

# Understanding Your Credit Union's Financial Statements



**National Council of  
Firefighter Credit Unions  
NCOFCU**

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**R&A**  
RICHARDS & ASSOCIATES

# Why Financial Statements Matter

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## Every Important Credit Union Decision Starts Here

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Financial  
statements  
help answer  
questions  
such as:

Are we financially healthy?

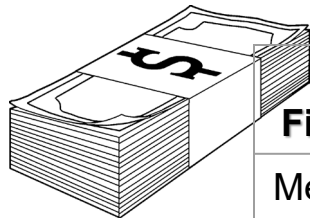
Can we support future growth?

Are we taking on too much risk?

Are we earning enough to build capital?

Are we fulfilling our responsibility to the members?

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| <b>Who Uses the Financial Statements</b> | <b>Primary Purpose</b>                       | <b>Key Question They Ask?</b>                    |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Members                                  | Ensure the credit union is financially sound | "Is my money safe?"                              |
| Board of Directors                       | Provide strategic oversight                  | "Are we meeting our goals?"                      |
| Management                               | Make operational decisions                   | "How are we performing?"                         |
| Supervisory Committee                    | Oversee financial reporting and audits       | "Can we rely on these financial statements?"     |
| Internal Auditors                        | Evaluate controls and compliance             | "Are controls operating effectively?"            |
| External Auditors                        | Express an independent opinion               | "Are the financial statements fairly presented?" |
| Regulators                               | Assess safety, soundness and compliance      | "Is the credit union operating safely?"          |



# Financial Statements Work Together

## **Balance Sheet**

Where are we today?



## **Income Statement**

How did we perform this year?



## **Statement of Cash Flows**

Where did the cash come from and where did it go?



## **Financial Ratios**

What do these numbers tell us?

# Understanding CAMELS Ratings

**CAMELS** is a system used by NCUA and DFPI examiners to assess the **financial health and operational soundness** of credit unions. Each letter stands for a key area of evaluation:

- **C – Capital Adequacy:** Measures the credit union's ability to absorb losses
- **A – Asset Quality:** Assesses loan portfolio strength and risk of losses
- **M – Management:** Evaluates leadership, risk controls, and policy compliance
- **E – Earnings:** Looks at net income and ability to sustain operations
- **L – Liquidity & Asset-Liability Management:** Reviews ability to meet obligations and manage interest rate risk
- **S – Sensitivity:** Market risk

# How CAMELS Ratings Are Used

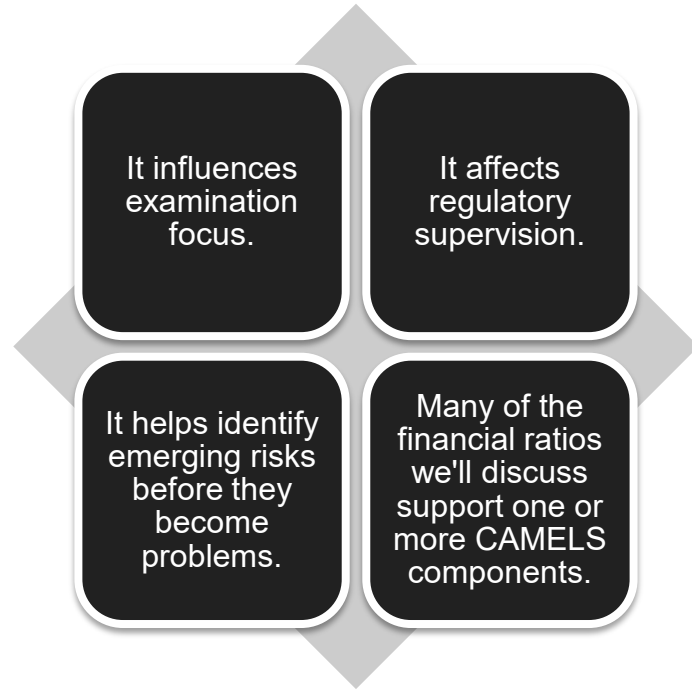
Measured on a scale of 1 to 5

- 1- Indicates strong performance
- 2- Indicates satisfactory performance
- 3- Some degree of supervisory concern in one or more of the component areas
- 4- Exhibits unsafe and unsound practices or conditions
- 5- Exhibits extremely unsafe and unsound practices and conditions

**Management and Volunteers** should:

- ✓ Understand how each area ties to financial performance
- ✓ Monitor trends in capital, earnings, and asset quality
- ✓ Use CAMELS ratings as a lens for risk-based oversight

# Why CAMELS Matters



# Understanding Financial Statements

Balance Sheet (Statement of Financial Condition)- Assets, Liabilities & Equity

**Common asset accounts-** (Loans, Investments, Cash)

**Common liability accounts-** (Shares, Certificates, Payables)

**Equity and net worth ratio**



Income Statement (Statement of Income and Expense)

Loan Interest Income

Investment Income

Operating Expenses

Provision for Loan Losses

Net Income / Net Loss



# Key Financial Ratios

Financial ratios are tools that help evaluate the overall health, performance, and risk level of a credit union. They provide insight into key areas such as capital strength, lending activity, earnings, operating efficiency, and asset quality.

Reviewing these ratios regularly can:

- Spot trends or red flags early
- Compare performance against peer institutions
- Make informed oversight decisions
- Ensure the credit union is operating in a safe, sound, and sustainable manner

\*Often used by **NCUA examiners**, **auditors**, and **credit union leadership** to assess progress and guide strategic planning.

## *Peer Groups*

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NCUA peer groups include all federally insured credit unions (all federal and state-chartered credit unions). The NCUA excludes non-federally insured credit unions in peer groups. Total assets determine a credit union's peer group, as shown below:

| <b>Peer Group</b> | <b>Total Assets</b>                      |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1                 | \$2 million or less                      |
| 2                 | \$2 million to less than \$10 million    |
| 3                 | \$10 million to less than \$50 million   |
| 4                 | \$50 million to less than \$100 million  |
| 5                 | \$100 million to less than \$500 million |
| 6                 | \$500 million or more                    |

# NCUA Regions

## *Southern Region*

States: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida,  
Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky,  
Louisiana, Mississippi, North  
Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto  
Rico, South Carolina,  
Tennessee, Texas, U.S. Virgin  
Islands

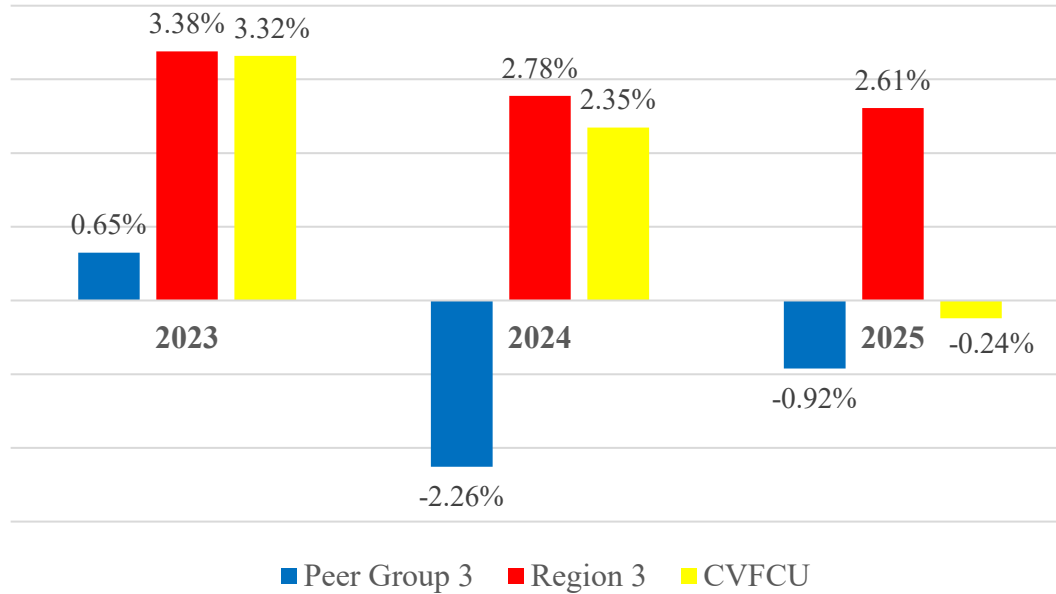
## *Eastern Region*

States: Connecticut, Delaware, District  
of Columbia, Maine, Maryland,  
Massachusetts, Michigan, New  
Jersey, New York, Ohio,  
Pennsylvania, Rhode Island,  
Vermont, Virginia

## *Western Region*

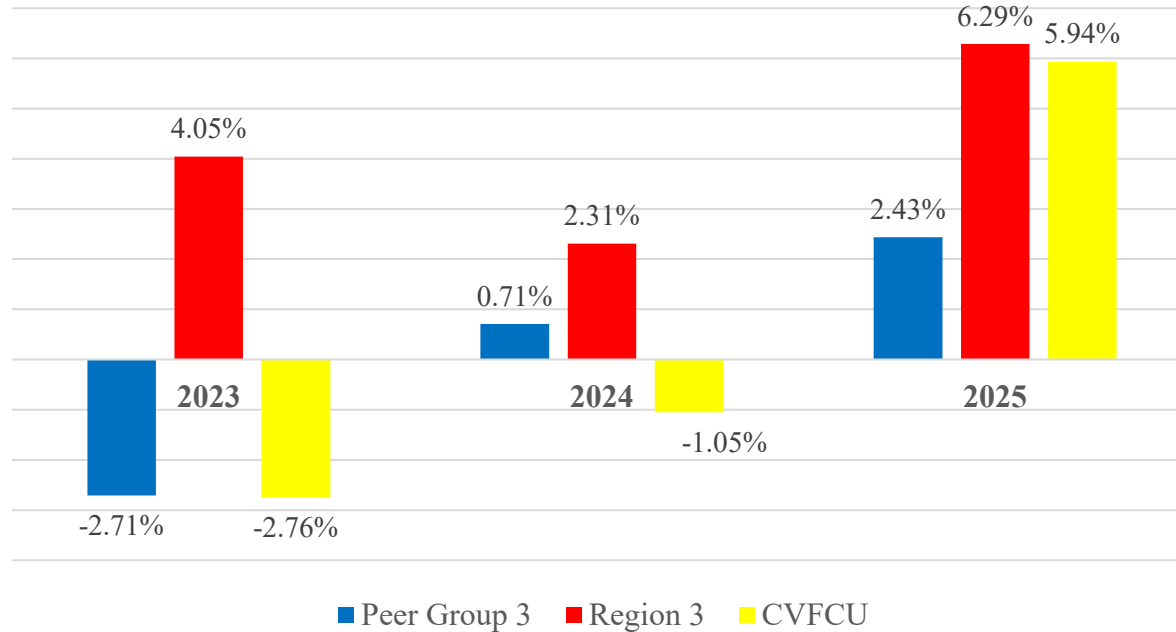
States: Alaska, Arizona, California,  
Colorado, Guam, Hawaii,  
Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas,  
Minnesota, Missouri, Montana,  
Nebraska, Nevada, New  
Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon,  
South Dakota, Utah,  
Washington, Wisconsin,  
Wyoming

## Membership Growth



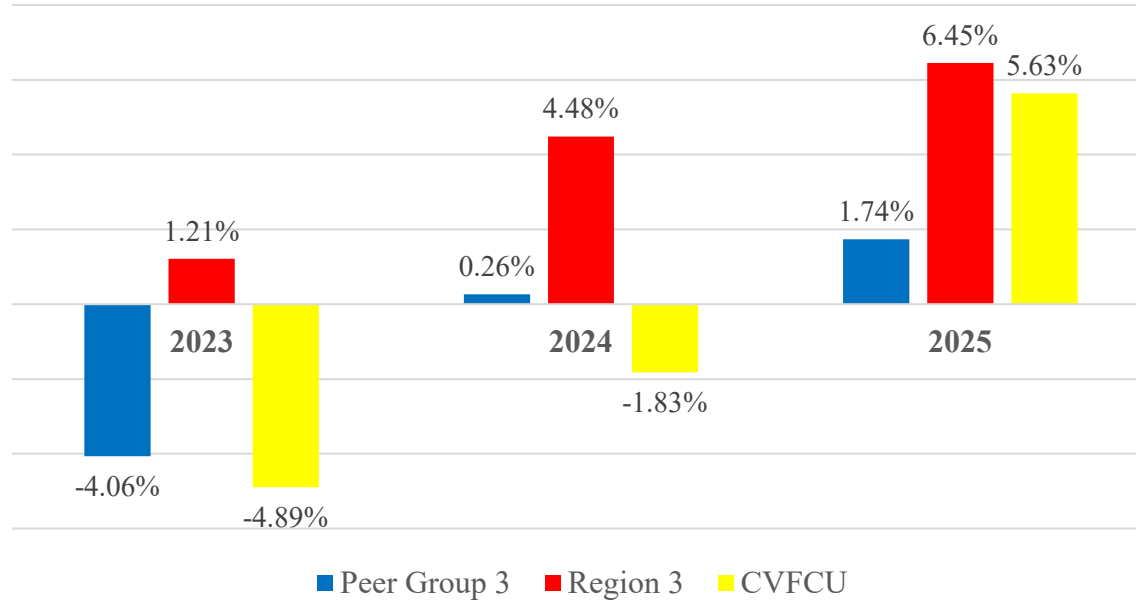
| <u>What It Measures</u>               | <u>Formula</u>                                                           | <u>High or Low?</u>        | <u>What Makes It Improve?</u>                   | <u>What Makes It Decline?</u>                                 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ability to attract and retain members | $\text{New Members} - \text{Lost Members} \div \text{Beginning Members}$ | Higher is generally better | Marketing, referrals, SEGs, technology, service | Competition, poor service, limited products, aging membership |

## Asset Growth



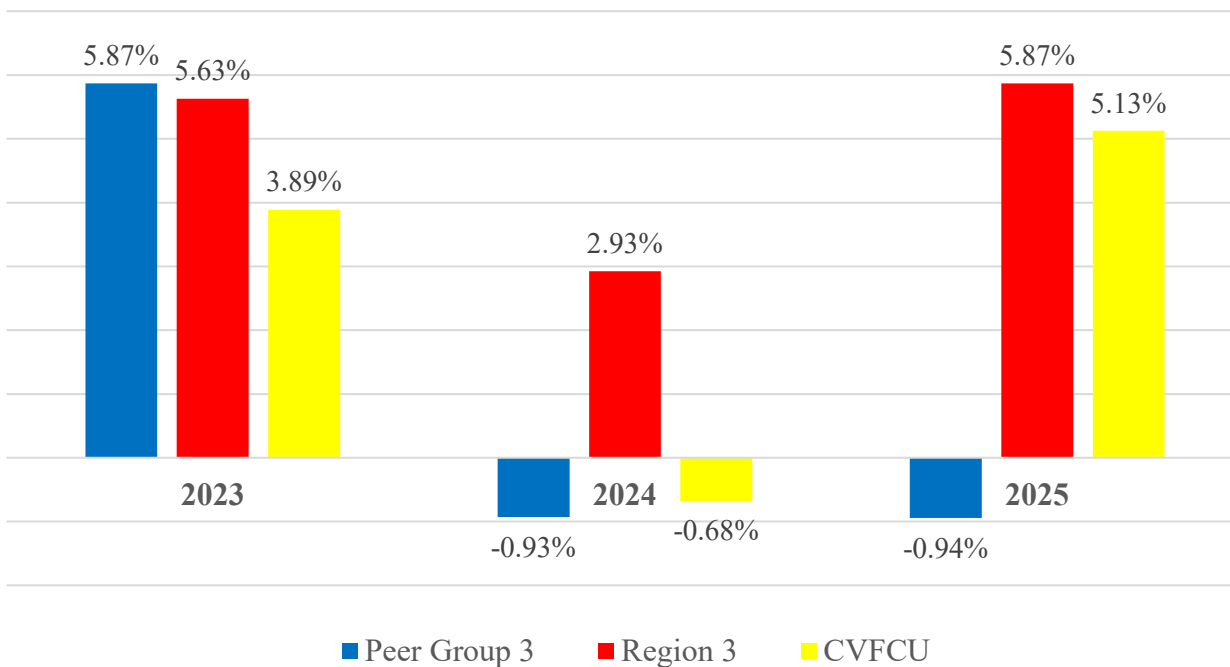
| <u>What It Measures</u>            | <u>Formula</u>         | <u>High or Low?</u>    | <u>What Makes It Improve?</u>                    | <u>What Makes It Decline?</u>                      |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Overall growth of the credit union | Change in Total Assets | Healthy growth is good | New members, loan growth, share growth, earnings | Loan runoff, member attrition, weak deposit growth |

## Share Growth



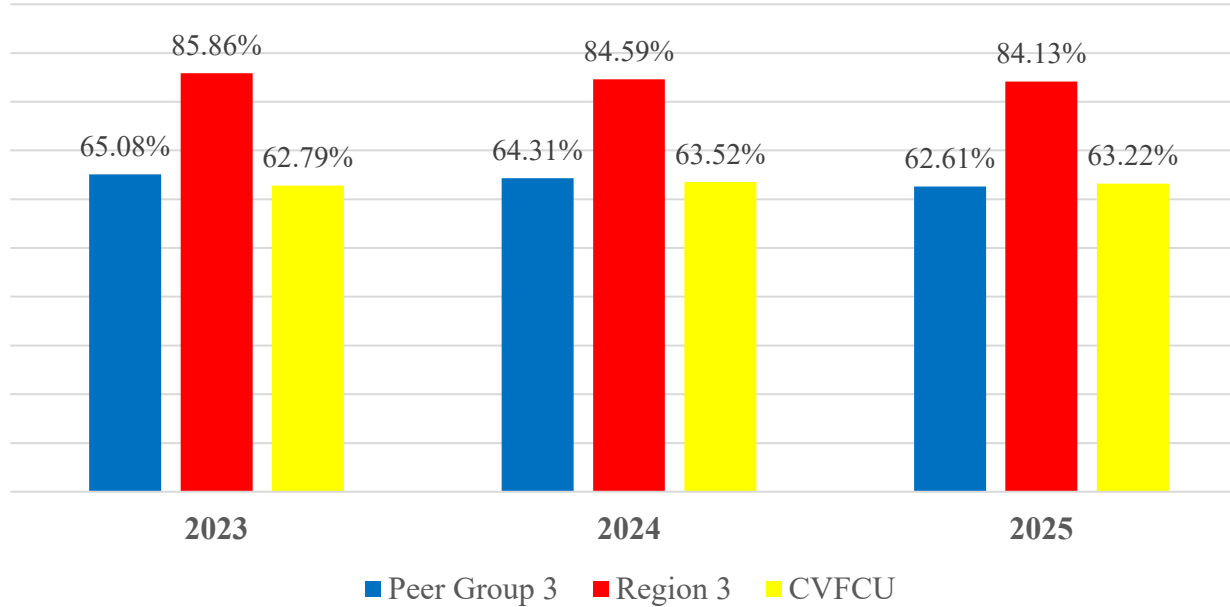
| <u>What It Measures</u>   | <u>Formula</u>         | <u>High or Low?</u>        | <u>What Makes It Improve?</u>                     | <u>What Makes It Decline?</u>                           |
|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Growth in member deposits | Change in Total Shares | Generally higher is better | Member confidence, competitive rates, new members | Spending, withdrawals, competition, economic conditions |

## Loan Growth



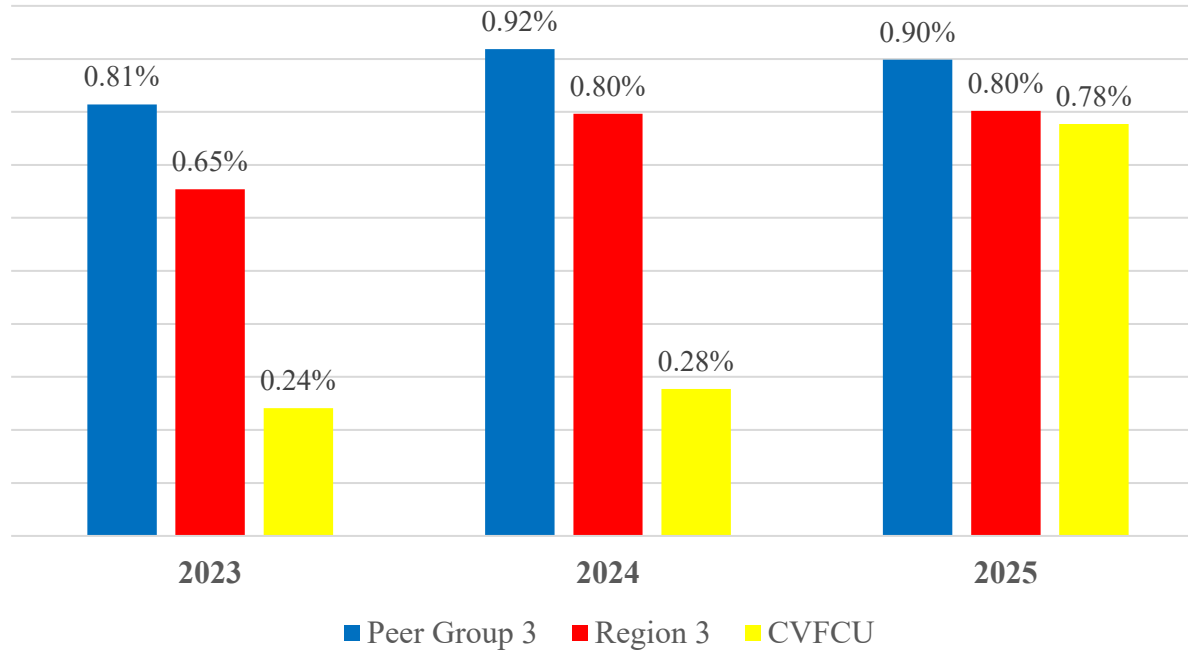
| <u>What It Measures</u>         | <u>Formula</u>        | <u>High or Low?</u>                                    | <u>What Makes It Improve?</u>                               | <u>What Makes It Decline?</u>                          |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Expansion of the loan portfolio | Change in Total Loans | Higher is generally better (if quality remains strong) | Strong demand, competitive pricing, marketing, underwriting | Weak demand, tighter underwriting, high rates, payoffs |

## Loan to Share Ratio Total Loans/Total Shares



| <u>What It Measures</u>                          | <u>Formula</u>                                   | <u>High or Low?</u>           | <u>What Makes It Improve?</u>    | <u>What Makes It Decline?</u>                    |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Measures how effectively deposits are being lent | $\frac{\text{Total Loans}}{\text{Total Shares}}$ | Generally 70–90% is desirable | Loan growth exceeds share growth | Excess deposits, weak lending, liquidity buildup |

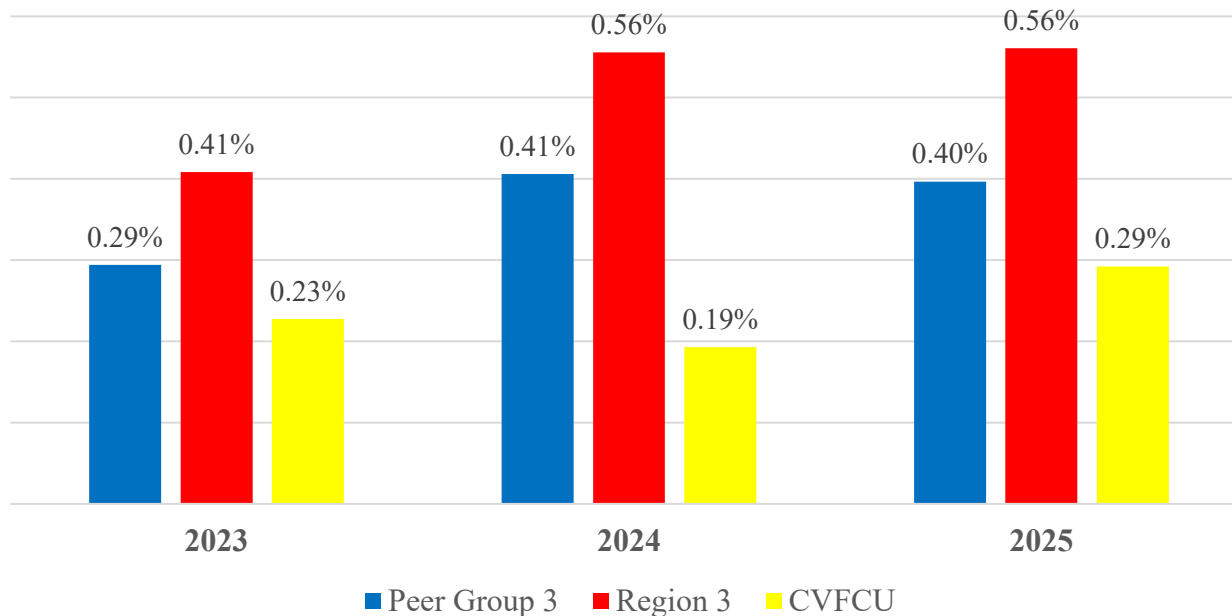
## Delinquency Ratio Impaired Loans/Total Loans



| <u>What It Measures</u>                 | <u>Formula</u>                 | <u>High or Low?</u> | <u>What Makes It Improve?</u>                     | <u>What Makes It Decline?</u>                        |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Percentage of loans that are delinquent | Delinquent Loans ÷ Total Loans | Lower is better     | Strong underwriting, collections, healthy economy | Economic stress, poor underwriting, weak collections |

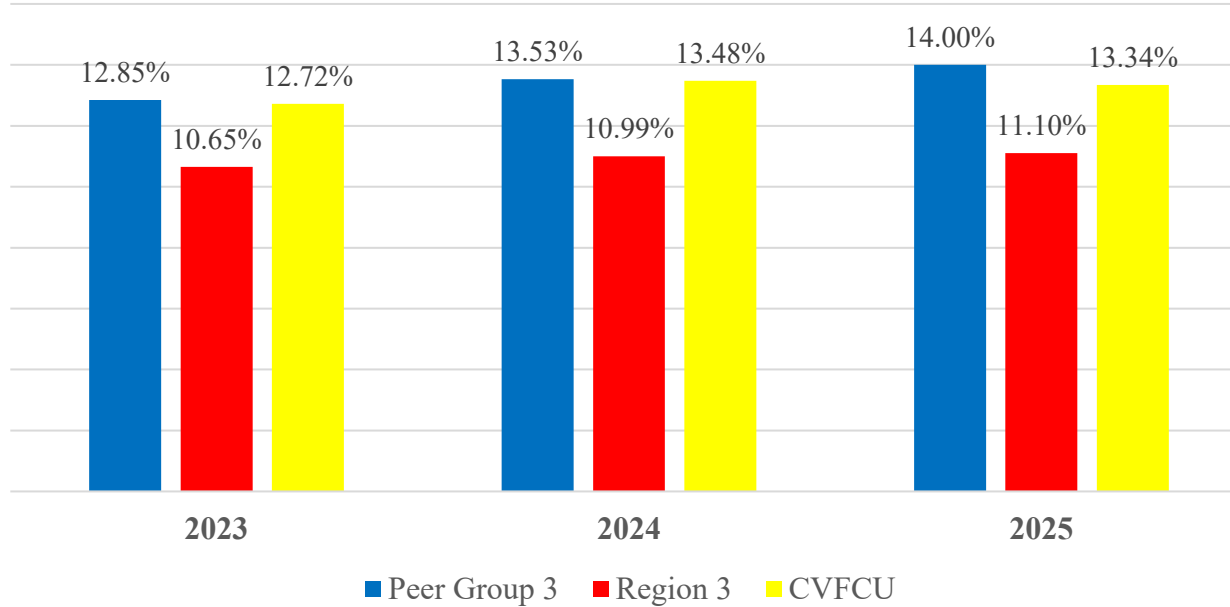
## Credit Losses

### Loan Losses/Total Average Loans



| <u>What It Measures</u>            | <u>Formula</u>                                        | <u>High or Low?</u> | <u>What Makes It Improve?</u>              | <u>What Makes It Decline?</u>                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Loans written off as uncollectible | $\frac{\text{Net Charge-Offs}}{\text{Average Loans}}$ | Lower is better     | Good underwriting, collections, monitoring | Higher defaults, poor loan quality, economic downturn |

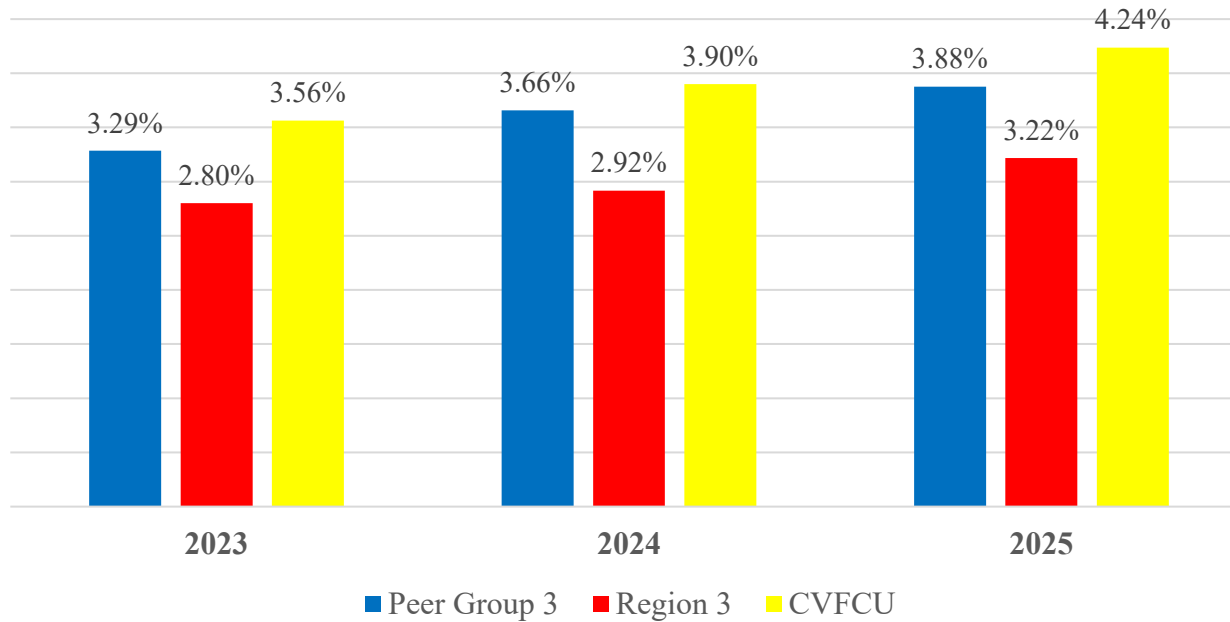
## Net Worth Ratio Equity/Total Assets



| <u>What It Measures</u>                | <u>Formula</u>                              | <u>High or Low?</u> | <u>What Makes It Improve?</u>     | <u>What Makes It Decline?</u>                  |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Financial strength and capital cushion | $\text{Net Worth} \div \text{Total Assets}$ | Higher is better    | Earnings, controlled asset growth | Losses, rapid asset growth, declining earnings |

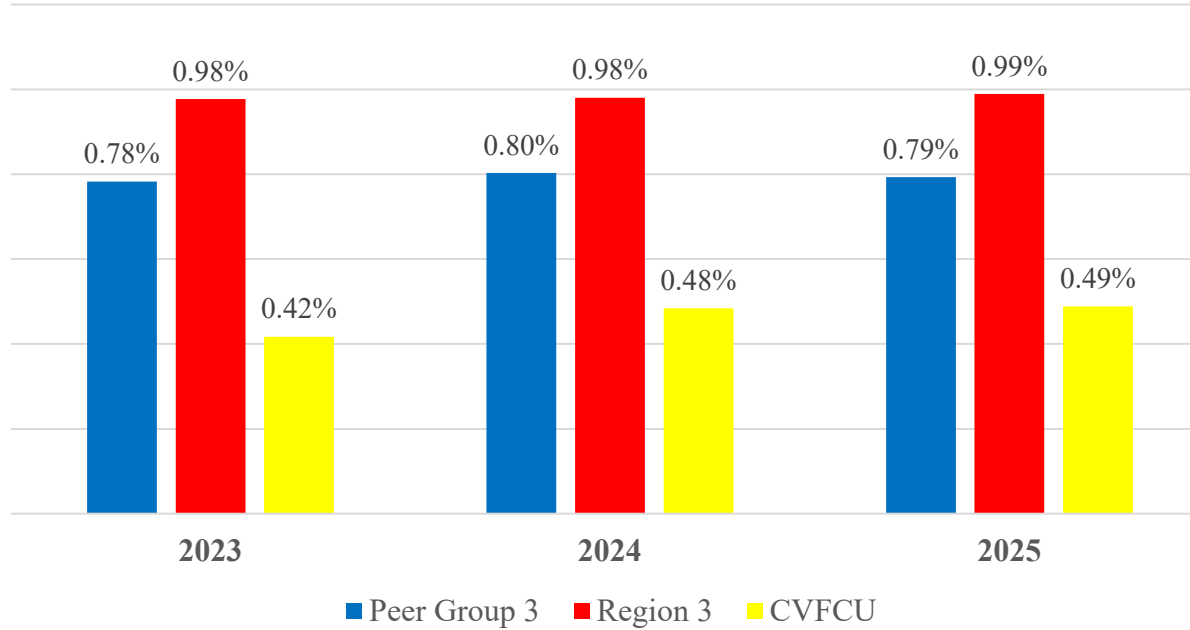
## Net Interest Margin

### Net Interest Margin/Average Total Assets



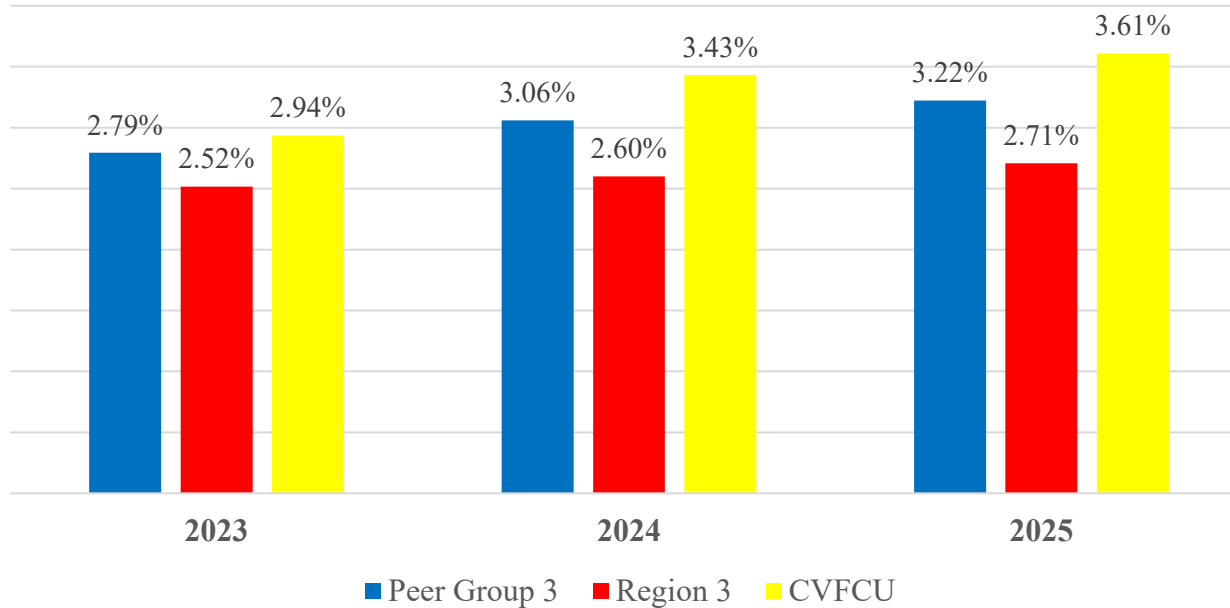
| <u>What It Measures</u>                  | <u>Formula</u>                          | <u>High or Low?</u>        | <u>What Makes It Improve?</u>                           | <u>What Makes It Decline?</u>                             |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Profit earned from lending and investing | Net Interest Income ÷<br>Average Assets | Higher is generally better | Higher loan yields, lower funding costs, better pricing | Rising deposit costs, lower loan yields, excess liquidity |

## Non-Interest Income Ratio Non-Interest Income/Average Total Assets



| <u>What It Measures</u>             | <u>Formula</u>                       | <u>High or Low?</u>                                        | <u>What Makes It Improve?</u>                       | <u>What Makes It Decline?</u>             |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Income from fees and other services | Non-Interest Income ÷ Average Assets | Depending on strategy, generally higher provides stability | Debit cards, interchange, fees, investment services | Lower fee income, reduced member activity |

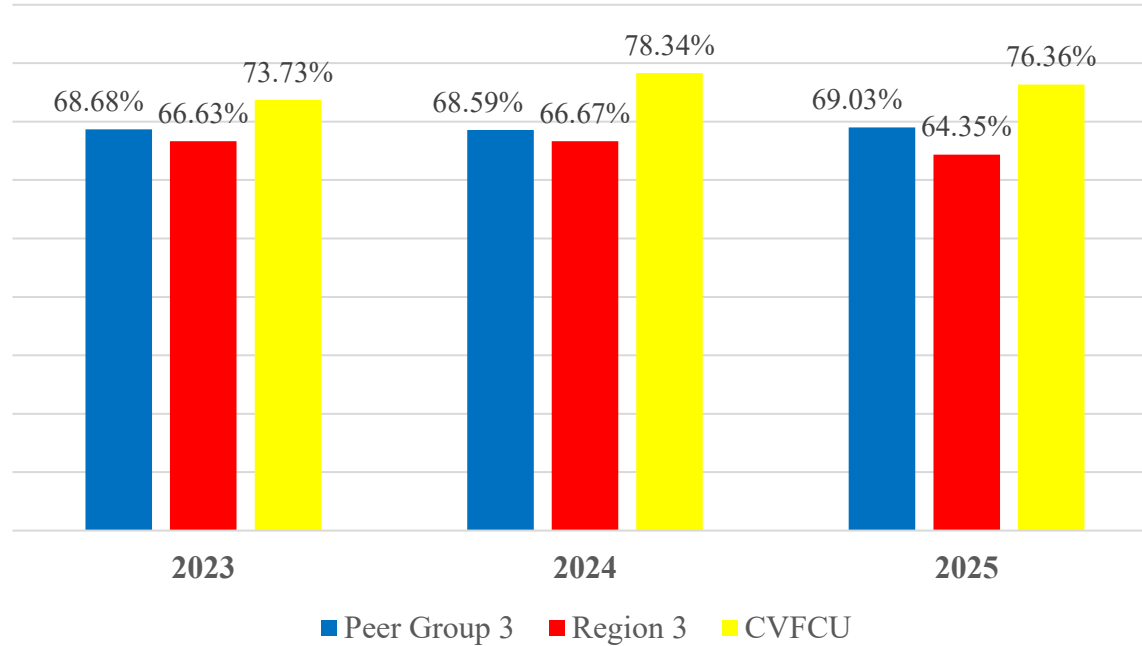
## Operating Expense Ratio Operating Expenses/Average Total Assets



| <u>What It Measures</u>          | <u>Formula</u>                      | <u>High or Low?</u>       | <u>What Makes It Improve?</u>        | <u>What Makes It Decline?</u>                |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Cost to operate the credit union | Operating Expenses ÷ Average Assets | Lower is generally better | Efficiency, automation, asset growth | Higher staffing, technology costs, inflation |

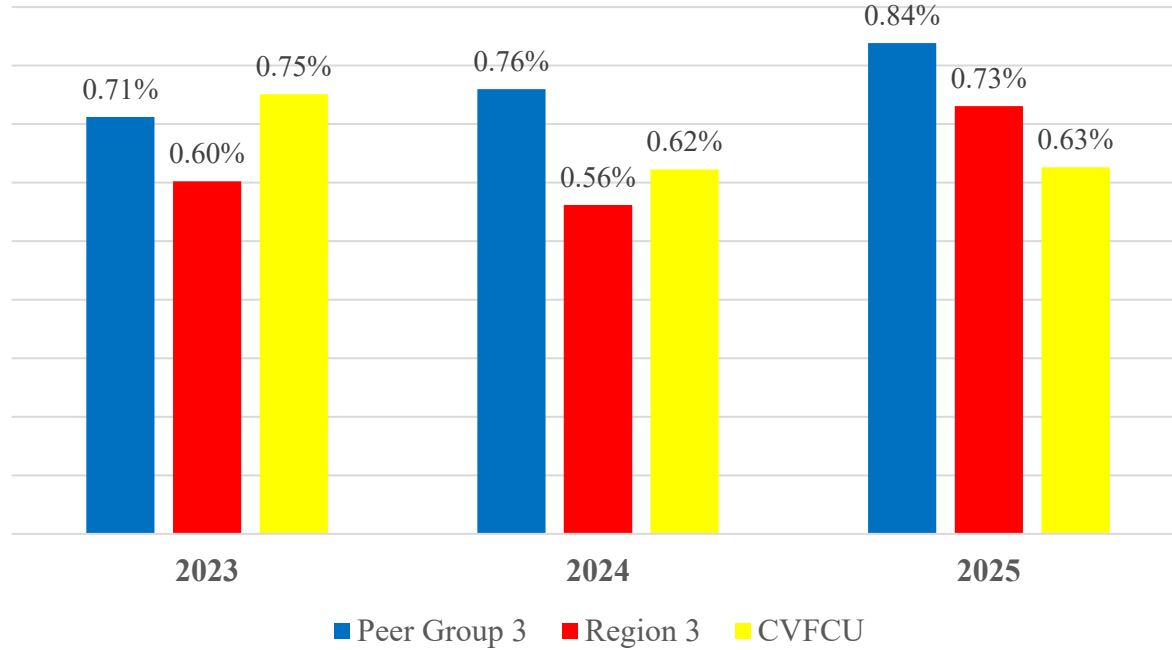
## Efficiency Ratio

### Operating Expenses/(Net Int. Margin + Non Int. Income)



| <u>What It Measures</u>  | <u>Formula</u>                                                   | <u>High or Low?</u> | <u>What Makes It Improve?</u>   | <u>What Makes It Decline?</u>     |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Cost to generate revenue | Operating Expenses ÷ (Net Interest Income + Non-Interest Income) | Lower is better     | Higher revenue, expense control | Rising expenses, declining income |

## Return on Assets Net Income/Average Assets



| <u>What It Measures</u> | <u>Formula</u>              | <u>High or Low?</u> | <u>What Makes It Improve?</u>                       | <u>What Makes It Decline?</u>                    |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Overall profitability   | Net Income ÷ Average Assets | Higher is better    | Strong lending, expense control, good asset quality | Loan losses, higher expenses, compressed margins |

# Strategic Dashboard

| <u>Area</u>   |   | <u>Questions to Ask</u>               |
|---------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Growth        | → | Are we growing sustainably?           |
| Capital       | → | Is our net worth keeping pace?        |
| Asset Quality | → | Is credit quality stable?             |
| Earnings      | → | Are we generating adequate returns?   |
| Liquidity     | → | Are deposits supporting lending?      |
| Efficiency    | → | Are resources being used effectively? |

# Star Ratings

Have  
You checked your ratings  
Lately?

## STAR RATING DEFINITIONS:

5  STARS

**Superior** (These institutions are recommended by Bauer.)

4  STARS

**Excellent** (These institutions are recommended by Bauer.)

3 1/2  STARS

**Good**

3  STARS

**Adequate**

2  STARS

**Problematic**

1  STAR

**Troubled**



# Financial Statements Don't Make Decisions...

## **People do.**

The financial statements provide information.

Management uses them to operate.

Boards use them to govern.

Supervisory Committees use them to provide independent oversight.

Auditors use them to provide assurance.

Ultimately, **informed decisions based on accurate financial information are what keep a credit union safe, sound, and successful.**

Q&A



# Let Us Know How We Can Help

## ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDITS

- Opinion Audits
- Agreed-Upon Procedures Audit

## CONSULTING SERVICES

- Strategic Planning
- Merger Services
- CEO Searches
- Forensic Audits
- Product Validations
- 990 Tax Forms
- Director Training

## INTERNAL CONTROL AUDITS

- BSA Compliance Audit
- ACH Compliance Audit
- Branch Operations Audit
- Cash Counts
- Business Continuity Plan Audit
- Closed Accounts Internal Control Audit
- Consumer Lending Audit
- Collections Audit
- E-Banking Audit
- Human Resources Internal Control Audit
- IS&T Audit
- Military Lending Act Review
- Mortgage Lending Audit
- Payroll Administration Audit
- Related Party Audit
- SAFE Act Compliance Audit
- Servicemembers Civil Relief Act Review
- Website Compliance Audit
- Wire Transfer Audit

# Thank you, NCOFCU!!



National Council of  
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