort to raise return on equity.	1.35	1.56	1.18
Your bank experienced strong loan demand and raised capital to satisfy risk-based-capital requirements; given the increased capital, leverage-ratio constraints become less binding so your bank acquired zero or low risk-weight securities.	1.15	1.22	1.09
Your bank's holding company was constrained from buying back stock because it had recently participated in a pooling-of-interest merger, and, with profits strong, it accumulated a substantial amount of equity. Your bank bought securities in order to expand its balance sheets in line with the added capital.	1.25	1.22	1.27
The growing trend toward securitization presented your bank with attractive new securities to purchase.	1.20	1.11	1.27
Low interest rates and high stock prices have made raising capital by issuing subordinated debt or equity relatively inexpensive. As a result, your bank increased its capital and then purchased securities to maintain desired capital ratios.	1.10	1.00	1.18
Holdings of longer-maturity securities were increased to compensate for the shorter expected duration of mortgage-backed securities resulting from the decline in longer-term interest rates in recent months and the consequent increase in prepayment risk.	1.80	1.89	1.73
Other	1.65	1.78	1.55
Number of banks responding	20	9	11

**Questions 25-26 concern loan syndication.**

25. How would you describe current conditions in the syndicated loan market, for example its capacity to absorb new credits without significant modification of terms, relative to six months ago, prior to the recent period of intense disruptions?

	All Respondents		Large Banks		Other Banks	
	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct	Banks	Pct
Considerably better	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Somewhat better	7	14.6	5	18.5	2	9.5
Basically unchanged on balance	17	35.4	6	22.2	11	52.4
Somewhat worse	22	45.8	14	51.9	8	38.1
Considerably worse	2	4.2	2	7.4	0	0.0
Total	48	100.0	27	100.0	21	100.0

26. If your bank originates syndicated loans and perceives the conditions in the syndicated loan market as worse than six months ago (answer 4 or 5 to question 25), how has this development affected your bank's business lending? (Please rate each possible effect using the following scale: 1=not significant, 2=moderately significant, 3=very significant.)

	All Respondents	Large Banks	Other Banks
	Mean	Mean	Mean
Loans at your bank have grown faster than they would have, as a larger share of the loans originated by your bank are remaining on its books.	1.38	1.29	1.75
In order to avoid an increase in loans on your bank's books, your bank has trimmed its originations of these loans.	1.33	1.29	1.50
Your bank has increasingly obtained the consent of borrowers, in advance, to allow adjustments to the interest rate and other loan terms during the syndication period ("flexible pricing") in order to increase the likelihood of full subscription of loans it originates for syndication.	2.19	2.24	2.00
Other	1.33	1.35	1.25
Number of banks responding	21	17	4

Optional: **Question 27** requests feedback on any issues you judge to be important but that are not addressed on this survey.

27. Are there any recent developments in lending practices not addressed in this survey that you find particularly significant? Your response will help us stay abreast of breaking issues and in choosing questions for future surveys. There is no need to reply if you have nothing you would like to add.