

How is Altra different from Banks and other Financials?

As a member, it's important for you to understand Altra's cooperative structure, principles and purpose, because those are key reasons why we are safe, sound and solvent today

While many of our members refer to us as "their bank," we're not a bank. We offer the same products and services as a bank, but our corporate structure is different. Altra is a not-for-profit financial cooperative and each member owns one 'share' of the Credit Union; no member has more influence than another.

During the Great Depression, Credit Unions introduced themselves to America using the slogan "Not for profit, not for charity, but for service." That principle still applies today because we exist to serve you.

Management decisions are based on what's best for our membership – not what will generate the most profit.

Like all cooperatives, we follow seven basic guiding principles:

- 1) Voluntary Membership
- 2) Democratic Member Control
- 3) Member Participation
- 4) Autonomy & Independence
- 5) Education, Training, and Information
- 6) Cooperation among Cooperatives
- 7) Concern for Community

You, as a member-owner, reap the benefits of membership and strengthen the Credit Union through your participation. Member participation helps determine the products, services, rates and fees we offer. **As an owner, it's in your best interest to use as many of your Credit Union's services as possible.**

Participation can also mean inviting friends and family to join the Credit Union. If you've been satisfied with our products and services, please tell others who may be looking for a locally managed, safe and sound financial.

Now, more than ever, it's where you belong...



A Special Message from Jerry Forsythe, Altra President/CEO

In the midst of unsettling news about the economy, Altra Federal Credit Union is safe and strong. Altra is financially secure because we are different in some very important ways.

First, as a not-for-profit financial cooperative, Altra exists to serve our members. **We're not making risky loans or investments to meet short-term demands for profit.** Management decisions are made to enhance safety for depositors and maintain long term stability. We've been securely meeting members' financial needs since 1931, and we're here for the long haul.

Second, Altra invests in our members and our community. **We're busy making auto loans, student loans, home equity loans and mortgages. We're helping small businesses grow.** We're helping members achieve their goals by paying competitive dividends on savings and checking.

Finally, we have a strong foundation and strong principles. We're confident the visionaries who started the Credit Union in 1931 would be comfortable with Altra today because we're doing the same thing they set out to do creating strong relationships that put member needs ahead of profits.

In addition to the knowledge that Altra is safe and sound, Your savings at Altra are now insured to \$250,000 with IRA accounts insured separately for an additional \$250,000. Insured accounts include all Savings, Checking, Money Market, Certificate and Club Accounts.

US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT

The Benefits of Credit Unions

TIME MAGAZINE

Boom Times for Credit Unions

Altra Federal Credit Union is federally insured by NCUA up to a minimum of \$250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government.





In addition to being protected by Altra's strength, your savings are protected by the **National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF)**, a federal fund backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government. The National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) is the federal agency that charters and supervises federal credit unions and insures savings through NCUSIF.

In the history of credit unions' insurance fund, **not a single penny of insured savings has ever been lost by a member of a federally insured credit union.** Media including CNN, the Wall Street Journal, USA Today and the Capitol Hill publication Politico have pointed to credit unions as a safe harbor during troubled times.

Maximize your Deposit Insurance Coverage

Effective October 3, 2008 – As part of HR 1424, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act passed by Congress, **your savings at Altra are now insured to \$250,000 with IRA Savings insured separately for an additional \$250,000.** Insured accounts include all Savings, Checking, Money Market, Certificate and Club Accounts.

Based on account ownership, you may be eligible for significantly more insurance coverage on your savings. We have outlined the basics of deposit insurance coverage and examples of how to structure your accounts to maximize your coverage.

- **INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS:** Deposit-insurance limits are per institution, not per branch. If your deposits at Altra total less than \$250,000, they are all insured.
- **JOINT ACCOUNTS:** The \$250,000 limit applies to separate ownership in joint accounts. For a joint account with a balance of \$500,000, each account holder's ownership interest is insured up to \$250,000, so the entire joint account is insured. This coverage is separate from any individual accounts you and the other person may have. This means that if a couple each have individual accounts with balances of \$250,000, and a joint account with \$500,000, their total insured deposits are \$1,000,000.
- **TRUST ACCOUNTS:** If you have "payable on death" or POD trust accounts, the \$250,000 limit applies to each beneficiary.
- **RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS:** The basic insurance limit for retirement accounts was increased to \$250,000 in 2006. Insurance on retirement accounts is the one area where there are differences between FDIC and NCUA insurance. At a credit union, Keogh retirement accounts are insured separately. If you have a \$250,000 IRA and a \$250,000 Keogh account at a credit union, the entire \$500,000 is insured.

For more information visit www.ncua.gov or contact the NCUA Share Insurance Consumer Hotline at 800-755-1030 (option 1)