

FIRST FINANCIAL BANKSHARES INC
Form 10-K
February 24, 2009

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-K**

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008

Commission file number 0-7674

First Financial Bankshares, Inc.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Texas

(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

75-0944023

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

400 Pine Street, Abilene, Texas

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

79601

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

(325) 627-7155

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Class

Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share

Name of Exchange on Which Registered

Nasdaq Global Select Market

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated
filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer
(Do not check if a smaller reporting
company)

Smaller reporting
company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes No
As of June 30, 2008, the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, the

aggregate market value of voting and non-voting common stock held by non-affiliates was \$888,458,000.

As of February 23, 2009, there were 20,801,099 shares of Common Stock outstanding.

Documents Incorporated by Reference

Certain information called for by Part III is incorporated by reference to the Proxy Statement for the 2009 Annual Meeting of our shareholders, which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission not later than 120 days after December 31, 2008.

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**CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING
FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This Form 10-K contains certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. When used in this Form 10-K, words such as anticipate, believe, estimate, expect, intend, predict, project, and similar expressions, as they relate to us or our management, identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are based on information currently available to our management. Actual results could differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements as a result of certain factors, including but not limited to, those listed in Item 1A-Risk Factors and the following:

General economic conditions, including our local and national real estate markets and employment trends;

Volatility and disruption in national and international financial markets;

Legislative, tax and regulatory actions and reforms;

Political instability;

The ability of the Federal government to deal with the national economic slowdown and the terms of any stimulus package enacted by Congress;

Competition from other financial institutions and financial holding companies;

The effects of and changes in trade, monetary and fiscal policies and laws, including interest rate policies of the Governors of the Federal Reserve System;

Changes in the demand for loans;

Fluctuations in the value of collateral securing our loan portfolio and in the level of the allowance for loan losses;

Soundness of other financial institutions with which we have transactions;

Inflation, interest rate, market and monetary fluctuations;

Changes in consumer spending, borrowing and savings habits;

Legislative changes and other developments in student loan originations and sales;

Anticipated increases in FDIC deposit insurance assessments;

Our ability to attract deposits;

Consequences of continued bank mergers and acquisitions in our market area, resulting in fewer but much larger and stronger competitors;

Expansion of operations, including branch openings, new product offerings and expansion into new markets;

Acquisitions and integration of acquired businesses; and

Acts of God or of war or terrorism.

Such statements reflect the current views of our management with respect to future events and are subject to these and other risks, uncertainties and assumptions relating to our operations, results of operations, growth strategy and liquidity. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by this paragraph. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or otherwise revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

General

First Financial Bankshares, Inc., a Texas corporation, is a financial holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, or BHCA. As such, we are supervised by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or Federal Reserve Board, as well as several other state and federal regulators. We were formed as a bank holding company in 1956 under the original name F & M Operating Company, but our banking operations date back to 1890, when Farmers and Merchants National Bank opened for business in Abilene, Texas. Through our wholly-owned Delaware subsidiary, First Financial Bankshares of Delaware, Inc., we own ten banks, a company, a technology operating company, and an insurance agency, all organized and located in Texas. These subsidiaries are:

First Financial Bank, National Association, Abilene, Texas;

Hereford State Bank, Hereford, Texas;

First Financial Bank, National Association, Sweetwater, Texas;

First Financial Bank, National Association, Eastland, Texas;

First Financial Bank, National Association, Cleburne, Texas;

First Financial Bank, National Association, Stephenville, Texas;

San Angelo National Bank, San Angelo, Texas;

Weatherford National Bank, Weatherford, Texas;

First Financial Bank, National Association, Southlake, Texas;

First Financial Bank, National Association, Mineral Wells, Texas;

First Technology Services, Inc., Abilene, Texas;

First Financial Trust & Asset Management Company, National Association, Abilene, Texas; and

First Financial Insurance Agency, Inc., Abilene, Texas.

Through our subsidiary banks, we conduct a full-service commercial banking business. Our service centers are located primarily in North Central and West Texas. Considering the branches and locations of all our subsidiaries, as of December 31, 2008, we had 48 financial centers across Texas, with ten locations in Abilene, two locations in Cleburne, three locations in Stephenville, three locations in Granbury, two locations in San Angelo, three locations in Weatherford, and one location each in Mineral Wells, Hereford, Sweetwater, Eastland, Ranger, Rising Star, Southlake, Aledo, Willow Park, Brock, Alvarado, Burseson, Keller, Trophy Club, Boyd, Bridgeport, Decatur, Roby, Trent, Merkel, Clyde, Moran, Albany, Midlothian and Glen Rose.

Even though we operate in a growing number of Texas markets, we continue to believe that decisions are best made at the local level. Accordingly, each of our ten separately chartered banks operates with local boards of

directors, local bank presidents and local decision-making. However, we have consolidated many of the backroom operations, such as investment securities, accounting, check processing, technology and employee benefits, which improves each of our subsidiary bank's efficiency and frees management of our subsidiary banks to concentrate on serving the banking needs of their local communities. We call this our "one bank, ten charters" concept.

Although many of our competitors branch across state lines, we have chosen to keep our Company focused on the State of Texas, one of the nation's largest, fastest-growing and most economically diverse states. With nearly 23 million residents, Texas has more people than any other state except California. The population of Texas grew 12.7 percent from 2000-2006, nearly double the national rate, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Many of the communities in which we operate are growing faster than the statewide average, as shown below:

Population Growth 2000-2006*

Bridgeport and Wise County	18.6%
Fort Worth/Tarrant County	15.6%
Cleburne, Midlothian and Johnson County	17.5%
Weatherford, Willow Park and Aledo	20.1%
Granbury and Hood County	19.8%

* Source: U.S.
Census Bureau

These economies include dynamic centers of higher education, agriculture, energy and natural resources, healthcare, tourism, retirement living, manufacturing and distribution. Because there are many growth opportunities in Texas, we do not believe it is necessary to look outside the state. Additionally, we prefer to focus on the areas where we have historically done business: the economies in the North Central, West and High Plains regions of Texas.

We have also largely foregone the larger metropolitan areas of Texas. We believe our community matters way of doing business works best for us in small and mid-size markets, where we can play a prominent role in the economic, civic and cultural life of the community. Our goal is to serve these communities well and to experience growth as these markets continue to expand. In many instances, banking competition is also less intense in smaller markets, making it easier for us to operate rationally and attract and retain high-caliber employees who prefer not only our community-banker concept but the high quality of life in smaller cities.

Over the years, we have grown three ways: by growing our banks internally, by opening new branch locations and by acquisition of other banks. Since the beginning of 1997, we have completed ten bank acquisitions and doubled total assets from \$1.57 billion to \$3.21 billion. We have also established a trust and asset management company and a technology services company, both of which operate as subsidiaries of First Financial Bankshares. Looking ahead, we will continue to grow locally by better serving the needs of our customers and putting them first in all of our decisions. We continually look for new branch locations, so we can provide more convenient service to our customers, and we are actively cultivating relationships with other Texas bankers who may have an interest in being acquired by us at some point in the future.

When targeting a bank for acquisition, the bank generally needs to be in the type of community that fits our profile. We like growing communities with good amenities schools, infrastructure, commerce and lifestyle. We prefer non-metropolitan markets, either within a 50-mile radius of the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex or along the Interstate 35 and 20 corridors in Texas. We also have an affinity in banks in East Texas and the Texas Hill Country area. Banks in the \$100 million to \$300 million asset size fit our sweet spot for acquisition, but we will consider banks that are larger or smaller, or that are in other areas of Texas if we believe they would be a good fit for our existing Company.

We also own directly two subsidiaries, First Financial Investments, Inc. (which is dormant) and First Financial Investments of Delaware, Inc., which owns our airplane.

Information on our revenues, profits and losses and total assets appears in the discussion of our Results of Operations contained in Item 7 hereof.

First Financial Bankshares, Inc.

We provide management and technical resources and policy direction to our subsidiaries, which enable them to improve or expand their banking services while continuing their local activity and identity. Each of our subsidiaries operates under the day-to-day management of its own board of directors and officers, with substantial authority in making decisions concerning their own loan decisions, interest rates, service charges and marketing. We provide resources and policy direction in, among other things, the following areas:

asset and liability management;

investments;

accounting;

budgeting;

training;

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marketing;

planning;

risk management;

loan review;

human resources;

insurance;

capitalization; and

regulatory compliance.

In particular, we assist our subsidiaries with, among other things, decisions concerning major capital expenditures, employee fringe benefits, including retirement plans and group medical, dividend policies, and appointment of officers and directors and their compensation. We also perform, through corporate staff groups or by outsourcing to third parties, internal audits, compliance oversight and loan reviews of our subsidiaries. We provide advice and specialized services for our banks related to lending, investing, purchasing, advertising, public relations, and computer services.

We evaluate various potential financial institution acquisition opportunities and approve potential locations for new branch offices. We anticipate that funding for any acquisitions or expansions would be provided from our existing cash balances, available dividends from subsidiary banks, utilization of available lines of credit and future debt or equity offerings.

Services Offered by Our Subsidiary Banks

Each of our subsidiary banks is a separate legal entity that operates under the day-to-day management of its own board of directors and officers. Each of our subsidiary banks provides general commercial banking services, which include accepting and holding checking, savings and time deposits, making loans, automated teller machines, drive-in and night deposit services, safe deposit facilities, transmitting funds, and performing other customary commercial banking services. We also conduct full service trust activities through First Financial Trust & Asset Management Company, National Association. Through our trust company, we administer all types of retirement and employee benefit accounts, which include 401(k) profit sharing plans and IRAs. We also offer personal trust services, which include the administration of estates, testamentary trusts, revocable and irrevocable trusts and agency accounts. In addition, First Financial Bank, National Association, Abilene, San Angelo National Bank and Weatherford National Bank provide securities brokerage services through arrangements with an unrelated third party.

Competition

Commercial banking in Texas is highly competitive, and because we hold less than 1% of the state's deposits, we represent only a minor segment of the industry. To succeed in this industry, we believe that our banks must have the capability to compete effectively in the areas of (1) interest rates paid or charged; (2) scope of services offered; and (3) prices charged for such services. Our subsidiary banks compete in their respective service areas against highly competitive banks, thrifts, savings and loan associations, small loan companies, credit unions, mortgage companies, insurance companies, and brokerage firms, all of which are engaged in providing financial products and services and some of which are larger than our subsidiary banks in terms of capital, resources and personnel.

Our business does not depend on any single customer or any few customers, the loss of any one of which would have a materially adverse effect upon our business. Although we have a broad base of customers that are not related to us, our customers also occasionally include our officers and directors, as well as other entities with which we are affiliated. Through our subsidiary banks we may make loans to officers and directors, and entities with which we are affiliated, in the ordinary course of business. We make these loans on substantially the same terms, including interest

rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with other persons. Loans to directors, officers and their affiliates are also subject to numerous restrictions under federal and state banking laws, which we describe in greater detail below.

Employees

With our subsidiary banks we employed approximately 1,000 full-time equivalent employees at December 31, 2008. Our management believes that our employee relations have been and will continue to be good.

Supervision and Regulation

Both federal and state laws extensively regulate bank holding companies, financial holding companies and banks. These laws (and the regulations promulgated thereunder) are primarily intended to protect depositors and the deposit insurance fund of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or FDIC. The following information describes particular laws and regulatory provisions relating to financial holding companies and banks. This discussion is qualified in its entirety by reference to the particular laws and regulatory provisions. A change in any of these laws or regulations may have a material effect on our business and the business of our subsidiary banks.

Bank Holding Companies and Financial Holding Companies

Historically, the activities of bank holding companies were limited to the business of banking and activities closely related or incidental to banking. Bank holding companies were generally prohibited from acquiring control of any company that was not a bank and from engaging in any business other than the business of banking or managing and controlling banks. The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, which took effect on March 12, 2000, dismantled many Depression-era restrictions against affiliation between banking, securities and insurance firms by permitting bank holding companies to engage in a broader range of financial activities, so long as certain safeguards are observed. Specifically, bank holding companies may elect to become financial holding companies that may affiliate with securities firms and insurance companies and engage in other activities that are financial in nature or incidental to a financial activity. Thus, with the enactment of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, banks, securities firms and insurance companies find it easier to acquire or affiliate with each other and cross-sell financial products. The Act permits a single financial services organization to offer a more complete array of financial products and services than historically was permitted.

A financial holding company is essentially a bank holding company with significantly expanded powers. Under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, in addition to traditional lending activities, the following activities are among those that are deemed financial in nature for financial holding companies: securities underwriting, dealing in or making a market in securities, sponsoring mutual funds and investment companies, insurance underwriting and agency activities, activities which the Federal Reserve Board determines to be closely related to banking, and certain merchant banking activities.

We elected to become a financial holding company in September 2001. As a financial holding company, we have very broad discretion to affiliate with securities firms and insurance companies, make merchant banking investments, and engage in other activities that the Federal Reserve Board has deemed financial in nature. In order to continue as a financial holding company, we must continue to be well-capitalized, well-managed and maintain compliance with the Community Reinvestment Act. Depending on the types of financial activities that we may elect to engage in, under Gramm-Leach-Bliley's functional regulation principles, we may become subject to supervision by additional government agencies. The election to be treated as a financial holding company increases our ability to offer financial products and services that historically we were either unable to provide or were only able to provide on a limited basis. As a result, we will face increased competition in the markets for any new financial products and services that we may offer. Likewise, an increased amount of consolidation among banks and securities firms or banks and insurance firms could result in a growing number of large financial institutions that could compete aggressively with us.

Mergers and Acquisitions

We generally must obtain approval from the banking regulators before we can acquire other financial institutions. We may not engage in certain acquisitions if we are undercapitalized. Furthermore, the BHCA provides that the Federal Reserve Board cannot approve any acquisition, merger or consolidation that may substantially lessen competition in the banking industry, create a monopoly in any section of the country, or be a restraint of trade. However, the Federal Reserve Board may approve such a transaction if the convenience and needs of the community clearly outweigh any anti-competitive effects. Specifically, the Federal Reserve Board would consider, among other factors, the expected benefits to the public (greater convenience, increased competition, greater efficiency, etc.) against the risks of possible adverse effects (undue concentration of resources, decreased or unfair competition, conflicts of interest, unsound banking practices, etc.).

Banks

Federal and state laws and regulations that govern banks have the effect of, among other things, regulating the scope of business, investments, cash reserves, the purpose and nature of loans, the maximum interest rate chargeable on loans, the amount of dividends declared, and required capitalization ratios.

National Banking Associations. Banks organized as national banking associations under the National Bank Act are subject to regulation and examination by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, or OCC. The OCC supervises, regulates and regularly examines:

First Financial Bank, National Association, Abilene;

First Financial Bank, National Association, Sweetwater;

First Financial Bank, National Association, Cleburne;

First Financial Bank, National Association, Eastland;

San Angelo National Bank;

Weatherford National Bank;

First Financial Bank, National Association, Southlake;

First Financial Bank, National Association, Stephenville;

First Financial Bank, National Association, Mineral Wells;

First Financial Trust & Asset Management Company, National Association; and

First Technology Services, Inc.

The OCC's supervision and regulation of banks is primarily intended to protect the interests of depositors. The National Bank Act:

requires each national banking association to maintain reserves against deposits,

restricts the nature and amount of loans that may be made and the interest that may be charged, and

restricts investments and other activities.

State Banks. Banks that are organized as state banks under Texas law are subject to regulation and examination by the Banking Commissioner of the State of Texas. The Commissioner regulates and supervises, and the Texas Banking Department regularly examines our one subsidiary state bank, Hereford State Bank. The Commissioner's supervision and regulation of banks is primarily designed to protect the interests of depositors. Texas law:

restricts the nature and amount of loans that may be made and the interest that may be charged, and

restricts investments and other activities.

State banks are also subject to regulation by either the FDIC or the Federal Reserve Board, at the federal level. Because Hereford State Bank is a non-member bank, it is regulated at the federal level by the FDIC and is subject to most of the federal laws described below.

Deposit Insurance

Each of our subsidiary banks is a member of the FDIC. The FDIC provides deposit insurance protection that covers all deposit accounts in FDIC-insured depository institutions. Until October 2008, the protection generally did not exceed \$100,000 per depositor. Beginning in October 2008, the amount of protection was increased to \$250,000, under the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program (TLGP) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. This increased protection is available only through December 31, 2009 although we understand there are legislative proposals to extend this level of protection permanently. The new regulations were subsequently expanded whereby the protection for non interest bearing deposits is unlimited at institutions participating in the TLGP. Non interest bearing deposits include, by definition, certain Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts and Negotiable Order of Withdrawal accounts (NOW Accounts) with interest rates no higher than 0.50 percent. All of our subsidiary banks elected to participate in the TLGP.

Our subsidiary banks must pay assessments to the FDIC under a risk-based assessment system for this federal deposit insurance protection. FDIC-insured depository institutions that are members of the Bank Insurance Fund pay insurance premiums at rates based on their risk classification. Institutions assigned to higher risk classifications (i.e., institutions that pose a greater risk of loss to the deposit insurance fund) pay assessments at higher rates than institutions assigned to lower risk classifications. An institution's risk classification is assigned based on its capital levels and the level of supervisory concern the institution poses to bank regulators. In addition, the FDIC can impose special assessments to cover the costs of borrowings from the U.S. Treasury, the Federal Financing Bank and the Deposit Insurance Fund member banks. As of December 31, 2008, the assessment rate for each of our subsidiary banks was at the lowest level risk-based premium available which was 0.05 percent of deposits per annum (with the exception of First Financial Bank, N.A., Southlake whose rate was 0.056 percent of deposits per annum). Effective for the first quarter of 2009, this rate increased to 0.12 percent per annum decreasing to 0.10 per annum for the second, third and fourth quarters of 2009, subject to change. In addition, we must pay an additional assessment of 0.10 percent per annum of amount of noninterest bearing deposits, as defined, greater than \$250,000. See Recent Developments below.

Under the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, or FIRREA, an FDIC-insured depository institution can be held liable for any losses incurred by the FDIC in connection with (1) the default of one of its FDIC-insured subsidiaries or (2) any assistance provided by the FDIC to one of its FDIC-insured subsidiaries in danger of default. Default is defined generally as the appointment of a conservator or receiver, and in danger of default is defined generally as the existence of certain conditions indicating that a default is likely to occur in the absence of regulatory assistance.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Act, or FDIA, requires that the FDIC review (1) any merger or consolidation by or with an insured bank, or (2) any establishment of branches by an insured bank. The FDIC is also empowered to regulate interest rates paid by insured banks. Approval of the FDIC is also required before an insured bank retires any part of its common or preferred stock, or any capital notes or debentures.

Payment of Dividends

We are a legal entity separate and distinct from our banking and other subsidiaries. We receive most of our revenue from dividends paid to us by our Delaware holding company subsidiary. Similarly, the Delaware holding company subsidiary receives dividends from our banking and other subsidiaries. Described below are some of the laws and regulations that apply when either we or our subsidiary banks pay dividends.

Each of our national bank subsidiaries is required by federal law to obtain the prior approval of the OCC to declare and pay dividends if the total of all dividends declared in any calendar year would exceed the total of (1) such bank's net profits (as defined and interpreted by regulation) for that year plus (2) its retained net profits (as defined and interpreted by regulation) for the preceding two calendar years, less any required transfers to surplus. In addition, these banks may only pay dividends to the extent that retained net profits (including the portion transferred to surplus) exceed bad debts (as defined by regulation). Hereford State Bank, as a Texas state banking association, may not pay a dividend reducing its capital and surplus without the prior approval of the Texas Banking Commission. In addition, the FDIC has the right to prohibit the payment of dividends by a state, non-member bank where the payment is deemed to be an unsafe or unsound banking practice.

Our subsidiaries paid aggregate dividends of approximately \$39.7 million in 2008 and approximately \$42.3 million in 2007. Under the dividend restrictions discussed above, as of December 31, 2008, our subsidiary banks, without obtaining regulatory approvals, could have declared in the aggregate additional dividends of approximately \$32.4 million from retained net profits.

To pay dividends, we and our subsidiary banks must maintain adequate capital above regulatory guidelines. In addition, if the applicable regulatory authority believes that a bank under its jurisdiction is engaged in, or is about to engage in, an unsafe or unsound practice (which, depending on the financial condition of the bank, could include the payment of dividends), the authority may require, after notice and hearing, that such bank cease and desist from the unsafe practice. The FDIC and the OCC have each indicated paying dividends that deplete a bank's capital base to an inadequate level would be an unsafe and unsound banking practice. The Federal Reserve Board, the OCC and the FDIC have issued policy statements that recommend that bank holding companies and insured banks should generally only pay dividends to the extent net income is sufficient to cover both cash dividends and a rate of earnings retention consistent with capital needs, asset quality and overall financial condition. No undercapitalized institution may pay a dividend.

Affiliate Transactions

The Federal Reserve Act, the FDIA and the rules adopted under these statutes restrict the extent to which we can borrow or otherwise obtain credit from, or engage in certain other transactions with, our depository subsidiaries. These laws regulate covered transactions between insured depository institutions and their subsidiaries, on the one hand, and their nondepository affiliates, on the other hand. Covered transactions include a loan or extension of credit to a nondepository affiliate, a purchase of securities issued by such an affiliate, a purchase of assets from such an affiliate (unless otherwise exempted by the Federal Reserve Board), an acceptance of securities issued by such an affiliate as collateral for a loan, and an issuance of a guarantee, acceptance, or letter of credit for the benefit of such an affiliate. The covered transactions that an insured depository institution and its subsidiaries are permitted to engage in with their nondepository affiliates are limited to the following amounts: (1) in the case of any one such affiliate, the aggregate amount of covered transactions cannot exceed ten percent of the capital stock and the surplus of the insured depository institution; and (2) in the case of all affiliates, the aggregate amount of covered transactions cannot exceed twenty percent of the capital stock and surplus of the insured depository institution. In addition, extensions of credit that constitute covered transactions must be collateralized in prescribed amounts. Further, a bank holding company and its subsidiaries are prohibited from engaging in certain tie-in arrangements in connection with any extension of credit, lease or sale of property or furnishing of services. Finally, when we and our subsidiary banks conduct transactions internally among us, we are required to do so at arm's length.

Loans to Directors, Executive Officers and Principal Shareholders

The authority of our subsidiary banks to extend credit to our directors, executive officers and principal shareholders, including their immediate family members and corporations and other entities that they control, is subject to substantial restrictions and requirements under Sections 22(g) and 22(h) of the Federal Reserve Act and Regulation O promulgated thereunder, as well as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. These statutes and regulations impose specific limits on the amount of loans our subsidiary banks may make to directors and other insiders, and specified approval procedures must be followed in making loans that exceed certain amounts. In addition, all loans our subsidiary banks make to directors and other insiders must satisfy the following requirements:

the loans must be made on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with persons not affiliated with us or the subsidiary banks;

the subsidiary banks must follow credit underwriting procedures at least as stringent as those applicable to comparable transactions with persons who are not affiliated with us or the subsidiary banks; and

the loans must not involve a greater than normal risk of non-payment or include other features not favorable to the bank.

Furthermore, each subsidiary bank must periodically report all loans made to directors and other insiders to the bank regulators, and these loans are closely scrutinized by the regulators for compliance with Sections 22(g) and 22(h) of the Federal Reserve Act and Regulation O. Each loan to directors or other insiders must be pre-approved by the bank's board of directors with the interested director abstaining from voting.

Capital

Bank Holding Companies and Financial Holding Companies. The Federal Reserve Board has adopted risk-based capital guidelines for bank holding companies and financial holding companies. The ratio of total capital to risk weighted assets (including certain off-balance-sheet activities, such as standby letters of credit) must be a minimum of eight percent. At least half of the total capital is to be composed of common shareholders' equity, minority interests in the equity accounts of consolidated subsidiaries and a limited amount of perpetual preferred stock, less goodwill, which is collectively referred to as Tier 1 Capital. The remainder of total capital may consist of subordinated debt, other preferred stock and a limited amount of loan loss reserves.

In addition, the Federal Reserve Board has established minimum leverage ratio guidelines for bank holding companies and financial holding companies. Bank holding companies and financial holding companies that meet certain specified criteria, including having the highest regulatory rating, must maintain a minimum Tier 1 Capital leverage ratio (Tier 1 Capital to average assets for the current quarter, less goodwill) of three percent. Bank holding companies and financial holding companies that do not have the highest regulatory rating will generally be required to maintain a higher Tier 1 Capital leverage ratio of three percent plus an additional cushion of 100 to 200 basis points. The guidelines also provide that bank holding companies and financial holding companies experiencing internal growth or making acquisitions will be expected to maintain strong capital positions. Such strong capital positions must be kept substantially above the minimum supervisory levels without significant reliance on intangible assets (e.g., goodwill and core deposit intangibles). As of December 31, 2008, our capital ratios were as follows: (1) Tier 1 Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio, 15.89%; (2) Total Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio, 17.04%; and (3) Tier 1 Capital Leverage Ratio, 9.68%.

Banks. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991, or FDICIA, established five capital tiers with respect to depository institutions: well-capitalized, adequately capitalized, undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized, and critically undercapitalized. A depository institution's capital tier will depend upon where its capital levels are in relation to various relevant capital measures, including (1) risk-based capital measures, (2) a leverage ratio capital measure and (3) certain other factors. Regulations establishing the specific capital tiers provide that a well-capitalized institution will have a total risk-based capital ratio of ten percent or greater, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of six percent or greater, and a Tier 1 leverage ratio of five percent or greater, and not be subject to any written regulatory enforcement agreement, order, capital directive or prompt corrective action derivative. For an institution to be adequately capitalized, it will have a total risk-based capital ratio of eight percent or greater, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of four percent or greater, and a Tier 1 leverage ratio of four percent or greater (in some cases three percent). For an institution to be undercapitalized, it will have a total risk-based capital ratio that is less than eight percent, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio less than four percent or a Tier 1 leverage ratio less than four percent (or a leverage ratio less than three percent if the institution's composite rating is 1 in its most recent report of examination, subject to appropriate federal banking agency guidelines). For an institution to be significantly undercapitalized, it will have a total risk-based capital ratio less than six percent, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio less than three percent, or a Tier 1 leverage ratio less than three percent. For an institution to be critically undercapitalized, it will have a ratio of tangible equity to total assets equal to or less than two percent. FDICIA requires federal banking agencies to take prompt corrective action against depository institutions that do not meet minimum capital requirements. Under current regulations, all of our subsidiary banks were well capitalized as of December 31, 2008.

FDICIA generally prohibits a depository institution from making any capital distribution (including payment of a dividend) or paying any management fee to its holding company if the depository institution would thereafter be undercapitalized. An undercapitalized institution must develop a capital restoration plan and its parent holding company must guarantee that institution's compliance with such plan. The liability of the parent holding company under any such guarantee is limited to the lesser of five percent of the institution's assets at the time it became undercapitalized or the amount needed to bring the institution into compliance with all capital standards. Furthermore, in the event of the bankruptcy of the parent holding company, such guarantee would take priority over

the parent's general unsecured creditors. If a depository institution fails to submit an acceptable capital restoration plan, it shall be treated as if it is significantly undercapitalized. Significantly undercapitalized depository institutions may be subject to a number of requirements and restrictions, including orders to sell sufficient voting stock to become adequately capitalized, requirements to reduce total assets, and cessation of receipt of deposits from correspondent banks. Critically undercapitalized institutions are subject to the appointment of a receiver or conservator. Finally, FDICIA requires the various regulatory agencies to set forth certain standards that do not relate to capital. Such standards relate to the safety and soundness of operations and management and to asset quality and executive compensation, and permit regulatory action against a financial institution that does not meet such standards.

If an insured bank fails to meet its capital guidelines, it may be subject to a variety of other enforcement remedies, including a prohibition on the taking of brokered deposits and the termination of deposit insurance by the FDIC. Bank regulators continue to indicate their desire to raise capital requirements beyond their current levels.

In addition to FDICIA capital standards, Texas-chartered banks must also comply with the capital requirements imposed by the Texas Banking Department. Neither the Texas Finance Code nor its regulations specify any minimum capital-to-assets ratio that must be maintained by a Texas-chartered bank. Instead, the Texas Banking Department determines the appropriate ratio on a bank by bank basis, considering factors such as the nature of a bank's business, its total revenue, and the bank's total assets. As of December 31, 2008, our Texas-chartered bank exceeded the minimum ratios applied to it.

Our Support of Our Subsidiary Banks

Under Federal Reserve Board policy, we are expected to commit resources to act as a source of strength to support each of our subsidiary banks. This support may be required at times when, absent such Federal Reserve Board policy, we would not otherwise be required to provide it. In addition, any loans we make to our subsidiary banks would be subordinate in right of payment to deposits and to other indebtedness of our banks. In the event of a bank holding company's bankruptcy, any commitment by the bank holding company to a federal bank regulatory agency to maintain the capital of a subsidiary bank will be assumed by the bankruptcy trustee and be subject to a priority of payment.

Under the National Bank Act, if the capital stock of a national bank is impaired by losses or otherwise, the OCC is authorized to require the bank's shareholders to pay the deficiency on a pro-rata basis. If any shareholder refuses to pay the pro-rata assessment after three months notice, then the bank's board of directors must sell an appropriate amount of the shareholder's stock at a public auction to make up the deficiency. To the extent necessary, if a deficiency in capital still exists and the bank refuses to go into liquidation, then a receiver may be appointed to wind up the bank's affairs. Additionally, under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, in the event of a loss suffered or anticipated by the FDIC (either as a result of the default of a banking subsidiary or related to FDIC assistance provided to a subsidiary in danger of default) our other banking subsidiaries may be assessed for the FDIC's loss.

Interstate Banking and Branching Act

Pursuant to the Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act of 1994, or Riegle-Neal Act, a bank holding company or financial holding company is able to acquire banks in states other than its home state. The Riegle-Neal Act also authorized banks to merge across state lines, thereby creating interstate branches. Furthermore, under this act, a bank is also able to open new branches in a state in which it does not already have banking operations, if the laws of such state permit it to do so. Accordingly, both the OCC and the Texas Banking Department accept applications for interstate merger and branching transactions, subject to certain limitations on ages of the banks to be acquired and the total amount of deposits within the state a bank or financial holding company may control. Since our primary service area is Texas, we do not expect that the ability to operate in other states will have any material impact on our growth strategy. We may, however, face increased competition from out-of-state banks that branch or make acquisitions in our primary markets in Texas.

Community Reinvestment Act of 1977

The Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, or CRA, subjects a bank to regulatory assessment to determine if the institution meets the credit needs of its entire community, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods served by the bank, and to take that determination into account in its evaluation of any application made by such bank for, among other things, approval of the acquisition or establishment of a branch or other deposit facility, an office relocation, a merger, or the acquisition of shares of capital stock of another financial institution. The regulatory authority prepares a written evaluation of an institution's record of meeting the credit needs of its entire community and assigns a rating. These ratings are Outstanding, Satisfactory, Needs Improvement and Substantial Non-Compliance. Institutions with ratings lower than Satisfactory may be restricted from engaging in the aforementioned activities. We believe our subsidiary banks have taken significant actions to comply with the CRA, and each has received ratings ranging from satisfactory to outstanding in its most recent review by federal regulators with respect to its compliance with the CRA.

Monitoring and Reporting Suspicious Activity

Under the Bank Secrecy Act, IRS rules and other regulations, we are required to monitor and report unusual or suspicious account activity as well as transactions involving the transfer or withdrawal of amounts in excess of prescribed limits. Under the USA PATRIOT Act, financial institutions are subject to prohibitions against specified financial transactions and account relationships as well as enhanced due diligence and know your customer standards in their dealings with financial institutions and foreign customers. For example, the enhanced due diligence policies, procedures and controls generally require financial institutions to take reasonable steps:

- to conduct enhanced scrutiny of account relationships to guard against money laundering and report any suspicious transaction;

- to ascertain the identity of the nominal and beneficial owners of, and the source of funds deposited into, each account as needed to guard against money laundering and report any suspicious transactions;

- to ascertain for any foreign bank, the shares of which are not publicly traded, the identity of the owners of the foreign bank, and the nature and extent of the ownership interest of each such owner; and

- to ascertain whether any foreign bank provides correspondent accounts to other foreign banks and, if so, the identity of those foreign banks and related due diligence information.

Under the USA PATRIOT Act, financial institutions are also required to establish anti-money laundering programs. The USA PATRIOT Act sets forth minimum standards for these programs, including:

- the development of internal policies, procedures, and controls;

- the designation of a compliance officer;

- an ongoing employee training program; and

- an independent audit function to test the programs.

In addition, under the USA PATRIOT Act, the Secretary of the Treasury has adopted rules addressing a number of related issues, including increasing the cooperation and information sharing between financial institutions, regulators, and law enforcement authorities regarding individuals, entities and organizations engaged in, or reasonably suspected based on credible evidence of engaging in, terrorist acts or money laundering activities. Any financial institution complying with these rules will not be deemed to violate the privacy provisions of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act that are discussed below. Finally, under the regulations of the Office of Foreign Asset Control, we are required to monitor and block transactions with certain specially designated nationals who OFAC has determined pose a risk to U.S. national security.

Consumer Laws and Regulations

We are also subject to certain consumer laws and regulations that are designed to protect consumers in transactions with banks. While the following list is not exhaustive, these laws and regulations include the Truth in Lending Act, the Truth in Savings Act, the Electronic Funds Transfer Act, the Expedited Funds Availability Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, The Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, The Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act and the Fair Housing Act, among others. These laws and regulations, among other things, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, gender or other designated characteristics and mandate various disclosure requirements and regulate the manner in which financial institutions must deal with customers when taking deposits or making loans to such customers. These and other laws also limit finance charges or other fees or charges earned in our activities. We must comply with the applicable provisions of these consumer protection laws and regulations as part of our ongoing customer relations.

Technology Risk Management and Consumer Privacy

State and federal banking regulators have issued various policy statements emphasizing the importance of technology risk management and supervision in evaluating the safety and soundness of depository institutions with respect to banks that contract with outside vendors to provide data processing and core banking functions. The use of technology-related products, services, delivery channels and processes exposes a bank to various risks, particularly operational, privacy, security, strategic, reputation and compliance risk. Banks are generally expected to prudently manage technology-related risks as part of their comprehensive risk management policies by identifying, measuring, monitoring and controlling risks associated with the use of technology.

Under Section 501 of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, the federal banking agencies have established appropriate standards for financial institutions regarding the implementation of safeguards to ensure the security and confidentiality of customer records and information, protection against any anticipated threats or hazards to the security or integrity of such records and protection against unauthorized access to or use of such records or information in a way that could result in substantial harm or inconvenience to a customer. Among other matters, the rules require each bank to implement a comprehensive written information security program that includes administrative, technical and physical safeguards relating to customer information.

Under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, a financial institution must also provide its customers with a notice of privacy policies and practices. Section 502 prohibits a financial institution from disclosing nonpublic personal information about a customer to nonaffiliated third parties unless the institution satisfies various notice and opt-out requirements and the customer has not elected to opt out of the disclosure. Under Section 504, the agencies are authorized to issue regulations as necessary to implement notice requirements and restrictions on a financial institution's ability to disclose nonpublic personal information about customers to nonaffiliated third parties. Under the final rule the regulators adopted, all banks must develop initial and annual privacy notices which describe in general terms the bank's information sharing practices. Banks that share nonpublic personal information about customers with nonaffiliated third parties must also provide customers with an opt-out notice and a reasonable period of time for the customer to opt out of any such disclosure (with certain exceptions). Limitations are placed on the extent to which a bank can disclose an account number or access code for credit card, deposit or transaction accounts to any nonaffiliated third party for use in marketing.

Monetary Policy

Banks are affected by the credit policies of monetary authorities, including the Federal Reserve Board, that affect the national supply of credit. The Federal Reserve Board regulates the supply of credit in order to influence general economic conditions, primarily through open market operations in United States government obligations, varying the discount rate on financial institution borrowings, varying reserve requirements against financial institution deposits, and restricting certain borrowings by financial institutions and their subsidiaries. The monetary policies of the Federal Reserve Board have had a significant effect on the operating results of banks in the past and are expected to continue to do so in the future.

Pending and Proposed Legislation

New regulations and statutes are regularly proposed containing wide-ranging proposals for altering the structures, regulations and competitive relationships of financial institutions operating in the United States. We cannot predict whether, or in what form, any proposed regulation or statute will be adopted or the extent to which our business may be affected by any new regulation or statute.

Enforcement Powers of Federal Banking Agencies

The Federal Reserve and other state and federal banking agencies and regulators have broad enforcement powers, including the power to terminate deposit insurance, issue cease-and-desist orders, impose substantial fines and other civil and criminal penalties and appoint a conservator or receiver. Our failure to comply with applicable laws, regulations and other regulatory pronouncements could subject us, as well as our officers and directors, to administrative sanctions and potentially substantial civil penalties.

Recent Developments

The U. S. and global economies have experienced and are experiencing significant stress and disruptions in the financial sector. Dramatic slowdowns in the housing industry with falling home prices and increasing foreclosures and unemployment have created strains on financial institutions, including government-sponsored entities and investment banks. As a result, many financial institutions have sought and continue to seek additional capital, to merge with larger and stronger institutions and, in some cases, to fail.

In response to the financial crisis affecting the banking and financial markets, in October 2008, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (the EESA) was signed into law. Pursuant to the EESA, the U.S. Treasury (the Treasury) has the authority to, among other things, purchase up to \$700 billion of mortgages, mortgage-backed securities and certain other financial instruments from financial institutions for the purpose of stabilizing and providing liquidity to the U. S. financial markets.

In addition, the Treasury was authorized to purchase equity stakes in U. S. financial institutions. Under this program, known as the Troubled Asset Relief Program Capital Purchase Program (the TARP Capital Purchase Program), from the \$700 billion authorized by the EESA, the Treasury is making \$250 billion of capital available to U.S. financial institutions through the purchase of preferred stock or subordinated debentures by the Treasury. In conjunction with the purchase of preferred stock from publicly-held financial institutions, the Treasury is receiving warrants to purchase common stock with an aggregate market price equal to 15% of the total amount of the preferred investment. Participating financial institutions are required to adopt the Treasury s standards for executive compensation and corporate governance for the period during which the Treasury holds equity issued under the TARP Capital Purchase Program and are restricted from increasing dividends to common shareholders or repurchasing common stock for three years without the consent of the Treasury.

Further, after receiving a recommendation from the boards of the FDIC and the Federal Reserve Board, the Treasury signed the systemic risk exception to the FDIC Act, enabling the FDIC to temporarily provide a 100% guarantee of the senior debt of all FDIC-insured institutions and their holding companies, as well as deposits in non-interest bearing transaction deposit accounts under the TLGP. Coverage under the TLGP was available for 30 days without charge and thereafter at a cost of 75 basis points per annum for senior unsecured debt and 10 basis points per annum for non-interest bearing transaction deposits above the deposit insurance limit.

The Company made a decision to not participate in the TARP Capital Purchase Program due to its capital and liquidity positions. The Company opted out of the debt guarantee portion of the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program but decided to be included in the non-interest bearing deposit account guarantee portion.

Available Information

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission. You may read and copy any document we file at the Securities and Exchange Commission s Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the Securities

and Exchange Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public at the Securities and Exchange Commission's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. Our web site is <http://www.ffin.com>. You may also obtain copies of our annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and certain other information filed with the SEC, as well as amendments thereto, free of charge from our web site. These documents are posted to our web site after we have filed them with the SEC. Our corporate governance guidelines, including our code of conduct applicable to all our employees, officers and directors, as well as the charters of our audit and nominating committees, are available at www.ffin.com. The foregoing information is also available in print to any shareholder who requests it. Except as explicitly provided, information on any web site is not incorporated into this Form 10-K or our other securities filings and is not a part of them.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Our business, financial condition, operating results and cash flows can be impacted by a number of factors, including but not limited to those set forth below, any one of which could cause our actual results to vary materially from recent results or from our anticipated future results and other forward-looking statements that we make from time to time in our news releases, annual reports and other written communications, as well as oral forward-looking statements, and other statements made from time to time by our representatives.

Our business faces unpredictable economic conditions, which could have an adverse effect on us.

General economic conditions impact the banking industry. The credit quality of our loan portfolio necessarily reflects, among other things, the general economic conditions in the areas in which we conduct our business. Our continued financial success depends somewhat on factors beyond our control, including:

general economic conditions, including national and local real estate markets;

the supply of and demand for investable funds;

demand for loans and access to credit;

interest rates; and

federal, state and local laws affecting these matters.

Any substantial deterioration in any of the foregoing conditions could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations, which would likely adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

In our business, we must effectively manage our credit risk.

As a lender, we are exposed to the risk that our loan customers may not repay their loans according to the terms of these loans and the collateral securing the payment of these loans may be insufficient to fully compensate us for the outstanding balance of the loan plus the costs to dispose of the collateral. We may experience significant loan losses, which could have a material adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition. Management makes various assumptions and judgments about the collectibility of our loan portfolio, including the diversification by industry of our commercial loan portfolio, the amount of nonperforming loans and related collateral, the volume, growth and composition of our loan portfolio, the effects on the loan portfolio of current economic indicators and their probable impact on borrowers and the evaluation of our loan portfolio through our internal loan review process and other relevant factors.

We maintain an allowance for credit losses in an attempt to cover credit losses inherent in our loan portfolio. Additional credit losses will likely occur in the future and may occur at a rate greater than we have experienced to date. In determining the amount of the allowance, we rely on an analysis of our loan portfolio, our experience and our evaluation of general economic conditions. If our assumptions prove to be incorrect, our current allowance may not be sufficient and adjustments may be necessary to allow for different economic conditions or adverse developments in our loan portfolio. Material additions to the allowance could materially decrease net income.

In addition, federal and state regulators periodically review our allowance for credit losses and may require us to increase our provision for credit losses or recognize further charge-offs, based on judgments different than those of our management. Any increase in our allowance for credit losses or charge-offs as required by these regulatory agencies could have a material negative effect on our operating results and financial condition.

Our business is concentrated in Texas and a downturn in the economy of Texas may adversely affect our business.

Our network of subsidiary banks is concentrated in Texas, primarily in the Western and North Central regions of the state. Most of our customers and revenue are derived from this area. The economy of this region is focused on agriculture (including farming and ranching), commercial and industrial, medical, education, oil and gas production, and real estate. Because we generally do not derive revenue or customers from other parts of the state or nation, our business and operations are dependent on economic conditions in this part of Texas. Any significant decline in one or more segments of the local economy could adversely affect our business, revenue, operations and properties.

Changes in economic conditions could cause an increase in delinquencies and non-performing assets, including loan charge-offs, which could depress our income and growth.

Our loan portfolios include many real estate secured loans, demand for which may decrease during economic downturns as a result of, among other things, an increase in unemployment, a decrease in real estate values, a slowdown in housing. If we continue to see negative economic conditions in the United States as a whole or in the portions of Texas that we serve, we could experience higher delinquencies and loan charge-offs, which would reduce our income and adversely affect our financial condition. Furthermore, to the extent that real estate collateral is obtained through foreclosure, the costs of holding and marketing the real estate collateral, as well as the ultimate values obtained from disposition could reduce our earnings and adversely affect our financial condition.

The value of real estate collateral may fluctuate significantly resulting in an under-collateralized loan portfolio.

The market value of real estate, particularly real estate held for investment, can fluctuate significantly in a short period of time as a result of market conditions in the geographic area in which the real estate is located. If the value of the real estate serving as collateral for our loan portfolio were to decline materially, a significant part of our loan portfolio could become under-collateralized. If the loans that are collateralized by real estate become troubled during a time when market conditions are declining or have declined, then, in the event of foreclosure, we may not be able to realize the amount of collateral that we anticipated at the time of originating the loan, which could have a material adverse effect on our provision for loan losses and our operating results and financial condition.

We do business with other financial institutions that could experience financial difficulty.

We do business through the purchase and sale of Federal funds, check clearing and through the purchase and sale of loan participations with other financial institutions. Because these financial institutions have many risks, as do we, we could be adversely effected should one of these financial institutions experience significant financial difficulties or fail to comply with our agreements with them.

Recent developments in the mortgage market may affect our ability to originate loans and the profitability of loans in our mortgage pipeline.

During 2008, the real estate housing market throughout the United States has softened resulting in an industry-wide increase in borrowers unable to make their mortgage payments and increased foreclosure rates. Lenders in certain sections of the housing and mortgage markets were forced to close or limit their operations or seek additional capital. In response, financial institutions have tightened their underwriting standards, limiting the availability of sources of credit and liquidity. If the housing/real estate market continues to have problems in the future, there could be a prolonged decrease in the demand for our loans in the secondary market, adversely affecting our earnings.

If we are unable to continue to originate residential real estate loans and sell them into the secondary market for a profit, our earnings could decrease.

We derive a portion of our noninterest income from the origination of residential real estate loans and the subsequent sale of such loans into the secondary market. If we are unable to continue to originate and sell residential real estate loans at historical or greater levels, our residential real estate loan volume would decrease, which could decrease our earnings. A rising interest rate environment, general economic conditions or other factors beyond our control could adversely affect our ability to originate residential real estate loans. Additionally, we sell a large portion of our residential real estate loans to third party investors, and rising interest rates could negatively affect our ability to generate suitable profits on the sale of such loans. If interest rates increase after we originate the loans, our ability to market those loans is impaired as the profitability on the loans decreases. These fluctuations can have an adverse effect on the revenue we generate from residential real estate loans and in certain instances, could result in a loss on the sale of the loans.

Recent trends in the student loan market may reduce the profitability we derive from originating and selling student loans and could lower our net income.

Recent federal legislation will reduce federal subsidies to us for making student loans and require us to pay higher servicing fees. These factors may reduce the net income we earn from making these loans or force us to exit the student loan market completely. Additionally, recent trends in the capital markets may make it more difficult to sell our student loans to third parties or government agencies. If our ability to sell these loans to third parties or government agencies is reduced, we may realize reduced premiums from the sale of student loans or hold them for longer periods of time, or both.

The trust wealth management fees we receive may decrease as a result of poor investment performance, in either relative or absolute terms, which could decrease our revenues and net earnings.

Our trust company subsidiary derives its revenues primarily from investment management fees based on assets under management. Our ability to maintain or increase assets under management is subject to a number of factors, including investors' perception of our past performance, in either relative or absolute terms, market and economic conditions, including changes in oil and gas prices, and competition from investment management companies. Financial markets are affected by many factors, all of which are beyond our control, including general economic conditions, including changes in oil and gas prices; securities market conditions; the level and volatility of interest rates and equity prices; competitive conditions; liquidity of global markets; international and regional political conditions; regulatory and legislative developments; monetary and fiscal policy; investor sentiment; availability and cost of capital; technological changes and events; outcome of legal proceedings; changes in currency values;