

CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP

Form 10-Q

November 15, 2010

[Table of Contents](#)

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D. C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2010

OR

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number: 1-15773

CADENCE FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

Mississippi
(State or other jurisdiction of

64-0694775
(I. R. S. Employer

incorporation or organization)

Identification No.)

301 University Drive, P. O. Box 1187, Starkville, Mississippi
(Address of principal executive offices)

39760
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (662) 323-1341

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report): N/A

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant 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 whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the 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 ☒

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

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date:

Common Stock, \$1 Par Value 11,909,127 shares as of September 30, 2010.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I. Financial Information

<u>Item 1. Financial Statements</u>	3
<u>Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss) for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 (unaudited)</u>	3
<u>Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss) for the Three Months Ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 (unaudited)</u>	4
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2010 (unaudited) and December 31, 2009</u>	5
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010 and 2009 (unaudited)</u>	6
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited)</u>	7
<u>Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	13
<u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u>	39
<u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures</u>	41

PART II. Other Information

<u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings</u>	41
<u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u>	42
<u>Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u>	52
<u>Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u>	52
<u>Item 4. Reserved</u>	52
<u>Item 5. Other Information</u>	52
<u>Item 6. Exhibits</u>	52

Table of Contents**PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION****CADENCE FINANCIAL CORPORATION****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (LOSS)****FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2010 AND 2009****(Unaudited)**

(Amounts in thousands, except per share data)	2010	2009
<i>INTEREST INCOME</i>		
Interest and fees on loans	\$ 39,242	\$ 47,639
Interest and dividends on securities	10,829	14,333
Other interest income	576	273
Total interest income	50,647	62,245
<i>INTEREST EXPENSE</i>		
Interest on deposits	16,570	21,690
Interest on borrowed funds	4,056	5,993
Total interest expense	20,626	27,683
Net interest income	30,021	34,562
Provision for loan losses	13,317	76,460
Net interest income (loss) after provision for loan losses	16,704	(41,898)
<i>OTHER INCOME</i>		
Service charges on deposit accounts	5,427	6,349
Trust Department income	1,519	1,500
Other income	3,932	4,896
Securities gains (losses), net	838	1,062
Total other income	11,716	13,807
<i>OTHER EXPENSE</i>		
Salaries and employee benefits	17,952	20,984
Premises and fixed asset expense	5,674	5,682
Impairment loss on goodwill		66,542
Other expense	21,029	19,637
Total other expense	44,655	112,845
Income (loss) from continuing operations, before income taxes	(16,235)	(140,936)
Income tax expense (benefit)	(5,957)	(30,053)

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

Net income (loss) from continuing operations	(10,278)	(110,883)
Income (loss) from discontinued operations, before income taxes		649
Income tax expense (benefit)		364
Net income (loss) from discontinued operations		285
Net income (loss)	(10,278)	(110,598)
Preferred stock dividend and accretion of discount	1,425	1,626
Net income (loss) applicable to common shareholders	\$ (11,703)	\$ (112,224)
Net income (loss) per share from continuing operations - basic and diluted	\$ (0.86)	\$ (9.31)
Net income (loss) per share from discontinued operations - basic and diluted	\$	\$ 0.02
Net income (loss) per share - basic and diluted	\$ (0.86)	\$ (9.28)
Net income (loss) applicable to common shareholders per share - basic and diluted	\$ (0.98)	\$ (9.42)
Dividends per common share	\$	\$ 0.05

Table of Contents

CADENCE FINANCIAL CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (LOSS)

FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2010 AND 2009

(Unaudited)

(Amounts in thousands, except per share data)	2010	2009
<i>INTEREST INCOME</i>		
Interest and fees on loans	\$ 12,412	\$ 15,464
Interest and dividends on securities	3,433	4,608
Other interest income	233	98
Total interest income	16,078	20,170
<i>INTEREST EXPENSE</i>		
Interest on deposits	4,941	6,817
Interest on borrowed funds	1,359	1,760
Total interest expense	6,300	8,577
Net interest income	9,778	11,593
Provision for loan losses	8,495	20,704
Net interest income (loss) after provision for loan losses	1,283	(9,111)
<i>OTHER INCOME</i>		
Service charges on deposit accounts	1,688	2,219
Trust Department income	531	527
Other income	1,232	1,511
Securities gains (losses), net	5	923
Total other income	3,456	5,180
<i>OTHER EXPENSE</i>		
Salaries and employee benefits	5,825	6,902
Premises and fixed asset expense	1,868	1,910
Other expense	8,418	8,558
Total other expense	16,111	17,370
Income (loss) from continuing operations, before income taxes	(11,372)	(21,301)
Income tax expense (benefit)	(3,937)	(8,475)
Net income (loss) from continuing operations	(7,435)	(12,826)
Income (loss) from discontinued operations, before income taxes		646

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

Income tax expense (benefit)		247
Net income (loss) from discontinued operations		399
Net income (loss)	(7,435)	(12,427)
Preferred stock dividend and accretion of discount	109	652
Net income (loss) applicable to common shareholders	\$ (7,544)	\$ (13,079)
Net income (loss) per share from continuing operations - basic and diluted	\$ (0.62)	\$ (1.08)
Net income (loss) per share from discontinued operations - basic and diluted	\$	\$ 0.03
Net income (loss) per share - basic and diluted	\$ (0.62)	\$ (1.04)
Net income (loss) applicable to common shareholders per share - basic and diluted	\$ (0.63)	\$ (1.10)
Dividends per common share	\$	\$

Table of Contents**CADENCE FINANCIAL CORPORATION****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

(Amounts in thousands)	Sept. 30, 2010 (Unaudited)	Dec. 31, 2009
ASSETS		
Cash and due from banks	\$ 28,762	\$ 17,450
Interest-bearing deposits with banks	267,373	249,460
Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell	1,744	30,125
Total cash and cash equivalents	297,879	297,035
Securities available-for-sale	361,978	330,079
Securities held-to-maturity (estimated fair value of \$2,717 at September 30, 2010 and \$2,741 at December 31, 2009)	2,667	2,671
Other securities	13,240	13,313
Total securities	377,885	346,063
Loans	944,967	1,091,477
Less: allowance for loan losses	(38,179)	(43,422)
Net loans	906,788	1,048,055
Interest receivable	5,961	7,338
Premises and equipment, net	30,008	31,247
Goodwill and other intangible assets	1,033	1,384
Other assets	113,569	113,333
Total Assets	\$ 1,733,123	\$ 1,844,455
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Liabilities:		
Noninterest-bearing deposits	\$ 181,110	\$ 170,722
Interest-bearing deposits	1,218,934	1,329,088
Total deposits	1,400,044	1,499,810
Interest payable	1,458	2,046
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	82,055	87,432
Subordinated debentures	30,928	30,928
Other borrowed funds	96,484	96,640
Other liabilities	10,162	7,845
Total liabilities	1,621,131	1,724,701
Shareholders' Equity:		
Preferred stock \$10 par value, authorized 10,000,000 shares as of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009; issued 44,000 shares as of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009	42,422	42,097
Common stock \$1 par value, authorized 140,000,000 shares as of September 30, 2010 and 50,000,000 shares as of December 31, 2009; issued 11,909,127 shares as of September 30, 2010 and 11,912,564 shares as of December 31, 2009	11,909	11,913

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

Surplus	96,035	95,931
Retained earnings (accumulated deficit)	(44,535)	(32,832)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	6,161	2,645
Total shareholders' equity	111,992	119,754
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	\$ 1,733,123	\$ 1,844,455

Table of Contents

CADENCE FINANCIAL CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2010 AND 2009

(Unaudited)

(Amounts in thousands)	2010	2009
<i>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</i>		
Net income (loss)	\$ (10,278)	\$ (110,598)
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	2,344	2,628
Deferred income taxes	(7,228)	(25,312)
Provision for loan losses	13,317	76,460
Net performance share activity	100	81
Loss (gain) on sale of securities, net	(838)	(1,062)
Impairment loss on goodwill		66,542
Gain on sale of GCM Insurance assets		(502)
(Increase) decrease in interest receivable	1,377	1,603
(Increase) decrease in loans held for sale	1,021	1,839
(Increase) decrease in other assets	4,604	(326)
Increase (decrease) in interest payable	(588)	(1,023)
Increase (decrease) in other liabilities	2,161	1,462
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	5,992	11,792
<i>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</i>		
Proceeds from maturities and calls of securities	92,421	426,413
Proceeds from sale of securities	28,181	114,562
Purchase of securities	(145,892)	(518,992)
Net cash proceeds from sale of GCM Insurance assets		417
(Increase) decrease in loans	126,929	94,498
(Additions) disposal of premises and equipment	(544)	(43)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	101,095	116,855
<i>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</i>		
Increase (decrease) in deposits	(99,766)	(49,715)
Issuance of preferred stock		44,000
Dividend paid on preferred stock	(1,100)	(1,320)
Dividend paid on common stock		(595)
Net change in federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	(5,377)	(9,736)
Net change in short-term FHLB borrowings		(20,000)
Proceeds from long-term debt		35,000
Repayment of long-term debt		(102,277)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(106,243)	(104,643)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	844	24,004
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	297,035	61,233
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 297,879	\$ 85,237

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

Cash paid during the period for:

Interest	\$ 21,214	\$ 28,706
Income tax	\$	\$

Table of Contents

CADENCE FINANCIAL CORPORATION

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Cadence Financial Corporation (the Corporation), Cadence Bank, N.A. (Cadence or the Bank), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Corporation, Enterprise Bancshares, Inc. (Enterprise), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Corporation, Cadence Insurance Services of Mississippi (formerly Galloway-Chandler-McKinney Insurance Agency, Inc. (GCM)), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cadence, NBC Insurance Services of Alabama, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cadence, and NBC Service Corporation (NBC Service), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cadence. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

On August 31, 2010, Commerce National Insurance Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NBC Service, was liquidated, and its assets and liabilities were transferred to NBC Service. This transaction did not impact the Corporation's financial position or results of operations. On August 31, 2009, the Bank completed the disposition of the assets used in and liabilities arising from GCM's operations and changed its name to Cadence Insurance Services of Mississippi. See Note 11 for additional information relating to this transaction.

In the process of preparing these financial statements, management makes certain estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts that appear in these statements. Management believes that such estimates and assumptions are reasonable and are based on the best information available; however, actual results could differ. The results of operations in the interim statements are not necessarily indicative of results that may be expected for the full year.

In the opinion of management, all adjustments necessary for the fair presentation of the financial statements presented in this report have been made. Such adjustments were of a normal recurring nature unless otherwise disclosed in this Form 10-Q.

Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America have been condensed or omitted. It is suggested that these financial statements be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto included in the Corporation's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009.

The Corporation's management has evaluated the effect of subsequent events on these financial statements through the date the financial statements were issued.

Note 1. Merger Proceedings

On October 6, 2010, Community Bancorp LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (CBC) and the Corporation entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (Agreement) pursuant to which a wholly-owned subsidiary of CBC will be merged with and into the Corporation, with the Corporation continuing thereafter as a wholly-owned subsidiary of CBC (the Merger).

Under the terms of the Agreement, the Corporation's common shareholders will receive a cash payment of \$2.50 per share, which approximates \$29.8 million. In addition, the Corporation has been notified that CBC has entered into an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) to purchase the \$44.0 million of the Corporation's preferred stock and the associated warrant issued to Treasury under the Capital Purchase Program for \$38.0 million in cash, plus approximately \$1.0 million in cash for accrued but unpaid dividends with respect to the preferred stock through October 29, 2010, subject to certain closing conditions. Consummation of the Merger is subject to approval by regulatory authorities, approval by the Corporation's shareholders, and certain other conditions set forth in the Agreement. The Merger is expected to close no later than the first quarter of 2011. Following the consummation of the Merger, the Corporation will no longer be a publicly held corporation.

Note 2. Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

In July 2010, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2010-20, Disclosures about the Credit Quality of Financing Receivables and the Allowance for Credit Losses. This guidance will require companies to provide additional disclosures relating to the credit quality of their financing receivables and the credit reserves held against them, including the aging of past-due receivables, credit quality indicators, and modifications of financing receivables. For public companies, the disclosure requirements as of the

Table of Contents

end of a reporting period are effective for periods ending on or after December 15, 2010, and the disclosure requirements for activity occurring during a reporting period are effective for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2010. For nonpublic companies, the disclosure requirements are effective for annual reporting periods ending on or after December 15, 2011. The Corporation is currently evaluating the possible effects of this guidance on its financial statement disclosures.

Note 3. Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

Goodwill represents the cost of acquired institutions in excess of the fair value of the net assets acquired. In accordance with FASB Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 350, Intangibles-Goodwill and Other, the Corporation did not amortize goodwill but periodically tested it for impairment using a two-step approach. The first step is to determine whether impairment could exist. If the results of the first step of testing indicate that impairment does not exist, the test is complete. If the results of the first step indicate that impairment could exist, the second step of testing must be performed. The Corporation completed its periodic impairment test in accordance with ASC 350 as of September 30, 2008. Based on the results of the first step of testing, management concluded that no impairment writedown was warranted as of September 30, 2008.

ASC Topic 350 also requires that goodwill be tested for impairment between annual tests if an event occurs or circumstances change that would more likely than not reduce the fair value of a reporting unit below its carrying amount. Several events occurred during the first quarter of 2009 that triggered an additional test of goodwill for impairment, including the Corporation's results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2009, the changes in credit quality of the Bank's loan portfolio, and the continued general decline in the economy. The Corporation engaged an outside consultant to perform this additional goodwill impairment testing. Due primarily to the decline in the market value of the Corporation's stock and the decline in prices paid in comparable bank acquisition transactions between December 31, 2008 and March 31, 2009, the first step of the goodwill impairment test indicated that potential impairment existed and the second step of testing should be performed to determine the amount of impairment. In the second step of the test, the Corporation's balance sheet was marked to market to determine the current fair value of the goodwill that should be recorded on the balance sheet. The test concluded that the Corporation's goodwill was fully impaired as of March 31, 2009. As a result, a goodwill impairment charge of \$66.8 million (\$304,000 of which related to GCM) was recognized as of that date, and the charge eliminated all goodwill previously reflected on the Corporation's balance sheet.

Other identifiable intangible assets consist primarily of the core deposit premiums arising from acquisitions. The core deposit premiums were established using the discounted cash flow approach and are being amortized using an accelerated method over the estimated remaining life of the acquired core deposits.

Note 4. Performance Shares and Stock Options

The Corporation accounts for stock options in accordance with ASC Topic 718, Compensation-Stock Compensation. This guidance requires that the fair value of equity instruments exchanged for employee services (as determined on the grant date of the award) be recognized as compensation cost over the period during which an employee is required to provide service in exchange for the award—the requisite service period (usually the vesting period). Changes in fair value during the requisite service period are recognized as compensation cost over that period.

The Corporation has one active Long Term Incentive Compensation Plan (the LTIP), which is administered by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. Under the LTIP, 750,000 shares of common stock have been reserved for issuance to the Corporation's eligible employees, as well as the directors and employees of certain of the Corporation's affiliates. In 2007 and 2008, under the provisions of the LTIP, the Compensation Committee awarded performance shares of stock to certain eligible employees. No awards were granted in 2009 or in the nine month period ended September 30, 2010. The shares vest in equal amounts over a four-year period after they are earned.

As of September 30, 2010, a total of 38,945 performance shares are outstanding, all of which have been earned. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, compensation expense relating to performance shares totaled \$35,000 and \$101,000, respectively. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2009, compensation expense relating to performance shares totaled \$51,000 and \$119,000, respectively.

Table of Contents**Note 5. Variable Interest Entities**

On December 30, 2003, the Corporation issued \$30.9 million of subordinated debentures to NBC Capital Corporation (MS) Statutory Trust (Trust). The Trust in turn sold approximately \$30 million of trust preferred securities to investors. The Corporation's obligations under the Debentures and related documents, taken together, practically constitute a full and unconditional guarantee by the Corporation of the trust preferred securities.

On August 9, 2010, the Board of Directors voted to defer regular interest payments on the subordinated debentures issued to the Trust. The Debentures provide for the deferral, from time to time, of the payment of interest of up to 20 consecutive quarterly periods. During these deferral periods, no interest shall be due and payable. At the end of the deferral period, the Corporation shall pay all accrued and unpaid interest on the Debentures, along with additional interest calculated by compounded interest payments quarterly. Interest on the Debentures, as well as the trust preferred securities, is the three month London Interbank Offer Rate (LIBOR) plus 2.85% and is payable quarterly. The Board of Directors believes the deferral of the payment of interest on the Debentures is in the best interest of the Corporation at the present time given the Corporation's desire to conserve and maintain liquidity.

The subordinated debentures are the sole assets of the Trust. In accordance with ASC Topic 810, Consolidation, the Trust is not consolidated into the financial statements of the Corporation.

Note 6. Comprehensive Income

The following tables disclose comprehensive income for the periods reported in the Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss):

(Amounts in thousands)	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009
Net income (loss)	\$ (10,278)	\$ (110,598)
Net change in other comprehensive income, net of tax:		
Realized (gains) losses included in net income	(517)	(656)
Unrealized gains (losses) on securities	4,033	4,282
Net change in other comprehensive income, net of tax	3,516	3,626
Comprehensive income (loss)	\$ (6,762)	\$ (106,972)
Accumulated other comprehensive income at beginning of period	\$ 2,645	\$ 237
Net change in other comprehensive income	3,516	3,626
Accumulated other comprehensive income at end of period	\$ 6,161	\$ 3,863

(Amounts in thousands)	Three Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009
Net income (loss)	\$ (7,435)	\$ (12,427)
Net change in other comprehensive income, net of tax:		
Realized (gains) losses included in net income	(3)	(570)
Unrealized gains (losses) on securities	116	4,812
Net change in other comprehensive income, net of tax	113	4,242
Comprehensive income (loss)	\$ (7,322)	\$ (8,185)

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

Accumulated other comprehensive income at beginning of period	\$ 6,048	\$ (379)
Net change in other comprehensive income	113	4,242
Accumulated other comprehensive income at end of period	\$ 6,161	\$ 3,863

Table of Contents**Note 7. Defined Benefit Pension Plan**

The following table contains the components of the net periodic cost of the Corporation's defined benefit pension plan for the periods indicated:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009
(Amounts in thousands)		
Service cost	\$ 516	\$ 535
Interest cost	497	559
Expected return on assets	(601)	(676)
Net (gain)/loss recognition	268	252
Prior service cost amortization	(59)	(66)
Preliminary net periodic cost	621	604
Immediate recognition due to settlement and curtailment	450	666
Net periodic cost	\$ 1,071	\$ 1,270

	Three Months Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009
(Amounts in thousands)		
Service cost	\$ 172	\$ 178
Interest cost	166	186
Expected return on assets	(200)	(225)
Net (gain)/loss recognition	89	84
Prior service cost amortization	(20)	(22)
Preliminary net periodic cost	207	201
Immediate recognition due to settlement and curtailment	150	222
Net periodic cost	\$ 357	\$ 423

The expected rate of return for 2010 and 2009 was 7.0%.

Note 8. Investment Securities

In accordance with ASC Topic 320, Investments—Debt and Equity Securities, for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2010, management reviewed the securities portfolio for securities that had unrealized losses for more than twelve months that could be considered other-than-temporary. As of September 30, 2010, approximately 2% of the number of securities in the portfolio reflected an unrealized loss.

In conducting its review for other-than-temporary impairment, management evaluated a number of factors including, but not limited to the following: the amount of the unrealized loss; the length of time in which the unrealized loss has existed; the financial condition of the issuer; rating agency changes on the issuer; and management's intent and ability to hold the security for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in fair value. Based on this review, management does not believe any individual security with an unrealized loss as of September 30, 2010, is other-than-temporarily impaired.

Note 9. Fair Value

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

The following disclosure of the estimated fair value of financial instruments is made in accordance with ASC Topic 825, Financial Instruments. The estimated fair value amounts have been determined using available market information and appropriate valuation methodologies. However, considerable judgment is necessarily required to interpret market data to develop the estimates of fair value. Accordingly, the estimates presented herein are not necessarily indicative of the amounts that could be realized in a current market exchange. The use of different market assumptions and/or estimation methodologies may have a material effect on the estimated fair value amounts.

Table of Contents

The following methods and assumptions were used to estimate the fair value of each class of financial instruments for which it is practicable to estimate that value:

Cash and Cash Equivalents For such short-term instruments, the carrying amount is a reasonable estimate of fair value.

Securities For securities held as investments, fair value equals market price, if available. If a quoted market price is not available, fair value is estimated using quoted market prices for similar securities. The fair value of other securities, which consist of FHLB stock and Federal Reserve Bank stock, is estimated to be the carrying value, which is par.

Loans The fair value of loans is estimated by discounting the future cash flows using the current rates at which similar loans would be made to borrowers with similar credit ratings and for the same remaining maturities.

Deposits The fair values of demand deposits are, as required by ASC Topic 825, equal to the carrying value of such deposits. Demand deposits include noninterest-bearing demand deposits, savings accounts, NOW accounts, and money market demand accounts. The fair value of variable rate term deposits, those repricing within six months or less, approximates the carrying value of these deposits. Discounted cash flows have been used to value fixed rate term deposits and variable rate term deposits repricing after six months. The discount rate used is based on interest rates currently being offered on comparable deposits as to amount and term.

Federal Funds Purchased and Securities Sold Under Agreements to Repurchase The fair value of any federal funds purchased, securities sold under agreements to repurchase and other short-term borrowings generally approximates their carrying value. The fair value of structured repurchase agreements is estimated using discounted cash flows, based on current incremental borrowing rates for similar types of arrangements.

Subordinated Debentures The floating rate junior subordinated deferrable interest debentures (Debentures) bear interest at a variable rate and the carrying value approximates the fair value.

FHLB and Other Borrowings The fair value of the fixed rate borrowings is estimated using discounted cash flows, based on current incremental borrowing rates for similar types of borrowing arrangements. The carrying amount of any variable rate borrowings approximates their fair values.

Off-Balance Sheet Instruments Fair values of off-balance sheet financial instruments are based on fees charged to enter into similar agreements. However, commitments to extend credit do not represent a significant value until such commitments are funded or closed. Management has determined that these instruments do not have a distinguishable fair value and no fair value has been assigned.

(Amounts in thousands)	September 30, 2010		December 31, 2009	
	Carrying Amount	Estimated Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Estimated Fair Value
Financial Instruments:				
Assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 297,879	\$ 297,879	\$ 297,035	\$ 297,035
Securities available-for-sale	361,978	361,978	330,079	330,079
Securities held-to-maturity	2,667	2,717	2,671	2,741
Other securities	13,240	13,240	13,313	13,313
Loans	906,788	907,032	1,048,055	1,049,952
Liabilities:				
Noninterest-bearing deposits	181,110	181,110	170,722	170,722
Interest-bearing deposits	1,218,934	1,221,308	1,329,088	1,332,685
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	82,055	82,715	87,432	89,582
Subordinated debentures	30,928	30,928	30,928	30,928
FHLB and other borrowings	96,484	95,124	96,640	94,985

ASC Topic 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures, provides guidance for using fair value to measure assets and liabilities and establishes a hierarchy to prioritize the inputs used to measure fair value. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to a valuation based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities (Level 1), moderate priority to a valuation based on quoted prices in active

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

markets for similar assets and liabilities and/or based on assumptions that are observable in the market (Level 2), and the lowest priority to a valuation based on assumptions that are not observable in the market (Level 3).

Table of Contents

In accordance with the disclosure requirements of ASC Topic 820, the following table reflects assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of September 30, 2010. U. S. Treasury securities are reported at fair value utilizing Level 1 inputs. Other securities classified as available-for-sale are reported at fair value using Level 2 inputs. For these securities, the Corporation obtains fair value measurements from an independent pricing service. The fair value measurements consider observable data that may include dealer quotes, market spreads, cash flows, the U. S. Treasury yield curve, live trading levels, trade execution data, market consensus prepayment speeds, credit information, and bond terms and conditions, among other things.

(Amounts in thousands)	Total	Level 1	Level 2
Available-for-sale securities:			
U. S. Treasury securities	\$ 40,468	\$ 40,468	\$
Obligations of other U. S. government agencies	22,425		22,425
Obligations of states and municipal subdivisions	31,560		31,560
Mortgage-backed securities	228,162		228,162
Other securities	39,363		39,363
Total	\$ 361,978	\$ 40,468	\$ 321,510

The following valuation methodologies are used for assets measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis and recognized in the Corporation's consolidated balance sheets, as well as the general classification of these assets within the valuation hierarchy.

Impaired Loans A loan is considered impaired when, based on current information, it is probable that the Corporation will not receive all amounts due in accordance with the contractual terms of the loan agreement. Once a loan has been identified as impaired, management measures impairment in accordance with ASC Topic 310, Receivables. The measurement of impaired loans is based on the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate or the loan's observable market price, or based on the fair value of the collateral if the loan is collateral-dependent. When management's measured value of the impaired loan is less than the recorded investment in the loan, the amount of the impairment is recorded as a specific reserve within the allowance for loan losses. Any subsequent measurement adjustments are recorded as adjustments to the allowance for loan losses. Impaired loans are classified within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy.

Other Real Estate Owned Other real estate owned (OREO) consists of properties acquired through foreclosure and, as held for sale property, is recorded at the lower of the outstanding loan balance or current appraisal less estimated costs to sell. Any write-down to fair value required at the time of foreclosure is charged to the allowance for loan losses. Subsequent gains or losses on other real estate resulting from the sale of the property or additional valuation allowances required due to further declines in market value are reported in other noninterest income or expenses. OREO is classified within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy.

The following table presents the fair value measurement of assets measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis. Fair value for these assets was determined based on the methodology discussed above, using assumptions that are not observable in the market (Level 3 inputs).

(Amounts in thousands)	Fair Value at September 30, 2010
Impaired loans	\$ 74,505
Other real estate owned	32,200

Note 10. Preferred Stock

On January 9, 2009, the Corporation completed the sale of \$44 million of non-voting senior preferred stock (Senior Preferred Stock) to Treasury under the Capital Purchase Program (CPP). The Senior Preferred Stock pays a cumulative annual dividend at a 5% rate for the first five years and will reset to a rate of 9% after five years if not redeemed by the Corporation prior to that time. In connection with the issuance of the Senior Preferred Stock, the Corporation also issued to Treasury a warrant to purchase the Corporation's common stock up to a maximum of 15% of the amount of Senior Preferred Stock issued, or \$6.6 million.

Table of Contents

On August 9, 2010, the Board of Directors voted to suspend quarterly dividends on the Senior Preferred Stock. The annual sum of quarterly dividend payments on the Senior Preferred Stock is \$2.2 million for each of the first five years. The Senior Preferred Stock is non-voting, other than class voting on matters that could adversely affect the shares of Senior Preferred Stock, such as any authorizations of shares of capital stock ranking senior to the Senior Preferred Stock, any amendment to the terms of the Senior Preferred Stock, and any merger, exchange or similar transaction. If dividends on the Senior Preferred Stock are not paid in full for six dividend periods, whether or not consecutive, Treasury has the right to appoint two directors. This right will end when full dividends have been paid for four consecutive dividend periods. The Board of Directors believes the suspension of the dividend on the Senior Preferred Stock is in the best interest of the Corporation at the present time given the Corporation's desire to conserve and maintain liquidity. If dividends on the Senior Preferred Stock had not been suspended, the Corporation's net loss applicable to common shareholders for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, would have been \$8.1 million (\$0.68 per diluted share), and \$12.3 million (\$1.03 per diluted share), respectively.

Note 11. Discontinued Operations

On August 31, 2009, the Bank completed the disposition of the assets used in and liabilities arising from GCM's operations to four limited liability companies established by former owners and employees of GCM. The total purchase price of the assets sold, net of liabilities assumed, was approximately \$5.5 million.

As a result of this transaction, the Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss) for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2009, have been restated to reflect GCM's operations as discontinued operations. Summarized financial information for discontinued operations is as follows:

(Amounts in thousands)	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2009	Three Months Ended September 30, 2009
Income	\$ 3,449	\$ 1,044
Expense	3,302	900
Income from discontinued operations	147	144
Gain on sale	502	502
Income tax expense	364	247
Net income (loss) from discontinued operations	\$ 285	\$ 399

ITEM 2 MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**Forward-Looking Information**

The following provides a narrative discussion and analysis of significant changes in our results of operations and financial condition for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010. Certain information included in this discussion contains forward-looking statements and information that are based on management's beliefs, expectations and conclusions, drawn from certain assumptions and information currently available. The Private Securities Litigation Act of 1995 encourages the disclosure of forward-looking information by management by providing a safe harbor for such information. This discussion includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Although we believe that the expectations and conclusions reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, such forward-looking statements are based on numerous assumptions (some of which may prove to be incorrect) and are subject to risks and uncertainties, which could cause the actual results to differ materially from our expectations. When used in this discussion, the words anticipate, believe, estimate, expect, objective, project, forecast, goal, expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. In addition to any assumptions and other factors referred to specifically in connection with forward-looking statements, factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those contemplated in any forward-looking statements include, among others, increased competition, regulatory factors, economic conditions, changing interest rates, changing market conditions (including specifically the downturn in the U. S. real estate market), availability or cost of capital, changes in

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

accounting standards and practices, employee workforce factors, ability to achieve cost savings and enhance revenues, the assimilation of acquired operations and establishing credit practices and efficiencies therein, acts of war or acts of terrorism or geopolitical instability and other effects of legal and administrative proceedings, changes in federal, state or local laws and regulations and other factors identified in

Table of Contents

Item 1A, Risk Factors, and Item 7A, Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk, of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, and in Part II, Item 1A, Risk Factors, of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2010, and that may be discussed from time to time in other reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission subsequent to this report. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements made by or on behalf of the Corporation. Any such statement speaks only as of the date the statement was made. We undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of changes in actual results, changes in assumptions or other factors affecting such statements.

For purposes of the following discussion and analysis of the Corporation's financial condition and results of operations, the words the Corporation, we, us and our refer to the combined entities of Cadence Financial Corporation and Cadence, unless the context suggests otherwise.

Introduction and Management Overview

The Corporation is a bank holding company that owns Cadence. Cadence operates in the states of Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Florida and Georgia. Cadence's primary business is providing traditional commercial and retail banking services to customers. Cadence also provides other financial services, including trust services, mortgage services and investment products. Our stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market (NASDAQ) under the ticker symbol of CADE.

Like most community banks, we derive most of our income from interest we receive on our loans and investments. Our primary source of funds for making these loans and investments is our deposits, on which we pay interest. Consequently, one of the key measures of our success is our amount of net interest income. Another key measure is the spread between the yield we earn on these interest-earning assets and the rate we pay on our interest-bearing liabilities.

Summary of Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010

Consent Order Imposed by Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC). On May 19, 2010, Cadence's Board of Directors executed a stipulation and consent to the issuance of a consent order by the OCC, and the OCC has issued a consent order effective as of that date. The consent order required the Bank to achieve by September 19, 2010, and maintain a minimum Tier 1 leverage ratio of 9.0% and a minimum total risk-based capital ratio of 12.0%. These capital ratios are higher than the typical capital ratios required to meet well-capitalized standards. The Bank is not deemed to be well-capitalized under the applicable regulations while the consent order is in place, even if the Bank satisfies the capital ratios discussed above. The consent order also includes operational and supervisory provisions which we believe we have satisfied or will be able to satisfy, including taking certain actions and implementing certain action plans with respect to, among other things, a compliance committee, capital adequacy, strategic planning and capital planning, management competence and effectiveness, loan portfolio management, credit and collateral exceptions, loan review, the allowance for loan and lease losses, criticized assets, credit concentration risk management, liquidity risk management, internal audit, and correcting alleged legal violations identified in examination reports. Most of these action plans require that the Bank satisfy the requirements within a defined time period ranging from 30 to 120 days. The consent order terminates the earlier formal agreement entered into with the OCC on April 17, 2009.

Net Interest Income. Our net interest income declined from \$34.6 million in the first nine months of 2009 to \$30.0 million in the first nine months of 2010. For the first nine months of 2010, our net interest margin was 2.33%, compared to 2.47% for the first nine months of 2009. This thirteen basis point decline in margin resulted primarily from our intentionally building liquidity by accumulating deposits and investing in short-term assets with lower yields, the increase in the average balance of our nonaccrual loans, and the decline in our average earning assets. Our average earning assets declined by \$152.1 million, or 8.1%, between the first nine months of 2009 and the first nine months of 2010. When comparing the first nine months of 2010 to the same period of 2009, we lost 51 basis points of yield on our earning assets but were able to reduce the cost of funds by 46 basis points.

Provision for Loan Losses. Our provision for loan losses was \$13.3 million for the first nine months of 2010, as compared to \$76.5 million for the first nine months of 2009. We incurred \$18.6 million in net charge-offs for the first nine months of 2010, compared to \$52.3 million for the first nine months of 2009. In 2009, we experienced a significant increase in non-performing loans, mostly due to real estate construction and development loans.

Table of Contents

Other Income (Noninterest Income). Our noninterest income, exclusive of securities gains and losses, declined by \$1.9 million, or 14.6%, between the first nine months of 2009 and the first nine months of 2010, due to lower service charges and other noninterest income, primarily our service charges on deposit accounts, generated by insufficient funds (NSF) fees, and mortgage loan fee income, as we significantly scaled back our activity in mortgage lending.

Other Expense (Noninterest Expense). During the first nine months of 2010, total noninterest expenses declined by \$68.2 million from the same period of 2009. This decline mainly resulted from a \$66.5 million impairment loss on goodwill recognized in the first quarter of 2009. Also contributing to the decline in noninterest expenses was a \$3.0 million decline in salaries and employee benefits, resulting from certain staff reductions made as part of an earnings improvement project we commissioned during the first quarter of 2010. Our other noninterest expenses increased by \$1.4 million between the first nine months of 2009 and the first nine months of 2010, primarily due to higher OREO-related expenses and one-time costs related to the earnings improvement project.

Net Income/(Loss). For the first nine months of 2010, we reported a net loss applicable to common shareholders of \$11.7 million, or \$(0.98) per common share, compared to a net loss of \$112.2 million, or \$(9.42) per common share, for the first nine months of 2009.

Loan Portfolio. As of September 30, 2010, our loan portfolio was \$945.0 million, distributed among commercial real estate loans, commercial and industrial loans, 1-4 family mortgages and consumer loans. As of September 30, 2010, our loan portfolio was composed of approximately 55.0% variable rate loans and 45.0% fixed rate loans. Beginning in the third quarter of 2008, we made a concerted effort to reduce our concentration in commercial real estate loans, particularly residential construction and development loans, which typically have higher yields but also higher risk. Overall, our average loan balances declined by approximately \$245.2 million, or 19.3%, from the first nine months of 2009 to the first nine months of 2010, from \$1.269 billion for the first nine months of 2009 to \$1.024 billion for the first nine months of 2010.

Investment Portfolio. The average balance of our investment portfolio was \$364.5 million for the first nine months of 2010, compared to \$448.4 million for the first nine months of 2009, representing a decrease of \$84.0 million, or 18.7%. Our yield on securities declined by 30 basis points to 3.97% over this same period.

Federal Funds Sold and Other Interest-Bearing Assets. Our average balances in federal funds sold and other interest-bearing assets increased significantly from the first nine months of 2009 to the first nine months of 2010, from \$157.2 million to \$334.3 million. This increase resulted from our intentionally building liquidity by accumulating deposits and investing in short-term assets. Our yields on these assets remained flat at 0.23% for the first nine months of 2009 and the first nine months of 2010.

Deposits and Other Interest-Bearing Liabilities. Our overall cost of funds declined by 46 basis points from the first nine months of 2009 to the first nine months of 2010. Average borrowed funds declined by \$81.7 million, or 27.9%, for the first nine months of 2010 compared to the first nine months of 2009. Average interest-bearing deposits declined to \$1.340 billion for the first nine months of 2010, compared to \$1.356 billion for the first nine months of 2009, a decrease of \$16.3 million.

Recent Events

On October 6, 2010, the Corporation announced that it had entered into an agreement and plan of merger with Community Bancorp LLC (CBC), a Delaware limited liability company formed to invest in community banks. The terms of this agreement provide that a wholly-owned subsidiary of CBC will be merged with and into the Corporation, with the Corporation as the surviving entity and as a wholly-owned subsidiary of CBC.

Under the terms of the agreement, our common shareholders will receive a cash payment of \$2.50 per share, which approximates \$29.8 million. In addition, it is our understanding that CBC has entered into an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) to purchase the \$44.0 million of our preferred stock and the associated warrant issued to Treasury under the Capital Purchase Program for \$38.0 million in cash, plus approximately \$1.0 million in cash for accrued but unpaid dividends with respect to the preferred stock through October 29, 2010, subject to certain closing conditions. Consummation of the merger is subject to approval by regulatory authorities, approval by our shareholders at a shareholder meeting scheduled for December 2010, and certain other conditions set forth in the agreement. The merger is expected to close no later than the first quarter of 2011.

Table of Contents

Outlook for the Remainder of 2010

Our most significant challenges for the remainder of 2010 are credit quality, the continuing low interest rate environment, and returning to profitability. We have taken an aggressive stance in addressing credit issues in our loan portfolio to minimize future risks. We have increased our focus on underwriting standards and have revamped our loan policy. We also have a special assets team in place to manage workout situations and to assist in the timely disposition of defaulted assets. Our management information systems relating to loan concentrations provide us with current and detailed information about the status of the loans in our portfolio. We feel that these steps place us in a favorable position to manage credit quality; however, credit quality will remain an issue as long as current economic trends, including high unemployment rates and depressed real estate prices, continue.

We expect our loan portfolio balance to level off during the fourth quarter of 2010. However, we must still face the challenges of the current economic environment and flat loan demand, which will make it difficult for us to maintain our current loan portfolio balance as our existing credits pay down. Currently, we expect that interest rates will remain flat for the remainder of 2010. We based our 2010 projections, budgets and goals on these expectations. If these trends move differently than expected in either direction or speed, they could have a material impact on our financial condition and results of operations. The areas of our operations most directly impacted would be the net interest margin, loan and deposit growth and the provision for loan losses.

We also expect our wholesale borrowing costs and higher cost retail time deposits to continue to decline for the remainder of 2010. We intend to use our excess liquidity to absorb this decrease in liabilities. This should decrease our interest expense and improve our net interest income and net interest margin during the fourth quarter of 2010.

As part of the consent order agreed to with the OCC in May 2010, Cadence was required to achieve by September 19, 2010, and maintain on an ongoing basis, a Tier 1 leverage ratio of 9.0% and a total risk-based capital ratio of 12.0%. As of September 30, 2010, Cadence had a Tier 1 leverage ratio of 4.9% and a total risk-based capital ratio of 10.1%. Because of our recent losses and Cadence's requirement for additional capital to meet these higher ratios, we have actively sought additional capital. CBC has indicated that once the merger with CBC is completed, it will fund Cadence's operations so that Cadence's capital levels will exceed the requirements of the consent order. We expect the merger to close no later than the first quarter of 2011.

We will also continue our efforts to control noninterest expenses by working to achieve maximum efficiencies within our franchise. The earnings improvement project we commissioned during the first quarter of 2010 is continuing to provide us with opportunities to reduce our overhead expenses during the remainder of 2010 and forward. Our 2010 nine-month results of operations reflected savings due to restructuring certain operations and delivery channels to our customers and eliminating some redundant staff positions. We have established process improvement teams to focus on ongoing programs to enhance our efficiencies and improve the delivery of services to our customers. We expect that these programs will improve our product offerings, customer service, and overall profitability. These programs should be fully implemented by the end of 2010. We continue to leverage the investments in infrastructure that we have made over the past few years and believe that they will continue to have a positive impact on our costs going forward. Reducing our efficiency ratio remains a key objective. However, our noninterest expenses for 2010 will continue to be negatively affected by costs associated with OREO and increased FDIC insurance premiums.

We remain focused on our strategy to build future earnings and understand that improved asset quality and margin growth are the keys to achieving that strategy. We are managing our credit problems aggressively and refining our risk management processes in order to enhance our future earnings. Given recent regulatory actions, including our entry into the consent order, we have accumulated liquidity and have invested that liquidity primarily in short term assets with low returns. If this liquidity were invested in longer term assets with higher returns, we would expect to be profitable by the end of 2011.

Critical Accounting Policies and Other Accounting Issues

Our accounting and financial reporting policies conform to United States generally accepted accounting principles and to general practices within the banking industry. Note A of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in our annual report contains a summary of our accounting policies. Management is of the opinion that Note A, read in conjunction with all other information in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, and the information in this quarterly report, including this Management's Discussion and Analysis, should be sufficient to provide the reader with the information needed to understand our financial condition and results of operations.

Table of Contents

Critical Accounting Policies. We believe that the areas of the financial statements that require the most difficult, subjective and complex judgments, and therefore contain the most critical accounting estimates, are as follows:

the provision for loan losses and the resulting allowance for loan losses;

the liability and expense relating to our pension and other postretirement benefit plans;

issues relating to other-than-temporary impairment losses in the investment portfolio; and

income taxes.

Provision/Allowance for Loan Losses. Our allowance for loan losses is established through charges to earnings in the form of a provision for loan losses. The allowance for loan losses is maintained at a level that we believe is adequate to absorb all probable losses on loans inherent in the loan portfolio as of the reporting date. Events that are not within our control, such as changes in economic factors, could change subsequent to the reporting date and could cause our allowance for loan losses to be over or understated. The amount of the allowance is affected by loan charge-offs, which decrease the allowance; recoveries on loans previously charged off, which increase the allowance; and the provision for loan losses charged to earnings, which increases the allowance. In determining the provision for loan losses, we monitor fluctuations in the allowance resulting from actual charge-offs and recoveries and periodically review the size and composition of the loan portfolio in light of current and anticipated economic conditions. If actual losses exceed the amount of the allowance for loan losses, our earnings could be adversely affected.

The allowance for loan losses represents management's estimate of the amount necessary to provide for losses inherent in the loan portfolio in the normal course of business. Due to the uncertainty of risks in the loan portfolio, the allowance necessary to absorb loan losses is an estimate, based on management's judgment, using the information available at the reporting date. The allowance for loan losses is also subject to regulatory examinations and determination by the regulatory agencies as to its adequacy.

The allowance for loan losses is comprised of the following three components: specific reserves, general reserves and unallocated reserves. Generally, all loans that are identified as impaired are reviewed on a quarterly basis in order to determine whether a specific reserve is required. A loan is considered impaired when, based on current information, it is probable that we will not receive all amounts due in accordance with the contractual terms of the loan agreement. Once a loan has been identified as impaired, management measures impairment in accordance with ASC Topic 310, *Receivables*. The measurement of impaired loans is based on the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate or the loan's observable market price, or based on the fair value of the collateral if the loan is collateral-dependent. When management's measured value of the impaired loan is less than the recorded investment in the loan, the amount of the impairment is recorded as a specific reserve. These specific reserves are determined on an individual loan basis based on our current evaluation of our loss exposure for each credit, given the payment status, financial condition of the borrower and value of any underlying collateral. Loans for which specific reserves are provided are excluded from the general reserve and unallocated reserve calculations described below. Changes in specific reserves from period to period are the result in changes in the circumstances of individual loans such as charge-offs, pay-offs, changes in collateral values or other factors.

We also maintain a general reserve for each loan type in the loan portfolio. Within each loan type, the portfolio is further segmented by risk ratings and by delinquency status. In determining the amount of the general reserve portion of our allowance for loan losses, we consider factors such as our historical loan loss experience, the growth, composition and diversification of our loan portfolio, current delinquency levels, adverse situations that may affect the borrower's ability to repay, estimated value of the underlying collateral, the results of recent regulatory examinations and general economic conditions. Through the second quarter of 2009, general reserves for these loans were based upon three-year historical loss rates. Beginning in the third quarter of 2009, general reserves for these loans are based upon historical loss rates from the most recent three years (twelve quarters), with the more recent quarters receiving the most weight. Management believes that this method of weighting the latest quarters is more representative of the current economic cycle. We use this information to set the general reserve portion of the allowance for loan losses at a level we deem prudent.

Table of Contents

Because there are additional risks of losses that cannot be quantified precisely or attributed to particular loans or types of loans, including general economic and business conditions and credit quality trends, we have established an unallocated portion of the allowance for loan losses based on our evaluation of these risks. The unallocated portion of our allowance is determined based on various factors, including general economic conditions of our market area, the growth, composition and diversification of our loan portfolio, types of collateral securing our loans, the experience level of our lending officers and staff, the quality of our credit risk management and the results of independent third party reviews of our classification of credits. The unallocated portion of the allowance for loan losses was \$2.0 million, or 5.3% of the total allowance, as of September 30, 2010, and \$2.7 million, or 6.3% of the total allowance, as of December 31, 2009.

Based on an evaluation of the loan portfolio, management presents a quarterly review of the allowance for loan losses to Cadence's executive committee and our full Board of Directors, indicating any change in the allowance for loan losses since the last review and any recommendations as to adjustments in the allowance for loan losses. This evaluation is inherently subjective as it requires estimates that are susceptible to significant revision as more information becomes available or as events change. The allowance for loan losses was \$38.2 million as of September 30, 2010, compared to \$43.4 million as of December 31, 2009, and represented 4.0% of outstanding loans as of both dates.

Pension and Other Postretirement Benefit Plans. Another area that requires subjective and complex judgments is the liability and expense relating to our pension and other postretirement benefit plans. We maintain several benefit plans for our employees. They include a defined benefit pension plan, a defined contribution pension plan, a 401(k) plan and a deferred compensation plan. We make all contributions to these plans when they are due.

The defined benefit pension plan is the only plan that requires multiple assumptions to determine the liability under the plan. This plan has been frozen to new participants for several years. Management evaluates, reviews with the plan actuaries, and updates as appropriate the assumptions used in the determination of pension liability, including the discount rate, the expected rate of return on plan assets, and increases in future compensation. Actual experience that differs from the assumptions could have a significant effect on our financial position and results of operations. The discount rate and the expected rate of return on the plan assets have a significant impact on the actuarially computed present value of future benefits that is recorded on the financial statements as a liability, together with the corresponding pension expense.

In selecting the expected rate of return, management, in consultation with the plan trustees, selected a rate based on assumptions compared to recent returns and economic forecasts. We consider the current allocation of the portfolio and the probable rates of return of each investment type. In selecting the appropriate discount rate, management, with the assistance of actuarial consultants, performs an analysis of the plan's projected benefit cash flows against discount rates from a national Pension Discount Curve (a yield curve used to measure pension liabilities). Based on the analysis, in 2009, management used a discount rate of 6.25% and an expected rate of return of 7.0%. From a historical perspective, the plan's rate of return for 2009 was 23.8%. Additionally, our philosophy has been to fund the plan annually to the maximum amount deductible under the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules. As of December 31, 2009, the plan had a current accumulated benefit obligation of approximately \$10.5 million, and plan assets with a fair value of approximately \$12.1 million.

ASC Topic 715, Compensation-Retirement Benefits, requires us to recognize the funded status of the plan (defined as the difference between the fair value of plan assets and the projected benefit obligation) on the balance sheet and to recognize in other comprehensive income any gains or losses and prior service costs or benefits not included as components of periodic benefit cost. Detailed information on our pension plan and the related impacts of these changes on the amounts recorded in our financial statements can be found in Note M (Employee Benefits) of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in our December 31, 2009 Form 10-K.

Other-Than-Temporary Impairment of Investment Securities. A third area that requires subjective and complex judgments on the part of management is the review of the investments in the investment portfolio for other-than-temporary impairments. ASC Topic 320, Investments Debt and Equity Securities, requires us to review our investment portfolio and determine if it has impairment losses that are other-than-temporary. In making its determination, management considers the following items:

the length of time and extent to which the current market value is less than cost;

evidence of a forecasted recovery;

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

financial condition and the industry environment of the issuer, including whether the issuer is a government or government-backed agency (all of the mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations in our portfolio are issued by government-backed agencies);

downgrades of the securities by rating agencies;

whether there has been a reduction or elimination of dividends or interest payments;

Table of Contents

whether we have the intent or ability to hold the securities for a period of time sufficient to allow for anticipated recovery of fair value; and

interest rate trends that may impact recovery and realization.

As of September 30, 2010, our investment portfolio included certain securities that were impaired by definition, but based on our review and consideration of the criteria listed above, we determined that none of the impairments were other-than-temporary.

Income Taxes. The calculation of our income tax provision is complex and requires the use of estimates and judgment in its determination. We are subject to the income tax laws of the various jurisdictions where we conduct business, and we estimate income tax expense based on amounts expected to be owed to these various tax jurisdictions. We assess the appropriate tax treatment of transactions and filing positions after considering statutes, regulations, judicial precedent and other pertinent information, and we maintain tax accruals consistent with our evaluation. Changes in the estimate of accrued taxes occur periodically due to changes in tax rates, interpretations of tax laws, the status of examinations by the taxing authorities, and newly enacted statutory, judicial, and regulatory guidance that could affect the relative merits of the tax positions. These changes, when they occur, impact accrued taxes and can materially affect our operating results.

As of September 30, 2010, we had net deferred tax assets of \$36.2 million, including a valuation allowance of \$1.3 million established against our state deferred tax asset. This valuation allowance was established due to differences in the carryforward periods in state and federal tax laws. In evaluating the need for a valuation allowance, we estimate future taxable income based on management approved forecasts. This process requires significant judgment by management about matters that are by nature uncertain. If future events differ significantly from our current forecasts, we may need to adjust our valuation allowance, which could materially impact our results of operations and financial condition. For additional information, see Note J (Income Taxes) of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in our December 31, 2009 Form 10-K.

Other Accounting Issues. We own NBC Capital Corporation (MS) Statutory Trust I (the Trust), which was organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut for the purpose of issuing trust preferred securities (TPSs). In accordance with ASC Topic 810, Consolidation, the Trust, which is considered a variable interest entity, is not consolidated into our financial statements because the only activity of the variable interest entity is the issuance of TPSs.

Comparison of Results of Operations for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010 and 2009

Net Income/(Loss)

For the first nine months of 2010, we reported a net loss of \$11.7 million, or \$(0.98) per common share, compared to a net loss of \$112.2 million, or \$(9.42) per common share, for the first nine months of 2009.

Net Interest Income

Net interest income, the primary source of our earnings, represents income generated from earning assets, less the interest expense of funding those assets. Changes in net interest income may be divided into two components: (1) the change in average earning assets (volume component) and (2) the change in the net interest spread (rate component). Net interest spread represents the difference between yields on earning assets and rates paid on interest-bearing liabilities. Net interest margin is net interest income divided by average earning assets.

Net interest income decreased by \$4.5 million, or 13.1%, from \$34.6 million for the first nine months of 2009 to \$30.0 million for the first nine months of 2010. Between the first nine months of 2009 and the first nine months of 2010, the net interest margin declined from 2.47% to 2.33%. During this period, we lost 51 basis points of yield on our earning assets and decreased our cost of funds by 46 basis points.

The declining yield on earning assets is mostly attributable to changes in mix and volumes. Average earning assets declined from \$1.875 billion in the first nine months of 2009 to \$1.722 billion in the first nine months of 2010. This decline is primarily due to a \$245.2 million decrease in average loan balances from the first nine months of 2009 to the first nine months of 2010 and an \$84.0 million decrease in average investment securities during the same period. These declines were partially offset by a \$177.0 million increase in federal funds sold and other interest-bearing assets, as we intentionally built liquidity by accumulating deposits and investing in short-term assets.

Table of Contents

The decrease in our cost of funds from the first nine months of 2009 to the first nine months of 2010 was impacted by rates and volumes. Our average interest-bearing deposits decreased by \$16.3 million from the first nine months of 2009 to the first nine months of 2010, and our deposit cost declined by 49 basis points. Our average balance of other borrowings declined by \$81.7 million over this period, and our cost of other borrowings declined by 17 basis points.

The following table shows, for the periods indicated, an analysis of net interest income, including the average amount of earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities outstanding during the period, the interest earned or paid on such amounts, the average yields/rates paid and the net yield on earning assets on both a book and tax equivalent basis:

	Average Balance	
	Nine Months Ended 9/30/10	Nine Months Ended 9/30/09
(Dollars in thousands)		
EARNING ASSETS:		
Net loans	\$ 1,023,778	\$ 1,268,930
Federal funds sold and other interest-bearing assets	334,251	157,216
Securities:		
Taxable	360,763	373,503
Tax-exempt	3,695	74,919
Totals	1,722,487	1,874,568
INTEREST-BEARING LIABILITIES:		
Interest-bearing deposits	1,340,181	1,356,497
Borrowed funds, federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase and other interest-bearing liabilities	210,674	292,357
Totals	1,550,855	1,648,854
Net amounts	\$ 171,632	\$ 225,714
(Dollars in thousands)		
EARNING ASSETS:		
Net loans	\$ 39,242	\$ 47,639
Federal funds sold and other interest-bearing assets	576	273
Securities:		
Taxable	10,698	12,083
Tax-exempt	131	2,250
Totals	50,647	62,245
INTEREST-BEARING LIABILITIES:		
Interest-bearing deposits	16,570	21,690
Borrowed funds, federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase and other interest-bearing liabilities	4,056	5,993

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

Totals	20,626	27,683
Net amounts	\$ 30,021	\$ 34,562

Table of Contents

	Yields Earned And Rates Paid (%)	
	Nine Months Ended 9/30/10	Nine Months Ended 9/30/09
EARNING ASSETS:		
Net loans	5.12	5.02
Federal funds sold and other interest-bearing assets	0.23	0.23
Securities:		
Taxable	3.96	4.33
Tax-exempt	4.75	4.01
Totals	3.93	4.44
INTEREST-BEARING LIABILITIES:		
Interest-bearing deposits	1.65	2.14
Borrowed funds, federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase and other interest-bearing liabilities	2.57	2.74
Totals	1.78	2.24
Net amounts	2.33	2.47
Note: Yields on a tax equivalent basis would be:		
Tax-exempt securities	7.31	6.18
Total earning assets	3.94	4.53
Net yield on earning assets	2.34	2.55

The following table sets forth the effects of changing rates and volumes on our net interest income. Information is provided with respect to (i) effects on interest income attributable to changes in volume (changes in volume multiplied by prior rate); and (ii) effects on interest income attributable to changes in rate (changes in rate multiplied by prior volume). The change in interest due to both rate and volume has been allocated to volume and rate changes in proportion to the relationship of the absolute dollar amounts of change to each.

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010 Over Nine Months Ended September 30, 2009 Change Due To:		
(Dollars in thousands)	Total	Rate	Volume
Earning assets:			
Loans	\$ (8,397)	\$ 965	\$ (9,362)
Securities:			
Taxable	(1,385)	(990)	(395)
Tax exempt	(2,119)	510	(2,629)
Federal funds sold and other	303		303
Total earning assets	\$ (11,598)	\$ 485	\$ (12,083)
Interest-bearing liabilities:			
Interest-bearing deposits	\$ (5,120)	\$ (4,864)	\$ (256)
Borrowed funds, federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	(1,937)	(352)	(1,585)

Total interest-bearing liabilities	\$ (7,057)	\$ (5,216)	\$ (1,841)
------------------------------------	------------	------------	------------

- (1) Change in volume is the change in volume times the previous period's rate.
- (2) Change in rate is the change in rate times the previous period's balance.
- (3) The change in interest due to both rate and volume has been allocated to volume and rate changes in proportion to the relationship of the absolute dollar amounts of change to each.

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

We use our provision for loan losses to replenish the allowance for loan losses on our balance sheet. Based on our evaluation of the risk exposure contained in the loan portfolio, management believes that the level of the allowance is adequate. The Board of Directors reviews and approves management's evaluation. This is an ongoing process through which we review and determine the amount of the provision on a quarterly basis. The provision for loan losses declined from \$76.5 million during the first nine months of 2009 to \$13.3 million in the first nine months of 2010. We were able to reduce our provision for loan losses for the first nine months of 2010 because of a significant decrease in net charge-offs, as well as slight declines in our nonperforming and classified loans. We incurred \$18.6 million in net charge-offs for the first nine months of 2010, compared to \$52.3 million for the first nine months of 2009. Our allowance for loan losses was \$38.2 million, or 4.0% of outstanding loans, as of September 30, 2010, compared to \$43.4 million, or 4.0% of outstanding loans, at December 31, 2009.

Other Income (Noninterest Income)

Other income refers to our noninterest income, which includes various service charges, fees and commissions. One of our strategic objectives has been, and continues to be, to increase the level of our other income. Our other income, exclusive of securities gains and losses, decreased by \$1.9 million, or 14.6%, from the first nine months of 2009 to the first nine months of 2010. The following table presents for the periods indicated the major categories of noninterest income and the changes in the first nine months of 2010 compared to the first nine months of 2009:

(Dollars in thousands)	Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	2010	2009	Change
Service charges on deposit accounts	\$ 5,427	\$ 6,349	\$ (922)
Trust Department income	1,519	1,500	19
Other income	3,932	4,896	(964)
Total other income	\$ 10,878	\$ 12,745	\$ (1,867)

Our service charges on deposit accounts declined 14.5% from the first nine months of 2009 to the first nine months of 2010 primarily due to fewer NSF fees charged in 2010. We believe that the decline in fees has resulted from our customers becoming better stewards of their funds and the increased use of electronic banking that provides our customers with real-time feedback on account balances. In addition, new regulations requiring our customers to opt-in to overdraft coverage relating to certain ATM and checkcard transactions have contributed to the decline in NSF fees beginning in the third quarter of 2010. The 19.7% decrease in other noninterest income resulted primarily from an \$830,000 decline in mortgage loan fee income from the first nine months of 2009 to the first nine months of 2010. In 2010, we significantly scaled back our mortgage lending activity.

We recognized \$838,000 in net securities gains during the first nine months of 2010, compared to \$1.1 million in net securities gains during the first nine months of 2009. The significant amount of securities gains in 2009 resulted from our selling most of our tax-exempt securities during the third quarter of 2009. Due to our year-to-date results of operations, we were not receiving the full tax benefit of holding these securities. Thus, we decided to sell them and invest the proceeds into higher-yielding taxable securities. The net gains in 2010 resulted from our decision to recognize a portion of the unrealized gains in our investment portfolio while they were available to us. Most of these gains were recognized in the second quarter of 2010.

Other Expense (Noninterest Expense)

Noninterest expense represents ordinary overhead expenses and, from time to time, any impairments to goodwill or other intangibles. These expenses declined by \$68.2 million during the first nine months of 2010, compared with the first nine months of 2009. The following table presents for the periods indicated the major categories of noninterest expense and the changes in the first nine months of 2010 compared to the first nine months of 2009:

Nine Months Ended September 30,

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

(Dollars in thousands)	2010	2009	Change
Salaries and employee benefits	\$ 17,952	\$ 20,984	\$ (3,032)
Premises and fixed asset expense	5,674	5,682	(8)
Impairment loss on goodwill		66,542	(66,542)
Other expense	21,029	19,637	1,392
Total other expense	\$ 44,655	\$ 112,845	\$ (68,190)

Table of Contents

Salaries and employee benefits declined by 14.4% from the first nine months of 2009 to the first nine months of 2010. This decrease resulted mostly from certain staff reductions that were made in the first quarter of 2010, as a result of our ongoing earnings improvement project. As our customers continue to embrace our electronic banking services, the transaction volume in our branches has been reduced. We also combined some redundant positions and eliminated others, as we restructured our operations and delivery of services to our customers. The first quarter 2010 expenses include severance packages related to the staff reductions, but the second and third quarter expenses reflected the full impact of these staff reductions.

In accordance with the provisions of ASC Topic 350 and based on the results of a third party analysis, we recognized a \$66.5 million impairment loss on goodwill as of March 31, 2009. This impairment charge eliminated all goodwill from our balance sheet, including approximately \$304,000 relating to GCM Insurance (reflected in discontinued operations on the consolidated statement of income (loss)). Other noninterest expenses increased by 7.1%. Expenses relating to OREO increased from \$4.2 million for the first nine months of 2009, to \$6.7 million for the first nine months of 2010. We also incurred approximately \$670,000 in losses on letters of credit in the first nine months of 2010. Partially offsetting this increase were 2009 nonrecurring expenses of \$934,000 in losses on early extinguishment of debt, as we prepaid several of our FHLB advances, and \$966,000 in expenses relating to our efforts to raise capital.

Changes in our income tax expense have generally paralleled changes in income. The income tax benefits for the first nine months of 2009 and 2010 resulted from the losses recognized for the periods, as well as the tax benefits of our tax-exempt income.

Comparison of Results of Operations for the Quarters Ended September 30, 2010 and 2009

Net Income/(Loss)

For the third quarter of 2010, we reported a net loss of \$7.5 million, or \$(0.63) per common share, compared to a net loss of \$13.1 million, or \$(1.10) per common share, for the third quarter of 2009.

Net Interest Income

Net interest income decreased by \$1.8 million, or 15.6%, from \$11.6 million for the third quarter of 2009 to \$9.8 million for the third quarter of 2010. From the third quarter of 2009 to the third quarter of 2010, the net interest margin declined from 2.56% to 2.29%. During this period, we lost 70 basis points of yield on our earning assets while only decreasing our cost of funds by 52 basis points.

The declining yield on earning assets is mostly attributable to changes in mix and volumes. Average earning assets declined from \$1.795 billion in the third quarter of 2009 to \$1.696 billion in the third quarter of 2010. This decline is primarily due to a \$246.6 million decrease in average loan balances from the third quarter of 2009 to the third quarter of 2010 and a \$53.2 million decrease in average investment securities during the same period. These declines were partially offset by a \$200.6 million increase in federal funds sold and other interest-bearing assets, as we intentionally built liquidity by accumulating deposits and investing in short-term assets.

The decrease in our cost of funds from the third quarter of 2009 to the third quarter of 2010 was impacted by rates and volumes. Our average interest-bearing deposits remained relatively flat from the third quarter of 2009 to the third quarter of 2010, but our deposit cost declined by 57 basis points. Our average balance of other borrowings declined by \$50.8 million over this period, and our cost of other borrowings declined by 11 basis points.

Table of Contents

The following table shows, for the periods indicated, an analysis of net interest income, including the average amount of earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities outstanding during the period, the interest earned or paid on such amounts, the average yields/rates paid and the net yield on earning assets on both a book and tax equivalent basis:

(Dollars in thousands)	Average Balance	
	Quarter Ended 9/30/10	Quarter Ended 9/30/09
EARNING ASSETS:		
Net loans	\$ 974,396	\$ 1,220,948
Federal funds sold and other interest-bearing assets	338,892	138,279
Securities:		
Taxable	379,097	398,883
Tax-exempt	3,696	37,147
Totals	1,696,081	1,795,257
INTEREST-BEARING LIABILITIES:		
Interest-bearing deposits	1,313,089	1,313,378
Borrowed funds, federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase and other interest-bearing liabilities	209,752	260,570
Totals	1,522,841	1,573,948
Net amounts	\$ 173,240	\$ 221,309

(Dollars in thousands)	Interest for	
	Quarter Ended 9/30/10	Quarter Ended 9/30/09
EARNING ASSETS:		
Net loans	\$ 12,412	\$ 15,464
Federal funds sold and other interest-bearing assets	233	98
Securities:		
Taxable	3,389	4,210
Tax-exempt	44	398
Totals	16,078	20,170
INTEREST-BEARING LIABILITIES:		
Interest-bearing deposits	4,941	6,817
Borrowed funds, federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase and other interest-bearing liabilities	1,359	1,760
Totals	6,300	8,577
Net amounts	\$ 9,778	\$ 11,593

Table of Contents

	Yields Earned And Rates Paid (%)	
	Quarter Ended 9/30/10	Quarter Ended 9/30/09
EARNING ASSETS:		
Net loans	5.05	5.02
Federal funds sold and other interest-bearing assets	0.27	0.28
Securities:		
Taxable	3.55	4.19
Tax-exempt	4.67	4.25
Totals	3.76	4.46
INTEREST-BEARING LIABILITIES:		
Interest-bearing deposits	1.49	2.06
Borrowed funds, federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase and other interest-bearing liabilities	2.57	2.68
Totals	1.64	2.16
Net amounts	2.29	2.56
Note: Yields on a tax equivalent basis would be:		
Tax-exempt securities	7.19	6.55
Total earning assets	3.77	4.50
Net yield on earning assets	2.29	2.61

The following table sets forth the effects of changing rates and volumes on our net interest income. Information is provided with respect to (i) effects on interest income attributable to changes in volume (changes in volume multiplied by prior rate); and (ii) effects on interest income attributable to changes in rate (changes in rate multiplied by prior volume). The change in interest due to both rate and volume has been allocated to volume and rate changes in proportion to the relationship of the absolute dollar amounts of change to each.

(Dollars in thousands)	Quarter Ended September 30, 2010 Over Quarter Ended September 30, 2009		
	Total	Change Due To: Rate	Volume
Earning assets:			
Loans	\$ (3,052)	\$ 93	\$ (3,145)
Securities:			
Taxable	(821)	(505)	(316)
Tax exempt	(354)	44	(398)
Federal funds sold and other	135		135
Total earning assets	\$ (4,092)	\$ (368)	\$ (3,724)
Interest-bearing liabilities:			
Interest-bearing deposits	\$ (1,876)	\$ (1,875)	\$ (1)
Borrowed funds, federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	(401)	(70)	(331)

Total interest-bearing liabilities	\$ (2,277)	\$ (1,945)	\$ (332)
------------------------------------	------------	------------	----------

- (1) Change in volume is the change in volume times the previous period's rate.
- (2) Change in rate is the change in rate times the previous period's balance.
- (3) The change in interest due to both rate and volume has been allocated to volume and rate changes in proportion to the relationship of the absolute dollar amounts of change to each.

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

We use our provision for loan losses to replenish the allowance for loan losses on our balance sheet. Based on our evaluation of the risk exposure contained in the loan portfolio, management believes that the level of the allowance is adequate. The Board of Directors reviews and approves management's evaluation. This is an ongoing process through which we review and determine the amount of the provision on a quarterly basis. The provision for loan losses declined from \$20.7 million during the third quarter of 2009 to \$8.5 million in the third quarter of 2010. We were able to reduce our provision for loan losses for the third quarter of 2010 because of a significant decrease in net charge-offs, as well as slight declines in our classified loans. We incurred \$5.9 million in net charge-offs for the third quarter of 2010, compared to \$22.5 million for the third quarter of 2009.

Other Income (Noninterest Income)

Other income refers to our noninterest income, which includes various service charges, fees and commissions. One of our strategic objectives has been, and continues to be, to increase the level of our other income. Our other income, exclusive of securities gains and losses, decreased by \$806,000, or 18.9%, from the third quarter of 2009 to the third quarter of 2010. The following table presents for the periods indicated the major categories of noninterest income and the changes in the third quarter of 2010 compared to the third quarter of 2009:

(Dollars in thousands)	Quarter Ended September 30,		
	2010	2009	Change
Service charges on deposit accounts	\$ 1,688	\$ 2,219	\$ (531)
Trust Department income	531	527	4
Other income	1,232	1,511	(279)
Total other income	\$ 3,451	\$ 4,257	\$ (806)

Our service charges on deposit accounts declined 23.9% from the third quarter of 2009 to the third quarter of 2010 primarily due to fewer NSF fees charged in 2010. We believe that the decline in fees has resulted from our customers becoming better stewards of their funds and the increased use of electronic banking that provides our customers with real-time feedback on account balances. In addition, new regulations requiring our customers to opt-in to overdraft coverage relating to certain ATM and checkcard transactions have contributed to the decline in NSF fees. The 18.5% decrease in other noninterest income is due mostly to the \$500,000 gain recognized on the sale of GCM's operations in the third quarter of 2009. Mortgage loan fee income declined by \$242,000 between the third quarter of 2009 and the third quarter of 2010, as a result of our scaling back our mortgage loan activity in 2010. Partially offsetting these decreases were increases in several other income categories, none of which are individually considered material.

We recognized \$5,000 in net securities gains during the third quarter of 2010, compared to \$923,000 in net securities gains during the third quarter of 2009. The significant amount of securities gains in the third quarter of 2009 resulted from our selling most of our tax-exempt securities during that period. Due to our year-to-date results of operations, we were not receiving the tax benefit of holding these securities. Thus, we decided to sell them and invest the proceeds into higher-yielding taxable securities.

Other Expense (Noninterest Expense)

Noninterest expense represents ordinary overhead expenses and, from time to time, any impairments to goodwill or other intangibles. These expenses declined by \$1.3 million during the third quarter of 2010, compared with the third quarter of 2009. The following table presents for the periods indicated the major categories of noninterest expense and the changes in the third quarter of 2010 compared to the third quarter of 2009:

(Dollars in thousands)	Quarter Ended September 30,		
	2010	2009	Change
Salaries and employee benefits	\$ 5,825	\$ 6,902	\$ (1,077)
Premises and fixed asset expense	1,868	1,910	(42)

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

Other expense	8,418	8,558	(140)
Total other expense	\$ 16,111	\$ 17,370	\$ (1,259)

Table of Contents

Salaries and employee benefits declined by 15.6% from the third quarter of 2009 to the third quarter of 2010. This decrease resulted mostly from the impact of certain staff reductions made in the first quarter of 2010 through our ongoing earnings improvement project.

Other noninterest expenses decreased by 1.6%. In the third quarter of 2009, we incurred \$934,000 in losses on early extinguishment of debt, as we prepaid several of our FHLB advances, and \$966,000 in expenses relating to our efforts to raise capital. These expenses did not recur in 2010. We also reduced expenses in several other categories, including director fees, communications, and FDIC insurance premiums. However, those reductions were offset somewhat by increased OREO expenses. These expenses, including costs of holding OREO, legal fees, and losses on sales of OREO, increased from \$2.0 million for the third quarter of 2009, to \$2.8 million for the third quarter of 2010. We also incurred approximately \$423,000 in losses on letters of credit in the third quarter of 2010.

Changes in our income tax expense have generally paralleled changes in income. The income tax benefits for the third quarters of 2009 and 2010 resulted from the losses recognized for the periods, as well as the tax benefits of our tax-exempt income.

Financial Condition as of September 30, 2010

Summary

Total assets were \$1.733 billion as of September 30, 2010, compared to \$1.844 billion as of December 31, 2009. Our loan portfolio balance was \$945.0 million as of September 30, 2010, compared to \$1.091 billion as of December 31, 2009, a decrease of \$146.5 million, or 13.4%. Total deposits were \$1.400 billion as of September 30, 2010, compared to \$1.500 billion as of December 31, 2009, a decrease of \$99.8 million, or 6.65%. Shareholders' equity declined to \$112.0 million as of September 30, 2010, compared to \$119.8 million as of December 31, 2009.

Loan Portfolio

Historically, our lending focus has been distributed among commercial real estate, commercial and industrial loans, 1-4 family mortgages and consumer loans. Total commercial, financial and agricultural loans, which consist primarily of short-term loans for working capital purposes, inventories, seasonal loans, lines of credit and equipment loans, accounted for 16.0% of our loan portfolio as of September 30, 2010, compared to 17.0% as of December 31, 2009. Total real estate loans, which are secured by commercial real estate, one-to-four family residential properties and multi-family dwelling units, accounted for 72.4% of our loan portfolio as of September 30, 2010, compared to 72.7% as of December 31, 2009. Total consumer loans, which consist of home improvement, mobile home, automobile and unsecured personal loans, made up 1.8% of our loan portfolio as of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009.

Total loans were \$945.0 million as of September 30, 2010, a decrease of \$146.5 million, or 13.4%, compared to total loans of \$1.091 billion as of December 31, 2009. The majority of the decline in loans occurred in commercial real estate loans due primarily to payoffs and chargedowns.

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes our loan portfolio by type of loan and type of customer as of the dates indicated:

(Dollars in thousands)	As of September 30, 2010		As of December 31, 2009	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
Commercial:				
Commercial	\$ 151,021	16.0%	\$ 185,466	17.0%
Commercial real estate	524,100	55.5%	612,706	56.1%
Real estate construction	20,973	2.2%	30,000	2.8%
Total commercial	696,094	73.7%	828,172	75.9%
Consumer:				
Residential real estate	73,613	7.8%	83,744	7.7%
Home equity lines	64,769	6.9%	67,185	6.2%
Other consumer loans	16,629	1.7%	20,177	1.8%
Total consumer	155,011	16.4%	171,106	15.7%
Other	93,862	9.9%	92,199	8.4%
Total loans	\$ 944,967	100.0%	\$ 1,091,477	100.0%

The contractual maturity ranges of our loan portfolio and the amount of such loans with fixed and variable interest rates in each maturity range classified by borrower type as of September 30, 2010, are summarized in the following table:

(Dollars in thousands)	As of September 30, 2010			
	One Year or Less	After One Through Five Years	After Five Years	Total
Commercial:				
Commercial	\$ 48,351	\$ 98,409	\$ 4,261	\$ 151,021
Commercial real estate	128,760	303,327	92,013	524,100
Real estate construction	4,466	4,690	11,817	20,973
Total commercial	181,577	406,426	108,091	696,094
Consumer:				
Residential real estate	10,549	18,967	44,097	73,613
Home equity lines	2,470	17,129	45,170	64,769
Other consumer loans	380	13,590	2,659	16,629
Total consumer	13,399	49,686	91,926	155,011
Other	68,054	13,303	12,505	93,862
Total loans	\$ 263,030	\$ 469,415	\$ 212,522	\$ 944,967
Loans with a fixed interest rate	\$ 114,475	\$ 260,922	\$ 44,883	\$ 420,280

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

Loans with a variable interest rate	148,555	208,493	167,639	524,687
Total loans	\$ 263,030	\$ 469,415	\$ 212,522	\$ 944,967

As of September 30, 2010, our loan portfolio was composed of approximately 45.0% fixed interest rate loans and 55.0% variable interest rate loans. Scheduled contractual principal repayments do not reflect the actual maturities of loans. The average maturity of our loans is substantially less than their average contractual term because of prepayments. The average life of mortgage loans tends to increase when the current mortgage loan rates are substantially higher than rates on existing mortgage loans and, conversely, decrease when current mortgage loans rates are substantially lower than rates on existing mortgages due primarily to refinancings of adjustable rate and fixed rate loans at lower rates.

Table of Contents***Higher-Risk Loans***

Our loan portfolio does not include several types of loans generally considered higher-risk, such as option adjustable-rate mortgage loans, junior lien mortgages, high loan-to-value mortgages, interest-only loans, subprime loans, and loans with teaser rates. Management believes that the highest risk loans in our portfolio are our construction and land development loans.

We entered the Memphis, Birmingham, and Middle Tennessee markets late in the most recent real estate boom cycle. Consequently, our build-up in our construction and land development portfolio and the subsequent lack of demand for residential real estate due to declines in the mortgage markets caused our loan quality to deteriorate. In mid-2008, we established a moratorium on residential construction and development lending. From September 30, 2009 to September 30, 2010, we reduced our exposure in our construction and land development portfolio by \$91.5 million, or 42.2%.

The following table reflects the composition of our construction and land development portfolio by market:

(Dollars in thousands)	As of September 30, 2010		As of June 30, 2010		As of December 31, 2009		As of September 30, 2009	
	Balance	%	Balance	%	Balance	%	Balance	%
Birmingham	\$ 10,018	8.0%	\$ 11,781	8.6%	\$ 17,043	10.3%	\$ 18,423	8.5%
Florida	23,397	18.7%	23,911	17.5%	25,600	15.4%	25,427	11.7%
Georgia	8,735	7.0%	9,760	7.1%	10,820	6.5%	11,481	5.3%
Memphis	23,513	18.8%	24,879	18.2%	29,816	18.0%	41,561	19.2%
Middle Tennessee	29,643	23.7%	32,941	24.1%	43,420	26.1%	76,226	35.2%
Mississippi	20,550	16.4%	23,070	16.9%	29,796	17.9%	31,959	14.7%
Tuscaloosa	9,346	7.4%	10,333	7.6%	9,717	5.8%	11,639	5.4%
Total	\$ 125,202	100.0%	\$ 136,675	100.0%	\$ 166,212	100.0%	\$ 216,716	100.0%

During 2010, we have charged off approximately \$9.8 million related to loans in this segment of our portfolio. As of September 30, 2010, our allowance for loan losses includes approximately \$11.7 million allocated to construction and land development loans.

All commercial real estate loans, exclusive of the loans discussed above, total approximately \$425.1 million as of September 30, 2010. Of this total, 53% represents owner occupied commercial real estate, and 47% represents non-owner occupied commercial real estate.

We have implemented additional risk management procedures focusing on real estate loans, so that we will reduce potential future losses. The moratorium on residential construction and development lending is continuing. We have tightened our underwriting standards for all commercial real estate loans and are not renewing certain loans to move them out of our portfolio. We are conducting builder/developer stress tests for larger relationships, and our loan officers are focusing more time on managing and reviewing existing loans, including stress testing, clearing exceptions, and collecting these loans.

We are beginning to see some positive signs in these portfolios; however, we are not ready to say that they have turned upward. We remain very proactive in monitoring these credits across our system since they represent the biggest risk to our future earnings.

Delinquent and Nonperforming Assets

We have several procedures that are designed to maintain the overall quality of our loan portfolio. We have established underwriting guidelines that are followed by our management and delinquency levels are monitored by our executive committee and reviewed by the board of directors for any negative or adverse trends. There can be no assurance, however, that our loan portfolio will not become subject to increasing pressures from deteriorating borrower credit due to general economic conditions.

Trends in delinquency ratios represent an indicator, among other considerations, of credit risk within the loan portfolio. Nonperforming loans include nonaccrual loans, loans past due 90 days or more, and loans renegotiated or restructured because of a debtor's financial difficulties.

Table of Contents

We generally place loans on nonaccrual status if any of the following events occur:

the classification of a loan as nonaccrual internally or by regulatory examiners;

delinquency on principal for 90 days or more unless management is in the process of collection;

a balance remains after repossession of collateral;

notification of bankruptcy; or

management judges that nonaccrual status is appropriate.

Cash payments received while a loan is classified as nonaccrual are recorded as a reduction of principal as long as doubt exists as to collection. We are sometimes required to revise the interest rate or repayment terms in a troubled debt restructuring.

We obtain appraisals on loans secured by real estate with principal amounts in excess of \$250,000 and may update those appraisals for loans categorized as nonperforming loans and potential problem loans. In instances where updated appraisals reflect reduced collateral values, we evaluate the borrower's overall financial condition to determine the need, if any, for possible writedowns or appropriate additions to the allowance for loan losses. We record real estate acquired through foreclosure at fair value at the time of acquisition, less estimated costs to sell the property.

The following table presents information regarding nonperforming assets as of the dates indicated:

(Dollars in thousands)	As of September 30, 2010	As of December 31, 2009	As of September 30, 2009
Nonaccrual loans	\$ 42,009	\$ 41,096	\$ 46,983
Accruing loans past due 90 days or more	847	5,582	4,083
Restructured loans	33,606	23,505	8,918
Total nonperforming loans	76,462	70,183	59,984
Other real estate owned	32,200	34,259	14,760
Total nonperforming assets	\$ 108,662	\$ 104,442	\$ 74,744
Nonperforming assets to total loans and other real estate owned	11.12%	9.28%	6.26%

The increase in our nonperforming assets to total loans and other real estate owned ratio between December 31, 2009, and September 30, 2010, resulted more from the decline in our overall loan balance than from the slight increase in our nonperforming assets.

As of September 30, 2010, other real estate was comprised primarily of residential real estate developments in various stages of completion.

We follow a loan review program designed to evaluate the credit risk in our loan portfolio. Through this loan review process, we maintain an internally classified watch list which helps management assess the overall quality of the loan portfolio and the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses. Loans included on the watch list that are not otherwise classified show warning elements where the present status portrays one or

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

more deficiencies that require attention in the short term or where pertinent ratios of the loan account have weakened to a point where more frequent monitoring is warranted. These loans do not have all of the characteristics of a classified loan (substandard or doubtful) but do show weakened elements compared to those of a satisfactory credit.

In establishing the appropriate classification for specific assets, we consider, among other factors, the estimated value of the underlying collateral, the borrower's ability to repay, the borrower's repayment history and the current delinquent status. As a result of this process, loans are classified as substandard, doubtful or loss.

Loans classified as substandard are those loans with clear and defined weaknesses such as a highly leveraged position, unfavorable financial ratios, uncertain repayment sources or poor financial condition which may jeopardize the repayment of the debt as contractually agreed. They are characterized by the distinct possibility that we will sustain some losses if the deficiencies are not corrected. Loans classified as doubtful are those loans which have characteristics similar to substandard loans but with an increased risk that collection or liquidation in full is highly questionable and improbable. Loans classified as loss are those loans that are in the process of being charged off. Once a loan is deemed uncollectible as contractually agreed, the loan is charged off either partially or in-full against the allowance for loan losses.

Table of Contents*Allowance for Loan Losses*

The allowance for loan losses was \$38.2 million as of September 30, 2010, compared to \$43.4 million as of December 31, 2009. The following table summarizes the activity in our allowance for loan losses as of and for the periods indicated:

(Dollars in thousands)	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010	Year Ended December 31, 2009
Average loans outstanding	\$ 1,023,778	\$ 1,237,411
Total loans outstanding at end of period	\$ 944,967	\$ 1,091,477
Allowance for loan losses at beginning of period	\$ 43,422	\$ 20,730
Charge-offs:		
Commercial, financial and agricultural	(4,357)	(8,143)
Real estate	(16,931)	(49,944)
Installment loans and other	(461)	(755)
Total charge-offs	(21,749)	(58,842)
Recoveries:		
Commercial, financial and agricultural	500	1,224
Real estate	2,419	695
Installment loans and other	270	287
Total recoveries	3,189	2,206
Net charge-offs	(18,560)	(56,636)
Provision for loan losses	13,317	79,328
Allowance for loan losses at end of period	\$ 38,179	\$ 43,422
Ratio of net charge-offs to average loans outstanding	1.81%	4.58%
Ratio of allowance for loan losses to period end loans	4.04%	3.98%
Ratio of allowance for loan losses to nonperforming loans	49.93%	61.87%

Allocated Allowance for Loan Losses. We use a risk rating and specific reserve methodology in the calculation and allocation of our allowance for loan losses. The following table describes the allocation of the allowance for loan losses among various categories of loans for the dates indicated. The allocation is made for analytical purposes and is not necessarily indicative of the categories in which future losses may occur. The total allowance is available to absorb losses from any segment of loans.

	As of September 30, 2010		As of December 31, 2009	
(Dollars in thousands)	Loan Balance	Allowance for Loan Losses	Loan Balance	Allowance for Loan Losses
Allocated component:				
Impaired loans	\$ 74,505	\$ 7,428	\$ 67,785	\$ 11,407
Pooled loans	870,462	28,719	1,023,692	29,275
Unallocated component		2,032		2,740

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

Totals	\$ 944,967	\$ 38,179	\$ 1,091,477	\$ 43,422
--------	------------	-----------	--------------	-----------

Management believes that the allowance for loan losses as of September 30, 2010, is adequate to cover losses inherent in the portfolio as of such date.

Investment Portfolio

The investment portfolio serves as a source of liquidity and earnings and is used to manage interest rate risk and to ensure collateral is available for pledging requirements. Our investment portfolio primarily consists of agency mortgage-backed securities, pooled government guaranteed SBA loans and taxable and non-taxable municipal securities. Securities within the portfolio are classified as held-to-maturity or available-for-sale. As of September 30, 2010, we had no securities classified as trading. Fair values of securities are based on quoted market prices where available. If quoted market prices are not available, estimated fair values are based on quoted market prices of comparable securities.

Table of Contents

Securities available-for-sale are carried at fair value with unrealized holding gains and losses reported as a separate component of shareholders equity called accumulated other comprehensive income. Securities that are held as available-for-sale are used as a part of our asset/liability management strategy. Securities may be sold in response to interest rate changes, changes in liquidity needs, changes in tax strategies, changes in prepayment risk or changes to underlying bank funding. Available-for-sale securities were \$362.0 million as of September 30, 2010, compared to \$330.1 million as of December 31, 2009. As of September 30, 2010, \$228.2 million, or 63.0%, of the available-for-sale securities were invested in mortgage-backed securities, compared to \$227.3 million, or 68.9%, as of December 31, 2009. The remainder of the available-for-sale portfolio was invested primarily in government securities.

Securities held-to-maturity are carried at amortized historical cost. Securities that we have the intent and ability to hold until maturity or on a long-term basis are classified as held-to-maturity. Held-to-maturity securities were \$2.7 million as of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009. All of the securities in the held-to-maturity category were issued by state and municipal subdivisions.

The following tables summarize the amortized cost of securities classified as available-for-sale and held-to-maturity and their approximate fair values as of the dates shown:

		As of September 30, 2010		
(Dollars in thousands)	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
Available-for-sale:				
Mortgage-backed securities	\$ 217,968	\$ 10,194	\$	\$ 228,162
Other securities	129,044	5,013	241	133,816
Total	\$ 347,012	\$ 15,207	\$ 241	\$ 361,978
Held-to-maturity:				
Other securities	\$ 2,667	\$ 50	\$	\$ 2,717
		As of December 31, 2009		
(Dollars in thousands)	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
Available-for-sale:				
Mortgage-backed securities	\$ 219,635	\$ 8,358	\$ 706	\$ 227,287
Other securities	101,235	2,087	530	102,792
Total	\$ 320,870	\$ 10,445	\$ 1,236	\$ 330,079
Held-to-maturity:				
Other securities	\$ 2,671	\$ 70	\$	\$ 2,741

Some of our investment securities are valued at less than their historical cost. We believe these declines resulted primarily from increases in market interest rates. Because the declines in market value are due to changes in interest rates and not credit quality, and because we have the ability and intent to hold these securities until a recovery in fair value, management believes the declines in fair value for these securities are temporary. Should the impairment of any of these securities become other-than-temporary, the cost basis of the investment will be reduced and the resulting loss recognized in net earnings in the period the other-than-temporary impairment is identified.

As of September 30, 2010, we had net unrealized gains of \$15.0 million in the investment portfolio compared to net unrealized gains of \$9.3 million as of December 31, 2009. The \$5.7 million increase in net unrealized gains is primarily attributable to changes in market interest rates from December 31, 2009 to September 30, 2010.

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

Mortgage-backed securities (MBSs) are securities that have been developed by pooling a number of real estate mortgages and are principally issued by quasi-federal agencies such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. These securities are deemed to have high credit ratings, and the minimum monthly cash flows of principal and interest are guaranteed by the issuing agencies. Although investors generally assume that the federal government will support these agencies, it is under no obligation to do so. Other MBSs are issued by Ginnie Mae, which is a federal agency, and are guaranteed by the U.S. government.

Table of Contents

Unlike U.S. government securities, which have a lump sum payment at maturity, MBSs provide cash flows from regular principal and interest payments and principal prepayments throughout the lives of the securities. MBSs that are purchased at a premium will generally suffer decreasing net yields as interest rates drop because homeowners tend to refinance their mortgages. Thus, the premium paid must be amortized over a shorter period. Conversely, MBSs purchased at a discount will obtain higher net yields in a decreasing interest rate environment. As interest rates rise, the opposite will generally be true. During a period of increasing interest rates, fixed rate MBSs do not tend to experience heavy prepayments of principal, and consequently the average life of this security will be lengthened. If interest rates begin to fall, prepayments will increase, thereby shortening the estimated lives of these securities.

The following table summarizes the contractual maturities of investment securities on an amortized cost basis and their weighted average yields as of September 30, 2010. This table shows the contractual maturities of the related investment securities and not the estimated average lives of the securities. The contractual maturity of an MBS is the date at which the last underlying mortgage matures. In the case of a 15-year pool of loans or a 30-year pool of loans, the maturity date of the security will be the date the last payment is due on the underlying mortgages.

	As of September 30, 2010									
(Dollars in thousands)	Due Within One Year		After One Year but Within Five Years		After Five Years but Within Ten Years		After Ten Years		Total	
	Amount	Yield	Amount	Yield	Amount	Yield	Amount	Yield	Amount	Yield
Available-for-sale:										
Mortgage-backed securities	\$ 2,012	4.34%	\$ 4,103	4.38%	\$ 23,535	3.91%	\$ 198,512	4.45%	\$ 228,162	4.39%
Other securities	40	4.25%	50,959	1.20%	34,930	3.44%	47,193	5.02%	133,122	3.15%
Total	2,052	4.33%	55,062	1.44%	58,465	3.63%	245,705	4.56%	361,284	3.93%
Held-to-maturity:										
Other securities					2,667	9.38%			2,667	9.38%
Equity and other securities							13,934	2.13%	13,934	2.13%
Total securities	\$ 2,052	4.33%	\$ 55,062	1.44%	\$ 61,132	3.88%	\$ 259,639	4.43%	\$ 377,885	3.90%

Contractual maturity of an MBS is not a reliable indicator of its expected life because borrowers have the right to prepay their obligations at any time. A third party analysis of our mortgage-backed securities as of September 30, 2010 showed the estimated average lives for fixed MBSs to be 3.3 years. The average life of the total investment portfolio is 3.8 years as of September 30, 2010.

Deposits

Deposits are our primary source of funds, and we rely on our banking centers and branches to attract and retain those deposits. We offer a variety of products, which consist of noninterest-bearing and interest checking accounts, money market and savings accounts and certificates of deposit. Deposits are gathered from individuals, partnerships and corporations in our market areas. From time to time, we also purchase brokered deposits.

As of September 30, 2010, core deposits (which we define as all deposits other than brokered deposits, 50% of time deposits \$100,000 and greater and 50% of public funds) were \$1.138 billion, or 81.3% of total deposits, while non-core deposits, including brokered deposits, made up 18.7% of total deposits. Total deposits declined to \$1.400 billion as of September 30, 2010, compared to \$1.500 billion as of December 31, 2009, a decrease of \$99.8 million, or 6.7%. Noninterest-bearing deposits increased by 6.1% over this period, and interest-bearing deposits, primarily time deposits, decreased by 8.3%.

The interest rates we pay are based on the competitive environments in each of our markets. We manage our interest expense through weekly deposit pricing reviews that compare our deposit rates with the competition and wholesale alternatives. In addition, we have at times offered special products or attractive rates so that our deposits will keep up with our need for liquidity. The average cost of deposits, including noninterest-bearing deposits, for the first nine months of 2010 was 1.46%, compared to 1.84% for the year ended December 31, 2009.

Table of Contents

The following table presents the daily average balances and rates paid on deposits for the periods indicated:

(Dollars in thousands)	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010		Year Ended December 31, 2009	
	Average Balance	Average Rate	Average Balance	Average Rate
Noninterest-bearing deposits	\$ 174,945		\$ 176,370	
Interest-bearing demand (1)	566,829	0.88%	562,253	1.15%
Savings	46,323	0.36%	43,887	0.43%
Time deposits	727,029	2.34%	722,293	2.91%
Total	\$ 1,515,126	1.46%	\$ 1,504,803	1.84%

(1) Includes money market accounts.

The following table provides the amount of our time deposits as of September 30, 2010, that are \$100,000 and greater by time remaining until maturity:

(Dollars in thousands)	As of September 30, 2010
Three months or less	\$ 102,246
Over three months through six months	106,456
Over six months through one year	74,684
Over one year	76,931
Total	\$ 360,317

While a majority of the time deposits in amounts of \$100,000 and greater will mature within one year, we expect that a significant portion of these deposits will be renewed, given that the rates we offer on time deposits are competitive in the market. If a significant portion of the time deposits were not renewed, it would have an adverse effect on our liquidity. We monitor maturities and have other available funding sources to mitigate this effect.

Borrowings, Repurchase Agreements and Junior Subordinated Debentures

We use borrowings to supplement deposits in funding our lending and investing activities. These borrowings are typically FHLB advances, which have terms ranging from overnight to several years. All FHLB borrowings are collateralized by investment securities or first mortgage loans. Additionally, we borrow from other financial institutions using investment securities as collateral and have issued junior subordinated debentures to a subsidiary trust. As of September 30, 2010, securities with a carrying value of \$325.8 million and loans with a carrying value of \$352.0 million were pledged as collateral.

Our borrowings and repurchase agreements were \$178.5 million as of September 30, 2010. The outstanding balance as of September 30, 2010, includes \$95.0 million in long-term FHLB advances, \$50.0 million in repurchase agreements with brokerage firms and \$33.5 million in repurchase agreements with clients and treasury tax and loan note payable.

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes our outstanding borrowings and repurchase agreements of the dates indicated:

(Dollars in thousands)	As of September 30, 2010	As of December 31, 2009
Ending balance	\$ 178,539	\$ 184,072
Average balance for the period	179,746	242,661
Maximum month-end balance during the period	186,735	293,704
Average interest rate for the period	2.47%	2.57%
Weighted average interest rate at the end of the period	2.45%	2.44%

Note: This table includes federal funds purchased, securities sold under agreements to repurchase, and other borrowed funds (primarily FHLB advances).

In addition to the borrowings and repurchase agreements discussed above, on December 20, 2003, the Corporation issued \$30.9 million of floating rate junior subordinated deferrable interest debentures to the Trust. The debentures are the sole asset of the Trust. The net proceeds received by the Corporation from the issuance of the debentures were used for our acquisition of Enterprise Bancshares, Inc. The Trust issued \$30.0 million of TPSs to investors. The Corporation's obligations under the debentures and related documents, taken together, constitute a full and unconditional guarantee by the Corporation of the Trust's obligations under the TPSs. The TPSs are redeemable at the Corporation's option on or after December 30, 2008, on any interest payment date. The TPSs must be redeemed upon maturity of the debentures in 2033. Interest on the debentures and TPSs is the three month London Interbank Offer Rate (LIBOR) plus 2.85% and is payable quarterly.

The Trust is a statutory business trust organized for the sole purpose of issuing trust securities and investing the proceeds in our junior subordinated debentures. The TPSs represent preferred beneficial interests in the assets of the Trust and are subject to mandatory redemption upon payment of the junior subordinated debentures held by the Trust. We own the common securities of the Trust. The Trust's ability to pay amounts due on the TPSs depends solely on our making payment on the related junior subordinated debentures. The debentures, which are the only assets of the Trust, are subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of our present and future senior indebtedness. Under the provisions of the issue of the junior subordinated debentures, we have the right to defer payment of interest on the debentures at any time, or from time to time, for periods not exceeding five years. If interest payments on the junior subordinated debentures are deferred, the distributions on the TPSs will also be deferred. However, the interest due would continue to accrue during any such interest payment deferral period.

On August 9, 2010, the Board of Directors voted to defer regular interest payments on the subordinated debentures issued to the Trust. Total interest payments deferred as of September 30, 2010, were \$267,000. Based on the three month LIBOR rate of 0.29% as of September 28, 2010, the fourth quarter interest payment would be approximately \$248,000. The Board of Directors believes the deferral of the payment of interest on the debentures is in the best interest of the Corporation at the present time given the Corporation's desire to conserve and maintain liquidity.

Shareholders' Equity

Shareholders' equity was \$112.0 million as of September 30, 2010, compared to \$119.8 million as of December 31, 2009. During the first nine months of 2010, we reported a net loss applicable to common shareholders of \$11.7 million. Included in this amount are the payment of \$1.1 million in preferred dividends and \$325,000 of discount accretion related to the Series A preferred stock. Finally, an increase in the market value of our available-for-sale investment securities caused our accumulated other comprehensive income to increase from \$2.6 million at December 31, 2009, to \$6.2 million at September 30, 2010.

Dividends paid by the Corporation are provided from dividends received from Cadence. Under regulations controlling national banks, the payment of any dividends by a bank without prior approval from the OCC is limited to the current year's net profits (as defined by the OCC) and retained net profits of the two preceding years. At September 30, 2010, Cadence can not make dividend payments to the Corporation without prior approval of the OCC. The Federal Reserve, as primary regulator for bank holding companies, has also stated that all common stock dividends should be paid out of current earnings. As the Corporation does not generate earnings on a stand-alone basis, it does not have the capability to pay common stock dividends without receiving dividends from Cadence. The Corporation does not expect to make dividend payments in the near future.

Table of Contents***Return on Equity and Assets***

The following table sets forth certain selected financial data for the periods indicated.

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Quarter Ended September 30,	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
Return on assets (net income divided by total average assets)	-0.8%	-7.7%	-1.7%	-2.8%
Return on equity (net income divided by average equity)	-13.3%	-102.9%	-26.1%	-41.8%
Equity to asset ratio (average equity divided by total average assets)	6.4%	7.5%	6.4%	6.7%

Regulatory Capital

Cadence is subject to the capital adequacy requirements of the OCC. The Corporation, as a bank holding company, is subject to the capital adequacy requirements of the Federal Reserve. Failure to meet minimum capital requirements can initiate certain mandatory and possibly additional discretionary actions by regulators that, if undertaken, could have a direct material effect on the Corporation's consolidated financial statements. Under capital adequacy guidelines and the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action, the Corporation and Cadence must meet specific capital guidelines that involve quantitative measures of assets, liabilities and certain off-balance sheet items as calculated under regulatory accounting practices. Capital amounts and classifications are also subject to qualitative judgment by regulators about components, risk weightings, and other related factors.

The risk-based capital requirements of the Federal Reserve and the OCC define capital and establish minimum capital requirements in relation to assets and off-balance sheet exposure, adjusted for credit risk. The risk-based capital standards currently in effect are designed to make regulatory capital requirements more sensitive to differences in risk profiles among bank holding companies and banks, to account for off-balance sheet exposure and to minimize disincentives for holding liquid assets. Assets and off-balance sheet items are assigned to broad risk categories, each with appropriate relative risk weights. The resulting capital ratios represent capital as a percentage of total risk-weighted assets and off-balance sheet items.

The risk-based capital standards issued by the Federal Reserve require all bank holding companies to have a Tier 1 leverage ratio of at least 4.0% to be adequately capitalized and at least 5.0% to be well-capitalized and a total risk-based capital ratio (Tier 1 and Tier 2) of at least 8.0% of total risk-adjusted assets to be adequately capitalized and at least 10.0% to be well-capitalized. Tier 1 capital generally includes common shareholders' equity and qualifying perpetual preferred stock together with related surpluses and retained earnings, less deductions for goodwill and various other intangibles. Tier 2 capital may consist of a limited amount of intermediate-term preferred stock, a limited amount of term subordinated debt, certain hybrid capital instruments and other debt securities, perpetual preferred stock not qualifying as Tier 1 capital, and a limited amount of the general valuation allowance for loan losses.

The Federal Reserve has also adopted guidelines which supplement the risk-based capital guidelines with a minimum ratio of Tier 1 capital to average total consolidated assets (leverage ratio) of 3.0% for institutions with well diversified risk, including no undue interest rate exposure; excellent asset quality; high liquidity; good earnings; and that are generally considered to be strong banking organizations, rated composite 1 under applicable federal guidelines, and that are not experiencing or anticipating significant growth. Other banking organizations are required to maintain a leverage ratio of at least 4.0% in order to be categorized as adequately capitalized and at least 5.0% to be categorized as well-capitalized. These rules further provide that banking organizations experiencing internal growth or making acquisitions will be expected to maintain capital positions substantially above the minimum supervisory levels and comparable to peer group averages, without significant reliance on intangible assets.

Table of Contents

Our actual capital amounts and ratios are presented in the following table. No amount was deducted from capital for interest-rate risk exposure.

(Dollars in thousands)	Cadence Financial Corporation (Consolidated)		Cadence	
	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio
As of September 30, 2010				
Total risk-based	\$ 105,565	10.6%	\$ 99,681	10.1%
Tier 1 risk-based	92,817	9.3	86,981	8.8
Tier 1 leverage	92,817	5.2	86,981	4.9
As of December 31, 2009				
Total risk-based	\$ 125,730	10.9%	\$ 117,053	10.2%
Tier 1 risk-based	110,980	9.6	102,338	8.9
Tier 1 leverage	110,980	6.3	102,338	6.0

The minimum amounts of capital and ratios as established by banking regulators are as follows:

(Dollars in thousands)	Cadence Financial Corporation (Consolidated)		Cadence	
	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio
As of September 30, 2010				
Total risk-based	\$ 79,496	8.0%	\$ 79,185	8.0%
Tier 1 risk-based	39,748	4.0	39,592	4.0
Tier 1 leverage	71,198	4.0	70,418	4.0
As of December 31, 2009				
Total risk-based	\$ 92,103	8.0%	\$ 91,878	8.0%
Tier 1 risk-based	46,052	4.0	45,939	4.0
Tier 1 leverage	70,136	4.0	68,616	4.0

Cadence is subject to capital adequacy guidelines of the OCC at the bank level that are substantially similar to the Federal Reserve guidelines. Although current regulatory guidelines state that a financial institution must have a total risk-based capital ratio of 10.0%, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 6.0%, and a Tier 1 leverage ratio of 5.0% to be considered well-capitalized in accordance with the regulations, the primary regulator has the ability to impose higher ratios on financial institutions. These higher standards are imposed if the regulator believes that the risk profile on the institution is higher than they consider appropriate. As part of a consent order imposed on the Bank by the OCC in May 2010, Cadence was required to achieve by September 19, 2010, and maintain on an ongoing basis, a Tier 1 leverage ratio of 9.0% and a total risk-based capital ratio of 12.0%. As of September 30, 2010, Cadence did not satisfy this regulatory requirement, as it had a Tier 1 leverage ratio of 4.9% and a total risk-based capital ratio of 10.1%.

Because of recent losses experienced by the Corporation and Cadence's requirement for additional capital to meet these higher ratios, there is a need for the Corporation to raise additional capital. Over the past eighteen months, management has investigated various alternatives to raise capital. As a result of those efforts, on October 6, 2010, the Corporation announced that it has agreed to be acquired by CBC. The terms of this agreement provide that a wholly-owned subsidiary of CBC will be merged with and into the Corporation, with the Corporation as the surviving entity and as a wholly-owned subsidiary of CBC. Under the terms of the agreement, our common shareholders will receive a cash payment of \$2.50 per share, which values the transaction at approximately \$29.8 million. In addition, it is our understanding that CBC has entered into an agreement with Treasury to purchase the \$44.0 million of our preferred stock and the associated warrant issued to Treasury under the Capital Purchase Program for \$38.0 million in cash, plus approximately \$1.0 million in cash for accrued but unpaid dividends with respect to the preferred stock through October 29, 2010, subject to certain closing conditions. Consummation of the merger is subject to approval by regulatory authorities, approval by our shareholders at a shareholder meeting scheduled for December 2010, and certain other conditions set forth in the agreement. The merger is expected to close no later than the first quarter of 2011.

Table of Contents

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

There were no material changes to our contractual obligations during the first nine months of 2010.

In the ordinary course of our business, we enter into agreements with customers to loan money. When a loan agreement is executed, the customer can either borrow the money immediately or draw against the loan over a predetermined time period. If an unfunded commitment is drawn against, the Bank charges the customer the interest rate established in the original agreement for the amount of the draw for the time period outstanding. As of September 30, 2010, the amount of unfunded commitments outstanding was \$117.1 million.

We also provide letters of credit to our customers. A letter of credit is a contingent obligation to make a loan to the customer for up to the amount of the letter of credit and at a predetermined rate of interest. The Bank charges the customer approximately 1.5% of the face amount of a letter of credit as a fee for issuance. As of September 30, 2010, the amount of outstanding letters of credit was \$11.5 million.

The issuance of a letter of credit or a loan commitment is subject to the same credit and underwriting standards as any other loan agreement.

At any point in time, we do not know when or if these commitments will be funded. Generally, if they are funded, they are funded at various times over the commitment period. As a result, we are able to fund them out of normal cash flow. If all outstanding commitments were funded at the same time, we have the ability to fund them through our current liquidity.

In June 2008, the FHLB of Dallas issued a \$35 million standby letter of credit to the Bank to secure public funds.

Liquidity, Inflation and Asset/Liability Management

Liquidity may be defined as our ability to meet cash flow requirements created by decreases in deposits and/or other sources of funds or increases in loan demand. We did not experience any problems with liquidity during the first nine months of 2010 and anticipate that all liquidity requirements will be met in the future. Our traditional sources of funds from deposit growth, maturing loans and investments, wholesale borrowing lines and earnings have generally allowed us to consistently generate sufficient funds to meet our daily operational liquidity needs. As the result of a \$146.5 million decrease in loans and a \$99.8 million decrease in deposits as of September 30, 2010, compared to December 31, 2009, our loan/deposit ratio declined to 67.5% as of September 30, 2010, compared to a loan/deposit ratio of 72.8% as of December 31, 2009. Our total funding sources include not only deposits, but also federal funds purchased, securities sold under agreements to repurchase and FHLB borrowings. When we include these sources of funding with deposits, our loans to total funding ratio declined to 59.9% as of September 30, 2010, from 64.9% as of December 31, 2009. Management's target loans to deposits ratio is in the range of 75-85%, and our goal is to limit wholesale funding to no more than 25% of total assets.

We offer retail repurchase agreements to accommodate excess funds of some of our larger depositors. Management believes that these repurchase agreements stabilize traditional deposit sources as opposed to risking the potential loss of these funds to alternative investment arrangements. Retail repurchase agreements, which we view as a source of funds, totaled \$32.1 million as of September 30, 2010, and \$37.4 million as of December 31, 2009. The level of retail repurchase agreement activity is limited by the availability of investment portfolio securities to be pledged against the accounts and our asset/liability funding policy. Because of the limited amount of retail repurchase agreements and the fact that the underlying securities remain under our control, we do not consider the exposure for this service to be material.

We believe that our traditional sources of cash flow, including retail deposits, maturing loans and investments, and the high level of cash currently carried on our balance sheet, will provide the cash to allow us to meet our future liquidity needs. At September 30, 2010, we had unused short-term borrowing lines (federal funds purchased lines) of approximately \$10.0 million from upstream correspondent banks. We also have additional borrowing capacity from the Federal Reserve under certain circumstances. As of September 30, 2010, we had \$95.0 million in outstanding FHLB borrowings. We have no additional borrowing capacity with the FHLB.

We currently have no plans to refinance or redeem any liabilities other than normal maturities and payments relating to the FHLB borrowings and our term repurchase agreements with brokerage firms. We do not have plans at this time for any discretionary spending that would have a material impact on liquidity. Under regulations controlling bank holding companies and national banks, Cadence is limited in the amount it can lend to the Corporation, and

Table of Contents

those loans are required to be on a fully secured basis. At September 30, 2010, there were no loans between Cadence and the Corporation. The Corporation's only source of liquidity is dividends it receives from Cadence. Under regulations controlling national banks, the payment of any dividends by a bank without prior approval from the OCC is limited to the current year's net profits (as defined by the OCC) and retained net profits of the two preceding years.

Because the majority of assets and liabilities of a financial institution are monetary in nature, a financial institution differs greatly from most commercial and industrial companies, which have significant investments in fixed assets or inventories. Fluctuations in interest rate and actions of the Federal Reserve to regulate the national money supply to mitigate recessionary and inflationary pressures have a greater effect on a financial institution's profitability than do higher costs for goods and services.

The primary objective of rate sensitivity management is to maintain net interest income growth while reducing exposure to adverse fluctuations in rates. The Asset/Liability Management Committee of the Board of Directors evaluates and analyzes our pricing, asset/liability maturities and growth, and balance sheet mix strategies in an effort to make informed decisions that will increase income and limit interest rate risk. The Committee uses simulation modeling as a guide for decision-making and to forecast changes in net income and the economic value of equity under assumed fluctuations in interest rate levels.

Due to the potential volatility of interest rates, our goal is to stabilize the net interest margin by maintaining a relatively neutral rate sensitive position. As of September 30, 2010, our balance sheet reflected approximately \$97.2 million more in rate sensitive assets than liabilities that were scheduled to reprice within one year. This represented 5.6% of our total assets and indicates that we are in an asset-sensitive position. This computation results from a static gap analysis that weights assets and liabilities equally. Management believes that interest rates will continue to remain flat for the remainder of 2010 and that our current position places us in the correct interest rate risk posture for this rate environment. Management does not believe that it is in our best interest to speculate on changes in interest rate levels. Although earnings could be enhanced if predictions were correct, if interest rates move against predictions, then Cadence's earnings will be less than predicted.

During the first nine months of 2010, we believe we maintained a consistent and disciplined asset/liability management policy focusing on interest rate risk and sensitivity.

ITEM 3 QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

The Corporation is exposed only to U.S. dollar interest rate changes and, accordingly, we manage exposure by considering the possible changes in the net interest margin. We do not have any trading instruments nor do we classify any portion of our investment portfolio as held for trading. As we continue to enhance our asset/liability management, we will continue to look for opportunities to protect the Corporation from unexpected changes in interest rates. We have no exposure to foreign currency exchange rate risk, commodity price risk, and other market risks.

Table of Contents

The following table reflects the period-end position of our interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities, which can either reprice or mature within the designated time period. The interest rate sensitivity gaps can vary from day-to-day and are not necessarily a reflection of the future. In addition, certain assets and liabilities within the same designated time period may nonetheless reprice at different times and at different levels.

(Dollars in thousands)	As of September 30, 2010			
	Interest Sensitive Within (Cumulative)			
	Three Months	Twelve Months	Five Years	Total
Interest-earning assets:				
Loans	\$ 468,785	\$ 615,156	\$ 852,312	\$ 944,967
Investment and mortgage-backed securities	34,565	89,930	265,586	377,885
Federal funds sold and other	269,921	269,921	269,921	269,921
	\$ 773,271	\$ 975,007	\$ 1,387,819	\$ 1,592,773
Interest-bearing liabilities:				
Deposits	\$ 397,159	\$ 713,379	\$ 1,141,554	\$ 1,218,934
Borrowed funds	124,467	164,467	184,467	209,467
	\$ 521,626	\$ 877,846	\$ 1,326,021	\$ 1,428,401

Sensitivity gap:

Dollar amount	\$ 251,645	\$ 97,161	\$ 61,798	\$ 164,372
Percent of total interest-earning assets	32.54%	9.97%	4.45%	10.32%

The matching of assets and liabilities may be analyzed by examining the extent to which such assets and liabilities are interest rate sensitive and by monitoring an institution's interest rate sensitivity gap. An asset or liability is said to be interest rate sensitive within a specific time period if it will mature or reprice within that time period. The interest rate sensitivity gap is defined as the difference between the amounts of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities anticipated, based upon certain assumptions, to mature or reprice within that time period. A gap is considered positive when the amount of interest rate sensitive assets maturing within a specific time frame exceeds the amount of interest rate sensitive liabilities maturing within that same time frame. During a period of falling interest rates, a negative gap would tend to result in an increase in net interest income while a positive gap would tend to adversely affect net interest income. In a rising interest rate environment, an institution with a positive gap would generally be expected, absent the effects of other factors, to experience a greater increase in the yield of its assets relative to the costs of its liabilities and thus an increase in the institution's net interest income would result.

At September 30, 2010, total interest-earning assets maturing or repricing within one year were greater than interest-bearing liabilities maturing or repricing within the same time period by approximately \$97.2 million (cumulative), representing a positive cumulative one-year gap of 10.0% of earning assets. Management believes this position to be acceptable in the current interest rate environment.

Banking regulators have issued advisories concerning the management of interest rate risk (IRR). The regulators consider effective interest rate management an essential component of safe and sound banking practices. To monitor our IRR, our interest rate management practices include (a) risk management, (b) risk monitoring and (c) risk control as described below.

Risk management consists of a system in which a measurement is taken of the amount of earnings at risk when interest rates change. We first prepare a base strategy, which is the position of Cadence and its forecasted earnings based upon the current interest rate environment or most likely interest rate environment. The IRR is then measured based upon hypothetical changes in interest rates by measuring the impact such a change will have on the base strategy.

Risk monitoring consists of evaluating the base strategy and the assumptions used in its development based upon the current interest rate environment. This evaluation is performed quarterly by management or more often in a rapidly changing interest rate situation and monitored by the Asset/Liability Management Committee of Cadence's Board of Directors.

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

Risk control consists of setting policies and parameters regarding interest rates and performing simulations based on trends and projections. Interest rate risk is managed based upon our tolerance for interest rate exposure and the resulting effect on net interest income and the economic value of equity. A balance sheet and income statement simulation model is prepared monthly, using current month end data. A base case simulation is prepared monthly using current month growth trends, projected forward and a flat rate forecast. Two additional interest rate shock simulations are prepared, one showing rates rising 200 basis points and one showing a 200 basis point decline in rates. Our policy is that a 200 basis point shock in rates should not cause the projection of net interest income to

Table of Contents

change by more than 15% and cause the economic value of equity to change by more than +25% and -20%. The September 2010 model reflects net interest income under this scenario decreasing by 1.24% with a 200 basis point upward shock of rates and decreasing by 3.78% if rates are shocked down 200 basis points. At September 30, 2010, a 200 basis point immediate increase in interest rates would have resulted in an 8.72% increase in market value of equity, and a 200 basis point instant decrease would have resulted in a 4.66% decrease in market value of equity. At September 30, 2010, we were within policy on both of these tests.

ITEM 4 CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

As required by Rules 13a-15 and 15d-15 of the Exchange Act, the Corporation has evaluated, with the participation of management, including the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, as of the end of the period covered by this report, the effectiveness of the design and operation of its disclosure controls and procedures. Based on such evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this report, such disclosure controls and procedures are effective in ensuring that information required to be disclosed by the Corporation, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, including being made known to the certifying officers by others within the Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding disclosure, within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. From time to time, the Corporation reviews the disclosure controls and procedures, and may from time to time make changes aimed at enhancing their effectiveness and to ensure that the Corporation's system evolves with its business.

Changes in Internal Controls over Financial Reporting

There was no change in the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended September 30, 2010, that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1 LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

On October 28, 2010, RSD Capital, a purported holder of shares of Cadence common stock, filed a lawsuit allegedly on behalf of a putative class of holders of shares of Cadence common stock in the Supreme Court of the State of New York of New York County, Index No. 651883/2010 (the "RSD Action"). The RSD Action names as defendants CBC, Cadence and the members of the board of directors of Cadence.

The RSD Action alleges that (i) CBC, the Corporation and Cadence's directors breached their fiduciary duties to Cadence's shareholders by entering into a merger agreement that is not in the best interest of shareholders and (ii) the board of directors of the Corporation breached their fiduciary duty of disclosure by filing a materially misleading and/or incomplete proxy statement. The alleged deficiencies in the proxy statement primarily relate to the fairness opinion provided to us by our financial advisor.

The RSD Action also alleges that CBC aided and abetted the purported breaches of fiduciary duties.

The RSD Action seeks, among other relief, (i) class action status, (ii) an order declaring that the defendants have breached their fiduciary duties to Cadence and/or aided and abetted such breaches, (iii) an award to the plaintiff and the class of compensatory and/or rescissory damages as allowed by law, and (iv) an award to plaintiffs of the costs of the action, including reasonable attorneys' and experts' fees and expenses.

Additionally, in the normal course of business, the Corporation and its subsidiaries from time to time are involved in routine legal proceedings which are incidental to the Corporation's business. There are no pending routine proceedings to which either the Corporation or any of its subsidiaries are a party that upon resolution are expected to have a material adverse effect upon the Corporation's or its subsidiaries' financial condition or results of operations.

Table of Contents

ITEM 1A RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information contained in this Report on Form 10-Q, the following significant risks may affect the Corporation and Cadence and update the risk factors contained in Part I, Item A, Risk Factors, of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 and in Part II, Item 1A, Risk Factors, of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2010. The risk factors identified below are in addition to those contained in any other documents filed by the Corporation under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, including without limitation, any other cautionary statements, written or oral, which may be made or otherwise addressed in connection with a forward-looking statement or contained in any of our subsequent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Risks Related to Our Business

The current economic environment poses significant challenges for us and our industry and could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

We are operating in a challenging and uncertain economic environment, including generally uncertain national and local conditions. Financial institutions like us continue to be affected by declines in the real estate market and constrained financial markets. Declines in the housing market beginning in 2008, including falling home prices and increasing delinquencies, foreclosures and unemployment, have resulted in significant write-downs of asset values by many financial institutions, including us. Continuing concerns over the stability of the financial markets and the economy have resulted in decreased lending by financial institutions to their clients and to each other. This market turmoil and tightening of credit has led to increased commercial and consumer deficiencies, lack of consumer confidence, increased market volatility and widespread reduction in general business activity. Many financial institutions, including us, have experienced decreased access to deposits and borrowings. The resulting economic pressure on consumers and businesses and the lack of confidence in the financial markets may adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. For example, a continued or deepening national economic recession or further deterioration in local economic conditions in the southeastern United States could cause losses that exceed our allowance for loan losses. We cannot predict when economic conditions are likely to improve. We may also face additional risks in connection with the current economic environment, including the following:

Economic conditions that negatively affect housing prices and the job market have caused, and may continue to cause, the credit quality of our loan portfolios to deteriorate, and that deterioration in credit quality has had, and could continue to have, a negative effect on our business and results of operations.

Market developments may affect consumer confidence levels and may cause adverse changes in payment patterns, causing increases in delinquencies and default rates on loans and other credit facilities.

Rapidly changing market conditions could make the historical references we use to estimate our allowance for loan losses and reserves less reliable.

The value of our securities portfolio may decline.

We face new and increased regulation of our industry, and compliance with that regulation has increased our costs and increased compliance challenges and may continue to do so.

As these conditions or similar ones continue to exist or worsen, we could experience continuing or increased adverse effects on our financial condition and results of operations.

We are heavily regulated, and that regulation could limit or restrict our activities and adversely affect our earnings.

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

We operate in a highly regulated industry and are subject to examination, supervision, and comprehensive regulation by various federal and state agencies, including the OCC, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, the FDIC, and to a limited degree, the regulators in the states in which our branches are located. Our compliance with these regulations is costly and may restrict some of our activities, including payment of dividends (which are restricted, as discussed below), mergers and acquisitions, investments, loans and interest rates and locations of offices. As further discussed below, we are also subject to capitalization guidelines established by our regulators, which require us to maintain certain higher levels of capital to support our business.

Table of Contents

In light of current conditions in the global financial markets and the global economy, regulators have increased their focus on the regulation of the financial services industry. New legislative proposals continue to be introduced in the U.S. Congress that could further substantially increase regulation of the financial services industry and impose restrictions on the operations and general ability of firms within the industry to conduct business consistent with historical practices, including with respect to compensation, interest rates and the effect of bankruptcy proceedings on consumer real property mortgages. Further, federal and state regulatory agencies may adopt changes to their regulations and/or change the manner in which existing regulations are applied. We cannot predict the substance or effect of pending or future legislation or regulation or the application of laws and regulation to us. Compliance with current and potential regulation and scrutiny may significantly increase our costs, impede the efficiency of our internal business processes, require us to increase our regulatory capital and limit our ability to pursue business opportunities in an efficient manner by requiring us to expend significant time, effort and resources to ensure compliance. Additionally, evolving regulations concerning executive compensation may impose limitations on us that affect our ability to compete successfully for executive and management talent.

In addition, given the current economic and financial environment, our regulators may elect to alter standards or the interpretation of the standards used to measure regulatory compliance or to determine the adequacy of liquidity, certain risk management or other operational practices for financial services companies in a manner that impacts our ability to implement our strategy and could affect us in substantial and unpredictable ways and could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Furthermore, the regulatory agencies have extremely broad discretion in their interpretation of the regulations and laws and their interpretation of the quality of our loan portfolio, securities portfolio and other assets. If any regulatory agency's assessment of the quality of our assets differs from our assessment, we may be required to take additional charges that would have the effect of materially reducing our earnings, capital ratios and stock price.

Financial reform legislation recently enacted by Congress will, among other things, eliminate the Office of Thrift Supervision, tighten capital standards, create a new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and result in new laws and regulations that are expected to increase our costs of operations.

Congress recently enacted the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Act). This new law will significantly change the current bank regulatory structure and affect the lending, deposit, investment, trading and operating activities of financial institutions and their holding companies. The Dodd-Frank Act requires various federal agencies to adopt a broad range of new implementing rules and regulations, and to prepare numerous studies and reports for Congress. The federal agencies are given significant discretion in drafting the implementing rules and regulations, and consequently, many of the details and much of the impact of the Dodd-Frank Act may not be known for many months or years.

The Dodd-Frank Act includes provisions affecting large and small financial institutions alike, including several provisions that will affect how community banks, thrifts, and small bank and thrift holding companies will be regulated in the future. Among other things, these provisions abolish the Office of Thrift Supervision and transfer its functions to the other federal banking agencies, relax rules regarding interstate branching, allow financial institutions to pay interest on business checking accounts, permanently raise the current standard maximum deposit insurance amount to \$250,000, and impose new capital requirements on bank and thrift holding companies.

The Dodd-Frank Act creates a new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau with broad powers to supervise and enforce consumer protection laws. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has broad rule-making authority for a wide range of consumer protection laws that apply to all banks and savings institutions, including the authority to prohibit unfair, deceptive or abusive acts and practices. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has examination and enforcement authority over all banks and savings institutions with more than \$10 billion in assets. The Dodd-Frank Act also weakens the federal preemption rules that have been applicable for national banks and federal savings associations, and gives state attorneys general the ability to enforce federal consumer protection laws.

It is difficult to predict at this time what specific impact the Dodd-Frank Act and the yet to be written implementing rules and regulations will have on us. However, it is expected that at a minimum they will increase our operating and compliance costs and could increase our interest expense.

We are subject to a consent order with the OCC.

On May 19, 2010, the Bank's board of directors executed a stipulation and consent to the issuance of a consent order by the OCC, and the OCC issued a consent order to the Bank effective as of such date. The consent order requires the Bank to meet and maintain a minimum Tier 1 leverage ratio of 9.0% and a minimum total risk-based

Table of Contents

capital ratio of 12.0%. As a result of the consent order, the Bank is not deemed to be well capitalized under the applicable regulations as long as the consent order is in place. Because the Bank is also deemed to be in troubled condition, the Bank is required, among other things, to obtain OCC or FDIC approval before making severance payments to departing executives, adding new directors or senior officers or making any change in responsibilities of any current senior executive officer who is proposing to assume a different senior officer position. Additionally, the Bank is required to seek FDIC approval before it can accept, renew or roll over brokered deposits or pay a dividend and it will not be eligible for expedited processing of certain applications. The Bank's regulators have considerable discretion in whether to grant required approvals, and we may not be able to obtain approvals if requested. The consent order also includes other operational and supervisory provisions. The consent order requires us to take certain actions and to implement certain action plans with respect to, among other things, a compliance committee, capital adequacy, strategic planning and capital planning, management competence and effectiveness, loan portfolio management, credit and collateral exceptions, other real estate owned, loan review, the allowance for loan and lease losses, criticized assets, credit concentration risk management, liquidity risk management, internal audit, and the correction of alleged legal violations identified in examination reports.

The minimum capital ratios for the Bank under the consent order may restrict our ability to leverage our capital into earnings. Additionally, if the Bank fails to comply with the requirements of the consent order, it may be subject to further regulatory action, including a requirement to prepare a plan to sell or merge the Bank. Moreover, the imposition of the consent order with the OCC could cause reputation damage, thereby reducing our ability to leverage our capital into earnings. The OCC also has broad authority to take additional actions against the Bank, including assessing civil fines and penalties, issuing additional consent or cease and desist orders, removing officers and directors, requiring us to sell or merge the Bank, and ultimately, appointing the FDIC as receiver of the Bank.

We are required to maintain higher capital levels than many other banks and our failure to comply with these higher capital ratios could lead to the OCC taking additional actions against the Bank.

The consent order required the Bank to meet by September 19, 2010, and maintain a minimum Tier 1 leverage ratio of 9.0% and a minimum total risk-based capital ratio of 12.0%. If we do not attain and maintain these required minimum capital ratios, the OCC has broad authority to take additional actions against the Bank, including assessing civil fines and penalties, issuing additional consent or cease and desist orders, removing officers and directors, requiring us to sell or merge the Bank, and ultimately, appointing the FDIC as receiver of the Bank. As of September 30, 2010, the Bank had a Tier 1 leverage ratio of 4.9% and a total risk-based capital ratio of 10.1%.

We have a significant deferred tax asset that may not be fully realized.

We had net deferred tax assets of \$36.2 million as of September 30, 2010. As of September 30, 2010, we had a valuation allowance of \$1.3 million established against our state deferred tax asset. This valuation allowance was established due to differences in the carryforward periods in state and federal tax laws. In evaluating the need for a valuation allowance, we estimated future taxable income based on management approved forecasts. This process required significant judgment by management about matters that are by nature uncertain. If future events, such as our inability to attract additional capital, differ significantly from our current forecasts, we may need to adjust our valuation allowance, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

If we experience an ownership change as defined by Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, our ability to use our existing deferred tax assets to reduce future taxable income may be limited.

Our loan portfolio is highly concentrated in commercial real estate in certain geographic areas.

Commercial real estate and farm loans totaled \$524.1 million as of September 30, 2010. Additionally, construction and development loans totaled \$125.2 million as of September 30, 2010. As of September 30, 2010, approximately 72.3% of our loans had real estate as a primary or secondary component of collateral. Our construction and development loan portfolio includes residential and non-residential construction and development loans. Our residential construction and development portfolio consists mainly of loans for the construction, development, and improvement of residential lots, homes, and subdivisions. Our non-residential construction and development portfolio consists mainly of loans for the construction and development of office buildings, hotels, and other non-residential commercial properties. Our commercial real estate and farm loan portfolio consists primarily of loans secured by office buildings, retail centers, warehouses, farm land and other commercial properties located primarily in our Mississippi, Memphis, Florida, Tuscaloosa, and Nashville market areas. The regional economic conditions in areas in which we conduct our business have an impact on the demand for our products and services as well as the ability of our customers to repay loans, the value of the collateral securing loans and the stability of our deposit funding sources.

Table of Contents

Commercial real estate loans are typically larger than residential real estate loans and consumer loans and depend on sales, in the case of construction and development loans, and cash flows, in the case of other commercial real estate loans, from the property to service the debt. Sales and cash flows have been and may continue to be adversely affected by general economic conditions, and a further deterioration in the markets where our collateral is located could increase the likelihood of default. Because our loan portfolio contains a significant number of commercial real estate loans with relatively large balances, the deterioration of a few of these loans has caused and could continue to cause a significant increase in our non-performing loan balances. The concentration of residential construction and development in our commercial real estate loan portfolio is a contributing factor that led to our entry into a consent order with the OCC. A further increase in non-performing loans could result in a loss of earnings from these loans, an increase in the provision for loan losses and an increase in charge-offs, all of which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Additionally, the consent order requires us to implement additional policies and procedures with respect to our commercial real estate loan portfolio that could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Our allowance for loan losses may not be adequate to cover actual losses.

If our allowance for loan losses is not sufficient to cover actual loan losses, our earnings could decrease. Management maintains an allowance for loan losses based upon, among other things:

historical experience;

repayment capacity of borrowers;

an evaluation of local, regional and national economic conditions;

regular reviews of delinquencies and loan portfolio quality;

collateral evaluations;

current trends regarding the volume and severity of past due and problem loans;

the existence and effect of concentrations of credit;

results of regulatory examinations; and

from time to time, the advice of consultants.

Based on those factors, management makes various assumptions and judgments about the ultimate collectibility of the respective loan portfolios. The determination of the appropriate level of the allowance for loan losses inherently involves a high degree of subjectivity and requires management to make significant estimates of current credit risks and future trends, all of which may undergo material changes. In addition, the consent order requires our board of directors to review our allowance for loan losses at least quarterly and the OCC periodically reviews our allowance for loan losses and may require an increase in the provision for possible loan losses or the recognition of further loan charge-offs. The OCC judgments may differ from those of our management. The amount of future loan losses is susceptible to changes in economic, operating and other conditions, which may be beyond our control, including changes in interest rates, and these losses may exceed current estimates.

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

While we believe that the allowance for loan losses is adequate to cover current losses, we cannot provide assurance that we will not need to increase our allowance for loan losses or that regulators will not require an increase in our allowance. Either of these occurrences could materially and adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

We have incurred significant losses and may incur additional losses.

We incurred a net loss of \$11.7 million, or \$0.98 per common share, for the nine months ended September 30, 2010, and a net loss of \$112.2 million, or \$9.42 per common share, for the year ended December 31, 2009. These losses, excluding the impact of the impairment loss on goodwill of \$66.5 million in 2009, have resulted primarily from losses in our loan portfolio and we may suffer additional losses in the future.

Table of Contents

Competition in the banking industry is intense and may adversely affect our profitability.

The banking business is highly competitive, and we experience competition from many other financial institutions in our markets. We compete with commercial banks, credit unions, savings and loan associations, mortgage banking firms, consumer finance companies, securities brokerage firms, insurance companies, money market funds, and other mutual funds, as well as other regional, super-regional, national and international financial institutions that operate offices in our markets and elsewhere. Moreover, this highly competitive industry could become even more competitive as a result of legislative, regulatory and technological changes and continued consolidation. Many of our competitors have fewer regulatory constraints, and some have lower cost structures. In recent years, competition has intensified as a result of consolidation efforts. During the first quarter of 2010, competition continued to intensify as the challenges of the financial crises and market disruption led to further redistribution of deposits and certain banking assets to stronger financial institutions. We expect this trend to continue. The competitive landscape has been affected by the conversion of traditional investment banks to bank holding companies during the financial crises due to the access it provides to government-sponsored sources of liquidity.

We compete with these institutions both in attracting deposits and in making loans. Price competition for loans might result in us originating fewer loans, or earning less on our loans, and price competition for deposits might result in a decrease in our total deposits or higher rates on our deposits. We have to attract our client base from other existing financial institutions and from new residents. Many of our competitors are well-established, larger financial institutions. We may face a competitive disadvantage as a result of our smaller size and inability to spread our marketing costs across a broader market. Our ability to compete successfully depends on a number of factors, including, among other things, concentrating our marketing efforts in our communities with local advertisements, personal contacts, and greater flexibility and responsiveness in working with local clients. Failure to perform in any of these areas could significantly weaken our competitive position, which could adversely affect our growth and profitability, which could materially and adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Further deterioration of local economic conditions where we operate could have a continuing adverse effect on us.

Our success depends significantly on the general economic conditions of the geographic markets we serve in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee. The local economic conditions in these areas have a significant impact on our commercial, real estate, and construction loans, the ability of borrowers to repay these loans, and the value of the collateral securing these loans. As a consequence of the difficult economic environment, we experienced losses, resulting primarily from significant provisions for loan losses. There can be no assurance that the economic conditions that have adversely affected the financial services industry, and the capital, credit and real estate markets generally, will improve in the near term, in which case we could continue to experience losses and write-downs of assets, and could face capital and liquidity constraints or other business challenges. Adverse changes in, and further deterioration of, the economic conditions of the southeastern United States in general or any one or more of our local markets could negatively affect our financial condition, results of operations and our profitability. A continuing deterioration in economic conditions could result in the following consequences, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business:

loan delinquencies may increase;

problem assets and foreclosures may increase;

demand for our products and services may decline; and

collateral for loans we make, especially real estate, may decline in value, in turn reducing a customer's borrowing power, and reducing the value of assets and collateral associated with our loans.

Liquidity needs could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

The Bank's primary sources of funds are client deposits, maturing or called securities and loan repayments. While scheduled loan repayments are a relatively stable source of funds, they are subject to the ability of borrowers to repay the loans. The ability of borrowers to repay loans can be adversely affected by a number of factors outside of our control, including changes in economic conditions, adverse trends or events affecting

Edgar Filing: CADENCE FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-Q

business industry groups, reductions in real estate values or markets, business closings or lay-offs, inclement weather, natural disasters and international instability. Additionally, deposit levels may be affected by a number of factors, including interest rates paid by competitors, general interest rate levels, returns available to clients on alternative investments and

Table of Contents

general economic conditions. Accordingly, we may be required from time to time to rely on secondary sources of liquidity to meet withdrawal demands or otherwise fund operations. Those sources include federal funds lines of credit from correspondent banks and, under certain circumstances, borrowing from the Federal Reserve's discount window. While we believe that these sources are currently adequate, there can be no assurance they will be sufficient to meet future liquidity demands, particularly if regulatory restrictions should limit their availability. We may be required to slow or discontinue capital expenditures or other investments or liquidate assets should those sources not be adequate.

Emergency measures designed to stabilize the U.S. banking system are beginning to wind down.

Since mid-2008, a host of legislation and regulatory actions have been implemented in response to the financial crisis and the recession. Some of the programs are beginning to expire and the impact of the wind-down of these programs on the financial sector, including our counterparties, and on the economic recovery is unknown.

TARP, established pursuant to the EESA legislation, was scheduled to expire on December 31, 2009; however, the U.S. Treasury extended it until October 31, 2010. TARP includes the CPP, pursuant to which the U.S. Treasury is authorized to purchase senior preferred stock and warrants to purchase common stock of participating financial institutions. Also under TARP, the U.S. Treasury had the authority to, among other things, purchase up to \$700 billion of mortgages, mortgage-backed securities and certain other financial instruments, from financial institutions for the purpose of stabilizing and providing liquidity to the U.S. financial markets.

The U.S. Treasury guarantee on money market mutual funds established on September 19, 2008, expired on September 18, 2009, and the U.S. Treasury did not extend the program.

On September 9, 2009, the FDIC issued a notice of proposed rulemaking requesting comments on whether a temporary emergency facility should be left in place following the expiration on October 31, 2009 of the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program, which guaranteed certain senior unsecured debt of banks and certain holding companies. The Transaction Account Guarantee portion of the program which guarantees noninterest bearing bank transaction accounts on an unlimited basis, is scheduled to continue until December 31, 2010.

Since 2008, the Federal Reserve has purchased several billion dollars of mortgage-related assets in order to support the mortgage lending industry during the financial crisis. In early 2010, the Federal Reserve began to scale back these purchases; however, recent speculation is that larger-scale purchases will soon resume in an attempt to stimulate the economy.

As part of its response to the financial crisis, the Federal Reserve has maintained interest rates at historically low levels. The chairman of the Federal Reserve has indicated that rates will remain low in the near term, but an increase in rates could occur in the coming year.

Legislative and regulatory initiatives to address difficult market and economic conditions may not stabilize the U.S. banking system.

On October 3, 2008, President Bush signed into law the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act in response to the current crisis in the financial sector and on February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "ARRA"). The U.S. Treasury and banking regulators have implemented a number of programs under this legislation to address capital and liquidity issues in the banking system. There can be no assurance, however, as to the actual impact that the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act or the ARRA will have on the financial markets, including the extreme levels of volatility and limited credit availability currently being experienced. The failure of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act or the ARRA to help stabilize the financial markets and a continuation or worsening of current financial market conditions could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, access to credit or the value of our securities.

In addition, a stall in the economic recovery or a continuation or worsening of current financial market conditions could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations, access to credit or the trading price of our common stock.

Table of Contents

Changes in monetary policy and interest rates could adversely affect our profitability.

Our results of operations are affected by decisions of monetary authorities, particularly the Federal Reserve. Our profitability depends to a significant extent on our net interest income. Net interest income is the difference between income generated from interest-earning assets and interest expense on funding those assets. Our net interest income has declined in recent periods due to a decline in interest rates. Interest rates are highly sensitive to many factors that are beyond our control, including general economic conditions and policies of various governmental and regulatory agencies. Changes in monetary policy, including changes in interest rates, could influence not only the interest we receive on loans and securities and the interest we pay on deposits and borrowings, but those changes could also affect our ability to originate loans and obtain deposits, and the average duration of our mortgage-backed securities portfolio.

Our net interest income will be adversely affected if market interest rates change such that the interest we pay on deposits and borrowings increases faster than the interest earned on loans and investments. Changes in interest rates could also adversely affect the income of some of our noninterest income sources. For example, declines in security values could further reduce our trust and investment income.

In light of changing conditions in the national economy and in the financial markets, particularly the uncertain economic environment, the continuing threat of terrorist acts and the current military operations in the Middle East, we cannot predict possible future changes in interest rates, which may negatively affect our deposit levels, our loan demand and our business and earnings. Furthermore, the actions of the United States and other governments in response to ongoing economic crisis may result in currency fluctuations, exchange controls, market disruption and other adverse effects.

Our non-performing assets take significant time to resolve and adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

Although we believe the economy has stabilized and begun improving in some respects, we expect to continue to incur provisions for loan losses relating to non-performing loans. We generally do not record interest income on non-performing loans or other real estate owned, thereby adversely affecting our earnings, and increasing our loan administration costs. When we take collateral in foreclosures and similar proceedings, we are required to mark the related asset to the then fair market value of the collateral, which may ultimately result in a loss. An increase in the level of non-performing assets increases our risk profile and may impact the capital levels our regulators believe are appropriate in light of the ensuing risk profile. While we reduce problem assets through loan sales, workouts, restructurings and otherwise, decreases in the value of the underlying collateral, or in these borrowers' performance or financial condition, whether or not due to economic and market conditions beyond our control, could adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition. In addition, the resolution of non-performing assets requires significant commitments of time from management and our directors, which can be detrimental to the performance of their other responsibilities. There can be no assurance that we will not experience future increases in non-performing assets.

We face regulatory risks related to our commercial real estate loan concentrations.

Commercial real estate is cyclical and poses risks of possible loss due to concentration levels and similar risks of the asset class. The consent order requires us to implement improved underwriting, internal controls, risk management policies and portfolio stress testing. Regulators may also require higher levels of provisions for possible loan losses and capital levels as a result of our commercial real estate lending concentration and exposures. We face the risk that our commercial real estate loan portfolio may continue to experience significant losses going forward.

Changes in accounting policies and practices, as may be adopted by the regulatory agencies, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or other authoritative bodies, could materially impact our financial statements.

Our accounting policies and methods are fundamental to how we record and report our financial condition and results of operations. From time to time, the regulatory agencies, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, and other authoritative bodies change the financial accounting and reporting standards that govern the preparation of our financial statements. These changes can be hard to predict and can materially impact how we record and report our financial condition and results of operations.

Table of Contents

Our financial condition and outlook may be adversely affected by damage to our reputation.

Our financial condition and outlook is highly dependent upon perceptions of our business practices and reputation. Our ability to attract and retain customers and employees could be adversely affected to the extent our reputation is damaged. Negative public opinion could result from our actual or alleged conduct in any number of activities, including lending practices, corporate governance, regulatory compliance, mergers and acquisitions, disclosure, sharing or inadequate protection of customer information and from actions taken by government regulators and community organizations in response to that conduct. Damage to our reputation could give rise to legal risks, which, in turn, could increase the size and number of litigation claims and damages asserted or subject us to enforcement actions, fines and penalties and cause us to incur related costs and expenses. Additionally, reputation damage could result in a loss of deposits, thereby reducing liquidity and reducing our ability to leverage our capital into earnings.

The failures of other financial institutions could adversely affect us.

Our ability to engage in routine funding transactions could be adversely affected by the actions and potential failures of other financial institutions. Financial institutions are interrelated as a result of trading, clearing, counterparty and other relationships. We have exposure to many different industries and counterparties, and we routinely execute transactions with a variety of counterparties in the financial services industry. As a result, defaults by, or even rumors or concerns about, one or more financial institutions with whom we do business, or the financial services industry generally, have led to market-wide liquidity problems and could lead to losses or defaults by us or by other institutions. Many of these transactions expose us to credit risk in the event of default of our counterparty or client. Our credit risk may be exacerbated when the collateral we hold cannot be sold at prices that are sufficient for us to recover the full amount of our exposure. In addition, failures of other financial institutions, and in particular, the failure of community banks, could damage our reputation and credibility. Any losses or damage to our reputation could materially and adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Diminished access to alternative sources of liquidity could adversely affect our net income, net interest margin and our overall liquidity.

We have historically had access to a number of alternative sources of liquidity, but given the downturn in the credit and liquidity markets, there is no assurance that we will be able to obtain such liquidity on terms that are favorable to us, or at all. For example, the cost of out-of-market deposits could exceed the cost of deposits of similar maturity in our local market area, making them unattractive sources of funding; financial institutions may be unwilling to extend credit to banks because of concerns about the banking industry and the economy generally; and, given recent downturns in the economy, there may not be a viable market for raising equity capital. If our access to these sources of liquidity is diminished, or only available on unfavorable terms, then our net interest margin and our overall liquidity will be adversely affected. In addition, under the consent order we must obtain a waiver from the FDIC prior to accepting, renewing or rolling over brokered deposits and must set our deposit rates at or under the national rate cap imposed by the regulators.

We may be required to pay significantly higher FDIC premiums in the future.

Recent insured institution failures, as well as deterioration in banking and economic conditions, have significantly increased the loss provisions of the FDIC, resulting in a decline in the designated reserve ratio to historical lows. The FDIC expects a higher rate of insured institution failures in the next few years compared to recent years. The FDIC may raise the premiums even higher in the future. Therefore, the reserve ratio may continue to decline, and there may be additional increases in FDIC premiums. In 2009, the Bank (together with all other insured depository institutions) was required to pre-pay three years of insurance premiums. Our FDIC insurance related costs totaled approximately \$4.3 million for 2009 and approximately \$3.1 million for the first nine months of 2010. Additionally, the Dodd-Frank Act permanently increased the limit on FDIC coverage to \$250,000, and we may incur increased FDIC premiums in the future as a result of such increase.

We are a bank holding company and depend on our subsidiaries for dividends, distributions and other payments.

The Corporation is a company separate and apart from the Bank, and we must provide for our own liquidity. Substantially all of our revenues are obtained from dividends declared and paid by the Bank. The Bank's ability to declare and pay dividends is limited by the consent order. The consent order provides that the Bank may not pay a dividend or make a capital distribution unless it is approved by the OCC and the Bank is in compliance with its capital plan. The Federal Reserve has issued policy statements generally requiring insured banks and bank holding companies to pay dividends only out of current operating earnings. We do not anticipate paying dividends on our common stock in the near future.

Table of Contents

In addition, if any of the Corporation's subsidiaries become insolvent, the direct creditors will have a prior and superior claim on its assets. The Corporation's rights and the rights of the Corporation's creditors will be subordinate to such direct creditors' claims. Additionally, if the Bank becomes subject to federal conservatorship or receivership, the Corporation would probably suffer a complete loss of the value of our ownership interest in the Bank.

We face litigation and legal liability risks.

On October 28, 2010, RSD Capital, a purported holder of shares of Cadence common stock, filed a lawsuit allegedly on behalf of a putative class of holders of shares of Cadence common stock in the Supreme Court of the State of New York of New York County, Index No. 651883/2010 (the "RSD Action"). The RSD Action names as defendants CBC, Cadence and the members of the board of directors of Cadence.

The RSD Action alleges that (i) CBC, the Corporation and Cadence's directors breached their fiduciary duties to Cadence's shareholders by entering into a merger agreement that is not in the best interest of shareholders and (ii) the board of directors of the Corporation breached their fiduciary duty of disclosure by filing a materially misleading and/or incomplete proxy statement. The alleged deficiencies in the proxy statement primarily relate to the fairness opinion provided to us by our financial advisor.

The RSD Action also alleges that CBC aided and abetted the purported breaches of fiduciary duties.

The RSD Action seeks, among other relief, (i) class action status, (ii) an order declaring that the defendants have breached their fiduciary duties to Cadence and/or aided and abetted such breaches, (iii) an award to the plaintiff and the class of compensatory and/or rescissory damages as allowed by law, and (iv) an award to plaintiffs of the costs of the action, including reasonable attorneys' and experts' fees and expenses.

Additionally, we have been named, from time to time, as a defendant in various legal actions, including arbitrations and other litigation arising in connection with our activities. Threatened legal actions could include claims for substantial compensatory and/or punitive damages or claims for indeterminate amounts of damages. We are also subject to risk from potential employee misconduct, including non-compliance with policies and improper use or disclosure of confidential information. Any substantial legal liability resulting from litigation could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Our inability to hire or retain key professionals, management and staff could adversely affect our revenues and net income.

We rely on key personnel to manage and operate our business, including major revenue generating functions such as the loan and deposit portfolios. The ARRA has imposed significant limitations on executive compensation for recipients, like us, which may make it more difficult for us to retain and recruit key personnel. The loss of key staff may adversely affect our ability to maintain and manage these portfolios effectively, which could negatively affect our revenues. In addition, loss of key personnel could result in increased recruiting and hiring expenses, which could cause a decrease in our results of operations.

An interruption or breach in security with respect to our information systems, as well as information systems of our outsourced service providers, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

We rely heavily on communications and information systems to conduct our business. Any failure, interruption or breach in security with respect to our information systems, as well as information systems of our outsourced service providers, could damage our reputation, result in a loss of client business, subject us to additional regulatory scrutiny, or expose us to civil litigation, any of which could result in failures or disruptions in our client relationship management, general ledger, deposit, loan and other systems resulting in a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Hurricanes and other natural disasters may adversely affect loan portfolios and operations and increase the cost of doing business.

We operate and make loans in the state of Florida, which is viewed as a hurricane-prone area. Hurricanes destroy collateral and the service businesses that support the area, and may affect the demand for houses and services in a hurricane-prone area. Our results could be adversely affected if we suffered higher than expected losses on our loans due to weather events.

Table of Contents

Risks Related to the Merger with CBC

Termination of the merger agreement could negatively impact the Corporation.

CBC may terminate the merger agreement for the reasons set forth in the merger agreement, including if the merger has not been consummated on or before March 30, 2011. If the merger agreement is terminated, there may be various consequences including the following:

Our business may have been adversely impacted by the failure to pursue other beneficial opportunities due to the focus of management on the merger with CBC, without realizing any of the anticipated benefits of completing the merger;

On October 5, 2010, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the merger agreement with CBC, our common stock closed at \$2.08 per share. After that announcement, the stock price rose to trade close to the \$2.50 per share proposed purchase price, and has traded close to that price since that time. The current price of our common stock may reflect a market assumption that the merger will close. If the merger is not consummated, the stock price would likely retreat from its current trading range;

Certain costs relating to the merger, including legal, accounting and financial advisory fees, are payable by us whether or not the merger is completed. These costs will be substantial and may materially reduce our earnings per share; and

Our management and employees' attention will be diverted from our day-to-day operations; we may experience employee attrition; and our business may be disrupted during the period while the merger remains pending. These risks could increase if the transaction is not consummated.

If the merger agreement is terminated and our board of directors seeks another merger or business combination, our shareholders cannot be certain that we will be able to find a party willing to pay an equivalent or more attractive price than the price CBC has agreed to pay in the merger.

The opinion obtained by us from our financial advisor will not reflect changes in circumstances between signing the merger agreement and completion of the merger.

We have not obtained an updated opinion as of the date of this Form 10-Q from our financial advisor as to the fairness from a financial point of view of the merger consideration. Changes in the operations and prospects of the Corporation or CBC, general market and economic conditions and other factors that may be beyond the control of us or CBC, and on which our financial advisor's opinion was based, may significantly alter the value of the Corporation or the price of shares of our common stock by the time the merger is completed. The opinion does not speak as of the time the merger will be completed or as of any date other than the date of such opinion. Because we do not currently anticipate asking our financial advisor to update its opinion, the opinion will not address fairness of the merger consideration from a financial point of view at the time the merger is completed.

The merger agreement limits our ability to pursue alternatives to the merger and raise capital.

The merger agreement contains a standstill provision that, subject to limited exceptions, limits our ability to take any action to solicit, facilitate, initiate or encourage the making of competing third-party proposals. In addition, we have agreed to pay CBC a termination fee in the amount of between \$2.5 million and \$4.5 million, based on the time of termination, as well as expense reimbursement of up to \$1.0 million in the event that we terminate the merger agreement for certain reasons. These provisions might discourage a potential competing acquirer that might have an interest in acquiring all or a significant part of us from considering or proposing such acquisition even if it were prepared to pay a higher per share market price than that proposed in the merger, or might result in a potential competing acquirer proposing to pay a lower per share price to acquire us than it might otherwise have proposed to pay.

Table of Contents

While the merger agreement is in effect, we are subject to restrictions on our business activities.

While the merger agreement is in effect, we are subject to certain restrictions on our business activities and must generally operate in the ordinary course (subject to certain exceptions or the consent of CBC). These restrictions on our business activities could have a material adverse effect on our future results of operations or financial condition.

The merger is subject to closing conditions that, if not satisfied or waived, will result in the merger not being completed, which may result in material adverse consequences to our business and operations.

The merger is subject to closing conditions that, if not satisfied, will prevent the merger from being completed. The merger is subject to, among other things, certain required approvals and consents from governmental agencies. We cannot predict whether or when these conditions will be satisfied.

ITEM 2 UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

Not applicable

ITEM 3 DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

On August 9, 2010, the Corporation's Board of Directors voted to suspend quarterly dividends on the Senior Preferred Stock held by Treasury through the CPP. If dividends on the Senior Preferred Stock are not paid in full for six dividend periods, whether or not consecutive, Treasury has the right to appoint two directors. This right will end when full dividends have been paid for four consecutive dividend periods. As of September 30, 2010, Senior Preferred Stock dividends in arrearage totaled \$550,000.

ITEM 4 RESERVED

ITEM 5 OTHER INFORMATION

Not applicable

ITEM 6 EXHIBITS

- 11 Statement re computation of earnings per share
- 31.1 Certificate pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or 15d-14(a) of Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as adopted pursuant to section 302 of Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002-Principal Executive Officer
- 31.2 Certificate pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or 15d-14(a) of Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as adopted pursuant to section 302 of Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002-Principal Financial Officer
- 32.1 Certificate pursuant to 18 U.S.C., Section 1350 as adopted pursuant to section 906 of Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 Chief Executive Officer
- 32.2 Certificate pursuant to 18 U.S.C., Section 1350 as adopted pursuant to section 906 of Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 Chief Financial Officer

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

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

CADENCE FINANCIAL CORPORATION
Registrant

Date: November 15, 2010

/s/ Richard T. Haston
Richard T. Haston
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
(on behalf of the Registrant and as
principal financial officer)

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX:

Exhibit	Description	Page
11	Statement re computation of earnings per share	55
31.1	Certificate pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or 15d-14(a) of Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as adopted pursuant to section 302 of Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002-Principal Executive Officer	56
31.2	Certificate pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or 15d-14(a) of Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as adopted pursuant to section 302 of Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002-Principal Financial Officer	57
32.1	Certificate pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to section 906 of Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 Chief Executive Officer	58
32.2	Certificate pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to section 906 of Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 Chief Financial Officer	59