THE DAILY PULSE

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PAYMENTS • BANKING • LENDING

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COVERAGE WINDOW: SEPTEMBER 5–12, 2026

THIS WEEK IN BRIEF

U.S. Bank became one of the first banks to launch a stablecoin on a public blockchain, while a Better Markets suit accused the Fed and Vice Chair Bowman of tainting the bank-capital rulemaking. On the credit side, auto-ABS investors turned their attention to worsening Southeastern delinquencies.

PAYMENTS & STABLECOINS

RTP, Fed race on fast payments

Payments Dive · Sep 8

The Clearing House's Real-Time Payments network and the Federal Reserve's FedNow are competing for U.S. instant-payments volume, though both trail international peers, Payments Dive reports. RTP processed 142 million transactions in Q2 versus FedNow's 5 million and claims "97% of instant payments volume," while FedNow connects more institutions (1,725 banks and credit unions versus RTP's 1,350). The two systems serve different use cases: RTP's average transaction value is $3,750 against FedNow's $99,414.

WHY IT MATTERS

Instant payments are becoming table stakes for banks and fintechs, and the split between a high-volume consumer network and a high-value interbank one shapes where deposit and treasury flows land. For a lender, real-time settlement is both a funding-cost lever and a fraud-exposure question as adoption widens.

PAYMENTS & STABLECOINS

Card Issuers Speed Upgrades as Fraud Threats Grow

PYMNTS · Sep 9

In a survey of 500 payment leaders at U.S. bank and nonbank card issuers, PYMNTS reports that issuers are compressing modernization timelines to counter rising fraud while meeting demand for faster digital services. "Transaction categorization leads the list of AI capabilities issuers plan to add or expand," followed by customer-service automation and personalized rewards, with investment priorities differing by customer segment. Issuers face a bind in which "the next major deadline may arrive before issuers finish planning for the last one."

WHY IT MATTERS

Fraud losses and platform modernization are now a running operating cost for card programs, not a one-time project, which pressures margins and favors scale. Issuers that bolt AI onto legacy stacks risk falling behind faster-moving fintech competitors on both risk and experience.

PAYMENTS & STABLECOINS

[US Bank Intros Stablecoin and Touts Successful X-Border Transaction]

PYMNTS · Sep 9

U.S. Bank unveiled a stablecoin called USBDC and completed a pilot cross-border payment between its North American and European entities on the Stellar blockchain, PYMNTS reports. The bank called USBDC "one of the first bank-issued stablecoins deployed on a public blockchain" and said the pilot tested "minting, payment redemption, freezing and clawback capabilities." CEO Gunjan Kedia said the initiative would "accelerate global cash management and money movement capabilities."

> WHY IT MATTERS
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> A top-five U.S. bank issuing its own stablecoin on a public chain signals that regulated institutions, not just crypto natives, now see tokenized deposits as core cash-management infrastructure. This comes just a few days after 21 of the biggest banks announced a joint stablecoin venture. The current bank backed stablecoin environment is in a state of flux, and is worth watching, as it is likely to evolve quickly in the coming months.

BANKING & REGULATION

[Fed, Bowman sued over capital-requirements process]

Banking Dive · Sep 11

Advocacy group “Better Markets” sued the Federal Reserve and Vice Chair for Supervision Michelle Bowman, alleging she held meetings with bank CEOs including JPMorgan's Jamie Dimon and Goldman's David Solomon during the comment period on proposed capital rules and coached them on what to submit, Banking Dive reports. CEO Dennis Kelleher said the rulemaking was "fatally compromised" and called the conduct "corruption," while Bowman testified in June that she "did not direct anyone about their comments." The Fed proposed the rules in March 2026; they would raise large-bank common equity tier 1 capital by 1.4% while other adjustments cut overall requirements by 4.8%.

> WHY IT MATTERS
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> The suit puts the integrity of the capital-rule process — and the net loosening of large-bank requirements — under legal and political scrutiny. If a court forces the Fed to restart, it would delay capital certainty that banks are already planning balance sheets around, though it is hard to predict if the lawsuit will slow down the process.

LENDING & CREDIT

[Higher delinquencies drive regional risk focus in auto ABS loan pools]

Auto Finance News · Sep 11

Auto Finance News reports that rising delinquencies are pushing auto-ABS investors toward state-by-state credit analysis, with the Southeast standing out as a trouble spot. "Southeastern states accounted for 4 of 5 highest 60-plus-day delinquency rates" in the period examined, making regional concentration a growing consideration for portfolio and securitization risk. The piece notes delinquencies are climbing nationwide even as investors zero in on geographic hotspots.

WHY IT MATTERS

Geographic concentration is becoming a differentiator in auto-loan credit performance, which matters for how securitized pools are structured and priced. Widening regional dispersion can raise funding costs for lenders exposed to weaker states and reward those with diversified books.

WHAT TO WATCH

[AI Agents Need Permissioned Funding Sources. Not Company Bank Accounts.]

PYMNTS · Sep 10

Stay ahead of what's moving markets, regulation, and the business of banking.