

BANCORPSOUTH INC
Form 10-K
February 28, 2011

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

(Mark One)

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010**

OR

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the transition period from _____ to _____
Commission file number 1-12991
BANCORPSOUTH, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Mississippi

64-0659571

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

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

One Mississippi Plaza
201 South Spring Street
Tupelo, Mississippi

38804

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (662) 680-2000

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

Title of Each Class

Name of Each Exchange on
Which Registered

Common stock, \$2.50 par value

New York Stock Exchange

Common stock purchase rights

New York Stock Exchange

Guarantee of 8.15% Preferred Securities
of BancorpSouth Capital Trust I

New York Stock Exchange

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

Common stock, \$2.50 par value

Common stock purchase rights

Guarantee of 8.15% Preferred Securities of BancorpSouth Capital Trust I

(Title of Class)

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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 whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). 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 definition 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

Smaller Reporting
Company

(Do not check if a smaller
reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of the registrant's common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant on June 30, 2010 was approximately \$1,417,000,000, based on the last reported sale price per share of the registrant's common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on June 30, 2010.

As of February 14, 2011, the registrant had outstanding 83,481,737 shares of common stock, par value \$2.50 per share.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the definitive Proxy Statement used in connection with the registrant's 2011 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, to be held April 27, 2011, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Report.

BANCORPSOUTH, INC.
FORM 10-K
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2010
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PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS.

GENERAL

BancorpSouth, Inc. (the Company) is a financial holding company incorporated in 1982. Through its principal bank subsidiary, BancorpSouth Bank (the Bank), the Company conducts commercial banking and financial services operations in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Missouri and Illinois. At December 31, 2010, the Company and its subsidiaries had total assets of \$13.6 billion and total deposits of \$11.5 billion. The Company's principal office is located at One Mississippi Plaza, 201 South Spring Street, Tupelo, Mississippi 38804 and its telephone number is (662) 680-2000.

The Company's Internet website address is www.bancorpsouth.com. The Company makes available its annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and all amendments to those reports free of charge on its website on the Investor Relations webpage under the caption SEC Filings as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed with, or furnished to, the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). The SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file or furnish information electronically with the SEC at www.sec.gov. The Company's Internet website and the information contained therein or connected thereto are not intended to be incorporated into this Annual Report on Form 10-K (this Report).

DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS

The Bank has its principal office in Tupelo, Lee County, Mississippi, and conducts a general commercial banking, trust and insurance business through 314 offices in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Missouri and Illinois. The Bank has grown through the acquisition of other banks and insurance agencies and through the opening of new branches and offices.

The Bank and its subsidiaries provide a range of financial services to individuals and small-to-medium size businesses. The Bank operates investment services, credit insurance and insurance agency subsidiaries which engage in investment brokerage services and sales of other insurance products. The Bank's trust department offers a variety of services including personal trust and estate services, certain employee benefit accounts and plans, including individual retirement accounts, and limited corporate trust functions. All of the Company's assets are located in the United States and all of its revenues generated from external customers originate within the United States.

The Company has registered the trademarks BancorpSouth, both typed form and design, and Bank of Mississippi, both typed form and design, with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The trademark BancorpSouth will expire in 2024, and Bank of Mississippi will expire in 2020, unless the Company extends these trademarks for additional ten year periods. Registrations of trademarks with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office generally may be renewed and continue indefinitely, provided that the Company continues to use these trademarks and files appropriate maintenance and renewal documentation with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at times required by the federal trademark laws and regulations.

COMPETITION

Vigorous competition exists in all major areas where the Bank is engaged in business. The Bank competes for available loans and depository accounts with state and national commercial banks as well as savings and loan associations, insurance companies, credit unions, money market mutual funds, automobile finance companies and financial services companies. None of these competitors is dominant in the entire area served by the Bank.

The principal areas of competition in the banking industry center on a financial institution's ability and willingness to provide credit on a timely and competitively priced basis, to offer a sufficient range of deposit and investment opportunities at competitive prices and maturities, and to offer personal and other services of sufficient quality and at competitive prices. The Company and its subsidiaries believe they can compete effectively in all these areas.

Table of Contents**REGULATION AND SUPERVISION**

The following is a brief summary of the regulatory environment in which the Company and its subsidiaries operate and is not designed to be a complete discussion of all statutes and regulations affecting such operations, including those statutes and regulations specifically mentioned herein. Changes in these applicable laws, and their application by regulatory and law enforcement agencies, cannot necessarily be predicted, but could have a material effect on the business and results of the Company and its subsidiaries.

The Company is subject to regulation and supervision by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the Federal Reserve). The Company is required to file annual reports with the Federal Reserve and such other information as the Federal Reserve may require. The Federal Reserve may also conduct examinations of the Company.

In 2004, pursuant to the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999 (GLBA), the Company elected to be a financial holding company regulated as such under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (the Bank Holding Company Act). Financial holding company powers relate to financial activities that are determined by the Federal Reserve to be financial in nature, incidental to an activity that is financial in nature or complementary to a financial activity (provided that the complementary activity does not pose a safety and soundness risk). GLBA expressly characterizes certain activities as financial in nature, including lending activities, underwriting and selling insurance, providing financial or investment advice, securities underwriting, dealing and making markets in securities and merchant banking. According to Federal Reserve policy and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (the Dodd-Frank Act), a financial holding company must act as a source of financial strength to its subsidiary banks and commit resources to support each such subsidiary. This support may be required at times when a financial holding company may not be able to provide such support.

The Bank is incorporated under the laws of the State of Mississippi and is subject to the applicable provisions of Mississippi banking laws and the laws of various states in which it operates, as well as federal law. The Bank is subject to the supervision of the Mississippi Department of Banking and Consumer Finance and to regular examinations by that department. Deposits in the Bank are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the FDIC) and, therefore, the Bank is subject to the provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and to examination by the FDIC. FDIC regulations require that management report annually on its responsibility for preparing its institution's financial statements, and establishing and maintaining an internal control structure and procedures for financial reporting and compliance with designated laws and regulations concerning safety and soundness. The Bank is not a member of the Federal Reserve.

The Company and the Bank are subject to the provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (FDICIA). Among other things, FDICIA provides a framework for a system of supervisory actions based primarily on the capital levels of financial institutions. FDICIA identifies five capital categories for insured depository institutions (well capitalized, adequately capitalized, undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized, and critically undercapitalized) and requires the respective federal regulatory agencies to implement systems for prompt corrective action for insured depository institutions that do not meet minimum capital requirements within such categories. Capital is measured in two Tiers Tier I capital consists of common shareholders equity and qualifying non-cumulative perpetual preferred stock, less goodwill and certain other intangible assets, and Tier II capital consists of general allowance for losses on loans and leases, hybrid debt capital instruments and all or a portion of other subordinated capital debt, depending upon the remaining term to maturity. Total capital is the sum of Tier I and Tier II capital. For an insured financial institution to be classified as well capitalized, the Tier I capital, total capital and Tier I leverage capital (Tier I capital divided by total assets, less goodwill) ratios must be at least 6%, 10% and 5%, respectively. The Bank exceeded the criteria for the well capitalized category at December 31, 2010. The Company is required to comply with the risk-based capital guidelines established by the Federal Reserve and with other tests relating to capital adequacy that the Federal Reserve adopts from time to time. See Note 21 to the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements included in this Report for a discussion of the Company's capital amounts and ratios.

In September 2010, the oversight body of the Basel Committee announced a package of reforms, commonly referred to as Basel III, that will increase existing capital requirements substantially over the next four years as well as

add liquidity requirements for banks. These reforms were endorsed by the G20 at the summit held in Seoul, South Korea in November 2010. The short-term and long-term impact of the new Basel III capital standards and the forthcoming new capital rules to be proposed for non-Basel III United States banks is uncertain.

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As a result of the recent deterioration in the global credit markets and the potential impact of increased liquidity risk and interest rate risk, it is unclear what the short-term impact of the implementation of Basel III may be or what impact a pending alternative standardized approach to Basel III option for non-Basel III United States banks may have on the cost and availability of different types of credit and the potential compliance costs of implementing the new capital standards.

FDICIA provides for a risk-based deposit insurance premium structure for insured financial institutions. The FDIC generally provides deposit insurance up to \$250,000 per customer per institution for depository accounts held at insured financial institutions. Substantially all of the deposits of the Bank are insured up to applicable limits by the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) of the FDIC and are subject to deposit insurance assessments to maintain the DIF. The FDIC utilizes a risk-based assessment system that imposes insurance premiums based upon a risk matrix that takes into account a bank's capital level and supervisory rating. As a result of increased bank failures and a decrease in the DIF, in December 2009, the FDIC required all insured financial institutions to prepay three years worth of insurance premiums with the prepayment including a 5% annual growth rate in the projected assessment base and a three basis point increase in the annual assessment rate for 2011 and 2012. The FDIC may require additional special assessment payments if the DIF balance continues to decline.

The Dodd-Frank Act was signed into law in July 2010, resulting in a major overhaul of the financial institution regulatory system. Among other things, the Dodd-Frank Act established a new, independent Consumer Financial Protection Bureau tasked with protecting consumers from unfair, deceptive and abusive financial products and practices. The Dodd-Frank Act also created the Financial Stability Oversight Council to focus on identifying, monitoring and addressing systemic risks in the financial system. The Financial Stability Oversight Council is tasked with recommending increasingly strict rules for capital, leverage and other requirements based on a company's size and complexity. The Dodd-Frank Act required the implementation of the Volcker Rule for banks and bank holding companies, which prohibits, with certain limited exceptions, proprietary trading and investment in and sponsorship of hedge funds and private equity funds, and generally otherwise limits the relationships with such funds. The Dodd-Frank Act also includes provisions that, among other things, reorganize bank supervision and strengthen the Federal Reserve.

The Dodd-Frank Act revamped the federal regulatory agencies by eliminating the Office of Thrift Supervision, while keeping the thrift charter, and dividing federal regulatory oversight of thrifts among the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the FDIC and the Federal Reserve. The Dodd-Frank Act also eliminated many of the remaining regulations that limited the ability of a bank to open branches in different states. The Dodd-Frank Act included savings associations and industrial loan companies, as well as banks, in the nationwide deposit limitation. Consequently, no acquisition of any financial institution can be approved if the effect of the acquisition would be to increase the acquirer's nationwide deposits to more than 10% of all deposits. In addition, the Dodd-Frank Act requires fees charged for debit card transactions, commonly referred to as interchange fees, to be both reasonable and proportional to the cost incurred by the card issuer.

Further, the Dodd-Frank Act provided that the appropriate federal regulators must establish standards prohibiting as an unsafe and unsound practice any compensation plan of a bank holding company or other covered financial institution that provides an insider or other employee with excessive compensation or could lead to a material financial loss to such firm. Prior to the implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act, the bank regulatory agencies promulgated the Interagency Guidance on Sound Incentive Compensation Policies, which requires financial institutions to establish metrics for measuring the impact of activities to achieve incentive compensation with the related risk to the financial institution of such behavior. Together, the Dodd-Frank Act and the recent guidance on compensation may impact the current compensation policies at the Company and the Bank.

The Company is a legal entity that is separate and distinct from its subsidiaries. There are various legal limitations on the extent to which the Bank may extend credit, pay dividends or otherwise supply funds to the Company or its affiliates. In particular, the Bank is subject to certain restrictions imposed by federal law, including without limitation, sections 23A and 23B of the Federal Reserve Act, on any extensions of credit to the Company or, with certain exceptions, other affiliates.

The primary source of funds for dividends paid to the Company's shareholders is dividends paid to the Company by the Bank. Various federal and state laws limit the amount of dividends that the Bank may pay to the Company without regulatory approval. Under Mississippi law, the Bank must obtain approval of the Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Banking and Consumer Finance prior to paying any dividend on the Bank's common stock. Under FDICIA, the Bank may not pay any dividends if, after paying the dividend, it would be undercapitalized under applicable capital requirements. The FDIC also has the authority to prohibit the Bank from

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engaging in business practices that the FDIC considers to be unsafe or unsound, which, depending on the financial condition of the Bank, could include the payment of dividends.

In addition, the Federal Reserve has the authority to prohibit the payment of dividends by a bank holding company if its actions constitute unsafe or unsound practices. The Federal Reserve has issued a policy statement, Supervisory Release 09-4 (SR 09-4), on the payment of cash dividends by bank holding companies, which outlines the Federal Reserve's view that a bank holding company that is experiencing earnings weaknesses or other financial pressures should not pay cash dividends that exceed its net income, that are inconsistent with its capital position or that could only be funded in ways that weaken its financial health, such as by borrowing or selling assets. The Federal Reserve has indicated that, in some instances, it may be appropriate for a bank holding company to eliminate its dividends. Further, in the current financial and economic environment, the Federal Reserve has indicated that bank and financial holding companies should carefully review their dividend policy and has discouraged payment ratios that are at maximum allowable levels unless both asset quality and capital are very strong.

The Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act of 1994 prohibits a financial holding company, following an interstate acquisition, from controlling more than 10% of the nation's total amount of bank deposits or 30% of bank deposits in the relevant state. States retain the ability to adopt legislation to effectively raise or lower the 30% limit.

The Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 (CRA) and its implementing regulations provide an incentive for regulated financial institutions to meet the credit needs of their local community or communities, including low and moderate income neighborhoods, consistent with the safe and sound operation of such financial institutions. The regulations provide that the appropriate regulatory authority will assess reports under CRA in connection with applications for establishment of domestic branches, acquisitions of banks or mergers involving financial holding companies. An unsatisfactory rating under CRA may serve as a basis to deny an application to acquire or establish a new bank, to establish a new branch or to expand banking services. As of December 31, 2010, the Company had a satisfactory rating under CRA.

The Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001, as extended and revised by the PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (the USA Patriot Act), requires each financial institution (i) to establish an anti-money laundering program; (ii) to establish due diligence policies, procedures and controls with respect to its private banking accounts and correspondent banking accounts involving foreign individuals and certain foreign financial institutions; and (iii) to avoid establishing, maintaining, administering or managing correspondent accounts in the United States for, or on behalf of, foreign financial institutions that do not have a physical presence in any country. The USA Patriot Act also requires that financial institutions must follow certain minimum standards to verify the identity of customers, both foreign and domestic, when a customer opens an account. In addition, the USA Patriot Act contains a provision encouraging cooperation among financial institutions, regulatory authorities and law enforcement authorities with respect to individuals, entities and organizations engaged in, or reasonably suspected of engaging in, terrorist acts or money laundering activities.

The activities of the Company and its subsidiaries are also subject to regulation under various federal laws and regulations thereunder, including the Truth-in-Lending Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Fair Housing Act, the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the Electronic Funds Transfer Act, the Currency and Foreign Transactions Reporting Act (Bank Secrecy Act), the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 and the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, among others, as well as various state laws.

GLBA and other federal and state laws, as well as the various guidelines adopted by the Federal Reserve and the FDIC, provide for minimum standards of privacy to protect the confidentiality of the non-public personal information of customers and to regulate the use of such information by financial institutions. The Company and its subsidiaries have adopted a customer information security program to comply with these regulatory requirements.

The Bank's insurance subsidiaries are regulated by the insurance regulatory authorities and applicable laws and regulations of the states in which they operate.

The Bank's investment services subsidiary is regulated as a registered investment adviser and broker-dealer by federal and/or state securities regulations and self-regulatory authorities.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the Sarbanes-Oxley Act) represents a comprehensive revision of laws affecting corporate governance, accounting obligations and corporate reporting. The Sarbanes-Oxley Act is applicable to all companies with equity or debt securities registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). In particular, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act established: (i) requirements for audit committees, including independence, expertise and responsibilities; (ii) responsibilities regarding financial

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statements for the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the reporting company; (iii) standards for auditors and regulation of audits; (iv) disclosure and reporting obligations for the reporting company and its directors and executive officers; and (v) civil and criminal penalties for violation of the securities laws.

In addition, there have been a number of legislative and regulatory proposals that could have an impact on the operation of financial holding companies and their bank and non-bank subsidiaries. Management is not able to predict whether or in what form these proposals may be adopted in the future and, if adopted, what their effect will be on the Company and its subsidiaries.

LENDING ACTIVITIES

The Bank's lending activities include both commercial and consumer loans. Loan originations are derived from a number of sources including direct solicitation by the Bank's loan officers, existing depositors and borrowers, builders, attorneys, walk-in customers and, in some instances, other lenders, real estate broker referrals and mortgage loan companies. The Bank has established systematic procedures for approving and monitoring loans that vary depending on the size and nature of the loan, and applies these procedures in a disciplined manner.

Commercial Lending

The Bank offers a variety of commercial loan services including term loans, lines of credit, equipment and receivable financing and agricultural loans. A broad range of short-to-medium term commercial loans, both secured and unsecured, are made available to businesses for working capital (including inventory and receivables), business expansion (including acquisition and development of real estate and improvements), and the purchase of equipment and machinery. The Bank also makes construction loans to real estate developers for the acquisition, development and construction of residential subdivisions.

Commercial loans are granted based on the borrower's ability to generate cash flow to support its debt obligations and other cash related expenses. A borrower's ability to repay commercial loans is substantially dependent on the success of the business itself and on the quality of its management. As a general practice, the Bank takes as collateral a security interest in any available real estate, equipment, inventory, receivables or other personal property, although such loans may also be made infrequently on an unsecured basis. In many instances, the Bank requires personal guarantees of its commercial loans to provide additional credit support.

The Bank has had very little exposure as an agricultural lender. Crop production loans have been either fully supported by the collateral and financial strength of the borrower, or a 90% loan guaranty has been obtained through the Farm Service Agency on such loans.

Residential Consumer Lending

A portion of the Bank's lending activities consists of the origination of fixed and adjustable rate residential mortgage loans secured by owner-occupied property located in the Bank's primary market areas. Home mortgage lending is unique in that a broad geographic territory may be serviced by originators working from strategically placed offices either within the Bank's traditional banking facilities or from affordable storefront locations in commercial buildings. In addition, the Bank offers construction loans, second mortgage loans and home equity lines of credit.

The Bank finances the construction of individual, owner-occupied houses on the basis of written underwriting and construction loan management guidelines. First mortgage construction loans are made to qualified individual borrowers and are generally supported by a take-out commitment from a permanent lender. The Bank makes residential construction loans to individuals who intend to erect owner-occupied housing on a purchased parcel of real estate. The construction phase of these loans has certain risks, including the viability of the contractor, the contractor's ability to complete the project and changes in interest rates.

In most cases, the Bank sells its mortgage loans with terms of 15 years or more in the secondary market and either retains or releases the right to service those loans. The sale of mortgage loans to the secondary market allows the Bank to manage the interest rate risks related to such lending operations. Generally, after the sale of a loan with servicing retained, the Bank's only involvement is to act as a servicing agent. In certain cases, the Bank may be required to repurchase mortgage loans upon which customers have defaulted that were previously sold in the secondary market if these loans did not meet the underwriting standards of the entity that purchased the loans. These loans would be held by the Bank in its mortgage loan portfolio.

In most cases, the Bank requires fire, extended casualty insurance and, where appropriate, wind and hail insurance and, where required by applicable regulations, flood insurance to be obtained by the borrower. The Bank

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maintains its own errors and omissions insurance policy to protect against loss in the event of failure of a mortgagor to pay premiums on fire and other hazard insurance policies. Mortgage loans originated by the Bank customarily include a due on sale clause giving the Bank the right to declare a loan immediately due and payable in the event, among other matters, that the borrower sells or otherwise disposes of the real property subject to a mortgage. In general, the Bank enforces due on sale clauses. Borrowers are typically permitted to refinance or repay residential mortgage loans at their option without penalty.

Non-Residential Consumer Lending

Non-residential consumer loans made by the Bank include loans for automobiles, recreation vehicles, boats, personal (secured and unsecured) and deposit account secured loans. Non-residential consumer loans are attractive to the Bank because they typically have a shorter term and carry higher interest rates than those charged on other types of loans.

The Bank also issues credit cards solicited on the basis of applications received through referrals from the Bank's branches and other marketing efforts. The Bank generally has a small portfolio of credit card receivables outstanding. Credit card lines are underwritten using conservative credit criteria, including past credit history and debt-to-income ratios, similar to the credit policies applicable to other personal consumer loans.

The Bank grants consumer loans based on employment and financial information solicited from prospective borrowers as well as credit records collected from various reporting agencies. Financial stability of the borrower and credit history are the primary factors the Bank considers in granting such loans. The availability of collateral is also a factor considered in making such loans. The Bank seeks collateral that can be assigned and has good marketability with an adequate margin of value. The geographic area of the borrower is another consideration, with preference given to borrowers in the Bank's primary market areas.

OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES

The Bank's insurance service subsidiary serves as an agent in the sale of title insurance, commercial lines of insurance and a full line of property and casualty, life, health and employee benefits products and services and operates in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Missouri and Illinois.

The Bank's investment services subsidiary provides brokerage, investment advisory and asset management services and operates in certain communities in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Florida and Missouri.

See Note 22 to the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements included elsewhere in this Report for financial information about each segment of the Company, as defined by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (U.S. GAAP).

ASSET QUALITY

Management seeks to maintain a high quality of assets through conservative underwriting and sound lending practices. Management intends to follow this policy even though it may result in foregoing the funding of higher yielding loans. Management believes that the Bank has adequate underwriting and loan administration policies in place and personnel to manage the associated risks prudently.

In an effort to maintain the quality of the loan portfolio, management seeks to limit higher risk loans. These loans include loans to provide initial equity and working capital to new businesses with no other capital strength, loans secured by unregistered stock, loans for speculative transactions in stock, land or commodity markets, loans to borrowers or the taking of collateral outside the Bank's primary market areas, loans dependent on secondary liens as primary collateral and non-recourse loans. To the extent risks are identified, additional precautions are taken in order to reduce the Bank's risk of loss. Commercial loans entail certain additional risks because they usually involve large loan balances to single borrowers or a related group of borrowers, resulting in a more concentrated loan portfolio. Further, because payment of these loans is usually dependent upon the successful operation of the commercial enterprise, the risk of loss with respect to these loans may increase in the event of adverse conditions in the economy.

The Board of Directors of the Bank focuses much of its efforts and resources, and that of the Bank's management and lending officials, on loan underwriting and credit quality monitoring policies and practices. Loan status and monitoring is handled through the Bank's loan administration department. Also, an independent loan review department of the Bank is responsible for reviewing the credit rating and classification of individual credits

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and assessing trends in the portfolio, adherence to internal credit policies and procedures and other factors that may affect the overall adequacy of the allowance for credit losses. Weak financial performance is identified and monitored using past due reporting, the internal loan rating system, loan review reports, the various loan committee functions and periodic asset quality rating committee meetings. Senior loan officers have established a review process with the objective of quickly identifying, evaluating and initiating necessary corrective action for problem loans. The results of loan reviews are reported to the Audit Committee of both the Company's and the Bank's Board of Directors. This process is an integral element of the Bank's loan program. Nonetheless, management maintains a cautious outlook in anticipating the potential effects of uncertain economic conditions (both locally and nationally) and the possibility of more stringent regulatory standards.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The Company completed no acquisitions during 2010.

EMPLOYEES

At December 31, 2010, the Company and its subsidiaries had approximately 4,311 full-time equivalent employees. The Company and its subsidiaries are not a party to any collective bargaining agreements and employee relations are considered to be good.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT

Information follows concerning the executive officers of the Company who are subject to the reporting requirements of Section 16 of the Exchange Act:

Name	Offices Held	Age
Aubrey B. Patterson	Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of the Company and the Bank; Director of the Company	68
James V. Kelley	President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company and the Bank; Director of the Company	61
William L. Prater	Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer of the Company; Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Cashier of the Bank	50
Larry Bateman	Executive Vice President of the Company and Vice Chairman of the Bank	61
W. James Threadgill, Jr.	Executive Vice President of the Company and Vice Chairman of the Bank	56
Gordon Lewis	Executive Vice President of the Company and Vice Chairman of the Bank	61

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Name	Offices Held	Age
Gregg Cowsert	Executive Vice President of the Company and Vice Chairman and Chief Lending Officer of the Bank	63
Cathy S. Freeman	Executive Vice President and Corporate Secretary of the Company and the Bank	45
Gary C. Bonds	Senior Vice President and Principal Accounting Officer of the Company and Executive Vice President and Controller of the Bank	63
Carol Waddle	Senior Vice President of the Company and Senior Vice President, Audit and Loan Review of the Bank	49

None of the executive officers of the Company are related by blood, marriage or adoption to each other or to any of the Company's directors or nominees up for election at the 2011 annual meeting of shareholders. There are no arrangements or understandings between any of the executive officers and any other person pursuant to which the individual named above was or is to be selected as an officer. The executive officers of the Company are elected by the Board of Directors at its first meeting following the annual meeting of shareholders, and they hold office until the next annual meeting or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

Mr. Patterson has served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank and the Company for at least the past five years.

Mr. Kelley has served as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Bank and the Company for at least the past five years.

Mr. Prater joined the Company on September 1, 2008 and served as Executive Vice President until June 30, 2009 when he was named Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer of the Company and Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Cashier of the Bank. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Prater most recently served as Executive Vice President of Finance at Regions Bank and held the office of Senior Vice President of Finance at AmSouth Bank from 2004 to 2006.

Mr. Bateman has served as Executive Vice President of the Company for at least the past five years. He has served as Vice Chairman of the Bank during this same period.

Mr. Threadgill has served as Executive Vice President of the Company and Vice Chairman of the Bank for at least the past five years.

Mr. Lewis had served as Louisiana/Texas Region President of BancorpSouth Bank for at least two years prior to December 2007 when he was named Executive Vice President of the Company and Vice Chairman of the Bank.

Mr. Cowsert has served as Executive Vice President of the Company and Vice Chairman and Chief Lending Officer of the Bank for at least the past five years.

Mrs. Freeman has served as First Vice President and Corporate Secretary of the Company and the Bank or Senior Vice President and Corporate Secretary of the Company and the Bank for at least the two years prior to January 2008 when she was named Executive Vice President of the Company and the Bank.

Mr. Bonds has served as Senior Vice President of the Company and Senior Vice President and Controller of the Bank for at least the three years prior to September 2008, when he was named Executive Vice President and Controller of the Bank, and the three years prior to December 2008, when he was named Senior Vice President and Principal Accounting Officer of the Company.

Ms. Waddle joined the Company on March 20, 2006 and served as Senior Vice President and General Auditor of the Company until January 27, 2010, when she was named Senior Vice President of the Company and Senior Vice President, Audit and Loan Review of the Bank. Prior to joining the Company, Ms. Waddle was a partner with T. E. Lott & Company.

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ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS.

Certain statements contained in this Annual Report may not be based on historical facts and are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Exchange Act, as amended. These forward-looking statements may be identified by reference to a future period(s) or by the use of forward-looking terminology, such as anticipate, believe, estimate, expect, plan, predict, forecast, might, will, would, should, could or intend, future or conditional verb tenses, and variations or negatives of such terms. These forward-looking statements include, without limitation, those relating to the expiration of the Company's trademarks, the Company's ability to compete effectively, the effect of changes in laws, governmental regulations and legislative proposals affecting financial institutions, examinations of the Company by the Federal Reserve, the Company's operating results, interest earning assets and interest bearing liabilities, commercial loans, mortgage loans, economic conditions in the Company's market area and the impact of the economic downturn on the Company's financial condition, internal control over financial reporting, the Company's remediation efforts with respect to the material weakness in internal control over financial reporting, maturities and fair values of held-to-maturity and available-for-sale securities, valuation of mortgage servicing rights, diversification of revenue stream, the Company's policy regarding underwriting and lending practices, other real estate owned, asset quality, net interest revenue, net interest margin, interest rate sensitivity, credit quality and credit losses, determination of collateral fair value, analysis of guarantors, compliance with underwriting and/or appraisal standards, losses from representation and warranty obligations, the Company's foreclosure process, inspection of projects corresponding to construction, acquisition and development loans, renewal of construction, acquisition and development loans, deferred tax assets, unrecognized tax benefits, capital resources, uses of capital, sources of liquidity and liquidity strategies, sources of maturing loans and investment securities, sales of loans held for sale, cash from operating activities, deposits, non-performing assets (NPA's), the ability to declare and pay dividends, future acquisitions, market risk, critical and significant accounting policies, the impact of recent accounting pronouncements, estimated amortization expense of amortizable identifiable intangible assets, market conditions, stock repurchase program, allowance for credit losses, vesting of restricted stock and performance shares, valuation of stock options, fair value of loans and leases, values of investment securities, contributions to pension plans, goodwill, related party transactions, loan concentrations, impaired loans, non-performing loans, non-accrual loans and leases, allowance for loan losses, economic value of equity, the ratio of tangible equity to tangible assets, other-than-temporary impairment of securities, financial condition of the Company's borrowers, off-balance sheet commitments and arrangements, future lease payments, pension and other post-retirement benefit amounts, charge-offs, legal and regulatory limitations and compliance, amendments to the Company's code of business conduct and ethics or waiver of a provision thereof, junior subordinated debt securities and the effect of certain legal claims and pending lawsuits.

We caution you not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements contained in this Report in that actual results could differ materially from those indicated in such forward-looking statements due to a variety of factors. These factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

Local, regional and national economic conditions and the impact they may have on the Company and its customers and the Company's assessment of that impact;

The ability of the Company to increase noninterest revenue and expand noninterest revenue business;

Changes in general business or economic conditions or government fiscal and monetary policies;

Fluctuations in prevailing interest rates and the effectiveness of the Company's interest rate hedging strategies;

The ability of the Company to maintain credit quality;

The ability of the Company to provide and market competitive products and services;

Changes in the Company's operating or expansion strategy;

Geographic concentration of the Company's assets and susceptibility to economic downturns in that area;

The availability of and costs associated with maintaining and/or obtaining adequate and timely sources of liquidity;

Volatility and disruption in national and international financial markets;

Government intervention in the U.S. financial system;

Laws and regulations affecting financial institutions in general;

The ability of the Company to operate and integrate new technology;

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The ability of the Company to manage its growth and effectively serve an expanding customer and market base;

The ability of the Company to attract, train and retain qualified personnel;

Changes in consumer preferences;

The ability of the Company to collect amounts due under loan agreements and to attract deposits;

Legislation and court decisions related to the amount of damages recoverable in legal proceedings;

Possible adverse rulings, judgments, settlements and other outcomes of pending litigation; and

Other factors generally understood to affect the financial results of financial services companies.

The Company undertakes no obligation to update its forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that occur after the date of this Report.

In addition to the factors listed above that could influence our forward-looking statements, management believes that the risk factors set forth below should be considered in evaluating the Company's business. Other relevant risk factors are outlined below and may be supplemented from time to time in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Our business may be adversely affected by conditions in the financial markets and economic conditions generally.

Since mid-2007 the financial services industry and the securities markets generally have been materially and adversely affected by significant declines in the values of nearly all asset classes and by a serious lack of liquidity. The global markets have been characterized by substantially increased volatility and short-selling and an overall loss of investor confidence. Market conditions have led to the failure or merger of a number of prominent financial institutions. Financial institution failures or near-failures have resulted in further losses as a consequence of defaults on securities issued by them and defaults under contracts entered into with such entities as counterparties. Furthermore, declining asset values, defaults on mortgages and consumer loans, and the lack of market and investor confidence, as well as other factors, have all combined to increase credit default swap spreads and to cause rating agencies to lower credit ratings. Despite recent stabilization in asset prices, economic performance and significant declines in Federal Reserve borrowing rates, there remains a risk of continued asset and economic deterioration, which may increase the cost and decrease the availability of liquidity. Additionally, some banks and other lenders have suffered significant losses and they have become reluctant to lend, even on a secured basis, because of capital limitations, potentially increased risks of default and the impact of declining asset values on collateral. The foregoing has significantly weakened the strength and liquidity of some financial institutions worldwide.

Our financial performance generally, and in particular the ability of borrowers to pay interest on and repay principal of outstanding loans and the value of collateral securing those loans, is highly dependent upon the business environment in the markets where we operate and in the United States as a whole. A favorable business environment is generally characterized by, among other factors, economic growth, efficient capital markets, low inflation, high business and investor confidence, and strong business earnings. Unfavorable or uncertain economic and market conditions can be caused by declines in economic growth, business activity or investor or business confidence, limitations on the availability or increases in the cost of credit and capital, increases in inflation or interest rates, natural disasters or a combination of these or other factors.

Overall, the 2010 business environment continued to be adverse for many households and businesses in the United States. While the business environment in the markets in which we operate has been less adverse than in the broader United States, it has deteriorated nonetheless. It is possible that the business environment in the United States will continue to deteriorate for the foreseeable future. There can be no assurance that these conditions will improve in the near term. Such conditions could adversely affect the credit quality of our loans, our results of operations and our financial condition.

We may be adversely affected by the soundness of other financial institutions.

Financial services institutions are interrelated as a result of trading, clearing, counterparty or other relationships. We have exposure to many different industries and counterparties, and routinely execute transactions with counterparties in the financial services industry, including commercial banks, brokers and dealers, investment banks and other institutional clients. Many of these transactions expose us to credit risk in the event of a default by a counterparty or client. In addition, our credit risk may be exacerbated when the collateral we hold cannot be realized

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upon or is liquidated at prices not sufficient to recover the full amount of the credit or derivative exposure owed to us. Any such losses could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

We may elect or be compelled to seek additional capital in the future, but that capital may not be available on favorable terms when it is needed.

We are required by federal regulatory authorities to maintain adequate levels of capital to support our operations. In addition, we may elect to raise additional capital to support our business or to finance any acquisitions or we may otherwise elect or be required to raise additional capital. In that regard, a number of financial institutions have recently raised considerable amounts of capital, which could adversely impact our ability to access the capital markets on favorable terms.

Our ability to raise additional capital, if needed, will depend on conditions in the capital markets, economic conditions and a number of other factors, many of which are outside our control, and on our financial performance. Accordingly, we cannot provide assurance of our ability to raise additional capital if needed or to be able to do so on terms acceptable to us. If we cannot raise additional capital on favorable terms when needed, it may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Liquidity risk could impair our ability to fund operations and jeopardize our financial condition.

Liquidity is essential to our business. An inability to raise funds through deposits, borrowings, the sale of loans and other sources could have a substantial negative effect on our liquidity. Our access to funding sources in amounts adequate to finance our activities or the terms of which are acceptable to us could be impaired by factors that affect us specifically or the financial services industry or economy in general. A decrease in the level of our business activity as a result of a downturn in the markets in which our loans are concentrated could detrimentally impact our access to liquidity sources. Our ability to borrow could also be impaired by factors that are not specific to us, such as a disruption in the financial markets or negative views and expectations about the prospects for the financial services industry in light of the recent turmoil faced by banking organizations and the continued deterioration in credit markets.

We make and hold in our portfolio a significant number of real estate construction, acquisition and development loans, which are based upon estimates of costs and values associated with the completed project and which pose more credit risk than other types of loans typically made by financial institutions.

At December 31, 2010, we had a balance of \$1.1 billion in real estate construction, acquisition and development loans, representing 12.3% of our total loan portfolio. These real estate construction, acquisition and development loans have certain risks that are not present in other types of loans. The primary credit risks associated with real estate construction, acquisition and development loans are underwriting, project risks and market risks. Project risks include cost overruns, borrower credit risk, project completion risk, general contractor credit risk and environmental and other hazard risks. Market risks are risks associated with the sale of the completed residential and commercial units. They include affordability risk, which means the risk that borrowers cannot obtain affordable financing, product design risk, and risks posed by competing projects. Real estate construction, acquisition and development loans also involve additional risks because funds are advanced upon the security of the project, which is of uncertain value prior to its completion, and costs may exceed realizable values in declining real estate markets. Because of the uncertainties inherent in estimating construction costs and the realizable market value of the completed project and the effects of governmental regulation of real property, it is relatively difficult to evaluate accurately the total funds required to complete a project and the related loan-to-value ratio. As a result, real estate construction, acquisition and development loans often involve the disbursement of substantial funds with repayment dependent, in part, on the success of the ultimate project and the ability of the borrower to sell or lease the property, rather than the ability of the borrower or guarantor to repay principal and interest. If our appraisal of the value of the completed project proves to be overstated or market values or rental rates decline, we may have inadequate security for the repayment of the loan upon completion of construction of the project. If we are forced to foreclose on a project prior to or at completion due to a default, there can be no assurance that we will be able to recover all of the unpaid balance and accrued interest on the loan as well as related foreclosure and holding costs. In addition, we may be required to fund additional amounts to complete the project and may have to hold the property for an unspecified period of time while we attempt to dispose of it. The adverse effects of the foregoing matters upon our real estate construction, acquisition and

development portfolio could necessitate a further increase in non-performing loans related to this portfolio and these non-performing loans may result in a material level of charge-offs, which may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

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Due to the downturn in the housing market, demand for construction, acquisition and development loans has been declining, a trend that management expects to continue. The decline in this portfolio presents an additional challenge to maintaining and growing our earning assets.

Our allowance for credit losses may not be adequate to cover actual credit losses.

We make various assumptions and judgments about the collectability of our loan and lease portfolio and provide an allowance for potential losses based on a number of factors. The determination of the appropriate level of the allowance for credit losses inherently involves a high degree of subjectivity and requires us to make significant estimates of current credit risks and future trends, all of which may undergo material changes. Continuing deterioration in economic conditions affecting borrowers, new information regarding existing loans, identification of additional problem loans and other factors, both within and outside of our control, may require an increase in the allowance for credit losses. In addition, bank regulatory agencies periodically review our allowance for credit losses and may require an increase in the provision for credit losses or the recognition of further loan charge-offs, based on judgments different than those of management. Any increases in the allowance for credit losses will result in a decrease in net income and, possibly, capital, and may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. See Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Results of Operations Provisions for Credit Losses and Allowance for Credit Losses included herein for more information regarding our process for determining the appropriate level of the allowance for credit losses.

Our operations are subject to extensive governmental regulation and supervision.

The Company has elected to be a financial holding company pursuant to GLBA and the Bank Holding Company Act and the Bank is a Mississippi state banking corporation. Both are subject to extensive governmental regulation, supervision, legislation and control. Banking regulations are primarily intended to protect depositors' funds, federal deposit insurance funds and the banking system as a whole, not security holders. These laws and regulations limit the manner in which we operate, including the amount of loans we can originate, interest we can charge on loans and fees we can charge for certain services. Congress and federal regulatory agencies continually review banking laws, regulations and policies for possible changes. Most recently, the Dodd-Frank Act was enacted, implementing sweeping reforms to the financial services industry. A number of provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act remain to be implemented through the rulemaking process at various regulatory agencies. We are unable to predict what the final form of these rules will be when implemented by the respective agencies, but management believes that certain aspects of the new legislation, including without limitations, the additional cost of higher deposit insurance and the costs of compliance with disclosure and reporting requirements and examinations by the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, could have a significant impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

It is possible that there will be continued changes to the banking and financial institutions regulatory regimes in the future. Changes to statutes, regulations or regulatory policies, including changes in interpretation or implementation of statutes, regulations or policies, could affect us in substantial and unpredictable ways. Such changes could subject us to additional costs, limit the types of financial services and products we may offer and/or increase the ability of non-banks to offer competing financial services and products, among other things. We cannot predict the extent to which the government and governmental organizations may change any of these laws or controls. We also cannot predict how such changes would adversely affect our business and prospects.

Because of the geographic concentration of our assets, our business is highly susceptible to local economic conditions.

Our business is primarily concentrated in selected markets in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Missouri and Illinois. As a result of this geographic concentration, our financial condition and results of operations depend largely upon economic conditions in these market areas. Deterioration in economic conditions in the markets we serve could result in one or more of the following: an increase in loan delinquencies; an increase in problem assets and foreclosures; a decrease in the demand for our products and services; and a decrease in the value of collateral for loans, especially real estate, in turn reducing customers' borrowing power, the value of assets associated with problem loans and collateral coverage.

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We obtain a significant portion of our noninterest revenue through service charges on core deposit accounts, and recent legislation and regulations impacting service charges could reduce our fee income.

A significant portion of our noninterest revenue is derived from service charge income. The largest component of this service charge income is overdraft-related fees. Changes in banking regulations, and in particular the Federal Reserve's recently adopted rules pertaining to certain overdraft payments on consumer accounts and the FDIC's Overdraft Payment Programs and Consumer Protection Final Overdraft Payment Supervisory Guidance, will have a significant adverse impact on our service charge income and overall results. Additionally, changes in customer behavior as well as increased competition from other financial institutions will result in declines in deposit accounts or in overdraft frequency resulting in a decline in service charge income. A reduction in deposit account fee income could have a material adverse effect on our earnings.

Changes in interest rates could have an adverse impact on our results of operations and financial condition.

Our earnings and financial condition are dependent to a large degree upon net interest income, which is the difference or spread between interest earned on loans, securities and other interest-earning assets and interest paid on deposits, borrowings and other interest-bearing liabilities. When market rates of interest change, the interest we receive on our assets and the interest we pay on our liabilities may fluctuate. This can cause decreases in our spread and can adversely affect our earnings and financial condition.

Interest rates are highly sensitive to many factors including:

The rate of inflation;

Economic conditions;

Federal monetary policies; and

Stability of domestic and foreign markets.

The Bank originates residential mortgage loans for sale and for our portfolio. The origination of residential mortgage loans is highly dependent on the local real estate market and the level of interest rates. Increasing interest rates tend to reduce the origination of loans for sale and fee income, which we report as gain on sale of loans. Decreasing interest rates generally result in increased prepayments of loans and mortgage-backed securities, as borrowers refinance their debt in order to reduce their borrowing cost. This typically leads to reinvestment at lower rates than the loans or securities were paying. Changes in market interest rates could also reduce the value of our financial assets. Our financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected if we are unsuccessful in managing the effects of changes in interest rates.

Monetary policies and economic factors may limit our ability to attract deposits or make loans.

The monetary policies of federal regulatory authorities, particularly the Federal Reserve, and economic conditions in our service area and the United States generally, affect our ability to attract deposits and extend loans. We cannot predict either the nature and timing of any changes in these monetary policies and economic conditions, including the Federal Reserve's interest rate policies, or their impact on our financial performance. The banking business is subject to various material business risks, which have become more acute during the current environment of economic slowdown and recession. In the current economic environment, foreclosures have increased and such conditions could also lead to a potential decline in deposits and demand for loans.

Volatility in capital and credit markets could adversely affect our business.

The capital and credit markets have been experiencing volatility and disruption for several years. In some cases, the markets have produced downward pressure on stock prices and credit availability for certain issuers without regard to those issuers' underlying financial strength. If market disruption and volatility continue or worsen, there can be no assurance that we will not experience an adverse effect, which may be material, on our ability to access capital and on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Hurricanes or other adverse weather events could negatively affect local economies where we maintain branch offices or cause disruption or damage to our branch office locations, which could have an adverse effect on our business or results of operations.

We have operations in Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas and Florida, which include areas susceptible to hurricanes or tropical storms. Such weather conditions can disrupt our operations, result in damage to our branch office locations or negatively affect the local economies in which we operate. We cannot predict whether or to what extent damage caused by future hurricanes or storms will affect our operations or the economies in our market areas, but such weather conditions could result in a decline in loan originations and an increase in the

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risk of delinquencies, foreclosures or loan losses. Our business or results of operations may be adversely affected by these and other negative effects of devastating hurricanes or storms.

We face risks in connection with completed or potential acquisitions.

Historically, we have grown through the acquisition of other financial institutions as well as the development of de novo offices. If appropriate opportunities present themselves, we intend to pursue additional acquisitions in the future that we believe are strategic, including possible FDIC-assisted transactions. There can be no assurance that we will be able to identify, negotiate or finance potential acquisitions successfully or integrate such acquisitions with our current business.

Upon completion of an acquisition, we are faced with the challenges of integrating the operations, services, products, personnel and systems of acquired companies into our business, which may divert management's attention from ongoing business operations. We cannot assure you that we will be successful in effectively integrating any acquisition into the operations of our business. Moreover, there can be no assurance that the anticipated benefits of any acquisition will be realized.

The success of our acquisitions is dependent on the continued employment of key employees. If acquired businesses do not meet projected revenue targets, or if certain key employees were to leave, we could conclude that the value of the businesses has decreased and that the related goodwill has been impaired. If we were to conclude that goodwill has been impaired, it would result in an impairment of goodwill charge to us, which would adversely affect our results of operations.

Issuing additional shares of our common stock to acquire other banks, bank holding companies, financial holding companies and/or insurance agencies may result in dilution for existing shareholders and may adversely affect the market price of our stock.

In connection with our growth strategy, we have issued, and may issue in the future, shares of our common stock to acquire additional banks, bank holding companies, financial holding companies, insurance agencies and/or other businesses related to the financial services industry that may compliment our organizational structure. Resales of substantial amounts of common stock in the public market and the potential of such sales could adversely affect the prevailing market price of our common stock and impair our ability to raise additional capital through the sale of equity securities. We usually must pay an acquisition premium above the fair market value of acquired assets for the acquisition of banks, bank holding companies, financial holding companies and insurance agencies. Paying this acquisition premium, in addition to the dilutive effect of issuing additional shares, may also adversely affect the prevailing market price of our common stock.

Our ability to declare and pay dividends is limited by law.

We derive our income primarily from dividends received from owning the Bank's common stock. Federal and state law limit the Bank's ability to declare and pay dividends. In addition, the Federal Reserve may impose restrictions on our ability to declare and pay dividends on our common stock.

Our growth strategy includes risks that could have an adverse effect on financial performance.

A significant element of our growth strategy is the acquisition of additional banks (which might include the acquisition of bank assets in FDIC-assisted transactions), bank holding companies, financial holding companies, insurance agencies and/or other businesses related to the financial services industry that may compliment our organizational structure in order to achieve greater economies of scale. We cannot assure you that appropriate growth opportunities will continue to exist, that we will be able to acquire banks, insurance agencies, bank holding companies and/or financial holding companies that satisfy our criteria or that any such acquisitions will be on terms favorable to us. Further, our growth strategy requires that we continue to hire qualified personnel, while concurrently expanding our managerial and operational infrastructure. We cannot assure you that we will be able to hire and retain qualified personnel or that we will be able to successfully expand our infrastructure to accommodate future acquisitions or growth. As a result of these factors, we may not realize the expected economic benefits associated with our acquisitions. This could have a material adverse effect on our financial performance.

Diversification in types of financial services may adversely affect our financial performance.

As part of our business strategy, we may further diversify our lines of business into areas that are not traditionally associated with the banking business. As a result, we would need to manage the development of new business lines in

which we have not previously participated. Each new business line would require the investment

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of additional capital and the significant involvement of our senior management to develop and integrate the service subsidiaries with our traditional banking operations. We can offer no assurances that we will be able to develop and integrate new services without adversely affecting our financial performance.

We compete with other financial holding companies, bank holding companies, banks, insurance and financial services companies.

The banking, insurance and financial services businesses are extremely competitive in our service areas in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Missouri and Illinois. We compete, and will continue to compete, with well-established banks, credit unions, insurance agencies and other financial institutions, some of which have significantly greater resources and lending limits. Some of our competitors provide certain services that we do not provide.

Information systems may experience an interruption or breach in security.

We rely heavily on communications and information systems to conduct our business. Any failure, interruption or breach in security of these systems could result in failures or disruptions in our customer relationship management, general ledger, deposit, loan and other systems. While we have policies and procedures designed to prevent or limit the effect of the failure, interruption or security breach of these information systems, there can be no assurance that any such failures, interruptions or security breaches will not occur or, if they do occur, that they will be adequately addressed. The occurrence of any failures, interruptions or security breaches of these information systems could damage our reputation, result in a loss of customer business, subject us to additional regulatory scrutiny, or expose us to civil litigation and possible financial liability, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

We may be adversely affected by the failure of certain third party vendors to perform.

We rely upon certain third party vendors to provide products and services necessary to maintain our day-to-day operations. Accordingly, our operations are exposed to the risk that these vendors might not perform in accordance with applicable contractual arrangements or service level agreements. We maintain a system of policies and procedures designed to monitor vendor risks. While we believe these policies and procedures help