The basic approaches to evaluating the financial security of banks and the banking system as a whole are highlighted. The basic problems concerning the formation of a universal system of evaluating the financial security of banks and the banking system are outlined. Found that domestic and foreign scientific literature has no single vector of approaches for dealing with banking and security of its main components. The most papers are focusing on the broader economic category as the economic security of the bank and the banking system as a whole. It is noted that the mainstay of bank security is financial, not economic security. After analysing various approaches to the evaluation of the economic and financial security of banks and the banking system, it is concluded that they are quite similar and often include the same performance as the concept of economic and financial security of banks is too vague, and almost all quantitative indicators of bank activities have a financial component, since the operation of any bank is based on financial transactions. Most researchers use approaches based on the use of ratios and indicators. Moreover, it should also be noted that all approaches other than an expert evaluation method are interconnected with financial indicators and ratios as risk assessments and models based on these indicators. Approaches based on economic requirements of banks and banking systems are not taken into account because this method does not reflect the real situation in the banking system. This is due to the fact that the economic standards of banks are built for a perfect bank and cannot objectively reflect the level of financial safety of banks and their financial stability, given how many banks were recognized as insolvent recently, although they perform economic standards of the central bank. Therefore, we believe that assessing the level of financial security as a separate commercial bank and the banking system as a whole should use ratios that are more flexible than economic standards. It is revealed that a universal system of evaluation of financial security is methods based on coefficients reflecting the financial aspects of the bank. However, the number of these factors will depend on solvable problems. The basic shortcomings of these approaches include the following: lack of consistency, low value, and predictability of performance, high affinity and identity. On the basis of the analysis done, there is developed a system of selecting indicators for assessing the financial security of the banking system. Based on the analysis of the causes of the crisis phenomena in the economy, new indicators of assessing the level of financial security of the banking system are singled out.