

FIRST BANCORP /PR/  
Form 8-K  
January 29, 2018

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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20549

Form 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

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

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported): January 29, 2018

First BanCorp.  
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Puerto Rico                      001-14793    66-0561822  
(State or Other Jurisdiction (Commission (I.R.S. Employer  
of Incorporation)              File Number) Identification No.)

1519 Ponce de Leon Ave.  
P.O. Box 9146                                              00908-0146  
San Juan, Puerto Rico  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

(787) 729-8200  
(Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code)

Not applicable  
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

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Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

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Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On January 29, 2018, First BanCorp. (the “Corporation”), the bank holding company for FirstBank Puerto Rico “FirstBank” or “the Bank”), issued a press release announcing its unaudited results of operations for the quarter and year ended December 31, 2017. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

A copy of the presentation that the Corporation will use at its conference call to discuss its financial results for the the quarter and year ended December 31, 2017 is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.2 and is incorporated herein by reference. As announced in a press release dated January 19, 2018, the call may be accessed via a live Internet webcast at 10:00 a.m. Eastern time on Monday, January 29, 2018 through the investor relations section of the Corporation’s website: [www.1firstbank.com](http://www.1firstbank.com) or through the dial-in telephone number 877-506-6537 or 412-380-2001 for international callers. The conference number is 10116386.

The Corporation has included in this press release the following financial measures that are not recognized under generally accepted accounting principles, which are referred to as non-GAAP financial measures:

Net interest income, interest rate spread, and net interest margin are reported excluding the changes in the fair value of derivative instruments and on a tax-equivalent basis in order to provide to investors the additional information about the Corporation’s net interest income that management uses and believes should facilitate comparability and analysis. The changes in the fair value of derivative instruments have no effect on interest due or interest earned on interest-bearing liabilities or interest-earning assets, respectively. The tax-equivalent adjustment to net interest income recognizes the income tax savings when comparing taxable and tax-exempt assets and assumes a marginal income tax rate. Income from tax-exempt earning assets is increased by an amount equivalent to the taxes that would have been paid if this income had been taxable at statutory rates. Management believes that it is a standard practice in the banking industry to present net interest income, interest rate spread, and net interest margin on a fully tax-equivalent basis. This adjustment puts all earning assets, most notably tax-exempt securities and certain loans, on a common basis that facilitates comparison of results to the results of peers.

The tangible common equity ratio and tangible book value per common share are non-GAAP financial measures generally used by the financial community to evaluate capital adequacy. Tangible common equity is total equity less preferred equity, goodwill, core deposit intangibles, and other intangibles, such as the purchased credit card relationship intangible and the insurance customer relationship intangible. Tangible assets are total assets less goodwill, core deposit intangibles, and other intangibles, such as the purchased credit card relationship intangible and the insurance customer relationship intangible. Management and many stock analysts use the tangible common equity ratio and tangible book value per common share in conjunction with more traditional bank capital ratios to compare the capital adequacy of banking organizations with significant amounts of goodwill or other intangible assets, typically stemming from the use of the purchase method of accounting for mergers and acquisitions. Accordingly, the Corporation believes that disclosures of these financial measures may be useful also to investors. Neither tangible common equity nor tangible assets, or the related measures should be considered in isolation or as a substitute for stockholders’ equity, total assets, or any other measure calculated in accordance with GAAP. Moreover, the manner in which the Corporation calculates its tangible common equity, tangible assets, and any other related measures may differ from that of other companies reporting measures with similar names.

Adjusted pre-tax, pre-provision income is a non-GAAP performance metric that management uses and believes that investors may find useful in analyzing underlying performance trends, particularly in times of economic stress, including as a result of natural catastrophes such as the recent hurricanes. Adjusted pre-tax, pre-provision income, as defined by management, represents income (loss) before income taxes excluding the provision for loan and lease losses, as well as certain items that management believes are not reflective of core operating performance, are not

expected to reoccur with any regularity or may reoccur at uncertain times and in uncertain amounts.

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Adjusted provision for loan and lease losses, adjusted net charge-offs and the ratios of adjusted net charge-offs to average loans, adjusted provision for loan and lease losses to net charge-offs, and the adjusted allowance to total loans held for investment are non-GAAP financial measures that excludes the effects related to: (a) the \$4.8 million incremental provision recorded in the fourth quarter of 2017 associated with the estimate of inherent losses resulting from the impact of Hurricanes Maria and Irma, (b) the establishment in the third quarter of 2017 of a \$66.5 million provision for loan and lease losses directly related to the initial estimate, based on available information, of inherent losses resulting from the impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, (c) the effect related to the sale of the Corporation's participation in the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority ("PREPA") line of credit in the first quarter of 2017, and (d) the effects related to the sale of a \$16.3 million pool of non-performing assets in the fourth quarter of 2016. Management believes that this information helps investors understand the adjusted measures without regard to items that are not expected to reoccur with any regularity or may reoccur at uncertain times and in uncertain amounts on reported results and facilitates comparisons with prior periods.

Adjusted non-interest income that excludes the effect of a gain on the repurchase and cancellation of trust preferred securities in the third quarter of 2017, the effect of a gain from a the recovery of a residual collateralized mortgage obligation ("CMO") previously written off recorded in the fourth quarter of 2016, and the effect of brokerage and insurance commissions from the sale of large fixed annuities contracts in the fourth quarter of 2016. Management believes that the exclusion from non-interest income of items that are not expected to reoccur with any regularity or may reoccur at uncertain times or in uncertain amounts facilitates comparisons with prior periods, and provides an alternate presentation of the Corporation's performance.

Adjusted non-interest expenses that reflect the exclusion of storm-related costs such as insurance deductibles related to damages assessed on certain other real estate owned ("OREO") properties and estimated storm-related costs not recoverable under insurance policies such as costs incurred for storm relief efforts and assistance to employees affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the fourth and third quarters of 2017, inclusion of expected insurance recoveries for employees' compensation and rental costs that the Corporation incurred when Hurricanes Irma and Maria precluded employees from working during the fourth and third quarters of 2017, the exclusion of costs associated with secondary offerings of the Corporation's common stock by certain of the existing stockholders in the third quarter of 2017 and fourth quarter of 2016, adjustment recorded in the fourth quarter of 2016 to reduce the credit card rewards liability due to unusually large customer forfeitures related to the expiration of reward points earned by customers up to September 2013 (the acquisition date of the credit card portfolio from FIA in May 2012), and the effect of incentive costs related to the sale of large fixed annuities contracts in the fourth quarter of 2016. Management believes that adjustments to non-interest expenses of items that are above normal or recurring levels, are not expected to reoccur with any regularity or may reoccur at uncertain times and in uncertain amounts facilitate comparisons with prior periods, and provides an alternate presentation of the Corporation's performance.

Adjusted net income that reflects the effect of all the items mentioned above and their tax related impacts. Management believes that adjustments to net income of items that are not reflective of core operating performance, are not expected to reoccur with any regularity or may reoccur at uncertain times and in uncertain amounts facilitate comparisons with prior periods, and provides an alternate presentation of the Corporation's performance.

The Corporation uses and believes that these non-GAAP financial measures enhance the ability of analysts and investors to analyze trends in the Corporation's business and better understand the performance of the Corporation. In addition, the Corporation may utilize these non-GAAP financial measures as a guide in its budgeting and long-term planning process. Any analysis of these non-GAAP financial measures should be used only in conjunction with results presented in accordance with GAAP.

The release includes a reconciliation of these non-GAAP financial measures to the GAAP financial measures, except for the ratios of adjusted provision for loan and lease losses to net charge-offs for the fourth and third quarters of 2017, the fourth quarter of 2016, and for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 and the adjusted allowance for loan and lease losses to total loans held for investment as of December 31, 2017 and September 30, 2017, that is included below:

(In thousands)	Provision for loan and lease losses to Net Charge-Offs (GAAP to Non-GAAP reconciliation)		Provision for loan and lease losses to Net Charge-Offs (GAAP to Non-GAAP reconciliation)	
	Quarter Ended December 31, 2017	Quarter Ended September 30, 2017	Provision for Loan and Lease Losses	Net Charge-Offs
Provision for loan and lease losses and net charge-offs (GAAP)	\$25,703	\$24,730	\$75,013	\$ 17,628
Less Special items:				
Storm-related provision for loan and lease losses	4,814	2,930	66,490	-
Provision for loan and lease losses and net charge-offs, excluding special items (Non-GAAP)	\$20,889	\$21,800	\$8,523	\$ 17,628
Provision for loan and lease losses to net charge-offs (GAAP)	103.94	%	425.54	%
Provision for loan and lease losses to net charge-offs, excluding special items (Non-GAAP)	95.82	%	48.35	%
	Provision for loan and lease losses to Net Charge-Offs (GAAP to Non-GAAP reconciliation)			
	Quarter Ended December 31, 2016			
(In thousands)	Provision for Loan and Lease Losses	Net Charge-Offs		
Provision for loan and lease losses and net charge-offs (GAAP)	\$23,191	\$31,658		
Less Special items:				

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Sale of a \$16.3 million pool of non-performing assets	1,799	4,631
Provision for loan and lease losses and net charge-offs, excluding special items (Non-GAAP)	\$21,392	\$27,027
Provision for loan and lease losses to net charge-offs (GAAP)	73.26	%
Provision for loan and lease losses to net charge-offs, excluding special items (Non-GAAP)	79.15	%

(In thousands)	Provision for loan and lease losses to Net Charge-Offs (GAAP to Non-GAAP reconciliation)		Provision for loan and lease losses to Net Charge-Offs (GAAP to Non-GAAP reconciliation)	
	Year Ended December 31, 2017		Year Ended December 31, 2016	
	Provision for Loan and Lease Losses	Net Charge-Offs	Provision for Loan and Lease Losses	Net Charge-Offs
Provision for loan and lease losses and net charge-offs (GAAP)	\$144,254	\$ 118,014	\$86,733	\$ 121,840
Less Special items:				
Storm-related provision for loan and lease losses	71,304	2,930	-	-
Sale of the PREPA credit line	569	10,734	-	-
Sale of a \$16.3 million pool of non-performing assets	-	-	1,799	4,631
Provision for loan and lease losses and net charge-offs, excluding special items (Non-GAAP)	\$72,381	\$ 104,350	\$84,934	\$ 117,209
Provision for loan and lease losses to net charge-offs (GAAP)	122.23	%	71.19	%
Provision for loan and lease losses to net charge-offs, excluding special items (Non-GAAP)	69.36	%	72.46	%

Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses to Total Loans Held for Investment (GAAP to Non-GAAP reconciliation)	Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses to Total Loans Held for Investment (GAAP to Non-GAAP reconciliation)
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As of December 31, 2017

As of September 30,  
2017

(In thousands)	Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses	Total Loans Held for Investment	Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses	Total Loans Held for Investment
Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses and Total Loans Held for Investment (GAAP)	\$231,843	\$ 8,850,476	\$230,870	\$ 8,877,214
Less Special items:				
Storm-related allowance for loan and lease losses	68,374	-	66,490	-
Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses and Total Loans Held for Investment, excluding special items (Non-GAAP)	\$163,469	\$ 8,850,476	\$164,380	\$ 8,877,214
Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses to Total Loans Held for Investment (GAAP)	2.62	%	2.60	%
Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses to Total Loans Held for Investment, excluding special items (Non-GAAP)	1.85	%	1.85	%



Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit Description of Exhibit

99.1 Press Release dated January 29, 2018 - First BanCorp Announces Earnings for the quarter and year ended December 31, 2017

99.2 First BanCorp Conference Call Presentation – Financial Results for the quarter and year ended December 31, 2017

Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2 referenced therein, shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, nor shall Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2 be deemed incorporated by reference in any filings under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Exhibit Index

Exhibit Description of Exhibit

99.1 Press Release dated January 29, 2018 - First BanCorp Announces Earnings for the quarter and year ended December 31, 2017

99.2 First BanCorp Conference Call Presentation – Financial Results for the quarter and year ended December 31, 2017

SIGNATURE

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 hereunto duly authorized.

Date: January 29, 2018 **First BanCorp.**

By: /s/ Orlando Berges  
Name: Orlando Berges  
Title: EVP and Chief Financial Officer