UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

DATE OF REPORT (Date of earliest event reported): January 28, 2021

Commission File Number 0-17071

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Indiana	35-1544218
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	(IRS Employer Identification No.)

200 East Jackson Street P.O. Box 792 Muncie, IN 47305-2814

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(765) 747-1500

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Trading Symbol(s)

Name of each exchange on which registered

Nasdaq Global Select Market

Title of Each Class

Common Stock, \$0.125 stated value per share

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:
☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
□ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
□ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
□ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).
Emerging growth company □
If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. □

ITEM 2.02 RESULTS OF OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL CONDITION.

On January 28, 2021, First Merchants Corporation issued a press release to report its financial results for the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2020. A copy of the press release is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

The information in this Current Report on Form 8-K, including Exhibit No. 99.1 hereto, shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to liability of that section. The information in this Current Report shall not be incorporated by reference into any filing or other document pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing or document.

ITEM 9.01 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS.

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(a)	Not applicable.				

(c) Not applicable.

Not applicable.

(d) Exhibits.

Exhibit 104 Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

Exhibit 99.1 Press Release, dated January 28, 2021, issued by First Merchants Corporation

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

First Merchants Corporation (Registrant)

By: <u>/s/ Michele M. Kawiecki</u> Michele M. Kawiecki Chief Financial Officer

Dated: January 28, 2021

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No. Description

99.1	Press Release.	dated January	/ 28.	2021	issued by	v First Merchants	Corporation

104 Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

N/E/W/SR/E/L/E/A/S/E

January 28, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Nicole M. Weaver, Vice President and Director of Corporate Administration
765-521-7619
http://www.firstmerchants.com

SOURCE: First Merchants Corporation, Muncie, Indiana

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION ANNOUNCES FOURTH QUARTER 2020 EARNINGS PER SHARE

First Merchants Corporation (NASDAQ - FRME) has reported fourth quarter 2020 net income of \$45.1 million compared to \$47.8 million during the same period in 2019. Earnings per share for the period totaled \$.83 per share compared to fourth quarter 2019 result of \$.87 per share. Net income for the year ended December 31, 2020 totaled \$148.6 million, compared to \$164.5 million during the same period in 2019. Year-to-date earnings per share totaled \$2.74 compared to \$3.19 in 2019.

Total assets equaled \$14.1 billion as of year-end and loans totaled \$9.2 billion. The Corporation's loan portfolio increased by \$789 million, or 9.2 percent, during 2020. Paycheck Protection Program ("PPP") loans accounted for \$667 million of the year's loan growth. Investments increased \$551 million, or 21.2 percent, during the year and now total \$3.1 billion. Total deposits equaled \$11.4 billion as of year-end and increased by \$1.5 billion, or 15.5 percent, during 2020.

Mark Hardwick, Chief Executive Officer, stated, "We are proud of our 2020 results given the significant headwinds of the past year. The global pandemic quickly turned 2020 into a year filled with economic, political, medical and logistical challenges. However, our employees demonstrated courage and a can-do attitude for the benefit of all stakeholders. We guided over 5,200 customers through the Paycheck Protection Program while maintaining branch and back-office operations with as many as 1,000 employees working remotely. We grew loans by 9.2 percent, deposits by 15.5 percent, processed over 2,700 loan modifications and donated an additional \$1 million to COVID relief efforts in our communities. Despite providing \$58.7 million to the allowance for loan losses and managing through 40 basis points of margin compression we still delivered \$149 million of net income to shareholders." Hardwick also added, "Executive management expects 2021 to be a year of increasing momentum as the vaccine helps reopen our lobbies and allows us to repopulate our offices while growing our customer base."

At the beginning of 2020, the Corporation chose to defer the adoption of the current expected credit loss ("CECL") model. The passing of the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act in December of 2020 prompted the SEC to allow for the adoption of CECL on January 1, 2021 with a Day 1 measurement date of January 1, 2021. As such, the allowance for loan losses was calculated under the incurred loss method in the fourth quarter. The Corporation's provision expense totaled \$4.5 million for the fourth quarter and \$58.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2020. Net charge-offs totaled \$0.6 million for the quarter and \$8.3 million for the year. The allowance for loan losses totaled \$130.6 million at year end, which increased \$3.9 million in the fourth quarter. Allowance for loan losses is 1.41 percent of total loans and 1.52 percent excluding PPP loans from total loans. The Corporation also has \$23 million in remaining fair value marks.

Net-interest income totaled \$382.1 million for the year, an increase of \$25.5 million, or 7.1 percent, in the face of a net-interest margin decline of 40 basis points to 3.29 percent. Yield on earning assets declined by 94 basis points totaling 3.84 percent and the cost of supporting liabilities decreased by 54 basis points and totaled 0.55 percent. Fair value accretion contributed one basis point less in margin as it accounted for 12 basis points in 2019 and 11 basis points in 2020. Yield on earning assets for the fourth quarter totaled 3.72 percent with cost of supporting liabilities totaling 0.34 percent resulting in a margin of 3.38 percent. PPP loans contributed 16 basis points to margin during the fourth quarter as unamortized SBA fees were recognized upon loan forgiveness.

Non-interest income totaled \$109.9 million for the year, a \$23.2 million, or 26.8 percent increase from 2019. Customer specific line items accounted for \$15.3 million of increase in total non-interest income. Gains on sales of mortgage loans increased \$10.4 million over 2019 and hit a record high of \$18.3 million for 2020 which offset the headwinds of lower service charges on deposits and the impact of the Durbin Amendment adoption on card payment fees. Fiduciary and wealth management fees also contributed to the increase with growth of \$6.2 million over 2019.

Non-interest expense totaled \$263.4 million for the year ended 2020, a \$16.6 million increase from 2019. The fourth quarter of 2020 includes charges of \$4.5 million related to the announcement of the consolidation of 17 banking centers. Additionally, FDIC expense increased \$5.1 million year over year due to the use of FDIC credits in 2019. Merger related expenses of \$13.7 million were also included in the 2019 totals.

The Corporation's loan to deposit ratio now totals 81 percent and loan to asset ratio totals 66 percent. Additionally, the Corporation's total risk-based capital ratio equaled 14.36 percent, common equity tier 1 capital ratio equaled 12.02 percent, and the tangible common equity ratio totaled 9.65 percent. Excluding PPP loans, the tangible common equity ratio totaled 9.99 percent.

CONFERENCE CALL

First Merchants Corporation will conduct a fourth quarter earnings conference call and web cast at 2:30 p.m. (ET) on Thursday, January 28, 2021.

To participate, dial (Toll Free) 877-507-0578 and reference First Merchants Corporation's fourth quarter earnings release. International callers please call +1 412-317-1073. A replay of the call will be available until February 28, 2021. To access a replay of the call, US participants should dial (Toll Free) 877-344-7529, Canada participants should dial 855-669-9658, or for International participants, dial +1 412-317-0088. The replay access code is 10150572.

In order to view the web cast and presentation slides, please go to http://services.choruscall.com/links/frme210128.html during the time of the call. A replay of the web cast will be available until January 28, 2022.

Detailed financial results are reported on the attached pages.

About First Merchants Corporation

First Merchants Corporation is a financial holding company headquartered in Muncie, Indiana. The Corporation has one full-service bank charter, First Merchants Bank. The Bank also operates as First Merchants Private Wealth Advisors (as a division of First Merchants Bank).

First Merchants Corporation's common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select 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).

FIRST MERCHANTS and the Shield Logo are federally registered trademarks of First Merchants Corporation.

Forward-Looking Statements

This release contains forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe-harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements can often, but not always, be identified by the use of words like "believe", "continue", "pattern", "estimate", "project", "intend", "anticipate", "expect" and similar expressions or future or conditional verbs such as "will", would", "should", "could", "might", "can", "may", or similar expressions. These statements include statements of First Merchants' goals, intentions and expectations; statements regarding the First Merchants' business plan and growth strategies; statements regarding the asset quality of First Merchants' loan and investment portfolios; and estimates of First Merchants' risks and future costs and benefits. These forward-looking statements are subject to significant risks, assumptions and uncertainties that may cause results to differ materially from those set forth in forward-looking statements, including, among other things: possible changes in monetary and fiscal policies, and laws and regulations; the effects of easing restrictions on participants in the financial services industry; the cost and other effects of legal and administrative cases; possible changes in the credit worthiness of customers and the possible impairment of collectability of loans; fluctuations in market rates of interest; competitive factors in the banking industry; changes in the banking legislation or regulatory requirements of federal and state agencies applicable to bank holding companies and banks like First Merchants' affiliate bank; continued availability of earnings and excess capital sufficient for the lawful and prudent declaration of dividends; changes in market, economic, operational, liquidity, credit and interest rate risks associated with the First Merchants' business; and other risks and factors identified in each of First Merchants' filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. First Merchants does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement, whether written or oral, relating to the matters discussed in this press release. In addition, First Merchants' past results of operations do not necessarily indicate its anticipated future results.

* * * *

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(Dollars In Thousands)

December 31,

		2020	2019
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	192,896	\$ 177,201
Interest-bearing deposits		392,305	118,263
Investment securities		3,146,787	2,596,063
Loans held for sale		3,966	9,037
Loans		9,243,174	8,459,310
Less: Allowance for loan losses		(130,648)	(80,284)
Net loans		9,112,526	8,379,026
Premises and equipment		111,062	113,055
Federal Home Loan Bank stock		28,736	28,736
Interest receivable		53,948	48,901
Goodwill and other intangibles		572,893	578,880
Cash surrender value of life insurance		292,745	288,206
Other real estate owned		940	7,527
Tax asset, deferred and receivable		12,340	12,165
Other assets		146,066	100,194
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	14,067,210	\$ 12,457,254
LIABILITIES	·		
Deposits:			
Noninterest-bearing	\$	2,298,138	\$ 1,736,396
Interest-bearing		9,063,472	8,103,560
Total Deposits	·	11,361,610	9,839,956
Borrowings:			
Federal funds purchased		_	55,000
Securities sold under repurchase agreements		177,102	187,946
Federal Home Loan Bank advances		389,430	351,072
Subordinated debentures and other borrowings		118,380	138,685
Total Borrowings		684,912	 732,703
Interest payable		3,287	6,754
Other liabilities		141,756	91,404
Total Liabilities		12,191,565	10,670,817
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY			
Cumulative Preferred Stock, \$1,000 par value, \$1,000 liquidation value:			
Authorized 600 shares			
Issued and outstanding - 125 shares		125	125
Common Stock, \$.125 stated value:			
Authorized 100,000,000 shares			
Issued and outstanding - 53,922,359 and 55,368,482 shares		6,740	6,921
Additional paid-in capital		1,005,366	1,054,997
Retained earnings		788,578	696,520
Accumulated other comprehensive income		74,836	27,874
Total Stockholders' Equity		1,875,645	 1,786,437
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	\$	14,067,210	\$ 12,457,254

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

(Dollars In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts)

Three Months Ended December 31.

Twelve Months Ended December 31.

2020 2019 2020 2019 INTEREST INCOME Loans receivable: Taxable \$ 90,138 102,617 358,264 382,772 Tax-exempt 5,414 4,671 21,483 17,568 Investment securities: Taxable 5,263 7,993 24,440 27,815 12.056 8.995 42.341 31.655 Tax-exempt Deposits with financial institutions 139 1.203 938 4 225 Federal Home Loan Bank stock 214 342 1,042 1,370 125,821 448,508 **Total Interest Income** 113,224 465,405 INTEREST EXPENSE 24.074 51.740 91.585 Deposits 7.509 Federal funds purchased 2 26 120 251 604 1 424 Securities sold under repurchase agreements 77 367 Federal Home Loan Bank advances 1.656 1,776 6.973 7.176 Subordinated debentures and other borrowings 1,669 1,994 6,944 8,309 108,745 **Total Interest Expense** 10,913 28,237 66,381 NET INTEREST INCOME 102 311 97 584 382 127 356 660 Provision for loan losses 4,482 500 58,673 2,800 NET INTEREST INCOME AFTER PROVISION FOR LOAN LOSSES 97,084 323,454 353,860 97,829 OTHER INCOME 5,508 6,312 20,999 22,951 Service charges on deposit accounts Fiduciary and wealth management fees 6.251 5.384 23.747 17.562 Card payment fees 3 502 5 430 19 502 20 243 7.891 Net gains and fees on sales of loans 5.393 2.633 18,271 Derivative hedge fees 2,281 1,405 6,977 5,357 Other customer fees 394 434 1,497 1,664 1,283 5,140 4,537 Earnings on cash surrender value of life insurance 1,458 Net realized gains on sales of available for sale securities 2,398 1,039 11,895 4,415 1,898 2,068 Other income 473 150 Total Other Income 27.483 24.245 109.926 86,688 OTHER EXPENSES Salaries and employee benefits 41,809 39,358 155,937 144,037 Net occupancy 9,653 5,311 26,756 19,584 Equipment 5,555 4,429 19,344 16,218 Marketing 1,763 6,609 6,650 1,492 Outside data processing fees 3.839 4.428 14,432 16,476 1.445 Printing and office supplies 307 484 1.304 Intangible asset amortization 1,476 1,590 5.987 5,994 FDIC assessments 1.560 5,804 717 Other real estate owned and foreclosure expenses (1,576)66 330 2,428 2,836 2,899 8,901 15,410 Professional and other outside services 5,314 5,144 18,001 17,804 Other expenses **Total Other Expenses** 72.536 65.201 263.405 246.763 **INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAX** 52,776 56,128 169,975 193,785 29,325 Income tax expense 7,641 8,298 21,375 NET INCOME AVAILABLE TO COMMON STOCKHOLDERS 47,830 45,135 148,600 164,460 Per Share Data: Basic Net Income Available to Common Stockholders 3.20 \$ 0.83 \$ 0.87 \$ 2 75 \$ Diluted Net Income Available to Common Stockholders \$ 0.83 \$ 0.87 \$ 2.74 \$ 3.19 Cash Dividends Paid \$ 0.26 \$ 0.26 \$ 1.04 \$ 1.00 Average Diluted Shares Outstanding (in thousands) 54,050 55,520 54,220 51,561

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
(Dollars in thousands)

Tangible Common Book Value Per Share

(Dollars in thousands)	Three Mo	onthe En	ded	Twelve M	onthe En	ded	
(Dollars III tilousarius)		mber 31.	ucu	December 31.			
	2020	11001 01,	2019	2020	11001 01,	2019	
NET CHARGE-OFFS	\$ 560	\$	787	\$ 8,309	\$	3,068	
AVERAGE BALANCES:							
Total Assets	\$ 13,968,047	\$	12,479,039	\$ 13,466,269	\$	11,091,320	
Total Loans	9,240,304		8,358,683	9,051,155		7,690,190	
Total Earning Assets	12,663,803		11,194,954	12,123,317		10,015,771	
Total Deposits	11,283,040		9,926,794	10,728,106		8,782,634	
Total Stockholders' Equity	1,856,896		1,768,848	1,825,135		1,569,615	
FINANCIAL RATIOS:							
Return on Average Assets	1.29 %		1.53 %	1.10 %		1.48	
Return on Average Stockholders' Equity	9.72		10.82	8.14		10.48	
Return on Average Common Stockholders' Equity	9.72		10.82	8.14		10.48	
Average Earning Assets to Average Assets	90.66		89.71	90.03		90.30	
Allowance for Loan Losses as % of Total Loans	1.41		0.95	1.41		0.95	
Net Charge-offs as % of Average Loans (Annualized)	0.02		0.04	0.09		0.04	
Average Stockholders' Equity to Average Assets	13.29		14.17	13.55		14.15	
Tax Equivalent Yield on Average Earning Assets	3.72		4.63	3.84		4.78	
Interest Expense/Average Earning Assets	0.34		1.01	0.55		1.09	
Net Interest Margin (FTE) on Average Earning Assets	3.38		3.62	3.29		3.69	
Efficiency Ratio	55.01		51.07	51.71		52.73	

24.27 \$

21.94 \$

24.27 \$

21.94

NON-PERFORMING ASSETS									
(Dollars In Thousands)	D	ecember 31, 2020	Se	eptember 30, 2020	June 30, 2020		March 31, 2020	D	ecember 31, 2019
Non-Accrual Loans	\$	61,471	\$	56,739	\$ 50,102	\$	15,649	\$	15,949
Renegotiated Loans		3,240		2,677	1,086		665		841
Non-Performing Loans (NPL)		64,711		59,416	 51,188		16,314		16,790
Other Real Estate Owned and Repossessions		940		6,984	7,409		8,017		7,527
Non-Performing Assets (NPA)		65,651		66,400	58,597		24,331		24,317
90+ Days Delinquent		746		1,330	4,981		312		69
NPAs & 90 Day Delinquent	\$	66,397	\$	67,730	\$ 63,578	\$	24,643	\$	24,386
Allowance for Loan Losses	\$	130,648	\$	126,726	\$ 121,119	\$	99,454	\$	80,284
Quarterly Net Charge-offs		560		6,937	230		582		787
NPAs / Actual Assets %		0.47 %	.	0.48 %	0.42 %)	0.19 %)	0.20 %
NPAs & 90 Day / Actual Assets %		0.47 %	, ,	0.49 %	0.46 %	,	0.19 %)	0.20 %
NPAs / Actual Loans and OREO %		0.71 %	, ,	0.72 %	0.63 %		0.28 %)	0.29 %
Allowance for Loan Losses / Actual Loans (%)		1.41 %	5	1.37 %	1.30 %	,	1.15 %)	0.95 %
Net Charge-offs as % of Average Loans (Annualized)		0.02 %		0.30 %	0.01 %)	0.03 %)	0.04 %

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CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (Dollars In Thousands)	n	ecember 31,	S	eptember 30,		June 30,		March 31,	П	ecember 31,
(Dollars III Triodsarids)		2020	0,	2020		2020		2020		2019
ASSETS					_					2010
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	192,896	\$	164,632	\$	229,759	\$	127,731	\$	177,201
Interest-bearing deposits		392,305		273,936	-	380,021	-	132,944	-	118,263
Investment securities		3,146,787		2,933,286		2,789,379		2,697,954		2,596,063
Loans held for sale		3,966		3,183		901		5,039		9,037
Loans		9,243,174		9,243,833		9,298,541		8,606,849		8,459,310
Less: Allowance for loan losses		(130,648)		(126,726)		(121,119)		(99,454)		(80,284
Net loans		9,112,526		9,117,107		9,177,422		8,507,395	_	8,379,026
Premises and equipment		111,062		112,959		112,548		114,045		113,055
Federal Home Loan Bank stock		28,736		28,736		28,736		28,736		28,736
Interest receivable		53,948		52,992		57,063		47,489		48,901
Goodwill and other intangibles		572,893		574,369		575,855		577,366		578,880
Cash surrender value of life insurance		292,745		291,543		290,715		289,574		288,206
Other real estate owned		940		6,942		7,367		7,972		7,527
Tax asset, deferred and receivable		12,340		21,762		13,126		9,497		12,165
Other assets		146,066		155,903		156,486		147,776		100,194
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	14,067,210	\$	13,737,350	\$	13,819,378	\$	12,693,518	\$	12,457,254
LIABILITIES	_						_			
Deposits:										
Noninterest-bearing	\$	2,298,138	\$	2,187,607	\$	2,260,351	\$	1,688,205	\$	1,736,396
Interest-bearing		9,063,472		8,718,546		8,705,637		8,182,279		8,103,560
Total Deposits		11,361,610		10,906,153		10,965,988		9,870,484		9,839,956
Borrowings:										
Federal funds purchased		_		80,000		_		47,000		55,000
Securities sold under repurchase agreements		177,102		187,732		181,150		183,317		187,946
Federal Home Loan Bank advances		389,430		399,522		400,817		480,995		351,072
Subordinated debentures and other borrowings		118,380		118,320		285,197		128,741		138,685
Total Borrowings		684,912		785,574		867,164		840,053		732,703
Interest payable		3,287		5,038		5,587		7,746		6,754
Other liabilities		141,756		206,929		171,544		197,275		91,404
Total Liabilities		12,191,565		11,903,694		12,010,283		10,915,558		10,670,817
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY										
Cumulative Preferred Stock, \$1,000 par value, \$1,000 liquidation value:										
Authorized 600 shares										
Issued and outstanding		125		125		125		125		125
Common Stock, \$.125 stated value:										
Authorized 100,000,000 shares										
Issued and outstanding		6,740		6,736		6,724		6,719		6,921
Additional paid-in capital		1,005,366		1,003,777		1,002,962		1,000,942		1,054,997
Retained earnings		788,578		757,550		735,439		716,518		696,520
Accumulated other comprehensive income		74,836		65,468		63,845		53,656		27,874
Total Stockholders' Equity		1,875,645		1,833,656		1,809,095		1,777,960		1,786,437
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	\$	14,067,210	\$	13,737,350	\$	13,819,378	\$	12,693,518	\$	12,457,254

^	DATED	STATEMENTS	OF INICOME

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (Dollars In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts)	De	ecember 31, 2020	S	eptember 30, 2020		June 30, 2020	March 31, 2020		December 31, 2019
INTEREST INCOME									
Loans receivable:									
Taxable	\$	90,138	\$	84,162	\$	87,312	\$ 96,652	\$	102,617
Tax-exempt		5,414		5,395		5,359	5,315		4,671
Investment securities:		F 000		F 200		C 447	7.004		7.000
Taxable		5,263		5,399		6,147	7,631		7,993
Tax-exempt		12,056		10,931		10,019	9,335		8,995
Deposits with financial institutions		139		90		134	575		1,203
Federal Home Loan Bank stock		214		248		281	 299		342
Total Interest Income		113,224		106,225		109,252	 119,807		125,821
INTEREST EXPENSE		7.500		0.770		40.707	04.740		04.074
Deposits		7,509		9,776		12,707	21,748		24,074
Federal funds purchased		2 77		5 83		2 92	111 352		26
Securities sold under repurchase agreements									367
Federal Home Loan Bank advances		1,656		1,749		1,794	1,774		1,776
Subordinated debentures and other borrowings		1,669		1,691		1,639	 1,945		1,994
Total Interest Expense		10,913		13,304		16,234	 25,930		28,237
NET INTEREST INCOME		102,311		92,921		93,018	93,877		97,584
Provision for loan losses		4,482		12,544		21,895	19,752		500
NET INTEREST INCOME AFTER PROVISION FOR LOAN LOSSES		97,829		80,377		71,123	 74,125		97,084
OTHER INCOME									
Service charges on deposit accounts		5,508		5,209		4,312	5,970		6,312
Fiduciary and wealth management fees		6,251		5,910		5,601	5,985		5,384
Card payment fees		3,502		3,996		6,097	5,907		5,430
Net gains and fees on sales of loans		5,393		5,841		3,674	3,363		2,633
Derivative hedge fees		2,281		1,715		1,042	1,939		1,405
Other customer fees		394		372		333	398		434
Earnings on cash surrender value of life insurance		1,283		1,171		1,326	1,360		1,458
Net realized gains on sales of available for sale securities		2,398		1,817		3,068	4,612		1,039
Other income		473		132		1,028	265		150
Total Other Income		27,483		26,163		26,481	29,799		24,245
OTHER EXPENSES	<u></u>								
Salaries and employee benefits		41,809		39,187		35,698	39,243		39,358
Net occupancy		9,653		5,855		5,447	5,801		5,311
Equipment		5,555		4,956		4,489	4,344		4,429
Marketing		1,763		1,311		2,092	1,443		1,492
Outside data processing fees		3,839		3,776		2,618	4,199		4,428
Printing and office supplies		307		331		279	387		484
Intangible asset amortization		1,476		1,486		1,511	1,514		1,590
FDIC assessments		1,560		1,249		1,472	1,523		_
Other real estate owned and foreclosure expenses		(1,576)		717		684	505		66
Professional and other outside services		2,836		2,254		1,553	2,258		2,899
Other expenses		5,314		3,587		4,146	4,954		5,144
Total Other Expenses		72,536		64,709		59,989	 66,171		65,201
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAX		52,776		41,831		37,615	37,753		56,128
Income tax expense		7,641		5,621		4,623	3,490		8,298
NET INCOME AVAILABLE TO COMMON STOCKHOLDERS	\$	45,135	\$	36,210	\$	32,992	\$ 34,263	\$	47,830
			_					=	
Per Share Data:									
Basic Net Income Available to Common Stockholders	\$	0.83	\$	0.67	\$	0.62	\$ 0.63	\$	0.87
Diluted Net Income Available to Common Stockholders	\$	0.83	\$	0.67	\$	0.62	\$ 0.62	\$	0.87
Cash Dividends Paid	\$	0.26	\$	0.26	\$	0.26	\$ 0.26	\$	0.26
Average Diluted Shares Outstanding (in thousands)		54,050		53,971		53,943	54,918		55,520
FINANCIAL RATIOS:									
Return on Average Assets		1.29 %		1.06 %)	0.97 %	1.09 %	1	1.53
Return on Average Stockholders' Equity		9.72		7.91		7.35	7.55		10.82
Return on Average Common Stockholders' Equity		9.72		7.91		7.35	7.55		10.82
Average Earning Assets to Average Assets		90.66		90.34		89.25	89.81		89.71
Allowance for Loan Losses as % of Total Loans		1.41		1.37		1.30	1.15		0.95
Net Charge-offs as % of Average Loans (Annualized)		0.02		0.30		0.01	0.03		0.04
Average Stockholders' Equity to Average Assets		13.29		13.41		13.15	14.45		14.17
Tax Equivalent Yield on Average Earning Assets		3.72		3.58		3.72	4.38		4.63
Interest Expense/Average Earning Assets		0.34		0.43		0.53	0.92		1.01
Net Interest Margin (FTE) on Average Earning Assets		3.38		3.15		3.19	3.46		3.62
Efficiency Ratio				51.40					51.07
Elliciency Ratio		55.01		31.40		47.95	52.17		31.07

(Dollars In Thousands)	De	cember 31, 2020	, September 30, 2020		June 30, 2020	March 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
Commercial and industrial loans	\$	2,776,699	\$	2,875,331	\$ 2,898,329	\$ 2,199,226	\$ 2,109,879
Agricultural land, production and other loans to farmers		281,884		301,192	316,815	315,950	334,172
Real estate loans:							
Construction		484,723		622,084	640,560	643,674	787,568
Commercial real estate, non-owner occupied		2,220,949		2,098,589	2,097,767	2,118,148	1,902,692
Commercial real estate, owner occupied		958,501		931,815	919,254	921,491	909,695
Residential		1,234,741		1,146,406	1,145,187	1,121,556	1,143,217
Home equity		508,259		527,458	532,314	570,398	588,984
Individuals' loans for household and other personal expenditures		129,479		125,411	123,611	129,765	135,989
Public finance and other commercial loans		647,939		615,547	624,704	586,641	547,114
Loans		9,243,174		9,243,833	9,298,541	 8,606,849	 8,459,310
Allowance for loan losses		(130,648)		(126,726)	(121,119)	(99,454)	(80,284)
NET LOANS	\$	9,112,526	\$	9,117,107	\$ 9,177,422	\$ 8,507,395	\$ 8,379,026

DEPOSITS

(Dollars In Thousands)	D	December 31, September 30, 2020 2020		June 30, 2020		March 31, 2020	December 31, 2019		
Demand deposits	\$	6,821,152	\$	6,279,554	\$ 6,288,360	\$	5,293,200	\$	5,250,568
Savings deposits		3,661,713		3,518,286	3,278,156		2,962,821		2,896,177
Certificates and other time deposits of \$100,000 or more		346,194		467,610	607,474		694,062		736,843
Other certificates and time deposits		459,168		542,919	669,119		717,723		741,759
Brokered deposits		73,383		97,784	122,879		202,678		214,609
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$	11,361,610	\$	10,906,153	\$ 10,965,988	\$	9,870,484	\$	9,839,956

CONSOLIDATED AVERAGE BALANCE SHEET AND NET INTEREST MARGIN ANALYSIS (Dollars in Thousands)

For the Three Months Ended

	December 31, 2020						December 31, 2019						
	Av	Average Balance		Interest Income / Expense	Average Rate	Ave	erage Balance	Interest Income / Expense		Average Rate			
Assets:													
Interest-bearing deposits	\$	437,766	\$	139	0.13 %	\$	291,616	\$	1,203	1.65 %			
Federal Home Loan Bank stock		28,736		214	2.98		28,736		342	4.76			
Investment Securities: (1)													
Taxable		1,222,916		5,263	1.72		1,339,068		7,993	2.39			
Tax-Exempt (2)		1,734,081		15,261	3.52		1,176,851		11,386	3.87			
Total Investment Securities		2,956,997		20,524	2.78		2,515,919		19,379	3.08			
Loans held for sale		19,103		200	4.19		23,712		267	4.50			
Loans: (3)													
Commercial		6,925,491		73,530	4.25		6,111,179		81,374	5.33			
Real Estate Mortgage		911,042		9,482	4.16		916,247		11,256	4.91			
Installment		698,619		6,925	3.96		747,166		9,720	5.20			
Tax-Exempt (2)		686,049		6,854	4.00		560,379		5,913	4.22			
Total Loans		9,240,304		96,991	4.20		8,358,683		108,530	5.19			
Total Earning Assets	-	12,663,803		117,868	3.72 %		11,194,954		129,454	4.63 %			
Net unrealized gain (loss) on securities available for sale		62,666		,			31,979						
Allowance for loan losses		(130,317)					(80,491)						
Cash and cash equivalents		169,358					179,582						
Premises and equipment		114,013					113,333						
Other assets		1,088,524					1,039,682						
Total Assets	\$	13,968,047				\$	12,479,039						
Liabilities:													
Interest-bearing deposits:													
Interest-bearing deposits	\$	4,393,991	\$	3,888	0.35 %	\$	3,513,297	\$	9,077	1.03 %			
Money market deposits		2,051,985		1,164	0.23		1,529,156		4,054	1.06			
Savings deposits		1,613,886		634	0.16		1,406,548		2,149	0.61			
Certificates and other time deposits		961,187		1,823	0.76		1,736,058		8,794	2.03			
Total Interest-bearing Deposits		9,021,049		7,509	0.33		8,185,059		24,074	1.18			
Borrowings		683,068		3,404	1.99		669,756		4,163	2.49			
Total Interest-bearing Liabilities		9,704,117		10,913	0.45		8,854,815		28,237	1.28			
Noninterest-bearing deposits		2,261,991					1,741,735						
Other liabilities		145,043					113,641						
Total Liabilities		12,111,151					10,710,191						
Stockholders' Equity		1,856,896					1,768,848						
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	\$	13,968,047		10,913		\$	12,479,039		28,237				
Net Interest Income (FTE)			\$	106,955				\$	101,217				
Net Interest Spread (FTE) (4)			=		3.27 %					3.35 %			
Net Interest Margin (FTE):													
Interest Income (FTE) / Average Earning Assets					3.72 %					4.63 %			
Interest Expense / Average Earning Assets					0.34 %					1.01 %			
Net Interest Margin (FTE) (5)				•	3.38 %					3.62 %			

⁽¹⁾ Average balance of securities is computed based on the average of the historical amortized cost balances without the effects of the fair value adjustments. Annualized amounts are computed using a 30/360 day basis.

⁽²⁾ Tax-exempt securities and loans are presented on a fully taxable equivalent basis, using a marginal tax rate of 21 percent for 2020 and 2019. These totals equal \$4,644 and \$3,633 for the three months ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively.

⁽³⁾ Non accruing loans have been included in the average balances.

⁽⁴⁾ Net Interest Spread (FTE) is interest income expressed as a percentage of average earning assets minus interest expense expressed as a percentage of average interest-bearing liabilities.

⁽⁵⁾ Net Interest Margin (FTE) is interest income expressed as a percentage of average earning assets minus interest expense expressed as a percentage of average earning assets.

CONSOLIDATED AVERAGE BALANCE SHEET AND NET INTEREST MARGIN ANALYSIS

(Dollars in Thousands)

For the Twelve Months Ended

					For the Twelve	ve Months Ended							
			Dece	ember 31, 2020				De	cember 31, 2019				
		Average Balance		Interest Income / Expense	Average Rate		Average Balance		Interest Income / Expense	Average Rate			
Assets:													
Federal Funds Sold													
Interest-bearing deposits	\$	319,686	\$	938	0.29 %	\$	211,683	\$	4,225	2.00 %			
Federal Home Loan Bank stock		28,736		1,042	3.63		25,645		1,370	5.34			
Investment Securities: (1)													
Taxable		1,282,827		24,440	1.91		1,101,247		27,815	2.53			
Tax-Exempt (2)		1,440,913		53,596	3.72		987,006		40,070	4.06			
Total Investment Securities		2,723,740		78,036	2.87		2,088,253		67,885	3.25			
Loans held for sale		18,559		781	4.21		18,402		780	4.24			
Loans: (3)													
Commercial		6,755,215		286,773	4.25		5,631,146		306,139	5.44			
Real Estate Mortgage		889,083		40,002	4.50		811,188		37,782	4.66			
Installment		718,815		30,708	4.27		701,459		38,071	5.43			
Tax-Exempt (2)		669,483		27,194	4.06		527,995		22,238	4.21			
Total Loans		9,051,155		385,458	4.26		7,690,190		405,010	5.27			
Total Earning Assets		12,123,317		465,474	3.84 %		10,015,771		478,490	4.78 %			
Net unrealized gain on securities available for sale		59,639					17,676						
Allowance for loan losses		(110,963)					(81,000)						
Cash and cash equivalents		200,366					142,857						
Premises and equipment		113,642					99,343						
Other assets		1,080,268					896,673						
Total Assets	\$	13,466,269	,			\$	11,091,320						
Liabilities:	_					_							
Interest-bearing deposits:													
Interest-bearing deposits	\$	4,009,566	\$	20,239	0.50 %	\$	3,070,861	\$	33,921	1.10 %			
Money market deposits		1,769,478		7,810	0.44		1,300,064		14,111	1.09			
Savings deposits		1,534,069		3,641	0.24		1,242,468		9,464	0.76			
Certificates and other time deposits		1,346,967		20,050	1.49		1,673,292		34,089	2.04			
Total Interest-bearing Deposits		8,660,080		51,740	0.60	_	7,286,685		91,585	1.26			
Borrowings		768,238		14,641	1.91		644,729		17,160	2.66			
Total Interest-bearing Liabilities		9.428.318		66,381	0.70	_	7.931.414		108.745	1.37			
Noninterest-bearing deposits		2,068,026					1,495,949		,				
Other liabilities		144,790					94,342						
Total Liabilities	_	11,641,134					9,521,705						
Stockholders' Equity		1,825,135					1,569,615						
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	\$	13,466,269		66,381		\$	11,091,320		108,745				
	Ψ	.0,100,200	\$	399,093		<u> </u>	.1,001,020	\$	369.745				
Net Interest Income (FTE)			ψ	399,093	0.44.0/			<u>φ</u>	309,745	2 44 0/			
Net Interest Spread (FTE) (4)					3.14 %					3.41 %			
Net Interest Margin (FTE):													
Interest Income (FTE) / Average Earning Assets					3.84 %					4.78 %			
Interest Expense / Average Earning Assets					0.55 %					1.09 %			
Net Interest Margin (FTE) (5)				_	3.29 %					3.69 %			
				_					=				

⁽¹⁾ Average balance of securities is computed based on the average of the historical amortized cost balances without the effects of the fair value adjustments. Annualized amounts are computed using a 30/360 day basis.

⁽²⁾ Tax-exempt securities and loans are presented on a fully taxable equivalent basis, using a marginal tax rate of 21 percent for 2020 and 2019. These totals equal \$16,966 and \$13,085 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively.

(3) Non accruing loans have been included in the average balances.

⁽⁴⁾ Net Interest Spread (FTE) is interest income expressed as a percentage of average earning assets minus interest expense expressed as a percentage of average interest-bearing liabilities.

⁽⁵⁾ Net Interest Margin (FTE) is interest income expressed as a percentage of average earning assets minus interest expense expressed as a percentage of average earning assets.