

STERLING BANCORP  
Form 10-Q  
August 09, 2007

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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 or 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended June 30, 2007

or

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

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number: 1-5273-1

Sterling Bancorp

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(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

New York

13-2565216

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(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification)

650 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

10019-6108

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(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

212-757-3300

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(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A

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(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

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

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

Large Accelerated Filer

Accelerated Filer

Non-Accelerated Filer

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

As of July 31, 2007 there were 18,017,668 shares of common stock,  
\$1.00 par value, outstanding.

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## STERLING BANCORP

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STERLING BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES  
Consolidated Balance Sheets  
(Unaudited)

	<u>June 30, 2007</u>	<u>December 31, 2006</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and due from banks	\$ 70,030,220	\$ 50,058,593
Interest-bearing deposits with other banks	1,177,462	1,261,187
Federal funds sold	10,000,000	20,000,000
Securities available for sale (at estimated fair value; pledged: \$71,349,693 in 2007 and \$90,583,854 in 2006)	145,899,741	148,420,887
Securities held to maturity (pledged: \$193,736,735 in 2007 and \$199,997,912 in 2006) (estimated fair value: \$375,158,283 in 2007 and \$411,650,690 in 2006)	386,406,886	420,903,430
<b>Total investment securities</b>	<u>532,306,627</u>	<u>569,324,317</u>
Loans held for sale	46,356,968	33,319,789
Loans held in portfolio, net of unearned discounts	1,121,943,872	1,112,601,620
Less allowance for loan losses	15,582,026	16,287,974
<b>Loans, net</b>	<u>1,106,361,846</u>	<u>1,096,313,646</u>
Customers' liability under acceptances	33,787	98,399
Goodwill	22,900,912	22,862,051
Premises and equipment, net	11,510,098	11,323,649
Other real estate	2,057,365	2,242,419
Accrued interest receivable	4,893,910	5,844,868
Bank owned life insurance	28,487,841	27,949,160
Other assets	49,635,004	43,696,511
<b>Total assets from continuing operations</b>	<u>1,885,752,040</u>	<u>1,884,294,589</u>
Assets - discontinued operations	1,226,062	1,662,697
	<u>\$ 1,886,978,102</u>	<u>\$ 1,885,957,286</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
<b>Deposits</b>		
Demand deposits	\$ 520,432,739	\$ 546,442,704
Savings, NOW and money market deposits	476,878,619	447,600,898
Time deposits	536,516,305	527,986,821
<b>Total deposits</b>	<u>1,533,827,663</u>	<u>1,522,030,423</u>
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase - customers	76,530,242	52,802,796
Commercial paper	27,444,077	27,561,567
Short-term borrowings - other	1,718,389	3,411,630
Long-term borrowings - FHLB	10,000,000	20,000,000
Long-term borrowings - subordinated debentures	25,774,000	25,774,000
<b>Total borrowings</b>	<u>141,466,708</u>	<u>129,549,993</u>

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Acceptances outstanding	33,787	98,399
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	89,608,141	101,679,342
Liabilities - discontinued operations	129,255	336,358
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,765,065,554</b>	<b>1,753,694,515</b>
Shareholders' equity		
Common stock, \$1 par value. Authorized 50,000,000 shares; issued 21,262,170 and 21,177,084 shares, respectively	21,262,170	21,177,084
Capital surplus	168,651,246	167,960,063
Retained earnings	17,043,353	16,693,987
Accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of tax	(12,347,079)	(11,842,908)
	194,609,690	193,988,226
Less		
Common shares in treasury at cost, 3,244,502 and 2,572,368 shares, respectively	72,697,142	61,725,455
<b>Total shareholders' equity</b>	<b>121,912,548</b>	<b>132,262,771</b>
	<b>\$ 1,886,978,102</b>	<b>\$ 1,885,957,286</b>

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

STERLING BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES  
Consolidated Statements of Income  
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
<b>INTEREST INCOME</b>				
Loans	\$ 23,121,500	\$ 21,588,986	\$ 44,848,117	\$ 40,969,040
Investment securities				
Available for sale	1,701,584	1,978,003	3,546,298	4,179,789
Held to maturity	4,698,726	5,551,640	9,567,851	11,295,114
Federal funds sold	367,338	34,886	1,002,646	74,871
Deposits with other banks	36,694	20,563	67,378	50,644
Total interest income	29,925,842	29,174,078	59,032,290	56,569,458
<b>INTEREST EXPENSE</b>				
Deposits				
Savings, NOW and money market	3,279,559	1,672,459	6,138,965	3,455,379
Time	6,581,415	4,714,822	13,128,913	9,175,673
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase				
- customers	804,625	767,373	1,879,619	1,462,221
- dealers		1,344,154		2,328,142
Federal funds purchased	23,369	251,081	35,748	386,221
Commercial paper	355,519	537,923	705,258	942,524
Short-term borrowings - FHLB		642,197		835,365
Short-term borrowings - other	15,694	7,369	27,562	17,781
Long-term borrowings - FHLB	136,522	460,501	361,023	1,046,852
Long-term borrowings - subordinated debt	523,437	523,437	1,046,875	1,046,875
Total interest expense	11,720,140	10,921,316	23,323,963	20,697,033
Interest expense allocated to discontinued operations		(878,229)		(1,652,223)
Net interest income	18,205,702	19,130,991	35,708,327	37,524,648
Provision for loan losses	1,078,332	377,229	2,328,332	1,742,229
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	17,127,370	18,753,762	33,379,995	35,782,419
Total noninterest income	9,051,511	9,005,707	18,280,807	14,790,560
Total noninterest expenses	20,228,031	18,805,582	39,911,781	37,327,934
Income from continuing operations before income taxes	5,950,850	8,953,887	11,749,021	13,245,045
Provision for income taxes	2,159,412	3,571,596	4,385,910	1,377,862
Income from continuing operations	3,791,438	5,382,291	7,363,111	11,867,183
Income/(Loss) from discontinued operations, net of tax	71,252	(516,806)	(20,719)	(561,565)
Net income	\$ 3,862,690	\$ 4,865,485	\$ 7,342,392	\$ 11,305,618

Average number of common shares outstanding

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Basic	18,439,318	18,754,271	18,524,871	18,769,265
Diluted	18,856,903	19,286,286	18,994,625	19,310,135
Income from continuing operations, per average common share				
Basic	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.63
Diluted	0.20	0.28	0.39	0.61
Net income, per average common share				
Basic	0.21	0.26	0.40	0.60
Diluted	0.20	0.25	0.39	0.58
Dividends per common share	0.19	0.19	0.38	0.38

*See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.*

STERLING BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES  
 Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income  
 (Unaudited)

	<b>Three Months Ended June 30,</b>		<b>Six Months Ended June 30,</b>	
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Net Income	\$ 3,862,690	\$ 4,865,485	\$ 7,342,392	\$ 11,305,618
Other comprehensive (loss)/income, net of tax:				
Unrealized holding losses arising during the period	(1,233,699)	(985,184)	(897,251)	(2,219,531)
Reclassification adjustment for losses/(gains) included in net income	1,098	(8,148)	1,098	243,702
Amortization of:				
Prior service cost	13,544		27,089	
Net actuarial losses	182,447		364,893	
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Comprehensive income	<u>\$ 2,826,080</u>	<u>\$ 3,872,153</u>	<u>\$ 6,838,221</u>	<u>\$ 9,329,789</u>

*See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.*



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STERLING BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES  
Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity  
(Unaudited)

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2007	2006
<b>Common Stock</b>		
Balance at January 1	\$ 21,177,084	\$ 21,066,916
Common shares issued under stock incentive plan	85,086	110,168
Balance at June 30	<u>\$ 21,262,170</u>	<u>\$ 21,177,084</u>
<b>Capital Surplus</b>		
Balance at January 1	\$ 167,960,063	\$ 166,313,566
Common shares issued under stock incentive plan and related tax benefits	691,183	1,613,243
Balance at June 30	<u>\$ 168,651,246</u>	<u>\$ 167,926,809</u>
<b>Retained Earnings</b>		
Balance at January 1	\$ 16,693,987	\$ 20,739,352
Net Income	7,342,392	11,305,618
Cash dividends paid - common shares	(6,993,026)	(7,124,063)
Balance at June 30	<u>\$ 17,043,353</u>	<u>\$ 24,920,907</u>
<b>Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss</b>		
Balance at January 1	\$ (11,842,908)	\$ (5,229,620)
Unrealized holding losses arising during the period:		
Before tax	(1,635,526)	(3,837,020)
Tax effect	738,275	1,617,489
Net of tax	<u>(897,251)</u>	<u>(2,219,531)</u>
Reclassification adjustment for losses included in net income:		
Before tax	2,001	444,631
Tax effect	(903)	(200,929)
Net of tax	<u>1,098</u>	<u>243,702</u>
Amortization of prior service cost and net actuarial losses:		
Before tax	714,512	
Tax effect	(322,530)	
Net of tax	<u>391,982</u>	
Balance at June 30	<u>\$ (12,347,079)</u>	<u>\$ (7,205,449)</u>
<b>Treasury Stock</b>		
Balance at January 1	\$ (61,725,455)	\$ (55,280,647)
Purchase of common shares	(10,515,732)	(3,809,856)
Surrender of shares issued under stock incentive plan	(455,955)	(613,792)

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Balance at June 30	\$ (72,697,142)	\$ (59,704,295)
Unearned Compensation		
Balance at January 1	\$	\$ (22,007)
Amortization of unearned compensation		22,007
Balance at June 30	\$	\$
Total Shareholders' Equity		
Balance at January 1	\$ 132,262,771	\$ 147,587,560
Net changes during the period	(10,350,223)	(472,504)
Balance at June 30	\$ 121,912,548	\$ 147,115,056

*See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.*

STERLING BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES  
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows  
(Unaudited)

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2007	2006
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Net Income	\$ 7,342,392	\$ 11,305,618
Loss from discontinued operations included below in operating cash flows from discontinued operations	20,719	561,565
	<u>7,363,111</u>	<u>11,867,183</u>
Income from continuing operations	7,363,111	11,867,183
Adjustments to reconcile income from continuing operations to net cash (used in) provided by operating activities:		
Provision for loan losses	2,328,332	1,742,229
Depreciation and amortization of premises and equipment	1,297,663	1,118,244
Securities losses	2,001	444,631
Income from bank owned life insurance	(538,681)	(488,365)
Deferred income tax provision	207,295	1,282,520
Proceeds from sale of loans	272,674,045	312,440,005
Gains on sales of loans, net	(5,376,076)	(4,783,972)
Originations of loans held for sale	(280,335,148)	(296,310,746)
Amortization of unearned compensation		22,007
Amortization of premiums on securities	231,135	318,295
Accretion of discounts on securities	(180,222)	(262,433)
Decrease in accrued interest receivable	950,958	1,047,191
Decrease in accrued expenses and other liabilities	(12,071,201)	(15,900,429)
Increase in other assets	(5,338,491)	(759,477)
Other, net	(17,854)	(762,003)
	<u>(18,803,133)</u>	<u>11,014,880</u>
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	(18,803,133)	11,014,880
<b>Investing Activities</b>		
Purchase of premises and equipment	(1,484,112)	(770,429)
Net decrease in interest-bearing deposits with other banks	83,725	56,613
Net decrease in federal funds sold	10,000,000	
Net (increase) decrease in loans held in portfolio	(12,376,532)	43,541,960
Decrease (Increase) in other real estate	185,054	(605,280)
Proceeds from calls of securities - held to maturity	18,125,000	
Proceeds from prepayments, redemptions or maturities of securities - held to maturity	41,344,375	40,563,283
Purchases of securities - held to maturity	(25,003,500)	(115,870)
Proceeds from sales of securities - available for sale	2,750	25,369,800
Proceeds from prepayments, redemptions or maturities of securities - available for sale	31,703,892	21,208,122
Purchases of securities - available for sale	(30,996,171)	(10,045,571)
Cash paid in acquisition		(44,901,402)
	<u>31,584,481</u>	<u>74,301,226</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	31,584,481	74,301,226
<b>Financing Activities</b>		
Net increase (decrease) in deposits	11,797,240	(42,951,065)
Long-term borrowings called	10,000,000	
Net increase (decrease) in borrowings	21,916,715	(22,394,330)
Purchase of treasury stock	(10,515,732)	(3,809,856)
Net proceeds from issuance of common stock including the exercise of stock options and related tax benefits	776,269	1,723,411

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Cash dividends paid on common stock	(6,993,026)	(7,124,063)
Net cash used in financing activities	6,981,466	(74,555,903)
Cash flows from discontinued operations		
Operating cash flows	208,813	2,819,401
Investing cash flows		(171,907)
Total	208,813	2,647,494
Net (decrease) increase in cash and due from banks	19,971,627	13,407,697
Cash and due from banks - beginning of period	50,058,593	68,562,037
Cash and due from banks - end of period	\$ 70,030,220	\$ 81,969,734
Supplemental disclosures:		
Interest paid	\$ 23,508,403	\$ 20,833,908
Income taxes paid	949,459	4,216,362
<i>See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.</i>		

STERLING BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements  
(Unaudited)

- The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Sterling Bancorp (the parent company) and its subsidiaries, principally Sterling National Bank and its subsidiaries (the bank), after elimination of material intercompany transactions. The term the Company refers to Sterling Bancorp and its subsidiaries. The consolidated financial statements as of and for the interim periods ended June 30, 2007 and 2006 are unaudited; however, in the opinion of management, all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring accruals, necessary for a fair presentation of such periods have been made. Certain reclassifications have been made to the 2006 consolidated financial statements to conform to the current presentation. The interim consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Company's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006.
- The major components of domestic loans held for sale and loans held in portfolio are as follows:

	<u>June 30, 2007</u>	<u>December 31, 2006</u>
Loans held for sale		
Real estate-residential mortgage	\$ 46,356,968	\$ 33,319,789
Loans held in portfolio		
Commercial and industrial	\$ 596,781,663	\$ 622,476,925
Lease financing	262,631,023	239,225,533
Real estate-residential mortgage	131,462,145	120,056,900
Real estate-commercial mortgage	92,718,380	93,214,668
Real estate-construction	38,146,578	30,030,684
Installment	10,333,376	12,380,848
Loans to depository institutions	25,000,000	27,000,000
Loans held in portfolio, gross	1,157,073,165	1,144,385,558
Less unearned discounts	35,129,293	31,783,938
Loans held in portfolio, net of unearned discounts	\$ 1,121,943,872	\$ 1,112,601,620

- The following information is provided in connection with the sales and/or calls of available for sale securities:

	<u>Three Months Ended June 30,</u>		<u>Six Months Ended June 30,</u>	
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Proceeds	\$ 2,750	\$ 831,300	\$ 2,750	\$ 25,369,800
Gross Gains		14,866		14,866
Gross Losses	22		22	459,497

During the first quarter of 2006 the Company sold lower yielding available for sale securities at a loss to partially fund the acquisition of Sterling Resource Funding Corp.

The following information is provided in connection with the calls of held to maturity securities:

<u>Three Months Ended June 30,</u>	<u>Six Months Ended June 30,</u>
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	<u>2007</u>		<u>2006</u>	
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Proceeds	\$ 18,125,000	\$	\$ 18,125,000	\$
Gross Gains				
Gross Losses	1,979		1,979	

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STERLING BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements  
(Unaudited)

4. The following table sets forth components of net periodic benefit cost for the Company's noncontributory defined benefit pension plan and unfunded supplemental retirement plan.

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
<b>COMPONENTS OF NET PERIODIC BENEFIT COST</b>				
Service cost	\$ 409,271	\$ 446,747	\$ 818,542	\$ 914,246
Interest cost	567,201	583,642	1,134,402	1,200,542
Expected return on plan assets	(475,457)	(565,806)	(950,914)	(1,108,782)
Amortization of prior service cost	24,689	18,115	49,378	37,806
Recognized actuarial loss	332,567	319,270	665,134	656,188
Net periodic benefit cost	<u>\$ 858,271</u>	<u>\$ 801,968</u>	<u>\$ 1,716,542</u>	<u>\$ 1,700,000</u>

The Company currently expects to contribute approximately \$3,000,000 to the defined benefit pension plan in 2007. No contribution has been made as of June 30, 2007.

5. The following tables set forth the significant components of noninterest income and noninterest expenses:

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
<b>NONINTEREST INCOME</b>				
Accounts receivable management/factoring commissions and other fees	\$ 3,820,957	\$ 3,880,218	\$ 7,488,576	\$ 5,224,980
Service charges on deposit accounts	1,424,778	1,282,000	2,906,390	2,686,004
Other customer related service charges and fees	743,002	812,854	1,433,110	1,620,922
Mortgage banking income	2,543,656	2,567,420	5,376,076	4,783,972
Trust fees	125,180	137,798	266,383	289,520
Bank owned life insurance income	286,130	268,305	538,681	488,365
Securities (losses)/gains	(2,001)	14,866	(2,001)	(444,631)
Other income	109,809	42,246	273,592	141,428
Total noninterest income	<u>\$ 9,051,511</u>	<u>\$ 9,005,707</u>	<u>\$ 18,280,807</u>	<u>\$ 14,790,560</u>

Three Months Ended June 30,	Six Months Ended June 30,
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	2007	2006	2007	2006
<b>NONINTEREST EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries	\$ 8,450,719	\$ 9,110,770	\$ 17,448,231	\$ 16,873,588
Employee benefits	2,734,833	2,770,949	5,224,394	5,672,272
Total personnel expense	11,185,552	11,881,719	22,672,625	22,545,860
Occupancy and equipment expenses, net	2,638,634	2,480,026	5,346,337	4,782,975
Advertising and marketing	1,121,979	806,572	2,085,880	1,805,598
Professional fees	1,950,928	692,443	3,290,703	2,515,606
Communications	453,841	451,143	970,111	845,715
Other expenses	2,877,097	2,493,679	5,546,125	4,832,180
Total noninterest expense	\$ 20,228,031	\$ 18,805,582	\$ 39,911,781	\$ 37,327,934

6. Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ( SFAS ) No. 131, *Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information*, established standards for the way that public business enterprises report and disclose selected information about operating segments in interim financial statements provided to stockholders.

The Company provides a broad range of financial products and services, including commercial loans, asset-based financing, factoring and accounts receivable management services, trade financing, equipment leasing, corporate and consumer deposit services, commercial and residential mortgage lending and brokerage, trust and estate administration and investment management services. The Company's primary source of earnings is net interest income, which represents the difference between interest earned on interest-earning assets and interest incurred on interest-bearing liabilities. The Company's 2007 year-to-date average interest-earning assets were



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64.0% loans (corporate lending was 68.1% and real estate lending was 27.2% of total loans, respectively) and 33.6% investment securities and money market investments. There are no industry concentrations exceeding 10% of loans, gross, in the corporate lending segment. Approximately 72% of loans are to borrowers located in the metropolitan New York area. In order to comply with the provisions of SFAS No. 131, the Company has determined that it has three reportable operating segments: corporate lending, real estate lending and company-wide treasury.

The following tables provide certain information regarding the Company's operating segments for the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2007 and 2006 (all amounts are from continuing operations except where designated as discontinued):

	<u>Corporate Lending</u>	<u>Real Estate Lending</u>	<u>Company-wide Treasury</u>	<u>Totals</u>
<b><u>Three Months Ended June 30, 2007</u></b>				
Net interest income	\$ 6,591,874	\$ 5,394,533	\$ 5,967,782	\$ 17,954,189
Noninterest income	5,651,376	2,572,330	376,751	8,600,457
Depreciation and amortization	190,536	94,181	615	285,332
Segment income from continuing operations before income taxes	4,175,336	3,856,976	5,702,458	13,734,770
Segment income from discontinued operations before income taxes	129,732			129,732
Segment assets from continuing operations	744,023,452	399,817,522	715,189,386	1,859,030,360
Segment assets from discontinued operations	1,226,062			1,226,062
<b><u>Three Months Ended June 30, 2006</u></b>				
Net interest income	\$ 9,462,733	\$ 5,414,600	\$ 3,994,866	\$ 18,872,199
Noninterest income	5,467,205	2,621,722	348,091	8,437,018
Depreciation and amortization	174,891	101,271	615	276,777
Segment income from continuing operations before income taxes	8,119,492	3,268,018	3,387,009	14,774,519
Segment loss from discontinued operations before income taxes	(940,908)			(940,908)
Segment assets from continuing operations	763,475,411	337,932,342	750,566,462	1,851,974,215
Segment assets from discontinued operations	114,265,781			114,265,781
<b><u>Six Months Ended June 30, 2007</u></b>				
Net interest income	\$ 12,817,524	\$ 10,368,705	\$ 12,021,830	\$ 35,208,059
Noninterest income	11,233,401	5,493,329	712,474	17,439,204
Depreciation and amortization	370,940	186,489	1,229	558,658
Segment income from continuing operations before income taxes	8,297,305	8,104,876	11,448,675	27,850,856
Segment loss from discontinued operations before income taxes	(37,722)			(37,722)
Segment assets from continuing operations	744,023,452	399,817,522	715,189,386	1,859,030,360
Segment assets from discontinued operations	1,226,062			1,226,062
<b><u>Six Months Ended June 30, 2006</u></b>				
Net interest income	\$ 17,573,494	\$ 10,839,233	\$ 8,581,267	\$ 36,993,994
Noninterest income	8,618,674	4,937,193	186,442	13,742,309
Depreciation and amortization	278,293	202,002	1,229	481,524
Segment income from continuing operations before income taxes	12,947,430	6,191,656	7,681,298	26,820,384
Segment loss from discontinued operations before income taxes	(1,017,526)			(1,017,526)
Segment assets from continuing operations	763,475,411	337,932,342	750,566,462	1,851,974,215

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Segment assets from discontinued operations

114,265,781

114,265,781

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The following table sets forth reconciliations of net interest income, noninterest income, income from continuing operations before income taxes and assets of reportable operating segments to the Company's consolidated totals:

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
<b>Net interest income:</b>				
Total for reportable operating segments	\$ 17,954,189	\$ 18,872,199	\$ 35,208,059	\$ 36,993,994
Other <sup>[1]</sup>	251,513	258,792	500,268	530,654
Consolidated net interest income	\$ 18,205,702	\$ 19,130,991	\$ 35,708,327	\$ 37,524,648
<b>Noninterest income:</b>				
Total for reportable operating segments	\$ 8,600,457	\$ 8,437,018	\$ 17,439,204	\$ 13,742,309
Other <sup>[1]</sup>	451,054	568,689	841,603	1,048,251
Consolidated noninterest income	\$ 9,051,511	\$ 9,005,707	\$ 18,280,807	\$ 14,790,560
<b>Income from continuing operations before income taxes:</b>				
Total for reportable operating segments	\$ 13,734,770	\$ 14,774,519	\$ 27,850,856	\$ 26,820,384
Other <sup>[1]</sup>	(7,783,920)	(5,820,632)	(16,101,835)	(13,575,339)
Consolidated income from continuing operations before income taxes	\$ 5,950,850	\$ 8,953,887	\$ 11,749,021	\$ 13,245,045
<b>Assets:</b>				
Total for reportable operating segments:				
- continuing operations	\$ 1,859,030,360	\$ 1,851,974,215	\$ 1,859,030,360	\$ 1,851,974,215
- discontinued operations	1,226,062	114,265,781	1,226,062	114,265,781
Other <sup>[1]</sup>	26,721,680	28,693,686	26,721,680	28,693,686
Consolidated assets	\$ 1,886,978,102	\$ 1,994,933,682	\$ 1,886,978,102	\$ 1,994,933,682

[1] Represents operations not considered to be a reportable segment and/or general operating expenses of the Company.

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7. The Company adopted Emerging Issues Task Force Issue No. 06-5, *Accounting for Purchases of Life Insurance-Determining the Amount that Could be Realized in Accordance with FASB Technical Bulletin No. 85-4, Accounting for Purchases of Life Insurance*, and Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ( SFAS ) No. 156, *Accounting for Servicing of Financial Assets-An Amendment of FASB Statement No. 140*, as of January 1, 2007. There was no material impact on the Company's results of operations or financial condition upon adoption.

The Company also adopted Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) Interpretation No. 48 ( FIN 48 ) as of January 1, 2007. The implementation of FIN 48 did not have an impact on our financial position or results of operations. At the adoption date of January 1, 2007 and at June 30, 2007, we had approximately \$644,000 of unrecognized tax benefits, all of which would affect our effective tax rate if recognized. Approximately 50% of the unrecognized tax benefits are expected to be recognized during the second half of 2007 due to the expiration of the statute of limitations related to the taxation of certain income items. The Company recognizes interest accrued related to unrecognized tax benefits and penalties in noninterest operating expenses. Such accrued interest payable was approximately \$235,000 at January 1, 2007. The Company and its subsidiaries are subject to U.S. federal income tax as well as income tax of multiple state jurisdictions. The Company's federal income tax returns for 2002 through 2005 are currently either under examination or subject to examination. The Company's New York State and New York City tax returns for years prior to 2003 are no longer subject to examination.

SFAS No. 155, *Accounting for Certain Hybrid Financial Instruments - An Amendment of FASB Statements No. 133 and 140*, which became effective for certain hybrid financial instruments acquired or issued by the Company on or after January 1, 2007, has had no impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements because the Company has not acquired or issued the type of instruments covered by SFAS No. 155.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities - Including An Amendment of FASB Statement No. 115* ( SFAS No. 159 ). SFAS No. 159 provides companies with an option to report selected financial assets and liabilities at estimated fair value. Most of the provisions of SFAS No. 159 are elective; however, the amendment to SFAS No. 115, *Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities*, applies to all entities that own trading and available for sale securities. The fair value option created by SFAS No. 159 permits an entity to measure eligible items at fair value as of specified election dates. The fair value option (a) may generally be applied instrument by instrument, (b) is irrevocable unless a new election date occurs, and (c) must be applied to the entire instrument and not to only a portion of the instrument. SFAS No. 159 is effective for the Company as of January 1, 2008. The Company is currently analyzing the potential effects of SFAS No. 159 on its financial statements.

In September 2006, FASB issued SFAS No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements*, which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value under generally accepted accounting principles, and requires expanded disclosures regarding fair value measurements. SFAS No. 157 is effective for the Company on January 1, 2008 and is not expected to have a significant impact on the Company's financial statements.

**ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following commentary presents management's discussion and analysis of the financial condition and results of operations of Sterling Bancorp (the "parent company"), a financial holding company under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999, and its subsidiaries, principally Sterling National Bank (the "bank"). Throughout this discussion and analysis, the term the "Company" refers to Sterling Bancorp and its subsidiaries. This discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and supplemental data contained elsewhere in this quarterly report and the Company's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006. Certain reclassifications have been made to prior years' financial data to conform to current financial statement presentations.

**OVERVIEW**

The Company provides a broad range of financial products and services, including business and consumer loans, commercial and residential mortgage lending and brokerage, asset-based financing, factoring/accounts receivable management services, deposit services, trade financing, equipment leasing, trust and estate administration, and investment management services. The Company has operations in the metropolitan New York area, New Jersey and North Carolina and conducts business throughout the United States. The general state of the U.S. economy and, in particular, economic and market conditions in the metropolitan New York area have a significant impact on loan demand, the ability of borrowers to repay these loans and the value of any collateral securing these loans and may also affect deposit levels. Accordingly, future general economic conditions are a key uncertainty that management expects will materially affect the Company's results of operations.

For the three months ended June 30, 2007, the bank's average earning assets represented approximately 99.9% of the Company's average earning assets. Loans represented 65.3% and investment securities represented 32.9% of the bank's average earning assets for the second quarter of 2007.

For the six months ended June 30, 2007, the bank's average earning assets represented approximately 99.7% of the Company's average earning assets. Loans represented 63.9% and investment securities represented 33.7% of the bank's average earning assets for the six months ended June 30, 2007.

The Company's primary source of earnings is net interest income, and its principal market risk exposure is interest rate risk. The Company is not able to predict market interest rate fluctuations, and its asset-liability management strategy may not prevent interest rate changes from having a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations and financial condition.

Although management endeavors to minimize the credit risk inherent in the Company's loan portfolio, it must necessarily make various assumptions and judgments about the collectibility of the loan portfolio based on its experience and evaluation of economic conditions. If such assumptions or judgments prove to be incorrect, the current allowance for loan losses may not be sufficient to cover loan losses and additions to the allowance may be necessary, which would have a negative impact on net income.

There is intense competition in all areas in which the Company conducts its business. The Company competes with banks and other financial institutions, including savings and loan associations, savings banks, finance companies and credit unions. Many of these competitors have substantially greater resources and lending limits and provide a wider array of banking services. To a limited extent, the Company also competes with other providers of financial services, such as money market mutual funds, brokerage firms, consumer finance companies and insurance companies. Competition is based on a number of factors, including prices, interest rates, service, availability of products, and geographic location.

The Company regularly evaluates acquisition opportunities and conducts due diligence activities in connection with possible acquisitions. As a result, acquisition discussions, and in some cases negotiations, regularly take place and future acquisitions could occur.

#### **INCOME STATEMENT ANALYSIS**

Net interest income, which represents the difference between interest earned on interest-earning assets and interest incurred on interest-bearing liabilities, is the Company's primary source of earnings. Net interest income can be affected by changes in market interest rates as well as the level and composition of assets, liabilities and shareholders' equity. Net interest spread is the difference between the average rate earned, on a tax-equivalent basis, on interest-earning assets and the average rate paid on interest-bearing liabilities. The net yield on interest-earning assets ( net interest margin ) is calculated by dividing tax-equivalent net interest income by average interest-earning assets. Generally, the net interest margin will exceed the net interest spread because a portion of interest-earning assets are funded by various noninterest-bearing sources, principally noninterest-bearing deposits and shareholders' equity. The increases (decreases) in the components of interest income and interest expense, expressed in terms of fluctuation in average volume and rate, are provided in the Rate/Volume Analysis shown on pages 27 and 28. Information as to the components of interest income and interest expense and average rates is provided in the Average Balance Sheets shown on pages 25 and 26.

#### **Comparison of the Three Months Ended June 30, 2007 and 2006**

The Company reported income from continuing operations, after income taxes, for the three months ended June 30, 2007 of \$3.8 million, representing \$0.20 per share, calculated on a diluted basis, compared to \$5.4 million, or \$0.28 per share calculated on a diluted basis, for the second quarter of 2006. This decrease reflects higher interest and noninterest expenses and an increase in provision for loan losses which were only partially offset by increases in both interest and noninterest income and a decrease in provision for income taxes.

*Net Interest Income*

Net interest income, on a tax-equivalent basis, was \$18.3 million for the second quarter of 2007 compared to \$19.3 million for the 2006 period, as the higher rates paid on interest-bearing deposits and borrowings in the second quarter of 2007 more than offset the effects of higher balances for loans and lower balances for borrowings and investment securities for that quarter. The net interest margin, on a tax-equivalent basis, was 4.35% for the second quarter of 2007 compared to 4.58% for the 2006 period. The net interest margin was impacted by the flat yield curve, the higher interest rate environment in 2007, the higher level of noninterest-bearing demand deposits and the effect of higher average loans outstanding. The flat yield curve and more competitive pricing practices in the Company's markets have caused the costs of deposits and borrowings to increase faster than the yield on earning assets.

Total interest income, on a tax-equivalent basis, aggregated \$30.0 million for the second quarter of 2007 compared to \$29.4 million for the 2006 period. The tax-equivalent yield on interest-earning assets was 7.24% for the second quarter of 2007 compared to 7.06% for the 2006 period.

Interest earned on the loan portfolio amounted to \$23.1 million for the second quarter of 2007, up from \$21.6 million the prior year period. Average loan balances amounted to \$1,104.7 million, an increase of \$76.4 million from an average of \$1,028.3 million in the prior year period. The increase in average loans (across many segments of the Company's loan portfolio), primarily due to the Company's business development activities, accounted for \$1.7 million of the \$1.5 million increase in interest earned on loans. The decrease in the yield on the loan portfolio to 8.66% for the second quarter of 2007 from 8.72% for the 2006 period was primarily attributable to the mix of average outstanding balances among the components of the loan portfolio and the competitive pricing practices in the Company's markets.

Interest earned on the securities portfolio, on a tax-equivalent basis, decreased to \$6.5 million for the second quarter of 2007 from \$7.7 million in the prior year period. Average outstandings decreased to \$554.6 million (32.8% of average earning assets) for the second quarter of 2007 from \$661.6 million (39.0% of average earning assets) in the prior year period. The average life of the securities portfolio was approximately 4.4 years at June 30, 2007 compared to 4.5 years at June 30, 2006.

Total interest expense increased by \$1.7 million for the second quarter of 2007 from \$10.0 million for the 2006 period, primarily due to the impact of higher rates paid for interest-bearing deposits partially offset by the impact of lower borrowed funds balances.

Interest expense on deposits increased to \$9.9 million for the second quarter of 2007 from \$6.4 million for the 2006 period, primarily due to an increase in the cost of those funds. The average rate paid on interest-bearing deposits was 3.77% which was 96 basis points higher than the prior year period. The increase in average cost of deposits reflects the higher interest rate environment during 2007.

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Interest expense on borrowings decreased to \$1.9 million for the second quarter of 2007 from \$4.5 million for the 2006 period, primarily due to a decrease in average balances. Average borrowings decreased to \$144.4 million for the second quarter of 2007 from \$373.7 million in the prior year period, reflecting less reliance by the Company on wholesale funding.

### *Provision for Loan Losses*

Based on management's continuing evaluation of the loan portfolio (discussed under *Asset Quality* below), the provision for loan losses for the second quarter of 2007 was \$1.1 million, compared to \$0.4 million for the prior year period. Factors affecting the level of provision included the growth in the loan portfolios, changes in general economic conditions and the amount of nonaccrual loans.

### *Noninterest Income*

Noninterest income increased to \$9.1 million for the second quarter of 2007 from \$9.0 million in the 2006 period, primarily due to an increase in service charges on deposit accounts.

### *Noninterest Expenses*

Noninterest expenses for the second quarter of 2007 increased \$1.4 million when compared to the 2006 period primarily due to an increase in professional fees; during the second quarter of 2006, professional fee expense benefitted from a recovery of \$1.1 million.

### *Provision for Income Taxes*

The provision for income taxes decreased by \$1.4 million to \$2.2 million for the second quarter of 2007. The decrease was primarily due to the lower level of pre-tax income in the 2007 period.

### *Discontinued Operations*

In September 2006, the Company sold the business conducted by Sterling Financial Services. In accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, the after-tax loss from discontinued operations is reported in the Consolidated Statements of Income after income from continuing operations.

Income from discontinued operations, net of tax, was \$71 thousand for the second quarter of 2007, compared to a loss of \$517 thousand for the second quarter of 2006.

Income taxes applicable to discontinued operations were calculated at the Company's overall marginal tax rate of 45.14%.



### Comparison of the Six Months Ended June 30, 2007 and 2006

The Company reported income from continuing operations, after income taxes, for the six months ended June 30, 2007 of \$7.4 million, representing \$0.39 per share, calculated on a diluted basis, compared to \$11.9 million, or \$0.61 per share, calculated on a diluted basis, for the first six months of 2006. This decrease reflects higher interest and noninterest expenses and increases in provision for loan losses and provision for income taxes which were only partially offset by increases in both interest and noninterest income.

#### *Net Interest Income*

Net interest income, on a tax-equivalent basis, was \$36.0 million for the first six months of 2007 compared to \$37.9 million for the 2006 period, as the higher rates paid on interest-bearing deposits and borrowings in the first six months of 2007 more than offset the effects of higher average yield on loans, higher balances for loans, lower balances for borrowings and investment securities compared to the 2006 period. The net interest margin, on a tax-equivalent basis, was 4.34% for the first six months of 2007 compared to 4.58% for the 2006 period. The net interest margin was impacted by the flat yield curve, the higher interest rate environment in 2007, the lower level of noninterest-bearing demand deposits and the effect of higher average loans outstanding. The flat yield curve and more competitive pricing practices in the Company's markets have caused the costs of deposits and borrowings to increase faster than the yield on earning assets.

Total interest income, on a tax-equivalent basis, aggregated \$59.3 million for the first six months of 2007, up \$2.3 million from the 2006 period. The tax-equivalent yield on interest-earning assets was 7.24% for the first six months of 2007 compared to 6.94% for the 2006 period.

Interest earned on the loan portfolio amounted to \$44.8 million for the first six months of 2007, up from \$41.0 million the prior year period. Average loan balances amounted to \$1,079.1 million, an increase of \$76.9 million from an average of \$1,002.3 million in the prior year period. The increase in average loans (across many segments of the Company's loan portfolio), primarily due to the acquisition of Sterling Resource Funding Corp. (completed April 1, 2006) coupled with the Company's other business development activities, accounted for \$3.3 million of the \$3.9 million increase in interest earned on loans. The increase in the yield on the loan portfolio to 8.74% for the first six months of 2007 from 8.62% for the 2006 period was primarily attributable to the mix (including the acquisition of Sterling Resource Funding Corp.) of average outstanding balances among the components of the loan portfolio and the higher interest rate environment in 2007.

Interest earned on the securities portfolio, on a tax-equivalent basis, decreased to \$13.4 million for the first six months of 2007 from \$15.9 million in the prior year period. Average outstandings decreased to \$566.8 million (33.6% of average earning assets) for the first six months of 2007 from \$685.0 million (40.5% of average earning assets) in the prior year period. The average life of the securities portfolio was approximately 4.4 years at June 30, 2007 compared to 4.5 years at June 30, 2006.

Total interest expense increased by \$4.3 million for the first six months of 2007 from \$19.0 million for the 2006 period, primarily due to the impact of higher interest-bearing deposit balances coupled with higher rates paid for those deposits partially offset by the impact of lower borrowed funds balances.

Interest expense on deposits increased to \$19.3 million for the first six months of 2007 from \$12.6 million for the 2006 period, primarily due to an increase in the cost of those funds. Average interest-bearing deposit balances increased to \$1,033.7 million for the first six months of 2007 from \$944.0 million in the 2006

period primarily the result of the Company's branching initiatives and other business development activities. The average rate paid on interest-bearing deposits was 3.76% which was 106 basis points higher than the prior year period. The increase in average cost of deposits reflects the higher interest rate environment during 2007.

Interest expense on borrowings decreased to \$4.1 million for the first six months of 2007 from \$8.1 million for the 2006 period, primarily due to a decrease in average balances. Average borrowings decreased to \$157.4 million for the first six months of 2007 from \$345.4 million in the prior year period, reflecting less reliance by the Company on wholesale funding.

*Provision for Loan Losses*

Based on management's continuing evaluation of the loan portfolio (discussed under "Asset Quality" below), the provision for loan losses for the first six months of 2007 was \$2.3 million, compared to \$1.7 million for the prior year period. Factors affecting the level of provision included the growth in the loan portfolios, changes in general economic conditions and the amount of nonaccrual loans.

*Noninterest Income*

Noninterest income increased to \$18.3 million for the first six months of 2007 from \$14.8 million in the 2006 period. Higher accounts receivable management/ factoring commissions and other fees were primarily due to revenues attributable to the acquisition of Sterling Resource Funding Corp. Mortgage banking income increased due to a change in product mix towards more profitable market segments and away from the less profitable, higher risk wholesale business. Also contributing to the increase were higher revenue from service charges on deposit accounts and a \$0.4 million decrease in losses on sales of securities.

*Noninterest Expenses*

Noninterest expenses for the first six months of 2007 increased \$2.6 million when compared to the 2006 period. The increase was primarily due to higher salaries and occupancy costs related to investments in the Sterling franchise, including two new branches and the acquisition of Sterling Resource Funding Corp. Also contributing to the increase was higher professional fees; during the second quarter of 2006, professional fee expenses benefitted from a recovery of \$1.1 million. These increases were partially offset by expense reductions achieved from the reengineering of the mortgage banking activities and lower expenses for employee benefits.

*Provision for Income Taxes*

The provision for income taxes increased by \$3.0 million to \$4.4 million for the first six months of 2007. The increase was primarily due to a \$3.7 million reversal of state and local taxes, net of federal tax effect, in the first quarter of 2006 as a result of the closure of certain years for local tax purposes.

*Discontinued Operations*

In September 2006, the Company sold the business conducted by Sterling Financial Services. In accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, the after-tax loss from discontinued operations is reported in the Consolidated Statements of Income after income from continuing operations.

Loss from discontinued operations, net of tax, was \$21 thousand for the first six months of 2007, compared to \$562 thousand for the first six months of 2006.

Income taxes applicable to discontinued operations were calculated at the Company's overall marginal tax rate of 45.14%.

**BALANCE SHEET ANALYSIS***Securities*

The Company's securities portfolios are comprised principally of mortgage-backed securities and agency notes of U.S. government corporations and government sponsored enterprises, and obligations of state and political institutions. At June 30, 2007, the Company's portfolio of securities totaled \$532.3 million, of which mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations of U.S. government corporations and government sponsored enterprises having an average life of approximately 4.5 years amounted to \$476.6 million. The Company has the intent and ability to hold to maturity securities classified as held to maturity. These securities are carried at cost, adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts. The gross unrealized gains and losses on held to maturity securities were \$0.4 million and \$11.7 million, respectively. Securities classified as available for sale may be sold in the future, prior to maturity. These securities are carried at market value. Net aggregate unrealized gains or losses on these securities are included in a valuation allowance account and are shown net of taxes, as a component of shareholders' equity. Given the generally high credit quality of the portfolio, management expects to realize all of its investment upon market recovery or the maturity of such instruments and thus believes that any market value impairment is interest rate related and therefore temporary. Available for sale securities included gross unrealized gains of \$0.2 million and gross unrealized losses of \$5.8 million.

The following table presents information regarding the average life and yields of certain available for sale ( AFS ) and held to maturity ( HTM ) securities:

	Weighted Average Life		Weighted Average Yield	
	AFS	HTM	AFS	HTM
<b>June 30, 2007</b>				
Mortgage-backed securities	5.3 years	4.3 years	4.66%	4.63%
Agency notes		1.2 years		4.31%
Obligations of state and political institutions	5.2 years		6.35% (1)	
(1) tax equivalent				

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The following table presents information regarding securities available for sale:

June 30, 2007	Gross Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Market Value
Mortgage-backed securities				
CMOs (Federal National Mortgage Association)	\$ 8,872,390	\$	\$ 661,270	\$ 8,211,120
CMOs (Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation)	22,532,866		1,555,532	20,977,334
Federal National Mortgage Association	42,618,870	36,698	1,722,419	40,933,149
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation	40,261,333	7,085	1,583,558	38,684,860
Government National Mortgage Association	3,701,983	101,022	3,738	3,799,267
<b>Total mortgage-backed securities</b>	<b>117,987,442</b>	<b>144,805</b>	<b>5,526,517</b>	<b>112,605,730</b>
Obligations of state and political institutions	17,877,746	38,547	270,662	17,645,631
Trust and money market preferred securities	12,177,116	39,600	7,114	12,209,602
Federal Reserve Bank stock	1,130,700			1,130,700
Federal Home Loan Bank stock	1,984,700			1,984,700
Other securities	304,442	18,936		323,378
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 151,462,146</b>	<b>\$ 241,888</b>	<b>\$ 5,804,293</b>	<b>\$ 145,899,741</b>

The following table presents information regarding securities held to maturity:

June 30, 2007	Carrying Value	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Market Value
Mortgage-backed securities				
CMOs (Federal National Mortgage Association)	\$ 12,521,964	\$	\$ 728,280	\$ 11,793,684
CMOs (Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation)	21,889,193		1,270,179	20,619,014
Federal National Mortgage Association	188,084,592	183,552	5,105,195	183,162,949
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation	132,012,336	55,031	4,444,398	127,622,969
Government National Mortgage Association	9,527,285	189,829	23,111	9,694,003
<b>Total mortgage-backed securities</b>	<b>364,035,370</b>	<b>428,412</b>	<b>11,571,163</b>	<b>352,892,619</b>
Agency Notes				
Federal Home Loan Bank	11,871,516		44,954	11,826,562
Federal Farm Credit Bank	10,000,000		59,375	9,940,625
<b>Total obligations of U.S. government corporations and agencies</b>	<b>385,906,886</b>	<b>428,412</b>	<b>11,675,492</b>	<b>374,659,806</b>
Debt securities issued by foreign governments	500,000		1,523	498,477
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 386,406,886</b>	<b>\$ 428,412</b>	<b>\$ 11,677,015</b>	<b>\$ 375,158,283</b>

*Loan Portfolio*

A management objective is to maintain the quality of the loan portfolio. The Company seeks to achieve this objective by maintaining rigorous underwriting standards coupled with regular evaluation of the creditworthiness of and the designation of lending limits for each borrower. The portfolio strategies include seeking industry and loan size diversification in order to minimize credit exposure and originating loans in markets with which the Company is familiar.

The Company's commercial and industrial loan portfolio represents approximately 51% of all loans. Loans in this category are typically made to small and medium-sized businesses and range between \$25,000 and \$10 million. The Company's real estate mortgage portfolio, which represents approximately 26% of all loans, is secured by mortgages on real property located principally in the states of New York, New Jersey, Virginia and North Carolina. The Company's leasing portfolio, which consists of finance leases for various types of business equipment, represents approximately 20% of all loans. Sources of repayment are from the borrower's operating profits, cash flows and liquidation of pledged collateral. Based on underwriting standards, loans may be secured in whole or in part by collateral such as liquid assets, accounts receivable, equipment, inventory, and real property. The collateral securing any loan or lease may depend on the type of loan or lease and may vary in value based on market conditions.

The following table sets forth the composition of the Company's loans held for sale and loans held in portfolio:

	June 30,			
	2007		2006	
	(\$ in thousands)			
	Balances	% of Total	Balances	% of Total
Domestic				
Commercial and industrial	\$ 596,624	51.1%	\$ 542,606	51.2%
Equipment lease financing	227,660	19.5	212,893	20.1
Real estate - residential mortgage	177,819	15.2	166,745	15.8
Real estate- commercial mortgage	92,718	7.9	118,891	11.2
Real estate - construction	38,147	3.3	3,746	0.4
Installment - individuals	10,333	0.9	14,213	1.3
Loans to depository institutions	25,000	2.1		
	_____	_____	_____	_____
Loans, net of unearned discounts	\$ 1,168,301	100.0%	\$ 1,059,094	100.0%
	_____	_____	_____	_____

*Asset Quality*

Intrinsic to the lending process is the possibility of loss. In times of economic slowdown, the risk of loss inherent in the Company's portfolio of loans may increase. While management endeavors to minimize this risk, it recognizes that loan losses will occur and that the amount of these losses will fluctuate depending on the risk characteristics of the loan portfolio which in turn depend on current and future economic conditions, the financial condition of borrowers, the realization of collateral, and the credit management process.

Management views the allowance for loan losses as a critical accounting policy due to its subjectivity. The allowance for loan losses is maintained through the provision for loan losses, which is a charge to operating earnings. The adequacy of the provision and the resulting allowance for loan losses is determined by a management evaluation process of the loan portfolio, including identification and review of individual problem situations that may affect the borrower's ability to repay, review of overall portfolio quality through an analysis of current charge-offs, delinquency and nonperforming loan data, estimates of the value of any underlying collateral, an assessment of current and expected future economic conditions and changes in the size and character of the loan portfolio. Other data utilized by management in determining the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses include, but are not limited to, the results of regulatory reviews, the amount of, trend of and/or borrower characteristics on loans that are identified as requiring special attention as part of the credit review process, and peer group comparisons. The impact of this other data might result in an allowance which will be greater than that indicated by the evaluation process previously described. The allowance reflects management's evaluation both of loans presenting identified loss potential and of the risk inherent in various components of the loan portfolio, including loans identified as impaired as required by SFAS No. 114. Thus, an increase in the size of the portfolio or in any of its components could necessitate an increase in the allowance even though there may not be a decline in credit quality or an increase in potential problem loans. A significant change in any of the evaluation factors described above could result in future additions to the allowance. At June 30, 2007, the ratio of the allowance to loans held in portfolio, net of unearned discounts, was 1.39% and the allowance was \$15.6 million. At such date, the Company's nonaccrual loans amounted to \$5.9 million; \$0.3 million of such loans was judged to be impaired within the scope of SFAS No. 114. There were no loans 90 days past due and still accruing. Based on the foregoing, as well as management's judgment as to the current risks inherent in loans held in portfolio, the Company's allowance for loan losses was deemed adequate to absorb all reasonably anticipated losses on specifically known and other potential credit risks associated with the portfolio as of June 30, 2007. Net losses within loans held in portfolio are not statistically predictable and changes in conditions in the next twelve months could result in future provisions for loan losses varying from the level taken in the first six months of 2007. Potential problem loans, which are loans that are currently performing under present loan repayment terms but where known information about possible credit problems of borrowers causes management to have serious doubts as to the ability of the borrowers to continue to comply with the present repayment terms, aggregated \$1.3 million at June 30, 2007.

*Deposits*

A significant source of funds for the Company continues to be deposits, consisting of demand (noninterest-bearing), NOW, savings, money market and time deposits (principally certificates of deposit).

The following table provides certain information with respect to the Company's deposits:

	June 30,			
	2007		2006	
	(\$ in thousands)			
	Balances	% of Total	Balances	% of Total
Domestic				
Demand	\$ 520,433	33.9%	\$ 495,257	35.0%
NOW	231,391	15.1	213,823	15.1
Savings	19,679	1.3	22,579	1.6
Money market	225,809	14.7	200,528	14.2
Time deposits	535,941	34.9	480,228	33.9
Total domestic deposits	1,533,253	99.9	1,412,415	99.8
Foreign				
Time deposits	575	0.1	3,028	0.2
Total deposits	\$ 1,533,828	100.0%	\$ 1,415,443	100.0%

Fluctuations of balances in total or among categories at any date may occur based on the Company's mix of assets and liabilities as well as on customers' balance sheet strategies. Historically, however, average balances for deposits have been relatively stable. Information regarding these average balances is presented on pages 25 and 26.

**CAPITAL**

The Company and the bank are subject to risk-based capital regulations which quantitatively measure capital against risk-weighted assets, including certain off-balance sheet items. These regulations define the elements of the Tier 1 and Tier 2 components of Total Capital and establish minimum ratios of 4% for Tier 1 capital and 8% for Total Capital for capital adequacy purposes. Supplementing these regulations is a leverage requirement. This requirement establishes a minimum leverage ratio (at least 3% or 4%, depending upon an institution's regulatory status) which is calculated by dividing Tier 1 capital by adjusted quarterly average assets (after deducting goodwill). Information regarding the Company's and the bank's risk-based capital is presented on page 29. In addition, the bank is subject to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (FDICIA) which imposes a number of mandatory supervisory measures. Among other matters, FDICIA established five capital categories, ranging from well capitalized to critically undercapitalized, which are used by regulatory agencies to determine a bank's deposit insurance premium, approval of applications authorizing institutions to increase their asset size or otherwise expand business activities or acquire other institutions. Under FDICIA, a well capitalized bank must maintain minimum leverage, Tier 1 and Total Capital ratios of 5%, 6% and 10%, respectively. The Federal Reserve Board applies comparable tests for holding companies such as the Company. At June 30, 2007, the Company and the bank exceeded the requirements for well capitalized institutions.

**RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS**

For information regarding recently issued accounting pronouncements and their impact or expected impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements, see Note 7 of the Company's unaudited consolidated financial statements in this quarterly report.

**CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Certain statements contained or incorporated by reference in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q, including but not limited to, statements concerning future results of operations or financial position, borrowing capacity and future liquidity, future investment results, future credit exposure, future loan losses and plans and objectives for future operations, and other statements contained herein regarding matters that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements as defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These statements are not historical facts but instead are subject to numerous assumptions, risks and uncertainties, and represent only our belief regarding future events, many of which, by their nature, are inherently uncertain and outside our control. Any forward-looking statements we may make speak only as of the date on which such statements are made. Our actual results and financial position may differ materially from the anticipated results and financial condition indicated in or implied by these forward-looking statements.

Factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, the following: inflation, interest rates, market and monetary fluctuations; geopolitical developments including acts of war and terrorism and their impact on economic conditions; the effects of, and changes in, trade, monetary and fiscal policies and laws, including interest rate policies of the Federal Reserve Board; changes, particularly declines, in general economic conditions and in the local economies in which the Company operates; the financial condition of the Company's borrowers; competitive pressures on loan and deposit pricing and demand; changes in technology and their impact on the marketing of new products and services and the acceptance of these products and services by new and existing customers; the willingness of customers to substitute competitors' products and services for the Company's products and services; the impact of changes in financial services laws and regulations (including laws concerning taxes, banking, securities and insurance); changes in accounting principles, policies and guidelines; the success of the Company at managing the risks involved in the foregoing, as well as the risks and uncertainties described in Risk Factors in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006, and other risks and uncertainties detailed from time to time in press releases and other public filings. The foregoing list of important factors is not exclusive, and we will not update any forward-looking statement, whether written or oral, that may be made from time to time.



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STERLING BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES  
Average Balance Sheets [1]  
Three Months Ended June 30,  
(Unaudited)

(dollars in thousands)

	2007			2006		
	Average Balance	Interest	Average Rate	Average Balance	Interest	Average Rate
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Interest-bearing deposits with other banks	\$ 2,881	\$ 36	5.11%	\$ 1,788	\$ 20	4.61%
Securities available for sale	127,616	1,510	4.73	143,428	1,684	4.70
Securities held to maturity	407,034	4,699	4.62	488,398	5,551	4.55
Securities tax-exempt [2]	19,993	314	6.30	29,793	485	6.53
	<u>554,643</u>	<u>6,523</u>	<u>4.71</u>	<u>661,619</u>	<u>7,720</u>	<u>4.67</u>
Total investment securities	554,643	6,523	4.71	661,619	7,720	4.67
Federal funds sold	27,967	368	5.20	2,802	35	4.93
Loans, net of unearned discounts [3]	1,104,708	23,121	8.66	1,028,304	21,589	8.72
	<u>1,690,199</u>	<u>30,048</u>	<u>7.24%</u>	<u>1,694,513</u>	<u>29,364</u>	<u>7.06%</u>
<b>TOTAL INTEREST-EARNING ASSETS</b>						
Cash and due from banks	63,451			60,953		
Allowance for loan losses	(16,320)			(16,248)		
Goodwill	22,875			23,886		
Other assets	92,000			89,855		
	<u>1,852,205</u>			<u>1,852,959</u>		
Total assets-continuing operations	1,852,205			1,852,959		
Assets-discontinued operations	1,328			114,065		
	<u>\$ 1,853,533</u>			<u>\$ 1,967,024</u>		
<b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY</b>						
<b>Interest-bearing deposits</b>						
<b>Domestic</b>						
Savings	\$ 21,149	27	0.51%	\$ 23,646	24	0.41%
NOW	245,682	1,572	2.57	176,292	691	1.57
Money market	221,135	1,681	3.05	205,165	957	1.87
Time	561,843	6,579	4.70	504,428	4,707	3.74
	<u>850,809</u>	<u>9,859</u>	<u>3.77</u>	<u>733,531</u>	<u>6,381</u>	<u>2.81</u>
<b>Foreign</b>						
Time	574	2	1.09	3,027	8	1.02
	<u>574</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1.09</u>	<u>3,027</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1.02</u>
Total interest-bearing deposits	1,050,383	9,861	3.77	912,558	6,387	2.81
<b>Borrowings</b>						
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase - customers	76,091	805	4.24	81,439	767	3.78
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase - dealers				106,438	1,344	5.07
Federal funds purchased	1,758	24	5.26	19,912	251	4.99
Commercial paper	27,906	355	5.11	49,371	538	4.37
Short-term borrowings - FHLB				50,498	642	5.10
Short-term borrowings - other	1,179	15	5.34	581	7	5.09
Long-term borrowings - FHLB	11,648	136	4.69	39,670	461	4.64
Long-term borrowings - sub debt	25,774	524	8.38	25,774	524	8.37
	<u>143,346</u>	<u>1,837</u>	<u>5.11</u>	<u>237,692</u>	<u>2,973</u>	<u>5.07</u>

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Total borrowings	<u>144,356</u>	<u>1,859</u>	5.19	<u>373,683</u>	<u>4,534</u>	4.87
Interest-bearing liabilities allocated to discontinued operations				<u>(103,508)</u>	<u>(878)</u>	3.36
TOTAL INTEREST-BEARING LIABILITIES	<u>1,194,739</u>	<u>11,720</u>	3.94%	<u>1,182,733</u>	<u>10,043</u>	3.41%
Noninterest-bearing deposits	<u>444,369</u>			<u>441,630</u>		
Other liabilities	<u>86,095</u>			<u>93,675</u>		
Liabilities-discontinued operations	<u>180</u>			<u>103,661</u>		
Total liabilities	<u>1,725,383</u>			<u>1,821,699</u>		
Shareholders' equity	<u>128,150</u>			<u>145,325</u>		
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	<u>\$ 1,853,533</u>			<u>\$ 1,967,024</u>		
Net interest income/spread		<u>18,328</u>	3.30%		<u>19,321</u>	3.65%
Net yield on interest-earning assets (margin)			4.35%			4.58%
Less: Tax equivalent adjustment		<u>123</u>			<u>191</u>	
Net interest income		<u>\$ 18,205</u>			<u>\$ 19,130</u>	

- [1] The average balances of assets, liabilities and shareholders' equity are computed on the basis of daily averages. Average rates are presented on a tax-equivalent basis. Certain reclassifications have been made to amounts for prior periods to conform to the current presentation.
- [2] Interest on tax-exempt securities is presented on a tax-equivalent basis.
- [3] Includes loans held for sale and loans held in portfolio; all loans are domestic. Nonaccrual loans are included in amounts outstanding and income has been included to the extent earned.

STERLING BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES  
Average Balance Sheets [1]  
Six Months Ended June 30,  
(Unaudited)

(dollars in thousands)

	2007			2006		
	Average Balance	Interest	Average Rate	Average Balance	Interest	Average Rate
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Interest-bearing deposits with other banks	\$ 2,856	\$ 67	5.24%	\$ 2,413	\$ 50	4.47%
Securities available for sale	131,105	3,149	4.80	156,907	3,571	4.55
Securities held to maturity	415,032	9,568	4.61	497,371	11,295	4.54
Securities tax-exempt [2]	20,669	653	6.37	30,752	1,004	6.59
Total investment securities	566,806	13,370	4.72	685,030	15,870	4.64
Federal funds sold	37,790	1,003	5.28	3,204	75	4.65
Loans, net of unearned discounts [3]	1,079,149	44,848	8.74	1,002,291	40,969	8.62
<b>TOTAL INTEREST-EARNING ASSETS</b>	<b>1,686,601</b>	<b>59,288</b>	<b>7.24%</b>	<b>1,692,938</b>	<b>56,964</b>	<b>6.94%</b>
Cash and due from banks	65,493			62,198		
Allowance for loan losses	(16,596)			(16,124)		
Goodwill	22,868			22,530		
Other assets	89,551			89,263		
Total assets-continuing operations	1,847,917			1,850,805		
Assets-discontinued operations	1,215			114,115		
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,849,132</b>			<b>\$ 1,964,920</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY</b>						
<b>Interest-bearing deposits</b>						
<b>Domestic</b>						
Savings	\$ 21,026	52	0.50%	\$ 24,666	50	0.41%
NOW	233,916	2,970	2.56	179,385	1,426	1.60
Money market	214,138	3,117	2.94	223,379	1,979	1.79
Time	563,998	13,126	4.69	513,542	9,160	3.60
<b>Foreign</b>						
Time	574	3	1.09	3,025	16	1.06
Total interest-bearing deposits	1,033,652	19,268	3.76	943,997	12,631	2.70
<b>Borrowings</b>						
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase - customers	85,517	1,880	4.43	80,756	1,462	3.65
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase - dealers				96,683	2,328	4.86
Federal funds purchased	1,354	36	5.25	16,117	386	4.77
Commercial paper	27,904	705	5.10	45,776	943	4.15
Short-term borrowings - FHLB				33,814	835	4.98
Short-term borrowings - other	1,040	27	5.34	746	18	4.81
Long-term borrowings - FHLB	15,801	361	4.57	45,746	1,047	4.58

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Long-term borrowings - sub debt	25,774	1,047	8.38	25,774	1,047	8.38
Total borrowings	157,390	4,056	5.21	345,412	8,066	4.71
Interest-bearing liabilities allocated to discontinued operations				(103,015)	(1,652)	3.19
TOTAL INTEREST-BEARING LIABILITIES	1,191,042	23,324	3.95%	1,186,394	19,045	3.24%
Noninterest-bearing deposits	439,609			441,683		
Other liabilities	88,880			89,006		
Liabilities-discontinued operations	308			103,188		
Total liabilities	1,719,839			1,820,271		
Shareholders' equity	129,293			144,649		
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	\$ 1,849,132			\$ 1,964,920		
Net interest income/spread		35,964	3.29%		37,919	3.70%
Net yield on interest-earning assets (margin)			4.34%			4.58%
Less: Tax equivalent adjustment		256			395	
Net interest income		\$ 35,708			\$ 37,524	

- [1] The average balances of assets, liabilities and shareholders' equity are computed on the basis of daily averages. Average rates are presented on a tax-equivalent basis. Certain reclassifications have been made to amounts for prior periods to conform to the current presentation.
- [2] Interest on tax-exempt securities is presented on a tax-equivalent basis.
- [3] Includes loans held for sale and loans held in portfolio; all loans are domestic. Nonaccrual loans are included in amounts outstanding and income has been included to the extent earned.

STERLING BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES  
Rate/Volume Analysis [1]  
(Unaudited)

(in thousands)

	<b>Increase/(Decrease) Three Months Ended June 30, 2007 to June 30, 2006</b>		
	<b>Volume</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Net [2]</b>
<b>INTEREST INCOME</b>			
Interest-bearing deposits with other banks	\$ 14	\$ 2	\$ 16
Securities available for sale	(185)	11	(174)
Securities held to maturity	(936)	84	(852)
Securities tax-exempt	(155)	(16)	(171)
Total investment securities	(1,276)	79	(1,197)
Federal funds sold	331	2	333
Loans, net of unearned discounts [3]	1,684	(152)	1,532
<b>TOTAL INTEREST INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 753</b>	<b>\$ (69)</b>	<b>\$ 684</b>
<b>INTEREST EXPENSE</b>			
<b>Interest-bearing deposits</b>			
<b>Domestic</b>			
Savings	\$ (3)	\$ 6	\$ 3
NOW	337	544	881
Money market	79	645	724
Time	575	1,297	1,872
<b>Foreign</b>			
Time	(7)	1	(6)
Total interest-bearing deposits	981	2,493	3,474
<b>Borrowings</b>			
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase - customers	(52)	90	38
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase - dealers	(1,344)		(1,344)
Federal funds purchased	(239)	12	(227)
Commercial paper	(263)	80	(183)
Short-term borrowings - FHLB	(642)		(642)
Short-term borrowings - other	8		8
Long-term borrowings - FHLB	(330)	5	(325)
Long-term borrowings - sub debt			
Total borrowings	(2,862)	187	(2,675)

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Less: interest-bearing liabilities allocated to discontinued operations	878	878	878
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
TOTAL INTEREST EXPENSE	\$ (1,003)	\$ 2,680	\$ 1,677
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
NET INTEREST INCOME	\$ 1,756	\$ (2,749)	\$ (993)
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

- [1] This table is presented on a tax-equivalent basis.
- [2] Changes in interest income and interest expense due to a combination of both volume and rate have been allocated to the change due to volume and the change due to rate in proportion to the relationship of the change due solely to each.
- [3] Includes loans held for sale and loans held in portfolio; all loans are domestic. Nonaccrual loans are included in amounts outstanding and income has been included to the extent earned.

STERLING BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES  
Rate/Volume Analysis [1]  
(Unaudited)

(in thousands)

	<b>Increase/(Decrease) Six Months Ended June 30, 2007 to June 30, 2006</b>		
	<b>Volume</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Net [2]</b>
<b>INTEREST INCOME</b>			
Interest-bearing deposits with other banks	\$ 9	\$ 8	\$ 17
Securities available for sale	(608)	186	(422)
Securities held to maturity	(1,896)	169	(1,727)
Securities tax-exempt	(318)	(33)	(351)
Total investment securities	(2,822)	322	(2,500)
Federal funds sold	917	11	928
Loans, net of unearned discounts [3]	3,283	596	3,879
<b>TOTAL INTEREST INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 1,387</b>	<b>\$ 937</b>	<b>\$ 2,324</b>
<b>INTEREST EXPENSE</b>			
<b>Interest-bearing deposits</b>			
<b>Domestic</b>			
Savings	\$ (8)	\$ 10	\$ 2
NOW	519	1,025	1,544
Money market	(85)	1,223	1,138
Time	972	2,994	3,966
<b>Foreign</b>			
Time	(13)		(13)
Total interest-bearing deposits	1,385	5,252	6,637
<b>Borrowings</b>			
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase - customers	90	328	418
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase - dealers	(2,328)		(2,328)
Federal funds purchased	(384)	34	(350)
Commercial paper	(422)	184	(238)
Short-term borrowings - FHLB	(835)		(835)
Short-term borrowings - other	7	2	9
Long-term borrowings - FHLB	(684)	(2)	(686)
Long-term borrowings - sub debt			
Total borrowings	(4,556)	546	(4,010)

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Less: interest-bearing liabilities allocated to discontinued operations	1,652	_____	1,652
	_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL INTEREST EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ (1,519)</b>	<b>\$ 5,798</b>	<b>\$ 4,279</b>
	_____	_____	_____
<b>NET INTEREST INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 2,906</b>	<b>\$ (4,861)</b>	<b>\$ (1,955)</b>
	_____	_____	_____

- [1] This table is presented on a tax-equivalent basis.
- [2] Changes in interest income and interest expense due to a combination of both volume and rate have been allocated to the change due to volume and the change due to rate in proportion to the relationship of the change due solely to each.
- [3] Includes loans held for sale and loans held in portfolio; all loans are domestic. Nonaccrual loans are included in amounts outstanding and income has been included to the extent earned.



STERLING BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES  
Regulatory Capital and Ratios

Ratios and Minimums  
(dollars in thousands)

	Actual		For Capital Adequacy Minimum		To Be Well Capitalized	
	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio
<b>As of June 30, 2007</b>						
Total Capital (to Risk Weighted Assets):						
The Company	\$ 151,941	11.84%	\$ 102,662	8.00%	\$ 128,328	10.00%
The bank	148,196	11.71	101,248	8.00	126,560	10.00
Tier 1 Capital (to Risk Weighted Assets):						
The Company	136,359	10.63	51,331	4.00	76,997	6.00
The bank	132,614	10.48	50,624	4.00	75,936	6.00
Tier 1 Leverage Capital (to Average Assets):						
The Company	136,359	7.45	73,225	4.00	91,532	5.00
The bank	132,614	7.30	72,651	4.00	90,813	5.00
<b>As of December 31, 2006</b>						
Total Capital (to Risk Weighted Assets):						
The Company	\$ 162,232	12.74%	\$ 102,299	8.00%	\$ 127,874	10.00%
The bank	138,651	11.00	101,288	8.00	126,610	10.00
Tier 1 Capital (to Risk Weighted Assets):						
The Company	146,244	11.49	51,150	4.00	76,725	6.00
The bank	122,819	9.75	50,644	4.00	75,966	6.00
Tier 1 Leverage Capital (to Average Assets):						
The Company	146,244	7.82	75,131	4.00	93,913	5.00
The bank	122,819	6.60	74,788	4.00	93,485	5.00

**ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

**ASSET/LIABILITY MANAGEMENT**

The Company's primary earnings source is its net interest income; therefore, the Company devotes significant time and has invested in resources to assist in the management of interest rate risk and asset quality. The Company's net interest income is affected by changes in market interest rates, and by the level and composition of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities. The Company's objectives in its asset/liability management are to utilize its capital effectively, to provide adequate liquidity and to enhance net interest income, without taking undue risks or subjecting the Company unduly to interest rate fluctuations.

The Company takes a coordinated approach to the management of its liquidity, capital and interest rate risk. This risk management process is governed by policies and limits established by senior management which are reviewed and approved by the Asset/Liability Committee. This committee, which is comprised of members of senior management, meets to review, among other things, economic conditions, interest rates, yield curve, cash flow projections, expected customer actions, liquidity levels, capital ratios and repricing characteristics of assets, liabilities and financial instruments.

***Market Risk***

Market risk is the risk of loss in a financial instrument arising from adverse changes in market indices such as interest rates, foreign exchange rates and equity prices. The Company's principal market risk exposure is interest rate risk, with no material impact on earnings from changes in foreign exchange rates or equity prices.

Interest rate risk is the exposure to changes in market interest rates. Interest rate sensitivity is the relationship between market interest rates and net interest income due to the repricing characteristics of assets and liabilities. The Company monitors the interest rate sensitivity of its balance sheet positions by examining its near-term sensitivity and its longer-term gap position. In its management of interest rate risk, the Company utilizes several financial and statistical tools, including traditional gap analysis and sophisticated income simulation models.

A traditional gap analysis is prepared based on the maturity and repricing characteristics of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities for selected time bands. The mismatch between repricings or maturities within a time band is commonly referred to as the "gap" for that period. A positive gap (asset sensitive) where interest rate sensitive assets exceed interest rate sensitive liabilities generally will result in the net interest margin increasing in a rising rate environment and decreasing in a falling rate environment. A negative gap (liability sensitive) will generally have the opposite result on the net interest margin. However, the traditional gap analysis does not assess the relative sensitivity of assets and liabilities to changes in interest rates and other factors that could have an impact on interest rate sensitivity or net interest income. The Company utilizes the gap analysis to complement its income simulations modeling, primarily focusing on the longer-term structure of the balance sheet.

The Company's balance sheet structure is primarily short-term in nature with a substantial portion of assets and liabilities repricing or maturing within one year. The Company's gap analysis at June 30, 2007, presented on page 35, indicates that net interest income would decrease during periods of rising interest rates and increase during periods of falling interest rates, but, as mentioned above, gap analysis may not be an accurate predictor of net interest income.

As part of its interest rate risk strategy, the Company may use financial instrument derivatives to hedge the interest rate sensitivity of assets. The Company has written policy guidelines, approved by the Board of Directors, governing the use of financial instruments, including approved counterparties, risk limits and appropriate internal control procedures. The credit risk of derivatives arises principally from the potential for a counterparty to fail to meet its obligation to settle a contract on a timely basis.

As of June 30, 2007, the Company was a party to two interest rate floor agreements with notional amounts of \$50,000,000 each and maturities of September 14, 2007 and September 14, 2008, respectively. Interest rate floor contracts require the counterparty to pay the Company at specified future dates the amount, if any, by which the specified interest (prime rate) falls below the fixed floor rates, applied to the notional amounts. The Company utilizes the financial instruments to adjust its interest rate risk position without exposing itself to principal risk and funding requirements. These financial instruments are being used as part of the Company's interest rate risk management and not for trading purposes. At June 30, 2007, all counterparties have investment grade credit ratings from the major rating agencies. Each counterparty is specifically approved for applicable credit exposure.

The interest rate floor contracts require the Company to pay a fee for the right to receive a fixed interest payment. The Company paid up-front premiums of \$141,250. At June 30, 2007, there were no amounts receivable under these contracts.

The interest rate floor agreements were not designated as hedges for accounting purposes and therefore changes in the fair values of the instruments are required to be recognized as income or expenses in the Company's financial statements. At June 30, 2007 and 2006, the aggregate fair value of the interest rate floors was \$165 and \$1,782, respectively. For the three months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006, \$2,122 and \$4,362, respectively, were charged to Other expenses. For the six months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006 \$2,503 and \$26,248, respectively, were charged to Other expenses.

The Company utilizes income simulation models to complement its traditional gap analysis. While the Asset/Liability Committee routinely monitors simulated net interest income sensitivity over a rolling two-year horizon, it also utilizes additional tools to monitor potential longer-term interest rate risk. The income simulation models measure the Company's net interest income volatility or sensitivity to interest rate changes utilizing statistical techniques that allow the Company to consider various factors which impact net interest income. These factors include actual maturities, estimated cash flows, repricing characteristics, deposits growth/retention and, most importantly, the relative sensitivity of the Company's assets and liabilities to changes in market interest rates. This relative sensitivity is important to consider as the Company's core deposit base has not been subject to the same degree of interest rate sensitivity as its assets. The core deposit costs are internally managed and tend to exhibit less sensitivity to changes in interest rates than the Company's adjustable rate assets whose yields are based on external indices and generally change in concert with market interest rates.

The Company's interest rate sensitivity is determined by identifying the probable impact of changes in market interest rates on the yields on the Company's assets and the rates that would be paid on its liabilities. This modeling technique involves a degree of estimation based on certain assumptions that management believes to be reasonable. Utilizing this process, management projects the impact of changes in interest rates on net interest margin. The Company has established certain policy limits for the potential volatility of its net interest margin assuming certain levels of changes in market interest rates with the objective of maintaining a stable net interest margin under various probable rate scenarios. Management generally has maintained a risk position well within the policy limits. As of June 30, 2007, the model indicated the impact of a 200 basis point parallel and pro rata rise in rates over 12 months would approximate a 4.7% (\$3.9 million) increase in net interest income, while the impact of a 200 basis point decline in rates over the same period would approximate a 5.1% (\$4.3 million) decline from an unchanged rate environment.

The preceding sensitivity analysis does not represent a Company forecast and should not be relied upon as being indicative of expected operating results. These hypothetical estimates are based upon numerous assumptions including: the nature and timing of interest rate levels including yield curve shape, prepayments on loans and securities, deposit decay rates, pricing decisions on loans and deposits, reinvestment/replacement of asset and liability cash flows, and others. While assumptions are developed based upon current economic and local market conditions, the Company cannot provide any assurances as to the predictive nature of these assumptions, including how customer's preferences or competitor influences might change.

Also, as market conditions vary from those assumed in the sensitivity analysis, actual results will also differ due to: prepayment/refinancing levels likely deviating from those assumed, the varying impact of interest rate change caps or floors on adjustable rate assets, the potential effect of changing debt service levels on customers with adjustable rate loans, depositor early withdrawals and product preference changes, and other variables. Furthermore, the sensitivity analysis does not reflect actions that the Asset/Liability Committee might take in responding to or anticipating changes in interest rates.

The shape of the yield curve can cause downward pressure on net interest income. In general, if and to the extent that the yield curve is flatter (i.e., the differences between interest rates for different maturities are relatively smaller) than previously anticipated, then the yield on the Company's interest-earning assets and its cash flows will tend to be lower. Management believes that a relatively flat yield curve would continue to adversely affect the Company's results in 2007.

***Liquidity Risk***

Liquidity is the ability to meet cash needs arising from changes in various categories of assets and liabilities. Liquidity is constantly monitored and managed at both the parent company and the bank levels. Liquid assets consist of cash and due from banks, interest-bearing deposits in banks and Federal funds sold and securities available for sale. Primary funding sources include core deposits, capital markets funds and other money market sources. Core deposits include domestic noninterest-bearing and interest-bearing retail deposits, which historically have been relatively stable. The parent company and the bank believe that they have significant unused borrowing capacity. Contingency plans exist which we believe could be implemented on a timely basis to mitigate the impact of any dramatic change in market conditions.

While the parent company generates income from its own operations, it also depends for its cash requirements on funds maintained or generated by its subsidiaries, principally the bank. Such sources have been adequate to meet the parent company's cash requirements throughout its history.

Various legal restrictions limit the extent to which the bank can supply funds to the parent company and its nonbank subsidiaries. All national banks are limited in the payment of dividends without the approval of the Comptroller of the Currency to an amount not to exceed the net profits as defined, for the year to date combined with its retained net profits for the preceding two calendar years.

At June 30, 2007, the parent company's short-term debt, consisting principally of commercial paper used to finance ongoing current business activities, was approximately \$27.4 million. The parent company had cash, interest-bearing deposits with banks and other current assets aggregating \$31.0 million. The parent company also has back-up credit lines with banks of \$24.0 million. Since 1979, the parent company has had no need to use the available back-up lines of credit.

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The following table sets forth information regarding the Company's obligations and commitments to make future payments under contract as of June 30, 2007:

Contractual Obligations (1)	Payments Due by Period				
	Total	Less than 1 Year	1-3 Years	4-5 Years	After 5 Years
(in thousands)					
Long-Term Debt	\$ 35,774	\$	\$	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,774
Operating Leases	24,129	4,157	7,245	4,496	8,231
<b>Total Contractual Cash Obligations</b>	<b>\$ 59,903</b>	<b>\$ 4,157</b>	<b>\$ 7,245</b>	<b>\$ 14,496</b>	<b>\$ 34,005</b>

(1) Based on contractual maturity dates

The following table sets forth information regarding the Company's obligations under other commercial commitments as of June 30, 2007:

Other Commercial Commitments	Amount of Commitment Expiration Per Period				
	Total Amount Committed	Less than 1 Year	1-3 Years	4-5 Years	After 5 Years
(in thousands)					
Residential Loans	\$ 22,357	\$ 22,357	\$	\$	\$
Commercial Loans	62,423	33,800	28,398	225	
<b>Total Loans</b>	<b>84,780</b>	<b>56,157</b>	<b>28,398</b>	<b>225</b>	
Standby Letters of Credit	34,714	33,101	1,613		
Other Commercial Commitments	19,426	18,824			602
<b>Total Commercial Commitments</b>	<b>\$ 138,920</b>	<b>\$ 108,082</b>	<b>\$ 30,011</b>	<b>\$ 225</b>	<b>\$ 602</b>

**INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB SITE**

Our Internet address is [www.sterlingbancorp.com](http://www.sterlingbancorp.com) and the investor relations section of our web site is located at [www.sterlingbancorp.com/ir/investor.cfm](http://www.sterlingbancorp.com/ir/investor.cfm). We make available free of charge, on or through the investor relations section of our web site, annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Also posted on our web site, and available in print upon request of any shareholder to our Investor Relations Department, are the charters for our Board of Directors' Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, our Corporate Governance Guidelines, our Method for Interested Persons to Communicate with Non-Management Directors and a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics governing our directors, officers and employees. Within the time period required by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the New York Stock Exchange, we will post on our web site any amendment to the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and any waiver applicable to our senior financial officers, as defined in the Code, or our executive officers or directors. In addition, information concerning purchases and sales of our equity securities by our executive officers and directors is posted on our web site.



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STERLING BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES  
Interest Rate Sensitivity

To mitigate the vulnerability of earnings to changes in interest rates, the Company manages the repricing characteristics of assets and liabilities in an attempt to control net interest rate sensitivity. Management attempts to confine significant rate sensitivity gaps predominantly to repricing intervals of a year or less so that adjustments can be made quickly. Assets and liabilities with predetermined repricing dates are classified based on the earliest repricing period. Amounts are presented in thousands. Based on the interest rate sensitivity analysis shown below, the Company's net interest income would decrease during periods of rising interest rates and increase during periods of falling interest rates.

	Repricing Date					Total
	3 Months or Less	More than 3 Months to 1 Year	More than 1 Year to 5 Years	Over 5 Years	Nonrate Sensitive	
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Interest-bearing deposits with other banks	\$ 1,177	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 1,177
Federal funds sold	10,000					10,000
Investment securities	11,074	11,663	102,887	403,244	3,439	532,307
Commercial and industrial loans	413,283	45,630	118,389	19,480	(158)	596,624
Equipment lease financing	1,111	8,696	242,970	9,854	(34,971)	227,660
Real estate-residential mortgage	71,441	9,211	76,022	21,145		177,819
Real estate-commercial mortgage	30,820	5,037	43,938	12,923		92,718
Real estate-construction loans			38,147			38,147
Installment-individuals	10,333					10,333
Loans to depository institutions	25,000					25,000
Noninterest-earning assets & allowance for loan losses					175,193	175,193
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>574,239</b>	<b>80,237</b>	<b>622,353</b>	<b>466,646</b>	<b>143,503</b>	<b>1,886,978</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS</b>						
<b>EQUITY</b>						
Interest-bearing deposits						
Savings [1]			19,679			19,679
NOW [1]			231,391			231,391
Money market [1]	181,452		44,357			225,809
Time - domestic	258,395	240,550	36,766	230		535,941
- foreign	395	180				575
Securities sold under agreement to repurchase - customer	74,530	2,000				76,530
Commercial paper	27,444					27,444
Short-term borrowings - other	1,718					1,718
Long-term borrowings - FHLB			10,000			10,000
Long-term borrowings - subordinated debentures				25,774		25,774
Noninterest-bearing liabilities & shareholders equity					732,117	732,117
<b>Total Liabilities and Shareholders Equity</b>	<b>543,934</b>	<b>242,730</b>	<b>342,193</b>	<b>26,004</b>	<b>732,117</b>	<b>1,886,978</b>
<b>Net Interest Rate Sensitivity Gap</b>	<b>\$ 30,305</b>	<b>\$ (162,493)</b>	<b>\$ 280,160</b>	<b>\$ 440,642</b>	<b>\$ (588,614)</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Cumulative Gap June 30, 2007</b>	<b>\$ 30,305</b>	<b>\$ (132,188)</b>	<b>\$ 147,972</b>	<b>\$ 588,614</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>



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Cumulative Gap June 30, 2006	\$ 33,216	\$ (50,163)	\$ 64,007	\$ 594,623	\$	\$
Cumulative Gap December 31, 2006	\$ 130,609	\$ (31,621)	\$ 170,278	\$ 684,751	\$	\$

[1] Historically, balances in non-maturity deposit accounts have remained relatively stable despite changes in levels of interest rates. Balances are shown in repricing periods based on management's historical repricing practices and run-off experience.

**ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

The Company's management, with the participation of the Company's principal executive and principal financial officers, evaluated the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) as of the end of the period covered by this quarterly report on Form 10-Q. Based on this evaluation, the Company's management, including the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this quarterly report, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in reports that it files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms.

No change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) occurred during the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2007 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

PART II - OTHER INFORMATION

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

Under its share repurchase program, the Company buys back common shares from time to time.

The Board of Directors initially authorized the repurchase of common shares in 1997 and since then has approved increases in the number of common shares that the Company is authorized to repurchase. The latest increase was announced on February 15, 2007, when the Board of Directors increased the Company's authority to repurchase common shares by an additional 800,000 shares.

The following table discloses the Company's repurchase of the Company's common shares during the second quarter of 2007:

ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
April 1-30, 2007		\$		932,963
May 1-31, 2007	315,000	16.45	315,000	617,963
June 1-30, 2007	332,200	16.06	332,200	285,763
	<u>647,200</u>		<u>647,200</u>	
Total	<u>647,200</u>		<u>647,200</u>	

All shares were repurchased through the Company's share repurchase program.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders

- (a) The following sets forth the voting results as to each matter voted upon at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the Company held on May 3, 2007:

(1) Election of Directors

Nominee	Total Votes For	Total Votes Withheld
Robert Abrams	16,600,638	578,299
Joseph M. Adamko	16,087,737	1,091,200
Louis J. Cappelli	16,085,050	1,093,887
Walter Feldesman	16,053,417	1,125,520
Fernando Ferrer	16,602,940	575,997
Allan F. Hershfield	16,082,266	1,096,671
Henry J. Humphreys	16,080,219	1,098,718
Robert Lazar	16,603,526	575,411
John C. Millman	16,090,540	1,088,397
Eugene T. Rossides	15,456,453	1,722,484

There were no abstentions or broker nonvotes.

- (2) Ratification of the appointment by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of KPMG LLP as the Company's independent public accountants for fiscal year 2007.

Total Votes For	16,454,192
Total Votes Against	710,292
Total Absentions	14,453

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### Item 6. Exhibits

The following exhibits are filed as part of this report:

- 3. (i) Restated Certificate of Incorporation filed with the State of New York Department of State, October 28, 2004 (Filed as Exhibit 3(i) to the Registrant's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2004 and incorporated herein by reference).
- (ii) By-Laws as in effect on August 5, 2004 (Filed as Exhibit 3(ii)(A) to the Registrant's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2004 and incorporated herein by reference).
- 11. Statement Re: Computation of Per Share Earnings.
- 31.1 Certification of the CEO pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(a).
- 31.2 Certification of the CFO pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(a).
- 32.1 Certification of the CEO required by Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code.
- 32.2 Certification of the CFO required by Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code.

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SIGNATURES

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

STERLING BANCORP

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(Registrant)

Date: August 9, 2007

/s/ Louis J. Cappelli

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Louis J. Cappelli  
Chairman and  
Chief Executive Officer

Date: August 9, 2007

/s/ John W. Tietjen

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John W. Tietjen  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer

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STERLING BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Sequential Page No.</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>Statement re: Computation of Per Share Earnings.</u>	42
<u>31.1</u>	<u>Certification of the CEO pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(a).</u>	43
<u>31.2</u>	<u>Certification of the CFO pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(a).</u>	44
<u>32.1</u>	<u>Certification of the CEO required by Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code.</u>	45
<u>32.2</u>	<u>Certification of the CFO required by Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code.</u>	46