

For Immediate Release

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UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC. REPORTS DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE OF 34 CENTS FOR FIRST QUARTER 2008

BLAIRSVILLE, GA. - April 24, 2008 – United Community Banks, Inc. (NASDAQ: UCBI) today announced diluted earnings per share of 34 cents for the first quarter of 2008, compared to 44 cents for the first quarter of 2007. Total revenue on a taxable equivalent basis was \$73.0 million for the quarter, compared to \$75.8 million for the first quarter of 2007. Net income was \$16.1 million, compared with \$19.3 million in the first quarter of 2007. Return on tangible equity was 13.16 percent and return on assets was .78 percent for the first quarter of 2008, compared with 17.18 percent and 1.11 percent a year ago, respectively.

"Continued weakness in the residential construction and housing markets and uncertainty in the general economy made for a very challenging quarter," said Jimmy Tallent, president and chief executive officer. "We expect the business environment to remain difficult for 2008. However, we are confident that our business model, strong high-growth markets, and customer service focus will continue to create the foundation for future growth over the longer term."

Loans were up \$566 million, or 10 percent, from the first quarter of 2007 due primarily to the acquisition of First Bank of the South in the second quarter of 2007. "Excluding acquisitions, loans were basically flat year over year," Tallent said. "During the first quarter, total loans were up \$39 million, or 3 percent on an annualized basis. Commercial loans during the quarter saw

growth of \$90 million, or 15 percent annualized. This was offset partially by a \$39 million decrease in our residential construction loan portfolio. We are actively pursuing high-quality borrowers in all of our markets, with an emphasis on small business and commercial lending. Through these efforts, we have been able to reduce residential construction loans over the past year from 35 percent to 30 percent of our total loan portfolio."

Total deposits increased \$334 million, or 6 percent, from a year ago due to the acquisition of First Bank of the South. Excluding acquired deposits, total deposits decreased by \$234 million primarily due to the run-off of higher-rate certificates of deposits. We elected not to compete for these high cost deposits without other customer relationships. "While overall account balances are lower, the number of customer relationships has continued to increase and our customer satisfaction scores continue to be at record levels," Tallent said. "This bodes well for us when the economy rebounds."

Taxable equivalent net interest revenue of \$66.3 million reflected an increase of \$1.2 million from the first quarter of 2007. Taxable equivalent net interest margin was 3.55 percent, compared with 3.73 percent for the fourth quarter of 2007 and 3.99 percent for the first quarter of 2007. "Our net interest margin continues to be under pressure on two fronts," Tallent said. "One is competitive deposit pricing that has kept us from lowering rates on our deposits as quickly as we repriced our prime based loans. The second is the increase in the level of non-performing assets this quarter. We expect these conditions to continue to put pressure on our margin as financial institutions compete for liquidity and as we aggressively move non-performing assets off of our books."

The first quarter provision for loan losses was \$7.5 million. Net charge-offs for the first quarter were \$7.1 million compared with \$13.0 million for the fourth quarter of 2007 (excluding the Spruce Pine fraud-related charge-offs), and \$1.5 million for the first quarter of 2007. Annualized net charge-offs to average loans was 48 basis points for the first quarter of 2008 compared to 87 basis points for the fourth quarter of 2007 and 11 basis points for the first quarter of 2007.

"In the fourth quarter, we identified problem credits, aggressively took charge-offs and write-downs, and increased our allowance for loan losses to prepare for the challenges of 2008," Tallent said. "We continued this process in the first quarter and provided \$7.5 million for loan losses. This enables us to maintain our allowance for loan losses at an appropriate level for the current credit environment. We will continue to closely monitor our credit quality and the loan portfolio to ensure that we remain adequately reserved."

At quarter-end, non-performing assets totaled \$89.9 million, compared with \$46.3 million at December 31, 2007 and \$14.3 million at March 31, 2007. The ratio of non-performing assets to total assets at the end of each quarter was 1.07, .56 and .20 percent, respectively.

"United's credit quality indicators reflected the national trend of rising delinquencies and foreclosures in the housing and residential construction markets," stated Tallent. "We will remain diligent in managing through the challenges, taking whatever steps are necessary to put problem credits behind us. Although we remain guarded in our credit quality outlook, we are cautiously optimistic that the traditionally higher-sales months in the spring and summer will bring buyers back into the housing market, providing some welcome relief."

Fee revenue of \$14.2 million was down slightly from \$14.4 million for the first quarter of 2007, primarily due to nonrecurring revenue in the first quarter of 2007. Service charges and fees on deposit accounts of \$7.8 million increased \$560,000, or 8 percent, from the first quarter of 2007 due to growth in transactions and new accounts as well as higher ATM and debit card usage. Brokerage fees were up \$149,000 to \$1.1 million due to strong retention efforts and new customer outreach. Other fee revenue of \$1.5 million was down \$487,000 due to a gain on the sale of property and a recovery of overpaid brokered deposit interest in the first quarter of 2007.

Operating expenses of \$47.5 million reflected an increase of \$2.7 million, or 6 percent, from the first quarter of 2007. Salaries and employee benefit costs of \$28.8 million were \$437,000, or 2 percent, higher than the first quarter of 2007. The acquisition in the second quarter last year added approximately \$1.4 million, which was more than offset by lower incentive compensation in 2008. Occupancy expense increased \$525,000 to \$3.7 million due to the cost of operating

additional banking offices. Professional fees increased \$442,000 to \$1.9 million, reflecting higher fees associated with loan work-outs and foreclosures. Other expenses of \$5.6 million were \$1.8 million higher than a year ago due to \$911,000 of additional write-downs and related costs on foreclosed properties and an increase in FDIC insurance premiums of \$923,000.

"The efficiency ratio for the first quarter of 59.05 percent was above our long-term target range of 56 to 58 percent," Tallent said. "This was driven primarily by higher legal costs and write-downs on foreclosed property. We continue to remain disciplined on expense controls."

The Board of Directors approved the second quarter 2008 dividend of 9 cents per share, which is the same dividend level that was paid in 2007. "At quarter-end, all of our regulatory capital ratios were above the 'well-capitalized' level and our tangible equity-to-assets ratio was 6.73 percent," Tallent said. "Our core earnings have allowed us to build capital, improve ratios and provide strength for current and future challenges. We are intently focused on maintaining capital at a level appropriate for the economic environment.

"With the uncertainty of the economy and the ongoing credit issues in the housing and residential construction market, 2008 will not be an easy year for banks," Tallent concluded. "I want to thank our employees for their dedication and focus: no matter the economic cycle they continue to deliver the highest customer satisfaction scores in the industry. True to form, they are maintaining and enhancing the kind of deep customer relationships that will drive United's growth and success when the economy improves."

Conference Call

United Community Banks will hold a conference call on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 11 a.m. ET to discuss the contents of this news release, as well as share business highlights for the quarter. The telephone number for the conference call is (877) 660-8922 and the pass code is "UCBI." The conference call will also be available by web cast within the Investor Relations section of the company's web site at www.ucbi.com.

About United Community Banks, Inc.

Headquartered in Blairsville, United Community Banks is the third-largest bank holding company in Georgia. United Community Banks has assets of \$8.4 billion and operates 27 community banks with 109 banking offices located throughout north Georgia, the Atlanta region, coastal Georgia, western North Carolina and east Tennessee. The company specializes in providing personalized community banking services to individuals and small to mid-size businesses. United Community Banks also offers the convenience of 24-hour access through a network of ATMs, telephone and on-line banking. United Community Banks common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol UCBI. Additional information may be found at the company's web site at www.ucbi.com.

Safe Harbor

This news release contains forward-looking statements, as defined by Federal Securities Laws, including statements about financial outlook and business environment. These statements are provided to assist in the understanding of future financial performance and such performance involves risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from those in such statements. Any such statements are based on current expectations and involve a number of risks and uncertainties. For a discussion of some factors that may cause such forward-looking statements to differ materially from actual results, please refer to the section entitled "Forward-Looking Statements" on page 4 of United Community Banks, Inc.'s annual report filed on Form 10-K with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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(Tables Follow)

		2008				20	007				First Ouarter
(in thousands, except per share	First			Fourth		Third Second				First	2008-2007
data; taxable equivalent)		Quarter		Quarter		Quarter		Quarter		Quarter	Change
INCOME SUMMARY											
Interest revenue	\$	129,041	\$	140,768	\$	144,884	\$	136,237	\$	129,028	
Interest expense		62,754		71,038		73,203		68,270		63,923	
Net interest revenue		66,287		69,730		71,681		67,967		65,105	2 %
Provision for loan losses (1)		7,500		26,500		3,700		3,700		3,700	
Fee revenue		14,197		16,100		15,615		16,554		14,382	(1)
Total operating revenue Operating expenses		72,984 47,529		59,330 49,336		83,596 48,182		80,821 47,702		75,787 44,841	(4) 6
Income before taxes		25,455	-	9,994		35,414		33,119	-	30,946	(18)
Income taxes		9,377		3,960		12,878		12,043		11,601	(10)
Net operating income		16,078		6,034	-	22,536		21,076		19,345	(17)
Fraud loss provision, net of tax (1)		· -		1,833		-		9,165		_	
Net income	\$	16,078	\$	4,201	\$	22,536	\$	11,911	\$	19,345	(17)
OPERATING PERFORMANCE (1)			* ===		-		-				
Earnings per common share:											
Basic	\$.34	\$.13	\$.47	\$.47	\$.45	(24)
Diluted	Ψ	.34	Ψ.	.13	Ψ	.46	Ψ.	.46	Ψ	.44	(23)
Return on tangible equity (2)(3)(4)		13.16	%	5.06	%	17.54	%	17.52	%	17.18	
Return on assets (4)		.78		.29		1.11		1.12		1.11	
Dividend payout ratio		26.47		69.23		19.15		19.15		20.00	
GAAP PERFORMANCE MEASURES											
Per common share:											
Basic earnings	\$.34	\$.09	\$.47	\$.26	\$.45	(24)
Diluted earnings	Ψ	.34	Ψ	.09	Ψ	.46	Ψ	.26	Ψ	.44	(23)
Cash dividends declared		.09		.09		.09		.09		.09	-
Book value		18.50		17.70		17.51		16.96		14.82	25
Tangible book value (3)		11.76		10.92		10.81		10.43		11.05	6
Key performance ratios:											
Return on equity (2)(4)		7.85	0/	2.01	0/	10.66	0/	7.05	0/	12.47	0/
Return on assets		.78	70	.20	70	1.11	70	.64	70	1.11	70
Net interest margin ⁽⁴⁾		3.55		3.73		3.89		3.94		3.99	
Efficiency ratio		59.05		57.67		55.34		56.59		56.56	
Tangible equity to assets (3)		6.73		6.58		6.65		6.65		6.66	
		0.73		0.38		0.03		0.03		0.00	
ASSET QUALITY											
Allowance for loan losses	\$	89,848	\$	89,423	\$	90,935	\$	92,471	\$	68,804	
Net charge-offs (1)		7,075		13,012		5,236		2,124		1,462	
Non-performing loans		67,728		28,219		46,783		30,849		12,319	
OREO		22,136		18,039		16,554		12,752		1,971	
Total non-performing assets		89,864	0.1	46,258	0.1	63,337	2.4	43,601	0.1	14,290	0./
Allowance for loan losses to loans (1)		1.51	%	1.51	%	1.28	%	1.29	%	1.27	%
Net charge-offs to average loans (1)(4)		.48		.87		.35		.15		.11	
Non-performing assets to loans and OREO		1.50		.78		1.06		.73		.26	
Non-performing assets to total assets		1.07		.56		.77		.54		.20	
AVERAGE BALANCES											
Loans	\$	5,958,296	\$	5,940,230	\$	5,966,933	\$	5,619,950	\$	5,402,860	10
Investment securities		1,485,515		1,404,796		1,308,192		1,242,448		1,153,208	29
Earning assets		7,491,480		7,424,992		7,332,492		6,915,134		6,599,035	14
Total assets		8,305,621		8,210,120		8,083,739		7,519,392		7,092,710	17
Deposits		6,051,069		6,151,476		6,246,319		5,945,633		5,764,426	5
Shareholders' equity		855,659		837,195		834,094		672,348		624,100	37
Common shares - basic		46,966		47,203		48,348		44,949		43,000	
Common shares - diluted		47,272		47,652		48,977		45,761		43,912	
AT PERIOD END											
Loans	\$	5,967,839	\$	5,929,263	\$	5,952,749	\$	5,999,093	\$	5,402,198	10
Investment securities		1,508,402		1,356,846		1,296,826		1,213,659		1,150,424	31
Total assets		8,386,255		8,207,302		8,180,600		8,087,667		7,186,602	17
Deposits		6,175,769		6,075,951		6,154,308		6,361,269		5,841,687	6
Shareholders' equity		871,452		831,902		833,761		828,731		638,456	36
Common shares outstanding		47,004		46,903		47,542		48,781		43,038	

⁽¹⁾ Excludes effect of special \$15 million fraud related provision for loan losses recorded in the second quarter of 2007, an additional \$3 million provision in the fourth quarter of 2007, and \$18 million of related loan charge-offs recorded in the fourth quarter of 2007.

⁽²⁾ Net income available to common shareholders, which excludes preferred stock dividends, divided by average realized common equity, which excludes accumulated other comprehensive income (loss).

 $^{^{(3)}}$ Excludes effect of acquisition related intangibles and associated amortization.

⁽⁴⁾ Annualized.

Financial Highlights

Loan Portfolio Composition at Period-End

											Linked Quarter		
		2008					007				Change ⁽²⁾	Year over Y	Year Change
(in millions)		First uarter		ourth uarter		Third Quarter		econd ıarter ⁽¹⁾		First uarter	Actual	Actual	Excluding Acquired
LOANS BY CATEGORY													
Commercial (sec. by RE)	\$	1,526	\$	1,476	\$	1,441	\$	1,461	\$	1,227	14 %	24 %	7 %
Commercial construction		548		527		527		509		462	16	19	14
Commercial & industrial		437		418		408		421		315	18	39	4
Total commercial		2,511		2,421		2,376		2,391		2,004	15	25	8
Residential construction		1,791		1,830		1,939		2,013		1,874	(9)	(4)	(14)
Residential mortgage		1,491		1,502		1,459		1,413		1,353	(3)	10	9
Consumer / installment		175		176		179		182		171	(2)	2	(2)
Total loans	\$	5,968	\$	5,929	\$	5,953	\$	5,999	\$	5,402	3	10	1
LOANS BY MARKET													
Atlanta Region	\$	2,393	\$	2,402	\$	2,451	\$	2,518	\$	2,015	(1) %	19 %	(8) %
North Georgia	Ψ	2,071	Ψ	2,060	Ψ	2,026	Ψ	2,032	Ψ	2,013	2	3	3
Western North Carolina		816		806		834		816		782	5	4	4
Coastal Georgia		439		416		402		396		372	22	18	18
East Tennessee		249		245		240		237		223	7	12	12
Total loans	•	5,968	\$	5,929	\$	5,953	\$	5,999	\$	5,402	3	10	1
RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCT	ION												
Dirt loans	ION												
Acquisition & development	\$	583	\$	593	\$	596	\$	602	\$	580	(7) %	1 %	(8) %
Land loans	Ψ	130	Ψ	126	Ψ	125	Ψ	113	Ψ	122	13	7	4
Lot loans		406		407		403		393		362	(1)	12	5
Total		1,119		1,126		1,124		1,108		1,064	(2)	5	(2)
Total		1,119		1,120		1,124		1,108		1,004	(2)	3	(2)
House loans													
Spec		460		473		539		596		533	(11) %	(14) %	(26) %
Sold		212		231		276		309		277	(33)	(23)	(35)
Total		672		704		815		905		810	(18)	(17)	(29)
Total residential construction	\$	1,791	\$	1,830	\$	1,939	\$	2,013	\$	1,874	(9)	(4)	(14)
RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCT	ION -	ATLANT	ΓA RE	GION									
Dirt loans													
Acquisition & development	\$	305	\$	311	\$	312	\$	336	\$	317	(8) %	(4) %	(19) %
Land loans	•	55	•	54	•	53	•	50	•	52	7	6	-
Lot loans		129		131		135		140		113	(6)	14	(8)
Total		489		496		500		526		482	(6)	1	(14)
House loans													
Spec		279		286		328		378		298	(10) %	(6) %	(28) %
Sold	_	76	_	82	_	112		140		124	(29)	(39)	(65)
Sold Total		76 355		82 368		112 440		140 518		124 422	(29) (14)	(39) (16)	(65) (38)

⁽¹⁾ Acquired Gwinnett Commercial Group on June 1, 2007 with total loans of \$534 million in the Atlanta Region:

⁽²⁾ Annualized.

Operating Earnings to GAAP Earnings Reconciliation (in thousands, except per share data)

	First	Fourth	Third	Second
	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter
	2008	2007	2007	2007
Special provision for fraud related loan losses	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000
Income tax effect of special provision After-tax effect of special provision	<u>-</u> \$ -	1,167 \$ 1,833	\$ -	5,835 \$ 9,165
Net Income Reconciliation Operating net income After-tax effect of special provision and merger-related charges Net income (GAAP)	\$ 16,078	\$ 6,034	\$ 22,536	\$ 21,076
	-	(1,833)	-	(9,165)
	\$ 16,078	\$ 4,201	\$ 22,536	\$ 11,911
Basic Earnings Per Share Reconciliation Basic operating earnings per share Per share effect of special provision and merger-related charges Basic earnings per share (GAAP)	\$.34	\$.13	\$.47	\$.47
	-	(.04)	-	(.21)
	\$.34	\$.09	\$.47	\$.26
Diluted Earnings Per Share Reconciliation Diluted operating earnings per share Per share effect of special provision and merger-related charges Diluted earnings per share (GAAP)	\$.34	\$.13	\$.46	\$.46
	-	(.04)	-	(.20)
	\$.34	\$.09	\$.46	\$.26
Provision for Loan Losses Reconciliation Operating provision for loan losses Special provision for fraud related loan losses Provision for loan losses (GAAP)	\$ 7,500 \$ 7,500	\$ 26,500 3,000 \$ 29,500	\$ 3,700	\$ 3,700 15,000 \$ 18,700
Nonperforming Assets Reconciliation Nonperforming assets excluding fraud-related assets Fraud-related loans and OREO included in nonperforming assets Nonperforming assets (GAAP)	\$ 85,182	\$ 40,956	\$ 39,761	\$ 19,968
	4,682	5,302	23,576	23,633
	\$ 89,864	\$ 46,258	\$ 63,337	\$ 43,601
Allowance for Loan Losses Reconciliation Allowance for loan losses excluding special fraud-related allowance Fraud-related allowance for loan losses Allowance for loan losses (GAAP)	\$ 89,848	\$ 89,423	\$ 75,935	\$ 77,471
	-	-	15,000	15,000
	\$ 89,848	\$ 89,423	\$ 90,935	\$ 92,471
Net Charge Offs Reconciliation Net charge offs excluding charge off of fraud-related loans Fraud-related loans charged off Net charge offs (GAAP)	\$ 7,075	\$ 13,012	\$ 5,236	\$ 2,124
	-	18,000	-	-
	\$ 7,075	\$ 31,012	\$ 5,236	\$ 2,124
Allowance for Loan Losses to Loans Ratio Reconciliation Allowance for loan losses to loans ratio excluding fraud-related allowance Portion of allowance assigned to fraud-related loans Allowance for loan losses to loans ratio (GAAP)	1.51		.25	.25
Nonperforming Assets to Total Assets Ratio Reconciliation Nonperforming assets to total assets ratio excluding fraud-related assets Fraud-related nonperforming assets Nonperforming assets to total assets ratio (GAAP)	1.02 .05 1.07	.06	.28	.29
Net Charge Offs to Average Loans Ratio Reconciliation Net charge offs to average loans ratio excluding fraud-related loans Charge offs of fraud-related loans Net charge offs to average loans ratio (GAAP)	.48	1.20		

Consolidated Statement of Income (unaudited)

			nths Ended ch 31,	
(in thousands, except per share data)		2008		2007
Interest revenue:				
Loans, including fees	\$	109,266	\$	114,073
Investment securities:				
Taxable		18,628		13,968
Tax exempt		394		447
Federal funds sold and deposits in banks		222		58
Total interest revenue		128,510		128,546
Interest expense:				
Deposits:				
NOW		8,587		10,627
Money market		2,913		2,540
Savings		227		309
Time		38,884		41,625
Total deposit interest expense		50,611		55,101
Federal funds purchased, repurchase agreements, & other short-term borrowings		4,318		1,817
Federal Home Loan Bank advances		5,745		4,801
Long-term debt		2,080		2,204
Total interest expense		62,754		63,923
Net interest revenue		65,756		64,623
Provision for loan losses		7,500		3,700
Net interest revenue after provision for loan losses		58,256		60,923
Fee revenue:				
Service charges and fees		7,813		7,253
Mortgage loan and other related fees		1,963		2,223
Consulting fees		1,807		1,747
Brokerage fees		1,093		944
Securities gains, net		1,093		207
Other		1,521		2,008
Total fee revenue		14,197		14,382
Total revenue		72,453		75,305
		72,433		/3,303
Operating expenses:				
Salaries and employee benefits		28,754		28,317
Communications and equipment		3,832		3,812
Occupancy		3,716		3,191
Advertising and public relations		1,351		2,016
Postage, printing and supplies		1,592		1,660
Professional fees		1,921		1,479
Amortization of intangibles		767		564
Other		5,596		3,802
Total operating expenses		47,529		44,841
Income before income taxes		24,924		30,464
Income taxes		8,846		11,119
Net income	\$	16,078	\$	19,345
Earnings per common share:		_		-
Basic	\$.34	\$.45
Diluted	Ψ	.34	Ψ	.43
Dividends per common share		.09		.09
Weighted average common shares outstanding:		.09		.09
Basic		46,966		42 AAA
				43,000
Diluted		47,272		43,912

Consolidated Balance Sheet

(in thousands, except share and per share data)	March 31, 2008	December 31, 2007	March 31, 2007
ASSETS	(unaudited)	(audited)	(unaudited)
Cash and due from banks	\$ 169,538	\$ 157,549	\$ 159,543
Interest-bearing deposits in banks	13,417	62,074	22,644
Cash and cash equivalents	182,955	219,623	182,187
Securities available for sale	1,508,402	1,356,846	1,150,424
Mortgage loans held for sale	28,451	28,004	31,633
Loans, net of unearned income	5,967,839	5,929,263	5,402,198
Less allowance for loan losses	89,848	89,423	68,804
Loans, net	5,877,991	5,839,840	5,333,394
Premises and equipment, net	180,746	180,088	150,332
Accrued interest receivable	59,585	62,828	60,677
Goodwill and other intangible assets	324,041	325,305	166,073
Other assets	224,084	194,768	111,882
Total assets	\$ 8,386,255	\$ 8,207,302	\$ 7,186,602
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY			
Liabilities:			
Deposits:			
Demand	\$ 690,028	\$ 700,941	\$ 675,969
NOW	1,523,942	1,474,818	1,406,287
Money market	431,623	452,917	277,184
Savings	187,911	186,392	176,891
Time:			
Less than \$100,000	1,535,742	1,573,604	1,619,865
Greater than \$100,000	1,375,000	1,364,763	1,366,360
Brokered	431,523	322,516	319,131
Total deposits	6,175,769	6,075,951	5,841,687
Federal funds purchased, repurchase agreements, and other short-term borrowings	532,896	638,462	77,367
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	615,324	519,782	464,072
Long-term debt	107,996	107,996	113,151
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	82,818	33,209	51,869
Total liabilities	7,514,803	7,375,400	6,548,146
Shareholders' equity:			
Preferred stock, \$1 par value; \$10 stated value; 10,000,000 shares authorized;			
25,800, 25,800 and 32,200 shares issued and outstanding	258	258	322
Common stock, \$1 par value; 100,000,000 shares authorized;	250	230	322
48,809,301, 48,809,301 and 43,037,840 shares issued	48,809	48,809	43,038
Common stock issuable; 90,505, 73,250 and 35,154 shares	2,410	2,100	1,043
Capital surplus	463,095	462,881	273,575
Retained earnings	359,248	347,391	321,721
Treasury stock; 1,805,078 and 1,905,921shares, at cost	(41,351)	(43,798)	
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	38,983	14,261	(1,243)
Total shareholders' equity	871,452	831,902	638,456
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 8,386,255	\$ 8,207,302	\$ 7,186,602

Average Consolidated Balance Sheets and Net Interest Analysis

For the Three Months Ended March 31,

		2008		2007				
	Average		Avg.	Average		Avg.		
(dollars in thousands, taxable equivalent)	Balance	Interest	Rate	Balance	Interest	Rate		
Assets:								
Interest-earning assets:								
Loans, net of unearned income (1)(2)	\$5,958,296	\$109,252	7.37 %	\$5,402,860	\$113,868	8.55 %		
Taxable securities (3)	1,448,224	18,628	5.15	1,109,847	13,968	5.03		
Tax-exempt securities (1)(3)	37,291	648	6.95	43,361	735	6.78		
Federal funds sold and other interest-earning assets	47,669	513	4.30	42,967	457	4.25		
Total interest-earning assets	7,491,480	129,041	6.92	6,599,035	129,028	7.92		
Non-interest-earning assets:			***					
Allowance for loan losses	(92,025)			(68,187)				
Cash and due from banks	154,706			120,637				
Premises and equipment	181,355			146,832				
Other assets (3)	570,105			294,393				
Total assets	\$8,305,621			\$7,092,710				
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity:								
Interest-bearing liabilities:								
Interest-bearing deposits:								
NOW	\$1,462,116	\$ 8,587	2.36	\$1,322,818	\$ 10,627	3.26		
Money market	439,049	2,913	2.67	261,753	2,540	3.94		
Savings	184,812	227	.49	175,275	309	.71		
Time less than \$100,000	1,553,313	18,223	4.72	1,641,507	19,796	4.89		
Time greater than \$100,000	1,365,307	16,370	4.82	1,385,401	17,916	5.24		
Brokered	374,402	4,291	4.61	334,753	3,913	4.74		
Total interest-bearing deposits	5,378,999	50,611	3.78	5,121,507	55,101	4.36		
Federal funds purchased and other borrowings	551,812	4,318	3.15	139,256	1,817	5.29		
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	661,498	5,745	3.49	395,746	4,801	4.92		
Long-term debt	107,996	2,080	7.75	113,234	2,204	7.89		
Total borrowed funds	1,321,306	12,143	3.70	648,236	8,822	5.52		
Total interest-bearing liabilities	6,700,305	62,754	3.77	5,769,743	63,923	4.49		
Non-interest-bearing liabilities:								
Non-interest-bearing deposits	672,070			642,919				
Other liabilities	77,587			55,948				
Total liabilities	7,449,962			6,468,610				
Shareholders' equity	855,659			624,100				
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$8,305,621			\$7,092,710				
Net interest revenue		\$ 66,287			\$ 65,105			
Net interest-rate spread			3.15 %			3.43 %		
Net interest margin (4)		=	3.55 %		=	3.99 %		
		=	3.33 /0		=	5.77		

⁽¹⁾ Interest revenue on tax-exempt securities and loans has been increased to reflect comparable interest on taxable securities and loans. The rate used was 39%, reflecting the statutory federal income tax rate and the federal tax adjusted state income tax rate.

⁽²⁾ Included in the average balance of loans outstanding are loans where the accrual of interest has been discontinued.

⁽³⁾ Securities available for sale are shown at amortized cost. Pretax unrealized gains of \$15.9 million in 2008 and pretax unrealized losses of \$10.0 million in 2007 are included in other assets for purposes of this presentation.

⁽⁴⁾ Net interest margin is taxable equivalent net-interest revenue divided by average interest-earning assets.