

## Retail Banking Roundup

### ■ Obama pushes ahead with small-business lending proposals

A CNNMoney.com analysis looks at the status of a wide range of proposals from President Barack Obama aimed at helping small business. The proposals include efforts designed to create jobs and boost small-business lending. Central to the initiatives are proposals to help community lenders and to increase SBA lending, which already is on the rise following last year's stimulus package. "Leaders in both parties have supported similar ideas in the past. So let's come together and pass these measures without delay," Obama said in his weekly radio address Saturday. [CNNMoney.com](#) (2/6) , [The New York Times](#) (2/5) Share: [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

■ **Obama's description of lending program confuses Congress:** President Barack Obama's description of using \$30 billion in rescue fund money that was "repaid" to the government to fund a program to boost small-business lending was not an accurate description of the proposal first floated in his State of the Union address. The proposal calls for using \$30 billion of the plan that was not used instead of using a portion of the \$170 billion that was given to and ultimately repaid by big banks. The statement caused controversy in Congress as the original legislation calls for using the repaid money to pay down the national debt. [The Politico \(Washington\)](#) (2/5) Share: [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

### ■ Citi, others struggle to sell assets

Citigroup and other troubled financial companies are facing problems in their efforts to sell assets. The problems are being attributed to the slow recovery of the securitization market. Citi reportedly offered some financing in an effort to sell a \$3 billion portfolio of car loans. [Financial Times](#) (tiered subscription model) (2/8) Share: [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

### ■ More people opting for life without credit cards

The number of people who choose not to carry credit cards is expected to increase. While the average U.S. consumer has five credit cards, some are choosing not to use them or never even open up accounts in the first place. Credit cards "make me really nervous, and I've never felt comfortable having one," said Emily Maddox, 24, of Knoxville, Tenn. [USA TODAY](#) (2/8) Share: [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

## Industry News

### ■ Former Merrill Lynch chief Thain will head CIT Group

John Thain, who left Merrill Lynch after its stormy takeover by Bank of America, is set to become chairman and CEO of CIT Group. A big lender to small businesses in the U.S., CIT nearly collapsed last year after expanding into student loans and subprime mortgages. [The Wall Street Journal](#) (2/6) Share: [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

### ■ Greece's debt problem shakes U.S. stock market



Source: CNBC

Fear about debt in Greece proved to be big enough to sway the U.S. stock market last week. "Investors are now focused on which governments are overleveraged," said Henry McVey, head of global macro and asset allocation at Morgan Stanley Investment Management. Sovereign-debt problems are expected to increase borrowing costs in Europe. [CNBC](#) (2/5) , [The Wall Street Journal](#) (2/8) Share: [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

## Regulatory Report

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### ■ Fed signals how it will tighten credit when recovery is under way

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is expected this week to outline plans for tightening credit once the economy starts to recover. Observers say it will be several months before the central bank considers an interest-rate increase. The Fed will start tightening credit by raising interest on the excess reserves rate, which now stands at 0.25%. [The Wall Street Journal](#) (2/7) **Share:** [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

### ■ Banks must pay cost of failures, G-7 says

Group of Seven finance ministers plan to form a set of regulations, common to all seven countries, to force banks to pay for failures. "We agreed to work together to make sure financial institutions bear the costs of their contribution" to causing the financial crisis, Canadian Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said. The establishment of a bank-insurance levy might be a means to enforce these rules, sources said. [Bloomberg](#) (2/6) , [Telegraph \(London\)](#) (2/7) , [Reuters](#) (2/5) **Share:** [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

## Legislative Affairs

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### ■ Dodd: No support from Shelby on regulatory reform

Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., the top Republican on the Senate banking committee, will not support efforts to overhaul the nation's financial-regulatory system being pushed ahead by Chairman Christopher Dodd, D-Conn. Dodd said the two lawmakers reached an "impasse" after months of negotiations. "While I still hope that we will ultimately have a consensus package, it is time to move the process forward," Dodd said. [The Wall Street Journal](#) (2/6)

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### ■ Washington insiders see regulatory reform passing in 2010

A poll by FD, a communications and strategy firm, has found that 76% of Washington insiders expect Congress to pass an overhaul of the nation's financial-regulatory system this year. A bill requiring an audit of the Federal Reserve, however, will not pass, according to 74% of the poll's respondents. [The Hill](#) (2/7) **Share:** [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

## People and Personalities

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### ■ Greenspan says critics of his policy are wrong

Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan -- who has been widely accused of having kept rates too low and regulation too light during his final four years in the position -- is defending himself against critics. Greenspan, who has been mostly quiet on the subject in the past year, shows he has been studying the data, and, in an interview, disagrees with his critics. [CNNMoney.com/Fortune](#) (2/5) **Share:** [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

## Career Development

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### ■ How managers can learn from failure

Corporate failures are generally the result of managers having their "heads in the sand," writes Steve Tobak. To turn things around, you have to start by acknowledging your own limitations, he advises. [BNET/The Corner Office blog](#) (2/1) **Share:** [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

## SmartQuote

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Little minds are tamed and subdued by misfortune; but great minds rise above them."

--Washington Irving.

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