



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
December 17, 2008

Contact: Sylvia T. Bronner
Senior Vice President
(267) 671-1079

Citizens Bank recommends consumers conduct financial check-up for 2009

PHILADELPHIA – Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania is offering financial and budgeting tips for consumers to start off the New Year. By offering these guidelines Citizens hopes to help people set their financial goals for 2009 and to kick off the New Year on the right foot.

“People make New Year’s resolutions all the time to improve their health and spend more time with family but it is also very important to remember to give your finances an annual check-up as well,” said Daniel K. Fitzpatrick, Citizens Bank’s President and CEO for Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. “The New Year is a chance for consumers to review their finances over the past year and make sure they are looking for opportunities and planning for the future.”

During these tough economic times, Citizens Bank recommends making sure consumers are saving more than they are spending. Citizens Bank suggests the following guidelines for a financial check up:

- **Reduce and eliminate debt** – Look for lower credit card rates. Consider consolidating high balances to one card with a low interest rate. Pay off credit card balances.
- **Identify your goals** – Set your financial goals for the year. Evaluate your savings as well as your debt.
- **Build a budget** – Write down and analyze your expenses. Compare your income to what you’re spending. Make sure your budget includes monthly savings.
- **Establish automatic savings** - Get into the practice of “paying yourself first” by having part of your paycheck automatically deposited into a savings account. Successful savers start out small and increase the amount over time.
- **Evaluate your retirement savings strategy** – Are you enrolled in your employer’s 401(k) plan? Should an IRA be part of your strategy?
- **Seek advice** – Talk with your banker, financial advisor or accountant for additional suggestions.

About Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania

Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania is a state-chartered bank with dual headquarters in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. It has approximately 400 branches and more than 690 ATMs throughout Pennsylvania. It also operates 15 retail branches and 37 ATMs in southern New Jersey and a commercial loan office in Virginia. It is a subsidiary of Citizens Financial Group, Inc., a \$161 billion commercial bank holding company headquartered in Providence, R.I.

Citizens Financial Group, through its subsidiaries, has more than 1,600 branches, 3,500 ATMs and 24,000 employees. CFG's two bank subsidiaries are RBS Citizens, N.A. and Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania. They operate a 13-state branch network under the Citizens Bank brand in Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont, and the Charter One brand in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. CFG has non-branch retail and commercial offices in about 40 states. It is one of the 10 largest commercial banking companies in the United States ranked by assets and deposits. CFG is owned by RBS (The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc). CFG's Web site is citizensbank.com.

###