

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 31, 2019

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)

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 Thursday, January 31, 2019, First Merchants Corporation will conduct a fourth quarter 2018 earnings conference call and web cast at 2:30 p.m. (ET). A copy of the slide presentation utilized on the conference call is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

ITEM 9.01 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS.

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) Exhibits.

Exhibit 99.1 [Slide presentation, utilized on January 31, 2019, during conference call and web cast 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: /s/ Mark K. Hardwick
Mark K. Hardwick
Executive Vice President,
Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer

Dated: January 31, 2019

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Slide presentation, utilized on January 31, 2019, during conference call and web cast by First Merchants Corporation.



First Merchants Corporation

NASDAQ: FRME

4th Quarter 2018 Earnings Highlights January 31, 2019

Michael C. Rechin
President
Chief Executive Officer

Mark K. Hardwick
Executive Vice President
Chief Financial Officer
Chief Operating Officer

Michael J. Stewart
Executive Vice President
Chief Banking Officer

John J. Martin
Executive Vice President
Chief Credit Officer



First Merchants Bank
Ranked #2 in 2019



Forward-Looking Statement

This presentation 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 forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements relating to 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 economic and business conditions; the existence or exacerbation of general geopolitical instability and uncertainty; the ability of First Merchants to integrate recent acquisitions and attract new customers; 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 undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement, whether written or oral, relating to the matters discussed in this presentation or press release. In addition, the company’s past results of operations do not necessarily indicate its anticipated future results.

NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES

These slides contain non-GAAP financial measures. For purposes of Regulation G, a non-GAAP financial measure is a numerical measure of the registrant’s historical or future financial performance, financial position or cash flows that excludes amounts, or is subject to adjustments that have the effect of excluding amounts, that are included in the most directly comparable measure calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP in the statement of income, balance sheet or statement of cash flows (or equivalent statements) of the issuer; or includes amounts, or is subject to adjustments that have the effect of including amounts, that are excluded from the most directly comparable measure so calculated and presented. In this regard, GAAP refers to generally accepted accounting principles in the United States. Pursuant to the requirements of Regulation G, First Merchants Corporation has provided reconciliations within the slides, as necessary, of the non-GAAP financial measure to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure.



Additional Information

Communications in this press release do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities or a solicitation of any proxy vote or approval. The proposed merger between First Merchants Corporation and MBT Financial Corporation will be submitted to MBT Financial Corporation shareholders for their consideration. In connection with the proposed merger, MBT Financial Corporation has provided its shareholders with a Proxy Statement, as well as other relevant documents concerning the proposed transaction. **SHAREHOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ THE PROXY STATEMENT REGARDING THE MERGER, AS WELL AS ANY OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION, TOGETHER WITH ALL AMENDMENTS OR SUPPLEMENTS TO THOSE DOCUMENTS, AS THEY CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION.**

MBT Financial Corporation and its directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the shareholders of MBT Financial Corporation in connection with the proposed merger. Additional information regarding the interests of those participants and other persons who may be deemed participants in the transaction may be obtained by reading the Proxy Statement regarding the proposed merger.



Full Year 2018 Performance

- Record Net Income of \$159.1 Million, a 65.6% increase over 2017
- Earnings per share of \$3.22, a 51.9% increase over 2017
- Total Assets of \$9.9 Billion; grew organically by 5.5% over 2017
- 1.64% ROAA; 11.84% ROAE; 50.21% Efficiency Ratio
- Organic Loan Growth of \$471 Million, a 7.0% growth rate
- Organic Deposit Growth of \$582 Million, an 8.1% growth rate
- Tangible Book Value increased to \$19.12 per share, or 12.7% over year-end 2017

“Record Level Results”



4th Quarter 2018 Highlights

- Earnings Per Share of \$.85, a 73.5% increase over 4Q2017
- \$41.7 Million of Net Income, a 71.1% increase over 4Q2017
- Winning marketplace execution delivering growth
 - Organic Loan Growth of \$138 Million, a 7.8% annualized growth rate
 - Organic Deposit Growth of \$121 Million, a 6.4% annualized growth rate

“Record Level Results”



Mark K. Hardwick

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



Total Assets

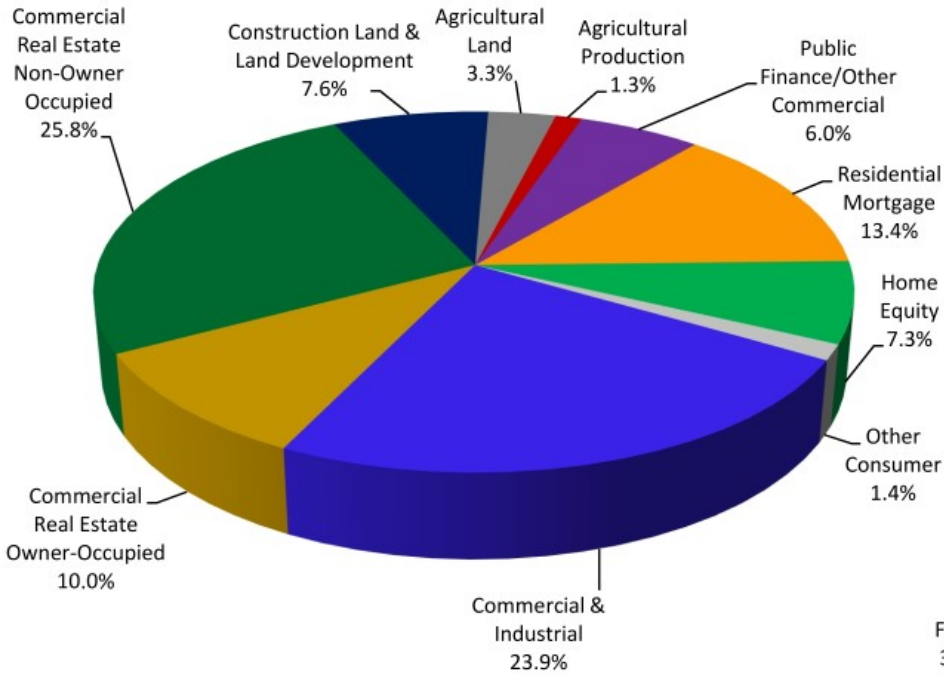
(\$ in Millions)	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
1. Investments	\$1,305	\$1,561	\$1,633
2. Loans	5,143	6,758 ¹	7,229
3. Allowance	(66)	(75)	(81)
4. Goodwill & Intangibles	259	477	470
5. BOLI	202	224	225
6. Other	<u>369</u>	<u>422</u>	<u>409</u>
7. Total Assets	<u>\$7,212</u>	<u>\$9,367</u>	<u>\$9,885</u>
Annualized Asset Growth	6.7%	29.9%	5.5%

¹ 2017 loans include acquired loans of \$225 from The Arlington Bank and \$725 from Independent Alliance Banks



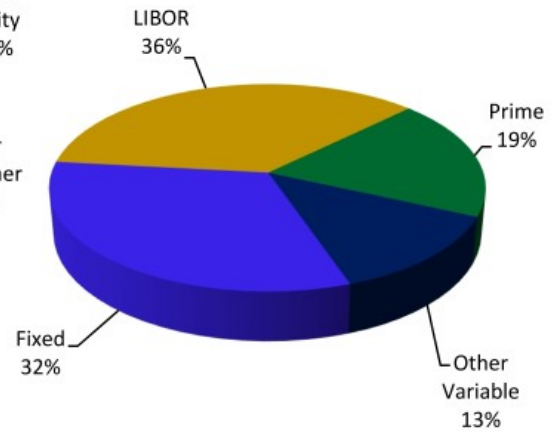
Loan and Yield Detail

(as of 12/31/2018)



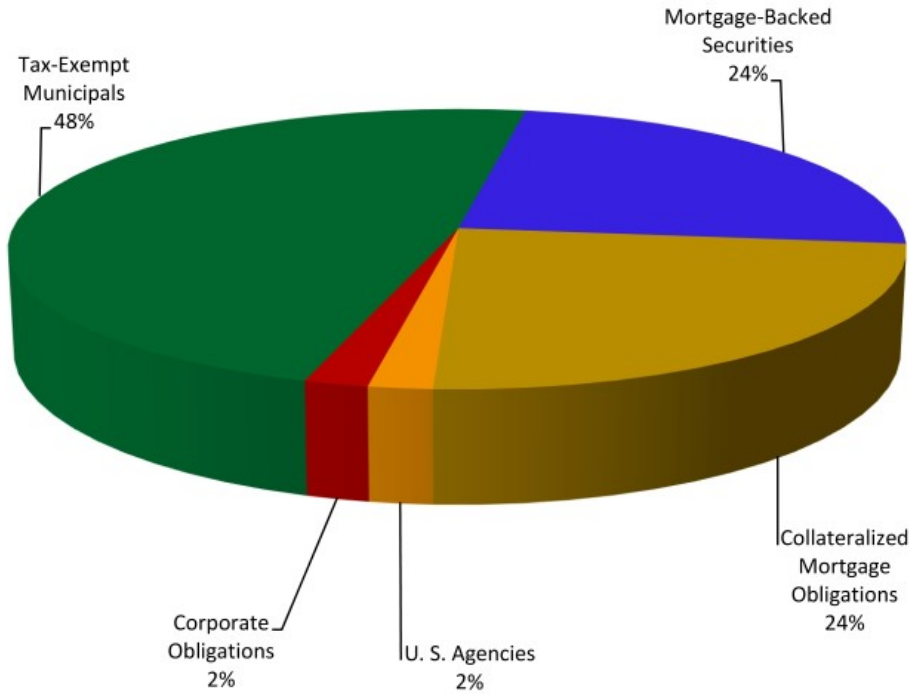
QTD Yield	=	5.41%
YTD Yield	=	5.16%
Total Loans	=	\$7.2 Billion

Variable	=	\$4.9 Billion
Fixed	=	\$2.3 Billion



Investment Portfolio

(as of 12/31/2018)



- \$1.6 Billion Portfolio
- Modified duration of 5.6 years
- Tax equivalent yield of 3.54%
- Net unrealized loss of \$8.0 Million



Total Liabilities and Capital

(\$ in Millions)

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
1. Customer Non-Maturity Deposits	\$4,428	\$5,741 ¹	\$6,268
2. Customer Time Deposits	747	1,051 ²	1,241
3. Brokered Deposits	381	381	246
4. Borrowings	572	701	538
5. Other Liabilities	60	57	51
6. Hybrid Capital	122	133	133
7. Common Equity	<u>902</u>	<u>1,303</u>	<u>1,408</u>
8. Total Liabilities and Capital	<u>\$7,212</u>	<u>\$9,367</u>	<u>\$9,885</u>

¹ 2017 includes acquired Non-Maturity Deposits of \$169 from The Arlington Bank and \$719 from Independent Alliance Banks

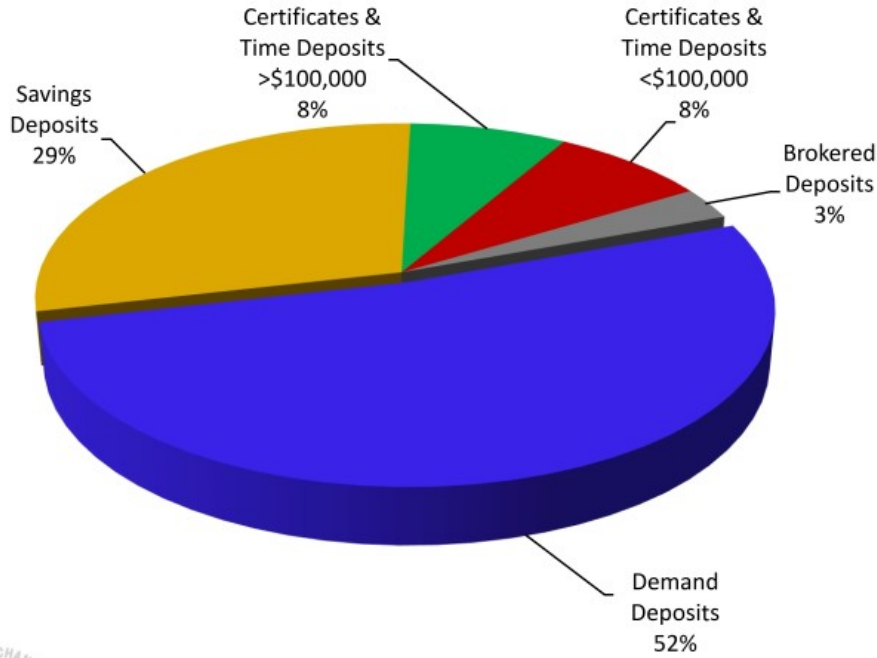
² 2017 includes acquired Time Deposits of \$84 from The Arlington Bank and \$143 from Independent Alliance Banks



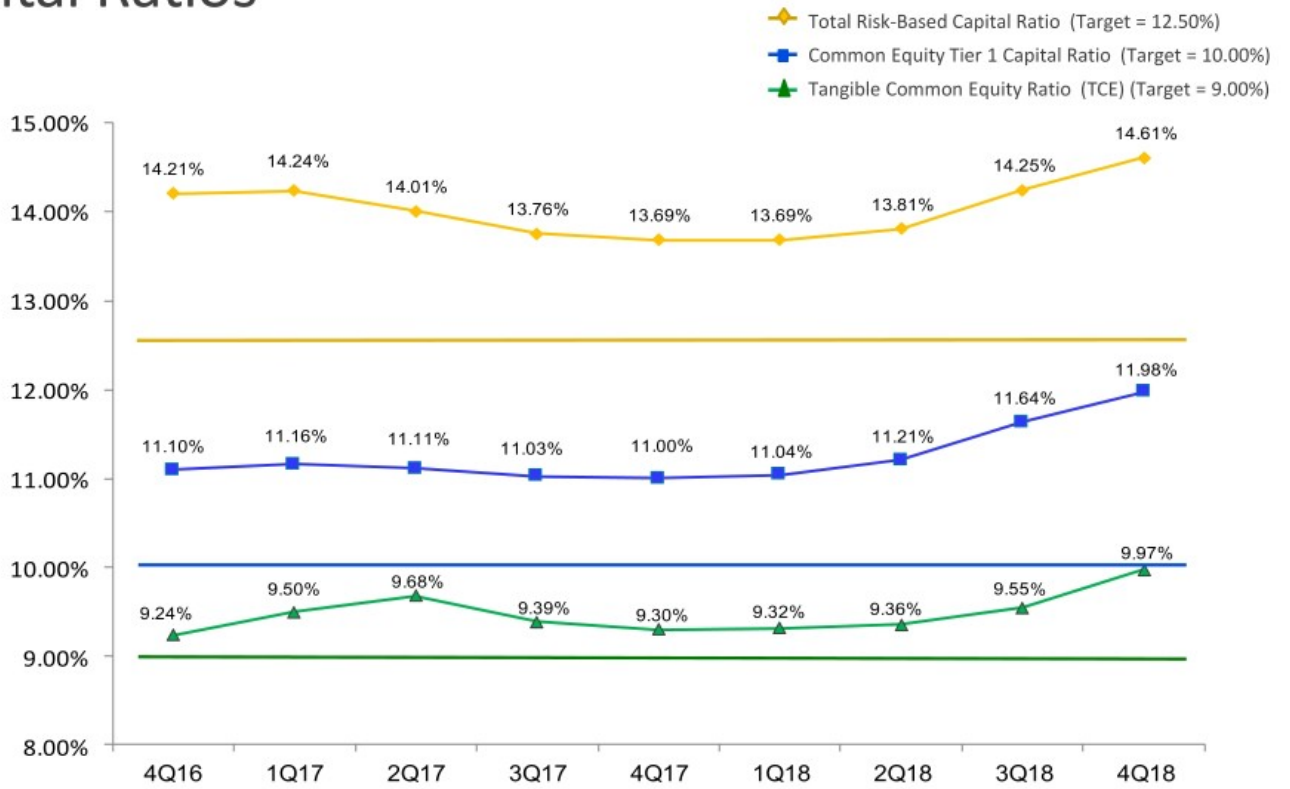
Deposit Detail

(as of 12/31/2018)

QTD Cost	=	1.04%
YTD Cost	=	.86%
Total	=	\$7.8 Billion

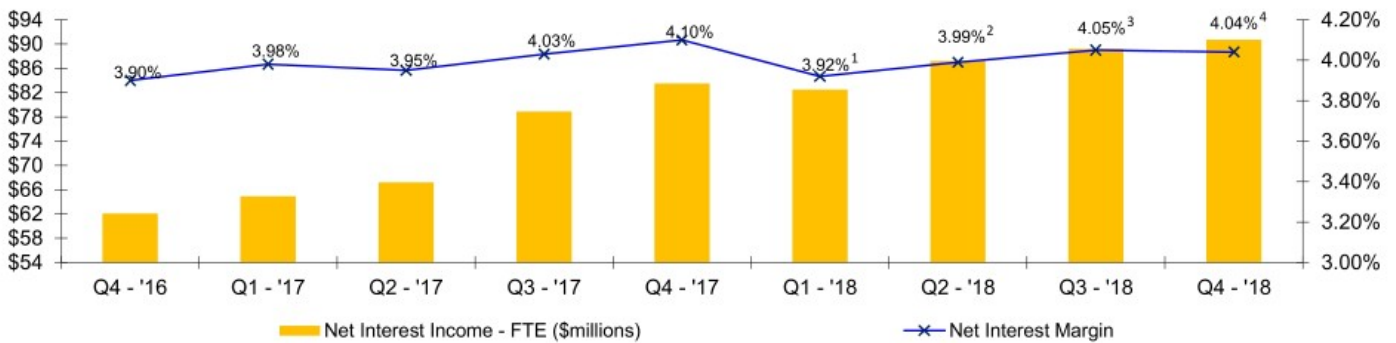


Capital Ratios



Net Interest Margin

	Q4 - '16	Q1 - '17	Q2 - '17	Q3 - '17	Q4 - '17	Q1 - '18	Q2 - '18	Q3 - '18	Q4 - '18
Net Interest Income - FTE (\$millions)	\$ 62.1	\$ 64.9	\$ 67.2	\$ 78.9	\$ 83.5	\$ 82.5	\$ 87.2	\$ 89.2	\$ 90.7
Fair Value Accretion	\$ 2.9	\$ 4.3	\$ 2.3	\$ 3.2	\$ 4.1	\$ 3.2	\$ 3.8	\$ 3.2	\$ 3.9
Tax Equivalent Yield on Earning Assets	4.32%	4.42%	4.44%	4.56%	4.67%	4.57% ¹	4.74% ²	4.88% ³	4.97% ⁴
Interest Expense/Average Earning Assets	0.42%	0.44%	0.49%	0.53%	0.57%	0.65%	0.75%	0.83%	0.93%
Net Interest Margin	3.90%	3.98%	3.95%	4.03%	4.10%	3.92% ¹	3.99% ²	4.05% ³	4.04% ⁴
Fair Value Accretion Effect	0.18%	0.26%	0.14%	0.17%	0.20%	0.15%	0.18%	0.15%	0.17%



- ¹ Reflects 13 bps impact of Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
- ² Reflects 12 bps impact of Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
- ³ Reflects 13 bps impact of Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
- ⁴ Reflects 13 bps impact of Tax Cuts and Jobs Act



Non-Interest Income

(\$ in Millions)	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
1. Service Charges on Deposit Accounts	\$17.8	\$ 18.7	\$ 21.0
2. Wealth Management Fees	12.6	14.7	14.9
3. Card Payment Fees	15.0	16.1	18.0
4. Cash Surrender Value of Life Ins	4.3	6.6	4.2
5. Gains on Sales of Mortgage Loans	7.1	7.6	7.0
6. Gains on Sales of Securities	3.4	2.6	4.3
7. Other	<u>5.0</u>	<u>4.7</u>	<u>7.1</u>
8. Total Non-Interest Income	<u>\$65.2</u>	<u>\$71.0</u>	<u>\$76.5</u>



Non-Interest Expense

(\$ in Millions)

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
1. Salary & Benefits	\$102.6	\$119.8	\$131.7
2. Premises & Equipment	29.5	30.1	32.7
3. Intangible Asset Amortization	3.9	5.6	6.7
4. Professional & Other Outside Services	6.5	12.8	8.2
5. OREO/Credit-Related Expense	2.9	1.9	1.5
6. FDIC Expense	3.0	2.6	2.9
7. Outside Data Processing	9.2	12.2	13.2
8. Marketing	3.0	3.7	4.7
9. Other	<u>16.7</u>	<u>16.9</u>	<u>18.4</u>
10. Total Non-Interest Expense	<u>\$177.3</u>	<u>\$ 205.6</u> ¹	<u>\$ 220.0</u>

¹ 2017 includes acquisition-related expenses of \$12.2 million



Earnings

(\$ in Millions)	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
1. Net Interest Income	\$226.5	\$ 277.3	\$ 338.8
2. Provision for Loan Losses	<u>(5.7)</u>	<u>(9.1)</u>	<u>(7.2)</u>
3. Net Interest Income after Provision	220.8	268.2	331.6
4. Non-Interest Income	65.2	71.0	76.5
5. Non-Interest Expense	<u>(177.3)</u>	<u>(205.6)</u>	<u>(220.0)</u>
6. Income before Income Taxes	108.7	133.6	188.1
7. Income Tax Expense	<u>(27.6)</u>	<u>(37.5)</u> ¹	<u>(29.0)</u> ²
8. Net Income Avail. for Distribution	<u>\$ 81.1</u>	<u>\$ 96.1</u>	<u>\$ 159.1</u>
9. EPS	\$ 1.98	\$ 2.12 ³	\$ 3.22
10. Efficiency Ratio	56.51%	54.56%	50.21%

¹2017 includes \$5.1 million of additional tax expense due to revaluing deferred taxes as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

²2018 reflects \$1.8 million net reduction to income tax expense resulting from an increase in Indiana state tax liability offset by the release of a valuation allowance on state deferred tax assets

³Acquisition-related expenses, the impact of tax reform, and pension settlement accounting reduced EPS by \$0.30 for 2017



Quarterly Earnings

(\$ in Millions)	<u>Q1-'18</u>	<u>Q2-'18</u>	<u>Q3-'18</u>	<u>Q4-'18</u>
1. Net Interest Income	\$79.9	\$84.6	\$86.5	\$87.8
2. Provision for Loan Losses	<u>(2.5)</u>	<u>(1.7)</u>	<u>(1.4)</u>	<u>(1.6)</u>
3. Net Interest Income after Provision	77.4	82.9	85.1	86.2
4. Non-Interest Income	19.6	18.2	19.5	19.2
5. Non-Interest Expense	<u>(53.7)</u>	<u>(53.5)</u>	<u>(55.0)</u>	<u>(57.8)</u>
6. Income before Income Taxes	43.3	47.6	49.6	47.6
7. Income Tax Expense	<u>(6.6)</u>	<u>(8.0)</u>	<u>(8.5)</u>	<u>(5.9)¹</u>
8. Net Income Avail. for Distribution	<u>\$ 36.7</u>	<u>\$ 39.6</u>	<u>\$ 41.1</u>	<u>\$ 41.7</u>
9. EPS	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.83	\$ 0.85
10. Efficiency Ratio	51.33%	49.32%	49.25%	50.97%

¹2018 reflects \$1.8 million net reduction to income tax expense resulting from an increase in Indiana state tax liability offset by the release of a valuation allowance on state deferred tax assets



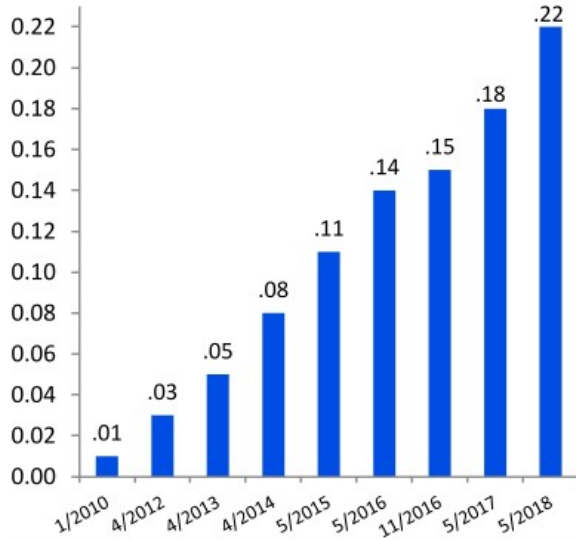
Per Share Results

<u>2017</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Earnings Per Share	\$.56	\$.57	\$.50	\$.49	\$ 2.12
2. Dividends	\$.15	\$.18	\$.18	\$.18	\$.69
3. Tangible Book Value	\$16.49	\$16.97	\$16.62	\$16.96	
<u>2018</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Earnings Per Share	\$.74	\$.80	\$.83	\$.85	\$ 3.22
2. Dividends	\$.18	\$.22	\$.22	\$.22	\$.84
3. Tangible Book Value	\$17.14	\$17.71	\$18.16	\$19.12	



Dividends and Tangible Book Value

Quarterly Dividends



2.57% Forward Dividend Yield
Equals 26.1% Dividend Payout Ratio

Tangible Book Value



Compound Annual Growth Rate of 9.56%



John J. Martin

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF CREDIT OFFICER



Loan Portfolio Trends

(\$ in Millions)	2016	2017	Q3-'18	2018	Change Linked Quarter		Change 2018 Over 2017	
					\$	%	\$	%
1. Commercial & Industrial	\$ 1,195	\$ 1,494	\$ 1,656	\$ 1,727	\$ 71	4.3%	\$ 233	15.6%
2. Construction, Land and Land Development	419	612	669	546	(123)	(18.4%)	(66)	(10.8%)
3. CRE Non-Owner Occupied	1,272	1,618	1,761	1,865	104	5.9%	247	15.3%
4. CRE Owner Occupied	531	700	700	725	25	3.6%	25	3.6%
5. Agricultural Production	80	122	88	92	4	4.5%	(30)	(24.6%)
6. Agricultural Land	149	244	239	242	3	1.3%	(2)	(0.8%)
7. Public Finance/Other Commercial	<u>258</u>	<u>397</u>	<u>394</u>	<u>433</u>	<u>39</u>	9.9%	<u>36</u>	9.1%
8. Total Commercial Loans	3,904	5,187	5,507	5,630	123	2.2%	443	8.5%
9. Residential Mortgage	742	970	968	970	2	0.2%	0	0.0%
10. Home Equity	419	514	517	528	11	2.1%	14	2.7%
11. Other Consumer	<u>78</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>2</u>	2.0%	<u>14</u>	16.1%
12. Total Residential Mortgage and Consumer Loans	<u>1,239</u>	<u>1,571</u>	<u>1,584</u>	<u>1,599</u>	<u>15</u>	0.9%	<u>28</u>	1.8%
13. Total Loans	\$ 5,143	\$ 6,758	\$ 7,091	\$ 7,229	\$ 138	1.9%	\$ 471	7.0%
Construction Concentration ¹	52%	60%	62%	50%				
Investment RE Concentration ¹	211%	219%	224%	221%				

¹As a percent of Risk Based Capital


Asset Quality Summary

(\$ in Millions)

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Q3-'18</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>Linked Quarter</u>		<u>Change</u> <u>2018 Over 2017</u>	
					<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>
1. Non-Accrual Loans	\$ 30.0	\$ 28.7	\$ 20.4	\$ 26.1	\$ 5.7	27.9%	\$ (2.6)	(9.1%)
2. Other Real Estate	9.0	10.4	8.9	2.2	(6.7)	(75.3%)	(8.2)	(78.8%)
3. Renegotiated Loans	4.7	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.2	22.2%	0.1	10.0%
4. 90+ Days Delinquent Loans	0.1	0.9	0.1	1.9	1.8	1,800.0%	1.0	111.1%
5. Total NPAs & 90+ Days Delinquent	\$ 43.8	\$ 41.0	\$ 30.3	\$ 31.3	\$ 1.0	3.3%	\$ (9.7)	(23.7%)
6. Total NPAs & 90+ Days/Loans & ORE	0.9%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%				
7. Classified Assets	\$ 174.1	\$ 153.1	\$ 174.2	\$ 173.2	\$ (1.0)	(0.6%)	\$ 20.1	13.1%
8. Specific Reserves	\$ 0.9	\$ 1.6	\$ 0.4	\$ 1.9	\$ 1.5	375.0%	\$ 0.3	18.8%



Non-Performing Asset Reconciliation

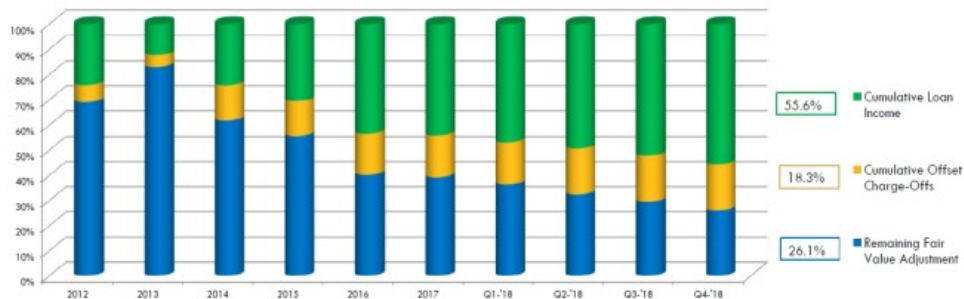
(\$ in Millions)

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
1. Beginning Balance NPAs & 90+ Days Delinquent	\$ 51.5	\$ 43.8	\$ 41.0
<u>Non-Accrual</u>			
2. Add: New Non-Accruals	24.6	30.1	24.2
3. Less: To Accrual/Payoff/Renegotiated	(17.0)	(18.3)	(18.2)
4. Less: To OREO	(1.6)	(8.1)	(0.6)
5. Less: Charge-offs	<u>(7.4)</u>	<u>(5.0)</u>	<u>(8.0)</u>
6. Increase / (Decrease): Non-Accrual Loans	(1.4)	(1.3)	(2.6)
<u>Other Real Estate Owned (ORE)</u>			
7. Add: New ORE Properties	1.6	8.1	0.6
8. Less: ORE Sold	(8.2)	(5.6)	(8.2)
9. Less: ORE Losses (write-downs)	<u>(1.7)</u>	<u>(1.1)</u>	<u>(0.6)</u>
10. Increase / (Decrease): ORE	(8.3)	1.4	(8.2)
11. Increase / (Decrease): 90+ Days Delinquent	(0.8)	0.8	1.0
12. Increase / (Decrease): Renegotiated Loans	<u>2.8</u>	<u>(3.7)</u>	<u>0.1</u>
13. Total NPAs & 90+ Days Delinquent Change	<u>(7.7)</u>	<u>(2.8)</u>	<u>(9.7)</u>
14. Ending Balance NPAs & 90+ Days Delinquent	\$ 43.8	\$ 41.0	\$ 31.3



ALLL and Fair Value Summary

(\$ in Millions)	<u>Q4-'17</u>	<u>Q1-'18</u>	<u>Q2-'18</u>	<u>Q3-'18</u>	<u>Q4-'18</u>
1. Beginning Allowance for Loan Losses (ALLL)	\$ 73.4	\$ 75.0	\$ 76.4	\$ 77.5	\$ 78.4
2. Net Charge-offs (Recoveries)	0.2	1.1	0.6	0.5	(0.5)
3. Provision Expense	<u>1.8</u>	<u>2.5</u>	<u>1.7</u>	<u>1.4</u>	<u>1.7</u>
4. Ending Allowance for Loan Losses (ALLL)	\$ 75.0	\$ 76.4	\$ 77.5	\$ 78.4	\$ 80.6
5. ALLL/Non-Accrual Loans	261.2%	277.9%	385.0%	383.9%	308.1%
6. ALLL/Non-Purchased Loans	1.36%	1.32%	1.28%	1.28%	1.26%
7. ALLL/Loans	1.11%	1.11%	1.09%	1.11%	1.11%
8. Fair Value Adjustment (FVA)	\$ 46.3	\$ 43.1	\$ 37.2	\$ 33.9	\$ 30.0
9. Total ALLL plus FVA	121.3	119.5	114.7	112.3	110.6
10. Purchased Loans plus FVA	1,304.7	1,179.8	1,059.1	979.2	874.3
11. FVA/Purchased Loans plus FVA	3.55%	3.65%	3.51%	3.46%	3.44%



Portfolio Summary

- 4th quarter loans increased 1.9%, or 7.8% annualized. Growth in CRE, C&I and public finance.
- NPAs & 90+ days remained low at 0.4% of loans and ORE.
- 4th quarter net recovery of \$500,000.
- For the year, net charge-offs of \$1.7 million with provision expense of \$7.2 million supporting organic loan growth.
- ALLL of 1.11% and 1.26% to total loans and non-purchased loans, respectively.



Michael C. Rechin

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

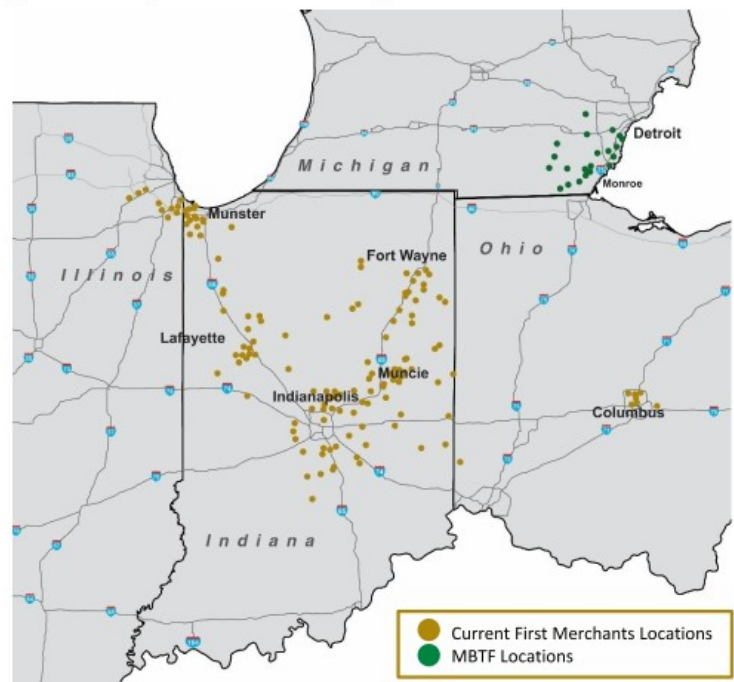


A Leading Midwest Banking Franchise

Crossing \$10 Billion with Strategic Entry into Michigan

Pro Forma Highlights¹

Ticker:	FRME
Headquarters:	Muncie, IN
Founded:	1893
Banking Centers:	134
Assets:	\$11.1 Billion
Loans:	\$7.8 Billion
Deposits:	\$8.7 Billion



¹Balance sheet figures as of 6/30/18 and do not include any merger related adjustments

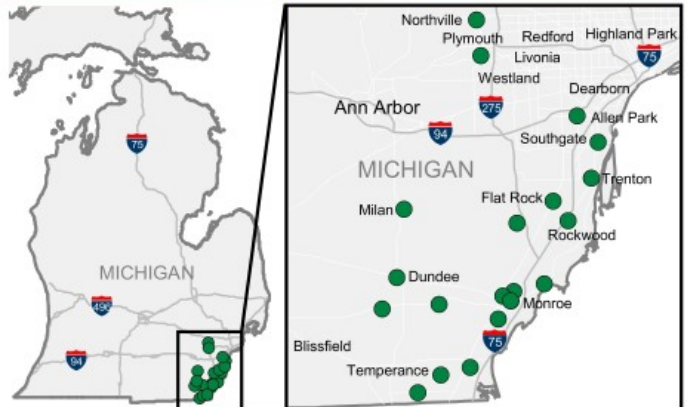


Overview of MBT Financial Corporation

Company Highlights

- Headquartered in Monroe, Michigan
- Founded in 1858
- Operates 20 Banking Centers
- Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2018
 - Assets: \$1.3 Billion
 - Loans: \$741 Million
 - Deposits: \$1.1 Billion (89% non-maturity)
 - Loans / Deposits: 65%
 - 9.10% TCE/TA
 - 0.91% NPAs/Assets
- Income Statement for the quarter ending June 30, 2018
 - ROAA: 1.51% / ROATCE: 16.59%
 - Efficiency Ratio: 61.8%
 - Net Interest Margin: 3.63%
 - Cost of Interest Bearing Deposits: 0.18%

Geographic Footprint



Deposit Market Share by County

County	Market Rank	Branches	Deposits (\$000)	Mkt. Share (%)	% of Franchise
Monroe, MI	1	15*	\$998,139	50.1%	86.9%
Wayne, MI	14	6	\$150,913	0.3%	13.1%

Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence and FDIC Summary of Deposits as of June 30, 2018.
*Includes one non-banking center



FMC Strategy and Tactics Overview

Looking Forward . . .

- Manage market presence and our core banking business. Continue organic growth protocol.
- Optimize our retail and commercial deposit strategy... products and pricing.
- Cross \$10 Billion with the acquisition of MBT Financial Corporation and organic growth in the 1Q2019.
- Implement integration schedule and marketing plan for Michigan entry.
- *Forbes Magazine* recognition as #2 Ranking in “*America’s Best Banks*”.

“Responsive, Knowledgeable, High-Performing”



Contact Information

First Merchants Corporation common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol FRME.

Additional information can be found at

www.FIRSTMERCHANTS.COM

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Appendix



Appendix – Non-GAAP Reconciliation

CAPITAL RATIOS (dollars in thousands):

	4Q16	1Q17	2Q17	3Q17	4Q17	1Q18	2Q18	3Q18	4Q18
Total Risk-Based Capital Ratio									
Total Stockholders' Equity (GAAP)	901,657	929,470	1,035,116	1,283,120	1,303,463	1,313,073	1,340,328	1,361,426	1,408,260
Adjust for Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Income) Loss	13,581	3,722	(1,384)	6,358	3,534	21,725	24,868	35,409	21,422
Less: Preferred Stock	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)
Add: Qualifying Capital Securities	55,415	55,474	55,534	65,864	65,919	65,975	66,030	66,086	66,141
Less: Tier 1 Capital Deductions	(376)	(80)	(166)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Less: Disallowed Goodwill and Intangible Assets	(249,104)	(250,493)	(300,307)	(462,080)	(464,066)	(467,518)	(466,063)	(464,658)	(463,525)
Less: Disallowed Deferred Tax Assets	(564)	(320)	(665)	-	-	(2,594)	(2,104)	(1,111)	-
Total Tier 1 Capital (Regulatory)	\$ 720,484	\$ 737,648	\$ 788,003	\$ 893,137	\$ 908,725	\$ 930,536	\$ 962,934	\$ 997,027	\$ 1,032,173
Qualifying Subordinated Debentures	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000
Allowance for Loan Losses includible in Tier 2 Capital	66,037	68,225	70,471	73,354	75,032	76,420	77,543	78,406	80,552
Total Risk-Based Capital (Regulatory)	\$ 851,521	\$ 870,873	\$ 923,474	\$ 1,031,491	\$ 1,048,757	\$ 1,071,956	\$ 1,105,477	\$ 1,140,433	\$ 1,177,725
Net Risk-Weighted Assets (Regulatory)	\$ 5,993,381	\$ 6,114,112	\$ 6,592,710	\$ 7,497,321	\$ 7,660,604	\$ 7,831,727	\$ 8,002,666	\$ 8,001,191	\$ 8,060,882
Total Risk-Based Capital Ratio (Regulatory)	14.21%	14.24%	14.01%	13.76%	13.69%	13.69%	13.81%	14.25%	14.61%
Common Equity Tier 1 Capital Ratio									
Total Tier 1 Capital (Regulatory)	\$ 720,484	\$ 737,648	\$ 788,003	\$ 893,137	\$ 908,725	\$ 930,536	\$ 962,934	\$ 997,027	\$ 1,032,173
Less: Qualified Capital Securities	(55,415)	(55,474)	(55,534)	(65,864)	(65,919)	(65,975)	(66,030)	(66,086)	(66,141)
Add: Additional Tier 1 Capital Deductions	376	80	166	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Equity Tier 1 Capital (Regulatory)	\$ 665,445	\$ 682,254	\$ 732,635	\$ 827,273	\$ 842,806	\$ 864,561	\$ 896,904	\$ 930,941	\$ 966,032
Net Risk-Weighted Assets (Regulatory)	\$ 5,993,381	\$ 6,114,112	\$ 6,592,710	\$ 7,497,321	\$ 7,660,604	\$ 7,831,727	\$ 8,002,666	\$ 8,001,191	\$ 8,060,882
Common Equity Tier 1 Capital Ratio (Regulatory)	11.10%	11.16%	11.11%	11.03%	11.00%	11.04%	11.21%	11.64%	11.98%

¹ Includes net unrealized gains or losses on securities available for sale, net gains or losses on cash flow hedges, and amounts resulting from the application of the applicable accounting guidance for defined benefit and other postretirement plans.



Appendix – Non-GAAP Reconciliation

TANGIBLE COMMON EQUITY RATIO (dollars in thousands):

	4Q16	1Q17	2Q17	3Q17	4Q17	1Q18	2Q18	3Q18	4Q18
Total Stockholders' Equity (GAAP)	\$ 901,657	\$ 929,470	\$ 1,035,116	\$ 1,283,120	\$ 1,303,463	\$ 1,313,073	\$ 1,340,328	\$ 1,361,426	\$ 1,408,260
Less: Preferred Stock	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)
Less: Intangible Assets	(258,866)	(257,963)	(309,686)	(478,558)	(476,503)	(474,777)	(473,059)	(471,409)	(469,784)
Tangible Common Equity (non-GAAP)	\$ 642,666	\$ 671,382	\$ 725,305	\$ 804,437	\$ 826,835	\$ 838,171	\$ 867,144	\$ 889,892	\$ 938,351
Total Assets (GAAP)	\$ 7,211,611	\$ 7,326,193	\$ 7,805,029	\$ 9,049,403	\$ 9,367,478	\$ 9,472,796	\$ 9,734,715	\$ 9,787,282	\$ 9,884,716
Less: Intangible Assets	(258,866)	(257,963)	(309,686)	(478,558)	(476,503)	(474,777)	(473,059)	(471,409)	(469,784)
Tangible Assets (non-GAAP)	\$ 6,952,745	\$ 7,068,230	\$ 7,495,343	\$ 8,570,845	\$ 8,890,975	\$ 8,998,019	\$ 9,261,656	\$ 9,315,873	\$ 9,414,932
Tangible Common Equity Ratio (non-GAAP)	9.24%	9.50%	9.68%	9.39%	9.30%	9.32%	9.36%	9.55%	9.97%

TANGIBLE COMMON EQUITY PER SHARE (dollars in thousands):

	4Q10	4Q11	4Q12	4Q13	4Q14	4Q15	4Q16	1Q17	2Q17	3Q17	4Q17	1Q18	2Q18	3Q18	4Q18
Total Stockholders' Equity (GAAP)	\$ 454,408	\$ 514,467	\$ 552,236	\$ 634,923	\$ 726,827	\$ 850,509	\$ 901,657	\$ 929,470	\$ 1,035,116	\$ 1,283,120	\$ 1,303,463	\$ 1,313,073	\$ 1,340,328	\$ 1,361,426	\$ 1,408,260
Less: Preferred Stock	(67,880)	(90,783)	(90,908)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)
Less: Intangible Assets	(154,019)	(150,471)	(149,529)	(202,767)	(218,755)	(259,764)	(258,866)	(257,963)	(309,686)	(478,558)	(476,503)	(474,777)	(473,059)	(471,409)	(469,784)
Tax Benefit	2,907	2,224	2,249	4,973	6,085	6,278	5,930	5,659	6,941	12,510	6,788	6,043	5,690	5,351	5,017
Tangible Common Equity, Net of Tax (non-GAAP)	\$ 235,416	\$ 275,437	\$ 314,048	\$ 437,004	\$ 514,032	\$ 596,898	\$ 648,596	\$ 677,041	\$ 732,246	\$ 816,947	\$ 833,623	\$ 844,214	\$ 872,834	\$ 895,243	\$ 943,368
Shares Outstanding	25,574,251	28,559,707	28,692,616	35,921,761	37,669,948	40,664,258	40,912,697	41,047,543	43,153,509	49,140,594	49,158,238	49,243,096	49,280,188	49,304,542	49,349,800
Tangible Common Equity per Share (non-GAAP)	\$ 9.21	\$ 9.64	\$ 10.95	\$ 12.17	\$ 13.65	\$ 14.68	\$ 15.85	\$ 16.49	\$ 16.97	\$ 16.62	\$ 16.96	\$ 17.14	\$ 17.71	\$ 18.16	\$ 19.12



Appendix – Non-GAAP Reconciliation

EFFICIENCY RATIO (dollars in thousands):

	2016	2017	1Q18	2Q18	3Q18	4Q18	2018
Non Interest Expense (GAAP)	\$ 177,359	\$ 205,556	\$ 53,687	\$ 53,504	\$ 55,022	\$ 57,738	\$ 219,951
Less: Intangible Asset Amortization	(3,910)	(5,647)	(1,726)	(1,718)	(1,650)	(1,625)	(6,719)
Less: OREO and Foreclosure Expenses	(2,877)	(1,903)	(402)	(362)	(455)	(251)	(1,470)
Adjusted Non Interest Expense (non-GAAP)	170,572	198,006	51,559	51,424	52,917	55,862	211,762
Net Interest Income (GAAP)	226,473	277,284	79,916	84,571	86,486	87,884	338,857
Plus: Fully Taxable Equivalent Adjustment	13,541	17,270	2,584	2,625	2,726	2,796	10,732
Net Interest Income on a Fully Taxable Equivalent Basis (non-GAAP)	240,014	294,554	82,500	87,196	89,212	90,680	349,589
Non Interest Income (GAAP)	65,203	71,009	19,561	18,191	19,527	19,180	76,459
Less: Investment Securities Gains (Losses)	(3,389)	(2,631)	(1,609)	(1,122)	(1,285)	(253)	(4,269)
Adjusted Non Interest Income (non-GAAP)	61,814	68,378	17,952	17,069	18,242	18,927	72,190
Adjusted Revenue (non-GAAP)	301,828	362,932	100,452	104,265	107,454	109,607	421,779
Efficiency Ratio (non-GAAP)	56.51%	54.56%	51.33%	49.32%	49.25%	50.97%	50.21%

FORWARD DIVIDEND YIELD

	4Q18
Most recent quarter's dividend per share	\$ 0.22
Most recent quarter's dividend per share - Annualized	\$ 0.88
Stock Price at 12/31/18	\$ 34.27
Forward Dividend Yield	2.57%

DIVIDEND PAYOUT RATIO

	2018
Dividends per share	\$ 0.84
Earnings Per Share	\$ 3.22
Dividend Payout Ratio	26.1%



Appendix – Non-GAAP Reconciliation

CONSTRUCTION AND INVESTMENT REAL ESTATE CONCENTRATIONS (dollars in thousands):

	2016		2017		3Q18		2018	
Total Risk-Based Capital (Subsidiary Bank Only)								
Total Stockholders' Equity (GAAP)	\$	973,641	\$	1,404,303	\$	1,436,173	\$	1,456,220
Adjust for Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Income) Loss ¹		9,701		763		33,302		19,031
Less: Preferred Stock		(125)		(125)		(125)		(125)
Less: Tier 1 Capital Deductions		-		-		-		-
Less: Disallowed Goodwill and Intangible Assets		(248,656)		(463,618)		(464,210)		(463,076)
Less: Disallowed Deferred Tax Assets		-		-		(965)		-
Total Tier 1 Capital (Regulatory)		734,561		941,323		1,004,175		1,012,050
Allowance for Loan Losses includible in Tier 2 Capital		66,037		75,032		78,406		80,552
Total Risk-Based Capital (Regulatory)	\$	800,598	\$	1,016,355	\$	1,082,581	\$	1,092,602
Construction, Land and Land Development Loans	\$	418,703	\$	612,219	\$	668,608	\$	545,729
Concentration as a % of the Bank's Risk-Based Capital		52%		60%		62%		50%
Construction, Land and Land Development Loans	\$	418,703	\$	612,219	\$	668,608	\$	545,729
Investment Real Estate Loans		1,272,415		1,617,943		1,760,714		1,865,544
Total Construction and Investment RE Loans	\$	1,691,118	\$	2,230,162	\$	2,429,322	\$	2,411,273
Concentration as a % of the Bank's Risk-Based Capital		211%		219%		224%		221%

¹ Includes net unrealized gains or losses on securities available for sale, net gains or losses on cash flow hedges, and amounts resulting from the application of the applicable accounting guidance for defined benefit and other postretirement plans.

ALLOWANCE AS A PERCENTAGE OF NON-PURCHASED LOANS (dollars in thousands):

	4Q17		1Q18		2Q18		3Q18		4Q18	
Loans Held for Sale (GAAP)	\$	7,216	\$	4,469	\$	2,046	\$	3,022	\$	4,778
Loans (GAAP)		6,751,199		6,901,696		7,081,059		7,088,071		7,224,467
Total Loans		6,758,415		6,906,165		7,083,105		7,091,093		7,229,245
Less: Purchased Loans		(1,258,386)		(1,136,711)		(1,022,160)		(945,330)		(844,224)
Non-Purchased Loans (non-GAAP)	\$	5,500,029	\$	5,769,454	\$	6,060,945	\$	6,145,763	\$	6,385,021
Allowance for Loan Losses (GAAP)	\$	75,032	\$	76,420	\$	77,543	\$	78,406	\$	80,552
Fair Value Adjustment (FVA) (GAAP)		46,304		43,121		37,221		33,905		30,054
Allowance plus FVA (non-GAAP)	\$	121,336	\$	119,541	\$	114,764	\$	112,311	\$	110,606
Purchased Loans (GAAP)	\$	1,258,386	\$	1,136,711	\$	1,022,160	\$	945,330	\$	844,224
Fair Value Adjustment (FVA) (GAAP)		46,304		43,121		37,221		33,905		30,054
Purchased Loans plus FVA (non-GAAP)	\$	1,304,690	\$	1,179,832	\$	1,059,381	\$	979,235	\$	874,278
Allowance as a Percentage of Non-Purchased Loans (non-GAAP)		1.36%		1.32%		1.28%		1.28%		1.26%
FVA as a Percentage of Purchased Loans plus FVA (non-GAAP)		3.55%		3.65%		3.51%		3.46%		3.44%



