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): July 24, 2006

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION (Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

INDIANA 0-17071 35-1544218 (State or other jurisdiction (Commission file number) (IRS Employer of incorporation) 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))

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ITEM 2.02 RESULTS OF OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL CONDITION.

On July 24, 2006, First Merchants Corporation issued a press release to report its financial results for the second quarter ended June 30, 2006. 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.

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

Exhibit 99.1 Press Release, dated July 24, 2006, issued by First Merchants Corporation

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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 and
 Chief Financial Officer
 (Principal Financial and
 Principal Accounting Officer)

Dated: July 24, 2006

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.

99.1

Description Press Release, dated July 24, 2006, issued by First Merchants Corporation.

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First Merchants Corporation

Exhibit No. 99.1

Press Release, dated July 24, 2006

N/E/W/S R/E/L/E/A/S/E

July 24, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE For more information, contact: Mark K. Hardwick, Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, 765-751-1857 http://firstmerchants.com

SOURCE: First Merchants Corporation, Muncie, Indiana

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION ANNOUNCES YEAR TO DATE EARNINGS PER SHARE INCREASE OF 2.6 PERCENT

First Merchants Corporation (NASDAQ - FRME) has reported year-to-date diluted earnings per share totaling \$.80, a 2.6 percent increase over \$.78 recorded in 2005. Net income for the six months ended June 30, 2006 totaled \$14.8 million compared to \$14.5 million in 2005.

Second quarter diluted earnings per share of \$.39, a \$.04 decline from second quarter earnings per share of \$.43 in 2005. Net income for the quarter totaled \$7.3 million compared to \$7.9 million in 2005.

Total assets reached a record \$3.4 billion at quarter-end, an increase of \$207 million, or 6.5 percent from June 30, 2005. Loans and investments, the Corporation's primary earning assets, totaled \$3.1 billion, an increase of \$197 million or 6.9 percent over the prior year.

Net-interest income improved by \$492,000, or 1.00 percent for the six month ended June 30, 2006, reflecting the challenges of a sustained inverted yield curve. Non-interest income declined by \$833,000 resulting from reduced mortgage loans sales and rising earnings credit rates on commercial checking accounts.

Operating expense increased by a modest half of a percentage point as management continues the process of streamlining its operating structure. Included in the second quarter results is a charge relating to the disposition of fixed assets from a branch closing of \$290,000 or \$.01 per share.

The allowance for loan losses increased during the period by \$793,000 as the Corporation's provision for loan losses declined by \$1.2 million reflecting reductions in specific reserve allocations. As of June 30, 2006, non-performing loans totaled 94 basis points of average total loans and the allowance for loan losses as a percent of total loans equaled 1.00 percent.

Michael L. Cox, President and Chief Executive Officer, stated that, "Year-to-date growth in loans of 6.0 percent, growth in deposits of 5.5 percent and expense containment are positive representations of the controllable items in this business." Cox also added, "Management believes that a continued focus on customer acquisition and cross selling is the best way to maximize shareholder value."

CONFERENCE CALL

First Merchants Corporation will conduct a conference call at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Monday, July 24, 2006. To participate dial (Toll Free) 877-407-9210 and reference First Merchants Corporation's second quarter earnings release. A replay will be available until July 31, 2006. To access replay, US/Canada participants should dial (Toll Free) 877-660-6853 or for International participants, dial 201-612-7415. The replay will require the Account # 286 and Conference ID # 207562.

During the call we may make Forward Looking statements about our relative business outlook. These Forward Looking statements and all other statements made during the call that do not concern historical facts are subject to risks and uncertainties that may materially affect actual results.

Specific Forward Looking statements include but are not limited to any indications regarding the Financial Services industry, the economy and future growth of the balance sheet or income statement.

Detailed financial results are reported on the attached pages.

First Merchants Corporation is a financial holding company headquartered in Muncie, Indiana. Subsidiaries of the Corporation include First Merchants Bank, Madison Community Bank, United Communities National Bank, First National Bank, Decatur Bank & Trust Company, Frances Slocum Bank, Lafayette Bank & Trust Company, Commerce National Bank and First Merchants Trust Company. The Corporation also operates First Merchants Insurance Services, a full-service property casualty, personal lines, and healthcare insurance agency, headquartered in Muncie, Indiana, and is a majority member of Indiana Title Insurance Company, LLC, a title insurance agency.

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

* * * *

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(in thousands)	Jun	ie 30,
	2006	2005
Assets		
Cash and due from banks	\$ 71,275	\$ 71,498
Interest-bearing time deposits	8,529	9,255 420,685 1,356
Investment securities	466,882	420,685
Mortgage loans held for sale	5,338	1,356
Loans	2,591,440	1,356 2,440,906
Less: Allowance for loan losses	(25,884)	(25,091)
Not loom		
Net loans	2,565,556	2,415,815
Premises and equipment	41,122	37,240 23,054
Federal Reserve and Federal Home Loan Bank stock	23,889	23,054
Interest receivable	19,539	16,950 139,799
Core deposit intangibles and goodwill Cash surrender value of life insurance	137,429	139,799
Other assets	44,358	42,827
Other assets	24,346	22,819
Total assets	\$ 3,408,263	\$ 3,201,298
Liabilities		
Deposits		
Noninterest-bearing	\$ 340,046	\$ 363,654
Interest-bearing	2,195,354	2,040,624
Total deposits	2,535,400	2,404,278
Borrowings	527,347	454,400
Interest payable	6,927	5,068
Other liabilities	25,585	454,400 5,068 24,194
Total liabilities	2 005 250	2,887,940
Stockholders' equity	3,093,239	2,007,940
Preferred stock, no-par value		
Authorized and unissued 500,000 shares		
Common stock, \$.125 stated value		
Authorized 50,000,000 shares		
Issued and outstanding 18,259,256 and 18,415,725 shares	2,282	2,302
Additional paid-in capital	1 4 0 0 0 7	146 057
Retained earnings	181.042	167,452
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(12,357)	(2, 453)
	(, co.,)	146,057 167,452 (2,453) 313,358
Total stockholders' equity	313,004	313,358
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 3,408,263 =======	\$ 3,201,298
	========	

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

(In thousands)		Months Ended une 30,	Six Months Ended June 30,			
	2006	2005	2006	2005		
NET CHARGE OFF'S	\$ 1,46	8 \$ 1,345	\$2,759	\$ 2,072		
AVERAGE BALANCES						
Total Assets	\$3,321,85	2 \$3,191,275	\$3,279,130	\$3,177,488		
Total Loans	2,534,67	5 2,430,081	2,504,886	2,422,110		
Total Deposits	2,491,66	5 2,422,688	2,449,888	2,420,810		
Total Stockholders' Equity	316,87	1 312,611	316,751	313,961		
FINANCIAL RATIOS						
Return on Average Assets	.8	8% .99%	.90%	.91%		
Return on Avg. Stockholders' Equity	9.2	0 10.13	9.35	9.23		
Avg. Earning Assets to Avg. Assets	91.2	1 90.81	91.24	90.71		
Allowance for Loan Losses as %						
Of Total Loans	1.0	0 1.03	1.00	1.03		
Net Charge Off's as % Of Avg. Loans						
(Annualized)	.2	3.22	.22	.17		
Dividend Payout Ratio	58.9	7 53.49	57.50	58.98		
Avg. Stockholders' Equity to Avg. Assets	9.5	4 9.80	9.66	9.88		
Tax Equivalent Yield on Earning Assets	6.8	7 6.14	6.76	6.01		
Cost of Supporting Liabilities	3.0	7 2.15	2.92	2.08		
Net Int. Margin (FTE) on Earning Assets	3.8	0 3.99	3.83	3.93		

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

(in thousands, except share data)		nths Ended e 30,	June 20			
	2006		2006			
Interest income						
Loans receivable						
Taxable	\$ 45,658	\$ 38,831		\$ 75,653		
Tax exempt	231	189	399	323		
Investment securities Taxable	3.082	2.376	5 808	4 705		
Tax exempt	1,613	1,554	5,808 3,260	3,107		
Federal funds sold	11	112 166	28	139		
Deposits with financial institutions				308		
Federal Reserve and Federal Home Loan Bank stock	320	285	631	593		
Total interest income				84,828		
			99,109			
Interest expense						
Deposits Federal funds purchased	16,914 625	10,729	31,333 1,114	20,535		
Securities sold under repurchase agreements	020	101	1,114	204 543		
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	2,610	2,443	1,888 5,266	4,818		
Subordinated debentures, revolving credit lines						
and term loans	2,020	1,839	4,011	3,628		
Other borrowings	59	227	142	237		
Total interest expense						
			43,754			
Net interest income	27,766	27,921	55,355	54,863		
Provision for loan losses	1,729	1,948	3,455	4,615		
Net interest income						
after provision for loan losses	26,037	25,973	51,900	50,248		
Other income						
Other income Fiduciary activities	1 949	1 963	3 900	3 925		
Service charges on deposit accounts	2,771	3,048	3,900 5,197	5,771		
Other customer fees	1,389	1,188	2,744	2,273		
Net realized gains on						
sales of available-for-sale securities Commission income	(9) 946	6 757	0 2,450	6 2 261		
Earnings on cash surrender value	940	757	2,450	2,201		
of life insurance	432			840		
Net gains and fees on sales of loans		779	1,065	1,456		
Other income	422	582	797	1,309		
Total other income	8,411	8 762	17,008	17,841		
Other expenses	10 5 10	10.050	07 005	00 070		
Salaries and employee benefits Net occupancy expenses	13,543 1,477	13,258	27,935 2,911	28,079 2,831		
Equipment expenses			3,956			
Marketing expense	438	526	838	941		
Outside data processing fees	921	1,033	1,804	2,042		
Printing and office supplies	424		728			
Core deposit amortization Other expenses	761 4 323	//8	1,523 7,987			
other expenses						
Total other expenses	23,894	23,199	47,682	47,463		
Income before income tax	10,554	11 536	21,226	20 626		
Income tax expense		3,615	6,426	6,138		
			6,426			
Net income			\$ 14,800			
	=======	=======	=======	=======		
Per Share Data						
Basic Net Income	. 39			. 78		
Diluted Net Income	. 39		.80	.78		
Cash Dividends Paid Average Diluted Shares	.23	.23	. 46	.46		
Outstanding (in thousands)	18,463	18,536	18,495	18,614		
	-,	-,	-,	-,		

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(in thousands)		June 30, 2006		March 31, 2006	Dec	ember 31, 2005				June 30, 2005
Assets										
Cash and due from banks	\$	71,275	\$	59,176 9,104 441,651 5,170 2,491,488	\$	70,417	\$	81,310	\$	71,498
Interest-bearing time deposits		8,529		9,104		8,748		10,708		9,255
Investment securities		466,882		441,651		434,266		436,794		420,685
Mortgage loans held for sale		5,338		5,170		4,910		5,026		1,356
Loans	2	2,591,440		2,491,488	2	2,457,427		2,443,931		2,440,906
Less: Allowance for loan losses		(25,884)		(25,623)		(25,188)		(25,149)		(25,091)
Net loans	2	2 565 556		2 465 865	2	432 239		2 418 782		2 415 815
Premises and equipment Federal Reserve and Federal Home Loan Bank stock Interest receivable Core deposit intangibles and goodwill		41,122		39,029		39,417		38,473		37,240
Federal Reserve and Federal Home Loan Bank stock	k	23,889		23,421		23,200		23,165		23,054
Interest receivable		19,539		19,035		19,690		19,561		16,950
Core deposit intangibles and goodwill		137,429		138,174		138,833		139,597		139,799
Cash surrender value of life insurance		44,358		43,964		43,579		43,230		42,827
Other assets		24,346		43,964 25,346		21,780		21,792		22,819
Total assets	\$ 3 ===	3,408,263	\$ ==	3,269,935	\$ 3 ===	8,237,079	\$ ==	3,238,438	\$ ==	3,201,298
Liabilities										
Deposits										
Noninterest-bearing	\$	340,046	\$	325,548	\$	314,335	\$	346,318	\$	363,654
Interest-bearing	2	2,195,354		2,120,524	2	2,068,241		2,118,975		2,040,624
Total deposits	2	2,535,400		2,446,072	2	, 382, 576		2,465,293		2,404,278
Borrowings		527,347		469,002		508,236		423,959		454,400
Interest payable		6,927		6,412		5,874		5,643		5,068
Other liabilities		25,585		2,446,072 469,002 6,412 31,711		26,997		25,153		24,194
				2,953,197						
Stockholders' equity										
Preferred stock, no-par value										
Authorized and unissued 500,000 shares										
Common stock, \$.125 stated value										
Authorized 50,000,000 shares										
Issued and outstanding		2,282		2,305		2,302		2,313		2,302
Additional paid-in capital Retained earnings Accumulated other comprehensive loss		142,037		146,374		145,682		148,004		146,057
Retained earnings		181,042		177,975		174,717		171,419		167,452
Accumulated other comprehensive loss		(12,357)		146,374 177,975 (9,916)		(9,305)		(3,346)		(2,453)
Total stockholders' equity		313,004	_	316,738		313,396		318,390		313,358
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 3	3,408,263	\$	3,269,935	\$ 3	8,237,079	\$	3,238,438	\$	3,201,298
	===		==		===	=======	==		==	========

NON-PERFORMING ASSETS

(in thousands)	J	une 30, 2006	Ma	arch 31, 2006	Deo	cember 31, 2005	Sep	tember 30, 2005		June 30, 2005
90 days past due Non-accrual loans Other real estate	\$	8,818 12,611 2,497	\$	5,188 11,424 3,209	\$	3,965 10,030 2,835	\$	3,560 11,757 3,023	\$	3,696 11,626 1,804
Total non-performing assets	\$ ===	23,926	\$ ===	19,821 ======	\$ ===	16,830 ======	\$ ==	18,340 ======	\$ ==:	17,126
Average total loans for the quarter	\$2,	534,675	\$2,	,474,759	\$2,	447,794	\$2	,444,131	\$2	,430,081
Total non-performing assets as a percent of average total loans		.94%		.80%		.69%		.75%		. 70%
Restructured loans	\$	111	\$	114	\$	310	\$	454	\$	531

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME		Th	ree Months End	het	
(in thousands, except share data)	June 30, 2006	March 31, 2006		September 30, 2005	June 30, 2005
Interest Income					
Loans receivable	¢ 45 650	¢ 40.070	¢ 11 000	¢ 40.050	¢ 00 001
Taxable Tax exempt	\$ 45,658 231	\$ 43,079 168	\$ 41,930 160	\$ 40,853 160	\$ 38,831 189
Investment securities		200		200	200
Taxable	3,082	2,726	2,480	2,427	2,376
Tax exempt Federal funds sold	1,613 11	1,647 17	1,672 74	1,595 51	1,554 112
Deposits with financial institutions	132	114	202	185	166
Federal Reserve and Federal Home Loan Bank stock	320	311	296	296	285
Total interest income	51,047	48,062	46,814	45,567	43,513
Interest expense					
Deposits Ecdoral funds purchased	16,914	14,419 489	13,414 163	12,172 256	10,729 161
Federal funds purchased Securities sold under repurchase agreements	625 1,053	835	647	523	193
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	2,610	2,656	2,410	2,549	2,443
Subordinated debentures, revolving credit lines and term loans	2 020	1 001	1 010	1 904	1 920
Other borrowings	2,020 59	1,991 83	1,910 144	1,894 33	1,839 227
-					
Total interest expense	23,281	20,473	18,688	17,427	15,592
Net interest income	27,766	27,589	28,126	28,140	27,921
Provision for loan losses	1,729	1,726	1,945	1,794	1,948
Net interest income					
after provision for loan losses	26,037	25,863	26,181	26,346	25,973
Other income					
Fiduciary activities	1,949	1,951	1,762	1,794	1,963
Service charges on deposit accounts Other customer fees	2,771	2,426	2,691	2,836	3,048
Net realized gains (losses) on sales of	1,389	1,355	1,432	1,389	1,188
available-for-sale securities	(9)	9	(24)	16	6
Commission income	946	1,504	690	870	757
Earnings on cash surrender value of life insurance	432	423	386	441	439
Net gains and fees on sales of loans	511	554	676	770	779
Other income	422	375	516	664	582
Total other income	8,411	8,597	8,129	8,780	8,762
Other expenses					
Salaries and employee benefits	13,543	14,392	12,596	13,384	13,258
Net occupancy expenses	1,477	1,434	1,428	1,570	1,422
Equipment expenses Marketing expense	2,007 438	1,949 400	1,952 625	1,901 446	1,852 526
Outside data processing fees	921	883	989	979	1,033
Printing and office supplies	424	304	400	328	304
Core deposit amortization Other expenses	761 4,323	762 3,664	767 4,469	770 3,923	778 4,026
Total other expenses	23,894	23,788	23,226	23,301	23,199
Income before income tax	10,554	10,672	11,084	11,825	11,536
Income tax expense	3,263	3,163	3,553	3,605	3,615
Net income	\$ 7,291 ======	\$ 7,509 =======	\$ 7,531 =======	\$ 8,220	\$ 7,921 ======
Per Share Data					
Basic Net Income	\$.39	\$.41	\$.41	\$.45	\$.43
Diluted Net Income Cash Dividends Paid	.39 .23	.41 .23	.41 .23	. 44 . 23	. 43 . 23
Average Diluted Shares	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25
Outstanding (in thousands)	18,463	18,526	18,558	18,590	18,536
FINANCIAL RATIOS					
Return on Average Assets	.88%	.93%	.95%	1.03%	.99%
Return on Avg. Stockholders' Equity	9.20	9.49	9.49	10.38	10.13
Avg. Earning Assets to Avg. Assets Allowance for Loan Losses as %	91.21	91.27	91.47	90.83	90.81
Of Total Loans	1.00	1.03	1.02	1.03	1.03
Net Charge Off's as % Of Avg. Loans					
(Annualized) Dividend Payout Ratio	.23	.21	.31	.28	.22
Avg. Stockholders' Equity to Avg. Assets	58.97 9.54	56.10 9.78	56.10 10.05	52.27 9.89	53.49 9.80
Tax Equivalent Yield on Earning Assets	6.87	6.64	6.62	6.40	6.14

Cost of Supporting Liabilities	3.07	2.77	2.59	2.40	2.15
Net Int. Margin (FTE) on Earning Assets	3.80	3.87	4.03	4.00	3.99

LOANS

(in thousands)	June 30, 2006	March 31, 2006	December 31, 2005	September 30, 2005	June 30, 2005
Commercial and industrial loans	\$ 501,238	\$ 486,411	\$ 461,102	\$ 476,010	\$ 463,002
Agricultural production financing and	05 050	07 400	05 400	04.000	00.074
other loans to farmers	95,352	87,433	95,130	94,262	93,274
Real estate loans: Construction	178,254	175,784	174,783	171,667	166,367
Commercial and farmland	813,171	743,905	,	719,154	,
Residential	744,552	746,410	751,217	746,777	759,003
Individuals' loans for household and other	744, 332	740,410	131,211	140,111	759,005
personal expenditures	208,768	202,478	200,139	186,792	182,362
Tax exempt loans	,	13,656	'	12,439	,
Lease financing receivables, net of unearned income	,	8,193	,	,	10,533
Other loans	27,860	27,218	,	27,292	29,131
	2,591,440	2,491,488	2,457,427	2,443,931	2,440,906
Allowance for loan losses	(25, 884)	(25,623)		(25,149)	(25,091)
Total loans	. , ,	\$2,465,865	\$2,432,239	\$2,418,782	\$2,415,815
				========	
DEPOSITS					
(in thousands)	June 30, 2006	March 31, 2006	December 31, 2005	September 30, 2005	June 30, 2005
Demand deposits	\$ 758,132	\$ 671,027	\$ 690,923	\$ 697,597	\$ 720,263
Savings deposits	510.878	526.554	566,212	568,366	593,770

Savings deposits	510,878	526,554	566,212	568,366	593,770
Certificates and other time deposits of					
\$100,000 or more	313,751	320,213	264,665	320,640	234,988
Other certificates and time deposits	952,639	928,278	860,776	878,690	855,257
	\$2,535,400	\$2,446,072	\$2,382,576	\$2,465,293	\$2,404,278
	==========	==========	=========	=========	==========