investor presentation

- Fourth Quarter 2025

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER EQUAL HOUSING LENDER FDIC

first financial bancorp

forward looking statements disclosure

Certain statements contained in this report which are not statements of historical fact constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Words such as ‘‘believes,’’ ‘‘anticipates,’’ “likely,” “expected,” “estimated,” ‘‘intends’’ and other similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements but are not the exclusive means of identifying such statements. Examples of forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements we make about (i) our future operating or financial performance, including revenues, income or loss and earnings or loss per share, (ii) future common stock dividends, (iii) our capital structure, including future capital levels, (iv) our plans, objectives and strategies, and (v) the assumptions that underlie our forward-looking statements.

As with any forecast or projection, forward-looking statements are subject to inherent uncertainties, risks and changes in circumstances that may cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are not historical facts but instead express only management’s beliefs regarding future results or events, many of which, by their nature, are inherently uncertain and outside of management’s control. It is possible that actual results and outcomes may differ, possibly materially, from the anticipated results or outcomes indicated in these forward-looking statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in our forward-looking statements include the following, without limitation:

- economic, market, liquidity, credit, interest rate, operational and technological risks associated with the Company’s business;
- future credit quality and performance, including our expectations regarding future loan losses and our allowance for credit losses;
- the effect of and changes in policies and laws or regulatory agencies, including the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and other legislation and regulation relating to the banking industry; (iv) management’s ability to effectively execute its business plans;
- mergers and acquisitions, including costs or difficulties related to the integration of acquired companies;
- the possibility that any of the anticipated benefits of the Company’s acquisitions will not be realized or will not be realized within the expected time period;
- the effect of changes in accounting policies and practices;
- changes in consumer spending, borrowing and saving and changes in unemployment;
- changes in customers’ performance and creditworthiness;
- the costs and effects of litigation and of unexpected or adverse outcomes in such litigation;
- current and future economic and market conditions, including the effects of changes in housing prices, fluctuations in unemployment rates, U.S. fiscal debt, budget and tax matters, geopolitical matters, trade and tariff policies, and any slowdown in global economic growth;
- our capital and liquidity requirements (including under regulatory capital standards, such as the Basel III capital standards) and our ability to generate capital internally or raise capital on favorable terms;

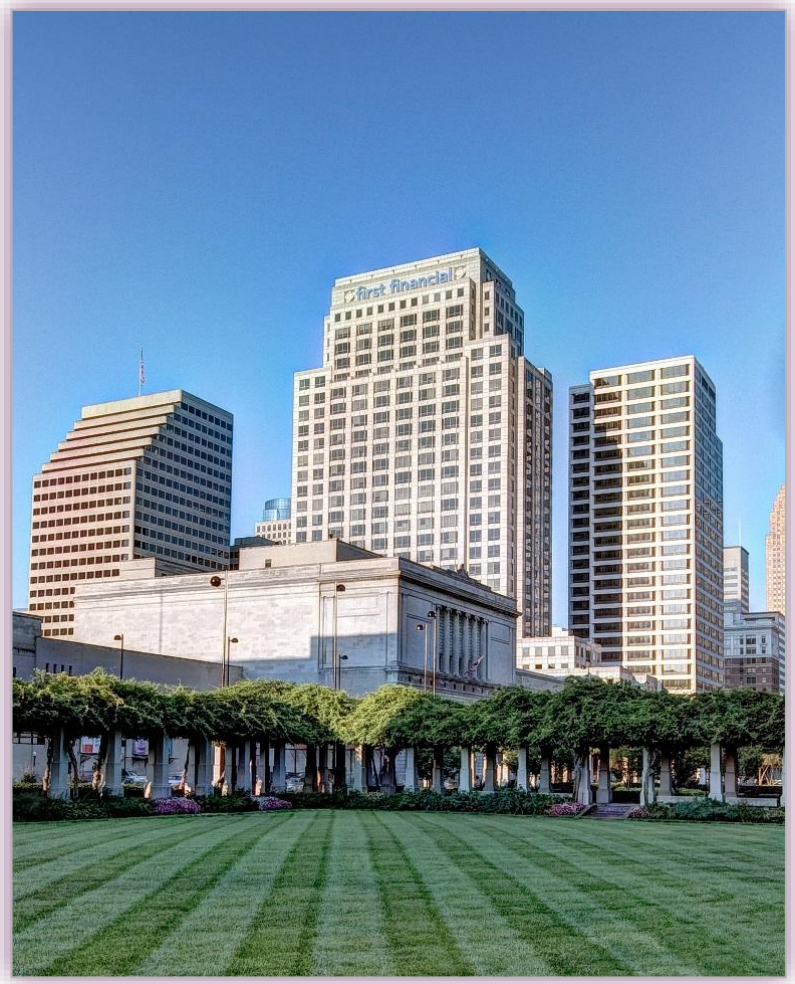
forward looking statements disclosure

- financial services reform and other current, pending or future legislation or regulation that could have a negative effect on our revenue and businesses, including the Dodd-Frank Act and other legislation and regulation relating to bank products and services;
- the effect of the current interest rate environment or changes in interest rates or in the level or composition of our assets or liabilities on our net interest income, net interest margin and our mortgage originations, mortgage servicing rights and mortgage loans held for sale;
- the effect of a fall in stock market prices on our brokerage, asset and wealth management businesses;
- a failure in or breach of our operational or security systems or infrastructure, or those of our third-party vendors or other service providers, including as a result of cyber attacks;
- the effect of changes in the level of checking or savings account deposits on our funding costs and net interest margin; and
- our ability to develop and execute effective business plans and strategies.

Additional factors that may cause our actual results to differ materially from those described in our forward-looking statements can be found in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2024, as well as our other filings with the SEC, which are available on the SEC website at www.sec.gov.

All forward-looking statements included in this filing are made as of the date hereof and are based on information available at the time of the filing. Except as required by law, the Company does not assume any obligation to update any forward-looking statement.

presentation contents



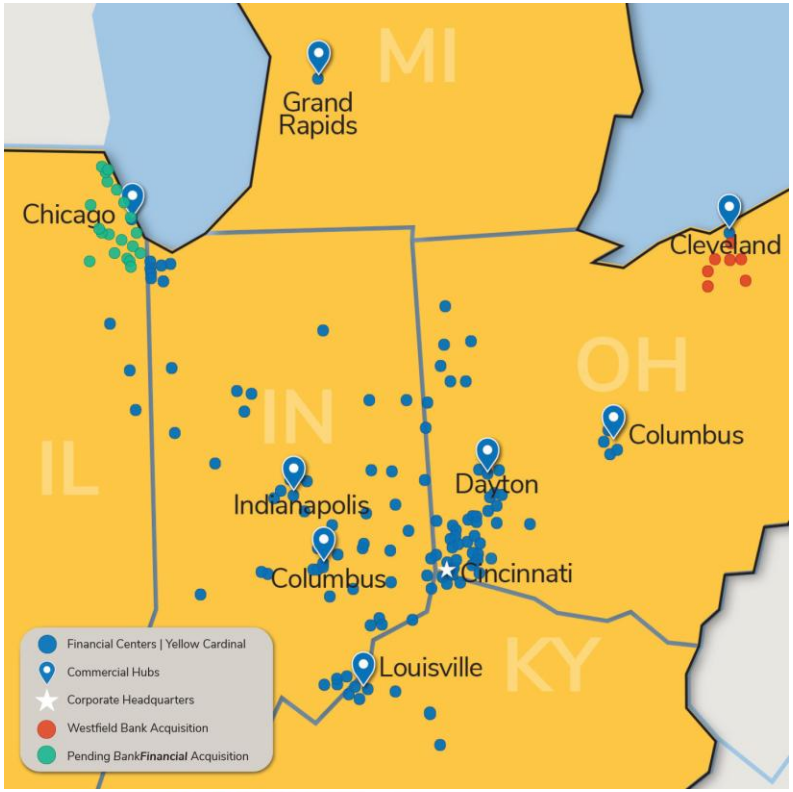
About First Financial Bancorp

Acquisitions

Financial Performance

Appendix

our franchise







$21.1B
in assets[1]

$13.4B/$16.4B
loans / deposits[1]

$5.7B
wealth AUA[1,2]

2.14%
4Q Adj. PTPP ROAA[3]

- NASDAQ: **FFBC**
- Headquarters: **Cincinnati, Ohio**
- Founded: **1863**
- Banking Centers: **134**[1]
- Employees: **2,164**[1]
- Market Cap (12/31/25): **$2.5B**
- Dividend Yield (12/31/25): **4.0%**
- CET1 Ratio: **11.32%**[1]

Lines of Business

Commercial
C&I, O-CRE, Treasury, ABL, ESOP, Equipment Finance, Bannockburn Global Forex

Retail Banking
Consumer, Small Business

Mortgage Banking

Wealth Management / Affluent Banking

Investment Commercial Real Estate

Commercial Finance
Oak Street Funding / Franchise
Summit Funding Group
Agile Premium Finance

first financial bancorp

[1] Data as of 12/31/25 and excludes the impact of BankFinancial acquisition.
[2] Includes brokerage assets under care.
[3] Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliation.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER EQUAL HOUSING LENDER FDIC

key investment highlights

- ✓ **Proven & sustainable business model for more than 160 years**
  - Conservative operating philosophy with 141 consecutive quarters of profitability
  - Well managed through past credit cycles
- ✓ **Premier Midwest franchise with top quartile profitability**
  - Top quartile ROA, ROATCE, NIM and fee income as a percentage of revenue[1]
- ✓ **High quality balance sheet & robust capital position**
  - Low loan / deposit ratio and ~11% CET1 ratio as of 12/31/25[2]
- ✓ **Prudent risk management & credit culture with strong asset quality**
  - Top quartile ACL coverage and low NPAs[1]
- ✓ **Track record of well-executed acquisitions with well-defined M&A strategy**
  - Includes both bank and non-bank acquisitions
- ✓ **Strategically distinct**
  - Local banking centered in legacy markets with a focus on growing core deposits
  - Sophisticated commercial and wealth banking model that positions us to be the alternative to “Big Banks”
  - National strategy that adds diverse fee streams while also complementing our Commercial Bank offerings
- ✓ **Experienced and proven management team**

[1] Profitability metrics measured against the KBW Nasdaq Regional Bank Index (“KRX”) as of or for the quarter ending 9/30/25.
[2] Data as of 12/31/25 and excludes the impact of BankFinancial acquisition.

a long history of growth

6 Bank Acquisitions

4 Non-Bank Acquisitions

2014
First Financial acquires
Insight Bank, First Bexley Bank and The Guernsey Bank
(Combined assets of ~$700M)
(Banks – OH)

2015
First Financial acquires
Oak Street Funding
(Specialty Lender)

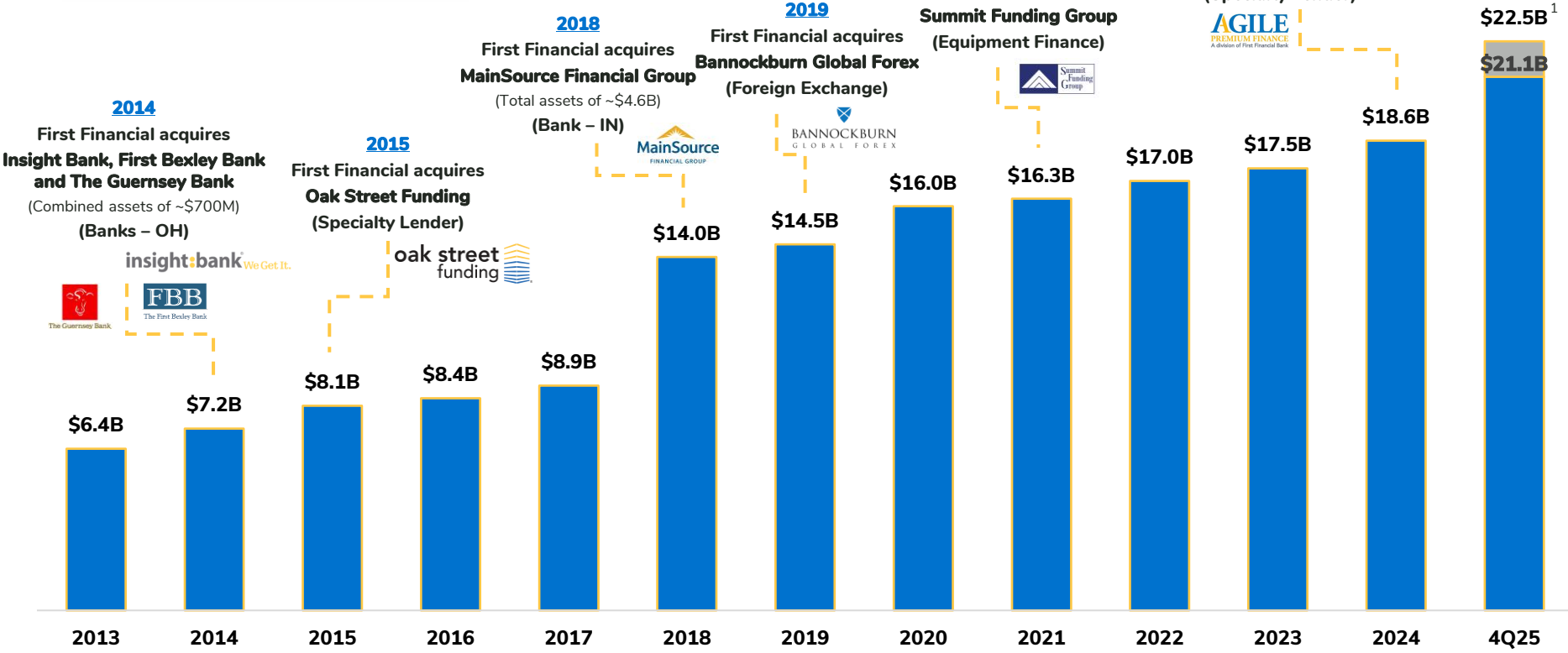
2018
First Financial acquires
MainSource Financial Group
(Total assets of ~$4.6B)
(Bank – IN)

2019
First Financial acquires
Bannockburn Global Forex
(Foreign Exchange)

2021
First Financial acquires
Summit Funding Group
(Equipment Finance)

2024
First Financial acquires
Agile Premium Finance
(Specialty Lender)

2025
First Financial acquires
Westfield Bancorp
and announces acquisition of
BankFinancial
(Combined assets of ~$3.5B)
(Banks – OH/IL)



[1] Pro forma including BankFinancial.
Note: Excludes ~$4 million acquisition of Brady Ware Capital in 2023.

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER · EQUAL HOUSING LENDER · FDIC

a top quartile performer

☑ *Indicates 3Q25 Peer Top Quartile* ☑ *Indicates 3Q25 Peer Median*

		KRX Constituents			first financial bancorp		
		Bottom Quartile	Median	Top Quartile	3Q25	4Q25	
Top Quartile & Diversified Profitability	ROAA[1]	1.03%	1.25%	1.44%	1.55%	1.52%	☑
	ROATCE[1]	13.3%	14.9%	16.9%	19.3%	20.3%	☑
	Net Interest Margin	3.25%	3.47%	3.80%	4.02%	3.98%	☑
	Noninterest Income / Net Revenue[1]	13.6%	18.1%	22.1%	31.4%	30.8%	☑
Liquid Balance Sheet With Strong Credit and Capital	Loans + HTM / Deposits	97%	92%	86%	82%	82%	☑
	Cash + AFS Securities / Assets	14%	16%	21%	22%	22%	☑
	ACL / Gross Loans	1.07%	1.22%	1.35%	1.38%	1.39%	☑
	NPAs / Assets	0.64%	0.50%	0.36%	0.41%	0.48%	☑
	CET1 Ratio	11.2%	12.1%	13.7%	12.9%	11.3%	☑
	Total RBC Ratio	14.1%	14.8%	16.0%	15.3%	15.5%	☑
	Consolidated CRE / RBC	268%	213%	181%	186%		☑

[1] First Financial's ratios are non-GAAP financial measures which management believes facilitate a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliations.
Source: S&P Capital IQ Pro. All data calculated as of or for the quarter ending 9/30/25 unless otherwise noted.
Excludes the impact of the BankFinancial acquisition.

consistent best-in-class earnings

	Return on Average Assets		Return on Tangible Common Equity		Earnings Per Share Growth	
	FIRST first financial bancorp	KRX Top Quartile[1]	FIRST first financial bancorp	KRX Top Quartile[1]	FIRST first financial bancorp	KRX Median[1]
1-Year	1.40% ✓ *88% Percentile Rank*	1.30%	18.0% ✓ *93% Percentile Rank*	14.7%	16% ✓ *58% Percentile Rank*	14%
3-Year	1.43% ✓ *90% Percentile Rank*	1.23%	20.5% ✓ *95% Percentile Rank*	15.6%	9% ✓ *79% Percentile Rank*	2%
5-Year	1.36% ✓ *85% Percentile Rank*	1.31%	19.2% ✓ *99% Percentile Rank*	16.0%	11% ✓ *64% Percentile Rank*	7%
10-Year	1.29% ✓ *82% Percentile Rank*	1.24%	17.1% ✓ *95% Percentile Rank*	14.8%	8% ✓ *70% Percentile Rank*	6%

1 KRX calculated as the top quartile or median of the current 50 KRX constituents.
Source: S&P Capital IQ Pro. All data calculated as of or for the period ending 9/30/25 for comparability purposes.

FIRST first financial bancorp

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER EQUAL HOUSING LENDER FDIC

key company brands

Diversified financial holding company with comprehensive and innovative solutions for individuals and businesses

first financial bank

Full suite of diversified financial products for individuals and businesses

$21.1 Billion
Assets

$16.4 Billion
Deposits

yellow CARDINAL ADVISORY GROUP

a first financial company

Wealth & asset management services for individuals and businesses

$5.7 Billion
Assets Under Care

$32.7 Million
LTM Revenue

$374 Million
LTM Wealth Advisory Sales

BANNOCKBURN GLOBAL FOREX

Foreign currency advisory, hedge analytics, and transaction processing for closely held enterprises

11 Offices
Across the U.S.

$65.7 Million
LTM Revenue

oak street funding

Specialty lender to insurance industry, RIAs, CPAs

$725 Million
Loans

$120 Million
Deposits

$154 Million
LTM Originations

SUMMIT Funding Group

a first financial bank company

Full-service equipment financing company

$1.3 Billion
Leases/Loans

$491 Million
LTM Originations

$80.0 Million
LTM Fee Income

AGILE PREMIUM FINANCE

A division of First Financial Bank

Specialty lender for commercial customers to finance insurance premiums

High Yielding and High Quality Portfolio

$234 Million
Loans

$563 Million
LTM Originations

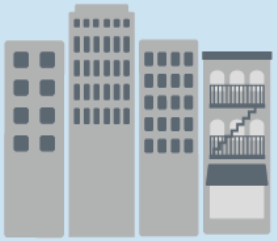
first financial bancorp

Note: Data as of or for the period ending 12/31/25 and excludes the impact of BankFinancial acquisition.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER EQUAL HOUSING LENDER FDIC

complementary market centric strategies

METRO MARKETS



Louisville, KY
Columbus, OH
Indianapolis, IN
Dayton, OH
Cleveland, OH
Chicago, IL
Grand Rapids, MI

▼ Low brand awareness
Low market share

Loans $5.0B / Deposits $4.0B

- Build relationships through becoming the Premier Business Bank
- Bank the business, the business owners and the employees
- Leads to targeted growth across all business lines

COMMUNITY MARKETS



Southern IN
South Central IN
Northwest IN
Northern OH

▲ High brand awareness
High market share

Loans $1.9B / Deposits $5.1B

- Deepen relationships
- Expand product offering
- Word-of-mouth referrals
- Leads to organic growth

HEADQUARTERS



Greater Cincinnati
Northern KY

4th in market share
All business lines represented

Loans $4.3B / Deposits $7.0B

- Significant branch network
- Alternative to larger banks
- Mass player, based on brand, reputation and legacy
- Visible presence
- Large associate population

NATIONAL



Industry Specific

▶ Niche offering

Loans $2.4B / Deposits $0.3B

- Oak Street Funding
- First Franchise Capital
- Bannockburn Global Forex
- Summit Funding Group
- Agile Premium Finance

Note: Financial data as of 12/31/25. Greater Cincinnati/Dayton loan and deposit balances include large public fund relationships, special assets, loan marks, and other out of market and corporately held balances.

diversified lines of business

FIRST first financial bank

Go-to-Market Strategies

Note: Data as of 12/31/25 and excludes the impact of Westfield Bank and BankFinancial acquisitions.

COMMERCIAL BANKING

Vision
To be known and operate as the Premier Business Bank and to provide banking solutions to the business, to the owner(s) and to their employees.

Target Audience
- High Demander
- $10MM-100MM Sales Revenue
- 50+ Employees

Current Portfolio

Relationships	4,796
Commitments	$4.5B
Balances	$2.7B
Business Deposits	$2.3B
Pub Fund Deposits	$2.0B

Value Proposition
We offer the products of our large regional competitors and, through personal relationship building, we become their trusted financial partner.

Business Line Goals
- Loan Growth
- Deposit Growth
- Fee Revenue
- Added new Forex product line through Bannockburn acquisition

RETAIL BANKING

Vision
Achieve organic growth by creating long-lasting relationships by finding ways to help our clients succeed.

Target Audience
- Consumers
- Small Business

Goals
- Core Deposit Growth
- Client Retention
- Share of Wallet
- Business Banking

Value Proposition
Centers on our ability to remain relevant and offer the products and services that our larger competitors do, but with a level of client intimacy that is difficult for larger competitors to sustain. Our clients look to us as their partner, and we will seek to provide them every product and service that they need—but nothing that they don't.

Current Portfolio

	Consumer	Business	Pub Funds
Number of Clients	300,389	33,880	
Total Deposit Balance	$6.6B	$1.5B	$0.1B
Total Loan Balance	$1.1B	$0.4B	

MORTGAGE

Vision
To be known as a premier mortgage lender in our communities by leveraging our relationships, exceptional client service and a comprehensive selection of product options to assist our clients in obtaining their dream of homeownership.

Target Audience
Clients looking to purchase or refinance a home less than $2.5MM

Current State
- Qtr Orig Volume $240MM
- Avg loan size $295K

Business Objectives
- Grow the business
- Focus on CRA
- Regulatory Compliance
- Customer Satisfaction

Value Proposition
A team of mortgage experts that deliver a fast, consistent experience for our clients by offering a suite of products to meet the needs of all client segments.

WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Vision
Utilize a holistic wealth management approach to grow, preserve and protect client wealth.

Target Audience

Mass Affluent:	$150-$499K HH income $250K-$1MM in AUM
High Net Worth:	$500K+ HH Income $1MM-$10MM in AUM
Plan Sponsors:	$1-$20MM Plan Size 100+ Participants

Value Proposition
- Convenient and efficient venue to comprehensively address all financial/banking needs
- Investment Management Process
- Expertise - Trust, Estate, Financial Planning, RPS
- Best in Class Brokerage Platform

Current Portfolio

	Relationships	Assets
Trust & Investments	2,747	$3.6B
Brokerage	4,974	$1.8B
RPS	78	$0.3B

Business Line Goals
- AUM Growth
- New Client Acquisition
- Maintain Top Quartile Investment Outcomes

INVESTMENT COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

Vision
To be recognized by professional developers and investors as the market leader. Through constant monitoring and application of our strategy we will build a high performing portfolio with acceptable risk and excellent financial returns.

Current Portfolio

Central & Northern OH	$0.8B
Southern OH	$1.6B
Indiana	$0.5B
Healthcare	$0.3B
Small Exposure	$0.1B
Affordable	$0.1B

Business Line Goals
- Loan Growth
- Swap Revenue
- Deposit Growth

Target Audience
Professional investors/developers with proven track-record to weather down-cycles

COMMERCIAL FINANCE

Vision
To be the market leader in client experience for commercial financing by delivering unique and diverse product offerings through cutting-edge technology and exceptional client service.

Target Audience
- Insurance Businesses
- Registered Investment Advisors
- Multi-Unit Restaurant Franchisees
- Certified Public Accountants
- Commercial Automotive Portfolios
- Clients looking for Equipment Leasing and Financing Expertise
- Commercial customers with insurance premium financing needs

Current Portfolio

Oak Street Funding	$0.7B
First Franchise Capital	$0.2B
Summit Funding Group[1]	$1.3B
Agile Premium Finance	$0.2B

[1] Includes operating leases

Business Line Goals
- Portfolio Growth
- Revenue Growth

Value Proposition
Fulfill the unique financing needs of our customers while providing extraordinary service and industry expertise

revenue growth strategies

LOB | Go-to-Market

Product & Pricing

- Regional pricing strategy
- Treasury Management product investments
- Investments in Product Management

Talent Expansion

- Up-Market Commercial talent acquisition
- Added new commercial sales talent to Chicago, Cleveland, Evansville, and Grand Rapids
- Added talent in Wealth Mgmt.:
  - Succession planning
  - Investment banking
  - Fixed income

Client Experience

- Improved Cash Management Platform
- Improved Online Banking Product
- Blend – Mortgage Origination
- nCino – Commercial loan origination and online account opening

Distribution

Defined Models

- Community
- Metro
- Headquarters
- National

Capacity Plans

- Increased physical distribution network
- Closed 72 locations in last 7 years[1]
- Aligned sales teams to distribution models

Expanded Capabilities

- Acquired Bannockburn providing foreign exchange services
- Rollout of "in-house" derivatives desk capabilities
- Investment in Wealth Mgmt.:
  - Business succession
  - Fixed income strategies
  - Alternative investments
  - Improved digital platform
- Acquired Summit providing significant improvement to lease product offering
- Acquired Brady Ware Capital specializing in investment banking for mid-sized businesses
- Acquired Agile providing insurance premium financing capabilities

Technology

Enterprise Data Management

- Investment in data warehouse
- Enabling data as a strategic asset
- Connection into CRM platform

Enterprise CRM

- Company-wide implementation of Salesforce
- Marketing automation and sales enablement program development
- Sales Management
- Operational Integration

Digital Transformation

- Roadmap Creation
- Increased Resource Allocation
- Enhanced Client Experience

Talent

Staffing Model

- Defined company FTE targets
- Larger salesforce in targeted Lines of Business

Culture

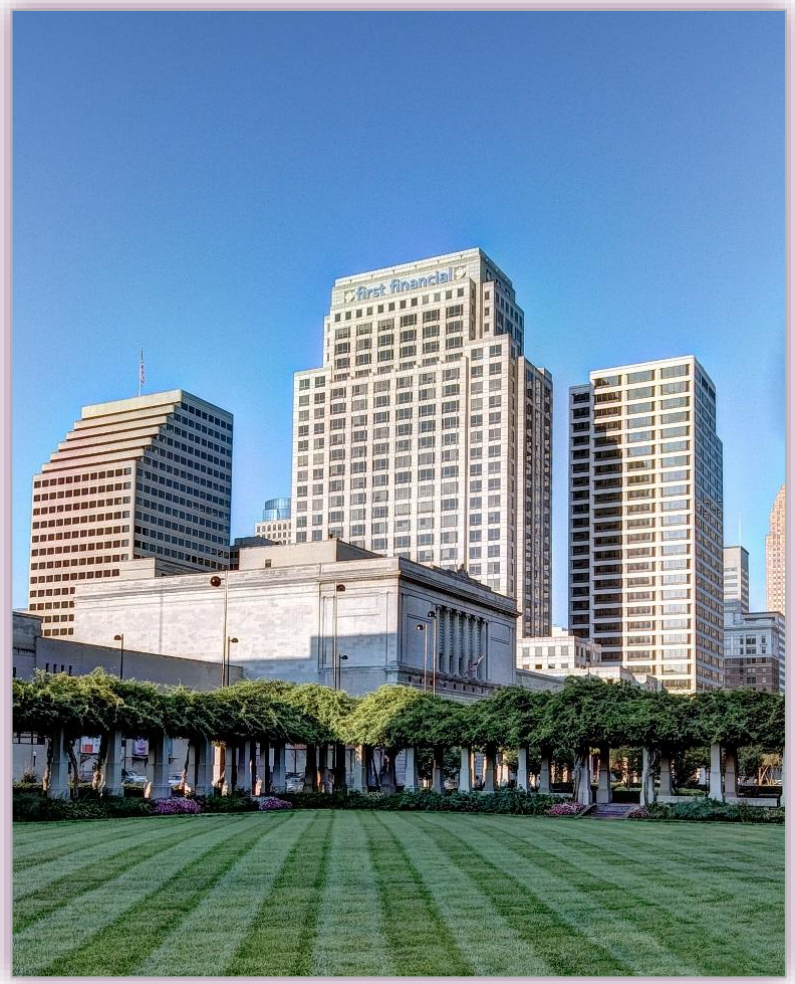
- Excellence
- Client first
- Associate engagement:
  - Top quartile engagement across financial services companies
  - Focus on well-being
- Commitment to the communities we serve

FIRST
first financial bancorp

[1] Post MainSource merger

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER EQUAL HOUSING LENDER FDIC

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About First Financial Bancorp

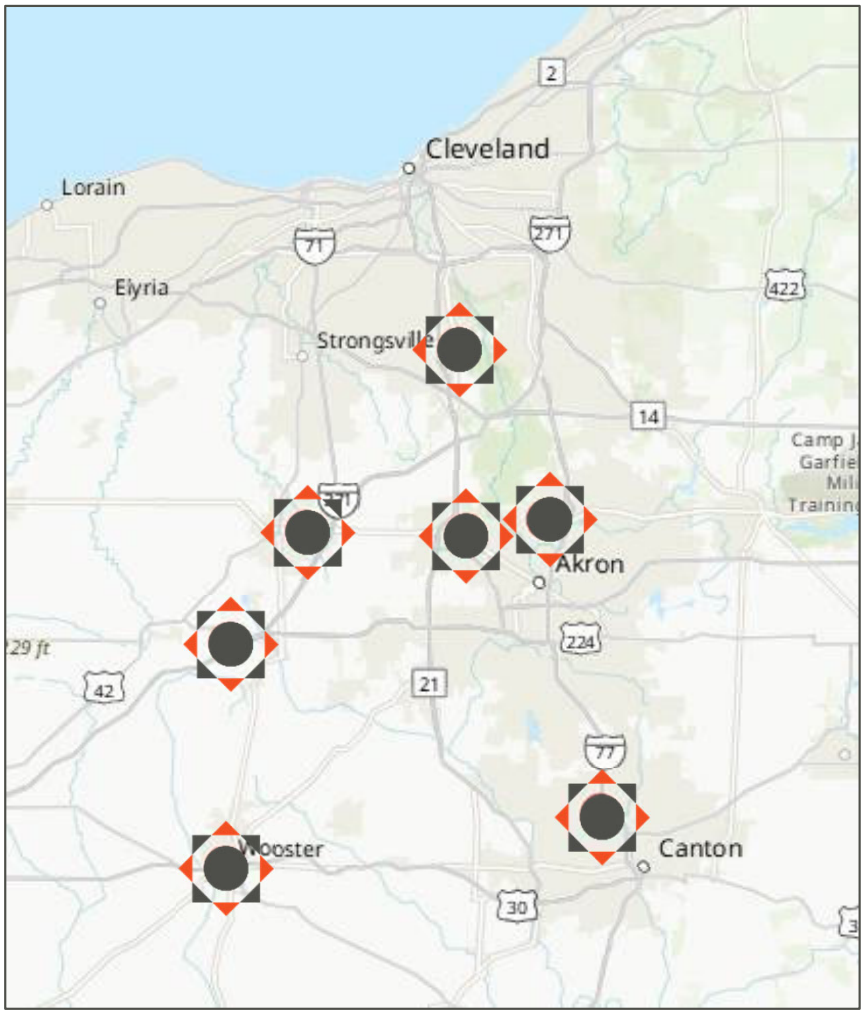
Acquisitions

Financial Performance

Appendix

overview of Westfield – closed 11/1/25

WESTFIELD BANK



Consolidated Financial Highlights as of November 1, 2025

$2.1B
in assets

$1.6B
in loans

$1.8B
in deposits

Headquarters:	Westfield Center, OH
Branches:	7 Active (1 Pending)
Employees:	169

- Westfield Bancorp, the holding company for Westfield Bank, FSB ("Westfield Bank"), was 100% owned by Ohio Farmers Insurance Company ("OFIC") (d/b/a Westfield), a mutual insurance company founded in 1848.

Westfield Bank Lines of Business

- Commercial Banking / Treasury Management
- Agency Banking and Premium Finance
- Registered Investment Advisor Banking
- Consumer - Retail
- Consumer - Mortgage
- Private Banking

transaction highlights

Strategically Compelling

- Accelerates entry into Northeast Ohio.
- Provides attractive deposit base, branch network and commercial client base in a market with limited acquisition targets.
- Adds talented staff in Retail, Commercial, Mortgage and Private Banking.
- Adds talent, loans and deposits in Specialty Business Lines that match current lines (Premium Finance, Insurance Agency and RIA Banking).
- Highly efficient branch network with average deposits per branch >$250 million[1].

Financially Attractive

- Expected enhanced pro forma earnings per share.
- Pay-to-trade ratio of 0.87x.

Low Integration Risk

- Adds $2.1 billion in assets, 10% of pro forma assets.
- Low credit risk profile with minimal charge-offs.
- Strong cultural alignment, community centric, deep expertise in Commercial and Specialty Business Lines.
- Complementary credit culture and credit administration.

Source: S&P Capital IQ Pro.

[1] Based on Westfield Bancorp's $1.8 billion in total deposits as of September 30, 2025, divided by seven branches.

overview of BankFinancial – closed 1/1/26

Overview of BankFinancial

Total Assets	$1.4Bn
Total Deposits	$1.2Bn
Headquarters	Burr Ridge, Illinois
Year Founded	1924
Branches	17 Full-Service Retail Branches
Ticker	BFIN (NASDAQ-Listed)

Key franchise highlights

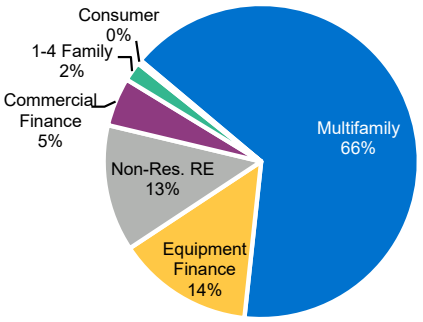
1. Attractive low cost, core deposit franchise
2. Significant scarcity value in Chicago MSA
3. Strong capitalization and excess liquidity profile
4. Limited borrowings and no brokered deposits
5. Robust credit quality and underwriting philosophy

Financial summary

Balance Sheet & Capital (As of 4Q25 Unless Otherwise Stated, %)	
Cash & Securities / Assets	46
Loan / Deposit Ratio	58
Non-Time Deposit Composition	78
TCE / TA	11.2
CET1 Ratio[1]	21.1
NCOs / Avg. Loans (MRQ, annualized)	(0.01)
Profitability – (4Q25, %)	
Return on Avg. Assets	0.06
Net Interest Margin	3.23
Efficiency Ratio	96
Fee Income Ratio	11

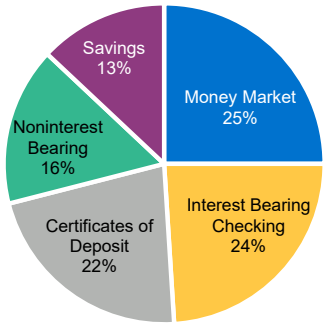
Loan & Deposit composition

Loan composition



Loans: $700.2 million
Yield on Loans: 5.22%

Deposit composition



Deposits: $1.2 billion
Cost of Deposits: 1.45%

[1] Data for the quarter ended 9/30/25
Note: All consolidated financial data as of 4Q25 unless otherwise noted

transaction highlights

Strategically expands presence in economically robust Chicago market with strong core deposit franchise



- ✓ Acquisition of a low cost, granular core deposit franchise with $1.5Bn of assets and +100 year presence in Chicago market
- ✓ Complementary to existing Northwest Indiana presence, Chicago Commercial LPO, Agile Premium Finance headquarters and Bannockburn FX office
- ✓ Well-priced expansion opportunity at 0.91x Price / TBV and (1.2)% Core Deposit Premium

Financially attractive with expected enhanced financial benefits



- ✓ Expected enhanced pro forma earnings per share
- ✓ Expected robust pro forma profitability

Significant excess capital and liquidity – incremental excess funding capacity expected to be created with efficient balance sheet repositioning



- ✓ Ability to leverage BankFinancial's significant excess capital and liquidity for future growth
- ✓ Expected to reposition BankFinancial's entire multifamily loan portfolio post-closing to create incremental funding capacity and efficiently remix assets
- ✓ Expected balance sheet and capital to improve on a pro forma basis

Consistent operating philosophies drives low execution risk



- ✓ Proven strong credit culture and risk management practices
- ✓ Low execution risk given relative size
- ✓ Limited resource requirement will not disrupt internal initiatives or the consideration of other strategic opportunities

key transaction assumptions

BankFinancial

Key Merger Assumptions

- **Cost Savings** – Approximately 45% of BankFinancial's annual operating expense
  - 75% phase-in during 2026 and 100% in 2027 and thereafter
- **One-Time Merger Expenses** – $25 million pre-tax; fully reflected in pro forma impacts at closing
- **Core Deposit Intangible** – 3.50% of BankFinancial's non-time deposits
  - Amortized over 10 years using sum-of-years digits method

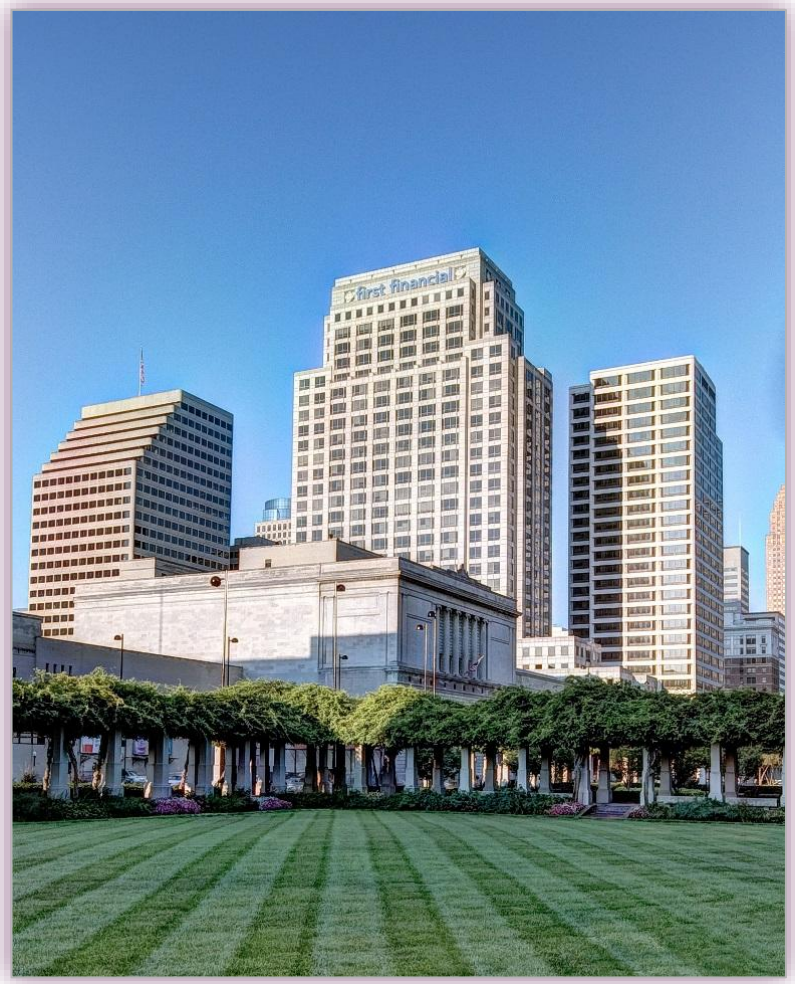
Fair Value Adjustments

- **Loan Credit Mark** – 1.9% of BankFinancial's total loans
  - Analysis shown with and without CECL "double-count"; credit mark composition of 50% purchase credit deteriorated (PCD) / 50% Non-PCD with CECL "double-count"
  - Additional write-down assumed on equipment leases
- **Loan Interest Rate FMV Adjustment** – $39 million estimated at close, or 4.9% of loans
  - Accreted into earnings over 7 years using sum-of-years-digits method
- **Other Interest Rate FMV Adjustments –** Approximately $1 million

Other

- **Multifamily Loan Repositioning** – Expected disposition of entire ~$500 million BankFinancial multifamily loan portfolio post closing to create incremental funding capacity
- **Securities Repositioning** – Assumes repositioning of entire BankFinancial securities portfolio post closing
- **Durbin Interchange Revenue Impact** – Estimated approx. $0.4 million annual impact
- **Incremental Deposit Rate Adjustment** – Assumes more competitive deposit rates on certain products

presentation contents



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4Q 2025 results

141st Consecutive Quarter of Profitability

Profitability

- Net income – $62.4 million or $0.64 per diluted share. Adjusted[1] net income – $77.7 million or $0.80 per diluted share
- Return on average assets – 1.22%. Adjusted [1] return on average assets – 1.52%
- Return on average shareholders' equity – 9.18%. Adjusted[1] return on average shareholders' equity – 11.44%
- Return on average tangible common equity – 16.27%. Adjusted[1] return on average tangible common equity – 20.27%

Income Statement

- Net interest income – $174.0 million
- Net interest margin of 3.96% on a GAAP basis; 3.98% on a fully tax equivalent basis[1]
- Noninterest income – $64.8 million; $77.3 million as adjusted[1]
- Noninterest expense – $149.5 million; $141.9 million as adjusted[1]
- Efficiency ratio – 62.6%. Adjusted[1] efficiency ratio – 56.5%
- Effective tax rate of 21.2%. Adjusted[1] effective tax rate of 21.8%

Balance Sheet

- EOP assets increased $2.6 billion compared to the linked quarter to $21.1 billion; $2.1 billion from Westfield
- EOP loans increased $1.7 billion compared to the linked quarter to $13.4 billion; $1.6 billion from Westfield
- Average deposits increased $1.4 billion compared to the linked quarter to $16.0 billion
- EOP investment securities increased $536.3 million compared to the linked quarter
- $300 million of 6.375% subordinated debt issued

Asset Quality

- Provision expense – $10.1 million
- Net charge-offs – $8.8 million. NCOs / Avg. Loans – 0.27% annualized
- Classified Assets / Total Assets – 1.11%
- NPA / Total Assets – 0.48%
- ACL / Total Loans – 1.39%; $25.9 million total reserve build due to Westfield

Capital

- Total capital ratio – 15.46%
- Tier 1 common equity ratio – 11.32%
- Tangible common equity ratio – 7.79%. Adjusted[1] tangible common equity ratio – 8.74%
- Tangible book value per share – $15.74

[1] Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliation.

4Q 2025 highlights

- Record adjusted[1] quarterly earnings driven by robust net interest margin
  - Adjusted[1] earnings per share – $0.80
  - Adjusted[1] return on assets – 1.52%
  - Adjusted[1] pre-tax, pre-provision return on assets – 2.14%
  - Adjusted[1] return on average tangible common equity – 20.3%
- $300.0 million of subordinated debt issued during the fourth quarter
  - 6.375% interest rate
  - 10-year maturity, 5-year call feature
- Solid organic loan growth during the quarter
  - EOP loan balances increased $1.7 billion, or 14.6%, compared to the linked quarter
  - Growth included $1.6 billion from the Westfield acquisition
  - Organic growth of $131 million, or 4% on an annualized basis, driven by C&I and leasing portfolios
- Total deposit balances increased $2.0 billion; includes $1.8 billion acquired in the Westfield transaction
  - Organic growth of $263.7 million spread across most deposit types; 7% on an annualized basis
  - Average noninterest bearing deposits were 21% of average total deposits
- Net interest margin (FTE) of 3.98% decreased 4 bps from linked quarter
  - 15 bp decrease in cost of funds
  - 19 bp decrease in asset yields

[1] Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliations.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER EQUAL HOUSING LENDER FDIC

4Q 2025 highlights

- Noninterest income of $64.8 million; $77.3 million as adjusted[1]
  - Record wealth management income increased 26.4% to $9.3 million
  - Record foreign exchange income increased 36.2% to $22.7 million
  - Leasing business income remains strong at $19.5 million

- Adjusted[1] noninterest expense of $141.9 million; 6.4% increase from third quarter
  - Fourth quarter adjustments[1] include $5.7 million of acquisition related expenses, $0.8 million of tax credit writedowns, and $1.2 million of efficiency and other noninterest expenses
  - Increase driven by the Westfield acquisition
  - Efficiency ratio of 62.6%; 56.5% as adjusted[1]

- Credit quality in line with expectations
  - Total ACL of $206.7 million; provision expense of $10.1 million
    - Loans and leases - ACL of $186.5 million; $23.7 million related to Westfield
      - 1.39% of total loans; in line with prior quarter
    - Unfunded Commitments - ACL of $20.2 million; $2.2 million related to Westfield
  - $8.8 million in net charge-offs; 0.27% of loans on an annualized basis
  - Nonperforming assets increased slightly to 0.48% of total assets; Classified assets declined to 1.11% of total assets

- Capital ratios remain strong despite impact from Westfield acquisition
  - Total capital ratio of 15.46%; 14 bp increase from linked quarter
  - Tier 1 common equity of 11.32%; 159 bp decrease from linked quarter
  - Tangible book value of $15.74; decreased $0.45, or 2.8% from linked quarter
  - Tangible common equity decreased 108 bps to 7.79%; 8.74%[1] excluding ($189.9) million of AOCI

[1] Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliations.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER EQUAL HOUSING LENDER FDIC

adjusted net income[1]

The table below lists certain adjustments that the Company believes are significant to understanding its quarterly performance.

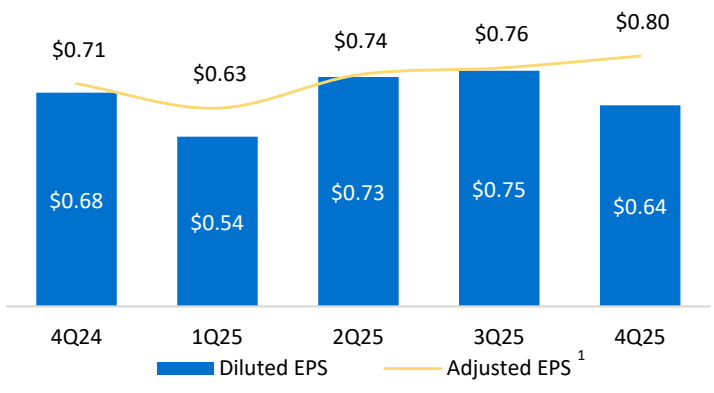
	4Q 2025		3Q 2025	
	As Reported	Adjusted [1]	As Reported	Adjusted [1]
Net interest income	$ 173,995	$ 173,995	$ 160,486	$ 160,486
Provision for credit losses-loans and leases	$ 9,688	$ 9,688	$ 8,612	$ 8,612
Provision for credit losses-unfunded commitments	$ 412	$ 412	$ 453	$ 453
Noninterest income	$ 64,767	$ 64,767	$ 73,525	$ 73,525
less: gains (losses) on security transactions	-	(12,576) A	-	(42) A
Total noninterest income	$ 64,767	$ 77,343	$ 73,525	$ 73,567
Noninterest expense	$ 149,531	$ 149,531	$ 134,269	$ 134,269
less: tax credit investment writedown	-	800 A	-	112 A
less: merger-related expenses	-	5,658 A	-	- A
less: other	-	1,177 A	-	827 A
Total noninterest expense	$ 149,531	$ 141,896	$ 134,269	$ 133,330
Income before income taxes	$ 79,131	$ 99,342	$ 90,677	$ 91,658
Income tax expense	$ 16,738	$ 16,738	$ 18,754	$ 18,754
plus: after-tax impact of tax credit investment @ 21%	-	632	-	89
plus: tax effect of adjustments (A) @ 21% statutory rate	-	4,244	-	206
Total income tax expense	$ 16,738	$ 21,614	$ 18,754	$ 19,049
Net income	$ 62,393	$ 77,728	$ 71,923	$ 72,609
Net earnings per share - diluted	$ 0.64	$ 0.80	$ 0.75	$ 0.76
Pre-tax, pre-provision return on average assets	1.75%	2.14%	2.13%	2.15%

[1] Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliations.

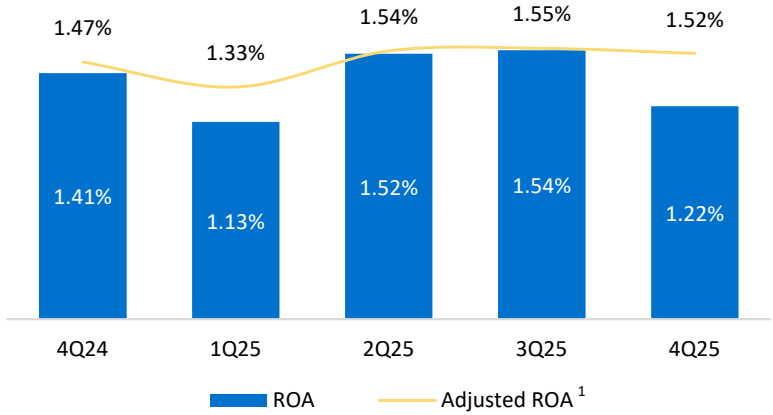
All dollars shown in thousands, except per share amounts

profitability

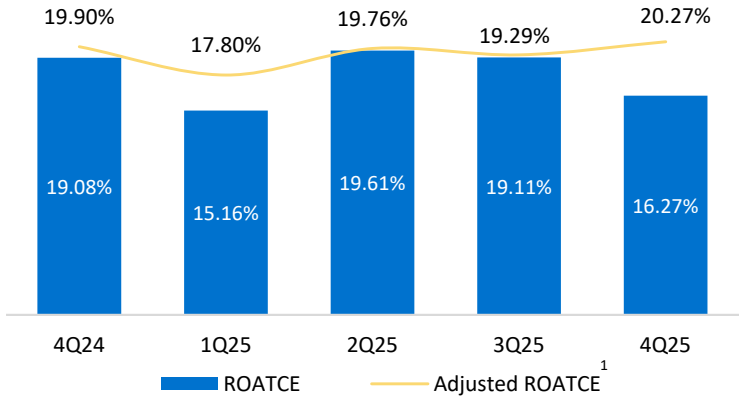
Diluted EPS



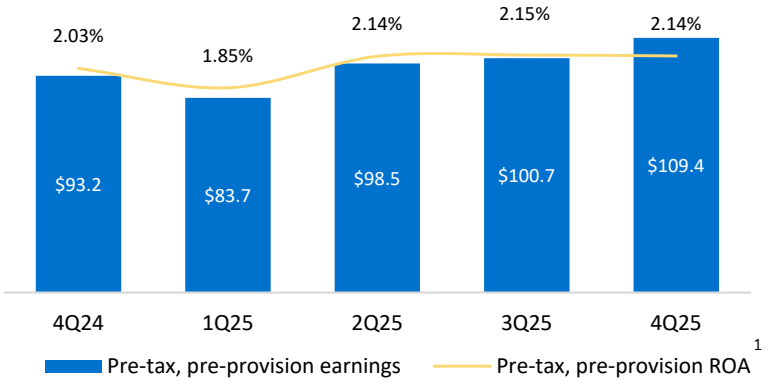
Return on Average Assets



Return on Avg Tangible Common Equity



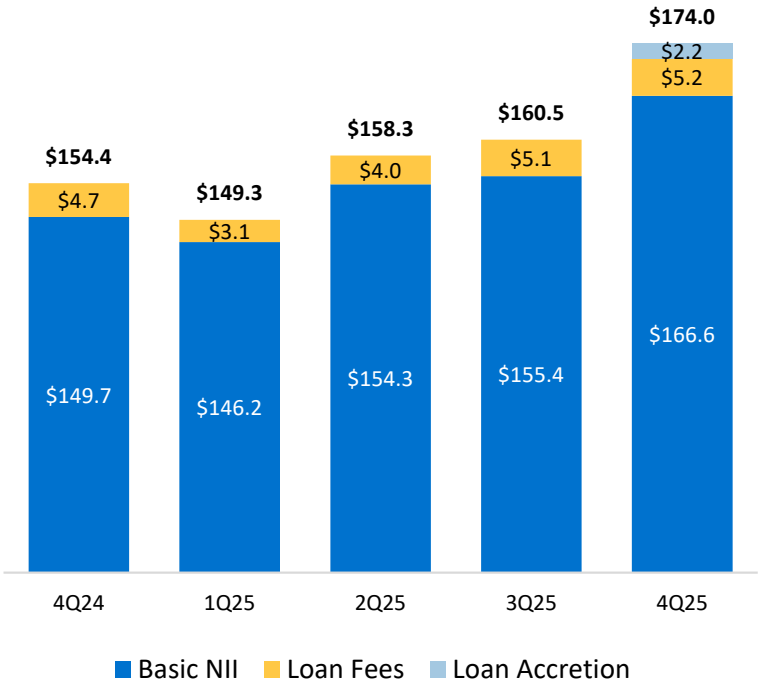
Adjusted[1] Pre-tax, Pre-Provision Earnings



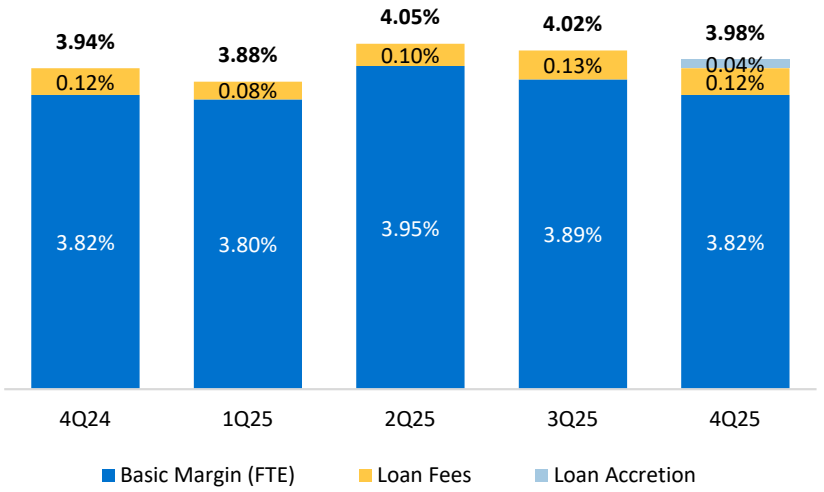
[1] Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliation.

net interest income & margin

Net Interest Income [1]



Net Interest Margin (FTE)



4Q25 NIM (FTE) Progression [1]

3Q25	**4.02%**
Asset yields/mix	-0.23%
Loan accretion	0.04%
Funding costs/mix	0.15%
4Q25	**3.98%**

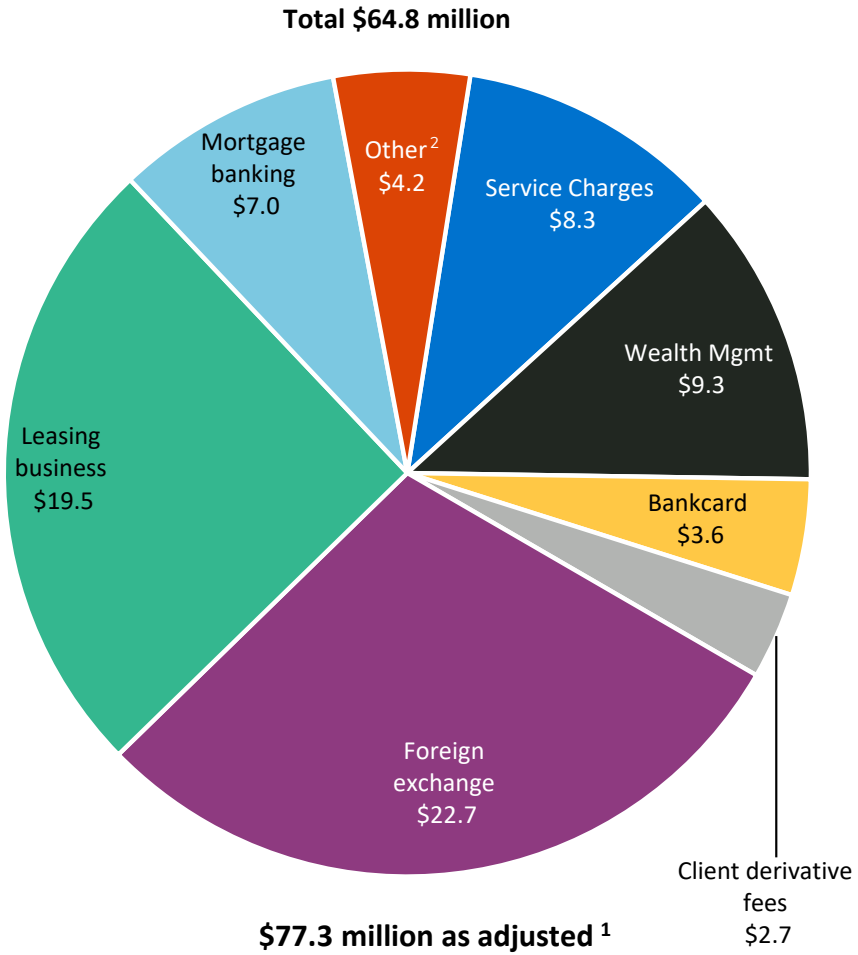
[1] Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliation.

All dollars shown in millions

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noninterest income

Noninterest Income



4Q25 Highlights

- Record adjusted[1] noninterest income 27% of net revenue
- Record foreign exchange income of $22.7 million; increased $6.0 million, or 36.2% from linked quarter
- Record wealth management income of $9.3 million; increased $1.9 million, or 26.4% from linked quarter
- Leasing business income of $19.5 million; decreased $1.5 million, or 7.0% from the linked quarter
- Other excludes $12.6 million of losses on investment securities

[1] Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliations.

[2] Excludes $12.6 million of losses on investment securities

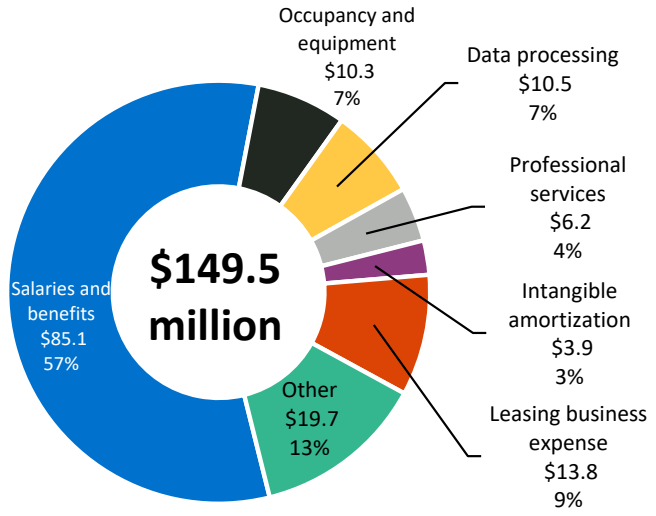
All dollars shown in millions

first financial bancorp

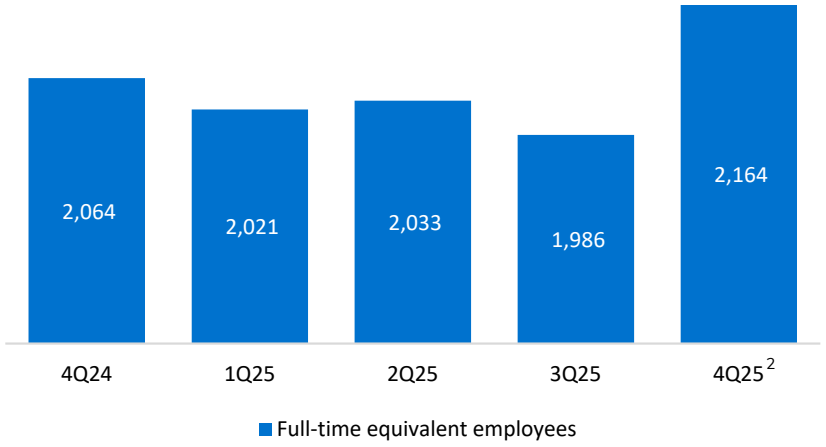
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noninterest expense

Noninterest Expense



Full-time Equivalent Employees

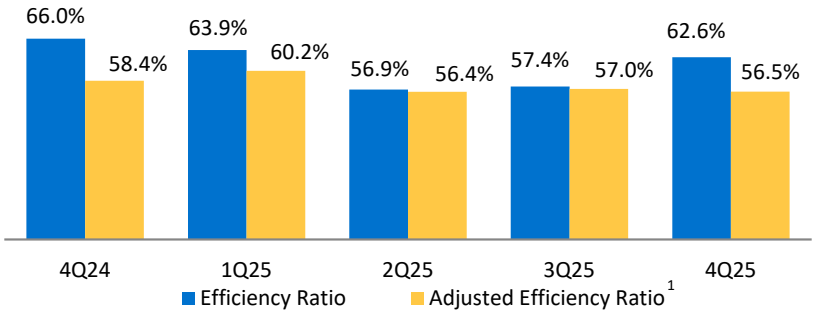


[2] Includes 169 FTE from Westfield acquisition

4Q25 Highlights

- Adjusted[1] noninterest expense increased $8.6 million, or 6.4% from linked quarter
  - Efficiency ratio of 62.6%; 56.5% as adjusted[1]
  - Increase driven by the Westfield acquisition
- $7.6 million of adjustments[1] include:
  - $5.7 million of merger-related expenses
  - $0.8 million of tax credit investment write-down
  - $1.2 million of other costs not expected to recur such as efficiency

Efficiency Ratio



[1] Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company' Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliations.

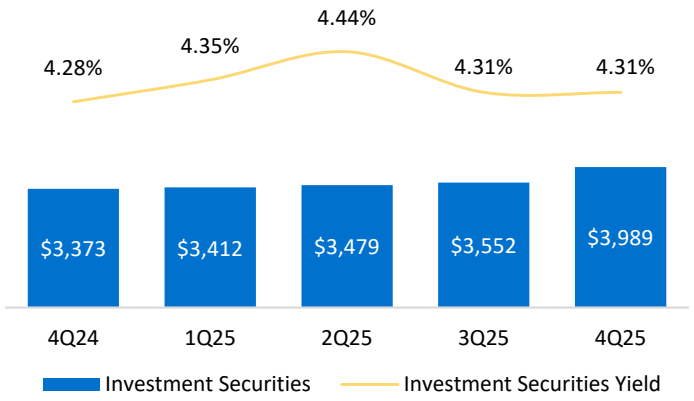
All dollars shown in millions

first financial bancorp

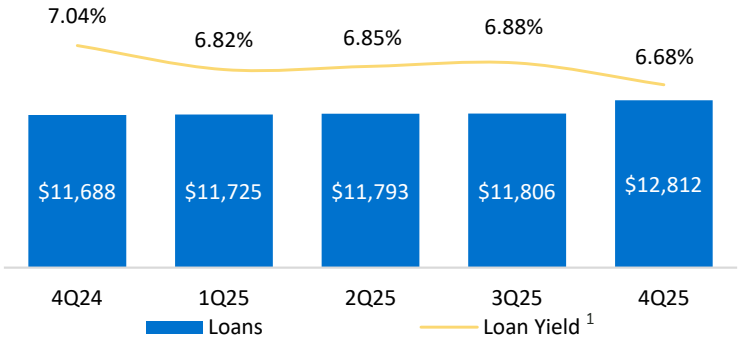
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average balance sheet

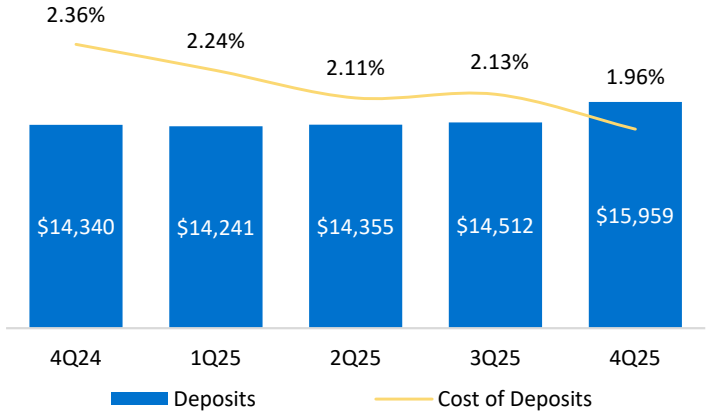
Average Securities



Average Loans



Average Deposits



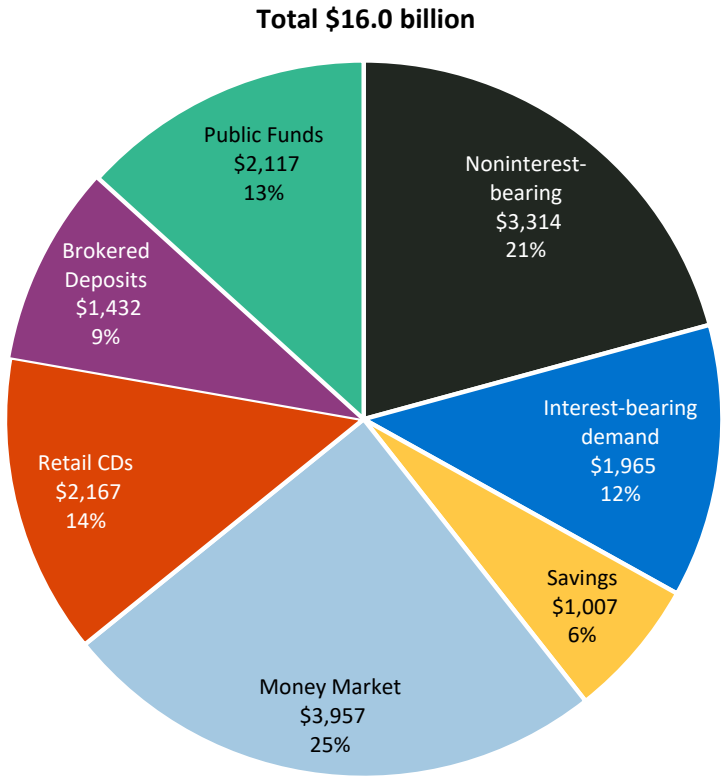
All dollars shown in millions

[1] Includes loans fees and loan accretion

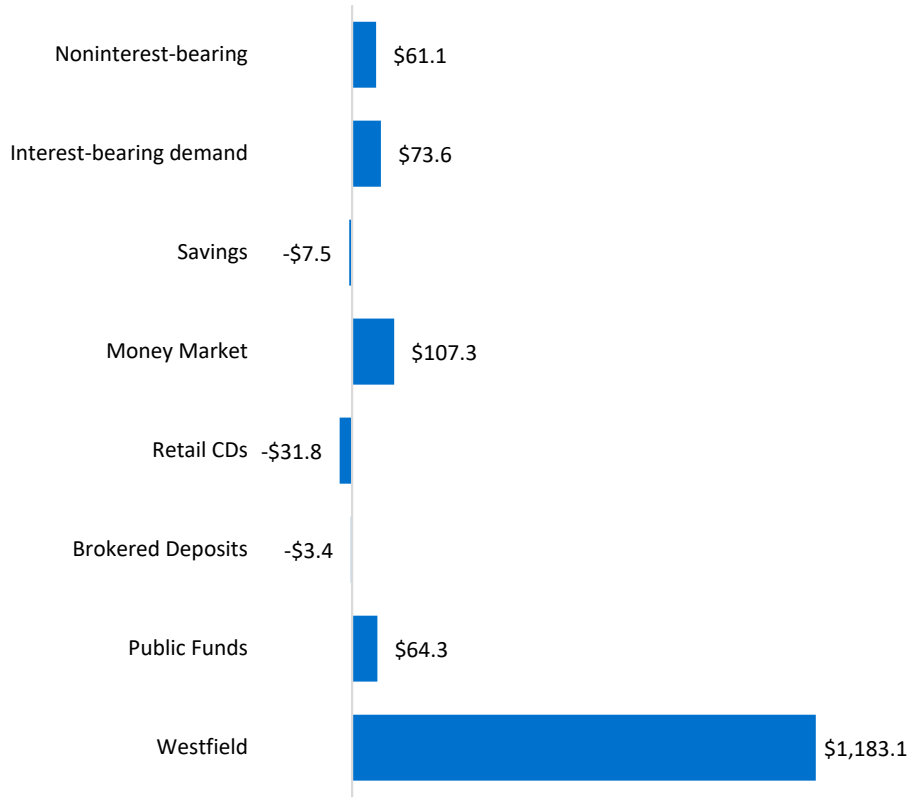
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deposits

Deposit Product Mix (Avg)



4Q25 Average Deposit Progression



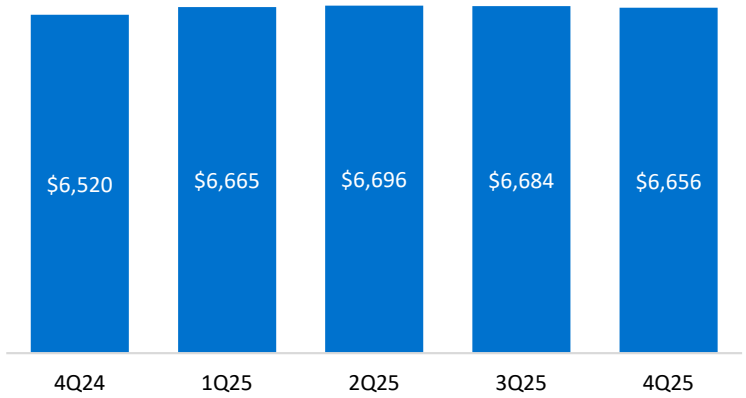
Total growth/(decline):
$1.447 billion

All dollars shown in millions

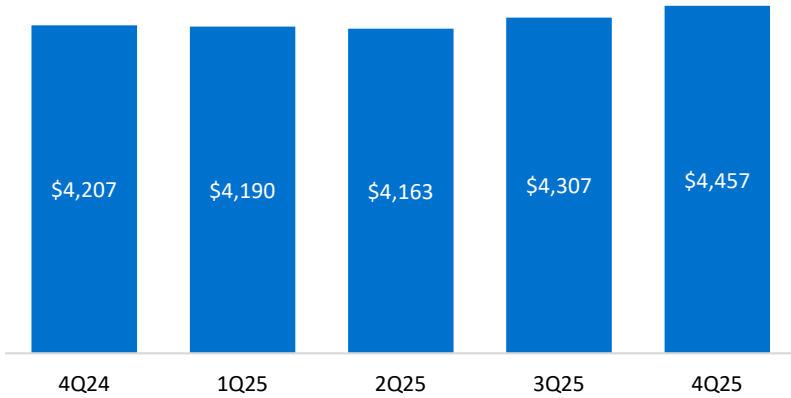
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average deposit trends[1]

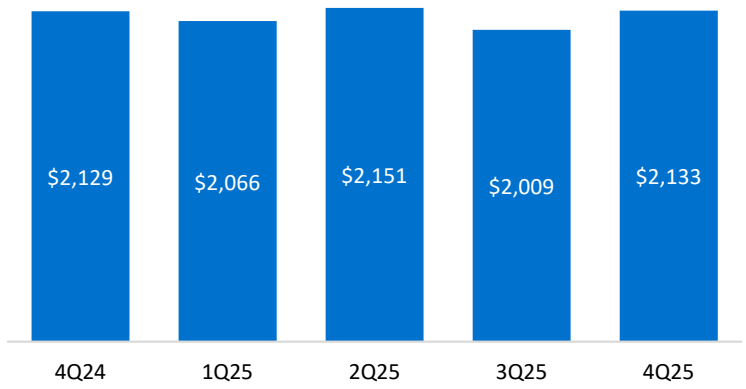
Personal



Business



Public Funds



Uninsured Deposits

Uninsured deposits (per call report instructions)	$	7,446
Less: Public funds		2,038
Less: Intercompany deposits		514
Adjusted uninsured deposits		4,894
Borrowing capacity		5,634
Borrowing capacity in excess of adjusted uninsured deposits	$	740

Borrowing capacity as a % of adjusted uninsured deposits	115.1%
Adjusted uninsured deposits to total deposits	29.8%

[1] Excludes impact from Westfield
All dollars shown in millions

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borrowing capacity & cash/investment liquidity

Borrowing Capacity

FHLB borrowing availability	$	999,437
Fed Discount Window availability		844,444
Brokered CDs/Deposit placement services		2,776,955
Fed funds		1,013,000
Total as of December 31, 2025	$	5,633,835

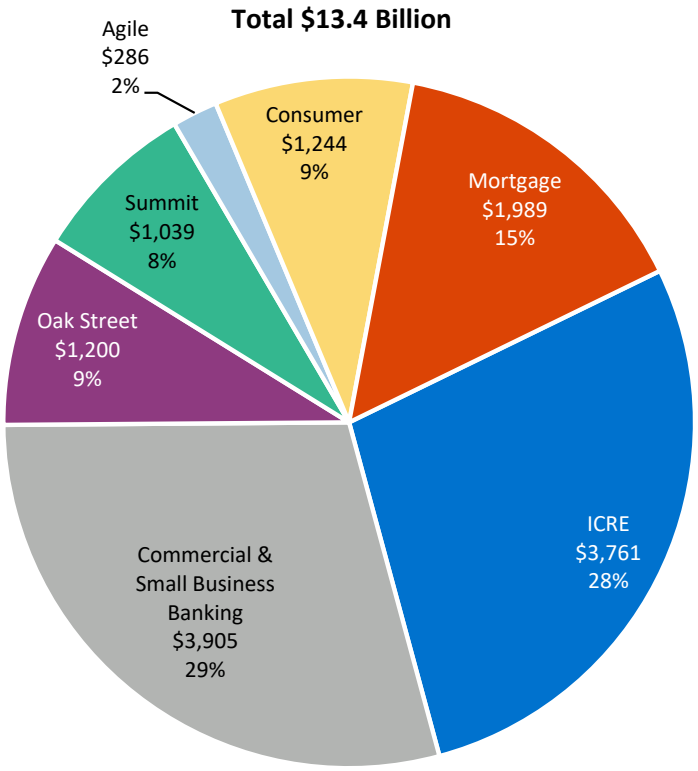
All dollars shown in thousands

Cash/Investment Liquidity

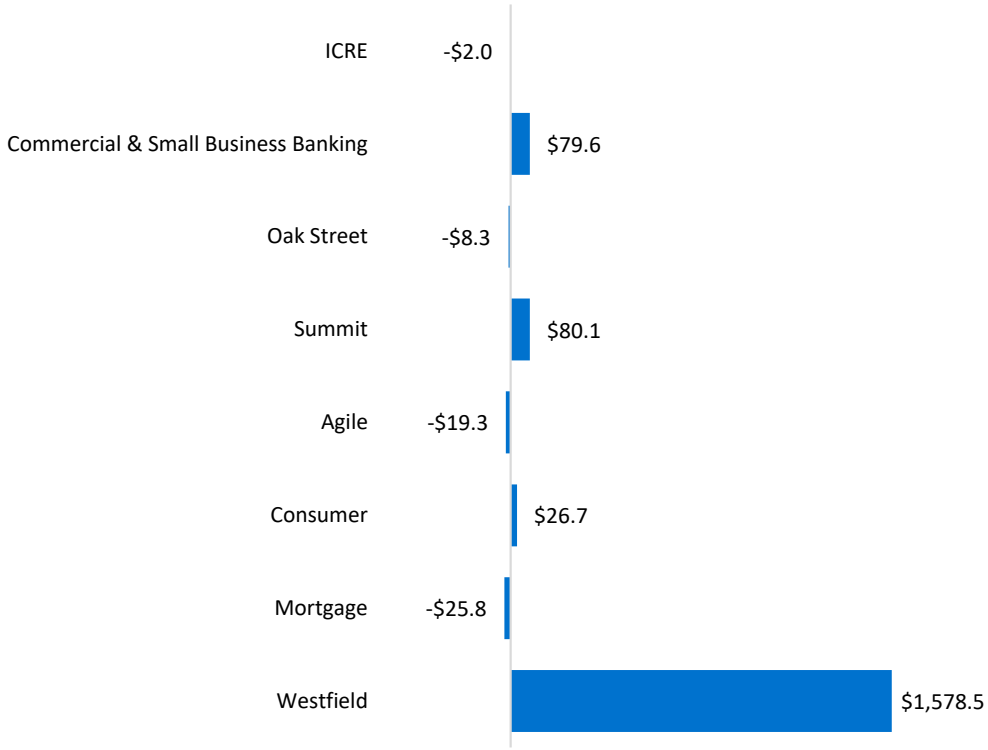
- Interest-bearing deposits with other banks of $597 million
- Investment securities portfolio:
  - 98.5% of investment portfolio classified as available-for-sale
  - $751.6 million of expected cash flow from securities portfolio in next 12 months
  - $393.4 million of floating rate securities with minimal losses
  - Portfolio duration of 4.4 years at December 31, 2025

loan portfolio

Loan LOB Mix (EOP)



Net Loan Change-LOB (Linked Quarter)



Total growth/(decline):
$1.710 billion

All dollars shown in millions

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loan concentrations

C&I and Owner Occupied CRE Loans by Sector[1]

NAICS Sector	12/31/25	% of Total Loans
Finance and Insurance	$1,129.9	8.4%
Uncoded	869.2	6.5%
Manufacturing	560.7	4.2%
Construction	400.5	3.0%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	377.2	2.8%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	291.5	2.2%
Retail Trade	270.2	2.0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	258.0	1.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	247.2	1.8%
Wholesale Trade	213.1	1.6%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	160.4	1.2%
Transportation and Warehousing	148.3	1.1%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management	142.6	1.1%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	116.0	0.9%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	75.0	0.6%
Utilities	62.1	0.5%
Information	59.9	0.4%
Public Administration	57.9	0.4%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	57.2	0.4%
Educational Services	28.0	0.2%
Other	14.0	0.1%
Grand Total	**$5,539.0**	**41.3%**

[1] Excludes Agile Premium Finance

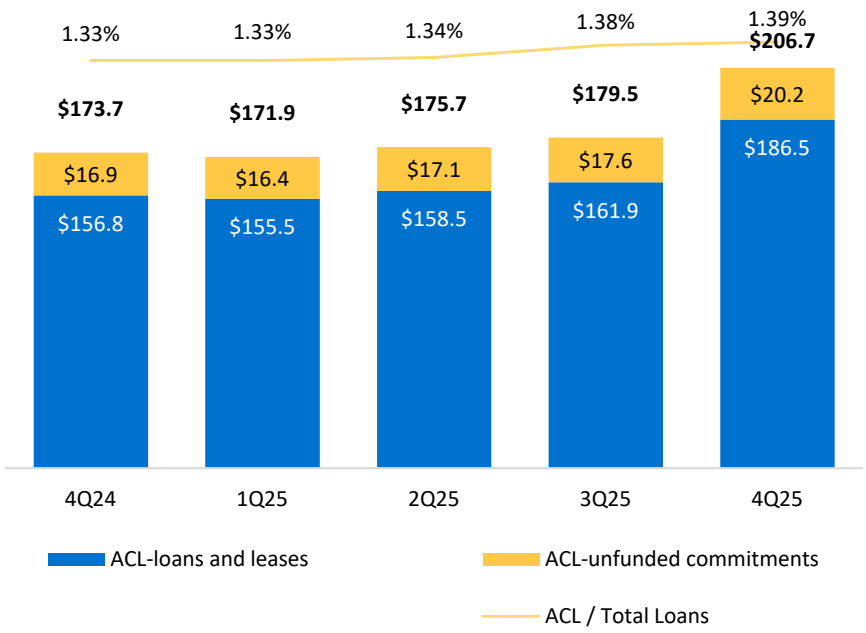
Investor CRE Loans by Property Type

Property Type	12/31/25	% of Total Loans
Residential Multi Family 5+	$1,190.8	8.9%
Retail Property	863.2	6.4%
Industrial	453.8	3.4%
Office	355.0	2.6%
Hospital/Nursing Home	321.2	2.4%
Uncoded	180.6	1.3%
Land	119.9	0.9%
Hotel	103.1	0.8%
Residential 1-4 Family	94.2	0.7%
Other Real Estate	51.7	0.4%
Unsecured	15.8	0.1%
Other	11.7	0.1%
Grand Total	**$3,761.2**	**28.0%**

All dollars shown in millions

allowance for credit losses

ACL / Total Loans



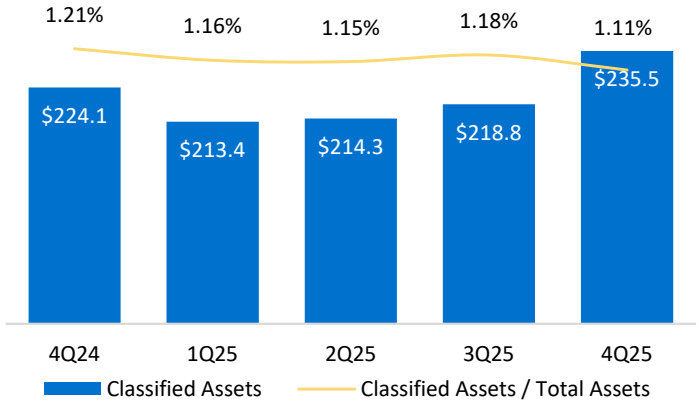
All dollars shown in millions

4Q25 Highlights

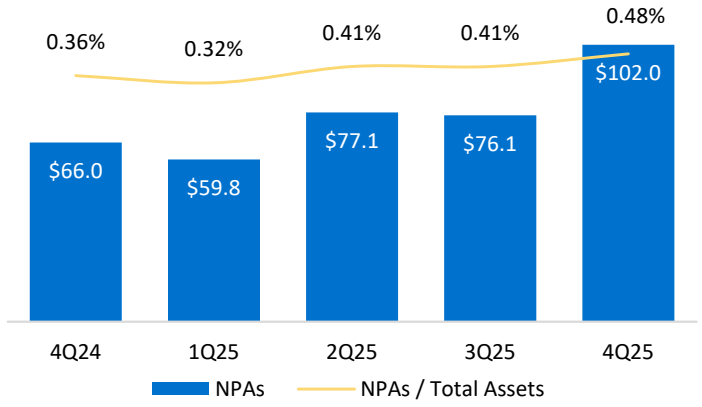
- $206.7 million combined ACL; $10.1 million combined provision expense
- $186.5 million ACL – loans and leases; $23.7 million related to Westfield;
- ACL 1.39% of total loans
- Utilized Moody's December baseline forecast in quantitative model
- $20.2 million ACL – unfunded commitments; $2.2 million related to Westfield

asset quality

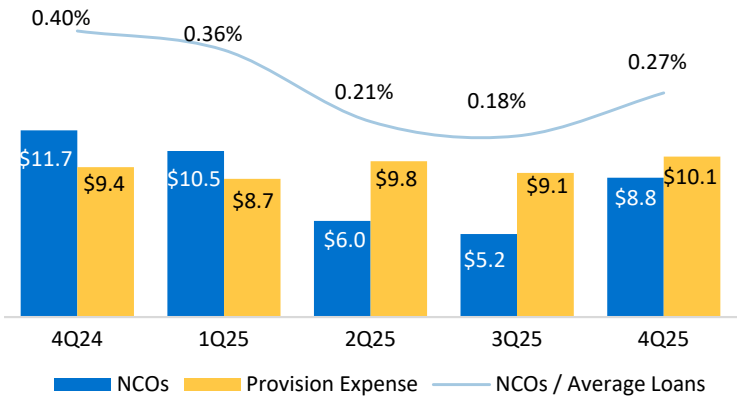
Classified Assets / Total Assets



Nonperforming Assets / Total Assets



Net Charge Offs & Provision Expense[1]

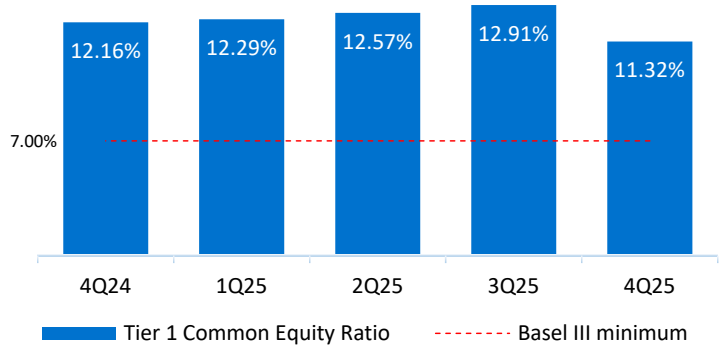


[1] Provision includes both loans & leases and unfunded commitments
All dollars shown in millions

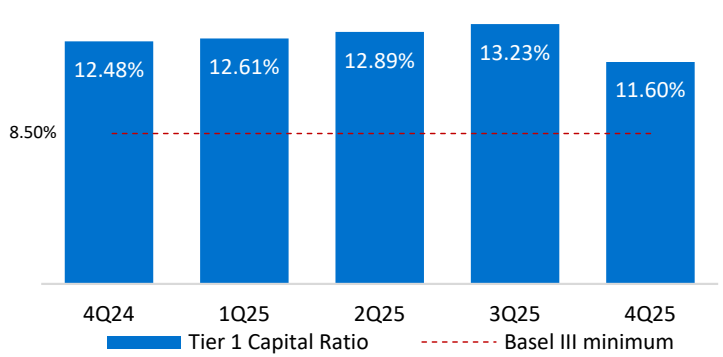
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER EQUAL HOUSING LENDER FDIC

capital

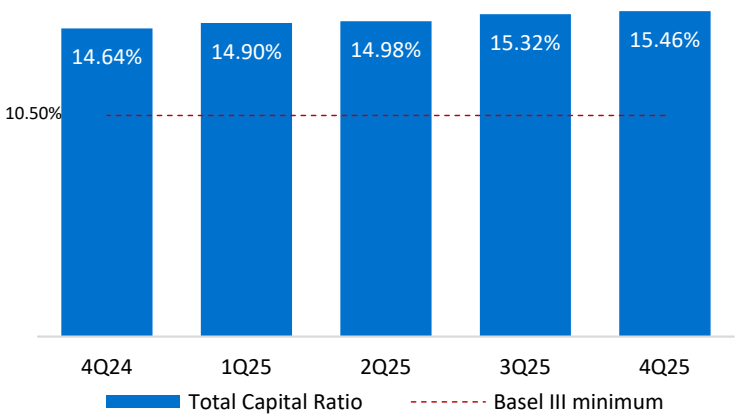
Tier 1 Common Equity Ratio



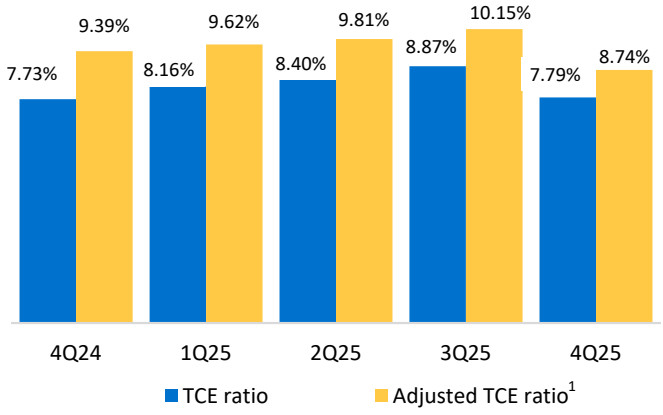
Tier 1 Capital Ratio



Total Capital Ratio



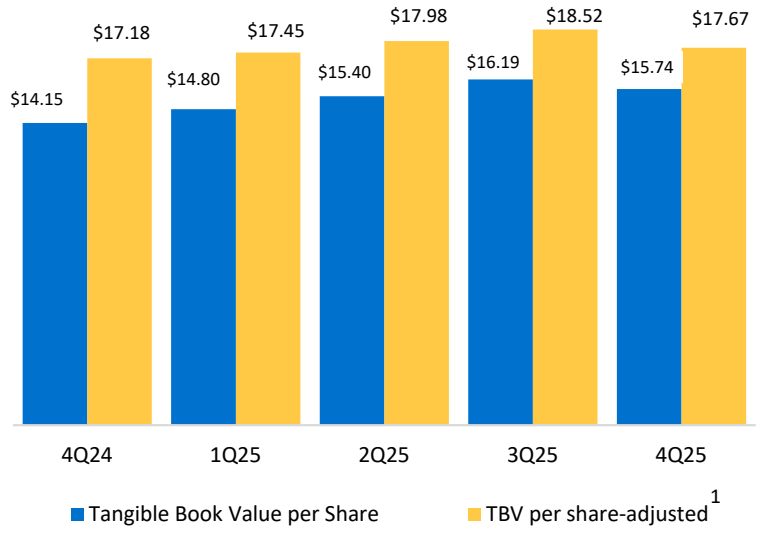
Tangible Common Equity Ratio



12/31 Risk Weighted Assets = $15,890,363
All capital numbers are considered preliminary.
[1] Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliation. Adjusted TCE excludes impact from AOCI

capital strategy

Tangible Book Value Per Share



- Decrease in TBV per share from linked quarter driven by Westfield acquisition
- 11.2% increase since 4Q24

Strategy & Deployment

- 4.0% annualized dividend yield as of December 31st
- 40% of 4Q25 earnings returned to shareholders through common dividend
- Most recent internal stress testing indicates capital ratios above regulatory minimums in all modeled scenarios
- Common dividend of $0.25
- No shares repurchased in 4Q25; no plans to repurchase shares in near-term

[1] Excludes impact from AOCI

outlook commentary[1]

Balance Sheet	• Loan balances expected to increase low single digits on an annualized basis in the near-term, excluding BankFinancial • Core deposit balances expected to modestly decline, with seasonal outflows expected • $1.3 billion of earning assets expected in BankFinancial acquisition
Net Interest Margin	• Expected to be 3.94% - 3.99%; assumes 25 bp March rate cut • Includes impact from BankFinancial acquisition
Credit	• Credit costs expected to approximate fourth quarter level • Stable ACL coverage as a percentage of loans expected

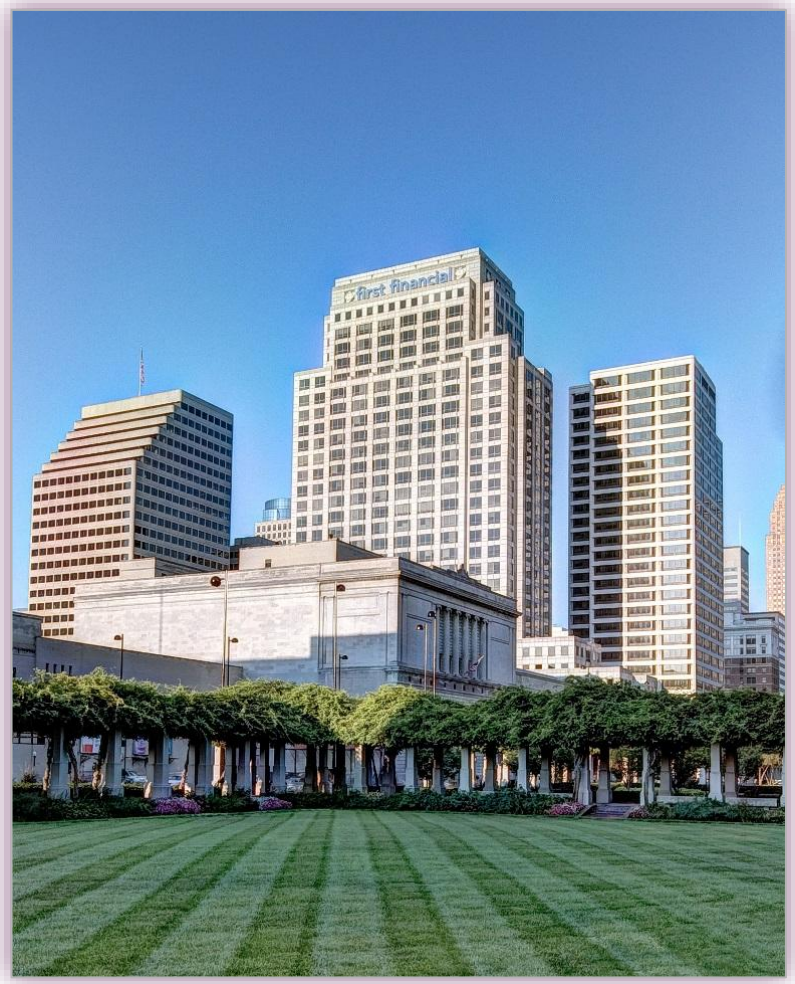
Noninterest Income	• Total expected fee income of $71 - 73 million
	  • Includes $14 - 16 million foreign exchange
	  • Includes $19 - 21 million leasing business income
	  • Includes $1 million expected from Westfield acquisition
	  • Includes $1 million expected from BankFinancial acquisition

Noninterest Expense	• Total noninterest expense expected to be $156 - 158 million
	  • Incentive expense will fluctuate with fee income
	  • Includes $11 million expense due to Westfield acquisition
	  • Includes $10 million expense due to BankFinancial acquisition

Capital	• Common dividend unchanged at $0.25

[1] See Forward Looking Statement Disclosure on page 2-3 of this presentation for a discussion of factors that could affect management's expectations and results in future periods.

presentation contents



About First Financial Bancorp

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Financial Performance

Appendix

appendix: our markets

- Greater Cincinnati/Dayton
  - Loans $4.7 billion
  - Deposits $7.9 billion
  - Deposit Market Share #4 (3.4%)
  - Banking Centers 46
  - Fortune 500 Companies 7
- Columbus, OH
  - Loans $1.4 billion
  - Deposits $0.4 billion
  - Deposit Market Share #17 (0.4%)
  - Banking Centers 4
  - Fortune 500 Companies 3
- Cleveland/Akron/Canton
  - Loans $1.6 billion
  - Deposits $1.8 billion
  - Deposit Market Share #12 (1.0%)
  - Banking Centers 7
  - Fortune 500 Companies 9
- Expansion Markets
  Chicago/Grand Rapids
  - Loans $0.1 billion
  - Deposits $0.03 billion
- Indianapolis
  - Loans $1.0 billion
  - Deposits $0.5 billion
  - Deposit Market Share #14 (1.2%)
  - Banking Centers 7
  - Fortune 500 Companies 3
- Louisville
  - Loans $0.4 billion
  - Deposits $0.5 billion
  - Deposit Market Share #13 (1.2%)
  - Banking Centers 9
  - Fortune 500 Companies 3
- Community Markets
  - Loans $1.9 billion
  - Deposits $5.1 billion
  - Banking Centers 61
  - Fortune 500 Companies 1
- National
  - Loans $2.4 billion
  - Deposits $0.3 billion

All numbers as of 12/31/2025, except fortune 500 companies as of 1/1/2026 and deposit market share as of 6/30/2025. Greater Cincinnati/Dayton loan and deposit balances include large public fund relationships, special assets, loan marks, and other out of market and corporately held balances.

appendix: non-GAAP measures

The Company's Investor Presentation contains certain financial information determined by methods other than in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (GAAP). Such non-GAAP financial information should be considered supplemental to, and not as a substitute for, or superior to, financial measures calculated in accordance with GAAP. However, we believe that non-GAAP reporting provides meaningful information and therefore we use it to supplement our GAAP information. We have chosen to provide this supplemental information to investors, analysts and other interested parties to enable them to perform additional analyses of operating results, to illustrate the results of operations giving effect to the non-GAAP adjustments and to provide an additional measure of performance. We believe this information is helpful in understanding the results of operations separate and apart from items that may, or could, have a disproportional positive or negative impact in any given period. For a reconciliation of the differences between the non-GAAP financial measures and the most comparable GAAP measures, please refer to the following reconciliation tables.

appendix: non-GAAP to GAAP reconciliation

Net interest income and net interest margin - fully tax equivalent

	Three months ended				
	Dec. 31, 2025	Sep. 30, 2025	June 30, 2025	Mar. 31, 2025	Dec. 31, 2024
Net interest income	$ 173,995	$ 160,486	$ 158,269	$ 149,296	$ 154,399
Tax equivalent adjustment	1,227	1,248	1,246	1,213	1,274
Net interest income - tax equivalent	$ 175,222	$ 161,734	$ 159,515	$ 150,509	$ 155,673
Average earning assets	$ 17,448,460	$ 15,968,153	$ 15,814,576	$ 15,752,132	$ 15,714,676
Net interest margin[1]	3.96 %	3.99 %	4.01 %	3.84 %	3.91 %
Net interest margin (fully tax equivalent)[1]	3.98 %	4.02 %	4.05 %	3.88 %	3.94 %

[1] Margins are calculated using net interest income annualized divided by average earning assets.

The tax equivalent adjustment to net interest income recognizes the income tax savings when comparing taxable and tax-exempt assets and assumes a 21% tax rate. Management believes that it is a standard practice in the banking industry to present net interest margin and net interest income on a fully tax equivalent basis. Therefore, management believes these measures provide useful information to investors by allowing them to make peer comparisons. Management also uses these measures to make peer comparisons.

appendix: non-GAAP to GAAP reconciliation

Additional non-GAAP ratios

(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)	Three months ended, Dec. 31, 2025	Sep. 30, 2025	June 30, 2025	Mar. 31, 2025	Dec. 31, 2024
Net income (a)	$ 62,393	$ 71,923	$ 69,996	$ 51,293	$ 64,885
Average total shareholders' equity	2,695,581	2,575,203	2,515,747	2,457,785	2,441,045
Less:					
Goodwill	(1,069,781)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,658)
Other intangibles	(104,184)	(74,448)	(76,076)	(78,220)	(80,486)
Average tangible equity (b)	1,521,616	1,493,099	1,432,015	1,371,909	1,352,901
Total shareholders' equity	2,769,216	2,631,855	2,558,155	2,501,235	2,438,041
Less:					
Goodwill	(1,099,524)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,656)
Other intangibles	(118,832)	(73,797)	(75,458)	(77,002)	(79,291)
Ending tangible common equity (c)	1,550,860	1,550,402	1,475,041	1,416,577	1,351,094
Less:					
AOCI	(189,942)	(223,000)	(246,384)	(253,888)	(289,799)
Adjusted ending tangible common equity (d)	1,740,802	1,773,402	1,721,425	1,670,465	1,640,893
Total assets	21,129,379	18,554,506	18,634,255	18,455,067	18,570,261
Less:					
Goodwill	(1,099,524)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,656)
Other intangibles	(118,832)	(73,797)	(75,458)	(77,002)	(79,291)
Ending tangible assets (e)	19,911,023	17,473,053	17,551,141	17,370,409	17,483,314
Risk-weighted assets (f)	15,890,363	14,166,935	14,129,683	14,027,274	14,059,215
Total average assets	20,256,539	18,566,188	18,419,437	18,368,604	18,273,419
Less:					
Goodwill	(1,069,781)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,658)
Other intangibles	(104,184)	(74,448)	(76,076)	(78,220)	(80,486)
Average tangible assets (g)	$ 19,082,574	$ 17,484,084	$ 17,335,705	$ 17,282,728	$ 17,185,275
Ending shares outstanding (h)	98,521,726	95,757,250	95,760,617	95,730,353	95,494,840
Ratios					
Return on average tangible shareholders' equity (a)/(b)	16.27%	19.11%	19.61%	15.16%	19.08%
Ending tangible common equity as a percent of:					
Ending tangible assets (c)/(e)	7.79%	8.87%	8.40%	8.16%	7.73%
Risk-weighted assets (c)/(f)	9.76%	10.94%	10.44%	10.10%	9.61%
Adjusted ending tangible common equity to ending tangible assets (d)/(e)	8.74%	10.15%	9.81%	9.62%	9.39%
Average tangible equity as a percent of average tangible assets (b)/(g)	7.97%	8.54%	8.26%	7.94%	7.87%
Tangible book value per share (c)/(h)	$ 15.74	$ 16.19	$ 15.40	$ 14.80	$ 14.15

All dollars shown in thousands

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appendix: non-GAAP to GAAP reconciliation

Additional non-GAAP measures

(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)	4Q25		3Q25		2Q25		1Q25	
	As Reported	Adjusted	As Reported	Adjusted	As Reported	Adjusted	As Reported	Adjusted
Net interest income (f)	$ 173,995	$ 173,995	$ 160,486	$ 160,486	$ 158,269	$ 158,269	$ 149,296	$ 149,296
Provision for credit losses-loans and leases (j)	9,688	9,688	8,612	8,612	9,084	9,084	9,141	9,141
Provision for credit losses-unfunded commitments (j)	412	412	453	453	718	718	(441)	(441)
Noninterest income	64,767	64,767	73,525	73,525	68,063	68,063	51,083	51,083
less: gains (losses) on security transactions		(12,576)		(42)		242		(9,948)
Total noninterest income (g)	64,767	77,343	73,525	73,567	68,063	67,821	51,083	61,031
Noninterest expense	149,531	149,531	134,269	134,269	128,671	128,671	128,076	128,076
less: tax credit investment writedown		800		112		111		112
less: merger-related expenses		5,658		-		-		-
less: Other		1,177		827		960		1,345
Total noninterest expense (e)	149,531	141,896	134,269	133,330	128,671	127,600	128,076	126,619
Income before income taxes (i)	79,131	99,342	90,677	91,658	87,859	88,688	63,603	75,008
Income tax expense	16,738	16,738	18,754	18,754	17,863	17,863	12,310	12,310
plus: tax effect of adjustments		632		89		88		88
plus: after-tax impact of tax credit investments @ 21%		4,244		206		174		2,395
Total income tax expense (h)	16,738	21,614	18,754	19,049	17,863	18,125	12,310	14,793
Net income (a)	$ 62,393	$ 77,728	$ 71,923	$ 72,609	$ 69,996	$ 70,563	$ 51,293	$ 60,215
Average diluted shares (b)	97,594	97,594	95,754	95,754	95,742	95,742	95,524	95,524
Average assets (c)	20,256,539	20,256,539	18,566,188	18,566,188	18,419,437	18,419,437	18,368,604	18,368,604
Average shareholders' equity (k)	2,695,581	2,695,581	2,575,203	2,575,203	2,515,747	2,515,747	2,457,785	2,457,785
Less:								
Goodwill and other intangibles	(1,173,965)	(1,173,965)	(1,082,104)	(1,082,104)	(1,083,732)	(1,083,732)	(1,085,876)	(1,085,876)
Average tangible equity (d)	1,521,616	1,521,616	1,493,099	1,493,099	1,432,015	1,432,015	1,371,909	1,371,909
Ratios								
Net earnings per share - diluted (a)/(b)	$ 0.64	$ 0.80	$ 0.75	$ 0.76	$ 0.73	$ 0.74	$ 0.54	$ 0.63
Return on average assets - (a)/(c)	1.22%	1.52%	1.54%	1.55%	1.52%	1.54%	1.13%	1.33%
Pre-tax, pre-provision return on average assets - ((a)+(j)+(h))/(c)	1.75%	2.14%	2.13%	2.15%	2.13%	2.14%	1.60%	1.85%
Return on average shareholders' equity (a)/(k)	9.18%	11.44%	11.08%	11.19%	11.16%	11.25%	8.46%	9.94%
Return on average tangible shareholders' equity - (a)/(d)	16.27%	20.27%	19.11%	19.29%	19.61%	19.76%	15.16%	17.80%
Efficiency ratio - (e)/((f)+(g))	62.6%	56.5%	57.4%	57.0%	56.9%	56.4%	63.9%	60.2%
Effective tax rate - (h)/(i)	21.2%	21.8%	20.7%	20.8%	20.3%	20.4%	19.4%	19.7%

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first financial bancorp

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