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US regulator: Your bank deposits are safe

Sheila Bair, the nation's top banking regulator, tells Fortune that a tiny number of banks may fail during this crisis, but ordinary bank customers have nothing to fear.

Q: How many small banks are in danger of failing?

A: There are 76 banks on the troubled-bank list, and most of those will be nursed back to health or be acquired by stronger institutions rather than fail. Plus, those 76 banks represent \$22 billion in assets out of \$13 trillion overall. That number could go up, but we would still be well within historical norms and far below the number we've seen in other troubled times. To put things in perspective, there were 1,500 banks on the troubled bank list in 1990.