investor presentation

- Fourth Quarter 2021

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER EQUAL HOUSING LENDER FDIC

first® first financial bancorp

forward looking statements disclosure

Certain statements contained in this report which are not statements of historical fact constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Words such as ‘‘believes,’’ ‘‘anticipates,’’ “likely,” “expected,” “estimated,” ‘‘intends’’ and other similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements but are not the exclusive means of identifying such statements. Examples of forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements we make about (i) our future operating or financial performance, including revenues, income or loss and earnings or loss per share, (ii) future common stock dividends, (iii) our capital structure, including future capital levels, (iv) our plans, objectives and strategies, and (v) the assumptions that underlie our forward-looking statements.

As with any forecast or projection, forward-looking statements are subject to inherent uncertainties, risks and changes in circumstances that may cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are not historical facts but instead express only management’s beliefs regarding future results or events, many of which, by their nature, are inherently uncertain and outside of management’s control. It is possible that actual results and outcomes may differ, possibly materially, from the anticipated results or outcomes indicated in these forward-looking statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in our forward-looking statements include the following, without limitation:

- economic, market, liquidity, credit, interest rate, operational and technological risks associated with the Company’s business;
- future credit quality and performance, including our expectations regarding future loan losses and our allowance for credit losses;
- the effect of and changes in policies and laws or regulatory agencies, including the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and other legislation and regulation relating to the banking industry; (iv) management’s ability to effectively execute its business plans;
- mergers and acquisitions, including costs or difficulties related to the integration of acquired companies;
- the possibility that any of the anticipated benefits of the Company’s acquisitions will not be realized or will not be realized within the expected time period;
- the effect of changes in accounting policies and practices;
- changes in consumer spending, borrowing and saving and changes in unemployment;
- changes in customers’ performance and creditworthiness;
- the costs and effects of litigation and of unexpected or adverse outcomes in such litigation;
- current and future economic and market conditions, including the effects of declines in housing prices, high unemployment rates, U.S. fiscal debt, budget and tax matters, geopolitical matters, and any slowdown in global economic growth;
- the adverse impact on the U.S. economy, including the markets in which we operate, of the novel coronavirus, which causes the Coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”), global pandemic, and the impact of a slowing U.S. economy and increased unemployment on the performance of our loan and lease portfolio, the market value of our investment securities, the availability of sources of funding and the demand for our products;
- our capital and liquidity requirements (including under regulatory capital standards, such as the Basel III capital standards) and our ability to generate capital internally or raise capital on favorable terms;

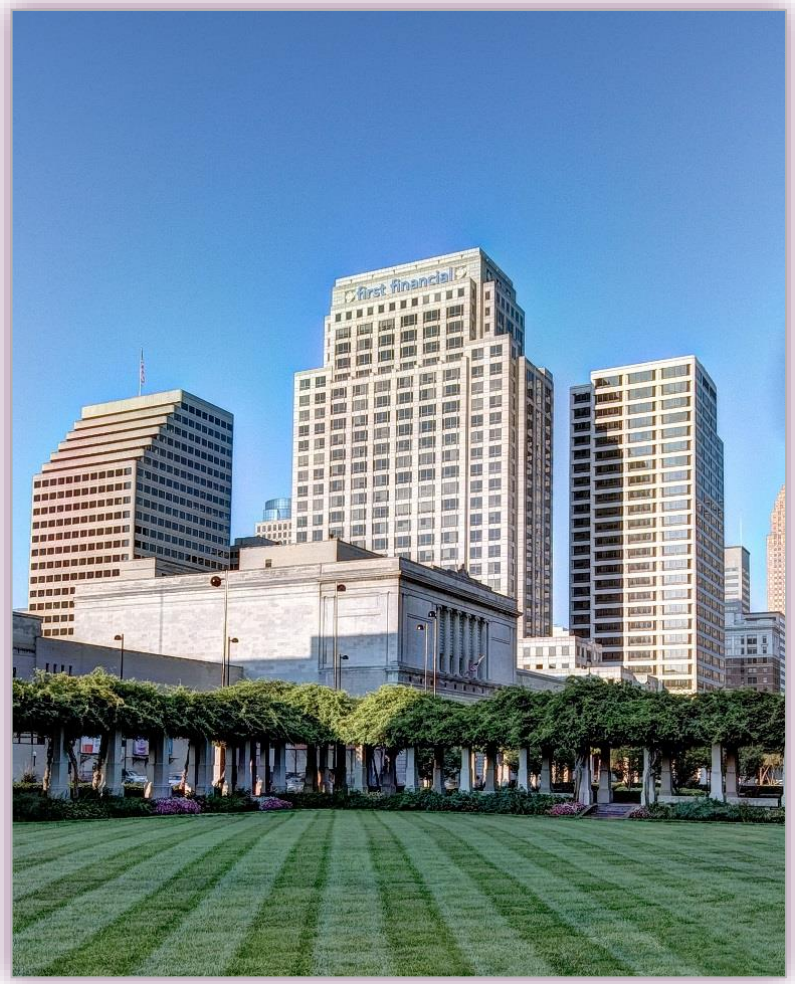
forward looking statements disclosure

- financial services reform and other current, pending or future legislation or regulation that could have a negative effect on our revenue and businesses, including the Dodd-Frank Act and other legislation and regulation relating to bank products and services;
- the effect of the current interest rate environment or changes in interest rates or in the level or composition of our assets or liabilities on our net interest income, net interest margin and our mortgage originations, mortgage servicing rights and mortgage loans held for sale;
- the effect of a fall in stock market prices on our brokerage, asset and wealth management businesses;
- a failure in or breach of our operational or security systems or infrastructure, or those of our third-party vendors or other service providers, including as a result of cyber attacks;
- the effect of changes in the level of checking or savings account deposits on our funding costs and net interest margin; and
- our ability to develop and execute effective business plans and strategies.

Additional factors that may cause our actual results to differ materially from those described in our forward-looking statements can be found in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2020, as well as our other filings with the SEC, which are available on the SEC website at www.sec.gov.

All forward-looking statements included in this filing are made as of the date hereof and are based on information available at the time of the filing. Except as required by law, the Company does not assume any obligation to update any forward-looking statement.

presentation contents



About First Financial Bancorp

Financial Performance

Appendix

our footprint







$16.3B
in assets

$9.3B/$12.9B
loans / deposits

$5.0B
wealth management

1.54%
Adj. PTPP ROAA[1]

NASDAQ: **FFBC**

Headquarters: **Cincinnati, Ohio**

Founded: **1863**

Banking Centers: **139**

Employees: **1,994**

Market Cap (12/31/21): **$2.3B**

Dividend Yield (12/31/21): **3.8%**

TCE Ratio: **7.58%**

Lines of Business

Commercial
C&I, O-CRE, ABL, Equipment Finance, Treasury, Bannockburn Global Forex

Retail Banking
Consumer, Small Business

Mortgage Banking

Wealth Management / Affluent Banking

Investment Commercial Real Estate

Commercial Finance
Oak Street Funding / Franchise
Summit Funding Group

FIRST
first financial bancorp

[1] Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliation.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER EQUAL HOUSING LENDER FDIC

key investment highlights

Proven & sustainable business model spanning 150+ years

- Well managed through past credit cycles
- Conservative operating philosophy
- Consistent profitability – 125 consecutive quarters

Premier Midwest franchise with top quartile performance

High quality balance sheet & robust capital position (10.84% CET1 / 7.58% TCE)

Prudent risk management & credit culture with strong asset quality

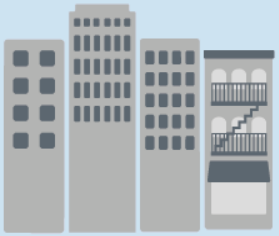
Increased scale to continue investments in technology

Track record of well-executed acquisitions with a well-defined M&A strategy

Experienced and proven management team

complementary market centric strategies

METRO MARKETS



Louisville, KY
Columbus, OH
Indianapolis, IN
Dayton, OH

▼ Low brand awareness
Low market share

Loans $2.8B / Deposits $3.3B

- Build relationships through becoming the Premier Business Bank
- Bank the business, the business owners and the employees
- Leads to targeted growth across all business lines

COMMUNITY MARKETS



Southern IN
South Central IN
Northwest IN
Northern OH

▲ High brand awareness
High market share

Loans $1.5B / Deposits $5.2B

- Deepen relationships
- Expand product offering
- Word-of-mouth referrals
- Leads to organic growth

HEADQUARTERS



Greater Cincinnati
Northern KY

4th in market share
All business lines represented

Loans $3.9B / Deposits $4.1B

- Significant branch network
- Alternative to larger banks
- Mass player, based on brand, reputation and legacy
- Visible presence
- Large associate population

NATIONAL



Industry Specific

▶ Niche offering

Loans $1.1B / Deposits $0.3B

- Oak Street Funding
- First Franchise Capital
- Bannockburn Global Forex
- Summit Funding Group

Note: Headquarters loan and deposit balances include special assets, loan marks, and other out of market and corporately held balances. Loan balances exclude PPP balances.

diversified lines of business

FIRST first financial bank

Go-to-Market Strategies

COMMERCIAL BANKING

Vision
To be known and operate as the Premier Business Bank and to provide banking solutions to the business, to the owner(s) and to their employees.

Target Audience
- High Demander
- $10MM-100MM Sales Revenue
- 50+ Employees

Current Portfolio

Relationships	3,843
Commitments	$3.4B
Balances	$2.4B
Business Deposits	$2.1B
Pub Fund Deposits	$2.0B

Value Proposition
We offer the products of our large regional competitors and, through personal relationship building, we become their trusted financial partner.

Business Line Goals
- Loan Growth
- Deposit Growth
- Fee Revenue
- Added new Forex product line through Bannockburn acquisition

RETAIL BANKING

Vision
Achieve organic growth by creating long-lasting relationships by finding ways to help our clients succeed.

Target Audience
- Consumers
- Small Business

Goals
- Core Deposit Growth
- Client Retention
- Share of Wallet
- Business Banking

Value Proposition
Centers on our ability to remain relevant and offer the products and services that our larger competitors do, but with a level of client intimacy that is difficult for larger competitors to sustain. Our clients look to us as their partner, and we will seek to provide them every product and service that they need—but nothing that they don't.

Current Portfolio

	Consumer	Business	Pub Funds
Number of Clients	312,797	33,163	
Total Deposit Balance	$6.1B	$1.6B	$0.1B
Total Loan Balance	$0.8B	$0.3B	

MORTGAGE

Vision
To be known as a premier mortgage lender in our communities by leveraging our relationships, exceptional client service and a comprehensive selection of product options to assist our clients in obtaining their dream of homeownership.

Target Audience
Clients looking to purchase or refinance a home less than $2.5MM

Current State
- Qtr Orig Volume $245MM
- Avg loan size $222K

Business Objectives
- Grow the business
- Focus on CRA
- Regulatory Compliance
- Customer Satisfaction

Value Proposition
A team of mortgage experts that deliver a fast, consistent experience for our clients by offering a suite of products to meet the needs of all client segments.

WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Vision
Utilize a holistic wealth management approach to grow, preserve and protect client wealth.

Target Audience

Mass Affluent:	$150-$499K HH income $250K-$1MM in AUM
High Net Worth:	$500K+ HH Income $1MM-$10MM in AUM
Plan Sponsors:	$1-$20MM Plan Size 100+ Participants

Value Proposition
- Convenient and efficient venue to comprehensively address all financial/banking needs
- Investment Management Process
- Expertise - Trust, Estate, Financial Planning, RPS
- Best in Class Brokerage Platform

Current Portfolio

	Relationships	Assets
Trust & Investments	2,932	$3.1B
Brokerage	6,950	$1.6B
RPS	85	$0.3B

Business Line Goals
- AUM Growth
- New Client Acquisition
- Maintain Top Quartile Investment Outcomes

INVESTMENT COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

Vision
To be recognized by professional developers and investors as the market leader. Through constant monitoring and application of our strategy we will build a high performing portfolio with acceptable risk and excellent financial returns.

Current Portfolio

Central & Northern OH	$1.1B
Southern OH	$1.5B
Indiana	$0.6B
Healthcare	$0.3B
Small Exposure	$0.3B
Affordable	$0.1B

Business Line Goals
- Loan Growth
- Swap Revenue
- Deposit Growth

Target Audience
Professional investors/developers with proven track-record to weather down-cycles

COMMERCIAL FINANCE

Vision
To be the market leader in client experience for commercial financing by delivering unique and diverse product offerings through cutting-edge technology and exceptional client service.

Target Audience
- Insurance Businesses (Retail, Wholesale, MGA, MGU, Risk Retention Groups, Carriers)
- Registered Investment Advisors
- Multi-Unit Restaurant Franchisees
- Certified Public Accountants
- Commercial Automotive Portfolios
- Third-Party Loan Servicing

Current Portfolio

FRA	$0.3B
OSF	$0.5B

Value Proposition
Fulfill the unique capital needs for our targeted cash flow-based industries while providing extraordinary service to our borrowers.

Business Line Goals
- Portfolio Growth
- Revenue Growth

The number of Trust & Investments and RPS relationships are updated as of 9/30/21. All other data as of 12/31/21.

revenue growth strategies

LOB | Go-to-Market

Product & Pricing

- Regional pricing strategy
- Treasury Management product investments
- Investments in Product Management

Talent Expansion

- Up-Market Commercial talent acquisition
- Added Chief Digital Officer; building out team
- Added Enterprise Product Executive
- Added Client Experience Executive

Client Experience

- Improved Cash Management Platform
- Improved Online Banking Product
- Blend – Mortgage Origination
- nCino – Commercial loan origination and online account opening

Distribution

Defined Models

- Community
- Metro
- Headquarters
- National
- Digital

Capacity Plans

- Increased physical distribution network
- Closed 58 locations in last 4 years
- Aligned sales teams to distribution models

Expanded Capabilities

- Acquired Bannockburn enabling us to provide foreign exchange services
- Rollout of "in-house" derivatives desk capabilities
- Investment in Wealth Mgmt.:
  - Business succession
  - Fixed income strategies
  - Alternative investments
  - Improved digital platform
- Acquired Summit providing significant improvement to lease product offering

Technology

Enterprise Data Management

- Investment in data warehouse
- Enabling data as a strategic asset
- Connection into CRM platform

Enterprise CRM

- Company-wide implementation of SFDC
- Marketing automation and sales enablement program development
- Sales Management
- Operational Integration

Digital Transformation

- Roadmap Creation
- Increased Resource Allocation
- Enhanced Client Experience

Talent

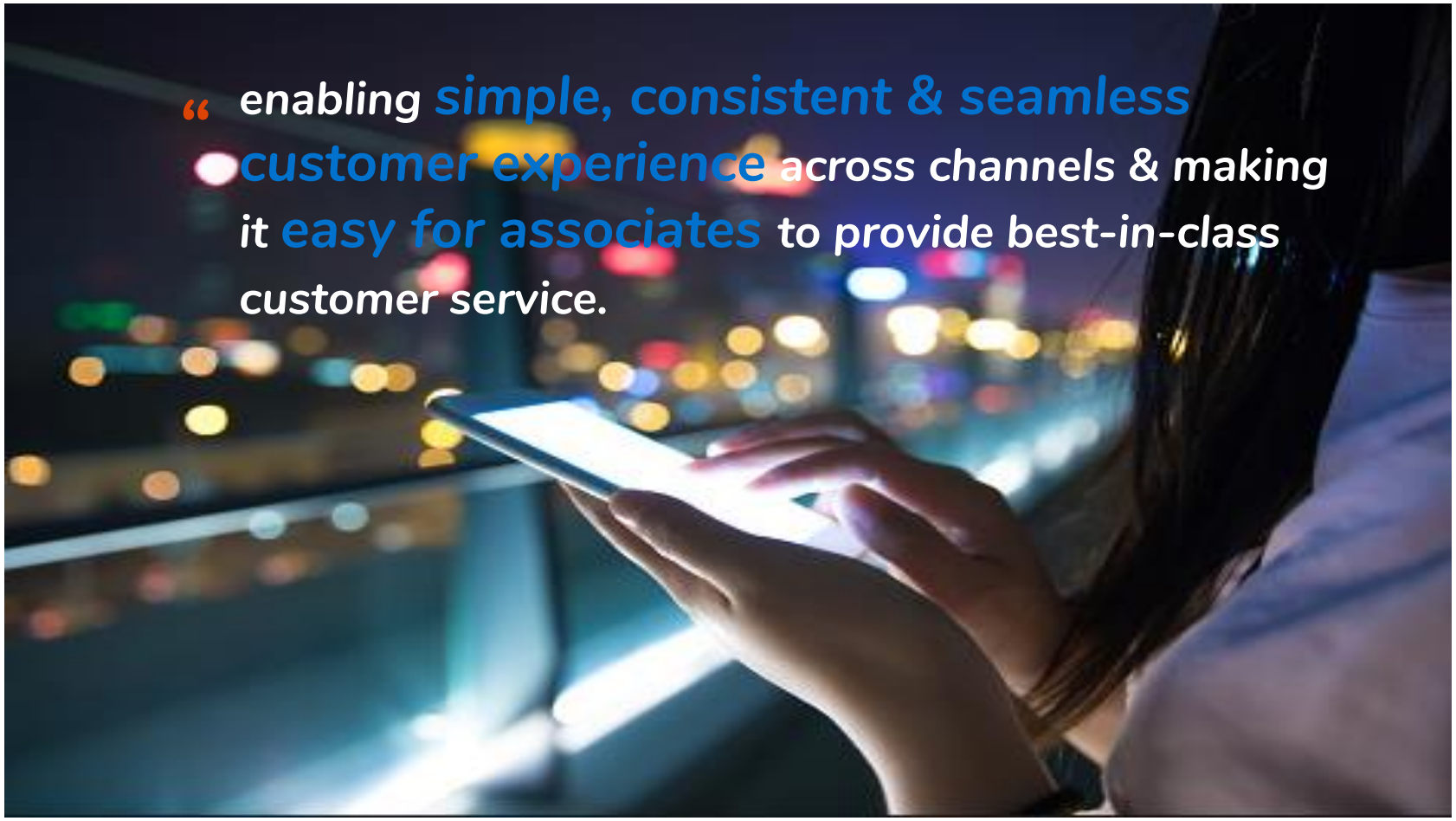
Staffing Model

- Defined new company FTE targets
- Larger salesforce in targeted Lines of Business

Culture

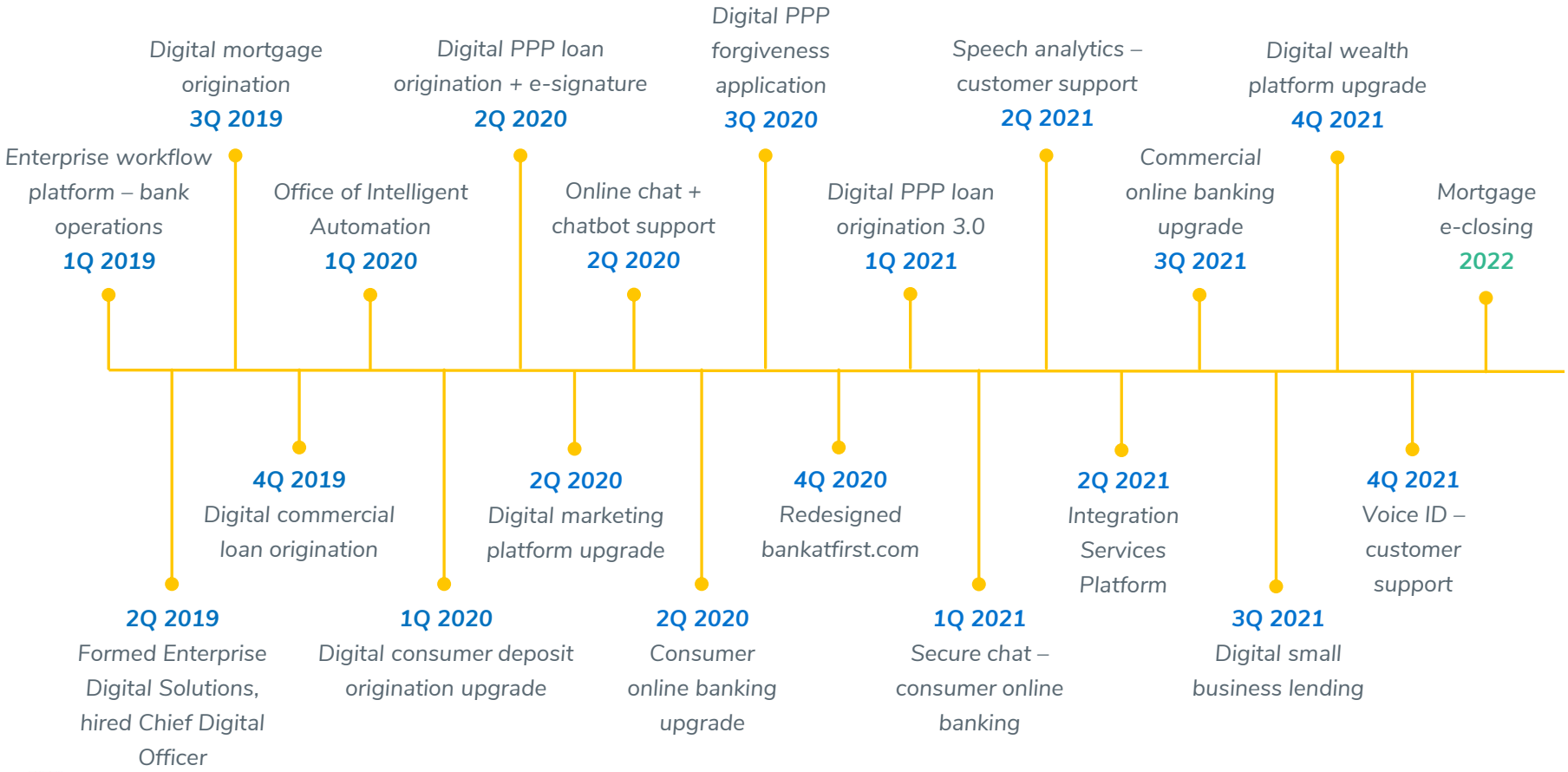
- Diversity and inclusion is a strategic priority
- Refreshed Corporate Strategic Intent
- Attraction/recruitment engagement and retention programs

digital + technology investments



digital + technology investments

continued investment in digital solutions, automation + data enablement

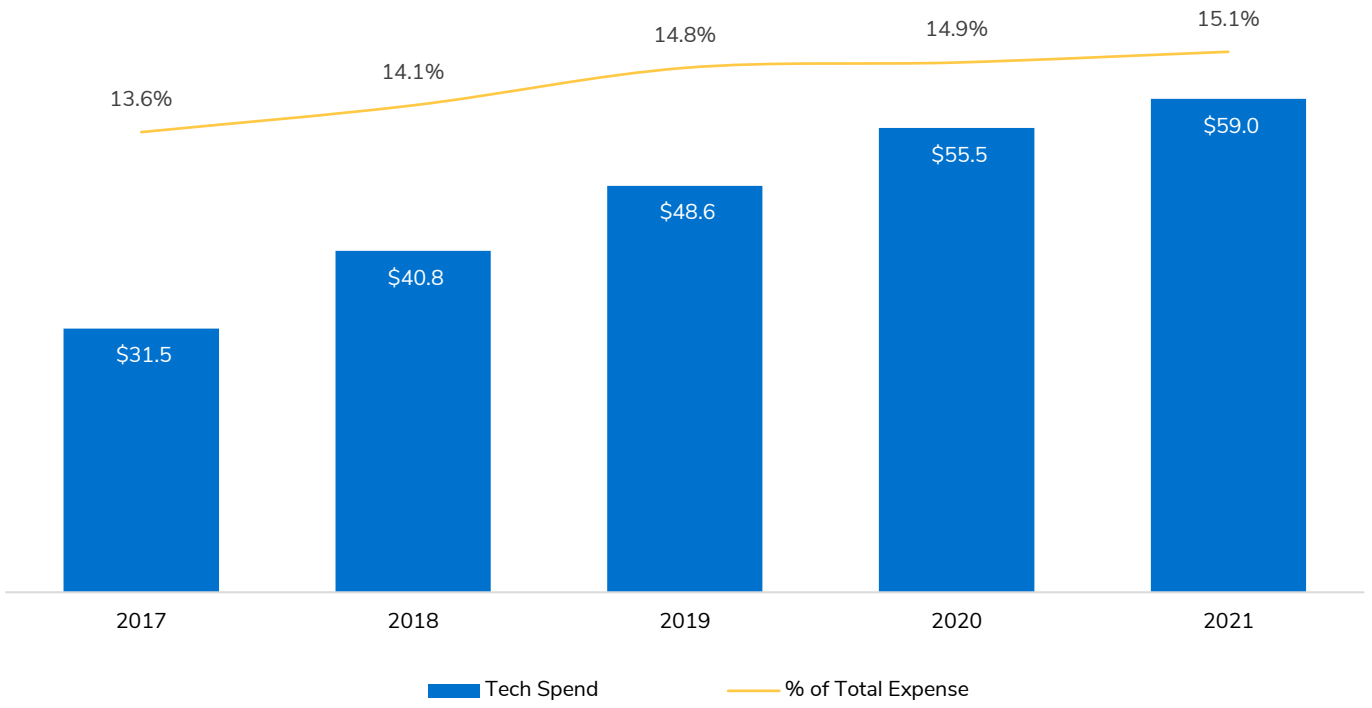


first financial bancorp

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER EQUAL HOUSING LENDER FDIC

bank transformation

Tech Spend / Total Expense



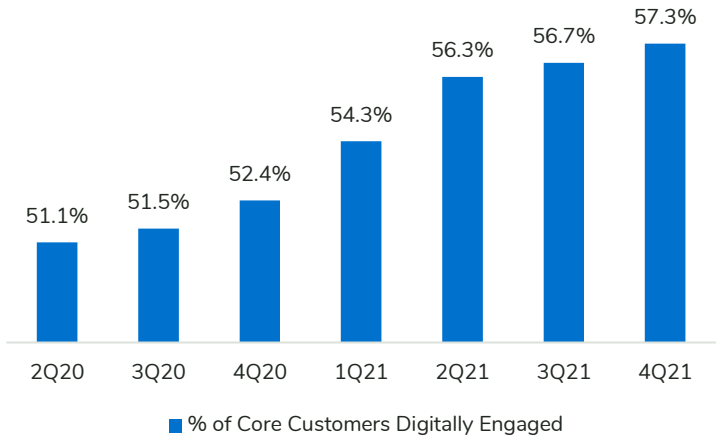
All dollars shown in millions

Tech Spend consists of data processing, communications, software / equipment depreciation & departmental expenses (primarily salaries & benefits) for the Technology, Digital & Info Security teams.

digital + technology highlights

- **engagement**
  - digital engagement[1] across core customers increased 9.3% vs. 4Q 2020
  - consumer online banking logins increased 22.6% vs. 4Q 2020
- **self service**
  - consumer remote deposits increased 15.6% vs. 4Q 2020
  - consumer online/mobile transactions increased 17.2% vs. 4Q 2020
- **customer satisfaction**
  - avg consumer mobile app ratings, 4Q 2021 vs. 4Q 2020:
    - ios: 4.36 vs. 4.04
    - android: 4.44 vs. 4.19

Digital Engagement[1]



- **automation + development**
  - eliminated 26k+ hours[2] of manual effort in 2021

1 – Represents core customers active in online / mobile banking over the past 30 days of the quarter.
2 - annualized

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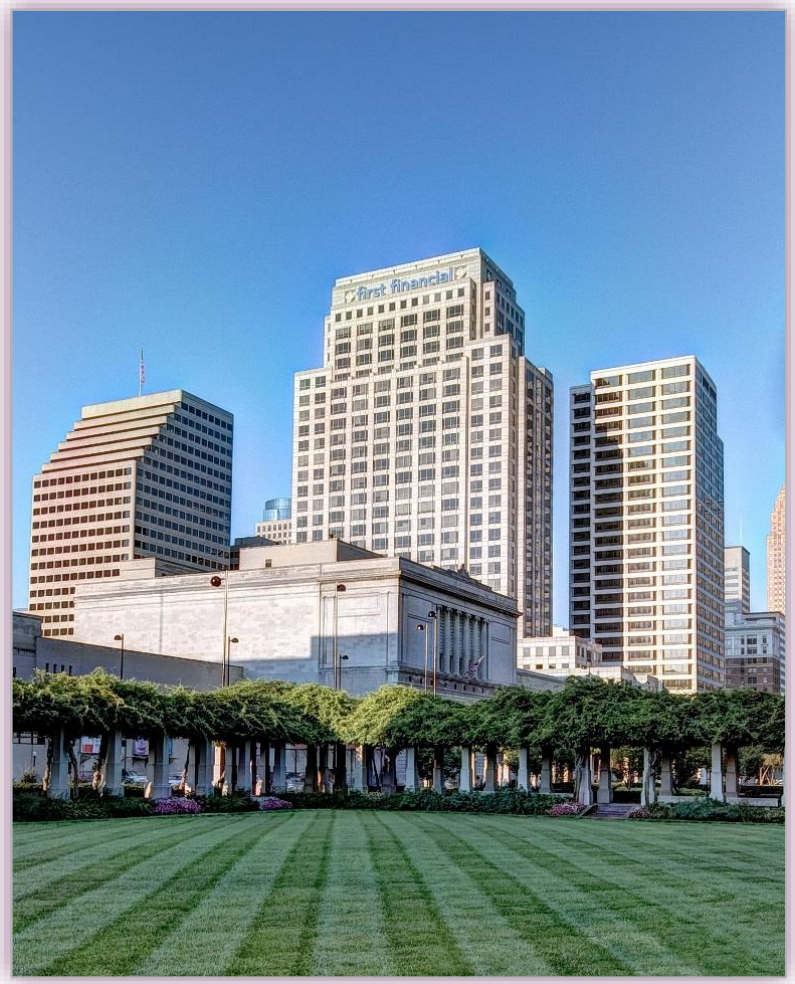


About First Financial Bancorp

Financial Performance

Appendix

4Q 2021 results

125th Consecutive Quarter of Profitability

Profitability

- Net income - $46.9 million or $0.50 per diluted share. Adjusted[1] net income - $54.1 million or $0.58 per diluted share
- Return on average assets - 1.16%. Adjusted[1] return on average assets - 1.34%
- Return on average shareholders' equity – 8.31%. Adjusted[1] return on average shareholders' equity – 9.58%
- Return on average tangible common equity - 15.11%[1]. Adjusted[1] return on average tangible common equity - 17.43%

Income Statement

- Net interest income - $110.8 million
- Net interest margin of 3.19% on a GAAP basis; 3.23% on a fully tax equivalent basis[1]
- Noninterest income - $45.7 million
- Noninterest expense - $109.6 million; $94.1 million as adjusted[1]
- Efficiency ratio – 70.05%. Adjusted[1] efficiency ratio – 60.24%
- Effective tax rate of 14.0%. Adjusted[1] effective tax rate of 22.5%

Balance Sheet

- EOP assets increased $372.5 million compared to the linked quarter to $16.3 billion
- EOP loans decreased $72.6 million compared to the linked quarter to $9.3 billion
- Average deposits increased $217.9 million compared to the linked quarter to $12.9 billion
- EOP investment securities increased $93.4 million compared to the linked quarter

Asset Quality

- Provision recapture - $7.7 million
- Net charge-offs - $7.4 million. NCOs / Avg. Loans - 0.32% annualized
- Classified Assets / Total Assets - 0.64%
- ACL / Total loans - 1.42%

Capital

- Total capital ratio – 14.10%
- Tier 1 common equity ratio - 10.84%
- Tangible common equity ratio - 7.58%
- Tangible book value per share - $12.26
- Repurchased no shares during the quarter

[1] Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliation.

4Q 2021 highlights

- Quarterly earnings driven by strong fee income and lower credit costs
  - Adjusted[1] earnings per share - $0.58
  - Adjusted[1] return on assets - 1.34%
  - Adjusted[1] pre-tax, pre-provision return on assets - 1.54%
  - Adjusted[1] return on average tangible common equity - 17.43%

- Loan balances declined primarily due to PPP payoffs/forgiveness; Core loan balances increased $148.8 million[2]; Average deposit balances increased $217.9 million
  - Loan balances decreased $72.6 million compared to the linked quarter; PPP loan balances decreased $120.2 million, Sold $143.6 million of CRE loans, acquired $42.3 million[2] of leases in Summit acquisition
  - C&I loan balances, excluding PPP, increased 36.2% on an annualized basis

- Average deposit balances increased $217.9 million
  - Average transactional deposit balances grew $364.0 million compared to the linked quarter
  - Average noninterest bearing deposits were 32.5% of total deposits

- Net interest margin (FTE) in line with expectations
  - 9 bp decrease from third quarter driven by PPP forgiveness fees and decline in asset yields from excess liquidity on the balance sheet
  - Decline in asset yields includes 2 bp decline resulting from hotel loan sale

- Strong adjusted[1] noninterest income of $45.4 million
  - Record foreign exchange income of $12.8 million, an increase of $3.6 million, or 39.4%, compared to the linked quarter
  - Strong wealth management fees of $6.0 million, an increase of $0.1 million, or 2.4%, compared to the linked quarter
  - Other noninterest income of $5.5 million, an increase of $1.1 million, or 23.9%, compared to the linked quarter

- Core expenses increased $0.5 million from the linked quarter, driven by increase in incentive compensation tied to strong fee income and overall Company performance
  - Adjusted[1] noninterest expense of $94.1 million; Adjusted[1] for $6.1 million reclassification of tax credit investment write-downs, $3.5 million overdraft legal settlement, $4.1 million in Summit acquisition costs and $1.9 million of other costs such as branch consolidation and severance expenses
  - Efficiency ratio of 70.1%; 60.2% as adjusted[1]

[1] Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliations.
[2] The fair value measurements of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the Summit acquisition are subject to refinement for up to one year after the closing date of the acquisition as additional information relative to closing date fair values becomes available.

4Q 2021 highlights

- Acquired Summit Funding Group on December 31, 2021[2]
  - $116.2 million in leases acquired; $42.3 million financing leases, $73.9 million operating
  - $63.0 million of goodwill and $34.6 million of other intangible assets created

- $143.6 million of CRE loans sold during quarter
  - $133.9 million hotel loans sold to reduce concentration risk
    - Resulted in $9.2 million of net charge-offs
  - $9.7 million distressed office building

- Allowance for credit loss (ACL) and provision expense declined compared to linked quarter
  - Loans and leases - ACL of $132.0 million; 1.42% of total loans, 1.43% excluding PPP; $9.5 million provision recapture
  - Unfunded Commitments - ACL of $13.4 million; $1.8 million provision expense
  - Provision recapture driven by lower classified asset balances and improved credit outlook
  - Classified assets declined $60.6 million, or 36.7%

- Strong capital ratios
  - Total capital of 14.10%; Tier 1 common equity of 10.84%
  - Tangible book value decreased by $0.83 to $12.26 due to Summit acquisition
  - Tangible common equity of 7.58%
  - No shares repurchased in fourth quarter

[1] Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliations.

[2] The fair value measurements of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the Summit acquisition are subject to refinement for up to one year after the closing date of the acquisition as additional information relative to closing date fair values becomes available.

adjusted net income[1]

The table below lists certain adjustments that the Company believes are significant to understanding its quarterly performance.

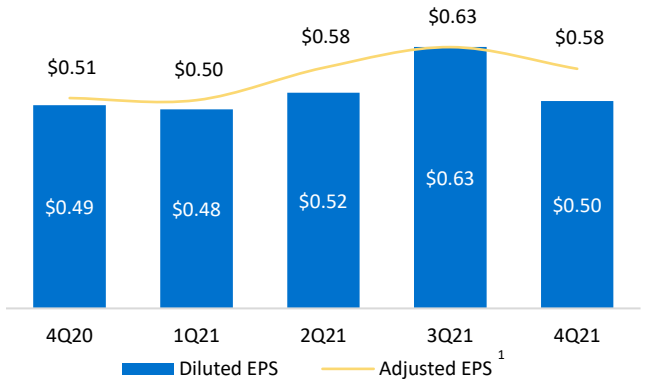
	4Q 2021			3Q 2021		
	As Reported	Adjusted [1]		As Reported	Adjusted [1]	
Net interest income	$ 110,806	$ 110,806		$ 113,410	$ 113,410	
Provision for credit losses-loans and leases	$ (9,525)	$ (9,525)		$ (8,193)	$ (8,193)	
Provision for credit losses-unfunded commitments	$ 1,799	$ 1,799		$ (1,951)	$ (1,951)	
Noninterest income	$ 45,660	$ 45,660		$ 42,537	$ 42,537	
less: gains (losses) on investment securities		306	A	-	(205)	A
less: other	-	-	A	-	500	A
Total noninterest income	$ 45,660	$ 45,354		$ 42,537	$ 42,242	
Noninterest expense	$ 109,605	$ 109,605		$ 99,058	$ 99,058	
less: tax credit investment	-	6,120	A	-	5,309	A
less: legal settlement	-	3,456	A	-	-	A
less: Summit acquistion costs	-	4,095	A	-	-	A
less: other	-	1,870	A	-	181	A
Total noninterest expense	$ 109,605	$ 94,064		$ 99,058	$ 93,568	
Income before income taxes	$ 54,587	$ 69,822		$ 67,033	$ 72,228	
Income tax expense	$ 7,642	$ 7,642		$ 7,021	$ 7,021	
plus: after-tax impact of tax credit investment @ 21%	-	4,835		-	4,194	
plus: tax effect of adjustments (A) @ 21% statutory rate	-	3,199		-	1,091	
Total income tax expense	$ 7,642	$ 15,676		$ 7,021	$ 12,306	
Net income	$ 46,945	$ 54,146		$ 60,012	$ 59,922	
Net earnings per share - diluted	$ 0.50	$ 0.58		$ 0.63	$ 0.63	
Pre-tax, pre-provision return on average assets	1.16%	1.54%		1.41%	1.54%	

[1] Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliations.

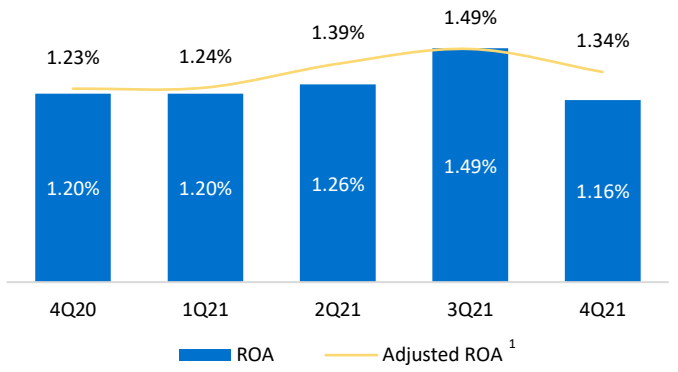
All dollars shown in thousands, except per share amounts

profitability

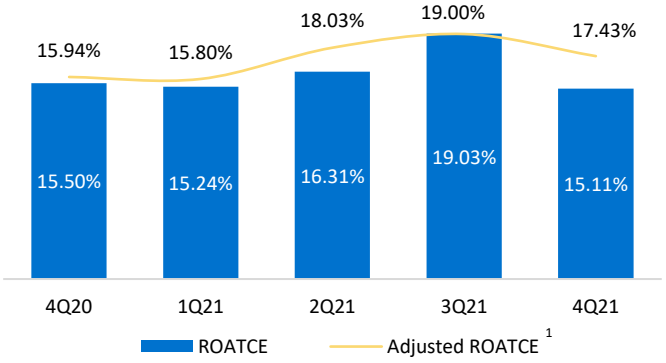
Diluted EPS



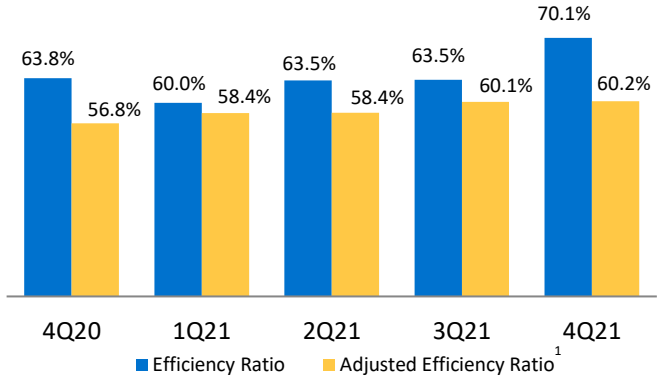
Return on Average Assets



Return on Avg Tangible Common Equity



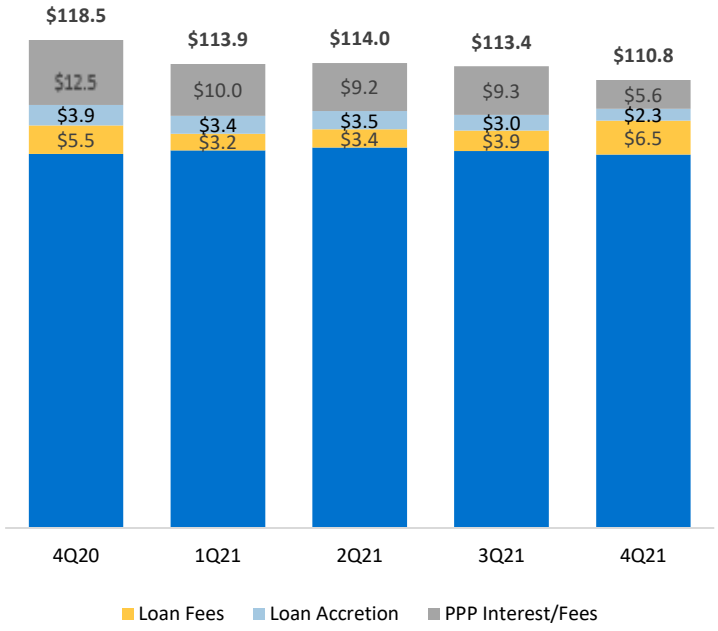
Efficiency Ratio



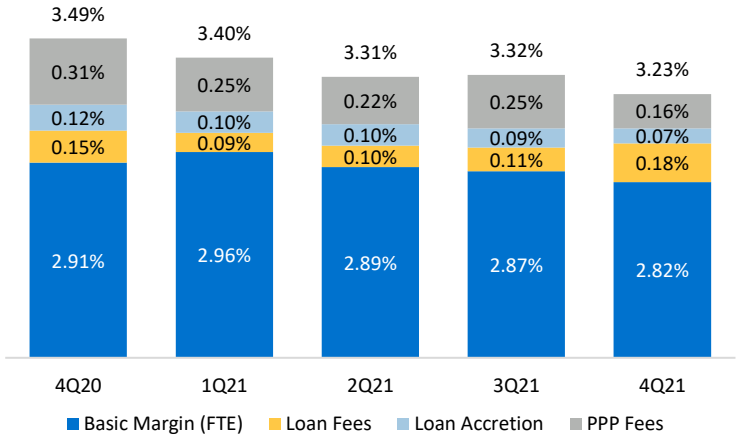
[1] Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliation.

net interest income & margin

Net Interest Income



Net Interest Margin (FTE)



4Q21 NIM (FTE) Progression

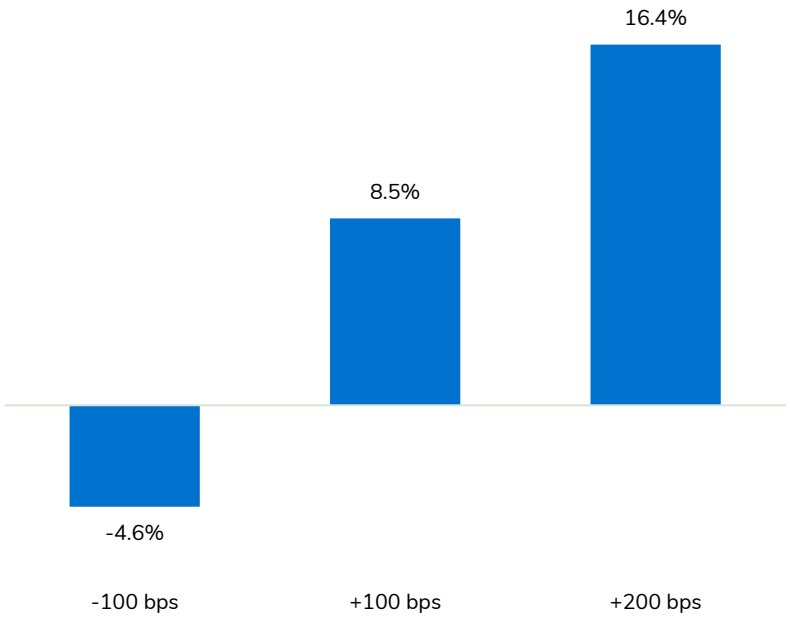
3Q21	**3.32%**
PPP loan fees	-0.09%
Loan accretion	-0.02%
Other loan fees	0.07%
Asset yields/mix	-0.06%
Deposit/funding costs/mix	0.01%
4Q21	**3.23%**

All dollars shown in millions

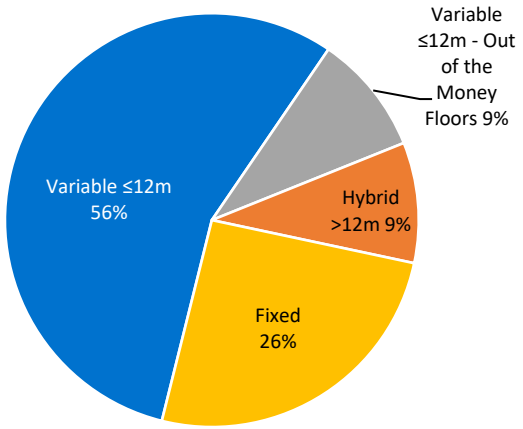
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER EQUAL HOUSING LENDER FDIC

asset sensitive balance sheet positioning

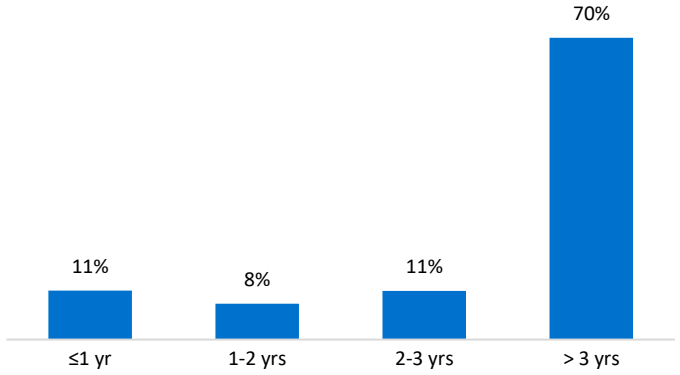
Net Interest Income Sensitivity [1]



Loans - Variable Exposure[2]



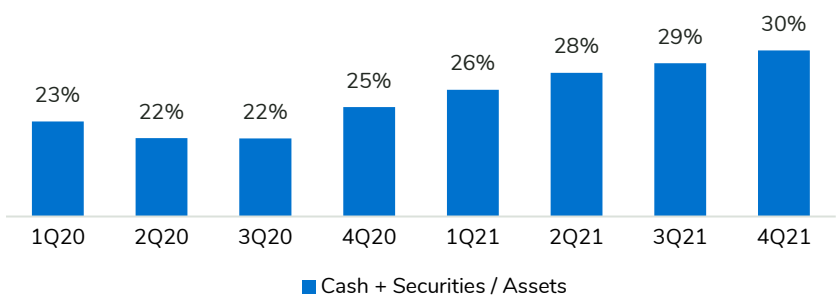
Fixed/Hybrid Years to Maturity/Repricing[3]

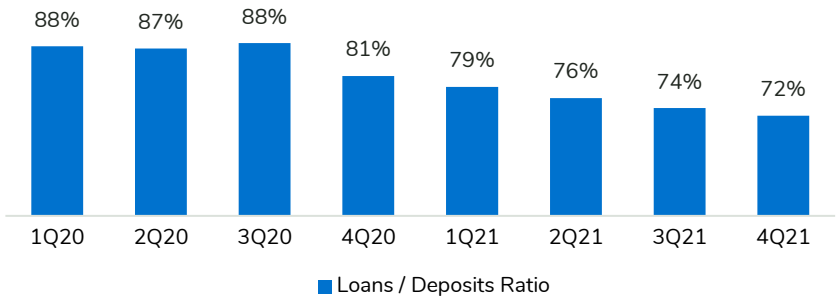


[1]NII – Year 1 impact, represents percentage change for immediate parallel changes in rates. Data as of 12/31/21.
[2]Reflects percentage of loans classified as variable rate and repricing in ≤12m, variable rate and repricing in ≤12m with out of the money floors, hybrid variable rate repricing in >12m, or fixed rate, including loans held for sale. Data as of 12/31/21.
[3]Schedule reflects remaining maturity or repricing frequency for all fixed rate loans or hybrid variable rate loans repricing in >12m, including loans held for sale. Data as of 12/31/21.

liquid balance sheet presents opportunity

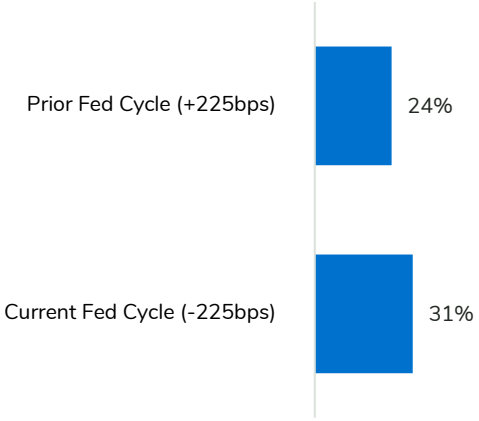
Excess Liquidity Provides Significant Tailwind



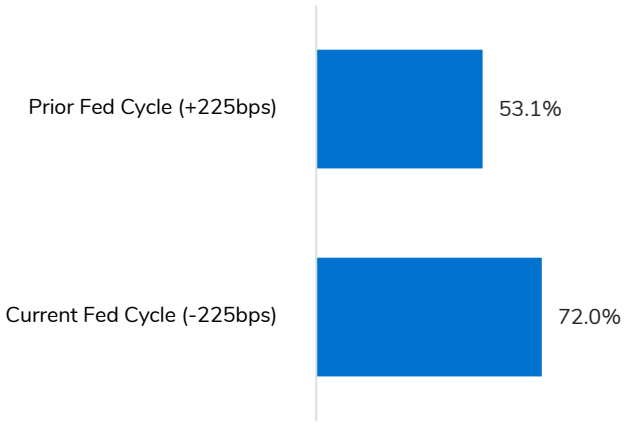


Historical Deposit and Loan Betas[1,2]

Total Deposit Beta



Loan Beta



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[1]Historical data adjusted for the combination with MainSource Financial Group, Inc. using the sum of the individual components.
[2]"Prior Fed Cycle" begins 3Q15 and ends 2Q19. The "Current Fed Cycle" begins 3Q19 to present.

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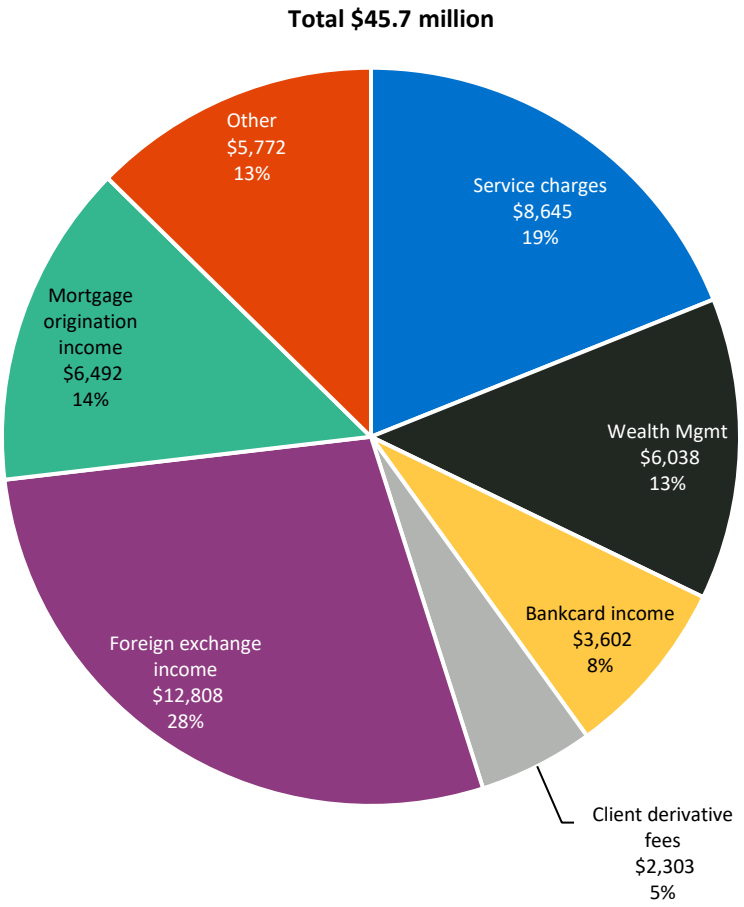
diverse and growing fee revenues

Noninterest Income



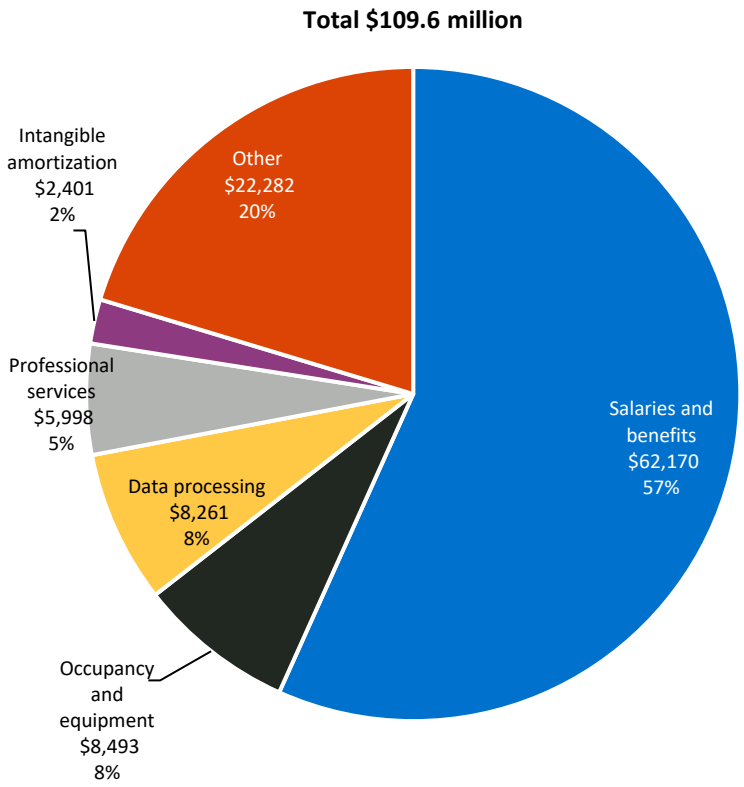
All dollars shown in thousands

4Q21 Highlights

- Total fee income 29.2% of net revenue
- Foreign exchange income of $12.8 million; increased $3.6 million, or 39.4%, from linked quarter
- Trust and wealth management fees of $6.0 million; increase of $0.1 million, or 2.4%, from linked quarter
- Deposit service charge income of $8.6 million; increased $0.1 million, or 1.1%, from the linked quarter
- Mortgage banking income of $6.5 million; decreased $2.1 million, or 24.4%, from the linked quarter
- Client derivative income of $2.3 million; remained unchanged from the linked quarter
- Other noninterest income of $5.8 million; increased $1.6 million, or 37.3%, from the linked quarter
  - Driven by $1.2 million increase in syndication fees

well managed expenses

Noninterest Expense

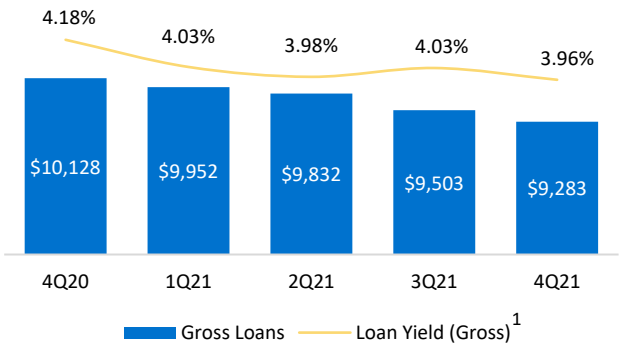


4Q21 Highlights

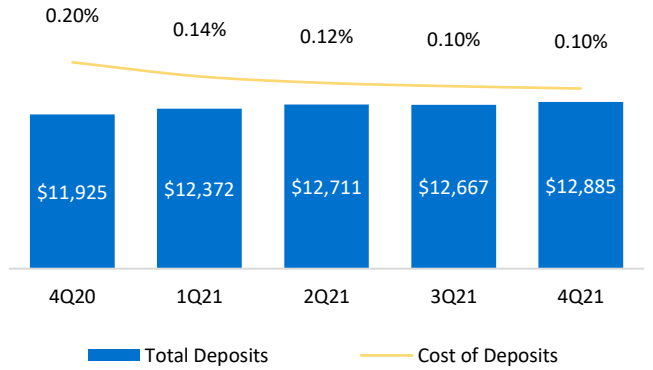
- Core expenses increased $0.5 million from the linked quarter, driven by incentive compensation tied to overall Company performance
- Adjustments include:
  - $6.1 million tax credit investment write-down
  - $3.5 million of overdraft legal settlement
  - $4.1 million of Summit acquisition costs
  - $1.9 million of other costs not expected to recur such as branch consolidation and severance

average balance sheet

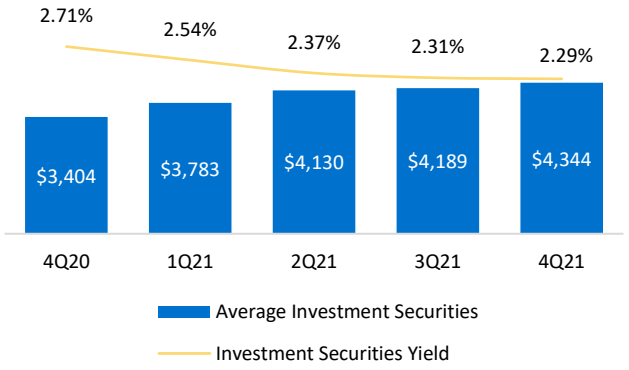
Average Loans



Average Deposits



Average Securities



All dollars shown in millions

[1] Includes loans fees and loan accretion

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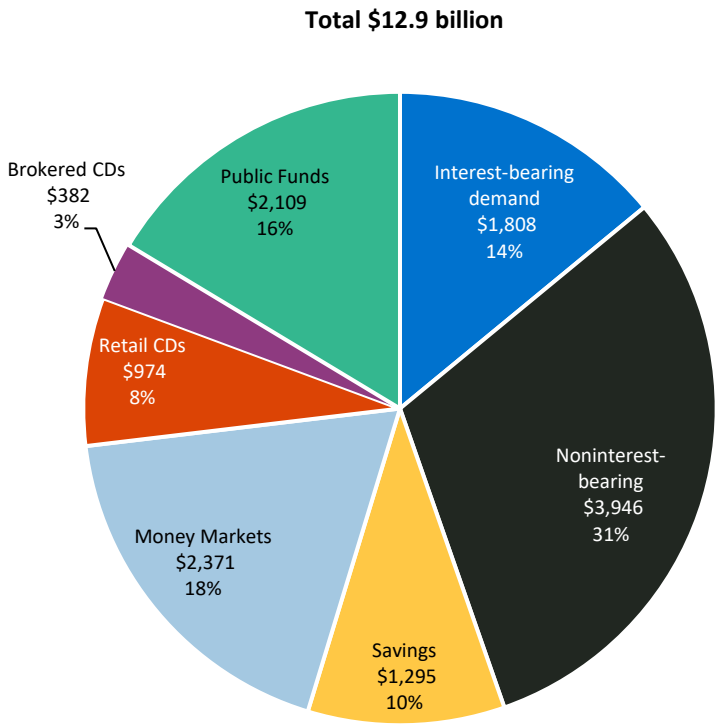
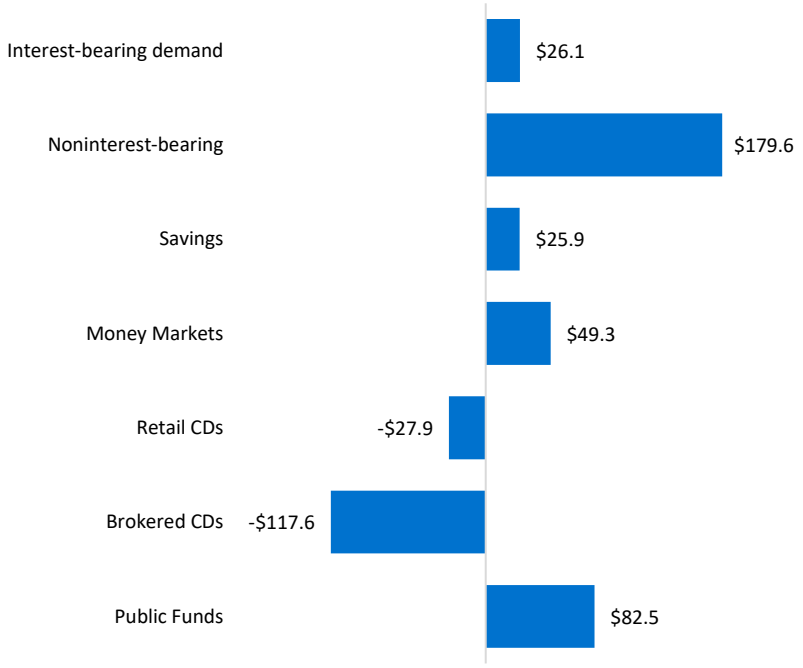
attractive deposit portfolio

Deposit Product Mix (Avg)



4Q21 Average Deposit Progression

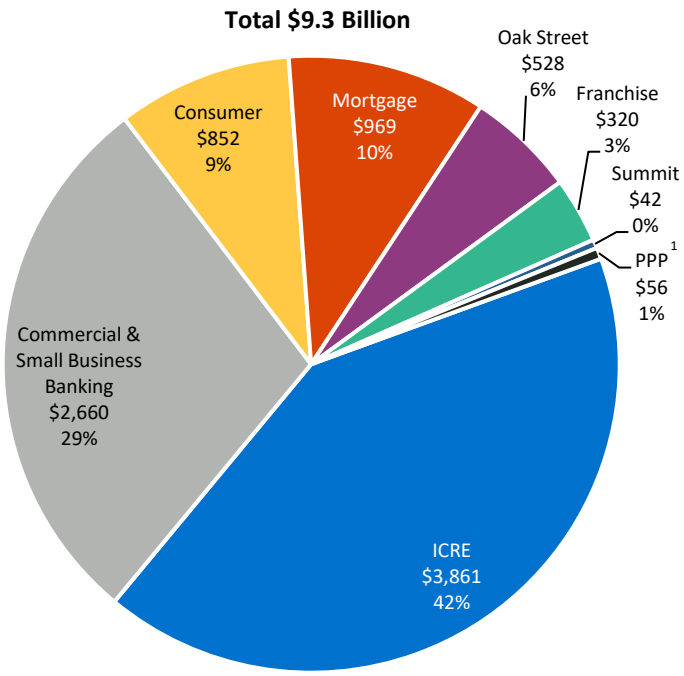


Total growth/(decline):
$217.9 million

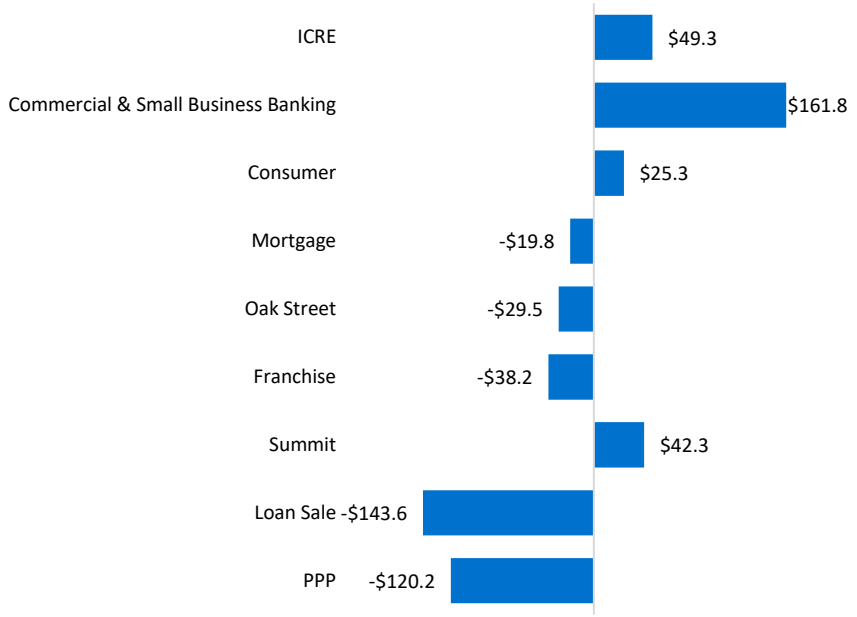
All dollars shown in millions

loan portfolio

Loan LOB Mix (EOP)



Net Loan Change-LOB (Linked Quarter)

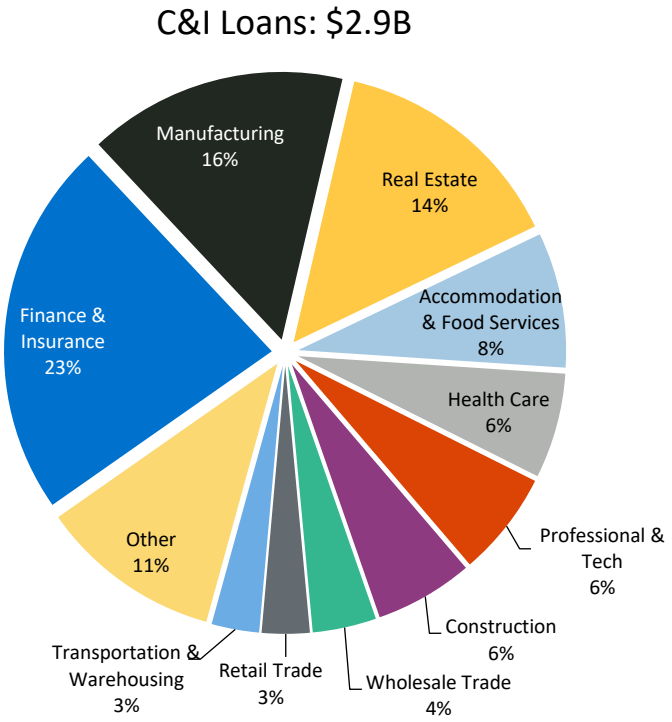


Total growth/(decline): ($72.6 million)

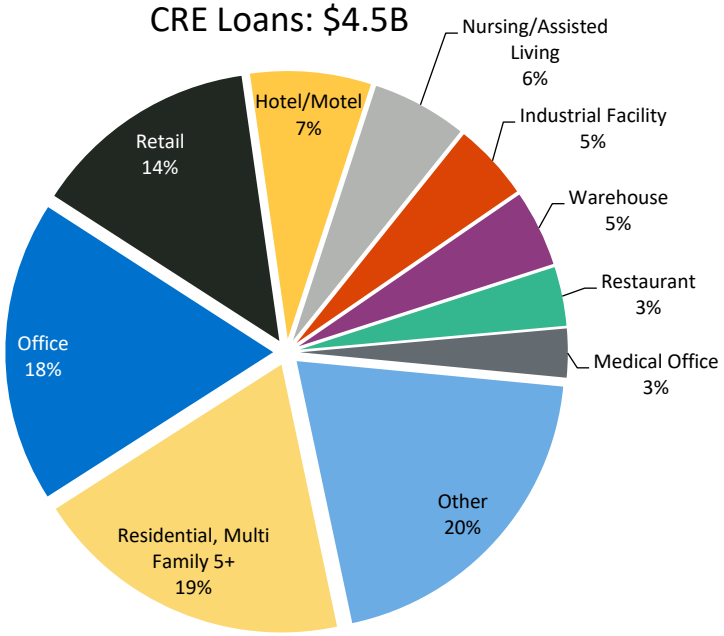
[1] Net of unearned fees of $2.6 million
All dollars shown in millions

loan concentrations

C&I Loans by Industry



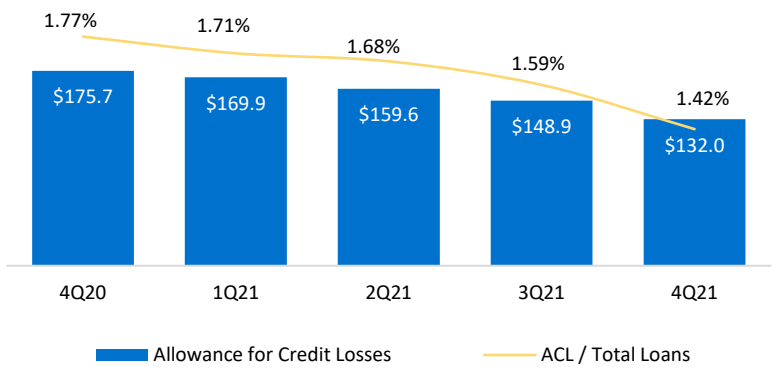
CRE Loans by Collateral



[1] Industry types included in Other representing greater than 1% of total C&I loans include Public Administration, Agriculture, Waste Management, Other Services, and Arts & Recreation. Includes owner-occupied CRE.
[2] Collateral types included in Other representing greater than 1% of total CRE loans include Manufacturing Facility, Residential 1-4 Family, Farmland, Residential Multi-Family 5+ Construction, Real Estate IUB Other, Student Housing, Church, and Recreation Facility.

current expected credit losses - loans and leases

ACL / Total Loans



All dollars shown in millions

4Q21 Highlights

- $145.4 million combined ACL; $7.7 million combined provision recapture
- $132.0 million ACL – loans and leases, or 1.42% of loan balances; 1.43% excluding PPP
- $9.5 million of provision recapture; driven by lower classified asset balances and improved credit outlook
- Utilized December Moody's baseline forecast in quantitative model
- $13.4 million ACL – unfunded commitments; $1.8 million provision expense for this portion of the ACL

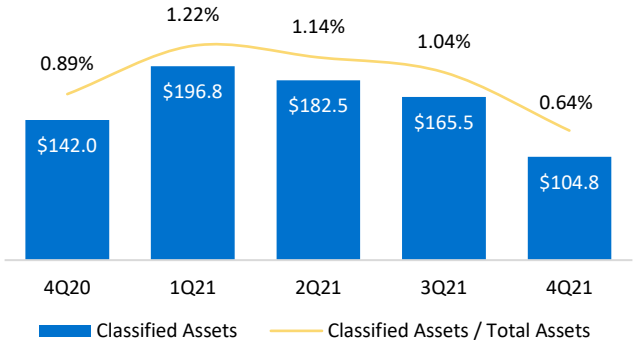
ACL by Loan Type

	4Q20	1Q21	2Q21	3Q21	4Q21
Loans					
Commercial and industrial	$ 51,454	$ 45,139	$ 46,797	$ 43,534	$ 44,052
Lease financing	995	1,015	1,457	1,083	1,633
Real estate -construction	21,736	22,734	20,359	15,390	11,874
Real estate - commercial	76,795	78,669	70,305	68,594	53,420
Real estate - residential	8,560	7,748	6,879	6,480	6,225
Home equity	11,869	10,760	9,684	9,538	9,643
Installment	1,215	1,235	1,211	1,177	1,097
Credit card	3,055	2,623	2,898	3,107	4,048
ACL-loan and lease losses	$ 175,679	$ 169,923	$ 159,590	$ 148,903	$ 131,992
ACL-unfunded commitments	$ 12,503	$ 13,040	$ 13,558	$ 11,607	$ 13,406

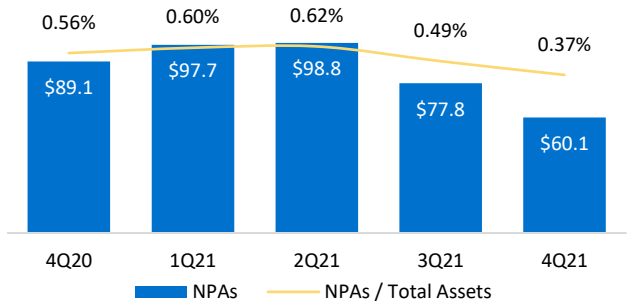
All dollars shown in thousands

asset quality

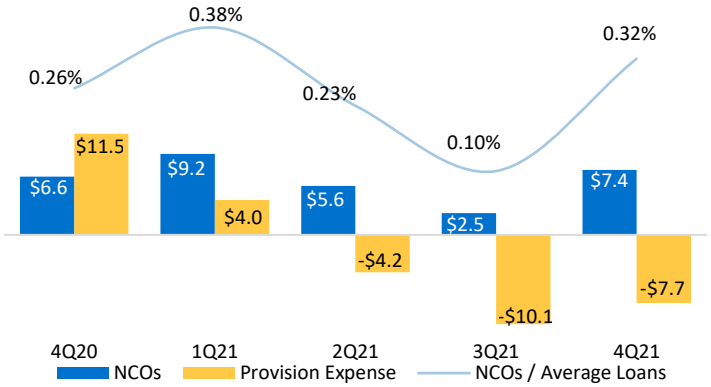
Classified Assets / Total Assets



Nonperforming Assets / Total Assets



Net Charge Offs & Provision Expense[1]



[1] Provision includes both loans & leases and unfunded commitments
All dollars shown in millions

hotel loan portfolio

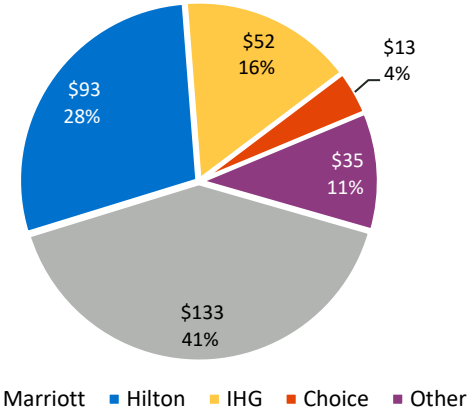
Portfolio Overview

- $326 million balance represents 3.5% of the total loan portfolio
- 28% decline in balances from last quarter driven by $134 million sale of hotel loan pool
- Active deferrals declined to zero from $67 million as of 9/30/21
- $21 million rated substandard or worse as of 12/31/21, down 56% from last quarter

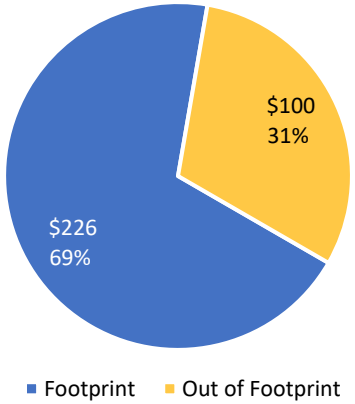
Loan Sale Overview

- Sold 13 hotel loans totaling $133.9 million of balances
- All loans were rated Watch, Special Mention, or Classified (including two nonaccrual credits under bankruptcy plans)
- $9.2 million of net charge-offs recorded as a result of the sale
- Reduces portfolio's hotel concentration and exposure to:
  - Continued industry disruption from COVID-19
  - A potential prolonged recovery in business and convention related travel
  - Newly constructed assets yet to stabilize
  - Geographic concentrations

Hotels by Flag



Hotels by Geography



Summit acquisition

Company Overview

- Summit is a full-service equipment finance company operating throughout the U.S. and Canada
- Long history of originating high-quality "bank-ready" leases
  - Attractive opportunity for First Financial to leverage low cost of funds, hold production on balance sheet and benefit from highly attractive unit economics
  - Loss-adjusted total lease yields of ~8%
- Has developed exceptional asset management expertise
- Founded, grown and managed by exceptional leadership
  - Led by founder Rick Ross; all members of management will join First Financial

Transaction Overview[1]

- $116.2 million in leases acquired; $42.3 million financing leases, $73.9 million operating
- $63.0 million of goodwill and $34.6 million of other intangible assets created

Key Statistics

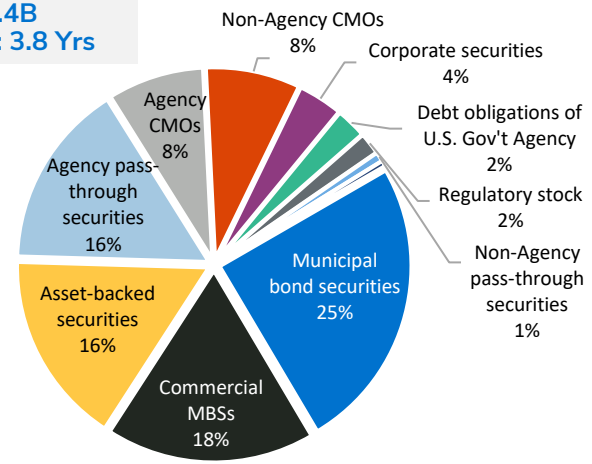
Scaled Platform	• ~$400 million of annual originations (2022E), growing at double-digits • Currently manages ~$500 million outstanding balances across 4,000 leases
Deep and Diverse Relationships	• 200+ SME businesses and corporates • Significant cross-sell opportunity
Highly Attractive Risk Adjusted Returns	• Total lease yields of ~9.3% (implicit lease rate of ~6.3% and residual realization of ~3.0%) • Loss history <1% average annual COs

[1]The fair value measurements of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the Summit acquisition are subject to refinement for up to one year after the closing date of the acquisition as additional information relative to closing date fair values becomes available.

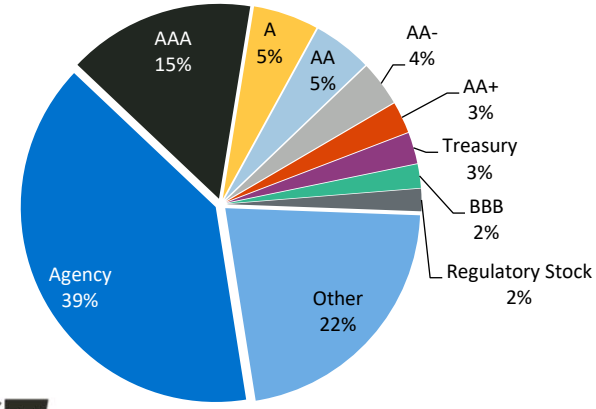
investment portfolio and liquidity

Investment Portfolio Composition

Total: $4.4B
Duration: 3.8 Yrs



Investment Portfolio Quality

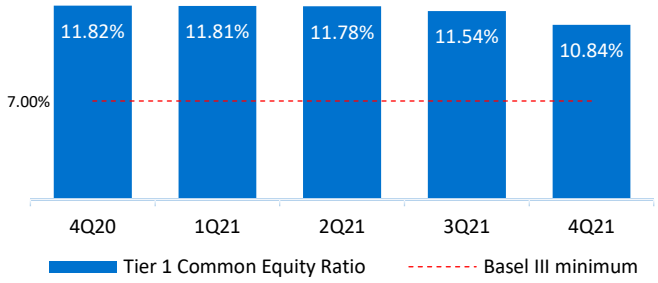


Liquidity Sources

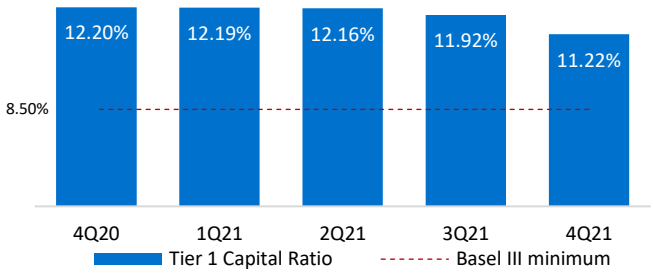
- In addition to deposits, First Financial has approximately $7.8 billion of readily available funding sources to meet customer needs through the following sources:
  - Fed funds
  - FHLB funding
  - Brokered CDs
  - Highly liquid securities
  - Fed discount window
- First Financial has the following sources of liquidity at the holding company:
  - $49.7 million in cash as of December 31, 2021
  - $166.2 million dividend capacity from First Financial Bank without prior regulatory approval

capital

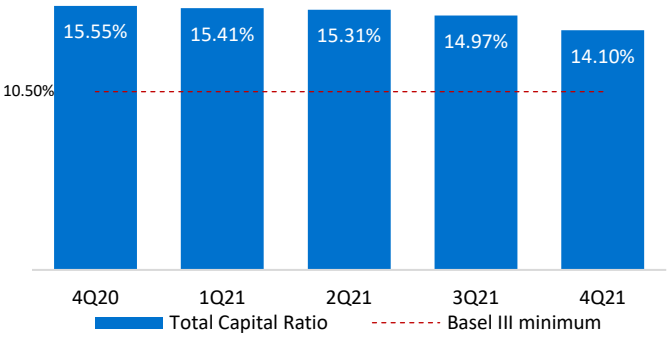
Tier 1 Common Equity Ratio



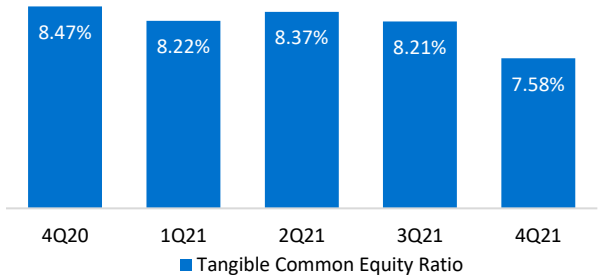
Tier 1 Capital Ratio



Total Capital Ratio



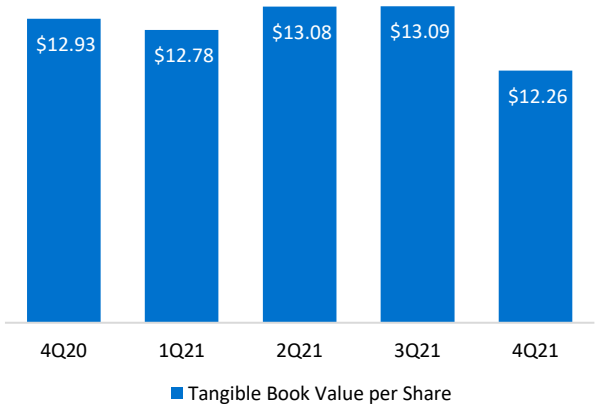
Tangible Common Equity Ratio



12/31 Risk Weighted Assets = $11,645,769
All capital numbers are considered preliminary.

capital strategy

Tangible Book Value Per Share



- Decline in TBV per share driven by Summit acquisition

Strategy & Deployment

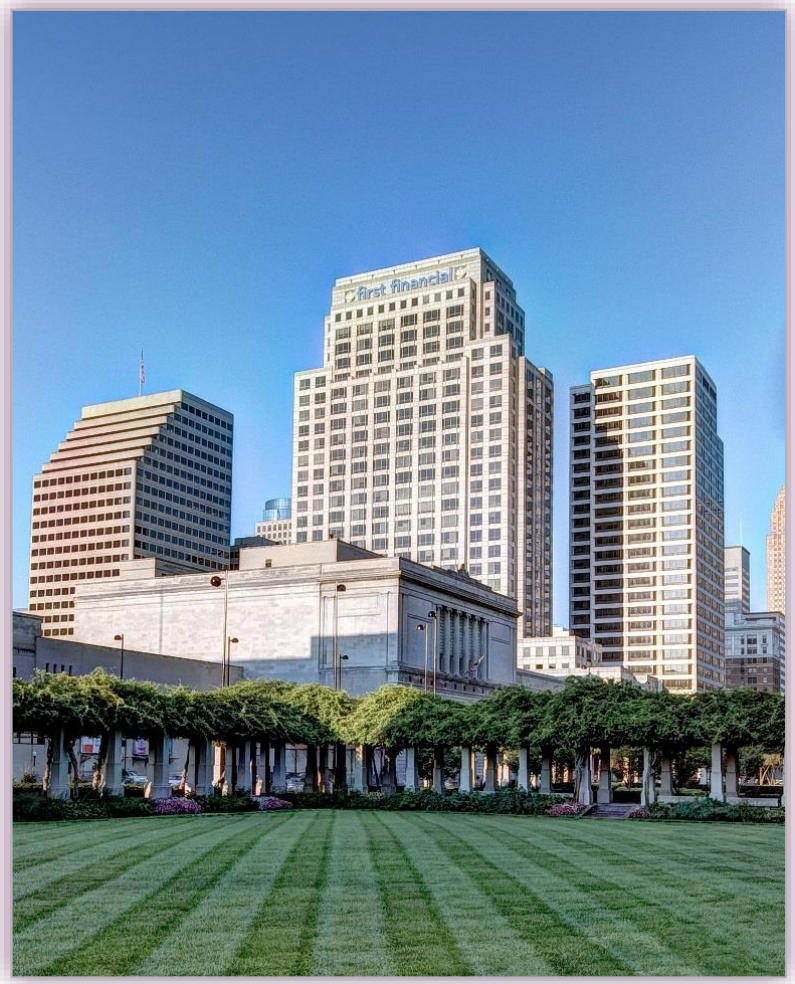
- 3.8% annualized dividend yield
- 45.9% of 4Q21 earnings returned to shareholders through common dividend
- Most recent internal stress testing indicates capital ratios above regulatory minimums in all modeled scenarios
- Common dividend expected to remain unchanged in near-term
- No shares repurchased in 4Q21
- New repurchase plan authorized for up to 5 million shares

outlook commentary[1]

Balance Sheet	• Loan balances expected to grow mid single digits in near term, excluding PPP and Summit • Securities balances expected to come down slightly over the near-term • Deposit balances expected to be consistent over near-term with no significant outflows
Net Interest Margin	• Will be impacted by timing of PPP forgiveness fees; concludes in first half of 2022 • Expected to be relatively stable in the near-term, excluding PPP • Asset sensitive position advantageous with rising rates
Credit	• Continued improvement expected in credit quality trends • Provision recapture expected in the near term, but less than back half of 2021 • Allowance for credit losses expected to decline • Uncertainty regarding supply chain, pandemic and inflation
Noninterest Income	• Total fee income expected to be $38-40 million; excludes Summit • Seasonal decrease in mortgage banking • Seasonal decline in overdraft fees combined with program changes
Noninterest Expense	• Expected to be $91-93 million; excludes Summit • Will fluctuate with fee income
Summit	• Has negligible impact on 2022 earnings per share • Near-term financial impact negatively affected by intangible amortization • $400 million of annual originations, growing at double-digits
Capital	• Will continue to evaluate capital deployment opportunities • Maintain dividend at current levels

[1] See Forward Looking Statement Disclosure on page 2-3 of this presentation for a discussion of factors that could affect management's expectations and results in future periods.

presentation contents



About First Financial Bancorp

Financial Performance

Appendix

appendix: our markets

- Greater Cincinnati/Dayton
  - Loans $4.3 billion
  - Deposits $5.3 billion
  - Deposit Market Share T-4 (3.0%)
  - Banking Centers 52
  - Fortune 500 Companies 8
- Indianapolis
  - Loans $0.9 billion
  - Deposits $0.8 billion
  - Deposit Market Share #14 (1.3%)
  - Banking Centers 10
  - Fortune 500 Companies 2
- Columbus, OH
  - Loans $1.1 billion
  - Deposits $0.6 billion
  - Deposit Market Share #15 (0.6%)
  - Banking Centers 6
  - Fortune 500 Companies 5
- Louisville
  - Loans $0.4 billion
  - Deposits $0.7 billion
  - Deposit Market Share #13 (1.4%)
  - Banking Centers 8
  - Fortune 500 Companies 3
- Community Markets
  - Loans $1.5 billion
  - Deposits $5.2 billion
  - Banking Centers 63
- National
  - Loans $1.1 billion
  - Deposits $0.3 billion

All numbers as of 12/31/2021 except deposit market share which is as of 6/30/2021.
Greater Cincinnati/Dayton and deposit balances include special assets, loan marks, and other out of market and corporately held balances. Loan balances exclude PPP balances.

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appendix: non-GAAP measures

The Company's Investor Presentation contains certain financial information determined by methods other than in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (GAAP). Such non-GAAP financial information should be considered supplemental to, and not as a substitute for, or superior to, financial measures calculated in accordance with GAAP. However, we believe that non-GAAP reporting provides meaningful information and therefore we use it to supplement our GAAP information. We have chosen to provide this supplemental information to investors, analysts and other interested parties to enable them to perform additional analyses of operating results, to illustrate the results of operations giving effect to the non-GAAP adjustments and to provide an additional measure of performance. We believe this information is helpful in understanding the results of operations separate and apart from items that may, or could, have a disproportional positive or negative impact in any given period. For a reconciliation of the differences between the non-GAAP financial measures and the most comparable GAAP measures, please refer to the following reconciliation tables.

appendix: non-GAAP to GAAP reconciliation

Net interest income and net interest margin - fully tax equivalent

	Three months ended				
	Dec. 31, 2021	Sep. 30, 2021	June 30, 2021	Mar. 31, 2021	Dec. 31, 2020
Net interest income	$ 110,806	$ 113,410	$ 114,026	$ 113,876	$ 118,473
Tax equivalent adjustment	1,386	1,434	1,619	1,652	1,613
Net interest income - tax equivalent	$ 112,192	$ 114,844	$ 115,645	$ 115,528	$ 120,086
Average earning assets	$ 13,793,644	$ 13,724,403	$ 14,007,765	$ 13,781,760	$ 13,675,604
Net interest margin[1]	3.19 %	3.28 %	3.27 %	3.35 %	3.45 %
Net interest margin (fully tax equivalent)[1]	3.23 %	3.32 %	3.31 %	3.40 %	3.49 %

[1] Margins are calculated using net interest income annualized divided by average earning assets.

The tax equivalent adjustment to net interest income recognizes the income tax savings when comparing taxable and tax-exempt assets and assumes a 21% tax rate. Management believes that it is a standard practice in the banking industry to present net interest margin and net interest income on a fully tax equivalent basis. Therefore, management believes these measures provide useful information to investors by allowing them to make peer comparisons. Management also uses these measures to make peer comparisons.

appendix: non-GAAP to GAAP reconciliation

Additional non-GAAP ratios

(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)	Three months ended, Dec. 31, 2021	Sep. 30, 2021	June 30, 2021	Mar. 31, 2021	Dec. 31, 2020
Net income (a)	$ 46,945	$ 60,012	$ 50,888	$ 47,315	$ 48,312
Average total shareholders' equity	2,241,820	2,261,293	2,263,687	2,272,749	2,256,062
Less:					
Goodwill	(938,453)	(937,771)	(937,771)	(937,771)	(937,771)
Other intangibles	(56,120)	(58,314)	(60,929)	(63,529)	(66,195)
MSR's	(14,886)	(14,215)	(13,310)	(12,749)	(12,186)
Average tangible equity (b)	1,232,361	1,250,993	1,251,677	1,258,700	1,239,910
Total shareholders' equity	2,258,942	2,236,170	2,269,507	2,258,942	2,282,070
Less:					
Goodwill	(1,000,749)	(937,771)	(937,771)	(937,771)	(937,771)
Other intangibles	(88,898)	(56,811)	(59,391)	(61,984)	(64,552)
MSR's	(15,469)	(14,852)	(14,142)	(13,156)	(12,810)
Ending tangible equity (c)	1,153,826	1,226,736	1,258,203	1,246,031	1,266,937
Total assets	16,329,141	15,956,593	16,037,919	16,175,071	15,973,134
Less:					
Goodwill	(1,000,749)	(937,771)	(937,771)	(937,771)	(937,771)
Other intangibles	(88,898)	(56,811)	(59,391)	(61,984)	(64,552)
MSR's	(15,469)	(14,852)	(14,142)	(13,156)	(12,810)
Ending tangible assets (d)	15,224,025	14,947,159	15,026,615	15,162,160	14,958,001
Risk-weighted assets (e)	11,645,769	11,399,782	11,318,590	11,304,012	11,219,114
Total average assets	16,036,417	15,995,808	16,215,469	16,042,654	16,030,986
Less:					
Goodwill	(938,453)	(937,771)	(937,771)	(937,771)	(937,771)
Other intangibles	(56,120)	(58,314)	(60,929)	(63,529)	(66,195)
MSR's	(14,886)	(14,215)	(13,310)	(12,749)	(12,186)
Average tangible assets (f)	$ 15,026,958	$ 14,985,508	$ 15,203,459	$ 15,028,605	$ 15,014,834
Ending shares outstanding (g)	94,149,240	93,742,797	96,199,509	97,517,693	98,021,929
Ratios					
Return on average tangible shareholders' equity (a)/(b)	15.11%	19.03%	16.31%	15.24%	15.50%
Ending tangible equity as a percent of:					
Ending tangible assets (c)/(d)	7.58%	8.21%	8.37%	8.22%	8.47%
Risk-weighted assets (c)/(e)	9.91%	10.76%	11.12%	11.02%	11.29%
Average tangible equity as a percent of average tangible assets (b)/(f)	8.20%	8.35%	8.23%	8.38%	8.26%
Tangible book value per share (c)/(g)	$ 12.26	$ 13.09	$ 13.08	$ 12.78	$ 12.93

All dollars shown in thousands

appendix: non-GAAP to GAAP reconciliation

Additional non-GAAP measures

(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)	4Q21		3Q21		2Q21		1Q21		4Q20	
	As Reported	Adjusted	As Reported	Adjusted	As Reported	Adjusted	As Reported	Adjusted	As Reported	Adjusted
Net interest income (f)	$ 110,806	$ 110,806	$ 113,410	$ 113,410	$ 114,026	$ 114,026	$ 113,876	$ 113,876	$ 118,473	$ 118,473
Provision for credit losses-loans and leases (j)	(9,525)	(9,525)	(8,193)	(8,193)	(4,756)	(4,756)	3,450	3,450	13,758	13,758
Provision for credit losses-unfunded commitments (j)	1,799	1,799	(1,951)	(1,951)	517	517	538	538	(2,250)	(2,250)
Noninterest income	45,660	45,660	42,537	42,537	42,987	42,987	40,322	40,322	61,515	61,515
less: gains (losses) on sale of investment securities		306		(205)		(104)		(54)		196
less: gains from the redemption of Visa B shares		-		-		-		-		13,397
less: other		-		500		-		193		(157)
Total noninterest income (g)	45,660	45,354	42,537	42,242	42,987	43,091	40,322	40,183	61,515	48,079
Noninterest expense	109,605	109,605	99,058	99,058	99,643	99,643	92,506	92,506	114,798	114,798
less: severance and merger-related expenses		-		-		98		1,261		29
less: tax credit investments		6,120		5,309		1,156		208		5,071
less: contribution to First Financial Foundation		-		-		-		-		5,000
less: debt extinguishment		-		-		-		-		7,257
less: legal settlement		3,456		-		3,825		-		-
less: Summit acquisition costs		4,095		-		-		-		-
less: COVID-19 and other		1,870		181		2,772		1,054		2,877
Total noninterest expense (e)	109,605	94,064	99,058	93,568	99,643	91,792	92,506	89,983	114,798	94,564
Income before income taxes (i)	54,587	69,822	67,033	72,228	61,609	69,564	57,704	60,088	53,682	60,480
Income tax expense	7,642	7,642	7,021	7,021	10,721	10,721	10,389	10,389	5,370	5,370
plus: tax effect of adjustments		4,835		4,194		913		501		1,428
plus: after-tax impact of tax credit investments @ 21%		3,199		1,091		1,671		164		4,005
Total income tax expense (h)	7,642	15,676	7,021	12,306	10,721	13,305	10,389	11,054	5,370	10,803
Net income (a)	$ 46,945	$ 54,146	$ 60,012	$ 59,922	$ 50,888	$ 56,259	$ 47,315	$ 49,034	$ 48,312	$ 49,677
Average diluted shares (b)	93,762	93,762	95,144	95,144	97,010	97,010	97,728	97,728	98,021	98,021
Average assets (c)	16,036,417	16,036,417	15,995,808	15,995,808	16,215,469	16,215,469	16,042,654	16,042,654	16,030,986	16,030,986
Average shareholders' equity	2,241,820	2,241,820	2,261,293	2,261,293	2,263,687	2,263,687	2,272,749	2,272,749	2,256,062	2,256,062
Less:										
Goodwill and other intangibles	(1,009,459)	(1,009,459)	(1,010,300)	(1,010,300)	(1,012,010)	(1,012,010)	(1,014,049)	(1,014,049)	(1,016,152)	(1,016,152)
Average tangible equity (d)	1,232,361	1,232,361	1,250,993	1,250,993	1,251,677	1,251,677	1,258,700	1,258,700	1,239,910	1,239,910
Ratios										
Net earnings per share - diluted (a)/(b)	$ 0.50	$ 0.58	$ 0.63	$ 0.63	$ 0.52	$ 0.58	$ 0.48	$ 0.50	$ 0.49	$ 0.51
Return on average assets - (a)/(c)	1.16%	1.34%	1.49%	1.49%	1.26%	1.39%	1.20%	1.24%	1.20%	1.23%
Pre-tax, pre-provision return on average assets - ((a)+(j)+(h))/(c)	1.16%	1.54%	1.41%	1.54%	1.42%	1.62%	1.56%	1.62%	1.62%	1.79%
Return on average tangible shareholders' equity - (a)/(d)	15.11%	17.43%	19.03%	19.00%	16.31%	18.03%	15.24%	15.80%	15.50%	15.94%
Efficiency ratio - (e)/((f)+(g))	70.1%	60.2%	63.5%	60.1%	63.5%	58.4%	60.0%	58.4%	63.8%	56.8%
Effective tax rate - (h)/(i)	14.0%	22.5%	10.5%	17.0%	17.4%	19.1%	18.0%	18.4%	10.0%	17.9%

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