

FIRST MIDWEST BANCORP INC
Form 10-K
March 03, 2014

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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

Annual Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the fiscal year-ended **December 31, 2013**

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 0-10967

FIRST MIDWEST BANCORP, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

36-3161078

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

One Pierce Place, Suite 1500

Itasca, Illinois 60143-1254

(Address of principal executive offices) (zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(630) 875-7450**

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

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, \$.01 Par Value	The NASDAQ Stock Market
Preferred Share Purchase Rights	The NASDAQ Stock Market

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

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

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

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

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No .

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§232.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. .

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

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

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

The aggregate market value of the registrant's outstanding voting common stock held by non-affiliates on June 30, 2013, determined using a per share closing price on that date of \$13.72, as quoted on the NASDAQ Stock Market, was \$983,311,289.

As of March 3, 2014, there were 75,271,087 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value, outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of Registrant's Proxy Statement for the 2014 Annual Stockholders' Meeting are incorporated by reference into Part III.

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PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

First Midwest Bancorp, Inc.

First Midwest Bancorp, Inc. (the "Company") is a Delaware corporation incorporated in 1982 and is registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the "BHC Act"). The Company is one of Illinois' largest independent publicly-traded banking companies with assets of \$8.3 billion as of December 31, 2013 and is headquartered in the Chicago suburb of Itasca, Illinois. The Company's common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, is listed on the NASDAQ Stock Market and trades under the symbol FMBI ("Common Stock").

Our principal subsidiary, First Midwest Bank (the "Bank"), provides a broad range of banking and wealth management services to commercial and industrial, commercial real estate, municipal, and consumer customers throughout the greater Chicago metropolitan area as well as northwest Indiana, central and western Illinois, and eastern Iowa through approximately 90 banking offices.

History

In 1983, the Company became a bank holding company through a simultaneous acquisition of over 20 affiliated financial institutions. This transaction involved a re-organization of existing ownership interests as the acquired banks were under some form of common control. The Bank, through its predecessors, has provided banking and trust services for over 70 years. Since becoming a bank holding company, the Company has completed 21 acquisitions of financial institutions and branches representing over \$4 billion in assets.

In the normal course of business, the Company explores potential opportunities for expansion in core market areas through the acquisition of banking and non-banking institutions. As a matter of policy, the Company generally does not comment on any dialogue or negotiations with potential targets or possible acquisitions until a definitive acquisition agreement is signed and publicly announced. The Company's ability to engage in certain merger or acquisition transactions, whether or not any regulatory approval is required, will depend on the bank regulators' views at the time as to the capital levels, quality of management, and overall condition of the Company in addition to their assessment of a variety of other factors.

Subsidiaries

The Company is responsible for the overall conduct, direction, and performance of its subsidiaries. In addition, the Company provides various services to its subsidiaries, establishes Company-wide policies and procedures, and provides other resources as needed, including capital. As of December 31, 2013, the following were the Company's primary subsidiaries:

Table of Contents**First Midwest Bank**

The Bank conducts the majority of the Company's operations throughout the greater Chicago metropolitan area, in addition to northwest Indiana, central and western Illinois, and eastern Iowa. The following table presents key figures for the Bank.

(Dollar amounts in thousands)	December 31,	
	2013	
Total assets	\$	8,122,963
Total deposits	\$	6,783,730
Bank branches		86
Bank offices		5
Full-time equivalent employees		1,647

The Bank operates the following wholly owned subsidiaries:

First Midwest Securities Management, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company that manages investment securities.

LIH Holdings, LLC is an Illinois limited liability company that holds an equity interest in a Section 8 housing venture.

Synergy Property Holdings, LLC is an Illinois limited liability company that manages the majority of the Bank's OREO properties.

First Midwest Holdings, Inc. is a Delaware corporation that manages investment securities, principally municipal obligations, and provides corporate management services to its wholly owned subsidiary, FMB Investments Ltd., a Bermuda corporation. FMB Investments Ltd. manages investment securities and is largely inactive.

Catalyst Asset Holdings, LLC ("Catalyst")

Catalyst is an Illinois limited liability company that manages a portion of the Company's non-performing assets. In March of 2010, the Company purchased \$168.1 million of non-performing assets from the Bank and transferred them to Catalyst in the form of a capital injection. Catalyst had \$9.5 million in non-performing assets remaining as of December 31, 2013.

Catalyst has one wholly owned subsidiary, Restoration Asset Management, LLC ("Restoration"), an Illinois limited liability company that manages Catalyst's OREO properties. The Bank provides certain administrative and management services to Catalyst and Restoration pursuant to a services agreement. The amounts charged under this services agreement are intended to reflect the actual costs to the Bank for providing such services.

Parasol Investment Management, LLC ("Parasol")

Parasol began operations in 2011 and is a registered investment advisor under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940. Parasol conducts its business in one of the Bank's offices and provides wealth management services to the Bank's wealth management division and to individual and institutional clients, such as corporate and public retirement plans, foundations and endowments, high net worth individuals, and multi-employer trust funds.

First Midwest Capital Trust I ("FMCT")

FMCT is a Delaware statutory business trust formed in 2003 for the purpose of issuing trust-preferred securities and lending the proceeds to the Company in return for junior subordinated debentures of the Company. The Company guarantees payments of distributions on the trust-preferred securities and payments on redemption of the trust-preferred securities on a limited basis.

FMCT qualifies as a variable interest entity for which the Company is not the primary beneficiary. Consequently, its accounts are not consolidated in the Company's financial statements. However, the \$36.7 million in trust-

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preferred securities held by FMCT at December 31, 2013 is included in Tier 1 capital of the Company for regulatory capital purposes.

Segments

The Company has one reportable segment. The Company's chief operating decision maker evaluates the operations of the Company using consolidated information for purposes of allocating resources and assessing performance.

Market Area

The Bank operates in the most active and diverse markets in Illinois, the largest of which is the suburban metropolitan Chicago market, as well as central and western Illinois. The Bank's other service areas are located in northwestern Indiana and eastern Iowa. These service areas include a mixture of urban, suburban, and rural markets and contain a diversified mix of industry groups, including manufacturing, health care, pharmaceutical, higher education, wholesale and retail trade, service, and agricultural.

Competition

The banking and financial services industry in the markets in which the Bank operates (and particularly the Chicago metropolitan area) is highly competitive. Generally, the Bank competes for banking customers and deposits with other local, regional, national, and internet banks and savings and loan associations; personal loan and finance companies; credit unions; mutual funds; and investment brokers.

Competition is driven by a number of factors, including interest rates charged on loans and paid on deposits; the ability to attract new deposits; the scope and type of banking and financial services offered; the hours during which business can be conducted; the location of bank branches and automated teller machines ("ATMs"); the availability, ease of use, and range of banking services on the internet; the availability of related services; and a variety of additional services, such as wealth management services.

In providing investment advisory services, the Bank also competes with retail and discount stockbrokers, investment advisors, mutual funds, insurance companies, and other financial institutions for wealth management clients. Competition is generally based on the variety of products and services offered to clients and the performance of funds under management. The Company's main competitors are financial service providers both within and outside of the geographic areas in which the Bank maintains offices.

The Company faces competition in attracting and retaining qualified employees. Its ability to continue to compete effectively will depend on its ability to attract new employees and retain and motivate existing employees.

Our Business

The Bank offers a variety of traditional financial products and services that are designed to meet the financial needs of the customers and communities it serves. The Bank has been in the basic business of commercial and retail banking for over 70 years, namely attracting deposits and making loans, as well as providing wealth management services. The Company does not engage in any sub-prime lending, nor does it engage in non-commercial banking activities, such as investment banking services.

Deposit and Retail Services

The Bank offers a full range of deposit services that are typically available at most commercial banks and financial institutions, including checking accounts, NOW accounts, money market accounts, savings accounts, and time deposits of various types ranging from shorter-term to longer-term certificates of deposit. The transaction accounts and time deposits are tailored to our primary service area at competitive rates. The Company also offers certain retirement account services, including individual retirement accounts.

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Lending Activities

The Bank originates commercial and industrial, agricultural, commercial real estate, and consumer loans. Substantially all of the Company's borrowers are businesses and residents in the Bank's service areas. The Company's largest category of lending is commercial real estate, followed by commercial and industrial. The mix of properties securing the loans in our commercial real estate portfolio are balanced between owner-occupied and investor categories and are diverse in terms of type and geographic location within the Company's markets. Generally, real estate loans are secured by the land and any improvements to, or developments on, the land. Generally, loan-to-value ratios at time of origination are capped at 50% for unimproved land and 65% for developed land. The Company's consumer loans consist primarily of home equity loans and lines of credit and 1-4 family mortgages.

No individual or single group of related accounts is considered material in relation to the assets or deposits of the Bank or in relation to the overall business of the Company. However, 61% of our loan portfolio consisted of real estate-related loans at December 31, 2013.

For detailed information regarding the Company's loan portfolio, see the "Loan Portfolio and Credit Quality" section of "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in Item 7 of this Form 10-K.

Sources of Funds

The Company's ability to maintain affordable funding sources allows the Bank to meet the credit needs of its customers and the communities it serves. The Bank maintains a relatively stable base of transactional deposits that are the primary source of the Company's funds for lending and other investment purposes. Deposits funded 82% of the Company's assets at the end of 2013 with a loans-to-deposits ratio of 85%. Consumer, commercial, and public deposits come from the Company's primary service areas through a broad selection of deposit products. By maintaining core deposits, the Company both controls its funding costs and builds client relationships.

In addition to deposits, the Company obtains funds from the amortization, repayment, and prepayment of loans; the sale or maturity of investment securities; certificates of deposits; advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank ("FHLB"); securities sold under agreements to repurchase; federal funds purchased; revolving line of credit; cash flows generated by operations; and proceeds from the issuance of debt and sales of the Company's Common Stock. For detailed information regarding the Company's funding sources, see the "Funding and Liquidity Management" section of "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in Item 7 of this Form 10-K.

Investment Activities

The Bank maintains a securities portfolio to provide the Company with financial stability, asset diversification, income, and collateral for borrowing. The Company administers its securities portfolio in accordance with an investment policy that was approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Bank. The Bank's Asset Liability Committee implements the investment policy based on the established guidelines within the written policy.

The basic objectives of the Bank's investment activities are to enhance the profitability of the Company by fully investing available funds, provide adequate regulatory and operational liquidity, minimize and/or adjust the interest rate risk position of the Company, diversify and mitigate the Company's exposure to credit risk, and provide collateral for pledging requirements. For detailed information regarding the Company's securities portfolio, see the "Investment Portfolio Management" section of "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in Item 7 of this Form 10-K.

Supervision and Regulation

The Bank is an Illinois state-chartered bank and a member of the Federal Reserve System, and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System ("Federal Reserve") has the primary federal authority to examine and supervise the Bank in coordination with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (the "IDFPR"). The Company is a single bank holding company and is also subject to the primary regulatory authority

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of the Federal Reserve. The Company and its subsidiaries are also subject to extensive secondary regulation and supervision by various state and federal governmental regulatory authorities including the FDIC, which oversees insured deposits and assets covered by the FDIC Agreements, and the U.S. Department of the Treasury ("Treasury"), which enforces money laundering and currency transaction regulations. As a public company, the Company is also under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and the disclosure and regulatory requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Federal and state laws and regulations generally applicable to financial institutions, including the Company and its subsidiaries, regulate the scope of business, investments, reserves against deposits, capital levels, the nature and amount of collateral for loans, the establishment of branches, mergers, acquisitions, dividends, and other matters. This supervision and regulation is intended primarily for the protection of the FDIC's deposit insurance fund ("DIF"), the depositors, and the stability of the U.S financial system, rather than the stockholders of a financial institution.

The following sections describe the significant elements of the material statutes and regulations affecting the Company and its subsidiaries, many of which are the subject of ongoing revision and legislative rulemaking as a result of the government's long-term regulatory reform of the financial markets and the implementation of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act"), which is discussed in more detail later in this report. In some cases, the new proposals may include a radical overhaul of the regulation of financial institutions or limitations on the products they offer.

The final regulations, regulatory policies, and regulatory and supervisory guidance applicable to the Company and its subsidiaries, and the manner in which market practices and structures develop around the regulations, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and results of operations. The Company cannot accurately predict the nature or the extent of the effects that any such developments will have on its business and earnings.

Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, As Amended

Generally, the BHC Act governs the acquisition and control of banks and non-banking companies by bank holding companies and requires bank holding companies to register with the Federal Reserve. The BHC Act requires a bank holding company to file an annual report of its operations and such additional information as the Federal Reserve may require. A bank holding company and its subsidiaries are subject to examination by the Federal Reserve.

The BHC Act, the Bank Merger Act, and other federal and state statutes regulate acquisitions of commercial banks. The BHC Act requires the prior approval of the Federal Reserve for the direct or indirect acquisition by a bank holding company of more than 5.0% of the voting shares of a commercial bank or its parent holding company. Under the Bank Merger Act, the prior approval of the Federal Reserve or other appropriate bank regulatory authority is required for a member bank to merge with another bank or purchase the assets or assume the deposits of another bank. In reviewing applications seeking approval of merger and acquisition transactions, the bank regulatory authorities will consider, among other things, the competitive effect and public benefits of the transactions, the capital position of the combined organization, the risks to the stability of the U.S. banking or financial system, the applicant's managerial and financial resources, the applicant's performance record under the Community Reinvestment Act and fair housing laws, and the effectiveness of the banks in combating money laundering activities.

In addition, the BHC Act prohibits (with certain exceptions) a bank holding company from acquiring direct or indirect control or ownership, or control of more than 5.0% of the voting shares of any "non-banking" company unless the non-banking activities are found by the Federal Reserve to be "so closely related to banking as to be a proper incident thereto." Under current regulations of the Federal Reserve, a bank holding company and its non-bank subsidiaries are permitted to engage in such banking-related business ventures as consumer finance, equipment leasing, data processing, mortgage banking, financial and investment advice, securities brokerage services, and other activities.

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Transactions with Affiliates

Any transactions between the Bank and the Company and their respective subsidiaries are regulated by the Federal Reserve. The Federal Reserve's regulations limit the types and amounts of covered transactions engaged in by the Bank and generally require those transactions to be on an arm's-length basis. Covered transactions are defined by statute to include:

A loan or extension of credit, as well as a purchase of securities issued by an affiliate.

The purchase of assets from an affiliate, unless otherwise exempted by the Federal Reserve.

Certain derivative transactions that create a credit exposure to an affiliate.

The acceptance of securities issued by an affiliate as collateral for a loan.

The issuance of a guarantee, acceptance, or letter of credit on behalf of an affiliate.

In general, these regulations require that any extension of credit by the Bank (or its subsidiaries) with an affiliate must be secured by designated amounts of specified collateral and must be limited to certain thresholds on an individual and aggregate basis.

The Bank is also limited as to how much and on what terms it may lend to its insiders and the insiders of its affiliates, including executive officers and directors.

Source of Strength

Federal Reserve policy and federal law require bank holding companies to act as a source of financial and managerial strength to their subsidiary banks. Under this requirement, a holding company is expected to commit resources to support its bank subsidiary even at times when the holding company may not be in a financial position to provide it. Any capital loans by a bank holding company to its subsidiary bank are subordinate in right of payment to deposits and to certain other indebtedness of such subsidiary bank. In the event of a bank holding company's bankruptcy, any commitment by the bank holding company to a federal bank regulatory agency to maintain the capital of a bank subsidiary will be assumed by the bankruptcy trustee and entitled to priority of payment.

Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 (the "CRA")

The CRA requires depository institutions to assist in meeting the credit needs of their market areas consistent with safe and sound banking practices. Under the CRA, each depository institution is required to help meet the credit needs of its market areas by providing credit to low-income and moderate-income individuals and communities. Federal regulators conduct CRA examinations on a regular basis to assess the performance of financial institutions and assign one of four ratings to the institution's record of meeting the credit needs of its community. Banking regulators take into account CRA ratings when considering approval of a proposed transaction. During its last examination in August of 2012, the Bank received a rating of "outstanding," the highest rating available.

Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999 (the "GLB Act")

The GLB Act allows certain bank holding companies to elect to be treated as a financial holding company (an "FHC") that may offer customers a more comprehensive array of financial products and services. Such products and services may include insurance and securities underwriting and agency activities, merchant banking, and insurance company portfolio investment activities. Activities that are "complementary" to financial activities are also authorized. Under the GLB Act, the Federal Reserve may not permit a company to register or maintain status as an FHC if the company or any of its insured depository institution subsidiaries are not well-capitalized and well managed. The Federal Reserve may prohibit an FHC from engaging in otherwise permissible activities at its supervisory discretion. In addition, for an FHC to commence any new activity permitted by the BHC Act or to acquire a company engaged in any new activity permitted by the BHC Act, each insured depository institution subsidiary of the FHC must have received a rating of at least "satisfactory" in its most recent examination under the CRA.

In addition, a financial institution may not disclose non-public personal information about a consumer to unaffiliated third parties unless the institution satisfies various disclosure requirements and the consumer has not

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elected to opt out of the information sharing. Under the GLB Act, a financial institution must provide its customers with a notice of its privacy policies and practices. The Federal Reserve, the FDIC, and other financial regulatory agencies issued regulations implementing notice requirements and restrictions on a financial institution's ability to disclose non-public personal information about consumers to unaffiliated third parties.

Bank Secrecy Act and USA PATRIOT Act

The Bank Secrecy and USA PATRIOT Acts require financial institutions to develop programs to prevent them from being used for money laundering, terrorist, and other illegal activities. If such activities are detected or suspected, financial institutions are obligated to file suspicious activity reports with the Treasury's Office of Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. These rules require financial institutions to establish procedures for identifying and verifying the identity of customers seeking to open new accounts. Failure to comply with these sanctions could have serious legal and reputational consequences, including causing applicable bank regulatory authorities not to approve merger or acquisition transactions when regulatory approval is required or to prohibit such transactions even if approval is not required.

Office of Foreign Assets Control Regulation ("OFAC")

The United States imposes economic sanctions that affect transactions with designated foreign countries, nationals, and others. These sanctions are administered by OFAC, an agency of the Treasury. These sanctions include: (i) restrictions on trade with or investment in a sanctioned country, including prohibitions against direct or indirect imports from and exports to a sanctioned country and prohibitions on "U.S. persons" engaging in financial transactions relating to making investments in, or providing investment-related advice or assistance to, a sanctioned country; and (ii) a blocking of assets in which the government or specially designated nationals of the sanctioned country have an interest by prohibiting transfers of property subject to U.S. jurisdiction (including property in the possession or control of U.S. persons). Blocked assets (e.g., property and bank deposits) cannot be paid out, withdrawn, set off, or transferred in any manner without a license from OFAC. Failure to comply with these sanctions could have serious legal and reputational consequences for the institution, including causing applicable bank regulatory authorities not to approve merger or acquisition transactions when regulatory approval is required or to prohibit such transactions even if approval is not required.

Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act

The Dodd-Frank Act significantly restructured the financial regulatory regime in the United States. Although the Dodd-Frank Act's provisions that have received the most public attention generally have been those applying to or more likely to affect larger institutions, such as bank holding companies and banks with total consolidated assets of \$10 billion or more, it contains numerous other provisions that affect all bank holding companies and banks, including the Company and the Bank, some of which are described in more detail below. We are monitoring developments with respect to the provisions applicable to bank holding companies and banks with total consolidated assets of \$10 billion or more in the event that the Company or Bank reaches that size.

Some of these provisions may have the consequence of increasing the Company's expenses, decreasing the Company's revenues, and changing the activities in which the Company chooses to engage. Many aspects of the Dodd-Frank Act are still subject to future rulemaking, implementation, and guidance that will occur over several years, making it difficult to anticipate the overall financial impact on the Company, its customers, or the financial industry in general.

Consumer Financial Protection

The Dodd-Frank Act created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau ("CFPB") as a new and independent unit within the Federal Reserve System. With certain exceptions, the CFPB has authority to regulate any person or entity that engages in offering or providing a "consumer financial product or service" and has rulemaking, examination, and enforcement powers over financial institutions. For primary examination and enforcement authority of financial entities, however, the CFPB's authority is limited to institutions with assets of \$10 billion or more. Existing regulators retain this authority over institutions with assets of \$10 billion or less, such as the Company.

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The powers of the CFPB currently include:

The ability to prescribe consumer financial laws and rules that regulate all institutions that engage in offering or providing a consumer financial product or service.

Primary enforcement and exclusive supervision authority for federal consumer financial laws over "very large" insured institutions with assets of \$10 billion or more. This includes the right to obtain information about an institution's activities and compliance systems and procedures and to detect and assess risks to consumers and markets.

The ability to require reports from institutions with assets under \$10 billion, such as the Bank, to support the CFPB in implementing federal consumer financial laws, supporting examination activities, and assessing and detecting risks to consumers and financial markets.

Examination authority (limited to assessing compliance with federal consumer financial laws) over institutions with assets under \$10 billion, such as the Bank. Specifically, a CFPB examiner may be included on a sampling basis in the examinations performed by the institution's primary regulator.

The CFPB, which commenced operations on July 21, 2011, engages in several activities including (i) investigating consumer complaints about credit cards and mortgages, (ii) launching a supervision program, (iii) conducting research for and developing mandatory financial product disclosures, and (iv) engaging in consumer financial protection rulemaking.

The Bank is also subject to a number of regulations intended to protect consumers in various areas, such as equal credit opportunity, fair lending, customer privacy, identity theft, and fair credit reporting. For example, the Bank is subject to such acts as the Federal Truth in Savings Act, the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, and the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act. Electronic banking activities are subject to federal law, including the Electronic Funds Transfer Act. Wealth management activities of the Bank are subject to the Illinois Corporate Fiduciaries Act. Loans made by the Bank are subject to applicable provisions of the Federal Truth in Lending Act. Other consumer financial laws include the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, Fair Credit Reporting Act, Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, and applicable state laws.

The Federal Reserve has primary responsibility for examination and enforcement of federal consumer financial laws with respect to the Company, and state authorities are responsible for monitoring the Company's compliance with all state consumer laws. Failure to comply with these requirements could have serious legal and reputational consequences for the institution, including causing applicable bank regulatory authorities not to approve merger or acquisition transactions when regulatory approval is required or to prohibit such transactions even if approval is not required.

Interchange Fees

Under the Durbin Amendment of the Dodd-Frank Act, the Federal Reserve established a maximum permissible interchange fee equal to no more than 21 cents plus five basis points of the transaction value for many types of debit interchange transactions. The Federal Reserve also adopted a rule to allow a debit card issuer to recover one cent per transaction for fraud prevention purposes if the issuer complies with certain fraud-related requirements required by the Federal Reserve. The Company is in compliance with these fraud-related requirements. The Federal Reserve also has rules governing routing and exclusivity that require issuers to offer two unaffiliated networks for routing transactions on each debit or prepaid product.

Currently, the Company is exempt from the interchange fee cap under the "small issuer" exemption, which applies to any debit card issuer with total worldwide assets of less than \$10 billion as of the end of the previous calendar year. In the event the Company's assets reach \$10 billion or more, it will become subject to the interchange fee limitations beginning July 1 of the following year, and the fees the Company may receive for an electronic debit transaction will be capped at the statutory limit.

On July 31, 2013, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia found the interchange fee cap and the exclusivity provision adopted by the Federal Reserve to be invalid. The Federal Reserve has appealed this decision, and it is currently uncertain whether the Federal Reserve's original rule will ultimately be upheld or whether the Federal Reserve will be required to revise the rule.

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The Federal Reserve and other federal bank regulators established risk-based capital guidelines to provide a framework for assessing the adequacy of the capital of national and state banks, thrifts, and their holding companies (collectively, "banking institutions"). These guidelines apply to all banking institutions, regardless of size, and are used in the examination and supervisory process by the regulatory authorities. These guidelines require banking institutions to maintain capital based on the 1988 capital accord ("Basel I") of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (the "Basel Committee").

The Basel Committee is a committee of central banks and bank supervisors/regulators from the major industrialized countries that develops broad policy guidelines for use by each country's supervisors in determining the supervisory policies they apply. The requirements are intended to ensure that banking organizations have adequate capital given the risk levels of assets and off-balance sheet financial instruments ("risk-weighted assets").

Capital is classified in one of the following tiers:

Core Capital (Tier 1). Tier 1 capital includes common equity, retained earnings, qualifying non-cumulative perpetual preferred stock, a limited amount of qualifying cumulative perpetual stock at the holding company level, minority interests in equity accounts of consolidated subsidiaries, and qualifying trust-preferred securities, less goodwill, most intangible assets, and certain other assets.

Supplementary Capital (Tier 2). Tier 2 capital includes perpetual preferred stock and trust-preferred securities not meeting the Tier 1 definition, qualifying mandatory convertible debt securities, qualifying subordinated debt, and the allowance for credit losses, subject to limitations.

Regulatory requirements also establish quantitative measures to ensure capital adequacy for banking institutions as follows:

	Adequately Capitalized Requirement	Well-Capitalized Requirement
Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets	4.00%	6.00%
Total capital to risk-weighted assets	8.00%	10.00%
Tier 1 capital to average assets	3.00%	5.00%

Basel III Capital Rules

In July 2013, the Federal Reserve published final rules (the "Basel III Capital Rules") establishing a new comprehensive capital framework for U.S. banking organizations. The rules implement the Basel Committee's December 2010 framework commonly known as "Basel III" for strengthening international capital standards as well as certain provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act. The Basel III Capital Rules substantially revise the risk-based capital requirements applicable to bank holding companies and depository institutions, including the Company and the Bank, compared to the current U.S. risk-based capital rules. The Basel III Capital Rules define the components of capital and address other issues impacting the numerator in banks' regulatory capital ratios. The Basel III Capital Rules also address risk weights and other issues impacting the denominator in regulatory capital ratios and replace the existing risk-weighting approach with a more risk-sensitive approach. In addition, the Basel III Capital Rules implement the requirements of Section 939A of the Dodd-Frank Act to remove references to credit ratings from the federal banking agencies' rules. The Basel III Capital Rules will be effective for the Company and the Bank on January 1, 2015 (subject to a phase-in period).

The Basel III Capital Rules (i) introduce a new capital measure called "Common Equity Tier 1" ("CET1"), (ii) specify that Tier 1 capital consist of CET1 and "Additional Tier 1 Capital" instruments meeting specified requirements, (iii) narrowly define CET1 by requiring that most deductions/adjustments to regulatory capital measures be made to CET1 and not to the other components of capital, and (iv) expand the scope of the deductions/adjustments compared to existing regulations. Bank holding companies with less than \$15 billion in consolidated assets as of December 31, 2009, such as the Company, are permitted to include trust-preferred securities in

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Additional Tier 1 Capital on a permanent basis and without any phase-out. As of December 31, 2013, the Company had \$36.7 million of trust-preferred securities included in Tier 1 capital.

When fully phased in on January 1, 2019, the Basel III Capital Rules will require the Company and the Bank to maintain the following:

A minimum ratio of CET1 to risk-weighted assets of at least 4.5%, plus a 2.5% "capital conservation buffer" (resulting in a minimum ratio of CET1 to risk-weighted assets of at least 7% upon full implementation).

A minimum ratio of Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets of at least 6.0%, plus the capital conservation buffer (resulting in a minimum Tier 1 capital ratio of 8.5% upon full implementation).

A minimum ratio of Total capital (Tier 1 capital plus Tier 2 capital) to risk-weighted assets of at least 8.0%, plus the capital conservation buffer (resulting in a minimum total capital ratio of 10.5% upon full implementation).

A minimum leverage ratio of 4%, calculated as the ratio of Tier 1 capital to average assets.

The capital conservation buffer is designed to absorb losses during periods of economic stress. Banking institutions with a ratio of CET1 to risk-weighted assets above the minimum, but below the conservation buffer, will face constraints on dividends, equity repurchases, and compensation based on the amount of the shortfall. The implementation of the capital conservation buffer will begin on January 1, 2016 at the 0.625% level and be phased in over a four-year period (increasing by that amount on each subsequent January 1 until it reaches 2.5% on January 1, 2019).

The Basel III Capital Rules also provide for a number of deductions from and adjustments to CET1 beginning on January 1, 2015 and will be phased-in over a four-year period (beginning at 40% on January 1, 2015 and an additional 20% per year thereafter). Examples of these include the requirement that mortgage servicing rights, deferred tax assets depending on future taxable income, and significant investments in non-consolidated financial entities be deducted from CET1 to the extent that any one such category exceeds 10% of CET1 or all such categories in the aggregate exceed 15% of CET1. Under current capital standards, the effects of accumulated other comprehensive income items included in capital are excluded for the purposes of determining regulatory capital ratios. Under the Basel III Capital Rules, the effects of certain accumulated other comprehensive items are not excluded; however, the Company and the Bank, may make a one-time permanent election to continue to exclude these items, and the Company and the Bank expect to make such an election.

Finally, the Basel III Capital Rules prescribe a standardized approach for risk weightings that expand the risk-weighting categories from the current four Basel I-derived categories (0%, 20%, 50%, and 100%) to a much larger and more risk-sensitive number of categories depending on the nature of the assets, generally ranging from 0% for U.S. government and agency securities to 600% for certain equity exposures, resulting in higher risk weights for a variety of asset categories.

Management believes that as of December 31, 2013, the Company and the Bank would meet all capital adequacy requirements under the Basel III Capital Rules on a fully phased-in basis as if such requirements were currently in effect.

Liquidity Requirements

Historically, the regulation and monitoring of bank and bank holding company liquidity was addressed as a supervisory matter, without required formulaic measures. The Basel III liquidity framework puts forth regulatory requirements that banks and bank holding companies measure their liquidity against specific liquidity tests. One test, referred to as the liquidity coverage ratio ("LCR"), is designed to ensure that the banking entity maintains an adequate level of unencumbered high-quality liquid assets equal to the entity's expected net cash outflow for a 30-day time horizon (or, if greater, 25% of its expected total cash outflow) under an acute liquidity stress scenario. The other test, referred to as the net stable funding ratio ("NSFR"), is designed to promote more medium- and long-term funding of the assets and activities of banking entities over a one-year time horizon. These requirements will provide an incentive for banking entities to increase their holdings of Treasury securities and other sovereign debt as a component of assets and increase the use of long-term debt as a funding source.

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In October of 2013, the federal banking agencies proposed rules implementing the LCR for advanced approaches banking organizations and a modified version of the LCR for bank holding companies with at least \$50 billion in total consolidated assets that are not advanced approach banking organizations, neither of which would apply to the Company or the Bank. The federal banking agencies have not yet proposed rules to implement the NSFR.

Prompt Corrective Action

The Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended ("FDIA"), requires the federal banking agencies to take "prompt corrective action" for depository institutions that do not meet the minimum capital requirements. The FDIA includes the following five capital tiers: "well capitalized," "adequately capitalized," "undercapitalized," "significantly undercapitalized" and "critically undercapitalized." A depository institution's capital tier will depend on how its capital levels compare with various relevant capital measures and certain other factors, as established by regulation. The relevant capital measures are the total capital ratio, the Tier 1 capital ratio, and the leverage ratio.

A bank will be:

"Well capitalized" if the institution has a total risk-based capital ratio of 10.0% or greater, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 6.0% or greater, and a leverage ratio of 5.0% or greater, and is not subject to any order or written directive by any such regulatory authority to meet and maintain a specific capital level for any capital measure.

"Adequately capitalized" if the institution has a total risk-based capital ratio of 8.0% or greater, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 4.0% or greater, and a leverage ratio of 4.0% or greater and is not "well capitalized."

"Undercapitalized" if the institution has a total risk-based capital ratio that is less than 8.0%, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of less than 4.0% or a leverage ratio of less than 4.0%.

"Significantly undercapitalized" if the institution has a total risk-based capital ratio of less than 6.0%, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of less than 3.0% or a leverage ratio of less than 3.0%.

"Critically undercapitalized" if the institution's tangible equity is equal to or less than 2.0% of average quarterly tangible assets.

An institution may be downgraded to, or deemed to be in, a capital category that is lower than indicated by its capital ratios if it is determined to be in an unsafe or unsound condition or if it receives an unsatisfactory examination rating for certain matters. A bank's capital category is determined solely for the purpose of applying prompt corrective action regulations, and the capital category may not constitute an accurate representation of the bank's overall financial condition or prospects for other purposes. As of December 31, 2013, the Company believes the Bank was "well capitalized" based on its ratios as defined above.

The FDIA generally prohibits a depository institution from making any capital distributions (including payment of a dividend) or paying any management fee to its parent holding company if the depository institution would thereafter be "undercapitalized." "Undercapitalized" institutions are subject to growth limitations and are required to submit a capital restoration plan. The agencies may not accept such a plan without determining that the plan is based on realistic assumptions and is likely to succeed in restoring the depository institution's capital. In addition, the depository institution's parent holding company must guarantee that the institution will comply with the capital restoration plan and must also provide appropriate assurances of performance for a plan to be acceptable. The aggregate liability of the parent holding company is limited to the lesser of an amount equal to 5.0% of the depository institution's total assets at the time it became undercapitalized and the amount which is necessary (or would have been necessary) to bring the institution into compliance with all capital standards applicable to the institution as of the time it fails to comply with the plan. If a depository institution fails to submit an acceptable plan, it is treated as if it is "significantly undercapitalized."

"Significantly undercapitalized" depository institutions may be subject to a number of requirements and restrictions, including orders to sell sufficient voting stock to become "adequately capitalized," requirements to reduce total assets, and cessation of receipt of deposits from correspondent banks. "Critically undercapitalized" institutions are subject to the appointment of a receiver or conservator.

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The Basel III Capital Rules revise the current prompt corrective action requirements effective January 1, 2015 by (i) introducing a CET1 ratio requirement at each level (other than critically undercapitalized), with the required CET1 ratio being 6.5% for well-capitalized status; (ii) increasing the minimum Tier 1 capital ratio requirement for each category (other than critically undercapitalized), with the minimum Tier 1 capital ratio for well-capitalized status being 8% (as compared to the current 6%); and (iii) eliminating the current provision that provides that a bank with a composite supervisory rating of 1 may have a 3% leverage ratio and still be adequately capitalized. The Basel III Capital Rules do not change the total risk-based capital requirement for any prompt corrective action category.

Volcker Rule

The so-called "Volcker Rule" issued under the Dodd-Frank Act restricts the ability of the Company and its subsidiaries, including the Bank, to sponsor or invest in private funds or to engage in certain types of proprietary trading. The Federal Reserve adopted final rules implementing the Volcker Rule on December 10, 2013. Although the Volcker Rule became effective on July 21, 2012 and the final rules are effective April 1, 2014, the Federal Reserve issued an order extending the transition period to July 21, 2015. Banks, such as the Bank, with less than \$10 billion in total consolidated assets that do not engage in any covered activities other than trading in certain government, agency, state or municipal obligations, do not have any significant compliance obligations under the final rules. Although the Company is continuing to evaluate the impact of the Volcker Rule, it generally does not engage in the businesses prohibited by the Volcker Rule; therefore, management does not currently anticipate that the Volcker Rule will have a material effect on the operations of the Company and its subsidiaries.

Illinois Banking Law

The Illinois Banking Act ("IBA") governs the activities of the Bank, an Illinois banking corporation. The IBA (i) defines the powers and permissible activities of an Illinois state-chartered bank, (ii) prescribes corporate governance standards, (iii) imposes approval requirements on mergers of state banks, (iv) prescribes lending limits, and (v) provides for the examination of state banks by the IDFPR. The Banking on Illinois Act ("BIA") amended the IBA to provide a wide range of new activities allowed for Illinois state-chartered banks, including the Bank. The provisions of the BIA are to be construed liberally to create a favorable business climate for banks in Illinois. The main features of the BIA are to expand bank powers through a "wild card" provision that authorizes Illinois state-chartered banks to offer virtually any product or service that any bank or thrift may offer anywhere in the country, subject to restrictions imposed on those other banks and thrifts, certain safety and soundness considerations, and prior notification to the IDFPR and the FDIC.

Dividends

The Company's primary source of liquidity is dividend payments from the Bank. In addition to requirements to maintain adequate capital above regulatory minimums, the Bank is limited in the amount of dividends it can pay to the Company under the IBA. Under this law, the Bank is permitted to declare and pay dividends in amounts up to the amount of its accumulated net profits, provided that it retains in its surplus at least one-tenth of its net profits since the date of the declaration of its most recent dividend until those additions to surplus, in the aggregate, equal the paid-in capital of the Bank. While it continues its banking business, the Bank may not pay dividends in excess of its net profits then on hand (after deductions for losses and bad debts). In addition, the Bank is limited in the amount of dividends it can pay under the Federal Reserve Act and Regulation H. For example, dividends cannot be paid that would constitute a withdrawal of capital; dividends cannot be declared or paid if they exceed a bank's undivided profits; and a bank may not declare or pay a dividend if all dividends declared during the calendar year are greater than current year net income plus retained net income of the prior two years without Federal Reserve approval.

Since the Company is a legal entity, separate and distinct from the Bank, its dividends to stockholders are not subject to the bank dividend guidelines discussed above. However, the Company is subject to other regulatory policies and requirements related to the payment of dividends, including requirements to maintain adequate capital above regulatory minimums. The Federal Reserve and the IDFPR are authorized to determine that the payment of dividends by the Company would be an unsafe or unsound practice and to prohibit payment under certain circumstances related to the financial condition of a bank or bank holding company. The Federal Reserve has taken the position that dividends that would create pressure or undermine the safety and soundness of a subsidiary bank are inappropriate. Due to the current financial and economic environment, the Federal Reserve indicated that bank

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holding companies should carefully review their dividend policy and discourage payment ratios that are at maximum allowable levels unless both asset quality and capital are very strong.

Bank holding companies and banks with average total consolidated assets greater than \$10 billion must conduct an annual stress test of capital and consolidated earnings and losses under one base, both of which are provided by the federal banking agencies. Capital ratios reflected in required stress test calculations will most likely be an important factor considered by the federal banking agencies in evaluating whether proposed payments of dividends or stock repurchases may be an unsafe or unsound practice. In the event that the Company or the Bank grows to assets of \$10 billion or more, the Company will be subject to these stress test requirements.

FDIC Insurance Premiums

The Bank's deposits are insured through the DIF, which is administered by the FDIC. As insurer, the FDIC imposes deposit insurance premiums and is authorized to conduct examinations of, and to require reporting by, FDIC-insured institutions. It may also prohibit any FDIC-insured institution from engaging in any activity the FDIC determines by regulation or order to pose a serious risk to the DIF. Insurance of deposits may be terminated by the FDIC upon a finding that the institution engaged or is engaging in unsafe and unsound practices; is in an unsafe or unsound condition to continue operations; or violated any applicable law, regulation, rule, order, or condition imposed by the FDIC or written agreement entered into with the FDIC.

The FDIC utilizes a risk-based assessment system that imposes insurance premiums based on a risk matrix that takes into account a bank's capital level and supervisory rating. The risk matrix utilizes four risk categories, which are distinguished by capital levels and supervisory ratings. For deposit insurance assessment purposes, an insured depository institution is placed into one of the four risk categories each quarter. An institution's assessment is determined by multiplying its assessment rate by its assessment base.

The total base assessment rates range from 2.5 basis points to 45 basis points. The assessment base is calculated using average consolidated total assets minus average tangible equity. At least semi-annually, the FDIC will update its loss and income projections for the DIF and, if needed, will increase or decrease assessment rates, following notice-and-comment rulemaking, if required.

In addition, institutions with deposits insured by the FDIC are required to pay assessments to fund interest payments on bonds issued by the Financing Corporation, a U.S. government-sponsored enterprise established in 1987 to serve as a financing vehicle for the failed Federal Savings and Loan Association, ("Financing Corporation"). These assessments will continue until the Financing Corporation bonds mature in 2019.

Employee Incentive Compensation

In 2010, the Federal Reserve, along with the other federal banking agencies, issued guidance applying to all banking organizations that requires that their incentive compensation policies be consistent with safety and soundness principles. Under these rules, financial organizations must review their compensation programs to insure that they: (i) provide employees with incentives that appropriately balance risk and reward and that do not encourage imprudent risk; (ii) are compatible with effective controls and risk management; and (iii) are supported by strong corporate governance including active and effective oversight by the banking organization's board of directors. Monitoring methods and processes used by a banking organization should be commensurate with the size and complexity of the organization and its use of incentive compensation.

In addition, the Dodd-Frank Act requires that the federal bank regulatory agencies and the SEC establish joint regulations or guidelines prohibiting incentive-based payment arrangements at specified regulated entities, such as the Company and the Bank, having at least \$1 billion in total assets that encourage inappropriate risks by providing an executive officer, employee, director, or principal shareholder with excessive compensation, fees, or benefits or that could lead to material financial loss to the entity. In addition, these regulators must establish regulations or guidelines requiring enhanced disclosure to regulators of incentive-based compensation arrangements. In 2011, the Federal Reserve, along with other federal banking agencies, proposed such rules, which have not yet been finalized. These proposed rules incorporate many of the executive compensation principles described above, including a prohibition on compensation practices that encourage covered persons to take inappropriate risks by providing such person with excessive compensation.

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Future Legislation

In addition to the specific legislation described above, various legislation and regulation is being considered by Congress and regulatory agencies that may change banking statutes and the Company's operating environment in substantial and unpredictable ways and may increase reporting requirements and compliance costs. These changes could increase or decrease the cost of doing business, limit or expand permissible activities, or affect the competitive balance among banks, savings associations, credit unions, and other financial institutions.

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly, and current reports; proxy statements; and other information with the SEC, and we make this information available free of charge on the investor relations section of our website at www.firstmidwest.com/aboutinvestor_overview.asp. You may read and copy materials we file with the SEC from its Public Reference Room at 100 F. Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the SEC maintains an internet site at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. The following documents are also posted on our website or are available in print upon the request of any stockholder to our Corporate Secretary:

Certificate of Incorporation.

By-Laws.

Charters for our Audit, Compensation, and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees.

Related Person Transaction Policies and Procedures.

Corporate Governance Guidelines.

Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct (the "Code"), which governs our directors, officers, and employees.

Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers.

Within the time period required by the SEC and the NASDAQ Stock Market, we will post on our website any amendment to the Code and any waiver applicable to any executive officer, director, or senior financial officer (as defined in the Code). In addition, our website includes information concerning purchases and sales of our securities by our executive officers and directors. The Company's accounting and reporting policies conform to U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") and general practice within the banking industry. We post on our website any disclosure relating to certain non-GAAP financial measures (as defined in the SEC's Regulation G) that we may make public orally, telephonically, by webcast, by broadcast, or by similar means from time to time.

Our Corporate Secretary can be contacted by writing to First Midwest Bancorp, Inc., One Pierce Place, Itasca, Illinois 60143, attention: Corporate Secretary. The Company's Investor Relations Department can be contacted by telephone at (630) 875-7533 or by e-mail at investor.relations@firstmidwest.com.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

An investment in our Common Stock is subject to risks inherent in the Company's business. The material risks and uncertainties that management believes affect the Company are described below. Before making an investment decision with respect to any of the Company's securities, you should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties as described below, together with all of the information included herein. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only risks and uncertainties the Company faces. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known or currently deemed immaterial also may have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations and financial condition. If any of the following risks actually occurs, the Company's results of operations and financial condition could be adversely affected, possibly materially. In that event, the trading price of the Company's Common Stock or other securities could decline. The risks discussed below also include forward-looking statements, and actual results may differ substantially from those discussed or implied in these forward-looking statements.

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Risks Related to the Company's Business

Interest Rate and Credit Risks

The Company is subject to interest rate risk.

The Company's earnings and cash flows largely depend on its net interest income. Net interest income equals the difference between interest income and fees earned on interest-earning assets (such as loans and securities) and interest expense incurred on interest-bearing liabilities (such as deposits and borrowed funds). Interest rates are highly sensitive to many factors that are beyond the Company's control, including general economic conditions and policies of various governmental and regulatory agencies, particularly the Federal Reserve. Changes in monetary policy, including changes in interest rates, could influence the amount of interest the Company earns on loans and securities and the amount of interest it pays on deposits and borrowings. These changes could also affect (i) the Company's ability to originate loans and obtain deposits, (ii) the fair value of the Company's financial assets and liabilities, and (iii) the average duration of the Company's securities portfolio. If the interest rates paid on deposits and other borrowings increase at a faster rate than the interest rates received on loans and other investments, the Company's net interest income, and therefore earnings, could be adversely affected. Earnings could also be adversely affected if the interest rates received on loans and other investments fall more quickly than the interest rates paid on deposits and other borrowings.

Although management believes it implements effective asset and liability management strategies to reduce the potential effects of changes in interest rates on the Company's results of operations, any substantial, unexpected, prolonged change in market interest rates could have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition and results of operations. See the section captioned "Net Interest Income" in Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," located elsewhere in this report for further discussion related to the Company's management of interest rate risk.

The repeal of federal prohibitions on payment of interest on demand deposits could increase the Company's interest expense.

All federal prohibitions on the ability of financial institutions to pay interest on demand deposit accounts were repealed as part of the Dodd-Frank Act beginning in July 2011. As a result, some financial institutions, including the Company, now offer interest on demand deposits to compete for customers. The Company's interest expense will increase and its net interest margin will decrease if it offers higher interest on demand deposits to attract additional customers or maintain current customers, which could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations.

The Company is subject to lending risk.

There are inherent risks associated with the Company's lending activities. Underwriting and documentation controls cannot mitigate all credit risk, especially those outside the Company's control. These risks include the impact of changes in interest rates, changes in the economic conditions in the markets in which the Company operates as well as those across the U.S., and the ability of borrowers to repay loans based on their respective circumstances. Increases in interest rates as well as continuing weakened economic conditions could adversely impact the ability of borrowers to repay outstanding loans or the value of the collateral securing those loans.

In particular, continuing economic weakness in real estate and related markets could further increase the Company's lending risk as it relates to its commercial real estate loan portfolio and the value of the underlying collateral. The Company is also subject to various laws and regulations that affect its lending activities. Failure to comply with applicable laws and regulations could subject the Company to regulatory enforcement action that could result in the assessment of significant civil monetary penalties against the Company and other actions.

As of December 31, 2013, the Company's loan portfolio consisted of corporate loans totaling 86.6%, the majority of which is secured by commercial real estate, and 13.4% of consumer loans. The deterioration of these loans could cause a significant increase in non-performing loans. An increase in non-performing loans could result in a net loss of earnings from these loans, an increase in the provision for loan and covered loan losses, and an increase in loan charge-offs, all of which could have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition and results of

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operations. See the section captioned "Loan Portfolio and Credit Quality" in Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," located elsewhere in this report for further discussion related to corporate and consumer loans.

Real estate market volatility and future changes in disposition strategies could result in net proceeds that differ significantly from fair value appraisals of loan collateral and OREO and could negatively impact the Company's operating performance.

Many of the Company's non-performing real estate loans are collateral-dependent, and the repayment of the loan largely depends on the value of the collateral securing the loan and the successful operation of the property. For collateral-dependent loans, the Company estimates the value of the loan based on the appraised value of the underlying collateral less costs to sell. The Company's OREO portfolio consists of properties acquired through foreclosure in partial or total satisfaction of certain loans as a result of borrower defaults.

In determining the value of OREO properties and other loan collateral, an orderly disposition of the property is generally assumed, except where a different disposition strategy is expected. The disposition strategy the Company has in place for a non-performing loan will determine the appraised value it uses (e.g., "as-is", "orderly liquidation", or "forced liquidation"). Significant judgment is required in estimating the fair value of property, and the period of time within which such estimates can be considered current is significantly shortened during periods of market volatility.

In response to market conditions and other economic factors, the Company may utilize alternative sale strategies other than orderly dispositions as part of its disposition strategy, such as immediate liquidation s