

A Note on the Study's Organization and Data

The study is divided into three main sections. Part 1 contains four chapters, the first of which presents a detailed summary of the study's findings as well as an exploration of the implications of those findings. The other three chapters deal with what might be viewed as issues that were "national" in scope: developments in banking legislation and regulation, the role of commercial real estate, and the relationship of the savings and loan crisis to the problems in banking. The seven chapters in Part 2 look at the sectoral and regional banking crises of the 1980s and early 1990s. These are presented chronologically (although since the discrete problems in banking often overlapped one another, the periods covered within chapters frequently coincide). In turn, the chapters in this section examine the LDC debt crisis and mutual savings bank problems of the early 1980s, the crisis surrounding Continental Illinois in 1982–84, banking and the agricultural problems of the mid-1980s, and then the rolling regional recessions from the mid-1980s to the early 1990s in the Southwest, Northeast, and California. Finally, the two chapters in Part 3 present an analysis of the supervisory tools used by the banking agencies during the period, dealing first with bank examination and enforcement, and then with off-site surveillance systems.

Readers should note that if no source is given for data, the source for that data is the FDIC. Unless otherwise defined, "banks" in this study should be assumed to include commercial banks (national, state member and state nonmember institutions) and FDIC-insured mutual savings banks. Unless otherwise indicated, this study treats open-bank assistance transactions as bank failures.