

COMMERCIAL BANKING PERFORMANCE - FIRST QUARTER 1988

# First RepublicBank Losses Prevent Quarterly Earnings Record <br> - Number of Unprofitable Banks Declines Modestly <br> - Insolvencies Running at Same Rate as a Year Ago <br> Midwest Banks Show Greatest Improvement 

U.S. commercial banks earned $\$ 5.0$ billion in the first quarter of 1988 , compared to $\$ 5.3$ billion in the first quarter of 1987. Eamings improved in all areas of the country except the Southwest. But for the $\$ 1.49$ billion aggregate loss reported by First RepublicBank Corp. banks, first quarter results would have established a new quarterly earnings high. Nationwide, over half of all banks reported higher first quarter eamings in 1988 than a year ago, and the percentage of unprofitable banks fell to less than 13 percent from almost 15 percent in the first quarter last year.

Loan growth continued to be led by increases in real estate and consumer lending, as commercial loan growth remained sluggish. Real estate loans were $\$ 15.7$ billion higher at the end of March than at yearend, accounting for 90 percent of aggregate asset growth in the quarter. The increase in real estate lending was distributed among construction and development and other commercial real estate loans (up $\$ 6.6$ billion), home equity loans (up $\$ 1.6$ bilion), and 1-4 family residential mortgage loans (up $\$ 3.5$ billion). Loans to individuals were up 6.8 percent from year-ago levels, but down $\$ 0.4$ billion from year end.

Chart A - Composition of Total Loans Outstanding March 31, 1988


Nonperforming assets were slightly below yearago levels, but were up about $\$ 1$ billion from yearend 1987, despite first quarter charge-offs of $\$ 5.0$ billion. The industry's ratio of nonperforming assets to assets rose to 2.48 percent. The aggregate loan-loss allowance also was up nearly $\$ 1$ billion in the first three months of 1988, to $\$ 50.3$ billion, representing 78.8 percent of noncurrent loans and leases.

The industry's net interest income grew 5.9 percent over last year's first quarter, and noninterest income continued to grow strongly, up 17.3 percent. First quarter noninterest expenses were up 8.1 percent over last year. However, employment at commercial banks continued to decline, and the rate of growth in noninterest expense may subside as cost-cutting moves begin to take effect. Net nonrecurring gains contributed a single quarter record $\$ 165$ million to the industry's bottom line in the first quarter.
The banking sector's equity capital base grew by $\$ 1.9$ billion in the first quarter, after cash dividends of $\$ 3.3$ billion. The industry's ratio of equity capital to assets rose slightly to 6.07 percent, up from 6.04 percent at year-end.

Chart B - Distribution of Noncurrent Loans March 31, 1988



Fifty-four banks either failed or received FDIC assistance during the first quarter, the same number as in last year's first quarter. The number of "Problem" banks has continued to decline from its peak of over 1,600 institutions in the middle of 1987, reaching 1,491 at the end of March. Improvement was most pronounced among banks in the agricultural Midwest. In the Southwest, banks remain mired in asset-quality problems, mainly in real estate loans, and banks in that region account for a disproportionately large share of the "Problem Bank" list.

Southwest banks reported aggregate first quarter losses representing 2.4 percent of total assets, on an annualized basis; however, over 90 percent of these losses were concentrated in the subsidiaries of First RepublicBank Corp. While far from rosy, the picture of banking in the Southwest looks far less bleak when the First Republic banks are excluded.

Impact of the Southwest Region on
First Quarter 1988 U.S. Banking Aggregates

|  | Southwest Region <br> with <br> FRBC | excl. <br> FRBC | Rest of <br> the U.S. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Return on assets | $-2.37 \%$ | $-0.26 \%$ | $0.97 \%$ |
| Net charge-offs to loans <br> \& leases | 2.14 | 1.50 | 0.75 |
| Nonperforming assets to <br> assets | 6.28 | 5.31 | 2.10 |
| Equity capital to assets | 5.43 | 6.20 | 6.13 |

Apart from First RepublicBank subsidiaries, the region's banks still registered an aggregate first quarter loss. During the quarter, 27 percent of the region's banks reported losses, and nonperforming assets reached disturbingly high levels. Southwest banks have boosted their loan-loss provisions, but reserves against noncurrent loans are still low, especially in comparison to other regions. Srnaller banks in the Southwest have begun to show modest improvernent, but it likely will take some time before banks benefit
significantly from improving economic trends in that part of the country.

Improvement among Midwest banks is much more apparent. Aggregate profits increased 26 percent. The levels of nonperforming assets and loan-loss expense, as well as the number of banks losing money, all dropped significantly. The percentage of Midwest banks reporting first quarter losses fell from 13.5 percent a year ago to only 7.6 percent.

Improvement was also evident in the West. Nonperforming assets fell by 15 percent and net income jumped by 59 percent over last year's first quarter. While the percent of assets in nonperforming status ( $3.26 \%$ ) and the percent of unprofitable banks (19.3\%) remain relatively high, both showed improvement when compared to last year.


Southeast and Central banks continued to exhibit strong performance in the first quarter. Earnings remained high and nonperforming assets remained low. Banks in the Northeast showed a dramatic 35 percent increase in eamings, yielding an aggregate retum on equity of 17.4 percent. Nonperforming assets grew only 2 percent. Equity, however, was 3.5 percent lower than a year ago, reflecting the loss provisioning taken by the region's large banks last year.

Overall, the industry should continue to enjoy improved profitability through the rest of the year. Large banks will benefit from lower loss provisioning, and banks in the East will continue to benefit from a strong regional economy. Although it appears that the Southwest's economic problems have bottomed out, that region will continue to dominate 1988 banking news and nurnbers.

Table I. Selected Indicators, FDIC-Insured Commercial Banks

|  | 1988* | 1987* | 1987 | 1986 | 1985 | 1984 | 1983 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Retum on assets | 0.67\% | 0.72\% | 0.12\% | 0.63\% | 0.70\% | 0.65\% | 0.66\% |
| Retum on equity . | 11.00 | 11.39 | 2.00 | 9.94 | 11.31 | 10.73 | 10.70 |
| Equity capital to assets | 6.07 | 6.43 | 6.04 | 6.20 | 6.20 | 6.15 | 6.00 |
| Primary capital ratio | 7.74 | 7.57 | 7.69 | 7.22 | 6.91 | 6.91 | 6.59 |
| Nonperforming assets to assets | 2.48 | 2.61 | 2.46 | 1.94 | 1.87 | 1.97 | 1.97 |
| Net chargooff's to loans. | 0.88 | 0.75 | 0.92 | 0.98 | 0.84 | 0.76 | 0.67 |
| Asset growth rate | 4.06 | 6.5 | 203 | 7.71 | 8.86 | 7.11 | 6.75 |
| Net operating income growth | 204 | 9.01 | -85.27 | -20.65 | 6.30 | 3.40 | -3.69 |
| Percentage of unprofitable banks | 12.84 | 14.65 | 17.66 | 19.79 | 17.09 | 13.06 | 10.58 |
| Number of problem banks | 1,491 | 1,509 | 1,559 | 1,457 | 1,098 | 800 | 603 |
| Number of failed/assisted banks | 54 | 54 | 201 | 144 | 118 | 78 | 45 |

*     - Through March 31; ratios annualized where appropriate

Table II. Aggregate Condition and Income Data, FDIC-Insured Commercial Banks (dollar figures in millions)

|  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |

Table III. First Quarter Bank Data (Dollar figures in billions, ratios in \%)


[^0]Table IV. Full Year 1987 Bank Data (Dollar figures in billions, ratios in \%)


OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use, $\$ 300$
Postage and Fees paid Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

## NOTES TO USERS

## COMPUTATION METHODOLOGY FOR PERFORMANCE AND CONDITION RATIOS

All income figures used in calculating performance ratios represent amounts for that period, annualized (multiplied by the number of periods in a year).
All asset and liability figures used in calculating performance ratios represent average amounts for the period (beginning-of-period amount plus end-of-period amount plus any periods in between, divided by the total number of periods).
All asset and liability figures used in calculating the condition ratios represent amounts as of the end of the quarter.

## DEFINITIONS

"Problem" Banks—Federal regulators assign to each financial institution a uniform composite rating, based upon an evaluation of financial and operational criteria. The rating is based on a scale of 1 to 5 in ascending order of supervisory concern. "Problem" banks are those institutlons with financiai, operational or managerial weaknesses that threaten their continued financial viability. Depending upon the degree of risk and supervisory concern, they are rated either " 4 " or " 5 ".
Eaming Assets-all loans and other investments that earn interest, dividend or fee income.
Yield on Earning Assets-total interest, dividend and fee income earned on loans and investments as a percentage of average earning assets.
Cost of Funding Earning Assets-total interest expense paid on deposits and other borrowed money as a percentage of average earning assets.
Net Interest Margin-the difference between the yield on earning assets and the cost of funding them, i.e., the profit margin a bank earns on its loans and investments.
Net Noninterest Expense-total noninterest expense, excluding the expense of providing for loan losses, less total noninterest income. A measure of banks' overhead costs.
Net Operating income-income after taxes and before gains (or losses) from securities transactions and from nonrecurring items. The profit earned on banks' regular banking business.
Return on Assets-net income (including securities transactions and nonrecurring items) as a percentage of average total assets. The basic yardstick of bank profitability.
Return on Equity-net income as a percentage of average total equity capital.
Net Charge-offs-total loans and leases charged off (removed from balance sheet because of uncollectibility) during the quarter, less amounts recovered on loans and leases previously charged off.
Nonperforming Assets-the sum of loans past-due 90 days or more, loans in nonaccrual status, and noninvestment real estate owned other than bank premises.
Noncurrent Loans \& Leases-the sum of loans past-due 90 days or more and loans in nonaccrual status.
Primary Capltal-total equity capital plus the allowance for loan and lease losses plus minority interests in consolidated subsidiaries plus qualifying mandatory convertible debt (cannot exceed 20 percent of total primary capital), less intangible assets except purchased morigage servicing rights.
Net Loans and Leases-total loans and leases less unearned income and the allowance for loan and lease losses.
Net Assets Repriceable in One Year or Less-all assets with interest rates that are repriceable in one year or less plus assets with remaining maturity of one year or less, minus all liabilities that are repriced or due to mature within one year of the reporting date. A positive value indicates that banks' income from assets is more sensitive to movements in interest rates than is the expense of their liabilities, and vice-versa for a negative value.
Temporary Investments-the sum of interest-bearing balances due from depository institutions, federal funds sold and resold, trading-account assets and investment securities with remaining maturities of one year or less.
Volatlle Liabilities-the sum of large denomination time deposits, foreign office deposits, federal funds purchased, and other borrowed money.
Requests for copies of and subscriptions to the FDIC Quarterly Banking Profile should be made through the FDIC's Office of Corporate Communications, 550 17th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20429; telephone (202) 898-6996.


[^0]:    REGIONS: Northeast - Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont
    Southeast - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginla, West Virginla
    Central - Illinois, Indlana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin
    Midwest - lowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota
    Southwest - Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas
    West - Alaska, Arizona, Califormia, Colorado, Hawai, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Paclfic Islands, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

