ITALY

- From 1990 to 2002, the number of banks in Italy fell by 28%, showing that the trend in Italian banking is to merge smaller banks together.
- The total assets of all institutions increased significantly.
- When looking at the total assets of Italy from 1998 to 2004 the market concentration grows 11% but other European countries and the U.S. are growing much faster.
- There are 788 banks in Italy, with 30,502 branches spread throughout the country. In Italy, retail banks are dominant.
- The top 5 banks in Italy account for over 50% of the assets in the Italian banking system, with the top 3 banks accounting for over 40% of the total assets.
- 80% of the total assets in the Italian banking system are held by the Italian limited company banks. The other 20% are held by foreign institutions, mutual funds and cooperative banks.
- Bancoposta is the Italian postal bank. There are over 13,000 branches, which account for approximately 25% of the total household deposits in the country.
- The new banking law of 1993 revolutionized the structure of the Italian banking system by eliminating the distinction between short and medium-long term banks.
- Bank profitability increased, with an important contribution from net interest margin business.
- Bank deepening indicators, confronted with per capita GDP, remains relatively small compared to the other EU members countries.
- The ratio of the number of branches to total population is now closer to the EU average.
- Banking services in Italy are considered expensive. In Italy the bank fees are 23% higher than the average of the EU countries: the question whether this is due to delivery of high quality services, or to the fact of a low level of competition which leads the Italian banks to be inefficient with respect to the other EU countries.

US

- For Commercial Banks: look at the book (Saunders and Cornett)

Savings institutions
- Structural change in the number of savings institutions: late 1980’s many institutions failed
- In the 1990’s failures decreased and companies merged
- Number of institutions decreased by half from 1989 to 2003
- Mergers and new charters have levelled out
- Asset concentrations with larger share of large savings institutions

- For Credit Unions: look at the book (Saunders and Cornett)