

Ameris Bancorp
Form 10-Q
May 10, 2018

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2018

OR
 TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Commission File Number: 001-13901

AMERIS BANCORP
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

GEORGIA 58-1456434
(State of incorporation) (IRS Employer
ID No.)

310 FIRST STREET, S.E., MOULTRIE, GA 31768
(Address of principal executive offices)

(229) 890-1111
(Registrant's telephone number)

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 Website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T 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 whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller 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.

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller 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.

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

There were 38,327,081 shares of Common Stock outstanding as of May 1, 2018.

AMERIS BANCORP
TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|------|
| PART I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION | |
| Item 1. <u>Financial Statements.</u> | |
| <u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017</u> | 1 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 and 2017</u> | 2 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Shareholders’ Equity for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 and 2017</u> | 3 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 and 2017</u> | 4 |
| <u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u> | 6 |
| Item 2. <u>Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.</u> | 41 |
| Item 3. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.</u> | 61 |
| Item 4. <u>Controls and Procedures.</u> | 62 |
| PART II – OTHER INFORMATION | |
| Item 1. <u>Legal Proceedings.</u> | 62 |
| Item 1A. <u>Risk Factors.</u> | 62 |
| Item 2. <u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.</u> | 62 |
| Item 3. <u>Defaults Upon Senior Securities.</u> | 62 |
| Item 4. <u>Mine Safety Disclosures.</u> | 62 |
| Item 5. <u>Other Information.</u> | 62 |
| Item 6. <u>Exhibits.</u> | 63 |
| <u>Signatures</u> | 64 |

Item 1. Financial Statements.

AMERIS BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Balance Sheets (unaudited)

(dollars in thousands, except per share data)

| | March 31, 2018 | December 31, 2017 |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Cash and due from banks | \$ 123,945 | \$ 139,313 |
| Federal funds sold and interest-bearing deposits in banks | 210,930 | 191,345 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 334,875 | 330,658 |
| Investment securities available for sale, at fair value | 848,585 | 810,873 |
| Other investments | 32,227 | 42,270 |
| Loans held for sale, at fair value | 111,135 | 197,442 |
| Loans | 5,051,986 | 4,856,514 |
| Purchased loans | 818,587 | 861,595 |
| Purchased loan pools | 319,598 | 328,246 |
| Loans, net of unearned income | 6,190,171 | 6,046,355 |
| Allowance for loan losses | (26,200) | (25,791) |
| Loans, net | 6,163,971 | 6,020,564 |
| Other real estate owned, net | 9,171 | 8,464 |
| Purchased other real estate owned, net | 6,723 | 9,011 |
| Total other real estate owned, net | 15,894 | 17,475 |
| Premises and equipment, net | 116,381 | 117,738 |
| Goodwill | 208,513 | 125,532 |
| Other intangible assets, net | 12,562 | 13,496 |
| Cash value of bank owned life insurance | 80,007 | 79,641 |
| Deferred income taxes, net | 28,677 | 28,320 |
| Other assets | 70,001 | 72,194 |
| Total assets | \$ 8,022,828 | \$ 7,856,203 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Deposits: | | |
| Noninterest-bearing | \$ 1,867,900 | \$ 1,777,141 |
| Interest-bearing | 4,578,265 | 4,848,704 |
| Total deposits | 6,446,165 | 6,625,845 |
| Securities sold under agreements to repurchase | 23,270 | 30,638 |
| Other borrowings | 555,535 | 250,554 |
| Subordinated deferrable interest debentures | 85,881 | 85,550 |
| Other liabilities | 43,033 | 59,137 |
| Total liabilities | 7,153,884 | 7,051,724 |

Commitments and Contingencies (Note 9)

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Shareholders' Equity

| | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Preferred stock, stated value \$1,000 (5,000,000 shares authorized; 0 shares issued and outstanding at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017) | — | — |
| Common stock, par value \$1 (100,000,000 shares authorized; 39,819,918 and 38,734,873 shares issued at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively) | 39,820 | 38,735 |
| Capital surplus | 559,040 | 508,404 |
| Retained earnings | 296,366 | 273,119 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax | (10,823 |) (1,280) |
| Treasury stock, at cost (1,492,837 shares and 1,474,861 shares at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively) | (15,459 |) (14,499) |
| Total shareholders' equity | 868,944 | 804,479 |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$8,022,828 | \$7,856,203 |

See notes to unaudited consolidated financial statements.

AMERIS BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income (unaudited)

(dollars in thousands, except per share data)

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--|------------------------------------|----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Interest income | | |
| Interest and fees on loans | \$73,267 | \$61,521 |
| Interest on taxable securities | 5,207 | 4,800 |
| Interest on nontaxable securities | 322 | 416 |
| Interest on deposits in other banks and federal funds sold | 716 | 313 |
| Total interest income | 79,512 | 67,050 |
| Interest expense | | |
| Interest on deposits | 6,772 | 3,763 |
| Interest on other borrowings | 3,939 | 2,697 |
| Total interest expense | 10,711 | 6,460 |
| Net interest income | 68,801 | 60,590 |
| Provision for loan losses | 1,801 | 1,836 |
| Net interest income after provision for loan losses | 67,000 | 58,754 |
| Noninterest income | | |
| Service charges on deposit accounts | 10,228 | 10,563 |
| Mortgage banking activity | 11,900 | 11,215 |
| Other service charges, commissions and fees | 719 | 709 |
| Gain on sale of securities | 37 | — |
| Other noninterest income | 3,580 | 3,219 |
| Total noninterest income | 26,464 | 25,706 |
| Noninterest expense | | |
| Salaries and employee benefits | 32,089 | 27,794 |
| Occupancy and equipment expense | 6,198 | 5,877 |
| Data processing and communications costs | 7,135 | 6,572 |
| Credit resolution-related expenses | 549 | 933 |
| Advertising and marketing expense | 1,229 | 1,106 |
| Amortization of intangible assets | 934 | 1,036 |
| Merger and conversion charges | 835 | 402 |
| Other noninterest expenses | 10,129 | 9,373 |
| Total noninterest expense | 59,098 | 53,093 |
| Income before income tax expense | 34,366 | 31,367 |
| Income tax expense | 7,706 | 10,214 |
| Net income | 26,660 | 21,153 |
| Other comprehensive income | | |
| Net unrealized holding losses arising during period on investment securities available for sale, net of tax benefit of \$2,500 and \$105 | (9,403) | (194) |

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|--|----------|----------|
| Reclassification adjustment for gains on investment securities included in earnings, net of tax of (\$8) and \$0 | (29) | — |
| Unrealized gains on cash flow hedges arising during period, net of tax expense of \$75 and \$23 | 281 | 43 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) | (9,151) | (151) |
| Total comprehensive income | \$17,509 | \$21,002 |
| Basic earnings per common share | \$0.70 | \$0.59 |
| Diluted earnings per common share | \$0.70 | \$0.59 |
| Dividends declared per common share | \$0.10 | \$0.10 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding (in thousands) | | |
| Basic | 37,967 | 35,664 |
| Diluted | 38,250 | 36,040 |

See notes to unaudited consolidated financial statements.

AMERIS BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity (unaudited)

(dollars in thousands)

| | Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 | | Three Months Ended March 31, 2017 | |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| | Shares | Amount | Shares | Amount |
| Common Stock | | | | |
| Balance at beginning of period | 38,734,873 | \$38,735 | 36,377,807 | \$36,378 |
| Issuance of common stock | 944,586 | 944 | 2,141,072 | 2,141 |
| Issuance of restricted shares | 77,755 | 78 | 67,721 | 68 |
| Proceeds from exercise of stock options | 62,704 | 63 | 16,349 | 16 |
| Issued at end of period | 39,819,918 | \$39,820 | 38,602,949 | \$38,603 |
| Capital Surplus | | | | |
| Balance at beginning of period | | \$508,404 | | \$410,276 |
| Share-based compensation | | 897 | | 673 |
| Issuance of common shares, net of issuance costs of \$0 and \$4,925 | | 49,067 | | 92,359 |
| Issuance of restricted shares | | (78) | | (68) |
| Proceeds from exercise of stock options | | 750 | | 303 |
| Balance at end of period | | \$559,040 | | \$503,543 |
| Retained Earnings | | | | |
| Balance at beginning of period | | \$273,119 | | \$214,454 |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting for derivatives | | 28 | | — |
| Reclassification of stranded income tax effects from accumulated other comprehensive income | | 392 | | — |
| Adjusted balance at beginning of period | | 273,539 | | 214,454 |
| Net income | | 26,660 | | 21,153 |
| Dividends on common shares | | (3,833) | | (3,713) |
| Balance at end of period | | \$296,366 | | \$231,894 |
| Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss), Net of Tax | | | | |
| Unrealized gains (losses) on securities and derivatives: | | | | |
| Balance at beginning of period | | \$(1,280) | | \$(1,058) |
| Reclassification of stranded income tax effects to retained earnings | | (392) | | — |
| Adjusted balance at beginning of period | | (1,672) | | (1,058) |
| Other comprehensive income during the period | | (9,151) | | (151) |
| Balance at end of period | | \$(10,823) | | \$(1,209) |
| Treasury Stock | | | | |
| Balance at beginning of period | 1,474,861 | \$(14,499) | 1,456,333 | \$(13,613) |
| Purchase of treasury shares | 17,976 | (960) | 17,902 | (1,002) |
| Balance at end of period | 1,492,837 | \$(15,459) | 1,474,235 | \$(14,615) |
| Total Shareholders' Equity | | \$868,944 | | \$758,216 |

See notes to unaudited consolidated financial statements.

AMERIS BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (unaudited)
(dollars in thousands)

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--|---------------------------------|------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Operating Activities | | |
| Net income | \$26,660 | \$ 21,153 |
| Adjustments reconciling net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation | 2,274 | 2,341 |
| Net losses on sale or disposal of premises and equipment including write-downs | 583 | 295 |
| Provision for loan losses | 1,801 | 1,836 |
| Net losses (gains) on sale of other real estate owned including write-downs | 33 | (127) |
| Share-based compensation expense | 1,441 | 673 |
| Amortization of intangible assets | 934 | 1,036 |
| Provision for deferred taxes | 2,432 | (580) |
| Net amortization of investment securities available for sale | 1,595 | 1,697 |
| Net gains on securities available for sale | (37) | — |
| Accretion of discount on purchased loans | (1,571) | (3,097) |
| Amortization of premium on purchased loan pools | 511 | 1,148 |
| Net accretion (amortization) on other borrowings | 33 | (57) |
| Amortization of subordinated deferrable interest debentures | 331 | 331 |
| Originations of mortgage loans held for sale | (358,038) | (311,813) |
| Payments received on mortgage loans held for sale | 367 | 430 |
| Proceeds from sales of mortgage loans held for sale | 377,748 | 294,045 |
| Net gains on sale of mortgage loans held for sale | (6,759) | (9,200) |
| Originations of SBA loans | (7,168) | (19,003) |
| Proceeds from sales of SBA loans | 10,497 | 4,600 |
| Net gains on sale of SBA loans | (918) | (1,407) |
| Increase in cash surrender value of bank owned life insurance | (366) | (389) |
| Changes in FDIC loss-share payable, net of cash payments received | 785 | 735 |
| Change attributable to other operating activities | (4,671) | 28,606 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 48,497 | 13,253 |
| Investing Activities | | |
| Purchases of securities available for sale | (121,865) | (40,145) |
| Proceeds from prepayments and maturities of securities available for sale | 33,970 | 30,119 |
| Proceeds from sales of securities available for sale | 36,685 | — |
| Net increase in other investments | (13,809) | (642) |
| Net increase in loans, excluding purchased loans | (134,063) | (117,681) |
| Payments received on purchased loans | 43,971 | 63,061 |
| Payments received on purchased loan pools | 16,158 | 38,067 |
| Purchases of premises and equipment | (1,133) | (1,219) |
| Proceeds from sales of premises and equipment | 427 | — |
| Proceeds from sales of other real estate owned | 3,106 | 4,568 |
| Payments paid to FDIC under loss-share agreements | (333) | (559) |
| Net cash proceeds paid in acquisitions | (21,421) | — |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (158,307) | (24,431) |

AMERIS BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (unaudited)
(dollars in thousands)

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--|---------------------------------|------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Financing Activities, net of effects of business combinations | | |
| Net increase (decrease) in deposits | \$(179,680) | \$ 67,206 |
| Net decrease in securities sold under agreements to repurchase | (7,368) | (13,090) |
| Proceeds from other borrowings | 455,000 | 518,755 |
| Repayment of other borrowings | (150,052) | (485,350) |
| Issuance of common stock | — | 88,656 |
| Proceeds from exercise of stock options | 813 | 319 |
| Dividends paid - common stock | (3,726) | (3,492) |
| Purchase of treasury shares | (960) | (1,002) |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | 114,027 | 172,002 |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents | 4,217 | 160,824 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | 330,658 | 198,385 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | \$334,875 | \$ 359,209 |
| Supplemental Disclosures of Cash Flow Information | | |
| Cash paid during the period for: | | |
| Interest | \$11,602 | \$ 6,348 |
| Income taxes | 2 | 18 |
| Loans (excluding purchased loans) transferred to other real estate owned | 1,176 | 1,657 |
| Purchased loans transferred to other real estate owned | 457 | 1,489 |
| Loans transferred from loans held for sale to loans held for investment | 73,374 | 45,828 |
| Loans transferred from loans held for investment to loans held for sale | 2,796 | — |
| Loans provided for the sales of other real estate owned | — | 264 |
| Assets acquired in business acquisitions | 82,981 | — |
| Liabilities assumed in business acquisitions | 5,705 | — |
| Issuance of common stock in acquisitions | 50,011 | — |
| Issuance of common stock in exchange for equity investment in US Premium Finance Holding Company | — | 5,844 |
| Change in unrealized gain (loss) on securities available for sale, net of tax | (9,432) | (194) |
| Change in unrealized gain (loss) on cash flow hedge, net of tax | 281 | 43 |

(Concluded)

See notes to unaudited consolidated financial statements.

AMERIS BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES

Notes to Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements

March 31, 2018

NOTE 1 – BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Nature of Business

Ameris Bancorp (the “Company” or “Ameris”) is a financial holding company headquartered in Moultrie, Georgia. Ameris conducts substantially all of its operations through its wholly owned banking subsidiary, Ameris Bank (the “Bank”). At March 31, 2018, the Bank operated 97 branches in select markets in Georgia, Alabama, Florida and South Carolina. Our business model capitalizes on the efficiencies of a large financial services company while still providing the community with the personalized banking service expected by our customers. We manage our Bank through a balance of decentralized management responsibilities and efficient centralized operating systems, products and loan underwriting standards. The Company’s Board of Directors and senior managers establish corporate policy, strategy and administrative policies. Within our established guidelines and policies, the banker closest to the customer responds to the differing needs and demands of his or her unique market.

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements for Ameris have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for interim financial information and Regulation S-X. Accordingly, the financial statements do not include all of the information and footnotes required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for complete financial statement presentation. The interim consolidated financial statements included herein are unaudited but reflect all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring accruals) which, in the opinion of management, are necessary for a fair presentation of the consolidated financial position and results of operations for the interim periods presented. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. The results of operations for the period ended March 31, 2018 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year. These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto and the report of our registered independent public accounting firm included in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of reporting cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, cash items in process of collection, amounts due from banks, interest-bearing deposits in banks and federal funds sold. The Bank is required to maintain reserve balances in cash or on deposit with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. The reserve requirement as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 was \$46.0 million and \$44.1 million, respectively, and was met by cash on hand which is reported on the Company's consolidated balance sheet in cash and due from banks.

Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications of prior year amounts have been made to conform with the current year presentations.

Accounting Standards Adopted in 2018

ASU 2018-02 - Income Statement-Reporting Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Reclassification of Certain Tax Effects from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (“ASU 2018-02”). Issued in February 2018, ASU 2018-02

seeks to help entities reclassify certain stranded income tax effects in accumulated other comprehensive income resulting from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (the "Tax Reform Act"), enacted on December 22, 2017. ASU 2018-02 was issued in response to concerns regarding current accounting guidance that requires deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities to be adjusted for the effect of a change in tax laws or rates with the effect included in income from continuing operations in the reporting period that includes the enactment date, even in situations in which the related income tax effects of items in accumulated other comprehensive income were originally recognized in other comprehensive income, rather than net income, and as a result the stranded tax effects would not reflect the appropriate tax rate. The amendments of ASU 2018-02 allow an entity to make a reclassification from accumulated other comprehensive income to retained earnings for the stranded tax effects, which is the difference between the historical corporate income tax rate of 35.0% and the newly enacted corporate income tax rate of 21.0%. ASU 2018-02 is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 31, 2018; however, public business entities are allowed to early adopt the amendments of ASU 2018-02 in any interim period for which the financial statements have not yet been issued. The amendments of ASU 2018-02 may be applied either at the beginning of the period (annual or interim) of adoption or retrospectively

to each of the period(s) in which the effect of the change in the U.S. federal corporate tax rate in the Tax Reform Act is recognized. As a result of the remeasurement of the Company's deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities following the enactment of the Tax Reform Act, accumulated other comprehensive loss included \$392,000 of stranded tax effects at December 31, 2017. The Company early adopted ASU 2018-02 during the first quarter of 2018 and made an election to reclassify the stranded tax effects from accumulated other comprehensive loss to retaining earnings at the beginning of the period of adoption. The reclassification of the stranded tax effects resulted in an increase of \$392,000 in accumulated other comprehensive loss and a corresponding increase of \$392,000 in retained earnings.

ASU 2017-12 – Derivatives and Hedging (Topic 815): Targeted Improvements to Accounting for Hedging Activities ("ASU 2017-12"). The purposes of ASU 2017-12 are to (1) improve the transparency and understandability of information conveyed in financial statements about an entity's risk management activities by better aligning the entity's financial reporting for hedging relationships with the economic objectives of those risk management activities and (2) reduce the complexity of and simplify the application of hedge accounting by preparers. ASU 2017-12 is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018 with early adoption in an interim period permitted. ASU 2017-12 requires a modified retrospective transition method in which the Company will recognize the cumulative effect of the change on the opening balance of each affected component of equity in the statement of financial position as of the beginning of the fiscal year of adoption. During the first quarter of 2018, the Company early adopted the provisions of ASU 2017-12, and the adoption did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

ASU 2017-09 – Compensation – Stock Compensation (Topic 718): Scope of Modification Accounting ("ASU 2017-09"). ASU 2017-09 clarifies when changes to the terms of a share-based award must be accounted for as a modification. Companies must apply the modification accounting guidance if any of the following change: the share-based award's fair value, vesting provisions or classification as an equity instrument or a liability instrument. The new guidance should reduce diversity in practice and result in fewer changes to the terms of share-based awards being accounted for as modifications, as the guidance will allow companies to make certain non-substantive changes to share-based awards without accounting for them as modifications. ASU 2017-09 is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017 with early adoption permitted. During the first quarter of 2018, the Company adopted the provisions of ASU 2017-09, and the adoption did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

ASU 2017-01 – Business Combinations (Topic 805): Clarifying the Definition of a Business ("ASU 2017-01"). ASU 2017-01 provides a framework to use in determining when a set of assets and activities is a business. The standard provides more consistency in applying the business combination guidance, reduces the costs of application, and makes the definition of a business more operable. ASU 2017-01 is effective for interim and annual periods within those annual periods beginning after December 15, 2017. During the first quarter of 2018, the Company adopted the provisions of ASU 2017-01, and the adoption did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

ASU 2016-01 – Financial Instruments - Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities ("ASU 2016-01"). ASU 2016-01 (1) requires equity investments that do not result in consolidation and are not accounted for under the equity method to be measured at fair value with changes recognized through net income; (2) simplifies the impairment assessment of equity investments without readily determinable fair values by allowing a qualitative assessment similar to those performed on long-lived assets, goodwill or intangibles to be utilized at each reporting period; (3) eliminates the use of the entry price method requiring all preparers to utilize the exit price notion consistent with Topic 820, Fair Value Measurement in disclosing the fair value of financial instruments measured at amortized cost; (4) requires separate disclosure within other comprehensive income of changes in the fair value of liabilities due to instrument-specific credit risk when the fair value option has been elected; and (5) requires separate presentation of financial assets and financial liabilities by measurement category and form of financial asset on the

balance sheet or in the accompanying notes to the financial statements. ASU 2016-01 is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, and interim periods. During the first quarter of 2018, the Company adopted ASU 2016-01. Other than changing from the entry price method to an exit price notion in disclosing fair value of financial instruments at amortized cost, the adoption did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

ASU 2014-09 – Revenue from Contracts with Customers (“ASU 2014-09”). On January 1, 2018, the Company adopted ASU 2014-09 and all subsequent amendments to the ASU (collectively "ASC 606") which (1) creates a single framework for recognizing revenue from contracts with customers that fall within its scope and (2) revises when it is appropriate to recognize a gain (loss) from the transfer of nonfinancial assets, such as other real estate owned ("OREO"). The majority of the Company's revenues come from interest income and other sources, including loans, leases, investment securities and derivative financial instruments, that are outside the scope of ASC 606. With the exception of gains/losses on the sale of OREO, the Company's services that fall within the scope of ASC 606 are presented within noninterest income and are recognized as revenue as the Company satisfies its obligations to the customer. Services within the scope of ASC 606 reported in noninterest income include service charges on deposit accounts, debit card interchange fees, and ATM fees. The net of gains and losses on the sale of OREO are recorded in credit resolution

related expenses in the Company's consolidated statement of income and comprehensive income. The adoption of ASC 606 did not change the timing or amount of revenue recognized for in-scope revenue streams. Accordingly, no cumulative effect adjustment was recorded under the modified retrospective transition method. See Note 15 for further discussion on the Company's accounting policies for revenue sources with the scope of ASC 606.

Accounting Standards Pending Adoption

ASU 2017-04 – Intangibles: Goodwill and Other: Simplifying the Test for Goodwill Impairment (“ASU 2017-04”). ASU 2017-04 eliminates Step 2 from the goodwill impairment test to simplify the subsequent measurement of goodwill. The annual, or interim, goodwill impairment test is performed by comparing the fair value of a reporting unit with its carrying amount. An impairment charge should be recognized for the amount by which the carrying amount exceeds the reporting unit’s fair value; however, the loss recognized should not exceed the total amount of goodwill allocated to that reporting unit. In addition, the income tax effects of tax deductible goodwill on the carrying amount of the reporting unit should be considered when measuring the goodwill impairment loss, if applicable. ASU 2017-04 also eliminates the requirements for any reporting unit with a zero or negative carrying amount to perform Step 2 of the goodwill impairment test. An entity still has the option to perform the qualitative assessment for a reporting unit to determine if the qualitative impairment test is necessary. The standard must be adopted using a prospective basis and the nature and reason for the change in accounting principle should be disclosed upon transition. ASU 2017-04 is effective for annual or any interim goodwill impairment tests in reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2019. Early adoption is permitted on testing dates after January 1, 2017. The Company is currently evaluating the impact this standard will have on the Company’s results of operations, financial position and disclosures, but it is not expected to have a material impact.

ASU 2016-13 – Financial Instruments—Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments (“ASU 2016-13”). ASU 2016-13 significantly changes how entities will measure credit losses for most financial assets and certain other instruments that are not measured at fair value through net income. The standard will replace the current incurred loss approach with an expected loss model, referred to as the current expected credit loss (“CECL”) model. The new standard will apply to financial assets subject to credit losses and measured at amortized cost and certain off-balance-sheet credit exposures, which include, but are not limited to, loans, leases, held-to-maturity securities, loan commitments and financial guarantees. ASU 2016-13 simplifies the accounting for purchased credit-impaired debt securities and loans and expands the disclosure requirements regarding an entity’s assumptions, models and methods for estimating the allowance for loan and lease losses. In addition, entities will need to disclose the amortized cost balance for each class of financial asset by credit quality indicator, disaggregated by the year of origination. ASU 2016-13 is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2019. Early adoption is permitted for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018. Upon adoption, ASU 2016-13 provides for a modified retrospective transition by means of a cumulative effect adjustment to equity as of the beginning of the period in which the guidance is effective. While the Company is currently evaluating the impact this standard will have on the results of operations, financial position and disclosures, the Company expects to recognize a one-time cumulative effect adjustment to equity and the allowance for loan losses as of the beginning of the first reporting period in which the new standard is effective. The Company has established a steering committee which includes the appropriate members of management to evaluate the impact this ASU will have on Company’s financial position, results of operations and financial statement disclosures and determine the most appropriate method of implementing the amendments in this ASU as well as any resources needed to implement the amendments. This committee has identified the software vendor of choice for implementation, established an implementation timeline and continues to stay current on implementation issues and concerns.

ASU 2016-02 – Leases (Topic 842) (“ASU 2016-02”). ASU 2016-02 amends the existing standards for lease accounting effectively requiring most leases be carried on the balance sheets of the related lessees by requiring them to recognize a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability. ASU 2016-02 includes qualitative and quantitative disclosure

requirements intended to provide greater insight into the nature of an entity's leasing activities. The standard must be adopted using a modified retrospective transition with a cumulative effect adjustment to equity as of the beginning of the period in which it is adopted. ASU 2016-02 is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018, and interim periods within those annual periods with early adoption permitted. The Company has several leased facilities, which are currently treated as operating leases, and are not currently shown on the Company's consolidated balance sheet. After ASU 2016-02 is implemented, the Company expects to begin reporting these lease agreements on the balance sheet as a right-of-use asset and a corresponding liability. The Company is currently evaluating the impact this standard will have on the Company's consolidated statement of income and comprehensive income, consolidated statement of stockholders' equity and consolidated statement of cash flows, but it is not expected to have a material impact.

NOTE 2. PENDING ACQUISITIONS

Hamilton State Bancshares, Inc.

On January 25, 2018, the Company and Hamilton State Bancshares, Inc., a Georgia corporation ("Hamilton"), entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the "Hamilton Merger Agreement") pursuant to which Hamilton will merge into Ameris, with Ameris as the surviving entity and immediately thereafter, Hamilton State Bank, a Georgia bank wholly owned by Hamilton, will be merged into Ameris Bank, with Ameris Bank as the surviving entity. Hamilton State Bank operates 28 full-service banking locations, 24 of which are located in the Atlanta, Georgia MSA, two of which are located in the Gainesville, Georgia MSA, and two of which are located just outside the Atlanta, Georgia MSA. Under the terms of the Hamilton Merger Agreement, Hamilton's shareholders will receive \$0.93 in cash and 0.16 shares of Ameris common stock for each share of Hamilton common stock they hold. The estimated purchase price is \$405.7 million in the aggregate based upon the \$53.45 per share closing price of the Company's common stock as of January 25, 2018. The merger is subject to customary closing conditions, including the receipt of regulatory approvals and the approval of Hamilton's shareholders. The transaction is expected to close during the third quarter of 2018. As of December 31, 2017, Hamilton reported assets of \$1.79 billion, gross loans of \$1.30 billion and deposits of \$1.55 billion. The purchase price will be allocated among the net assets of Hamilton acquired as appropriate, with the remaining balance being reported as goodwill.

Atlantic Coast Financial Corporation

On November 16, 2017, the Company and Atlantic Coast Financial Corporation, a Maryland corporation ("Atlantic"), entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the "Atlantic Merger Agreement") pursuant to which Atlantic will merge into Ameris, with Ameris as the surviving entity and immediately thereafter, Atlantic Coast Bank, a Florida bank wholly owned by Atlantic, will be merged into Ameris Bank, with Ameris Bank as the surviving entity. Atlantic Coast Bank operates 12 full-service banking locations, eight of which are located in the Jacksonville, Florida MSA, three of which are located in the Waycross, Georgia MSA, and one of which is located in the Douglas, Georgia MSA. Under the terms of the Atlantic Merger Agreement, Atlantic's stockholders will receive \$1.39 in cash and 0.17 shares of Ameris common stock for each share of Atlantic common stock they hold. The estimated purchase price is \$145.0 million in the aggregate based upon the \$47.30 per share closing price of the Company's common stock as of November 16, 2017. All regulatory and stockholder approvals required for the merger have been received, and the transaction is expected to close in May 2018. As of December 31, 2017, Atlantic reported assets of \$983.3 million, gross loans of \$851.4 million and deposits of \$675.8 million. The purchase price will be allocated among the net assets of Atlantic acquired as appropriate, with the remaining balance being reported as goodwill.

NOTE 3 – BUSINESS COMBINATION

US Premium Finance Holding Company

On January 31, 2018, the Company closed on the purchase of the final 70% of the outstanding shares of common stock of US Premium Finance Holding Company, a Florida corporation ("USPF"), completing its acquisition of USPF and making USPF a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company. Through a series of three acquisition transactions that closed on January 18, 2017, January 3, 2018 and January 31, 2018, the Company issued a total of 1,073,158 shares of its common stock at a fair value of \$55.9 million and paid \$21.4 million in cash to the former shareholders of USPF. Pursuant to the terms of the Stock Purchase Agreement dated January 25, 2018 under which Company purchased the final 70% of the outstanding shares of common stock of USPF, the selling shareholders of USPF may receive additional cash payments aggregating up to \$5.8 million based on the achievement by the Company's premium finance division of certain income targets between January 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. The present value of the contingent

earn-out consideration expected to be paid is \$5.7 million. Including the fair value of the Company's common stock issued, cash paid and the present value of the contingent earn-out consideration expected to be paid, the aggregate purchase price of USPF amounted to \$83.0 million.

The acquisition of USPF will be accounted for using the acquisition method of accounting in accordance with ASC 805, Business Combinations. Under the acquisition method of accounting, assets acquired, liabilities assumed and consideration exchanged are recorded at their respective acquisition date fair values. Any identifiable intangible assets that are acquired in a business combination are recognized at fair value on the acquisition date. Identifiable intangible assets are recognized separately if they arise from contractual or other legal rights or if they are separable (i.e., capable of being sold, transferred, licensed, rented or exchanged separately from the entity). If the consideration given exceeds the fair value of the net assets received, goodwill is recognized. Determining the fair value of assets and liabilities is a complicated process involving significant judgment regarding methods and assumptions used to calculate estimated fair values. Fair values are subject to refinement for up to one year after the closing date of the acquisition as additional information regarding the closing date fair values becomes available. In addition, management

will assess and record the deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities resulting from differences in the carrying value of acquired assets and assumed liabilities for financial reporting purposes and their basis for income tax purposes.

Prior to the January 31, 2018 completion of the acquisition, the Company's 30% investment in USPF was carried at its \$23.9 million original cost basis. Once the acquisition was completed, the \$83.0 million aggregate purchase price equaled the fair value of USPF which was determined utilizing the incremental projected earnings. Accordingly, no gain or loss was recorded by the Company in the consolidated statement of income and comprehensive income as a result of remeasuring to fair value the prior minority equity investment in USPF held by the Company immediately before the business combination was completed.

Prior to January 31, 2018, USPF was a private entity and the information necessary to complete the initial accounting for the business combination is incomplete at this time. Management has not yet finalized its determination of the fair value of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the USPF acquisition. Accordingly, as of March 31, 2018, the entire \$83.0 million purchase price is reflected as goodwill in the Company's consolidated balance sheet, pending finalization of the fair value of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed. The assets acquired are expected to include identifiable intangible assets related to insurance agent relationships that refer insurance premium finance loans to USPF, customer relationships that result in repeat premium finance loans for insurance policy renewals, the US Premium Finance trade name and a non-compete agreement with a former USPF shareholder. The goodwill is not expected to be deductible for tax purposes.

The results of operations of USPF subsequent to its acquisition date are included in the Company's consolidated statements of income and comprehensive income. The following unaudited pro forma information reflects the Company's estimated consolidated results of operations as if the acquisitions had occurred on January 1, 2017, unadjusted for potential cost savings.

| (dollars in thousands, except per share data; shares in thousands) | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--|------------------------------------|----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Net interest income and noninterest income | \$95,265 | \$86,296 |
| Net income | \$26,876 | \$22,174 |
| Net income available to common shareholders | \$26,876 | \$22,174 |
| Income per common share available to common shareholders – basic | \$0.70 | \$0.61 |
| Income per common share available to common shareholders – diluted | \$0.70 | \$0.60 |
| Average number of shares outstanding, basic | 38,246 | 36,633 |
| Average number of shares outstanding, diluted | 38,529 | 37,009 |

NOTE 4 – INVESTMENT SECURITIES

The Company's investment policy blends the Company's liquidity needs and interest rate risk management with its desire to increase income and provide funds for expected growth in loans. The investment securities portfolio consists primarily of U.S. government-sponsored mortgage-backed securities and state, county and municipal securities. The Company's portfolio and investing philosophy concentrate activities in obligations where the credit risk is limited. For the small portion of the Company's portfolio found to present credit risk, the Company has reviewed the investments and financial performance of the obligors and believes the credit risk to be acceptable.

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

The amortized cost and estimated fair value of investment securities available for sale, along with unrealized gains and losses, are summarized as follows:

| (dollars in thousands) | Amortized Cost | Gross Unrealized Gains | Gross Unrealized Losses | Estimated Fair Value |
|--|----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| March 31, 2018 | | | | |
| State, county and municipal securities | 105,821 | 987 | (534) | 106,274 |
| Corporate debt securities | 57,134 | 598 | (635) | 57,097 |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 699,990 | 456 | (15,232) | 685,214 |
| Total debt securities | \$ 862,945 | \$ 2,041 | \$ (16,401) | \$ 848,585 |

| | | | | |
|--|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| December 31, 2017 | | | | |
| State, county and municipal securities | 135,968 | 1,989 | (163) | 137,794 |
| Corporate debt securities | 46,659 | 721 | (237) | 47,143 |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 630,666 | 1,762 | (6,492) | 625,936 |
| Total debt securities | \$ 813,293 | \$ 4,472 | \$ (6,892) | \$ 810,873 |

The amortized cost and estimated fair value of available for sale securities at March 31, 2018 by contractual maturity are summarized in the table below. Expected maturities for mortgage-backed securities may differ from contractual maturities because in certain cases borrowers can prepay obligations without prepayment penalties. Therefore, these securities are not included in the following maturity summary.

| (dollars in thousands) | Amortized Cost | Estimated Fair Value |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Due in one year or less | \$ 11,606 | \$ 11,643 |
| Due from one year to five years | 46,869 | 46,432 |
| Due from five to ten years | 64,190 | 64,842 |
| Due after ten years | 40,290 | 40,454 |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 699,990 | 685,214 |
| | \$ 862,945 | \$ 848,585 |

Securities with a carrying value of approximately \$368.3 million serve as collateral to secure public deposits, securities sold under agreements to repurchase and for other purposes required or permitted by law at March 31, 2018, compared with \$403.3 million at December 31, 2017.

The following table details the gross unrealized losses and estimated fair value of securities aggregated by category and duration of continuous unrealized loss position at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017.

| (dollars in thousands) | Less Than 12 Months | | 12 Months or More | | Total | |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | Estimated Fair Value | Unrealized Losses | Estimated Fair Value | Unrealized Losses | Estimated Fair Value | Unrealized Losses |
| March 31, 2018 | | | | | | |
| State, county and municipal securities | 54,182 | (448) | 4,662 | (86) | 58,844 | (534) |
| Corporate debt securities | 492 | (126) | 18,501 | (509) | 18,993 | (635) |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 422,035 | (8,322) | 172,548 | (6,910) | 594,583 | (15,232) |
| Total debt securities | \$ 476,709 | \$ (8,896) | \$ 195,711 | \$ (7,505) | \$ 672,420 | \$ (16,401) |
| December 31, 2017 | | | | | | |
| State, county and municipal securities | 33,976 | (115) | 4,725 | (48) | 38,701 | (163) |

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|---|
| Corporate debt securities | 3,465 | (35 |) | 18,853 | (202 |) | 22,318 | (237 |) |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 262,353 | (2,401 |) | 190,368 | (4,091 |) | 452,721 | (6,492 |) |
| Total debt securities | \$299,794 | \$ (2,551 |) | \$213,946 | \$ (4,341 |) | \$513,740 | \$ (6,892 |) |

As of March 31, 2018, the Company's securities portfolio consisted of 390 securities, 277 of which were in an unrealized loss position. The majority of unrealized losses are related to the Company's mortgage-backed securities, as discussed below.

At March 31, 2018, the Company held 226 mortgage-backed securities that were in an unrealized loss position, all of which were issued by U.S. government-sponsored entities and agencies. Because the decline in fair value is attributable to changes in interest rates and illiquidity, and not credit quality, and because the Company does not have the intent to sell these mortgage-backed

securities and it is likely that it will not be required to sell the securities before their anticipated recovery, the Company does not consider these securities to be other-than-temporarily impaired at March 31, 2018.

At March 31, 2018, the Company held 41 state, county and municipal securities and 10 corporate debt securities that were in an unrealized loss position. Because the decline in fair value is attributable to changes in interest rates and illiquidity, and not credit quality, and because the Company does not have the intent to sell these securities and it is likely that it will not be required to sell the securities before their anticipated recovery, the Company does not consider these securities to be other-than-temporarily impaired at March 31, 2018.

The Company's investments in corporate debt include investments in regional and super-regional banks on which the Company prepares regular analysis through review of financial information and credit ratings. Investments in preferred securities are also concentrated in the preferred obligations of regional and super-regional banks through non-pooled investment structures. The Company did not have investments in "pooled" trust preferred securities at March 31, 2018 or December 31, 2017.

Management and the Company's Asset and Liability Committee (the "ALCO Committee") evaluate securities for other-than-temporary impairment at least on a quarterly basis, and more frequently when economic or market conditions warrant such evaluation. While the majority of the unrealized losses on debt securities relate to changes in interest rates, corporate debt securities have also been affected by reduced levels of liquidity and higher risk premiums. Occasionally, management engages independent third parties to evaluate the Company's position in certain corporate debt securities to aid management and the ALCO Committee in its determination regarding the status of impairment. The Company believes that each investment poses minimal credit risk and further, that the Company does not intend to sell these investment securities at an unrealized loss position at March 31, 2018, and it is more likely than not that the Company will not be required to sell these securities prior to recovery or maturity. Therefore, at March 31, 2018, these investments are not considered impaired on an other-than-temporary basis.

At March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, all of the Company's mortgage-backed securities were obligations of government-sponsored agencies.

The following table is a summary of sales activities in the Company's investment securities available for sale for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, March 31, | |
|--|---------------------|------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Gross gains on sales of securities | \$ 332 | \$ — |
| Gross losses on sales of securities | (295) | — |
| Net realized gains on sales of securities available for sale | \$ 37 | \$ — |
| Sales proceeds | \$ 36,685 | \$ — |

NOTE 5 – LOANS

The Bank engages in a full complement of lending activities, including real estate-related loans, agriculture-related loans, commercial and financial loans and consumer installment loans within select markets in Georgia, Alabama, Florida and South Carolina. The Bank purchased residential mortgage loan pools during 2015 and 2016 collateralized by properties located outside our Southeast markets, specifically in California, Washington and Illinois. During the third quarter of 2016, the Bank began purchasing from unrelated third parties consumer installment home improvement loans made to borrowers throughout the United States. As of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the net carrying value of these consumer installment home improvement loans was approximately \$280.3 million and \$273.7 million, respectively, and such loans are reported in the consumer installment loan category. During the fourth

quarter of 2016, the Bank purchased a pool of commercial insurance premium finance loans made to borrowers throughout the United States and began to originate, administer and service these types of loans. As of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the net carrying value of commercial insurance premium loans was approximately \$501.9 million and \$482.5 million, respectively, and such loans are reported in the commercial, financial and agricultural loan category.

The Bank concentrates the majority of its lending activities in real estate loans. While risk of loss in the Company's portfolio is primarily tied to the credit quality of the various borrowers, risk of loss may increase due to factors beyond the Company's control, such as local, regional and/or national economic downturns. General conditions in the real estate market may also impact the relative risk in the real estate portfolio. A substantial portion of the Bank's loans are secured by real estate in the Bank's primary market area. In addition, a substantial portion of the OREO is located in those same markets. Accordingly, the ultimate collectability of a substantial portion of the Bank's loan portfolio and the recovery of a substantial portion of the carrying amount of OREO are susceptible to changes in real estate conditions in the Bank's primary market area.

Commercial, financial and agricultural loans include both secured and unsecured loans for working capital, expansion, crop production, commercial insurance premium finance, and other business purposes. Commercial, financial and agricultural loans also include SBA loans and municipal loans. Short-term working capital loans are secured by non-real estate collateral such as accounts receivable, crops, inventory and equipment. The Bank evaluates the financial strength, cash flow, management, credit history of the borrower and the quality of the collateral securing the loan. The Bank often requires personal guarantees and secondary sources of repayment on commercial, financial and agricultural loans.

Real estate loans include construction and development loans, commercial and farmland loans and residential loans. Construction and development loans include loans for the development of residential neighborhoods, one-to-four family home residential construction loans to builders and consumers, and commercial real estate construction loans, primarily for owner-occupied properties. The Company limits its construction lending risk through adherence to established underwriting procedures. Commercial real estate loans include loans secured by owner-occupied commercial buildings for office, storage, retail and warehouse space as well as farmland. They also include non-owner occupied commercial buildings such as leased retail and office space. Commercial real estate loans may be larger in size and may involve a greater degree of risk than one-to-four family residential mortgage loans. Payments on such loans are often dependent on successful operation or management of the properties. The Company's residential loans represent permanent mortgage financing and are secured by residential properties located within the Bank's market areas, along with warehouse lines of credit secured by residential mortgages.

Consumer installment loans include home improvement loans, automobile loans, boat and recreational vehicle financing, and secured and unsecured personal loans. Consumer loans carry greater risks than other loans, as the collateral can consist of rapidly depreciating assets such as automobiles and equipment that may not provide an adequate source of repayment of the loan in the case of default.

Loans are stated at unpaid balances, net of unearned income and deferred loan fees. Balances within the major loans receivable categories are presented in the following table, excluding purchased loans:

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, 2018 | December 31, 2017 |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | \$ 1,387,437 | \$ 1,362,508 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 631,504 | 624,595 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 1,636,654 | 1,535,439 |
| Real estate – residential | 1,080,028 | 1,009,461 |
| Consumer installment | 316,363 | 324,511 |
| | \$5,051,986 | \$ 4,856,514 |

Purchased loans are defined as loans that were acquired in bank acquisitions including those that are covered by a loss-sharing agreement with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC"). Purchased loans totaling \$818.6 million and \$861.6 million at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively, are not included in the above schedule.

Purchased loans are shown below according to major loan type as of the end of the periods shown:

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, 2018 | December 31, 2017 |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | \$ 64,612 | \$ 74,378 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 48,940 | 65,513 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 465,870 | 468,246 |
| Real estate – residential | 236,453 | 250,539 |
| Consumer installment | 2,712 | 2,919 |

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

\$ 818,587 \$ 861,595

A rollforward of purchased loans for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017 is shown below:

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, 2018 | March 31, 2017 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Balance, January 1 | \$861,595 | \$1,069,191 |
| Charge-offs, net of recoveries | (151) | (803) |
| Accretion | 1,571 | 3,097 |
| Transfers to purchased other real estate owned | (457) | (1,489) |
| Payments received | (43,971) | (63,061) |
| Ending balance | \$818,587 | \$1,006,935 |

The following is a summary of changes in the accretable discounts of purchased loans during the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, 2018 | March 31, 2017 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Balance, January 1 | \$ 20,192 | \$ 30,624 |
| Accretion | (1,571) | (3,097) |
| Accretable discounts removed due to charge-offs | — | (13) |
| Transfers between non-accretable and accretable discounts, net | 146 | (659) |
| Ending balance | \$ 18,767 | \$ 26,855 |

Purchased loan pools are defined as groups of residential mortgage loans that were not acquired in bank acquisitions or FDIC-assisted transactions. As of March 31, 2018, purchased loan pools totaled \$319.6 million and consisted of whole-loan residential mortgages on properties outside the Company's markets, with principal balances totaling \$316.2 million and \$3.4 million of remaining purchase premium paid at acquisition. As of December 31, 2017, purchased loan pools totaled \$328.2 million with principal balances totaling \$324.4 million and \$3.8 million of remaining purchase premium paid at acquisition. At March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, one loan in the purchased loan pools with a principal balance of \$902,000 and \$904,000, respectively, was classified as a troubled debt restructuring and risk-rated grade 7, while all other loans included in the purchased loan pools were performing current loans risk-rated grade 3. During the second quarter of 2017, this troubled debt restructuring defaulted on its restructured terms and was placed on nonaccrual status. During the fourth quarter of 2017, this troubled debt restructuring was returned to accrual status. At March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the Company had allocated \$1.0 million and \$1.1 million, respectively, of allowance for loan losses for the purchased loan pools. As part of the due diligence process prior to purchasing an individual mortgage pool, a complete re-underwrite of the individual loan files was conducted. The underwriting process included a review of all income, asset, credit and property related documentation that was used to originate the loan. Underwriters utilized the originating lender's program guidelines, as well as general prudent mortgage lending standards, to assess each individual loan file. Additional research was conducted to assess the real estate market conditions and market expectations in the geographic areas where a collateral concentration existed. As part of this review, an automated valuation model was employed to provide current collateral valuations and to support individual loan-to-value ratios. Additionally, a sample of site inspections was completed to provide further assurance. The results of the due diligence review were evaluated by officers of the Company in order to determine overall conformance to the Bank's credit and lending policies.

Nonaccrual and Past-Due Loans

A loan is placed on nonaccrual status when, in management's judgment, the collection of the interest income appears doubtful. Interest receivable that has been accrued and is subsequently determined to have doubtful collectability is charged against interest income. Interest on loans that are classified as nonaccrual is subsequently applied to principal until the loans are returned to accrual status. Loans are returned to accrual status when all the principal and interest amounts contractually due are brought current and future payments are reasonably assured. Past-due loans are loans whose principal or interest is past due 30 days or more. In some cases, where borrowers are experiencing financial difficulties, loans may be restructured to provide terms significantly different from the original contractual terms.

The following table presents an analysis of loans accounted for on a nonaccrual basis, excluding purchased loans:

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, December 31, | |
|--|------------------------|-----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | \$ 1,548 | \$ 1,306 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 518 | 554 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 3,555 | 2,665 |
| Real estate – residential | 8,311 | 9,194 |
| Consumer installment | 488 | 483 |
| | \$ 14,420 | \$ 14,202 |

The following table presents an analysis of purchased loans accounted for on a nonaccrual basis:

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, December 31, | |
|--|------------------------|-----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | \$ 796 | \$ 813 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 3,112 | 3,139 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 4,347 | 5,685 |
| Real estate – residential | 7,648 | 5,743 |
| Consumer installment | 37 | 48 |
| | \$ 15,940 | \$ 15,428 |

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

The following table presents an analysis of past-due loans, excluding purchased past-due loans as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017:

| (dollars in thousands) | Loans 30-59 Days Past Due | Loans 60-89 Days Past Due | Loans 90 or More Days Past Due | Total Loans Past Due | Current Loans | Total Loans | Loans 90 Days or More Past Due and Still Accruing |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|--|
| March 31, 2018 | | | | | | | |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | \$ 10,081 | \$ 5,750 | \$ 3,430 | \$ 19,261 | \$ 1,368,176 | \$ 1,387,437 | \$ 2,383 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 1,202 | 168 | 166 | 1,536 | 629,968 | 631,504 | — |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 4,189 | 590 | 1,288 | 6,067 | 1,630,587 | 1,636,654 | — |
| Real estate – residential | 11,907 | 3,058 | 7,207 | 22,172 | 1,057,856 | 1,080,028 | — |
| Consumer installment | 1,033 | 639 | 413 | 2,085 | 314,278 | 316,363 | 114 |
| Total | \$ 28,412 | \$ 10,205 | \$ 12,504 | \$ 51,121 | \$ 5,000,865 | \$ 5,051,986 | \$ 2,497 |
| December 31, 2017 | | | | | | | |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | \$ 8,124 | \$ 3,285 | \$ 6,978 | \$ 18,387 | \$ 1,344,121 | \$ 1,362,508 | \$ 5,991 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 810 | 23 | 288 | 1,121 | 623,474 | 624,595 | — |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 869 | 787 | 1,940 | 3,596 | 1,531,843 | 1,535,439 | — |
| Real estate – residential | 8,772 | 2,941 | 7,041 | 18,754 | 990,707 | 1,009,461 | — |
| Consumer installment | 1,556 | 472 | 329 | 2,357 | 322,154 | 324,511 | — |
| Total | \$ 20,131 | \$ 7,508 | \$ 16,576 | \$ 44,215 | \$ 4,812,299 | \$ 4,856,514 | \$ 5,991 |

The following table presents an analysis of purchased past-due loans as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017:

| (dollars in thousands) | Loans 30-59 Days Past Due | Loans 60-89 Days Past Due | Loans 90 or More Days Past Due | Total Loans Past Due | Current Loans | Total Loans | Loans 90 Days or More Past Due and Still Accruing |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|--|
| March 31, 2018 | | | | | | | |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | \$ 103 | \$ — | \$ 778 | \$ 881 | \$ 63,731 | \$ 64,612 | \$ — |
| Real estate – construction and development | 473 | 31 | 2,561 | 3,065 | 45,875 | 48,940 | — |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 1,589 | 1,022 | 1,515 | 4,126 | 461,744 | 465,870 | — |
| Real estate – residential | 4,228 | 591 | 5,594 | 10,413 | 226,040 | 236,453 | — |
| Consumer installment | 20 | — | 33 | 53 | 2,659 | 2,712 | — |
| Total | \$ 6,413 | \$ 1,644 | \$ 10,481 | \$ 18,538 | \$ 800,049 | \$ 818,587 | \$ — |
| December 31, 2017 | | | | | | | |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | \$ — | \$ 33 | \$ 760 | \$ 793 | \$ 73,585 | \$ 74,378 | \$ — |
| Real estate – construction and development | 87 | 31 | 2,517 | 2,635 | 62,878 | 65,513 | — |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 1,190 | 701 | 2,724 | 4,615 | 463,631 | 468,246 | — |
| Real estate – residential | 2,722 | 1,585 | 2,320 | 6,627 | 243,912 | 250,539 | — |
| Consumer installment | 57 | 4 | 43 | 104 | 2,815 | 2,919 | — |
| Total | \$ 4,056 | \$ 2,354 | \$ 8,364 | \$ 14,774 | \$ 846,821 | \$ 861,595 | \$ — |

Impaired Loans

Loans are considered impaired when, based on current information and events, it is probable the Company will be unable to collect all amounts due in accordance with the original contractual terms of the loan agreements. Impaired loans include loans on nonaccrual status and accruing troubled debt restructurings. When determining if the Company will be unable to collect all principal and interest payments due in accordance with the contractual terms of the loan agreement, the Company considers the borrower's capacity to pay, which includes such factors as the borrower's current financial statements, an analysis of global cash flow sufficient to pay all debt obligations and an evaluation of secondary sources of repayment, such as guarantor support and collateral value. The Company individually assesses for impairment all nonaccrual loans greater than \$100,000 and all troubled debt restructurings greater than \$100,000 (including all troubled debt restructurings, whether or not currently classified as such). The tables below include all loans deemed impaired, whether or not individually assessed for impairment. If a loan is deemed impaired, a specific valuation allowance is allocated, if necessary, so that the loan is reported net, at the present value of estimated future cash flows using the loan's existing rate or at the fair value of collateral if repayment is expected solely from the collateral. Interest payments on impaired loans are typically applied to principal unless collectability of the principal amount is reasonably assured, in which case interest is recognized on a cash basis.

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

The following is a summary of information pertaining to impaired loans, excluding purchased loans:

| (dollars in thousands) | As of and for the Period Ended | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | March 31, 2018 | December 31, 2017 | March 31, 2017 |
| Nonaccrual loans | \$ 14,420 | \$ 14,202 | \$ 18,281 |
| Troubled debt restructurings not included above | 11,375 | 13,599 | 13,659 |
| Total impaired loans | \$ 25,795 | \$ 27,801 | \$ 31,940 |
| Interest income recognized on impaired loans | \$ 239 | \$ 1,010 | \$ 240 |
| Foregone interest income on impaired loans | \$ 190 | \$ 197 | \$ 274 |

The following table presents an analysis of information pertaining to impaired loans, excluding purchased loans as of March 31, 2018, December 31, 2017 and March 31, 2017:

| (dollars in thousands) | Unpaid Contractual Principal Balance | Recorded Investment With No Allowance | Recorded Investment With Allowance | Total Recorded Investment | Related Allowance | Three Month Average Recorded Investment |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---|
| March 31, 2018 | | | | | | |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | \$ 1,874 | \$ 985 | \$ 602 | \$ 1,587 | \$ 136 | \$ 1,467 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 746 | 567 | 127 | 694 | 1 | 833 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 9,515 | 522 | 7,639 | 8,161 | 1,216 | 7,753 |
| Real estate – residential | 14,908 | 4,912 | 9,946 | 14,858 | 980 | 14,891 |
| Consumer installment | 526 | 495 | — | 495 | — | 492 |
| Total | \$ 27,569 | \$ 7,481 | \$ 18,314 | \$ 25,795 | \$ 2,333 | \$ 25,436 |

| (dollars in thousands) | Unpaid Contractual Principal Balance | Recorded Investment With No Allowance | Recorded Investment With Allowance | Total Recorded Investment | Related Allowance | Three Month Average Recorded Investment |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---|
| December 31, 2017 | | | | | | |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | \$ 1,453 | \$ 734 | \$ 613 | \$ 1,347 | \$ 145 | \$ 1,900 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 1,467 | 471 | 500 | 971 | 48 | 1,065 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 10,646 | 729 | 8,873 | 9,602 | 1,047 | 8,910 |
| Real estate – residential | 17,416 | 4,828 | 10,565 | 15,393 | 1,005 | 14,294 |
| Consumer installment | 523 | 488 | — | 488 | — | 493 |
| Total | \$ 31,505 | \$ 7,250 | \$ 20,551 | \$ 27,801 | \$ 2,245 | \$ 26,662 |

| (dollars in thousands) | Unpaid Contractual Principal Balance | Recorded Investment With No Allowance | Recorded Investment With Allowance | Total Recorded Investment | Related Allowance | Three Month Average Recorded Investment |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---|
| March 31, 2017 | | | | | | |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | \$ 3,891 | \$ 202 | \$ 2,503 | \$ 2,705 | \$ 637 | \$ 2,283 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 1,875 | — | 1,048 | 1,048 | 356 | 1,140 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 12,450 | 5,655 | 5,795 | 11,450 | 1,572 | 12,163 |
| Real estate – residential | 14,344 | 2,422 | 13,727 | 16,149 | 2,645 | 16,866 |
| Consumer installment | 666 | — | 588 | 588 | 6 | 601 |

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Total | \$ 33,226 | \$ 8,279 | \$ 23,661 | \$ 31,940 | \$ 5,216 | \$ 33,053 |
|-------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|

18

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

The following is a summary of information pertaining to purchased impaired loans:

| | As of and for the Period | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| | Ended | | |
| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, 2018 | December 31, 2017 | March 31, 2017 |
| Nonaccrual loans | \$ 15,940 | \$ 15,428 | \$ 23,606 |
| Troubled debt restructurings not included above | 20,649 | 20,472 | 20,448 |
| Total impaired loans | \$ 36,589 | \$ 35,900 | \$ 44,054 |
| Interest income recognized on impaired loans | \$ 696 | \$ 379 | \$ 379 |
| Foregone interest income on impaired loans | \$ 245 | \$ 281 | \$ 337 |

The following table presents an analysis of information pertaining to purchased impaired loans as of March 31, 2018, December 31, 2017 and March 31, 2017:

| (dollars in thousands) | Unpaid Contractual Principal Balance | Recorded Investment With No Allowance | Recorded Investment With Allowance | Total Recorded Investment | Related Allowance | Three Month Average Recorded Investment |
|--|---|--|---|---------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| March 31, 2018 | | | | | | |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | \$ 4,050 | \$ 52 | \$ 744 | \$ 796 | \$ 396 | \$ 805 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 9,012 | 426 | 3,720 | 4,146 | 913 | 4,152 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 12,590 | 861 | 10,230 | 11,091 | 767 | 11,744 |
| Real estate – residential | 22,820 | 8,426 | 12,093 | 20,519 | 745 | 19,502 |
| Consumer installment | 46 | 37 | — | 37 | — | 43 |
| Total | \$ 48,518 | \$ 9,802 | \$ 26,787 | \$ 36,589 | \$ 2,821 | \$ 36,246 |
| (dollars in thousands) | | | | | | |
| December 31, 2017 | | | | | | |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | \$ 4,170 | \$ 70 | \$ 744 | \$ 814 | \$ 400 | \$ 1,450 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 9,060 | 282 | 3,875 | 4,157 | 1,114 | 4,218 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 14,596 | 1,224 | 11,173 | 12,397 | 906 | 12,840 |
| Real estate – residential | 20,867 | 6,574 | 11,910 | 18,484 | 821 | 19,002 |
| Consumer installment | 57 | 48 | — | 48 | — | 68 |
| Total | \$ 48,750 | \$ 8,198 | \$ 27,702 | \$ 35,900 | \$ 3,241 | \$ 37,578 |
| (dollars in thousands) | | | | | | |
| March 31, 2017 | | | | | | |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | \$ 2,806 | \$ 151 | \$ 225 | \$ 376 | \$ — | \$ 534 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 25,748 | 287 | 3,203 | 3,490 | 250 | 3,730 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 30,419 | 768 | 17,532 | 18,300 | 855 | 18,467 |
| Real estate – residential | 25,855 | 7,155 | 14,713 | 21,868 | 1,091 | 22,529 |

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Consumer installment | 34 | 20 | — | 20 | — | 22 |
| Total | \$ 84,862 | \$ 8,381 | \$ 35,673 | \$ 44,054 | \$ 2,196 | \$ 45,282 |

19

Credit Quality Indicators

The Company uses a nine category risk grading system to assign a risk grade to each loan in the portfolio. The following is a description of the general characteristics of the grades:

Grade 1 – Prime Credit – This grade represents loans to the Company’s most creditworthy borrowers or loans that are secured by cash or cash equivalents.

Grade 2 – Strong Credit – This grade includes loans that exhibit one or more characteristics better than that of a Good Credit. Generally, the debt service coverage and borrower’s liquidity is materially better than required by the Company’s loan policy.

Grade 3 – Good Credit – This grade is assigned to loans to borrowers who exhibit satisfactory credit histories, contain acceptable loan structures and demonstrate ability to repay.

Grade 4 – Satisfactory Credit – This grade includes loans which exhibit all the characteristics of a Good Credit, but warrant more than normal level of banker supervision due to (i) circumstances which elevate the risks of performance (such as start-up operations, untested management, heavy leverage and interim losses); (ii) adverse, extraordinary events that have affected, or could affect, the borrower’s cash flow, financial condition, ability to continue operating profitability or refinancing (such as death of principal, fire and divorce); (iii) loans that require more than the normal servicing requirements (such as any type of construction financing, acquisition and development loans, accounts receivable or inventory loans and floor plan loans); (iv) existing technical exceptions which raise some doubts about the Bank’s perfection in its collateral position or the continued financial capacity of the borrower; or (v) improvements in formerly criticized borrowers, which may warrant banker supervision.

Grade 5 – Fair Credit – This grade is assigned to loans that are currently performing and supported by adequate financial information that reflects repayment capacity but exhibits a loan-to-value ratio greater than 110%, based on a documented collateral valuation.

Grade 6 – Other Assets Especially Mentioned – This grade includes loans that exhibit potential weaknesses that deserve management’s close attention. If left uncorrected, these weaknesses may result in deterioration of the repayment prospects for the asset or in the Company’s credit position at some future date.

Grade 7 – Substandard – This grade represents loans which are inadequately protected by the current credit worthiness and paying capacity of the borrower or of the collateral pledged, if any. These assets exhibit a well-defined weakness or are characterized by the distinct possibility that the Bank will sustain some loss if the deficiencies are not corrected. These weaknesses may be characterized by past due performance, operating losses or questionable collateral values.

Grade 8 – Doubtful – This grade includes loans which exhibit all of the characteristics of a substandard loan with the added provision that the weaknesses make collection or liquidation in full, on the basis of currently existing facts, conditions and values, highly questionable or improbable.

Grade 9 – Loss – This grade is assigned to loans which are considered uncollectible and of such little value that their continuance as active assets of the Bank is not warranted. This classification does not mean that the loan has absolutely no recovery or salvage value, but rather it is not practical or desirable to defer writing it off.

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

The following table presents the loan portfolio, excluding purchased loans, by risk grade as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 (in thousands):

| Risk Grade | Commercial, Financial and Agricultural | Real Estate - Construction and Development | Real Estate - Commercial and Farmland | Real Estate - Residential | Consumer Installment | Total |
|----------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| March 31, 2018 | | | | | | |
| 1 | \$ 542,520 | \$ — | \$ 5,234 | \$ 47 | \$ 9,824 | \$ 557,625 |
| 2 | 568,129 | 969 | 55,823 | 48,554 | 116 | 673,591 |
| 3 | 133,302 | 57,386 | 917,751 | 918,086 | 24,192 | 2,050,717 |
| 4 | 132,154 | 561,624 | 614,291 | 86,689 | 281,550 | 1,676,308 |
| 5 | 333 | 4,490 | 6,494 | 6,180 | 2 | 17,499 |
| 6 | 5,728 | 4,435 | 24,099 | 5,385 | 148 | 39,795 |
| 7 | 5,264 | 2,600 | 12,962 | 15,087 | 531 | 36,444 |
| 8 | 7 | — | — | — | — | 7 |
| 9 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | \$ 1,387,437 | \$ 631,504 | \$ 1,636,654 | \$ 1,080,028 | \$ 316,363 | \$ 5,051,986 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| December 31, 2017 | | | | | | |
| 1 | \$ 539,899 | \$ — | \$ 5,790 | \$ 47 | \$ 9,243 | \$ 554,979 |
| 2 | 568,557 | 1,005 | 68,507 | 49,742 | 670 | 688,481 |
| 3 | 125,740 | 59,318 | 966,391 | 843,178 | 39,352 | 2,033,979 |
| 4 | 117,358 | 552,918 | 454,506 | 88,537 | 274,462 | 1,487,781 |
| 5 | 330 | 4,474 | 6,408 | 5,781 | 3 | 16,996 |
| 6 | 5,236 | 4,207 | 15,108 | 5,339 | 185 | 30,075 |
| 7 | 5,381 | 2,673 | 18,729 | 16,837 | 596 | 44,216 |
| 8 | 7 | — | — | — | — | 7 |
| 9 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | \$ 1,362,508 | \$ 624,595 | \$ 1,535,439 | \$ 1,009,461 | \$ 324,511 | \$ 4,856,514 |

The following table presents the purchased loan portfolio by risk grade as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 (in thousands):

| Risk Grade | Commercial, Financial and Agricultural | Real Estate - Construction and Development | Real Estate - Commercial and Farmland | Real Estate - Residential | Consumer Installment | Total |
|----------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| March 31, 2018 | | | | | | |
| 1 | \$ 3,191 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 617 | \$ 3,808 |
| 2 | 4,301 | — | 4,855 | 88,081 | 211 | 97,448 |
| 3 | 8,018 | 5,579 | 181,551 | 47,508 | 1,074 | 243,730 |
| 4 | 38,530 | 32,528 | 232,240 | 64,055 | 644 | 367,997 |
| 5 | — | 1,941 | 6,027 | 12,044 | — | 20,012 |
| 6 | 9,439 | 4,112 | 14,481 | 5,623 | 50 | 33,705 |
| 7 | 1,133 | 4,780 | 26,716 | 19,142 | 116 | 51,887 |
| 8 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 9 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | \$ 64,612 | \$ 48,940 | \$ 465,870 | \$ 236,453 | \$ 2,712 | \$ 818,587 |

December 31, 2017

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| 1 | \$ 3,358 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 606 | \$3,964 |
| 2 | 4,541 | — | 5,047 | 91,270 | 240 | 101,098 |
| 3 | 8,517 | 13,014 | 186,187 | 50,988 | 1,166 | 259,872 |
| 4 | 43,085 | 39,877 | 230,570 | 70,837 | 711 | 385,080 |
| 5 | — | 2,306 | 6,081 | 11,349 | — | 19,736 |
| 6 | 13,718 | 4,076 | 13,637 | 5,637 | 53 | 37,121 |
| 7 | 1,159 | 6,240 | 26,724 | 20,458 | 143 | 54,724 |
| 8 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 9 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | \$ 74,378 | \$ 65,513 | \$ 468,246 | \$ 250,539 | \$ 2,919 | \$861,595 |

21

Troubled Debt Restructurings

The restructuring of a loan is considered a “troubled debt restructuring” if both (i) the borrower is experiencing financial difficulties and (ii) the Company has granted a concession. Concessions may include interest rate reductions to below market interest rates, principal forgiveness, restructuring amortization schedules and other actions intended to minimize potential losses. The Company has exhibited the greatest success for rehabilitation of the loan by a reduction in the rate alone (maintaining the amortization of the debt) or a combination of a rate reduction and the forbearance of previously past due interest or principal. This has most typically been evidenced in certain commercial real estate loans whereby a disruption in the borrower’s cash flow resulted in an extended past due status, of which the borrower was unable to catch up completely as the cash flow of the property ultimately stabilized at a level lower than its original level. A reduction in rate, coupled with a forbearance of unpaid principal and/or interest, allowed the net cash flows to service the debt under the modified terms.

The Company’s policy requires a restructure request to be supported by a current, well-documented credit evaluation of the borrower’s financial condition and a collateral evaluation that is no older than six months from the date of the restructure. Key factors of that evaluation include the documentation of current, recurring cash flows, support provided by the guarantor(s) and the current valuation of the collateral. If the appraisal in the file is older than six months, an evaluation must be made as to the continued reasonableness of the valuation. For certain income-producing properties, current rent rolls and/or other income information can be utilized to support the appraisal valuation, when coupled with documented cap rates within our markets and a physical inspection of the collateral to validate the current condition.

The Company’s policy states that in the event a loan has been identified as a troubled debt restructuring, it should be assigned a grade of substandard and placed on nonaccrual status until such time the borrower has demonstrated the ability to service the loan payments based on the restructured terms – generally defined as six months of satisfactory payment history. Missed payments under the original loan terms are not considered under the new structure; however, subsequent missed payments are considered non-performance and are not considered toward the six month required term of satisfactory payment history. The Company’s loan policy states that a nonaccrual loan may be returned to accrual status when (i) none of its principal and interest is due and unpaid, and the Company expects repayment of the remaining contractual principal and interest or (ii) it otherwise becomes well secured and in the process of collection. Restoration to accrual status on any given loan must be supported by a well-documented credit evaluation of the borrower’s financial condition and the prospects for full repayment and approved by the Company’s Chief Credit Officer.

In the normal course of business, the Company renews loans with a modification of the interest rate or terms that are not deemed as troubled debt restructurings because the borrower is not experiencing financial difficulty. The Company modified loans in the first three months of 2018 and 2017 totaling \$28.6 million and \$16.2 million, respectively, under such parameters.

As of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the Company had a balance of \$14.7 million and \$15.6 million, respectively, in troubled debt restructurings, excluding purchased loans. The Company has recorded \$1.1 million and \$2.8 million in previous charge-offs on such loans at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively. The Company’s balance in the allowance for loan losses allocated to such troubled debt restructurings was \$1.5 million and \$1.4 million at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively. At March 31, 2018, the Company did not have any commitments to lend additional funds to debtors whose terms have been modified in troubled restructurings.

During the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, the Company modified loans as troubled debt restructurings, excluding purchased loans, with principal balances of \$1.2 million and \$93,000, respectively, and these modifications did not have a material impact on the Company’s allowance for loan loss. The following table presents

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

the loans by class modified as troubled debt restructurings, excluding purchased loans, which occurred during the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

| Loan Class | March 31, 2018 | | March 31, 2017 | |
|--|---------------------|----------|---------------------|---------|
| | # (in thousands) | Balance | # (in thousands) | Balance |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | 2 | \$ 125 | — | \$ — |
| Real estate – construction and development | 1 | 4 | — | — |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 1 | 303 | — | — |
| Real estate – residential | 2 | 710 | 1 | 77 |
| Consumer installment | 2 | 13 | 4 | 16 |
| Total | 8 | \$ 1,155 | 5 | \$ 93 |

Troubled debt restructurings, excluding purchased loans, with an outstanding balance of \$3.0 million and \$1.6 million defaulted during the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively, and these defaults did not have a material impact on the Company's allowance for loan loss. The following table presents for loans, excluding purchased loans, the troubled debt restructurings by class that defaulted (defined as 30 days past due) during the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

| Loan Class | March 31, 2018 | | March 31, 2017 | |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| | # | Balance (in thousands) | # | Balance (in thousands) |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | — | \$ — | 3 | \$ 55 |
| Real estate – construction and development | — | — | 1 | 26 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 2 | 1,971 | 3 | 150 |
| Real estate – residential | 17 | 1,047 | 18 | 1,380 |
| Consumer installment | — | — | 8 | 21 |
| Total | 19 | \$ 3,018 | 33 | \$ 1,632 |

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings by loan class, excluding purchased loans, classified separately as accruing and nonaccruing at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017:

| Loan Class | March 31, 2018 Accruing Loans | | Non-Accruing Loans | |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| | # | Balance (in thousands) | # | Balance (in thousands) |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | 4 | \$ 39 | 13 | \$ 224 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 5 | 176 | 2 | 8 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 16 | 4,606 | 6 | 2,127 |
| Real estate – residential | 72 | 6,547 | 19 | 838 |
| Consumer installment | 3 | 7 | 32 | 93 |
| Total | 100 | \$ 11,375 | 72 | \$ 3,290 |

| Loan Class | December 31, 2017 Accruing Loans | | Non-Accruing Loans | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| | # | Balance (in thousands) | # | Balance (in thousands) |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | 4 | \$ 41 | 12 | \$ 120 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 6 | 417 | 2 | 34 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 17 | 6,937 | 5 | 204 |
| Real estate – residential | 74 | 6,199 | 18 | 1,508 |
| Consumer installment | 4 | 5 | 33 | 98 |
| Total | 105 | \$ 13,599 | 70 | \$ 1,964 |

As of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the Company had a balance of \$24.5 million and \$24.9 million, respectively, in troubled debt restructurings included in purchased loans. The Company has recorded \$1.7 million and \$1.2 million in previous charge-offs on such loans at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively. At March 31, 2018, the Company did not have any commitments to lend additional funds to debtors whose terms have been modified in troubled restructurings.

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

During the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, the Company modified purchased loans as troubled debt restructurings, with principal balances of \$186,000 and \$355,000, respectively, and these modifications did not have a material impact on the Company's allowance for loan loss. The following table presents the purchased loans by class modified as troubled debt restructurings, which occurred during the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

| Loan Class | March 31, | March 31, |
|--|------------|------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| | Balance | Balance |
| | # (in | # (in |
| | thousands) | thousands) |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | 1 \$ 7 | — \$ — |
| Real estate – construction and development | — — | — — |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | — — | 1 231 |
| Real estate – residential | 2 179 | 1 124 |
| Consumer installment | — — | — — |
| Total | 3 \$ 186 | 2 \$ 355 |

Troubled debt restructurings included in purchased loans with an outstanding balance of \$906,000 and \$2.1 million defaulted during the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively, and these defaults did not have a material impact on the Company's allowance for loan loss.

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

The following table presents purchased loan troubled debt restructurings by class that defaulted (defined as 30 days past due) during the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

| Loan Class | March 31, 2018 | March 31, 2017 |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Balance # (in thousands) | Balance # (in thousands) |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | — \$ — | — \$ — |
| Real estate – construction and development | — — | 2 336 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 1 351 | 3 1,149 |
| Real estate – residential | 8 555 | 8 565 |
| Consumer installment | — — | — — |
| Total | 9 \$ 906 | 13 \$ 2,050 |

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings by loan class of purchased loans, classified separately as accrual and nonaccrual at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017.

| Loan Class | March 31, 2018 | | Non-Accruing Loans | |
|--|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| | Accruing Loans | Balance | Balance | Balance |
| | # | (in thousands) | # | (in thousands) |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | — | \$ — | 4 | \$ 23 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 4 | 1,034 | 6 | 316 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 14 | 6,745 | 8 | 2,234 |
| Real estate – residential | 120 | 12,871 | 21 | 1,281 |
| Consumer installment | — | — | 2 | 4 |
| Total | 138 | \$ 20,650 | 41 | \$ 3,858 |

| Loan Class | December 31, 2017 | | Non-Accruing Loans | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| | Accruing Loans | Balance | Balance | Balance |
| | # | (in thousands) | # | (in thousands) |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | — | \$ — | 3 | \$ 16 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 3 | 1,018 | 6 | 340 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 14 | 6,713 | 10 | 2,582 |
| Real estate – residential | 117 | 12,741 | 25 | 1,462 |
| Consumer installment | — | — | 2 | 5 |
| Total | 134 | \$ 20,472 | 46 | \$ 4,405 |

Allowance for Loan Losses

The allowance for loan losses represents an allowance for probable incurred losses in the loan portfolio. The adequacy of the allowance for loan losses is evaluated periodically based on a review of all significant loans, with a particular emphasis on non-accruing, past-due and other loans that management believes might be potentially impaired or warrant additional attention. The Company segregates the loan portfolio by type of loan and utilizes this segregation in evaluating exposure to risks within the portfolio. In addition, based on internal reviews and external reviews performed by regulatory authorities, the Company further segregates the loan portfolio by loan grades based on an assessment of risk for a particular loan or group of loans. Certain reviewed loans are assigned specific allowances when a review of relevant data determines that a general allocation is not sufficient or when the review affords

management the opportunity to adjust the amount of exposure in a given credit. In establishing allowances, management considers historical loan loss experience but adjusts this data with a significant emphasis on current loan quality trends, current economic conditions and other factors in the markets where the Company operates. Factors considered include, among others, current valuations of real estate in the Company's markets, unemployment rates, the effect of weather conditions on agricultural related entities and other significant local economic events, such as major plant closings.

The Company has developed a methodology for determining the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses which is monitored by the Company's Chief Credit Officer. Procedures provide for the assignment of a risk rating for every loan included in the total loan portfolio. Commercial insurance premium finance loans, overdraft protection loans, and certain residential mortgage loans and consumer loans serviced by outside processors are treated as pools for risk rating purposes. The risk rating schedule provides nine ratings of which five ratings are classified as pass ratings and four ratings are classified as criticized ratings. Each risk rating is assigned a percentage factor to be applied to the loan balance to determine the adequate amount of reserve. The Bank's independent internal loan review department reviews on an annual basis a sample of relationships in excess of \$1,000,000, as well as selective sampling of loans below this threshold. Sampling is based on a number of factors unique to the Bank's portfolio risks, including, but not limited to, lending divisions, industry, risk grades, and new originations. As a result of these loan reviews, certain loans

may be identified as having deteriorating credit quality. Other loans that surface as problem loans may also be assigned specific reserves. Past-due loans are assigned risk ratings based on the number of days past due. The calculation of the allowance for loan losses, including underlying data and assumptions, is reviewed regularly by the Company's Chief Financial Officer and the independent internal loan review department.

Loan losses are charged against the allowance when management believes the collection of a loan's principal is unlikely. Subsequent recoveries are credited to the allowance. Consumer loans are charged-off in accordance with the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council's ("FFIEC") Uniform Retail Credit Classification and Account Management Policy. Commercial loans are charged-off when they are deemed uncollectible, which usually involves a triggering event within the collection effort. If the loan is collateral dependent, the loss is more easily identified and is charged-off when it is identified, usually based upon receipt of an appraisal. However, when a loan has guarantor support, the Company may carry the estimated loss as a reserve against the loan while collection efforts with the guarantor are pursued. If, after collection efforts with the guarantor are complete, the deficiency is still considered uncollectible, the loss is charged-off and any further collections are treated as recoveries. In all situations, when a loan is downgraded to an Asset Quality Rating of 9 (Loss per the regulatory guidance), the uncollectible portion is charged-off.

The following tables detail activity in the allowance for loan losses by portfolio segment for the three-month period ended March 31, 2018, the year ended December 31, 2017 and the three-month period ended March 31, 2017. Allocation of a portion of the allowance to one category of loans does not preclude its availability to absorb losses in other categories.

| (dollars in thousands) | Commercial, Real Estate Financial and Agricultural | Real Estate Construction and Development | Real Estate – Commercial and Farmland | Real Estate – Residential | Consumer Installment | Purchased Loans | Purchased Loan Pools | Total |
|--|---|---|---|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Three Months Ended | | | | | | | | |
| March 31, 2018 | | | | | | | | |
| Balance, December 31, 2017 | \$3,631 | \$3,629 | \$7,501 | \$4,786 | \$1,916 | \$3,253 | \$1,075 | \$25,791 |
| Provision for loan losses | 783 | (171) | 689 | 177 | 1,151 | (747) | (81) | 1,801 |
| Loans charged off | (1,449) | — | (142) | (198) | (962) | (121) | — | (2,872) |
| Recoveries of loans previously charged off | 656 | 114 | 24 | 182 | 67 | 437 | — | 1,480 |
| Balance, March 31, 2018 | \$3,621 | \$3,572 | \$8,072 | \$4,947 | \$2,172 | \$2,822 | \$994 | \$26,200 |
| Period-end allocation: | | | | | | | | |
| Loans individually evaluated for impairment ⁽¹⁾ | \$533 | \$1 | \$1,216 | \$980 | \$— | \$2,822 | \$176 | \$5,728 |
| Loans collectively evaluated for impairment | 3,088 | 3,571 | 6,856 | 3,967 | 2,172 | — | 818 | 20,472 |
| Ending balance | \$3,621 | \$3,572 | \$8,072 | \$4,947 | \$2,172 | \$2,822 | \$994 | \$26,200 |
| Loans: | | | | | | | | |
| | \$2,147 | \$126 | \$7,639 | \$9,946 | \$— | \$28,167 | \$902 | \$48,927 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--|
| Individually evaluated for impairment ⁽¹⁾ | | | | | | | | | |
| Collectively evaluated for impairment | 1,385,290 | 631,378 | 1,629,015 | 1,070,082 | 316,363 | 683,784 | 318,696 | 6,034,608 | |
| Acquired with deteriorated credit quality | — | — | — | — | — | 106,636 | — | 106,636 | |
| Ending balance | \$1,387,437 | \$631,504 | \$1,636,654 | \$1,080,028 | \$316,363 | \$818,587 | \$319,598 | \$6,190,171 | |

(1) At March 31, 2018, loans individually evaluated for impairment includes all nonaccrual loans greater than \$100,000 and all troubled debt restructurings greater than \$100,000, including all troubled debt restructurings and not only those currently classified as troubled debt restructurings.

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

| (dollars in thousands) | Commercial, Real Estate Financial and Agricultural | Real Estate – Construction Development | Real Estate – Commercial and Farmland | Real Estate – Residential | Consumer Installment | Purchased Loans | Purchased Loan Pools | Total |
|--|--|--|---|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Twelve Months Ended | | | | | | | | |
| December 31, 2017 | | | | | | | | |
| Balance, January 1, 2017 | \$2,192 | \$2,990 | \$7,662 | \$6,786 | \$827 | \$1,626 | \$1,837 | \$23,920 |
| Provision for loan losses | 3,019 | 488 | 508 | (86) | 2,591 | 2,606 | (762) | 8,364 |
| Loans charged off | (2,850) | (95) | (853) | (2,151) | (1,618) | (2,900) | — | (10,467) |
| Recoveries of loans previously charged off | 1,270 | 246 | 184 | 237 | 116 | 1,921 | — | 3,974 |
| Balance, December 31, 2017 | \$3,631 | \$3,629 | \$7,501 | \$4,786 | \$1,916 | \$3,253 | \$1,075 | \$25,791 |
| Period-end allocation: | | | | | | | | |
| Loans individually evaluated for impairment ⁽¹⁾ | \$465 | \$48 | \$1,047 | \$1,028 | \$— | \$3,253 | \$177 | \$6,018 |
| Loans collectively evaluated for impairment | 3,166 | 3,581 | 6,454 | 3,758 | 1,916 | — | 898 | 19,773 |
| Ending balance | \$3,631 | \$3,629 | \$7,501 | \$4,786 | \$1,916 | \$3,253 | \$1,075 | \$25,791 |
| Loans: | | | | | | | | |
| Individually evaluated for impairment ⁽¹⁾ | \$2,971 | \$500 | \$8,873 | \$10,818 | \$— | \$28,165 | \$904 | \$52,231 |
| Collectively evaluated for impairment | 1,359,537 | 624,095 | 1,526,566 | 998,643 | 324,511 | 718,447 | 327,342 | 5,879,141 |
| Acquired with deteriorated credit quality | — | — | — | — | — | 114,983 | — | 114,983 |
| Ending balance | \$1,362,508 | \$624,595 | \$1,535,439 | \$1,009,461 | \$324,511 | \$861,595 | \$328,246 | \$6,046,355 |

(1) At December 31, 2017, loans individually evaluated for impairment includes all nonaccrual loans greater than \$100,000 and all troubled debt restructurings greater than \$100,000, including all troubled debt restructurings and not only those currently classified as troubled debt restructurings.

| (dollars in thousands) | Commercial, Real Estate Financial and Agricultural | Real Estate – Construction Development | Real Estate – Commercial and Farmland | Real Estate – Residential | Consumer Installment | Purchased Loans | Purchased Loan Pools | Total |
|------------------------|--|--|---|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Three Months Ended | | | | | | | | |
| March 31, 2017 | | | | | | | | |
| | \$2,192 | \$2,990 | \$7,662 | \$6,786 | \$827 | \$1,626 | \$1,837 | \$23,920 |

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|---|
| Balance, December 31, 2016 | | | | | | | | | |
| Provision for loan losses | 641 | 640 | 217 | (791) |) 174 | 706 | 249 | 1,836 | |
| Loans charged off | (104 |) (53 |) (9 |) (216 |) (164 |) (556 |) — | (1,102 |) |
| Recoveries of loans previously charged off | 69 | 20 | 9 | 61 | 17 | 420 | — | 596 | |
| Balance, March 31, 2017 | \$2,798 | \$ 3,597 | \$ 7,879 | \$ 5,840 | \$ 854 | \$ 2,196 | \$ 2,086 | \$ 25,250 | |
| Period-end allocation: | | | | | | | | | |
| Loans individually evaluated for impairment ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 626 | \$ 354 | \$ 1,574 | \$ 2,538 | \$ — | \$ 2,196 | \$ 376 | \$ 7,664 | |
| Loans collectively evaluated for impairment | 2,172 | 3,243 | 6,305 | 3,302 | 854 | — | 1,710 | 17,586 | |
| Ending balance | \$ 2,798 | \$ 3,597 | \$ 7,879 | \$ 5,840 | \$ 854 | \$ 2,196 | \$ 2,086 | \$ 25,250 | |
| Loans: | | | | | | | | | |
| Individually evaluated for impairment ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 1,937 | \$ 843 | \$ 11,260 | \$ 9,630 | \$ — | \$ 35,673 | \$ 3,446 | \$ 62,789 | |
| Collectively evaluated for impairment | 1,059,662 | 414,186 | 1,446,850 | 717,165 | 123,947 | 836,146 | 525,653 | 5,123,609 | |
| Acquired with deteriorated credit quality | — | — | — | — | — | 135,116 | — | 135,116 | |
| Ending balance | \$ 1,061,599 | \$ 415,029 | \$ 1,458,110 | \$ 726,795 | \$ 123,947 | \$ 1,006,935 | \$ 529,099 | \$ 5,321,514 | |

(1) At March 31, 2017, loans individually evaluated for impairment includes all nonaccrual loans greater than \$100,000 and all troubled debt restructurings greater than \$100,000, including all troubled debt restructurings and not only those currently classified as troubled debt restructurings.

NOTE 6 – OTHER REAL ESTATE OWNED

The following is a summary of the activity in OREO during the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, 2018 | March 31, 2017 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Beginning balance, January 1 | \$ 8,464 | \$ 10,874 |
| Loans transferred to other real estate owned | 1,176 | 1,657 |
| Net gains (losses) on sale and write-downs recorded in statement of income | 101 | (322) |
| Sales proceeds | (495) | (1,743) |
| Other | (75) | — |
| Ending balance | \$ 9,171 | \$ 10,466 |

The following is a summary of the activity in purchased OREO during the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, 2018 | March 31, 2017 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Beginning balance, January 1 | \$ 9,011 | \$ 12,540 |
| Loans transferred to other real estate owned | 457 | 1,489 |
| Portion of gains (losses) on sale and write-downs payable to (receivable from) the FDIC under loss-sharing agreements | — | 15 |
| Net gains (losses) on sale and write-downs recorded in statement of income | (134) | 449 |
| Sales proceeds | (2,611) | (2,825) |
| Ending balance | \$ 6,723 | \$ 11,668 |

NOTE 7 – SECURITIES SOLD UNDER AGREEMENTS TO REPURCHASE

The Company classifies the sales of securities under agreements to repurchase as short-term borrowings. The amounts received under these agreements are reflected as a liability in the Company's consolidated balance sheets and the securities underlying these agreements are included in investment securities in the Company's consolidated balance sheets. At March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, all securities sold under agreements to repurchase mature on a daily basis. The market value of the securities fluctuate on a daily basis due to market conditions. The Company monitors the market value of the securities underlying these agreements on a daily basis and is required to transfer additional securities if the market value of the securities fall below the repurchase agreement price. The Company maintains an unpledged securities portfolio that it believes is sufficient to protect against a decline in the market value of the securities sold under agreements to repurchase.

The following is a summary of the Company's securities sold under agreements to repurchase at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017.

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, 2018 | December 31, 2017 |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| Securities sold under agreements to repurchase | \$ 23,270 | \$ 30,638 |

At March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the investment securities underlying these agreements were comprised of state, county and municipal securities and mortgage-backed securities.

NOTE 8 – OTHER BORROWINGS

The Company has, from time to time, utilized certain borrowing arrangements to fund growth in earning assets or provide additional liquidity when appropriate spreads can be realized. At March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, there were \$555.5 million and \$250.6 million, respectively, in outstanding other borrowings.

Other borrowings consist of the following:

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, 2018 | December 31, 2017 |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|
| FHLB borrowings: | | |
| Daily Rate Credit from FHLB with a variable interest rate (1.92% at March 31, 2018 and 1.59% at December 31, 2017) | \$ 80,000 | \$ 25,000 |
| Advance from FHLB due April 9, 2018; fixed interest rate of 1.70% | 100,000 | — |
| Advance from FHLB due April 20, 2018; fixed interest rate of 1.88% | 150,000 | — |
| Advance from FHLB due April 23, 2018; fixed interest rate of 1.85% | 150,000 | — |
| Advance from FHLB due January 8, 2018; fixed interest rate of 1.39% | — | 150,000 |
| Subordinated notes payable: | | |
| Subordinated notes payable due March 15, 2027 net of unamortized debt issuance cost of \$1,172 and \$1,205, respectively; fixed interest rate of 5.75% through March 14, 2022; variable interest rate thereafter at three-month LIBOR plus 3.616% | 73,828 | 73,795 |
| Other debt: | | |
| Advance from correspondent bank due October 5, 2019; secured by a loan receivable; fixed interest rate of 4.25% | 42 | 49 |
| Advance from correspondent bank due September 5, 2026; secured by a loan receivable; fixed interest rate of 2.09% | 1,665 | 1,710 |
| Total | \$ 555,535 | \$ 250,554 |

The advances from the FHLB are collateralized by a blanket lien on all first mortgage loans and other specific loans in addition to FHLB stock. At March 31, 2018, \$665.0 million was available for borrowing on lines with the FHLB.

At March 31, 2018, the Company had a revolving credit arrangement with a regional bank with a maximum line amount of \$30.0 million. This line of credit is secured by subsidiary bank stock, expires on September 26, 2020, and bears a variable interest rate of 90-day LIBOR plus 3.50%. At March 31, 2018, there was no principal amount outstanding on this line of credit, resulting in \$30.0 million available for borrowing under the revolving credit arrangement.

As of March 31, 2018, the Bank maintained credit arrangements with various financial institutions to purchase federal funds up to \$82.0 million.

The Bank also participates in the Federal Reserve discount window borrowings program. At March 31, 2018, the Company had \$1.14 billion of loans pledged at the Federal Reserve discount window and had \$732.7 million available for borrowing.

Subordinated Notes Payable

On March 13, 2017, the Company completed the public offering and sale of \$75.0 million in aggregate principal amount of its 5.75% Fixed-To-Floating Rate Subordinated Notes due 2027 (the “subordinated notes”). The subordinated notes were sold to the public at par pursuant to an underwriting agreement and were issued pursuant to an indenture and a supplemental indenture. The subordinated notes will mature on March 15, 2027 and through March 14, 2022

will bear a fixed rate of interest of 5.75% per annum, payable semi-annually in arrears on September 15 and March 15 of each year. Beginning March 15, 2022, the interest rate on the subordinated notes resets quarterly to a floating rate per annum equal to the then-current three-month LIBOR plus 3.616%, payable quarterly in arrears on June 15, September 15, December 15, and March 15 of each year to the maturity date or earlier redemption.

On any scheduled interest payment date beginning March 15, 2022, the Company may, at its option, redeem the subordinated notes, in whole or in part, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest.

The subordinated notes are unsecured and rank equally with all other unsecured subordinated indebtedness of the Company, including any subordinated indebtedness issued in the future under the indenture governing the subordinated notes. The subordinated notes are subordinated in right of payment to all senior indebtedness of the Company. The subordinated notes are obligations of the Company only and are not guaranteed by any subsidiaries, including the Bank. Additionally, the subordinated

notes are structurally subordinated to all existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities of the Company's subsidiaries, meaning that creditors of the Company's subsidiaries (including, in the case of the Bank, its depositors) generally will be paid from those subsidiaries' assets before holders of the subordinated notes have any claim to those assets.

For regulatory capital adequacy purposes, the subordinated notes qualify as Tier 2 capital for the Company. If in the future the subordinated notes no longer qualify as Tier 2 capital, the subordinated notes may be redeemed by the Company at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest, subject to prior approval by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

NOTE 9 – COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Loan Commitments

The Company is a party to financial instruments with off-balance-sheet risk in the normal course of business to meet the financing needs of its customers. These financial instruments include commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit. They involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit risk and interest rate risk in excess of the amount recognized in the Company's balance sheets.

The Company's exposure to credit loss is represented by the contractual amount of those instruments. The Company uses the same credit policies in making commitments and conditional obligations as it does for on-balance-sheet instruments.

A summary of the Company's commitments is as follows:

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, 2018 | December 31, 2017 |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|
| Commitments to extend credit | \$ 1,102,240 | \$ 1,109,806 |
| Unused home equity lines of credit | 71,138 | 69,788 |
| Financial standby letters of credit | 11,960 | 11,389 |
| Mortgage interest rate lock commitments | 153,809 | 86,149 |
| Mortgage forward contracts with positive fair value | 97,032 | 31,500 |

Commitments to extend credit are agreements to lend to a customer as long as there is no violation of any condition established in the contract. These commitments, predominantly at variable interest rates, generally have fixed expiration dates of one year or less or other termination clauses and may require payment of a fee. Since many of the commitments are expected to expire without being drawn upon, the total commitment amounts do not necessarily represent future cash requirements. The amount of collateral obtained, if deemed necessary by the Company upon extension of credit, is based on management's credit evaluation of the customer.

Standby letters of credit are conditional commitments issued by the Company to guarantee the performance of a customer to a third party. Those guarantees are primarily issued to support public and private borrowing arrangements. The credit risk involved in issuing letters of credit is essentially the same as that involved in extending loans to customers. Collateral is required in instances which the Company deems necessary.

Other Commitments

As of March 31, 2018, a \$75.0 million letter of credit issued by the FHLB was used to guarantee the Bank's performance related to public fund deposit balances.

Contingencies

Certain conditions may exist as of the date the financial statements are issued, which may result in a loss to the Company but which will only be resolved when one or more future events occur or fail to occur. The Company's management and its legal counsel assess such contingent liabilities, and such assessment inherently involves an exercise of judgment. In assessing loss contingencies related to legal proceedings that are pending against the Company or unasserted claims that may result in such proceedings, the Company's legal counsel evaluates the perceived merits of any legal proceedings or unasserted claims as well as the perceived merits of the amount of relief sought or expected to be sought therein.

If the assessment of a contingency indicates that it is probable that a material loss has been incurred and the amount of the liability can be estimated, then the estimated liability would be accrued in the Company's financial statements. If the assessment indicates

that a potentially material loss contingency is not probable, but is reasonably possible, or is probable but cannot be estimated, then the nature of the contingent liability, together with an estimate of the range of possible loss if determinable and material, would be disclosed.

Loss contingencies considered remote are generally not disclosed unless they involve guarantees, in which case the nature of the guarantee would be disclosed.

NOTE 10 – SHAREHOLDERS’ EQUITY

USPF Acquisition

On January 18, 2017, in exchange for 4.99% of the outstanding shares of common stock of USPF, the Company issued 128,572 unregistered shares of its common stock to a selling shareholder of USPF. A registration statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 13, 2017 to register the resale or other disposition of these shares. The issuance of the 128,572 common shares was valued at \$45.45 per share, resulting in an increase in shareholders’ equity of \$5.8 million.

On January 3, 2018, in exchange for 25.01% of the outstanding shares of common stock of USPF, the Company issued 114,285 unregistered shares of its common stock to a selling shareholder of USPF. The issuance of the 114,285 common shares was valued at \$48.55 per share, resulting in an increase in shareholders’ equity of \$5.5 million.

On January 31, 2018, in exchange for the final 70% of the outstanding shares of common stock of USPF, the Company issued 830,301 unregistered shares of its common stock to the selling shareholders of USPF. The issuance of the 830,301 common shares was valued at \$53.55 per share, resulting in an increase in shareholders’ equity of \$44.5 million.

On February 16, 2018, a registration statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission to register the resale or other disposition of the combined 944,586 shares issued on January 3, 2018 and January 31, 2018.

For additional information regarding the USPF acquisition, see Note 3.

2017 Public Offering

On March 6, 2017, the Company completed an underwritten public offering of 2,012,500 shares of the Company’s common stock at a price to the public of \$46.50 per share. The Company received net proceeds from the issuance of \$88.7 million, after deducting \$4.9 million in underwriting discounts and commissions and other issuance costs.

In March 2017, the Company made a capital contribution to the Bank in the amount of \$110.0 million, using the net proceeds of the March 6, 2017 issuance of common stock as well as a portion of the net proceeds of the March 13, 2017 issuance of the Company’s 5.75% Fixed-To-Floating Rate Subordinated Notes due 2027 discussed in Note 8.

NOTE 11 – ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)

Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) for the Company consists of changes in net unrealized gains and losses on investment securities available for sale and an interest rate swap derivative designated as a cash flow hedge. The following tables present a summary of the accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) balances, net of tax, as of March 31, 2018 and 2017:

| (dollars in thousands) | Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Derivatives | Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Securities | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Balance, January 1, 2018 | \$ 292 | \$(1,572) | \$(1,280) |
| Reclassification to retained earnings due to change in federal corporate tax rate | (53) | (339) | (392) |
| Adjusted balance, January 1, 2018 | 239 | (1,911) | (1,672) |
| Reclassification for gains included in net income, net of tax | — | (29) | (29) |
| Current year changes, net of tax | 281 | (9,403) | (9,122) |
| Balance, March 31, 2018 | \$ 520 | \$(11,343) | \$(10,823) |

| (dollars in thousands) | Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Derivatives | Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Securities | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Balance, January 1, 2017 | \$ 176 | \$(1,234) | \$(1,058) |
| Current year changes, net of tax | 43 | (194) | (151) |
| Balance, March 31, 2017 | \$ 219 | \$(1,428) | \$(1,209) |

NOTE 12 – WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING

Earnings per share have been computed based on the following weighted average number of common shares outstanding:

| (share data in thousands) | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--|------------------------------|--------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Average common shares outstanding | 37,967 | 35,664 |
| Common share equivalents: | | |
| Stock options | 18 | 120 |
| Nonvested restricted share grants | 265 | 256 |
| Average common shares outstanding, assuming dilution | 38,250 | 36,040 |

For the three-month periods ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, there were no potential common shares with strike prices that would cause them to be anti-dilutive.

NOTE 13 – FAIR VALUE MEASURES

The fair value of an asset or liability is the current amount that would be exchanged between willing parties, other than in a forced liquidation. Fair value is best determined based upon quoted market prices. However, in many instances, there are no quoted market prices for the Company's various assets and liabilities. In cases where quoted market prices are not available, fair value is based on discounted cash flows or other valuation techniques. These techniques are significantly affected by the assumptions used, including the discount rate and estimates of future cash flows. Accordingly, the fair value estimates may not be realized in an immediate settlement of the asset or liability. The accounting standard for disclosures about the fair value measures excludes certain financial instruments and all nonfinancial instruments from its disclosure requirements. Accordingly, the aggregate fair value amounts presented may not necessarily represent the underlying fair value of the Company.

The Company's loans held for sale are carried at fair value and are comprised of the following:

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, December 31, | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Mortgage loans held for sale | \$ 106,549 | \$ 190,445 |
| SBA loans held for sale | 4,586 | 6,997 |
| Total loans held for sale | \$ 111,135 | \$ 197,442 |

The Company has elected to record mortgage loans held for sale at fair value in order to eliminate the complexities and inherent difficulties of achieving hedge accounting and to better align reported results with the underlying economic changes in value of the loans and related hedge instruments. This election impacts the timing and recognition of origination fees and costs, as well as servicing value, which are now recognized in earnings at the time of origination. Interest income on mortgage loans held for sale is recorded on an accrual basis in the consolidated statements of income and comprehensive income under the heading interest income – interest and fees on loans. The servicing value is included in the fair value of the interest rate lock commitments (“IRLCs”) with borrowers. The mark to market adjustments related to mortgage loans held for sale and the associated economic hedges are captured in mortgage banking activities. Net gains of \$3.1 million and \$3.0 million resulting from fair value changes of these mortgage loans were recorded in income during the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. A net gain of \$2.4 million and a net loss of \$622,000 resulting from changes in the fair value of the related derivative financial instruments used to hedge exposure to the market-related risks associated with these mortgage loans were recorded in income during the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. The change in fair value of both mortgage loans held for sale and the related derivative financial instruments are recorded in mortgage banking activity in the consolidated statements of income and comprehensive income. The Company's valuation of mortgage loans held for sale incorporates an assumption for credit risk; however, given the short-term period that the Company holds these loans, valuation adjustments attributable to instrument-specific credit risk is nominal.

The following table summarizes the difference between the fair value and the principal balance for mortgage loans held for sale carried at fair value as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017:

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, December 31, | |
|--|------------------------|------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Aggregate fair value of mortgage loans held for sale | \$ 106,549 | \$ 190,445 |
| Aggregate unpaid principal balance | 103,485 | 185,814 |
| Past-due loans of 90 days or more | — | — |
| Nonaccrual loans | — | — |

The Company utilizes fair value measurements to record fair value adjustments to certain assets and liabilities and to determine fair value disclosures. Securities available for sale, mortgage loans held for sale and derivatives are recorded at fair value on a recurring basis. From time to time, the Company may be required to record at fair value

other assets on a nonrecurring basis, such as impaired loans and OREO. Additionally, the Company is required to disclose, but not record, the fair value of other financial instruments.

Fair Value Hierarchy

The Company groups assets and liabilities at fair value in three levels, based on the markets in which the assets and liabilities are traded and the reliability of the assumptions used to determine fair value. These levels are:

Level 1 – Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 – Observable inputs other than Level 1 prices, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.

Level 3 – Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

The following methods and assumptions were used by the Company in estimating the fair value of its assets and liabilities recorded at fair value and for estimating the fair value of its financial instruments:

Cash, Due From Banks, Federal Funds Sold and Interest-Bearing Accounts: The carrying amount of cash, due from banks, federal funds sold and interest-bearing deposits in banks approximates fair value.

Investment Securities Available for Sale: The fair value of securities available for sale is determined by various valuation methodologies. Where quoted market prices are available in an active market, securities are classified within Level 1 of the valuation hierarchy. If quoted market prices are not available, then fair values are estimated by using pricing models, quoted prices of securities with similar characteristics, or discounted cash flows. Level 2 securities include certain U.S. agency bonds, mortgage-backed securities, collateralized mortgage and debt obligations, and municipal securities. The Level 2 fair value pricing is provided by an independent third party and is based upon similar securities in an active market. In certain cases where Level 1 or Level 2 inputs are not available, securities are classified within Level 3 of the hierarchy and include certain residual municipal securities and other less liquid securities.

Other Investments: FHLB stock and Federal Reserve Bank stock are included in other investment securities. Prior to the Company's completion of its acquisition of USPF on January 31, 2018, the minority equity investment in USPF was also included in other investments. These investments do not have readily determinable fair values and are carried at original cost basis. It is not practical to determine the fair value of these investments due to restrictions placed on transferability. These investments are periodically evaluated for impairment based on ultimate recovery of par value or cost basis. Cost basis approximates fair value for these investments.

Loans Held for Sale: The Company records loans held for sale at fair value. The fair value of loans held for sale is determined on outstanding commitments from third party investors in the secondary markets and is classified within Level 2 of the valuation hierarchy.

Loans: The fair value for loans held for investment is estimated using an exit price methodology. An exit price methodology considers expected cash flows that take into account contractual loan terms, as applicable, prepayment expectations, probability of default, loss severity in the event of default, recovery lag and, in the case of variable rate loans, expectations for future interest rate movements. These cash flows are present valued at a risk adjusted discount rate, which considers the cost of funding, liquidity, servicing costs, and other factors. Because observable quoted prices seldom exist for identical or similar assets carried in loans held for investment, Level 3 inputs are primarily used to determine fair value exit pricing. The fair value of impaired loans is estimated based on discounted contractual cash flows or underlying collateral values, where applicable. A loan is determined to be impaired if the Company believes it is probable that all principal and interest amounts due according to the terms of the note will not be collected as scheduled. The fair value of impaired loans is determined in accordance with ASC 310-10, Accounting by Creditors for Impairment of a Loan, and generally results in a specific reserve established through a charge to the provision for loan losses. Losses on impaired loans are charged to the allowance when management believes the uncollectability of a loan is confirmed. Management has determined that the majority of impaired loans are Level 3 assets due to the extensive use of market appraisals.

Other Real Estate Owned: The fair value of OREO is determined using certified appraisals and internal evaluations that value the property at its highest and best uses by applying traditional valuation methods common to the industry. The Company does not hold any OREO for profit purposes and all other real estate is actively marketed for sale. In most cases, management has determined that additional write-downs are required beyond what is calculable from the appraisal to carry the property at levels that would attract buyers. Because this additional write-down is not based on observable inputs, management has determined that OREO should be classified as Level 3.

Intangible Assets: Intangible assets consist of core deposit premiums acquired in connection with business combinations and are based on the established value of acquired customer deposits. The core deposit premium is initially recognized based on a valuation performed as of the consummation date and is amortized over an estimated useful life of seven to ten years.

Accrued Interest Receivable/Payable: The carrying amount of accrued interest receivable and accrued interest payable approximates fair value.

Cash Value of Bank Owned Life Insurance: The carrying value of cash value of bank owned life insurance approximates fair value.

Deposits: The carrying amount of demand deposits, savings deposits and variable-rate certificates of deposit approximates fair value. The fair value of fixed-rate certificates of deposit is estimated based on discounted contractual cash flows using interest rates currently being offered for certificates of similar maturities.

Securities Sold under Agreements to Repurchase and Other Borrowings: The carrying amount of securities sold under agreements to repurchase approximates fair value and is classified as Level 1. The carrying amount of variable rate other borrowings approximates fair value and is classified as Level 1. The fair value of fixed rate other borrowings is estimated based on discounted contractual cash flows using the current incremental borrowing rates for similar borrowing arrangements and is classified as Level 2.

Subordinated Deferrable Interest Debentures: The fair value of the Company's trust preferred securities is based on discounted cash flows using rates for securities with similar terms and remaining maturities and are classified as Level 2.

FDIC Loss-Share Payable: Because the FDIC will reimburse the Company for certain acquired loans should the Company experience a loss, an indemnification asset is recorded at fair value at the acquisition date. The indemnification asset is recognized at the same time as the indemnified loans, and measured on the same basis, subject to collectability or contractual limitations. The shared loss agreements on the acquisition date reflect the reimbursements expected to be received from the FDIC, using an appropriate discount rate, which reflects counterparty credit risk and other uncertainties. The shared loss agreements continue to be measured on the same basis as the related indemnified loans, and the loss-share receivable is impacted by changes in estimated cash flows associated with these loans.

Pursuant to the clawback provisions of the loss-sharing agreements for the Company's FDIC-assisted acquisitions, the Company may be required to reimburse the FDIC should actual losses be less than certain thresholds established in each loss-sharing agreement. The amount of the clawback provision for each acquisition is measured and recorded at fair value. The clawback amount, which is payable to the FDIC upon termination of the applicable loss-sharing agreement, is discounted using an appropriate discount rate.

Liability for USPF Acquisition Contingent Consideration: As discussed in Note 3, the selling shareholders of USPF may receive additional future cash payments based on the achievement by the Company's premium finance division of certain income targets between January 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. The carrying value is used as the Level 3 fair value estimate for this liability.

Off-Balance-Sheet Instruments: Because commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit are typically made using variable rates and have short maturities, the carrying value and fair value are immaterial for disclosure.

Derivatives: The Company has entered into derivative financial instruments to manage interest rate risk. The valuation of these instruments is determined using widely accepted valuation techniques including discounted cash flow analysis on the expected cash flows of the derivatives. This analysis reflects the contractual terms of the derivative, including the period to maturity, and uses observable market-based inputs, including interest rate curves and implied volatilities. The fair value of the derivatives is determined using the market standard methodology of netting the discounted future fixed cash receipts and the discounted expected variable cash payments. The variable cash payments

are based on an expectation of future interest rates (forward curves derived from observable market interest rate curves).

The Company incorporates credit valuation adjustments to appropriately reflect both its own nonperformance risk and the respective counterparty's nonperformance risk in the fair value measurements. In adjusting the fair value of its derivative contracts for the effect of nonperformance risk, the Company has considered the impact of netting any applicable credit enhancements such as collateral postings, thresholds, mutual puts and guarantees.

Although the Company has determined that the majority of the inputs used to value its derivative fall within Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy, the credit valuation adjustments associated with its derivatives utilize Level 3 inputs, such as estimates of current credit spreads to evaluate the likelihood of default by itself or the counterparty. However, as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the Company has assessed the significance of the impact of the credit valuation adjustments on the overall valuation of its derivative positions and has determined that the credit valuation adjustment is not significant to the overall valuation of its

derivatives. As a result, the Company has determined that its derivative valuation in its entirety is classified in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

The following table presents the fair value measurements of assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis and the level within the fair value hierarchy in which the fair value measurements fall as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017:

| (dollars in thousands) | Recurring Basis Fair Value Measurements March 31, 2018 | | | |
|---|---|---------|---------------|----------|
| | Fair Value | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| Financial assets: | | | | |
| State, county and municipal securities | \$ 106,274 | \$ — | -\$ 106,274 | \$ — |
| Corporate debt securities | 57,097 | — | 55,597 | 1,500 |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 685,214 | — | 685,214 | — |
| Loans held for sale | 111,135 | — | 111,135 | — |
| Derivative financial instruments | 61 | — | 61 | — |
| Mortgage banking derivative instruments | 4,905 | — | 4,905 | — |
| Total recurring assets at fair value | \$ 964,686 | \$ — | -\$ 963,186 | \$ 1,500 |
| Financial liabilities: | | | | |
| Mortgage banking derivative instruments | \$ 505 | \$ — | -\$ 505 | \$ — |
| Total recurring liabilities at fair value | \$ 505 | \$ — | -\$ 505 | \$ — |
| (dollars in thousands) | Recurring Basis Fair Value Measurements December 31, 2017 | | | |
| | Fair Value | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| Financial assets: | | | | |
| State, county and municipal securities | \$ 137,794 | \$ — | -\$ 137,794 | \$ — |
| Corporate debt securities | 47,143 | — | 45,643 | 1,500 |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 625,936 | — | 625,936 | — |
| Loans held for sale | 197,442 | — | 197,442 | — |
| Mortgage banking derivative instruments | 2,888 | — | 2,888 | — |
| Total recurring assets at fair value | \$ 1,011,203 | \$ — | -\$ 1,009,703 | \$ 1,500 |
| Financial liabilities: | | | | |
| Derivative financial instruments | \$ 381 | \$ — | -\$ 381 | \$ — |
| Mortgage banking derivative instruments | 67 | — | 67 | — |
| Total recurring liabilities at fair value | \$ 448 | \$ — | -\$ 448 | \$ — |

The following table presents the fair value measurements of assets measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis, as well as the general classification of such instruments pursuant to the valuation hierarchy as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017:

| (dollars in thousands) | Nonrecurring Basis Fair Value Measurements | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------|---------|------------|
| | Fair Value | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| March 31, 2018 | | | | |
| Impaired loans carried at fair value | \$ 26,133 | \$ — | — | -\$ 26,133 |
| Other real estate owned | 708 | — | — | 708 |

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|---|----------|----|-----|-----------|
| Purchased other real estate owned | 6,723 | — | — | 6,723 |
| Total nonrecurring assets at fair value | \$33,564 | \$ | —\$ | —\$33,564 |

December 31, 2017

| | | | | |
|---|----------|----|-----|-----------|
| Impaired loans carried at fair value | \$27,684 | \$ | —\$ | —\$27,684 |
| Other real estate owned | 323 | — | — | 323 |
| Purchased other real estate owned | 9,011 | — | — | 9,011 |
| Total nonrecurring assets at fair value | \$37,018 | \$ | —\$ | —\$37,018 |

The inputs used to determine estimated fair value of impaired loans include market conditions, loan terms, underlying collateral characteristics and discount rates. The inputs used to determine fair value of OREO include market conditions, estimated marketing period or holding period, underlying collateral characteristics and discount rates.

For the three months ended March 31, 2018 and the year ended December 31, 2017, there was not a change in the methods and significant assumptions used to estimate fair value for assets and liabilities carried at fair value.

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

The following table shows significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement of Level 3 assets and liabilities:

| (dollars in thousands) | Fair Value | Valuation Technique | Unobservable Inputs | Range of Discounts | Weighted Average Discount |
|--|------------|--|--|--------------------|---------------------------|
| March 31, 2018 | | | | | |
| Recurring: | | | | | |
| Investment securities available for sale | \$1,500 | Discounted par values | Credit quality of underlying issuer | 0% | 0% |
| Nonrecurring: | | | | | |
| Impaired loans | \$26,133 | Third-party appraisals and discounted cash flows | Collateral discounts and discount rates | 15% - 90% | 27% |
| Other real estate owned | \$708 | Third-party appraisals and sales contracts | Collateral discounts and estimated costs to sell | 15% - 32% | 17% |
| Purchased other real estate owned | \$6,723 | Third-party appraisals | Collateral discounts and estimated costs to sell | 10% - 74% | 17% |
| December 31, 2017 | | | | | |
| Recurring: | | | | | |
| Investment securities available for sale | \$1,500 | Discounted par values | Credit quality of underlying issuer | 0% | 0% |
| Nonrecurring: | | | | | |
| Impaired loans | \$27,684 | Third-party appraisals and discounted cash flows | Collateral discounts and discount rates | 20% - 90% | 24% |
| Other real estate owned | \$323 | Third-party appraisals and sales contracts | Collateral discounts and estimated costs to sell | 15% - 15% | 15% |
| Purchased other real estate owned | \$9,011 | Third-party appraisals | Collateral discounts and estimated costs to sell | 10% - 74% | 26% |

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

The carrying amount and estimated fair value of the Company's financial instruments, not shown elsewhere in these financial statements, were as follows. The methods used to estimate the fair value of financial instruments at December 31, 2017 approximated an entry price. In accordance with the adoption of ASU 2016-01, the methods utilized to estimate the fair value of financial instruments at March 31, 2018 represent an approximation of exit price; however, an actual price derived in an active market may differ.

| (dollars in thousands) | Carrying Amount | Fair Value Measurements March 31, 2018 | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| | | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
| Financial assets: | | | | | |
| Cash and due from banks | \$123,945 | \$123,945 | \$— | \$ | —\$123,945 |
| Federal funds sold and interest-bearing accounts | 210,930 | 210,930 | — | — | 210,930 |
| Loans, net | 6,137,838 | — | — | 6,127,411 | 6,127,411 |
| Accrued interest receivable | 24,818 | 24,818 | — | — | 24,818 |
| Financial liabilities: | | | | | |
| Deposits | \$6,446,165 | \$— | \$6,447,150 | \$ | —\$6,447,150 |
| Securities sold under agreements to repurchase | 23,270 | 23,270 | — | — | 23,270 |
| Other borrowings | 555,535 | — | 556,707 | — | 556,707 |
| Subordinated deferrable interest debentures | 85,881 | — | 80,266 | — | 80,266 |
| FDIC loss-share payable | 9,255 | — | — | 9,880 | 9,880 |
| Liability for USPF acquisition contingent consideration | 5,719 | — | — | 5,719 | 5,719 |
| Accrued interest payable | 2,367 | 2,367 | — | — | 2,367 |

| (dollars in thousands) | Carrying Amount | Fair Value Measurements December 31, 2017 | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| | | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
| Financial assets: | | | | | |
| Cash and due from banks | \$139,313 | \$139,313 | \$— | \$ | —\$139,313 |
| Federal funds sold and interest-bearing accounts | 191,345 | 191,345 | — | — | 191,345 |
| Loans, net | 5,992,880 | — | — | 5,960,963 | 5,960,963 |
| Accrued interest receivable | 26,005 | 26,005 | — | — | 26,005 |
| Financial liabilities: | | | | | |
| Deposits | \$6,625,845 | \$— | \$6,627,773 | \$ | —\$6,627,773 |
| Securities sold under agreements to repurchase | 30,638 | 30,638 | — | — | 30,638 |
| Other borrowings | 250,554 | — | 271,759 | — | 251,759 |
| Subordinated deferrable interest debentures | 85,550 | — | 74,243 | — | 74,243 |
| FDIC loss-share payable | 8,803 | — | — | 9,548 | 9,548 |
| Accrued interest payable | 3,258 | 3,258 | — | — | 3,258 |

NOTE 14 – SEGMENT REPORTING

The Company has the following five reportable segments: Banking Division, Retail Mortgage Division, Warehouse Lending Division, SBA Division and Premium Finance Division. The Banking Division derives its revenues from the delivery of full-service financial services, including commercial loans, consumer loans and deposit accounts. The Retail Mortgage Division derives its revenues from the origination, sales and servicing of one-to-four family residential mortgage loans. The Warehouse Lending Division derives its revenues from the origination and servicing of warehouse lines to other businesses that are secured by underlying one-to-four family residential mortgage loans. The SBA Division derives its revenues from the origination, sales and servicing of SBA loans. The Premium Finance

Division derives its revenues from the origination and servicing of commercial insurance premium finance loans.

The Banking, Retail Mortgage, Warehouse Lending, SBA and Premium Finance Divisions are managed as separate business units because of the different products and services they provide. The Company evaluates performance and allocates resources based on profit or loss from operations. There are no material intersegment sales or transfers.

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

The following tables present selected financial information with respect to the Company's reportable business segments for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

| (dollars in thousands) | Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| | Banking Division | Retail Mortgage Division | Warehouse Lending Division | SBA Division | Premium Finance Division | Total |
| Interest income | \$60,896 | \$6,822 | \$2,752 | \$1,431 | \$7,611 | \$79,512 |
| Interest expense | 5,537 | 1,825 | 897 | 507 | 1,945 | 10,711 |
| Net interest income | 55,359 | 4,997 | 1,855 | 924 | 5,666 | 68,801 |
| Provision for loan losses | 888 | 217 | — | 537 | 159 | 1,801 |
| Noninterest income | 13,099 | 11,585 | 397 | 1,370 | 13 | 26,464 |
| Noninterest expense | | | | | | |
| Salaries and employee benefits | 22,068 | 7,742 | 138 | 740 | 1,401 | 32,089 |
| Equipment and occupancy expenses | 5,477 | 593 | — | 58 | 70 | 6,198 |
| Data processing and telecommunications expenses | 6,304 | 389 | 33 | 9 | 400 | 7,135 |
| Other expenses | 11,080 | 1,731 | 52 | 236 | 577 | 13,676 |
| Total noninterest expense | 44,929 | 10,455 | 223 | 1,043 | 2,448 | 59,098 |
| Income before income tax expense | 22,641 | 5,910 | 2,029 | 714 | 3,072 | 34,366 |
| Income tax expense | 5,242 | 1,244 | 426 | 150 | 644 | 7,706 |
| Net income | \$17,399 | \$4,666 | \$1,603 | \$564 | \$2,428 | \$26,660 |
| Total assets | \$6,464,130 | \$613,706 | \$247,257 | \$109,011 | \$588,724 | \$8,022,828 |
| Goodwill | 125,532 | — | — | — | 82,981 | 208,513 |
| Other intangible assets, net | 12,562 | — | — | — | — | 12,562 |
| (dollars in thousands) | Three Months Ended March 31, 2017 | | | | | |
| | Banking Division | Retail Mortgage Division | Warehouse Lending Division | SBA Division | Premium Finance Division | Total |
| Interest income | \$54,212 | \$4,054 | \$1,333 | \$1,213 | \$6,238 | \$67,050 |
| Interest expense | 4,086 | 1,078 | 228 | 306 | 762 | 6,460 |
| Net interest income | 50,126 | 2,976 | 1,105 | 907 | 5,476 | 60,590 |
| Provision for loan losses | 1,982 | 8 | (232) | 48 | 30 | 1,836 |
| Noninterest income | 13,013 | 10,513 | 319 | 1,815 | 46 | 25,706 |
| Noninterest expense | | | | | | |
| Salaries and employee benefits | 18,844 | 7,216 | 147 | 591 | 996 | 27,794 |
| Equipment and occupancy expenses | 5,257 | 519 | 1 | 51 | 49 | 5,877 |
| Data processing and telecommunications expenses | 6,043 | 317 | 27 | 1 | 184 | 6,572 |
| Other expenses | 9,241 | 1,141 | 32 | 211 | 2,225 | 12,850 |
| Total noninterest expense | 39,385 | 9,193 | 207 | 854 | 3,454 | 53,093 |
| Income before income tax expense | 21,772 | 4,288 | 1,449 | 1,820 | 2,038 | 31,367 |
| Income tax expense | 6,856 | 1,501 | 507 | 637 | 713 | 10,214 |
| Net income | \$14,916 | \$2,787 | \$942 | \$1,183 | \$1,325 | \$21,153 |
| Total assets | \$6,100,876 | \$378,897 | \$107,937 | \$76,405 | \$430,741 | \$7,094,856 |
| Goodwill | 125,532 | — | — | — | — | 125,532 |
| Other intangible assets, net | 16,391 | — | — | — | — | 16,391 |

NOTE 15 – REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS

With the exception of gains/losses on the sale of OREO discussed below, revenue from contracts with customers ("ASC 606 Revenue") is recorded in the service charges on deposit accounts category and the other service charges, commissions and fees category in the Company's consolidated statement of income and comprehensive income as part of noninterest income. Substantially all ASC 606 Revenue is recorded in the Banking Division. The following provides information on these noninterest income categories that contain ASC 606 Revenue for the periods indicated.

| | Three Months | |
|--|--------------|----------|
| | Ended | |
| | March | March |
| (dollars in thousands) | 31, | 31, |
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Service charges on deposit accounts | | |
| ASC 606 revenue items | | |
| Debit card interchange fees | \$4,210 | \$4,046 |
| Overdraft fees | 4,108 | 4,444 |
| Other service charges on deposit accounts | 1,910 | 2,073 |
| Total ASC 606 revenue included in service charges on deposits accounts | 10,228 | 10,563 |
| Total service charges on deposit accounts | \$10,228 | \$10,563 |
| Other service charges, commissions and fees | | |
| ASC 606 revenue items | | |
| ATM fees | \$661 | \$674 |
| Total ASC 606 revenue included in other service charges, commission and fees | 661 | 674 |
| Other | 58 | 35 |
| Total other service charges, commission and fees | \$719 | \$709 |

Debit Card Interchange Fees - The Company earns debit card interchange fees from debit cardholder transactions conducted through various payment networks. Interchange fees from debit cardholders transactions represent a percentage of the underlying transaction amount and are recognized daily, concurrently with the transaction processing services provided to the debit cardholder.

Overdraft Fees - Overdraft fees are recognized at the point in time that the overdraft occurs.

Other Service Charges on Deposit Accounts - Other service charges on deposit accounts include both transaction-based fees and account maintenance fees. Transaction based fees, which include wire transfer fees, stop payment charges, statement rendering, and automated clearing house ("ACH") fees, are recognized at the time the transaction is executed as that is the point in time the Company fulfills the customer's request. Account maintenance fees, which relate primarily to monthly maintenance, are earned over the course of a month, representing the period over which the Company satisfies the performance obligation.

ATM Fees - Transaction-based ATM usage fees are recognized at the time the transaction is executed as that is the point at which the Company satisfies the performance obligation.

Gains/Losses on the Sale of OREO - The net gains and losses on sales of OREO are recorded in credit resolution related expenses in the Company's consolidated statement of income and comprehensive income. The Company records a gain or loss from the sale of OREO when control of the property transfers to the buyer, which generally occurs at the time of an executed deed. When the Company finances the sale of OREO to the buyer, the Company assesses whether the buyer is committed to perform their obligations under the contract and whether collectability of

the transaction price is probable. Once these criteria are met, the OREO asset is derecognized and the gain or loss on sale is recorded upon the transfer of control of the property to the buyer. For the three months ended March 31, 2018, net losses of \$9,000 were recognized on the sale of OREO. For the three months ended March 31, 2017, net gains of \$424,000 were recognized on the sale of OREO.

NOTE 16 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

As discussed in Note 8, at March 31, 2018, the Company had a revolving credit arrangement with a regional bank with a maximum line amount of \$30.0 million. This line of credit is secured by subsidiary bank stock, expires on September 26, 2020, and bears a variable interest rate of 90-day LIBOR plus 3.50%. At March 31, 2018, there was no principal amount outstanding on this line of credit, resulting in \$30.0 million available for borrowing under the revolving credit arrangement. On April 25, 2018, the maximum line amount under the revolving credit arrangement was increased to \$100.0 million with all other terms of the credit arrangement remaining unchanged.

On May 8, 2018, the Bank sold \$15.1 million of performing loans that were not classified as available for sale as of March 31, 2018. The loans were sold at par and no gain or loss was recorded on the sale.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Certain of the statements made in this report are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of, and subject to the protections of, Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). Forward-looking statements include statements with respect to our beliefs, plans, objectives, goals, expectations, anticipations, assumptions, estimates, intentions and future performance and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, many of which may be beyond our control and which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of the Company to be materially different from future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements.

All statements other than statements of historical fact are statements that could be forward-looking statements. You can identify these forward-looking statements through our use of words such as "may," "will," "anticipate," "assume," "should," "indicate," "would," "believe," "contemplate," "expect," "estimate," "continue," "plan," "point to," "project," "predict," "could," "potential" and other similar words and expressions of the future. These forward-looking statements may not be realized due to a variety of factors, including, without limitation, the following: legislative and regulatory initiatives; additional competition in our markets; potential business strategies, including acquisitions or dispositions of assets or internal restructuring, that may be pursued by us; state and federal banking regulations; changes in or application of environmental and other laws and regulations to which we are subject; political, legal and economic conditions and developments; financial market conditions and the results of financing efforts; changes in commodity prices and interest rates; weather, natural disasters and other catastrophic events; and other factors discussed in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Exchange Act.

All written or oral forward-looking statements that are made by or are attributable to us are expressly qualified in their entirety by this cautionary notice. Our forward-looking statements apply only as of the date of this report or the respective date of the document from which they are incorporated herein by reference. We have no obligation and do not undertake to update, revise or correct any of the forward-looking statements after the date of this report, or after the respective dates on which such statements otherwise are made, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Overview

The following is management's discussion and analysis of certain significant factors which have affected the financial condition and results of operations of the Company as reflected in the unaudited consolidated balance sheet as of March 31, 2018, as compared with December 31, 2017, and operating results for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2018 and 2017. These comments should be read in conjunction with the Company's unaudited consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes appearing elsewhere herein.

This discussion contains certain performance measures determined by methods other than in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"). Management of the Company uses these non-GAAP measures in its analysis of the Company's performance. These measures are useful when evaluating the underlying performance and efficiency of the Company's operations and balance sheet. The Company's management believes that these non-GAAP measures provide a greater understanding of ongoing operations, enhance comparability of results with prior periods and demonstrate the effects of significant gains and charges in the current period. The Company's management believes that investors may use these non-GAAP financial measures to evaluate the Company's financial performance without the impact of unusual items that may obscure trends in the Company's underlying performance. These disclosures should not be viewed as a substitute for financial measures determined in

accordance with GAAP, nor are they necessarily comparable to non-GAAP performance measures that may be presented by other companies. Non-GAAP measures include tangible common equity, tangible book value per common share, adjusted net income, and adjusted net income per diluted share. The Company calculates the regulatory capital ratios using current regulatory report instructions. The Company's management uses these measures to assess the quality of capital and believes that investors may find them useful in their evaluation of the Company. These capital measures may or may not be necessarily comparable to similar capital measures that may be presented by other companies.

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

The following table sets forth unaudited selected financial data for the previous five quarters. This data should be read in conjunction with the unaudited consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto and the information contained in this Item 2.

| (in thousands, except share and per share data) | First Quarter 2018 | Fourth Quarter 2017 | Third Quarter 2017 | Second Quarter 2017 | First Quarter 2017 |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Results of Operations: | | | | | |
| Net interest income | \$ 68,801 | \$ 69,523 | \$ 66,855 | \$ 63,157 | \$ 60,590 |
| Net interest income (tax equivalent) | 69,787 | 71,537 | 68,668 | 64,773 | 62,108 |
| Provision for loan losses | 1,801 | 2,536 | 1,787 | 2,205 | 1,836 |
| Non-interest income | 26,464 | 23,563 | 26,999 | 28,189 | 25,706 |
| Non-interest expense | 59,098 | 59,337 | 63,767 | 55,739 | 53,093 |
| Income tax expense | 7,706 | 22,063 | 8,142 | 10,315 | 10,214 |
| Net income available to common shareholders | 26,660 | 9,150 | 20,158 | 23,087 | 21,153 |
| Selected Average Balances: | | | | | |
| Investment securities | \$ 860,419 | \$ 850,817 | \$ 864,456 | \$ 866,960 | \$ 862,616 |
| Loans held for sale | 138,129 | 138,468 | 126,798 | 110,933 | 77,617 |
| Loans | 4,902,082 | 4,692,997 | 4,379,082 | 3,994,213 | 3,678,149 |
| Purchased loans | 842,509 | 888,854 | 937,595 | 973,521 | 1,034,983 |
| Purchased loan pools | 325,113 | 446,677 | 475,742 | 516,949 | 547,057 |
| Earning assets | 7,215,742 | 7,202,103 | 6,892,939 | 6,584,386 | 6,347,807 |
| Assets | 7,823,451 | 7,777,996 | 7,461,367 | 7,152,024 | 6,915,965 |
| Deposits | 6,383,513 | 6,372,259 | 5,837,154 | 5,671,394 | 5,491,324 |
| Shareholders' equity | 849,346 | 812,264 | 796,856 | 774,664 | 695,830 |
| Period-End Balances: | | | | | |
| Investment securities | \$ 880,812 | \$ 853,143 | \$ 867,570 | \$ 861,188 | \$ 866,715 |
| Loans held for sale | 111,135 | 197,442 | 137,392 | 146,766 | 105,637 |
| Loans | 5,051,986 | 4,856,514 | 4,574,678 | 4,230,228 | 3,785,480 |
| Purchased loans | 818,587 | 861,595 | 917,126 | 950,499 | 1,006,935 |
| Purchased loan pools | 319,598 | 328,246 | 465,218 | 490,114 | 529,099 |
| Earning assets | 7,393,048 | 7,288,285 | 7,074,828 | 6,816,606 | 6,525,911 |
| Total assets | 8,022,828 | 7,856,203 | 7,649,820 | 7,397,858 | 7,094,856 |
| Deposits | 6,446,165 | 6,625,845 | 5,895,504 | 5,793,397 | 5,642,369 |
| Shareholders' equity | 868,944 | 804,479 | 801,921 | 782,682 | 758,216 |
| Per Common Share Data: | | | | | |
| Earnings per share - basic | \$ 0.70 | 0.25 | 0.54 | 0.62 | 0.59 |
| Earnings per share - diluted | \$ 0.70 | 0.24 | 0.54 | 0.62 | 0.59 |
| Book value per common share | \$ 22.67 | \$ 21.59 | \$ 21.54 | \$ 21.03 | \$ 20.42 |
| Tangible book value per common share | \$ 16.90 | \$ 17.86 | \$ 17.78 | \$ 17.24 | \$ 16.60 |
| End of period shares outstanding | 38,327,081 | 37,260,012 | 37,231,049 | 37,222,904 | 37,128,714 |

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

| (in thousands, except share and per share data) | First Quarter 2018 | Fourth Quarter 2017 | Third Quarter 2017 | Second Quarter 2017 | First Quarter 2017 | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Weighted Average Shares Outstanding: | | | | | | |
| Basic | 37,966,781 | 37,238,564 | 37,225,418 | 37,162,810 | 35,664,420 | |
| Diluted | 38,250,122 | 37,556,335 | 37,552,667 | 37,489,348 | 36,040,240 | |
| Market Price: | | | | | | |
| High intraday price | \$59.05 | \$51.30 | \$51.28 | \$49.80 | \$49.50 | |
| Low intraday price | \$47.90 | \$44.75 | \$41.05 | \$42.60 | \$41.60 | |
| Closing price for quarter | \$52.90 | \$48.20 | \$48.00 | \$48.20 | \$46.10 | |
| Average daily trading volume | 235,964 | 206,178 | 168,911 | 169,617 | 242,982 | |
| Cash dividends declared per share | \$0.10 | \$0.10 | \$0.10 | \$0.10 | \$0.10 | |
| Closing price to book value | 2.33 | 2.23 | 2.23 | 2.29 | 2.26 | |
| Performance Ratios: | | | | | | |
| Return on average assets | 1.38 | % 0.47 | % 1.07 | % 1.29 | % 1.24 | % |
| Return on average common equity | 12.73 | % 4.47 | % 10.04 | % 11.95 | % 12.33 | % |
| Average loans to average deposits | 97.25 | % 96.78 | % 101.41 | % 98.66 | % 97.20 | % |
| Average equity to average assets | 10.86 | % 10.44 | % 10.68 | % 10.83 | % 10.06 | % |
| Net interest margin (tax equivalent) | 3.92 | % 3.94 | % 3.95 | % 3.95 | % 3.97 | % |
| Efficiency ratio | 62.04 | % 63.74 | % 67.94 | % 61.02 | % 61.52 | % |
| Non-GAAP Measures Reconciliation - | | | | | | |
| Tangible book value per common share: | | | | | | |
| Total shareholders' equity | \$868,944 | \$804,479 | \$801,921 | \$782,682 | \$758,216 | |
| Less: | | | | | | |
| Goodwill | 208,513 | 125,532 | 125,532 | 125,532 | 125,532 | |
| Other intangible assets, net | 12,562 | 13,496 | 14,437 | 15,378 | 16,391 | |
| Tangible common equity | \$647,869 | \$665,451 | \$661,952 | \$641,772 | \$616,293 | |
| End of period shares outstanding | 38,327,081 | 37,260,012 | 37,231,049 | 37,222,904 | 37,128,714 | |
| Book value per common share | \$22.67 | \$21.59 | \$21.54 | \$21.03 | \$20.42 | |
| Tangible book value per common share | 16.90 | 17.86 | 17.78 | 17.24 | 16.60 | |

Results of Operations for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 and 2017

Consolidated Earnings and Profitability

Ameris reported net income available to common shareholders of \$26.7 million, or \$0.70 per diluted share, for the quarter ended March 31, 2018, compared with \$21.2 million, or \$0.59 per diluted share, for the same period in 2017. The Company's return on average assets and average shareholders' equity were 1.38% and 12.73%, respectively, in the first quarter of 2018, compared with 1.24% and 12.33%, respectively, in the first quarter of 2017. During the first quarter of 2018, the Company incurred pre-tax merger and conversion charges of \$835,000 and pre-tax losses on the sale of premises of \$583,000. During the first quarter of 2017, the Company incurred pre-tax merger and conversion charges of \$402,000 and pre-tax losses on the sale of premises of \$295,000. Excluding these merger and conversion charges and losses on the sale of premises, the Company's net income would have been \$27.8 million, or \$0.73 per diluted share, for the first quarter of 2018 and \$21.6 million, or \$0.60 per diluted share, for the first quarter of 2017.

Below is a reconciliation of adjusted net income to net income, as discussed above.

| (in thousands, except share and per share data) | Three Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|------------|
| | March 31, | |
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Net income available to common shareholders | \$26,660 | \$ 21,153 |
| Adjustment items: | | |
| Merger and conversion charges | 835 | 402 |
| Losses on the sale of premises | 583 | 295 |
| Tax effect of adjustment items | (298) | (244) |
| After tax adjustment items | 1,120 | 453 |
| Adjusted net income | \$27,780 | \$ 21,606 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding - diluted | 38,250,123 | 36,040,240 |
| Net income per diluted share | \$0.70 | \$ 0.59 |
| Adjusted net income per diluted share | \$0.73 | \$ 0.60 |

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Below is additional information regarding the retail banking activities, mortgage banking activities, warehouse lending activities, SBA activities and premium finance activities of the Company during the first quarter of 2018 and 2017, respectively:

| (dollars in thousands) | Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| | Banking Division | Retail Mortgage Division | Warehouse Lending Division | SBA Division | Premium Finance Division | Total |
| Interest income | \$60,896 | \$ 6,822 | \$ 2,752 | \$ 1,431 | \$ 7,611 | \$79,512 |
| Interest expense | 5,537 | 1,825 | 897 | 507 | 1,945 | 10,711 |
| Net interest income | 55,359 | 4,997 | 1,855 | 924 | 5,666 | 68,801 |
| Provision for loan losses | 888 | 217 | — | 537 | 159 | 1,801 |
| Noninterest income | 13,099 | 11,585 | 397 | 1,370 | 13 | 26,464 |
| Noninterest expense | | | | | | |
| Salaries and employee benefits | 22,068 | 7,742 | 138 | 740 | 1,401 | 32,089 |
| Equipment and occupancy expenses | 5,477 | 593 | — | 58 | 70 | 6,198 |
| Data processing and telecommunications expenses | 6,304 | 389 | 33 | 9 | 400 | 7,135 |
| Other expenses | 11,080 | 1,731 | 52 | 236 | 577 | 13,676 |
| Total noninterest expense | 44,929 | 10,455 | 223 | 1,043 | 2,448 | 59,098 |
| Income before income tax expense | 22,641 | 5,910 | 2,029 | 714 | 3,072 | 34,366 |
| Income tax expense | 5,242 | 1,244 | 426 | 150 | 644 | 7,706 |
| Net income | \$17,399 | \$ 4,666 | \$ 1,603 | \$ 564 | \$ 2,428 | \$26,660 |
| | Three Months Ended March 31, 2017 | | | | | |
| (dollars in thousands) | Banking Division | Retail Mortgage Division | Warehouse Lending Division | SBA Division | Premium Finance Division | Total |
| Interest income | \$54,212 | \$ 4,054 | \$ 1,333 | \$ 1,213 | \$ 6,238 | \$67,050 |
| Interest expense | 4,086 | 1,078 | 228 | 306 | 762 | 6,460 |
| Net interest income | 50,126 | 2,976 | 1,105 | 907 | 5,476 | 60,590 |
| Provision for loan losses | 1,982 | 8 | (232) | 48 | 30 | 1,836 |
| Noninterest income | 13,013 | 10,513 | 319 | 1,815 | 46 | 25,706 |
| Noninterest expense | | | | | | |
| Salaries and employee benefits | 18,844 | 7,216 | 147 | 591 | 996 | 27,794 |
| Equipment and occupancy expenses | 5,257 | 519 | 1 | 51 | 49 | 5,877 |
| Data processing and telecommunications expenses | 6,043 | 317 | 27 | 1 | 184 | 6,572 |
| Other expenses | 9,241 | 1,141 | 32 | 211 | 2,225 | 12,850 |
| Total noninterest expense | 39,385 | 9,193 | 207 | 854 | 3,454 | 53,093 |
| Income before income tax expense | 21,772 | 4,288 | 1,449 | 1,820 | 2,038 | 31,367 |
| Income tax expense | 6,856 | 1,501 | 507 | 637 | 713 | 10,214 |
| Net income | \$14,916 | \$ 2,787 | \$ 942 | \$ 1,183 | \$ 1,325 | \$21,153 |

Net Interest Income and Margins

The following table sets forth the average balance, interest income or interest expense, and average yield/rate paid for each category of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities, net interest spread, and net interest margin on average interest-earning assets for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017. Federally tax-exempt income is presented on a taxable-equivalent basis assuming a 21% federal tax rate for 2018 and a 35% federal tax rate for 2017.

| (dollars in thousands) | Quarter Ended | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | March 31, 2018 | | | 2017 | | |
| | Average Balance | Interest Income/ Expense | Average Yield/ Rate Paid | Average Balance | Interest Income/ Expense | Average Yield/ Rate Paid |
| Assets | | | | | | |
| Interest-earning assets: | | | | | | |
| Federal funds sold and interest-bearing deposits in banks | \$ 147,490 | \$ 716 | 1.97% | \$ 147,385 | \$ 313 | 0.86% |
| Investment securities | 860,419 | 5,615 | 2.65% | 862,616 | 5,440 | 2.56% |
| Loans held for sale | 138,129 | 1,210 | 3.55% | 77,617 | 653 | 3.41% |
| Loans | 4,902,082 | 58,771 | 4.86% | 3,678,149 | 43,157 | 4.76% |
| Purchased loans | 842,509 | 11,762 | 5.66% | 1,034,983 | 15,173 | 5.95% |
| Purchased loan pools | 325,113 | 2,424 | 3.02% | 547,057 | 3,832 | 2.84% |
| Total interest-earning assets | 7,215,742 | 80,498 | 4.52% | 6,347,807 | 68,568 | 4.38% |
| Noninterest-earning assets | 607,709 | | | 568,158 | | |
| Total assets | \$ 7,823,451 | | | \$ 6,915,965 | | |
| Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity | | | | | | |
| Interest-bearing liabilities: | | | | | | |
| Savings and interest-bearing demand deposits | \$ 3,586,369 | \$ 4,526 | 0.51% | \$ 2,925,280 | \$ 2,078 | 0.29% |
| Time deposits | 1,016,406 | 2,246 | 0.90% | 961,549 | 1,685 | 0.71% |
| Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase | 20,909 | 9 | 0.17% | 42,589 | 20 | 0.19% |
| FHLB advances | 371,556 | 1,457 | 1.59% | 525,583 | 907 | 0.70% |
| Other borrowings | 75,553 | 1,134 | 6.09% | 47,738 | 559 | 4.75% |
| Subordinated deferrable interest debentures | 85,701 | 1,339 | 6.34% | 84,379 | 1,211 | 5.82% |
| Total interest-bearing liabilities | 5,156,494 | 10,711 | 0.84% | 4,587,118 | 6,460 | 0.57% |
| Demand deposits | 1,780,738 | | | 1,604,495 | | |
| Other liabilities | 36,873 | | | 28,522 | | |
| Shareholders' equity | 849,346 | | | 695,830 | | |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$ 7,823,451 | | | \$ 6,915,965 | | |
| Interest rate spread | | | 3.68% | | | 3.81% |
| Net interest income | | \$ 69,787 | | | \$ 62,108 | |
| Net interest margin | | | 3.92% | | | 3.97% |

On a tax-equivalent basis, net interest income for the first quarter of 2018 was \$69.8 million, an increase of \$7.7 million, or 12.3%, compared with \$62.1 million reported in the same quarter in 2017. The higher net interest income is a result of growth in average interest earning assets which increased \$867.9 million, or 13.7%, from \$6.35 billion in the first quarter of 2017 to \$7.22 billion for the first quarter of 2018. The Company's net interest margin decreased during the first quarter of 2018 to 3.92%, compared with 3.97% reported in the first quarter of 2017 and 3.94% reported in the fourth quarter of 2017.

Total interest income, on a tax-equivalent basis, increased to \$80.5 million during the first quarter of 2018, compared with \$68.6 million in the same quarter of 2017. Yields on earning assets increased to 4.52% during the first quarter of 2018, compared with 4.38% reported in the first quarter of 2017. During the first quarter of 2018, loans comprised 86.0% of earning assets, compared with 84.1% in the same quarter of 2017. This increase is a result of growth in average legacy loans which increased \$1.22 billion, or 33.3%, to \$4.90 billion in the first quarter 2018 from \$3.68 billion in the same period of 2017. Yields on legacy loans increased to 4.86% in the first quarter of 2018, compared with 4.76% in the same period of 2017. The yield on purchased loans decreased from 5.95% in the first quarter of 2017 to 5.66% during the first quarter of 2018. Accretion income for the first quarter of 2018 was \$1.4 million, compared with \$2.2 million in the fourth quarter of 2017 and \$2.8 million in the first quarter of 2017. Excluding the effect of accretion on purchased loans, the yield on purchased loans was 4.84% for the first quarter of 2017, compared with 4.97% in the same period of 2018. Yields on purchased loan pools increased from 2.84% in the first quarter of 2017 to 3.02% in the same period in 2018. Management anticipates improving economic conditions and increased loan demand will provide consistent interest income.

The yield on total interest-bearing liabilities increased from 0.57% in the first quarter of 2017 to 0.84% in the first quarter of 2018. Total funding costs, inclusive of noninterest bearing demand deposits, increased to 0.63% in the first quarter of 2018, compared with 0.42% during the first quarter of 2017. Deposit costs increased from 0.28% in the first quarter of 2017 to 0.43% in the first quarter of 2018. Non-deposit funding costs increased from 1.56% in the first quarter of 2017 to 2.89% in the first quarter of 2018. The increase in non-deposit funding costs was driven primarily by higher market rates being paid on short-term FHLB advances coupled with an increase in the average rate paid on other borrowings related to the March 2017 issuance of \$75.0 million of 5.75% Fixed-To-Floating Rate Subordinated Notes due 2027. Ongoing efforts to maintain the percentage of funding from transaction deposits have succeeded such that non-CD deposits averaged 84.1% of total deposits in the first quarter of 2018, compared with 82.5% during the first quarter of 2017. Average balances of interest bearing deposits and their respective costs for the first quarter of 2018 and 2017 are shown below:

| (dollars in thousands) | Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 | | Three Months Ended March 31, 2017 | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| | Average Balance | Average Cost | Average Balance | Average Cost |
| NOW | \$1,337,718 | 0.29% | \$1,169,567 | 0.17% |
| MMDA | 1,970,571 | 0.73% | 1,486,972 | 0.42% |
| Savings | 278,080 | 0.07% | 268,741 | 0.06% |
| Retail CDs < \$100,000 | 422,771 | 0.64% | 444,195 | 0.51% |
| Retail CDs > \$100,000 | 593,635 | 1.08% | 517,354 | 0.88% |
| Brokered CDs | — | —% | — | —% |
| Interest-bearing deposits | \$4,602,775 | 0.60% | \$3,886,829 | 0.39% |

Provision for Loan Losses

The Company's provision for loan losses during the first quarter of 2018 amounted to \$1.8 million, compared with \$2.5 million in the fourth quarter of 2017 and \$1.8 million in the first quarter of 2017. At March 31, 2018, classified loans still accruing declined to \$45.8 million, compared with \$57.8 million at December 31, 2017. Non-performing assets as a percentage of total assets decreased from 0.68% at December 31, 2017 to 0.61% at March 31, 2018. Net charge-offs on legacy loans during the first quarter of 2018 were approximately \$1.7 million, or 0.14% of average legacy loans on an annualized basis, compared with approximately \$370,000, or 0.04%, in the first quarter of 2017. The Company's allowance for loan losses allocated to legacy loans at March 31, 2018 was \$22.4 million, or 0.44% of legacy loans, compared with \$21.5 million, or 0.44% of legacy loans, at December 31, 2017. The Company's total allowance for loan losses at March 31, 2018 was \$26.2 million, or 0.42% of total loans, increasing from \$25.8 million, or 0.43% of total loans, at December 31, 2017.

Noninterest Income

Total non-interest income for the first quarter of 2018 was \$26.5 million, an increase of \$758,000, or 2.9%, from the \$25.7 million reported in the first quarter of 2017. Service charges on deposit accounts in the first quarter of 2018 decreased \$335,000, or 3.2%, to \$10.2 million, compared with \$10.6 million in the first quarter of 2017. This decrease in service charge revenue was primarily attributable to lower overdraft fee income. Income from mortgage-related activities increased \$685,000, or 6.1%, from \$11.2 million in the first quarter of 2017 to \$11.9 million in the first quarter of 2018. Total production in the first quarter of 2018 amounted to \$356.1 million, compared with \$311.8 million in the same quarter of 2017, while spread (gain on sale) decreased to 2.62% in the current quarter compared with 3.45% in the same quarter of 2017. The retail mortgage open pipeline finished the first quarter of 2018 at \$153.3 million, compared with \$119.6 million at the beginning of the first quarter of 2018 and \$146.3 million at the end of the first quarter of 2017. Other service charges, commissions and fees decreased \$10,000, or 1.4%, to \$719,000 during the first quarter of 2018, compared with \$709,000 during the first quarter of 2017. Other non-interest income

increased \$361,000, or 11.2%, to \$3.6 million for the first quarter of 2018, compared with \$3.2 million during the first quarter of 2017. The increase in other non-interest income was attributable to higher loan servicing income, merchant fee income and check order fee income, partially offset by lower gains from sale of SBA loans.

Noninterest Expense

Total non-interest expenses for the first quarter of 2018 increased \$6.0 million, or 11.3%, to \$59.1 million, compared with \$53.1 million in the same quarter 2017. Salaries and employee benefits increased \$4.3 million, or 15.5%, from \$27.8 million in the first quarter of 2017 to \$32.1 million in the first quarter of 2018 due to higher incentive pay, new positions added for the premium finance division and equipment finance line of business and an increased investment in the Company's Bank Secrecy Act ("BSA") function. Occupancy and equipment expenses increased \$321,000, or 5.5%, to \$6.2 million for the first quarter of 2018, compared with \$5.9 million in the first quarter of 2017. Data processing and telecommunications expense increased \$563,000, or 8.6%, to \$7.1 million in the first quarter of 2018, compared with \$6.6 million in the first quarter of 2017, due to an increase in the number

of accounts being processed by our core banking system and additional software fees incurred related to the buildout of our BSA compliance program. Credit resolution-related expenses decreased \$384,000, or 41.2%, from \$933,000 in the first quarter of 2017 to \$549,000 in the first quarter of 2018. Merger and conversion charges increased \$433,000 to \$835,000 in the first quarter of 2018, compared with \$402,000 in the same quarter of 2017, reflecting increased merger and acquisition activity. Other noninterest expenses increased \$756,000, or 8.1%, from \$9.4 million in the first quarter of 2017 to \$10.1 million in the first quarter of 2018 due primarily to higher loan servicing fees associated with consumer installment home improvement loans serviced by unrelated third parties and higher FDIC deposit insurance accruals, partially offset by a decrease in the premium finance division's management and licensing fees as a result of termination of the management and licensing agreement for USPF with the completion of the USPF acquisition on January 31, 2018.

Income Taxes

Income tax expense is influenced by the statutory rate, the amount of taxable income, the amount of tax-exempt income and the amount of non-deductible expenses. For the first quarter of 2018, the Company reported income tax expense of \$7.7 million, compared with \$10.2 million in the same period of 2017. The Company's effective tax rate for the three months ending March 31, 2018 and 2017 was 22.4% and 32.6%, respectively. These decreases in both income tax expense and the effective tax rate are due to enactment of the Tax Reform Act.

Financial Condition as of March 31, 2018

Securities

Debt securities with readily determinable fair values are classified as available for sale and recorded at fair value with unrealized gains and losses excluded from earnings and reported in accumulated other comprehensive income, net of the related deferred tax effect. Restricted equity securities, are classified as other investment securities and are carried at cost and are periodically evaluated for impairment based on ultimate recovery of par value or cost basis.

The amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts are recognized in interest income using methods approximating the interest method over the life of the securities. Realized gains and losses, determined on the basis of the cost of specific securities sold, are included in earnings on the trade date. Declines in the fair value of securities below their cost that are deemed to be other-than-temporary are reflected in earnings as realized losses.

In determining whether other-than-temporary impairment losses exist, management considers (1) the length of time and the extent to which the fair value has been less than cost, (2) the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer and (3) the intent and ability of the Company to retain its investment in the issuer for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in fair value.

Management evaluates securities for other-than-temporary impairment at least on a quarterly basis, and more frequently when economic or market concerns warrant such evaluation. Substantially all of the unrealized losses on debt securities are related to changes in interest rates and do not affect the expected cash flows of the issuer or underlying collateral. All unrealized losses are considered temporary because each security carries an acceptable investment grade and the Company does not intend to sell these investment securities at an unrealized loss position at March 31, 2018, and it is more likely than not that the Company will not be required to sell these securities prior to recovery or maturity. Therefore, at March 31, 2018, these investments are not considered impaired on an other-than temporary basis.

The following table illustrates certain information regarding the Company's investment portfolio with respect to yields, sensitivities and expected cash flows over the next twelve months assuming constant prepayments and maturities.

| (dollars in thousands) | Amortized Cost | Fair Value | Book Yield | Modified Duration | Estimated |
|--|-------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | | Cash Flows 12 Months |
| March 31, 2018 | | | | | |
| State, county and municipal securities | 105,821 | 106,274 | 3.85% | 4.82 | 12,872 |
| Corporate debt securities | 57,134 | 57,097 | 4.38% | 5.64 | 2,000 |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 699,990 | 685,214 | 2.57% | 4.21 | 96,942 |
| Total debt securities | \$ 862,945 | \$ 848,585 | 2.84% | 4.38 | \$ 111,814 |
| December 31, 2017 | | | | | |
| State, county and municipal securities | 135,968 | 137,794 | 3.78% | 4.61 | 11,370 |
| Corporate debt securities | 46,659 | 47,143 | 4.12% | 5.17 | 3,000 |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 630,666 | 625,936 | 2.37% | 3.91 | 100,603 |
| Total debt securities | \$ 813,293 | \$ 810,873 | 2.71% | 4.10 | \$ 114,973 |

Loans and Allowance for Loan Losses

At March 31, 2018, gross loans outstanding (including purchased loans, purchased loan pools, and loans held for sale) were \$6.30 billion, an increase from \$6.24 billion reported at December 31, 2017. Loans held for sale decreased from \$197.4 million at December 31, 2017 to \$111.1 million at March 31, 2018. Legacy loans (excluding purchased loans and purchased loan pools) increased \$195.5 million, from \$4.86 billion at December 31, 2017 to \$5.05 billion at March 31, 2018, driven primarily by increased growth in the commercial real estate and residential real estate loan categories. Purchased loans decreased \$43.0 million, from \$861.6 million at December 31, 2017 to \$818.6 million at March 31, 2018, due to paydowns of \$44.0 million, transfers to OREO of \$457,000 and charge-offs of \$151,000, partially offset by accretion of \$1.6 million. Purchased loan pools decreased \$8.7 million, from \$328.2 million at December 31, 2017 to \$319.6 million at March 31, 2018 due to payments on the portfolio of \$16.2 million and premium amortization of \$511,000 during the first three months of 2018.

The Company regularly monitors the composition of the loan portfolio to evaluate the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses in light of the impact that changes in the economic environment may have on the loan portfolio. The Company focuses on the following loan categories: (1) commercial, financial and agricultural; (2) construction and development related real estate; (3) commercial and farmland real estate; (4) residential real estate; and (5) consumer. The Company's management has strategically located its branches in select markets in South and Southeast Georgia, North Florida, Southeast Alabama and throughout South Carolina to take advantage of the growth in these areas.

The Company's risk management processes include a loan review program designed to evaluate the credit risk in the loan portfolio and ensure credit grade accuracy. Through the loan review process, the Company conducts (1) a loan portfolio summary analysis, (2) charge-off and recovery analysis, (3) trends in accruing problem loan analysis, and (4) problem and past-due loan analysis. This analysis process serves as a tool to assist management in assessing the overall quality of the loan portfolio and the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses. Loans classified as "substandard" are loans which are inadequately protected by the current sound worth and paying capacity of the borrower or of the collateral pledged. These assets exhibit a well-defined weakness or are characterized by the distinct possibility that the Company will sustain some loss if the deficiencies are not corrected. These weaknesses may be characterized by past due performance, operating losses and/or questionable collateral values. Loans classified as "doubtful" are those loans that have characteristics similar to substandard loans but have an increased risk of loss. Loans classified as "loss" are

those loans which are considered uncollectible and are in the process of being charged-off.

The allowance for loan losses is a reserve established through charges to earnings in the form of a provision for loan losses. The provision for loan losses is based on management's evaluation of the size and composition of the loan portfolio, the level of non-performing and past-due loans, historical trends of charged-off loans and recoveries, prevailing economic conditions and other factors management deems appropriate. The Company's management has established an allowance for loan losses which it believes is adequate for the probable incurred losses in the loan portfolio. Based on a credit evaluation of the loan portfolio, management presents a monthly review of the allowance for loan losses to the Company's Board of Directors, which primarily focuses on risk by evaluating individual loans in certain risk categories. These categories have also been established by management and take the form of loan grades. By grading the loan portfolio in this manner the Company's management is able to effectively evaluate the portfolio by risk, which management believes is the most effective way to analyze the loan portfolio and thus analyze the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses.

The allowance for loan losses is established by examining (1) the large classified loans, nonaccrual loans and loans considered impaired and evaluating them individually to determine the specific reserve allocation and (2) the remainder of the loan portfolio to allocate a portion of the allowance based on past loss experience and the economic conditions for the particular loan category. The Company also considers other factors such as changes in lending policies and procedures; changes in national, regional and/or local economic and business conditions; changes in the nature and volume of the loan portfolio; changes in the experience, ability and depth of either the market president or lending staff; changes in the volume and severity of past-due and classified loans; changes in the quality of the Company's corporate loan review system; and other factors management deems appropriate.

At the end of the first quarter of 2018, the allowance for loan losses allocated to legacy loans totaled \$22.4 million, or 0.44% of legacy loans, compared with \$21.5 million, or 0.44% of legacy loans, at December 31, 2017. The allowance for loan losses as a percentage of legacy loans remained unchanged from December 31, 2017 and March 31, 2018 due to consistency in the mix of loan and collateral types and the overall credit quality of the loan portfolio. Our legacy nonaccrual loans increased slightly from \$14.2 million at December 31, 2017 to \$14.4 million at March 31, 2018. For the first three months of 2018, our legacy net charge off ratio as a percentage of average legacy loans increased to 0.14%, compared with 0.04% for the first three months of 2017. The total provision for loan losses for the first three months of 2018 was \$1.8 million, remaining unchanged from \$1.8 million recorded for the first three months of 2017. Our ratio of total nonperforming assets to total assets decreased from 0.68% at December 31, 2017 to 0.61% at March 31, 2018.

The balance of the allowance for loan losses allocated to loans collectively evaluated for impairment increased 3.5%, or \$699,000, during the first three months of 2018, while the balance of loans collectively evaluated for impairment increased 2.6%, or \$155.5 million, during the same period. As a percentage of all loans collectively evaluated for impairment, the allowance allocated to those loans remained constant at 0.34% for both December 31, 2017 and March 31, 2018. For the allowance allocated to loans collectively evaluated expressed as a percentage of loans evaluated collectively for impairment, the largest change for the first three months of 2018 was noted in the legacy consumer installment loan category, which increased from 0.59% at December 31, 2017 to 0.69% at March 31, 2018 due to increased net charge-offs for the category. Additionally, larger dollar amount increases in the allowance for loan losses allocated to loans collectively evaluated for the first three months of 2018 were noted for both the legacy commercial and farmland real estate and the legacy residential real estate loan categories, which experienced most of the growth in loan balances collectively evaluated for impairment. We consider a four year loss rate on all loan categories. We adjust the qualitative factors to account for the inherent risks in the portfolio that are not captured in the historical loss rates, such as volatile commodity prices for agriculture products, weather-related risks (droughts and hurricanes), growth rates of certain loan types and other factors management deems appropriate.

The balance of the allowance for loan losses allocated to loans individually evaluated for impairment decreased by 4.8%, or \$290,000, during the first three months of 2018, while the balance of loans individually evaluated for impairment decreased 6.3%, or \$3.3 million, during the same period. Loan balances individually evaluated for impairment declined across all legacy loan categories and were flat for both purchased loans and purchased loan pools. The largest changes in the allowance for loan losses allocated to loans individually evaluated for impairment from December 31, 2017 to March 31, 2018 were a \$431,000 decrease for purchased loans and an increase of \$169,000 for legacy commercial and farmland real estate loans.

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

The following tables present an analysis of the allowance for loan losses as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

| (dollars in thousands) | Three Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------|----------------|
| | March 31, 2018 | March 31, 2017 |
| Balance of allowance for loan losses at beginning of period | \$25,791 | \$23,920 |
| Provision charged to operating expense | 1,801 | 1,836 |
| Charge-offs: | | |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | 1,449 | 104 |
| Real estate – construction and development | — | 53 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 142 | 9 |
| Real estate – residential | 198 | 216 |
| Consumer installment | 962 | 164 |
| Purchased loans | 121 | 556 |
| Purchased loan pools | — | — |
| Total charge-offs | 2,872 | 1,102 |
| Recoveries: | | |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | 656 | 69 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 114 | 20 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 24 | 9 |
| Real estate – residential | 182 | 61 |
| Consumer installment | 67 | 17 |
| Purchased loans | 437 | 420 |
| Purchased loan pools | — | — |
| Total recoveries | 1,480 | 596 |
| Net charge-offs | 1,392 | 506 |
| Balance of allowance for loan losses at end of period | \$26,200 | \$25,250 |

| (dollars in thousands) | As of and for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 | | | |
|--|---|-----------------|----------------------|-----------|
| | Legacy Loans | Purchased Loans | Purchased Loan Pools | Total |
| Allowance for loan losses at end of period | \$22,384 | \$2,822 | \$ 994 | \$26,200 |
| Net charge-offs (recoveries) for the period | 1,708 | (316) | — | 1,392 |
| Loan balances: | | | | |
| End of period | 5,051,986 | 818,587 | 319,598 | 6,190,171 |
| Average for the period | 4,902,082 | 842,509 | 325,113 | 6,069,704 |
| Net charge-offs as a percentage of average loans | 0.14 % | (0.15)% | 0.00 % | 0.09 % |
| Allowance for loan losses as a percentage of end of period loans | 0.44 % | 0.34 % | 0.31 % | 0.42 % |

| (dollars in thousands) | As of and for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2017 | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------------|-------|
| | Legacy Loans | Purchased Loans | Purchased Loan Pools | Total |

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Allowance for loan losses at end of period | \$20,968 | \$2,196 | \$2,086 | \$25,250 |
| Net charge-offs (recoveries) for the period | 370 | 136 | — | 506 |
| Loan balances: | | | | |
| End of period | 3,785,480 | 1,006,935 | 529,099 | 5,321,514 |
| Average for the period | 3,678,149 | 1,034,983 | 547,057 | 5,260,189 |
| Net charge-offs as a percentage of average loans | 0.04 | % 0.05 | % 0.00 | % 0.04 |
| Allowance for loan losses as a percentage of end of period loans | 0.55 | % 0.22 | % 0.39 | % 0.47 |

Loans Excluding Purchased Loans

Loans are stated at unpaid balances, net of unearned income and deferred loan fees. Balances within the major loans receivable categories are presented in the following table, excluding purchased loans:

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, 2018 | December 31, 2017 |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | \$ 1,387,437 | \$ 1,362,508 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 631,504 | 624,595 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 1,636,654 | 1,535,439 |
| Real estate – residential | 1,080,028 | 1,009,461 |
| Consumer installment | 316,363 | 324,511 |
| | \$ 5,051,986 | \$ 4,856,514 |

The following table summarizes the various loan types comprising the "Commercial, financial and agricultural" loan category displayed in the preceding table.

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, 2018 | December 31, 2017 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Municipal loans | \$ 526,609 | \$ 522,880 |
| Premium finance loans | 501,841 | 482,536 |
| Other commercial, financial and agricultural loans | 358,987 | 357,092 |
| | \$ 1,387,437 | \$ 1,362,508 |

Purchased Assets

Loans that were acquired in transactions, including those that are covered by the loss-sharing agreements with the FDIC ("purchased loans"), totaled \$818.6 million and \$861.6 million at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively. OREO that was acquired in transactions, including OREO that is covered by the loss-sharing agreements with the FDIC, totaled \$6.7 million and \$9.0 million, at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively.

The Bank initially recorded purchased loans at fair value, taking into consideration certain credit quality risk and interest rate risk. The Company believes its estimation of credit risk and its adjustments to the carrying balances of the acquired loans are adequate. If the Company determines that a loan or group of loans has deteriorated from its initial assessment of fair value, additional provision for loan loss expense will be recorded for the impairment in value. If the Company determines that a loan or group of loans has improved from its initial assessment of fair value, then the increase in cash flows over those expected at the acquisition date will result in the reversal of provision for loan loss expense to the extent of prior provisions or will be recognized as interest income prospectively if no provisions have been made or have been fully reversed.

Purchased loans are shown below according to loan type as of the end of the periods shown:

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, 2018 | December 31, 2017 |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | \$ 64,612 | \$ 74,378 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 48,940 | 65,513 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 465,870 | 468,246 |
| Real estate – residential | 236,453 | 250,539 |
| Consumer installment | 2,712 | 2,919 |
| | \$ 818,587 | \$ 861,595 |

Purchased Loan Pools

Purchased loan pools are defined as groups of residential mortgage loans that were not acquired in bank acquisitions or FDIC-assisted transactions. As of March 31, 2018, purchased loan pools totaled \$319.6 million and consisted of whole-loan residential mortgages on properties outside the Company's markets, with principal balances totaling \$316.2 million and \$3.4 million of remaining purchase premium paid at acquisition. As of December 31, 2017, purchased loan pools totaled \$328.2 million and consisted of whole-loan, adjustable rate residential mortgages on properties outside the Company's markets, with principal balances totaling \$324.4 million and \$3.8 million of remaining purchase premium paid at acquisition. The Company has allocated approximately \$1.0 million and \$1.1 million of the allowance for loan losses to the purchased loan pools at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively.

Non-Performing Assets

Non-performing assets include nonaccrual loans, accruing loans contractually past due 90 days or more, repossessed personal property, and OREO. Loans are placed on nonaccrual status when management has concerns relating to the ability to collect the principal and interest and generally when such loans are 90 days or more past due. Management performs a detailed review and valuation assessment of impaired loans on a quarterly basis and recognizes losses when impairment is identified. A loan is considered impaired when it is probable that not all principal and interest amounts will be collected according to the loan contract. When a loan is placed on nonaccrual status, any interest previously accrued but not collected is reversed against current income.

Nonaccrual loans, excluding purchased loans, totaled \$14.4 million at March 31, 2018, an increase of \$218,000, or 1.5%, from \$14.2 million reported at December 31, 2017. Nonaccrual purchased loans totaled \$15.9 million at March 31, 2018, a increase of \$512,000, or 3.3%, compared with \$15.4 million at December 31, 2017. At March 31, 2018, OREO, excluding purchased OREO, totaled \$9.2 million, an increase of \$707,000 compared with \$8.5 million at December 31, 2017. Purchased OREO totaled \$6.7 million at March 31, 2018, a decrease of \$2.3 million compared with \$9.0 million at December 31, 2017. Management regularly assesses the valuation of OREO through periodic reappraisal and through inquiries received in the marketing process. At the end of the first quarter of 2018, total non-performing assets decreased to 0.68% of total assets, compared with 0.61% at December 31, 2017.

Non-performing assets at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 were as follows:

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, December | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| | 2018 | 31, 2017 |
| Nonaccrual loans, excluding purchased loans | \$ 14,420 | \$ 14,202 |
| Nonaccrual purchased loans | 15,940 | 15,428 |
| Nonaccrual purchased loan pools | — | — |
| Accruing loans delinquent 90 days or more, excluding purchased loans | 2,497 | 5,991 |
| Accruing purchased loans delinquent 90 days or more | — | — |
| Foreclosed assets, excluding purchased assets | 9,171 | 8,464 |
| Purchased other real estate owned | 6,723 | 9,011 |
| Total non-performing assets | \$ 48,751 | \$ 53,096 |

Troubled Debt Restructurings

The restructuring of a loan is considered a “troubled debt restructuring” if both (i) the borrower is experiencing financial difficulties and (ii) the Company has granted a concession.

As of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the Company had a balance of \$14.7 million and \$15.6 million, respectively, in troubled debt restructurings, excluding purchased loans. The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings by loan class, excluding purchased loans, classified separately as accrual and nonaccrual at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017:

| March 31, 2018 | Accruing Loans | | Non-Accruing Loans | |
|--|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| | # | Balance (in thousands) | # | Balance (in thousands) |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | 4 | \$ 39 | 13 | \$ 224 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 5 | 176 | 2 | 8 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 16 | 4,606 | 6 | 2,127 |
| Real estate – residential | 72 | 6,547 | 19 | 838 |

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Consumer installment | 3 | 7 | 32 | 93 |
| Total | 100 | \$ 11,375 | 72 | \$ 3,290 |
| December 31, 2017 | Accruing Loans | | Non-Accruing Loans | |
| Loan Class | # | Balance (in thousands) | # | Balance (in thousands) |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | 4 | \$ 41 | 12 | \$ 120 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 6 | 417 | 2 | 34 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 17 | 6,937 | 5 | 204 |
| Real estate – residential | 74 | 6,199 | 18 | 1,508 |
| Consumer installment | 4 | 5 | 33 | 98 |
| Total | 105 | \$ 13,599 | 70 | \$ 1,964 |

53

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings by loan class, excluding purchased loans, classified separately as those currently paying under restructured terms and those that have defaulted (defined as 30 days past due) under restructured terms at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017:

| March 31, 2018 | Loans Currently Paying Under Restructured Terms | | Loans that have Defaulted Under Restructured Terms | |
|--|---|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| | # | Balance (in thousands) | # | Balance (in thousands) |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | 11 | \$ 176 | 6 | \$ 88 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 5 | 156 | 2 | 27 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 17 | 4,629 | 5 | 2,105 |
| Real estate – residential | 63 | 5,669 | 28 | 1,715 |
| Consumer installment | 27 | 73 | 8 | 27 |
| Total | 123 | \$ 10,703 | 49 | \$ 3,962 |

| December 31, 2017 | Loans Currently Paying Under Restructured Terms | | Loans that have Defaulted Under Restructured Terms | |
|--|---|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| | # | Balance (in thousands) | # | Balance (in thousands) |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | 9 | \$ 55 | 7 | \$ 106 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 4 | 156 | 4 | 295 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 18 | 6,722 | 4 | 419 |
| Real estate – residential | 78 | 6,753 | 14 | 954 |
| Consumer installment | 24 | 59 | 13 | 44 |
| Total | 133 | \$ 13,745 | 42 | \$ 1,818 |

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings, excluding purchased loans, by types of concessions made, classified separately as accruing and nonaccruing at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017:

| March 31, 2018 | Accruing Loans | | Non-Accruing Loans | |
|--|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| | # | Balance (in thousands) | # | Balance (in thousands) |
| Forbearance of interest | 12 | \$ 2,512 | 4 | \$ 153 |
| Forgiveness of principal | 3 | 1,220 | — | — |
| Forbearance of principal | 6 | 813 | 7 | 2,037 |
| Rate reduction only | 11 | 1,289 | 1 | 60 |
| Rate reduction, forbearance of interest | 27 | 1,705 | 19 | 523 |
| Rate reduction, forbearance of principal | 7 | 1,180 | 35 | 318 |
| Rate reduction, forgiveness of interest | 34 | 2,656 | 4 | 194 |
| Rate reduction, forgiveness of principal | — | — | 2 | 5 |
| Total | 100 | \$ 11,375 | 72 | \$ 3,290 |

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

| December 31, 2017 | Accruing Loans | | Non-Accruing Loans | |
|--|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| | # | Balance (in thousands) | # | Balance (in thousands) |
| Type of Concession | | | | |
| Forbearance of interest | 12 | \$ 2,567 | 4 | \$ 163 |
| Forgiveness of principal | 3 | 1,238 | — | — |
| Forbearance of principal | 5 | 2,299 | 6 | 657 |
| Rate reduction only | 12 | 1,366 | 1 | 29 |
| Rate reduction, forbearance of interest | 32 | 2,224 | 19 | 484 |
| Rate reduction, forbearance of principal | 6 | 1,192 | 33 | 216 |
| Rate reduction, forgiveness of interest | 35 | 2,713 | 4 | 408 |
| Rate reduction, forgiveness of principal | — | — | 3 | 7 |
| Total | 105 | \$ 13,599 | 70 | \$ 1,964 |

54

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

| Loan Class | # | Non-Accruing Loans | |
|--|-----|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | Balance (in thousands) | Balance (in thousands) |
| Commercial, financial and agricultural | — | \$ — | 3 \$ 16 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 3 | 1,018 | 6 340 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 14 | 6,713 | 10 2,582 |
| Real estate – residential | 117 | 12,741 | 25 1,462 |
| Consumer installment | — | — | 2 5 |
| Total | 134 | \$ 20,472 | 46 \$ 4,405 |

55

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings by loan class of purchased loans, classified separately as those currently paying under restructured terms and those that have defaulted (defined as 30 days past due) under restructured terms at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017:

| Loan Class | Loans Currently Paying Under Restructured Terms | | Loans that have Defaulted Under Restructured Terms | |
|--|---|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| | # | Balance (in thousands) | # | Balance (in thousands) |
| | Commercial, financial and agricultural | 2 | \$ 18 | 2 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 9 | 1,346 | 1 | 5 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 20 | 8,413 | 2 | 565 |
| Real estate – residential | 120 | 12,769 | 21 | 1,383 |
| Consumer installment | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Total | 152 | \$ 22,547 | 27 | \$ 1,961 |

| Loan Class | Loans Currently Paying Under Restructured Terms | | Loans that have Defaulted Under Restructured Terms | |
|--|---|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| | # | Balance (in thousands) | # | Balance (in thousands) |
| | Commercial, financial and agricultural | 1 | \$ 11 | 2 |
| Real estate – construction and development | 8 | 1,352 | 1 | 6 |
| Real estate – commercial and farmland | 22 | 9,014 | 2 | 281 |
| Real estate – residential | 124 | 13,151 | 18 | 1,052 |
| Consumer installment | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Total | 156 | \$ 23,530 | 24 | \$ 1,347 |

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings included in purchased loans, by types of concessions made, classified separately as accrual and nonaccrual at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017:

| Type of Concession | Accruing Loans | | Non-Accruing Loans | |
|---|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| | # | Balance (in thousands) | # | Balance (in thousands) |
| Forbearance of interest | 4 | \$ 176 | 9 | \$ 1,640 |
| Forbearance of principal | 6 | 2,482 | 3 | 247 |
| Forbearance of principal, extended amortization | 1 | 299 | 1 | 282 |
| Rate reduction only | 74 | 11,590 | 12 | 1,222 |
| Rate reduction, forbearance of interest | 23 | 2,282 | 9 | 229 |
| Rate reduction, forbearance of principal | 10 | 2,178 | 5 | 182 |
| Rate reduction, forgiveness of interest | 20 | 1,643 | 2 | 56 |
| Total | 138 | \$ 20,650 | 41 | \$ 3,858 |
| December 31, 2017 | Accruing Loans | | | |

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

| Type of Concession | # | Non-Accruing Loans | |
|---|-----|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Balance (in thousands) | Balance (in thousands) |
| Forbearance of interest | 4 | \$ 182 | 9 \$ 1,740 |
| Forgiveness of principal | — | — | 1 63 |
| Forbearance of principal | 5 | 2,363 | 4 406 |
| Forbearance of principal, extended amortization | 2 | 371 | 1 290 |
| Rate reduction only | 70 | 11,450 | 15 1,361 |
| Rate reduction, forbearance of interest | 22 | 2,211 | 9 257 |
| Rate reduction, forbearance of principal | 10 | 2,195 | 5 187 |
| Rate reduction, forgiveness of interest | 21 | 1,700 | 2 101 |
| Total | 134 | \$ 20,472 | 46 \$ 4,405 |

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings included in purchased loans, by collateral types, classified separately as accrual and nonaccrual at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017:

| March 31, 2018 | Accruing Loans | | Non-Accruing Loans | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| | # | Balance (in thousands) | # | Balance (in thousands) |
| Warehouse | 2 | \$ 365 | — | \$ — |
| Raw land | 2 | 888 | 7 | 768 |
| Hotel and motel | 1 | 148 | 1 | 456 |
| Office | 2 | 450 | 1 | 419 |
| Retail, including strip centers | 8 | 4,530 | — | — |
| 1-4 family residential | 122 | 13,039 | 24 | 1,930 |
| Church | 1 | 1,230 | 1 | 214 |
| Automobile/equipment/CD | — | — | 7 | 71 |
| Total | 138 | \$ 20,650 | 41 | \$ 3,858 |

| December 31, 2017 | Accruing Loans | | Non-Accruing Loans | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| | # | Balance (in thousands) | # | Balance (in thousands) |
| Warehouse | 2 | \$ 368 | — | \$ — |
| Raw land | 2 | 893 | 7 | 829 |
| Hotel and motel | 1 | 149 | 1 | 476 |
| Office | 2 | 460 | 2 | 494 |
| Retail, including strip centers | 7 | 4,407 | 1 | 160 |
| 1-4 family residential | 119 | 12,958 | 28 | 2,161 |
| Church | 1 | 1,237 | 1 | 218 |
| Automobile/equipment/CD | — | — | 6 | 67 |
| Total | 134 | \$ 20,472 | 46 | \$ 4,405 |

Commercial Lending Practices

The federal bank regulatory agencies previously issued interagency guidance on commercial real estate lending and prudent risk management practices. This guidance defines commercial real estate (“CRE”) loans as loans secured by raw land, land development and construction (including 1-4 family residential construction), multi-family property and non-farm nonresidential property where the primary or a significant source of repayment is derived from rental income associated with the property, excluding owner occupied properties (loans for which 50% or more of the source of repayment is derived from the ongoing operations and activities conducted by the party, or affiliate of the party, who owns the property) or the proceeds of the sale, refinancing or permanent financing of the property. Loans for owner occupied CRE are generally excluded from the CRE guidance.

The CRE guidance is applicable when either:

- (1) total loans for construction, land development, and other land, net of owner occupied loans, represent 100% or more of a bank’s total risk-based capital; or
- (2) total loans secured by multifamily and nonfarm nonresidential properties and loans for construction, land development, and other land, net of owner occupied loans, represent 300% or more of a bank’s total risk-based

capital.

Banks that are subject to the CRE guidance criteria are required to implement enhanced strategic planning, CRE underwriting policies, risk management and internal controls, portfolio stress testing, risk exposure limits, and other policies, including management compensation and incentives, to address the CRE risks. Higher allowances for loan losses and capital levels may also be appropriate.

As of March 31, 2018, the Company exhibited a concentration in the CRE loan category based on Federal Reserve Call codes. The primary risks of CRE lending are:

- within CRE loans, construction and development loans are somewhat dependent upon continued strength in
- (1) demand for residential real estate, which is reliant on favorable real estate mortgage rates and changing population demographics;
 - (2) on average, CRE loan sizes are generally larger than non-CRE loan types; and
 - (3) certain construction and development loans may be less predictable and more difficult to evaluate and monitor.

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

The following table outlines CRE loan categories and CRE loans as a percentage of total loans as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017. The loan categories and concentrations below are based on Federal Reserve Call codes and include purchased loans:

| (dollars in thousands) | March 31, 2018 | | December 31, 2017 | |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | Balance | % of Total Loans | Balance | % of Total Loans |
| Construction and development loans | \$680,443 | 11% | \$690,108 | 11% |
| Multi-family loans | 158,133 | 3% | 148,663 | 3% |
| Nonfarm non-residential loans (excluding owner occupied) | 1,083,783 | 17% | 979,205 | 16% |
| Total CRE Loans (excluding owner occupied) | 1,922,359 | 31% | 1,817,976 | 30% |
| All other loan types | 4,267,812 | 69% | 4,228,379 | 70% |
| Total Loans | \$6,190,171 | 100% | \$6,046,355 | 100% |

The following table outlines the percentage of construction and development loans and total CRE loans, net of owner occupied loans, to the Bank's total risk-based capital, and the Company's internal concentration limits as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017:

| | Internal Limit | Actual | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | | March 31, 2018 | December 31, 2017 |
| Construction and development loans | 100% | 81% | 83% |
| Total CRE loans (excluding owner occupied) | 300% | 230% | 219% |

Short-Term Investments

The Company's short-term investments are comprised of federal funds sold and interest-bearing deposits in banks. At March 31, 2018, the Company's short-term investments were \$210.9 million, compared with \$191.3 million at December 31, 2017. At March 31, 2018, the Company had \$9,000 in federal funds sold and \$210.9 million was in interest-bearing deposit balances at correspondent banks and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities

The Company has a cash flow hedge that matures September 15, 2020 with a notional amount of \$37.1 million at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 for the purpose of converting the variable rate on certain junior subordinated debentures to a fixed rate of 4.11%. The fair value of this instrument was an asset of \$61,000 at March 31, 2018 and a liability of \$381,000 at December 31, 2017.

The Company also has forward contracts and IRLCs to hedge changes in the value of the mortgage inventory due to changes in market interest rates. The fair value of these instruments amounted to an asset of \$4.9 million and \$2.9 million at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively, and a liability of \$505,000 and \$67,000 at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively.

No material hedge ineffectiveness from cash flow was recognized in the statement of operations. All components of each derivative's gain or loss are included in the assessment of hedge effectiveness.

Capital

USPF Acquisition

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

On January 18, 2017, in exchange for 4.99% of the outstanding shares of common stock of USPF, the Company issued 128,572 unregistered shares of its common stock to a selling shareholder of USPF. A registration statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 13, 2017 to register the resale or other disposition of these shares. The issuance of the 128,572 common shares was valued at \$45.45 per share, resulting in an increase in shareholders' equity of \$5.8 million.

On January 3, 2018, in exchange for 25.01% of the outstanding shares of common stock of USPF, the Company issued 114,285 unregistered shares of its common stock to a selling shareholder of USPF. The issuance of the 114,285 common shares was valued at \$48.55 per share, resulting in an increase in shareholders' equity of \$5.5 million.

On January 31, 2018, in exchange for the final 70% of the outstanding shares of common stock of USPF, the Company issued 830,301 unregistered shares of its common stock to the selling shareholders of USPF. The issuance of the 830,301 common shares was valued at \$53.55 per share, resulting in an increase in shareholders' equity of \$44.5 million.

On February 16, 2018, a registration statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission to register the resale or other disposition of the combined 944,586 shares issued on January 3, 2018 and January 31, 2018.

For additional information regarding the USPF acquisition, see Note 3.

2017 Public Offering

On March 6, 2017, the Company completed an underwritten public offering of 2,012,500 shares of the Company's common stock at a price to the public of \$46.50 per share. The Company received net proceeds from the issuance of \$88.7 million, after deducting \$4.9 million in underwriting discounts and commissions and other issuance costs.

In March 2017, the Company made a capital contribution to the Bank in the amount of \$110.0 million, using the net proceeds of the March 6, 2017 issuance of common stock as well as a portion of the net proceeds of the March 13, 2017 issuance of the Company's 5.75% Fixed-To-Floating Rate Subordinated Notes due 2027.

Capital Management

Capital management consists of providing equity to support both current and anticipated future operations. The Company is subject to capital adequacy requirements imposed by the Federal Reserve Board (the "FRB") and the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance (the "GDBF"), and the Bank is subject to capital adequacy requirements imposed by the FDIC and the GDBF.

The FRB, the FDIC and the GDBF have adopted risk-based capital requirements for assessing bank holding company and bank capital adequacy. These standards define and establish minimum capital requirements in relation to assets and off-balance sheet exposure, adjusted for credit risk. The risk-based capital standards currently in effect are designed to make regulatory capital requirements more sensitive to differences in risk profiles among bank holding companies and banks and to account for off-balance sheet exposure.

In July 2013, the Federal Reserve published final rules for the adoption of the Basel III regulatory capital framework (the "Basel III Capital Rules"). The Basel III Capital Rules defined a new capital measure called "Common Equity Tier 1" ("CET1"), established that Tier 1 capital consist of Common Equity Tier 1 and "Additional Tier 1 Capital" instruments meeting specified requirements, defined Common Equity Tier 1, established a capital conservation buffer and expanded the scope of the adjustments as compared with existing regulations. The capital conservation buffer is being increased by 0.625% per year until reaching 2.50% by 2019. The capital conservation buffer is being phased in from 0.0% for 2015 to, 0.625% for 2016, 1.25% for 2017, 1.875% for 2018, and 2.50% for 2019. The Basel III Capital Rules became effective for us on January 1, 2015 with certain transition provisions fully phased in on January 1, 2019.

The regulatory capital standards are defined by the following key measurements:

a) The "Tier 1 Leverage Ratio" is defined as Tier 1 capital to average assets. To be considered "adequately capitalized" under this measurement, a bank must maintain a Tier 1 leverage ratio greater than or equal to 4.00%. For a bank to be considered "well capitalized," it must maintain a Tier 1 leverage ratio greater than or equal to 5.00%.

b) The “CET1 Ratio” is defined as Common equity tier 1 capital to total risk weighted assets. To be considered “adequately capitalized” under this measurement, a bank must maintain a CET1 ratio greater than or equal to 4.50% (6.375% including the 1.875% capital conservation buffer for 2018; 5.75% including the 1.25% capital conservation buffer for 2017). For a bank to be considered “well capitalized,” it must maintain a CET1 ratio greater than or equal to 6.50%.

c) The “Tier 1 Capital Ratio” is defined as Tier 1 capital to total risk weighted assets. To be considered “adequately capitalized” under this measurement, a bank must maintain a Tier 1 capital ratio greater than or equal to 6.00% (7.875% including the 1.875% capital conservation buffer for 2018; 7.25% including the 1.25% capital conservation buffer for 2017). For a bank to be considered “well capitalized,” it must maintain a Tier 1 capital ratio greater than or equal to 8.00%.

d) The “Total Capital Ratio” is defined as total capital to total risk weighted assets. To be considered “adequately capitalized” under this measurement, a bank must maintain a total capital ratio greater than or equal to 8.00% (9.875% including the 1.875%

capital conservation buffer for 2018; 9.25% including the 1.25% capital conservation buffer for 2017). For a bank to be considered “well capitalized,” it must maintain a total capital ratio greater than or equal to 10.00%.

As of March 31, 2018, under the regulatory capital standards, the Bank was considered “well capitalized” under all capital measurements. The following table sets forth the regulatory capital ratios of for the Company and the Bank at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017.

| | March 31, 2018 | December 31, 2017 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Tier 1 Leverage Ratio (tier 1 capital to average assets) | | |
| Consolidated | 9.65% | 9.71% |
| Ameris Bank | 10.57% | 10.56% |
| CET1 Ratio (common equity tier 1 capital to risk weighted assets) | | |
| Consolidated | 9.96% | 10.29% |
| Ameris Bank | 12.48% | 12.64% |
| Tier 1 Capital Ratio (tier 1 capital to risk weighted assets) | | |
| Consolidated | 11.28% | 11.58% |
| Ameris Bank | 12.48% | 12.64% |
| Total Capital Ratio (total capital to risk weighted assets) | | |
| Consolidated | 12.82% | 13.14% |
| Ameris Bank | 12.89% | 13.05% |

Interest Rate Sensitivity and Liquidity

The Company’s primary market risk exposures are credit risk, interest rate risk, and to a lesser degree, liquidity risk. The Bank operates under an Asset Liability Management Policy approved by the Company’s Board of Directors and the Asset and Liability Committee (the “ALCO Committee”). The policy outlines limits on interest rate risk in terms of changes in net interest income and changes in the net market values of assets and liabilities over certain changes in interest rate environments. These measurements are made through a simulation model which projects the impact of changes in interest rates on the Bank’s assets and liabilities. The policy also outlines responsibility for monitoring interest rate risk, and the process for the approval, implementation and monitoring of interest rate risk strategies to achieve the Bank’s interest rate risk objectives.

The ALCO Committee is comprised of senior officers of Ameris and two outside members of the Company’s Board of Directors. The ALCO Committee makes all strategic decisions with respect to the sources and uses of funds that may affect net interest income, including net interest spread and net interest margin. The objective of the ALCO Committee is to identify the interest rate, liquidity and market value risks of the Company’s balance sheet and use reasonable methods approved by the Company’s Board of Directors and executive management to minimize those identified risks.

The normal course of business activity exposes the Company to interest rate risk. Interest rate risk is managed within an overall asset and liability framework for the Company. The principal objectives of asset and liability management are to predict the sensitivity of net interest spreads to potential changes in interest rates, control risk and enhance profitability. Funding positions are kept within predetermined limits designed to properly manage risk and liquidity. The Company employs sensitivity analysis in the form of a net interest income simulation to help characterize the market risk arising from changes in interest rates. In addition, fluctuations in interest rates usually result in changes in the fair market value of the Company’s financial instruments, cash flows and net interest income. The Company’s interest rate risk position is managed by the ALCO Committee.

The Company uses a simulation modeling process to measure interest rate risk and evaluate potential strategies. Interest rate scenario models are prepared using software created and licensed from an outside vendor. The Company's simulation includes all financial assets and liabilities. Simulation results quantify interest rate risk under various interest rate scenarios. Management then develops and implements appropriate strategies. The ALCO Committee has determined that an acceptable level of interest rate risk would be for net interest income to increase/decrease no more than 20% given a change in selected interest rates of 200 basis points over any 24-month period.

Liquidity management involves the matching of the cash flow requirements of customers, who may be either depositors desiring to withdraw funds or borrowers needing assurance that sufficient funds will be available to meet their credit needs, and the ability of Ameris to manage those requirements. The Company strives to maintain an adequate liquidity position by managing the balances and maturities of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities so that the balance it has in short-term assets at any given time will adequately cover any reasonably anticipated immediate need for funds. Additionally, the Bank maintains relationships with correspondent banks, which could provide funds on short notice, if needed. The Company has invested in FHLB stock for the purpose of establishing credit lines with the FHLB. The credit availability to the Bank is equal to 30% of the Bank's total assets

as reported on the most recent quarterly financial information submitted to the regulators subject to the pledging of sufficient collateral. At March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the net carrying value of the Company's other borrowings was \$555.5 million and \$250.6 million, respectively. On March 13, 2017, the Company completed the public offering and sale of \$75.0 million in aggregate principal amount of its 5.75% Fixed-To-Floating Rate Subordinated Notes due 2027. These subordinated notes are included in other borrowings at March 31, 2018 at a net carrying value of \$73.8 million. See Note 8 for additional details on the subordinated notes.

The following liquidity ratios compare certain assets and liabilities to total deposits or total assets:

| | March 31, 2018 | December 31, 2017 | September 30, 2017 | June 30, 2017 | March 31, 2017 |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Investment securities available for sale to total deposits | 13.16% | 12.24% | 13.90% | 14.13% | 14.72% |
| Loans (net of unearned income) to total deposits | 96.03% | 91.25% | 101.04% | 97.88% | 94.31% |
| Interest-earning assets to total assets | 92.15% | 92.77% | 92.48% | 92.14% | 91.98% |
| Interest-bearing deposits to total deposits | 71.02% | 73.18% | 70.86% | 71.12% | 70.67% |

The liquidity resources of the Company are monitored continuously by the ALCO Committee and on a periodic basis by state and federal regulatory authorities. As determined under guidelines established by these regulatory authorities, the Company's and the Bank's liquidity ratios at March 31, 2018 were considered satisfactory. The Company is aware of no events or trends likely to result in a material change in liquidity.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

The Company is exposed only to U.S. dollar interest rate changes, and, accordingly, the Company manages exposure by considering the possible changes in the net interest margin. The Company does not have any trading instruments nor does it classify any portion of the investment portfolio as held for trading. The Company's hedging activities are limited to cash flow hedges and are part of the Company's program to manage interest rate sensitivity.

At March 31, 2018, the Company had one cash flow hedge with a notional amount of \$37.1 million for the purpose of converting the variable rate on certain junior subordinated debentures to a fixed rate. The LIBOR rate swap exchanges fixed rate payments of 4.11% for floating rate payments based on the three-month LIBOR rate and matures September 2020. The fair value of this instrument was an asset of \$61,000 at March 31, 2018 and a liability of \$381,000 at December 31, 2017.

The Company also had forward contracts and IRLCs to hedge changes in the value of the mortgage inventory due to changes in market interest rates. The fair value of these instruments amounted to an asset of approximately \$4.9 million and \$2.9 million at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively, and a liability of \$505,000 and \$67,000 at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively.

The Company has no exposure to foreign currency exchange rate risk, commodity price risk and other market risks.

Interest rates play a major part in the net interest income of a financial institution. The sensitivity to rate changes is known as "interest rate risk." The repricing of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities can influence the changes in net interest income. As part of the Company's asset/liability management program, the timing of repriced assets and liabilities is referred to as "gap management."

The Company uses simulation analysis to monitor changes in net interest income due to changes in market interest rates. The simulation of rising, declining and flat interest rate scenarios allows management to monitor and adjust interest rate sensitivity to minimize the impact of market interest rate swings. The analysis of the impact on net interest income over a 12-month and 24-month period is subjected to gradual and parallel shocks of 100, 200, 300 and 400 basis point increases and decreases in market rates and is monitored on a quarterly basis.

Additional information required by Item 305 of Regulation S-K is set forth under Part I, Item 2 of this report.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures.

The Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have evaluated the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(e) or 15d-15(e) promulgated under the Exchange Act), as of the end of the period covered by this report, as required by paragraph (b) of Rules 13a-15 or 15d-15 of the Exchange Act. Based on such evaluation, such officers have concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this report, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

During the quarter ended March 31, 2018, there was no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting identified in connection with the evaluation required by paragraph (d) of Rules 13a-15 or 15d-15 of the Exchange Act that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

PART II - OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings.

From time to time, as a normal incident of the nature and kind of business in which the Company is engaged, various claims or charges are asserted against the Company or the Bank. In the ordinary course of business, the Company and the Bank are also subject to regulatory examinations, information gathering requests, inquiries and investigations. Other than ordinary routine litigation incidental to the Company's business, management believes based on its current knowledge and after consultation with legal counsel that there are no pending or threatened legal proceedings that will, individually or in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on the consolidated results of operations or financial condition of the Company.

Item 1A. Risk Factors.

There have been no material changes to the risk factors disclosed in Item 1A. of Part I of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.

c) Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities.

The table below sets forth information regarding the Company's repurchase of shares of its outstanding common stock during the three-month period ended March 31, 2018.

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased ⁽¹⁾ | Average Price Paid Per Share | Total Number of Shares as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | Approximate Dollar Value of Shares That May Yet be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs |
|--|---|------------------------------|--|--|
| January 1, 2018 through January 31, 2018 | 1,092 | \$ 48.20 | — | \$ — |
| February 1, 2018 through February 28, 2018 | 16,884 | \$ 53.75 | — | \$ — |
| March 1, 2018 through March 31, 2018 | — | \$ — | — | \$ — |

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | |
|-------|--------|----------|---|----|---|
| Total | 17,976 | \$ 53.41 | — | \$ | — |
|-------|--------|----------|---|----|---|

The shares purchased from January 1, 2018 through March 31, 2018 consist of shares of common stock (1) surrendered to the Company in payment of the income tax withholding obligations relating to the vesting of shares of restricted stock.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities.

None.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Other Information.

None.

62

Item 6. Exhibits.

| Exhibit Number | Description |
|-------------------|---|
| <u>2.1</u> | Agreement and Plan of Merger dated as of January 25, 2018 by and between Ameris Bancorp and Hamilton State Bancshares, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to Ameris Bancorp's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 26, 2018). |
| <u>2.2</u> | Voting and Support Agreement, dated January 25, 2018, by and among Ameris Bancorp, Hamilton State Bancshares, Inc. and the Hamilton State Bancshares, Inc. shareholders party thereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.2 to Ameris Bancorp's Registration Statement on Form S-4 (File No. 333-224162) filed with the SEC on April 25, 2018). |
| <u>2.3</u> | Stock Purchase Agreement dated as of January 25, 2018 by and among Ameris Bancorp, Ameris Bank, William J. Villari and The Villari Family Gift Trust (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.2 to Ameris Bancorp's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 26, 2018). |
| 3.1 | Articles of Incorporation of Ameris Bancorp, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to Ameris Bancorp's Regulation A Offering Statement on Form 1-A filed with the SEC on August 14, 1987). |
| <u>3.2</u> | Articles of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of Ameris Bancorp (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.7 to Ameris Bancorp's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 26, 1999). |
| <u>3.3</u> | Articles of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of Ameris Bancorp (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.9 to Ameris Bancorp's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 31, 2003). |
| <u>3.4</u> | Articles of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of Ameris Bancorp (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Ameris Bancorp's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on December 1, 2005). |
| <u>3.5</u> | Articles of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of Ameris Bancorp (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Ameris Bancorp's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on November 21, 2008). |
| <u>3.6</u> | Articles of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of Ameris Bancorp (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Ameris Bancorp's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 1, 2011). |
| <u>3.7</u> | Bylaws of Ameris Bancorp, as amended and restated effective January 16, 2018 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Ameris Bancorp's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 19, 2018). |
| <u>4.1</u> | Registration Rights Agreement dated as of January 3, 2018 by and between Ameris Bancorp and William J. Villari (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.9 to Ameris Bancorp's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-223080) filed with the SEC on February 16, 2018). |
| <u>4.2</u> | Registration Rights Agreement dated as of January 31, 2018 by and among Ameris Bancorp, William J. Villari and The Villari Family Gift Trust (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Ameris Bancorp's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 6, 2018). |
| <u>10.1</u> | Fourth Amendment to Loan Agreement dated April 25, 2018 by and between Ameris Bancorp and NexBank SSB (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Ameris Bancorp's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 25, 2018). |

10.2 Fourth Amended and Restated Revolving Promissory Note dated April 25, 2018 issued by Ameris Bancorp to NexBank SSB (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Ameris Bancorp's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 25, 2018).

31.1 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification by the Company's Chief Executive Officer.

31.2 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification by the Company's Chief Financial Officer.

32.1 Section 1350 Certification by the Company's Chief Executive Officer.

32.2 Section 1350 Certification by the Company's Chief Financial Officer.

63

| Exhibit Number | Description |
|-------------------|-------------|
|-------------------|-------------|

| | |
|-----|---|
| 101 | The following financial statements from Ameris Bancorp's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2018, formatted as interactive data files in XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Consolidated Balance Sheets; (ii) Consolidated Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income; (iii) Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity; (iv) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows; and (v) Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements. |
|-----|---|

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Dated: May 10, 2018 AMERIS BANCORP

/s/ Nicole S. Stokes
Nicole S. Stokes
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
(duly authorized signatory and principal accounting and financial officer)