investor presentation

- Fourth Quarter 2022

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 changes in housing prices, fluctuations in 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 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;

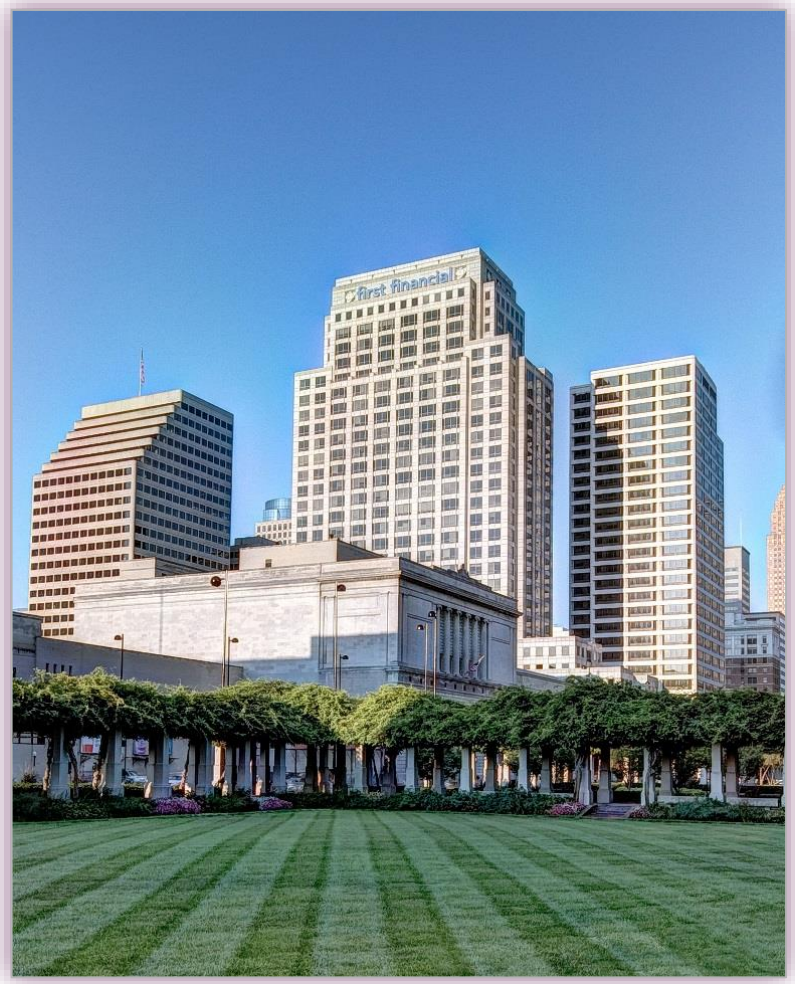
forward looking statements disclosure

- 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, 2021, 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

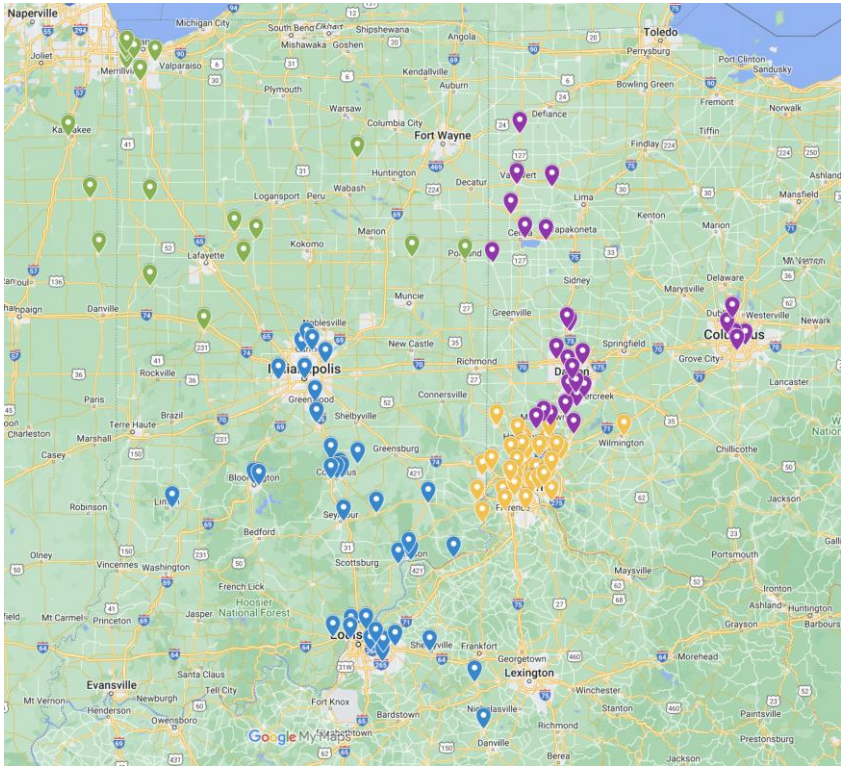


About First Financial Bancorp

Financial Performance

Appendix

overview



$17.0B
in assets

$10.3B/$12.7B
loans / deposits

$4.7B
wealth management

2.26%
4Q Adj. PTPP ROAA[1]

NASDAQ: **FFBC**

Headquarters: **Cincinnati, Ohio**

Founded: **1863**

Banking Centers: **132**

Employees: **2,070**

Market Cap (12/31/22): **$2.3B**

Dividend Yield (12/31/22): **3.8%**

CET1 Ratio: **10.83%**





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 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 160 years

- Well managed through past credit cycles
- Conservative operating philosophy
- Consistent profitability – 129 consecutive quarters

Premier Midwest franchise with top quartile performance

High quality balance sheet & robust capital position (10.83% CET1)

Prudent risk management & credit culture with strong asset quality

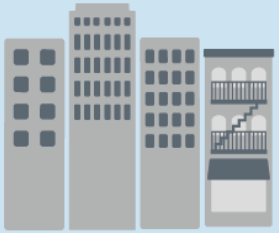
Increased scale to continue investments in technology

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 $2.9B / Deposits $3.0B

- 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 $1.7B / Deposits $5.3B

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

HEADQUARTERS



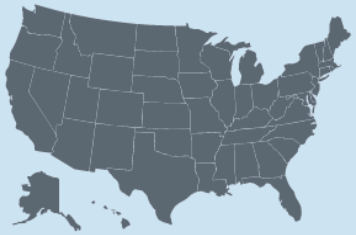
Greater Cincinnati
Northern KY

T-4th in market share
All business lines represented

Loans $4.1B / Deposits $4.3B

- 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 $1.6B / Deposits $0.2B

- 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.

key business lines

Diversified financial holding company with comprehensive and innovative solutions for individuals and businesses

first financial bank

Full suite of diversified financial products for individuals and businesses

$17.0 Billion
Assets

$12.7 Billion
Deposits

29.86%
Adjusted MRQ ROATCE

yellow CARDINAL ADVISORY GROUP
a first financial company

Wealth & asset management services for individuals and businesses

$4.7 Billion
Assets Under Care

$23.5 Million
LTM Revenue

$375 Million
Record Wealth Advisory Sales

~10,000
Relationships

BANNOCKBURN GLOBAL FOREX

Foreign currency advisory, hedge analytics, and transaction processing for closely held enterprises

9 Offices
Across the U.S.

$55.0 Million
Record LTM Revenue

2,000+
Clients

oak street funding

Specialty lender to insurance industry, RIAs, CPAs and indirect auto finance companies

$670 Million
Loans

~27%
YoY Loan Growth

7%
of Overall Portfolio

first franchise capital®

Specialty lender to quick-serve restaurant franchisees

$276 Million
Loans

3%
of Overall Portfolio

SUMMIT Funding Group
a first financial bank company

Full-service equipment financing company

$400+ Million
2022 Originations

4th
Largest Independent U.S. Equipment Finance Platform At Acquisition

High Yielding Portfolio

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	3,941
Commitments	$4.1B
Balances	$2.6B
Business Deposits	$1.8B
Pub Fund Deposits	$1.9B

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	315,923	33,731	
Total Deposit Balance	$5.8B	$1.6B	$0.1B
Total Loan Balance	$0.9B	$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 $153MM
- Avg loan size $303K

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	3,275	$2.9B
Brokerage	6,271	$1.5B
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	$0.8B
Southern OH	$1.5B
Indiana	$0.6B
Healthcare	$0.4B
Small Exposure	$0.2B
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	$0.7B

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

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 Transformation 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 65 locations in last 5 years[1]
- 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
- Acquired Brady Ware Capital specializing in investment banking for mid-sized businesses

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 company FTE targets
- Larger salesforce in targeted Lines of Business

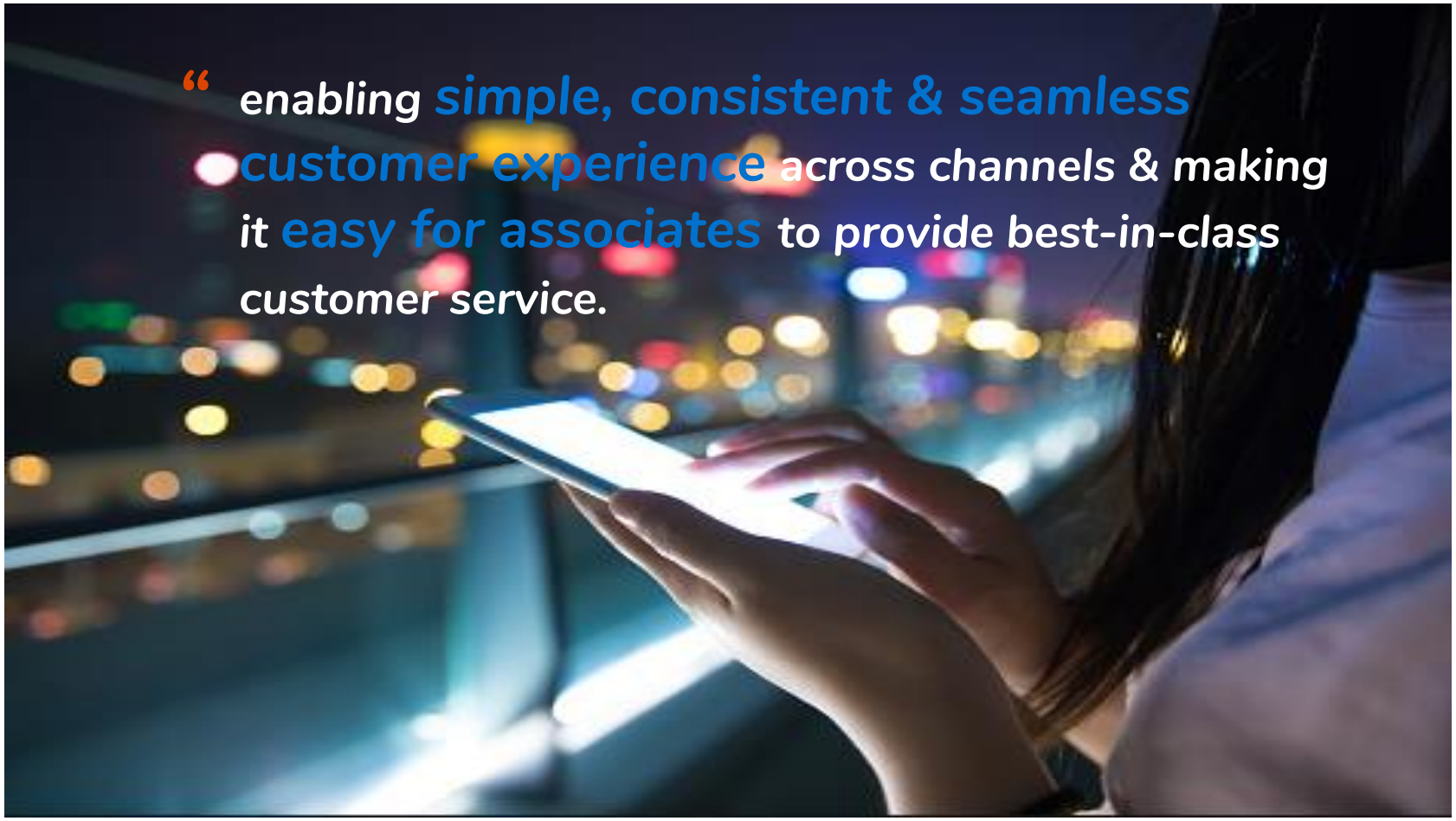
Culture

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

[1] Post MainSource merger

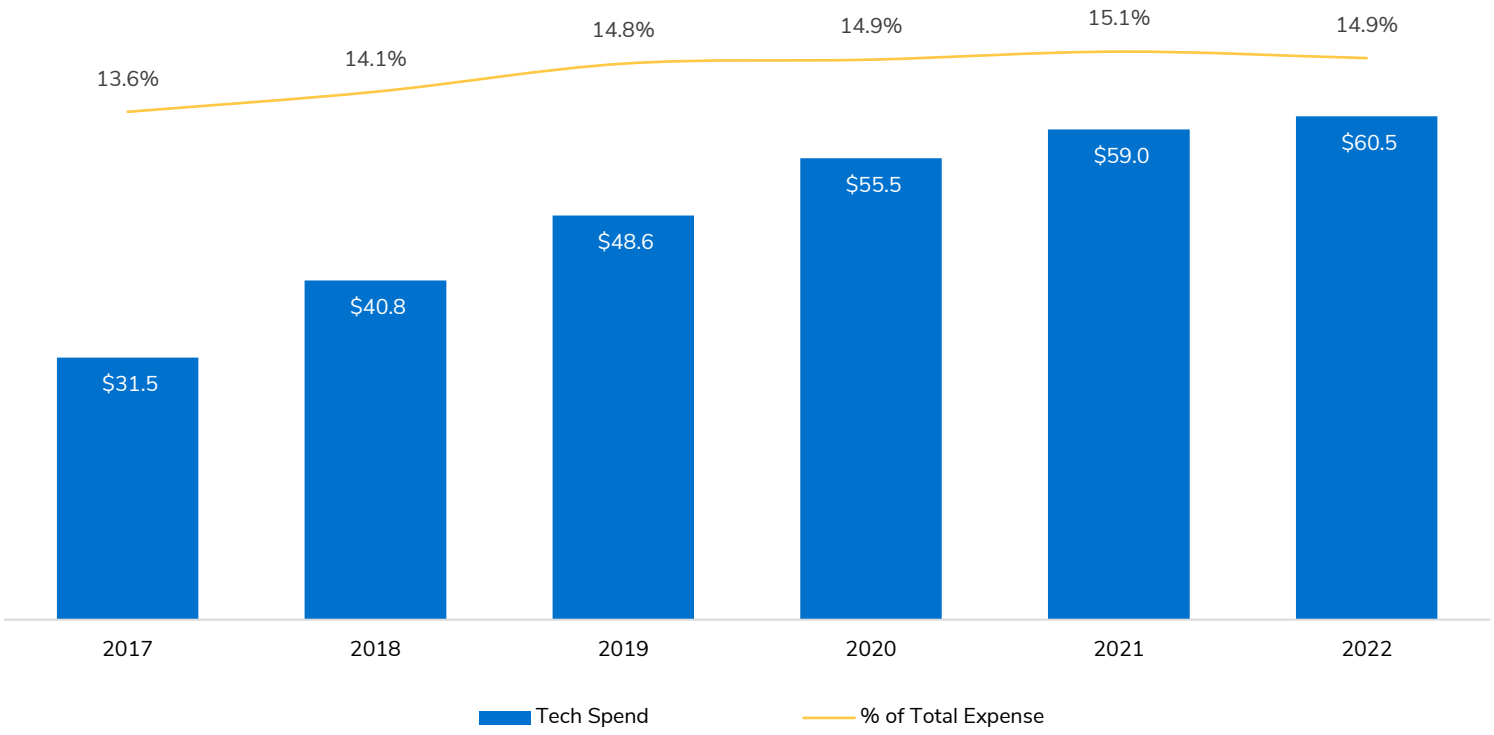
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER EQUAL HOUSING LENDER FDIC

digital + technology investments



bank transformation

Tech Spend[1] / Total Expense[2]



All dollars shown in millions

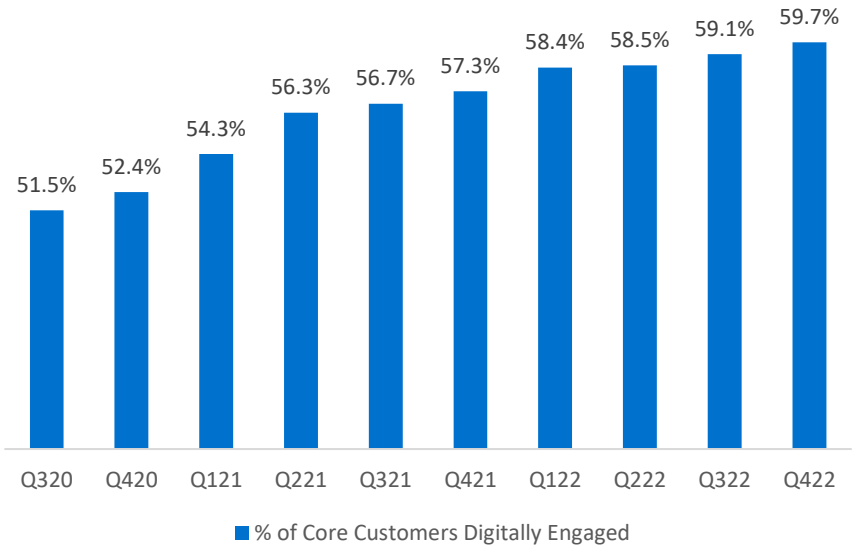
1 – Tech Spend consists of data processing, communications, software / equipment depreciation & departmental expenses (primarily salaries & benefits) for the Technology, Digital & Info Security teams.

2 – Total Expense excludes Leasing Business Expense

digital + technology highlights

- **engagement**
  - digital engagement across core customers increased 4.1% vs. Q4 2021
  - consumer online banking logins increased 6.8% vs. Q4 2021
- **self service**
  - consumer online banking transaction volume increased 7.2% vs. Q4 2021
- **customer satisfaction**
  - Q4 2022 consumer mobile app rating: 4.34[1]

Digital Engagement[2]



1 – Composite rating
2 – Represents core customers active in online / mobile banking over the last 30 days of the quarter.

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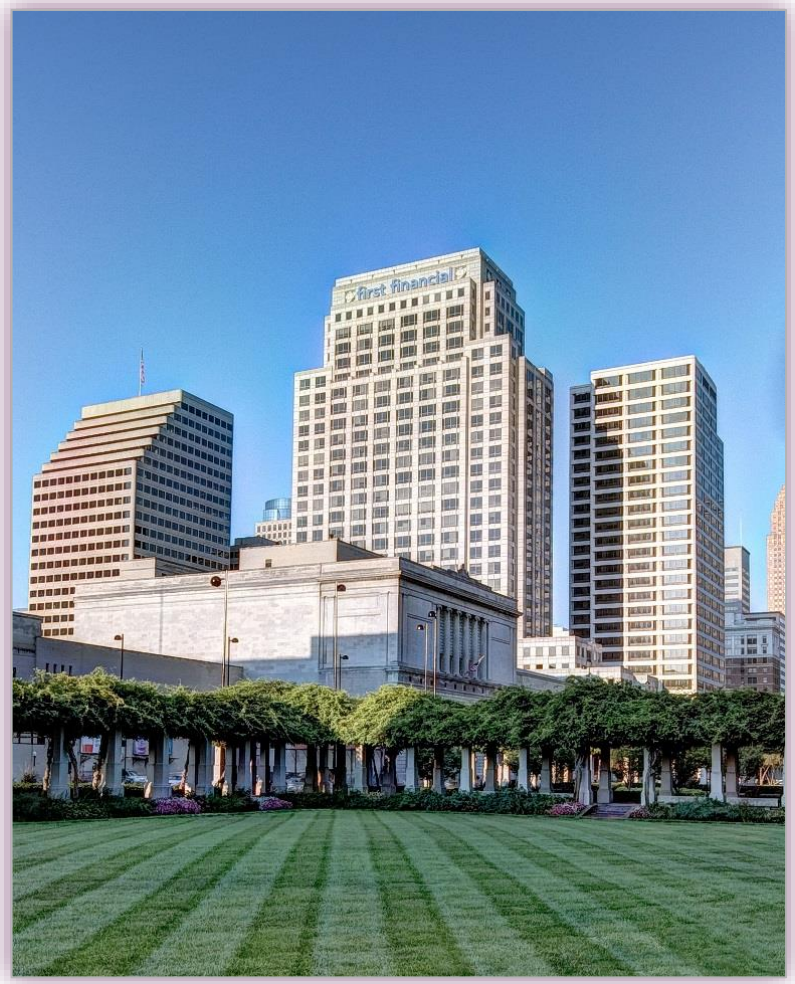


About First Financial Bancorp

Financial Performance

Appendix

4Q 2022 results

129th Consecutive Quarter of Profitability

Profitability

- Net income - $69.1 million or $0.73 per diluted share. Adjusted[1] net income - $68.9 million or $0.73 per diluted share
- Return on average assets - 1.63%.
- Return on average shareholders' equity - 13.64%. Adjusted[1] return on average shareholders' equity - 13.61%
- Return on average tangible common equity - 29.93%[1]. Adjusted[1] return on average tangible common equity - 29.86%

Income Statement

- Net interest income - $157.9 million
- Net interest margin of 4.43% on a GAAP basis; 4.47% on a fully tax equivalent basis[1]
- Noninterest income - $56.0 million; $55.1 million as adjusted[1]
- Noninterest expense - $124.4 million; $117.3 million as adjusted[1]
- Efficiency ratio - 58.17%. Adjusted[1] efficiency ratio - 55.08%
- Effective tax rate of 13.1%. Adjusted[1] effective tax rate of 19.5%

Balance Sheet

- EOP assets increased $379.5 million compared to the linked quarter to $17.0 billion
- EOP loans increased $501.5 million compared to the linked quarter to $10.3 billion
- Average deposits increased $261.3 million compared to the linked quarter to $12.6 billion
- EOP investment securities decreased $119.1 million compared to the linked quarter

Asset Quality

- Provision expense - $10.0 million
- Net charge-offs – ($0.2) million. NCOs / Avg. Loans – (0.01%) annualized
- Classified Assets / Total Assets - 0.75%
- NPA / Total Assets – 0.23%
- ACL / Total Loans – 1.29%

Capital

- Total capital ratio – 13.64%
- Tier 1 common equity ratio – 10.83%
- Tangible common equity ratio – 5.95%. Adjusted[1] Tangible common equity ratio– 8.20%
- Tangible book value per share – $9.97

[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 2022 highlights

- Quarterly earnings driven by strong net interest margin and record fee income
  - Adjusted[1] earnings per share - $0.73
  - Adjusted[1] return on assets - 1.63%
  - Adjusted[1] pre-tax, pre-provision return on assets – 2.26%
  - Adjusted[1] return on average tangible common equity – 29.86%

- End of period loan balances increased with strong origination volumes across the portfolio
  - EOP loan balances increased $501.5 million compared to the linked quarter; 20.3% on an annualized basis
  - Broad based portfolio growth included a $150.2 million increase in C&I; a $129.7 million increase in finance leases; a $111.2 million increase in ICRE; a $65.4 million increase in residential mortgage loans, and a $60.4 million increase in Oak Street

- Total average deposit balances increased $261.3 million, or 8.4% annualized
  - Stable core deposit balances; $58.0 million decline in total deposit balances, excluding $319.3 million increase in brokered CD's
  - $49.0 million in noninterest bearing deposit growth from linked quarter
  - Average noninterest bearing deposits were 33.4% of average total deposits

- Accelerating 4.47% net interest margin (FTE)
  - 49 bp increase from third quarter driven by increase in interest rates and asset sensitive balance sheet
  - 96 bp increase in loan yields offset 31 bp increase in cost of deposits

- Adjusted[1] noninterest income of $55.1 million
  - Record foreign exchange income of $19.6 million, an increase of $7.8 million, or 66.7%, from linked quarter
  - Record leasing business revenue of $11.1 million, an increase of $4.0 million, or 56.1% compared to linked quarter
  - Adjusted[1] for $0.9 million gain on investment securities

[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. These fair value measurements are considered final as of December 31, 2022.

4Q 2022 highlights

- Adjusted[1] noninterest expense of $117.3 million
  - Adjusted[1] for $6.4 million in tax credit investment writedowns and $0.7 million of other costs not expected to recur such as acquisition, severance and branch consolidation costs
  - Increase compared to linked quarter driven by elevated incentive costs tied to record foreign exchange income and overall Company performance during the period
  - $2.5 million contribution to First Financial Foundation
  - Efficiency ratio of 58.2%; 55.1% as adjusted[1]

- Allowance for credit loss (ACL) and provision expense increased compared to linked quarter
  - Total ACL of $151.4 million; provision expense of $10.0 million
    - Loans and leases - ACL of $133.0 million; 1.29% of total loans
    - Unfunded Commitments - ACL of $18.4 million
  - Increase in provision expense driven by loan grown, slowing prepayments and economic forecasts
  - NPA to total assets of 0.23%
  - Net recoveries for the quarter of 1 bp of average loans and leases
  - Nonaccrual loans of $28.6 million; $7.7 million, or 21.2%, decline compared to linked quarter

- Regulatory capital ratios in excess of internal targets
  - Total capital ratio of 13.64%
  - Tier 1 common equity of 10.83%; 1 basis point increase from linked quarter
  - Tangible book value increased by $0.49 to $9.97 due to strong earnings
  - Tangible common equity increased 16 bps to 5.95%; 8.20%[1] excluding ($358.7) million of AOCI
  - 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. These fair value measurements are considered final as of December 31, 2022.

adjusted net income[1]

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

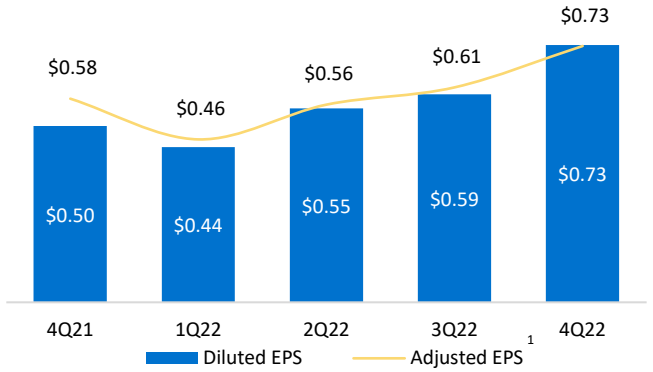
	4Q 2022		3Q 2022	
	As Reported	Adjusted [1]	As Reported	Adjusted [1]
Net interest income	$ 157,896	$ 157,896	$ 137,892	$ 137,892
Provision for credit losses-loans and leases	$ 8,689	$ 8,689	$ 7,898	$ 7,898
Provision for credit losses-unfunded commitments	$ 1,341	$ 1,341	$ 386	$ 386
Noninterest income	$ 56,035	$ 56,035	$ 42,534	$ 42,534
less: gains (losses) on investment securities	-	922 A	-	(880) A
Total noninterest income	$ 56,035	$ 55,113	$ 42,534	$ 43,414
Noninterest expense	$ 124,442	$ 124,442	$ 125,068	$ 125,068
less: tax credit investment	-	6,406 A	-	17,212 A
less: Summit acquistion costs	-	149 A	-	76 A
less: other	-	558 A	-	1,671 A
Total noninterest expense	$ 124,442	$ 117,329	$ 125,068	$ 106,109
Income before income taxes	$ 79,459	$ 85,650	$ 47,074	$ 66,913
Income tax expense	$ 10,373	$ 10,373	$ (8,631)	$ (8,631)
plus: after-tax impact of tax credit investment @ 21%	-	5,061	-	13,598
plus: tax effect of adjustments (A) @ 21% statutory rate	-	1,300	-	4,166
Total income tax expense	$ 10,373	$ 16,734	$ (8,631)	$ 9,133
Net income	$ 69,086	$ 68,916	$ 55,705	$ 57,780
Net earnings per share - diluted	$ 0.73	$ 0.73	$ 0.59	$ 0.61
Pre-tax, pre-provision return on average assets	2.12%	2.26%	1.34%	1.82%

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

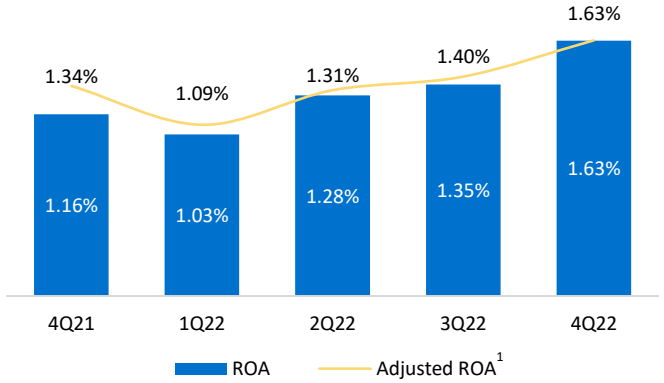
All dollars shown in thousands, except per share amounts

profitability

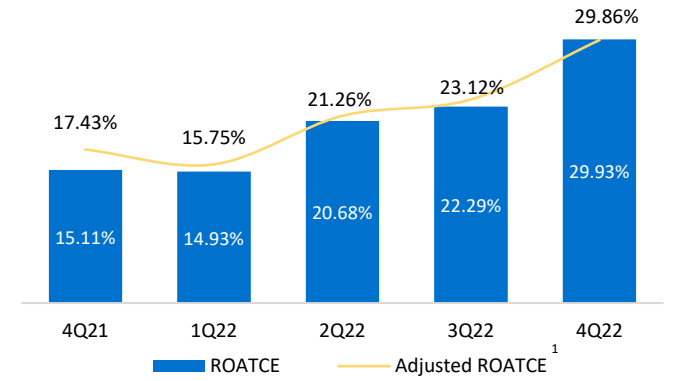
Diluted EPS



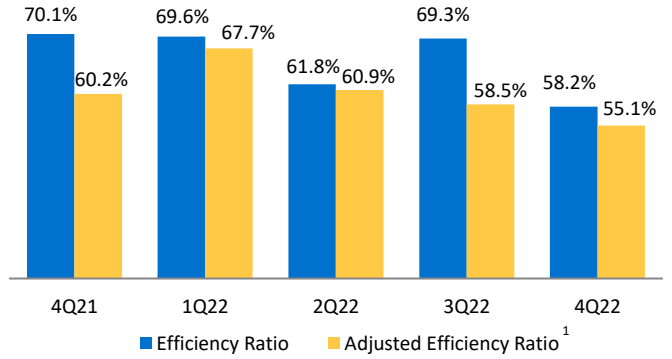
Return on Average Assets



Return on Avg Tangible Common Equity



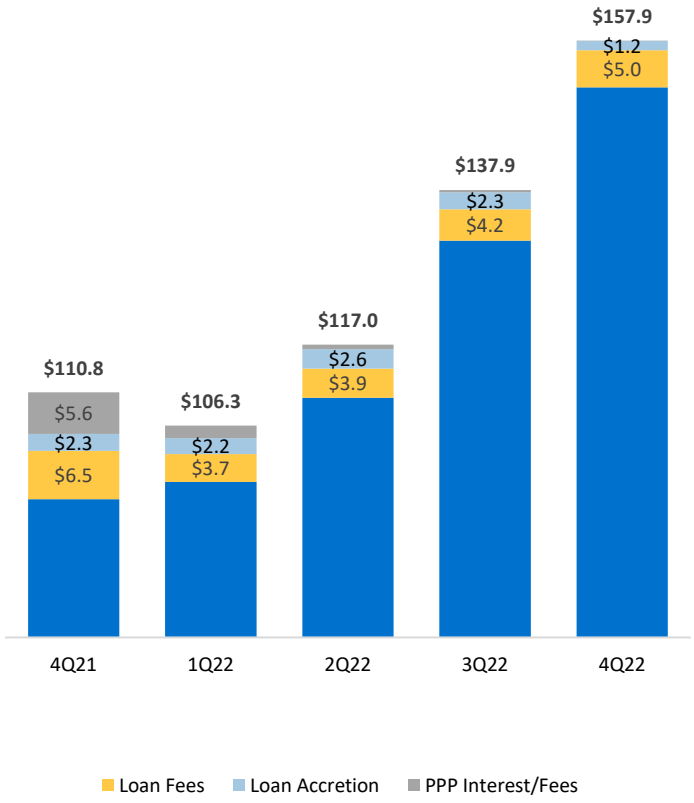
Efficiency Ratio



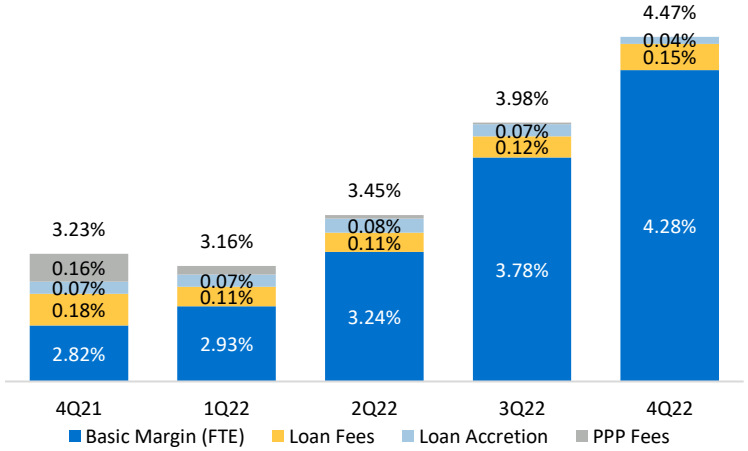
[1] Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliation.

net interest income & margin

Net Interest Income



Net Interest Margin (FTE)



4Q22 NIM (FTE) Progression

3Q22	**3.98%**
Asset yields/mix	0.90%
Deposit/funding costs/mix	-0.39%
Accretion/other	-0.02%
4Q22	**4.47%**

first financial bancorp

All dollars shown in millions

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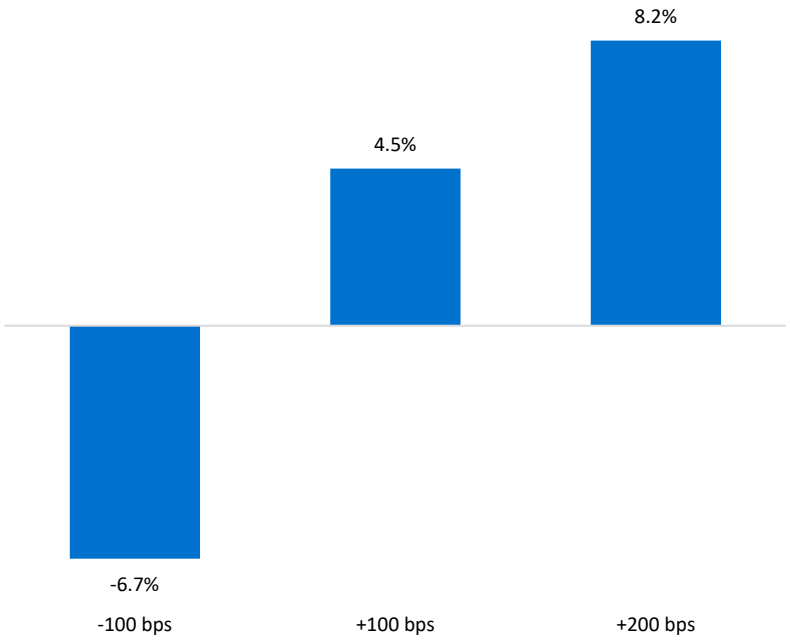
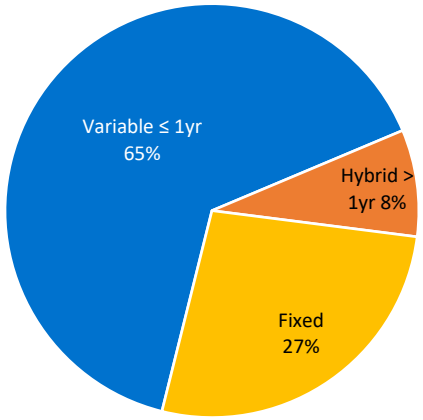
asset sensitive balance sheet positioning

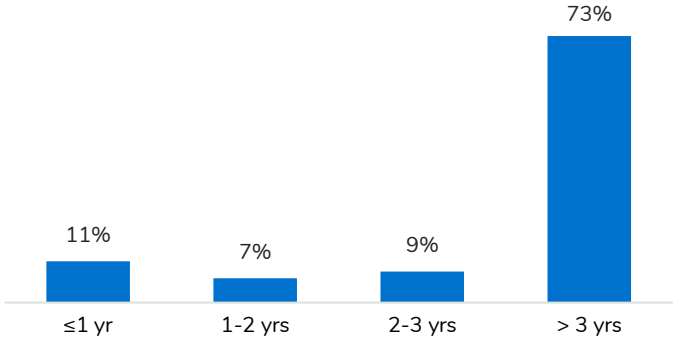
Net Interest Income Sensitivity [1]



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
[2]Reflects percentage of loans classified as variable rate and repricing in ≤ 1yr, hybrid variable rate repricing in > 1yr, or fixed rate, including loans held for sale
[3]Schedule reflects remaining maturity or repricing frequency for all fixed rate loans or hybrid variable rate loans repricing in > 1yr, including loans held for sale

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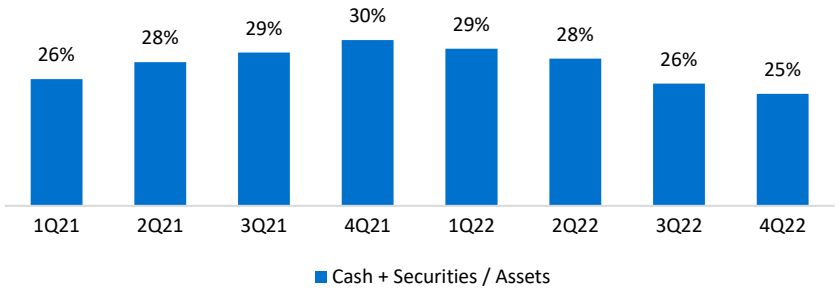
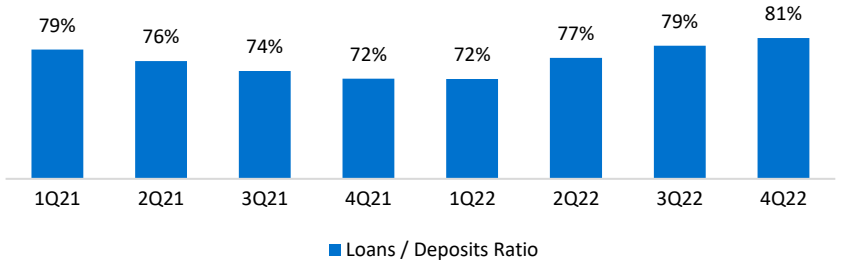
liquidity and beta profile

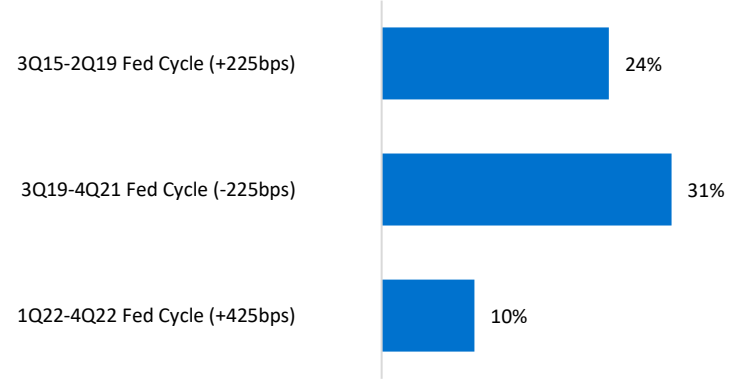
Excess Liquidity Provides Significant Tailwind



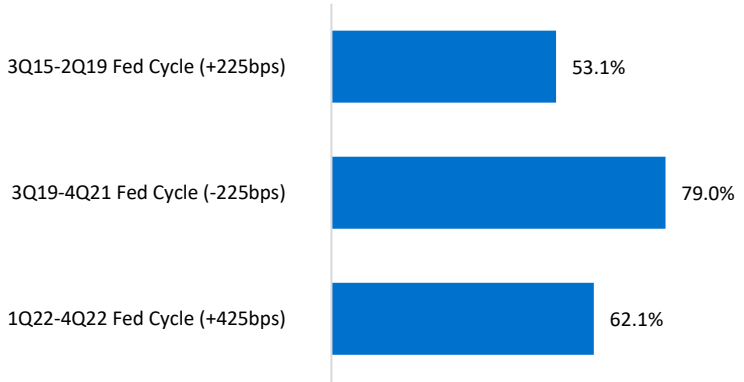


Historical Deposit and Loan Betas[1]

Total Deposit Beta



Loan Beta



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[1]Historical data adjusted for the merger with MainSource Financial Group, Inc. using the sum of the individual components.

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liquidity and borrowing capacity

Liquidity Sources

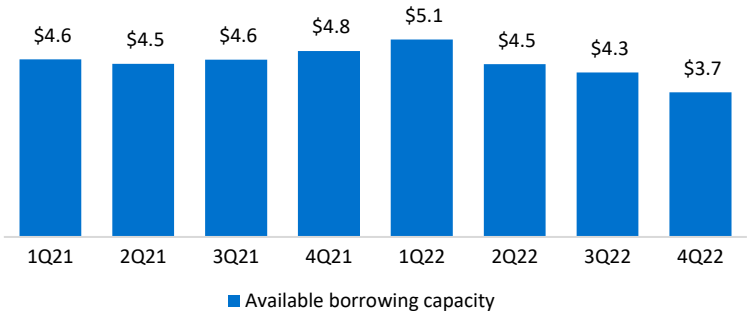
Interest-bearing deposits with other banks	$	387,982
Fed funds		1,688,000
Unpledged investment securities		1,931,516
FHLB borrowing availability		347,435
Brokered CDs		959,090
Funds available through Fed Discount Window		714,623
Total as of December 31, 2022	$	6,028,646

(dollars shown in thousands)

Liquidity Sources

- In addition to deposits, First Financial has approximately $6.0 billion of readily available funding sources to meet customer needs through the following sources:
  - Interest-bearing deposits with other banks
  - Fed funds
  - FHLB funding
  - Brokered CDs
  - Highly liquid securities
  - Fed discount window

Available Borrowing Capacity



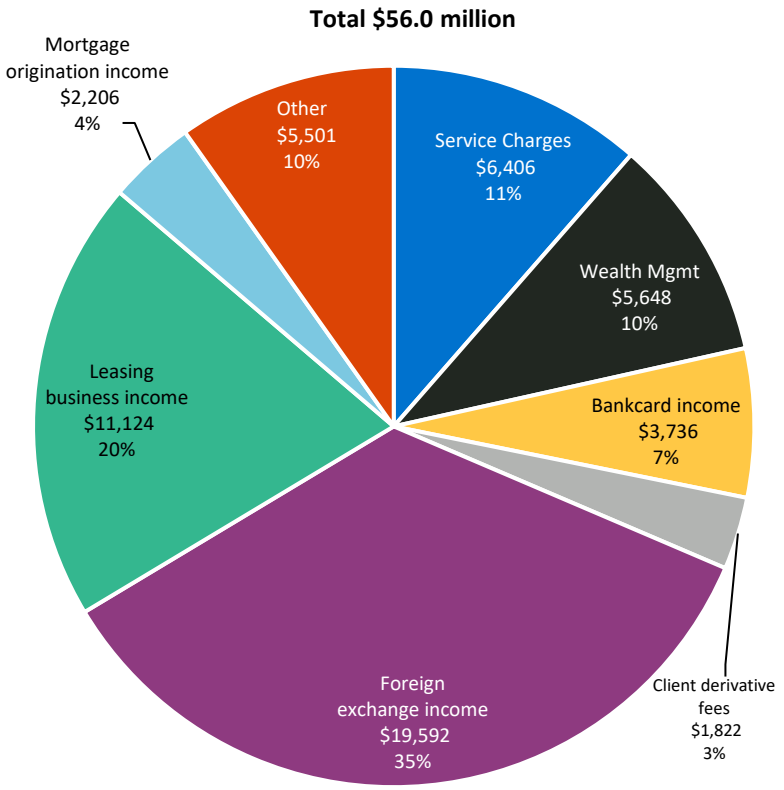
(dollars shown in billions)

Investment Liquidity

- Investment securities portfolio:
  - $814 million of expected cash flow from securities portfolio in next 12 months
  - $371 million of securities available to be sold at breakeven
  - Portfolio duration of 4.6 years at 12/31

noninterest income

Noninterest Income



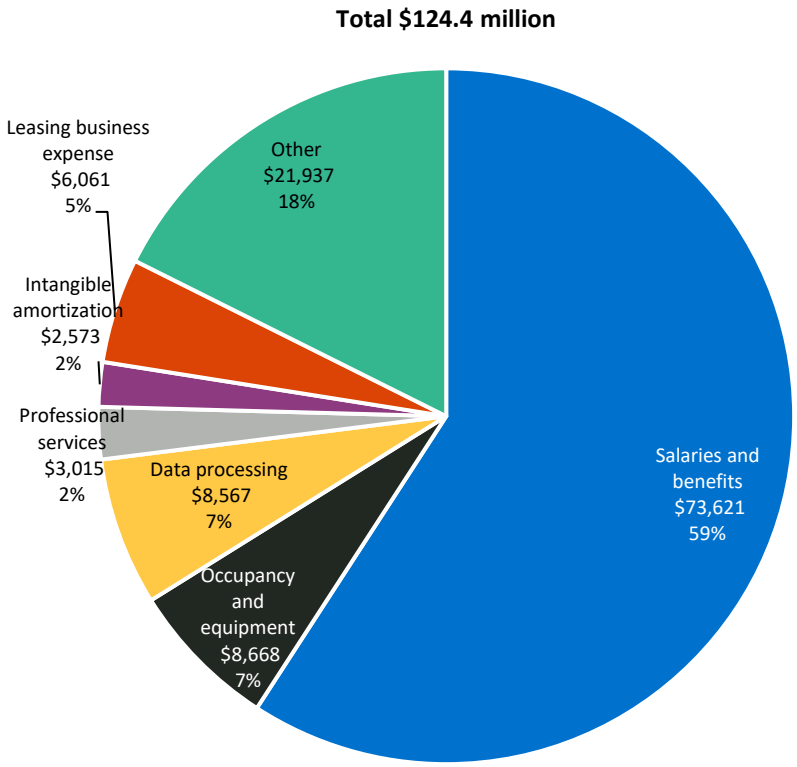
All dollars shown in thousands

4Q22 Highlights

- Total fee income 26.2% of net revenue
- Record foreign exchange income of $19.6 million; increased $7.8 million, or 66.7%, from linked quarter
- Record leasing business income of $11.1 million; increased $4.0 million, or 56.1%, from the linked quarter
- Trust and wealth management fees of $5.6 million increased $0.2 million, or 2.9%, from the linked quarter
- Deposit service charge income of $6.4 million; increased $0.1 million, or 2.0%, from the linked quarter
- Mortgage banking income of $2.2 million; decreased $1.5 million, or 40.8%, from the linked quarter
- Client derivative income of $1.8 million; $0.4 million, or 25.9%, increase from the linked quarter

noninterest expense

Noninterest Expense

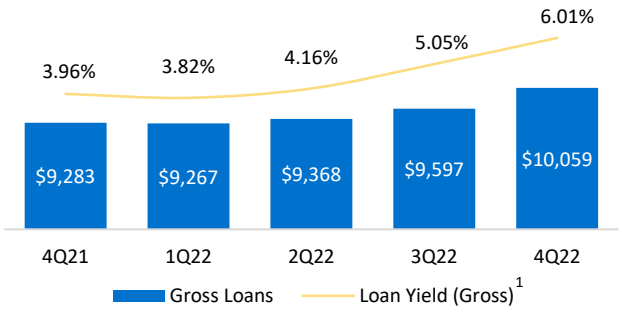


4Q22 Highlights

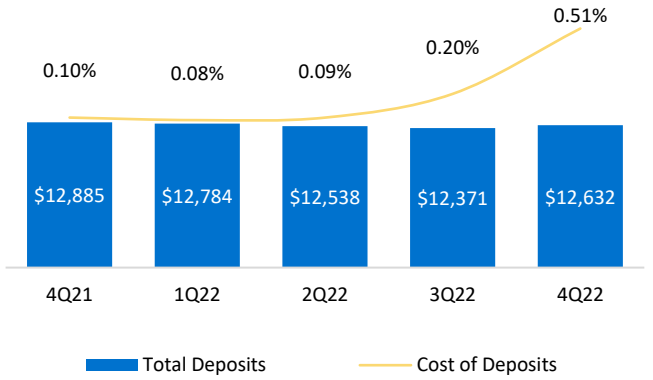
- Core expenses increased due to elevated incentive costs tied to record foreign exchange income during the period and overall Company performance
- $2.5 million contribution to First Financial Foundation
- Adjustments include:
  - $6.4 million of tax credit investment writedowns
  - $0.7 million of other costs not expected to recur such as acquisition, branch consolidation and severance costs

average balance sheet

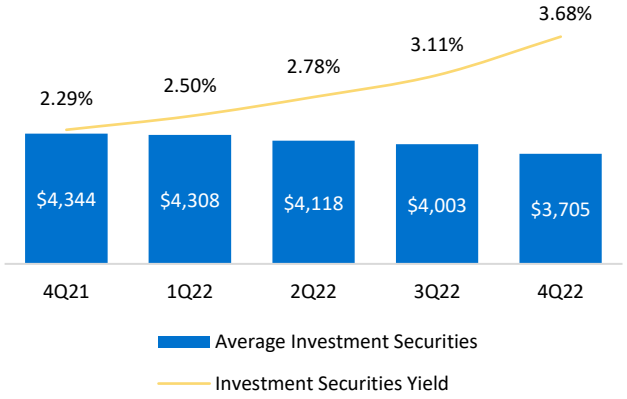
Average Loans



Average Deposits



Average Securities



All dollars shown in millions

[1] Includes loans fees and loan accretion

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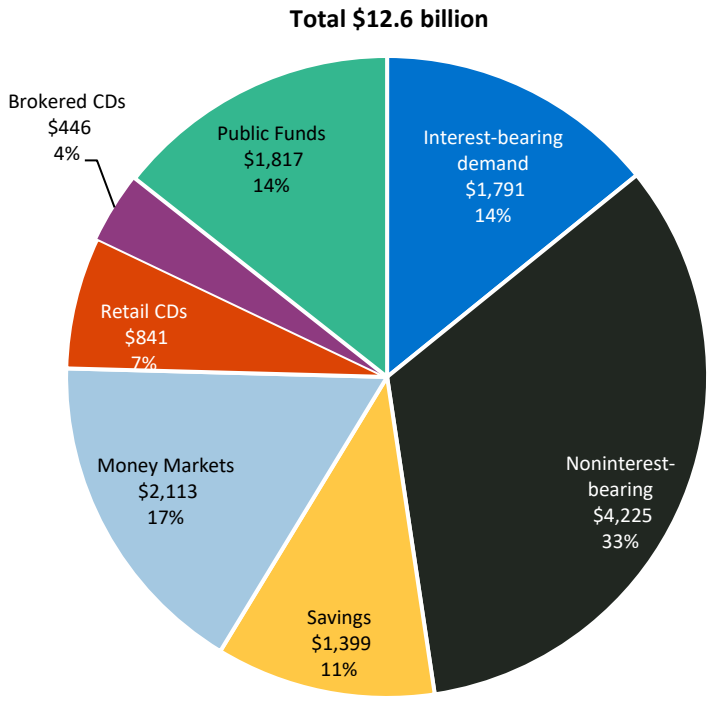
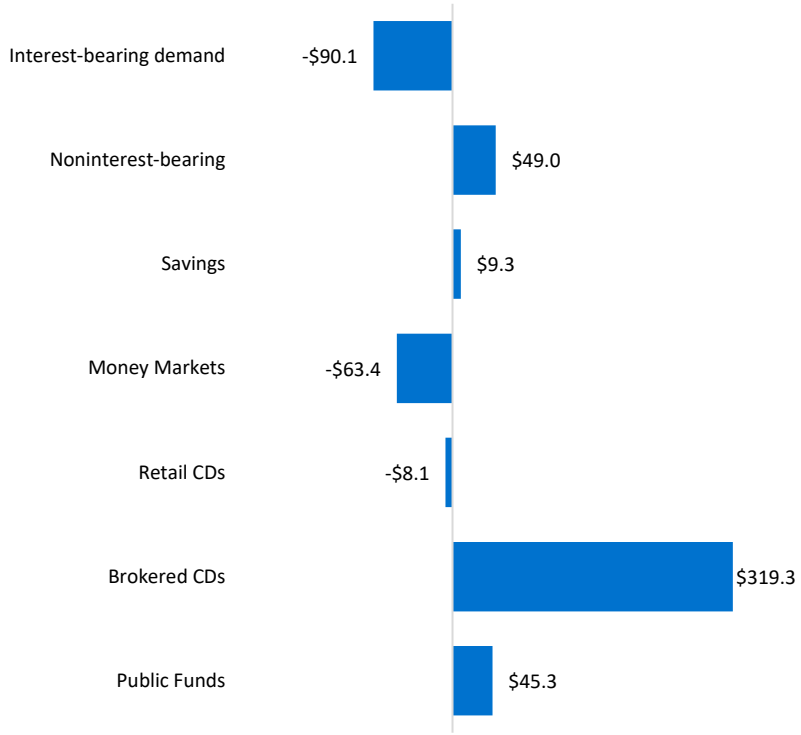
deposits

Deposit Product Mix (Avg)



4Q22 Average Deposit Progression



Total growth/(decline): $261.3 million

All dollars shown in millions

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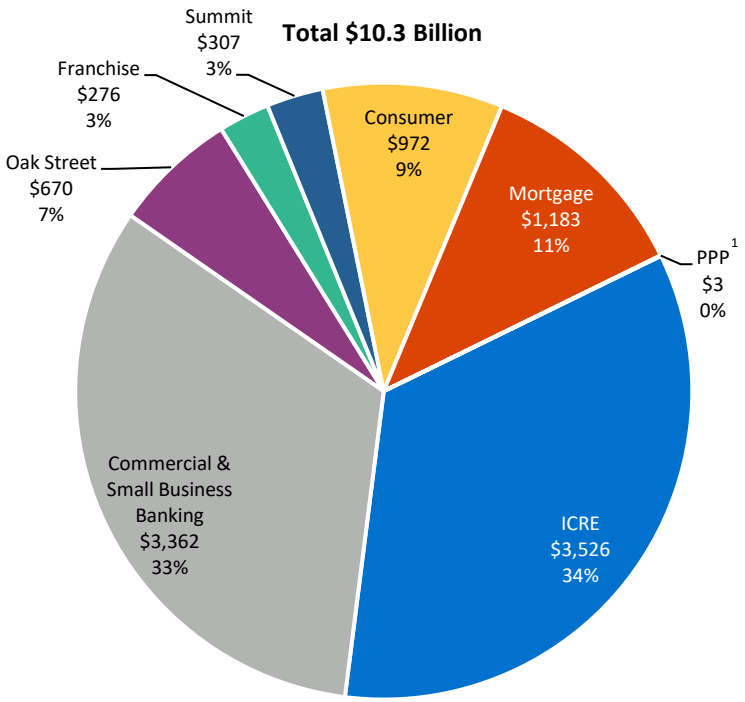
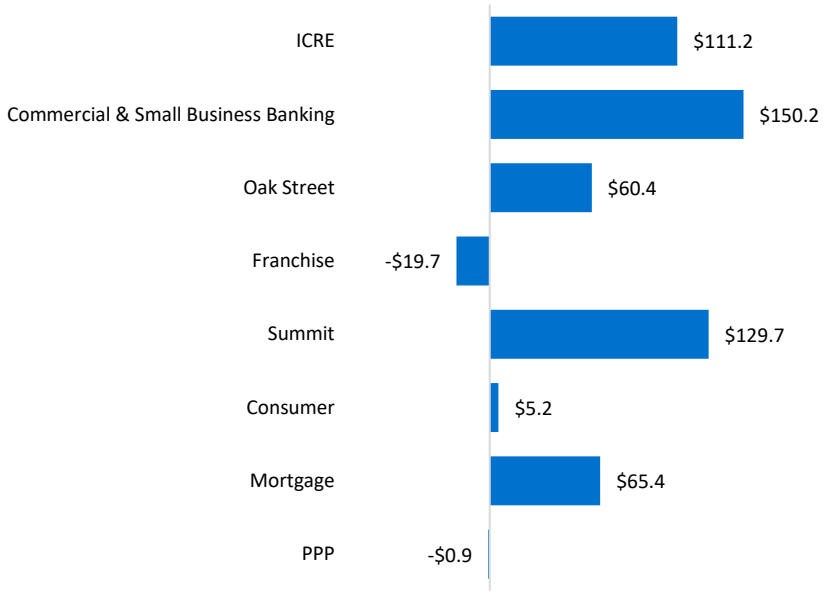
loan portfolio

Loan LOB Mix (EOP)



Net Loan Change-LOB (Linked Quarter)



Total growth/(decline):
$501.5 million

All dollars shown in millions

loan concentrations

C&I and Owner Occupied CRE Loans by Sector[1]

NAICS Sector	12/31/22	% of Total Loans
Finance and Insurance	$787.0	7.64%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	768.7	7.46%
Manufacturing	591.7	5.74%
Accommodation and Food Services	349.9	3.39%
Health Care and Social Assistance	253.6	2.46%
Construction	219.3	2.13%
Retail Trade	199.6	1.94%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	190.6	1.85%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	159.2	1.54%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	145.4	1.41%
Wholesale Trade	139.7	1.36%
Transportation and Warehousing	122.3	1.19%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management	89.0	0.86%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	73.3	0.71%
Public Administration	67.5	0.65%
Other	154.2	1.50%
Grand Total	**$4,311.0**	**41.83%**

[1] Excludes Summit Funding Group

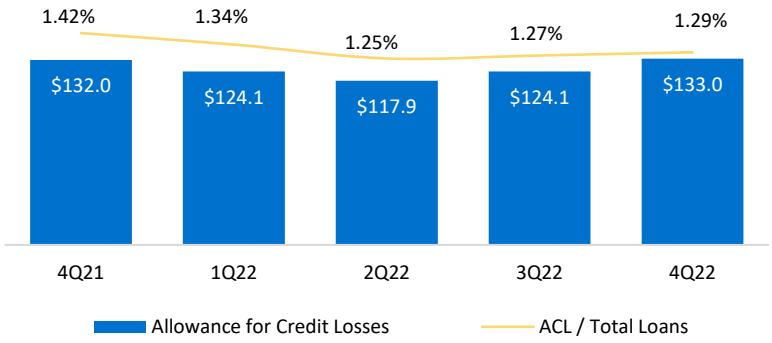
Investor CRE Loans by Property Type

Property Type	12/31/22	% of Total Loans
Residential Multi Family 5+	$952.5	9.24%
Retail Property	790.2	7.67%
Office	555.2	5.39%
Hospital/Nursing Home	343.9	3.34%
Industrial	341.9	3.32%
Hotel	291.3	2.83%
Residential 1-4 Family	90.4	0.88%
Land	85.9	0.83%
Other Real Estate	51.2	0.50%
Other	23.2	0.23%
Grand Total	**$3,525.8**	**34.21%**

All dollars shown in millions

current expected credit losses - loans and leases

ACL / Total Loans



4Q22 Highlights

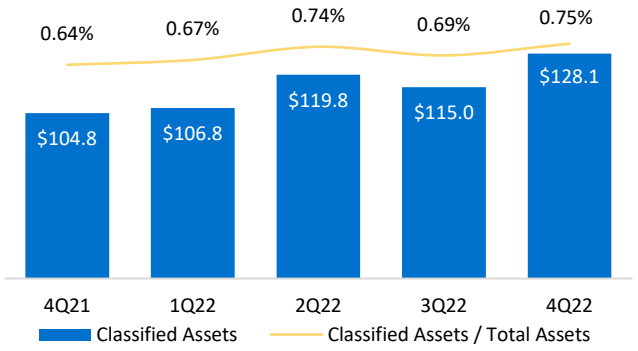
- $151.4 million combined ACL; $10.0 million combined provision expense
- $133.0 million ACL – loans and leases; increase driven by strong loan growth and slower prepayment rates; 1.29% of loan balances
- Utilized Moody's December baseline forecast in quantitative model
- $18.4 million ACL – unfunded commitments

ACL by Loan Type

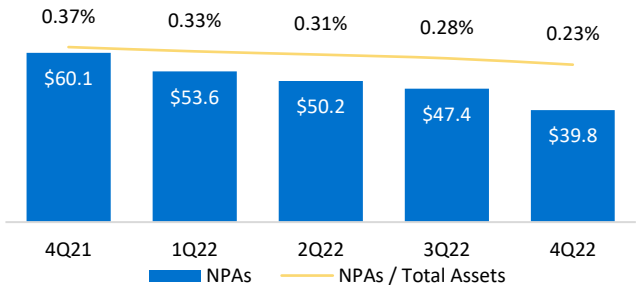
	4Q21	1Q22	2Q22	3Q22	4Q22
Loans					
Commercial and industrial	$ 44,052	$ 37,783	$ 39,179	$ 41,032	$ 42,313
Lease financing	1,633	2,093	2,212	2,450	3,571
Real estate -construction	11,874	11,410	11,965	14,046	13,527
Real estate - commercial	53,420	51,512	39,856	38,071	41,106
Real estate - residential	6,225	6,152	7,383	9,422	12,684
Home equity	9,643	9,676	10,980	11,620	12,447
Installment	1,097	1,075	1,189	4,855	4,945
Credit card	4,048	4,429	5,121	2,600	2,384
ACL-loan and lease losses	$ 131,992	$ 124,130	$ 117,885	$ 124,096	$ 132,977
ACL-unfunded commitments	$ 13,406	$ 13,179	$ 16,661	$ 17,046	$ 18,388

asset quality

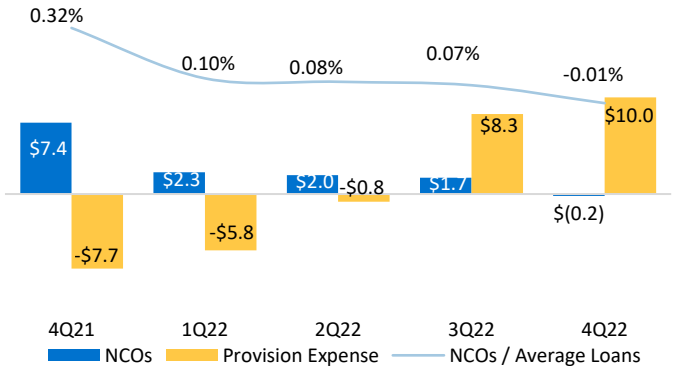
Classified Assets / Total Assets



Nonperforming Assets / Total Assets



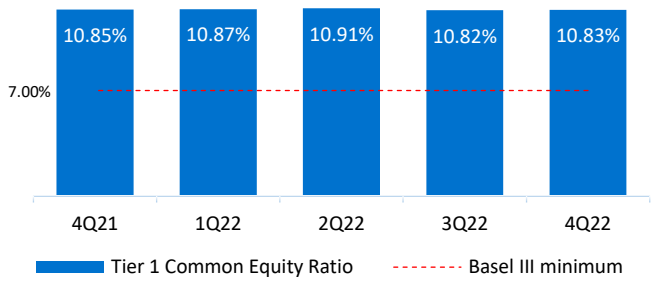
Net Charge Offs & Provision Expense[1]



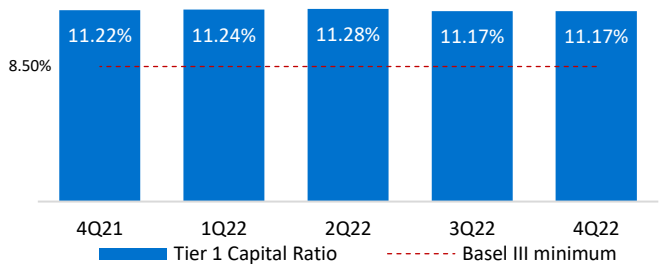
[1] Provision includes both loans & leases and unfunded commitments
All dollars shown in millions

capital

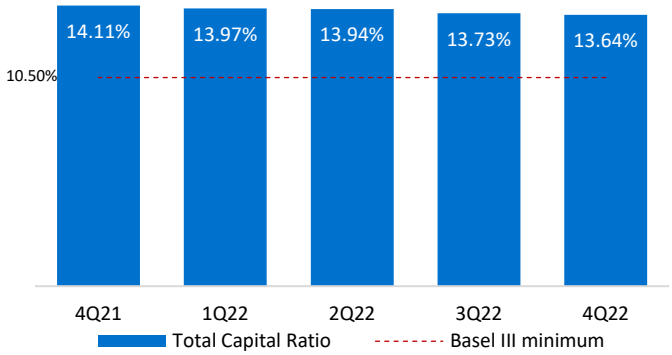
Tier 1 Common Equity Ratio



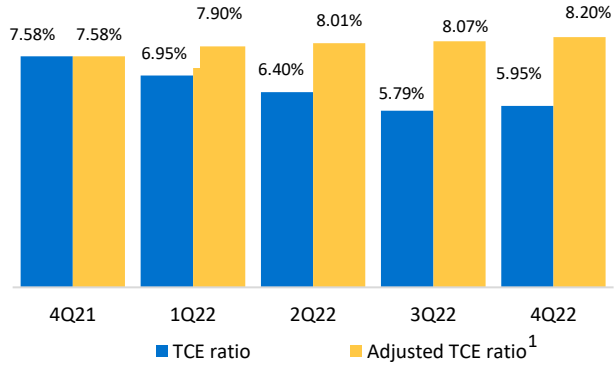
Tier 1 Capital Ratio



Total Capital Ratio



Tangible Common Equity Ratio

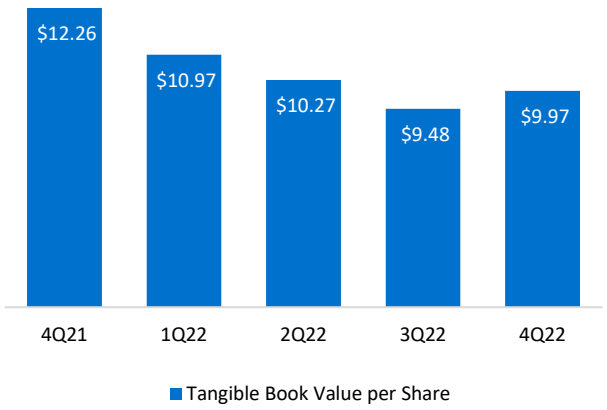


12/31 Risk Weighted Assets = $12,923,233
All capital numbers are considered preliminary.

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

capital strategy

Tangible Book Value Per Share



- Increase in TBV per share driven by strong earnings during the period

Strategy & Deployment

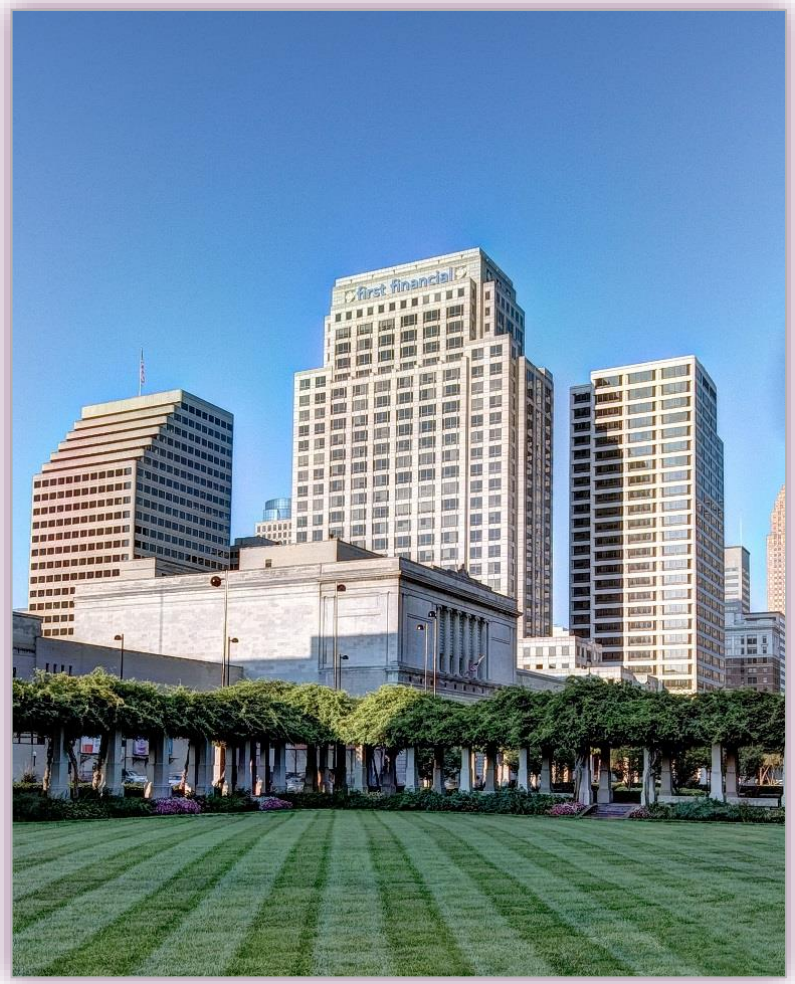
- 3.8% annualized dividend yield
- 31.5% of 4Q22 earnings returned to shareholders through common dividend
- Most recent internal stress testing indicates capital ratios above regulatory minimums in all modeled scenarios
- Common dividend expected to remain unchanged in near-term
- No shares repurchased in 4Q22; no plans to repurchase shares in near-term

outlook commentary[1]

Balance Sheet	• Loan balances expected to grow mid single digits in near term • Core deposit balances to moderately decline in near term
Net Interest Margin	• Expected to be 4.50% - 4.60% • Likely to peak in 1Q dependent upon Fed action
Credit	• Continued stability in credit quality trends • ACL coverage expected to be slightly higher • Uncertainty regarding inflation and macroeconomic environment
Noninterest Income	• Total fee income expected to be $45-47 million • Foreign exchange income expected to return to historical levels in 1Q23
Noninterest Expense	• Expected to be $109-111 million • Growth in leasing business expense as portfolio grows • Incentive expense will fluctuate with fee income
Capital	• Expect to 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 $4.5 billion
  - Deposits $5.4 billion
  - Deposit Market Share T- #4 (2.7%)
  - Banking Centers 50
  - Fortune 500 Companies 8
- Columbus, OH
  - Loans $1.2 billion
  - Deposits $0.4 billion
  - Deposit Market Share #18 (0.4%)
  - Banking Centers 5
  - Fortune 500 Companies 5
- Community Markets
  - Loans $1.7 billion
  - Deposits $5.3 billion
  - Banking Centers 61
- Indianapolis
  - Loans $0.9 billion
  - Deposits $0.8 billion
  - Deposit Market Share #14 (1.2%)
  - Banking Centers 10
  - Fortune 500 Companies 2
- Louisville
  - Loans $0.3 billion
  - Deposits $0.7 billion
  - Deposit Market Share #12 (1.3%)
  - Banking Centers 6
  - Fortune 500 Companies 3
- National
  - Loans $1.6 billion
  - Deposits $0.2 billion

All numbers as of 12/31/2022 except deposit market share which is as of 6/30/2022.
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.

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, 2022	Sep. 30, 2022	June 30, 2022	Mar. 31, 2022	Dec. 31, 2021
Net interest income	$ 157,896	$ 137,892	$ 117,010	$ 106,345	$ 110,806
Tax equivalent adjustment	1,553	1,712	1,625	1,467	1,386
Net interest income - tax equivalent	$ 159,449	$ 139,604	$ 118,635	$ 107,812	$ 112,192
Average earning assets	$ 14,136,477	$ 13,917,815	$ 13,780,243	$ 13,848,596	$ 13,793,644
Net interest margin[1]	4.43 %	3.93 %	3.41 %	3.11 %	3.19 %
Net interest margin (fully tax equivalent)[1]	4.47 %	3.98 %	3.45 %	3.16 %	3.23 %

[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, 2022	Sep. 30, 2022	June 30, 2022	Mar. 31, 2022	Dec. 31, 2021
Net income (a)	$ 69,086	$ 55,705	$ 51,520	$ 41,301	$ 46,945
Average total shareholders' equity	2,009,564	2,089,179	2,099,670	2,225,495	2,241,820
Less:					
Goodwill	(998,575)	(999,690)	(999,958)	(1,000,238)	(938,453)
Other intangibles	(95,256)	(97,781)	(100,354)	(103,033)	(71,006)
Average tangible equity (b)	915,733	991,708	999,358	1,122,224	1,232,361
Total shareholders' equity	2,041,373	1,994,132	2,068,670	2,137,445	2,258,942
Less:					
Goodwill	(1,001,507)	(998,422)	(999,959)	(999,959)	(1,000,749)
Other intangibles	(93,919)	(96,528)	(99,019)	(101,673)	(104,367)
Ending tangible equity (c)	945,947	899,182	969,692	1,035,813	1,153,826
Less:					
AOCI	(358,663)	(354,570)	(243,328)	(142,477)	(433)
Ending tangible equity less AOCI (d)	1,304,610	1,253,752	1,213,020	1,178,290	1,154,259
Total assets	17,003,316	16,623,793	16,243,714	16,009,150	16,329,141
Less:					
Goodwill	(1,001,507)	(998,422)	(999,959)	(999,959)	(1,000,749)
Other intangibles	(93,919)	(96,528)	(99,019)	(101,673)	(104,367)
Ending tangible assets (e)	15,907,890	15,528,843	15,144,736	14,907,518	15,224,025
Risk-weighted assets (f)	12,923,233	12,467,422	11,982,860	11,705,447	11,642,201
Total average assets	16,767,598	16,385,989	16,185,978	16,184,919	16,036,417
Less:					
Goodwill	(998,575)	(999,690)	(999,958)	(1,000,238)	(938,453)
Other intangibles	(95,256)	(97,781)	(100,354)	(103,033)	(71,006)
Average tangible assets (g)	$ 15,673,767	$ 15,288,518	$ 15,085,666	$ 15,081,648	$ 15,026,958
Ending shares outstanding (h)	94,891,099	94,833,964	94,448,792	94,451,496	94,149,240
Ratios					
Return on average tangible shareholders' equity (a)/(b)	29.93%	22.29%	20.68%	14.93%	15.11%
Ending tangible equity as a percent of:					
Ending tangible assets (c)/(e)	5.95%	5.79%	6.40%	6.95%	7.58%
Risk-weighted assets (c)/(f)	7.32%	7.21%	8.09%	8.85%	9.91%
Ending tangible equity excluding AOCI as a percent of:					
Ending tangible assets (d)/(e)	8.20%	8.07%	8.01%	7.90%	7.58%
Average tangible equity as a percent of average tangible assets (b)/(g)	5.84%	6.49%	6.62%	7.44%	8.20%
Tangible book value per share (c)/(h)	$ 9.97	$ 9.48	$ 10.27	$ 10.97	$ 12.26

All dollars shown in thousands

appendix: non-GAAP to GAAP reconciliation

Additional non-GAAP measures

(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)	4Q22		3Q22		2Q22		1Q22	
	As Reported	Adjusted	As Reported	Adjusted	As Reported	Adjusted	As Reported	Adjusted
Net interest income (f)	$ 157,896	$ 157,896	$ 137,892	$ 137,892	$ 117,010	$ 117,010	$ 106,345	$ 106,345
Provision for credit losses-loans and leases (j)	8,689	8,689	7,898	7,898	(4,267)	(4,267)	(5,589)	(5,589)
Provision for credit losses-unfunded commitments (j)	1,341	1,341	386	386	3,481	3,481	(226)	(226)
Noninterest income	56,035	56,035	42,534	42,534	49,778	49,778	41,294	41,294
less: gains (losses) on sale of investment securities		922		(880)		(1,054)		(196)
less: other		-		-		-		-
Total noninterest income (g)	56,035	55,113	42,534	43,414	49,778	50,832	41,294	41,490
Noninterest expense	124,442	124,442	125,068	125,068	103,034	103,034	102,805	102,805
less: tax credit investments		6,406		17,212		104		104
less: legal settlement		-		-		-		-
less: Summit acquisition costs		149		76		100		323
less: COVID-19 and other		558		1,671		666		2,354
Total noninterest expense (e)	124,442	117,329	125,068	106,109	103,034	102,164	102,805	100,024
Income before income taxes (i)	79,459	85,650	47,074	66,913	64,540	66,464	50,649	53,626
Income tax expense	10,373	10,373	(8,631)	(8,631)	13,020	13,020	9,348	9,348
plus: tax effect of adjustments		5,061		13,598		82		83
plus: after-tax impact of tax credit investments @ 21%		1,300		4,166		404		625
Total income tax expense (h)	10,373	16,734	(8,631)	9,133	13,020	13,506	9,348	10,056
Net income (a)	$ 69,086	$ 68,916	$ 55,705	$ 57,780	$ 51,520	$ 52,958	$ 41,301	$ 43,570
Average diluted shares (b)	94,832	94,832	94,794	94,794	94,450	94,450	94,264	94,264
Average assets (c)	16,767,598	16,767,598	16,385,989	16,385,989	16,185,978	16,185,978	16,184,919	16,184,919
Average shareholders' equity	2,009,564	2,009,564	2,089,179	2,089,179	2,099,670	2,099,670	2,225,495	2,225,495
Less:								
Goodwill and other intangibles	(1,093,831)	(1,093,831)	(1,097,471)	(1,097,471)	(1,100,312)	(1,100,312)	(1,103,271)	(1,103,271)
Average tangible equity (d)	915,733	915,733	991,708	991,708	999,358	999,358	1,122,224	1,122,224
Ratios								
Net earnings per share - diluted (a)/(b)	$ 0.73	$ 0.73	$ 0.59	$ 0.61	$ 0.55	$ 0.56	$ 0.44	$ 0.46
Return on average assets - (a)/(c)	1.63%	1.63%	1.35%	1.40%	1.28%	1.31%	1.03%	1.09%
Pre-tax, pre-provision return on average assets - ((a)+(j)+(h))/(c)	2.12%	2.26%	1.34%	1.82%	1.58%	1.63%	1.12%	1.20%
Return on average tangible shareholders' equity - (a)/(d)	29.93%	29.86%	22.29%	23.12%	20.68%	21.26%	14.93%	15.75%
Efficiency ratio - (e)/((f)+(g))	58.2%	55.1%	69.3%	58.5%	61.8%	60.9%	69.6%	67.7%
Effective tax rate - (h)/(i)	13.1%	19.5%	-18.3%	13.6%	20.2%	20.3%	18.5%	18.8%

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