

FIRST BANCSHARES INC /MS/
Form DEF 14A
November 28, 2016

SCHEDULE 14A

(RULE 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

**PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to Rule 14a-12

THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4)Date Filed:

The First Bancshares, Inc.

Notice of Special Meeting of Shareholders

to be held on December 29, 2016

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

We cordially invite you to attend a Special Meeting (the “Special Meeting”) of Shareholders of The First Bancshares, Inc. (the “Company”), the holding company for The First, A National Banking Association. We hope that you can attend the meeting and look forward to seeing you there.

This letter serves as your official notice that the Company will hold the Special Meeting on Thursday, December 29, 2016, at 4:30 p.m. at the Company’s main office located at 6480 U.S. Highway 98 West, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402. At the Special Meeting, you will be asked to consider and vote on the following matters:

Conversion of Convertible Preferred Stock. To approve, for purposes of NASDAQ Listing Rule 5635, the Company’s issuance of 3,563,380 shares of common stock upon the conversion of an equivalent number of

1. Mandatorily Convertible Non-Cumulative Non-Voting Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series E, as contemplated by the Securities Purchase Agreements described in the accompanying proxy statement.

Adjournment of Special Meeting if Necessary or Appropriate. To approve the adjournment of the Special

2. Meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies if there are insufficient votes at the time of the Special Meeting to adopt Proposal 1.

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote in favor of Proposals 1 and 2.

Pursuant to the Company’s bylaws, the only business permitted to be conducted at the Special Meeting are the matters set forth in this letter and notice of the meeting.

Shareholders owning shares of the Company’s common stock at the close of business on November 17, 2016, are the only persons entitled to attend and vote at the meeting. A complete list of these shareholders will be available at The First Bancshares, Inc.’s main office prior to and during the meeting.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 29, 2016

The Proxy Statement for the special meeting is available at www.edocumentview.com/FBMS

Please use this opportunity to take part in the affairs of your company by voting on the business to come before this meeting. Even if you plan to attend the meeting, the Company encourages you to complete and return the enclosed proxy to us as promptly as possible.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

M. Ray “Hoppy” Cole, J.E. Ricky Gibson
President and CEO Chairman of the Board

Dated and Mailed on or about November 29, 2016, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

The First Bancshares, Inc.

6480 U.S. Highway 98 West

Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402

Proxy Statement for the Special Meeting of

Shareholders to be Held on December 29, 2016

INTRODUCTION

Date, Time, and Place of Meeting

A Special Meeting of Shareholders (the "Special Meeting") of The First Bancshares, Inc. (the "Company"), a Mississippi corporation and the holding company for The First, A National Banking Association (the "Bank") will be held at the main office of the Company located at 6480 U.S. Highway 98 West, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402, on Thursday, December 29, 2016, at 4:30 p.m., local time, or any adjournment(s) thereof, for the purpose of considering and voting upon the matters set out in the foregoing Notice of Special Meeting of Shareholders. This Proxy Statement is furnished to the shareholders of the Company in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors of proxies to be voted at the Meeting.

The mailing address of the principal executive office of the Company is Post Office Box 15549, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 39404-5549.

The approximate date on which this Proxy Statement and form of proxy are first being sent or given to shareholders is November 29, 2016.

The matters to be considered and voted upon at the Special Meeting will be:

1. Conversion of Convertible Preferred Stock. To approve, for purposes of NASDAQ Listing Rule 5635, the issuance of 3,563,380 shares of common stock upon the conversion of an equivalent number of Mandatorily Convertible Non-Cumulative Non-Voting Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series E, as contemplated by the Securities Purchase Agreements described below.

2. Adjournment of Special Meeting if Necessary or Appropriate. To approve the adjournment of the Special Meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies from shareholders who have not submitted proxies at the time of the initially convened Special Meeting if there are insufficient votes at the time of the Special Meeting to adopt Proposal 1.

Record Date; Quorum; Voting Rights; Vote Required

The record date for determining holders of outstanding common stock of the Company entitled to notice of and to vote at the Special Meeting is November 17, 2016 (the "Record Date"). Only holders of the Company's common stock of record on the books of the Company at the close of business on the Record Date are entitled to notice of and to vote at the Special Meeting or at any adjournment or postponement thereof. As of the Record Date, there were 5,428,017 shares of the Company's common stock issued and outstanding, each of which is entitled to one vote on all matters. In order for the Special Meeting to be duly convened, a quorum must be present, and a quorum requires that the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock be present in person or by proxy at the meeting. Approval of Proposals 1 and 2 requires the affirmative vote of a majority of votes cast at a duly convened meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes are counted only for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the Meeting.

In addition, Mississippi law does not provide dissenters' or appraisal rights to our stockholders in connection with either of the proposals.

Proxies

Shares of common stock represented by properly executed proxies, unless previously revoked, will be voted at the Special Meeting in accordance with the directions therein. If no direction is specified, such shares will be voted in the discretion of the person named as the proxy holder with respect to any other business that may come before the Special Meeting. A proxy may be revoked by a shareholder at any time prior to its exercise by filing with the Secretary of the Company a written revocation or a duly executed proxy bearing a later date. A proxy shall also be revoked if the shareholder is present and elects to vote in person.

PROPOSAL 1

APPROVAL OF THE ISSUANCE OF SHARES OF COMMON STOCK UPON THE CONVERSION OF THE COMPANY'S SERIES E NONVOTING CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCK INTO COMMON STOCK

Background and Reasons for Requesting Shareholder Approval

On October 12, 2016, the Company entered into Securities Purchase Agreements (each a "Security Purchase Agreement") with a limited number of institutional and other accredited investors (the "Purchasers" and each, a "Purchaser") pursuant to which the Company sold in a private placement (the "Private Placement") 3,563,380 shares of newly authorized Series E Nonvoting Convertible Preferred Stock ("Series E Preferred Stock") at a purchase price of \$17.75 per share, for aggregate gross proceeds of \$63,249,995. The terms of the Series E Preferred Stock provide for their mandatory conversion into an equivalent number of shares of the Company's common stock upon approval of this proposal. The Company paid \$3,162,499.75 in fees to its financial advisors who acted as placement agents in the private placement. The Private Placement transaction was completed on October 14, 2016. The material terms of the Series Preferred Stock are discussed below.

Because our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, we are subject to NASDAQ Listing Rule 5635(d), which requires shareholder approval prior to the issuance of securities in connection with a transaction, other than a public offering, involving the sale, issuance or potential issuance by a company of common stock (or securities convertible into or exercisable for common stock) equal to 20% or more of the then outstanding shares of common stock or 20% or more of the voting power before the issuance of such additional shares at a price that is less than the greater of book or market value of the stock.

Upon conversion of the Series E Preferred Stock, the Company will issue 3,563,380 shares of common stock, which is 65.6% of the Company's 5,428,017 shares of common stock outstanding on October 11. The closing sales price of the Company's common stock on October 11th, the day the Series E Preferred Stock offering was priced, was \$18.29 per share on the NASDAQ Global Market.

The proposed conversion of the Series E Preferred Stock for shares of our common stock is subject to this NASDAQ rule because the shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of the Series E Preferred Stock exceed 20% of both the voting power and number of shares of our common stock outstanding before the issuance, and the negotiated price per share of common stock on an as-converted basis was less than the book value and market value of our common stock at the time of issuance.

The Private Placement of the Series E Preferred Stock was exempt from Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) registration pursuant to Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Rule 506(b) of Regulation D promulgated thereunder.

The proceeds from the Private Placement will be used, in part, to fund the acquisition of Iberville Bank, Plaquemine, Louisiana (the “Iberville Bank Acquisition”). The Iberville Bank Acquisition is NOT part of Proposal 1 and the Company’s shareholders are NOT being asked to vote on the Iberville Bank Acquisition. Further, the results of the vote of the shareholders at the Special Meeting will not affect whether the Company completes the Iberville Bank Acquisition. Iberville Bank’s principal executive office is located at 23405 Eden Street, Plaquemine, LA 70764 and its phone number is (225) 687-2091. Iberville Bank is a community bank that specializes in deposit and lending services throughout southeast Louisiana.

For a more detailed description of the Iberville Bank Acquisition, please see “Acquisition of Iberville Bank” set forth below. The most material terms of the Iberville Bank Acquisition follow:

Summary of Iberville Bank Acquisition

<u>Parties:</u>	The First Bancshares, Inc. (Buyer)
<u>Structure:</u>	A. Wilbert’s Sons Lumber & Shingle Company (Seller)
<u>Consideration:</u>	Acquisition of 100% of the stock of Iberville Bank \$31,100,000 in cash The Seller has made certain representations and warranties to Buyer, including:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Organization, Standing and Authority· Subsidiaries· Compliance with laws· Financial statements and condition
<u>Representations:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Taxes· Employee benefits· Environmental matters· Title to assets and loans· Community Reinvestment Act· Flood-affected loans
<u>Covenants:</u>	The Seller has agreed to certain actions prior to the closing of the Iberville Bank Acquisition, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Operating only in the ordinary courseo Limited dividends or distributionso No changes to organizational documentso Limited capital expenditures and compensation increaseso Prior approval for loans and investment purchases over certain thresholdso No incurrence of debt except in the ordinary course

- o No acquisitions or significant dispositions of assets

The parties have agreed to certain additional terms, including:

- Seller will seek shareholder and regulatory approval
- Seller will not pursue alternative transactions and may only enter into unsolicited alternative transactions in limited circumstances
- Buyer will indemnify directors and officers of Seller to the same extent as Seller currently
- Seller will terminate certain employee benefit plans prior to the closing
- Buyer will appoint one additional board member to the Bank's board of directors

Additional Agreements:

Each of the parties must satisfy certain obligations in order to consummate the Iberville Bank Acquisition, including:

- Conditions to Buyer's Obligations:
 - o All representations, covenants, and additional agreements must be satisfied
 - o No material adverse effect shall have happened

Conditions:

- o Seller will have delivered a certificate of Iberville Bank's adjusted capital

- Conditions to Seller's Obligations:

- o All representations, covenants, and additional agreements must be satisfied

- o Buyer will have paid the purchase price to Seller

The Iberville Bank Acquisition agreement may be terminated under certain circumstances, including:

- o If the acquisition is not completed by March 31, 2017

Termination:

- o If the Seller's board of directors changes its recommendation

- o If either party fails to perform any of its obligations that would give rise to a condition not being satisfied and such failure remains uncured

The Buyer and Seller have agreed to escrow approximately \$2.5 million of the purchase price while the parties resolve certain loans that were affected by the 2016 flooding in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana area.

Miscellaneous:

Consequences of Approval of Proposal 1

Shareholder approval of Proposal 1 will have the following consequences:

Conversion of Series E Preferred Stock into Common Stock at the Initial Conversion Price. Each share of Series E Preferred Stock will be automatically converted into one share of common stock on the third business day following shareholder approval.

Elimination of Dividend and Liquidation Preference of Holders of Series E Preferred Stock. All shares of Series E Preferred Stock will be cancelled upon conversion, resulting in the elimination of the dividend rights and liquidation preference existing in favor of the Series E Preferred Stock. For more information regarding such dividend rights and liquidation preferences, see “Series E Preferred Stock Terms and Provisions” in this proxy statement.

Elimination of Separate Voting Rights of Holders of Series E Preferred Stock. Holders of Series E Preferred Stock have approval rights for certain Company actions, and the conversion of Series E Preferred Stock into common stock will eliminate these separate voting rights. For more information regarding such voting, see “Series E Preferred Stock Terms and Provisions” in this proxy statement.

Market Effects. Despite the existence of certain restrictions on transfer relating to securities law, the issuance of shares of our common stock upon conversion of the Series E Preferred Stock may adversely affect the market price of our common stock. If significant quantities of our common stock issued upon conversion of the Series E Preferred Stock are sold (or if it is perceived by the market that they may be sold) after their registration into the public market, the trading price of our common stock could be materially adversely affected.

Dilution. We will issue, through the conversion of the Series E Preferred Stock, approximately 3,563,380 shares of common stock (in addition to the 5,428,017 shares of common stock currently outstanding). As a result, we expect there to be a dilutive effect on the earnings per share of our common stock. In addition, our existing shareholders will incur substantial dilution to their voting interests and will own a smaller percentage of our outstanding common stock.

Consequences of Failure to Approve Proposal 1

Series E Preferred Stock Will Remain Outstanding. Unless the shareholder approval is received or unless our shareholders approve a similar proposal at a subsequent meeting, the Series E Preferred Stock will remain outstanding in accordance with its terms, and incur the potential following effects.

Continued Dividend Payment and Potential Market Effects. We would expect that the shares of Series E Preferred Stock will remain outstanding for the foreseeable future and, beginning six months from the issuance of the Series E Preferred Stock, or approximately April 14, 2017, and for so long as such shares remain outstanding, we would be required to pay dividends on the Series E Preferred Stock, on a non-cumulative basis, at an annual rate of 6% of the liquidation value of the Series E Preferred Stock, which is \$17.75.

Continued Separate Voting Rights of Holders of Series E Preferred Stock. Holders of Series E Preferred Stock have certain separate voting rights, and the holders of our common stock will be unable to take certain actions without approval by the holders of the Series E Preferred Stock. For more information regarding such voting, see “Series E Preferred Stock Terms and Provisions” in this proxy statement.

Additional Shareholder Meetings. Pursuant to the Securities Purchase Agreement, we would be required to call additional shareholder meetings every three months and recommend approval of Proposal 1 at each meeting to the shareholders, if necessary, until such approval is obtained. We will bear the costs of soliciting the approval of our shareholders in connection with these meetings.

Restriction on Payment of Dividends. If shareholder approval is not obtained, the shares of Series E Preferred Stock will remain outstanding and, beginning six months from the issuance of the Series E Preferred Stock, or approximately April 12, 2017, and for so long as such shares remain outstanding, if dividends payable on all outstanding shares of the Series E Preferred Stock have not been declared and paid, or declared and funds set aside therefor, we will not be permitted to declare or pay dividends with respect to, or redeem, purchase, or acquire any of our junior securities, or redeem, purchase or acquire any parity securities, subject to limited exceptions.

Participation in Dividends on Common Stock. So long as any shares of Series E Preferred Stock are outstanding, if we declare any dividends on our common stock or make any other distribution to our common shareholders, the holders of the Series E Preferred Stock will be entitled to participate in such distribution on an as-converted basis.

Liquidation Preference. For as long as the Series E Preferred Stock remains outstanding, it will retain a senior liquidation preference over shares of our common stock in connection with any liquidation of us and, accordingly, no payments will be made to holders of our common stock upon any liquidation of us unless the full liquidation preference on the Series E Preferred Stock is paid.

Pro Forma Financial Information

To assist in your understanding of the impact of the Private Placement relating to Proposal No. 1, we are providing the following pro forma financial information. The following table sets forth our capitalization and regulatory capital ratios on a consolidated basis as of September 30, 2016 on:

(1) an actual basis; and

(2) an adjusted basis to give effect to the issuance of 3,563,380 shares of the Series E Preferred Stock in the offering on a (i) non-converted basis and (ii) converted basis.

The table should be read in conjunction with and is qualified in its entirety by our audited and unaudited financial statements and notes thereto incorporated by reference into this proxy. For more information, see “Incorporation by Reference of Information About the Company, Financial Statements and Related Information” below.

	As of September 30, 2016 (in thousands)		
		As Adjusted for the Offering If the Preferred Stock IS NOT converted to Common Stock	If the Preferred Stock IS converted to Common Stock
	Actual		
Stockholders' Equity:			
Common Stock - \$1.00 par value per share; 20,000,000 shares authorized, 5,454,511 shares issued (including treasury shares held by our Company); 9,017,891 shares issued and outstanding as adjusted for this offering.	\$ 5,455	\$ 5,455	\$ 9,018
Preferred stock, no par value, \$1,000 per share liquidation, 10,000,000 shares authorized; 17,123 issued and outstanding	17,123	17,123	17,123
Preferred stock, \$1.00 par value, \$17.75 per share liquidation, 3,563,380 shares authorized; 3,563,380 issued and outstanding and	-	63,250	-

related surplus

Capital surplus	44,996		44,996		104,683	
Retained earnings	42,543		42,543		42,543	
Accumulated other comprehensive income, net	3,005		3,005		3,005	
Treasury stock, at cost, 26,494 shares	(464	)	(464	)	(464)
Total stockholders' equity	\$ 112,658		\$ 175,908		\$ 175,908	
Consolidated Capital Ratios:						
Tangible common equity to tangible assets	6.39	%	6.08	%	10.89	%
Tangible equity to tangible assets	7.8	%	12.2	%	12.2	%
Tier 1 leverage	8.5	%	13.1	%	13.1	%
Tier 1 risk based capital ratio	10.5	%	16.2	%	16.2	%
Total risk based capital ratio	11.2	%	16.9	%	16.9	%
Common equity Tier 1 capital ratio	7.8	%	7.8	%	13.6	%

7

Series E Preferred Stock Terms and Provisions

The following is a summary of the material terms and provisions of the preferences, limitations, voting powers and relative rights of the Series E Preferred Stock as contained in the Certificate of Designation for the Series E Preferred Stock which has been filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Mississippi. Shareholders are urged to carefully read the Certificate of Designation in its entirety. Although we believe this summary covers the material terms and provisions of the Series E Preferred Stock as contained in the Certificate of Designation, it may not contain all of the information that is important to you.

Authorized Shares, Par Value and Liquidation Preference. We have designated 3,563,380 shares as “Mandatorily Convertible Non-Cumulative Non-Voting Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series E,” each of which has a \$1.00 par value and a liquidation preference of \$17.75 per share.

Mandatory Conversion. The Series E Preferred Stock of each holder will convert into shares of common stock on the third business day following the approval by the holders of our common stock of the conversion of the Series E Preferred Stock into common stock as required by the applicable NASDAQ rules. Assuming shareholder approval of Proposal 1 at the Special Meeting, the number of shares of common stock into which each share of Series E Preferred Stock shall be converted will be determined on a one-to-one basis.

Dividends. If shareholder approval is not obtained, the shares of Series E Preferred Stock will remain outstanding and, beginning six months from the issuance of the Series E Preferred Stock, or approximately April 12, 2017, and for so long as such shares remain outstanding, we will be required to pay dividends on the Series E Preferred Stock, on a non-cumulative basis, at an annual rate of 6% of the liquidation value of the Series E Preferred Stock, which is \$17.75. Dividends after the six month anniversary of issuance will be payable semi-annually in arrears on June 30 and December 31, beginning on June 30, 2017. If all dividends payable on the Series E Preferred Stock have not been declared and paid for an applicable dividend period, the Company shall not declare or pay any dividends on any stock which ranks junior to the Series E Preferred Stock, or redeem, purchase or acquire any stock which ranks *pari passu* or junior to the Series E Preferred Stock, subject to customary exceptions. If all dividends payable on the Series E Preferred Stock have not been paid in full, any dividend declared on stock which ranks *pari passu* to the Series E Preferred Stock shall be declared and paid pro rata with respect to the Series E Preferred Stock and such *pari passu* stock.

Participation in Dividends on Common Stock. So long as any shares of Series E Preferred Stock are outstanding, if we declare any dividends on our common stock or make any other distribution to our common shareholders, the holders of the Series E Preferred Stock will be entitled to participate in such distribution on an as-converted basis.

Ranking. The Series E Preferred Stock will rank senior to all of the Company's common stock and *pari passu* to the Company's outstanding Series CD Preferred Stock and will rank *pari passu* or senior to all future issuances of the Company's preferred stock and junior to the Company's outstanding Trust Preferred Securities.

Voting Rights. The holders of the Series E Preferred Stock will not have any voting rights other than as required by law, except that the approval of the holders of a majority of the Series E Preferred Stock, voting as a single class, will be required with respect to certain matters, including (A) charter amendments adversely affecting the rights, preferences or privileges of the Series E Preferred Stock, (B) the consummation of a reorganization event in connection with which the Series E Preferred Stock is not converted or otherwise treated as provided in the Certificate of Designation, or (C) the creation of any series of equal or senior equity securities.

Liquidation. In the event the Company voluntarily or involuntarily liquidates, dissolves or winds up, the holders of the Series E Preferred Stock shall be entitled to liquidating distributions equal to \$17.75 per share plus any declared and unpaid dividends.

Redemption. The Series E Preferred Stock shall be perpetual unless converted in accordance with the Certificate of Designation. The Series E Preferred Stock will not be redeemable at the option of the Company or any holder of Series E Preferred Stock at any time.

Preemptive Rights. Holders of the Series E Preferred Stock have no preemptive rights.

Fundamental Change. If the Company enters into a transaction constituting a consolidation or merger of the Company or similar transaction or any sale or other transfer of all or substantially all of the consolidated assets of the Company and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole (in each case pursuant to which its common stock will be converted into cash, securities or other property) or for certain reclassifications or exchanges of its common stock, then each share of Series E Preferred Stock will convert, effective on the day on which such share would automatically convert into common stock of the Company, into the securities, cash and other property receivable in the transaction by the holder of the number of shares of common stock into which such share of Series E Preferred Stock would then be convertible, assuming receipt of any applicable regulatory approval.

The Securities Purchase Agreements

The following is a summary of the material terms of the Securities Purchase Agreements.

Purchase and Sale of Stock. Pursuant to the Securities Purchase Agreements, we issued and sold 3,563,380 shares of the Series E Preferred Stock, in the aggregate, to the Purchasers (defined therein).

Representations and Warranties. We made customary representations and warranties to the Purchasers relating to us, our business and our capital stock, including with respect to the shares of Series E Preferred Stock issued to the Purchasers pursuant to the Securities Purchase Agreements. The representations and warranties in the Securities Purchase Agreements were made for purposes of the Securities Purchase Agreements and are subject to qualifications and limitations agreed to by the respective parties in connection with negotiating the terms of the Securities Purchase Agreements, including being qualified by confidential disclosures made for the purposes of allocating contractual risk. In addition, certain representations and warranties were made as of a specific date, may be subject to a contractual standard of materiality different from what might be viewed as material to shareholders, or may have been used for purposes of allocating risk between the respective parties rather than establishing matters as facts. The representations and warranties and other provisions of the Securities Purchase Agreements should not be read alone, but instead should only be read together with the information provided elsewhere in this document and in the documents incorporated by reference into this document, including the periodic and current reports and statements that we file with the SEC.

Agreement to Seek Shareholder Approval. We agreed to call the Special Meeting, as promptly as reasonably practicable but in no event later than December 31, 2016, and to recommend and seek shareholder approval of Proposal 1. In addition, we agreed to prepare and file this proxy statement with the SEC and to cause the proxy statement to be mailed to shareholders within specified timeframes. If such approval is not obtained at the Special Meeting, we have agreed to call additional meetings and recommend approval of Proposal 1 to the shareholders every three (3) months thereafter until such approval is obtained.

Transfer Restrictions. The Series E Preferred Stock issued in the Private Placement constitutes “restricted securities” under federal securities laws and is accordingly subject to significant restrictions on transfer. The Company committed, pursuant to the Registration Rights Agreement into which it also entered with each Purchaser, to register both the Series E Preferred Stock and the Common Stock to be issued upon conversion of the Series E Preferred Stock, for resale under the Securities Act. See “The Registration Rights Agreement.”

Other Covenants. We also agreed to a number of customary covenants, including covenants with respect to the reservation and listing on NASDAQ of the common stock to be issued upon conversion of the Series E Preferred Stock.

Indemnity. We have agreed to customary indemnification provisions for the benefit of each Purchaser relating to certain losses suffered by each Purchaser arising from breaches of our representations, warranties and covenants in the Securities Purchase Agreements or relating to certain losses arising from actions, suits or claims relating to the Securities Purchase Agreements or the transactions contemplated thereby.

Expenses. The Purchasers and the Company will be solely responsible for and bear all of their own expenses, including, without limitation, expenses of legal counsel, accountants and other advisors (including financial intermediaries and advisors), incurred at any time in connection with the transactions contemplated by the Securities Purchase Agreements.

The Registration Rights Agreement

On October 12, 2016, we also entered into a Registration Rights Agreement with the Purchasers pursuant to which we agreed to (i) file a registration statement with the SEC within 90 days of October 14, 2016, to register the Common Stock to be issued upon conversion of the Series E Preferred Stock, for resale under the Securities Act; (ii) use commercially reasonable efforts to cause such registration statement to be declared effective within 120 days of October 14, 2016 (or 150 days in the event of an SEC review), subject to specified exceptions; and (iii) continue to take certain steps to maintain effectiveness of the registration statement and facilitate certain other matters.

Failure to meet these deadlines and certain other events may result in the Company's payment to the Purchasers of liquidated damages in the monthly amount of 0.5% of the purchase price. The Company will bear all expenses incident to performing its obligations under the Registration Rights Agreement regardless of whether any securities are sold pursuant to a relevant registration statement, including registration and filing fees, printing expenses, legal fees, and other incidental expenses. The Company is not responsible for any underwriting discounts, broker or similar fees or commissions, or legal fees, of any Purchaser. The Registration Rights Agreement also provides for customary reciprocal indemnification provisions relating to certain losses suffered by either party arising from any untrue or alleged untrue statement of a material fact, or material omission, in any relevant registration statement or prospectus.

Acquisition of Iberville Bank

Background of the Iberville Bank Acquisition

In early June 2016, M. Ray (Hoppy) Cole, Jr., Vice Chairman, President and CEO of FBMS, and other FBMS representatives, including their financial adviser, received information with regard to a potential transaction with Iberville Bank from Iberville Bank's parent company, A. Wilbert's Sons Lumber and Shingle Company ("AWS"). FBMS management, legal advisors and financial analysts reviewed preliminary due diligence information provided by AWS and its legal and financial advisors.

FBMS subsequently submitted a preliminary LOI on June 28, 2016 which reflected a range of prices FBMS may be willing to pay based on the due diligence received to date. The offer was subject to satisfactory completion of FBMS's due diligence and proposed an exclusivity period of 90 days, among other conditions. FBMS also inquired whether consideration in the form of stock for all of the common shares of Iberville Bank would be acceptable. AWS and Iberville Bank consulted with its legal adviser and financial adviser regarding the financial and legal terms of the LOI. AWS informed FBMS that they would only be willing to accept cash as consideration.

Over the next month, FBMS conducted its due diligence review of Iberville Bank. Iberville Bank also conducted a limited due diligence review of FBMS including an on-site visit by Iberville Bank management and its board of directors. Concurrent with the respective due diligence reviews, Iberville Bank and FBMS began negotiations of a definitive acquisition agreement. On July 27, 2016, AWS sent a draft of a stock purchase agreement (the "Agreement") to FBMS's legal counsel.

During the next month, FBMS's management met with representatives of Iberville Bank both on-site and over the telephone and FBMS's legal counsel and the FBMS financial adviser met with the Iberville Bank management team and legal and financial advisors (via telephone) to update the due diligence process and the status of negotiations related to the Agreement. Subsequently, FBMS asked for an extension of the LOI noting that the exclusivity period was set to expire soon. FBMS requested an extension to the LOI with a target announcement date of September 9, 2016. On August 10, 2016 and again on August 18, 2016, FBMS submitted a revised LOI requesting an extension of the exclusivity period and refining the terms of FBMS's proposal. All other terms of the original LOI remained as agreed to in the original LOI executed on June 28, 2016. Iberville Bank's board accepted the terms of the revised LOI on August 26, 2016.

Over the next six weeks, FBMS, AWS, Iberville Bank and their advisers negotiated the terms of the Agreement and reviewed the related disclosure schedules. During this time period, both parties' directors and management had various discussions, including with their counsel and financial advisors, regarding the status of the negotiations, Agreement issues, employee issues, and related matters. During the first week of September, following extensive flooding in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana area, FBMS indicated to Iberville Bank and its representatives that extensive, additional due diligence would be required in regards to potential loans that may have been affected by the flooding. Over the next several weeks, FBMS conducted flood-related due diligence.

The FBMS board met on October 7, 2016 and reviewed and discussed the terms of the proposed Agreement and approved the terms of the Agreement with AWS and Iberville Bank. At a special meeting on October 11, 2016, the AWS board met, along with its financial representative and AWS and Iberville Bank counsel, to review the terms of the proposed Agreement and related agreements. AWS and Iberville Bank's legal counsel then reviewed the most recent draft of the proposed Agreement and related transaction documents.

On October 12, 2016, the Agreement was formally signed by FBMS and AWS. A joint press release was issued, announcing the execution of the Agreement and the terms of the Acquisition on October 14, 2016. The press release also included the announcement of an agreement by FBMS to acquire Gulf Coast Community Bank in an approximately \$2.3 million all stock transaction and the private placement of approximately \$63.3 million in FBMS capital stock.

Terms of the Iberville Bank Acquisition Agreement

On October 12, 2016, the Company and the Bank entered into a Stock Purchase Agreement (the "Iberville Bank Acquisition Agreement") with A. Wilbert's Sons Lumber and Shingle Company (the "Iberville Bank Parent"), the parent company of Iberville Bank ("Iberville Bank"), under which the Company has agreed to acquire 100% of the common stock of Iberville Bank for a purchase price of \$31.1 million in cash (the "Iberville Bank Acquisition").

The Company will pay the Iberville Bank Parent \$31.1 million in cash ("purchase price") for 100% of the stock of Iberville Bank; provided however, that \$2.5 million of the purchase price will be subject to a mutually acceptable escrow agreement pursuant to which the parties have agreed to escrow such amount to cover potential losses on loans that were affected by recent flooding in certain of the Iberville Bank markets.

The Iberville Bank Acquisition Agreement contains customary representations and warranties by both the Company and the Iberville Bank Parent and each have agreed to customary covenants, including, among others, covenants relating to (1) the conduct of Iberville Bank's businesses during the interim period between the execution of the

Agreement and the completion of the Iberville Bank Acquisition; and (2) cooperation with respect to the filing of regulatory approval applications regarding the Iberville Bank Acquisition.

Completion of the Iberville Bank Acquisition is subject to certain customary conditions, including, among others (1) approval by two-thirds (2/3) of the Iberville Bank Parent shareholders, (2) the accuracy of the representations and warranties of the other party, and (3) performance in all material respects by the other party of its obligations under the Agreement. The Company's shareholders will not vote on the transaction.

The Agreement contains certain termination rights for the Company and Iberville Bank Parent, as the case may be, applicable upon (1) March 31, 2017, if the Iberville Bank Acquisition has not been completed by that date, (2) final, non-appealable denial of required regulatory approvals or an injunction prohibiting the transactions contemplated by the Iberville Bank Acquisition Agreement, or (3) a breach by the other party that is not or cannot be cured within 45 days' notice of such breach if such breach would result in a failure of the conditions to closing set forth in the Iberville Bank Acquisition Agreement.

Under certain circumstances, the Iberville Bank Acquisition Agreement may be terminated in the event that the Iberville Bank Parent Board of Directors approves an alternative transaction. In the event of a termination due to approval of an alternative transaction, the Iberville Bank Parent will be required to pay the Company a termination fee of \$1,088,500.

Regulatory Approvals Required for the Iberville Bank Acquisition

The Iberville Bank Acquisition is subject to the prior approval of, or waiver therefrom, of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (“OCC”) and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (“Federal Reserve”). On October 19, 2016, the Company filed an application with the OCC seeking its approval of the Iberville Bank Acquisition. The application with the OCC is still pending and the Company expects to receive a decision from the OCC during the fourth quarter of 2016. On November 10, 2016 the Company received a letter from the Federal Reserve acknowledging that the Iberville Bank Acquisition was exempt from the prior approval of the Federal Reserve.

Reasons for the Iberville Bank Acquisition

The Iberville Bank Acquisition will allow the Company to acquire an established franchise with deep ties to the local community and increase the Company’s presence in one of the Gulf South’s premier markets, ranking it in the top ten in deposit market share in the Baton Rouge, LA MSA. The Company believes the acquisition will allow it to leverage existing local infrastructure in the Baton Rouge, LA MSA while acquiring a low loan-to-deposit ratio and a low-cost deposit base with significant non-interest bearing deposits, which provides significant potential for loan growth. The Company further believes Iberville Bank has excellent credit quality due to their strong existing underwriting standards.

Board of Directors’ Recommendation and Required Vote

Approval of Proposal 1 requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of the Company’s common stock represented and voting at a duly convened Special Meeting. The directors and executive officers of the Company, owning or controlling the vote with respect to an aggregate of 638,373 voting shares, or approximately 11.76% of the Company’s outstanding common stock as of the Record Date, are expected to vote in favor of Proposal 1. The directors who purchased and are also holders of Series E Preferred Stock recognize that they have a personal interest in the approval of Proposal 1 (see “Interests of Certain Persons in the Share Conversion and Other Matters”).

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE “FOR” PROPOSAL 1.

PROPOSAL 2

APPROVAL OF AN ADJOURNMENT OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE MEETING

If we fail to receive a sufficient number of votes to constitute a quorum to hold the Special Meeting or to approve Proposal 1 at the Special Meeting, we may propose to adjourn or postpone the Special Meeting, whether or not a quorum is present, for a period of not more than 45 days, to (i) constitute a quorum for purposes of the Special Meeting or (ii) solicit additional Proxies from shareholders who have not submitted proxies in favor of the approval of Proposal 1, as necessary. The only business that may be transacted at any reconvened meeting is business that could have been transacted at the meeting that was adjourned, for example, Proposal 1, unless further notice of the adjourned meeting has been given in compliance with the requirements for a special meeting that specifies the additional purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called. During the reconvened meeting, votes that have previously been cast either in person or by proxy at the adjourned or postponed meeting will continue to be counted in the manner voted at the adjourned or postponed meeting.

We currently do not intend to propose adjourning or postponing the Special Meeting if there are sufficient votes represented at the Special Meeting to approve Proposal 1.

Board of Directors’ Recommendation and Required Vote

Approval of Proposal 2 requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of the Company’s common stock represented and voting at the Special Meeting, assuming that a quorum is present.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE “FOR” PROPOSAL 2.

INTERESTS OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Certain of the Company’s directors and executive officers participated in the Private Placement and therefore have an interest in the outcome of the Proposals. The following directors purchased shares of Series E Preferred Stock in the private placement in the following amounts: David W. Bomboy, M.D., 14,085 shares; M. Ray (Hoppy) Cole, Jr., 2,000 Shares; E. Ricky Gibson, 3,775 shares; Charles R. Lightsey, 28,169 shares; Fred A. McMurry, 5,634 shares (1), Ted E. Parker, 9,859 shares; J. Douglas Seidenburg, 11,584 shares and 2,500(2) shares, and Andrew D. Stetelman, 5,634 shares.

Shares held of record by Oak Grove Land Company, Inc. Fred A. McMurry is 33% owner of the company. Fred A. (1)McMurry disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by Oak Grove Land Company, Inc. except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.

Shares held of record by M.D. Outdoor, LLC. J. Douglas Seidenburg is a 50% owner of the company. J. Douglas (2)Seidenburg disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by M.D. Outdoor, LLC, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.

Assuming shareholder approval of Proposal 1 and the resulting issuance of common stock as described above, none of these individuals will have beneficial ownership in excess of five percent (5%) of the outstanding shares of the common stock.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN

BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of common stock in the Company owned by the directors, nominees for director, and executive officers, as of October 21, 2016.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership(1)	Unvested Restricted Stock(2)	Percent of Class(3)
David W. Bomboy, M.D.	106,995	4,000	2.04 %

M. Ray (Hoppy) Cole, Jr.	33,539	29,597	1.16	%
E. Ricky Gibson	84,744	8,500	1.72	%
Charles R. Lightsey	47,987	4,000	0.96	%
Fred A. McMurry	79,885	4,000	1.55	%
Gregory H. Mitchell	5,001	4,000	0.17	%
Ted E. Parker	66,813	4,000	1.30	%
J. Douglas Seidenburg	78,656	4,000	1.52	%
Andrew D. Stetelman	38,283	4,000	0.78	%
Dee Dee Lowery	19,282	11,091	0.56	%
Executive Officers, Directors, and Nominees as a group	561,185	77,188	11.76	%

- (1) Includes shares for which the named person:
- has sole voting and investment power,
 - has shared voting and investment power with a spouse, or
 - holds in an IRA or other retirement plan program, unless otherwise indicated in these footnotes.
- (2) Restricted Stock granted under The First Bancshares, Inc. 2007 Stock Incentive Plan
- (3) Calculated based on 5,428,017 shares outstanding

Financial Statements

Our Audited Consolidated Financial Statements (including Notes thereto) at December 31, 2015 and 2014 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2015, as included in our Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, are attached to the proxy statement as [Appendix A](#) and thereby incorporated by reference herein. Our Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements (including Notes thereto) at September 30, 2016 and December 31, 2015 and for the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2016 and September 30, 2015, as included in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2016, are attached to this proxy statement as [Appendix B](#) and thereby incorporated by reference herein. See “Incorporation by Reference of Information About the Company, Financial Statements and Related Information” below.

Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition at December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 and Results of Operations for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2015, as included in our Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, is attached to this proxy statement as [Appendix A](#) and thereby incorporated by reference herein. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition at September 30, 2016 and December 31, 2015 and Results of Operations for the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2016 and September 30, 2015, as included in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2016, is attached to this proxy statement as [Appendix B](#) and thereby incorporated by reference herein. See “Incorporation by Reference of Information About the Company, Financial Statements and Related Information” below.

Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure

There have been no changes in or disagreements with our accountants required to be disclosed pursuant to Item 304 of Regulation S-K.

Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Information regarding our quantitative and qualitative disclosures about market risk is contained in the section entitled “Liquidity and Market Risk Management” in Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations contained in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2016, which is attached hereto as Appendix C. See “Incorporation by Reference of Information About the Company, Financial Statements and Related Information” below.

T. E. Lott & Company

Representatives of T. E. Lott & Company, the Company’s accounting firm are expected to be present at the meeting to respond to appropriate questions, and those representatives will also have an opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANY, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND RELATED INFORMATION

The SEC allows us to “incorporate by reference” into this document important business and financial information about the Company from other documents we file with the SEC and that are being provided with this proxy statement. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this document. Sections of the following documents are incorporated herein by reference:

Our Audited Consolidated Financial Statements (including Notes thereto), and independent auditor’s reports thereto, at December 31, 2015 and 2014 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2015 on (i) on pages 30 through 74 of the Company's Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2015 and (ii) pages 30 through 76 of the Company's Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014, which are included as Appendix A to this proxy statement;

Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition at December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 and Results of Operations for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2015 on (i) on pages 6 through 28 of the Company's Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2015 and (ii) on pages 6 through 28 of the Company's Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014, which are included as Appendix A to this proxy statement;

Our Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements (including Notes thereto) at September 30, 2016 and December 31, 2015 and for the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2016 and September 30, 2015 on pages 2 through 28 (Item 1 of Part I) of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2016, which is included as Appendix B to this proxy statement;

Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition at September 30, 2016 and December 31, 2015 and Results of Operations for the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2016 and September 30, 2015 on pages 29 through 48 (Item 2 of Part I) of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2016, which is included as Appendix B to this proxy statement; and

Information regarding our quantitative and qualitative disclosures about market risk is contained in the section entitled “Liquidity and Market Risk Management” in Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations on page 49 of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2016, which is included as Appendix B to this proxy statement.

SOLICITATION OF PROXIES

The cost of soliciting proxies from shareholders will be borne by the Company. The initial solicitation will be by mail. Thereafter, proxies may be solicited by directors, officers and employees of the Company or the bank, by means of telephone, telegraph or personal contact, but without additional compensation therefore. The Company will reimburse brokers and other persons holding shares as nominees for their reasonable expenses in sending proxy soliciting material to the beneficial owners.

The accompanying Proxy is being solicited by the Board of Directors of the Company.

SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

SEC Rule 14a-8. If you are a shareholder who would like us to include your proposal in our notice of the 2017 annual meeting and related proxy materials, you must follow SEC Rule 14a-8. In submitting your proposal, our Corporate Secretary must receive your proposal, in writing, at our principal executive offices, no later than December 16, 2016. If you do not follow Rule 14a-8, we will not consider your proposal for inclusion in next year's proxy statement.

Director Nomination Procedures. Under our Bylaws, a shareholder who wishes to nominate an individual for election to the Board of Directors directly at an annual meeting, or to propose any business to be considered at an annual meeting, must deliver advance notice of such nomination or business to the Company. The shareholder must be a shareholder as of the date the notice is delivered and at the time of the annual meeting and must be entitled to vote at the meeting. The notice must be in writing and contain the information specified in our Bylaws for a director nomination, and director nominees must satisfy the requirements specified in our Bylaws. If you would like to receive a printed copy of our Bylaws at no cost you may request these by contacting our Corporate Secretary in writing at The First Bancshares, Inc., 6480 US Highway 98 West, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402 or by phone at 601-268-8998.

Based on this year's annual meeting date, to be timely, the written notice must be delivered not earlier than February 25, 2017 (the 90th day prior to the first anniversary of this year's annual meeting) and not later than April 6, 2017 (the 50th day prior to the first anniversary of this year's annual meeting) to the Corporate Secretary at our principal executive offices by mail.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Exchange Act, and we are required to file reports and proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy these reports, proxy statements and information at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains a web site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding registrants, including Center Financial Corporation, that file electronically with the SEC. You may access the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of certain information filed by us with the SEC are also available on our website at www.thefirstbank.com.

APPENDIX A

ANNUAL REPORTS ON FORM 10-K FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014.

17

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
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

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)
	\$36,994	\$33,398
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)
	\$8,456	\$6,251

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	1,018,955	40,202	3.94 %	931,968	36,371	3.90 %	857,405	31,318	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	\$1,122,192			\$1,030,322			\$941,742		
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	\$1,122,192			\$1,030,322			\$941,742		

Net interest spread		3.55 %		3.50 %		3.25 %
Net yield on interest-earning assets	\$ 36,994	3.63 %	\$ 33,398	3.58 %	\$ 28,401	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, 2015 versus 2014			Year Ended December 31, 2014 versus 2013		
	Increase (decrease) due to			Increase (decrease) due to		
	Volume	Rate	Net	Volume	Rate	Net
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	3,550	281	3,831	2,628	2,425	5,053
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	77	(36)	41	1,113	(1,260)	(147)
Total interest expense	179	56	235	1,342	(1,286)	56
Net interest income	\$3,371	\$225	\$3,596	\$1,286	\$3,711	\$4,997

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	After	Within	Greater	
	Three	Three	One	Than	
	Months	Through	Year	One Year or	Total
		Twelve		Nonsensitive	
		Months			
	(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	\$100,395	\$ 128,526	\$228,921	\$ 627,576	\$856,497
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	\$(91,044)	\$(258,575)	\$(349,619)	\$ 547,939	\$198,320
Cumulative gap at December 31, 2013	\$(91,044)	\$(349,619)	\$(349,619)	\$ 198,320	\$198,320
Ratio of cumulative gap to total earning assets at December 31, 2013	(10.6)%	(40.8)%	(40.8)%	23.2 %	%

	December 31, 2014				
	Within	After	Within	Greater	
	Three	Three	One	Than	
	Months	Through	Year	One Year or	Total
		Twelve		Nonsensitive	
		Months			
	(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	\$113,835	\$ 111,423	\$225,258	\$ 765,836	\$991,094
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	\$(96,716)	\$(375,958)	\$(472,674)	\$ 682,905	\$210,231
Cumulative gap at December 31, 2014	\$(96,716)	\$(472,674)	\$(472,674)	\$ 210,231	\$210,231
Ratio of cumulative gap to total earning assets at December 31, 2014	(9.8)%	(47.7)%	(47.7)%	21.2	%

	December 31, 2015				Total
	Within Three Months	After Three Through Twelve Months	Within One Year	Greater Than One Year or Nonsensitive	
(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	\$116,312	\$112,399	\$228,711	\$820,361	\$1,049,072
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	\$(107,474)	\$(434,684)	\$(542,158)	\$753,659	\$211,501
Cumulative gap at December 31, 2015	\$(107,474)	\$(542,158)	\$(542,158)	\$211,501	\$211,501
Ratio of cumulative gap to total earning assets at December 31, 2015	(10.2)%	(51.7)%	(51.7)%	20.2%	%

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 (1) 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	\$4,553	\$ 29	\$ 7,368

	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	\$7,163	\$ 669	\$ 6,056

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	.92 X	1.0 X	1.8 X	1.4 X	.88 X

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
	\$ 6,747

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)

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	0.1	%
Total	\$ 6,747	100	%

December 31, 2014
(Dollars in thousands)
% of loans

	Amount	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	\$ 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	\$32,161	\$30,734	\$28,165

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:

Composition of Loan Portfolio

	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 Real Estate:	129,197	16.6 %	106,109	15.0 %	81,792	14.0 %		
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	776,489	100 %	706,635	100 %	583,302	100 %		
Allowance for loan losses	(6,747)		(6,095)		(5,728)			
Net loans	\$769,742		\$700,540		\$577,574			

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			Total
	One Year or Less	Over One Year Through Five Years	Over Five Years	
	(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
	\$88,896	\$ 99,267	\$ 40,195	\$228,358
Loans maturing after one year with:				
Fixed interest rates				\$115,777
Floating interest rates				23,685
				\$139,462

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, municipals, 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	239,732	254,746	244,051
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	7,092	8,193	8,438
Total	\$246,824	\$262,939	\$252,489

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	\$-		\$-		\$6,000,000		\$-	
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	\$22,429,139		\$59,825,406		\$42,484,543		\$16,068,218	

(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	\$916,695	100	% \$892,775	100	% \$779,971	100	%	

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	\$ 22,363	\$ 48,497	\$ 34,745	\$ 105,605

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

Adequately Well

The First

Capital Ratios	Capitalized	Capitalized	The Company		December 31,		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

Board of Directors and Stockholders

The First Bancshares, Inc.

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

We have audited The First Bancshares, Inc.'s (the Company) internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015, based on criteria established in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

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

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

a material effect on the financial statements.

Board of Directors and Stockholders

The First Bancshares, Inc.

Page 2

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

In our opinion, The First Bancshares, Inc., maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015, based on criteria established in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated financial statements of The First Bancshares, Inc., as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and for each of the years in the two-year period ended December 31, 2015, and our report dated March 30, 2016, expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ T. E. Lott & Company

Columbus, Mississippi

October 11, 2016

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

44

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	5,403,159	5,342,670

shares issued and outstanding in 2014.

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	40,201,856	36,370,782
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	3,207,448	2,972,807
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	36,584,339	31,979,715
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	7,588,532	7,803,468
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	32,161,122	30,733,608

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

Continued:	2015	2014
Income before income taxes	12,011,749	9,049,575
Income taxes	3,213,047	2,435,879
Net income	8,798,702	6,613,696
Preferred dividends and stock accretion	342,460	362,953
Net income applicable to common stockholders	\$8,456,242	\$6,250,743
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**

	2015	2014
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	-	(237,173)
	(1,093,182)	4,567,645
Unrealized holding gains on loans held for sale	2,753	83,826
Income tax benefit (expense)	370,655	(1,584,266)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	(719,774)	3,067,205
Comprehensive income	\$8,078,928	\$9,680,901

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,	\$5,342,670	\$17,123,000	\$283,738	\$44,136,411	\$27,975,049	\$1,818,361	\$(463,645)	\$96,215,584

2014

Net income	-	-	-	-	8,798,702	-	-	8,798,702
2015								
Other comprehensive (loss)	-	-	-	-	-	(719,774)	-	(719,774)

49

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	\$5,403,159	\$17,123,000	\$-	\$44,650,274	\$35,624,715	\$1,098,587	\$(463,645)	\$103,436,090

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	9,737,655	7,057,258
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	(56,506,899	) (78,692,188)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Increase in deposits	24,090,591	53,845,509
Proceeds from borrowed funds	194,340,000	180,000,000

Edgar Filing: FIRST BANCSHARES INC /MS/ - Form DEF 14A

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
Repurchase of restricted stock for payment of taxes	(92,390)	(85,532)
Net cash provided by financing activities	43,410,372	77,000,794
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	\$41,258,917	\$44,617,789

Supplemental disclosures:

Cash paid during the year for:

Interest	\$3,448,525	\$3,056,939
Income taxes	4,152,050	275,075

Non-cash activities:

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	Net	Gross	Net
	Carrying	Accumulated	Carrying	Accumulated
	Amount	Amortization	Amount	Amortization
(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
	\$ 2,115

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 accretible 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
Available-for-sale securities:				
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
	\$238,083,041	\$3,695,977	\$2,046,592	\$239,732,426
Held-to-maturity securities:				
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
	\$7,092,120	\$1,455,712	\$-	\$8,547,832

	December 31, 2014			
	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value
Available-for-sale securities:				
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
	\$252,003,880	\$4,816,282	\$2,073,716	\$254,746,446
Held-to-maturity securities:				
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
	\$8,192,741	\$1,801,075	\$-	\$9,993,816

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
	\$238,083,041	\$239,732,426	\$7,092,120	\$8,547,832

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				Total	Gross Unrealized Losses
	Losses < 12 Months	Losses 12 Months or >	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses		
	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
	\$62,294,460	\$ 461,761	\$9,661,441	\$ 1,584,831	\$71,955,901	\$ 2,046,592
	2014				Total	Gross Unrealized Losses
	Losses < 12 Months	Losses 12 Months or >	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses		
	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
	\$21,769,065	\$ 82,478	\$40,990,033	\$ 1,991,238	\$62,759,098	\$ 2,073,716

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	776,489	100 %	706,635	100 %
Allowance for loan losses	(6,747)		(6,095)	
Net loans	\$769,742		\$700,540	

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	\$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 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	\$ 6,747	100	%

	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	\$ 6,095	100	%

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, December 31,

2015 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	\$10,127	\$ 9,560
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	\$620,778	\$ 19,630	\$ 132,107	\$772,515
Allowance for Loan Losses				
Individually evaluated	\$882	\$ 25	\$ 50	\$957
Collectively evaluated	3,613	1,332	845	5,790
Total	\$4,495	\$ 1,357	\$ 895	\$6,747

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	\$578,234	\$ 18,648	\$ 107,650	\$704,532
Allowance for Loan Losses				
Individually evaluated	\$922	\$ 29	\$ 17	\$968
Collectively evaluated	4,285	146	696	5,127
Total	\$5,207	\$ 175	\$ 713	\$6,095

67

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 Balance (In thousands)	Unpaid Balance	Related Allowance	Average Recorded Investment YTD	Interest Income Recognized YTD
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	\$ 1,219	\$ 1,821

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

	December 31, 2015			Interest
	Outstanding Recorded Investment Pre-Modification (in thousands)	Outstanding Recorded Investment Post-Modification (in thousands)	Number of Loans	Income Recognized
Commercial installment	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -
Commercial real estate	499	492	2	10
Consumer real estate	45	40	1	-

Consumer installment	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 544	\$ 532	3	\$ 10

December 31, 2014

	Outstanding Recorded Investment Pre-Modification (in thousands)	Outstanding Recorded Investment Post-Modification (in thousands except number of loans)	Number of Loans	Interest Income Recognized
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	\$ 1,678	\$ 1,612	9	\$ 42

70

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	\$2,758,458	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,147,759	\$6,906,217
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

Edgar Filing: FIRST BANCSHARES INC /MS/ - Form DEF 14A

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	\$2,880,240	\$622,302	\$ -	\$ 3,281,075	\$6,783,617
Allowance for loan losses	\$120,220	\$11,206	\$ 102,657	\$ -	\$234,083

71

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)			Total Past Due and Non-Accrual	Total Loans
	Past Due 30 to 89 Days	Past Due 90 Days or More and Still Accruing	Non-Accrual		
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	\$4,553	\$ 29	\$ 7,368	\$ 11,950	\$772,515

	December 31, 2014 (In thousands)			Total Past Due and Non-Accrual	Total Loans
	Past Due 30 to 89 Days	Past Due 90 Days or More and Still Accruing	Non-Accrual		
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	\$7,163	\$ 669	\$ 6,056	\$ 13,888	\$704,532

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	\$ 451,526	\$ 169,251	\$ 19,631	\$ 132,107	\$772,515

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

Edgar Filing: FIRST BANCSHARES INC /MS/ - Form DEF 14A

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	\$ 407,732	\$ 170,503	\$ 18,648	\$ 107,649	\$ 704,532

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
	\$33,623,011	\$34,809,843

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	-
	\$179,473

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
	\$110,321,245	\$89,450,067

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	\$99,981,245

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 I – 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	\$1,685	\$ 1,443
Less: Amount representing interest		(116)
Present value of minimum lease payments		\$ 1,327

75

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		Subsidiary	
(Consolidated)		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
	\$3,213,047	\$2,435,879

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%
	\$3,213,047	27%	\$2,435,879	27%

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
	6,413,447	6,447,279
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)
	(2,305,369)	(2,455,245)
Net deferred tax asset, included in other assets	\$4,108,078	\$3,992,034

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	\$7,957

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	Significant	Significant
		Active	Other	Unobservable
		Markets	Observable	Inputs
		For	Inputs	
		Identical		
		Assets		
	Fair Value	(Level	(Level 2)	(Level 3)
		1)		
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	Significant	Significant
		Active	Other	Unobservable
		Markets	Observable	Inputs
		For	Inputs	
		Identical		
		Assets		
	Fair Value	(Level	(Level 2)	(Level 3)
		1)		
December 31, 2014				
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	\$2,557	\$2,801

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	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)
December 31, 2015				
Impaired loans	\$ 10,127	\$ -	\$ 10,127	\$ -
Other real estate owned	3,083	-	3,083	-
December 31, 2014				
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.

86

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
	\$114,153,915	\$106,867,566
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
	\$114,153,915	\$106,867,566

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
	1,655,573	5,479,840
Expenses:		
Interest on borrowed funds	185,351	181,330
Legal	295,637	504,130
Other	833,502	752,027
	1,314,490	1,437,487
Income before income taxes and equity in undistributed income of subsidiary	341,083	4,042,353
Income tax benefit	487,853	296,388

Edgar Filing: FIRST BANCSHARES INC /MS/ - Form DEF 14A

Income before equity in undistributed income of subsidiary	828,936	4,338,741
Equity in undistributed income of subsidiary	7,969,766	2,274,955
Net income	\$8,798,702	\$6,613,696

87

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	\$1,944	\$2,099	\$2,141	\$2,273
Per common share:				