COMMERCE BANCORP INC /NJ/
Form 10-Q
May 15, 2001

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

Form 10-Q

(X) QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the quarter ended March 31, 2001

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 #0-12874

[GRAPHIC OMITTED - LOGO]

COMMERCE BANCORP, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

New Jersey	22-2433468
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(IRS Employer Identification Number)

Commerce Atrium, 1701 Route 70 East, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08034-5400
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

(856) 751-9000
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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 report(s), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes X No ___

APPLICABLE ONLY TO CORPORATE ISSUERS:

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the last practical date.

Common Stock	32,198,979
(Title of Class)	(No. of Shares Outstanding as of 5/01/01)

COMMERCE BANCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

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COMMERCE BANCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS(unaudited)

		March 31,
	(dollars in thousands)	2001
Assets	Cash and due from banks	$401,392
	Federal funds sold	200,600
	Cash and cash equivalents	601,992
	Loans held for sale	28,123
	Trading securities	174,988
	Securities available for sale	2,460,058
	Securities held to maturity	1,385,852
	(market value 03/01-$1,388,562; 12/00-$1,503,202)	
	Loans	3,847,040
	Less allowance for loan losses	52,157
		3,794,883
	Bank premises and equipment, net	285,722
	Other assets	217,127
		$8,948,745

Liabilities	Deposits:	
	Demand:	
	Interest-bearing	$2,645,950
	Noninterest-bearing	1,935,101
	Savings	1,561,953
	Time	1,967,446
	Total deposits	8,110,450
	Other borrowed money	66,410
	Other liabilities	151,293
	Trust Capital Securities - Commerce Capital Trust I	57,500
	Long-term debt	23,000
		8,408,653
Stockholders' Equity	Common stock, 32,142,144 shares issued (31,761,453 shares in 2000)	50,222
	Capital in excess of par or stated value	435,514
	Retained earnings	41,730
	Accumulated other comprehensive income	14,248
		541,714
	Less treasury stock, at cost	1,622
	Total stockholders' equity	540,092
		$8,948,745

See accompanying notes.

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COMMERCE BANCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME(unaudited)

		Three Month March 3
	(dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)	2001
Interest income	Interest and fees on loans	$79,739
	Interest on investments	61,450
	Other interest	1,890
	Total interest income	143,079
Interest expense	Interest on deposits:	
	Demand	18,034
	Savings	8,895
	Time	27,242
	Total interest on deposits	54,171

	Interest on other borrowed money	1,573
	Interest on long-term debt	1,595
	Total interest expense	57,339
	Net interest income	85,740
	Provision for loan losses	4,609
	Net interest income after provision for loan losses	81,131
Noninterest income	Deposit charges and service fees	17,164
	Other operating income	25,964
	Net investment securities gains	980
	Total noninterest income	44,108
Noninterest expense	Salaries	35,656
	Benefits	8,271
	Occupancy	8,798
	Furniture and equipment	11,606
	Office	6,066
	Audit and regulatory fees and assessments	960
	Marketing	2,264
	Other real estate (net)	350
	Other	16,383
	Total noninterest expenses	90,354
	Income before income taxes	34,885
	Provision for federal and state income taxes	11,484
	Net income	$23,401
	Net income per common and common equivalent share:	
	Basic	$ 0.73
	Diluted	$ 0.70
	Average common and common equivalent shares outstanding:	
	Basic	31,907
	Diluted	33,438
	Cash dividends declared, common stock	$ 0.28

See accompanying notes.

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COMMERCE BANCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(unaudited)

Thr

	(dollars in thousands)	2001
Operating activities	Net income	$23,40
	Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:	
	Provision for loan losses	4,60
	Provision for depreciation, amortization and accretion	9,91
	Gains on sales of securities available for sale	(98
	Proceeds from sales of mortgages held for sale	112,51
	Originations of mortgages held for sale	(98,84
	Net loan chargeoffs	(1,13
	Net (increase) decrease in trading securities	(65,68
	(Increase) decrease in other assets	(27,92
	Increase in other liabilities	98,80
	Net cash provided by operating activities	54,68
Investing activities	Proceeds from the sales of securities available for sale	185,22
	Proceeds from the maturity of securities available for sale	158,95
	Proceeds from the maturity of securities held to maturity	82,28
	Purchase of securities available for sale	(687,65
	Purchase of securities held to maturity	(18,84
	Net increase in loans	(162,87
	Proceeds from sales of loans	3,09
	Purchases of premises and equipment	(19,32
	Net cash used by investing activities	(459,13
Financing activities	Net increase in demand and savings deposits	288,47
	Net increase in time deposits	434,38
	Net decrease in other borrowed money	(217,30
	Dividends paid	(8,74
	Proceeds from issuance of common stock under dividend reinvestment and other stock plans	14,06
	Other	(34
	Net cash provided by financing activities	510,53
	Increase in cash and cash equivalents	106,07
	Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	495,91
	Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	$601,99
	Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information: Cash paid during the period for:	
	Interest	$52,59
	Income taxes	

See accompanying notes.

COMMERCE BANCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(unaudited)

A. Consolidated Financial Statements

The consolidated financial statements included herein have been prepared without audit pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles have been condensed or omitted pursuant to such rules and regulations. The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments which are, in the opinion of management, necessary to a fair statement of the results for the interim periods presented. Such adjustments are of a normal recurring nature.

These condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements and the notes thereto included in the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2000. The results for the three months ended March 31, 2001 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ended December 31, 2001.

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Commerce Bancorp, Inc. and all of its subsidiaries, including Commerce Bank, N.A. (Commerce NJ), Commerce Bank/Pennsylvania, N.A., Commerce Bank/Shore, N.A., Commerce Bank/North, Commerce Bank/Central, N.A., Commerce Bank/Delaware, N.A., Commerce National Insurance Services, Inc. (Commerce National Insurance), Commerce Capital Trust I, and Commerce Capital Markets, Inc. (CCMI). All material intercompany transactions have been eliminated. Effective April 1, 2001, Commerce Bank/Central, N.A. was merged into Commerce NJ.

B. Commitments

In the normal course of business, there are various outstanding commitments to extend credit, such as letters of credit and unadvanced loan commitments, which are not reflected in the accompanying consolidated financial statements. Management does not anticipate any material losses as a result of these transactions.

C. Comprehensive Income

Total comprehensive income, which for the Company included net income and unrealized gains and losses on the Company's available for sale securities, amounted to $42.9 million and $8.8 million, respectively, for the three months ended March 31, 2001 and 2000.

COMMERCE BANCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

D. Segment Information

Selected segment information is as follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2001			Three M March
	Community Banks	Parent/ Other	Total	Community Banks
Net interest income	$85,880	$(140)	$85,740	$69,801
Provision for loan losses	4,609		4,609	3,493

Net interest income after provision	81,271	(140)	81,131	66,308	
Noninterest income	26,378	17,730	44,108	20,345	
Noninterest expense	76,108	14,246	90,354	59,682	
Income before income taxes	31,541	3,344	34,885	26,971	
Income tax expense	10,295	1,189	11,484	8,925	
Net income	$21,246	$2,155	$23,401	$18,046	
Average assets (in millions)	$7,583,889	$901,607	$8,485,496	$6,030,116	$

E. Recent Accounting Statement

In June 1998, the FASB issued Statement No. 133 "Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities" (FAS 133). FAS 133 requires the Company to recognize all derivatives on the balance sheet at fair value. Derivatives that are not hedges must be adjusted to fair value through income. If the derivative is a hedge, depending on the nature of the hedge, changes in the fair value of the derivative will either be offset against the change in fair value of the hedged asset or liability through earnings or recognized in other comprehensive income until the hedged item is recognized in earnings. The ineffective portion of a derivative's change in fair value will be immediately recognized in earnings. The Company adopted FAS 133 on January 1, 2001. Due to the Company's minimal use of derivatives, adoption did not have a significant effect on the results of operations or the financial position of the Company. Future impact of FAS 133 will depend on the nature and purpose of the derivative instruments in use by the Company at that time.

F. Trust Capital Securities

On June 9, 1997, the Company issued $57.5 million of 8.75% Trust Capital Securities through Commerce Capital Trust I, a newly formed Delaware business trust subsidiary of the Company. The net proceeds of the offering will be used for general corporate purposes, which may include contributions to subsidiary banks to fund their operations, the financing of one or more future acquisitions, repayment of indebtedness of the Company or of its subsidiary banks, investments in or extensions of credit to its subsidiaries, or the repurchase of shares of the Company's outstanding common stock. All $57.5 million of the Trust Capital Securities qualify as Tier 1 capital for regulatory capital purposes.

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COMMERCE BANCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

G. Earnings Per Share

The calculation of earnings per share follows (in thousands, except for per share amounts):

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2001	2000

Basic:		
Net income applicable to common stock	$ 23,401	$18,295
Average common shares outstanding	31,907	30,263
Net income per common share - basic	$ 0.73	$ 0.60
Diluted:		
Net income applicable to common stock on a diluted basis	$ 23,401	$18,295
Average common shares outstanding	31,907	30,263
Additional shares considered in diluted computation assuming:		
Exercise of stock options	1,531	897
Average common shares outstanding on a diluted basis	33,438	31,160
Net income per common share - diluted	$ 0.70	$ 0.59

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COMMERCE BANCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation

Capital Resources

At March 31, 2001, stockholders' equity totaled $540.1 million or 6.04% of total assets, compared to $492.2 million or 5.93% of total assets at December 31, 2000.

The table below presents the Company's and Commerce NJ's risk-based and leverage ratios at March 31, 2001 and 2000:

	Actual		Per Regulatory Gui Minimum		"W
	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio	A
March 31, 2001					
Company					
Risk based capital ratios:					
Tier 1	$579,674	10.80%	$214,618	4.00%	$3
Total capital	641,031	11.95	429,236	8.00	5
Leverage ratio	579,674	6.84	339,013	4.00	4

Commerce NJ					
Risk based capital ratios:					
Tier 1	$302,796	10.00%	$ 121,071	4.00%	$1
Total capital	333,115	11.01	242,143	8.00	3
Leverage ratio	302,796	6.62	182,973	4.00	2
March 31, 2000					
Company					
Risk based capital ratios:					
Tier 1	$468,481	11.33%	$ 165,390	4.00%	$2
Total capital	522,986	12.65	330,780	8.00	4
Leverage ratio	468,481	6.98	268,302	4.00	3
Commerce NJ					
Risk based capital ratios:					
Tier 1	$233,787	10.12%	$ 92,415	4.00%	$ 1
Total capital	256,562	11.10	184,830	8.00	2
Leverage ratio	233,787	6.47	144,469	4.00	1

At March 31, 2001, the Company's consolidated capital levels and each of the Company's bank subsidiaries met the regulatory definition of a "well capitalized" financial institution, i.e., a leverage capital ratio exceeding 5%, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio exceeding 6%, and a total risk-based capital ratio exceeding 10%. Management believes that as of March 31, 2001, the Company and its subsidiaries meet all capital adequacy requirements to which they are subject.

Deposits

Total deposits at March 31, 2001 were $8.11 billion, up $2.00 billion, or 33% over total deposits of $6.11 billion at March 31, 2000, and up by $722.9 million, or 10% from year-end 2000. Deposit growth during the first three months of 2001 included core deposit growth in all categories as well as growth from the public sector. The Company experienced "same-store core deposit growth" of 17.3% at March 31, 2001 as compared to deposits a year ago for those branches open for more than two years.

Interest Rate Sensitivity and Liquidity

The Company's risk of loss arising from adverse changes in the fair market value of financial instruments, or market risk, is composed primarily of interest rate risk. The primary objective of the Company's asset/liability management

activities is to maximize net interest income, while maintaining acceptable levels of interest rate risk. The Company's Asset/Liability Committee (ALCO) is responsible for establishing policies to limit exposure to interest rate risk, and to ensure procedures are established to monitor compliance with these policies. The guidelines established by ALCO are reviewed by the Company's Board of Directors.

Management considers the simulation of net interest income in different interest rate environments to be the best indicator of the Company's interest rate risk. Income simulation analysis captures not only the potential of all assets and liabilities to mature or reprice, but also the probability that they will do so.

Income simulation also attends to the relative interest rate sensitivities of these items, and projects their behavior over an extended period of time. Finally, income simulation permits management to assess the probable effects on the balance sheet not only of changes in interest rates, but also of proposed strategies for responding to them.

The Company's income simulation model analyzes interest rate sensitivity by projecting net income over the next 24 months in a flat rate scenario versus net income in alternative interest rate scenarios. Management continually reviews and refines its interest rate risk management process in response to the changing economic climate. Currently, the Company's model projects a proportionate 200 basis point change during the next year, with rates remaining constant in the second year. The Company's ALCO policy has established that interest income sensitivity will be considered acceptable if net income in the above interest rate scenario is within 15% of net income in the flat rate scenario in the first year and within 30% over the two year time frame. At March 31, 2001, the Company's income simulation model indicates net income would increase by 3.60% and decrease by 0.27% in the first year and over a two year time frame, respectively, if rates decreased as described above, as compared to an increase of 4.14% and 1.05%, respectively, at March 31, 2000. At March 31, 2001, the model projects that net income would decrease by 5.77% and 4.79% in the first year and over a two year time frame, respectively, if rates increased as described above, as compared to a decrease of 6.09% and 4.60%, respectively, at March 31, 2000. All of these net income projections are within an acceptable level of interest rate risk pursuant to the policy established by ALCO.

In the event the Company's interest rate risk models indicate an unacceptable level of risk, the Company could undertake a number of actions that would reduce this risk, including the sale of a portion of its available for sale portfolio, the use of risk management strategies such as interest rate swaps and caps, or the extension of the maturities of its short-term borrowings.

Management also monitors interest rate risk by utilizing a market value of equity model. The model assesses the impact of a change in interest rates on the market value of all the Company's assets and liabilities, as well as any off balance sheet items. The model calculates the market value of the Company's assets and liabilities in excess of book value in the current rate scenario, and then compares the excess of market value over book value given an immediate 200 basis point change in rates. The Company's ALCO policy indicates that the level of interest rate risk is unacceptable if the immediate 200 basis point change would result in the loss of 60% or more of the excess of market value over book value in the current rate scenario. At March 31, 2001, the market value of equity model indicates an acceptable level of interest rate risk.

Liquidity involves the Company's ability to raise funds to support asset growth or decrease assets to meet deposit withdrawals and other borrowing needs, to maintain reserve requirements and to otherwise operate the Company on an ongoing basis. The Company's liquidity needs are primarily met by growth in core deposits, its cash and federal funds sold position, cash flow from its amortizing investment and loan portfolios, as well as the use of short-term borrowings, as required.

Short-Term Borrowings

Short-term borrowings, or other borrowed money, consist primarily of securities sold under agreements to repurchase and overnight lines of credit, and are used to meet short term funding needs. During the first three months of 2001, the Company significantly reduced its short-term borrowings, primarily through increased deposits. At March 31, 2001, short-term borrowings aggregated $66.4 million and had an average rate of 4.33%, as compared to $283.7 million at an average rate of 6.70% at December 31, 2000.

Interest Earning Assets

For the three month period ended March 31, 2001, interest earning assets increased $671.5 million from $7.43 billion to $8.10 billion. This increase was primarily in investment securities and the loan portfolio as described below.

Loans

During the first three months of 2001, loans increased $156.3 million from $3.64 billion to $3.79 billion. At March 31, 2001, loans represented 47% of total deposits and 42% of total assets. All segments of the loan portfolio experienced growth in the first three months of 2001, including loans secured by commercial real estate properties, commercial loans, and consumer loans.

Investments

In total, for the first three months of 2001, securities increased $376.8 million from $3.64 billion to $4.02 billion. The available for sale portfolio increased $438.7 million to $2.46 billion at March 31, 2001 from $2.02 billion at December 31, 2000, and the securities held to maturity portfolio decreased $127.6 million to $1.39 billion at March 31, 2001 from $1.51 billion at year-end 2000. The portfolio of trading securities increased $65.7 million from year-end 2000 to $175.0 million at March 31, 2001. At March 31, 2001, the average life of the investment portfolio was approximately 7.1 years, and the duration was approximately 5.0 years. At March 31, 2001, total securities represented 45% of total assets.

Net Income

Net income for the first quarter of 2001 was $23.4 million, an increase of $5.1 million or 28% over the $18.3 million recorded for the first quarter of 2000. On a per share basis, diluted net income for the first quarter of 2001 was $0.70 per common share compared to $0.59 per common share for the first quarter of 2000.

Return on average assets (ROA) and return on average equity (ROE) for the first quarter of 2001 were 1.10% and 17.92%, respectively, compared to 1.10% and 20.60%, respectively, for the same 2000 period.

Net Interest Income

Net interest income totaled $85.7 million for the first quarter of 2001, an increase of $17.5 million or 26% from $68.2 million in the first quarter of 2000. The improvement in net interest income was due primarily to volume increases in the loan and investment portfolios.

Noninterest Income

Noninterest income totaled $44.1 million for the first quarter of 2001, an increase of $8.4 million or 24% from $35.7 million in the first quarter of 2000. The increase was due primarily to increased deposit charges and service fees, which rose $4.8 million over the first quarter of 2000 primarily due to higher transaction volumes. In addition, other operating income increased $3.5 million over the prior year, including increased revenues of $1.8 million from CCMI, the Company's municipal public finance subsidiary. The Company also recorded $980 thousand in net investment securities gains in the first quarter of 2001 as compared to $820 thousand for the same 2000 period.

Noninterest Expense

For the first quarter of 2001, noninterest expense totaled $90.4 million, an increase of $17.5 million or 24% over the same period in 2000. Contributing to this increase was new branch activity over the past twelve months, with the number of branches increasing from 120 at March 31, 2000 to 152 at March 31, 2001. With the addition of these new offices, staff, facilities, and related expenses rose accordingly. Other noninterest expenses rose $4.0 million over the first quarter of 2000. This increase resulted primarily from higher bank card-related service charges, increased business development expenses, and increased provisions for non-credit-related losses.

The Company's operating efficiency ratio (noninterest expenses, less other real estate expense, divided by net interest income plus noninterest income excluding non-recurring gains) was 69.84% for the first three months of 2001 as compared to 70.44% for the same 2000 period. The Company's efficiency ratio remains above its peer group primarily due to its aggressive growth expansion activities.

Loan and Asset Quality

Total non-performing assets (non-performing loans and other real estate, excluding loans past due 90 days or more and still accruing interest) at March 31, 2001 were $20.9 million, or 0.23% of total assets compared to $16.6 million or 0.20% of total assets at December 31, 2000 and $15.6 million or 0.23% of total assets at March 31, 2000.

Total non-performing loans (non-accrual loans and restructured loans, excluding loans past due 90 days or more and still accruing interest) at March 31, 2001 were $19.4 million or 0.50% of total loans compared to $13.6 million or 0.37% of total loans at December 31, 2000 and $11.9 million or 0.37% of total loans at March 31, 2000. At March 31, 2001, loans past due 90 days or more and still accruing interest amounted to $537 thousand compared to $489 thousand at December 31, 2000 and $916 thousand at March 31, 2000. Additional loans considered as potential problem loans by the Company's internal loan review department ($36.9 million at March 31, 2001) have been evaluated as to risk exposure in determining the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses.

Other real estate (ORE) at March 31, 2001 totaled $1.5 million compared to $3.0 million at December 31, 2000 and $3.7 million at March 31, 2000. These properties have been written down to the lower of cost or fair value less disposition costs.

On pages 11 and 12 are tabular presentation showing detailed information about the Company's non-performing loans and assets and an analysis of the Company's allowance for loan losses and other related data for March 31, 2001, December 31, 2000, and March 31, 2000.

Forward-Looking Statements

The Company may from time to time make written or oral "forward-looking statements", including statements contained in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (including this Form 10-Q), in its reports to stockholders and in other communications by the Company, which are made in good faith by the Company pursuant to the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

These forward-looking statements include statements with respect to the Company's beliefs, plans, objectives, goals, expectations, anticipations, estimates and intentions, that are subject to significant risks and uncertainties and are subject to change based on various factors (some of which are beyond the Company's control). The words "may", "could", "should", "would", believe", "anticipate", "estimate", "expect", "intend", "plan" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. The following factors, among others, could cause the Company's financial performance to differ materially from that expressed in such forward-looking statements: the strength of the United States economy in general and the strength of the local economies in which the Company conducts operations; the effects of, and changes in, trade, monetary and fiscal policies, including interest rate policies of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the "FRB"); inflation; interest rates, market and monetary fluctuations; the timely development of competitive new products and services by the Company and the acceptance of such products and services by customers; the willingness of customers to substitute competitors' products and services for the Company's products and services and vice versa; the impact of changes in financial services' laws and regulations (including laws concerning taxes, banking, securities and insurance); technological changes; future acquisitions; the expense savings and revenue enhancements from acquisitions being less than expected; the growth and profitability of the Company's noninterest or fee income being less than expected; unanticipated regulatory or judicial proceedings; changes in consumer spending and saving habits; and the success of the Company at managing the risks involved in the foregoing.

The Company cautions that the foregoing list of important factors is not exclusive. The Company does not undertake to update any forward-looking statement, whether written or oral, that may be made from time to time by or on behalf of the Company.

The following summary presents information regarding non-performing loans and assets as of March 31, 2001 and the preceding four quarters: (dollar amounts in thousands)

	March 31, 2001	December 31, 2000	September 30, 2000	Ju
Non-accrual loans:				
Commercial	$10,681	$4,955	$5,771	$
Consumer	1,378	1,295	1,296	
Real estate:				
Construction	1,590	1,459	50	
Mortgage	5,756	5,840	5,979	
Total non-accrual loans	19,405	13,549	13,096	1

Restructured loans:				
Commercial	11	11	12	
Consumer				
Real estate:				
Construction				
Mortgage		82	85	
Total restructured loans	11	93	97	
Total non-performing loans	19,416	13,642	13,193	1
Other real estate	1,452	2,959	2,941	
Total non-performing assets	20,868	16,601	16,134	1
Loans past due 90 days or more And still accruing	537	489	561	
Total non-performing assets and Loans past due 90 days or more	$21,405	$17,090	$16,695	$1
Total non-performing loans as a Percentage of total period-end loans	0.50%	0.37%	0.36%	
Total non-performing assets as a Percentage of total period-end assets	0.23%	0.20%	0.21%	
Total non-performing assets and loans Past due 90 days or more as a Percentage of total period-end assets	0.24%	0.21%	0.21%	
Allowance for loan losses as a percentage Of total non-performing loans	269%	357%	359%	
Allowance for loan losses as a percentage Of total period-end loans	1.36%	1.32%	1.30%	
Total non-performing assets and loans Past due 90 days or more as a Percentage of stockholders' equity and Allowance for loan losses	4%	3%	3%	

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COMMERCE BANCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

The following table presents, for the periods indicated, an analysis of the allowance for loan losses and other related data: (dollar amounts in thousands)

Three Months Ended

	03/31/01	03/31/00
Balance at beginning of period	$48,680	$38,382
Provisions charged to operating expenses	4,609	3,493
	53,289	41,875
Recoveries on loans charged-off:		
Commercial	9	96
Consumer	41	44
Real estate	12	1
Total recoveries	62	141
Loans charged-off:		
Commercial	(358)	(1,036)
Consumer	(659)	(275)
Real estate	(177)	
Total charge-offs	(1,194)	(1,311)
Net charge-offs	(1,132)	(1,170)
Balance at end of period	$52,157	$40,705
Net charge-offs as a percentage of Average loans outstanding	0.12%	0.15%

Item 3: Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

See Item 2 - Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation, Interest Rate Sensitivity and Liquidity.

COMMERCE BANCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 6. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K

No reports on Form 8-K were filed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2001.

COMMERCE BANCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

COMMERCE BANCORP, INC.

(Registrant)

May 14, 2001

(Date)

/s/ DOUGLAS J. PAULS

DOUGLAS J. PAULS
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
(PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING OFFICER)