# Edgar Filing: CHARTER FINANCIAL CORP/GA - Form S-1 

CHARTER FINANCIAL CORP/GA
Form S-1
March 27, 2001

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 27, 2001 Registration No. 333- $\qquad$


United States
(state or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

6035
(Primary Standard Classification Code Number)

Application Pending
(IRS Employer Identificatio

```
c/o CharterBank
600 Third Avenue
West Point, GA 31833
(706) 645-1391
(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)
```

Robert L. Johnson
President and Chief Executive Officer
CharterBank
600 Third Avenue
West Point, Georgia 31833
(706) 645-1391
(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:
V. Gerard Comizio

Thacher Proffitt \& Wood
1700 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Ste. 800
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 347-8400

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to public: As soon as practicable after this Registration Statement becomes effective.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, check the following box / X /

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## --- <br> CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of each Class of Securities to be Registered | Amount to be Registered(1) | Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share(2) | Proposed M Aggregate Offe |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Common Stock, \$. O1 par value | 5,157,750 | \$10.00 | \$ 51,577 |

(1) Includes the maximum number of shares that may be issued in connection with this offering.
(2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee.
(3) Previously Paid.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section $8(a)$ of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to Section 8(a), may determine.

Charter Financial Corp.

Cross Reference Sheet showing location in the Prospectus of information required by Items of Form S-1:

Registration Statement Item and Caption

1. Forepart of the Registration Statement and Outside Front Cover Page of Prospectus
2. Inside Front and Outside Back Cover Pages of Prospectus
3. Summary Information and Risk Factors
4. Use of Proceeds
5. Determination of Offering Price
6. Dilution
7. Selling Security Holders
8. Plan of Distribution

Location or Headings in Prospectus

Outside Front Cover Page

Inside Front and Outside Back Cover Pages

Summary; Risk Factors

Summary--How We Intend to Use the Proceeds We Intend to Use the Proceeds from the Offering

Summary---How We Determined the Offering Range Reorganization and the Offering--How We Determ $\$ 10.00$ Price Per Share

Not Applicable
Not Applicable

Summary--Persons Who May Order Stock in the Off Offering--Subscription Offering and Subscriptio and Syndicated Community Offering

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9. Description of Securities to be Registered
10. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel
11. Information with Respect to the Registrant

Description of Capital Stock of Charter Financi

Not Applicable

Outside Front Cover Page; Summary--The Companie and Employees Will Have Additional Compensation Reorganization; Selected Consolidated Financia Charter Financial Corp.; First Charter, MHC; Ou Market for the Common Stock; Regulatory Capital Forma Data; CharterBank Consolidated Statements Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition of CharterBank; Business of First Charter, MHC Corp.; Regulation of CharterBank and Charter F Regulation; Management; Executive Officers; The Restrictions on Acquisition of Charter Financia Description of Capital Stock of Charter Financi

Not Applicable

PROSPECTUS
[LOGO]

Charter Financial Corp.
Proposed Holding Company for CharterBank
Up to 5,157,750 Shares of Common Stock

Charter Financial Corp. is a federally-chartered corporation that is offering shares of its common stock in connection with the reorganization of CharterBank into a mutual holding company. The shares we are offering represent approximately $20 \%$ of the outstanding common stock of Charter Financial. CharterBank formed Charter Financial to own CharterBank as part of the reorganization of its structure. First Charter, MHC, a federally-chartered mutual holding company, will own approximately $80 \%$ of the outstanding common stock of Charter Financial. We have applied to have the common stock of Charter Financial quoted on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol "[]."

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TERMS OF THE OFFERING
Price: \$10.00 per share
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We may sell up to $5,157,750$ shares because of regulatory considerations or changes in market or economic conditions without the resolicitation of subscribers.

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This investment involves a degree of risk, including the possible loss of principal.
Please read the Risk Factors beginning on page [].

These securities are not deposits or savings accounts and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Office of Thrift Supervision, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, nor any state securities regulator has approved or disapproved these securities or determined if this prospectus is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

We are offering the common stock on a best efforts basis, subject to certain conditions. The minimum number of shares that you may purchase is 25 shares. Funds received prior to the completion of the offering will be held in an account at CharterBank which will bear interest at our savings passbook rate. This offering is expected to terminate on [], 2001.

## Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P.

 , 2001
## [MAP OF CHARTERBANK BRANCH OFFICES]

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SUMMARY

You should read this entire document carefully, including the financial statements and the notes to the financial statements.

Our Reorganization and Stock Offering

CharterBank is currently a federally-chartered mutual savings and loan association headquartered in West Point, Georgia. CharterBank is reorganizing into the mutual holding company structure. As part of the reorganization, Charter Financial is offering up to $5,157,750$ shares to the public, representing approximately $20 \%$ of its outstanding common stock. After the reorganization, Charter Financial will own 100\% of CharterBank.

This chart shows our new structure after the reorganization:
[GRAPHIC OMITTED]
First Charter, MHC will own a majority of Charter Financial's common stock after the reorganization. The same directors and officers who manage CharterBank will manage Charter Financial and First Charter, MHC.

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1
$$

## The Companies

## CharterBank

We are a federally-chartered mutual savings and loan association, headquartered in West Point, Georgia. We were formed in 1954 and operate four full-service branch offices and three loan production offices in west-central Georgia and east-central Alabama. We are a community-oriented financial institution serving consumer households and small businesses. At December 31, 2000, we had total assets of $\$ 1.0$ billion, including $5,055,000$ shares of Freddie

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Mac stock with a market value of $\$ 348.2$ million, equity of $\$ 257.5$ million and total deposits of $\$ 211.3$ million, respectively. We are the only locally-owned and operated financial institution in the Valley area, which is comprised of West Point, Georgia and Lanett and Valley, Alabama. Our address is 600 Third Avenue, West Point, Georgia 31833, and our telephone number is (706) 645-1391. Our assets have grown over the past three years from $\$ 729.3$ million at September 1998 to $\$ 1.0$ billion at December 31, 2000 , an increase of over $38 \%$.

Charter Financial Corp.

Charter Financial will be the stock holding company for CharterBank after the reorganization. Charter Financial has not engaged in any business to date. After the reorganization, Charter Financial will hold 1.7 million shares of Freddie Mac stock, currently held in CharterBank's investment portfolio and will own Charter Insurance Company which will own an additional 400,000 shares of Freddie Mac stock. See "Business of Charter Financial."

First Charter, MHC

First Charter, MHC will own at least a majority of the outstanding common stock of Charter Financial after the reorganization. We do not expect that First Charter, MHC will engage in any business activity other than owning a majority of the common stock of Charter Financial and holding 400,000 shares of Freddie Mac stock, currently held in CharterBank's investment portfolio. First Charter, MHC has not engaged in any business to date.

Charter Insurance Company
Charter Insurance Company is a Hawaiian corporation which commenced operations in December 2000. Charter Insurance Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Charter Holdings, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of CharterBank. Charter Insurance Company generates fee income by reinsuring a portion of CharterBank's loan originations which carry private mortgage insurance. CharterBank has capitalized Charter Insurance Company with $\$ 450,000$. As part of the reorganization, 400,000 shares of Freddie Mac stock will be contributed to Charter Insurance Company and Charter Insurance Company will become a subsidiary of Charter Financial. Charter Insurance Company's revenues are expected to be less than $1 \%$ of Charter Financial's total revenues.

The following are highlights of CharterBank's operations:

## . Ownership of Freddie Mac Stock

Our balance sheet is unique in comparison to our peers in that we own 5,055,000 shares of Freddie Mac stock with a market value of approximately $\$ 348.2$ million at December 31, 2000, which represents approximately $34.5 \%$ of our total assets. The $\$ 209.5$ million in after-tax unrealized gain on our Freddie Mac stock represents $81.4 \%$ of our equity at December 31, 2000. The Freddie Mac stock is held in our investment portfolio as available-for-sale. Our investment in Freddie Mac stock in the 1980 s has significantly increased our capital and earnings. Because we believe that our ownership of Freddie Mac stock continues to present attractive earnings growth potential and because the sale of Freddie Mac stock would result in substantial tax liability for us, we have no current plans to liquidate our investment. However, we are reallocating the stock so as to more effectively manage our Freddie Mac stock investment and CharterBank's retail operations. In this regard, as part of the reorganization, 2.5 million shares of the Freddie Mac stock will be transferred out of CharterBank's portfolio to Charter Financial, First Charter, MHC and Charter Insurance Company, leaving 50.5\% of our Freddie Mac stock in CharterBank's portfolio.

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Following the reorganization, we will continue to monitor our Freddie Mac stock investment.
. Community Banking and Customer Service

We are a service-oriented bank providing retail and small business customers with products and services designed to create long term, profitable relationships. We strive to offer high quality services to customers, not only through personal service, but also by offering a competitive array of financial products which address customer needs. In this regard, we offer numerous loan products, including residential mortgage loans, commercial real estate loans, commercial loans, home equity loans, second mortgages and other loan products. We also offer deposit products including consumer and commercial checking accounts, savings accounts, money market accounts and certificates of deposit, as well as other services to our customers. In addition, we have funded The Charter Foundation, a non-profit charitable foundation, which makes charitable contributions to our community.
. Residential Lending

We are the leading residential mortgage lender in the Valley area. As of December 31, 2000, our residential mortgage loans totaled $\$ 157.1$ million, equal to $60.5 \%$ of our total loans. Our strategy is to offer customers a broad range of mortgage products including adjustable and fixed rate loans and "jumbo" loan products, which are loans with balances that exceed Fannie Mae guidelines. For the three months ended December 31, 2000 , we originated $\$ 16.7$ million in residential loans. For the years ended September 30, 2000 and 1999, we originated $\$ 92.5$ million and $\$ 139.5$ million, respectively, in residential loans.

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. Branch Expansion

We plan to expand our targeted market area to include higher income areas within the $I-85$ corridor in west-central Georgia and east-central Alabama. In this regard, we plan to establish additional branch offices and upgrade existing facilities over the next three to four years. As part of this strategy, we acquired Citizens National Bank, Valley, Alabama in August 1999 and are currently constructing a new branch in Auburn, Alabama, which is scheduled to open in the fourth quarter of this year.
. Expanded Delivery Channels

To serve our existing customers better and to complement our planned branch expansion, we will increase the channels through which we deliver products and services. In this regard, we will expand our use of ATMs by placing additional ATMs at strategic locations within our primary market area. We also plan to introduce Internet banking products which will give our customers on-line access to their accounts and the ability to conduct account transactions such as online bill payment and electronic funds transfers.
. Capital Strength

Our policy has been to maintain the financial strength of CharterBank through conservative risk management, sound financial condition, stable earnings and an efficient operation. Our strong capital position is bolstered by our Freddie Mac Stock investment. At December 31, 2000 , we had $\$ 209.5$ million in after-tax unrealized gain from the investment in the Freddie Mac stock.

Interest Rate Strategy

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We seek to maintain an acceptable balance between maximizing potential yield and limiting exposure to changing interest rates. To reduce the risk that our earnings will be impacted if interest rates change, we:

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sell most of our conforming fixed rate one- to
four-family mortgage loans that we currently
originate rather than retain them in our loan
portfolio;
emphasize investments with adjustable rates and/or
short and intermediate-term average lives of less
than ten years; and
structure most of our commercial real estate loans
with adjustable rates or as balloon loans, which
require a large, lump sum payment at maturity.
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Reasons for the Reorganization

The reorganization of CharterBank to a mutual holding company will permit Charter Financial to issue common stock, which is a source of capital not available to mutual savings banks. The proceeds from the sale of common stock of Charter Financial will provide CharterBank with new capital, which will support our planned branch expansion, future deposit growth and expanded operations.

CharterBank's mutual form of ownership will be preserved in First Charter, MHC. First Charter, MHC, as a mutual holding company, will own at least a majority of the common stock of Charter Financial as long as First Charter, MHC remains in existence. The reorganization will allow CharterBank to achieve certain benefits of a stock company, while allowing us to raise capital incrementally.

The reorganization is also intended to provide an additional source of capital to Charter Financial in order to allow it to:

- finance its planned branch expansion through acquisitions of other financial institutions as well as through de novo branching;
- finance acquisitions of other businesses related to banking;
. pay dividends to stockholders; and
. repurchase shares of our common stock.
As part of the reorganization, CharterBank will transfer 2.5 million shares of its Freddie Mac stock holdings with an approximate market value of $\$ 172.2$ million as of December 31, 2000 to Charter Financial, Charter Insurance Company and First Charter, MHC. We believe that the transfer of Freddie Mac stock to Charter Financial, Charter Insurance Company and First Charter, MHC will allow CharterBank's management to focus on improving returns on our core banking activities.

Additionally, after the reorganization, Charter Financial will have the ability to issue additional shares of common stock to raise capital or to support mergers or acquisitions without assuming the risks of raising capital through the sale of Freddie Mac stock, although no additional capital issuance and no mergers or acquisitions are planned or contemplated at the present time. In addition, the reorganization will allow Charter Financial to establish stock

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benefit plans for management and employees, including incentive stock option plans, stock award plans and an employee stock ownership plan, in order to allow us to attract and retain qualified personnel. We also believe that the reorganization will provide local customers and other residents with an opportunity to become equity owners of Charter Financial, and thereby participate in possible stock price appreciation and cash dividends. This is consistent with our objective of being a locally-owned financial institution.

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After considering the advantages and risks of the reorganization, as well as applicable fiduciary duties, the Board of Directors of CharterBank unanimously approved the reorganization as being in the best interests of CharterBank, our depositors and the communities that we serve.

Terms of the Offering
We are offering between $3,315,000$ and $4,485,000$ shares of common stock of Charter Financial to qualifying depositors, tax-qualified employee plans and possibly to the public. The maximum number of shares that we sell in the offering may increase by up to $15 \%$ to $5,157,750$ shares as a result of regulatory considerations or changes in financial markets. Unless the number of shares to be issued is increased to more than $5,157,750$ or decreased below $3,315,000$, you will not have the opportunity to change or cancel your stock order. The offering price is $\$ 10.00$ per share. Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P., our financial and marketing advisor in connection with the reorganization, will use its best efforts to assist us in selling our stock.

Persons Who May Order Stock in the Offering
We are offering the shares of common stock of Charter Financial in what we call a "subscription offering" in the order of priority listed below:
(1) Depositors with accounts at CharterBank with aggregate balances of at least $\$ 50$ on September 30, 1999;
(2) The tax-qualified employee plans of CharterBank (including the ESOP), which will provide retirement benefits to our employees;
(3)

Depositors with accounts at CharterBank with aggregate balances of at least $\$ 50$ on March 31, 2001; and

Other depositors and borrowers of CharterBank on the voting record date who do not already have subscription rights in the above priorities.

The shares of common stock not purchased in the subscription offering will be offered, in what we call a "direct community offering," on a priority basis, with preference to the natural persons residing within our Community Reinvestment Act assessment area which consists of the entirety of Troup and Harris Counties, Georgia, as well as the entirety of Chambers and Lee Counties, Alabama. Shares may also be offered to the general public. The direct community offering, if any, will commence concurrently with, during or promptly after the subscription offering. We also may offer shares of common stock not purchased in the subscription offering or the direct community offering to the public through a syndicate of broker-dealers managed by Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. (referred to as a "syndicated community offering.") We have the right to accept or reject orders received in the direct community offering and the syndicated community offering at our sole discretion.

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How We Determined the Offering Range and the $\$ 10.00$ Price Per Share

The offering range is based on an independent appraisal of the common stock to be offered. RP Financial, LC., an appraisal firm experienced in appraisals of savings banks and financial institutions, has estimated as of March 2, 2001 the market value of the common stock to be between $\$ 33,150,000$ and $\$ 44,850,000$. This results in an offering of between 3,315,000 and 4,485,000 shares of common stock at an offering price of $\$ 10.00$ per share. RP Financial's estimate of our market value was based in part upon our financial condition and results of operations and the effect of the additional capital raised in this offering. RP Financial's independent appraisal will be updated before we complete our reorganization.

The $\$ 10.00$ price per share was selected primarily because $\$ 10.00$ is the price per share most commonly used in stock offerings involving reorganizations of federal savings banks. See "Pro Forma Data."

Limits on Your Purchase of the Common Stock

Your orders for common stock will be limited in the following ways:
(1) the minimum order is 25 shares or $\$ 250$;
(2) in the subscription offering, the maximum amount that an individual may purchase is $\$ 1,000,000$;
(3) in the direct community offering and in the syndicated community offering, the maximum amount that an individual may purchase is $\$ 1,000,000$;
(4) in all categories of the offering combined, the total amount that an individual may purchase, acting together with others, is $\$ 1,650,000 ;$ and
(5)
if we receive orders for a greater number of shares than we are offering, then we will allocate the available shares that we issue. This may result in your receiving a smaller number of shares than you ordered. See "The Reorganization and The Offering."

We may increase the purchase limitations at any time. The ESOP is authorized to purchase up to $8 \%$ of the $49.9 \%$ of the outstanding shares of Charter Financial without regard to these purchase limitations. For additional information on these purchase limitations see "The Reorganization and The Offering -Limitations on Common Stock Purchases."

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How You May Pay for Your Shares

In the subscription offering and the direct community offering you may pay for your shares only by:
personal check, bank check or money order; or
(2) authorizing us to withdraw money from your deposit accounts maintained with CharterBank.

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We may also, but are not required, to permit wire transfers as payment for shares ordered for purchase. CharterBank cannot lend funds to anyone for the purpose of purchasing shares.

You May Not Sell or Transfer Your Subscription Rights
If you order stock in the subscription offering, you will be required to state that you are purchasing the stock for yourself and that you have no agreement or understanding to sell or transfer your subscription rights. We intend to take legal action, including reporting persons to federal or state regulatory agencies, against anyone who we believe sells or gives away their subscription rights. We will not accept your order if we have reason to believe that you sold or transferred your subscription rights.

Deadline for Orders of Common Stock
If you wish to purchase shares, a properly completed stock order form, together with payment for the shares must be received by CharterBank no later than 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, on [], 2001, unless we extend this deadline. You may submit your order form by mail using the return envelope provided, by overnight courier to the indicated address on the order form, or by bringing your order forms to one of our full-service branch offices.

Termination of the Offering
The subscription offering will terminate at 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, on [], 2001. We expect that the direct and/or syndicated community offerings would terminate at the same time. We may extend this expiration date without notice to you, until [], 2001, unless regulators approve a later date. If the subscription offering and/or community offerings are extended beyond [], 2001, we will be required to resolicit subscriptions before proceeding with the offerings. All further extensions, in the aggregate, may not last beyond [].

Steps We May Take If We Do Not Receive Orders for the Minimum Number of Shares
If we do not receive orders for at least 3,315,000 shares of common stock, we may take several steps in order to sell the minimum number of shares in the offering range. Specifically, we may increase the $\$ 1,000,000$ and $\$ 1,650,000$ purchase limitations to a maximum of $\$ 2,242,500$, which is $5 \%$ of the maximum of the offering range. In addition, we may seek regulatory approval to extend the offering beyond the [] expiration date, provided that any such extension will require us to resolicit subscriptions received in the offering. See "The Reorganization and The Offering - Limitations on Common Stock Purchases."

Market for the Common Stock
We have applied to have the common stock of Charter Financial quoted on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol ["."] Sandler, O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. currently intends to make a market in the common stock but it is under no obligation to do so. See "Market for Common Stock."

How We Intend to Use the Proceeds We Raise from the Offering

Assuming we sell 4,485,000 shares in the offering, we intend to distribute the net proceeds from the offering as follows:

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\text { . } \$ 21,645,500 \text { will be contributed to CharterBank; }
$$

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. $\$ 8,952,000$ will be loaned to the ESOP to fund its purchase of common stock; and
. $\$ 12,693,500$ will be retained by Charter Financial.

Charter Financial intends to use the net proceeds retained from the offering to invest in securities, to finance the possible acquisition of other financial institutions and other businesses that are financial in nature, to pay dividends, to repurchase common stock or for other general corporate purposes. CharterBank may use the proceeds it receives to repay certain borrowings, expand its lending activities and its branch network, to purchase mortgaged-backed securities and investment securities and for general corporate purposes. See "How We Intend To Use the Proceeds from the Offering."

## Our Policy Regarding Dividends

Although no decision has been made regarding the payment of dividends, we will consider a policy of paying quarterly cash dividends on the common stock starting the first quarter after we complete the reorganization. We cannot guarantee, however, that we will pay dividends, or that we will not reduce or eliminate dividends in future periods.

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Our Directors, Officers and Employees Will Have Additional Compensation and Benefit Programs After the Reorganization

In order to tie our officers', directors' and employees' interests closer to our stockholders' interests, we intend to establish certain benefit plans that use our stock as compensation. Accordingly, we are adding new benefit plans for our officers and employees at no cost to them, including an employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) and a benefit restoration plan. We also plan to adopt a stock option plan and management recognition plan in connection with the reorganization and to enter into an employment agreement with Robert L. Johnson, our President and Chief Executive Officer. In addition, we also plan to enter into change in control agreements with certain of our executive officers. These new benefit plans and employment agreements will increase our future costs of compensating our directors and employees, thereby reducing our earnings. Additionally, stockholders will experience a reduction in ownership interest if newly issued shares are used to fund stock options and the management recognition plan. See "Risk Factors- The implementation of stock-based benefits will increase our future compensation expense, reduce our earning and cause dilution" and "Management- Employment Agreements, -Change of Control Agreements, -Benefit Plans and -Future Stock Benefit Plans."

Possible Conversion of First Charter, MHC to Stock Form

In the future, First Charter, MHC may convert from the mutual to capital stock form, in a transaction commonly known as a "second-step conversion." If First Charter, MHC were to undertake a second-step conversion, Charter Financial's public stockholders would own approximately the same percentage of the resulting entity as they owned prior to the second-step conversion. This percentage may be adjusted to reflect the assets owned by First Charter, MHC. The board of directors has no current plan to undertake a "second-step conversion" transaction.

How You May Obtain Additional Information Regarding the Reorganization and Offering

If you have any questions regarding the offering or the reorganization,

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please call the Conversion Center at [ ], Monday through Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Eastern time.

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## RISK FACTORS

You should consider carefully the following risk factors before deciding whether to invest in our common stock.

A decrease in the market value of our Freddie Mac stock investment may reduce our earnings and capital.

CharterBank currently owns 5,055,000 shares of Freddie Mac stock which, as of December 31, 2000, had an estimated fair market value of $\$ 348.2$ million including an after tax unrealized gain of $\$ 209.5$ million, and represented approximately $34.5 \%$ of its outstanding total assets. Our current revenue and strong capital structure are due, in part, to dividend income from the Freddie Mac stock and the appreciation of the stock investment. Because First Charter, MHC will retain 400,000 shares of Freddie Mac stock in the reorganization, Charter Financial's earnings will be reduced by the amount of dividends and appreciation that we would have realized on the shares of Freddie Mac stock retained by First Charter, MHC. Therefore, we will be more dependent on income from our loan and investment portfolio to increase our future earnings. If we cannot increase income from our loan and investment portfolio and the market value of our Freddie Mac stock investment declines, our capital and profitability may be adversely impacted.

In addition, the price of Freddie Mac stock tends to move inversely to long term interest rates. Accordingly, recent declines in interest rates have caused Freddie Mac stock to trade near its all time high. The following table shows the per share high, low, ending and average daily trading price of Freddie Mac stock for the three months ended December 31, 2000 and for each of the three years ended September 30, 2000 .

|  |  |  | Per | (\$) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Period Ended | High | Low | End | Average |
| December 31, 2000 | 69.00 | 50.75 | 68.86 | 59.09 |
| September 30, 2000 | 55.75 | 37.69 | 54.06 | 45.99 |
| September 30, 1999 | 51.38 | 35.13 | 49.63 | 57.34 |
| September 30, 1998 | 65.13 | 45.31 | 52.00 | 44.59 |

Because the price of Freddie Mac stock may fluctuate significantly, management believes that the recent trading prices of Freddie Mac stock may not accurately reflect the value of the asset. If the market value of our Freddie Mac stock investment declines, our capital will be reduced proportionately.

We have a significant deferred tax liability on our Freddie Mac stock investment. If it became payable, this tax liability would significantly adversely affect our liquidity, ability to hold Freddie Mac stock and earnings.

At December 31, 2000 we had deferred taxes of $\$ 134.8$ million which relate primarily to the unrealized gain on our Freddie Mac stock. The unrealized gain, net of tax, has been recorded as other comprehensive income and has been

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included in the equity section of the statement of financial condition as Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income and the related deferred taxes have been included in the liability section as Deferred Income Taxes. We have designated our Freddie Mac stock investment as held for investment, as opposed to trading, for tax purposes. If, because of frequent sales or for other reasons, the Internal Revenue Service designates our Freddie Mac stock investment as trading, the investment would be marked to market for tax purposes each year. As of December 31,2000 , this would add $\$ 341.3$ million to taxable income which, assuming a $38.6 \%$ effective tax rate, would require a combined tax payment of $\$ 131.7$ million. The payment of this deferred tax liability would adversely affect our liquidity, ability to hold Freddie Mac stock and earnings.

If our dividend income exceeds our taxable income for any given year, we will lose potential tax benefits associated with the dividends received deduction.

We receive a dividends received deduction on dividend income from our investment in Freddie Mac stock. This deduction is the lesser of $70 \%$ of dividends received or $70 \%$ of taxable income before the dividend received deduction. Therefore, if taxable income exceeds $70 \%$ of dividend income or if we incur a net loss for any given year, the full deduction of $70 \%$ of dividends is allowed, creating significant tax savings for us. However, if $70 \%$ of dividend income exceeds taxable income for any given year, we will not be able to take full advantage of the dividends received deduction and we would lose potential tax benefits. The table below shows the tax benefit of the dividends received deduction at different levels of taxable income assuming constant dividend income of $\$ 3,500,000$ and an effective tax rate of $37.72 \%$.

## Taxable Income (Loss)

Taxable income (loss)
before dividend exclusion

Dividend income
Dividends received deduction
Tax benefit of deduction


Our earnings may be reduced if we are required to take our bad debt reserve into income.

The reorganization will be effected using the "purchase and assumption" method, under which assets and liabilities of the present CharterBank will be successively transferred to Charter Financial and to the new CharterBank, in each case in exchange for at least $80 \%$ of the stock of the transferee. Although such transactions are generally tax-free, it is not clear whether or not the use of this method would require the present CharterBank to "recapture" (i.e., take into income) its bad debt reserve, and the IRS will not issue private letter rulings in that regard. Accordingly,
although we may take the position that, under available authority, such recapture is not required, there is a possibility that the use of the purchase and assumption method will cause the present CharterBank to recapture the balance of its bad debt reserve, which would result in a federal tax liability of approximately $\$ 800,000$.

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A decrease in our sources of funds may affect our ability to fund loans. This would reduce our earnings.

CharterBank funds its operations with a combination of retail and wholesale deposits, and with borrowings from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta and securities sold under agreements to repurchase. Brokered deposits and credit union certificates of deposits comprised approximately $33 \%$ of our total deposit base at December 31, 2000 . We expect our retail deposit base to increase in the future and thus reduce our reliance on brokered deposits. However, wholesale deposits of approximately $\$ 69.9$ million are scheduled to mature during the next several quarters. These maturities will most likely outpace the growth of our retail deposit base. Accordingly, we plan to utilize either borrowed funds or wholesale deposits to fund asset growth and maturing liabilities.

Our capacity to borrow is impacted by the amount of available collateral. This collateral is impacted by interest rates, delinquencies and other factors related to the underlying loans and securities. In a rising interest rate environment or a weak economy, the value of our collateral may decrease thereby reducing our capacity to borrow. Although we have secured a line of credit based on the value of our Freddie Mac stock, we believe that the significant negative tax implications associated with borrowing against our Freddie Mac stock makes this option a last resort.

If sufficient deposits or borrowings are not available to effectively fund loans, our future earnings may be negatively impacted.

Our local economy may affect our future growth possibilities.
Our current market area is principally located in the Valley region consisting of West Point, Georgia and Lanett and Valley, Alabama. Our future growth opportunities depend on the growth and stability of our regional economy and our ability to expand our market area. While we expect our local economy to moderately grow over the next several years, a downturn in our local economy may have an impact on our ability to be profitable. Further, our already strong market share in the Valley area may limit further growth in this area which could limit the amount of funds available to fund loans and our customers' ability to repay their loans on a timely basis.

Our market area has traditionally depended on the textile industry as a source of employment, and while our local economy has expanded to include other trade sectors in recent years, our local economy has not experienced the same growth as other nearby regions. In addition, a local provider of wireless telephone service, Powertel Inc., which is headquartered in West Point, Georgia has recently been sold to VoiceStream (Deutsche Telekom). While we will seek to address this economic risk through expansion of our retail delivery systems into other
nearby markets, we cannot guarantee that a downturn in our local economy will not have a negative impact on our earnings.

Our return on average equity will be low compared to other companies. This could hurt the trading price of our common stock.

We will not be able to deploy the increased capital from this offering into high-yielding earning assets immediately. Our ability to profitably deploy our new capital will be significantly affected by industry competition for loans and deposits. Initially, we intend to invest the net proceeds in short-term investments and mortgage-backed securities, which generally have lower yields

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than loans. Freddie Mac stock, based on the price and dividend at December 31, 2000 had a dividend yield of approximately $0.99 \%$. These factors will reduce our return on average equity to a level that will be lower than our peers. For the three months ended December 31, 2000, our return on average equity was $2.17 \%$. As long as we own Freddie Mac stock and until we can invest profitably our increased capital and increase portfolio loans and retail deposits, we expect our return on equity to be below the industry average, which may negatively impact the value of our stock.

Because we intend to pursue conservative and locally-based business goals, our earnings may not increase significantly, which could negatively affect the price of your stock.

On a post-reorganization basis, CharterBank intends to continue to serve the financial needs of the local community and to remain an independent, community-based institution pursuing our lending and investment strategies. We will continue to lend primarily within our targeted market area within the I-85 corridor in Georgia and Alabama after our reorganization. We also will not lower credit standards even though our capital base will be larger. For these reasons, our future earnings may not increase significantly. If your investment goals are to invest in companies with high earnings growth, you may find that we may not suit your investment objectives.

If recent stock market volatility continues, the price of your stock may be negatively affected.

Publicly traded stocks, including stocks of financial institutions, have recently experienced substantial market price volatility. These market fluctuations may be unrelated to the operating performance of particular companies whose shares are traded. In several cases, common stock issued by recently converted financial institutions, including many mutual holding companies, has traded at a price that is below the price at which such shares were sold in the initial offerings of those companies. The purchase price of our common stock in the offering is based on the independent appraisal by RP Financial. After our shares begin trading, the trading price of our common stock will be determined by the marketplace, and may be influenced by many factors, including the price of Freddie Mac stock, prevailing interest rates, investor perceptions of Charter Financial and general industry and economic conditions. Due to possible continued market volatility, we cannot assure you that, following the conversion, the trading price of our common stock will be at or above the $\$ 10.00$ per share initial offering price.

There is no guarantee that an active trading market for your stock will develop.
Because Charter Financial has never issued stock, there is no current trading market for the common stock. Consequently, Charter Financial cannot assure or guarantee that an active trading market for the common stock will develop or that, if developed, will continue. An active and orderly trading market will depend on the existence and individual decisions of willing buyers and sellers at any given time over which neither Charter Financial nor any market maker will have any control. If an active trading market does not develop or is sporadic, this may hurt the market value of the common stock and make it difficult to buy or sell shares on short notice.

A decrease in demand for mortgage, commercial and consumer loans may lower our earnings.

Making loans is a major component of our business and a primary source of revenues. If customer demand for loans decreases, our earnings may decrease

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because our alternative investments earn less revenue for us than real estate, commercial and consumer loans. Customer demand for loans could be reduced by a weaker economy, an increase in unemployment, a decrease in real estate values, an increase in interest rates or increased competition from other institutions.

Because we intend to increase our commercial real estate lending, our lending risk will increase and downturns in the real estate market or local economy could adversely impact our earnings.

Loans secured by commercial real estate properties generally involve a higher degree of risk than residential mortgages. Because payments on loans secured by commercial real estate properties are often dependent on the successful operation or management of the properties or a related business, repayment of such loans may be subject to a greater extent, to adverse conditions in the real estate market or the local economy. Commercial real estate loans may also involve relatively large loan balances to single borrowers or groups of related borrowers. A downturn in the real estate market or the local economy could adversely impact the value of properties secured by the loan or the revenues from the business thereby increasing the risk of nonperforming loans. As the volume of commercial real estate loans in our loan portfolio increases, the corresponding risks and potential for losses from these activities may also increase.

Because our loans are concentrated in the states of Georgia and Alabama, downturns in the economy or real estate market in our market area will adversely impact our earnings.

Our loan portfolio is secured primarily by real estate located in Georgia and Alabama. Accordingly, the asset quality of our loan portfolio depends upon the economy and unemployment rate in this area. A downturn in the economy or the real estate market in our primary lending area would likely adversely affect our operations and earnings.

Because we plan to expand our traditional and nontraditional delivery channels, our expense base will increase. This will reduce our earnings in the short term.

We plan to expand by adding traditional branches and other delivery channels including additional ATMs, a voice response unit, and Internet banking in order to be more competitive and have the capacity to deepen our relationships with our existing customers as we attract new customers. As these investments are made, our expense base will grow. Until our new branches become profitable through loan and deposit growth, our earnings will be negatively impacted. In addition, costs will outpace revenue on our alternative delivery channels referred to above unless and until customer acceptance and usage generates sufficient fee income to cover costs.

Changing interest rates may adversely affect our earnings.

To be profitable, we must earn more interest on loans and investments than the interest we pay on deposits and borrowings. We use both net interest income simulation and gap analysis to measure our interest rate risk. Both of those models indicate that, if interest rates rise, the interest we pay on interest-bearing liabilities, such as deposits and borrowings, would increase more quickly than interest we earn on interest-earning assets, such as loans and investment securities. This would reduce our net income in the short-term. In addition, rising interest rates may hurt our income because they may reduce the demand for loans and the value of our investment securities, adversely affecting our borrowing capacity, and make it more difficult for our borrowers to repay their loans. If interest rates decline, however, our loans may be refinanced at

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lower rates or paid off and our investments may be prepaid earlier than expected, which may also lower our income. Interest rates will continue to fluctuate, and we cannot predict future Federal Reserve Board actions or other factors that will cause rates to change.

The implementation of stock-based benefits will increase our future compensation expense, reduce our earnings and cause dilution.

We intend to adopt a stock option plan that will provide for granting to our eligible officers, employees, and directors options to purchase common stock; a management recognition plan that will provide for awards of common stock to eligible employees, officers and directors; and an ESOP which intends to purchase in the offering $8 \%$ of $49.9 \%$ of the outstanding stock of Charter Financial, for allocation to employees as a retirement benefit. These plans will increase our future costs of compensating our directors and employees, thereby reducing our earnings. The expense of the ESOP and management recognition plan may be volatile because such expenses must reflect the market value of the underlying Charter Financial common stock awarded to participants. Additionally, stockholders will experience a reduction in ownership interest in the event newly issued shares are used to fund stock options and awards made under the management recognition plan.

Because First Charter, MHC will own a majority of Charter Financial's common stock, First Charter, MHC will be able to prevent transactions you might be in favor of, including a sale or merger of Charter Financial.

Provisions of our federal charter and bylaws and applicable provisions of federal law and regulations may delay, inhibit or prevent an organization or person from gaining control of Charter Financial through a tender offer, business combination, proxy contest or some other method even though some of our stockholders might believe a change in control is desirable.

In addition, First Charter, MHC will own at least a majority of Charter Financial's common stock after the reorganization. The same directors and officers who manage CharterBank will manage First Charter, MHC. The board of directors of First Charter, MHC will control the outcome of most matters put to a vote of stockholders of Charter Financial. We cannot assure you that the votes cast by First Charter, MHC will be in your personal best interests as a stockholder.

Because banking reform legislation may increase competition, it may reduce our earnings.

On November 12, 1999, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Services Modernization Act of 1999 became law. The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act modernizes the financial services industry by establishing a comprehensive framework to permit affiliations among commercial banks, insurance companies, securities firms and other financial service providers. Since the legislation now permits banks, securities firms and insurance companies to affiliate, the financial services industry may experience further consolidation. Although we plan to diversify and expand the products and services that we offer, this additional consolidation could result in a growing number of larger financial institutions that offer a wider variety of financial services than we are able to offer. This could adversely impact our ability to retain and attract customers that prefer to obtain all of their financial services from one provider. This would adversely impact our earnings.

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## FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus contains "forward-looking statements" which may be identified by the use of such words as "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "should," "planned," "estimated" and "potential." Examples of forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, estimates with respect to our financial condition, results of operations and business that are subject to various factors which could cause actual results to differ materially from these estimates. These factors include, but are not limited to:


Any or all of our forward-looking statements in this prospectus and in any other public statements we make may turn out to be wrong. They can be affected by inaccurate assumptions we might make or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. Consequently, no forward-looking statement can be guaranteed.

We undertake no obligation to publicly update forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL AND OTHER DATA

The summary information presented below at or for each of the years presented is derived in part from the consolidated financial statements of CharterBank. The following information is only a summary, and you should read it in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and notes beginning on page $\mathrm{F}-1$.


Accumulated other

| comprehensive income | 204,650 | 152,828 | 147,663 | 171,394 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| otal equity | 257,548 | 204,527 | 198,489 | 195,191 |
| llowance for loan losses. | 5,540 | 6,346 | 5,710 | 2,054 |
| on-performing assets | 3,419 | 3,461 | 2,211 | 436 |


(Unaudited)

For the Years
Septembe

| 2000 | 1999 |
| :---: | :---: |

(In thousa
$\square$
Selected Operating Data:
Interest and dividend income(3)..
Interest expense.................
Net interest income(3)...........
Dividends on Freddie Mac stock...
Provision for loan losses........

Net interest and dividend income
after provision for

Income (loss) before provision
for income taxes.............

| $\$ 12,693$ | $\$$ |
| ---: | ---: |
| 9,541 | 8,010 |
| -------- | 3,075 |
| 3,152 | 3,935 |
| 859 | 758 |
| 150 | 90 |




| 16,156 | 13,388 |
| :---: | :---: |
| ------- | ------ |
| 1,949 | $10,749(4)$ |
| 15,943 | --------- |


| 1,568 | 1,817 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 369 | 495 |
| \$ 1,199 | \$ 1,322 |
| \$ 51, 822 | \$ (15, 080 ) |
| \$ 53,021 | \$ (13, 758 ) |


| 2,162 |  | 41,388 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1,290 |  | 14,359 |
| \$ 872 | \$ | 27,029 |
| \$ 5,165 | \$ | $(23,731)$ |
| \$ 6,037 | \$ | 3,298 |

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(7) Asset quality ratios and regulatory capital ratios are end of period ratios. Ratios for the period at or for the three months ended December 31, 2000 and 1999 are annualized.
(8) Net interest margin represents net interest income excluding dividend income from Freddie Mac stock as a percentage of average interest earning assets excluding Freddie Mac stock.
(9) The efficiency ratio represents the ratio of operating expenses divided by the sum of net interest income and non- interest income less gain on sales of investments.

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CharterBank is a federally-chartered savings and loan association, established in 1954. We are headquartered in West Point, Georgia, which is located in west-central Georgia on the Alabama border. Our deposits are insured by the FDIC and we are examined and regulated by the Office of Thrift Supervision and the FDIC. Our executive offices are located at 600 Third Avenue, West Point, Georgia and our telephone number is (706) 645-1391.

We are a community-oriented bank providing retail and small business customers with value driven products and services to meet customer needs. We provide a wide variety of deposit products, residential mortgage loans, commercial real estate loans, commercial loans and consumer loans to our customers in the cities and towns around the "Valley" area of Georgia, which includes West Point, Georgia and Valley and Lanett, Alabama, and in LaGrange, Georgia. We currently operate four full-service branch offices and three loan production offices. We also plan to open an additional branch in Auburn, Alabama in October, 2001 and additional branch offices during the next three or four years. In addition, we operate a service corporation subsidiary, Charter Insurance Company.

As of June 30, 2000, CharterBank maintained the largest deposit market share in the Valley area. We are also the largest federal mutual savings and loan association in the State of Georgia with total assets of $\$ 1.0$ billion, total deposits of $\$ 211.3$ million and total equity of $\$ 257.5$ million at December 31, 2000. We also currently own $5,055,000$ shares of Freddie Mac stock which, as of December 31, 2000, had an estimated fair market value of $\$ 348.2$ million including an after tax unrealized gain of $\$ 209.5$ million, and represented approximately $34.5 \%$ of our total assets.

As part of our business plan, we will seek to expand our targeted market area to include the I-85 corridor in east-central Alabama and west-central Georgia. We believe that our expansion into more profitable markets will address the economic risks and limited growth potential in our current market area. As part of this planned branch expansion, on August 18, 1999, we acquired all of the issued and outstanding shares of Citizens Bancgroup, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiary Citizens National Bank, a national bank headquartered in Valley, Alabama for a purchase price of approximately $\$ 2.25$ million in cash (the "Citizens acquisition"). As part of the Citizens acquisition we acquired approximately $\$ 24.7$ million in loans, net and $\$ 42.0$ million in deposits. The acquisition was accounted for using the purchase method of accounting and, therefore, the results of operations of Citizens National have been included in our operations since the effective date of the acquisition.

At December 31, 2000, we had total loans of $\$ 259.5$ million, of which $\$ 157.1$ million were residential mortgage loans. We generally sell the conforming residential mortgage loans that we originate and retain nonconforming residential mortgage loans for our loan portfolio. We originate commercial and multi-family mortgage loans, commercial loans and consumer installment loans. We also invest in mortgage-backed and other investment securities, including our investment in Freddie Mac stock. For further information on our operations and financial condition, see "Business of CharterBank."

## CHARTER FINANCIAL

Charter Financial will be a federally-chartered stock holding company. Charter Financial has not engaged in any business to date and will serve as a holding company of CharterBank and Charter Insurance Company following the reorganization. Charter Financial will be a savings and loan association holding

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company registered with the Office of Thrift Supervision. Following the reorganization, 1,700,000 shares of Freddie Mac stock currently owned by CharterBank will be transferred to Charter Financial. As part of the reorganization, Charter Insurance Company will become a subsidiary of Charter Financial and will also receive 400,000 shares of Freddie Mac stock. CharterBank will retain $2,555,000$ shares of Freddie Mac stock. First Charter, MHC will own approximately $80 \%$ of Charter Financial's outstanding common stock. Charter Financial's executive offices are located at 600 Third Avenue, West Point, Georgia and our telephone number is (706) 645-1391.

FIRST CHARTER, MHC

As part of our reorganization, CharterBank will organize First Charter, MHC as a federally-chartered mutual savings and loan holding company which will be registered with the Office of Thrift Supervision. Persons who had liquidation rights with respect to CharterBank as of the date of the reorganization will continue to have liquidation rights solely with respect to First Charter, MHC. Their liquidation rights in First Charter, MHC will exist as long as they maintain a deposit account of CharterBank. See "The Reorganization and the Offering - Effects of the Reorganization - Liquidation Rights." First Charter, MHC's executive offices are located at 600 Third Avenue, West Point, Georgia and our telephone number is (706) 645-1391.

First Charter, MHC's principal assets will be the common stock of Charter Financial it receives in the reorganization, $\$ 100,000$ in cash it receives as its initial capitalization, and 400,000 shares of Freddie Mac stock currently owned by CharterBank. At the present time, we expect that First Charter, MHC will not engage in any business activity other than its investment in a majority of the common stock of Charter Financial and the management of any cash dividends received from shares of its Freddie Mac stock. Federal law and regulations require that as long as First Charter, MHC is in existence it must own a majority of Charter Financial's common stock. Federal law, regulations, and the plan of reorganization, permit First Charter, MHC to convert to the stock form of organization. For additional information regarding a stock conversion of First Charter, MHC, see "Regulation of CharterBank and Charter Financial -- Possible Conversion of First Charter, MHC to Stock Form."

CHARTER INSURANCE COMPANY

Charter Insurance Company, a Hawaiian corporation, is a second-tier service corporation of CharterBank and began operations in December 2000. Charter Insurance Company generates fee income by reinsuring a portion of CharterBank's loan originations which carry private mortgage insurance. Following the reorganization, Charter Insurance Company will become a subsidiary of Charter Financial and will receive 400,000 shares of Freddie Mac stock, currently owned by CharterBank. Charter Insurance Company's revenues are expected to be less than $1 \%$ of Charter Financial's total revenues.

## HOW WE INTEND TO USE THE PROCEEDS FROM THE OFFERING

The net proceeds will depend on the total number of shares of common stock sold in the offering, which in turn will depend on RP Financial's appraisal, regulatory and market considerations, and the expenses incurred in connection with the offering. Although we will not be able to determine the actual net proceeds from the sale of the common stock until we complete the offering, we estimate the net proceeds to be between $\$ 31.7$ million and $\$ 43.3$ million, or $\$ 49.9$ million if the offering is increased by $15 \%$.

Charter Financial intends to distribute the net proceeds from the offering as
follows:


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Following the reorganization, we may also implement stock repurchase programs. Our ability to repurchase our common stock may be subject to regulatory restrictions.

CharterBank may use the proceeds it receives from the offering:
. to fund new loans;
. to establish or acquire new branches in our targeted market areas within the $I-85$ corridor;
. to diversify products that we offer;
. to increase delivery systems, including the expanded use of ATMs and the introduction of Internet banking;

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. to repay debt;

- to invest in securities; and
. for general corporate purposes.


## OUR POLICY REGARDING DIVIDENDS

Although no decision has been made regarding the payment of dividends, we will consider a policy of paying quarterly cash dividends on our common stock beginning the first full quarter after the reorganization. The payment of dividends will be subject to determination by our board of directors, which will take into account, among other factors, our financial condition, results of operations, tax considerations, industry standards, economic conditions and regulatory restrictions that affect the payment of dividends by CharterBank to Charter Financial. We cannot guarantee that we will pay dividends or that, if paid, that we will not reduce or eliminate dividends in the future.

If Charter Financial pays dividends to its stockholders, it will be required to pay dividends to First Charter, MHC, unless First Charter, MHC elects to waive dividends. We currently anticipate that First Charter, MHC will waive dividends paid by Charter Financial. Any decision to waive dividends will be subject to regulatory approval. See "Regulation of CharterBank and Charter Financial -- Dividend Waivers by First Charter, MHC."

Charter Financial will not be subject to Office of Thrift Supervision regulatory restrictions on the payment of dividends. The source of payment of any dividends paid will initially come from Charter Financial's proceeds retained in the offering and dividend income on Charter Financial's 1,700,000 shares of Freddie Mac stock. Our ability to pay dividends will also depend on how much of our common stock we may repurchase and upon the amount of funds available from CharterBank, which must provide the Office of Thrift Supervision with 30 days notice of its intention to make a capital distribution to Charter Financial. Office of Thrift Supervision regulations may also limit, in certain circumstances, CharterBank's ability to make capital distributions and CharterBank will not be permitted to pay dividends on its capital stock
if, among other things, its stockholders' equity would be reduced below the amount required for the liquidation account. See "The Reorganization and The Offering-- Effects of the Reorganization -- Liquidation Account."

## MARKET FOR THE COMMON STOCK

We have not previously issued common stock, so there is currently no established market for the common stock. We have applied to have our common stock quoted on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol "[]" after completion of the offering. One of the conditions for Nasdaq quotation is that at least three market makers make, or agree to make, a market in our common stock. We will seek to encourage at least three market makers to make a market in our stock. Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. has advised us that it intends to make a market in the common stock following the reorganization, but is under no obligation to do so. While we anticipate that before completion of the offering we will obtain a commitment from at least two other broker-dealers to make a market in our common stock, there can be no assurance that this will occur.

The development of an active trading market depends on the existence of willing buyers and sellers, the presence of which is not within our control, or that of any market maker. The number of active buyers and sellers of the common

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stock at any particular time may be limited. Under such circumstances, you could have difficulty selling your shares on short notice, and, therefore, you should not view the common stock as a short-term investment. We cannot assure you that an active trading market for the common stock will develop or that, if it develops, it will continue. Nor can we assure you that, if you purchase shares, you will be able to sell them at or above $\$ 10.00$ per share.

## REGULATORY CAPITAL COMPLIANCE

At December 31, 2000, CharterBank exceeded all regulatory capital requirements. Set forth below is a summary of our capital computed under generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America ("GAAP") and our compliance with regulatory capital standards at December 31, 2000, on a historical and pro forma basis. We have assumed that the indicated number of shares were sold as of December 31, 2000 and that CharterBank received $50 \%$ of the net proceeds from the offering. For purposes of the table below, the amount expected to be loaned to the employee stock ownership plan and the cost of the shares expected to be acquired by the management recognition plan are deducted from pro forma regulatory capital. For a discussion of the capital requirements applicable to CharterBank, see "Regulation of CharterBank and Charter Financial - Federal Banking Regulation - Capital Requirements."

Pro Forma at December 31, 2000 Based Upon the Sa

| Historical at | 3,315,000 Shares (Minimum of | 3,900,000 Shares (Midpoint of | $4,485$ <br> (Ma |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| December 31, 2000 | Range) | Range) |  |
| Percent | Percent | Percent |  |
| of | of | of |  |
| Amount Assets (2) | Amount Assets (2) | Amount Assets (2) | Amou |

(In thousands)

Equity under Generally Accepted
Accounting Principles..... $\$ 257,548$ 25.49\%
25.49\% $\$ 155,859 \quad 17.03 \%$

| \$157,000 | 17.11\% | \$158,14 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 55,924 | 8.13 | 57, 06 |
| 10,320 | 1.50 | 10,35 |
| 45,605 | 6.63 | 46,71 |
| 55,924 | 8.13 | 57,06 |
| 20,640 | 3.00 | 20,70 |
| 35,285 | 5.13 | 36,35 |
| 111,849 | 28.52 | 114,13 |
| 31,372 | 8.00 | 31,52 |
| \$ 80, 477 | 20.52\% | \$ 82,60 |

(1) As adjusted to give effect to an increase in the number of shares which could occur due to an increase in the estimated price range of up to $15 \%$ as a result of changes in market conditions or general financial and economic conditions following the commencement of the offering.
(2)
(4) Core capital levels are shown as a percentage of total adjusted assets. Risk-based capital levels are shown as a percentage of risk-weighted assets.
Pro forma capital levels assume receipt by CharterBank of $50 \%$ of the net proceeds from the shares of common stock sold at the minimum, midpoint and maximum of the offering range. These levels assume funding by Charter Financial of the management recognition plan equal to $4 \%$ of $49 \%$ of the common stock of Charter Financial, and the purchase by the employee stock ownership plan of $8 \%$ of the $49 \%$ of the outstanding stock of Charter Financial.
The current minimum core/leverage capital requirement for savings associations under FIRREA is 3\% of total adjusted assets. The current core/leverage capital ratio applicable to savings associations under FDICIA is $4 \%$. Well capitalized financial institutions, as defined, must maintain a $5 \%$ core capital ratio.
Assumes net proceeds are invested in assets that carry a risk-weighting equal to the average risk-weighting of CharterBank's risk-weighted assets as of December 31, 2000.

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## CAPITALIZATION

The following table presents the historical deposits and consolidated capitalization of CharterBank at December 31, 2000, and the pro forma capitalization of Charter Financial and subsidiaries after giving effect to the reorganization, based upon the sale of the number of shares shown below and the other assumptions set forth under "Pro Forma Data." A change in the number of shares to be sold in the offering may materially affect the capitalization.

Pro Forma Based Upon Sa


Stockholders' equity:
Common stock, $\$ 0.01$ par value, $60,000,000$ shares authorized; shares to be issued as reflected(3)......................


| shares authorized; no shares to be issued | - | - | - |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Additional paid-in capital) (3) | - | 31,554 | 37,311 |
| Retained earnings (4) | 52,898 | 52,238 | 52,238 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (5) | 204,650 | 188,078 | 188,078 |
| Less: |  |  |  |
| Common stock acquired by ESOP (6) | - | $(6,617)$ | $(7,784)$ |
| Common stock acquired by management recognition plan(7) .............. | - | $(3,308)$ | $(3,892)$ |
| Total stockholders' equity. | \$ 257,548 | \$ 262,111 | \$ 266,145 |

(1) As adjusted to give effect to an increase in the number of shares which could occur due to an increase in the offering of up to $15 \%$ as a result of regulatory considerations or changes in market or general financial and economic conditions following the commencement of the offering.
(2) Does not reflect withdrawals from deposit accounts for the purchase of common stock in the offering. Such withdrawals would reduce pro forma deposits by the amount of such withdrawals.
(3) Reflects the issuance of shares sold in the offering at a value of $\$ 10.00$ per share. No effect has been given to the issuance of additional shares of common stock pursuant to Charter Financial's proposed stock option plan intended to be adopted by Charter Financial at the time of the reorganization.
(4) The retained earnings of CharterBank will be substantially restricted after the offering. The pro forma retained earnings is reduced by $\$ 100,000$ cash and the historical cost of Freddie Mac stock retained by First Charter, MHC ( $\$ 560,000$, which equals 400,000 shares) retained by First Charter, MHC with a cost basis of $\$ 1.40$ per share.
(5) Pro forma accumulated other comprehensive income excludes the net after tax unrealized gain on the 400,000 shares of Freddie Mac stock retained by First Charter, MHC, equal to $\$ 16.572$ million.
(6) Assumes that $3.96 \%$ of the outstanding stock of Charter Financial will be purchased by the employee stock ownership plan at an average cost of $\$ 10$ per share and that the funds used to acquire such shares will be borrowed from Charter Financial. The common stock acquired by the employee stock ownership plan is reflected as a reduction of stockholders' equity.
(7) Assumes that, subsequent to the offering, an amount equal to $1.96 \%$ of the outstanding shares of common stock of Charter Financial is purchased by a management recognition plan through open market purchases. The proposed management recognition plan is intended to be adopted by Charter Financial at the time of the reorganization. The common stock purchased by the management recognition plan is reflected as a reduction of stockholders' equity.

PRO FORMA DATA
We cannot determine the actual net proceeds from the sale of the common stock until the offering is completed. However, we estimate that net proceeds will be between $\$ 31.7$ million and $\$ 43.3$ million, or $\$ 49.9$ million if the offering range is increased by $15 \%$, based upon the following assumptions:

[^1]
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. we will pay Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. fees and expenses of approximately $\$ 525,000$; and

- total expenses, excluding fees and expenses paid to Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. will be approximately $\$ 1.0$ million.

We calculated the pro forma consolidated net income and stockholders' equity of Charter Financial for the three months ended December 31, 2000 and the year ended September 30, 2000, as if the common stock had been sold at the beginning of the year and the net proceeds had been invested at 5.11\% for both periods. We chose this yield because it represents the yield on one-year U.S. Government securities for the corresponding periods. In light of changes in interest rates in recent periods, we believe this rate more accurately reflects pro forma reinvestment rates than the arithmetic average method which assumes reinvestment of the net proceeds at a rate equal to the average of yield on interest earning assets and cost of deposits for these periods. We assumed a tax rate of $38 \%$ for both periods. This results in an annualized after-tax yield of $3.17 \%$ for both periods. We assumed that $\$ 2.0$ million of net proceeds would not be invested as it will be expended for the proposed Auburn branch.

We calculated historical and pro forma per share amounts by dividing historical and pro forma amounts of consolidated net income and stockholders' equity by the indicated number of shares of common stock. We adjusted these figures to give effect to the shares purchased by the employee stock ownership plan. We computed per share amounts for each period as if the common stock was outstanding at the beginning of the periods, but we did not adjust per share historical or pro forma stockholders' equity to reflect the earnings on the estimated net proceeds. As discussed under "How We Intend to Use the Proceeds from the Offering," Charter Financial intends to infuse CharterBank with 50\% of the net proceeds from the offering, make a loan to the employee stock ownership plan to fund the employee stock ownership plan's purchase of $3.992 \%$ of our outstanding common stock, and retain all of the rest of the proceeds at the holding company for capital needs that arise in the future.

The following tables give effect to the restricted stock program or "management recognition plan," which we expect to adopt as part of the reorganization and present to subscribers for approval on their stock order forms. If the management recognition plan is approved by the subscribers, the management recognition plan will acquire an amount of common stock equal to $1.996 \%$ of the outstanding shares of common stock of Charter Financial following the reorganization, either through open market purchases or from authorized but unissued shares of common stock. In preparing the following tables we assumed that stockholder approval has been obtained and that the shares acquired by the management recognition plan are purchased in the open market at $\$ 10.00$ per share.

An increase in the number of shares of common stock outstanding as a result of an increase in the estimated pro forma market value of the common stock would decrease both the percentage of outstanding shares owned by a subscriber and the pro forma net income and stockholders' equity on a per share basis while increasing pro forma net income and stockholders' equity on an aggregate basis. A decrease in the number of shares of common stock outstanding would increase both a subscriber's ownership interest and the pro forma net income and stockholders' equity on a per share basis while decreasing pro forma net income and stockholders' equity on an aggregate basis.

The following tables do not give effect to:
. the shares to be reserved for issuance under the stock option

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plan, which requires the approval of subscribers on the stock order form;
withdrawals from deposit accounts to purchase common stock in the reorganization;
Charter Financial's results of operations after the reorganization; or
changes in the market price of the common stock after the reorganization.
The following pro forma information may not represent the financial effects of the reorganization at the date on which the reorganization actually occurs and you should not use the table to indicate future results of operations. Pro forma stockholders' equity represents the difference between the stated amount of assets and liabilities of Charter Financial computed in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. We did not increase or decrease stockholders' equity to reflect the difference between the carrying value of loans and other assets and their market value. Pro forma stockholders' equity is not intended to represent the fair market value of the common stock and may be different than amounts that would be available for distribution to
``` stockholders if we liquidated.
\begin{tabular}{ccc} 
Minimum & Midpoint & Maximum \\
\(3,315,000\) & \(3,900,000\) & \(4,485,000\) \\
Shares & Shares & Shares \\
at \(\$ 10.00\) & at \(\$ 10.00\) & at \(\$ 10.00\) \\
Per Share & Per Share & Per Share
\end{tabular}
(Dollars in thousands, except per share
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Gross proceeds. & \$ & 33,150 & \$ & 39,000 & \$ & 44,850 \\
\hline Less expenses. & & 1,430 & & 1,494 & & 1,559 \\
\hline Estimated net proceeds & & 31,720 & & 37,506 & & 43,291 \\
\hline Less: Common stock purchased by ESOP (2) (4) & & \((6,617)\) & & \((7,784)\) & & \((8,952\) \\
\hline Less: Common stock purchased by MRP (3). & & \((3,308)\) & & \((3,892)\) & & \((4,476\) \\
\hline Estimated net proceeds, as adjusted. & \$ & 21,795 & \$ & 25,829 & \$ & 29,863 \\
\hline For the 3 months ended December 31, 2000: & & & & & & \\
\hline Consolidated net income: & & & & & & \\
\hline Historical & \$ & 1,199 & \$ & 1,199 & \$ & 1,199 \\
\hline Adjustment for mutual holding company & & & & & & \\
\hline formation & & (72) & & (72) & & ( 72 \\
\hline Pro forma income on net proceeds & & 157 & & 189 & & 221 \\
\hline Pro forma ESOP adjustment (2) (4) & & (85) & & (101) & & (116 \\
\hline Pro forma MRP adjustment (3). & & (103) & & (121) & & (139 \\
\hline Pro forma net income. & \$ & 1,096 & \$ & 1,094 & \$ & 1,093 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & & & & \\
\hline \multicolumn{5}{|l|}{Per share net income (reflects SOP 93-6):} \\
\hline Historical. & \$ & 0.08 & \$ & 0.06 \\
\hline \multicolumn{5}{|l|}{Adjustment for mutual holding company} \\
\hline formation. & & - & & - \\
\hline Pro forma income on net proceeds & & 0.01 & & 0.01 \\
\hline Pro forma ESOP adjustment (2) (4) & & (0.01) & & (0.01) \\
\hline Pro forma MRP adjustment (3) & & (0.01) & & (0.01) \\
\hline Pro forma net income per share. & \$ & 0.07 & \$ & 0.05 \\
\hline Offering price as a ratio of pro forma net annualized income per share................. & \multicolumn{4}{|c|}{Offering price as a ratio of pro forma net} \\
\hline \multicolumn{5}{|l|}{At December 31, 2000} \\
\hline \multicolumn{5}{|l|}{Stockholders' equity:} \\
\hline Historical. & \$ & 257,548 & \$ & 257,548 \\
\hline Adjustment for mutual holding company & & & & \\
\hline formation. & & \((17,232)\) & & \((17,232)\) \\
\hline Estimated net proceeds & & 31,720 & & 37,506 \\
\hline Less: Common Stock acquired by ESOP (2) (4) & & \((6,617)\) & & \((7,784)\) \\
\hline Less: Common Stock acquired by MRP (3) & & \((3,308)\) & & \((3,892)\) \\
\hline Pro forma stockholders' equity. & & 262,111 & \$ & 266,145 \\
\hline \multicolumn{5}{|l|}{Stockholders' equity per share(5) :} \\
\hline Historical. & \$ & 15.54 & \$ & 13.21 \\
\hline Adjustment for mutual holding company formation. \(\qquad\) & & (1.04) & & (0.88) \\
\hline Estimated net proceeds & & 1.91 & & 1.92 \\
\hline Less: Common Stock acquired by ESOP (2) (4) & & (0.40) & & (0.40) \\
\hline Less: Common stock acquired by MRP (3) & & (0.20) & & (0.20) \\
\hline Pro forma stockholders' equity per share & \$ & 15.81 & \$ & 13.65 \\
\hline Offering price as a percentage of pro forma stockholders' equity per share......... & & 63.25\% & & 73.26\% \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\(\$ 257,548\)
(17, 23
43,291
\((8,95\)
(4, 47
\$ 270,17
========

(1) We reserve the right to issue up to a total of \(5,157,750\) shares at \(\$ 10.00\) per share, or \(15 \%\) above the maximum of the offering range. Unless otherwise required by the regulators, subscribers will not be given the right to modify their subscriptions unless the aggregate purchase price of the common stock is increased to exceed \(\$ 51.6\) million \((15 \%\) above the maximum of the offering range.)
(2) Assumes \(8 \%\) of \(49.9 \%\) of the outstanding shares of Charter Financial are purchased by the employee stock ownership plan under all circumstances, and that the funds used to purchase such shares are borrowed from Charter Financial. The approximate amount expected to be borrowed by the ESOP is reflected in this table as a reduction of capital. Although repayment of such debt will be secured solely by the shares purchased by the employee stock ownership plan, we expect to make discretionary contributions to the employee stock ownership plan in an amount at least equal to the principal

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and interest payments on the employee stock ownership plan debt. CharterBank's total annual payment of the employee stock ownership plan debt is based on 12 equal installments of principal. Pro forma net income has been adjusted to give effect to such contributions, based upon a fully amortizing debt with a twelve-year term. The provisions of SOP 93-6 have been applied for shares to be acquired by the employee stock ownership plan and for purposes of computing earnings per share.
(3) Assumes a number of issued and outstanding shares of common stock equal to \(4 \%\) of \(49.9 \%\) of the outstanding common stock of Charter Financial following the reorganization will be purchased by the management recognition plan. Before the management recognition plan is implemented, it must be approved by the purchasers of a majority of the shares sold in the stock offering. The dollar amount of the common stock possibly to be purchased by the management recognition plan is based on \(\$ 10.00\) per share and represents unearned compensation and is reflected as a reduction of capital. Such amount does not reflect possible increases or decreases in the price per share after the offering. As we accrue compensation expenses to reflect the vesting of such shares over 5 years pursuant to the management recognition plan, the charge against capital will be reduced accordingly. In the event the shares issued under the management recognition plan consist of newly issued shares of common stock at the price per share in the offering, the per share financial condition and result of operations of Charter Financial would be proportionately reduced and the interest of existing stockholders would be diluted by approximately \(1.96 \%\). For purposes of the preceding table, it was assumed that the number of unvested management recognition plan shares at December 31,2000 was \(330,800,389,200,447,600\) and 514,700 for the minimum, midpoint, maximum, and \(15 \%\) above the maximum of the offering range, respectively.
(4) CharterBank intends to record compensation expense related to the employee stock ownership plan in accordance with SOP 93-6. As a result, to the extent the value of the common stock appreciates over time, compensation expense related to the employee stock ownership plan will increase. SOP 936 also changes the earnings per share computations for leveraged employee stock ownership plans to include as outstanding only shares that have been committed to be released to participants. For purposes of the preceding table, it was assumed that the number of employee stock ownership plan shares that were committed to be released at December 31, 2000 was 13, 785, \(16,217,18,650\) and 21,448 for the minimum, midpoint, maximum and \(15 \%\) above the maximum of the offering range, respectively.
(5) Stockholders' equity per share data is based upon \(16,575,000,19,500,000\), \(22,425,000\) and \(25,788,750\) shares outstanding representing shares sold in the offering, shares purchased by the ESOP and management recognition plan and shares issued to First Charter, MHC.

At or for the Year Ended September
\begin{tabular}{ccc} 
Minimum & Midpoint & Maximum \\
\(3,315,000\) & \(3,900,000\) & \(4,485,00\) \\
Shares & Shares & Shares \\
at \(\$ 10.00\) & at \(\$ 10.00\) & at \(\$ 10.0\) \\
Per Share & Per Share & Per Shar
\end{tabular}
(Dollars in thousands, except per sha

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline \$ & 33,150 \\
\hline & 1,430 \\
\hline & 31,270 \\
\hline & \((6,617)\) \\
\hline & \((3,308)\) \\
\hline \$ & 21,795 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

For the 12 months ended September 30, 2000
Consolidated net income
Historical.......................................... . .
Adjustment for mutual holding company
formation
Pro forma income on net proceeds
Pro forma ESOP adjustment (2) (4) 627

Pro forma MRP adjustment(3)........ 342)

Pro forma net income

Per share net income (reflects SOP 93-6)
Historical.
Adjustment for mutual holding company formation
Pro forma income on net proceeds
Pro forma ESOP adjustment (2) (4)
. . . . . . . . . . . .
Pro forma MRP adjustment (3).

Pro forma net income per share

Offering price as a percentage of pro forma net earnings per share

N/A
At September 30, 2000
Stockholders' equity:
Historical........ . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
\$ 204,527
Adjustment for mutual holding company
formation
Estimated net proceeds
s. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Less: Common Stock acquired by ESOP (2) (4)..
Less: Common Stock acquired by \(\operatorname{MRP}\) (3).....
Pro forma stockholders' equity..........

Stockholders' equity per share:(5)
Historical......................................... . .
Adjustment for mutual holding company
formation
\$ \(\quad 12.34\)

Estimated net proceeds
Less: Common Stock acquired by ESOP (2) (4)
Less: Common Stock acquired by MRP (3).....

Pro forma stockholders' equity per share

Offering price as a percentage of pro forma
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stockholders' equity per share............

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(1) We reserve the right to issue up to a total of \(5,157,750\) shares at \(\$ 10.00\) per share, or \(15 \%\) above the maximum of the Independent Valuation. Unless otherwise required by the regulators, subscribers will not be given the right to modify their subscriptions unless the aggregate purchase price of the common stock is increased to exceed \(\$ 51.6\) million ( \(15 \%\) above the maximum of the Independent Valuation.)
(2) Assumes \(8 \%\) of \(49.9 \%\) of the outstanding shares of Charter Financial are purchased by the employee stock ownership plan under all circumstances, and that the funds used to purchase such shares are borrowed from Charter Financial. The approximate amount expected to be borrowed by the ESOP is reflected in this table as a reduction of capital. Although repayment of such debt will be secured solely by the shares purchased by the employee stock ownership plan, we expect to make discretionary contributions to the employee stock ownership plan in an amount at least equal to the principal and interest payments on the employee stock ownership plan debt. CharterBank's total annual payment of the employee stock ownership plan debt is based on 12 equal installments of principal. Pro forma net income has been adjusted to give effect to such contributions, based upon a fully amortizing debt with a twelve-year term. The provisions of SOP 93-6 have been applied for shares to be acquired by the employee stock ownership plan and for purposes of computing earnings per share.
(3) Assumes a number of issued and outstanding shares of common stock equal to \(4 \%\) of \(49.9 \%\) of the outstanding common stock of Charter Financial following the reorganization will be purchased by the management recognition plan. Before the management recognition plan is implemented, it must be approved by the purchasers of a majority of the shares sold in the stock offering. The dollar amount of the common stock possibly to be purchased by the management recognition plan is based on \(\$ 10.00\) per share and represents unearned compensation and is reflected as a reduction of capital. Such amount does not reflect possible increases or decreases in the price per share after the offering. As we accrue compensation expenses to reflect the vesting of such shares over 5 years pursuant to the management recognition plan, the charge against capital will be reduced accordingly. In the event the shares issued under the management recognition plan consist of newly issued shares of common stock at the price per share in the offering, the per share financial condition and result of operations of Charter Financial would be proportionately reduced and the interest of existing stockholders would be diluted by approximately \(1.96 \%\). For purposes of the preceding table, it was assumed that the number of unvested management recognition plan shares at September 30,2000 was \(330,800,389,200,447,600\) and 514,700 for the minimum, midpoint, maximum and \(15 \%\) above the maximum of the offering range, respectively.
(4) CharterBank intends to record compensation expense related to the employee stock ownership plan in accordance with SOP 93-6. As a result, to the extent the value of the common stock appreciates over time, compensation expense related to the employee stock ownership plan will increase. SOP 936 also changes the earnings per share computations for leveraged employee stock ownership plans to include as outstanding only shares that have been committed to be released to participants. For purposes of the preceding table, it was assumed that the number of employee stock ownership plan

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shares that were committed to be released at September 30, 2000 was 55,140, 64,870, 74,601 and 85,791 for the minimum, midpoint, maximum and \(15 \%\) above the maximum of the offering range, respectively.
(5) Stockholders' equity per share data is based upon \(16,575,000,19,500,000\), \(22,425,000\) and \(25,788,750\) shares outstanding representing shares sold in the offering, shares purchased by the ESOP and management recognition plan and shares issued to First Charter, MHC.

\author{
CHARTERBANK \\ CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
}

The Consolidated Statements of Operations of CharterBank for the years ended September 30, 2000, 1999 and 1998 have been audited by KPMG LLP, independent certified public accountants, and are included in this prospectus, along with their Auditors' Report on page \(\mathrm{F}-44\). The following consolidated statements of operations have been derived from the audited consolidated statements of operations and should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in this prospectus and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of the Financial Condition and Results of Operations" beginning on page [_] of this prospectus. The consolidated statements of operations for the three month periods ended December 31, 2000 and 1999 are unaudited, but in the opinion of management, reflect all adjustments consisting of normal recurring adjustments that are necessary for a fair presentation of the results for such periods and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The results for the three month period ended December 31, 2000 are not necessarily indicative of the results of CharterBank for the entire year or any other period.

\begin{tabular}{rr} 
For the \\
Septe \\
-1 & 1 \\
2000 & (In th
\end{tabular}

Interest and dividend income excluding
Freddie Mac common stock:
Interest-bearing deposits in other
financial institutions..............
\$
FHLB and other equity investment
securities...............................
\(\$ \quad 47\)

Mortgage-backed securities and
collateralized mortgage
obligations available for sale..... 6,464 6,663 27,477
Other investment securities available
for sale...................................
Loans ..........................................
5,692
673
Total interest and dividend income.

Interest expense:
NOW accounts
71
69
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Savings accounts. & & 40 & & 127 & & 275 \\
\hline Money market deposit accounts & & 156 & & 99 & & 483 \\
\hline Certificate of deposit accounts. & & 3,168 & & 3,109 & & 12,892 \\
\hline Interest on deposits. & & 3,435 & & 3,404 & & 13,932 \\
\hline Interest on borrowed funds. & & 6,106 & & 4,671 & & 22,715 \\
\hline Total interest expense. & & 9,541 & & 8,075 & & 36,647 \\
\hline Net interest income. & & 3,152 & & 3,935 & & 14,230 \\
\hline Dividend income from & & & & & & \\
\hline Freddie Mac common stock & & 859 & & 758 & & 3,336 \\
\hline Freddie Mac common stock. & & 4,011 & & 4,693 & & 17,566 \\
\hline Provision for loan losses. & & 150 & & 90 & & 1,410 \\
\hline Net interest income after provision for loan losses....... & & 3,861 & & 4,603 & & 16,156 \\
\hline Other income: & & & & & & \\
\hline Service charges on deposit accounts. & & 186 & & 189 & & 701 \\
\hline Net gain (loss) on sale of investment securities............................. & & (8) & & (104) & & (128) \\
\hline Gain on sale of loans and servicing released loan fees................ & & 211 & & 162 & & 730 \\
\hline Loan servicing fees. & & 101 & & 107 & & 411 \\
\hline Equity in earnings (loss) of limited partnerships......................... & & - & & - & & (28) \\
\hline Other. & & 12 & & 44 & & 263 \\
\hline Total noninterest income (loss). & & 502 & & 398 & & 1,949 \\
\hline Other expenses: & & & & & & \\
\hline Salaries and employee benefits. & & 1,574 & & 1,209 & & 4,956 \\
\hline Occupancy and equipment expenses & & 505 & & 585 & & 2,361 \\
\hline Marketing. . & & 87 & & 108 & & 376 \\
\hline Legal and professional & & 183 & & 427 & & 1,455 \\
\hline Amortization and impairment of intangible assets.......... & & - & & 242 & & 4,533 \\
\hline Other. & & 446 & & 613 & & 2,262 \\
\hline Total. & & 2,795 & & 3,184 & & 15,943 \\
\hline Income (loss) before provision & & & & & & \\
\hline for income taxes. & & 1,568 & & 1,817 & & 2,162 \\
\hline Income tax expense (benefit) & & 369 & & 495 & & 1,290 \\
\hline Net income.................................. & \$ & 1,199 & \$ & 1,322 & \$ & 872 \\
\hline Other comprehensive income (loss)......... & \$ & 51,822 & \$ & \((15,080)\) & \$ & 5,165 \\
\hline Comprehensive income (loss)............... & \$ & 53,021 & \$ & \((13,758)\) & \$ & 6,037 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

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\section*{MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS}

This discussion and analysis reflects CharterBank's financial statements and other relevant statistical data and is intended to enhance your understanding of our financial condition and results of operations. You should read the information in this section in conjunction with CharterBank's Financial Statements and accompanying Notes to Financial Statements beginning on page \(F-1\) of this prospectus, and the other statistical data provided in this prospectus. Unless otherwise indicated, the financial information presented in this section reflects the financial condition and operations of CharterBank.

\section*{General}

CharterBank's results of operations depend primarily on earnings on investments and net interest income. Net interest income is the difference between the interest income we earn on our interest-earning assets and the interest we pay on interest-bearing liabilities. Our interest-earning assets consist primarily of residential mortgage loans, commercial mortgage loans, consumer loans, mortgage-backed securities and investment securities, such as our Freddie Mac stock investment. Interest-bearing liabilities consist primarily of retail and wholesale deposits, repurchase agreements and borrowings from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta. Our balance sheet also contains non-interest bearing liabilities of approximately \(\$ 131.7\) million of deferred taxes on the unrealized gain on our Freddie Mac stock. Our results of operations also depend on our provision for loan losses, non-interest income and our non-interest expense. Non- interest expense includes salaries and employee benefits, occupancy expenses and other general and administrative expenses. Non-interest income includes service fees and charges.

Our results of operations may also be affected significantly by economic and competitive conditions in our market area and elsewhere, including those conditions that influence market interest rates, government policies and the actions of regulatory authorities. Future changes in applicable laws, regulations or government policies may materially impact us. Furthermore, because our lending activity is concentrated in loans secured by real estate located in Georgia and Alabama, downturns in the regional economy encompassing these states could have a negative impact on our earnings.

\section*{Management Strategy}

In recent years, we have adopted a growth-oriented strategy that has focused on expanding our retail banking operations, using our strong capital position to increase net income by funding the purchase of mortgage related securities with borrowings, and continuing to hold our Freddie Mac stock investment.

Our retail banking strategy is to operate as a well-capitalized community bank dedicated to providing quality services at competitive prices. We have sought to implement this strategy by maintaining our core product offerings, including residential and commercial mortgage loans and a variety of checking and savings deposit products, while at the same time broadening our

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extending our branch network. More specifically, we seek to:
. continue to focus on expanding our residential lending and retail banking franchise, and increasing the number of households served within our market area;
- expand our commercial loan and deposit banking products and services for businesses, as a means to increase the yield on our loan portfolio, to attract lower cost deposit accounts and increase non-interest income;
- increase convenience to customers as a means to compete for an increased share of our customers' financial service business; and
. increase the use of our existing alternative delivery channels, such as ATMs and telephone banking, and implement new alternative delivery channels, such as Internet banking.

In addition, we offer competitive interest rates to attract new deposits and attempt to cross sell additional services to our customers as a way of expanding these relationships. We train our employees not only in the technical aspects of their jobs, but also in how to provide outstanding quality service to customers. We also continue our dedication to our community through continual support of, and donations to, the Charter Foundation. We believe that this growth- oriented strategy is best for our long term success and viability, and complements our existing commitment to high quality customer service.

CharterBank's GAAP capital position has allowed us to engage in a second strategy of maximizing net interest income through investment in mortgage related securities funded with advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank and repurchase agreements. The margins involved in this type of wholesale investment strategy are narrower than those of a traditional retail bank due to lower yields on mortgage securities than other retail investments and the higher cost of borrowed funds than traditional retail deposits. While this wholesale strategy has helped to increase net interest income, it also has a negative effect on our interest rate spread and net interest margin. We have recently embarked on a strategy of investing more of the borrowed funds in higheryielding commercial real estate loans in order to improve our interest rate spread and net interest margin thereby increasing the profitability of our core banking operations.

Our third strategy is to hold our large position of Freddie Mac common stock. This strategy has worked well for us with the total return on Freddie Mac stock averaging better than \(20 \%\) for the past ten years.

Following the reorganization, we intend to utilize proceeds from the offering to further the objectives of our growth-oriented strategy. We may also use the offering proceeds to acquire branches from other banks or to make other acquisitions, although we have no current plans to do so. See "How We Intend to Use the Proceeds from the Offering."

\section*{Management of Interest Rate Risk}

As a financial institution, we face risk from interest rate volatility. Fluctuations in interest rates impact both our level of income and expense on a large portion of our assets and liabilities. Fluctuations in interest rates also affect the market value of all interest-earning assets.

The primary goal of our interest rate management strategy is to limit

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fluctuations in net interest income as interest rates vary up or down. We seek to coordinate asset and liability decisions so that, under changing interest rate scenarios, portfolio equity will remain within an acceptable range.

Our lending activities have emphasized one- to four-family and commercial mortgage loans. Our sources of funds includes retail deposits, consisting primarily of certificates of deposit, which have shorter terms to maturity than the loan portfolio, and transaction accounts, Federal Home Loan Bank advances, repurchase agreements and wholesale deposits. Recently, we have employed several strategies to manage the interest rate risk inherent in the asset/liability mix, including but not limited to:
. Selling a majority of the 30 and 15 year fixed-rate mortgages we originate to the secondary market, generally on a servicing released basis;
. Maintaining the diversity of our existing loan portfolio through the origination of commercial real estate and consumer loans which typically have variable rates and shorter terms than residential mortgages; and
. Emphasizing investments with adjustable interest rates.

The actual amount of time before loans are repaid can be significantly impacted by changes in market interest rates. Prepayment rates also vary due to a number of other factors, including the regional economy in the area where the loans were originated, seasonal factors, demographic variables, the assumability of the loans, related refinancing opportunities and competition. We monitor interest rate sensitivity so that we can attempt to adjust our asset and liability mix in a timely manner and thereby minimize the negative effects of changing rates.

We believe that our high level of capital historically has allowed us to support a high level of interest rate risk to enhance long term income at the cost of increased volatility in the income stream. Our reliance on borrowings rather than deposits presents an interest rate challenge for us. As part of our efforts to address our interest rate risk, subsequent to December 31, 2000, CharterBank extended its interest rate reset on \(\$ 102.0\) million of Federal Home Loan Bank borrowings from one month to seven or more years.

Net Interest Income Simulation. We use a simulation model to monitor interest rate risk. This model reports the net interest income at risk primarily under two different interest rate environments. Specifically, an analysis is performed of changes in net interest income assuming changes in interest rates, both up and down 100, 200 and 300 basis points from current rates over the one year time period following the current financial statement.

The table below sets forth, as of January 31, 2001 , the estimated changes in net interest income that would result from a 300 basis point change in interest rates over the applicable twelve-month period.
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Change & \multicolumn{4}{|r|}{Net Portfolio Value} & \multirow[b]{2}{*}{\%} & \multirow[b]{2}{*}{Change} & Post Shock \\
\hline In Rates & \$ & mount & & Change & & & pital \\
\hline \multicolumn{8}{|c|}{(Dollars in thousands)} \\
\hline +300 bp & \$ & 180,266 & \$ & \((52,146)\) & & (22.44) \% & 20.72\% \\
\hline +200 bp & & 198,050 & & \((34,362)\) & & (14.78) \% & 22.16\% \\
\hline +100 bp & & 216,191 & & \((16,221)\) & & (6.98) \% & 23.55\% \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

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\begin{tabular}{rrccc}
0 bp & 232,412 & - & \(-\%\) & \(24.69 \%\) \\
-100 bp & 242,881 & \((10,469)\) & \(4.50 \%\) & \(25.27 \%\) \\
-200 bp & 235,571 & 3,159 & \(1.36 \%\) & \(24.41 \%\) \\
-300 bp & 227,865 & \((4,547)\) & \((1.96) \%\) & \(23.50 \%\)
\end{tabular}

The net portfolio value is the capital, the excess of assets over liabilities, after all assets and liabilities are marked to market. The net portfolio value decreases as interest rates increase because our fixed rate assets with long maturities decline in value while our liabilities generally have adjustable rates and therefore do not increase in value with the combined result of a reduction of net portfolio value. At December 31, 2000, fixed rate investment and mortgage securities comprised of \(\$ 227.7\) million or \(61.2 \%\) of our total portfolio of investment and mortgage securities of \(\$ 371.8\) million. We do not have a parallel gain in portfolio value when rates go down 200 or 300 basis points because most of our fixed rate assets, whether in loan or security form, have a borrower option to prepay and so the assets do not gain value with the reduced rates. The disparate results on net portfolio value of interest rate increases versus interest rate decreases is sometimes referred to as negative convexity. The post shock capital ratio is the post shock net portfolio value as a percent of total assets.

The effects of interest rates on net portfolio value and net interest income are not predictable. Nevertheless, CharterBank's management does not expect current interest rates to have a material adverse effect on CharterBank's net portfolio value or net interest income in the near future. Computations of prospective effects of hypothetical interest rate changes are based on numerous assumptions, including relative levels of market interest rates, prepayments, and deposit run-offs, and should not be relied upon as indicative of actual results. Certain shortcomings are inherent in these computations. Although some assets and liabilities may have similar maturity or periods of repricing, they may react at different times and in different degrees to changes in the market interest rates. Rates on other types of assets and liabilities may lag behind changes in market interest rates. Assets, such as adjustable rate mortgages, generally have features which restrict changes in interest rates on a short-term basis and over the life of the asset. After a change in interest rates, prepayments and early withdrawal levels could deviate significantly from those assumed in making calculations set forth above. Additionally, an increased credit risk may result if our borrowers are unable to meet their repayment obligations as interest rates increase.

Average Balance Sheet and Analysis of Net Interest Income. The following tables depict the significant effect of the Freddie Mac stock on our traditional bank ratios, such as net interest income, net interest rate spread, and net interest margin. The tables show these measures
with and without the effects of the Freddie Mac stock, which had a dividend return on cost basis of approximately 50\% at December 31, 2000. However, the appreciation on the market value of the Freddie Mac stock results in only \(0.99 \%\) dividend return on market value. The appreciation in the market value of the Freddie Mac stock has been the cause of our strong comprehensive income.

Overall, ratios have weakened for the three months ended December 31, 2000, as compared to the three months ended December 31, 1999, due to the effects of the rising interest rate environment during this time period on our wholesale investment strategy. We hold a significant amount of short-term, variable rate borrowings whose costs increased 96 basis points during this time period, while long-term fixed rate mortgage securities only had a 6 basis point increase in yield.

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In the table below, we derived the yields and costs by dividing income or expense by the average balance of interest-earning assets or interest-bearing liabilities, respectively, for the periods shown. We derived average balances from actual daily balances over the periods indicated. Interest income includes fees we earned from making changes in loan rates or terms, and fees we earned when commercial real estate loans were prepaid or refinanced.

At December 31

2000,


\section*{Average} Balance
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multicolumn{4}{|l|}{Assets:} \\
\hline \multicolumn{4}{|l|}{Interest-earning assets:} \\
\hline \multicolumn{4}{|l|}{Interest-bearing deposits in other} \\
\hline FHLB common stock and other equity & 12,700 & 7.75 & 12,625 \\
\hline Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations available for sale.... & 356,967 & 7.00 & 358,311 \\
\hline Other investment securities available for sale. & 14,833 & 6.37 & 14,122 \\
\hline Loans receivable. & 255,180 & 9.15 & 253,511 \\
\hline Total interest earning assets excluding & & & \\
\hline Freddie Mac common stock............. & 643,971 & 7.85 & 642,663 \\
\hline Freddie Mac common stock. & 348,163 & 0.99 & 295,672 \\
\hline Total interest earning assets including & & & \\
\hline Freddie Mac common stock & 992,134 & 5.18 & 939,263 \\
\hline Total non-interest earning assets & 18,343 & - & 17,163 \\
\hline Total assets. & \$1,010,477 & 5.18 & \$955,498 \\
\hline \multicolumn{4}{|l|}{Liabilities and Equity:} \\
\hline \multicolumn{4}{|l|}{Interest-bearing liabilities:} \\
\hline NOW accounts. & 14,558 & 1.75 & 14,537 \\
\hline Savings accounts & 7,968 & 2.00 & 8,161 \\
\hline Money market deposit accounts & 11,338 & 3.20 & 11,355 \\
\hline Certificates of deposit accounts & 168,777 & 5.52 & 202,885 \\
\hline Total interest-bearing deposits & 202,641 & 4.98 & 236,938 \\
\hline Borrowed funds. & 398,463 & 6.51 & 368,224 \\
\hline Total interest-bearing liabilities. & 601,104 & 5.99 & 605,162 \\
\hline Noninterest-bearing deposits. & 8,629 & - & 8,390 \\
\hline Other noninterest-bearing liabilities & 143,196 & - & 120,538 \\
\hline Total noninterest-bearing liabilities. & 151,825 & - & 128,928 \\
\hline Total liabilities.. & 752,929 & 4.78 & 734,091 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline 257,548 & & 221,407 \\
\hline \$1,010,477 & 3.57\% & \$955,498 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\section*{1999}

\section*{Assets:}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline \multirow[b]{2}{*}{Average} & & Averag \\
\hline & & Yield \\
\hline Balance & Interest & cos \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Interest-earning assets:
Interest-bearing deposits in other
financial institutions
FHLB common stock and other equity
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations available for sale...... Other investment securities available for sale..
Loans receivable.

Total interest earning assets excluding Freddie Mac common stock
Freddie Mac common stock
\begin{tabular}{rr}
627,312 & 12,010 \\
261,555 & 758 \\
---------------- \\
891,514 & 12,768 \\
28,517 & - \\
-------- & \(\$ 12,768\) \\
\(\$ 917,384\) & \(======\)
\end{tabular}

Liabilities and Equity:
Interest-bearing liabilities:
NOW accounts............................................ . . .
\begin{tabular}{rr}
13,734 & 69 \\
8,680 & 127 \\
9,522 & 99 \\
240,198 & 3,109 \\
----------1 \\
272,134 & 3,404 \\
331,291 & 4,671
\end{tabular}

Total interest earning assets including
Freddie Mac common stock
\$12,768
5.5
2.0
5.8
4.16
5.18
5.00
5.6
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Total interest-bearing liabilities. & 603,425 & 8,075 & 5.35 \\
\hline Noninterest-bearing deposits. & 8,049 & - & \\
\hline Other noninterest-bearing liabilities & 106,838 & - & \\
\hline Total noninterest-bearing liabilities. & 114,887 & - & \\
\hline Total liabilities. & 718,313 & 8,075 & 4.50 \\
\hline Total equity. & 199,071 & - & \\
\hline Total liabilities and equity. & \$917,384 & \$ 8,075 & 3.52 \\
\hline Net interest income. & & \$ 3,935 & \\
\hline Net interest rate spread(1). & & & 2.31 \\
\hline Net interest margin(2) & & & 2.51 \\
\hline Ratio of interest-earning assets to average interest-bearing liabilities................. & & 1.04 x & \\
\hline Net interest income including Freddie Mac common stock....................... & & \$ 4,693 & \\
\hline Net interest rate spread including Freddie Mac common stock...................... & & & 0.39 \\
\hline Net interest rate margin including Freddie Mac common stock...................... & & & 2.11 \\
\hline Ratio of interest-earning assets to average interest-bearing liabilities, including Freddie mac common stock....................... & & 1.47 x & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
(footnotes on following page)

For the Years Ended

2000
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{\multirow[b]{2}{*}{Average}} & Average \\
\hline & & Yield/ \\
\hline Balance & Interest & Cost \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multicolumn{6}{|l|}{Assets:} \\
\hline \multicolumn{6}{|l|}{Interest-earning assets:} \\
\hline \multicolumn{6}{|l|}{Interest-bearing deposits in other} \\
\hline financial institutions....................... \$ & 2,625 & \$ & 159 & 6.06\% & \$ \\
\hline FHLB common stock and other equity & 12,660 & & 971 & 7.67 & \\
\hline Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations available for sale..... & 381,924 & & 27,477 & 7.19 & \\
\hline Other investment securities available for sale. & 18,152 & & 1,194 & 6.58 & \\
\hline Loans receivable.. & 237,429 & & 21,076 & 8.88 & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Total interest earning assets excluding

```

        Freddie Mac common stock.......................
        Total non-interest earning assets.............. 25,728
        Total assets
        $ 910,989
                            ============
    $ 54,213
    ==========
    5.95
    Liabilities and Equity:
Interest-bearing liabilities:

```

```

    Money market deposit accounts......................
    Certificates of deposit accounts..................
    Total interest-bearing deposits...............
    Borrowed funds.
        Total interest-bearing liabilities
    Noninterest-bearing deposits
        s.................. 8,472
    Other noninterest-bearing liabilities..........
        Total noninterest-bearing liabilities........
        101,659
        Total liabilities
        730,251
        180,738
        Total equity
        Total liabilities and equity
            . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
        $ 910,989
        $ 36,647
        ============= ===========
        $ 14,230
    Net interest income...............................
        13,717
        13,717
        10,063
        230,482
        12,892
        262,847 13,932
        22,715
        36,647
        2.06
        282
        262,847
        365,745
        628,592
        5.83
        ------------
        ============
        ==========
    Net interest rate spread(1)
        . 96%
    Net interest margin(2).............................
    Ratio of interest-earning assets to average
        interest-bearing liabilities
        . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
        Net interest income including
        Freddie Mac common stock.
            1.04x
        $ 17,566
    Net interest rate spread including
        Freddie Mac common stock
        ==========
        0.29%
    Net interest rate margin including
        Freddie Mac common stock......................
        1.98%
    Ratio of interest-earning assets to average
        interest-bearing liabilities, including
        Freddie mac common stock
        1.41x
    ```
\begin{tabular}{rr}
50,877 & 7.79 \\
3,336 & 1.44
\end{tabular}

54,213


Ratio of interest-earning assets to average interest-bearing liabilities \(\qquad\) 93,187

Total honinterest-bearing liabilities.........


Total liabilities and equity \(\qquad\) \$ 910,989 \$ 14,230
\(\qquad\)
\(1.04 x\)
\$ 17,566
\(=========\)
\(0.29 \%\)
Net interest rate margin including
Freddie Mac common stock........................
\(1.98 \%\)
Ratio of interest-earning assets to average interest-bearing liabilities, including Freddie mac common stock \(1.41 x\)96\%\(2.18 \%\)
4.02\%

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline financial institutions..................... \$ & 1,710 & \$ & 103 & 6.02\% \\
\hline FHLB common stock and other equity. & 9,348 & & 672 & 7.19 \\
\hline Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations available for sale...... & 187,883 & & 12,163 & 6.47 \\
\hline Other investment securities available for sale. & 7,244 & & 480 & 6.63 \\
\hline Loans receivable. & 150,452 & & 13,153 & 8.74 \\
\hline Total interest earning assets excluding Freddie Mac common stock & & & & 7.45 \\
\hline Freddie Mac common stock. & 246,136 & & 2,604 & 1.06 \\
\hline Total interest earning assets including & & & & \\
\hline Freddie Mac common stock. & 602,773 & & 29,175 & 4.84 \\
\hline Total non-interest earning assets. & 17,972 & & - & - \\
\hline Total assets............................. \$ & 620,745 & \$ & 29,175 & 4.70 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Liabilities and Equity:
Interest-bearing liabilities:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline NOW accounts & 5,10 \\
\hline Savings accounts & 6,357 \\
\hline Money market deposit accounts & 6,538 \\
\hline Certificates of deposit accounts. & 94,416 \\
\hline Total interest-bearing deposits. & 112,415 \\
\hline Borrowed funds & 235,542 \\
\hline Total interest-bearing liabilities. & 347,957 \\
\hline Noninterest-bearing deposits. & 2,496 \\
\hline Other noninterest-bearing liabilities. & 95,815 \\
\hline Total noninterest-bearing liabilitie & 98,311 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Total liabilities.........................................446,268


Total liabilities and equity


620,745
\$ 19,409
\(=====================\)

Net interest income.................................
\$ 7,162
\(===========\)
Net interest rate spread(1)
\(1.87 \%\)

Ratio of interest-earning assets to average interest-bearing liabilities.
\(1.03 x\)
Net interest income including
Freddie Mac common stock..
\$ \(\quad 9,766\)
\(==========\)
Net interest rate spread including Freddie Mac common stock
Net interest rate margin including Freddie Mac common stock.......................
\(1.62 \%\)
Ratio of interest-earning assets to average interest-bearing liabilities, including Freddie mac common stock

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(1) Net interest rate spread represents the difference between the weighted average yield on interest earning assets and the weighted average cost of interest bearing liabilities.
(2) Net interest margin represents net interest income as a percentage of average interest earning assets.

Rate/Volume Analysis. The following table shows how changes in interest rates and changes in the volume of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities have affected our interest income and interest expense during the periods indicated. Information is provided in each category with respect to:
(1) interest income changes attributable to changes in volume (changes in volume multiplied by prior rate);
(2) interest income changes attributable to changes in rate (changes in rate multiplied by prior volume); and
(3) the net change.



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Our consolidated total assets increased \(\$ 67.8\) million, or \(7.2 \%\), to \(\$ 1.0\) billion at December 31, 2000 from \(\$ 942.7\) million at September 30, 2000. The increase was primarily due to a \(\$ 74.9\) million, or \(27.4 \%\), increase in the market value of the Freddie Mac stock.

Total mortgage securities available for sale decreased \(\$ 10.7\) million, or \(2.9 \%\), to \(\$ 357.0\) million. This reduction was part of our strategy to increase the interest rate spread and net interest margin by shifting assets from lower-yielding, fixed rate mortgage securities to higher-yielding loans and reduce interest rate risk by selling long-term fixed rate securities and either reducing asset size or replacing securities with floating rate securities.

Deposits decreased \(\$ 63.1\) million, or \(23.0 \%\), to \(\$ 211.3\) million at December 31, 2000 from \(\$ 274.3\) million at September 30, 2000. The primary cause of the decrease was our decision to replace approximately \(\$ 60.0\) million of brokered certificates of deposit with repurchase agreements. This decrease in deposits also includes a decline in retail deposits of approximately \(\$ 3.1\) million that we have experienced since September 30 , 2000 , due to significant competition in our market area for retail deposits and possibly by loss of deposits acquired in the Citizens acquisition due to FDIC insurance limits and other issues.

Borrowings, including Federal Home Loan Bank advances and repurchase agreements, totaled \(\$ 398.5\) million at December 31, 2000 which was \(\$ 46.3\) million or \(13.1 \%\) above the level of \(\$ 352.2\) million at September 30,2000 . The increase reflects the use of repurchase agreements to replace brokered deposits and our continued use of borrowings to fund loan growth in light of the decline in retail deposits. Interest bearing liabilities decreased by a net of \$16.8 million.

Total equity increased \(\$ 53.0\) million, or \(26.0 \%\), to \(\$ 257.5\) million at December 31, 2000 from \(\$ 204.5\) million at September 30, 2000. The increase was primarily due to a \(\$ 51.8\) million increase in accumulated other comprehensive income driven by after tax unrealized gains on securities, primarily Freddie Mac stock, and \(\$ 1.2\) million in net income for the quarter.

Comparison of Operating Results for the Three Months Ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

General

Net income was \(\$ 1.2\) million for the three months ended December 31, 2000, a decrease of \(\$ 123,000\), or \(9.3 \%\), compared with net income of \(\$ 1.3\) million for the three months ended December 31, 1999. Operations were adversely affected by a \(\$ 682,000\) decrease in net interest income primarily related to the increased cost of borrowed funds. In addition, we had a \(\$ 60,000\) increase in the provision for loan losses due to management's identification of additional risk in the loan portfolio we acquired in the Citizens acquisition during the last quarter of 1999. These were largely offset by a \(\$ 104,000\) increase in total non-interest income, a decrease of \(\$ 389,000\) in total non-interest expense and a \(\$ 126,000\) decrease in income tax expense.

Other comprehensive income was \(\$ 51.8\) million for the three months ended December 31, 2000, which represented a \(\$ 66.9\) million improvement as compared to the other comprehensive loss of \(\$ 15.1\) million for the three months ended December 31, 1999. This improvement in other comprehensive income relates to an increase in the value of our investment in Freddie Mac stock and the recovery in value of other, largely fixed rate, investments. Given the composition of our investment portfolio, the recovery was due to the more favorable interest rate environment at December 31, 2000 compared to that at December 31, 1999.

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Comprehensive Income
Other comprehensive income was \$51.8 million for the three months ended
December 31, 2000 compared to a loss of \$15.1 million for the prior year. The
major component of this increase was the appreciation in the price of Freddie
Mac stock from \$54.0625 per share at September 30, 2000 to \$68.875 at December
31, 2000, resulting in an after tax increase of \$46.0 million. The mortgage
securities portion of the balance sheet provided the remaining \$5.8 million of
other comprehensive income for the 2000 period. The per share price of Freddie
Mac stock declined from \$52.00 to \$47.625 during the three months ended December
31, 1999, resulting in an after tax total decrease of \$13.6 million which
represented essentially all of the other comprehensive loss for the 1999 period.
The impact of appreciation in the price of Freddie Mac stock on our
total comprehensive income is shown in the table below.

```
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & Shares & \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{Market Price Per Share} & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{Total Market Value} \\
\hline September 30, 2000 & 5,055,000 & \$ & 54.0625 & \$ & 273,285,938 \\
\hline December 31, 2000. & 5,055,000 & & 68.875 & & 348,163,125 \\
\hline Change in Freddie Mac stock & - & \$ & 14.8125 & \$ & 74,877,187 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
```

Other comprehensive
income related to
mortgage securities
and other investments..........

```
Total other comprehensive income....


Total other comprehensive
income (loss)..................

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\section*{Interest Income}

Total interest and dividend income, excluding Freddie Mac stock dividends, was \(\$ 12.7\) million for the three months ended December 31, 2000, a \(\$ 683,000\) or \(5.7 \%\) increase, compared with \(\$ 12.0\) million for the same period in 1999. This increase related primarily to an increase in interest income on loans receivable which rose \(\$ 1.0\) million, or \(21.4 \%\), to \(\$ 5.7\) million from \(\$ 4.7\) million for the three months ended December 31, 1999. The increase in interest income on loans receivable relates to our continued strategy to grow our commercial real estate loan portfolio. Interest income on investment debt securities available for sale decreased \(\$ 173,000\) to \(\$ 245,000\) from \(\$ 418,000\) for the three months ended December 31, 1999. In addition, interest on mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations decreased by \(\$ 199,000\) to \(\$ 6.5 \mathrm{million}\) for the three months ended December 31, 2000 from \(\$ 6.7\) million for the three months ended December 31, 1999. These decreases were primarily related to our sale of certain securities consistent with our strategy to reduce interest rate risk. The decrease from the sale of securities more than offset the increase in yield on adjustable rate securities which increased with the increase in short term interest rates.

The growth in interest income on loans was due in part to a \(\$ 23.4\) million or \(14.7 \%\) increase in the balance of total loans, which rose to \(\$ 259.5\) million at December 31, 2000. Average loans for the three months ended December 31, 2000 were \(\$ 254.4\) million compared to \(\$ 216.3\) million for the three months ended December 31, 1999. This increase reflects our continued emphasis on the origination of residential one-to-four-family mortgage and commercial real estate loans.

The average balance of our other investment securities available for sale, mortgage-backed securities, and collateralized mortgage obligations decreased \(\$ 27.4\) million from \(\$ 399.8\) million for the three months ended December 31, 1999 to \(\$ 372.4\) million for the
three months ended December 31, 2000. The decrease in the average balance of these securities reflects our ongoing strategy of using proceeds from sales of securities to fund growth in higher yielding residential and commercial real estate loans, thereby reducing our interest rate risk. We expect this strategy of replacing securities with loans to have a positive affect on our performance ratios, including interest rate spread and net interest margin, because our average yield on loans is over 150 basis points greater than the average yields on our other investment securities available for sale, mortgage-backed securities, and collateralized mortgage obligations taken as a whole.

The yield on interest earning assets, excluding Freddie Mac stock, increased 26 basis points for the three months ended December 31, 2000 when compared to the same period in 1999. Total interest-earning assets averaged \(\$ 643.6\) million for the three months ended December 31, 2000, up from \(\$ 630.0\) million for the comparable 1999 period, a \(2.2 \%\) increase. The average yield on loans, net, increased 31 basis points to \(8.95 \%\) due to the increase in higher-yielding commercial real estate loans in our portfolio. The yield on mortgage-related securities increased modestly from 7.16\% to 7.22\% as fears about inflation caused the yields of fixed-rate investments to increase slightly. Generally, the higher interest rate environment, particularly with respect to short term investment rates, resulted in the upward repricing of our interest rate-sensitive assets.

Dividend income on Freddie Mac stock increased by \$101,000 to \$859,000

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for the three months ended December 31, 2000 from \(\$ 758,000\) for the three months ended December 31, 1999 due to an increase in Freddie Mac's quarterly dividend from \(\$ 0.15\) to \(\$ 0.17\) per share.

Interest Expense
Total interest expense for the three months ended December 31, 2000 was \(\$ 9.5\) million, a \(\$ 1.5\) million, or \(18.2 \%\), increase from the three months ended December 31, 1999. This increase in interest expense was primarily due to a 96 basis point increase in average cost of funds. The average balance of interest-bearing liabilities was essentially unchanged with an increase from \(\$ 603.4\) million to \(\$ 605.2\) million for the three months ended December 31, 2000. The increase in average cost was spread across borrowed funds (99 basis points), certificates (107 basis points), and money market accounts (134 basis points). The increase reflects the higher interest rate environment that prevailed during the 2000 period as compared to the 1999 period. In addition, it is indicative of the rate-sensitive nature of our liabilities including our significant exposure to variable rate debt and short term, highly competitive wholesale certificates of deposit which typically carry rates of 50 to 100 basis points higher than similarly termed retail certificates of deposit.

Interest expense on deposits increased \(\$ 32,000\), or \(0.9 \%\), to \(\$ 3.4\) million for the three months ended December 31, 2000 compared with \(\$ 3.4\) million for the same period in 1999. The average balance of certificates of deposit decreased to \(\$ 202.9\) million in 2000 from \(\$ 240.2\) million in 1999 due to the replacement of certain wholesale certificates of deposit with borrowings. However, due to a 107 basis point increase in their average cost, interest expense on certificates of deposit increased \(\$ 59,000\) for the three months ended December 31, 2000 compared with 1999. Interest expense on money market balances increased \(\$ 57,000\), reflecting a
\$1.8 million rise in average money market account balances and a 134 basis point increase in average cost.

Interest expense on borrowings increased \(\$ 1.4\) million as a result of the \(\$ 36.9\) million rise in the average balance of borrowings resulting from repayment of wholesale certificates of deposit and a 99 basis point increase in average cost.

\section*{Net Interest Income}

Net interest income, excluding Freddie Mac stock, for the three months ended December 31, 2000 decreased \(\$ 783,000\), or \(20.0 \%\), to \(\$ 3.1\) million from \(\$ 3.9\) million for the three months ended December 31, 1999. The net interest rate spread - the difference between the average yield on average total interest-earning assets and the average cost of average total interest-bearing liabilities - decreased 69 basis points to \(1.58 \%\) for the three months ended December 31, 2000 from 2.27\% for the comparable period in 1999. Net interest margin, which is net interest income divided by average total interest-earning assets, decreased 54 basis points to \(1.96 \%\) for the three months ended December 31, 2000 as compared to the three months ended December 31, 1999. These decreases are due to the rising interest rate environment between the two time periods and its significant effect on our short-term variable rate liabilities. The asset side of our balance sheet is much less sensitive to changes in interest rates resulting in a reduction of interest rate spread and margin in an increasing rate environment. We believe that our current strategy of reinvesting the proceeds of mortgage security sales in higher-yielding adjustable rate loans and floating rate securities will lower, but not eliminate, the risk of changing interest rates on our net interest income.

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Over half of CharterBank's earning assets are invested in mortgage related securities that had a yield of \(7.2 \%\) for the three months ended December 31, 2000 and over half of the interest-bearing liabilities were borrowings which had a cost of \(6.6 \%\) for the same period. Accordingly, the majority of our balance sheet, excluding our Freddie Mac stock, reflects a wholesale or marginal investment strategy that yielded a modest 59 basis point spread during the three months ended December 31, 2000. In addition, this portion of our balance sheet tends to be the most sensitive to changes in interest rates resulting in a significant narrowing of spread when compared to the same period in 1999. Conversely, the spread between loans receivable and deposits, including wholesale deposits, was 335 basis points at December 31, 2000 which compares more favorably to the thrift industry as a whole.

CharterBank's net interest margin and net interest spread are low when compared to industry standards primarily due to two factors. First, the dividend rate as compared to the market value of our Freddie Mac stock is low. However, when compared to our cost basis in the investment, the dividend rate is excellent (almost 50\%). Second, under our wholesale investment strategy, our assets include a high proportion of securities with rates lower than those that would typically be earned on loans and our liabilities include a high proportion of borrowings and wholesale deposits with higher costs than those typically paid on retail deposits. This lowers our net interest margin and net interest spread. However, our wholesale investment strategy has historically increased annual interest income. Net interest income including Freddie Mac stock for the three months ended December 31, 2000 decreased \(\$ 682,000\) or \(14.5 \%\) to \(\$ 4.0\) million compared with \(\$ 4.7\) million for 1999 . The net interest rate spread including Freddie Mac stock -
the difference between the average yield on average total interest-earning assets including Freddie Mac stock and the average cost of average total interest-bearing liabilities - decreased 92 basis points to negative \(0.54 \%\) for 2000 from \(0.38 \%\) for the prior year. The net interest margin, which is net interest income including dividends on Freddie Mac stock divided by average total interest-earning assets, decreased 40 basis points to \(1.71 \%\) for the three months ended December 31, 2000. Our Freddie Mac stock had a dividend yield of \(1.16 \%\) which lowered the yield on assets from \(7.89 \%\) to \(5.77 \%\) for the three months ended December 31, 2000.

Provision for Loan Losses
During the three months ended December 31, 2000, we provided \(\$ 150,000\) for loan losses, compared to \(\$ 90,000\) for the 1999 period. The provision for the three months ended December 31, 2000 reflected the collection experience on the consumer loans acquired in the Citizens acquisition, the possible higher losses as the economy shows signs of slowing, and growth in our commercial real estate portfolio. Charge-offs for the quarter slightly exceeded \(\$ 1.0\) million and consisted primarily of loans acquired in the Citizens acquisition for which loan loss reserves were provided in a prior period.

At December 31, 2000, the allowance for loan losses as a percentage of total loans was 2.13\% compared with 2.42\% at December 31, 1999. The lower level at December 31, 2000 reflected the collection and charge-off of a portion of the acquired Citizens National Bank portfolio.

Future provisions for loan losses will continue to be based upon our assessment of the overall loan portfolio and its underlying collateral, the mix of loans within the portfolio, delinquency trends, economic conditions, current and prospective trends in real estate values, and other relevant factors.

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}

Non-interest Income

Non-interest income includes service fees on deposit accounts, servicing released loan fees, other service charges and net gains on sales of securities. Total non-interest income increased \(\$ 104,000\), or \(26.1 \%\), to \(\$ 502,000\) for the three months ended December 31, 2000 compared with \(\$ 398,000\) for the 1999 period. This partially resulted from a \(\$ 49,000\) increase in gain on sale of loans, net and servicing released loan fees from \(\$ 162,000\) for the three months ended December 31, 1999 to \(\$ 211,000\) for the three months ended December 31, 2000. This \(\$ 49,000\) increase was caused by management's decision during 2000 to sell loans servicing released as opposed to selling a portion of loans servicing retained. The three months ended December 31, 1999 included a loss on sale of securities of \(\$ 104,000\) compared to only \(\$ 8,000\) for the three months ended December 31, 2000. Fees on deposits were relatively level with \(\$ 186,000\) in the three months ended December 31, 2000 , which represented a \(\$ 3,000\) decrease from the \(\$ 189,000\) for the three months ended December 31, 1999.

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\section*{Non-interest Expense}

Total non-interest expense is high in comparison to the retail operations of CharterBank. Total non-interest expense decreased \(\$ 389,000\), or \(12.2 \%\), to \(\$ 2.8\) million during the three months ended December 31, 2000 compared with \(\$ 3.2\) million for the three months ended December 31, 1999. The 1999 non-interest expense included \(\$ 242,000\) of intangible amortization. There was no comparable expense during the three months ended December 31, 2000 since management had assessed the intangible assets associated with the Citizens acquisition as impaired and, accordingly, wrote them off during the quarter ended September 30, 2000. Non-interest expense included \(\$ 427,000\) for professional services for the three months ended December 31, 1999 compared to \(\$ 183,000\) for the same period in 2000 . The decrease in professional fees and services was related to the expense of formation of Charter Insurance Company and our subsequently withdrawn application to form a non-stock mutual holding company.

Salaries and employee benefits combined with occupancy and equipment expense comprised \(56.3 \%\) of total non-interest expense for the three months ended December 31, 2000. Salaries and employee benefits increased \(\$ 365,000\), or \(30.2 \%\), to \(\$ 1.6\) million for the three months ended December 31, 2000 compared with \(\$ 1.2\) million for 1999 , reflecting salary increases and staff increases particularly related to geographic expansion and our increased emphasis on commercial real estate lending.

Our efficiency ratio, determined by dividing non-interest expense by the sum of net interest income and non-interest income excluding gains on securities transactions, was \(61.8 \%\) for the three months ended December 31,2000 compared with \(69.3 \%\) for the comparable 1999 period. The ratio of non-interest expense to average assets including Freddie Mac stock was \(1.2 \%\) for 2000 and \(1.4 \%\) for 1999. The ratio of non-interest expense to average assets excluding Freddie Mac stock was \(1.7 \%\) for the three months ended December 31,2000 and \(2.0 \%\) for the same period in 1999. Annual operating expenses are expected to increase in the near term due to the planned expansion of our facilities, products and services and the increased costs of operating as a public company. The efficiency ratio is lower than it would be if the balance sheet had more retail assets and liabilities instead of the high proportion of wholesale assets and liabilities.

Income Taxes

Income tax expense decreased \(\$ 126,000\), or \(25.5 \%\) to \(\$ 369,000\) for the

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three months ended December 31, 2000 compared with \(\$ 495,000\) for the comparable 1999 period, resulting in an effective tax rate of \(23.5 \%\) for the three months ended December 31, 2000 and 27.2 \% for the comparable 1999 period. The effective tax rate also reflects the dividend exclusion for \(70 \%\) of the Freddie Mac stock dividends. The lower rate for the three months ended December 31, 2000 reflects the higher proportion of income that qualified for that tax exclusion and the elimination of nondeductible goodwill amortization.

Comparison of Financial Condition at September 30, 2000 and 1999
Our total assets increased \(\$ 38.1\) million, or \(4.2 \%\), to \(\$ 942.7\) million at September 30, 2000 from \(\$ 904.6\) million at September 30, 1999. The increase was primarily due to growth in the commercial loan portfolio and an increase in the market price of our Freddie Mac stock.

Total loans increased \(\$ 45.5\) million, or \(21.2 \%\), to \(\$ 259.7\) million at September 30, 2000 compared to \(\$ 214.2\) million at September 30, 1999 as management grew the commercial real estate portfolio by \(\$ 14.3\) million and the residential real estate portfolio by \(\$ 20.8\) million. Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations increased from \(\$ 356.5\) million to \(\$ 367.7\) million for an increase of \(\$ 11.2\) million or \(3.1 \%\). Other investment securities were reduced from \(\$ 31.9\) million to \(\$ 13.9\) million for a decrease of \(\$ 18.0\) million or \(56.4 \%\). Proceeds from the sales of these securities were used to purchase collateralized mortgage obligations or to fund loan growth. The market value of Freddie Mac stock and other equity securities increased \(\$ 12.4\) million, or \(4.5 \%\), from \(\$ 274.3\) million to \(\$ 285.9\) million. Management recorded an impairment loss of \(\$ 3.6\) million in addition to the scheduled amortization of \(\$ 930,000\) for intangible assets associated with the Citizens acquisition. The impairment was determined based on an analysis that indicated that the undiscounted future cash flows associated with the purchase of assets and the assumption of liabilities would be negative, and therefore insufficient to recover the carrying amount of the related intangible assets.

Asset growth was funded primarily by a \(\$ 39.4\) million increase in borrowings, which grew from \(\$ 312.9\) million at September 30,1999 to \(\$ 352.2\) million at September 30, 2000, a \(12.6 \%\) increase. Management placed increased reliance on borrowings, especially Federal Home Loan Bank advances, in light of the limited capacity to raise significant new retail deposits. Accordingly, total deposits fell from \(\$ 283.0\) million to \(\$ 274.4\) million.

Our total equity, which is comprised of retained earnings and accumulated other comprehensive income, increased \(\$ 5.3\) million, or \(2.7 \%\), to \(\$ 204.5\) million at September 30, 2000. Accumulated other comprehensive income at CharterBank is comprised of net unrealized holding gains on securities available for sale. The balance of accumulated other comprehensive income at September 30, 2000 was \(\$ 152.8\) million, a \(\$ 5.2\) million dollar increase from the balance at September 30, 1999 of \(\$ 147.7\) million.

Comparison of Operating Results for the Years Ended September 30, 2000 and 1999

\section*{General}

Net income of \(\$ 872,000\) for the year ended September 30, 2000 represents a \(\$ 26.2\) million decrease from net income of \(\$ 27.0\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999. This decrease was due primarily to the unusually high level of income in the year ended September 30, 1999 attributed to a \(\$ 35.9\) million pre-tax gain on the sale of Freddie Mac stock.

Net interest income during the year ended September 30, 2000 increased

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significantly due to internal growth in loans, earnings on additional mortgage-related securities, and the earnings stream associated with the assets and core deposits from the Citizens acquisition being included for the entire year. Non-interest expenses for the year ended September 30, 2000 were increased
by a charge of \(\$ 4.5\) million for amortization and impairment of intangible assets resulting from the Citizens acquisition, a \(\$ 1.2\) million increase in the loan loss provision attributed to increased risk identified in the auto loan portfolio acquired in the Citizens acquisition, and a \(\$ 763,000\) increase in compensation due to additional talent hired to help grow the commercial and mortgage loan portfolios and the additional expense of having employees added in the Citizens acquisition for an entire year.

Comprehensive Income

Other comprehensive income for the year ended September 30, 2000 was \(\$ 5.2\) million compared to \(\$ 23.7 \mathrm{million}\) for the year ended September 30, 1999 . The per share price of Freddie Mac stock increased from \(\$ 52.00\) at September 30, 1999 to \(\$ 54.063\) at September 30,2000 , resulting in an after tax increase in our Freddie Mac investment of \(\$ 6.4\) million. Other comprehensive loss relating to mortgage securities and other investments decreased by \(\$ 1.2\) million as a result of high interest rates. Other comprehensive loss for the year ended September 30, 1999 was \(\$ 23.7\) million which was a result of comprehensive income relating to mortgage and other securities of \(\$ 14.4\) million. The net unrealized gains on Freddie Mac stock decreased during fiscal year 1999 because of the sale and donation of 605,000 shares. There was also a comprehensive loss relating to mortgage securities and other investments because of increasing interest rates on the fair market value of fixed rate securities in our portfolio.


September 30, 1999....................... . .
5,055,000
\((605,000)\)
52.000
-----------
\(\$ \quad 2.375\)
\(\$ 262,860,0\)
\(\$ \quad(18,017,50\)

Other comprehensive income (loss) related to mortgage securities and other investments...........

Total other comprehensive
income (loss)....................

\section*{Interest Income}

The total interest and dividend income excluding Freddie Mac stock was \(\$ 50.9\) million for the year ended September 30 , 2000 , a \(49.6 \%\) increase over interest and dividend income excluding Freddie Mac stock of \(\$ 34.0\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999. Interest on loans rose \(\$ 6.1\) million, or \(40.4 \%\), to \(\$ 21.1\) million from \(\$ 15.0\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999. This increase is due to growth in CharterBank's higher-yielding commercial real estate loan portfolio and growth in the residential mortgage portfolio between these time periods. Interest on investment debt securities available for sale decreased \(\$ 330,000\) to \(\$ 1.2\) million for the year ended September 30, 2000 from \(\$ 1.5\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999. Dividend income on Freddie Mac stock increased by \(\$ 382,000\) to \(\$ 3.3\) million for the year ended September 31, 2000 from \(\$ 2.9\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999 due to the increase in quarterly dividends of Freddie Mac stock from \(\$ 0.15\) per share to \(\$ 0.17\) per share. Interest on mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations increased by \(\$ 10.9\) million to \(\$ 27.4\) million for the year ended September 30, 2000 from \(\$ 16.6\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999. The increase was primarily due to the \(\$ 119.8\) million increase in the average balance of mortgage related securities from \(\$ 261.2\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999 to \(\$ 381.9\) million for the year ended September 30, 2000.

The growth in interest income on loans was due in part to a \(\$ 45.0\) million, or \(21.6 \%\), increase in the balance of total loans, which rose to \(\$ 259.5\) million at September 30, 2000. Average loans for the year ended September 30, 2000 were \(\$ 237.4\) million compared to \(\$ 176.0\)
million for the year ended September 30, 1999. This increase reflects our continued emphasis on residential one-to-four-family mortgage and commercial loan originations as well as the effects of the Citizens acquisition. The average balance of investment securities available for sale and mortgage securities increased \(\$ 112.6\) million from \(\$ 287.5\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999 to \(\$ 400.1\) million for the year ended September 30, 2000. This increase reflected our strategy of using borrowings to fund the purchase of investment securities.

The yield on interest earning assets excluding Freddie Mac stock increased 65 basis points and total interest-earning assets excluding Freddie Mac stock averaged \(\$ 652.8\) million for the year ended September 30, 2000, up from \(\$ 476.6\) million from the comparable 1999 period, a \(37.0 \%\) increase. The average yield on loans, net, increased 35 basis points to \(8.88 \%\), while the yield on mortgage-related securities increased from \(6.35 \%\) for the year ended September 30, 1999 to \(7.19 \%\) for the year ended September 30,2000 reflecting the rising interest rate environment during this time period. In addition, the average

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yield on our loans was positively impacted by the increase in higher-yielding commercial real estate loans.

\section*{Interest Expense}

Total interest expense for the year ended September 30, 2000 was \(\$ 36.6\) million, a \(\$ 13.3\) million, or \(57.0 \%\), increase from the year ended September 30 , 1999. The increase is attributable to a 60 basis point increase in the average cost and a \(\$ 182.0\) million increase in the average balance of interest-bearing liabilities from \(\$ 446.6\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999 to \(\$ 628.6\) million for the year ended September 30,2000 . The majority of the growth was in wholesale certificates of deposit and borrowings, as we relied on these sources of funds to match the growth of the securities and loan portfolios. The increase in average cost was primarily due to the cost of borrowed funds (up 100 basis points as compared to the year ended September 30, 1999). The increase reflects the higher interest rate environment that prevailed during 2000 compared to the 1999 period and the rate-sensitive nature of our liabilities.

Interest expense on deposits increased \(\$ 3.5\) million, or \(33.7 \%\) to \(\$ 13.9\) million for the year ended September 30, 2000 compared with \(\$ 10.4\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999. The average balance of certificates of deposit increased \(\$ 53.1\) million to \(\$ 230.5\) million for the year ended September 30,2000 from \(\$ 177.4\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999 because of our wholesale deposit strategy coupled with the Citizens acquisition. Despite the rising interest rate environment during this time period, the average cost of interest-bearing deposits increased only 5 basis points during the year ended September 30,2000 because of growth in NOW, savings, and money market accounts coupled with disciplined time deposit pricing. Interest expense on money market balances increased \(\$ 162,000\) from the year ended September 30, 1999 to the year ended September 30, 2000, as the average balance of these accounts increased \(\$ 1.9\) million and the cost increased 88 basis points as we more aggressively competed with rates offered by brokerage competition due to relatively low transaction volume and strong average balances for these accounts.

Interest expense on borrowed funds increased \(\$ 9.8\) million as a result of the \(\$ 117.8\) million rise in the average balance of borrowed funds and the 100 basis point increase in average cost. The increase in average balance is attributable to our use of borrowed funds to purchase mortgage related securities and fund loan growth during the year. The increase in the average
costs was attributed to the rising interest rate environment during this time period on these short-term, rate sensitive liabilities.

\section*{Net Interest Income}

Net interest income excluding the effects of Freddie Mac stock increased \(\$ 3.6\) million, or \(33.3 \%\) to \(\$ 14.2\) million for the year ended September 30,2000 compared with \(\$ 10.7\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999. The net interest rate spread - the difference between the average yield on average total interest-earning assets and the average cost of average total interest-bearing liabilities - was relatively flat as increases in yields on loans receivable and mortgage related securities were offset by a large increase in the average cost of borrowings. The net interest margin - net interest income divided by average total interest-earning assets - decreased 6 basis points, primarily because of increased borrowings cost. As the interest spread and interest margin were flat, the increase in net interest income is attributable to the \(\$ 176.2\) million increase in average earning assets. The annual dividend yield on Freddie Mac stock was 1.44\% for the year ended September 30, 2000 and \(0.96 \%\) for the prior year.

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CharterBank's net interest margin and net interest spread are low when compared to industry standards primarily due to two factors. First, the dividend rate as compared to the market value of our Freddie Mac stock is low. However, when compared to our cost basis in the investment, the dividend rate is excellent (almost 50\%). Second, under our wholesale investment strategy, our assets include a high proportion of securities with rates lower than those that would typically be earned on loans and our liabilities include a high proportion of borrowings and wholesale deposits with higher costs than those typically paid on retail deposits. This lowers our net interest margin and net interest spread. However, our wholesale investment strategy has historically increased annual interest income. Net interest income including Freddie Mac stock dividends for the year ended September 30,2000 increased \(\$ 4.0\) million, or \(28.9 \%\), to \(\$ 17.6\) million compared with \(\$ 13.6\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999. The net interest rate spread including Freddie Mac stock increased 79 basis points to \(0.29 \%\) for the year ended September 30,2000 from negative \(0.50 \%\) for the prior year. The increase was attributable to the lower market value of the Freddie Mac stock during the year and an increase on the dividend per share of Freddie Mac stock during the year from \(\$ 0.15\) per share to \(\$ 0.17\) per share. Traditional bank measures such as the net interest rate spread and the net interest rate margin should improve as the market value of the Freddie Mac stock becomes a smaller portion of our earning assets. The average balance of the Freddie Mac stock was \(\$ 232.4\) million for the year ended September 30,2000 as compared to \(\$ 306.4\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999. The net interest margin, which is net interest income including dividends on Freddie Mac stock divided by average total interest-earning assets, increased 24 basis points to \(1.98 \%\) for the year ended September 30, 2000.

Provision for Loan Losses

For the year ended September 30, 2000, we provided \(\$ 1.41\) million for loan losses, compared to \(\$ 240,000\) for the year ended September 30, 1999. The higher provision in 2000 reflects a \(\$ 1.0\) million special provision made during the fourth fiscal quarter of 2000 that reflects growth in the commercial real estate loan portfolio, deterioration of the loans acquired in the

Citizens acquisition and deteriorating general economic conditions. Gross charge-offs totaled \(\$ 1.1\) million for the year ended September 30, 2000 as compared to the prior year total of \(\$ 420,000\), primarily relating to this auto loan portfolio and other loans acquired in the Citizens acquisition.

The allowance for loan losses as of September 30, 2000 was \(2.44 \%\) of total loans compared with \(2.67 \%\) at the end of the comparable 1999 period. The decrease in the coverage ratio reflects the increased fiscal 2000 charge-offs. The relatively high coverage ratio for both years as compared to other community banks and CharterBank's historical level reflects the additional risk associated with the portfolio acquired in the Citizens acquisition, the growth in the commercial real estate portfolio, and signs of a slowdown in the local economy.

Non-interest Income

Non-interest income decreased to \(\$ 1.9\) million for the year ended September 30,2000 compared with \(\$ 38.7\) million in the prior year. The major cause of the decrease was that non-interest income for the year ended September 30, 1999 included a \(\$ 35.9\) million gain on the sale of Freddie Mac stock. Excluding the gain on disposition of Freddie Mac stock, non-interest income decreased \(\$ 1.0\) million from \(\$ 2.9\) million to \(\$ 1.9\) million.

Non-interest income for the year ended September 30, 1999 included

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\(\$ 448,000\) of equity in earnings of limited partnerships for which there was a \(\$ 29,000\) loss recognized in 2000 . The limited partnerships are involved in mortgage loan servicing. Accordingly, income substantially fluctuates based on the underlying market value of related mortgage servicing rights. This market value is impacted by loan prepayment activity and the future expectation of such activity. As rates fall, the level of prepayment and expectation for future prepayments increase which results in lower market values for the underlying servicing rights. Loan prepayments and a decline in interest rates in the last six months of fiscal 2000 adversely affected our equity in earnings of limited partnerships.

Non-interest income for the year ended September 30, 1999 as compared to the same period in 2000 was also higher due to comparative gains on the sale of loans and servicing released loan fees.

Despite an increased volume of sales, gains in fiscal 2000 declined as a result of declining margins in the secondary market and an overall rising interest rate environment during the year ended September 30, 2000. Loss on sale of mortgage-backed securities was \(\$ 128,000\) for the year ended September 30 , 2000 as compared to a gain of \(\$ 396,000\) for the same period in 1999, a difference of \(\$ 524,000\) in income for the year ended September 30, 2000. The losses resulted on these sales during 2000 as CharterBank sought to decrease its investment in fixed rate mortgage related securities. Deposit fees increased to \(\$ 701,000\) from \(\$ 377,000\) due to the additional transaction deposits acquired in the Citizens acquisition and a re-evaluation of the structure on deposit accounts.

\section*{Non-interest Expense}

Total non-interest expense increased \(\$ 5.2\) million, or \(48.3 \%\) to \(\$ 15.9\) million for the year ended September 30,2000 compared with \(\$ 10.7\) million for the prior year. The primary causes of the increase were the \(\$ 4.5\) million amortization and impairment of intangible assets recorded in fiscal 2000 versus \(\$ 67,000\) of amortization in fiscal 1999 and increases in salaries and benefits due to additional employees. Salaries and employee benefits expense increased \(\$ 763,000\) from \(\$ 4.2\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999 compared to \(\$ 5.0\) million for the same time period in 2000. Major causes include the addition of employees through the Citizens acquisition and new personnel employed in both the residential and commercial real estate portions of the Bank.

Occupancy and equipment expenses increased \(\$ 729,000\), or \(44.7 \%\), for the year ended September 30,2000 as compared to the same period in 1999 due to the expense of Citizens National properties for the entire fiscal year in 2000 .

Amortization and impairment of intangible assets increased to \$4.5 million for the year ended September 30,2000 from \(\$ 67,000\) for the year ended September 30, 1999. CharterBank recorded its normal amortization expense relating to intangibles acquired in the CharterBank purchase business combination of \(\$ 930,000\) and \(\$ 67,000\) for the years ended September 30,2000 and 1999, respectively. Additionally, CharterBank recorded an impairment loss of \(\$ 3.6\) million for the year ended September 30,2000 based on an analysis of expected cash flows associated with the purchase of assets and assumption of liabilities of Citizens National. Such analysis indicated that undiscounted future cash flows associated with these assets and liabilities would be negative and therefore insufficient to recover the carrying amount of the related intangible assets, primarily due to charge-offs of loans purchased.

Legal and professional increased to \(\$ 1.5\) million for the year ended September 30,2000 from \(\$ 753,000\) for the year ended September 30, 1999. The high level of professional fees and expenses in fiscal 2000 was attributable to

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expenses related to regulatory applications for Charter Insurance Company and the withdrawn application to reorganize CharterBank into a non-stock mutual holding company without sale of stock. Charitable contributions dropped from \(\$ 2.2\) million for the year ended September 30,1999 to \(\$ 62,000\) for the same time period in 2000. The 1999 charitable contribution was primarily a donation of Freddie Mac stock to The Charter Foundation. The donation was made pursuant to CharterBank's desire to support The Charter Foundation and its community efforts and to the extent that contributions to The Charter Foundation provide tax benefits.

Income Taxes

Income taxes decreased from \(\$ 14.4\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999 to \(\$ 1.3\) million for the year ended September 30, 2000. The 1999 income tax expense included \(\$ 12.5\) million attributable to the gain on the sale of Freddie Mac stock. The effective tax rate was 59.7\% in 2000 and \(34.7 \%\) in 1999 . The 2000 effective tax rate was exorbitantly high because of the high level of goodwill amortization, which is not deductible, compared to taxable income. In both fiscal 2000 and fiscal 1999, the dividends received deduction relating to \(70 \%\) of the Freddie Mac cash dividends received has reduced federal income tax. There can be no assurance that future periods will result in similar benefits.

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Comparison of Operating Results for the Years Ended September 30, 1999 and 1998

\section*{General}

Net income for the year ended September 30, 1999 increased \(\$ 26.6\) million to \(\$ 27.0\) million from \(\$ 475,000\) for the year ended September 30, 1998 . The most significant factor affecting net income for the year ended September 30, 1999 was a \(\$ 35.9\) million gain on the sale of Freddie Mac stock. No Freddie Mac stock was sold during 1998. Equity in earnings of limited partnerships was \(\$ 448,000\) for the year ended September 30,1999 compared with a loss of \(\$ 5.8\) million for the year ended September 30, 1998. The equity loss of limited partnerships in 1998 was primarily due to the decline in value of mortgage servicing rights assets owned by the partnerships due to declining interest rates leading to significant refinancing activity. During 1999, the interest rate environment led to a small recovery in the mortgage servicing rights. The Citizens acquisition did not have a significant impact on operating results for the year ended September 30,1999 as only one month of income and expense was included in net income. Other comprehensive loss for the year ended September 30, 1999 was \(\$ 23.7\) million compared to other comprehensive income of \(\$ 51.6\) million in the prior year. The decline in comprehensive income was primarily due to a decline in market value of our securities portfolio due to increasing interest rates and the decrease in unrealized gains attributable to the sale of Freddie Mac stock.

Comprehensive Income

Other comprehensive loss for the year ended September 30, 1999 was \(\$ 23.7\) million compared to other comprehensive income of \(\$ 51.6\) million in the prior year. The price of a share of Freddie Mac stock increased from \(\$ 49.625\) at September 30,1998 to \(\$ 52.00\) at September 30 , 1999. However, during the period, CharterBank sold or made charitable contributions of 605,000 shares which caused an overall reduction in unrealized gains on Freddie Mac stock. The other comprehensive income of \(\$ 51.6\) million for the year ended September 30, 1998 primarily resulted from an increase in the per share market price of Freddie Mac common stock from \(\$ 35.25\) at September 30,1997 to \(\$ 49.625\) at September 30 , 1998 .

The impact of appreciation in the price of Freddie Mac stock on our
total comprehensive income in shown in the tables below.


Interest Income

Total interest income, excluding Freddie Mac stock, increased \$7.4 million to \(\$ 34.0\) million for the year ended September 30,1999 compared to \(\$ 26.6\) million for the same period in 1998. The primary causes of the increase were additional investments in mortgage related securities and additional income derived from growth within the residential and commercial real estate lending portfolios. The average balance of interest earning assets excluding Freddie Mac stock increased \(\$ 120.0\) million to \(\$ 476.6\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999 as compared to \(\$ 356.6\) million for the year ended September 30, 1998 . The average yield on interest earning assets excluding Freddie Mac stock decreased 31 basis points for the year ended September 30, 1999 as compared to the prior year due to the growth in lower-yielding mortgage securities and U.S. Government Treasuries, as well as a slight decrease in yield on loans.

Interest income on mortgage related securities increased by \$4.4
million from the year ended September 30 , 1998 to the year ended September 30 , 1999, a \(36.4 \%\) increase. As mentioned above, this increase was primarily caused

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by an increase in the average balance of these securities, which increased \$73.4 million over the time period, a \(39.0 \%\) increase. This increase was indicative of our strategy during 1999 to grow our balance sheet and leverage equity with wholesale investments funded primarily with borrowings. Interest income on investment debt securities increased \(\$ 1.0\) million, or \(217.5 \%\) to \(\$ 1.5\) million for the year ended September 30,1999 from \(\$ 480,000\) for the year ended September 30, 1998 due to the U.S. Treasury investments held as part of our Year 2000 liquidity planning.

Interest on loans increased \(\$ 1.9\) million, or \(14.2 \%\) to \(\$ 15.0\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999 as compared to \(\$ 13.1\) million for the same period in 1998. The average balance of loans increased \(\$ 25.5\) million to \(\$ 176.0\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999 as compared to \(\$ 150.5\) million for the year ended September 30, 1998. The bulk of the increase was due to growth in the residential mortgage loan portfolio resulting from success in marketing our 5-1 Adjustable Rate Mortgage product in fiscal 1999. The average yield on loans decreased from 8.74\% for the year ended September 30, 1998 to 8.53\% for the same period in 1999 due to the lower interest rates that prevailed in the mortgage market during the majority of 1999.

Dividends on Freddie Mac common stock increased from \(\$ 2.6\) million for the year ended September 30 , 1998 to \(\$ 2.9\) million for the same period in 1999, a \(\$ 350,000\) increase. The increase was primarily due to an increase in the quarterly dividend on Freddie Mac stock from \(\$ 0.12\) per share to \(\$ 0.15\) per share during the time period.

\section*{Interest Expense}

Interest expense on deposits increased \(\$ 4.4\) million or \(74.4 \%\) to \(\$ 10.4\) million for the year ended September 30 , 1999 compared with \(\$ 6.0\) million for year ended September 30, 1998. The increase in interest expense on deposits is almost entirely due to an increase in the average balance of deposits from \(\$ 112.4\) million for the year ended September 30, 1998 to \(\$ 198.7\) million over the same time period in 1999. The increases in balances were primarily the result of a build-up of wholesale deposits, brokered and credit union certificates of deposit, used to fund the increase in our investment portfolio and as a precaution for possible Year 2000 liquidity issues. The weighted average cost of total deposits decreased by a modest 7 basis points from 5.32\% for the year ended September 30, 1998 to \(5.25 \%\) for the same period in 1999 with the higher cost of brokered and credit union deposits offset by reduced rates on retail deposits in a lower interest rate environment.

Interest expense on borrowed funds decreased \$513,000 from \$13.4 million for the year ended September 30, 1998 to \(\$ 12.9\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999 while the average balance of borrowings increased by \(\$ 12.4\) million from \(\$ 235.5\) million for the year ended September 30 , 1998 to \(\$ 247.9\) million for the same time period in 1999. The decrease in interest expense was due to a 49 basis point decrease in the average cost of borrowed funds from 5.70\% for the year ended September 30, 1998 to 5.21\% for the 1999 period and resulted from lower wholesale short term interest rates.

\section*{Net Interest Income}

Net interest income, excluding Freddie Mac stock, for the year ended September 30 , 1999 increased \(\$ 3.5\) million or \(49.0 \%\) to \(\$ 10.7\) million compared with \(\$ 7.2\) million for the year ended September 30, 1998. The net interest rate spread - the difference between the average yield on average total interest-earning assets, excluding Freddie Mac stock, and the average cost of average total interest-bearing liabilities - increased 4 basis points from the

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1998 period to the 1999 period. The net interest margin increased 23 basis points. Modest increases in net interest margin and interest rate spread were expected in the declining rate environment present during most of 1999 since our interest-bearing liabilities adjusted more quickly to market conditions than our interest-earning assets. This decrease was moderated by the increased leverage of lower spread on mortgage related securities and borrowings.

CharterBank's net interest margin and net interest spread are low when compared to industry standards primarily due to two factors. First, the dividend rate as compared to the market value of our Freddie Mac stock is low. However, when compared to our cost basis in the investment, the dividend rate is excellent (almost 50\%). Second, under our wholesale investment strategy, our assets include a high proportion of securities with rates lower than those that would typically be earned on loans and our liabilities include a high proportion of borrowings and wholesale deposits with higher costs than those typically paid on retail deposits. This lowers our
net interest margin and net interest spread. However, our wholesale investment strategy has historically increased annual interest income. The high proportion of securities assets and borrowings also lower the net interest spread and net interest margin compared to industry standards. Net interest income including Freddie Mac stock for the year ended September 30, 1999 increased \(\$ 3.8\) million, or \(39.5 \%\), to \(\$ 13.6\) million compared with \(\$ 9.8\) million for the year ended September 30, 1998. The net interest rate spread including Freddie Mac stock the difference between the average yield on average total interest-earning assets including Freddie Mac stock and the average cost of average total interest-bearing liabilities -increased 24 basis points to \(-0.50 \%\) for the year ended September 30, 1999 from negative \(0.74 \%\) for the prior year. The increase was attributable to growth in interest-earning assets other than our Freddie Mac common stock, during the year and an increase in the quarterly dividend per share of Freddie Mac stock during the year from 12 cents per share to 15 cents per share. Traditional bank performance measures such as the net interest rate spread and the net interest rate margin would improve as the proportion of earning assets invested in Freddie Mac stock is reduced. The average balance of the Freddie Mac stock was \(\$ 306.4\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999 as compared to \(\$ 246.1\) million for the year ended September 30, 1998. The net interest margin, which is net interest income including dividends on Freddie Mac stock divided by average total interest-earning assets, including Freddie Mac stock, increased 12 basis points to \(1.74 \%\) for the year ended September 30 , 1999 .

Provision for Loan Losses

During fiscal 1999, we provided \(\$ 240,000\) for loan losses, compared to \(\$ 180,000\) for the year ended September 30, 1998. The higher provision reflected primarily the risk associated with growth in commercial real estate loans during the year ended September 30, 1999.

The allowance for loan losses at September 30, 1999 was \(2.67 \%\) of total loans compared with \(1.22 \%\) at September 30 , 1998. The increase in coverage was attributable to approximately \(\$ 3\) million in loan loss reserves that were acquired in the Citizens acquisition. The increased coverage reflected the significantly higher risk in the acquired loan portfolio. In particular, the consumer auto loan portfolio acquired in the Citizens acquisition was identified by management as containing significant risk due to the payment history of many borrowers, low credit scores of many borrowers, significant collateral shortcomings, nonamortizing loans and the overall quality of the underwriting on these loans. With the Citizens acquisition closing late in fiscal 1999, management aggressively worked and charged off these loans during fiscal 2000.

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Non-interest Income

Total non-interest income increased \(\$ 42.0\) million to \(\$ 38.7 \mathrm{million}\) for the year ended September 30,1999 from a loss of \(\$ 3.3 \mathrm{million}\) for the year ended September 30, 1998. The increase was primarily due to a \(\$ 35.9\) million gain on the sale of Freddie Mac stock and \(\$ 448,000\) of equity in earnings of limited partnerships during fiscal 1999 as compared with no gains on the sale of Freddie Mac stock and a \(\$ 5.8\) million equity in loss of limited partnerships during 1998. The 1998 equity in loss of limited partnerships resulted from a significant decline in the value of mortgage servicing rights owned by the partnerships resulting from decreases in mortgage interest rates. As rates stabilized and increased slightly during the last quarter of the year ended

September 30, 1999, prepayments slowed and modest income resulted. Freddie Mac stock was sold in 1999 to improve our regulatory capital and liquidity as a Year 2000 precaution. Additionally, gain on sale of loans increased \(\$ 103,000\) in the 1999 period compared to 1998. The increase was attributable to the increase in production of residential mortgage loans and the subsequent sales of these loans to the secondary market that occurred as interest rates were declining during most of fiscal year 1999. Loan servicing fee income increased \(\$ 63,000\) as management retained servicing on a portion of the loans that were sold to institutional investors such as Freddie Mac.

\section*{Non-interest Expense}

Total non-interest expense increased \(\$ 4.1\) million or \(62.3 \%\) to \(\$ 10.7\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999 compared with \(\$ 6.6\) million for the prior year. Charitable contributions were \(\$ 2.2\) million during the year ended September 30, 1999 as compared to \(\$ 25,000\) during 1998. This increase was primarily due to a \(\$ 2.1\) million contribution of Freddie Mac stock to The Charter Foundation. The donation resulted in tax benefits for the Bank.

Salaries and employee benefits increased by \(\$ 694,000\) from September 30, 1998 to September 30, 1999 primarily due to increased short term and long term incentive compensation, routine salary adjustments, and the addition of approximately 30 full time equivalent employees resulting from the Citizens acquisition. Occupancy and equipment expenses increased \(\$ 317,000\) as we made equipment replacements and upgrades in preparation for Year 2000 , opened a loan production office and made replacements due to the Citizens acquisition. Professional fees for the year ended September 30, 1999 increased by \(\$ 380,000\) to \(\$ 753,000\) from \(\$ 373,000\) for the prior year. The increase in the professional fee expense was attributable to tax consulting in connection with the sale of the Freddie Mac common stock and the fees associated with the formation of Charter Insurance Company and CharterBank's subsequently withdrawn application for reorganization into a non-stock mutual holding company.

Income Taxes

Income taxes increased \(\$ 15.2\) million to \(\$ 14.4\) million for the year ended September 30 , 1999, resulting in an effective tax rate of \(34.7 \%\) in fiscal 1999. The primary reason for the increase was the approximately \(\$ 35.0\) million pre-tax gain on the sale of Freddie Mac stock during the year ended September 30, 1999. The increase in the effective tax rate is due to the high level of taxable income which minimized the effect of the dividends received deduction on the reduction of the effective tax rate. In fiscal 1998, we had a tax benefit of \(\$ 818,000\) for the year due to the operating loss of \(\$ 343,000\) for the year and the dividends received deduction on Freddie Mac stock.

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Liquidity and Capital Resources
The term "liquidity" refers to our ability to generate adequate amounts of cash to fund loan originations, loan purchases, deposit withdrawals and operating expenses. Our primary sources of liquidity are deposits, borrowings, scheduled amortization and prepayments of loan principal and mortgage related securities, maturities and calls of investment securities and funds provided by our operations. We can borrow funds from the Federal Home Loan Bank based on eligible collateral of loans and securities up to a limit of \(30 \%\) of assets. At December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, our maximum borrowing capacity from the Federal Home Loan Bank is approximately \(\$ 303.1\) million and \(\$ 283.9\) million, respectively. In addition, we may enter into reverse repurchase agreements with approved broker-dealers. Reverse repurchase agreements are agreements that allow us to borrow money using our securities as collateral. We can obtain funds in the brokered deposit markets. We can also obtain funds using our Freddie Mac stock as collateral and have established a line of credit that provides for borrowing up to half of the market value of the stock. We consider this source of funds a last resort due to the potential adverse tax consequences on the dividends received deduction which exempts 70\% of our Freddie Mac dividends from taxable income. CharterBank has increasingly relied on wholesale fundings including advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank, repurchase agreements and brokered deposits to fund securities and loan growth in the past two fiscal years. This reflects a growth in our loan portfolio that has outpaced growth in retail deposits. CharterBank monitors its liquidity position frequently and anticipates that we will have sufficient funds to meet our current funding commitments.

At December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, outstanding borrowings from Federal Home Loan Bank were \(\$ 240.5\) million and \(\$ 234.8\) million, respectively. At December 31, 2000, repurchase agreements totaled \(\$ 158.0\) million, a \(\$ 40.5\) million increase over the amount outstanding at September 30, 2000 of \(\$ 117.5\) million. The increase reflects management's decision to replace approximately \(\$ 60.1\) million in wholesale deposits maturing during the quarter with repurchase agreements. Accordingly, wholesale deposits were \(\$ 69.8\) million at December 31, 2000 as compared to \(\$ 129.9\) million at September 30, 2000.

Loan repayment and maturing investment securities are a relatively predictable source of funds. However, deposit flows, calls of investment securities and prepayments of loans and mortgage-backed securities are strongly influenced by interest rates, general and local economic conditions and competition in the marketplace. These factors reduce the predictability of the timing of these sources of funds.

Our primary investing activities are the origination of one- to fourfamily real estate, commercial real estate, commercial and consumer loans, and the purchase of mortgage and investment securities. During the three months ended December 31, 2000, we originated approximately \(\$ 29.8\) million in total loans. Residential mortgage loans accounted for \(56.1 \%\) of the originations, construction loans accounted for \(28.9 \%\) and commercial real estate for \(11.1 \%\) of the originations during the three month period ended December 31, 2000. During the year ended September 30, 2000, we originated loans of approximately \(\$ 171.2\) million, and during the comparable period of 1999 we originated loans of approximately \(\$ 175.5\) million excluding loans acquired in the Citizens acquisition. Residential mortgage loans accounted for 54.0\% of total loan originations for fiscal 2000 as compared to \(79.5 \%\) of total loans originated for fiscal 1999. Commercial real estate loans accounted for \(32.4 \%\) of total originations for fiscal 2000 as

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compared to 6.1\% of total origination for fiscal 1999. This reflects management's strategy of increasing the amount of commercial real estate loans. Purchases of investment securities totaled \(\$ 4.1\) million for the quarter ended December 31, 2000 and \(\$ 124.1\) million for the year ended September 30, 2000 and \(\$ 474.3\) million for the year ended September 30, 1999. At December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, CharterBank had loan commitments to borrowers of approximately \(\$ 3.3\) million and \(\$ 5.1\) million, respectively and available home equity and unadvanced lines of credit of approximately \(\$ 8.1\) million and \(\$ 7.4\) million, respectively.

Deposit flows are affected by the level of interest rates, by the interest rates and products offered by competitors and by other factors. Total deposits were \(\$ 211.3\) million at December 31, 2000 , a \(\$ 63.0\) million decrease from the \(\$ 274.3\) million balance at September 30, 2000. The decrease reflects the maturing of approximately \(\$ 60.0\) million in wholesale deposits during the quarter which were replaced with borrowings. Total deposits decreased by \(\$ 8.6\) million during the year ended September 30,2000 as compared to fiscal 1999, as retail certificates of deposits obtained through the Citizens acquisition matured and some were not renewed. Total deposits of \(\$ 283.0\) million at September 30, 1999, a \(\$ 147.4\) million increase over total deposits of \(\$ 135.6\) million at September 30, 1998, reflects the acquisition of brokered deposits as a Year 2000 precaution and additional deposit accounts acquired in the Citizens acquisition. Time deposit accounts scheduled to mature within one year were \(\$ 141.1\) million and \(\$ 202.2\) million at December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, respectively. While CharterBank has experienced deposit run-off, we anticipate that a significant portion of these certificates of deposit will remain on deposit. Management is currently working on a new deposit pricing strategy that we believe will strengthen our focus on customer relationships.

CharterBank has traditionally been a well-capitalized savings bank, due, among other factors, to the unrealized gains on Freddie Mac stock. At December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, we exceeded each of the applicable regulatory capital requirements. Our tier 1 capital was \(\$ 52.9\) million and \(\$ 51.7\) million at December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, respectively. Tier 1 capital represented \(13.8 \%\) and \(13.2 \%\) of risk-weighed assets at December 31, 2000 and September 30,2000 respectively. Tier 1 capital represented \(7.8 \%\) and \(7.4 \%\) of total regulatory assets at December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000 which exceeds the well capitalized requirements of \(5.0 \%\). At December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, respectively, we had a risk-based total capital of \$105.8 million and \(\$ 103.4\) million, a risk-based capital ratio of \(27.5 \%\) and \(26.5 \%\) which significantly exceeds the applicable well capitalized requirements of \(10 \%\). We had additional unrealized gains that could not be included in Tier 2 capital due to the limitation that Tier 2 capital cannot exceed Tier 1 capital.

The construction of our new Auburn branch is under contract for \(\$ 1.7\) million. We anticipate incurring an additional \(\$ 200,000\) of equipment related capital expenses in connection with the Auburn branch. We also anticipate that the purchase of a customer voice response system and Internet banking software will cost approximately \(\$ 250,000\). Establishing other satellite branches and ATMs will involve additional capital expenditures which have not yet been determined. Other larger expenditures may include the purchase of land or buildings for future branch sites within our target market area. Except for the above, we do not anticipate any other material capital expenditures during fiscal year 2001. We do not have any balloon or other payments due on any long-term obligations or any off-balance sheet items other than the commitments and unused lines of credit noted above.

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In June 1998, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 133, Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities. SFAS No. 133 establishes accounting and reporting standards for derivative instruments, including certain instruments embedded in other contracts (collectively referred to as derivatives), and for hedging activities. It requires that entities recognize all derivatives as either assets or liabilities in the statement of financial position and measure those financial instruments at fair value. If certain conditions are met, an entity may elect to designate a derivative as follows: a hedge of the exposure or changes in the fair value of a recognized asset or liability, or of an unrecognized firm commitment that are attributable to a particular risk. A hedge of the exposure to variability in the cash flows of a recognized asset or liability, or of a forecasted transaction, that is attributable to a particular risk. Or, a hedge of the foreign currency exposure of an unrecognized firm commitment, an available- for-sale security, a forecasted transaction, or a net investment in a foreign operation. This Statement generally provides for matching the timing of the recognition of the gain or loss of the hedging instrument with the recognition of the changes in the fair value of the item being hedged. Depending on the type of hedge, such recognition will be in either net income or other comprehensive income. For a derivative not designated as a hedging instrument, changes in fair value are recognized in net income in the period of change. The effective date of SFAS No. 133 was delayed until fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2000 with the issuance of SFAS No. 137, Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities - Deferral of the Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 133. In June 2000, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 138, Accounting for Certain Derivative Instruments and Certain Hedging Activities an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133. SFAS No. 138 amends the accounting and reporting standards of Statement No. 133 for certain derivative instruments and certain hedging activities. CharterBank adopted SFAS No. 133 and its related amendments on October 1, 2000 and, accordingly, conducted an assessment of the nature of its derivative instruments including an assessment of its embedded derivatives, which were determined to be clearly and closely related to its investment and debt instruments. SFAS No. 133 and its related amendments did not have a material impact on CharterBank's financial statement presentations.

In October 1998, the FASB issued SFAS No. 134, "Accounting for Mortgage-Backed Securities Retained After the Securitization of Mortgage Loans Held for Sale by a Mortgage Banking Enterprise", which amends SFAS No. 65, "Accounting for Certain Mortgage Banking Activities". This statement requires that after the securitization of mortgage loans held for sale, an entity engaged in mortgage banking activities classify the resulting mortgage-backed securities or other retained interests based on its ability and intent to sell or hold those investments. CharterBank's adoption of this statement on January 1, 1999, did not have a material impact on our financial position or results of operation.

In September 2000, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 140, Accounting for Transfers and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishments of Liabilities. SFAS No. 140 replaces SFAS No. 125 issued in June 1996 and is effective for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2000. SFAS No. 140 addresses implementation issues that were identified in applying SFAS No. 125. SFAS No. 140 is not expected to have a material impact on CharterBank.

Impact of Inflation and Changing Prices
The financial Statements and accompanying notes of CharterBank have been prepared in accordance with GAAP. GAAP generally requires the measurement of financial position and operating results in terms of historical dollars

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without consideration for changes in the relative purchasing power of money over time due to inflation. The impact of inflation is reflected in the increased cost of our operations. Unlike industrial companies, our assets and liabilities are primarily monetary in nature. As a result, changes in market interest rates have a greater impact on performance than do the effects of inflation.

\section*{BUSINESS OF CHARTERBANK}

\section*{General}

We are a federally-chartered mutual savings and loan association founded in 1954. Our mission is to be a profitable community-oriented provider of banking products and services to individuals and small businesses, including residential and commercial mortgages, consumer loans, commercial loans, and a variety of deposit instruments. We operate through four full service banking offices and three loan production offices located in west-central Georgia and east-central Alabama.

Our revenues are derived principally from interest on our loans and mortgage-backed securities and interest and dividends on our investment securities, including our investment in Freddie Mac stock. Our primary sources of funds are deposits (both wholesale and retail), scheduled amortization and prepayments of loan principal and mortgage-backed securities, maturities and calls of investment securities, reverse repurchase agreements, deferred income taxes, and funds provided by operations and borrowings. We also use borrowings from the Federal Home Loan Bank as a source of funds for loans, investments and other assets. See "-- Sources of Funds."

The largest component of our expenses is the interest that we pay on deposits and borrowings.

Market Area

We conduct our operations in west-central Georgia and east-central Alabama through our main office in West Point, Georgia, two branch offices in Valley, Alabama and a branch office in LaGrange, Georgia. The main office and two Valley, Alabama offices serve the "Valley" region of our market area which consists of West Point, Georgia, and Lanett and Valley, Alabama. The LaGrange office serves an adjacent community on Interstate 85. In addition, we are building a branch in Auburn, Alabama which is expected to open in October, 2001. We also operate loan production offices in Newnan and Columbus, Georgia, and in Auburn, Alabama. The Valley area is a small market area and we hope to expand our market area to nearby counties along the Interstate I-85 corridor which are larger and have more growth potential.

The economy of our market areas has been historically supported by the textile industry. Manufacturing represents more than \(30 \%\) of the workers in our market area. Over the last several decades, government, services and related trade have expanded significantly. Several large employers in our market area include the corporate headquarters of West Point Stevens, Powertel Inc., Batson Cook, ITC Deltacom and Intercall. Powertel Inc., which is headquartered in West Point, Georgia has recently been sold to VoiceStream, which is in the process of merging with Deutsche Telekom. Unemployment in our market area is generally low and, specifically, the unemployment rates in Troup and Chambers Counties are below the national average. The median household income in our area is also below national and state-wide levels. Our loan production offices are located in more urbanized areas, generally with comparatively higher income levels. We believe that our new Auburn branch office and the areas served by our loan production offices will provide the best opportunity for growth and significant

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opportunities for profitable banking relationships.

\section*{Competition}

We face intense competition both in making loans and attracting deposits. West-central Georgia and east-central Alabama have a high concentration of financial institutions, many of which are branches of large money center, super-regional and regional banks which have resulted from the consolidation of the banking industry in Alabama and Georgia. Many of these competitors have greater resources than we do and may offer services that we do not provide.

Our competition for loans comes from commercial banks, savings institutions, mortgage banking firms, credit unions, finance companies, insurance companies and brokerage and investment banking firms. Our most direct competition for deposits has historically come from commercial banks, savings banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions and mutual funds. We face additional competition for deposits from short-term money market funds and other corporate and government securities funds and from brokerage firms and insurance companies.

\section*{Lending Activities}

Loan Portfolio Composition. Our loan portfolio consists of one to four-family residential first mortgage loans, commercial real estate loans, real estate construction loans, consumer loans and commercial loans.

At December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, we had total loans receivable of \(\$ 259.5\) million and \(\$ 259.7\) million, respectively. Approximately \(\$ 27.0\) million of the growth in loans between September 30, 1998 and September 30, 1999 was due to loans acquired in the Citizens acquisition. Residential mortgage loans comprised \(\$ 157.2\) million, or \(60.5 \%\) and \(\$ 152.8\) million, or \(58.9 \%\), of total loans at December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, respectively. Loans secured by mortgages on commercial real estate totaled \(\$ 59.2\) million at December 31, 2000 and \(\$ 60.8\) million at September 30, 2000. The \(\$ 60.8\) million balance of these loans at September 30, 2000 was a \(\$ 14.3\) million, a \(30.7 \%\) increase over the balance of commercial real estate loans at September 30, 1999. Management's strategy is to grow the commercial real estate loan portfolio. We hired additional personnel in the commercial lending area during fiscal 2000 to strengthen our operations in this area.

At December 31, 2000, management estimates that approximately \(\$ 35.0\) million of total commercial real estate loans are secured by real estate in the Atlanta metropolitan area, approximately \(\$ 10.0\) million of total commercial real estate loans are secured by real estate in the West Point /Valley area, and approximately \(\$ 15.0\) million of total commercial real estate loans are secured by commercial real estate in other areas, primarily in the southeast United States. We expect continued growth in our commercial real estate portfolio in the future.

The remaining portion of our loan portfolio at December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000 consisted of consumer loans totaling \(\$ 28.1\) million and \(\$ 29.9\) million, respectively, real estate construction loans of \(\$ 6.7\) milion and \(\$ 7.1\) million, respectively, and commercial loans of \(\$ 8.4\) million and \(\$ 9.0\) million, respectively. Our consumer loan portfolio at December 31, 2000 contains about \(\$ 2.7\) million in auto loans acquired as a result of the Citizens acquisition.

Our loans are subject to federal and state law and regulations. The interest rates we charge on loans are affected principally by the demand for

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loans, the supply of money available
for lending purposes and the interest rates offered by our competitors. These factors are, in turn, affected by general and local economic conditions, monetary policies of the federal government, including the Federal Reserve Board, legislative tax policies and governmental budgetary matters.

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The following table presents the composition of our loan portfolio in dollar amounts and in percentages of the total portfolio at the dates indicated.



At December 31, 2000

(In thousands)
Amounts due:


The following table presents, as of December 31, 2000 , the dollar amount of all loans contractually due or scheduled to reprice after December 31 , 2001 and whether such loans have fixed interest rates or adjustable interest rates.

Due After December 31, 2001



The following table presents our loan originations, purchases, sales and principal payments for the periods indicated.

\section*{Loans (1) :}

Balance outstanding at beginning of period........

Originations:
1-4 family residential real estate
1-4 family real estate acquired
in Citizens acquisition
Commercial real estate and commercial
Commercial real estate and commercial
acquired in Citizens acquisition.

Consumer and other loans acquired
through Citizens acquisition.
Real estate construction
Real estate construction loans acquired
through Citizens acquisition.
Total originations and loans acquired through Citizens acquisition

Less:
Principal repayments, unadvanced funds and other, net............................................
Sale of residential mortgage loans, principal balance
Loan charge-offs (recoveries), net.................
Transfers to foreclosed real estate
Total deductions
Net loan activity
Ending balance \(\qquad\)
\$ 259,543

259,543
\$ 259,700
\$ 214,217

25,559

6,563

4,198

5,169
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29,847


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(1) Excludes loans held for sale.

Residential Mortgage Loans and Originations. We emphasize the origination of first and second mortgages secured by one- to four-family properties primarily within Georgia and Alabama. At December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, loans on one-to-four-family properties accounted for \(60.5 \%\) and 58.8\% of our total loan portfolio, respectively.

Our mortgage origination strategy is to offer a broad array of products to meet customer needs. These products include nonconforming loans which are held in our portfolio, fixed rate loans sold to investors with servicing released for fee income, and fixed rate loans sold to the secondary market where we retain the servicing rights. Management's current strategy has been to sell more loans with servicing released, as we believe that this improves our overall profitability. Current originations of nonconforming loans are nonconforming due to property or income exceptions. Our loan portfolio also contains some loans that are nonconforming due to loan to value or credit exceptions.

Our originations of all types of residential first mortgages amounted to \(\$ 16.7\) million for the quarter ending December 31, \(2000, \$ 92.5\) million for the year ended September 30, 2000, \(\$ 139.5\) million for the year ended September 30 , 1999, and \(\$ 95.8\) million for the year ended September 30, 1998. Due to the low interest rate environment, a significant portion of loans originated in 1998 and 1999 were refinances, including refinances of our existing portfolio loans and loans in our servicing portfolio. The average size of our residential mortgage loans originated in the quarter ended December 31, 2000 was \(\$ 105,000\) and \(\$ 96,000\) for the year ended September 30, 2000.

We utilize a variety of strategies to originate new mortgage loans including third party alliances with mortgage lenders, dedicated mortgage originators, and branch referrals. Our mortgage originators develop referrals from real estate brokers, attorneys, past customers and other key referral sources.

We offer a variety of mortgage products to allow customers to select the best product for their needs. A description of the products and underwriting guidelines are highlighted below.

Adjustable Rate Mortgage Loans. We offer a variety of adjustable rate mortgage products that initially adjust after one, three, five, or seven years. After the initial term, adjustable rate mortgage loans generally adjust on an annual basis at a fixed spread over the monthly average yield on United States Treasury securities. The adjusted rates are based on a constant maturity of one year (constant treasury maturity index). The interest rate adjustments are generally subject to a maximum increase of \(2 \%\) per adjustment period and the aggregate adjustment is generally subject to a maximum increase of \(6 \%\) over the life of the loan. We originated approximately \(\$ 12.0\) million in one- to four-family adjustable rate mortgage loans in the quarter ended December 31, 2000 and approximately \(\$ 70.0\) million in the year ended September 30, 2000. At December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, 74.9\% and 75.3\%, respectively, of the residential mortgage loans in our portfolio were adjustable rate mortgage loans.

Generally, we offer adjustable rate mortgage loans in amounts up to \$1.0 million depending on the loan-to-value ratio and the type of property. The loan-to-value ratio is the loan amount divided by the lower of (a) the appraised value of the property or (b) the purchase price

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of the property. The loan-to-value ratio is commonly used by financial institutions as one measure of potential exposure to risk.

Our most popular portfolio product is a \(5-1\) adjustable rate loan that is not conforming to secondary market standards due to property or income exceptions. This type of loan yields a fixed rate for the first five years and adjusts to a pre-determined index annually thereafter. At December 31, 2000, our portfolio contained \(\$ 58.4\) million of \(5-1\) adjustable rate loans with a weighted average rate of \(8.27 \%\) Loans on owner occupied one- to four-family residences are generally subject to a maximum loan to value ratio of \(80 \%\) or have mortgage insurance.

All adjustable rate mortgage loans are underwritten using specifications set by Freddie Mac. Generally, our adjustable rate mortgage loans with loan balances below the Freddie Mac maximum loan standard \((\$ 275,000\) for a single-family property) are conforming loans maintained in our portfolio. Jumbo loans (amounts above the secondary market conforming standards) are considered non-conforming but may be saleable to other investors.

Fixed Rate Mortgages Sold Servicing Released. We offer a variety of fixed-rate products that we sell to investors on a servicing released basis. These loans are underwritten to the investors' standards and are generally sold to the investor after the loan closes. The rate on these loans is committed with the investor on a best efforts basis when the borrower locks in their interest rate. Gains on sales of residential loans amounted to \(\$ 211,000\) and \(\$ 730,000\) of our non-interest income for the quarter ended December 31, 2000 and the year ended September 30, 2000, respectively.

Fixed Rate Mortgages Sold with Servicing Retained. We are an approved seller/servicer for Freddie Mac. Our fixed rate loans are underwritten to comply with Freddie Mac standards for sale to this investor. At December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, CharterBank serviced loans for Freddie Mac with an aggregate balance of \(\$ 148.3\) million and \(\$ 152.8\) million, respectively.

Home Equity Credit Lines and Second Mortgages. We offer home equity lines of credit as a complement to our one- to four-family lending activities. We believe that offering home equity credit lines helps to expand and create stronger ties to our existing customer base by increasing the number of customer relationships and providing cross-marketing opportunities. Home equity credit lines provide adjustable-rate loans secured by a first or second mortgage on owner-occupied one- to four-family residences located primarily in Georgia and Alabama. Home equity credit lines enable customers to borrow at rates tied to the prime rate as reported in The Wall Street Journal. The underwriting standards applicable to home equity credit lines are generally the same as oneto four-family first mortgage loans with the exception of loan to value ratios which may go to \(100 \%\). Starting in 1999 , equity lines with loan to value ratios over \(80 \%\) were generally insured with lender paid mortgage insurance. At December 31, 2000 and September 30,2000 , we had \(\$ 21.9\) million and \(\$ 22.3\) million, respectively, of home equity and second mortgage loans. We also had \$5.1 million and \(\$ 5.0\) million of unfunded home equity commitments at December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000 respectively.

Commercial Real Estate Loans. CharterBank embarked on a strategy of increasing its commercial real estate loan portfolio during fiscal 1998. We originate commercial real estate loans secured by properties located in our primary market area and metropolitan Atlanta. In

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underwriting commercial real estate loans, we consider not only the property's historic cash flow, but also its current and projected occupancy, location, and physical condition. We generally lend up to a maximum loan-to-value ratio of \(80 \%\) on commercial properties and require a minimum debt coverage ratio of 1.25 or compensating factors. At December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, respectively, we had \(\$ 59.2\) million and \(\$ 60.8\) million of loans in our commercial real estate portfolio. The average loan size at September 30, 2000 is larger than the average loan size in prior years due to several multi-million commercial loans that were closed during fiscal 2000. Our largest loan exposure is a commercial real estate loan with a commitment of \(\$ 5.6\) million at September 30,2000 and \(\$ 5.5\) million at December 31, 2000 with approximately \(\$ 130,000\) drawn. This loan was secured by a hotel located in Auburn, Alabama. We also have a \(\$ 15.0\) million credit line secured by two properties in Florida. CharterBank sold \(66.6 \%\) of this relationship in a loan participation, leaving us with a maximum exposure of \(\$ 5.0\) million on the line of credit.

Commercial real estate lending involves additional risks compared with one-to four-family residential lending. Payments on loans secured by commercial real estate properties often depend on the successful management of the properties, on the amount of rent from the properties, or on the level of expenses needed to maintain the properties. Repayment of such loans may therefore be adversely affected by conditions in the real estate market or the general economy. Also, commercial real estate loans typically involve large loan balances to single borrowers or groups of related borrowers. In order to mitigate this risk, we monitor our loan concentration and our loan policies generally limit the amount of loans to a single borrower or group of borrowers. We also utilize the services of an outside consultant to conduct credit quality reviews of the commercial loan portfolio. Because of increased risks associated with commercial real estate loans, our commercial real estate loans generally have higher rates and shorter maturities than residential mortgage loans. We usually offer commercial real estate loans at fixed rate and adjustable rates tied to the prime rate or to yields on U.S. Treasury securities. The terms of such fixed rate loans generally do not exceed 25 years.

We closely monitor the performance of our commercial real estate loan portfolio. We are in the process of expanding our internal risk rating system for our commercial real estate loans. In order to update the grades assigned to individual commercial real estate loans under the internal risk rating system, we will be regrading the entire commercial real estate loan portfolio according to the new criteria established.

Commercial Loans. Commercial loans generally are limited to terms of five years or less. Whenever possible, we collateralize these loans with a lien on commercial real estate, or alternatively, with a lien on business assets and equipment. We also generally require the personal guarantee of the business owner. Interest rates on commercial loans generally have higher yields than residential or commercial real estate loans due to the risk inherent in this type of loan.

Commercial loans are generally considered to involve a higher degree of risk than residential or commercial real estate loans because the collateral may be in the form of intangible assets and/or inventory subject to market obsolescence. Commercial loans may also involve relatively large loan balances to single borrowers or groups of related borrowers, with the repayment of such loans typically dependent on the successful operation and income stream of the borrower. Such risks can be significantly affected by economic conditions. In addition, business lending generally requires substantially greater supervision efforts by our management

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compared to residential or commercial real estate lending. In this regard, we have recently hired three senior commercial banking officers who have extensive experience in business banking in our market. Commercial loans however, comprise a small portion of our loan portfolio, at approximately 3\% of total loans receivable at December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000.

Consumer Loans. We offer a variety of consumer loans to retail customers in the communities we serve in order to increase the yield on our loan portfolio. Examples of our consumer loans include:
home equity loans-open and closed end;
secured deposit loans;
credit lines tied to deposit accounts to provide overdraft protection; and
unsecured credit lines and installment loans.
At December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, the consumer loan portfolio totaled \(\$ 28.1\) million and \(\$ 29.9\) million, respectively, or \(10.8 \%\) and 11.5\% of total loans.

Consumer loans are generally originated at higher interest rates than residential and commercial mortgage loans and tend to have a higher credit risk than residential loans because they may be secured by a home with a loan-to-value of \(100 \%\), secured by rapidly depreciable assets, or unsecured. Despite these risks, our level of consumer loan delinquencies, excluding auto loans, has generally been low. We cannot assure you, however, that our delinquency rate on consumer loans will continue to remain low in the future, or that we will not incur future losses on these activities.

At December 31, 2000, we had a total of \(\$ 2.7\) million of auto loans in our consumer loan portfolio. These loans were acquired in connection with the Citizens acquisition. The balance of the portfolio was approximately \(\$ 7.0\) million at the time of the Citizens acquisition. During due diligence, management identified numerous risks associated with the portfolio. Notably, underwriting standards on these loans were well below CharterBank standards. Many of the borrowers displayed low credit scores, had collateral shortages, or poor income coverage ratios. Management also discovered that over \(\$ 1.0\) million of these loans had balloon payments at the end of their terms and were not amortizing properly. Accordingly, many of these loans have had poor payment histories and CharterBank has continually worked this loan portfolio and charged off auto loans as appropriate. Charge-offs on the auto loan portfolio amounted to approximately \(\$ 875,000\) for the quarter ended December 31, 2000 and \(\$ 470,000\) for the year ending September 30, 2000. At December 31, 2000, management has established reserves of over \(\$ 900,000\) for consumer loans with the reserves on auto loans being the primary component of these reserves.

We make loans for up to 50\% of the amount of a borrower's savings account or certificates of deposit balance. These savings secured loans totaled \(\$ 648,000\) and \(\$ 639,000\) at December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, respectively.

Loan Approval Procedures and Authority. Our lending policies provide that various lending departments may review and approve loans and lines up to prescribed limits as follows:

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\$275,000; \\ Commercial real estate mortgage loans up to \(\$ 250,000\) that meet our underwriting standards; \\ Home equity loans or lines for owner occupied one to four properties up to \(\$ 250,000\) that conform to our underwriting guidelines; \\ Home equity loans or lines up to \(\$ 100,000\) for vacation and non-owner occupied properties; \\ Unsecured loans up to \$50,000; and \\ Commercial loans up to \(\$ 250,000\).
}

All loan applications that exceed the above mentioned amounts up to \(\$ 500,000\) require a senior management loan authority approval and all loans above \(\$ 500,000\) require approval of either the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors or approval of the Board Loan Committee. In addition, on loans with a loan to value ratio of greater than \(80 \%\) we generally require the borrower to obtain private mortgage insurance.

The following generally describes our current lending procedures for residential mortgages and home equity lines and loans. Upon receipt of a completed loan application from a prospective borrower, we order a credit report and verify other information. If necessary, we obtain additional financial or credit related information. We require an appraisal for all mortgage loans, except for home equity loans or lines where an alternative evaluation may be used to determine the loan to value ratio. Appraisals are performed by licensed or certified third-party appraisal firms and are reviewed by our lending department. We require title insurance or a title opinion on all mortgage loans, except for home equity lines and loans.

We require borrowers to obtain hazard insurance and we may require borrowers to obtain flood insurance prior to closing. For properties with a private sewage disposal system, we also require evidence of compliance with applicable law on residential mortgage loans. Further, we generally require borrowers to advance funds on a monthly basis together with each payment of principal and interest to a mortgage escrow account from which we make disbursements for items such as real estate taxes, hazard insurance, flood insurance and private mortgage insurance premiums, if required.

Commercial real estate loans are approved through the Bank's Credit Committee process. The Credit Committee consists of the President, the Executive Vice President, the Chief Financial Officer and certain other senior lending and credit officers. The Credit Committee has authority to approve individual loans and modifications up to \(\$ 500,000\). Commercial real estate loans less than \(\$ 250,000\) may be approved outside the Committee process by an officer who has commercial real estate loan authority.

Asset Quality

One of our key operating objectives has been and continues to be the achievement of a high level of asset quality. We maintain a large proportion of loans secured by residential one- to four-family properties and commercial properties; we set sound credit standards for new loan originations; and we follow careful loan administration procedures. These practices and relatively favorable economic and real estate market conditions have resulted in a low

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level of non-performing assets in recent years. Subsequent to December 31, 2000, we strengthened our focus on credit risk by hiring additional personnel in the credit risk management area. Currently, we are re-assessing our loan review process and other credit risk factors in light of the new talent in this area. Delinquencies increased during the year ended September 30, 2000 due to loans acquired in the Citizens acquisition and higher delinquencies in nonconforming residential loans as the average age of these loans reaches the third year. Freddie Mac has estimated that most mortgage loans that encounter delinquency troubles usually begin in the third to sixth year of the mortgage.

Delinquent Loans and Foreclosed Assets. Our policies require that management continuously monitor the status of the loan portfolio and report to the Loan Committee of the Board of Directors on a monthly basis. These reports include information on delinquent loans and foreclosed real estate, and our actions and plans to cure the delinquent status of the loans and to dispose of the foreclosed property. The Loan Committee approves action plans on all loans that are 90 days delinquent. The Loan committee consists of two outside directors and at least one Board member who is a member of management. One of the outside directors acts as Chairman of the Loan Committee, while other Board members rotate monthly in the second outside director position.

The following table presents information regarding total nonaccrual loans, accruing loans delinquent 90 days or more, and foreclosed real estate as of the dates indicated. At December 31, 2000, and September 30, 2000, 1999 and 1998, we had \(\$ 2.9\) million, \(\$ 2.8\) million, \(\$ 2.0\) million, and \(\$ 306,000\), respectively, of nonperforming loans. If all nonaccrual loans had been performing in accordance with their original terms and had been outstanding from the earlier of the beginning of the period or origination, we would have recorded additional interest income on these loans of approximately \(\$ 45,000\) for the three month period ended December 31, 2000. For the year ended September 30, 2000, there would have been \(\$ 176,000\) of additional interest income recorded on these loans.
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline & & At September \\
\hline \[
\begin{gathered}
\text { At December 31, } \\
2000
\end{gathered}
\] & 2000 & 1999 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
(In thousands)
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Total non-accrual loans & \$2,499 & \$2,672 & \$1,989 \\
\hline Accruing loans delinquent 90 days or more. & 396 & 159 & - \\
\hline Total non-performing loans. & 2,895 & 2,831 & 1,989 \\
\hline Foreclosed real estate, net & 524 & 630 & 222 \\
\hline Total non-performing assets. & 3,419 & 3,461 & 2,211 \\
\hline Non-performing loans to total loans. & 1.12\% & 1.09\% & 0.93\% \\
\hline Non-performing assets to total assets. & 0.34\% & \(0.37 \%\) & 0.24\% \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Nonperforming assets at December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, 1999 and 1998 were \(\$ 3.4\) million, \(\$ 3.5\) million, \(\$ 2.2 \mathrm{million}\), and \(\$ 436,000\) respectively. Of

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these totals, \(\$ 142,000, \$ 824,000, \$ 523,000\), and \(\$ 0\) respectively represented auto loans.

We stop accruing income when interest or principal payments are 90 days in arrears. We may stop accruing income on such loans earlier than 90 days when we consider the timely collectibility of interest or principal to be doubtful. We may continue to accrue interest income beyond 90 days if the loan is well secured and we determine that the ultimate collection of all principal and interest is not in doubt.

When we designate nonaccrual loans, we reverse all outstanding interest that we had previously credited. If we receive a payment on a nonaccrual loan, we may recognize a portion of that payment as interest income, if we determine that the ultimate collectibility of principal is no longer in doubt. However, such loans would remain on nonaccrual status.

All nonaccrual commercial real estate and commercial loans are classified as impaired loans. Impaired loans are individually assessed to determine whether the carrying value exceeds the fair value of the collateral or the present value of the undiscounted cash flow produced by the underlying collateral. Smaller balance homogeneous loans, such as residential mortgage loans and consumer loans, are collectively evaluated for impairment. At December 31, 2000, September 30, 2000, and September 30, 1999, impaired loans totaled \(\$ 990,000, \$ 740,000\) and \(\$ 500,000\) respectively. Approximately \(\$ 320,000, \$ 460,000\), and \(\$ 500,000\) of total impaired loans at December 31, 2000 , September 30, 2000, and September 30, 1999, respectively, relate to loans acquired through the Citizens acquisition. In particular, one commercial real estate loan of approximately \(\$ 300,000\) has remained on non-accrual status since it was acquired. After December 31, 2000, foreclosure proceedings on this loan were completed. At December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000 and 1999, we had no loans classified as troubled debt restructurings.

Foreclosed real estate consists of property we have acquired through foreclosure or deed in lieu of foreclosure. Foreclosed real estate properties are initially recorded at the lower of the recorded investment in the loan or fair value. Thereafter, we carry foreclosed real estate at fair value less estimated selling costs. At December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000 and 1999, respectively, we had \(\$ 524,000, \$ 630,000\) and \(\$ 222,000\) in foreclosed real estate.

Allowance for Loan Losses. The following table presents the activity in our allowance for loan losses and other ratios at or for the dates indicated.
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multirow[t]{3}{*}{} & \multicolumn{4}{|l|}{At or for Three Months Ended December 31,} & \multicolumn{5}{|r|}{At or for Years E} \\
\hline & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{2000} & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{1999} & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{2000} & \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{1999} \\
\hline & & & & & & & \multicolumn{3}{|l|}{(Dollars in thousan} \\
\hline Balance at beginning of period. & \$ & 6,346 & \$ & 5,710 & \$ & 5,710 & \$ & 2,054 & \$ \\
\hline Loan loss reserve of acquired company (1)...................... & & -- & & -_ & & -_ & & 3,752 & \\
\hline \multicolumn{10}{|l|}{Charge-offs:} \\
\hline 1-4 residential real estate. & & (6) & & (12) & & (104) & & (49) & \\
\hline Commercial real estate. & & -- & & (91) & & (91) & & -- & \\
\hline Commercial.. & & (137) & & (16) & & (26) & & (133) & \\
\hline Consumer and other & & (984) & & (144) & & (713) & & (237) & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

(1) Established as a result of Citizens acquisition.
(2) Does not include loans held for sale or deferred fees.
(3) Interim periods have been annualized.

Our evaluation of the loan portfolio includes the review of all loans on which the collection of principal might be at risk. We consider the following factors as part of this evaluation:

> our historical loan loss experience;
> known and inherent risks in the loan portfolio;
> increases in categories with higher loss potential, such as commercial real estate loans and jumbo loans;
> credit scores and credit history;
> the estimated value of the underlying collateral; and
> current economic and market trends.

There may be other factors that may warrant our consideration in maintaining the allowance at a level sufficient to cover probable losses. Although we believe

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that we have established and maintained the allowance for loan losses at adequate levels, future additions may be necessary if economic, real estate and other conditions differ substantially from the current operating environment.

In addition, the Office of Thrift Supervision, as an integral part of its examination process, periodically reviews our loan and foreclosed real estate portfolios and the related allowance for loan losses and valuation allowance for foreclosed real estate. The Office of Thrift Supervision may require us to increase the allowance for loan losses or the valuation allowance for foreclosed real estate based on their judgments of information available to them at the time of their examination, thereby adversely affecting our results of operations.

For the quarter ended December 31, 2000 and the year ended September 30, 2000, we increased our allowance for loan losses through a \(\$ 150,000\) and \(\$ 1.4\) million provision for loan losses, respectively, based on our evaluation of the items discussed above. The increase in the allowance for loan losses also reflects the additional risk associated with the loan portfolio acquired through the Citizens acquisition in fiscal 1999. We believe that the current allowance for loan losses adequately reflects the level of risk in the current loan portfolio. To determine the adequacy of the allowance, we look at historical trends in the growth and composition of our loan portfolio, among other factors. The most significant risk trends over the last five years are the growth of our commercial real estate loan portfolio, the growth of the nonconforming residential loan portfolio, and the increase in nonperforming loans due to the Citizens acquisition. We believe that, despite using prudent underwriting standards, commercial real estate loans contain higher loss potential than oneto four-family residential mortgages.

See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations--for the Three Months Ended December 31, 2000 and 1999 and the Years Ended September 30, 2000, 1999 and 1998 -- Provision for Loan Losses."

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Allocation of Allowance for Loan Losses. The following tables set forth the allowance for loan losses allocated by loan category, the total loan balances by category, and the percent of loans in each category to total loans indicated.



\footnotetext{
(1) Includes home equity lines of credit, excludes loans held for sale.
}

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}

\section*{Investment Activities}

The Board of Directors reviews and approves our investment policy on an annual basis. The President and Chief Financial Officer, as authorized by the Board, implements this policy based on the established guidelines within the written investment policy, and other established guidelines, including those set periodically by the Asset Liability Management Committee.

The primary goal of our investment policy is to invest funds in assets with varying maturities which will result in the best possible yield while maintaining the safety of the principal invested and assist in managing interest rate risk. We also seek to use our strong capital position to maximize our net income through investment in higher yielding mortgage related securities funded by borrowings. The investment portfolio is also viewed as a source of liquidity. The broad objectives of our investment portfolio management are to:
. Minimize the risk of loss of principal or interest;
. Generate a favorable return without incurring undue interest rate and credit risk;
. Manage the interest rate sensitivity of our assets and liabilities;
. Meet daily, cyclical and long term liquidity requirements while complying with our established policies and regulatory liquidity requirements;
- Diversify assets in stable economic regions and address specific gap imbalances; and
. Provide collateral for pledging requirements.
In determining our investment strategies, we consider our interest rate sensitivity, yield, credit risk factors, maturity and amortization schedules, collateral value and other characteristics of the securities to be held.

Our investment policies and procedures also encompass evaluating and monitoring our Freddie Mac stock investment.

Liquidity
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We calculate liquidity by taking the total of:

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. our cash;
. cash we have in other banks;
. unpledged U.S. Government or Government Agency Securities; and
. unpledged mortgage-backed securities guaranteed by the U.S. Government or Agencies or rated AAA.

We utilize borrowing lines of credit supported by available collateral, including Freddie Mac stock, which provides a high level of liquidity. We borrow funds from the Federal Home Loan Bank based on eligible collateral of loans and securities up to a limit of \(30 \%\) of assets. Our maximum borrowing capacity from the Federal Home Loan Bank is approximately \(\$ 282.8\) million, net of borrowings that are already outstanding. We utilize Federal Home Loan Bank advances, reverse repurchase agreements and other borrowings to fund the purchase of

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higher yielding investment securities in order to increase our net income and return on equity.

\section*{Investment Portfolio}

General. Federally chartered thrifts have authority to invest in various types of assets, including U.S. Treasury obligations, securities of various federal agencies, mortgage-backed securities, certain certificates of deposit of insured financial institutions, repurchase agreements, overnight and short term loans to other banks, corporate debt instruments, and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac equity securities. Our investments primarily fall into three major categories:
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U.S. agency obligations;
equity investments; and
collateralized mortgage obligations and mortgage-backed securities.
Securities can be classified as trading, held to maturity, or available for
sale at the date of purchase. All of our securities are currently classified as
"available for sale." The weighted average annualized yield of the portfolio was
6.96% and 6.97% as of December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, respectively. We
believe the credit quality of the portfolio is high, with 99% of the portfolio,
excluding equity investments, invested in U.S. Government, U.S. Government
Agency, or U.S. Government Agency-guaranteed mortgage-backed securities or
mortgage related securities with a rating of AA or better as of December 31,
2000 and September 30, 2000. For information see "Management Discussion and
Analysis - Carrying Values, Yields and Maturities."

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Investment Portfolio. The following table sets forth the composition of our investment securities portfolio at the dates indicated.



Ginnie Mae
 interest rates.


Fixed rate investment
securities:

    investment securities........
        14,452
        13,798
        (654)
    14,449
    12,880
Fixed rate mortgage-backed and
    mortgage-related securities:
Ginnie Mae............................
Fannie Mae...................... 46,712 46,193
Freddie Mac.........................
    Total fixed rate
    mortgage-backed and
    mortgage-related
    securities
        124,652
            123,230
        \((1,422)\)
            134,953
        129,311
Fixed rate collateralized
    mortgage obligations:
mortgage obligations:
Fannie Mae.......................
Freddie Mac..........................
Non-agency........................
Ginnie Mae. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
    10,177
    10,167
    15,165 15,132
\((10)\)
\((33)\)
\((4,909)\)
\((105)\)
-------


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Investment Portfolio Maturities. The composition and maturities of the Investment securities portfolio (debt securities) and the mortgage-backed securities portfolio at December 31, 2000 are summarized in the following table. Maturities are based on the final contractual payment dates, and do not reflect the impact of prepayments or redemptions that may occur.


U.S. Agency Obligations. The balances of U.S. Agency obligations of \(\$ 13.8\) million at December 31,2000 are relatively small compared to mortgage related securities or total assets. These securities provide some diversification from the mortgage related securities.

Equity Securities. As of December 31, 2000, equity securities are primarily comprised of \(5,055,000\) shares of Freddie Mac common stock which had a

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per share market value of \(\$ 68.875\) per share, a total market value of \(\$ 348.2\) million and a cost basis of approximately \(\$ 1.40\) per share. The large unrealized pre-tax gain of approximately \(\$ 341.3\) million is the result of a series of well-timed investments in Freddie Mac stock in the middle to late 1980's, the substantial portion of which we continue to own. As a result of strong fundamental growth at Freddie Mac and favorable stock market environment, our Freddie Mac stock investment has appreciated significantly, constituting approximately \(34.5 \%\) of our total assets. The unrealized gain in Freddie Mac stock has substantially strengthened our capital and earnings. The after tax unrealized gain in Freddie Mac stock constitutes \(81.4 \%\) of our equity capital, making it the largest segment of our equity position. In addition, our substantial investment in Freddie Mac stock has allowed us to increase our interest rate risk position, with the intent of receiving increased net interest income. Dividends on Freddie Mac stock have also significantly increased our dividend and interest income.

Because we believe that our ownership of Freddie Mac stock continues to present attractive earnings growth potential and because the sale of Freddie Mac stock would result in substantial tax liability for us, we have no current plans to liquidate our Freddie Mac stock investment. However, we are reallocating the Freddie Mac stock so as to more effectively manage our investment and retail operations. In this regard, as part of the reorganization, 2.5 million shares of the Freddie Mac stock will be transferred out of CharterBank's portfolio to Charter Financial, First Charter, MHC and Charter Insurance Company, leaving 50.5\% of the Freddie Mac stock in CharterBank's portfolio. Following the reorganization, we will continue to monitor our Freddie Mac stock investment.

Mortgage Related Securities. Our mortgage-backed security portfolio is composed of collateralized mortgage obligations and mortgage-backed securities. Collateralized mortgage obligations and mortgage-backed securities consist of various types of securities issued by the major secondary market issuers including Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, as well as a variety of private issuers. The portfolio includes securities with a wide variety of structures including variable rate and fixed rate securities, including many hybrid securities with balloon terms.

Mortgage-backed securities generally yield less than the loans that underlie these securities because of the cost of payment guarantees or credit enhancements that reduce credit risk. However, mortgage-backed securities are more liquid than individual mortgage loans and may be used as collateral for our borrowings. In general, mortgage-backed securities issued or guaranteed by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Ginnie Mae or private issuers that rate AA or better are weighted at not more than \(20 \%\) for risk-based capital purposes, compared to \(50 \%\) risk weighting assigned to most non-securitized residential mortgage loans.

While mortgage-backed securities carry a reduced credit risk as compared to whole loans, they remain subject to the risk of a fluctuating interest rate environment. Along with other factors, such as the geographic distribution of the underlying mortgage loans, changes in interest

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rates may alter the prepayment rate of those mortgage loans and affect both prepayment rates and value of mortgage-backed securities.

While mortgage related securities have maturities as stated in the accompanying tables, average maturities may be significantly shorter based on interest rates and underlying loan prepayments. Based on interest rates and market prepayment assumptions as of December 31, 2000 , the estimated average life of or fixed rate mortgage backed security portfolio was 12.4 years and of our fixed rate collateralized mortgage obligation portfolio was 15.3 years.

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As discussed above, we have sought to utilize our strong equity position to enhance our earnings and return on equity by using Federal Home Loan Bank advances, reverse repurchase agreements and other borrowings to fund the purchase of higher yielding investment securities. In this regard, our mortgage-backed securities portfolio has been effective in leveraging our strong capital and increasing net earnings levels. Collateralized mortgage obligations and mortgage-backed securities and other securities will continue to be purchased in the future with the same general objectives.

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Mortgage-Backed Securities and Mortgage-Related Securities. The following table discloses the amortized cost and fair value of our mortgage-backed and mortgage-related securities, all of which are classified as available for sale as of the dates indicated. Since 1994, all mortgage-backed and mortgage-related securities have been classified as available for sale.
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Amortized Cost & Percent of Total & Market Value & Amortized Cost & \[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Percent of } \\
& \text { Total }
\end{aligned}
\] & Market Value \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
(Dollars
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Ginnie Mae. & \$ & 75,895 & 20.84\% & \$ & 75,015 & \$ & 85,700 & 22.33\% & \$ & 82,171 \\
\hline Fannie Mae & & 52,035 & 14.28 & & 51,502 & & 52,832 & 13.77 & & 50,783 \\
\hline Freddie Mac & & 20,862 & 5.73 & & 20,818 & & 25,043 & 6.53 & & 24,355 \\
\hline Other. & & - & - & & - & & - & - & & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Collateralized mortgage obligations available for sale: & & & & & & \\
\hline Fannie Mae. & 75,024 & 20.59 & 74,626 & 78,831 & 20.55 & 77,777 \\
\hline Freddie Mac & 69,953 & 19.20 & 69,471 & 70,513 & 18.38 & 69,369 \\
\hline Non-agency. & 67,033 & 18.40 & 62,123 & 67,198 & 17.52 & 59,946 \\
\hline Ginnie Mae. & 3,517 & 0.96 & 3,412 & 3,518 & 0.92 & 3,306 \\
\hline Total & \$364,319 & 100.00\% & \$356,967 & \$383,635 & 100.00\% & \$367,707 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{1998} \\
\hline Amortized Cost & Percent of Total & Market Value \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

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\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Ginnie Mae. & \multirow[t]{4}{*}{\$} & 10,564 & 4.24\% & \multirow[t]{4}{*}{} & \$ 10,547 \\
\hline Fannie Mae & & 45,591 & 18.30 & & 45,602 \\
\hline Freddie Mac & & 22,498 & 9.03 & & 22,667 \\
\hline Other & & 1,970 & 0.79 & & 1,905 \\
\hline Collateralized mortgage obligations available for sale: & & & & & \\
\hline Fannie Mae & & 81,894 & 32.88 & & 82,682 \\
\hline Freddie Mac & & 42,180 & 16.93 & & 42,660 \\
\hline Non-agency & & 44,413 & 17.83 & & 44,772 \\
\hline Ginnie Mae. & & - & - & & - \\
\hline Total & & 49,110 & 100.00\% & & 50,835 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{1997} & \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{1996} \\
\hline Amortized Cost & \[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Percent of } \\
& \text { Total }
\end{aligned}
\] & Market Value & Amortized Cost & \[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Percent of } \\
& \text { Total }
\end{aligned}
\] & Market Value \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Mortgage-backed
securities available
for sale:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Ginnie Mae & \$ 5,074 & \(3.94 \%\) & \$ 5,057 & \$ 2,997 & 3.39\% & \$ 2,945 \\
\hline Fannie Mae. & 23,280 & 18.10 & 23,247 & 6,323 & 7.16 & 6,281 \\
\hline Freddie Mac. & 6,423 & 4.99 & 6,426 & 4,546 & 5.15 & 4,584 \\
\hline Collateralized mortgage obligations available for sale: & & & & & & \\
\hline Fannie Mae. & 45,672 & 35.51 & 45,805 & 28,481 & 32.23 & 28,027 \\
\hline Freddie Mac. & 37,941 & 29.50 & 38,138 & 28,246 & 31.97 & 28,153 \\
\hline Non-agency. & 10,240 & 7.96 & 10,324 & 17,758 & 20.10 & 17,716 \\
\hline Total. & \$ 128,630 & 100.00\% & \$128,997 & \$88,351 & 100.00\% & \$87,706 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Federal Home Loan Bank Stock. Every federally insured financial institution that borrows funds from a Federal Home Loan Bank as a source of liquidity is required to invest in the stock of that Federal Home Loan Bank. The institution's investment in Federal Home Loan Bank stock, along with other assets of the institution, is then pledged as collateral for the advances. As of December 31, 2000, we owned approximately \(\$ 12.7\) million of stock in the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta.

\section*{Sources of Funds}

Deposits (both retail and wholesale), borrowings, securities under agreements to repurchase, scheduled amortization and prepayments of loan principal and mortgage-backed securities, maturities and calls of investments securities and funds provided by operations are our primary sources of funds for use in lending, investing and for other general purposes. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Liquidity and Capital Resources."

Deposits. At December 31, 2000, our total deposits amounted to \(\$ 211.2\) million, of which \(\$ 141.4\) were retail deposits and \(\$ 69.8\) were wholesale deposits. Wholesale deposits consist of brokered certificates of deposit and funds on deposit from credit unions. At September 30, 2000, our retail deposits totaled \(\$ 144.5\) million, or \(52.7 \%\) of total deposits, and our wholesale deposits totaled \(\$ 129.9\) million, or \(47.3 \%\) of total deposits.

Retail Deposits. We offer a variety of deposit products to meet the needs of retail and business customers. We currently offer non-interest bearing demand accounts, interest bearing demand accounts (NOWs), savings passbook and statement accounts, money market accounts and certificates of deposits. Deposit products are developed to meet the needs of our targeted markets. At this point no new deposit products are anticipated post reorganization.

Our deposit flows are influenced by a number of factors including:
. general and local economic conditions;
. the perceived strength of the stock and stock mutual fund market;
. prevailing interest rates; and
. competition.

Our retail deposits are primarily obtained from areas surrounding our offices.

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To attract and retain deposits, we utilize a strategy that incorporates competitive pricing with high quality service and the development of long term relationships. We determine our deposit rates by evaluating our competition's pricing, the cost of Federal Home Loan Bank borrowings, rates on U.S. Treasury securities and other related funds.

As of December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, demand deposits, NOW deposits, savings, and money market accounts represented \(20.1 \%\) and \(15.3 \%\) of total retail deposits respectively. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations-Analysis of Net Interest Income" for information relating to the average balances and
costs of our deposit accounts for the quarter ended December 31, 2000 and the years ended September 30, 2000, 1999, and 1998. We expect that the composition of our retail deposit base will expand to reflect the planned expansion of our retail branch network and that our transaction accounts will increase as a result of our increased marketing efforts related to such accounts within our targeted market area.

Wholesale Deposits. Our wholesale deposits consist of brokered deposits and funds on deposit from credit unions. CharterBank solicits brokered certificates of deposit with terms of less than two years to increase liquidity through deposit brokers. A deposit broker is broadly defined as any person engaged in the business of placing deposits, or facilitating the placement of deposits, of third parties with insured depository institutions. CharterBank obtains brokered deposits through major securities brokers. The fees paid in connection with the brokered deposits are amortized over the life of the deposit and are included in interest expense. CharterBank obtains credit union deposits by placing rates on a rate service. CharterBank pays to advertise its rates with the third party. Credit unions with an interest in depositing funds with CharterBank contact CharterBank directly.

Legal title to these brokered deposits is held in street name. These certificates of deposit are actively traded based on prevailing interest rates, and ownership changes hands on a daily basis and are held by a broker in "street name." We estimate that at December 31, 2000 , approximately 75 brokers have customers with brokered deposits from CharterBank. At December 31, 2000, we had brokered certificates of deposit totaling \(\$ 32.0\) million, or \(15.2 \%\) of total deposits with a weighted average interest rate of \(6.6 \%\). At september 30,2000 , our brokered certificates of deposit totaled \(\$ 89.3 \mathrm{million}\), or \(32.5 \%\) of total deposits, with a weighted average interest rate of \(5.96 \%\).

Wholesale deposits of approximately \(\$ 69.8\) million are scheduled to mature during the next several quarters. The balances of our wholesale deposits are more volatile than retail deposits. As wholesale deposits mature, these deposits are less likely to remain with CharterBank, as compared to the relatively stable balances of our core retail deposit base. While we expect our retail deposit base to increase in the next several years, the maturities of our brokered deposits will most likely outpace the growth of our retail deposit base. Accordingly, we plan to utilize either borrowed funds or increase the balances of our wholesale certificates of deposit to fund loans.

At December 31, 2000, our credit union certificates of deposit totaled \(\$ 37.8\) million, or \(17.9 \%\) of total deposits. At September 30, 2000 , our credit union certificates of deposit totaled \(\$ 40.5\) million, or \(14.8 \%\) of total deposits.

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Deposit Distribution Weighted Average. The following table sets forth the distribution of our deposit accounts, by account type, at the dates indicated.



1998
----------------------------------
Weighted
Average

Retail:
Non-certificated accounts:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Non-interest bearing demand deposits (1). & \$ & 2,608 & 1.92\% & -\% \\
\hline NOW deposits. & & 5,169 & 3.81 & 2.42 \\
\hline Savings deposits & & 7,345 & 5.42 & 2.68 \\
\hline Money market deposits.. & & 6,160 & 4.54 & 4.08 \\
\hline Total non-certificated accounts.. & & 21,282 & 15.69 & 2.69 \\
\hline \multicolumn{5}{|l|}{Certificates of deposit:} \\
\hline Due within 1 year. & & 63,435 & 46.78 & 5.73 \\
\hline Over 1 year through 3 years & & 12,363 & 9.12 & 5.69 \\
\hline Over 3 years. & & 3,728 & 2.75 & 5.53 \\
\hline Total retail certificates of deposit....................... & & 79,526 & 58.64 & 5.71 \\
\hline Total retail deposits. & & 100,808 & 74.34 & 5.08 \\
\hline \multicolumn{5}{|l|}{Wholesale:} \\
\hline Certificates of deposit & & & & \\
\hline Due within 1 year. & & 26,782 & 19.75 & 5.94 \\
\hline Over 1 year through 3 years & & 7,922 & 5.84 & 5.99 \\
\hline Over 3 years. & & 99 & - & 6.13 \\
\hline Total wholesale: & & 34,803 & 25.66 & 5.95 \\
\hline Total certificate accounts. & & 114,329 & 84.31 & 5.79 \\
\hline Total deposit accounts. & \$ & 135,611 & 100.00\% & 5.26\% \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
(1) Includes mortgagors' escrow payments.

Deposit Flow. The following table summarizes the deposit activity of CharterBank for the periods indicated.

Three Months Ended
December 31,
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline 2000 & 1999 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

For the Years

(Dollars in thousands)


Total increase (decrease) in

(1) Includes mortgagor escrow accounts.
C.D. Maturities. At December 31, 2000, we had \(\$ 64.8\) million in certificates of deposits with balances of \(\$ 100,000\) and over maturing as follows:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Maturity Period & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{Amount} & Weighted Average Rate \\
\hline & \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{(In thousands)} \\
\hline \multicolumn{4}{|l|}{Retail:} \\
\hline Three months or less. & \$ & 8,743 & \(6.00 \%\) \\
\hline Over three months through six month & & 4,672 & 6.25 \\
\hline Over six months through 12 months & & 5,500 & 6.27 \\
\hline Over 12 months. & & 5,757 & 6.76 \\
\hline Total. & \$ & 24,672 & 6.29\% \\
\hline \multicolumn{4}{|l|}{Wholesale:} \\
\hline Three months or less. & \$ & 33,217 & \(6.01 \%\) \\
\hline Over three months through six month & & 4,500 & 7.34 \\
\hline Over six months through 12 months & & 1,600 & 6.80 \\
\hline Over 12 months. & & 800 & 7.20 \\
\hline Total. & \$ & 40,117 & \(6.21 \%\) \\
\hline Total. & \$ & 64,789 & \(6.24 \%\) \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
C.D. Balances by Rates. The following table sets forth, by interest rate ranges, information concerning our certificates of deposit at the dates indicates.

At December 31, 2000
Period to Maturity

(Dollars in thousands)

Retail:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline 4.00\% and below & \$ - \\
\hline \(4.01 \%\) to 5.00\%. & 4,679 \\
\hline 5.01\% to 6.00\% & 32,972 \\
\hline \(6.01 \%\) to 7.00\%. & 36,345 \\
\hline \(7.01 \%\) and above & 796 \\
\hline Total & \$74,792 \\
\hline \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{Wholesale:} \\
\hline 4.00\% and below & -- \\
\hline \(4.01 \%\) to 5.00\% & 2,126 \\
\hline \(5.01 \%\) to \(6.00 \%\) & 8,029 \\
\hline \(6.01 \%\) to 7.00\%. & 31,477 \\
\hline \(7.01 \%\) and above & 24,716 \\
\hline Total & \$66,348 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \$ & \$ & - & \$ & - & \$ \\
\hline 1,225 & & 58 & & 669 & 6,631 \\
\hline 3,979 & & 2,572 & & 1,061 & 40,584 \\
\hline 5,640 & & 3,701 & & 4,261 & 49,947 \\
\hline 181 & & 432 & & 346 & 1,755 \\
\hline \$11,025 & \$ & 6,763 & \$ & 6,337 & \$98,917 \\
\hline & & & & -- & -- \\
\hline -- & & -- & & -- & 2,126 \\
\hline -- & & -- & & -- & 8,029 \\
\hline 1,091 & & 298 & & -- & 32,866 \\
\hline 2,084 & & -- & & -- & 26,800 \\
\hline \$ 3,175 & \$ & 298 & \$ & -- & \$69,821 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Borrowings. In addition to deposits, borrowings from the Federal Home Loan Bank and securities sold under agreements to repurchase provide an additional source of funds to finance our lending and investing activities. We also utilize borrowings to leverage our capital position. At December 31, 2000 , our total borrowings totaled \(\$ 398.5\) million, as compared to \(\$ 352.2\) million at September 30, 2000. Our utilization of borrowings has contributed to our profitability and we will continue to employ borrowings as a source of funds. At the same time, we will consider whether to undertake future borrowings as a source of funds only after a complete review of numerous relevant factors including:
. the potential interest spread and risks involved;
. analysis of the current and anticipated interest rate environment;
. the current and expected levels of our deposit base; and
- various other risk factors associated with using borrowings as a source of funds.

Federal Home Loan Bank Advances. At December 31, 2000, our outstanding FHLB advances totaled \(\$ 240.5\) million, as compared to \(\$ 234.7\) million at September 30, 2000. The majority of these advances are for short or variable-rate funds. At December 31, 2000, CharterBank had pledged, under a specific collateral lien with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta:
- all stock of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta held by CharterBank;

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. certain qualifying first mortgage loans with unpaid principal balances totaling \(\$ 109.0\) million; and
. certain mortgage-backed securities, collateralized mortgage obligations, corporate securities, and U.S. Government Agency securities with an aggregate fair value of \(\$ 154.6\) million.

At December 31, 2000, CharterBank has available lines of credit commitments with the FHLB totaling \(\$ 303.1\) million, of which \(\$ 240.5\) million was advanced and \(\$ 62.6\) million was available at December 31, 2000.

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Securities Sold Under Agreements to Repurchase. We had approximately \$157.9 million and \(\$ 117.5\) million of securities sold under agreements to repurchase outstanding at December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000, respectively. The securities sold under agreement to repurchase at December 31, 2000 are secured by certain mortgage-backed securities, collateralized mortgage obligations, and U.S. Government Agency securities with an aggregate fair market value, including accrued interest of \(\$ 168.4\) million, as compared to \(\$ 124.4\) million at September 30, 2000. All securities sold under the agreements to repurchase are under our control. The repurchase agreements at December 31, 2000 and September 30, 2000 have maturities of less than 90 days and provide for the purchase of identical securities and specify delivery of the underlying securities to an approved custodian.

The following table sets forth information concerning balances and interest rates on CharterBank's Federal Home Loan Bank advances and securities sold under agreement to repurchase at the dates and for the periods indicated.
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{or for the Three Months Ended December 31,} \\
\hline 2000 & 1999 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
(Dollars
Federal Home Loan Bank advances:
Average balance outstanding. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . \$241,948
Maximum amount outstanding at any
month-end during the period.......................... 254,000 255,650
Balance outstanding at end of the period............................................. 240,500
Weighted average interest rate


255,650
during the period.
\(5.52 \%\)
Weighted average interest rate at end of period
\(6.32 \%\)
\(5.84 \%\)

Securities sold under agreements to repurchase:
Average balance outstanding.......................................... \$126,276 \$110,117
Maximum amount outstanding at any month-end during the period........................ 157,963 117,101
Balance outstanding at end of the period. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 157,963

100,136
Weighted average interest rate during the period............................................ 6.92\%
\(5.92 \%\)
Weighted average interest rate at end of period
\(6.81 \%\)
\(6.01 \%\)

Current and Planned Sources of Funds. As discussed above, we expect to continue to rely on a combination of both retail and wholesale deposits to fund our operations. We will seek to grow the retail component of our funding structure, while reducing our dependence on brokered deposits as a source of funds. In this regard, the Auburn market, where we expect to open a branch in October 2001, offers a larger, higher growth market, than our current market area. In addition, our planned branch expansion within our targeted market area

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and the on-going establishment of smaller retail facilities and ATMs should enhance our ability to attract retail deposits.

While we will attempt to reduce our reliance on wholesale deposits in the long term, the maturities of our brokered deposits and the growth of our loan portfolio will most likely outpace the growth of our retail deposit base over the next several years. Thus, wholesale deposits and borrowings will continue to remain a significant source of funds for CharterBank in the near term. In addition to deposits and borrowings, other significant sources of funds include liquidity, loan repayments, maturing investments and retained earnings.

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\section*{Investment in Limited Partnerships}

In 1997, CharterBank purchased interests in two limited partnerships, which were formed to acquire mortgage servicing rights for \(\$ 7.0\) million. CharterBank was allocated approximately \(12 \%\) and \(21 \%\) of the respective earnings or losses of these two partnerships. During 1998, CharterBank wrote off its entire limited partnership investment of \(\$ 2.0\) million in the partnership for which it had a previous \(12 \%\) interest and recorded a \(\$ 3.7\) million valuation allowance relating to its \(\$ 5.0\) million limited partnership investment for which it has a \(21 \%\) interest. For the three months ended December 31, 2000 and 1999, CharterBank recognized no equity in the net earnings (loss) of the limited partnerships, and \(\$(29,000)\) and \(\$ 448,000\) for the years ended September 30, 2000 and 1999, respectively. CharterBank's current equity investment in the limited partnership is approximately \(\$ 1.9\) million. See Note 11 of the Notes to Financial Statements for further discussion of the limited partnership interest.

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Properties

We currently conduct our business through four full-service banking offices and three loan production offices. We are also in the process of building a new facility located in Auburn, Alabama. We anticipate that occupancy of the building will occur by October, 2001. The estimated cost is approximately \(\$ 2.5\) million. The Auburn loan production office is qualified to accept deposits but is actively soliciting only loan customers for noncash deposits until the fullservice facility is open. As of December 31, 2000 , the properties and leasehold improvements owned by us had an aggregate net book value of \(\$ 3.2\) million.
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Location & Ownership & Year Opened & ```
Year of Lease
    or License
Expiration(1)
``` \\
\hline Administrative/Main Office: & & & \\
\hline 600 Third Avenue & Owned & 1965 & - \\
\hline West Point, Georgia & & & \\
\hline Branch Offices: & & & \\
\hline 300 Church Street & Owned & 1976 & - \\
\hline LaGrange, Georgia & & & \\
\hline 3500 20/th/ Avenue (2) & Leased & 1963 & 7/31/08 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

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(1) Lease expiration dates assume all options to extend lease terms are exercised.
(2) Includes time period operated by Citizens National Bank prior to the Citizens acquisition.
(3) Target opening date of October 2001.

\section*{Legal Proceedings}

We are not involved in any pending legal proceeding other than routine legal proceedings occurring in the ordinary course of business. We believe that these routine legal proceedings, in the aggregate, are immaterial to our financial condition and results of operations.

Personnel

As of December 31, 2000, CharterBank had 124 full-time equivalent employees. The employees are not represented by a collective bargaining unit, and we consider our relationship with our employees to be excellent.

Subsidiary Activities

CharterBank has one subsidiary Charter Holdings, Inc. Charter Holdings is a Georgia corporation whose sole purpose is to own all of the outstanding stock of Charter Insurance Company, a Hawaiian corporation. Charter Insurance Company was incorporated for the purpose of engaging in mortgage reinsurance activities and commenced activities in December 2000. After the reorganization, Charter Insurance Company will be a subsidiary of Charter Financial and Charter Holding will be dissolved.

Charitable Activities

CharterBank has also created The Charter Foundation, Inc., an Alabama non-stock tax qualified not-for-profit corporation incorporated in 1994. The purpose of The Charter Foundation is to make grants to the local community to improve the quality of life. CharterBank has donated \(\$ 5.0\) million of Freddie Mac common stock and approximately \(\$ 200,000\) of real estate since The Charter Foundation's formation in 1994. By contributing shares of Freddie Mac stock to The Charter Foundation, CharterBank recognizes any gain, which is exempt from

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income taxes, on the disposition of the stock, while receiving a tax benefit in the way of a deduction as a contribution expense of the total fair market value of any Freddie Mac stock donated to the foundation. CharterBank has charitable contribution carryovers aggregating approximately in \(\$ 1.7\) million at September 30,2000 for tax reporting purposes.

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\section*{BUSINESS OF CHARTER FINANCIAL}

Charter Financial has not engaged in any business to date. Upon completion of the reorganization, Charter Financial will own CharterBank. Charter Financial will retain up to \(50 \%\) of the net proceeds from the offering. We will invest our initial capital as discussed in "How We Intend to Use the Proceeds from the Offering."

Immediately after consummation of the reorganization, it is expected that the only business activities of Charter Financial will include holding all of the outstanding common stock of CharterBank, funding a loan to the ESOP from the proceeds of capital raised in the offering, and contributing \(50 \%\) of the net proceeds from the offering to CharterBank as additional capital. Charter Financial will also hold 1.7 million shares of Freddie Mac common stock and will be the parent corporation to Charter Insurance Company (in addition to CharterBank) following the reorganization. Charter Insurance Company will hold 400,000 shares of Freddie Mac common stock following the reorganization. Charter Financial may use the net proceeds retained by it to pay dividends to stockholders and to repurchase shares of its common stock. In the future, however, Charter Financial as the holding company of CharterBank, will be authorized to pursue other business activities permitted by applicable laws and regulations for savings and loan companies, which may include the issuance of additional shares of common stock to raise capital or to support mergers or acquisitions and borrowing funds for reinvestment in CharterBank. There are no plans for any additional capital issuance, merger or acquisition, or other diversification of the activities of Charter Financial at the present time.

Our cash flow will depend upon earnings from the investment of the portion of net proceeds we retain and any dividends Charter Financial receives from CharterBank. Initially, Charter Financial will neither own nor lease any property, but will instead use the premises, equipment and furniture of CharterBank. At the present time, we intend to employ only persons who are officers of CharterBank to serve as officers of Charter Financial. We will however, use the support staff of CharterBank from time to time. These persons will not be separately compensated by Charter Financial. Charter Financial will hire additional employees, as appropriate, to the extent it expands its business in the future. See "How We Intend to Use the Proceeds from the Offering."

\section*{REGULATION OF CHARTERBANK AND CHARTER FINANCIAL}

General

Charter Financial and First Charter, MHC, will be regulated as savings and loan holding companies by the Office of Thrift Supervision. CharterBank, as a federal stock savings bank, will continue to be subject to the regulation, examination and supervision by the Office of Thrift Supervision. CharterBank must file reports with the Office of Thrift Supervision concerning its activities and financial condition. Charter Financial and First Charter, MHC will also be required to file reports with, and otherwise comply with the rules and regulations of the Office of Thrift Supervision. Charter Financial will also

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be required to file reports with, and otherwise comply with, the rules and regulations of the \(S E C\) under the federal securities laws.

On November 12, 1999, President Clinton signed into law landmark financial services legislation, titled the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act ("GLB Act"). The GLB Act repeals depression-era laws restricting affiliations among banks, securities firms, insurance companies and other financial services providers. The impact of the GLB Act on Charter Financial, CharterBank and First Charter, MHC, where relevant, is discussed throughout the regulation section below.

Any change in such laws and regulations, whether by the Office of Thrift Supervision, the FDIC, or through legislation, could have a material adverse impact on Charter Financial and CharterBank and their operations and stockholders.

\section*{Federal Banking Regulation}

Activity Powers. CharterBank derives its lending and investment powers from the Home Owners' Loan Act, as amended, and the regulations of the Office of Thrift Supervision. Under these laws and regulations, CharterBank may invest in mortgage loans secured by residential and commercial real estate; commercial and consumer loans; certain types of debt securities; and certain other assets. CharterBank may also establish service corporations that may engage in activities not otherwise permissible for CharterBank, including certain real estate equity investments and securities and insurance brokerage. CharterBank's authority to invest in certain types of loans or other investments is limited by federal law.

Loans-to-One-Borrower Limitations. CharterBank is generally subject to the same limits on loans to one borrower as a national bank. With specified exceptions, CharterBank's total loans or extensions of credit to a single borrower cannot exceed \(15 \%\) of CharterBank's unimpaired capital and surplus which does not include accumulated other comprehensive income. CharterBank may lend additional amounts up to \(10 \%\) of its unimpaired capital and surplus, if the loans or extensions of credit are fully-secured by readily-marketable collateral. CharterBank currently complies with applicable loans-to-one-borrower limitations.

QTL Test. Under federal law, CharterBank must comply with the qualified thrift lender, or "QTL" test. Under the QTL test, CharterBank is required to maintain at least \(65 \%\) of its "portfolio assets" in certain "qualified thrift investments" in at least nine months of the most recent 12 -month period. "Portfolio assets" means, in general, CharterBank's total assets less the sum of:
. specified liquid assets up to \(20 \%\) of total assets;
. goodwill and other intangible assets; and
. the value of property used to conduct CharterBank's business.
"Qualified thrift investments" includes various types of loans made for residential and housing purposes, investments related to such purposes, including certain mortgage-backed and related securities, and loans for personal, family, household and certain other purposes up to a limit of \(20 \%\) of CharterBank's portfolio assets. Recent legislation broadened the scope of "qualified thrift investments" to include 100\% of an institution's credit card loans, education loans and small business loans. CharterBank may also satisfy the QTL test by qualifying as a "domestic building and loan association" as

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defined in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. CharterBank met the QTL test at December 31, 2000, and in each of the prior 12 months, and, therefore, qualifies as a thrift lender. For purposes of calculating compliance with the QTL test, we use the cost basis of our investment of our Freddie Mac stock, rather than the current market value of the stock.

If CharterBank fails the QTL test it must either operate under certain restrictions on its activities or convert to a bank charter.

Capital Requirements. Office of Thrift Supervision regulations require CharterBank to meet three minimum capital standards:
(1) a tangible capital ratio requirement of \(1.5 \%\) of total assets, as adjusted under the Office of Thrift Supervision regulations;
(2) a leverage ratio requirement of \(3 \%\) of core capital to such adjusted total assets, if a savings association bas been assigned the highest composite rating of 1 under the Uniform Financial Institutions Ratings System; and
(3) a risk-based capital ratio requirement of \(8 \%\) of core and supplementary capital to total risk-weighted assets.

The minimum leverage capital ratio for any other depository institution that does not have a composite rating of 1 will be 4\%, unless a higher leverage capital ratio is warranted by the particular circumstances or risk profile of the depository institution. In determining compliance with the risk-based capital requirement, CharterBank must compute its risk-weighted assets by multiplying its assets and certain off-balance sheet items by risk-weights, which range from 0\% for cash and obligations issued by the United States Government or its agencies to \(100 \%\) for consumer and commercial loans, as assigned by the Office of Thrift Supervision capital regulation based on the risks that the Office of Thrift Supervision believes are inherent in the type of asset.

Tangible capital is defined, generally, as common stockholders' equity (including retained earnings), certain non-cumulative perpetual preferred stock and related earnings and minority interests in equity accounts of fully consolidated subsidiaries, less intangibles (other than certain mortgage servicing rights) and investments in and loans to subsidiaries engaged in activities not permissible for a national bank. Core capital is defined similarly to tangible capital,
but core capital also includes certain qualifying supervisory goodwill and certain purchased credit card relationships. Supplementary capital currently includes cumulative and other perpetual preferred stock, mandatory convertible securities, subordinated debt and intermediate preferred stock and the allowance for loan and lease losses. In addition, up to \(45 \%\) of unrealized gains on available-for-sale equity securities with a readily determinable fair value may be included in supplementary capital. The allowance for loan and lease losses includable in supplementary capital is limited to a maximum of \(1.25 \%\) of riskweighted assets, and the amount of supplementary capital that may be included as total capital cannot exceed the amount of core capital.

At December 31, 2000, CharterBank met each of its capital requirements.
Community Reinvestment Act. Under the Community Reinvestment Act ("CRA"), as implemented by Office of Thrift Supervision regulations, CharterBank has a continuing and affirmative obligation to help meet the credit needs of its

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entire community, including low and moderate income neighborhoods. The CRA does not establish specific lending requirements or programs for CharterBank nor does it limit its discretion to develop the types of products and services that it believes are best suited to its particular community, consistent with the CRA. The CRA requires the Office of Thrift Supervision, in connection with its examination of CharterBank, to assess CharterBank's record of meeting the credit needs of its community and to take the record into account in its evaluation of certain applications by CharterBank. The CRA also requires all institutions to make public disclosure of their CRA ratings. CharterBank received a "Satisfactory" CRA rating in its most recent examination.

CRA regulations rate an institution based on its actual performance in meeting community needs. In particular, the system focuses on three tests:
. lending test, to evaluate the institution's record of making loans in its assessment areas;
. an investment test, to evaluate the institution's record of investing in community development projects, affordable housing, and programs benefitting low or moderate income individuals and businesses; and
. a service test, to evaluate the institution's delivery of services through its branches, ATMs and other offices.

Transactions with Related Parties. CharterBank's authority to engage in transactions with its "affiliates" is limited by the Office of Thrift Supervision regulations and by Sections 23A and 23B of the Federal Reserve Act (the "FRA"). In general, these transactions must be on terms which are as favorable to CharterBank as comparable transactions with non-affiliates. In addition, certain types of these transactions are restricted to an aggregate percentage of CharterBank's capital. Collateral in specified amounts must usually be provided by affiliates in order to receive loans from CharterBank. In addition, the Office of Thrift Supervision regulations prohibit a savings association from lending to any of its affiliates that is engaged in activities that are not permissible for bank holding companies and from purchasing the securities of any affiliate, other than a subsidiary.

\begin{abstract}
CharterBank's authority to extend credit to its directors, executive officers and \(10 \%\) shareholders, as well as to entities controlled by such persons, is currently governed by the requirements of Sections \(22(\mathrm{~g})\) and \(22(\mathrm{~h})\) of the FRA and Regulation \(O\) of the Federal Reserve Board. Among other things, these provisions require that extensions of credit to insiders (a) be made on terms that are substantially the same as, and follow credit underwriting procedures that are not less stringent than, those prevailing for comparable transactions with unaffiliated persons and that do not involve more than the normal risk of repayment or present other unfavorable features and (b) not exceed certain limitations on the amount of credit extended to such persons, individually and in the aggregate, which limits are based, in part, on the amount of CharterBank's capital. In addition, extensions of credit in excess of certain limits must be approved by CharterBank's Board of Directors.
\end{abstract}

Enforcement. The Office of Thrift Supervision has primary enforcement responsibility over savings associations, including CharterBank. This enforcement authority includes, among other things, the ability to assess civil money penalties, to issue cease and desist orders and to remove directors and officers. In general, these enforcement actions may be initiated in response to violations of laws and regulations and to unsafe or unsound practices.

Standards For Safety And Soundness. Under federal law, the Office of Thrift

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Supervision has adopted, a set of guidelines prescribing safety and soundness standards. These guidelines establish general standards relating to internal controls and information systems, internal audit systems, loan documentation, credit underwriting, interest rate exposure, asset growth, asset quality, earnings standards, and compensation, fees and benefits. In general, the guidelines require appropriate systems and practices to identify and manage the risks and exposures specified in the guidelines.

In addition, the Office of Thrift Supervision adopted regulations that authorize, but do not require, the Office of Thrift Supervision to order an institution that has been given notice that it is not satisfying these safety and soundness standards to submit a compliance plan. If, after being notified, an institution fails to submit an acceptable plan or fails in any material respect to implement an accepted plan, the Office of Thrift Supervision must issue an order directing action to correct the deficiency and may issue an order directing other actions of the types to which an undercapitalized association is subject under the "prompt corrective action" provisions of federal law. If an institution fails to comply with such an order, the Office of Thrift Supervision may seek to enforce such order in judicial proceedings and to impose civil money penalties.

Limitation on Capital Distributions. The Office of Thrift Supervision imposes various restrictions or requirements on CharterBank's ability to make capital distributions, including cash dividends. A savings institution that is the subsidiary of a savings and loan holding company must file an application or a notice with the Office of Thrift Supervision at least 30 days before making a capital distribution. CharterBank must file an application for prior approval if:
. it is not eligible for expedited treatment;
. the total amount of its capital distributions, including the proposed distribution, for the applicable calendar year would exceed an amount equal to CharterBank's net income for that year plus CharterBank's retained net income for the previous two years;

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. it would not adequately be capitalized after the distribution; or
. the distribution would violate an agreement with the Office of Thrift Supervision or applicable regulation.

CharterBank will be required to file a capital distribution notice or application with the Office of Thrift Supervision before paying Charter Financial a dividend. The Office of Thrift Supervision may disapprove of a notice or application if:
. CharterBank would be undercapitalized following the distribution;
. the proposed capital distribution raises safety and soundness concerns; or
- the capital distribution would violate a prohibition contained in any statute, regulation or agreement.

Finally, CharterBank cannot distribute regulatory capital that is required for its liquidation account.

Liquidity. CharterBank is required to maintain an average daily balance of liquid assets in each calendar quarter of not less than \(4 \%\) of:

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- the amount of its liquidity base at the end of the preceding calendar quarter; or
. the average daily balance of its liquidity base during the preceding quarter.

On December 27, 2000, the statutory liquidity requirement was repealed. The Office of Thrift Supervision is currently in the process of repealing the regulation. Until such time as the regulation is repealed, CharterBank will be required to meet the \(4 \%\) liquidity requirement.

Prompt Corrective Action Regulations. Under the Office of Thrift Supervision prompt corrective action regulations, the Office of Thrift Supervision is required to take certain, and is authorized to take other, supervisory actions against undercapitalized savings associations. For this purpose, a savings association would be placed in one of the following four categories based on the association's capital:
. well capitalized;
. adequately capitalized;
. undercapitalized; and
. critically undercapitalized.
At December 31, 2000, CharterBank met the criteria for being considered "well-capitalized."

When appropriate, the Office of Thrift Supervision can require corrective action by a savings association holding company under the "prompt corrective action" provisions of federal law.

Insurance of Deposit Accounts. CharterBank is a member of the Savings Association Insurance Fund, and CharterBank pays its deposit insurance assessments to the SAIF. The FDIC also maintains another insurance fund, the Bank Insurance Fund, which primarily insures the deposits of banks and state chartered savings banks.

Under federal law, the FDIC established a risk based assessment system for determining the deposit insurance assessments to be paid by insured depository institutions. Under the assessment system, the FDIC assigns an institution to one of three capital categories based on the institution's financial information as of the quarter ending three months before the beginning of the assessment period. An institution's assessment rate depends on the capital category and supervisory category to which it is assigned. Under the regulation, there are nine assessment risk classifications (i.e., combinations of capital groups and supervisory subgroups) to which different assessment rates are applied. Assessment rates currently range from \(0.0 \%\) of deposits for an institution in the highest category (i.e., well-capitalized and financially sound, with no more than a few minor weaknesses) to \(0.27 \%\) of deposits for an institution in the lowest category (i.e., undercapitalized and substantial supervisory concern). The FDIC is authorized to raise the assessment rates as necessary to maintain the required reserve ratio of \(1.25 \%\).

In addition, all FDIC insured institutions are required to pay

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assessments to the FDIC at an annual rate of approximately . \(0212 \%\) of insured deposits to fund interest payment on bonds issued by the Financing Corporation, an agency of the federal government established to recapitalize the predecessor to the SAIF. These assessments will continue until the Financing Corporation bonds mature in 2017.

Federal Home Loan Bank System. CharterBank is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, which is one of the regional Federal Home Loan Banks making up the Federal Home Loan Bank System. Each Federal Home Loan Bank provides a central credit facility primarily for its member institutions. CharterBank is required to acquire and hold shares of capital stock in the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta in an amount equal to the greater of \(1 \%\) of the aggregate principal amount of its unpaid residential mortgage loans, home-purchase contracts and similar obligations, but not less than \(\$ 500\) or \(5 \%\) of outstanding advances. CharterBank was in compliance with this requirement with an investment in the capital stock of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta at December 31, 2000, of \(\$ 12.7\) million. Any advances from a Federal Home Loan Bank must be secured by specified types of collateral, and all long term advances may be obtained only for the purpose of providing funds for residential housing finance.

The Federal Home Loan Banks are required to provide funds for the resolution of insolvent thrifts and to contribute funds for affordable housing programs. These requirements could reduce the amount of earnings that the Federal Home Loan Banks can pay as dividends to their members and could also result in the Federal Home Loan Banks imposing a higher rate of interest on advances to their members. If dividends were reduced, or interest on future Federal Home Loan Bank advances increased, CharterBank's net interest income would be affected.

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Under the GLB Act, membership in the Federal Home Loan Bank System is now voluntary for all federally-chartered savings associations, such as CharterBank. The GLB Act also replaces the existing redeemable stock structure of the Federal Home Loan Bank System with a capital structure that requires each Federal Home Loan Bank to meet a leverage limit and a risk-based permanent capital requirement. Two classes of stock are authorized: Class A (redeemable on 6 -months notice) and Class B (redeemable on 5-years notice).

Prohibitions Against Tying Arrangements. Federal savings banks are subject to the prohibitions of 12 U.S.C. (S) 1972 on certain tying arrangements. A depository institution is prohibited, subject to some exceptions, from extending credit to or offering any other service, or fixing or varying the consideration for such extension of credit or service, on the condition that the customer obtain some additional service from the institution or its affiliates or not obtain services of a competitor of the institution.

Federal Reserve System

Under Federal Reserve Board regulations, CharterBank is required to maintain non-interest-earning reserves against its transaction accounts. The Federal Reserve Board regulations generally require that reserves of \(3 \%\) must be maintained against aggregate transaction accounts of \(\$ 42.8\) million or less, subject to adjustment by the Federal Reserve Board, and an initial reserve of \(\$ 1.3\) million plus \(10 \%\), subject to adjustment by the Federal Reserve Board between \(8 \%\) and \(14 \%\), against that portion of total transaction accounts in excess of \(\$ 42.8\) million. The first \(\$ 5.5\) million of otherwise reservable balances, subject to adjustments by the Federal Reserve Board, are exempted from the reserve requirements. CharterBank is in compliance with these requirements. Because required reserves must be maintained in the form of either vault cash, a

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non-interest-bearing account at a Federal Reserve Bank or a pass-through account as defined by the Federal Reserve Board, the effect of this reserve requirement is to reduce CharterBank's interest-earning assets, to the extent the requirement exceeds vault cash.

\section*{Holding Company Regulation}

Charter Financial and First Charter, MHC will be savings and loan holding companies regulated by the Office of Thrift Supervision. As such, Charter Financial and First Charter, MHC will register with and be subject to Office of Thrift Supervision examination and supervision, as well as certain reporting requirements. In addition, the Office of Thrift Supervision has enforcement authority over Charter Financial and First Charter, MHC and any of their non-savings institution subsidiaries. Among other things, this authority permits the Office of Thrift Supervision to restrict or prohibit activities that are determined to be a serious risk to the financial safety, soundness or stability of a subsidiary savings institution. Unlike bank holding companies, federal savings and loan holding companies are not subject to any regulatory capital requirements or to supervision by the Federal Reserve System.

Restrictions Applicable to Charter Financial. Because Charter Financial will be acquired after May 4, 1999, under the GLB Act it will be prohibited from engaging in non- financial activities. Unitary savings and loan associations acquired before this date are "grandfathered" under the GLB Act and generally have no restrictions on their business activities. Charter Financial's activities, however, will be restricted to:

include:
. lending, exchanging, transferring, investing for others or
safeguarding money or securities;
insurance activities or providing and issuing annuities, and
acting as principal, agent or broker;
financial, investment or economic advisory services;
. issuing or selling instruments representing interests in pools
. of assets that a bank is permitted to hold directly; 109
. activities that bank holding companies are permitted to engage in outside of the U.S.; merchant banking activities; and
portfolio investments made by an insurance company.
In addition, Charter Financial cannot be acquired or acquire a company unless the company is engaged solely in financial activities.

Restrictions Applicable to Activities of Mutual Holding Companies. Under federal law, a mutual holding company may engage only in the following activities:
. investing in the stock of a savings institution;
. acquiring a mutual association through the merger of such association into a savings institution subsidiary of such holding company or an interim savings institution subsidiary of such holding company;
. merging with or acquiring another holding company, one of whose subsidiaries is a savings institution;
. investing in a corporation the capital stock of which is available for purchase by a savings institution under federal law or under the law of any state where the subsidiary savings institution or association is located; and
. the permissible activities described above for nongrandfathered savings and loan holding companies.

If a mutual holding company acquires or merges with another holding company, the holding company acquired or the holding company resulting from such merger or acquisition may only invest in assets and engage in activities listed above, and it has a period of two years to cease any non-conforming activities and divest any non-conforming investments.

Restrictions Applicable to All Savings and Loan Holding Companies. Federal law prohibits a savings and loan holding company, including Charter Financial and First Charter, MHC, directly or indirectly, from acquiring:
control (as defined under HOLA) of another savings institution

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(or a holding company parent) without prior Office of Thrift Supervision approval;
- through merger, consolidation, or purchase of assets, another savings institution or a holding company thereof, or acquiring all or substantially all of the assets of such institution (or a holding company) without prior Office of Thrift Supervision approval; or
control of any depository institution not insured by the FDIC (except through a merger with and into the holding company's savings institution subsidiary that is approved by the Office of Thrift Supervision).

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A savings and loan holding company may not acquire as a separate subsidiary an insured institution that has a principal office outside of the state where the principal office of its subsidiary institution is located, except:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline - & in the case of certain emergency acquisitions approved by the FDIC; \\
\hline - & if such holding company controls a savings institution subsidiary that operated a home or branch office in such additional state as of March 5, 1987; or \\
\hline - & if the laws of the state in which the savings institution to be acquired is located specifically authorize a savings institution chartered by that state to be acquired by a savings institution chartered by the state where the acquiring savings institution or savings and loan holding company is located or by a holding company that controls such a state chartered association. \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

If the savings institution subsidiary of a federal mutual holding company fails to meet the QTL test set forth in Section \(10(m)\) of the HOLA and regulations of the Office of Thrift Supervision, the holding company must register with the FRB as a bank holding company under the BHC Act within one year of the savings institution's failure to so qualify.

TAXATION

Federal

General. For federal income tax purposes, we report income on the basis of a taxable year ending September 30 , using the accrual method of accounting, and we are generally subject to federal income taxation in the same manner as other corporations. Following the reorganization, CharterBank and Charter Financial will constitute an affiliated group of corporations and, therefore, will be eligible to report their income on a consolidated basis. CharterBank is not currently under audit by the IRS.

Distributions. To the extent that we (CharterBank) make "non-dividend distributions" to stockholders, such distributions will be considered to result in distributions from our unrecaptured tax bad debt reserve as of December 31, 1987 (our "base year reserve"), to the extent thereof and then from our supplemental reserve for losses on loans, and an amount based on the amount distributed will be included in our income. Non-dividend distributions include distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits,

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distributions in redemption of stock and distributions in partial or complete liquidation. Dividends paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits will not be included in our income.

The amount of additional income created from a non-dividend distribution is equal to the lesser of our base year reserve and supplemental reserve for losses on loans or an amount that, when reduced by the tax attributable to the income, is equal to the amount of the distribution. Thus, in some situations, approximately one and one-half times the non-dividend distribution would be includible in gross income for federal income tax purposes, assuming a \(34 \%\) federal corporate income tax rate. We do not intend to pay dividends that would result in the recapture of any portion of our bad debt reserves.

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\begin{abstract}
Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax. The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), imposes a tax on alternative minimum taxable income at a rate of \(20 \%\). Only \(90 \%\) of alternative minimum taxable income can be offset by alternative minimum tax net operating loss carryovers of which we currently have none. Alternative minimum taxable income is also adjusted by determining the tax treatment of certain items in a manner that negates the deferral of income resulting from the regular tax treatment of those items. We have been subject to a tax on alternative minimum taxable income during the past five years.

Elimination of Dividends. Charter Financial may exclude from its income \(100 \%\) of dividends received from CharterBank as a member of the same affiliated group of corporations.
\end{abstract}

State

CharterBank currently files and will continue to file Georgia and Alabama income tax returns. Generally, the income of financial institutions in Georgia and Alabama, which is calculated based on federal taxable income, subject to certain adjustments, is subject to both Alabama and Georgia tax. We are not currently under audit with respect to our Georgia or Alabama income tax returns and our state tax returns have not been audited for the past five years.

Charter Financial will be required to file a Georgia income tax return and will generally be subject to a state income tax rate that is the same tax rate as the tax rate for financial institutions in Georgia.

\section*{MANAGEMENT}

Shared Management Structure

Charter Financial's directors and executive officers will be the same as CharterBank's. Although it has no current plans to do so, CharterBank may choose to appoint additional directors in the future. We expect that Charter Financial and CharterBank will continue to have common executive officers until there is a business reason to establish separate management structures.

To date, CharterBank has compensated its directors and executive officers for their services to the bank. Charter Financial and First Charter, MHC will pay additional compensation to these directors for their services to the holding company. To the extent that Charter Financial uses the services of officers and employees of CharterBank and does not pay additional compensation for those individuals, we expect Charter Financial and First Charter, MHC to reimburse CharterBank for a part of the compensation paid to each executive officer that is proportionate to the amount of time which he or she devotes to performing services for Charter Financial.

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}

Composition of our Boards. We have seven directors. Each belongs to one of three classes with staggered three-year terms of office. Classes One, Two and Three have directors whose terms expire in 2001, 2002 and 2003 , respectively. At each of the annual shareholder meetings of Charter Financial, the shareholders will elect directors to fill the seats of the directors whose terms are expiring in that year and any vacant seats. Directors of CharterBank will be elected by Charter Financial as its sole stockholder.

Who Our Directors Are. The following table states our directors' names, their ages as of December 31, 2000, the years when they began serving as directors and the years when their current terms of office as directors will expire:

John W. Johnson, Jr. 80
Robert L. Johnson 47
David Z. Cauble, III 48
Jane W. Darden 50
William B. Hudson 71
Thomas M. Lane 46
R. Terry Taunton 51
(1) At December 31, 2000.

Our Directors' Backgrounds. The business experience for the past five years of each of our directors is as follows:

John W. Johnson, Jr. Mr. Johnson is the founder of CharterBank and has served as Chairman of the Board since 1954. Mr. Johnson also served as the President of CharterBank from 1954 to 1996. He practiced law in Lanett, Alabama, for over 50 years and served in the Alabama state Senate from 1950 to 1954. Mr. Johnson graduated from the University of Alabama and the University of Alabama School of Law and also served as First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army during World War II. Mr. Johnson is the father of Robert L. Johnson.

Robert L. Johnson. Mr. Johnson has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank since 1996. Prior to that time, he served as Financial Analyst, then Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. He began continuous service with CharterBank in 1984. Mr. Johnson has an undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University and a Master's Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from the University of Alabama. He is a graduate of the Graduate School of Community Bank Management. He is also currently on the boards of Chattahoochee Valley Hospital Society and is Chairman of The Charter Foundation. Mr. Johnson is also affiliated with the West Point Rotary Club. Mr. Johnson is the son of John W. Johnson, Jr.

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David Z. Cauble, III. Mr. Cauble is self-employed as a food service consultant and investor. He was the Owner and President of Vend-All Company in LaGrange, Georgia, until its sale in 1996. Mr. Cauble graduated from Washington \& Lee University. Other affiliations of Mr. Cauble include: Chairman of Cobb Foundation, Young Presidents' Organization and First United Methodist Church Foundation.

Jane W. Darden. Mrs. Darden is a homemaker and part-time bookkeeper. She was formerly employed in the banking field for 5 years. She has a B.A. in Psychology from Converse College and she also serves on the Staff-Parish Relations Committee at West Point Methodist Church.

William B. Hudson. Mr. Hudson is an Account Executive for the RobinsonHumphrey Company, a division of Salomon Smith Barney. He has been employed in the brokerage business for the past 37 years. Mr. Hudson graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in business with Postgraduate studies at Auburn University.

Thomas M. Lane. Mr. Lane has been the Senior Vice President and Treasurer of West Point Stevens, Inc. since March 2000 and previously served as its Treasurer from 1997 to 1999. Prior to that time, he served as Controller of Budgets and Analysis for West Point Pepperell, the predecessor of West Point Stevens, Inc. He has been continuously employed in various financial and accounting positions with West Point Pepperell since June 1976. Mr. Lane received his B.S. in Business Administration from Auburn University in 1976. Currently, he also serves on the board of directors for Junior Achievement.
R. Terry Taunton. Mr. Taunton is a self-employed owner of TauntonEmfinger, Inc., a paint, hardware and building supplies business. He is also the President of Taunton-Johnson Corporation, a real estate development corporation established in 1973. Mr. Taunton graduated from Auburn University with a degree in Business Administration.

Meetings of the Board of Directors and Its Committees

Our Board of Directors meets on a monthly basis and may hold additional special meetings. During 2000, the Board of Directors of CharterBank held 12 regular meetings and five special meetings. The Board of Directors of Charter Financial did not meet in 2000.

The Board of Directors of CharterBank maintains an Executive, Audit, and Personnel and Compensation Committee.

The Executive Committee consists of Director Taunton, as the Chair, and two other board members (one of which must be an outside director) who serve on a rotating basis. The Executive Committee meets as needed with the full power of the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee, among other things, is responsible for review, ratification and/or approval of loans that exceed certain threshold amounts. The Executive Committee of CharterBank met 12 times during 2000 .

The Audit Committee consists of Directors Darden, Hudson, Taunton, Lane and Cauble with Director Darden serving as Chair. The Committee reviews the annual audit prepared by the independent accountants, recommends the appointment of accountants and reviews the work of

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third parties who function as internal auditors. The Audit Committee of CharterBank met twice during 2000.

The Personnel and Compensation Committee consists of Directors Hudson, Darden, Taunton, Lane and Cauble with Director Hudson serving as Chair. The committee provides advice and recommendations to the Board in the areas of employee salaries and benefit programs. The Personnel and Compensation Committee of CharterBank met four times during 2000.

\section*{Director Compensation}

Meeting Fees. CharterBank's practice has been to provide each non-employee director an annual retainer of \(\$ 8,000\). Each committee chairman has been provided a \(\$ 1,000\) additional annual retainer for his or her service as chairman. A fee of \(\$ 500\) has been provided to each director for attendance at each board meeting. Non-employee directors have received a fee of \(\$ 200\) for each stand alone committee meeting and \(\$ 100\) per committee meeting if it is held in conjunction with a board meeting. CharterBank paid fees totaling \(\$ 74,651\) to its non-employee directors for the year ended September 30, 2000.

CharterBank also provides a \(\$ 8,000\) annual retirement fee to Martha B. Jones who serves as a director emeritus member of the board.

Effective as of the reorganization, directors of CharterBank will continue to receive the director's fees discussed above and directors of Charter Financial will receive an annual retainer of \(\$ 2,000\). Directors of Charter Financial and First Charter, MHC will also receive a fee of \(\$ 500\) for each board meeting attended.

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Executive Officers Who are Not Directors

Curtis R. Kollar, 48, is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Management Accountant (CMA). He has been the Vice President \& Treasurer of CharterBank since 1991 and was named Chief Financial Officer of CharterBank in January of 2001. He has an undergraduate degree from Ohio Wesleyan and an MS in Accounting from Syracuse University. He is a graduate of the Graduate School of Community Bank Management. Mr. Kollar has 16 years experience in the banking field. Current affiliations of Mr. Kollar include: West Point Rotary Club and Keep Troup Beautiful.

William C. Gladden, 48, has been the Vice President and Secretary of the Bank since 1991. He was also a Director of Charter Federal Savings and Loan from 1988 to 1990. He was the Manager of Telecommunications for West Point Pepperell from 1984 to 1990. Mr. Gladden is a graduate of the National School of Banking and has a B.S. in Management from Georgia Tech, 1976. Current affiliations of Mr. Gladden include: Chambers County Library Board, TroupChambers Habitat for Humanity and West Point Rotary Club.

Bonnie F. Bonner, 44, has been the Assistant secretary and Secretary to the Board of Directors of the Bank since 1989. She has also served as an Assistant Vice President of CharterBank since 1990. She is a graduate of the National School of Banking. She received her B.S. from Auburn University in 1977. Ms. Bonner's current affiliations include: Historic Chattahoochee Commission, City of Valley Historic Preservation Commission and Sheltering A Vision.

Lee Washam, 39, has been a Vice President and Senior Credit Officer of CharterBank since April 2000 and was named Executive Vice President in January of 2001. Mr. Washam is the former Executive Vice President of First Flag Bank,

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LaGrange, Georgia, and has over 17 years of banking experience. Mr. Washam received his B.S. in Business Administration from LaGrange College in 1983 and is a 1995 graduate of The Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University. Mr. Washam's current affiliations include: LaGrange Noon Lions Club, the Georgia Community Bankers Association, Highland Country Club and New Community Church.

Executive Officer Compensation

Summary Compensation Table. The following table provides information about the compensation paid to CharterBank's Chief Executive Officer and to the other most highly compensated executive officers whose annual salary and bonus for fiscal year 2000 was at least \(\$ 100,000\).

Annual Compensation
\begin{tabular}{lcccc} 
Name and & & & & Other Annual \\
Principal Position & Year & Salary & \((\$)\) & Bonus (\$)
\end{tabular}

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\(\begin{array}{ll}\text { (a) } & \text { CharterBank provides its executive officers with non-cash benefits and } \\ & \text { perquisites, such as the use of employer- owned or leased automobiles. } \\ & \text { Management of the Bank believes that the aggregate value of these } \\ & \text { benefits for } 2000 \text { did not, in the case of any executive officer, exceed } \\ & \$ 50,000 \text { or } 10 \% \text { of the aggregate salary and annual bonus reported for } \\ & \text { him or her in the Summary Compensation Table. } \\ \text { (b) } \\ & \text { Includes the following components: (1) employer matching contributions } \\ \text { to the CharterBank } 401(k) \text { Plan: Mr. John Johnson, } \$ 5,250 ; \text { Mr. Robert } \\ & \text { Johnson, } \$ 5,250 \text { and (2) dollar value of premium payments for life } \\ \text { insurance coverage provided by CharterBank: Mr. John Johnson, \$618; Mr. } \\ \text { Robert Johnson, } \$ 265 .\end{array}\)

Employment Agreements

Charter Financial and CharterBank have entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Robert Johnson to secure his services as President and Chief Executive Officer. The employment agreement has a fixed term of three years beginning as of the effective date of the reorganization and may be renewed annually after a review of the executive's performance. This agreement provides for a minimum annual salary of \(\$ 183,000\), discretionary cash bonuses, and participation on generally applicable terms and conditions in other compensation and fringe benefit plans. The agreement also guarantees customary corporate indemnification and errors and omissions insurance coverage throughout the employment term and for six years after termination.

Charter Financial and CharterBank may terminate the executive's employment, and the executive may resign, at any time with or without cause. However, in the event of termination during the term without cause, they will

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owe the executive severance benefits generally equal to the value of the cash compensation and fringe benefits that the executive would have received if he had continued working for an additional three years, but not to exceed three times the executive's average annual compensation for the five years preceding the year in which his employment terminates. The same severance benefits would be payable if the executive resigns during the term following:
- a loss of title, office or membership on the board of directors;
- material reduction in duties, functions or responsibilities; involuntary relocation of the executive's principal place of employment to a location over 25 miles in distance from CharterBank's principal office in West Point, Georgia and over 25 miles from the executive's principal residence; or
. Other material breach of contract by Charter Financial or CharterBank which is not cured within 30 days.

For 60 days after a change in control, the executive may resign for any reason and collect severance benefits as if he had been discharged without cause. The employment agreement also provides uninsured death and disability benefits.

If Charter Financial or CharterBank experiences a change in ownership, a change in effective ownership or control or a change in the ownership of a substantial portion of their assets as contemplated by section 280 G of the Internal Revenue Code, a portion of any severance payments under the employment agreements might constitute an "excess parachute payment"

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under current federal tax laws. Federal tax laws impose a \(20 \%\) excise tax, payable by the executive, on excess parachute payments. Neither Charter Financial nor CharterBank could claim a federal income tax deduction for an excess parachute payment, excise tax reimbursement payment or gross-up payment.

\section*{Change of Control Agreements}

CharterBank and Charter Financial will jointly enter into two-year change of control agreements with Bonnie \(F\). Bonner and one-year change of control agreements with Curtis R. Kollar, William C. Gladden, Linda Drummond and Lee Washam. The term of these agreements is perpetual until CharterBank gives notice of non-extension, at which time the term is fixed for two years in the case of the two year agreements and one year in the case of the one-year agreements.

Generally, CharterBank may terminate the employment of any officer covered by these agreements, with or without cause, at any time prior to a change of control without obligation for severance benefits. However, if CharterBank or Charter Financial signs a merger or other business combination agreement, or if a third party makes a tender offer or initiates a proxy contest, it could not terminate an officer's employment without cause without liability for severance benefits. The severance benefits would generally be equal to the value of the cash compensation and fringe benefits that the officer would have received if he or she had continued working for an additional two years in the case of officers with a two-year agreement, and one year in the case of officers with a one-year agreement. CharterBank would pay the same severance benefits if the officer resigns after a change of control following a loss of title, office or membership on the board of directors, material reduction in duties, functions or responsibilities, involuntary relocation of his or her principal place of employment to a location over 25 miles from

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CharterBank's principal office on the day before the change of control and over 25 miles from the officer's principal residence or other material breach of contract which is not cured within 30 days. These agreements also provide uninsured death and disability benefits.

If CharterBank or Charter Financial experiences a change in ownership, a change in effective ownership or control or a change in the ownership of a substantial portion of their assets as contemplated by section 280 G of the Internal Revenue Code, a portion of any severance payments under the change of control agreements might constitute an "excess parachute payment" under current federal tax laws. Any excess parachute payment would be subject to a federal excise tax payable by the officer and would be non-deductible by CharterBank and Charter Financial for federal income tax purposes.

Benefit Plans

401 (k) Plan. CharterBank has adopted the \(401(k)\) Plan, a tax-qualified defined contribution plan, for substantially all employees of CharterBank who have completed at least three months of service. Eligible employees may contribute from \(1 \%\) to \(8 \%\) of annual compensation to the plan on a pre-tax basis each year, subject to limitations of the Internal Revenue Code (for 2000 the limit was \(\$ 10,500)\). Under the \(401(k)\) Plan, CharterBank will make a matching contribution equal to \(50 \%\) of the first \(8 \%\) of compensation deferred by the participant.

The \(401(k)\) plan has an individual account for each participant's contributions and allows each participant to direct the investment of his or her account. One permitted investment is Charter Financial common stock. The plan itself is not an eligible account holder in this initial stock offering. However, participants who are eligible account holders and supplemental eligible account holders may use their subscription rights to purchase stock for their plan accounts. This plan will purchase common stock for other participants in the initial offering, to the extent that shares are available. After the offering, the plan will purchase in open market transactions. Participants will direct the voting of shares purchased for their plan accounts.

Employee Stock Ownership Plan. This plan is a tax-qualified plan that covers substantially all employees who have at least one year of service and will take effect at the completion of the reorganization.

Charter Financial intends to lend this plan enough money to purchase \(3.96 \%\) of the outstanding common stock of Charter Financial. The plan may purchase all or part of these shares from Charter Financial to the extent that shares are available after filling the subscriptions of eligible account holders. Alternatively, the plan may purchase all or part of these shares in private transactions or on the open market after completion of the reorganization to the extent that shares are available for purchase on reasonable terms. We have not determined whether such funds would be available to the plan or that such purchase would be made directly from Charter Financial in the offering, or after completion of the reorganization. We expect to make such determination immediately prior to the expiration date for submitting orders in the offering. This determination would be made based on prevailing market conditions. For this reason, we cannot assure you that the employee stock ownership plan will purchase shares in the offering after the reorganization, or that such purchases will occur during any particular time period or at any particular price.

Although contributions to this plan will be discretionary, CharterBank intends to contribute enough money each year to make the required principal and

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interest payments on the loan from Charter Financial. It is expected that this loan will be for a term of 30 years and will call for level annual payments of principal and interest. The plan will initially pledge the shares it purchases as collateral for the loan and hold them in a suspense account.

The plan will not distribute the pledged shares right away. Instead, it will release a portion of the pledged shares annually. Assuming the plan repays its loan as scheduled over a 30 -year term, we expect that \(1 / 30\) th of the shares will be released annually in years 2001 through 2031. Although the repayment period of the ESOP loan is scheduled over a 30 -year term, we anticipate that we may prepay a portion of the principal which would trigger the release of additional ESOP shares. The plan will allocate the shares released each year among the accounts of participants in proportion to their compensation for the year. For example, if a participant's compensation for a year represents \(1 \%\) of the total compensation of all participants for the year, the plan would allocate to that participant 1\% of the shares released for the year. Participants direct the voting of shares allocated to their accounts. Shares in the suspense account will usually be voted in a way that mirrors the votes which participants cast for shares in their individual accounts.

This plan may purchase additional shares in the future, and may do so using borrowed funds, cash dividends, periodic employer contributions or other cash flow.

Benefit Restoration Plan. CharterBank has also established the Benefit Restoration Plan in order to provide restorative payments to selected executives who are prevented from receiving the full benefits contemplated by the ESOP's benefit formula and the full matching contribution under the \(401(k)\) Plan. Currently, only the Chief Executive Officer has been selected for participation. The restorative payments consist of payments in lieu of shares that cannot be allocated to the participant's account under the ESOP and payments for employer matching contributions that cannot be allocated under the \(401(k)\) Plan due to the legal limitations imposed on tax-qualified plans. Also, in the case of a participant who retires before the repayment in full of the ESOP's loan, the restorative payments include a payment in lieu of the shares that would have been allocated if employment had continued through the full term of the loan.

Incentive Compensation Program. CharterBank maintains an incentive compensation plan for employees to earn bonuses based on the achievement of objective, pre-established performance goals. The first part of the plan consists of a short term incentive program which rewards short term performance based on the achievement of key operating goals. All exempt, non-commissioned employees who are not covered under another incentive compensation plan are eligible to participate. These short term incentive payments are made either quarterly or annually depending on the employee's job description. The second feature of the incentive compensation plan is a long- term incentive compensation plan for certain officers of CharterBank. This long term incentive plan grants "phantom stock" units to selected employees. Each unit represents a dollar amount that will be paid under a formula at the end of a three year period. In general, a participant whose employment terminates prior to the payout of the units will forfeit his or her shares. In the case of normal or early retirement, as defined under the plan, stock units will be valued at the quarter end following retirement and paid out within 90 days, if the employee has been employed with CharterBank for more than 5 years and is age 55 or older or if the employee has become permanently disabled. In the event of death, stock units will be valued at the quarter end following death and paid to the employee's estate within 90 days. Finally, under a change in control, all participants become fully vested.

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Future Stock Benefit Plans

Stock Option Plan. We intend to implement a stock option plan for our directors and officers as part of the reorganization. Applicable regulations prohibit us from granting options under the stock option plan until 6 months after the reorganization. Office of Thrift Supervision regulations also require that we must give stockholders the opportunity to vote for or against the stock option plan on the stock order form.

We expect to adopt a stock option plan that will authorize the Compensation Committee to grant options to purchase up to \(4.99 \%\) of Charter Financial's outstanding shares over a period of 10 years. The Compensation Committee will decide which directors and officers will receive options and what the terms of those options will be. However, no stock option will permit its recipient to purchase shares at a price that is less than the fair market value of a share on the date the option is granted, and no option will have a term that is longer than 10 years. If we implement a stock option plan before the first anniversary of the reorganization, applicable regulations will require that we observe the following restrictions:
We must limit the total number of options granted to
non-employee directors to \(30 \%\) of the shares authorized for the
plan.
We must also limit the number of options granted to any one
non-employee director to \(5 \%\) of the shares authorized for the
plan and the number of options that are granted to any
executive officer to \(25 \%\) of the shares that are authorized for
the plan.
We must not permit the options to become vested at a rate more
rapid than \(20 \%\) per year beginning on the first anniversary of
stockholder approval of the plan.

We may obtain the shares needed for this plan by issuing additional shares or through stock repurchases.

We expect the stock option plan will permit the Personnel and Compensation Committee to grant either incentive stock options that qualify for special federal income tax treatment or non-qualified stock options that do not qualify for special treatment. Incentive stock options may be granted only to employees and will not create federal income tax consequences when they are granted. If they are exercised during employment or within three months after termination of employment, the exercise will not create federal income tax consequences either. When the shares acquired on exercise of an incentive stock option are resold, the seller must pay federal income taxes on the amount by which the sales price exceeds the purchase price. This amount will be taxed at capital gains rates if the sale occurs at least two years after the option was granted and at least one year after the option was exercised. Otherwise, it is taxed as ordinary income.

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Non-qualified stock options may be granted to either employees or non-employees such as directors, consultants and other service providers. Incentive stock options that are exercised more than three months after termination of employment are treated as non-qualified stock options. Non-qualified stock options will not create federal income tax consequences when they are granted. When they are exercised, federal income taxes must be paid on the amount by which the fair market value of the shares acquired by exercising the option exceeds the exercise price. When the shares acquired on exercise of a non-qualified stock option are resold, the seller must pay federal income taxes on the amount by which the sales price exceeds the purchase price plus the amount included in ordinary income when the option was exercised. This amount will be taxed at capital gains rates, which will vary depending upon the time that has elapsed since the exercise of the option.

When a non-qualified stock option is exercised, Charter Financial and CharterBank may be allowed a federal income tax deduction for the same amount that the option holder includes in his or her ordinary income. When an incentive stock option is exercised, there is no tax
deduction unless the shares acquired are resold sooner than two years after the option was granted or one year after the option was exercised.

Management Recognition Plan. We intend to implement a management recognition plan for our directors and officers as part of the reorganization. Office of Thrift Supervision regulations state that we cannot make grants under the management recognition plan until six months after the reorganization. Office of Thrift Supervision regulations require us to obtain approval for the management recognition plan by giving stockholders the opportunity to vote for or against the plan on the stock order form.

We expect to adopt a management recognition plan that will authorize the Personnel and Compensation Committee to make restricted stock awards of up to \(1.996 \%\) of Charter Financial's outstanding shares. The Personnel and Compensation Committee will decide which directors and officers will receive restricted stock and the terms of those awards. If we implement a management recognition plan before the first anniversary of the reorganization, applicable regulations will require that we observe the following restrictions:
. We must limit the total number of shares that are awarded to outside directors to \(30 \%\) of the shares authorized for the plan.
. We must also limit the number of shares that are awarded to any one outside director to 5\% of the shares authorized for the plan and the number of shares that are awarded to any executive officer to \(25 \%\) of the shares that are authorized for the plan.
. We must not permit the awards to become vested at a more rapid rate than \(20 \%\) per year beginning on the first anniversary of stockholder approval of the plan.
. We must not permit accelerated vesting for any reason other than death, disability or change in control.

After the first anniversary of the reorganization, we may amend the plan to change or remove these restrictions and to provide for accelerated vesting in cases of retirement. We expect that any other amendment to this plan (whether adopted before or after the first anniversary of the plan's initial effective

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date) will be subject to stockholder approval if it would change the class of people eligible to receive benefits, change the price they must pay for stock which they acquire under the plan, or increase the number of shares available under the plan or increase the maximum amount of stock that may be acquired by any one person under the plan.

We may obtain the shares needed for this plan by issuing additional shares or through stock repurchases.

Restricted stock awards under this plan may feature employment restrictions that require continued employment for a period of time for the award to be vested. They may feature restrictions that require the achievement of specified corporate or individual performance goals for the award to be vested. Or, they may feature a combination of employment and performance restrictions. Awards are not vested unless the specified employment restrictions and performance goals are met. However, pending vesting, the award recipient may have voting and dividend
rights. When an award becomes vested, the recipient must include the current fair market value of the vested shares in his income for federal income tax purposes. Charter Financial and CharterBank may be allowed a federal income tax deduction in the same amount. Depending on the nature of the restrictions attached to the restricted stock award, Charter Financial and CharterBank may have to recognize a compensation expense for accounting purposes ratably over the vesting period or in a single charge when the performance conditions are satisfied.

Transactions with Directors and Executive Officers

We make loans to our directors and executive officers. We offer discounted loans to all of our employees through an employee loan program. For the year ended September 30, 2000, loans to executive officers, directors and their associates totaled \(\$ 771,190\). These loans do not involve more than the normal risk of collectability or present other unfavorable features.

CharterBank's general counsel is the law firm of Johnson, Caldwell \& McCoy. Curt M. Johnson, the brother of Robert L. Johnson and the son of John W. Johnson, Jr., is a partner of this law firm. The firm represents the Bank in real estate and commercial loan closings and other matters, wherein the Bank's borrower typically pays the legal fees and expenses. CharterBank, paid the law firm \$136,465 for the year ended September 30, 2000.

CharterBank leases its Shawmut branch, which is located at 3500 20/th/ Avenue, Valley, Alabama, from the Taunton-Johnson Corporation which is owned by Robert L. Johnson and Terry Taunton. Director Taunton also serves as the President of the Taunton-Johnson Corporation. CharterBank paid Taunton-Johnson Corporation \(\$ 40,000\) for the year ended September 30, 2000 for the lease of Shawmut Branch.

Proposed Purchases of Common Stock by Management

The following table presents, for each of our directors and executive officers, the amount of stock they wish to purchase in the offering. We have assumed that a sufficient number of shares will be available to satisfy their subscriptions. The amounts include shares that may be purchased through individual retirement accounts and by associates of the directors and executive officers. Collectively our directors and executive officers expect to purchase a total of 278,000 shares, or approximately \(6.2 \%\) of shares we sell in the offering and \(1.24 \%\) of our outstanding common stock (assuming the sale of \(4,485,000\) shares

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of common stock). These shares do not include shares expected to be issued under any stock benefit plans of Charter Financial. If all shares issuable under such stock benefit plans were issued to directors and executive officers of Charter Financial, directors and executive officers of Charter Financial would own \(2,739,816\) shares, or \(61.1 \%\) of the shares sold in the offering and \(12.2 \%\) of our outstanding common stock (assuming the sale of \(4,485,000\) shares of the common stock).
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Name & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{Amount} & \begin{tabular}{l}
Number \\
of shares
\end{tabular} & Percent of Shares Sold \\
\hline \multicolumn{5}{|l|}{Directors and Executive Officers:} \\
\hline John W. Johnson, Jr. & \$ & 750,000 & 75,000 & 1. \(67 \%\) \\
\hline Robert L. Johnson & & 500,000 & 50,000 & 1.11 \\
\hline David Z. Cauble, III & & 100,000 & 10,000 & 0.22 \\
\hline Jane W. Darden & & 50,000 & 5,000 & 0.11 \\
\hline William B. Hudson & & 100,000 & 10,000 & 0.22 \\
\hline Thomas M. Lane & & 100,000 & 10,000 & 0.22 \\
\hline R. Terry Taunton & & 100,000 & 10,000 & 0.22 \\
\hline Curtis R. Kollar & & 500,000 & 50,000 & 1.11 \\
\hline William C. Gladden & & 30,000 & 3,000 & 0.07 \\
\hline Lee Washam & & 500,000 & 50,000 & 1.11 \\
\hline Bonnie F. Bonner & & 50,000 & 5,000 & 0.11 \\
\hline Total to be Purchased by Directors and Executives Officers & & 780,000 & 278,000 & \(6.20 \%\) \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

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the Reorganization and the offering

The Board of Directors of CharterBank has adopted the plan of reorganization, subject to the approval of the Office of Thrift Supervision and members of CharterBank, as well as the satisfaction of certain conditions.

Office of Thrift Supervision approval does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation of the plan of reorganization.

\section*{General}

On October 26, 2000, the Board of Directors of CharterBank unanimously adopted the plan of reorganization pursuant to which CharterBank will reorganize into a "two-tiered" mutual holding company. This structure is called a two-tier structure because it will have two levels of holding companies. After the reorganization, Charter Financial will be the mid-tier stock holding company and First Charter, MHC will be the top-tier mutual holding company. Under the terms of the plan of reorganization, Charter Financial will own all of the stock of CharterBank and First Charter, MHC will own at least a majority of Charter Financial. This reorganization to a mutual holding company structure also includes the offering by Charter Financial of up to \(49 \%\) of its outstanding shares to qualifying depositors of CharterBank, tax qualified employee plans of CharterBank and other members of CharterBank in a subscription offering and to certain other persons in a direct community offering and/or syndicated community offering. The reorganization will be effected as described under "--Tax Aspects" or in any other manner that is permitted by the Office of Thrift Supervision and

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is consistent with the intent of the plan of reorganization.

The following is a brief summary of pertinent aspects of the reorganization. A copy of the plan is available from CharterBank upon request and is available for inspection at the offices of CharterBank and at the Office of Thrift
Supervision. The plan is also filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement of which this prospectus is a part, copies of which may be obtained from the SEC. See "Where You Can Find Additional Information."

Reasons for the Reorganization

The reorganization is intended to provide an additional source of capital not available to us as a mutual institution. The reorganization will enable CharterBank to achieve the benefits of a stock company without a loss of control that often follows standard conversions from mutual to stock form. We are committed to being an independent community-oriented institution, and the Board of Directors believes that the mutual holding company structure is best suited for this purpose.

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The reorganization is also intended to provide an additional source of capital to Charter Financial in order to allow it:
. to fund new loans;
. to establish or acquire new branches in our targeted market areas within the \(1-85\) corridor;
. to diversify products that we offer;
- to increase delivery systems, including the expanded use of ATMs and the introduction of Internet banking;
. to invest in securities; and
. funds for general corporate purposes.

CharterBank also wishes to reorganize into a mutual holding company structure to separate the business of running a community-based savings bank from decisions concerning its investment in Freddie Mac stock. As part of the reorganization, Charter Financial and First Charter, MHC will retain approximately \(2,100,000\) (including 400,000 shares held by Charter Insurance Company) and 400,000 shares of Freddie Mac stock, respectively which will allow CharterBank's management to refocus on core banking activities. The remaining 2,555,000 shares of Freddie Mac stock will be retained by CharterBank.

Additionally, after the reorganization, Charter Financial will have the ability to issue additional shares of common stock to raise capital or to support mergers or acquisitions, rather than assuming the risks of raising capital through the sale of Freddie Mac stock. No additional capital issuance or mergers or acquisitions are planned or contemplated at the present time. The ability of Charter Financial to issue common stock will enable Charter Financial to establish stock benefit plans for directors, management and employees, including incentive stock option plans, management recognition plans and an employee stock ownership plan. We also believe that the reorganization will provide local customers and other residents with an opportunity to become equity owners of Charter Financial, and thereby participate in possible stock price appreciation and cash dividends. This is consistent with our objective of being

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a locally-owned financial institution. We believe that, through expanded local stock ownership, current customers and non-customers who purchase common stock will seek to enhance the financial success of CharterBank through consolidation of their banking business and increased referrals to CharterBank.

The proceeds from the sale of common stock of Charter Financial will be invested in order to enhance our profitability and facilitate growth. Additionally, our stronger capital position after the offering will enhance operating flexibility, support desired expansion and provide a cushion for absorbing unanticipated losses. CharterBank will receive approximately \(50 \%\) of the net proceeds of the reorganization as equity capital, to be used initially to invest in short-term investments and adjustable rate mortgage-backed securities, then later for making loans within our market area. Charter Financial will also use a portion of the cash proceeds from
the reorganization to extend a loan to the ESOP, for use in purchasing shares of common stock issued as part of the reorganization. The remainder of the proceeds will be retained by Charter Financial to repurchase common stock, pay dividends to stockholders or for other general purposes.

After considering the advantages and risks of the reorganization, as well as applicable fiduciary duties, the Board of Directors of CharterBank unanimously approved the reorganization as being in the best interests of CharterBank, our members and the communities that we serve.

Structure of the Reorganization

The reorganization will be structured as a "purchase and assumption" transaction. As part of the reorganization, CharterBank will convert to a mutual holding company, First Charter, MHC and will establish Charter Financial and CharterBank as subsidiaries. The reorganization will be effected as follows:
1. CharterBank will establish a federal corporation, Charter Financial as a wholly-owned subsidiary;
2. CharterBank will establish a federally chartered stock savings bank as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Charter Financial;
3. CharterBank will exchange its charter for a federal mutual holding company charter to become First Charter, MHC;
4. First Charter, MHC will transfer all of its assets and liabilities to Charter Financial, including all of the stock of Charter Insurance Company, but excluding 400,000 Freddie Mac shares and approximately \(\$ 100,000\) cash;
5. Charter Financial will transfer 400,000 Freddie Mac shares to Charter Insurance Company; and
6. Charter Financial will transfer the assets and liabilities received from First Charter, MHC under step 4, other than the Charter Insurance Company stock and \(1,700,000\) Freddie Mac shares, to a newly formed stock bank to be named CharterBank.

In addition, as part of the reorganization, Charter Financial will sell up to \(20 \%\) of its common stock in a subscription and community offering. Approximately \(50 \%\) of the proceeds of the offering will be retained by Charter Financial and the balance transferred to CharterBank. As a result of these transactions:

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. CharterBank will become First Charter, MHC, and will own 400,000 Freddie Mac shares, \(\$ 100,000\) cash and at least \(80 \%\) of Charter Financial;

Charter Financial will own all of the stock of CharterBank and Charter Insurance Company and 1,700,000 Freddie Mac shares;

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- CharterBank will own \(2,555,000\) Freddie Mac shares; and
. Charter Insurance Company will own 400,000 Freddie Mac shares.

Effects of the Reorganization

Continuity. While the reorganization is being accomplished, and after its completion, the routine business of CharterBank of accepting deposits and making loans will continue without interruption. CharterBank will continue to be subject to regulation by the Office of Thrift Supervision and the FDIC. After the reorganization, CharterBank will continue to provide services for depositors and borrowers under current policies by its management and staff.

The Board of Directors of CharterBank currently consists of seven members. After the reorganization, these seven directors will continue to serve on the Board of Directors of CharterBank and will become the new Board of Directors of Charter Financial and First Charter, MHC.

There will be no change in our offices or staff as part of the reorganization. The officers of Charter Financial will be the current executive officers of CharterBank. See "Management."

Deposit Accounts and Loans. The reorganization will not affect any deposit accounts or borrower relationships with CharterBank. All deposit accounts in CharterBank will continue to be insured up to the legal maximum by the FDIC the same manner as such deposit accounts were insured immediately before the reorganization. The reorganization will not change the interest rate or the maturity of deposits at CharterBank.

Each depositor of CharterBank will have both a deposit account in CharterBank and a pro rata ownership interest in the equity of First Charter, MHC based upon the balance in the depositor's account. This interest may only be realized in the event of a liquidation of First Charter, MHC. However, this ownership interest is tied to the depositor's account and has no tangible market value separate from the deposit account. Any depositor who opens a deposit account obtains a pro rata ownership interest in the equity of First Charter, MHC without any additional payment beyond the amount of the deposit. A depositor who reduces or closes his or her account receives the balance in the account but receives nothing for his or her ownership interest in the equity of first Charter, MHC, which is lost to the extent that the balance in the account is reduced. Consequently, depositors of First Charter, MHC have no way to realize the value of their ownership interest in First Charter, MHC, except in the unlikely event that First Charter, MHC is liquidated.

All loans of CharterBank will retain the same status that they had prior to the reorganization. The amount, interest rate, maturity and security for each loan will remain as they were contractually fixed prior to the reorganization.

Voting Rights. After the reorganization, direction of CharterBank will continue to be under the control of the Board of Directors of CharterBank. Charter financial, as the holder of all of the outstanding common stock of

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CharterBank, will have exclusive voting rights with respect
to any matters concerning CharterBank requiring stockholder approval, including the election of directors of CharterBank.

After the reorganization, the holders of the common stock of Charter Financial will have exclusive voting rights with respect to any matters concerning Charter Financial. These voting rights will be exclusive except to the extent Charter Financial in the future issues additional common stock or preferred stock with voting rights. Each holder of common stock will be entitled to vote on any matters to be considered by Charter Financial's stockholders, including the election of directors of Charter Financial, subject to the restrictions and limitations set forth in Charter Financial's federal stock charter discussed below.

By virtue of its ownership of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock of Charter Financial, First Charter, MHC will be able to control the outcome of most matters presented to the stockholders of Charter Financial for resolution by vote. However, current regulations and regulatory policies require that the adoption of a second-step conversion of First Charter, MHC be approved by a majority of the vote of the shares held by the public stockholders (i.e., all stockholders except First Charter, MHC).

As a federally-chartered mutual holding company, First Charter, MHC will have no authorized capital stock and, thus, no stockholders. Holders of deposit accounts in and borrowers of CharterBank will become members of First Charter, MHC entitled to vote on all questions requiring action by the members of First Charter, MHC including, without limitation, election of directors of First Charter, MHC. In addition, all persons who become depositors of CharterBank following the reorganization will have membership rights with respect to First Charter, MHC. Borrowers will not receive membership rights in connection with any new borrowings made after the reorganization.

Liquidation Rights. In the unlikely event of a complete liquidation of CharterBank prior to the completion of the reorganization, each depositor would receive a pro rata share of any assets of CharterBank remaining after payment of expenses and satisfaction of claims of all creditors. Each depositor's pro rata share of such liquidating distribution would be in the same proportion as the value of such depositor's deposit account was to the total value of all deposit accounts in CharterBank at the time of liquidation.

At the completion of the reorganization, First Charter, MHC will establish a liquidation account for the benefit of eligible account holders and supplemental eligible account holders who continue to maintain deposit accounts with CharterBank following the reorganization. The amount of the liquidation account will be equal to the net worth of First Charter, MHC as of that date. In the unlikely event of a complete liquidation of First Charter, MHC, and only in such event, each such account holder will be entitled to receive a liquidating distribution from the liquidation account in the amount of the then-adjusted account balances for such person's deposit accounts then held following all liquidation payments to creditors.

The initial account balance for each eligible account holder and supplemental eligible account holder will be determined by multiplying the opening balance in the liquidation account by a fraction, the number of which is the amount of qualifying deposits held by such eligible account holder or supplemental eligible account holder on the September 30, 1999 or the March

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31, 2001 qualifying date, respectively, and the denominator of which is the aggregate amount of all qualifying deposits on such dates.

If, however, on any annual closing date of CharterBank, the amount in any deposit account is less than the amount in such deposit account on September 30, 1999 (with respect to an eligible account holder) and March 31, 2001 (with respect to a supplemental eligible account holder) or any other annual closing date, then the interest in the liquidation account relating to such deposit account would be reduced from time to time by the proportion of any such reduction, and such interest will cease to exist if such deposit account is closed. In addition, no interest in the liquidation account would ever be increased despite any subsequent increase in the related deposit account. In addition, no interest in the liquidation account would ever be increased despite any subsequent increase in the deposit balances of any eligible account holder or supplemental eligible account holder.

We have no plans to liquidate CharterBank or First Charter, MHC in the future.

Tax Aspects. Although the reorganization may be effected in any manner approved by the Office of Thrift Supervision that is consistent with the purposes of the plan of reorganization and applicable law, regulations and policies, it is intended that the reorganization will be effected through the purchase and assumption method. Under the plan of reorganization, consummation of the reorganization is conditioned upon, among other things, the prior receipt by CharterBank of either a private letter ruling from the IRS and from the Georgia taxing authorities or an opinion of Thacher Proffitt \& Wood as to the federal income tax consequences and from Alston \& Bird LLP as to the Georgia and Alabama income tax consequences of the reorganization to CharterBank, First Charter, MHC, Charter Financial, eligible account holders and supplemental eligible account holders. Based in part upon representations of CharterBank, Thacher Proffitt \& Wood has issued its opinion regarding certain federal income tax consequences of the reorganization. With regard to the reorganization, Thacher Proffitt \& Wood has opined that:
(1) The conversion of the present CharterBank to mutual holding company form under the name First Charter, MHC will constitute a reorganization under Code section \(368(a)(1)(F)\);

The transfer of assets by First Charter, MHC (the present CharterBank) to Charter Financial solely in exchange for common stock of Charter Financial and the assumption by Charter Financial of liabilities of First Charter, MHC will be an exchange described in Code section 351.
(3) The transfer of assets by Charter Financial to the new CharterBank solely in exchange for common stock of the new CharterBank and the assumption by the new CharterBank of the liabilities of Charter Financial will be an exchange described in Code section 351.
(4) None of First Charter, MHC (the present CharterBank), Charter Financial or the new CharterBank will recognize gain or loss as a result of the reorganization; and
(3) Eligible account holders and supplemental eligible account holders will not recognize gain or loss upon their receipt of nontransferable subscription rights to

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purchase shares of Charter Financial, provided the amount to be paid for such shares is equal to fair market value of such shares.

Thacher Proffitt \& Wood will not opine as to whether the present CharterBank will be required to include any amount of its bad debt reserve in income as a result of the transfer of its loans to Charter Financial and to the new CharterBank, or as to the effect of the reorganization on any bad debt reserve of the new CharterBank. Unlike private rulings of the IRS, an opinion of counsel is not binding on the IRS and the IRS could disagree with conclusions reached in the opinion. If there is a disagreement, we can not guarantee that the IRS would not prevail in a judicial or administrative proceeding.

Accounting Consequences. The reorganization will be accounted for in a manner similar to a pooling-of-interests under generally accepted accounting principles. Accordingly, the carrying value of our assets, liabilities, and capital will be unaffected by the reorganization and will be reflected in Charter Financial's, First Charter, MHC's and CharterBank's financial statements based on their historical amounts.

How We Determined the Offering Range and the \(\$ 10.00\) Price Per Share

The plan of reorganization requires that the purchase price of the common stock must be based on the appraised pro forma market value of the common stock, as determined on the basis of an independent valuation. CharterBank has retained RP Financial to make the independent valuation. RP Financial's fees for its services in making such appraisal are estimated to be \(\$ 100,000\). CharterBank has not had any prior business dealings with RP Financial, other than preparing CharterBank's business plan for the reorganization and for its previous non-stock mutual holding company reorganization (which was withdrawn from the Office of Thrift Supervision). Charter Financial will indemnify RP Financial and its employees and affiliates against losses (including any losses in connection with claims under the federal securities laws) arising out of its services as appraiser, except where RP Financial's liability results from its negligence or bad faith.

An appraisal has been made by RP Financial in reliance upon the information contained in this prospectus, including the financial statements. RP Financial also considered the following factors, among others:
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                the present and projected operating results and financial condition
                of CharterBank, and the economic and demographic conditions in
                CharterBank's existing market area;
                    . historical, financial and other information relating to
                CharterBank;
                a comparative evaluation of the operating and financial statistics
                of CharterBank with those of other similarly situated savings
                associations and savings institutions located in the Southeast;
                    . the impact of the reorganization on CharterBank's equity and
                        earnings potential;
    ```
. dividends that may be paid by Charter Financial; and
the trading market for securities of comparable institutions and general conditions in the market for such securities.

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On the basis of the foregoing, RP Financial has advised CharterBank that, in its opinion, dated March 2, 2001, the estimated pro forma market value of the common stock of Charter Financial Corp. being offered to persons other than First Charter, MHC ranged from a minimum of \(\$ 33.2\) million to a maximum of \(\$ 44.9\) million with a midpoint of \(\$ 39.0\) million (the estimated valuation range).

The Board of Directors of CharterBank held a meeting to review and discuss the appraisal report prepared by RP Financial. Representatives of RP Financial participated in the meeting to explain the contents of the appraisal report. The Board of Directors reviewed the methods that RP Financial used to determine the pro forma market value of the common stock and the appropriateness of the assumptions that RP Financial used in determining this value. The Board of Directors determined that the common stock will be sold at \$10.00 per share, which is the price most commonly used in stock offerings involving converting savings institutions.

The Board of Directors has approved the independent appraisal of RP Financial which established an estimated valuation range of \(\$ 33.2\) million to \(\$ 44.9\) million, with a midpoint of \(\$ 39.0\) million. Based on the independent appraisal and taking into account that Charter Financial must be at least a majority-owned subsidiary of First Charter, MHC, so long as First Charter, MHC is in mutual form, Charter Financial expects to issue between 3,315,000 and \(4,485,000\) shares of common stock. The estimated valuation range and the offering range may be amended with the approval of the Office of Thrift Supervision, due to subsequent developments in the financial condition of CharterBank or market conditions generally.

The valuation prepared by RP Financial is not intended, and must not be construed, as a recommendation of any kind as to the advisability of purchasing such shares. RP Financial did not independently verify the financial statements and other information provided by CharterBank, nor did RP Financial value independently the assets or liabilities of CharterBank. The valuation considers CharterBank as a going concern and should not be considered as an indication of the liquidation value of CharterBank. Moreover, because such valuation is necessarily based upon estimates and projections, all of which are subject to change from time to time, no assurance can be given that persons purchasing such shares in the reorganization will thereafter be able to sell such shares at prices at or above the purchase price.

The maximum of the estimated valuation range may be increased up to 15\% and the number of shares of common stock to be issued in the reorganization may be increased to \(5,157,750\) shares due to regulatory considerations, changes in the market and general financial and economic conditions without the resolicitation of subscribers. See "- Limitations on Common Stock Purchases" as to the method of distribution and allocation of additional shares that may be issued in the event of an increase in the estimated valuation range.

We may not sell any shares of common stock unless RP Financial confirms to CharterBank and the Office of Thrift Supervision that, to the best of its knowledge, nothing of a material nature has occurred which, taking into account all relevant factors, would cause RP Financial to conclude that the appraisal report is incompatible with its estimate of the pro forma market value of the common stock upon the conclusion of the offering.

If RP Financial concludes that the pro forma market value of the common stock is either more than \(15 \%\) above the maximum of the estimated valuation range or less than the minimum of the estimated valuation range, CharterBank and

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Charter Financial, after consulting with the Office of Thrift Supervision may:
(1) terminate the plan of reorganization and return all subscription funds promptly, paying interest at CharterBank's passbook savings rate of interest and cancel all account withdrawal authorizations;
(2) establish a new estimated valuation range and either:
(a) hold new subscription and community offerings; or
(b) provide subscribers the opportunity to change or cancel their orders (a "resolicitation"); or
(3) take such other actions as permitted by the Office of Thrift Supervision in order to complete the reorganization.

If a resolicitation is commenced, unless an affirmative response is received from a subscriber within a designated period of time, all funds will be promptly returned to the subscriber and account withdrawal authorizations canceled as described above.

A copy of the appraisal report of \(R P\) Financial, including any amendments made to it, and the detailed memorandum of the appraiser setting forth the method and assumptions for such appraisal are available for inspection at the main office of CharterBank and at the Office of Thrift Supervision.

Subscription Offering and Subscription Rights

In accordance with the plan of reorganization, rights to subscribe for the purchase of common stock have been granted to the following persons in the following order of priority:

Eligible accounts holders. Depositors with deposits in CharterBank with balances aggregating \(\$ 50\) or more as of September 30, 1999.

Tax-qualified employee stock benefit plans of CharterBank, including the ESOP.
(3) Supplemental eligible account holders. Depositors with deposits in CharterBank with balances aggregating \(\$ 50\) or more on March 31, 2001, other than those depositors who would otherwise qualify as eligible account holders and except for officers, directors and their associates; and
(4) Other Members. Other depositors and borrowers of CharterBank on the voting record date, who do not qualify in the preceding categories.

All subscriptions received will be subject to the availability of common stock after satisfaction of all subscriptions of all subscribers having prior rights in the subscription offering and to the maximum and minimum purchase limitations set forth in the plan of reorganization and as described below under "Limitations on Common Stock Purchases."

Priority 1: Eligible Account Holders. Each eligible account holder will receive, as first priority and without payment, non-transferable rights to subscribe for common stock in an amount of up to \(\$ 1,000,000\) See "- Limitations on Common Stock Purchases."

If there are not sufficient shares available to satisfy all subscriptions by

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eligible account holders, shares first will be allocated so as to permit each subscribing eligible account holder to purchase a number of shares sufficient to make such eligible account holder's total allocation equal to the lesser of 100 shares or the number of shares subscribed for. Thereafter, unallocated shares will be allocated among the remaining eligible account holders whose subscriptions remain unfilled in the proportion that the amount of their respective qualifying deposit bears to the total amount of qualifying deposits of all eligible account holders whose subscriptions remain unfilled. However, no fractional shares shall be issued.

To ensure a proper allocation of stock, each eligible account holder must list on his or her stock order form all deposit accounts in which such eligible account holder had an ownership interest at September 30, 1999. Failure to list an account or providing incorrect information could result in the loss of all or part of an allocation. The subscription rights of eligible account holders who are also directors or officers of CharterBank or their associates will be subordinated to the subscription rights of other eligible account holders to the extent attributable to increased deposits in the one-year period preceding September 30, 1999.

Priority 2: The Tax-Qualified Employee Benefit Plans. On a second priority basis, the tax-qualified employee benefit plans, including the ESOP, will receive, as a second priority and without payment therefor, non-transferable subscription rights to purchase up to \(8 \%\) of \(49.9 \%\) of the outstanding common stock of Charter Financial. As a tax-qualified employee benefit plan, the ESOP expects to purchase \(8 \%\) of \(49.9 \%\) of the outstanding common stock of charter Financial, or 661,700 shares, based on the issuance of \(3,315,000\) shares at the minimum of the offering range or 895,200 shares based on the issuance of 4,485,000 at the maximum of the offering range. Subscriptions by the ESOP will not be aggregated with shares of common stock purchased directly by or which are otherwise attributable to any other participants in the subscription and community offerings, including subscriptions of any of CharterBank's directors, officers or employees. It has not been determined whether the ESOP will subscribe for shares in the offering or purchase shares in private transactions or on the open market after completion of the offering.

Priority 3: Supplemental Eligible Account Holders. To the extent that there are shares remaining after satisfaction of the subscriptions by eligible account holders and tax-qualified employee benefit plans, each supplemental eligible account holder will receive, as a
third priority and without payment, non-transferable rights to subscribe for common stock in an amount of up to \(\$ 1,000,000\). See "- Limitations on Common Stock Purchases."

If there are not sufficient shares available to satisfy all subscriptions by supplemental eligible account holders, available shares first will be allocated among subscribing supplemental eligible account holders so as to permit each supplemental eligible account holder to purchase a number of shares sufficient to make such supplemental eligible account holder's total allocation equal to the lesser of 100 shares or the number of shares subscribed for. Thereafter, unallocated shares will be allocated among the remaining supplemental eligible account holders whose subscriptions remain unfilled in the proportion that the amount of their respective qualifying deposit bears to the total amount of qualifying deposits of all supplemental eligible account holders whose subscriptions remain unfilled. However, no fractional shares shall be issued.

To ensure proper allocation of stock, each supplemental eligible account holder must list on his or her stock order form all deposit accounts in which

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such supplemental eligible account holder had an ownership interest at [March 31, 2001]. Failure to list an account or providing incorrect information could result in the loss of all or part of an allocation.

Priority 4: Other Members. On a fourth priority basis, each other member of CharterBank who is not eligible in the preceding priority categories shall receive non-transferable subscription rights to subscribe for common stock in an amount up to \(\$ 1,000,000\). See "-Limitations on Common Stock Purchases."

Expiration Date for the Subscription Offering. The subscription offering will expire at 4:00 p.m. Eastern time, on [ ], unless we extend this period to [___] ].

Persons in Non-qualified States or Foreign Countries. We will make reasonable efforts to comply with the securities laws of all states in the United States in which persons entitled to subscribe for stock pursuant to the plan of reorganization reside. However, we are not required to offer stock in the subscription offering to any person who resides in a foreign country.

Direct Community Offering and Syndicated Community Offering
Direct Community Offering. To the extent that shares remain available for purchase after satisfaction of all subscriptions received in the subscription offering, Charter Financial may offer shares for sale pursuant to the plan of reorganization in a direct community offering to the public with preference given to natural persons residing in our Community Reinvestment Act assessment area, which is comprised of the entirety of Troup and Harris counties, Georgia, and the entirety of Chambers and Lee counties, Alabama. Persons will be deemed to reside in these counties if they occupy a dwelling within these counties and establish an ongoing physical presence within it, together with an indication that such presence is not merely transitory in nature. To the extent the person is a corporation or other business entity, the principal place of business or headquarters shall be in these counties. We may utilize depositor or loan records or such other evidence provided to it to make a determination as to whether a person is a resident. In all cases, the determination of resident status will be made by us in our sole discretion. Stock sold in the direct community offering will be offered and sold in a manner to achieve the widest
distribution of the stock. No person may purchase more than \(\$ 1,000,000\) of common stock in the direct community offering. Allocation of shares if an oversubscription occurs will be allocated (to the extent shares remain available) so that each person may receive 1,000 shares, and thereafter, on a pro rata basis to such persons based on the amount of their subscriptions.

The direct community offering, if any, may commence concurrently with or subsequent to the commencement of the subscription offering and shall terminate no later than 45 days after the expiration of the subscription offering unless extended by Charter Financial, with the approval of the Office of Thrift Supervision, if necessary. We may terminate the direct community offering or the syndicated community offering as soon as we have received orders for at least the minimum number of shares available for purchase in the offering.

Syndicated Community Offering. If any stock remains unsold in the subscription and direct community offerings, we may use the services of broker-dealers to sell such shares on a best efforts basis in a syndicated community offering to be managed by Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. No person may purchase more than \(\$ 1,000,000\) of common stock in the syndicated community offering.

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}

Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. has not selected any particular brokerdealers to participate in a syndicated community offering. Neither Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. nor any registered broker-dealer shall have any obligation to take or purchase any shares of the common stock in the syndicated community offering. However, Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. has agreed to use its best efforts in the sale of shares in any syndicated community offering.

The syndicated community offering may commence during the direct community offering, if any, or after the direct community offering is terminated. The syndicated community offering will terminate no more than 45 days following the expiration of the subscription offering unless extended by Charter Financial with the approval of the Office of Thrift Supervision. Such extensions may not be beyond [___], 2002.

The opportunity to subscribe for shares of common stock in the direct community offering or syndicated community offering is subject to our right, in our sole discretion, to accept or reject any order in whole or in part either at the time of receipt of an order or as soon as practicable following the expiration date. If we reject a subscription in part, the subscriber will not have the right to cancel the remainder of the subscription.

If for any reason a syndicated community offering of unsubscribed shares cannot be effected or is not deemed advisable, we will seek to make other arrangements, subject to the approval of the Office of Thrift Supervision and to compliance with applicable state and federal securities laws.

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\section*{Marketing Arrangements}

Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. We have engaged Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. as financial and marketing agent in connection with the offering of the common stock. Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. has agreed to use its best efforts to assist us with the solicitation of subscriptions for shares of common stock in the offering. Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. is not obligated to purchase any shares of common stock.

Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. will receive fees for services provided in connection with the offering equal to \(1.25 \%\) of the aggregate purchase price of shares sold in the subscription offering and direct community offering, excluding shares sold to the ESOP and any directors, officers or employees of CharterBank. If there is a syndicated community offering, we will also pay Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. a management fee equal to \(1.25 \%\) of the aggregate purchase price of common stock sold in the syndicated community offering, sales commissions payable to selected dealers and any sponsoring dealer's fees, provided that fees payable by us to Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. for the shares they sell will not exceed \(2.5 \%\) of the aggregate purchase price of the common stock sold in the syndicated community offering. Aggregate fees payable by us under a selected dealers agreement will not exceed \(7.0 \%\) of the aggregate purchase price of the common stock sold in the syndicated community offering. Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. will also be reimbursed for its reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, including legal fees of up to \(\$ 75,000\). We have agreed to indemnify Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. to the extent allowed by law, for reasonable costs and expenses in connection with certain claims and liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933.

Directors, Officers and Employees. Directors and executive officers of CharterBank may participate in the solicitation of offers to purchase common stock. Other employees of CharterBank may participate in the offering in

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ministerial capacities or provide clerical work in effecting a sales transaction. Such other employees have been instructed not to solicit offers to purchase common stock or provide advice regarding the purchase of common stock. Charter Financial will rely on Rule 3 a4-1 under the Exchange Act, and sales of common stock will be conducted within the requirements of Rule 3a4-1, so as to permit directors, officers and employees to participate in the sale of common stock. No director, officer or employee of Charter Financial, First Charter, MHC or CharterBank will be compensated in connection with his or her participation by the payment of commissions or other remuneration based either directly or indirectly on transactions in common stock.

Procedure for Purchasing Shares in Subscription and Direct Community Offerings

Use of Order Forms. To purchase shares in the subscription offering and the direct community offering, an executed order form with the required payment for each share subscribed for, or with appropriate authorization for withdrawal from a subscriber's deposit accounts at CharterBank (which must be given by completing the appropriate blanks on the stock order form), must be received by CharterBank no later than 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, on the indicated expiration date unless extended. You may submit your order form by mail using the return envelope provided, by overnight courier to the indicated address on the order form, or by
bringing your order forms to one of our full service branch offices. Stock order forms which are not received by such time or are executed defectively or are received without full payment (or correct withdrawal instructions) are not required to be accepted. In addition, we are not obligated to accept orders submitted on photocopied or facsimiled order forms. We have the power to waive or permit the correction of incomplete or improperly executed forms, but do not represent that we will do so. Once received, an executed order form may not be modified, amended or rescinded without our consent unless the reorganization has not been completed within 45 days of the end of the subscription offering or we conduct a resolicitation of subscribers for some other reason. If resolicitation is commenced, subscribers will have an opportunity to change or cancel their orders. Unless an affirmative response is received from a subscriber within a designated timeframe, all funds will be promptly returned to the subscriber with interest at CharterBank's passbook-savings rate and all account withdrawal authorizations will be canceled.

In order to ensure that eligible account holders and supplemental eligible account holders are properly identified as to their stock purchase eligibility, depositors must list on the stock order form all deposit accounts as of the applicable eligibility record date giving all names on each account and the account numbers.

To ensure that each purchaser receives a prospectus at least 48 hours prior to the expiration date for the offering, in accordance with Rule 15c2-8 of the Exchange Act, no prospectus will be mailed later than five days prior to such date or hand delivered any later than two days prior to such date. Execution of the stock order form will confirm receipt or delivery in accordance with Rule 15c2-8. Order forms will only be distributed when preceded or accompanied by a prospectus.

Payment for Shares. Payment for subscriptions may be made by personal check, bank check, money order or by authorization of withdrawal from your current deposit accounts maintained at CharterBank. Interest will be paid on payments made by check, bank check or money order at our passbook savings rate of interest from the date payment is received until the completion or termination of the reorganization. If payment is made by authorization of withdrawal from

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deposit accounts, the funds authorized to be withdrawn will remain in the account and continue to accrue interest at the contractual rates until completion or termination of the reorganization, but a hold immediately will be placed on such funds, thereby making them unavailable to the depositor. We may also authorize wire transfers as proper payment.

CharterBank will waive any applicable penalties for early withdrawal from certificates of deposit. If the remaining balance in a certificate account is reduced below the applicable minimum balance requirement at the time that the funds are transferred under the authorization, the certificate will be canceled at the time of the withdrawal, without penalty, and the remaining balance will be converted into a statement savings account and will earn interest at the passbook savings rate.

The ESOP will not be required to pay for the shares subscribed for at the time it subscribes. Rather, the ESOP may pay for such shares of common stock subscribed for at the purchase price upon completion of the offering; provided, that there is in force from the time of its subscription until such time, a loan commitment acceptable to Charter Financial from an unrelated financial institution or from Charter Financial to lend to the ESOP the aggregate
purchase price of the shares for which it subscribed. Charter Financial intends to provide such a loan to the ESOP.

Owners of self-directed IRAs may use the assets of such IRAs to purchase shares of common stock in the subscription and community offerings, provided that such IRAs are not maintained at CharterBank. Persons with IRAs maintained at CharterBank must have their accounts transferred to an unaffiliated institution or broker to purchase shares of common stock in the subscription and community offerings. In addition, the provisions of ERISA and IRS regulations require that officers, trustees and ten percent stockholders who use self-directed IRA funds to purchase shares of common stock in the subscription and community offerings make such purchases for the exclusive benefit of the IRAs. Assistance on how to transfer IRAs maintained at CharterBank can be obtained from the Conversion Center. Depositors interested in using funds in an IRA to purchase common stock should contact the Conversion Center as soon as possible.

Certificates representing shares of common stock purchased will be mailed to purchasers to the addresses specified in properly completed order forms, as soon as practicable following completion of the offering. Any certificates returned as undeliverable will be disposed of in accordance with applicable law.

Conversion Center
If you have any questions regarding the offering or the reorganization, please call the Conversion Center at [ ], from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Restrictions on Transfer of Subscription Rights and Shares of Common Stock

Regulations prohibit any person with subscription rights from transferring or entering into any agreement or understanding to transfer the legal or beneficial ownership of the subscription rights issued under the plan of reorganization or the shares of common stock to be issued upon their exercise. Such rights may be exercised only by the person to whom they are granted and only for such person's account. Each person exercising such subscription rights will be required to certify that such person is purchasing shares solely for

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such person's own account and that such person has no agreement or understanding regarding the sale or transfer of such shares. The regulations also prohibit any person from offering or making an announcement of an offer or an intent to make an offer to purchase such subscription rights or shares of common stock prior to the completion of the reorganization.

We will pursue any and all legal and equitable remedies (including forfeiture) in the event we become aware of the transfer of subscription rights and will not honor orders known by us to involve the transfer of such rights.

\section*{Limitations on Common Stock Purchases}

The plan of reorganization includes the following limitations on the number of shares of common stock which may be purchased during the reorganization:
(1) No subscription for fewer than 25 shares will be accepted;
(2) No fractional shares will be allocated or issued;
(3) Purchasers in the subscription offering may subscribe for and purchase common stock in the subscription offering in an amount up to \$1,000,000;
(4) The tax-qualified employee benefit plans are permitted to purchase up to \(8 \%\) of \(49.9 \%\) of the shares of common stock issued in the offering, including those issued to First Charter, MHC, and, as a tax-qualified employee benefit plan, the ESOP intends to purchase \(8 \%\) of \(49.9 \%\) of the shares of common stock issued in the offering including those issued to First Charter, MHC;
(5) The officers and directors of CharterBank and their associates in the aggregate, excluding purchases by the tax-qualified employee benefit plans, may purchase up to \(25 \%\) of the shares of stock issued in the offering;
(6) The aggregate amount of outstanding common stock of Charter Financial owned or controlled by persons other than First Charter, MHC must be less than \(50 \%\) of Charter Financial's total outstanding stock following the reorganization;
(7) Persons purchasing shares of common stock in the direct community offering or the syndicated community offering, may purchase common stock in an amount up to \(\$ 1,000,000\), subject to increase as described below; and
(8) Except for the tax-qualified employee benefit plans, the maximum amount of shares of common stock purchased in all categories of the offering by any person, together with associates of, and groups of persons acting in concert with, such person, shall not exceed \(\$ 1,650,000\) subject to increase as described below.

Subject to any required regulatory approval and the requirements of applicable laws and regulations, the \(\$ 1,000,000\) and \(\$ 1,650,000\) maximum amounts may be altered by CharterBank, in its sole discretion and without further notice to or solicitation of subscribers or other prospective purchasers, to the following amounts: (i) increased to a maximum of \(5 \%\) of the shares offered in the offering, or (ii) decreased to not less than one-half of one percent (. \(5 \%\) ) of

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the number of shares of stock offered in the reorganization. If the purchase limitations are increased, subscribers for the maximum amount in the subscription offering will be given the opportunity to increase their subscriptions up to the then applicable limit. Requests to purchase additional shares of common stock under this provision will be determined by and in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors of CharterBank and, if necessary, allocated giving priority in accordance with the priorities set forth in the plan of reorganization and described in this prospectus.

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\begin{abstract}
If we sell more than \(4,485,000\) shares, the additional shares will be allocated in accordance with the priorities and procedures described in "-Subscription Offering and Subscription Rights" and "-Direct Community Offering and Syndicated Community Offering."

The term "associate" of a person is defined to mean:
(1) any corporation or organization (other than First Charter, MHC, Charter Financial, CharterBank or any majority-owned subsidiary thereof) of which such person is an officer, director, or partner or is, directly or indirectly, the beneficial owner of \(10 \%\) or more of any class of equity securities;
(2) any trust or other estate in which such person has a substantial beneficial interest or as to which such person serves as trustee or in a similar fiduciary capacity (exclusive of any tax-qualified employee stock benefit plan);
(3) any person who is related by blood or marriage to such person, and (1) lives in the same home as such person; or (2) is a director or senior officer of CharterBank or any affiliate thereof; and
any person "acting in concert" with any of the persons or entities specified in clauses (1) through (3) above; provided, however, that any tax-qualified or non- tax-qualified employee stock benefit plan shall not be deemed to be an associate of any director, or officer of First Charter, MHC, Charter Financial or CharterBank, to the extent provided in the plan of reorganization.
\end{abstract}

We have the sole discretion to determine whether prospective purchasers are "associates" or "acting in concert." Directors and officers are not treated as associates of each other solely by virtue of holding such positions.

We have the right in our sole discretion to reject any order submitted by a person whose representations we believe to be false or who we otherwise believe, either alone or acting in concert with others, is violating or circumventing, or intends to violate or circumvent, the terms and conditions of the plan of reorganization.

\section*{Restrictions on Purchase or Transfer of Shares After the Reorganization}

All shares of common stock purchased in connection with the reorganization by an officer or director of CharterBank, First Charter, MHC or Charter Financial will be subject to a restriction that the shares not be sold for a period of one year following the date of purchase, except in the event of the death of such officer or director. Each certificate for restricted shares will bear a legend giving notice of this restriction on transfer. The directors and executive officers of Charter Financial and CharterBank will also be subject to the federal insider trading rules and any other applicable requirements of the federal securities laws.

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Purchases of outstanding shares of common stock of Charter Financial by directors or officers of Charter Financial, First Charter, MHC or CharterBank, and their associates during the three-year period following reorganization may be made only through a broker or dealer
registered with the SEC, except with the prior written approval of the Office of Thrift Supervision. This restriction does not apply, however, to negotiated transactions involving more than \(1 \%\) of the outstanding common stock or purchases of common stock made and held by any tax-qualified or non-tax-qualified employee plan of CharterBank.

Interpretation, Amendment and Termination
All interpretations of the plan of reorganization by the Board of Directors will be final, subject to the authority of the Office of Thrift Supervision. The plan of reorganization provides that, if deemed necessary or desirable by the Board of Directors of CharterBank, the plan of reorganization may be substantively amended by a majority vote of the Board of Directors as a result of comments from regulatory authorities or otherwise, at any time prior to submission of proxy materials to CharterBank's members. Amendment of the plan of reorganization thereafter requires a majority vote of the Board of Directors, with the concurrence of the Office of Thrift Supervision. The plan of reorganization may be terminated by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of CharterBank at any time prior to the earlier of approval of the plan by the Office of Thrift Supervision and the date of the special meeting of members, and may be terminated at any time thereafter with the concurrence of the Office of Thrift Supervision. The plan of reorganization shall be terminated if the reorganization is not completed within 24 months from the date on which the members of CharterBank approve the plan of reorganization, and may not be extended by CharterBank or the Office of Thrift Supervision.

\section*{RESTRICTIONS ON ACQUISITION OF CHARTER FINANCIAL And CHARTERBANK}

\section*{General}

The plan of reorganization provides for the reorganization of CharterBank into a mutual holding company structure. See "The Reorganization and The Offering - General." The plan of reorganization provides for the adoption of a new federal stock charter and bylaws for CharterBank, as well as for the adoption of a federal stock charter and bylaws of Charter Financial and First Charter, MHC. Certain provisions in CharterBank's and Charter Financial's federal stock charter and bylaws as well as other regulatory restrictions on CharterBank and Charter Financial may have certain anti-takeover effects.

Statutory and Regulatory Restrictions on Acquisition
Regulatory Restrictions Applicable for Three Years. For three years following a savings association's conversion to stock form, Office of Thrift Supervision regulations prohibit any person, without its prior approval from acquiring or making an offer to acquire more than \(10 \%\) of the stock of the converted institution or of its holding company if such person is, or after consummation of such acquisition would be, the beneficial owner of more than \(10 \%\) of such stock. In the event that any person, directly or indirectly, violates

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this regulation, the shares beneficially owned by such person in excess of \(10 \%\) shall not be counted as shares entitled to vote and shall not be voted by any person or counted as voting shares in connection with any matter submitted to a vote of stockholders.

In the recent past, it has been the Office of Thrift Supervision's general policy to routinely approve acquisitions in excess of \(10 \%\) of the stock of converted savings associations or their holding companies after the passage of one year from the conversion, especially when such acquisitions are negotiated with the target company. However, the Office of Thrift Supervision has recently stated in the preamble to the proposed rulemaking for its new conversion regulations that the Office of Thrift Supervision intends on taking a very close look at applications to make sure all criteria are fully met before it will give written approval of acquisitions within the first three years following conversion. Therefore, this regulation and change in Office of Thrift Supervision policy may prevent any acquisition of control of CharterBank, whether "friendly" or hostile, for at least three years after the completion of the reorganization.

Statutory and Regulatory Change in Control Restrictions. Federal law provides that no person, acting directly or indirectly or through or in concert with one or more other persons, may acquire control of a savings association unless the Office of Thrift Supervision has been given 60 days prior written notice. Federal law provides that no company may acquire control of a savings association or a savings and loan holding company without the prior approval of the Office of Thrift Supervision. Any company that acquires control becomes a "savings and loan holding company" subject to registration, examination and regulation by the Office of Thrift Supervision. Pursuant to federal regulations, control is considered to have been acquired when an entity, among other things, has acquired more than 25 percent of any class of voting stock of the institution or the ability to control the election of a majority of the directors
of an institution. Moreover, control is presumed to have occurred, subject to rebuttal, upon the acquisition of more than 10 percent of any class of voting stock, or of more than 25 percent of any class of stock, of a savings institution, where enumerated control factors are also present in the acquisition. The Office of Thrift Supervision may prohibit an acquisition of control if:
. it would result in a monopoly or substantially lessen competition;
the financial condition of the acquiring person might jeopardize
the financial stability of the institution; or
the competence, experience or integrity of the acquiring person
indicates that it would not be in the interest of the depositors or
of the public to permit the acquisition of control by that person.

The foregoing restrictions do not apply to the acquisition of stock by one or more tax-qualified employee stock benefit plans, provided that the plan or plans do not have beneficial ownership in the aggregate of more than 25 percent of any class of our equity securities.

Mutual Holding Company Structure

The mutual holding company structure could restrict the ability of stockholders of Charter Financial to effect a change of control of management because, as long as First Charter, MHC remains in mutual form, it will control

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at least a majority of Charter Financial's voting stock. First Charter, MHC will be controlled by its board of directors, which will initially consist of the same persons who are members of the board of directors of CharterBank and Charter Financial. First Charter, MHC will be able to elect all members of the board of directors of Charter Financial, and, as a general matter, will be able to control the outcome of all matters presented to Charter Financial's stockholders for approval, except for matters that require a vote greater than a majority. First Charter, MHC, acting through its board of directors, will be able to prevent any challenge to the ownership or control of Charter Financial by minority stockholders.

\section*{Charter Financial's Charter and Bylaws}

Charter Financial's federal stock charter and bylaws contain a number of provisions, relating to corporate governance and rights of stockholders, that might discourage future takeover attempts. As a result, stockholders who might desire to participate in such transactions may not have an opportunity to do so. In addition, these provisions will also render the removal of the Board of Directors or management of Charter Financial more difficult.

The following description is a summary of the provisions of the charter and bylaws. See "Where You Can Find Additional Information" as to how to review a copy of these documents.

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Directors. Certain provisions of Charter Financial's bylaws will impede changes in control of the board of directors. Charter Financial's bylaws provide that the board of directors will be divided into three classes. The members of each class will be elected for a term of three years and one class of directors will be elected by ballot annually. Thus, it would take two annual elections to replace a majority of Charter Financial's board. Finally, the bylaws impose notice and information requirements in connection with the nomination by stockholders of candidates for election to the board of directors or the proposal by stockholders of business to be acted upon at an annual meeting of stockholders.

Restrictions on Call of Special Meetings. Charter Financial's federal stock charter provides that for a period of five years from the date of the reorganization, special meetings of shareholders relating to changes in control of Charter Financial or amendments to its charter shall be called only by the board of directors.

Prohibition of Cumulative Voting. Charter Financial's federal stock charter prohibits cumulative voting for the election of directors. This means that First Charter, MHC will be able to elect all of the directors of Charter Financial and thus prevent a minority stockholder from obtaining representation on the board of directors.

Limitation of Voting Rights. Charter Financial's federal stock charter also provides that for five years following the date of the reorganization, no person, other than First Charter, MHC, shall own more than \(10 \%\) of the outstanding shares of Charter Financial. This limitation does not apply to a transaction in which Charter Financial forms a holding company, the purchase of shares by an underwriter in a public offering, or the purchase of shares by a tax-qualified employee stock benefit plan. If a party acquires in excess of \(10 \%\) of Charter Financial's shares, those shares will be considered "excess shares" and will not be counted as shares entitled to vote.

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Authorized but Unissued Shares of Capital Stock. After the reorganization, Charter Financial will have authorized but unissued shares of common and preferred stock. See "Description of Capital Stock." The board of directors could use these shares of common and preferred stock to render more difficult or to discourage an attempt to obtain control of Charter Financial by means of a merger, tender offer or proxy statement. We anticipate, however, that it is unlikely that we will use the shares for this purpose, since First Charter, MHC must always own at least a majority of our common stock.

Our federal stock charter also authorizes five million shares of serial preferred stock, no par value per share. Charter Financial is authorized to issue preferred stock from time to time in one or more series subject to applicable provisions of law, and the Board of Directors is authorized to fix the designations, and relative preferences, limitations, voting rights, if any, including without limitation, offering rights of such shares (which could be multiple or as a separate class). In the event of a proposed merger, tender offer or other attempt to gain control of Charter Financial that the board of directors does not approve, it might be possible for the board of directors to authorize the issuance of a series of preferred stock with rights and preferences that would impede that completion of the transaction. An effect of the possible issuance of preferred stock, therefore may be to deter a future attempt to gain control of Charter Financial. The board of directors has no present plan or understanding to issue any preferred stock.

\section*{145}

Ownership of Common Stock by Management. We expect our directors and officers to purchase up to \(2,780,000\) shares of common stock in the offering. Directors and officers are expected to control the voting of \(6.2 \%\) of the shares of common stock sold in the offering (at the maximum of the offering range), and may control the voting of approximately \(19.96 \%\) of the shares of common stock issued in the offering through the ESOP. Under the terms of the ESOP, the unallocated shares will be voted by the independent trustees for the ESOP generally in the same proportion as the instructions received by the trustee from participants voting their allocated shares. In addition, the officers and directors of Charter Financial will also be officers and directors of First Charter, MHC which, after the reorganization, will own at least a majority of Charter Financial's common stock.

Certain provisions of Charter Financial's stock option plan and other benefit plans provide for benefits and cash payments in the event of a change in control of Charter Financial. The plans provide for accelerated vesting in the event of a change in control. These provisions may have the effect of increasing the cost of, and thereby discouraging, a future attempt to take over Charter Financial and thus generally may serve to perpetuate current management.

Indemnification. Charter Financial's bylaws provide that it shall indemnify every person who acts on behalf of Charter Financial, or serves as a director or officer of Charter Financial, provided that such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, and not opposed to, the best interest of Charter Financial, and with respect to any criminal proceeding such person had no reason to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. The bylaws also provide that such indemnification shall be to the fullest extent permitted under federal law.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK OF CHARTER FINANCIAL

\section*{General}

Charter Financial is authorized to issue sixty million (60,000,000) shares of common stock having a par value of \(\$ .01\) per share and ten million

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(10,000,000) shares of preferred stock having no par value per share. Charter Financial currently expects to sell up to \(4,485,000\) shares of common stock (or \(5,157,750\) shares of common stock in the event of an increase of \(15 \%\) in the estimated valuation range) to purchasers of common stock in the offering and to issue up to \(17,940,000\) shares of common stock to First Charter, MHC (or \(20,631,000\) shares of common stock in the event of an increase of \(15 \%\) in the estimated valuation range). Charter Financial will not issue any shares of preferred stock in the offering. Except as discussed above in "Restrictions on Acquisition of Charter Financial and CharterBank," each share of Charter Financial's common stock will have the same relative rights as, and will be identical in all respects with, every other share of common stock. Upon payment of the purchase price for the common stock in accordance with the plan of reorganization, all such stock will be duly authorized, fully paid and non-assessable. Under Office of Thrift Supervision regulations, a majority of the issued and outstanding voting stock of Charter Financial must be held at all times by First Charter, MHC.

The shares of common stock:
. are not deposit accounts and are subject to investment risk;
. are not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC, or any other government agency; and
. are not guaranteed by Charter Financial or CharterBank.

\section*{Common Stock}

Dividends. The payment of dividends by Charter Financial is subject to limitations which are imposed by law. See "Our Policy Regarding Dividends" and "Regulation of CharterBank and Charter Financial." The owners of common stock of Charter Financial will be entitled to receive and share equally in such dividends as may be declared by the board of directors out of funds legally available therefor. If Charter Financial issues preferred stock, the holders of the preferred stock may have a priority over the holders of the common stock with respect to dividends.

Voting Rights. Upon the effective date of the reorganization, the holders of common stock of Charter Financial will possess exclusive voting rights in Charter Financial. They will elect Charter Financial's board of directors and act on such other matters as are required to be presented to them under law or Charter Financial's Charter or as are otherwise presented to them by the board of directors. Each holder of common stock will be entitled to one vote per share and will not have any right to cumulate votes in the election of directors. Under some circumstances, shares in excess of \(10 \%\) of Charter Financial's common stock may be considered "excess shares" and may therefore not be entitled to vote. See "Restrictions on Acquisition of Charter Financial and CharterBank." If Charter Financial issues preferred stock, holders of the preferred stock may also possess voting rights. See "Restrictions on Acquisition of Charter Financial and CharterBank."

Liquidation. In the event of any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of CharterBank, Charter Financial, as owner of CharterBank's capital stock, would be entitled to receive, after payment or provision for payment of all debts and liabilities of CharterBank (including all deposit accounts and accrued interest thereon) and after distribution of the balance in the special liquidation account to eligible account holders and the supplemental eligible account holders (see "The Reorganization and The Offering - Effects of the Reorganization - Liquidation Rights"), all assets of CharterBank available for

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distribution. In the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Charter Financial, the holders of its common stock would be entitled to receive, after payment or provision for payment of all its debts and liabilities, all of the assets of Charter Financial available for distribution. If preferred stock is issued, the holders thereof may have a priority over the holders of the common stock in the event of the liquidation or dissolution.

Preemptive Rights; Redemption. Holders of the common stock of Charter Financial will not be entitled to preemptive rights with respect to any shares which may be issued. The common stock is not subject to redemption. Therefore, the board of directors may sell share of common stock without first offering those shares to existing stockholders of Charter Financial.

\section*{Preferred Stock}

Charter Financial will not issue any shares of its authorized preferred stock in the reorganization. We may issue preferred stock in the future with such preferences and designations as the board of directors may from time to time determine. The board of directors can, without stockholder approval, issue preferred stock with voting, dividend, liquidation and conversion rights which could dilute the voting strength of the holders of the common stock and may assist management in impeding an unfriendly takeover or attempted change in control.

\section*{LEGAL AND TAX OPINIONS}

Thacher Proffitt \& Wood, Washington, D.C., will issue its opinion to us of the legality of the issuance of the common stock being offered and certain matters relating to the reorganization and federal taxation. Certain matters relating to state taxation will be passed upon for us by Alston \& Bird LLP, Atlanta, Georgia. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for Sandler, O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. by Malizia Spidi \& Fisch, PC, Washington, D.C.

\section*{EXPERTS}

The financial statements of CharterBank as of September 30, 2000 and 1999 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended September 30, 2000, appearing elsewhere in this prospectus have been included herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent certified public accountants, which is included herein and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

RP Financial has consented to the publication in this document of a summary of its letter to CharterBank setting forth its opinion as to the estimated pro forma market value of CharterBank after the reorganization and its opinion setting forth the value of subscription rights and to the use of its name and statements with respect to it appearing in this document.

\section*{REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS}

Our common stock is registered under section \(12(\mathrm{~g})\) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). We are subject to the information, proxy solicitation, insider trading restrictions, tender offer rules, periodic reporting and other requirements of the SEC under the Exchange Act. We may not deregister the common stock under the Exchange Act for a period of at least three years following the reorganization.

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We are subject to the informational requirements of the Exchange Act and must file reports and other information with the SEC.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form \(S-1\) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, with respect to the common stock offered in this document. As permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC, this document does not contain all the information set forth in the registration statement. You may examine this information without charge at the public reference facilities of the SEC located at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain copies of this material from the SEC at prescribed rates. You may obtain information on the operations of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at \(1-800-S E C-0330\). The SEC also maintains a website that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding registrants, including Charter Financial, that file electronically with the SEC. The address for this web site is "http://www.sec.gov."

This document contains a description of the material features of certain exhibits to the Form S-1. The statements as to the contents of such exhibits, however, are, of necessity, brief descriptions and are not necessarily complete; each such statement is qualified by reference to such contract or document.

A copy of Charter Financial's federal stock charter and bylaws, as well as a copy of the Federal Stock Charter and Bylaws of CharterBank and First Charter, MHC, are available for review at any of our offices. A copy of the plan of reorganization is available from offices of CharterBank without charge. You may also call the Conversion Center at [ ], Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, to request of a copy of the plan. A copy of the appraisal report of RP Financial, including any amendments made to it, and the detailed memorandum of the appraiser setting forth the method and assumptions for such appraisal are available for inspection at the main office of CharterBank.

CharterBank has filed with the Office of Thrift Supervision a Notice of Mutual Holding Company Reorganization on Form MHC-1 and an Application for Approval of a Minority Stock Issuance on Form MHC-2. This prospectus omits some information contained in those applications. You may examine the Office of Thrift Supervision applications at the main office of the Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20552 and at the office of the Regional Director of the Southeast Regional Office of the Office of Thrift Supervision located at 1475 Peachtree Street, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30309.

CHARTERBANK

Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999
(With Independent Auditors' Report Thereon)

CHARTERBANK

Index to Financial Statements

\title{
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}

```

Real estate owned
Accrued interest and dividends receivable
Premises and equipment, net
Other assets
Total assets

```

\section*{Liabilities and Equity}
```

Liabilities:
Deposits
Borrowings
Advance payments by borrowers for taxes and insurance
Deferred income taxes
Other liabilities
Total liabilities
Equity:
Retained earnings
Accumulated other comprehensive income - net
unrealized holding gains on securities available for sale
Total equity
Total liabilities and equity
See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.
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CHARTERBANK
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Earnings
For the Three Months ended December 31, 2000 and 1999
Unaudited

```
    523,51
4,812,77
4,064,2
Interest and dividend income:
    Loans receivable 5,691
    Investments and other
                    Total interest and dividend income
Interest expense:
    Deposits
    Borrowings
```

Total interest expense
Net interest income
Net interest income after provision for loan losses
Other income:
Fees and services charges

```
Gain on sale of loans and servicing released loan fees ..... 211
Loss on sale of mortgage-backed securities, collateralized
```mortgage obligations and other investments
Other
Total other income
```


## Other expenses:

```
Salaries and employee benefits
Occupancy and equipment expenses
Marketing
```

Legal and professional ..... 183
Amortization and impairment of intangibles

```Other
Total other expenses
Income before income taxes
Income tax expense
Net income
Other compehensive income (loss), net of tax
Comprehensive income (loss)
See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.
\[
\mathrm{F}-3
\]
CHARTERBANK
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows For the Three Months ended December 31, 2000 and 1999
Unaudited
```28786

Operating activities:

    Net income
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided

        by (used in) operating activities:

            Provision for loan losses

            Depreciation and amortization

            Amortization of intangibles

            Deferred income tax expense

                (Accretion) amortization of premiums and discounts, net

                Loss on sale of investments

                Increase in loans held for sale

                Increase in accrued interest and dividends receivable

                Decrease (increase) in REO, net

                (Increase) decrease in other assets

                Decrease in other liabilities

                    Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities
Investing activities:
    Purchases of equity securities and other investment securities available for sale
    Proceeds from sales of equity securities and other investment securities
        available for sale
    Purchases of mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage
        obligations available for sale
    Proceeds from sale, maturity, and repayment of mortgage-backed
        securities and collateralized mortgage obligations available for sale
    Loan originations, net of repayments and loan sales
    Proceeds from sales of premises and equipment
    Purchases of premises and equipment
                    Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities
Financing activities:
    Net decrease in deposits
    \((63,100\)
    Net increase in borrowings
    Net decrease in advance payments by borrowers for taxes and insurance
                    Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities
                    Net increase in cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information - cash
    paid during the period for:
        Interest
        Taxes
Supplemental disclosure of noncash information - additions
    to investments in real estate acquired through foreclosure
    46,244
\(\$ \quad 9,329\)

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}

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.
\[
\mathrm{F}-4
\]

\section*{CHARTERBANK}

Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

\author{
December 31, 2000
}
(1) Basis of Presentation

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with interim reporting requirements and, therefore, do not include all information necessary for a complete presentation of financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. However, all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring accruals, which, in the opinion of management, are necessary for a fair presentation of the financial statements have been included. The results of operations for the threemonth period ended December 31, 2000 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the entire fiscal year or any other future period.

These statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and related notes, which are contained in this prospectus.
(2) Comprehensive Income

Other comprehensive income (loss) consists entirely of unrealized holding gains and losses, net of income taxes, on available for sale securities and reclassification adjustments for gains and losses included in net income, net of income taxes.
(3) Freddie Mac Common Stock and Other Equity Securities

Freddie Mac common stock and other equity securities are summarized as follows:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & & & Decemb & 2000 & \\
\hline & & Amortized cost & Gross unrealized gains & Gross unrealized losses & \[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Esti } \\
& \text { fair }
\end{aligned}
\] \\
\hline Freddie Mac common stock & \$ & 6,886,116 & \(341,277,009\) & -- & 348,16 \\
\hline Federal Home Loan Bank stock & & 12,700,000 & - -- & -- & 12,70 \\
\hline & & 19,586,116 & 341,277,009 & -- & 360,86 \\
\hline & & & Septemb & 2000 & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

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```

| Amortized cost | Gross <br> unrealized gains |
| :---: | :---: |
| \$ 6,886,116 | 266,399,822 |
| 12,587,500 |  |
| \$ 19,473,616 | 266,399,822 |
| F-5 |  |

```

Gross unrealized

Est fair losses
---------- -----

Freddie Mac common stock Federal Home Loan Bank stock
unrealized
\(266,399,822\)
--

22
\(\mathrm{F}-5\)
```

CHARTERBANK
Statements of Financial Condition September 30, 2000 and 1999

```

Assets
2000
(As restated-note 22
\$ \(\quad 5,662,675\)
2,629,767

832,526
\(285,873,438\)

367,707,904
13, 882, 374
\(259,699,417\)

113,317
\((6,346,001)\)

253,466,733

Real estate owned (note 7)
Accrued interest and dividends receivable (note 8)
Premises and equipment, net (note 9)
Goodwill and other intangible assets, net (notes 2 and 3)
Income taxes receivable
Other assets (notes 10 and 11)

Total assets

Liabilities and Equity
Liabilities:
Deposits (note 12)
Borrowings (note 13)
Advance payments by borrowers for taxes and insurance
Deferred income taxes (note 14)
Other liabilities

Total liabilities

274,370,643
352,218,500
1,998,777
100,247,176
9,324,980

738,160,076
```

Equity (note 18):

```

Retained earnings
Accumulated other comprehensive income - net unrealized holding gains on securities available for sale

Total equity

Commitments and contingencies (notes 6, 15, 16, and 19)
Total liabilities and equity

See accompanying notes to financial statements.
\[
\mathrm{F}-6
\]

\section*{CHARTERBANK}

Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income Years ended September 30, 2000, 1999, and 1998

2000
(As restated-note 22 )

Interest and dividend income:
Investment debt securities
Investment equity securities
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations
Loans receivable
Interest-bearing deposits in other financial institutions
Total interest and dividend income

Interest expense:
Deposits (note 12)
Borrowings (note 13)
Total interest expense

Net interest income
Provision for loan losses (note 6)

Net interest income after provision for loan losses
Other income:
Loan servicing fees 410,468
Service charges on deposit accounts 700,568
Gain on sale of loans and servicing released loan fees 730,457
(Loss) gain on sale of mortgage-backed securities, collateralized mortgage obligations, and other investments (notes 4 and 5)
Gain on disposition of Freddie Mac common stock (note 4)
Equity in (loss) earnings of limited partnerships (note 11)
Other
\$ 1,194,033
4, 307,513

27,476,406
21,075,913
159,089
\(54,212,954\)


13, 932, 849
22,714,554
\(36,647,403\)
\(17,565,551\)
\(1,410,000\)
\(16,155,551\)
----------------
\((127,636)\)
--
\((28,602)\)
263,787

\section*{Other expenses:}

Salaries and employee benefits (notes 15 and 16) 4,956,345
Occupancy
Furniture and equipment
1,942,041

Net cost of operat
Federal insurance premiums and other regulatory fees
Marketing 375,787
Charitable contributions (note 4)
Legal and professional
Amortization and impairment of intangibles (note 3) Other

Total other expenses

Income (loss) before income taxes, carried forward
\[
\mathrm{F}-7
\]

\section*{CHARTERBANK}

Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income

Years ended September 30, 2000, 1999, and 1998
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline Income (loss) before income taxes, brought forward & \$ & 2,162,249 \\
\hline Income tax expense (benefit) - (note 14) & & 1,289,962 \\
\hline Net income & & 872,287 \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{l}
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax: \\
Unrealized holding gains (losses) arising during the year, net of income taxes of \(\$ 3,197,892\), \(\$(899,027)\), and \(\$ 31,543,476\) for 2000 , 1999, and 1998 respectively Less reclassification adjustment for losses (gains) included in net income, net of income taxes of \(\$(49,268), \$ 13,996,860\), and \(\$ 289,126\), for 2000 , 1999, and 1998, respectively
\end{tabular} & & \(5,086,803\)
78,369 \\
\hline Total other comprehensive income (loss) & & 5,165,172 \\
\hline Comprehensive income & \$ & 6,037,459 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

See accompanying notes to financial statements.
\[
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\]

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\section*{CHARTERBANK}

Statements of Equity
Years ended September 30, 2000, 1999, and 1998

Balance at September 30, 1997
Net income
Change in net unrealized holding gains on securities, net of income taxes of \(\$ 31,254,350 \quad\)--

Balance at September 30, 1998

Net income
Change in net unrealized holding gains on securities, net of income taxes of \$10,974,781

Balance at September 30, 1999

Net income (as restated-note 22)
Change in net unrealized holding gains on securities, net of income taxes of \(\$ 3,247,160\)

Balance at September 30, 2000 (as restated-note 22)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.
\[
\mathrm{F}-9
\]

CHARTERBANK

Statements of Cash Flows
Years ended September 30, 2000, 1999, and 1998

Cash flows from operating activities:
Net income
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities: \(\begin{array}{ll}\text { Provision for loan losses } & 1,410,000\end{array}\) Depreciation and amortization \(\quad 1,378,240\)

Accumulated other comprehensive income net unrealized holdin
gains on securities available for sale

119,789,741
\$ \(23,322,062\)
474,913
----------------
\(27,029,359\)

872,287
\((23,731,269)\)
\(147,662,949\)
--
\(5,165,172\)
\(152,828,121\)
\$ \(51,698,621\)
==============
\(51,604,477\)

171,394,218


Retained earnings

23,796,975
\(=============\)

2000
(As restated-note

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\begin{tabular}{lr} 
Provision for asset impairment & \(3,803,333\) \\
Deferred income tax expense (benefit) & 322,177 \\
Equity in (earnings) loss of limited partnerships & 28,602 \\
(Accretion) amortization of premiums and discounts, net & \((454,812)\) \\
Gain on sale of loans & \((44,874)\) \\
(Gain) loss on sales of mortgage-backed securities, collateralized & \\
mortgage obligations, and other investments & 127,636 \\
Donation of FNMA stock & 25,633 \\
Gain on disposition of stock & -- \\
Loss on sales of real estate owned & 69,353 \\
Donation of real estate owned & 17,000 \\
Freddie Mac common stock contributed to charitable organization & -- \\
Changes in assets and liabilities: & \(2,064,272\) \\
Decrease (increase) in loans held for sale & \((81,691)\) \\
Increase in accrued interest and dividends receivable & \(3,145,376\) \\
Decrease (increase) in income tax refunds receivable & \(1,666,497\) \\
Decrease (increase) in other assets \\
(Decrease) increase in other liabilities & \((2,226,803)\)
\end{tabular}

Cash flows from investing activities:
Proceeds from sales of mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations available for sale 67,269,563
Principal collections on mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations available for sale 40,206,702
Purchases of mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations available for sale
(120, 209, 208)
Purchases of equity securities and other investment securities available for sale
Principal collections on other investment securities available for sale
\((3,892,500)\)
Proceeds from sale of other investment securities available for sale
16,712,500

Proceeds from sale of Freddie Mac stock
3,135,170

Net increase in loans receivable, exclusive of loan sales
\((83,884,115)\)
Proceeds from sale of loans
36,230,650
Proceeds from sale of real estate owned
783,655
Purchases of premises and equipment, net of dispositions Purchase of loans
Acquisition of Citizens Bancgroup, Inc., net of cash paid
\((1,145,752)\)
--

Net cash used in investing activities
\[
F-10
\]

\section*{CHARTERBANK}

Statements of Cash Flows

Years ended September 30, 2000, 1999, and 1998
```

Cash flows from financing activities:
Net increase in savings and demand
deposit accounts
Net (decrease) increase in time deposits
Proceeds from Federal Home Loan Bank advances
Principal payments on advances from Federal Home
Loan Bank
Proceeds from other borrowings
Principal payments on other borrowings
Net (decrease) increase in advance payments by borrowers
for taxes and insurance
Net cash provided by financing activities
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash
equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year
Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:
Interest paid
Income taxes paid
Detail of acquisitions:
Fair value of assets acquired
Liabilities assumed
Net cash acquired in acquisition
Financing activities:
Real estate acquired through foreclosure of the
loans receivable
Contribution of real estate acquired for sale to charity
\$ (r, 1,277,793
================
See accompanying notes to financial statements

$$
\mathrm{F}-11
$$

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\section*{CHARTERBANK}
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Notes to Financial Statements
September 30, 2000 and 1999

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\section*{(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies}
```

CharterBank (the "Company") was organized as a federally chartered mutual savings and loan association in 1954. The Company is primarily regulated by the Office of Thrift Supervision ("OTS") and the Federal Deposit Insurance

```

41,033 \((42,437\)
(1, 404
\(===============\)


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Corporation ("FDIC"), and undergoes periodic examinations by those regulatory authorities.

The Company primarily provides mortgage loans and a full range of deposit products to individual customers through its main office in West Point, Georgia and four full-service branch offices located in LaGrange, Georgia, and Valley, Alabama (three). In addition, the Company operates four loan production offices located in various Georgia and Alabama locations. The Company primarily competes with other financial institutions in its market area within west central Georgia and east central Alabama. The Company considers its primary lending market to be the states of Georgia and Alabama.

The accounting and reporting policies of the Company conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and to prevailing practices within the financial institutions industry. The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies that the Company follows in presenting its financial statements.
(a) Basis of Presentation

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities as of the date of the statement of financial condition and revenue and expenses for the period. Actual results could differ significantly 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, the valuation of real estate acquired in connection with foreclosures or in satisfaction of loans, and mortgage loan prepayment assumptions used to determine the amount of revenue recognition on mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations. In connection with the determination of the allowance for loan losses and the value of real estate owned, management obtains independent appraisals for significant properties. In connection with the determination of revenue recognition on mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations, management obtains independent estimates of mortgage loan prepayment assumptions, which are based partly on historical prepayments and current interest rates.

A substantial portion of the Company's loans are secured by real estate located in its market area. Accordingly, the ultimate collectibility of a substantial portion of the Company's loan portfolio is susceptible to changes in the real estate market conditions of this market area.
(Continued)
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CHARTERBANK

Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999
(b) Cash Equivalents

Cash equivalents, as presented in the financial statements, include amounts due from other depository institutions and interest-bearing

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deposits in other financial institutions. Generally, interest-bearing deposits in other financial institutions are for one-day periods.
(c) Investments, Mortgage-Backed Securities, and Collateralized Mortgage Obligations

Investments, mortgage-backed securities, and collateralized mortgage obligations available for sale are reported at fair value, as determined by independent quotations. Investment in stock of a Federal Home Loan Bank is required of every federally insured financial institution who utilizes its services. Generally, the Federal Home Loan Bank will repurchase excess stock at cost; accordingly, the investment in Federal Home Loan Bank stock is carried at cost which approximates its fair value.

Purchase premiums and discounts on investment securities are amortized and accreted to interest income using a method which approximates a level yield over the period to maturity of the related securities. Purchase premiums and discounts on mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations are amortized and accreted to interest income using a method which approximates a level yield over the remaining lives of the securities, taking into consideration assumed prepayment patterns.

Gains and losses on sales of investments, mortgage-backed securities, and collateralized mortgage obligations are recognized on the trade date, based on the net proceeds received and the adjusted carrying amount of the specific security sold.
(d) Loans and Interest Income

Loans are reported at the principal amounts outstanding, net of unearned income, deferred loan fees/origination costs, and the allowance for loan losses. Loans held for sale are carried at the lower of aggregate cost or market, with market determined on the basis of open commitments for committed loans. For uncommitted loans, market is determined on the basis of current delivery prices in the secondary mortgage market.

Interest income is recognized using the simple interest method on the balance of the principal amount outstanding. Unearned income, primarily arising from deferred loan fees, net of certain origination costs, and deferred gains on the sale of the guaranteed portion of Small Business Administration (SBA) loans, is amortized over the lives of the underlying loans using a method which approximates a level yield over the contractual life of the loans.
(Continued)
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\section*{CHARTERBANK}

Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999

The accrual of interest income is discontinued on loans which become contractually past due by 90 days or when reasonable doubt exists as to the full timely collection of interest or principal. Interest previously accrued but not collected is reversed against current

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period interest income when such loans are placed on nonaccrual status. Interest on nonaccrual loans which is ultimately collected is credited to income in the period received.

In May 1993, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) 114, Accounting by Creditors for Impairment of a Loan. SFAS 114 requires impaired loans to be measured based on the present value of expected future cash flows, discounted at the loan's effective interest rate, or at the loan's observable market price, or the fair value of the collateral if the loan is collateral dependent, beginning in fiscal 1996. In October 1994, the FASB issued SFAS 118, Accounting by Creditors for Impairment of a Loan-Income Recognition and Disclosures, which amends the requirements of SFAS 114 regarding interest income recognition and related disclosure requirements. Under the provisions of SFAS 114 and SFAS 118, a loan is considered impaired when, based on current information and events, it is probable that the company will be unable to collect all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the note agreement. The provisions of SFAS 114 do not apply to large pools of smaller balance homogeneous loans, such as consumer and installment loans, which are collectively evaluated for impairment. Impairment losses are included in the allowance for loan losses through a charge to the provision for loan losses. Cash receipts on impaired loans which are accruing interest are applied to principal and interest under the contractual terms of the loan agreement. Cash receipts on impaired loans for which the accrual of interest has been discontinued are applied to reduce the principal amount of such loans until the principal has been recovered and are recognized as interest income thereafter.

Gains or losses on the sale of mortgage loans are recognized at settlement dates and are computed as the difference between the sales proceeds received and the net book value of the mortgage loans sold. At the time of sale, a servicing asset is recorded if expected servicing revenues exceed an amount approximating adequate servicing compensation. For sales of the SBA guaranteed portion of loans, the basis in the portion of the loan sold is determined by allocating the loan carrying value to the portion sold, portion retained, and servicing asset, if any, based on their relative fair values. The servicing asset, included in other assets, is amortized on a method which approximates a level yield over the estimated life of the serviced loans considering assumed prepayment patterns.
(Continued)
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\section*{CHARTERBANK}

Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999
(e) Allowance for Loan Losses

The allowance for loan losses is adjusted through provisions for loan losses charged or credited to operations. Loans are charged off against the allowance for loan losses when management believes that the collection of the principal is unlikely. Subsequent recoveries are added to the allowance. The allowance is an amount that management has determined to be adequate through its allowance for loan losses

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methodology to absorb losses inherent in existing loans and commitments to extend credit. The allowance is determined through consideration of such factors as changes in the nature and volume of the portfolio, overall portfolio quality, delinquency trends, adequacy of collateral, loan concentrations, specific problem loans, and economic conditions that may affect the borrowers' ability to pay.

Management believes that the allowance for loan losses is adequate. While management uses available information to recognize losses on loans, future additions to the allowance may be necessary based on changes in economic conditions. In addition, various regulatory agencies, as an integral part of their examination process, periodically review the Company's allowance for loan losses. Such agencies may require the Company to adjust the allowance based on their judgment about information available to them at the time of their examination.
(f) Real Estate Owned

Real estate acquired through foreclosure, consisting of properties obtained through foreclosure proceedings or acceptance of a deed in lieu of foreclosure, is reported on an individual asset basis at the lower of cost or fair value, less disposal costs. Fair value is determined on the basis of current appraisals, comparable sales, and other estimates of value obtained principally from independent sources. When properties are acquired through foreclosure, any excess of the loan balance at the time of foreclosure over the fair value of the real estate held as collateral is recognized and charged to the allowance for loan losses. Subsequent write-downs are charged to a separate allowance for losses pertaining to real estate owned, established through provisions for estimated losses on real estate owned charged to operations. Based upon management's evaluation of the real estate acquired through foreclosure, additional expense is recorded when necessary in an amount sufficient to restore the allowance to an adequate level. Gains recognized on the disposition of the properties are recorded in other income.

Costs of improvements to real estate are capitalized, while costs associated with holding the real estate are charged to operations.
(g) Premises and Equipment

Premises and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation which is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The estimated useful lives of the assets range from 20 to 50 years for buildings and improvements and three to 15 years for furniture, fixtures, and equipment.
(Continued)
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Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999
(h) Mortgage Banking Activities

In June 1996, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No.

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125, Accounting for Transfers and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishments of Liabilities. SFAS No. 125 was amended by SFAS No. 127, which deferred the effective date of certain provisions of SFAS No. 125 until January 1, 1998. SFAS No. 125 is to be applied prospectively to transfers and servicing of financial assets and extinguishments of liabilities after December 31, 1996. This statement provides accounting and reporting standards for transfers and servicing of financial assets and extinguishments of liabilities based on consistent application of a financial-components approach that focuses on control. Under that approach, after a transfer of financial assets, an entity recognizes the financial and servicing assets it controls and the liabilities it has incurred, derecognizes financial assets when control has been surrendered, and derecognizes liabilities when extinguished. This statement provides consistent standards for distinguishing transfers of financial assets that are sales from transfers that are secured borrowings. SFAS No. 125 amends FASB Statement No. 115, Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities, to clarify that a debt security may not be classified as held to maturity if it can be prepaid or otherwise settled in such a way that the holder of the security would not recover substantially all of its recorded investment. SFAS No. 125 also amends and extends to all servicing assets and liabilities the accounting standards for mortgage servicing rights in SFAS No. 65, Accounting for Certain Mortgage Banking Activities, and supersedes SFAS No. 122, Accounting for Mortgage Servicing Rights.

Mortgage loan servicing rights are included in other assets. Mortgage servicing rights are stated at cost, less accumulated amortization and impairment valuation allowance. Under SFAS No. 125, the Company recognizes, as separate assets, rights to service mortgage loans for others, either purchased or through Company originations. Prior to the adoption of SFAS No. 125, separate mortgage servicing rights were recognized only when purchased. Mortgage servicing rights which are acquired through either the purchase or origination of mortgage loans are recognized as separate assets when the Company sells or securitizes those loans with servicing rights retained. For originated mortgage loans, the amount of the mortgage servicing rights to be recognized is determined based upon an allocation of the total cost of the mortgage loans to the mortgage servicing rights and the loans (without the mortgage servicing rights) based on their relative fair values. Fair value is determined by discounted cash flow analyses using appropriate assumptions for servicing fee income, servicing fee costs, prepayment rates, and discount rates. For mortgage servicing rights acquired separate from the mortgage loans, the Company capitalizes the amount paid.

The cost of the mortgage servicing rights is amortized in proportion to and over the period of net servicing income which is estimated to be generated by the underlying mortgage servicing rights.
(Continued)
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Notes to Financial Statements
September 30, 2000 and 1999

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capitalized mortgage servicing rights for impairment based upon the fair value of those rights, including those rights purchased before the adoption of SEAS No. 125. To measure the fair value of its mortgage servicing rights, the Company uses discounted cash flow analyses taking into consideration appropriate assumptions for servicing fee income, servicing fee costs, prepayment rates, and discount rates. The Company stratifies its capitalized mortgage servicing rights for the purpose of evaluating impairment, taking into consideration relevant risk characteristics, including loan type, note rate, and note term. If the recorded amount of the mortgage servicing rights exceeds the fair value, the amount of the impairment is recognized through a valuation allowance, with a corresponding charge to operations. Additionally, the Company will prospectively accelerate future amortization if a reduction in expected future net servicing income is estimated.

Fees for servicing loans for investors are based on the outstanding principal balance of the loans serviced and are recognized as income when earned.
(i) Insurance

At September 30, 2000, the Company was covered under a \(\$ 5,000,000\) banker's blanket bond policy and a \(\$ 1,000,000\) errors and omissions policy. The Company is also covered with a \(\$ 10,000,000\) umbrella policy.
(j) Investment in Limited Partnerships

The carrying value of the Company's share (based on its underlying ownership interest) of limited partnerships is based on the Company's original investment adjusted for its pro rata share of the partnerships' net income or losses.
(k) Income Taxes

The Company accounts for income taxes in accordance with the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 109, Accounting for Income Taxes. Under the asset and liability method of SFAS No. 109, deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. Under SFAS No. 109, the effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date.

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Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999
(1) Comprehensive Income

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Comprehensive income for the Company consists of net income for the period and unrealized holding gains on investments, mortgage-backed securities, and collateralized mortgage obligations classified as available for sale, net of income taxes.
(m) Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

Goodwill and other intangible assets include costs in excess of net assets acquired and deposit premiums recorded in connection with the acquisition of Citizens Bancgroup, Inc. These intangible assets are being amortized using the straight-line method over five years.

The Company examines the carrying value of its intangible assets to determine whether there are any impairment losses. If indicators of impairment were present in intangible assets used in operations and undiscounted future cash flows were not expected to be sufficient to recover the assets' carrying amount, an impairment loss would be charged to expense in the period identified.
(n) Accounting Pronouncements

In June 1998, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 133, Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities. SFAS No. 133 establishes accounting and reporting standards for derivative instruments, including certain instruments embedded in other contracts (collectively referred to as derivatives), and for hedging activities. It requires that entities recognize all derivatives as either assets or liabilities in the statement of financial position and measure those financial instruments at fair value. The effective date of SFAS No. 133 was delayed until fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2000 with the issuance of SFAS No. 137, Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities Deferral of the Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 133. In June 2000, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 138, Accounting for Certain Derivative Instruments and Certain Hedging Activities an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133. SFAS No. 138 amends the accounting and reporting standards of statement No. 133 for certain derivative instruments and certain hedging activities. Based on the Company's assessment of the nature of its derivative instruments including an assessment of its embedded derivatives, which have been determined to be clearly and closely related to its investment and debt instruments, SFAS No. 133 and its related amendments are not expected to have a material impact on the Company's financial statement presentations.

In September 2000, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 140, Accounting for Transfers and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishments of Liabilities. SFAS No. 140 replaces SFAS No. 125 issued in June 1996 and is effective for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2000. SFAS No. 140 addresses implementation issues that were identified in applying SFAS No. 125. SFAS No. 140 is not expected to have a material impact on the Company.

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Notes to Financial Statements

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September 30, 2000 and 1999
(o) Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made to the 1999 and 1998 financial statements to conform to the presentation adopted in 2000.
(2) Business Combinations

Effective August 18, 1999, the Company acquired all of the issued and outstanding shares of Citizens Bancgroup, Inc. ("CNB"), Valley, Alabama, and its wholly owned banking subsidiary, Citizens National Bank, for a purchase price of approximately \(\$ 2,250,000\) in cash. The acquisition has been accounted for using the purchase method of accounting and, hence, the results of operations of CNB have been included in the consolidated financial statements from the aforementioned effective date. The assets and liabilities of CNB, including purchase accounting adjustments, as of the date of the acquisition, were as follows:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline Loans, net & \$ 24,722,000 \\
\hline Other earning assets & 10,458,000 \\
\hline Other assets & 4,908,000 \\
\hline Goodwill and other intangibles & 4,600,000 \\
\hline & \(44,688,000\) \\
\hline Deposits & 42,041,000 \\
\hline Other liabilities & 397,000 \\
\hline Purchase price & \$ 2, 250,000 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

The following summarizes the unaudited pro forma consolidated results of operations assuming CNB was acquired in a purchase accounting transaction on October 1, 1997:

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Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999
(3) Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

Goodwill and other intangible assets at September 30, 2000 and 1999 consists of the following:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline & & 2000 \\
\hline Goodwill & \$ & 3,125,000 \\
\hline Deposit premium & & 1,475,000 \\
\hline & & 4,600,000 \\
\hline Accumulated amortization and allowance for impairment & & \((4,600,000)\) \\
\hline Goodwill and other intangible assets, net & \$ & - \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

The Company examines the carrying amount of its intangible assets to determine whether there are any impairment losses. The analysis for the year ended September 30,2000 indicated that undiscounted future cash flows associated with the purchase of assets and assumption of liabilities of CNB would be negative and therefore insufficient to recover the carrying amount of the related intangible assets primarily due to charge-offs of loans purchased. Accordingly, the Company recorded an impairment loss of \(\$ 3,603,333\) in addition to scheduled amortization of \(\$ 930,000\) for the year ended September 30, 2000.
(4) Investment Securities

Investment securities available for sale are summarized as follows:

September 30, 2000
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{Amortized cost} & Gross unrealized gains & \[
\begin{gathered}
\text { Gross } \\
\text { unrealize } \\
\text { losses }
\end{gathered}
\] \\
\hline \multirow[t]{3}{*}{\begin{tabular}{l}
Freddie Mac common stock \\
Federal Home Loan Bank stock
\end{tabular}} & \$ & 6,886,116 & 266,399,822 & \\
\hline & & 12,587,500 & --- & \\
\hline & & 19,473,616 & 266,399,822 & \\
\hline \multicolumn{5}{|l|}{Other:} \\
\hline U.S. Government agencies & & 14,448,989 & -- & 1,569 \\
\hline Corporate debt & & 1,000,000 & 2,500 & \\
\hline & & 15,448,989 & 2,500 & 1,569 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

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\$ \(\quad 34,922,605\)
\(266,402,322\)
1,569
- \(======\)

CHARTERBANK

Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multirow[t]{2}{*}{} & & \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{September 30, 1999} \\
\hline & & Amortized cost & ```
    Gross
unrealized
    gains
``` & ```
    Gross
unrealized
    losses
``` \\
\hline Freddie Mac common stock & \$ & 6,886,116 & 255,973,884 & -- \\
\hline Federal Home Loan Bank stock & & 10,407,500 & - - & -- \\
\hline Other equity securities & & 92,541 & 183,284 & -- \\
\hline & & 17,386,157 & 256,157,168 & -- \\
\hline \multicolumn{5}{|l|}{Other:} \\
\hline U.S. Government agencies & & 31,388, 055 & -- & 1,438,102 \\
\hline Corporate debt & & 1,951,435 & 28,720 & - -- \\
\hline & & 33,339,490 & 28,720 & 1,438,102 \\
\hline & \$ & 50,725,647 & 256,185,888 & 1,438,102 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

The amortized cost and fair value of investments in debt securities available for sale at September 30,2000 , by contractual maturity, are shown below.
Expected maturities may differ from contractual maturities because borrowers may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties.
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & & Amortized cost & Estimated fair value \\
\hline Due less than one year & \$ & 1,000,000 & 1,002,500 \\
\hline Due after one year through five years & & - -- & -- \\
\hline Due after five years through ten years & & -- & \\
\hline Due after ten years & & 14,448,989 & 12,879,874 \\
\hline & \$ & 15,448,989 & 13,882,374 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

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Proceeds from sales of investment securities during 2000, 1999, and 1998 were \(\$ 3,135,170\), \(\$ 28,149,121\), and \(\$ 22,352,291\), respectively. Gross gains of \(\$ 185,337\), \(\$ 148,097\), and \(\$ 46,388\) were realized on those sales for 2000 , 1999, and 1998, respectively, and gross realized losses on sales of investment securities for 2000, 1999, and 1998 were \(\$ 22,072, \$ 12,968\), and \(\$ 8,689\), respectively.

During 2000, the Company donated 425 shares of Fannie Mae stock with a fair value of \(\$ 25,633\) to LaGrange College. The Company recognized a gain on the disposition of the stock of \(\$ 16,694\) and recorded contribution expense for the total fair value in 2000.

During 1999, the Company donated 35,000 shares of Freddie Mac common stock with a fair value of \(\$ 2,152,500\) to a charitable foundation formed by the Company. The Company recognized a gain on the disposition of the stock of \(\$ 2,117,365\) and recorded contribution expense for the total fair value in 1999.

During the year ended September 30, 1999, the Company sold 570,000 shares of Freddie Mac common stock with a fair value of \(\$ 34,468,568\). The Company recognized a gain on the disposition of the stock of \(\$ 33,748,285\).

Investment securities with an aggregate carrying amount of \(\$ 13,882,374\) and \(\$ 26,841,596\) at September 30,2000 and 1999 , respectively, were pledged to secure Federal Home Loan Bank advances and to collateralize securities sold under agreements to repurchase.
(Continued)
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Notes to Financial Statements
September 30, 2000 and 1999
(5) Mortgage-Backed Securities and Collateralized Mortgage Obligations

Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations available for sale are summarized as follows:

September 30, 2000
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline \[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Amortized } \\
& \text { cost }
\end{aligned}
\] & Gross unrealized gains &  \\
\hline \$ 52,832,211 & -- & 2,049,1 \\
\hline 85,700,103 & -- & 3,529,0 \\
\hline 25,043,175 & 8,313 & 696,0 \\
\hline 78,831,227 & 107,091 & 1,160,8 \\
\hline 3,517,509 & -- & 211,9 \\
\hline 70,512,731 & 160,124 & 1,303,6 \\
\hline 67,198,421 & -- & 7,252,3 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline \$383, 635,377 & 275,528 & 16,203,0 \\
\hline & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{September 30, 1999} \\
\hline \[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Amortized } \\
& \text { cost }
\end{aligned}
\] & \[
\begin{gathered}
\text { Gross } \\
\text { unrealized } \\
\text { gains }
\end{gathered}
\] & Gross unreali losse \\
\hline \$ 64,839,039 & 767 & 2,303,3 \\
\hline 81,650,700 & -- & 3,731,2 \\
\hline 24,357,067 & -- & 572,5 \\
\hline 61,620,667 & 13,081 & 1,105,9 \\
\hline 60,493,323 & 39,976 & 1,069,5 \\
\hline 3,504,249 & -- & 188,3 \\
\hline 74,287,972 & -- & 5,337,2 \\
\hline \$370,753,017 & 53,824 & 14,308,2 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Proceeds from sales of mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations during 2000, 1999, and 1998 were \(\$ 67,269,563, \$ 260,278,302\), and \(\$ 224,913,926\), respectively. Gross gains of \(\$ 38,957, \$ 757,275\), and \(\$ 995,413\) and gross losses of \(\$ 346,552\), \(\$ 496,759\), and \(\$ 266,606\) were realized on those sales for 2000, 1999, and 1998, respectively.

Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations with an aggregate carrying amount of \(\$ 284,469,404\) and \(\$ 236,913,212\) at September 30, 2000 and 1999, respectively, were pledged to secure Federal Home Loan Bank advances and to collateralize securities sold under agreements to repurchase.

The FASB has issued SFAS No. 119, Disclosure About Derivative Financial Instruments and Fair Value of Financial Instruments, which requires improved disclosures about derivative financial instruments; futures, forward, swap, or option contracts; or other financial instruments with similar characteristics. It also amends existing requirements of SFAS No. 105, Disclosure of Information About Financial Instruments with Off-Balance-Sheet Risk and Financial Instruments with Concentration of Credit Risk, and SFAS No. 107, Disclosures About Fair Value of Financial
(Continued)
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\section*{CHARTERBANK}

Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999

Instruments. It requires that a distinction be made between financial instruments held or issued for the purposes of trading or for purposes other than trading. For derivative financial instruments held or issued for trading, disclosure of average fair values and of net trading gains or losses is

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required. At September 30, 2000 and 1999, the Company did not hold any derivative financial instruments for trading purposes. For derivative financial instruments held or issued for purposes other than trading, it requires disclosure about those purposes, about how the instruments are reported in the financial statements, and, if the purpose is hedging anticipated transactions, about the anticipated transactions, the classes of derivative financial instruments used to hedge those transactions, the amounts of hedging gains and losses deferred, and the transactions or other events that result in recognition of the deferred gains or losses in income. At September 30, 2000 and 1999, the Company did not hold any derivative financial instruments with the purpose of hedging transactions. The Company held collateralized mortgage obligations at September 30, 2000 and 1999. These investments are classified as available for sale and are carried at fair value in the Company's financial statements.

The following table shows additional information related to the collateralized mortgage obligations held by the Company:

September 30, 2000
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multirow[t]{2}{*}{} & \multicolumn{4}{|c|}{September 30, 2000} \\
\hline & & Fair value & Weightedaverage life & Yield \\
\hline Fixed rate & \$ & 94,888,626 & 14.86 years & \(6.937 \%\) \\
\hline Variable rate & & 115,509,740 & 16.62 years & 7.852 \\
\hline Total & & 210,398,366 & & \\
\hline & & & September 30 & \\
\hline & & Fair value & WeightedAverage Life & Yield \\
\hline Fixed rate & \$ & 83,961,705 & 15.80 years & \(7.16 \%\) \\
\hline Variable rate & & 108,296,513 & 17.82 years & 6.50 \\
\hline Total & & 192,258,218 & & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
(Continued)
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Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999
(6) Loans Receivable

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Loans receivable are summarized as follows:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline & & \\
\hline & 2000 & 1999 \\
\hline 1-4 family residential real estate mortgage & \$152,821,962 & \(132,035,7\) \\
\hline Commercial real estate & 60,837,874 & \(46,544,8\) \\
\hline Commercial & 8,986,583 & 3,244,7 \\
\hline Real estate construction & 7,138,418 & 8, 038,6 \\
\hline Consumer and other & 29,914,580 & \(24,352,7\) \\
\hline Total loans & 259,699,417 & \(214,216,8\) \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{l}
Less: \\
Unamortized loan origination fees (costs), net Allowance for loan losses
\end{tabular} & \[
\begin{gathered}
(113,317) \\
6,346,001
\end{gathered}
\] & \[
\begin{array}{r}
50,8 \\
5,709,8
\end{array}
\] \\
\hline & \$253,466,733 & 208,456,1 \\
\hline In addition to the above, the Company was servi Home Loan Mortgage Corporation with aggregate p \(\$ 152,777,116, \$ 155,200,029\), and \(\$ 127,862,071\), a and 1998, respectively. & for the Fede balances of er 30, 2000, 1 & \\
\hline Loans to certain executive officers, directors, totaled \(\$ 883,886\) and \(\$ 758,245\) at September 30, Such loans were made in the ordinary course of the same terms, including interest rate and col at the time for comparable transactions with ot involve more than the normal credit risk nor pr features. The following is a summary of activity to such aggregate loans to these individuals an affiliated companies: & associates 1999, respecti on substantial as those preva s, and did no er unfavorable 2000 with resp ssociates and & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}


At September 30, 2000 and 1999, the Company had \(\$ 2,830,774\) and \(\$ 1,989,006\), respectively, of nonperforming loans. The following is a summary of interest income relating to nonperforming loans for the years ended September 30, 2000, 1999, and 1998.
\begin{tabular}{ccc}
2000 & 1999 & 1998 \\
-------------1 & \\
\(\$ 303,990\) & 44,937 & 35,414 \\
\((127,679)\) & \((16,195)\) & \((22,975)\)
\end{tabular}
\begin{tabular}{|c|}
\hline \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
(Continued)

\section*{F-24}

\section*{CHARTERBANK}

Notes to Financial Statements
September 30, 2000 and 1999

The following is a summary of transactions in the allowance for loan losses:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{2000} & 1999 & 1998 \\
\hline Balance at beginning of year & \$ & 5,709,802 & 2,054,288 & \(1,845,613\) \\
\hline Loan loss reserve of acquired company & & -- & 3,751,796 & \\
\hline Loans charged off & & \((1,137,938)\) & \((420,101)\) & \((256,166\) \\
\hline Recoveries on loans previously charged off & & 364,137 & 83,819 & 284,841 \\
\hline Provision for loan losses charged to operations & & 1,410,000 & 240,000 & 180,000 \\
\hline Balance at end of year & \$ & 6,346,001 & 5,709,802 & \(2,054,288\) \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

At September 30, 2000 and 1999, pursuant to the definition within SFAS 114, the Company had impaired loans of approximately \(\$ 1,200,000\) and \(\$ 2,000,000\) with related amounts included in the allowance for loan losses of approximately \(\$ 715,000\) and \(\$ 560,000\), respectively.

The average recorded investment in impaired loans for the years ended September 30, 2000, 1999, and 1998 was approximately \(\$ 740,000, \$ 500,000\) and \(\$ 600,000\), respectively. Interest income recognized on impaired loans for the years ended September 30, 2000, 1999, and 1998, was not significant.

The Company is a party to financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk in the normal course of business to meet the financing needs of its customers. These financial instruments include commitments to extend credit. These instruments involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit and interest rate risk in excess of the amount recognized in the financial statements. The contract or notional amounts of those instruments reflect the extent of involvement the Company has in particular classes of financial instruments.

The Company's exposure to credit loss, in the event of nonperformance by the customer for commitments to extend credit is represented by the contractual or notional amount of those instruments. The Company uses the same credit policies in making commitments and conditional obligations as

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```

it does for recorded loans.
A summary of the Company's financial instruments with off-balance sheet
risk at September 30, 2000 and 1999 is as follows:

```
Financial instruments whose contract amounts
    represent credit risk - commitments:
        Mortgage loans \(\$ 5,109,000\)
        Open-end consumer loans
        Open-end commercial loans
        Construction loans
            Total commitments
                \$ 21,399,075
\(============\)
        19,930,200

7,444,548
6,553,796 460,000
5,471,856

19,930,200
\(===========\)

The Company was also committed to sell loans of approximately \(\$ 1,349,000\) at September 30, 2000 .
\[
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\]

\section*{CHARTERBANK}

Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999

Commitments to extend credit are agreements to lend to a customer as long as there is no violation of any condition established in the agreement. Commitments generally have fixed expiration dates or other termination clauses and may require payment of a fee. Since many of the commitments are expected to expire without being drawn upon, the total commitment amounts do not necessarily represent future cash requirements. The Company evaluates each customer's creditworthiness on a case-by-case basis. The amount of collateral obtained, if deemed necessary by the Company upon extension of credit, is based on management's credit evaluation of the borrower. Collateral held varies, but consists primarily of residential real estate.

In the origination of mortgage loans, the Company enters into adjustable interest rate contracts with caps and floors written with the intent of managing its interest rate exposure. Interest rate caps and floors enable customers and the Company to transfer, modify, or reduce their interest rate risk. At September 30,2000 and 1999 , adjustable rate mortgage loans with interest rate caps and floors amounted to approximately \(\$ 117,758,166\) and \(\$ 89,475,956\), respectively.
(7) Real Estate Owned

At September 30, 2000 and 1999, real estate owned is summarized as follows:

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Real estate acquired through foreclosure \(\$ 629,993\) 222,210
\(========\quad======\)
(8)

Accrued Interest and Dividends Receivable

At September 30, 2000 and 1999, accrued interest and dividends receivable are summarized as follows:
```

Loans
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized
mortgage obligations
Investment securities
Other

```
2000
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline \$ 1,791,634 & 1,585,415 \\
\hline 2,265,767 & 2,230,487 \\
\hline 170,011 & 382,523 \\
\hline 249,432 & 196,728 \\
\hline \$ 4,476,844 & 4,395,153 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
(Continued)
\[
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\]

CHARTERBANK

Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999

Premises and Equipment

Premises and equipment at September 30,2000 and 1999 is summarized as follows:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{2000} & 1999 \\
\hline Land & \$ & 1,281,380 & 671,868 \\
\hline Buildings and improvements & & 3,998,400 & 3,957,224 \\
\hline Furniture, fixtures, and equipment & & 2,519,319 & 2,125,290 \\
\hline Construction in progress & & 101,035 & -- \\
\hline & & 7,900,134 & 6,754,382 \\
\hline Less impairment allowance & & 200,000 & -- \\
\hline Less accumulated depreciation & & 3,750,193 & 3,301,953 \\
\hline & \$ & 3,949,941 & 3,452,429 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

The Company recorded an impairment allowance of \(\$ 200,000\) during 2000 relating to certain buildings and improvements which represent current and former branch sites to be sold. The aggregate fair value of such properties was estimated at \(\$ 400,000\).

Mortgage Servicing Rights
Activity in mortgage servicing rights (which are included in other assets) for the years ended September 30, 2000 and 1999 consists of the following:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{2000} & 1999 \\
\hline Balance at beginning of year & \$ & 1,320,840 & 1,021,995 \\
\hline Capitalized during the year & & 107,877 & 626,797 \\
\hline Amortization expense & & \((331,433)\) & \((327,952)\) \\
\hline Balance at end of year & \$ & 1,097,284 & 1,320,840 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

There was no valuation allowance at September 30, 2000 and 1999.

\section*{Investment in Limited Partnerships}

During 1997, the Company purchased interests in two limited partnerships, which were formed to acquire mortgage servicing rights, for \(\$ 7,000,000\). The Company has allocated approximately \(12 \%\) and \(21 \%\) of the respective earnings or losses of these two partnerships. As discussed in note 1, the Company uses the equity method of accounting for its investment in both of these limited partnerships because it exercises significant influence over the partnerships. Accordingly, the Company recognized equity in the net (loss) earnings of the limited partnerships of \(\$(28,602)\) during 2000, \(\$ 448,000\) during 1999 and \(\$(5,797,145)\) during 1998. An independent valuation of the mortgage servicing rights of the limited partnerships is performed quarterly. During 1998, the Company wrote off its entire limited partnership investment of \(\$ 2\) million in the partnership for which it had a previous 12\% interest
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(Continued)

\section*{CHARTERBANK}

Notes to Financial Statements
September 30, 2000 and 1999
because limited partner equity had been permanently impaired as a result of the declining fair value of mortgage servicing rights owned by the partnership. The Company also recorded a \(\$ 3.7\) million valuation allowance in 1998 relating to its \(\$ 5\) million limited partnership investment in the partnership for which it has a \(21 \%\) interest because of the declining fair value of mortgage servicing rights owned by the partnership.

Financial information (unaudited), including balance sheets as of September 30, 2000 and 1999 for the \(21 \%\) partnership and income statements for the years ended September 30, 2000, 1999, and 1998 for both partnerships, is as follows:

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\section*{(12)}

Deposits
At September 30,2000 and 1999, deposits are summarized as follows:

2000


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}


Interest expense on deposits for the years ended September 30, 2000, 1999, and 1998 is summarized as follows:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & & 2000 & 1999 & 1998 \\
\hline Demand, NOW, and money market accounts & \$ & 765,137 & 449,325 & 400 , \\
\hline Savings deposits & & 274,959 & 291,947 & 167, \\
\hline Time deposits & & 12,892,753 & 9,682,407 & 5,410, \\
\hline & \$ & 13,932,849 & 10,423,679 & 5,978, \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\section*{CHARTERBANK}

Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999

Deposits of certain officers, directors, and their associates totaled \(\$ 1,123,378\) and \(\$ 916,501\) at September 30,2000 and 1999 , respectively. Such deposits have substantially the same terms as those for comparable transactions with other persons.

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}
(13) Borrowings

At September 30, 2000 and 1999, borrowings are summarized as follows:
\begin{tabular}{l}
2000 \\
Federal Home Loan Bank advances \\
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase \\
\\
\\
\\
\\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Federal Home Loan Bank advances at September 30, 2000 and 1999 are summarized by year of maturity in the table below:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multicolumn{8}{|c|}{2000} \\
\hline Due & & Amount & Interest rates & Weightedaverage rate & & Amount & \[
\begin{gathered}
\text { Inte } \\
\text { ra }
\end{gathered}
\] \\
\hline Less than one year & \$ & 125,000,000 & 6.53-6.94\% & 6.60 & \$ & 125,900,000 & 5.21 \\
\hline One to two years & & -- & -- & -- & & 25,000,000 & \\
\hline Two to three years & & \(31,000,000\) & 6.46-6.49 & 6.46 & & -- & \\
\hline Thereafter & & 78,750,000 & 4.85-6.48 & 5.83 & & 54,750,000 & 4.85 \\
\hline & \$ & 234,750,000 & & 6.32 & \$ & 205,650,000 & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

The interest rates on \(\$ 155,000,000\) of the Federal Home Loan Bank ("FHLB") advances at September 30, 2000 are adjusted periodically, based on shortterm interest rate indices.

At September 30, 2000, the Company has pledged, under a specific collateral lien with the FHLB, all stock of the FHLB, certain qualifying first mortgage loans with unpaid principal balances totaling \(\$ 135,227,055\) and certain mortgage-backed securities, collateralized mortgage obligations, corporate securities, and U.S. government agency securities with an aggregate fair value of \(\$ 174,758,100\).

At September 30, 2000, the Company had available line of credit commitments with the FHLB totaling \(\$ 283,896,000\) of which \(\$ 234,750,000\) was advanced and \(\$ 49,146,000\) was available at September 30, 2000.

As of September 30, 2000 , the Company's fixed rate FHLB advances include \(\$ 53,750,000\) of advances that are callable by the FHLB under certain circumstances. Of these advances, \(\$ 25,000,000\) are callable prior to September 30,2001 . If called by the \(F H L B\), such advances could be refinanced at prevailing market rates on the date of the call.

The securities sold under agreements to repurchase at September 30, 2000 are secured by certain mortgage-backed securities, collateralized mortgage obligations, and U.S. government agency securities with an aggregate fair

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value, including accrued interest, of \(\$ 124,395,137\). All securities sold under the agreements to repurchase are under the Company's control. The repurchase agreements at September 30,2000 and 1999 have maturities of less than 45 days, and provide for the purchase of
F-30
(Continued)

CHARTERBANK
Notes to Financial Statements
September 30, 2000 and 1999
identical securities and specify delivery of the underlying securities to an approved custodian. The aggregate carrying amount of such securities sold under the agreements to repurchase exceeded the amount of repurchase liabilities by approximately \(\$ 6,900,000\) at September 30, 2000.

The following summarizes pertinent data related to securities sold under the agreements to repurchase for the years ended September 30, 2000, 1999, and 1998:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & & 2000 & 1999 \\
\hline Weighted-average borrowing rate at year-end & & \(6.76 \%\) & 5.54 \\
\hline Weighted-average borrowing rate during the year & & \(6.64 \%\) & 5.42 \\
\hline Average daily balance during year & \$ & 122,725,585 & 60,134,537 \\
\hline Maximum month-end balance during the year & \$ & 153,308,116 & 111,320,019 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Interest expense on borrowings for the years ended September 30, 2000, 1999, and 1998 is summarized as follows:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & 2000 & 1999 & \\
\hline \$ & 8,149,449 & 3,260,558 & 3,47 \\
\hline & 14,565,105 & 9,657,196 & 9,95 \\
\hline \$ & 22,714,554 & 12,917,754 & 13,43 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
(14) Income Taxes

Income tax expense (benefit) attributable to income from continuing

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operations for the years ended September 30, 2000 , 1999, and 1998 consists of:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{2000} & 1999 & 1998 \\
\hline \multicolumn{5}{|l|}{Federal:} \\
\hline Current & \$ & 926,667 & 5,594,643 & 1,107,751 \\
\hline Deferred & & 273,850 & 6,657,139 & \((1,814,696)\) \\
\hline \multicolumn{5}{|l|}{State:} \\
\hline Current & & 41,118 & 932,753 & 100,042 \\
\hline Deferred & & 48,327 & 1,174,789 & (211, 013 ) \\
\hline & \$ & 289,962 & 14,359,324 & \((817,916)\) \\
\hline & & \(\mathrm{F}-31\) & & (Continued) \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\section*{CHARTERBANK}

Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999

The difference between the actual total provision for Federal and state income taxes and Federal income taxes computed at the statutory rate of \(34 \%\) in 2000, 35\% in 1999, and \(34 \%\) in 1998 is summarized as follows:
Computed "expected" tax expense (benefit)
Increase (decrease) in tax expense resulting from:
Dividends received deduction
Gain on disposition of stock
State income taxes, net of Federal tax effect
Change in the deferred tax asset valuation
allowance
Goodwill amortization and impairment
Other, net
\[
\mathrm{F}-32
\]
(Continued)

CHARTERBANK

Notes to Financial Statements
September 30, 2000 and 1999

The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to significant portions of the deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities as of September 30, 2000 and 1999 are presented below:
        Total gross deferred tax assets
    Less valuation allowance
            Net deferred tax assets
Deferred tax liabilities:
    Deferred loan fees, net
    Mortgage servicing rights
    539,482
        282,
    413, 896
    Net unrealized holding gains on securities
        available for sale
    Investment securities market adjustment
        for tax reporting
    Federal Home Loan Bank stock dividends
    Other
            Total gross deferred tax liabilities
    103,773,292
--------------
\(\$ 100,247,176\)
    92,830
        6,108,
    6,598,770
\(\$ \quad \begin{array}{r}180,483 \\ 1,436,582\end{array}\)
180,483
\(1,436,582\)
        195,054
175,848
        195,054
175,848
            55,099
            652,225
            603,957
                    --
            119,525
            899,684
        148,659
    -----------46
\(4,467,116\)
----
    941,000
\(--526,116\)
```

Deferred tax assets:

```
Deferred tax assets:
        Georgia business credit carryforward
        Georgia business credit carryforward
    Allowance for loan losses
    Allowance for loan losses
    Deferred compensation
    Deferred compensation
    Alternative minimum tax credit carryforward
    Alternative minimum tax credit carryforward
    Self-insurance reserve
    Self-insurance reserve
    Charitable contributions carryforward
    Charitable contributions carryforward
    Investment in limited partnership
    Investment in limited partnership
    Pension expenses
    Pension expenses
    Real estate acquired through foreclosure
    Real estate acquired through foreclosure
    Net operating loss carryforward
    Net operating loss carryforward
    Other
```

    Other
    ```
        1,144
        223,
            96
            23,
        828,
        580
        195
        200
    1,157
        230 ,
    4, 681
    1,207,
    3,526,116
    3, 474

        498 ,
            52,
            45,862
            379
    100,151
            Net deferred tax liabilities
    96,677,

In assessing the realizability of deferred tax assets, management considers whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The ultimate realization of deferred tax assets is dependent upon the generation of future taxable income during the periods in which those temporary differences become deductible. Management considers the scheduled reversal of deferred tax liabilities, projected future taxable income, and tax planning strategies in making this assessment. Based upon the level of historical taxable income and projections for future taxable income over the periods which the deferred tax assets are deductible, management believes it is more likely than not the Company will realize the benefits of these deductible differences, net of the existing valuation allowances at September 30, 2000. The Company has net operating loss carryforwards of approximately \(\$ 2,400,000\) which begin to expire in 2018. The valuation allowance of \(\$ 941,000\) at September 30, 2000 relates to a portion of the charitable contributions, net operating loss, and business credit carryforwards. The charitable contribution carryforward begins to expire in 2002.

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CHARTERBANK \\ Notes to Financial Statements
}

September 30, 2000 and 1999

Prior to January 1, 1996, the Company was permitted under the Internal Revenue Code ("Code") a special bad debt deduction related to additions to tax bad debt reserves established for the purpose of absorbing losses. The provisions of the Code permitted the Company to deduct from taxable income an allowance for bad debts based on the greater of a percentage of taxable income before such deduction or actual loss experience. Retained earnings at September 30,2000 include approximately \(\$ 2,137,000\) for which no deferred Federal income tax liability has been recognized. The amounts represent an allocation of income for bad debt deductions for tax purposes only. Reduction of amounts so allocated for purposes other than tax bad debt losses or adjustments arising from carryback of net operating losses would create income for tax purposes only, which would be subject to the then current corporate income tax rate.

On August 20, 1996, President Clinton signed legislation which has eliminated the percentage of taxable income bad debt deduction for thrift institutions for tax years beginning after December 31, 1995. This new legislation also requires a thrift to generally recapture the excess of its current tax reserves over its 1987 base year reserves whereas, the base year reserves are frozen from taxation. As the Company had previously provided deferred taxes on this amount, no additional financial statement tax expense resulted from this legislation.

Employee Benefits

Prior to December 31, 1999, the Company had a qualified noncontributory defined benefit retirement plan covering substantially all of its employees. Employees covered under the plan were eligible to participate after completion of one year of service. The benefits were based on each employee's years of service up to a maximum of 25 years, and the average of the highest five consecutive annual salaries. An employee became fully vested upon completion of five years of qualifying service. Normal retirement age was 65, but provision was made for earlier retirement. It was the policy of the Company to fund the maximum amount that could be deducted for Federal income tax purposes. Plan assets consisted primarily of listed common stocks and cash. The plan was frozen effective December 31, 1999 and the termination process initiated with disbursements being made to eligible participants following completion of the termination.
(Continued)
\[
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\]

\section*{CHARTERBANK}

Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999

The following table sets forth the funded status of the plan at September 30, 2000 and 1999:
Change in benefit obligation:
Projected benefit obligation at beginning of period
Service cost
Interest cost
Amendments
Actuarial loss (gain)
Benefits paid
Curtailment
Settlement
Projected benefit obligation at end of period
Change in plan assets:
Fair value of plan assets at beginning of period
Actual return on plan assets
Benefits paid
Settlement
Fair value of plan assets at end of period
Funded status
Unrecognized net actuarial loss
Unrecognized prior service cost
Unrecognized transition obligation
The components of net pension expense (recovery) for the years ended
September \(30,2000, ~ 1999, ~ a n d ~ 1998 ~ a r e ~ a s ~ f o l l o w s: ~\) September 30, 2000, 1999, and 1998 are as follows:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & \multicolumn{2}{|r|}{2000} & 1999 \\
\hline Service cost for benefits earned during the year & \$ & 51,322 & 255,682 \\
\hline Interest cost on projected benefit obligations & & 76,493 & 109,215 \\
\hline Actual return on plan assets & & \((114,439)\) & (99, 071 ) \\
\hline Net amortization and deferral & & \((4,610)\) & \((1,164)\) \\
\hline Curtailment and settlement & & \((546,740)\) & -- \\
\hline Net pension expense (recovery) & \$ & \((537,974)\) & 264,662 \\
\hline \multicolumn{4}{|l|}{\multirow[t]{3}{*}{Assumptions used to determine the actuarial present value of the accumulated and projected benefit obligations were:}} \\
\hline & & & \\
\hline & & & \\
\hline Discount rate & & \(7.75 \%\) & 7.75 \\
\hline Expected long-term rate of return on assets & & 8.00 & 8.00 \\
\hline Rate of increase in future compensation levels & & N/A & 4.50 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\[
\mathrm{F}-35
\]

\section*{CHARTERBANK}

Notes to Financial Statements
September 30, 2000 and 1999

The Company has a \(401(k)\) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust (Plan) which covers substantially all of its employees. CharterBank matches \(50 \%\) of employee contributions to the Plan, up to \(8 \%\) of employee compensation, and may make additional discretionary contributions. The Company made contributions to the Plan of \(\$ 96,934, \$ 27,040\), and \(\$ 33,298\) in 2000 , 1999, and 1998, respectively.

During 1996, the Company implemented a short-term incentive plan which covers substantially all employees. The Company also implemented a longterm incentive plan which covers key employees and is based on the Company's comprehensive earnings, as defined. For the years ended September 30, 2000, 1999, and 1998, the Company expensed approximately \(\$ 946,027\) (as restated -- note 22), \(\$ 830,325\), and \(\$ 654,000\), respectively, related to the incentive plans.
(16) Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

In the normal course of business, the Company is party (both as plaintiff and defendant) to certain matters of litigation. In the opinion of management and counsel, none of these matters should have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position.

The Company is self-insured for employee medical and health care claims up to a maximum of \(\$ 10,000\) per year per employee. Claims above the selfinsured maximum amounts are covered under an insurance policy up to a maximum of \(\$ 990,000\). Total employee medical and health care claims paid by the Company during 2000, 1999, and 1998 were \(\$ 226,276, \$ 192,956\), and \(\$ 199,438\), respectively. At September 30,2000 and 1999, the Company has accrued \(\$ 146,074\) and \(\$ 63,219\), respectively, for future employee medical and health care claims.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 107, Disclosures About Fair Value of Financial Instruments, requires that the Company disclose estimated fair values for its financial instruments. Fair value estimates, methods, and assumptions are set forth below for the Company's financial instruments.
(a) Cash and Cash Equivalents

The carrying amount approximates fair value because of the short maturity of these instruments.
(b) Investment and Mortgage-Backed Securities and Collateralized Mortgage Obligations Available for Sale

The fair value of investment and mortgage-backed securities and

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collateralized mortgage obligations available for sale is estimated based on bid quotations received from securities dealers. In aggregate, the fair value of investment and mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations available for sale at September 30, 2000 and 1999 was \(\$ 667,463,716\) and \(\$ 661,972,066\), respectively (see notes 4 and 5).
(continued)
\[
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\]

CHARTERBANK

Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999
(c) Loans Receivable

Fair values are estimated for portfolios of loans with similar financial characteristics. Loans are segregated by type. The fair value of performing loans is calculated by discounting scheduled cash flows through the estimated maturity using estimated market discount rates that reflect the credit risk inherent in the loan. The estimate of maturity is based on the Company's historical experience with repayments for each loan classification, modified, as required, by an estimate of the effect of the current economic and lending conditions.

Fair value for significant nonperforming loans is based on recent external appraisals. If appraisals are not available, estimated cash flows are discounted using a rate commensurate with the risk associated with the estimated cash flows. Assumptions regarding credit risk, cash flows, and discount rates are judgmentally determined using available market information and specific borrower information.

The following table presents information for loans at September 30, 2000 and 1999:

1-4 family residential real estate
Commercial real estate
\$ 152,821,962

Commercial other
Real estate construction loans Other loans

Unamortized loan origination costs (fees), net
Allowance for loan losses

\section*{2000}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & & Carrying amount & \begin{tabular}{l}
Estimated \\
fair value
\end{tabular} \\
\hline 1-4 family residential real estate & \$ & 152,821,962 & 150,438,834 \\
\hline Commercial real estate & & 60,837,874 & 59,889,168 \\
\hline Commercial other & & 8,986,583 & 8,698,016 \\
\hline Real estate construction loans & & 7,138,418 & 7,027,102 \\
\hline Other loans & & 29,914,580 & 30,169,131 \\
\hline Unamortized loan origination costs (fees), net & & 113,317 & 113,317 \\
\hline Allowance for loan losses & & \((6,346,001)\) & \((6,346,001)\) \\
\hline & \$ & 253,466,733 & 249,989,567 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
(d) Mortgage Servicing Rights

The fair value of mortgage servicing rights approximates its carrying value due to the Company's evaluation of the underlying loan portfolio and subsequent adjustment for loan prepayments and other market conditions.
(Continued)
\[
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\]

\section*{CHARTERBANK}

Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999
(e) Deposits

Under SFAS No. 107, the fair value of deposits with no stated maturity, such as noninterest-bearing demand deposits, savings, NOW accounts, and money market and checking accounts, is equal to the amount payable on demand as of September 30, 2000 and 1999. The fair value of time deposits is based on the discounted value of contractual cash flows. The discount rate is estimated using the rates currently offered for deposits of similar remaining maturities. The following table presents information for deposits at September 30, 2000 and 1999:
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline & & & & & & \\
\hline & & & Carrying amount & Estimated fair value & Carrying amount & \[
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Estin } \\
& \text { fair }
\end{aligned}
\] \\
\hline Dem ma & nd, Now, and money ket accounts & \$ & 33,462,598 & 33,462,598 & 32,885,036 & 32, \\
\hline Sav & ngs deposits & & 8,386,160 & 8,386,160 & 8,788,608 & 8, \\
\hline Tim & deposits & & 232,521,885 & 233,066,063 & 241,291,734 & 240, \\
\hline & & & 274,370,643 & 274,914,821 & 282,965,378 & 281, \\
\hline (f) & Borrowings & & & & & \\
\hline & The fair value of discounted value estimated using rat current rates offe maturities. The fol September 30, 2000 & \[
\mathrm{mpa}
\]
\[
\mathrm{rac}
\]
ote
th
\[
\begin{aligned}
& 91 \\
& 999
\end{aligned}
\] & ny's borrow tual cash f d for the sa Company for resents info & is estimated The discount r similar is bt of the sa ion for borr & on the is on the ining at & \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multirow[t]{2}{*}{} & \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{2000} & \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{1999} \\
\hline & & Carrying amount & Estimated fair value & Carrying amount & Estim fair \\
\hline Federal Home Loan Bank advances & \$ & 234,750,000 & 233,557,186 & 205,650,000 & 204,0 \\
\hline Securities sold under agreements to repurchase & & 117,468,500 & 117,466,938 & 107,216,769 & 107,2 \\
\hline & \$ & 352,218,500 & 351,024,124 & 312,866,769 & 311,2 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
(g) Accrued Interest and Dividends Receivable and Payable

The carrying amount of accrued interest and dividends receivable and payable approximate their fair values (see notes 8 and 12).
(h) Commitments

The fair value of commitments to extend credit to fund home equity, real estate construction, and real estate mortgage loans is immaterial because the underlying interest rates on such commitments approximate market rates.
(Continued)
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CHARTERBANK

Notes to Financial Statements
September 30, 2000 and 1999
(i) Limitations

Fair value estimates are made at a specific point in time, based on relevant market information and information about the financial instrument. These estimates do not reflect any premium or discount that could result from offering for sale at one time the Company's entire holdings of a particular financial instrument. Because no market exists for a portion of the Company's financial instruments, fair value estimates are based on judgments regarding future expected loss experience, current economic conditions, risk characteristics of various financial instruments, and other factors. In cases where quoted market prices are not available, fair values are based on estimates using present value or other valuation techniques. Those techniques are significantly affected by the assumptions used, including the discount rate and estimates of future cash flows. In that regard, the derived fair value estimates cannot be substantiated by comparison to independent markets and, in many cases, could not be realized in immediate settlement of the instrument. These estimates are subjective in nature and involve uncertainties and matters of

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significant judgment and, therefore, cannot be determined with precision. Changes in assumptions could significantly affect the estimates.

Fair value estimates are based on existing on-and-off balance sheet financial instruments without attempting to estimate the value of anticipated future business and the value of assets and liabilities that are not considered financial instruments. Other significant assets and liabilities that are not considered financial assets or liabilities include deferred tax liabilities and premises and equipment. In addition, the tax ramifications related to the realization of the unrealized gains and losses can have a significant effect on fair value estimates and have not been considered in any of the estimates.
(18) Regulatory Matters

The Company is required to maintain noninterest-bearing cash reserve balances. The aggregate average cash reserve balances maintained at September 30,2000 and 1999 to satisfy the regulatory requirement were \(\$ 512,634\) and \(\$ 549,796\), respectively.

Under Office of Thrift Supervision regulations, the Company is required to measure its interest rate risk and maintain the interest rate risk within limits the Company establishes. Based on its asset/liability structure at September 30 , 2000 , the Company's earnings may be negatively impacted if interest rates rise significantly.

Under provisions of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act ("FIRREA") of 1989, the Company is required to meet certain core, tangible, and risk-based capital ratios. The regulations require institutions to have a minimum regulatory tangible capital ratio equal to \(1.5 \%\) of total assets, a minimum \(3 \%\) core capital ratio, and \(8 \%\) risk-based capital ratio.
(Continued)
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\section*{CHARETRBANK}

Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act ("FDICIA") was signed into law on December 19, 1991. Regulations implementing the prompt corrective action provisions of FDICIA became effective on December 19, 1992. In addition to the prompt corrective action requirements, FDICIA includes significant changes to the legal and regulatory environment for insured depository institutions, including reductions in insurance coverage for certain kinds of deposits, increased supervision by the Federal regulatory agencies, increased reporting requirements for insured institutions, and new regulations concerning internal controls, accounting, and operations.

The prompt corrective action regulations define specific capital categories based on an institution's capital ratios. The capital categories, in declining order, are "well capitalized," "adequately capitalized," "undercapitalized,"

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\begin{abstract}
"significantly undercapitalized," and "critically undercapitalized." Institutions categorized as "undercapitalized" or worse are subject to certain restrictions, including the requirement to file a capital plan with its primary Federal regulator, prohibitions on the payment of dividends and management fees, restrictions on executive compensation, and increased supervisory monitoring, among other things. Other restrictions may be imposed on the institution either by its primary Federal regulator or by the FDIC, including requirements to raise additional capital, sell assets, or sell the entire institution. Once an institution becomes "critically undercapitalized," it must generally be placed in receivership or conservatorship within 90 days.

To be considered "adequately capitalized," an institution must generally have a leverage ratio of at least \(4 \%\), Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of at least \(4 \%\), and a total risk-based capital ratio of at least \(8 \%\). An institution is deemed to be "critically undercapitalized" if it has a tangible equity ratio of \(2 \%\) or less.
\end{abstract}
(Continued)
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\section*{CHARETRBANK}

Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2000 and 1999

The table of compliance with minimum capital requirements is presented below at September 30, 2000 and 1999 (in thousands):
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multirow[t]{2}{*}{} & & & \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{2000} \\
\hline & & \begin{tabular}{l}
angible \\
apital
\end{tabular} & Core/ leverage capital & & Tier I riskbased apital \\
\hline Total equity & \$ & 204,527 & 204,527 & & 204,527 \\
\hline General valuation allowances & & -- & -- & & -- \\
\hline Allowable unrealized gains & & -- & -- & & -- \\
\hline Disallowed mortgage servicing & & --- & -- & & -- \\
\hline Accumulated comprehensive income & & \((152,828)\) & \((152,828)\) & & \((152,828)\) \\
\hline Regulatory capital & \$ & 51,699 & 51,699 & & 51,699 \\
\hline Total assets & \$ & 942,687 & 942,687 & & 942,687 \\
\hline Regulatory total assets & \$ & 690,412 & 690,412 & & \\
\hline Risk-weighted assets & & & & \$ & 390,982 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Capital ratio & & \(7.49 \%\) & & 7.49 & 13.22 \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{l}
Regulatory capital category: \\
Adequately capitalized or minimum FIRREA requirement equal to or greater than Capital exceeding requirement
\end{tabular} & \$ & \[
\begin{array}{r}
1.50 \\
41,343
\end{array}
\] & & \[
\begin{array}{r}
3.00 \\
30,987
\end{array}
\] & \[
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{N} / \mathrm{A} \\
& \mathrm{~N} / \mathrm{A}
\end{aligned}
\] \\
\hline Adequately capitalized or minimum FDICIA requirement equal to or greater than & & & & \(4.00 \%\) & 4.00 \\
\hline Capital exceeding requirement & & & \$ & 24,083 & 36,060 \\
\hline Well capitalized, equal to or greater than & & & & \(5.00 \%\) & 6.00 \\
\hline Capital exceeding requirement & & & \$ & 17,178 & 28,240 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
(Continued)
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CHARETRBANK

Notes to Financial Statements
September 30, 2000 and 1999
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline Tangible capital & Core/ leverage capital & ```
    Tier I
    risk-
    based
capital
``` \\
\hline \$ 198,489 & 198,489 & 198,489 \\
\hline -- & -- & -- \\
\hline -- & -- & -- \\
\hline -- & -- & -- \\
\hline \((147,662)\) & \((147,662)\) & \((147,662)\) \\
\hline \((4,533)\) & \((4,533)\) & \((4,533)\) \\
\hline \$ 46,294 & 46,294 & 46,294 \\
\hline \$ 904,586 & 904,586 & 904,586 \\
\hline \$ 659,666 & 659,666 & \\
\hline & & \$ 252,144 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}


\section*{(19) Lease Commitments}

The Company assumed leases of a branch facility and parking lot in connection with the Citizens National Bank acquisition. The leases are from a partnership in which a Company executive, a Board Member, and other related parties are partners. The facility lease expires July 31, 2008 and the parking lot lease expired as of January 31, 1998. The parking lot lease is presently being paid month-to-month and is in the process of being renewed. During 2000 , lease expense relating to these leases was \(\$ 40,000\).

Future minimum lease payments for the branch facility lease are as follows:

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CHARTERBANK
Notes to Financial Statements
September 30,2000 and 1999
(20) Formation of Insurance Subsidiary

On November 18, 1999, the Company submitted an application to the Office of Thrift Supervision ("OTS") to obtain approval for the proposed formation of a service corporation subsidiary to engage in the reinsurance of mortgage guaranty insurance. On September 1, 2000 , the Company received approval from the OTS to invest in a service corporation established to form the chartered reinsurance company. On November 30, 2000, the Company

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capitalized this wholly owned subsidiary with a capital contribution of \(\$ 450,000\). Operations are expected to commence in December 2000 .
(21) Subsequent Event

On October 26, 2000, the Company announced that its Board of Directors had approved a Plan of Reorganization from Mutual Savings Bank to Mutual Holding Company and Stock Issuance (the "Plan"). As part of the reorganization, the bank will organize a mid-tier stock holding company to be known as Charter Financial Corp. that will own \(100 \%\) of the bank's common stock. Charter Financial Corp. will issue a majority of its shares to a mutual holding company to be known as First Charter, MHC. The remaining shares of Charter Financial Corp.'s common stock, which will be no more than \(49 \%\) of the total shares, will be offered in a subscription offering to certain current and former members of the bank. The amount and pricing of the stock will be based on an independent appraisal of the organization.

The transaction is subject to approval by the Office of Thrift Supervision, the bank's Federal banking regulator. If approved by the Office of Thrift Supervision, the Plan will also be submitted to the bank's eligible members for approval. Although it is not possible to predict when such approvals will be received, the bank presently expects to commence the stock offering during the second quarter of 2001 . The common stock will be offered on \(a\) priority basis in a Subscription Offering to eligible customers of the bank. Shares not sold in the Subscription Offering may be offered to the general public in a Community Offering.
(22) Restatement of Previously Reported Financial Statements

For the year ended September 30, 2000 , the Company's Board of Directors approved a special management incentive bonus accrual of \(\$ 1,200,000\) to compensate management of past performance. Prior to approval by the Board of Directors, the Chairman of the Board of Directors discussed the matter with the Office of Thrift Supervision and, based on that discussion, the Board of Directors and Company did not anticipate regulatory objection to payment of this bonus. In March 2001, the Company was informed by the Office of Thrift Supervision that further review by it and additional actions by the Company would be required before payment of the bonus would be permitted. In light of these circumstances, on March 22, 2001, the Board of Directors rescinded its approval of such special management incentive bonus accrual. Accordingly, the Board of Directors of the Company has determined to restate its financial statements at and for the year ended September 30,2000 for the effects of the clarification regarding the Office of Thrift Supervision's position.

The effects of the adjustments to the 2000 Financial statements are as follows:
. Reductions in both salaries and benefits expense and other liabilities of \$1,200,000; and
- Increases in both income tax expense and deferred income tax liability of \(\$ 450,000\) to reflect the income tax effect of the above adjustment.

The aggregate effect of such adjustments was to increase previously reported income before income taxes by \(\$ 1,200,000\), net income by \(\$ 750,000\), comprehensive income by \(\$ 750,000\), and retained earnings by \(\$ 750,000\).
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Independent Auditors' Report

The Board of Directors CharterBank:

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial condition of CharterBank (the "Company") as of September 30, 2000 and 1999, and the related statements of income and comprehensive income, equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended September 30, 2000. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

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

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of CharterBank as of September 30, 2000 and 1999, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended September 30, 2000 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As discussed in Note 22, the statement of financial condition as of September 30, 2000, and the related statements of income and comprehensive income, equity and cash flows for the year ended September 30, 2000 have been restated.

December 1, 2000, except as to note 22,
as to which the date is March 22, 2001
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You should rely only on the information contained in this document or that to which we have referred you. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. This document does not constitute an offer to sell, or the solicitation of an offer to buy, any of the securities offered hereby to any person in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation would be unlawful. The affairs of CharterBank or Charter Financial may change after the date of this prospectus. Delivery of this document and the sales of shares made hereunder does not mean otherwise.
[Logo]
(Proposed Stock Holding Company for CharterBank)

Up to 5,157,750 Shares of Common Stock

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}

\author{
PROSPECTUS \\ Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P. \\ [ ]
}

\begin{abstract}
Until the later of [ ] or 25 days after commencement of the offering, all dealers effecting transactions in these securities, whether or not participating in this offering, may be required to deliver a prospectus. This is in addition to the dealers' obligation to deliver a prospectus when acting as underwriters and with respect to their unsold allotments or subscriptions.
\end{abstract}

\section*{PART II}

INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 13. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline SEC Registration Fee (1) & 12,895 \\
\hline OTS application fee and registration. & 14,400 \\
\hline NASD filing fee & 5,000 \\
\hline Nasdaq National Market Listing Fee (2) & 90,000 \\
\hline Printing, postage and mailing & 100,000 \\
\hline Legal fees and expenses & 400,000 \\
\hline Placement Agent's fees and commissions (3) & 450,000 \\
\hline Placement Agent's expenses (excluding counsel fees) & 50,000 \\
\hline Placement Agent's counsel fees and expenses & 75,000 \\
\hline Accounting fees and expenses & 200,000 \\
\hline Appraiser's fees and expenses (including preparing bus & 100,000 \\
\hline Conversion agent fees and expenses. & 15,000 \\
\hline Certificate printing. & 10,000 \\
\hline Blue Sky fees and expenses (including fees of counsel) & 10,000 \\
\hline Miscellaneous. & 17,705 \\
\hline TOTAL & ,550,000 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
(1) Expenses based upon the registration and sale of \(5,157,750\) shares each at \(\$ 10.00\) per share.
(2) Based total shares outstanding of 19,500,000.
(3) Assumes \(1.25 \%\) commission paid on sale of \(3,900,000\) shares and excluding ESOP shares and shares purchased by management.

Item 14. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

12 C.F.R. Section 545.121 of OTS Regulations sets forth the ability of a federal savings \& loan association to indemnify its officers and directors. This section provides that a savings association shall indemnify any person against whom an action is brought or threatened because that person is or was a director, officer or employee of the association for: (1) any amount for which that person become liable under a judgment if such action; and (2) reasonable costs and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees paid or incurred by that person in defending or settling such action, or in enforcing his or her

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rights under such section if he or she attains a favorable judgment in such enforcement action.

Indemnification shall be made to such individuals if (1) final judgements on the merits is in the individual's favor; or (2) in case of (i) settlement; (ii) Final judgement against the individual, or (iii) final judgement in the individual's favor, other than on the merits, if a majority of the disinterested directors determine that the individual was acting in good faith within the scope of his or her employment or authority as he or she could have reasonable
perceived it under the circumstances and for a purpose her or she could reasonably have believed under the circumstances was in the best interests of the savings association or its members.

The section also provides that no indemnification may be made unless the association gives the OTS 60 days notice of its intention to make such indemnification.

In addition to providing indemnification, under OTS Regulations, a savings association may obtain insurance to protect in and its officers, directors and employees from potential losses arising from claims against any of them for alleged wrongful acts, or wrongful acts, committed in their capacity as directors, officers or employees. However, the savings association may not obtain insurance which provides for payment of losses of any person incurred as a consequence of his or her willful or criminal misconduct.

Section 545.121 of OTS regulations is subject to and qualified by 12 U.S.C (S) \(1821(k)\) which provides in general that a director or officer of an insured depository institution may be held personally liable for monetary damages by, on behalf of, or at the request or direction of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in certain circumstances.

Article XII of both the Charter Financial Corp.'s and CharterBank's Bylaws provide that it shall indemnify any person against whom an action is brought or threatened because that person is or was a director, officer or employee of the Charter Financial Corp. or CharterBank for: (a) any amount for which that person becomes liable under a judgment in such action; and (b) reasonable costs and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, actually paid or incurred by that person in defending or settling such action, or in enforcing his or her rights under the indemnification section of the bylaws if he or she attains a favorable judgment in such enforcement action. These bylaw sections mirror OTS regulations as set forth above.

Section 19 of the Bylaws of the First Charter, MHC provide that the mutual holding company shall indemnify its officers, directors and employees to the fullest extent permitted by the rules and regulations of the OTS at 12 C.F.R. (S) 545.121.

CharterBank and Charter Financial Corp. are also parties to an Employment Agreement with Robert L. Johnson. The Agreement provides for Charter Financial Corp. to indemnify Mr. Johnson to the fullest extent permitted under federal law. CharterBank and Charter Financial Corp. are also parties to Change Control Agreements with certain officers of CharterBank which provide for indemnification for attorneys' fees in some instances.

Item 15. Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities.

Not Applicable.

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Item 16. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules.
The exhibits and financial statement schedules filed as a part of this Registration Statement are as follows:
(a) List of Exhibits.
1.1 Engagement Letter dated March 1, 2001 between CharterBank and Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P.
1.2 Form of Agency Agreement, between CharterBank and Sandler O'Neill \& Partners, L.P.
2.1 CharterBank Amended Plan of Reorganization from Mutual Savings Bank to Mutual Holding Company and Stock Issuance
3.1 Federal Stock Charter of Charter Financial Corp.
3.2 Bylaws of Charter Financial Corp.
3.3 Federal Stock Charter of CharterBank
3.4 Bylaws of CharterBank
3.5 Federal Stock Charter of First Charter, MHC
3.6 Bylaws of First Charter, MHC
4.1 Federal Stock Charter of Charter Financial Corp. (See Exhibit 3.1)
4.2 Bylaws of Charter Financial Corp. (See Exhibit 3.2)
4.3 Form of Stock Certificate of Charter Financial Corp.
5.1 Form of Opinion of Thacher Proffitt \& Wood regarding legality of securities to be registered
8.1 Form of Opinion of Thacher Proffitt \& Wood regarding federal tax matters*
8.2 Form of Opinion of Alston \& Bird regarding state and local tax matters*
8.3 Letter from RP Financial, LC. regarding subscription rights
10.1 Form of Employee Stock Ownership Plan of Charter Financial Corp.
10.2 Form of Benefit Restoration Plan of Charter Financial Corp.
10.3 Form of Employment Agreement by and among Robert L. Johnson, Charter Financial Corp. and CharterBank
10.4 Form of One Year Change in Control Agreement by and among certain officers, Charter Financial Corp. and CharterBank
10.5 Form of Two Year Change in Control Agreement by and among certain officers, Charter Financial Corp. and CharterBank
10.6 Form of Charter Financial Corp. 2001 Recognition and Retention Plan
10.7 Form of Charter Financial Corp. 2001 Stock Option Plan
21.1 Form of Subsidiaries of the Registrant
23.1 Consent of Thacher Proffitt \& Wood (included in Exhibits 5.1 and 8.1 to this Registration Statement)
23.2 Consent of KPMG LLP
23.3 Consent of RP Financial, LC.
23.4 Consent of Alston \& Bird*
24.1 Powers of Attorney (included in Signature Page of this Registration Statement)
99.1 Appraisal Report of RP Financial, LC. (filed in paper format only)
99.2 Form of marketing materials to be used in connection with the offering*
* To be filed by amendment.
(b) Financial Statement Schedules.

All schedules have been omitted as not applicable or not required under the rules of Regulation \(S-X\).

Item 17. Undertakings.

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The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:
(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:
(i) To include any Prospectus required by Section 10 (a) (3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
(ii) To reflect in the Prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule \(424(b)\) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a \(20 \%\) change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective Registration Statement;
(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement;
(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new Registration Statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the Offering.

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes to furnish stock certificates to or in accordance with the instructions of the respective purchasers of the Common Stock, so as to make delivery to each purchaser promptly following the closing under the Plan of Reorganization.

Insofar as indemnification by the Registrant for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that:
(1) For purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this Registration Statement in reliance
upon Rule 430A and contained in a form of prospectus filed by the Registrant pursuant to Rule \(424(\mathrm{~b})(1)\) or (4) or \(497(\mathrm{~h})\) under the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of this Registration Statement as of the time it was declared effective.
(2) For the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

\section*{SIGNATURES}

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of West Point, Georgia on March 22, 2001.

Charter Financial Corp.
/s/ Robert L. Johnson
By: Robert L. Johnson
President and Chief Executive Officer

\section*{POWER OF ATTORNEY}

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Robert L. Johnson, as their true and lawful attorney-in-fact in any and agent, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities to sign the Form S-1 Registration Statement and any and all amendments thereto, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto each said attorney-in-fact and agent full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in-fact and agent, or either one of his or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and any rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, this Registration Statement, has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Name Title
----
/s/ John W. Johnson, Jr.
Chairman of the Board
March 22, 2001
```


[^0]:    (1) Loans are shown net of deferred loan fees and allowance for loan losses and excludes loans held for sale.
    (2) Includes all CharterBank investment securities available for sale excluding Freddie Mac common stock.
    (3) Excludes dividends on Freddie Mac common stock.
    (4) Includes gain recognized of $\$ 34.5$ million on sale of 570,000 shares of Freddie Mac common stock.
    (5) Consists of unrealized holding gains or losses on Freddie Mac common stock, investments, mortgage-backed securities, and collateralized mortgage obligations classified as available-for-sale, net of income taxes.
    (6) Consists of net income for the period plus other comprehensive income (loss).

[^1]:    we will sell all shares of common stock in the subscription offering;

