

Alamerica Bank rated `superior`

Birmingham's Alamerica Bank was the only hometown bank to receive a "superior" rating in a study of the financial condition of banks across the nation.

Research firm BauerFinancial Inc. gave Alamerica five stars based on the bank's capital ratio and other factors including profitability/loss trend, delinquent loans and investment portfolio value ending Sept. 30.

Other Alabama banks with branches in the metro area - Tuscaloosa's Bryant Bank, Calera-based Central State Bank, and Pell City's Metro and Union State banks - also received five stars.

Regions Financial Corp., Compass and Wachovia Corp. received four stars, or an "excellent" rating. Bauer has noted it requires high levels of capital for its five-star rating. Many larger banks choose to keep less capital on hand.

From staff reports –
The Birmingham News