

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

Form 11-K

June 24, 2003

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

FORM 11-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number 0-12379

**First Financial Bancorp Thrift Plan and Trust**  
**300 High St.**  
**Hamilton, OH 45011**

First Financial Bancorp  
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Hamilton, OH 45011

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Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedules

First Financial Bancorp Thrift Plan and Trust

*Years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001  
with Report of Independent Auditors*

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First Financial Bancorp Thrift Plan and Trust

Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedules

Years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001

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Report of Independent Auditors

Thrift Plan and Trust Administrative Committee  
First Financial Bancorp

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the First Financial Bancorp Thrift Plan and Trust as of December 31, 2002 and 2001, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan'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. 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 net assets available for benefits of the First Financial Bancorp Thrift Plan and Trust at December 31, 2002 and 2001, and changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Our audits were performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental schedules of assets held as of December 31, 2002, and reportable transactions for the year then ended, are presented for the purposes of complying with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The Fund Information in the statement of net assets available for benefits and the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits is presented for purposes of additional analysis rather than to present the net assets available for benefits and changes in net assets available for benefits of each fund. The supplemental schedules and Fund Information have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Cincinnati, Ohio  
June 24, 2003

## First Financial Bancorp Thrift Plan and Trust

## Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits, with Fund Information

December 31, 2002

## Fund Information

	Savings Fund	Fixed Income Fund	Balanced Fund	Equity Fund	First Financial Bancorp Common Stock Fund	International Fund	Vanguard 500 Index Fund	Small Cap Fund	2002 Total
<b>Assets</b>									
Investments at fair value:									
Goldman Sachs Prime Corporate Money Fund	\$ 2,972,077	\$ 62,399	\$ 8,627	\$ 27,132	\$ 93,111	\$ 59,010	\$ 30,961	\$ 14,170	\$ 3,267,487
Fixed Income Fund Collective Investment Fund for Pension and Profit Sharing Trusts of First Financial Bank, National Association		2,631,818	1,078,234						3,710,052
Equity Fund Collective Investment Fund for Pension and Profit Sharing Trusts of First Financial Bank, National Association			1,596,896	4,639,635					6,236,531
First Financial Bancorp common stock					18,976,353				18,976,353
Manager International Equity Fund						164,324			164,324
T Rowe Price International Stock Fund						161,090			161,090
Templeton Foreign Fund-Class A						161,193			161,193
Vanguard 500 Index Fund							2,559,192		2,559,192
Neuberger and Berman Genesis Fund								428,665	428,665
Liberty Acorn Class Z								428,033	428,033
T Rowe Price New Horizons Fd								417,160	417,160
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>2,972,077</b>	<b>2,694,217</b>	<b>2,683,757</b>	<b>4,666,767</b>	<b>19,069,464</b>	<b>545,617</b>	<b>2,590,153</b>	<b>1,288,028</b>	<b>36,510,080</b>
<b>Receivables:</b>									

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Interest and dividends	3,375	70	23	31	174,309	54	26	18	177,906
Total Receivables	3,375	70	23	31	174,309	54	26	18	177,906
Cash	2,533	2,868	5,029	5,352	13,830	1,381	19,051	2,733	52,777
Total assets	2,977,985	2,697,155	2,688,809	4,672,150	19,257,603	547,052	2,609,230	1,290,779	36,740,763
<b>Liabilities</b>									
Excess contributions to participants					520				520
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 2,977,985	\$ 2,697,155	\$ 2,688,809	\$ 4,672,150	\$ 19,257,083	\$ 547,052	\$ 2,609,230	\$ 1,290,779	\$ 36,740,243

See accompanying notes.

## First Financial Bancorp Thrift Plan and Trust

## Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits, with Fund Information

December 31, 2001

## Fund Information

	Savings Fund	Fixed Income Fund	Balanced Fund	Equity Fund	First Financial Bancorp Common Stock Fund	International Fund	Vanguard 500 Index Fund	Small Cap Fund	2001 Total
<b>Assets</b>									
Investments at fair value:									
Goldman Sachs Prime Corporate Money Fund	\$ 2,776,965	\$ 63,317	\$ 36,535	\$ 88,601	\$ 150,624	\$ 29,291	\$ 75,442	\$ 69,688	\$ 3,290,463
Fixed Income Fund Collective Investment Fund for Pension and Profit Sharing Trusts of First Financial Bank, National Association		1,924,162	1,089,689						3,013,851
Equity Fund Collective Investment Fund for Pension and Profit Sharing Trusts of First Financial Bank, National Association			1,698,541	5,220,778					6,919,319
First Financial Bancorp common stock					23,249,409				23,249,409
Manager International Equity Fund						150,525			150,525
T Rowe Price International Stock Fund						143,201			143,201
Templeton Foreign Fund-Class A						184,176			184,176
Vanguard 500 Index Fund							2,665,985		2,665,985
Accessor Small Mid-Cap Fund								271,089	271,089
Liberty Acorn Class Z								262,725	262,725
T Rowe Price New Horizons Fd								266,694	266,694
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>2,776,965</b>	<b>1,987,479</b>	<b>2,824,765</b>	<b>5,309,379</b>	<b>23,400,033</b>	<b>507,193</b>	<b>2,741,427</b>	<b>870,196</b>	<b>40,417,437</b>
Receivables:	5,740	128	58	101	197,438	29	9,760	54	213,308



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Interest and dividends									
Total Receivables	5,740	128	58	101	197,438	29	9,760	54	213,308
Cash				40	154	50	121	81	446
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 2,782,705	\$ 1,987,607	\$ 2,824,823	\$ 5,309,520	\$ 23,597,625	\$ 507,272	\$ 2,751,308	\$ 870,331	\$ 40,631,191

*See accompanying notes.*

**First Financial Bancorp Thrift Plan and Trust**

**Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits, with Fund Information**

**December 31, 2002**

**Fund Information**

	<b>Savings Fund</b>	<b>Fixed Income Fund</b>	<b>Balanced Fund</b>	<b>Equity Fund</b>	<b>First Financial Bancorp Common Stock Fund</b>	<b>International Fund</b>	<b>Vanguard 500 Index Fund</b>	<b>Small Cap Fund</b>	<b>2002 Total</b>
Investment income:									
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	\$	\$205,886	\$(250,515)	\$(1,108,554)	\$(1,220,365)	\$(78,294)	\$(714,892)	\$(190,648)	\$(3,357,382)
Dividends					722,762	4,994	41,311		769,067