

DATA DISPATCH

Illinois bank M&A ignites as dealmaking picks up nationwide

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Market Intelligence

Illinois bank M&A increased in 2025 as [deregulation](#) and faster merger approvals under the new administration sped up dealmaking across the country.

Fifteen Illinois-based banks were targeted in M&A transactions in 2025, up from nine in 2024 and 13 in 2023, making it the [second-most active state](#) for bank M&A last year, S&P Global Market Intelligence data showed. Total assets and deposits sold jumped in unison to \$7.53 billion and \$6.27 billion, respectively, from about \$1 billion each in 2024 — nearly a seven-fold increase for both.

Those increases followed the nationwide trend, with the US seeing 182 bank deals in 2025, up from 125 in 2024 and 96 in 2023. Bank M&A transactions in the Midwest region also increased to 71 in 2025 from 48 in 2024 and 44 in 2023.

Conversely, assets sold in the Midwest region declined 20.9% year over year to \$38.69 billion in 2025.

Bank M&A activity in Illinois since 2021

		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of deals (actual)	Illinois	16	18	13	9	15
	Midwest	76	67	44	48	71
	National	199	153	96	125	182
Assets sold (\$B)	Illinois	28.31	4.37	2.39	1.06	7.53
	Midwest	87.24	16.50	6.96	48.91	38.69
	National	589.77	84.97	54.63	169.36	411.94
Deposits sold (\$B)	Illinois	22.79	3.74	2.00	0.91	6.27
	Midwest	67.65	14.11	5.96	41.01	32.60
	National	492.24	71.66	44.97	139.55	340.65

Data compiled Jan. 28, 2026.

Analysis limited to US-based whole company and franchise bank and thrift deals that were announced between Jan. 1, 2021, and Dec. 31, 2025. Minority-stake, branch, government-assisted and terminated deals, as well as bids and thrift merger conversions are excluded. Deals for which the target states are unavailable are also excluded.

All metrics are as of the announcement date.

Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence.

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The largest deal measured by target total assets was Bloomington, Illinois-based [HBT Financial Inc.](#)'s purchase of Carlinville, Illinois-based [CNB Bank Shares Inc.](#) with \$1.85 billion in total assets. The [deal](#), which had a value of about \$170.2 million, was announced on Oct. 20, 2025.

HBT Financial expects the deal to enhance its existing presence in the Chicago and St. Louis markets and provide access to new markets in central Illinois, according to the company's [fourth-quarter 2025 earnings release](#).

Only two other M&A targets had over \$1 billion in assets: [Bancorp Financial Inc.](#) with \$1.45 billion and [BankFinancial Corp.](#) with \$1.43 billion.

Cincinnati, Ohio-based [First Financial Bancorp.](#) is bolstering its Chicago presence with its [acquisition](#) of Burr Ridge, Illinois-based BankFinancial.

"As far as M&A in Chicago, we do think there's opportunity for add-on there. And if the right thing happens, maybe so, but that's not really our focus at the moment," First Financial President and CEO Archie Brown said during a [fourth-quarter 2025 conference call](#) on Jan. 29.

[Old Second Bancorp Inc.](#), which [completed](#) its acquisition of Bancorp Financial in July 2025, could also strike more deals in 2026, having accumulated excess capital for potential M&A as it awaits a deal opportunity, bank executives said during the company's fourth-quarter 2025 [earnings call](#).

The "M&A market feels good. There's no shortage of discussions happening," CFO and COO Bradley Adams said. "The question is what's the right deal for Old Second at the right time and how much capital do we need to do that."



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Of the 15 bank [M&A transactions in Illinois](#) in 2025, nine involved in-state buyers and four involved credit union buyers.

East Lansing, Michigan-based [Michigan State University FCU](#) struck two bank deals in Illinois in 2025, while Decatur, Illinois-based [Land of Lincoln CU](#) and Joliet, Illinois-based [NuMark CU](#) struck one each. Overall, \$1.07 billion in Illinois-bank assets were sold to credit unions last year.

Michigan State University FCU's two bank buys made up the bulk of that total, with [Gold Coast Bank](#) having \$464.0 million in assets and [American Eagle Bank](#) having \$461.3 million. Both deals are still pending.

Of the 15 deals in the state last year, six have closed as of Jan. 28 for a median of 131 days. The fastest closing deal was [T & C Bancorp Inc.'s acquisition of Great River Bancshares Inc.](#) at 63 days.

Bank M&A activity increased in 2025 and announcement [momentum is expected to continue in 2026](#) as institutions take advantage of the conducive dealmaking environment, including faster closing timelines.

NuMark CU's acquisition of [Lemont National Bank](#) took the longest at 295 days. Credit union-bank deals often take longer to close since both bank and credit union regulators are involved in the approval process.

Illinois bank deals announced in 2025

Sorted by announcement date

Buyer (ticker)	Target	Target city	Announcement date	At announcement (\$M)	
				Target's total assets	Target's total deposits
● LevelField Financial Inc.	Burling Bank	Chicago	11/17/25	196.5	157.8
● ServBanc Holdco Inc.	IF Bancorp Inc.	Watseka	10/30/25	887.7	721.3
● ● HBT Financial Inc. (HBT)	CNE Bank Shares Inc.	Carlinville	10/20/25	1,847.0	1,532.0
● ● Piper Holdings Inc.	Gifford State Bank	Gifford	10/15/25	188.5	162.3
● ● T & C Bancorp Inc.	Great River Bancshares Inc.	Quincy	09/06/25	57.8	48.2
● ● Bradford Bancorp Inc.	State Bank of St. Jacob	Saint Jacob	09/02/25	91.6	78.7
● ● Land of Lincoln CU	Williamsville State Bank and Trust	Williamsville	08/29/25	96.5	86.2
● First Financial Bancorp. (FFBC)	BankFinancial Corp.	Burr Ridge	08/11/25	1,429.2	1,215.7
● ● United Community Bancorp Inc.	Midland Community Bank	Kincaid	05/09/25	67.0	57.8
● ● NuMark CU	Lemont National Bank	Lemont	03/12/25	52.4	45.9
● ● Prime Banc Corp.	Community Bank of Trenton	Trenton	03/03/25	124.8	106.6
● ● Old Second Bancorp Inc. (OSBC)	Bancorp Financial Inc.	Oak Brook	02/25/25	1,448.5	1,243.8
● Michigan State University FCU	American Eagle Bank	South Elgin	01/28/25	461.3	350.4
● Michigan State University FCU	Gold Coast Bank	Chicago	01/17/25	464.0	368.3
● ● Longview Capital Corp.	Federated Bank	Onarga	01/07/25	118.7	97.9
Illinois aggregate				7,531.3	6,272.9

● Completed ● Pending ● In-state deal

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Company titles and tickers for buyers are shown as of the deal announcement date.

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