

UNITED SECURITY BANCSHARES

Form 10-K

March 02, 2018

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017.

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF
 1934 FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM _____ TO _____ .

Commission file number: 000-32987

UNITED SECURITY BANCSHARES

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

CALIFORNIA

91-2112732

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

2126 Inyo Street, Fresno, California 93721

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (559) 248-4943

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act: Common Stock, no par value on Nasdaq

(Title of Class)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: NONE

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Act.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing for the past 90 days.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every

Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrants knowledge, in the definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a small reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer

Small reporting company Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

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Aggregate market value of the Common Stock held by non-affiliates as of the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter - June 30, 2017: \$119,569,297

Shares outstanding as of February 28, 2018: 16,885,615

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Certain portions of the Definitive Proxy Statement for the 2018 Meeting of Part III, Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 Shareholders is incorporated by reference into Part III.

1

Table of Contents

UNITED SECURITY BANCSHARES
TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I:

<u>Item 1 - Business</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Item 1B – Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Item 2 - Properties</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Item 3 - Legal Proceedings</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Item 4 – Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	<u>16</u>

PART II:

<u>Item 5 - Market for the Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters, and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Item 7 - Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Item 8 - Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>Item 9 - Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	<u>106</u>
<u>Item 9A – Controls and Procedures</u>	<u>106</u>
<u>Item 9B – Other Information</u>	<u>106</u>

PART
III:

<u>Item 10 – Directors, Executive Officers, and Corporate Governance</u>	<u>106</u>
<u>Item 11 - Executive Compensation</u>	<u>107</u>
<u>Item 12 - Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	<u>107</u>
<u>Item 13 - Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	<u>107</u>
<u>Item 14 – Principal Accounting Fees and Services</u>	<u>107</u>

PART
IV:

<u>Item 15 – Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u>	<u>108</u>
-------------------------------------------------------------	------------

Table of Contents

PART 1

Certain matters discussed or incorporated by reference in this Annual Report of Form 10-K including, but not limited to, those described in "Item 7 - Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations", are forward-looking statements as defined under the Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, among others, (1) competitive pressure in the banking industry increasing significantly; (2) changes in the interest rate environment which may reduce margins and devalue assets; (3) general economic conditions, either nationally or regionally, are less favorable than expected, resulting in, among other things, a deterioration in credit quality; (4) changes in the regulatory environment; (5) changes in business conditions and inflation; (6) changes in securities markets; (7) asset/liability matching risks and liquidity risks; (8) potential impairment of goodwill and other intangible assets; (9) loss of key personnel; and (10) operational interruptions including data processing systems failure and fraud. Therefore, the information set forth therein should be carefully considered when evaluating the business prospects of the Company.

Item 1 - Business

General

United Security Bancshares is a California corporation incorporated during March of 2001 and is registered with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System as a bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the "BHCA"). The Company's stock is listed on NASDAQ under the symbol "UBFO." United Security Bank (the "Bank") was formed in 1987 and, on June 12, 2001, the Bank became the wholly-owned subsidiary of United Security Bancshares through a tax-free holding company reorganization, accounted for on a basis similar to the pooling of interest method. In the transaction, each share of Bank stock was exchanged for a share of United Security Bancshares stock on a one-to-one basis. References to the "Company" are references to United Security Bancshares and United Security Bank, on a consolidated basis. References to the "Bank" are to United Security Bank. References to the "Holding Company" are to United Security Bancshares only.

At present, the Company does not engage in any material business activities other than ownership of the Bank.

United Security Bank

The Bank is a California state-chartered bank headquartered in Fresno, California. It is also a member of the Federal Reserve System. The Bank originally commenced business on December 21, 1987, as a national bank. On February 3, 1999, the Bank converted into a California state-chartered bank after receiving all necessary regulatory and shareholder approvals. The Bank's operations are currently subject to federal and state laws applicable to state-chartered member banks, and its deposits are insured up to the applicable limits by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC"). The Bank is also subject to the Federal Deposit Insurance Act ("FDIA") and regulatory reporting requirements of the FDIC. As a state-chartered member bank, the Bank is subject to supervision and regular examinations by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the "FRB") and the California Department of Business Oversight (the "DBO"). In addition, the Bank is required to file reports with the FRB and provide such additional information as the FRB may require.

At December 31, 2017, the Bank operates three branches (including its main office), one construction lending office, and one financial services office in Fresno and one branch each, in Oakhurst, Caruthers, San Joaquin, Firebaugh, Coalinga, Bakersfield, Taft, and Campbell. The Bank has ATMs at all branch locations and off-site ATMs at eight different non-branch locations. In addition, the Company and Bank have administrative headquarters located at 2126

Inyo Street, Fresno, California, 93721.

USB Investment Trust Inc.

USB Investment Trust Inc. was incorporated effective December 31, 2001 as a special purpose real estate investment trust (REIT) under Maryland law. The REIT is a subsidiary of the Bank and was funded with \$133.0 million in real estate-secured loans contributed by the Bank. USB Investment Trust was originally formed to give the Bank flexibility in raising capital, and reduce the expenses associated with holding the assets contributed to USB Investment Trust. The REIT also provided state tax benefits beginning in 2002.

3

Table of Contents

USB Capital Trust II

During July 2007, the Company formed USB Capital Trust II, a wholly-owned special purpose entity, for the purpose of issuing Trust Preferred Securities. USB Capital Trust II is a Variable Interest Entity (VIE) and a deconsolidated entity pursuant current accounting standards related to variable interest entities. On July 23, 2007, USB Capital Trust II issued \$15 million in Trust Preferred securities. The securities have a thirty-year maturity and bear a floating rate of interest (repricing quarterly) of 1.29% over the three-month LIBOR rate. Interest is payable quarterly. Concurrent with the issuance of the Trust Preferred securities, USB Capital Trust II used the proceeds of the Trust Preferred securities offering to purchase a like amount of junior subordinated debentures of the Company. The Company pays interest on the junior subordinated debentures to USB Capital Trust II, which represents the sole source of dividend distributions to the holders of the Trust Preferred securities. Effective September 30, 2009 and beginning with the quarterly interest payment due October 1, 2009, the Company elected to defer interest payments on the Company's \$15.0 million of junior subordinated debentures relating to its trust preferred securities. The terms of the debentures and trust indentures allow for the Company to defer interest payments for up to 20 consecutive quarters without default or penalty. During the period that the interest deferrals were elected, the Company continued to record interest expense associated with the debentures. As of June 30, 2014, the Company ended the extension period, paid all accrued and unpaid interest, and is currently making quarterly interest payments. During 2015, \$3.0 million of the \$15.0 million principal balance of the subordinated debentures related to the trust preferred securities was purchased by the Bank and subsequently purchased by the Company. The Company redeemed the \$3.0 million in par value of the subordinated debentures, resulting in a remaining contractual principal balance of \$12.0 million at year-end 2015. The Company may redeem the junior subordinated debentures at any time at par.

The following discussion of the Company's services should be read in conjunction with "MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS."

Bank Services

As a state-chartered commercial bank, United Security Bank offers a full range of commercial banking services primarily to the business and professional community and individuals located in Fresno, Madera, Kern, and Santa Clara Counties.

The Bank offers a wide range of deposit instruments including personal and business checking accounts and savings accounts, interest-bearing negotiable order of withdrawal (NOW) accounts, money market accounts and time certificates of deposit. Most of the Bank's deposits are comprised of accounts from individuals and from small and medium-sized business-related sources. Time deposits have provided a significant portion of the Bank's deposit base amounting to 9.43% and 15.22% of total deposits at December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively. A portion of those time deposits are brokered deposits which are considered wholesale funding sources generally from out of the Bank's market area. Brokered deposits comprised 1.08% and 4.16% of total deposits at December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

The Bank also engages in a full complement of lending activities, including real estate mortgage (50.93% of total loans at December 31, 2017), commercial and industrial (7.82% of total loans at December 31, 2017), real estate construction (20.45% of total loans at December 31, 2017), as well as agricultural (9.89% of total loans at December 31, 2017), and installment loans (10.91% of total loans at December 31, 2017). Approximately 71.30% of the Bank's loans are secured by real estate at December 31, 2017. A loan may be secured (in whole or in part) by real estate even though the purpose of the loan is not to facilitate the purchase or development of real estate. At December 31, 2017, the Bank had loans (net of unearned fees) outstanding of \$602,390,000, which represented approximately 87.60% of the Bank's total deposits and approximately 74.75% of its total assets.

Real estate mortgage loans are secured by deeds of trust primarily on commercial property. Repayment of real estate mortgage loans is generally from the cash flow of the borrower. Commercial and industrial loans have a high degree of industry diversification. Loans may be originated in the Company's market area, or participated with other financial institutions outside the Company's market area. A substantial portion of the Company's commercial and industrial loans are secured by accounts receivable, inventory, leases or other collateral. The remainder are unsecured. However, extensions of credit are predicated on the financial capacity of the borrower to repay. Repayment of commercial loans is generally from the cash flow of the borrower. Real estate construction loans consist of loans to residential contractors, which are secured by single-family residential properties. All real estate loans have established equity requirements. Repayment of real estate construction loans is generally from long-term mortgages with other lending institutions. Agricultural loans are generally secured by land, equipment, inventory and receivables. Repayment of agricultural loans is generally from the expected cash flow of the borrower.

Table of Contents

Although the Bank has a high concentration of commercial real estate loans, the Bank is not in the business of making residential mortgage loans to individuals. Residential mortgage loans totaled \$84,804,000, or 14.10% of the portfolio at December 31, 2017. The residential mortgage loan portfolio is primarily comprised of purchased residential mortgage pools. The Bank does not originate, or have in its loans portfolio, any subprime, Alt-A, or option adjustable rate loans. The Bank does originate interest-only loans which are generally revolving lines of credit to commercial and agricultural businesses or for real estate development where the borrowers business may be seasonal or cash flows may be restricted until the completion of the project. In addition, the Bank has restructured certain loans to allow the borrower to continue to perform on the loan under a troubled debt restructuring plan.

The Bank purchases loan participations from, and sells loan participations to, other financial institutions. The underwriting standards for loan participations or purchases are the same as non-participated loans, and are subject to the same limitations, collateral requirements, and borrower requirements. The Bank has reduced its level of loan participations over the past several years. Currently, the Bank holds no participation purchased loans. Loan participations sold comprised 1.3% and 0.7% of the total loan portfolio at December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively. During the past year, participation lending activity has increased and currently the Company is participating in more participation sales.

In the normal course of business, the Bank makes various loan commitments and incurs certain contingent liabilities. Due to the nature of the business of the Bank's customers, there are no seasonal patterns or absolute predictability to the utilization of unused loan commitments; therefore, the Bank is unable to forecast the extent to which these commitments will be exercised within the current year. The Bank does not believe that any such utilization will constitute a material liquidity demand. The Company does however have collateralized and uncollateralized lines of credit which could be utilized if such loan commitments were to be exercised in excess of normal expectations.

In addition to the loan and deposit services discussed above, the Bank also offers a wide range of specialized services designed to attract and service the needs of commercial customers and account holders. These services include online banking, mobile banking, safe deposit boxes, ATM services, payroll direct deposit, cashier's checks, and cash management services. In addition, the Bank offers a variety of specialized financial services, including wealth management, employee benefit, insurance and loan products, as well as consulting services for a variety of clients. The Bank does not operate a trust department; however, it makes arrangements with its correspondent bank to offer trust services to its customers upon request. Most of the Bank's business originates within Fresno, Madera, Kern, and Santa Clara Counties. Neither the Bank's business nor liquidity are seasonal, and there has been no material effect upon the Bank's capital expenditures, earnings or competitive position as a result of federal, state or local environmental regulation.

Competition and Market Share

The banking business in California generally, and in the market area served by the Company specifically, is highly competitive with respect to both loans and deposits. The Company competes for loans and deposits with other commercial banks, savings and loan associations, money market funds, credit unions and other financial institutions, including a number that are substantially larger than the Company. The Company competes for loans and deposits by offering competitive interest rate and by seeking to provide a higher level of personal service than is generally offered by larger competitors. Regulatory restrictions on interstate bank branching and acquisitions and on banks providing a broader array of financial services, such as securities underwriting and dealing and insurance, have been reduced or eliminated. The availability of banking services over the Internet and on mobile devices continues to expand. Changes in laws and regulations governing the financial services industry cannot be predicted; however, past legislation has served to intensify the competitive environment. Many of the major commercial banks operating in the Company's market areas offer certain services such as trust and international banking services, which the Company does not offer directly. In addition, banks with larger capitalization have larger lending limits and are thereby able to serve larger

customers.

The Company's primary market area at December 31, 2017 was located in Fresno, Madera, and Kern Counties, in which approximately 30 FDIC-insured financial institutions compete for business. Santa Clara County was added during February 2007, with the Legacy Bank acquisition, in which approximately 50 FDIC-insured financial institutions compete for business. The following table sets forth information regarding deposit market share and ranking by county as of June 30, 2017, which is the most current information available.

5

Table of Contents

	Rank	Share
Fresno County	8th	3.81%
Madera County	8th	5.64%
Kern County	14th	0.81%
Total of Fresno, Madera, Kern Counties	11th	2.78%
Santa Clara County	42nd	0.02%

Supervision and Regulation

Introduction

The Holding Company is a bank holding company within the meaning of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, and is registered with, and regulated and examined by, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or FRB. In addition, the Bank is subject to extensive regulation and periodic examination, principally by the California Department of Business Oversight, or DBO, and, as a member bank, the FRB. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or FDIC, insures the Bank's deposits up to certain prescribed limits. The Holding Company is also subject to regulation by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and to the disclosure and regulatory requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and through the listing of its common stock on NASDAQ it is subject to the listing standards and rules of NASDAQ.

Banking is a complex and highly regulated industry. The primary goals of banking rules and regulations are to maintain a safe and sound banking system, protect depositors and the FDIC's insurance fund, and facilitate the conduct of sound monetary policy. They are not intended for the benefit of shareholders of financial institutions. In furtherance of these goals, Congress and the states have created several largely autonomous regulatory agencies and enacted numerous laws that govern banks, bank holding companies and the financial services industry. Consequently, the growth and earnings performance of the Holding Company can be affected not only by management decisions and general economic conditions, but also by the requirements of applicable state and federal statutes, regulations and the policies of various governmental regulatory authorities.

From time to time, laws or regulations are enacted which have the effect of increasing the cost of doing business, limiting or expanding the scope of permissible activities, or changing the competitive balance between banks and other financial and non-financial institutions. Proposals to change the laws and regulations governing the operations of banks and bank holding companies are frequently made in Congress and by various bank and other regulatory agencies. Future changes in the laws, regulations or policies that impact the Holding Company and the Bank cannot necessarily be predicted, but they may have a material effect on the business and earnings of the Holding Company. The following discussion of statutes and regulations is a summary and does not purport to be complete nor does it address all applicable statutes and regulations. This discussion is also qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text and to the implementation and enforcement of the statutes and regulations referred to in this discussion.

Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act

On July 21, 2010, the Dodd-Frank Act was signed into law to effect a fundamental restructuring of federal banking regulation. Among the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act that affect the Holding Company are the following:

Holding Company Capital Requirements. The Dodd-Frank Act required the FRB to apply consolidated capital requirements to depository institution holding companies that are no less stringent than those currently applied to

depository institutions. Under these standards, trust preferred securities are excluded from Tier 1 capital unless such securities were issued prior to May 19, 2010 by a bank holding company with less than \$15 billion in assets. The Dodd-Frank Act additionally requires capital requirements to be countercyclical so that the required amount of capital increases in times of economic expansion and decreases in times of economic contraction, consistent with safety and soundness.

Deposit Insurance. The Dodd-Frank Act broadened the base for FDIC insurance assessments. Assessments are now based on the average consolidated total assets less tangible equity capital of a financial institution. The Dodd-Frank Act requires the FDIC to increase the reserve ratio of the Deposit Insurance Fund from 1.15% to 1.35% of insured deposits by 2020 and eliminates the requirement that the FDIC pay dividends to insured depository institutions when

Table of Contents

the reserve ratio exceeds certain thresholds.

Corporate Governance. The Dodd-Frank Act required publicly traded companies, such as the Holding Company, to give stockholders a non-binding vote on executive compensation at their first annual meeting taking place six months after the date of enactment and at least every three years thereafter and on so-called "golden parachute" payments in connection with approvals of mergers and acquisitions unless previously voted on by shareholders and requires that national securities exchanges prohibit brokers from voting on this proposal. The SEC has also adopted regulations under the Dodd-Frank Act that require public companies to include the nominees of significant, long-term shareholders in their proxy materials, alongside the nominees of management if such shareholder owned at least 3 percent of the company's shares continuously for at least the prior three years. Additionally, the Dodd-Frank Act directed the federal banking regulators to promulgate rules prohibiting excessive compensation paid to executives of depository institutions and their holding companies with assets in excess of \$1.0 billion, regardless of whether the Holding Company is publicly traded or not.

Interstate Branching. The Dodd-Frank Act authorized national and state banks to establish branches in other states to the same extent as a bank chartered by that state would be permitted to branch.

Limits on Derivatives. The Dodd-Frank Act prohibited state-chartered banks from engaging in derivatives transactions unless the loans to one borrower limits of the state in which the bank is chartered takes into consideration credit exposure to derivatives transactions. For this purpose, derivative transaction includes any contract, agreement, swap, warrant, note or option that is based in whole or in part on the value of any interest in, or any quantitative measure or the occurrence of any event relating to, one or more commodities securities, currencies, interest or other rates, indices or other assets.

Transactions with Affiliates and Insiders. The Dodd-Frank Act expanded the definition of "affiliate" for purposes of quantitative and qualitative limitations of Section 23A of the Federal Reserve Act to include mutual funds advised by a depository institution or its affiliates. The Dodd-Frank Act will apply Section 23A and Section 22(h) of the Federal Reserve Act (governing transactions with insiders) to derivative transactions, repurchase agreements and securities lending and borrowing transaction that create credit exposure to an affiliate or an insider. Any such transactions with affiliates must be fully secured. The current exemption from Section 23A for transactions with financial subsidiaries will be eliminated. The Dodd-Frank Act also prohibits an insured depository institution from purchasing an asset from or selling an asset to an insider unless the transaction is on market terms and, if representing more than 10% of capital, is approved in advance by the disinterested directors.

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The Dodd-Frank Act created an independent federal agency called the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (the "CFPB"), which has been granted broad rulemaking, supervisory and enforcement powers under various federal consumer financial protection laws, including the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, Truth in Lending Act, Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, Fair Credit Reporting Act, Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the Consumer Financial Privacy provisions of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and certain other statutes. The CFPB has examination and primary enforcement authority with respect to depository institutions with \$10 billion or more in assets. Smaller institutions are subject to rules promulgated by the CFPB but are still examined and supervised by their federal banking regulators for consumer compliance purposes. The CFPB has authority to prevent unfair, deceptive or abusive practices in connection with the offering of consumer financial products. The Dodd-Frank Act authorized the CFPB to establish certain minimum standards for the origination of residential mortgages including a determination of the borrower's ability to repay. In addition, the Dodd-Frank Act allows borrowers to raise certain defenses to foreclosure if they receive any loan other than a "qualified mortgage" as defined by the CFPB. The Dodd-Frank Act permits states to adopt consumer protection laws and standards that are more stringent than those adopted at the federal level and, in certain circumstances, permits state attorneys general to enforce compliance with both the state and federal laws and regulations.

Final Volcker Rule. In December 2013, the federal bank regulatory agencies adopted final rules that implement a part of the Dodd-Frank Act commonly referred to as the "Volcker Rule." Under these rules and subject to certain exceptions, banking entities, including the Holding Company and the Bank, will be restricted from engaging in activities that are considered proprietary trading and from sponsoring or investing in certain entities, including hedge or private equity funds that are considered "covered funds." These rules were originally scheduled to become effective on April 1, 2014; however certain provisions are subject to delayed effectiveness under rules promulgated by the FRB. At December 31, 2017, neither the Holding Company nor the Bank held any investment positions which were subject to the Volcker Rule. Therefore, while these new rules may require the Holding Company and/or the Bank to conduct certain internal analyses and reporting, we believe that the rules will not require any material changes in their

7

Table of Contents

respective operations or business.

The Dodd-Frank Act was enacted under the administration of former President Barack Obama and many of the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act were enacted during that administration. The current administration under President Trump has sought to roll-back key pieces of the Dodd-Frank Act in an effort to loosen regulatory restrictions on financial institutions including, but not limited to, easing the “Volker Rule,” stress tests and other constraints on financial institutions. Federal banking regulators are currently seeking public input on revisions to key provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act and its implementing regulations in order to effectuate the current Administration’s initiatives of continued financial deregulation. In light the current Administration’s continuing efforts in this regard, the Holding Company cannot predict which provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act will be repealed, put in to effect, delayed or enforced under the current Administration and, therefore, cannot predict the effect, if any, that the Dodd-Frank Act will have on the Holding Company's future operations and financial condition.

The Holding Company

General. As a bank holding company, the Holding Company is subject to regulation by the FRB. According to FRB Policy, the Holding Company is expected to act as a source of financial strength for the Bank, to commit resources to support it in circumstances where the Holding Company might not otherwise do so. Under the BHCA, the Holding Company is subject to periodic examination by the FRB. The Holding Company is also required to file periodic reports of its operations and any additional information regarding its activities and those of its subsidiaries as may be required by the FRB.

Bank Holding Company Liquidity. The Holding Company is a legal entity, separate and distinct from the Bank. The Holding Company has the ability to raise capital on its own behalf or borrow from external sources. The Holding Company may also obtain additional funds from dividends paid by, and fees charged for services provided to, the Bank. However, regulatory constraints on the Bank may restrict or totally preclude the payment of dividends by the Bank to the Holding Company.

Transactions with Affiliates and Insiders. The Holding Company and any subsidiaries it may purchase or organize are deemed to be affiliates of the Bank within the meaning of Sections 23A and 23B of the Federal Reserve Act, and the FRB's Regulation W. Under Sections 23A and 23B and Regulation W, loans by the Bank to affiliates, investments by them in affiliates' stock, and taking affiliates' stock as collateral for loans to any borrower is limited to 10% of the Bank's capital, in the case of any one affiliate, and is limited to 20% of the Bank's capital, in the case of all affiliates. In addition, transactions between the Bank and other affiliates must be on terms and conditions that are consistent with safe and sound banking practices, in particular, a bank and its subsidiaries generally may not purchase from an affiliate a low-quality asset, as defined in the Federal Reserve Act. These restrictions also prevent a bank holding company and its other affiliates from borrowing from a banking subsidiary of the bank holding company unless the loans are secured by marketable collateral of designated amounts.

The Holding Company and the Bank are also subject to certain restrictions with respect to engaging in the underwriting, public sale and distribution of securities.

The Federal Reserve Act and FRB Regulation O place limitations and conditions on loans or extensions of credit to a bank or bank holding company’s executive officers, directors and principal shareholders; any company controlled by any such executive officer, director or shareholder; or any political or campaign committee controlled by such executive officer, director or principal shareholder. Additionally, such loans or extensions of credit must comply with loan-to-one-borrower limits; require prior full board approval when aggregate extensions of credit to the person exceed specified amounts; must be made on substantially the same and follow credit-underwriting procedures no less stringent than those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with non-insiders; must not involve more than the normal risk of repayment or present other unfavorable features; and must not exceed the bank’s unimpaired capital

and unimpaired surplus in the aggregate.

Limitations on Business and Investment Activities. Under the BHCA, a bank holding company must obtain the FRB's approval before: (i) directly or indirectly acquiring more than 5% ownership or control of any voting shares of another bank or bank holding company; (ii) acquiring all or substantially all of the assets of another bank; (iii) or merging or consolidating with another bank holding company.

The FRB may allow a bank holding company to acquire banks located in any state of the United States without regard to whether the acquisition is prohibited by the law of the state in which the target bank is located. In approving interstate acquisitions, however, the FRB must give effect to applicable state laws limiting the aggregate amount of deposits that may be held by the acquiring bank holding company and its insured depository institutions in the state in which the target bank is located, provided that those limits do not discriminate against out-of-state depository institutions or their holding companies, and state laws which require that the target bank have been in existence for a minimum period of time, not to exceed five years, before being acquired by an out-of-state bank holding company.

8

Table of Contents

In addition to owning or managing banks, bank holding companies may own subsidiaries engaged in certain businesses that the FRB has determined to be “so closely related to banking as to be a proper incident thereto.” The Holding Company, therefore, is permitted to engage in a variety of banking-related businesses.

Additionally, qualifying bank holding companies making an appropriate election to the FRB may engage in a full range of financial activities, including insurance, securities and merchant banking. The Holding Company has not elected to qualify for these financial services.

Federal law prohibits a bank holding company and any subsidiary banks from engaging in certain tie-in arrangements in connection with the extension of credit. Thus, for example, the Bank may not extend credit, lease or sell property, or furnish any services, or fix or vary the consideration for any of the foregoing on the condition that:

- the customer must obtain or provide some additional credit, property or services from or to the Bank other than a loan, discount, deposit or trust services;
- the customer must obtain or provide some additional credit, property or service from or to the Holding Company or any subsidiaries; or
- the customer must not obtain some other credit, property or services from competitors, except reasonable requirements to assure soundness of credit extended.

Capital Adequacy. Bank holding companies must maintain minimum levels of capital under the FRB’s risk-based capital adequacy guidelines. If capital falls below minimum guideline levels, a bank holding company, among other things, may be denied approval to acquire or establish additional banks or non-bank businesses.

The FRB’s risk-based capital adequacy guidelines, discussed in more detail below in the section entitled “Capital Standards,” assign various risk percentages to different categories of assets and capital is measured as a percentage of risk assets. Under the terms of the guidelines, bank holding companies are expected to meet capital adequacy guidelines based both on total risk assets and on total assets, without regard to risk weights.

The risk-based guidelines are minimum requirements. Higher capital levels will be required if warranted by the particular circumstances or risk profiles of individual organizations. For example, the FRB’s capital guidelines contemplate that additional capital may be required to take adequate account of, among other things, interest rate risk, or the risks posed by concentrations of credit, nontraditional activities or securities trading activities. Moreover, any banking organization experiencing or anticipating significant growth or expansion into new activities, particularly under the expanded powers under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, would be expected to maintain capital ratios, including tangible capital positions, well above the minimum levels.

Limitations on Dividend Payments. As applicable to the Holding Company, California Corporations Code Section 500 provides that neither the Holding Company nor any of its subsidiaries shall make a distribution to the Holding Company’s shareholders unless the board of directors has determined in good faith that either:

- The amount of retained earnings of the Holding Company immediately prior to the distribution equals or exceeds the amount of the proposed distribution, or
- Immediately after the distribution, the value of the Holding Company’s assets would equal or exceed the sum of its total liabilities.

Additionally, the FRB’s policy regarding dividends provides that a bank holding company should not pay cash dividends exceeding its net income or which can only be funded in ways that weaken the bank holding company’s financial health, such as by borrowing. The FRB also possesses enforcement powers over bank holding companies

and their non-bank subsidiaries to prevent or remedy actions that represent unsafe or unsound practices or violations of applicable statutes and regulations.

Securities Registration and Listing. The Holding Company's common stock is registered with the SEC under the Exchange Act and, therefore, is subject to the information, proxy solicitation, insider trading, corporate governance, and other disclosure requirements and restrictions of the Exchange Act, as well as the Securities Act, both administered by the SEC. The Holding Company is required to file annual, quarterly and other current reports with the SEC. The SEC maintains an Internet site, <http://www.sec.gov>, at which the Holding Company's filings with the SEC may be accessed. The Holding Company's SEC filings are also available on its website at <http://investors.unitedsecuritybank.com/Docs>.

Table of Contents

The Holding Company's common stock is listed on NASDAQ and trades under the symbol "UBFO." As a company listed on NASDAQ, the Holding Company is subject to NASDAQ standards for listed companies. NASDAQ has also adopted corporate governance rules, which are intended to allow shareholders and investors to more easily and efficiently monitor the performance of companies and their directors.

The Bank

As a California state-chartered bank and a member of the Federal Reserve, the Bank is subject to regulation, supervision and regular examination by the FRB, and the DBO. The Bank is subject to California laws insofar as they are not preempted by federal banking law. Deposits of the Bank are insured by the FDIC up to the applicable limits in an amount up to \$250,000 per customer and, as such, the Bank is subject to the applicable provisions of the FDIA and the regulations of the FDIC. As a consequence of the extensive regulation of commercial banking activities in California and the United States, the Bank's business is particularly susceptible to changes in California and federal legislation and regulation, which may have the effect of increasing the cost of doing business, limiting permissible activities or increasing competition.

Various other requirements and restrictions under the laws of the United States and the State of California affect the operations of the Bank. Federal and California statutes and regulations relate to many aspects of the Bank's operations, including capital requirements and disclosure requirements to depositors and borrowers, requirements to maintain reserves against deposits, limitations on interest rates payable on deposits, loans, investments, and restrictions on borrowings and on payment of dividends. The DBO regulates the number and location of branch offices of a state-chartered bank, and may permit a bank to maintain branches only to the extent allowable under state law for state banks. California law presently permits a bank to locate a branch in any locality in the state. Additionally, California law exempts banks from California usury laws.

Capital Standards

In addition to the Dodd-Frank Act, the international oversight body of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, or Basel III, reached agreements that introduced a minimum common equity tier 1 capital requirement of 4.50 percent, along with a capital conservation buffer of 2.50 percent to bring total common equity capital requirements to 7.00 percent. The federal banking agencies issued final rules that implemented Basel III and certain other revisions to the Basel capital framework, as well as the minimum leverage and risk-based capital requirements of the Dodd Frank Act. Federal regulators periodically propose amendments to the risk-based capital guidelines and the related regulatory framework and consider changes to the capital standards that could significantly increase the amount of capital needed to meet applicable standards. The timing of adoption, ultimate form and effect of any such proposed amendments cannot be determined at this time.

The following are among the requirements that were phased in beginning January 1, 2015:

• An increase in the minimum Tier 1 capital ratio from 4.00% to 6.00% of risk-weighted assets;

• A new category and a required 4.50% of risk-weighted assets ratio is established for "common equity Tier 1" as a subset of Tier 1 capital limited to common equity;

• A minimum non-risk-based leverage ratio is set at 4.00% eliminating a 3.00% exception for higher rated banks;

• Changes in the permitted composition of Tier 1 capital to exclude trust preferred securities, mortgage servicing rights and certain deferred tax assets and include unrealized gains and losses on available for sale debt and equity securities;

An additional capital conservation buffer of 2.5% of risk-weighted assets over each of the required capital ratios will be phased in beginning January 2016 at 0.625% of risk-weighted assets until fully implemented in January 2019. This conservation buffer level must be met to avoid limitations on the ability to pay dividends, repurchase shares or pay discretionary bonuses;

The risk weights of certain assets for purposes of calculating the risk-based capital ratios are changed for high volatility commercial real estate acquisition, development and construction loans, certain past due non-residential mortgage loans and certain mortgage-backed and other securities exposures; and

An additional “countercyclical capital buffer” is required for larger and more complex institutions.

As of December 31, 2017, the Company and the Bank were "well-capitalized" under these capital standards. The regulatory capital guidelines as well as the actual capitalization for the Bank and the Company as of December 31, 2017 are set forth

Table of Contents

under the section entitled “MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF OPERATIONS - Regulatory Matters - Capital Adequacy.”

Liquidity Requirements

Historically, regulation and monitoring of bank and bank holding company liquidity has been addressed as a supervisory matter, both in the U.S. and internationally, without required formulaic measures. The Basel III framework requires banks and bank holding companies to measure their liquidity against specific liquidity tests that, although similar in some respects to liquidity measures historically applied by banks and regulators for management and supervisory purposes, going forward will be required by regulation. One test, referred to as the liquidity coverage ratio (“LCR”), is designed to ensure that the banking entity maintains an adequate level of unencumbered high quality liquid assets equal to the entity’s expected net cash outflow for a 30 day time horizon (or, if greater, then 25% of its expected total cash outflow) under an acute liquidity stress scenario. The other test, referred to as the net stable funding ratio (“NSFR”), is designed to promote more medium and long term funding of the assets and activities of banking entities over a one year time horizon. These requirements will incentivize banking entities to increase their holdings of U.S. Treasury securities and other sovereign debt as a component of assets and increase the use of long term debt as a funding source.

In September 2014, the federal banking agencies approved final rules implementing the LCR for advanced approach banking organizations (i.e., banking organizations with \$250 billion or more in total consolidated assets or \$10 billion or more in total on-balance sheet foreign exposure) and a modified version of the LCR for bank holding companies with at least \$50 billion in total consolidated assets that are not advanced approach banking organizations, neither of which apply to the Company or the Bank. On October 31, 2014, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision issued its final standards for the NSFR, entitled “Basel III: The Net Stable Funding Ratio.” On May 3, 2016, the FRB issued a proposed rule requiring bank holding companies to maintain a minimum level of stable funding relative to the liquidity of their assets, derivatives, and commitments, over a one-year period and to publicly disclose information about their NSFR levels each quarter. However, this proposed rule would not apply to holding companies with less than \$50 billion in total consolidated assets and would not apply to community banks and, therefore, would not apply to the Company and the Bank.

Prompt Corrective Action

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act (“FDICIA”) requires each federal banking agency to take prompt corrective action to resolve the problems of insured depository institutions, including but not limited to those that fall below one or more prescribed minimum capital ratios. Pursuant to FDICIA, the FRB promulgated regulations defining the following five categories in which an insured depository institution will be placed, based on the level of its capital ratios:

Under the regulations, a bank shall be deemed to be:

“well capitalized” if it has a total risk-based capital ratio of 10% or more, has a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 6% or more, has a leverage capital ratio of 5% or more and is not subject to specified requirements to meet and maintain a specific capital level for any capital measure;

“adequately capitalized” if it has a total risk-based capital ratio of 8% or more, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 4% or more and a leverage capital ratio of 4% or more (3% under certain circumstances) and does not meet the definition of “well capitalized”;

•

“undercapitalized” if it has a total risk-based capital ratio that is less than 8%, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio that is less than 4%, or a leverage capital ratio that is less than 4% (3% under certain circumstances)

“significantly undercapitalized” if it has a total risk-based capital ratio that is less than 6%, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio that is less than 3% or a leverage capital ratio that is less than 3%; and

“critically undercapitalized” if it has a ratio of tangible equity to total assets that is equal to or less than 2%.

A bank’s category is determined solely for the purpose of applying prompt corrective action regulations, and the capital category may not constitute an accurate representation of the bank’s overall financial condition or prospects for other purposes.

While these benchmarks have not changed, due to market turbulence, the regulators have strongly encouraged and, in many instances, required, banks and bank holding companies to achieve and maintain higher ratios as a matter of safety and soundness.

Table of Contents

Banks are prohibited from paying dividends or management fees to controlling persons or entities if, after making the payment, the bank would be “undercapitalized,” that is, the bank fails to meet the required minimum level for any relevant capital measure. Asset growth and branching restrictions apply to “undercapitalized” banks. Banks classified as “undercapitalized” are required to submit acceptable capital plans guaranteed by its holding company, if any. Broad regulatory authority was granted with respect to “significantly undercapitalized” banks, including forced mergers, growth restrictions, ordering new elections for directors, forcing divestiture by its holding company, if any, requiring management changes and prohibiting the payment of bonuses to senior management. Even more severe restrictions are applicable to “critically undercapitalized” banks. Restrictions for these banks include the appointment of a receiver or conservator. All of the federal banking agencies have promulgated substantially similar regulations to implement this system of prompt corrective action.

A bank, based upon its capital levels, that is classified as “well capitalized,” “adequately capitalized” or “undercapitalized” may be treated as though it were in the next lower capital category if the appropriate federal banking agency, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, determines that an unsafe or unsound condition, or an unsafe or unsound practice, warrants such treatment. Further, a bank that otherwise meets the capital levels to be categorized as “well capitalized,” will be deemed to be “adequately capitalized,” if the bank is subject to a written agreement requiring that the bank maintain specific capital levels. At each successive lower capital category, an insured bank is subject to more restrictions. The federal banking agencies, however, may not treat an institution as “critically undercapitalized” unless its capital ratios actually warrant such treatment.

In addition to measures taken under the prompt corrective action provisions, insured banks may be subject to potential enforcement actions by the federal banking agencies for unsafe or unsound practices in conducting their businesses or for violations of any law, rule, regulation or any condition imposed in writing by the agency or any written agreement with the agency. Enforcement actions may include the imposition of a conservator or receiver, the issuance of a cease-and-desist order that can be judicially enforced, the termination of insurance of deposits (in the case of a depository institution), the imposition of civil money penalties, the issuance of directives to increase capital, the issuance of formal and informal agreements, the issuance of removal and prohibition orders against institution-affiliated parties. The enforcement of such actions through injunctions or restraining orders may be based upon a judicial determination that the agency would be harmed if such equitable relief was not granted.

In addition to measures taken under the prompt corrective action provisions, commercial banking organizations, such as the Bank, may be subject to potential enforcement actions by the federal or state banking agencies for unsafe or unsound practices in conducting their businesses or for violations of any law, rule, regulation or any condition imposed in writing by the agency or any written agreement with the agency. Enforcement actions may include the imposition of a conservator or receiver, the issuance of a cease and desist order that can be judicially enforced, the termination of insurance for deposits (in the case of a depository institution), the imposition of civil money penalties, the issuance of directives to increase capital, the issuance of formal and informal agreements, the issuance of removal and prohibition orders against institution affiliated parties. The enforcement of such actions through injunctions or restraining orders may be based upon a judicial determination that the agency would be harmed if such equitable relief was not granted.

Premiums for Deposit Insurance

The deposit insurance fund of the FDIC insures our customers’ deposits up to prescribed limits for each depositor. In October 2010, the FDIC under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”) adopted a new restoration plan to ensure that the deposit insurance fund (the “DIF”) reserve ratio reaches 1.35% by September 30, 2020. At least semi-annually, the FDIC will update its loss and income projections for the DIF and, if needed, increase or decrease assessment rates. On February 7, 2011, the FDIC adopted a final rule modifying the risk-based assessment system from a domestic deposit base to a scorecard based assessment system, effective April 1,

2011. Effective as of April 1, 2011, the Bank was categorized as a small institution as the Bank has less than \$10 billion in assets. After potential adjustments related to unsecured debt and brokered deposit balances, the final total assessment rates range from 2.5 to 45 basis points. Initial base assessment rates for small institutions ranged from five to 35 basis points. Any material increase in assessments or the assessment rate could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows, depending on the amount of the increase. Furthermore, the FDIC is authorized to raise insurance premiums under certain circumstances.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Act of 2005 (the "Reform Act") increased the deposit insurance limit for certain retirement plan deposit accounts from \$100,000 to \$250,000 and the Dodd-Frank Act permanently raised the current standard maximum federal deposit insurance amount from \$100,000 to \$250,000 per qualified account.

The FDIC is authorized to terminate a depository institution's deposit insurance upon a finding by the FDIC that the institution's financial condition is unsafe or unsound or that the institution has engaged in unsafe or unsound practices or has

Table of Contents

violated any applicable rule, regulation, order or condition enacted or imposed by the institution's regulatory agency. The termination of deposit insurance would result in the forced closure of the Bank which would have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations.

Federal Home Loan Bank System

The Bank is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco (the "FHLB-SF"). Among other benefits, each Federal Home Loan Bank ("FHLB") serves as a reserve or central bank for its members within its assigned region. Each FHLB is financed primarily from the sale of consolidated obligations of the FHLB system. Each FHLB makes available loans or advances to its members in compliance with the policies and procedures established by the Board of Directors of the individual FHLB. The FHLB-SF utilizes a single class of stock with a par value of \$100 per share, which may be issued, exchanged, redeemed and repurchased only at par value. As an FHLB member, the Bank is required to own FHLB –SF capital stock in an amount equal to the greater of:

a membership stock requirement with an initial cap of \$25 million (100% of "membership asset value" as defined), or an activity based stock requirement (based on percentage of outstanding advances).

The FHLB – SF capital stock is redeemable on five years written notice, subject to certain conditions. At December 31, 2017 the Bank owned 28,152 shares of the FHLB-SF capital stock.

Federal Reserve Bank

The FRB requires all depository institutions to maintain non-interest bearing reserves at specified levels against their transaction accounts and non-personal time deposits. At December 31, 2017, the Bank was in compliance with these requirements.

Effect of Governmental Policies and Recent Legislation

Impact of Monetary Policies

Banking has traditionally been a business that depends on rate differentials. In general, the difference between the interest earned on loans extended to the Company's customers and securities held in the Company's portfolio and the interest paid by the Company on its deposits and other borrowings comprise the major portion of the Company's earnings. The amounts of interest earned and paid are impacted by the volumes of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities and the interest rates, which rates are highly sensitive to many factors that are beyond the control of the Company. Accordingly, the earnings and growth of the Company are subject to the influence of domestic and foreign economic conditions, including, but not limited to, inflation, recession and unemployment.

The earnings and growth of the Company are also affected by the monetary and fiscal policies of the United States government and its agencies, particularly the FRB. The FRB implements national monetary policies (with objectives such as to curb inflation and combat recession) by its open market operations in United States Government securities, by adjusting the required level of reserves for financial institutions subject to reserve requirements, and by varying the discount rates applicable to borrowing by banks. The actions of the FRB in these areas influence the growth of bank loans, investments and deposits and also affect interest rates charged on loans and paid on deposits. The FRB's policies have had a significant effect on the operating results of commercial banks and are expected to continue to do so in the future. The nature and timing of any future changes in monetary policies are not predictable; however, the FRB has indicated its intention of slowing raising interest rates from their current historic lows.

In addition, adverse economic conditions could make a higher provision for loan losses a prudent course and could cause higher loan charge-offs, thus adversely affecting the Company's net income.

Consumer Protection Laws and Regulations

The banking regulatory agencies are focusing greater attention on compliance with consumer protection laws and their implementing regulations. Examination and enforcement have become more intense in nature, and insured institutions have been advised to monitor carefully compliance with such laws and regulations. The Company is subject to many federal and state consumer protection and privacy statutes and regulations, some of which are discussed below.

Table of Contents

The Community Reinvestment Act (the “CRA”) is intended to encourage insured depository institutions to help meet the credit needs of their communities. The CRA specifically directs the federal regulatory agencies, in examining insured depository institutions, to assess a bank’s record of helping meet the credit needs of its entire community, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, consistent with safe and sound banking practices. The CRA further requires the agencies to take a financial institution’s record of meeting its community credit needs into account when evaluating applications for, among other things, domestic branches, mergers or acquisitions, or holding company formations. The agencies use the CRA assessment factors in order to provide a rating to the financial institution. The ratings range from a high of “outstanding” to a low of “substantial noncompliance.” In its last examination for CRA compliance, as of March 2015, the Bank was rated “satisfactory.”

The Equal Credit Opportunity Act (the “ECOA”) generally prohibits discrimination in any credit transaction, whether for consumer or business purposes, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age (except in limited circumstances), receipt of income from public assistance programs, or good faith exercise of any rights under the Consumer Credit Protection Act.

The Truth in Lending Act (the “TILA”) is designed to ensure that credit terms are disclosed in a meaningful way so that consumers may compare credit terms more readily and knowledgeably. As a result of the TILA, all creditors must use the same credit terminology to express rates and payments, including the annual percentage rate, the finance charge, the amount financed, the total of payments and the payment schedule, among other things. As a result of Dodd Frank, Regulation Z promulgated under TILA includes new limits on loan originator compensation for all closed-end mortgages. These changes include, prohibiting certain payments to a mortgage broker or loan officer based on the transaction’s terms or conditions, prohibiting dual compensation, and prohibiting a mortgage broker or loan officer from “steering” consumers to transactions not in their interest, to increase mortgage broker or loan officer compensation.

The Fair Housing Act (the “FH Act”) regulates many practices, including making it unlawful for any lender to discriminate in its housing-related lending activities against any person because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap or familial status. A number of lending practices have been found by the courts to be, or may be considered, illegal under the FH Act, including some that are not specifically mentioned in the FH Act itself.

The Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (the “HMDA”), in response to public concern over credit shortages in certain urban neighborhoods, requires public disclosure of information that shows whether financial institutions are serving the housing credit needs of the neighborhoods and communities in which they are located. The HMDA also includes a “fair lending” aspect that requires the collection and disclosure of data about applicant and borrower characteristics as a way of identifying possible discriminatory lending patterns and enforcing anti-discrimination statutes.

The Right to Financial Privacy Act (the “RFPA”) imposes a new requirement for financial institutions to provide new privacy protections to consumers. Financial institutions must provide disclosures to consumers of its privacy policy, and state the rights of consumers to direct their financial institution not to share their nonpublic personal information with third parties.

Finally, the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (the “RESPA”) requires lenders to provide noncommercial borrowers with disclosures regarding the nature and cost of real estate settlements. Also, RESPA prohibits certain abusive practices, such as kickbacks, and places limitations on the amount of escrow accounts.

Penalties for noncompliance or violations under the above laws may include fines, reimbursement and other penalties. Due to heightened regulatory concern related to compliance with CRA, ECOA, TILA, FH Act, HMDA, RFPA and RESPA generally, the Company has incurred additional compliance costs and has expended additional funds for investments in its local communities.

Other Aspects of Banking Law

The Bank is also be subject to federal statutory and regulatory provisions covering, among other things, security procedures, management interlocks, funds availability and truth-in-savings. There are also a variety of federal statutes that regulate acquisitions of control and the formation of bank holding companies, and the activities beyond owning banks that are permissible.

Employees

At December 31, 2017, the Company employed 128 persons on a full-time equivalent basis. The Company believes its employee relations are excellent.

Table of Contents

Available Information

The Company files period reports and other reports under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). These reports, as well as the Company's Code of Ethics, are posted and are available at no cost on the Company's website at <http://www.unitedsecuritybank.com> as soon as reasonably practical after the Company files such reports with the SEC. The Company's periodic and other reports filed with the SEC are also available at the SEC's website (<http://www.sec.gov>).

Item 1B. - Unresolved Staff Comments

The Company had no unresolved staff comments at December 31, 2017.

Item 2 - Properties

The Bank's main bank branch is located at 2151 West Shaw Avenue, Fresno, California. The Company owns the building and leases the land under a sublease dated December 1, 1986, between Central Bank and USB. The current sublessor under the master ground lease is Bank of the West, which acquired the position through the purchase of Central Bank. The lessor under the ground lease (Master Lease) is Thomas F. Hinds. The lease was renewed on January 1, 2016 set to expire December 31, 2020. The Company has options to extend the term for three (3) additional periods of five (5) years under the same terms and conditions.

The Company leases the banking premises of approximately 6,450 square feet for its second of three Fresno branches at 7088 N. First St, Fresno, California., under a lease which commenced August 2005 and renewed July 2015 for a term of 10 years expiring July 2025. The facility provides space for the branch as well as the Real Estate Construction Department and the Indirect Consumer Lending Department. The branch was previously located at 1041 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno, California, under a lease extension expiring February 28, 2005.

The Company leases the Oakhurst bank branch located at the Old Mill Village Shopping Center, 40074 Highway 49, Oakhurst, California. The branch facility consists of approximately 5,000 square feet. The original lease agreement was signed April 1999 for 15 years with two 5-year options to extend the lease. In April 2014, the Company exercised the first option which will be ending in April 2019.

The Company owns the Caruthers bank branch located at 13356 South Henderson, Caruthers, California, which consists of approximately 5,000 square feet of floor space.

The Company owns the San Joaquin bank branch facility located at 21574 Manning Avenue, San Joaquin, California. The bank branch is approximately 2,500 square feet.

The Company owns the Firebaugh bank branch located at 1067 O Street, Firebaugh, California. The premises are comprised of approximately 4,666 square feet of office space situated on land totaling approximately one-third of an acre.

The Company owns the Coalinga bank branch located at 145 East Durian, Coalinga, California. The office building has a total of 6,184 square feet of interior floor space situated on approximately 0.45 acres of land.

The Company leases the Convention Center bank branch located at 855 "M" Street, Suite 130, Fresno, California. Total space leased is approximately 4,520 square feet, and was occupied during March 2004. The fifteen-year lease expires in March 2019. There are no extension provisions.

The Company owns the Taft bank branch office premises located at 523 Cascade Place, Taft, California. The branch facility consist of approximately 9,200 square feet of office space.

The Company owns the Bakersfield bank branch facility located at 3404 Coffee Road, Bakersfield, California, which has approximately 6,130 square feet of office space located on 1.15 acres.

The Company leases the Campbell bank branch located at 1875 S. Bascom Ave., Suite 19, Campbell, California, which has approximately 2,984 square feet. The lease commenced on January 1, 2011 and expires on December 31, 2020.

Table of Contents

The Company owns its administrative headquarters at 2126 Inyo Street, Fresno, California and is occupied by the Company's administrative staff. The facility consists of approximately 21,400 square feet. A portion of the premises has been subleased to a third-party under a lease term which expires in March 2020 with a 5-year option for renewal.

The Company leases its financial services facility located at 5260 N. Palm Ave., Suite 215, Fresno, CA. The lease commenced on September 1, 2017 and expires on August 31, 2022.

The Company also has eight remote ATM locations leased from unrelated parties.

Item 3 - Legal Proceedings

From time to time, the Company is party to claims and legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. At this time, the management of the Company is not aware of any material pending litigation proceedings to which it is a party or has recently been party to, which will have a material adverse effect on the financial condition or results of operations of the Company.

Item 4 – Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable

Table of Contents

PART II

Item 5 - Market for the Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters, and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

Trading History

The Company became a NASDAQ National Market listed company on May 31, 2001, then became a Global Select listed company during 2006, and trades under the symbol UBFO.

The Company currently has four market makers for its common stock. These include, Stone & Youngberg, LLC, Howe Barnes Hoeffler & Arnett, Sandler O'Neill & Partners, and Hill Thompson, Magid & Company. The Company is aware of two other securities dealers: Smith Barney and Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., which periodically act as brokers in the Company's stock.

On March 28, 2006, the Company announced a 2-for-1 stock split of the Company's no-par common stock payable May 1, 2006 effected in the form of a 100% stock dividend. Share information for all periods presented in this 10-K have been restated to reflect the effect of the stock split.

During the third quarter ended September 30, 2008 and the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2008, the Company declared 1% stock dividends. During each of the thirty-two consecutive quarters beginning March 31, 2009 through December 31, 2016, the Company again declared 1% stock dividends. Share information for all periods presented in this Form 10-K has been restated to reflect the effect of the 1% stock dividends.

The following table sets forth the high and low closing sales prices by quarter for the Company's common stock, for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016.

Quarter	Closing Prices		Volume
	High	Low	
4th Quarter 2017	\$11.10	\$9.20	1,339,681
3rd Quarter 2017	\$9.85	\$8.75	1,134,983
2nd Quarter 2017	\$9.85	\$7.05	2,668,596
1st Quarter 2017	\$8.12	\$7.13	541,529
4th Quarter 2016	\$8.10	\$6.10	752,732
3rd Quarter 2016	\$6.54	\$5.73	490,366
2nd Quarter 2016	\$6.44	\$4.92	1,031,090
1st Quarter 2016	\$5.30	\$4.65	756,080

At December 31, 2017, there were approximately 606 record holders of common stock of the Company. This does not reflect the number of persons or entities who hold their stock in nominee or street name through various brokerage firms.

Dividends

The Company's shareholders are entitled to dividends when and as declared by the Company's Board of Directors out of funds legally available therefore. Dividends paid to shareholders by the Company are subject to restrictions set forth in California General Corporation Law, which provides that a corporation may make a distribution to its shareholders if retained earnings immediately prior to the dividend payout are at least equal the amount of the

proposed distribution. As a bank holding company without significant assets other than its equity position in the Bank, the Company's ability to pay dividends to its shareholders depends primarily upon dividends it receives from the Bank. Such dividends paid by the Bank to the Company are subject to certain limitations. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial and Results of Operations – Regulatory Matters".

The Company distributed a 1% stock dividend to shareholders on April 7, 2017, a \$0.05 cash dividend to shareholders on May 8, 2017 and July 7, 2017, and a \$0.07 cash dividend to shareholders on October 10, 2017. The Company distributed a 1% stock dividend to shareholders on January 15, 2016, April 15, 2016, July 18, 2016, and October 21, 2016.

Table of Contents

The amount and payment of dividends by the Company to shareholders are set by the Company's Board of Directors with numerous factors involved including the Company's earnings, financial condition and the need for capital for expanded growth and general economic conditions. No assurance can be given that cash or stock dividends will be paid in the future.

Securities Authorized for Issuance under Equity Compensation Plans

The following table sets forth securities authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans as for December 31, 2017.

Plan Category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (column a)	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a))
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	94,601	(1)\$ 7.87	651,389
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	94,601	\$ 7.87	651,389

(1) Under the United Security Bancshares 2015 Equity Incentive Award Plan (2015 Plan), the Company is authorized to issue restricted stock awards. Restricted stock awards are not included in the total in column (a). At December 31, 2017, there were 46,511 shares of restricted stock issued and outstanding.

A complete description of the above plans is included in Note 10 of the Company's Financial Statements, in Item 8 of this Annual Report on Form 10K, and is hereby incorporated by reference.

Purchases of Equity Securities by Affiliates and Associated Purchasers

On May 16, 2007, the Company announced a stock repurchase plan to repurchase, as conditions warrant, up to 846,127 shares of the Company's common stock on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. The repurchase plan represents approximately 5.00% of the Company's currently outstanding common stock. The duration of the program is open-ended and the timing of purchases will depend on market conditions.

As of December 31, 2017, there were 732,556 shares available for repurchase. The Company did not repurchase any common shares during the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016.

Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Overview

Certain matters discussed or incorporated by reference in this Annual Report on Form 10-K are forward-looking statements that are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those

projected in the forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, those described in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the following factors: i) competitive pressures in the banking industry and changes in the regulatory environment; ii) exposure to changes in the interest rate environment and the resulting impact on the Company's interest rate sensitive assets and liabilities; iii) decline in the health of the economy nationally or regionally which could reduce the demand for loans or reduce the value of real estate collateral securing most of the Company's loans; iv) credit quality deterioration that could cause an increase in the for loan losses; v) Asset/Liability matching risks and liquidity risks; volatility and devaluation in the securities markets, vi) failure to comply with the regulatory agreement under which the Company is subject, vii) expected cost savings from recent acquisitions are not realized, viii) potential impairment of goodwill and other intangible assets, and ix) technology implementation problems and information security breaches. Therefore, the information set forth therein should be carefully considered when evaluating the business prospects of the Company.

Table of Contents

The Company

United Security Bancshares is a California corporation incorporated during March of 2001 and is registered with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System as a bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. United Security Bank is a wholly-owned bank subsidiary of the Company and was formed in 1987.

Current Trends Affecting Results of Operations and Financial Position

The Company's overall operations are impacted by a number of factors, including not only interest rates and margin spreads, which impact the results of operations, but also the composition of the Company's balance sheet. One of the primary strategic goals of the Company is to maintain a mix of assets that will generate a reasonable rate of return without undue risk, and to finance those assets with a low-cost and stable source of funds. Liquidity and capital resources must also be considered in the planning process to mitigate risk and allow for growth.

Since the Bank primarily conducts banking operations in California's Central Valley, its operations and cash flows are subject to changes in the economic condition of the Central Valley. Our business results are dependent in large part upon the business activity, population, income levels, deposits and real estate activity in the Central Valley, and declines in economic conditions can have adverse material effects upon the Bank.

The residential real estate markets in the five county region from Merced to Kern has strengthened since 2013 and that trend has continued into the fourth quarter of 2017. The severe declines in residential construction and home prices that began in 2008 have ended and home prices are now rising on a year-over-year basis. The sustained period of double-digit price declines from 2008–2011 adversely impacted the Company's operations and increased the levels of nonperforming assets, increased expenses related to foreclosed properties, and decreased profit margins. As the Company continues its business development and expansion efforts throughout its market areas, it will also maintain its commitment to the reduction of nonperforming assets and provision of options for borrowers experiencing difficulties. Those options include combinations of rate and term concessions, as well as forbearance agreements with borrowers. Median sales prices and housing start numbers improved in the five county region from Merced to Kern beginning in 2013.

The Company continues to emphasize relationship banking and core deposit growth, and has focused greater attention on its market area of Fresno, Madera, and Kern Counties, as well as Campbell, in Santa Clara County. The San Joaquin Valley and other California markets are exhibiting stronger demand for construction lending and commercial lending from small and medium size businesses, as commercial and residential real estate markets have shown improvements.

The Company continually evaluates its strategic business plan as economic and market factors change in its market area. Balance sheet management, enhancing revenue sources, and maintaining market share will continue to be of primary importance during 2018 and beyond. The previous pressure on net margins as interest rates hit historical lows may now be ending as interest rates are anticipated to rise slowly. As a result, market rates of interest and asset quality will continue to be important factors in the Company's ongoing strategic planning process.

Application of Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

The Company's consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and follow general practices within the banking industry. Application of these principles requires management to make estimates, assumptions, and judgments that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. These estimates, assumptions, and judgments are based on information available as of the date of the financial statements; accordingly, as this information changes, the financial statements could reflect different estimates, assumptions, and judgments. Certain policies inherently have a greater reliance on the use of estimates, assumptions, and judgments and as such have a greater possibility of producing results that could be materially different than originally reported. Estimates, assumptions, and judgments are necessary when assets and liabilities are required to be recorded at fair value, when a decline in the value of an asset not carried on the financial statements at fair value warrants an impairment write-down or valuation reserve to be established, or when an asset or liability needs to be recorded contingent upon a future event. Carrying assets and liabilities at fair value inherently

may result in more financial statement volatility. The fair values and the information used to record valuation adjustments for certain assets and liabilities are based either on quoted market prices or are provided by other third-party sources, when available. When third-party information is not available, valuation adjustments are estimated using the Company's own assumptions in regard to the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability.

The most significant accounting policies followed by the Company are presented in Note 1 to the Company's consolidated financial statements included herein. These policies, along with the disclosures presented in the other financial statement notes and in this financial review, provide information on how significant assets and liabilities are valued in the financial statements and how those values are determined. Based on the valuation techniques used and the sensitivity of financial statement amounts to the methods, assumptions, and estimates underlying those amounts, management has identified the determination of the allowance for credit losses, other real estate owned through foreclosure, impairment of investment securities, revenue

Table of Contents

recognition, nonaccrual income recognition, fair value estimates on junior subordinated debt, valuation for deferred income taxes, and goodwill, to be accounting areas that require the most subjective or complex judgments, and as such could be most subject to revision as new information becomes available.

Allowance for Credit Losses

The allowance for credit losses represents management's estimate of probable credit losses inherent in the loan portfolio. Determining the amount of the allowance for credit losses is considered a critical accounting estimate because it requires significant judgment and the use of estimates related to the amount and timing of expected future cash flows on impaired loans, estimated losses on pools of homogeneous loans based on historical loss experience, and consideration of current economic trends and conditions, all of which may be susceptible to significant change. The loan portfolio also represents the largest asset type on the consolidated balance sheet. Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements describes the methodology used to determine the allowance for credit losses. A discussion of the factors driving changes in the amount of the allowance for credit losses is included in the Asset Quality and Allowance for Credit Losses section of this financial review.

Other Real Estate Owned

Real estate properties acquired through, or in lieu of, loan foreclosure are to be sold and are initially recorded at fair value of the property, less estimated costs to sell. The excess, if any, of the loan amount over the fair value of the collateral is charged to the allowance for credit losses. The determination of fair value is generally based upon pre-approved, external appraisals. Subsequent declines in the fair value of other real estate owned, along with related revenue and expenses from operations, are charged to noninterest expense. The fair market valuation of such properties is based upon estimates, and as such, is subject to change as circumstances in the Company's market area, or general economic trends, fluctuate.

Fair Value

Effective January 1, 2007, the Company adopted fair value option accounting standards choosing to apply the standards to its junior subordinated debt. The Company concurrently adopted the accounting standards related to fair value measurements. The accounting standards related to fair value measurements define how applicable assets and liabilities are to be valued, and requires expanded disclosures about financial instruments carried at fair value. The fair value measurement accounting standard establishes a hierarchical disclosure framework associated with the level of pricing observability utilized in measuring financial instruments at fair value. The degree of judgment utilized in measuring the fair value of financial instruments generally correlates to the level of pricing observability. Financial instruments with readily available active quoted prices or for which fair value can be measured from actively quoted prices generally will have a higher degree of pricing observability and a lesser degree of judgment utilized in measuring fair value. Conversely, financial instruments infrequently traded or not quoted in an active market will generally have little or no pricing observability and a higher degree of judgment utilized in measuring fair value. Pricing observability is impacted by a number of factors, including the type of financial instrument, whether the financial instrument is new to the market and not yet established and the characteristics specific to the transaction. Determining fair values under the accounting standards may include judgments related to measurement factors that may vary from actual transactions executed in the marketplace. For the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, the Company recorded fair value adjustments related to its junior subordinated debt totaling losses of \$882,000 and \$518,000, respectively. (See Notes 8 and 13 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information about financial instruments carried at fair value.)

Income Taxes

Deferred income taxes are provided for the temporary differences between the financial reporting basis and the tax basis of the Company's assets and liabilities. Deferred taxes are measured using current tax rates applied to such taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered. If the Company's future income is not sufficient to apply the deferred tax assets within the tax years to which they may be applied, the deferred tax asset may not be realized and the Company's income will be reduced. The Company recorded no valuation allowance against its deferred tax assets at December 31, 2017 and 2016.

On January 1, 2007, the Company adopted accounting standards related to uncertainty in income taxes. The standard prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. Under the accounting standards, an entity should recognize the financial statement benefit of a tax position if it determines that it is more likely than not that the position will be sustained on examination. The term "more likely than not" means a likelihood of more than 50 percent. In assessing whether the more-

Table of Contents

likely-than-not criterion is met, the entity should assume that the tax position will be reviewed by the applicable taxing authority.

Pursuant to the accounting standards related to uncertainty in income taxes, the Company will continue to re-evaluate existing tax positions, as well as new positions as they arise. If the Company determines in the future that its tax positions are not “more likely than not” to be sustained (as defined) by taxing authorities, the Company may need to recognize additional tax liabilities.

On December 22, 2017, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, was signed into law, reducing the federal corporate tax rate to 21% from the existing maximum rate of 35%, effective January 1, 2018. As a result, The Company’s net deferred tax asset was revalued at the new lower tax rate as of December 31, 2017.

Impairment of Investment Securities

Investment securities are impaired when the amortized cost exceeds fair value. The Company evaluates investment securities for other-than-temporary impairment (“OTTI”) at least quarterly, and more frequently when economic or market conditions warrant such an evaluation. Management considers the extent and duration of the unrealized loss and assesses whether it intends to sell, or it is likely that it will be required to sell the security before the anticipated recovery. If the criteria regarding intent or requirement to sell is met, the entire difference between amortized cost and fair value is recognized as impairment through earnings.

For investment securities that do not meet the criteria regarding intent or requirement to sell, the Company compares the present value of the remaining cash flows as estimated at the preceding evaluation date to the current expected remaining cash flows to determine OTTI related to credit loss. The amount of OTTI related to credit loss is recognized in earnings, with the balance recognized in other comprehensive income.

Revenue Recognition

The Company’s primary sources of revenue are interest income from loans and investment securities. Interest income is generally recorded on an accrual basis, unless the collection of such income is not reasonably assured or cannot be reasonably estimated. Pursuant to accounting standards related to revenue recognition, nonrefundable fees and costs associated with originating or acquiring loans are recognized as a yield adjustment to the related loans by amortizing them into income over the term of the loan using a method which approximates the interest method. Other credit-related fees, such as standby letter of credit fees, loan placement fees and annual credit card fees are recognized as noninterest income during the period the related service is performed.

For loans placed on nonaccrual status, the accrued and unpaid interest receivable may be reversed at management's discretion based upon management's assessment of collectability, and interest is thereafter credited to principal to the extent necessary to eliminate doubt as to the collectability of the net carrying amount of the loan.

Results of Operations

On a year-to-date basis, the Company reported net income of \$8,640,000 or \$0.51 per share (\$0.51 diluted) for the year ended December 31, 2017, as compared to \$7,385,000 or \$0.44 per share (\$0.44 diluted) for the same period in 2016. The increase of \$1,255,000 between December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2017 is primarily the result of increases in interest-earning assets. Interest income increased by \$3,457,000 between December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2017. Non-interest income decreased by \$208,000.

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The Company's return on average assets was 1.07% for the year ended December 31, 2017, and 0.98% year ended December 31, 2016. The Company's return on average equity was 8.63% for the year ended December 31, 2017, as compared to 7.86% for the year ended December 31, 2016.

As with variances in net income, changes in the return on average assets and average equity experienced by the Company during 2017 and 2016 were effected by increases in average loan balances and net interest income.

The following table sets forth certain selected financial data for the Bank for each of the years in the five-year periods ended December 31, 2017, and should be read in conjunction with the more detailed information and financial statements contained elsewhere herein (in thousands except per share data and ratios).

21

Table of Contents

(In thousands except per share data and ratios)	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Selected Financial Ratios:					
Return on average assets	1.07	%0.98	%0.98	%0.93	%1.13
Return on average shareholders' equity	8.63	%7.86	%7.88	%7.80	%10.09
Average shareholders' equity to average assets	12.46	%12.43	%12.41	%11.88	%11.20
Dividend payout ratio	33.21	%—	%—	%—	%—

Net Interest Income

Net interest income, the most significant component of earnings, is the difference between the interest and fees received on earning assets and the interest paid on interest-bearing liabilities. Earning assets consist primarily of loans, and to a lesser extent, investments in securities issued by federal, state and local authorities, and corporations, as well as interest-bearing deposits and overnight investments in federal funds loaned to other financial institutions. These earning assets are funded by a combination of interest-bearing and noninterest-bearing liabilities, primarily customer deposits, and may include short-term and long-term borrowings.

Net interest income before provision for credit losses totaled \$31,200,000 for the year ended December 31, 2017, representing an increase of \$3,136,000, or 11.17%, when compared to the \$28,064,000 reported for the same period of the previous year. Although market rates of interest are at historically low levels, the Company's disciplined deposit pricing efforts have helped maintain adequate margins. The Company's net interest margin, as shown in Table 1, increased to 4.27% for the year ended December 31, 2017, when compared to 4.11% for the year ended December 31, 2016, and increased from 4.22% for the year ended December 31, 2015.

Table 1. – Distribution of Average Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity:
Interest rates and interest differentials
Years ended December 31, 2017, 2016, and 2015

Table of Contents

(Dollars in thousands)	2017				2016				2015			
	Average Balance	Interest	Yield/Rate	Average Balance	Interest	Yield/Rate	Average Balance	Interest	Yield/Rate			
Assets:												
Interest-earning assets:												
Loans and leases (1)	\$569,079	\$30,817	5.42 %	\$540,777	\$28,182	5.21 %	\$493,375	26,469	5.36 %			
Investment Securities – taxable	52,513	901	1.72 %	49,612	825	1.66 %	40,616	722	1.78 %			
Interest-bearing deposits in other banks	644	5	0.78 %	1,517	8	0.53 %	1,525	6	0.39 %			
Interest-bearing deposits in FRB	108,218	1,207	1.12 %	90,393	458	0.51 %	83,709	213	0.25 %			
Total interest-earning assets	730,454	\$32,930	4.51 %	682,299	\$29,473	4.32 %	619,225	27,410	4.43 %			
Allowance for credit losses	(9,067)			(9,311)			(11,357)					
Noninterest-earning assets:												
Cash and due from banks	22,225			21,886			22,279					
Premises and equipment, net	10,613			10,497			11,174					
Accrued interest receivable	4,594			2,568			1,601					
Other real estate owned	5,998			9,100			13,466					
Other assets	39,313			36,658			40,086					
Total average assets	\$804,130			\$753,697			\$696,474					
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity:												
Interest-bearing liabilities:												
NOW accounts	\$87,867	\$117	0.13 %	\$85,357	\$111	0.13 %	\$79,977	108	0.14 %			
Money market accounts	154,629	703	0.45 %	148,911	567	0.38 %	139,220	461	0.33 %			
Savings accounts	79,202	183	0.23 %	67,590	145	0.21 %						