
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **October 30, 2017**

META FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

0-22140
(Commission File Number)

42-1406262
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

5501 South Broadband Lane, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57108
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(605) 782-1767**

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company ☐

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ☐

Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On October 30, 2017, the Registrant issued a press release announcing its results of operations and financial condition as of and for the three months and year ended September 30, 2017. A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this report and is incorporated into this Item 2.02 by reference.

The information in this Item 2.02, including Exhibit 99.1, shall not be deemed to be “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), or otherwise subject to the liabilities thereof, nor shall it be deemed to be incorporated by reference in any filing under the Exchange Act or under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), except to the extent specifically provided in any such filing.

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.

Information is being furnished herein in Exhibit 99.2 with respect to the Investor Update slide presentation prepared for use with the press release. While most of the selected financial information furnished herein is derived from the Company’s consolidated financial statements and related notes prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) and management’s discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations included, or to be included, in the Company’s reports on Forms 10-K and 10-Q, this information includes selected financial and operational information through the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2017 and does not represent a complete set of financial statement and related notes prepared in conformity with GAAP. The Company’s annual financial statements are subject to independent audit. The Investor Update slide presentation is dated October 30, 2017 and the Company does not undertake to update the materials after that date.

The information in this Item 7.01, including Exhibit 99.2, shall not be deemed to be “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act, or otherwise subject to the liabilities thereof, nor shall it be deemed to be incorporated by reference in any filing under the Exchange Act or under the Securities Act, except to the extent specifically provided in any such filing.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

| <u>Exhibit Number</u> | <u>Description of Exhibit</u> |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <u>99.1</u> | Press Release of Meta Financial Group, Inc., dated October 30, 2017 regarding the results of operations and financial condition. |
| <u>99.2</u> | Investor Update slide presentation for the Fourth Quarter of Fiscal Year 2017, dated October 30, 2017, prepared for use with the Press Release. |

SIGNATURE

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

META FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

Date: October 30, 2017

By: /s/ Glen W. Herrick

Glen W. Herrick

Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
and Secretary

EXHIBIT INDEX

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Meta Financial Group, Inc.® Reports Results for 2017 Fiscal Fourth Quarter and Fiscal Year

Meta Announces Record-Breaking Earnings in Fiscal Year 2017

Net Income Grows 35% from Prior Year

Sioux Falls, South Dakota - October 30, 2017 , Meta Financial Group, Inc.® (Nasdaq: CASH) (“MFG,” “Meta” or the “Company”)

Highlights for the 2017 Fiscal Fourth Quarter and Year Ended September 30, 2017 and Business Developments

- Net income for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017 increased 35% to \$44.9 million , or \$4.83 per diluted share, from \$33.2 million , or \$3.91 per diluted share, for the year ended September 30, 2016.
- The Company's fiscal 2017 fourth quarter net income was \$1.7 million , or \$0.19 per diluted share, versus \$6.0 million , or \$0.70 per diluted share, in the fourth quarter of 2016 . The 2017 fourth quarter pre-tax results included the previously announced \$10.2 million intangible impairment charge relating to the non-renewal of the H&R Block tax advance relationship, \$0.8 million of executive severance costs, \$0.8 million of prepayment expense related to the early extinguishment of longer term FHLB debt, and a \$0.8 million gain on the sale of securities. The 2017 fourth quarter pre-tax results also included \$2.3 million in non-cash stock-related compensation expense associated with executive officer employment agreements and \$1.9 million in amortization of intangible assets (see Select Quarterly Expenses table below).
- Net interest income was \$24.5 million in the 2017 fiscal fourth quarter, an increase of \$4.6 million , or 23% , compared to \$19.9 million in the fourth quarter of 2016 . The increase was primarily a result of high credit quality loan growth in both specialty finance and retail bank loan portfolios. Also contributing to the improvement were increased securities balances and yields, primarily due to purchases throughout the fiscal year of highly-rated tax-exempt municipal securities at relatively high tax equivalent yields and a continuing improvement in the overall interest-earning asset mix.
- Card fee income increased \$8.8 million , or 49% , for the 2017 fiscal fourth quarter when compared to the same quarter in 2016 . This increase was largely driven by residual fees related to a wind-down of one of our non-strategic partners, and as such, we expect lower growth rates than 49% in fiscal year 2018. In addition, the increase was also due to continued strong growth from our core payments business and the Company's increasing emphasis on non-interest income.
- The Company's 2017 fiscal fourth quarter average assets grew to \$4.03 billion , compared to \$3.23 billion in the 2016 fourth quarter, an increase of 25% , primarily driven by growth in loan and securities balances.

- Total loans receivable, net of allowance for loan losses, increased \$398.4 million , or 43% , at September 30, 2017 , compared to September 30, 2016 . This increase was primarily related to growth in commercial real estate loans of \$162.6 million , or an increase of 38% , consumer loans of \$125.9 million , or an increase of 339% , of which \$123.7 million is attributable to the student loan portfolio purchased in December 2016, and premium finance loans of \$78.9 million , or an increase of 46% . Growth in residential mortgage loans at September 30, 2017 of \$34.4 million , or an increase of 21% , and commercial operating loans of \$4.5 million , or an increase of 14% , also contributed to the increase in loans receivable, compared to September 30, 2016. Retail bank loans at September 30, 2017 were up \$193.7 million , or 26% , compared to September 30, 2016. Excluding the student loan portfolio purchased in December 2016, total loans receivable, net of allowance for loan losses, at September 30, 2017 were up \$274.6 million , or 30% , compared to September 30, 2016 .
- Payments division average deposits increased \$275.4 million , or 14% , for the 2017 fiscal fourth quarter when compared to the same quarter of 2016.
- Non-performing assets (“NPAs”) were 0.72% of total assets at September 30, 2017 , compared to 0.03% at September 30, 2016 . The increase in NPAs was primarily related to two large, well-collateralized agricultural relationships that became more than 90 days past due. These loans were still accruing in the fourth fiscal quarter and one is expected to be paid in full on November 1, 2017 (as discussed further below).
- On October 11, 2017, the Company completed the purchase of a \$73 million, seasoned, floating rate, private student loan portfolio. All loans are indexed to one-month LIBOR. The portfolio is serviced by ReliaMax Lending Services LLC and insured by ReliaMax Surety Company. The Company expects to realize initial net yields of over 6%. This portfolio purchase builds on our existing successful student loan platform and will be easily integrated with minimal impact to the business.

"Meta achieved many new and exceptional accomplishments in 2017," said Chairman and CEO J. Tyler Haahr. "One of those accomplishments was recognizing the highest fiscal year earnings in Meta history of \$44.9 million , a 35% increase over the previous high of \$33.2 million during fiscal year 2016. We were able to do this by seamlessly integrating EPS Financial and SCS, both acquired during the first quarter, into our fintech business model, while continuing to profitably grow our core businesses. We grew our loan portfolio by 43% during 2017 and still increased our non-interest income as a percent of total revenue from 57% in 2016 to 65% in 2017."

Financial Summary

Revenue

Total revenue for the fiscal 2017 fourth quarter was \$54.3 million , compared to \$39.1 million for the same quarter last year, an increase of \$15.2 million , or 39% , primarily due to growth in card fee income, interest income from both specialty finance and retail bank loans, and income from tax-exempt securities (included in other investment securities). Non-interest income as a percent of total revenue for the year ended September 30, 2017 increased to 65% compared to 57% of total revenue for the year ended September 30, 2016, even though the Company's interest income from loans increased 44% over that same time period.

Net Income

The Company recorded net income of \$1.7 million , or \$0.19 per diluted share, for the three months ended September 30, 2017 , compared to net income of \$6.0 million , or \$0.70 per diluted share, for the same quarter of fiscal 2016 . The decrease in net income was due primarily to an increase of \$22.5 million in non-interest expense over the comparable period of the prior year, partially offset by increases of \$10.6 million in non-interest income and \$4.6 million in net interest income.

The 2017 fiscal fourth quarter pre-tax results included a \$10.2 million intangible impairment charge, related to the non-renewal of the H&R Block relationship, \$1.9 million of amortization of intangible assets, \$0.8 million in executive severance costs, \$0.8 million of prepayment expense related to the early extinguishment of longer term FHLB debt, and \$0.8 million in securities gains. In addition, pre-tax results included \$2.3 million in non-cash stock-related compensation expense in connection with three executive officers signing long-term employment agreements in the first and second quarters of fiscal 2017. These stock awards vest over eight years, but the associated expense is heavily front loaded, particularly in the first year (see Select Quarterly Expenses table).

Our tax business is expected to continue to generate the vast majority of its revenues in the Company's fiscal second quarter, with some additional revenues in the third quarter, while most expenses are spread throughout the year with some elevated expenses in the quarters ending in December and March related to the Company's tax-related business.

Net Interest Income

Net interest income for the fiscal 2017 fourth quarter was \$24.5 million , up \$4.6 million , or 23% , from the same quarter in 2016, primarily due to the significant increases in volume in commercial real estate loans and the specialty finance loan segment, which includes premium finance loans as well as the December 2016 purchased student loan portfolio. Growth in investment security balances and yields attained also contributed to the increase in net interest income. Additionally, the overall increase was driven by an intentionally enhanced earning asset mix driven by a higher percentage of loans as a percentage of interest earning assets. The quarterly average outstanding balance of loans from all sources as a percentage of average interest earning assets increased from 30% as of the end of the fourth fiscal quarter of 2016 to 35% as of the end of the fourth fiscal quarter of 2017. Mainly offsetting this percentage increase was a sizable percentage decrease of lower-yielding agency Mortgage-Backed Securities ("MBS"), which decreased from 23% of interest-earning assets in the fiscal fourth quarter of 2016 compared to 20% of interest-earning assets for the same quarter in 2017.

Net Interest Margin

Net Interest Margin, on a tax equivalent basis, ("NIM"), increased to 3.13% in the fiscal 2017 fourth quarter from 3.09% in the fourth quarter of 2016. When excluding the subordinated debt issued in the 2016 fourth fiscal quarter, NIM would have been 3.25%, or an additional 12 basis points, in the fiscal 2017 fourth quarter. When excluding only tax advance loans, NIM would have increased by an additional one basis point to 3.14% for the current quarter. NIM decreased from the fiscal 2017 third quarter to the fiscal 2017 fourth quarter by 12 basis points, as the Company continued to employ its leverage strategy to fully utilize its capital in the quarters outside of tax season and as the Company continues to build capital from higher earnings. While many of the Company's earning assets are floating-rate or have rates that reset on a periodic basis tied to the short end of the yield curve, some of the Company's earning assets are dependent on an increase in the longer end of the yield curve in order to realize enhanced yields. While the front of the yield curve has risen, the longer end, while volatile, has remained in a lower range and the overall yield curve has flattened. In concert with rising short-term rates, the Company's shorter term wholesale funding costs have also risen. Mindful of these impacts, throughout the quarter, the Company selectively and timely sold lower-yielding securities as loans continued to grow and where the leveraging strategy has decreased in value. The Company continues to monitor its excess capital levels, use of capital, and overall leverage position to best utilize this increased capital from increased earnings.

The overall reported tax equivalent yield ("TEY") on average-earning asset yields increased by 28 basis points to 3.61% when comparing the fiscal 2017 fourth quarter to the 2016 fourth quarter, which was driven primarily by the Company's improved earning asset mix, with increased exposure to its high-quality premium finance, student, and retail bank loan portfolios. The increase in TEY continues to highlight the beneficial tailwind provided by this rotation. The Company expects earning asset yields to continue to increase due to the aforementioned newly purchased, higher-yielding student loan portfolio being included for nearly the full fiscal first quarter of 2018.

The Company seeks to remain diligent and disciplined when evaluating loan pool deal flow as it looks to optimize the deployment of its national, non-interest-bearing deposit base. We anticipate that many of these loan pools could add immediate earnings accretion with acceptable risk parameters, as we believe to be the case with the October 2017 and December 2016 student loan portfolio purchases.

The fiscal 2017 fourth quarter TEY on the securities portfolio increased by 26 basis points compared to the comparable prior year quarter, primarily due to overall enhanced yields attained and increased volume in the investment portfolio, with the majority of new investment volume in overall higher-yielding investment securities (primarily mortgage-related, tax-exempt municipal securities rather than traditional agency MBS).

The Company's average interest-earning assets for the fiscal 2017 fourth quarter grew by \$658.1 million , or 22% , to \$3.68 billion from the same quarter last year, primarily from growth in loan portfolios, tax exempt investment securities, and MBS securities of \$369.7 million , \$204.0 million , and \$53.0 million , respectively.

Overall, the cost of funds for all deposits and borrowings averaged 0.50% during the fiscal 2017 fourth quarter, compared to 0.26% for the prior-year fourth quarter. This increase was primarily due to a combination of the issuance of the Company's subordinated debt in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2016, the addition of wholesale deposits, and an increase in the overnight borrowing rates and higher average overall funding balances due to the Company's full utilization of more of its capital during non-tax season with higher investment balances and funding. Notwithstanding this increase, the Company believes that its growing, low-cost deposit base gives it a distinct and significant competitive advantage over most banks, and even more so if interest rates continue to rise, because the Company anticipates that its cost of deposits will likely remain relatively low, increasing less than at many other banks. While the subordinated debt issuance in 2016 increased the cost of funds at the Company level, MetaBank's cost of funds for the fiscal 2017 fourth quarter remained at levels much lower than the overall Company cost of funds and as the Company's deposit base grows, the Company expects that the subordinated debt will have a more muted effect on overall Company cost-of-funds.

Average earning assets for the year ended September 30, 2017 increased 28% from the prior-year period, while interest-bearing liabilities increased by 87% . The earning asset increase was primarily driven by loan growth and higher investment balances, while the increase in interest-bearing liabilities was primarily driven by wholesale deposits and borrowings. The TEY of MBS and other investments was 3.15% for the year ended September 30, 2017 , and 2.95% for fiscal 2016 , an improvement of 20 basis points.

Non-Interest Income

Fiscal 2017 fourth quarter non-interest income of \$29.8 million increased \$10.6 million , or 55% , from \$19.2 million in the same quarter of 2016 , primarily due to an increase in card fee income of \$8.8 million , or 49% , largely driven by residual fees related to a wind-down of one of our non-strategic partners, and as such, we expect lower growth rates than 49% in fiscal year 2018. In addition, the increase was also due to continued strong growth in our core business relationships, and our expanding emphasis on non-interest income. Gain on sale of investments increased to \$0.8 million for the 2017 fiscal fourth quarter, compared to a loss on sale of investments of \$0.3 million for the same quarter of 2016, helping drive the increase in non-interest income when comparing the fiscal 2017 fourth quarter to the same period of the prior year.

Non-Interest Expense

Non-interest expense increased \$22.5 million , or 72% , to \$53.7 million for the 2017 fiscal fourth fiscal quarter, compared to the same quarter in 2016. This increase was largely caused by the aforementioned intangible impairment charge of \$10.2 million and a \$7.4 million increase in compensation expense. The increase in compensation expense was primarily due to the EPS and SCS acquisitions, non-cash stock-related compensation expense associated with three executive officers signing long-term employment agreements, and \$0.8 million in severance costs. In addition, when comparing the 2017 fiscal fourth quarter to the same quarter in 2016, other expense increased by \$1.7 million , legal and consulting expense increased \$1.2 million , and amortization expense increased \$0.7 million . See Select Quarterly Expenses table for a breakdown of anticipated intangible asset amortization for future quarters. The increase in other expense was primarily driven by growth in our tax business as well as the \$0.8 million prepayment expense related to the early extinguishment of longer term FHLB debt, which had a balance of \$7.0 million at a weighted average cost of 6.98%.

The Company recorded an income tax benefit of \$1.0 million , or an effective tax rate of (142.6)% , for the fiscal 2017 fourth quarter, compared to an income tax expense of \$1.3 million , or an effective tax rate of 18.3% , for the fiscal 2016 fourth quarter. The Company's projected effective tax rate for fiscal year 2017 was higher than the actual effective tax rate, causing an income tax benefit for the fiscal 2017 fourth quarter. The change from the projected effective tax rate was primarily due to the aforementioned intangible impairment expense. For fiscal 2017 , our effective tax rate was 18.6% , compared to 14.4% for fiscal 2016. We expect our effective tax rate to be between 22% and 28% for fiscal year 2018.

Loans

Total loans receivable, net of allowance for loan losses, increased \$398.4 million , or 43% , to \$1.32 billion at September 30, 2017 , from \$919.5 million at September 30, 2016 . Among lending categories, this included an increase in consumer loans of \$125.9 million , of which \$123.7 million was attributable to the student loan portfolio purchased during the first quarter of fiscal 2017. Also contributing to the growth in loans receivable were commercial real estate loans, which increased \$162.6 million , or 38% , premium finance loans which increased \$78.9 million , or 46% , and residential mortgage loans which increased \$34.4 million , or 21% , compared to September 30, 2016 . The growth in net loans receivable from September 30, 2016 to September 30, 2017 was partially offset by a decrease in total agricultural loans of \$5.3 million , or 5% , from \$100.7 million to \$95.4 million , which made up only 1.82% of total assets at September 30, 2017. Retail bank loans at September 30, 2017 were up \$193.7 million , or 26% , compared to September 30, 2016. Excluding the student loan portfolio purchased in December 2016, total loans receivable, net of allowance for loan losses, at September 30, 2017 would have increased \$274.6 million , or 30% , compared to September 30, 2016.

The Company recorded a recovery for loan losses of \$0.1 million during the three months ended September 30, 2017 , primarily due to continued collections and recoveries on tax advance loans from the 2017 season. We expect activity related to 2017 tax recoveries to be minimal in fiscal 2018. In addition, an upgrade related to one of the agricultural relationships discussed below, that is expected to be paid in full during the first fiscal quarter of 2018, helped offset the need for additional provision to support our loan growth during quarter ended September 30, 2017. The Company's allowance for loan losses was \$7.5 million , or 0.6% of total loans, at September 30, 2017 , compared to an allowance of \$5.6 million , or 0.6% of total loans, at September 30, 2016 .

Credit Quality

MetaBank's NPAs at September 30, 2017 were \$37.9 million , representing 0.72% of total assets, compared to \$1.2 million , or 0.03% of total assets, at September 30, 2016 . The increase in NPAs is primarily related to two large agricultural relationships becoming more than 90 days past due and which are still accruing. The Company expects one of these agricultural relationships, which represents an outstanding loan balance of about \$7 million, to be paid in full during the first fiscal quarter of 2018 due to an auction of the land securing the loan, which occurred in September, with the land sale scheduled to close on November 1, 2017. The Company expects to receive all principal, accrued interest, legal, and other expenses at the closing. The Company also believes that its strong collateral position on the other relationship (less than 75% loan-to-value ("LTV") secured by agricultural real estate) and active collection process with the borrower supports the decision to continue to accrue interest on such loan. Given the underlying values of collateral (primarily land related to our agricultural loans), we believe that we have minimal loss exposure on these two agricultural relationships. Excluding these two large agricultural relationships, NPAs at September 30, 2017 would have been \$3.6 million, representing 0.07% of total assets. The Payments segment had no NPAs at September 30, 2017 or September 30, 2016 .

Investments

Total investment securities and MBS increased by \$167.9 million , or 8% , to \$2.26 billion at September 30, 2017 , as compared to September 30, 2016 . This included an increase in investment securities of \$160.4 million , primarily from purchases of high credit quality non-bank qualified (“NBQ”) municipal securities, and an increase in MBS of \$7.4 million , as purchases exceeded sales and pay downs.

Average TEY on the securities portfolio increased 26 basis points to 3.19% in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2017 from 2.93% in the same quarter of 2016 . Yields improved on non-MBS investment securities by 24 basis points in the fourth quarter of 2017 over the same quarter of 2016 . Yields increased within MBS by 23 basis points in the fourth quarter of 2017 from the same quarter of 2016 . When comparing the fiscal fourth quarter of 2017 to the fiscal third quarter of 2017, average TEY on the securities portfolio decreased by one basis point, with MBS decreasing 10 basis points and other investments increasing two basis points due to volatile longer term rates and seasonal factors affecting prepayment rates and therefore yields on MBS during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2017.

With respect to the MBS portfolio, the Company continues to focus on minimizing prepayment speed volatility by selecting agency MBS with characteristics intended to make the Company’s agency MBS holdings less susceptible to increased prepayment speeds, while still allowing yields to increase if interest rates increase with controlled extension risk. The Company continues to purchase high-quality investments within certain sectors of the municipal market, at what it believes to be attractive yields. Many of these new purchases are tax-exempt and also backed, or collateralized, by Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac, thereby enhancing credit quality. The Company also has opportunistically and carefully selected certain government-related and guaranteed floating rate securities at yields that are expected to enhance the portfolio's projected performance in a rising interest rate environment.

The Company continues to execute its investment strategy of primarily purchasing U.S. Government-related securities and U.S. Government-related MBS, as well as AAA- and AA- rated NBQ municipal bonds; however, the Company is also reviewing opportunities to add other diverse, high-quality securities at attractive relative rates when opportunities arise. With the Company’s large percentage of non-interest bearing deposits, the TEY for these NBQ bonds is higher than a similar term investment in other investment categories of similar risk and higher than many other banks can realize on the same instruments due to the Company’s current cost of funds and its projected cost of funds if interest rates rise.

Deposits, Other Borrowings and Other Liabilities

Total end-of-period deposits increased \$793.3 million , or 33% , to \$3.22 billion at September 30, 2017 , compared to September 30, 2016 . The increase in end-of-period deposits was primarily a result of an increase in wholesale deposits of \$476.2 million , an increase in non-interest bearing deposits of \$286.5 million , and a \$29.2 million increase in interest-bearing deposits. Wholesale deposits have been added during fiscal year 2017 to support the aforementioned leverage strategy either due to advantageous rates when compared to the overnight borrowing rates, thereby lowering borrowing costs, or to target strategic maturities which are expected to aid in tax season tax advance loan funding. Similar to the prior fiscal year, the Company temporarily repositioned the balance sheet at the end of the 2017 fiscal year to prepare for the upcoming seasonal tax lending activity.

Total average deposits for the fiscal 2017 fourth quarter increased by \$835.5 million , or 37% , compared to the same period in 2016 . Average non-interest bearing deposits for the 2017 fourth quarter were up \$280.9 million , or 14% , compared to the same period in 2016 .

The average balance of total deposits and interest-bearing liabilities was \$3.53 billion for the three-month period ended September 30, 2017 , compared to \$2.85 billion for the same period in 2016 , representing an increase of 24% . A portion of this increase was due to the utilization of advantageous pricing and strategic maturities on certain wholesale deposits, an increase in average non-interest bearing deposits and the Company's completion of the public offering of its subordinated notes in August 2016, which are due August 15, 2026. This increase was partially offset by a decrease of \$264.6 million in the average balance of overnight fed funds purchased.

Capital Ratios

The Company and the Bank remain above the federal regulatory minimum capital requirements to remain classified as well-capitalized institutions. Regulatory capital ratios at September 30, 2017 are stated in the table below.

The tables below also include certain non-GAAP financial measures that are used by investors, analysts and bank regulatory agencies to assess the capital position of financial services companies. Management reviews these measures along with other measures of capital as part of its financial analysis.

Regulatory Capital Data ⁽¹⁾

| At September 30, 2017 | Company | Bank | Minimum Requirement For Capital Adequacy Purposes | Minimum Requirement to Be Well Capitalized Under Prompt Corrective Action Provisions |
|------------------------------------|---------|--------|---|--|
| Tier 1 leverage ratio | 7.64% | 9.64% | 4.00% | 5.00% |
| Common equity Tier 1 capital ratio | 13.97% | 18.22% | 4.50% | 6.50% |
| Tier 1 capital ratio | 14.46% | 18.22% | 6.00% | 8.00% |
| Total qualifying capital ratio | 18.41% | 18.59% | 8.00% | 10.00% |

⁽¹⁾ Regulatory ratios are estimated.

The following table provides certain non-GAAP financial measures used to compute certain of the ratios included in the table above, as well as a reconciliation of such non-GAAP financial measures to the most directly comparable financial measure in accordance with GAAP:

| | Standardized Approach (1) | |
|---|----------------------------------|---------|
| | September 30, 2017 | |
| | (Dollars in Thousands) | |
| Total equity | \$ | 434,496 |
| Adjustments: | | |
| LESS: Goodwill, net of associated deferred tax liabilities | | 95,332 |
| LESS: Certain other intangible assets | | 41,743 |
| LESS: Net deferred tax assets from operating loss and tax credit carry-forwards | | 1,495 |
| LESS: Net unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities | | 9,166 |
| Common Equity Tier 1 (1) | | 286,760 |
| Long-term debt and other instruments qualifying as Tier 1 | | 10,310 |
| LESS: Additional tier 1 capital deductions | | 374 |
| Total Tier 1 capital | | 296,696 |
| Allowance for loan losses | | 7,718 |
| Subordinated Debentures (net of issuance costs) | | 73,347 |
| Total qualifying capital | | 377,761 |

(1)Capital ratios were determined using the Basel III capital rules that became effective on January 1, 2015. Basel III revised the definition of capital, increased minimum capital ratios, and introduced a minimum CET1 ratio; those changes are being fully phased in through the end of 2021.

The following table provides a reconciliation of tangible common equity used in calculating tangible book value data.

| | September 30, 2017 | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| | (Dollars in Thousands) | |
| Total Stockholders' Equity | \$ | 434,496 |
| Less: Goodwill | | 98,723 |
| Less: Intangible assets | | 52,178 |
| Tangible common equity | | 283,595 |
| Less: AOCI | | 9,166 |
| Tangible common equity excluding AOCI | | 274,429 |

Due to the predictable, quarterly cyclicity of MPS deposits in connection with tax season business activity, management believes that a six-month capital calculation is a useful metric to monitor the Company's overall capital management process. As such, the Bank's six-month average Tier 1 leverage ratio, Common equity Tier 1 capital ratio, Tier 1 capital ratio, and Total qualifying capital ratio as of September 30, 2017 were 9.70% , 18.99% , 18.99% , and 19.39% , respectively.

The Company and the Bank may from time to time make written or oral “forward-looking statements,” including statements contained in this press release, the Company’s filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), the Company’s reports to stockholders, and in other communications by the Company and the Bank, which are made in good faith by the Company pursuant to the “safe harbor” provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

You can identify forward-looking statements by words such as “may,” “hope,” “will,” “should,” “expect,” “plan,” “anticipate,” “intend,” “believe,” “estimate,” “predict,” “potential,” “continue,” “could,” “future,” or the negative of those terms, or other words of similar meaning or similar expressions. You should carefully read statements that contain these words because they discuss our future expectations or state other “forward-looking” information. These forward-looking statements are based on information currently available to us and assumptions about future events, and include statements with respect to the Company’s beliefs, expectations, estimates, and intentions, which are subject to significant risks and uncertainties, and are subject to change based on various factors, some of which are beyond the Company’s control. Such risks, uncertainties and other factors may cause our actual growth, results of operations, financial condition, cash flows, performance and business prospects and opportunities to differ materially from those expressed in or implied by these forward-looking statements. Such statements address, among others, the following subjects: future operating results; customer retention; loan and other product demand; important components of the Company’s statements of financial condition and operations; growth and expansion; new products and services, such as those offered by the Bank or MPS, a division of the Bank; credit quality and adequacy of reserves; technology; and the Company’s employees. The following factors, among others, could cause the Company’s financial performance and results of operations to differ materially from the expectations, estimates, and intentions expressed in such forward-looking statements: maintaining our executive management team; the strength of the United States’ economy, in general, and the strength of the local economies in which the Company conducts operations; the effects of, and changes in, trade, monetary, and fiscal policies and laws, including interest rate policies of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the “Federal Reserve”), as well as efforts of the United States Treasury in conjunction with bank regulatory agencies to stimulate the economy and protect the financial system; inflation, interest rate, market, and monetary fluctuations; the timely development and acceptance of new products and services offered by the Company or its strategic partners, as well as risks (including reputational and litigation) attendant thereto, and the perceived overall value of these products and services by users; the risks of dealing with or utilizing third parties, including, in connection with the Company’s refund advance business, the risks of reduced volume of refund advance loans as a result of reduced customer demand for or acceptance or usage of Meta’s strategic partners’ refund advance products; any actions which may be initiated by our regulators in the future; the impact of changes in financial services laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, laws and regulations relating to the tax refund industry and the insurance premium finance industry; our relationship with our primary regulators, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the Federal Reserve, as well as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which insures the Bank’s deposit accounts up to applicable limits; technological changes, including, but not limited to, the protection of electronic files or databases; acquisitions; litigation risk, in general, including, but not limited to, those risks involving the Bank’s divisions; the growth of the Company’s business, as well as expenses related thereto; continued maintenance by the Bank of its status as a well-capitalized institution, particularly in light of our growing deposit base, a portion of which has been characterized as “brokered;” changes in consumer spending and saving habits; and the success of the Company at maintaining its high-quality asset level and managing and collecting assets of borrowers in default should problem assets increase.

The foregoing list of factors is not exclusive. We caution you not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements included in this press release speak only as of the date hereof. Additional discussions of factors affecting the Company’s business and prospects are reflected under the caption “Risk Factors” and in other sections of the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the Company’s fiscal year ended September 30, 2016, and in other filings made with the SEC. The Company expressly disclaims any intent or obligation to update any forward-looking statements, whether written or oral, that may be made from time to time by or on behalf of the Company or its subsidiaries, whether as a result of new information, changed circumstances or future events, or for any other reason.

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations (Unaudited)
(Dollars in Thousands, Except Share and per Share Data)

| ASSETS | September 30, 2017 | June 30, 2017 | March 31, 2017 | December 31, 2016 | September 30, 2016 |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 1,267,586 | \$ 65,630 | \$ 67,293 | \$ 695,731 | \$ 773,830 |
| Investment securities available for sale | 1,106,977 | 1,141,684 | 1,184,440 | 936,832 | 910,309 |
| Mortgage-backed securities available for sale | 586,454 | 666,424 | 642,833 | 534,939 | 558,940 |
| Investment securities held to maturity | 449,840 | 464,729 | 474,306 | 478,611 | 486,095 |
| Mortgage-backed securities held to maturity | 113,689 | 117,399 | 122,497 | 126,365 | 133,758 |
| Loans held for sale | — | — | — | 1,223 | — |
| Loans receivable | 1,325,371 | 1,224,359 | 1,151,192 | 1,113,485 | 925,105 |
| Allowance for loan loss | (7,534) | (14,968) | (14,602) | (6,415) | (5,635) |
| Federal Home Loan Bank Stock, at cost | 61,123 | 16,323 | 25,043 | 3,832 | 47,512 |
| Accrued interest receivable | 19,380 | 21,831 | 20,902 | 21,375 | 17,199 |
| Premises, furniture, and equipment, net | 19,320 | 20,107 | 20,019 | 20,093 | 18,626 |
| Bank-owned life insurance | 84,702 | 84,035 | 58,378 | 57,934 | 57,486 |
| Foreclosed real estate and repossessed assets | 292 | 364 | — | 76 | 76 |
| Goodwill | 98,723 | 98,723 | 98,723 | 98,898 | 36,928 |
| Intangible assets | 52,178 | 64,798 | 66,633 | 73,472 | 28,921 |
| Prepaid assets | 28,392 | 31,265 | 34,596 | 35,722 | 9,443 |
| Deferred taxes | 9,101 | 6,858 | 10,589 | 12,420 | — |
| Other assets | 12,738 | 10,132 | 22,754 | 8,736 | 7,826 |
| Total assets | \$ 5,228,332 | \$ 4,019,693 | \$ 3,985,596 | \$ 4,213,329 | \$ 4,006,419 |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY | | | | | |
| LIABILITIES | | | | | |
| Non-interest-bearing checking | \$ 2,454,057 | \$ 2,481,673 | \$ 2,637,167 | \$ 2,473,275 | \$ 2,167,522 |
| Interest-bearing checking | 67,294 | 40,928 | 44,264 | 41,119 | 38,077 |
| Savings deposits | 53,505 | 55,292 | 65,367 | 52,566 | 50,742 |
| Money market deposits | 48,758 | 46,709 | 42,340 | 46,856 | 47,749 |
| Time certificates of deposit | 123,637 | 83,760 | 61,170 | 122,334 | 125,992 |
| Wholesale deposits | 476,173 | 444,857 | 21,923 | 926,987 | — |
| Total deposits | 3,223,424 | 3,153,219 | 2,872,231 | 3,663,137 | 2,430,082 |
| Short-term debt | 1,404,534 | 277,166 | 494,919 | 3,857 | 1,095,118 |
| Long-term debt | 85,533 | 92,514 | 92,497 | 92,479 | 92,460 |
| Accrued interest payable | 2,280 | 2,463 | 722 | 2,255 | 875 |
| Deferred taxes | — | — | — | — | 4,600 |
| Accrued expenses and other liabilities | 78,065 | 64,118 | 113,479 | 79,815 | 48,309 |
| Total liabilities | 4,793,836 | 3,589,480 | 3,573,848 | 3,841,543 | 3,671,444 |
| STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY | | | | | |
| Preferred stock, 3,000,000 shares authorized, no shares issued or outstanding at September 30, 2017, June 30, 2017, March 31, 2017, December 31, 2016 and September 30, 2016. | — | — | — | — | — |
| Common stock, \$.01 par value; 15,000,000 shares authorized, 9,622,595 and 9,626,431 shares outstanding and issued at September 30, 2017. 9,349,989, 9,349,989, 9,305,079 and 8,523,641 shares outstanding and issued at June 30, 2017, March 31, 2017, December 31, 2016, and September 30, 2016, respectively. | 96 | 94 | 94 | 93 | 85 |
| Common stock, Nonvoting, \$.01 par value; 3,000,000 shares authorized, no shares issued or outstanding at September 30, 2017, June 30, 2017, March 31, 2017, December 31, 2016, and September 30, 2016. | — | — | — | — | — |
| Additional paid-in capital | 258,336 | 256,088 | 253,473 | 249,476 | 184,780 |
| Retained earnings | 167,164 | 166,634 | 158,167 | 127,239 | 127,190 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) | 9,166 | 7,397 | 14 | (5,022) | 22,920 |
| Treasury stock, at cost, 3,836 common shares at September 30, 2017, none at June 30, 2017, March 31, 2017, December 31, 2016, and September 30, 2016. | (266) | — | — | — | — |
| Total stockholders' equity | 434,496 | 430,213 | 411,748 | 371,786 | 334,975 |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$ 5,228,332 | \$ 4,019,693 | \$ 3,985,596 | \$ 4,213,329 | \$ 4,006,419 |

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations (Unaudited)

| (Dollars in Thousands, Except Share and Per Share Data) | Three Months Ended | | | Year Ended | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | 9/30/2017 | 6/30/2017 | 9/30/2016 | 9/30/2017 | 9/30/2016 |
| Interest and dividend income: | | | | | |
| Loans receivable, including fees | \$ 14,577 | \$ 14,089 | \$ 10,040 | \$ 52,117 | \$ 36,187 |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 4,226 | 4,544 | 3,513 | 16,571 | 15,771 |
| Other investments | 10,146 | 10,228 | 8,176 | 39,415 | 29,438 |
| | 28,949 | 28,861 | 21,729 | 108,103 | 81,396 |
| Interest expense: | | | | | |
| Deposits | 1,890 | 1,039 | 180 | 6,051 | 614 |
| FHLB advances and other borrowings | 2,571 | 2,879 | 1,656 | 8,822 | 3,477 |
| | 4,461 | 3,918 | 1,836 | 14,873 | 4,091 |
| Net interest income | 24,488 | 24,943 | 19,893 | 93,230 | 77,305 |
| Provision (recovery) for loan losses | (144) | 1,240 | 548 | 10,589 | 4,605 |
| Net interest income after provision for loan losses | 24,632 | 23,703 | 19,345 | 82,641 | 72,700 |
| Non-interest income: | | | | | |
| Refund transfer product fees | 508 | 5,785 | 285 | 38,956 | 23,347 |
| Tax advance product fees | 453 | (108) | — | 31,913 | 1,575 |
| Card fees | 26,694 | 23,052 | 17,920 | 94,707 | 70,533 |
| Loan fees | 848 | 982 | 823 | 3,882 | 3,374 |
| Bank-owned life insurance | 668 | 656 | 448 | 2,216 | 1,656 |
| Deposit fees | 228 | 190 | 146 | 736 | 603 |
| Gain (loss) on sale of securities available-for-sale | 838 | 47 | (274) | (493) | (326) |
| Loss on foreclosed real estate | (13) | — | — | (6) | — |
| Other income (loss) | (391) | 216 | (120) | 261 | 8 |
| Total non-interest income | 29,833 | 30,820 | 19,228 | 172,172 | 100,770 |
| Non-interest expense: | | | | | |
| Compensation and benefits | 21,919 | 22,193 | 14,536 | 88,728 | 61,675 |
| Refund transfer product expense | 292 | 1,623 | 32 | 11,885 | 8,648 |
| Tax advance product expense | (257) | 72 | — | 3,241 | — |
| Card processing | 5,753 | 5,755 | 5,405 | 24,130 | 22,263 |
| Occupancy and equipment | 4,263 | 4,034 | 3,548 | 16,465 | 13,999 |
| Legal and consulting | 2,781 | 1,375 | 1,613 | 8,384 | 4,824 |
| Marketing | 656 | 381 | 441 | 2,117 | 1,972 |
| Data processing | 350 | 344 | 312 | 1,449 | 1,334 |
| Amortization expense | 1,868 | 1,887 | 1,184 | 12,362 | 4,828 |
| Intangible impairment | 10,248 | — | — | 10,248 | — |
| Other expense | 5,873 | 4,555 | 4,152 | 20,654 | 15,105 |
| Total non-interest expense | 53,746 | 42,219 | 31,223 | 199,663 | 134,648 |
| Income before income tax expense | 719 | 12,304 | 7,350 | 55,150 | 38,822 |
| Income tax expense (benefit) | (1,025) | 2,517 | 1,344 | 10,233 | 5,602 |
| Net income | \$ 1,744 | \$ 9,787 | \$ 6,006 | \$ 44,917 | \$ 33,220 |
| Earnings per common share ⁽¹⁾ | | | | | |
| Basic | \$ 0.19 | \$ 1.05 | \$ 0.70 | \$ 4.86 | \$ 3.93 |
| Diluted | \$ 0.19 | \$ 1.04 | \$ 0.70 | \$ 4.83 | \$ 3.91 |
| Shares used in computing earnings per share | | | | | |
| Basic | 9,360,819 | 9,349,989 | 8,525,339 | 9,247,092 | 8,443,956 |
| Diluted | 9,414,051 | 9,410,309 | 8,587,639 | 9,302,744 | 8,497,346 |

(1) As of March 31, 2017, certain adjustments to previously reported EPS have been made to correctly reflect the effect of participating securities on basic and diluted EPS calculations in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification 260. These adjustments were a result of the correction of the weighted average number of shares outstanding in the basic EPS calculation and common stock equivalents in the diluted EPS calculation. These changes were immaterial to the overall EPS calculation. September 2016 QTD basic EPS of \$0.71 was corrected to \$0.70; diluted EPS of \$0.70 was not changed. September 2016 YTD basic EPS of \$3.95 was corrected to \$3.93 and diluted EPS of \$3.92 was corrected to \$3.91.

Average Balances, Interest Rates and Yields

The following table presents, for the periods indicated, the total dollar amount of interest income from average interest-earning assets and the resulting yields, as well as the interest expense on average interest-bearing liabilities, expressed both in dollars and rates. Only the yield/rate has tax-equivalent adjustments. Non-Accruing loans have been included in the table as loans carrying a zero yield.

| Three Months Ended September 30, | | | 2017 | | | 2016 | | | | |
|--|----|-----------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--------|-------|
| (Dollars in Thousands) | | | Average Outstanding Balance | Interest Earned / Paid | Yield / Rate | Average Outstanding Balance | Interest Earned / Paid | Yield / Rate | | |
| Interest-earning assets: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Specialty Finance Loans* | \$ | 384,882 | \$ | 5,056 | 5.21% | \$ | 170,597 | \$ | 2,145 | 5.00% |
| Tax Advance Loans | | 5,198 | | — | —% | | 994 | | — | —% |
| Retail Bank Loans | | 885,993 | | 9,521 | 4.26% | | 734,764 | | 7,895 | 4.27% |
| Mortgage-Backed Securities | | 751,364 | | 4,226 | 2.23% | | 698,386 | | 3,513 | 2.00% |
| Tax-Exempt Investment Securities | | 1,346,915 | | 8,388 | 3.80% | | 1,142,918 | | 6,823 | 3.60% |
| Asset-Backed Securities | | 109,231 | | 799 | 2.90% | | 97,315 | | 535 | 2.19% |
| Other Investment Securities | | 118,241 | | 788 | 2.64% | | 100,179 | | 620 | 2.46% |
| Cash & Fed Funds Sold | | 73,189 | | 171 | 0.93% | | 71,720 | | 198 | 1.45% |
| Total interest-earning assets | | 3,675,013 | \$ | 28,949 | 3.61% | | 3,016,873 | \$ | 21,729 | 3.33% |
| Non-interest-earning assets | | 359,438 | | | | | 218,103 | | | |
| Total assets | \$ | 4,034,451 | | | | \$ | 3,234,976 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Non-interest-bearing deposits | \$ | 2,286,630 | \$ | — | 0.00% | \$ | 2,005,713 | \$ | — | 0.00% |
| Interest-bearing liabilities: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Interest-bearing checking | | 45,741 | | 47 | 0.41% | | 37,082 | | 34 | 0.36% |
| Savings | | 53,717 | | 8 | 0.06% | | 53,017 | | 7 | 0.05% |
| Money markets | | 48,823 | | 26 | 0.21% | | 48,895 | | 21 | 0.17% |
| Time deposits | | 103,992 | | 260 | 0.99% | | 108,210 | | 119 | 0.44% |
| Wholesale deposits | | 549,539 | | 1,549 | 1.12% | | — | | — | —% |
| FHLB advances | | 174,380 | | 656 | 1.49% | | 97,326 | | 236 | 0.97% |
| Overnight fed funds purchased | | 179,750 | | 619 | 1.37% | | 444,380 | | 606 | 0.54% |
| Subordinated debentures | | 73,324 | | 1,113 | 6.02% | | 37,542 | | 539 | 5.71% |
| Other borrowings | | 17,568 | | 183 | 4.13% | | 14,825 | | 274 | 7.35% |
| Total interest-bearing liabilities | | 1,246,834 | | 4,461 | 1.42% | | 841,277 | | 1,836 | 0.87% |
| Total deposits and interest-bearing liabilities | | 3,533,464 | \$ | 4,461 | 0.50% | | 2,846,990 | \$ | 1,836 | 0.26% |
| Other non-interest-bearing liabilities | | 64,065 | | | | | 53,444 | | | |
| Total liabilities | | 3,597,529 | | | | | 2,900,434 | | | |
| Shareholders' equity | | 436,922 | | | | | 334,542 | | | |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$ | 4,034,451 | | | | \$ | 3,234,976 | | | |
| Net interest income and net interest rate spread including non-interest-bearing deposits | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | \$ | 24,488 | 3.11% | | | \$ | 19,893 | 3.07% |
| Net interest margin, tax equivalent | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 3.13% | | | | | 3.09% |

*Specialty Finance Loan Receivables include loan portfolios the Company deems as non-retail bank product offerings or loans not generated by the Retail Bank itself (for example, premium finance and purchased loan portfolios). The loan receivables included in this line item are included in the customary loan categories presented elsewhere within the Company's SEC filings.

Selected Financial Information

| At Period Ended: | September 30, 2017 | June 30, 2017 | March 31, 2017 | December 31, 2016 | September 30, 2016 |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Equity to total assets | 8.31% | 10.70% | 10.33% | 8.82% | 8.36% |
| Book value per common share outstanding | \$ 45.15 | \$ 46.01 | \$ 44.04 | \$ 39.96 | \$ 39.30 |
| Tangible book value per common share outstanding | \$ 29.47 | \$ 28.52 | \$ 26.35 | \$ 21.43 | \$ 31.57 |
| Tangible book value per common share outstanding excluding AOCI | \$ 28.52 | \$ 27.73 | \$ 26.35 | \$ 21.97 | \$ 28.89 |
| Common shares outstanding | 9,622,595 | 9,349,989 | 9,349,989 | 9,305,079 | 8,523,641 |
| Non-performing assets to total assets | 0.72% | 1.17% | 0.12% | 0.05% | 0.03% |

| For the Year Ended: | September 30, 2017 | September 30, 2016 |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Net interest margin, tax equivalent | 3.05% | 3.19% |
| Return on average assets | 1.13% | 1.10% |
| Return on average equity | 11.20% | 10.80% |

Select Quarterly Expenses

| (Dollars in Thousands) | Actual | Anticipated | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| For the Three Months Ended | Sep 30, 2017 | Dec 31, 2017 | Mar 31, 2018 | Jun 30, 2018 | Sep 30, 2018 | Dec 31, 2018 | Mar 31, 2019 | Jun 30, 2019 | Sep 30, 2019 |
| Amortization of Intangibles ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 1,868 | \$ 1,680 | \$ 2,732 | \$ 1,663 | \$ 1,632 | \$ 1,488 | \$ 2,706 | \$ 1,488 | \$ 1,468 |
| Executive Officer Stock Compensation ⁽²⁾ | \$ 2,284 | \$ 1,268 | \$ 1,268 | \$ 1,268 | \$ 1,268 | \$ 899 | \$ 899 | \$ 899 | \$ 899 |

(1) These amounts are based upon the current reporting period's intangible assets only. This table makes no assumption for expenses related to future acquired intangible assets.

(2) These amounts are based upon the employment agreements signed in the first and second quarters of fiscal 2017 by the Company's three highest paid executives. This table makes no assumption for expenses related to any additional future agreements.

About Meta Financial Group®

Meta Financial Group, Inc. ("MFG") is the holding company for MetaBank[®], a federally chartered savings bank. MFG shares are traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market[®] under the symbol CASH. Headquartered in Sioux Falls, SD, MetaBank operates in both the Banking and Payments industries through: MetaBank, its traditional retail banking operation; Meta Payment Systems, its electronic payments division; AFS/IBEX, its insurance premium financing division; and Refund Advantage, EPS and SCS, its tax-related financial solutions divisions.

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Investor Update

Fourth Quarter and Fiscal Year End 2017

Fourth Quarter & Fiscal Year End 2017 | NASDAQ: CASH

Meta 
Financial Group

Forward Looking Statements

Meta Financial Group, Inc. (the "Company") and its wholly-owned subsidiary, MetaBank (the "Bank"), may from time to time make written or oral "forward-looking statements," including statements contained in this investor update, the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), the Company's reports to stockholders, and in other communications by the Company and the Bank, which are made in good faith by the Company pursuant to the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

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The foregoing list of factors is not exclusive. We caution you not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements included herein speak only as of the date of this investor update. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or any person acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained or referred to in this cautionary note. Additional discussions of factors affecting the Company's business and prospects are reflected under the caption "Risk Factors" and in other sections of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the Company's fiscal year ended September 30, 2016 and in other periodic filings made with the SEC. The Company expressly disclaims any intent or obligation to update any forward-looking statements, whether written or oral, that may be made from time to time by or on behalf of the Company or its subsidiaries, whether as a result of new information, changed circumstances or future events or for any other reason.

Company Overview

Prepaid division generates fee income with low-cost, long duration deposit base



Prepaid low-cost deposit base provides competitive advantage to obtain high-quality credits and attractive terms for the **Retail Bank** and **Specialty Finance** divisions



LEVERAGE DEPOSITS BROUGHT IN FROM OUR PAYMENTS
DIVISION FOR FUNDING OUR OTHER DIVISIONS



Tax services division offers interest-free refund advances and tax refund-transfer solutions and provides a new distribution channel for **prepaid** products and other services



In addition to funding high-quality commercial loans, the **Bank** provides loans to tax preparers and funding for interest-free refund advances to taxpayers, which generate significant fee income (rather than interest)

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| NASDAQ Traded (CASH) | Market capitalization over \$760 million (10/25/2017) |
| Growing Asset Base | 5-year average asset CAGR of 23% |
| Disciplined Acquirer | Execute on strategic acquisitions that increase shareholder value (accretive, short earnback) Successfully integrated four acquisitions in the past three years |
| Analyst Coverage | Sandler O'Neill + Partners; Raymond James; Keefe, Bruyette & Woods; FBR & Co. |

STRATEGICALLY PURSUE BUSINESSES IN NICHE MARKETS THAT ARE
SCALABLE AND SYNERGISTIC TO EXISTING PLATFORM

The Meta Ecosystem

Banking

Retail Banking

Regional community bank with 10 branch locations in Iowa and South Dakota

Growing, profitable operations

- Loan growth of 19-30% YoY each quarter for over four years
- Average core deposits (checking, savings, money market) have also consistently seen double digit growth over the last four years

Expect continued robust loan growth over the next 12 months

METABANK

Payments

Prepaid/ATM/Other

A prepaid card industry leader with payments diversification

Continuing to grow "annuity-like" stream of fee income

New and growing relationships, driving growth with a strong pipeline

Emerging leader in "virtual cards" for electronic settlements

Sponsors approximately 65% of U.S. "white label" Automated Teller Machines (ATM)

47 patents with more than a dozen pending

Specialty Finance

Higher yields than many alternative investments

Premium Finance - Loans to commercial businesses to fund their property, casualty and liability insurance premiums

- Short duration, typically 9-10 month maturities
- Significant collateralization reduces credit risk

Student Loan Portfolio Purchases - Dec. 2016, \$134 million and Oct. 2017, \$73 million. Both seasoned, insured and floating rate portfolios with current yields of approximately 6%.

Healthcare Finance - Rate reset portfolio with recourse to high credit quality hospitals

Tax Services

Products include: tax refund-transfer (RTs) solutions, interest free refund advance loans and electronic return originator (ERO) loans

Provided underwriting for and originated approximately \$1.3 billion of refund advance loans for the 2017 tax season; anticipate originating over \$1.0 billion during the 2018 tax season and hold most or all of originated loans

Various relationships and partnerships with leading franchises and independent tax preparers

Financial Highlights

Record breaking fiscal year earnings

- Fiscal year 2017 (FY 2017) GAAP net income of \$44.9 million, an increase of 35% over fiscal year 2016¹
- Quarterly GAAP net income of \$1.7 million²
- Quarterly and FY 2017 diluted earnings per share of \$0.19 and \$4.83, respectively
- FY 2017 return on average assets of 1.13% and return on average equity of 11.20%¹

Net Interest Income (NII)

- Quarterly NII of \$24.5 million, an increase of 23% over Q4 FY 2016

Non-interest Income

- Card fee income of \$26.7 million in Q4 FY 2017, an increase of 49% over Q4 FY 2016
- Non-interest income represented 65% of total revenue for the fiscal year

Assets

- FY 2017 fourth quarter average assets grew to \$4.03 billion, an increase of 25% over Q4 FY 2016

Continued, Strong loan growth

- Excluding the purchased student loan portfolio, total loans receivable, net of allowance for loan losses, increased \$274.6 million, or 30% over Q4 FY 2016

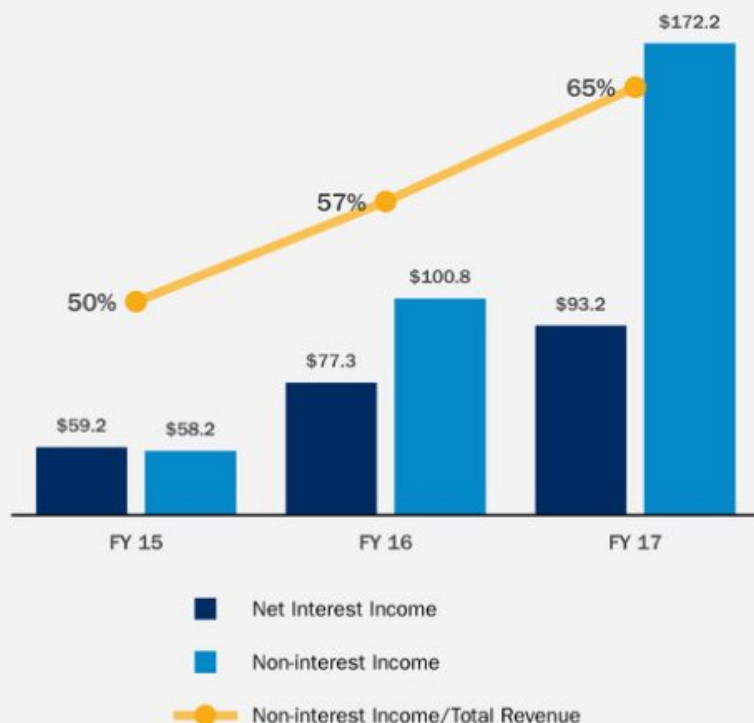
Cost of funds

- Overall cost of funds for all deposits and borrowings averaged 0.50% during Q4 FY 2017, compared to 0.26% during Q4 FY 2016
 - Increase primarily due to a combination of the issuance of Company's subordinated debt in fiscal year 2016 and utilization of wholesale deposits in preparation for the upcoming tax season and year-end liquidity management

¹FY 2017 pre-tax results included the previously announced \$10.2 million intangible impairment charge relating to the non-renewal of the H&R Block tax advance relationship, \$3.1 million in tax season start up expense, \$1.3 million in acquisition-related expenses, \$0.9 million payout of severance costs related to ongoing synergy efforts in our tax divisions, \$0.8 million of executive severance costs, \$0.8 million in expenses related to due diligence efforts and \$0.8 million of prepayment expense related to the early extinguishment of FHLB debt. In addition to \$12.3 million in amortization of intangible assets, \$8.0 million in non-cash stock-related compensation expense associated with executive officer employment agreements, and a \$0.5 million loss on the sale of securities

²Q4 FY 2017 pre-tax results included the previously announced \$10.2 million intangible impairment charge relating to the non-renewal of the H&R Block tax advance relationship, \$0.8 million of executive severance costs and \$0.8 million of prepayment expense related to the early extinguishment of FHLB debt. In addition to \$2.3 million in non-cash stock-related compensation expense associated with executive officer employment agreements, \$1.9 million in amortization of intangible assets and a \$0.8 million gain on the sale of securities

Income Growth (\$MM)



Total Revenue = Net Interest Income + Non-interest Income

Non-interest income grew 71% in FY 2017 compared to FY 2016

- Card fee income continues to accelerate year over year, adding \$95 million to non-interest income in FY 2017
 - Growth was driven by synergies with our tax businesses, growth in our core payments business, and residual fees related to a wind-down of one of our non-strategic partners and as such, we expect lower growth rates in FY 2018 than the 49% increase seen in the fourth quarter
- Tax product revenue contributed \$71 million to non-interest income

The Company is focused on continuing to grow non-interest income and further loan growth and improved mix of assets, while deposit growth is expected to start to moderate

71% Non-interest Income Growth
FY 2016 to FY 2017

Net Interest Margin (\$MM)

Net Interest Income and NIM



Fourth Quarter Highlights

Net interest income increased 23%, compared to Q4 FY 2016

- Issuance of subordinated debt in Q4 FY 2016 (12 bps)
- Continued to employ balance sheet leverage strategy to utilize the excess capital the Company continues to build and maintain
- Improved earning asset mix drove improvement in overall tax equivalent yield

Growth Opportunities

Opportunity for NIM expansion in current and higher rate environment

- Floating rate student loan portfolio and continued growth in premium finance loan portfolio provides opportunity for higher NIM in a higher rate environment
- Company will remain diligent and disciplined when evaluating loan pool deal flow
- Cash flow reinvestment and new deposits from MPS deployed at higher rates in a higher rate environment
- Building multiple credit products with multiple strategic partners to enhance specialty lending business which are intended to improve earning asset mix

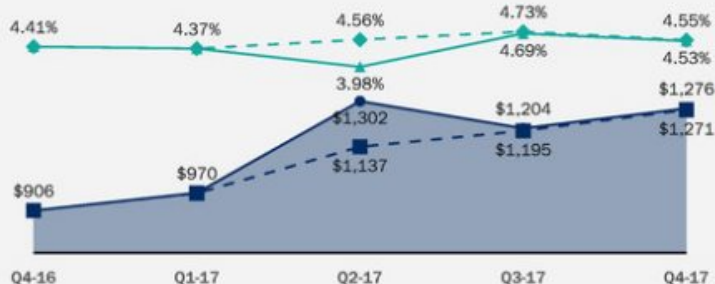
Net Interest Drivers (\$MM)

Fiscal Quarter Average

Total Investments and Yield



Total Loans and Yield



-- Represents total loans and yield excluding refund advance loans

Highlights

Excluding refund advance loans, total loan yield for Q4 FY 2017 was 4.55%

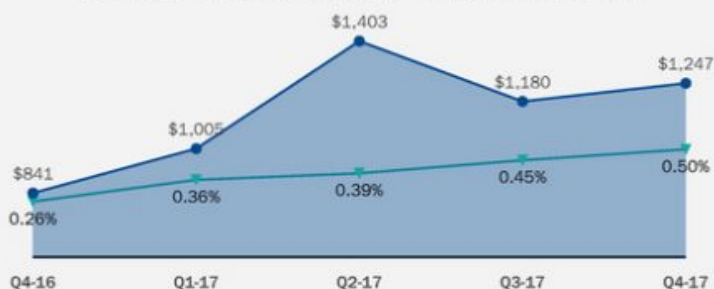
Investment and loan yields well-positioned to increase with rising rate environment

- Mortgage-backed securities portfolio yields expected to increase with only nominal extension if longer term rates rise
- Increased duration flexibility provides opportunity for increased yields in the securities portfolio

Cost of funds for all deposits and borrowings averaged 0.50%; increase over Q4 FY 2016 caused by subordinated debt issuance in Q4 FY 2016, increases in short-term funding rates and utilization of wholesale funding in anticipation of the upcoming tax season

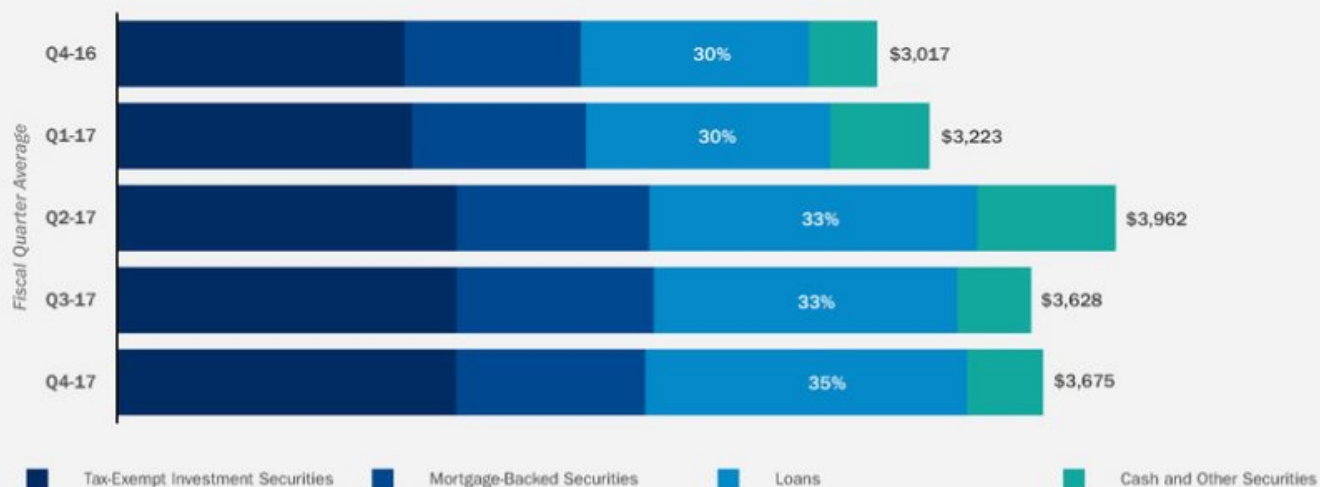
Relative to other financial institutions, low cost of funds continues to be driven by non-interest bearing deposits generated by MPS

Interest Bearing Liabilities and Total Cost of Funds



Earning Asset Mix (\$MM)

Interest Earning Asset Mix



22%

Earning Asset Growth
Q4 2016 to Q4 2017

Continue to improve earning asset mix

- Asset diversification with higher yields
- Increased balances of high-quality specialty finance and retail loan portfolios
- Optimize deployment of national, non-interest bearing deposit base

Loan Portfolio (\$MM)

Total loans receivable increased 43%, YoY

- Primarily driven by increases in Consumer, Commercial Real Estate, Premium Finance, and Residential Mortgage loans
- Consumer loan growth primarily driven by purchase of student loan portfolio in December 2016
- Excluding purchased student loan portfolio, total loans, net of allowance for loan losses, increased 30%, YoY
- Growth partially offset by a decrease of \$5.3 million, or 5%, in total agricultural loans, which made up only 1.82% of total assets at September 30, 2017
 - Expect to continue to shrink agricultural portfolio as a percentage of total loans and total assets

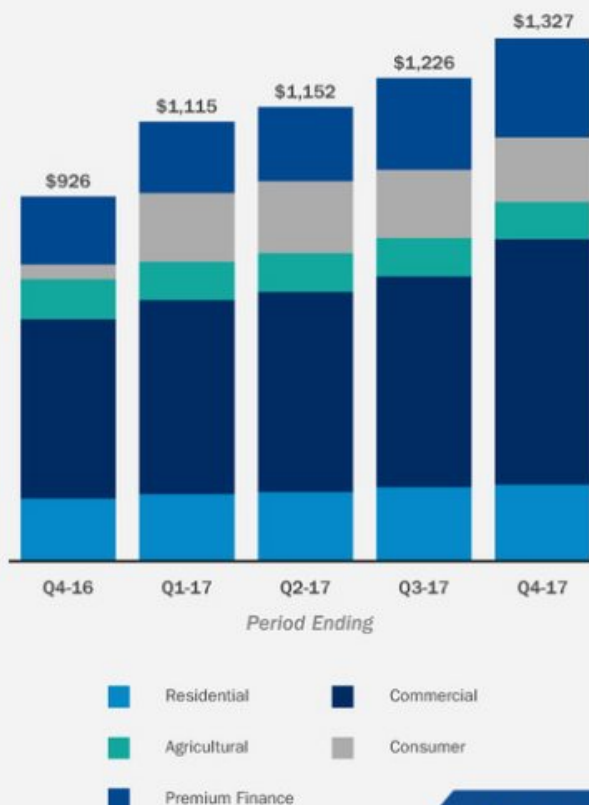
Retail Bank loan growth of 26%, YoY

Premium finance loan growth of 46%, YoY

Expect to see continued robust loan growth from the Retail Bank and Premium Finance divisions

October 2017, closed on another \$73 million student loan portfolio very similar to the purchase in December 2016, with floating rate yields of around 6%

Loans Receivable Composition



Loan Portfolio/Credit Quality

Fourth Quarter Highlights

Allowance for loan losses (ALL) was \$7.5 million, or 0.6% of total loans, at September 30, 2017

- Recovery of \$0.1 million was recorded for the fourth quarter primarily due to continued collections and recoveries on tax advance loans from the 2017 tax season
- The pending payoff described below partially offset the need for more provision to support loan growth during the quarter

Credit Quality

Non-performing assets (NPAs) at September 30, 2017 were \$37.9 million, representing 0.72% of total assets. The increase in NPAs is primarily related to two large agricultural relationships becoming more than 90 days past due and which are still accruing - excluding these relationships, NPAs would have been \$3.6 million, representing 0.07% of total assets

- The Company expects one of these agricultural relationships, which represents an outstanding loan balance of about \$7.0 million, to be paid in full during the first fiscal quarter of 2018 due to an auction of the land securing the loan, which occurred in September, with the land sale scheduled to close on November 1, 2017
 - Expect to receive all principal, accrued interest, legal, and other expenses at the closing
- The Company also believes that its strong collateral position on the other relationship (less than 75% loan-to-value ("LTV") secured by agricultural real estate) and active collection process with the borrower supports the decision to continue to accrue interest on that loan as well
- Payments segment had no NPAs at September 30, 2017

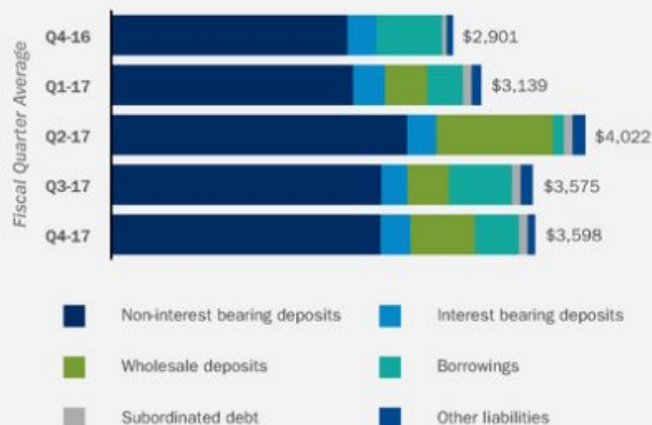
Continue investment strategy to purchase high-quality investments at attractive relative rates as opportunities arise

Balance Sheet Overview (\$MM)

Total Average Assets



Total Average Liabilities



Fourth Quarter Highlights

Average assets for Q4 FY 2017 grew 25% compared to Q4 FY 2016

Wholesale deposits have been added throughout FY 2017 to support the Company's leverage strategy due to advantageous rates when compared to the overnight borrowing rates or to target strategic maturities which are expected to aid in tax season tax advance loan funding

Average deposits for Q4 FY 2017 increased 37% and average non-interest bearing deposits increased 14% compared to Q4 FY 2016

- Stable, low-cost, long duration funding advantage with non-interest bearing deposits is expected to remain in a rising rate environment

Regulatory Capital



Goal: maintain strong capital ratios

- Exceeded all required capital ratios at September 30, 2017
- MetaBank six-month average Tier 1 Leverage > 8.0% at 9.7%
- MetaBank six-month average Total Risk-Based Capital >13.0% at 19.39%

Prudent capital management provides flexibility for strategic opportunities

- June 2016 assigned an A- for the Bank's senior unsecured debt and deposits by Kroll Bond Rating Agency (KBRA)
- June 2016 assigned a BBB+ for the Company's senior unsecured debt by KBRA
- August 2016 issued \$75 million of Subordinated Debt
- June 2017 KBRA affirmed investment grade rating

Competitive Landscape

Early adopter of sophisticated compliance systems

Investments in program design, training and technology

- Implemented enhanced BSA/AML technology
- Enhanced infrastructure supports growth
- These prior investments allow more focus on growing current business and new development opportunities, with expected improving efficiencies

High competitive barriers to enter prepaid and tax industries = wide “moat”

- Expertise, capital, compliance
- Operational infrastructure
- High start-up costs
- Commercial partner contract design
- Durbin-related disadvantages for banks over \$10 billion in assets

Interest Rate Risk Management

Interest rate sensitivity (what management believes)

Static interest rate risk results do not accurately reflect the Company's true interest rate sensitivity due to our unique and historically predictable deposit base

- Utilizing quarterly average balances for deposits, cash and borrowings provides a more accurate view of the Company's IRR position
- Payments-related, non-interest bearing deposit value continues to grow significantly as interest rates rise due to long duration deposits funding asset growth
- Non-interest deposit growth also provides more net income upside that is not reflected in IRR analysis
- Low Retail Bank deposit beta contains interest cost

Well-positioned for higher rate environment utilizing a "barbell" approach to earning asset generation and purchases

- Premium finance lending offers production opportunities with <12 month terms
- Disciplined approach to evaluating loan pool deal flow (e.g. floating rate student loan portfolio purchases)

Other Comprehensive Income volatile relative to peers

- We believe GAAP understates balance sheet true value, particularly low-cost, long duration deposits
- Almost 40% of assets are available for sale (securities) vs. typical "peer" at ~15-20%, which are marked-to-market monthly

Industry Recognition

FORTUNE

Named one of Fortune magazine's
100 Fastest-Growing Companies
(September 2017)



Top 40 of ACH originators in 2016
(April 2017)

Top 30 of ACH receivers in 2016
(April 2017)



MetaBank named one of "7 To
Watch in '17"



One of the **top performing** mid-size
banks in 2016 (June 2017)



**Second largest prepaid card
issuer** in the U.S. ranked by
purchase volume in 2016 (2017)

One of the **top 100** credit, debit
and prepaid issuers in the world
in 2015 (2017)



#1 Top Growth Bank (May 2016)
Named Top Community Bank
(August 2016)



EPS Financial Business of the
Year 2016 (25-100 Employees)



Sioux Empire United Way

Business of the Year, 500+
Employees (February 2017)

Appendix

Income Statement

| (\$ in thousands) | Three Months Ended | | | | | Percent Change | Fiscal Year Ended | | Percent Change |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| | Q4 Sept. 2016 | Q1 Dec. 2016 | Q2 March 2017 | Q3 June 2017 | Q4 Sept. 2017 | Q4-17 vs. Q4-16 | September 2016 | September 2017 | FY 2017 vs. FY 2016 |
| Net Interest Income | 19,893 | 19,833 | 23,966 | 24,943 | 24,488 | 23 % | 77,305 | 93,230 | 21% |
| Card Fee Income | 17,920 | 18,414 | 26,547 | 23,052 | 26,694 | 49 % | 70,533 | 94,707 | 34% |
| RT Product Fee Income | 285 | 176 | 32,487 | 5,785 | 508 | 78 % | 23,347 | 38,956 | 67% |
| Tax Advance Fee Income | — | 449 | 31,119 | (108) | 453 | N/A | 1,575 | 31,913 | 1,926% |
| Other Income | 1,023 | 310 | 2,017 | 2,091 | 2,178 | 113 % | 5,315 | 6,596 | 24% |
| Total Revenue | \$ 39,121 | \$ 39,182 | \$ 116,136 | \$ 55,763 | \$ 54,321 | 39 % | \$ 178,075 | \$ 265,402 | 49% |
| Compensation and Benefits | 14,536 | 17,850 | 26,766 | 22,193 | 21,919 | 51 % | 61,675 | 88,728 | 44% |
| Card Processing Expense | 5,405 | 5,579 | 7,043 | 5,755 | 5,753 | 6 % | 22,263 | 24,130 | 8% |
| RT Product Expense | 32 | 51 | 10,178 | 1,623 | 292 | 813 % | 8,648 | 11,885 | 37% |
| Tax Advance Expense | — | 27 | 3,140 | 72 | (257) | N/A | — | 3,241 | N/A |
| All Other Expense | 11,250 | 13,246 | 19,819 | 12,576 | 26,039 | 131 % | 42,062 | 71,679 | 70% |
| Total Expense | \$ 31,223 | \$ 36,753 | \$ 66,946 | \$ 42,219 | \$ 53,746 | 72 % | \$ 134,648 | \$ 199,663 | 48% |
| Provision for Loan Loss | 548 | 843 | 8,649 | 1,240 | (144) | (126)% | 4,605 | 10,589 | 130% |
| Net Income Before Taxes | \$ 7,350 | \$ 1,586 | \$ 40,541 | \$ 12,304 | \$ 719 | (90)% | \$ 38,822 | \$ 55,150 | 42% |
| Income Tax Expense | 1,344 | 342 | 8,399 | 2,517 | (1,025) | (176)% | 5,602 | 10,233 | 83% |
| Net Income | \$ 6,006 | \$ 1,244 | \$ 32,142 | \$ 9,787 | \$ 1,744 | (71)% | \$ 33,220 | \$ 44,917 | 35% |

Average Balance Sheet

| (\$ in thousands) | Fiscal Quarter Average | | | | | Percent Change Q4-17 vs. Q4-16 | Fiscal Year Average | | Percent Change FY 2017 vs. FY 2016 |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---|
| | Q4 Sept. 2016 | Q1 Dec. 2016 | Q2 March 2017 | Q3 June 2017 | Q4 Sept. 2017 | | FY 2016 | FY 2017 | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 50,976 | 195,004 | 404,688 | 50,235 | 85,158 | 67 % | 52,421 | 182,927 | 249 % |
| Investment securities | 1,374,288 | 1,394,596 | 1,593,130 | 1,614,529 | 1,595,587 | 16 % | 1,238,284 | 1,549,043 | 25 % |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 701,312 | 689,506 | 755,887 | 777,216 | 747,330 | 7 % | 727,309 | 742,316 | 2 % |
| Net loans | 900,199 | 963,984 | 1,291,199 | 1,189,623 | 1,263,820 | 40 % | 803,733 | 1,176,497 | 46 % |
| Other assets | 208,202 | 247,933 | 368,816 | 367,975 | 342,556 | 65 % | 194,932 | 331,518 | 70 % |
| Total Assets | \$ 3,234,976 | \$ 3,491,022 | \$ 4,413,719 | \$ 3,999,578 | \$ 4,034,451 | 25 % | \$ 3,016,678 | \$ 3,982,301 | 32 % |
| Non-interest bearing deposits | 2,005,713 | 2,055,842 | 2,512,934 | 2,295,046 | 2,286,630 | 14 % | 2,017,977 | 2,286,358 | 13 % |
| Interest bearing deposits | 247,203 | 267,531 | 248,691 | 220,425 | 252,273 | 2 % | 221,927 | 247,296 | 11 % |
| Wholesale deposits | — | 357,224 | 986,908 | 348,771 | 549,539 | N/A | — | 558,855 | N/A |
| Short-term debt | 447,946 | 287,655 | 74,739 | 518,511 | 352,733 | (21)% | 341,488 | 309,114 | (9)% |
| Long-term debt | 146,128 | 92,462 | 92,481 | 92,498 | 92,290 | (37)% | 83,013 | 92,432 | 11 % |
| Other liabilities | 53,444 | 78,219 | 106,700 | 99,919 | 64,065 | 20 % | 44,786 | 87,084 | 94 % |
| Total Liabilities | \$ 2,900,434 | \$ 3,138,934 | \$ 4,022,453 | \$ 3,575,169 | \$ 3,597,529 | 24 % | \$ 2,709,191 | \$ 3,581,139 | 32 % |
| Shareholder's equity | 334,542 | 352,088 | 391,266 | 424,409 | 436,922 | 31 % | 307,487 | 401,162 | 30 % |
| Liabilities and Equity | \$ 3,234,976 | \$ 3,491,022 | \$ 4,413,719 | \$ 3,999,578 | \$ 4,034,451 | 25 % | \$ 3,016,678 | \$ 3,982,301 | 32 % |