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)

Title of Each Class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, \$0.125 stated value per share	FRME	Nasdaq Global Select Market
	•	

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 \Box

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 28, 2021, First Merchants Corporation will conduct a fourth quarter 2020 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 Exhibit 104 Slide Presentation, utilitzed on January 28, 2021, during conference call and web cast by First Merchants Corporation Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

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.

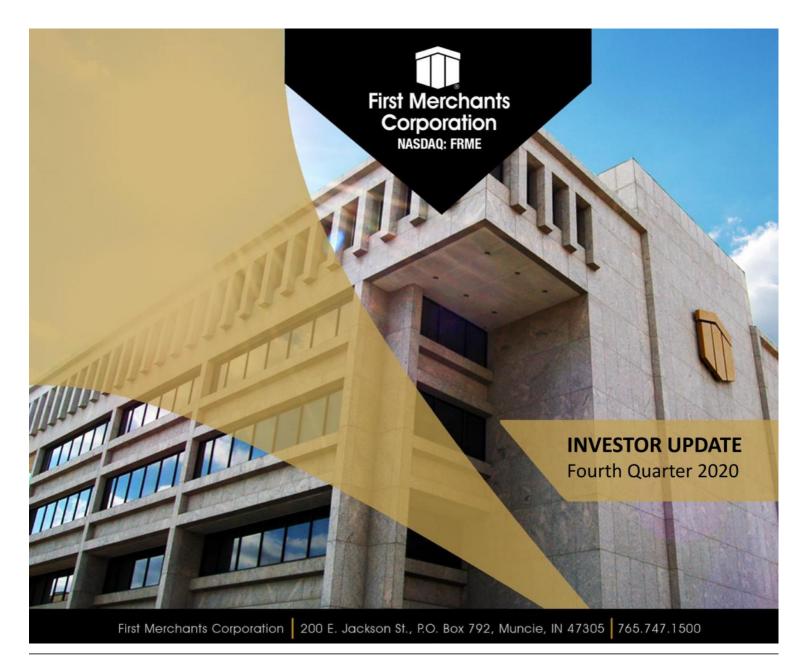
First Merchants Corporation (Registrant)

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

Dated: January 28, 2021

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit</u> Exhibit 99.1 Exhibit 104 Description Slide Presentation, utilitzed on January 28, 2021, during conference call and web cast by First Merchants Corporation Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)



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' 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 effects of a pandemic or other unforeseeable event; the ability of First Merchants to integrate recent acquisitions and attract new customers; possible changes in monetary and fiscal policies, and laws and regulations; 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; continue availability of persis and prudent declaration of dividends; changes in market, economic, operational, liquidity, credit and interest rate risk associated with the First Merchants' dusiness; and 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; continue availability of persi

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.

Executive Management Team



Mark Hardwick

Chief Executive Officer

Mark K. Hardwick currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of First Merchants Corporation and First Merchants Bank. Mark joined I Merchants in November of 1997 as Corporate Controller and was promoted to Chief Financial Officer in April of 2002. In 2016, Mark's tit to include Chief Operating Officer, overseeing the leadership responsibilities for finance, operations, technology, risk, legal, and facilities corporation. Prior to joining First Merchants Corporation, Mark served as a senior accountant with BKD, LLP in Indianapolis. Mark is a graduate of Ball State University with a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor's degree in Accounting. He is also a cer accountant and a graduate of the Stonier School of Banking.





33 Yrs

FMB: 24 Yrs

Banking:

24 Yrs

President Mike Stewart currently serves as President for First Merchants Corporation and First Merchants Bank overseeing the Commercial, Privat and Consumer Lines of Business for the Bank. Mike joined the bank in 2008 as Chief Banking Officer. Prior to joining First Merchants, Mi 18 years with National City Bank having served as Chief Credit Officer of the Indiana Bank. Mike has a Master of Business Administration Butler University and a Bachelor's degree in Finance from Millikin University.



FMB: 14 Yrs Banking: 32 Yrs

FMB:

6 Yrs

Banking:

18 Yrs

Chief Credit Officer

John Martin

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John Martin currently serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer of First Merchants Corporation overseeing the Comme Small Business and Consumer Credit functions, as well as the Mortgage Line of Business. Prior to joining First Merchants, John spent 18 with National City Bank in various sales and senior credit roles. John is a graduate of Indiana University where he earned a Bachelor of *A* Economics. He also holds a Master of Business Administration in Finance from Case Western Reserve University.



Michele Kawiecki Chief Financial Officer

Michele Kawiecki currently serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for First Merchants Corporation and First Merch Michele joined First Merchants in 2015 as Director of Finance. Prior to joining First Merchants, Michele spent 12 years with UMB Financ Corporation in Kansas City, Missouri having served as Senior Vice President of Capital Management and Assistant Treasurer; Director of (Development and the Enterprise Project Management Office; and Chief Risk Officer. Prior to UMB, she worked for PriceWaterhouseCoop an Audit Manager. Michele earned both a Master of Science in Accounting and an Executive Master of Business Administration from the of Missouri-Kansas City and a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Dakota Wesleyan University.

First Merchants Corporation (NASDAQ: FRME)



Financial Highlights as of 12/31/20

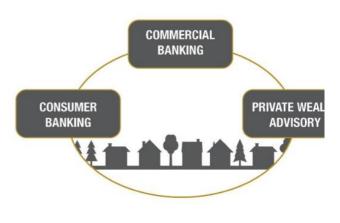
\$14.1 Billion	YTD ROAA:	1.
Total Assets	YTD Return on TCE	12.
\$9.2 Billion	TCE/TA:	9.
Total Loans	Market Cap	\$2
\$11.4 Billion	Dividend Yield:	2.
	Price / Tangible Book:	1
\$4.3 Billion Assets Under Management	Price / 2021 Est. EPS:	1

Diverse & Complementary Lines of Busines

Full-Service Banking Footprint with 124 Branches Muncie • Indianapolis • Lafayette • Fort Wayne • Munster Columbus OH • Monroe MI







Strategy & Key Lines of Business

Our Vision

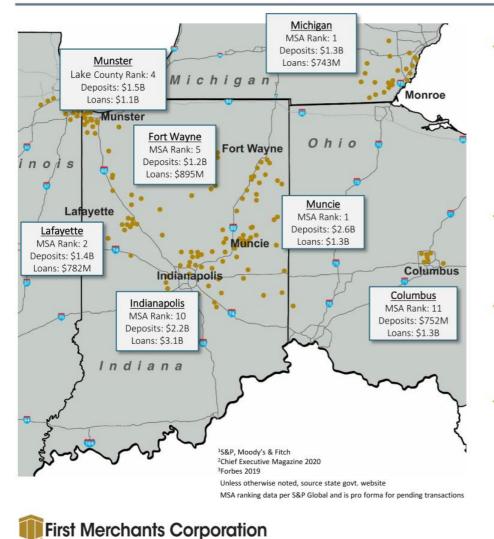
To enhance the financial wellness of the diverse communities we serve

Our Mission

To be the most responsive, knowledgeable, and high-performing bank for our clients, teammates and shareholders

Commercial Banking	Consumer Banking	Private Wealth Advisory
 Full Spectrum of Debt Capital Offerings Located in Prime Growth Markets Small Business & SBA Middle Market C&I Investment Real Estate Public Finance Structured Finance Asset Based Lending Syndications Treasury Management Services Merchant Processing Services Hire and Develop the Best Talent 	 Diverse Locations in Stable Rural and Growth Metro Markets Supported by: Talented Customer Service Oriented Banking Center and Call Center Professionals Competitive Digital Solutions Deposit and CRM Online Banking Mobile Banking Full Spectrum of Consumer Lending Offerings 	 Comprehensive and coordinate approach to personal wealth management Expertise in: Investment Management Private Banking Fiduciary Estate Financial Planning Strengthen commercial relationships with personal services for executives/owners and retirement plan services for companies Partner with consumer to offer personal investment advice through First Merchants Investment Services

Attractive Markets of Operation



Indiana

- AAA Credit Rating Since 2008¹
- #1 Ranked Manufacturing State in the N
- 1st in Midwest and 5th Nationally for Bes for Doing Business²
- 1st Nationally for Highway Accessibility
- 5th for Best Business Regulatory Climate

Ohio

- 7th Largest Economy in the Nation
- 2nd in Midwest and 9th Nationally for Bes State for Doing Business²

Michigan

- 3rd in Midwest and 13th Nationally for Be for Doing Business²
- 1st in the Nation for Automotive Manufa

Illinois

 5th Largest Economy in the Nation and 1 Largest Worldwide

Fourth Quarter Highlights

ROA (Annualized)	Net Income & EPS	Loan Growth (Annualized)
1.29% ROA	\$45.1 Million	11.2% w/o PPP
1.64% PTPP ROA	\$0.83 Per Share	0% w/PPP

- Announced the acquisition of Hoosier Trust Company
- Received regulatory approval for a \$100 Million Share Repurchase Plan from Federal Reserve
- Opened Avondale Meadows Banking Center in Indianapo
- Announced the consolidation of 17 banking centers and investment in new technology to support customer demands and add back-office efficiency

Year End Highlights

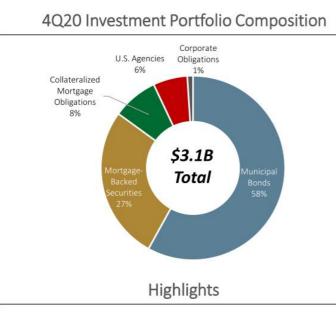


- Effectively navigated COVID
- Supported our clients and communities through two rounds of Paycheck Protection Program
- Grew the Bank's total assets by \$1.6B and increased deposits by \$1.5B
- Increased the Allowance for Loan Loss by \$50M, or 63% during the year

Fourth Quarter Financial Results

				is Ended,		Variance	% Variance		
	12/31/19	3/31/20	6/30/20	9/30/20	12/31/20		Linked QTR- Annualized		
Balance Sheet & Asset Quality									4Q20 Highlights
Total Assats	¢10 /E7 0	¢12 602 F	¢12 910 4	¢12 727 4	\$14.067.2	6220.0	0.6%		
									51.60 Efficiency Ratio excluding br
				22					consolidation charges of \$4.5M
Comparison of the second se									
common equity	1,760.5	1,///.0	1,009.0	1,055.5	1,875.5	42.0	9.270		Pre-Tax, Pre-Provision (PTPP) Earr
TCE Patio	10 16%	0.019/	0.210/	0 570/	0.65%	0.08%			
									totaled \$57.3M
TOTAL REC RALIO	14.29	15.60	14.10	14.56	14.50	-0.02			
ALL /Loops	0.05	1 15	1 20	1 27	1 41	0.04			Net interest income increased \$9.
•									
									over prior quarter which included
NPAS + 90PD / Assets	0.20	0.19	0.46	0.49	0.47	-0.02			increase of \$5.5M in PPP fees and
Summer Income Statement									interest income
summary income statement									interest income
Net Interest Income	\$97.6	\$93.9	\$93.0	\$92.9	\$102.3	\$9.4	40.4%		2051
Provision for Loan Losses	0.5	19.8	21.9	12.5	4.5	(8.1)	-257.1%		ROE increased nearly 2% in Q4
Non-interest Income	24.2	29.8	26.5	26.2	27.5	1.3	20.2%		compared to prior guarter
Non-interest Expense	65.2	66.2	60.0	64.7	72.5	7.8	48.4%		
Pre-tax Income	56.1	37.8	37.6	41.8	52.8	10.9	104.7%		
Provision for Taxes	8.3	3.5	4.6	5.6	7.6	2.0	140.8%		
Net Income	47.8	34.3	33.0	36.2	45.2	9.0	99.0%		
2014	4 500/	4 000/	0.070	4.000	4 9994				
						1			
Efficiency Ratio	51.07	52.17	47.95	51.40	55.01	3.61			
Per Share									
Earnings per Diluted Share	\$0,87	\$0.62	\$0.62	\$0.67	\$0.83	\$0,16			
0						1			
	Total Assets Total Loans Investments Deposits Common Equity TCE Ratio Total RBC Ratio ALLL / Loans NCOs / Avg Loans NPAs + 90PD / Assets Summary Income Statement Net Interest Income Provision for Loan Losses Non-interest Income Provision for Loan Losses Non-interest Income Provision for Taxes Net Income Provision for Taxes Net Income ROAA ROAE Net Interest Margin Efficiency Ratio	Balance Sheet & Asset QualityTotal Assets\$12,457.3Total Loans8,468.3Investments2,596.1Deposits9,840.0Common Equity1,786.3TCE Ratio10.16%Total RBC Ratio14.29ALLL / Loans0.95NCOs / Avg Loans0.04NPAs + 90PD / Assets0.20Sunmary Income Statement\$97.6Provision for Loan Losses0.5Non-interest Income\$97.6Provision for Taxes8.3Net Income56.1Provision for Taxes8.3Net Income47.8ROAA1.53%ROAA1.53%ROAA1.622Efficiency Ratio51.07Per Share21.94Dividend per Share0.26Dividend Payout Ratio29.9%	Balance Sheet & Asset Quality Total Assets \$12,457.3 \$12,693.5 Total Loans 8,468.3 8,611.9 Investments 2,596.1 2,698.0 Deposits 9,840.0 9,870.5 Common Equity 1,786.3 1,777.8 TCE Ratio 10.16% 9.91% Total RBC Ratio 14.29 13.80 ALLL / Loans 0.95 1.15 NCOs / Avg Loans 0.04 0.03 NPAs + 90PD / Assets 0.20 0.19 Summary Income Statement 24.2 29.8 Non-interest Income \$97.6 \$93.9 Provision for Loan Losses 0.5 19.8 Non-interest Income 24.2 29.8 Non-interest Expense 65.2 66.2 Pre-tax Income 56.1 37.8 Provision for Taxes 8.3 3.5 Net Interest Margin 3.62 3.46 Efficiency Ratio 51.07 52.17 Per Share 1.53% 1.09% <td>Balance Sheet & Asset Quality Total Assets \$12,457.3 \$12,693.5 \$13,819.4 Total Loans 8,468.3 8,611.9 9,299.4 Investments 2,596.1 2,698.0 2,789.4 Deposits 9,840.0 9,870.5 10,966.0 Common Equity 1,786.3 1,777.8 1,809.0 TCE Ratio 10.16% 9.91% 9.31% Total RBC Ratio 10.16% 9.91% 9.31% Total RBC Ratio 10.429 13.80 14.18 ALLL / Loans 0.95 1.15 1.30 NCOs / Avg Loans 0.04 0.03 0.01 NPAs + 90PD / Assets 0.20 0.19 0.46 Summary Income Statement \$97.6 \$93.9 \$93.0 Provision for Loan Losses 0.5 19.8 21.9 Non-interest 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Investment Portfolio Highlights



Yield on Investments(%) / Total Investments(

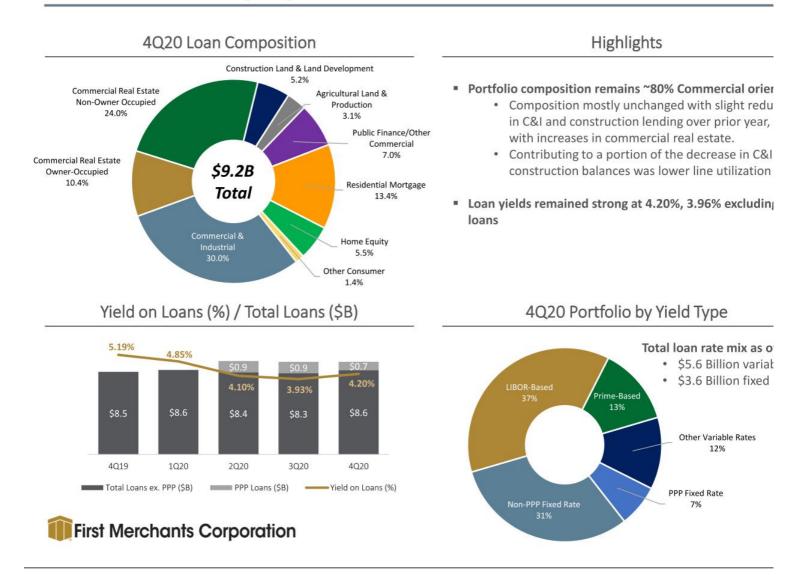


Investment Portfolio Gains

- Modified duration of 5.0 years
- Next 12 month roll off cash flow \$488 million / 1.78% yield
- Current purchase yield of 1.65%
- AA rated municipal bond portfolio

		Unrealized Gains
l	Net unrea	lized Gain of \$164.5 Million
_		Realized Gains
	1Q 2020	\$4.6 Million
	2Q 2020	\$3.1 Million
		44.000
	3Q 2020	\$1.8 Million

Loan Portfolio Highlights



Allowance For Loan Losses

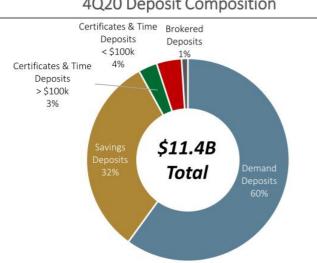
					ī	
		4Q19	1Q20	2Q20	3Q20	4Q20
1.	Beginning Allowance for Loan Losses (ALLL)	\$ 80.6	\$ 80.3	\$ 99.5	\$ 121.1	\$ 126
2.	Net Charge-offs	\$ (0.8)	\$ (0.6)	\$ (0.2)	\$ (6.9)	\$ (0
3.	Provision Expense	\$ 0.5	\$ 19.8	\$ 21.9	\$ 12.5	\$ 4
4.	Ending Allowance for Loan Losses	\$ 80.3	\$ 99.5	\$ 121.2	\$ 126.7	\$ 130
5.	ALLL/Loans	0.95%	1.15%	1.30%	1.37%	1.4:
6.	ALLL/Loans - PPP Loans			1.44%	1.52%	1.52
7.	Remaining Fair Value Adjustment	\$ 36.6	\$ 33.1	\$ 29.3	\$ 26.0	\$ 23

CECL Adoption

- January 1, 2021 CECL adoption elected (Allowed by the SEC through the passing of the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act in December)
- With this election, Day 1 adoption through equity is measured on January 1, 2021
- Reserve for unfunded commitments of \$20.5 Million will be recorded in Other Liabilities



Deposit Portfolio Highlights



Cost of Total Deposits (%) / Total Deposits (\$B)



First Merchants Corporation

4Q20 Deposit Composition

Highlights

- Strong core deposit base .
 - . 20% non-interest bearing
 - 96% core deposits¹ .
 - Minimal reliance on brokered funding •
- 4Q20 CD maturities totaled \$348M with average rat 1.67%

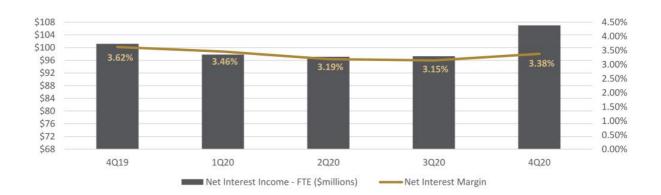
vs. Prior Periods

- Total deposit costs declined to 0.27% for Q4
 - Down 9 bps from 3Q20 ÷
 - . Down 70 bps from 4Q19
- Average deposits up 12% when annualized from 3Q . and 22% over prior year
 - Reflects retention of stimulus payments and consumer growth
 - Notable mix shift over 2020 from time depos money market and non-time interest bearing accounts

¹Defined as total deposits less time deposits > :

Net Interest Margin

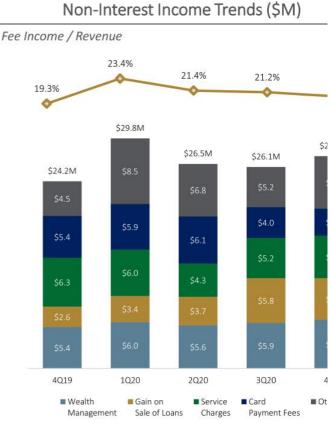
		4Q19	1Q20	2Q20	3Q20	4Q2
1.	Net Interest Income - FTE (\$millions)	\$101.2	\$97.8	\$97.1	\$97.3	\$107.
2.	Fair Value Accretion	\$5.0	\$3.5	\$3.7	\$3.3	\$3.
3.	PPP Loan Income			\$4.7	\$6.1	\$11.
4.	Tax Equivalent Yield on Earning Assets	4.63%	4.38%	3.72%	3.58%	3.729
5.	Interest Expense/Average Earning Assets	1.01%	0.92%	0.53%	0.43%	0.349
6.	Net Interest Margin	3.62%	3.46%	3.19%	3.15%	3.389
7.	Fair Value Accretion Effect	0.18%	0.12%	0.12%	0.10%	0.099
8.	Impact of PPP Loans			-0.06%	-0.07%	0.169



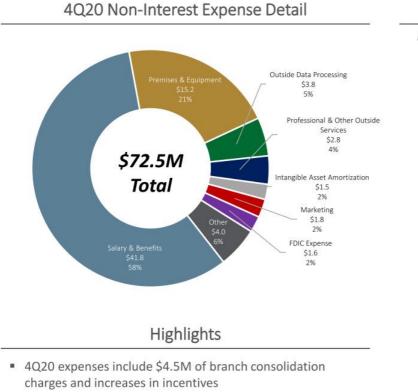
Non-Interest Income Highlights



- and \$91M for full year 2020
 - Increased 7% when annualized over Q320; 20% over prior year despite mid-year Durbin adoption
 - . Record gain on sale of mortgage loans of \$18.3M for full year 2020
 - · Record wealth management fee income year of \$23.7M with \$4.3B in assets under management



Non-Interest Expense Highlights



Efficiency Ratio C 52.17% 51.07% 51.40% 47.95% 0 \$ \$66.1M \$65.2M \$64.7M \$60.0M 4Q19 1020 2020 3020 Premises & Salary & Outside • Data Processing Benefits Equipment

- Incurred \$1.5M in 2020 for COVID related costs for cleaning and PPE

First Merchants Corporation

Non-Interest Expense Trends (\$M)

Capital Ratios



Tangible Common Equity Ratio

Common Equity Tier 1 Ratio



Total Risk-Based Capital Ratio



2020 Financial Results

	(\$M except per share data)	For the Twelve Months Ended December 31,			Variance	% Variance		
		2018	2019	2020	YOY	YOY		
	Balance Sheet & Asset Quality							2020 Highlights
1.	Total Assets	\$9,884.7	\$12,457.3	\$14,067.2	\$1,610.0	12.9%		
2.	Total Loans	7,229.2	8,468.3	9,247.1	778.8	9.2%		
3.	Investments	1,632.6	2,596.1	3,146.8	550.7	21.2%		50.80 Efficiency Ratio excludi
4.	Deposits	7,754.6	9,840.0	11,361.6	1,521.7	15.5%		2020 branch consolidation cha
5.	Common Equity	1,408.1	1,786.3	1,875.5	89.2	5.0%		of \$4.5M
6.	TCE Ratio	9.97%	10.16%	9.65%	-0.51%			Pre-Tax, Pre-Provision (PTPP)
7.	Total RBC Ratio	14.61	14.29	14.36	0.07		-	Earnings totaled \$228.5M
8.	ALLL / Loans	1.11	0.95	1.41	0.46			
9.	NCOs / Avg Loans	0.02	0.04	0.09	0.05			Net income increased \$25.5N
10.	NPAs + 90PD / Assets	0.32	0.20	0.47	0.27			prior year which included \$22
	Summary Income Statement							PPP fees and interest income
11.	Net Interest Income	\$338.9	\$356.7	\$382.1	\$25.5	7.1%		
12.	Provision for Loan Losses	7.2	2.8	58.7	55.9	1995.5%		Tangible book value per share
13.	Non-interest Income	76.5	86.7	109.9	23.2	26.8%		increased 11% over prior year
14.	Non-interest Expense	220.0	246.8	263.4	16.6	6.7%		
15.	Pre-tax Income	188.1	193.8	170.0	(23.8)	-12.3%		
16.	Provision for Taxes	29.0	29.3	21.4	(8.0)	-27.1%		
17.	Net Income	159.1	164.5	148.6	(15.9)	-9.6%		
18.	ROAA	1.64%	1.48%	1.10%	-0.38%			
19.	ROAE	11.84	10.48	8.14	-2.34			
20.	Net Interest Margin	4.00	3.69	3.29	-0.40			
21.	Efficiency Ratio	50.21	52.73	51.71	-1.02			
	Per Share							
22.	Earnings per Diluted Share	\$3.22	\$3.19	\$2.74	(\$0.45)			
23.		19.12	21.94	24.27	2.33			
24.	Dividend per Share	0.84	1.00	1.04	0.04			
25.	Dividend Payout Ratio	26.1%	31.3%	38.0%	6.6%			
	First Merchants C	Corporation						

Loan Portfolio

Loan Portfolio Trends (\$M)

	4Q19	3Q20	4Q20
1. Commercial & Industrial	\$ 1,802	\$ 2,539	\$ 2,429
2. Sponsor Finance	312	340	351
3. CRE Owner Occupied	910	928	955
4. Construction/Land/Land Dev.	787	622	485
5. CRE Non-Owner Occupied	1,899	2,099	2,221
6. Agricultural	334	301	282
7. Public Finance/Other Commercial	547	<u>616</u>	<u>648</u>
8. Total Commercial Loans	6,591	7,445	7,371
9. Residential Mortgage	1,149	1,147	1,236
10. Home Equity	589	527	508
11. Other Consumer	<u>139</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>132</u>
12. Total Resid. Mortgage & Consumer	1,877	<u>1,802</u>	<u>1,876</u>
13. Total Loans	\$ 8,468	\$ 9,247	\$ 9,247
14. Paycheck Protection Program Loans ¹	\$-	\$ 901	\$ 667

¹Included in C&I and Sponsor above

First Merchants Corporation

Highlights

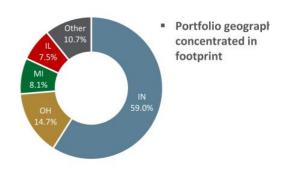
- vs. Prior Quarter –

- Total loans grew \$234 Million excluding PPP forgiveness:
 - \$109 Million C&I
 - \$26 Million Sponsor
 - \$89 Million Residential Mortgages
 - \$32 Million Public Finance

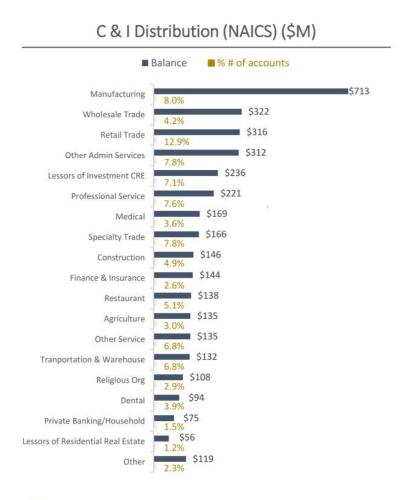
- vs. Prior Year -

- \$779 Million loan growth for 2020 C&I loan growth:
 - \$667 Million PPP loan
 - \$101 Million Public Finance

Geography



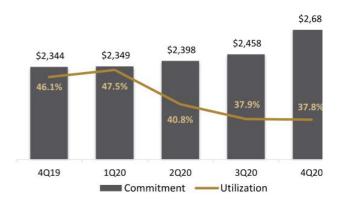
C & I Loan Portfolio



Highlights

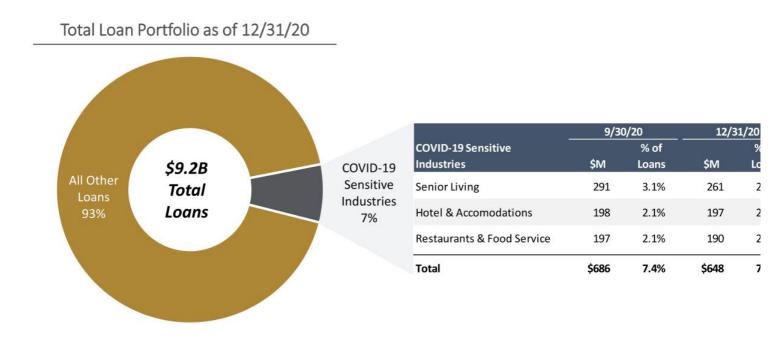
- Diversified C&I portfolio totaling \$3.7 Billion
 - Granularity illustrated by a C&I portfolio that is 71 of commercial accounts and only 51% of commercian loan balances
- Line commitments increased \$337 Million in 2020 wl C&I balances declined \$68 Million due to a drop in utilization shown below

C & I Commitments & Line Utilization



Limited Exposure to COVID-19 Sensitive Industries

While we expect nearly every industry to have some impact from COVID-19, we have identified three industries that have been the most affected.



COVID-19 Hospitality and Accommodations

Hospitality Highlights

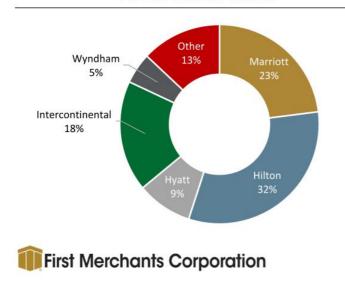
- 129 accounts to 92 borrowers totaling \$197 Million
 28 borrowers \$1 Million or greater
- 13 loans totaling \$83 Million with a COVID related modification in deferral at year-end

Hotel Portfolio Brands

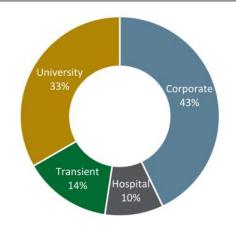
All loans current and accruing

Hotel Highlights

- Hotels: 102 loans to 69 borrowers totaling \$188 Mil
 - 26 borrowers \$1 Million or greater totaling \$175 Million
 - Weighted Average (WA) occupancy of 50.4% (22 hotels reporting)
 - WA original loan to value of 57.4% (25 hotels reporting)
- Loan Stage Prior to COVID: 83% stabilized and 17% r from construction to stabilization

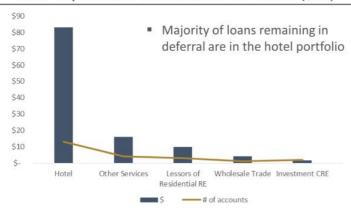


Hotel Portfolio Demand Drivers



COVID-19 Modifications and PPP

4Q20 Top Sectors with Mods in Deferral (\$M)



COVID-19 Mods by Portfolio (\$M)

COVID-19 Modifications in deferral are 1.30% of total loans.

	3Q.	20	4Q20			
In Deferral	\$	#	\$	#		
Commercial & Industrial	\$ 24	32	\$ 18	14		
Sponsor Finance	6	1	-	-		
CRE Owner Occupied	18	22	2	6		
Construction, Land and Land Dev.	3	1	21	5		
CRE Non-Owner Occupied	115	36	76	12		
Agricultural	2	6				
Residential Mortgage	7	50	2	20		
Home Equity	1	11	-	4		
Other Consumer	0	20	1	26		
Total Loans	\$ 176	179	\$ 120	87		

First Merchants Corporation

Paycheck Protection Program

- Participating in the Economic Aid Act Paycheck Protection Program and currently accepting applications for first and second draw loans
 - \$667 Million in PPP loan balances remaining at year-end
 - 82% of loans are \$150,000 or less
 - 4Q fee income earned of \$9.5 Million with \$12.5 Million remaining
 - \$240 Million of PPP loans have been forgiven at year-end
 - Additional \$194 Million, were submitted for forgiveness and pending at year-end with the SBA

Asset Quality

Asset Quality Trends (\$M)

	4Q19 3Q20 4Q20
1. Non-Accrual Loans	\$ 16.0 \$ 56.7 \$ 61.5
2. Other Real Estate	7.5 7.0 0.9
3. 90PD Loans	0.1 1.3 0.8
4. Renegotiated Loans	<u>0.8</u> <u>2.7</u> <u>3.2</u>
5. NPAs + 90PD	\$ 24.4 \$ 67.7 \$ 66.4
6. NPAs + 90PD/Loans + ORE	0.29% 0.73% 0.72%
7. Classified Loans	\$ 200.1 \$ 252.8 \$ 250.0
8. Classified Loans/Total Loans	2.4% 2.7% 2.7%
9. Net Charge-offs	\$ 3.1 \$ 6.9 \$ 8.3
10. NCO/Avg. Loans (Annualized)	0.04% 0.30% 0.09%

Highlights

vs. Prior Quarter

- NPAs + 90PD decreased \$1.3 in 4Q with sale of \$5.9 mil in Other Real Estate Owned
- Non-accrual loans increased \$4.8 Million
- Classified loans decreased \$2.8 Million
- Net charge-offs in 4Q of \$0.6 Million, down from \$6.9 Million in 3Q

vs. Prior Year

- Non-accrual loans increased by \$45.5 Million
 - 5 Senior living facilities loans to nonaccrual in 2020 totaling \$43.7 Million
- Classified Loans increased by \$50 Million in 2020
 - Top industries- grain wholesale, senior living and waste collection
 - Top four sectors of Classified Loans total \$148 N including Manufacturing, Senior Living, Agricultu and Other Services
- Net Charge-offs of \$8.3 Million or 0.09% of Average Loa

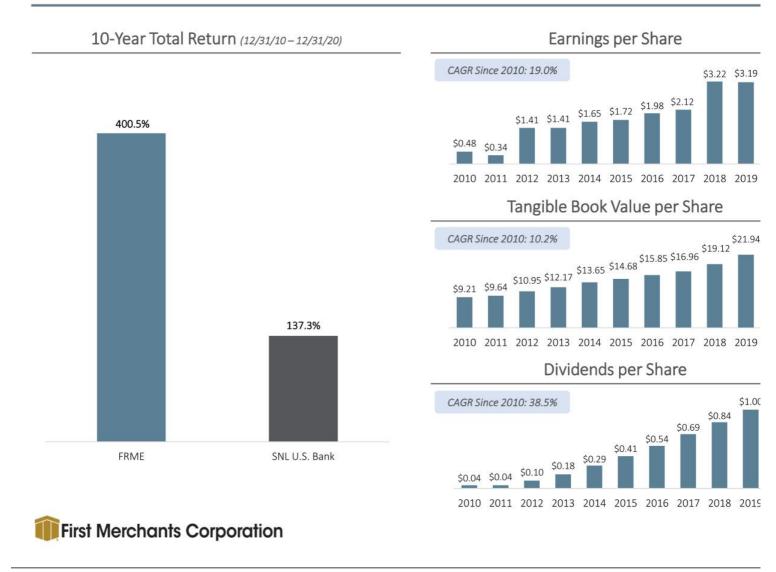
Non-Performing Assets

Non-Performing Assets Roll Forward (\$M)

			-		_
		4Q20		2020	
1.	Beginning Balance NPAs + 90PD	\$ 67.7	\$	24.4	
	Non-Accrual				
2.	Add: New Non-Accruals	16.4		75.6	
3.	Less: To Accrual/Payoff/Renegotiated	(10.3)		(18.9)	
4.	Less: To OREO	-		(0.7)	
5.	Less: Charge-offs	(1.3)		<u>(10.5)</u>	
6.	Non-Accrual Loans Change	4.8		45.5	
	Other Real Estate Owned (ORE)				
7.	Add: New ORE Properties	Ξ.		0.7	
8.	Less: ORE Sold	(6.0)		(6.8)	
9.	Less: ORE Losses (write-downs)	<u>(0.1)</u>		<u>(0.5)</u>	
10.	ORE Change	(6.1)		(6.6)	
11.	90PD Change	(0.5)		0.7	
12.	Renegotiated Loans Change	<u>0.5</u>		<u>2.4</u>	
13.	NPAs + 90PD Change	<u>(1.3)</u>		<u>42.0</u>	
14.	Ending Balance NPAs + 90PD	\$ 66.4	\$	66.4	

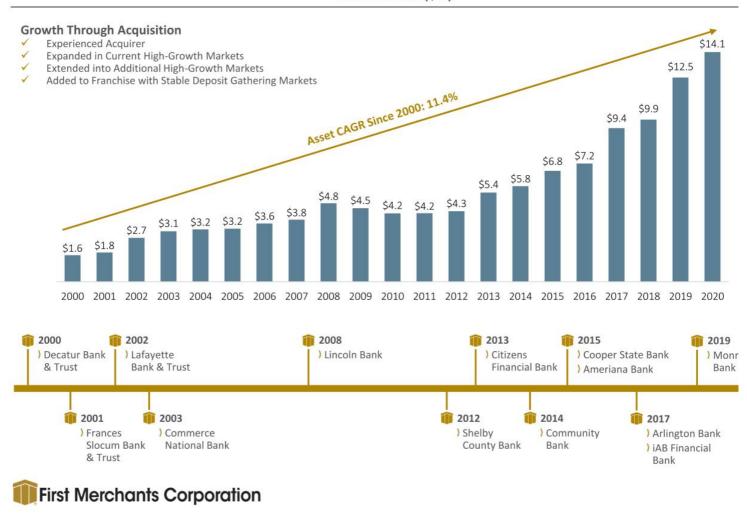
Highlights 4th Quarter • \$16.4 Million in new non-accruals • \$13 Million loan to a senior living facility mo to non-accrual • \$1.3 Million of gross charge-offs in 4Q2020 2020 • \$75.6 Million in new non-accruals during 2020 • \$44 Million in senior living • \$14 Million in wholesale trade • Gross charge-offs of \$10.5 Million were offset by recoveries of \$2.2 Million

Track Record of Shareholder Value



History of Organic and Whole Bank Acquisition Growth

Total Assets (\$B)



Vision for the Future

People:		Enhance our culture through the power of collaboration, accountability and effective teams
		Source, recruit, onboard and engage a diverse and inclusive workforce with a commitment to career pathing and market level compensation
Process:		Communicate our Corporate Social Responsibility strategy and success
	2	Uphold a corporate governance system inclusive of enterprise risk management to ens safety, soundness and sustainability
		Ensure that acquisitions continue as a core competency
Customer:		Implement organic revenue-generating disciplines that attracts new business, delivers whole bank and achieves industry leading levels of retention
		Commit to the digital transformation of the bank across all lines of business to enhance and automate the client experience
	-	Broaden our revenue streams across various lines of businesses, products, clients and geographies
Financial:		Maintain top-quartile financial performance while investing in all parts of the business
	-	Manage & cultivate a changing shareholder base

APPENDIX

Non-GAAP

	CONTRACTOR OF	10000000000	and second second		(100 C)	New York Control of Con-	1.0000000000000	Mission States	
	4Q18	1Q19	2Q19	3Q19	4Q19	1Q20	2Q20	3Q20	
Total Risk-Based Capital Ratio (dollars in thousands)									
Total Stockholders' Equity (GAAP)	1,408,260	1,455,848	1,501,636	1,749,012	1,786,437	1,777,960	1,809,095	1,833,656	1
Adjust for Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Income) Loss	21,422	1,595	(14,602)	(25,648)	(27,874)	(53,656)	(63,845)	(65,468)	
Less: Preferred Stock	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	
Add: Qualifying Capital Securities	66,141	66,197	66,252	66,308	66,363	56,419	46,248	46,308	
Less: Tier 1 Capital Deductions	-		-	-		-		-	
Less: Disallowed Goodwill and Intangible Assets	(463,525)	(462,202)	(460,885)	(570,098)	(569,468)	(568,442)	(567,246)	(566,072)	
Less: Disallowed Deferred Tax Assets		(4,037)	(2,587)	(3,460)	<u> </u>	12 N	<u>10</u>		
Total Tier 1 Capital (Regulatory)	\$ 1,032,173	\$1,057,276	\$ 1,089,689	\$ 1,215,989	\$ 1,255,333	\$ 1,212,156	\$ 1,224,127	\$ 1,248,299	\$ 1
Qualifying Subordinated Debentures	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	80,552	80,902	81,274	80,571	80,284	99,454	121,119	125,032	
Total Risk-Based Capital (Regulatory)	\$ 1,177,725	\$ 1,203,178	\$ 1,235,963	\$ 1,361,560	\$ 1,400,617	\$ 1,376,610	\$ 1,410,246	\$ 1,438,331	\$ 1
Net Risk-Weighted Assets (Regulatory)	\$ 8,060,882	\$ 8,176,677	\$ 8,491,188	\$ 9,474,126	\$ 9,799,329	\$ 9,978,462	\$ 9,946,087	\$10,000,878	\$10
Total Risk-Based Capital Ratio (Regulatory)	14.61%	14.71%	14.56%	14.37%	14.29%	13.80%	14.18%	14.38%	
Common Equity Tier 1 Capital Ratio									
Total Tier 1 Capital (Regulatory)	\$1,032,173	\$1,057,276	\$ 1,089,689	\$ 1,215,989	\$ 1,255,333	\$ 1,212,156	\$1,224,127	\$ 1,248,299	\$ 1
Less: Qualified Capital Securities	(66,141)	(66,197)	(66,252)	(66,308)	(66,363)	(56,419)	(46,248)	(46,308)	
Add: Additional Tier 1 Capital Deductions	-		-			1.	17	-	
Common Equity Tier 1 Capital (Regulatory)	\$ 966,032	\$ 991,079	\$1,023,437	\$1,149,681	\$ 1,188,970	\$ 1,155,737	\$ 1,177,879	\$ 1,201,991	\$ 1
Net Risk-Weighted Assets (Regulatory)	\$ 8,060,882	\$ 8,176,677	\$ 8,491,188	\$9,474,126	\$ 9,799,329	\$ 9,978,462	\$ 9,946,087	\$10,000,878	\$10
Common Equity Tier 1 Capital Ratio (Regulatory)	11.98%	12.12%	12.05%	12.14%	12.13%	11.58%	11.84%	12.02%	

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 accounguidance for defined benefit and other postretirement plans.



Non-GAAP

	4Q18		1Q19		2Q19	3Q19		4Q19		1Q20		2Q20		3Q20
Tangible Common Equity Ratio (dollars in thousands)	30 ¹													
Total Stockholders' Equity (GAAP)	\$ 1,408,260	\$	1,455,848	\$	1,501,636	\$ 1,749,012	\$	1,786,437	\$	1,777,960	\$	1,809,095	\$	1,833,656
Less: Preferred Stock	(125))	(125)		(125)	(125)		(125)		(125)		(125)		(125)
Less: Intangible Assets	(469,784))	(468,256)		(466,736)	(579,751)		(578,881)		(577,366)		(575,855)		(574,369)
Tangible Common Equity (non-GAAP)	\$ 938,351	\$	987,467	\$	1,034,775	\$ 1,169,136	\$	1,207,431	\$	1,200,469	\$	1,233,115	\$	1,259,162
Total Assets (GAAP)	\$ 9,884,716	\$	10,210,925	\$:	10,737,857	\$ 12,325,061	\$1	2,457,254	\$:	12,693,518	\$1	13,819,378	\$:	13,737,350
Less: Intangible Assets	(469,784))	(468,256)		(466,736)	(579,751)		(578,881)		(577,366)		(575,855)		(574,369)
Tangible Assets (non-GAAP)	\$ 9,414,932	\$	9,742,669	\$:	10,271,121	\$ 11,745,310	\$1	1,878,373	\$:	12,116,152	\$1	13,243,523	\$:	13,162,981
Tangible Common Equity Ratio (non-GAAP)	9.97%	5	10.14%		10.07%	9.95%		10.16%		9.91%		9.31%		9.57%

		4Q10		4Q11		4Q12		4Q13		4Q14		4Q15		4Q16		4Q17
Tangible Common Equity Per Share																
Total Stockholders' Equity (GAAP)	\$	454,408	\$	514,467	\$	552,236	\$	634,923	\$	726,827	\$	850,509	\$	901,657	\$1	,303,463
Less: Preferred Stock		(67,880)		(90,783)		(90,908)		(125)		(125)		(125)		(125)		(125)
Less: Intangible Assets		(154,019)		(150,471)		(149,529)		(202,767)		(218,755)		(259,764)		(258,866)		(476,503)
Tax Benefit		2,907		2,224		2,249		4,973		6,085		6,278		5,930		6,788
Tangible Common Equity, Net of Tax (non-GAAP	\$	235,416	\$	275,437	\$	314,048	\$	437,004	\$	514,032	\$	596,898	\$	648,596	\$	833,623
Shares Outstanding	25	5,574,251	2	8,559,707	2	8,692,616	3	5,921,761	3	7,669,948	4(0,664,258	4(0,912,697	49	,158,238
Tangible Common Equity per Share (non-GAAP)	\$	9.21	\$	9.64	\$	10.95	\$	12.17	\$	13.65	\$	14.68	\$	15.85	\$	16.96

	4Q19	1Q20	2Q20	3Q20	4Q20
Tangible Common Equity Per Share	6				
Total Stockholders' Equity (GAAP)	\$1,786,437	\$ 1,777,960	\$ 1,809,095	\$ 1,833,656	\$1,875,645
Less: Preferred Stock	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)	(125)
Less: Intangible Assets	(578,881)	(577,366)	(575,855)	(574,369)	(572,893)
Tax Benefit	7,257	6,946	6,597	6,292	5,989
Tangible Common Equity, Net of Tax (non-GAAP	\$ 1,214,688	\$ 1,207,415	\$ 1,239,712	\$ 1,265,454	\$ 1,308,616
Shares Outstanding	55,368,482	53,754,137	53,795,500	53,891,733	53,922,359
Tangible Common Equity per Share (non-GAAP)	\$ 21.94	\$ 22.46	\$ 23.04	\$ 23.48	\$ 24.27

Non-GAAP

	2018	4Q19	2019	1Q20	2Q20	3Q20	4Q20	2020
EFFICIENCY RATIO (dollars in thousands):								
Non Interest Expense (GAAP)	\$ 219,951	65,201	\$ 246,763	\$ 66,171 \$	59,989	64,709	\$ 72,536	\$ 263,405
Less: Intangible Asset Amortization	(6,719)	(1,590)	(5,994)	(1,514)	(1,511)	(1,486)	(1,476)	(5,987)
Less: OREO and Foreclosure Expenses	(1,470)	(66)	(2,428)	(505)	(684)	(717)	1,576	(330)
Adjusted Non Interest Expense (non-GAAP)	211,762	63,545	238,341	64,152	57,794	62,506	72,636	257,088
Net Interest Income (GAAP)	338,857	97,584	356,660	93,877	93,018	92,921	102,311	382,127
Plus: Fully Taxable Equivalent Adjustment	10,732	3,633	13,085	3,894	4,088	4,340	4,644	16,966
	349,589	101,217	369,745	97,771	97,106	97,261	106,955	399,093
– Non Interest Income (GAAP)	76,459	24,245	86,688	29,799	26,481	26,163	27,483	109,926
Less: Investment Securities Gains (Losses)	(4,269)	(1,039)	(4,415)	(4,612)	(3,068)	(1,817)	(2,398)	(11,895)
Adjusted Non Interest Income (non-GAAP)	72,190	23,206	82,273	25,187	23,413	24,346	25,085	98,031
Adjusted Revenue (non-GAAP)	421,779	124,423	452,018	122,958	120,519	121,607	132,040	497,124
Efficiency Ratio (non-GAAP)	50.21%	51.07%	52.73%	52.17%	47.95%	51.40%	55.01%	51.71%

Forward Dividend Yield	4Q20
Most recent quarter's dividend per share	\$ 0.26
Most recent quarter's dividend per share - Annualized	\$ 1.04
Stock Price at 12/31/20	\$ 37.41
Forward Dividend Yield	2.78%