

FIRST BUSEY CORP /NV/
Form 10-K
March 16, 2009
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UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008

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

Commission file number 0-15950

FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada

37-1078406

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation of organization)

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

201 West Main Street

Urbana, Illinois 61801

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(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code **(217) 365-4516**

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

| Title of each class | Name of each exchange on which registered |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Common Stock (\$.001 par value) | The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC |

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: **None**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The aggregate market value of the voting and nonvoting common equity held by non-affiliates on June 30, 2008 was \$365.6 million, determined using a per share closing price for the registrant's common stock on that date of \$13.22, as quoted on The Nasdaq Global Select Market.

As of February 28, 2009, there were 35,815,892 shares of the registrant's common stock, \$0.001 par value, outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the definitive Proxy Statement for the 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of First Busey Corporation to be held May 19, 2009, are incorporated by reference in this Form 10-K in response to Part III.

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FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION

Form 10-K Annual Report

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Part I

Item 1. Business

Introduction

First Busey Corporation (First Busey or the Company), a Nevada Corporation, is a \$4.5 billion financial holding company which was initially organized as a bank holding company in 1980. First Busey conducts a broad range of financial services through its banking and non-banking subsidiaries at 51 locations. First Busey currently has two wholly-owned banking subsidiaries, Busey Bank and Busey Bank, National Association (Busey Bank, N.A. and together with Busey Bank, the Banks) with locations in three states. First Busey is headquartered in Urbana, Illinois, and its common stock is traded on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol BUSE.

On August 1, 2007, First Busey and Main Street Trust, Inc. (Main Street) completed a merger of equals transaction. Main Street Bank & Trust, Main Street's banking subsidiary, was combined with Busey Bank in November 2007 and Main Street Bank & Trust's trust department was combined with Busey Trust Company in November 2007. In connection with the Main Street merger, First Busey sold the net assets of five banking centers on November 2, 2007, representing approximately 1% of consolidated loans and 3% of consolidated deposits of First Busey at that time.

Business of First Busey

First Busey conducts the business of banking and related services through the Banks, trust and investment management services through Busey Wealth Management, Inc. (Busey Wealth Management) and retail payment processing through FirsTech, Inc. (FirsTech).

Busey Bank is an Illinois state-chartered bank organized in 1868 with its headquarters in Champaign, Illinois. Busey Bank has 42 locations in Illinois, including one in Florida and one in Indianapolis, Indiana. Busey Bank, N.A. is a national bank organized in 1999 with its headquarters in Fort Myers, Florida.

The Banks offer a full range of banking services, including commercial, financial, agricultural and real estate loans, and retail banking services, including accepting customary types of demand and savings deposits, making individual, consumer, installment, first mortgage and second mortgage loans, offering money transfers, safe deposit services, IRA, Keogh and other fiduciary services, automated banking and automated fund transfers.

The Banks' principal sources of income are interest and fees on loans and investments and service fees. Their principal expenses are interest paid on deposits and general operating expenses. Busey Bank's primary service area is downstate Illinois, southwest Florida, through a loan

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production office, and central Indiana. Busey Bank, N.A.'s service area is southwest Florida.

The Bank's loan portfolios are comprised primarily of loans in the areas of commercial loans, commercial real estate, residential real estate, agricultural and farmland and consumer lending. As of December 31, 2008, real estate-mortgage loans (including commercial and residential real estate) made up approximately 58.5% of the Bank's loan portfolio, construction lending comprised approximately 22.8%, commercial loans comprised approximately 14.0%, consumer installments loans comprised approximately 1.8%, real estate-farmland comprised approximately 1.6% and agricultural loans comprised approximately 1.3%.

Busey Wealth Management, a wholly-owned non-banking subsidiary of First Busey, is located in Champaign, Illinois. Busey Wealth Management is the parent company of Busey Trust Company, which provides a full range of trust and investment management services, including estate and financial planning, tax preparation, custody services, philanthropic advisory services, brokerage services and investment advice. Busey Capital Management is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Busey Trust Company, which primarily serves to isolate performance data on certain managed investment portfolios.

FirsTech, Inc., a wholly owned non-banking subsidiary of Busey Bank, N.A., with offices in Decatur, Illinois and Clayton, Missouri, is a retail payment processing company that processes over 27 million transactions per year through online bill payments, lockbox processing and walk-in payments through its 4,000 agent locations in 36 states.

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First Busey Statutory Trust II, a statutory business trust, was organized in the state of Connecticut in April 2004. First Busey owns all of the common securities of First Busey Statutory Trust II.

First Busey Statutory Trust III, a statutory business trust was organized in the state of Delaware in June 2005. First Busey owns all of the common securities of First Busey Statutory Trust III.

First Busey Statutory Trust IV, a statutory business trust was organized in the state of Delaware in June 2006. First Busey owns all of the common securities of First Busey Statutory Trust IV.

First Busey Corporation has various other subsidiaries that are not significant to the consolidated entity.

See Note 23 in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for an analysis of segment operations.

Competition

The Banks compete actively with national and state banks, savings and loan associations and credit unions for deposits and loans primarily in downstate Illinois (primarily Champaign, Ford, Macon, McLean, Peoria, Shelby and Tazewell counties), southwest Florida (primarily Charlotte, Lee and Sarasota counties), and central Indiana (primarily Hamilton and Marion counties). In addition, First Busey and its non-bank subsidiaries compete with other financial institutions, including asset management and trust companies, security broker/dealers, personal loan companies, insurance companies, finance companies, leasing companies, mortgage companies, remittance processing companies, and certain governmental agencies, all of which actively engage in marketing various types of loans, deposit accounts, and other products and services. We compete for real estate and other loans primarily on the basis of the interest rates and loan fees it charges, the types of loans it originates and the quality of services it provides to borrowers.

The Banks face substantial competition in attracting deposits from other commercial banks, savings institutions, money market and mutual funds, credit unions, insurance agencies, brokerage firms, and other investment vehicles. The ability of the Banks to attract and retain deposits depends on its ability to provide investment opportunities that satisfy the requirements of investors as to rate of return, liquidity, risk and other factors. The Banks attract a significant amount of deposits through their branch offices, primarily from the communities in which those branch offices are located; therefore, competition for those deposits is principally from other commercial banks, savings institutions, and credit unions located in the same communities. The Banks compete for these deposits by offering a variety of deposit accounts at competitive rates, high-quality customer service, convenient business hours, internet banking, and convenient branch locations with interbranch deposit and withdrawal privileges at each.

Based on information obtained from FDIC Summary of Deposits dated June 30, 2008, First Busey ranked in the top ten in total deposits in five Illinois counties, first in Champaign County, first in Ford County, second in Macon County, third in McLean County, and ninth in Peoria County. Customers for banking services are generally influenced by convenience, quality of service, personal contacts, price of services and availability of products. Although the market share of First Busey varies in different markets, First Busey believes that its affiliates effectively

compete with other banks, thrifts and financial institutions in their relevant market areas.

Monetary Policy and Economic Conditions

The earnings of commercial banks and bank holding companies are affected not only by general economic conditions, but also by the policies of various governmental regulatory agencies. In particular, the Federal Reserve regulates money and credit conditions and interest rates in order to influence general economic conditions and interest rates, primarily through open market operations in U.S. government securities, varying the discount rate on member banks and nonmember bank borrowings and setting reserve requirements against bank deposits. Such Federal Reserve policies and acts have a significant influence on overall growth and distribution of bank loans, investments, deposits and related interest rates. We cannot accurately predict the effect, if any, such policies and acts may have in the future on its business or earnings.

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Supervision, Regulation and Other Factors

General

Financial institutions, their holding companies and their affiliates are extensively regulated under federal and state law. As a result, the growth and earnings performance of First Busey may be affected not only by management decisions and general economic conditions, but also by the requirements of federal and state statutes and by the regulations and policies of various bank regulatory authorities, including the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (the DFPR), the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (the OCC), the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the Federal Reserve) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the FDIC). Furthermore, taxation laws administered by the Internal Revenue Service and state taxing authorities and securities laws administered by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) and state securities authorities have an impact on the business of First Busey. The effect of these statutes, regulations and regulatory policies may be significant, and cannot be predicted with a high degree of certainty.

Federal and state laws and regulations generally applicable to financial institutions regulate, among other things, the scope of business, the kinds and amounts of investments, reserve requirements, capital levels relative to operations, the nature and amount of collateral for loans, the establishment of branches, mergers and consolidations and the payment of dividends. This system of supervision and regulation establishes a comprehensive framework for the respective operations of First Busey and its subsidiaries and is intended primarily for the protection of the FDIC-insured deposits and depositors of the Banks rather than stockholders. In addition to this generally applicable framework, recent turmoil in the credit markets prompted the enactment of unprecedented legislation that has allowed the United States Department of the Treasury to make equity capital available to qualifying financial institutions to help restore confidence and stability in the U.S. financial markets, which imposes additional requirements on institutions in which the U.S. Treasury invests.

The following is a summary of the material elements of the regulatory framework that applies to First Busey and its subsidiaries. It does not describe all of the statutes, regulations and regulatory policies that apply, nor does it restate all of the requirements of those that are described. As such, the following is qualified in its entirety by reference to applicable law. Any change in statutes, regulations or regulatory policies may have a material effect on the business of First Busey and its subsidiaries.

First Busey

General

First Busey, as the sole shareholder of the Banks, is a registered bank holding company, that has elected to operate as a financial holding company. As a bank holding company, First Busey is registered with, and is subject to regulation by, the Federal Reserve under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the BHCA). In accordance with Federal Reserve policy, First Busey is expected to act as a source of financial strength to the Banks and to commit resources to support the Banks in circumstances where First Busey might not otherwise do so. Under the BHCA, First Busey is subject to periodic examination by the Federal Reserve. First Busey is also required to file with the Federal Reserve periodic reports of First Busey's operations and such additional information regarding First Busey and its subsidiaries as the Federal Reserve may require.

Acquisitions, Activities and Change in Control

The primary purpose of a bank holding company is to control and manage banks. The BHCA generally requires the prior approval of the Federal Reserve for any merger involving a bank holding company or any acquisition by a bank holding company of another bank or bank holding company. Subject to certain conditions (including deposit concentration limits established by the BHCA), the Federal Reserve may allow a bank holding company to acquire banks located in any state of the United States. In approving interstate acquisitions, the Federal Reserve is required to give effect to applicable state law limitations on the aggregate amount of deposits that may be held by the acquiring bank holding company and its insured depository institution affiliates in the state in which the target bank is located (provided that those limits do not discriminate against out-of-state depository institutions or their holding companies) and state laws that require that the target bank have been in existence for a minimum period of time (not to exceed five years) before being acquired by an out-of-state bank holding company.

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The BHCA generally prohibits a bank holding company from acquiring direct or indirect ownership or control of more than 5% of the voting shares of any company that is not a bank and from engaging in any business other than that of banking, managing and controlling banks or furnishing services to banks and their subsidiaries. This general prohibition is subject to a number of exceptions. The principal exception allows bank holding companies to engage in, and to own shares of companies engaged in, certain businesses found by the Federal Reserve to be so closely related to banking ... as to be a proper incident thereto. This authority would permit First Busey to engage in a variety of banking-related businesses, including the ownership and operation of a thrift, or any entity engaged in consumer finance, equipment leasing, the operation of a computer service bureau (including software development), and mortgage banking and brokerage. The BHCA generally does not place territorial restrictions on the domestic activities of non-bank subsidiaries of bank holding companies.

Additionally, bank holding companies that meet certain eligibility requirements prescribed by the BHCA and elect to operate as financial holding companies may engage in, or own shares in companies engaged in, a wider range of nonbanking activities, including securities and insurance underwriting and sales, merchant banking and any other activity that the Federal Reserve, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, determines by regulation or order is financial in nature, incidental to any such financial activity or complementary to any such financial activity and does not pose a substantial risk to the safety or soundness of depository institutions or the financial system generally. First Busey has elected (and the Federal Reserve has accepted First Busey's election) to operate as a financial holding company.

Federal law also prohibits any person or company from acquiring control of an FDIC-insured depository institution or its holding company without prior notice to the appropriate federal bank regulator. Control is conclusively presumed to exist upon the acquisition of 25% or more of the outstanding voting securities of a bank or bank holding company, but may arise under certain circumstances between 10% and 25% ownership.

Capital Requirements

Bank holding companies are required to maintain minimum levels of capital in accordance with Federal Reserve capital adequacy guidelines. If capital levels fall below the minimum required levels, a bank holding company, among other things, may be denied approval to acquire or establish additional banks or non-bank businesses.

The Federal Reserve's capital guidelines establish the following minimum regulatory capital requirements for bank holding companies: (i) a risk-based requirement expressed as a percentage of total assets weighted according to risk; and (ii) a leverage requirement expressed as a percentage of total assets. The risk-based requirement consists of a minimum ratio of total capital to total risk-weighted assets of 8% and a minimum ratio of Tier 1 capital to total risk-weighted assets of 4%. The leverage requirement consists of a minimum ratio of Tier 1 capital to total assets of 3% for the most highly rated companies, with a minimum requirement of 4% for all others. For purposes of these capital standards, Tier 1 capital consists primarily of permanent stockholders' equity less intangible assets (other than certain loan servicing rights and purchased credit card relationships). Total capital consists primarily of Tier 1 capital plus certain other debt and equity instruments that do not qualify as Tier 1 capital and a portion of First Busey's allowance for loan losses.

The risk-based and leverage standards described above are minimum requirements. Higher capital levels will be required if warranted by the particular circumstances or risk profiles of individual banking organizations. For example, the Federal Reserve's capital guidelines contemplate that additional capital may be required to take adequate account of, among other things, interest-rate risk, or the risks posed by concentrations of credit, nontraditional activities or securities trading activities. Further, any banking organization experiencing or anticipating significant growth would be expected to maintain capital ratios, including tangible capital positions (*i.e.*, Tier 1 capital less all intangible assets), well above the minimum levels. As of December 31, 2008, First Busey had regulatory capital in excess of the Federal Reserve's minimum requirements.

Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008

Recent events in the U.S. and global financial markets, including the deterioration of the worldwide credit markets, have created significant challenges for financial institutions such as the Bank. Dramatic declines in the housing market during the past year, marked by falling home prices and increasing levels of mortgage foreclosures, have resulted in significant write-downs of asset values by financial institutions, including government-sponsored entities and major commercial and investment banks. In addition, many lenders and institutional investors have reduced, and in some cases, ceased to provide funding to borrowers, including other financial institutions, as a result of concern about the stability of the financial markets and the strength of counterparties.

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In response to the crises affecting the U.S. banking system and financial markets and to bolster the distressed economy and improve consumer confidence in the financial system, on October 3, 2008, the U.S. Congress passed, and President Bush signed into law, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (the EESA). The EESA authorizes the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury (the Treasury) to implement various temporary emergency programs designed to strengthen the capital positions of financial institutions and stimulate the availability of credit within the U.S. financial system. Financial institutions participating in certain of the programs established under the EESA will be required to adopt the Treasury s standards for executive compensation and corporate governance.

The TARP Capital Purchase Program

On October 14, 2008, the Treasury announced that it will provide Tier 1 capital (in the form of perpetual preferred stock together with a warrant to acquire shares of common stock) to eligible financial institutions. This program, known as the TARP Capital Purchase Program (the CPP), allocates \$250 billion from the \$700 billion authorized by the EESA to the Treasury for the purchase of senior preferred shares from qualifying financial institutions (the CPP Preferred Stock). Eligible institutions can sell CPP Preferred Stock to the Treasury in amounts equal to between 1% and 3% of the institution s risk-weighted assets. The Company elected to participate in the CPP and, on March 6, 2009, consummated the sale of \$100 million of CPP Preferred Stock together with a warrant to acquire 1,147,666 shares of Company common stock, to Treasury. For further discussion of the Company s participation in the CPP, see below under Recent Developments *Participation in the Capital Purchase Program*.

Dividend Payments

First Busey s ability to pay dividends to its stockholders may be affected by both general corporate law considerations and policies of the Federal Reserve applicable to bank holding companies. As a Nevada corporation, First Busey is subject to the limitations of Nevada law, which allows First Busey to pay dividends unless, after such dividend, First Busey would not be able to pay its debts as they become due in the usual course of business or First Busey s total assets would be less than the sum of its total liabilities plus any amount that would be needed if First Busey were to be dissolved at the time of the dividend payment. Additionally, policies of the Federal Reserve caution that a bank holding company should not pay cash dividends unless its net income available to common stockholders over the past year has been sufficient to fully fund the dividends and the prospective rate of earnings retention appears consistent with its capital needs, asset quality, and overall financial condition. The Federal Reserve also possesses enforcement powers over bank holding companies and their non-bank subsidiaries to prevent or remedy actions that represent unsafe or unsound practices or violations of applicable statutes and regulations. Among these powers is the ability to proscribe the payment of dividends by banks and bank holding companies.

In addition to the foregoing, as discussed below in more detail under Recent Developments *Participation in the Capital Purchase Program*, our participation in the CPP further restricts our ability to pay dividends. For example, the terms of the CPP Preferred Stock provide that no dividends on any common or preferred stock that ranks equal to or junior to the CPP Preferred Stock may be paid unless and until all accrued and unpaid dividends for all past dividend periods on the CPP Preferred Stock have been fully paid.

Federal Securities Regulation

First Busey s common stock is registered with the SEC under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). Consequently, First Busey is subject to the information, proxy solicitation, insider transactions and other restrictions and requirements of the SEC under the Exchange Act.

THE BANKS

General

Busey Bank, N.A. is a national bank chartered by the OCC under the National Bank Act and is also a member of the Federal Reserve System. Busey Bank is an Illinois-chartered bank. The deposit accounts of the Banks are insured by the FDIC's Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) to the maximum extent provided under federal law and FDIC regulations.

As a national bank, Busey Bank, N.A. is subject to the examination, supervision, reporting and enforcement requirements of the OCC, the chartering authority for national banks. The FDIC, as administrator of the DIF, also has regulatory authority over Busey Bank, N.A.. As an Illinois-chartered FDIC-insured bank, Busey Bank is subject to the examination, supervision, reporting and enforcement requirements of the DFPR, the chartering authority for Illinois banks, and the FDIC, designated by federal law as the primary federal regulator of insured state banks that, like Busey Bank, are not members of the Federal Reserve System (non-member banks). Busey Bank is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank System, which provides a central credit facility primarily for member institutions.

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Deposit Insurance

As FDIC-insured institutions, the Banks are required to pay deposit insurance premium assessments to the FDIC. The FDIC has adopted a risk-based assessment system whereby FDIC-insured depository institutions pay insurance premiums at rates based on their risk classification. An institution's risk classification is assigned based on its capital levels and the level of supervisory concern the institution poses to the regulators. Under the regulations of the FDIC, as presently in effect, insurance assessments range from 0.12% to 0.50% of total deposits for the first quarter 2009 assessment period only (subject to the application of assessment credits, if any, issued by the FDIC in 2008). Effective April 1, 2009, insurance assessments will range from 0.07% to 0.78% of total deposits, depending on an institution's risk classification, its levels of unsecured debt and secured liabilities, and, in certain cases, its level of brokered deposits. In addition, the FDIC recently passed an interim rule authorizing the FDIC to impose an emergency special assessment equal to 0.20% of total deposits on June 30, 2009 (that will be collected on September 30, 2009), and further authorizing the FDIC to impose additional emergency special assessments after June 30, 2009, of up to 0.10% of total deposits, whenever the FDIC estimates that the reserve ratio of the DIF will fall to a level that the FDIC believes would adversely affect public confidence in federal deposit insurance or to a level that will be close to zero or negative at the end of a calendar quarter. The interim rule, however, is subject to a 30-day comment period that will expire on April 2, 2009, and may be subject to change before any special assessments are imposed on insured depository institutions.

Liability of Commonly Controlled Institutions

Under federal law, institutions insured by the FDIC may be liable for any loss incurred by, or reasonably expected to be incurred by, the FDIC in connection with the default of commonly controlled FDIC-insured depository institutions or any assistance provided by the FDIC to commonly controlled FDIC-insured depository institutions in danger of default. Because First Busey controls each of the Banks, the Banks are commonly controlled for purposes of these provisions of federal law.

FICO Assessments

The Financing Corporation (FICO) is a mixed-ownership governmental corporation chartered by the former Federal Home Loan Bank Board pursuant to the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation Recapitalization Act of 1987 to function as a financing vehicle for the recapitalization of the former Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. FICO issued 30-year non-callable bonds of approximately \$8.2 billion that mature by 2019. Since 1996, federal legislation has required that all FDIC-insured depository institutions pay assessments to cover interest payments on FICO's outstanding obligations. These FICO assessments are in addition to amounts assessed by the FDIC for deposit insurance. During the year ended December 31, 2008, the FICO assessment rate was approximately 0.01% of deposits.

Supervisory Assessments

National banks are required to pay supervisory assessments to the OCC to fund the operations of the agency. The amount of the assessment paid to the OCC is calculated using a formula that takes into account the bank's size and its supervisory condition (as determined by the composite rating assigned to the bank as a result of its most recent OCC examination). During the year ended December 31, 2008, Busey Bank, N.A. paid supervisory assessments to the OCC totaling \$0.1 million.

Illinois-chartered banks are required to pay supervisory assessments to the DFPR to fund its operations. The amount of the assessment paid by an Illinois bank to the DFPR is calculated on the basis of the institution's total assets, including consolidated subsidiaries, as reported to the DFPR. During the year ended December 31, 2008, Busey Bank paid supervisory assessments to the DFPR totaling \$0.4 million.

Capital Requirements

Banks are generally required to maintain capital levels in excess of other businesses. The federal bank regulatory agencies have established the following minimum capital standards for insured state non-member banks and national banks, such as the Banks: (i) a leverage requirement consisting of a minimum ratio of Tier 1 capital to average total assets of 3% for the most highly-rated banks with a minimum requirement of at least 4% for all others; and (ii) a risk-based capital requirement consisting of a minimum ratio of total capital to total risk-weighted assets of 8% and a minimum ratio of Tier 1 capital to total risk-weighted assets of 4%. In general, the components of Tier 1 capital and total capital are the same as those for bank holding companies discussed above.

The capital requirements described above are minimum requirements. Higher capital levels will be required if warranted by the particular circumstances or risk profiles of individual institutions. For example, federal regulations provide that additional capital may be required to take adequate account of, among other things, interest rate risk or the risks posed by concentrations of credit, nontraditional activities or securities trading activities.

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Further, federal law and regulations provide various incentives for financial institutions to maintain regulatory capital at levels in excess of minimum regulatory requirements. For example, a financial institution that is well-capitalized may qualify for exemptions from prior notice or application requirements otherwise applicable to certain types of activities and may qualify for expedited processing of other required notices or applications. Additionally, one of the criteria that determines a bank holding company's eligibility to operate as a financial holding company is a requirement that all of its financial institution subsidiaries be well-capitalized. Under the regulations of the FDIC and the OCC, in order to be well-capitalized, a financial institution must maintain a ratio of total capital to total risk-weighted assets of 10% or greater, a ratio of Tier 1 capital to total risk-weighted assets of 6% or greater and a ratio of Tier 1 capital to average total assets of 5% or greater.

Federal law also provides the federal banking regulators with broad power to take prompt corrective action to resolve the problems of undercapitalized institutions. The extent of the regulators' powers depends on whether the institution in question is adequately capitalized, undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized or critically undercapitalized, in each case as defined by regulation. Depending upon the capital category to which an institution is assigned, the regulators' corrective powers include: (i) requiring the institution to submit a capital restoration plan; (ii) limiting the institution's asset growth and restricting its activities; (iii) requiring the institution to issue additional capital stock (including additional voting stock) or to be acquired; (iv) restricting transactions between the institution and its affiliates; (v) restricting the interest rate the institution may pay on deposits; (vi) ordering a new election of directors of the institution; (vii) requiring that senior executive officers or directors be dismissed; (viii) prohibiting the institution from accepting deposits from correspondent banks; (ix) requiring the institution to divest certain subsidiaries; (x) prohibiting the payment of principal or interest on subordinated debt; and (xi) ultimately, appointing a receiver for the institution.

As of December 31, 2008: (i) neither of the Banks was subject to a directive from its primary federal regulator to increase its capital to an amount in excess of the minimum regulatory capital requirements; (ii) each of the Banks exceeded its minimum regulatory capital requirements under applicable capital adequacy guidelines; and (iii) each of the Banks was well-capitalized, as defined by applicable regulations.

Dividend Payments

The primary source of funds for First Busey is dividends from the Banks. Under the Illinois Banking Act, Busey Bank generally may not pay dividends in excess of its net profits. Under the National Bank Act, Busey Bank, N.A. may pay dividends out of its undivided profits in such amounts and at such times as its board of directors deems prudent. Without prior OCC approval, however, Busey Bank, N.A. may not pay dividends in any calendar year that, in the aggregate, exceed its year-to-date net income plus its retained net income for the two preceding years. In addition, because of the operations of Busey Bank, N.A. have suffered due to the significant downturn in the real estate market in southwest Florida since 2007, Busey Bank, N.A. currently is not permitted by the OCC to pay dividends.

The payment of dividends by any financial institution is affected by the requirement to maintain adequate capital pursuant to applicable capital adequacy guidelines and regulations, and a financial institution generally is prohibited from paying any dividends if, following payment thereof, the institution would be undercapitalized. As described above, each of the Banks exceeded its minimum capital requirements under applicable guidelines as of December 31, 2008; however, as noted above, Busey Bank, N.A. currently is not permitted by the OCC to pay dividends. At December 31, 2008, Busey Bank had undistributed net profits of \$49.2 million. Notwithstanding the availability of funds for dividends, however, the FDIC may prohibit the payment of dividends if it determines such payment would constitute an unsafe or unsound practice.

Insider Transactions

The Banks are subject to certain restrictions imposed by federal law on extensions of credit to First Busey and its subsidiaries, on investments in the stock or other securities of First Busey and its subsidiaries and the acceptance of the stock or other securities of First Busey or its subsidiaries as collateral for loans made by the Banks. Certain limitations and reporting requirements are also placed on extensions of credit by the Banks to

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their directors and officers, to directors and officers of First Busey and its subsidiaries, to principal stockholders of First Busey and to related interests of such directors, officers and principal stockholders. In addition, federal law and regulations may affect the terms upon which any person who is a director or officer of First Busey or any of its subsidiaries or a principal shareholder of First Busey may obtain credit from banks with which the Banks maintain correspondent relationships.

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Safety and Soundness Standards

The federal banking agencies have adopted guidelines that establish operational and managerial standards to promote the safety and soundness of federally insured depository institutions. The guidelines set forth standards for internal controls, information systems, internal audit systems, loan documentation, credit underwriting, interest rate exposure, asset growth, compensation, fees and benefits, asset quality and earnings.

In general, the safety and soundness guidelines prescribe the goals to be achieved in each area, and each institution is responsible for establishing its own procedures to achieve those goals. If an institution fails to comply with any of the standards set forth in the guidelines, the institution's primary federal regulator may require the institution to submit a plan for achieving and maintaining compliance. If an institution fails to submit an acceptable compliance plan, or fails in any material respect to implement a compliance plan that has been accepted by its primary federal regulator, the regulator is required to issue an order directing the institution to cure the deficiency. Until the deficiency cited in the regulator's order is cured, the regulator may restrict the institution's rate of growth, require the institution to increase its capital, restrict the rates the institution pays on deposits or require the institution to take any action the regulator deems appropriate under the circumstances. Noncompliance with the standards established by the safety and soundness guidelines may also constitute grounds for other enforcement action by the federal banking regulators, including cease and desist orders and civil money penalty assessments.

Branching Authority

Illinois banks, such as Busey Bank, have the authority under Illinois law to establish branches anywhere in the State of Illinois, subject to receipt of all required regulatory approvals. National banks headquartered in Florida, such as Busey Bank, N.A., have the same branching rights in Florida as banks chartered under Florida law, subject to OCC approval. Florida law grants Florida-chartered banks the authority to establish branches anywhere in the State of Florida, subject to the receipt of all required regulatory approvals.

Federal law permits state and national banks to merge with banks in other states subject to: (i) regulatory approval; (ii) federal and state deposit concentration limits; and (iii) state law limitations requiring the merging bank to have been in existence for a minimum period of time (not to exceed five years) prior to the merger. The establishment of new interstate branches or the acquisition of individual branches of a bank in another state (rather than the acquisition of an out-of-state bank in its entirety) is permitted only in those states the laws of which expressly authorize such expansion.

State Bank Investments and Activities

Busey Bank generally is permitted to make investments and engage in activities directly or through subsidiaries as authorized by Illinois law. However, under federal law and FDIC regulations, FDIC-insured state banks are prohibited, subject to certain exceptions, from making or retaining equity investments of a type, or in an amount, that are not permissible for a national bank. Federal law and FDIC regulations also prohibit FDIC-insured state banks and their subsidiaries, subject to certain exceptions, from engaging as principal in any activity that is not permitted for a national bank unless the bank meets, and continues to meet, its minimum regulatory capital requirements and the FDIC determines the activity would not pose a significant risk to the deposit insurance fund of which the bank is a member. These restrictions have not had, and are not currently expected to have, a material impact on the operations of Busey Bank.

Financial Subsidiaries

Under federal law and OCC regulations, national banks are authorized to engage, through financial subsidiaries, in any activity that is permissible for a financial holding company and any activity that the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Federal Reserve,

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determines is financial in nature or incidental to any such financial activity, except (i) insurance underwriting, (ii) real estate development or real estate investment activities (unless otherwise permitted by law), (iii) insurance company portfolio investments and (iv) merchant banking. The authority of a national bank to invest in a financial subsidiary is subject to a number of conditions, including, among other things, requirements that the bank must be well-managed and well-capitalized (after deducting from capital the bank's outstanding investments in financial subsidiaries). Federal law also provides that state banks may invest in financial subsidiaries (assuming they have the requisite investment authority under applicable state law), subject to substantially the same conditions that apply to national bank investments in financial subsidiaries. Neither of the Banks has applied for or received approval to establish any financial subsidiaries.

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Federal Reserve System

Federal Reserve regulations, as presently in effect, require depository institutions to maintain reserves against their transaction accounts (primarily NOW and regular checking accounts), as follows: for transaction accounts aggregating \$44.4 million or less, the reserve requirement is 3% of total transaction accounts; and for transaction accounts aggregating in excess of \$44.4 million, the reserve requirement is \$1.023 million plus 10% of the aggregate amount of total transaction accounts in excess of \$44.4 million. The first \$10.3 million of otherwise reservable balances are exempted from the reserve requirements. These reserve requirements are subject to annual adjustment by the Federal Reserve. The Banks are in compliance with the foregoing requirements.

Busey Wealth Management

Busey Wealth Management (the Trust Company) is an Illinois corporation that operates under a certificate of authority to exercise trust powers issued by the DFPR. As such, the Trust Company is subject to the examination, supervision, reporting and enforcement requirements established for trust companies by the DFPR. Additionally, because the Trust Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of First Busey, the Federal Reserve, as the primary federal regulator of First Busey, has the authority to conduct such examinations of the Trust Company as the Federal Reserve deems necessary. The Trust Company is required to maintain capital at the level determined by the DFPR to be necessary for the safe and sound operation of the Trust Company. Like Busey Bank, the Trust Company is required to pay supervisory assessments to the DFPR, which for the year ended December 31, 2008, was insignificant.

Employees

As of December 31, 2008, First Busey and its subsidiaries had a total of 986 employees (full-time equivalents).

Executive Officers

Following is a description of the business experience for at least the past five years of our executive officers.

Van A. Dukeman. Mr. Dukeman, age 50, has served as a Director, Chief Executive Officer and President of First Busey Corporation since August 2007. Effective February 28, 2009, Mr. Dukeman is also the Chief Executive Officer and President of Busey Bank. Previously, Mr. Dukeman served as a Director, Chief Executive Officer and President of Main Street Trust, Inc. until its merger with First Busey.

Barbara J. Harrington. Mrs. Harrington, age 49, has served as Chief Financial Officer of First Busey Corporation since March 1999. She served as Controller and Senior Vice President of Busey Bank from December 1994 to March 1999. Mrs. Harrington has served in various financial and accounting positions since joining the organization

in 1991.

Thomas M. Good. Mr. Good, age 56, has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Busey Bank, N. A. since September 2007. In addition, Mr. Good serves as Executive Vice President of First Busey Corporation supervising the Risk Management Division, a position he has held since joining the organization in 2001.

David B. White. Mr. White, age 57, has served as Chief Operating Officer of First Busey Corporation since August 2007. Previously, Mr. White served as Chief Financial Officer of Main Street Trust, Inc. until its merger with First Busey.

Securities and Exchange Commission Reporting and Other Information

First Busey's web site address is www.busey.com. We make available on this web site our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments thereto, as reasonably practicable after such reports are filed with the SEC, and in any event, on the same day as such filing with the SEC. Reference to this web site does not constitute incorporation by reference of the information contained on the web site and should not be considered part of this document.

First Busey has adopted a code of ethics applicable to our employees, officers, and directors. The text of this code of ethics may be found under Investor Relations on our website.

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Recent Developments

Participation in Capital Purchase Program

On March 6, 2009, the Company, pursuant to the CPP implemented under the EESA, entered into a Letter Agreement, which includes the Securities Purchase Agreement Standard Terms (collectively, the Purchase Agreement), with the Treasury pursuant to which the Company issued and sold to Treasury 100,000 shares of the Company's Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series T, together with a warrant to purchase 1,147,666 shares of the Company's common stock for an aggregate purchase price of \$100 million in cash. The warrant has a ten-year term and is immediately exercisable upon its issuance, with an exercise price equal to \$13.07 per share of the common stock.

The Series T Preferred Stock qualifies as Tier 1 capital and pays cumulative dividends at a rate of 5% per annum for the first five years, and 9% per annum thereafter. The Series T Preferred Stock may be redeemed by the Company at any time, subject to approval of the Federal Reserve. Any redemption of the Series T Preferred Stock will be at the per share liquidation amount of \$1,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends.

Prior to the third anniversary of Treasury's purchase of the Series T Preferred Stock, unless the Series T Preferred Stock has been redeemed or Treasury has transferred all of the Series T Preferred Stock to one or more third parties, the consent of Treasury will be required for the Company to increase the dividend paid on its common stock above its most recent quarterly dividend of \$0.20 per share or repurchase shares of its common stock (other than in connection with benefit plans). The Series T Preferred Stock is non-voting except for class voting rights on matters that would adversely affect the rights of the holders of the Series T Preferred Stock.

Participants in the TARP Capital Purchase Program were required to accept several compensation-related limitations associated with this Program. Each of our senior executive officers in March 2009 agreed in writing to accept the compensation standards in existence at that time under the CPP and thereby cap or eliminate some of their contractual or legal rights. The compensation-related limitations include the following: limits on compensation to exclude incentives to take unnecessary and excessive risks; a clawback with respect to incentive compensation based on statements of earnings, gains or other criteria that are later proven to be materially inaccurate; and a prohibition on golden parachute payments. EESA also limits the deductibility of compensation earned by our senior executive officers to \$500,000 per year.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). ARRA provides for large amounts of new government spending and programs. In addition, ARRA imposes extensive new executive compensation and corporate governance limitations on current and future participants in the CPP, which are in addition to those previously announced by Treasury. Thus, the newly enacted compensation-related limitations are applicable to the Company and, to the extent Treasury may implement these restrictions unilaterally, the Company will apply these provisions. The new restrictions include additional limits on executive compensation such as prohibiting the payment or accrual of any bonus, retention award or incentive compensation to our five most highly compensated employees except for the payment of long-term restricted stock; prohibiting any compensation plan that would encourage the manipulation of earnings; and extending the clawback required by EESA to the top 20 most highly compensated employees (in addition to our senior executive officers). The Stimulus Act also requires compliance with new corporate governance standards including an annual say on pay shareholder vote, the adoption

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of policies regarding excessive or luxury expenditures, and a certification by our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer that we have complied with the standards in the Stimulus Act. These new limits will remain in place until the Company has redeemed the CPP Preferred Stock sold to Treasury, which is now permitted under ARRA without penalty and without the need to raise new capital, subject to Treasury's consultation with the Company's federal regulators.

The full impact of the Stimulus Act is not yet certain because it calls for additional regulatory action. The Company will continue to monitor the effect of the Stimulus Act and the anticipated regulations.

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Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program

In connection with the recently enacted EESA and in conjunction with the Treasury's actions to address the current credit and liquidity crisis in financial markets, the FDIC announced the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program, which will temporarily provide to participating institutions unlimited deposit insurance coverage for non-interest bearing transaction accounts maintained at FDIC insured institutions (the transaction account guarantee program), and provide a limited guarantee on certain newly-issued senior unsecured debt (the debt guarantee program). Institutions that did not opt out the two guarantee programs are subject to the following assessments for participation: (i) for the debt guarantee program, between 50 and 100 basis points per annum for eligible senior unsecured debt (depending on the maturity date) issued between October 14, 2008 and June 30, 2009; and (ii) for the transaction account guarantee program, 10 basis points per annum on amounts in excess of \$250,000 in non-interest bearing transaction accounts through and including December 31, 2009. The Bank decided to continue to participate in these programs and did not opt out. As a result, the Bank is incurring fees associated with the programs (although, as of December 31, 2008, it had not issued any debt that is covered by the debt guarantee program).

Financial Stability Plan

On February 10, 2009, Treasury outlined a comprehensive plan consisting of multiple components designed to help restore stability to the U.S. financial system. As outlined by Treasury, this plan, referred to as the Financial Stability Plan, will include: the Capital Assistance Program pursuant to which certain financial institutions will be permitted to sell convertible preferred stock to Treasury; a public-private investment fund designed to provide greater means for financial institutions to cleanse their balance sheets of non-performing legacy assets; a consumer and business lending initiative of up to \$1 trillion; a housing support and foreclosure prevention program; and a small business and community lending initiative. Because only a general outline of the Financial Stability Plan has been disclosed thus far, it is difficult to predict at this point what effect, if any, such programs will have on the U.S. financial system generally or First Busey's business specifically.

Increase in FDIC Deposit Insurance Premiums

On February 27, 2009, the FDIC issued a proposed rule that would impose a significant emergency special assessment on all FDIC-insured depository institutions equal to 0.20% of deposits, regardless of their risk level. The FDIC has proposed this special assessment in an effort to increase the DIF, which declined from 0.76% of total insured deposits as of September 30, 2008, to 0.40% of total insured deposits as of December 31, 2008. The proposed special assessment would be on total deposits as of June 30, 2009, to be collected on September 30, 2009. It is important to note that the rule proposing the special assessment has not been finalized and may change. For example, it has been reported that the FDIC Chairman would consider reducing the special assessment rate to 0.10% if legislation is passed that allows it to borrow as much as \$100 billion from Treasury. However, if the rule is finalized in its current form, we anticipate that this one-time special assessment could cost us an additional \$7.0 million in deposit insurance premiums in 2009.

Although the proposed assessment is only a one-time assessment, the FDIC notes in the proposed rule that if the Deposit Insurance Fund's reserve ratio were to fall below a level that the Board believes would adversely affect public confidence or to a level which shall be close to zero or negative at the end of a calendar quarter, an additional emergency special assessment of up to 0.10% may be imposed by a vote of the Board.

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Item 1A. Risk Factors

This section highlights the risks management believes could adversely affect our financial performance. Additional possible risks that could affect us adversely and cannot be predicted, may arise at any time. Other risks that are immaterial at this time may also have an adverse affect on our future financial condition.

A continued downturn in the economy, particularly in downstate Illinois and southwest Florida, where our business is primarily conducted, could have an adverse affect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our business and earnings are directly affected by general business and economic conditions in the United States and, in particular, economic conditions in downstate Illinois and southwest Florida. These conditions include legislative and regulatory changes, short-term and long-term interest rates, inflation, and changes in government monetary and fiscal policies, all of which are beyond our control.

In late 2007 and all of 2008, the U.S. economy experienced a severe downturn that has continued throughout the first quarter 2009, and by some measures the downturn appears to be accelerating. Southwest Florida, in particular, has been severely affected by the current economic downturn. As a result, we have experienced asset quality issues in the southwest Florida market, and we expect to continue to experience materially higher levels of problem assets unless the economy greatly improves. A continued downturn in economic conditions, in particular within our primary market areas of downstate Illinois and southwest Florida, could result in a decrease in demand for our products and services, an increase in loan delinquencies and defaults, and increases in problem assets and foreclosures. Real estate pledged as collateral for loans made by us has and may continue to decline in value, in turn reducing customers' borrowing power, and reducing the value of assets and collateral associated with our existing loans. These factors could lead to reduced interest income and an increase in the provision for loan losses.

If the current weak economic conditions continue or worsen, our business, growth and profitability are likely to suffer a material adverse effect. To the extent that our business customers' underlying businesses are harmed as a result of the general economic environment, our customers are more likely to default on their loans. In addition, the unemployment rate in the United States increased significantly during the second half of 2008 and appears to be continuing in 2009. Although employment levels in our primary market area of downstate Illinois has held up better than many other areas of the country, there is no guarantee that downstate Illinois will avoid the high unemployment rates that have harmed other areas of the country. Negative economic trends could lead to higher past due and non-accrual loans, resulting in a material adverse effect to our operating results and ability to pay dividends on our common stock.

If the Banks are unable to pay our holding company cash dividends to meet our cash obligations, our business, financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected.

Dividends paid by the Banks to us provide cash flow that we use to service our debt, pay holding company expenses and meet other of our cash obligations. Because of the deterioration of the loan portfolio Busey Bank, N.A. resulting from the severe downturn in the southwestern Florida real estate market, we currently do not have the ability to cause Busey Bank, N.A. to pay dividends to us, and we therefore are reliant primarily on Busey Bank for dividends. In addition, various statutory provisions restrict the amount of dividends the Banks can pay to our holding company without regulatory approval. It is possible that, depending upon the financial condition of the Banks and other factors, the applicable regulatory authorities could assert that payment of dividends or other payments, including payments to our holding company, is an unsafe or

unsound practice. If the Banks are unable to pay dividends to us, particularly in the case of Busey Bank given that it is the larger of the two Banks and currently is the only one of the two that is permitted to pay dividends to us we may not be able to service our debt or otherwise meet our cash obligations. The inability of the holding company to receive any dividends from the Banks could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations and could cause us to defer interest payments on the debentures.

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A significant portion of the loans in our portfolio is secured by real estate.

A large percentage of our loans are collateralized by real estate. The market value of real estate can fluctuate significantly in a short period of time as a result of market conditions in the geographic area in which the real estate is located. Adverse changes affecting real estate values in one or more of our markets could increase the credit risk associated with our loan portfolio, and could result in losses which would adversely affect profitability. Further adverse change in the economy affecting real estate values generally and, specifically, in downstate Illinois or southwest Florida, could significantly impair the value of property pledged as collateral on loans and affect our ability to sell the collateral upon foreclosure. Collateral may have to be sold for less than the outstanding balance of the loan which could result in loss.

The effects of ongoing mortgage market challenges, combined with the ongoing correction in residential real estate market prices and reduced levels of home sales, has the potential to adversely affect our real estate loan portfolio in several ways, each of which could adversely affect our operating results and/or financial condition. First, as noted above, approximately 22.9% of our loan portfolio consists of real estate construction loans, which primarily are loans made to home builders and developers. Further decrease in demand for the properties constructed by home builders and developers could result in higher delinquencies and greater charge-offs in future periods on loans made to such borrowers. Second, many Florida real estate markets, including the markets in southwest Florida, where the Banks operate, declined in value throughout 2008 and may continue to undergo a period of severe downturn. A continuation of the deteriorating real estate market in the southwest Florida market could result in a reduction in loan origination activity and increases in non-performing assets, net charge-offs and provisions for loan losses in that region. Third, the current market environment has led to a slowdown in the demand for residential real estate loans, which constitute a significant part of our overall portfolio. A slowdown in residential real estate lending may require us to devote a larger portion of our total assets to lower yielding investment securities, which could adversely affect our net interest margin.

Finally, the problems that have occurred in the residential real estate and mortgage markets have begun to spread to the commercial real estate market, particularly in Florida. As a result, the value of some of the collateral securing our commercial real estate loans in Florida has declined, and the demand for our commercial real estate loans in that state has decreased. In addition, we have experienced a downturn in credit performance by our commercial real estate loan customers located in Florida. In Illinois, we generally have not experienced a significant downturn in credit performance by our commercial real estate loan customers, but in light of the uncertainty that exists in the economy and credit markets nationally, there can be no guarantee that we will not experience any deterioration in such performance.

Construction and development loans are based upon estimates of costs and value associated with the complete project. These estimates may be inaccurate, and we may be exposed to more losses on these projects than on other loans.

Construction, land acquisition, and development loans make up a large portion of our total loan portfolio, and such lending involves additional risks because funds are advanced upon the security of the project, which is of uncertain value prior to its completion. Because of the uncertainties inherent in estimating construction costs and 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, construction 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, 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 of, 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. We have attempted to address these risks through our underwriting procedures, compliance with applicable regulations, and by limiting the amount of construction development lending.

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Our allowance for loan losses may be insufficient to absorb actual losses in our loan portfolio.

We established our allowance for loan losses and maintain it at a level considered adequate by management to absorb potential loan losses based on a continual analysis of our portfolio and market environment. The allowance for loan losses represents our estimate of probable losses in the portfolio at each balance sheet date and is supported by all available and relevant information. The allowance contains provisions for probable losses that have been identified relating to specific borrowing relationships, as well as probable losses inherent in the loan portfolio and credit undertakings that are not specifically identified. The amount of additions to the allowance for loan losses, which is charged to earnings through the provision for loan losses, is determined based on a variety of factors, including an analysis of the loan portfolios, historical loss experience and an evaluation of current economic conditions in the relevant market area. The amount of loan losses is susceptible to changes in economic, operating and other conditions within our markets, which may be beyond our control, and such losses may exceed current estimates.

The allowance for loan losses was \$98.7 million at December 31, 2008, an increase from \$42.6 million at December 31, 2007. At December 31, 2008, our allowance for loan losses as a percentage of total loans was 3.03%, compared to 1.39% at December 31, 2007, and as a percentage of total non-performing loans was 117.20%, compared to 211.95% at December 31, 2007. Allowance for loan losses coverage of non-performing loans decreased due to the large amount of charge-offs taken during 2008. Although management believes that the allowance for loan losses is adequate to absorb losses on any existing loans that may become uncollectible, in light of the current economic environment, significant additional provisions for loan losses may be necessary to supplement the allowance for loan losses in the future, either due to management's decision to do so or requirements by the regulators. Additional provisions to the allowance for loan losses and loan losses in excess of our reserves may adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Government regulation can result in limitations on our operations.

We operate in a highly regulated environment and are subject to supervision and regulation by a number of governmental regulatory agencies. Regulations adopted by these agencies, which are generally intended to provide protection for depositors and customers rather than for the benefit of stockholders, govern a comprehensive range of matters relating to ownership and control of our shares, our acquisition of other companies and businesses, permissible activities for us to engage in, maintenance of adequate capital levels, and other aspects of our operations. The laws and regulations applicable to the banking industry could change at any time, and we cannot predict the effect of these changes on our business and profitability. Increased regulation could increase our cost of compliance and adversely affect profitability.

Participation in Treasury's CPP restricts our ability to raise the common stock dividend and may result in dilution of common stockholders.

As discussed in Item 1 under Recent Developments, on March 6, 2009, we issued CPP Preferred Stock and a warrant to acquire up to 1,147,666 shares of our common stock to the Treasury Department under the CPP. Prior to March 6, 2012, unless we have redeemed the CPP Preferred Stock or Treasury has transferred the securities to a third party, Treasury's consent will be required for us to increase our common stock dividend or repurchase our common stock (other than repurchases in connection with benefit plans consistent with past practice). Under the anti-dilution provisions included in the terms of Treasury's CPP investment, the per share exercise price of the warrant and the number of shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrant will be adjusted upon certain issuances of our common stock at or below a specified price relative to the initial exercise price. The exercise of the common stock purchase warrant could result in dilution to existing common stockholders.

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As a participant in the CPP our business activities and corporate governance may be subject to additional restrictions and requirements, including requirements for lending activities and restrictions on compensation, some possibly with retroactive application, adopted by Congress, the Treasury Department or government agencies. For example, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 imposed retroactive compensation-related and corporate governance limitations even on those CPP participants that had closed their CPP transactions prior to the enacted of the legislation.

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We must effectively manage our credit risk.

There are risks in making any loan, including risks inherent in dealing with individual borrowers, risks of nonpayment, risks resulting from uncertainties as to the future value of collateral and risks resulting from changes in economic and industry conditions. We attempt to minimize our credit risk through prudent loan application approval procedures, careful monitoring of the concentration of loans within specific industries and geographic location, and periodic independent reviews of outstanding loans by our loan review and audit departments as well as external auditors. However, we cannot assure such approval and monitoring procedures will eliminate these credit risks.

Our business is subject to interest rate risk, and variations in interest rates may harm our financial performance.

Our earnings and profitability depend significantly on its net interest income. Net interest income represents the difference between interest income and fees earned on interest-earning assets and interest expense incurred on interest-bearing liabilities. In the event that interest paid on deposits and borrowings increases faster than the interest earned on loans and investments, there may be a negative impact on our net interest income. Changes in interest rates could also adversely affect the income of certain components of our noninterest income. An increase in interest rates may also affect the customer's ability to pay, which could in turn increase loan losses. In addition, higher interest rates could also increase our cost to borrow funds. We are unable to predict or control fluctuations in market interest rates which are affected by the economy.

Our wealth management business may be negatively impacted by changes in economic and market conditions.

Our wealth management business may be negatively impacted by changes in general economic conditions and the conditions in the financial and securities markets. Our management contracts generally provide for fees payable for wealth management services based on the market value of assets under management. Because most of our contracts provide for a fee based on market values of securities, downward fluctuations in securities prices may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition. In addition, the significant decline in the financial and securities markets since the second half of 2008 has adversely affected the assets that we manage and has resulted in a corresponding decline in the performance of our customers' portfolios. If the value of our customers' portfolios experience a prolonged period of decline, we may have difficulty retaining some of our wealth management customers who also may be banking customers.

We face strong competition from financial services companies and other companies that offer banking and wealth management services, which could harm our business.

We currently conduct our banking operations primarily in downstate Illinois and southwest Florida. In addition, we currently offer trust and investment management services through Busey Wealth Management, which is located in Champaign, Illinois, and accounts for a significant portion of our non-interest income. Many competitors offer the same banking and wealth management services within our market areas. These competitors include national banks, regional banks and other community banks. We also face competition from many other types of financial institutions, including savings and loan institutions, finance companies, brokerage firms, insurance companies, credit unions, mortgage banks and other financial intermediaries. In addition, a number of out-of-state financial intermediaries have opened production offices or otherwise solicit deposits in our market areas. Increased competition in our markets may result in reduced loans, deposits and commissions and brokers fees. Ultimately, we may not be able to compete successfully against current and future competitors. If we are unable to attract and retain banking and wealth management customers, we may be unable to continue to grow our loan and deposit portfolios and our commissions and

brokers fees, and our business, results of operations and financial condition may be adversely affected.

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We rely heavily on information systems to service customers.

An interruption in or breach in security of our information systems may result in a loss of customer business and reduced earnings. We utilize and rely heavily on communications and information systems in every aspect of our business. Any failure of these systems could result in disruptions in our customer service management, management information, deposit, loan, or other systems. While we have procedures in place to prevent or limit the effects of a failure, interruption, or security breach of its information systems, there can be no guarantee 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 our 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 an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operation.

We are also dependent on third-party service providers for data processing and other information processing systems that support our day-to-day banking, investment, and trust activities that are integral to our banking relationships with our customers. Any disruption in the services provided by these third parties could have an adverse effect on our operations and our ability to meet our customers' needs.

Our ability to attract and retain management and key personnel may affect future growth and earnings and the recent economic stimulus legislation imposes new compensation restrictions that could adversely affect our ability to do so.

Most of our success to date has been influenced strongly by our ability to attract and retain management experienced in banking and financial services and familiar with the communities in our market areas. Our ability to retain executive officers, the current management teams, lending and retail banking officers, and administrative staff of our subsidiaries will continue to be important to the successful implementation of our strategy. It is also critical, as we grow, to be able to attract and retain qualified additional staff with the appropriate level of experience and knowledge about our market areas to implement our community-based operating strategy. The unexpected loss of services of any key personnel, or the inability to recruit and retain qualified personnel in the future, could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and results of operation.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that was signed into law in February 2009 includes extensive new restrictions on our ability to pay retention awards, bonuses and other incentive compensation during the period in which we have any outstanding securities held by Treasury that were issued under TARP. Many of the restrictions are not limited to our senior executives and cover other employees whose contributions to revenue and performance can be significant. The limitations may adversely affect our ability to recruit and retain these key employees in addition to our senior executive officers, especially if we are competing for talent against institutions that are not subject to the same restrictions. For more information, refer to section "Recent Developments" in Item 1 of this Form 10-K.

A decline in our stock price or expected future cash flows, or a material adverse change in our results of operations or prospects, could result in further impairment of our goodwill.

A further significant and sustained decline in our stock price and market capitalization, a significant decline in our expected future cash flows, a significant adverse change in the business climate or slower growth rates could result in additional impairment of our goodwill. Further write-downs of goodwill could materially impact our operating results, but would have no impact on cash flow, tangible book value or

regulatory capital. For further discussion, see Note 14 to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this annual Report on Form 10-K.

Adverse weather affecting the markets we serve could hurt our business and prospects for growth.

We conduct a significant portion of our business in downstate Illinois. Downstate Illinois is a highly agricultural area and therefore the economy can be greatly affected by severe weather conditions, including, droughts, tornados and flooding. Unfavorable weather conditions may decrease agricultural productivity or could result in damage to our branch locations or the property of our customers, all of which could adversely affect the local economy. An adverse affect on the economy of downstate Illinois could negatively affect our profitability.

The southwest Florida market is at risk of hurricanes each year which may cause damage to our assets and those of our customers. Hurricane damage could adversely affect our financial condition in a number of ways. Damage caused to a branch location could result in temporary closure and inconvenience to customers which could result in loss of customers and business. A hurricane could also affect the local economy and impact customers ability to meet loan repayment terms and adversely affect our financial condition. Hurricane damage could significantly reduce value of collateral pledged as security against loans made by us.

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Growth and its impact on our infrastructure.

Our continued pace of growth may require it to raise additional capital in the future. We are required by federal and state regulations to maintain adequate levels of capital to support operations. As operations grow, the amount of capital required will increase. We may also be required to raise capital to support future acquisitions. Our ability to raise capital will depend on conditions in the capital markets, which are outside of its control, and on our financial performance. If additional capital cannot be raised when needed, we could be subject to restricted growth which could negatively impact expansion through future acquisitions.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

Item 2. Properties

First Busey's headquarters are located 201 West Main Street, Urbana, Illinois. Busey Bank and Busey Wealth Management headquarters are located at 100 West University Avenue, Champaign, Illinois. Busey Bank, N.A. headquarters are located at 7980 Summerlin Lakes Dr., Fort Myers, Florida. FirsTech headquarters are located at 130 North Water Street, Decatur, Illinois. These facilities, which are owned by the Company, house the executive and primary administrative offices of the respective entity. The Company also owns or leases other facilities within its primary market areas of Champaign, Macon, McLean and Peoria counties in Illinois, Indianapolis, Indiana and Lee and Charlotte counties in Florida.

First Busey and its subsidiaries own or lease all of the real property and/or buildings on which each respective entity is located. The Company considers its properties to be suitable and adequate for its present needs.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

As part of the ordinary course of business, First Busey and its subsidiaries are parties to litigation that is incidental to their regular business activities.

There is no material pending litigation in which First Busey or any of its subsidiaries is involved or of which any of their property is the subject. Furthermore, there is no pending legal proceeding that is adverse to First Busey in which any director, officer or affiliate of First Busey, or any associate of any such director or officer, is a party, or has a material interest.

Item 4. Submission Of Matters To A Vote Of Security Holders

No matter was submitted to a vote of security holders during the quarter ended December 31, 2008.

Table of Contents**Part II****Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities***Common Stock Prices and Dividends*

The following table presents for the periods indicated the high and low sale price for First Busey common stock as reported on The Nasdaq Global Select Market.

| Market Prices of Common Stock | 2008 | | 2007 | |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | High | Low | High | Low |
| First Quarter | \$ 22.00 | \$ 17.47 | \$ 23.97 | \$ 20.68 |
| Second Quarter | \$ 22.49 | \$ 13.07 | \$ 21.81 | \$ 19.11 |
| Third Quarter | \$ 22.05 | \$ 11.07 | \$ 22.75 | \$ 18.70 |
| Fourth Quarter | \$ 19.67 | \$ 12.68 | \$ 23.18 | \$ 19.19 |

During 2008 and 2007, First Busey declared cash dividends per share of common stock as follows:

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|---------|--------|---------|
| January | \$.20 | \$ 0.23 |
| April | \$.20 | \$ 0.18 |
| July | \$.20 | \$ 0.18 |
| October | \$.20 | \$ 0.18 |

The Company's Board of Directors and management are currently committed to continuing to pay regular cash dividends; however no guarantee can be given to future dividends as they are dependent on the future earnings, capital requirements and financial condition of the Company and its subsidiaries. As discussed above, First Busey consummated the sale of \$100 million of senior preferred stock to Treasury pursuant to the Capital Purchase Program on March 6, 2009. The terms of the senior preferred stock place certain restrictions on the Company's ability to pay dividends on its common stock. First, no dividends on the First Busey's common stock can be paid unless all accrued dividends on Treasury's senior preferred stock have been paid in full. Second, until the third anniversary of the date of Treasury's investment, First Busey may not increase the dividends paid on its common stock beyond its most recent quarterly dividend of \$0.20 per share without first obtaining the consent of Treasury.

For a discussion of restrictions on dividends, please see the discussion of dividend restrictions under Item 1. Business - Supervision and Regulation on pages 7-13.

As of February 28, 2009, First Busey Corporation had 35,815,892 shares of common stock outstanding held by 1,472 holders of record.

Table of Contents**Stock Option Plans**

The following table discloses the number of outstanding options, warrants and rights granted by the Corporation to participants in equity compensation plan, as well as the number of securities remaining available for future issuance under these plans. The table provides this information separately for equity compensation plans that have and have not been approved by security holders. Additional information regarding stock option plans is presented in Note 16 – Stock Incentive Plans in the notes to the consolidated financial statements included in Item 8.

| Plan Category | (a) Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights | (b) Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights | (c) Number of securities remaining for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) | |
|--|--|--|--|----------------|
| | | | | |
| Equity compensation plans approved by stockholders | 1,918,888 | \$ 17.11 | | 857,500 |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by stockholders | | | | |
| Total | 1,918,888 | \$ 17.11 | | 857,500 |

Stock Repurchases

There were no purchases made by or on behalf of First Busey of shares of its common stock during the quarter ended December 31, 2008.

On January 22, 2008, First Busey announced that its board of directors had authorized the repurchase of 1 million shares of common stock. First Busey's repurchase plan has no expiration date and is active until all the shares are repurchased or action by the board of directors. As of December 31, 2008, under the Company's stock repurchase plan, 895,655 shares remained authorized for repurchase. However, because of First Busey's participation in Treasury's Capital Purchase Program, it will not be permitted to repurchase any shares of its common stock, other than in connection with benefit plans consistent with past practice, until such time as Treasury no longer holds any equity securities in the Company. Accordingly, First Busey does not anticipate repurchasing any shares of its common stock in the near future.

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Performance Graph

The following table compares First Busey's performance, as measured by the change in price of its common stock plus reinvested dividends, with the NASDAQ Composite Index and the SNL-Midwestern Banks Index for the five years ended December 31, 2008.

**First Busey Corporation
Stock Price Performance**

| Index | 12/31/04 | 12/31/05 | 12/31/06 | 12/31/07 | 12/31/08 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| First Busey Corporation | 119.19 | 122.85 | 139.73 | 124.85 | 120.10 |
| NASDAQ Composite | 108.59 | 110.08 | 120.56 | 132.39 | 78.72 |
| SNL Midwest Bank Index | 112.84 | 108.73 | 125.68 | 97.96 | 64.44 |

The banks in the Custom Peer Group SNL-Midwestern Banks Index represent all publicly traded banks, thrifts or financial service companies located in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Table of Contents**Item 6. Selected Financial Data****Selected Consolidated Financial Information**

The following selected financial data for each of the five years in the period ended December 31, 2008, have been derived from First Busey's audited consolidated financial statements and the results of operations for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2008, which appear elsewhere in this report. This financial data should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and the related notes thereto appearing in this annual report.

| | 2008 | 2007(7) | 2006 | 2005(7) | 2004(7) |
|--|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | (dollars in thousands, except per share data) | | | | |
| Balance Sheet Items | | | | | |
| Securities available for sale | \$ 654,130 | \$ 610,422 | \$ 365,608 | \$ 331,237 | \$ 352,256 |
| Gross loans | 3,257,581 | 3,053,225 | 1,956,927 | 1,749,162 | 1,475,900 |
| Allowance for loan losses | 98,671 | 42,560 | 23,588 | 23,190 | 19,217 |
| Total assets | 4,460,093 | 4,192,925 | 2,509,514 | 2,263,422 | 1,964,441 |
| Total deposits | 3,506,693 | 3,207,198 | 2,014,839 | 1,809,399 | 1,558,822 |
| Short-term debt(1) | 265,980 | 213,642 | 79,770 | 50,113 | 52,808 |
| Long-term debt | 134,493 | 150,910 | 156,650 | 169,883 | 165,374 |
| Junior subordinated debt owed to unconsolidated trusts | 55,000 | 55,000 | 55,000 | 50,000 | 40,000 |
| Stockholders' equity | 454,817 | 529,697 | 185,274 | 169,714 | 138,872 |
| Results of Operations | | | | | |
| Interest and dividend income | \$ 220,484 | \$ 201,903 | \$ 146,366 | \$ 116,304 | \$ 85,919 |
| Interest expense | 97,148 | 100,405 | 69,851 | 45,342 | 30,041 |
| Net interest income | 123,336 | 101,498 | 76,515 | 70,962 | 55,878 |
| Provision for loan losses | 98,250 | 14,475 | 1,300 | 3,490 | 2,905 |
| Net income (loss)(2) | (37,947) | 31,477 | 28,888 | 26,934 | 22,454 |
| Per Share Data(3) | | | | | |
| Diluted earnings | \$ (1.06) | \$ 1.13 | \$ 1.35 | \$ 1.29 | \$ 1.09 |
| Cash dividends | 0.80 | 0.77 | 0.64 | 0.56 | 0.51 |
| Book value(4) | 12.36 | 14.58 | 8.64 | 7.89 | 6.74 |
| Closing price | 18.24 | 19.86 | 23.05 | 20.89 | 20.87 |
| Other Information | | | | | |
| Return on average assets | (0.89)% | 0.99% | 1.23% | 1.28% | 1.28% |
| Return on average equity | (7.39)% | 9.89% | 16.52% | 17.97% | 17.23% |
| Net interest margin (5) | 3.33% | 3.58% | 3.62% | 3.72% | 3.49% |
| Equity to assets ratio(6) | 12.00% | 9.98% | 7.46% | 7.13% | 7.42% |
| Dividend payout ratio | N/A | 61.15% | 47.29% | 42.93% | 46.24% |

(1) Includes Federal funds purchased, securities sold under agreements to repurchase, and short-term borrowings.

(2) Effective January 1, 2006, First Busey adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 123(R) Share-Based Payment. SFAS No. 123(R) requires compensation expense to be recorded for stock option grants based upon the estimated fair value of the grants. Prior to January 1, 2006, no compensation expense related to stock option grants was recorded.

(3) Per-share data have been retroactively adjusted to effect a three-for-two common stock split effective August 3, 2004, as if it had occurred on January 1, 2004.

(4) Total capital divided by shares outstanding as of period end.

(5) Tax-equivalent net interest income divided by average earning assets.

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- (6) Average equity divided by average total assets
- (7) First Busey acquired First Capital Bank on June 1, 2004, Tarpon Coast National Bank on July 29, 2005, and Main Street Trust on August 1, 2007. Results of operations for these institutions from acquisition date are included in the consolidated results of operations.

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Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following is management's discussion and analysis of the financial condition and results of operations of First Busey and subsidiaries for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006. It should be read in conjunction with Business, Selected Financial Data, the consolidated financial statements and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements and other data included in this Annual Report.

Forward Looking Statements

This presentation includes forward looking statements that are intended to be covered by the safe-harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward looking statements include but are not limited to comments with respect to the objectives and strategies, financial condition, results of operations and business of First Busey.

These forward looking statements involve numerous assumptions, inherent risks and uncertainties, both general and specific, and the risk that predictions and other forward looking statements will not be achieved. You should not place undue reliance on these forward looking statements as a number of important factors could cause actual future results to differ materially from the plans, objectives, expectations, estimates and intentions expressed in such forward looking statements.

These risks, uncertainties and other factors include the general state of the economy, both on a local and national level, our ability to successfully complete acquisitions, the continued growth of the geographic regions served we serve, and our retention of key members of management.

Critical Accounting Estimates

Critical accounting estimates are those that are critical to the portrayal and understanding of First Busey's financial condition and results of operations and require management to make assumptions that are difficult, subjective or complex. These estimates involve judgments, estimates and uncertainties that are susceptible to change. In the event that different assumptions or conditions were to prevail, and depending on the severity of such changes, the possibility of materially different financial condition or results of operations is a reasonable likelihood.

First Busey's significant accounting policies are described in Note 1 in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements. The majority of these accounting policies do not require management to make difficult, subjective or complex judgments or estimates or the variability of the estimates is not material. However, the following policies could be deemed critical:

Market Value of Investment Securities. Securities are classified as held-to-maturity when First Busey has the ability and management has the positive intent to hold those securities to maturity. Accordingly, they are stated at cost adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts. First Busey has no securities classified as held-to-maturity.

Securities are classified as available-for-sale when First Busey may decide to sell those securities due to changes in market interest rates, liquidity needs, changes in yields on alternative investments, and for other reasons. They are carried at fair value with unrealized gains and losses, net of taxes, reported in other comprehensive income (loss). All of First Busey's securities are classified as available-for-sale. For equity securities, unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets are utilized to determine fair value at the measurement date. For all other securities, the Company obtains fair value measurements from an independent pricing service. The fair value measurements consider observable data that may include dealer quotes, market spreads, cash flows, the U.S. Treasury yield curve, live trading levels, trade execution data, market consensus prepayment speeds, credit information and the bond's terms and conditions, among other things. Due to the limited nature of the market for certain securities, the market value and potential sale proceeds could be materially different in the event of a sale.

Allowance for Loan Losses. First Busey has established an allowance for loan losses which represents its estimate of the probable losses inherent in the loan portfolio as of the date of the financial statements. Management has established an allowance for loan losses which reduces the total loans outstanding by an estimate of uncollectible loans. Loans deemed uncollectible are charged against and reduce the allowance. Periodically, a provision for loan losses is charged to current expense. This provision acts to replenish the allowance for loan losses and to maintain the allowance at a level that management deems adequate.

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To determine the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses, a formal analysis is completed quarterly to assess the risk within the loan portfolio. This assessment is conducted by senior officers who are members of the holding company's independent holding company credit review and risk management department, and is reviewed by senior management of the banks and holding company. The analysis includes review of historical performance, dollar amount and trends of past due loans, dollar amount and trends in nonperforming loans, reviews of certain impaired loans, and review of loans identified as sensitive assets. Sensitive assets include nonaccrual loans, past-due loans, loans on First Busey's watch loan reports and other loans identified as having more than reasonable potential for loss.

The allowance consists of specific, general and unallocated components. The specific component considers loans that are classified as doubtful, substandard, or special mention. For such loans that are classified as impaired, an allowance is established when the discounted cash flows (or collateral value or observable market price) of the impaired loan is lower than the carrying amount of that loan. The general component covers non-classified loans and classified loans not considered impaired, and is based on historical loss experience adjusted for qualitative factors. An unallocated component is maintained to cover uncertainties that could affect management's estimate of probable losses. The unallocated component of the allowance reflects the margin of imprecision inherent in the underlying assumptions used in the methodologies for estimating specific and general losses in the portfolio.

A loan is considered to be impaired when, based on current information and events, it is probable First Busey will not be able to collect all principal and interest amounts due according to the contractual terms of the loan agreement. When a loan becomes impaired, management calculates the impairment based on the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate. If the loan is collateral dependent, the fair value of the collateral is used to measure the amount of impairment. The amount of impairment and any subsequent changes are recorded through a charge to earnings as an adjustment to the allowance for loan losses. When management considers a loan, or a portion thereof, as uncollectible, it is charged against the allowance for loan losses. Because a significant majority of First Busey's loans are collateral dependent, First Busey has determined the required allowance on these loans based upon the estimated fair value, net of selling costs, of the respective collateral. The required allowance or actual losses on these impaired loans could differ significantly if the ultimate fair value of the collateral is significantly different from the fair value estimates used by First Busey in estimating such potential losses.

Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets. Over the past several years, First Busey Corporation has grown through mergers and acquisitions accounted for under the purchase method of accounting. Under the purchase method, First Busey Corporation is required to allocate the cost of an acquired company to the assets acquired, including identified intangible assets, and liabilities assumed based on their estimated fair values at the date of acquisition. The excess cost over the net assets acquired represents goodwill, which is not subject to periodic amortization.

Customer relationship intangibles are required to be amortized over their estimated useful lives. The method of amortization reflects the pattern in which the economic benefits of the intangible assets are estimated to be consumed or otherwise used up. Since First Busey Corporation acquired customer relationships are subject to routine customer attrition, the relationships are more likely to produce greater benefits in the near-term than in the long-term, which typically supports the use of an accelerated method of amortization for the related intangible assets. Management is required to evaluate the useful life of customer relationship intangibles to determine if events or circumstances warrant a change in the estimated life. Should management determine the estimated life of any intangible asset is shorter than originally estimated, First Busey Corporation would adjust the amortization of that asset, which could increase future amortization expense.

Goodwill arising from business combinations represents the value attributable to unidentifiable intangible elements in the business acquired. Goodwill recorded by First Busey Corporation in connection with its acquisitions relates to the inherent value in the businesses acquired and this value is dependent upon First Busey Corporation's ability to provide quality, cost effective services in a competitive market place. As such, goodwill value is supported ultimately by our stock price and by revenue that is driven by the volume of business transacted. A decline in our stock price or our earnings over sustained periods can lead to impairment of goodwill that could adversely impact earnings in future periods.

First Busey Corporation utilizes a two step valuation approach to test for goodwill impairment. We estimate the fair value of our reporting units as of the measurement date utilizing valuation methodologies including the comparable transactions approach, and the control premium approach. We then compare the estimated fair value of the reporting unit to the current carrying value of the reporting unit to determine if goodwill impairment had occurred as of the measurement date. Based upon our testing as of December 31, 2008, we concluded the goodwill of Busey Bank, N.A., our southwest Florida banking subsidiary, to be impaired and we recorded a goodwill impairment charge of \$22.6 million. Further, we concluded no impairment of goodwill existed within Busey Bank, Busey Wealth Management or FirsTech. Due to the decline in our stock price, it is possible we will evaluate our goodwill for impairment on a more frequent basis than annually. The evaluation may result in further impairment.

Executive Summary

Operating Results and Asset Quality

The Company's consolidated net loss for the year ended December 31, 2008 was \$37.9 million, or \$1.06 per fully-diluted share, compared to net income of \$31.5 million, or \$1.13 per fully-diluted share, for the year ended December 31, 2007. The consolidated net loss is primarily due to \$98.3 million in provision for loan losses recorded during 2008, including \$75.8 million in the fourth quarter of 2008. In comparison, we recorded \$14.5 million in provision for loan losses during 2007. Additionally, in the fourth quarter of 2008, the Company recorded \$22.6 million of goodwill impairment.

| | Year Ended December 31: | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
| <u>Net Income (Loss):</u> | | | |
| Consolidated | \$ (37,947) | \$ 31,477 | \$ 28,888 |
| Busey Bank | 1,314 | 35,088 | 29,542 |
| Busey Bank, N.A. | (40,334) | (2,581) | 3,465 |
| FirsTech | 2,527 | 744 | |
| Busey Wealth Management | 2,540 | 2,408 | 2,299 |
| Consolidated EPS, fully-diluted | \$ (1.06) | \$ 1.13 | \$ 1.35 |

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Despite the challenging economy during 2008, including some of the lowest interest rates in the recent history, our core earnings improved over 2007. Absent the \$83.8 million, \$50.5 million after-tax, of increased provision expense recorded in 2008 as compared to 2007, and the \$22.6 million goodwill impairment charge, our net income would have increased to \$35.2 million in 2008 as compared to \$31.5 million in 2007. This improvement was in spite of a challenging credit and net interest margin environment and additional costs to achieve the efficiencies inherent in the merger.

We ended the year with an allowance for loan losses of \$98.7 million, which represents 117% coverage of non-performing loans at December 31, 2008 as compared to 212% coverage of non-performing loans at December 31, 2007. The southwest Florida loan portfolio represents 22.7% of our combined loan portfolio, but 72.7% of our non-performing loans. Approximately 79% of our \$42.1 million of net charge offs in 2008 were attributable to southwest Florida loans.

While our downstate Illinois and Indianapolis markets are experiencing some softening, the markets remain generally stable in terms of asset performance. The southwest Florida market has yet to show tangible signs of economic improvement. The duration and depth of the current economic challenges are unknown. We will continue to proactively address issues within our loan portfolio.

Busey Bank, N.A. has experienced operating losses for the past years. As noted below, the southwest Florida market has yet to show signs of significant near-term improvement. Busey Bank, N.A.'s recent performance, coupled with the declining economy and our stock price, resulted in a fair value for the Busey Bank, N.A. during its annual goodwill impairment testing that was less than its book value. The result was a full impairment of the \$22.6 million of goodwill associated with Busey Bank, N.A. The \$22.6 million, \$0.63 per fully-diluted share, charge to earnings did not affect cash flow, liquidity or tangible equity.

Under regulatory standards, our banks continue to have capital levels considered to be well capitalized, which is the highest regulatory designation. Although the challenging economic environment has made it difficult to build capital, we are committed to maintaining our banks at well capitalized. As noted above, we recently issued \$100 million in preferred securities to Treasury pursuant to the Capital Purchase Program. This capital counts as Tier 1 capital at the holding company level and we plan on using the capital at the bank level to enable us to keep making loans in our communities and to support the capital position of the banks.

While it is widely noted in the national press that banks are not lending, Busey is lending when it sees good opportunity. We grew our loan portfolio in excess of \$200 million during 2008, due to a strong supply of growth opportunities in downstate Illinois. Due to lack of demand driven by the difficult economic conditions in southwest Florida, we did not grow our loan portfolio in southwest Florida during 2008. However, the blend of strong agricultural, manufacturing, academia and healthcare prevalent in our downstate Illinois markets demanded growth from our communities throughout 2008. This provided Busey Bank with many opportunities to fund quality loans, whereby we assisted our communities at a time of economic contraction.

A significant component of our value resides in our non-interest bearing revenue channels, primarily Busey Wealth Management and FirsTech. Busey Wealth Management and FirsTech accounted for \$14.1 million and \$12.3 million of our \$179.8 million, or a combined 14.7% of revenue, net of interest expense, for 2008. Continued growth in the non-interest revenue channels will benefit our customers and shareholders through increased access to products and earnings diversification away from credit and interest related sources. Growth in these non-interest related areas is a priority for Busey.

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Main Street Trust, Inc. Merger

First Busey completed its merger of equals with Main Street Trust, Inc. (Main Street) following the close of business on July 31, 2007. As a result of the merger, five full months of earnings contribution from Main Street Bank & Trust and FirsTech, our payment processing company, are included in the December 31, 2007 results. The bank merger of Main Street Bank & Trust with and into Busey Bank took place in November 2007, which launched the updated Busey brand.

As required by the United States Department of Justice, prior to the closing of our merger, we reached an agreement to sell five Main Street Bank & Trust banking centers. The divestiture of the five branches, which represented approximately 1% of consolidated loans and 3% of consolidated deposits, closed in November 2007. The divestiture did not have a significant impact upon earnings.

Additionally, in November 2007, the trust department of the former Main Street Bank & Trust was merged into Busey Trust Company.

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Results of Operation Three Years Ended December 31, 2008

Net Interest Income

Net interest income is the difference of interest income and fees earned on earning assets less interest expense incurred on interest-bearing liabilities. Interest rate levels and volume fluctuations within earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities impact net interest income. Net interest margin is tax-equivalent net interest income as a percent of average earning assets.

Certain assets with tax favorable treatment are evaluated on a tax-equivalent basis. Tax-equivalent basis assumes a federal income tax rate of 35%. Tax favorable assets generally have lower contractual pre-tax yields than fully taxable assets. A tax-equivalent analysis is performed by adding the tax savings to the earnings on tax favorable assets. After factoring in the tax favorable effects of these assets, the yields may be more appropriately evaluated against alternative earning assets. In addition to yield, various other risks are factored into the evaluation process.

The following table shows the consolidated average balance sheets, detailing the major categories of assets and liabilities, the interest income earned on interest-earning assets, the interest expense paid for the interest-bearing liabilities, and the related interest rates for the periods, or as of the dates, shown. All average information is provided on a daily average basis.

Table of Contents**Table 1 Average Balance Sheets and Interest Rates**

| | Years Ended December 31, | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|-------|
| | 2008 | | | 2007 | | | 2006 | | |
| Average Balance | Income/Expense | Yield/Rate | Average Balance | Income/Expense | Yield/Rate | Average Balance | Income/Expense | Yield/Rate | |
| (dollars in thousands) | | | | | | | | | |
| Assets | | | | | | | | | |
| Interest-bearing bank deposits | \$ 673 | \$ 5 | 0.74% | \$ 222 | \$ 11 | 4.95% | \$ 488 | \$ 24 | 4.92% |
| Federal funds sold | 9,835 | 188 | 1.91% | 27,608 | 1,338 | 4.85% | 6,923 | 349 | 5.04% |
| Investment securities: | | | | | | | | | |
| U.S. Treasuries and Agencies | 371,738 | 15,676 | 4.22% | 322,383 | 16,145 | 5.01% | 199,891 | 8,103 | 4.05% |
| Obligations of states and political subdivisions(1) | 96,746 | 5,797 | 5.99% | 81,671 | 4,915 | 6.02% | 84,973 | 5,077 | 5.97% |
| Other securities | 138,438 | 5,726 | 4.14% | 53,881 | 2,514 | 4.67% | 45,371 | 1,729 | 3.81% |
| Loans (net of unearned (discount)(1), (2),(3)) | 3,163,739 | 195,480 | 6.18% | 2,405,583 | 179,074 | 7.44% | 1,832,800 | 133,199 | 7.27% |
| Total interest-earning assets(1) | \$ 3,781,169 | \$ 222,872 | 5.89% | \$ 2,891,348 | \$ 203,997 | 7.06% | \$ 2,170,446 | \$ 148,481 | 6.84% |
| Cash and due from banks | 105,655 | | | 70,979 | | | 53,020 | | |
| Premises and equipment | 82,033 | | | 53,833 | | | 40,431 | | |
| Allowance for loan losses | (45,362) | | | (29,562) | | | (23,454) | | |
| Other assets | 358,971 | | | 199,984 | | | 104,109 | | |
| Total assets | \$ 4,282,466 | | | \$ 3,186,582 | | | \$ 2,344,552 | | |
| Liabilities and Stockholders | | | | | | | | | |
| Equity | | | | | | | | | |
| Interest-bearing transaction deposits | \$ 34,703 | \$ 269 | 0.78% | \$ 51,127 | \$ 1,282 | 2.51% | \$ 70,365 | \$ 1,582 | 2.25% |
| Savings deposits | 155,049 | 853 | 0.55% | 121,558 | 1,095 | 0.90% | 109,596 | 1,002 | 0.91% |
| Money market deposits | 1,235,692 | 18,733 | 1.52% | 997,109 | 29,066 | 2.92% | 655,371 | 18,695 | 2.85% |
| Time deposits | 1,477,494 | 61,353 | 4.15% | 1,094,285 | 52,754 | 4.82% | 789,019 | 33,767 | 4.28% |
| Short-term borrowings: | | | | | | | | | |
| Federal funds purchased | 25,691 | 578 | 2.25% | 8,639 | 463 | 5.36% | 18,465 | 985 | 5.33% |
| Securities sold under agreements to repurchase | 145,972 | 3,395 | 2.33% | 95,796 | 4,022 | 4.20% | 50,642 | 1,848 | 3.65% |
| Other | 85,301 | 2,345 | 2.75% | 4,343 | 278 | 6.40% | 3,267 | 178 | 5.45% |
| Long-term debt | 136,310 | 6,134 | 4.50% | 148,058 | 7,407 | 5.03% | 160,801 | 7,734 | 4.81% |
| Junior subordinated debt issued to unconsolidated trusts | 55,000 | 3,488 | 6.34% | 55,000 | 4,038 | 7.34% | 52,692 | 4,060 | 7.71% |
| Total interest-bearing liabilities | \$ 3,351,212 | \$ 97,148 | 2.90% | \$ 2,575,915 | \$ 100,405 | 3.90% | \$ 1,910,218 | \$ 69,851 | 3.66% |
| Net interest spread | | | 2.99% | | | 3.16% | | | 3.18% |
| Demand deposits | 376,929 | | | 266,721 | | | 242,707 | | |
| Other liabilities | 40,525 | | | 25,791 | | | 16,803 | | |
| Stockholders equity | 513,800 | | | 318,155 | | | 174,824 | | |
| Total liabilities and stockholders equity | \$ 4,282,466 | | | \$ 3,186,582 | | | \$ 2,344,552 | | |
| Interest income/earning assets(1) | \$ 3,781,169 | \$ 222,872 | 5.89% | \$ 2,891,348 | \$ 203,997 | 7.06% | \$ 2,170,446 | \$ 148,481 | 6.84% |
| Interest expense/earning assets | \$ 3,781,169 | \$ 97,148 | 2.57% | \$ 2,891,348 | \$ 100,405 | 3.47% | \$ 2,170,446 | \$ 69,851 | 3.22% |

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| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------|-------|------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Net interest margin(1) | \$ 125,724 | 3.33% | \$ 103,592 | 3.58% | \$ 78,630 | 3.62% |
|------------------------|------------|-------|------------|-------|-----------|-------|

(1)On a tax-equivalent basis, assuming a federal income tax rate of 35%

(2)Non-accrual loans have been included in average loans, net of unearned discount

(3)Includes loan fee income of \$3.0 million, \$4.1 million and \$3.5 million for 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Table of Contents**Table 1 Average Balance Sheets and Interest Rates (continued)**

Changes in Net Interest Income:

| | Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006 | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | Year 2008 vs. 2007 Change due to(1) | | | Year 2007 vs. 2006 Change due to(1) | | |
| | Average Volume | Average Yield/Rate | Total Change | Average Volume | Average Yield/Rate | Total Change |
| | (dollars in thousands) | | | | | |
| Increase (decrease) in interest income: | | | | | | |
| Interest-bearing bank deposits | \$ 9 | \$ (15) | \$ (6) | \$ (13) | \$ | \$ (13) |
| Federal funds sold | (593) | (557) | (1,150) | 1,163 | (174) | 989 |
| Investment securities: | | | | | | |
| U.S. Treasuries and Agencies | 2,280 | (2,749) | (469) | 5,682 | 2,360 | 8,042 |
| Obligations of state and political subdivisions(2) | 903 | (21) | 882 | (197) | 35 | (162) |
| Other securities | 3,528 | (316) | 3,212 | 338 | 447 | 785 |
| Loans(2) | 50,206 | (33,800) | 16,406 | 41,943 | 3,932 | 45,875 |
| Change in interest income(2) | \$ 56,333 | \$ (37,458) | \$ 18,875 | \$ 48,916 | \$ 6,600 | \$ 55,516 |
| Increase (decrease) in interest expense: | | | | | | |
| Interest bearing transaction deposits | \$ (322) | \$ (691) | \$ (1,013) | \$ (468) | \$ 168 | \$ (300) |
| Savings deposits | 253 | (495) | (242) | 108 | (15) | 93 |
| Money market deposits | 5,844 | (16,177) | (10,333) | 9,953 | 418 | 10,371 |
| Time deposits | 16,639 | (8,040) | 8,599 | 14,309 | 4,678 | 18,987 |
| Federal funds purchased | 504 | (389) | 115 | (527) | 5 | (522) |
| Securities sold under agreements to repurchase | 1,599 | (2,226) | (627) | 1,860 | 314 | 2,174 |
| Other short-term borrowings | 2,313 | (246) | 2,067 | 63 | 37 | 100 |
| Long-term debt | (562) | (711) | (1,273) | (629) | 302 | (327) |
| Junior subordinated debt owed to unconsolidated trusts | | (550) | (550) | 174 | (196) | (22) |
| Change in interest expense | \$ 26,268 | \$ (29,525) | \$ (3,257) | \$ 24,843 | \$ 5,711 | \$ 30,554 |
| Increase (decrease) in net interest income(2) | \$ 30,065 | \$ (7,933) | \$ 22,132 | \$ 24,073 | \$ 889 | \$ 24,962 |
| Percentage increase in net interest income over prior period | | | | | | |
| | | | 21.4% | | | 31.7% |

(1) Changes due to both rate and volume have been allocated proportionally

(2) On a tax equivalent basis, assuming a federal income tax rate of 35%

Earning Assets, Sources of Funds, and Net Interest Margin

Average earning assets increased \$889.8 million or 30.8% to \$3.78 billion in 2008 as compared to \$2.89 billion in 2007. This growth in average balance of earning assets was due primarily to the assets from the Main Street merger being in place for the entire 2008 versus five months of 2007. Additionally, Busey Bank loans increased \$237.1 million during 2008, which contributed to the increase in average assets.

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Interest-bearing liabilities averaged \$3.35 billion for the year ended December 31, 2008, an increase of \$775.3 million or 30.1% from the average balance of \$2.58 billion for 2007. The increase in average interest-bearing liabilities was due primarily to the full year of liabilities in place from the Main Street merger.

Interest income, on a tax-equivalent basis, increased \$18.9 million or 9.3% to \$222.9 million in 2008 from \$204.0 million in 2007, which was an increase of \$55.5 million or 37.4% from the \$148.5 million in interest income earned in 2006. Interest income growth in 2008 was due primarily to the earning assets from the merger with Main Street being in place for all of 2008, offset by a declining interest rate environment in 2008. In 2007, interest income grew due to both volume increases resulting from the August 2007 merger with Main Street and interest rate increases across most interest earning categories. First Busey's yield on average earning assets was 5.89% in 2008 compared to 7.06% in 2007 and 6.84% in 2006.

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Interest expense decreased during 2008 by \$3.3 million or 3.2% to \$97.1 million from \$100.4 million in 2007, which was an increase of \$30.6 million or 43.7% from the \$69.9 million interest expense in 2006. The decrease in interest expense during 2008 over 2007 was due to the declining deposit and debt interest rate environment in 2008, offset by volume increases from liabilities assumed in the Main Street merger being in place for the entire 2008. The increase in interest expense in 2007 over 2006 was due primarily to deposit growth arising from the Main Street merger coupled with increased interest rates paid on deposit liabilities. The average rate paid on interest-bearing liabilities was 2.90% in 2008 compared to 3.90% in 2007 and 3.66% in 2006.

Net interest income, on a tax-equivalent basis, increased 21.4% in 2008 to \$125.7 million from \$103.6 million in 2007, which reflected a 31.7% increase from \$78.6 million in 2006. Net interest margin, First Busey's net interest income expressed as a percentage of average earning assets stated on a tax-equivalent basis, decreased to 3.33% during 2008, from 3.58% in 2007, which had decreased from 3.62% in 2006. The net interest spread, also on a tax-equivalent basis, was 2.99% in 2008, compared to 3.16% in 2007, and 3.18% in 2006.

Over the prior two years, increased net interest income was driven primarily by net growth in the average earning balance sheet outpacing the increases in average interest rates. The net growth is due primarily to the August 2007 merger with Main Street. The average balance sheets reflect a competitive marketplace on both the interest earning assets and interest bearing deposits. The competition for loans in the marketplace and the overall interest rate environment has kept interest rates on loans low. Interest rates paid on deposit products have declined steadily during 2008, but further significant decline is unlikely as interest rates on deposits are near potential lows.

Other Income

Table 2 Other Income

| | | | As of December 31, | | | | % Change |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|--|----------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | % Change | 2007 | 2006 | | |
| | (dollars in thousands) | | | | | | |
| Trust fees | \$ 13,445 | \$ 10,041 | 33.9% | \$ 10,041 | \$ 6,020 | | 66.8% |
| Remittance processing | 12,115 | 4,466 | 171.3% | 4,466 | | | NM |
| Service charges on deposit accounts | 12,075 | 9,033 | 33.7% | 9,033 | 8,130 | | 11.1% |
| Other service charges & fees | 4,546 | 3,912 | 16.2% | 3,912 | 2,958 | | 32.3% |
| Security gains, net | 605 | 3,718 | -83.7% | 3,718 | 3,547 | | 4.8% |
| Gain on sales of loans | 4,357 | 3,232 | 34.8% | 3,232 | 2,443 | | 32.3% |
| Commissions and brokers fees, net | 2,764 | 2,553 | 8.3% | 2,553 | 2,653 | | -3.8% |
| Other operating income | 6,513 | 4,737 | 37.5% | 4,737 | 2,710 | | 74.8% |
| Total other income | \$ 56,420 | \$ 41,692 | 35.3% | \$ 41,692 | \$ 28,461 | | 46.5% |

NM Percentage change not considered meaningful.

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Total other income increased \$14.7 million in 2008 from 2007 and \$13.2 million in 2007 from 2006. The increase in 2008 and 2007 is largely due to the year and five months, respectively, of other income attributable to the merger with Main Street. During 2006, First Busey began liquidation of an equity security with a substantial value in excess of its cost basis. The liquidation continued into 2007 and was eventually ceased due to the reduction of the market value of the security. The liquidation accounted for the majority of the decrease in security gains, net during 2008.

Remittance payment processing revenue relates to our payment processing company, FirsTech, which Busey gained as part of the Main Street merger. FirsTech has demonstrated solid revenue and net income growth and we expect that it will continue to grow in 2009. The \$12.1 million in 2008 represents a full year of remittance payment revenue from FirsTech, as compared to the \$10.2 million in 2007, of which \$4.5 million represented five months of activity following the Main Street merger. The \$12.1 million in 2008 was an 18.6% increase over 2007 revenues.

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Commissions and brokers fees, net, showed a moderate growth for 2008 as compared to 2007. The growth in 2008 was due primarily to the full year of brokerage activity following the August 2007 merger with Main Street, offset by lower transaction volume due to the uncertainty in the securities market place during 2008. The moderate decline for 2007 as compared to 2006 was due to a large decline in Busey Bank, N.A.'s commissions and brokers fees, offset by the addition of Main Street's five month contribution.

The increase in other income for 2008 as compared to 2007 was primarily due to two realized gains in our private equity fund investments, which resulted in \$1.9 million of pre-tax income. The increase in 2007 as compared to 2006 related primarily to the merger with Main Street. Additionally, a non-recurring \$630,000 pre-tax charge was recorded in the second quarter of 2006 to write-off unamortized offering costs in conjunction with a redemption of trust preferred securities. The charge was recorded in other income as First Busey records the results of its unconsolidated trusts into the other operating income line.

*Other Expenses***Table 3 Other Expenses**

| | 2008 | 2007 | As of December 31, % Change | 2007 | 2006 | % Change |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| | (dollars in thousands) | | | | | |
| Compensation expense: | | | | | | |
| Salaries & wages | \$ 46,861 | \$ 37,311 | 25.6% | \$ 37,311 | \$ 26,431 | 41.2% |
| Employee benefits | 10,699 | 8,357 | 28.0% | 8,357 | 8,180 | 2.2% |
| Total compensation expense | \$ 57,560 | \$ 45,668 | 26.0% | \$ 45,668 | \$ 34,611 | 31.9% |
| Net occupancy expense of | | | | | | |
| premises | 9,600 | 7,449 | 28.9% | 7,449 | 5,121 | 45.5% |
| Furniture and equipment | | | | | | |
| expenses | 8,232 | 4,834 | 70.3% | 4,834 | 3,438 | 40.6% |
| Data processing | 6,855 | 5,299 | 29.4% | 5,299 | 1,753 | 202.3% |
| Amortization of intangible assets | 4,517 | 2,503 | 80.5% | 2,503 | 1,376 | 81.9% |
| Goodwill impairment | 22,601 | | NM | | | |
| Other operating expenses | 25,656 | 18,552 | 38.3% | 18,552 | 13,788 | 34.6% |
| Total other expenses | \$ 135,021 | \$ 84,305 | 60.2% | \$ 84,305 | \$ 60,087 | 40.3% |
| Income taxes | | | | | | |
| Effective rate on income taxes | \$ (15,568) | \$ 12,933 | NM | \$ 12,933 | \$ 14,701 | -12.0% |
| | -29.1% | 29.1% | | 29.1% | 33.7% | |
| Efficiency ratio | 59.4% | 57.8% | | 57.8% | 56.7% | |

Compensation expense increased significantly for both 2008 and 2007. The increase in 2008 and 2007 was primarily attributable to the Main Street merger and merger related employee expenses incurred for a full year in 2008 versus five months in 2007. Full-time equivalent employee levels were 986, 1,023 and 640 at December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. During 2008, we recorded \$3.4 million in severance & associated benefits that are included in the total compensation expense noted above. The severance primarily relates to plans announced in the fourth quarter to restructure our banking operations through management and branch footprint changes. The fourth quarter severance charges will result in further reductions in full-time equivalent employees. These severance costs should lead to reductions in total compensation expense for 2009.

Data processing expenses increased significantly in 2008 and 2007 primarily due to infrastructure investments First Busey made related to the growth from the merger and to costs incurred in preparing for the future growth.

Amortization expense increased significantly for 2008 and 2007 due to increased identifiable intangibles related to the merger, for which a full year of amortization expense was recognized in 2008 as compared to five months in 2007. Additional information regarding the expected future amortization expense of First Busey can be found in Note 1- Significant Accounting Policies in the financial statements included in this Form 10-K under Item 8.

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The Company recorded goodwill impairment of \$22.6 million during 2008 related to the goodwill attributable to Busey Bank, N.A. The impairment of goodwill was driven by severe economic downturn experienced in southwest Florida. The difficult southwest Florida economy has produced net losses for Busey Bank, N.A. over the past two years. The net loss performance coupled with the overall decline in valuations in the national markets, led to a fair value estimate for Busey Bank, N.A. significantly less than its pre-impairment book value. The \$22.6 million charge to earnings does not affect cash flow, liquidity, tangible book value or regulatory capital.

Overall, the increase in total other expense for 2007 reflected in Table 3 related primarily to the merger with Main Street and the full year effect of 2008. Management has taken significant steps through the restructuring of our branch footprint and personnel changes to reduce operating costs during 2008, of which the effect should be seen in lower 2009 operating costs.

The effective rate on income taxes, or income taxes divided by income (loss) before taxes, was a benefit in 2008 as compared to an expense in 2007. The negative effective rate in 2008 was primarily due to the pre-tax loss recorded and was further impacted by, adjustments for benefits from increased tax favored investments and offset by the impact of nondeductible goodwill impairment. During 2007, our tax favored lending activities, increased deductions for dividend payments related to First Busey's Employee Stock Ownership Plan, income on life insurance and decreased amortization of certain intangibles for tax purposes led to a lower effective tax rate as compared to 2006.

The efficiency ratio is total other expense, less amortization charges and goodwill impairment, as a percentage of tax equivalent net-interest margin plus other income, less security gains and losses. The efficiency ratio has increased in 2008 and 2007 over the comparable periods in 2007 and 2006. A primary reason for the increases in the efficiency ratio for 2008 and 2007 was net interest margin and other income growth not keeping pace with growth in other expenses, many of which were non-recurring in nature and related to gaining efficiencies following the merger. While we anticipate our costs decreasing in 2009 as compared to 2008, significant effects on our efficiency ratio will be driven by increased net interest margin, which is not expected to improve until the overall economic environment improves.

*Balance Sheet December 31, 2008 and December 31, 2007***Table 4 Significant Balance Sheet Items**

| | December 31, 2008 | December 31, 2007 (dollars in thousands) | % Change |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--|----------|
| Assets | | | |
| Securities available for sale | \$ 654,130 | \$ 610,422 | 7.2% |
| Loans, net | 3,158,910 | 3,010,665 | 4.9% |
| Total assets | \$ 4,460,093 | \$ 4,192,925 | 6.4% |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Deposits: | | | |
| Noninterest bearing | \$ 378,007 | \$ 389,672 | -3.0% |
| Interest bearing | 3,128,686 | 2,817,526 | 11.0% |
| Total deposits | 3,506,693 | 3,207,198 | 9.3% |

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| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|--------|
| Short-term borrowings | 265,980 | 213,642 | 24.5% |
| Long-term debt | 134,493 | 150,910 | -10.9% |
| Total liabilities | 4,005,276 | 3,663,228 | 9.3% |
| Stockholders' equity | \$ 454,817 | \$ 529,697 | -14.1% |

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First Busey's balance sheet experienced moderate growth during 2008. Overall, assets increased by \$267.2 million, which was led by net loan growth of \$148.2 million. Gross loans increased by \$204.4 million as Busey Bank experienced solid opportunities for loan growth in the downstate Illinois marketplace. Management anticipates Busey Bank will continue to see opportunities for loan growth in its Illinois and Indiana markets. Loans in southwest Florida were consistent with year over year. Moderate lending was done in southwest Florida, but was offset by charge-offs in the southwest Florida loan portfolio. The difficult economy in southwest Florida has not produced the same lending opportunities as experienced in our Illinois and Indiana markets. Management does not expect an increase in the amount of quality lending opportunities in the southwest Florida markets during 2009.

Securities growth was positive as our funding growth exceeding our loan growth on a comparable basis. Our loan to deposit ratio remained comparable to prior periods at 92.9%, which resulted in a portion of our increased borrowings to be invested in our portfolio.

Liabilities increased \$342.0 million, which was primarily due to growth in short-term, lower cost borrowings and interest-bearing deposits to fund the growth in assets. Growth in interest bearing deposits was almost entirely related to growth in time deposits, most of which was funded through brokered CDs. Brokered CDs increased \$279.6 million in 2008 to \$306.9 million.

Stockholder's equity decreased \$74.9 million, primarily due to the net loss of \$37.9 million, dividend payments of \$28.7 million and net treasury stock purchases of \$9.9 million.

Investment Securities

First Busey has classified all investment securities as securities available-for-sale. These securities are held with the option of their disposal in the foreseeable future to meet investment and liquidity objectives or for other operational needs. Securities available-for-sale are carried at fair value. As of December 31, 2008, the fair value of these securities was \$654.1 million and the amortized cost was \$637.8 million. There were \$17.9 million of gross unrealized gains and \$1.6 million of gross unrealized losses for a net unrealized gain of \$16.3 million. The after-tax effect of \$9.8 million of this unrealized gain has been included in stockholders' equity. The increase in the fair value as a percentage of amortized costs was due to a significant decline in interest rates during 2008, which increased the value of our debt-related securities.

The composition of securities available-for-sale was as follows:

| | 2008 | 2007 | As of December 31, 2006 (dollars in thousands) | 2005 | 2004 |
|--|---------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|
| U.S. Treasury securities | \$ 758 | \$ 15,170 | \$ 17,619 | \$ 16,472 | \$ 27,425 |
| U.S. government corporations and agencies | 408,107 | 440,221 | 210,993 | 186,452 | 221,725 |
| Obligations of states and political subdivisions | 92,194 | 89,401 | 85,453 | 82,057 | 51,768 |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 125,218 | 36,742 | 25,230 | 16,837 | 23,170 |
| Corporate debt securities | 3,097 | 3,661 | 3,294 | 2,926 | 2,220 |

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| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|---------|----|---------|----|---------|----|---------|----|---------|
| Mutual funds and other equity securities(1) | | 24,756 | | 25,227 | | 23,019 | | 26,493 | | 25,948 |
| Fair value of securities available for sale | \$ | 654,130 | \$ | 610,422 | \$ | 365,608 | \$ | 331,237 | \$ | 352,256 |
| Amortized cost | \$ | 637,808 | \$ | 603,565 | \$ | 356,489 | \$ | 319,151 | \$ | 337,037 |
| Fair value as a percentage of amortized cost | | 102.56% | | 101.14% | | 102.56% | | 103.79% | | 104.52% |

(1) Amount includes Federal Home Loan Bank and Federal Reserve Bank stock

Busey Bank's portfolio totaled \$633.6 million at December 31, 2008 compared to \$590.3 million at December 31, 2007. The increase in Busey Bank's portfolio was due primarily to the investment of increased liquidity generated by Busey Bank's deposit growth during 2008. Busey Bank's deposit growth is discussed more fully in the *Deposits* section of this discussion.

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Busey Bank, N.A.'s portfolio was \$12.0 million at December 31, 2008 versus \$12.8 at December 31, 2007. Busey Bank, N.A.'s portfolio decrease reflected pledging requirement decreases at year-end 2008 versus year-end 2007.

Overall, First Busey's portfolio primarily served a pledging function during 2008 and 2007 as First Busey has chosen to invest in the growth of its loan portfolio versus its investment portfolio. Pledged securities totaled \$515.9 million or 78.9%, and \$492.3 million or 80.7% at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

The maturities, fair values and weighted average yields of debt securities available-for-sale as of December 31, 2008 were:

| | Due in 1 year or less | | Due after 1 year through 5 years | | Due after 5 years through 10 years | | Due after 10 years | |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| | Fair Value | Weighted Average Yield | Fair Value | Weighted Average Yield | Fair Value | Weighted Average Yield | Fair Value | Weighted Average Yield |
| (dollars in thousands) | | | | | | | | |
| Investment Securities(1) | | | | | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury securities | \$ | % | \$ 758 | 3.20% | \$ | % | \$ | % |
| Obligations of U.S. government corporations and agencies | 150,922 | 4.25% | 256,628 | 3.52% | 557 | 4.71% | | % |
| Obligations of states and political subdivisions (2) | 10,272 | 5.64% | 32,652 | 5.69% | 31,575 | 5.54% | 17,695 | 5.69% |
| Mortgage-backed securities | | % | 5,246 | 4.11% | 34,265 | 4.58% | 85,707 | 6.15% |
| Corporate debt securities | 947 | 3.86% | 2,016 | 4.82% | 134 | 5.33% | | % |
| Total | \$ 162,141 | 4.34% | \$ 297,300 | 3.78% | \$ 66,531 | 5.04% | \$ 103,402 | 6.07% |

(1) Excludes mutual funds and other equity securities.

(2) On a tax-equivalent basis, assuming a federal income tax rate of 35% (the effective federal income tax rate as of December 31, 2008)

U.S. Treasury securities and U.S. government and agency securities as a percentage of total securities decreased to 62.5% at December 31, 2008, from 74.6% at December 31, 2007, while obligations of state and political subdivisions (tax-exempt obligations) as a percentage of total securities decreased to 14.1% at December 31, 2008, from 14.6% at December 31, 2007. Increased investments in mortgage-backed securities offset the decline in other debt security categories as mortgage-backed securities increased to 19.1% of total securities at December 31, 2008, as compared to 6.0% of total securities at December 31, 2007. The mix between U.S. Treasury and agency securities and obligations of state and political sub-divisions was partially based upon an analysis of tax-adjusted yields, all of which were decreasing due to the declining interest rates and high demand for U.S. Treasury and government securities. First Busey considers many factors in determining the composition of its investment portfolio including tax-equivalent yield, credit quality, duration, regulatory and overall portfolio allocation.

Loan Portfolio

The composition of loans was as follows:

| | 2008 | 2007 | As of December 31, 2006 (dollars in thousands) | 2005 | 2004 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| Commercial | \$ 455,659 | \$ 443,142 | \$ 224,271 | \$ 219,134 | \$ 216,290 |
| Agricultural | 41,783 | 40,471 | 22,692 | 23,433 | 25,224 |
| Real estate-farmland | 54,345 | 49,683 | 16,237 | 10,188 | 11,750 |
| Real estate-construction | 743,347 | 731,100 | 467,539 | 345,454 | 235,547 |
| Real estate-mortgage | 1,902,677 | 1,733,878 | 1,186,635 | 1,104,798 | 923,291 |
| Installment loans to individuals | 59,770 | 54,951 | 39,553 | 46,155 | 63,798 |
| Loans | \$ 3,257,581 | \$ 3,053,225 | \$ 1,956,927 | \$ 1,749,162 | \$ 1,475,900 |

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Loans, including loans held-for-sale, before allowance for loan losses, increased 6.7% to \$3.26 billion as of December 31, 2008 from \$3.05 billion at December 31, 2007. A significant portion of the overall loan growth occurred in real estate mortgages, as non-farm nonresidential mortgages increased 12.0% or \$95.5 million to \$893.0 million at December 31, 2008 from \$797.5 million at the end of 2007. Also, 1-to-4 family residential real estate mortgage loans (not held-for-sale) decreased \$8.7 million, or 1.2%, to \$715.9 million as of December 31, 2008, from \$724.6 million at December 31, 2007. Overall, real estate-mortgage growth was primarily at Busey Bank with ending real estate-mortgages of \$1.65 billion at December 31, 2008 compared to \$1.48 billion at December 31, 2007. The growth in Busey Bank's real estate-mortgages was due primarily to growth in downstate Illinois, in which real estate-mortgages increased to \$1.44 billion at December 31, 2008 as compared to 1.29 billion at December 31, 2007. Busey Bank, N.A.'s real estate-mortgage balances were up slightly as a portion of prior period's construction loans moved into the real estate-mortgage categories.

The remainder of the loan categories all grew moderately in 2008 as compared to December 31, 2007 ending balances. The low growth in the non real estate-mortgage categories is due primarily to a general lack of demand for new non-real estate debt in the United States and, in particular, the banks' market areas, which appears to be driven by a lack of consumer confidence leading to a drop in demand for debt financed purchases.

As noted previously, the blend of strong agricultural, manufacturing, academia and healthcare prevalent in our downstate Illinois markets demanded growth from our communities throughout 2008. This provided Busey Bank with many opportunities to fund quality loans, whereby we assisted our communities at a time of economic contraction. Southwest Florida is experiencing an extremely difficult economic period. As southwest Florida's economy is based primarily in tourism and the secondary/retirement residential market, significant declines in discretionary spending brought on by this economic period have caused significant damage to that economy.

First Busey has no loans to customers engaged in oil and gas exploration or to foreign companies or governments. Commitments under standby letters of credit, unused lines of credit and other conditionally approved credit lines, totaled approximately \$687.8 million as of December 31, 2008.

The loan portfolio includes a concentration of loans for commercial real estate, which are included in the table above in the category of real estate-mortgage, amounting to approximately \$1.17 billion and \$985.3 million as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Generally, these loans are collateralized by assets of the borrowers. The loans are expected to be repaid from cash flows or from proceeds from the sale of selected assets of the borrowers.

The following table sets forth remaining maturities of selected loans (excluding certain real estate-farmland, real estate-mortgage loans and installment loans to individuals) at December 31, 2008:

| | 1 Year or Less | 1 to 5 Years | Over 5 Years | Total |
|---|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | (dollars in thousands) | | | |
| Commercial and agricultural | \$ 336,234 | \$ 136,735 | \$ 24,473 | \$ 497,442 |
| Real estate-construction | 622,294 | 110,588 | 10,465 | 743,347 |
| Total | \$ 958,528 | \$ 247,324 | \$ 34,938 | \$ 1,240,789 |
| Interest rate sensitivity of selected loans | | | | |
| Fixed rate | \$ 236,064 | \$ 159,047 | \$ 26,959 | \$ 422,069 |
| Adjustable rate | 722,464 | 88,277 | 7,980 | 818,720 |

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| | | | | | | | | |
|-------|----|---------|----|---------|----|--------|----|-----------|
| Total | \$ | 958,528 | \$ | 247,324 | \$ | 34,938 | \$ | 1,240,789 |
|-------|----|---------|----|---------|----|--------|----|-----------|

Table of Contents*Allowance for Loan Losses*

The following table shows activity affecting the allowance for loan losses:

| | Years ended December 31 | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
| | (dollars in thousands) | | | | |
| Average loans outstanding during period | \$ 3,163,739 | \$ 2,405,583 | \$ 1,832,800 | \$ 1,604,198 | \$ 1,355,487 |
| Allowance for loan losses: | | | | | |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$ 42,560 | \$ 23,588 | \$ 23,190 | \$ 19,217 | \$ 16,228 |
| Loans charged-off: | | | | | |
| Commercial and agricultural | \$ 2,037 | \$ 335 | \$ 372 | \$ 152 | \$ 1,782 |
| Real estate-construction | 20,501 | 5,727 | 205 | | 48 |
| Real estate-mortgage | 19,604 | 3,030 | 295 | 628 | 141 |
| Installment loans to individuals | 755 | 252 | 264 | 160 | 216 |
| Total charge-offs | \$ 42,897 | \$ 9,344 | \$ 1,136 | \$ 940 | \$ 2,187 |
| Recoveries: | | | | | |
| Commercial and agricultural | \$ 206 | \$ 684 | \$ 50 | \$ 133 | \$ 57 |
| Real estate-construction | 80 | 8 | 6 | | |
| Real estate-mortgage | 315 | 117 | 82 | 7 | 28 |
| Installment loans to individuals | 157 | 185 | 96 | 75 | 117 |
| Total recoveries | \$ 758 | \$ 994 | \$ 234 | \$ 215 | \$ 202 |
| Net loans charged-off | \$ 42,139 | \$ 8,350 | \$ 902 | \$ 725 | \$ 1,985 |
| Provision for loan losses | \$ 98,250 | \$ 14,475 | \$ 1,300 | \$ 3,490 | \$ 2,905 |
| Net additions due to acquisition | \$ | \$ 12,847 | \$ | \$ 1,208 | \$ 2,069 |
| Balance at end of period | \$ 98,671 | \$ 42,560 | \$ 23,588 | \$ 23,190 | \$ 19,217 |
| Ratios: | | | | | |
| Net charge-offs to average loans | 1.33% | 0.35% | 0.05% | 0.05% | 0.15% |
| Allowance for loan losses to total loans at period end | 3.12% | 1.39% | 1.21% | 1.33% | 1.30% |

The following table sets forth the allowance for loan losses by loan categories as of December 31 for each of the years indicated:

| | 2008 | | 2007 | | 2006 | | 2005 | | 2004 | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| | Amount | % of Loans to Total Loans | Amount | % of Loans to Total Loans | Amount | % of Loans to Total Loans | Amount | % of Loans to Total Loans | Amount | % of Loans to Total Loans |
| | (dollars in thousands) | | | | | | | | | |
| Commercial, agricultural and real estate-farmland | \$ 11,191 | 16.9% | \$ 4,884 | 17.5% | \$ 3,160 | 13.4% | \$ 4,221 | 14.5% | \$ 4,337 | 17.2% |
| Real estate-construction | 29,482 | 22.8% | 17,204 | 23.9% | 6,547 | 23.9% | 5,743 | 19.7% | 27 | 16.0% |
| Real estate-mortgage | 57,564 | 58.5% | 20,013 | 56.8% | 13,248 | 60.6% | 12,455 | 63.2% | 13,053 | 62.5% |
| Installment loans to individuals | 434 | 1.8% | 296 | 1.8% | 441 | 2.0% | 268 | 2.6% | 481 | 4.3% |
| Unallocated | | NA | 163 | N/A | 192 | N/A | 503 | N/A | 1,319 | N/A |

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| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Total | \$ 98,671 | 100.0% | \$ 42,560 | 100.0% | \$ 23,588 | 100.0% | \$ 23,190 | 100.0% | \$ 19,217 | 100.0% |
|-------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|

This table indicates significant growth in the allowance for loan losses for real estate-construction and real estate-mortgage as of December 31, 2008, as compared to December 31, 2007. This increase is due primarily to growth in the non-performing assets and outstanding balances in these loan categories. Further, the increase is supported by the level of charge-offs in these categories noted in the allowance for loan loss table above.

Table of Contents***Provision for Loan Losses***

The provision for loan losses is a current charge against income and represents an amount which management believes is sufficient to maintain an adequate allowance for known and probable losses. In assessing the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses, management considers the size and quality of the loan portfolio measured against prevailing economic conditions, regulatory guidelines, historical loan loss experience and credit quality of the portfolio. When a determination is made by management to charge off a loan balance, such write-off is charged against the allowance for loan losses.

First Busey's provision for loan losses was \$98.3 million during 2008 compared to \$14.5 million in 2007 and \$1.3 million in 2006. The increase in provision expense during 2008 is reflective of management's assessment of the current risk in the loan portfolio as compared to the allowance for loan losses. During 2008, First Busey added a significant amount to the allowance for loan losses due primarily to First Busey's real estate portfolio in the southwest Florida marketplace. See further discussion of the non-performing loans, including geographic allocations, under the *Non-performing Loans* section.

Sensitive assets include nonaccrual loans, loans on First Busey Corporation's watch loan reports and other loans identified as having more than reasonable potential for loss. Management reviews sensitive assets on at least a quarterly basis for changes in the customers' ability to pay and changes in valuation of underlying collateral in order to estimate probable losses. Management also periodically reviews a watch loan list which is comprised of loans that have been restructured or involve customers in industries which have been adversely affected by market conditions. The majority of these loans are being repaid in conformance with their contracts.

Non-performing Loans

It is management's policy to place commercial and mortgage loans on non-accrual status when interest or principal is 90 days or more past due. Such loans may continue on accrual status only if they are both well-secured and in the process of collection.

The following table sets forth information concerning non-performing loans at December 31 for each of the years indicated:

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|--|------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | (dollars in thousands) | | | | |
| Non-accrual loans | \$ 68,347 | \$ 15,370 | \$ 5,763 | \$ 4,483 | \$ 1,523 |
| Loans 90 days past due and still accruing | 15,845 | 4,710 | 2,002 | 1,420 | 2,141 |
| Total non-performing loans | \$ 84,192 | \$ 20,080 | \$ 7,765 | \$ 5,903 | \$ 3,664 |
| Repossessed assets | \$ 15,786 | \$ 2,026 | \$ 720 | \$ 236 | \$ 4,212 |
| Other assets acquired in satisfaction of debts previously contracted | 8 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 23 |
| Total non-performing other assets | \$ 15,794 | \$ 2,028 | \$ 721 | \$ 237 | \$ 4,235 |
| | \$ 99,986 | \$ 22,108 | \$ 8,486 | \$ 6,140 | \$ 7,899 |

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| | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total non-performing loans and non-performing other assets | | | | | |
| Non-performing loans to loans, before allowance for loan losses | 2.58% | 0.66% | 0.40% | 0.34% | 0.25% |
| Non-performing loans and non-performing other assets to loans, before allowance for loan losses | 3.07% | 0.72% | 0.44% | 0.35% | 0.54% |

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The following table sets forth information concerning non-performing loans at December 31, 2008:

| | Balance | Illinois/ Indiana | Florida | Commercial | Retail |
|---|-----------|----------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Non-Accrual Loans | | | | | |
| Busey Bank | \$ 50,818 | \$ 8,425 | \$ 42,393 | \$ 48,449 | \$ 2,369 |
| Busey Bank, N.A. | 17,529 | | 17,529 | 8,130 | 9,399 |
| | \$ 68,347 | \$ 8,425 | \$ 59,922 | \$ 56,579 | \$ 11,768 |
| 2008 Charge-offs on Non-Accrual Loans at December 31, 2008 | | | | | |
| Busey Bank | \$ 25,950 | \$ 7,915 | \$ 18,035 | \$ 25,228 | \$ 722 |
| Busey Bank, N.A. | 9,274 | | 9,274 | 4,659 | 4,615 |
| | \$ 35,224 | \$ 7,915 | \$ 27,309 | \$ 29,887 | \$ 5,337 |
| Specific Allocation of Allowance on Non-Accrual Loans | | | | | |
| Busey Bank | \$ 5,715 | \$ 165 | \$ 5,550 | \$ 5,715 | \$ |
| Busey Bank, N.A. | | | | | |
| | \$ 5,715 | \$ 165 | \$ 5,550 | \$ 5,715 | \$ |
| 90+ Days Past Due | | | | | |
| Busey Bank | \$ 14,561 | \$ 14,561 | \$ | \$ 10,805 | \$ 3,756 |
| Busey Bank, N.A. | 1,284 | | 1,284 | 730 | 554 |
| | \$ 15,845 | \$ 14,561 | \$ 1,284 | \$ 11,535 | \$ 4,310 |

First Busey experienced significant deterioration in its loan portfolio during 2008 as compared to 2007. Total non-performing assets were \$100.0 million at December 31, 2008, compared to \$22.1 million at December 31, 2007. Overall, the majority of the non-performing loans are in the southwest Florida market. While retail non-performing loans are significant in the southwest Florida market due to that market's severe economic downturn, commercial loans make up the majority of our non-performing assets. The commercial non-performing loans are primarily commercial real estate and commercial real estate development loans.

During 2008, Busey Bank and Busey Bank, N.A. charged off \$26.0 million and \$9.3 million, respectively, of principal balance on loans on non-accrual status at December 31, 2008. Charge-offs reduce the reported principal of the balance of the loan, whereas, a specific allocation of allowance for loan losses does not reduce the reported principal balance of the loan. Non-accrual loans are reported net of charge-offs, but gross of related specific allowance allocations of allowance. In summary, if we had not charged off the \$35.3 million in loans, our non-accrual loans would have been \$35.3 million higher than the \$68.3 million.

Due to the downward volatility in the real estate market in southwest Florida, the majority of the increase in our allowance for loan losses is allocated to the southwest Florida marketplace. Overall, approximately 22.8% of the gross loans of First Busey are located in Florida between Busey Bank's loan production office and Busey Bank, N.A., but the market makes up 72.7% of the Company's non-performing loans.

A loan is considered to be impaired when, based on current information and events, it is probable First Busey will not be able to collect all amounts due. The accrual of interest income on impaired loans is discontinued when there is reasonable doubt as to the borrower's ability to meet contractual payments of interest or principal. Interest income on these loans is recognized to the extent interest payments are received and the principal is considered fully collectible.

The gross interest income that would have been recorded in the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 if the non-accrual loans had been current in accordance with their original terms was \$4.9 million, \$2.5 million, and \$0.9 million, respectively. For 2007, Busey Bank's lost interest was \$3.5 million with the remainder attributable to Busey Bank, N.A. The amount of interest collected on those loans that was included in interest income was \$3.0 million, \$0.7 million, and \$0.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

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Restructured Loans

We restructure loans for our customers who appear to be able to meet the terms of their loan over the long-term, but who may be unable to meet the terms of the loan in the near term due to individual circumstances. We consider the customer's past performance, previous and current credit history, the individual circumstances surrounding the current difficulties and their plan to meet the terms of the loan in the future prior to restructuring the terms of the loan. Generally, loans are restructured through short-term interest rate relief, short-term principal payment relief or short-term principal and interest payment relief. Once a restructured loan has gone 90+ days past due or is placed on non-accrual status, it is included in the totals above. The Company had \$40.9 million of loans performing under restructured terms at December 31, 2008. Prior to 2008, loans performing under restructured terms were insignificant.

Potential Problem Loans

Potential problem loans are those loans which are not categorized as impaired, non-accrual, 90-days past due or restructured, but where current information indicates that the borrower may not be able to comply with present loan repayment terms. Management assesses the potential for loss on such loans as it would with other problem loans and has considered the effect of any potential loss in determining its provision for probable loan losses. Potential problem loans totaled \$113.9 million at December 31, 2008 and \$26.3 million at December 31, 2007. Management continues to monitor these credits and anticipates that restructure, guarantee, additional collateral or other planned action will result in full repayment of the debts. Management has identified no other loans that represent or result from trends or uncertainties which management reasonably expects will materially impact future operating results, liquidity or capital resources. Management is not aware of any information about any other credits which cause management to have serious doubts as to the ability of such borrower(s) to comply with the loan repayment terms.

Other Interest-bearing Assets

No other interest-bearing assets are categorized as impaired.

Table of Contents*Deposits*

As indicated in the following table, average non-interest-bearing deposits as a percentage of average total deposits increased to 11.5% for the year ended December 31, 2008, from 10.5% for the year ended December 31, 2007, which was a decrease from 13.0% for the year ended December 31, 2006. The increase in non-interest bearing deposits in 2008 from 2007 reflects the unlimited FDIC coverage on non-interest bearing deposits and the declining rate environment for interest bearing deposits during 2008.

| | 2008 | | Year Ended December 31, 2007 (dollars in thousands) | | | | 2006 | | Average Rate |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|---|--------------------|---------|-----------------|--------------------|---------|-----------------|
| | Average Balance | % Total | Average Rate | Average Balance | % Total | Average Rate | Average Balance | % Total | |
| Non-interest bearing demand deposits | \$ 376,929 | 11.5% | 0.00% | \$ 266,721 | 10.5% | 0.00% | \$ 242,707 | 13.0% | 0.00% |
| Interest bearing demand deposits | 34,703 | 1.1% | 0.78% | 51,127 | 2.0% | 2.51% | 70,365 | 3.7% | 2.25% |
| Savings/Money Market | 1,390,741 | 42.4% | 1.41% | 1,118,667 | 44.2% | 2.70% | 764,967 | 41.0% | 2.57% |
| Time deposits | 1,477,494 | 45.0% | 4.15% | 1,094,285 | 43.3% | 4.82% | 789,019 | 42.3% | 4.28% |
| Total | \$ 3,279,867 | 100.0% | 2.48% | \$ 2,530,800 | 100.0% | 3.33% | \$ 1,867,058 | 100.0% | 2.95% |

Certificates of deposit and other time deposits of \$100,000 and over at December 31, 2008 had the following maturities (dollars in thousands):

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Under 3 months | \$ 134,235 |
| 3 to 6 months | 149,279 |
| 6 to 12 months | 212,235 |
| Over 12 months | 102,173 |
| Total | \$ 597,922 |

Brokered certificates of deposit had the following maturities at December 31, 2008 (dollars in thousands):

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Under 3 months | \$ 82,354 |
| 3 to 6 months | 76,266 |
| 6 to 12 months | 95,410 |
| Over 12 months | 52,852 |
| Total | \$ 306,882 |

Table of Contents**Short-term Borrowings**

The following table sets forth the distribution of short-term borrowings and weighted average interest rates thereon at the end of each of the last three years. Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase generally represent overnight borrowing transactions. Other short-term borrowings consist of various demand notes and notes with maturities of less than one year.

| | Federal funds purchased | Securities sold under agreements to repurchase (dollars in thousands) | Other short-term borrowings |
|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 2008 | | | |
| Balance, December 31, 2008 | \$ | \$ 182,980 | \$ 83,000 |
| Weighted average interest rate at end of period | | 1.05% | 2.78% |
| Maximum outstanding at any month end | \$ 90,050 | \$ 182,980 | \$ 142,000 |
| Average daily balance | \$ 25,691 | \$ 145,972 | \$ 85,301 |
| Weighted average interest rate during period (1) | 2.25% | 2.33% | 2.75% |
| 2007 | | | |
| Balance, December 31, 2007 | \$ 36,525 | \$ 166,594 | \$ 10,523 |
| Weighted average interest rate at end of period | 3.79% | 3.94% | 6.08% |
| Maximum outstanding at any month end | \$ 36,525 | \$ 166,594 | \$ 21,023 |
| Average daily balance | \$ 8,639 | \$ 95,796 | \$ 4,343 |
| Weighted average interest rate during period (1) | 5.36% | 4.20% | 6.40% |
| 2006 | | | |
| Balance, December 31, 2006 | \$ 6,300 | \$ 48,470 | \$ 25,000 |
| Weighted average interest rate at end of period | 5.44% | 4.09% | 5.31% |
| Maximum outstanding at any month end | \$ 46,500 | \$ 58,104 | \$ 25,000 |
| Average daily balance | \$ 18,465 | \$ 50,642 | \$ 3,267 |
| Weighted average interest rate during period (1) | 5.33% | 3.65% | 5.45% |

(1)The weighted average interest rate is computed by dividing total interest for the year by the average daily balance outstanding.

Liquidity

Liquidity management is the process by which First Busey ensures that adequate liquid funds are available to meet the present and future cash flow obligations arising in the daily operations of the business. These financial obligations consist of needs for funds to meet commitments to borrowers for extensions of credit, funding capital expenditures, withdrawals by customers, maintaining deposit reserve requirements, servicing debt, paying dividends to stockholders, and paying operating expenses.

First Busey's most liquid assets are cash and due from banks, interest-bearing bank deposits, and federal funds sold. The balances of these assets are dependent on First Busey's operating, investing, lending, and financing activities during any given period. Average liquid assets are summarized in the table below:

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| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
| | (dollars in thousands) | | |
| Cash and due from banks | \$ 105,655 | \$ 70,979 | \$ 53,020 |
| Interest-bearing bank deposits | 673 | 222 | 488 |
| Federal funds sold | 9,835 | 27,608 | 6,923 |
| Total | \$ 116,163 | \$ 98,809 | \$ 60,431 |
| Percent of average total assets | 2.7% | 3.1% | 2.6% |

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First Busey's primary sources of funds consist of cash from operations, investment maturities and sales, deposits, and capital funds. Additional liquidity is provided by brokered deposits, bank lines of credit, repurchase agreements and the ability to borrow from the Federal Reserve Bank and the Federal Home Loan Bank.

First Busey has an operating line in the amount of \$35.0 million, of which \$7.0 million is available as of December 31, 2008 compared to a \$35.0 million line of credit in 2007, of which \$14.5 was available as of December 31, 2007. Long-term liquidity needs will be satisfied primarily through the retention of capital funds.

An additional source of liquidity that can be managed for short-term and long-term needs is First Busey's ability to securitize or package loans (primarily mortgage loans) for sale. During 2008, First Busey originated \$270.8 million and sold \$279.0 million in mortgage loans held for sale compared to originations of \$238.3 million and sales of \$232.2 million in 2007, and originations of \$181.7 million and sales of \$177.1 million in 2006. As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, First Busey held \$14.2 million and \$22.4 million in loans held for sale, respectively.

Liquidity management is the process by which First Busey ensures that adequate liquid funds are available to meet the present and future cash flow obligations arising in the daily operations of the business. Based upon the level of investment securities that reprice within 30 days and 90 days, management currently believes that adequate liquidity exists to meet all projected cash flow obligations. First Busey achieves a satisfactory degree of liquidity through actively managing both assets and liabilities. Asset management guides the proportion of liquid assets to total assets, while liability management monitors future funding requirements and prices liabilities accordingly.

Additionally, as noted in earlier, First Busey issued \$100.0 million in CPP Preferred Shares to the Treasury on March 6, 2009. A significant portion of the \$100.0 million will be injected into the banking subsidiaries to fund loan growth. This will also provide the Company with a significant level of liquidity.

First Busey's banking subsidiaries routinely enter into commitments to extend credit in the normal course of their business. As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, First Busey had outstanding loan commitments including lines of credit of \$705.2 million, and \$722.7 million respectively. The balance of commitments to extend credit represents future cash requirements and some of these commitments may expire without being drawn upon. First Busey anticipates it will have sufficient funds available to meet its current loan commitments, including loan applications received and in process prior to the issuance of firm commitments.

First Busey has entered into certain contractual obligations and other commitments. Such obligations generally relate to funding of operations through deposits, debt issuance, and property and equipment leases. The following table summarizes significant contractual obligations and other commitments as of December 31, 2008.

| Certificates of Deposit | Short- and Long-term Borrowing | Operating Leases | Junior Subordinated Debt Owed to Unconsolidated Trusts | Total |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--|-------|
| (dollars in thousands) | | | | |

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| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----|-----------|----|---------|----|--------|--------|-----------|---------|
| 2009 | \$ | 1,399,865 | \$ | 118,417 | \$ | 2,637 | \$ | 1,520,919 | |
| 2010 | | 221,968 | | 25,917 | | 2,401 | | 250,286 | |
| 2011 | | 65,868 | | 53,742 | | 2,223 | | 121,833 | |
| 2012 | | 55,847 | | 12,417 | | 1,178 | | 69,442 | |
| 2013 | | 26,815 | | 7,000 | | 257 | | 34,072 | |
| Thereafter | | 431 | | | | 1,743 | 55,000 | 57,174 | |
| Total | \$ | 1,770,794 | \$ | 217,493 | \$ | 10,439 | \$ | 2,053,726 | |
| Commitments to extend credit | | | | | | | | \$ | 733,093 |

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Net cash flows provided by operating activities totaled \$81.4 million, \$36.5 million and \$30.7 million in 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Significant items affecting the cash flows provided by operating activities include net income, depreciation and amortization expense, the provision for loan losses, 2008 goodwill impairment, deferred income taxes, security gains and activities related to the origination and sale of mortgage loans held for sale. Net cash provided by mortgage loans originated totaled \$12.6 million in 2008. Net cash used in mortgage loan originated was \$2.9 million and \$2.1 million in 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Net cash used in investing activities totaled \$313.3 million, \$1.7 million and \$242.4 million in 2008, 2007, and 2006, respectively. Significant activities affecting cash flows from investing activities are those activities associated with managing First Busey's investment portfolio, loans held in First Busey's portfolio, and subsidiary or business unit acquisition and divestiture activities. During 2007, the merger with Main Street provided cash and the associated divestiture used cash of \$53.5 million and \$80.8 million, respectively, for a net cash used in merger and associated divestiture during 2007 of \$27.3 million. Net loan portfolio growth totaled \$274.5 million, \$100.9 million, and \$205.3 million, in 2008, 2007, and 2006, respectively.

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$296.9 million, \$27.1 million, and \$214.1 million in 2008, 2007, 2006, respectively. Significant items affecting cash flows from financing activities are deposits, short-term borrowings, and long-term debt. Non-acquisition related deposits, which are First Busey's primary funding source grew \$299.5 million in 2008, \$40.6 million in 2007, and \$205.4 million in 2006. Due to a declining rate environment for long-term rates over the past three years, First Busey has utilized primarily federal funds, repurchase agreements and short-term borrowings for financing needs. As rates continue to fall, First Busey will explore longer-term, fixed rate debt in addition to short-term funds for financing needs. However, during 2008 the long-term debt markets were not readily available. Most long-term debt instrument pricing was adjusted up for the additional risk the associated with the 2008 economic environment. First Busey repurchased \$10.6 million of its stock during 2008 and \$11.2 million in 2007. First Busey issued junior subordinated debt in June 2006, to redeem an existing junior subordinated debt issuance and repay other indebtedness.

Capital Resources

First Busey's subsidiary banks are considered well-capitalized pursuant to applicable regulatory guidelines. However, given our growth opportunities and the difficult credit market, we believe that it is prudent for us to raise additional capital. Tough economic times present us with both challenges and opportunities. Additional capital will allow us to take advantage of organic and external growth opportunities.

The Federal Reserve Board uses capital adequacy guidelines in its examination and regulation of bank holding companies and their subsidiary banks. Risk-based capital ratios are established by allocating assets and certain off-balance sheet commitments into four risk-weighted categories. These balances are then multiplied by the factor appropriate for that risk-weighted category. The guidelines require bank holding companies and their subsidiary banks to maintain a total capital to total risk-weighted asset ratio of not less than 8.00%, of which at least one half must be Tier 1 capital, and a Tier 1 leverage ratio of not less than 4.00%. As of December 31, 2008, First Busey had a total capital to total risk-weighted asset ratio of 8.88%, a Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted asset ratio of 7.60% and a Tier 1 leverage ratio of 6.14%; Busey Bank had ratios of 10.02%, 8.74%, and 7.08%, respectively. Busey Bank, N.A. had ratios of 11.84%, 10.53%, and 8.14%, respectively. As these ratios indicate, First Busey and its bank subsidiaries exceed the regulatory capital guidelines.

On September 19, 2008, we filed a registration statement with the SEC to offer \$30.0 million in trust preferred securities to provide us additional capital. Because of the announced Capital Purchase Program to be administered by Treasury, the trust preferred offering was postponed indefinitely.

In February 2009, First Busey received approval to participate in the CPP and issue Treasury up to \$100.0 million of preferred stock, plus warrants to purchase common stock. On March 6, 2009, First Busey issued \$100.0 million of CPP preferred stock to Treasury, plus a warrant to purchase 1.1 million shares of First Busey common stock at a strike price of \$13.07 per share. All of the capital from Treasury will be treated as Tier 1 capital for regulatory purposes by the Company. If the Treasury capital had been in place as of December 31, 2008, First Busey would have had a total capital to total risk-weighted asset ratio of 11.81%, a Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted asset ratio of 10.53% and a Tier 1 leverage ratio of 8.35%.

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Regulatory Considerations

In accordance with Federal Reserve Board regulations in effect on December 31, 2005, First Busey is allowed, for regulatory purposes, to include all \$55.0 million of the outstanding cumulative trust preferred securities in Tier 1 capital (as defined by regulation). In March, 2005, the Federal Reserve Board issued final regulations allowing for the continued limited inclusion of trust preferred securities in the Tier 1 capital of bank holding companies, but with further restrictions on the amount of trust preferred securities and other restricted core capital elements that may be included in Tier 1 capital. The final rule allows for a transition period to March 31, 2009, for application of the new limits. If those limitations had been in effect at December 31, 2007, First Busey would have been allowed to include all of the cumulative trust preferred securities in Tier 1 capital. If First Busey were unable to include cumulative trust preferred securities in Tier 1 capital, the remainder would be included in Tier 2 capital. First Busey would have exceeded all regulatory minimum capital ratios if the newly adopted regulations had been in effect on December 31, 2008.

New Accounting Pronouncements

In February 2007, FASB issued Statement No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities* (SFAS No. 159). Under this Standard, the Company may elect to report financial instruments and certain other items at fair value on a contract-by-contract basis with changes in value reported in earnings. This election is irrevocable. SFAS No. 159 provides an opportunity to mitigate volatility in reported earnings that is caused by measuring hedged assets and liabilities that were previously required to use a different accounting method than the related hedging contracts when the complex provisions of SFAS No. 133 hedge accounting are not met. This interpretation is effective for the Company's fiscal year beginning January 1, 2008. This Statement did not have a significant impact on the Company's financial statements.

In September 2006, FASB issued Statement No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements* (SFAS No. 157), which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in generally accepted accounting principles, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. SFAS No. 157 clarifies that fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants in the market in which the Company transacts. SFAS No. 157 does not require any new fair value measurements, but rather, it provides enhanced guidance to other pronouncements that require or permit assets or liabilities to be measured at fair value. In February 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position (FSP) No. 157-2, *Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 157*, to partially defer SFAS No. 157. The FSP defers the effective date of SFAS No. 157 for nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities, except those that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial on at least an annual basis, to fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008, and interim periods within those fiscal years. All other provisions of SFAS No. 157 not within the scope of the FSP are effective for the Company's fiscal year beginning January 1, 2008. This Statement did not have a significant impact on the Company's financial statements.

In September 2006, the FASB Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) released EITF Issue No. 06-4, *Accounting for Deferred Compensation and Postretirement Benefit Aspects of Endorsement Split-Dollar Life Insurance Arrangements*, (EITF 06-4) which required that an employer recognize a liability for post-employment benefits promised to an employee based on an arrangement between an employer and an employee. In an endorsement split-dollar arrangement, the employer owns and controls the policy, and the employer and employee split the life insurance policy's cash surrender value and/or death benefits. If the employer agreed to maintain a life insurance policy during the employee's retirement, the present value of the cost of maintaining the insurance policy would be accrued over the employee's active service period. Similarly, if the employer agreed to provide the employee with a death benefit, the present value of the death benefit would be accrued over the employee's active service period. EITF 06-4 is effective for the Company's fiscal year beginning January 1, 2008. In January 2008, the Company recorded a \$4.7 million cumulative effect adjustment to retained earnings along with an associated liability for post-employment benefits in accordance with EITF 06-4. During 2008, the Company recorded \$0.4 million of expense related to post-employment life insurance benefits.

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Effective January 1, 2007, the Company adopted FIN No. 48. At the adoption date, the Company applied FIN No. 48 to all tax positions for which the statute of limitations remained open. There were no unrecognized tax benefits as of January 1, 2007. There have been no adjustments to unrecognized tax benefits since January 1, 2007. There are no material tax positions for which it is reasonably possible that unrecognized tax benefits will significantly change in the twelve months subsequent to December 31, 2007.

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Effective January 1, 2006, First Busey adopted the fair value recognition provision of FASB Statement No. 123(R), *Share-Based Payment*, using the modified-prospective transition method. Under that transition method, compensation cost recognized in the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 includes: (a) compensation cost for all share-based payments granted prior to, but not yet vested as of January 1, 2006, based on the grant date fair value estimated in accordance with the original provisions of Statement 123, and (b) compensation costs for all share-based payments granted subsequent to January 1, 2006, based on the grant-date fair value estimated in accordance with the provisions of Statement 123(R). Results for prior periods have not been restated.

Information relating to additional new accounting pronouncements issued but not yet adopted appears in Note 1 in the Notes to the consolidated financial statements.

Effects of Inflation

The effect of inflation on a financial institution differs significantly from the effect on an industrial company. While a financial institution's operating expenses, particularly salary and employee benefits, are affected by general inflation, the asset and liability structure of a financial institution consists largely of monetary items. Monetary items, such as cash, loans and deposits, are those assets and liabilities which are or will be converted into a fixed number of dollars regardless of changes in prices. As a result, changes in interest rates have a more significant impact on a financial institution's performance than does general inflation. For additional information regarding interest rates and changes in net interest income see Table 1- Average Balance Sheets and Interest Rates and Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

Market risk is the risk of change in asset values due to movements in underlying market rates and prices. Interest rate risk is the risk to earnings and capital arising from movements in interest rates. Interest rate risk is the most significant market risk affecting First Busey as other types of market risk, such as foreign currency exchange rate risk and commodity price risk, do not arise in the normal course of First Busey's business activities.

First Busey's subsidiary banks, Busey Bank and Busey Bank, N.A., have asset-liability committees which meet at least quarterly to review current market conditions and attempt to structure the banks' balance sheets to ensure stable net interest income despite potential changes in interest rates with all other variables constant.

The asset-liability committees use gap analysis to identify mismatches in the dollar value of assets and liabilities subject to repricing within specific time periods. The Funds Management Policies established by the asset-liability committees and approved by First Busey's Board of Directors establish guidelines for maintaining the ratio of cumulative rate-sensitive assets to rate-sensitive liabilities within prescribed ranges at certain intervals.

Interest rate sensitivity is a measure of the volatility of the net interest margin as a consequence of changes in market rates. The rate-sensitivity chart shows the interval of time in which given volumes of rate-sensitive earning assets and rate-sensitive interest-bearing liabilities would be

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responsive to changes in market interest rates based on their contractual maturities or terms for repricing. It is however, only a static, single-day depiction of First Busey's rate sensitivity structure, which can be adjusted in response to changes in forecasted interest rates.

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The following table sets forth the static rate-sensitivity analysis of First Busey as of December 31, 2008.

| | Rate Sensitive Within | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|-------|--------------|
| | 1-30 Days | 31-90 Days | 91-180 Days | 181 Days 1 Year | Over 1 Year | Total | |
| | (dollars in thousands) | | | | | | |
| Interest-bearing deposits | \$ 167 | | | | | | \$ 167 |
| Federal funds sold | | | | | | | |
| Investment securities | | | | | | | |
| U.S. Treasuries and Agencies | 20,031 | 16,135 | 35,095 | 79,661 | 257,943 | | 408,865 |
| States and political subdivisions | 4,772 | 1,354 | 660 | 6,014 | 79,394 | | 92,194 |
| Other securities | 22,845 | 15,234 | 19,792 | 20,365 | 74,835 | | 153,071 |
| Loans (net of unearned interest) | 1,248,220 | 204,567 | 245,831 | 393,635 | 1,165,328 | | 3,257,581 |
| Total rate-sensitive assets | \$ 1,296,035 | \$ 237,290 | \$ 301,378 | \$ 499,675 | \$ 1,577,500 | | \$ 3,911,878 |
| Interest-bearing transaction deposits | \$ 92,542 | | | | | | \$ 92,542 |
| Savings deposits | 153,967 | | | | | | 153,967 |
| Money market deposits | 1,111,383 | | | | | | 1,111,383 |
| Time deposits | 174,850 | 202,431 | 424,432 | 598,260 | 370,821 | | 1,770,794 |
| Federal funds purchased and repurchase agreements | 175,840 | 2,133 | 2,000 | 3,007 | | | 182,980 |
| Short-term borrowings | 28,000 | 25,000 | | 30,000 | | | 83,000 |
| Long-term debt | 33,418 | | 3,250 | 30,000 | 67,825 | | 134,493 |
| Junior subordinated debt issued to unconsolidated trusts | | 25,000 | | | 30,000 | | 55,000 |
| Total rate-sensitive liabilities | \$ 1,770,000 | \$ 254,564 | \$ 429,682 | \$ 661,267 | \$ 468,646 | | \$ 3,584,159 |
| Rate-sensitive assets less rate-sensitive liabilities | \$ (473,965) | \$ (17,274) | \$ (128,304) | \$ (161,592) | \$ 1,108,854 | | \$ 327,719 |
| Cumulative Gap | \$ (473,965) | \$ (491,239) | \$ (619,543) | \$ (781,135) | \$ 327,719 | | |
| Cumulative amounts as a percentage of total rate-sensitive assets | -12.12% | -12.56% | -15.84% | -19.97% | 8.38% | | |
| Cumulative Ratio | 0.73 | 0.76 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 1.09 | | |

First Busey Corporation's funds management policy requires the subsidiary banks to maintain a cumulative rate-sensitivity ratio of .75 - 1.25 in the 90-day, 180-day, and 1-year time periods. As of December 31, 2008, the Banks are within those guidelines.

The foregoing table shows a negative (liability-sensitive) rate-sensitivity gap of \$474.0 million in the 1-30 day repricing category as more liabilities were subject to repricing during that time period than assets were subject to repricing within that same time period. On a cumulative basis, the gap remains liability sensitive through one year as our liabilities subject to repricing exceed our assets subject to repricing every period through one year. The composition of the gap structure as of December 31, 2008, indicates First Busey would benefit more if interest rates decrease during the next year by allowing the net interest margin to grow as the volume of interest-bearing liabilities subject to repricing would be greater than the volume of interest-earning assets subject to repricing during the same period. However, as the following analysis demonstrates, many of our liabilities are at or near applicable interest rates floors and further declines in interest rates would not allow for the

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liabilities to absorb the rate decreases in excess of the decline in asset rates. Even though the gap analysis shows we are liability sensitive through one year, we are actually asset sensitive due to the current interest rate environment.

The asset-liability committees do not rely solely on gap analysis to manage interest-rate risk as interest rate changes do not impact all categories of assets and liabilities equally or simultaneously. Other factors influence the effect of interest-rate fluctuations on First Busey's net interest margin. For example, a decline in interest rates may lead borrowers to repay their loans more rapidly which could mitigate some of the expected benefit of the decline in interest rates when negatively gapped. Conversely, a rapid rise in interest rates could lead to an increase in the net interest margin if the increased rates on loans and other interest-earning assets are higher than those on interest-bearing deposits and other liabilities.

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The asset-liability committees supplement gap analysis with balance sheet and income simulation analysis to determine the potential impact on net interest income of changes in market interest rates. In these simulation models the balance sheet is projected out over a one-year period and net interest income is calculated under current market rates, and then assuming permanent instantaneous shifts in the yield curve of +/- 100 basis points, and + 200 basis points. Management measures such changes assuming immediate and sustained shifts in the Federal funds rate and the corresponding shifts in other rate indices based on their historical changes relative to changes in the Federal funds rate. The model assumes asset and liability balances remain constant at December 31 balances. The model uses repricing frequency on all variable-rate assets and liabilities. The model also uses a historical decay rate on all fixed-rate core deposit balances. Prepayment speeds on loans have been adjusted to incorporate expected prepayment speeds in both a rising and declining rate environment. As of December 31, 2008, due to the current interest rate market, a downward adjustment in interest rates of 100 or 200 basis points is not possible. Utilizing this measurement concept the interest-rate risk of First Busey, expressed as a change in net interest income as a percentage of the net income calculated in the constant base model, due to changes in interest rates was as follows:

| | Basis Point Changes | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------|-------|---------|
| | -200 | -100 | +100 | +200 |
| December 31, 2008 | NA | NA | 3.08% | 5.27% |
| December 31, 2007 | (2.01)% | (0.33)% | 0.07% | (0.05)% |

First Busey's Funds Management Policy defines a targeted range of +/- 10% change in net interest margin in a 1-year time frame for interest rate shocks of +/- 100 basis points and +/- 200 basis points. As indicated in the table above, First Busey is within this targeted range on a consolidated basis.

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

The financial statements are presented beginning on page 58.

Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure

Not applicable.

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures*Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures*

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An evaluation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act) was carried out as of December 31, 2008, under the supervision and with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and several other members of our senior management. Our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of December 31, 2008, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective in ensuring that the information we are required to disclose in the reports we file or submit under the Act is (i) accumulated and communicated to our management (including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer) in a timely manner, and (ii) recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms.

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Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

First Busey's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. The Company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed under the supervision of the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of the Company's consolidated financial statements for external reporting purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

As of December 31, 2008, management assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on the criteria for effective internal control over financial reporting established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework*, issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Based on this assessment, management determined that the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on the COSO criteria.

McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm that audited the consolidated financial statements of the Company included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, has issued an attestation report on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008. The report, which expresses an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, is included in this Item under the heading *Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm on Internal Control over Financial Reporting*.

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM ON
INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

To the Stockholders and Board of Directors

First Busey Corporation

We have audited First Busey Corporation's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission*. First Busey Corporation's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material misstatement exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on assessed risk. Our audit also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A Company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A Company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the Company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the Company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of Management and Directors of the Company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the Company's assets that could have a material effect on the consolidated financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, First Busey Corporation maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission*.

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We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated financial statements of First Busey Corporation and subsidiaries and our report dated March 16, 2009 expressed an unqualified opinion.

Champaign, Illinois
March 16, 2009

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Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

During the quarter ended December 31, 2008, no change occurred in our internal control over financial reporting that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Item 9B. Other information

Not applicable.

Part III

Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance

(a) Directors of the Registrant and Corporate Governance. Information required by this Item is incorporated herein by reference to First Busey's Proxy Statement for its 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be filed with the SEC within 120 days of First Busey's fiscal year-end.

(b) Executive Officers of the Registrant. Please refer to Part I of this Form 10-K.

Item 11. Executive Compensation

The information required by this Item is incorporated herein by reference to First Busey's Proxy statement for its 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be filed with the SEC within 120 days of First Busey's fiscal year-end.

Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters

The information required by Item 12 is incorporated herein by reference to First Busey's Proxy statement for its 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be filed with the SEC within 120 days of First Busey's fiscal year-end.

Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions

The information required by this Item is incorporated by this Item is incorporated herein by reference to First Busey's Proxy Statement for its 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be filed with the SEC within 120 days of First Busey's fiscal year-end.

Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services

The information required by this Item is incorporated herein by reference to First Busey's Proxy Statement for its 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be filed with the SEC within 120 days of First Busey's fiscal year-end.

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Signatures

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) 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, in the City of Urbana, Illinois on March 16, 2009.

FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION
 BY //VAN A. DUKEMAN//
 Van A. Dukeman
 Chief Executive Officer and President

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities indicated on March 16, 2009.

| Signature | Title |
|--|--|
| //VAN A. DUKEMAN// Van A. Dukeman | Chief Executive Officer and President (Principal Executive Officer) |
| //BARBARA J. HARRINGTON// Barbara J. Harrington | Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer) |
| //DOUGLAS C. MILLS// Douglas C. Mills | Chairman |
| //JOSEPH M. AMBROSE// Joseph M. Ambrose | Director |
| //DAVID J. DOWNEY// David J. Downey | Director |
| //DAVID L. IKENBERRY// David L. Ikenberry | Director |
| //E. PHILLIPS KNOX// E. Phillips Knox | Director |
| //V. B. LEISTER, JR.// V. B. Leister, Jr. | Director |
| //GREGORY B. LYKINS// Gregory B. Lykins | Director |
| //AUGUST C. MEYER, JR.// August C. Meyer, Jr. | Director |
| //GEORGE T. SHAPLAND// George T. Shapland | Director |

Table of Contents**Part IV****Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules****Exhibits**

A list of exhibits to this Form 10-K is set forth on the Exhibit Index immediately preceding such exhibits and is incorporated into this report by reference.

Stockholders may obtain a copy of any of the exhibits, upon payment of a reasonable fee, by writing to First Busey Corporation, Corporate Secretary, at 201 W. Main Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801, or by visiting the SEC's EDGAR database at <http://www.sec.gov>. The Company's SEC file number is 0-15950.

| Exhibit Number | Description of Exhibit |
|-----------------------|---|
| 3.1 | Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of First Busey Corporation, together with the Amendment to Articles of Incorporation, dated July 31, 2007, and the Certificate of Designation for Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series T, dated March 4, 2009.* |
| 3.2 | First Busey Corporation Amended and Restated By-Laws (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to First Busey's Form 8-K dated November 18, 2008, filed with the Commission on November 24, 2008 (Commission File No. 0-15950), and incorporated herein by reference) |
| 10.1 | First Busey Corporation 1993 Restricted Stock Award Plan (filed as Appendix E to First Busey's definitive proxy statement filed with the Commission on April 5, 1993 (Commission File No. 0-15950), and incorporated herein by reference) |
| 10.2 | First Busey Corporation Profit Sharing Plan and Trust (filed as Exhibit 10.3 to First Busey's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 33-13973), and incorporated herein by reference) |
| 10.3 | First Busey Corporation Employee Stock Ownership Plan (filed as Exhibit 10.7 to First Busey's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1988 (Registration No. 2-66201), and incorporated herein by reference) |
| 10.4 | First Busey Corporation 1999 Stock Option Plan (filed as Appendix B to First Busey's definitive proxy statement filed with the Commission on March 25, 1999 (Commission File No. 0-15950), and incorporated herein by reference) |
| 10.5 | First Busey Corporation 2004 Stock Option Plan (filed as Annex D to First Busey's definitive proxy statement filed with the Commission on March 12, 2004 (Commission File No. 0-15950), and incorporated herein by reference) |
| 10.6 | First Busey Corporation amendment to credit agreement with JPMorgan Chase N.A., (filed as Exhibit 99.1 to First Busey's Form 8-K dated November 7, 2007, filed with the Commission on November 13, 2007 (Commission File No. 0-15950), and incorporated herein by reference) |
| 10.7 | |

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First Busey Corporation line of credit note with JPMorgan Chase N.A., (filed as Exhibit 99.2 to First Busey's Form 8-K dated November 7, 2007, filed with the Commission on November 13, 2007 (Commission File No. 0-15950), and incorporated herein by reference)

- 10.8 Letter agreement between First Busey Corporation and Douglas C. Mills, dated September 20, 2006 (previously filed as Exhibit 99.3 to First Busey's Form 8-K dated September 21, 2006, and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.9 Letter agreement between First Busey Corporation and David D. Mills, dated September 20, 2006 (previously filed as Exhibit 99.5 to First Busey's Form 8-K dated September 21, 2006, and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.10 Letter agreement between First Busey Corporation and Barbara J. Harrington, dated September 20, 2006 (previously filed as Exhibit 99.6 to First Busey's Form 8-K dated September 21, 2006, and incorporated by reference herein).

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- 10.11 Letter agreement between First Busey Corporation and Lee H. O'Neill, dated July 31, 2007 (previously filed as Exhibit 10.1 to First Busey's Form 8-K dated August 1, 2007, and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.12 Employment agreement by and between Main Street Trust, Inc. and Gregory B. Lykins (previously filed as Exhibit 10.1 to Main Street Trust, Inc.'s Form 10-K on March 29, 2002, and incorporated by reference herein (SEC File No. 000-30031)).
- 10.13 Employment agreement by and between Main Street Trust, Inc. and Van A. Dukeman (previously filed as Exhibit 10.2 to Main Street Trust, Inc.'s Form 10-K on March 29, 2002, and incorporated by reference herein (SEC File No. 000-30031)).
- 10.14 Employment agreement by and between Main Street Trust, Inc. and David B. White (previously filed as Exhibit 10.2 to Main Street Trust, Inc.'s Form 10-K on March 29, 2002, and incorporated by reference herein (SEC File No. 000-30031)).
- 10.15 Main Street Trust, Inc. 2000 Stock Incentive Plan (previously filed as Exhibit 10.1 to Main Street Trust, Inc.'s Form S-8 on November 29, 2000, and incorporated by reference herein (SEC File No. 333-50890)).
- 10.16 Letter agreement between Main Street Trust, Inc. and Gregory B. Lykins, dated September 20, 2006 (previously filed as Exhibit 99.1 to Main Street Trust, Inc.'s Form 8-K, filed on September 21, 2006, and incorporated by reference herein (SEC File No. 000-30031)).
- 10.17 Letter agreement between Main Street Trust, Inc. and Van A. Dukeman, dated September 20, 2006 (previously filed as Exhibit 99.1 to Main Street Trust, Inc.'s Form 8-K, filed on September 21, 2006, and incorporated by reference herein (SEC File No. 000-30031)).
- 10.18 Letter agreement between Main Street Trust, Inc. and David B. White, dated September 20, 2006 (previously filed as Exhibit 99.1 to Main Street Trust, Inc.'s Form 8-K, filed on September 21, 2006, and incorporated by reference herein (SEC File No. 000-30031)).
- 10.19 Employment agreement by and between First Busey Corporation and Thomas Good (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to First Busey's Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2008 (Commission File No. 0-15950), and incorporated herein by reference).
- 14.1 First Busey Corporation Code of Ethics (filed as Exhibit 14.1 to First Busey's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003 filed with the Commission on March 12, 2004 (Registration 0-015950), and incorporated herein by reference)
- 21.1 List of Subsidiaries of First Busey Corporation*
- 23.1 Consent of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP*
- 31.1 Certification of Principal Executive Officer*
- 31.2 Certification of Principal Financial Officer*
- 32.1 Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, from First Busey's Chief Executive Officer*
- 32.2 Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, from First Busey's Chief Financial Officer*

* Filed herewith

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Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statements (No. 333-145097, 333-79127, 333-1152237) on Forms S-8 of First Busey Corporation of our reports, dated March 16, 2009 relating to our audits of the consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting, which appear in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of First Busey Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2008.

Champaign, Illinois

March 16, 2009

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first busey corporation and subsidiaries

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2008, 2007, AND 2006

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM ON THE
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

To the Stockholders and Board of Directors

First Busey Corporation

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of First Busey Corporation and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2008. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of First Busey Corporation and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2008, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), First Busey Corporation's and subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated March 16, 2009 expressed an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of First Busey Corporation's internal control over financial reporting.

Champaign, Illinois

March 16, 2009

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FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

December 31, 2008 and 2007

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|
| | (dollars in thousands) | |
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash and due from banks | \$ 190,113 | \$ 125,228 |
| Federal funds sold | | 459 |
| Securities available for sale | 654,130 | 610,422 |
| Loans held for sale (fair value 2008 \$14,452; 2007 \$22,760) | 14,206 | 22,423 |
| Loans (net of allowance for loan losses 2008 \$98,671; 2007 \$42,560) | 3,144,704 | 2,988,242 |
| Premises and equipment | 81,732 | 80,400 |
| Goodwill | 228,863 | 247,964 |
| Other intangible assets | 28,005 | 32,523 |
| Cash surrender value of bank owned life insurance | 34,530 | 32,721 |
| Other assets | 83,810 | 52,543 |
| Total assets | \$ 4,460,093 | \$ 4,192,925 |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY | | |
| Liabilities | | |
| Deposits: | | |
| Noninterest bearing | \$ 378,007 | \$ 389,672 |
| Interest bearing | 3,128,686 | 2,817,526 |
| Total deposits | 3,506,693 | 3,207,198 |
| Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase | 182,980 | 203,119 |
| Short-term borrowings | 83,000 | 10,523 |
| Long-term debt | 134,493 | 150,910 |
| Junior subordinated debt owed to unconsolidated trusts | 55,000 | 55,000 |
| Other liabilities | 43,110 | 36,478 |
| Total liabilities | 4,005,276 | 3,663,228 |
| Commitments and contingencies (Note 21) | | |
| Stockholders Equity | | |
| Preferred stock, no par value, 1,000,000 shares authorized, none issued | | |
| Common stock, \$.001 par value, authorized 60,000,000 shares; shares issued 37,546,497 | 38 | 38 |
| Surplus | 393,005 | 392,726 |
| Retained earnings | 85,810 | 157,185 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income | 9,837 | 4,132 |
| Total stockholders equity before treasury stock and unearned ESOP shares | 488,690 | 554,081 |
| Common stock shares in treasury, at cost 2008 1,651,887; 2007 1,130,708 | (32,205) | (22,299) |
| Unearned ESOP shares 2008 80,000; 2007 100,000 | (1,668) | (2,085) |
| Total stockholders equity | 454,817 | 529,697 |
| Total liabilities and stockholders equity | \$ 4,460,093 | \$ 4,192,925 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS****Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006**

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|--|--|------------------|------------------|
| | (dollars in thousands, except per share amounts) | | |
| Interest income: | | | |
| Interest and fees on loans | \$ 195,121 | \$ 178,700 | \$ 132,861 |
| Interest and dividends on investment securities: | | | |
| Taxable interest income | 21,407 | 18,670 | 9,856 |
| Non-taxable interest income | 3,768 | 3,195 | 3,300 |
| Federal funds sold | 188 | 1,338 | 349 |
| Total interest income | 220,484 | 201,903 | 146,366 |
| Interest expense: | | | |
| Deposits | 81,208 | 84,197 | 55,046 |
| Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase | 3,973 | 4,485 | 2,833 |
| Short-term borrowings | 2,345 | 278 | 178 |
| Long-term debt | 6,134 | 7,407 | 7,734 |
| Junior subordinated debt owed to unconsolidated trusts | 3,488 | 4,038 | 4,060 |
| Total interest expense | 97,148 | 100,405 | 69,851 |
| Net interest income | 123,336 | 101,498 | 76,515 |
| Provision for loan losses | 98,250 | 14,475 | 1,300 |
| Net interest income after provision for loan losses | 25,086 | 87,023 | 75,215 |
| Other income: | | | |
| Trust fees | 13,445 | 10,041 | 6,020 |
| Remittance processing | 12,115 | 4,466 | |
| Service charges on deposit accounts | 12,075 | 9,033 | 8,130 |
| Commissions and brokers' fees, net | 2,764 | 2,553 | 2,653 |
| Other service charges and fees | 4,546 | 3,912 | 2,958 |
| Gain on sales of loans | 4,357 | 3,232 | 2,443 |
| Security gains, net | 605 | 3,718 | 3,547 |
| Other | 6,513 | 4,737 | 2,710 |
| Total other income | 56,420 | 41,692 | 28,461 |
| Other expenses: | | | |
| Salaries and wages | 46,861 | 37,311 | 26,431 |
| Employee benefits | 10,699 | 8,357 | 8,180 |
| Net occupancy expense of premises | 9,600 | 7,449 | 5,121 |
| Furniture and equipment expenses | 8,232 | 4,834 | 3,438 |
| Data processing | 6,855 | 5,299 | 1,753 |
| Amortization of intangible assets | 4,518 | 2,503 | 1,376 |
| Goodwill impairment | 22,601 | | |
| Other | 25,655 | 18,552 | 13,788 |
| Total other expenses | 135,021 | 84,305 | 60,087 |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | (53,515) | 44,410 | 43,589 |
| Income taxes | (15,568) | 12,933 | 14,701 |
| Net income (loss) | \$ (37,947) | \$ 31,477 | \$ 28,888 |

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| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|--------|----|------|----|------|
| Basic earnings (loss) per share | \$ | (1.06) | \$ | 1.13 | \$ | 1.35 |
| Diluted earnings (loss) per share | \$ | (1.06) | \$ | 1.13 | \$ | 1.35 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY**

Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006

(dollars in thousands, except per share data)

| | Common Stock | Surplus | Retained Earnings | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (loss) | Treasury Stock | Unearned ESOP Shares | Deferred Compensation for Restricted Stock Awards | Total |
|--|-----------------|-----------|----------------------|--|-------------------|----------------------------|---|------------|
| Balance, January 1, 2006 | \$ 22 | \$ 45,220 | \$ 129,729 | \$ 7,282 | \$ (10,477) | \$ (2,058) | \$ (4) | \$ 169,714 |
| Comprehensive Income: | | | | | | | | |
| Net Income | | | 28,888 | | | | | 28,888 |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax: | | | | | | | | |
| Unrealized gains on securities available for sale arising during the period, net of tax of \$231 | | | | | | | | 349 |
| Reclassification adjustment, net of tax benefit of \$1,410 | | | | | | | | (2,137) |
| Other comprehensive loss, net of tax benefit of \$1,179 | | | | (1,788) | | | | (1,788) |
| Comprehensive Income | | | | | | | | 27,100 |
| Issuance of 20,271 shares of common stock for purchase of Tarpon Coast Bancorp, Inc. | | | | | | | | |
| | | 7 | | | | | | 7 |
| Purchase of 96,000 shares of treasury stock | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | (2,040) | | | (2,040) |
| Issuance of 47,475 shares of treasury stock for option exercise and related tax benefit | | | | | | | | |
| | | 185 | | | 687 | | | 872 |
| Cash dividends common stock at \$.64 per share | | | | | | | | |
| | | | (13,661) | | | | | (13,661) |
| Employee stock ownership plan shares allocated | | | | | | | | |
| | | 799 | | | | 2,058 | | 2,857 |
| Stock based employee compensation | | | | | | | | |
| | | 421 | | | | | | 421 |
| Amortization of restricted stock issued under restricted stock award plan | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 4 | 4 |
| Balance, December 31, 2006 | \$ 22 | \$ 46,632 | \$ 144,956 | \$ 5,494 | \$ (11,830) | \$ | \$ | \$ 185,274 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

Table of Contents**FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY (continued)**

Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006

(dollars in thousands, except per share data)

| | Common Stock | Surplus | Retained Earnings | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (loss) | Treasury Stock | Unearned ESOP Shares | Total |
|--|-----------------|------------|----------------------|--|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Balance, December 31, 2006 | \$ 22 | \$ 46,632 | \$ 144,956 | \$ 5,494 | \$ (11,830) | \$ | \$ 185,274 |
| Comprehensive Income: | | | | | | | |
| Net Income | | | 31,477 | | | | 31,477 |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax: | | | | | | | |
| Unrealized gains on securities available for sale arising during the period, net of tax of \$577 | | | | | | | 878 |
| Reclassification adjustment, net of tax benefit of \$1,478 | | | | | | | (2,240) |
| Other comprehensive loss, net of tax benefit of \$901 | | | | (1,362) | | | (1,362) |
| Comprehensive Income | | | | | | | 30,115 |
| Issuance of 15,461,076 shares of common stock for merger of Main Street Trust, Inc. | | | | | | | |
| | 16 | 345,827 | | | | | 345,843 |
| Purchase of 549,800 shares of treasury stock | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | (11,218) | | (11,218) |
| Issuance of 45,559 shares of treasury stock for option exercise and related tax benefit | | | | | | | |
| | | (349) | | | 749 | | 400 |
| Cash dividends common stock at \$0.77 per share | | | | | | | |
| | | | (19,248) | | | | (19,248) |
| Employee stock ownership plan shares acquired | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | (2,085) | (2,085) |
| Stock based employee compensation | | | | | | | |
| | | 616 | | | | | 616 |
| Balance, December 31, 2007 | \$ 38 | \$ 392,726 | \$ 157,185 | \$ 4,132 | \$ (22,299) | \$ (2,085) | \$ 529,697 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

Table of Contents**FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY (continued)**

Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006

(dollars in thousands, except per share data)

| | Common Stock | Surplus | Retained Earnings | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (loss) | Treasury Stock | Unearned ESOP Shares | Total |
|--|-----------------|------------|----------------------|--|-------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Balance, December 31, 2007 | \$ 38 | \$ 392,726 | \$ 157,185 | \$ 4,132 | \$ (22,299) | \$ (2,085) | \$ 529,697 |
| Comprehensive loss: | | | | | | | |
| Net loss | | | (37,947) | | | | (37,947) |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax: | | | | | | | |
| Unrealized gains on securities available for sale arising during the period, net of tax of \$4,003 | | | | | | | 6,067 |
| Reclassification adjustment, net of tax benefit of \$243 | | | | | | | (362) |
| Other comprehensive loss, net of tax of \$3,760 | | | | 5,705 | | | 5,705 |
| Comprehensive loss | | | | | | | (32,242) |
| Purchase of 562,500 shares of treasury stock | | | | | (10,622) | | (10,622) |
| Issuance of 41,321 shares of treasury stock for option exercise and related tax benefit | | 257 | | | 716 | | 973 |
| Cash dividends common stock at \$.80 per share | | | (28,680) | | | | (28,680) |
| Employee stock ownership plan shares allocated | | (67) | | | | 417 | 350 |
| Stock based employee compensation | | 89 | | | | | 89 |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle for split-dollar life insurance arrangements | | | (4,748) | | | | (4,748) |
| Balance, December 31, 2008 | \$ 38 | \$ 393,005 | \$ 85,810 | \$ 9,837 | \$ (32,205) | \$ (1,668) | \$ 454,817 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

Table of Contents**FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|---|------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | (dollars in thousands) | | |
| Cash Flows from Operating Activities | | | |
| Net income (loss) | \$ (37,947) | \$ 31,477 | \$ 28,888 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | | |
| Stock-based and non-cash compensation | 89 | 616 | 425 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 11,913 | 8,048 | 5,459 |
| Provision for loan losses | 98,250 | 14,475 | 1,300 |
| Fair value adjustment on employee stock ownership plan shares allocated | (67) | | 799 |
| Provision for deferred income taxes | (23,666) | (2,171) | (2,049) |
| Amortization (accretion) of security premiums and discounts, net | 2,236 | (1,503) | 214 |
| Security gains, net | (605) | (3,718) | (3,547) |
| Gain on sales of loans, net | (4,357) | (3,232) | (2,443) |
| Increase in cash surrender value of bank owned life insurance | (1,809) | (1,482) | (883) |
| Net gains on sale of OREO properties | (162) | (28) | (9) |
| Goodwill impairment | 22,601 | | |
| (Decrease) increase in deferred compensation | 1,396 | (2,544) | 122 |
| Change in assets and liabilities: | | | |
| (Increase) decrease in other assets | (4,891) | 2,387 | 570 |
| Increase (decrease) in other liabilities | 5,820 | (2,844) | 3,940 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities before loan originations and sales | 68,801 | 39,481 | 32,786 |
| Loans originated for sale | (270,768) | (238,410) | (181,658) |
| Proceeds from sales of loans | 283,342 | 235,475 | 179,582 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 81,375 | 36,546 | 30,710 |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities | | | |
| Securities available for sale: | | | |
| Purchases | (355,923) | (466,461) | (166,606) |
| Proceeds from sales | 31,285 | 68,433 | 15,020 |
| Proceeds from maturities | 288,764 | 498,456 | 118,735 |
| Decrease in federal funds sold | 459 | 39,041 | 2,300 |
| Increase in loans | (274,529) | (100,936) | (205,276) |
| Purchases of premises and equipment | (10,351) | (14,698) | (7,301) |
| Proceeds from sales of premises and equipment | 1,624 | 248 | 32 |
| Proceeds from sale of OREO properties | 5,324 | 1,507 | 652 |
| Net payments for divestiture of branches | | (80,751) | |
| Purchase of subsidiary, net of cash and due from banks acquired | | 53,461 | |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (313,347) | (1,700) | (242,444) |

(continued)

Table of Contents**FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (Continued)****Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006**

| | 2008 | 2007 (dollars in thousands) | 2006 |
|---|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Cash Flows from Financing Activities | | | |
| Net increase in certificates of deposit | \$ 400,356 | \$ 12,790 | \$ 148,854 |
| Net (decrease) increase in demand deposits, money market and savings accounts | (100,861) | 27,833 | 56,586 |
| Net (decrease) increase in federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase | (20,139) | 51,582 | 4,657 |
| Net (payments on) proceeds from short-term borrowings | 72,477 | (14,500) | 25,000 |
| Proceeds from long-term debt | 25,000 | | 50,325 |
| Principal payments on long-term debt | (41,000) | (20,825) | (61,500) |
| Proceeds from issuance of junior subordinated debt owed to unconsolidated trusts | | | 30,000 |
| Redemption of junior subordinated debt owed to unconsolidated trusts | | | (25,000) |
| Cash dividends paid | (28,680) | (19,248) | (13,661) |
| Purchase of treasury stock | (10,622) | (11,218) | (2,040) |
| Proceeds from sales of treasury stock | 326 | 652 | 872 |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | 296,857 | 27,066 | 214,093 |
| Net increase in cash and due from banks | 64,885 | 61,912 | 2,359 |
| Cash and due from banks, beginning | 125,228 | 63,316 | 60,957 |
| Cash and due from banks, ending | \$ 190,113 | \$ 125,228 | \$ 63,316 |

Table of Contents**FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES****SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION**

Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

| | 2008 | 2007 (dollars in thousands) | 2006 |
|--|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Purchase of Subsidiaries: | | | |
| Common stock issued, including fair value of stock options assumed | \$ | \$ 347,805 | \$ |
| Cash payment | | 2,418 | |
| Total purchase price | \$ | \$ 350,223 | \$ |
| Assets acquired: | | | |
| Cash and due from other banks | \$ | \$ 55,879 | \$ |
| Federal funds sold | | 39,500 | |
| Securities available for sale | | 344,245 | |
| Loans, net of allowance for loan losses of \$12,847 | | 1,002,114 | |
| Premises and equipment | | 30,679 | |
| Cash surrender value of bank owned life insurance | | 11,462 | |
| Goodwill | | 193,845 | |
| Other intangible assets | | 31,280 | |
| Other assets | | 31,217 | |
| Liabilities assumed: | | | |
| Noninterest bearing deposits | | (208,221) | |
| Interest bearing deposits | | (1,045,461) | |
| Securities sold under agreements to repurchase | | (96,767) | |
| Short-term borrowings | | (23) | |
| Long-term debt | | (13,000) | |
| Deferred tax liability | | (5,694) | |
| Other liabilities | | (20,832) | |
| | \$ | \$ 350,223 | \$ |
| Cash payments for: | | | |
| Interest | \$ 98,301 | \$ 101,130 | \$ 65,493 |
| Income taxes | \$ 11,900 | \$ 19,800 | \$ 15,671 |
| Non-cash Investing and Financing Activities: | | | |
| Other real estate acquired in settlement of loans | \$ 19,817 | \$ 3,076 | \$ 1,128 |
| Employee stock ownership plan shares allocated | \$ 417 | \$ | \$ 2,058 |
| Long-term debt proceeds used to purchase ESOP shares | \$ | \$ 2,085 | \$ |
| Non-cash stock option activity | \$ 169 | \$ 252 | \$ |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1. Significant Accounting Policies

Description of business:

First Busey Corporation (the Company) is a Nevada corporation and a financial holding company whose subsidiaries provide retail and commercial banking services, remittance processing, and offer a full range of financial products and services including depository, lending, security brokerage services, investment management and fiduciary services, to individual, corporate, institutional and governmental customers through its locations in downstate Illinois, Indianapolis, Indiana and southwest Florida. The Company and subsidiaries are subject to competition from other financial institutions and non-financial institutions providing financial products and services. First Busey Corporation and its subsidiaries are also subject to the regulations of certain regulatory agencies and undergo periodic examinations by those regulatory agencies.

The significant accounting and reporting policies for First Busey Corporation and its subsidiaries follow:

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of First Busey Corporation, representing the merger of the former Main Street Trust, Inc. with First Busey Corporation and its subsidiaries: Busey Bank, representing the November 2007 combination of the former Main Street Bank & Trust with Busey Bank; Busey Bank, N.A., representing the February 2006 combination of the former banks Busey Bank Florida and Tarpon Coast National Bank and its subsidiary Tarpon Coast Financial Services, and its subsidiary FirsTech, Inc.; First Busey Resources, Inc. (dissolved May 2008); Busey Wealth Management, Inc. and its subsidiaries: Busey Trust Company, First Busey Securities, Inc. (dissolved December 2007), Busey Insurance Services, Inc. (dissolved December 2007), and Busey Capital Management, Inc. The financial statements also include the following wholly-owned entities on a deconsolidated basis: First Busey Capital Trust I (dissolved June 2006), First Busey Statutory Trust II, First Busey Statutory Trust III and First Busey Statutory Trust IV. All significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

The consolidated financial statements of First Busey Corporation have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and conform to predominant practice within the banking industry.

Use of estimates

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In preparing the accompanying consolidated financial statements, the Company's management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities as of the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses for the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Material estimates which are particularly susceptible to significant change in the near term relate to the market value of investment securities, the determination of the allowance for loan losses, including valuation of real estate and related collateral, and the fair value of reporting unit goodwill.

Trust assets

Assets held for customers in a fiduciary or agency capacity, other than trust cash on deposit at the Company's bank subsidiaries, are not assets of the Company and, accordingly, are not included in the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

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Cash flows

For purposes of the consolidated statement of cash flows, cash and due from banks include cash on hand and amounts due from banks. Cash flows from Federal funds purchased and sold, short-term borrowings, and securities sold under agreements to repurchase are reported net, since their original maturities are less than three months. Cash flows from loans and deposits are also treated as net increases or decreases.

Securities

Securities classified as available for sale are those debt securities that the Company intends to hold for an indefinite period of time, but not necessarily to maturity, and marketable equity securities. Any decision to sell a security classified as available for sale would be based on various factors, including significant movements in interest rates, changes in the maturity mix of the Company's assets and liabilities, liquidity needs, regulatory capital considerations and other similar factors. Securities available for sale are carried at fair value, with unrealized gains and losses excluded from earnings and reported in other comprehensive income.

Federal Home Loan Bank stock and Federal Reserve Bank stock are carried at cost and are included in securities available for sale in the balance sheets. The Corporation is required to maintain these equity securities as a member of both the Federal Home Loan Bank and the Federal Reserve System, and in amounts as required by these institutions. These equity securities are restricted in that they can only be sold back to the respective institutions or another member institution at par. Therefore, they are less liquid than other tradable equity securities, their fair value is equal to amortized cost, and no impairment has been recorded during 2008, 2007, or 2006.

Purchase premiums and discounts are recognized in interest income using the interest method over the terms of the securities. Declines in the fair value of available-for-sale securities below their cost that are deemed to be other than temporary are reflected in earnings as realized losses. In estimating other-than-temporary impairment losses, management considers the length of time and extent to which the fair value has been less than cost, the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer, and the intent and ability of the Company to retain its investment in the issuer for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in fair value. Gains and losses on the sale of securities are recorded on the trade date and are determined using the specific identification method.

Loans held for sale

Loans held for sale are those loans the Company has the intent to sell in the foreseeable future. They consist of mortgage loans conforming to established guidelines and held for sale to investors and the secondary mortgage market. Loans held for sale are carried at the lower of aggregate cost or estimated fair value, as determined by aggregate outstanding commitments from investors or current investor yield requirements. Net unrealized losses, if any, are recognized through a valuation allowance by charges to income. Gains and losses on sales of loans are recognized at settlement dates and are determined by the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the loans after allocating cost to servicing rights retained.

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The Company enters into commitments to originate loans whereby the interest rate on the loan is determined prior to funding (rate lock commitments). Rate lock commitments on mortgage loans that are intended to be sold are considered to be derivatives. Accordingly, such commitments along with any related fees received from potential borrowers are recorded at fair value, with changes in fair value recorded in the net gain or loss on sale of mortgage loans. Fair value is based on the change in estimated fair value of the underlying mortgage loan. The fair value is subject to change primarily due to changes in interest rates and is considered immaterial to the consolidated financial statements.

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Loan servicing

Servicing assets are recognized as separate assets when rights are acquired or retained through the sale of mortgage loans. Mortgage servicing rights are initially recorded at fair value. Fair value is based on market prices for comparable mortgage servicing contracts, when available, or alternatively, is based on a valuation model that calculates the present value of estimated future net servicing income. Capitalized servicing rights are reported in other assets and are amortized into other income in proportion to, and over the period of, the estimated future net servicing income of the underlying financial assets.

Mortgage servicing rights are periodically evaluated for impairment based on the fair value of those rights as compared to book value. Fair values are estimated using discounted cash flows based on current expected future prepayment rates. For purposes of measuring impairment, the rights must be stratified by one or more predominant risk characteristics of the underlying loans. The Company stratifies its capitalized mortgage servicing rights based on the origination date, interest rate, and type of the underlying loans. The amount of impairment recognized is the amount, if any, by which the amortized cost of the rights for each stratum exceeds its fair value. If the Company later determines that all or a portion of the impairment no longer exists for a particular group of loans, a reduction of the allowance may be recorded as an increase to income.

Servicing fee income is recorded for fees earned for servicing loans. The fees are based on a contractual percentage of the outstanding principal and are recorded as income when earned. The amortization of mortgage servicing rights is netted against loan servicing fee income.

Loans

Loans receivable that management has the intent and ability to hold for the foreseeable future or until maturity or pay-off are stated at the amount of outstanding unpaid principal, adjusted for chargeoffs, the allowance for loan losses, and any deferred origination fees or costs on loans.

Loan origination and commitment fees, net of certain direct loan origination costs, are deferred and the net amount amortized as an adjustment of the related loan's yield. The Company is generally amortizing these amounts over the contractual life. However, for long-term fixed-rate mortgages the Company has anticipated prepayments and assumes an estimated economic life of 5 years or less. Commitment fees and costs are generally based upon a percentage of a customer's unused line of credit and fees related to standby letters of credit and are recognized over the commitment period when the likelihood of exercise is remote. If the commitment is subsequently exercised during the commitment period, the remaining unamortized commitment fee at the time of exercise is recognized over the life of the loan as an adjustment of the yield.

Interest is accrued daily on the outstanding balances. The accrual of interest on mortgage and commercial loans is discontinued at the time the loan is 90 days past due unless the credit is well-secured and in process of collection. Personal loans are typically charged off no later than 180 days past due. Past due status is based on contractual terms of the loan. In all cases, loans are placed on non-accrual or charged off at an earlier date if collection of principal or interest is considered doubtful.

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Interest accrued in the current year but not collected for loans that are placed on nonaccrual status or charged off is reversed against interest income. Interest accrued during the prior year but not collected for loans that are placed on nonaccrual status or charged off is charged against the allowance for loan losses. The interest on these loans is accounted for on the cash-basis or cost-recovery method, until qualifying for return to accrual. Loans are returned to accrual status when all the principal and interest amounts contractually due are brought current and future payments are reasonably assured.

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Allowance for loan losses

The allowance for loan losses is established as losses are estimated to have occurred through a provision for loan losses charged to earnings. Loan losses are charged against the allowance for loan losses when management believes the uncollectibility of the loan balance is confirmed. Subsequent recoveries, if any, are credited to the allowance.

The allowance for loan losses is evaluated on a regular basis by management and is based upon management's periodic review of the collectibility of the loans in light of historical experience, the nature and volume of the loan portfolio, adverse situations that may affect the borrower's ability to repay, estimated value of any underlying collateral and prevailing economic conditions. This evaluation is inherently subjective as it requires estimates that are susceptible to significant revision as more information becomes available.

In addition, regulatory agencies as an integral part of their examination process, periodically review the allowance for loan losses, and may require the Company to make additions to the allowance based on their judgment about information available to them at the time of their examinations.

The allowance consists of specific, general and unallocated components. The specific component considers loans that are classified as doubtful, substandard, or special mention. For such loans that are classified as impaired, an allowance is established when the discounted cash flows (or collateral value or observable market price) of the impaired loan is lower than the carrying amount of that loan. The general component covers non-classified loans and classified loans not considered impaired, and is based on historical loss experience adjusted for qualitative factors. An unallocated component is maintained to cover uncertainties that could affect management's estimate of probable losses. The unallocated component of the allowance reflects the margin of imprecision inherent in the underlying assumptions used in the methodologies for estimating specific and general losses in the portfolio.

A loan is impaired when, based on current information and events, it is probable the Company will be unable to collect scheduled payments of principal and interest payments when due according to the terms of the loan agreement. Factors considered by management in determining impairment include payment status, collateral value, and the probability of collecting scheduled principal and interest payments when due. Loans that experience insignificant payment delays and payment shortfalls generally are not classified as impaired. Management determines the significance of payment delays and payment shortfalls on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration all of the circumstances surrounding the loans and the borrower, including the length of the delay, the reasons for the delay, the borrower's prior payment record, and the amount of the shortfall in relation to the principal and interest owed. Impairment is measured on a loan-by-loan basis for commercial and construction loans by either the present value of the expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate, the loan's obtainable market price, or the fair value of the collateral if the loan is collateral dependent.

Large groups of smaller balance homogenous loans are collectively evaluated for impairment. Accordingly, the Company does not separately identify individual consumer and residential loans for impairment disclosures unless such loans are the subject of a restructuring agreement.

Table of ContentsPremises and equipment

Land is stated at cost less accumulated depreciation of depreciable land improvements. Premises and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is computed principally by the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The estimated useful lives for premises and equipment are:

| Asset Description | Estimated Useful Life |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Buildings and improvements | 3 40 years |
| Furniture and equipment | 2 10 years |

Long-lived assets

Long-lived assets, including premises and equipment and intangible assets, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the asset may not be recoverable. An impairment loss would be recognized when estimated undiscounted future cash flows from operations of the asset are less than the carrying value of the asset. The cash flows used for this analysis are those directly associated with and that are expected to arise as a direct result of the use and eventual disposition of the asset. An impairment loss would be measured by the amount by which the carrying value of the asset exceeds its fair value.

Other real estate owned

Other real estate owned (OREO) represents properties acquired through foreclosure or other proceedings in settlement of loans. OREO is held for sale and is recorded at the date of foreclosure at the fair value of the properties less estimated costs of disposal, which establishes a new cost. Any write-down to fair value at the time of transfer to OREO is charged to the allowance for loan losses. Property is evaluated regularly to ensure the recorded amount is supported by its current fair value, and valuation allowances to reduce the carrying amount to fair value less estimated costs to dispose are recorded as necessary. The Company recognized a loss provision of \$1.2 million during the year ended December 31, 2008 associated with the carrying amount of properties held in OREO. No significant loss provision was recorded for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006. Revenue and expense from the operations of foreclosed assets and changes in the valuation allowance are included in operations. Other real estate owned included in other assets was \$15.8 million and \$2.0 as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Goodwill

Costs in excess of the fair value of identifiable net assets acquired are recorded as goodwill during the purchase accounting process. Goodwill is not amortized, but is subject to at least annual impairment assessments. The Company performs assessments by comparing the fair value of each reporting unit to the book value of the reporting unit. During 2008, the Company recorded a full impairment of goodwill associated with Busey Bank, N.A. in the amount of \$22.6 million. See *Note 14 Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets* for further discussion.

Cash surrender value of bank-owned life insurance

The Company has purchased life insurance policies on certain executives and senior officers. Life insurance is recorded at its cash surrender value.

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In September 2006, the FASB Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) released EITF Issue No. 06-4, Accounting for Deferred Compensation and Postretirement Benefit Aspects of Endorsement Split-Dollar Life Insurance Arrangements , (EITF 06-4) which required that an employer recognize a liability for post-employment benefits promised to an employee based on an arrangement between an employer and an employee. In an endorsement split-dollar arrangement, the employer owns and controls the policy, and the employer and employee split the life insurance policy's cash surrender value and/or death benefits. If the employer agreed to maintain a life insurance policy during the employee's retirement, the present value of the cost of maintaining the insurance policy would be accrued over the employee's active service period. Similarly, if the employer agreed to provide the employee with a death benefit, the present value of the death benefit would be accrued over the employee's active service period. EITF 06-4 was adopted by the Company on January 1, 2008, at which time, the Company recorded a \$4.7 million cumulative effect adjustment to retained earnings along with an associated liability for post-employment benefits in accordance with EITF 06-4. During 2008, the Company recorded \$0.4 million of expense related to post-employment life insurance benefits.

Income taxes

The Company is subject to income taxes in the U.S. federal and various state jurisdictions. The Company and its subsidiaries file consolidated federal and state income tax returns with each subsidiary computing its taxes on a separate entity basis. Tax regulations within each jurisdiction are subject to the interpretation of the related tax laws and regulations and require significant judgment to apply. With few exceptions, the Company is no longer subject to U.S. federal, state or local tax examinations by tax authorities for the years before 2005. The provision for income taxes is based on income as reported in the financial statements.

Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are computed monthly for differences between the financial statement and tax bases of assets and liabilities that will result in taxable or deductible amounts in the future. The deferred tax assets and liabilities are computed based on enacted tax laws and rates applicable to the periods in which the differences are expected to affect taxable income. Valuation allowances are established when in the opinion of management it is more likely than not that a portion of deferred tax assets will not be realized. Income tax expense is the tax payable or refundable for the period plus or minus the change in deferred tax assets and liabilities during the period.

In July 2006, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes (FIN No. 48). FIN No. 48 clarifies the accounting and reporting for income taxes recognized in accordance with SFAS No. 109, Accounting for Income Taxes. This Interpretation prescribes a comprehensive model for the financial statement recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of uncertain tax positions taken or expected to be taken in income tax returns.

Effective January 1, 2007, the Company adopted FIN No. 48. At the adoption date, the Company applied FIN No. 48 to all tax positions for which the statute of limitations remained open. There were no unrecognized tax benefits as of January 1, 2007. There have been no adjustments to unrecognized tax benefits since January 1, 2007. There are no material tax positions for which it is reasonably possible that unrecognized tax benefits will significantly change in the twelve months subsequent to December 31, 2008.

When applicable, the Company recognizes interest accrued related to unrecognized tax benefits and penalties in operating expenses. The Company had no accruals for payments of interest and penalties at December 31, 2008 and 2007.

At December 31, 2008, the Company was under examination by the Illinois Department of Revenue for tax years 2005-2006.

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Reclassifications

Reclassifications have been made to certain prior year account balances, with no effect on net income or stockholders' equity, to be consistent with the classifications adopted as of and for the year ended December 31, 2008.

Stock-based employee compensation

The Company has two stock-based employee compensation plans, which have been in existence for all periods presented, and which are more fully described in Note 17. A third plan was assumed in the merger with Main Street Trust, Inc.

Stock based compensation cost recognized includes compensation costs for all share-based payments based on the grant-date fair value.

Cash flows resulting from the tax benefits of tax deductions in excess of the compensation cost recognized for those options to be presented as financing cash flows. The Company had no excess cash inflows during the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006.

The Black-Scholes option pricing model was developed for use in estimating the fair value of traded options which have no vesting restrictions. Such models require the use of subjective assumptions, including expected stock price volatility. In management's opinion, such valuation models may not necessarily provide the best single measure of option value.

Earnings per share

Basic earnings per share are computed by dividing net income for the year by the weighted average number of shares outstanding, including common stock to be issued.

Diluted earnings per share are determined by dividing net income for the year by the weighted average number of shares of common stock and common stock equivalents outstanding. Common stock equivalents assume exercise of stock options and use of proceeds to purchase treasury stock at the average market price for the period. If the average market price for the period exceeds the strike price of a stock option, that option is considered anti-dilutive and is excluded from the calculation of common stock equivalents. The calculation of the diluted loss per share for the year ended December 31, 2008 does not reflect the assumed exercise of potentially dilutive stock options because the effect would have been anti-dilutive due to the net loss for the period.

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The following reflects net income (loss) per share calculations for basic and diluted methods:

| | For the Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|---|-----------|-----------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
| | (dollars in thousands, except per share data) | | |
| Net income (loss) available to common shareholders | \$ (37,947) | \$ 31,477 | \$ 28,888 |
| Basic average common shares outstanding | 35,838 | 27,779 | 21,349 |
| Dilutive potential due to stock options | | 145 | 57 |
| Average number of common shares and dilutive potential common shares outstanding | 35,838 | 27,924 | 21,406 |
| Basic net income (loss) per share | \$ (1.06) | \$ 1.13 | \$ 1.35 |
| Diluted net income (loss) per share | \$ (1.06) | \$ 1.13 | \$ 1.35 |

Impact of new financial accounting standards

In March 2008, Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued SFAS No. 162, *The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*. The Statement identifies the sources of accounting principles and the framework for selecting the principles to be used in the preparation of financial statements of nongovernmental entities that are presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States. This statement did not have a significant impact on the Company's financial statements.

In March 2008, FASB issued SFAS No. 161, *Disclosures About Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities, an Amendment of FASB Statement No. 133*. Statement No. 161 amends Statement No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, to amend and expand the disclosure requirements of SFAS No. 133 to provide greater transparency about (i) how and why an entity uses derivative instruments, (ii) how derivative instruments and related hedge items are accounted for under SFAS No. 133 and its related interpretations, and (iii) how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect an entity's financial position, results of operations and cash flows. To meet those objectives, SFAS No. 161 requires qualitative disclosures about objectives and strategies for using derivatives, quantitative disclosures about fair value amounts of gains and losses on derivative instruments and disclosures about credit-risk-related contingent features in derivative agreements. This Statement is effective for the Company beginning on January 1, 2009. The Company does not expect the adoption of this Statement will have a significant impact on its financial position or results of operations.

In December 2007, FASB issued SFAS No. 141(revised), *Business Combinations*. The Statement establishes principles and requirements for how an acquirer recognizes and measures tangible assets acquired, liabilities assumed, goodwill and any noncontrolling interests and identifies related disclosure requirements for business combinations. Measurement requirements will result in all assets, liabilities, contingencies and contingent consideration being recorded at fair value on the acquisition date, with limited exceptions. Acquisition costs and restructuring costs will generally be expensed as incurred. This Statement is effective for the Company for business combinations in which the acquisition date is

on or after January 1, 2009.

In December 2007, FASB issued SFAS No. 160, *Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements – an amendment of ARB No. 51*. The Statement establishes accounting and reporting standards for noncontrolling interests in a subsidiary and for the deconsolidation of a subsidiary. Minority interests will be recharacterized as noncontrolling interests and classified as a component of equity. It also establishes a single method of accounting for changes in a parent's ownership interest in a subsidiary and requires expanded disclosures. This Statement is effective for the Company beginning on January 1, 2009. The Company does not expect the adoption of this Statement will have a material impact on its financial position or results of operations.

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In February 2007, FASB issued Statement No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities* (SFAS No. 159). Under this Standard, the Company may elect to report financial instruments and certain other items at fair value on a contract-by-contract basis with changes in value reported in earnings. This election is irrevocable. SFAS No. 159 provides an opportunity to mitigate volatility in reported earnings that is caused by measuring hedged assets and liabilities that were previously required to use a different accounting method than the related hedging contracts when the complex provisions of SFAS No. 133 hedge accounting are not met. This interpretation was effective for the Company's fiscal year beginning January 1, 2008. This Statement did not have a significant impact on the Company's financial statements.

In September 2006, FASB issued Statement No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements* (SFAS No. 157), which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in generally accepted accounting principles, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. SFAS No. 157 clarifies that fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants in the market in which the Company transacts. SFAS No. 157 does not require any new fair value measurements, but rather, it provides enhanced guidance to other pronouncements that require or permit assets or liabilities to be measured at fair value. In February 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position (FSP) No. 157-2, *Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 157*, to partially defer SFAS No. 157. The FSP defers the effective date of SFAS No. 157 for nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities, except those that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial on at least an annual basis, to fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008, and interim periods within those fiscal years. All other provisions of SFAS No. 157 not within the scope of the FSP are effective for the Company's fiscal year beginning January 1, 2008. This Statement did not have, and is not expected to have, a significant impact on the Company's financial statements other than additional disclosures related to assets and liabilities measured at fair value.

Comprehensive income

Accounting principles generally require that recognized revenue, expenses, gains and losses be included in net income. Although certain changes in assets and liabilities, such as unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale securities, are reported as a separate component of the equity section of the balance sheet, such items, along with net income, are components of comprehensive income.

Note 2. Business Combinations

Main Street Trust, Inc.

Following the close of business on July 31, 2007, the Company completed its merger of equals (the merger) transaction with Main Street Trust, Inc. (Main Street), a \$1.5 billion financial holding company serving downstate Illinois. As a result of the merger, all Main Street shareholders received shares of the Company's common stock in a fixed exchange ratio of 1.55 shares of the Company for each share of Main Street, totaling 15.5 million shares valued at \$22.17 per share. The value of the shares was calculated based upon the average closing price of First Busey Corporation stock for the two trading days surrounding the announcement date. The total purchase price, including acquisition expenses and the fair value of assumed stock options, was \$350.9 million.

The merger was accounted for under the purchase method of accounting, which resulted in goodwill of \$197.2 million equaling the excess of the purchase price over the fair value of identifiable assets. During 2008, the purchase price and resultant amount allocated to goodwill increased by \$0.9 million related to an adjustment of the value of the assumed Main Street stock options. During 2008, goodwill related to the merger

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increased by \$2.7 million as a result of finalization of merger related accruals. Identifiable intangible assets of \$31.3 million were recorded related to core deposit and customer relationship intangibles. The identifiable intangible assets are being amortized using accelerated methods over a period of 10 years.

Five months of earnings of Main Street Bank & Trust and FirsTech, a payment processing subsidiary, are included in the financial statements of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2007. Main Street Bank & Trust, Main Street's banking subsidiary, was combined with Busey Bank in November 2007.

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Unaudited pro forma operating results for the twelve months ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, giving effect to the Main Street merger as if it had occurred as of January 1, 2006, are as follows:

| | 2007 | | 2006 | |
|----------------------------|---|---------|------|---------|
| | (dollars in thousands, except per share data) | | | |
| Interest income | \$ | 256,187 | \$ | 237,125 |
| Interest expense | | 125,947 | | 111,063 |
| Provision for loan losses | | 15,678 | | 3,100 |
| Noninterest income | | 55,808 | | 51,044 |
| Noninterest expense | | 111,388 | | 104,088 |
| Income before income taxes | \$ | 58,982 | \$ | 69,918 |
| Income taxes | | 17,580 | | 23,633 |
| Net income | \$ | 41,402 | \$ | 46,285 |
| Earnings per share basic | \$ | 1.13 | \$ | 1.26 |
| Earnings per share diluted | \$ | 1.13 | \$ | 1.25 |

The pro forma results do not purport to be indicative of the results of operations that actually would have resulted had the combination occurred on January 1, 2006 or of future results of operations of the consolidated entities.

In conjunction with the merger, the Company reached an agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) to divest five Main Street Bank & Trust banking centers located in Champaign County, Illinois to address USDOJ competitive concerns. The transaction closed on November 2, 2007. The Company transferred loans and deposits of \$14.3 million and \$101.9 million, respectively. The Company received a premium on deposits of \$7.0 million and transferred an additional \$0.2 million in net liabilities. Total cash payments associated with the divestiture were \$80.8 million. The affects of divestiture were accounted for as part of purchase accounting for the Main Street merger. The premium on deposits received in the divestiture served to reduce the fair value of the deposits assumed in the Main Street merger. No gain or loss was recorded related to the divestiture.

Note 3. Cash and Due from Banks

The Company's banking subsidiaries are required to maintain certain cash reserve balances with the Federal Reserve Banks of Chicago and Atlanta, which may be offset by cash on hand. The required reserve balances as of December 31, 2008 and 2007 were approximately \$5.3 million and \$42.9 million, respectively.

Busey Bank has established a clearing balance requirement with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago to use Federal Reserve Bank services. As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, the clearing balance requirements totaled \$2.8 million.

These deposited funds generate earnings credits at market rates which offset service charges resulting from the use of Federal Reserve Bank services. The clearing balance requirement is included in the required reserve balance referred to above and may be increased, or otherwise adjusted, on approval of the Federal Reserve Bank based on estimated service charges; however, such adjustments will be made no more frequently than once per month.

The Company maintains its cash in deposit accounts which, at times, may exceed federally insured limits. The Company has not experienced any losses in such accounts. Management believes the Company is not exposed to any significant credit risk on cash and cash equivalents.

Table of Contents**Note 4. Securities**

The amortized cost and fair values of securities available for sale are summarized as follows:

| December 31, 2008: | Amortized Cost | Gross Unrealized Gains | Gross Unrealized Losses | Fair Value |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | (dollars in thousands) | | | |
| U.S. Treasury securities | \$ 716 | \$ 42 | \$ | \$ 758 |
| Obligations of U.S. government corporations and agencies | 394,496 | 13,611 | | 408,107 |
| Obligations of states and political subdivisions | 92,907 | 652 | 1,365 | 92,194 |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 122,747 | 2,488 | 17 | 125,218 |
| Corporate debt securities | 3,159 | 14 | 76 | 3,097 |
| | 614,025 | 16,807 | 1,458 | 629,374 |
| Mutual funds and other equity securities | 2,324 | 1,141 | 168 | 3,297 |
| Federal Home Loan Bank and Federal Reserve Bank stock | 21,459 | | | 21,459 |
| | \$ 637,808 | \$ 17,948 | \$ 1,626 | \$ 654,130 |

| December 31, 2007: | Amortized Cost | Gross Unrealized Gains | Gross Unrealized Losses | Fair Value |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | (dollars in thousands) | | | |
| U.S. Treasury securities | \$ 15,003 | \$ 168 | \$ 1 | \$ 15,170 |
| Obligations of U.S. government corporations and agencies | 436,737 | 3,489 | 5 | 440,221 |
| Obligations of states and political subdivisions | 88,635 | 898 | 132 | 89,401 |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 36,723 | 344 | 325 | 36,742 |
| Corporate debt securities | 3,664 | 14 | 17 | 3,661 |
| | 580,762 | 4,913 | 480 | 585,195 |
| Mutual funds and other equity securities | 1,923 | 2,450 | 26 | 4,347 |
| Federal Home Loan Bank and Federal Reserve Bank stock | 20,880 | | | 20,880 |
| | \$ 603,565 | \$ 7,363 | \$ 506 | \$ 610,422 |

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The amortized cost and fair value of debt securities available for sale as of December 31, 2008, by contractual maturity, are shown below. Mutual funds and other equity securities, and Federal Home Loan Bank and Federal Reserve Bank stock do not have stated maturity dates and therefore are not included in the following maturity summary.

| | Amortized Cost | Fair Value |
|--|-------------------|---------------|
| (dollars in thousands) | | |
| Due in one year or less | \$ 159,342 | \$ 162,141 |
| Due after one year through five years | 286,110 | 297,300 |
| Due after five years through ten years | 66,005 | 66,531 |
| Due after ten years | 102,568 | 103,402 |
| | \$ 614,025 | \$ 629,374 |

Gains and losses related to sales of securities are summarized as follows:

| | 2008 | For the Years Ended December 31, | | 2006 |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|------|
| | | 2007 | (dollars in thousands) | |
| Gross security gains | \$ 611 | \$ 3,918 | \$ 3,563 | |
| Gross security losses | (6) | (200) | (16) | |
| Net security gains | \$ 605 | \$ 3,718 | \$ 3,547 | |

The tax provision (benefit) for these net realized gains and losses amounted to \$0.2 million, \$1.5 million and \$1.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Investment securities with carrying amounts of \$515.9 million and \$492.3 million on December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively, were pledged as collateral on public deposits, securities sold under agreements to repurchase and for other purposes as required or permitted by law.

Information pertaining to securities with gross unrealized losses at December 31, 2008 and 2007 aggregated by investment category and length of time that individual securities have been in continuous loss position follows:

| | Continuous unrealized losses existing for less than 12 months, gross | | Continuous unrealized losses existing greater than 12 months, gross | | Total, gross | |
|--|--|----------------------|---|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| | Fair Value | Unrealized Losses | Fair Value | Unrealized Losses | Fair Value | Unrealized Losses |
| December 31, 2008: | (dollars in thousands) | | | | | |
| Obligations of states and political subdivisions | \$ 48,662 | \$ 1,321 | \$ 2,075 | \$ 44 | \$ 50,737 | \$ 1,365 |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 3,573 | 17 | | | 3,573 | 17 |
| Corporate debt securities | 1,991 | 57 | 181 | 19 | 2,172 | 76 |
| Subtotal, debt securities | \$ 54,226 | \$ 1,395 | \$ 2,256 | \$ 63 | \$ 56,482 | \$ 1,458 |

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| | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|----------|--------|-----------|----------|
| Mutual funds and other equity securities | 161 | 118 | 9 | 50 | 170 | 168 |
| Total temporarily impaired securities | \$ 54,387 | \$ 1,513 | \$ 2,265 | \$ 113 | \$ 56,652 | \$ 1,626 |

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| December 31, 2007: | Continuous unrealized losses existing for less than 12 months, gross | | Continuous unrealized losses existing greater than 12 months, gross | | Total, gross | |
|--|--|----------------------|---|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| | Fair Value | Unrealized Losses | Fair Value (dollars in thousands) | Unrealized Losses | Fair Value | Unrealized Losses |
| U.S. Treasury securities | \$ 308 | \$ 1 | \$ | \$ | \$ 308 | \$ 1 |
| Obligations of U.S. government corporations and agencies | 11,052 | 4 | 100 | 1 | 11,152 | 5 |
| Obligations of states and political subdivisions | 22,890 | 132 | | | 22,890 | 132 |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 2,821 | 325 | | | 2,821 | 325 |
| Corporate debt securities | 396 | 5 | 1,441 | 12 | 1,837 | 17 |
| Subtotal, debt securities | \$ 37,467 | \$ 467 | \$ 1,541 | \$ 13 | \$ 39,008 | \$ 480 |
| Mutual funds and other equity securities | 19 | 3 | 17 | 23 | 36 | 26 |
| Total temporarily impaired securities | \$ 37,486 | \$ 470 | \$ 1,558 | \$ 36 | \$ 39,044 | \$ 506 |

The total number of securities in the investments portfolio in an unrealized loss position as of December 31, 2008, and December 31, 2007 were 164 and 119, respectively. All securities with unrealized losses are reviewed by management at least quarterly to determine whether the unrealized losses are other-than-temporary. Unrealized losses in the portfolio at December 31, 2008, and December 31, 2007, primarily resulted from increased market interest rates. However, certain obligations of states and political subdivisions, and mortgage-backed securities have been in decline due to liquidity issues in the marketplace that are driven by questions surrounding the creditworthiness of the issuers. The Company does not believe creditworthiness to be an issue for the securities in the portfolio. Because the Company has the ability and intent to hold these securities until market price recovery or maturity, these investments are not considered by management to be other-than-temporarily impaired.

Note 5. Loans

The composition of loans is as follows:

| | December 31, | |
|--|------------------------|------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| | (dollars in thousands) | |
| Commercial | \$ 455,592 | \$ 442,994 |
| Real estate construction | 743,371 | 731,150 |
| Real estate - farmland | 54,337 | 49,665 |
| Real estate - 1 to 4 family residential mortgage | 715,853 | 724,598 |
| Real estate - multifamily mortgage | 278,345 | 187,796 |
| Real estate - non-farm nonresidential mortgage | 893,011 | 797,474 |
| Installment | 59,692 | 54,849 |
| Agricultural | 41,781 | 40,469 |
| | 3,241,982 | 3,028,995 |
| Plus net deferred loan origination costs | 1,393 | 1,807 |
| | 3,243,375 | 3,030,802 |

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| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|-----------|----|-----------|
| Less allowance for loan losses | | 98,671 | | 42,560 |
| Net loans | \$ | 3,144,704 | \$ | 2,988,242 |

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Generally, loans are collateralized by assets of the borrowers. The loans are expected to be repaid from cash flows or from proceeds from the sale of selected assets of the borrowers.

Geographic distribution of loans is as follows:

| | Illinois | December 31, 2008 Florida (dollars in thousands) | Indiana |
|--|--------------|--|------------|
| Commercial | \$ 407,102 | \$ 14,589 | \$ 33,901 |
| Real estate construction | 336,535 | 349,123 | 57,713 |
| Real estate - farmland | 50,338 | 3,999 | |
| Real estate - 1 to 4 family residential mortgage | 525,000 | 168,534 | 22,319 |
| Real estate - multifamily mortgage | 257,584 | 17,710 | 3,051 |
| Real estate - non-farm nonresidential mortgage | 656,870 | 183,720 | 52,421 |
| Installment | 56,764 | 2,471 | 457 |
| Agricultural | 41,781 | | |
| Total | \$ 2,331,974 | \$ 740,146 | \$ 169,862 |

| | Illinois | December 31, 2007 Florida (dollars in thousands) | Indiana |
|--|--------------|--|------------|
| Commercial | \$ 402,364 | \$ 18,154 | \$ 22,476 |
| Real estate construction | 322,521 | 376,320 | 32,309 |
| Real estate - farmland | 39,273 | 10,392 | |
| Real estate - 1 to 4 family residential mortgage | 527,877 | 174,693 | 22,028 |
| Real estate - multifamily mortgage | 180,830 | 4,388 | 2,578 |
| Real estate - non-farm nonresidential mortgage | 581,280 | 176,980 | 39,214 |
| Installment | 51,290 | 3,059 | 500 |
| Agricultural | 40,469 | | |
| Total | \$ 2,145,904 | \$ 763,986 | \$ 119,105 |

Loans contractually past due in excess of 90 days and loans classified as non-accrual are summarized as follows:

| | 2008 | December 31, (dollars in thousands) | 2007 |
|---|------|--|-----------|
| Total loans 90 days past due and still accruing | | | |
| Illinois/ Indiana | \$ | 14,561 | \$ 2,796 |
| Florida | | 1,284 | 1,914 |
| Total non-accrual loans | | | |
| Illinois/ Indiana | \$ | 8,425 | \$ 8,217 |
| Florida | | 59,922 | 7,153 |
| Total non-performing loans | \$ | 84,192 | \$ 20,080 |

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Impaired loan totals in the categories below are net of charge-offs taken against those loans during the year. The balance shown does not reflect the total amounts due from the customer. The following table presents data on impaired loans:

| | 2008 | Years Ended December 31, 2007 | 2006 |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| | (dollars in thousands) | | |
| Impaired loans for which a specific allowance has been provided | \$ 25,850 | \$ 3,252 | \$ 3,918 |
| Impaired loans for which no specific allowance has been provided | \$ 45,097 | \$ 12,118 | \$ 1,647 |
| Total loans determined to be impaired | \$ 70,947 | \$ 15,370 | \$ 5,565 |
| Allowance for loan loss for impaired loans included in the allowance for loan losses | \$ 6,665 | \$ 650 | \$ 801 |
| Average recorded investment in impaired loans | \$ 53,829 | \$ 10,732 | \$ 4,410 |
| Interest income recognized from impaired loans | \$ 3,028 | \$ 720 | \$ 151 |

Management's opinion as to the ultimate collectability of loans is subject to estimates regarding future cash flows from operations and the value of property, real and personal, pledged as collateral. These estimates are affected by changing economic conditions and the economic prospects of borrowers.

The Company will restructure loans when the borrower demonstrates the inability to comply with the terms of the loan, but can demonstrate the ability to meet acceptable restructured terms. Restructurings generally include one or more of the following restructuring options; interest-only, interest rate reduction, change in interest rate and payment deferral. The Company had \$40.9 million in restructured loans in compliance with modified terms at December 31, 2008. Restructured loans at December 31, 2007 were not significant.

Note 6. Allowance for Loan Losses

Changes in the allowance for loan losses were as follows:

| | 2008 | Years Ended December 31, 2007 | 2006 |
|---|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| | (dollars in thousands) | | |
| Balance, beginning of year | \$ 42,560 | \$ 23,588 | \$ 23,190 |
| Addition due to acquisition | | 12,847 | |
| Provision for loan losses | 98,250 | 14,475 | 1,300 |
| Recoveries applicable to loan balances previously charged off | 758 | 994 | 234 |
| Loan balances charged off | (42,897) | (9,344) | (1,136) |

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| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|
| Balance, end of year | \$ | 98,671 | \$ | 42,560 | \$ | 23,588 |
|----------------------|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|

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Table of Contents**Note 7. Loan Servicing**

The unpaid principal balances of loans serviced by the Company for the benefit of others are not included in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. These unpaid principal balances were \$691.4 million and \$685.6 million as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Servicing loans for others generally consists of collecting mortgage payments, maintaining escrow accounts, disbursing payments to investors and collection and foreclosure processing. Loan servicing income is recorded on the accrual basis and includes servicing fees from investors and certain charges collected from borrowers, such as late payment fees, and is net of amortization of capitalized mortgage servicing rights.

The balance of capitalized servicing rights included in other assets at December 31, 2008 and 2007, was \$2.2 million and \$2.4 million, respectively. The fair values of these servicing rights were \$4.4 million and \$3.3 million, respectively, at December 31, 2008 and 2007. The following summarizes mortgage servicing rights capitalized and amortized:

| | For the Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|--------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
| | (dollars in thousands) | | |
| Mortgage servicing rights capitalized | \$ 663 | \$ 651 | \$ 312 |
| Mortgage servicing rights acquired | \$ | \$ 1,871 | \$ |
| Mortgage servicing rights amortized | \$ 807 | \$ 923 | \$ 889 |

Note 8. Premises and Equipment

Premises and equipment are summarized as follows:

| | December 31, | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| | (dollars in thousands) | |
| Land and improvements | \$ 24,519 | \$ 22,559 |
| Buildings and improvements | 62,912 | 61,119 |
| Furniture and equipment | 36,920 | 33,557 |
| | 124,351 | 117,235 |
| Less accumulated depreciation | 42,619 | 36,835 |
| Total premises and equipment | \$ 81,732 | \$ 80,400 |

Depreciation expense was \$7.4 million, \$5.5 million, and \$4.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Table of Contents**Note 9. Deposits**

The composition of deposits is as follows:

| | December 31, | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| | (dollars in thousands) | |
| Demand deposits, noninterest-bearing | \$ 378,007 | \$ 389,672 |
| Interest-bearing transaction deposits | 92,542 | 158,215 |
| Savings deposits | 153,967 | 148,205 |
| Money market deposits | 1,111,383 | 1,140,668 |
| Time deposits | 1,770,794 | 1,370,438 |
| Total | \$ 3,506,693 | \$ 3,207,198 |

The aggregate amount of time deposits with a minimum denomination of \$100,000 was approximately \$597.9 million and \$477.4 million at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Brokered deposits of \$306.9 million and \$27.3 million are included in the balance of time deposits as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

As of December 31, 2008, the scheduled maturities of certificates of deposit, in thousands, are as follows:

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| 2009 | \$ 1,399,865 |
| 2010 | 221,968 |
| 2011 | 65,868 |
| 2012 | 55,847 |
| 2013 | 26,815 |
| Thereafter | 431 |
| | \$ 1,770,794 |

Note 10. Federal Funds Purchased and Securities Sold Under Agreements to Repurchase

Federal funds purchased are short-term borrowings that generally mature between one and ninety days. The Company had no federal funds purchased at December 31, 2008 and \$36.5 million at December 31, 2007. Securities sold under agreements to repurchase, which are classified as secured borrowings, generally mature either daily or within one year from the transaction date. Securities sold under agreements to repurchase are reflected at the amount of cash received in connection with the transaction. The underlying securities are held by the Company's safekeeping agent. The Company may be required to provide additional collateral based on the fair value of the underlying securities. Balances of securities sold under agreements to repurchase were \$183.0 million and \$166.6 million as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Note 11. Short-term Borrowings

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Short-term borrowings consist of advances which mature in less than one year from date of origination. The advances are borrowed on either the Company's \$35 million line of credit or from the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) of Chicago. FHLB advances are collateralized by all U.S. Treasury and U.S. Agency securities, first mortgages on 1-4 family residential real estate and Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago stock not pledged to others.

The interest rate on advances from the line of credit is at LIBOR + 1.15%. The interest rates on the short-term FHLB of Chicago borrowings are generally fixed. The Company had \$55.0 million in short-term FHLB advances outstanding as of December 31, 2008. The rate was 3.21% on December 31, 2008, respectively. There were no short-term FHLB advances outstanding at December 31, 2007.

At December 31, 2008, First Busey Corporation had an operating line in the amount of \$35.0 million from its primary correspondent bank. The line, which is collateralized by the outstanding shares of Busey Bank, matures on May 31, 2009. The Company had \$28.0 million and \$10.5 million outstanding on its operating line at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The interest rate on advances from the line of credit is at LIBOR + 1.50%. The rate was 1.94% and 6.08% on December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Table of Contents**Note 12. Long-term Debt**

Long-term debt is summarized as follows:

| | 2008 | December 31, (dollars in thousands) | 2007 |
|--|------|--|------------|
| Notes payable, JPMorgan Chase N.A., interest payable quarterly: | | | |
| \$2,085,000 term loan, ESOP related, at LIBOR + 1.15% (effective rate of 1.25% and 5.67% at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively), annual payments of \$417,000, began December 2008, loan matures December 15, 2012 | \$ | 1,668 | \$ 2,085 |
| \$30,000,000 term loan at LIBOR plus 1.75% (effective rate of 2.19% and 6.49% at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively), amount due on June 1, 2011 | \$ | 30,000 | \$ 30,000 |
| Notes payable, Federal Home Loan Banks of Chicago and Atlanta, collateralized by all otherwise unpledged U.S. Treasury and U.S. Agency securities, first mortgages on 1-4 family residential real estate loans and Federal Home Loan Bank stock. | \$ | 102,825 | \$ 118,825 |
| | \$ | 134,493 | \$ 150,910 |

In connection with the \$30.0 million term loan, the Company has agreed, among other things, not to incur at the holding company level additional debt, pledge as collateral any personal or real property, dispose of assets exceeding ten percent of the consolidated assets of the Company, become a guarantor of otherwise liable for debts of any other person, purchase the assets of or merge with another institution without prior consent of the lender. Additionally, First Busey has agreed to maintain an annual return on average total assets of 0.70%, a consolidated non-performing asset ratio of not greater than 2.75% and to maintain sufficient capital to be classified as well capitalized on both a consolidated basis and at the individual bank level. As of December 31, 2008, the Company was not in compliance with covenants noted above. The Company has received a waiver for the covenants for the quarter ended December 31, 2008.

The \$30.0 million term loan calls for annual payments of \$4.0 million in June. The Company requested and received a waiver on the payment since 2007.

Our ESOP is collateralized by the unallocated shares of the plan and guaranteed by the Company. Our \$30.0 million term loan is collateralized by the outstanding shares of Busey Bank.

As of December 31, 2008, funds borrowed from the Federal Home Loan Banks of Chicago and Atlanta, listed above, consisted of fixed-rate advances maturing through May, 2013, with interest rates ranging from 3.22% to 5.54%. The weighted average rate on these long-term advances was 4.38% and 4.68% as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

As of December 31, 2008, the scheduled maturities of long-term debt, in thousands, are as follows:

| | | |
|------|----|---------|
| 2009 | \$ | 35,417 |
| 2010 | | 25,917 |
| 2011 | | 53,742 |
| 2012 | | 12,417 |
| 2013 | | 7,000 |
| | \$ | 134,493 |

Table of Contents**Note 13. Junior Subordinated Debt Owed to Unconsolidated Trusts**

First Busey Corporation has established statutory trusts for the sole purpose of issuing trust preferred securities and related trust common securities. The proceeds from such issuances were used by the trusts to purchase junior subordinated notes of the Company, which are the sole assets of each trust. Concurrent with the issuance of the trust preferred securities, the Company issued guarantees for the benefit of the holders of the trust preferred securities. The trust preferred securities are issues that qualify, and are treated by the Company, as Tier I regulatory capital. The Company owns all of the common securities of each trust. The trust preferred securities issued by each trust rank equally with the common securities in right of payment, except that if an event of default under the indenture governing the notes has occurred and is continuing, the preferred securities will rank senior to the common securities in right of payment.

The table below summarizes the outstanding junior subordinated notes and the related trust preferred securities issued by each trust as of December 31, 2008:

| | First Busey Statutory Trust II | First Busey Statutory Trust III | First Busey Statutory Trust IV |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Junior Subordinated Notes: | | | |
| Principal balance | \$15,000,000 | \$10,000,000 | \$30,000,000 |
| Annual interest rate(1) | 3-mo LIBOR + 2.65% | 3-mo LIBOR + 1.75% | 6.94% |
| Stated maturity date | June 17, 2034 | June 15, 2035 | June 15, 2036 |
| Call date | June 17, 2009 | June 15, 2010 | June 15, 2011 |
| Trust Preferred Securities: | | | |
| Face value | \$15,000,000 | \$10,000,000 | \$30,000,000 |
| Annual distribution rate(1) | 3-mo LIBOR + 2.65% | 3-mo LIBOR + 1.75% | 6.94% |
| Issuance date | April 30, 2004 | June 15, 2005 | June 15, 2006 |
| Distribution dates(2) | Quarterly | Quarterly | Quarterly |

(1) First Busey Statutory Trust IV maintains a 5-year fixed coupon of 6.94% through June 10, 2011, subsequently converting to a floating 3-month LIBOR +1.55%.

(2) All cash distributions are cumulative

The trust preferred securities are subject to mandatory redemption, in whole or in part, upon repayment of the junior subordinated notes at par value at the stated maturity date or upon redemption of the junior subordinated notes on a date no earlier than June 17, 2009, for First Busey Statutory Trust II, June 15, 2010, for First Busey Statutory Trust III, and June 15, 2011, for First Busey Statutory Trust IV. Prior to these respective redemption dates, the junior subordinated notes may also be redeemed by the Company (in which case the trust preferred securities would also be redeemed) after the occurrence of certain events that would have a negative tax effect on the Company or the trusts, would cause the trust preferred securities to no longer qualify for Tier 1 capital, or would result in a trust being treated as an investment company. Each trust's ability to pay amounts due on the trust preferred securities is solely dependent upon the Company making payment on the related junior subordinated notes. The Company's obligations under the junior subordinated notes and other relevant trust agreements, in aggregate, constitute a full and unconditional guarantee by the Company of each trust's obligations under the trust preferred securities issued by each trust. The Company has the right to defer payment of interest on the notes and, therefore, distributions on the trust preferred securities, for up to five years, but not beyond the stated maturity date in the table above.

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In March 2005, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System issued a final rule allowing bank holding companies to continue to include qualifying trust preferred securities in their Tier I Capital for regulatory capital purposes, subject to a 25% limitation to all core (Tier I) capital elements, net of goodwill less any associated deferred tax liability. The final rule provides a five-year transition period, ending March 31, 2009, for applications of the aforementioned quantitative limitation. As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, 100% of the trust preferred securities noted in the table above qualified as Tier I capital under the final rule adopted in March 2005.

Table of Contents**Note 14: Goodwill and Other Intangibles Assets**

Other than goodwill, the Company does not have any other intangible assets that are not amortized. Goodwill is tested for impairment using a two-step process that begins with an estimation of the fair value of a reporting unit, which for the Company is our operating segments. The first step is a screen for potential impairment and the second step measures the amount of impairment, if any. Based on the impairment testing performed at December 31, 2008, Busey Bank, Busey Wealth Management and FirsTech did not have indicators of potential impairment based on the estimated fair value of those operating segments.

Based upon the impairment testing, Busey Bank, N.A. indicated potential impairment and was subjected to the second step of goodwill impairment testing. Busey Bank, N.A. experienced two consecutive years of operating losses driven by the deterioration in the real estate markets in southwest Florida. The operating losses and the effects of the current economic environment on the valuation of financial institutions and the capital markets had a significant, negative effect on the fair value of Busey Bank, N.A. As a result of applying the second step of the impairment test, Busey Bank, N.A. recorded goodwill impairment of \$22.6 million in 2008.

Due to the decline in the Company's stock price, it is possible we will evaluate our goodwill for impairment on a more frequent basis than annually. The evaluation may result in further impairment.

During 2008, the Company recorded additional goodwill of \$3.7 million related to the finalization of certain accruals related to the Main Street merger.

Changes in the carrying amount of goodwill by operating segment during 2008 are as follows:

| | Balance at December 31, 2007 | Purchase Accounting Adjustments | Tax Benefit Recognition(1) | Impairment | Balance at December 31, 2008 |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| | (dollars in thousands) | | | | |
| Goodwill: | | | | | |
| Busey Bank | \$ 201,273 | \$ 3,527 | \$ | \$ | \$ 204,800 |
| Busey Bank, N.A. | 22,601 | | | (22,601) | |
| FirsTech | 8,992 | | | | 8,992 |
| Busey Wealth Management | 11,694 | | | | 11,694 |
| All Other | 3,404 | 136 | (163) | | 3,377 |
| Total Goodwill | \$ 247,964 | \$ 3,663 | \$ (163) | \$ (22,601) | \$ 228,863 |

Changes in the carrying amount of goodwill by operating segment during 2007 are as follows:

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| | Balance at January 1, 2007 | Acquired during the Year | Tax Benefit Recognition(1) | Balance at December 31, 2007 |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (dollars in thousands) | | | | |
| Goodwill: | | | | |
| Busey Bank | \$ 30,237 | \$ 171,036 | \$ | \$ 201,273 |
| Busey Bank, N.A. | 22,601 | | | 22,601 |
| FirsTech | | 8,992 | | 8,992 |
| Busey Wealth Management | | 11,694 | | 11,694 |
| All Other | 1,548 | 2,123 | (267) | 3,404 |
| Total Goodwill | \$ 54,386 | \$ 193,845 | \$ (267) | \$ 247,964 |

(1) A portion of goodwill has been allocated to the anticipated future benefit resulting from exercises of stock options assumed in the merger with Main Street Trust, Inc. As the stock options are exercised, the associated tax benefit is deducted from the allocated goodwill, which was \$1.8 and \$1.7 million at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

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Core deposit and customer relationship intangible assets are amortized on an accelerated or straight-line basis over the estimated period benefited up to 10 years. Other intangible asset disclosures are as follows:

| | Balance at December 31, 2007 | Amortization (dollars in thousands) | Balance at December 31, 2008 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Amortized intangible assets: | | | |
| Core deposit intangibles | \$ 21,771 | \$ 3,178 | \$ 18,593 |
| Customer relationship intangibles | 10,752 | 1,340 | 9,412 |
| | \$ 32,523 | \$ 4,518 | \$ 28,005 |

| | Core deposit intangible | Customer relationship intangible |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | (dollars in thousands) | |
| As of December 31, 2008: | | |
| Gross carrying amount | \$ 34,836 | \$ 11,320 |
| Accumulated amortization | 16,243 | 1,908 |
| | \$ 18,593 | \$ 9,412 |

| Estimated amortization expense: | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|--|
| 2009 | \$ 3,078 | \$ 1,298 | |
| 2010 | 2,809 | 1,256 | |
| 2011 | 2,321 | 1,212 | |
| 2012 | 2,194 | 1,141 | |
| 2013 | 2,046 | 1,057 | |
| Thereafter | 6,145 | 3,448 | |
| | \$ 18,593 | \$ 9,412 | |

Note 15. Income Taxes

The components of income taxes consist of:

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
| | (dollars in thousands) | | |
| Current | \$ 8,098 | \$ 15,104 | \$ 16,750 |
| Deferred | (23,666) | (2,171) | (2,049) |
| Total income tax (benefit) expense | \$ (15,568) | \$ 12,933 | \$ 14,701 |

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A reconciliation of federal and state income taxes at statutory rates to the income taxes included in the statements of operations is as follows:

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | 2008 % of Pretax Loss | 2007 % of Pretax Income | 2006 % of Pretax Income |
| Income tax (benefit) at statutory rate | (35.0)% | 35.0% | 35.0% |
| Effect of: | | | |
| Goodwill impairment | 14.8% | % | % |
| Tax-exempt interest, net | (2.6)% | (2.6)% | (2.7)% |
| State income taxes, net | (2.4)% | 1.3% | 2.2% |
| Income on bank owned life insurance | (0.7)% | (0.9)% | (0.7)% |
| ESOP dividends | (0.6)% | (0.7)% | (0.7)% |
| Income tax credits | (0.8)% | % | % |
| Other, net | (1.8)% | (3.0)% | 0.6% |
| | (29.1)% | 29.1% | 33.7% |

Net deferred taxes, included in other assets at December 31, 2008 and other liabilities at December 31, 2007 in the accompanying balance sheets, include the following amounts of deferred tax assets and liabilities:

| | 2008 (dollars in thousands) | 2007 |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Deferred tax assets: | | |
| Allowance for loan losses | \$ 38,984 | \$ 16,808 |
| Stock-based compensation | 447 | 412 |
| Loan adjustments | 312 | 1,315 |
| Deferred compensation | 1,888 | 1,951 |
| Accrued vacation | 383 | 391 |
| Employee costs | 1,542 | 1,129 |
| Other | 221 | 208 |
| | 43,777 | 22,214 |
| Deferred tax liabilities: | | |
| Investment securities: | | |
| Unrealized gains on securities available for sale | (6,485) | (2,725) |
| Other | (1,472) | (1,090) |
| Basis in premises and equipment | (4,184) | (4,795) |
| Mortgage servicing assets | (891) | (939) |
| Basis in core deposit and customer intangibles | (10,873) | (12,536) |
| Deferred loan origination costs | (550) | (713) |
| | (24,455) | (22,798) |
| Net deferred tax asset (liability) | \$ 19,322 | \$ (584) |

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Note 16. Employee Benefit Plans

Employees Stock Ownership Plan

The First Busey Corporation Employees Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) is available to all full-time employees who meet certain age and length of service requirements. The ESOP trust fund is able to purchase common shares of the Company using the proceeds of bank borrowings which are generally secured by the common shares. The borrowings are to be repaid using fully deductible contributions to the trust fund. As the ESOP makes each payment of principal, an appropriate percentage of stock will be allocated to eligible employees accounts in accordance with applicable regulations under the Internal Revenue Code. Allocations of common stock released and forfeitures are based on the eligible compensation of each participant. Dividends on allocated shares of common stock are distributed directly to the participants, and dividends on unallocated shares are used to service the bank borrowings. All shares held by the ESOP, which were acquired prior to the issuance of AICPA Statement of Position 93-6, Employers Accounting for Employee Stock Ownership Plans (SOP 93-6), are included in the computation of average common shares and common share equivalents. This accounting treatment is grandfathered under SOP 93-6 for shares purchased prior to December 31, 1992.

In December 2006, the Company contributed \$2.1 million to the ESOP to retire all outstanding borrowings and accrued interest.

In December 2007, the ESOP trust fund borrowed \$2.1 million and purchased 100,000 shares of the Company stock.

As permitted by SOP 93-6, compensation expense for shares released is equal to the original acquisition cost of the shares if they were acquired prior to December 31, 1992. Compensation expense for shares released is equal to the fair market value of the shares when released if they were acquired on or after January 1, 1993. All shares released in 2008 and 2006 were acquired after January 1, 1993. No shares were released during 2007. During 2008, \$0.4 million of compensation expense was recognized for the ESOP, releasing 20,000 shares to participant accounts. During 2006, \$2,904,000 of compensation expense was recognized for the ESOP, releasing 123,000 shares to participant accounts. Compensation expense related to the ESOP is included in the chart below under Employee Benefits . Compensation expense related to the ESOP, including related interest expense was \$0.5 million and \$3.0 million, in the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2006, respectively. There was no ESOP related expense recorded in 2007.

All shares held in the ESOP which were acquired prior to December 31, 1992 were allocated as of December 31, 2006. The number of shares and associated fair values were 938,190 worth \$17.1 million and 969,843 worth \$19.3 million at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Shares held in the ESOP which were acquired after December 31, 1992 and their fair values were as follows:

| | 2008 | | 2007 | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------|---------------|--|
| Shares | Fair Value | Shares | Fair Value | |
| (dollars in thousands) | | | | |

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| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|----|-------|---------|----|-------|
| Allocated shares | 229,744 | \$ | 4,191 | 226,998 | \$ | 4,508 |
| Unallocated shares | 80,000 | | 1,459 | 100,000 | | 1,986 |
| Total | 309,744 | \$ | 5,650 | 326,998 | \$ | 6,494 |

Profit Sharing Plan

All full-time employees who meet certain age and service requirements are eligible to participate in the Company's profit-sharing plan. The contributions, if any, are determined solely by the Boards of Directors of the Company and its subsidiaries and in no case may the annual contributions be greater than the amounts deductible for federal income tax purposes for that year.

The rights of the participants vest ratably over a seven-year period, except for the 401(k) match portion, which vests immediately. Contributions to the plan were \$2.6 million, \$2.4 million and \$1.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006, respectively.

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Expenses related to the employee benefit plans are included in the statements of income as follows:

| | 2008 | Years Ended December 31, 2007 (dollars in thousands) | 2006 |
|--|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| Employee benefits | \$ 2,992 | \$ 2,427 | \$ 3,983 |
| Interest on employee stock ownership plan debt | 95 | | 115 |
| Total employer contributions | \$ 3,087 | \$ 2,427 | \$ 4,098 |

First Busey Corporation sponsors deferred compensation plans for executive officers for deferral of performance bonuses. The deferred compensation expense reported for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006 was \$0.2 million, \$0.2 million, and \$0.1 million, respectively. The deferred compensation liability was \$4.3 million at December 31, 2008, and \$4.2 million at December 31, 2007.

Note 17. Stock Incentive PlansStock Option Plans:

In January 1999, the Company adopted the 1999 Stock Option Plan pursuant to which nonqualified stock options for up to 750,000 shares of common stock may be granted by the Executive Compensation and Succession Committee of the Board of Directors to directors and employees of First Busey Corporation and its subsidiaries.

In April 2004, the Company adopted the 2004 Stock Option Plan pursuant to which nonqualified stock options for up to 1,500,000 shares of common stock may be granted by the Executive Compensation and Succession Committee of the Board of Directors to directors and employees of First Busey Corporation and its subsidiaries.

In August 2007, the Company assumed the outstanding stock options under the former Main Street Trust, Inc.'s 2000 stock incentive plan. The Company does not plan to issue additional share-based compensation from the Main Street 2000 stock incentive plan.

Under the terms of the Company's stock option plans, the Company is allowed, but not required to source stock option exercises from its inventory of treasury stock. The Company has historically sourced stock option exercises from its treasury stock inventory, including exercises for the periods presented. As of December 31, 2008, under the Company's stock repurchase plan, 895,655 additional shares were authorized for repurchase. The repurchase plan has no expiration date and expires when the Company has repurchased all of the remaining authorized shares. However, because of First Busey's participation in Treasury's Capital Purchase Program, it will not be permitted to repurchase any shares of its common stock, other than in connection with benefit plans consistent with past practice, until such time as Treasury no longer holds any equity securities in the Company.

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The fair value of the stock options granted has been estimated using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following weighted average assumptions.

| | 2008 | | 2007 | | 2006 | |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Director | Director | Employee | Director | Employee | Employee |
| Number of options granted | 67,500 | 27,000 | 20,000 | 62,000 | 188,000 | |
| Risk-free interest rate | 3.66% | 5.05% | 4.20% | 4.98% | 4.99% | |
| Expected life, in years | 4.6 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.20 | 4.20 | |
| Estimated Forfeiture Rate | | | | % | 8.00 | |
| Expected volatility | 16.00% | 13.10% | 11.16% | 11.30% | 11.30% | |
| Expected dividend yield | 4.67% | 3.65% | 3.29% | 3.09% | 3.17% | |
| Estimated fair value per option | \$ 1.62 | \$ 2.40 | \$ 2.18 | \$ 2.37 | \$ 2.27 | |

Expected life and estimated forfeiture rate is based on historical exercise and termination behavior. Expected stock price volatility is based on historical volatility of the Company's common stock and correlates with the expected life of the options. The risk-free interest rate is based on the implied yield available on U.S. Treasury zero-coupon issues with a remaining term approximately equal to the expected life of the option. The expected dividend yield represents the annual dividend yield as of the date of grant. Management reviews and adjusts the assumptions used to calculate the fair value of an option as of each grant date to better reflect expected trends.

A summary of the status of the Company's stock option plans for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006, and the changes during the years ending on those dates is as follows:

| | 2008 | | 2007 | | 2006 | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| | Shares | Weighted-Average Exercise Price | Shares | Weighted-Average Exercise Price | Shares | Weighted-Average Exercise Price |
| | (dollars in thousands, except per share data) | | | | | |
| Outstanding at beginning of year | 2,033,989 | \$ 17.08 | 780,100 | \$ 18.50 | 625,925 | \$ 17.67 |
| Granted | 67,500 | 17.12 | 47,000 | 20.55 | 250,000 | 20.30 |
| Assumed through merger | | | 1,310,198 | 16.08 | | |
| Exercised | (117,051) | 15.54 | (94,809) | 16.46 | (47,475) | 15.50 |
| Forfeited | (65,550) | 18.91 | (8,500) | 20.03 | (48,350) | 19.88 |
| Outstanding at end of year | 1,918,888 | \$ 17.11 | 2,033,989 | \$ 17.08 | 780,100 | \$ 18.50 |
| Exercisable at end of year | 1,831,388 | \$ 17.06 | 2,013,989 | \$ 17.03 | 289,050 | \$ 16.11 |
| Intrinsic value of options exercised during the year | | \$ 550 | | \$ 451 | | \$ 339 |
| Weighted-average fair value per option for options granted during the year | | \$ 1.62 | | \$ 2.31 | | \$ 2.29 |

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The following table summarizes information about stock options outstanding at December 31, 2008:

| Range of Exercise Prices | Number | Options Outstanding | | | Options Exercisable | |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | | Weighted-Average Exercise Price | Weighted-Average Remaining Contractual Life | Intrinsic Value | Number | Intrinsic Value |
| | | (intrinsic value in thousands) | | | | |
| \$ 11.29-12.00 | 429,395 | \$ 11.72 | 2.33 | | 429,395 | |
| 14.56-16.03 | 307,014 | 15.32 | 3.16 | | 307,014 | |
| 19.59-19.83 | 287,950 | 19.63 | 0.75 | | 287,950 | |
| 17.12-21.90 | 697,529 | 19.26 | 6.40 | | 610,029 | |
| 20.16-20.71 | 197,000 | 20.32 | 2.96 | | 197,000 | |
| | 1,918,888 | \$ 17.11 | 3.77 | \$ 3,771 | 1,831,388 | \$ 3,696 |

The Company recorded an insignificant amount of stock compensation expense during 2008. The Company recorded stock option based compensation expense of \$0.4 million, net of \$0.2 million tax benefit, and \$0.3 million, net of \$0.2 million tax benefit for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. As of December 31, 2008, the Company has an insignificant amount of unrecognized stock option expense.

Restricted Stock Award Plan:

The 1993 Restricted Stock Award Plan provides for restricted stock awards of up to 675,000 shares of common stock which may be granted by the Executive Compensation and Succession Committee of the Board of Directors of the Company to certain executive officers and key personnel of First Busey Corporation and its subsidiaries. Shares vest over a period established by the Compensation Committee at grant date and are based on the attainment of specified earnings per share and earnings growth. As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, all shares under restriction have been released.

Compensation expense is recognized for financial statement purposes over the vesting period. An insignificant amount of compensation expense was recognized under this plan during the year ended December 31, 2006. There is no unrecognized or recognized compensation expense related to this plan as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007.

The Company has 597,300 shares available for grant under the 1993 Restricted Stock Award Plan.

Table of Contents**Note 18. Transactions with Directors and Executive Officers**

The Company and its subsidiaries have had, and may be expected to have in the future, banking transactions in the ordinary course of business with directors, executive officers, their immediate families and affiliated companies in which they have 10% or more beneficial ownership (commonly referred to as related parties), on the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with others.

The following is an analysis of the changes in loans, in thousands, to related parties during the year ended December 31, 2008:

| | | |
|--|----|---------|
| Balance at beginning of year | \$ | 27,180 |
| Addition due to change in relationship | | 1,687 |
| Deletion due to change in relationship | | (6,227) |
| New loans/ advances | | 6,914 |
| Repayments | | (7,947) |
| Balance at end of year | \$ | 21,607 |

Total unused commitments to directors and executive officers were \$1.2 million at December 31, 2008.

Note 19. Capital

The ability of the Company to pay cash dividends to its stockholders and to service its debt is dependent on the receipt of cash dividends from its subsidiaries. State chartered banks have certain statutory and regulatory restrictions on the amount of cash dividends they may pay. As a practical matter, dividend payments are restricted because of the desire to maintain a strong capital position in the subsidiaries. See Note 20 for further discussion of dividend guidelines under Treasury's Capital Purchase Program.

The Company and the Banks are subject to various regulatory capital requirements administered by federal and state banking agencies. Failure to meet minimum capital requirements can initiate certain mandatory, and possibly additional discretionary, actions by regulators that, if undertaken, could have a direct material effect on the Company's or the Banks' financial statements. Under capital adequacy guidelines and the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action, the Company and Banks must meet specific capital guidelines that involve quantitative measures of their assets, liabilities, and certain off-balance-sheet items as calculated under regulatory accounting practices. The Company's and the Banks' capital amounts and classification are also subject to qualitative judgments by the regulators about components, risk weightings, and other factors. Prompt corrective action provisions are not applicable to bank holding companies.

Quantitative measures established by regulation to ensure capital adequacy require the Company and the Banks to maintain minimum amounts and ratios (set forth in the table below) of total and Tier I capital (as defined in the regulations) to risk-weighted assets (as defined), and Tier I capital (as defined) to average assets (as defined). Management believes, as of December 31, 2008, that the Company and the Banks meet all capital adequacy requirements to which they are subject.

As of December 31, 2008, the most recent notification from the federal and state regulatory agencies categorized the Banks as well-capitalized under the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action. To be categorized as well-capitalized, the Banks must maintain minimum total risk-based, Tier I risk-based, and Tier I leverage ratios as set forth in the table. There are no conditions or events since that notification that management believes have changed the Banks' classification. The Company's and the Banks' actual capital amounts and ratios as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, are also presented in the table.

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| | Actual | | Minimum Capital Requirement | | Minimum To Be Well Capitalized Under Prompt Corrective Action Provisions | |
|---|------------|--------|-----------------------------------|-------|--|--------|
| | Amount | Ratio | Amount | Ratio | Amount | Ratio |
| (dollars in thousands) | | | | | | |
| As of December 31, 2008: | | | | | | |
| Total Capital (to Risk Weighted Assets) | | | | | | |
| Consolidated | \$ 296,295 | 8.88% | \$ 266,913 | 8.00% | N/A | N/A |
| Busey Bank | \$ 301,396 | 10.02% | \$ 240,736 | 8.00% | \$ 300,919 | 10.00% |
| Busey Bank, N.A. | \$ 38,655 | 11.84% | \$ 26,125 | 8.00% | \$ 32,656 | 10.00% |
| Tier I Capital (to Risk Weighted Assets) | | | | | | |
| Consolidated | \$ 253,449 | 7.60% | \$ 133,457 | 4.00% | N/A | N/A |
| Busey Bank | \$ 262,862 | 8.74% | \$ 120,368 | 4.00% | \$ 180,552 | 6.00% |
| Busey Bank, N.A. | \$ 34,394 | 10.53% | \$ 13,063 | 4.00% | \$ 19,594 | 6.00% |
| Tier I Capital (to Average Assets) | | | | | | |
| Consolidated | \$ 253,449 | 6.14% | \$ 165,211 | 4.00% | N/A | N/A |
| Busey Bank | \$ 262,862 | 7.08% | \$ 148,440 | 4.00% | \$ 185,549 | 5.00% |
| Busey Bank, N.A. | \$ 34,394 | 8.14% | \$ 16,900 | 4.00% | \$ 21,125 | 5.00% |
| As of December 31, 2007: | | | | | | |
| Total Capital (to Risk Weighted Assets) | | | | | | |
| Consolidated | \$ 353,763 | 10.91% | \$ 259,470 | 8.00% | N/A | N/A |
| Busey Bank | \$ 324,137 | 11.25% | \$ 230,452 | 8.00% | \$ 288,065 | 10.00% |
| Busey Bank, N.A. | \$ 48,390 | 13.87% | \$ 27,915 | 8.00% | \$ 34,894 | 10.00% |
| Tier I Capital (to Risk Weighted Assets) | | | | | | |
| Consolidated | \$ 312,105 | 9.62% | \$ 129,735 | 4.00% | N/A | N/A |
| Busey Bank | \$ 287,442 | 9.98% | \$ 115,226 | 4.00% | \$ 172,839 | 6.00% |
| Busey Bank, N.A. | \$ 43,999 | 12.61% | \$ 13,958 | 4.00% | \$ 20,936 | 6.00% |
| Tier I Capital (to Average Assets) | | | | | | |
| Consolidated | \$ 312,105 | 8.03% | \$ 155,451 | 4.00% | N/A | N/A |
| Busey Bank | \$ 287,442 | 8.44% | \$ 136,190 | 4.00% | \$ 170,237 | 5.00% |
| Busey Bank, N.A. | \$ 43,999 | 10.07% | \$ 17,474 | 4.00% | \$ 21,842 | 5.00% |

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Note 20. Subsequent Event TARP Capital

On March 6, 2009, the Company, pursuant to the CPP implemented under the EESA, entered into a Letter Agreement, which includes the Securities Purchase Agreement Standard Terms (collectively, the Purchase Agreement), with the Treasury pursuant to which the Company issued and sold to Treasury 100,000 shares of the Company s Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series T, together with a warrant to purchase 1,147,666 shares of the Company s common stock for an aggregate purchase price of \$100 million in cash. The warrant has a ten-year term and is immediately exercisable upon its issuance, with an exercise price equal to \$13.07 per share of the common stock.

The Series T Preferred Stock qualifies as Tier 1 capital and pays cumulative dividends at a rate of 5% per annum for the first five years, and 9% per annum thereafter. The Series T Preferred Stock may be redeemed by the Company at any time, subject to approval of the Federal Reserve. Any redemption of the Series T Preferred Stock will be at the per share liquidation amount of \$1,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends.

Prior to the third anniversary of Treasury s purchase of the Series T Preferred Stock, unless the Series T Preferred Stock has been redeemed or Treasury has transferred all of the Series T Preferred Stock to one or more third parties, the consent of Treasury will be required for the Company to increase the dividend paid on its common stock above its most recent quarterly dividend of \$0.20 per share or repurchase shares of its common stock (other than in connection with benefit plans). The Series T Preferred Stock is non-voting except for class voting rights on matters that would adversely affect the rights of the holders of the Series T Preferred Stock.

Note 21. Commitments, Contingencies and Credit Risk

The Company and its subsidiaries are parties to legal actions which arise in the normal course of their business activities. In the opinion of management, the ultimate resolution of these matters is not expected to have a material effect on the financial position or the results of operations of the Company and its subsidiaries.

The Company and its subsidiaries are parties to credit related financial instruments with off-balance-sheet risk in the normal course of business to meet the financing needs of its customers. These financial instruments include commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit. Those instruments involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit and interest rate risk in excess of the amount recognized in the consolidated balance sheets.

The Company and its subsidiaries exposure to credit loss is represented by the contractual amount of those commitments. The Company and its subsidiaries use the same credit policies in making commitments and conditional obligations as it does for on-balance-sheet instruments.

A summary of the contractual amount of the Company s exposure to off-balance-sheet risk follows:

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| | December 31, | |
|---|------------------------|------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| | (dollars in thousands) | |
| Financial instruments whose contract amounts represent credit risk: | | |
| Commitments to extend credit | \$ 705,231 | \$ 722,677 |
| Standby letters of credit | 27,862 | 46,698 |

Commitments to extend credit are agreements to lend to a customer as long as no condition established in the contract has been violated. These commitments are generally at variable interest rates and generally have fixed expiration dates or other termination clauses and may require payment of a fee. The commitments for equity lines of credit may expire without being drawn upon. Therefore, the total commitment amounts do not necessarily represent future cash requirements. The amount of collateral obtained, if it is deemed necessary by the Company upon extension of credit, is based on management's credit evaluation of the customer.

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Standby letters of credit are conditional commitments issued by the Company to guarantee the performance of a customer to a third party. Those guarantees are primarily issued to support public and private borrowing arrangements, including bond financing and similar transactions and primarily have terms of one year or less. The credit risk involved in issuing letters of credit is essentially the same as that involved in extending loan facilities to customers. The Company holds collateral, which may include accounts receivable, inventory, property and equipment, income producing properties, supporting those commitments if deemed necessary. In the event the customer does not perform in accordance with the terms of the agreement with the third party, the Company would be required to fund the commitment.

The maximum potential amount of future payments the Company could be required to make is represented by the contractual amount shown in the summary above. If the commitment is funded, the Company would be entitled to seek recovery from the customer. At December 31, 2008 and 2007, no amounts have been recorded as liabilities for the Company's potential obligations under these guarantees.

As of December 31, 2008, the Company has no futures, forwards, swaps or option contracts, or other financial instruments with similar characteristics with the exception of rate lock commitments on mortgage loans to be held for sale.

Lease Commitments

At December 31, 2008, the Company was obligated under noncancelable operating leases for office space and other commitments. Rent expense under operating leases, included in net occupancy expense of premises, was approximately \$2.8 million, \$1.3 million, and \$1.5 million the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

The projected minimum rental payments under the terms of the leases at December 31, 2008, in thousands, are as follows:

| | | |
|------------|----|--------|
| 2009 | \$ | 2,637 |
| 2010 | | 2,401 |
| 2011 | | 2,223 |
| 2012 | | 1,178 |
| 2013 | | 257 |
| Thereafter | | 1,743 |
| | \$ | 10,439 |

Note 22 - Fair Value Measurements

Effective January 1, 2008, the Company adopted the provisions of SFAS No. 157, Fair Value Measurements, for financial assets and financial liabilities. In accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board Staff Position (FSP) No. 157-2, Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 157, the Company will delay application of SFAS 157 for non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities, until January 1, 2009. SFAS 157 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in generally accepted accounting principles and expands disclosures about fair value measurements.

SFAS 157 defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants. A fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability occurs in the principal market for the asset or liability or, in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market for the asset or liability. The price in the principal (or most advantageous) market used to measure the fair value of the asset or liability shall not be adjusted for transaction costs. An orderly transaction is a transaction that assumes exposure to the market for a period prior to the measurement date to allow for marketing activities that are usual and customary for transactions involving such assets and liabilities; it is not a forced transaction. Market participants are buyers and sellers in the principal market that are (i) independent, (ii) knowledgeable, (iii) able to transact and (iv) willing to transact.

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SFAS 157 requires the use of valuation techniques that are consistent with the market approach, the income approach and/or the cost approach. The market approach uses prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable assets and liabilities. The income approach uses valuation techniques to convert future amounts, such as cash flows or earnings, to a single present amount on a discounted basis. The cost approach is based on the amount that currently would be required to replace the service capacity of an asset (replacement cost). Valuation techniques should be consistently applied. Inputs to valuation techniques refer to the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Inputs may be observable, meaning those that reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on market data obtained from independent sources, or unobservable, meaning those that reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available in the circumstances. In that regard, SFAS 157 establishes a fair value hierarchy for valuation inputs that gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs. The fair value hierarchy is as follows:

Level 1 Inputs - Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the reporting entity has the ability to access at the measurement date.

Level 2 Inputs - Inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. These might include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability (such as interest rates, volatilities, prepayment speeds, credit risks, etc.) or inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by market data by correlation or other means.

Level 3 Inputs - Unobservable inputs for determining the fair values of assets or liabilities that reflect an entity's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the assets or liabilities.

A description of the valuation methodologies used for instruments measured at fair value, as well as the general classification of such instruments pursuant to the valuation hierarchy, is set forth below. These valuation methodologies were applied to all of the Company's financial assets and financial liabilities carried at fair value effective January 1, 2008.

In general, fair value is based upon quoted market prices, where available. If such quoted market prices are not available, fair value is based upon internally developed models that primarily use, as inputs, observable market-based parameters. Valuation adjustments may be made to ensure that financial instruments are recorded at fair value. These adjustments may include amounts to reflect counterparty credit quality, the Company's creditworthiness, among other things, as well as unobservable parameters. Any such valuation adjustments are applied consistently over time. The Company's valuation methodologies may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. While management believes the Company's valuation methodologies are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different estimate of fair value at the reporting date.

Securities Available for Sale. Securities classified as available for sale are reported at fair value utilizing Level 1 and Level 2 inputs. For equity securities, unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets are utilized to determine fair value at the measurement date. For all other securities, the Company obtains fair value measurements from an independent pricing service. The fair value measurements consider observable data that may include dealer quotes, market spreads, cash flows, the U.S. Treasury yield curve, live trading levels, trade execution data, market consensus prepayment speeds, credit information and the bond's terms and conditions, among other things.

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Impaired Loans. The Company does not record impaired loans at fair value on a recurring basis. However, periodically, a loan is considered impaired and is reported at the fair value of the underlying collateral, less estimated costs to sell, if repayment is expected solely from the collateral. Impaired loans measured at fair value typically consist of loans on non-accrual status, \$68.3 million at December 31, 2008, and loans with a portion of the allowance for loan losses allocated specific to the loan, \$2.6 million at December 31, 2008. Collateral values are estimated using level 2 inputs, including recent appraisals and Level 3 inputs based on customized discounting criteria. Due to the significance of the level 3 inputs, impaired loans fair values have been classified as level 3.

The following table summarizes financial assets and financial liabilities measured at fair value as of December 31, 2008, segregated by the level of the valuation inputs within the fair value hierarchy utilized to measure fair value:

| | Level 1 Inputs | Level 2 Inputs (dollars in thousands) | Level 3 Inputs | Total Fair Value |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Recurring</i> | | | | |
| Securities available-for-sale | \$ 3,297 | \$ 650,833 | \$ | \$ 654,130 |
| <i>Non-recurring</i> | | | | |
| Impaired Loans | | | 70,947 | 70,947 |

Certain financial assets and financial liabilities are measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis; that is, the instruments are not measured at fair value on an ongoing basis but are subject to fair value adjustments in certain circumstances (for example, when there is evidence of impairment). Financial assets and financial liabilities, excluding impaired loans, measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis were not significant at December 31, 2008.

Non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis include reporting units measured at fair value in the first step of a goodwill impairment test. Non-financial assets measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis include non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities measured at fair value in the second step of a goodwill impairment test, as well as intangible assets and other non-financial long-lived assets measured at fair value for impairment assessment. As stated above, SFAS 157 will be applicable to these fair value measurements beginning January 1, 2009.

SFAS 107, *Disclosures about Fair Value of Financial Instruments*, requires disclosure of the fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities, including those financial assets and financial liabilities that are not measured and reported at fair value on a recurring basis or non-recurring basis. The methodologies for estimating the fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities that are measured at fair value on a recurring or non-recurring basis are discussed above. The estimated fair value approximates carrying value for cash and cash equivalents, federal funds sold and accrued interest. The methodologies for other financial assets and financial liabilities are discussed below:

Mortgage loans held for sale

Fair value of mortgage loans held for sale are based on commitments on hand from investors or prevailing market prices.

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Fair values for on-balance-sheet commitments to originate loans held for sale are based on fees currently charged to enter into similar agreements, and for fixed-rate commitments also consider the difference between current levels of interest rates and the committed rates. The fair value of interest-rate lock commitments are considered immaterial.

Loans

For variable rate loans that reprice frequently with no significant change in credit risk, fair values are based on carrying amount. For certain homogeneous categories of loans, such as some residential mortgages, fair value is estimated using the quoted market prices for similar loans or securities backed by similar loans, adjusted for differences in loan characteristics. The fair value of other types of loans is estimated by discounting the future cash flows using the current rates at which similar loans would be made to borrowers with similar credit ratings and for the same remaining maturities. The carrying amount of accrued interest receivable approximates fair value.

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Deposits, federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase

The fair value of demand deposits, savings accounts, interest-bearing transaction accounts, and certain money market deposits is defined as the amount payable on demand at the reporting date. The fair value of fixed-maturity certificates of deposit is estimated using a discounted cash flow calculation that applies interest rates currently offered for deposits of similar remaining maturities. The carrying amounts reported in the balance sheet for federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase approximate those liabilities' fair values. The carrying amount of accrued interest payable approximates fair value.

Short-term borrowings and long-term debt

Rates currently available to the Company for debt with similar terms and remaining maturities are used to estimate fair value of existing debt. The carrying amount of accrued interest payable approximates fair value.

Junior subordinated debt owed to unconsolidated trusts

Rates currently available to the Company for instruments with similar terms and remaining maturities are used to estimate fair value of existing fixed rate instruments. For variable rate instruments, fair values are based on carrying values. The carrying amount of accrued interest payable approximates fair value.

Commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit

The fair value of commitments is estimated using the fees currently charged to enter into similar agreements, taking into account the remaining terms of the agreements and the present creditworthiness of the counterparties. For fixed-rate loan commitments, fair value also considers the difference between current levels of interest rates and the committed rates. The fair value of letters of credit is based on fees currently charged for similar agreements or on the estimated cost to terminate them or otherwise settle the obligations with the counterparties at the reporting date. As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, these items are insignificant.

The estimated fair values of the Company's financial instruments at December 31 are as follows:

| | 2008 | | 2007 | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
| | Carrying Amount | Fair Value | Carrying Amount | Fair Value |
| | (dollars in thousands) | | | |
| Financial assets: | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 190,113 | \$ 190,113 | \$ 125,228 | \$ 125,228 |

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| | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Federal funds sold | | | 459 | 459 |
| Securities | 654,130 | 654,130 | 610,422 | 610,422 |
| Loans, net | 3,158,910 | 3,164,794 | 3,010,665 | 3,028,844 |
| Accrued interest receivable | 20,405 | 20,405 | 24,239 | 24,239 |
| Financial liabilities: | | | | |
| Deposits | 3,506,693 | 3,513,902 | 3,207,198 | 3,207,506 |
| Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase | 182,980 | 182,980 | 203,119 | 203,119 |
| Short-term borrowings | 83,000 | 83,000 | 10,523 | 10,523 |
| Long-term debt | 134,493 | 138,563 | 150,910 | 152,585 |
| Junior subordinated debt owed to unconsolidated trusts | 55,000 | 53,272 | 55,000 | 56,331 |
| Accrued interest payable | 14,055 | 14,055 | 14,804 | 14,804 |

Other assets and liabilities of the Company that are not defined as financial instruments are not included in the above disclosures, such as property and equipment. Also, nonfinancial instruments typically not recognized in financial statements nevertheless may have value but are not included in the above disclosures. These include, among other items, the estimated earning potential of core deposit accounts, the earnings potential of loan servicing rights, the earnings potential of the trust operations, customer goodwill and similar items.

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Note 23. Reportable Segments and Related Information

The Company has four reportable segments, Busey Bank, Busey Bank, N.A., FirsTech and Busey Wealth Management. Busey Bank provides a full range of banking services to individual and corporate customers through its branch network in Champaign, Ford, Livingston, Macon, McLean, Shelby, Peoria, Tazewell, and Ford Counties in Illinois, through its branch in Indianapolis, Indiana, and through its loan production office in Fort Myers, Florida. Busey Bank, N.A. provides a full range of banking services to individual and corporate customers in Lee, Charlotte, and Sarasota Counties in southwest Florida. FirsTech is our payment processing company. Busey Wealth Management is the parent company of Busey Trust Company, Inc., which provides a full range of trust and investment management services, including estate and financial planning, securities brokerage, investment advice, tax preparation, custody services and philanthropic advisory services.

In November 2007, the trust department of the former Main Street Bank & Trust was sold to Busey Trust Company. The 2007 results of Busey Wealth Management reflect approximately 1.5 months of the former trust department of Main Street Bank & Trust.

The segment financial information provided below has been derived from the internal accounting system used by management to monitor and manage the financial performance of the Company. The accounting policies of the four segments are the same as those described in the summary of significant accounting policies in footnote 1. The Company accounts for intersegment revenue and transfers at current market value.

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The following summarized information relates to the Company's reportable segments:

| As of December 31, | Goodwill | | Total Assets | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------|------------------------|--------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 |
| | (dollars in thousands) | | (dollars in thousands) | |
| Busey Bank | \$ 204,800 | \$ 201,273 | \$ 4,015,497 | \$ 3,699,454 |
| Busey Bank, N.A. | | 22,601 | 410,803 | 452,276 |
| FirsTech | 8,992 | 8,992 | 19,911 | 19,285 |
| Busey Wealth Management | 11,694 | 11,694 | 25,255 | 26,959 |
| All Other | 3,377 | 3,404 | (11,373) | (5,046) |
| Totals | \$ 228,863 | \$ 247,964 | \$ 4,460,093 | \$ 4,192,925 |

| | Year ended December 31, | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
| | (dollars in thousands) | | |
| <u>Interest Income:</u> | | | |
| Busey Bank | \$ 196,715 | \$ 174,373 | \$ 119,572 |
| Busey Bank, N.A. | 23,768 | 27,520 | 26,588 |
| FirsTech | 42 | 18 | |
| Busey Wealth Management | 330 | 292 | 255 |
| All Other | (371) | (300) | (49) |
| Total Interest Income | \$ 220,484 | \$ 201,903 | \$ 146,366 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| <u>Interest Expense:</u> | | | |
| Busey Bank | \$ 79,012 | \$ 79,730 | \$ 52,317 |
| Busey Bank, N.A. | 12,896 | 14,883 | 11,338 |
| FirsTech | | | |
| Busey Wealth Management | | | |
| All Other | 5,240 | 5,792 | 6,196 |
| Total Interest Expense | \$ 97,148 | \$ 100,405 | \$ 69,851 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <u>Other Income:</u> | | | |
| Busey Bank | \$ 28,089 | \$ 25,518 | \$ 19,765 |
| Busey Bank, N.A. | 1,165 | 1,873 | 2,400 |
| FirsTech | 12,293 | 4,589 | |
| Busey Wealth Management | 14,114 | 9,032 | 7,815 |
| All Other | 759 | 680 | (1,519) |
| Total Other Income | \$ 56,420 | \$ 41,692 | \$ 28,461 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| <u>Net Income:</u> | | | |
| Busey Bank | \$ 1,314 | \$ 35,088 | \$ 29,542 |
| Busey Bank, N.A. | (40,334) | (2,581) | 3,465 |
| FirsTech | 2,527 | 744 | |
| Busey Wealth Management | 2,540 | 2,408 | 2,299 |
| All Other | (3,994) | (4,182) | (6,418) |
| Total Net Income | \$ (37,947) | \$ 31,477 | \$ 28,888 |

Table of Contents**Note 24. Parent Company Only Financial Information**

Condensed financial data for First Busey Corporation is presented below.

BALANCE SHEETS

| | December 31, | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| | (dollars in thousands) | |
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash and due from subsidiary banks | \$ 1,274 | \$ 4,517 |
| Securities available for sale | 803 | 1,111 |
| Loans | 386 | 402 |
| Investments in subsidiaries: | | |
| Bank | 534,947 | 584,773 |
| Non-bank | 22,209 | 23,459 |
| Premises and equipment, net | 1,761 | 1,717 |
| Goodwill | 3,377 | 3,404 |
| Other assets | 10,607 | 10,528 |
| Total assets | \$ 575,364 | \$ 629,911 |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| Liabilities: | | |
| Short-term debt | \$ 28,000 | \$ 10,500 |
| Long-term debt | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| Long-term ESOP debt | 1,668 | 2,085 |
| Junior subordinated debentures owed to unconsolidated trusts | 55,000 | 55,000 |
| Other liabilities | 5,879 | 2,629 |
| Total liabilities | 120,547 | 100,214 |
| Stockholders' equity before unearned ESOP shares | 456,485 | 531,782 |
| Unearned ESOP shares | (1,668) | (2,085) |
| Total stockholders' equity | 454,817 | 529,697 |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$ 575,364 | \$ 629,911 |

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STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

| | 2008 | Years Ended December 31, 2007 (dollars in thousands) | 2006 |
|---|--------------------|--|------------------|
| Operating income: | | | |
| Dividends from subsidiaries: | | | |
| Bank | \$ 30,000 | \$ 37,000 | \$ 16,000 |
| Non-bank | 3,750 | 2,275 | 5,800 |
| Interest and dividend income | 47 | 147 | 250 |
| Other income | 3,993 | 3,452 | 1,101 |
| Total operating income | 37,790 | 42,874 | 23,151 |
| Expenses: | | | |
| Salaries and employee benefits | 4,946 | 4,875 | 3,292 |
| Interest expense | 5,645 | 6,238 | 6,459 |
| Operating expense | 2,803 | 1,906 | 2,038 |
| Total expenses | 13,394 | 13,019 | 11,789 |
| Income before income tax benefit and distributions (in excess of) less than net income of subsidiaries | 24,396 | 29,855 | 11,362 |
| Income tax benefit | 5,357 | 5,278 | 3,988 |
| Income before distributions (in excess of) less than net income of subsidiaries | 29,753 | 35,133 | 15,350 |
| Distributions (in excess of) less than net income of subsidiaries: | | | |
| Bank | (66,492) | (3,749) | 17,007 |
| Non-bank | (1,208) | 93 | (3,469) |
| Net income (loss) | \$ (37,947) | \$ 31,477 | \$ 28,888 |

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STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

| | 2008 | Years Ended December 31, 2007 | | 2006 |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| | | (dollars in thousands) | | |
| Cash Flows from Operating Activities | | | | |
| Net income (loss) | \$ (37,947) | \$ 31,477 | | \$ 28,888 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 340 | 140 | | 128 |
| Distributions in excess of (less than) net income of subsidiaries | 67,700 | 3,656 | | (13,538) |
| Stock-based compensation | 89 | 616 | | 428 |
| Fair value adjustment on employee stock ownership plan shares allocated | (67) | | | 799 |
| Security gains, net | | (1,480) | | |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: | | | | |
| Decrease in other assets | 211 | 100 | | 1,567 |
| (Decrease) increase in other liabilities | 3,250 | (1,851) | | 2,189 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 33,576 | 32,658 | | 20,461 |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities | | | | |
| Proceeds from sales of securities available for sale | | 629 | | 38 |
| Purchases of securities available for sale | (19) | (249) | | (100) |
| Decrease in loans | 16 | 2,257 | | 2,880 |
| Purchases of premises and equipment, net | (383) | (289) | | (35) |
| Investment in subsidiary, net | (14,957) | | | |
| Purchase of subsidiary, net of cash and due from subsidiary bank | | (14,160) | | |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities | (15,343) | (11,812) | | 2,783 |
| Cash Flows from Financing Activities | | | | |
| Proceeds from short-term borrowings, net | 17,500 | 10,500 | | |
| Principal payments on long-term debt | | | | (14,058) |
| Proceeds from issuance of junior subordinated debentures due to unconsolidated trusts | | | | 30,000 |
| Redemption of junior subordinated debentures owed to unconsolidated trusts | | | | (25,000) |
| Purchases of treasury stock | (10,622) | (11,218) | | (2,040) |
| Proceeds from sales of treasury stock | 326 | 652 | | 872 |
| Cash dividends paid | (28,680) | (19,248) | | (13,661) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (21,476) | (19,314) | | (23,887) |
| Net (decrease) increase in cash and due from subsidiary banks | (3,243) | 1,532 | | (643) |
| Cash and due from subsidiary banks, beginning | 4,517 | 2,985 | | 3,628 |
| Cash and due from subsidiary banks, ending | \$ 1,274 | \$ 4,517 | | \$ 2,985 |

Table of Contents**Note 25. Unaudited Interim Financial Data**

The following table reflects summarized quarterly data for the periods described (unaudited), in thousands, except per share data:

| | 2008 | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| | December 31 | September 30 | June 30 | March 31 |
| Interest income | \$ 52,340 | \$ 54,894 | \$ 54,693 | \$ 58,557 |
| Interest expense | 23,233 | 23,453 | 23,167 | 27,295 |
| Net interest income | 29,107 | 31,441 | 31,526 | 31,262 |
| Provision for loan losses | 75,800 | 8,000 | 12,300 | 2,150 |
| Noninterest income | 12,374 | 15,877 | 13,985 | 14,184 |
| Noninterest expense(1) | 52,397 | 27,379 | 27,152 | 28,093 |
| Income before income taxes | (86,716) | 11,939 | 6,059 | 15,203 |
| Income taxes | (25,357) | 3,122 | 1,468 | 5,199 |
| Net income | \$ (61,359) | \$ 8,817 | \$ 4,591 | \$ 10,004 |
| Basic earnings per share | \$ (1.71) | \$ 0.25 | \$ 0.13 | \$ 0.28 |
| Diluted earnings per share | \$ (1.71) | \$ 0.25 | \$ 0.13 | \$ 0.28 |
| | | | | |
| | 2007 | | | |
| | December 31 | September 30 | June 30 | March 31 |
| Interest income | \$ 63,486 | \$ 58,802 | \$ 40,180 | \$ 39,435 |
| Interest expense | 30,924 | 28,790 | 20,517 | 20,174 |
| Net interest income | 32,562 | 30,012 | 19,663 | 19,261 |
| Provision for loan losses | 11,700 | 1,795 | 680 | 300 |
| Noninterest income | 14,351 | 13,012 | 7,397 | 6,932 |
| Noninterest expense | 30,690 | 24,395 | 14,522 | 14,698 |
| Income before income taxes | 4,523 | 16,834 | 11,858 | 11,195 |
| Income taxes | 156 | 5,324 | 3,994 | 3,459 |
| Net income | \$ 4,367 | \$ 11,510 | \$ 7,864 | \$ 7,736 |
| Basic earnings per share | \$ 0.12 | \$ 0.37 | \$ 0.37 | \$ 0.36 |
| Diluted earnings per share | \$ 0.12 | \$ 0.36 | \$ 0.37 | \$ 0.36 |

(1) Noninterest expense in the fourth quarter of 2008 includes goodwill impairment of \$22.6 million.