

Edgar Filing: ESSA Bancorp, Inc. - Form 11-K

ESSA Bancorp, Inc.  
Form 11-K  
June 27, 2008

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

FORM 11-K

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007  
-----

OR

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

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

Commission file number 000-33384  
-----

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

ESSA Bank & Trust  
401(k) Plan

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

ESSA Bancorp, Inc.  
  
200 Palmer Street  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

REQUIRED INFORMATION  
-----

(a) The ESSA Bank 401(k) Plan (the "Plan") is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"). Therefore, in lieu of requirements of Items 1-3 of Form 11-K, the financial statements and supplemental schedule of the Plan for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007, which have been prepared in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of ERISA, are filed as a part of this Form 11-K report.

ESSA BANK & TRUST 401(k) PLAN  
STROUDSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

AUDIT REPORT  
DECEMBER 31, 2007

ESSA BANK & TRUST 401(k) PLAN  
DECEMBER 31, 2007

# Edgar Filing: ESSA Bancorp, Inc. - Form 11-K

	Number -----
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	1
Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits	2
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits	3
Notes to Financial Statements	4 - 6
Supplemental Information	7

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM -----

Trustees of ESSA Bank & Trust 401(k) Plan  
Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

We have audited the accompanying statement of net assets available for benefits of ESSA Bank & Trust 401(k) Plan (the "Plan") as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2007. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

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

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of ESSA Bank & Trust 401(k) Plan as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2007, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audits were performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2007, is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is supplementary information required by the United States Department of Labor Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Edgar Filing: ESSA Bancorp, Inc. - Form 11-K

/s/ S. R. Snodgrass, A.C.  
 Wexford, PA  
 June 27, 2008

ESSA BANK & TRUST 401(k) PLAN  
 STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

	December 31,	
	2007	2006
	-----	-----
ASSETS		
Investments, at fair value	\$ 5,711,475	\$ 4,413,475
Contributions:		
Employer contribution receivable	7,596	4,413
Employees contribution receivable	15,919	4,413
Employee rollover contribution receivable	-	44,000
Total contributions	----- 23,515	----- 49,000
Net assets available for benefits	----- \$ 5,734,990	----- \$ 4,462,475
	=====	=====

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

-2-

ESSA BANK & TRUST 401(k) PLAN  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

ADDITIONS IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:

Investment income:

Net appreciation in fair value of investments \$  
Interest on investments -----

Total investment income

Contributions:

Contributions by employer  
Contributions by employees  
Rollover contributions -----

Total contributions -----

Total additions -----

DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:

Benefits paid to participants  
Administrative expenses -----

Total deductions -----

Net increase

NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

Beginning of the period -----

End of the period \$  
=====

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

-3-

ESSA BANK & TRUST 401(k) PLAN  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following brief description of the 401(k) Plan (the "Plan") for employees of ESSA Bank & Trust (the "Bank") is provided for general information purposes only. Interested parties should refer to the Plan Document for a more comprehensive description of the Plan's provisions.

General

-----

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering the employees of the Bank who have attained the age of 21 and have completed one year of service and 1,000 hours of service. An employee becomes a participant on either January 1 or July 1, depending on when eligibility requirements are met. The Plan includes a 401(k) before-tax savings feature, which permits participants to defer compensation under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended. In 2006, the Plan was amended to change its year-end from November 30 to December 31.

Contributions

-----

Employees may elect to contribute any amount up to the maximum percentage allowable not to exceed the limits of Code Section 401(k), 402(g), 404, and 415. The Bank will match 100% of the participant's annual elective deferrals that do not exceed 3% of the participant's compensation, plus 50% of the amount of the participant's annual elective deferrals that do not exceed 5% of the participant's compensation. The participants may direct their accounts into several different investment options. Contributions are subject to certain limitations.

Participant Accounts

-----

Each participant's account is credited with Plan earnings. Allocations are based upon participants' account balances at the beginning of the valuation period, while forfeitures related to the non-vested portion of the employer contributions are reallocated to remaining participants' accounts in the

## Edgar Filing: ESSA Bancorp, Inc. - Form 11-K

ratio of each participant's compensation in relation to compensation of all participants. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's account.

### Vesting

-----

Participants are immediately vested in their voluntary contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the sponsor's contributions in the Plan made prior to December 1, 2004 is based on completion of credited service years. A credited service year is considered one in which the participant completed at least 1,000 hours of service. Such contributions are subject to a six-year graded vesting schedule pursuant to which such amounts vest in 20% increments after each completed year of service, beginning after the completion of the second year of service. Employer contributions made subsequent to December 1, 2004, are immediately vested.

### Payment of Benefits

-----

Upon termination of service, participants whose accounts do not exceed \$1,000 may receive a lump-sum amount equal to the value of their account. Participants whose accounts are between \$1,000 and \$5,000 may have the balance of their account rolled over into an IRA. Participants whose vested account balance at the time of termination exceeds \$5,000 may receive a lump-sum distribution or an annuity or may defer payments of benefits until April 1 of the calendar year following the calendar year during which the participant reaches age 70 1/2.

-4-

## NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (Continued)

### Forfeitures

-----

At December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006, forfeited nonvested accounts totaled \$4 and \$882, respectively. These amounts will be utilized to reduce future employer contributions or to pay Plan administrative expenses. During the year ended December 31, 2007, \$1,027 in forfeitures were utilized to reduce the employer's contribution.

### Administrative expenses

-----

Administrative expenses of the Plan relating to investment management and recordkeeping fees are paid by the Plan. Fees relating to accounting and miscellaneous administrative expenses are paid by the Plan's Sponsor. Such expenses amounted to \$11,396 for the year ended December 31, 2007.

## NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting principles followed by the Plan and the methods of applying these principles conform to U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

A summary of the significant accounting and reporting policies applied in the presentation of the accompanying financial statements follows:

### Accounting Estimates

Edgar Filing: ESSA Bancorp, Inc. - Form 11-K

-----  
The financial statements have been prepared in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. In preparing the financial statements, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts and disclosures. Actual results could differ significantly from those estimates.

Valuation of Investments and Income Recognition  
-----

The Plan's investments are stated at fair value. The fair value of mutual funds is determined using the quoted net asset value of the specified fund. The fair value of ESSA Bancorp, Inc. common stock is determined based on a quoted market price.

The net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments includes investments purchased, sold, and held during the year.

Purchases and sale of investments are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

Payment of Benefits  
-----

Benefit payments to participants are recorded upon distribution.

-5-

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Risks and Uncertainties  
-----

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

NOTE 3 - INVESTMENTS

The Plan investments are administered by Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company ("trustee").

The fair value of the individual investments that represent 5 percent or more of the Plan's net assets as of December 31, are as follows:



Edgar Filing: ESSA Bancorp, Inc. - Form 11-K

	2007	
	-----	-----
	Fair	
	Value	
	-----	-----
Investments at fair value as determined by quoted market price:		
SEI Indexed Equity (Northern Trust)	\$ 180,349	\$
SEI Large Cap Value (Davis)	210,725	
Premium International Equity (OFI)	230,116	
Premium Money Market Fund (Babson)	310,288	
Premium Small Cap Value (OFI Inst)	61,173	
ESSA Bancorp Inc. common stock	3,558,341	
	-----	-----
Total	\$ 4,550,993	\$
	=====	=====

The Plan's investments appreciated in fair value for the year ended December 31 as follows:

Investments at fair value as determined by quoted market price:	-----
Mutual funds	\$
Common stock	-----
Net appreciation in fair value	\$
	=====

NOTE 4 - PLAN TERMINATION

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Bank has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of termination of the Plan, participants will become 100 percent vested in their accounts.

-6-

NOTE 5 - TAX STATUS

The Plan obtained its latest determination letter on April 23, 2002, in which the Internal Revenue Service stated that the Plan, as then designed,

Edgar Filing: ESSA Bancorp, Inc. - Form 11-K

was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code. The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter. However, the Plan administrator believes that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code.

NOTE 6 - PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

Certain Plan investments are shares of mutual funds that are managed by Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, the defined trustee of the Plan. Therefore, related transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Fees paid by the plan for investment management services amounted to \$10,746 for the year ended December 31, 2007.

At December 31, 2007, the Plan held 316,295 shares of ESSA Bancorp, Inc. common stock. There were no dividends received on these shares in 2007.

NOTE 7 - FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 107, Disclosures About Fair Value of Financial Instruments, requires the Plan to disclose the estimated fair value of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are defined as cash, evidence of ownership interest in an entity, or a contract which creates an obligation or right to receive or deliver cash or another financial instrument from/to a second entity on potentially favorable or unfavorable terms. Fair value is defined as the amount at which a financial instrument could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties other than in a forced liquidation or sale. If a quoted market price is available for a financial instrument, the estimated fair value would be calculated based upon the market price per trading unit of the instrument.

Investments and contributions receivable would be considered a financial instrument. At December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006, the carrying amounts of these financial instruments approximate fair value.

-7-

ESSA BANK & TRUST 401(k) PLAN  
 SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS HELD FOR INVESTMENT PURPOSES  
 EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 24-0568185  
 PLAN NUMBER - 002  
 DECEMBER 31, 2007

	Par or Shares	
	-----	-----
Mutual Funds		
-----		
Ultra (American Century)	1,733	\$
Aggressive Journey	92	
* Premium Core Bond (Babson)	232	

Edgar Filing: ESSA Bancorp, Inc. - Form 11-K

Premium Core Value Equity (Babson/OFI)	10
Destination Retirement 2030	1,422
Destination Retirement 2040	1,593
Destination Retirement Income	586
Destination Retirement 2020	1,873
* SEI Indexed Equity (Northern Trust)	2,984
* SEI Mid Cap Growth II (TRP)	298
* SEI Large Cap Value (Davis)	5,231
* SEI Focus Value (Harris/C&B)	461
* Premium International Equity (OFI)	1,454
* Premium High Yield (Babson)	333
Growth (OFI)	1,851
Global Opportunities (OFI)	995
Moderate Journey	21
* Premium Small Co Oppty II (OFI Inst)	363
* Premier Strategic Income (OFI)	1,189
* Premium Money Market Fund (Babson)	16,989
New Horizons (T Rowe Price)	1,169
Conservative Journey	15
Spectrum Growth (T Rowe Price)	888
* Premier Cap Appreciation (OFI)	983
* Premium Small Cap Value (OFI Inst)	1,895

Common Stock

-----  
 \* ESSA Bancorp Inc. common stock

Total

\* Party-in-interest

-8-

SIGNATURES

The Plan. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the trustees (or other persons who administer the employee benefit plan) have duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

ESSA Bank  
 401 (k) Plan

/s/ Gary S. Olson

DATE  
 June 27, 2008

-----  
 Gary S. Olson  
 as Plan Administrator

