



The Credit Union Difference

Credit Unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives that are owned by their members. A credit union's Board of Directors is selected from the membership in a democratic voting process.

Unlike other financial institutions, credit unions do not issue stock or pay dividends to outside stockholders. Instead, earnings are returned to members in the form of lower loan rates, higher interest on deposits and reduced or eliminated service fee

CREDIT UNIONS	BANKS
Are not-for-profit institutions	Are profit-oriented institutions
Can serve only those individuals within their field of membership	Can serve anyone in the general public
Have members, each of whom has a share of ownership	Have customers with no ownership in the organization
Members elect a volunteer Board of Directors to represent their interests	Have a paid Board of Directors who represent the owners; customers do not have voting privileges
Democratically controlled by members	Controlled by stockholders and paid officials
Are member service-driven	Are profit-driven
Return profits to members in the form of lower loan rates, higher savings rates and free or low cost services	Return profits to a small group of stockholders
Are federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration	Are federally insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

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