



CALL FOR ENTRIES

Best SME Bank Awards 2026

Entry Deadline: August 4, 2025



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Submit your entry for Global Finance's fifth annual Best SME Bank Awards today.

Small and midsize enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the global economy, accounting for over 90% of businesses and generating more than half of employment worldwide. Global Finance's SME Bank Awards honor the organizations that are the best at meeting the needs of SMEs, helping them grow, manage risk and compete in larger markets.

Global Finance's awards and recognition programs are the trusted standard of excellence for the financial industry. They are backed by a 38-year history of editorial accuracy and integrity. Global Finance's corporate and financial audience relies on these awards because they are credible, reliable and have stood the test of time.

Winners will be published in the November 2025 print and digital editions, as well as online at GFMag.com.

Honorees will be celebrated at Global Finance's annual Foreign Exchange and SME Bank Awards. Date and location to be announced.

Please note that this Call For Entries is being issued much earlier than in past years. This is being done to give participants more time to craft the best submissions. Other related dates, such as the entry deadline and press release availability date, remain similar to past years.



(Left to right) Rodrigo Bachi, Dany Gregory and Eduardo Ruocco of BTG Empresas, winners for the Best SME Bank in Brazil, Latin America and the World's Best SME Bank 2025.



(Left to right) Malgorzata Sosnowska, Malgorzata Szulborska and Ilona Kowalska of BMP Paribas, the Best SME Bank in Poland 2025.



Arab Bank's Mohammad Shoaib Memon accepting the Best SME Bank in Jordan 2025 from Richard Scholtz of Global Finance.



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Global Finance will choose an overall global honoree for the World's Best SME Bank. Winners will also be named regionally and in the countries, districts, territories and US regions listed here.

COUNTRY, TERRITORY AND DISTRICT AWARDS			
Argentina	France	Malaysia	Singapore
Armenia	Georgia	Mauritius	South Africa
Austria	Germany	Mexico	South Korea
Bahrain	Ghana	Moldova	Spain
Bangladesh	Greece	Mongolia	Sri Lanka
Belgium	Guatemala	Morocco	Sweden
Brazil	Hong Kong	Mozambique	Switzerland
Cameroon	Hungary	Netherlands	Taiwan
Canada	India	Nigeria	Tanzania
Chile	Indonesia	Norway	Thailand
Colombia	Ireland	Panama	Turkey
Costa Rica	Italy	Peru	United Arab Emirates
Côte d'Ivoire	Japan	Philippines	United Kingdom
Czech Republic	Jordan	Poland	United States
Denmark	Kazakhstan	Portugal	Uzbekistan
Dominican Republic	Kenya	Puerto Rico	Vietnam
Ecuador	Kyrgyzstan	Qatar	
Egypt	Kuwait	Saudi Arabia	
REGIONAL AWARDS		US REGIONAL AWARDS	
Africa	Latin America	Mid-Atlantic	Southeast
Asia-Pacific	Middle East	Northeast	Southwest
Caribbean	North America	Northwest	West
Central America	Western Europe		
Central & Eastern Europe			

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Send entries to: Giulia Cattani - giulia@gfinance.co.uk



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METHODOLOGY

Global Finance will select the World's Best SME Banks 2026 based on independent research and entries submitted by banks. Global Finance's editors will consider and base their decisions on objective and subjective factors. Entries are not necessary in order to win. However, experience shows entries increase the chance of success. In many cases, entrants are able to present information and perspectives not readily available to the editors. All submissions are strictly confidential. Performance will be judged from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

Global Finance will apply a proprietary algorithm to shorten the list of contenders. The algorithm weighs a range of criteria for relative importance, including knowledge of SME markets and their needs, breadth of products and services, market standing and innovation.

After narrowing the field, Global Finance will examine the final criteria, including the scope of coverage, size and experience of staff, customer service, risk management, range of products and services, execution skills and use of technology. In the case of a tie, the editors will lean toward local providers rather than global institutions. The editors will also favor private-sector banks over government-owned institutions. The winners will be the banks and providers that best serve the specialized needs of SMEs.

ENTRY PREPARATION

Take advantage of this opportunity to participate in the review process.

Global Finance maintains best journalistic practices to protect the confidentiality of information supplied. Global Finance will respect confidentiality requests for material not in the public domain. However, any information that is not for publication must be clearly identified as such in the entry. Please provide concise responses to the following:

1. Key financials: SME business as a percentage of total business; value of SME loans issued from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, and the total value of all SME loans issued.
2. Please submit data to describe the scale of your SME banking operations, including any league tables or other comparisons with competitors.
3. Details of SME offerings that include types of loans; business, financial and tax advisory services; operational outsourcing strategic alliances; and locally targeted programs, specifically in the past year.
4. Data indicating market knowledge such as: firm's market share of the SME market, tenure within the SME market, and number of SME clients served currently.
5. Description of innovative steps taken in the past year to improve the breadth and quality of SME services including: deployment of new technological platforms, AI implementation, strategic capital investments, and industry alliances.
6. Please include the following information as a cover sheet to your submission to ensure that it is processed properly:
 - Name of specific entity submitting (eg. parent or subsidiary) exactly as it should appear on awards-related announcements
 - Award(s) Being Submitted For
 - Submission Contact Name/Title/Email
 - Communications/Marketing Contact/Name/Title/Email

PLEASE NOTE: If you do not receive confirmation of receipt of this Call For Entries from the contact listed at the bottom of this page within 48 hours of sending, please resend AND notify them to ensure your entry has been received and is processed correctly.

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The Value and Importance of Global Finance Awards Logos

Global Finance's awards and recognition programs are backed by a 38-year legacy of editorial accuracy and integrity. Corporate and financial leaders depend on them as the trusted standard of excellence for the corporate and financial sectors. Global Finance's awards are credible, reliable and have stood the test of time.

The distinction of being a Global Finance award honoree is a powerful marketing advantage every winner can and should use to stand out from and above their competitors.

Some of the ways Global Finance award winners use logos to promote their status include:

- Recruitment and retention efforts
- Websites
- Investor relations information
- Conference and event signage
- Press and publicity efforts
- Internal communications
- Advertising
- Employee motivation programs
- Pitch books
- Branch signage
- Promotional videos
- Social media campaigns
- Email signatures
- Promotional materials
- Stadium, airport and outdoor signage
- Annual reports

Earning a Global Finance award also allows individual honorees as well as entire departments to stand out within their own organizations, leading to higher visibility across their industry sectors, improved staff retention and greater professional and personal recognition.

