

Major periods of trouble

EARLY 1980s

After interest rates rose from 1979 to 1980 and again from 1981-82, many U.S. banks found themselves locked into long-term, low-yield mortgages. During the latter period, the U.S. was going through a recession.

MAY 1984

A rumor-fueled run on the nation's seventh-largest bank forced regulators to step in and transfer 80 percent ownership of **Continental Illinois National Bank** to the federal government, which deemed the bank "too big to fail."



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Co. on the day of its failure in 1984.

LATE 1980s-1990s

Savings and loans invested heavily in real estate-related loans that ultimately went bad, requiring the government to create a bailout program footed by taxpayers.

2008-09

The fallout from the current financial crisis has resulted in 21 U.S. bank failures in the first quarter of 2009 alone.

\$12.64 billion

Combined assets for **35** banks from 1981-83

\$40 billion

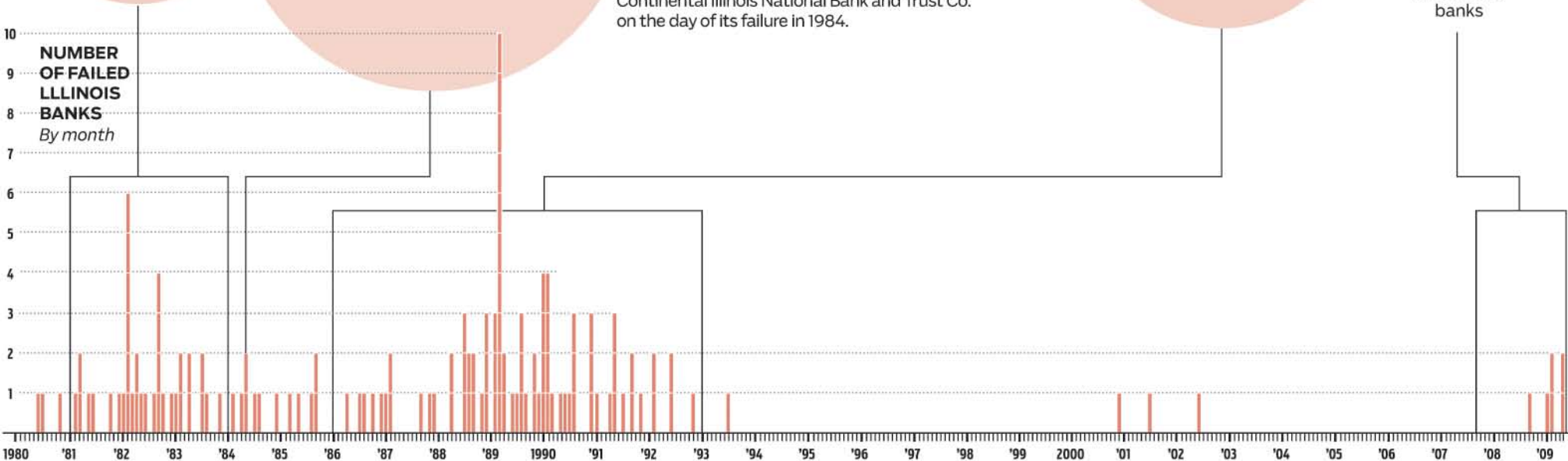
Continental's assets at its time of failure

\$18.71 billion

Combined assets for **80** banks from 1986-92

\$1.98 billion

Combined assets for **6** Illinois banks



SOURCES: FDIC, Tribune reports