

NBT BANCORP INC
Form 10-K
March 01, 2011

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 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, 2010

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM _____ TO _____
COMMISSION FILE NUMBER: 0-14703

NBT BANCORP INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or
organization)

16-1268674
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

52 SOUTH BROAD STREET
NORWICH, NEW YORK 13815
(Address of principal executive office) (Zip Code)
(607) 337-2265 (Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

None

(Former Name, Former Address and Former Fiscal Year, if Changed Since Last Report)

Securities registered pursuant to section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class:
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share

Name of each exchange on which registered:
The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

Securities registered pursuant to section 12(g) of the Act: None

Stock Purchase Rights Pursuant to Stockholders Rights Plan

Indicate by check mark if 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

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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 requirements 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 (Section 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in 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, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

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

Based on the closing price of the registrant's common stock as of June 30, 2010, the aggregate market value of the voting stock, common stock, par value, \$0.01 per share, held by non-affiliates of the registrant is \$673,845,411.

The number of shares of Common Stock outstanding as of February 15, 2011, was 34,566,224.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's definitive Proxy Statement for its Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on May 3, 2011 are incorporated by reference into Part III, Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of this Form 10-K.

NBT BANCORP INC.

FORM 10-K – Year Ended December 31, 2010

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PART I

ITEM 1. Business

NBT Bancorp Inc. (the “Registrant” or the “Company”) is a registered financial holding company incorporated in the state of Delaware in 1986, with its principal headquarters located in Norwich, New York. The Company, on a consolidated basis, at December 31, 2010 had assets of \$5.3 billion and stockholders’ equity of \$533.6 million. Return on average assets and return on average equity were 1.05% and 10.92%, respectively, for the year ending December 31, 2010. The Company had net income of \$57.4 million or \$1.66 per diluted share for 2010 and fully taxable equivalent (“FTE”) net interest margin was 4.15% for the same period.

The principal assets of the Registrant consist of all of the outstanding shares of common stock of its subsidiaries, including: NBT Bank, N.A. (the “Bank”), NBT Financial Services, Inc. (“NBT Financial”), NBT Holdings, Inc. (“NBT Holdings”) and CNBF Capital Trust I, NBT Statutory Trust I and NBT Statutory Trust II (the “Trusts”). The Company’s principal sources of revenue are the management fees and dividends it receives from the Bank, NBT Financial, and NBT Holdings.

The Company’s business, primarily conducted through the Bank but also through its other subsidiaries, consists of providing commercial banking and financial services to customers in its market area, which includes central and upstate New York, northeastern Pennsylvania and the greater Burlington, Vermont area. The Company has been, and intends to continue to be, a community-oriented financial institution offering a variety of financial services. The Company’s business philosophy is to operate as a community bank with local decision-making, principally in non-metropolitan markets, providing a broad array of banking and financial services to retail, commercial, and municipal customers. The financial condition and operating results of the Company are dependent on its net interest income which is the difference between the interest and dividend income earned on its earning assets, primarily loans and investments, and the interest expense paid on its interest bearing liabilities, primarily consisting of deposits and borrowings. Among other factors, net income is also affected by provisions for loan and lease losses and noninterest income, such as service charges on deposit accounts, trust fees, insurance and other financial services fees, and gains/losses on securities sales, as well as noninterest expense, such as salaries and employee benefits, data processing, communications, occupancy, and equipment expenses.

Substantially all of the Company’s business activities are with customers located in the United States and are summarized by state below:

	Interest and Fee Income	%	Noninterest Income	%	Total Revenue	%
New York	58	%	28	%	86	%
Pennsylvania	8	%	5	%	13	%
Vermont	1	%	0	%	1	%
	67	%	33	%	100	%

	Commercial	%	Consumer	%	Residential Real Estate	%	Total Loan Portfolio	%
New York	36	%	34	%	11	%	81	%
Pennsylvania	6	%	7	%	4	%	17	%
Vermont	2	%	0	%	0	%	2	%
	44	%	41	%	15	%	100	%

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Approximately 56% of the New York-based loan portfolio was secured by real estate in central and upstate New York, while approximately 68% of the Pennsylvania-based loan portfolio was secured by real estate in northeastern Pennsylvania as of December 31, 2010. Approximately 68% of the Vermont-based loan portfolio was secured by real estate in the Burlington, Vermont area.

Like the rest of the nation, the market areas that the Company serves are still experiencing some economic challenges. A variety of factors (e.g., any substantial rise in inflation or further rise in unemployment rates, further decrease in consumer confidence, natural disasters, war, or political instability) may affect both the Company's markets and the national market. The Company will continue to emphasize managing its funding costs and lending and investment rates to effectively maintain profitability. In addition, the Company will continue to seek and maintain relationships that can generate fee income that is not directly tied to lending relationships. We anticipate that this approach should help mitigate profit fluctuations that are caused by movements in interest rates, business and consumer loan cycles, and local economic factors.

NBT Bank, N.A.

The Bank is a full service commercial bank formed in 1856, which provides a broad range of financial products to individuals, corporations and municipalities throughout the central and upstate New York, northeastern Pennsylvania and greater Burlington, Vermont market areas.

Through its network of branch locations, the Bank offers a wide range of products and services tailored to individuals, businesses, and municipalities. Deposit products offered by the Bank include demand deposit accounts, savings accounts, negotiable order of withdrawal ("NOW") accounts, money market deposit accounts ("MMDA"), and certificate of deposit ("CD") accounts. The Bank offers various types of each deposit account to accommodate the needs of its customers with varying rates, terms, and features. Loan products offered by the Bank include consumer loans, home equity loans, mortgages, small business loans and commercial loans, with varying rates, terms and features to accommodate the needs of its customers. The Bank also offers various other products and services through its branch network such as trust and investment services and financial planning and life insurance services. In addition to its branch network, the Bank also offers access to certain products and services online enabling customers to check balances, transfer funds, pay bills, view statements, apply for loans and access various other product and service information. The Bank provides 24-hour access to an automated telephone line whereby customers can check balances, obtain interest information, transfer funds, request statements, and perform various other activities.

The Bank conducts business through two geographic operating divisions, NBT Bank and Pennstar Bank. At year end 2010, the NBT Bank division had 86 divisional offices and 114 automated teller machines (ATMs), located primarily in central and upstate New York and Burlington, Vermont. At December 31, 2010, the NBT Bank division had total loans and leases of approximately \$3.0 billion, or 83% of total loans and leases, and total deposits of \$3.2 billion, or 77% of total deposits. Revenue for the NBT Bank division totaled \$199.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2010. At year end 2010, the Pennstar Bank division had 37 divisional offices and 50 ATMs, located primarily in northeastern Pennsylvania. At December 31, 2010, the Pennstar Bank division had total loans and leases of \$626.6 million, or 17% of total loans and leases, and total deposits of \$941.3 million, or 23% of total deposits. Revenue for the Pennstar Bank division totaled \$34.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2010.

NBT Financial Services, Inc.

Through NBT Financial Services, the Company operates EPIC Advisors, Inc. ("EPIC"), a retirement plan administrator. Through EPIC, the Company offers services including retirement plan consulting and recordkeeping services. EPIC's headquarters are located in Rochester, New York.

NBT Holdings, Inc.

Through NBT Holdings, the Company operates Mang Insurance Agency, LLC (“Mang”), a full-service insurance agency acquired by the Company on September 1, 2008. Prior to its acquisition by the Company, Mang was one of the largest independent insurance agencies in upstate New York and was headquartered in Binghamton, New York. As part of the acquisition, the Company acquired approximately \$15.3 million of intangible assets and \$11.8 million of goodwill, for a purchase price of \$28.0 million, which has been allocated to NBT Holdings for reporting purposes. The results of operations are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date of acquisition, September 1, 2008. Mang’s headquarters were moved to Norwich, New York in December 2009 and many Mang office locations that were in the same communities as NBT Bank branches have moved into those branches during 2009 and 2010. Through Mang, the Company offers a full array of insurance products, including personal property and casualty, business liability and commercial insurance, tailored to serve the specific insurance needs of individuals as well as businesses in a range of industries operating in the markets served by the Company.

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The Trusts

The Trusts were organized to raise additional regulatory capital and to provide funding for certain acquisitions. CNBF Capital Trust I (“Trust I”) and NBT Statutory Trust I are Delaware statutory business trusts formed in 1999 and 2005, respectively, for the purpose of issuing trust preferred securities and lending the proceeds to the Company. In connection with the acquisition of CNB Bancorp, Inc. mentioned below, the Company formed NBT Statutory Trust II (“Trust II”) in February 2006 to fund the cash portion of the acquisition as well as to provide regulatory capital. The Company raised \$51.5 million through Trust II in February 2006. The Company guarantees, on a limited basis, payments of distributions on the trust preferred securities and payments on redemption of the trust preferred securities. The Trusts are variable interest entities (VIEs) for which the Company is not the primary beneficiary, as defined by Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification (“FASB ASC”). In accordance with FASB ASC, the accounts of the Trusts are not included in the Company’s consolidated financial statements. On July 21, 2010, President Obama signed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”), which among other things, requires bank holding companies with assets greater than \$500 million to be subject to the same capital requirements as insured depository institutions, meaning, for instance, that such bank holding companies will not be able to count trust preferred securities issued after May 19, 2010 as Tier 1 capital.

Operating Subsidiaries of the Bank

The Bank has five operating subsidiaries, NBT Capital Corp., Pennstar Bank Services Company, Broad Street Property Associates, Inc., NBT Services, Inc., and CNB Realty Trust. NBT Capital Corp., formed in 1998, is a venture capital corporation formed to assist young businesses to develop and grow primarily in the markets they serve. Pennstar Bank Services Company, formed in 2002, provides administrative and support services to the Pennstar Bank division of the Bank. Broad Street Property Associates, Inc., formed in 2004, is a property management company. NBT Services, Inc., formed in 2004, has a 44% ownership interest in Land Record Services, LLC. Land Record Services, LLC, a title insurance agency, offers mortgagee and owner’s title insurance coverage to both retail and commercial customers. CNB Realty Trust, formed in 1998, is a real estate investment trust.

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Competition

The banking and financial services industry in the Company's market areas is highly competitive. The increasingly competitive environment is the result of changes in regulation, changes in technology and product delivery systems, additional financial service providers, and the accelerating pace of consolidation among financial services providers. The Company competes for loans, deposits, and customers with other commercial banks, savings and loan associations, securities and brokerage companies, mortgage companies, insurance companies, finance companies, money market funds, credit unions, and other nonbank financial service providers. Additionally, various in-state market competitors and out-of-state banks continue to enter or have announced plans to enter the market areas in which the Company currently operates.

The financial services industry could become even more competitive as a result of legislative, regulatory and technological changes and continued consolidation. Banks, securities firms and insurance companies can merge under the umbrella of a financial holding company, which can offer virtually any type of financial service, including banking, securities underwriting, insurance (both agency and underwriting) and merchant banking. Also, technology has lowered barriers to entry and made it possible for non-banks to offer products and services traditionally provided by banks, such as automatic transfer and automatic payment systems.

Some of the Company's competitors have fewer regulatory constraints and may have lower cost structures. In addition, some of the Company's competitors have assets, capital and lending limits greater than that of the Company, have greater access to capital markets and offer a broader range of products and services than the Company. These institutions may have the ability to finance wide-ranging advertising campaigns and may also be able to offer lower rates on loans and higher rates on deposits than the Company can offer. Some of these institutions offer services, such as credit cards and international banking, which the Company does not directly offer.

In order to compete with other financial services providers, the Company stresses the community nature of its banking operations and principally relies upon local promotional activities, personal relationships established by officers, directors, and employees with their customers, and specialized services tailored to meet the needs of the communities served. We also offer certain customer services, such as agricultural lending, that many of our larger competitors do not offer. While the Company's position varies by market, the Company's management believes that it can compete effectively as a result of local market knowledge and awareness of customer needs.

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The table below summarizes the Bank's deposits and market share by the twenty-seven counties of New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont in which it has customer facilities as of June 30, 2010. Market share is based on deposits of all commercial banks, credit unions, savings and loans associations, and savings banks.

County	State	Deposits (in thousands)	Market Share		Market Rank	Number of Branches	Number of ATMs
Chenango	NY	\$ 485,746	80.94	%	1	11	16
Fulton	NY	367,069	55.97	%	1	7	11
Hamilton	NY	32,337	47.07	%	2	1	1
Schoharie	NY	168,977	43.76	%	1	4	3
Delaware	NY	317,547	36.78	%	1	5	5
Montgomery	NY	197,161	28.63	%	2	6	5
Otsego	NY	290,326	27.67	%	2	9	14
Essex	NY	120,384	23.75	%	2	3	6
Susquehanna	PA	146,120	21.51	%	3	6	7
St Lawrence	NY	128,694	11.46	%	4	5	6
Pike	PA	62,534	11.06	%	5	2	3
Broome	NY	250,190	10.89	%	3	8	11
Wayne	PA	129,729	10.48	%	4	4	5
Oneida	NY	268,270	8.81	%	5	6	13
Tioga	NY	32,440	7.93	%	4	1	1
Lackawanna	PA	374,380	7.72	%	7	15	20
Clinton	NY	90,284	6.92	%	6	3	2
Herkimer	NY	39,375	6.88	%	5	2	1
Franklin	NY	21,817	4.74	%	5	1	1
Monroe	PA	88,990	4.04	%	7	6	8
Saratoga	NY	131,530	4.00	%	11	4	4
Warren	NY	45,730	3.37	%	7	2	3
Schenectady	NY	62,797	2.70	%	8	2	2
Luzerne	PA	88,827	1.52	%	15	4	7
Rensselaer	NY	23,524	1.31	%	13	1	1
Albany	NY	137,862	1.18	%	12	4	7
Chittenden	VT	11,097	0.35	%	7	1	1
		\$ 4,113,737				123	164

Deposit market share data is based on the most recent data available (as of June 30, 2010).

Source: SNL Financial LLC

Supervision and Regulation

As a bank holding company, the Company is subject to extensive regulation, supervision, and examination by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the "Federal Reserve Board" or "FRB") as its primary federal regulator. The Company also has qualified for and elected to be registered with the FRB as a financial holding company. The Bank, as a nationally chartered bank, is subject to extensive regulation, supervision and examination by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency ("OCC") as its primary federal regulator and, as to certain matters, by the FRB and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC").

The Company is subject to capital adequacy guidelines of the FRB. The guidelines apply on a consolidated basis and require bank holding companies to maintain a minimum ratio of Tier 1 capital to total average assets (or “leverage ratio”) of 4%. For the most highly rated bank holding companies, the minimum ratio is 3%. The FRB capital adequacy guidelines also require bank holding companies to maintain a minimum ratio of Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets of 4% and a minimum ratio of qualifying total capital to risk-weighted assets of 8%. As of December 31, 2010, the Company’s leverage ratio was 9.16%, its ratio of Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets was 12.44%, and its ratio of qualifying total capital to risk-weighted assets was 13.70%. The FRB may set higher minimum capital requirements for bank holding companies whose circumstances warrant it, such as companies anticipating significant growth or facing unusual risks. The FRB has not advised the Company of any special capital requirement applicable to it.

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Any holding company whose capital does not meet the minimum capital adequacy guidelines is considered to be undercapitalized and is required to submit an acceptable plan to the FRB for achieving capital adequacy. Such a company's ability to pay dividends to its shareholders and expand its lines of business through the acquisition of new banking or nonbanking subsidiaries also could be restricted.

Pursuant to Federal Reserve Board regulations and supervisory policies, bank holding companies also are expected to serve as a source of financial and managerial strength to their subsidiary depository institutions. Therefore, to the extent the Bank is in need of capital, the Company could be expected to provide additional capital to the Bank, including, potentially, raising new capital for that purpose.

The Company is also under the jurisdiction of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and is subject to the disclosure and regulatory requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as administered by the SEC.

The Bank is subject to leverage and risk-based capital requirements and minimum capital guidelines of the OCC that are similar to those applicable to the Company. As of December 31, 2010, the Bank was in compliance with all minimum capital requirements and met the requirements to be considered well-capitalized. As of that date, the Bank's leverage ratio was 8.67%, its ratio of Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets was 11.77%, and its ratio of qualifying total capital to risk-weighted assets was 13.03%.

The OCC generally prohibits a depository institution from making any capital distributions (including payment of a dividend) or paying any management fee to its parent holding company if the depository institution would thereafter be undercapitalized. Undercapitalized institutions are subject to growth limitations and are required to submit a capital restoration plan. If a depository institution fails to submit an acceptable capital restoration plan, it is treated as if it is "significantly undercapitalized." Significantly undercapitalized depository institutions may be subject to a number of requirements and restrictions, including orders to sell sufficient voting stock to become "adequately capitalized," requirements to reduce total assets, and cessation of receipt of deposits from correspondent banks. "Critically undercapitalized" institutions are subject to the appointment of a receiver or conservator.

Under FDIC regulations, no FDIC-insured bank can accept brokered deposits unless it is well capitalized, or is adequately capitalized and receives a waiver from the FDIC. In addition, these regulations prohibit any bank that is not well capitalized from paying an interest rate on brokered deposits in excess of three-quarters of one percentage point over certain prevailing market rates. As of December 31, 2010, the Bank's total brokered deposits were \$69.7 million.

The deposits of the Bank are insured up to regulatory limits by the FDIC. The Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Act of 2005 gave the FDIC increased flexibility in assessing premiums on banks and savings associations, including the Bank, to pay for deposit insurance and in managing its deposit insurance reserves. The FDIC has adopted regulations to implement its new authority. Under these regulations, all insured depository institutions are placed into one of four risk categories. For institutions such as the Bank, which do not have a long-term public debt rating, the individual risk assessment is based on its supervisory ratings and certain financial ratios and other measurements of its financial condition. For institutions that have a long-term public debt rating, the individual risk assessment is based on its supervisory ratings and its debt rating. On February 8, 2011, the FDIC issued new rules that take effect April 1, 2011 to change the way the FDIC differentiates risk and sets appropriate assessment rates. In addition, the FDIC also issued an interim rule on February 27, 2009 that imposed an emergency special assessment of 20 basis points in addition to its risk-based assessment resulting in a \$2.5 million charge to the Company in 2009.

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The Bank is also a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank (“FHLB”) of New York, which provides a central credit facility primarily for member institutions for home mortgage and neighborhood lending. The Bank is subject to the rules and requirements of the FHLB, including the requirement to acquire and hold shares of capital stock in the FHLB in an amount at least equal to the sum of 0.35% of the aggregate principal amount of its unpaid residential mortgage loans and similar obligations at the beginning of each year. The Bank was in compliance with the rules and requirements of the FHLB at December 31, 2010.

Like all FDIC insured financial institutions, the Company has been subjected to substantial increases in FDIC recurring premiums, as well as a special assessment levied by the FDIC in the second quarter of 2009. The Company incurred \$6.1 million and \$8.4 million of FDIC assessment expenses in 2010 and 2009, respectively. On November 12, 2009, the FDIC adopted a final rule amending the assessment regulations to require insured depository institutions to prepay their quarterly risk-based assessments for the fourth quarter of 2009, and for all of 2010, 2011, and 2012, on December 31, 2009. The Company paid approximately \$22.2 million in 2009 for prepaid assessment fees for the fourth quarter of 2009, and for the years 2010, 2011, and 2012. Approximately \$1.4 million and \$5.5 million of the prepaid assessment fees were expensed in the fourth quarter of 2009 and for the year ended December 31, 2010, respectively.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Act provides for additional assessments to be imposed on insured depository institutions to pay for the cost of Financing Corporation (“FICO”) funding. The FICO assessments are adjusted quarterly to reflect changes in the assessment base of the Depositors Insurance Fund (“DIF”) and do not vary depending upon a depository institution’s capitalization or supervisory evaluation.

Transactions between the Bank and any of its affiliates, including the Company, are governed by sections 23A and 23B of the Federal Reserve Act (“FRA”) and the FRB’s implementing Regulation W. An “affiliate” of a bank includes any company or entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with the bank. A subsidiary of a bank that is not also a depository institution is not treated as an affiliate of the bank for purposes of sections 23A and 23B, unless the subsidiary is also controlled through a non-bank chain of ownership by affiliates or controlling shareholders of the bank, the subsidiary is a financial subsidiary that operates under the expanded authority granted to national banks under the Financial Modernization Act of 1999, also known as the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (“GLB Act”), or the subsidiary engages in other activities that are not permissible for a bank to engage in directly (except insurance agency subsidiaries). Generally, sections 23A and 23B are intended to protect insured depository institutions from suffering losses arising from transactions with non-insured affiliates, by placing quantitative and qualitative limitations on covered transactions between a bank and with any one affiliate as well as all affiliates of the bank in the aggregate, and requiring that such transactions be on terms that are consistent with safe and sound banking practices.

Under the GLB Act, a financial holding company may engage in certain financial activities that a bank holding company may not otherwise engage in under the Bank Holding Company Act (“BHC Act”). In addition to engaging in banking and activities closely related to banking as determined by the FRB by regulation or order prior to November 11, 1999, a financial holding company may engage in activities that are financial in nature or incidental to financial activities, or activities that are complementary to a financial activity and do not pose a substantial risk to the safety and soundness of depository institutions or the financial system generally.

The GLB Act and the rules promulgated thereunder requires all financial institutions, including the Company and the Bank, to adopt privacy policies, restrict the sharing of nonpublic customer data with nonaffiliated parties at the customer’s request, and establish procedures and practices to protect customer data from unauthorized access. In addition, the Fair Credit Reporting Act (“FCRA”), as amended by the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 (“FACT Act”), includes many provisions affecting the Company, Bank, and/or their affiliates, including provisions concerning obtaining consumer reports, furnishing information to consumer reporting agencies, maintaining a program to prevent identity theft, sharing of certain information among affiliated companies, and other provisions.

The FACT Act requires persons subject to FCRA to notify their customers if they report negative information about them to a credit bureau or if they are granted credit on terms less favorable than those generally available. The FRB and the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) have extensive rulemaking authority under the FACT Act, and the Company and the Bank are subject to the rules that have been promulgated under the FACT Act, including recent rules regarding limitations on affiliate marketing and implementation of programs to identify, detect and mitigate certain identity theft red flags. The Company has developed policies and procedures for itself and its subsidiaries, including the Bank, and believes it is in compliance with all privacy, information sharing, and notification provisions of the GLB Act and the FACT Act. The Bank is also subject to data security standards and data breach notice requirements, chiefly those issued by the OCC.

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On July 21, 2010, the President signed into law the Dodd-Frank Act. This new law will significantly change the current bank regulatory structure and affect the lending, deposit, investment, trading and operating activities of financial institutions and their holding companies. The Dodd-Frank Act requires various federal agencies to adopt a broad range of new rules and regulations, and to prepare various studies and reports for Congress. The federal agencies are given significant discretion in drafting such rules and regulations. With that discretion, market litigation, and continued legislative efforts, many of the details and much of the impact of the Dodd-Frank Act may not be known for months or years.

Certain provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act are expected to have a near term impact on the Company. For example, effective July 21, 2011, a provision of the Dodd-Frank Act eliminates the federal prohibitions on paying interest on demand deposits, thus allowing businesses to offer interest-bearing checking accounts. Depending on competitive responses, this significant change to existing law could have an adverse impact on the Company's interest expense.

The Dodd-Frank Act also broadens the base for FDIC insurance assessments. Assessments will now be based on the average consolidated total assets less tangible equity capital of a financial institution. The Bank is a member of the Deposit Insurance Fund and deposit accounts at the Bank are insured by the FDIC, generally up to the maximum amount permitted by law. The Dodd-Frank Act permanently increases the maximum amount of deposit insurance for banks, savings institutions and credit unions to \$250,000 per depositor per insured institution, retroactive to January 1, 2008, and qualifying non-interest bearing transaction accounts have unlimited deposit insurance through December 31, 2013.

The Collins Amendment, included in the Dodd-Frank Act, requires bank holding companies with assets greater than \$500 million to be subject to the same capital requirements as insured depository institutions, meaning, for instance, that such bank holding companies will not be able to count trust preferred securities issued after May 19, 2010 as Tier 1 capital. The Company has not issued any trust preferred securities after May 19, 2010. The Collins Amendment also directs the appropriate federal banking supervisors, subject to recommendations by the Financial Stability Oversight Council, to develop capital requirements for all insured depository institutions, depository institution holding companies and systemically important non-bank financial companies to address systemically risky activities.

The Dodd-Frank Act and recently promulgated rules of the SEC will require publicly traded companies to give stockholders a non-binding vote on executive compensation and so-called "golden parachute" payments, and allow greater access by shareholders to the Company's proxy material in connection with shareholder director nominations.

The Dodd-Frank Act creates a new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau with wide-ranging powers to supervise and enforce consumer protection laws. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has broad rule-making authority for a wide range of consumer protection laws that apply to all banks and savings institutions, including the authority to prohibit "unfair, deceptive or abusive" acts and practices. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has examination and enforcement authority over all banks and savings institutions with more than \$10 billion in assets. The Dodd-Frank Act also weakens the federal preemption rules that have been applicable to national banks and federal savings associations, and gives state attorneys general certain powers to enforce federal consumer protection laws.

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It is difficult to predict at this time with specificity the full range of the impact the Dodd-Frank Act and the yet to be written implementing rules and regulations will have on the Company. The legislation and any implementing rules that are ultimately issued could have adverse implications on the financial industry, the competitive environment, and the Company's ability to conduct business. The Company will have to apply resources to ensure that it is in compliance with all applicable provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act and any implementing rules, which may increase its costs of operations and adversely impact its earnings.

In 2007, the Federal Reserve and the SEC issued a final joint rulemaking (Regulation R) to clarify that traditional banking activities involving some elements of securities brokerage activities, such as most trust and fiduciary activities, may continue to be performed by banks rather than being "pushed-out" to affiliates supervised by the SEC. These rules took effect for the Bank beginning January 1, 2009.

Effective July 1, 2010, a new federal banking rule under the Electronic Fund Transfer Act prohibits financial institutions from charging consumers fees for paying overdrafts on automated teller machines ("ATM") and one-time debit card transactions, unless a consumer consents, or opts in, to the overdraft service for those types of transactions. Overdrafts on the payment of checks and regular electronic bill payments are not covered by this new rule. The adoption of this regulation by the Bank had a negative impact on the Company's service charge income of approximately \$1.5 million in 2010.

Under Title III of the USA PATRIOT Act all financial institutions, including the Company and the Bank, are required in general to identify their customers, adopt formal and comprehensive anti-money laundering programs, scrutinize or prohibit altogether certain transactions of special concern, and be prepared to respond to inquiries from U.S. law enforcement agencies concerning their customers and their transactions. The USA PATRIOT Act also encourages information-sharing among financial institutions, regulators, and law enforcement authorities by providing an exemption from the privacy provisions of the GLB Act for financial institutions that comply with this provision. The effectiveness of a financial institution in combating money laundering activities is a factor to be considered in any application submitted by the financial institution under the Bank Merger Act, which applies to the Bank, or the BHC Act, which applies to the Company. Failure of a financial institution to maintain and implement adequate programs to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, or to comply with all of the relevant laws or regulations, could have serious legal, financial and reputational consequences for the institution. As of December 31, 2010, the Company and the Bank believe they are in compliance with the USA PATRIOT Act and regulations thereunder.

The Bank has a responsibility under the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 ("CRA") to help meet the credit needs of its communities, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. The CRA does not establish specific lending requirements or programs for financial institutions nor does it limit an institution's discretion to develop the types of products and services that it believes are best suited to its particular community, consistent with the CRA. Regulators assess the Bank's record of compliance with the CRA. In addition, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Fair Housing Act prohibit discrimination in lending practices on the basis of characteristics specified in those statutes. The Bank's failure to comply with the provisions of the CRA could, at a minimum, result in regulatory restrictions on its activities and the activities of the Company. The Bank's failure to comply with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Fair Housing Act could result in enforcement actions against it by its regulators as well as other federal regulatory agencies and the Department of Justice. The Bank's latest CRA rating was "Outstanding".

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The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (“SOX”) implemented a broad range of measures to increase corporate responsibility, enhance penalties for accounting and auditing improprieties at publicly traded companies, and protect investors by improving the accuracy and reliability of corporate disclosures pursuant to federal securities laws. SOX applies generally to companies that have securities registered under the Exchange Act, including publicly-held bank holding companies such as the Company. It includes very specific additional disclosure requirements and has adopted corporate governance rules, and requires the SEC and securities exchanges to adopt extensive additional disclosure, corporate governance and other related rules pursuant to its mandates. SOX represents significant federal involvement in matters traditionally left to state regulatory systems, such as the regulation of the accounting profession, and to state corporate law, such as the relationship between a board of directors and management and between a board of directors and its committees. In addition, the federal banking regulators have adopted generally similar requirements concerning the certification of financial statements by bank officials.

Home mortgage lenders, including banks, are required under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act to make available to the public expanded information regarding the pricing of home mortgage loans, including the “rate spread” between the annual percentage rate and the average prime offer rate for mortgage loans of a comparable type. The availability of this information has led to increased scrutiny of higher-priced loans at all financial institutions to detect illegal discriminatory practices and to the initiation of a limited number of investigations by federal banking agencies and the U.S. Department of Justice. The Company has no information that it or its affiliates is the subject of any HMDA investigation.

Employees

At December 31, 2010, the Company had 1,499 full-time equivalent employees. The Company’s employees are not presently represented by any collective bargaining group. The Company considers its employee relations to be good.

Available Information

The Company’s website is <http://www.nbtbancorp.com>. The Company makes available free of charge through its website, its annual reports on Form 10-K; quarterly reports on Form 10-Q; current reports on Form 8-K; and any amendments to those reports as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed or furnished with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act. We also make available through our website other reports filed with or furnished to the SEC under the Exchange Act, including our proxy statements and reports filed by officers and directors under Section 16(a) of that Act, as well as our Code of Business Ethics and other codes/committee charters. The references to our website do not constitute incorporation by reference of the information contained in the website and such information should not be considered part of this document.

Any materials we file with the SEC may be read and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC, 20549. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an Internet site (<http://www.sec.gov>) that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC.

ITEM 1A. Risk Factors

There are risks inherent to the Company’s business. The material risks and uncertainties that management believes affect the Company are described below. Any of the following risks could affect the Company’s financial condition and results of operations and could be material and/or adverse in nature.

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Deterioration in local economic conditions may negatively impact our financial performance.

The Company's success depends primarily on the general economic conditions of upstate New York, northeastern Pennsylvania, and Burlington, Vermont and the specific local markets in which the Company operates. Unlike larger national or other regional banks that are more geographically diversified, the Company provides banking and financial services to customers primarily in the upstate New York areas of Norwich, Oneonta, Amsterdam-Gloversville, Albany, Binghamton, Utica-Rome, Plattsburg, and Ogdensburg-Massena, the northeastern Pennsylvania areas of Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and East Stroudsburg, and the greater Burlington, Vermont area. The local economic conditions in these areas have a significant impact on the demand for the Company's products and services as well as the ability of the Company's customers to repay loans, the value of the collateral securing loans and the stability of the Company's deposit funding sources.

As a lender with the majority of our loans secured by real estate or made to businesses in New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont, a downturn in these local economies could cause significant increases in nonperforming loans, which could negatively impact our earnings. Declines in real estate values in our market areas could cause any of our loans to become inadequately collateralized, which would expose us to greater risk of loss. Additionally, a decline in real estate values could adversely impact our portfolio of residential and commercial real estate loans and could result in the decline of originations of such loans, as most of our loans, and the collateral securing our loans, are located in those areas.

As a lender with agricultural loans in the portfolio (approximately 3.1% of total loans), continued low milk prices could result in an increase in nonperforming loans, which could negatively impact our earnings.

Variations in interest rates may negatively affect our financial performance.

The Company's earnings and financial condition are largely dependent upon net interest income, which is the difference between interest earned from loans and investments and interest paid on deposits and borrowings. The narrowing of interest rate spreads could adversely affect the Company's earnings and financial condition. The Company cannot predict with certainty or control changes in interest rates. Regional and local economic conditions and the policies of regulatory authorities, including monetary policies of the FRB, affect interest income and interest expense. High interest rates could also affect the amount of loans that the Company can originate because higher rates could cause customers to apply for fewer mortgages or cause depositors to shift funds from accounts that have a comparatively lower cost to accounts with a higher cost. The Company may also experience customer attrition due to competitor pricing. With short-term interest rates at historic lows and the current Federal Funds target rate at 25 bp, the Company's interest-bearing deposit accounts, particularly core deposits, are repricing at historic lows as well. In the future, we anticipate that the interest rate environment will increase and the Federal funds target rate will start to increase. Depending on the nature and scale of those increases, the Company's challenge will be managing the magnitude and scope of the repricing. If the cost of interest-bearing deposits increases at a rate greater than the yields on interest-earning assets increase, net interest income will be negatively affected. Changes in the asset and liability mix may also affect net interest income. Similarly, lower interest rates cause higher yielding assets to prepay and floating or adjustable rate assets to reset to lower rates. If the Company is not able to reduce its funding costs sufficiently, due to either competitive factors or the maturity schedule of existing liabilities, then the Company's net interest margin will decline.

Although management believes it has implemented effective asset and liability management strategies to reduce the potential effects of changes in interest rates on the Company's results of operations, any substantial, unexpected, or prolonged change in market interest rates could have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition and results of operations. See the section captioned "Net Interest Income" in Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure

About Market Risk located elsewhere in this report for further discussion related to the Company's management of interest rate risk.

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Changes in the equity markets could materially affect the level of assets under management and the demand for other fee-based services.

Economic downturns could affect the volume of income from and demand for fee-based services. Revenue from the wealth management and benefit plan administration businesses depend in large part on the level of assets under management and administration. Market volatility that leads customers to liquidate investments, as well as lower asset values, can reduce our level of assets under management and administration and thereby decrease our investment management and administration revenues.

Our lending, and particularly our emphasis on commercial lending, exposes us to the risk of losses upon borrower default.

There are inherent risks associated with the Company's lending activities. These risks include, among other things, the impact of changes in interest