

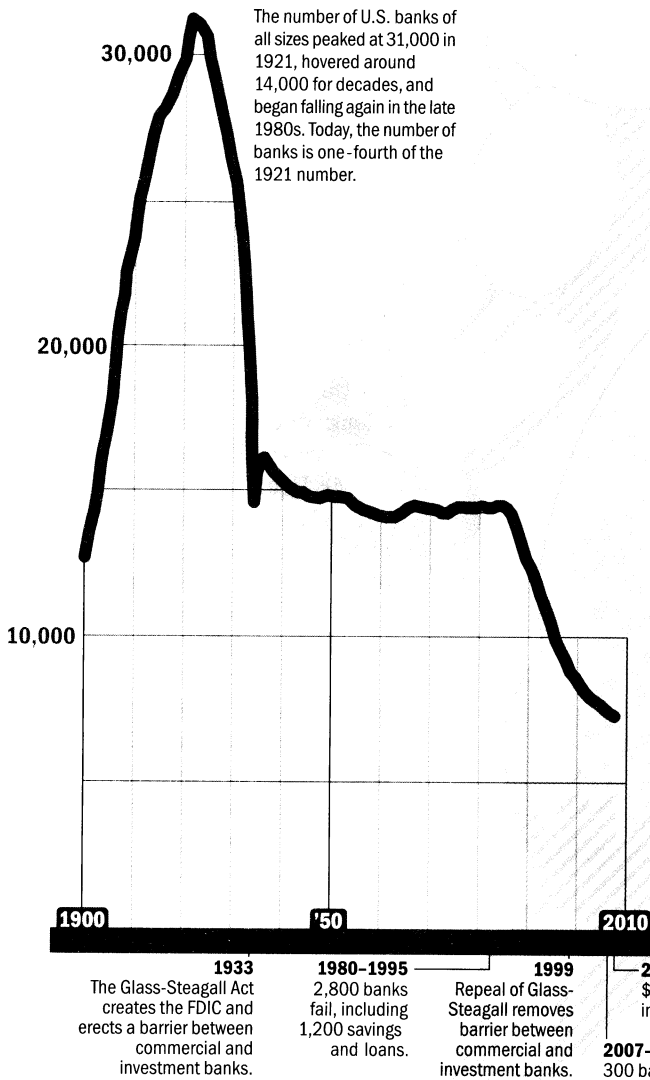
The Big Picture

The Rise of the Monster Bank

Datagraphic by Nigel Holmes

In late 2008, a vast interplay of bets, bubbles and blinding greed brought the U.S. economy to the brink of another Great Depression, when some 10,000 of the nation's banks failed. The crisis began when monster-sized banks couldn't make good on their bets in the opaque, fast-moving market of mortgage-backed securities they had helped create. After the crisis peaked, the biggest beneficiaries were the banks themselves. In 2010, monster banks reaped record profits and swallowed even more smaller banks.

THE NUMBER OF BANKS HAS BEEN FALLING FOR 90 YEARS

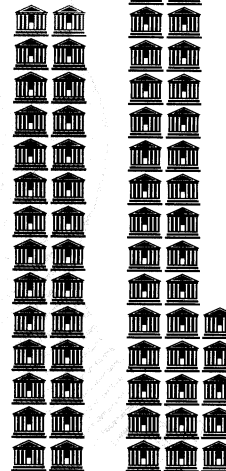


SOURCES: FDIC, SIGTARP, US TREASURY DEPT; BANK OF ENGLAND; BANKING IN THE UNITED STATES

THE NUMBER OF MONSTER BANKS HAS BEEN RISING FOR 25 YEARS

In 1984, 28 banks had more than \$10 billion in assets and held more than a fourth of the industry's assets. In 1984, only 2 banks had more than \$100 billion in assets.

1984



2010
In 2010, 105 banks hold more than \$10 billion in assets and have 78% of the banking industry's assets, up from 76% in 2006.

19 banks hold more than \$100 billion in assets.

The combined assets of the five largest U.S. banks tripled between 1998-2007.

In 2010, the top five commercial U.S. banks (Bank of America; JPMorgan; Citigroup; Wells Fargo; US Bancorp) hold assets roughly equal to 60% of the nation's gross domestic product.