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DIGITAL AND BEHAVIORAL DIMENSIONS OF FINANCIAL SECURITY IN THE U.S. BANKING SYSTEM

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Financial security of the banking system is traditionally analyzed through capital adequacy, liquidity buffers, and the effectiveness of regulatory supervision. In this classical approach, the main focus is placed on balance-sheet strength, risk-weighted assets, and compliance with prudential standards. These indicators remain essential, since they determine the ability of banks to absorb losses and maintain operational continuity under stress conditions. At the same time, structural changes in the financial environment have made this analytical lens insufficient on its own. The analysis presented in this paper forms part of a broader research agenda devoted to financial stability and systemic resilience of banking systems in the context of ongoing digital and institutional transformation.

Recent developments in the U.S. banking sector demonstrate that system stability is increasingly influenced not only by financial ratios but also by digital risk exposure and depositor behavior patterns. The rapid expansion of remote banking, platform-based services, and data-driven financial operations has increased the role of operational and technological factors in overall resilience. In parallel, depositor reactions to information signals and perceived reliability of institutions affect liquidity dynamics and risk transmission channels. As a result, financial stability is now commonly assessed within a broader framework that includes operational resilience, technological vulnerability, and trust-based participation in the banking system [1; 2]. By integrating behavioral indicators and digital risk exposure, the paper extends conventional prudential frameworks for assessing banking system financial security.

The contemporary concept of financial security therefore extends beyond prudential ratios and macroprudential regulation alone. It also covers the capacity of the system to withstand non-traditional shocks that originate outside classical credit and market risk categories. These include cyber incidents, infrastructure disruptions, and large-scale behavioral responses of households and clients. International analytical studies underline that crisis transmission

channels often develop through confidence, access, and usage mechanisms, rather than exclusively through capital erosion or asset deterioration [3]. From this perspective, indicators of digitalization, financial inclusion, and user interaction with banking services become meaningful components of banking system security assessment.

Behavioral characteristics of household participation in the banking sector provide measurable signals of systemic trust and accessibility. According to nationwide surveys, the share of households without bank accounts in the United States has shown a gradual decline over recent years, reflecting improved access and inclusion. At the same time, supervisory and consumer-protection institutions record persistent levels of financial service complaints, indicating that user experience and service reliability remain important for stability perceptions [4].

In parallel, the rapid expansion of digital financial services increases exposure to cyber-enabled fraud and operational disruption. Official cybercrime statistics demonstrate a strong upward trend in reported financial losses related to internet crime. These risks affect not only consumers but also the broader perception of financial system security and reliability [5; 7]. Analytical frameworks of cyber risk governance stress that operational and technological resilience must now be treated as core elements of financial security architecture [6].

The interaction between financial cycles and systemic vulnerability further supports the need to widen the analytical lens. Research on financial cycles shows that vulnerabilities accumulate in forms that are not always visible in traditional prudential indicators, which supports the inclusion of behavioral and operational dimensions in stability assessments [2].

The behavioral and digital dimensions of financial security can be demonstrated through selected open statistical indicators presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Selected Behavioral and Digital Risk Indicators of U.S. Financial Security

Year	Unbanked households, %	Reported internet crime losses, $ billion
2019	5,40	3,50
2021	4,50	6,90
2023	4,20	12,50

Source: compiled by the author based on FDIC National Surveys of Unbanked and Underbanked Households and FBI Internet Crime Reports [4; 5]

The data in Table 1 show a divergent but analytically important trend. While the share of unbanked households steadily decreases, indicating improved financial inclusion and access, reported financial losses from internet crime increase multiple times over the same period. This divergence suggests that broader participation in digital financial services increases the systemic relevance of cyber and operational risks. Therefore, financial security cannot

be evaluated solely through access and inclusion metrics – it must also incorporate digital risk exposure.

Crisis research also demonstrates that systemic banking stress often emerges from combined structural and behavioral factors rather than from a single prudential weakness [3]. This supports the interpretation that depositor behavior and digital vulnerability should be treated as complementary pillars of banking system resilience alongside regulatory and capital frameworks.

Financial security of the U.S. banking system should be interpreted through an expanded analytical model that includes digital and behavioral dimensions in addition to traditional prudential indicators. Empirical dynamics show that increasing financial inclusion coexists with rapidly growing cyber-related financial losses, which changes the structure of systemic vulnerability. Depositor behavior, trust, and operational digital resilience become critical components of stability. The results contribute to a broader analytical framework of banking system resilience, emphasizing the growing importance of behavioral and digital dimensions alongside traditional prudential indicators. Strengthening financial security therefore requires not only regulatory oversight and capital buffers, but also continuous development of cyber resilience and consumer-oriented reliability of financial services.

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