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North America Equity Research

Equity Strategy

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Financial Stocks Weekly: Is America Running Out of Banks?

Summary--While regulators and legislators worry about the size and concentration of the largest banks, there is an equally concerning trend on the opposite side of the bank size spectrum. There have been no new bank or thrift charters issued during the past two years. This trend stands in sharp contrast to history, with dozens to hundreds of new banks starting each year, including during years of deep recessions. The lack of new bank startups may be causing limited competition for loans for small regional businesses and builders and pushing lending outside the banking system, essentially meaning that there aren't enough banks in the country to promote maximum economic growth. Concentration and limits on size at the top end, and the dearth of new banks at the small end, will push greater market share of banking into mid-sized banks, in our view. This is good news for profitable mid-sized banks that can take advantage of both trends.

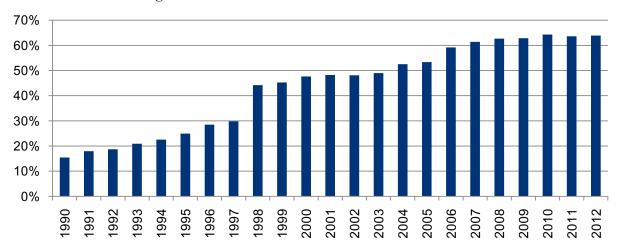
Key Points--

- The U.S. banking system has become less dynamic since the financial crisis: more concentrated in the largest banks and without new banks being formed. This likely is one factor contributing to a less robust economy. For bank stock investors, this suggests that the most interesting area of investment is in mid-sized banks, which today are the most profitable. These banks are likely to grow faster than others, picking up market share from the largest banks and consolidating smaller institutions.
- We again highlight our basket of "grower" banks we first highlighted in our October 15, 2012, report, *Beyond Geography: A Focus on "Grower" SMID-Cap Banks*, which highlighted these 42 banks: ANCX, ASBC, BANC, BBCN, BBNK, BHLB, BKU, CFNL, COBZ, COLB, EGBN, EVER, EWBC, FBNK, FFIN, FNFG, FRC, HBOS, HFWA, HOMB, IBKC, LKFN, NYCB, ORIT, OZRK, PB, PBCT, PBNY, PCBK, PNFP, PVTB, SBNY, SBSI, SCBT, SIVB, STBZ, STL, STSA, TCBI, WAL, WSFS, WTFC.
- The Week Ahead: Financial stock news will shift from earnings releases to 10Qs next week as the deadline for most companies is the 15th. In addition, a competitor is hosting a financial services conference in New York and Textainer (TGH) and Progressive (PGR) are hosting investor days. The events for the coming week are included in Exhibit 10 of this report. The complete KBW Catalyst Calendar can be accessed from the home page of the KBW research library.
- The Week Behind: Financial stocks again led the market higher last week, with financials up 2.3%, compared to the S&P up 1.4%. Banks led the rally, and Universal Banks were the top-performing group. CDS spreads also narrowed for large banks. Earnings estimate revisions remained positive for the group with 76 upward revisions to 34 downward revisions. Every financial subsector except Large-Regional Banks had net positive earnings estimate revisions for the week.

Financial Stocks Weekly: Is America Running Out of Banks?

The increased concentration of U.S. banking since the financial crisis has been a concern for policy makers in recent weeks, with numerous statements and speeches concerning the challenge of "Too Big to Fail" (TBTF) banks. Exhibit 1 presents the percentage of total assets in U.S. banks held by the top 10 banks since 1990. As shown, the concentration has increased significantly, from 15% to more than 60% and the concentration levels increased meaningfully after the financial crisis.

Exhibit 1: Growth in Big Banks

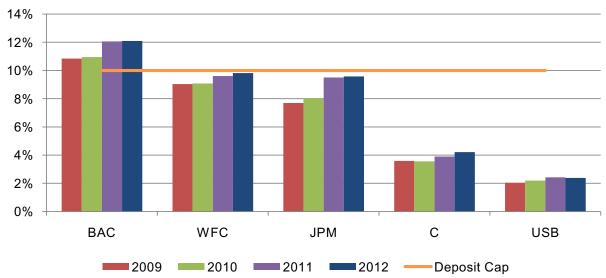


■ 10 Largest BHCs and Savings Institutions as a % of Total

Note: Measures the total assets of the 10 largest BHCs and savings institutions as a percentage of the aggregate assets of those organizations. Source: SNL Financial and KBW Research.

Concern about the concentration of the large banks has been expressed through numerous legislative initiatives, including limiting the large banks from buying depository institutions to push them above 10% of total deposits. As shown in Exhibit 2, BAC, WFC and JPM are essentially at their deposit caps today, precluding them from further acquisitions. In addition, Fed Governor Tarullo has stated that there is a "presumption of denial" for large bank to make further acquisitions.

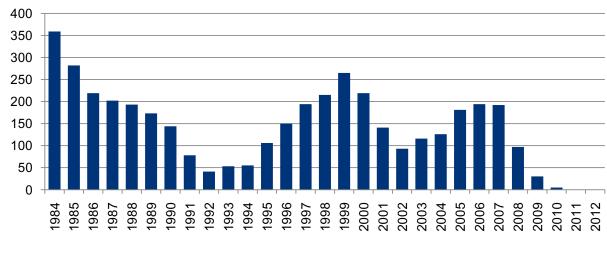
Exhibit 2: Large Financials and the Deposit Cap



Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Federal Reserve, SNL Financial, and KBW Research.

While there is increasing pressure to limit the size of large banks, there are essentially no new banks being formed in the country. Exhibit 3 presents the number of new bank charters since 1984. As shown, the current period is exceptional with no new bank charters. Historically, periods of strong economic growth have been accompanied by a significant number of new banks being formed, while the numbers drop off during periods of economic weakness. The lack of new banks being formed could be one factor limiting U.S. growth in recent years.

Exhibit 3: No New Commercial Bank and Savings Institution Charters



■ New Bank and Savings Institution Charters

Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and KBW Research.

Overall, the number of banks in the U.S. has been shrinking for decades. The factors driving that decline are presented in Exhibit 4. As shown, while the number of banks has been shrinking primarily because of mergers, there have also been a significant number of new banks created. Historically, much of the dynamics of U.S. banking has been at the small end of the spectrum, with startup banks driving competition, market share shifts, and eventual consolidation.

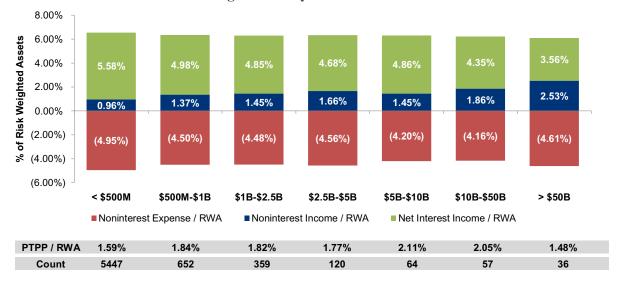
4,000 20,000 18,000 2,000 16,000 14,000 0 12,000 (2,000)10,000 8,000 (4,000)6,000 4,000 (6,000)2,000 0 (8,000) 1985-1989 1990-1999 2000-2011 New Charters (Lt. Axis) Transfer to Insured (Lt. Axis) Conversions (Lt. Axis) Charter Transfer Out (Lt. Axis) ■ Mergers (Lt. Axis) Closings (Lt. Axis) Other (Lt. Axis) Total Charters (Rt. Axis)

Exhibit 4: Drivers in the Changes in Bank and Savings Institution Charters

Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and KBW Research.

As we have shown previously, Exhibit 5 presents an updated view of the dynamics of bank profitability by size. As shown, the most profitable banks remain in the mid-size range. In our view, these mid-size banks have the greatest opportunity for growth over the next decade, and they can take market share from the largest banks, consolidate the smallest banks, and don't have to fear increased competition from new bank startups.

Exhibit 5: Scale Benefits in Banking Peak Early



Note: Median profitability metrics among all banks and thrifts using regulatory data as of 4Q12. For thrift chartered institutions, profitability metrics are given as a percentage of total assets.

Source: SNL Financial and KBW Research.

Financial Stock Earnings Revisions

Earnings estimate revisions remained positive for the group with 76 upward revisions to 34 downward revisions. Every financial subsector except Large-Regional Banks had net positive earnings estimate revisions for the week.

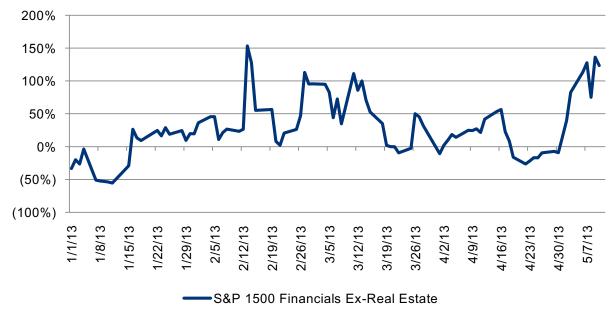
Exhibit 6: Financials Earnings Estimate Revisions*

Weekly EPS Estimate Revisions						
Sector	Upward	Downward				
Universal Banks	5	0				
Large-Regional Banks	5	7				
SMID-Cap Banks	9	4				
Capital Markets	10	6				
Diversified Financials	3	1				
P&C Insurance	27	9				
Life Insurance	17	7				
S&P 1500 Financials Ex-Real Estate	76	34				

^{*}Data as of 05/10/2013. Note: Upward and downward revisions measure the number of FY2 (next full unreported fiscal year) EPS estimate revisions to each constituent in the given sector.

Source: FactSet, Standard and Poor's, and KBW Research.

Exhibit 7: Financials Earnings Revisions Year to Date*



^{*}Data as of 05/10/2013.

Note: Measures the difference between the number of upward and downward EPS estimate revisions for companies within the S&P 1500 Financials as a percentage of downward EPS estimate revisions. Upward and downward EPS estimate revisions measure the number of FY2 (next full unreported fiscal year) EPS estimate revisions to each constituent in the S&P 1500 Financials during the previous week. Estimate Revisions for the S&P 1500 Financials exclude revisions for companies in the Real Estate sector.

Source: FactSet, Standard and Poor's, and KBW Research.

Financial Stock Performance, Week Ending May 10, 2013

Financial stocks again led the market higher last week, with financials up 2.3%, compared to the S&P up 1.4%. Banks led the rally and Universal Banks were the top-performing group. CDS spreads also narrowed for large banks.

Exhibit 8: Week-to-Date and Year-to-Date Returns

Calculated Returns for the Week Ending:*

KBW Model Portfolio	5/10/13	S&P 1500 Financials	5/10/13	Excess Return	5/10/13
Universal Banks	2.65%	Universal Banks	3.21%	Universal Banks	(0.56%)
Large-Regional Banks	2.56%	Large-Regional Banks	2.26%	Large-Regional Banks	0.30%
SMID-Cap Banks	2.73%	SMID-Cap Banks	2.33%	SMID-Cap Banks	0.40%
Capital Markets	2.59%	Capital Markets	2.80%	Capital Markets	(0.20%)
Diversified Financials	1.22%	Diversified Financials	0.35%	Diversified Financials	0.87%
P&C Insurance	1.54%	P&C Insurance	1.73%	P&C Insurance	(0.19%)
Life Insurance	1.18%	Life Insurance	1.06%	Life Insurance	0.12%
KBW Model Portfolio	2.14%	S&P 1500 Financials	2.32%	Excess Return**	(0.18%)
		S&P Composite 1500	1.41%	1	

Calculated Returns for full year:

KBW Model Portfolio	2013	S&P 1500 Financials	2013	Excess Return	2013
Universal Banks	18.53%	Universal Banks	15.77%	Universal Banks	2.77%
Large-Regional Banks	5.71%	Large-Regional Banks	10.96%	Large-Regional Banks	(5.24%)
SMID-Cap Banks	9.32%	SMID-Cap Banks	12.04%	SMID-Cap Banks	(2.72%)
Capital Markets	27.90%	Capital Markets	25.25%	Capital Markets	2.65%
Diversified Financials	12.35%	Diversified Financials	21.71%	Diversified Financials	(9.36%)
P&C Insurance	23.18%	P&C Insurance	22.32%	P&C Insurance	0.86%
Life Insurance	20.79%	Life Insurance	23.05%	Life Insurance	(2.26%)
KBW Model Portfolio	18.45%	S&P 1500 Financials	18.28%	Excess Return**	0.18%
		S&P Composite 1500	15.57%		

^{*}Market-capitalization weighted returns as of 05/10/2013.

Note: Returns for the S&P 1500 Financials exclude the impact of companies in the Real Estate sector.

Source: Standard & Poor's, FactSet, and KBW Research.

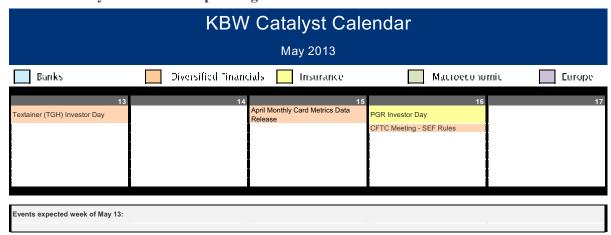
^{**} Excess return calculated arithmetically.

Exhibit 9: CDS Pricing

	Price	Change vs.				
	05/09/2013	-1 Day	-1 Week	-1 Month	-3 Months	-1 Year
BAC	96 bps	-3 bps	-18 bps	-32 bps	-27 bps	-186 bps
С	91 bps	+0 bps	-9 bps	-17 bps	-27 bps	-149 bps
JPM	80 bps	+1 bps	-7 bps	-8 bps	-7 bps	-33 bps
WFC	65 bps	+0 bps	-5 bps	-5 bps	-12 bps	-33 bps
GS	106 bps	-1 bps	-12 bps	-28 bps	-38 bps	-182 bps
MS	120 bps	+1 bps	-17 bps	-24 bps	-32 bps	-278 bps

Source: Bloomberg.

Exhibit 10: Key Events in the Upcoming Week



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Source: Company reports, Bloomberg, and KBW Research.

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Market Perform [HOLD]	303	53.06	99	32.67
Underperform [SELL]	50	8.76	11	22.00
Restricted [RES]	0	0.00	0	0.00
Suspended [SP]	46	8.06	7	15.22
Covered -Not Rated [CNR]	3	0.53	2	66.67

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