

AMERICAN BANKER.

BEST CREDIT UNIONS TO WORK FOR

The best credit unions to work for in 2026

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1 Min Read



UnitedOne Credit Union employees donate supplies to local schools at their annual training day. *UnitedOne Credit Union*

- **Key insight:** In 2026, 70 credit unions made it onto American Banker's annual ranking of the best places to work.
- **Supporting data:** At the winning credit unions, 89% of workers had positive feelings about their work environment.
- **What's at stake:** At a time when many Americans are dissatisfied with their jobs, credit unions continue to get high marks from the people on their payrolls.

Americans don't feel great about work these days. At the end of 2025, more than half of U.S. workers wanted to leave their jobs, according to one recent [Gallup poll](#).

But at credit unions, the vibe is different. According to surveys by American Banker and the consulting firm Best Companies Group, credit-union employees across the country are quite happy with their employers.

They describe a culture of shared purpose and community. They appreciate their companies' leadership, communications and pay. They enjoy benefits ranging from the practical, such as generous 401(k) matches and tuition reimbursement, to the quirky, like therapy dogs and shuffleboard tournaments.

But not all credit unions are on equal footing. Every year, we rank these lenders in terms of how they rate as workplaces. This year there were 70 winners, located all over the country and ranging in size from less than 30 workers to more than 3,000.

We judged these credit unions based on two questionnaires: one of the employers and another of the employees. The first survey asked credit-union executives about their workplace policies, practices, philosophy, systems and demographics. The second asked workers a wide range of questions about their own experience, from their training to their vision insurance.

The results were striking. At the 70 winning companies, 87% of employees approved of their employers' leadership and planning; 89% had positive feelings about their work environment; and 91% said they had good relationships with their supervisors.

Below is the full list of the best credit unions to work for in 2026. Asset sizes and employee headcounts were provided by the credit unions at the time they applied.

70 Great Lakes Credit Union

Bannockburn, Illinois



Assets **\$1 billion**

CEO **Steve Bugg**

No. of employees **227**

Notable perk **Relaxation rooms with comfortable chairs**

69 CME Federal Credit Union

Columbus, Ohio



Assets **\$486 million**

CEO **Brian Warner**

No. of employees **87**

Notable perk **Therapy dogs visit every quarter**

68 FedChoice FCU

Lanham, Maryland



Assets **\$503 million**

CEO **Brett Noll**

No. of employees **82**

Notable perk **Company barbeques and ice cream socials**

67 LAFCU

Lansing, Michigan



Assets **\$1 billion**

CEO **Patrick Spyke**

No. of employees **196**

Notable perk **Employee and retiree picnics**

66 Valley First Credit Union

Modesto, California



Assets

\$1 billion

CEO

Kathryn Davis

No. of employees

168

Notable perk

Paid volunteer opportunities

65 Kohler Credit Union

Sheboygan, Wisconsin



Assets

\$773 million

CEO

Tony Klockow

No. of employees

194

Notable perk

Annual profit-sharing payment tied to the credit union's performance

64 Ascend Federal Credit Union

Tullahoma, Tennessee



Assets **\$5 billion**

CEO **Matt Jernigan**

No. of employees **647**

Notable perk **Eighteen-percent tuition discount for employees**

63 Notre Dame Federal Credit Union

Notre Dame, Indiana



Assets **\$1 billion**

CEO **Thomas Gryp**

No. of employees **248**

Notable perk **Education benefits for employees after two years**

62 Pioneer Appalachia Federal Credit Union

Charleston, West Virginia



Assets **\$245 million**

CEO **Trevor Hyre**

No. of employees **37**

Notable perk **Employees receive "target bonuses" if company's year-end goals are met**

61 Western Vista Credit Union

Cheyenne, Wyoming



Assets **\$279 million**

CEO **Steven Leafgreen**

No. of employees **57**

Notable perk **Surprise monetary awards given throughout the year**

60 Cyprus Federal Credit Union

West Jordan, Utah



Assets

\$2 billion

CEO

Todd Adamson

No. of employees

510

Notable perk

Paid time off for birthdays

59 OceanAir Federal Credit Union

Oxnard, California



Assets

\$885 million

CEO

Stacy Wilson

No. of employees

131

Notable perk

**Sports days, Mothers Day brunches
and other themed events**

58 BluPeak Credit Union

San Diego, California



Assets **\$1 billion**

CEO **Todd Tharp**

No. of employees **106**

Notable perk **Company paid lunches**

57 Zing Credit Union

Denver, Colorado



Assets **\$417 million**

CEO **Shane Silvernale**

No. of employees **92**

Notable perk **Company kickball games**

56 Michigan First Credit Union

Lathrup Village, Michigan



Assets **\$1 billion**

CEO **Jennifer Borowy**

No. of employees **516**

Notable perk **Free onsite concierge service**

55 University of Illinois Community Credit Union

Champaign, Illinois



Assets **\$764 million**

CEO **Chris Harlan**

No. of employees **179**

Notable perk **Graduation bonuses for employees who complete bachelor's or master's degrees**

54 Central One Federal Credit Union

Shrewsbury, Massachusetts



Assets **\$887 million**

CEO **Devon Lyon**

No. of employees **135**

Notable perk **Paid external training and development opportunities**

53 Heritage South Credit Union

Sylacauga, Alabama



Assets **\$189 million**

CEO **Jamie Payton**

No. of employees **65**

Notable perk **Yearly family picnics**

52 Spero Financial

Greenville, South Carolina



Assets **\$700 million**

CEO **Brian McKay**

No. of employees **167**

Notable perk **Shuffleboard tournaments**

51 Empower Federal Credit Union

Syracuse, New York



Assets **\$4 billion**

CEO **Ryan McIntyre**

No. of employees **570**

Notable perk **Monthly allowance for gym memberships and fitness classes**

50 Golden 1 Credit Union

Sacramento, California



Assets **\$22 billion**

CEO **Donna Bland**

No. of employees **2402**

Notable perk **Free access to gyms, studios, live/virtual classes and wellness apps**

49 Chartway Federal Credit Union

Virginia Beach, Virginia



Assets **\$3 billion**

CEO **Brian Schools**

No. of employees **593**

Notable perk **Tuition assistance and student loan repayment programs**

48 Alabama Credit Union

Tuscaloosa, Alabama



Assets

\$2 billion

CEO

Steve Swofford

No. of employees

387

Notable perk

Weekly health challenges and games

47 Heritage Federal Credit Union

Newburgh, Indiana



Assets

\$1 billion

CEO

Tony Aylsworth

No. of employees

219

Notable perk

Sabbatical program after five years

46 American Heritage Credit Union

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Assets

\$5 billion

CEO

Bruce Foulke

No. of employees

660

Notable perk

Work on Saturdays and evenings pays \$2 more per hour

45 Evergreen Credit Union

Portland, Maine



Assets

\$640 million

CEO

Jason Lindstrom

No. of employees

125

Notable perk

Breakfast cooked by the senior leadership team

44 Transportation Federal Credit Union

Alexandria, Virginia



Assets **\$352 million**

CEO **MJ Neusaenger**

No. of employees **50**

Notable perk **Three remote work days per week**

43 Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union

Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania



Assets **\$2 billion**

CEO **Drew Stanley**

No. of employees **348**

Notable perk **Time off for volunteer work**

42 University of Michigan Credit Union

Ann Arbor, Michigan



Assets **\$1 billion**

CEO **Tiffany Ford**

No. of employees **246**

Notable perk **Sport and concert ticket giveaways**

41 Veridian Credit Union

Waterloo, Iowa



Assets **\$8 billion**

CEO **Renee Christoffer**

No. of employees **1,019**

Notable perk **Wellness program covers up to 100% of health insurance premiums.**

40 Members First Credit Union

Midland, Michigan



Assets **\$909 million**

CEO **Carrie Iafrate**

No. of employees **234**

Notable perk **Time off for pet bereavement**

39 Altura Credit Union

Riverside, California



Assets **\$2 billion**

CEO **Jennifer Binkley**

No. of employees **447**

Notable perk **Monthly trivia tournaments for prizes, including Angels and Dodgers tickets**

38 PCM Credit Union

Green Bay, Wisconsin



Assets **\$517 million**

CEO **Shelly Mellenberger**

No. of employees **50**

Notable perk **Dress-up day on Halloween**

37 Community Credit Union of Florida

Rockledge, Florida



Assets **\$1 billion**

CEO **Dan Kelley**

No. of employees **189**

Notable perk **Leadership Development Program trains leaders and supports succession planning**

36 Blue Federal Credit Union

Cheyenne, Wyoming



Assets **\$2 billion**

CEO **Stephanie Propps**

No. of employees **356**

Notable perk **Summer food truck Tuesdays**

35 BMI Federal Credit Union

Dublin, Ohio



Assets **\$729 million**

CEO **William Allender**

No. of employees **106**

Notable perk **Annual Swap Meet where employees bring in used clothing and household items**

34 Atomic Credit Union

Pike-ton, Ohio



Assets **\$848 million**

CEO **Tom Griffiths**

No. of employees **267**

Notable perk **Health-insurance premiums are 100% paid for by the company**

33 Palmetto Citizens Federal Credit Union

Columbia, South Carolina



Assets **\$15 billion**

CEO **Robert Dozier, Jr.**

No. of employees **295**

Notable perk **Discounted interest rates for associates**

32 EFCU Financial

Baton Rouge, Louisiana



Assets **\$1 billion**

CEO **Tom Kuslikis**

No. of employees **148**

Notable perk **Chef demonstrations for healthy eating**

31 Security First FCU

Edinburg, Texas



Assets **\$524 million**

CEO **Anthony Reed**

No. of employees **129**

Notable perk **Paid time off for community service**

30 MAX Credit Union

Montgomery, Alabama



Assets

\$2 billion

CEO

Martin Head

No. of employees

291

Notable perk

MAX4Kids charity events, including golf tournaments and clay shooting fundraisers

29 Texell Credit Union

Temple, Texas



Assets

\$790 million

CEO

Tony Hale

No. of employees

208

Notable perk

Up to 100% reimbursement for school tuition

28 WECU

Bellingham, Washington



Assets **\$3 billion**

CEO **Jennifer Kutcher**

No. of employees **437**

Notable perk **\$300 annual wellness stipend**

27 Coastal1 Credit Union

Pawtucket, Rhode Island



Assets **\$3 billion**

CEO **Brian Azar**

No. of employees **287**

Notable perk **Employee birthday breakfast with CEO**

26 Arkansas Federal Credit Union

Little Rock, Arkansas



Assets **\$3 billion**

CEO **Rodney Showmar**

No. of employees **468**

Notable perk **Free car washes at headquarters**

25 Apple Federal Credit Union

Fairfax, Virginia



Assets **\$5 billion**

CEO **Andy Grimm**

No. of employees **610**

Notable perk **"Applenouncements" TV station broadcasts new hires, contest winners and other company news**

24 Carolina Trust Federal Credit Union

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina



Assets **\$423 million**

CEO **Tim Carlisle**

No. of employees **108**

Notable perk **Employee outings including mini golf and baseball games**

23 America First Credit Union

Riverdale, Utah



Assets **\$25 billion**

CEO **Thayne Shaffer**

No. of employees **3454**

Notable perk **Free or discounted tickets to sports and entertainment events**

22

United Federal Credit Union

St. Joseph, Michigan



Assets

\$4 billion

CEO

Terry O'Rourke

No. of employees

680

Notable perk

Paid parental leave

21

Colorado Credit Union

Littleton, Colorado



Assets

\$443 million

CEO

Mike Williams

No. of employees

77

Notable perk

Staff cook-offs

20 Greenville Federal Credit Union

Greenville, South Carolina



Assets **\$500 million**

CEO **Paul Hughes**

No. of employees **106**

Notable perk **Each team gets a budget to spend on morale-boosting activities**

19 Leaders Credit Union

Jackson, Tennessee



Assets **\$1 billion**

CEO **Todd Swims**

No. of employees **226**

Notable perk **Mortgage programs help employees purchase homes**

18 FAIRWINDS Credit Union

Orlando, Florida



Assets **\$5 billion**

CEO **Larry Tobin**

No. of employees **611**

Notable perk **"Debt Free Club" gives rewards for building strong money habits and eliminating debt**

17 AmeriCU Credit Union

Rome, New York



Assets **\$3 billion**

CEO **Ron Belle**

No. of employees **465**

Notable perk **\$25 grocery certificate between Thanksgiving and Christmas**

16

Rock Valley Credit Union

Machesney Park, Illinois



Assets **\$175 million**

CEO **Darlyne Keller**

No. of employees **56**

Notable perk **Health insurance for pets**

15

GTE Financial

Tampa, Florida



Assets **\$3 billion**

CEO **Brian Best**

No. of employees **550**

Notable perk **Banking benefits including rate discounts and down-payment assistance**

14

CPM Federal Credit Union

Charleston, South Carolina



Assets **\$759 million**

CEO **James Gergen**

No. of employees **204**

Notable perk **Free access to "Calm" mental health app**

13

Canopy Credit Union

Spokane, Washington



Assets **\$238 million**

CEO **Charlotte Nemec**

No. of employees **52**

Notable perk **Paid sabbaticals**

12

Justice Federal Credit Union

Chantilly, Virginia



Assets

\$1 billion

CEO

Mark Robnett

No. of employees

166

Notable perk

Annual bonuses

11

Nymeo Federal Credit Union

Frederick, Maryland



Assets

\$408 million

CEO

Victoria Johnston

No. of employees

79

Notable perk

Employees can bring their dogs to work

10**Innovations Financial Credit Union**

Panama City, Florida



Assets

\$670 million

CEO

Scott Gladden

No. of employees

102

Notable perk

Summer parties at local water park**9****Consumers Credit Union**

Kalamazoo, Michigan



Assets

\$2 billion

CEO

Scott Sylvester

No. of employees

483

Notable perk

Up to 10% 401(k) match

8

NIH Federal Credit Union

Rockville, Maryland



Assets

\$825 million

CEO

Rick Wieczorek

No. of employees

131

Notable perk

Employees work primarily from home

7

Deseret First Credit Union

West Valley City, Utah



Assets

\$1 billion

CEO

Shane London

No. of employees

228

Notable perk

Game room at office

6

Southwest Financial

Farmers Branch, Texas



Assets

\$85 million

CEO

Melanie Kennedy

No. of employees

29

Notable perk

Unlimited paid time off

5

Lookout Credit Union

Pocatello, Idaho



Assets

\$314 million

CEO

Doug Chambers

No. of employees

78

Notable perk

Employees are only required to work 30 hours a week

4

Avadian Credit Union

Birmingham, Alabama



Assets

\$1.4 billion

CEO

Brant Malone

No. of employees

262

Notable perk

Assistance with student loan repayment

3

South Carolina Federal Credit Union

North Charleston, South Carolina

**SOUTH CAROLINA
FEDERAL**
CREDIT UNION™

Assets

\$33 billion

CEO

Scott Woods

No. of employees

583

Notable perk

**Cloud-based employee rewards and
recognition platform**

2

One Nevada Credit Union

Las Vegas, Nevada



Assets

\$1 billion

CEO

Steve O'Donnell

No. of employees

182

Notable perk

Each branch has a quiet break room with a kitchen

1

UnitedOne Credit Union

Manitowoc, Wisconsin



Assets

\$330 million

CEO

Kim Rooney

No. of employees

97

Notable perk

Employees get a day off on their "work anniversary" or any day that month



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Nathan Place is a national reporter at American Banker. A native of New York City, he has worked for more than a decade in both print and video...