

Table 2

Senior Loan Officer Opinion Survey on Bank Lending Practices at Selected Branches and Agencies of Foreign Banks in the United States ¹

(Status of policy as of April 2011)

Questions 1-6 ask about commercial and industrial (C&I) loans at your bank. Questions 1-3 deal with changes in your bank's lending policies over the past three months. Questions 4-5 deal with changes in demand for C&I loans over the past three months. Question 6 asks about changes in prospective demand for C&I loans at your bank, as indicated by the volume of recent inquiries about the availability of new credit lines or increases in existing lines. 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.

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—changed?

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Tightened considerably	0	0.0
Tightened somewhat	0	0.0
Remained basically unchanged	18	81.8
Eased somewhat	4	18.2
Eased considerably	0	0.0
Total	22	100.0

2. For applications for C&I loans or credit lines—other than those to be used to finance mergers and acquisitions—that your bank currently is willing to approve, how have the terms of those loans changed over the past three months?

a. Maximum size of credit lines

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Tightened considerably	0	0.0
Tightened somewhat	0	0.0
Remained basically unchanged	17	77.3
Eased somewhat	5	22.7
Eased considerably	0	0.0
Total	22	100.0

b. Maximum maturity of loans or credit lines

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Tightened considerably	0	0.0
Tightened somewhat	0	0.0
Remained basically unchanged	19	86.4
Eased somewhat	3	13.6
Eased considerably	0	0.0
Total	22	100.0

c. Costs of credit lines

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Tightened considerably	0	0.0
Tightened somewhat	2	9.5
Remained basically unchanged	15	71.4
Eased somewhat	4	19.0
Eased considerably	0	0.0
Total	21	100.0

d. Spreads of loan rates over your bank's cost of funds (wider spreads=tightened, narrower spreads=eased)

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Tightened considerably	0	0.0
Tightened somewhat	1	4.8
Remained basically unchanged	9	42.9
Eased somewhat	10	47.6
Eased considerably	1	4.8
Total	21	100.0

e. Premiums charged on riskier loans

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Tightened considerably	0	0.0
Tightened somewhat	1	4.8
Remained basically unchanged	13	61.9
Eased somewhat	6	28.6
Eased considerably	1	4.8
Total	21	100.0

f. Loan covenants

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Tightened considerably	0	0.0
Tightened somewhat	0	0.0
Remained basically unchanged	14	63.6
Eased somewhat	8	36.4
Eased considerably	0	0.0
Total	22	100.0

g. Collateralization requirements

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Tightened considerably	0	0.0
Tightened somewhat	0	0.0
Remained basically unchanged	21	95.5
Eased somewhat	1	4.5
Eased considerably	0	0.0
Total	22	100.0

h. Use of interest rate floors (more use=tightened, less use=eased)

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Tightened considerably	0	0.0
Tightened somewhat	0	0.0
Remained basically unchanged	15	71.4
Eased somewhat	6	28.6
Eased considerably	0	0.0
Total	21	100.0

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?

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

a. Deterioration in your bank's current or expected capital position

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	2	100.0
Somewhat important	0	0.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	2	100.0

b. Less favorable or more uncertain economic outlook

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	1	50.0
Somewhat important	1	50.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	2	100.0

c. Worsening of industry-specific problems (please specify industries)

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	2	100.0
Somewhat important	0	0.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	2	100.0

d. Less aggressive competition from other banks or nonbank lenders (other financial intermediaries or the capital markets)

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	2	100.0
Somewhat important	0	0.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	2	100.0

e. Reduced tolerance for risk

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	1	50.0
Somewhat important	1	50.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	2	100.0

f. Decreased liquidity in the secondary market for these loans

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	1	50.0
Somewhat important	1	50.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	2	100.0

g. Deterioration in your bank's current or expected liquidity position

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	0	0.0
Somewhat important	2	100.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	2	100.0

h. Increased concerns about the potential effects of legislative changes, supervisory actions, or accounting standards

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	2	100.0
Somewhat important	0	0.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	2	100.0

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

a. Improvement in your bank's current or expected capital position

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	13	86.7
Somewhat important	2	13.3
Very important	0	0.0
Total	15	100.0

b. More favorable or less uncertain economic outlook

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	7	46.7
Somewhat important	8	53.3
Very important	0	0.0
Total	15	100.0

c. Improvement in industry-specific problems (please specify industries)

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	10	66.7
Somewhat important	5	33.3
Very important	0	0.0
Total	15	100.0

d. More aggressive competition from other banks or nonbank lenders (other financial intermediaries or the capital markets)

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	2	13.3
Somewhat important	5	33.3
Very important	8	53.3
Total	15	100.0

e. Increased tolerance for risk

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	12	80.0
Somewhat important	2	13.3
Very important	1	6.7
Total	15	100.0

f. Increased liquidity in the secondary market for these loans

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	11	73.3
Somewhat important	3	20.0
Very important	1	6.7
Total	15	100.0

g. Improvement in your bank's current or expected liquidity position

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	14	93.3
Somewhat important	1	6.7
Very important	0	0.0
Total	15	100.0

h. Reduced concerns about the potential effects of legislative changes, supervisory actions, or accounting standards

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	15	100.0
Somewhat important	0	0.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	15	100.0

4. Apart from normal seasonal variation, how has demand for C&I loans changed over the past three months? (Please consider only funds actually disbursed as opposed to requests for new or increased lines of credit.)

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Substantially stronger	0	0.0
Moderately stronger	4	19.0
About the same	16	76.2
Moderately weaker	1	4.8
Substantially weaker	0	0.0
Total	21	100.0

5. If demand for C&I loans has strengthened or weakened over the past three months (as described in question 4), how important have been the following possible reasons for the change?

A. If stronger loan demand (answer 1 or 2 to question 4), possible reasons:

a. Customer inventory financing needs increased

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	2	50.0
Somewhat important	1	25.0
Very important	1	25.0
Total	4	100.0

b. Customer accounts receivable financing needs increased

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	1	25.0
Somewhat important	3	75.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	4	100.0

c. Customer investment in plant or equipment increased

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	2	50.0
Somewhat important	2	50.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	4	100.0

d. Customer internally generated funds decreased

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	4	100.0
Somewhat important	0	0.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	4	100.0

e. Customer merger or acquisition financing needs increased

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	1	25.0
Somewhat important	1	25.0
Very important	2	50.0
Total	4	100.0

f. Customer borrowing shifted to your bank from other bank or nonbank sources because these other sources became less attractive

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	4	100.0
Somewhat important	0	0.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	4	100.0

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

a. Customer inventory financing needs decreased

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	1	100.0
Somewhat important	0	0.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	1	100.0

b. Customer accounts receivable financing needs decreased

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	1	100.0
Somewhat important	0	0.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	1	100.0

c. Customer investment in plant or equipment decreased

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	1	100.0
Somewhat important	0	0.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	1	100.0

d. Customer internally generated funds increased

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	0	0.0
Somewhat important	1	100.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	1	100.0

e. Customer merger or acquisition financing needs decreased

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	1	100.0
Somewhat important	0	0.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	1	100.0

f. Customer borrowing shifted from your bank to other bank or nonbank credit sources because these other sources became more attractive

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Not important	0	0.0
Somewhat important	1	100.0
Very important	0	0.0
Total	1	100.0

6. At your bank, apart from normal seasonal variation, how has the number of inquiries from potential business borrowers regarding the availability and terms of new credit lines or increases in existing lines changed over the past three months? (Please consider only inquiries for additional or increased C&I lines as opposed to the refinancing of existing loans.)

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
The number of inquiries has increased substantially	0	0.0
The number of inquiries has increased moderately	9	42.9
The number of inquiries has stayed about the same	12	57.1
The number of inquiries has decreased moderately	0	0.0
The number of inquiries has decreased substantially	0	0.0
Total	21	100.0

Question 7 asks about changes in the overall credit quality of potential business borrowers.

7. Based on inquiries from potential business borrowers and on formal applications for new business loans and credit lines received by your bank, how has the overall credit quality (e.g., projections of cash flows or earnings, debt-to-assets ratios, availability of sufficient collateral, etc.) of potential business borrowers seeking new credit—new or increased credit lines or new term loans—changed over the past three months? (Please consider the average credit quality of applications that were denied as well as those that were approved.)

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Deteriorated significantly	0	0.0
Deteriorated somewhat	1	4.5
Remained basically unchanged	14	63.6
Improved somewhat	7	31.8
Improved significantly	0	0.0
Total	22	100.0

Questions 8-9 ask about commercial real estate (CRE) loans at your bank, including construction and land development loans and loans secured by nonfarm nonresidential real estate. Question 8 deals with changes in your bank's standards over the past three months. Question 9 deals with changes in demand. If your bank's lending standards or terms have not changed over the relevant period, please report them as unchanged even if they are either restrictive or accommodative relative to longer-term norms. If your bank's standards or terms have tightened or eased over the relevant period, 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 CRE loans changed?

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Tightened considerably	0	0.0
Tightened somewhat	0	0.0
Remained basically unchanged	10	83.3
Eased somewhat	2	16.7
Eased considerably	0	0.0
Total	12	100.0

9. Apart from normal seasonal variation, how has demand for CRE loans changed over the past three months?

	All Respondents	
	Banks	Percent
Substantially stronger	1	8.3
Moderately stronger	2	16.7
About the same	7	58.3
Moderately weaker	2	16.7
Substantially weaker	0	0.0
Total	12	100.0

1. As of December 31, 2010, the 22 respondents had combined assets of \$1.0 trillion, compared to \$1.9 trillion for all foreign related banking institutions in the United States. The sample is selected from among the largest foreign-related banking institutions in those Federal Reserve Districts where such institutions are common.