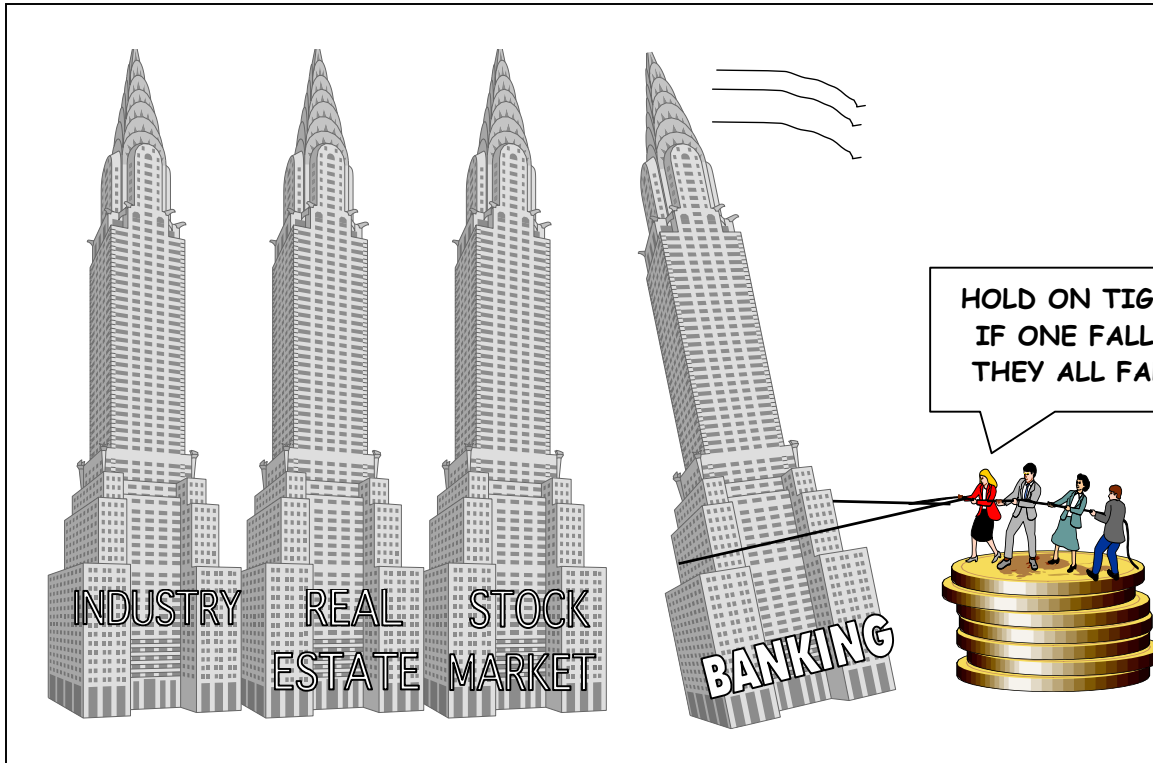


# 8. TOO BIG TO FAIL



**“All for one and one for all,” is a saying of unity and support. It also characterizes the relationship between modern government, business and the people. Being elected to public office is only the beginning of the long, difficult task of running a country. Citizens in modern societies expect government to provide for their welfare. This could mean higher taxes, subsidies to key industries and payments to citizens in need.**

**Companies can be needy, too. Helping them with taxpayer money is a tricky affair. What if a company is going broke because of its own bad decisions? Should taxpayers be required to make up for their losses? Suppose company officers have not been honest with stockholders about the financial health of the company or lavished money on themselves in the form of entertainment or travel expenses? Should executives be allowed to pay themselves huge bonuses consisting of millions of dollars (USD) and then cry for help, because thousands of workers will lose their jobs? This unit looks at what happens when government attempts to take responsibility for the economic ills of a nation.**