

U.S. 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, 2015

OR

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

For the transition period from ____ to ____

Commission file no. 33-94288

THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Mississippi
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

64-0862173
(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

6480 U.S. Hwy. 98 West
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
(Address of principal executive offices)

39402
(Zip Code)

Issuer's telephone number: (601) 268-8998

Securities registered under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act:

Title of Each Class

Name of Each Exchange on
Which Registered

Common Stock, \$1.00 par value

The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

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

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Yes ☐ No ☒

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Act.

Yes ☐ No ☒

Note – Checking the box above will not relieve any registrant required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act from their obligations under those Sections.

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 of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes ☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes ☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers in response to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the 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 shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes ☐ No ☒

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

definitions of “large accelerated filer,” “accelerated filer,” and “smaller reporting company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act (Check one):

Large accelerated filer ☐ Accelerated filer ☐ Non-accelerated filer ☐ Smaller reporting company ☒

Based on the price at which the registrant’s Common Stock was last sold on March 17, 2016, at that date, the aggregate market value of the registrant’s Common Stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant (assuming solely for the purposes of this calculation that all directors and executive officers of the registrant are “affiliates”) was \$66,933,847.

On March 17, 2016, the registrant had outstanding 5,432,014 shares of common stock.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the following documents are incorporated by reference to Parts II and III of the Form 10-K report: Proxy Statement dated April 15, 2016, and the Annual Report to the Stockholders for the year ended December 31, 2015.

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THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.
FORM 10-K

PART I

This Report contains statements which constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These statements appear in a number of places in this Report and include all statements regarding the intent, belief or current expectations of the Company, its directors or its officers with respect to, among other things: (i) the Company's financing plans; (ii) trends affecting the Company's financial condition or results of operations; (iii) the Company's growth strategy and operating strategy; and (iv) the declaration and payment of dividends. Investors are cautioned that any such forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve risks and uncertainties, and that actual results may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements as a result of various factors discussed herein and those factors discussed in detail in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

BUSINESS OF THE COMPANY

Overview and History

Our company, The First Bancshares, Inc. ("Company") was incorporated on June 23, 1995 to serve as a bank holding company for The First, A National Banking Association ("The First"), headquartered in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The First began operations on August 5, 1996 from our main office in the Oak Grove community, which is now included within the city of Hattiesburg. At year end, the First had 27 branches, one motor bank facility and four loan production offices in the states of Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana.

We exited the recent recession with strong asset quality metrics compared to most of our peers, which we believe illustrates our historically disciplined underwriting and credit culture. As such, we benefited from our strength by taking advantage of growth opportunities when many of our peers were unable to do so. Since that time, we focused on growing earnings per share and increasing our tangible common equity and tangible book value per share. In addition, we returned to strong levels of loan growth by continuing to strengthen our relationships with existing clients and creating new relationships.

In April 2013, we completed our first post-recession acquisition with the purchase of First National Bank of Baldwin County, which resulted in our strategic entry into the south Alabama market. Then in July 2014 we completed our acquisition of Bay Bank, previously headquartered in Mobile, Alabama. The conversion and integration of these acquisitions have been successful to date, and we are optimistic that this market will continue to contribute to our future growth and success. Also in 2014 we established a *de novo* branch in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and a loan production office in Slidell, Louisiana.

We believe we are well-positioned to benefit from the post-Katrina rebuilding efforts along the Gulf Coast. In September 2011 we completed the purchase of eight branches required to be divested by another financial institution. Seven of these branches were located along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and one was in Louisiana.

Our principal executive offices are located at 6480 U.S. Highway 98 West, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402, and our telephone number is (601) 268-8998. As of March 17, 2016, we had 295 full-time employees and 10 part-time employees.

Market Areas and Recent Developments

In Mississippi, we serve the cities of Hattiesburg, Laurel, Purvis, Picayune, Pascagoula, Bay St. Louis, Wiggins, Gulfport, Biloxi, Long Beach, Diamondhead, and the surrounding areas of Lamar, Forrest, Jones, Pearl River, Jackson, Hancock, Stone and Harrison Counties. On December 14, 2015, we completed our acquisition of The Mortgage Connection, which included two loan production offices in Madison and Brandon, Mississippi. In Louisiana, we serve the city of Bogalusa in Washington Parish and Baton Rouge in East Baton Rouge Parish. As a result of the acquisitions of First National Bank of Baldwin County in 2013 and Bay Bank in 2014, we now serve the Baldwin County and Mobile County, Alabama markets with branches in the following cities: Foley, Daphne, Fairhope, Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, Mobile, Dauphin Island and Theodore. In total, The First operates 17 branches in Mississippi, 2 in Louisiana and 9 in Alabama. In addition, The First operates loan production offices in Bay Minette, Alabama, Slidell, Louisiana, and in Madison and Brandon, Mississippi.

Banking Services

We strive to provide our customers with the breadth of products and services offered by large regional banks, while maintaining the timely response and personal service of a locally owned and managed bank. In addition to offering a full range of deposit services and commercial and personal loans, we have a mortgage division. The following is a description of the products and services we offer.

Deposit Services . We offer a full range of deposit services that are typically available in most banks and savings and loan associations, including checking accounts, NOW accounts, savings accounts, and other time deposits of various types, ranging from daily money market accounts to longer-term certificates of deposit. The transaction accounts and time certificates are tailored to our principal market area at rates competitive to those offered by other banks in the area. All deposit accounts are insured by the FDIC up to the maximum amount allowed by law. We solicit these accounts from individuals, businesses, associations and organizations, and governmental authorities. In addition, we offer certain retirement account services, such as Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).

Loan Products . We offer a full range of commercial and personal loans. Commercial loans include both secured and unsecured loans for working capital (including loans secured by inventory and accounts receivable), business expansion (including acquisition of real estate and improvements), and purchase of equipment and machinery. Consumer loans include equity lines of credit and secured and unsecured loans for financing automobiles, home improvements, education, and personal investments. We also make real estate construction and acquisition loans. Our lending activities are subject to a variety of lending limits imposed by federal law. While differing limits apply in certain circumstances based on the type of loan or the nature of the borrower (including the borrower's relationship to the bank), in general we are subject to a loans-to-one-borrower limit of an amount equal to 15% of our unimpaired capital and surplus.

Mortgage Loan Division . We have a mortgage loan division which originates loans to purchase existing or construct new homes and to refinance existing mortgages.

Private Banking Division. We have a Private Banking Division, which offers financial services and wealth management services to individuals who meet certain criteria.

Other Services . Other bank services we offer include on-line internet banking services, voice response telephone inquiry service, commercial sweep accounts, cash management services, safe deposit boxes, travelers checks, direct deposit of payroll and social security checks, and automatic drafts for various accounts. We are associated with the Interlink, Plus, Pulse, Star, and Community Cash networks of automated teller machines that may be used by our customers throughout our market area and other regions. The First also offers VISA and MasterCard credit card services through a correspondent bank.

Competition

Our banking subsidiary The First generally competes with other financial institutions through the selection of banking products and services offered, the pricing of services, the level of service provided, the convenience and availability of services, and the degree of expertise and the personal manner in which services are offered. State law permits statewide branching by banks and savings institutions, and many financial institutions in our market area have branch networks. Consequently, commercial banking in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana is highly competitive. Many large banking organizations currently operate in our market area, several of which are controlled by out-of-state ownership. In addition, competition between commercial banks and thrift institutions (savings institutions and credit unions) has been intensified significantly by the elimination of many previous distinctions between the various types of financial institutions and the expanded powers and increased activity of thrift institutions in areas of banking which previously had been the sole domain of commercial banks. Federal legislation, together with other regulatory changes by the primary regulators of the various financial institutions, has resulted in the almost total elimination of practical distinctions between a commercial bank and a thrift institution. Consequently, competition among financial institutions of all types is largely unlimited with respect to legal ability and authority to provide most financial services. Currently there are numerous other commercial banks, savings institutions, and credit unions operating in The First's primary service area.

We face increased competition from both federally-chartered and state-chartered financial and thrift institutions, as well as credit unions, consumer finance companies, insurance companies, and other institutions in the Company's market area. Some of these competitors are not subject to the same degree of regulation and restriction imposed upon the Company. Many of these competitors also have broader geographic markets and substantially greater resources and lending limits than the Company and offer certain services such as trust banking that the Company does not currently provide. In addition, many of these competitors have numerous branch offices located throughout the extended market areas of the Company that may provide these competitors with an advantage in geographic convenience that the Company does not have at present.

We also compete with numerous financial and quasi-financial institutions for deposits and loans, including providers of financial services over the internet. Recent technology advances and other changes have allowed parties to effectuate financial transactions that previously required the involvement of banks. For example, consumers can maintain funds in brokerage accounts or mutual funds that would have historically been held as bank deposits. Consumers can also complete transactions such as paying bills and transferring funds directly without the assistance of banks. The process of eliminating banks as intermediaries, known as "disintermediation," could result in the loss of fee income, as well as the loss of customer deposits and the related income generated from those deposits.

Available Information

We make available free of charge, on or through our website www.thefirstbank.com, our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, and other filings pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and amendments to such filings, as soon as reasonably practicable after each is electronically filed with, or furnished to, the SEC. You may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains a website that contains the Company's reports, proxy statements, and the Company's other SEC filings. The address of the SEC's website is www.sec.gov. Information appearing on the Company's website is not part of any report that it files with the SEC.

SUPERVISION AND REGULATION

The Company and The First are subject to state and federal banking laws and regulations which impose specific requirements or restrictions on and provide for general regulatory oversight with respect to virtually all aspects of our operations. These laws and regulations are generally intended to protect depositors, not shareholders. To the extent that the following summary describes statutory or regulatory provisions, it is qualified in its entirety by reference to the particular statutory and regulatory provisions. Any change in applicable laws or regulations may have a material effect on the business and prospects of the Company. Beginning with the enactment of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act of 1989 and following with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 ("FDICIA"), and now most recently the sweeping Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (the "Dodd-Frank Act"), numerous additional regulatory requirements have been placed on the banking industry in the past several years, and additional changes have been proposed. The operations of the Company and The First may be affected by legislative changes and the policies of various regulatory authorities. We are unable to predict the nature or the extent of the effect on our business and earnings that fiscal or monetary policies, economic control, or new federal or state legislation may have in the future.

Bank Holding Company Regulation

The Company is subject to extensive regulation by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the “Federal Reserve”) pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the “Bank Holding Company Act”). The Company is also required to file certain reports with, and otherwise comply with the rules and regulations of the SEC under federal securities laws.

Federal Regulation

The Company is registered with the Federal Reserve as a bank holding company and has elected to be treated as a financial holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act. As such, the Company and its subsidiaries are subject to the supervision, examination and reporting requirements of the Bank Holding Company Act and the regulations of the Federal Reserve.

The Bank Holding Company Act generally prohibits a corporation that owns a federally insured financial institution (“bank”) from engaging in activities other than banking, managing or controlling banks or other subsidiaries engaging in permissible activities. Also prohibited is acquiring or obtaining control of more than 5% of the voting interests of any company that engages in activities other than those activities determined by the Federal Reserve to be so closely related to banking, managing or controlling banks as to be proper incident thereto. In determining whether a particular activity is permissible, the Federal Reserve considers whether the performance of the activity can reasonably be expected to produce benefits to the public that outweigh possible adverse effects. Examples of activities that the Federal Reserve has determined to be permissible are making, acquiring or servicing loans; leasing personal property; providing certain investment or financial advice; performing certain data processing services; acting as agent or broker in selling credit life insurance; and performing certain insurance underwriting activities. The Bank Holding Company Act does not place territorial limits on permissible bank-related activities of bank holding companies. Even with respect to permissible activities, however, the Federal Reserve has the power to order a holding company or its subsidiaries to terminate any activity or its control of any subsidiary when the Federal Reserve has reasonable cause to believe that continuation of such activity or control of such subsidiary would pose a serious risk to the financial safety, soundness or stability of any bank subsidiary of that holding company. The Bank Holding Company Act requires every bank holding company to obtain the prior approval of the Federal Reserve before it: (1) acquires ownership or control of any voting shares of any bank if, after such acquisition, such bank holding company will own or control more than 5% of the voting shares of such bank, (2) or any of its non-bank subsidiaries acquire all of the assets of a bank, (3) merges with any other bank holding company, or (4) engages in permissible non-banking activities. In reviewing a proposed covered acquisition, the Federal Reserve considers a bank holding company’s financial, managerial and competitive posture. The future prospects of the companies and banks concerned and the convenience and needs of the community to be served are also considered. The Federal Reserve also reviews the indebtedness to be incurred by a bank holding company in connection with the proposed acquisition to ensure that the bank holding company can service such indebtedness without adversely affecting its ability, and the ability of its subsidiaries, to meet their respective regulatory capital requirements. The Bank Holding Company Act further requires that consummation of approved bank holding company or bank acquisitions or mergers must be delayed for a period of not less than 15 or more than 30 days following the date of Federal Reserve approval. During such 15 to 30-day period, the Department of Justice has the right to review the competitive aspects of the proposed transaction. The Department of Justice may file a lawsuit with the relevant United States Court of Appeals seeking an injunction against the proposed acquisition.

As described above, the prior approval of the Federal Reserve must be obtained before the Company may acquire substantially all of the assets of any bank, or ownership or control of any voting shares of any bank, if, after such acquisition, it would own or control, directly or indirectly, more than 5% of the voting shares of such bank. The Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act of 1994 (the “Riegle-Neal Act”) permits adequately capitalized and managed bank holding companies to acquire control of banks in any state, subject to federal regulatory approval, without regard to whether such a transaction is prohibited by the laws of any state. The Riegle-Neal Act further provides that a bank holding company may not, following an interstate acquisition, control more than 10% of nationwide insured deposits or 30% of deposits within any state in which the acquiring bank operates. States have the right to adopt legislation to lower the 30% limit, although no states within the Company’s current market area have done so. Additional provisions require that interstate activities conform to the Community Reinvestment Act, which is intended to encourage depository institutions to help meet the credit needs of the communities in which they operate, including low-and moderate-income neighborhoods, consistent with safe and sound operations.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (the “Dodd-Frank Act”) authorizes national and state banks to establish de novo branches in other states to the same extent a bank chartered in those states would be so permitted.

The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999 (the “Financial Services Modernization Act”) established a comprehensive framework that permits affiliations among qualified bank holding companies, commercial banks, insurance companies, securities firms, and other financial service providers by revising and expanding the Bank Holding Company Act framework to permit a holding company to engage in a full range of financial activities through a financial holding company.

Capital Requirements

General Risk-Based and Leverage-Based Capital Requirements

The Federal Reserve has adopted capital adequacy guidelines for use in its examination and regulation of bank holding companies and financial holding companies. The regulatory capital of a bank holding company or financial holding company under applicable federal capital adequacy guidelines is particularly important in the Federal Reserve’s evaluation of the overall safety and soundness of the bank holding company or financial holding company and are important factors considered by the Federal Reserve in evaluating any applications made by such holding company to the Federal Reserve. If regulatory capital falls below minimum guideline levels, a financial holding company may lose its status as a financial holding company and a bank holding company or bank may be denied approval to acquire or establish additional banks or non-bank businesses or to open additional facilities. Additionally, each bank subsidiary of a financial holding company as well as the holding company itself must be well capitalized and well managed as determined by the subsidiary bank’s primary federal regulator, which in the case of The First, is the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (the “OCC”). To be considered well managed, the bank and holding company must have received at least a satisfactory composite rating and a satisfactory management rating at its most recent examination. The Federal Reserve rates bank holding companies through a confidential component and composite 1-5 rating system, with a composite rating of 1 being the highest rating and 5 being the lowest. This system is designed to help identify institutions requiring special attention. Financial institutions are assigned ratings based on evaluation and rating of their financial condition and operations. Components reviewed include capital adequacy, asset quality, management capability, the quality and level of earnings, the adequacy of liquidity and sensitivity to interest rate fluctuations. As of December 31, 2015, the Company and The First were both well capitalized and well managed.

A financial holding company that becomes aware that it or a subsidiary bank has ceased to be well capitalized or well managed must notify the Federal Reserve and enter into an agreement to cure the identified deficiency. If the deficiency is not cured timely, the Federal Reserve Board may order the financial holding company to divest its banking operations. Alternatively, to avoid divestiture, a financial holding company may cease to engage in the financial holding company activities that are unrelated to banking or otherwise impermissible for a bank holding company.

Below are measures of regulatory capital applicable to holding companies in 2015.

	Minimum	Company at 12/31/2015
Tier 1 leverage capital ratio	4.00%	8.66%
Common equity Tier 1 capital ratio	4.50%	8.10%
Tier 1 capital ratio	6.00%	11.09%
Total risk-based capital (Tier 1 plus Tier 2)	8.00%	11.86%

The essential difference between the leverage capital ratio and the risk-based capital ratios is that the latter identify and weight both balance sheet and off-balance sheet risks. Tier 1 capital generally includes common equity, retained earnings, qualifying minority interests (issued by consolidated depository institutions or foreign bank subsidiaries), accounts of consolidated subsidiaries and an amount of qualifying perpetual preferred stock, limited to 50% of Tier 1 capital. In calculating Tier 1 capital, goodwill and other disallowed intangibles and disallowed deferred tax assets and certain other assets are excluded. Tier 2 capital is a secondary component of risk-based capital, consisting primarily of perpetual preferred stock that may not be included as Tier 1 capital, mandatory convertible securities, certain types of subordinated debt and an amount of the allowance for loan losses (limited to 1.25% of risk weighted assets).

The risk-based capital guidelines are designed to make regulatory capital requirements more sensitive to differences in risk profiles among banks and bank holding companies, to take into account off-balance sheet exposure and to minimize disincentives for holding liquid assets. Under the risk-based capital guidelines, assets are assigned to one of four risk categories: 0%, 20%, 50% and 100%. For example, U.S. Treasury securities are assigned to the 0% risk category while most categories of loans are assigned to the 100% risk category. Off-balance sheet exposures such as standby letters of credit are risk-weighted and all or a portion thereof are included in risk-weighted assets based on an assessment of the relative risks that they present. The risk-weighted asset base is equal to the sum of the aggregate dollar values of assets and off-balance sheet items in each risk category, multiplied by the weight assigned to that category.

Basel III Capital Requirements Effective January 1, 2015

On July 2, 2013, the Company's and The First's primary federal regulators—the Federal Reserve Board and the OCC—adopted final rules implementing the Basel III framework, which substantially revises the leverage and risk-based capital requirements currently applicable to bank holding companies and depository institutions. These final rules are based on international capital accords of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (the “Basel Committee”).

The new rules address both the components of capital and other issues affecting the numerator in banking institutions' regulatory capital ratios, as well as the risk weights and other issues affecting the denominator, replacing the existing Basel I-derived risk weighting approach with a more risk-sensitive approach based, in part, on the standardized approach in the Basel Committee's 2004 “Basel II” capital accords. Regarding the denominator, under the final rules, the Company, among other items, will be required to increase the risk weights applied to certain high volatility commercial real estate loans and to certain loans past due. Additionally, the Company will be required to risk weight at 20% the conversion factors for commitments with an original maturity of one year or less that are not unconditionally cancellable at any time. Regarding the numerator under the final rules, NOLs and tax credits carried forward will be deducted from Tier 1 capital. Additionally, there are deductions and adjustments to capital for goodwill and other intangibles as well as deductions and adjustments to capital by the amount that the carrying value of certain assets exceeds 10% of capital. Examples of these assets are deferred tax assets, mortgage servicing rights, significant investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries, investments in certain capital instruments of financial entities and unrealized gains on cash flow hedges included in accumulated other comprehensive income arising from hedges not carried at fair market value on the balance sheet. Under the final rules, some banks, including The First, are given a one-time “opt out” in which they may elect to filter certain volatile accumulated other comprehensive income (“AOCI”) components from inclusion in regulatory capital. The AOCI opt-out election must be made on the institution's first Call Report, FR Y-9C or FR Y-9SP, as applicable, filed after January 1, 2015. The Company and The First elected to opt out.

The final rules established a new category of capital measure, Common Equity Tier 1 capital, which includes a limited number of capital instruments from the existing definition of Tier 1 Capital, as well as raised minimum thresholds for Tier 1 Leverage capital (100 basis points), and Tier 1 Risk-based capital (200 basis points). Additionally, the final rules introduced a capital conservation buffer of Common Equity Tier 1, Tier 1 Risk-based and Total Risk-based capital ratios above the minimum risk-based capital requirements. The buffer must be maintained to avoid limitations on capital distributions and limitations on discretionary bonus payments to executive officers. Each of the minimum capital ratios takes effect in 2015, with the capital conservation buffer set to be phased in beginning in 2016 and implemented in full by 2019. Based on estimated capital ratios using Basel III definitions, the Company and The First currently exceed all capital requirements of the new rule, including the fully phased-in conservation buffer.

Basel III Capital Adequacy Ratios
Effective January 1, 2015

	Minimum	Well-Capitalized	2016	2017	2018	2019
Tier I leverage capital ratio	4.00%	5.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Common equity Tier I capital	4.50%	6.50%	5.125%	5.75%	6.375%	7.00%
Tier I capital	6.00%	8.00%	6.625%	7.25%	7.875%	8.50%
Total risk-based capital (Tier 1 plus Tier 2)	8.00%	10.00%	8.625%	9.25%	9.875%	10.50%

Federal Reserve Oversight

The Company is required to give the Federal Reserve prior written notice of any purchase or redemption of its outstanding equity securities if the gross consideration for the purchase or redemption, when combined with the net consideration paid for all such purchases or redemptions during the preceding 12 months, is equal to 10% or more of the Company's consolidated net worth. The Federal Reserve may disapprove such a transaction if it determines that the proposed redemption or stock purchase would constitute an unsafe or unsound practice, would violate any law, regulation, Federal Reserve order or directive or any condition imposed by, or written agreement with, the Federal Reserve.

The Federal Reserve has issued its "Policy Statement on Cash Dividends Not Fully Covered by Earnings (the "Policy Statement")" which sets forth various guidelines that the Federal Reserve believes a bank holding company should follow in establishing its dividend policy. In general, the Federal Reserve stated that bank holding companies should pay dividends only out of current earnings. The Federal Reserve also stated that dividends should not be paid unless the prospective rate of earnings retention by the holding company appears consistent with its capital needs, asset quality and overall financial condition.

The Company is required to file annual and quarterly reports with the Federal Reserve, and such additional information as the Federal Reserve may require pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act. The Federal Reserve may examine a bank holding company or any of its subsidiaries.

Additional Federal Regulatory Issues

In June 2010, the federal banking agencies issued joint guidance on executive compensation designed to help ensure that a banking organization's incentive compensation policies do not encourage imprudent risk taking and are consistent with the safety and soundness of the organization. In addition, the Dodd-Frank Act requires those agencies, along with the Commission, to adopt rules to require reporting of incentive compensation and to prohibit certain compensation arrangements. The federal banking agencies and the Commission proposed such rules in April 2011. In addition, in June 2012, the Commission issued final rules to implement the Dodd-Frank Act's requirement that the Commission direct the national securities exchanges to adopt certain listing standards related to the compensation committee of a company's board of directors as well as its compensation advisers.

The Company is a legal entity separate and distinct from The First. There are various restrictions that limit the ability of The First to finance, pay dividends or otherwise supply funds to the Company or other affiliates. In addition, subsidiary banks of holding companies are subject to certain restrictions under Sections 23A and 23B of the Federal Reserve Act on any extension of credit to the bank holding company or any of its subsidiaries, on investments in the stock or other securities thereof and on the taking of such stock or securities as collateral for loans to any borrower. Further, a bank holding company and its subsidiaries are prohibited from engaging in certain tie-in arrangements in connection with extensions of credit, leases or sales of property, or furnishing of services.

Stress Testing

The Dodd-Frank Act requires stress testing of certain bank holding companies and banks that have more than \$10 billion but less than \$50 billion of consolidated assets (“medium-sized companies”). Additional stress testing is required for banking organizations having \$50 billion or more of assets. Because the consolidated assets of the Company and The First are less than these threshold levels, the stress test requirements are not applicable to the Company or to The First at present.

Company Participation in Legislative and Regulatory Initiatives

The Congress, Treasury Department and the federal banking regulators, including the FDIC, have taken broad action since early September 2008 to address volatility in the U.S. banking system. In October 2008, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (“EESA”) was enacted. The EESA authorized the Treasury Department to purchase from financial institutions and their holding companies up to \$700 billion in mortgage loans, mortgage-related securities and certain other financial instruments, including debt and equity securities issued by financial institutions and their holding companies in a troubled asset relief program (“TARP”). The purpose of TARP was to restore confidence and stability to the U.S. banking system and to encourage financial institutions to increase their lending to customers and to each other. The Treasury Department allocated \$250 billion towards the TARP Capital Purchase Program (“CPP”), pursuant to which the Treasury Department purchased debt or equity securities from participating institutions. The TARP also included the Community Development Capital Initiative (“CDCI”), which was made available only to certified Community Development Financial Institutions (“CDFIs”) and imposed a lower dividend or interest rate, as applicable, than the CPP funding. Participants in the TARP are subject to executive compensation limits and are encouraged to expand their lending and mortgage loan modifications.

On February 6, 2009, as part of the CPP, the Company entered into a Letter Agreement and Securities Purchase Agreement (collectively, the “Purchase Agreement”) with the Treasury Department, pursuant to which the Company sold (i) 5,000 shares of the Company’s Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series UST (the “CPP Preferred Stock”) and (ii) a warrant (the “Warrant”) to purchase 54,705 shares of the Company’s Common Stock for an exercise price of \$13.71 per share. On September 29, 2010, after successfully obtaining CDFI certification, the Company exited the CPP by refinancing its CPP funding into lower-cost CDCI funding and also accepted additional CDCI funding. In connection with this transaction, the Company retired its CPP Preferred Stock and issued to the Treasury Department 17,123 shares of the Company’s Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series CD (the “CDCI Preferred Stock”). Including refinanced funding and newly obtained funding, the Company’s total CDCI funding is \$17,123,000.

The CDCI Preferred Stock qualifies as Tier 1 capital and, provided that the Company maintains its CDFI eligibility and certification, is entitled to cumulative dividends at a rate of 2% per annum until 2018, and 9% per annum thereafter. The Warrant has a 10-year term and is immediately exercisable upon its issuance, and its exercise price is subject to anti-dilution adjustments.

In order to benefit from the lower dividend rate associated with the CDCI Preferred Stock, the Company is required to maintain compliance with the eligibility requirements of the CDFI Program. These eligibility requirements include the following:

- The Company must have a primary mission of promoting community development, based on criteria set forth in 12 C.F.R. 1805.201(b)(1);
- The Company must provide Financial Products, Development Services, and/or other similar financing as a predominant business activity in arm’s-length transactions, as provided in 12 C.F.R. 1805.201(b)(2);
- The Company must serve a Target Market by serving one or more Investment Areas and/or Targeted Populations, substantially in the manner set forth in 12 C.F.R. 1805.201(b)(3);

- The Company must provide Development Services in conjunction with its Financial Products, either directly, through an Affiliate, or through a contract with a third-party provider, as provided in 12 C.F.R. 1805.201(b)(4);
- The Company must maintain accountability to residents of the applicable Investment Area(s) and/or Targeted Population(s) through representation on its governing Board of Directors or otherwise, as provided in 12 C.F.R. 1805.201(b)(5); and
- The Company must remain a non-governmental entity which is not an agency or instrumentality of the United States of America, or any State or political subdivision thereof, as described in 12 C.F.R. 1805.201(b)(6) and within the meaning of any supplemental regulations or interpretations of 12 C.F.R. 1805.201(b)(6) or such supplemental regulations published by the Fund.

As used in the discussion above, the terms “Affiliate,” “Financial Products,” “Development Services,” “Target Market,” “Investment Area(s),” and “Targeted Population(s)” have the meanings ascribed to such terms in 12 C.F.R. 1805.104.

American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009. The America Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (“ARRA”) contained expansive new restrictions on executive compensation for financial institutions and other companies participating in the TARP. These restrictions apply to us and are further detailed in implementing regulations found at 31 CFR Part 30. (Any reference to “ARRA” herein includes a reference to the implementing regulations.)

ARRA prohibits bonus and similar payments to the most highly compensated employee of the Company. The prohibition does not apply to bonuses payable pursuant to “employment agreements” in effect prior to February 11, 2009. “Long-term” restricted stock is excluded from ARRA’s bonus prohibition, but only to the extent the value of the stock does not exceed one-third of the total amount of annual compensation of the employee receiving the stock, the stock does not “fully vest” until after all TARP-related obligations have been satisfied, and any other conditions which the Treasury may specify have been met.

ARRA prohibits any payment to the principal executive officer, the principal financial officer, and any of the next eight most highly compensated employees upon departure from the Company for any reason for as long as any TARP-related obligations remain outstanding.

Under ARRA TARP-participating companies are required to recover any bonus or other incentive payment paid to the principal executive officer, the principal financial officer, or any of the next 23 most highly compensated employees on the basis of materially inaccurate financial or other performance criteria.

ARRA prohibits TARP participants from implementing any compensation plan that would encourage manipulation of the reported earnings of the Company in order to enhance the compensation of any of its employees.

ARRA requires the principal executive officer and the principal financial officer of any publicly-traded TARP-participating company to provide a written certification of compliance with the executive compensation restrictions in ARRA in the Company’s annual filings with the SEC beginning in 2010.

ARRA requires each TARP-participating company to implement a company-wide policy regarding excessive or luxury expenditures, including excessive expenditures on entertainment or events, office and facility renovations, aviation or other transportation services.

ARRA directs the Treasury to review bonuses, retention awards, and other compensation paid to the principal executive officer and the next four other highest paid executive officer of the Company and the next 20 most highly compensated employees of each company receiving TARP assistance before ARRA was enacted, and to “seek to negotiate” with the TARP recipient and affected employees for reimbursement if it finds any such payments were inconsistent with TARP or otherwise in conflict with the public interest.

ARRA also prohibits the payment of tax gross-ups; required disclosures related to perquisite payments and the engagement, if any, by the TARP participant of a compensation consultant; and prohibits the deduction for tax purposes of executive compensation in excess of \$500,000 for each applicable senior executive.

These standards could change based on subsequent guidance issued by the Treasury or the Internal Revenue Service. As long as the Treasury continues to hold equity interests in the Company issued under the TARP, the Company will monitor its compensation arrangements and modify such compensation arrangements, agree to limit and limit its compensation deductions, and take such other actions as may be necessary to comply with the standards discussed above, as they may be modified from time to time. We do not anticipate that any material changes to the Company's existing executive compensation structure will be required to comply with the executive compensation standards included in the TARP.

The First, A National Banking Association

The First operates as a national banking association incorporated under the laws of the United States and subject to examination by the OCC. Deposits in The First are insured by the FDIC up to a maximum amount (generally \$250,000 per depositor, subject to aggregation rules). The OCC and the FDIC regulate or monitor virtually all areas of The First's operations, including security devices and procedures, adequacy of capitalization and loan loss reserves, loans, investments, borrowings, deposits, mergers, issuances of securities, payment of dividends, interest rates payable on deposits, interest rates or fees chargeable on loans, establishment of branches, corporate reorganizations, maintenance of books and records, and adequacy of staff training to carry on safe lending and deposit gathering practices. The OCC requires The First to maintain certain capital ratios and imposes limitations on The First's aggregate investment in real estate, bank premises, and furniture and fixtures. The First is required by the OCC to prepare quarterly reports on their financial condition and to conduct an annual audit of their financial affairs in compliance with minimum standards and procedures prescribed by the OCC.

Under FDICIA, all insured institutions must undergo regular on-site examinations by their appropriate banking agency. The cost of examinations of insured depository institutions and any affiliates may be assessed by the appropriate agency against each institution or affiliate as it deems necessary or appropriate. Insured institutions are required to submit annual reports to the FDIC and the appropriate agency (and state supervisor when applicable). FDICIA also directs the FDIC to develop with other appropriate agencies a method for insured depository institutions to provide supplemental disclosure of the estimated fair market value of assets and liabilities, to the extent feasible and practicable, in any balance sheet, financial statement, report of condition, or any other report of any insured depository institution. FDICIA also requires the federal banking regulatory agencies to prescribe, by regulation, standards for all insured depository institutions and depository institution holding companies relating, among other things, to: (i) internal controls, information systems, and audit systems; (ii) loan documentation; (iii) credit underwriting; (iv) interest rate risk exposure; and (v) asset quality.

National banks and their holding companies which have been chartered or registered or undergone a change in control within the past two years or which have been deemed by the OCC or the Federal Reserve Board, respectively, to be troubled institutions must give the OCC or the Federal Reserve Board, respectively, thirty days prior notice of the appointment of any senior executive officer or director. Within the thirty day period, the OCC or the Federal Reserve Board, as the case may be, may approve or disapprove any such appointment.

Deposit Insurance. The FDIC establishes rates for the payment of premiums by federally insured banks and thrifts for deposit insurance. A Deposit Insurance Fund ("DIF") is maintained for commercial banks and thrifts, with insurance premiums from the industry used to offset losses from insurance payouts when banks and thrifts fail. Since 1993, insured depository institutions like The First have paid for deposit insurance under a risk-based premium system. Assessments are calculated based on the depository institution's average consolidated total assets, less its average amount of tangible equity.

Transactions With Affiliates and Insiders. The First is subject to Section 23A of the Federal Reserve Act, which places limits on the amount of loans to, and certain other transactions with, affiliates, as well as on the amount of advances to third parties collateralized by the securities or obligations of affiliates. The aggregate of all covered transactions is limited in amount, as to any one affiliate, to 10% of The First's capital and surplus and, as to all affiliates combined, to 20% of The First's capital and surplus. Furthermore, within the foregoing limitations as to amount, each covered transaction must meet specified collateral requirements.

The First is also subject to Section 23B of the Federal Reserve Act, which prohibits an institution from engaging in certain transactions with affiliates unless the transactions are on terms substantially the same, or at least as favorable to such institution, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with nonaffiliated companies. The First is subject to certain restrictions on extensions of credit to executive officers, directors, certain principal shareholders, and their related interests. Such extensions of credit (i) must be made on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with third parties and (ii) must not involve more than the normal risk of repayment or present other unfavorable features.

Dividends. The principal source of funds from which we pay cash dividends are the dividends received from our bank subsidiary, The First. Federal banking laws and regulations restrict the amount of dividends and loans a bank may make to its parent company. Under certain conditions, dividends paid to us by The First are subject to approval by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. A national bank may not pay dividends from its capital. All dividends must be paid out of undivided profits then on hand, after deducting expenses, including reserves for losses and bad debts. In addition, a national bank is prohibited from declaring a dividend on its shares of common stock until its surplus equals its stated capital, unless the bank has transferred to surplus no less than one-tenth of its net profits of the preceding two consecutive half-year periods (in the case of an annual dividend). The approval of the OCC is required if the total of all dividends declared by a national bank in any calendar year exceeds the total of its net profits for that year combined with its retained net profits for the preceding two years, less any required transfers to surplus. In addition, under FDICIA, the banks may not pay a dividend if, after paying the dividend, the bank would be undercapitalized. See "Capital Requirements" above.

Additionally, as discussed above we participate in the CDCI, part of the TARP. We received \$17,123,000 in funding under the CDCI in exchange for our issuance of preferred stock and common stock warrants on September 29, 2010. Participation in the CDCI program constrains our ability to raise dividends by limiting our annual dividend payments on our Common Stock to no more than \$0.15 per share annually. The dividend rate payable on the CDCI preferred stock increases from two percent (2%) to nine percent (9%) in 2018, and therefore we may be required to repay the CDCI funds in order to avoid the increased preferred stock dividend payment. Our ability to repurchase our common stock would also be restricted in the event that we failed to make our dividend payments on the preferred stock. Under TARP, we may redeem the CDCI preferred stock at any time without penalty.

Branching. National banks are required by the National Bank Act to adhere to branch office banking laws applicable to state banks in the states in which they are located. Under current Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana law, banks may open branches throughout these states with the prior approval of the OCC or other primary federal regulator. In addition, with prior regulatory approval, banks are able to acquire existing banking operations in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana. Furthermore, federal legislation has recently been passed which permits interstate branching. The new law permits out of state acquisitions by bank holding companies (subject to veto by new state law), interstate branching by banks if allowed by state law, interstate merging by banks, and de novo branching by national banks if allowed by state law.

Community Reinvestment Act. The Community Reinvestment Act requires that, in connection with examinations of financial institutions within their respective jurisdictions, the Federal Reserve, the FDIC, the OCC, or the Office of Thrift Supervision shall evaluate the record of the financial institutions in meeting the credit needs of their local communities, including low and moderate income neighborhoods, consistent with the safe and sound operation of those institutions. These factors are also considered in evaluating mergers, acquisitions, and applications to open a branch or facility.

USA Patriot Act. In 2001, the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 (the "USA Patriot Act") was signed into law. The USA Patriot Act broadened the application of anti-money laundering regulations to apply to additional types of financial institutions, such as broker-dealers, and strengthened the ability of the U.S. government to detect and prosecute international money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The principal provisions of Title III of the USA Patriot Act require that regulated financial institutions, including banks: (i) establish an anti-money laundering program that includes training and audit components; (ii) comply with regulations regarding the verification of the identity of any person seeking to open an account; (iii) take additional required precautions with non-U.S. owned accounts; and (iv) perform certain verification and certification of money laundering risk for their foreign correspondent banking relationships. The USA Patriot Act also expanded the conditions under which funds in a U.S. interbank account may be subject to forfeiture and increased the penalties for violation of anti-money laundering regulations. Failure of a financial institution to comply with the USA Patriot Act's requirements could have serious legal and reputational consequences for the institution. The First has adopted policies, procedures and controls to address compliance with the requirements of the USA Patriot Act under the existing regulations and will continue to revise and update its policies, procedures and controls to reflect changes required by the USA Patriot Act and implementing regulations.

Other Bank Regulations. Interest and certain other charges collected or contracted for by The First are subject to state usury laws and certain federal laws concerning interest rates. The First's loan operations are subject to certain federal laws applicable to credit transactions, such as the federal Truth-In-Lending Act, governing disclosures of credit terms to consumer borrowers; the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975, requiring financial institutions to provide information to enable the public and public officials to determine whether a financial institution is fulfilling its obligation to help meet the housing needs community it serves; the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of creed or other prohibited factors in extending credit; the Fair Credit Reporting Act of 1978, governing the use and provision of information to credit reporting agencies; the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, concerning the manner in which consumer debts may be collected by collection agencies; and the rules and regulations of the various federal agencies charged with the responsibility of implementing such federal laws. The deposit operations of The First also are subject to the Right to Financial Privacy Act, which imposes a duty to maintain confidentiality of consumer financial records and prescribes procedures for complying with administrative subpoenas of financial records, and the Electronic Funds Transfer Act and Regulation E issued by the Federal Reserve Board to implement that Act, which governs automatic deposits to and withdrawals from deposit accounts and customers' rights and liabilities arising from the use of automated teller machines and other electronic banking services.

Other Regulatory Matters

Risk-retention rules. Under the final risk-retention rules, banks that sponsor the securitization of asset-backed securities and residential-mortgage backed securities are required to retain 5% of any loan they sell or securitize, except for mortgages that meet low-risk standards to be developed by regulators.

Changes to federal preemption. The Dodd-Frank Act created a new independent supervisory body, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (the "CFPB") that is to be housed within the Federal Reserve. The CFPB is the primary regulator for federal consumer financial statutes. State attorneys general are authorized to enforce new regulations issued by the CFPB. Although state consumer financial laws will continue to be preempted under the National Bank Act, OCC determinations of such preemption are made on a case-by-case basis. As a result, it is possible that state consumer financial laws enacted in the future may be held to apply to our business activities. The cost of complying with any such additional laws could have a negative impact on our financial results.

Changes to regulation of bank holding companies. Under the Dodd-Frank Act, bank holding companies must be well-capitalized and well-managed to engage in interstate transactions. In the past, only the subsidiary banks were required to meet those standards. The Federal Reserve Board's "source of strength doctrine" has now been codified, mandating that bank holding companies such as the Company serve as a source of strength for their subsidiary banks, such that the bank holding company must be able to provide financial assistance in the event the subsidiary bank experiences financial distress.

Mortgage Rules. During 2013, the CFPB finalized a series of rules related to the extension of residential mortgage loans made by banks. Among these rules are requirements that a bank make a good faith determination that a borrower has the ability to repay a mortgage loan prior to extending such credit, a requirement that certain mortgage loans contain escrow payments, new appraisal requirements, and specific rules regarding how loan originators may be compensated and the servicing of residential mortgage loans. The implementation of these new rules began in January 2014.

Volcker Rule. In December 2013, the Federal Reserve, the FDIC, the OCC, the Commission, and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission issued the “Prohibitions And Restrictions On Proprietary Trading And Certain Interests In, And Relationships With, Hedge Funds And Private Equity Funds,” commonly referred to as the Volcker Rule, which regulates and restricts investments which may be made by banks. The Volcker Rule was adopted to implement a portion of the Dodd-Frank Act and new Section 13 of the Bank Holding Company Act, which prohibits any banking entity from engaging in proprietary trading or from acquiring or retaining an ownership interest in, or sponsoring or having certain relationships with, a hedge fund or private equity fund (“covered funds”), subject to certain exemptions.

Debit Interchange Fees

Interchange fees, or “swipe” fees, are fees that merchants pay to credit card companies and card-issuing banks such as The First for processing electronic payment transactions on their behalf. The maximum permissible interchange fee that an issuer may receive for an electronic debit transaction is the sum of 21 cents per transaction and 5 basis points multiplied by the value of the transaction, subject to an upward adjustment of 1 cent if an issuer certifies that it has implemented policies and procedures reasonably designed to achieve the fraud-prevention standards set forth by the Federal Reserve.

In addition, the legislation prohibits card issuers and networks from entering into exclusive arrangements requiring that debit card transactions be processed on a single network or only two affiliated networks, and allows merchants to determine transaction routing. Due to the Company’s size, The Federal Reserve rule limiting debit interchange fees has not reduced our debit card interchange revenues.

Summary

The foregoing is a brief summary of certain statutes, rules and regulations affecting the Company and The First. It is not intended to be an exhaustive discussion of all statutes and regulations having an impact on the operations of such entities.

Increased regulation generally has resulted in increased legal and compliance expense.

Finally, additional bills may be introduced in the future in the U.S. Congress and state legislatures to alter the structure, regulation and competitive relationships of financial institutions. It cannot be predicted whether and in what form any of these proposals will be adopted or the extent to which the business of the Company and The First may be affected thereby.

Effect of Governmental Monetary and Fiscal Policies

The difference between the interest rate paid on deposits and other borrowings and the interest rate received on loans and securities comprises most of a bank's earnings. In order to mitigate the interest rate risk inherent in the industry, the banking business is becoming increasingly dependent on the generation of fee and service charge revenue.

The earnings and growth of a bank will be affected by both general economic conditions and the monetary and fiscal policy of the U.S. government and its agencies, particularly the Federal Reserve. The Federal Reserve sets national monetary policy such as seeking to curb inflation and combat recession. This is accomplished by its open-market operations in U.S. government securities, adjustments in the amount of reserves that financial institutions are required to maintain and adjustments to the discount rates on borrowings and target rates for federal funds transactions. The actions of the Federal Reserve in these areas influence the growth of bank loans, investments and deposits and also affect interest rates on loans and deposits. The nature and timing of any future changes in monetary policies and their potential impact on the Company cannot be predicted.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Making or continuing an investment in securities, including the Company's Common Stock, involves certain risks that you should carefully consider. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only risks that may have a material adverse effect on the Company. Additional risks and uncertainties also could adversely affect the Company's business and results of operations. If any of the following risks actually occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be affected, the market price for your securities could decline, and you could lose all or a part of your investment. Further, to the extent that any of the information contained in this Annual Report on Form 10-K constitutes forward-looking statements, the risk factors set forth below also are cautionary statements identifying important factors that could cause the Company's actual results to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made by or on behalf of the Company.

We may be vulnerable to certain sectors of the economy.

A significant portion of our loan portfolio is secured by real estate. If the economy deteriorates and real estate values depress beyond a certain point, as happened during the recent recession, the collateral value of the portfolio and the revenue stream from those loans could come under stress and possibly require additional loan loss accruals which would negatively impact our earnings. Our ability to dispose of foreclosed real estate at prices above the respective carrying values could also be adversely affected, causing additional losses.

Difficult market conditions in past years have adversely affected the industry in which we operate.

The capital and credit markets are subject to volatility and disruption. Dramatic declines in the housing market in years past caused home prices to fall and increased foreclosures, unemployment and under-employment. These events, if they were to happen again, could negatively impact the credit performance of our mortgage loans and result in significant write-downs of asset values, including government-sponsored entities as well as major commercial and investment banks. Still wary about the stability of the financial markets generally and the strength of counterparties, many lenders still have reduced funding to borrowers, including to other financial institutions. Further market turmoil and tightening of credit could lead to an increased level of commercial and consumer delinquencies, lack of consumer confidence and widespread reduction of business activity generally. A worsening of these conditions would have an adverse effect on us and others in the financial institution industry generally, particularly in our real estate markets, as lower home prices and increased foreclosures would result in higher charge-offs and delinquencies.

General economic conditions in the areas where our operations or loans are concentrated may adversely affect our customers' ability to meet their obligations.

A sudden or severe downturn in the economy in the geographic markets we serve in the states of Mississippi, Louisiana, or Alabama may affect the ability of our customers to meet loan payment obligations on a timely basis. The local economic conditions in these areas have a significant impact on our commercial, real estate, and construction loans, the ability of borrowers to repay these loans and the value of the collateral securing such loans. Changes resulting in adverse economic conditions of these market areas could negatively impact the financial results of the Company's banking operations, earnings, and profitability.

Additionally, adverse economic changes may cause customers to withdraw deposit balances, thereby causing a strain on our liquidity.

We are subject to a risk of rapid and significant changes in market interest rates.

Our assets and liabilities are primarily monetary in nature, and as a result we are subject to significant risks tied to changes in interest rates. Our ability to operate profitably is largely dependent upon net interest income. Unexpected movement in interest rates markedly changing the slope of the current yield curve could cause net interest margins to decrease, subsequently decreasing net interest income. In addition, such changes could adversely affect the valuation of our assets and liabilities.

At present the Company's one-year interest rate sensitivity position is slightly asset sensitive, but a gradual increase in interest rates during the next twelve months should not have a significant impact on net interest income during that period. However, as with most financial institutions, the Company's results of operations are affected by changes in interest rates and the Company's ability to manage this risk. The difference between interest rates charged on interest-earning assets and interest rates paid on interest-bearing liabilities may be affected by changes in market interest rates, changes in relationships between interest rate indices, and/or changes in the relationships between long-term and short-term market interest rates. A change in this difference might result in an increase in interest expense relative to interest income, or a decrease in the Company's interest rate spread.

Certain changes in interest rates, inflation, or the financial markets could affect demand for our products and our ability to deliver products efficiently.

Loan originations, and therefore loan revenues, could be adversely impacted by sharply rising interest rates. Conversely, sharply falling rates could increase prepayments within our loan and securities portfolio lowering interest earnings from those assets. An unanticipated increase in inflation could cause operating costs related to salaries and benefits, technology, and supplies to increase at a faster pace than revenues.

The fair market value of the securities portfolio and the investment income from these securities also fluctuates depending on general economic and market conditions. In addition, actual net investment income and/or cash flows from investments that carry prepayment risk, such as mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities, may differ from those anticipated at the time of investment as a result of interest rate fluctuations.

Changes in the policies of monetary authorities and other government action could adversely affect profitability.

The results of operations of the Company are affected by credit policies of monetary authorities, particularly the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, which we refer to as the Federal Reserve Board. The instruments of monetary policy employed by the Federal Reserve Board include open market operations in U.S. government securities, changes in the discount rate or the federal funds rate on bank borrowings and changes in reserve requirements against bank deposits. In view of changing conditions in the national economy and in the money markets, particularly in light of the continuing threat of terrorist attacks, unrest in Eastern Europe and the current military operations in the Middle East, we cannot predict possible future changes in interest rates, deposit levels, loan demand or the Company's business and earnings. Furthermore, the actions of the United States government and other governments in responding to developing situations or the military operations in the Middle East may result in currency fluctuations, exchange controls, market disruption and other adverse effects.

Natural disasters could affect our ability to operate.

Our market areas are susceptible to natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornados. Natural disasters can disrupt operations, result in damage to properties that may be securing our loan assets and negatively affect the local economies in which we operate. We cannot predict whether or to what extent damage caused by future hurricanes, tornados or other natural disasters will affect operations or the economies in our market areas, but such weather events could cause a decline in loan originations, a decline in the value or destruction of properties securing the loans and an increase in the risk of delinquencies, foreclosures or loan losses.

Greater loan losses than expected may adversely affect our earnings.

The First, as lender, is exposed to the risk that its customers will be unable to repay their loans in accordance with their terms and that any collateral securing the payment of their loans may not be sufficient to assure repayment. Credit losses are inherent in the business of making loans and could have a material adverse effect on operating results. Credit risk with respect to our real estate and construction loan portfolio will relate principally to the creditworthiness of corporations and the value of the real estate serving as security for the repayment of loans. Credit risk with respect to its commercial and consumer loan portfolio will relate principally to the general creditworthiness of businesses and individuals within our local markets.

The First makes various assumptions and judgments about the collectability of its loan portfolio and provides an allowance for estimated loan losses based on a number of factors. The First believes that its current allowance for loan losses is adequate. However, if our assumptions or judgments prove to be incorrect, the allowance for loan losses may not be sufficient to cover actual loan losses. We may have to increase the allowance in the future in response to the request of one of our primary banking regulators, to adjust for changing conditions and assumptions, or as a result of any deterioration in the quality of the loan portfolio. The actual amount of future provisions for loan losses cannot be determined at this time and may vary from the amounts of past provisions.

We may need to rely on the financial markets to provide needed capital.

Our common stock is listed and traded on the NASDAQ stock market. Although we anticipate that our capital resources will be adequate for the foreseeable future to meet our capital requirements, at times we may depend on the liquidity of the NASDAQ stock market to raise equity capital. If the market should fail to operate, or if conditions in the capital markets are adverse, we may be constrained in raising capital. Should these risks materialize, the ability to further expand our operations through internal growth may be limited.

We are subject to regulation by various Federal and State entities.

The Company and The First are subject to the regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the OCC. New regulations issued by these agencies may adversely affect our ability to carry on our business activities. The Company is subject to various Federal and state laws and certain changes in these laws and regulations may adversely affect operations.

The Company and The First are also subject to the accounting rules and regulations of the SEC and the Financial Accounting Standards Board. Changes in accounting rules could adversely affect the reported financial statements or results of operations of the Company and may also require extraordinary efforts or additional costs to implement. Any of these laws or regulations may be modified or changed from time to time, and we cannot be assured that such modifications or changes will not adversely affect the Company.

We may engage in acquisitions of other businesses from time to time, which may not be well-received.

On occasion, we may engage in acquisitions of other businesses. Acquisitions may result in customer and employee turnover, thus increasing the cost of operating the new businesses. The acquired companies may also have legal contingencies, beyond those that we are aware of, that could result in unexpected costs. Difficulty in integrating an acquired business or company may cause us not to realize expected revenue increases, cost savings, increases in geographic or product presence, or other anticipated benefits from any acquisition. The integration could result in higher than expected deposit attrition (run-off), loss of key employees, disruption of the Company's business or the business of the acquired company, or otherwise adversely affect the Company's ability to maintain relationships with customers and employees or achieve the anticipated benefits of the acquisition. The Company may need to make additional investment in equipment and personnel to manage higher asset levels and loan balances as a result of any significant acquisition, which may adversely impact earnings.

We are subject to industry competition which may have an adverse impact upon our success.

The profitability of the Company depends on its ability to compete successfully with other financial services companies. We operate in a highly competitive financial services environment. Certain competitors are larger and may have more resources than we do. We face competition in our regional market areas from other commercial banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions, internet banks, finance companies, mutual funds, insurance companies, brokerage and investment banking firms, and other financial intermediaries that offer similar services. Some of the nonbank competitors are not subject to the same extensive regulations that govern the Company or The First and may have greater flexibility in competing for business.

The First faces increased competition from both federally-chartered and state-chartered financial and thrift institutions, as well as credit unions, consumer finance companies, insurance companies, and other institutions in The First's market area. Some of these competitors are not subject to the same degree of regulation and restriction imposed upon The First. Many of these competitors also have broader geographic markets and substantially greater resources and lending limits than The First and offer certain services such as trust banking that The First does not currently provide. In addition, many of these competitors have numerous branch offices located throughout the extended market areas of The First that may provide these competitors with an advantage in geographic convenience that The First does not have at present. Currently there are numerous other commercial banks, savings institutions, and credit unions operating in The First's primary service area.

We also compete with numerous financial and quasi-financial institutions for deposits and loans, including providers of financial services over the internet. Recent technology advances and other changes have allowed parties to effectuate financial transactions that previously required the involvement of banks. For example, consumers can maintain funds in brokerage accounts or mutual funds that would have historically been held as bank deposits. Consumers can also complete transactions such as paying bills and transferring funds directly without the assistance of banks. The process of eliminating banks as intermediaries, known as "disintermediation," could result in the loss of fee income, as well as the loss of customer deposits and the related income generated from those deposits. The loss of these revenue streams and access to lower cost deposits as a source of funds could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Future issuances of additional securities could result in dilution of shareholders' ownership.

We may determine from time to time to issue additional securities to raise additional capital, support growth, or to make acquisitions. Further, we may issue stock options or other stock grants to retain and motivate our employees. Such issuances of our securities could dilute the ownership interests of the Company's shareholders.

Anti-takeover laws and certain agreements and charter provisions may adversely affect share value.

Certain provisions of state and federal law and our articles of incorporation may make it more difficult for someone to acquire control of the Company. Under federal law, subject to certain exemptions, a person, entity, or group must notify the federal banking agencies before acquiring 10% or more of the outstanding voting stock of a bank holding company, including the Company's shares. Banking agencies review the acquisition to determine if it will result in a change of control. The banking agencies have 60 days to act on the notice, and take into account several factors, including the resources of the acquiror and the antitrust effects of the acquisition. There also are Mississippi statutory provisions and provisions in our articles of incorporation that may be used to delay or block a takeover attempt. As a result, these statutory provisions and provisions in our articles of incorporation could result in the Company being less attractive to a potential acquiror.

Securities issued by the Company, including the Company's common stock, are not FDIC insured.

Securities issued by the Company, including the Company's common stock, are not savings or deposit accounts or other obligations of any bank and are not insured by the FDIC, the Deposit Insurance Fund, or any other governmental agency or instrumentality, or any private insurer, and are subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of principal.

The failure of other financial institutions could adversely affect the Company.

Our ability to engage in routine funding transactions could be adversely affected by the actions and potential failures of other financial institutions. Financial institutions are interrelated as a result of trading, clearing, counterparty and other relationships. As a result, defaults by, or even rumors or concerns about, one or more financial institutions or the financial services industry generally have led to market-wide liquidity problems and could lead to losses or defaults by the Company or by other institutions.

Concern by customers over deposit insurance may cause a decrease in deposits and changes in the mix of funding sources available to the Company.

With increased concerns about bank failures, customers increasingly 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 and some may seek deposit products or other bank savings and investment products that are collateralized. Decreases in deposits and changes in the mix of funding sources may adversely affect the Company's funding costs and net income.

Evaluation of investment securities for other-than-temporary impairment involves subjective determinations and could materially impact our results of operations and financial condition.

The evaluation of impairments is a quantitative and qualitative process, which is subject to risks and uncertainties, and is intended to determine whether declines in the fair value of investments should be recognized in current period earnings. The risks and uncertainties include changes in general economic conditions, the issuers' financial condition or future recovery prospects, the effects of changes in interest rates or credit spreads and the expected recovery period. Estimating future cash flows involves incorporating information received from third-party sources and making internal assumptions and judgments regarding the future performance of the underlying collateral and assessing the probability that an adverse change in future cash flows has occurred. The determination of the amount of other-than-temporary impairments is based upon the Company's quarterly evaluation and assessment of known and inherent risks associated with the respective asset class. Such evaluations and assessments are revised as conditions change and new information becomes available.

Additionally, our management considers a wide range of factors about the security issuer and uses its reasonable judgment in evaluating the cause of the decline in the estimated fair value of the security and in assessing the prospects for recovery. Inherent in management's evaluation of the security are assumptions and estimates about the operations of the issuer and its future earnings potential. Impairments to the carrying value of our investment securities may need to be taken in the future, which would have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

We may be required to pay additional insurance premiums to the FDIC, which could negatively impact earnings.

Pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act, the limit on FDIC coverage has been permanently increased to \$250,000, causing the premiums assessed to The First by the FDIC to increase. Depending upon any future losses that the FDIC insurance fund may suffer, there can be no assurance that there will not be additional premium increases in order to replenish the fund. The FDIC may need to set a higher base rate schedule or impose special assessments due to future financial institution failures and updated failure and loss projections. Potentially higher FDIC assessment rates than those currently projected could have an adverse impact on our results of operations.

We participate in the U.S. Treasury's Troubled Asset Relief Program.

The Company received \$17,123,000 in funding under the Community Development Capital Initiative ("CDCI") in exchange for preferred stock and common stock warrants on September 29, 2010. Participation in this program constrains our ability to raise dividends and also places certain constraints on executive compensation arrangements. The increased funding provides assurance that the Company can maintain its minimum regulatory capital ratios in the event the Company were to experience future losses. The dividend rate on the preferred stock issued under the CDCI increases from two percent (2%) to nine percent (9%) in 2018, and therefore the Company may have to repay these funds if it would like to avoid this increased payment. The CDCI is part of the Troubled Asset Relief Program ("TARP") and the Company may repay the preferred stock at any time without penalty. The rules that govern the TARP include restrictions on certain compensation to executive officers and a number of others in the Company. Among other things, these rules include a prohibition on golden parachute payments, a prohibition on providing tax gross-ups, a bonus claw-back provision, and a prohibition on paying any bonus payment to the Company's most highly compensated employee. It is possible that compensation restrictions imposed on TARP participants could impede our ability to attract and retain qualified executive officers. Our participation in the TARP limits our annual dividend payments to no more than \$0.15 per share. Our ability to repurchase our common stock would also be restricted in the event that we failed to make our dividend payments.

We may fail to realize the anticipated benefits of the recent Bay Bank acquisition on the anticipated schedule, if at all.

We recently completed our acquisition of BCB Holding Company, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiary bank, Bay Bank, previously headquartered in Mobile, Alabama. We may face significant challenges in integrating Bay Bank operations into our operations in a timely and efficient manner and in retaining Bay Bank personnel. Achieving the anticipated benefits, including revenue increases, cost savings, increases in geographic and product presence, and other anticipated benefits of the acquisition will depend in part on whether we integrate Bay Bank's businesses in an efficient and effective manner. The integration could result in higher than expected deposit attrition (run-off), loss of key employees, disruption of our business or the business of the acquired company, or otherwise adversely affect our ability to maintain relationships with customers and employees or achieve the anticipated benefits of the acquisition. We may need to make additional investment in equipment and personnel to manage higher asset levels and loan balances as a result of the acquisition, which may adversely impact earnings. We may not be able to accomplish this integration process smoothly or successfully. In addition, the integration of certain operations will require the dedication of significant management resources, which may temporarily distract management's attention from the day-to-day business of the combined company. Any inability to realize the full extent of, or any of, the anticipated financial benefits and cost savings of the acquisition, as well as any delays encountered in the integration process, could have an adverse effect on the business and results of operations of the combined company, which may affect the market price of our common stock.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

Our company's main office, which is the holding company headquarters, is located at 6480 U.S. Hwy 98 West in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. As of year end, we had 27 full service banking and financial services offices and one motor bank facility as well as four loan production offices. We maintain leases on the Hardy Court Branch, the Gulfport Downtown Branch, the Pascagoula Branch, the Ocean Springs Branch, the Fairhope Branch, the Bayley's Corner Branch, the Theodore Branch, , the Dauphin Island Branch and the Baton Rouge Branch as well as on the Brandon LPO, the Madison LPO, the Bay Minette LPO and the Slidell LPO. Management ensures that all properties, whether owned or leased, are maintained in suitable condition.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

From time to time the Company and/or The First may be named as defendants in various lawsuits arising out of the normal course of business. At present, the Company is not aware of any legal proceedings that it anticipates may materially adversely affect its business.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

PART II

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

Market Information

Our common stock trades on the NASDAQ Global Market under the ticker symbol "FBMS".

The following table sets forth the high and low sales price of the Company's common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Market. These prices do not reflect retail mark-ups, mark-downs or commissions.

		High Sale	Low Sale	Cash Dividends Paid
2015				
	4 th quarter	\$ 18.34	\$ 15.58	\$ 0.0375
	3 rd quarter	18.46	16.10	0.0375
	2 nd quarter	16.99	15.50	0.0375
	1 st quarter	17.70	13.80	0.0375
2014				
	4 th quarter	\$ 15.50	\$ 14.29	\$ 0.0375
	3 rd quarter	14.98	14.20	0.0375
	2 nd quarter	14.74	14.11	0.0375
	1 st quarter	14.82	13.83	0.0375

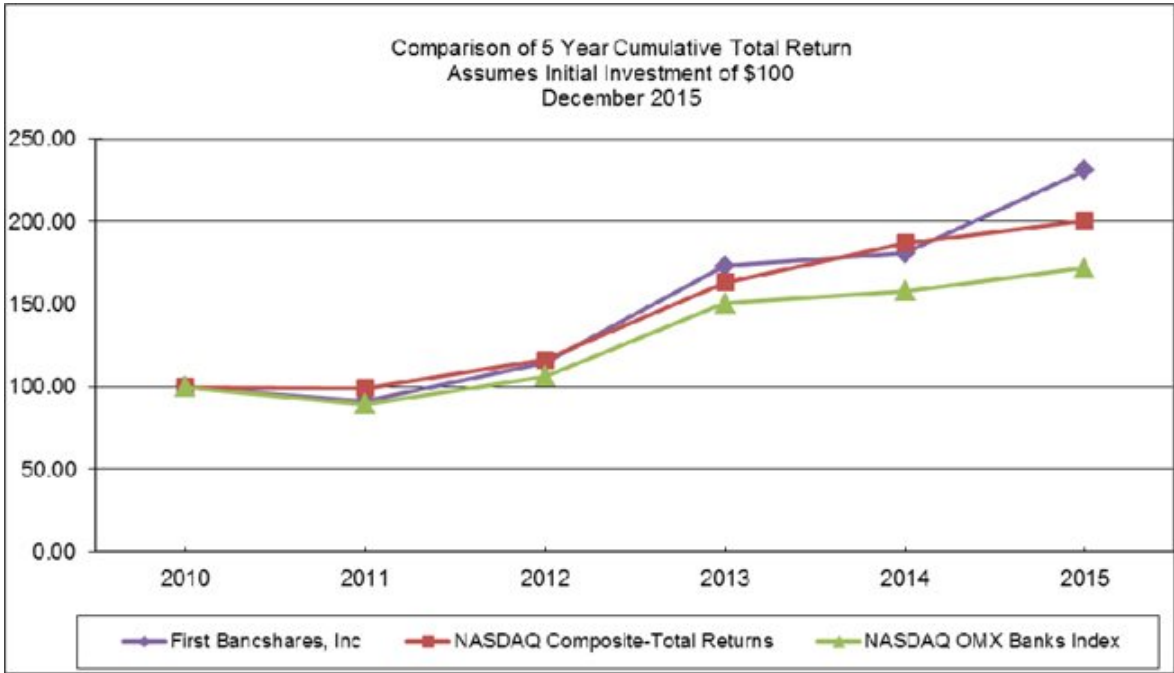
There were 1,187 registered shareholders and approximately 476 beneficial holders of the Company's common stock at March 17, 2016 and 5,432,014 shares outstanding. On March 17, 2016 the high and low sale prices of the Company's common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Market was \$16.56 and \$16.56, respectively.

The principal sources of funds to the Company to pay dividends are the dividends received from The First, National Banking Association, Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Consequently, dividends are dependent upon The First's earnings, capital needs, regulatory policies, as well as statutory and regulatory limitations. Federal and state banking laws and regulations restrict the amount of dividends and loans a bank may make to its parent company. Approval by the Company's regulators is required if the total of all dividends declared in any calendar year exceed the total of its net income for that year combined with its retained net income of the preceding two years.

Stock Performance Graph

The following performance graph and related information are neither “soliciting material” nor “filed” with the SEC, nor shall such information be incorporated by reference into any future filings under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, each as amended, except to the extent the Company specifically incorporates it by reference to such filing.

The performance graph compares the cumulative five-year shareholder return on the Company’s common stock, assuming an investment of \$100 on December 31, 2010 and the reinvestment of dividends thereafter, to that of the common stocks of United States companies reported in the NASDAQ Composite-Total Returns Index and the common stocks of the NASDAQ OMX Banks Index. The NASDAQ OMX Banks Index contains securities of NASDAQ-listed companies classified according to the Industry Classification Benchmark as Banks. They include banks providing a broad range of financial services, including retail banking, loans and money transmissions.



Legend							
Symbol	Total Returns Index For:	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
◆	First Bancshares, Inc.	100.00	91.33	114.85	173.11	181.13	231.21
■	NASDAQ Composite Total Returns	100.00	99.17	116.48	163.21	187.27	200.21
▲	NASDAQ OMXBanks Index	100.00	89.50	106.23	150.55	157.95	171.52
Notes							
A. The lines represent monthly index levels derived from compounded daily returns that include all dividends.							
B. The indexes are reweighted daily, using the market capitalization on the previous trading day.							
C. If the monthly interval, based on the fiscal year-end, is not a trading day, the preceding trading day is used.							
D. The index level for all series was set to \$100.0 on 12/31/2010.							

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

In response to this Item, the information contained on page 5 of the Company's Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2015, is incorporated herein by reference.

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

In response to this Item, the information contained on pages 6 through 28 of the Company's Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2015, is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Not applicable.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

In response to this Item, the information contained on pages 30 through 74 of the Company's Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2015 is incorporated herein by reference.

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

Not applicable.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

The Company's principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded, based upon their evaluation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2015 that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective. During the quarter ended December 31, 2015, no changes have occurred in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

The First Bancshares, Inc.
Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management of the "Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting. 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 U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Under the supervision and with the participation of management, including the principal executive officer and principal financial officer, the Company conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting based on the framework in Internal Control – Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on this evaluation, management of the Company has concluded the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Rules 12a-15(f), as of December 31, 2015.

Internal control over financial reporting cannot provide absolute assurance of achieving financial reporting objectives because of its inherent limitations. Internal control over financial reporting is a process that involves human diligence and compliance and is subject to lapses in judgment and breakdowns resulting from human failures. Internal control over financial reporting can also be circumvented by collusion or improper management override. Because of such limitations, there is a risk that material misstatements may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis by internal control over financial reporting. These inherent limitations, however, are known features of the financial reporting process. It is possible, therefore, to design into the process safeguards to reduce, though not eliminate, this risk.

This annual report does not include an attestation report of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm regarding internal control over financial reporting. The Company's registered public accounting firm was not required to issue an attestation report on internal controls over financial reporting pursuant to temporary rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ M. Ray (Hoppy) Cole, Jr.
CEO and President
March 30, 2016

/s/ Dee Dee Lowery
Executive VP and Chief Financial Officer
March 30, 2016

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

Not applicable.

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

In response to this Item, the information contained under the captions, "Election of Directors" and "Additional Information Concerning Directors and Officers" of the Company's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 26, 2016, is incorporated herein by reference.

Code of Ethics

Our company's Board of Directors has adopted a Code of Ethics that applies to the Company's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer, or persons performing similar functions. A copy of this Code of Ethics can be found at the Company's internet website at www.thefirstbank.com. We intend to disclose any amendments to the Company's Code of Ethics, and any waiver from a provision of the Code of Ethics granted to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer, or persons performing similar functions, on the Company's internet website within five business days following such amendment or waiver. The information contained on or connected to the Company's internet website is not incorporated by reference into this Form 10-K and should not be considered part of this or any other report that we file with or furnish to the SEC.

Audit Committee

The information contained under the caption “Committees of the Board of Directors” of the Company's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 26, 2016, is incorporated herein by reference. The Board of Directors has determined that there is at least one independent audit committee financial expert, J. Douglas Seidenburg, serving on the Audit Committee, as the terms independent and audit committee financial expert are used in pertinent NASDAQ listing standards and Securities and Exchange Commission regulations.

Corporate Governance

The information contained under the caption “Additional Information Concerning Directors and Officers” of the Company’s Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 26, 2016 is incorporated herein by reference.

As a TARP recipient we are required to have an Excessive Expenditure Policy. Such a policy was adopted by the Company’s Board of Directors on July 23, 2009, and is posted on The First’s website at www.thefirstbank.com.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

In response to this Item, the information contained under the caption “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” of the Company's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 26, 2016, is incorporated herein by reference.

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

In response to this Item, the information contained under the caption “Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management” of the Company's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 26, 2016, is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

In response to this Item, the information contained under the caption “Certain Relationships and Related Transactions” of the Company's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 26, 2016, is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

In response to this Item, the information contained under the caption “Principal Accountant Fees and Services” of the Company’s Proxy Statement for the Annual meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 26, 2016, is incorporated herein by reference.

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) The following documents are filed as part of this Report:

1. The following consolidated financial statements of The First Bancshares, Inc. and subsidiaries are filed as part of this Report under Item 8 – Financial Statements and Supplementary Data and included as Exhibit 13, hereto:

Consolidated balance sheets – December 31, 2015 and 2014 (page 30)

Consolidated statements of income – Years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 (pages 31 to 32)

Consolidated statements of other comprehensive income – Years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 (page 33)

Consolidated statements of changes in stockholders' equity – Years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 (pages 34 to 35)

Consolidated statements of cash flows – Years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 (pages 36 to 37)

Notes to consolidated financial statements – December 31, 2015 (pages 38 to 74)

2. Consolidated Financial Statement Schedules:

All schedules have been omitted, as the required information is either inapplicable or included in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

3. Exhibits required to be filed by Item 601 of Regulation S-K, and by Item 15(b) below.

(b) Exhibits:

All other financial statements and schedules are omitted as the required information is inapplicable or the required information is presented in the consolidated financial statements or related notes.

(a) 3. Exhibits :

Exhibit Number	Description
3.1	Restated Articles of Incorporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on March 21, 2013).
3.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on March 18, 2016).
3.3	Articles of Amendment Containing Certificate of Designations for the Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series CD (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 filed with Form 8-K with the Commission on October 4, 2010).
4.1	Provisions in the Company's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws defining the rights of holders of the Company's Common Stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on March 21, 2013 and Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Registration Statement No. 33-94288 on Form S-1).
4.2	Form of Certificate of Common Stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Company's Registration Statement No. 33-94288 on Form S-1).
10.1	Purchase Letter Agreement dated February 6, 2009 between The First Bancshares and the United States Department of the Treasury, including the Standard Terms, with respect to the issuance of the CPP Preferred Stock. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 filed with Form 8-K with the Commission on October 4, 2010)

10.2	Exchange Letter Agreement dated September 29, 2010 between The First Bancshares and the United States Department of the Treasury, including the Standard Terms, with respect to the exchange of the CDCI Preferred Stock. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 filed with Form 8-K with the Commission on October 4, 2010).
10.3	Letter Agreement dated May 13, 2015 between The First Bancshares, Inc. and the United States Department of the Treasury pursuant to which the Company redeemed the Warrant to purchase up to 54,705 shares of the Company's common stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 filed with Form 8-K with the Commission on May 19, 2015)
10.4	Employment Agreement dated May 31, 2011, between The First, A National Banking Association and M. Ray Cole, Jr. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 of the Company's Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, filed on March 29, 2012, File No. 000-22507).
10.5	The First Bancshares, Inc. 2007 Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Company's Registration Statement No. 171996 on Form S-8)
10.6	Amendment to 2007 Stock Incentive Plan effective May 28, 2015 upon approval by shareholders of the Company.
13	The Company's 2015 Annual Report to Shareholders (pages 1 to 77)
21	Subsidiaries of the Company
23	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
31	Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certifications
32	Section 1350 Certifications
99.1	EESA Certification of CEO
99.2	EESA Certification of CFO

SIGNATURES

In accordance with Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, the registrant caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.

Date: March 30, 2016

By: /s/ M. Ray (Hoppy) Cole, Jr.
M. Ray (Hoppy) Cole, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer and President (Principal Executive Officer)

Date: March 30, 2016

By: /s/ Dee Dee Lowery
Dee Dee Lowery
Executive VP and Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial and Principal Accounting Officer)

In accordance with the Exchange Act, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

SIGNATURES	CAPACITIES	DATE
<u>/s/E. Ricky Gibson</u>	Director and Chairman of the Board	March 30, 2016
<u>/s/ David W. Bomboy</u>	Director	March 30, 2016
<u>/s/ Charles R. Lightsey</u>	Director	March 30, 2016
<u>/s/ Fred McMurry</u>	Director	March 30, 2016
<u>/s/ Gregory Mitchell</u>	Director	March 30, 2016
<u>/s/ Ted E. Parker</u>	Director	March 30, 2016
<u>/s/ J. Douglas Seidenburg</u>	Director	March 30, 2016
<u>/ Andrew D. Stetelman</u>	Director	March 30, 2016
<u>/s/ M. Ray (Hoppy) Cole, Jr.</u>	CEO, President and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	March 30, 2016
<u>/s/ Dee Dee Lowery</u>	Executive VP & Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	March 30, 2016

EXHIBIT 10.6

AMENDMENT TO 2007 STOCK INCENTIVE PLAN
EFFECTIVE MAY 28, 2015

**AMENDMENT TO
THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.**

2007 STOCK INCENTIVE PLAN

This Amendment to The First Bancshares, Inc. 2007 Stock Incentive Plan (hereinafter the “Plan”) is made this the 28th day of May, 2015, to be effective upon approval of the stockholders of the Company.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, effective the 24th day of May, 2007, First Bancshares, Inc. (the “Company”) adopted the Plan to provide incentives and awards to certain officers, employees, directors and other service providers of the Company and its Affiliates; and

WHEREAS, the Company desires to amend the Plan to increase the number of shares of Stock for which Stock Incentives may be awarded or exercised thereunder and to make other changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, The First Bancshares, Inc. 2007 Stock Incentive Plan is hereby amended as follows:

I.

Section 2.3 is hereby amended by the deletion of that Section in its entirety and the substitution of the following:

2.3 “Change in Control” means a change in the ownership or effective control of the Company or in the ownership of a substantial portion of the assets of the Company (within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code and the Treasury Regulations thereunder, as follows:

(a) **Change in Ownership** shall mean the acquisition by any one person, or more than one person acting as a group, of ownership of stock of the Company that, together with stock held by such person or group, constitutes more than fifty percent (50%) of the total fair market value or total voting power of the stock of the Company. However, if any one person, or more than one person acting as a group, is considered to own more than fifty percent (50%) of the total fair market value or total voting power of the stock of the Company, the acquisition of additional stock by the same person or persons is not considered to cause a Change in Ownership of the Company (or to cause a Change in Effective Control of the Company as defined in Section 2.3(b)). An increase in the percentage of stock owned by any one person, or persons acting as a group, as a result of a transaction in which the Company acquires its stock in exchange for property will be treated as an acquisition of stock for purposes of this Section 2.3(a).

(b) **Change in Effective Control** shall mean:

(i) The acquisition by any one person, or more than one person acting as a group, during any 12-month period of ownership of stock of the Company possessing thirty-five percent (35%) or more of the total voting power of the stock of the Company; or

(ii) The replacement of a majority of members of the Board of Directors during any 12-month period by directors whose appointment or election is not endorsed by a majority of the members of the Board of Directors prior to the date of the appointment or election in accordance with Treasury Regulation §1.409A-3(i)(5)(vi)(A)(2).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if any one person, or more than one person acting as a group, is considered to effectively control the Company (within the meaning of this Section 2.3(b), the acquisition of additional control of the Company by the same person or persons is not considered to cause a Change in Control.

(c) **Change in the Ownership of the Company's Assets** shall mean the acquisition by any one person, or more than one person acting as a group, during any 12-month period of assets from the Company that have a total gross fair market value equal to or more than forty percent (40%) of the total gross fair market value of all of the assets of the Company immediately prior to such acquisition or acquisitions. Notwithstanding the foregoing, there is no change in control event under this Section 2.3(c) when there is a transfer to an entity that is controlled by the Shareholders or other related person, within the meaning of Treasury Regulation §1.409A-3(i)(5)(vii)(B), immediately after the transfer.

(d) **Persons Acting as a Group**. For purposes of this Section 2.3, persons will not be considered to be acting as a group solely because they purchase or own stock of the same corporation at the same time, or as a result of the same public offering. However, persons will be considered to be acting as a group if they are owners of a corporation that enters into a merger, consolidation, purchase or acquisition of stock, or similar business transaction with the corporation. If a person, including an entity, owns stock in both corporations that enter into a merger, consolidation, purchase or acquisition of stock, or similar transaction, such shareholder is considered to be acting as a group with other shareholders in a corporation only with respect to the ownership in that corporation prior to the transaction giving rise to the change and not with respect to the ownership interest in the other corporation.

II.

The Plan is hereby amended to increase the number of shares of Stock authorized for issuance pursuant to Stock Incentives granted under the Plan by an additional Three Hundred Thousand (300,000) shares, and Section 4.2 of the Plan is hereby amended by the deletion of that section in its entirety and the substitution of the following:

4.2 Aggregate Limit. The aggregate number of shares reserved for awards hereunder shall be determined as follows:

(a) Maximum Plan Shares. Upon approval of this Amendment by the shareholders of the Company, the shares of Stock hereby reserved exclusively for issuance upon an award of or exercise or payment pursuant to Stock Incentives under the Plan is increased by Three Hundred Thousand (300,000) shares to a total of Six Hundred Fifteen Thousand (615,000) shares, subject to adjustment in accordance with Section 9.2 (the "Maximum Plan Shares"). All or any of such Maximum Plan Shares may be issued upon an award of or exercise or payment pursuant to any one or more Stock Incentives, including without limitation, Incentive Stock Options.

(b) Recycling. Shares of Stock attributable to the nonvested, unpaid, unexercised, unconverted or otherwise unsettled portion of any Stock Incentive that is forfeited or cancelled or that expires or terminates for any reason without becoming vested, paid, exercised, converted or otherwise settled in full shall not count against the Maximum Plan Shares and shall again become available for grants of Stock Incentive awards under the Plan (unless the Participant received dividends or other economic benefits with respect to such shares of Stock, which dividends or other economic benefits are not forfeited, in which case all such shares shall count against the Maximum Plan Shares). Shares of Stock surrendered in payment of an option price under a Stock Incentive award and shares of Stock deducted or withheld to satisfy tax withholding requirements also will not be counted against the Maximum Plan Shares and will again be available for purposes of the Plan. In no event, however, shall the total number of shares which again become available for grants of Stock Incentive awards under the Plan pursuant to the preceding provisions of this Section 4.2(b) after the effective date of this Amendment exceed one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) shares (fifty percent (50%) of the total increase in reserved shares under the Plan authorized pursuant to this Amendment.)

III.

Section 5.2 is hereby amended by the deletion of the last sentence thereof and the substitution of the following:

To the extent not inconsistent with the provisions of the Code or the Plan, including the prohibition on repricing of Options and Stock Appreciation Rights as reflected in Sections 6.2(k) and 6.3(c), and subject to the provisions of Section 6.09 hereof, the Committee may give a Participant an election to surrender a Stock Incentive in exchange for the grant of a new Stock Incentive, and shall have the authority to amend or modify an outstanding Stock Incentive Agreement, or to waive any provision thereof, provided that the Participant consents to such action.

IV.

Section 6.1(f) is hereby amended by the deletion of that Subsection in its entirety and the substitution of the following:

(f) Modification. Subject to the provisions of Sections 6.2(k), 6.3(c) and 6.09, after the date of grant of a Stock Incentive, the Committee may, in its sole discretion, modify the terms and conditions of a Stock Incentive, except to the extent that such modification would be inconsistent with other provisions of the Plan or the Code or would adversely affect the rights of a Participant under the Stock Incentive (except as otherwise permitted under the Plan).

V.

Section 6.2 is hereby amended by the addition of a new Subsection (k) to read as follows:

(k) No Repricing. Except as provided in Section 9.2, without approval of the Company's stockholders, the Exercise Price of an Option may not be amended or modified after the grant of the Option, and an Option may not be surrendered in consideration of, or in exchange for, cash, other Stock Incentives or the grant of a new Option having an Exercise Price below that of the Option that was surrendered.

VI.

Section 6.3(c) is hereby amended by the deletion of the Subsection its entirety and the substitution of the following:

(c) No Repricing. Except as provided in Section 9.2, without the approval of the Company's stockholders the price of a Stock Appreciation Right may not be amended or modified after the grant of the Stock Appreciation Right, and a Stock Appreciation Right may not be surrendered or cancelled in consideration of, or in exchange for, cash, other Stock Incentives, or the grant of a new Stock Appreciation Right having a price below that of the Stock Appreciation Right that was surrendered or cancelled.

VII.

This Amendment is conditioned upon and shall become effective upon its approval by the stockholders of the Corporation.

VIII.

Capitalize terms used in this Amendment shall have the same meaning as when used in the Plan unless otherwise specifically provided herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF this Amendment has been executed the date and year first above written.

THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.

By: /s/ Dee Dee Lowery

Name: Dee Dee Lowery

Title: EVP and CFO

THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.
2015 ANNUAL REPORT

SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
(Dollars In Thousands, Except Per Share Data)

	December 31,				
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Earnings:					
Net interest income	\$ 36,994	\$ 33,398	\$ 28,401	\$ 22,194	\$ 19,079
Provision for loan losses	410	1,418	1,076	1,228	1,468
Noninterest income	7,588	7,803	7,083	6,324	4,598
Noninterest expense	32,161	30,734	28,165	22,164	18,870
Net income	8,799	6,614	4,639	4,049	2,871
Net income applicable to common stockholders	8,456	6,251	4,215	3,624	2,529
Per common share data:					
Basic net income per share	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.20	\$.98	\$ 1.17	\$.83
Diluted net income per share	1.55	1.19	.96	1.16	.82
Per share data:					
Basic net income per share	\$ 1.64	\$ 1.27	\$ 1.07	\$ 1.31	\$.94
Diluted net income per share	1.62	1.25	1.06	1.29	.93
Selected Year End Balances:					
Total assets	\$ 1,145,131	\$ 1,093,768	\$ 940,890	\$ 721,385	\$ 681,413
Securities	254,959	270,174	258,023	226,301	221,176
Loans, net of allowance	769,742	700,540	577,574	408,970	383,418
Deposits	916,695	892,775	779,971	596,627	573,394
Stockholders' equity	103,436	96,216	85,108	65,885	60,425

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Purpose

The purpose of management's discussion and analysis is to make the reader aware of the significant components, events, and changes in the consolidated financial condition and results of operations of the Company and The First during the year ended December 31, 2015, when compared to the years 2014 and 2013. The Company's consolidated financial statements and related notes should also be considered.

Critical Accounting Policies

In the preparation of the Company's consolidated financial statements, certain significant amounts are based upon judgment and estimates. The most critical of these is the accounting policy related to the allowance for loan losses. The allowance is based in large measure upon management's evaluation of borrowers' abilities to make loan payments, local and national economic conditions, and other subjective factors. If any of these factors were to deteriorate, management would update its estimates and judgments which may require additional loss provisions.

Companies are required to perform periodic reviews of individual securities in their investment portfolios to determine whether decline in the value of a security is other than temporary. A review of other-than-temporary impairment requires companies to make certain judgments regarding the materiality of the decline, its effect on the financial statements and the probability, extent and timing of a valuation recovery and the company's intent and ability to hold the security. Pursuant to these requirements, Management assesses valuation declines to determine the extent to which such changes are attributable to fundamental factors specific to the issuer, such as financial condition, business prospects or other factors or market-related factors, such as interest rates. Declines in the fair value of securities below their cost that are deemed to be other-than-temporary are recorded in earnings as realized losses.

Goodwill is assessed for impairment both annually and when events or circumstances occur that make it more likely than not that impairment has occurred. As part of its testing, the Company first assesses qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount. If the Company determines the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount using these qualitative factors, the Company then compares the fair value of goodwill with its carrying amount, and then measures impaired loss by comparing the implied fair value of goodwill with the carrying amount of that goodwill. No impairment was indicated when the annual test was performed in 2015.

Overview

The First Bancshares, Inc. (the Company) was incorporated on June 23, 1995, and serves as a bank holding company for The First, A National Banking Association ("The First"), located in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The First began operations on August 5, 1996, from its main office in the Oak Grove community, which is on the western side of Hattiesburg. The First has 30 locations in South Mississippi, South Alabama and Louisiana. See Note C of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for information regarding branch acquisitions. The Company and The First engage in a general commercial and retail banking business characterized by personalized service and local decision-making, emphasizing the banking needs of small to medium-sized businesses, professional concerns, and individuals.

The Company's primary source of revenue is interest income and fees, which it earns by lending and investing the funds which are held on deposit. Because loans generally earn higher rates of interest than investments, the Company seeks to employ as much of its deposit funds as possible in the form of loans to individuals, businesses, and other organizations. To ensure sufficient liquidity, the Company also maintains a portion of its deposits in cash, government securities, deposits with other financial institutions, and overnight loans of excess reserves (known as "Federal Funds Sold") to correspondent banks. The revenue which the Company earns (prior to deducting its overhead expenses) is essentially a function of the amount of the Company's loans and deposits, as well as the profit margin ("interest spread") and fee income which can be generated on these amounts.

The Company increased from approximately \$1.1 billion in total assets, and \$892.8 million in deposits at December 31, 2014 to approximately \$1.1 billion in total assets, and \$916.7 million in deposits at December 31, 2015. Loans net of allowance for loan losses increased from \$701.0 million at December 31, 2014 to approximately \$769.7 million at December 31, 2015. The Company increased from \$96.2 million in stockholders' equity at December 31, 2014 to approximately \$103.4 million at December 31, 2015. The First reported net income of \$9,620,000 and \$7,385,000 for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, the Company reported consolidated net income applicable to common stockholders of \$8,456,000 and \$6,251,000, respectively. The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the "Selected Consolidated Financial Data" and the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements and the Notes thereto and the other financial data included elsewhere.

SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
(Dollars In Thousands, Except Per Share Data)

	December 31,				
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Earnings:					
Net interest income	\$ 36,994	\$ 33,398	\$ 28,401	\$ 22,194	\$ 19,079
Provision for loan losses	410	1,418	1,076	1,228	1,468
Noninterest income	7,588	7,803	7,083	6,324	4,598
Noninterest expense	32,161	30,734	28,165	22,164	18,870
Net income	8,799	6,614	4,639	4,049	2,871
Net income applicable to common stockholders	8,456	6,251	4,215	3,624	2,529
Per common share data:					
Basic net income per share	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.20	\$.98	\$ 1.17	\$.83
Diluted net income per share	1.55	1.19	.96	1.16	.82
Per share data:					
Basic net income per share	\$ 1.64	\$ 1.27	\$ 1.07	\$ 1.31	\$.94
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Selected Year End Balances:					
Total assets	\$ 1,145,131	\$ 1,093,768	\$ 940,890	\$ 721,385	\$ 681,413
Securities	254,959	270,174	258,023	226,301	221,176
Loans, net of allowance	769,742	700,540	577,574	408,970	383,418
Deposits	916,695	892,775	779,971	596,627	573,394
Stockholders' equity	103,436	96,216	85,108	65,885	60,425

Results of Operations

The following is a summary of the results of operations by The First for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014.

	2015	2014
	(In thousands)	
Interest income	\$ 40,196	\$ 36,365
Interest expense	3,022	2,791
Net interest income	37,174	33,574
Provision for loan losses	410	1,418
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	36,764	32,156
Other income	7,589	7,439
Other expense	31,032	29,477
Income tax expense	3,701	2,733
Net income	\$ 9,620	\$ 7,385

The following reconciles the above table to the amounts reflected in the consolidated financial statements of the Company at December 31, 2015 and 2014:

	2015	2014
	(In thousands)	
Net interest income:		
Net interest income of The First	\$ 37,174	\$ 33,574
Intercompany eliminations	(180)	(176)
	<u>\$ 36,994</u>	<u>\$ 33,398</u>
Net income applicable to common stockholders:		
Net income of The First	\$ 9,620	\$ 7,385
Net loss of the Company, excluding intercompany accounts	(1,164)	(1,134)
	<u>\$ 8,456</u>	<u>\$ 6,251</u>

Consolidated Net Income

The Company reported consolidated net income applicable to common stockholders of \$8,456,242 for the year ended December 31, 2015, compared to a consolidated net income of \$6,250,743 for the year ended December 31, 2014. The increase in income was attributable to an increase in net interest income of \$3.6 million or 10.8%, which was offset by an increase in other expenses of \$1.4 million or 4.6%.

Consolidated Net Interest Income

The largest component of net income for the Company is net interest income, which is the difference between the income earned on assets and interest paid on deposits and borrowings used to support such assets. Net interest income is determined by the rates earned on the Company's interest-earning assets and the rates paid on its interest-bearing liabilities, the relative amounts of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities, and the degree of mismatch and the maturity and repricing characteristics of its interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities.

Consolidated net interest income was approximately \$36,994,000 for the year ended December 31, 2015, as compared to \$33,398,000 for the year ended December 31, 2014. This increase was the direct result of increased loan volumes during 2015 as compared to 2014. Average interest-bearing liabilities for the year 2015 were \$822,708,000 compared to \$746,025,000 for the year 2014. At December 31, 2015, the net interest spread, the difference between the yield on earning assets and the rates paid on interest-bearing liabilities, was 3.55% compared to 3.50% at December 31, 2014. The net interest margin (which is net interest income divided by average earning assets) was 3.63% for the year 2015 compared to 3.58% for the year 2014. Rates paid on average interest-bearing liabilities decreased to .39% for the year 2015 compared to .40% for the year 2014. Interest earned on assets and interest accrued on liabilities is significantly influenced by market factors, specifically interest rates as set by Federal agencies. Average loans comprised 71.7% of average earning assets for the year 2015 compared to 67.8% for the year 2014.

Average Balances, Income and Expenses, and Rates . The following tables depict, for the periods indicated, certain information related to the average balance sheet and average yields on assets and average costs of liabilities. Such yields are derived by dividing income or expense by the average balance of the corresponding assets or liabilities. Average balances have been derived from daily averages.

Average Balances, Income and Expenses, and Rates

	Years Ended December 31,								
	2015			2014			2013		
	Average Balance	Income/ Expenses	Yield/ Rate	Average Balance	Income/ Expenses	Yield/ Rate	Average Balance	Income/ Expenses	Yield/ Rate
(Dollars in thousands)									
Assets									
Earning Assets									
Loans (1)(2)	\$ 730,326	\$ 34,242	4.69%	\$ 632,049	\$ 30,276	4.79%	\$ 583,200	\$ 25,736	4.41%
Securities	256,462	5,803	2.26%	271,247	5,957	2.20%	248,237	5,419	2.18%
Federal funds sold (3)	24,582	64	.26%	24,845	53	.21%	18,564	62	.33%
Other	7,585	93	1.23%	3,827	85	2.22%	7,404	101	1.36%
Total earning assets	<u>1,018,955</u>	<u>40,202</u>	3.94%	<u>931,968</u>	<u>36,371</u>	3.90%	<u>857,405</u>	<u>31,318</u>	3.65%
Cash and due from banks	31,378			30,657			25,447		
Premises and equipment	33,797			33,252			30,816		
Other assets	44,375			40,428			33,314		
Allowance for loan losses	(6,313)			(5,983)			(5,240)		
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,122,192</u>			<u>\$ 1,030,322</u>			<u>\$ 941,742</u>		
Liabilities									
Interest-bearing liabilities	\$ 822,708	\$ 3,208	.39%	\$ 746,025	\$ 2,973	.40%	\$ 728,322	\$ 2,917	.40%
Demand deposits (1)	196,284			184,037			115,909		
Other liabilities	4,594			11,990			12,430		
Stockholders' equity	98,606			88,270			85,081		
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	<u>\$ 1,122,192</u>			<u>\$ 1,030,322</u>			<u>\$ 941,742</u>		
Net interest spread			3.55%			3.50%			3.25%
Net yield on interest-earning assets		<u>\$ 36,994</u>	3.63%		<u>\$ 33,398</u>	3.58%		<u>\$ 28,401</u>	3.31%

- (1) All loans and deposits were made to borrowers in the United States. Includes nonaccrual loans of \$7,368, \$6,056, and \$3,181, respectively, during the periods presented. Loans include held for sale loans.
- (2) Includes loan fees of \$692, \$717, and \$525, respectively.
- (3) Includes EBA-MNBB and Federal Reserve – New Orleans.

Analysis of Changes in Net Interest Income . The following table presents the consolidated dollar amount of changes in interest income and interest expense attributable to changes in volume and to changes in rate. The combined effect in both volume and rate which cannot be separately identified has been allocated proportionately to the change due to volume and due to rate.

Analysis of Changes in Consolidated Net Interest Income

	Year Ended December 31,			Year Ended December 31,		
	2015 versus 2014			2014 versus 2013		
	Increase (decrease) due to			Increase (decrease) due to		
	Volume	Rate	Net	Volume	Rate	Net
(Dollars in thousands)						
Earning Assets						
Loans	\$ 3,826	\$ 140	\$ 3,966	\$ 2,154	\$ 2,386	\$ 4,540
Securities	(298)	144	(154)	502	36	538
Federal funds sold	19	(8)	11	21	(30)	(9)
Other short-term investments	3	5	8	(49)	33	(16)
Total interest income	<u>3,550</u>	<u>281</u>	<u>3,831</u>	<u>2,628</u>	<u>2,425</u>	<u>5,053</u>
Interest-Bearing Liabilities						
Interest-bearing transaction accounts	204	66	270	88	(31)	57
Money market accounts and savings	6	(24)	(18)	82	(57)	25
Time deposits	(108)	50	(58)	59	62	121
Borrowed funds	<u>77</u>	<u>(36)</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>1,113</u>	<u>(1,260)</u>	<u>(147)</u>
Total interest expense	<u>179</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>235</u>	<u>1,342</u>	<u>(1,286)</u>	<u>56</u>
Net interest income	<u>\$ 3,371</u>	<u>\$ 225</u>	<u>\$ 3,596</u>	<u>\$ 1,286</u>	<u>\$ 3,711</u>	<u>\$ 4,997</u>

Interest Sensitivity . The Company monitors and manages the pricing and maturity of its assets and liabilities in order to diminish the potential adverse impact that changes in interest rates could have on its net interest income. A monitoring technique employed by the Company is the measurement of the Company's interest sensitivity "gap," which is the positive or negative dollar difference between assets and liabilities that are subject to interest rate repricing within a given period of time. The Company also performs asset/liability modeling to assess the impact varying interest rates and balance sheet mix assumptions will have on net interest income. Interest rate sensitivity can be managed by repricing assets or liabilities, selling securities available-for-sale, replacing an asset or liability at maturity, or adjusting the interest rate during the life of an asset or liability. Managing the amount of assets and liabilities repricing in the same time interval helps to hedge the risk and minimize the impact on net interest income of rising or falling interest rates. The Company evaluates interest sensitivity risk and then formulates guidelines regarding asset generation and repricing, funding sources and pricing, and off-balance sheet commitments in order to decrease interest rate sensitivity risk.

The following tables illustrate the Company's consolidated interest rate sensitivity and consolidated cumulative gap position at December 31, 2013, 2014, and 2015.

December 31, 2013					
	Within Three Months	After Three Through Twelve Months	Within One Year	Greater Than One Year or Nonsensitive	Total
(Dollars in thousands)					
Assets					
Earning Assets:					
Loans	\$ 89,314	\$ 98,315	\$ 187,629	\$ 395,673	\$ 583,302
Securities (2)	10,114	16,006	26,120	231,903	258,023
Funds sold and other	967	14,205	15,172	-	15,172
Total earning assets	<u>\$ 100,395</u>	<u>\$ 128,526</u>	<u>\$ 228,921</u>	<u>\$ 627,576</u>	<u>\$ 856,497</u>
Liabilities					
Interest-bearing liabilities:					
Interest-bearing deposits:					
NOW accounts (1)	\$ -	\$ 240,513	\$ 240,513	\$ -	\$ 240,513
Money market accounts	107,564	-	107,564	-	107,564
Savings deposits (1)	-	55,113	55,113	-	55,113
Time deposits	46,875	87,475	134,350	68,637	202,987
Total interest-bearing deposits	154,439	383,101	537,540	68,637	606,177
Borrowed funds (3)	37,000	4,000	41,000	11,000	52,000
Total interest-bearing liabilities	191,439	387,101	578,540	79,637	658,177
Interest-sensitivity gap per period	<u>\$ (91,044)</u>	<u>\$ (258,575)</u>	<u>\$ (349,619)</u>	<u>\$ 547,939</u>	<u>\$ 198,320</u>
Cumulative gap at December 31, 2013	<u>\$ (91,044)</u>	<u>\$ (349,619)</u>	<u>\$ (349,619)</u>	<u>\$ 198,320</u>	<u>\$ 198,320</u>
Ratio of cumulative gap to total earning assets at December 31, 2013	(10.6)%	(40.8)%	(40.8)%	23.2%	

December 31, 2014					
	Within Three Months	After Three Through Twelve Months	Within One Year	Greater Than One Year or Nonsensitive	Total
(Dollars in thousands)					
Assets					
Earning Assets:					
Loans	\$ 99,183	\$ 82,644	\$ 181,827	\$ 524,808	\$ 706,635
Securities (2)	14,266	14,880	29,146	241,028	270,174
Funds sold and other	386	13,899	14,285	-	14,285
Total earning assets	<u>\$ 113,835</u>	<u>\$ 111,423</u>	<u>\$ 225,258</u>	<u>\$ 765,836</u>	<u>\$ 991,094</u>
Liabilities					
Interest-bearing liabilities:					
Interest-bearing deposits:					
NOW accounts (1)	\$ -	\$ 301,721	\$ 301,721	\$ -	\$ 301,721
Money market accounts	117,018	-	117,018	-	117,018
Savings deposits (1)	-	66,615	66,615	-	66,615
Time deposits	53,529	78,581	132,110	73,949	206,059
Total interest-bearing deposits	170,547	446,917	617,464	73,949	691,413
Borrowed funds (3)	40,004	40,464	80,468	8,982	89,450
Total interest-bearing liabilities	210,551	487,381	697,932	82,931	780,863
Interest-sensitivity gap per period	<u>\$ (96,716)</u>	<u>\$ (375,958)</u>	<u>\$ (472,674)</u>	<u>\$ 682,905</u>	<u>\$ 210,231</u>
Cumulative gap at December 31, 2014	<u>\$ (96,716)</u>	<u>\$ (472,674)</u>	<u>\$ (472,674)</u>	<u>\$ 210,231</u>	<u>\$ 210,231</u>
Ratio of cumulative gap to total earning assets at December 31, 2014	(9.8)%	(47.7)%	(47.7)%	21.2%	

December 31, 2015

	Within Three Months	After Three Through Twelve Months	Within One Year	Greater Than One Year or Nonsensitive	Total
(Dollars in thousands)					
Assets					
Earning Assets:					
Loans	\$ 101,160	\$ 76,996	\$ 178,156	\$ 598,333	\$ 776,489
Securities (2)	14,831	18,100	32,931	222,028	254,959
Funds sold and other	321	17,303	17,624	-	17,624
Total earning assets	<u>\$ 116,312</u>	<u>\$ 112,399</u>	<u>\$ 228,711</u>	<u>\$ 820,361</u>	<u>\$ 1,049,072</u>
Liabilities					
Interest-bearing liabilities:					
Interest-bearing deposits:					
NOW accounts (1)	\$ -	\$ 373,686	\$ 373,686	\$ -	\$ 373,686
Money market accounts	105,434	-	105,434	-	105,434
Savings deposits (1)	-	68,657	68,657	-	68,657
Time deposits	37,222	83,549	120,771	58,702	179,473
Total interest-bearing deposits	142,656	525,892	668,548	58,702	727,250
Borrowed funds (3)	81,130	21,191	102,321	8,000	110,321
Total interest-bearing liabilities	223,786	547,083	770,869	66,702	837,571
Interest-sensitivity gap per period	<u>\$ (107,474)</u>	<u>\$ (434,684)</u>	<u>\$ (542,158)</u>	<u>\$ 753,659</u>	<u>\$ 211,501</u>
Cumulative gap at December 31, 2015	<u>\$ (107,474)</u>	<u>\$ (542,158)</u>	<u>\$ (542,158)</u>	<u>\$ 211,501</u>	<u>\$ 211,501</u>
Ratio of cumulative gap to total earning assets at December 31, 2015	(10.2)%	(51.7)%	(51.7)%	20.2%	

- (1) NOW and savings accounts are subject to immediate withdrawal and repricing. These deposits do not tend to immediately react to changes in interest rates and the Company believes these deposits are a stable and predictable funding source. Therefore, these deposits are included in the repricing period that management believes most closely matches the periods in which they are likely to reprice rather than the period in which the funds can be withdrawn contractually.
- (2) Securities include mortgage backed and other installment paying obligations based upon stated maturity dates.
- (3) Does not include subordinated debentures of \$10,310,000

The Company generally would benefit from increasing market rates of interest when it has an asset-sensitive gap and generally from decreasing market rates of interest when it is liability sensitive. The Company currently is liability sensitive within the one-year time frame. However, the Company's gap analysis is not a precise indicator of its interest sensitivity position. The analysis presents only a static view of the timing of maturities and repricing opportunities, without taking into consideration that changes in interest rates do not affect all assets and liabilities equally. For example, rates paid on a substantial portion of core deposits may change contractually within a relatively short time frame, but those rates are viewed by management as significantly less interest-sensitive than market-based rates such as those paid on non-core deposits. Accordingly, management believes a liability sensitive-position within one year would not be as indicative of the Company's true interest sensitivity as it would be for an organization which depends to a greater extent on purchased funds to support earning assets. Net interest income is also affected by other significant factors, including changes in the volume and mix of earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities.

Provision and Allowance for Loan Losses

The Company has developed policies and procedures for evaluating the overall quality of its credit portfolio and the timely identification of potential problem loans. Management's judgment as to the adequacy of the allowance is based upon a number of assumptions about future events which it believes to be reasonable, but which may not prove to be accurate. Thus, there can be no assurance that charge-offs in future periods will not exceed the allowance for loan losses or that additional increases in the loan loss allowance will not be required.

The Company's allowance consists of two parts. The first part is determined in accordance with authoritative guidance issued by the FASB regarding the allowance. The Company's determination of this part of the allowance is based upon quantitative and qualitative factors. A loan loss history based upon the prior three years is utilized in determining the appropriate allowance. Historical loss factors are determined by criticized and uncriticized loans by loan type. These historical loss factors are applied to the loans by loan type to determine an indicated allowance. The loss factors of peer groups are considered in the determination of the allowance and are used to assist in the establishment of a long-term loss history for areas in which this data is unavailable and incorporated into the qualitative factors to be considered. The historical loss factors may also be modified based upon other qualitative factors including but not limited to local and national economic conditions, trends of delinquent loans, changes in lending policies and underwriting standards, concentrations, and management's knowledge of the loan portfolio. These factors require judgment upon the part of management and are based upon state and national economic reports received from various institutions and agencies including the Federal Reserve Bank, United States Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, meetings with the Company's loan officers and loan committees, and data and guidance received or obtained from the Company's regulatory authorities.

The second part of the allowance is determined in accordance with guidance issued by the FASB regarding impaired loans. Impaired loans are determined based upon a review by internal loan review and senior loan officers. Impaired loans are loans for which the Bank does not expect to receive contractual interest and/or principal by the due date. A specific allowance is assigned to each loan determined to be impaired based upon the value of the loan's underlying collateral. Appraisals are used by management to determine the value of the collateral.

The sum of the two parts constitutes management's best estimate of an appropriate allowance for loan losses. When the estimated allowance is determined, it is presented to the Company's audit committee for review and approval on a quarterly basis.

Our allowance for loan losses model is focused on establishing a loss history within the Bank and relying on specific impairment to determine credits that the Bank feels the ultimate repayment source will be liquidation of the subject collateral. Our model takes into account many other factors as well such as local and national economic factors, portfolio trends, non performing asset, charge off, and delinquency trends as well as underwriting standards and the experience of branch management and lending staff. These trends are measured in the following ways:

Local Trends: (Updated quarterly usually the month following quarter end)

- Local Unemployment Rate
- Insurance Issues (Windpool Areas)
- Bankruptcy Rates (Increasing/Declining)
- Local Commercial R/E Vacancy Rates
- Established Market/New Market
- Hurricane Threat

National Trends: (Updated quarterly usually the month following quarter end)

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- Home Sales
- Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- Interest Rate Environment (Increasing/Steady/Declining)
- Single Family Construction Starts
- Inflation Rate
- Retail Sales

Portfolio Trends: (Updated monthly as the ALLL is calculated)

- Second Mortgages
- Single Pay Loans
- Non-Recourse Loans
- Limited Guaranty Loans
- Loan to Value Exceptions
- Secured by Non-Owner Occupied Property
- Raw Land Loans
- Unsecured Loans

Measurable Bank Trends: (Updated quarterly)

- Delinquency Trends
- Non-Accrual Trends
- Net Charge Offs
- Loan Volume Trends
- Non-Performing Assets
- Underwriting Standards/Lending Policies
- Experience/Depth of Bank Lending Management

Our model takes into account many local and national economic factors as well as portfolio trends. Local and national economic trends are measured quarterly, typically in the month following quarter end to facilitate the release of economic data from the reporting agencies. These factors are allocated a basis point value ranging from -25 to +25 basis points and directly affect the amount reserved for each branch. As of December 31, 2015, most economic indicators both local and national pointed to a weak economy thus most factors were assigned a positive basis point value. This increased the amount of the allowance that was indicated by historical loss factors. Portfolio trends are measured monthly on a per branch basis to determine the percentage of loans in each branch that the Bank has determined as having more risk. Portfolio risk is defined as areas in the Bank's loan portfolio in which there is additional risk involved in the loan type or some other area in which the Bank has identified as having more risk. Each area is tracked on bank-wide as well as on a branch-wide basis. Branches are analyzed based on the gross percentage of concentrations of the Bank as a whole. Portfolio risk is determined by analyzing concentrations in the areas outlined by determining the percentage of each branch's total portfolio that is made up of the particular loan type and then comparing that concentration to the Bank as a whole. Branches with concentrations in these areas are graded on a scale from – 25 basis points to + 25 basis points. Second mortgages, single pay loans, loans secured by raw land, unsecured loans and loans secured by non owner occupied property are considered to be of higher risk than those of a secured and amortizing basis. LTV exceptions place the Bank at risk in the event of repossession or foreclosure.

Measurable Bank Wide Trends are measured on a quarterly basis as well. This consists of data tracked on a bank wide basis in which we have identified areas of additional risk or the need for additional allocation to the allowance for loan loss. Data is updated quarterly, each area is assigned a basis point value from -25 basis points to + 25 basis points based on how each area measures to the previous time period. Net charge offs, loan volume trends and non performing assets have all trended upwards therefore increasing the need for increased funds reserved for loan losses. Underwriting standards/ lending standards as well as experience/ depth of bank lending management is evaluated on a per branch level.

Loans are reviewed for impairment when, in the Bank's opinion, the ultimate source of repayment will be the liquidation of collateral through foreclosure or repossession. Once identified updated collateral values are obtained on these loans and impairment worksheets are prepared to determine if impairment exists. This method takes into account any expected expenses related to the disposal of the subject collateral. Specific allowances for these loans are done on a per loan basis as each loan is reviewed for impairment. Updated appraisals are ordered on real estate loans and updated valuations are ordered on non real estate loans to determine actual market value.

At December 31, 2015, the consolidated allowance for loan losses amounted to approximately \$6.7 million, or .87% of outstanding loans. Including valuation accounting adjustments on acquired loans, the total valuation plus ALLL was 1.11% of loans at December 31, 2015. At December 31, 2014, the allowance for loan losses amounted to approximately \$6.1 million, which was .86% of outstanding loans. The Company's provision for loan losses was \$410,000 for the year ended December 31, 2015, compared to \$1,418,000 for the year ended December 31, 2014.

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. Loans that experience insignificant payment delays and payment shortfalls generally are not classified as impaired. Management determines the significance of payment delays and payment shortfalls on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration all of the circumstances surrounding the loan and the borrower, including the length of the delay, the reasons for the delay, the borrower's prior payment record, and the amount of the shortfall in relation to the principal and interest owed. Impairment is measured on a loan by loan basis. Impaired loans not deemed collateral dependent are analyzed according to the ultimate repayment source, whether that is cash flow from the borrower, guarantor or some other source of repayment. Impaired loans are deemed collateral dependent if in the Bank's opinion the ultimate source of repayment will be generated from the liquidation of collateral.

The Company discontinues accrual of interest on loans when management believes, after considering economic and business conditions and collection efforts, that a borrower's financial condition is such that the collection of interest is doubtful. Generally, the Company will place a delinquent loan in nonaccrual status when the loan becomes 90 days or more past due. At the time a loan is placed in nonaccrual status, all interest which has been accrued on the loan but remains unpaid is reversed and deducted from earnings as a reduction of reported interest income. No additional interest is accrued on the loan balance until the collection of both principal and interest becomes reasonably certain.

The following tables illustrate the Company's past due and nonaccrual loans at December 31, 2015 and 2014.

	December 31, 2015		
	(In thousands)		
	Past Due 30 to 89 Days	Past Due 90 days or more and still accruing	Non-Accrual
Real Estate-construction	\$ 311	\$ -	\$ 2,956
Real Estate-mortgage	3,339	29	2,055
Real Estate-nonfarm nonresidential	736	-	2,225
Commercial	97	-	100
Consumer	70	-	32
Total	<u>\$ 4,553</u>	<u>\$ 29</u>	<u>\$ 7,368</u>

	December 31, 2014		
	(In thousands)		
	Past Due 30 to 89 Days	Past Due 90 days or more and still accruing	Non-Accrual
Real Estate-construction	\$ 428	\$ -	\$ 2,747
Real Estate-mortgage	3,208	208	2,164
Real Estate-nonfarm nonresidential	3,408	461	1,102
Commercial	29	-	5
Consumer	90	-	38
Total	<u>\$ 7,163</u>	<u>\$ 669</u>	<u>\$ 6,056</u>

Total nonaccrual loans at December 31, 2015, amounted to \$7.4 million which was an increase of \$1.3 million from the December 31, 2014, amount of \$6.1 million. Management believes these relationships were adequately reserved at December 31, 2015. Restructured loans not reported as past due or nonaccrual at December 31, 2015, amounted to \$2.8 million.

A potential problem loan is one in which management has serious doubts about the borrower's future performance under the terms of the loan contract. These loans are current as to principal and interest and, accordingly, they are not included in nonperforming asset categories. The level of potential problem loans is one factor used in the determination of the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses. At December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, The First had potential problem loans of \$17,878,000 and \$20,946,000, respectively.

Consolidated Allowance For Loan Losses
(In thousands)

	Years Ended December 31,				
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Average loans outstanding	\$ 730,326	\$ 632,049	\$ 583,200	\$ 388,012	\$ 354,295
Loans outstanding at year end	\$ 776,489	\$ 706,635	\$ 583,302	\$ 413,697	\$ 387,929
Total nonaccrual loans	\$ 7,368	\$ 6,056	\$ 3,181	\$ 3,401	\$ 5,125
Beginning balance of allowance	\$ 6,095	\$ 5,728	\$ 4,727	\$ 4,511	\$ 4,617
Loans charged-off	(843)	(1,459)	(759)	(1,190)	(1,987)
Total loans charged-off	(843)	(1,459)	(759)	(1,190)	(1,987)
Total recoveries	1,085	408	684	178	413
Net loans (charged-off) recoveries	242	(1,051)	(75)	(1,012)	(1,574)
Provision for loan losses	410	1,418	1,076	1,228	1,468
Balance at year end	\$ 6,747	\$ 6,095	\$ 5,728	\$ 4,727	\$ 4,511
Net charge-offs (recoveries) to average loans	(.03)%	.17%	.01%	.26%	.44%
Allowance as percent of total loans	.87%	.86%	.98%	1.14%	1.16%
Nonperforming loans as a percentage of total loans	.95%	.86%	.55%	.82%	1.32%
Allowance as a multiple of nonaccrual loans	.92X	1.0X	1.8X	1.4X	.88X

At December 31, 2015, the components of the allowance for loan losses consisted of the following:

	Allowance (In thousands)
Allocated:	
Impaired loans	\$ 957
Graded loans	5,790
	<u>\$ 6,747</u>

Graded loans are those loans or pools of loans assigned a grade by internal loan review.

The following table represents the activity of the allowance for loan losses for the years 2015 and 2014.

Analysis of the Allowance for Loan Losses

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2015	2014
	(Dollars in thousands)	
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 6,095	\$ 5,728
Charge-offs:		
Real Estate-construction	(162)	(47)
Real Estate-mortgage	(372)	(1,156)
Real Estate-nonfarm nonresidential	(-)	(-)
Commercial	(183)	(89)
Consumer	(126)	(167)
Total	(843)	(1,459)
Recoveries:		
Real Estate-construction	63	96
Real Estate-mortgage	827	212
Real Estate-nonfarm nonresidential	15	17
Commercial	99	15
Consumer	81	68
Total	1,085	408
Net (Charge-offs) Recoveries	242	(1,051)
Provision for Loan Losses	410	1,418
Balance at end of year	\$ 6,747	\$ 6,095

The following tables represent how the allowance for loan losses is allocated to a particular loan type as well as the percentage of the category to total loans at December 31, 2015 and 2014.

Allocation of the Allowance for Loan Losses

	December 31, 2015	
	(Dollars in thousands)	
		% of loans in each category to total loans
	Amount	
Commercial Non Real Estate	\$ 895	17.1%
Commercial Real Estate	3,018	58.4%
Consumer Real Estate	1,477	21.9%
Consumer	141	2.5%
Unallocated	1,216	0.1%
Total	\$ 6,747	100%

	December 31, 2014	
	(Dollars in thousands)	
		% of loans in each category to total loans
	Amount	
Commercial Non Real Estate	\$ 713	15.3%
Commercial Real Estate	3,355	57.9%
Consumer Real Estate	1,852	24.2%
Consumer	175	2.6%
Unallocated	-	-
Total	\$ 6,095	100%

Noninterest Income and Expense

Noninterest Income . The Company's primary source of noninterest income is service charges on deposit accounts. Other sources of noninterest income include bankcard fees, commissions on check sales, safe deposit box rent, wire transfer fees, official check fees and bank owned life insurance income.

Noninterest income decreased \$215,000 or 2.8% during 2015 to \$7,589,000 from \$7,803,000 for the year ended December 31, 2014. The deposit activity fees were \$5,014,000 for 2015 compared to \$4,262,000 for 2014. Other service charges decreased by \$392,000 or 20.2% from \$1,938,000 for the year ended December 31, 2014, to \$1,546,000 for the year ended December 31, 2015. Impairment losses on investment securities were \$0 for 2015 and 2014.

Noninterest expense increased from \$30.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2014, to \$32.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2015. The Company experienced slight increases in most expense categories. The largest increase was in salaries and employee benefits, which increased by \$1.1 million in 2015 as compared to 2014. These increases were due in part to a full year of the Bay Bank branches and the addition of the Mortgage Connection.

The following table sets forth the primary components of noninterest expense for the periods indicated:

Noninterest Expense

	Years ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
	(In thousands)		
Salaries and employee benefits	\$ 18,537	\$ 17,462	\$ 14,855
Occupancy	3,422	3,141	2,648
Equipment	1,199	1,541	1,452
Marketing and public relations	497	445	451
Data processing	150	161	169
Supplies and printing	300	498	455
Telephone	631	616	731
Correspondent services	104	83	74
Deposit and other insurance	1,051	1,048	834
Professional and consulting fees	1,332	1,618	2,433
Postage	400	302	303
ATM expense	763	689	639
Other	3,775	3,130	3,121
Total	<u>\$ 32,161</u>	<u>\$ 30,734</u>	<u>\$ 28,165</u>

Income Tax Expense

Income tax expense consists of two components. The first is the current tax expense which represents the expected income tax to be paid to taxing authorities. The Company also recognizes deferred tax for future income/deductible amounts resulting from differences in the financial statement and tax bases of assets and liabilities.

Analysis of Financial Condition

Earning Assets

Loans. Loans typically provide higher yields than the other types of earning assets, and thus one of the Company's goals is for loans to be the largest category of the Company's earning assets. At December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, average loans accounted for 71.7% and 67.8% of average earning assets. Management attempts to control and counterbalance the inherent credit and liquidity risks associated with the higher loan yields without sacrificing asset quality to achieve its asset mix goals. Loans averaged \$730.3 million during 2015, as compared to \$632.0 million during 2014, and \$583.2 million during 2013.

The following table shows the composition of the loan portfolio by category:

	December 31,					
	2015		2014		2013	
	Amount	Percent Of Total	Amount	Percent of Total	Amount	Percent of Total
	(Dollars in thousands)					
Mortgage loans held for sale	\$ 3,974	0.5%	\$ 2,103	0.3%	\$ 3,680	0.6%
Commercial, financial and agricultural	129,197	16.6%	106,109	15.0%	81,792	14.0%
Real Estate:						
Mortgage-commercial	253,309	32.6%	238,602	33.8%	212,388	36.4%
Mortgage-residential	272,180	35.1%	256,406	36.3%	202,343	34.7%
Construction	99,161	12.8%	84,935	12.0%	67,287	11.5%
Lease Financing Receivable	2,650	0.3%				
Consumer and other	16,018	2.1%	18,480	2.6%	15,812	2.8%
Total loans	<u>776,489</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>706,635</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>583,302</u>	<u>100%</u>
Allowance for loan losses	(6,747)		(6,095)		(5,728)	
Net loans	<u>\$ 769,742</u>		<u>\$ 700,540</u>		<u>\$ 577,574</u>	

In the context of this discussion, a "real estate mortgage loan" is defined as any loan, other than loans for construction purposes, secured by real estate, regardless of the purpose of the loan. The Company follows the common practice of financial institutions in the Company's market area of obtaining a security interest in real estate whenever possible, in addition to any other available collateral. This collateral is taken to reinforce the likelihood of the ultimate repayment of the loan and tends to increase the magnitude of the real estate loan portfolio component. Generally, the Company limits its loan-to-value ratio to 80%. Management attempts to maintain a conservative philosophy regarding its underwriting guidelines and believes it will reduce the risk elements of its loan portfolio through strategies that diversify the lending mix.

Loans held for sale consist of mortgage loans originated by the Bank and sold into the secondary market. Commitments from investors to purchase the loans are obtained upon origination.

The following table sets forth the Company's commercial and construction real estate loans maturing within specified intervals at December 31, 2015.

Loan Maturity Schedule and Sensitivity to Changes in Interest Rates

Type	December 31, 2015			
	One Year or Less	Over One Year Through Five Years	Over Five Years	Total
	(In thousands)			
Commercial, financial and agricultural	\$ 44,176	\$ 63,078	\$ 21,943	\$ 129,197
Real estate – construction	44,720	36,189	18,252	99,161
	<u>\$ 88,896</u>	<u>\$ 99,267</u>	<u>\$ 40,195</u>	<u>\$ 228,358</u>
Loans maturing after one year with:				
Fixed interest rates				\$ 115,777
Floating interest rates				23,685
				<u>\$ 139,462</u>

The information presented in the above table is based on the contractual maturities of the individual loans, including loans which may be subject to renewal at their contractual maturity. Renewal of such loans is subject to review and credit approval, as well as modification of terms upon their maturity.

Investment Securities. The investment securities portfolio is a significant component of the Company's total earning assets. Total securities averaged \$256.5 million in 2015, as compared to \$271.2 million in 2014 and \$248.2 million in 2013. This represents 25.2%, 29.1%, and 29.0% of the average earning assets for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively. At December 31, 2015, investment securities were \$255.0 million and represented 24.5% of earning assets. The Company attempts to maintain a portfolio of high quality, highly liquid investments with returns competitive with short-term U.S. Treasury or agency obligations. This objective is particularly important as the Company focuses on growing its loan portfolio. The Company primarily invests in securities of U.S. Government agencies, municipalities, and corporate obligations with maturities up to five years.

The following table summarizes the carrying value of securities for the dates indicated.

Securities Portfolio

	December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
	(In thousands)		
Available-for-sale			
U. S. Government agencies and Mortgage-backed Securities	\$ 118,536	\$ 120,407	\$ 108,148
States and municipal subdivisions	97,889	104,582	108,079
Corporate obligations	22,346	28,785	26,852
Mutual funds	961	972	972
Total available-for-sale	<u>239,732</u>	<u>254,746</u>	<u>244,051</u>
Held-to-maturity			
U.S. Government agencies	1,092	2,193	2,438
States and municipal subdivisions	6,000	6,000	6,000
Total held-to-maturity	<u>7,092</u>	<u>8,193</u>	<u>8,438</u>
Total	<u>\$ 246,824</u>	<u>\$ 262,939</u>	<u>\$ 252,489</u>

The following table shows, at carrying value, the scheduled maturities and average yields of securities held at December 31, 2015.

Investment Securities Maturity Distribution and Yields (1)

(Dollars in thousands)	December 31, 2015							
	Within One Year		After One But Within Five Years		After Five But Within Ten Years		After Ten Years	
	Amount	Yield	Amount	Yield	Amount	Yield	Amount	Yield
Held-to-maturity:								
U.S. Government agencies (2)	\$ -	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	-
States and municipal subdivisions	-	-	-	-	6,000,000	.93%	-	-
Total investment securities held-to-maturity	<u>\$ -</u>		<u>\$ -</u>		<u>\$ 6,000,000</u>		<u>\$ -</u>	
Available-for-sale:								
U.S. Government agencies (3)	\$ 7,034,600	.85%	\$ 9,602,910	1.25%	\$ 469,976	2.78%	\$ 2,503,464	3.20%
States and municipal subdivisions	11,873,559	2.39%	33,931,040	3.07%	39,538,380	4.09%	12,546,352	4.70%
Corporate obligations and other	3,520,980	2.24%	16,291,456	1.91%	2,476,187	2.0%	1,018,402	2.00%
Total investment securities available-for-sale	<u>\$ 22,429,139</u>		<u>\$ 59,825,406</u>		<u>\$ 42,484,543</u>		<u>\$ 16,068,218</u>	

(1) Investments with a call feature are shown as of the contractual maturity date.

(2) Excludes mortgage-backed securities totaling \$1.1 million with a yield of 2.63%.

(3) Excludes mortgage-backed securities totaling \$98.9 million with a yield of 2.34% and mutual funds of \$.9 million.

Short-Term Investments. Short-term investments, consisting of Federal Funds Sold, funds in due from banks and interest-bearing deposits with banks, averaged \$24.6 million in 2015, \$24.8 million in 2014, and \$18.6 million in 2013. At December 31, 2015, and December 31, 2014, short-term investments totaled \$321,000 and \$386,000, respectively. These funds are a primary source of the Company's liquidity and are generally invested in an earning capacity on an overnight basis.

Deposits

Deposits. Average total deposits increased \$109.8 million, or 14.3% in 2014. Average total deposits increased \$75.2 million, or 8.6% in 2015. At December 31, 2015, total deposits were \$916.7 million, compared to \$892.8 million a year earlier, an increase of \$23.9 million, or 2.7%.

The following table sets forth the deposits of the Company by category for the period indicated.

Deposits

(Dollars in thousands)	December 31,					
	2015		2014		2013	
	Amount	Percent of Deposits	Amount	Percent of Deposits	Amount	Percent of Deposits
Noninterest-bearing accounts	\$ 189,445	20.6%	\$ 201,362	22.6%	\$ 173,793	22.3%
NOW accounts	373,686	40.8%	301,721	33.8%	240,514	30.8%
Money market accounts	105,434	11.5%	117,018	13.1%	107,564	13.8%
Savings accounts	68,657	7.5%	66,615	7.5%	55,113	7.1%
Time deposits less than \$100,000	73,868	8.1%	85,365	9.6%	86,363	11.1%
Time deposits of \$100,000 or over	105,605	11.5%	120,694	13.4%	116,624	14.9%
Total deposits	<u>\$ 916,695</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$ 892,775</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$ 779,971</u>	<u>100%</u>

The Company's loan-to-deposit ratio was 84.3% at December 31, 2015 and 78.9% at December 31, 2014. The loan-to-deposit ratio averaged 76.8% during 2015. Core deposits, which exclude time deposits of \$100,000 or more, provide a relatively stable funding source for the Company's loan portfolio and other earning assets. The Company's core deposits were \$811.1 million at December 31, 2015 and \$772.1 million at December 31, 2014. Management anticipates that a stable base of deposits will be the Company's primary source of funding to meet both its short-term and long-term liquidity needs in the future. The Company has purchased brokered deposits from time to time to help fund loan growth. Brokered deposits and jumbo certificates of deposit generally carry a higher interest rate than traditional core deposits. Further, brokered deposit customers typically do not have loan or other relationships with the Company. The Company has adopted a policy not to permit brokered deposits to represent more than 10% of all of the Company's deposits.

The maturity distribution of the Company's certificates of deposit of \$100,000 or more at December 31, 2015, is shown in the following table. The Company did not have any other time deposits of \$100,000 or more.

Maturities of Certificates of Deposit of \$100,000 or More

(In thousands)	Within Three Months	After Three Through Twelve Months	After Twelve Months	Total
December 31, 2015	<u>\$ 22,363</u>	<u>\$ 48,497</u>	<u>\$ 34,745</u>	<u>\$ 105,605</u>

Borrowed Funds

Borrowed funds consist of advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas, federal funds purchased and reverse repurchase agreements. At December 31, 2015, advances from the FHLB totaled \$100.0 million compared to \$84.5 million at December 31, 2014. The advances are collateralized by a blanket lien on the first mortgage loans in the amount of the outstanding borrowings, FHLB capital stock, and amounts on deposit with the FHLB. There were \$5.3 million and \$0 federal funds purchased at December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively.

Reverse Repurchase Agreements consist of one \$5,000,000 agreement. The agreement is secured by securities with a fair value of \$5,501,503 at December 31, 2015 and \$7,443,951 at December 31, 2014. The maturity date of the remaining agreement is September 26, 2017, with a rate of 3.81%.

Subordinated Debentures

In 2006, the Company issued subordinated debentures of \$4,124,000 to The First Bancshares, Inc. Statutory Trust 2 (Trust 2). The Company is the sole owner of the equity of the Trust 2. The Trust 2 issued \$4,000,000 of preferred securities to investors. The Company makes interest payments and will make principal payments on the debentures to the Trust 2. These payments will be the source of funds used to retire the preferred securities, which are redeemable at any time beginning in 2011 and thereafter, and mature in 2036. The Company entered into this arrangement to provide funding for expected growth.

In 2007, the Company issued subordinated debentures of \$6,186,000 to The First Bancshares, Inc. Statutory Trust 3 (Trust 3). The Company is the sole owner of the equity of the Trust 3. The Trust 3 issued \$6,000,000 of preferred securities to investors. The Company makes interest payments and will make principal payments on the debentures to the Trust 3. These payments will be the source of funds used to retire the preferred securities, which are redeemable at any time beginning in 2012 and thereafter, and mature in 2037. The Company entered into this arrangement to provide funding for expected growth.

Capital

Total stockholders' equity as of December 31, 2015, was \$103.4 million, an increase of \$7.2 million or approximately 7.5%, compared with stockholders' equity of \$96.2 million as of December 31, 2014.

The Federal Reserve Board and bank regulatory agencies require bank holding companies and financial institutions to maintain capital at adequate levels based on a percentage of assets and off-balance sheet exposures, adjusted for risk weights ranging from 0% to 600%. Under the risk-based standard, capital is classified into two tiers. Tier 1 capital consists of common stockholders' equity, excluding the unrealized gain (loss) on available-for-sale securities, minus certain intangible assets. Tier 2 capital consists of the general reserve for loan losses, subject to certain limitations. An institution's total risk-based capital for purposes of its risk-based capital ratio consists of the sum of its Tier 1 and Tier 2 capital. The risk-based regulatory minimum requirements are 6% for Tier 1 and 8% for total risk-based capital.

Bank holding companies and banks are also required to maintain capital at a minimum level based on total assets, which is known as the leverage ratio. The minimum requirement for the leverage ratio is 4%. All but the highest rated institutions are required to maintain ratios 100 to 200 basis points above the minimum. The Company and The First exceeded their minimum regulatory capital ratios as of December 31, 2015 and 2014.

The Federal Reserve and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation approved final capital rules in July 2013, that substantially amend the existing capital rules for banks. These new rules reflect, in part, certain standards initially adopted by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision in December 2010 (which standards are commonly referred to as “Basel III”) as well as requirements contemplated by the Dodd-Frank Act.

Under the new capital rules, the Company is required to meet certain minimum capital requirements that differ from past capital requirements. The rules implement a new capital ratio of common equity Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets. Common equity Tier 1 capital generally consists of retained earnings and common stock (subject to certain adjustments) as well as accumulated other comprehensive income (“AOCI”), except to the extent that the Company exercised a one-time irrevocable option to exclude certain components of AOCI as of March 31, 2015. The Company will also be required to establish a “conservation buffer,” consisting of a common equity Tier 1 capital amount equal to 2.5% of risk-weighted assets to be phased in by 2019. An institution that does not meet the conservation buffer will be subject to restrictions on certain activities including payment of dividends, stock repurchases, and discretionary bonuses to executive officers.

The prompt corrective action rules are modified to include the common equity Tier 1 capital ratio and to increase the Tier 1 capital ratio requirements for the various thresholds. For example, the requirements for the Company to be considered well-capitalized under the rules will be a 5.0% leverage ratio, a 6.5% common equity Tier 1 capital ratio, an 8.0% Tier 1 capital ratio, and a 10.0% total capital ratio. To be adequately capitalized, those ratios are 4.0%, 4.5%, 6.0%, and 8.0%, respectively.

The rules modify the manner in which certain capital elements are determined. The rules make changes to the methods of calculating the risk-weighting of certain assets, which in turn affects the calculation of the risk-weighted capital ratios. Higher risk weights are assigned to various categories of assets, including commercial real estate loans, credit facilities that finance the acquisition, development or construction of real property, certain exposures or credit that are 90 days past due or are nonaccrual, securitization exposures, and in certain cases mortgage servicing rights and deferred tax assets.

The Company was required to comply with the new capital rules on January 1, 2015, with a measurement date of March 31, 2015. The conservation buffer will be phased-in beginning in 2016, and will take full effect on January 1, 2019. Certain calculations under the rules will also have phase-in periods.

Analysis of Capital

Capital Ratios	Adequately Capitalized	Well Capitalized	The Company December 31,		The First December 31,	
			2015	2014	2015	2014
Leverage	4.0%	5.0%	8.7%	8.4%	8.6%	8.4%
Risk-based capital:						
Common equity Tier 1	4.5%	6.5%	-	-	-	-
Tier 1	6.0%	8.0%	11.1%	11.5%	11.0%	11.4%
Total	8.0%	10.0%	11.9%	12.3%	11.8%	12.2%

Ratios

	2015	2014	2013
Return on assets (net income applicable to common stockholders divided by average total assets)	.75%	.61%	.45%
Return on equity (net income applicable to common stockholders divided by average equity)	8.58%	7.1%	5.0%
Dividend payout ratio (dividends per share divided by net income per common share)	9.7%	12.6%	15.6%
Equity to asset ratio (average equity divided by average total assets)	8.8%	8.6%	9.0%

Liquidity Management

Liquidity management involves monitoring the Company's sources and uses of funds in order to meet its day-to-day cash flow requirements while maximizing profits. Liquidity represents the ability of a company to convert assets into cash or cash equivalents without significant loss and to raise additional funds by increasing liabilities. Liquidity management is made more complicated because different balance sheet components are subject to varying degrees of management control. For example, the timing of maturities of the investment portfolio is very predictable and subject to a high degree of control at the time investment decisions are made; however, net deposit inflows and outflows are far less predictable and are not subject to the same degree of control. Asset liquidity is provided by cash and assets which are readily marketable, which can be pledged, or which will mature in the near future. Liability liquidity is provided by access to core funding sources, principally the ability to generate customer deposits in the Company's market area.

The Company's Federal Funds Sold position, which includes funds in due from banks and interest-bearing deposits with banks, is typically its primary source of liquidity, averaged \$24.6 million during the year ended December 31, 2015 and totaled \$17.6 million at December 31, 2015. Also, the Company has available advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank. Advances available are generally based upon the amount of qualified first mortgage loans which can be used for collateral. At December 31, 2015, advances available totaled approximately \$342.9 million of which \$100.0 million had been drawn, or used for letters of credit.

Management regularly reviews the liquidity position of the Company and has implemented internal policies which establish guidelines for sources of asset-based liquidity and limit the total amount of purchased funds used to support the balance sheet and funding from non-core sources.

Subprime Assets

The Bank does not engage in subprime lending activities targeted towards borrowers in high risk categories.

Accounting Matters

Information on new accounting matters is set forth in Footnote B to the Consolidated Financial Statements included at Item 8 in this report. This information is incorporated herein by reference.

Impact of Inflation

Unlike most industrial companies, the assets and liabilities of financial institutions such as the Company are primarily monetary in nature. Therefore, interest rates have a more significant effect on the Company's performance than do the effects of changes in the general rate of inflation and change in prices. In addition, interest rates do not necessarily move in the same direction or in the same magnitude as the prices of goods and services. As discussed previously, management seeks to manage the relationships between interest sensitive assets and liabilities in order to protect against wide interest rate fluctuations, including those resulting from inflation.

**REPORT OF
INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders
The First Bancshares, Inc.
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of The First Bancshares, Inc., as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income (loss), changes in stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the two-year period ended December 31, 2015. The management of The First Bancshares, Inc. is responsible for these financial statements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The Company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of The First Bancshares, Inc., as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the consolidated results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the years in the two-year period ended December 31, 2015, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

/s/ T. E. LOTT & COMPANY

Columbus, Mississippi
March 30, 2016

THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

	2015	2014
ASSETS		
Cash and due from banks	\$ 23,634,536	\$ 30,332,502
Interest-bearing deposits with banks	17,303,381	13,899,287
Federal funds sold	321,000	386,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	41,258,917	44,617,789
Held-to-maturity securities (fair value of \$8,547,832 in 2015 and \$9,993,816 in 2014)	7,092,120	8,192,741
Available-for-sale securities	239,732,426	254,746,446
Other securities	8,134,850	7,234,350
Total securities	254,959,396	270,173,537
Loans held for sale	3,973,765	2,103,351
Loans, net of allowance for loan losses of \$6,747,103 in 2015 and \$6,095,001 in 2014	765,768,073	698,436,345
Interest receivable	3,953,338	3,659,006
Premises and equipment	33,623,011	34,809,843
Cash surrender value of life insurance	14,871,742	14,463,207
Goodwill	13,776,040	12,276,040
Other real estate owned	3,082,694	4,654,604
Other assets	9,863,743	8,573,997
Total assets	\$ 1,145,130,719	\$ 1,093,767,719
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Deposits:		
Noninterest-bearing	\$ 189,444,815	\$ 201,362,468
Interest-bearing	727,250,297	691,413,018
Total deposits	916,695,112	892,775,486
Interest payable	245,732	315,844
Borrowed funds	110,321,245	89,450,067
Subordinated debentures	10,310,000	10,310,000
Other liabilities	4,122,540	4,700,738
Total liabilities	1,041,694,629	997,552,135
Stockholders' Equity:		
Preferred stock, no par value, \$1,000 per share liquidation, 10,000,000 shares authorized; 17,123 shares issued and outstanding in 2015 and 2014, respectively	17,123,000	17,123,000
Common stock, par value \$1 per share: 20,000,000 shares authorized; 5,403,159 shares issued and outstanding in 2015; 10,000,0000 shares authorized; 5,342,670 shares issued and outstanding in 2014.	5,403,159	5,342,670
Additional paid-in capital	44,650,274	44,420,149
Retained earnings	35,624,715	27,975,049
Accumulated other comprehensive income	1,098,587	1,818,361
Treasury stock, at cost	(463,645)	(463,645)
Total stockholders' equity	103,436,090	96,215,584
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 1,145,130,719	\$ 1,093,767,719

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

	2015	2014
INTEREST INCOME		
Interest and fees on loans	\$ 34,242,067	\$ 30,276,477
Interest and dividends on securities:		
Taxable interest and dividends	3,948,459	3,884,321
Tax-exempt interest	1,854,213	2,071,782
Interest on federal funds sold	63,841	52,945
Interest on deposits in banks	93,276	85,257
Total interest income	<u>40,201,856</u>	<u>36,370,782</u>
INTEREST EXPENSE		
Interest on time deposits of \$100,000 or more	762,119	782,441
Interest on other deposits	1,800,122	1,586,897
Interest on borrowed funds	645,207	603,469
Total interest expense	<u>3,207,448</u>	<u>2,972,807</u>
Net interest income	36,994,408	33,397,975
Provision for loan losses	410,069	1,418,260
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	<u>36,584,339</u>	<u>31,979,715</u>
OTHER INCOME		
Service charges on deposit accounts	5,013,983	4,261,795
Other service charges and fees	1,545,960	1,938,079
Bank owned life insurance income	408,535	369,804
Gain on sale of premises	133,339	110,734
Gain on sale of securities	-	237,174
Loss on sale of other real estate	(246,859)	(85,256)
Other	733,574	971,138
Total other income	<u>7,588,532</u>	<u>7,803,468</u>
OTHER EXPENSE		
Salaries	15,089,136	14,207,216
Employee benefits	3,447,367	3,254,399
Occupancy	3,422,116	3,140,738
Furniture and equipment	1,198,930	1,540,796
Supplies and printing	300,022	497,755
Professional and consulting fees	1,331,928	1,617,828
Marketing and public relations	496,638	445,451
FDIC and OCC assessments	965,642	938,378
ATM expense	763,248	688,766
Telephone	631,261	616,160
Other	4,514,834	3,786,121
Total other expense	<u>32,161,122</u>	<u>30,733,608</u>

THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

Continued:	2015	2014
	<u>12,011,749</u>	<u>9,049,575</u>
Income before income taxes		
Income taxes	<u>3,213,047</u>	<u>2,435,879</u>
Net income	8,798,702	6,613,696
Preferred dividends and stock accretion	342,460	362,953
Net income applicable to common stockholders	<u>\$ 8,456,242</u>	<u>\$ 6,250,743</u>
Net income per share:		
Basic	\$ 1.64	\$ 1.27
Diluted	1.62	1.25
Net income applicable to common stockholders:		
Basic	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.20
Diluted	1.55	1.19

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Net income	\$ 8,798,702	\$ 6,613,696
Other comprehensive income:		
Unrealized gains on securities:		
Unrealized holding gains (losses) arising during the period	(1,093,182)	4,804,818
Less reclassification adjustment for gains included in net income	<u>-</u>	<u>(237,173)</u>
	(1,093,182)	4,567,645
Unrealized holding gains on loans held for sale	2,753	83,826
Income tax benefit (expense)	<u>370,655</u>	<u>(1,584,266)</u>
Other comprehensive income (loss)	<u>(719,774)</u>	<u>3,067,205</u>
Comprehensive income	<u>\$ 8,078,928</u>	<u>\$ 9,680,901</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

	Common Stock	Preferred Stock	Stock Warrants	Additional Paid-in Capital	Retained Earnings	Accum- ulated Other Compre- hensive Income (Loss)	Treasury Stock	Total
Balance, January 1, 2014	\$ 5,122,941	\$ 17,102,507	\$ 283,738	\$ 41,802,725	\$ 22,508,918	\$ (1,248,844)	\$ (463,645)	\$ 85,108,340
Net income 2014	-	-	-	-	6,613,696	-	-	6,613,696
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	3,067,205	-	3,067,205
Dividends on preferred stock	-	-	-	-	(342,460)	-	-	(342,460)
Cash dividend declared, \$.15 per common share	-	-	-	-	(784,612)	-	-	(784,612)
Grant of restricted stock	67,627	-	-	(67,627)	-	-	-	-
Compensation cost on restricted stock	-	-	-	617,779	-	-	-	617,779
Preferred stock accretion	-	20,493	-	-	(20,493)	-	-	-
Repurchase of restricted stock for payment of taxes	(5,981)	-	-	(79,551)	-	-	-	(85,532)
Issuance of 158,083 common shares for BCB Holding	158,083	-	-	1,863,085	-	-	-	2,021,168
Balance, December 31, 2014	\$ 5,342,670	\$ 17,123,000	\$ 283,738	\$ 44,136,411	\$ 27,975,049	\$ 1,818,361	\$ (463,645)	\$ 96,215,584
Net income 2015	-	-	-	-	8,798,702	-	-	8,798,702
Other comprehensive (loss)	-	-	-	-	-	(719,774)	-	(719,774)

THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

Continued:	Common Stock	Preferred Stock	Stock Warrants	Additional Paid-in Capital	Retained Earnings	Accum- ulated Other Compre- hensive Income (Loss)	Treasury Stock	Total
Dividends on preferred stock	-	-	-	-	(342,460)	-	-	(342,460)
Cash dividend declared, \$.15 per common share	-	-	-	-	(806,576)	-	-	(806,576)
Grant of restricted stock	69,327	-	-	(69,327)	-	-	-	-
Compensation cost on restricted stock	-	-	-	721,124	-	-	-	721,124
Repurchase of restricted stock for payment of taxes	(6,324)	-	-	(86,066)	-	-	-	(92,390)
Adjustment to consideration issued in BCB Holding acquisition	(2,514)	-	-	(33,196)	-	-	-	(35,710)
Repurchase warrants	-	-	(283,738)	(18,672)	-	-	-	(302,410)
Balance, December 31, 2015	<u>\$ 5,403,159</u>	<u>\$ 17,123,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 44,650,274</u>	<u>\$ 35,624,715</u>	<u>\$ 1,098,587</u>	<u>\$ (463,645)</u>	<u>\$ 103,436,090</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

	2015	2014
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income	\$ 8,798,702	\$ 6,613,696
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	2,296,985	2,182,630
FHLB Stock dividends	(8,600)	(6,000)
Provision for loan losses	410,069	1,418,260
Deferred income taxes	255,638	331,399
Restricted stock expense	721,124	617,779
Increase in cash value of life insurance	(408,535)	(369,804)
Amortization and accretion, net	921,853	900,913
Gain on sale of land/bank premises	(133,339)	(110,734)
Gain on sale of securities	-	(237,174)
Loss on sale/writedown of other real estate	386,590	395,379
Changes in:		
Loans held for sale	(1,867,661)	1,659,996
Interest receivable	(294,332)	(152,307)
Other assets	135,620	2,643,956
Interest payable	(70,112)	(109,218)
Other liabilities	(1,406,347)	(8,721,513)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>9,737,655</u>	<u>7,057,258</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchases of available-for-sale securities	(29,571,287)	(38,459,683)
Purchases of other securities	(4,079,400)	(3,296,800)
Proceeds from maturities and calls of available-for-sale securities	42,569,677	42,723,486
Proceeds from maturities and calls of held-to-maturity securities	1,099,898	246,980
Proceeds from sales of securities available-for-sale	-	10,909,239
Proceeds from redemption of other securities	3,187,500	2,514,485
Increase in loans	(68,588,377)	(89,190,269)
Net additions to premises and equipment	(1,230,531)	(988,736)
Purchase of bank owned life insurance	-	(7,500,000)
Proceeds from sale of land/bank premises	949,516	76,375
Cash received (paid) in excess of cash paid for acquisition	(843,895)	4,272,735
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(56,506,899)</u>	<u>(78,692,188)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Increase in deposits	24,090,591	53,845,509
Proceeds from borrowed funds	194,340,000	180,000,000
Repayment of borrowed funds	(173,468,821)	(155,653,580)
Dividends paid on common stock	(778,428)	(763,143)
Dividends paid on preferred stock	(342,460)	(342,460)
Repurchase of shares issued in BCB acquisition	(35,710)	-
Repurchase of warrants	(302,410)	-

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

Continued:	2015	2014
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Repurchase of restricted stock for payment of taxes	(92,390)	(85,532)
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>43,410,372</u>	<u>77,000,794</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(3,358,872)	5,365,864
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	44,617,789	39,251,925
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>\$ 41,258,917</u>	<u>\$ 44,617,789</u>
Supplemental disclosures:		
<i>Cash paid during the year for:</i>		
Interest	\$ 3,448,525	\$ 3,056,939
Income taxes	4,152,050	275,075
<i>Non-cash activities:</i>		
Transfers of loans to other real estate	1,050,342	2,208,010
Issuance of restricted stock grants	69,327	67,627
Loans originated to facilitate the sale of land	-	402,982

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE A - NATURE OF BUSINESS

The First Bancshares, Inc. (the Company) is a bank holding company whose business is primarily conducted by its wholly-owned subsidiary, The First, A National Banking Association (the Bank). The Bank provides a full range of banking services in its primary market area of South Mississippi, South Alabama, and Louisiana. The Company is regulated by the Federal Reserve Bank. Its subsidiary bank is subject to the regulation of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC).

NOTE B - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Company and the Bank follow accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America including, where applicable, general practices within the banking industry.

1. Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiary. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

2. 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 and the valuation of deferred tax assets.

3. Cash and Due From Banks

Included in cash and due from banks are legal reserve requirements which must be maintained on an average basis in the form of cash and balances due from the Federal Reserve. The reserve balance varies depending upon the types and amounts of deposits. At December 31, 2015, the required reserve balance on deposit with the Federal Reserve Bank was approximately \$11,621,000.

4. Securities

Investments in securities are accounted for as follows:

Available-for-Sale Securities

Securities classified as available-for-sale are those securities that are intended to be held for an indefinite period of time, but not necessarily to maturity. Any decision to sell a security classified as available-for-sale would be based on various factors, including movements in interest rates, liquidity needs, security risk assessments, changes in the mix of assets and liabilities and other similar factors. These securities are carried at their estimated fair value, and the net unrealized gain or loss is reported net of tax, as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) in stockholders' equity, until realized. Premiums and discounts are recognized in interest income using the interest method. Gains and losses on the sale of available-for-sale securities are determined using the adjusted cost of the specific security sold.

Securities to be Held-to-Maturity

Securities classified as held-to-maturity are those securities for which there is a positive intent and ability to hold to maturity. These securities are carried at cost adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts, computed by the interest method.

Trading Account Securities

Trading account securities are those securities which are held for the purpose of selling them at a profit. There were no trading account securities on hand at December 31, 2015 and 2014.

Other Securities

Other securities are carried at cost and are restricted in marketability. Other securities consist of investments in the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), Federal Reserve Bank and First National Bankers' Bankshares, Inc. Management reviews for impairment based on the ultimate recoverability of the cost basis.

Other-than-Temporary Impairment

Management evaluates investment securities for other-than-temporary impairment on a quarterly basis. A decline in the fair value of available-for-sale and held-to-maturity securities below cost that is deemed other-than-temporary is charged to earnings for a decline in value deemed to be credit related and a new cost basis for the security is established. The decline in value attributed to non-credit related factors is recognized in other comprehensive income.

5. Loans held for sale

The Bank originates fixed rate single family, residential first mortgage loans on a presold basis. The Bank issues a rate lock commitment to a customer and concurrently "locks in" with a secondary market investor under a best efforts delivery mechanism. Such loans are sold without the servicing retained by the Bank. The terms of the loan are dictated by the secondary investors and are transferred within several weeks of the Bank initially funding the loan. The Bank recognizes certain origination fees and service release fees upon the sale, which are included in other income on loans in the consolidated statements of income. Between the initial funding of the loans by the Bank and the subsequent purchase by the investor, the Bank carries the loans held for sale at the lower of cost or fair value in the aggregate as determined by the outstanding commitments from investors.

6. Loans

Loans are carried at the principal amount outstanding, net of the allowance for loan losses. Interest income on loans is recognized based on the principal balance outstanding and the stated rate of the loan. Loan origination fees and certain direct origination costs are deferred and recognized as an adjustment of the related loan yield using the interest method.

A loan is considered impaired, in accordance with the impairment accounting guidance of Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Section 310-10-35, *Receivables, Subsequent Measurement*, when—based upon current events and information—it is probable that the scheduled payments of principal and interest will not be collected in accordance with the contractual terms of the loan agreement. Factors considered by management in determining impairment include payment status, collateral values, and the probability of collecting scheduled payments of principal and interest when due. Generally, impairment is measured on a loan by loan basis using the fair value of the supporting collateral.

Loans are generally placed on a nonaccrual status when principal or interest is past due ninety days or when specifically determined to be impaired. When a loan is placed on nonaccrual status, interest accrued but not received is generally reversed against interest income. If collectibility is in doubt, cash receipts on nonaccrual loans are used to reduce principal rather than recorded in interest income. Past due status is determined based upon contractual terms.

7. Allowance for Loan Losses

For financial reporting purposes, the provision for loan losses charged to operations is based upon management's estimation of the amount necessary to maintain the allowance at an adequate level. Allowances for any impaired loans are generally determined based on collateral values. Loans are charged against the allowance for loan losses when management believes the collectibility of the principal is unlikely.

Management evaluates the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses on a regular basis. These evaluations are based upon a periodic review of the collectibility considering historical experience, the nature and value of the loan portfolio, underlying collateral values, internal and independent loan reviews, and prevailing economic conditions. In addition, the OCC, as a part of the regulatory examination process, reviews the loan portfolio and the allowance for loan losses and may require changes in the allowance based upon information available at the time of the examination. The allowance consists of two components: allocated and unallocated. The components represent an estimation performed pursuant to either ASC Topic 450, *Contingencies*, or ASC Subtopic 310-10, *Receivables*. The allocated component of the allowance reflects expected losses resulting from an analysis developed through specific credit allocations for individual loans, including any impaired loans, and historical loan loss history. The analysis is performed quarterly and loss factors are updated regularly.

The unallocated portion of the allowance reflects management's estimate of probable inherent but undetected losses within the portfolio due to uncertainties in economic conditions, changes in collateral values, unfavorable information about a borrower's financial condition, and other risk factors that have not yet manifested themselves. In addition, the unallocated allowance includes a component that explicitly accounts for the inherent imprecision in the loan loss analysis.

8. Premises and Equipment

Premises and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation. The depreciation policy is to provide for depreciation over the estimated useful lives of the assets using the straight-line method. Repairs and maintenance expenditures are charged to operating expenses; major expenditures for renewals and betterments are capitalized and depreciated over their estimated useful lives. Upon retirement, sale, or other disposition of property and equipment, the cost and accumulated depreciation are eliminated from the accounts, and any gains or losses are included in operations.

9. Other Real Estate

Other real estate, carried in other assets in the consolidated balance sheets, consists of properties acquired through foreclosure and, as held for sale property, is recorded at the lower of the outstanding loan balance or current appraisal less estimated costs to sell. Any write-down to fair value required at the time of foreclosure is charged to the allowance for loan losses. Subsequent gains or losses on other real estate are reported in other operating income or expenses. At December 31, 2015 and 2014, other real estate totaled \$3,082,694 and \$4,654,604, respectively.

10. Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

Goodwill totaled \$13,776,040 and \$12,276,040 for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Goodwill totaling \$1,500,000 acquired during the year ended December 31, 2015, was a result of the acquisition of The Mortgage Connection. Footnote C to these consolidated financial statements provides additional information on the acquisition during 2015.

The Company performed the required annual impairment tests of goodwill as of December 1, 2015. The Company's annual impairment test did not indicate impairment as of the testing date, and subsequent to that date, management is not aware of any events or changes in circumstances since the impairment test that would indicate that goodwill might be impaired.

The Company's acquisition method recognized intangible assets, which are subject to amortization, and included in other assets in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets, include core deposit intangibles, amortized on a straight-line basis, over a 10 year average life. The definite-lived intangible assets had the following carrying values at December 31, 2015 and 2014.

	2015			2014		
	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Amount	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Amount
(Dollars in thousands)						
Core deposit intangibles	\$ 4,000	\$ (1,885)	\$ 2,115	\$ 4,000	\$ (1,486)	\$ 2,514

The related amortization expense of business combination related intangible assets is as follows:

(dollars in thousands)

	Amount
Aggregate amortization expense for the year ended December 31:	
2014	\$ 387
2015	399
Estimated amortization expense for the year ending December 31:	
2016	\$ 383
2017	331
2018	331
2019	331
2020	331
Thereafter	408
	<u>\$ 2,115</u>

11. Other Assets and Cash Surrender Value

Financing costs related to the issuance of junior subordinated debentures are being amortized over the life of the instruments and are included in other assets. The Company invests in bank owned life insurance (BOLI). BOLI involves the purchasing of life insurance by the Company on a chosen group of employees. The Company is the owner of the policies and, accordingly, the cash surrender value of the policies is reported as an asset, and increases in cash surrender values are reported as income.

12. Stock Options

The Company accounts for stock based compensation in accordance with ASC Topic 718, *Compensation - Stock Compensation*. Compensation cost is recognized for all stock options granted based on the weighted average fair value stock price at the grant date.

13. Income Taxes

Income taxes are provided for the tax effects of the transactions reported in the financial statements and consist of taxes currently payable plus deferred taxes related primarily to differences between the bases of assets and liabilities as measured by income tax laws and their bases as reported in the financial statements. The deferred tax assets and liabilities represent the future tax consequences of those differences, which will either be taxable or deductible when the assets and liabilities are recovered or settled.

The Company and its subsidiary file consolidated income tax returns. The subsidiary provides for income taxes on a separate return basis and remits to the Company amounts determined to be payable.

ASC Topic 740, *Income Taxes*, provides guidance on financial statement recognition and measurement of tax positions taken, or expected to be taken, in tax returns. ASC Topic 740 requires an evaluation of tax positions to determine if the tax positions will more likely than not be sustainable upon examination by the appropriate taxing authority. The Company at December 31, 2015 and 2014, had no uncertain tax positions that qualify for either recognition or disclosure in the financial statements.

14. Advertising Costs

Advertising costs are expensed in the period in which they are incurred. Advertising expense for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, was \$437,085 and \$394,363, respectively.

15. Statements of Cash Flows

For purposes of reporting cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash, amounts due from banks, interest-bearing deposits with banks and federal funds sold. Generally, federal funds are sold for a one to seven day period.

16. Off-Balance Sheet Financial Instruments

In the ordinary course of business, the subsidiary bank enters into off-balance sheet financial instruments consisting of commitments to extend credit, credit card lines and standby letters of credit. Such financial instruments are recorded in the financial statements when they are exercised.

17. Earnings Applicable to Common Stockholders

Per share amounts are presented in accordance with ASC Topic 260, *Earnings Per Share*. Under ASC Topic 260, two per share amounts are considered and presented, if applicable. Basic per share data is calculated based on the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding during the reporting period. Diluted per share data includes any dilution from potential common stock, such as outstanding stock options.

The following table discloses the reconciliation of the numerators and denominators of the basic and diluted computations applicable to common stockholders:

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2015			For the Year Ended December 31, 2014		
	Net Income (Numerator)	Shares (Denominator)	Per Share Amount	Net Income (Numerator)	Shares (Denominator)	Per Share Amount
Basic per common Share	\$ 8,456,242	5,371,111	\$ 1.57	\$ 6,250,743	5,227,768	\$ 1.20
Effect of dilutive shares:						
Restricted Stock		70,939			42,901	
	\$ 8,456,242	5,442,050	\$ 1.55	\$ 6,250,743	5,270,669	\$ 1.19

The diluted per share amounts were computed by applying the treasury stock method.

18. Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made to the 2014 financial statements to conform with the classifications used in 2015. These reclassifications did not impact the Company's consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

19. Accounting Pronouncements

In January 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-01, Investments—Equity Method and Joint Ventures (Topic 323), “Accounting for Investments in Qualified Affordable Housing Projects,” which permits reporting entities to make an accounting policy election to account for their investments in qualified affordable housing projects using the proportional amortization method if certain conditions are met. Under the proportional amortization method, an entity amortizes the initial cost of the investment in proportion to the tax credits and other tax benefits received and recognizes the net investment performance in the income statement as a component of income tax expense (benefit). For those investments in qualified affordable housing projects not accounted for using the proportional method, the investment should be accounted for as an equity method investment or a cost method investment. The decision to apply the proportional amortization method of accounting is an accounting policy decision that should be applied consistently to all qualifying affordable housing project investments rather than a decision to be applied to individual investments. This amendment should be applied retrospectively to all periods presented. A reporting entity that uses the effective yield method to account for its investments in qualified affordable housing projects before the date of adoption may continue to apply the effective yield method for those preexisting investments. ASU 2014-01 is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after December 15, 2014, and interim periods within those annual periods. The Company adopted this standard, which had no material impact on the consolidated financial statements.

In January 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-04, Receivables – Troubled Debt Restructurings by Creditors (Subtopic 310-40), “Reclassification of Residential Real Estate Collateralized Consumer Mortgage Loans Upon Foreclosure,” which will eliminate diversity in practice regarding the timing of derecognition for residential mortgage loans when a creditor is considered to have received physical possession of residential real estate property collateralizing a consumer mortgage loan. Under ASU 2014-04, physical possession of residential real estate property is achieved when either the creditor obtains legal title to the residential real estate property upon completion of a foreclosure or the borrower conveys all interest in the residential real estate property through completion of a deed in lieu or foreclosure in order to satisfy the loan. Once physical possession has been achieved, the loan is derecognized and the property recorded within other assets at the lower of cost or fair value (less estimated costs to sell). In addition, the guidance requires both interim and annual disclosure of both the amount of foreclosed residential real estate property held by the creditor and the recorded investment in consumer mortgage loans collateralized by residential real estate property that are in the process of foreclosure. The additional disclosure requirements are effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after December 15, 2014, and interim periods within those annual periods with retrospective disclosure necessary for all comparative periods presented. The adoption of this standard did not have any impact on the Company’s consolidated financial statements.

In August 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-14, Troubled Debt Restructurings by Creditors (Subtopic 310-40), “Classification of Certain Government-Guaranteed Mortgage Loans upon Foreclosure,” which will eliminate diversity in practice relating to how creditors classify government-guaranteed mortgage loans, including Federal Housing Administration (FHA) or the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) guaranteed loans, upon foreclosure. Under ASU 2014-14 a mortgage must be derecognized and a separate other receivable recognized upon foreclosure when the loan possesses a non-separable government guarantee that the creditor has both the intent and ability to exercise and for which any amount of the claim determined on the basis of the fair value of the real estate is fixed. Other receivables recognized under this guidance are to be measured based on the amount of the principal and interest expected to be recovered from the guarantor. ASU 2014-14 allows for a modified retrospective or prospective adoption in conjunction with ASU 2014-04 and is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after December 15, 2014, and interim periods within those annual periods with early adoption permitted. The Company has adopted this accounting standard; however, ASU 2014-14 did not have a material impact on the Company’s consolidated financial statements.

In February 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2015-02 “Consolidation (Topic 810) – Amendments to the Consolidation Analysis.” ASU 2015-02 includes amendments that are intended to improve targeted areas of consolidation for legal entities including reducing the number of consolidation models from four to two and simplifying the FASB Accounting Standards Codification. ASU 2015-02 is effective for annual and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2015. The amendments may be applied retrospectively in previously issued financial statements for one or more years with a cumulative effect adjustment to retained earnings as of the beginning of the first year restated. Early adoption is permitted, including adoption in an interim period. The Company is assessing the impact of ASU 2015-02 on its accounting and disclosures.

NOTE C – BUSINESS COMBINATION

The Company accounts for its acquisitions using the acquisition method. Acquisition accounting requires the total purchase price to be allocated to the estimated fair values of assets acquired and liabilities assumed, including certain intangible assets that must be recognized. Typically, this allocation results in the purchase price exceeding the fair value of net assets acquired, which is recorded as goodwill. Core deposit intangibles are a measure of the value of checking, money market and savings deposits acquired in business combinations accounted for under the acquisition method. Core deposit intangibles and other identified intangibles with finite useful lives are amortized using the straight line method over their estimated useful lives of up to ten years. Loans that the Company acquires in connection with acquisitions are recorded at fair value with no carryover of the related allowance for credit losses. Fair value of the loans involves estimating the amount and timing of principal and interest cash flows expected to be collected on the loans and discounting those cash flows at a market rate of interest. The excess or deficit of cash flows expected at acquisition over the estimated fair value is referred to as the accretable discount or amortizable premium and is recognized into interest income over the remaining life of the loan.

The Mortgage Connection

On December 14, 2015, the Company completed the acquisition of The Mortgage Connection, a Mississippi corporation, which included two loan production offices located in Madison and Brandon, Mississippi.

In connection with the acquisition, the Company recorded \$1.5 million of goodwill.

The amounts of the acquired identifiable assets and liabilities as of the acquisition date were as follows (dollars in thousands):

Purchase price:	
Cash	\$ 844
Payable	800
Total purchase price	1,644
Identifiable assets:	
Intangible	100
Personal property	44
Total assets	144
Liabilities and equity:	
Net assets acquired	\$ 144
Goodwill resulting from acquisition	\$ 1,500

Expenses associated with the acquisition were \$13,000 for the three and twelve month periods ended December 31, 2015, respectively. These costs included charges for legal and consulting expenses.

BCB Holding Company, Inc.

On March 3, 2014, the Company entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the “Agreement”) with BCB Holding Company, Inc., an Alabama corporation (“BCB”) and parent of Bay Bank, Mobile, Alabama. The Agreement provides that, upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Agreement, BCB will merge with and into the Company (the “Merger”) and Bay Bank will merge with and into The First, A National Banking Association (“Bank Merger”). Subject to the terms and conditions of the Agreement, which has been approved by the Boards of Directors of the Company and BCB, each outstanding share of BCB common stock, other than shares held by the Company or BCB, or, shares with respect to which the holders thereof have perfected dissenters’ rights, received (i) for the BCB common stock that was outstanding prior to August 1, 2013, \$3.60 per share and one non-transferable contingent value right (“CVR”) of the CVR Consideration, and (ii) for the BCB common stock that was issued on August 1, 2013, \$2.25 per share in cash. Each CVR is eligible to receive a cash payment equal to up to \$0.40, with the exact amount based on the resolution of certain identified BCB loans over a three-year period following the closing of the transaction. Payout of the CVR will be overseen by a special committee of the Company’s Board of Directors. The total consideration to be paid in connection with the acquisition will range between approximately \$6.2 million and \$6.6 million depending upon the payout of the CVR. An estimated liability of \$174,000 has been accrued for the CVR and a payment of \$8,000 was made during the second quarter of 2015 leaving an accrual of \$166,000.

As of the closing on July 1, 2014, the Company and BCB entered into an agreement and plan of merger pursuant to which BCB’s wholly-owned subsidiary, Bay Bank, was merged with and into the Company’s wholly-owned subsidiary, the Bank.

In connection with the acquisition, the Company recorded \$1.7 million of goodwill and \$2 million of core deposit intangible. The core deposit intangible is being expensed over 10 years.

The Company acquired the \$40.1 million loan portfolio at a fair value discount of \$1.7 million. The discount represents expected credit losses, adjusted for market interest rates and liquidity adjustments.

The amounts of the acquired identifiable assets and liabilities as of the acquisition date were as follows
(dollars in thousands):

Purchase price:	
Cash and fair value of common stock	\$ 6,300
Total purchase price	6,300
Identifiable assets:	
Cash and due from banks	8,307
Investments	23,423
Loans and leases	38,393
Other Real Estate	571
Core deposit intangible	225
Personal and real property	3,670
Deferred tax asset	2,502
Other assets	305
Total assets	77,396
Liabilities and equity:	
Deposits	59,321
Borrowed funds	13,104
Other liabilities	326
Total liabilities	72,751
Net assets acquired	4,645
Goodwill resulting from acquisition	\$ 1,655

The outstanding principal balance and the carrying amount of these loans included in the consolidated balance sheet at December 31, 2015, are as follows (dollars in thousands):

Outstanding principal balance	\$ 26,639
Carrying amount	25,332

Loans acquired with deteriorated credit quality are detailed in Note E – Loans.

Expenses associated with the acquisition were \$29,000 and \$508,000 for the three and twelve month periods ended December 31, 2014, respectively. These costs included system conversion and integrating operations charges as well as legal and consulting expenses, which have been expensed as incurred.

NOTE D – SECURITIES

A summary of the amortized cost and estimated fair value of available-for-sale securities and held-to-maturity securities at December 31, 2015 and 2014, follows:

	December 31, 2015			
	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value
<i>Available-for-sale securities:</i>				
Obligations of U.S. Government agencies	\$ 19,479,107	\$ 144,408	\$ 12,565	\$ 19,610,950
Tax-exempt and taxable obligations of states and municipal subdivisions	95,631,123	2,361,599	103,391	97,889,331
Mortgage-backed securities	98,222,658	1,127,562	425,100	98,925,120
Corporate obligations	23,494,670	62,408	1,210,996	22,346,082
Other	1,255,483	-	294,540	960,943
	<u>\$ 238,083,041</u>	<u>\$ 3,695,977</u>	<u>\$ 2,046,592</u>	<u>\$ 239,732,426</u>
<i>Held-to-maturity securities:</i>				
Mortgage-backed securities	\$ 1,092,120	\$ 15,712	\$ -	\$ 1,107,832
Taxable obligations of states and municipal subdivisions	6,000,000	1,440,000	-	7,440,000
	<u>\$ 7,092,120</u>	<u>\$ 1,455,712</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 8,547,832</u>

	December 31, 2014			
	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value
<i>Available-for-sale securities:</i>				
Obligations of U.S. Government agencies	\$ 27,225,335	\$ 199,851	\$ 53,550	\$ 27,371,636
Tax-exempt and taxable obligations of states and municipal subdivisions	101,873,361	2,896,657	187,598	104,582,420
Mortgage-backed securities	91,697,199	1,579,218	240,805	93,035,612
Corporate obligations	29,952,502	140,556	1,307,782	28,785,276
Other	1,255,483	-	283,981	971,502
	<u>\$ 252,003,880</u>	<u>\$ 4,816,282</u>	<u>\$ 2,073,716</u>	<u>\$ 254,746,446</u>
<i>Held-to-maturity securities:</i>				
Mortgage-backed securities	\$ 2,192,741	\$ 20,875	\$ -	\$ 2,213,616
Taxable obligations of states and municipal subdivisions	6,000,000	1,780,200	-	7,780,200
	<u>\$ 8,192,741</u>	<u>\$ 1,801,075</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 9,993,816</u>

The scheduled maturities of securities at December 31, 2015, were as follows:

	Available-for-Sale		Held-to-Maturity	
	Amortized Cost	Estimated Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Estimated Fair Value
Due less than one year	\$ 22,350,096	\$ 22,429,139	\$ -	\$ -
Due after one year through five years	59,279,860	59,825,406	-	-
Due after five years through ten years	41,007,663	42,484,543	6,000,000	7,440,000
Due after ten years	17,222,764	16,068,218	-	-
Mortgage-backed securities	98,222,658	98,925,120	1,092,120	1,107,832
	<u>\$ 238,083,041</u>	<u>\$ 239,732,426</u>	<u>\$ 7,092,120</u>	<u>\$ 8,547,832</u>

Actual maturities can differ from contractual maturities because the obligations may be called or prepaid with or without penalties.

No gain or loss was realized from the sale of available-for-sale securities in 2015 and a gain of \$237,173 was realized in 2014. No other-than-temporary impairment losses were recognized for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014.

Securities with a carrying value of \$215,726,751 and \$191,534,036 at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, were pledged to secure public deposits, repurchase agreements, and for other purposes as required or permitted by law.

The details concerning securities classified as available-for-sale with unrealized losses as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, were as follows:

2015						
	Losses < 12 Months		Losses 12 Months or >		Total	
	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses
Obligations of U.S. government agencies	\$ 4,975,580	\$ 12,565	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,975,580	\$ 12,565
Tax-exempt and taxable obligations of states and municipal subdivisions	12,762,528	50,055	3,049,129	53,336	15,811,657	103,391
Mortgage-backed securities	36,024,587	370,514	2,507,036	54,586	38,531,623	425,100
Corporate obligations	8,531,765	28,627	3,144,333	1,182,369	11,676,098	1,210,996
Other	-	-	960,943	294,540	960,943	294,540
	<u>\$ 62,294,460</u>	<u>\$ 461,761</u>	<u>\$ 9,661,441</u>	<u>\$ 1,584,831</u>	<u>\$ 71,955,901</u>	<u>\$ 2,046,592</u>

2014						
	Losses < 12 Months		Losses 12 Months or >		Total	
	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses
Obligations of U.S. government agencies	\$ 5,510,325	\$ 16,481	\$ 3,451,215	\$ 37,069	\$ 8,961,540	\$ 53,550
Tax-exempt and taxable obligations of states and municipal subdivisions	9,191,726	28,694	10,667,122	158,904	19,858,848	187,598
Mortgage-backed securities	156,589	5,207	19,319,269	235,598	19,475,858	240,805
Corporate obligations	6,910,425	32,096	6,580,925	1,275,686	13,491,350	1,307,782
Other	-	-	971,502	283,981	971,502	283,981
	<u>\$ 21,769,065</u>	<u>\$ 82,478</u>	<u>\$ 40,990,033</u>	<u>\$ 1,991,238</u>	<u>\$ 62,759,098</u>	<u>\$ 2,073,716</u>

Approximately 18% of the number of securities in the investment portfolio at December 31, 2015, reflected an unrealized loss. Management is of the opinion the Company has the ability to hold these securities until such time as the value recovers or the securities mature. Management also believes the deterioration in value is attributable to changes in market interest rates and lack of liquidity in the credit markets. We have determined that these securities are not other-than-temporarily impaired based upon anticipated cash flows.

NOTE E - LOANS

Loans typically provide higher yields than the other types of earning assets, and thus one of the Company's goals is for loans to be the largest category of the Company's earning assets. At December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively, loans accounted for 74.0% and 71.3% of earning assets. The Company controls and mitigates the inherent credit and liquidity risks through the composition of its loan portfolio.

The following table shows the composition of the loan portfolio by category:

	December 31, 2015		December 31, 2014	
	Amount	Percent of Total	Amount	Percent of Total
(Dollars in thousands)				
Mortgage loans held for sale	\$ 3,974	0.5%	\$ 2,103	0.3%
Commercial, financial and agricultural	129,197	16.6	106,109	15.0
Real Estate:				
Mortgage-commercial	253,309	32.6	238,602	33.8
Mortgage-residential	272,180	35.1	256,406	36.3
Construction	99,161	12.8	84,935	12.0
Lease financing receivable	2,650	0.3	-	-
Consumer and other	16,018	2.1	18,480	2.6
Total loans	<u>776,489</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>706,635</u>	<u>100%</u>
Allowance for loan losses	(6,747)		(6,095)	
Net loans	<u>\$ 769,742</u>		<u>\$ 700,540</u>	

In the context of this discussion, a "real estate mortgage loan" is defined as any loan, other than a loan for construction purposes, secured by real estate, regardless of the purpose of the loan. The Company follows the common practice of financial institutions in the Company's market area of obtaining a security interest in real estate whenever possible, in addition to any other available collateral. This collateral is taken to reinforce the likelihood of the ultimate repayment of the loan and tends to increase the magnitude of the real estate loan portfolio component. Generally, the Company limits its loan-to-value ratio to 80%. Management attempts to maintain a conservative philosophy regarding its underwriting guidelines and believes it will reduce the risk elements of its loan portfolio through strategies that diversify the lending mix.

Loans held for sale consist of mortgage loans originated by the Bank and sold into the secondary market. Commitments from investors to purchase the loans are obtained upon origination.

Activity in the allowance for loan losses for December 31, 2015 and 2014 was as follows:

(In thousands)

	2015	2014
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 6,095	\$ 5,728
Loans charged-off:		
Real Estate	(534)	(1,203)
Installment and Other	(126)	(167)
Commercial, Financial and Agriculture	(183)	(89)
Total	(843)	(1,459)
Recoveries on loans previously charged-off:		
Real Estate	905	325
Installment and Other	81	68
Commercial, Financial and Agriculture	99	15
Total	1,085	408
Net (Charge-offs) Recoveries	242	(1,051)
Provision for Loan Losses	410	1,418
Balance at end of period	<u>\$ 6,747</u>	<u>\$ 6,095</u>

The following tables represent how the allowance for loan losses is allocated to a particular loan type as well as the percentage of the category to total loans at December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014.

Allocation of the Allowance for Loan Losses

	December 31, 2015	
	(Dollars in thousands)	
	Amount	% of loans in each category to total loans
Commercial Non Real Estate	\$ 895	17.1%
Commercial Real Estate	3,018	58.4
Consumer Real Estate	1,477	21.9
Consumer	141	2.5
Unallocated	1,216	.1
Total	<u>\$ 6,747</u>	<u>100%</u>

	December 31, 2014	
	(Dollars in thousands)	
	Amount	% of loans in each category to total loans
Commercial Non Real Estate	\$ 713	15.3%
Commercial Real Estate	3,355	57.9
Consumer Real Estate	1,852	24.2
Consumer	175	2.6
Unallocated	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 6,095</u>	<u>100%</u>

The following table represents the Company's impaired loans at December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014. This table includes performing troubled debt restructurings.

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
	(In thousands)	
Impaired Loans:		
Impaired loans without a valuation allowance	\$ 6,020	\$ 4,702
Impaired loans with a valuation allowance	4,107	4,858
Total impaired loans	<u>\$ 10,127</u>	<u>\$ 9,560</u>
Allowance for loan losses on impaired loans at period end	957	968
Total nonaccrual loans	7,368	6,056
Past due 90 days or more and still accruing	29	669
Average investment in impaired loans	9,652	7,077

The following table is a summary of interest recognized and cash-basis interest earned on impaired loans for the years ended December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014:

	2015	2014
Interest income recognized during impairment	-	129
Cash-basis interest income recognized	211	256

The gross interest income that would have been recorded in the period that ended if the nonaccrual loans had been current in accordance with their original terms and had been outstanding throughout the period or since origination, if held for part of the twelve months for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, was \$116,000 and \$92,000, respectively. The Company had no loan commitments to borrowers in non-accrual status at December 31, 2015 and 2014.

The following tables provide the ending balances in the Company's loans (excluding mortgage loans held for sale) and allowance for loan losses, broken down by portfolio segment as of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014. The tables also provide additional detail as to the amount of our loans and allowance that correspond to individual versus collective impairment evaluation. The impairment evaluation corresponds to the Company's systematic methodology for estimating its Allowance for Loan Losses.

December 31, 2015

	Real Estate	Installment and Other	Commercial, Financial and Agriculture	Total
	(In thousands)			
Loans				
Individually evaluated	\$ 9,782	\$ 39	\$ 306	\$ 10,127
Collectively evaluated	610,996	19,591	131,801	762,388
Total	<u>\$ 620,778</u>	<u>\$ 19,630</u>	<u>\$ 132,107</u>	<u>\$ 772,515</u>
Allowance for Loan Losses				
Individually evaluated	\$ 882	\$ 25	\$ 50	\$ 957
Collectively evaluated	3,613	1,332	845	5,790
Total	<u>\$ 4,495</u>	<u>\$ 1,357</u>	<u>\$ 895</u>	<u>\$ 6,747</u>

December 31, 2014

	Real Estate	Installment And Other	Commercial, Financial and Agriculture	Total
	(In thousands)			
Loans				
Individually evaluated	\$ 9,282	\$ 38	\$ 240	\$ 9,560
Collectively evaluated	568,952	18,610	107,410	694,972
Total	<u>\$ 578,234</u>	<u>\$ 18,648</u>	<u>\$ 107,650</u>	<u>\$ 704,532</u>
Allowance for Loan Losses				
Individually evaluated	\$ 922	\$ 29	\$ 17	\$ 968
Collectively evaluated	4,285	146	696	5,127
Total	<u>\$ 5,207</u>	<u>\$ 175</u>	<u>\$ 713</u>	<u>\$ 6,095</u>

The following tables provide additional detail of impaired loans broken out according to class as of December 31, 2015 and 2014. The recorded investment included in the following table represents customer balances net of any partial charge-offs recognized on the loans, net of any deferred fees and costs. As nearly all of our impaired loans at December 31, 2015 are on nonaccrual status, recorded investment excludes any insignificant amount of accrued interest receivable on loans 90-days or more past due and still accruing. The unpaid balance represents the recorded balance prior to any partial charge-offs.

December 31, 2015

	Recorded Investment	Unpaid Balance	Related Allowance	Average Recorded Investment YTD	Interest Income Recognized YTD
(In thousands)					
Impaired loans with no related allowance:					
Commercial installment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2	\$ -
Commercial real estate	5,790	5,828	-	5,099	50
Consumer real estate	223	223	-	205	-
Consumer installment	7	7	-	8	-
Total	\$ 6,020	\$ 6,058	\$ -	\$ 5,314	\$ 50
Impaired loans with a related allowance:					
Commercial installment	\$ 306	\$ 306	\$ 50	\$ 264	\$ 14
Commercial real estate	2,927	2,927	444	2,891	132
Consumer real estate	842	842	438	1,152	15
Consumer installment	32	32	25	31	-
Total	\$ 4,107	\$ 4,107	\$ 957	\$ 4,338	\$ 161
Total Impaired Loans:					
Commercial installment	\$ 306	\$ 306	\$ 50	\$ 266	\$ 14
Commercial real estate	8,717	8,755	444	7,990	182
Consumer real estate	1,065	1,065	438	1,357	15
Consumer installment	39	39	25	39	-
Total Impaired Loans	\$ 10,127	\$ 10,165	\$ 957	\$ 9,652	\$ 211

December 31, 2014

	Recorded Investment	Unpaid Balance	Related Allowance	Average Recorded Investment YTD	Interest Income Recognized YTD
(In thousands)					
Impaired loans with no related allowance:					
Commercial installment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50	\$ -
Commercial real estate	4,665	4,665	-	2,654	142
Consumer real estate	27	27	-	179	-
Consumer installment	10	10	-	11	-
Total	\$ 4,702	\$ 4,702	\$ -	\$ 2,894	\$ 142
Impaired loans with a related allowance:					
Commercial installment	\$ 240	\$ 240	\$ 18	\$ 189	\$ 20
Commercial real estate	2,558	2,558	315	2,415	59
Consumer real estate	2,032	2,032	607	1,546	33
Consumer installment	28	28	28	33	2
Total	\$ 4,858	\$ 4,858	\$ 968	\$ 4,183	\$ 114
Total Impaired Loans:					
Commercial installment	\$ 240	\$ 240	\$ 18	\$ 239	\$ 20
Commercial real estate	7,223	7,223	315	5,069	201
Consumer real estate	2,059	2,059	607	1,725	33
Consumer installment	38	38	28	44	2
Total Impaired Loans	\$ 9,560	\$ 9,560	\$ 968	\$ 7,077	\$ 256

Loans acquired with deteriorated credit quality are those purchased in the BCB Holding Company, Inc. acquisition (See Note C -Business Combination for further information). These loans were recorded at estimated fair value at the acquisition date with no carryover of the related allowance for loan losses. The acquired loans were segregated as of the acquisition date between those considered to be performing (acquired non-impaired loans) and those with evidence of credit deterioration (acquired impaired loans). Acquired loans are considered impaired if there is evidence of credit deterioration and if it is probable, at acquisition, all contractually required payments will not be collected.

The following table presents information regarding the contractually required payments receivable, cash flows expected to be collected and the estimated fair value of loans acquired in the BCB acquisition as of July 1, 2014, the closing date of the transaction:

	July 1, 2014				
	(In thousands)				
	Commercial, financial and agricultural	Mortgage- Commercial	Mortgage- Residential	Commercial and other	Total
Contractually required payments	\$ 1,519	\$ 29,648	\$ 7,933	\$ 976	\$ 40,076
Cash flows expected to be collected	1,570	37,869	9,697	1,032	50,168
Fair value of loans acquired	1,513	28,875	7,048	957	38,393

Total outstanding acquired impaired loans were \$3,039,840 as of December 31, 2015. The outstanding balance of these loans is the undiscounted sum of all amounts, including amounts deemed principal, interest, fees, penalties, and other under the loans, owed at the reporting date, whether or not currently due and whether or not any such amounts have been charged off.

Changes in the carrying amount and accretable yield for acquired impaired loans were as follows for the year ended December 31, 2015 (in thousands):

	Accretable Yield	Carrying Amount of Loans
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 1,417	\$ 2,063
Accretion	(198)	198
Payments received, net	-	(440)
Balance at end of period	<u>\$ 1,219</u>	<u>\$ 1,821</u>

The following tables provide additional detail of troubled debt restructurings during the twelve months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014.

	December 31, 2015			
	Outstanding Recorded Investment Pre-Modification	Outstanding Recorded Investment Post-Modification	Number of Loans	Interest Income Recognized
	(in thousands except number of loans)			
Commercial installment	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -
Commercial real estate	499	492	2	10
Consumer real estate	45	40	1	-
Consumer installment	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 544</u>	<u>\$ 532</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>\$ 10</u>

	December 31, 2014			
	Outstanding Recorded Investment Pre-Modification	Outstanding Recorded Investment Post-Modification	Number of Loans	Interest Income Recognized
	(in thousands except number of loans)			
Commercial installment	\$ 239	\$ 176	1	\$ 15
Commercial real estate	1,345	1,342	7	26
Consumer real estate	94	94	1	1
Consumer installment	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 1,678</u>	<u>\$ 1,612</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>\$ 42</u>

The TDRs presented above did increase the allowance for loan losses but resulted in -0- charge-offs for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

The balance of troubled debt restructurings at December 31, 2015 and 2014, was \$6.9 million and \$6.8 million, respectively, calculated for regulatory reporting purpose. As of December 31, 2015, the Company had no additional amount committed on any loan classified as troubled debt restructuring.

All loans were performing as agreed with modified terms.

During the twelve month period ending December 31, 2015 and 2014, the terms of 3 and 9 loans, respectively, were modified as TDRs. The modifications included one of the following or a combination of the following: maturity date extensions, interest only payments, amortizations were extended beyond what would be available on similar type loans, and payment waiver. No interest rate concessions were given on these nor were any of these loans written down.

	December 31, 2015				
	Current Loans	Past Due 30-89	Past Due 90 days and still accruing	Non-Accrual	Total
Commercial installment	\$ 206,237	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,221	\$ 256,458
Commercial real estate	1,823,217	-	-	2,933,287	4,756,504
Consumer real estate	721,110	-	-	1,134,816	1,855,926
Consumer installment	7,894	-	-	29,435	37,329
Total	<u>\$ 2,758,458</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 4,147,759</u>	<u>\$ 6,906,217</u>
Allowance for loan losses	\$ 106,028	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 197,338	\$ 303,366

	December 31, 2014				
	Current Loans	Past Due 30-89	Past Due 90 days and still accruing	Non-Accrual	Total
Commercial installment	\$ 233,340	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 233,340
Commercial real estate	1,684,755	-	-	2,729,170	4,413,925
Consumer real estate	952,162	622,302	-	448,796	2,023,260
Consumer installment	9,983	-	-	103,109	113,092
Total	<u>\$ 2,880,240</u>	<u>\$ 622,302</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,281,075</u>	<u>\$ 6,783,617</u>
Allowance for loan losses	\$ 120,220	\$ 11,206	\$ 102,657	\$ -	\$ 234,083

The following tables summarize by class our loans classified as past due in excess of 30 days or more in addition to those loans classified as non-accrual:

December 31, 2015					
(In thousands)					
	Past Due 30 to 89 Days	Past Due 90 Days or More and Still Accruing	Non-Accrual	Total Past Due and Non-Accrual	Total Loans
Real Estate-construction	\$ 311	\$ -	\$ 2,956	\$ 3,267	\$ 99,161
Real Estate-mortgage	3,339	29	2,055	5,423	272,180
Real Estate-nonfarm nonresidential	736	-	2,225	2,961	253,309
Commercial	97	-	100	197	129,197
Lease financing receivable	-	-	-	-	2,650
Consumer	70	-	32	102	16,018
Total	<u>\$ 4,553</u>	<u>\$ 29</u>	<u>\$ 7,368</u>	<u>\$ 11,950</u>	<u>\$ 772,515</u>

December 31, 2014					
(In thousands)					
	Past Due 30 to 89 Days	Past Due 90 Days or More and Still Accruing	Non-Accrual	Total Past Due and Non-Accrual	Total Loans
Real Estate-construction	\$ 428	\$ -	\$ 2,747	\$ 3,175	\$ 84,935
Real Estate-mortgage	3,208	208	2,164	5,580	256,406
Real Estate- nonfarm nonresidential	3,408	461	1,102	4,971	238,602
Commercial	29	-	5	34	106,109
Consumer	90	-	38	128	18,480
Total	<u>\$ 7,163</u>	<u>\$ 669</u>	<u>\$ 6,056</u>	<u>\$ 13,888</u>	<u>\$ 704,532</u>

The Company categorizes loans into risk categories based on relevant information about the ability of borrowers to service their debt, such as: current financial information, historical payment experience, credit documentation, public information, and current economic trends, among other factors. The Company uses the following definitions for risk ratings, which are consistent with the definitions used in supervisory guidance:

Special Mention. Loans classified as special mention have a potential weakness that deserves management's close attention. If left uncorrected, these potential weaknesses may result in deterioration of the repayment prospects for the loan or of the Company's credit position at some future date.

Substandard. Loans classified as substandard are inadequately protected by the current net worth and paying capacity of the obligor or of the collateral pledged, if any. Loans so classified have a well-defined weakness or weaknesses that jeopardize the liquidation of the debt. They are characterized by the distinct possibility that the Company will sustain some loss if the deficiencies are not corrected.

Doubtful. Loans classified as doubtful have all the weaknesses inherent in those classified as substandard, with the added characteristic that the weaknesses make collection or liquidation in full, on the basis of currently existing facts, conditions, and values, highly questionable and improbable.

Loans not meeting the criteria above that are analyzed individually as part of the above described process are considered to be pass rated loans.

As of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, and based on the most recent analysis performed, the risk category of loans by class of loans (excluding mortgage loans held for sale) was as follows:

(In thousands)

December 31, 2015

	Real Estate Commercial	Real Estate Mortgage	Installment and Other	Commercial, Financial and Agriculture	Total
Pass	\$ 434,638	\$ 167,394	\$ 19,556	\$ 132,101	\$ 753,689
Special Mention	681	153	-	168	1,002
Substandard	16,655	1,453	75	178	18,361
Doubtful	-	327	-	-	327
Subtotal	451,974	169,327	19,631	132,447	773,379
Less:					
Unearned Discount	448	76	-	340	864
Loans, net of unearned discount	<u>\$ 451,526</u>	<u>\$ 169,251</u>	<u>\$ 19,631</u>	<u>\$ 132,107</u>	<u>\$ 772,515</u>

December 31, 2014

	Real Estate Commercial	Real Estate Mortgage	Installment and Other	Commercial, Financial and Agriculture	Total
Pass	\$ 388,569	\$ 167,827	\$ 18,558	\$ 107,126	\$ 682,080
Special Mention	4,756	191	-	498	5,445
Substandard	14,727	2,567	90	63	17,447
Doubtful	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	408,052	170,585	18,648	107,687	704,972
Less:					
Unearned Discount	320	82	-	38	440
Loans, net of unearned discount	<u>\$ 407,732</u>	<u>\$ 170,503</u>	<u>\$ 18,648</u>	<u>\$ 107,649</u>	<u>\$ 704,532</u>

NOTE F - PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT

Premises and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation and amortization as follows:

	2015	2014
Premises:		
Land	\$ 10,352,314	\$ 10,565,633
Buildings and improvements	26,164,412	25,872,002
Equipment	10,927,780	11,663,195
Construction in progress	76,920	188,146
	47,521,426	48,288,976
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	13,898,415	13,479,133
	<u>\$ 33,623,011</u>	<u>\$ 34,809,843</u>

The amounts charged to operating expense for depreciation were \$1,645,081 and \$1,552,297 in 2015 and 2014, respectively.

NOTE G - DEPOSITS

The aggregate amount of time deposits in denominations of \$100,000 or more as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, was \$105,605,438 and \$120,693,807, respectively.

At December 31, 2015, the scheduled maturities of time deposits included in interest-bearing deposits were as follows (in thousands):

Year	Amount
2016	\$ 120,771
2017	25,924
2018	12,154
2019	8,408
2020	12,216
Thereafter	-
	<u>\$ 179,473</u>

NOTE H - BORROWED FUNDS

Borrowed funds consisted of the following:

	December 31,	
	2015	2014
Reverse Repurchase Agreement	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
Fed Funds purchased	5,340,000	-
FHLB advances	99,981,245	84,450,067
	<u>\$ 110,321,245</u>	<u>\$ 89,450,067</u>

Advances from the FHLB have maturity dates ranging from January 2016 through June 2019. Interest is payable monthly at rates ranging from .31% to 5.47%. Advances due to the FHLB are collateralized by a blanket lien on first mortgage loans in the amount of the outstanding borrowings, FHLB capital stock, and amounts on deposit with the FHLB. At December 31, 2015, FHLB advances available and unused totaled \$242,945,692.

Future annual principal repayment requirements on the borrowings from the FHLB at December 31, 2015, were as follows:

Year	Amount
2016	\$ 91,981,245
2017	5,000,000
2018	-
2019	3,000,000
Total	<u>\$ 99,981,245</u>

Reverse Repurchase Agreements consist of one \$5,000,000 agreement. The agreement is secured by securities with a fair value of \$5,501,503 at December 31, 2015 and \$7,443,951 at December 31, 2014. The maturity date of the remaining agreement is September 26, 2017, with a rate of 3.81%.

NOTE 1 – LEASE OBLIGATIONS

The Company is committed under several long-term operating leases which provide for minimum lease payments. Certain leases contain options for renewal. Total rental expense under these operating leases amounted to \$530,000 and \$421,000 as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

The Company is also committed under two long-term capital lease agreements. One capital lease agreement had an outstanding balance of \$1,018,000 and \$1,154,000 at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively (included in other liabilities). This lease has a remaining term of 6 years at December 31, 2015. Assets related to the capital lease are included in premises and equipment and the cost consists of \$2.6 million less accumulated depreciation of approximately \$1,127,913 and \$866,313 at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The second capital lease agreement had an outstanding balance of \$309,000 at December 31, 2015. This lease has a remaining term of 4 years at December 31, 2015. Assets related to the capital lease are included in premises and equipment and the cost consists of \$0.3 million less accumulated depreciation of approximately \$1,000 at December 31, 2015.

Minimum future lease payments for the operating and capital leases at December 31, 2015, were as follows:

	Operating Leases	Capital Leases
	(In thousands)	
2016	503	252
2017	214	275
2018	141	275
2019	141	275
2020	130	191
Thereafter	556	175
Total Minimum Lease Payments	<u>\$ 1,685</u>	<u>\$ 1,443</u>
Less: Amount representing interest		<u>(116)</u>
Present value of minimum lease payments		<u>\$ 1,327</u>

NOTE J - REGULATORY MATTERS

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

To ensure capital adequacy, quantitative measures have been established by regulators, and these require the Company and its subsidiary bank to maintain minimum amounts and ratios (set forth in the table below) of total and Tier I capital (as defined) to risk-weighted assets (as defined), Tier I capital to adjusted total assets (leverage) and common equity Tier 1. Management believes, as of December 31, 2015, that the Company and its subsidiary bank exceeded all capital adequacy requirements.

In 2013, the Federal Reserve voted to adopt final capital rules implementing Basel III requirements for U.S. Banking organizations. Under the final rule, minimum requirements increased for both the quantity and quality of capital held by banking organizations. The final rule includes a new minimum ratio of common equity Tier 1 capital (Tier 1 Common) to risk-weighted assets and a Tier 1 Common capital conservation buffer of 2.5% of risk-weighted assets that will apply to all supervised financial institutions. The rule also raises the minimum ratio of Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets and includes a minimum leverage ratio of 4% for all banking organizations. These new minimum capital ratios are effective on January 1, 2015, and will be fully phased in on January 1, 2019.

At December 31, 2015 and 2014, the subsidiary bank was categorized by regulators as well-capitalized under the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action. Under Basel III requirements, a financial institution is considered to be well-capitalized if it has a total risk-based capital ratio of 10% or more, has a Tier I risk-based capital ratio of 8% or more, has a common equity Tier 1 of 6.5%, and has a Tier I leverage capital ratio of 5% or more. There are no conditions or anticipated events that, in the opinion of management, would change the categorization. The actual capital amounts and ratios at December 31, 2015 and 2014, are presented in the following table. No amount was deducted from capital for interest-rate risk exposure.

	Company (Consolidated)		Subsidiary The First	
	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio
December 31, 2015				
Total risk-based	\$ 103,403	11.9%	\$ 102,911	11.8%
Common equity Tier 1	70,587	8.1%	96,164	11.0%
Tier I risk-based	96,656	11.1%	96,164	11.0%
Tier I leverage	96,656	8.7%	96,164	8.6%
December 31, 2014				
Total risk-based	\$ 95,419	12.3%	\$ 94,888	12.2%
Tier I risk-based	89,324	11.5%	88,793	11.4%
Tier I leverage	89,324	8.4%	88,793	8.4%

The minimum amounts of capital and ratios as established by banking regulators at December 31, 2015 and 2014, were as follows:

	Company (Consolidated)		Subsidiary The First	
	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio
December 31, 2015				
Total risk-based	\$ 69,753	8.0%	\$ 69,698	8.0%
Common equity Tier 1	39,236	4.5%	39,205	4.5%
Tier I risk-based	52,315	6.0%	52,274	6.0%
Tier I leverage	44,661	4.0%	44,625	4.0%
December 31, 2014				
Total risk-based	\$ 62,272	8.0%	\$ 62,208	8.0%
Tier I risk-based	31,136	4.0%	31,104	4.0%
Tier I leverage	42,363	4.0%	42,325	4.0%

The Company's dividends, if any, are expected to be made from dividends received from its subsidiary bank. The OCC limits dividends of a national bank in any calendar year to the net profits of that year combined with the retained net profits for the two preceding years.

NOTE K - INCOME TAXES

The components of income tax expense are as follows:

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2015	2014
Current:		
Federal	\$ 2,484,372	\$ 1,757,098
State	473,037	347,382
Deferred	255,638	331,399
	<u>\$ 3,213,047</u>	<u>\$ 2,435,879</u>

The Company's income tax expense differs from the amounts computed by applying the federal income tax statutory rates to income before income taxes. A reconciliation of the differences is as follows:

	Years Ended December 31,			
	2015		2014	
	Amount	%	Amount	%
Income taxes at statutory rate	\$ 4,083,995	34%	\$ 3,076,856	34%
Tax-exempt income	(831,141)	(7)%	(863,204)	(10)%
Nondeductible expenses	161,176	1%	238,638	3%
State income tax, net of federal tax effect	307,951	3%	215,803	2%
Tax credits	(295,800)	(2)%	(337,716)	(4)%
Other, net	(213,134)	(2)%	105,502	2%
	<u>\$ 3,213,047</u>	<u>27%</u>	<u>\$ 2,435,879</u>	<u>27%</u>

The components of deferred income taxes included in the consolidated financial statements were as follows:

	December 31,	
	2015	2014
Deferred tax assets:		
Allowance for loan losses	\$ 2,516,669	\$ 2,273,435
Net operating loss carryover	2,426,903	2,615,552
Other real estate	275,530	357,873
Other	1,194,345	1,200,419
	<u>6,413,447</u>	<u>6,447,279</u>
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Securities accretion	(112,050)	(124,942)
Premises and equipment	(554,103)	(443,080)
Unrealized gain on available-for-sale securities	(560,791)	(932,473)
Core deposit intangible	(149,109)	(238,562)
Goodwill	(929,316)	(716,188)
	<u>(2,305,369)</u>	<u>(2,455,245)</u>
Net deferred tax asset, included in other assets	<u>\$ 4,108,078</u>	<u>\$ 3,992,034</u>

With the acquisition of Wiggins in 2006, Baldwin in 2013, and Bay in 2014, the Company assumed federal tax net operating loss carryovers. These net operating losses are available to the Company through the years 2023, 2033, and 2034, respectively.

The Company follows the guidance of ASC Topic 740, *Income Taxes*, which prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. ASC Topic 740 also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure and transition. As of December 31, 2015, the Company had no uncertain tax positions that it believes should be recognized in the financial statements. The tax years still subject to examination by taxing authorities are years subsequent to 2011.

NOTE L - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Company and its subsidiary bank provide a deferred compensation arrangement (401(k) plan) whereby employees contribute a percentage of their compensation. For employee contributions of six percent or less, the Company and its subsidiary bank provide a 50% matching contribution. Contributions totaled \$287,055 in 2015 and \$255,716 in 2014.

The Company sponsors an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) for employees who have completed one year of service for the Company and attained age 21. Employees become fully vested after five years of service. Contributions to the plan are at the discretion of the Board of Directors. At December 31, 2015, the ESOP held 5,902 shares of Company common stock and had no debt obligation. All shares held by the plan were considered outstanding for net income per share purposes. Total ESOP expense was \$25,506 for 2015 and \$26,267 for 2014.

During 2014, the Company established a Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan ("SERP") for three active key executives. Pursuant to the SERP, these officers are entitled to receive 180 equal monthly payments commencing at the later of obtaining age 65 or separation from service. The costs of such benefits, assuming a retirement date at age 65, will be accrued by the Company at such retirement date. During 2015, the Company accrued \$88,992 for future benefits payable under the SERP. The SERP is an unfunded plan and is considered a general contractual obligation of the Company.

NOTE M - STOCK PLANS

In 2007, the Company adopted the 2007 Stock Incentive Plan. The 2007 Plan provided for the issuance of up to 315,000 shares of Company Common Stock, \$1.00 par value per share. In 2015, the Company adopted an amendment to the 2007 Stock Incentive Plan which provided for the issuance of an additional 300,000 shares of Company Common Stock, \$1.00 par value per share, for a total of 615,000 shares. Shares issued under the 2007 Plan may consist in whole or in part of authorized but unissued shares or treasury shares. During the year ended December 31, 2014, 69,627 nonvested restricted stock awards were granted under the Plan. During the year ended December 31, 2015, 69,327 nonvested restricted stock awards were granted under the Plan and no stock awards were forfeited due to separation. During 2015, 6,324 shares were repurchased for payment of taxes. The weighted average grant-date fair value for these shares was \$14.06 per share. Compensation costs in the amount of \$721,124 was recognized for the year ended December 31, 2015 and \$617,779 for the year ended December 31, 2014. Shares of restricted stock granted to employees under this stock plan are subject to restrictions as to the vesting period. The restricted stock award becomes 100% vested on the earliest of 1) the three or five year vesting period provided the Grantee has not incurred a termination of employment prior to that date, 2) the Grantee's retirement, or 3) the Grantee's death. During this period, the holder is entitled to full voting rights and dividends, which are held until vested. As of December 31, 2015, there was approximately \$1,266,000 of unrecognized compensation cost related to this Plan. The cost is expected to be recognized over the remaining term of the vesting period (approximately 4 years).

NOTE N - SUBORDINATED DEBENTURES

On June 30, 2006, the Company issued \$4,124,000 of floating rate junior subordinated deferrable interest debentures to The First Bancshares Statutory Trust 2 in which the Company owns all of the common equity. The debentures are the sole asset of the Trust. The Trust issued \$4,000,000 of Trust Preferred Securities (TPSs) to investors. The Company's obligations under the debentures and related documents, taken together, constitute a full and unconditional guarantee by the Company of the Trust's obligations under the preferred securities. The preferred securities were redeemable by the Company at its option. The preferred securities must be redeemed upon maturity of the debentures in 2036. Interest on the preferred securities is the three month London Interbank Offer Rate (LIBOR) plus 1.65% and is payable quarterly. The terms of the subordinated debentures are identical to those of the preferred securities. On July 27, 2007, the Company issued \$6,186,000 of floating rate junior subordinated deferrable interest debentures to The First Bancshares Statutory Trust 3 in which the Company owns all of the common equity. The debentures are the sole asset of Trust 3. The Trust issued \$6,000,000 of Trust Preferred Securities (TPSs) to investors. The Company's obligations under the debentures and related documents, taken together, constitute a full and unconditional guarantee by the Company of the Trust's obligations under the preferred securities. The preferred securities are redeemable by the Company at its option. The preferred securities must be redeemed upon maturity of the debentures in 2037. Interest on the preferred securities is the three month LIBOR plus 1.40% and is payable quarterly. The terms of the subordinated debentures are identical to those of the preferred securities. In accordance with the provisions of ASC Topic 810, *Consolidation*, the trusts are not included in the consolidated financial statements.

NOTE O - TREASURY STOCK

Shares held in treasury totaled 26,494 at December 31, 2015, and 2014.

NOTE P - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

In the normal course of business, the Bank makes loans to its directors and executive officers and to companies in which they have a significant ownership interest. In the opinion of management, these loans are made on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with other parties, are consistent with sound banking practices, and are within applicable regulatory and lending limitations. Such loans amounted to approximately \$7,957,000 and \$8,442,000 at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The activity in loans to current directors, executive officers, and their affiliates during the year ended December 31, 2015, is summarized as follows (in thousands):

Loans outstanding at beginning of year	\$	8,442
New loans		362
Repayments		(847)
Loans outstanding at end of year	\$	<u>7,957</u>

NOTE Q - COMMITMENTS, CONTINGENCIES, AND CONCENTRATIONS OF CREDIT RISK

In the normal course of business, there are outstanding various commitments and contingent liabilities, such as guaranties, commitments to extend credit, etc., which are not reflected in the accompanying financial statements. The subsidiary bank had outstanding letters of credit of \$1,135,000 and \$986,000 at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and had made loan commitments of approximately \$144,086,000 and \$128,086,000 at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Commitments to extend credit and letters of credit include some exposure to credit loss in the event of nonperformance of the customer. 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. Standby letters of credit are conditional commitments issued by the Bank to guarantee the performance of a customer to a third party. The credit policies and procedures for such commitments are the same as those used for lending activities. Because these instruments have fixed maturity dates and because a number expire without being drawn upon, they generally do not present any significant liquidity risk. No significant losses on commitments were incurred during the two years ended December 31, 2015, nor are any significant losses as a result of these transactions anticipated.

The primary market area served by the Bank is Forrest, Lamar, Jones, Pearl River, Jackson, Hancock, Stone, and Harrison Counties within South Mississippi, as well as Washington Parish, St. Tammany Parish and East Baton Rouge Parish in Louisiana and Baldwin and Mobile Counties in South Alabama. Management closely monitors its credit concentrations and attempts to diversify the portfolio within its primary market area. As of December 31, 2015, management does not consider there to be any significant credit concentrations within the loan portfolio. Although the Bank's loan portfolio, as well as existing commitments, reflects the diversity of its primary market area, a substantial portion of a borrower's ability to repay a loan is dependent upon the economic stability of the area.

NOTE R - FAIR VALUES OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The Company follows the guidance of ASC Topic 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, that establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosures about fair value measurements.

The guidance defines the 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 at the measurement date. It also establishes a fair value hierarchy which requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value.

In accordance with the guidance, the Company groups its financial assets and financial liabilities measured at fair value in three levels, based on the markets in which the assets and liabilities are traded and the reliability of the assumptions used to determine fair value. These levels are:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Level 1: | Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in active exchange markets, such as the New York Stock Exchange. Valuations are obtained from readily available pricing sources for market transactions involving identical assets or liabilities. |
| Level 2: | Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in less active dealer or broker markets. Valuations are obtained from third party pricing services for identical or comparable assets or liabilities which use observable inputs other than Level 1 prices, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets and liabilities. |
| Level 3: | Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities. |

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for instruments measured at fair value on a recurring basis and recognized in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets.

Available-for-Sale Securities

The fair value of available-for-sale securities is determined by various valuation methodologies. Where quoted market prices are available in an active market, securities are classified within Level 1. Level 1 securities include mutual funds. If quoted market prices are not available, then fair values are estimated by using pricing models or quoted prices of securities with similar characteristics. Level 2 securities include U.S. Treasury securities, obligations of U.S. government corporations and agencies, obligations of states and political subdivisions, mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations. In certain cases where Level 1 or Level 2 inputs are not available, securities are classified within Level 3 of the hierarchy.

The following table presents the Company's available-for-sale securities that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis and the level within the hierarchy in which the fair value measurements fell as of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 (in thousands):

		Fair Value Measurements Using			
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets For Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
		Fair Value			
December 31, 2015					
Obligations of U.S. Government agencies	\$	19,611	\$ -	\$ 19,611	\$ -
Municipal securities		97,889	-	97,889	-
Mortgage-backed securities		98,925	-	98,925	-
Corporate obligations		22,346	-	19,789	2,557
Other		961	961	-	-
Total	\$	239,732	\$ 961	\$ 236,214	\$ 2,557

		Fair Value Measurements Using			
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets For Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
		Fair Value			
<hr/>					
December 31, 2014					
<hr/>					
Obligations of U.S. Government agencies	\$	27,372	\$ -	\$ 27,372	\$ -
Municipal securities		104,582	-	104,582	-
Mortgage-backed securities		93,036	-	93,036	-
Corporate obligations		28,784	-	25,983	2,801
Other		972	972	-	-
Total	\$	254,746	\$ 972	\$ 250,973	\$ 2,801

The following is a reconciliation of activity for assets measured at fair value based on significant unobservable (non-market) information.

(In thousands)	Bank-Issued Trust Trust Preferred Securities	
	2015	2014
Balance of recurring Level 3 assets at January 1	\$ 2,801	\$ 2,798
Transfers into Level 3	-	-
Transfers out of Level 3	-	-
Unrealized income (loss) included in comprehensive income	(244)	3
Balance of recurring Level 3 assets at December 31	<u>\$ 2,557</u>	<u>\$ 2,801</u>

The following table presents quantitative information about recurring Level 3 fair value measurements (in thousands):

Trust Preferred Securities	Fair Value	Valuation Technique	Significant Unobservable Inputs	Range of Inputs
December 31, 2015	\$ 2,557	Discounted cash flow	Discount rate	1.08% - 2.77%
December 31, 2014	\$ 2,801	Discounted cash flow	Discount rate	.79% - 2.49%

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis and recognized in the accompanying balance sheets, as well as the general classification of such assets and liabilities pursuant to the valuation hierarchy.

Impaired Loans

Loans for which it is probable that the Company will not collect all principal and interest due according to contractual terms are measured for impairment. Allowable methods for estimating fair value include using the fair value of the collateral for collateral dependent loans or, where a loan is determined not to be collateral dependent, using the discounted cash flow method.

If the impaired loan is identified as collateral dependent, then the fair value method of measuring the amount of impairment is utilized. This method requires obtaining a current independent appraisal of the collateral and applying a discount factor to the value. If the impaired loan is determined not to be collateral dependent, then the discounted cash flow method is used. This method requires the impaired loan to be recorded at the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate. The effective interest rate of a loan is the contractual interest rate adjusted for any net deferred loan fees or costs, premiums or discounts existing at origination or acquisition of the loan. Impaired loans are classified within Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

Other Real Estate Owned

Other real estate owned consists of properties obtained through foreclosure. The adjustment at the time of foreclosure is recorded through the allowance for loan losses. Fair value of other real estate owned is based on current independent appraisals. Due to the subjective nature of establishing the fair value when the asset is acquired, the actual fair value of the other real estate owned or foreclosed asset could differ from the original estimate. If it is determined the fair value declines subsequent to foreclosure, a valuation allowance is recorded through other income. Operating costs associated with the assets after acquisition are also recorded as non-interest expense. Gains and losses on the disposition of other real estate owned and foreclosed assets are netted and posted to other income. Other real estate owned measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis at December 31, 2015, amounted to \$3,083,000. Other real estate owned is classified within Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

The following table presents the fair value measurement of assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis and the level within the fair value hierarchy in which the fair value measurements fell at December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 (in thousands).

		Fair Value Measurements Using			
	Fair Value	Quoted Prices in Active Markets For Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
<hr/>					
December 31, 2015					
<hr/>					
Impaired loans	\$ 10,127	\$ -	\$ 10,127	\$ -	
Other real estate owned	3,083	-	3,083	-	
<hr/>					
December 31, 2014					
<hr/>					
Impaired loans	\$ 9,560	\$ -	\$ 9,560	\$ -	
Other real estate owned	4,655	-	4,655		

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

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

Investment in securities available-for-sale and held-to-maturity – The fair value measurement for securities available-for-sale was discussed earlier. The same measurement approach was used for securities held-to-maturity and other securities.

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

Bank-owned Life Insurance – The fair value of bank-owned life insurance approximates the carrying amount, because upon liquidation of these investments, the Company would receive the cash surrender value which equals the carrying amount.

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

Short-Term Borrowings – The carrying value of any federal funds purchased and other short-term borrowings approximates their fair values.

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

Subordinated Debentures – The subordinated debentures bear interest at a variable rate and the carrying value approximates the fair value.

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

As of December 31, 2015

			Fair Value Measurements		
	Carrying Amount	Estimated Fair Value	Quoted Prices (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Financial Instruments:					
Assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 41,259	\$ 41,259	\$ 41,259	\$ -	\$ -
Securities available-for-sale	239,732	239,732	961	236,214	2,557
Securities held-to-maturity	7,092	8,548	-	8,548	-
Other securities	8,135	8,135	-	8,135	-
Loans, net	769,742	784,113	-	-	784,113
Bank-owned life insurance	14,872	14,872	-	14,872	-
Liabilities:					
Noninterest-bearing deposits	\$ 189,445	\$ 189,445	\$ -	\$ 189,445	\$ -
Interest-bearing deposits	727,250	726,441	-	726,441	-
Subordinated debentures	10,310	10,310	-	-	10,310
FHLB and other borrowings	110,321	110,321	-	110,321	-

As of December 31, 2014

	Fair Value Measurements				
	Carrying Amount	Estimated Fair Value	Quoted Prices (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Financial Instruments:					
Assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 44,618	\$ 44,618	\$ 44,618	\$ -	\$ -
Securities available-for-sale	254,746	254,746	972	250,973	2,801
Securities held-to-maturity	8,193	9,994	-	9,994	-
Other securities	7,234	7,234	-	7,234	-
Loans, net	700,540	715,849	-	-	715,849
Bank-owned life insurance	14,463	14,463	-	14,463	-
Liabilities:					
Noninterest-bearing deposits	\$ 201,362	\$ 201,362	\$ -	\$ 201,362	\$ -
Interest-bearing deposits	691,413	691,036	-	691,036	-
Subordinated debentures	10,310	10,310	-	-	10,310
FHLB and other borrowings	89,450	89,450	-	89,450	-

NOTE 5 - SENIOR PREFERRED STOCK

Pursuant to the terms of the letter agreement between the Company and the United States Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”), the Company issued 17,123 CDCI Preferred Shares.

The Letter Agreement contains limitations on the payment of dividends on the common stock to no more than 100% of the aggregate per share dividend and distributions for the immediate prior fiscal year (dividends of \$0.15 per share were declared and paid 2011 through 2015) and on the Company’s ability to repurchase its common stock in the event of a non-payment of our dividend, and continues to subject the Company to certain of the executive compensation limitations included in the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (EESA), as previously disclosed by the Company. The CDCI Preferred Shares entitle the holder to an annual dividend of 2% for 8 years of the liquidation value of the shares, payable quarterly in arrears.

On Wednesday, May 13, 2015, The First Bancshares, Inc. (the “Company”) entered into a Letter Agreement, including Schedule A thereto (the “Letter Agreement”), with the United States Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”), pursuant to which the Company redeemed the Warrant to purchase up to 54,705 shares of the Company’s common stock, no par value per share (the “Common Stock”) issued to Treasury on February 6, 2009 under the Capital Purchase Program. In connection with this redemption, on May 13, 2015, the Company paid Treasury an aggregate redemption price of \$302,410.

NOTE T - PARENT COMPANY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The balance sheets, statements of income and cash flows for The First Bancshares, Inc. (parent company only) follow.

Condensed Balance Sheets

	December 31,	
	2015	2014
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 213,621	\$ 63,707
Investment in subsidiary bank	112,943,885	105,685,727
Investments in statutory trusts	310,000	310,000
Other	686,409	808,132
	<u>\$ 114,153,915</u>	<u>\$ 106,867,566</u>
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity:		
Subordinated debentures	\$ 10,310,000	\$ 10,310,000
Other	407,825	341,982
Stockholders' equity	103,436,090	96,215,584
	<u>\$ 114,153,915</u>	<u>\$ 106,867,566</u>

Condensed Statements of Income

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2015	2014
Income:		
Interest and dividends	\$ 5,573	\$ 5,453
Dividend income	1,650,000	5,109,668
Other	-	364,719
	<u>1,655,573</u>	<u>5,479,840</u>
Expenses:		
Interest on borrowed funds	185,351	181,330
Legal	295,637	504,130
Other	833,502	752,027
	<u>1,314,490</u>	<u>1,437,487</u>
Income before income taxes and equity in undistributed income of subsidiary	341,083	4,042,353
Income tax benefit	487,853	296,388
Income before equity in undistributed income of subsidiary	828,936	4,338,741
Equity in undistributed income of subsidiary	<u>7,969,766</u>	<u>2,274,955</u>
Net income	<u>\$ 8,798,702</u>	<u>\$ 6,613,696</u>

Condensed Statements of Cash Flows

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2015	2014
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 8,798,702	\$ 6,613,696
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash used in operating activities:		
Equity in undistributed income of subsidiary	(7,969,766)	(2,274,955)
Restricted stock expense	721,124	617,779
Gain on sale of assets	-	(364,719)
Other, net	151,251	689,740
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,701,311	5,281,541
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Investment in subsidiary bank	-	-
Outlays for acquisition	(35,709)	(4,034,668)
Net cash used in investing activities	(35,709)	(4,034,668)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Dividends paid on common stock	(778,428)	(763,488)
Dividends paid on preferred stock	(342,460)	(342,460)
Repurchase of restricted stock for payment of taxes	(92,390)	(85,532)
Repurchase of warrants	(302,410)	-
Net cash used in financing activities	(1,515,688)	(1,191,480)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	149,914	55,393
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	63,707	8,314
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 213,621	\$ 63,707

NOTE U - SUMMARY OF QUARTERLY RESULTS OF OPERATIONS AND PER SHARE AMOUNTS (UNAUDITED)

	Three Months Ended			
	March 31	June 30	Sept. 30	Dec. 31
	(In thousands, except per share amounts)			
2015				
Total interest income	\$ 9,683	\$ 10,022	\$ 10,080	\$ 10,417
Total interest expense	804	806	793	804
Net interest income	8,879	9,216	9,287	9,613
Provision for loan losses	150	-	250	10
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	8,729	9,216	9,037	9,603
Total non-interest income	1,850	1,854	1,982	1,903
Total non-interest expense	7,818	8,092	7,977	8,275
Income tax expense	732	793	815	873
Net income	2,029	2,185	2,227	2,358
Preferred dividends	85	86	86	85
Net income applicable to common stockholders	<u>\$ 1,944</u>	<u>\$ 2,099</u>	<u>\$ 2,141</u>	<u>\$ 2,273</u>
Per common share:				
Net income, basic	\$.36	\$.39	\$.40	\$.42
Net income, diluted	.36	.39	.39	.42
Cash dividends declared	.0375	.0375	.0375	.0375
2014				
Total interest income	\$ 8,447	\$ 8,574	\$ 9,688	\$ 9,662
Total interest expense	623	726	833	791
Net interest income	7,824	7,848	8,855	8,871
Provision for loan losses	358	277	631	152
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	7,466	7,571	8,224	8,719
Total non-interest income	1,672	2,055	2,021	2,055
Total non-interest expense	7,227	7,384	8,071	8,051
Income tax expense	484	629	641	682
Net income	1,427	1,613	1,533	2,041
Preferred dividends and stock accretion	106	86	85	86
Net income applicable to common Stockholders	<u>\$ 1,321</u>	<u>\$ 1,527</u>	<u>\$ 1,448</u>	<u>\$ 1,955</u>
Per common share:				
Net income, basic	\$.26	\$.30	\$.27	\$.37
Net income, diluted	.25	.29	.27	.36
Cash dividends declared	.0375	.0375	.0375	.0375

EXHIBIT 21

**SUBSIDIARIES OF
THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.**

**The First, A National Banking Association
(a nationally chartered banking association)**

**The First Bancshares Statutory Trust 2
(Delaware statutory trust)**

**The First Bancshares Statutory Trust 3
(Delaware statutory trust)**

EXHIBIT 23

**CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT
REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statements on Form S-8 (No. 333-171996) and Form S-3 (No. 333-202920) of the First Bancshares, Inc. of our report dated March 30, 2016, with respect to the consolidated financial statements of The First Bancshares, Inc., included in this Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2015.

/s/ T. E. LOTT & COMPANY

Columbus, Mississippi
March 30, 2016

EXHIBIT 31
CERTIFICATIONS

I, M. Ray (Hoppy) Cole, Jr., certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of The First Bancshares, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this annual report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a. Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b. Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, 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;
 - c. Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d. Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a. All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b. Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 30, 2016

/s/ M. Ray (Hoppy) Cole, Jr.

M. Ray (Hoppy) Cole, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer

EXHIBIT 31

CERTIFICATIONS

I, Dee Dee Lowery, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of The First Bancshares, Inc. ;
2. Based on my knowledge, this annual report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f))for the registrant and have:
 - a. Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b. Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, 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;
 - c. Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d. Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a. All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b. Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 30, 2016

/s/ Dee Dee Lowery

Dee Dee Lowery
Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT 32

CERTIFICATIONS

I, M. Ray (Hoppy) Cole, Jr. Chief Executive Officer, certify that

this periodic report containing financial statements fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m or 78o(d)) and that information contained in the periodic report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the issuer.

Date: March 30, 2016

/s/ M. Ray (Hoppy) Cole, Jr.

M. Ray (Hoppy) Cole, Jr.

Chief Executive Officer

I, Dee Dee Lowery, Chief Financial Officer, certify that

this periodic report containing financial statements fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m or 78o(d)) and that information contained in the periodic report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the issuer.

Date: March 30, 2016

/s/ Dee Dee Lowery

Dee Dee Lowery

Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT 99.1

EESA CERTIFICATION

I, M. Ray (Hoppy) Cole, Jr., certify, based on my knowledge, that:

(i) The compensation committee of The First Bancshares, Inc. has discussed, reviewed, and evaluated with senior risk officers at least every six months during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period, the senior executive officer (SEO) compensation plans and the employee compensation plans and the risks these plans pose to The First Bancshares, Inc.;

(ii) The compensation committee of The First Bancshares, Inc. has identified and limited during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period any features of the SEO compensation plans that could lead SEOs to take unnecessary and excessive risks that could threaten the value of The First Bancshares, Inc., and has identified any features of the employee compensation plans that pose risks to The First Bancshares, Inc. and has limited those features to ensure that The First Bancshares, Inc. is not unnecessarily exposed to risks;

(iii) The compensation committee has reviewed, at least every six months during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period, the terms of each employee compensation plan and identified any features of the plan that could encourage the manipulation of reported earnings of The First Bancshares, Inc. to enhance the compensation of an employee, and has limited any such features;

(iv) The compensation committee of The First Bancshares, Inc. will certify to the reviews of the SEO compensation plans and employee compensation plans required under (i) and (iii) above;

(v) The compensation committee of The First Bancshares, Inc. will provide a narrative description of how it limited during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period the features in

(A) SEO compensation plans that could lead SEOs to take unnecessary and excessive risks that could threaten the value of The First Bancshares, Inc.;

(B) Employee compensation plans that unnecessarily expose The First Bancshares, Inc. to risks; and

(C) Employee compensation plans that could encourage the manipulation of reported earnings of The First Bancshares, Inc. to enhance the compensation of an employee;

(vi) The First Bancshares, Inc. has required bonus payments to SEOs or any of the next twenty most highly compensated employees, as defined in the regulations and guidance established under section 111 of EESA (bonus payments), be subject to a recovery or “clawback” provision during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period if the bonus payments were based on materially inaccurate financial statements or any other materially inaccurate performance metric criteria;

(vii) The First Bancshares, Inc. has prohibited any golden parachute payment, as defined in the regulations and guidance established under section 111 of EESA, to an SEO or any of the next five most highly compensated employees during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period;

(viii) The First Bancshares, Inc. has limited bonus payments to its applicable employees in accordance with section 111 of EESA and the regulations and guidance established thereunder during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period;

(ix) The First Bancshares, Inc. and its employees have complied with the excessive or luxury expenditures policy, as defined in the regulations and guidance established under section 111 of EESA, during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period; and any expenses that, pursuant to the policy, required approval of the board of directors, a committee of the board of directors, an SEO, or an executive officer with a similar level of responsibility were properly approved;

(x) The First Bancshares, Inc. will permit a non-binding shareholder resolution in compliance with any applicable Federal securities rules and regulations on the disclosures provided under the Federal securities laws related to SEO compensation paid or accrued during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period;

(xi) The First Bancshares, Inc. will disclose the amount, nature, and justification for the offering, during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period, of any perquisites, as defined in the regulations and guidance established under section 111 of EESA, whose total value exceeds \$25,000 for any employee who is subject to the bonus payment limitations identified in paragraph (viii);

(xii) The First Bancshares, Inc. will disclose whether The First Bancshares, Inc., the board of directors of The First Bancshares, Inc. or the compensation committee of The First Bancshares, Inc. has engaged during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period, a compensation consultant; and the services the compensation consultant or any affiliate of the compensation consultant provided during this period;

(xiii) The First Bancshares, Inc. has prohibited the payment of any gross-ups, as defined in the regulations and guidance established under section 111 of EESA, to the SEOs and the next twenty most highly compensated employees during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period;

(xiv) The First Bancshares, Inc. has substantially complied with all other requirements related to employee compensation that are provided in the agreement between The First Bancshares, Inc. and Treasury, including any amendments;

(xv) The First Bancshares, Inc. has submitted to Treasury a complete and accurate list of the SEOs and the twenty next most highly compensated employees for the current fiscal year, with the non-SEOs ranked in descending order of level of annual compensation, and with the name, title, and employer of each SEO and most highly compensated employee identified; and

(xvi) I understand that a knowing and willful false or fraudulent statement made in connection with this certification may be punished by fine, imprisonment, or both. (*See*, for example, 18 U.S.C. 1001.)

By: /s/ M. Ray (Hoppy) Cole, Jr.
M. Ray (Hoppy) Cole, Jr.
Principal Executive Officer

Date: March 30, 2016

EXHIBIT 99.2

EESA CERTIFICATION

I, Dee Dee Lowery, certify, based on my knowledge, that:

(i) The compensation committee of The First Bancshares, Inc. has discussed, reviewed, and evaluated with senior risk officers at least every six months during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period, the senior executive officer (SEO) compensation plans and the employee compensation plans and the risks these plans pose to The First Bancshares, Inc.;

(ii) The compensation committee of The First Bancshares, Inc. has identified and limited during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period any features of the SEO compensation plans that could lead SEOs to take unnecessary and excessive risks that could threaten the value of The First Bancshares, Inc., and has identified any features of the employee compensation plans that pose risks to The First Bancshares, Inc. and has limited those features to ensure that The First Bancshares, Inc. is not unnecessarily exposed to risks;

(iii) The compensation committee has reviewed, at least every six months during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period, the terms of each employee compensation plan and identified any features of the plan that could encourage the manipulation of reported earnings of The First Bancshares, Inc. to enhance the compensation of an employee, and has limited any such features;

(iv) The compensation committee of The First Bancshares, Inc. will certify to the reviews of the SEO compensation plans and employee compensation plans required under (i) and (iii) above;

(v) The compensation committee of The First Bancshares, Inc. will provide a narrative description of how it limited during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period the features in

(A) SEO compensation plans that could lead SEOs to take unnecessary and excessive risks that could threaten the value of The First Bancshares, Inc.;

(B) Employee compensation plans that unnecessarily expose The First Bancshares, Inc. to risks; and

(C) Employee compensation plans that could encourage the manipulation of reported earnings of The First Bancshares, Inc. to enhance the compensation of an employee;

(vi) The First Bancshares, Inc. has required bonus payments to SEOs or any of the next twenty most highly compensated employees, as defined in the regulations and guidance established under section 111 of EESA (bonus payments), be subject to a recovery or “clawback” provision during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period if the bonus payments were based on materially inaccurate financial statements or any other materially inaccurate performance metric criteria;

(vii) The First Bancshares, Inc. has prohibited any golden parachute payment, as defined in the regulations and guidance established under section 111 of EESA, to an SEO or any of the next five most highly compensated employees during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period;

(viii) The First Bancshares, Inc. has limited bonus payments to its applicable employees in accordance with section 111 of EESA and the regulations and guidance established thereunder during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period;

(ix) The First Bancshares, Inc. and its employees have complied with the excessive or luxury expenditures policy, as defined in the regulations and guidance established under section 111 of EESA, during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period; and any expenses that, pursuant to the policy, required approval of the board of directors, a committee of the board of directors, an SEO, or an executive officer with a similar level of responsibility were properly approved;

(x) The First Bancshares, Inc. will permit a non-binding shareholder resolution in compliance with any applicable Federal securities rules and regulations on the disclosures provided under the Federal securities laws related to SEO compensation paid or accrued during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period;

(xi) The First Bancshares, Inc. will disclose the amount, nature, and justification for the offering, during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period, of any perquisites, as defined in the regulations and guidance established under section 111 of EESA, whose total value exceeds \$25,000 for any employee who is subject to the bonus payment limitations identified in paragraph (viii);

(xii) The First Bancshares, Inc. will disclose whether The First Bancshares, Inc., the board of directors of The First Bancshares, Inc. or the compensation committee of The First Bancshares, Inc. has engaged during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period, a compensation consultant; and the services the compensation consultant or any affiliate of the compensation consultant provided during this period;

(xiii) The First Bancshares, Inc. has prohibited the payment of any gross-ups, as defined in the regulations and guidance established under section 111 of EESA, to the SEOs and the next twenty most highly compensated employees during any part of the most recently completed fiscal year that was a TARP period;

(xiv) The First Bancshares, Inc. has substantially complied with all other requirements related to employee compensation that are provided in the agreement between The First Bancshares, Inc. and Treasury, including any amendments;

(xv) The First Bancshares, Inc. has submitted to Treasury a complete and accurate list of the SEOs and the twenty next most highly compensated employees for the current fiscal year, with the non-SEOs ranked in descending order of level of annual compensation, and with the name, title, and employer of each SEO and most highly compensated employee identified; and

(xvi) I understand that a knowing and willful false or fraudulent statement made in connection with this certification may be punished by fine, imprisonment, or both. (*See*, for example, 18 U.S.C. 1001.)

By: /s/ Dee Dee Lowery
Dee Dee Lowery
Principal Financial Officer

Date: March 30, 2016
