

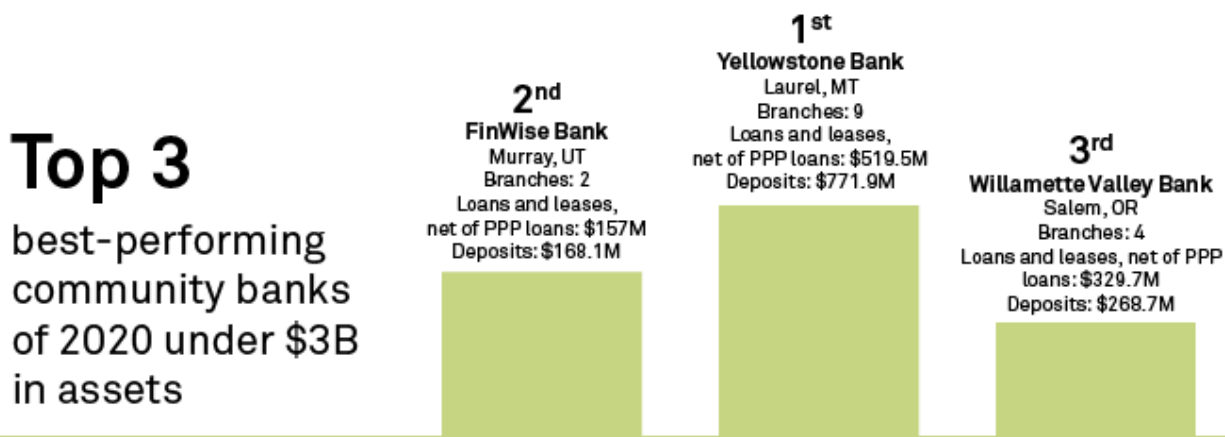
RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

# Montana's Yellowstone Bank tops 2020 ranking of best-performing small banks

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By Zuhaib Gull and Zain Tariq  
*Market Intelligence*

Laurel, Mont.-based Yellowstone Bank topped S&P Global Market Intelligence's 2020 ranking of the best-performing U.S. community banks under \$3 billion in assets.



Data compiled March 8, 2021.  
PPP = Paycheck Protection Program  
Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence

The century-old bank operates eight brick-and-mortar branches and one facility branch across six cities in Montana. The bank had a strong 2020, powered by a 20% increase in assets and a nearly 29% jump in net income, all while maintaining a 36.7% efficiency ratio and zero nonperforming assets or loans 90-plus days past due as of Dec. 31, 2020.

Noninterest income also more than tripled at Yellowstone, from \$3.7 million in 2019 to \$12.7 million in 2020.

The bank outperformed the industry median in all six of the ranking metrics in 2020 and outpaced the top 100 median in all but return on average tangible common equity and operating revenue growth.

### About this analysis

To compile this ranking, S&P Global Market Intelligence calculated scores for each company based on six metrics, weighted: pre-tax return on tangible common equity (25%), efficiency ratio (15%), net interest margin (15%), operating revenue growth (20%), leverage ratio (15%), and nonperforming assets and loans 90 days past due as a percentage of totals assets, net of Paycheck Protection Program loans (10%). Each company's standard deviation from the industry mean was calculated for every ranking metric, then combined to derive a performance score. To help normalize the data and mitigate the impact of outliers, caps and floors were applied for each metric.

Criteria for the ranking included total assets of less than \$3 billion, net of PPP loans, a gross loans and leases-to-total assets ratio, net of PPP loans, of at least 25% with no more than half of those loans in credit cards, a leverage ratio of at least 5%, no active severe enforcement action, a result other than "substantial noncompliance" in the bank's most recent CRA exam and no more than half of the entity's revenue coming from nontraditional banking activities. Additionally, companies with a bankers' bank certification, and banks with parent companies that had \$3 billion or more in total assets, adjusted for the exclusion of PPP loans, were omitted.

Based on the above criteria, 4,287 banks and thrifts were eligible for ranking.

Murray, Utah-based FinWise Bank took second place in this year's ranking following a massive surge in the bank's loan portfolio, thanks to Paycheck Protection Program loans. The bank's \$264.1 million in PPP loans at the end of 2020 accounted for 40.6% of the bank's entire loan book. However, that is down from its 54.6% concentration at the end of June 2020, when it was the 17th most-concentrated bank in PPP loans in the country, according to an S&P Global Market Intelligence analysis. The bank's yield on consumer loans of 58.6% for the year exemplifies its successful strategic partnerships with third-party firms.

Salem, Oregon-based Willamette Valley Bank came in third in 2020, helped by a near-doubling of net gain on sales of loans and leases during the year, which in part led to a return on average tangible common equity of 83.23%.

### Best-performing community banks of 2020 under \$3B in assets

Based on financials for the year ended Dec. 31, 2020

Rank	Company (top-level ticker)	City, state	Ranking metrics						NPA's & loans 90+ PD/total assets, excl. PPP loans (%)
			Total assets, excl. PPP loans (\$M)	ROATCE (%)	Efficiency ratio (%)	Net interest margin (%)	Operating revenue growth (%)	Leverage ratio (%)	
1	Yellowstone Bank	Laurel, MT	913.1	21.45	36.68	4.52	36.2	15.85	0.00
2	FinWise Bank	Murray, UT	207.4	49.06	50.01	11.35	22.6	16.61	0.45
3	Willamette Valley Bank (ORBN)	Salem, OR	374.7	83.23	60.90	3.77	82.3	17.10	0.23
4	North American Savings Bank FSB (NASB)	Kansas City, MO	2,586.6	49.12	46.36	3.95	93.1	14.65	1.21
5	Texas Bank Financial	Weatherford, TX	550.6	33.84	53.16	5.32	51.6	10.95	0.78
6	Community Bank	Topeka, KS	119.2	32.68	44.29	4.13	50.8	10.07	0.00
7	West Gate Bank	Lincoln, NE	892.6	30.19	55.10	4.43	57.3	11.16	0.39
8	Leader Bank NA	Arlington, MA	2,075.2	46.02	32.10	2.84	105.9	14.57	0.11
9	Legacy Bank & Trust Co.	Rogersville, MO	489.0	34.14	43.03	4.03	82.8	9.53	0.04
10	Crockett National Bank	San Antonio, TX	742.6	65.57	58.79	3.65	52.0	13.88	0.10
11	M1 Bank	Macks Creek, MO	489.4	27.00	34.28	3.92	65.9	8.58	0.02
12	Park State Bank	Duluth, MN	164.0	36.02	50.16	5.00	42.8	9.16	0.42
13	Riverstone Bank	Eagle, NE	118.1	35.33	37.86	4.45	124.5	8.33	1.04
14	Chickasaw Community Bank	Oklahoma City, OK	279.6	50.73	57.89	4.76	89.7	11.44	1.46
15	Town and Country Bank of Midwest	Quincy, IL	185.3	26.98	40.07	4.02	28.1	12.33	0.30
16	Bank of Old Monroe	Old Monroe, MO	481.1	22.32	44.23	4.05	21.3	14.78	0.36
17	Cumberland Security Bank Inc.	Somerset, KY	256.4	22.30	42.90	4.48	16.0	12.99	0.24
18	Northeast Bank (NBN)	Lewiston, ME	1,233.8	25.07	46.19	5.15	25.4	15.07	4.65
19	First Bank of Owasso	Owasso, OK	483.5	25.10	39.68	4.30	23.6	10.69	0.00
20	Fresno First Bank (CFST)	Fresno, CA	712.2	25.21	44.41	4.01	32.9	11.59	0.24
21	Quantum National Bank	Suwanee, GA	557.6	25.65	44.01	4.88	13.3	10.84	0.00
22	Bank of George (GBFH)	Las Vegas, NV	426.2	20.60	56.52	4.03	41.5	13.97	0.00
23	Genesee Regional Bank	Rochester, NY	655.8	25.83	46.03	3.96	43.5	10.32	0.30
24	Brazos National Bank	Richwood, TX	41.7	32.82	74.07	3.40	67.6	28.06	0.04
25	HNB National Bank	Hannibal, MO	609.0	26.55	40.86	3.82	24.7	12.96	0.49
26	1st Security Bank of Washington (FSBW)	Mountlake Terrace, WA	2,051.0	24.77	49.07	4.10	39.0	10.86	0.38
27	VisionBank	Saint Louis Park, MN	128.0	23.30	43.50	3.74	49.0	9.03	0.06
28	Bippus State Bank	Huntington, IN	208.6	24.30	50.69	4.11	39.8	11.15	0.45
29	Citizens State Bank of La Crosse	La Crosse, WI	395.6	42.26	38.12	4.42	38.5	8.82	0.85
30	Metro Phoenix Bank (MPHX)	Phoenix, AZ	292.8	18.45	45.14	4.51	33.4	11.84	0.08
31	Wells Bank	Platte City, MO	287.0	25.40	45.81	4.59	29.7	9.03	0.24
32	Titan Bank NA	Mineral Wells, TX	359.9	34.92	37.96	3.29	61.4	9.50	0.05
33	One American Bank	Sioux Falls, SD	510.7	201.08	52.87	3.34	466.0	11.77	0.11
34	Sherburne State Bank	Becker, MN	176.0	43.43	44.02	4.37	44.2	7.50	0.44

35	Celtic Bank Corp.	Salt Lake City, UT	1,362.6	47.97	32.61	2.13	69.7	18.77	1.10
36	Reliant Bank (RBNC)	Brentwood, TN	2,953.1	19.15	53.67	4.37	99.0	10.64	0.27
37	BNC National Bank (BNCC)	Glendale, AZ	1,022.2	50.40	47.38	3.29	94.4	10.92	0.26
38	One Community Bank	Oregon, WI	1,303.9	20.16	49.31	4.00	122.1	10.16	0.13
39	Cornerstone Community Bank	Grafton, WI	212.6	27.14	47.95	4.36	30.2	9.31	0.03
40	Jonah Bank of Wyoming	Casper, WY	435.6	26.53	49.50	4.30	43.9	9.29	0.72
41	MRV Banks	Sainte Genevieve, MO	521.3	24.77	39.71	4.13	26.8	9.23	0.00
42	Peoples Community Bank	Greenville, MO	545.4	16.77	39.96	4.73	4.7	17.17	0.60
43	Wallis Bank	Wallis, TX	844.7	27.86	49.67	4.41	27.8	9.77	0.10
44	First State Bank	Gothenburg, NE	672.8	25.70	39.68	4.09	42.1	10.67	1.73
45	WaterStone Bank (WSBF)	Wauwatosa, WI	2,163.4	29.83	61.17	2.90	61.6	16.62	0.78
46	Bank of Deerfield	Deerfield, WI	171.2	25.56	45.64	3.52	45.8	11.48	0.85
47	Opportunity Bank of Montana (EBMT)	Helena, MT	1,216.5	23.62	61.78	4.22	43.1	11.72	0.70
48	First Western Federal Savings Bank	Rapid City, SD	59.6	17.55	50.09	5.36	8.7	15.43	0.17
49	First National Bank	Fort Pierre, SD	1,434.2	17.48	40.09	7.68	6.9	16.10	1.18
50	State Bank of Texas	Dallas, TX	961.8	21.99	27.57	5.09	-16.5	16.73	1.02
51	North Valley Bank	Thornton, CO	197.2	22.66	46.44	5.21	0.8	11.71	0.00
52	American Bank NA	Dallas, TX	115.7	15.59	57.31	5.65	66.4	11.25	0.18
53	Horizon Bank	Waverly, NE	374.2	21.48	34.11	4.03	9.2	14.29	0.49
54	Eagle Bank	Polson, MT	90.5	21.82	51.30	4.85	21.1	10.08	0.02
55	Bank of Montana	Missoula, MT	151.0	34.59	43.86	3.30	51.6	8.70	0.00
56	First National Bank of America	East Lansing, MI	2,954.0	39.39	29.49	5.62	29.4	10.08	2.18
57	Northern Bank & Trust Co.	Woburn, MA	2,452.1	21.18	37.89	4.29	16.1	12.20	0.70
58	First Federal Bank A FSB	Tuscaloosa, AL	176.3	69.62	59.39	2.99	114.1	15.73	1.38
59	Farmers & Stockmens Bank	Clayton, NM	330.7	20.99	69.48	4.21	59.7	10.99	0.08
60	Fidelity Bank	New Orleans, LA	841.6	13.52	74.70	5.05	52.7	16.24	0.56
61	Lake Area Bank	Lindstrom, MN	419.7	34.28	62.33	4.42	92.0	10.80	1.87
62	KS StateBank	Manhattan, KS	2,255.4	27.55	42.89	3.04	47.1	10.47	0.43
63	Frandsen Bank & Trust	Lonsdale, MN	2,321.2	25.83	58.99	4.83	35.5	7.69	0.26
64	First Savings Bank	Beresford, SD	1,053.4	21.81	43.67	8.15	7.7	11.57	0.96
65	NBKC Bank	Kansas City, MO	1,118.3	100.14	51.24	1.95	104.3	14.44	0.45
66	Bank7 (BSVN)	Oklahoma City, OK	970.8	25.80	36.15	5.16	12.0	10.78	1.70
67	First Bank of the Lake	Osage Beach, MO	189.4	54.03	56.07	3.51	268.7	11.10	0.95
68	Grand Bank	Tulsa, OK	405.6	19.33	43.44	4.06	36.5	11.14	0.79
69	Santa Cruz County Bank (SCZC)	Santa Cruz, CA	1,102.1	18.86	46.89	4.01	38.3	10.27	0.00
70	Nebraska State Bank	Oshkosh, NE	60.5	20.58	45.70	4.12	0.9	15.79	0.71
71	Capital Bank NA (CBNK)	Rockville, MD	1,646.1	27.57	68.36	5.16	58.5	7.46	0.69
72	Bank of Mauston	Mauston, WI	343.7	22.54	37.54	3.69	10.8	12.59	0.26
73	Dundee Bank	Omaha, NE	356.0	25.88	55.65	4.01	67.8	8.88	1.14
74	Pioneer Trust Bank NA	Salem, OR	593.1	26.93	32.86	3.81	5.9	11.50	0.00
75	SouthPoint Bank (SOUB)	Birmingham, AL	495.6	23.08	64.33	3.93	60.0	8.99	0.22
76	Guardian Savings Bank	West Chester, OH	1,091.9	26.67	38.40	2.29	55.8	12.65	0.84
77	First State Bank of St. Charles Missouri	Saint Charles, MO	471.8	33.25	71.41	3.20	77.5	14.09	0.52
78	Sabal Palm Bank	Sarasota, FL	289.7	21.22	55.82	4.14	44.0	8.35	0.00
79	Great American Bank	Lawrence, KS	230.3	21.25	55.95	4.70	11.8	10.93	0.00
80	Bank First NA (BFC)	Manitowoc, WI	2,545.6	23.41	45.29	3.80	31.1	9.46	0.56
81	Tri-County Bank	Brown City, MI	391.7	19.16	50.27	4.52	19.4	11.76	0.40
82	Lakeview Bank	Lakeville, MN	113.8	22.33	56.09	4.64	31.8	8.10	0.36
83	Farmers Bank & Trust	Great Bend, KS	973.5	13.94	44.65	3.18	61.9	16.72	0.88
84	FirstBank	Antlers, OK	525.3	22.99	65.82	5.58	39.5	8.29	0.52
85	Plains Commerce Bank	Hoven, SD	1,044.7	80.35	55.38	3.74	283.1	12.31	3.34
86	Bank of Lake Mills	Lake Mills, WI	257.1	17.71	63.89	4.28	41.8	12.47	0.19

87	First State Bank	Louise, TX	583.5	26.26	52.01	5.30	11.4	8.62	0.12
88	Bank of Milton	Milton, WI	162.2	24.89	47.10	3.90	25.8	8.75	0.00
89	Farmers State Bank	Waterloo, IA	1,284.9	20.89	44.28	3.73	34.3	9.45	0.04
90	First Security Bank of Deer Lodge	Deer Lodge, MT	53.7	29.37	45.77	4.28	13.9	8.68	0.01
91	WebBank	Salt Lake City, UT	633.0	37.64	33.38	4.08	-15.0	32.36	1.37
92	North Shore Bank of Commerce	Duluth, MN	347.6	22.39	70.43	4.72	31.0	10.32	0.32
93	Citizens Bank NA	Abilene, TX	111.9	23.49	51.93	4.60	9.8	9.02	0.00
94	Community First Bank	Kansas City, KS	229.5	23.06	50.04	4.62	6.9	9.74	0.26
95	Security State Bank	Sutherland, IA	259.9	22.94	37.85	3.88	10.1	10.14	0.00
96	Citizens Bank of Edina	Edina, MO	80.5	21.32	38.93	4.23	-1.8	11.97	0.15
97	Apex Bank	Camden, TN	896.3	35.83	37.75	6.18	10.8	11.32	3.10
98	Campbell County Bank	Herreid, SD	132.2	14.45	50.68	4.94	17.2	14.86	0.67
99	High Country Bank (HCBC)	Salida, CO	363.2	20.90	60.08	5.23	24.2	9.55	0.02
100	Bloomsdale Bank	Bloomsdale, MO	277.1	31.18	39.33	3.57	32.9	8.86	0.57
<b>Top 100 median</b>				<b>25.48</b>	<b>46.40</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>11.05</b>	<b>0.34</b>
<b>Industry median*</b>				<b>10.81</b>	<b>66.60</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>10.14</b>	<b>0.57</b>

PPP loans/gross loans & leases (%)

● < 5 ● 5 - 9.99 ● 10 - 19.99 ● 20 - 29.99 ● >30

Data compiled March 8, 2021.

PD = past due; PPP = Payment Protection Program; ROATCE = return on average tangible common equity; CRA = Community Reinvestment Act  
S&P Global Market Intelligence used six metrics to identify top-performing U.S. community banks under \$3 billion in asset size, adjusted to exclude PPP loans, by applying weights to each metric. The mean for each metric was identified across the data set, and standard deviations from these means were calculated for each metric for each institution and aggregated to determine a relative performance score. Scores for each metric were also capped to help normalize the data.

Criteria for the ranking included a gross loans and leases-to-total assets ratio, net of PPP loans, of at least 25% with no more than half of those loans in credit cards, a leverage ratio of at least 5%, no active severe enforcement action, a result other than "substantial noncompliance" in the bank's most recent CRA exam and no more than half of the entity's revenue coming from nontraditional banking activities. Additionally, banks with parent companies above \$3 billion in total assets, adjusted for the exclusion of PPP loans, were omitted. Bankers' banks are also excluded.

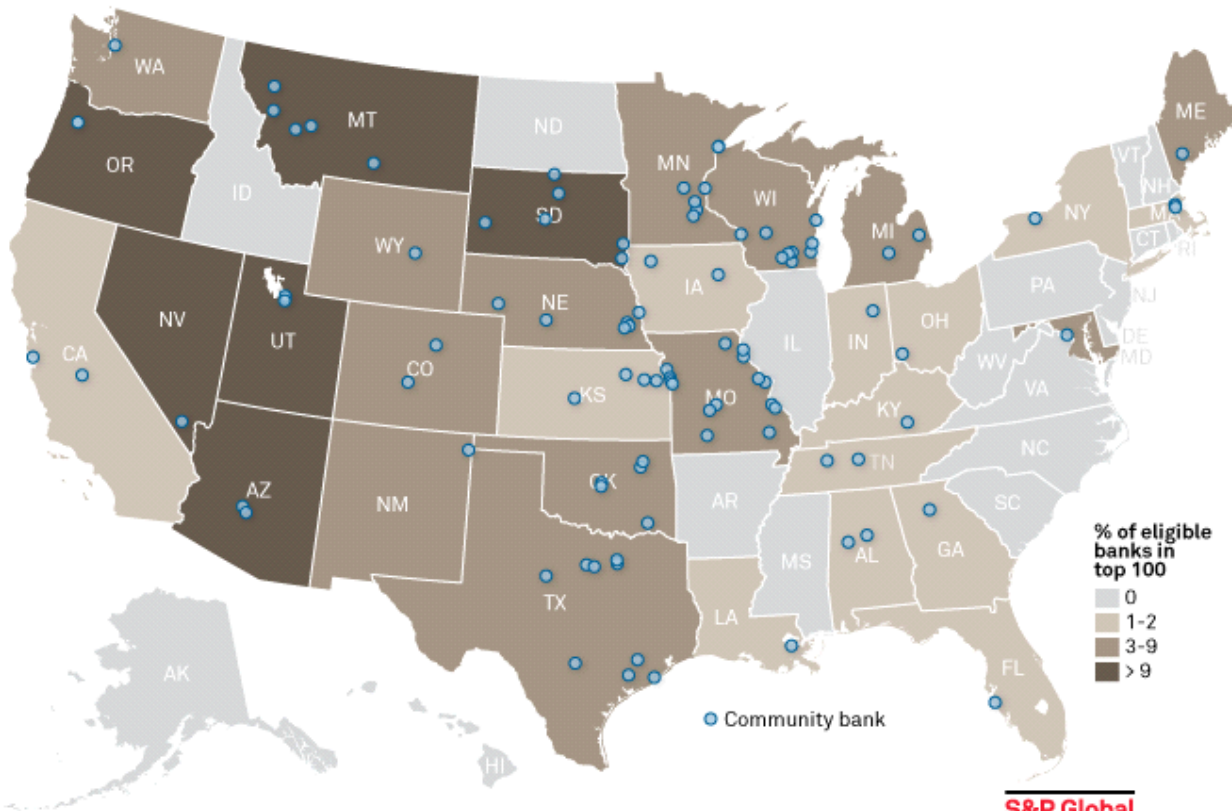
\* Represents all eligible banks in the analysis.

Rankings are based on 2020 regulatory filings. All ranking metrics must have been reported for company to be included.

Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence

Missouri placed 13 banks in the top 100 in 2020, more than any other state. Kansas City, Mo.-based North American Savings Bank FSB came in 4th in this year's ranking and was also the largest among the top 100.

**100 best-performing community banks of 2020 under \$3B in assets**



**S&P Global**  
Market Intelligence

Data compiled March 8, 2021.

PPP = Paycheck Protection Program

Criteria for the ranking included total assets of less than \$3 billion, net of PPP loans, a gross loans and leases-to-total assets ratio, net of PPP loans, of at least 25% with no more than half of those loans in credit cards, a leverage ratio of at least 5%, no active severe enforcement action, a result other than "substantial noncompliance" in the bank's most recent CRA exam and no more than half of the entity's revenue coming from nontraditional banking activities.

Additionally, banks with parent companies above \$3 billion in total assets, adjusted for the exclusion of PPP loans, were omitted.

Map credit: Ciaralou Agpalo Palicpic

Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence

[Click here to download a refreshable template containing the underlying data used in the rankings and the list of top 100.](#)

[Click here to see the top-performing community banks with \\$3 billion to \\$10 billion in assets for 2020.](#)

[Click here to see S&P Global Market Intelligence's 2020 credit union ranking.](#)

[To see the 2019 rankings, click here for the top-performing community banks with less than \\$3 billion in assets, and here for those with \\$3 billion to \\$10 billion in assets.](#)

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