

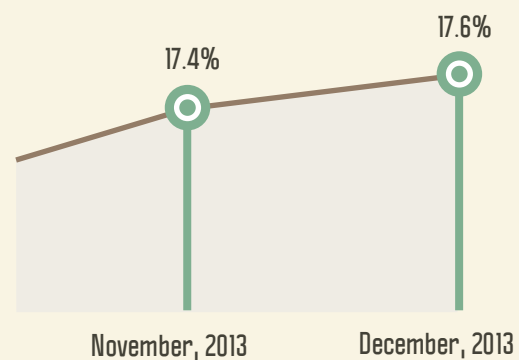
Biz2Credit Small Business Lending Index

Reports Loan Approval Rates Hit All-time Index High at Big Banks and Alternative Lenders



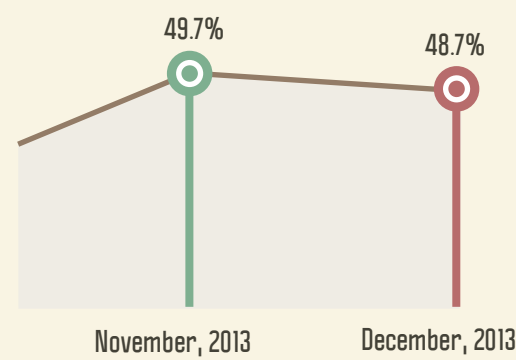
Small business loan approvals

In a year-to-year comparison, big bank approval rates have increased by more than 18 percent from the 13.2% approval rate in December 2012.



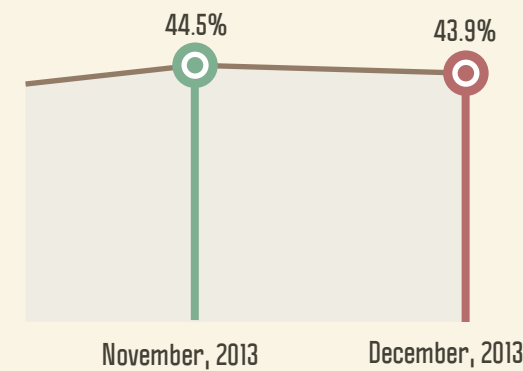
↑ Loan approvals at Big banks

Small business loan approval rates at big banks (\$10 billion+ in assets) increased to an all-time index high of 17.6% in December 2013 from 17.4% in November. Further, in a year-to-year comparison, lending approval rates at big banks have increased nearly 20 percent.



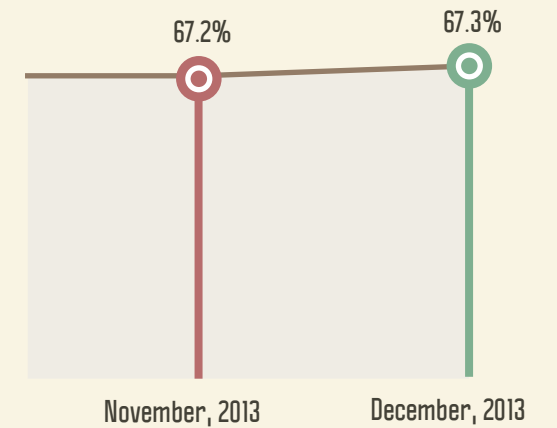
↓ Loan approvals at Small banks

Meanwhile, small business loan approvals at small banks dipped to 48.7% in December from 49.7% in November. Despite experiencing an uptick in loan approval rates in November, approvals at small banks have stalled, in part because of the backlog of SBA loan processing and because big banks are becoming more active in small business lending.



↓ Credit union approvals of small business loans

Meanwhile, credit unions, which had been on the lending rebound, experienced a decrease in approval rates in December. Approval rates at credit unions dropped to 43.9% from 44.5% in November. Further, lending approval rates by credit unions have declined in nine of the last twelve months and is down nearly 10 percent in a year-to-year comparison.



↑ Small business loan approvals by Alternative lenders

Alternative lenders continue to be a big player in small business lending. Approval rates by alternative lenders increased slightly to 67.3% in December 2013, which is an all-time index high, up from 67.2% in November.