

PRESS RELEASE

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***Income decline does not slow growth in assets, number of
minority-owned financial institutions***

Washington, D.C. — Creative Investment Research, Inc. released today its listing of women and minority owned financial institutions (banks and thrifts).

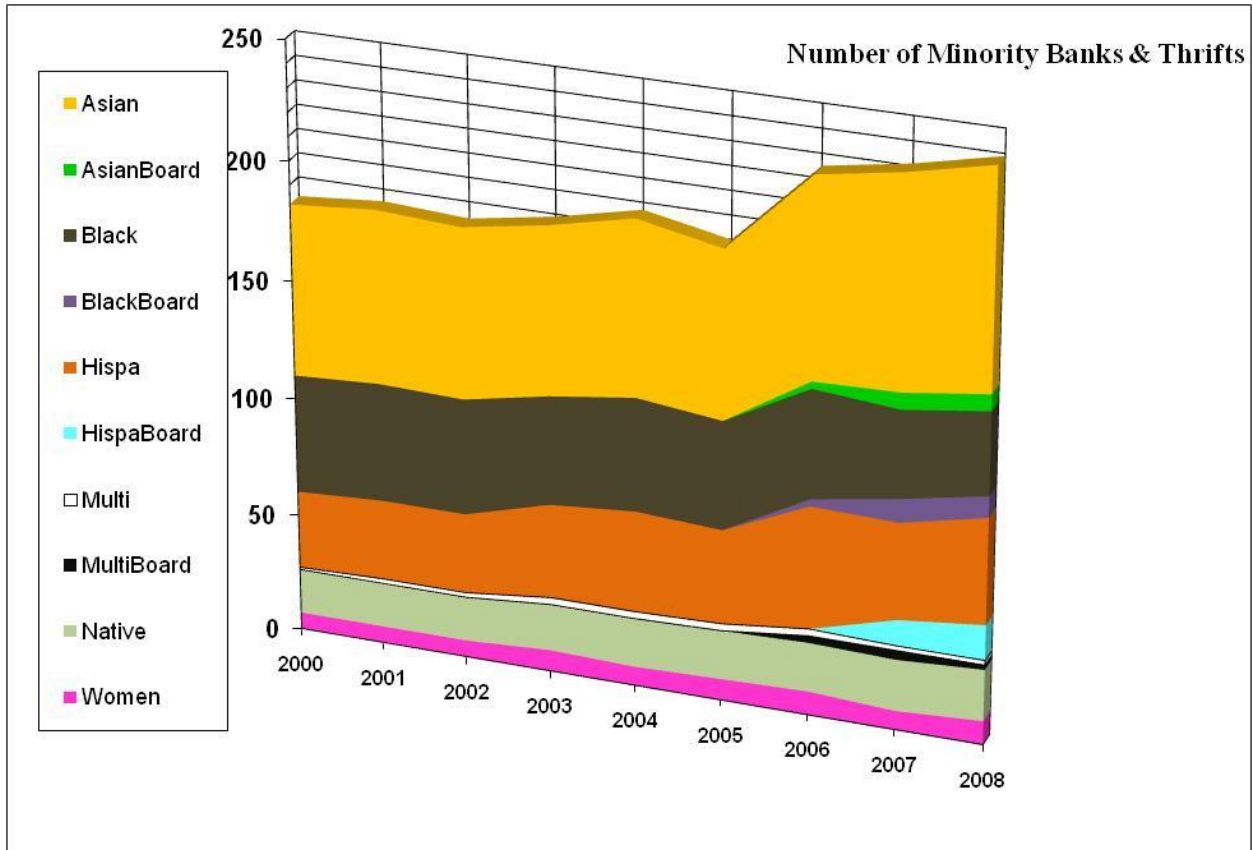
The listing, using 2009 financial, demographic, HMDA and CRA information from a database maintained by Creative Investment Research, was compiled using the firm's proprietary **Fully Adjusted Return® Index**: The **Fully Adjusted Return® Index** provides a full description of the economic condition and social responsiveness of a financial institution. The index summarizes information concerning:

- 1.) *Financial performance of the institution;*
- 2.) *Social needs in the county where the financial institution is headquartered; and*
- 3.) *Responsiveness of the financial institution in meeting those social needs.*

Data on each of these areas is collected and evaluated independently. Once collected, the information is summarized and the index is calculated.

Industry Overview

At the start of 2009, there were 239 minority owned financial institutions (banks and thrifts) in the U.S., up from 231 at the end of 2007. The number of institutions totaled 182 at the end of 2000.



TARP Funding

The tables below show funding for minority banks from TARP, or the Troubled Asset Relief Program. “The Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) is a program of the United States government to purchase assets and equity from financial institutions in order to strengthen its financial sector.”

TARP Funding (\$000)	Banks	Bank Holding Companies	Total	Percent of Minority Funding	Percent of Total
Asian	\$ 32,469	\$ 469,200	\$ 501,669	16.50%	0.072%
AsianBoard	\$ -	\$ 313,046	\$ 313,046	10.29%	0.045%
Black	\$ 14,858	\$ 57,525	\$ 72,383	2.38%	0.010%
BlackBoard	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	0.000%
Hispa	\$ -	\$ 819,000	\$ 819,000	26.93%	0.117%
HispaBoard	\$ -	\$ 1,335,000	\$ 1,335,000	43.90%	0.191%
Multi	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	0.000%
MultiBoard	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	0.000%
Native	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	0.000%
Women	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	0.000%
Grand Total	\$ 47,327	\$ 2,993,771	\$ 3,041,098	100.00%	0.434%

Banks/Thriffs	TARP Funding (\$000)
COMMONWEALTH BUSINESS BANK	\$ 7,701
FIRST CHOICE BK	\$ 2,200
FIRST INTERCONTINENTAL BANK	\$ 6,398
METRO CITY BK	\$ 7,700
ONEUNITED BK	\$ 12,063
PACIFIC CMRC BK	\$ 4,060
SAIGON NB	\$ 1,549
TRI ST BK OF MEMPHIS	\$ 2,795
US METRO BANK	\$ 2,861
TOTAL	\$ 47,327

Bank Holding Companies	TARP Funding (\$000)
BANCO POPULAR DE PUERTO RICO	\$ 935,000
BNB BK NA	\$ 7,500
CATHAY BANK	\$ 258,000
CENTER BANK	\$ 55,000
CITIZENS TRUST BANK	\$ 7,462
CITY NB OF NEW JERSEY	\$ 9,439
COMMERCE BK	\$ 216,000
DRYADES SAVINGS BANK FSB	\$ 17,836
EAST WEST BANK	\$ 306,546
FIRST AMERICAN INTL BANK	\$ 17,000
FIRSTBANK FLORIDA	\$ 400,000
INDUSTRIAL BANK	\$ 6,000
INTERNATIONAL BK OF CMRC	\$ 216,000
INTERNATIONAL BK OF COM	\$ 432,000
LEGACY BK	\$ 5,498
LIBERTY B&TC	\$ 5,645
METROBANK NATIONAL ASSN	\$ 45,000
PACIFIC CITY BANK	\$ 16,200
PACIFIC GLOBAL BK	\$ 3,000
PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL BANK	\$ 6,500
UNITED B&TC	\$ 5,645
UNITED CENTRAL BK	\$ 22,500
TOTAL	\$ 2,993,771

Note: Banco Popular, NA part of BANCO POPULAR DE PUERTO RICO

Note: Metrounited Bank part of METROBANK NATIONAL ASSN

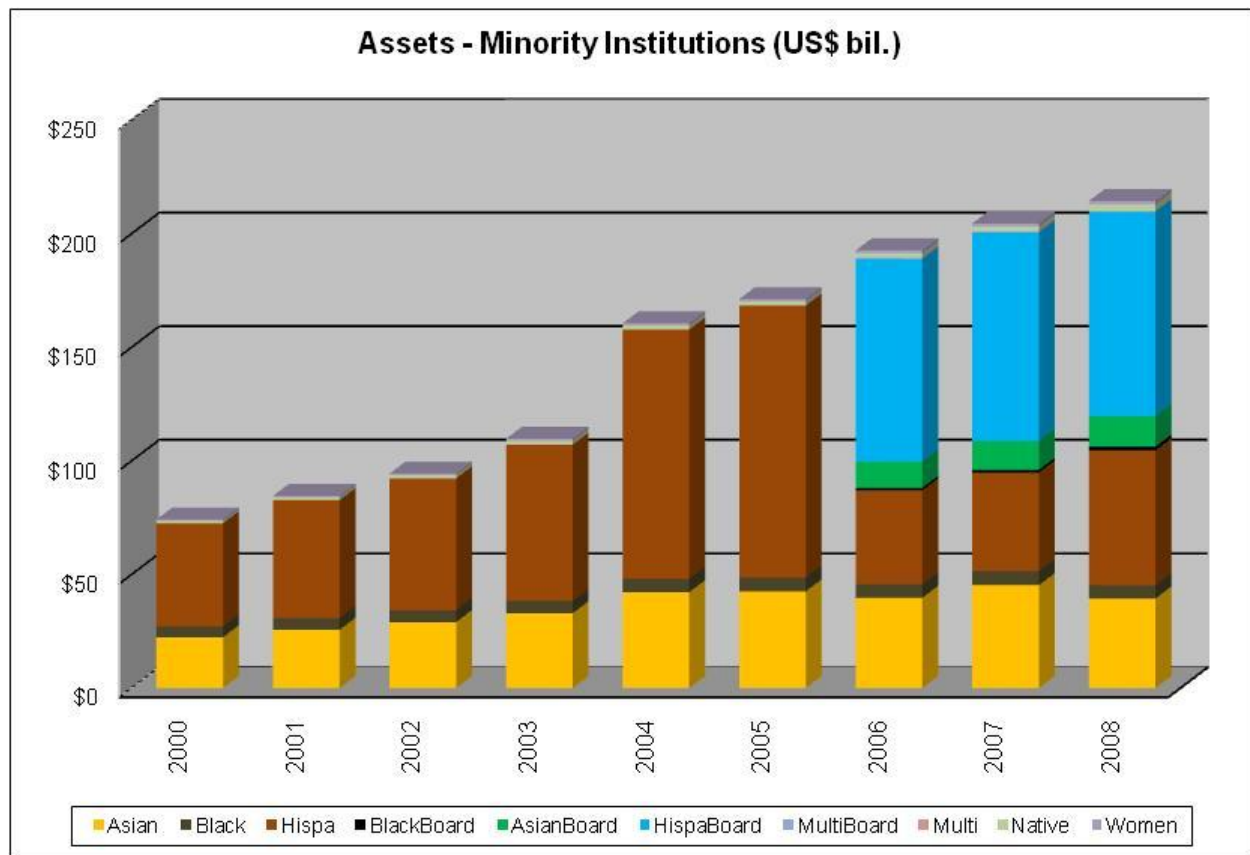
Note: Firstbank Puerto Rico part of FIRSTBANK FLORIDA

Assets

Assets and Income

Assets for all minority-owned financial institutions increased in 2008 to \$214.326 billion from \$160.520 billion at the end of 2004 and from \$74.192 billion at the end of 2000.

Assets	(\$000)										
Year	Asian	AsianBoard	Black	BlackBoard	Hispa	HispaBoard	Multi	MultiBoard	Native	Women	Grand Total
Dec-00	\$ 22,378,344		\$ 4,699,848		\$ 45,442,785		\$ 50,799		\$ 1,008,211	\$ 612,858	\$ 74,192,845
Dec-01	\$ 25,661,839		\$ 5,138,713		\$ 51,894,517		\$ 117,317		\$ 1,123,316	\$ 661,519	\$ 84,597,221
Dec-02	\$ 29,019,945		\$ 5,293,720		\$ 57,956,383		\$ 130,915		\$ 1,233,622	\$ 722,781	\$ 94,357,366
Dec-03	\$ 32,918,311		\$ 5,417,471		\$ 68,718,148		\$ 214,629		\$ 1,474,523	\$ 986,174	\$ 109,729,256
Dec-04	\$ 42,176,080		\$ 5,909,108		\$ 109,638,883		\$ 211,863		\$ 1,629,455	\$ 955,068	\$ 160,520,457
Dec-05	\$ 42,568,591		\$ 6,123,011		\$ 119,624,265		\$ 225,473		\$ 1,688,771	\$ 980,815	\$ 171,210,926
Dec-06	\$ 39,741,341	\$ 11,596,311	\$ 5,957,922	\$ 1,036,793	\$ 41,325,587	\$ 89,139,306	\$ 30,352	\$ 686,992	\$ 1,846,818	\$ 1,258,144	\$ 192,619,566
Dec-07	\$ 45,279,520	\$ 12,757,674	\$ 6,156,923	\$ 1,103,174	\$ 43,425,952	\$ 91,679,927	\$ 48,322	\$ 722,597	\$ 1,992,154	\$ 1,333,937	\$ 204,500,180
Dec-08	\$ 39,381,148	\$ 13,452,859	\$ 5,878,071	\$ 1,705,840	\$ 59,311,280	\$ 89,894,970	\$ 124,879	\$ 316,773	\$ 2,781,085	\$ 1,479,901	\$ 214,326,806

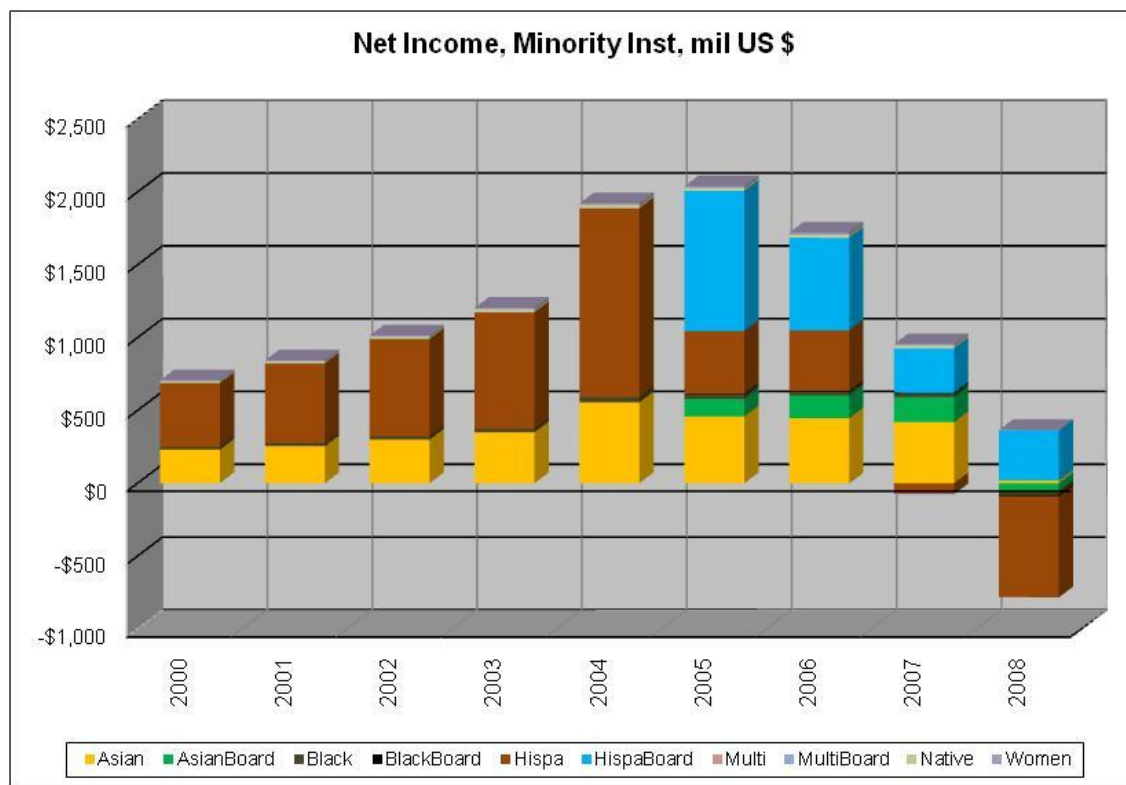


Net income

Net income for the group became negative at the start of 2009, following general banking trends. In the second quarter of 2008, industry net income fell to \$5 billion. This was, according to the FDIC, the lowest level for aggregate industry income since 1991.

Minority bank net income was (\$419) million in 2008. In 2007, minority banks recorded positive income of \$876,324,000 and recorded positive income of \$137,914,000 (\$275.828 million on an annualized basis) in the first six months of 2008. Minority institution net income peaked at \$1.921 billion in 2004. While the majority of the 2008 losses occurred in Hispanic banking institutions, several minority banking groups (AsianBoard, Black, BlackBoard, Multiethnic, MultiBoard) recorded negative income.

Total												
Net Income	(\$000)											
Year	Asian	AsianBoard	Black	BlackBoard	Hispa	HispaBoard	Multi	MultiBoard	Native	Women	Grand Total	
Dec-00	\$ 229,887		\$ 19,886		\$ 437,389		\$ 642		\$ 11,335	\$ 6,452	\$ 705,591	
Dec-01	\$ 254,199		\$ 21,506		\$ 547,343		\$ (348)		\$ 11,530	\$ 8,168	\$ 842,398	
Dec-02	\$ 299,232		\$ 22,953		\$ 668,018		\$ 891		\$ 12,936	\$ 9,459	\$ 1,013,489	
Dec-03	\$ 350,036		\$ 25,406		\$ 797,976		\$ 1,354		\$ 15,742	\$ 13,079	\$ 1,203,593	
Dec-04	\$ 555,347		\$ 38,481		\$ 1,293,186		\$ 2,924		\$ 18,073	\$ 13,008	\$ 1,921,019	
Dec-05	\$ 458,059	\$ 120,922	\$ 27,522	\$ 5,906	\$ 431,550	\$ 962,578	\$ (83)	\$ 777	\$ 18,307	\$ 13,270	\$ 2,038,808	
Dec-06	\$ 445,272	\$ 156,903	\$ 23,446	\$ 6,350	\$ 418,129	\$ 634,508	\$ (339)	\$ (1,719)	\$ 20,879	\$ 14,411	\$ 1,717,840	
Dec-07	\$ 419,023	\$ 171,892	\$ 23,583	\$ 5,422	\$ (71,399)	\$ 304,808	\$ (1,197)	\$ (5,524)	\$ 20,057	\$ 9,659	\$ 876,324	
Dec-08	\$ 17,249	\$ (52,739)	\$ (27,014)	\$ (8,335)	\$ (693,905)	\$ 345,041	\$ (1,945)	\$ (373)	\$ 2,165	\$ 773	\$ (419,083)	



Return on Assets (ROA)

Return on assets (ROA)

Return on asset (ROA) and return on equity patterns weakened for all minority owned institutions in 2008, as the charts and tables below describe.

In 2008, minority financial institutions continued to underperform the banking sector generally: according to FDIC statistics, ROA for all insured commercial banks and savings institutions averaged 0.08% in 2008. This compares to a minority commercial bank and savings institution average ROA of -0.88% at the end of 2008, down from -0.04 at the end of 2007.

Remarkable asset growth

Asset Growth Rates

Minority institutions continue to exhibit asset growth rates that exceed industry averages. These asset growth rates are driven by demographic factors, specifically, above average population growth in minority communities.

Average of Asset Growth Rate (%)				
	2008	2007	2006	2005
Asian	23.82	32.84	26.04	19.97
AsianBoard	48.06	22.42	32.97	53.89
Black	6.94	3.40	8.66	6.76
BlackBoard	(5.20)	2.22	4.79	2.68
Hispa	16.17	19.84	13.10	15.14
HispaBoard	3.30	4.11	0.04	14.87
Multi	n/m	6.52	-5.31	16.52
MultiBoard	15.72	39.08	4.29	12.74
Native	10.78	11.54	9.40	7.15
Women	4.84	5.14	8.66	6.26
Grand Average	18.45	19.37	15.54	14.04
n/m = not meaningful due to sector specific factors.				

As we noted in 2007, we believe this trend reflects continued expansion at Hispanic banking institutions and remarkable asset growth at Asian institutions.

Loan portfolio performance

From 1998 to 2005, loan portfolio performance improved, in general, at minority owned financial institutions: nonperforming loans declined from 2.30% to 1.06% of total loans. This has, of course, reversed. Loan performance has worsened at all minority institutions. In 2008, loans charged off (discharged) as a percentage of average loans were 0.47% of loans at fully Asian institutions, 0.70% at Black institutions, and 0.87% at fully Hispanic institutions. Net charge offs were highest at minority institutions with an Asian or Hispanic Board, at 1.49 and 1.80%, respectively.

As a percentage of total loans, non performing loans (loans that are late in paying) were highest at Black institutions, at 5.19% of the total loan portfolio. Black Board (4.45%) and Hispanic Board institutions (4.56%) had the next highest levels of non performing loans. We note, however, that for all minority institutions, nonperforming assets as a percentage of total loans grew from 1.77% in 2007 to 3.28% in 2008.

All FDIC-Insured Institutions*						
Date	12/31/2008	12/31/2007	12/31/2006	12/31/2005	12/31/2004	12/31/2003
Rtn on Assets (%)	0.08	0.81	1.28	1.30	1.29	1.38
Rtn on Equity (%)	0.79	7.76	12.31	11.49	13.28	15.03
Asset Growth (%)	6.24	9.89	9.03	N/C	11.34	7.58
Net Chg Offs/Avg. Lns (%)	1.28	0.59	0.39	0.50	0.56	0.78
Number of Institutions	8,305	8,534	8,680	8,833	8,975	9,182
Minority and Women-owned Institutions						
Date	12/31/2008	12/31/2007	12/31/2006	12/31/2005	12/31/2004	12/31/2003
Rtn on Assets (%)	-0.88	-0.04	0.18	0.78	0.84	0.65
Rtn on Equity (%)	-5.47	2.46	5.66	8.44	9.07	6.87
Asset Growth (%)	18.45	19.37	15.54	14.04	13.88	13.27
Net Chg Offs/Avg. Lns (%)	0.84	0.28	0.27	0.20	0.27	0.36
Number of Institutions	239	231	225	190	197	189
Percent of total institutions	2.878%	2.707%	2.592%	2.151%	2.195%	2.058%
* Excludes insured branches of foreign banks.						
N/C = Not Calculated.						

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About Creative Investment Research, Inc.

Creative Investment Research, Incorporated, a Delaware corporation, was founded in 1989 to expand the capacity of capital markets to provide capital, credit and financial services in minority and underserved areas and markets. We have done so by creating new financial instruments and by applying existing financial market technology to underserved areas.

The firm is and is owned and managed by William Michael Cunningham. Mr. Cunningham registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as an investment adviser on February 2, 1990. He holds MA (Economics) and MBA (Finance) degrees from the Department of Economics and the Graduate School of Business of the University of Chicago. He earned his BA degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C. Mr. Cunningham is a member of the Social Investment Forum, the CFA Institute and of the Twin Cities Society of Security Analysts.

The Community Development Financial Institution Fund of the US Department of the Treasury certified the firm as a Community Development Entity on August 29, 2003. The Small Business Administration certified the firm as an 8(a) program participant on October 19, 2005. The firm voluntarily withdrew from the 8(a) Program in 2008, having never received a Federal contract.