FIRST MERCHANTS CORP Form 10-Q May 10, 2010

FORM 10-Q SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

[x] QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15 (d) OF THE

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2010

OR

[] TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15 (d) OF THE

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Transition Period from ______ to _____

Commission File Number 0-17071

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Indiana 35-1544218 (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

200 East Jackson Street, Muncie, IN 47305-2814 (Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code): (765) 747-1500

Not Applicable

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15 (d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes [X] No [1]

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

Yes [] No []

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definition of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one): Large accelerated filer [] Accelerated filer [] Non-accelerated filer [] (Do not check if smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company []

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes [] No [X]

As of April 30, 2010, there were 25,522,494 outstanding common shares, of the registrant.

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FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION FORM 10Q

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED BALANCE SHEETS (Dollars in thousands)

CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED BALANCE SHEETS

CONSOLIDATED CONDUCTION DIRECTOR STEELINGS STEELINGS		December
	March 31,	31,
	2010	2009
	(Unaudited)	2009
ASSETS	(Character)	
Cash and due from banks	\$52,679	\$76,801
Federal funds sold	7,044	102,346
Cash and cash equivalents	59,723	179,147
Interest-bearing time deposits	157,735	74,025
Investment securities available for sale	475,596	413,607
Investment securities held to maturity	163,485	149,510
Mortgage loans held for sale	3,646	8,036
Loans, net of allowance for loan losses of \$88,568 and \$92,131	3,045,972	3,177,657
Premises and equipment	54,431	55,804
Federal Reserve and Federal Home Loan Bank stock	36,721	38,576
Interest receivable	19,532	20,818
Core deposit intangibles	16,175	17,383
Goodwill	141,357	141,357
Cash surrender value of life insurance	95,146	94,636
Other real estate owned	18,268	14,879
Tax asset, deferred and receivable	59,190	64,394
Other assets	28,889	31,123
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,375,866	\$4,480,952
LIABILITIES		
Deposits:		
Noninterest-bearing	\$520,551	\$516,487
Interest-bearing	2,877,235	3,020,049
Total Deposits	3,397,786	3,536,536
Borrowings:		
Securities sold under repurchase agreements	112,826	125,687
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	123,261	129,749
Subordinated debentures, revolving credit lines and term loans	194,794	194,790
Total Borrowings	430,881	450,226
Interest payable	4,812	5,711
Other liabilities	53,446	24,694
Total Liabilities	3,886,925	4,017,167
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES		
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Preferred Stock, no-par value:		
Authorized 500,000 shares		
Series A, Issued and outstanding - 116,000 shares	112,559	112,373

Cumulative Preferred Stock, \$1,000 par value, \$1,000 liquidation value:		
Authorized 600 shares		
Issued and outstanding 125 shares	125	125
Common Stock, \$.125 stated value:		
Authorized 50,000,000 shares		
Issued and outstanding - 25,495,550 and 21,227,741 shares	3,187	2,653
Additional paid-in capital	230,764	206,600
Retained earnings	150,595	150,860
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(8,289)	(8,826)
Total Stockholders' Equity	488,941	463,785
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	\$4,375,866	\$4,480,952

See notes to consolidated condensed financial statements.

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION FORM 10Q

CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts) (Unaudited)

CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

	Three Months Ended			
	March 31,			
	2010		2009	
INTEREST INCOME				
Loans receivable:				
Taxable	\$45,448	\$	553,793	
Tax exempt	277		215	
Investment securities:				
Taxable	2,891		3,763	
Tax exempt	2,646		1,769	
Federal funds sold	17		12	
Deposits with financial institutions	60		102	
Federal Reserve and Federal Home Loan Bank stock	360		473	
Total Interest Income	51,699		60,127	
INTEREST EXPENSE				
Deposits	11,495		16,711	
Federal funds purchased			22	
Securities sold under repurchase agreements	499		467	
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	1,564		2,949	
Subordinated debentures, revolving credit lines and term loans	1,926		1,479	
Total Interest Expense	15,484		21,628	
NET INTEREST INCOME	36,215		38,499	
Provision for loan losses	13,869		12,921	
NET INTEREST INCOME AFTER PROVISION FOR LOAN LOSSES	22,346		25,578	
OTHER INCOME				
Service charges on deposit accounts	3,262		3,542	
Fiduciary activities	2,060		2,059	
Other customer fees	2,498		2,003	
Commission income	1,989		2,059	
Earnings on cash surrender value of life insurance	508		323	
Net gains and fees on sales of loans	1,149		1,430	
Net realized gains on sales of available for sale securities	1,842		2,792	
Other-than-temporary impairment on available for sale securities	(1,179)	(478)
Portion of loss recognized in other comprehensive income before taxes	691			
Net impairment losses recognized in earnings	(488)	(478)
Other income	144		741	
Total Other Income	12,964		14,471	
OTHER EXPENSES				
Salaries and employee benefits	17,562		20,015	
Net occupancy	2,851		2,569	
Equipment	1,853		1,876	
* *	*		•	

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Marketing	429	549
Outside data processing fees	1,280	1,933
Printing and office supplies	318	363
Core deposit amortization	1,207	1,277
FDIC assessments	1,722	576
Other expenses	7,418	5,556
Total Other Expenses	34,640	34,714
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAX	670	5,335
Income tax expense (benefit)	(916) 1,218
NET INCOME	1,586	4,117
Preferred stock dividends and discount accretion	1,450	628
NET INCOME AVAILABLE TO COMMON STOCKHOLDERS	\$136	\$3,489
Per Share Data:		
Basic Net Income Available to Common Stockholders	\$0.01	\$0.17
Diluted Net Income Available to Common Stockholders	\$0.01	\$0.17
Cash Dividends Paid	\$0.01	\$0.23
Average Diluted Shares Outstanding (in thousands)	21,462	21,093

See notes to consolidated condensed financial statements.

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION FORM 10Q

CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (Dollars in thousands) (Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended March 31,		
	2010		
Net income	\$1,586	\$4,117	
Other comprehensive income (losses) net of tax:			
Unrealized holding gain on securities available for sale arising during the period, net of			
income tax expense of \$(994) and \$(874)	1,846	1,622	
Unrealized loss on securities available for sale for which a			
portion of an other-than-temporary impairment has been			
Recognized in income, net of tax benefit of \$243 and \$0	(452)	
Unrealized losses on cash flow hedges:			
Unrealized losses arising during the period, net of			
income tax benefit of \$0 and \$926		(1,388)
Amortization of items previously recorded in accumulated			
other comprehensive income (losses), net of income tax			
(expense) benefit of \$(15) and \$469	23	(704)
Reclassification adjustment for gains (losses) included in net income			
net of income tax (expense) benefit of \$474 and \$(98)	(880)) 147	
	537	(323)
Comprehensive income	\$2,123	\$3,794	

The components of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), included in stockholders' equity, are as follows:

	March 31, 2010		
Net unrealized gain (loss) on securities available for sale	\$5,140	\$(625)
Net unrealized loss on securities available for sale for which a portion of an other-than-temporary impairment has been recognized in income	(452)	
Net unrealized gain on cash flow hedges		229	
Defined Benefit Plans	(12,977) (15,592)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	\$(8,289) \$(15,988)

See notes to consolidated condensed financial statements.

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION FORM 10Q

CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY (Dollars in thousands) (Unaudited)

CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

	March 31,		
	2010	2009	
Balances, January 1	\$463,785	\$395,903	
Net income	1,586	4,117	
Cash dividends on common stock	(215) (4,921)	
Cash dividends on preferred stock	(1,450)	
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax	537	(323)	
Stock issued under employee benefit plan	164		
Stock issued under dividend reinvestment and stock purchase plan	16	228	
Tax benefit (expense) from stock compensation	(48) 198	
Stock redeemed	(69) (190)	
Common stock issued	24,150		
Adjustment to Issuance of stock related to acquisition		(3,451)	
Warrants issued under Capital Purchase Program		4,169	
Cumulative preferred stock issued under Capital Purchase Program		111,831	
Share-based compensation	485	544	
Balances, March 31	\$488,941	\$508,105	

See notes to consolidated condensed financial statements.

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION FORM 10Q

CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(Dollars in thousands)

(Unaudited)

CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	March 31,			
	2010		2009	
Cash Flow From Operating Activities:				
Net income	\$1,586		\$4,117	
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:				
Provision for loan losses	13,869		12,921	
Depreciation and amortization	1,447		1,464	
Share-based compensation	485		544	
Tax expense (benefit) from stock compensation	48		(198)
Mortgage loans originated for sale	(37,492)	(59,335)
Proceeds from sales of mortgage loans	41,882		54,971	
Gains on sales of securities available for sale	1,842		2,791	
Recognized loss on other-than-temporary-impairment	(488)	(477)
Change in interest receivable	1,286		3,193	
Change in interest payable	(899)	(566)
Other adjustments	7,294		(24,211)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$30,860		\$(4,786)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:				
Net change in interest-bearing deposits	\$(83,710)	\$(119,472)
Purchases of:				
Securities available for sale	(95,265)	(32,190)
Securities held to maturity	(17,120)	(5,397)
Proceeds from sales of securities available for sale	42,743		47,480	
Proceeds from maturities of:				
Securities available for sale	20,757		26,894	
Securities held to maturity	2,825		8,019	
Change in Federal Reserve and Federal Home Loan Bank stock	1,855		(101)
Net change in loans	107,709		59,347	
Proceeds from the sale of other real estate owned	5,543		796	
Other adjustments	(74)	(771)
Net cash used in investing activities	\$(14,737)	\$(15,395)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities:				
Net change in:				
Demand and savings deposits	\$(41,836)	\$52,362	
Certificates of deposit and other time deposits	(96,914)	(86,208)
Borrowings	4		78,953	
Repayment of borrowings	(19,349)	(100,839)
Cash dividends on common stock	(215)	(4,921)
Cash dividends on preferred stock	(1,450)		
Stock issued in private equity placement	24,150			
Stock issued under dividend reinvestment and stock purchase plans	180		228	
Cumulative preferred stock issued			116,000	
Tax (expense) benefit from stock options exercised	(48)	198	

Stock redeemed	(69) (190)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	\$(135,547) \$55,583
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(119,424) 35,402
Cash and Cash Equivalents, January 1	179,147	150,486
Cash and Cash Equivalents, March 31	\$59,723	\$185,888
Additional cash flow information:		
Interest paid	\$16,383	\$22,194
Income tax refunded	\$(6,054)
Loans transferred to other real estate owned	\$10,107	\$4,569
Non-cash investing activities using trade date accounting	\$28,308	\$6,208

See notes to consolidated condensed financial statements.

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION FORM 10Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Table dollars in thousands) (Unaudited)

NOTE 1. General

Financial Statement Preparation

The significant accounting policies followed by First Merchants Corporation ("Corporation") and its wholly owned subsidiaries for interim financial reporting are consistent with the accounting policies followed for annual financial reporting. All adjustments, which are of a normal recurring nature and are in the opinion of management necessary for a fair statement of the results for the periods reported, have been included in the accompanying consolidated condensed financial statements.

The consolidated condensed balance sheet of the Corporation as of December 31, 2009 has been derived from the audited consolidated balance sheet of the Corporation as of that date. Certain information and note disclosures normally included in the Corporation's annual financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America have been condensed or omitted. These consolidated condensed financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in the Corporation's Form 10-K annual report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2010 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the year.

NOTE 2. Share-Based Compensation

Stock options and restricted stock awards ("RSAs") have been issued to directors, officers and other management employees under the Corporation's 1999 Long-term Equity Incentive Plan and the 2009 Long-term Equity Incentive Plan. The stock options, which have a ten-year life, become 100 percent vested ranging from three months to two years and are fully exercisable when vested. Option exercise prices equal the Corporation's common stock closing price on NASDAQ on the date of grant. RSAs provide for the issuance of shares of the Corporation's common stock at no cost to the holder and generally vest after three years. The RSAs vest only if the employee is actively employed by the Corporation on the vesting date and, therefore, any unvested shares are forfeited. Deferred stock units ("DSUs") have been credited to non-employee directors who have elected to defer payment of compensation under the Corporation's 2008 Equity Compensation Plan for Non-employee Directors. DSUs credited are equal to the restricted shares that the non-employee director would have received under the plan. As of March 31, 2010, there were 4,594 DSUs credited to the non-employee directors.

The Corporation's 2009 Employee Stock Purchase Plan ("ESPP") provides eligible employees of the Corporation and its subsidiaries an opportunity to purchase shares of common stock of the Corporation through quarterly offerings financed by payroll deductions. The price of the stock to be paid by the employees shall be equal to 85 percent of the average of the closing price of the Corporation's common stock on each trading day during the offering period. However, in no event shall such purchase price be less than the lesser of an amount equal to 85 percent of the market price of the Corporation's stock on the offering date or an amount equal to 85 percent of the market value on the date of purchase. Common stock purchases are made quarterly and are paid through advance payroll deductions up to a calendar year maximum of \$25,000.

Share-based compensation guidance requires the Corporation to record compensation expense related to unvested share-based awards by recognizing the unamortized grant date fair value of these awards over the remaining service periods of those awards, with no change in historical reported fair values and earnings. Awards are valued at fair value in accordance with provisions of share-based compensation guidance and are recognized on a straight-line basis over the service periods of each award. To complete the exercise of vested stock options, RSA's and ESPP options, the Corporation generally issues new shares from its authorized but unissued share pool. Share-based compensation for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009 were \$485,000 and \$544,000, respectively, and has been recognized as a component of salaries and benefits expense in the accompanying Consolidated Condensed Statements of Income.

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION FORM 10Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Table dollars in thousands)

(Unaudited)

NOTE 2. Share-Based Compensation continued

The estimated fair value of the stock options granted during 2010 and in prior years was calculated using a Black Scholes option pricing model. The following summarizes the assumptions used in the 2010 Black Scholes model:

Risk-free interest rate	2.38%
Expected price volatility	43.54%
Dividend yield	4.02%
Forfeiture rate	5.00%
Weighted-average expected life, until exercise	6.68 years

The Black Scholes model incorporates assumptions to value share-based awards. The risk-free rate of interest, for periods equal to the expected life of the option, is based on a U.S. government instrument over a similar contractual term of the equity instrument. Expected price volatility is based on historical volatility of the Corporation's common stock. In addition, the Corporation generally uses historical information to determine the dividend yield and weighted-average expected life of the options until exercise. Separate groups of employees that have similar historical exercise behavior with regard to option exercise timing and forfeiture rates are considered separately for valuation and attribution purposes.

Share-based compensation expense recognized in the Consolidated Condensed Statements of Operations is based on awards ultimately expected to vest and is reduced for estimated forfeitures. Share-based compensation guidance requires forfeitures to be estimated at the time of grant and revised, if necessary, in subsequent periods, if actual forfeitures differ from those estimates. Pre-vesting forfeitures were estimated to be approximately 5 percent for the three months ended March 31, 2010, based on historical experience.

The following table summarizes the components of the Corporation's share-based compensation awards recorded as expense:

	Three Months Ended		
	March 31,		
	2010	2009	
Stock and ESPP Options			
Pre-tax compensation expense	\$182	\$209	
Income tax benefit	(17) (19)
Stock and ESPP option expense, net of income taxes	\$165	\$190	
Restricted Stock Awards			
Pre-tax compensation expense	\$302	\$335	
Income tax benefit	(106) (121)
Restricted stock awards expense, net of income taxes	\$196	\$214	
Total Share-Based Compensation:			
Pre-tax compensation expense	\$485	\$544	
Income tax benefit	(123) (140)

Total share-based compensation expense, net of income taxes

\$362

\$404

As of March 31, 2010, unrecognized compensation expense related to stock options and RSAs totaling \$147,000 and \$302,000, respectively, is expected to be recognized over weighted-average periods of .98 and 2.11 years, respectively.

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION FORM 10Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Table dollars in thousands) (Unaudited)

NOTE 2. Share-Based Compensation continued

Stock option activity under the Corporation's stock option plans as of March 31, 2010 and changes during the three months ended March 31, 2010 were as follows:

	Number of Shares	Weighted-Ave Exercise Pric	•	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Outstanding at January 1, 2010	1,087,930	\$ 23.51		
Granted	35,000	\$ 5.89		
Exercised				