According to the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), there are more than 6,000 bank or credit union branches in New England. That works out to almost four branches for every town. The branches are not evenly distributed, however, with some areas clearly having higher concentrations than others.

There is no optimal number of people per branch, but it is noteworthy that in densely populated places like Middlesex County and Boston, there are fewer people per branch than in some sparsely populated rural counties.¹

Some rural counties account for some of the highest numbers of people per branch in New England; others account for some of the lowest. The neighboring counties of Windsor in Vermont and Grafton in New Hampshire had low numbers—fewer than 1,500 people per branch. On the other end of the spectrum, Waldo County in Maine and Strafford County in New Hampshire both had over 3,000 people per branch, more than twice as many people per branch as the low-people-per-branch counties. With the exception of Providence County, most urban or suburban counties fell into the middle ranges.

¹In reality, less than 3% of the over 7,000 blocks in Boston have a bank or credit union branch.


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