



How Citi's branch network may change in the coming years

December 16, 2014 By Daniel M. Burkard

Since the start of 2007, Citigroup Inc. has been trimming the U.S. branch network it spent years rapidly building in the early-to-mid 2000s. At June 30, 2003, Citi had just over 800 branches, growing to just over 1,000 at the start of 2007. From 2007 through Dec. 9, 2014, Citi reduced its U.S. branch count by roughly 10%, and now operates 919 FDIC insured branches, excluding pending branch sales. Since the start of this year alone, Citi has closed 54 branches across the U.S., compared to 37 last year. The bank has sold 64 branches over the past year, all in Texas, and Bloomberg reported earlier this year that Citi is looking to sell about 50 branches in California and all 16 of its remaining Nevada branches.

Citigroup US branch trends since 2007								
	Current	Opened	Closed	Sold	Net			
State/territory		branches	branches	branches	change			
Arizona	0	1	1	0	0			
California	385	34	31	0	3			
Connecticut	17	7	14	0	-7			
Delaware	1	1	3	0	-2			
District of Columbia	18	6	3	0	3			
Florida	55	19	9	0	10			
Guam	1	0	0	0	0			
Illinois	72	9	3	0	6			
Maryland	13	2	4	0	-2			
Massachusetts	23	27	9	0	18			
Nevada	16	2	10	0	-8			
New Jersey	23	13	13	0	0			
New York	271	34	15	0	19			
Ohio	0	1	1	0	0			
Pennsylvania	0	19	23	0	-4			
Puerto Rico	4	4	1	17 ¹	-14			
South Dakota	3	1	1	0	0			
Texas	7	8	65	73 ²	-130			
Utah	0	0	2	0	-2			
Virginia	10	1	2	0	-1			
Washington	0	1	1	0	0			
Total	919	190	211	90	-111			

Data as of Dec. 9, 2014.

Includes all openings, closings and sales of Citi's U.S. branches since Jan. 1, 2007. 1 Included in a deal for part of Citi's Puerto Rico retail operations consisting of 17 locations sold to Popular Inc. (completed in October 2007).

2 Includes three deals: 42 locations to BB&T Corp. (pending), 22 locations to BB&T Corp. (completed in June 2014) and nine locations to Happy Bancshares Inc. (completed in June 2008).

Source: SNL Financial

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Among the top five U.S. deposit holders as of June 30, Citi, at No. 4, is by far the smallest by branch network size, with only 919 branches as of Dec. 9. The other four institutions among the top five deposit holders, Bank of America Corp., JPMorgan Chase & Co., Wells Fargo & Co. and U.S. Bancorp had a combined 20,139 FDIC insured branches. Total bank branches in the U.S. have declined every year since 2009.

While branches have been shrinking at Citi, deposits grew be-

tween the 2013 and 2014 third quarters, although deposits were down slightly between the second and third quarter of this year. Citi grew its total deposits to \$466.8 billion from \$447.6 billion, or 4.29% year over year, in the most recent quarter.

During Citi's most recent earnings call, CFO John Gerspach responded to an analyst's question on flattening deposit growth by stating that the company feels it does not need to grow its balance sheet much more in order to serve the bank's clients, according to a transcript of the call.

Gerspach also stated earlier on the call that the bank has, "continued to resize our North America Retail Banking business in the third quarter, taking costs out of our mortgage operations and rationalizing the branch footprint, all while continuing to grow our franchise."

Citi's largest "branch rationalization" efforts have taken place in Texas. Citi's footprint within the state has had the largest net decrease in branches among any state since 2007. The bank reduced its branch count in Texas by 130 in fewer than seven years, opening only eight branches, closing 65 and selling 73. As of Dec. 9, Citi had only had seven branches remaining in Texas.

The 73 branches sold by Citi in Texas make up most of the bank's branch M&A activity in the U.S. and its territories since the start of 2007. Only 17 other branches have been sold by Citi in that time frame, all in a deal with Popular Inc. which was completed in October 2007. The Texas branch sales occurred in three separate deals, one deal with Happy Bancshares Inc. in 2008 for nine branches, and two recent deals with BB&T Corp. for 64 branches. Citi completed one deal with BB&T in June for 22 branches and has a second deal currently pending for 42 branches.

The demographic data used in the analysis below is from Nielsen Pop-Facts 2014. The demographic figures below represent projected data for 2019

Everything is bigger in Texas, except Citi's branch network

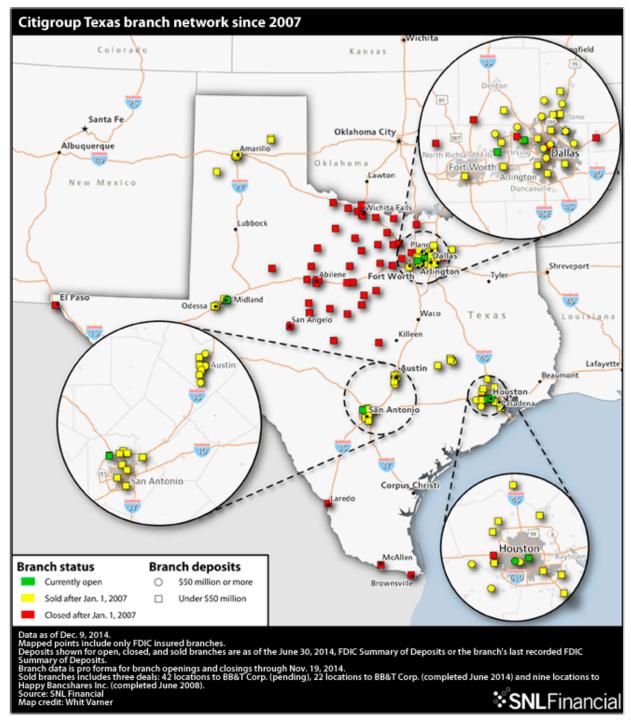
The demographic profiles of the metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs or metros) where Citi holds, sold and closed branches have stark differences. All of the branches Citi has retained in Texas are in major MSAs, while the branches they sold and closed are spread out in less populated and less affluent metros across the state. Since 2007, Citi's Texas branch network breaks down as follows:

Citi's current Texas branches (7 branches)

- Located across 4 MSAs, Dallas-Arlington, Huston, Midland and San Antonio
 - Median 2019 median household income of \$58,500
 - Median 2019 population density of 574 people per square mile *Citi's sold Texas branches (73 branches)*
 - Located across 10 MSAs
 - Median 2019 median household income of \$56,500
 - Median 2019 population density of 153 people per square mile



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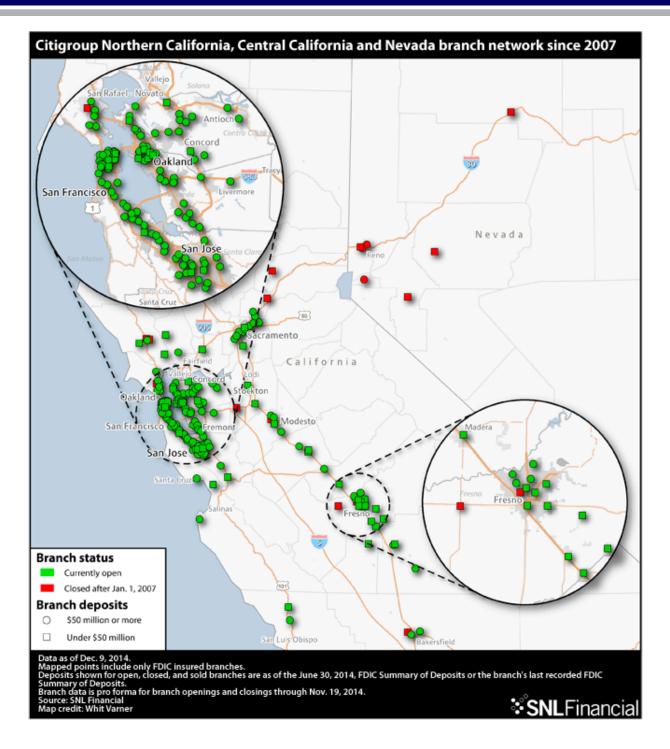


Citi's closed Texas branches (65 branches)

- 49 of the 65 branches are located across 20 MSAs, 16 branches are not in a designated MSA
 - Median 2019 household income of \$48,500 for the 20 MSAs
- Median 2019 household income of \$41,000 for the 16 branches outside of the MSAs $\,$
- Median 2019 population density of 92 people per square mile for the 20 MSAs $\,$

Of the 65 branches closed by Citi in Texas, 61 had less than \$50 million in deposits as of the branch's last recorded FDIC Summary of Deposits. In contrast, only 47 of the 73 branches sold by Citi in Texas had less than \$50 million in deposits as of the branch's last recorded FDIC Summary of Deposits.

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Citi's California branch network has had its days in the sun

Unlike the heavy branch activity in Texas, the bank's California branch network remained relatively unchanged over the past seven years, adding a net of three branches in the state to bring its total to 385. However, between a report by Bloomberg in April that Citi is looking for a buyer of about 50 branches in the Central Valley area and the company's continued efforts to focus on its core affluent

metropolitan areas, there may be a number of Citi branches closed or sold within the next couple of years.

The targeted branches, which hold some \$3 billion in deposits, were said to be in the rural areas from Sacramento to north of Los Angeles. Their sale could bring Citi more than \$100 million. Bloomberg's sources added that the sites in Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego would likely be kept.



Current California Citi branches by metro								
Metro name	2019 projected population	2019 projected median household income (\$)	Tota current Cit branches					
Major metros*	•							
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim	13,726,146	58,196	151					
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward	4,766,579	77,403	93					
San Diego-Carlsbad	3,380,396	60,574	26					
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario	4,648,874	50,012	26					
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara	2,046,819	93,030	25					
SacramentoRosevilleArden-Arcade	2,329,679	56,849	12					
Median	4,014,635	59,385						
Other metros*								
Fresno	1,004,573	44,004	13					
Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura	878,527	75,219	10					
Modesto	550,918	41,911	4					
Santa Rosa	516,187	66,005	3					
Visalia-Porterville	482,495	42,357	3					
Merced	280,900	38,882	3					
Bakersfield	909,572	48,661	2					
Stockton-Lodi	749,592	49,804	2					
San Luis Obispo-Paso Robles-Arroyo Grande	287,077	54,351	2					
Santa Cruz-Watsonville	283,375	64,510	2					
Madera	157,473	42,438	2					
Napa	146,905	66,797	2					
Salinas	455,504	54,040	1					
Santa Maria-Santa Barbara	452,092	67,095	1					
Vallejo-Fairfield	439,014	66,481	1					
Hanford-Corcoran	150,207	56,343	1					
Median	453,798	54,196						

As of Dec. 9, 2014.

Chart limited to California metros where Citi has a branch currently open.

2019 projections are based on Nielsen Pop-Facts 2014.

Source: SNL Financial

Citigroup holds approximately \$3.27 billion in deposits outside of the six largest metros in California: Los Angeles, San Francisco-Oakland, Riverside-San Bernardino, San Diego, Sacramento and San Jose.

The demographic and geographic profiles of the six largest metros where Citi is likely to keep branches, the 16 less populated metros where Citi may be looking to sell branches and the metros where Citi has closed branches since 2007, practically mirror the trends in Texas. Citi's California branch network breaks down as follows:

Citi's current California branches in six largest MSAs (33 branches)

- Median 2019 household income of \$59,500
- Median 2019 population density of 785 people per square mile Citi's current California branches outside of six largest MSAs (52 branches)
 - Located across 16 MSAs
 - Median 2019 household income of \$54,000
- Median 2019 population density of 167 people per square mile Citi's closed California branches outside of six largest MSAs (10 branches)
 - Located across eight MSAs

- Median 2019 household income of \$49,000
- Median 2019 population density of 167 people per square mile

Of the 31 branches closed by Citi in California since 2007, 25 had less than \$50 million in deposits. Currently, only 84 of the 385 branches operated by Citi in the state have less than \$50 million in deposits as of the 2014 FDIC Summary of Deposits.

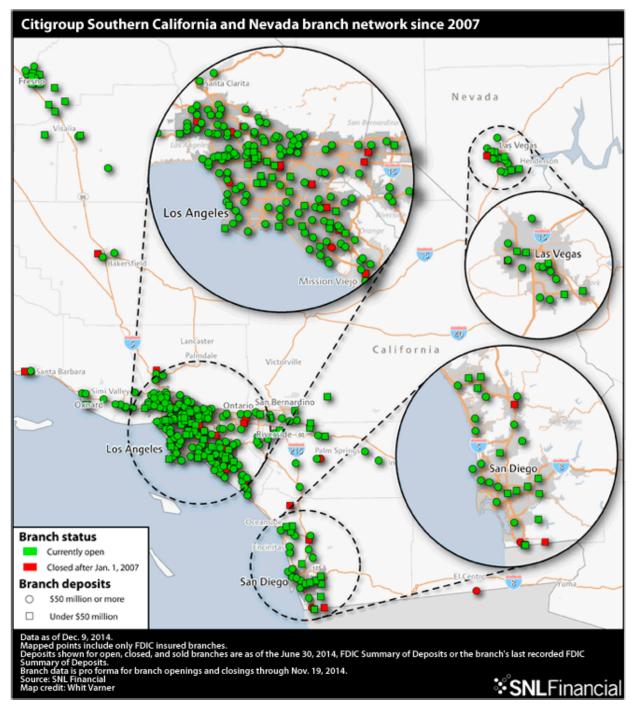
Citi no longer willing to gamble on its Las Vegas branch network

Citi's Nevada branch network has had a similar geographic trend to Texas and California over the past seven years. The company has closed its branches in the less populated parts of the state, including the branches connected to its 2008 sale of customer account relationships to Wells Fargo in Reno, Sparks, Carson City, Elko, Winnemucca and Yerington, Nev. The deal also included customer account relationships in Auburn and Grass Valley, Calif.

According to the press release, Wells Fargo acquired approximately \$500 million in deposits and \$60 million in loans. No physical branch locations were exchanged; however, Citi closed its branches in the locations included in the deal. Citi has retained only its branches located in the Las Vegas metro.

^{*} Bloomberg reported that Citi is looking to sell branches in the rural areas as far north as Sacramento to north of Los Angeles, most likely retaining its major metro branches.

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Citi's current Nevada branches (16 branches)

- Located in the Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise MSA
- Median 2019 household income of \$43,000
- Median 2019 population density 272 people per square mile Citi's closed Nevada branches outside of Las Vegas (8 branches)
- Located in six MSAs
- Median 2019 household income of \$58,000
- Median 2019 population density of 16 people per square mile Six of the 10 branches closed by Citi had less than \$50 million in

deposits, while only five of the 16 currently operated in Nevada have less than \$50 million in deposits.

Earlier this year Citi reportedly planned to cut 160 jobs in Las Vegas in its banking and loan transaction operations. This follows approximately 760 layoffs by the bank in Las Vegas during September 2013, mostly in mortgage sales, underwriting, fulfillment and default positions.

According to the April Bloomberg report, Citi had been looking to sell its remaining 16 Las Vegas area branches but was unable to find a buyer.

