

Press Releases

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OTS 99-86 - Federal and State Regulators Remain Confident That Banks and Thrifts Are Y2K Ready

**Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
Office of the Comptroller of the Currency
Office of Thrift Supervision**

OTS 99-86

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EMBARGOED UNTIL 10:00 A.M. EST

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Office of Thrift Supervision

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Federal and State Regulators Remain Confident That Banks and Thrifts Are Y2K Ready

ATLANTA -- With less than three weeks remaining before the new century begins, top federal and Georgia banking regulatory officials said at a news conference today that banks and thrifts are well prepared for the rollover to the year 2000.

While no one can say there won't be glitches, officials said that they are confident banks' computer systems are prepared and that other payment options, such as checks, credit and debit cards, automated teller machines, electronic transfers and direct deposit, will function as on a normal business day during the transition to 2000.

Regulators again stated there is a more than ample supply of cash to meet public demand. They also reminded consumers to withdraw only as much money from their account as they would for any other holiday weekend.

Appearing at the press conference at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta were:

*Donna Tanoue, chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;
Jack Gynnn, president and CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta;
Steve Bridges, commissioner, Georgia Department of Banking and Finance; and
Ellen Seidman, director, Office of Thrift Supervision.*

Federal and state regulatory agencies, which have been working together for three years to prepare for Y2K, have examined each bank or thrift at least twice. To date, all 10,200 banks and thrifts in the United States are rated satisfactory in their Y2K preparations -- the highest rating given for Y2K readiness.

Regulators also reminded consumers that they can rely upon the guarantees provided by the FDIC, which oversees the insurance funds that back deposits in banks and thrifts, and the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund, which protects credit union depositors.

However, they urged consumers to take steps to safeguard their own personal financial transition into the new century in the event there are minor glitches. Consumers should keep copies of financial records, stay informed, be on guard against Y2K scams and make sensible cash plans.

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