

2011 Reasons Households Use AFS

| Main Reason Household Used AFS Instead of Banks | All Households | | Unbanked | | Banking Status | | Banking Status | | Banking Status | |
|---|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Number (1000s) | Pct of Col | Number (1000s) | Pct of Col | Underbanked | Underbanked | Fully Banked | Fully Banked | Banked but Underbanked Status Unknown | Banked but Underbanked Status Unknown |
| Non-Bank Money Order | | | | | | | | | | |
| Banks do not sell money orders | 955 | 2.4 | 115 | 2.0 | 484 | 2.5 | 349 | 2.4 | 7 | 1.8 |
| The place is more convenient | 22,199 | 56.0 | 2,272 | 39.1 | 10,517 | 54.7 | 9,259 | 64.9 | 151 | 42.1 |
| A bank charges more for money orders | 8,858 | 22.3 | 1,130 | 19.4 | 5,391 | 28.0 | 2,250 | 15.8 | 87 | 24.1 |
| The place feels more comfortable than a bank | 888 | 2.2 | 219 | 3.8 | 480 | 2.5 | 185 | 1.3 | 4 | 1.0 |
| Do not have a bank account | 2,268 | 5.7 | 1,587 | 27.3 | 330 | 1.7 | 333 | 2.3 | 17 | 4.9 |
| Do not trust banks | 245 | 0.6 | 131 | 2.3 | 69 | 0.4 | 41 | 0.3 | 4 | 1.1 |
| Other | 3,654 | 9.2 | 304 | 5.2 | 1,797 | 9.3 | 1,525 | 10.7 | 28 | 7.8 |
| Don't Know/Refused | 604 | 1.5 | 54 | 0.9 | 165 | 0.9 | 323 | 2.3 | 62 | 17.2 |
| Total | 39,671 | 100.0 | 5,813 | 100.0 | 19,233 | 100.0 | 14,266 | 100.0 | 359 | 100.0 |
| Non-Bank Check Cashing | | | | | | | | | | |
| Banks do not cash checks | 272 | 1.7 | 113 | 2.4 | 119 | 1.6 | 40 | 1.1 | - | - |
| To get money faster | 2,665 | 16.6 | 529 | 11.3 | 1,403 | 18.4 | 719 | 20.1 | 13 | 8.3 |
| The place is more convenient | 7,237 | 45.2 | 1,339 | 28.7 | 3,942 | 51.8 | 1,889 | 52.8 | 68 | 43.0 |
| A bank charges more to cash checks | 632 | 3.9 | 309 | 6.6 | 263 | 3.4 | 57 | 1.6 | 3 | 2.2 |
| The place to cash checks asks for fewer IDs | 167 | 1.0 | 75 | 1.6 | 71 | 0.9 | 22 | 0.6 | - | - |
| The place feels more comfortable than a bank | 271 | 1.7 | 89 | 1.9 | 158 | 2.1 | 24 | 0.7 | - | - |
| Do not have a bank account | 2,952 | 18.4 | 1,815 | 38.9 | 768 | 10.1 | 356 | 9.9 | 14 | 8.7 |
| Do not trust banks | 206 | 1.3 | 115 | 2.5 | 77 | 1.0 | 14 | 0.4 | - | - |
| Other | 1,314 | 8.2 | 198 | 4.2 | 727 | 9.6 | 373 | 10.4 | 17 | 10.9 |
| Don't Know/Refused | 301 | 1.9 | 89 | 1.9 | 84 | 1.1 | 86 | 2.4 | 42 | 26.9 |
| Total | 16,018 | 100.0 | 4,670 | 100.0 | 7,611 | 100.0 | 3,579 | 100.0 | 157 | 100.0 |
| Non-Bank Remittances | | | | | | | | | | |
| Banks do not send money abroad | 597 | 8.4 | 45 | 3.7 | 411 | 9.4 | 139 | 9.7 | NA | NA |
| The money gets there faster | 1,666 | 23.5 | 235 | 19.2 | 1,091 | 25.0 | 339 | 23.6 | NA | NA |
| The place is more convenient | 2,296 | 32.5 | 306 | 25.0 | 1,451 | 33.2 | 529 | 36.7 | NA | NA |
| A bank charges more to send money abroad | 778 | 11.0 | 84 | 6.9 | 569 | 13.0 | 122 | 8.5 | NA | NA |
| The place to give or send money feels more comfortable than a bank | 365 | 5.2 | 103 | 8.4 | 224 | 5.1 | 35 | 2.4 | NA | NA |
| Do not have a bank account | 454 | 6.4 | 361 | 29.5 | 79 | 1.8 | 15 | 1.0 | NA | NA |
| Do not trust banks | 78 | 1.1 | 33 | 2.7 | 29 | 0.7 | 15 | 1.0 | NA | NA |
| Other | 706 | 10.0 | 36 | 2.9 | 458 | 10.5 | 204 | 14.2 | NA | NA |
| Don't Know/Refused | 136 | 1.9 | 21 | 1.7 | 57 | 1.3 | 41 | 2.9 | NA | NA |
| Total | 7,076 | 100.0 | 1,224 | 100.0 | 4,369 | 100.0 | 1,439 | 100.0 | 44 | 100.0 |
| Payday Loans | | | | | | | | | | |
| Banks do not make small dollar loans | 1,125 | 20.0 | 128 | 17.6 | 699 | 19.7 | 296 | 22.4 | NA | NA |
| The place is more convenient | 677 | 12.0 | 71 | 9.8 | 461 | 13.0 | 145 | 11.0 | NA | NA |
| It is easier or faster to get a payday loan than to qualify for a bank loan | 2,283 | 40.6 | 249 | 34.2 | 1,497 | 42.3 | 523 | 39.6 | NA | NA |
| The payday loan place feels more comfortable than a bank | 76 | 1.3 | 4 | 0.6 | 61 | 1.7 | 10 | 0.8 | NA | NA |
| Do not qualify for a bank loan | 838 | 14.9 | 183 | 25.2 | 481 | 13.6 | 168 | 12.7 | NA | NA |
| Do not trust banks | 41 | 0.7 | 30 | 4.1 | 11 | 0.3 | . | . | NA | NA |
| Other | 468 | 8.3 | 47 | 6.5 | 262 | 7.4 | 153 | 11.6 | NA | NA |
| Don't Know/Refused | 114 | 2.0 | 14 | 1.9 | 68 | 1.9 | 25 | 1.9 | NA | NA |
| Total | 5,622 | 100.0 | 727 | 100.0 | 3,541 | 100.0 | 1,320 | 100.0 | 34 | 100.0 |
| Pawn Shops | | | | | | | | | | |
| Banks do not make small dollar loans | 1,567 | 17.5 | 261 | 12.8 | 907 | 19.2 | 397 | 18.4 | NA | NA |
| The place is more convenient | 940 | 10.5 | 205 | 10.1 | 473 | 10.0 | 261 | 12.1 | NA | NA |
| It is easier and faster to get money from a pawn shop than to qualify for a bank loan | 3,722 | 41.5 | 825 | 40.6 | 1,973 | 41.8 | 904 | 41.8 | NA | NA |
| More comfortable at a pawn shop than at a bank | 194 | 2.2 | 44 | 2.2 | 112 | 2.4 | 38 | 1.7 | NA | NA |
| Don't qualify for a bank loan | 1,546 | 17.3 | 544 | 26.8 | 737 | 15.6 | 262 | 12.1 | NA | NA |
| Do not trust banks | 96 | 1.1 | 63 | 3.1 | 27 | 0.6 | 6 | 0.3 | NA | NA |
| Other | 807 | 9.0 | 84 | 4.1 | 440 | 9.3 | 275 | 12.7 | NA | NA |
| Don't Know/Refused | 88 | 1.0 | 7 | 0.3 | 48 | 1.0 | 19 | 0.9 | NA | NA |
| Total | 8,960 | 100.0 | 2,033 | 100.0 | 4,717 | 100.0 | 2,162 | 100.0 | 96 | 100.0 |

Notes:

Totals include only households that used the specified AFS product.

NA = Not available because the sample size was too small to make an accurate estimate.

- = For this table cell there were so few sample respondents (in some cases zero) reporting that the estimated universe proportion round to 0.0 percent. It is estimated that the true value is only slightly greater than zero.

Households are identified as unbanked if they answered "no" to the question, "Do you or does anyone in your household currently have a checking or savings account?"

Underbanked households are defined as those households that have a checking and/or a savings account and had used non-bank money orders, non-bank check cashing services, non-bank remittances, payday loans, rent-to-own services, pawn shops, or refund anticipation loans (RALs) in the past 12 months.

Refer to 2011 FDIC National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households and FDIC Technical Notes for terms, definitions, and methodological notes. Figures do not always reconcile to totals because of rounding. Differences between groups may or may not be statistically significant.

[2011 FDIC National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households](#)

[2011 Technical Notes](#)