

AMES NATIONAL CORP  
Form 10-K  
March 13, 2009

---

---

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

FORM 10-K

Annual Report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008. Commission File Number 0-32637.

AMES NATIONAL CORPORATION  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

IOWA  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or  
organization)

42-1039071  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

405 FIFTH STREET, AMES, IOWA  
(Address of principal executive offices)

50010  
(Zip Code)

(515) 232-6251  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act: NONE

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

COMMON STOCK, \$2.00 PAR VALUE  
(Title of Class)

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act 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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements

incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. "

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

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

As of June 30, 2008, the aggregate market value of voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant, based upon the closing sale price for the registrant's common stock in the NASDAQ Capital Market, was \$148,554,236. Shares of common stock beneficially owned by each executive officer and director of the Company and by each person who beneficially owns 5% or more of the outstanding common stock have been excluded on the basis that such persons may be deemed to be an affiliate of the registrant. This determination of affiliate status is not necessarily a conclusive determination for any other purpose.

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's Common stock on February 27, 2009, was 9,432,915.

#### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's definitive proxy statement, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 19, 2009, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

---

---

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part I

- Item 1. Business
- Item 1A. Risk Factors
- Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments
- Item 2. Properties
- Item 3. Legal Proceedings
- Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Shareholders

Part II

- Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Shareholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities
- Item 6. Selected Financial Data
- Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations
- Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk
- Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data
- Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure
- Item 9A. Controls and Procedures
- Item 9B. Other Information

Part III

- Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance
- Item 11. Executive Compensation
- Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Shareholder Matters
- Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions and Director Independence
- Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services

Part IV

- Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules

Table of Contents

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

General

Ames National Corporation (the "Company") is an Iowa corporation and bank holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. The Company owns 100% of the stock of five banking subsidiaries consisting of two national banks and three state-chartered banks, as described below. All of the Company's operations are conducted in the State of Iowa and primarily within the central Iowa counties of Boone, Marshall, Polk and Story where the Company's banking subsidiaries are located. The Company does not engage in any material business activities apart from its ownership of its banking subsidiaries. The principal executive offices of the Company are located at 405 Fifth Street, Ames, Iowa 50010 and its telephone number is (515) 232-6251.

The Company was organized and incorporated on January 21, 1975 under the laws of the State of Iowa to serve as a holding company for its principal banking subsidiary, First National Bank, Ames, Iowa ("First National") located in Ames, Iowa. In 1983, the Company acquired the stock of the State Bank & Trust Co. ("State Bank") located in Nevada, Iowa; in 1991, the Company, through a newly-chartered state bank known as Boone Bank & Trust Co. ("Boone Bank"), acquired certain assets and assumed certain liabilities of the former Boone State Bank & Trust Company located in Boone, Iowa; in 1995, the Company acquired the stock of the Randall-Story State Bank ("Randall-Story Bank") located in Story City, Iowa; and in 2002, the Company chartered and commenced operations of a new national banking organization, United Bank & Trust NA ("United Bank"), located in Marshalltown, Iowa. First National, State Bank, Boone Bank, Randall-Story Bank and United Bank are each operated as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company. These five financial institutions are referred to in this Form 10-K collectively as the "Banks" and individually as a "Bank".

The principal sources of Company revenue are: (i) interest and fees earned on loans made by the Banks; (ii) service charges on deposit accounts maintained at the Banks; (iii) interest on fixed income investments held by the Banks; (iv) fees on trust services provided by those Banks exercising trust powers; and (v) securities gains and dividends on equity investments held by the Company and the Banks.

The Banks' lending activities consist primarily of short-term and medium-term commercial and residential real estate loans, agricultural and business operating loans and lines of credit, equipment loans, vehicle loans, personal loans and lines of credit, home improvement loans and secondary mortgage loan origination. The Banks also offer a variety of demand, savings and time deposits, cash management services, merchant credit card processing, safe deposit boxes, wire transfers, direct deposit of payroll and social security checks and automated teller machine access. Four of the five Banks also offer trust services.

The Company provides various services to the Banks which include, but are not limited to, management assistance, internal auditing services, human resources services and administration, compliance management, marketing assistance and coordination, loan review and assistance with respect to computer systems and procedures.

Table of Contents

Banking Subsidiaries

First National Bank, Ames, Iowa. First National is a nationally-chartered, commercial bank insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC"). It was organized in 1903 and became a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company in 1975 through a bank holding company reorganization whereby the then shareholders of First National exchanged all of their First National stock for stock in the Company. First National provides full-service banking to businesses and residents within the Ames community and surrounding area. It provides a variety of products and services designed to meet the needs of the market it serves. It has an experienced staff of bank officers including many who have spent the majority of their banking careers with First National and who emphasize long-term customer relationships. First National conducts business out of three full-service offices and one super market location, all located in the city of Ames and a new full-service office built in Ankeny, Iowa that opened in April of 2007.

As of December 31, 2008, First National had capital of \$37,847,000 and 96 full-time equivalent employees. Full-time equivalents represent the number of people a business would employ if all its employees were employed on a full-time basis. It is calculated by dividing the total number of hours worked by all full and part-time employees by the number of hours a full-time individual would work for a given period of time. First National had net income for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 of approximately \$1,237,000, \$5,887,000 and \$5,938,000, respectively. Total assets as of December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 were approximately \$445,212,000, \$466,908,000 and \$423,517,000, respectively.

State Bank & Trust Co., Nevada, Iowa. State Bank is an Iowa, state-chartered, FDIC insured commercial bank. State Bank was acquired by the Company in 1983 through a stock transaction whereby the then shareholders of State Bank exchanged all their State Bank stock for stock in the Company. State Bank was organized in 1939 and provides full-serve banking to businesses and residents within the Nevada area from its main Nevada location and two offices, one in McCallsburg, Iowa and the other in Colo, Iowa. It is strong in agricultural, commercial and residential real estate lending.

As of December 31, 2008, State Bank had capital of \$12,205,000 and 25 full-time equivalent employees. State Bank had net income for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 of approximately \$1,738,000, \$1,352,000 and \$1,310,000, respectively. Total assets as of December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 were approximately \$121,792,000, \$107,585,000 and \$114,266,000, respectively.

Boone Bank & Trust Co., Boone, Iowa. Boone Bank is an Iowa, state-chartered, FDIC insured commercial bank. Boone Bank was organized in 1992 by the Company under a new state charter in connection with a purchase and assumption transaction whereby Boone Bank purchased certain assets and assumed certain liabilities of the former Boone State Bank & Trust Company in exchange for a cash payment. It provides full service banking to businesses and residents within the Boone community and surrounding area. It is actively engaged in agricultural, consumer and commercial lending, including real estate, operating and equipment loans. It conducts business from its main office and a full service branch office, both located in Boone.

As of December 31, 2008, Boone Bank had capital of \$12,237,000 and 25 full-time equivalent employees. Boone Bank had net income for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 of approximately \$1,406,000, \$1,586,000 and \$1,636,000, respectively. Total assets as of December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 were approximately \$101,882,000, \$97,574,000 and \$103,225,000, respectively.

Table of Contents

Randall-Story State Bank, Story City, Iowa. Randall-Story Bank is an Iowa, state-chartered, FDIC insured commercial bank. Randall-Story Bank was acquired by the Company in 1995 through a stock transaction whereby the then shareholders of Randall-Story Bank exchanged all their Randall-Story Bank stock for stock in the Company. Randall-Story Bank was organized in 1928 and provides full-service banking to Story City and the surrounding area. While its primary emphasis is in agricultural lending, Randall-Story Bank also provides the traditional lending services typically offered by community banks. The bank closed its office in Randall, Iowa in 2006 as the result of the community's declining population base.

As of December 31, 2008, Randall-Story Bank had capital of \$8,242,000 and 12 full-time equivalent employees. Randall-Story Bank had net income for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 of approximately \$831,000, \$969,000 and \$902,000, respectively. Total assets as of December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 were approximately \$78,199,000, \$72,762,000 and \$73,777,000, respectively.

United Bank & Trust NA, Marshalltown, Iowa. United Bank is a nationally-chartered, commercial bank insured by the FDIC. It was newly chartered in June of 2002 and offers a broad range of deposit and loan products, as well as Internet banking and trust services to customers located in the Marshalltown and surrounding Marshall County area.

As of December 31, 2008, United Bank had capital of \$8,800,000 and 22 full-time equivalent employees. United Bank had net income (loss) for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 of approximately \$(87,000), \$104,000 and \$(58,000), respectively. Total assets as of December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 were approximately \$99,441,000, \$106,736,000 and \$100,511,000, respectively.

Business Strategy and Operations

As a locally owned, multi-bank holding company, the Company emphasizes strong personal relationships to provide products and services that meet the needs of the Banks' customers. The Company seeks to achieve growth and maintain a strong return on equity. To accomplish these goals, the Banks focus on small to medium size businesses that traditionally wish to develop an exclusive relationship with a single bank. The Banks, individually and collectively, have the size to give the personal attention required by business owners, in addition to the credit expertise to help businesses meet their goals.

The Banks offer a full range of deposit services that are typically available in most financial institutions, including checking accounts, savings accounts and time deposits of various types, ranging from money market accounts to longer-term certificates of deposit. One major goal in developing the Banks' product mix is to keep the product offerings as simple as possible, both in terms of the number of products and the features and benefits of the individual services. The transaction accounts and time certificates are tailored to each Bank's principal market area at rates competitive in that Bank's market. In addition, retirement accounts such as IRAs (Individual Retirement Accounts) are available. The FDIC insures all deposit accounts up to the maximum amount. The Banks solicit these accounts from small-to-medium sized businesses in their respective primary trade areas, and from individuals who live and/or work within these areas. No material portion of the Banks' deposits has been obtained from a single person or from a few persons. Therefore, the Company does not believe that the loss of the deposits of any person or of a few persons would have an adverse effect on the Banks' operations or erode their deposit base.

Table of Contents

Loans are provided to creditworthy borrowers regardless of their race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, disability, receipt of public assistance or any other basis prohibited by law. The Banks intend to fulfill this commitment while maintaining prudent credit standards. In the course of fulfilling this obligation to meet the credit needs of the communities which they serve, the Banks give consideration to each credit application regardless of the fact that the applicant may reside in a low to moderate income neighborhood, and without regard to the geographic location of the residence, property or business within their market areas.

The Banks provide innovative, quality financial products, such as Internet banking and trust services that meet the banking needs of their customers and communities. The loan programs and acceptance of certain loans may vary from time-to-time depending on the funds available and regulations governing the banking industry. The Banks offer all basic types of credit to their local communities and surrounding rural areas, including commercial, agricultural and consumer loans. The types of loans within these categories are as follows:

Commercial Loans. Commercial loans are typically made to sole proprietors, partnerships, corporations and other business entities such as municipalities and individuals where the loan is to be used primarily for business purposes. These loans are typically secured by assets owned by the borrower and often times involve personal guarantees given by the owners of the business. The types of loans the Banks offer include:

- financing guaranteed under Small Business Administration programs
- operating and working capital loans
- loans to finance equipment and other capital purchases
- commercial real estate loans
- business lines of credit
- term loans
- loans to professionals
- letters of credit

Agricultural Loans. The Banks, by nature of their location in central Iowa, are directly and indirectly involved in agriculture and agri-business lending. This includes short-term seasonal lending associated with cyclical crop and livestock production, intermediate term lending for machinery, equipment and breeding stock acquisition and long-term real estate lending. These loans are typically secured by the crops, livestock, equipment or real estate being financed. The basic tenet of the Banks' agricultural lending philosophy is a blending of strong, positive cash flow supported by an adequate collateral position, along with a demonstrated capacity to withstand short-term negative impact if necessary. Applicable governmental subsidies and affiliated programs are utilized if warranted to accomplish these parameters. Approximately 14% of the Banks' loans have been made for agricultural purposes. The Banks have not experienced a material adverse effect on their business as a result of defaults on agricultural loans and do not anticipate at the present time experiencing any such effect in the future.

Consumer Loans. Consumer loans are typically available to finance home improvements and consumer purchases, such as automobiles, household furnishings, boats and education. These loans are made on both a secured and an unsecured basis. The following types of consumer loans are available:

Table of Contents

-	automobiles and trucks
-	boats and recreational vehicles
-	personal loans and lines of credit
-	home equity lines of credit
-	home improvement and rehabilitation loans
-	consumer real estate loans

Other types of credit programs, such as loans to nonprofit organizations, to public entities, for community development and to other governmental offered programs also are available.

First National, Boone Bank, State Bank and United Bank offer trust services typically found in a commercial bank with trust powers, including the administration of estates, conservatorships, personal and corporate trusts and agency accounts. The Banks also provide farm management, investment and custodial services for individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations.

The Banks earn income from the origination of residential mortgages that are sold in the secondary real estate market without retaining the mortgage servicing rights.

The Banks offer traditional banking services, such as safe deposit boxes, wire transfers, direct deposit of payroll and social security checks, automated teller machine access and automatic drafts (ACH) for various accounts.

Credit Management

The Company strives to achieve sound credit risk management. In order to achieve this goal, the Company has established uniform credit policies and underwriting criteria for the Banks' loan portfolios. The Banks diversify in the types of loans offered and are subject to regular credit examinations, annual internal and external loan audits and annual review of large loans, as well as quarterly reviews of loans experiencing deterioration in credit quality. The Company attempts to identify potential problem loans early, charge off loans promptly and maintain an adequate allowance for loan losses. The Company has established credit guidelines for the Banks' lending portfolios which include guidelines relating to the more commonly requested loan types, as follows:

Commercial Real Estate Loans - Commercial real estate loans, including agricultural real estate loans, are normally based on loan to appraisal value ratios of 80% and secured by a first priority lien position. Loans are typically subject to interest rate adjustments no less frequently than 5 years from origination. Fully amortized monthly repayment terms normally do not exceed twenty years. Projections and cash flows that show ability to service debt within the amortization period are required. Property and casualty insurance is required to protect the Banks' collateral interests. Commercial and agricultural real estate loans represent approximately 48% of the loan portfolio. Major risk factors for commercial real estate loans, as well as the other loan types described below, include a geographic concentration in central Iowa; the dependence of the local economy upon several large governmental entities, including Iowa State University and the Iowa Department of Transportation; and the health of Iowa's agricultural sector that is dependent on weather conditions and government programs.



## Table of Contents

Commercial and Agricultural Operating Lines - These loans are made to businesses and farm operations with terms up to twelve months. The credit needs are generally seasonal with the source of repayment coming from the entity's normal business cycle. Cash flow reviews are completed to establish the ability to service the debt within the terms of the loan. A first priority lien on the general assets of the business normally secures these types of loans. Loan to value limits vary and are dependent upon the nature and type of the underlying collateral and the financial strength of the borrower. Crop and hail insurance is required for most agricultural borrowers. Loans are generally guaranteed by the principal(s).

Commercial and Agricultural Term Loans – These loans are made to businesses and farm operations to finance equipment, breeding stock and other capital expenditures. Terms are generally the lesser of five years or the useful life of the asset. Term loans are normally secured by the asset being financed and are often additionally secured with the general assets of the business. Loan to value is generally 75% of the cost or value of the assets. Loans are normally guaranteed by the principal(s). Commercial and agricultural operating and term loans represent approximately 26% of the loan portfolio.

Residential First Mortgage Loans – Proceeds of these loans are used to buy or refinance the purchase of residential real estate with the loan secured by a first lien on the real estate. Most of the residential mortgage loans originated by the Banks (including servicing rights) are sold in the secondary mortgage market due to the higher interest rate risk inherent in the 15 and 30 year fixed rate terms consumers prefer. Loans that are originated and not sold in the secondary market generally have higher interest rates and have rate adjustment periods of no longer than seven years. The maximum amortization of first mortgage residential real estate loans is 30 years. The loan-to-value ratios normally do not exceed 80% without credit enhancements such as mortgage insurance. Property insurance is required on all loans to protect the Banks' collateral position. Loans secured by one to four family residential properties represent approximately 21% of the loan portfolio.

Home Equity Term Loans – These loans are normally for the purpose of home improvement or other consumer purposes and are secured by a junior mortgage on residential real estate. Loan-to-value ratios normally do not exceed 90% of market value.

Home Equity Lines of Credit - The Banks offer a home equity line of credit with a maximum term of 60 months. These loans are secured by a junior mortgage on the residential real estate and normally do not exceed a loan-to-market value ratio of 90% with the interest adjusted quarterly.

Consumer Loans – Consumer loans are normally made to consumers under the following guidelines. Automobiles - loans on new and used automobiles generally will not exceed 80% and 75% of the value, respectively. Recreational vehicles and boats - 66% of the value. Mobile home - maximum term on these loans is 180 months with the loan-to-value ratio generally not exceeding 66%. Each of these loans is secured by a first priority lien on the assets and requires insurance to protect the Banks' collateral position. Unsecured - The term for unsecured loans generally does not exceed 12 months. Consumer and other loans represent approximately 5% of the loan portfolio.

## Employees

At December 31, 2008, the Banks had a total of 180 full-time equivalent employees and the Company had an additional 12 full-time employees. The Company and Banks provide their employees with a comprehensive program of benefits, including comprehensive medical and dental plans, long-term and short-term disability coverage, and a 401(k) profit sharing plan. Management considers its relations with employees to be satisfactory. Unions represent none of the employees.



## Table of Contents

### Market Area

The Company operates five commercial banks with locations in Story, Boone, Polk and Marshall Counties in central Iowa.

First National is located in Ames, Iowa with a population of 50,731. The major employers are Iowa State University, Ames Laboratories, Iowa Department of Transportation, Mary Greeley Medical Center, National Veterinary Services Laboratory, Ames Community Schools, City of Ames, Barilla, Sauer-Danfoss and McFarland Clinic. First National's primary business includes providing retail banking services and business and consumer lending. First National has a minimum exposure to agricultural lending.

Boone Bank is located in Boone, Iowa with a population of 12,800. Boone is the county seat of Boone County. The major employers are Fareway Stores, Inc., Patterson Dental Supply Co., Union Pacific Railroad, and Communication Data Services. Boone Bank provides lending services to the agriculture, commercial and real estate markets.

State Bank is located in Nevada, Iowa with a population of 6,658. Nevada is the county seat of Story County. The major employers are Print Graphics, General Financial Supply, Central Iowa Printing, Burke Corporation and Almaco. State Bank provides various types of loans with a major agricultural presence. It provides a wide variety of banking services including trust, deposit, ATM, and merchant card processing.

Randall-Story Bank is located in Story City, Iowa with a population of 3,228. The major employers are Bethany Manor, American Packaging, Precision Machine and Record Printing. Located in a major agricultural area, it has a strong presence in this type of lending. As a full service commercial bank it provides a full line of products and services.

United Bank is located in Marshalltown, Iowa with a population of 26,123. The major employers are Swift & Co., Fisher Controls International, Lennox Industries and Marshalltown Medical & Surgical Center. The Bank offers a full line of loan, deposit, and trust services. Loan services include primarily commercial and consumer types of credit including operating lines, equipment loans, automobile financing and real estate loans.

### Competition

The geographic market area served by the Banks is highly competitive with respect to both loans and deposits. The Banks compete principally with other commercial banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions, mortgage companies, finance divisions of auto and farm equipment companies, agricultural suppliers and other financial service providers. Some of these competitors are local, while others are statewide or nationwide. The major commercial bank competitors include F & M Bank, U.S. Bank National Association and Wells Fargo Bank, each of which have a branch office or offices within the Banks' primary trade areas. Among the advantages such larger banks have are their ability to finance extensive advertising campaigns and to allocate their investment assets to geographic regions of higher yield and demand. These larger banking organizations have much higher legal lending limits than the Banks and thus are better able to finance large regional, national and global commercial customers.

## Table of Contents

In order to compete with the other financial institutions in their primary trade areas, the Banks use, to the fullest extent possible, the flexibility which is accorded by independent status. This includes an emphasis on specialized services, local promotional activity and personal contacts by the Banks' officers, directors and employees. In particular, the Banks compete for deposits principally by offering depositors a wide variety of deposit programs, convenient office locations, hours and other services. The Banks compete for loans primarily by offering competitive interest rates, experienced lending personnel and quality products and services.

As of December 31, 2008, there were 38 FDIC insured institutions having approximately 69 offices or branch offices within Boone, Story, Polk and Marshall County, Iowa where the Banks' offices are primarily located. First National, State Bank and Randall-Story Bank together have the largest percentage of deposits in Story County.

The Banks also compete with the financial markets for funds. Yields on corporate and government debt securities and commercial paper affect the ability of commercial banks to attract and hold deposits. Commercial banks also compete for funds with equity, money market, and insurance products offered by brokerage and insurance companies. This competitive trend will likely continue in the future.

The Company anticipates bank competition will continue to change materially over the next several years as more financial institutions, including the major regional and national banks, continue to consolidate. Credit unions, which are not subject to income taxes, have a significant competitive advantage and provide additional competition in the Company's local markets.

## Supervision and Regulation

The following discussion generally refers to certain statutes and regulations affecting the banking industry. These references provide brief summaries and therefore do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to those statutes and regulations. In addition, due to the numerous statutes and regulations that apply to and regulate the banking industry, many are not referenced below.

Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. On October 3, 2008, President Bush signed into law the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 ("EESA"), giving the US Treasury authority to take certain actions to restore liquidity and stability to the U.S. banking markets. Based upon the authority contained in the EESA, a number of programs to implement the EESA have been announced. Those programs include the following:

- Capital Purchase Program ("CPP"). Pursuant to this program, the US Treasury, on behalf of the US government, will purchase up to \$250 billion of preferred stock, along with warrants to purchase common stock, from certain financial institutions, including bank holding companies, savings and loan holding companies and banks or savings associations not controlled by a holding company. On publically traded financial institutions the investment will have a dividend rate of 5% per year, until the fifth anniversary of the US Treasury's investment and a dividend of 9% thereafter. The Company did not participate in the CCP program.

Table of Contents

- Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program (“TLGP”). This program contains both a debt guarantee component, whereby the FDIC will guarantee until June 30, 2012, the senior unsecured debt issued by eligible financial institutions between October 14, 2008 and June 30, 2009, and an account transaction guarantee component, whereby the FDIC will insure 100% of non-interest bearing deposit transaction accounts held at eligible financial institutions, such as payment processing accounts, payroll accounts and working capital accounts, through December 31, 2009. The Banks have opted out of the debt guarantee component and opted into the transaction guarantee component of this program.
- Temporary increase in deposit insurance coverage. Pursuant to the EESA, the FDIC temporarily raised the basic limit on federal deposit insurance coverage from \$100,000 to \$250,000 per depositor, effective October 3, 2008. The EESA provides that the basic deposit insurance limit is currently scheduled to return to \$100,000 after December 31, 2009.

Given the current international, national and regional economic climate, it is unclear what effect the provisions of the EESA will have with respect to the profitability and operations of both the Company and the Banks. In addition, the US government, either through the US Treasury or some other federal agency, may also advance additional programs that could materially impact the profitability and operations of both the Company and the Banks. The failure of these governmental efforts to stabilize national and international markets could have a material effect on the Company’s business, financial condition, results of operations or access to the credit markets.

US Treasury Department Report. In March 2008, the U.S. Treasury Department released a report containing short-, intermediate- and long-term recommendations to reform and modernize this country’s federal financial regulatory structure. With respect to the banking industry, the report recommended the elimination of the federal thrift charter and conversion to the national bank charter, with the Office of Thrift Supervision (the “OTS”) merging with and into the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (the “OCC”), the federal agency that regulates national banks. On a longer term basis, the report also recommended a consolidation of the current functional regulation scheme for financial institutions into three distinct regulators: a market stability regulator (the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System); a prudent financial regulator (new); and a business conduct regulator (new). It is unclear whether and to what extent this proposal will be implemented in the future and the impact it will have upon the operations of both the Company and the Banks.

USA Patriot Act. The USA Patriot Act was enacted in 2001 which, together with regulations issued pursuant to this act, substantially broadened previously existing anti-money laundering laws and regulations, increased compliance, due diligence and reporting obligations for financial institutions, created new crimes and penalties and required federal banking agencies, in reviewing mergers and other acquisition transactions, to consider the effectiveness of the parties in combating money laundering activities. The act requires all financial institutions to establish certain anti-money laundering compliance and due diligence programs that are reasonably designed to detect and report instances of money laundering. The Company believes its compliance policies, procedures and controls satisfy the material requirements of the Patriot Act and regulations.

## Table of Contents

Sarbanes-Oxley Act. The Sarbanes-Oxley Act was enacted in 2002 to, among other things, increase corporate responsibility and to protect investors by improving the accuracy and reliability of corporate disclosures pursuant to the federal securities laws. This act generally applies to all companies that are required to file periodic reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The act implements significant changes in the responsibilities of officers and directors of public companies and makes certain changes to the corporate reporting obligation of those companies and their external auditors. Among the requirements and prohibitions addressed by the act are certifications required by CEOs and CFOs of periodic reports filed with the SEC; accelerated reporting of stock transactions by directors, officers and large shareholders; prohibitions against personal loans from companies to directors and executive officers (except loans made in the ordinary course of business); requirements for public companies' audit committees; requirements for auditor independence; the forfeiture of bonuses or other incentive-based compensation and profits from the sale of an issuer's securities by directors and executive officers in the 12-month period following initial publication of any financial statements that later require restatement; various increased criminal penalties for violations of securities laws; and the creation of a public company accounting oversight board. Rules adopted by the SEC to implement various provisions of the act include CEO and CFO certifications related to fair presentation of financial statements and financial information in public filings, as well as management's evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures; disclosure of whether any audit committee members qualify as a "financial expert"; disclosures related to audit committee composition and auditor pre-approval policies; disclosure related to adoption of a written code of ethics; reconciling non-GAAP financial information with GAAP in public communications; disclosure of off-balance sheet transactions; and disclosure related to director independence and the director nomination process. The Company has adopted modifications to its corporate governance procedures to comply with the provisions of the act and regulations.

The Company and the Banks are subject to extensive federal and state regulation and supervision. Regulation and supervision of financial institutions is primarily intended to protect depositors and the FDIC rather than shareholders of the Company. The laws and regulations affecting banks and bank holding companies have changed significantly over recent years, particularly with the passage of the Financial Services Modernization Act. There is reason to expect that similar changes will continue in the future. Any change in applicable laws, regulations or regulatory policies may have a material effect on the business, operations and prospects of the Company. The Company is unable to predict the nature or the extent of the effects on its business and earnings that any fiscal or monetary policies or new federal or state legislation may have in the future.

## The Company

The Company is a bank holding company by virtue of its ownership of the Banks, and is registered as such with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the "Federal Reserve"). The Company is subject to regulation under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the "BHCA"), which subjects the Company and the Banks to supervision and examination by the Federal Reserve. Under the BHCA, the Company files with the Federal Reserve annual reports of its operations and such additional information as the Federal Reserve may require.

Source of Strength to the Banks. The Federal Reserve takes the position that a bank holding company is required to serve as a source of financial and managerial strength to its subsidiary banks and may not conduct its operations in an unsafe or unsound manner. In addition, it is the Federal Reserve's position that in serving as a source of strength to its subsidiary banks, bank holding companies should use available resources to provide adequate capital funds to its subsidiary banks during periods of financial stress or adversity. It should also maintain the financial flexibility and capital raising capacity to obtain additional resources for providing assistance to its subsidiary banks. A bank holding company's failure to meet its obligations to serve as a source of strength to its subsidiary banks will generally be considered by the Federal Reserve to be an unsafe and unsound banking practice or a violation of the Federal Reserve's regulations or both.

Table of Contents

Federal Reserve Approval. Bank holding companies must obtain the approval of the Federal Reserve before they: (i) acquire direct or indirect ownership or control of any voting stock of any bank if, after such acquisition, they would own or control, directly or indirectly, more than 5% of the voting stock of such bank; (ii) merge or consolidate with another bank holding company; or (iii) acquire substantially all of the assets of any additional banks.

Non-Banking Activities. With certain exceptions, the BHCA also prohibits bank holding companies from acquiring direct or indirect ownership or control of voting stock in any company other than a bank or a bank holding company unless the Federal Reserve finds the company's business to be incidental to the business of banking. When making this determination, the Federal Reserve in part considers whether allowing a bank holding company to engage in those activities would offer advantages to the public that would outweigh possible adverse effects. A bank holding company may engage in permissible non-banking activities on a de novo basis, if the holding company meets certain criteria and notifies the Federal Reserve within ten (10) business days after the activity has commenced.

Under the Financial Services Modernization Act, eligible bank holding companies may elect (with the approval of the Federal Reserve) to become a "financial holding company." Financial holding companies are permitted to engage in certain financial activities through affiliates that had previously been prohibited activities for bank holding companies. Such financial activities include securities and insurance underwriting and merchant banking. At this time, the Company has not elected to become a financial holding company, but may choose to do so at some time in the future.

Control Transactions. The Change in Bank Control Act of 1978, as amended, requires a person or group of persons acquiring "control" of a bank holding company to provide the Federal Reserve with at least 60 days prior written notice of the proposed acquisition. Following receipt of this notice, the Federal Reserve has 60 days to issue a notice disapproving the proposed acquisition, but the Federal Reserve may extend this time period for up to another 30 days. An acquisition may be completed before the disapproval period expires if the Federal Reserve issues written notice of its intent not to disapprove the action. Under a rebuttable presumption established by the Federal Reserve, the acquisition of 10% or more of a class of voting stock of a bank holding company with a class of securities registered under Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, would constitute the acquisition of control. In addition, any "company" would be required to obtain the approval of the Federal Reserve under the BHCA before acquiring 25% (or 5% if the "company" is a bank holding company) or more of the outstanding shares of the Company, or otherwise obtain control over the Company.

Affiliate Transactions. The Company and the Banks are deemed affiliates within the meaning of the Federal Reserve Act, and transactions between affiliates are subject to certain restrictions. Generally, the Federal Reserve Act: (i) limits the extent to which the financial institution or its subsidiaries may engage in "covered transactions" with an affiliate; and (ii) requires all transactions with an affiliate, whether or not "covered transactions," to be on terms substantially the same, or at least as favorable to the institution or subsidiary, as those provided to a non-affiliate. The term "covered transaction" includes the making of loans, purchase of assets, issuance of a guarantee and similar transactions.

## Table of Contents

**State Law on Acquisitions.** Iowa law permits bank holding companies to make acquisitions throughout the state. However, Iowa currently has a deposit concentration limit of 15% on the amount of deposits in the state that any one banking organization can control and continue to acquire banks or bank deposits (by acquisitions), which applies to all depository institutions doing business in Iowa.

### Banking Subsidiaries

Applicable federal and state statutes and regulations governing a bank's operations relate, among other matters, to capital adequacy requirements, required reserves against deposits, investments, loans, legal lending limits, certain interest rates payable, mergers and consolidations, borrowings, issuance of securities, payment of dividends, establishment of branches and dealings with affiliated persons.

First National and United Bank are national banks subject to primary federal regulation and supervision by the OCC. The FDIC, as an insurer of the deposits, also has some limited regulatory authority over First National and United Bank. State Bank, Boone Bank and Randall-Story Bank are state banks subject to regulation and supervision by the Iowa Division of Banking. The three state Banks are also subject to regulation and examination by the FDIC, which insures their respective deposits to the maximum extent permitted by law. The federal laws that apply to the Banks regulate, among other things, the scope of their business, their investments, their reserves against deposits, the timing of the availability of deposited funds and the nature and amount of and collateral for loans. The laws and regulations governing the Banks generally have been promulgated to protect depositors and the deposit insurance fund of the FDIC and not to protect stockholders of such institutions or their holding companies.

The OCC and FDIC each have authority to prohibit banks under their supervision from engaging in what it considers to be an unsafe and unsound practice in conducting their business. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 ("FDICIA") requires federal banking regulators to adopt regulations or guidelines in a number of areas to ensure bank safety and soundness, including internal controls, credit underwriting, asset growth, management compensation, ratios of classified assets to capital and earnings. FDICIA also contains provisions which are intended to change independent auditing requirements, restrict the activities of state-chartered insured banks, amend various consumer banking laws, limit the ability of "undercapitalized banks" to borrow from the Federal Reserve's discount window, require regulators to perform periodic on-site bank examinations and set standards for real estate lending.

**Borrowing Limitations.** Each of the Banks is subject to limitations on the aggregate amount of loans that it can make to any one borrower, including related entities. Subject to numerous exceptions based on the type of loans and collateral, applicable statutes and regulations generally limit loans to one borrower of 15% of total equity and reserves. Each of the Banks is in compliance with applicable loans to one borrower requirements.

**FDIC Insurance.** The FDIC temporarily raised the basic limit on federal deposit insurance coverage from \$100,000 to \$250,000 per depositor, effective October 3, 2008. The basic deposit insurance limit is currently scheduled to return to \$100,000 after December 31, 2009. Generally, under the permanent FDIC limits, customer deposit accounts in banks are insured by the FDIC for up to a maximum amount of \$100,000 for single accounts, \$250,000 for self-directed retirement accounts, \$100,000 for joint accounts, and \$100,000 for qualifying revocable trust accounts. The FDIC has adopted a risk-based insurance assessment system under which depository institutions contribute funds to the FDIC insurance fund based on their risk classification. The FDIC may terminate the deposit insurance of any insured depository institution if it determines after an administrative hearing that the institution has engaged or is engaging in unsafe or unsound practices, is in an unsafe or unsound condition to continue operations or has violated any applicable law. On October 16, 2008, the FDIC developed a restoration plan to replenish the Deposit Insurance Fund over a period of five years and to increase the deposit insurance reserve ratio to the statutory minimum of 1.15% of insured deposits by December 13, 2013. To implement this plan, the FDIC has proposed to change its risk-based



assessment system and its base assessment rates. Effective only for the first quarter of 2009, the FDIC deposit assessment rates have been increased by 7 basis points. Other changes to the system would include increased premiums for institutions that rely on excessive amounts of brokered deposits and for excessive use of secured liabilities. The FDIC would also lower premiums for smaller institutions with very high capital levels. On February 27, 2009, the FDIC: (1) adopted a final rule modifying the risk-based assessment system and setting initial base assessment rates beginning April 1, 2009, at 12 to 45 basis points; (2) due to extraordinary circumstances, extended the period of the restoration plan to seven years; and (3) adopted an interim rule with request for comments imposing an emergency 20 basis point special assessment on June 30, 2009, which will be collected on September 30, 2009, and allowing the FDIC to impose possible additional special assessments of up to 10 basis points thereafter to maintain public confidence in the Deposit Insurance Fund. FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair announced on March 5, 2009 that the FDIC intends to cut the agency's planned special emergency assessment in half, from 20 to 10 basis points, provided that Congress clears legislation expanding the FDIC's line of credit with Treasury to \$100 billion.

Table of Contents

Capital Adequacy Requirements. The Federal Reserve, the FDIC and the OCC (collectively, the "Agencies") have adopted risk-based capital guidelines for banks and bank holding companies that are designed to make regulatory capital requirements more sensitive to differences in risk profiles among banks and bank holding companies and account for off-balance sheet items. Failure to achieve and maintain adequate capital levels may give rise to supervisory action through the issuance of a capital directive to ensure the maintenance of required capital levels. Each of the Banks is in compliance with applicable risk-based capital level requirements as of December 31, 2008.

The current guidelines require all federally regulated banks to maintain a minimum risk-based total capital ratio equal to 8%, of which at least 4% must be Tier 1 capital. Tier 1 capital includes common shareholders' equity, qualifying perpetual preferred stock and minority interests in equity accounts of consolidated subsidiaries, but excludes goodwill and most other intangibles and the allowance for loan and lease losses. Tier 2 capital includes the excess of any preferred stock not included in Tier 1 capital, mandatory convertible securities, hybrid capital instruments, subordinated debt and intermediate term preferred stock, 45% of unrealized gain of equity securities and general reserve for loan and lease losses up to 1.25% of risk weighted assets

Under these guidelines, banks' assets are given risk weights of 0%, 20%, 50% or 100%. Most loans are assigned to the 100% risk category, except for first mortgage loans fully secured by residential property and, under certain circumstances, residential construction loans (both carry a 50% rating). Most investment securities are assigned to the 20% category, except for municipal or state revenue bonds (which have a 50% rating) and direct obligations of or obligations guaranteed by the United States Treasury or United States Government Agencies (which have a 0% rating).

Table of Contents

The Agencies have also implemented a leverage ratio, which is equal to Tier 1 capital as a percentage of average total assets less intangibles, to be used as a supplement to the risk based guidelines. The principal objective of the leverage ratio is to limit the maximum degree to which a bank may leverage its equity capital base. The minimum required leverage ratio for top rated institutions is 3%, but most institutions are required to maintain an additional cushion of at least 100 to 200 basis points. Any institution operating at or near the 3% level is expected to be a strong banking organization without any supervisory, financial or operational weaknesses or deficiencies. Any institutions experiencing or anticipating significant growth would be expected to maintain capital ratios, including tangible capital positions, well above the minimum levels.

**Prompt Corrective Action.** Regulations adopted by the Agencies impose even more stringent capital requirements. The FDIC and other Agencies must take certain "prompt corrective action" when a bank fails to meet capital requirements. The regulations establish and define five capital levels: (i) "well-capitalized," (ii) "adequately capitalized," (iii) "undercapitalized," (iv) "significantly undercapitalized" and (v) "critically undercapitalized." Increasingly severe restrictions are imposed on the payment of dividends and management fees, asset growth and other aspects of the operations of institutions that fall below the category of being "adequately capitalized". Undercapitalized institutions are required to develop and implement capital plans acceptable to the appropriate federal regulatory agency. Such plans must require that any company that controls the undercapitalized institution must provide certain guarantees that the institution will comply with the plan until it is adequately capitalized. As of December 31, 2008 each of the Banks was categorized as "well capitalized" under regulatory prompt corrective action provisions.

**Restrictions on Dividends.** The dividends paid to the Company by the Banks are the major source of Company cash flow. Various federal and state statutory provisions limit the amount of dividends banking subsidiaries are permitted to pay to their holding companies without regulatory approval. Federal Reserve policy further limits the circumstances under which bank holding companies may declare dividends. For example, a bank holding company should not continue its existing rate of cash dividends on its common stock unless its net income is sufficient to fully fund each dividend and its prospective rate of earnings retention appears consistent with its capital needs, asset quality and overall financial condition. In addition, the Federal Reserve and the FDIC have issued policy statements which provide that insured banks and bank holding companies should generally pay dividends only out of current operating earnings. Federal and state banking regulators may also restrict the payment of dividends by order.

First National Bank, as a national bank, generally may pay dividends, without obtaining the express approval of the OCC, in an amount up to its retained net profits for the preceding two calendar years plus retained net profits up to the date of any dividend declaration in the current calendar year. Retained net profits as defined by the OCC, consists of net income less dividends declared during the period. Currently, First National Bank is unable to pay dividends under the foregoing standard without the OCC's approval and does not plan to seek such approval in 2009. Boone Bank, Randall-Story Bank and State Bank are also restricted under Iowa law to paying dividends only out of their undivided profits. Additionally, the payment of dividends by the Banks is affected by the requirement to maintain adequate capital pursuant to applicable capital adequacy guidelines and regulations, and the Banks generally are prohibited from paying any dividends if, following payment thereof, the Bank would be undercapitalized.

## Table of Contents

Reserves Against Deposits. The Federal Reserve requires all depository institutions to maintain reserves against their transaction accounts (primarily checking accounts) and non-personal time deposits. Generally, reserves of 3% must be maintained against total transaction accounts of \$43,900,000 or less (subject to an exemption not in excess of the first \$9,300,000 of transaction accounts). A reserve of \$1,317,000 plus 10% of amounts in excess of \$43,900,000 must be maintained in the event total transaction accounts exceed \$43,900,000. The balances maintained to meet the reserve requirements imposed by the Federal Reserve may be used to satisfy applicable liquidity requirements. Because required reserves must be maintained in the form of vault cash or a noninterest bearing account at a Federal Reserve Bank, the effect of this reserve requirement is to reduce the earning assets of the Banks.

## Regulatory Enforcement Authority

The enforcement powers available to federal and state banking regulators are substantial and include, among other things, the ability to assess civil monetary penalties, to issue cease-and-desist or removal orders and to initiate injunctive actions against banking organizations and institution-affiliated parties. In general, enforcement actions must be initiated for violations of laws and regulations and unsafe or unsound practices. Other actions, or inactions, may provide the basis for enforcement action, including misleading or untimely reports filed with regulatory authorities. Applicable law also requires public disclosure of final enforcement actions by the federal banking agencies.

## National Monetary Policies

In addition to being affected by general economic conditions, the earnings and growth of the Banks are affected by the regulatory authorities' policies, including the Federal Reserve. An important function of the Federal Reserve is to regulate the money supply, credit conditions and interest rates. Among the instruments used to implement these objectives are open market operations in U.S. Government securities, changes in reserve requirements against bank deposits and the Federal Reserve Discount Rate, which is the rate, charged member banks to borrow from the Federal Reserve Bank. These instruments are used in varying combinations to influence overall growth and distribution of credit, bank loans, investments and deposits, and their use may also affect interest rates charged on loans or paid on deposits.

The monetary policies of the Federal Reserve have had a material impact on the operating results of commercial banks in the past and are expected to have a similar impact in the future. Also important in terms of effect on banks are controls on interest rates paid by banks on deposits and types of deposits that may be offered by banks. The Depository Institutions Deregulation Committee, created by Congress in 1980, phased out ceilings on the rate of interest that may be paid on deposits by commercial banks and savings and loan associations, with the result that the differentials between the maximum rates banks and savings and loans can pay on deposit accounts have been eliminated. The effect of deregulation of deposit interest rates has been to increase banks' cost of funds and to make banks more sensitive to fluctuation in market rates.

Table of Contents

Availability of Information on Company Website

The Company files periodic reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), including annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K. The Company makes available on or through its website free of charge all periodic reports filed by the Company with the SEC, including any amendments to such reports, as soon as reasonably practicable after such reports have been electronically filed with the SEC. The address of the Company’s website on the Internet is: [www.amesnational.com](http://www.amesnational.com).

The Company will provide a paper copy of these reports free of charge upon written or telephonic request directed to John P. Nelson, Vice President and Secretary, 405 Fifth Street, Ames, Iowa 50010 or (515) 232-6251 or by email request at [info@amesnational.com](mailto:info@amesnational.com). The information found on the Company’s website is not part of this or any other report the Company files with the SEC.

Table of Contents

## Executive Officers of Company and Banks

The following table sets forth summary information about the executive officers of the Company and certain executive officers of the Banks. Unless otherwise indicated, each executive officer has served in his current position for the past five years.

Name	Age	Position with the Company or Bank and Principal Occupation and Employment During the Past Five Years
Kathy L. Baker	62	Named President and Director of United Bank on January 1, 2008. Previously served as a Vice President in the lending department of United Bank.
Scott T. Bauer	46	Named President of First National Bank in 2007. Previously served as Executive Vice President and Senior Vice President of First National Bank.
Kevin G. Deardorff	54	Vice President & Technology Director of the Company.
Daniel L. Krieger	72	Chairman of the Company since 2003 and President of Company from 1997 to 2007. Also serves as a Director of the Company, Chairman of the Board and Trust Officer of First National and Chairman of the Board of Boone Bank. Previously served as President of First National and Chairman of the Board of United Bank.
Stephen C. McGill	54	President of State Bank since 2003. Previously served as Senior Vice President of State Bank. Director of State Bank & Trust Co.
John P. Nelson	42	Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of Company. Also serves as Director of Randall-Story Bank.
Thomas H. Pohlman	58	Named President of the Company in 2007. Previously served as Chief Operating Officer of the Company in 2006 and President of First National from 1999 to 2007. Director of the Company and First National Bank, State Bank & Trust Co and United Bank.
Jeffrey K. Putzier	47	President of Boone Bank since 1999. Director of Boone Bank & Trust Co.
Rick J. Schreier	41	Named President of Randall Story Bank in May, 2008. Also serves as a director at Randall-Story State Bank. Previously served as Senior Vice President of lending at Randall-Story Bank and State Bank.
Terrill L. Wycoff	65	Executive Vice President of First National since 2000. Director of First National Bank.

Table of Contents

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Set forth below is a description of risk factors related to the Company's business, provided to enable investors to assess, and be appropriately apprised of, certain risks and uncertainties the Company faces in conducting its business. An investor should carefully consider the risks described below and elsewhere in this Report, which could materially and adversely affect the Company's business, results of operations or financial condition. The risks and uncertainties discussed below are also applicable to forward-looking statements contained in this Report and in other reports filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Given these risks and uncertainties, investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements.

General Business, Economic and Political Conditions.

The Company's earnings and financial condition are affected by general business, economic and political conditions. For example, a depressed economic environment increases the likelihood of lower employment levels and recession, which could adversely affect the Company's earnings and financial condition. General business and economic conditions that could affect the Company include short-term and long-term interest rates, inflation, fluctuations in both debt and equity capital markets and the strength of the national and local economies in which the Company operates. Political conditions can also affect the Company's earnings through the introduction of new regulatory schemes and changes in tax laws.

In particular, the latter half of 2007 and 2008 saw many negative developments in the financial services industry which have caused significant uncertainty and volatility in the financial markets in general. Additionally, the severe economic downturn that began in the fourth quarter of 2008 has continued into 2009 and threatens to undermine business and commercial activity on a global basis. As a consequence of this recession, a wide range of industries face serious challenges, mostly related to reduced consumer confidence and an extreme lack of liquidity in the global credit markets.

The current economic downturn has caused many lending institutions to experience declines in the performance of their loans. Additionally, competition among depository institutions for deposits and quality loans has increased significantly. Added to this, the values of real estate collateral supporting mortgage loans have declined and may continue to do so, providing less security for those loans. Across the industry, bank holding companies and bank stock prices have fallen, as has the ability of banks to raise capital and borrow. Because of the uncertainty and upheaval within the financial markets and industry, there is a potential for new federal and/or state laws and regulations regarding lending, funding and liquidity practices of banks. Any new legislation or regulations could negatively impact the Company's operations.

In addition, further negative market developments may continue to undermine consumer confidence levels and cause adverse changes in payment patterns, causing an increase in delinquencies and default rates, which in turn may impact the Company's charge-offs and provisions for loan losses. A worsening of these market conditions could exacerbate their already adverse effect on the Company and the Banks and others in the financial services industry.

In response to the deterioration in economic conditions, the federal government has enacted the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (the "EESA"), giving the U.S. Treasury authority to take certain actions to restore liquidity and stability to the U.S. banking markets. Based on the authority contained in the EESA, a number of programs have been announced, including the Capital Purchase Program under which the U.S. Treasury will purchase up to \$250 billion of preferred stock from certain financial institutions that apply and are accepted to participate in the program. There can be no assurance, however, that the EESA and other recently enacted government programs will help stabilize the U.S. financial system. The failure of the EESA and other programs to stabilize the financial markets, together with a continuing deterioration of the national and global economies in general, could materially and adversely affect the

Company's business, financial condition and results of operations.

20

---



Table of Contents

Risks Associated with Loans

A significant source of risk for the Company arises from the possibility that losses will be sustained because borrowers, guarantors and related parties may fail to perform in accordance with the terms of their loans. The Company has underwriting and credit monitoring procedures and credit policies, including the establishment and review of the allowance for loan losses, that management believes are appropriate to minimize this risk by assessing the likelihood of nonperformance, tracking loan performance and diversifying the Company's loan portfolio. Such policies and procedures, however, may not prevent unexpected losses that could adversely affect results of operations. During 2008, the Company's allowance for loan losses and its level of impaired loans increased by 17.3% and 19.4%, respectively, over 2007 figures, and these amounts may continue to increase during 2009 as the economic downturn impacts the Company's borrowers.

Bank regulatory agencies periodically review the Company's allowance for loan losses and may require an increase in the provision for loan losses, an increase in loans considered to be "impaired" or the recognition of further loan charge-offs, based on current economic conditions. Any increases in the allowance for loan losses will result in a decrease in net income and capital and may have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Equity Securities

A substandard performance in the Company's equity portfolio could lead to a reduction in the historical level of realized security gains and also lead to other than temporary impairments, thereby negatively impacting the Company's earnings, as occurred during 2008. The Company invests capital that may be utilized for future expansion in a portfolio of primarily financial stocks which, as of December 31, 2008, had an estimated fair market value of approximately \$8 million. The Company focuses on stocks that have historically paid dividends in an effort to lessen the negative effects of a bear market. The strategy, however, did not prove successful in 2008 as problems in the residential mortgage industry caused a significant decline in the market value of the Company's financial stocks. Unrealized losses in the Company's equity portfolio totaled \$1.0 million (at the holding company level on an unconsolidated basis) as of December 31, 2008, after recognizing realized gains of \$3.2 million in the portfolio during the year, as compared to unrealized gains of \$3.3 million (at the holding company level on an unconsolidated basis) as of December 31, 2007, after recognizing realized gains of \$1.4 million during 2007. In addition, the Company recognized impairment losses of approximately \$8.5 million in its equity portfolio during 2008 in connection with the impairment of Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA) and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC) preferred stock. Due to the severe economic downturn, the Company's financial stocks have continued to lose value during the first quarter of 2009 and it is reasonably possible that the Company may incur impairment losses in 2009 which, as in 2008, would have a negative impact on the Company's earnings for the year.

## Table of Contents

### Debt Securities

A substandard performance in the Company's debt securities portfolio could negatively impact the Company's earnings. The Company has invested in state and political subdivisions, U.S. government mortgage-backed securities, corporate bonds, U.S. government agencies and U.S. treasuries. The Company incurred impairment losses of approximately \$3.6 million in its debt securities portfolio during 2008 and it is reasonably possible that the Company may incur impairment losses on its debt securities during 2009 if economic conditions continue to deteriorate and adversely impact the issuers of the Company's debt securities. Any impairment losses on debt securities would have a negative impact on the Company's earnings for the year.

### Other Real Estate Owned

"Other real estate owned" consists of real estate collateral that the Company has received in foreclosure, or accepted in lieu of foreclosure, of impaired loans. The value of the Company's holdings of other real estate owned significantly increased from \$2.8 million in 2007 to \$13.3 million in 2008, primarily due to the foreclosure of a development loan secured by commercial real estate. An independent appraisal confirms the fair market value of the other real estate owned and supports the carrying value of this asset on the Company's balance sheet. Valuations will be performed periodically by management with respect to current and any future other real estate owned, and any subsequent write-downs will be recorded as a charge to operations, if necessary, to reduce the carrying value of a property to the lower of its cost or fair value less cost to sell. Due to potential changes in economic conditions, it is reasonably possible that changes in fair values will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the Company's financial statements.

### Rising Interest Rates

Although interest rates declined in the latter part of 2008 and will likely remain at historically low levels during 2009, any increase in interest rates that may occur in connection with the recovery of the economy could negatively impact the Company's net interest margin if interest expense increases more quickly than interest income. The Company's earning assets (primarily its loan and investment portfolio) have longer maturities than its interest bearing liabilities (primarily its deposits and other borrowings). Therefore, in a rising interest rate environment, interest expense will increase more quickly than interest income, as the interest bearing liabilities reprice more quickly than earning assets. In response to this challenge, the Banks model quarterly the changes in income that would result from various changes in interest rates. Management believes Bank earning assets have the appropriate maturity and repricing characteristics to optimize earnings and the Banks' interest rate risk positions.

### Liquidity Risk

Maintaining adequate liquidity is essential to the banking business. An inability to raise funds through deposits, borrowing, sale of securities or other sources could have a substantial negative impact on the Company's liquidity. Access to funding sources in amounts necessary to finance the Company's activities or with terms that are acceptable to the Company could be impaired by factors that affect the Company specifically or the financial services industry or economy in general. Factors that could detrimentally impact the Company's access to liquidity sources include a decrease in the level of the Company's business activity as a result of a downturn in the markets or adverse regulatory action against the Company. The Company's ability to borrow could be impaired by factors such as a disruption in the financial markets or negative views and expectations of the prospects for the financial services industry in light of the recent turmoil facing the industry.

Table of Contents

Although the Company's current sources of funds are adequate for its liquidity needs, there can be no assurance in this regard for the future. If additional debt is needed in the future, there can be no assurance that such debt would be available or, if available, would be on favorable terms. The ability of banks and holding companies to raise capital or borrow in the debt markets has been negatively affected by recent economic conditions. If additional financing sources are unavailable or not available on reasonable terms, the Company's financial condition, results of operations and future prospects could be adversely affected.

Customer Concern over Deposit Insurance

With recent increased concerns about bank failures, customers are concerned about the extent to which their deposits are insured by the FDIC. Customers may withdraw deposits in an effort to ensure that the amount they have on deposit with their bank is fully insured. Decreases in deposits, if they were to occur, could adversely affect the Company's funding costs and net income.

Increase in Deposit Insurance Premium

On October 16, 2008, the FDIC developed a restoration plan to replenish the Deposit Insurance Fund over a period of five years and to increase the deposit insurance reserve ratio to the statutory minimum of 1.15% of insured deposits by December 31, 2013. To implement this plan, the FDIC has proposed to change its risk-based assessment system and its base assessment rates. Effective only for the first quarter of 2009, the FDIC deposit assessment rates have been increased by 7 basis points. Other changes to the system would include increased premiums for institutions that rely on excessive amounts of brokered deposits and for excessive use of secured liabilities. The FDIC would also lower premiums for smaller institutions with very high capital levels. On February 27, 2009, the FDIC: (1) adopted a final rule modifying the risk-based assessment system and setting initial base assessment rates beginning April 1, 2009, at 12 to 45 basis points; (2) due to extraordinary circumstances, extended the period of the restoration plan to seven years; and (3) adopted an interim rule with request for comments imposing an emergency 20 basis point special assessment on June 30, 2009, which will be collected on September 30, 2009, and allowing the FDIC to impose possible additional special assessments of up to 10 basis points thereafter to maintain public confidence in the Deposit Insurance Fund. FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair announced on March 5, 2009 that the FDIC intends to cut the agency's planned special emergency assessment in half, from 20 to 10 basis points, provided that Congress clears legislation expanding the FDIC's line of credit with Treasury to \$100 billion. Any increase in the risk category of the Banks or any increase in the base assessment rates, or the imposition of any special assessments, would likely have a material adverse effect on the Company's earnings.

## Table of Contents

### Concentration of Operations

The Company's operations are concentrated in central Iowa. As a result of this geographic concentration, the Company's results may correlate to the economic conditions in this area, which were adversely impacted by the general decline in economic and market activity experienced during the latter portion of 2008. Continuing deterioration in economic conditions, particularly in the industries on which this area depends (including agriculture which, in turn, is dependent upon weather conditions and government support programs), may adversely affect the quality of the Company's loan portfolio and the demand for the Company's products and services, and accordingly, its financial condition and results of operations.

### Competition with Larger Financial Institutions

The banking and financial services business in the Company's market area continues to be a competitive field and is becoming more competitive as a result of:

- changes in regulations;
- changes in technology and product delivery systems; and
- the accelerating pace of consolidation among financial services providers.

It may be difficult to compete effectively in the Company's market, and results of operations could be adversely affected by the nature or pace of change in competition. The Company competes for loans, deposits and customers with various bank and non-bank financial services providers, many of which are much larger in total assets and capitalization, have greater access to capital markets and offer a broader array of financial services.

### Trading Volume

The trading volume in the Company's common stock on the Nasdaq Capital Market is relatively limited compared to those of larger companies listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market, the Nasdaq Global Markets, the New York Stock Exchange or other consolidated reporting systems or stock exchanges. A change in the supply or demand for the Company's common stock may have a more significant impact on the price of the Company's stock than for more actively traded companies.

### Technological Advances

The financial services industry is undergoing technological changes with frequent introductions of new technology-driven products and services. In addition to improving customer services, the effective use of technology increases efficiency and enables financial institutions to reduce costs. The Company's future success will depend, in part, on its ability to address the needs of its customers by using technology to provide products and services that will satisfy customer demands for convenience, as well as to create additional efficiencies in the Company's operations. Many of our competitors have substantially greater resources than the Company to invest in technological improvements.

Table of Contents

Government Regulations

Current and future legislation and the policies established by federal and state regulatory authorities will affect the Company's operations. The Company and its Banks are subject to extensive supervision of, and examination by, federal and state regulatory authorities which may limit the Company's growth and the return to our shareholders by restricting certain activities, such as:

- the payment of dividends to the Company's shareholders;
- the payment of dividends to the Company from the Banks;
- possible mergers with or acquisitions of or by other institutions;
  - investment policies;
    - loans and interest rates on loans;
    - interest rates paid on deposits;
    - expansion of branch offices; and/or
- the possibility to provide or expand securities or trust services.

The Company cannot predict what changes, if any, will be made to existing federal and state legislation and regulations or the effect that any changes may have on future business and earnings prospects. The cost of compliance with regulatory requirements may adversely affect the Company's net income.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

The Company has not received any written comments from the staff of the SEC regarding its periodic or current reports filed in 2008 under the Exchange Act.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

The Company's office is housed in the main office of First National located at 405 Fifth Street, Ames, Iowa and occupies approximately 3,357 square feet. A lease agreement between the Company and First National provides the Company will make available for use by First National an equal amount of interior space at the Company's building located at 2330 Lincoln Way in lieu of rental payments. The main office is owned by First National consists of approximately 45,000 square feet and includes a drive-through banking facility. In addition to its main office, First National conducts its business through two full-service offices, the University office and the North Grand office, and one super-market location, the Cub Food office. A new full-service office opened in April of 2007 in Ankeny, Iowa and occupies approximately 14,000 square feet. The University office is located in a 16,000 square foot multi-tenant property owned by the Company. A 24-year lease agreement with the Company has been modified in 2002 to provide that an equal amount of interior space will be made available to the Company at First National's main office at 405 Fifth Street in lieu of rental payments. First National will continue to rent the drive-up facilities of approximately 1,850 square feet at this location for \$1,200 per month. The Cub Foods office is leased by First National under a 20 year lease with a five year initial term and three, five year renewal options. The current annual rental payment is \$21,000. All of the properties owned by the Company and First National are free of any mortgages.



Table of Contents

State Bank conducts its business from its main office located at 1025 Sixth Street, Nevada, Iowa and from two additional full-service offices located in McCallsburg and Colo, Iowa. All of these properties are owned by State Bank free of any mortgage.

Boone Bank conducts its business from its main office located at 716 Eighth Street, Boone, Iowa and from one additional full-service office also located in Boone, Iowa. All properties are owned by Boone Bank free of any mortgage.

Randall-Story Bank conducts its business from its main office located at 606 Broad Street, Story City, Iowa which is owned by Randall-Story Bank free of any mortgage.

United Bank conducts its business from its main office located at 2101 South Center Street, Marshalltown, Iowa. The 5,200 square foot premise was constructed in 2002. In 2005, United Bank purchased an office location at 29 S. Center Street in Marshalltown that is 1,972 square feet. In 2007, United Bank purchased a commercial building located at 10 Westwood Drive, in Marshalltown that is 2,304 square feet for future expansion. All properties are owned by United Bank free of any mortgage.

The property the Company owns is located at 2330 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa consisting of a multi tenant building of approximately 16,000 square feet. First National leases 5,422 square feet of this building to serve as its University Office. 4,981 square feet of the remaining space is currently leased to seven tenants who occupy the space for business purposes; the remaining 2,686 square feet of rentable space is currently unoccupied. The Company owns a real estate property adjacent to 2330 Lincoln Way at 2318 Lincoln Way which consists of a single story commercial building with 2,400 square feet of leased space that is currently leased by one tenant for business purposes.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Banks are from time to time parties to various legal actions arising in the normal course of business. The Company believes that there is no threatened or pending proceeding against the Company or the Banks, which, if determined adversely, would have a material adverse effect on the business or financial condition of the Company or the Banks.

ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SHAREHOLDERS

There were no matters submitted to a vote of the shareholders of the Company during the fourth quarter of 2008.

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED SHAREHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

On February 27, 2009, the Company had approximately 545 shareholders of record and an estimated 876 additional beneficial owners whose shares were held in nominee titles through brokerage or other accounts. The Company's common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol "ATLO". Trading in the Company's common stock is, however, relatively limited.

Table of Contents

Based on information provided to and gathered by the Company on an informal basis, the Company believes that the high and low sales price for the common stock on a per share basis during the last two years is as follows:

Quarter	2008 Market Price		Quarter	2007 Market Price	
	High	Low		High	Low
1st	\$ 20.95	\$ 18.26	1st	\$ 22.44	\$ 20.56
2nd	\$ 22.94	\$ 15.12	2nd	\$ 23.19	\$ 21.00
3rd	\$ 42.11	\$ 15.60	3rd	\$ 21.70	\$ 19.06
4th	\$ 26.98	\$ 20.58	4th	\$ 21.75	\$ 17.64

The Company declared aggregate annual cash dividends in 2008 and 2007 of approximately \$10,564,000 and \$10,183,000, respectively, or \$1.12 per share in 2008 and \$1.08 per share in 2007. In February 2009, the Company declared a cash dividend of approximately \$943,000 or \$0.10 per share. Quarterly dividends declared during the last two years were as follows:

Quarter	2008	2007
	Cash dividends declared per share	Cash dividends declared per share
1st	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.27
2nd	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.27
3rd	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.27
4th	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.27

The decision to declare any such cash dividends in the future and the amount thereof rests within the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Company and will be subject to, among other things, the future earnings, capital requirements and financial condition of the Company and certain regulatory restrictions imposed on the payment of dividends by the Banks. Such restrictions are discussed in greater detail in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Liquidity and Capital Resources and in Note 11 of the Company's financial statements included herein.

The Board of Directors of the Company did not renew the previously announced stock repurchase program for 2009 and no purchases were made under the program in 2008 or 2007.

The following performance graph provides information regarding cumulative, five-year total return on an indexed basis of the Company's Common Stock as compared with the NASDAQ Composite Index, the SNL Midwest OTC Bulletin Board Bank Index ("Midwest OTC Bank Index") and the SNL NASDAQ Bank Index prepared by SNL Financial L.C. of Charlottesville, Virginia. The Midwest OTC Bank Index reflects the performance of 144 bank holding companies operating principally in the Midwest as selected by SNL Financial. The SNL NASDAQ Bank Index is comprised of 344 bank and bank holding companies listed on the NASDAQ market throughout the United States. The indexes assume the investment of \$100 on December 31, 2003 in the Common Stock, the NASDAQ Composite Index, Midwest OTC Bank Index and the NASDAQ Bank Index with all dividends reinvested. The Company's stock price performance shown in the following graph is not indicative of future stock price performance.



Table of Contents

Index	Period Ending					
	12/31/03	12/31/04	12/31/05	12/31/06	12/31/07	12/31/08
Ames National Corporation	100.00	143.31	141.45	120.92	118.20	169.50
NASDAQ Composite	100.00	108.59	110.08	120.56	132.39	78.72
SNL NASDAQ Bank	100.00	114.61	111.12	124.75	97.94	71.13
Midwest OTC Bank Index	100.00	119.15	124.05	130.64	127.52	95.04

## ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following financial data of the Company for the five years ended December 31, 2004 through 2008 is derived from the Company's historical audited financial statements and related footnotes. The information set forth below should be read in conjunction with "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation" and the consolidated financial statements and related notes contained elsewhere in this Annual Report.

Table of Contents

## Selected Financial Data

Year Ended December 31,

(dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
<b>STATEMENT OF INCOME DATA</b>					
Interest income	\$ 45,514	\$ 47,562	\$ 44,296	\$ 41,306	\$ 37,354
Interest expense	16,402	23,537	21,306	15,933	10,564
Net interest income	29,112	24,025	22,990	25,373	26,790
Provision (credit) for loan losses	1,313	(94)	(183)	331	479
Net interest income after provision (credit) for loan losses	27,799	24,119	23,173	25,042	26,311
Noninterest income (loss)	(3,008)	7,208	6,674	5,613	5,269
Noninterest expense	17,594	16,776	15,504	15,210	14,935
Income before provision for income tax	7,197	14,551	14,343	15,445	16,645
Provision for income tax	845	3,542	3,399	3,836	4,255
Net Income	\$ 6,352	\$ 11,009	\$ 10,944	\$ 11,609	\$ 12,390
<b>DIVIDENDS AND EARNINGS PER SHARE DATA</b>					
Cash dividends declared	\$ 10,564	\$ 10,183	\$ 9,801	\$ 9,417	\$ 7,590
Cash dividends declared per share	\$ 1.12	\$ 1.08	\$ 1.04	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.81
Basic and diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.67	\$ 1.17	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.23	\$ 1.32
Weighted average shares outstanding	9,431,393	9,427,503	9,422,402	9,415,599	9,405,705
<b>BALANCE SHEET DATA</b>					
Total assets	\$ 858,141	\$ 861,591	\$ 838,853	\$ 819,384	\$ 839,753
Net loans	452,880	463,651	429,123	440,318	411,639
Deposits	664,795	690,119	680,356	668,342	658,176
Stockholders' equity	103,837	110,021	112,923	109,227	110,924
Equity to assets ratio	12.10%	12.77%	13.46%	13.33%	13.21%

Table of Contents

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
<b>FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE</b>					
Net income	\$ 6,352	\$ 11,009	\$ 10,944	\$ 11,609	\$ 12,390
Average assets	857,705	843,788	818,450	831,198	793,076
Average stockholders' equity	107,794	111,371	109,508	109,802	108,004
Return on assets (net income divided by average assets)	0.74%	1.30%	1.34%	1.40%	1.56%
Return on equity (net income divided by average equity)	5.89%	9.89%	9.99%	10.57%	11.47%
Net interest margin (net interest income divided by average earning assets)	3.94%	3.39%	3.29%	3.56%	3.97%
Efficiency ratio (noninterest expense divided by noninterest income plus net interest income)	67.40%	53.71%	52.27%	49.09%	46.59%
Dividend payout ratio (dividends per share divided by net income per share)	167.16%	92.31%	89.66%	81.30%	61.27%
Dividend yield (dividends per share divided by closing year-end market price)	4.22%	5.54%	4.95%	3.89%	3.01%
Equity to assets ratio (average equity divided by average assets)	12.57%	13.20%	13.38%	13.21%	13.62%

**ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS****Overview**

Ames National Corporation (Company) is a bank holding company established in 1975 that owns and operates five bank subsidiaries (Banks) in central Iowa. The following discussion is provided for the consolidated operations of the Company and its Banks, First National, State Bank, Boone Bank, Randall-Story Bank and United Bank. The purpose of this discussion is to focus on significant factors affecting the Company's financial condition and results of operations.

The Company does not engage in any material business activities apart from its ownership of the Banks and managing its own bond and equity portfolio. Products and services offered by the Banks are for commercial and consumer purposes, including loans, deposits and trust services. The Banks also offer investment services through a third-party broker dealer. The Company employs twelve individuals to assist with financial reporting, human resources, marketing, audit, compliance, technology systems and the coordination of management activities, in addition to 180 full-time equivalent individuals employed by the Banks.

The Company's primary competitive strategy is to utilize seasoned and competent Bank management and local decision-making authority to provide customers with prompt response times and flexibility in the products and services offered. This strategy is viewed as providing an opportunity to increase revenues through creating a competitive advantage over other financial institutions. The Company also strives to remain operationally efficient to improve profitability while enabling the Banks to offer more competitive loan and deposit rates.

The principal sources of Company revenues and cash flow are: (i) interest and fees earned on loans made by the Banks; (ii) service charges on deposit accounts maintained at the Banks; (iii) interest on fixed income investments held by the Company and the Banks; (iv) fees on trust services provided by those Banks exercising trust powers; and (v) securities gains and dividends on equity investments held by the Company and the Banks. The Company's principal expenses are: (i) interest expense on deposit accounts and other borrowings; (ii) salaries and employee benefits; (iii) data processing costs associated with maintaining the Banks' loan and deposit functions; and (iv) occupancy expenses for maintaining the Banks' facilities. The largest component contributing to the Company's net income is net interest income, which is the difference between interest earned on earning assets (primarily loans and investments) and interest paid on interest bearing liabilities (primarily deposit accounts and other borrowings). One of management's principal functions is to manage the spread between interest earned on earning assets and interest paid on interest bearing liabilities in an effort to maximize net interest income while maintaining an appropriate level of interest rate risk.

Table of Contents

The Company reported net income of \$6,352,000 for the year ended December 31, 2008 compared to \$11,009,000 and \$10,944,000 reported for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. This represents a decrease of 42.3% when comparing 2008 to 2007. Although net interest income improved 21% in 2008 over 2007, this increase was offset by lower non-interest income associated with the other-than-temporary impairment of investment securities recorded in 2008. The increase in net income in 2007 from 2006 of 0.6% was the result of higher net interest income of 4%, offset by higher non-interest expense associated with the opening of the Ankeny office of First National. Earnings per share for 2008 were \$0.67 compared to \$1.17 in 2007 and \$1.16 in 2006. Four of the five Banks had profitable operations during 2008, with United Bank reporting a slight net loss.

The Company's return on average equity for 2008 was 5.89% compared to 9.89% and 9.99% in 2007 and 2006, respectively, and the return on average assets for 2008 was 0.74% compared to 1.30% in 2007 and 1.34% in 2006. The decrease in return on average equity and assets when comparing 2008 to 2007 was primarily a result of the other-than-temporary impairment on investment securities recorded in 2008. A higher level of average equity and average assets in 2007 compared to 2006 caused both the return on average equity and return on average assets to decline in 2007 compared to the previous year.

The following discussion will provide a summary review of important items relating to:

- Challenges
- Key Performance Indicators
- Industry Results
- Critical Accounting Policy
- Income Statement Review
- Balance Sheet Review
- Asset Quality Review and Credit Risk Management
- Liquidity and Capital Resources
- Interest Rate Risk
- Inflation
- Forward-Looking Statements

Challenges

Table of Contents

Management has identified certain events or circumstances involving uncertainties that may negatively impact the Company's financial condition and results of operations in the future and is attempting to position the Company to best respond to those challenges.

- On July 16, 2008, the Company's lead bank, First National, entered into an informal Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (the "OCC") regarding First National's commercial real estate loan portfolio, including specific actions to be taken with respect to commercial real estate risk management procedures, credit underwriting and administration, appraisal and evaluation processes, problem loan management, credit risk ratings recognition and loan review procedures. Since entering into the Memorandum, management has been actively pursuing the corrective actions required by the Memorandum in an effort to address the deficiencies noted in administration of its commercial real estate loan portfolio. In the event the OCC determines, through future examination of First National, that the specific actions required by the Memorandum have not been successfully implemented a more formal enforcement action may be initiated by the OCC.
- The Company and the Banks have invested in various corporate bonds issued by companies whose financial condition may further deteriorate, thus requiring additional impairment charges. Management believes that impairments in the investment portfolio at December 31, 2008 are temporary; however, it is reasonably possible that additional impairment charges may be necessary on investment securities in future periods if financial and economic conditions do not improve or deteriorate further.
- Banks have historically earned higher levels of net interest income by investing in longer term loans and securities at higher yields and paying lower deposit expense rates on shorter maturity deposits. However, the difference between the yields on short term and long term investments was very low for much of 2007 and 2008, making it more difficult to manage net interest margins. If the yield curve was to flatten or invert in 2009, the Company's net interest margin may compress and net interest income may be negatively impacted. Historically, management has been able to position the Company's assets and liabilities to earn a satisfactory net interest margin during periods when the yield curve is flat or inverted by appropriately managing credit spreads on loans and maintaining adequate liquidity to provide flexibility in an effort to hold down funding costs. Management would seek to follow a similar approach in dealing with this challenge in 2009.
- While interest rates declined in the latter part of 2008 and may continue to remain historically low during 2009, interest rates may eventually increase and may present a challenge to the Company. Increases in interest rates may negatively impact the Company's net interest margin if interest expense increases more quickly than interest income. The Company's earning assets (primarily its loan and investment portfolio) have longer maturities than its interest bearing liabilities (primarily deposits and other borrowings); therefore, in a rising interest rate environment, interest expense may increase more quickly than interest income as the interest bearing liabilities reprice more quickly than earning assets. In response to this challenge, the Banks model quarterly the changes in income that would result from various changes in interest rates. Management believes Bank earning assets have the appropriate maturity and repricing characteristics to optimize earnings and the Banks' interest rate risk positions.

Table of Contents

- The Company's market in central Iowa has numerous banks, credit unions, and investment and insurance companies competing for similar business opportunities. This competitive environment will continue to put downward pressure on the Banks' net interest margins and thus affect profitability. Strategic planning efforts at the Company and Banks continue to focus on capitalizing on the Banks' strengths in local markets while working to identify opportunities for improvement to gain competitive advantages.
- A substandard performance in the Company's equity portfolio could lead to a reduction in the historical level of realized security gains or potential impairments, thereby negatively impacting the Company's earnings. The Company invests capital that may be utilized for future expansion in a portfolio of primarily financial and utility stocks with an estimated fair market value of approximately \$8 million as of December 31, 2008. The Company focuses on stocks that have historically paid dividends in an effort to lessen the negative effects of a bear market. However, this strategy did not prove successful in 2008 as problems in the residential mortgage industry caused a significant decline in the market value of the Company's financial stocks. Unrealized losses in the Company's equity portfolio totaled \$1.0 million (at the holding company level on an unconsolidated basis) as of December 31, 2008 after recognizing realized gains of \$3.2 in the portfolio during the year. This compares to unrealized gains of \$3.3 million (at the holding company level on an unconsolidated basis) as of December 31, 2007 after recognizing realized gains of \$1.4 million during 2007. Due to economic conditions and uncertainty, the Company's financial stocks have continued to lose value during early 2009. Management believes that there are no other-than-temporary impairments in the Company's equity portfolio at December 31, 2008; however, it is reasonably possible that the Company may incur impairment losses in 2009.
- The economic conditions for commercial real estate developers in the Des Moines metropolitan area deteriorated in 2008 and 2007 and contributed to the Company's increased level of non-performing loans and other real estate owned. During the year ended December 31, 2008, the Company foreclosed on two real estate properties (other real estate owned) totaling \$10.5 million in the Des Moines market. Presently, the Company has \$3.3 million in impaired loans with seven Des Moines development companies with specific reserves totaling \$139,000. The Company has additional customer relationships with real estate developers in the Des Moines area that may become impaired in the future if economic conditions do not improve or become worse. The Company has a limited number of such credits and is actively engaged with the customers to minimize credit risk.
- Other real estate owned at December 31, 2008 amounted to \$13.3 million. Management performs valuations to determine that these properties are carried at the lower of the new cost basis or fair value less cost to sell. It is at least reasonably possible that changes in fair values will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the Company's financial statements.

Table of Contents

- During 2009, management will be focusing its efforts, in part, on steps necessary to improve the Company's capital position given the ongoing negative developments in the national and local economies and the uncertainty of the timing and improvement of economic conditions. An increased level of capital will enable the Company to better accommodate any impairment losses in the investment portfolio that may be recorded during the year and any provision expenses related to the allowance for loan losses due to uncertainties with respect to the asset quality of the Company's commercial real estate loan portfolio. To this end, the Company announced on February 13, 2009 that the quarterly dividend to be paid on May 15, 2009 to shareholders of record as of May 1, 2009 will be reduced to \$0.10 per share from the previous dividend of \$0.28 per share declared in the fourth quarter of 2008. Management believes that maintaining an increased level of capital is prudent given the unstable economic conditions that are expected to continue during 2009.
- The effect of changes in laws and regulations pertaining to the Company and the Banks may impact the Company's profitability. The FDIC assessment rates have not been finalized, but will be increasing significantly in 2009.

## Key Performance Indicators

Certain key performance indicators for the Company and the industry are presented in the following chart. The industry figures are compiled by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and are derived from 8,305 commercial banks and savings institutions insured by the FDIC. Management reviews these indicators on a quarterly basis for purposes of comparing the Company's performance from quarter to quarter against the industry as a whole.

## Selected Indicators for the Company and the Industry

	Year Ended December 31,					
	2008		2007		2006	
	Company	Industry	Company	Industry	Company	Industry
Return on assets	0.74%	0.12%	1.30%	0.81%	1.34%	1.28%
Return on equity	5.89%	1.24%	9.89%	7.75%	9.99%	12.30%
Net interest margin	3.94%	3.18%	3.39%	3.29%	3.29%	3.31%
Efficiency ratio	67.40%	59.02%	53.71%	59.37%	52.27%	56.79%
Capital ratio	12.57%	7.49%	13.20%	7.98%	13.38%	8.23%

Key performance indicators include:

- Return on Assets

This ratio is calculated by dividing net income by average assets. It is used to measure how effectively the assets of the Company are being utilized in generating income. The Company's return on assets ratio is higher than that of the industry; however, this ratio has declined in 2008 as compared to 2007 and 2006 primarily as the result of the



other-than-temporary impairment in 2008.

34

---

Table of Contents

• Return on Equity

This ratio is calculated by dividing net income by average equity. It is used to measure the net income or return the Company generated for the shareholders' equity investment in the Company. The Company's return on equity ratio is higher than the industry primarily as a result the Company's higher net interest margins and lower provision for loan losses, offset by the other-than-temporary impairment in 2008.

• Net Interest Margin

This ratio is calculated by dividing net interest income by average earning assets. Earning assets consist primarily of loans and investments that earn interest. This ratio is used to measure how well the Company is able to maintain interest rates on earning assets above those of interest-bearing liabilities, which is the interest expense paid on deposit accounts and other borrowings. The Company's net interest margin is higher than peer bank averages and has improved since 2006 primarily as a result of lower cost of funds on deposits and borrowings.

• Efficiency Ratio

This ratio is calculated by dividing noninterest expense by net interest income and noninterest income. The ratio is a measure of the Company's ability to manage noninterest expenses. The Company's efficiency ratio is higher than the industry average and the Company's efficiency ratio in 2007 and 2006 primarily as a result of the other-than-temporary impairment in 2008.

• Capital Ratio

The capital ratio is calculated by dividing average total equity capital by average total assets. It measures the level of average assets that are funded by shareholders' equity. Given an equal level of risk in the financial condition of two companies, the higher the capital ratio, generally the more financially sound the company. The Company's capital ratio is significantly higher than the industry average.

Industry Results

The FDIC Quarterly Banking Profile reported the following results for the fourth quarter of 2008:

Industry Reports First Quarterly Loss Since 1990

Expenses associated with rising loan losses and declining asset values overwhelmed revenues in the fourth quarter of 2008, producing a net loss of \$26.2 billion at insured commercial banks and savings institutions. This is the first time since the fourth quarter of 1990 that the industry has posted an aggregate net loss for a quarter. The -0.77 percent quarterly return on assets (ROA) is the worst since the -1.10 percent in the second quarter of 1987. A year ago, the industry reported \$575 million in profits and an ROA of 0.02 percent. High expenses for loan-loss provisions, sizable losses in trading accounts, and large write downs of goodwill and other assets all contributed to the industry's net loss. A few very large losses were reported during the quarter—four institutions accounted for half of the total industry loss—but earnings problems were widespread. Almost one out of every three institutions (32 percent) reported a net loss in the fourth quarter. Only 36 percent of institutions reported year-over-year increases in quarterly earnings, and only 34 percent reported higher quarterly ROAs.

Table of Contents

## Provisions for Loan Losses Are More than Double Year-Earlier Total

Insured banks and thrifts set aside \$69.3 billion in provisions for loan and lease losses during the fourth quarter, more than twice the \$32.1 billion that they set aside in the fourth quarter of 2007. Loss provisions represented 50.2 percent of the industry's net operating revenue (net interest income plus total noninterest income), the highest proportion since the second quarter of 1987 when provisions absorbed 53.2 percent of net operating revenue. As in the fourth quarter of 2007, a few institutions reported unusually large trading losses, while others took substantial charges for impairment of goodwill. Trading activities produced a \$9.2 billion net loss in the quarter, compared to a loss of \$11.2 billion a year earlier. These are the only two quarters in the past 25 years in which trading revenues have been negative. Goodwill impairment charges and other intangible asset expenses rose to \$15.8 billion, from \$11.5 billion in the fourth quarter of 2007. Other negative earnings factors included a \$6.0-billion (12.8-percent) year-over-year decline in noninterest income, and \$8.1 billion in realized losses on securities and other assets in the quarter, more than twice the \$3.7 billion in losses realized a year earlier. The reduction in noninterest income was driven by declines in servicing income (down \$3.1 billion from a year earlier) and securitization income (down \$2.6 billion, or 52.3 percent).

## Average Net Interest Margin at Community Banks Falls to 20-Year Low

Net interest income totaled \$97.0 billion in the fourth quarter, an increase of \$4.5 billion (4.9 percent) from the fourth quarter of 2007. The average net interest margin (NIM) was 3.34 percent in the quarter, up slightly from 3.32 percent a year earlier but lower than the 3.37 percent average in the third quarter. The year-over-year margin improvement was confined mostly to larger institutions. More than half of all institutions (56 percent) reported lower NIMs. At institutions with less than \$1 billion in assets, the average margin was 3.66 percent, compared to 3.85 percent a year earlier and 3.78 percent in the third quarter. This is the lowest quarterly NIM for this size group of institutions since the second quarter of 1988. At larger institutions, the average NIM improved from 3.24 percent a year earlier to 3.30 percent, slightly below the 3.32 percent average of the third quarter. When short-term interest rates are low and declining, it is more difficult for banks to reduce the rates they pay for deposits without causing deposit outflows. The cost of short-term nondeposit liabilities, in contrast, tends to follow movements in short-term interest rates more closely. Community banks fund more than two-thirds of their assets with domestic interest-bearing deposits, whereas larger institutions fund less than half of their assets with these deposits. As rates fell in the fourth quarter, average funding costs declined at larger institutions but remained unchanged at community banks.

## Full-Year Earnings Fall to Lowest Level in 18 Years

Net income for all of 2008 was \$16.1 billion, a decline of \$83.9 billion (83.9 percent) from the \$100 billion the industry earned in 2007. This is the lowest annual earnings total since 1990, when the industry earned \$11.3 billion. The ROA for the year was 0.12 percent, the lowest since 1987, when the industry reported a net loss. Almost one in four institutions (23.4 percent) was unprofitable in 2008, and almost two out of every three institutions (62.5 percent) reported lower full-year earnings than in 2007. Loss provisions totaled \$174.3 billion in 2008, an increase of \$105.1 billion (151.9 percent) compared to 2007. Total noninterest income was \$25.5 billion (10.9 percent) lower as a result of the industry's first-ever full-year trading loss (\$1.8 billion), a \$5.8-billion (27.4-percent) decline in securitization income, and a \$6.8-billion negative swing in proceeds from sales of loans, foreclosed properties, and other assets. As low as the full-year earnings total was, it could easily have been worse. If the effect of failures and purchase accounting for mergers that occurred during the year is excluded from reported results, the industry would have posted a net loss in 2008. The magnitude of many year-over-year income and expense comparisons is muted by the impact of these structural changes and their accounting treatments.

Table of Contents

Quarterly Net Charge-Off Rate Matches Previous High

Net loan and lease charge-offs totaled \$37.9 billion in the fourth quarter, an increase of \$21.6 billion (132.2 percent) from the fourth quarter of 2007. The annualized quarterly net charge-off rate was 1.91 percent, equaling the highest level in the 25 years that institutions have reported quarterly net charge-offs (the only other time the charge-off rate reached this level was in the fourth quarter of 1989). The year-over-year increase in quarterly net charge-offs was led by real estate construction and development loans (up \$6.1 billion, or 448.1 percent), closed-end 1–4 family residential mortgage loans (up \$4.6 billion, or 206.1 percent), commercial and industrial (C&I) loans (up \$3.0 billion, or 97.3 percent), and credit cards (up \$2.5 billion, or 60.1 percent). Charge-offs in all major loan categories increased from a year ago. Real estate loans accounted for almost two thirds of the total increase in charge-offs (64.7 percent).

Noncurrent Loans Register Sizable Increase in the Fourth Quarter

The amount of loans and leases that were noncurrent rose sharply in the fourth quarter, increasing by \$44.1 billion (23.7 percent). Noncurrent loans totaled \$230.7 billion at year-end, up from \$186.6 billion at the end of the third quarter. More than two-thirds of the increase during the quarter (69.3 percent) came from loans secured by real estate. Noncurrent closed-end 1–4 family residential mortgages increased by \$18.5 billion (24.1 percent) during the quarter, while noncurrent C&I loans rose by \$7.6 billion (43.0 percent). Noncurrent home equity loans increased by \$3.0 billion (39.0 percent) and noncurrent loans secured by nonfarm nonresidential real estate increased by \$2.9 billion (20.2 percent). In the 12 months ended December 31, total noncurrent loans at insured institutions increased by \$118.8 billion (107.2 percent). At the end of the year, the percentage of loans and leases that were noncurrent stood at 2.93 percent, the highest level since the end of 1992. Real estate construction loans had the highest noncurrent rate of any major loan category at year-end, at 8.51 percent, up from 7.30 percent at the end of the third quarter.

Reserve Coverage Ratio Slips to 16-Year Low

Total reserves increased by \$16.5 billion (10.5 percent) in the fourth quarter. Insured institutions added \$31.5 billion more in loss provisions to reserves than they took out in charge-offs, but the impact of purchase accounting from a few large mergers in the quarter limited the overall growth in industry reserves.<sup>2</sup> The growth in reserves, coupled with a decline in industry loan balances, caused the industry's ratio of reserves to total loans to increase during the quarter from 1.96 percent to 2.20 percent, a 14-year high. However, the increase in reserves did not keep pace with the sharp rise in noncurrent loans, and the industry's ratio of reserves to noncurrent loans fell from 83.9 percent to 75.0 percent. This is the lowest level for the "coverage ratio" since the third quarter of 1992.

## Table of Contents

### Income Statement Review

The following highlights a comparative discussion of the major components of net income and their impact for the last three years.

### Critical Accounting Policies

The discussion contained in this Item 7 and other disclosures included within this Report are based on the Company's audited consolidated financial statements. These statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The financial information contained in these statements is, for the most part, based on the financial effects of transactions and events that have already occurred. However, the preparation of these statements requires management to make certain estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses.

The Company's significant accounting policies are described in the "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" accompanying the Company's audited financial statements. Based on its consideration of accounting policies that involve the most complex and subjective estimates and judgments, management has identified the allowance for loan losses, valuation of other real estate owned and the assessment of other-than-temporary impairment for certain financial instruments to be the Company's most critical accounting policies.

#### Allowance for Loan Losses:

The allowance for loan losses is established through a provision for loan losses that is treated as an expense and charged against earnings. Loans are charged against the allowance for loan losses when management believes that collectability of the principal is unlikely. The Company has policies and procedures for evaluating the overall credit quality of its loan portfolio, including timely identification of potential problem loans. On a quarterly basis, management reviews the appropriate level for the allowance for loan losses, incorporating a variety of risk considerations, both quantitative and qualitative. Quantitative factors include the Company's historical loss experience, delinquency and charge-off trends, collateral values, known information about individual loans and other factors. Qualitative factors include the general economic environment in the Company's market area. To the extent actual results differ from forecasts and management's judgment, the allowance for loan losses may be greater or lesser than future charge-offs. Due to potential changes in conditions, it is at least reasonably possible that change in estimates will occur in the near term and that such changes could be material to the amounts reported in the Company's financial statements.

In December of 2006, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and other federal banking regulatory agencies issued an inter-agency policy statement to provide guidance to boards of directors and management concerning the process for reviewing and determining the allowance for loan losses and to ensure consistency of that process with generally accepted accounting principles. In response, the Company amended its Loan Policy in November of 2007 to implement the guidance contained in the policy statement. Under the amended Loan Policy, the judgments utilized by management in establishing specific reserves for problem credits have now become more influenced by the lack of payment performance and net collateral shortfalls in the event of collateral liquidation. Previously, the Loan Policy had focused more on general weaknesses that resulted in loans being adversely classified by federal banking regulatory agencies and establishing specific reserves in line with historic regulatory accepted levels, which typically lead to higher levels of specific reserves for such credits. As a result of implementing the guidance contained in the amended Loan Policy, specific reserves as of December 31, 2007 declined when compared to specific reserves as of December 31, 2006; however, the effect of the implementation on the overall allowance for loan losses was not significant. For further discussion concerning the allowance for loan losses and the process of establishing specific reserves, see the section of this Report entitled Asset Quality Review and Credit Risk Management – Analysis of the

Allowance for Loan Losses.

38

---

Table of Contents

Other Real Estate Owned:

Real estate properties acquired through or in lieu of foreclosure are initially recorded at the fair value less estimated selling cost at the date of foreclosure. Any write-downs based on the asset's fair value at the date of acquisition are charged to the allowance for loan losses. After foreclosure, valuations are periodically performed by management and property held for sale is carried at the lower of the new cost basis or fair value less cost to sell. Impairment losses on property to be held and used are measured as the amount by which the carrying amount of a property exceeds its fair value. Costs of significant property improvements are capitalized, whereas costs relating to holding property are expensed. The portion of interest costs relating to development of real estate is capitalized. Valuations are periodically performed by management, and any subsequent write-downs are recorded as a charge to operations, if necessary, to reduce the carrying value of a property to the lower of its cost basis or fair value less cost to sell. This evaluation is inherently subjective and requires estimates that are susceptible to significant revisions as more information becomes available. Due to potential changes in conditions, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in fair values will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the Company's financial statements.

Other-Than-Temporary Impairment of Investment Securities:

Declines in the fair value of available-for-sale securities below their cost that are deemed to be other-than-temporary are reflected in earnings as realized losses. In estimating other-than-temporary impairment losses, management considers (1) the length of time and the extent to which the fair value has been less than cost, (2) the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer, and (3) the intent and ability of the Company to retain its investment in the issuer for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in fair value. Due to potential changes in conditions, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in management's assessment of other-than-temporary impairment will occur in the near term and that such changes could be material to the amounts reported in the Company's financial statements

Table of Contents

## Average Balances and Interest Rates

The following two tables are used to calculate the Company's net interest margin. The first table includes the Company's average assets and the related income to determine the average yield on earning assets. The second table includes the average liabilities and related expense to determine the average rate paid on interest bearing liabilities. The net interest margin is equal to the interest income less the interest expense divided by average earning assets. Refer to the net interest income discussion following the tables for additional detail.

## ASSETS

	2008			2007			2006		
	Average balance	Revenue	Yield	Average balance	Revenue	Yield	Average balance	Revenue	Yield
(dollars in thousands)									
Interest-earning assets									
Loans <sup>1</sup>									
Commercial	\$ 82,448	\$ 4,915	5.96%	\$ 78,241	\$ 6,201	7.93%	\$ 70,581	\$ 5,490	7.78%
Agricultural	32,230	2,227	6.91%	31,964	2,696	8.43%	33,054	2,758	8.34%
Real estate	324,863	20,754	6.39%	321,225	21,209	6.60%	306,991	19,655	6.40%
Consumer and other	24,241	1,562	6.44%	22,658	1,523	6.72%	27,540	1,691	6.14%
Total loans (including fees)	\$ 463,782	\$ 29,458	6.35%	\$ 454,088	\$ 31,629	6.97%	\$ 438,166	\$ 29,594	6.75%
Investment securities									
Taxable	\$ 200,580	\$ 10,093	5.03%	\$ 205,203	\$ 9,858	4.80%	\$ 212,897	\$ 9,195	4.32%
Tax-exempt <sup>2</sup>	136,464	8,614	6.31%	137,109	8,930	6.51%	123,427	7,913	6.41%
Total investment securities	\$ 337,044	\$ 18,707	5.55%	\$ 342,312	\$ 18,788	5.49%	\$ 336,324	\$ 17,108	5.09%
Interest bearing deposits with banks									
	\$ 5,053	\$ 193	3.82%	\$ 864	\$ 37	4.28%	\$ 4,114	\$ 139	3.38%
Federal funds sold	8,918	171	1.92%	4,630	233	5.03%	4,229	224	5.30%
Total interest-earning assets	\$ 814,797	\$ 48,529	5.96%	\$ 801,894	\$ 50,687	6.32%	\$ 782,833	\$ 47,065	6.01%
Noninterest-earning assets									
Cash and due from banks	\$ 19,581			\$ 18,086			\$ 17,056		
Premises and equipment, net	13,007			13,618			11,005		
	10,320			10,190			7,556		



Other, less  
allowance for loan  
losses

Total  
noninterest-earning  
assets

\$ 42,908

\$ 41,894

\$ 35,617

**TOTAL ASSETS** \$ 857,705

\$ 843,788

\$ 818,450

1 Average loan balance includes nonaccrual loans, if any. Interest income collected on nonaccrual loans has been included.

2 Tax-exempt income has been adjusted to a tax-equivalent basis using an incremental tax rate of 35%.

40

---

Table of Contents

## Average Balances and Interest Rates (continued)

## LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

	2008			2007			2006		
	Average balance	Revenue/ expense	Yield/rate	Average balance	Revenue/ expense	Yield/rate	Average balance	Revenue/ expense	Yield/rate
(dollars in thousands)									
Interest-bearing liabilities									
Deposits									
Savings, NOW accounts, and money markets	\$ 317,346	\$ 3,658	1.15%	\$ 309,787	\$ 7,734	2.50%	\$ 314,567	\$ 8,250	2.62%
Time deposits < \$100,000	170,223	6,603	3.88%	179,740	7,996	4.45%	182,241	7,071	3.88%
Time deposits > \$100,000	97,193	3,947	4.06%	107,600	5,325	4.95%	99,123	4,422	4.46%
Total deposits	\$ 584,762	\$ 14,208	2.43%	\$ 597,127	\$ 21,055	3.53%	\$ 595,931	\$ 19,743	3.31%
Other borrowed funds	78,764	2,194	2.79%	57,047	2,482	4.35%	36,388	1,563	4.30%
Total Interest-bearing liabilities	\$ 663,526	\$ 16,402	2.47%	\$ 654,174	\$ 23,537	3.60%	\$ 632,319	\$ 21,306	3.37%
Noninterest-bearing liabilities									
Demand deposits	78,033			70,459			70,095		
Other liabilities	8,352			7,784			6,528		
Stockholders' equity	107,794			111,371			109,508		
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	\$ 857,705			\$ 843,788			\$ 818,450		
Net interest income	\$ 32,127	3.94%		\$ 27,150	3.39%		\$ 25,759	3.29%	
Spread Analysis	\$ 48,529	5.66%		\$ 50,687	6.01%		\$ 47,065	5.75%	

Interest income/average assets						
Interest expense/average assets	16,402	1.91%	23,537	2.79%	21,306	2.60%
Net interest income/average assets	32,127	3.75%	27,150	3.22%	25,759	3.15%

41

---

Table of Contents

## Rate and Volume Analysis

The rate and volume analysis is used to determine how much of the change in interest income or expense is the result of a change in volume or a change in interest rate. For example, commercial loan interest income decreased \$1,286,000 in 2008 compared to 2007. An increased volume of commercial loans added \$320,000 in income in 2008 and lower interest rates decreased interest income in 2008 by \$1,606,000.

The following table sets forth, on a tax-equivalent basis, a summary of the changes in net interest income resulting from changes in volume and rates.

(dollars in thousands)	2008 Compared to 2007			2007 Compared to 2006		
	Volume	Rate	Total 1	Volume	Rate	Total 1
Interest income						
Loans						
Commercial	\$ 320	\$ (1,606)	\$ (1,286)	\$ 604	\$ 107	\$ 711
Agricultural	22	(491)	(469)	(92)	30	(62)
Real estate	235	(690)	(455)	928	626	1,554
Consumer and other	103	(64)	39	(318)	150	(168)
Total loans (including fees)	680	(2,851)	(2,171)	1,122	913	2,035
Investment securities						
Taxable	(227)	462	235	(339)	1,002	663
Tax-exempt	(42)	(274)	(316)	891	126	1,017
Total investment securities	(269)	188	(81)	552	1,128	1,680
Interest bearing deposits with banks	160	(4)	156	(154)	53	(101)
Federal funds sold	136	(198)	(62)	21	(13)	8
Total interest-earning assets	707	(2,865)	(2,158)	1,541	2,081	3,622
Interest-bearing liabilities						
Deposits						
Savings, NOW accounts, and money markets	185	(4,261)	(4,076)	(156)	(360)	(516)
Time deposits < \$100,000	(408)	(985)	(1,393)	(98)	1,023	925
Time deposits > \$100,000	(482)	(896)	(1,378)	395	508	903
Total deposits	(705)	(6,142)	(6,847)	141	1,171	1,312
Other borrowed funds	768	(1,056)	(288)	901	18	919
Total interest-bearing liabilities	63	(7,198)	(7,135)	1,042	1,189	2,231
Net interest income-earning assets	\$ 644	\$ 4,333	\$ 4,977	\$ 499	\$ 892	\$ 1,391

1 The change in interest due to both volume and yield/rate has been allocated to change due to volume and change due to yield/rate in proportion to the absolute value of the change in each.

#### Net Interest Income

The Company's largest component contributing to net income is net interest income, which is the difference between interest earned on earning assets (which are primarily loans and investments) and interest paid on interest bearing liabilities (which are primarily deposits accounts and other borrowings). The volume of and yields earned on earning assets and the volume of and the rates paid on interest bearing liabilities determine net interest income. Refer to the tables preceding this paragraph for additional detail. Interest earned and interest paid is also affected by general economic conditions, particularly changes in market interest rates, and by government policies and the action of regulatory authorities. Net interest income divided by average earning assets is referred to as net interest margin. For the years December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, the Company's net interest margin was 3.94%, 3.39% and 3.29%, respectively.

42

---

## Table of Contents

Net interest income during 2008, 2007 and 2006 totaled \$29,112,000, \$24,025,000 and \$22,990,000, respectively, representing a 21% increase in 2008 compared to 2007 and a 5% increase in 2007 from 2006. Net interest income improved in 2008 as compared to 2007 as yields on deposits and other borrowings declined more than yields on loans and investment securities. Net interest income improved in 2007 compared to 2006 as the yields and volumes improved on loans and investments.

The high level of competition in the local markets will continue to put downward pressure on the net interest margin of the Company. Currently, the Company's largest market, Ames, Iowa, has ten banks, two thrifts, four credit unions and several other financial investment companies. Multiple banks are also located in the Company's other communities creating similarly competitive environments.

### Provision for Loan Losses

The provision for loan losses reflects management's judgment of the expense to be recognized in order to maintain an adequate allowance for loan losses. The Company's provision for loan losses for the year ending December 31, 2008 was \$1,313,000 compared to a credit for loan losses of \$94,000 during the same period last year. Increases in the general factors used to calculate the provision for loan losses due to weakening economic conditions and a higher level of risk associated with construction and commercial real estate loan portfolios was the primary reason the provision for loan losses increased from 2007 to 2008. A reduction in the specific reserves for problem credits allowed a decrease in the required level of the allowance for loan losses calculated by the Banks for 2007 and 2006. Refer to the Asset Quality and Credit Risk Management discussion for additional details with regard to loan loss provision expense.

Management believes the allowance for loan losses to be adequate to absorb probable losses in the current portfolio. This statement is based upon management's continuing evaluation of inherent risks in the current loan portfolio, current levels of classified assets and general economic factors. The Company will continue to monitor the allowance and make future adjustments to the allowance as conditions dictate. Due to potential changes in conditions, it is at least reasonably possible that change in estimates will occur in the near term and that such changes could be material to the amounts reported in the Company's financial statements.

### Noninterest Income and Expense

Total noninterest income is comprised primarily of fee-based revenues from trust and agency services, bank-related service charges on deposit activities, net securities gains generated primarily by the Company's equity holdings, other-than-temporary impairment of investment securities, merchant and ATM fees related to electronic processing of merchant and cash transactions and secondary market income.

## Table of Contents

Noninterest income (loss) during the years ended 2008, 2007 and 2006 totaled (\$3,008,000), \$7,208,000 and \$6,674,000, respectively, representing a 142% decrease in 2008 from 2007 and an 8% increase in 2007 from 2006. Excluding the other-than-temporary impairment of investment securities and securities gains in 2008 and 2007, noninterest income decreased 3.7% in 2008 as compared to 2007. The lower non-interest income in 2008 as compared to 2007 related primarily to the other-than-temporary impairment of investment securities and lower trust department income, offset in part by higher realized gains on the sale of securities. Impairment for 2008 primarily related to charges of \$8,451,000 related to Federal National Mortgage Association and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation preferred stock and \$3,603,000 related to three corporate bonds. The higher non-interest income in 2007 compared to 2006 related to higher realized gains on the sale of securities and improved trust department income.

Noninterest expense for the Company consists of all operating expenses other than interest expense on deposits and other borrowed funds. Historically, the Company has not had any material expenses relating to discontinued operations, extraordinary losses or adjustments from a change in accounting principles. Salaries and employee benefits are the largest component of the Company's operating expenses and comprise 60% of noninterest expenses in 2008.

Noninterest expense during the years ended 2008, 2007 and 2006 totaled \$17,594,000, \$16,776,000 and \$15,504,000, respectively, representing a 5% increase in 2008 compared to an 8% increase in 2007. The primary reason for the increase in 2008 and 2007 was the opening of First National's Ankeny office in April of 2007. The percentage of noninterest expense to average assets was 2.05% in 2008, compared to 1.99% and 1.89% during 2007 and 2006, respectively.

### Provision for Income Taxes

The provision for income taxes for 2008, 2007 and 2006 was \$845,000, \$3,542,000 and \$3,399,000, respectively. This amount represents an effective tax rate of 12% during 2008, compared to 24% and 24% for 2007 and 2006, respectively. The Company's marginal federal tax rate is currently 35%. The difference between the Company's effective and marginal tax rate is primarily related to investments made in tax exempt securities.

### Balance Sheet Review

The Company's assets are comprised primarily of loans and investment securities. Average earning asset maturity or repricing dates are less than five years for the combined portfolios as the assets are funded for the most part by short term deposits with either immediate availability or less than one year average maturities. This exposes the Company to risk with regard to changes in interest rates that are more fully explained in Item 7A of this Report "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk".

Total assets decreased to \$858,141,000 in 2008 compared to \$861,591,000 in 2007, a 0.4% decrease. The Company's loan portfolio decreased \$10,771,000 and investment securities decreased \$26,928,000, offset by an increase of \$20,779,000 in the Company's federal funds sold and interest bearing deposits when comparing year end 2008 and 2007.

Table of Contents

## Loan Portfolio

Net loans as of December 31, 2008 totaled \$452,880,000, down from the \$463,651,000 as of December 31, 2007, a decrease of 2%. The decrease in loan volume can be primarily attributed to the slowing economy creating less demand for commercial loans. Loans are the primary contributor to the Company's revenues and cash flows. The average yield on loans was 80 and 148 basis points higher in 2008 and 2007, respectively, in comparison to the average tax-equivalent investment portfolio yields.

## Types of Loans

The following table sets forth the composition of the Company's loan portfolio for the past five years ending at December 31, 2008.

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
(dollars in thousands)					
Real Estate					
Construction	\$ 35,326	\$ 46,568	\$ 30,600	\$ 23,973	\$ 21,042
1-4 family residential	95,988	104,762	103,620	102,043	97,612
Commercial	153,366	147,023	139,149	153,920	160,176
Agricultural	33,547	33,684	31,092	30,606	27,443
Commercial	76,653	78,616	73,760	71,430	57,189
Agricultural	40,324	36,133	33,434	32,216	30,713
Consumer and other	24,528	22,782	24,276	33,340	24,584
Total loans	459,732	469,568	435,931	447,528	418,759
Deferred loan fees, net	72	137	276	445	644
Total loans net of deferred fees	\$ 459,660	\$ 469,431	\$ 435,655	\$ 447,083	\$ 418,115

The Company's loan portfolio consists of real estate loans, commercial loans, agricultural loans and consumer loans. As of December 31, 2008, gross loans totaled approximately \$460 million, which equals approximately 69% of total deposits and 54% of total assets. The Company's peer group (consisting of 412 bank holding companies with total assets of \$500 to \$1,000 million) loan to deposit ratio as of December 31, 2008 was a much higher 92%. The primary factor relating to the lower loan to deposit ratio for the Company compared to peer group averages is a more conservative underwriting philosophy. As of December 31, 2008, the majority of the loans were originated directly by the Banks to borrowers within the Banks' principal market areas. There are no foreign loans outstanding during the years presented.

Real estate loans include various types of loans for which the Banks hold real property as collateral and consist of loans primarily on commercial properties and single family residences. Real estate loans typically have fixed rates for up to five years, with the Company's loan policy permitting a maximum fixed rate maturity of up to 15 years. The majority of construction loan volume is to contractors to construct commercial buildings and these loans generally have maturities of up to 12 months. The Banks originate residential real estate loans for sale to the secondary market for a fee.



Table of Contents

Commercial loans consist primarily of loans to businesses for various purposes, including revolving lines to finance current operations, floor-plans, inventory and accounts receivable; capital expenditure loans to finance equipment and other fixed assets; and letters of credit. These loans generally have short maturities, have either adjustable or fixed rates and are unsecured or secured by inventory, accounts receivable, equipment and/or real estate.

Agricultural loans play an important part in the Banks' loan portfolios. Iowa is a major agricultural state and is a national leader in both grain and livestock production. The Banks play a significant role in their communities in financing operating, livestock and real estate activities for area producers.

Consumer loans include loans extended to individuals for household, family and other personal expenditures not secured by real estate. The majority of the Banks' consumer lending is for vehicles, consolidation of personal debts, household appliances and improvements.

The interest rates charged on loans vary with the degree of risk and the amount and maturity of the loan. Competitive pressures, market interest rates, the availability of funds and government regulation further influence the rate charged on a loan. The Banks follow a loan policy, which has been approved by both the board of directors of the Company and the Banks, and is overseen by both Company and Bank management. These policies establish lending limits, review and grading criteria and other guidelines such as loan administration and allowance for loan losses. Loans are approved by the Banks' board of directors and/or designated officers in accordance with respective guidelines and underwriting policies of the Company. Credit limits generally vary according to the type of loan and the individual loan officer's experience. Loans to any one borrower are limited by applicable state and federal banking laws.

Table of Contents

## Maturities and Sensitivities of Loans to Changes in Interest Rates as of December 31, 2008

The contractual maturities of the Company's loan portfolio are as shown below. Actual maturities may differ from contractual maturities because individual borrowers may have the right to prepay loans with or without prepayment penalties.

(dollars in thousands)	Within one year	After one year but within five years	After five years	Total
Real Estate				
Construction	\$ 26,845	\$ 8,419	\$ 62	\$ 35,326
1-4 family residential	30,328	55,574	10,086	95,988
Commercial	32,791	111,080	9,495	153,366
Agricultural	8,894	21,165	3,488	33,547
Commercial	36,971	38,784	898	76,653
Agricultural	25,366	14,415	543	40,324
Consumer and other	3,544	17,219	3,765	24,528
<b>Total loans</b>	<b>\$ 164,739</b>	<b>\$ 266,656</b>	<b>\$ 28,337</b>	<b>\$ 459,732</b>

	After one year but within five years	After five years
Loan maturities after one year with:		
Fixed rates	\$ 178,995	\$ 23,726
Variable rates	87,661	4,611
	<b>\$ 266,656</b>	<b>\$ 28,337</b>

## Loans Held For Sale

Mortgage origination funding awaiting delivery to the secondary market totaled \$1,152,000 and \$345,000 as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Residential mortgage loans are originated by the Banks and sold to several secondary mortgage market outlets based upon customer product preferences and pricing considerations. The mortgages are sold in the secondary market to eliminate interest rate risk and to generate secondary market fee income. It is not anticipated at the present time that loans held for sale will become a significant portion of total assets.

## Investment Portfolio

Total investments as of December 31, 2008 were \$313,014,000, a decrease of \$27 million or 8% from the prior year end. As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, the investment portfolio comprised 36% and 39% of total assets, respectively.

The following table presents the market values, which represent the carrying values due to the available-for-sale classification, of the Company's investment portfolio as of December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. This portfolio provides the Company with a significant amount of liquidity.

47

---

Table of Contents

	2008	2007	2006
(dollars in thousands)			
U.S. treasury securities	\$ 546	\$ 524	\$ 509
U.S. government agencies	49,695	95,597	123,192
U.S. government mortgage-backed securities	67,516	26,877	16,553
State and political subdivisions	128,741	133,283	119,908
Corporate bonds	55,237	64,953	60,624
Equity securities	11,279	18,708	33,786
Total	\$ 313,014	\$ 339,942	\$ 354,572

Investments in states and political subdivisions represent purchases of municipal bonds located primarily in the state of Iowa and contiguous states.

Investment in other securities includes corporate debt obligations of companies located and doing business throughout the United States. Corporate bond investments with a fair value of \$708,000 with three issuers are considered other-than-temporarily impaired at December 31, 2008. During the year ended December 31, 2008, the Company recognized an 'other-than-temporary' impairment charge of approximately \$3,603,000 on these securities. There are no other corporate bonds that the Company would consider to be other-than-temporarily impaired as of December 31, 2008.

The equity securities portfolio consisted primarily of financial and utility stocks as of December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006. The investment in the equity securities portfolio also includes various issues of Federal National Mortgage Association preferred stock and various issues of Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation preferred stock with a fair value of \$78,000 at December 31, 2008, which has been classified as other-than-temporarily impaired. During the year ended December 31, 2008, the Company recognized an 'other-than-temporary' impairment charge of approximately \$8,451,000 on these securities. Management believes that there are no other other-than-temporary impairments in the equity securities portfolio at December 31, 2008; however, it is reasonably possible that the Company may incur impairment losses in 2009.

As of December 31, 2008, the Company did not have securities from a single issuer, except for the United States Government or its agencies, which exceeded 10% of consolidated stockholders' equity.

Table of Contents

## Investment Maturities as of December 31, 2008

The investments in the following table are reported by contractual maturity. Expected maturities may differ from contractual maturities because issuers of the securities may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without prepayment penalties.

(dollars in thousands)	Within one year	After one year but within five years	After five years but within ten years	After ten years	Total
U.S. treasury securities	\$ -	\$ 546	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 546
U.S. government agencies	9,399	20,792	16,091	3,413	49,695
U.S. government mortgage-backed securities	1,129	39,687	24,715	1,985	67,516
States and political subdivisions	9,821	58,161	46,264	14,495	128,741
Corporate bonds	8,927	21,932	24,328	50	55,237
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 29,276</b>	<b>\$ 141,118</b>	<b>\$ 111,398</b>	<b>\$ 19,943</b>	<b>\$ 301,735</b>
<b>Weighted average yield</b>					
U.S. treasury	0.00%	5.20%	0.00%	0.00%	5.20%
U.S. government agencies	4.25%	4.58%	4.93%	5.05%	4.66%
U.S. government mortgage-backed securities	3.86%	4.58%	5.20%	5.26%	4.81%
States and political subdivisions*	5.83%	5.75%	6.41%	6.27%	6.05%
Corporate bonds	5.99%	4.78%	5.81%	0.00%	5.41%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.30%</b>	<b>5.10%</b>	<b>5.80%</b>	<b>5.97%</b>	<b>5.43%</b>

\*Yields on tax-exempt obligations of states and political subdivisions have been computed on a tax-equivalent basis.

## Deposits

Total deposits equaled \$664,795,000 and \$690,119,000 as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The decrease of \$25,324,000 can be attributed primarily to a decline in public funds and certificates of deposit greater than \$100,000, offset by increases in core deposits. The deposit category seeing the largest balance decreases were certificates of deposit accounts.

The Company's primary source of funds is customer deposits. The Company attempts to attract noninterest-bearing deposits, which are a low-cost funding source. In addition, the Banks offer a variety of interest-bearing accounts designed to attract both short-term and longer-term deposits from customers. Interest-bearing accounts earn interest at rates established by Bank management based on competitive market factors and the Company's need for funds. While nearly 66% of the Banks' certificates of deposit mature in the next year, it is anticipated that a majority of these certificates will be renewed. Rate sensitive certificates of deposits in excess of \$100,000 are subject to somewhat higher volatility with regard to renewal volume as the Banks adjust rates based upon funding needs. In the event a substantial volume of certificates are not renewed, the Company has sufficient liquid assets and borrowing lines to fund significant runoff. A sustained reduction in deposit volume would have a significant negative impact on the

Company's operation and liquidity. The Company had \$694,000 of brokered deposits as of December 31, 2008 and \$2,558,000 as of December 31, 2007.

Table of Contents

## Average Deposits by Type

The following table sets forth the average balances for each major category of deposit and the weighted average interest rate paid for deposits during the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006.

(dollars in thousands)	2008		2007		2006	
	Amount	Rate	Amount	Rate	Amount	Rate
Noninterest bearing demand deposits	\$ 78,033	0.00%	\$ 70,459	0.00%	\$ 70,095	0.00%
Interest bearing demand deposits	155,689	0.96%	152,898	2.29%	153,619	2.44%
Money market deposits	134,295	1.53%	130,548	3.06%	134,078	3.16%
Savings deposits	27,362	0.40%	26,341	0.86%	26,870	0.99%
Time certificates < \$100,000	170,223	3.88%	179,740	4.45%	182,241	3.88%
Time certificates > \$100,000	97,193	4.06%	107,600	4.95%	99,123	4.46%
	\$ 662,795		\$ 667,586		\$ 666,026	

## Deposit Maturity

The following table shows the amounts and remaining maturities of time certificates of deposit that had balances of \$100,000 and over as of December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006.

(dollars in thousands)	2008	2007	2006
3 months or less	\$ 18,808	\$ 31,926	\$ 33,393
Over 3 through 12 months	38,589	50,646	45,898
Over 12 through 36 months	20,987	23,723	20,047
Over 36 months	2,995	2,894	2,893
Total	\$ 81,379	\$ 109,189	\$ 102,231

## Borrowed Funds

Borrowed funds that may be utilized by the Company are comprised of Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) advances, federal funds purchased, Treasury, Tax, and Loan option notes, and repurchase agreements. Borrowed funds are an alternative funding source to deposits and can be used to fund the Company's assets and unforeseen liquidity needs. FHLB advances are loans from the FHLB that can mature daily or have longer maturities for fixed or floating rates of interest. Federal funds purchased are borrowings from other banks that mature daily. Securities sold under agreement to repurchase (repurchase agreements) are similar to deposits as they are funds lent by various Bank customers; however, the bank pledges investment securities to secure such borrowings. The Company has repurchase agreements that reprice daily and longer term maturities. Treasury, Tax, and Loan option notes consist of short term borrowing of tax deposits from the federal government and are not a significant source of borrowing for the Company.





Table of Contents

The following table summarizes the outstanding amount of, and the average rate on, borrowed funds as of December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006.

	2008		2007		2006	
	Balance	Average Rate	Balance	Average Rate	Balance	Average Rate
(dollars in thousands)						
Federal funds purchased and repurchase agreements	\$ 38,510	1.30%	\$ 30,033	3.39%	\$ 34,728	4.42%
Other short-term borrowings	1,064	0.00%	737	4.94%	1,470	4.92%
FHLB term advances	23,500	2.90%	4,000	4.67%	2,000	5.03%
Term repurchase agreements	20,000	3.77%	20,000	4.24%	-	0.00%
Total	\$ 83,074	2.33%	\$ 54,770	3.81%	\$ 38,198	4.47%

51

Table of Contents

## Average Annual Borrowed Funds

The following table sets forth the average amount of, the average rate paid and maximum outstanding balance on, borrowed funds for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006.

	2008		2007		2006	
	Average Balance	Average Rate	Average Balance	Average Rate	Average Balance	Average Rate
(dollars in thousands)						
Federal funds purchased & repurchase agreements	\$ 40,340	2.11%	\$ 46,447	4.28%	\$ 34,692	4.24%
Other short-term borrowings	689	1.89%	967	5.86%	1,029	5.73%
FHLB term advances	17,735	3.34%	2,414	4.97%	667	5.03%
Term repurchase agreements	20,000	3.69%	7,219	4.42%	-	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 78,764</b>	<b>2.79%</b>	<b>\$ 57,047</b>	<b>4.35%</b>	<b>\$ 36,388</b>	<b>4.30%</b>

## Maximum Amount Outstanding during the year

Federal funds purchased and repurchase agreements	\$ 48,699	\$ 58,457	\$ 44,928
Other short-term borrowings	\$ 1,351	\$ 1,684	\$ 2,415
FHLB term advances	\$ 23,500	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,000
Term repurchase agreements	\$ 20,000	\$ 24,000	\$ -

## Off-Balance-Sheet Arrangements

The Company is party to financial instruments with off-balance-sheet risk in the normal course of business. These financial instruments include commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit that assist customers with their credit needs to conduct business. The instruments involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit risk in excess of the amount recognized in the balance sheet. As of December 31, 2008, the most likely impact of these financial

instruments on revenues, expenses, or cash flows of the Company would come from unidentified credit risk causing higher provision expense for loan losses in future periods. These financial instruments are not expected to have a significant impact on the liquidity or capital resources of the Company. For additional information, see footnote 10 of the “Notes to Consolidated Statements” and the “Liquidity and Capital Resources” section of this discussion.

Table of Contents

## Contractual Obligations

The following table sets forth the balance of contractual obligations by maturity period as of December 31, 2008 (in thousands).

Contractual Obligations	Total	Payments due by period			
		Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years
Deposits	\$ 664,795	\$ 581,400	\$ 72,509	\$ 10,886	\$ -
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	38,510	38,510	-	-	-
Other short-term borrowings	1,064	1,064	-	-	-
Long-term borrowings	43,500	8,500	2,500	8,000	24,500
Operating lease obligation	42	21	21	-	-
Purchase obligations	880	758	122	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 748,791</b>	<b>\$ 630,253</b>	<b>\$ 75,152</b>	<b>\$ 18,886</b>	<b>\$ 24,500</b>

Purchase obligations include data processing and Internet banking services contracts that include termination provisions that would accelerate all future payments in the event the Company changed service providers prior to the contracts' expirations.

## Asset Quality Review and Credit Risk Management

The Company's credit risk is centered in the loan portfolio, which on December 31, 2008 totaled \$452,880,000 as compared to \$463,651,000 as of December 31, 2007, a decrease of 2%. Net loans comprise 53% of total assets as of the end of 2008. The object in managing loan portfolio risk is to reduce the risk of loss resulting from a customer's failure to perform according to the terms of a transaction and to quantify and manage credit risk on a portfolio basis. As the following chart indicates, the Company's non-performing assets have increased from their historically low levels and total \$20,500,000 as of December 31, 2008. The Company's level of problem assets as a percentage of assets of 2.33% as December 31, 2008 are slightly higher than the average for FDIC insured institutions as of December 31, 2008 of 1.88%. Though non-performing assets have increased, management believes that the allowance for loan losses remains adequate based on its analysis of the non-performing assets and the portfolio as a whole.

Table of Contents

## Non-performing Assets

The following table sets forth information concerning the Company's non-performing assets for the past five years ending December 31, 2008.

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
(dollars in thousands)					
Non-performing assets:					
Nonaccrual loans	\$ 6,339	\$ 3,249	\$ 291	\$ 606	\$ 1,896
Loans 90 days or more past due	469	1,300	758	83	80
Total loans	6,808	4,549	1,049	689	1,976
Securities available-for-sale	358	-	-	-	-
Other real estate owned	13,334	2,846	2,808	1,742	772
Total non-performing assets	\$ 20,500	\$ 7,395	\$ 3,857	\$ 2,431	\$ 2,748

The accrual of interest on non-accrual and other impaired loans is discontinued at 90 days or when, in the opinion of management, the borrower may be unable to meet payments as they become due. When interest accrual is discontinued, all unpaid accrued interest is reversed. Interest income is subsequently recognized only to the extent cash payments are received. Interest income on restructured loans is recognized pursuant to the terms of the new loan agreement. Interest income on other impaired loans is monitored and based upon the terms of the underlying loan agreement. However, the recorded net investment in impaired loans, including accrued interest, is limited to the present value of the expected cash flows of the impaired loan or the observable fair market value of the loan's collateral.

At December 31, 2008 and 2007, the Company had non-performing loans of approximately \$6,808,000 and \$4,549,000, respectively. The economic conditions for commercial real estate developers in the Des Moines metropolitan area deteriorated in 2007 and 2008. This deterioration has contributed to the Company's increased level of non-performing assets. During the year ended December 31, 2008, the Company foreclosed on two real estate properties (other real estate owned) totaling \$10,500,000 in the Des Moines market. The Company has impaired loans totaling \$3.3 million with seven Des Moines development companies with specific reserves totaling \$139,000. The Company has additional credit relationships with real estate developers in the Des Moines area that presently have collateral values that are believed to be sufficient to cover loan balances. However, the loans may become impaired in the future if economic conditions do not improve or become worse. As of December 31, 2008, the Company has a limited number of such credits and is actively engaged with the customers to minimize credit risks.

Impaired loans totaled \$6,510,000 as of December 31, 2008 and were \$1,025,000 higher than the impaired loans as of December 31, 2007. The Company considers impaired loans to generally include the non-performing loans (consisting of non accrual loans and loans past due 90 days or more and still accruing) and also considers other loans

that may or may not meet the former nonperforming criteria but are considered to meet the definition of impaired.

54

---

Table of Contents

The allowance for loan losses related to these impaired loans was approximately \$257,000 and \$247,000 at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The average balances of impaired loans for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, were \$7,848,000 and \$2,486,000, respectively. For the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, interest income, which would have been recorded under the original terms of such loans, was approximately \$478,000, \$346,000 and \$42,000, respectively, with \$155,000, \$180,000 and \$1,000, respectively, recorded. Loans greater than 90 days past due and still accruing interest were approximately \$469,000 and \$1,300,000 at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Summary of the Allowance for Loan Losses

The provision for loan losses represents an expense charged against earnings to maintain an adequate allowance for loan losses. The allowance for loan losses is management's best estimate of probable losses inherent in the loan portfolio as of the balance sheet date. Factors considered in establishing an appropriate allowance include: an assessment of the financial condition of the borrower; a realistic determination of value and adequacy of underlying collateral; the condition of the local economy and the condition of the specific industry of the borrower; an analysis of the levels and trends of loan categories; and a review of delinquent and classified loans.

The adequacy of the allowance for loan losses is evaluated quarterly by management and the respective Bank boards. This evaluation focuses on specific loan reviews, changes in the type and volume of the loan portfolio given the current economic conditions and historical loss experience. Any one of the following conditions may result in the review of a specific loan: concern about whether the customer's cash flow or collateral are sufficient to repay the loan; delinquent status; criticism of the loan in a regulatory examination; the accrual of interest has been suspended; or other reasons, including when the loan has other special or unusual characteristics which warrant special monitoring.

While management uses available information to recognize losses on loans, further reductions in the carrying amounts of loans may be necessary based on changes in local economic conditions. In addition, regulatory agencies, as an integral part of their examination process, periodically review the estimated losses on loans. Such agencies may require the Company to recognize additional losses based on their judgment about information available to them at the time of their examination. Due to potential changes in conditions, it is at least reasonably possible that change in estimates will occur in the near term and that such changes could be material to the amounts reported in the Company's financial statements.

Table of Contents

## Analysis of the Allowance for Loan Losses

The Company's policy is to charge-off loans when, in management's opinion, the loan is deemed uncollectible, although concerted efforts are made to maximize future recoveries. The following table sets forth information regarding changes in the Company's allowance for loan losses for the most recent five years.

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
(dollars in thousands)					
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 5,781	\$ 6,533	\$ 6,765	\$ 6,476	\$ 6,051
Charge-offs:					
Real Estate					
Construction	76	402	-	-	-
1-4 Family Residential	89	1	6	-	19
Commercial	70	25	-	28	93
Agricultural	-	-	-	-	-
Commercial	77	-	-	-	3
Agricultural	-	-	-	-	-
Consumer and other	115	299	99	119	115
Total Charge-offs	427	727	105	147	230
Recoveries:					
Real Estate					
Construction	-	-	-	-	-
1-4 Family Residential	3	1	1	-	-
Commercial	1	-	-	-	-
Agricultural	-	-	-	-	-
Commercial	35	21	6	33	13
Agricultural	-	-	-	-	-
Consumer and other	73	47	49	72	163
Total Recoveries	112	69	56	105	176
Net charge-offs	315	658	49	42	54
Additions (deductions) charged (credited) to operations	1,313	(94)	(183)	331	479
Balance at end of period	\$ 6,779	\$ 5,781	\$ 6,533	\$ 6,765	\$ 6,476
Average Loans Outstanding	\$ 463,782	\$ 454,088	\$ 438,166	\$ 435,997	\$ 385,347
Ratio of net charge-offs during the period to average loans outstanding	0.07%	0.14%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
Ratio of allowance for loan losses to total loans net of deferred fees	1.47%	1.23%	1.50%	1.51%	1.55%





Table of Contents

The allowance for loan losses increased to \$6,779,000 at the end of 2008 in comparison to the allowance of \$5,781,000 at year end 2007 as a result of provisions in 2008 in the amount of \$1,313,000 offset by net charge offs of \$315,000. The increase in the provision for loan losses was due primarily to an increase in factors related to weakening economic conditions and an increase in the level of risks associated with the construction and commercial real estate loan portfolios. The allowance for loan losses decreased to \$5,781,000 at the end of 2007 in comparison to the allowance of \$6,533,000 at year end 2006 as a result of net charge-offs of \$658,000 in 2007 and a reduction in specific reserves for problem credits. A reduction in the specific reserve for a problem credit and declining loan demand allowed for a decrease in the required level of the allowance for loan losses calculated by the Banks for year end 2006 compared to 2005. The increase in the reserve levels in 2005 compared to 2004 can be attributed to the growth in the Company's commercial loan portfolio at First National and United Bank.

General reserves for loan categories normally range from 0.91% to 1.88% of the outstanding loan balances. As loan volume increases, the general reserve levels increase with that growth and as loan volume decreases, the general reserve levels decrease with that decline. The loan provisions recognized in 2008 were due primarily to weakening economic conditions and an increase in the level of risks associated with the construction and commercial real estate loan portfolios. The negative loan provisions in 2007 and 2006 were due primarily to declines in specific reserves for problem credits, in part, due to charge-off of problem credits. The allowance relating to commercial real estate, 1-4 family residential and commercial loans are the largest reserve components. Construction and commercial real estate loans have higher general reserve levels than 1-4 family and agricultural real estate loans as management perceives more risk in this type of lending. Elements contributing to the higher risk level include a higher percentage of watch and problem loans, higher past due percentages, declining collateral values and less favorable economic conditions for those portfolios. As of December 31, 2008, commercial real estate loans have general reserves ranging from 1.19% to 1.56%. The level of non performing loans as of December 31, 2008 has increased since 2007 but remains at a manageable level.

Loans that the Banks have identified as having higher risk levels are reviewed individually in an effort to establish adequate loss reserves. These reserves are considered specific reserves and are directly impacted by the credit quality of the underlying loans. Normally, as the actual or expected level of non-performing loans increase, the specific reserves also increase. For December 31, 2008, the specific reserve increased to \$257,000 from \$247,000, as the volume of problem credits increased in 2008.

For December 31, 2007, specific reserves decreased to \$247,000 from the \$1,477,000 reserved at year end 2006, in part, due to the charge-off of credits with specific reserves, an improved condition of certain credits and a change in the Company's method of determining specific reserves. The revised methodology resulted from implementing guidance provided by federal regulatory agencies as more fully described in this discussion under "Critical Accounting Policies". For December 31, 2006, specific reserves increased \$534,000 or 2% compared to year end 2005 levels as the volume of problem credits increased in 2006. As of December 31, 2005, specific reserves increased \$76,000 over 2004 as the level of watch credits increased. As of December 31, 2004, specific reserves decreased \$431,000 or 24% over year end 2003 as the result of improved loan quality. The specific reserves are dependent upon assumptions regarding the liquidation value of collateral and the cost of recovering collateral including legal fees. Changing the amount of specific reserves on individual loans has historically had the largest impact on the reallocation of the reserve among different parts of the portfolio.

Table of Contents

Other factors that are considered when determining the adequacy of the reserve include historical losses; watch, substandard and impaired loan volume; collecting past due loans; loan growth; loan to value ratios; loan administration; collateral values and economic factors. The Company's concentration risks include geographic concentration in central Iowa; the local economy's dependence upon several large governmental entity employers, including Iowa State University and the Iowa Department of Transportation; and the health of Iowa's agricultural sector that, in turn, is dependent on weather conditions and government programs. However, no assurances can be made that losses will remain at the relatively favorable levels experienced over the past five years.

## Allocation of the Allowance for Loan Losses

The following table sets forth information concerning the Company's allocation of the allowance for loan losses.

	2008		2007		2006		2005		2004	
	Amount	%*	Amount	%*	Amount	%*	Amount	%*	Amount	%*
(dollars in thousands)										
Balance at end of period applicable to:										
Real Estate										
Construction	\$ 472	7.68%	\$ 733	9.92%	\$ 372	7.02%	\$ 258	5.36%	\$ 429	5.02%
1-4 family residential	1,001	20.88%	1,061	22.31%	1,231	23.77%	1,127	22.80%	1,021	23.31%
Commercial	3,566	33.36%	1,964	31.31%	2,396	31.92%	2,534	34.39%	2,676	38.25%
Agricultural	395	7.30%	407	7.17%	428	7.13%	421	6.84%	486	6.55%
Commercial	683	16.67%	943	16.74%	983	16.92%	1,158	15.96%	809	13.66%
Agricultural	469	8.77%	466	7.69%	499	7.67%	511	7.20%	360	7.33%
Consumer and other	193	5.34%	207	4.85%	276	5.57%	390	7.45%	302	5.87%
Unallocated	-		-		348		366		393	
	\$ 6,779	100%	\$ 5,781	100%	\$ 6,533	100%	\$ 6,765	100%	\$ 6,476	100%

\* Percent of loans in each category to total loans.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources

Liquidity management is the process by which the Company, through its Banks' Asset and Liability Committees (ALCO), ensures that adequate liquid funds are available to meet its financial commitments on a timely basis, at a reasonable cost and within acceptable risk tolerances. These commitments include funding credit obligations to borrowers, funding of mortgage originations pending delivery to the secondary market, withdrawals by depositors, maintaining adequate collateral for pledging for public funds, trust deposits and borrowings, paying dividends to shareholders, payment of operating expenses, funding capital expenditures and maintaining deposit reserve requirements.



Table of Contents

Liquidity is derived primarily from core deposit growth and retention; principal and interest payments on loans; principal and interest payments, sale, maturity and prepayment of investment securities; net cash provided from operations; and access to other funding sources. Other funding sources include federal funds purchased lines, Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) advances and other capital market sources.

As of December 31, 2008, the level of liquidity and capital resources of the Company remain at a satisfactory level and compare favorably to that of other FDIC insured institutions. Management believes that the Company's liquidity sources will be sufficient to support its existing operations for the foreseeable future.

The liquidity and capital resources discussion will cover the follows topics:

- Review of the Company's Current Liquidity Sources
- Review of the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
- Review of Company Only Cash Flows
- Review of Commitments for Capital Expenditures, Cash Flow Uncertainties and Known Trends in Liquidity and Cash Flows Needs
- Capital Resources

Review of the Company's Current Liquidity Sources

Liquid assets of cash on hand, balances due from other banks, federal funds sold and interest-bearing deposits in financial institutions for December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 totaled \$51,631,000, \$32,179,000 and \$31,154,000, respectively. The higher balance of liquid assets as of December 31, 2008 relates to a higher level of federal funds sold and interest bearing deposits in financial institutions.

Other sources of liquidity available to the Banks includes total borrowing capacity with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, Iowa of \$51,462,000 and federal funds borrowing capacity at correspondent banks of \$99,164,000. As of December 31, 2008, the Company had outstanding FHLB advances of \$23,500,000, Treasury Tax and Loan option notes of \$1,064,000, and securities sold under agreement to repurchase daily and term of \$38,510,000 and \$20,000,000, respectively.

Total investments as of December 31, 2008 were \$313,014,000 compared to \$339,942,000 as of year end 2007. As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, the investment portfolio as a percentage of total assets was 36% and 39%, respectively. This provides the Company with a significant amount of liquidity since all investments are classified as available-for-sale as of December 31, 2008 and 2007 and have pretax net unrealized gains (losses) of (\$239,000) and \$2,999,000, respectively.

The investment portfolio serves an important role in the overall context of balance sheet management in terms of balancing capital utilization and liquidity. The decision to purchase or sell securities is based upon the current assessment of economic and financial conditions, including the interest rate environment, liquidity and credit considerations. The portfolio's scheduled maturities represent a significant source of liquidity.

## Table of Contents

### Review of the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

Operating cash flows for December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 totaled \$12,788,000, \$10,764,000 and \$11,055,000, respectively. The increase in operating cash flows in 2008 as compared to 2007 was primarily due to the other-than-temporary impairment in investment securities, offset in part by a decrease in net income, an increase in deferred income taxes and securities gains. The decrease in operating cash flows in 2007 compared to 2006 included a smaller increase of accrued expenses.

Net cash used in investing activities for December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 was (\$6,714,000), (\$17,576,000) and (\$15,751,000), respectively. The decrease in net cash used in investing activities in 2008 was primarily due to a smaller increase in loans and proceeds from sales and matured investments exceeding investment purchases, offset in part by increases in federal funds sold and interest bearing deposits. The net cash used in investing activities in 2007 was primarily utilized to fund increased loan demand while maturing and sold investments exceeded investment purchases for the year.

Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities for December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 totaled (\$7,421,000), \$16,346,000 and \$3,113,000, respectively. The change in net cash (used in) financing activities in 2008 was due primarily to the decrease in deposits, offset in part by the increase in federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase. In 2007, other borrowings were the primary source of funds, while in 2006; deposit growth was the primary source of cash flows. As of December 31, 2008, the Company did not have any external debt financing, off balance sheet financing arrangements or derivative instruments linked to its stock.

### Review of Company Only Cash Flows

The Company's liquidity on an unconsolidated basis is heavily dependent upon dividends paid to the Company by the Banks. The Company requires adequate liquidity to pay its expenses and pay stockholder dividends. In 2008, dividends from the Banks amounted to \$8,864,000 compared to \$8,849,000 in 2007. The dividend in 2009 to the shareholders of the Company has been reduced due to the ongoing negative developments in the national and local economies and the uncertainty of the timing and magnitude of improvement. Dividend levels in 2009 paid to the Company by the Banks will be less than in 2008. First National, which paid dividends in 2008 in the amount of \$5,184,000, cannot pay dividends to the Company without approval of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (the "OCC") and First National does not plan to seek such approval in 2009, thus reducing substantially the dividends from the Banks to the Company. Various federal and state statutory provisions limit the amount of dividends banking subsidiaries are permitted to pay to their holding companies without regulatory approval. Federal Reserve policy further limits the circumstances under which bank holding companies may declare dividends. For example, a bank holding company should not continue its existing rate of cash dividends on its common stock unless its net income is sufficient to fully fund each dividend and its prospective rate of earnings retention appears consistent with its capital needs, asset quality and overall financial condition. In addition, the Federal Reserve and the FDIC have issued policy statements which provide that insured banks and bank holding companies should generally pay dividends only out of current operating earnings. Federal and state banking regulators may also restrict the payment of dividends by order.

First National and United Bank, as national banks, generally may pay dividends, without obtaining the express approval of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency ("OCC"), in an amount up to their retained net profits for the preceding two calendar years plus retained net profits up to the date of any dividend declaration in the current calendar year. Retained net profits, as defined by the OCC, consists of net income less dividends declared during the period. Boone Bank, Randall-Story Bank and State Bank are also restricted under Iowa law to paying dividends only out of their undivided profits. Additionally, the payment of dividends by the Banks is affected by the requirement to maintain adequate capital pursuant to applicable capital adequacy guidelines and regulations, and the Banks generally are prohibited from paying any dividends if, following payment thereof, the Bank would be undercapitalized.



## Table of Contents

The Company has unconsolidated interest bearing deposits and marketable investment securities totaling \$11,141,000 that were available at December 31, 2008 to provide additional liquidity to the Banks.

### Review of Commitments for Capital Expenditures, Cash Flow Uncertainties and Known Trends in Liquidity and Cash Flows Needs

No material capital expenditures or material changes in the capital resource mix are anticipated at this time. Commitments to extend credit totaled \$68,633,000 as of December 31, 2008 compared to a total of \$96,753,000 at the end of 2007. The timing of these credit commitments varies with the underlying borrowers; however, the Company has satisfactory liquidity to fund these obligations as of December 31, 2008. The primary cash flow uncertainty would be a sudden decline in deposits causing the Banks to liquidate securities. Historically, the Banks have maintained an adequate level of short term marketable investments to fund the temporary declines in deposit balances. Except for the potential effect on the Company's level of dividends, there are no known trends in liquidity and cash flow needs as of December 31, 2008 that is a concern to management.

### Capital Resources

The Company's total stockholders' equity decreased to \$103,837,000 at December 31, 2008, from \$110,021,000 at December 31, 2007. At December 31, 2008 and 2007, stockholders' equity as a percentage of total assets was 12.1% and 12.8%, respectively. Total equity decreased primarily due to depreciation and impairment in the Company's investment portfolio and dividends paid in excess of net income. The capital levels of the Company currently exceed applicable regulatory guidelines as of December 31, 2008.

### Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk refers to the impact that a change in interest rates may have on the Company's earnings and capital. Management's objectives are to control interest rate risk and to ensure predictable and consistent growth of earnings and capital. Interest rate risk management focuses on fluctuations in net interest income identified through computer simulations to evaluate volatility, varying interest rate, spread and volume assumptions. The risk is quantified and compared against tolerance levels.

The Company uses a third-party computer software simulation modeling program to measure its exposure to potential interest rate changes. For various assumed hypothetical changes in market interest rates, numerous other assumptions are made such as prepayment speeds on loans, the slope of the Treasury yield curve, the rates and volumes of the Company's deposits and the rates and volumes of the Company's loans. This analysis measures the estimated change in net interest income in the event of hypothetical changes in interest rates.



## Table of Contents

Another measure of interest rate sensitivity is the gap ratio. This ratio indicates the amount of interest-earning assets repricing within a given period in comparison to the amount of interest-bearing liabilities repricing within the same period of time. A gap ratio of 1.0 indicates a matched position, in which case the effect on net interest income due to interest rate movements will be minimal. A gap ratio of less than 1.0 indicates that more liabilities than assets reprice within the time period and a ratio greater than 1.0 indicates that more assets reprice than liabilities.

The simulation model process provides a dynamic assessment of interest rate sensitivity, whereas a static interest rate gap table is compiled as of a point in time. The model simulations differ from a traditional gap analysis, as a traditional gap analysis does not reflect the multiple effects of interest rate movement on the entire range of assets and liabilities and ignores the future impact of new business strategies.

## Inflation

The primary impact of inflation on the Company's operations is to increase asset yields, deposit costs and operating overhead. Unlike most industries, virtually all of the assets and liabilities of a financial institution are monetary in nature. As a result, interest rates generally have a more significant impact on a financial institution's performance than they would on non-financial companies. Although interest rates do not necessarily move in the same direction or to the same extent as the price of goods and services, increases in inflation generally have resulted in increased interest rates. The effects of inflation can magnify the growth of assets and, if significant, require that equity capital increase at a faster rate than would be otherwise necessary.

## Forward-Looking Statements and Business Risks

Certain statements contained in the foregoing Management's Discussion and Analysis and elsewhere in this Report that are not statements of historical fact constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the "Act"), notwithstanding that such statements are not specifically identified. In addition, certain statements may be contained in the Company's future filings with the SEC, in press releases and in oral and written statements made by or with our approval that are not statements of historical fact and constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Act. Examples of forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to: (i) projections of revenues, expenses, income or loss, earnings or loss per share, the payment or nonpayment of dividends, capital structure and other financial items; (ii) statements of plans, objectives and expectations of the Company or its management, including those relating to products or services; (iii) statements of future economic performance; and (iv) statements of assumptions underlying such statements. Words such as "believes", "anticipates", "expects", "intends", "targeted", "projected", "continue", "remain", "will", "should", "may" and expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements but are not the exclusive means of identifying such statements.

Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from those in such statement. Factors that could cause actual results to differ from those discussed in the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to:

- Local, regional and national economic conditions and the impact they may have on us and our customers, and our assessment of that impact on our estimates including, but not limited to, the allowance for loan losses and fair value of other real estate owned. Of particular relevance are the economic conditions in the concentrated geographic area in central Iowa in which the Banks conduct their operations.

Table of Contents

- Changes in the level of nonperforming assets and charge-offs.
- Changes in the fair value of securities available-for-sale and management's assessments of other-than-temporarily impairment of such securities.
- The effects of and changes in trade and monetary and fiscal policies and laws, including the changes in assessment rates established by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for its Deposit Insurance Fund, interest rate policies of the Federal Open Market Committee of the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's Temporary Liquidity Guaranty Program and U.S. Treasury's Capital Purchase Program and Troubled Asset Repurchase Program authorized by the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008.
- Changes in sources and uses of funds, including loans, deposits and borrowings, including the ability of the Banks to maintain unsecured federal funds lines with correspondent banks.
- Changes imposed by regulatory agencies to increase capital to a level greater than the level required for well-capitalized financial institutions.
  - Inflation and interest rate, securities market and monetary fluctuations.
  - Political instability, acts of war or terrorism and natural disasters.
- The timely development and acceptance of new products and services and perceived overall value of these products and services by customers.
  - Revenues being lower than expected.
  - Changes in consumer spending, borrowings and savings habits.
  - Changes in the financial performance and/or condition of our borrowers.
  - Credit quality deterioration, which could cause an increase in the provision for loan losses.
    - Technological changes.
    - The ability to increase market share and control expenses.
- Changes in the competitive environment among financial or bank holding companies and other financial service providers.
  - The effect of changes in laws and regulations with which the Company and the Banks must comply.
    - Changes in the securities markets.

Table of Contents

- The effect of changes in accounting policies and practices, as may be adopted by the regulatory agencies, as well as the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, the Financial Accounting Standards Board and other accounting standard setters.
- The costs and effects of legal and regulatory developments, including the resolution of regulatory or other governmental inquiries and the results of regulatory examinations or reviews.
  - Our success at managing the risks involved in the foregoing items.

Certain of the foregoing risks and uncertainties are discussed in greater detail under the heading “Risk Factors” in Item 1A of the Company’s annual Report on Form 10-K.

These factors may not constitute all factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed in any forward-looking statement. The Company operates in a continually changing business environment and new facts emerge from time to time. It cannot predict such factors nor can it assess the impact, if any, of such factors on its financial position or its results of operations. Accordingly, forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as a predictor of actual results. The Company disclaims any responsibility to update any forward-looking statement provided in this document.

#### ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

The Company’s market risk is comprised primarily of interest rate risk arising from its core banking activities of making loans and taking deposits. Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in market interest rates may adversely affect the Company’s net interest income. Management continually develops and applies strategies to mitigate this risk. Management does not believe that the Company’s primary market risk exposure and how that exposure was managed in 2008 changed when compared to 2007.

Based on a simulation modeling analysis performed as of December 31, 2008, the following table presents the estimated change in net interest income in the event of hypothetical changes in interest rates for the various rate shock levels:

##### Net Interest Income at Risk

##### Estimated Change in Net Interest Income for Year Ending December 31, 2008

	\$ Change	% Change
(dollars in thousands)		
+200 Basis Points	\$ (2,017)	-6.57%
+100 Basis Points	(925)	-3.01%
-100 Basis Points	(547)	-1.78%
-200 Basis Points	(1,746)	-5.69%

Table of Contents

As shown above, at December 31, 2008, the estimated effect of an immediate 200 basis point increase in interest rates would decrease the Company's net interest income by 6.6% or approximately \$2,017,000 in 2008. In the increasing interest rate environment, the assets are repricing slower than the liabilities, thus a decrease in net interest income. The estimated effect of an immediate 200 basis point decrease in rates would decrease the Company's net interest income by 5.7% or approximately \$1,746,000 in 2008. In a decreasing interest rate environment, a portion of the liabilities are not repricing downward due to their already historically low rates, thus a decrease in net interest income. The Company's Asset Liability Management Policy establishes parameters for a 200 basis point change in interest rates. Under this policy, the Company and the Banks' objective is to properly structure the balance sheet to prevent a 200 basis point change in interest rates from causing a decline in net interest income by more than 15% in one year compared to the base year that hypothetically assumes no change in interest rates.

Computations of the prospective effects of hypothetical interest rate changes are based on numerous assumptions. Actual values may differ from those projections set forth above. Further, the computations do not contemplate any actions the Company may undertake in response to changes in interest rates. Current interest rates on certain liabilities are at a level that does not allow for significant repricing should market interest rates decline considerably.

Table of Contents

## Contractual Maturity or Repricing

The following table sets forth the estimated maturity or re-pricing, and the resulting interest sensitivity gap, of the Company's interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities and the cumulative interest sensitivity gap at December 31, 2008. The expected maturities are presented on a contractual basis. Actual maturities may differ from contractual maturities because of prepayment assumptions, early withdrawal of deposits and competition.

(dollars in thousands)	Less than three months	Three months to one year	One to five years	Over five years	Cumulative Total
<b>Interest - earning assets</b>					
Interest-bearing deposits with banks	\$ 1,971	\$ 2,860	\$ 5,570	\$ -	\$ 10,401
Federal funds sold	16,533	-	-	-	16,533
Investments (1)	11,970	17,306	141,118	142,621	313,015
Loans	94,922	69,817	266,656	28,337	459,732
Loans held for sale	1,152	-	-	-	1,152
<b>Total interest - earning assets</b>	<b>\$ 126,548</b>	<b>\$ 89,983</b>	<b>\$ 413,344</b>	<b>\$ 170,958</b>	<b>\$ 800,833</b>
<b>Interest - bearing liabilities</b>					
Interest bearing demand deposits	\$ 165,422	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 165,422
Money market and savings deposits	153,771	-	-	-	153,771
Time certificates < \$100,000	32,388	72,592	59,412	-	164,392
Time certificates > \$100,000	18,808	38,589	23,982	-	81,379
Other borrowed funds (2)	44,074	4,000	10,500	24,500	83,074
<b>Total interest - bearing liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 414,463</b>	<b>\$ 115,181</b>	<b>\$ 93,894</b>	<b>\$ 24,500</b>	<b>\$ 648,038</b>
<b>Interest sensitivity gap</b>	<b>\$ (287,915)</b>	<b>\$ (25,198)</b>	<b>\$ 319,450</b>	<b>\$ 146,458</b>	<b>\$ 152,795</b>
<b>Cumulative interest sensitivity gap</b>	<b>\$ (287,915)</b>	<b>\$ (313,113)</b>	<b>\$ 6,337</b>	<b>\$ 152,795</b>	<b>\$ 152,795</b>
<b>Cumulative interest sensitivity gap as a percent of total assets</b>	<b>-33.55%</b>	<b>-36.49%</b>	<b>0.74%</b>	<b>17.81%</b>	

(1) Investments with maturities over 5 years include the market value of equity securities of \$11,280.

(2) Includes \$23.5 million of advances from the FHLB. Of these advances, \$11.0 million are term advances and \$12.5 million are callable. The term advances have been categorized based upon their maturity date. The \$12.5 million of callable advances were also categorized based upon maturity, because the interest rates on such advances are near or above current market rates. Includes \$20.0 million of term repurchase agreements, all of which are callable. There were categorized based upon maturity, because the interest rates on such advances are near or above current market rates.

As of December 31, 2008, the Company's cumulative gap ratios for assets and liabilities repricing within three months and within one year were a negative 33% and 36%, respectively, meaning more liabilities than assets are scheduled to reprice within these periods. This situation suggests that a decrease in market interest rates may benefit net interest

income and that an increase in interest rates may negatively impact the Company. The liability sensitive gap position is largely the result of classifying the interest bearing NOW accounts, money market accounts and savings accounts as immediately repriced. Certain shortcomings are inherent in the method of analysis presented in the foregoing table. For example, although certain assets and liabilities may have similar maturities and periods to repricing, they may react differently to changes in market interest rates. Also, interest rates on assets and liabilities may fluctuate in advance of changes in market interest rates, while interest rates on other assets and liabilities may follow changes in market interest rates. Additionally, certain assets have features that restrict changes in the interest rates of such assets, both on a short-term basis and over the lives of such assets.

Table of Contents

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

MANAGEMENT'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

The management of Ames National Corporation is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. Ames National Corporation's internal control system was designed to provide reasonable assurance to the Company's management and board of directors regarding the preparation and fair presentation of published financial statements. Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Ames National Corporation's management assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008. In making this assessment, it used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in Internal Control-Integrated Framework. Based on our assessment we determined that, as of December 31, 2008, the Company's internal control over financial reporting is effective based on those criteria.

The Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008 has been audited by Clifton Gunderson LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report which appears herein.

/s/ Thomas H. Pohlman  
Thomas H. Pohlman, President  
(Principal Executive Officer)

/s/ John P. Nelson  
John P. Nelson, Vice President  
(Principal Financial Officer)

Table of Contents

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Board of Directors  
Ames National Corporation  
Ames, Iowa

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Ames National Corporation and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the related consolidated statements of income, stockholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2008. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion of these consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

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

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Ames National Corporation and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2008 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), Ames National Corporation and subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), and our report dated February 23, 2009 expressed an unqualified opinion.

/s/ Clifton Gunderson LLP

West Des Moines, Iowa  
February 23, 2009



Table of Contents

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Board of Directors  
Ames National Corporation  
Ames, Iowa

We have audited Ames National Corporation and subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Ames National Corporation's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over the financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audit also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Table of Contents

In our opinion, Ames National Corporation and subsidiaries maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based upon criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of Ames National Corporation and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the related consolidated statements of income, stockholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2008 and our report dated February 23, 2009 expressed an unqualified opinion.

/s/ Clifton Gunderson LLP

West Des Moines, Iowa  
February 23, 2009

70

---

Table of Contents

## AMES NATIONAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

December 31, 2008 and 2007

ASSETS	2008	2007
Cash and due from banks	\$ 24,697,591	\$ 26,044,577
Federal funds sold	16,533,000	5,500,000
Interest bearing deposits in financial institutions	10,400,761	634,613
Securities available-for-sale	313,014,375	339,942,064
Loans receivable, net	452,880,348	463,651,000
Loans held for sale	1,152,020	344,970
Bank premises and equipment, net	12,570,302	13,446,865
Accrued income receivable	6,650,287	8,022,900
Deferred income taxes	5,838,044	929,326
Other real estate owned	13,333,565	2,845,938
Other assets	1,070,588	228,895
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 858,140,881</b>	<b>\$ 861,591,148</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Deposits		
Demand, noninterest bearing	\$ 99,830,687	\$ 80,638,995
NOW accounts	165,422,333	160,672,326
Savings and money market	153,771,034	162,291,544
Time, \$100,000 and over	81,378,796	109,189,660
Other time	164,391,860	177,326,270
Total deposits	664,794,710	690,118,795
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	38,509,559	30,033,321
Other short-term borrowings	1,063,806	737,420
Long-term borrowings	43,500,000	24,000,000
Dividend payable	2,641,216	2,545,987
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	3,794,140	4,135,102
Total liabilities	754,303,431	751,570,625
<b>STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Common stock, \$2 par value, authorized 18,000,000 shares; 9,432,915 and 9,429,580 shares issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively	18,865,830	18,859,160
Additional paid-in capital	22,651,222	22,588,691
Retained earnings	62,471,081	66,683,016
Accumulated other comprehensive income(loss)-net unrealized gain (loss) on securities available-for-sale	(150,683)	1,889,656
Total stockholders' equity	103,837,450	110,020,523
<b>Total liabilities and stockholders' equity</b>	<b>\$ 858,140,881</b>	<b>\$ 861,591,148</b>

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

71

---

Table of Contents

## AMES NATIONAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

	2008	2007	2006
Interest and dividend income:			
Loans, including fees	\$ 29,458,407	\$ 31,629,493	\$ 29,593,896
Securities:			
Taxable	9,876,452	9,304,036	8,830,356
Tax-exempt	4,946,022	4,828,248	4,226,941
Federal funds sold	171,078	232,723	224,882
Dividends	1,062,208	1,567,578	1,419,617
Total interest and dividend income	45,514,167	47,562,078	44,295,692
Interest expense:			
Deposits	14,207,734	21,055,100	19,742,379
Other borrowed funds	2,193,958	2,482,030	1,563,149
Total interest expense	16,401,692	23,537,130	21,305,528
Net interest income	29,112,475	24,024,948	22,990,164
Provision (credit) for loan losses	1,312,785	(94,100)	(182,686)
Net interest income after provision (credit) for loan losses	27,799,690	24,119,048	23,172,850
Noninterest income (loss):			
Trust department income	1,597,096	2,014,277	1,462,734
Service fees	1,791,713	1,855,964	1,840,699
Securities gains, net	3,515,323	1,466,697	1,333,136
Other-than-temporary impairment of investment securities	(12,054,387)	-	(198,000)
Gain on sales of loans held for sale	834,129	743,009	564,819
Merchant and ATM fees	616,802	553,644	645,517
Gain on sale or foreclosure of real estate	66,219	-	482,203
Other	624,679	574,759	542,924
Total noninterest income (loss)	(3,008,426)	7,208,350	6,674,032
Noninterest expense:			
Salaries and employee benefits	10,572,597	10,041,947	9,408,293
Data processing	2,246,473	2,239,595	2,185,478
Occupancy expenses	1,587,076	1,292,424	1,159,750
Other operating expenses	3,188,108	3,202,281	2,750,341
Total noninterest expense	17,594,254	16,776,247	15,503,862
Income before income taxes	7,197,010	14,551,151	14,343,020
Provision for income taxes	845,014	3,542,049	3,399,403

Net income	\$	6,351,996	\$	11,009,102	\$	10,943,617
Basic earnings per share	\$	0.67	\$	1.17	\$	1.16

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

72

---

Table of Contents

## AMES NATIONAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

	Comprehensive Income	Common Stock	Additional Paid-in Capital	Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Total Stockholders' Equity
Balance, December 31, 2005		\$ 18,838,542	\$ 22,383,375	\$ 64,713,530	\$ 3,291,854	\$ 109,227,301
Comprehensive income:						
Net income	\$ 10,943,617	-	-	10,943,617	-	10,943,617
Other comprehensive income, unrealized gains on securities, net of reclassification adjustment, net of tax	2,425,901	-	-	-	2,425,901	2,425,901
Total comprehensive income	\$ 13,369,518					
Cash dividends declared, \$1.04 per share		-	-	(9,800,520)	-	(9,800,520)
Sale of 5,742 shares of common stock		11,484	115,529	-	-	127,013
Balance, December 31, 2006		18,850,026	22,498,904	65,856,627	5,717,755	112,923,312
Comprehensive income:						
Net income	\$ 11,009,102	-	-	11,009,102	-	11,009,102
Other comprehensive income, unrealized losses on securities, net of reclassification adjustment, net of tax benefit	(3,828,099)	-	-	-	(3,828,099)	(3,828,099)
Total comprehensive income	\$ 7,181,003					
		-	-	(10,182,713)	-	(10,182,713)

Cash dividends declared, \$1.08 per share						
Sale of 4,567 shares of common stock		9,134	89,787	-	-	98,921
Balance, December 31, 2007		18,859,160	22,588,691	66,683,016	1,889,656	110,020,523
Comprehensive income:						
Net income	\$ 6,351,996	-	-	6,351,996	-	6,351,996
Other comprehensive income, unrealized losses on securities, net of reclassification adjustment, net of tax benefit						
	(2,040,339)	-	-	-	(2,040,339)	(2,040,339)
Total comprehensive income						
	\$ 4,311,657					
Cash dividends declared, \$1.12 per share						
		-	-	(10,563,931)	-	(10,563,931)
Sale of 3,335 shares of common stock		6,670	62,531	-	-	69,201
Balance, December 31, 2008	\$ 18,865,830	\$ 22,651,222	\$ 62,471,081	\$ (150,683)	\$	103,837,450

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.



Table of Contents

## AMES NATIONAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

	2008	2007	2006
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Net income	\$ 6,351,996	\$ 11,009,102	\$ 10,943,617
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Provision (credit) for loan losses	1,312,785	(94,100)	(182,686)
Amortization and accretion	(184,998)	(244,069)	131,704
Depreciation	1,096,653	1,086,400	973,257
Provision for deferred taxes	(3,710,424)	130,978	107,200
Securities gains, net	(3,515,323)	(1,466,697)	(1,333,136)
Other-than-temporary impairment of investment securities	12,054,387	-	198,000
Change in assets and liabilities:			
Decrease (increase) in loans held for sale	(807,050)	181,029	455,281
Decrease (increase) in accrued income receivable	1,372,613	(151,535)	(1,237,570)
Increase in other assets	(841,693)	(85,743)	(798,438)
Increase (decrease) in accrued expenses and other liabilities	(340,962)	398,363	1,798,232
Net cash provided by operating activities	12,787,984	10,763,728	11,055,461
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Purchase of securities available-for-sale	(140,744,441)	(88,955,529)	(69,015,999)
Proceeds from sale of securities available-for-sale	59,489,208	23,445,749	6,013,192
Proceeds from maturities and calls of securities available-for-sale	96,590,223	75,773,995	46,795,165
Net decrease (increase) in interest bearing deposits in financial institutions	(9,766,148)	909,693	4,439,236
Net decrease (increase) in federal funds sold	(11,033,000)	7,600,000	(12,800,000)
Net decrease (increase) in loans	(1,677,154)	(34,434,359)	11,377,830
Net proceeds for the sale of other real estate owned	1,024,933	-	-
Purchase of bank premises and equipment, net	(220,090)	(1,915,524)	(2,560,158)
Improvements in other real estate owned	(377,539)	-	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(6,714,008)	(17,575,975)	(15,750,734)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Increase (decrease) in deposits	(25,324,085)	9,762,322	12,014,138
Increase (decrease) in federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	8,476,238	(4,694,576)	67,914
Proceeds from other short-term borrowings, net	326,386	1,267,304	608,986
Proceeds from long-term borrowings	21,500,000	20,000,000	-
Payments on long-term borrowings	(2,000,000)	-	-
Dividends paid	(10,468,702)	(10,087,229)	(9,704,835)
Proceeds from issuance of stock	69,201	98,921	127,013
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(7,420,962)	16,346,742	3,113,216
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(1,346,986)	9,534,495	(1,582,057)

CASH AND DUE FROM BANKS

Beginning	26,044,577	16,510,082	18,092,139
Ending	\$ 24,697,591	\$ 26,044,577	\$ 16,510,082

74

---

Table of Contents

## AMES NATIONAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (Continued)

Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

	2008	2007	2006
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION			
Cash payments for:			
Interest	\$ 17,225,985	\$ 23,456,721	\$ 21,064,363
Income taxes	5,430,551	3,691,664	3,461,781
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF NONCASH INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITIES,			
Transfer of loans to other real estate owned	\$ 11,135,022	\$ 62,590	\$ 1,306,469

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Description of business: Ames National Corporation and subsidiaries (the Company) operates in the commercial banking industry through its subsidiaries in Ames, Boone, Story City, Nevada and Marshalltown, Iowa. Loan and deposit customers are located primarily in Story, Boone, Polk and Marshall Counties and adjacent counties in Iowa.

Segment information: The Company uses the “management approach” for reporting information about segments in annual and interim financial statements. The management approach is based on the way the chief operating decision-maker organizes segments within a company for making operating decisions and assessing performance. Based on the “management approach” model, the Company has determined that its business is comprised of one operating segment: banking. The banking segment generates revenues through personal, business, agricultural and commercial lending, management of the investment securities portfolio, providing deposit account services and providing trust services.

Consolidation: The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Ames National Corporation (the Parent Company) and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, First National Bank, Ames, Iowa; State Bank & Trust Co., Nevada, Iowa; Boone Bank & Trust Co., Boone, Iowa; Randall-Story State Bank, Story City, Iowa; and United Bank & Trust NA, Marshalltown, Iowa (collectively, the Banks). All significant intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated in consolidation.

Use of estimates: The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Material estimates that are particularly susceptible to significant change in the near term relate to the determination of the allowance for loan losses, valuation of other real estate owned and the assessment of other than temporary impairment for certain financial instruments.

Cash and cash equivalents: For purposes of reporting cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and amounts due from banks. The Company reports net cash flows for customer loan transactions, deposit transactions and short-term borrowings with maturities of 90 days or less. At December 31, 2008, the Company and its Banks had approximately \$16,995,000 on deposit at various financial institutions, some of which are in excess of federally insured limits. In the opinion of management, the Company does not believe these balances carry a significant risk of loss but cannot provide absolute assurance that no losses would occur if these institutions were to become insolvent.

Securities available-for-sale: The Company classifies all securities as available for sale. Available for sale securities are those the Company may decide to sell if needed for liquidity, asset-liability management or other reasons. Available for sale securities are reported at fair value, with net unrealized gains and losses reported as other comprehensive income or loss and as a separate component of stockholders’ equity, net of tax.

Table of Contents

Gains and losses on the sale of securities are determined using the specific identification method based on amortized cost and are reflected in results of operation at the time of sale. Interest and dividend income, adjusted by amortization of purchase premium or discount over the estimated life of the security using the level yield method, is included in income as earned.

Declines in the fair value of available-for-sale securities below their cost that are deemed to be other-than-temporary are reflected in earnings as realized losses. In estimating other-than-temporary impairment losses, management considers (1) the length of time and the extent to which the fair value has been less than cost, (2) the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer, and (3) the intent and ability of the Company to retain its investment in the issuer for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in fair value.

Loans held for sale: Loans held for sale are the loans the Banks have the intent to sell in the foreseeable future. They are carried at the lower of aggregate cost or market value. Net unrealized losses, if any, are recognized through a valuation allowance by charges to income. Gains and losses on sales of loans are recognized at settlement dates and are determined by the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the loans.

Loans: Loans are stated at the principal amount outstanding, net of deferred loan fees and the allowance for loan losses. Interest on loans is credited to income as earned based on the principal amount outstanding. The Banks' policy is to discontinue the accrual of interest income on any loan 90 days or more past due unless the loans are well collateralized and in the process of collection. Income on nonaccrual loans is subsequently recognized only to the extent that cash payments are received. Nonaccrual loans are returned to an accrual status when, in the opinion of management, the financial position of the borrower indicates there is no longer any reasonable doubt as to timely payment of principal or interest.

Allowance for loan losses: The allowance for loan losses is maintained at a level deemed appropriate by management to provide for known and inherent risks in the loan portfolio. The allowance is based upon a continuing review of past loan loss experience, current economic conditions, the underlying collateral value securing the loans and other adverse situations that may affect the borrower's ability to repay. Loans which are deemed to be uncollectible are charged off and deducted from the allowance. Recoveries on loans charged-off and the provision for loan losses are added to the allowance. This evaluation is inherently subjective and requires estimates that are susceptible to significant revisions as more information becomes available. Due to potential changes in conditions, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in estimates will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the Company's financial statements.

The allowance consists primarily of specific and general components. The specific component relates to loans that are classified either as doubtful, substandard or special mention and meet the definition of impaired. For impaired loans, an allowance is established when the discounted cash flows (or collateral value or observable market price) of the impaired loan is lower than the carrying value of that loan. The general component covers the remaining loans and is based on historical loss experience adjusted for qualitative factors, including internal factors such as remaining classified loan volume, delinquency trends of the loan portfolios and loan growth. External environmental factors considered include the current state of the overall collateral values and other economic factors as identified.

Table of Contents

A loan is considered impaired when, based on current information and events, it is probable that the Company will be unable to collect the scheduled payments of principal or interest when due according to the contractual terms of the loan agreement. Factors considered by management in determining impairment include payment status, collateral value, and the probability of collecting scheduled principal and interest payments when due. Smaller balance homogeneous loans are evaluated for impairment in total. Such loans include residential first mortgage loans secured by one-to-four family residences, residential construction loans, and automobile loans. Commercial and agricultural loans and mortgage loans secured by other properties are evaluated individually for impairment when analysis of borrower operating results and financial condition indicates that underlying cash flows of the borrower's business are not adequate to meet its debt service requirements. Often this is associated with a delay or shortfall in payments of 90 days or more. Nonaccrual loans are often also considered impaired. Impaired loans, or portions thereof, are charged off when deemed uncollectible.

**Premises and equipment:** Premises and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation expense is computed using straight-line and accelerated methods over the estimated useful lives of the respective assets. Depreciable lives range from 3 to 7 years for equipment and 15 to 39 years for premises.

**Other real estate owned:** Real estate properties acquired through or in lieu of foreclosure are initially recorded at the fair value less estimated selling cost at the date of foreclosure. Any write-downs based on the asset's fair value at the date of acquisition are charged to the allowance for loan losses. After foreclosure, valuations are periodically performed by management and property held for sale is carried at the lower of the new cost basis or fair value less cost to sell. Impairment losses on property to be held and used are measured as the amount by which the carrying amount of a property exceeds its fair value. Costs of significant property improvements are capitalized, whereas costs relating to holding property are expensed. The portion of interest costs relating to development of real estate is capitalized. Valuations are periodically performed by management, and any subsequent write-downs are recorded as a charge to operations, if necessary, to reduce the carrying value of a property to the lower of its cost or fair value less cost to sell. This evaluation is inherently subjective and requires estimates that are susceptible to significant revisions as more information becomes available. Due to potential changes in conditions, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in fair values will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the Company's financial statements.

**Trust department assets:** Property held for customers in fiduciary or agency capacities is not included in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets, as such items are not assets of the Banks.

Table of Contents

Income taxes: Deferred income taxes are provided on temporary differences between financial statement and income tax reporting. Temporary differences are differences between the amounts of assets and liabilities reported for financial statement purposes and their tax bases. Deferred tax assets are recognized for temporary differences that will be deductible in future years' tax returns and for operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. Deferred tax assets are reduced by a valuation allowance if it is deemed more likely than not that some or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. Deferred tax liabilities are recognized for temporary differences that will be taxable in future years' tax returns. Benefits from tax positions taken or expected to be taken in a tax return are not recognized if the likelihood that the tax position would be sustained upon examination by a taxing authority is considered to be 50 percent or less.

The Company files a consolidated federal income tax return, with each entity computing its taxes on a separate company basis. For state tax purposes, the Banks file franchise tax returns, while the Parent Company files a corporate income tax return.

On January 1, 2007, the Company adopted the provisions of Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Interpretation No. 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes (FIN 48). The adoption and application of FIN 48 was not significant to the 2008 and 2007 consolidated financial statements. The Company has adopted the policy of classifying interest and penalties as income tax expense.

Comprehensive income: Accounting principles generally require that recognized revenue, expenses, gains and losses be included in net income. Although certain changes in assets and liabilities, such as unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale securities, are reported as a separate component of the stockholders' equity section of the consolidated balance sheet, such items, along with net income, are components of comprehensive income. Gains and losses on available-for-sale securities are reclassified to net income as the gains or losses are realized upon sale of the securities. Other-than-temporary impairment charges are reclassified to net income at the time of the charge.

Financial instruments with off-balance-sheet risk: The Company, in the normal course of business, makes commitments to make loans which are not reflected in the consolidated financial statements. A summary of these commitments is disclosed in Note 10.

Transfers of financial assets: Transfers of financial assets are accounted for as sales, when control over the assets has been surrendered. Control over transferred assets is deemed to be surrendered when (1) the assets have been isolated from the Company, (2) the transferee obtains the right (free of conditions that constrain it from taking advantage of that right) to pledge or exchange the transferred assets, and (3) the Company does not maintain effective control over the transferred assets through an agreement to repurchase them before their maturity.

Fair value of financial instruments: The following methods and assumptions were used by the Company in estimating fair value disclosures:

Table of Contents

Cash and due from banks, federal funds sold and interest bearing deposits in financial institutions: The recorded amount of these assets approximates fair value.

Securities available-for-sale: Fair value measurement is based upon quoted prices, if available. If quoted prices are not available, fair values are measured using independent pricing models or other model-based valuation techniques such as the present value of future cash flows, adjusted for the securities credit rating, prepayment assumptions and other factors such as credit loss assumptions.

Loans held for sale: The fair value of loans held for sale is based on prevailing market prices.

Loans receivable: The fair value of loans is calculated by discounting scheduled cash flows through the estimated maturity using estimated market discount rates, which reflect the credit and interest rate risk inherent in the loan. The estimate of maturity is based on the historical experience, with repayments for each loan classification modified, as required, by an estimate of the effect of current economic and lending conditions. The effect of nonperforming loans is considered in assessing the credit risk inherent in the fair value estimate.

Deposit liabilities: Fair values of deposits with no stated maturity, such as noninterest-bearing demand deposits, savings and NOW accounts, and money market accounts, are equal to the amount payable on demand as of the respective balance sheet date. Fair values of certificates of deposit are based on the discounted value of contractual cash flows. The discount rate is estimated using the rates currently offered for deposits of similar remaining maturities. The fair value estimates do not include the benefit that results from the low-cost funding provided by the deposit liabilities compared to the cost of borrowing funds in the market.

Securities sold under agreements to repurchase: The carrying amounts of securities sold under agreements to repurchase approximate fair value because of the generally short-term nature of the instruments.

Other short-term borrowings: The carrying amounts of other short-term borrowings approximate fair value because of the generally short-term nature of the instruments.

Long-term borrowings: Fair values of long-term borrowings are estimated using discounted cash flow analysis based on interest rates currently being offered with similar terms.

Accrued income receivable and accrued interest payable: The carrying amounts of accrued income receivable and interest payable approximate fair value.

Commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit: The fair values of commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit are based on fees currently charged to enter into similar agreements, taking into account the remaining terms of the agreement and credit worthiness of the counterparties. The carry value and fair value of the commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit are not considered significant.

Limitations: Fair value estimates are made at a specific point in time, based on relevant market information and information about the financial instrument. Because no market exists for a significant portion of the Company's financial instruments, fair value estimates are based on judgments regarding future expected loss experience, current economic conditions, risk characteristics of various financial instruments, and other factors. These estimates are subjective in nature and involve uncertainties and matters of significant judgment and, therefore, cannot be determined with precision. Changes in assumptions could significantly affect the estimates.



Table of Contents

Fair Value measurements: On January 1, 2008, the Company adopted SFAS No. 157, Fair Value Measurements (SFAS No. 157), which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value under GAAP, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements

On October 10, 2008, the FASB issued Staff Position No. 157-3, which clarifies the application of SFAS No. 157, in an inactive market and illustrates how an entity would determine fair value when the market for a financial asset is not active. The FSP states that an entity should not automatically conclude that a particular transaction price is determinative of fair value. In a dislocated market, judgment is required to evaluate whether individual transactions are forced liquidations or distressed sales. When relevant observable market information is not available, a valuation approach that incorporates management's judgments about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset in a current sale transaction would be acceptable. The FSP also indicates that quotes from brokers or pricing services may be relevant inputs when measuring fair value, but are not necessarily determinative in the absence of an active market for the asset. In weighing a broker quote as an input to a fair value measurement, an entity should place less reliance on quotes that do not reflect the result of market transactions. Further, the nature of the quote (for example, whether the quote is an indicative price or a binding offer) should be considered when weighing the available evidence. The FSP was effective immediately and did not have a material impact on the Company's financial results or fair value determinations.

Earnings per share: Basic earnings per share computations for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, were determined by dividing net income by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding during the years then ended. The Company had no potentially dilutive securities outstanding during the periods presented.

The following information was used in the computation of basic earnings per share for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006.

	2008	2007	2006
Basic earning per share computation:			
Net income	\$ 6,351,996	\$ 11,009,102	\$ 10,943,617
Weighted average common shares outstanding	9,431,393	9,427,503	9,422,402
Basic EPS	\$ 0.67	\$ 1.17	\$ 1.16

Reclassifications: Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior consolidated financial statements to conform to the current period presentation. These reclassifications had no effect on stockholders' equity and net income for the prior periods.

New Accounting Pronouncement: The following new accounting pronouncement may affect future financial reporting by the Company:

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities. SFAS No. 161 requires enhanced disclosures about how and why an entity uses derivative instruments; how derivative instruments are accounted for under SFAS No. 133 and its related interpretations; and how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect an entity's position, results of operations, and cash flows. This Statement is effective for the Company beginning on January 1, 2009. The Company does not expect the adoption of this Statement to have a material impact on its financial position or results of operations as the Company has limited derivative instrument activity.

Table of Contents

## Note 2. Restrictions on Cash and Due from Banks

The Federal Reserve Bank requires member banks to maintain certain cash and due from bank reserves. The subsidiary banks' reserve requirements totaled approximately \$2,945,000 and \$2,665,000 at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

## Note 3. Debt and Equity Securities

The amortized cost of securities available for sale and their approximate fair values are summarized below:

	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value
2008:				
U.S. treasury	\$ 498,102	\$ 47,445	\$ -	\$ 545,547
U.S. government agencies	48,195,482	1,537,009	(37,748)	49,694,743
U.S. government mortgage-backed securities	66,421,362	1,116,775	(22,258)	67,515,879
State and political subdivisions	127,826,526	1,592,343	(677,869)	128,741,000
Corporate bonds	58,003,206	224,679	(2,990,315)	55,237,570
Equity securities	12,308,876	205,593	(1,234,833)	11,279,636
	\$ 313,253,554	\$ 4,723,844	\$ (4,963,023)	\$ 313,014,375

	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value
2007:				
U.S. treasury	\$ 497,277	\$ 26,883	\$ -	\$ 524,160
U.S. government agencies	94,500,440	1,207,999	(111,206)	95,597,233
U.S. government mortgage-backed securities	27,064,931	27,833	(215,392)	26,877,372
State and political subdivisions	132,698,746	963,002	(379,397)	133,282,351
Corporate bonds	65,455,863	527,546	(1,030,111)	64,953,298
Equity securities	16,725,353	3,326,847	(1,344,550)	18,707,650
	\$ 336,942,610	\$ 6,080,110	\$ (3,080,656)	\$ 339,942,064

Table of Contents

The amortized cost and estimated fair value of debt securities available-for-sale as of December 31, 2008, are shown below by contractual maturity. Expected maturities will differ from contractual maturities because issuers may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties.

	Amortized Cost	Estimated Fair Value
Due in one year or less	\$ 29,024,152	\$ 29,276,236
Due after one year through five years	139,774,377	141,117,397
Due after five years through ten years	112,218,463	111,398,083
Due after ten years	19,927,686	19,943,023
	300,944,678	301,734,739
Equity securities	12,308,876	11,279,636
	\$ 313,253,554	\$ 313,014,375

At December 31, 2008 and 2007, securities with a carrying value of approximately \$154,642,000 and \$148,125,000, respectively, were pledged as collateral on public deposits, securities sold under agreements to repurchase and for other purposes as required or permitted by law. Securities sold under agreements to repurchase are held by the Company's safekeeping agent.

For the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006, proceeds from sales of available-for-sale securities amounted to \$59,489,208, \$23,445,749, and \$6,013,192, respectively. Gross realized gains and gross realized losses on sales of available-for-sale securities were \$4,732,750 and \$1,217,427, respectively, in 2008, \$4,369,185 and \$2,902,488, respectively, in 2007, and \$1,333,136 with no losses, respectively, in 2006. The tax provision applicable to the net realized gains and losses amounted to approximately \$1,376,000, \$587,000, and \$454,000, respectively. Other-than-temporary impairments recognized as a component of income were \$12,054,387 in 2008, none in 2007, and \$198,000 in 2006. Impairment for 2008 primarily related to charges of \$8,451,000 related to Federal National Mortgage Association and Federal Home Loan Mortgage corporation preferred stock and \$3,603,000 related to three corporate bonds.

The components of other comprehensive income (loss) - net unrealized gains (losses) on securities available-for-sale for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006, were as follows:

Table of Contents

	2008	2007	2006
Unrealized holding gains (losses) arising during the period	\$ (11,777,697)	\$ (4,609,651)	\$ 4,985,773
Reclassification adjustment for net losses (gains) realized in net income	8,539,064	(1,466,697)	(1,135,136)
Net unrealized gains (losses) before tax effect	(3,238,633)	(6,076,348)	3,850,637
Tax effect	1,198,294	2,248,249	(1,424,736)
Other comprehensive income -Net unrealized gains (losses)on securities	\$ (2,040,339)	\$ (3,828,099)	\$ 2,425,901

Unrealized losses and fair value, aggregated by investment category and length of time that individual securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position as of December 31, 2008 and 2007 are summarized as follows:

	Less than 12 Months		12 Months or More		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
2008:						
Securities available for sale:						
U.S. government agencies	\$ 1,801,958	\$ (17,068)	\$ 629,993	\$ (20,680)	\$ 2,431,951	\$ (37,748)
U.S. government mortgage-backed securities	5,012,003	(18,645)	100,052	(3,613)	5,112,055	(22,258)
State and political subdivisions	29,377,281	(594,462)	1,482,034	(83,407)	30,859,315	(677,869)
Corporate obligations	30,284,263	(1,810,579)	10,092,995	(1,179,736)	40,377,258	(2,990,315)
Equity securities	5,060,837	(1,234,833)	-	-	5,060,837	(1,234,833)
	\$ 71,536,342	\$ (3,675,587)	\$ 12,305,074	\$ (1,287,436)	\$ 83,841,416	\$ (4,963,023)

	Less than 12 Months		12 Months or More		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
2007:						
Securities available for sale:						
U.S. government agencies	\$ 2,497,127	\$ (2,873)	\$ 22,807,372	\$ (108,334)	\$ 25,304,499	\$ (111,207)
U.S. government mortgage-backed securities	12,696,160	(71,106)	8,706,270	(144,286)	21,402,430	(215,392)
State and political subdivisions	14,067,294	(84,174)	26,526,618	(295,222)	40,593,912	(379,396)
Corporate obligations	21,577,269	(786,802)	14,392,174	(243,309)	35,969,443	(1,030,111)
Equity securities	6,336,950	(1,344,550)	-	-	6,336,950	(1,344,550)
	\$ 57,174,800	\$ (2,289,505)	\$ 72,432,434	\$ (791,151)	\$ 129,607,234	\$ (3,080,656)

At December 31, 2008, 23 debt securities have unrealized losses of \$ 3,728,190. These unrealized losses are generally due to changes in interest rates or general market conditions. In analyzing an issuers' financial condition, management considers whether the securities are issued by the federal government or its agencies, whether downgrades by bond rating agencies have occurred, and industry analysts' reports. Unrealized losses on equity securities totaled \$1,234,833 as of December 31, 2008. Management analyzed the financial condition of the equity issuers and considered the general market conditions and other factors in concluding that the unrealized losses on equity securities were not other than temporary. Due to potential changes in conditions, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in fair values

and management's assessments will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the Company's financial statements.

84

---

Table of Contents

## Note 4. Loans Receivable

The composition of loans receivable is as follows:

	2008	2007
Commercial and agricultural	\$ 116,976,463	\$ 114,748,926
Real estate - mortgage	282,901,692	285,468,860
Real estate - construction	35,325,692	46,568,105
Consumer	9,049,309	9,472,218
Other	15,478,724	13,310,271
	459,731,880	469,568,380
Less:		
Allowance for loan losses	(6,779,215)	(5,780,678)
Deferred loan fees	(72,317)	(136,702)
	\$ 452,880,348	\$ 463,651,000

Changes in the allowance for loan losses are as follows:

	2008	2007	2006
Balance, beginning	\$ 5,780,678	\$ 6,532,617	\$ 6,765,356
Provision (credit) for loan losses	1,312,785	(94,100)	(182,686)
Recoveries of loans charged-off	112,440	68,803	55,055
Loans charged-off	(426,688)	(726,642)	(105,108)
Balance, ending	\$ 6,779,215	\$ 5,780,678	\$ 6,532,617

Loans are made in the normal course of business to certain directors and executive officers of the Company and to their affiliates. The terms of these loans, including interest rates and collateral, are similar to those prevailing for comparable transactions with others and do not involve more than a normal risk of collectibility. Loan transactions with related parties were as follows:

	2008	2007
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 14,065,125	\$ 22,100,213
New loans	25,425,856	20,355,673
Repayments	(27,991,382)	(18,259,135)
Change in status	2,691,770	(10,131,626)
Balance, end of year	\$ 14,191,369	\$ 14,065,125

Table of Contents

At December 31, 2008 and 2007, the Company had impaired loans of approximately \$6,510,000 and \$5,485,000, respectively. The allowance for loan losses related to these impaired loans was approximately \$257,000 and \$247,000 at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The average balances of impaired loans for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006 were \$7,848,000, \$2,486,000, and \$1,729,000 respectively. For the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006, interest income, which would have been recorded under the original terms of such loans, was approximately \$478,000, \$346,000, and \$42,000, respectively, with \$155,000, \$180,000, and \$1,000, respectively, recorded. Loans greater than 90 days past due and still accruing interest were approximately \$340,000 and \$1,300,000 at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. There are no other potential problem loans that cause management to have serious doubts as to the ability of such borrowers to comply with the present loan repayment terms.

The amount the Company will ultimately realize from these loans could differ materially from their carrying value because of future developments affecting the underlying collateral or the borrowers' ability to repay the loans. As of December 31, 2008, there were no material commitments to lend additional funds to customers whose loans were classified as impaired.

## Note 5. Bank Premises and Equipment

The major classes of bank premises and equipment and the total accumulated depreciation are as follows:

	2008	2007
Land	\$ 2,426,383	\$ 2,426,383
Buildings and improvements	14,545,054	14,534,553
Furniture and equipment	7,179,512	7,029,181
	24,150,949	23,990,117
Less accumulated depreciation	11,580,647	10,543,252
	\$ 12,570,302	\$ 13,446,865

## Note 6. Deposits

At December 31, 2008, the maturities of time deposits are as follows:

2009	\$ 162,375,867
2010	57,864,090
2011	14,644,645
2012	6,376,578
2013	4,509,476
	\$ 245,770,656

Table of Contents

Interest expense on deposits is summarized as follows:

	2008	2007	2006
NOW accounts	\$ 897,544	\$ 2,050,655	\$ 2,362,608
Savings and money market	2,759,380	5,683,264	5,886,737
Time, \$100,000 and over	3,948,039	5,325,045	4,421,595
Other time	6,602,771	7,996,136	7,071,439
	\$ 14,207,734	\$ 21,055,100	\$ 19,742,379

Deposits from related parties held by the Company at December 31, 2008 and 2007 amounted to approximately \$11,000,000 and \$12,000,000, respectively.

#### Note 7. Borrowings

Federal funds purchased are unsecured and mature daily. Securities sold under repurchase agreements are short-term and are secured by investments. Short-term borrowings as of December 31, 2008 and 2007 consisted of Treasury, Tax and Loan option notes secured by investment securities.

At December 31, 2008, long-term borrowings consisted of the following:

	Amount	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Features
FHLB advances maturing in:			
2009	\$ 8,500,000	2.39%	
2010	1,500,000	4.57%	
2011	1,000,000	5.04%	
2013	1,000,000	2.17%	Callable in March, 2011
After	11,500,000	2.94%	Includes \$4,500,000 callable in February, 2011; \$7,000,000 callable in March, 2011
Total FHLB advances	\$ 23,500,000	2.90%	
Term repurchase agreements maturing in:			
2012	7,000,000	4.15%	Callable in 2009
2018	13,000,000	3.56%	Callable in 2009
Total term repurchase agreements	\$ 20,000,000	3.77%	
Total long-term borrowings	\$ 43,500,000	3.30%	

Borrowed funds at December 31, 2007 included borrowings from the FHLB and term repurchase agreements of \$24,000,000. Such borrowings carried a weighted-average interest rate of 4.31% with maturities ranging from 2009 through 2012.

Term repurchase agreements are securities sold under agreement to repurchase, have maturity dates greater than one year, and can be called by the issuing financial institution on a quarterly basis.



FHLB borrowings are collateralized by certain 1-4 family residential real estate loans and the short-term and term repurchase agreements are collateralized with U.S. government agencies and mortgage-backed securities with a fair value of \$62,136,000 at December 31, 2008. The Banks had available borrowings with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, Iowa of \$27,962,000 at December 31, 2008.

Table of Contents

## Note 8. Employee Benefit Plans

The Company has a stock purchase plan with the objective of encouraging equity interests by officers, employees, and directors of the Company and its subsidiaries to provide additional incentive to improve banking performance and retain qualified individuals. The purchase price of the shares is the fair market value of the stock based upon current market trading activity. The terms of the plan provide for the issuance of up to 42,000 shares of common stock per year for a ten-year period commencing in 1999 and continuing through 2008.

The Company has a qualified 401(k) profit-sharing plan. The Company matches employee contributions up to a maximum of 2% of qualified compensation and also contributes an amount equal to 5% of the participating employee's compensation. In addition, contributions can be made on a discretionary basis by the Company on behalf of the employees. For the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, Company contributions to the plan were approximately \$611,000, \$613,000, and \$579,000, respectively. The plan covers substantially all employees.

## Note 9. Income Taxes

The components of income tax expense are as follows:

	2008	2007	2006
Federal:			
Current	\$ 3,839,793	\$ 2,726,253	\$ 2,633,706
Deferred	(3,370,787)	111,616	90,186
	469,006	2,837,869	2,723,892
State:			
Current	715,645	684,818	658,497
Deferred	(339,637)	19,362	17,014
	376,008	704,180	675,511
Income tax expense	\$ 845,014	\$ 3,542,049	\$ 3,399,403

Total income tax expense differed from the amounts computed by applying the U.S. federal income tax rate of 35% to income before income taxes as a result of the following:

	2008	2007	2006
Income taxes at 35% federal tax rate	\$ 2,518,955	\$ 5,092,903	\$ 5,020,058
Increase (decrease) resulting from:			
Tax-exempt interest and dividends	(1,984,052)	(1,942,031)	(1,797,533)
State taxes, net of federal tax benefit	520,100	435,391	437,893
Other	(209,989)	(44,214)	(261,015)
Total income tax expense	\$ 845,014	\$ 3,542,049	\$ 3,399,403

The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to significant portions of the deferred tax assets and deferred liabilities are as follows:

Table of Contents

	2008	2007
Deferred tax assets:		
Allowance for loan losses	\$ 2,030,390	\$ 1,639,108
Net unrealized losses on securities available for sale	88,495	-
Other than temporary impairment	3,605,328	-
Other items	637,610	770,441
	6,361,823	2,409,549
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Net unrealized gains on securities available for sale	-	(1,109,799)
Other	(523,779)	(370,424)
	(523,779)	(1,480,223)
Net deferred tax assets	\$ 5,838,044	\$ 929,326

At December 31, 2008, income taxes currently receivable of approximately \$689,000 is included in other assets and at December 31, 2007, income taxes currently payable of approximately \$186,000 is included in accrued expenses and other liabilities.

The Company and its subsidiaries file one income tax return in the U.S. federal jurisdiction and separate individual tax returns for the state of Iowa. The Company is no longer subject to U.S. federal income and state tax examinations for years before 2004.

The Company adopted the provisions of FASB FIN 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes, on January 1, 2007. Management has determined that the Company has no material uncertain tax positions that would require recognition under FIN 48. The Company had no significant unrecognized tax benefits as of December 31, 2008 that, if recognized, would affect the effective tax rate. The Company had recorded no accrued interest or penalties as of or for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007. The Company had no positions for which it deemed that it is reasonably possible that the total amounts of the unrecognized tax benefit will significantly increase or decrease within the 12 months as of December 31, 2008 and 2007.

#### Note 10. Commitments, Contingencies and Concentrations of Credit Risk

The Company is party to financial instruments with off-balance-sheet risk in the normal course of business. These financial instruments include commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit. These instruments involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit risk in excess of the amount recognized in the balance sheet.

The Company's exposure to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by the other party to the financial instrument for commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit is represented by the contractual amount of those instruments. The Company uses the same credit policies in making commitments and conditional obligations as they do for on-balance-sheet instruments. A summary of the Company's commitments is as follows:

Table of Contents

	2008	2007
Commitments to extend credit	\$ 68,633,000	\$ 96,753,000
Standby letters of credit	1,887,000	1,021,000
	\$ 70,520,000	\$ 97,774,000

Commitments to extend credit are agreements to lend to a customer as long as there is no violation of any condition established in the contract. Since many of the commitments are expected to expire without being drawn upon, the total commitment amounts do not necessarily represent future cash requirements. The Banks evaluate each customer's creditworthiness on a case-by-case basis. The amount of collateral obtained, if deemed necessary by the Banks upon extension of credit, is based on management's credit evaluation of the party.

Standby letters of credit are conditional commitments issued by the Banks to guarantee the performance of a customer to a third-party. Those guarantees are primarily issued to support public and private borrowing arrangements. The credit risk involved in issuing letters of credit is essentially the same as that involved in extending loan facilities to customers. Collateral held varies and is required in instances which the Banks deem necessary. In the event the customer does not perform in accordance with the terms of the agreement with the third party, the Banks would be required to fund the commitment. The maximum potential amount of future payments the Banks could be required to make is represented by the contractual amount shown in the summary above. If the commitments were funded, the Banks would be entitled to seek recovery from the customer.

At December 31, 2008 and 2007, the Banks have established liabilities totaling \$248,000 and \$233,000, respectively to cover estimated credit losses for off-balance-sheet loan commitments and standby letters of credit.

In the normal course of business, the Company is involved in various legal proceedings. In the opinion of management, any liability resulting from such proceedings would not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial statements.

Concentrations of credit risk: The Banks originate real estate, consumer, and commercial loans, primarily in Story, Boone, Hamilton and Marshall Counties, Iowa, and adjacent counties. Although the Banks have diversified loan portfolios, a substantial portion of their borrowers' ability to repay loans is dependent upon economic conditions in the Banks' market areas.

#### Note 11. Regulatory Matters

The Company and its subsidiary banks are subject to various regulatory capital requirements administered by the federal banking agencies. Failure to meet minimum capital requirements can initiate certain mandatory - and possible additional discretionary - actions by regulators that, if undertaken, could have a direct material effect on the Company's and Banks' financial statements. Under capital adequacy guidelines and the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action, the Company and the Banks must meet specific capital guidelines that involve quantitative measures of their assets, liabilities and certain off-balance-sheet items as calculated under regulatory accounting practices. The capital amounts and classification are also subject to qualitative judgments by the regulators about components, risk weightings, and other factors. Prompt corrective action provisions are not applicable to bank holding companies. Regulators also have the ability to impose higher limits than those specified by capital adequacy guidelines if they so deem necessary.



Table of Contents

Quantitative measures established by regulation to ensure capital adequacy require the Company and each subsidiary bank to maintain minimum amounts and ratios (set forth in the table below) of total and Tier I capital (as defined in the regulations) to risk-weighted assets (as defined), and of Tier I capital (as defined) to average assets (as defined). Management believes, as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, that the Company and each subsidiary bank met all capital adequacy requirements to which they are subject.

As of December 31, 2008, the most recent notification from the federal banking regulators categorized the subsidiary banks as well capitalized under the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action. To be categorized as adequately capitalized, the Banks must maintain minimum total risk-based, Tier I risk-based, and Tier I leverage ratios as set forth in the table. Management believes there are no conditions or events since that notification that have changed the institution's category. The Company's and each of the subsidiary bank's actual capital amounts and ratios as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, are also presented in the table.

Table of Contents

	Actual		For Capital Adequacy Purposes		To Be Well Capitalized Under Prompt Corrective Action Provisions	
	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio
As of December 31, 2008:						
Total capital (to risk-weighted assets):						
Consolidated	\$ 110,419	16.8%	\$ 52,513	8.0%	N/A	N/A
Boone Bank & Trust	12,930	16.8	6,152	8.0	\$ 7,690	10.0%
First National Bank	41,202	12.4	26,670	8.0	33,337	10.0
Randall-Story State Bank	8,734	14.0	4,984	8.0	6,230	10.0
State Bank & Trust	13,121	13.4	7,812	8.0	9,764	10.0
United Bank & Trust	8,797	14.0	5,017	8.0	6,271	10.0
Tier 1 capital (to risk-weighted assets):						
Consolidated	\$ 103,340	15.7%	\$ 26,257	4.0%	N/A	N/A
Boone Bank & Trust	12,108	15.8	3,076	4.0	\$ 4,614	6.0%
First National Bank	37,861	11.4	13,335	4.0	20,002	6.0
Randall-Story State Bank	8,090	13.0	2,492	4.0	3,738	6.0
State Bank & Trust	12,229	12.5	3,906	4.0	5,859	6.0
United Bank & Trust	8,609	13.7	2,509	4.0	3,763	6.0
Tier 1 capital (to average-weighted assets):						
Consolidated	\$ 103,340	12.3%	\$ 33,647	4.0%	N/A	N/A
Boone Bank & Trust	12,108	11.9	4,065	4.0	\$ 5,081	5.0%
First National Bank	37,861	8.9	17,044	4.0	21,305	5.0
Randall-Story State Bank	8,090	10.9	2,975	4.0	3,719	5.0
State Bank & Trust	12,229	10.3	4,768	4.0	5,960	5.0
United Bank & Trust	8,609	8.7	3,940	4.0	4,925	5.0

Table of Contents

	Actual		For Capital Adequacy Purposes		To Be Well Capitalized Under Prompt Corrective Action Provisions	
	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio
As of December 31, 2007:						
Total capital (to risk-weighted assets):						
Consolidated	\$ 113,020	18.6%	\$ 48,618	8.0%	N/A	N/A
Boone Bank & Trust	13,222	17.0	6,234	8.0	\$ 7,792	10.0%
First National Bank	43,796	14.2	24,601	8.0	30,751	10.0
Randall-Story State Bank	8,680	14.5	4,795	8.0	5,994	10.0
State Bank & Trust	12,552	14.6	6,865	8.0	8,581	10.0
United Bank & Trust	9,474	13.7	5,547	8.0	6,933	10.0
Tier 1 capital (to risk-weighted assets):						
Consolidated	\$ 107,239	17.6%	\$ 24,309	4.0%	N/A	N/A
Boone Bank & Trust	12,383	15.9	3,117	4.0	\$ 4,675	6.0%
First National Bank	41,006	13.3	12,300	4.0	18,450	6.0
Randall-Story State Bank	8,058	13.4	2,398	4.0	3,596	6.0
State Bank & Trust	11,690	13.6	3,432	4.0	5,149	6.0
United Bank & Trust	8,606	12.4	2,773	4.0	4,160	6.0
Tier 1 capital (to average-weighted assets):						
Consolidated	\$ 107,239	12.6%	\$ 33,963	4.0%	N/A	N/A
Boone Bank & Trust	12,383	12.6	3,945	4.0	\$ 4,931	5.0%
First National Bank	41,006	9.3	17,668	4.0	22,085	5.0
Randall-Story State Bank	8,058	11.3	2,861	4.0	3,576	5.0
State Bank & Trust	11,690	10.6	4,425	4.0	5,531	5.0
United Bank & Trust	8,606	8.1	4,275	4.0	5,343	5.0

Federal and state banking regulations place certain restrictions on dividends paid and loans or advances made by the Banks' to the Company. Currently, First National Bank may not pay dividends to the Company without prior regulatory approval. Dividends paid by each Bank to the Company would be prohibited if the effect thereof would cause the Bank's capital to be reduced below applicable minimum capital requirements. Except for the potential effect on the Company's level of dividends, management believes that these restrictions currently do not have a significant impact on the Company.



Table of Contents

## Note 12. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The estimated fair values of the Company's financial instruments (as described in Note 1) were as follows:

	2008		2007	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
Financial assets:				
Cash and due from banks	\$ 24,697,591	\$ 24,698,000	\$ 26,044,577	\$ 26,045,000
Federal funds sold	16,533,000	16,533,000	5,500,000	5,500,000
Interest-bearing deposits	10,400,761	10,401,000	634,613	635,000
Securities available-for-sale	313,014,375	313,014,000	339,942,064	339,942,000
Loans receivable, net	452,880,348	448,238,000	463,651,000	460,401,000
Loans held for sale	1,152,020	1,152,000	344,970	345,000
Accrued income receivable	6,650,287	6,650,000	8,022,900	8,023,000
Financial liabilities:				
Deposits	\$ 664,794,710	\$ 668,424,000	\$ 690,118,795	\$ 691,523,000
Securities sold under agreement to repurchase	38,509,559	38,510,000	30,033,321	30,033,000
Other short-term borrowings	1,063,806	1,064,000	737,420	737,000
Long-term borrowings	43,500,000	46,286,000	24,000,000	24,529,000
Accrued interest payable	1,578,301	1,578,000	2,402,594	2,403,000

## Note 13. Fair Value Measurements

Effective January 1, 2008, the Company adopted SFAS No. 157, which requires disclosures for those assets and liabilities carried in the balance sheet on a fair value basis. The FASB has deferred the effective date of SFAS No. 157 until January 1, 2009 for nonfinancial assets and liabilities which are recognized at fair value on a nonrecurring basis. For the Company, this deferral applies to other real estate owned. The Company's balance sheet contains securities available for sale and certain impaired loans at fair value.

SFAS No. 157 defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants. A fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability occurs in the principal market for the asset or liability or, in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market for the asset or liability. The price in the principal (or most advantageous) market used to measure the fair value of the asset or liability shall not be adjusted for transaction costs. An orderly transaction is a transaction that assumes exposure to the market for a period prior to the measurement date to allow for marketing activities that are usual and customary for transactions involving such assets and liabilities; it is not a forced transaction. Market participants are buyers and sellers in the principal market that are (i) independent, (ii) knowledgeable, (iii) able to transact, and (iv) willing to transact.

Table of Contents

SFAS No. 157 requires the use of valuation techniques that are consistent with the market approach, the income approach, and/or the cost approach. The market approach uses prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable assets and liabilities. The income approach uses valuation techniques to convert future amounts, such as cash flows or earnings, to a single present amount on a discounted basis. The cost approach is based on the amount that currently would be required to replace the service capacity of an asset (replacement cost). Valuation techniques should be consistently applied. Inputs to valuation techniques refer to the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Inputs may be observable, meaning those that reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on market data obtained from independent sources, or unobservable, meaning those that reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available in the circumstances. In that regard, SFAS No. 157 establishes a fair value hierarchy for valuation inputs that gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs. The fair value hierarchy is as follows:

Level 1: Inputs to the valuation methodology are quoted prices, unadjusted, for identical assets or liabilities in active markets. A quoted price in an active market provides the most reliable evidence of fair value and shall be used to measure fair value whenever available.

Level 2: Inputs to the valuation methodology include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; inputs to the valuation methodology include quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active; or inputs to the valuation methodology that are derived principally from or can be corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

Level 3: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement. Level 3 assets and liabilities include financial instruments whose value is determined using discounted cash flow methodologies, as well as instruments for which the determination of fair value requires significant management judgment or estimation.

The following table presents the balances of assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis by level as of December 31, 2008:

Description	Total	Quoted Prices in Active markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Assets Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis				
Securities available-for-sale	\$313,014,000	\$ 8,445,000	\$ 304,569,000	-

Securities available for sale are recorded at fair value on a recurring basis. Fair value measurement is based upon quoted prices, if available. If quoted prices are not available, fair values are measured using independent pricing models or other model-based valuation techniques such as the present value of future cash flows, adjusted for the securities credit rating, prepayment assumptions and other factors such as credit loss assumptions. Level 1 securities include those traded on an active exchange, such as the New York Stock Exchange, as well as U.S. Treasury securities that are traded by dealers or brokers in active over-the-counter markets. Level 2 securities include U.S. government agency securities, mortgage-backed securities (including pools and collateralized mortgage obligations), municipal bonds, and corporate debt securities.



Table of Contents

Certain assets are measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis; that is, they are subject to fair value adjustments in certain circumstances (for example, when there is evidence of impairment). The following table presents the assets carried on the balance sheet (after specific reserves) by caption and by level with the SFAS No. 157 valuation hierarchy as of December 31, 2008:

Description	Total	Quoted Prices in Active markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Assets Measured at Fair Value on a Nonrecurring Basis				
Loans	\$ 6,253,000\$	-\$	-\$	6,253,000

Loans in the table above consist of impaired credits held for investment. Impaired loans are valued by management based on collateral values underlying the loans. Management uses original appraised values and adjusts for trends observed in the market.

In February 2007, the FASB issued Statement No. 159, The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities (SFAS No. 159). SFAS No. 159 permits entities to choose to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value that are not currently required to be measured at fair value. Subsequent unrealized gains and losses on items for which the fair value option has been elected will be reported in earnings. The provisions of SFAS No. 159 were effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. The adoption of SFAS No. 159 on January 1, 2008 did not have a significant impact on the Company's financial statements.

Table of Contents

## Note 14. Ames National Corporation (Parent Company Only) Financial Statements

Information relative to the Parent Company's balance sheets at December 31, 2008 and 2007, and statements of income and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2008, is as follows:

CONDENSED BALANCE SHEETS  
December 31, 2008 and 2007

	2008	2007
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and due from banks	\$ 1,347	\$ 78,323
Interest-bearing deposits in banks	101,977	9,987,887
Securities available-for-sale	11,038,946	20,357,493
Investment in bank subsidiaries	79,329,618	82,359,583
Loans receivable, net	18,619,318	200,000
Premises and equipment, net	645,109	696,812
Accrued income receivable	179,411	209,179
Deferred income taxes	690,860	-
Other assets	243,661	67,126
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 110,850,247</b>	<b>\$ 113,956,403</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Other borrowed funds	\$ 4,160,000	\$ -
Dividends payable	2,641,216	2,545,987
Deferred income taxes	-	1,046,720
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	211,581	343,173
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>7,012,797</b>	<b>3,935,880</b>
<b>STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Common stock	18,865,830	18,859,160
Additional paid-in capital	22,651,222	22,588,691
Retained earnings	62,471,081	66,683,016
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	(150,683)	1,889,656
<b>Total stockholders' equity</b>	<b>103,837,450</b>	<b>110,020,523</b>
<b>Total liabilities and stockholders' equity</b>	<b>\$ 110,850,247</b>	<b>\$ 113,956,403</b>

Table of Contents

CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF INCOME  
Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

	2008	2007	2006
Operating income:			
Equity in net income of bank subsidiaries	\$ 5,125,234	\$ 9,897,030	\$ 9,728,640
Interest	759,461	600,495	690,704
Dividends	673,506	1,045,125	919,039
Rents	88,624	84,058	81,306
Securities gains, net	3,171,215	1,459,228	1,333,136
Other-than-temporary impairment of investment securities	(903,600)	-	-
	8,914,440	13,085,936	12,752,825
Provision (credit) for loan losses	327,558	(16,000)	-
Operating income after provision (credit) for loan losses	8,586,882	13,101,936	12,752,825
Operating expenses	1,934,886	1,942,834	1,609,208
Income before income taxes	6,651,996	11,159,102	11,143,617
Income tax expense	300,000	150,000	200,000
Net income	\$ 6,351,996	\$ 11,009,102	\$ 10,943,617

Table of Contents

CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

	2008	2007	2006
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Net income	\$ 6,351,996	\$ 11,009,102	\$ 10,943,617
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation	54,970	61,462	65,498
Provision (credit) for loan losses	327,558	(16,000)	-
Amortization and accretion, net	(18,734)	(22,618)	(18,575)
Provision for deferred taxes	(123,005)	(42,065)	(22,320)
Securities gains, net	(3,171,215)	(1,459,228)	(1,333,136)
Other-than-temporary impairment of investment securities	903,600	-	-
Equity in net income of bank subsidiaries	(5,125,234)	(9,897,030)	(9,728,640)
Dividends received from bank subsidiaries	8,864,000	8,849,000	8,734,000
Decrease (increase) in accrued income receivable	29,768	38,323	(9,614)
Decrease (increase) in other assets	(176,535)	(57,126)	225,584
Decrease in accrued expense payable and other liabilities	(131,592)	(100,003)	(206,319)
Net cash provided by operating activities	7,785,577	8,363,817	8,650,095
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Purchase of securities available-for-sale	(9,303,034)	(5,887,840)	(7,130,088)
Proceeds from sale of securities available-for-sale	13,159,215	14,436,995	4,629,061
Proceeds from maturities and calls of securities available-for-sale	3,385,000	2,500,000	2,335,000
Decrease (increase) in interest bearing deposits in banks	9,885,910	(9,688,233)	1,316,834
Decrease (increase) in loans	(18,746,876)	1,063,000	-
Purchase of bank premises and equipment	(3,267)	(6,282)	(36,059)
Investment in bank subsidiaries	-	(750,000)	(160,000)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(1,623,052)	1,667,640	954,748
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from other borrowings, net	4,160,000	-	-
Dividends paid	(10,468,702)	(10,087,229)	(9,704,835)
Proceeds from issuance of stock	69,201	98,921	127,013
Net cash used in financing activities	(6,239,501)	(9,988,308)	(9,577,822)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(76,976)	43,149	27,021
<b>CASH AND DUE FROM BANKS</b>			
Beginning	78,323	35,174	8,153
Ending	\$ 1,347	\$ 78,323	\$ 35,174
<b>SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION</b>			
Cash payments for income taxes	793,080	321,045	110,996

Table of Contents

## Note 15. Selected Quarterly Financial Data (Unaudited)

	2008			
	March 31	June 30	September 30	December 31
Total interest income	\$ 12,014,263	\$ 11,537,705	\$ 11,181,060	\$ 10,781,139
Total interest expense	5,023,193	4,181,050	3,847,132	3,350,317
Net interest income	6,991,070	7,356,655	7,333,928	7,430,822
Provision for loan losses	109,699	818,995	73,514	310,577
Net income	2,900,628	1,867,201	6,906	1,577,261
Basic and diluted earnings per common share	0.31	0.20	-	0.17
	2007			
	March 31	June 30	September 30	December 31
Total interest income	\$ 11,525,367	\$ 11,910,093	\$ 12,003,252	\$ 12,123,366
Total interest expense	5,817,365	6,006,434	6,022,049	5,691,282
Net interest income	5,708,002	5,903,659	5,981,203	6,432,084
Provision (credit) for loan losses	9,728	143,877	(264,131)	16,426
Net income	2,521,014	2,827,431	2,938,539	2,722,118
Basic and diluted earnings per common share	0.27	0.30	0.31	0.29



Table of Contents

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

As of the end of the period covered by this report, an evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(e)). Based on that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer have concluded that the Company's current disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in the reports that it files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms.

Management's annual report on internal control over financial reporting is contained in Item 8 of this Report.

The attestation report of the Company's registered public accounting firm on the Company's internal control over financial reporting is contained in Item 8 of this Report.

There were no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the quarter ended December 31, 2008 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Directors

Refer to the information under the caption "Information Concerning Nominees for Election as Directors" and "Information Concerning Directors Other Than Nominees" contained in the Company's definitive proxy statement prepared in connection with its Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held April 29, 2009, as filed with the SEC on March 19, 2009 (the "Proxy Statement"), which information is incorporated herein by this reference.

Executive Officers

The information required by Item 10 regarding the executive officers appears in Item 1 of Part I of this Report under the heading "Executive Officers of the Company and Banks".

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

101

---

Table of Contents

Refer to the information under the caption “Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance” in the Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by this reference.

Audit Committee

The Company has established an Audit Committee as a standing committee of the Board of Directors. Refer to the information under the caption “Information Concerning the Board of Directors – Board Committees” in the Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by this reference.

Audit Committee Financial Expert

The Board of Directors of the Company has determined that Warren R. Madden, a member of the Audit Committee, qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert" under applicable SEC rules. The Board of Directors has further determined that Mr. Madden qualifies as an "independent" director under applicable SEC rules and the corporate governance rules of the NASDAQ stock market. The Board's affirmative determination was based, among other things, upon Mr. Madden's experience as Vice President of Finance and Business of Iowa State University, a position in which he functions as the principal financial officer of the University.

Code of Ethics

The Company has adopted an Ethics and Confidentiality Policy that applies to all directors, officers and employees of the Company, including the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer of the Company. A copy of this policy is posted on the Company's website at [www.amesnational.com](http://www.amesnational.com). In the event that the Company makes any amendments to, or grants any waivers of, a provision of the Ethics and Confidentiality Policy that requires disclosure under applicable SEC rules, the Company intends to disclose such amendments or waiver and the reasons therefore on its website.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Refer to the information under the caption “Executive Compensation” in the Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by this reference.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED SHAREHOLDER MATTERS

Refer to the information under the caption “Security Ownership of Management and Certain Beneficial Owners” in the Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by this reference. The Company does not maintain any equity compensation plans covering its directors, officers or employees or the officers or employees of the Banks.

Table of Contents

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

Refer to the information under the caption “Loans to Directors and Executive Officers and Related Party Transactions” and “Information Concerning the Board of Directors – Director Independence” in the Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by this reference.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

Refer to the information under the caption "Relationship with Registered Public Accounting Firm" in the Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by this reference.

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) List of Financial Statements and Schedules.

1. Financial Statements

Report of Clifton Gunderson LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm  
Consolidated Balance Sheets, December 31, 2008 and 2007  
Consolidated Statements of Income for the Years ended  
December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006  
Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for  
the Years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006  
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Years ended  
December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

2. Financial Statement Schedules

All schedules are omitted because they are not applicable or not required, or because the required information is included in the consolidated financial statements or notes thereto.

Table of Contents

- (b) List of Exhibits.
- 3.1 - Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Company, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Form 8-K as filed June 16, 2005)
  - 3.2 - Bylaws of the Company, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to Form 8-K as filed February 19, 2008)
  - 10.1 - Management Incentive Compensation Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10 filed with the Company's Annual Report on Form 10K for the year ended December 31, 2002)\*
  - 21 - Subsidiaries of the Registrant
  - 23 - Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
  - 31.1 - Certification of Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
  - 31.2 - Certification of Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
  - 32.1 - Certification of Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350
  - 32.2 - Certification of Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350

\* Indicates a management compensatory plan or arrangement.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

AMES NATIONAL CORPORATION

March 13, 2009

By:

/s/ Thomas H. Pohlman  
Thomas H. Pohlman, President

105

---

Table of Contents

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities indicated and on March 13, 2009.

/s/ Thomas H. Pohlman  
Thomas H. Pohlman, President  
(Principal Executive Officer)

/s/ John P. Nelson  
John P. Nelson, Vice President  
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

/s/ Betty A. Baudler Horras  
Betty A. Baudler Horras, Director

/s/ Robert L. Cramer  
Robert L. Cramer, Director

/s/ Douglas C. Gustafson  
Douglas C. Gustafson, Director

/s/ Charles D. Jons  
Charles D. Jons, Director

/s/ Steven D. Forth  
Steven D. Forth, Director

/s/ James R. Larson II  
James R. Larson II, Director

/s/ Daniel L. Krieger  
Daniel L. Krieger, Director

/s/ Warren R. Madden  
Warren R. Madden, Director

/s/ Larry A. Raymon  
Larry A. Raymon, Director

/s/ Fred C. Samuelson  
Fred C. Samuelson, Director

/s/ Marvin J. Walter  
Marvin J. Walter, Director

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

The following exhibits are filed herewith:

Exhibit No.	Description
<u>21</u>	-Subsidiaries of the Registrant
<u>23</u>	-Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
<u>31.1</u>	-Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002
<u>31.2</u>	-Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002
<u>32.1</u>	-Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350
<u>32.2</u>	-Cert ification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350

107

---