

first

investor presentation

- First Quarter 2026



first[®] 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, 2025, 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

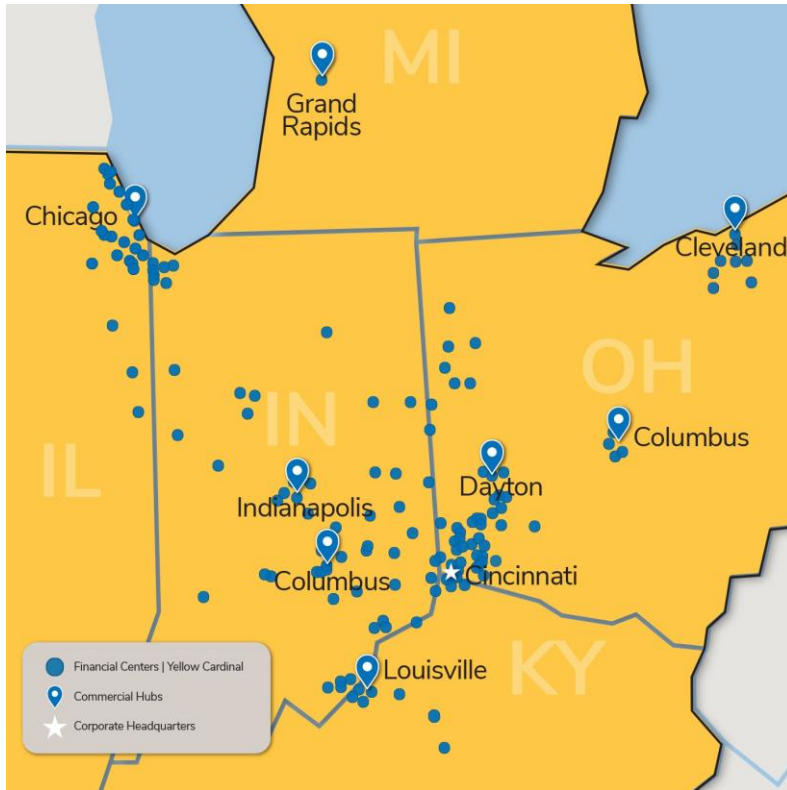
Financial Performance

Appendix

first

first financial bancorp

our franchise



\$22.8B

in assets

\$13.5B/\$17.9B

loans / deposits

\$6.0B

wealth AUC¹

1.99%

1Q Adj. PTPP ROAA²

NASDAQ: **FFBC**

Headquarters: **Cincinnati, Ohio**

Founded: **1863**

Banking Centers: **153**

Employees: **2,319**

Market Cap (3/31/26): **\$2.9B**

Dividend Yield (3/31/26): **3.6%**

CET1 Ratio: **12.22%**

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

first financial bancorp

¹ Includes brokerage assets under care.

² Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliation.

key investment highlights

- ✓ **Proven & sustainable business model for more than 160 years**
 - Conservative operating philosophy with 142 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 revenue¹
- ✓ **High quality balance sheet & robust capital position**
 - Low loan / deposit ratio and ~12% CET1 ratio as of 3/31/26
- ✓ **Prudent risk management & credit culture with strong asset quality**
 - Top quartile ACL coverage and low NPAs¹
- ✓ **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**

FIRST

first financial bancorp

¹ Profitability metrics measured against the KBW Nasdaq Regional Bank Index (“KRX”) as of or for the quarter ending 12/31/25.

an experienced & successful acquirer

6

Bank Acquisitions

4

Non-Bank Acquisitions



FIRST

first financial bancorp

Note: Excludes ~\$4 million acquisition of Brady Ware Capital in 2023.

a top quartile performer



Indicates 1Q26
Peer Top Quartile



Indicates 1Q26
Peer Median

FIRST

first financial bancorp

**Top Quartile
& Diversified
Profitability**

**Liquid
Balance
Sheet With
Strong
Credit and
Capital**

	KRX Constituents			1Q26	
	Bottom Quartile	Median	Top Quartile		
ROAA ¹	1.02%	1.20%	1.31%	1.45%	
ROATCE ¹	12.0%	13.9%	16.3%	19.2%	
Net Interest Margin	3.33%	3.55%	3.80%	3.99%	
Noninterest Income / Net Revenue ¹	12.7%	17.0%	20.9%	28.5%	
Loans + HTM / Deposits	97%	92%	85%	76%	
Cash + AFS Securities / Assets	13%	16%	21%	27%	
ACL / Gross Loans	1.04%	1.20%	1.36%	1.36%	
NPAs / Assets	0.61%	0.47%	0.30%	0.44%	
CET1 Ratio	11.3%	12.1%	13.4%	12.2%	
Total RBC Ratio	14.0%	14.7%	15.9%	15.7%	
Consolidated CRE / RBC	272%	228%	187%	164%	

FIRST

first financial bancorp

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 3/31/26 unless otherwise noted.

consistent best-in-class earnings

Return on Average Assets

FIRST

first financial bancorp

KRX

Top Quartile¹

1-Year

1.40%



80% Percentile Rank

1.35%

3-Year

1.35%



86% Percentile Rank

1.30%

5-Year

1.36%



84% Percentile Rank

1.29%

10-Year

1.30%



79% Percentile Rank

1.26%

Return on Tangible Common Equity

FIRST

first financial bancorp

KRX

Top Quartile¹

17.8%



90% Percentile Rank

16.4%

18.7%



92% Percentile Rank

15.7%

19.2%



96% Percentile Rank

15.7%

17.2%



91% Percentile Rank

15.0%

Earnings Per Share Growth

FIRST

first financial bancorp

KRX Median¹

17%



56% Percentile Rank

15%

3%



53% Percentile Rank

2%

10%



78% Percentile Rank

5%

9%



51% Percentile Rank

8%

FIRST

first financial bancorp

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 3/31/26 for comparability purposes.

key company brands

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

FIRST
first financial bank

 yellow
CARDINAL
ADVISORY GROUP
a first financial company

 **BANNOCKBURN**
GLOBAL FOREX

oak street
funding 

 **SUMMIT**
Funding Group
a first financial bank company

AGILE
PREMIUM FINANCE
A Division of First Financial Bank

Full suite of diversified financial products for individuals and businesses

\$22.8 Billion
Assets

\$17.9 Billion
Deposits

Wealth & asset management services for individuals and businesses

\$6.0 Billion
Assets Under Care

\$34.8 Million
LTM Revenue

\$504 Million
LTM Wealth Advisory Sales

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

11 Offices
Across the U.S.

\$69.4 Million
LTM Revenue

Specialty lender to insurance industry, RIAs, CPAs

\$1,185 Million
Loans

\$436 Million
Deposits

\$311 Million
LTM Originations

Full-service equipment financing company

\$1.3 Billion
Leases/Loans

\$640 Million
LTM Originations

\$82.8 Million
LTM Fee Income

Specialty lender for commercial customers to finance insurance premiums

High Yielding and High Quality Portfolio

\$298 Million
Loans

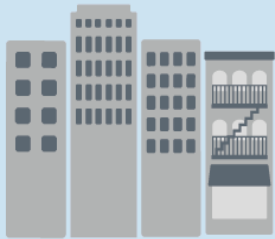
\$733 Million
LTM Originations

FIRST
first financial bancorp

Note: Data as of or for the period ending 3/31/26 and excludes the impact of BankFinancial acquisition in business lines only.

complementary market centric strategies

METRO MARKETS



Louisville, KY
Columbus, OH
Indianapolis, IN
Dayton, OH

Cleveland, OH
Chicago, IL
Grand Rapids, MI

▼ Lower brand awareness
Low market share

Loans **\$4.6B** / Deposits **\$5.0B**

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 **\$1.8B** / Deposits **\$5.2B**

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 **\$4.4B** / Deposits **\$7.3B**

Significant branch network

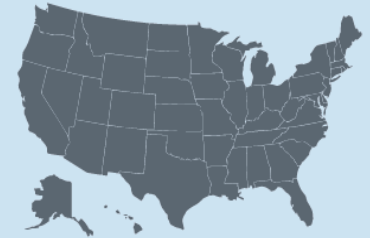
Alternative to larger banks

Mass player, based on brand, reputation and legacy

Visible presence

Large associate population

NATIONAL



Industry Specific

▶ Niche offering

Loans **\$2.7B** / Deposits **\$0.4B**
Fees* **\$97.9MM**

Oak Street Funding

First Franchise Capital

Bannockburn Global Forex

Summit Funding Group

Agile Premium Finance

diversified lines of business



Go-to-Market Strategies

Note: Data as of 3/31/26 and excludes the impact of BankFinancial acquisition.

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	8,665
Commitments	\$5.1B
Balances	\$3.3B
Business Deposits	\$3.1B
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

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	312,342	34,185	
Total Deposit Balance	\$7.4B	\$1.5B	\$0.1B
Total Loan Balance	\$1.2B	\$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	\$195MM
• Avg loan size	\$316K
• LTM Fees	\$27.6MM
• Servicing Portfolio	\$4.7B
• Loan Balance	\$2.0B

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	2,886	\$4.0B
Brokerage	4,817	\$1.7B
RPS	77	\$0.3B

Business Line Goals

- AUC 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 Loan Portfolio

Central & Northern OH	\$0.7B
Southern OH	\$1.6B
Indiana	\$0.5B
Healthcare	\$0.3B
Small Exposure	\$0.1B
Affordable	\$0.1B
Other	\$0.4B
Total	\$3.6B

Current Deposit Portfolio

Total	\$0.3B
-------	--------

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	\$1.2B
First Franchise Capital	\$0.2B
Summit Funding Group ⁽¹⁾	\$1.3B
<small>⁽¹⁾ Includes operating leases</small>	
Agile Premium Finance	\$0.3B
Total	\$3.0B
Deposits	\$0.4B

Business Line Goals

- Portfolio Growth
- Revenue Growth

Value Proposition

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

presentation contents



About First Financial Bancorp

Acquisitions

Financial Performance

Appendix

first

first financial bancorp

acquisition update

Westfield Bank

- Successful conversion in March
- Stable loan and deposit balances
- Successful retention of client-facing teams
- On track to achieve financial targets, cost savings and EPS contribution
- Full impact from cost savings expected at the beginning of 3Q26
- Opened Wadsworth, OH branch in February

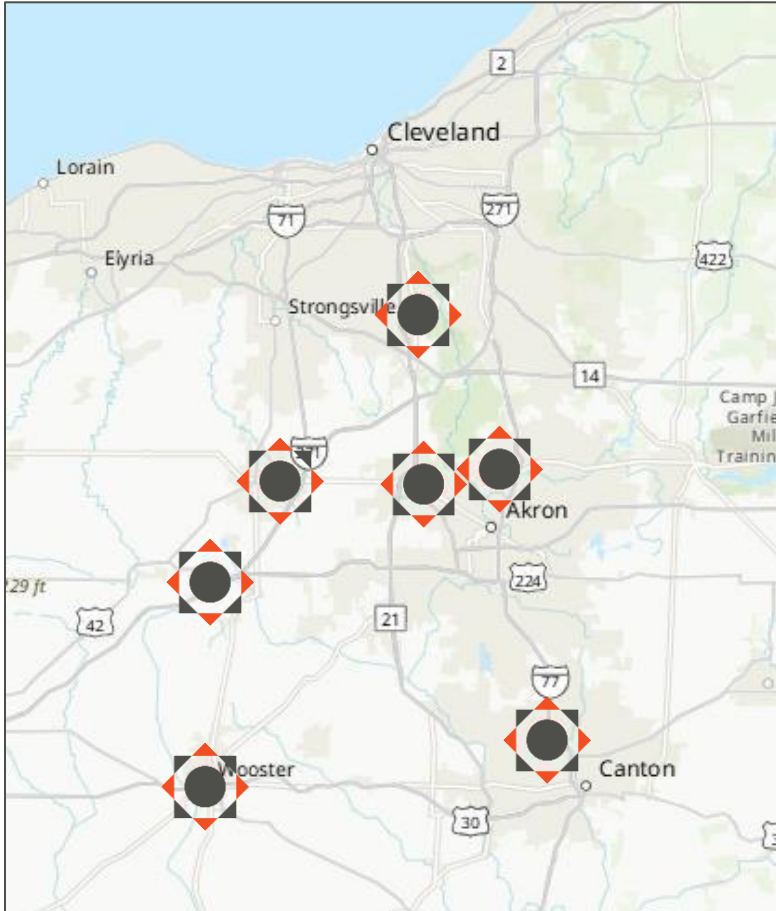
BankFinancial

- Closed on January 1st
- Conversion scheduled for June
- Sold \$427 million of multi-family loans
- \$8.9 million bargain purchase gain recorded
- Full impact from cost savings expected at the beginning of 4Q26

FIRST

first financial bancorp

overview of Westfield – closed 11/1/25



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 at close**
1 opened in Feb 2026

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 million¹.

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.

FIRST

first financial bancorp

Source: S&P Capital IQ Pro.

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

overview of BankFinancial – at close 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)
Multifamily Loans Sold in Mar 2026	\$427 million

Financial summary

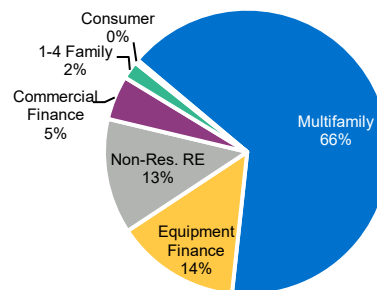
Balance Sheet & Capital (As of 4Q25 Unless Otherwise Stated, %)	
Cash & Securities / Assets	46
Loan / Deposit Ratio	58
Non-Time Deposit Composition	78
TCE / TA	11.2
CET1 Ratio ¹	21.1
NCOs / Avg. Loans (MRQ, annualized)	(0.01)
Profitability – (4Q25, %)	
Return on Avg. Assets	0.06
Net Interest Margin	3.23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

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

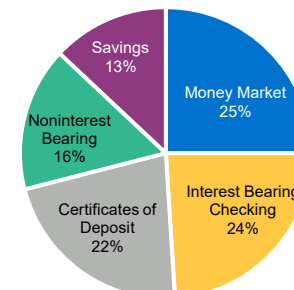
Loan & Deposit composition

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

FIRST

first financial bancorp

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

FIRST

first financial bancorp

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

FIRST

first financial bancorp

presentation contents



About First Financial Bancorp

Acquisitions

Financial Performance

Appendix

first

first financial bancorp

1Q 2026 results

142nd Consecutive Quarter of Profitability

Profitability

- Net income – \$74.4 million or \$0.71 per diluted share. Adjusted¹ net income – \$80.5 million or \$0.77 per diluted share
- Return on average assets – 1.34%. Adjusted¹ return on average assets – 1.45%
- Return on average shareholders' equity – 10.24%. Adjusted¹ return on average shareholders' equity – 11.07%
- Return on average tangible common equity – 17.78%. Adjusted¹ return on average tangible common equity – 19.22%

Income Statement

- Net interest income – \$189.6 million
- Net interest margin of 3.97% on a GAAP basis; 3.99% on a fully tax equivalent basis¹
- Noninterest income – \$81.9 million; \$75.6 million as adjusted¹
- Noninterest expense – \$169.4 million; \$154.8 million as adjusted¹
- Efficiency ratio – 62.4%. Adjusted¹ efficiency ratio – 58.4%
- Effective tax rate of 20.4%. Adjusted¹ effective tax rate of 21.0%

Balance Sheet

- EOP assets increased \$1.7 billion compared to the linked quarter to \$22.8 billion; \$1.4 billion from BankFinancial
- EOP loans increased \$70.8 million compared to the linked quarter to \$13.5 billion; \$227.7 million from BankFinancial
- Average deposits increased \$1.7 billion compared to the linked quarter to \$17.6 billion
- EOP investment securities increased \$972.2 million compared to the linked quarter

Asset Quality

- Provision expense – \$8.5 million
- Net charge-offs – \$11.6 million. NCOs / Avg. Loans – 0.35% annualized
- Classified Assets / Total Assets – 1.02%
- NPA / Total Assets – 0.44%
- ACL / Total Loans – 1.36%; \$2.8 million total reserve build due to BankFinancial

Capital

- Total capital ratio – 15.70%
- Tier 1 common equity ratio – 12.22%
- Tangible common equity ratio – 7.87%. Adjusted¹ tangible common equity ratio – 8.88%
- Tangible book value per share – \$16.15
- Board of Directors authorized 5 million share repurchase plan

FIRST

first financial bancorp

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

1Q 2026 highlights

- Strong adjusted¹ quarterly earnings driven by robust net interest margin
 - Adjusted¹ earnings per share – \$0.77
 - Adjusted¹ return on assets – 1.45%
 - Adjusted¹ pre-tax, pre-provision return on assets – 1.99%
 - Adjusted¹ return on average tangible common equity – 19.22%
- Modest loan growth during the quarter
 - EOP loan balances increased \$71 million compared to the linked quarter
 - Growth included \$228 million from the BankFinancial acquisition, offset primarily by \$152 million decline in ICRE balances
 - Originations increased approximately 45% compared to the first quarter of 2025, and by over 25% excluding acquisitions
 - Loan pipelines have increased significantly since January
- Total average deposit balances increased \$1.7 billion
 - Includes \$1.2 billion impact from the BankFinancial acquisition and full quarter impact from Westfield
 - Seasonal decline in public funds
 - Average noninterest bearing deposits were 20% of average total deposits
- Net interest margin (FTE)¹ of 3.99% increased 1 bp from linked quarter
 - 13 bp decrease in cost of funds
 - 3 bp decline from BankFinancial acquisition
 - 12 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.

1Q 2026 highlights

- Noninterest income of \$81.9 million; \$75.6 million as adjusted¹; significantly outpacing expectations
 - Adjustments include \$1.3 million loss on securities, \$8.9 million gain on bargain purchase related to the BankFinancial acquisition, and \$1.4 million loss on the surrender of a bank owned life insurance policy
 - Record wealth management income of \$10.5 million; 12.9% increase from linked quarter
 - Double digit percentage growth in client derivative fees and leasing business income
 - Foreign exchange income of \$16.3 million
 - 24% increase in adjusted¹ fee income compared to 1Q25
- Adjusted¹ noninterest expense of \$154.8 million; 9.1% increase from fourth quarter; outperformed expectations
 - Adjustments¹ include \$14.3 million of acquisition related expenses, \$0.7 million of tax credit write-downs, and \$0.4 million of efficiency and other noninterest expenses
 - Increase driven by the BankFinancial and Westfield acquisitions
 - Efficiency ratio of 62.4%; 58.4% as adjusted¹
- Credit quality in line with expectations
 - Total ACL of \$206.7 million; provision expense of \$8.5 million
 - Loans and leases - ACL of \$183.7 million; \$2.8 million related to BankFinancial
 - 1.36% of total loans
 - Unfunded Commitments - ACL of \$23.0 million; \$0.3 million related to BankFinancial
 - \$11.6 million in net charge-offs; 0.35% of loans on an annualized basis
 - Nonperforming assets decreased slightly to 0.44% of total assets; Classified assets declined to 1.02% of total assets
- Capital ratios remain strong
 - Total capital ratio of 15.70%; 24 bp increase from linked quarter
 - Tier 1 common equity of 12.22%; 90 bp increase from linked quarter
 - Tangible book value of \$16.15; increased \$0.41, or 2.6% from linked quarter
 - Tangible common equity increased slightly to 7.87%; 8.88%¹ excluding (\$217.4) million of AOCI
 - Board of Directors authorized 5,000,000 share repurchase plan

adjusted net income¹

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

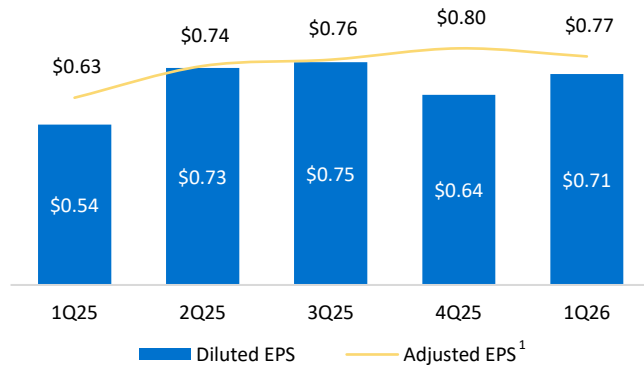
	1Q 2026		4Q 2025	
	As Reported	Adjusted ¹	As Reported	Adjusted ¹
Net interest income	\$ 189,610	\$ 189,610	\$ 173,995	\$ 173,995
Provision for credit losses-loans and leases	\$ 6,030	\$ 6,030	\$ 9,688	\$ 9,688
Provision for credit losses-unfunded commitments	\$ 2,510	\$ 2,510	\$ 412	\$ 412
Noninterest income	\$ 81,906	\$ 81,906	\$ 64,767	\$ 64,767
less: gains (losses) on security transactions	-	(1,260) A	-	(12,576) A
less: gain on bargain purchase	-	8,892 A	-	- A
less: other	-	(1,371) A	-	- A
Total noninterest income	\$ 81,906	\$ 75,645	\$ 64,767	\$ 77,343
Noninterest expense	\$ 169,408	\$ 169,408	\$ 149,531	\$ 149,531
less: tax credit investment writedown	-	669 A	-	800 A
less: merger-related expenses	-	14,257 A	-	5,658 A
less: other	-	(357) A	-	1,177 A
Total noninterest expense	\$ 169,408	\$ 154,839	\$ 149,531	\$ 141,896
Income before income taxes	\$ 93,568	\$ 101,876	\$ 79,131	\$ 99,342
Income tax expense	\$ 19,123	\$ 19,123	\$ 16,738	\$ 16,738
plus: after-tax impact of tax credit investment @ 21%	-	528	-	632
plus: tax effect of adjustments (A) @ 21% statutory rate	-	1,745	-	4,244
Total income tax expense	\$ 19,123	\$ 21,396	\$ 16,738	\$ 21,614
Net income	\$ 74,445	\$ 80,480	\$ 62,393	\$ 77,728
Net earnings per share - diluted	\$ 0.71	\$ 0.77	\$ 0.64	\$ 0.80
Pre-tax, pre-provision return on average assets	1.84%	1.99%	1.75%	2.14%

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

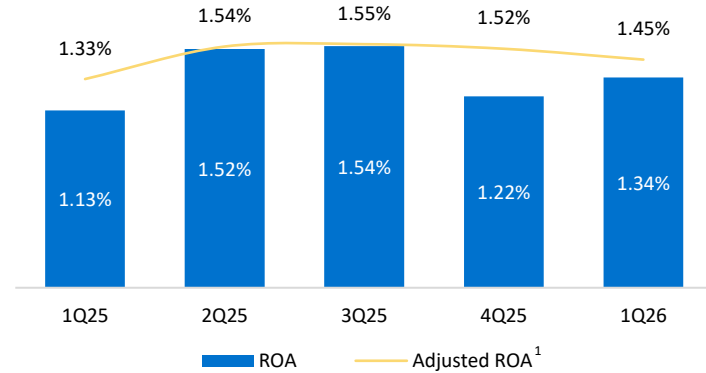
All dollars shown in thousands, except per share amounts

profitability

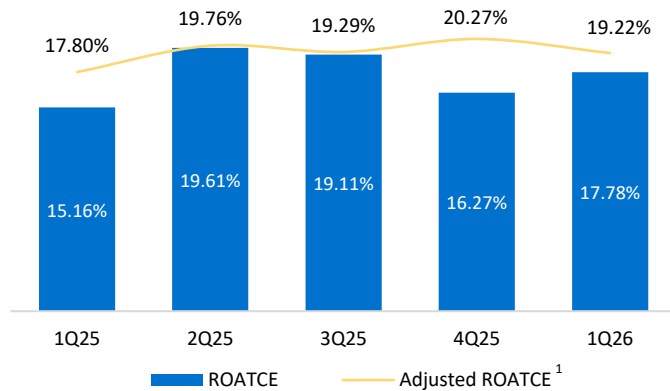
Diluted EPS



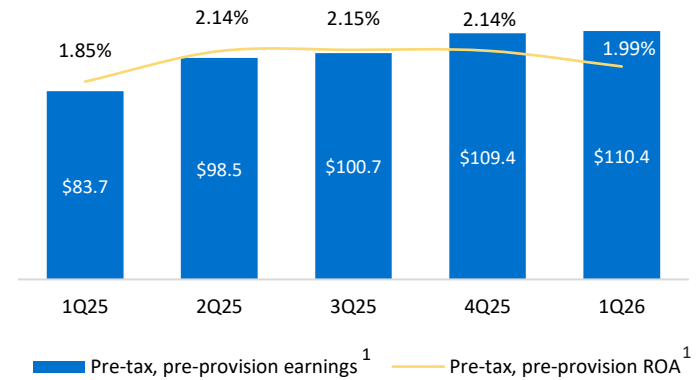
Return on Average Assets



Return on Avg Tangible Common Equity

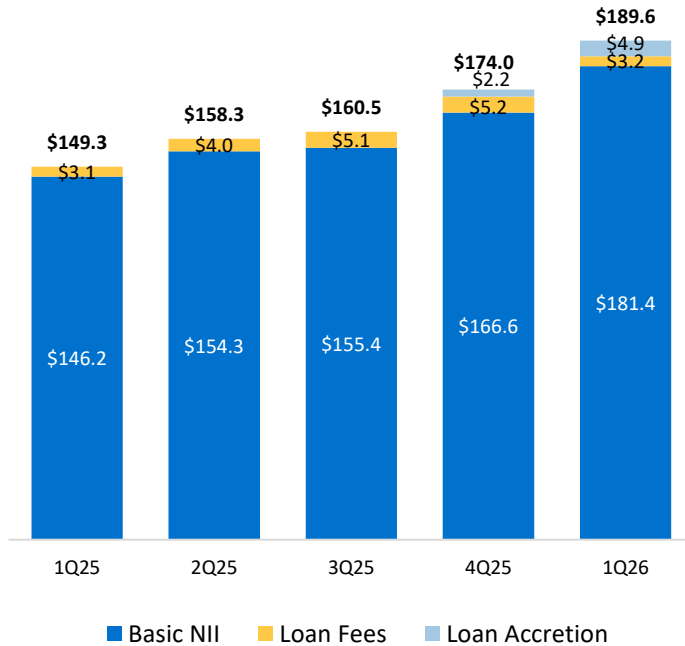


Adjusted¹ Pre-tax, Pre-Provision Earnings

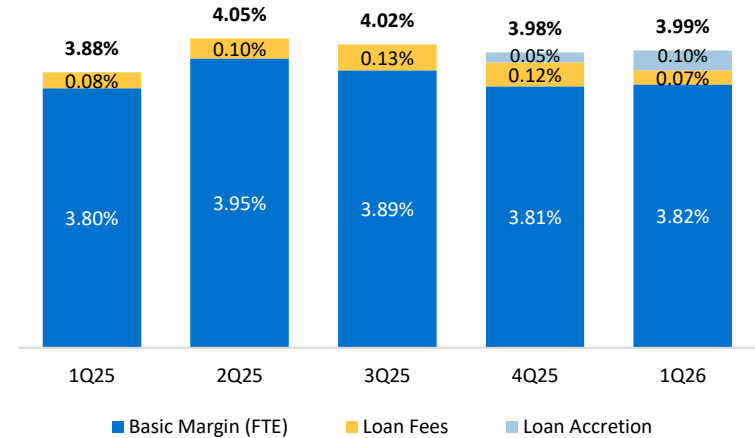


net interest income & margin

Net Interest Income ¹



Net Interest Margin (FTE) ¹



1Q26 NIM (FTE) Progression ¹

4Q25	3.98%
Asset yields/mix	-0.17%
Loan accretion	0.05%
Funding costs/mix	0.13%
1Q26	3.99%

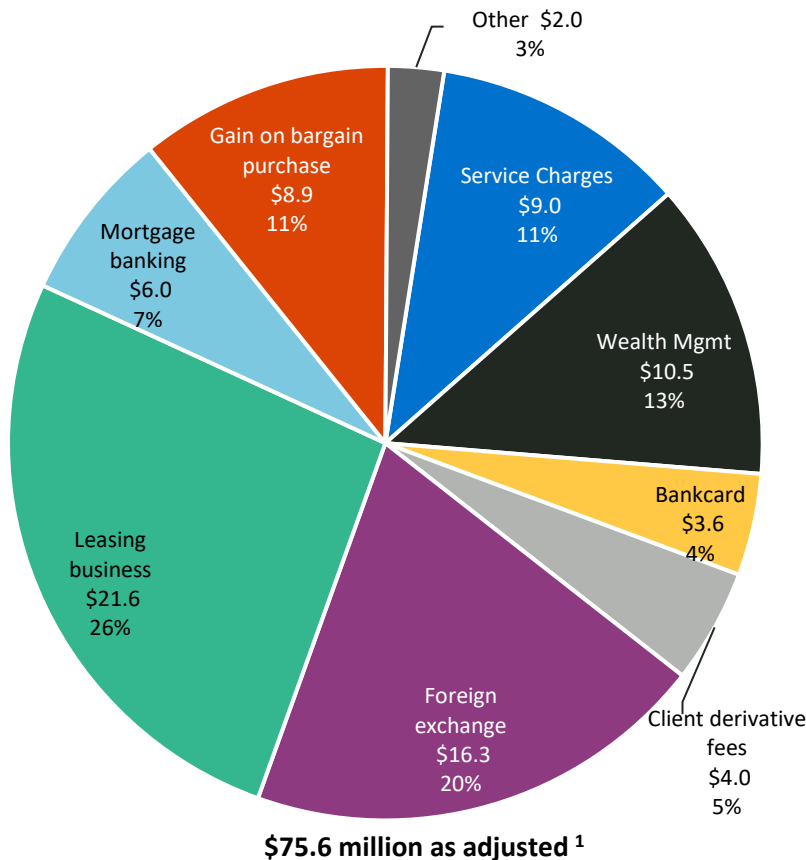
¹ Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliation.

All dollars shown in millions

noninterest income

Noninterest Income

Total \$81.9 million

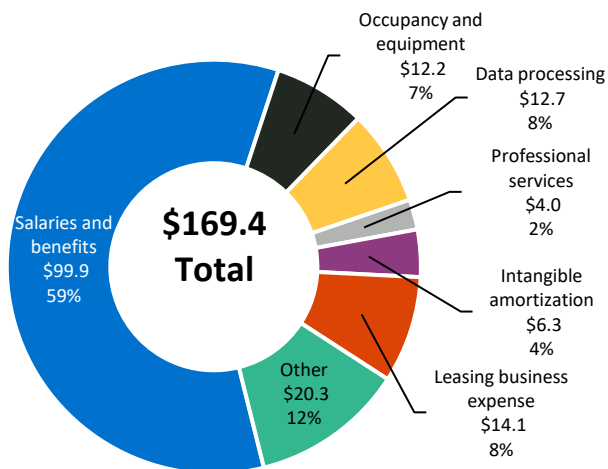


1Q26 Highlights

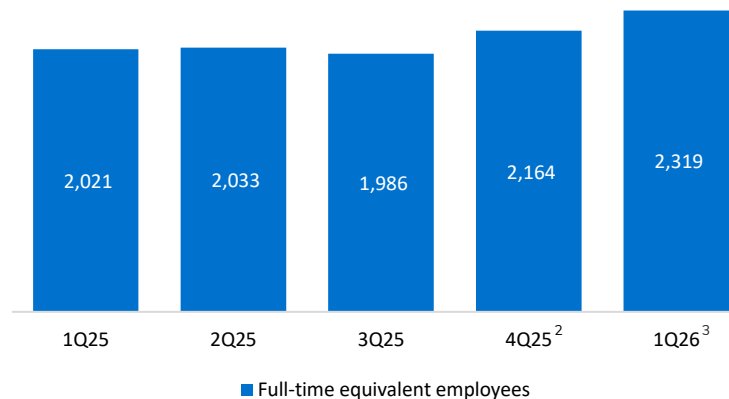
- Adjustments include a \$1.3 million loss on securities, \$8.9 million gain on bargain purchase, and a \$1.4 million loss on surrender of bank owned life insurance policy
- Adjusted¹ noninterest income 29% of net revenue
- Foreign exchange income of \$16.3 million;
- Record wealth management income of \$10.5 million; increased \$1.2 million, or 12.9% from linked quarter
- Record leasing business income of \$21.6 million; increased \$2.1 million, or 10.7% from the linked quarter

noninterest expense

Noninterest Expense



Full-time Equivalent Employees

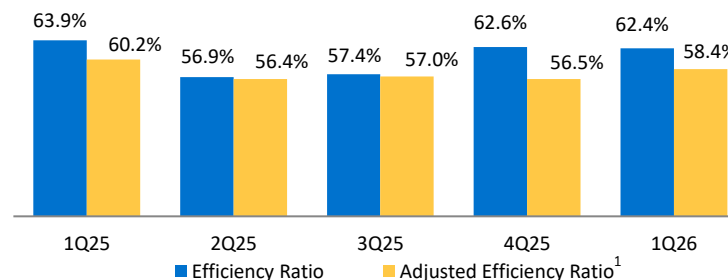


² Includes 169 FTE from Westfield acquisition
³ Includes 156 FTE from BankFinancial acquisition

1Q26 Highlights

- Adjusted¹ noninterest expense increased \$12.9 million, or 9.1% from linked quarter
 - Efficiency ratio of 62.4%; 58.4% as adjusted¹
 - Increase driven by the Westfield and BankFinancial acquisitions
- \$14.6 million of adjustments¹ include:
 - \$14.3 million of acquisition related expenses
 - \$0.7 million of tax credit investment write-down
 - \$0.4 million of other costs not expected to recur

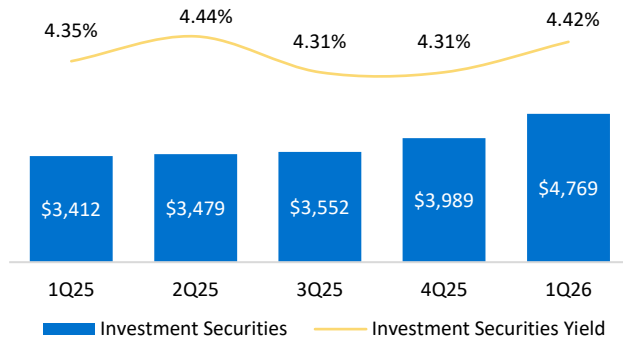
Efficiency Ratio



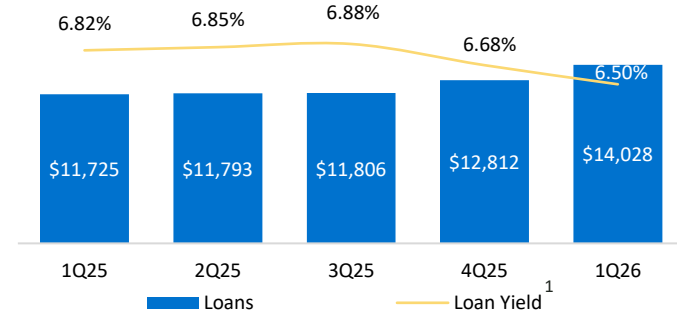
¹ Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliations.

average balance sheet

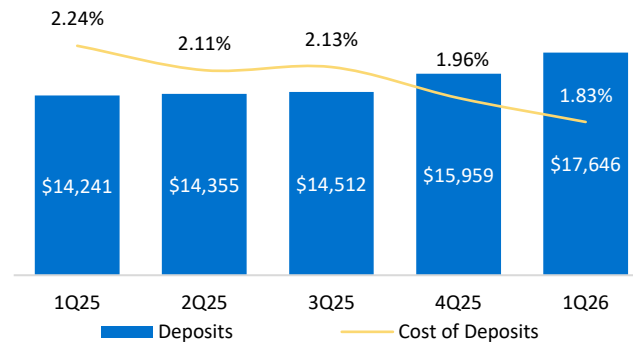
Average Securities



Average Loans



Average Deposits



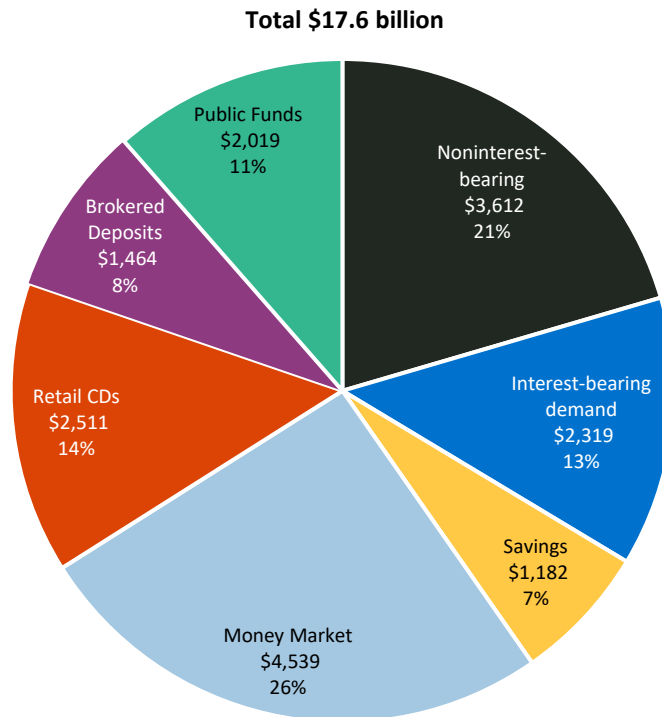
FIRST

first financial bancorp

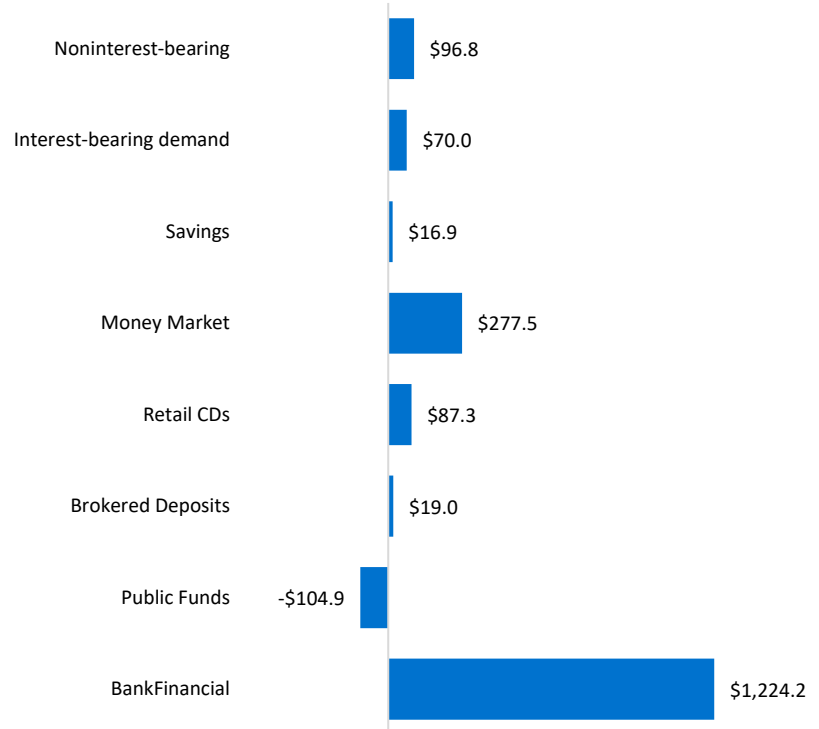
All dollars shown in millions
¹ Includes loans fees and loan accretion

deposits

Deposit Product Mix (Avg)



1Q26 Average Deposit Progression¹

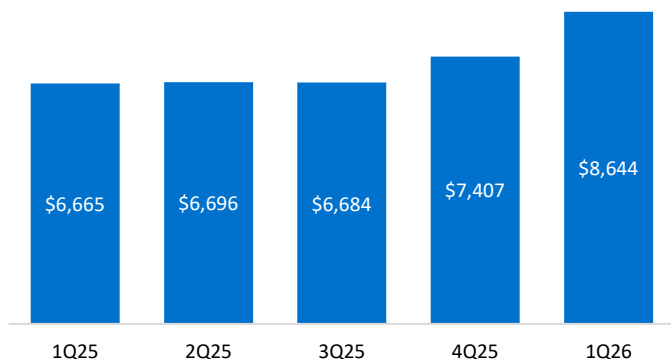


Total growth/(decline)¹:
\$1.7 billion

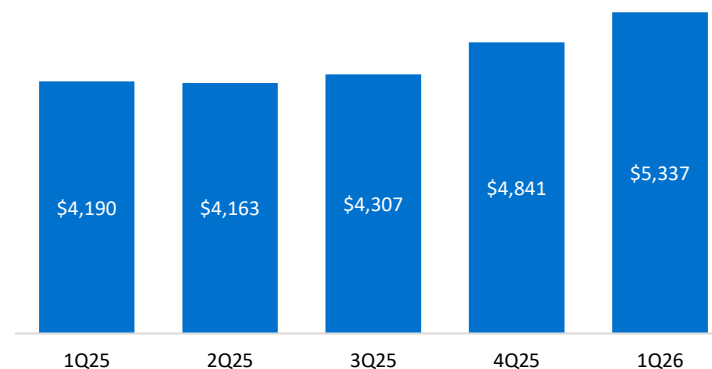
¹ Includes full quarter impact from Westfield

average deposit trends

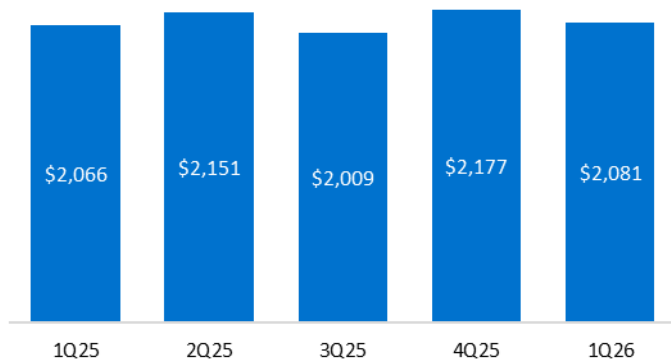
Personal



Business



Public Funds



Uninsured Deposits

Uninsured deposits (per call report instructions)	\$ 7,394
Less: Public funds	1,937
Less: Intercompany deposits	386
Adjusted uninsured deposits	5,071
Borrowing capacity	6,402
Borrowing capacity in excess of adjusted uninsured deposits	\$ 1,331

Borrowing capacity as a % of adjusted uninsured deposits	126.2%
Adjusted uninsured deposits to total deposits	28.3%

All dollars shown in millions

FIRST

first financial bancorp

borrowing capacity & cash/investment liquidity

Borrowing Capacity

FHLB borrowing availability	\$ 1,431,938
Fed Discount Window availability	839,235
Brokered CDs/Deposit placement services	3,117,338
Fed funds	1,013,000
Total as of March 31, 2026	<u>\$ 6,401,511</u>

All dollars shown in thousands

Cash/Investment Liquidity

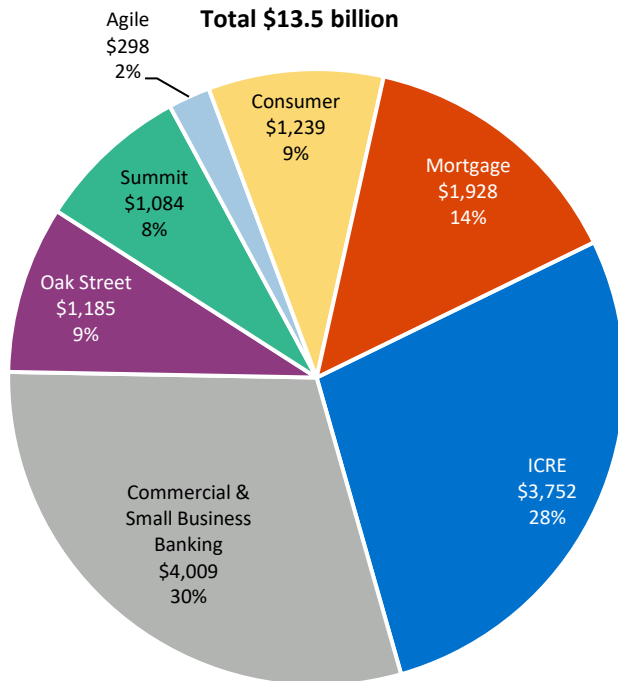
- Interest-bearing deposits with other banks of \$1.0 billion
- Investment securities portfolio:
 - 99.0% of investment portfolio classified as available-for-sale
 - \$840.3 million of expected cash flow from securities portfolio in next 12 months
 - \$520.5 million of floating rate securities with minimal losses
 - Portfolio duration of 4.3 years at March 31, 2026

FIRST

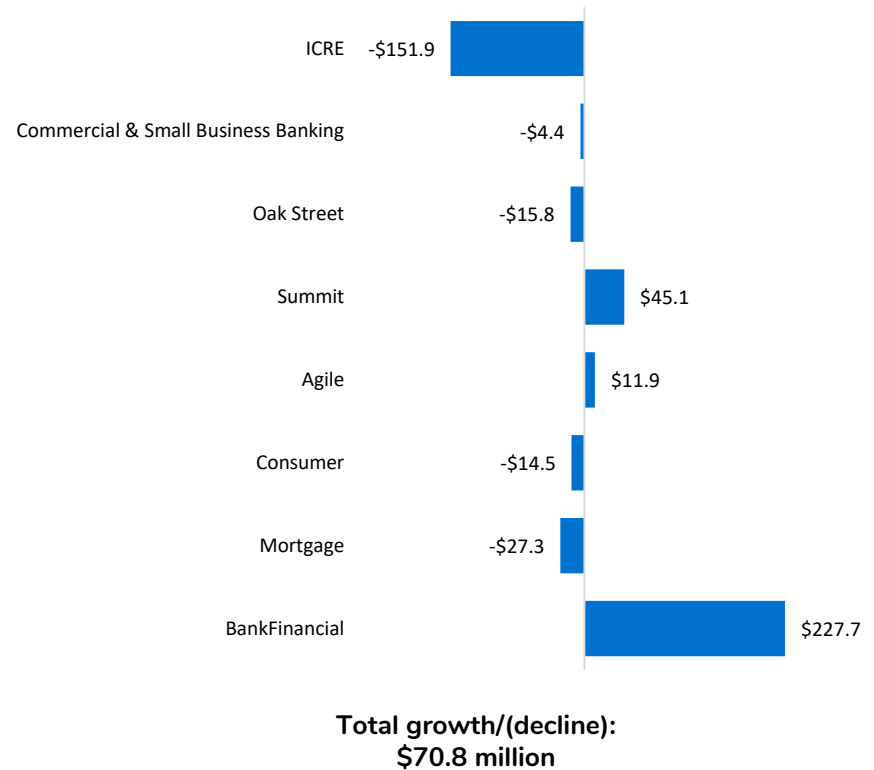
first financial bancorp

loan portfolio

Loan LOB Mix (EOP)



Net Loan Change-LOB (Linked Quarter)



loan concentrations

C&I and Owner Occupied CRE Loans by Sector

NAICS Sector	3/31/26	% of Total
		Loans
Finance and Insurance	\$1,517.1	11.2%
Manufacturing	619.6	4.6%
Construction	360.3	2.7%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	356.9	2.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	323.9	2.4%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	293.8	2.2%
Accommodation and Food Services	280.6	2.1%
Wholesale Trade	241.0	1.8%
Retail Trade	233.0	1.7%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	159.2	1.2%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	136.9	1.0%
Transportation and Warehousing	127.5	0.9%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management	125.8	0.9%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	82.6	0.6%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	71.6	0.5%
Public Administration	65.8	0.5%
Information	61.0	0.5%
Utilities	54.3	0.4%
Educational Services	45.9	0.3%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	3.8	0.0%
Other	0.1	0.0%
Grand Total	\$5,160.6	38.2%

* Excludes all Summit loans & leases and Agile Premium Finance loans

FIRST

first financial bancorp

Investor CRE Loans by Property Type

Property Type	3/31/26	% of Total
		Loans
Residential Multi Family 5+	\$1,160.4	8.6%
Retail Property	833.2	6.2%
Industrial	417.8	3.1%
Office	400.2	3.0%
Hospital/Nursing Home	315.3	2.3%
Land	190.0	1.4%
Other	123.3	0.9%
Residential 1-4 Family	111.7	0.8%
Hotel	110.0	0.8%
Other Real Estate	49.1	0.4%
Industrial	41.1	0.3%
Grand Total	\$3,752.3	27.8%

- ICRE balances approximately 164% of Holding Company risk-based capital and 180% of Bank risk-based capital

All dollars shown in millions

area of focus – NDFI exposure

NDFI

- Loans to NDFI totaled \$423.6 million, or 3.1% of the total loan portfolio
- All NDFI loans pass rated at 3/31
- Average loan size is \$8.1 million; median size is \$6.8 million
- Exposure primarily contained to Mortgage Credit Intermediaries (primarily REITs)
 - 65% of total NDFI loans

Private Credit Exposure

- Direct Exposure
 - \$123.9 million outstanding
 - Primarily subscription lines to well-established funds that are either an institutional investor or publicly traded
 - \$185.0 million committed

	\$ in Millions	% Total Loans
NDFI Exposure Summary	\$423.6	3.1%
Mortgage Credit REIT, Mortgage Warehouse	\$277.1	2.1%
Business Credit Securitization Lines	\$123.9	0.9%
Private Equity Funds Subscription Lines	\$11.8	0.1%
Other Loans Community Development, Farm Credit Lines	\$10.9	0.1%

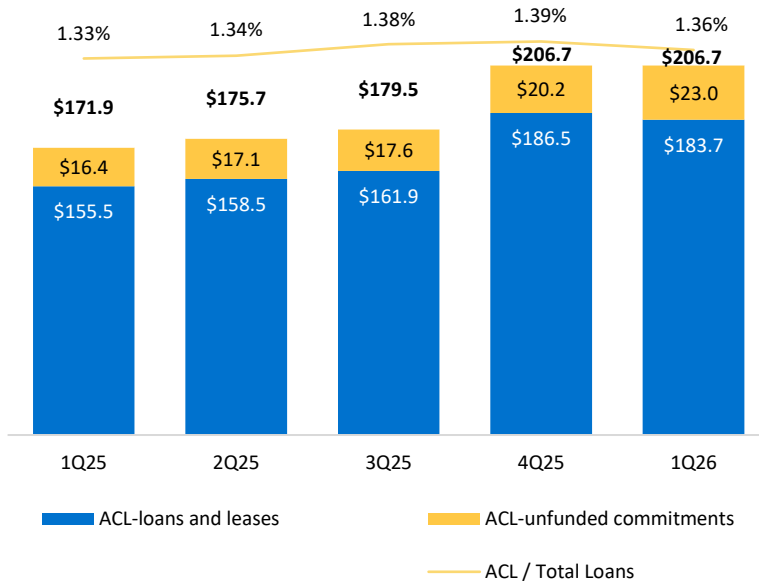
All dollars shown in millions

FIRST

first financial bancorp

allowance for credit losses

ACL / Total Loans



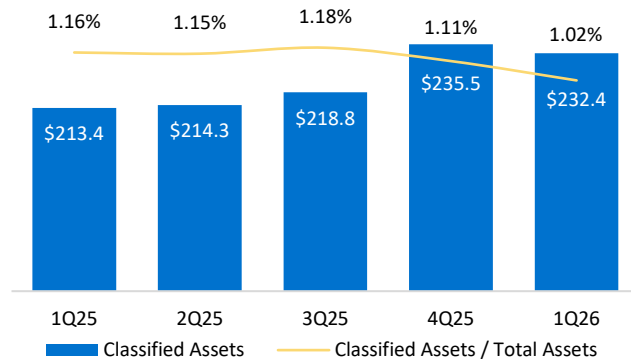
All dollars shown in millions

1Q26 Highlights

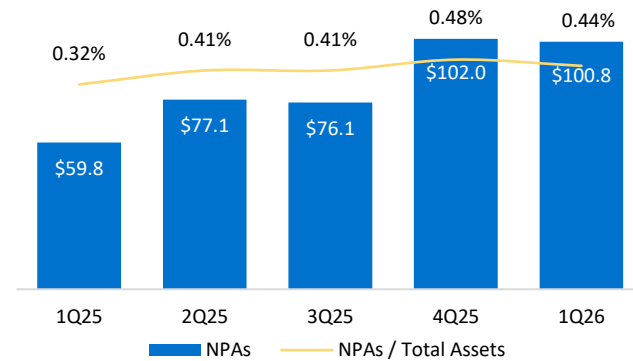
- \$206.7 million combined ACL; \$8.5 million combined provision expense
- \$183.7 million ACL – loans and leases; \$2.8 million related to BankFinancial
- ACL 1.36% of total loans
- Utilized Moody's March baseline forecast in quantitative model
- \$23.0 million ACL – unfunded commitments; \$0.3 million related to BankFinancial

asset quality

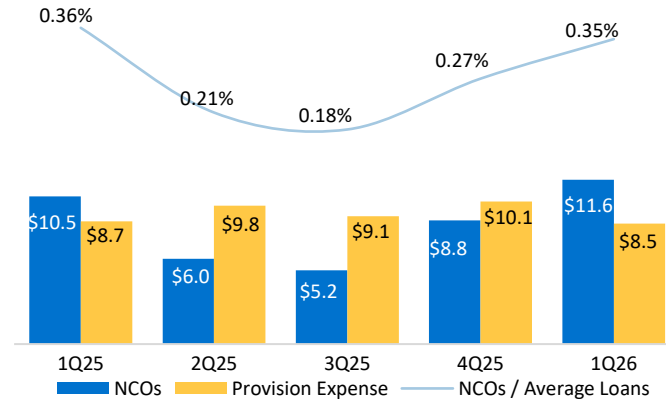
Classified Assets / Total Assets



Nonperforming Assets / Total Assets



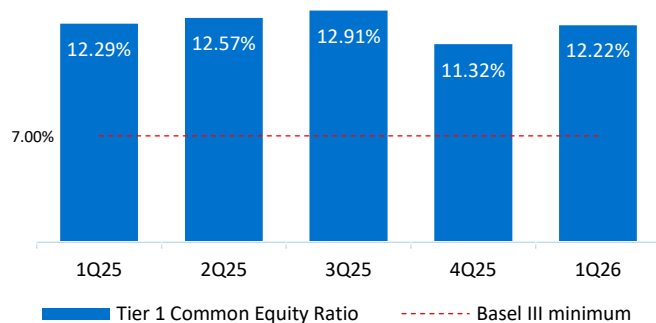
Net Charge Offs & Provision Expense¹



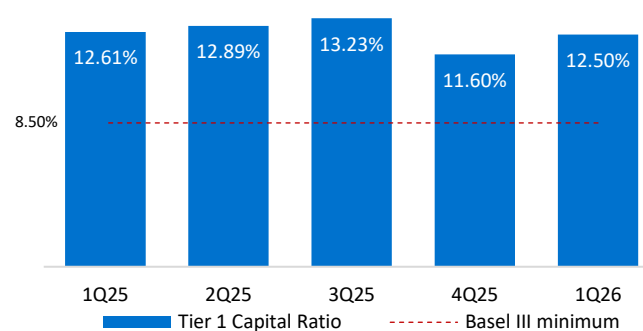
¹ Provision includes both loans & leases and unfunded commitments
All dollars shown in millions

capital

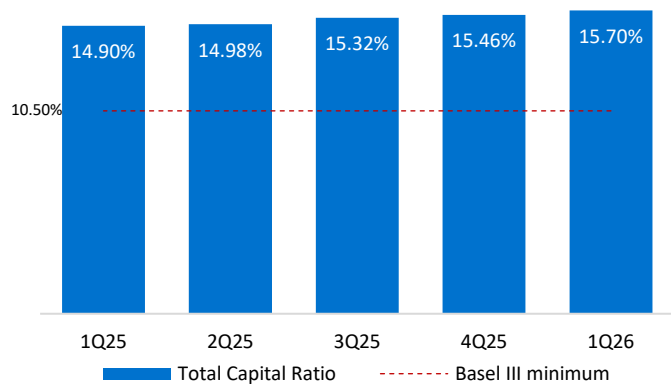
Tier 1 Common Equity Ratio



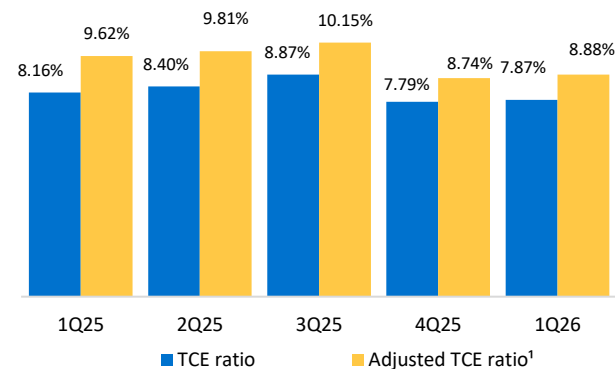
Tier 1 Capital Ratio



Total Capital Ratio



Tangible Common Equity Ratio



3/31 Risk Weighted Assets = \$16,127,377

All capital numbers are considered preliminary.

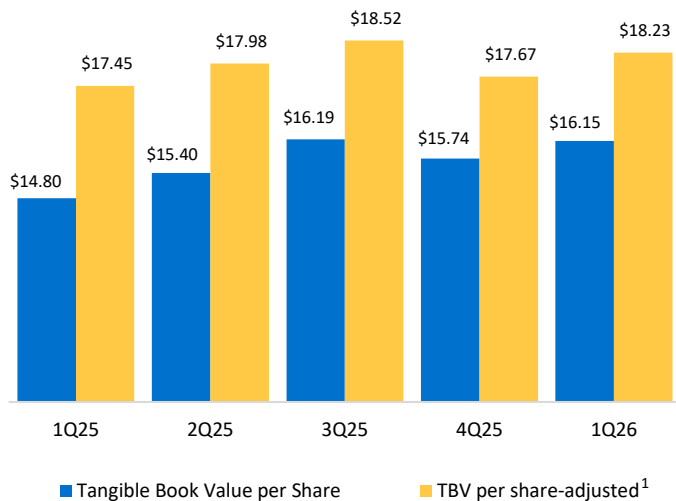
¹ Non-GAAP financial measure which management believes facilitates a better understanding of the Company's financial condition. See Appendix for Non-GAAP reconciliation. Adjusted TCE excludes impact from AOCI

FIRST

first financial bancorp

capital strategy

Tangible Book Value Per Share



- Increase in TBV per share from linked quarter driven by strong earnings
- 9.1% increase since 1Q25;
- Approximates pre-Westfield/BFIN level

Strategy & Deployment

- 3.6% annualized dividend yield as of March 31st
- 35% of 1Q26 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 1Q26
- Board of Directors approved 5,000,000 share repurchase plan

¹ Excludes impact from AOCI

outlook commentary¹

Balance Sheet

- Loan balances expected to increase mid single digits on an annualized basis
- Core deposit balances expected to be relatively flat

Net Interest Margin

- Expected to be 3.99% - 4.04%; assumes no rate cuts

Credit

- Stable credit costs expected
- Stable ACL coverage as a percentage of loans expected

Noninterest Income

- Total expected fee income of \$75 - 77 million
 - Includes \$14 - 16 million foreign exchange
 - Includes \$20 - 22 million leasing business income

Noninterest Expense

- Total noninterest expense expected to be \$151 - 154 million
 - Incentive expense will fluctuate with fee income

Capital

- Common dividend unchanged at \$0.25

FIRST

first financial bancorp

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

Acquisitions

Financial Performance

Appendix

first

first financial bancorp

appendix: our markets

• Greater Cincinnati/Dayton

• Loans	\$4.8 billion
• Deposits	\$8.2 billion
• Deposit Market Share	#4 (3.4%)
• Banking Centers	46
• Fortune 500 Companies	8

• Columbus, OH

• Loans	\$1.4 billion
• Deposits	\$0.4 billion
• Deposit Market Share	#17 (0.4%)
• Banking Centers	4
• Fortune 500 Companies	5

• Cleveland/Akron/Canton

• Loans	\$1.1 billion
• Deposits	\$1.4 billion
• Deposit Market Share	#12 (1.0%)
• Banking Centers	8
• Fortune 500 Companies	9

• Chicago

• Loans	\$0.3 billion
• Deposits	\$1.2 billion
• Deposit Market Share	#46 (0.2%)
• Banking Centers	17
• Fortune 500 Companies	30

• 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	10
• Fortune 500 Companies	3

• Grand Rapids

• Loans	\$0.03 billion
• Deposits	\$0.07 billion
• Fortune 500 Companies	1

• Community Markets

• Loans	\$1.8 billion
• Deposits	\$5.2 billion
• Banking Centers	61
• Fortune 500 Companies	1

• National

• Loans	\$2.7 billion
• Deposits	\$0.4 billion

All numbers as of 3/31/2026, except fortune 500 companies as of 2/21/2026 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.

FIRST

first financial bancorp

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				
	Mar. 31, 2026	Dec. 31, 2025	Sep. 30, 2025	June 30, 2025	Mar. 31, 2025
Net interest income	\$ 189,610	\$ 173,995	\$ 160,486	\$ 158,269	\$ 149,296
Tax equivalent adjustment	1,186	1,227	1,248	1,246	1,213
Net interest income - tax equivalent	<u>\$ 190,796</u>	<u>\$ 175,222</u>	<u>\$ 161,734</u>	<u>\$ 159,515</u>	<u>\$ 150,509</u>
Average earning assets	\$ 19,393,679	\$ 17,448,460	\$ 15,968,153	\$ 15,814,576	\$ 15,752,132
Net interest margin ¹	3.97 %	3.96 %	3.99 %	4.01 %	3.84 %
Net interest margin (fully tax equivalent) ¹	3.99 %	3.98 %	4.02 %	4.05 %	3.88 %

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,				
	Mar. 31, 2026	Dec. 31, 2025	Sep. 30, 2025	June 30, 2025	Mar. 31, 2025
Net income (a)	\$ 74,445	\$ 62,393	\$ 71,923	\$ 69,996	\$ 51,293
Average total shareholders' equity	2,947,585	2,695,581	2,575,203	2,515,747	2,457,785
Less:					
Goodw ill	(1,099,543)	(1,069,781)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,656)
Other intangibles	(149,631)	(104,184)	(74,448)	(76,076)	(78,220)
Average tangible equity (b)	<u>1,698,411</u>	<u>1,521,616</u>	<u>1,493,099</u>	<u>1,432,015</u>	<u>1,371,909</u>
Total shareholders' equity	2,940,625	2,769,216	2,631,855	2,558,155	2,501,235
Less:					
Goodw ill	(1,099,543)	(1,099,524)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,656)
Other intangibles	(145,927)	(118,832)	(73,797)	(75,458)	(77,002)
Ending tangible common equity (c)	<u>1,695,155</u>	<u>1,550,860</u>	<u>1,550,402</u>	<u>1,475,041</u>	<u>1,416,577</u>
Less:					
AOCI	<u>(217,430)</u>	<u>(189,942)</u>	<u>(223,000)</u>	<u>(246,384)</u>	<u>(253,888)</u>
Adjusted ending tangible common equity (d)	<u>1,912,585</u>	<u>1,740,802</u>	<u>1,773,402</u>	<u>1,721,425</u>	<u>1,670,465</u>
Total assets	22,779,815	21,129,379	18,554,506	18,634,255	18,455,067
Less:					
Goodw ill	(1,099,543)	(1,099,524)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,656)
Other intangibles	(145,927)	(118,832)	(73,797)	(75,458)	(77,002)
Ending tangible assets (e)	<u>21,534,345</u>	<u>19,911,023</u>	<u>17,473,053</u>	<u>17,551,141</u>	<u>17,370,409</u>
Risk-weighted assets (f)	16,127,377	15,890,363	14,166,935	14,129,683	14,027,274
Total average assets	22,459,721	20,256,539	18,566,188	18,419,437	18,368,604
Less:					
Goodw ill	(1,099,543)	(1,069,781)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,656)	(1,007,656)
Other intangibles	(149,631)	(104,184)	(74,448)	(76,076)	(78,220)
Average tangible assets (g)	<u>\$ 21,210,547</u>	<u>\$ 19,082,574</u>	<u>\$ 17,484,084</u>	<u>\$ 17,335,705</u>	<u>\$ 17,282,728</u>
Ending shares outstanding (h)	104,932,829	98,521,726	95,757,250	95,760,617	95,730,353
Ratios					
Return on average tangible shareholders' equity (a)/(b)	17.78%	16.27%	19.11%	19.61%	15.16%
Ending tangible common equity as a percent of:					
Ending tangible assets (c)/(e)	7.87%	7.79%	8.87%	8.40%	8.16%
Risk-weighted assets (c)/(f)	10.51%	9.76%	10.94%	10.44%	10.10%
Adjusted ending tangible common equity to ending tangible assets (d)/(e)	8.88%	8.74%	10.15%	9.81%	9.62%
Average tangible equity as a percent of average tangible assets (b)/(g)	8.01%	7.97%	8.54%	8.26%	7.94%
Tangible book value per share (c)/(h)	\$ 16.15	\$ 15.74	\$ 16.19	\$ 15.40	\$ 14.80

All dollars shown in thousands

appendix: non-GAAP to GAAP reconciliation

Additional non-GAAP measures

(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)	1Q26		4Q25		3Q25		2Q25	
	As Reported	Adjusted	As Reported	Adjusted	As Reported	Adjusted	As Reported	Adjusted
Net interest income (f)	\$ 189,610	\$ 189,610	\$ 173,995	\$ 173,995	\$ 160,486	\$ 160,486	\$ 158,269	\$ 158,269
Provision for credit losses-loans and leases (j)	6,030	6,030	9,688	9,688	8,612	8,612	9,084	9,084
Provision for credit losses-unfunded commitments (j)	2,510	2,510	412	412	453	453	718	718
Noninterest income	81,906	81,906	64,767	64,767	73,525	73,525	68,063	68,063
less: gains (losses) on security transactions		(1,260)		(12,576)		(42)		242
less: gain on bargain purchase		8,892		-		-		-
less: other		(1,371)		-		-		-
Total noninterest income (g)	81,906	75,645	64,767	77,343	73,525	73,567	68,063	67,821
Noninterest expense	169,408	169,408	149,531	149,531	134,269	134,269	128,671	128,671
less: tax credit investment w ritedow n		669		800		112		111
less: merger-related expenses		14,257		5,658		-		-
less: Other		(357)		1,177		827		960
Total noninterest expense (e)	169,408	154,839	149,531	141,896	134,269	133,330	128,671	127,600
Income before income taxes (i)	93,568	101,876	79,131	99,342	90,677	91,658	87,859	88,688
Income tax expense	19,123	19,123	16,738	16,738	18,754	18,754	17,863	17,863
plus: tax effect of adjustments		528		632		89		88
plus: after-tax impact of tax credit investments @ 21%		1,745		4,244		206		174
Total income tax expense (h)	19,123	21,396	16,738	21,614	18,754	19,049	17,863	18,125
Net income (a)	\$ 74,445	\$ 80,480	\$ 62,393	\$ 77,728	\$ 71,923	\$ 72,609	\$ 69,996	\$ 70,563
Average diluted shares (b)	104,615	104,615	97,594	97,594	95,754	95,754	95,742	95,742
Average assets (c)	22,459,721	22,459,721	20,256,539	20,256,539	18,566,188	18,566,188	18,419,437	18,419,437
Average shareholders' equity (k)	2,947,585	2,947,585	2,695,581	2,695,581	2,575,203	2,575,203	2,515,747	2,515,747
Less:								
Goodwill and other intangibles	(1,249,174)	(1,249,174)	(1,173,965)	(1,173,965)	(1,082,104)	(1,082,104)	(1,083,732)	(1,083,732)
Average tangible equity (d)	1,698,411	1,698,411	1,521,616	1,521,616	1,493,099	1,493,099	1,432,015	1,432,015
Ratios								
Net earnings per share - diluted (a)/(b)	\$ 0.71	\$ 0.77	\$ 0.64	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.76	\$ 0.73	\$ 0.74
Return on average assets - (a)/(c)	1.34%	1.45%	1.22%	1.52%	1.54%	1.55%	1.52%	1.54%
Pre-tax, pre-provision return on average assets - ((a)+(j)+(h))/(c)	1.84%	1.99%	1.75%	2.14%	2.13%	2.15%	2.13%	2.14%
Return on average shareholders' equity (a)/(k)	10.24%	11.07%	9.18%	11.44%	11.08%	11.19%	11.16%	11.25%
Return on average tangible shareholders' equity - (a)/(d)	17.78%	19.22%	16.27%	20.27%	19.11%	19.29%	19.61%	19.76%
Efficiency ratio - (e)/(f)+(g)	62.4%	58.4%	62.6%	56.5%	57.4%	57.0%	56.9%	56.4%
Effective tax rate - (h)/(i)	20.4%	21.0%	21.2%	21.8%	20.7%	20.8%	20.3%	20.4%

All dollars shown in thousands

First Financial Bancorp
First Financial Center
255 East Fifth Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

first[®]

first financial bancorp

