



## First Merchants Corporation Announces Quarterly Cash Dividend

July 29, 2009

MUNCIE, Ind.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- At its meeting held on July 28, 2009, the Board of Directors of First Merchants Corporation (Nasdaq: FRME) declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.08 per share on its common stock.

The cash dividend is payable September 18, 2009, to stockholders of record September 4, 2009. For purposes of broker trading, the ex-date of the cash dividend is September 2, 2009.

### About First Merchants Corporation

First Merchants Corporation is a financial holding company headquartered in Muncie, Indiana. Subsidiaries of the Corporation include First Merchants Bank, N.A., and First Merchants Bank of Central Indiana, N.A., Lafayette Bank & Trust Company, N.A., Commerce National Bank, and First Merchants Trust Company, N.A. The Corporation also operates First Merchants Insurance Services, a full-service property casualty, personal lines, and healthcare insurance agency.

First Merchants Corporation's common stock is traded over-the-counter on the NASDAQ National Market System under the symbol FRME. Quotations are carried in daily newspapers and can be found on the company's Internet web page (<http://www.firstmerchants.com>).

Source: First Merchants Corporation

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