FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP
Form 10-K
March 21, 2012
UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-K

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

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2011
OR
o TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from $\qquad$ to $\qquad$ .Commission File Number 000-30707
First Northern Community Bancorp
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

> California
> (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

195 N. First St., Dixon, CA
(Address of principal executive offices)

68-0450397
(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

95620
(Zip Code)

707-678-3041
(Registrant's telephone number including area code)

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

None
Common Stock, no par value
(Title of Class)

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

No x
Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act.
Yes o No x
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 x No o

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).
Yes x No o

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (Section 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form $10-\mathrm{K}$ or any amendment to this Form 10-K. x

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

Large accelerated filer o Accelerated filer o Non-accelerated filer o (Do not check if smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company x

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes o Nox

The aggregate market value of the Common Stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant on June 30, 2011 (based upon the last reported sales price of such stock on the OTC Markets on June 30, 2011) was $\$ 37,359,507$.

The number of shares of Common Stock outstanding as of March 20, 2012 was 9,157,536.

## DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Items $10,11,12$ (as to security ownership of certain beneficial owners and management), 13 and 14 of Part III incorporate by reference information from the registrant's proxy statement to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with the solicitation of proxies for the registrant's 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

1

## TABLE OF CONTENTS


Item 15 Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules ..... 105
Signatures ..... 108

This report includes forward-looking statements, which include forecasts of our financial results and condition, expectations for our operations and business, and our assumptions for those forecasts and expectations. Do not rely unduly on forward-looking statements. Actual results might differ significantly compared to our forecasts and expectations. See Part I, Item 1A. "Risk Factors," and the other risks described in this report for factors to be considered when reading any forward-looking statements in this filing.

This report includes forward-looking statements, which are subject to the "safe harbor" created by section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. We may make forward-looking statements in our Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") filings, press releases, news articles and when we are speaking on behalf of the Company. Forward-looking statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. Often, they include the words "believe," "expect," "target," "anticipate," "intend," "plan," "seek," "estimate," "potential," "project," or words of similar meaning, or future or conditiona such as "will," "would," "should," "could," "might," or "may." These forward-looking statements are intended to provide inve with additional information with which they may assess our future potential. All of these forward-looking statements are based on assumptions about an uncertain future and are based on information available to us at the date of these statements. We do not undertake to update forward-looking statements to reflect facts, circumstances, assumptions or events that occur after the date the forward-looking statements are made.

In this document, for example, we make forward-looking statements, which discuss our expectations about:

- Our business objectives, strategies and initiatives, our organizational structure, the growth of our business and our competitive position
- Our assessment of significant factors and developments that have affected or may affect our results
- Pending and recent legal and regulatory actions, and future legislative and regulatory developments, including the effects of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act") and other legislation and governmental measures introduced in response to the financial crises affecting the banking system, financial markets and the U.S. economy
- Regulatory controls and processes and their impact on our business
- The costs and effects of legal actions
- We do not expect draws on performance letters of credit
- Our regulatory capital requirements
- We do not anticipate paying a cash dividend in the foreseeable future
- Credit quality and provision for credit losses
- Our allowances for credit losses, including the conditions we consider in determining the unallocated allowance and our portfolio credit quality, underwriting standards, and risk grade
- Our assessment of economic conditions and trends and credit cycles and their impact on our business
- The seasonal nature of our business
- The impact of changes in interest rates and our strategy to manage our interest rate risk profile
- Loan portfolio composition and risk grade trends, expected charge offs, delinquency rates and our underwriting standards
- Our deposit base including renewal of time deposits
- Our belief that net interest income and net interest margin will continue to fluctuate due to the unstable rate environment

3

## Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

- The Company does not anticipate any significant increase or decrease in unrecognized tax benefits
- Our pension and retirement plan costs
- Our liquidity position
- Critical accounting policies and estimates, the impact or anticipated impact of recent accounting pronouncements or change in accounting principles
- Expected rates of return, yields and projected results

There are numerous risks and uncertainties that could and will cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed in our forward-looking statements. Many of these factors are beyond our ability to control or predict and could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations or prospects. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to those listed in Part I, Item 1A "Risk Factors" and Part II, Item 7 "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations."

Readers of this document should not rely unduly on forward-looking information and should consider all uncertainties and risks disclosed throughout this document and in our other reports to the SEC, including, but not limited to, those discussed below. Any factor described in this report could by itself, or together with one or more other factors, adversely affect our business, future prospects, results of operations or financial condition.

## PART I

## ITEM 1 - BUSINESS

Unless otherwise indicated, all information herein has been adjusted to give effect to our two-for-one stock split in 2005 and stock dividends.

First Northern Bank of Dixon ("First Northern" or "Bank") was established in 1910 under a California state charter as Northern Solano Bank, and opened for business on February 1st of that year. On January 2, 1912, the First National Bank of Dixon was established under a federal charter, and until 1955, the two entities operated side by side under the same roof and with the same management. In an effort to increase efficiency of operation, reduce operating expense, and improve lending capacity, the two banks were consolidated on April 8, 1955, with the First National Bank of Dixon as the surviving entity.

On January 1, 1980, the Bank's federal charter was relinquished in favor of a California state charter, and the Bank's name was changed to First Northern Bank of Dixon.

In April of 2000, the shareholders of First Northern approved a corporate reorganization, which provided for the creation of a bank holding company, First Northern Community Bancorp ("Company"). The objective of this reorganization, which was effected May 19, 2000, was to enable the Bank to better compete and grow in its competitive and rapidly changing marketplace. As a result of the reorganization, the Bank is a wholly owned and principal operating subsidiary of the Company.

First Northern engages in the general commercial banking business throughout the California Counties of Solano, Yolo, Placer, and Sacramento.

The Company's and the Bank's Administrative Offices are located in Dixon, California. Also located in Dixon are the back office functions of the Information Services/Central Operations Department and the Central Loan Department.

The Bank has ten full service branches. Three are located in the Solano County cities of Dixon, Fairfield, and Vacaville. Four branches are located in the Yolo County cities of Winters, Davis, West Sacramento, and Woodland. One branch is located in Downtown Sacramento in Sacramento County, and two branches are located in the Placer County cities of Roseville and Auburn. The Bank also has one satellite banking office inside a retirement community in the city of Davis. In addition, the Bank has real estate loan offices in Davis and Roseville that originate residential mortgages and construction loans. The Bank also has a Small Business Administration ("SBA") Loan Department located in Roseville and an Asset Management \& Trust Department in Downtown Sacramento that serve the Bank's entire market area.

## Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

First Northern is in the commercial banking business, which includes accepting demand, interest bearing transaction, savings, and time deposits, and making commercial, consumer, and real estate related loans. It also offers installment note collection, issues cashier's checks, sells travelers' checks, rents safe deposit boxes, and provides other customary banking services. The Bank is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") and effective July 21, 2010, the standard maximum deposit insurance amount was permanently raised to $\$ 250,000$.

First Northern also offers a broad range of alternative investment products and services, equipment leasing and limited international banking services through third parties.

The operating policy of the Bank since its inception has emphasized serving the banking needs of individuals and small- to medium-sized businesses. In Dixon, this has included businesses involved in crop and livestock production. Historically, the economy of the Dixon area has been primarily dependent upon agricultural related sources of income and most employment opportunities have also been related to agriculture. Since 2000, Dixon has been becoming more diverse with noticeable expansion in the areas of industrial, commercial, retail, and residential housing projects.

The Davis economy is supported significantly by the University of California, Davis. In 1981, a branch was opened in South Davis, and was consolidated into the main Davis Branch in 1986.

In 1983, the West Sacramento Branch was opened. The West Sacramento economy is built primarily around transportation and distribution related business.

In order to accommodate the demand of the Bank's customers for long-term residential real estate loans, a Real Estate Loan Office was opened in 1983. This office is centrally located in Davis, and has enabled the Bank to access the secondary real estate market.

The Vacaville Regency Park Branch was opened in 1985. Vacaville has a diverse economic base including a California state prison, food processing, distribution, shopping centers ("Factory Outlet Stores"), medical, biotech, and other varied industries. Although the Vacaville Regency Park Branch was relocated in 2011, in January 2012 it was consolidated with the Vacaville Downtown Financial Center.

In 1994, the Fairfield Branch was opened. Its diverse economic base includes military ("Travis AFB"), food processing (an Anheuser-Busch plant), retail ("Solano Mall"), manufacturing, medical, agriculture, and other varied industries. Fairfield is the county seat of Solano County. The Fairfield Branch has been expanded and remodeled to accommodate additional customers and to include an Investment \& Brokerage services office.

A real estate loan production office was opened in El Dorado Hills, in April 1996, to serve the growing mortgage loan demand in the foothills area east of Sacramento. This office was moved to Folsom in 2006, a more central location for serving Folsom, Rancho Cordova, and the west slope of El Dorado County. The Folsom office was consolidated into the Roseville Real Estate Mortgage Office in early 2012.

The SBA Loan Department was opened in April 1997 in Sacramento to serve the small business and industrial loan demand throughout the Bank's entire market area. This Department was moved to Roseville in 2010.

In June of 1997, the Bank's seventh branch was opened in Woodland, the county seat of Yolo County. Woodland's economy includes agribusiness, retail services, and an industrial sector.

The Bank's eighth branch, the Downtown Financial Center, opened in July of 2000 in Vacaville to serve the business and individual financial needs on the west side of Interstate-80.

Two satellite banking offices of the Bank's Davis Branch were opened in 2001 in the Davis senior living communities of Covell Gardens and the University Retirement Community. The Bank later consolidated the Covell Gardens location into its main branch in Davis.

In December of 2001, Roseville became the site of the Bank's fourth real estate loan production office. This office serves the residential mortgage loan needs throughout the foothill regions of Placer, Sacramento as well as the west slope of El Dorado County.

In October of 2002, the Bank opened its tenth branch on a prominent corner in Downtown Sacramento to serve Sacramento Metro's business center and its employees. The Bank's Asset Management \& Trust Department, located on the mezzanine of the Downtown Sacramento Branch, was opened in 2002 to serve the trust and fiduciary needs of the Bank's entire market area. Fiduciary services are offered to individuals, businesses, governments, and charitable organizations in the Solano, Yolo, Sacramento, Placer and El Dorado County regions.

## Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

The Bank expanded its presence in Placer County in January 2005 by opening a full service branch on a prominent corner in the rapidly growing business district of Roseville.

In late 2007, First Northern Bank seized an opportunity in Auburn to acquire several key personnel from a highly respected local bank that had just merged with a large conglomerate bank. While First Northern scouted for a branch site, the 'Auburn team' worked from the Bank's Roseville Branch to develop business in Auburn. In June 2008, the Bank opened its Auburn Financial Center in a temporary location within a busy retail shopping center along Highway 49. The Financial Center houses a full service branch and an Investment \& Brokerage Services Office. Auburn is the county seat of Placer County.

In November 2010, First Northern Bank purchased a building in the Auburn Town Center, which became the permanent location of the Auburn Financial Center in February 2011. First Northern Bank leases office space in this building to various tenants.

Through this period of change and diversification, the Bank's strategic focus, which emphasizes serving the banking needs of individuals and small-to medium-sized businesses, has not changed. The Bank takes real estate, crop proceeds, securities, savings and time deposits, automobiles, and equipment as collateral for loans.

Most of the Bank's deposits are attracted from the market of northern and central Solano County and southern and central Yolo County.

As of December 31, 2011, the Company and the Bank employed 207 full-time equivalent staff. The Company and the Bank consider their relationship with their employees to be good and have not experienced any interruptions of operations due to labor disagreements.

First Northern has historically experienced seasonal swings in both deposit and loan volumes due primarily to general economic factors and specific economic factors affecting our customers. Deposits have typically hit lows in February or March and have peaked in November or December. Loans typically peak in the late spring and hit lows in the fall as crops are harvested and sold. Since the real estate and agricultural economies generally follow the same seasonal cycle, they experience the same deposit and loan fluctuations.

Available Information
The Company's internet address is www.thatsmybank.com, and the Company makes available free of charge on this website its Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports, as soon as reasonably practicable after the Company electronically files such material with, or furnishes it to, the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). These filings are also accessible on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. The information found on the Company's website shall not be deemed incorporated by reference by any general statement incorporating by reference this report into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and shall not otherwise be deemed filed under such Acts.

## The Effect of Government Policy on Banking

The earnings and growth of the Bank are affected not only by local market area factors and general economic conditions, but also by government monetary and fiscal policies. For example, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System ("FRB") influences the supply of money through its open market operations in U.S. Government securities, adjustments to the discount rates applicable to borrowings by depository institutions and others and establishment of reserve requirements against both member and non-member financial institutions' deposits. Such actions significantly affect the overall growth and distribution of loans, investments, and deposits and also affect interest rates charged on loans and paid on deposits. The nature and impact of future changes in such policies on the
business and earnings of the Company cannot be predicted. Additionally, state and federal tax policies can impact banking organizations.

As a consequence of the extensive regulation of commercial banking activities in the United States, the business of the Company is particularly susceptible to being affected by the enactment of federal and state legislation which may have the effect of increasing or decreasing the cost of doing business, modifying permissible activities or enhancing the competitive position of other financial institutions. Any change in applicable laws, regulations, or policies may have a material adverse effect on the business, financial condition, or results of operations, or prospects of the Company.

## Regulation and Supervision of Bank Holding Companies

The Company is a bank holding company subject to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended ("BHCA"). The Company reports to, registers with, and may be examined by, the FRB. The FRB also has the authority to examine the Company's subsidiaries. The costs of any examination by the FRB are payable by the Company.

The FRB has significant supervisory and regulatory authority over the Company and its affiliates. The FRB requires the Company to maintain certain levels of capital. See "Capital Standards" below for more information. The FRB also has the authority to take enforcement action against any bank holding company that commits any unsafe or unsound practice, or violates certain laws, regulations, or conditions imposed in writing by the FRB. See "Prompt Corrective Action and Other Enforcement Mechanisms" below for more information. Under FRB policy and provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act, bank holding companies are expected to act as a source of financial and managerial strength to subsidiary banks, and to commit resources to support subsidiary banks. This support may be required at times when a bank holding company may not be able to provide such support.

Under the BHCA, a company generally must obtain the prior approval of the FRB before it exercises a controlling influence over a bank, or acquires, directly or indirectly, more than $5 \%$ of the voting shares or substantially all of the assets of any bank or bank holding company. Thus, the Company is required to obtain the prior approval of the FRB before it acquires, merges, or consolidates with any bank or bank holding company. Any company seeking to acquire, merge, or consolidate with the Company also would be required to obtain the prior approval of the FRB.

The Company is generally prohibited under the BHCA from acquiring ownership or control of more than $5 \%$ of the voting shares of any company that is not a bank or bank holding company and from engaging directly or indirectly in activities other than banking, managing banks, or providing services to affiliates of the holding company. However, a bank holding company, with the approval of the FRB, may engage, or acquire the voting shares of companies engaged, in activities that the FRB has determined to be so closely related to banking or managing or controlling banks as to be a proper incident thereto. A bank holding company must demonstrate that the benefits to the public of the proposed activity will outweigh the possible adverse effects associated with such activity.

The FRB generally prohibits a bank holding company from declaring or paying a cash dividend which would impose undue pressure on the capital of subsidiary banks or would be funded only through borrowing or other arrangements that might adversely affect a bank holding company's financial position. The FRB's policy is that a bank holding company should not continue its existing rate of cash dividends on its common stock unless its net income is sufficient to fully fund each dividend and its prospective rate of earnings retention appears consistent with its capital needs, asset quality, and overall financial condition. The Company is also subject to restrictions relating to the payment of dividends under California corporate law. See "Restrictions on Dividends and Other Distributions" below for additional restrictions on the ability of the Company and the Bank to pay dividends.

## Bank Regulation and Supervision

The Bank is subject to regulation, supervision and regular examination by the California Department of Financial Institutions ("DFI") and the FDIC. The regulations of these agencies affect most aspects of the Bank's business and prescribe permissible types of loans and investments, the amount of required reserves, requirements for branch offices, the permissible scope of the Bank's activities and various other requirements. While the Bank is not a member of the FRB, it is directly subject to certain regulations of the FRB dealing with such matters as check clearing activities, establishment of banking reserves, Truth-in-Lending ("Regulation Z"), Truth-in-Savings ("Regulation DD"), and Equal Credit Opportunity ("Regulation B"). In addition, the banking industry is subject to significantly increased regulatory controls and processes regarding Bank Secrecy Act and anti-money laundering laws. In recent years, a number of banks and bank holding companies announced the imposition of regulatory sanctions, including regulatory agreements and cease and desist orders and, in some cases, fines and penalties by the bank regulators due to failures to comply

## Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

with the Bank Secrecy Act and other anti-money laundering legislation. In a number of these cases, the fines and penalties have been significant. Failure to comply with these additional requirements may also adversely affect the ability to obtain regulatory approvals for future initiatives requiring regulatory approval, including acquisitions.

Under California law, the Bank is subject to various restrictions on, and requirements regarding, its operations and administration including the maintenance of branch offices and automated teller machines, capital and reserve requirements, deposits and borrowings, stockholder rights and duties, and investment and lending activities.

California law permits a state chartered bank to invest in the stock and securities of other corporations, subject to a state chartered bank receiving either general authorization or, depending on the amount of the proposed investment, specific authorization from the Commissioner. Federal banking laws, however, impose limitations on the activities and equity investments of state chartered, federally insured banks. The FDIC rules on investments prohibit a state bank from acquiring an equity investment of a type, or in an amount, not permissible for a national bank. Non-permissible investments must have been divested by state banks no later than December 19, 1996. FDIC rules also prohibit a state bank from engaging as a principal in any activity that is not permissible for a national bank, unless the bank is adequately capitalized and the FDIC approves the activity after determining that such activity does not pose a significant risk to the deposit insurance fund. The FDIC rules on activities generally permit subsidiaries of banks, without prior specific FDIC authorization, to engage in those activities that have been approved by the FRB for bank holding companies because such activities are so closely related to banking to be a proper incident thereto. Other activities generally require specific FDIC prior approval and the FDIC may impose additional restrictions on such activities on a case-by-case basis in approving applications to engage in otherwise impermissible activities.

## The USA Patriot Act

Title III of the United and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 ("USA Patriot Act") includes numerous provisions for fighting international money laundering and blocking terrorism access to the U.S. financial system. The USA Patriot Act requires certain additional due diligence and record keeping practices, including, but not limited to, new customers, correspondent and private banking accounts. In March 2006, President Bush signed into law a renewal of the USA Patriot Act.

Part of the USA Patriot Act is the International Money Laundering Abatement and Financial Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001 ("IMLAFATA"). Among its provisions, IMLAFATA requires each financial institution to: (i) establish an anti-money laundering program; (ii) establish appropriate anti-money laundering policies, procedures, and controls; (iii) appoint a Bank Secrecy Act officer responsible for day-to-day compliance; and (iv) conduct independent audits. In addition, IMLAFATA contains a provision encouraging cooperation among financial institutions, regulatory authorities, and law enforcement authorities with respect to individuals, entities and organizations engaged in, or reasonably suspected of engaging in, terrorist acts or money laundering activities. IMLAFATA expands the circumstances under which funds in a bank account may be forfeited and requires covered financial institutions to respond under certain circumstances to requests for information from federal banking agencies within 120 hours. IMLAFATA also amends the BHCA and the Bank Merger Act to require the federal banking agencies to consider the effectiveness of a financial institution's anti-money laundering activities when reviewing an application under these Acts.

Pursuant to IMLAFATA, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the heads of other government agencies, has adopted and proposed special measures applicable to banks, bank holding companies, and/or other financial institutions. These measures include enhanced record keeping and reporting requirements for certain financial transactions that are of primary money laundering concern, due diligence requirements concerning the beneficial ownership of certain types of accounts, and restrictions or prohibitions on certain types of accounts with foreign financial institutions.

Privacy Restrictions

The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act ("GLBA"), in addition to the previous described changes in permissible non-banking activities permitted to banks, bank holding companies and financial holding companies, also requires financial institutions in the U.S. to provide certain privacy disclosures to customers and consumers, to comply with certain restrictions on the sharing and usage of personally identifiable information, and to implement and maintain commercially reasonable customer information safeguarding standards.

The Company believes that it complies with all provisions of GLBA and all implementing regulations, and the Bank has developed appropriate policies and procedures to meet its responsibilities in connection with the privacy provisions of GLBA.

8

In October 2007, the federal bank regulatory agencies adopted final rules implementing the affiliate marketing provisions of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003, which amended the Fair Credit Reporting Act ("FCRA"). The final rules, which became effective on January 1, 2008, impose a prohibition, subject to certain exceptions, on a financial institution using certain information received from an affiliate to make a solicitation to a consumer unless the consumer is given notice and a reasonable opportunity to opt out of such solicitations, and the consumer does not opt out. The final rules apply to information obtained from the consumer's transactions or account relationships with an affiliate, any application the consumer submitted to an affiliate, and third-party sources, such as credit reports, if the information is to be used to send marketing solicitations. The rules do not supersede or affect a consumer's existing right under other provisions of the FCRA to opt out of the sharing between a financial institution and its affiliates of consumer information other than information relating solely to transactions or experiences between the consumer and the financial institution or its affiliates.

California and other state legislatures have adopted privacy laws, including laws prohibiting sharing of customer information without the customer's prior permission. These laws may make it more difficult for the Company to share information with its marketing partners, reduce the effectiveness of marketing programs, and increase the cost of marketing programs.

## Capital Standards

The federal banking agencies have risk-based capital adequacy guidelines intended to provide a measure of capital adequacy that reflects the degree of risk associated with a banking organization's operations for both transactions reported on the balance sheet as assets and transactions, such as letters of credit, and recourse arrangements, which are recorded as off-balance-sheet items. Under these guidelines, nominal dollar amounts of assets and credit equivalent amounts of off-balance-sheet items are multiplied by one of several risk adjustment percentages, which range from $0 \%$ for assets with low credit risk, such as certain U.S. government securities, to $100 \%$ for assets with relatively higher credit risk, such as certain loans.

In determining the capital level the Bank is required to maintain, the federal banking agencies do not, in all respects, follow generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") and have special rules which have the effect of reducing the amount of capital that will be recognized for purposes of determining the capital adequacy of the Bank.

In addition to the risk-based guidelines, federal banking regulators require banking organizations to maintain a minimum amount of Tier 1 capital to adjusted average total assets, referred to as the leverage capital ratio. For a banking organization rated in the highest of the five categories used by regulators to rate banking organizations, the minimum lever-age ratio of Tier 1 capital to total assets must be $3 \%$. It is improbable; however, that an institution with a $3 \%$ leverage ratio would receive the highest rating by the regulators since a strong capital position is a significant part of the regulators' rating. For all banking organizations not rated in the highest category, the minimum leverage ratio must be at least 100 to 200 basis points above the $3 \%$ minimum. Thus, the effective minimum leverage ratio, for all practical purposes, must be at least $4 \%$ or $5 \%$. In addition to these uniform risk-based capital guidelines and leverage ratios that apply across the industry, the regulators have the discretion to set individual minimum capital requirements for specific institutions at rates significantly above the minimum guidelines and ratios.

## 9

As of December 31, 2011, the Company's and the Bank's capital ratios exceeded applicable regulatory requirements.
The following tables present the capital ratios for the Company and the Bank, compared to the standards for well-capitalized bank holding companies and depository institutions, as of December 31, 2011.

|  | The Company |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Actual <br> Adequately <br> Capitalized |  |  |  |
| Ratio |  |  |  |  |

The Bank

|  | Actual |  |  |  | Adequately <br> Capitalized <br> Ratio | Well <br> Capitalized <br> Ratio |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Capital |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ratio |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

The federal banking agencies must take into consideration concentrations of credit risk and risks from non-traditional activities, as well as an institution's ability to manage those risks, when determining the adequacy of an institution's capital. This evaluation will be made as a part of the institution's regular safety and soundness examination. The federal banking agencies must also consider interest rate risk (when the interest rate sensitivity of an institution's assets does not match the sensitivity of its liabilities or its off-balance-sheet position) in evaluating a Bank's capital adequacy.

## Prompt Corrective Action and Other Enforcement Mechanisms

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 ("FDICIA") requires each federal banking agency to take prompt corrective action to resolve the problems of insured depository institutions, including but not limited to those that fall below one or more prescribed minimum capital ratios. The law required each federal banking agency to promulgate regulations defining the following five categories in which an insured depository institution will be placed, based on the level of its capital ratios: well capitalized, adequately capitalized, under-capitalized, significantly undercapitalized, and critically undercapitalized.

Under the prompt corrective action provisions of FDICIA, an insured depository institution generally will be classified in the following categories based on the capital measures indicated below:

[^0]
## Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

"Undercapitalized"
"Significantly undercapitalized"
Total risk-based capital less than $8 \%$; Total risk-based capital less than 6\%;
Tier 1 risk-based capital less than $4 \%$; or Tier 1 risk-based capital less than $3 \%$; or Leverage ratio less than $4 \%$. Leverage ratio less than $3 \%$.
"Critically undercapitalized"
Tangible equity to total assets less than $2 \%$.

10

An institution that, based upon its capital levels, is classified as "well capitalized," "adequately capitalized" or "undercapitalized" may be treated as though it were in the next lower capital category if the appropriate federal banking agency, after notice and opportunity for hearing, determines that an unsafe or unsound condition or an unsafe or unsound practice warrants such treatment. At each successive lower capital category, an insured depository institution is subject to more restrictions. Management believes that at December 31, 2011, the Company and the Bank met the requirements for "well capitalized" institutions.

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

Safety and Soundness Standards
FDICIA also implemented certain specific restrictions on transactions and required federal banking regulators to adopt overall safety and soundness standards for depository institutions related to internal control, loan underwriting and documentation and asset growth. Among other things, FDICIA limits the interest rates paid on deposits by undercapitalized institutions, restricts the use of brokered deposits, limits the aggregate extensions of credit by a depository institution to an executive officer, director, principal shareholder, or related interest, and reduces deposit insurance coverage for deposits offered by undercapitalized institutions for deposits by certain employee benefits accounts.

The federal banking agencies may require an institution to submit to an acceptable compliance plan as well as have the flexibility to pursue other more appropriate or effective courses of action given the specific circumstances and severity of an institution's non-compliance with one or more standards.

Restrictions on Dividends and Other Distributions
The power of the board of directors of an insured depository institution to declare a cash dividend or other distribution with respect to capital is subject to statutory and regulatory restrictions which limit the amount available for such distribution depending upon the earnings, financial condition and cash needs of the institution, as well as general business conditions. FDICIA prohibits insured depository institutions from paying management fees to any controlling persons or, with certain limited exceptions, making capital distributions, including dividends, if, after such transaction, the institution would be undercapitalized.

The federal banking agencies also have authority to prohibit a depository institution from engaging in business practices, which are considered to be unsafe or unsound, possibly including payment of dividends or other payments under certain circumstances even if such payments are not expressly prohibited by statute.

In addition to the restrictions imposed under federal law, banks chartered under California law generally may only pay cash dividends to the extent such payments do not exceed the lesser of retained earnings of the bank's net income for its last three fiscal years (less any distributions to shareholders during such period). In the event a bank desires to pay cash dividends in excess of such amount, the bank may pay a cash dividend with the prior approval of the

Commissioner in an amount not exceeding the greatest of the bank's retained earnings, the bank's net income for its last fiscal year, or the bank's net income for its current fiscal year.

The Company is also subject to dividend and share repurchase restrictions in our corporate charter relating to the 2011 issuance to the U.S. Treasury of $\$ 22.8$ million of preferred stock in connection with the Small Business Lending Fund financing program.

11

Premiums for Deposit Insurance
The Bank is a member of the Deposit Insurance Fund ("DIF") maintained by the FDIC. Through the DIF, the FDIC insures the deposits of the Bank up to prescribed limits for each depositor. To maintain the DIF, member institutions are assessed an insurance premium based on their deposits and their institutional risk category. The FDIC determines an institution's risk category by combining its supervisory ratings with its financial ratios and other risk measures.

Amendments to the Federal Deposit Insurance Act ("FDIA") in 2005 and 2006 created a new assessment system designed to more closely tie what banks pay for deposit insurance to the risks they pose and adopted a new base schedule of rates that the FDIC can adjust up or down, depending on the revenue needs of the insurance fund. As part of the Deposit Insurance Fund Restoration Plan adopted by the FDIC in October 2008, beginning on April 1, 2009, the FDIC initial base assessment rates were set between 12 and 45 basis points. In addition, on June 30, 2009, the FDIC imposed a special assessment on banks. The Bank's special assessment totaled $\$ 320,000$.

In November 2009, in light of the challenge to the federal deposit insurance fund from the severe U.S. recession, the FDIC issued a rule mandating that insured depository institutions prepay their quarterly risk-based assessments to the FDIC for the fourth quarter of 2009, and all of 2010, 2011 and 2012. The Bank's prepayment totaled $\$ 3,820,000$ and was paid on December 30, 2009. Under this rule, each depository institution was required to record the entire amount of its prepayment as an asset, or a prepaid expense, and is allowed to count the payments as a depreciating asset. The prepaid assessments bear a zero-percent risk weight for risk-based capital purposes. The FDIC will not refund or collect additional prepaid assessments because of a decrease or growth in deposits over the next three years. However, if the prepaid assessment is not exhausted by June 30, 2013, the remaining amount of the prepayment will be returned to the depository institution. The prepaid assessments are in lieu of additional special assessments at this time; however, there can be no assurance that the FDIC will not impose additional special assessments or increase annual assessments in the future.

The Dodd-Frank Act requires the FDIC to revise the deposit insurance assessment system to base assessments on the average total consolidated assets of the institution, rather than upon deposits payable in the U.S. as was previously the case. On October 19, 2010, the FDIC proposed a comprehensive, long-range "restoration" plan for the deposit insurance fund to ensure that the ratio of the fund's reserves to insured deposits reaches 1.35 percent by 2020 , as required by the Dodd-Frank Act. Based upon updated projections for the fund, the new restoration plan would forgo the uniform 3 basis point assessment rate increase previously scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2011, and would keep the current rate schedule in effect. The FDIC's proposal also envisions eventually building the fund's reserve ratio to 2.0 percent. Base assessment rates would adjust downward over time as the fund reached specified reserve levels. The ultimate effect of these legislative and regulatory developments cannot be predicted with any certainty.

## Community Reinvestment Act and Fair Lending

The Bank is subject to certain fair lending requirements and reporting obligations involving home mortgage lending operations and Community Reinvestment Act ("CRA") activities. The CRA generally requires the federal banking agencies to evaluate the record of a financial institution in meeting the credit needs of the Bank's local communities, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. In addition to substantive penalties and corrective measures that may be required for a violation of certain fair lending laws, the federal banking agencies may take compliance with such laws and CRA into account when regulating and supervising other activities, particularly applications involving business expansion such as acquisitions or de novo branching.

Conservatorship and Receivership of Institutions

If any insured depository institution becomes insolvent and the FDIC is appointed its conservator or receiver, the FDIC may, under federal law, disaffirm or repudiate any contract to which such institution is a party, if the FDIC determines that performance of the contract would be burdensome, and that disaffirmance or repudiation of the contract would promote the orderly administration of the institution's affairs. Such disaffirmance or repudiation would result in a claim by its holder against the receivership or conservatorship. The amount paid upon such claim would depend upon, among other factors, the amount of receivership assets available for the payment of such claim and its priority relative to the priority of others. In addition, the FDIC as conservator or receiver may enforce most contracts entered into by the institution notwithstanding any provision providing for termination, default, acceleration, or exercise of rights upon or solely by reason of insolvency of the institution, appointment of a conservator or receiver for the institution, or exercise of rights or powers by a conservator or receiver for the institution. The FDIC as conservator or receiver also may transfer any asset or liability of the institution without obtaining any approval or consent of the institution's shareholders or creditors.

# Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K 

## The Dodd-Frank Act

Due to the recent financial crisis, there have been significant changes in the competitive landscape of the financial services industry and an overhaul of the legislative and regulatory landscape with the passage of the Dodd-Frank Act, which was signed into law on July 21, 2010. The Dodd-Frank Act provides for, among other matters, increased regulatory supervision and examination of financial institutions, the imposition of more stringent capital requirements on financial institutions and increased regulation of derivatives and hedging transactions. Implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act will require many new mandatory and discretionary rules to be made by federal regulatory agencies over the next several years. The total impact of the Dodd-Frank is difficult to predict at this time. Some of the general provisions of the Act which we expect could have a direct impact on our business include the following:

- Creation of a federal consumer protection agency;
- Revisions to the federal deposit insurance program which could increase our insurance premiums;
- Changing the capital requirements of bank holding companies and banks;
- Provides for additional regulation and oversight of compensation of bank employees;
- Allowing the payment of interest on business checking accounts; and
- Additional regulation of interchange fees on debit card transactions.

The environment in which financial institutions will operate after the recent financial crisis, including legislative and regulatory changes affecting capital, liquidity, supervision, permissible activities, corporate governance and compensation, and changes in fiscal policy may have long-term effects on the business model and profitability of financial institutions that cannot now be foreseen.

## Sarbanes - Oxley Act

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 ("Sarbanes-Oxley") implemented a broad range of corporate governance and accounting measures to increase corporate responsibility, to provide for enhanced penalties for accounting and auditing improprieties at publicly traded companies, and to protect investors by improving the accuracy and reliability of disclosures under federal securities laws. Among other things, Sarbanes-Oxley and its implementing regulations have established new membership requirements and additional responsibilities for our audit committee, imposed restrictions on the relationship between us and our outside auditors (including restrictions on the types of non-audit services our auditors may provide to us), imposed additional responsibilities for our external financial statements on our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, expanded the disclosure requirements for our corporate insiders and contained new evaluation, auditing and reporting requirements relating to disclosure controls and procedures and our internal control over financial reporting.

## Regulation E

In November 2009, the Federal Reserve issued amendments to Regulation E, which implemented the Electronic Fund Transfer Act ("Regulation E"). These amendments change, among other things, the way we and other banks may charge overdraft fees; by limiting our ability to charge an overdraft fee for ATM and one-time debit card transactions that overdraw a consumer's account, unless the consumer affirmatively consents to the bank's payment of overdrafts for those transactions. On December 16, 2010, the Federal Reserve Board proposed an interchange fee cap of twelve cents per transaction. Changes to our overdraft practices will likely negatively impact future service charge revenues.

## Possible Future Legislation and Regulatory Initiatives

The recent economic and political environment has led to a number of proposed legislative, governmental and regulatory initiatives, described above, that may significantly impact our industry. These and other initiatives could significantly change the competitive and operating environment in which we and our subsidiaries operate. We cannot predict whether these or any other proposals will be enacted or the ultimate impact of any such initiatives on our operations, competitive situation, financial condition or results of operations.

## Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

## Competition

In the past, an independent bank's principal competitors for deposits and loans have been other banks (particularly major banks), savings and loan associations, and credit unions. For agricultural loans, the Bank also competes with constituent entities with the Federal Farm Credit System. To a lesser extent, competition was also provided by thrift and loans, mortgage brokerage companies and insurance companies. Other institutions, such as brokerage houses, mutual fund companies, credit card companies, and even retail establishments have offered new investment vehicles, which also compete with banks for deposit business. The direction of federal legislation in recent years seems to favor competition among different types of financial institutions and to foster new entrants into the financial services market. For example, the Dodd-Frank Act now permits banks to establish new branches in another state to the same extent as banks chartered in the other state.

The availability of banking services over the Internet or "e-banking" has continued to expand. While the impact of these changes, and of other proposed changes, cannot be predicted with certainty, it is clear that the business of banking in California will remain highly competitive.

We also compete for deposits and loans with much larger financial institutions. Competition in our industry is likely to further intensify as a result of recent adverse economic and financial market conditions which has led to increased consolidation of financial services companies, including large consolidations of significance in our market area (such as JPMorgan Chase's acquisition of Washington Mutual and Wells Fargo Bank's acquisition of Wachovia Bank). In order to compete with major financial institutions and other competitors in its primary service areas, the Bank relies upon the experience of its executive and senior officers in serving business clients, and upon its specialized services, local promotional activities and the personal contacts made by its officers, directors and employees.

For customers whose loan demand exceeds the Bank's legal lending limit, the Bank may arrange for such loans on a participation basis with correspondent banks. The seasonal swings discussed earlier have, in the past, had some impact on the Bank's liquidity. The management of investment maturities, sale of loan participations, federal fund borrowings, qualification for funds under the Federal Reserve Bank's seasonal credit program, and the ability to sell mortgages in the secondary market is intended to allow the Bank to satisfactorily manage its liquidity.

## ITEM 1A - RISK FACTORS

In addition to factors mentioned elsewhere in this Report, the factors contained below, among others, could cause our financial condition and results of operations to be materially and adversely affected. If this were to happen, the value of our common stock could decline, perhaps significantly, and you could lose all or part of your investment.
U.S. and global economies continue to experience significant challenges.

In recent years, adverse financial developments have impacted the U.S. and global economies and financial markets and present challenges for the banking and financial services industry and for us. These developments include a general recession both globally and in the U.S. and have contributed to substantial volatility in the financial markets.

In response, various significant economic and monetary stimulus measures have been enacted by the U.S. Congress. It is uncertain whether these U.S. governmental actions will result in lasting improvement in financial and economic conditions affecting the U.S. banking industry and the U.S. economy. It also cannot be predicted whether and to what extent the efforts of the U.S. government to combat the recessionary conditions will continue. If, notwithstanding the government's fiscal and monetary measures, the U.S. economy were to remain in a recessionary condition for an extended period, this would present additional significant challenges for the U.S. banking and financial services industry and for us.

The Bank is Subject to Lending Risks of Loss and Repayment Associated with Commercial Banking Activities
The Bank's business strategy is to focus on commercial business loans (which includes agricultural loans), construction loans, and commercial and multi-family real estate loans. The principal factors affecting the Bank's risk of loss in connection with commercial business loans include the borrower's ability to manage its business affairs and cash flows, general economic conditions and, with respect to agricultural loans, weather and climate conditions. Loans secured by commercial real estate are generally larger and involve a greater degree of credit and transaction risk than residential mortgage (one to four family) loans. Because payments on loans secured by commercial and multi-family real estate properties are often dependent on successful operation or management of the underlying properties, repayment of such loans may be dependent on factors other than the prevailing conditions in the real estate market or the economy. Real estate construction financing is generally considered to involve a higher degree of credit risk than long-term financing on improved, owner-occupied real estate. Risk of loss on a construction loan is dependent largely upon the accuracy of the initial estimate of the property's value at completion of construction or development compared to the estimated cost (including interest) of construction. If the estimate of value proves to be inaccurate, the Bank may be confronted with a project which, when completed, has a value which is insufficient to assure full repayment of the construction loan.

Although the Bank manages lending risks through its underwriting and credit administration policies, no assurance can be given that such risks will not materialize, in which event, the Company's financial condition, results of operations, cash flows, and business prospects could be materially adversely affected.

Increases in the Allowance for Loan Losses Would Adversely Affect the Bank's Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The Bank's allowance for estimated losses on loans was approximately $\$ 10.4$ million, or $2.35 \%$ of total loans, at December 31, 2011, compared to $\$ 11.0$ million, or $2.44 \%$ of total loans, at December 31, 2010, and $119.5 \%$ of total non-accrual loans at December 31, 2011, compared to $89.9 \%$ of total non-accrual loans at December 31, 2010. Material future additions to the allowance for estimated losses on loans may be necessary if material adverse changes in economic conditions occur and the performance of the Bank's loan portfolio deteriorates. In addition, an allowance for losses on other real estate owned may also be required in order to reflect changes in the markets for real estate in which the Bank's other real estate owned is located and other factors which may result in adjustments which are necessary to ensure that the Bank's foreclosed assets are carried at the lower of cost or fair value, less estimated costs to dispose of the properties. Moreover, the FDIC and the DFI, as an integral part of their examination process, periodically review the Bank's allowance for estimated losses on loans and the carrying value of its assets. Increases in the provisions for estimated losses on loans and foreclosed assets would adversely affect the Bank's financial condition and results of operations. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Summary of Loan Loss Experience" below.

## The Bank's Dependence on Real Estate Lending Increases Our Risk of Losses

At December 31, 2011, approximately $71 \%$ of the Bank's loans (excluding loans held-for-sale) were secured by real estate. The value of the Bank's real estate collateral has been, and could in the future continue to be, adversely affected by the economic recession and resulting adverse impact on the real estate market in Northern California.

The Bank's primary lending focus has historically been commercial (including agricultural), construction, and real estate mortgage. At December 31, 2011, real estate mortgage (excluding loans held-for-sale) and construction loans comprised approximately $69 \%$ and $2 \%$, respectively, of the total loans in the Bank's portfolio. At December 31, 2011, all of the Bank's real estate mortgage and construction loans and approximately $11 \%$ of its commercial loans were secured fully or in part by deeds of trust on underlying real estate. The Company's dependence on real estate increases the risk of loss in both the Bank's loan portfolio and its holdings of other real estate owned if economic conditions in Northern California further deteriorate in the future. Further deterioration of the real estate market in Northern California would have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition, and results of operations.

See "U.S. and global economies continue to experience significant challenges" above, and "Adverse California Economic Conditions Could Adversely Affect the Bank's Business" below.

Adverse economic factors affecting certain industries the Bank serves could adversely affect our business.
We are subject to certain industry specific economic factors. For example, a portion of the Bank's total loan portfolio is related to residential and commercial real estate, especially in California. Increases in residential mortgage loan interest rates could have an adverse effect on the Bank's operations by depressing new mortgage loan originations, which in turn could negatively impact the Bank's title and escrow deposit levels. Additionally, a further downturn in the residential real estate and housing industries in California could have an adverse effect on the Bank's operations and the quality of its real estate and construction loan portfolio. Although the Bank does not engage in subprime or negative amortization lending, effects of recent subprime market challenges, combined with the ongoing challenges in the U.S. and California real estate markets, could result in further price reductions in single family home prices and a
lack of liquidity in refinancing markets. These factors could adversely impact the quality of the Bank's residential construction, residential mortgage and construction related commercial portfolios in various ways, including by decreasing the value of the collateral for our loans. These factors could also negatively affect the economy in general and thereby the Bank's overall loan portfolio.

The Bank provides financing to, and receives deposits from, businesses in a number of other industries that may be particularly vulnerable to industry-specific economic factors, including the home building, commercial real estate, retail, agricultural, industrial, and commercial industries. The home building industry in California has been especially adversely impacted by the deterioration in residential real estate markets, which has lead the Bank to take additional provisions and charge-offs against credit losses in this portfolio. Continued increases in fuel prices and energy costs could adversely affect businesses in several of these industries. Industry specific risks are beyond the Bank's control and could adversely affect the Bank's portfolio of loans, potentially resulting in an increase in non-performing loans or charge-offs and a slowing of growth or reduction in our loan portfolio.

## Increased Regulation could Adversely Affect Us

On July 21, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Dodd-Frank Act. The Dodd-Frank Act enacts sweeping reforms to the U.S. financial regulatory system and will likely have a significant impact on financial services companies, including the Company. While many of the specific provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act still require implementation by various federal banking agencies and will not be immediately effective, it is expected that the Dodd-Frank Act will increase our cost of doing business in various ways, as will be the case for other insured depository institutions, and increase the regulatory complexity of our business. See "Business - Supervision and Regulation" for a discussion of the Dodd-Frank Act and other laws and regulations that affect our business.

## Adverse California Economic Conditions Could Adversely Affect the Bank's Business

The Bank's operations and a substantial majority of the Bank's assets and deposits are generated and concentrated primarily in Northern California, particularly the counties of Placer, Sacramento, Solano and Yolo, and are likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. At December 31, 2011, approximately $71 \%$ of the Bank's loan portfolio (excluding loans held-for-sale) consisted of real estate-related loans, all of which were secured by collateral located in Northern California. As a result, a further downturn in the economic conditions in Northern California may cause the Bank to incur losses associated with high default rates and decreased collateral values in its loan portfolio. Economic conditions in California are subject to various uncertainties at this time, including the significant deterioration in the California real estate market and housing industry.

For the past several years, the State government of California has experienced budget shortfalls or deficits which have led to protracted negotiations between the Governor and the State Legislature over how to address the budget gap. This challenging situation continues at the present time. In addition, municipalities and other governmental units within California have been experiencing budgetary difficulties. Concerns also have arisen regarding the outlook for the State of California's governmental obligations, as well as those of California municipalities and other governmental units.

The financial and economic consequences of this situation cannot be predicted with any certainty at this time. If economic conditions in California decline further it is expected that the Bank's level of problem assets would increase. California real estate is also subject to certain natural disasters, such as earthquakes, tidal waves, floods and mudslides, which are typically not covered by the standard hazard insurance policies maintained by borrowers. Uninsured disasters may make it difficult or impossible for borrowers to repay loans made by the Bank. The occurrence of natural disasters in California could have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations, cash flows, and business prospects.

## The Bank is Subject to Interest Rate Risk

The income of the Bank depends to a great extent on "interest rate differentials" and the resulting net interest margins (i.e., the difference between the interest rates earned on the Bank's interest-earning assets such as loans and investment securities, and the interest rates paid on the Bank's interest-bearing liabilities such as deposits and borrowings). These
rates are highly sensitive to many factors, which are beyond the Bank's control, including, but not limited to, general economic conditions and the policies of various governmental and regulatory agencies, in particular, the FRB. The Bank is generally adversely affected by declining interest rates. Changes in the relationship between short-term and long-term market interest rates or between different interest rate indices can also impact our interest rate differential, possibly resulting in a decrease in our interest income relative to interest expense. In addition, changes in monetary policy, including changes in interest rates, influence the origination of loans, the purchase of investments and the generation of deposits and affect the rates received on loans and investment securities and paid on deposits, which could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition, and results of operations.

Potential Volatility of Deposits May Increase Our Cost of Funds

At December 31, 2011, 10\% of the dollar value of the Company's total deposits was represented by time certificates of deposit in excess of $\$ 100,000$ (as compared with $11 \%$ at December 31, 2010). Although we have adopted a pricing strategy designed to reduce the level of time deposits, these deposits are also considered volatile and could be subject to withdrawal. Withdrawal of a material amount of such deposits could adversely impact the Company's liquidity, profitability, business prospects, results of operations and cash flows.

Time deposit accounts have decreased $\$ 45.8$ million or $30.1 \%$ since December 31, 2009. This decline was the result of an explicit pricing strategy adopted by the Company during the fourth quarter of 2009 based upon the recognition that market CD rates were greater than the yields that the Company could obtain reinvesting these funds in short-term agency securities or overnight Fed Funds. As a result: (1) the Company could not effectively invest funds at a profit without incurring excessive interest rate risk; and (2) significant growth in the Company's overall balance sheet, without any resulting profit, would only place pressures on the Company's capital ratios. During 2009, non-public time deposits had increased approximately $\$ 28.2$ million or $22 \%$ from December 2008, as depositors aggressively sought out the safety of banks for their funds. During 2009 management carefully reviewed time deposit customers and reduced the Company's deposit rates to customers that did not also have transaction, savings and money market balances with the Company (i.e., depositors who were not "relationship customers"). Given the Company's deposit growth in transaction and savings accounts, supplemented by investment portfolio maturities and sales, this time deposit decline did not result in any liquidity issues and it positively affected the Company's net interest margin and earnings.

Our Ability to Pay Dividends is Subject to Legal Restrictions
As a bank holding company, our cash flow typically comes from dividends of the Bank. Various statutory and regulatory provisions restrict the amount of dividends the Bank can pay to the Company without regulatory approval. The ability of the Company to pay cash dividends in the future also depends on the Company's profitability, growth, and capital needs. In addition, California law restricts the ability of the Company to pay dividends. No assurance can be given that the Company will pay any dividends in the future or, if paid, such dividends will not be discontinued. The Company is also subject to dividend and share repurchase restrictions in our corporate charter relating to the 2011 issuance to the U.S. Treasury of $\$ 22.8$ million of preferred stock in connection with the Small Business Lending Fund financing program. See "Business - Restrictions on Dividends and Other Distributions" above.

## Competition Adversely Affects our Profitability

In California generally, and in the Bank's primary market area specifically, major banks dominate the commercial banking industry. By virtue of their larger capital bases, such institutions have substantially greater lending limits than those of the Bank. Competition is likely to further intensify as a result of recent adverse economic and financial market conditions which have led to increased consolidation of financial services companies, including large consolidations of significance in our market area. In obtaining deposits and making loans, the Bank competes with these larger commercial banks and other financial institutions, such as savings and loan associations, credit unions and member institutions of the Farm Credit System, which offer many services that traditionally were offered only by banks. Using the financial holding company structure, insurance companies, and securities firms may compete more directly with banks and bank holding companies. In addition, the Bank competes with other institutions such as mutual fund companies, brokerage firms, and even retail stores seeking to penetrate the financial services market. Also, technology and other changes increasingly allow parties to complete financial transactions electronically, and in many cases, without banks. For example, consumers can pay bills and transfer funds over the internet and by telephone without banks. Non-bank financial service providers may have lower overhead costs and are subject to fewer regulatory constraints. If consumers do not use banks to complete their financial transactions, we could potentially lose fee income, deposits and income generated from those deposits. During periods of declining

## Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

interest rates, competitors with lower costs of capital may solicit the Bank's customers to refinance their loans. Furthermore, during periods of economic slowdown or recession, the Bank's borrowers may face financial difficulties and be more receptive to offers from the Bank's competitors to refinance their loans. No assurance can be given that the Bank will be able to compete with these lenders. See "Business - Competition" above.

## Government Regulation and Legislation Could Adversely Affect the Company

The Company and the Bank are subject to extensive state and federal regulation, supervision, and legislation, which govern almost all aspects of the operations of the Company and the Bank. The business of the Bank is particularly susceptible to being affected by the enactment of federal and state legislation, which may have the effect of increasing the cost of doing business, modifying permissible activities, or enhancing the competitive position of other financial institutions. Such laws are subject to change from time to time and are primarily intended for the protection of consumers, depositors and the deposit insurance fund and not for the benefit of shareholders of the Company. Regulatory authorities may also change their interpretation of these laws and regulations. The Company cannot predict what effect any presently contemplated or future changes in the laws or regulations or their interpretations would have on the business and prospects of the Company, but it could be material and adverse. See "Business - Bank Regulation and Supervision" and "Increased Regulation could Adversely Affect Us" above.

We maintain systems and procedures designed to comply with applicable laws and regulations. However, some legal/regulatory frameworks provide for the imposition of criminal or civil penalties (which can be substantial) for non-compliance. In some cases, liability may attach even if the non-compliance was inadvertent or unintentional and even if compliance systems and procedures were in place at the time. There may be other negative consequences from a finding of non-compliance, including restrictions on certain activities and damage to the Company's reputation.

## Our Controls and Procedures May Fail or be Circumvented

The Company maintains controls and procedures to mitigate against risks such as processing system failures and errors, and customer or employee fraud, and maintains insurance coverage for certain of these risks. Any system of controls and procedures, however well designed and operated, is based in part on certain assumptions and can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurances that the objectives of the system are met. Events could occur which are not prevented or detected by the Company's internal controls or are not insured against or are in excess of the Company's insurance limits. Any failure or circumvention of the Company's controls and procedures or failure to comply with regulations related to controls and procedures could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, results of operations and financial condition.

## Recent Changes in Deposit Insurance Premiums Could Adversely Affect Our Business

As discussed above in Part I under the caption "Business—Premiums for Deposit Insurance," the FDIC has taken recent steps, and the Dodd-Frank Act includes provisions, which could further increase deposit premiums and is contemplating further increases and a special assessment. Any further increases in the deposit insurance assessments the Bank pays would further increase our costs.

## Negative Public Opinion Could Damage Our Reputation and Adversely Affect Our Earnings

Reputational risk, or the risk to our earnings and capital from negative public opinion, is inherent in our business. Negative public opinion can result from the actual or perceived manner in which we conduct our business activities, management of actual or potential conflicts of interest and ethical issues, and our protection of confidential client information. Negative public opinion can adversely affect our ability to keep and attract customers and employees and can expose us to litigation and regulatory action. We take steps to minimize reputation risk in the way we conduct our business activities and deal with our clients and communities.

We may not be able to hire or retain additional qualified personnel and recruiting and compensation costs may increase as a result of turnover, both of which may increase costs and reduce profitability and may adversely impact our ability to implement our business strategy.

Our success depends upon the ability to attract and retain highly motivated, well-qualified personnel. We face significant competition in the recruitment of qualified employees. Executive compensation in the financial services sector has been controversial and the subject of regulation. Until we redeemed shares of preferred stock issued to the U.S. Treasury under its Capital Purchase Program in 2011, we were subject to certain restrictions on the compensation of certain senior management positions. The FDIC has recently proposed rules regulating the compensation of bank employees which could place us at a competitive disadvantage compared to businesses not subject to these regulations. Our ability to execute the business strategy and provide high quality service may suffer if we are unable to recruit or retain a sufficient number of qualified employees or if the costs of employee compensation or benefits increase substantially.

The Continuing War on Terrorism and Foreign Hostilities Could Adversely Affect U.S. and Global Economic Conditions

Acts or threats of terrorism and actions taken by the U.S. or other governments as a result of such acts or threats and other international hostilities may result in a disruption of U.S. economic and financial conditions and could adversely affect business, economic and financial conditions in the U.S. generally and in our principal markets. Continued foreign hostilities have also generated various political and economic uncertainties affecting the global and U.S. economies.

## Changes in Accounting Standards Could Materially Impact Our Financial Statements

The Company's financial statements are presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, called GAAP. The financial information contained within our financial statements is, to a significant extent, financial information that is based on approximate measures of the financial effects of transactions and events that have already occurred. A variety of factors could affect the ultimate value that is obtained either when earning income, recognizing an expense, recovering an asset or relieving a liability. Along with other factors, we use historical loss factors to determine the inherent loss that may be present in our loan portfolio. Actual losses could differ significantly from the historical loss factors that we use. Other estimates that we use are fair value of our securities and expected useful lives of our depreciable assets. We have not entered into derivative contracts for our customers or for ourselves, which relate to interest rate, credit, equity, commodity, energy, or weather-related indices. GAAP itself may change from one previously acceptable method to another method. Although the economics of our transactions would be the same, the timing of events that would impact our transactions could change. Accounting standards and interpretations currently affecting the Company and its subsidiaries may change at any time, and the Company's financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected. In some cases, we could be required to apply a new or revised standard retroactively, resulting in our restating prior period financial statements.

There is a Limited Public Market for the Company's Common Stock which May Make it Difficult for Shareholders to Dispose of Their Shares

The Company's common stock is not listed on any exchange. However, trades may be reported on the OTC Markets under the symbol "FNRN". The Company is aware that Howe Barnes Hoefer \& Arnett, Stone \& Youngberg, Wedbush Securities, and Monroe Securities, Inc., all currently make a market in the Company's common stock. Management is aware that there are also private transactions in the Company's common stock. However, the limited trading market for the Company's common stock may make it difficult for shareholders to dispose of their shares. Also, the price of the Company's common stock may be affected by general market price movements as well as developments specifically related to the financial services sector, including interest rate movements, quarterly variations, or changes in financial estimates by securities analysts and a significant reduction in the price of the stock of another participant in the financial services industry.

Advances and Changes in Technology, and the Company's Ability to Adapt Its Technology, could Impact Its Ability to Compete and Its Business and Operations

Advances and changes in technology can significantly impact the business and operations of the Company. The Company faces many challenges including the increased demand for providing computer access to Company accounts and the systems to perform banking transactions electronically. The Company's merchant processing services require the use of advanced computer hardware and software technology and rapidly changing customer and regulatory requirements. The Company's ability to compete depends on its ability to continue to adapt its technology on a timely and cost-effective basis to meet these requirements. In addition, the Company's business and operations are

## Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

susceptible to negative impacts from computer system failures, communication and energy disruption, and unethical individuals with the technological ability to cause disruptions or failures of the Company's data processing systems.

## Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

Information Security Breaches or other technological difficulties could adversely affect the Company
The Company cannot be certain that the continued implementation of safeguards will eliminate the risk of vulnerability to technological difficulties or failures or ensure the absence of a breach of information security. We will continue to rely on the services of various vendors who provide data processing and communication services to the banking industry. Nonetheless, if information security is compromised or other technology difficulties or failures occur at the Bank or with one of our vendors, information may be lost or misappropriated, services and operations may be interrupted and the Bank could be exposed to claims from its customers as a result.

Environmental Hazards Could Have a Material Adverse Effect on the Company's Business, Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The Company, in its ordinary course of business, acquires real property securing loans that are in default, and there is a risk that hazardous substances or waste, contaminants or pollutants could exist on such properties. The Company may be required to remove or remediate such substances from the affected properties at its expense, and the cost of such removal or remediation may substantially exceed the value of the affected properties or the loans secured by such properties. Furthermore, the Company may not have adequate remedies against the prior owners or other responsible parties to recover its costs. Finally, the Company may find it difficult or impossible to sell the affected properties either prior to or following any such removal. In addition, the Company may be considered liable for environmental liabilities in connection with its borrowers' properties, if, among other things, it participates in the management of its borrowers' operations. The occurrence of such an event could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

The Company may not be successful in raising additional capital needed in the future
If additional capital is needed in the future as a result of losses, our business strategy or regulatory requirements, there is no assurance that our efforts to raise such additional capital will be successful or that shares sold in the future will be sold at prices or on terms equal to or better than the current market price. The inability to raise additional capital when needed or at prices and terms acceptable to us could adversely affect our ability to implement our business strategies.

In the future the Company may be required to recognize impairment with respect to investment securities
The Company's securities portfolio contains mortgage-backed securities and currently includes securities with unrecognized losses. The Company may continue to observe declines in the fair market value of these securities. Management evaluates the securities portfolio for any other-than-temporary impairment each reporting period, as required by generally accepted accounting principles. There can be no assurance, however, that future evaluations of the securities portfolio will not require us to recognize impairment charges with respect to these and other holdings.

## ITEM 2 - PROPERTIES

The Company and the Bank are engaged in the banking business through 13 offices in five counties in Northern California operating out of three offices in Solano County, six in Yolo County, two in Sacramento County, and two in Placer County. In addition, the Company owns four vacant lots, three in northern Solano County and one in eastern Sacramento County, for possible future bank sites.

The Bank owns four branch office locations and two administrative facilities and leases 11 facilities. Most of the leases contain multiple renewal options and provisions for rental increases, principally for changes in the cost of living index, property taxes and maintenance.

## ITEM 3 - LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Neither the Company nor the Bank is a party to any material pending legal proceeding, nor is any of their property the subject of any material pending legal proceeding, except ordinary routine litigation arising in the ordinary course of the Bank's business and incidental to its business, none of which is expected to have a material adverse impact upon the Company's or the Bank's business, financial position or results of operations.

ITEM 4 - (REMOVED AND RESERVED)

21

## PART II

## ITEM 5 - MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

The Company's common stock is not listed on any exchange, nor is it included on NASDAQ. However, trades may be reported on the OTC Markets under the symbol "FNRN". The Company is aware that Howe Barnes Hoefer \& Arnett, Stone \& Youngberg, Wedbush Securities, and Monroe Securities, Inc., all currently make a market in the Company's common stock. Management is aware that there are also private transactions in the Company's common stock, and the data set forth below may not reflect all such transactions.

The following table summarizes the range of reported high and low bid quotations of the Company's Common Stock for each quarter during the last two fiscal years and is based on information provided by Stone \& Youngberg. The quotations reflect the price that would be received by the seller without retail mark-up, mark-down or commissions and may not have represented actual transactions:

| QUARTER/YEAR | HIGH* | LOW* |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |
| 4th Quarter 2011 | $\$ 4.85$ | $\$ 4.35$ |
| 3rd Quarter 2011 | $\$ 4.80$ | $\$ 4.30$ |
| 2nd Quarter 2011 | $\$ 4.90$ | $\$ 4.20$ |
| 1st Quarter 2011 | $\$ 5.50$ | $\$ 4.40$ |
| 4th Quarter 2010 | $\$ 5.45$ | $\$ 4.00$ |
| 3rd Quarter 2010 | $\$ 4.95$ | $\$ 4.00$ |
| 2nd Quarter 2010 | $\$ 5.55$ | $\$ 4.35$ |
| 1st Quarter 2010 | $\$ 5.10$ | $\$ 4.25$ |

* Price adjusted for stock dividends.

As of December 31, 2011, there were approximately 1,333 holders of record of the Company's common stock, no par value.

In the last two fiscal years the Company has declared the following stock dividends:

| Shareholder | Dividend | Date |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Record Date | Percentage | Payable |

February 29, $2012 \quad$ March 30, 2012
The Company did not declare a stock dividend in 2011 or 2010. The Company does not expect to pay a cash dividend in the foreseeable future. Our ability to declare and pay dividends is affected by certain regulatory restrictions. See "Business - Restrictions on Dividends and Other Distributions" above. The Company made no repurchases of common stock in 2011.

## ITEM 6 - SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The selected consolidated financial data below have been derived from the Company's audited consolidated financial statements. The selected consolidated financial data set forth below as of December 31, 2008, and 2007 have been derived from the Company's historical consolidated financial statements not included in this Report. The financial information for 2011, 2010, and 2009 should be read in conjunction with "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," which is in Part II (Item 7) of this Report and with the Company's audited consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto, which are included in Part II (Item 8) of this Report.

Consolidated Financial Data as of and for the years ended December 31, (in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

|  | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\$ 28,790$ | $\$ 29,927$ | $\$ 33,066$ | $\$ 38,871$ | $\$ 48,594$ |  |
| Interest and Dividend Income | $(2,476$ | $)$ | $(3,606$ | $)$ | $(4,960$ | $)$ |

Stock outstanding used for Basic

Income (Loss) Per Share Computation 1

Weighted Average Shares of Common Stock outstanding used for Diluted Income (Loss) Per Share Computation

| 1 | 9,159,844 |  | 9,109,589 |  | 9,064,402 |  | 9,022,906 |  | 9,550,151 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Return (Loss) on Average Total Assets | 0.35 | \% | 0.36 | \% | (0.15 | \%) | (0.20 | \%) | 1.05 | \% |
| Net Income (Loss)/Average Equity | 3.28 | \% | 3.40 | \% | (1.40 | \%) | (2.17 | \%) | 11.59 | \% |
| Net Income (Loss)/Average Deposits | 0.40 | \% | 0.41 | \% | (0.17 | \%) | (0.23 | \%) | 1.19 | \% |
| Average Loans/Average Deposits | 64.94 | \% | 69.77 | \% | 79.48 | \% | 87.21 | \% | 79.75 | \% |
| Average Equity to Average Total Assets | 10.70 | \% | 10.50 | \% | 10.57 | \% | 9.39 | \% | 9.06 | \% |

1. All years have been restated to give retroactive effect for stock dividends issued and stock splits.

23

## ITEM 7 - MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATION

## Introduction

This overview of Management's Discussion and Analysis highlights selected information in this annual report on Form $10-\mathrm{K}$ and may not contain all of the information that is important to you. For a more complete understanding of trends, events, commitments, uncertainties, liquidity, capital resources, and critical accounting estimates, you should carefully read this entire annual report on Form 10-K.

Our subsidiary, First Northern Bank of Dixon, is a California state-chartered bank that derives most of its revenues from lending and deposit taking in the Sacramento Valley region of Northern California. Interest rates, business conditions and customer confidence all affect our ability to generate revenues. In addition, the regulatory environment and competition can challenge our ability to generate those revenues.

Financial highlights for 2011 include:
The Company reported net income of $\$ 2.7$ million before dividends and accretion on preferred stock of the U.S. Treasury for 2011 and 2010. Net income available to common shareholders totaled $\$ 1.3$ million, a $24.4 \%$ decrease compared to net income available to common shareholders of $\$ 1.7$ million for 2010. Net income per common share after consideration of dividends and accretion on preferred stock of the U.S. Treasury for 2011 was $\$ 0.14$ and resulted in a decrease in the net income per common share of $22.2 \%$ compared to net income per common share of $\$ 0.18$ for 2010, and net income per common share on a fully diluted basis was $\$ 0.14$ for 2011, a decrease of $22.2 \%$ compared to net income per common share on a fully diluted basis of $\$ 0.18$ for 2010.

Loans (including loans held-for-sale), net of allowance decreased to $\$ 435.6$ million at December 31, 2011, a $2.0 \%$ decrease from $\$ 444.4$ million at December 31, 2010. Commercial loans totaled $\$ 91.9$ million at December 31, 2011, up $11.0 \%$ from $\$ 82.8$ million at December 31, 2010; agriculture loans were $\$ 52.1$ million, down $1.8 \%$ from $\$ 53.0$ million at December 31, 2010; residential construction loans were $\$ 7.5$ million, down $26.9 \%$ from $\$ 10.2$ million at December 31, 2010; commercial real estate loans were $\$ 175.8$ million, down $5.7 \%$ from $\$ 186.4$ million at December 31, 2010; residential mortgage loans were $\$ 51.6$ million, down $1.5 \%$ from $\$ 52.4$ million at December 31, 2010; and consumer loans totaled $\$ 64.0$ million, down $6.2 \%$ from $\$ 68.4$ million at December 31, 2010.

Average deposits increased to $\$ 662.8$ million during 2011, an $\$ 11.3$ million or $1.7 \%$ increase from 2010.
The Company reported average total assets of $\$ 760.1$ million at December 31, 2011, up $1.7 \%$ from $\$ 747.2$ million a year earlier.

The provision for loan losses in 2011 totaled $\$ 5.1$ million, an increase of $4.6 \%$ from $\$ 4.9$ million in 2010. Net charge-offs were $\$ 5.8$ million in 2011 and 2010. The increase in the provision for loan losses can be primarily attributed to changes in internal and external factors affecting the allowance for loan losses calculation due to changes in actual loss history and charge-offs of uncollectible portions of impaired loans.

Net interest income totaled $\$ 26.3$ million for 2011 and 2010. During the period loan rates, loan volumes, loan fees and investment security rates all decreased, which was offset by increased investment securities volumes and decreased time deposit volumes and rates.

Other operating income totaled $\$ 9.4$ million for the year ended December 31, 2011, an increase of $2.5 \%$ from $\$ 9.2$ million for the year ended December 31, 2010. The increase was due primarily to increases in gains on sales of other
real estate owned, gains on available for sale securities and other income, which was partially offset by decreased service charges on deposit accounts and gains on sales of loans.

Other operating expenses totaled $\$ 26.8$ million for 2011, down $4.0 \%$ from $\$ 27.9$ million in 2010. The decrease was due primarily to decreases in occupancy and equipment expenses, other real estate owned expenses and other expenses, which was partially offset by increases in salaries and employee benefits, advertising, director fees and stationery and supplies.

In 2012, the Company intends to continue its long-term strategy of maintaining deposit growth to fund growth in loans and other earning assets and intends to identify opportunities for growing other operating income in areas such as Asset Management and Trust and Investment and Brokerage Services, and deposit fee income, while remaining conscious of the need to maintain appropriate expense levels.

On September 15, 2011, the Company raised $\$ 22.8$ million from the U.S. Treasury in a Small Business Lending Fund financing and redeemed from the U.S. Treasury $\$ 17.4$ million in Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) financing. Also, on November 16, 2011 the Company repurchased from the U.S. Treasury a warrant to purchase 352,977 shares of the Company's common stock at an exercise price of $\$ 7.39$ per share (the "Warrant"), issued to the U.S. Treasury on March 13, 2009, in connection with the Company's participation in the TARP Capital Purchase Program. The Company paid an aggregate purchase price of $\$ 375,000$ for the repurchase of the Warrant, which has been canceled. The repurchase price was based on the fair market value of the Warrant as agreed upon by the Company and U.S. Treasury. With the repurchase of the Warrant, the Company concluded its participation in the TARP Capital Purchase Program.

25

## Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

The Company's discussion and analysis of its financial condition and results of operations are based upon the Company's consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The preparation of these financial statements requires the Company to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. On an on-going basis, the Company evaluates its estimates, including those related to the allowance for loan losses, other real estate owned, investments, and income taxes. The Company bases its estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

The Company's most significant estimates are approved by its senior management team. At the end of each financial reporting period, a review of these estimates is presented to the Company's Board of Directors.

The Company believes the following critical accounting policy affects its more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of its consolidated financial statements. The Company believes the allowance for loan losses accounting policy is critical because the loan portfolio represents the largest asset type on the consolidated balance sheet and there is significant judgment used in determining the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses. The Company maintains an allowance for loan losses resulting from the inability of borrowers to make required loan payments. Loan losses are charged off against the allowance, while recoveries of amounts previously charged off are credited to the allowance. A provision for loan losses is charged to operations based on the Company's periodic evaluation of the factors mentioned below, as well as other pertinent factors. The allowance for loan losses consists of an allocated component and a general component. The components of the allowance for loan losses represent an estimate. The allocated component of the allowance for loan losses reflects expected losses resulting from analyses developed through specific credit allocations for individual loans and historical loss experience for each loan category. The specific credit allocations are based on regular analyses of all loans where the internal credit rating is at or below a predetermined classification. These analyses involve a high degree of judgment in estimating the amount of loss associated with specific loans, including estimating the amount and timing of future cash flows and collateral values. The historical loan loss element is determined using analysis that examines loss experience.

The allocated component of the allowance for loan losses also includes consideration of concentrations and changes in portfolio mix and volume. The general portion of the allowance reflects the Company's estimate of probable inherent but undetected losses within the portfolio due to uncertainties in economic conditions, delays in obtaining information, including unfavorable information about a borrower's financial condition, the difficulty in identifying triggering events that correlate perfectly to subsequent loss rates, and risk factors that have not yet manifested themselves in loss allocation factors. Uncertainty surrounding the strength and timing of economic cycles also affects estimates of loss. There are many factors affecting the allowance for loan losses; some are quantitative while others require qualitative judgment. Although the Company believes its process for determining the allowance adequately considers all of the potential factors that could potentially result in credit losses, the process includes subjective elements and may be susceptible to significant change. To the extent actual outcomes differ from Company estimates, additional provision for credit losses could be required that could adversely affect earnings or financial position in future periods.

A loan is considered impaired when, based on current information and events; it is probable that the Company will be unable to collect all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the loan agreement, including scheduled interest payments. For a loan that has been restructured, the contractual terms of the loan agreement refer to the contractual terms specified by the original loan agreement, not the contractual terms specified by the restructuring agreement. An impaired loan is measured based upon the present value of future cash flows discounted at the loan's

## Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

effective rate, the loan's observable market price, or the fair value of collateral if the loan is collateral dependent. Interest on impaired loans is recognized on a cash basis. If the measurement of the impaired loan is less than the recorded investment in the loan, an impairment is recognized by a charge to the allowance for loan losses.

Other-than-temporary Impairment in Investment Securities
Investments with fair values that are less than amortized cost are considered impaired. Impairment may result from either a decline in the financial condition of the issuing entity or, in the case of fixed interest rate investments, from rising interest rates. At each consolidated financial statement date, management assesses each investment to determine if impaired investments are temporarily impaired or if the impairment is other than temporary. This assessment includes consideration regarding the duration and severity of impairment, the credit quality of the issuer and a determination of whether the Company intends to sell the security, or if it is more likely than not that the Company will be required to sell the security before recovery of its amortized cost basis less any current-period credit losses. For debt securities that are considered other than temporarily impaired and that the Company does not intend to sell and will not be required to sell prior to recovery of the amortized cost basis, the amount of impairment is separated into the amount that is credit related (credit loss component) and the amount due to all other factors. The credit loss component is recognized in earnings and is calculated as the difference between the security's amortized cost basis and the present value of its expected future cash flows. The remaining difference between the security's fair value and the present value of the future expected cash flows is deemed to be due to factors that are not credit related and is recognized in other comprehensive income.

## Fair Value Measurements

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 and trading securities are recorded at fair value on a recurring basis. Additionally, from time to time, the Company may be required to record at fair value other assets on a non-recurring basis, such as loans held-for-sale, loans held-for-investment and certain other assets. These non-recurring fair value adjustments typically involve application of lower of cost or market accounting or write-downs of individual assets. Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy are recognized on the actual date of the event or circumstances that caused the transfer, which generally corresponds with the Company's quarterly valuation process. For additional discussion, see Note 8 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in this Form 10-K.

## Share-Based Payment

The Company determines the fair value of stock options at grant date using the Black-Scholes pricing model that takes into account the stock price at the grant date, the exercise price, the expected dividend yield, stock price volatility, and the risk-free interest rate over the expected life of the option. The Black-Scholes model requires the input of highly subjective assumptions including the expected life of the stock-based award and stock price volatility. The estimates used in the model involve inherent uncertainties and the application of Management's judgment. As a result, if other assumptions had been used, our recorded stock-based compensation expense could have been materially different from that reflected in these financial statements. The fair value of non-vested restricted common shares generally equals the stock price at grant date. In addition, we are required to estimate the expected forfeiture rate and only recognize expense for those share-based awards expected to vest. If our actual forfeiture rate is materially different from the estimate, the share-based compensation expense could be materially different. For additional discussion, see Note 14 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in this Form 10-K.

## Accounting for Income Taxes

Income taxes reported in the financial statements are computed based on an asset and liability approach. We recognize the amount of taxes payable or refundable for the current year, and deferred tax assets and liabilities for the expected future tax consequences that have been recognized in the financial statements. Under this method, deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on the differences between the financial statements and tax basis of assets and liabilities using enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which the differences are expected to reverse. We
record net deferred tax assets to the extent it is more-likely-than-not that they will be realized. In evaluating our ability to recover the deferred tax assets, Management considers all available positive and negative evidence, including scheduled reversals of deferred tax liabilities, projected future taxable income, tax planning strategies and recent financial operations. In projecting future taxable income, Management develops assumptions including the amount of future state and federal pretax operating income, the reversal of temporary differences, and the implementation of feasible and prudent tax planning strategies. These assumptions require significant judgment about the forecasts of future taxable income and are consistent with the plans and estimates being used to manage the underlying business. The Company files consolidated federal and combined state income tax returns.

A "more-likely-than-not" recognition threshold that must be met before a tax benefit can be recognized in the financial statements. For tax positions that meet the more-likely-than-not threshold, an enterprise may recognize only the largest amount of tax benefit that is greater than fifty percent likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement with the taxing authority. The Company recognized a decrease for unrecognized tax benefits during 2011. To the extent tax authorities disagree with these tax positions, our effective tax rates could be materially affected in the period of settlement with the taxing authorities. For additional discussion, see Note 10 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in this Form 10-K.

Mortgage Servicing Rights
Transfers and servicing of financial assets and extinguishments of liabilities are accounted for and reported based on consistent application of a financial-components approach that focuses on control. Transfers of financial assets that are sales are distinguished from transfers that are secured borrowings. Retained interests (mortgage servicing rights) in loans sold are measured by allocating the previous carrying amount of the transferred assets between the loans sold and retained interest, if any, based on their relative fair value at the date of transfer. Fair values are estimated using discounted cash flows based on a current market interest rate. The Company recognizes a gain and a related asset for the fair value of the rights to service loans for others when loans are sold.

The recorded value of mortgage servicing rights is included in other assets, and is amortized in proportion to, and over the period of, estimated net servicing revenues. The Company assesses capitalized mortgage servicing rights for impairment based upon the fair value of those rights at each reporting date. For purposes of measuring impairment, the rights are stratified based upon the product type, term and interest rates. Fair value is determined by discounting estimated net future cash flows from mortgage servicing activities using discount rates that approximate current market rates and estimated prepayment rates, among other assumptions. The amount of impairment recognized, if any, is the amount by which the capitalized mortgage servicing rights for a stratum exceeds their fair value. Impairment, if any, is recognized through a valuation allowance for each individual stratum.

Impact of Recently Issued Accounting Standards
In April 2011, FASB issued ASU 2011-02. This update provides additional guidance in determining whether a restructuring constitutes a troubled debt restructuring. In evaluating whether a restructuring is a troubled debt restructuring, a creditor must separately conclude that the restructuring constitutes a concession and the debtor is experiencing financial difficulties. The amendment clarifies the guidance on a creditor's evaluation of whether it has granted a concession and whether a debtor is experiencing financial difficulties. The amendments in this update are effective for the first interim or annual period beginning on or after June 15, 2011, and should be applied retrospectively to the beginning of the annual period of adoption. Adoption of the new guidance did not have a significant impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In May 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued ASU 2011-04. This update represents the converged guidance of the FASB and the International Accounting Standards Board (the Boards) on fair value measurement. The collective efforts of the Boards and their staffs have resulted in common requirements for measuring fair value and for disclosing information about fair value measurements, including a consistent meaning of the term "fair value." The amendments in this ASU are to be applied prospectively and are effective during interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. The Company does not expect the adoption of this update to have a significant impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In June 2011, FASB issued ASU 2011-05. This update allows an entity the option to present the total of comprehensive income, the components of net income, and the components of other comprehensive income either in a single continuous statement of comprehensive income or in two separate but consecutive statements. In both choices, an entity is required to present each component of net income along with total net income, each component of other comprehensive income along with a total for other comprehensive income, and a total amount for comprehensive income. This update eliminates the option to present the components of other comprehensive income as part of the statement of changes in stockholders' equity. The amendments in this ASU are to be applied retrospectively and are effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2011. The Company does not expect the adoption of this update to have a significant impact on its consolidated financial statements. In December 2011, FASB issued ASU-2011-12. This update defers the effective date for amendments to the presentation of reclassifications of items out of accumulated other comprehensive income in ASU 2011-05.

In December 2011, FASB issued ASU 2011-11. The amendments in this ASU require an entity to disclose information about offsetting and related arrangements to enable users of its financial statements to understand the effect of those arrangements on its financial position. The amendments in this ASU are required for annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2013, and interim periods within those annual periods. The disclosures required by those amendments should be provided retrospectively for all comparative periods presented. The Company does not expect the adoption of this update to have a significant impact on its consolidated financial statements.

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

The following statistical information and discussion should be read in conjunction with the Selected Financial Data included in Part II (Item 6) and the audited consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes included in Part II (Item 8) of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

The following tables present information regarding the consolidated average assets, liabilities and stockholders' equity, the amounts of interest income from average earning assets and the resulting yields, and the amount of interest expense paid on interest-bearing liabilities. Average loan balances include non-performing loans. Interest income includes proceeds from loans on non-accrual status only to the extent cash payments have been received and applied as interest income. Tax-exempt income is not shown on a tax equivalent basis.

> Distribution of Assets, Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity; Interest Rates and Interest Differential
> (Dollars in thousands)
201120102009

|  | Average <br> Balance | Percent |  | Average <br> Balance | Percent |  | Average <br> Balance | Percent |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## LIABILITIES \&

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

| Deposits: | $\$ 196,852$ | 25.91 | $\%$ | $\$ 181,689$ | 24.31 | $\%$ | $\$ 172,925$ | 24.26 | $\%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Demand <br> Interest-Bearing Transaction | 152,764 | 20.10 | $\%$ | 141,816 | 18.98 | $\%$ | 127,769 | 17.92 | $\%$ |
| Deposits | 208,219 | 27.38 | $\%$ | 197,464 | 26.42 | $\%$ | 172,610 | 24.21 | $\%$ |
| Savings \& MMDAs | 104,981 | 13.81 | $\%$ | 130,592 | 17.48 | $\%$ | 144,251 | 20.24 | $\%$ |
| Time Certificates | 9,136 | 1.20 | $\%$ | 10,986 | 1.47 | $\%$ | 13,631 | 1.91 | $\%$ |
| Borrowed Funds | 6,829 | 0.90 | $\%$ | 6,247 | 0.84 | $\%$ | 6,315 | 0.89 | $\%$ |
| Other Liabilities | 81,308 | 10.70 | $\%$ | 78,455 | 10.50 | $\%$ | 75,375 | 10.57 | $\%$ |
| Stockholders' Equity |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Liabilities \& | $\$ 760,089$ | 100.00 | $\%$ | $\$ 747,249$ | 100.00 | $\%$ | $\$ 712,876$ | 100.00 | $\%$ |
| Stockholders' Equity |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Average balances for loans include loans held-for-sale and non-accrual loans and are net of the allowance for loan losses.

|  |  |  | Aver |  | Net Interest Balances, Dollars in | Earnings Yields and ousands) | Rates |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 2011 |  |  |  | 2010 |  |  |  | 2009 |  |  |
| Assets | Average Balance | Interest <br> Income/ <br> Expense | Yields <br> Earned/ <br> Rates <br> Paid |  | Average Balance | Interest <br> Income/ <br> Expense | Yields Earned/ Rates Paid |  | Average Balance | Interest <br> Income/ <br> Expense | Yields <br> Earned/ <br> Rates <br> Paid |  |
| Loans 1 | \$430,440 | \$24,581 | 5.71 | \% | \$454,584 | \$26,122 | 5.75 | \% | \$490,856 | \$28,899 | 5.89 | \% |
| Loan Fees | - | 821 | 0.19 | \% | - | 988 | 0.22 | \% | - | 1,621 | 0.33 | \% |
| Total Loans, Including |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Loan Fees | 430,440 | 25,402 | 5.90 | \% | 454,584 | 27,110 | 5.96 | \% | 490,856 | 30,520 | 6.22 | \% |
| Federal Funds Sold | - | - | - |  | - | - | - |  | 45,918 | 58 | 0.13 | \% |
| Due From Banks | 133,935 | 339 | 0.25 | \% | 141,059 | 380 | 0.27 | \% | 36,302 | 164 | 0.45 | \% |
| Investment Securities: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Taxable | 122,961 | 2,610 | 2.12 | \% | 73,462 | 1,744 | 2.37 | \% | 40,336 | 1,311 | 3.25 | \% |
| Non-taxable2 | 10,389 | 430 | 4.14 | \% | 16,428 | 684 | 4.16 | \% | 23,954 | 1,003 | 4.19 | \% |
| Total <br> Investment Securities | 133,350 | 3,040 | 2.28 | \% | 89,890 | 2,428 | 2.70 | \% | 64,290 | 2,314 | 3.60 | \% |
| Other Earning Assets | 2,992 | 9 | 0.30 | \% | 2,720 | 9 | 0.33 | \% | 2,443 | 10 | 0.41 | \% |
| Total Earning Assets | \$700,717 | \$28,790 | 4.11 | \% | 688,253 | \$29,927 | 4.35 | \% | 639,809 | \$33,066 | 5.17 | \% |
| Cash and Due from Banks | 15,675 |  |  |  | 15,224 |  |  |  | 33,353 |  |  |  |
| Premises and Equipment | 8,088 |  |  |  | 7,207 |  |  |  | 7,761 |  |  |  |

Other Real

| Estate Owned | 2,310 | 2,899 | 3,820 |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Interest <br> Receivable |  |  |  |
| and Other | 33,299 | 33,666 | 28,133 |
| Assets |  | $\$ 747,249$ | $\$ 712,876$ |
| Total Assets | $\$ 760,089$ |  |  |

1. Average balances for loans include loans held-for-sale and non-accrual loans and are net of the allowance for loan losses, but non-accrued interest thereon is excluded.
2. Interest income and yields on tax-exempt securities are not presented on a tax equivalent basis.

| Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity | Continuation of Net Interest Earnings Average Balances, Yields and Rates (Dollars in thousands) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2011 |  |  |  | 2010 |  |  |  | 2009 |  |  |
|  | Average Balance | Interest Income/ <br> Expense | Yields <br> Earned/ <br> Rates <br> Paid |  | Average <br> Balance | Interest Income/ <br> Expense | Yields Earned/ Rates Paid |  | Average Balance | Interest Income/ <br> Expense | Yields <br> Earned/ <br> Rates <br> Paid |
| Interest-Bearing <br> Deposits: <br> Interest-Bearing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transaction Deposits | \$152,764 | \$351 | 0.23 | \% | \$141,816 | \$390 | 0.28 | \% | \$ 127,769 | \$606 | 0.47 \% |
| Savings \& MMDAs | 208,219 | 874 | 0.42 | \% | 197,464 | 1,167 | 0.59 | \% | 172,610 | 1,342 | 0.78 \% |
| Time Certificates | 104,981 | 924 | 0.88 \% | \% | 130,592 | 1,650 | 1.26 | \% | 144,251 | 2,513 | 1.74 \% |
| Total             <br> Interest-Bearing             <br> Deposits 465,964 2,149 0.46 $\%$ 469,872 3,207 0.68 $\%$ 444,630 4,461 1.00 $\%$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Borrowed Funds | 9,136 | 327 | 3.58 \% | \% | 10,986 | 399 | 3.63 | \% | 13,631 | 499 | 3.66 \% |
| Total Interest-Bearing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Deposits and Funds | 475,100 | 2,476 | 0.52 \% | \% | 480,858 | 3,606 | 0.75 | \% | 458,261 | 4,960 | 1.08 \% |
| Demand Deposits | 196,852 | - | - |  | 181,689 | - | - |  | 172,925 | - | - |
| Total Deposits and |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Borrowed Funds | 671,952 | \$2,476 | 0.37 \% | \% | 662,547 | \$3,606 | 0.54 | \% | 631,186 | \$4,960 | 0.79 \% |
| Interest payable and |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other Liabilities | 6,829 |  |  |  | 6,247 |  |  |  | 6,315 |  |  |
|  | 81,308 |  |  |  | 78,455 |  |  |  | 75,375 |  |  |

Stockholders'
Equity

| Total Liabilities |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| and |  |  |  |
| Stockholders' |  |  |  |
| Equity | $\$ 760,089$ | $\$ 747,249$ | $\$ 712,876$ |


| Net Interest |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Net Interest |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Margin 1 | \$26,314 | 3.76 | \% | \$26,321 | 3.82 | \% | \$28,106 | 4.39 | \% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Net Interest |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Spread 2 |  | 3.59 | \% |  | 3.60 | \% |  | 4.09 |  |

1. Net interest margin is computed by dividing net interest income by total average interest-earning assets.
2. Net interest spread represents the average yield earned on interest-earning assets less the average rate paid on interest-bearing liabilities.

32

Analysis of Changes
in Interest Income and Interest Expense
(Dollars in thousands)
Following is an analysis of changes in interest income and expense (dollars in thousands) for 2011 over 2010 and 2010 over 2009. Changes not solely due to interest rate or volume have been allocated proportionately to interest rate and volume.

| 2011 Over 2010 |  | 2010 Over 2009 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Interest | Colume | Rate | Change | Volume | Interest |
| Rate | Change |  |  |  |  |

Decrease in
Interest Income:

| Loans | \$(1,362 | ) | \$(179 | ) | \$(1,541 | ) | \$(2,101 | ) | \$(676 | ) | \$(2,777 | ) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Loan Fees | (167 | ) | - |  | (167 | ) | (633 | ) | - |  | (633 | ) |
| Federal Funds Sold | - |  | - |  | - |  | (58 | ) | - |  | (58 | ) |
| Due From Banks | (17 | ) | (24 | ) | (41 | ) | 304 |  | (88 | ) | 216 |  |
| Investment Securities | 1,035 |  | (423 | ) | 612 |  | 781 |  | (667 | ) | 114 |  |
| Other Assets | 1 |  | (1 | ) | - |  | 1 |  | (2 | ) | (1 | ) |
|  | \$(510 |  | \$(627 |  | \$(1,137 | ) | \$(1,706 | ) | \$(1,433 | ) | \$(3,139 | ) |

Decrease in
Interest Expense:

| Deposits: <br> Interest-Bearing | $\$ 31$ | $\$(70$ | $)$ |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Transaction Deposits | 60 | $(353$ | $)$ | $(293$ | $)$ | 179 | $(354$ |
| Savings \& MMDAs | $(286$ | $)$ | $(440$ | $)$ | $(726$ | $)$ | $(221$ |

## INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

## Composition of Investment Securities

The mix of investment securities held by the Company at December 31, for the previous three fiscal years is as follows (dollars in thousands):

$$
2011 \quad 2010 \quad 2009
$$

Investment securities available-for-sale:

| U.S. Treasury Securities | $\$ 2,314$ | $\$ 4,226$ | $\$ 253$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Securities of U.S. Government |  |  |  |
| Agencies and Corporations | 37,014 | 40,775 | 4,335 |
| Obligations of State \& | 20,617 | 20,045 | 23,416 |
| Political Subdivisions | 100,296 | 42,300 | 47,864 |
| Mortgage-Backed Securities | $\$ 160,241$ | $\$ 107,346$ | $\$ 75,868$ |
| Total Investments |  |  |  |

Maturities of Investment Securities
The following table is a summary of the relative maturities (dollars in thousands) and yields of the Company's investment securities as of December 31, 2011. The yields on tax-exempt securities are shown on a tax equivalent basis.

## Period to Maturity

| Security | Within One Year |  |  | After One But Within Five Years |  | After Five But Within Ten Years |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Amount | Yield |  | Amount | Yield |  | Amount | Yi |  |
| U.S. Treasury Securities | \$1,304 | 0.62 | \% | \$1,010 | 1.03 | \% | \$- | - |  |
| Securities of U.S. Government |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Agencies and Corporations | 21,651 | 1.95 | \% | 15,363 | 1.51 | \% | - | - |  |
| Obligations of State \& |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Political Subdivisions | 896 | 6.04 | \% | 194 | 6.89 | \% | 9,791 | 6.09 | \% |
| Mortgage-Backed Securities | 19 | 6.79 | \% | 94,938 | 2.17 | \% | 5,339 | 2.92 | \% |
| TOTAL | \$ 23,870 | 2.03 | \% | \$ 111,505 | 2.08 | \% | \$ 15,130 | 4.98 | \% |


|  | After Ten Years |  | Total |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Security | Amount | Yield | Amount | Yield |  |
|  | $\$-$ | - | $\$ 2,314$ | 0.86 | $\%$ |
| U.S. Treasury Securities |  |  |  |  |  |
| Securities of U.S. Government | - | - | 37,014 | 1.94 | $\%$ |
| Agencies and Corporations |  |  |  |  |  |


| Obligations of State \& |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Political Subdivisions | 9,736 | 5.14 | $\%$ | 20,617 | 5.65 | $\%$ |
| Mortgage-Backed Securities | - | - | 100,296 | 2.21 | $\%$ |  |
| TOTAL | $\$ 9,736$ | 5.14 | $\%$ | $\$ 160,241$ | 2.57 | $\%$ |

## LOAN PORTFOLIO

## Composition of Loans

The mix of loans, net of deferred origination fees and costs and allowance for loan losses and excluding loans held-for-sale, at December 31, for the previous five fiscal years is as follows (dollars in thousands):


|  | Balance | Percent |  | Balance | Percent |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Commercial | $\$ 114,885$ | 21.6 | $\%$ | $\$ 115,025$ | 22.6 | $\%$ |
| Commercial Real Estate | 202,897 | 38.2 | $\%$ | 187,163 | 36.7 | $\%$ |
| Agriculture | 60,341 | 11.3 | $\%$ | 48,291 | 9.5 | $\%$ |
| Residential Mortgage | 48,027 | 9.0 | $\%$ | 41,209 | 8.1 | $\%$ |
| Residential Construction | 44,411 | 8.4 | $\%$ | 69,043 | 13.5 | $\%$ |
| Consumer | 60,658 | 11.4 | $\%$ | 48,068 | 9.4 | $\%$ |
| Land | 600 | 0.1 | $\%$ | 1,003 | 0.2 | $\%$ |
|  | 531,819 |  |  | 509,802 |  |  |
| Allowance for loan losses | $(14,435$ | $)$ |  |  | $(10,876$ | $)$ |
| Net deferred origination | $(416$ |  |  |  | $(955$ | $)$ |
| $\quad$ fees and costs | $\$ 516,968$ | 100.0 | $\%$ | $\$ 497,971$ | 100.0 | $\%$ |

Commercial loans are primarily for financing the needs of a diverse group of businesses located in the Bank's market area. The Bank also makes loans to individuals for investment purposes. Most of these loans are relatively short-term (an overall average life of approximately two years) and secured by various types of collateral. Real estate construction loans are generally for financing the construction of single-family residential homes for individuals and builders we believe are well-qualified. These loans are secured by real estate and have short maturities.

As shown in the comparative figures for loan mix during 2011 and 2010, total loans decreased as a result of decreases in commercial real estate loans, agriculture loans, residential mortgage loans, residential construction loans and

Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K
consumer loans, which were partially offset by an increase in commercial loans.

## Maturities and Sensitivities of Loans to Changes in Interest Rates

Loan maturities of the loan portfolio at December 31, 2011 are as follows (dollars in thousands) (excludes loans held-for-sale):

| $\quad$ Maturing | Variable |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | Fixed Rate | Rate | Total |
| Within one year | $\$ 27,707$ | $\$ 103,180$ | $\$ 130,887$ |
| After one year through five years | 53,921 | 105,405 | 159,326 |
| After five years | 20,922 | 121,654 | 142,576 |
| Total | $\$ 102,550$ | $\$ 330,239$ | $\$ 432,789$ |

Non-accrual, Past Due, OREO and Restructured Loans

It is generally the Company's policy to discontinue interest accruals once a loan is past due for a period of 90 days as to interest or principal payments. When a loan is placed on non-accrual, interest accruals cease and uncollected accrued interest is reversed and charged against current income. Payments received on non-accrual loans are applied against principal. A loan may only be restored to an accruing basis when it again becomes well secured and in the process of collection or all past due amounts have been collected and an appropriate period of performance has been demonstrated.

The following tables summarize the Company's non-accrual loans by loan category (in thousands) at December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009.

| At December 31, 2011 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Gross $\quad$ Guaranteed |  |  |

At December 31, 2010
Gross Guaranteed Net

| Residential mortgage | $\$ 1,334$ | $\$-$ | $\$ 1,334$ | $\$ 2,301$ | $\$-$ | $\$ 2,301$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Residential construction | 48 | - | 48 | 272 | - | 272 |
| Commercial real estate | 3,071 | - | 3,071 | 5,864 | - | 5,864 |
| Agriculture | 992 | - | 992 | 1,752 | - | 1,752 |
| Commercial | 2,905 | 62 | 2,843 | 1,817 | 77 | 1,740 |
| Consumer | 360 | - | 360 | 268 | - | 268 |
| Total non-accrual loans | $\$ 8,710$ | $\$ 62$ | $\$ 8,648$ | $\$ 12,274$ | $\$ 77$ | $\$ 12,197$ |

At December 31, 2009
Gross Guaranteed Net

| Residential mortgage | $\$ 1,370$ | $\$-$ | $\$ 1,370$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Residential construction | 3,413 | - | 3,413 |
| Commercial real estate | 5,669 | - | 5,669 |
| Agriculture | 3,188 | - | 3,188 |
| Commercial | 3,875 | 408 | 3,467 |

Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

| Consumer | 99 | - | 99 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total non-accrual loans | $\$ 17,614$ | $\$ 408$ | $\$ 17,206$ |

Non-accrual loans amounted to $\$ 8,710,000$ at December 31, 2011 and were comprised of four residential mortgage loans totaling $\$ 1,334,000$, one residential construction loan totaling $\$ 48,000$, six commercial real estate loans totaling $\$ 3,071,000$, one agricultural loan totaling $\$ 992,000$, twelve commercial loans totaling $\$ 2,905,000$ and five consumer loans totaling $\$ 360,000$. Non-accrual loans amounted to $\$ 12,274,000$ at December 31, 2010 and were comprised of seven residential mortgage loans totaling $\$ 2,301,000$, four residential construction loans totaling $\$ 272,000$, nine commercial real estate loans totaling $\$ 5,864,000$, one agricultural loan totaling $\$ 1,752,000$, ten commercial loans totaling $\$ 1,817,000$ and five consumer loans totaling $\$ 268,000$. Non-accrual loans amounted to $\$ 17,614,000$ at December 31, 2009 and were comprised of four residential mortgage loans totaling $\$ 1,370,000$, fifteen residential construction loans totaling $\$ 3,413,000$, seven commercial real estate loans totaling $\$ 5,669,000$, two agricultural loans totaling $\$ 3,188,000$, eight commercial loans totaling $\$ 3,875,000$ and one consumer loan totaling $\$ 99,000$. It is generally the Company's policy to charge-off the portion of any non-accrual loan for which the Company does not expect to collect by writing the loan down to fair value.

The five largest non-accrual loans as of December 31, 2011, totaled approximately $\$ 6,180,000$ or $71 \%$ of total non-accrual loans and consisted of one residential mortgage loan totaling $\$ 726,000$, supported by residential property located within the Company's market area, two commercial real estate loans totaling $\$ 2,626,000$, supported by commercial properties located within the Company's market area, one agricultural loan totaling $\$ 991,000$, supported by real property located within the Company's market area and one commercial and industrial loan totaling $\$ 1,837,000$, supported by the business assets of the borrower. The collateral securing all of these loans is generally appraised every six months.

In comparison, the five largest non-accrual loans as of December 31, 2010, totaled approximately $\$ 7,222,000$ or $58 \%$ of total non-accrual loans and consisted of one commercial and industrial loan totaling $\$ 1,342,000$, supported by the business assets of the borrower, one agricultural loan totaling $\$ 1,752,000$, supported by real property and the business assets of the borrower and three commercial real estate loans totaling $\$ 4,128,000$, supported by commercial properties located within the Company's market area.

If interest on non-accrual loans had been accrued, such interest income would have approximated $\$ 906,000, \$ 642,000$ and $\$ 965,000$ during the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. Income actually recognized for these loans approximated $\$ 408,000, \$ 218,000$ and $\$ 96,000$ for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 , respectively.

Loans for which it is probable that payment of interest and principal will not be made in accordance with the contractual terms of the loan agreement are considered impaired. Non-performing impaired loans are non-accrual loans and loans that are 90 days or more past due and still accruing. Total non-performing impaired loans at December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 consisting of loans on non-accrual status totaled $\$ 8,710,000, \$ 12,274,000$ and $\$ 17,614,000$, respectively. A restructuring of a loan can constitute a troubled debt restructuring if the Company for economic or legal reasons related to the borrower's financial difficulties grants a concession to the borrower that it would not otherwise consider. A loan that is restructured in a troubled debt restructuring is considered an impaired loan. Performing impaired loans totaled $\$ 9,516,000, \$ 7,891,000$ and $\$ 9,984,000$ at December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. Performing impaired loans consist of loans modified as troubled debt restructurings totaling $\$ 5,267,000$ and other impaired loans totaling $\$ 4,249,000$ which the Company expects to collect all principal and interest due and are performing satisfactorily. Additionally, these loans are not on non-accrual status. The majority of the non-performing impaired loans were in management's opinion adequately collateralized based on recently obtained appraised property values or guaranteed by a governmental entity. See "Analysis of the Allowance for Loan Losses" below for additional information. No assurance can be given that the existing or any additional collateral will be sufficient to secure full recovery of the obligations owed under these loans.

The Company had no loans 90 days past due and still accruing at December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009.

As the following table illustrates, total non-performing assets which consists of loans on non-accrual status, loans past due 90 -days and still accruing and Other Real Estate Owned ("OREO") net of guarantees of the State of California and U.S. Government, including its agencies and its government-sponsored agencies, decreased \$4,906,000, or $33.0 \%$ to $\$ 9,973,000$ from December 31, 2010 and decreased $\$ 10,751,000$ or $51.9 \%$ from December 31, 2009. Non-performing assets net of guarantees represent $1.3 \%$ of total assets at December 31, 2011. The Bank's management believes that the $\$ 8,710,000$ in non-accrual loans are adequately collateralized or guaranteed by a governmental entity. However, no assurance can be given that the existing or any additional collateral will be sufficient to secure full recovery of the obligations owed under these loans.

|  | At December 31, 2011 |  |  |  | At December 31, 2010 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Gross | Guaranteed | Net |  | Gross | Guaranteed | Net |  |
| (dollars in thousands) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Non-accrual loans | \$8,710 | \$62 | \$8,648 |  | \$ 12,274 | \$77 | \$ 12,197 |  |
| Loans 90 days past due and still accruing | - | - | - |  | - | - | - |  |
| Total non-performing loans | 8,710 | 62 | 8,648 |  | 12,274 | 77 | 12,197 |  |
| Other real estate owned | 1,325 | - | 1,325 |  | 2,682 | - | 2,682 |  |
| Total non-performing assets | 10,035 | 62 | 9,973 |  | 14,956 | 77 | 14,879 |  |
| Non-performing loans to total loans |  |  | 2.0 | \% |  |  | 2.7 | \% |
| Non-performing assets to total assets |  |  | 1.3 | \% |  |  | 2.0 | \% |
| Allowance for loan and lease losses to non-performing loans |  |  | 120.4 | \% |  |  | 90.5 | \% |
| At December 31, 2009 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Gross | Guaranteed | Net |  |  |  |  |  |
| (dollars in thousands) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Non-accrual loans | \$ 17,614 | \$408 | \$ 17,206 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Loans 90 days past due and still accruing | - | - | - |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total non-performing loans | 17,614 | 408 | 17,206 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other real estate owned | 3,518 | - | 3,518 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total non-performing assets | 21,132 | 408 | 20,724 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Non-performing loans to total loans |  |  | 3.6 | \% |  |  |  |  |
| Non-performing assets to total assets |  |  | 2.8 | \% |  |  |  |  |
| Allowance for loan and lease losses to non-performing loans |  |  | 69.3 | \% |  |  |  |  |

OREO consists of property that the Company has acquired by deed in lieu of foreclosure or through foreclosure proceedings, and property that the Company does not hold title to but is in actual control of, known as in-substance foreclosure. The estimated fair value of the property is determined prior to transferring the balance to OREO. The balance transferred to OREO is the estimated fair value of the property less estimated cost to sell. Impairment may be deemed necessary to bring the book value of the loan equal to the appraised value. Appraisals or loan officer evaluations are then conducted periodically thereafter charging any additional impairment to the appropriate expense account.

OREO amounted to $\$ 1,325,000, \$ 2,682,000$ and $\$ 3,518,000$ for the periods ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. The decrease in OREO loans at December 31, 2011 from the balance at December 31, 2010 was primarily due to the disposition of seven residential construction properties, four commercial real estate properties and two residential properties, which was partially offset by the addition of two residential properties, one residential construction property, two commercial real estate properties and one agricultural property.

## Potential Problem Loans

## Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

The Company manages asset quality and credit risk by maintaining diversification in its loan portfolio and through review processes that include analysis of credit requests and ongoing examination of outstanding loans and delinquencies, with particular attention to portfolio dynamics and loan mix. The Company strives to identify loans experiencing difficulty early enough to correct the problems, to record charge-offs promptly based on realistic assessments of collectability and current collateral values and to maintain an adequate allowance for loan losses at all times. Asset quality reviews of loans and other non-performing assets are administered using credit risk rating standards and criteria similar to those employed by state and federal banking regulatory agencies. The federal bank and thrift regulatory agencies utilize the following definitions for assets adversely classified for supervisory purposes: "Substandard Assets: a substandard asset is inadequately protected by the current sound worth and paying capacity of the obligor or of the collateral pledged, if any. Assets so classified must have a well-defined weakness or weaknesses that jeopardize the liquidation of the debt. They are characterized by the distinct possibility that the institution will sustain some loss if the deficiencies are not corrected." "Doubtful Assets: An asset classified doubtful has all the weaknesses inherent in one classified substandard with the added characteristic that the weaknesses make collection or liquidation in full, on the basis of currently existing facts, conditions, and values, highly questionable and improbable." Other Real Estate Owned" and loans rated Substandard and Doubtful are deemed "classified assets". This category, which includes both performing and non-performing assets, receives an elevated level of attention regarding collection.

Residential mortgage loans, which are secured by real estate, are primarily susceptible to three risks; non-payment due to diminished or lost income, over-extension of credit, a lack of borrower's cash flow to sustain payments, and shortfalls in collateral value. In general, non-payment is due to loss of employment and follows general economic trends in the marketplace, particularly the upward movement in the unemployment rate, loss of collateral value, and demand shifts.

Commercial real estate loans generally fall into two categories, owner-occupied and non-owner occupied. Loans secured by owner occupied real estate are primarily susceptible to changes in the market conditions of the related business. This may be driven by, among other things, industry changes, geographic business changes, changes in the individual financial capacity of the business owner, general economic conditions and changes in business cycles. These same risks apply to commercial loans whether secured by equipment, receivables or other personal property or unsecured. Losses on loans secured by owner occupied real estate, equipment, or other personal property generally are dictated by the value of underlying collateral at the time of default and liquidation of the collateral. When default is driven by issues related specifically to the business owner, collateral values tend to provide better repayment support and may result in little or no loss. Alternatively, when default is driven by more general economic conditions, underlying collateral generally has devalued more and results in larger losses due to default. Loans secured by non-owner occupied real estate are primarily susceptible to risks associated with swings in occupancy or vacancy and related shifts in lease rates, rental rates or room rates. Most often, these shifts are a result of changes in general economic or market conditions or overbuilding and resultant over-supply of space. Losses are dependent on the value of underlying collateral at the time of default. Values are generally driven by these same factors and influenced by interest rates and required rates of return as well as changes in occupancy costs. Collateral values may be determined by appraisals obtained through Bank approved, licensed appraisers, qualified independent third parties, sales invoices, or other appropriate means. Appropriate valuations are obtained at origination of the credit and periodically thereafter, (generally every $3-6$ months depending on the collateral type), once repayment is questionable, and the loan has been deemed classified.

Construction loans, whether owner occupied or non-owner occupied residential development loans, are not only susceptible to the related risks described above but the added risks of construction itself including cost over-runs, mismanagement of the project, or lack of demand and market changes experienced at time of completion. Again, losses are primarily related to underlying collateral value and changes therein as described above. Problem construction loans are generally identified by periodic review of financial information that may include financial statements, tax returns and payment history of the borrower. Based on this information the Company may decide to take any of several courses of action including demand for repayment, requiring the borrower to provide a significant principal payment and/or additional collateral or requiring similar support from guarantors, the Company may pursue repossession or foreclosure of the underlying collateral. Collateral values may be determined by appraisals obtained through Bank approved, licensed appraisers, qualified independent third parties, purchase invoices, or other appropriate documentation. Appropriate valuations are obtained at origination of the credit and periodically thereafter, (generally every $3-6$ months depending on the collateral type), once repayment is questionable, and the loan has been deemed classified.

Agricultural loans, whether secured or unsecured, generally are made to producers and processors of crops and livestock. Repayment is primarily from the sale of an agricultural product or service. Agricultural loans are generally secured by inventory, receivables, equipment, and other real property. Agricultural loans primarily are susceptible to changes in market demand for specific commodities. This may be exacerbated by, among other things, industry changes, changes in the individual financial capacity of the business owner, general economic conditions and changes in business cycles, as well as changing weather conditions. Problem agricultural loans are generally identified by periodic review of financial information that may include financial statements, tax returns, crop budgets, payment history, and crop inspections. Based on this information, the Company may decide to take any of several courses of action including demand for repayment, requiring the borrower to provide a significant principal payment and/or additional collateral or requiring similar support from guarantors. Notwithstanding, when repayment becomes unlikely
based on the borrower's income and cash flow, repossession or foreclosure of the underlying collateral may become necessary. Collateral values may be determined by appraisals obtained through Bank approved, licensed appraisers, qualified independent third parties, purchase invoices, or other appropriate documentation. Appropriate valuations are obtained at origination of the credit and periodically thereafter, (generally every $3-6$ months depending on the collateral type), once repayment is questionable, and the loan has been deemed classified.

Commercial loans, whether secured or unsecured, generally are made to support the short-term operations and other needs of small businesses. These loans are generally secured by the receivables, equipment, and other real property of the business and are susceptible to the related risks described above. Problem commercial loans are generally identified by periodic review of financial information that may include financial statements, tax returns, and payment history of the borrower. Based on this information, the Company may decide to take any of several courses of action including demand for repayment, requiring the borrower to provide a significant principal payment and/or additional collateral or requiring similar support from guarantors. Notwithstanding, when repayment becomes unlikely based on the borrower's income and cash flow, repossession or foreclosure of the underlying collateral may become necessary. Collateral values may be determined by appraisals obtained through Bank approved, licensed appraisers, qualified independent third parties, purchase invoices, or other appropriate documentation. Appropriate valuations are obtained at origination of the credit and periodically there after, (generally every $3-6$ months depending on the collateral type), once repayment is questionable, and the loan has been deemed classified.

Consumer loans, whether unsecured or secured are primarily susceptible to three risks; non-payment due to diminished or lost income, over-extension of credit, a lack of borrower's cash flow to sustain payments, and shortfall in collateral value. In general, non-payment is due to loss of employment and will follow general economic trends in the marketplace, particularly the upward movements in the unemployment rate, loss of collateral value, and demand shifts.

Once a loan becomes delinquent and repayment becomes questionable, a Company collection officer will address collateral shortfalls with the borrower and attempt to obtain additional collateral or a principal payment. If this is not forthcoming and payment in full is unlikely, the Company will estimate its probable loss, using a recent valuation as appropriate to the underlying collateral less estimated costs of sale, and charge-off the loan down to the estimated net realizable amount. Depending on the length of time until final collection, the Bank may periodically revalue the underlying collateral and take additional charge-offs as warranted. Revaluations may occur as often as every 3-12 months depending on the underlying collateral and volatility of values. Final charge-offs or recoveries are taken when collateral is liquidated and actual loss is known. Unpaid balances on loans after or during collection and liquidation may also be pursued through lawsuit and attachment of wages or judgment liens on borrower's other assets.

Excluding the non-performing loans cited previously, loans totaling $\$ 29,673,000$ and $\$ 36,140,000$ were classified as substandard loans, representing potential problem loans at December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Of these loans, loans totaling $\$ 26,295,000$ and $\$ 32,093,000$ are adequately collateralized or guaranteed, in management's opinion, and the remaining loans totaling $\$ 3,378,000$ and $\$ 4,047,000$ may have some loss potential which management believes is sufficiently covered by the Bank's existing loan loss reserve (Allowance for Loan Losses) at December 31, 2011 and 2010 respectively. The ratio of the Allowance for Loan Losses to total loans at December 31, 2011 and 2010 was $2.35 \%$ and $2.44 \%$ respectively.

# Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K 

## SUMMARY OF LOAN LOSS EXPERIENCE

The Company's allowance for credit losses is maintained at a level considered adequate to provide for losses that can be estimated based upon specific and general conditions. These include conditions unique to individual borrowers, as well as overall credit loss experience, the amount of past due, non-performing loans and classified loans, recommendations of regulatory authorities, prevailing economic conditions and other factors. A portion of the allowance is specifically allocated to classified loans whose full collectability is uncertain. Such allocations are determined by Management based on loan-by-loan analyses. In addition, loans with similar characteristics not usually criticized using regulatory guidelines are analyzed based on the historical loss rates and delinquency trends, grouped by the number of days the payments on these loans are delinquent. Last, allocations are made to non-criticized and classified commercial loans and residential real estate loans based on historical loss rates, and other statistical data. The remainder of the allowance is considered to be unallocated. The unallocated allowance is established to provide for probable losses that have been incurred as of the reporting date but not reflected in the allocated allowance. It addresses additional qualitative factors consistent with Management's analysis of the level of risks inherent in the loan portfolio, which are related to the risks of the Company's general lending activity. Included in the unallocated allowance is the risk of losses that are attributable to national or local economic or industry trends which have occurred but have yet been recognized in past loan charge-off history (external factors). The external factors evaluated by the Company include: economic and business conditions, external competitive issues, and other factors. Also included in the unallocated allowance is the risk of losses attributable to general attributes of the Company's loan portfolio and credit administration (internal factors). The internal factors evaluated by the Company include: loan review system, adequacy of lending Management and staff, loan policies and procedures, problem loan trends, concentrations of credit, and other factors. By their nature, these risks are not readily allocable to any specific loan category in a statistically meaningful manner and are difficult to quantify with a specific number. Management assigns a range of estimated risk to the qualitative risk factors described above based on Management's judgment as to the level of risk, and assigns a quantitative risk factor from the range of loss estimates to determine the appropriate level of the unallocated portion of the allowance. Management considers the $\$ 10,408,000$ allowance for credit losses to be adequate as a reserve against losses as of December 31, 2011.

Analysis of the Allowance for Loan Losses

|  | (Dollars in thousands) |  |  |  |  |  | 2008 |  | 2007 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2011 |  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Balance at Beginning of Year | \$11,039 |  | \$ 11,916 |  | \$ 14,435 |  | \$10,876 |  | \$8,361 |  |
| Provision for Loan Losses | 5,138 |  | 4,914 |  | 10,489 |  | 16,164 |  | 4,795 |  |
| Loans Charged-Off: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Commercial | (2,381 | ) | (1,930 | ) | (4,518 | ) | (2,224 | ) | (1,428 | ) |
| Commercial Real Estate | (2,000 | ) | (1,491 | ) | (1,685 | ) | (2,984 | ) | - |  |
| Agriculture | (860 | ) | (736 | ) | (5,043 | ) | (220 | ) | (82 | ) |
| Residential Mortgage | (272 | ) | (715 | ) | (124 | ) | - |  | (120 | ) |
| Residential Construction | (197 | ) | (830 | ) | (2,433 | ) | (7,281 | ) | (666 | ) |
| Consumer | (932 | ) | (914 | ) | (490 | ) | (615 | ) | (764 | ) |
| Total Charged-Off | (6,642 | ) | (6,616 | ) | (14,293 | ) | $(13,324$ | ) | (3,060 | ) |
| Recoveries: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Commercial | 185 |  | 540 |  | 322 |  | 153 |  | 256 |  |
| Commercial Real Estate | 288 |  | 1 |  | 355 |  | - |  | - |  |
| Agriculture | 142 |  | 78 |  | 5 |  | 88 |  | 200 |  |
| Residential Mortgage | 11 |  | 22 |  | - |  | - |  | - |  |
| Residential Construction | 71 |  | 6 |  | 370 |  | 159 |  | - |  |
| Consumer | 176 |  | 178 |  | 233 |  | 319 |  | 324 |  |
| Total Recoveries | 873 |  | 825 |  | 1,285 |  | 719 |  | 780 |  |
| Net (Charge-Offs) Recoveries | (5,769 | ) | (5,791 | ) | (13,008 | ) | (12,605 | ) | (2,280 | ) |
| Balance at End of Year | \$ 10,408 |  | \$ 11,039 |  | \$ 11,916 |  | \$ 14,435 |  | \$ 10,876 |  |

## Ratio of Net (Charge-Offs) Recoveries

During the Year to Average Loans

| Outstanding During the Year | $(1.34$ | $\%)$ | $(1.27$ | $\%)$ | $(2.65$ | $\%)$ | $(2.46$ | $\%)$ | $(0.47$ | $\%)$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Allowance as a percentage of Total |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Loans | 2.35 | $\%$ | 2.44 | $\%$ | 2.45 | $\%$ | 2.72 | $\%$ | 2.14 | $\%$ |
| Allowance as a percentage of | 120.4 | $\%$ | 90.5 | $\%$ | 69.3 | $\%$ | 102.0 | $\%$ | 70.5 | $\%$ |

## Allocation of the Allowance for Loan Losses

The Allowance for Loan Losses has been established as a general component available to absorb probable inherent losses throughout the Loan Portfolio. The following table is an allocation of the Allowance for Loan Losses balance on the dates indicated (dollars in thousands):
December 31, 2011
December 31, 2010
December 31, 2009

Allocation
of Allowance Loans
Allowance as a \% as a \% for Loan of of Losses Total Total Balance Allowance Loans

Allocation
of Allowance Loans Allowance as a \% as a \% for Loan of of
Losses Total Total Balance Allowance Loans

Allocation
of Allowance Loans Allowance as a \% as a \% for Loan of of Losses Total Total Balance Allowance Loans

Loan Type:

| Commercial | $\$ 3,598$ | 34.6 | $\%$ | 20.4 | $\%$ | $\$ 3,761$ | 34.1 | $\%$ | 17.9 | $\%$ | $\$ 4,036$ | 33.9 | $\%$ | 18.8 | $\%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Commercial Real Estate | 1,747 | 16.8 | $\%$ | 40.2 | $\%$ | 1,957 | 17.7 | $\%$ | 41.7 | $\%$ | 2,706 | 22.7 | $\%$ | 41.7 | $\%$ |
| Agriculture | 1,934 | 18.6 | $\%$ | 11.6 | $\%$ | 2,141 | 19.4 | $\%$ | 11.5 | $\%$ | 1,681 | 14.1 | $\%$ | 11.2 | $\%$ |
| Residential Mortgage | 1,135 | 10.9 | $\%$ | 11.7 | $\%$ | 830 | 7.5 | $\%$ | 11.7 | $\%$ | 735 | 6.2 | $\%$ | 11.2 | $\%$ |
| Residential Construction | 1,198 | 11.5 | $\%$ | 1.5 | $\%$ | 1,719 | 15.6 | $\%$ | 1.9 | $\%$ | 1,611 | 13.5 | $\%$ | 3.2 | $\%$ |
| Consumer | 796 | 7.6 | $\%$ | 14.6 | $\%$ | 556 | 5.0 | $\%$ | 15.3 | $\%$ | 506 | 4.2 | $\%$ | 13.9 | $\%$ |
| Unallocated | - | - | - | 75 | 0.7 | $\%$ | - |  | 641 | 5.4 | $\%$ | - |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $l l l l l l l l$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

December 31, 2008
December 31, 2007
$\left.\begin{array}{cccccccc}\begin{array}{c}\text { Allocation } \\ \text { of }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { Allocation } \\ \text { of }\end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c}\text { Allowance } \\ \text { for Loan } \\ \text { Losses } \\ \text { Balance }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { Allowance } \\ \text { as a } \% \text { of } \\ \text { Total } \\ \text { Allowance }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { Loans as } \\ \text { a \% of } \\ \text { Total } \\ \text { Loans }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { Allowance } \\ \text { for Loan } \\ \text { Losses } \\ \text { Balance }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { Allowance } \\ \text { as a } \% \text { of } \\ \text { Total } \\ \text { Allowance }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { Loans as } \\ \text { a \% of } \\ \text { Total }\end{array} \\ \text { \$oans }\end{array}\right]$

The Bank believes that any breakdown or allocation of the allowance into loan categories lends an appearance of exactness, which does not exist, because the allowance is available for all loans. The allowance breakdown shown above is computed taking actual experience into consideration but should not be interpreted as an indication of the specific amount and allocation of actual charge-offs that may ultimately occur.

## Deposits

The following table sets forth the average amount and the average rate paid on each of the listed deposit categories (dollars in thousands) during the periods specified:

| 2011 |  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Average | Average | Average | Average | Average | Average |
| Amount | Rate | Amount | Rate | Amount | Rate |

Deposit Type:

| Non-interest-Bearing Demand | $\$ 196,852$ | - | $\$ 181,689$ | - |  | $\$ 172,925$ | - |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Interest-Bearing Demand <br> (NOW) | $\$ 152,764$ | 0.23 | $\%$ | $\$ 141,816$ | 0.28 | $\%$ | $\$ 127,769$ | 0.47 | $\%$ |
| Savings and MMDAs | $\$ 208,219$ | 0.42 | $\%$ | $\$ 197,464$ | 0.59 | $\%$ | $\$ 172,610$ | 0.78 | $\%$ |
| Time | $\$ 104,981$ | 0.88 | $\%$ | $\$ 130,592$ | 1.26 | $\%$ | $\$ 144,251$ | 1.74 | $\%$ |

The following table sets forth by time remaining to maturity the Bank's time deposits in the amount of $\$ 100,000$ or more (dollars in thousands) as of December 31, 2011:

| Three months or less | $\$ 24,823$ |
| :--- | :---: |
| Over three months through twelve months | 37,170 |
| Over twelve months | 5,896 |
| Total | $\$ 67,889$ |

## Short-Term Borrowings

Short-term borrowings at December 31, 2011 and 2010 consisted of secured borrowings from the U.S. Treasury in the amounts of $\$ 0$ and $\$ 1,529,000$, respectively. The funds are placed at the discretion of the U.S. Treasury and are callable on demand by the U.S. Treasury. At December 31, 2011, the Bank had no Federal Funds purchased.

Additional short-term borrowings available to the Company consist of a line of credit and advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank ("FHLB") secured under terms of a blanket collateral agreement by a pledge of FHLB stock and certain other qualifying collateral such as commercial and mortgage loans. At December 31, 2011, the Company had a current collateral borrowing capacity from the FHLB of $\$ 136,509,000$. The Company also has unsecured formal lines of credit totaling $\$ 36,000,000$ with correspondent banks.

## Long-Term Borrowings

Long-term borrowings consisted of Federal Home Loan Bank advances, totaling \$7,000,000 and \$9,000,000, respectively, at December 31, 2011 and 2010. Such advances mature in 0.5 years at a weighted average interest rate of $4.13 \%$ at December 31, 2011. Maturity ranged from 0.5 years to 1.5 years at a weighted average interest rate of $4.06 \%$ at December 31, 2010. Average outstanding balances were $\$ 7,975,000$ and $\$ 9,975,000$, respectively, during 2011 and 2010. The weighted average interest rate paid was $4.09 \%$ in 2011 and $4.0 \%$ in 2010.

# Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K 

## Overview

Year Ended December 31, 2011 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2010
Net income available to common shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2011, was $\$ 1.3$ million, representing a decrease of $\$ 0.4$ million, or $24.4 \%$ decrease, compared to net income available to common shareholders of $\$ 1.7$ million for the year ended December 31, 2010. The decrease in net income available to common shareholders is principally attributable to a $\$ 1.1$ million increase in provision for income tax expense and $\$ 0.4$ million increase in preferred stock dividends and accretion, due to the early recognition of the remaining discount on preferred stock sold to the U.S. Treasury as part of the Capital Purchase Program, which was partially offset by a $\$ 1.1$ million decrease in other operating expense.

Total assets increased by $\$ 43.9$ million, or $6.0 \%$, to $\$ 781.2$ million as of December 31, 2011 compared to $\$ 737.2$ million at December 31, 2010. The increase in total assets was mainly due to a $\$ 52.9$ million increase in investment securities, which was partially offset by an $\$ 8.7$ million decrease in net loans (including loans held-for-sale) and a $\$ 1.4$ million decrease in other real estate owned. Total deposits increased $\$ 38.7$ million, or $6.0 \%$, to $\$ 679.0$ million as of December 31, 2011 compared to $\$ 640.3$ million at December 31, 2010. Other borrowings decreased by $\$ 3.5$ million, or $33.5 \%$, to $\$ 7.0$ million as of December 31, 2011 compared to $\$ 10.5$ million at December 31, 2010.

## Year Ended December 31, 2010 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2009

Net income available to common shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2010, was $\$ 1.7$ million, representing an increase of $\$ 3.5$ million, or $190.6 \%$, compared to net loss available to common shareholders of $\$ 1.8$ million for the year ended December 31, 2009. The increase in net income is principally attributable to a $\$ 5.6$ million decrease in the provision for loan losses, $\$ 0.4$ million increase in other income and a decrease of $\$ 2.2$ million in other operating expense, which was partially offset by a $\$ 1.8$ million decrease in net interest income and a $\$ 2.9$ million decrease in income tax benefit.

Total assets decreased by $\$ 10.4$ million, or $1.4 \%$, to $\$ 737.2$ million as of December 31, 2010 compared to $\$ 747.6$ million at December 31, 2009. The decrease in total assets was mainly due to a $\$ 31.7$ million decrease in net loans (including loans held-for-sale), a $\$ 7.4$ decrease in cash and due from banks and a $\$ 3.0$ million decrease in other assets, which was partially offset by a $\$ 31.5$ million increase in investment securities. Total deposits decreased $\$ 11.2$ million, or $1.7 \%$, to $\$ 640.3$ million as of December 31, 2010 compared to $\$ 651.4$ million at December 31, 2009. Other borrowings decreased by $\$ 1.3$ million, or $10.9 \%$, to $\$ 10.5$ million as of December 31, 2010 compared to $\$ 11.8$ million at December 31, 2009.

## Results of Operations

## Net Interest Income

Net interest income is the excess of interest and fees earned on the Bank's loans, investment securities, federal funds sold and banker's acceptances over the interest expense paid on deposits, mortgage notes and other borrowed funds. It is primarily affected by the yields on the Bank's interest-earning assets and loan fees and interest-bearing liabilities outstanding during the period. The $\$ 7,000$ decrease in the Bank's net interest income in 2011 from 2010 was due to the effects of lower loan rates and volumes, lower loan fees, lower investment securities rates and lower due from interest bearing account rates and volumes, which was partially offset by higher investment securities volumes and lower core deposit funding costs and volumes. The $\$ 1,785,000$ decrease in the Bank's net interest income in 2010 from 2009 was due to the effects of lower loan rates and volumes, lower loan fees, lower investment securities rates, lower Federal Funds volume and lower due from interest bearing account rates, which was partially offset by higher investment securities, and due from interest bearing account volumes and lower core deposit funding costs. The "Analysis of Changes in Interest Income and Interest Expense" set forth on page 33 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K identifies the effects of interest rates and loan/deposit volume. Another factor that affected the net interest income was the average earning asset to average total asset ratio. This ratio was $92.2 \%$ in 2011, $92.1 \%$ in 2010 and $89.8 \%$ in 2009.

Interest income on loans (including loan fees) was $\$ 25,402,000$ for 2011, representing a decrease of $\$ 1,708,000$, or $6.3 \%$, from $\$ 27,110,000$ for 2010. This compared to a decrease in 2010 of $\$ 3,410,000$, or $11.2 \%$, from $\$ 30,520,000$ for 2009. The decreased interest income on loans in 2011 over 2010 was the result of a $5.3 \%$ decrease in loan volume and a 4 basis point decrease in loan interest rates, combined with a decrease of approximately $\$ 167,000$ in loan fees. Loan fee comparisons were impacted by a net decrease in deferred loan fees and costs of $\$ 372,000$ in 2011, and a net decrease of \$78,000 in 2010.

Average outstanding federal funds sold was $\$ 0$ in 2011, $\$ 0$ in 2010 and $\$ 45,918,000$ in 2009. There were no Federal Funds sold at December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010. Federal funds are used primarily as a short-term investment to provide liquidity for funding of loan commitments or to accommodate seasonal deposit fluctuations. Federal Funds sold yields were $0.00 \%, 0.00 \%$ and $0.13 \%$ for 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Average outstanding due from interest bearing accounts fluctuated during this period, ranging from $\$ 133,935,000$ in 2011 to $\$ 141,059,000$ in 2010 and $\$ 36,302,000$ in 2009. At December 31, 2011, due from interest bearing accounts were $\$ 124,038,000$. As with Federal Funds, due from interest bearing accounts are used primarily as a short-term investment to provide liquidity for funding of loan commitments or to accommodate seasonal deposit fluctuations. Due from interest bearing account yields were $0.25 \%, 0.27 \%$ and $0.45 \%$ for 2011,2010 and 2009, respectively.

The average total level of investment securities increased $\$ 43,460,000$ in 2011 to $\$ 133,350,000$ from $\$ 89,890,000$ in 2010 and increased $\$ 25,600,000$ in 2010 to $\$ 89,890,000$ from $\$ 64,290,000$ in 2009. The level of interest income attributable to investment securities increased to $\$ 3,040,000$ in 2011 from $\$ 2,428,000$ in 2010 and increased to $\$ 2,428,000$ in 2010 from $\$ 2,314,000$ in 2009, due to the effects of interest rates and volume. The Bank's strategy for this period emphasized the use of the investment portfolio to partially offset the Bank's decreased loan volume. The Bank intends to continue to reinvest maturing securities to provide future liquidity while attempting to reinvest the cash flows in short duration securities that provide higher cash flow for reinvestment in a higher interest rate instrument. Investment securities yields were $2.28 \%, 2.70 \%$ and $3.60 \%$ for 2011,2010 and 2009 , respectively.

## Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

Total interest expense decreased to $\$ 2,476,000$ in 2011 from $\$ 3,606,000$ in 2010, and decreased to $\$ 3,606,000$ in 2010 from $\$ 4,960,000$ in 2009 , representing a $31.3 \%$ decrease in 2011 over 2010 and a $27.3 \%$ decrease in 2010 over 2009. The decrease in total interest expense from 2011 to 2010 was due to decreases in interest rates paid on deposits and decreases in the volume of time deposits. The decrease in total interest expense from 2010 to 2009 was due to decreases in interest rates paid on deposits and decreases in the volume of deposits.

The mix of deposits for the previous three years is as follows (dollars in thousands):

$$
2011
$$

2010
2009

|  | Average <br> Balance | Percent | Average <br> Balance | Percent |  | Average <br> Balance | Percent |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

The three years ended December 31, 2011 have been characterized by decreasing interest rates. Loan rates and deposit rates decreased in 2011, 2010 and 2009. The net spread between the rate for total earning assets and the rate for interest-bearing deposits and borrowed funds decreased 1 basis point in the period from 2011 to 2010 and decreased 49 basis points in the period from 2010 to 2009.

The Bank's net interest margin (net interest income divided by average earning assets) was $3.76 \%$ in $2011,3.82 \%$ in 2010 and $4.39 \%$ in 2009. The decrease in net interest margin was due to decreasing loan and investment rates which was only partially offset by lower deposit rates. Going forward into the first half of 2012, it is Bank management's belief that net interest income and net interest margin will continue to fluctuate due to the unstable rate environment.

## Provision for Loan Losses

The provision for loan losses is established by charges to earnings based on management's overall evaluation of the collectability of the loan portfolio. Based on this evaluation, the provision for loan losses increased to $\$ 5,138,000$ in 2011 from $\$ 4,914,000$ in 2010, primarily as a result of changes in external and internal factors due to changes in actual loss history and charge-offs of impaired loans. The amount of loans charged-off increased in 2011 to $\$ 6,642,000$ from $\$ 6,616,000$ in 2010, and recoveries increased to $\$ 873,000$ in 2011 from $\$ 825,000$ in 2010. The increase in charge-offs was due, for the most part, to an increase in charge-offs of commercial loans and commercial real estate loans, which was partially offset by a decrease in charge-offs of residential mortgage and residential construction loans. The ratio of the Allowance for Loan Losses to total loans at December 31, 2011 was $2.35 \%$ compared to $2.44 \%$ at December 31, 2010. The ratio of the Allowance for Loan Losses to total non-accrual loans and loans past due 90 days or more at December 31, 2011 was $120 \%$ compared to $90 \%$ at December 31, 2010.

The provision for loan losses decreased to $\$ 4,914,000$ in 2010 from $\$ 10,489,000$ in 2009, primarily as a result of decreased charge-offs, decreased loan volumes and increased credit quality. The amount of loans charged-off decreased in 2010 to $\$ 6,616,000$ from $\$ 14,293,000$ in 2009, and recoveries decreased to $\$ 825,000$ in 2010 from $\$ 1,285,000$ in 2009. The decrease in charge-offs was due, for the most part, to a decrease in charge-offs of commercial loans, commercial real estate loans, agriculture loans, and residential construction loans. The ratio of the Allowance for Loan Losses to total loans at December 31, 2010 was $2.44 \%$ compared to $2.45 \%$ at December 31, 2009. The ratio of the Allowance for Loan Losses to total non-accrual loans and loans past due 90 days or more at

December 31, 2010 was $90 \%$ compared to $68 \%$ at December 31, 2009.

47

## Other Operating Income and Expenses

Other operating income consisted primarily of service charges on deposit accounts, net gains on sales of investment securities, net realized gains on loans held-for-sale, gains on other real estate owned, and other income. Service charges on deposit accounts decreased $\$ 512,000$ in 2011 over 2010 and decreased $\$ 170,000$ in 2010 over 2009. The decrease in 2011 was due, for the most part, to a decrease in service charges on regular and business checking accounts. Realized gains on sale of investment securities increased $\$ 267,000$ in 2011 over 2010 and increased $\$ 209,000$ in 2010 over 2009. The increase in 2011 was primarily due to increased values of securities sold, partially offset by a decrease in the number of securities sold. Net realized gains on loans held-for-sale decreased $\$ 258,000$ in 2011 over 2010 and increased $\$ 159,000$ in 2010 over 2009. The decrease in 2011 was due, for the most part, to decreased sales volume of loans held-for-sale. Gains on sales of other real estate owned increased \$189,000 in 2011 over 2010 and increased $\$ 48,000$ in 2010 over 2009. The increase in 2011 was primarily due to successful sales of real estate owned. Other income increased $\$ 542,000$ in 2011 over 2010 and increased $\$ 355,000$ in 2010 over 2009. The increase in 2011 was due, for the most part, to increases in investment \& brokerage income, fiduciary activities income, signature based transaction fees, ATM fees and other miscellaneous income.

Other operating expenses consisted primarily of salaries and employee benefits, occupancy and equipment expense, data processing expense, stationery and supplies expense, advertising, OREO expenses and impairment and other expenses. Other operating expenses decreased to $\$ 26,762,000$ in 2011 from $\$ 27,889,000$ in 2010, and decreased to $\$ 27,889,000$ in 2010 from $\$ 30,068,000$ in 2009, representing a decrease of $\$ 1,127,000$, or $4.0 \%$ in 2011 over 2010, and a decrease of $\$ 2,179,000$, or $7.3 \%$ in 2010 over 2009.

Following is an analysis of the increase or decrease in the components of other operating expenses (dollars in thousands) during the periods specified:

2011 over 20102010 over 2009

|  | Amount |  | Percent |  | Amount |  | Percent |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Salaries and Employee Benefits | \$76 |  | 0.5 | \% | \$(532 | ) | (3.5 | \%) |
| Occupancy and Equipment | (250 | ) | (7.6 | \%) | (508 | ) | (13.4 | \%) |
| Data Processing | (7 | ) | (0.4 | \%) | (65 | ) | (3.7 | \%) |
| Stationery and Supplies | 23 |  | 7.8 | \% | (113 |  | (27.6 | \%) |
| Advertising | 33 |  | 6.1 | \% | (169 | ) | (23.7 | \%) |
| Directors Fees | 28 |  | 13.1 | \% | (2 |  | (0.9 | \%) |
| OREO Expense and Impairment | (36 | ) | (4.4 | \%) | (738 |  | (47.6 | \%) |
| Other Expense | (994 | ) | (16.0 | \%) | (52 | ) | (0.8 | \%) |
| Total | \$ (1,127 |  |  | \%) | \$(2,179 |  | (7.2 | \%) |

In 2011, salaries and employee benefits increased $\$ 76,000$ to $\$ 14,923,000$ from $\$ 14,847,000$ for 2010. This increase was due, for the most part, to increases in profit sharing expense, welfare \& recreation, and retirement compensation expense, which was partially offset by decreases in deferred loan processing costs and stock compensation expense. Decreases in occupancy and equipment expenses were due to decreases in rent expense and depreciation expense. Rent expense decreased primarily due to the Company's purchase of a building, which became the permanent location of a branch and Investment \& Brokerage Services Office. Increases in stationary and supplies were attributed to an increase in the usage of office supplies. Increases in advertising costs were due to increases in printed materials and related costs. Increases in director fees were due to increases in the number of meetings and number of directors receiving fees. Decreases in OREO expense and impairment were due to decreases in
write-downs and maintenance expenses related to foreclosed real estate properties. Decreases in other expense was due, for the most part, to decreases in FDIC assessments, loan origination expense, sundry losses and loan collection expense, which was partially offset by increases in accounting and audit fees and consulting fees.

In 2010, salaries and employee benefits decreased $\$ 532,000$ to $\$ 14,847,000$ from $\$ 15,379,000$ for 2009. This decrease was due, for the most part, to decreased regular salaries and commissions, which was partially offset by increases in profit sharing expense, workers' compensation and deferred loan processing costs. Decreases in occupancy and equipment expenses were due to decreases in rent expense and depreciation expense. Decreases in data processing were due to a reduction in contract pricing. Decreases in stationary and supplies were attributed to a decrease in the usage of office supplies. Decreases in advertising costs were due to a decrease in printed materials and related costs. Decreases in OREO expense and impairment were due to lower expenses and write-downs related to foreclosed real estate properties. The decrease in other expense was due, for the most part, to a decrease in FDIC assessments, accounting and audit fees and loan origination expense, which was partially offset by increases in sundry losses and loan collection expense.

48

Income Taxes

The provision for income taxes is primarily affected by the tax rate, the level of earnings before taxes and the amount of lower taxes provided by non-taxable earnings. In 2011, tax expense increased $\$ 1,125,000$ to $\$ 1,132,000$ from expense of $\$ 7,000$ for 2010 . The increase was primarily attributable to an increase in taxable income and an adjustment to the Company's deferred tax asset. In 2010, the tax benefit decreased $\$ 2,851,000$ to an expense of $\$ 7,000$ from a benefit of $\$ 2,844,000$ for 2009. Non-taxable municipal bond income was $\$ 430,000, \$ 684,000$ and $\$ 1,003,000$ for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010, and 2009, respectively.

Liquidity, Contractual Obligations, Commitments, Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements and Capital Resources
Liquidity is defined as the ability to generate cash at a reasonable cost to fulfill lending commitments and support asset growth, while satisfying the withdrawal demands of customers and any borrowing requirements. The Bank's principal sources of liquidity are core deposits and loan and investment payments and prepayments. Providing a secondary source of liquidity is the available-for-sale investment portfolio. As a final source of liquidity, the Bank can exercise existing credit arrangements.

The Company's primary source of liquidity on a stand-alone basis is dividends from the Bank. As discussed in Part I (Item 1) of this Annual Report on Form 10-K, dividends from the Bank are subject to regulatory restrictions.

As discussed in Part I (Item 1) of this Annual Report on Form 10-K, the Bank experiences seasonal swings in deposits, which impact liquidity. Management has sought to address these seasonal swings by scheduling investment maturities and developing seasonal credit arrangements with the Federal Reserve Bank and Federal Funds lines of credit with correspondent banks. In addition, the ability of the Bank's real estate department to originate and sell loans into the secondary market has provided another tool for the management of liquidity. As of December 31, 2011, the Company has not created any special purpose entities to securitize assets or to obtain off-balance sheet funding.

The liquidity position of the Bank is managed daily, thus enabling the Bank to adapt its position according to market fluctuations. Liquidity is measured by various ratios, the most common of which is the ratio of net loans (including loans held-for-sale) to deposits. This ratio was $64.2 \%$ on December 31, 2011, 69.4\% on December 31, 2010 and $73.1 \%$ on December 31, 2009. At December 31, 2011 and 2010, the Bank's ratio of core deposits to total assets was $78.2 \%$ and $77.5 \%$, respectively. Core deposits include demand deposits, interest-bearing transaction deposits, savings and money market deposit accounts, and time deposits under $\$ 100,000$. Core deposits are important in maintaining a strong liquidity position as they represent a stable and relatively low cost source of funds. The Bank's liquidity position increased in 2011; management believes that the Bank's liquidity position was adequate. This is best illustrated by the change in the Bank's net non-core ratio, which explains the degree of reliance on non-core liabilities to fund long-term assets. At December 31, 2011, the Bank's net core funding dependence ratio, the difference between non-core funds, time deposits $\$ 100,000$ or more and brokered time deposits under $\$ 100,000$, and short-term investments to long-term assets, was $-8.41 \%$, compared to $-8.94 \%$ in 2010. This ratio indicated at December 31, 2011, the Bank did not significantly rely upon non-core deposits and borrowings to fund the Bank's long-term assets, namely loans and investments. The Bank believes that by maintaining adequate volumes of short-term investments and implementing competitive pricing strategies on deposits, it can ensure adequate liquidity to support future growth. The Bank also believes that its liquidity position remains strong to meet both present and future financial obligations and commitments, events or uncertainties that have resulted or are reasonably likely to result in material changes with respect to the Bank's liquidity.

The Company has various financial obligations, including contractual obligations and commitments that may require future cash payments. The following table presents, as of December 31, 2011, the Company's significant fixed and determinable contractual obligations to third parties by payment date (amounts in thousands):

|  | Payments due by period |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Contractual Obligations | Total | Less than 1 <br> year | $1-3$ years | 3-5 years | More than <br> 5 years |
|  |  | $\$ 572,674$ | $\$ 572,674$ | $\$-$ | $\$-$ |
| Deposits without a stated maturity (a) | 106,284 | 95,216 | 8,941 | 2,127 | - |
| Certificates of Deposit (a) | 7,141 | 7,141 | - | - | - |
| Long-Term Borrowings (b) | 4,109 | 1,112 | 1,976 | 848 | 173 |
| Operating Leases | 1,535 | 1,535 | - | - | - |
| Purchase Obligations | $\$ 691,743$ | $\$ 677,678$ | $\$ 10,917$ | $\$ 2,975$ | $\$ 173$ |

(a)
(b)

Excludes interest.
Includes interest on fixed rate obligations.
The Company's operating lease obligations represent short-term and long-term lease and rental payments for facilities, certain software and data processing and other equipment. Purchase obligations represent obligations under agreements to purchase goods or services that are enforceable and legally binding on the Company and that specify all significant terms, including: fixed or minimum quantities to be purchased; fixed, minimum or variable price provisions; and the approximate timing of the transaction. The purchase obligation amounts presented above primarily relate to certain contractual payments for services provided for information technology, capital expenditures, and the outsourcing of certain operational activities.

The Company's long-term borrowing consists of FHLB fixed-rate obligations. FHLB advances are collateralized by qualifying residential real estate loans and commercial loans.

The Company's borrowed funds consist of secured borrowings from the U.S. Treasury's Treasury Tax and Loan Program. These borrowings are collateralized by qualifying securities. The funds are placed at the discretion of the U.S. Treasury and are callable on demand by the U.S. Treasury.

The following table details the amounts and expected maturities of commitments as of December 31, 2011 (amounts in thousands):

|  | Maturities by period |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Commitments | Total | Less than 1 <br> year | 1-3 years | 3-5 years | More than <br> 5 years |
| Commitments to extend credit |  |  |  |  |  |
| Commercial | $\$ 54,512$ | $\$ 47,216$ | $\$ 5,054$ | $\$ 148$ | $\$ 2,094$ |
| Commercial Real Estate | 12,796 | 2,943 | 1,061 | 2 | 8,790 |
| Agriculture | 24,251 | 20,703 | 3,477 | - | 71 |
| Residential Construction | 786 | 760 | - | - | 26 |
| Consumer | 54,433 | 19,467 | 5,565 | 3,054 | 26,347 |
| Commitments to sell loans | 7,530 | 7,530 | - | - | - |
| Standby Letters of Credit | 1,872 | 1,872 | - | - | - |
| Total | $\$ 156,180$ | $\$ 100,491$ | $\$ 15,157$ | $\$ 3,204$ | $\$ 37,328$ |

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. Commitments generally have fixed expiration dates 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 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 in the form of loans or through standby letters of credit. These instruments involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit and interest rate risk in excess of the amounts recognized in the balance sheet. The contract amounts of those instruments reflect the extent of involvement the Company has in particular classes of financial instruments. These loans have been sold to third parties without recourse, subject to customary default, representations and warranties, recourse for breaches of the terms of the sales contracts and payment default recourse.

Financial instruments, whose contract amounts represent credit risk at December 31 of the indicated years, are as follows (amounts in thousands):

|  | 2011 | 2010 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Undisbursed loan commitments | $\$ 146,778$ | $\$ 140,408$ |
| Standby letters of credit | 1,872 | 3,739 |
| Commitments to sell loans | 7,530 | 1,826 |
|  | $\$ 156,180$ | $\$ 145,973$ |

The Bank expects its liquidity position to remain strong in 2012 as the Bank expects to continue to grow into existing markets. The stock market remained volatile this past year and, while the Bank did not experience a dramatic outflow of deposits, the potential of additional outflows still exists if the stock market improves. Regardless of the outcome, the Bank believes that it has the means to provide adequate liquidity for funding normal operations in 2012.

The Bank believes a strong capital position is essential to the Bank's continued growth and profitability. A solid capital base provides depositors and shareholders with a margin of safety, while allowing the Bank to take advantage of profitable opportunities, support future growth and provide protection against any unforeseen losses.

At December 31, 2011, stockholders' equity totaled $\$ 87.7$ million, an increase of $\$ 8.1$ million from $\$ 79.6$ million at December 31, 2010. The increase is primarily due to the $\$ 22.8$ million the Company raised from the U.S. Treasury in a Small Business Lending Fund financing, less the $\$ 17.4$ million redeemed from the U.S. Treasury TARP financing. Also, net income available to common shareholders of $\$ 1.3$ million contributed to the increase. Also affecting capital in 2011 was paid in capital in the amount of $\$ 0.3$ million resulting from employee stock purchases and stock plan accruals and an increase in other comprehensive income of $\$ 1.1$ million, consisting of retirement plan equity adjustments and unrealized gains on investment securities available-for-sale. Also, capital decreased by $\$ 0.4$ million due to the Company's redemption of the warrants outstanding to the U.S. Treasury. The Bank's Tier 1 Leverage Capital ratio at year-end 2011 was $9.8 \%$ and was $9.7 \%$ for 2010.

On June 21, 2009, the Company's stock repurchase program expired. The Company does not currently operate a stock repurchase program. The Company's previous stock purchase plan had allowed repurchases by the Company in an aggregate of up to $4.0 \%$ of the Company's outstanding shares of common stock over each rolling twelve-month period.

The capital of the Bank historically has been maintained at a level that is in excess of regulatory guidelines. The policy of annual stock dividends has, over time, allowed the Bank to match capital and asset growth through retained earnings and a managed program of geographic growth.

## ITEM 8 - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

In response to this Item, the information set forth on pages 55 through 101 in this Annual Report is incorporated herein by reference.

## Financial Statements Filed:

Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting Page 53
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
Page 54
Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2011 and 2010
Page 55
Consolidated Statements of Operations for Years Ended December 31, 2011, Page 56 2010, and 2009

Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity and Comprehensive Income (loss) for Years Ended December 31, 2011, 2010, and 2009

Page 57
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for Years Ended December 31, Page 59 2011, 2010, and 2009

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
Page 60

Management's Report

## FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARY MANAGEMENT'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

Management of First Northern Community Bancorp and subsidiary (the "Company") is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting. Internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Under the supervision and with the participation of management, including the principal executive officer and principal financial officer, the Company conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting based on the framework in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on this evaluation under the framework in Internal Control Integrated Framework, management of the Company has concluded the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Rules 13a-15(f), as of December 31, 2011.

Internal control over financial reporting cannot provide absolute assurance of achieving financial reporting objectives because of its inherent limitations. Internal control over financial reporting is a process that involves human diligence and compliance and is subject to lapses in judgment and breakdowns resulting from human failures. Internal control over financial reporting can also be circumvented by collusion or improper management override. Because of such limitations, there is a risk that material misstatements may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis by internal control over financial reporting. However, these inherent limitations are known features of the financial reporting process. Therefore, it is possible to design into the process safeguards to reduce, though not eliminate, this risk.

Management is also responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements and other financial information contained in this report. The accompanying consolidated financial statements were prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and include, as necessary, best estimates and judgments by management.

/s/ Louise A. Walker<br>Louise A. Walker<br>President/Chief Executive Officer/Director<br>(Principal Executive Officer)<br>/s/ Jeremiah Z. Smith<br>Jeremiah Z. Smith<br>Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer<br>(Principal Financial Officer)

March 20, 2012

To The Board of Directors and Stockholders
First Northern Community Bancorp:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of First Northern Community Bancorp and subsidiary (the "Company") as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity and comprehensive income (loss), and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2011. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement. The Company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall consolidated financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of First Northern Community Bancorp and subsidiary as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the results of their operations and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2011 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
/s/ MOSS ADAMS LLP
Stockton, California
March 20, 2012

54

# FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARY <br> Consolidated Balance Sheets <br> December 31, 2011 and 2010 <br> (in thousands, except shares and share amounts) 

|  | 2011 | 2010 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Assets |  |  |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$140,172 | \$139,707 |
| Investment securities - available-for-sale, at fair value (includes securities pledged to creditors with the right to sell or repledge of $\$ 34,206$ at December 31, 2011 and $\$ 35,009$ at December 31, 2010) | 160,241 | 107,346 |
| Loans (net of allowance for loan losses of \$10,408 at December 31, 2011 and $\$ 11,039$ at |  |  |
| Loans held-for-sale | 2,832 | 2,345 |
| Stock in Federal Home Loan Bank and other equity securities, at cost | 3,075 | 2,823 |
| Premises and equipment, net | 8,054 | 8,035 |
| Other real estate owned | 1,325 | 2,682 |
| Interest receivable and other assets | 32,662 | 32,264 |
|  |  |  |
| Total Assets | \$781,150 | \$737,217 |
|  |  |  |
| Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity |  |  |
| Liabilities: |  |  |
| Deposits: |  |  |
| Demand | \$201,865 | \$180,382 |
| Interest-bearing transaction deposits | 160,956 | 146,579 |
| Savings and MMDAs | 209,853 | 204,360 |
| Time, under \$ 100,000 | 38,395 | 40,083 |
| Time, \$100,000 and over | 67,889 | 68,854 |
|  |  |  |
| Total Deposits | 678,958 | 640,258 |
| FHLB advances and other borrowings | 7,000 | 10,529 |
| Interest payable and other liabilities | 7,490 | 6,834 |
|  |  |  |
| Total Liabilities | 693,448 | 657,621 |
|  |  |  |
| Commitments and contingencies |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Stockholders' Equity: |  |  |
| Preferred stock, par value $\$ 0.01$ per share; $\$ 1,000$ per share liquidation preference, 18,500 shares authorized; no shares outstanding at December 31, 2011 and 17,390 shares | - | 16,944 |


| issued and outstanding at December 31, 2010 |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Preferred stock, no par value; $\$ 1,000$ per share liquidation preference, 22,847 shares |  |  |
| authorized; 22,847 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2011 and no shares |  |  |
| issued and outstanding at December 31, 2010 |  |  |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

55

## FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARY

Consolidated Statements of Operations
Years Ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009
(in thousands, except per share amounts)

|  | 2011 | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Interest and dividend income: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Interest and fees on loans | \$25,402 |  | \$27,110 |  | \$30,520 |  |
| Federal funds sold | - |  | - |  | 58 |  |
| Due from banks interest bearing accounts | 339 |  | 380 |  | 164 |  |
| Investment securities: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Taxable | 2,610 |  | 1,744 |  | 1,311 |  |
| Non-taxable | 430 |  | 684 |  | 1,003 |  |
| Other earning assets | 9 |  | 9 |  | 10 |  |
| Total interest and dividend income | 28,790 |  | 29,927 |  | 33,066 |  |
| Interest expense: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Time deposits \$100,000 and over | 687 |  | 1,183 |  | 1,651 |  |
| Other deposits | 1,462 |  | 2,024 |  | 2,810 |  |
| Other borrowings | 327 |  | 399 |  | 499 |  |
| Total interest expense | 2,476 |  | 3,606 |  | 4,960 |  |
| Net interest income | 26,314 |  | 26,321 |  | 28,106 |  |
| Provision for loan losses | 5,138 |  | 4,914 |  | 10,489 |  |
| Net interest income after provision |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| for loan losses | 21,176 |  | 21,407 |  | 17,617 |  |
| Other operating income: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Service charges on deposit accounts | 2,815 |  | 3,327 |  | 3,497 |  |
| Net gain on sale of available-for-sale securities | 930 |  | 663 |  | 454 |  |
| Net gain on sale of loans held-for-sale | 855 |  | 1,113 |  | 954 |  |
| Net gain on sale of other real estate owned | 241 |  | 52 |  | 4 |  |
| Other income | 4,541 |  | 3,999 |  | 3,644 |  |
| Total other operating income | 9,382 |  | 9,154 |  | 8,553 |  |
| Other operating expenses: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Salaries and employee benefits | 14,923 |  | 14,847 |  | 15,379 |  |
| Occupancy and equipment | 3,031 |  | 3,281 |  | 3,789 |  |
| Data processing | 1,684 |  | 1,691 |  | 1,756 |  |
| Stationery and supplies | 319 |  | 296 |  | 409 |  |
| Advertising | 576 |  | 543 |  | 712 |  |
| Directors fees | 241 |  | 213 |  | 215 |  |
| Other real estate owned expense and impairment | 775 |  | 811 |  | 1,549 |  |
| Other expense | 5,213 |  | 6,207 |  | 6,259 |  |
| Total other operating expenses | 26,762 |  | 27,889 |  | 30,068 |  |
| Income (loss) before provision (benefit) for income tax | 3,796 |  | 2,672 |  | (3,898 | ) |
| Provision (benefit) for income tax | 1,132 |  | 7 |  | (2,844 | ) |
| Net income (loss) | 2,664 |  | 2,665 |  | (1,054 | ) |
| Preferred stock dividends and accretion | (1,399 | ) | (992 | ) | (792 | ) |
| Net income (loss) available to common shareholders | \$1,265 |  | \$1,673 |  | \$(1,846 | ) |
| Basic income (loss) per share | \$0.14 |  | \$0.18 |  | \$(0.20 | ) |
| Diluted income (loss) per share | \$0.14 |  | \$0.18 |  | \$(0.20 | ) |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

## FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP

 AND SUBSIDIARYConsolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity and Comprehensive Income (Loss)
Years Ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009
(in thousands, except share data)
Retained Accumulated
Additional Earnings / Other
Preferred Stock Common Stock ComprehensivePaid-in(Accumulatdmprehensive
Shares Amounts Shares Amounts Income Capital Deficit) Income/(LossTotal

| Balance at December 31, 2008 | - | \$- | 8,638,710 | \$58,983 |  |  |  | \$ 2,026 |  | \$ 43 |  | 62,029 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Comprehensive income: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Net loss |  |  |  |  |  | (1,054 | ) | (1,054 | ) |  |  | (1,054 ) |
| Other comprehensive loss, net of tax |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unrealized holding losses on securities arising during the current period, net of tax effect of \$134 |  |  |  |  |  | 200 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reclassification adjustment due to gains realized on sales of securities, net of tax effect of \$182 |  |  |  |  |  | (272 | ) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Directors' and officers' retirement plan equity adjustments, net of tax effect of $\$ 40$ |  |  |  |  |  | (60 | ) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total other comprehensive loss, net of tax effect of $\$ 88$ |  |  |  |  |  | (132 | ) |  |  | (132 |  | (132 ) |
| Comprehensive loss |  |  |  |  |  | (1,186 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Issuance of $\begin{array}{lll}\text { preferred stock } & 17,390 & 16,726\end{array}$ 16,726
Issuance of

| warrants | 664 |  |  |  | 664 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $4 \%$ stock dividend | 346,011 | 2,249 | (2,249 | ) | - |
| Dividend on preferred stock |  |  | (696 | ) | (696 |

Discount
accretion on
preferred stock $96 \quad(96$ )

Cash in lieu of
fractional
shares (5 ) (5 )
Stock-based
compensation
and related tax
benefits 345345

Common
shares issued,
stock options
exercised, net
of swapped
shares $\quad 70,416 \quad 216 \quad 216$
Balance at
December 31,
$2009 \quad 17,390 \quad \$ 16,822 \quad 9,055,137$ \$62,457 \$977 $\quad \$(2,074) \$(89) \$ 78,093$

Comprehensive income:
Net income \$ 2,665 2,665 2,665

Other
comprehensive
loss, net of tax:
Unrealized
holding losses
on securities
arising during
the current
period, net of
tax effect of
\$112
(167 )
Reclassification
adjustment due
to gains
realized on
sales of
securities, net
of tax effect of
\$265
(398 )

Directors' and officers’
retirement plan equity
adjustments, net of tax effect of \$93
Total other comprehensive loss, net of tax effect of \$470 Comprehensive income \$ 1,961
Dividend on preferred stock $\quad(870)(870)$
Discount accretion on preferred stock 122 (122 ) -Stock-based compensation and related tax benefits $268 \quad 268$
Common
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { shares issued } & 48,021 & 144\end{array}$
Balance at
December 31,
$2010 \quad 17,390 \quad \$ 16,944 \quad 9,103,158 \quad \$ 62,869 \quad \$ 977 \quad \$(401 \quad \$(793) \$ 79,596$

57

## FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP

 AND SUBSIDIARYConsolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity and Comprehensive Income (Loss)
Years Ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009
(in thousands, except share data)
(Continued)


| Balance at December 31, 2010 | 17,390 | \$16,944 | 9,103,158 | \$62,869 |  | \$977 | \$ (401 | ) \$ (793 | ) $\$ 79,596$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Comprehensive income: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Net income |  |  |  |  | \$ 2,664 |  | 2,664 |  | 2,664 |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unrealized holding gains on securities arising during the current period, net of tax effect of \$1,193 |  |  |  |  | 1,791 |  |  |  |  |
| Reclassification adjustment due to gains realized on sales of securities, net of tax effect of \$372 |  |  |  |  | (558 |  |  |  |  |
| Directors' and officers' retirement plan equity adjustments, net of tax effect of $\$ 118$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total other comprehensive income, net of |  |  |  |  | 1,056 |  |  | 1,056 | 1,056 |

tax effect of \$703
Comprehensive
income \$3,720

Issuance of

| preferred stock 22,847 | 22,847 | 22,847 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

Redemption of preferred stock $(17,390)(17,390) \quad(17,390)$
Repurchase of common stock
warrants (375 ) (375 )

Dividend on preferred stock $\quad(953)(953)$
Discount accretion on $\begin{array}{lll}\text { preferred stock } & 446 & (446) \\ \text { Stock-based } & \end{array}$
Stock-based
compensation
and related tax
benefits 152 152

Common
$\begin{array}{lll}\text { shares issued } & 41,840 & 105\end{array}$
Balance at December 31,

| 2011 | 22,847 | $\$ 22,847$ | $9,144,998$ | $\$ 62,751$ | $\$ 977$ | $\$ 864$ | $\$ 263$ | $\$ 87,702$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

58

# FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARY 

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
Years Ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 (in thousands)

|  | 2011 |  | 2010 | 2009 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cash flows from operating activities: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Net income (loss) | \$2,664 |  | \$2,665 |  | \$(1,054 |  |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Provision for loan losses | 5,138 |  | 4,914 |  | 10,489 |  |
| Stock plan accruals | 152 |  | 268 |  | 336 |  |
| Tax benefit for stock options | - |  | - |  | 9 |  |
| Depreciation and amortization | 733 |  | 784 |  | 940 |  |
| Accretion and amortization, net | 1,802 |  | 1,172 |  | 621 |  |
| Net gain on sale of available-for-sale securities | (930 | ) | (663 | ) | (454 |  |
| Net gain on sale of loans held-for-sale | (855 | ) | (1,113 | ) | (954 | ) |
| Net gain on sale of other real estate owned | (241 | ) | (52 | ) | (4 |  |
| Impairment on other real estate owned | 572 |  | 689 |  | 1,208 |  |
| Net (gain) loss on sale of bank premises and equipment | (159 | ) | (43 | ) | 10 |  |
| Provision for (benefit from) deferred income taxes | 920 |  | 55 |  | (1,316 | ) |
| Proceeds from sales of loans held-for-sale | 45,771 |  | 73,769 |  | 105,479 |  |
| Originations of loans held-for-sale | (45,403 | ) | (73,361 | ) | (103,973 |  |
| Decrease in deferred loan origination fees and costs, net | (371 |  | (78 | ) | (164 |  |
| (Increase) decrease in interest receivable and other assets | (2,021 | ) | 3,162 |  | (4,702 |  |
| Increase in interest payable and other liabilities | 361 |  | 541 |  | 497 |  |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 8,133 |  | 12,709 |  | 6,968 |  |
| Cash flows from investing activities: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Proceeds from maturities of available-for-sale securities | 33,055 |  | 16,288 |  | 3,075 |  |
| Proceeds from sales of available-for-sale securities | 30,916 |  | 37,539 |  | 27,866 |  |
| Principal repayments on available-for-sale securities | 17,632 |  | 12,453 |  | 9,389 |  |
| Purchase of available-for-sale securities | (133,316 | ) | (99,210 | ) | (74,379 |  |
| Net increase in stock in Federal Home Loan Bank and other equity securities, at cost | (252 | ) | (317 | ) | (195 | ) |
| Net decrease (increase) in loans | 1,262 |  | 24,980 |  | 28,252 |  |
| Purchases of bank premises and equipment, net | (593 | ) | (1,379 | ) | (727 | ) |
| Proceeds from sale of other real estate owned | 4,223 |  | 2,746 |  | 3,659 |  |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (47,073 | ) | (6,900 | ) | (3,060 | ) |
| Cash flows from financing activities: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Net increase (decrease) in deposits | 38,700 |  | (11,168 | ) | 66,708 |  |
| Proceeds from issuance of preferred stock | 22,847 |  | - |  | 16,726 |  |
| Redemption of preferred stock | (17,390 | ) | - |  | - |  |
| Redemption of common stock warrants | (375 | ) | - |  | - |  |
| Proceeds from issuance of common stock warrants | - |  | - |  | 664 |  |
| Increase in FHLB advances and other borrowings | 62,729 |  | 69,318 |  | 80,279 |  |
| Decrease in FHLB advances and other borrowings | (66,258 | ) | (70,602 | ) | (86,725 | ) |
| Dividends on preferred stock | (953 |  | (870 | ) | (696 | ) |
| Cash dividends paid in lieu of fractional shares | - |  | - |  | (5 |  |

Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

| Common stock issued | 105 | 144 | 216 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Tax benefit for stock options | - | - | $(9)$ |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | 39,405 | $(13,178$ | $)$ |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 465 | $(7,369$ | $)$ |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | 139,707 | 147,076 | 66,010 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year | $\$ 140,172$ | $\$ 139,707$ | $\$ 147,076$ |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

# Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K 

FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARY<br>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements<br>Years Ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009<br>(in thousands, except shares and share amounts)

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
First Northern Community Bancorp ("Company") is a bank holding company whose only subsidiary, First Northern Bank of Dixon ("Bank"), a California state chartered bank, conducts general banking activities, including collecting deposits and originating loans, and serves Solano, Yolo, Sacramento, Placer and El Dorado Counties. All intercompany transactions between the Company and the Bank have been eliminated in consolidation.

The accounting and reporting policies of the Company conform with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities as of the date of the balance sheet and revenues and expenses for the period. Actual results could differ from those estimates applied in the preparation of the accompanying consolidated financial statements. For the Company, the most significant accounting estimates are the allowance for loan losses, recognition and measurement of impaired loans, other-than-temporary impairment of securities, fair value measurements, share based compensation, valuation of mortgage servicing rights and deferred tax asset realization. A summary of the significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of the accompanying consolidated financial statements follows.

## Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the consolidated statements of cash flows, the Company considers due from banks, federal funds sold for one-day periods and short-term bankers acceptances to be cash equivalents.
(b)

Investment Securities
Investment securities consist of U.S. Treasury securities, U.S. Agency securities, obligations of states and political subdivisions, obligations of U.S. Corporations, mortgage-backed securities and other securities. At the time of purchase of a security the Company designates the security as held-to-maturity or available-for-sale, based on its investment objectives, operational needs, and intent to hold. The Company does not purchase securities with the intent to engage in trading activity.

Held-to-maturity securities are recorded at amortized cost, adjusted for amortization or accretion of premiums or discounts. Available-for-sale securities are recorded at fair value with unrealized holding gains and losses, net of the related tax effect, reported as a separate component of stockholders' equity until realized.

Investments with fair values that are less than amortized cost are considered impaired. Impairment may result from either a decline in the financial condition of the issuing entity or, in the case of fixed interest rate investments, from rising interest rates. At each consolidated financial statement date, management assesses each investment to determine if investments are impaired and if the impairment is other than temporary. This assessment includes a determination of whether the Company intends to sell the security, or if it is more likely than not that the Company will be required to sell the security before recovery of its amortized cost basis less any current-period credit losses. For debt securities that are considered other than temporarily impaired and that the Company does not intend to sell and will not be
required to sell prior to recovery of the amortized cost basis, the amount of impairment is separated into the amount that is credit related (credit loss component) and the amount due to all other factors. The credit loss component is recognized in earnings and is calculated as the difference between the security's amortized cost basis and the present value of its expected future cash flows. The remaining difference between the security's fair value and the present value of the future expected cash flows is deemed to be due to factors that are not credit related and is recognized in other comprehensive income (loss).

## Loans

Loans are reported at the principal amount outstanding, net of deferred loan fees and the allowance for loan losses. A loan is considered impaired when, based on current information and events; it is probable that the Company will be unable to collect all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the loan agreement, including scheduled interest payments. For a loan that has been restructured, the contractual terms of the loan agreement refer to the contractual terms specified by the original loan agreement, not the contractual terms specified by the restructuring agreement. An impaired loan is measured based upon the present value of future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective rate, the loan's observable market price, or the fair value of collateral if the loan is collateral dependent. Interest on impaired loans is recognized on a cash basis. If the measurement of the impaired loan is less than the recorded investment in the loan, an impairment is recognized by a charge to the allowance for loan losses.

Unearned discount on installment loans is recognized as income over the terms of the loans by the interest method. Interest on other loans is calculated by using the simple interest method on the daily balance of the principal amount outstanding.

Loan fees net of certain direct costs of origination, which represent an adjustment to interest yield are deferred and amortized over the contractual term of the loan using the interest method.

Loans on which the accrual of interest has been discontinued are designated as non-accrual loans. Accrual of interest on loans is discontinued either when reasonable doubt exists as to the full and timely collection of interest or principal or when a loan becomes contractually past due by ninety days or more with respect to interest or principal. When a loan is placed on non-accrual status, all interest previously accrued but not collected is reversed against current period interest income. Interest accruals are resumed on such loans only when they are brought fully current with respect to interest and principal and when, in the judgment of management, the loans are estimated to be fully collectible as to both principal and interest. Restructured loans are loans on which concessions in terms have been granted because of the borrowers' financial difficulties. A restructuring constitutes a troubled debt restructuring, and thus an impaired loan, if the restructuring constitutes a concession and the debtor is experiencing financial difficulties. Accrual of interest on loans that are troubled debt restructurings commence after a sustained period of performance. Interest is generally accrued on such loans in accordance with the new terms.
(d)

## Loans Held-for-Sale

Loans originated and held-for-sale are carried at the lower of cost or estimated fair value in the aggregate. Net unrealized losses are recognized through a valuation allowance by charges to income.
(e)

## Allowance for Loan Losses

The allowance for loan losses is established through a provision charged to expense. Loan losses are charged off against the allowance for loan losses when management believes that the collectability of the principal is unlikely. The allowance is an amount that management believes will be adequate to absorb losses inherent in existing loans and overdrafts on evaluations of collectability and prior loss experience. The evaluations take into consideration such factors as changes in the nature and volume of the portfolio, overall portfolio quality, loan concentrations, specific problem loans, commitments, and current and anticipated economic conditions that may affect the borrowers' ability to pay. While management uses these evaluations to determine the allowance for loan losses, additional provisions may be necessary based on changes in the factors used in the evaluations.

Material estimates relating to the determination of the allowance for loan losses are particularly susceptible to significant change in the near term. Management believes that the allowance for loan losses is adequate. While
management uses available information to recognize losses on loans, future additions to the allowance may be necessary based on changes in economic conditions and other factors. In addition, various regulatory agencies, as an integral part of their examination process, periodically review the Bank's allowance for loan losses. Such agencies may require the Bank to recognize additional allowance based on their judgment about information available to them at the time of their examination.

# Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K 

Premises and Equipment
Premises and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is computed substantially by the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the related assets. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the estimated useful lives of the improvements or the terms of the related leases, whichever is shorter. The useful lives used in computing depreciation are as follows:

Buildings and improvements
Furniture and equipment
(g)

15 to 50 years
3 to 10 years

## Other Real Estate Owned

Other real estate acquired by foreclosure is carried at fair value less estimated selling costs. Prior to foreclosure, the value of the underlying loan is written down to the fair value of the real estate to be acquired by a charge to the allowance for loan losses, if necessary. Fair value of other real estate owned is generally determined based on an appraisal of the property. Any subsequent operating expenses or income, reduction in estimated values and gains or losses on disposition of such properties are included in other operating expenses.

Gain recognition on the disposition of real estate is dependent upon the transaction meeting certain criteria relating to the nature of the property sold and the terms of the sale. Under certain circumstances, revenue recognition may be deferred until these criteria are met.

The Bank held other real estate owned ("OREO") net of valuation allowance in the amount of $\$ 1,325$ and $\$ 2,682$ as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.
(h) Impairment of Long-Lived Assets and Long-Lived Assets to Be Disposed Of

Long-lived assets and certain identifiable intangibles are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to future net cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If such assets are considered to be impaired, the impairment to be recognized is measured by the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds the fair value of the assets. Assets to be disposed of are reported at the lower of the carrying amount or fair value less costs to sell.

Gain or Loss on Sale of Loans and Servicing Rights
Retained interests in loans sold are measured by allocating the previous carrying amount of the transferred assets between the loans sold and retained interests, if any, based on their relative fair value at the date of transfer. Fair values are estimated using discounted cash flows based on a current market interest rate.

A sale is recognized when the transaction closes and the proceeds are other than beneficial interests in the assets sold. A gain or loss is recognized to the extent that the sales proceeds and the fair value of the servicing asset exceed or are less than the book value of the loan. Additionally, a normal cost for servicing the loan is considered in the determination of the gain or loss.

When servicing rights are sold, a gain or loss is recognized at the closing date to the extent that the sales proceeds, less costs to complete the sale, exceeded or are less than the carrying value of the servicing rights held.

Transfers and servicing of financial assets and extinguishments of liabilities are accounted for and reported based on consistent application of a financial-components approach that focuses on control. Transfers of financial assets that are sales are distinguished from transfers that are secured borrowings. Retained interests (mortgage servicing rights) in loans sold are measured by allocating the previous carrying amount of the transferred assets between the loans sold and retained interest, if any, based on their relative fair value at the date of transfer. Fair values are estimated using discounted cash flows based on a current market interest rate.

The Company recognizes a gain and a related asset for the fair value of the rights to service loans for others when loans are sold. The Company sold substantially all of its conforming long-term residential mortgage loans originated during the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 for cash proceeds equal to the fair value of the loans.

The Company determines its classes of servicing assets based on the asset type being serviced along with the methods used to manage the risk inherent in the servicing assets, which includes the market inputs used to value the servicing assets. The Company measures its residential mortgage servicing assets at fair value and reports changes in fair value through earnings. Fair value adjustments that encompass market-driven valuation changes and the runoff in value that occurs from the passage of time are each separately reported. Under the fair value method, the mortgage servicing rights (MSR) is carried in the balance sheet at fair value and the changes in fair value are reported in earnings under Other income in the period in which the change occurs.

Retained mortgage servicing rights are measured at fair value as of the date of sale. The Company uses quoted market prices when available. Subsequent fair value measurements are determined using a discounted cash flow model. In order to determine the fair value of the MSR, the present value of expected future cash flows is estimated. Assumptions used include market discount rates, anticipated prepayment speeds, delinquency and foreclosure rates, and ancillary fee income. This model is periodically validated by an independent external model validation group. The model assumptions and the MSR fair value estimates are also compared to observable trades of similar portfolios as well as to MSR broker valuations and industry surveys, as available. Key assumptions used in measuring the fair value of MSR as of December 31 were as follows:

|  | 2011 |  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Constant prepayment rate |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Discount rate | 19.87 | $\%$ | 18.77 | $\%$ | 15.15 | $\%$ |
| Weighted average life (years) | 11.06 | $\%$ | 11.06 | $\%$ | 11.07 | $\%$ |

The expected life of the loan can vary from management's estimates due to prepayments by borrowers, especially when rates fall. Prepayments in excess of management's estimates would negatively impact the recorded value of the mortgage servicing rights. The value of the mortgage servicing rights is also dependent upon the discount rate used in the model, which we base on current market rates. Management reviews this rate on an ongoing basis based on current market rates. A significant increase in the discount rate would reduce the value of mortgage servicing rights.

## Income Taxes

The Company accounts for income taxes under the asset and liability method. Under the asset and liability method, deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases and operating loss and tax credit carry forwards. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date.

In 2002, the Bank made a $\$ 2,355$ equity investment in a partnership, which owns low-income affordable housing projects that generate tax benefits in the form of federal and state housing tax credits. In 2004, the Bank transferred the amortized cost of the equity investment to a similar equity investment partnership which owns low-income
affordable housing projects that generate tax benefits in the form of federal and state tax credits. In 2008, 2009 and 2010 the Bank made equity investments totaling $\$ 1,000$ in a partnership which owns low-income affordable housing projects that generate tax benefits in the form of federal and state tax credits. As a limited partner investor in these partnerships, the Company receives tax benefits in the form of tax deductions from partnership operating losses and federal and state income tax credits. The federal and state income tax credits are earned over a 10 -year period as a result of the investment property meeting certain criteria and are subject to recapture for non-compliance with such criteria over a 15 -year period. The expected benefit resulting from the low-income housing tax credits is recognized in the period for which the tax benefit is recognized in the Company's consolidated tax returns. These investments are accounted for using the effective yield method and are recorded in other assets on the balance sheet. Under the effective yield method, the Company recognizes tax credits as they are allocated and amortizes the initial cost of the investment to provide a constant effective yield over the period that tax credits are allocated to the Company. The effective yield is the internal rate of return on the investment, based on the cost of the investment and the guaranteed tax credits allocated to the Company. Any expected residual value of the investment was excluded from the effective yield calculation. Cash received from operations of the limited partnership or sale of the property, if any, will be included in earnings when realized or realizable.
(k)

Share Based Compensation

The Company accounts for stock-based payment transactions whereby the Company receives employee services in exchange for equity instruments, including stock options and restricted stock. The Company recognizes in the consolidated statements of operations the grant-date fair value of stock options and other equity-based forms of compensation issued to employees over their requisite service period (generally the vesting period). The fair value of options granted is determined on the date of the grant using a Black-Sholes-Merton pricing model using various assumptions. The grant date fair value of restricted stock is determined by the closing market price of the day prior to the grant date. The Company issues new shares of common stock upon the exercise of stock options. See Note 14 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (page 92).

Earnings (Loss) Per Share ("EPS")
Basic EPS includes no dilution and is computed by dividing income available to common shareholders by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding for the period, excluding non-vested restricted shares. Diluted EPS reflects the potential dilution of securities that could share in the earnings of an entity. The number of potential common shares included in annual diluted EPS is a year to date average of the number of potential common shares included in each quarter's diluted EPS computation under the treasury stock method. The calculation of weighted average shares includes two classes of the Company's outstanding common stock: common stock and restricted stock awards. Holders of restricted stock also receive non-forfeitable dividends at the same rate as common shareholders and they both share equally in undistributed earnings. See Note 11 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (page 90).

Comprehensive Income
Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States require that recognized revenue, expenses, gains, and losses be included in net income. Although certain changes in assets and liabilities, such as unrealized gain and losses on available-for-sale securities, are reported as a separate component of the equity section of the consolidated balance sheet, such items, along with net income, are components of comprehensive income.
(n)

Fiduciary Powers
On July 1, 2002, the Bank received trust powers from applicable regulatory agencies and on that date began to offer fiduciary services for individuals, businesses, governments, and charitable organizations in the Solano, Yolo, Sacramento, Placer and El Dorado County areas. The Bank's full-service asset management and trust department, which offers and manages such fiduciary services, is located in downtown Sacramento.
(o)

Impact of Recently Issued Accounting Standards
In April 2011, FASB issued ASU 2011-02. This update provides additional guidance in determining whether a restructuring constitutes a troubled debt restructuring. In evaluating whether a restructuring is a troubled debt restructuring, a creditor must separately conclude that the restructuring constitutes a concession and the debtor is experiencing financial difficulties. The amendment clarifies the guidance on a creditor's evaluation of whether it has granted a concession and whether a debtor is experiencing financial difficulties. The amendments in this update are effective for the first interim or annual period beginning on or after June 15, 2011, and should be applied retrospectively to the beginning of the annual period of adoption. Adoption of the new guidance did not have a significant impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In May 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued ASU 2011-04. This update represents the converged guidance of the FASB and the International Accounting Standards Board (the Boards) on fair value measurement. The collective efforts of the Boards and their staffs have resulted in common requirements for measuring fair value and for disclosing information about fair value measurements, including a consistent meaning of the term "fair value." The amendments in this ASU are to be applied prospectively and are effective during interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. The Company does not expect the adoption of this update to have a significant impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In June 2011, FASB issued ASU 2011-05. This update allows an entity the option to present the total of comprehensive income, the components of net income, and the components of other comprehensive income either in a single continuous statement of comprehensive income or in two separate but consecutive statements. In both choices, an entity is required to present each component of net income along with total net income, each component of other comprehensive income along with a total for other comprehensive income, and a total amount for comprehensive income. This update eliminates the option to present the components of other comprehensive income as part of the statement of changes in stockholders' equity. The amendments in this ASU are to be applied retrospectively and are effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2011. The Company does not expect the adoption of this update to have a significant impact on its consolidated financial statements. In December 2011, FASB issued ASU-2011-12. This update defers the effective date for amendments to the presentation of reclassifications of items out of accumulated other comprehensive income in ASU 2011-05.

In December 2011, FASB issued ASU 2011-11. The amendments in this ASU require an entity to disclose information about offsetting and related arrangements to enable users of its financial statements to understand the effect of those arrangements on its financial position. The amendments in this ASU are required for annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2013, and interim periods within those annual periods. The disclosures required by those amendments should be provided retrospectively for all comparative periods presented. The Company does not expect the adoption of this update to have a significant impact on its consolidated financial statements.

## (p)

Reclassifications
Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior years' consolidated financial statements to conform to the current year's presentation.

## Cash and Due from Banks

The Bank is required to maintain reserves with the Federal Reserve Bank based on a percentage of deposit liabilities. No aggregate reserves were required at December 31, 2011 and 2010. The Bank has met its average reserve requirements during 2011 and 2010 and the minimum required balance at December 31, 2011 and 2010.

Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

Investment Securities
The amortized cost, unrealized gains and losses and estimated fair values of investments in debt and other securities at December 31, 2011 are summarized as follows:

|  | Amortized <br> cost | Unrealized <br> gains | Unrealized <br> losses | Estimated <br> fair value |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Investment securities available-for-sale: | $\$ 2,294$ | $\$ 20$ | $\$-$ | $\$ 2,314$ |
| U.S. Treasury securities | 36,820 | 203 | $(9$ | 37,014 |
| Securities of U.S. government agencies and corporations | 19,735 | 894 | $(12$ | 20,617 |
| Obligations of states and political subdivisions | 100,130 | 586 | $(420$ | 100,296 |
| Mortgage-backed securities | $\$ 158,979$ | $\$ 1,703$ | $\$(441$ | $) \$ 160,241$ |

The amortized cost, unrealized gains and losses and estimated fair values of investments in debt and other securities at December 31, 2010 are summarized as follows:

| Amortized | Unrealized | Unrealized | Estimated <br> cost |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| gains | losses | fair value |  |

Investment securities available-for-sale:

|  | $\$ 4,225$ | $\$ 1$ | $\$-$ | $\$ 4,226$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| U.S. Treasury securities | 40,937 | 63 | $(225$ | $)$ |
| Securities of U.S. government agencies and corporations | 20,663 | 103 | $(721$ | $)$ |
| Obligations of states and political subdivisions | 42,313 | 177 | $(190$ | $)$ |
| Mortgage-backed securities | $\$ 108,138$ | $\$ 344$ | $\$(1,136$ | $)$ |
|  | $\$ 107,346$ |  |  |  |

Gross realized gains from sales of available-for-sale securities were $\$ 930, \$ 672$ and $\$ 454$ for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. Gross realized losses from sales of available-for-sale securities were $\$-0$-, $\$ 9$ and $\$-0$ - for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

The amortized cost and estimated fair value of debt and other securities at December 31, 2011, by contractual maturity, are shown in the following table:

|  | Amortized <br> cost | Estimated <br> fair <br> value |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Due in one year or less | $\$ 23,754$ | $\$ 23,870$ |
| Due after one year through five years | 111,188 | 111,505 |
| Due after five years through ten years | 14,677 | 15,129 |
| Due after ten years | 9,360 | 9,737 |

Expected maturities may differ from contractual maturities because borrowers may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties. Securities due after one year through five years included mortgage-backed securities with expected maturities totaling $\$ 94,938$. The maturities on these securities were based on the average lives of the securities.

An analysis of gross unrealized losses of the available-for-sale investment securities portfolio as of December 31, 2011, follows:

|  | Less than 12 months |  | 12 months or more |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Fair Value | Unrealized losses | Fair Value | Unrealized losses | Fair Value | Unrealized losses |
| Securities of U.S. government agencies and corporations | \$4,034 | \$(9 ) | \$- | \$- | \$4,034 | \$(9 ) |
| Obligations of states and political subdivisions | 506 | (10 ) | 167 | $(2)$ | 673 | (12 ) |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 47,861 | (420 ) | - | - | 47,861 | (420 ) |
| Total | \$52,401 | \$(439 ) | \$ 167 | \$(2 ) | \$52,568 | \$(441 ) |

No decline in value was considered "other-than-temporary" during 2011. Twenty eight securities that had a fair value of $\$ 52,401$ and a total unrealized loss of $\$ 439$ have been in an unrealized loss position for less than twelve months as of December 31, 2011. In addition, one security with a fair market value of $\$ 167$ and a total unrealized loss of $\$ 2$ has been in an unrealized loss position for more than twelve months as of December 31, 2011. The declines in market value were primarily attributable to changes in interest rates. As the Company does not intend to sell the securities and it is not more likely than not that we will be required to sell these securities prior to their anticipated recovery, these investments are not considered other-than-temporarily impaired.

An analysis of gross unrealized losses of the available-for-sale investment securities portfolio as of December 31, 2010, follows:

| Less than 12 months |  | 12 months or more |  |  | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fair Value | Unrealized |  | Unrealized |  | Unrealized |
|  | losses | Fair Value | losses | Fair Value | losses |


| Securities of U.S. |
| :--- |
| government agencies <br> and corporations | |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

$\left.\begin{array}{lllllll}\begin{array}{l}\text { Obligations of states and } \\ \text { political subdivisions }\end{array} & 12,631 & (620 \quad) & 1,084 & (101) & 13,715 & (721\end{array}\right)$


Investment securities carried at $\$ 34,206$ and $\$ 35,009$ at December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively, were pledged to secure public deposits or for other purposes as required or permitted by law.

## Loans

The composition of the Company's loan portfolio, by loan class, at December 31, is as follows:
$\left.\begin{array}{lcc} & 2011 & 2010 \\ \text { Commercial } & \$ 91,914 & \$ 82,815 \\ \text { Commercial Real Estate } & 175,793 & 186,405 \\ \text { Agriculture } & 52,064 & 53,040 \\ \text { Residential Mortgage } & 51,586 & 52,347 \\ \text { Residential Construction } & 7,492 & 10,246 \\ \text { Consumer } & 64,150 & 68,374 \\ \hline \text { Allowance for loan losses } & 442,999 & 453,227 \\ \hline \text { Net deferred origination fees and costs } & (10,408 & (11,039\end{array}\right)$

The Company manages asset quality and credit risk by maintaining diversification in its loan portfolio and through review processes that include analysis of credit requests and ongoing examination of outstanding loans and delinquencies, with particular attention to portfolio dynamics and loan mix. The Company strives to identify loans experiencing difficulty early enough to correct the problems, to record charge-offs promptly based on realistic assessments of collectability and current collateral values and to maintain an adequate allowance for loan losses at all times. Asset quality reviews of loans and other non-performing assets are administered using credit risk rating standards and criteria similar to those employed by state and federal banking regulatory agencies.

Residential mortgage loans, which are secured by real estate, are primarily susceptible to three risks; non-payment due to diminished or lost income, over-extension of credit, a lack of borrower's cash flow to sustain payments, and shortfalls in collateral value. In general, non-payment is due to loss of employment and follows general economic trends in the marketplace, particularly the upward movement in the unemployment rate, loss of collateral value, and demand shifts.

Commercial real estate loans generally fall into two categories, owner-occupied and non-owner occupied. Loans secured by owner occupied real estate are primarily susceptible to changes in the market conditions of the related business. This may be driven by, among other things, industry changes, geographic business changes, changes in the individual financial capacity of the business owner, general economic conditions and changes in business cycles. These same risks apply to commercial loans whether secured by equipment, receivables or other personal property or unsecured. Losses on loans secured by owner occupied real estate, equipment, or other personal property generally are dictated by the value of underlying collateral at the time of default and liquidation of the collateral. When default is driven by issues related specifically to the business owner, collateral values tend to provide better repayment support and may result in little or no loss. Alternatively, when default is driven by more general economic conditions, underlying collateral generally has devalued more and results in larger losses due to default. Loans secured by non-owner occupied real estate are primarily susceptible to risks associated with swings in occupancy or vacancy and related shifts in lease rates, rental rates or room rates. Most often, these shifts are a result of changes in general economic or market conditions or overbuilding and resultant over-supply of space. Losses are dependent on the value of underlying collateral at the time of default. Values are generally driven by these same factors and influenced by interest rates and required rates of return as well as changes in occupancy costs. Collateral values may be determined
by appraisals obtained through Bank approved, licensed appraisers, qualified independent third parties, sales invoices, or other appropriate means. Appropriate valuations are obtained at origination of the credit and periodically thereafter, (generally every $3-6$ months depending on the collateral type), once repayment is questionable, and the loan has been deemed classified.

Construction loans, whether owner occupied or non-owner occupied residential development loans, are not only susceptible to the related risks described above but the added risks of construction itself including cost over-runs, mismanagement of the project, or lack of demand and market changes experienced at time of completion. Again, losses are primarily related to underlying collateral value and changes therein as described above. Problem construction loans are generally identified by periodic review of financial information that may include financial statements, tax returns and payment history of the borrower. Based on this information the Company may decide to take any of several courses of action including demand for repayment, requiring the borrower to provide a significant principal payment and/or additional collateral or requiring similar support from guarantors, the Company may pursue repossession or foreclosure of the underlying collateral. Collateral values may be determined by appraisals obtained through Bank approved, licensed appraisers, qualified independent third parties, purchase invoices, or other appropriate documentation. Appropriate valuations are obtained at origination of the credit and periodically thereafter, (generally every $3-6$ months depending on the collateral type), once repayment is questionable, and the loan has been deemed classified.

Agricultural loans, whether secured or unsecured, generally are made to producers and processors of crops and livestock. Repayment is primarily from the sale of an agricultural product or service. Agricultural loans are generally secured by inventory, receivables, equipment, and other real property. Agricultural loans primarily are susceptible to changes in market demand for specific commodities. This may be exacerbated by, among other things, industry changes, changes in the individual financial capacity of the business owner, general economic conditions and changes in business cycles, as well as changing weather conditions. Problem agricultural loans are generally identified by periodic review of financial information that may include financial statements, tax returns, crop budgets, payment history, and crop inspections. Based on this information, the Company may decide to take any of several courses of action including demand for repayment, requiring the borrower to provide a significant principal payment and/or additional collateral or requiring similar support from guarantors. Notwithstanding, when repayment becomes unlikely based on the borrower's income and cash flow, repossession or foreclosure of the underlying collateral may become necessary. Collateral values may be determined by appraisals obtained through Bank approved, licensed appraisers, qualified independent third parties, purchase invoices, or other appropriate documentation. Appropriate valuations are obtained at origination of the credit and periodically thereafter, (generally every $3-6$ months depending on the collateral type), once repayment is questionable, and the loan has been deemed classified.

Commercial loans, whether secured or unsecured, generally are made to support the short-term operations and other needs of small businesses. These loans are generally secured by the receivables, equipment, and other real property of the business and are susceptible to the related risks described above. Problem commercial loans are generally identified by periodic review of financial information that may include financial statements, tax returns, and payment history of the borrower. Based on this information, the Company may decide to take any of several courses of action including demand for repayment, requiring the borrower to provide a significant principal payment and/or additional collateral or requiring similar support from guarantors. Notwithstanding, when repayment becomes unlikely based on the borrower's income and cash flow, repossession or foreclosure of the underlying collateral may become necessary. Collateral values may be determined by appraisals obtained through Bank approved, licensed appraisers, qualified independent third parties, purchase invoices, or other appropriate documentation. Appropriate valuations are obtained at origination of the credit and periodically there after, (generally every 3-6 months depending on the collateral type), once repayment is questionable, and the loan has been deemed classified.

Consumer loans, whether unsecured or secured are primarily susceptible to three risks; non-payment due to diminished or lost income, over-extension of credit, a lack of borrower's cash flow to sustain payments, and shortfall in collateral value. In general, non-payment is due to loss of employment and will follow general economic trends in the marketplace, particularly the upward movements in the unemployment rate, loss of collateral value, and demand shifts.

As of December 31, 2011, approximately $40 \%$ of the Company's loans are for commercial real estate, which consists of construction and land development loans and real estate loans. Approximately $12 \%$ of the Company's loans are residential mortgage loans. Approximately $2 \%$ of the Company's loans are residential construction loans. Approximately $33 \%$ of the Company's loans are for general commercial uses including professional, retail, agriculture and small businesses. Approximately $13 \%$ of the Company's loans are consumer loans.

Once a loan becomes delinquent and repayment becomes questionable, a Company collection officer will address collateral shortfalls with the borrower and attempt to obtain additional collateral or a principal payment. If this is not forthcoming and payment in full is unlikely, the Company will estimate its probable loss, using a recent valuation as appropriate to the underlying collateral less estimated costs of sale, and charge-off the loan down to the estimated net realizable amount. Depending on the length of time until final collection, the Bank may periodically revalue the underlying collateral and take additional charge-offs as warranted. Revaluations may occur as often as every 3-12 months depending on the underlying collateral and volatility of values. Final charge-offs or recoveries are taken when collateral is liquidated and actual loss is known. Unpaid balances on loans after or during collection and liquidation may also be pursued through lawsuit and attachment of wages or judgment liens on borrower's other assets.

All loans at December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010 were pledged under a blanket collateral lien to secure actual and potential borrowings from the Federal Home Loan Bank.

## Non-accrual and Past Due Loans

The Company's non-accrual loans by loan class, at December 31, are as follows:

|  | 2011 | 2010 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Commercial | $\$ 2,905$ | $\$ 1,817$ |
| Commercial Real Estate | 3,071 | 5,864 |
| Agriculture | 992 | 1,752 |
| Residential Mortgage | 1,334 | 2,301 |
| Residential Construction | 48 | 272 |
| Consumer | 360 | 268 |
|  | $\$ 8,710$ | $\$ 12,274$ |

Non-accrual loans amounted to $\$ 8,710$ at December 31, 2011 and were comprised of four residential mortgage loans totaling $\$ 1,334$, one residential construction loan totaling $\$ 48$, six commercial real estate loans totaling $\$ 3,071$, one agricultural loan totaling $\$ 992$, twelve commercial loans totaling $\$ 2,905$ and five consumer loans totaling $\$ 360$. At December 31, 2010, non-accrual loans amounted to $\$ 12,274$ and were comprised of seven residential mortgage loans totaling $\$ 2,301$, four residential construction loans totaling $\$ 272$, nine commercial real estate loans totaling $\$ 5,864$, one agricultural loan totaling $\$ 1,752$, ten commercial loans totaling $\$ 1,817$ and five consumer loans totaling $\$ 268$. It is generally the Company's policy to charge-off the portion of any non-accrual loan for which the Company does not expect to collect by writing the loan down to estimated net realizable value of the underlying collateral.

An age analysis of past due loans, segregated by loan class, as of December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010 is as follows:

|  | 30-59 Days <br> Past Due | 60-89 Days <br> Past Due | 90 Days or <br> more Past <br> Due | Total Past <br> Due | Current | Total Loans |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| December 31, 2011 | $\$ 1,051$ | $\$ 166$ | $\$ 113$ | $\$ 1,330$ | $\$ 90,584$ | $\$ 91,914$ |
| Commercial | - | 2,746 | 446 | 3,192 | 172,601 | 175,793 |
| Commercial Real Estate | - | - | 991 | 991 | 51,073 | 52,064 |
| Agriculture | 792 | 420 | 426 | 1,638 | 49,948 | 51,586 |
| Residential Mortgage | 273 | - | 48 | 321 | 7,171 | 7,492 |
| Residential Construction | 20 | 212 | 225 | 457 | 63,693 | 64,150 |
| Consumer | $\$ 2,136$ | $\$ 3,544$ | $\$ 2,249$ | $\$ 7,929$ | $\$ 435,070$ | $\$ 442,999$ |
| $\quad$ Total |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| December 31, 2010 | $\$ 1,606$ | $\$ 193$ | $\$ 228$ | $\$ 2,027$ | $\$ 80,788$ | $\$ 82,815$ |
| Commercial | -270 | 1,974 | 3,767 | 7,011 | 179,394 | 186,405 |
| Commercial Real Estate | - | - | 1,751 | 1,751 | 51,289 | 53,040 |
| Agriculture | 749 | - | 1,326 | 2,075 | 50,272 | 52,347 |
| Residential Mortgage | 462 | - | 63 | 525 | 9,721 | 10,246 |
| Residential Construction | 421 | 88 | 242 | 751 | 67,623 | 68,374 |
| Consumer | $\$ 4,508$ | $\$ 2,255$ | $\$ 7,377$ | $\$ 14,140$ | $\$ 439,087$ | $\$ 453,227$ |
| $\quad$ Total |  |  |  |  |  |  |

The Company had no loans 90 days past due and still accruing at December 31, 2011 and 2010.

70

## Impaired Loans

Impaired loans, segregated by loan class, as of December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010 were as follows:

|  | Unpaid <br> Contractual <br> Principal <br> Balance | Recorded <br> Investment <br> with no <br> Allowance | Recorded <br> Investment <br> with <br> Allowance | Total <br> Recorded <br> Investment | Related <br> Allowance |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| December 31, 2011 | $\$ 4,694$ | $\$ 2,919$ | $\$ 569$ | $\$ 3,488$ | $\$ 101$ |
| Commercial | 4,856 | 3,071 | 1,198 | 4,269 | 22 |
| Commercial Real Estate | 3,847 | 3,598 | - | 3,598 | - |
| Agriculture | 5,336 | 1,875 | 3,194 | 5,069 | 731 |
| Residential Mortgage | 1,147 | 48 | 1,099 | 1,147 | 668 |
| Residential Construction | 985 | 309 | 346 | 655 | 126 |
| Consumer | $\$ 20,865$ | $\$ 11,820$ | $\$ 6,406$ | $\$ 18,226$ | $\$ 1,648$ |
| $\quad$ Total |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | $\$ 3,725$ | $\$ 1,660$ | $\$ 1,334$ | $\$ 2,994$ | $\$ 89$ |
| December 31, 2010 | 7,414 | 5,864 | 1,224 | 7,088 | 22 |
| Commercial | 2,785 | 1,752 | 383 | 2,135 | 41 |
| Commercial Real Estate | 6,544 | 2,123 | 3,910 | 6,033 | 543 |
| Agriculture | 2,058 | 272 | 1,349 | 1,621 | 575 |
| Residential Mortgage | 312 | 258 | 36 | 294 | 12 |
| Residential Construction | $\$ 22,838$ | $\$ 11,929$ | $\$ 8,236$ | $\$ 20,165$ | $\$ 1,282$ |
| Consumer |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total |  |  |  |  |  |

Interest income on impaired loans recognized using a cash-basis method of accounting during the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 was as follows:

| (\$ in thousands) | December 31, 2011 |  | December 31, 2010 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Average | Interest | Average | Interest |
|  | Recorded | Income | Recorded | Income |
|  | Investment | Recognized | Investment | Recognized |
| Commercial | \$3,366 | \$ 107 | \$2,507 | \$ 158 |
| Commercial Real Estate | 7,750 | 505 | 8,518 | 212 |
| Agriculture | 1,963 | 27 | 2,834 | 19 |
| Residential Mortgage | 5,593 | 186 | 5,752 | 213 |
| Residential Construction | 1,492 | 67 | 2,599 | 47 |
| Consumer | 492 | 9 | 308 | 2 |
| Total | \$20,656 | \$ 901 | \$22,518 | \$ 651 |

The average recorded investment on impaired loans totaled $\$ 21,280$ at December 31, 2009. Interest income recognized on impaired loans totaled $\$ 246$ for the year ended December 31, 2009.

## Troubled Debt Restructurings

The Company's loan portfolio includes certain loans that have been modified in a Troubled Debt Restructuring ("TDR"), which are loans on which concessions in terms have been granted because of the borrowers' financial difficulties. These concessions typically result from the Company's loss mitigation activities and could include reductions in the interest rate, payment extensions, forgiveness of principal, forbearance, or other actions. Certain TDRs are placed on non-accrual status at the time of restructure and may only be returned to accruing status after considering the borrower's sustained repayment performance for a reasonable period, generally six months.

When a loan is modified, it is measured based upon the present value of future cash flows discounted at the contractual interest rate of the original loan agreement, or the fair value of collateral less selling costs if the loan is collateral dependent. If the value of the modified loan is less than the recorded investment in the loan, impairment is recognized through a specific allowance or a charge-off of the loan.

In April 2011, FASB issued ASU 2011-02. This update provides additional guidance in determining whether a restructuring constitutes a troubled debt restructuring. In evaluating whether a restructuring is a troubled debt restructuring, a creditor must separately conclude that the restructuring constitutes a concession and the debtor is experiencing financial difficulties. The amendment clarifies the guidance on a creditor's evaluation of whether it has granted a concession and whether a debtor is experiencing financial difficulties. The amendments in this update are effective for the first interim or annual period beginning on or after June 15, 2011, and should be applied retrospectively to the beginning of the annual period of adoption.

As a result of adopting the amendments in ASU 2011-02, management reassessed all restructuring that occurred on or after January 1, 2011 for identification as TDRs. Management identified as TDRs for which the allowance for loan losses associated had previously been measured under a general allowance for loan losses methodology. Upon identifying those receivables as TDRs, they are newly considered as impaired under the guidance in the Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Section 310-10-35. The amendments in ASU 2011-02 require prospective application of the impairment guidance in ASC Section 310-10-35 for those receivables newly identified as impaired. At the end of the first annual period of adoption (December 31, 2011), the recorded investment in receivables for which the allowance for loan losses was previously measured under a general allowance for loan losses methodology and now considered impaired was $\$ 688$, and their related specific allowance, based on a current evaluation of loss, was $\$ 123$.

The Company had \$9,410 and \$10,259 TDR loans as of December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively. Specific reserves for TDR loans totaled $\$ 1,596$ and $\$ 1,187$ as of December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively. TDR loans performing in compliance with modified terms totaled $\$ 7,471$ and $\$ 7,891$ as of December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively.

Loans modified as troubled debt restructurings during the year ended December 31, 2011 were as follows:
(\$ in thousands)

|  | Number of <br> Contracts | Pre-modification outstanding recorded investment |  | Post-modification outstanding recorded investment |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Commercial | 3 | \$ | 445 | \$ | 445 |
| Residential Mortgage | 1 |  | 404 |  | 404 |
| Residential Construction | 2 |  | 221 |  | 162 |
| Consumer | 1 |  | 295 |  | 295 |
| Total | 7 | \$ | 1,365 | \$ | 1,306 |

The loan modifications generally involved reductions in the interest rate, payment extensions, forgiveness of principal, and forbearance. There were no troubled debt restructurings modified within the previous 12 months and for which there was a payment default during the year ended December 31, 2011. There were no commitments to lend funds to borrowers whose terms have been modified in a troubled debt restructuring.

72

## Credit Quality Indicators

All new loans are rated using the credit risk ratings and criteria adopted by the Company. Risk ratings are adjusted as future circumstances warrant. All credits risk rated $1,2,3$ or 4 equate to a Pass as indicated by Federal and State regulatory agencies; a 5 shall equate to a Special Mention; a 6 equates to Substandard; a 7 equates to Doubtful; and 8 equates to a Loss. General definitions for each risk rating are as follows:

Risk Rating " 1 " - Pass (High Quality): This category is reserved for loans fully secured by Company CD's or savings and properly margined (as defined in the Company's Credit Policy) and actively traded securities (including stocks, as well as corporate, municipal and U.S. Government bonds).

Risk Rating " 2 " - Pass (Above Average Quality): This category is reserved for borrowers with strong balance sheets that are well structured with manageable levels of debt and good liquidity. Cash flow is sufficient to service all debt, including the Company's, as agreed. Historical earnings, cash flow, and payment performance have all been strong and trends are positive and consistent. Collateral protection is better than the Company's Credit Policy guidelines.

Risk Rating " 3 " - Pass (Average Quality): Credits within this category are considered to be of average, but acceptable, quality. Loan characteristics, including term and collateral advance rates, meet the Company's Credit Policy guidelines; unsecured lines to borrowers with above average liquidity and cash flow may be considered for this category; the borrower's financial strength is well documented, with adequate, but consistent, cash flow to meet all obligations. Liquidity should be sufficient and leverage should be moderate. Monitoring of collateral may be required, including a borrowing base or construction budget. Alternative financing is typically available.

Risk Rating " 4 " - Pass (Below Average Quality): Credits within this category are considered sound, but merit additional attention due to industry concentrations within the borrower's customer base, problems within their industry, deteriorating financial or earnings trends, declining collateral values, increased frequency of past due payments and/or overdrafts, discovery of documentation deficiencies which may impair our borrower's ability to repay, or the Company's ability to liquidate collateral. Financial performance is average but inconsistent. There also may be changes of ownership, management or professional advisors, which could be detrimental to the borrower's future performance.

Risk Rating " 5 " - Special Mention (Criticized): Loans in this category are currently protected by their collateral value and have no loss potential identified, but have potential weaknesses which may, if not monitored or corrected, weaken our ability to collect payments from the borrower or satisfactorily liquidate our collateral position. Loans where terms have been modified due to their failure to perform as agreed may be included in this category. Adverse trends in the borrower's operation, such as reporting losses or inadequate cash flow, increasing and unsatisfactory leverage, or an adverse change in economic or market conditions may have weakened the borrower's business and impaired their ability to repay based on original terms. The condition or value of the collateral has deteriorated to the point where adequate protection for our loan may be jeopardized in the future. Loans in this category are in transition and, generally, do not remain in this category beyond 12 months. During this time, efforts are focused on strategies aimed at upgrading the credit or locating alternative financing.

Risk Rating " 6 " - Substandard (Classified): Loans in this category are inadequately protected by the borrower's net worth, capacity to repay or collateral pledged, if any. Loans so classified have a well-defined weakness or weaknesses that jeopardize the repayment of the debt. There exists a strong possibility of loss if the deficiencies are not corrected. Loans that are dependent on the liquidation of collateral to repay are included in this category, as well as borrowers in bankruptcy or where legal action is required to effect collection of our debt.

Risk Rating " 7 " - Doubtful (Classified): Loans in this category indicate all of the weaknesses of a Substandard classification, however, collection of loan principal, in full, is highly questionable and improbable; possibility of loss is very high, but there is still a possibility that certain collection strategies may, yet, be successful, rendering a definitive loss difficult to estimate, at this time. Loans in this category are in transition and, generally, do not remain in this category more than 6 months.

Risk Rating " 8 " - Loss (Classified):
Active Charge-Off. Loans in this category are considered uncollectible and of such little value that their removal from the Company's books is required. The charge-off is pending or already processed. Collateral positions have been or are in the process of being liquidated and the borrower/guarantor may or may not be cooperative in repayment of the debt. Recovery prospects are unknown at this time, but we are still actively engaged in the collection of the loan.

Inactive Charge-Off. Loans in this category are considered uncollectible and of such little value that their removal from the Company's books is required. The charge-off is pending or already processed. Collateral positions have been liquidated and the borrower/guarantor has nothing of any value remaining to apply to the repayment of our loan. Any further collection activities would be of little value.

The following table presents the risk ratings by loan class as of December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010.

|  | Pass | Special <br> Mention | Substandard | Doubtful | Loss | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| December 31, 2011 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Commercial | $\$ 71,229$ | $\$ 8,444$ | $\$ 11,804$ | $\$ 437$ | $\$-$ | $\$ 91,914$ |
| Commercial Real Estate | 148,317 | 16,492 | 10,984 | - | - | 175,793 |
| Agriculture | 48,330 | - | 3,734 | - | - | 52,064 |
| Residential Mortgage | 42,845 | 1,830 | 6,911 | - | - | 51,586 |
| Residential Construction | 5,140 | 927 | 1,425 | - | - | 7,492 |
| Consumer | 58,239 | 2,824 | 3,087 | - | - | 64,150 |
| $\quad$ Total | $\$ 374,100$ | $\$ 30,517$ | $\$ 37,945$ | $\$ 437$ | $\$-$ | $\$ 442,999$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| December 31, 2010 |  |  |  |  |  | $\$ 82,815$ |
| Commercial | $\$ 57,966$ | $\$ 7,764$ | $\$ 15,862$ | $\$ 1,146$ | $\$ 77$ | 186,405 |
| Commercial Real Estate | 147,350 | 26,040 | 13,015 | - | - | 53,040 |
| Agriculture | 43,384 | 4,991 | 4,665 | - | - | 52,347 |
| Residential Mortgage | 41,437 | 3,235 | 7,675 | - | - | 10,246 |
| Residential Construction | 5,890 | 2,315 | 2,041 | - | - | 68,374 |
| Consumer | 59,824 | 4,617 | 3,933 | - | - | $\$ 453,227$ |
| $\quad$ Total | $\$ 355,851$ | $\$ 48,962$ | $\$ 47,191$ | $\$ 1,146$ | $\$ 77$ |  |

Allowance for Loan Losses
The following table details activity in the allowance for loan losses by loan category for the years ended December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010.

|  | Commercial | Commercia <br> Real <br> Estate | Agriculture | Residential <br> Mortgage | Residenti Constructi | on Consum | Unalloc | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Balance as of <br> December 31, 2010 | \$ 3,761 | \$ 1,957 | \$ 2,141 | \$ 830 | \$ 1,719 | \$ 556 | \$ 75 | \$11,039 |
| Provision for loan losses | 2,033 | 1,502 | 511 | 566 | (395 | ) 996 | (75 | 5,138 |
| Charge-offs | (2,381 ) | (2,000 | (860 | (272 | (197 | ) (932 |  | (6,642 ) |
| Recoveries | 185 | 288 | 142 | 11 | 71 | 176 | - | 873 |
| Net charge-offs | (2,196 | (1,712 | (718 | (261 | (126 | ) (756 |  | (5,769 ) |
| Ending Balance | 3,598 | 1,747 | 1,934 | 1,135 | 1,198 | 796 | - | 10,408 |
| Period-end amount allocated to: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Loans individually evaluated for impairment | 101 | 22 | - | 731 | 668 | 126 | - | 1,648 |
| Loans collectively evaluated for impairment | 3,497 | 1,725 | 1,934 | 404 | 530 | 670 | - | 8,760 |
| Balance as of <br> December 31, 2011 | \$ 3,598 | \$ 1,747 | \$ 1,934 | \$ 1,135 | \$ 1,198 | \$796 | \$ - | \$ 10,408 |


impairment
Balance as of
December 31, 2010 \$ 3,761 \$ 1,957 \$ 2,141 \$ 830 \$ 1,719 \$ 556 \$ 75 \$ 11,039

Changes in the allowance for loan losses for the year ended December 31, 2009 is summarized as follows:

| Balance, beginning of year | $\$ 14,435$ |
| :--- | :---: |
| Provision for loan losses | 10,489 |
| Loans charged-off | $(14,293)$ |
| Recoveries of loans previously charged-off | 1,285 |
| Balance, end of year | $\$ 11,916$ |

75

The Company's investment in loans as of December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010 related to each balance in the allowance for loan losses by loan category and disaggregated on the basis of the Company's impairment methodology was as follows:

| (\$ in thousands) <br> December 31, 201 | Commercial | Commercial Real Estate | Agriculture | Residential Mortgage | Residential Construction | Consumer | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Loans individually evaluated for impairment | \$3,488 | \$4,269 | \$3,598 | \$5,069 | \$ 1,147 | \$655 | \$18,226 |
| Loans collectively evaluated for impairment | 88,426 | 171,524 | 48,466 | 46,517 | 6,345 | 63,495 | 424,773 |
| Ending Balance | \$91,914 | \$ 175,793 | \$52,064 | \$51,586 | \$ 7,492 | \$64,150 | \$442,999 |

December 31, 2010
Loans
individually evaluated for

| impairment | $\$ 2,994$ | $\$ 7,088$ | $\$ 2,135$ | $\$ 6,033$ | $\$ 1,621$ | $\$ 294$ | $\$ 20,165$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Loans <br> collectively |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| evaluated for <br> impairment | 79,821 | 179,317 | 50,905 | 46,314 | 8,625 | 68,080 | 433,062 |
| Ending Balance | $\$ 82,815$ | $\$ 186,405$ | $\$ 53,040$ | $\$ 52,347$ | $\$ 10,246$ | $\$ 68,374$ | $\$ 453,227$ |

# Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K 

## Mortgage Operations

Transfers and servicing of financial assets and extinguishments of liabilities are accounted for and reported based on consistent application of a financial-components approach that focuses on control. Transfers of financial assets that are sales are distinguished from transfers that are secured borrowings. Retained interests (mortgage servicing rights) in loans sold are measured by allocating the previous carrying amount of the transferred assets between the loans sold and retained interests, if any, based on their relative fair value at the date of transfer. Fair values are estimated using discounted cash flows based on a current market interest rate.

The Company recognizes a gain and a related asset for the fair value of the rights to service loans for others when loans are sold. The Company sold substantially its entire portfolio of conforming long-term residential mortgage loans originated during the year ended December 31, 2011 for cash proceeds equal to the fair value of the loans.

The recorded value of mortgage servicing rights is included in other assets, and is amortized in proportion to, and over the period of, estimated net servicing revenues. The Company assesses capitalized mortgage servicing rights for impairment based upon the fair value of those rights at each reporting date. For purposes of measuring impairment, the rights are stratified based upon the product type, term and interest rates. Fair value is determined by discounting estimated net future cash flows from mortgage servicing activities using discount rates that approximate current market rates and estimated prepayment rates, among other assumptions. The amount of impairment recognized, if any, is the amount by which the capitalized mortgage servicing rights for a stratum exceeds their fair value. Impairment, if any, is recognized through a valuation allowance for each individual stratum.

The Company had $\$ 2,832$ and $\$ 2,345$ of mortgage loans held-for-sale at December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively. At December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, the Company serviced real estate mortgage loans for others of $\$ 211,535$ and $\$ 211,124$, respectively.

The following table summarizes the activity related to the Company's mortgage servicing rights assets for the years ended December 31, 2011, December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009. Mortgage servicing rights are included in Interest Receivable and Other Assets in the consolidated balance sheet.

|  | (in thousands) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | December $31,2010$ | Additions | Reductions | December $31,2011$ |
| Mortgage servicing rights | \$1,712 | \$317 | \$393 | \$ 1,636 |
| Valuation allowance | (345 | (2 | ) - | (347 |
| Mortgage servicing rights, net of valuation allowance | \$1,367 | \$315 | \$393 | \$1,289 |


|  | (in thousands) <br> 31,2009 |  |  |  | Additions |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Reductions | December <br> 31,2010 |  |  |
|  | $\$ 1,550$ | $\$ 557$ | $\$ 395$ | $\$ 1,712$ |  |
| Mortgage servicing rights | $(277$ | $(68$ | $)$ | - | $(345$ |
| Valuation allowance | $\$ 1,273$ | $\$ 489$ | $\$ 395$ | $\$ 1,367$ |  |


|  | (in thousands) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | December $\text { 31, } 2008$ | Additions | Reductions | December $31,2009$ |
| Mortgage servicing rights | \$978 | \$850 | \$278 | \$1,550 |
| Valuation allowance | (85 ) | (192 | ) - | (277 ) |
| Mortgage servicing rights, net of valuation allowance | \$893 | \$658 | \$278 | \$1,273 |

The Company received contractually specified servicing fees of $\$ 533$, $\$ 502$ and $\$ 400$ for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. Contractually specified servicing fees are included in Other Income on the consolidated statements of operations.
(6)

## Premises and Equipment

Premises and equipment consist of the following at December 31 of the indicated years:

|  | 2011 | 2010 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Land | $\$ 3,003$ | $\$ 3,042$ |
| Buildings | 6,252 | 5,947 |
| Furniture and equipment | 10,811 | 10,659 |
| Leasehold improvements | 1,929 | 1,971 |
| Less accumulated depreciation and amortization | 21,995 | 21,619 |
|  | 13,941 | 13,584 |

Depreciation and amortization expense, included in occupancy and equipment expense, was $\$ 733$, $\$ 784$ and $\$ 940$ for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

Other Assets
Other assets consisted of the following at December 31 of the indicated years:

|  | 2011 | 2010 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Interest receivable | $\$ 2,710$ | $\$ 2,486$ |
| Software, net of amortization | 271 | 190 |
| Officer's Life Insurance | 13,077 | 11,889 |
| Prepaid and other | 6,895 | 6,094 |
| Investment in Limited Partnerships | 1,731 | 2,003 |
| Deferred tax assets, net (see Note 9) | 7,978 | 9,602 |
|  | $\$ 32,662$ | $\$ 32,264$ |

The Company amortizes capitalized software costs on a straight-line basis using a useful life from three to five years.
Software amortization expense, included in other operating expense, was $\$ 167, \$ 158$ and $\$ 212$ for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

# Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K 

Fair Value Measurement

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 and trading securities are recorded at fair value on a recurring basis. Additionally, from time to time, the Company may be required to record at fair value other assets on a non-recurring basis, such as loans held-for-sale, loans held-for-investment and certain other assets. These non-recurring fair value adjustments typically involve application of lower of cost or market accounting or write-downs of individual assets. Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy are recognized on the actual date of the event or circumstances that caused the transfer, which generally corresponds with the Company's quarterly valuation process.

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 Valuation is based upon quoted prices for identical instruments traded in active markets.

Level 2 Valuation is based upon quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active and model-based valuation techniques for which all significant assumptions are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.

Level 3 Valuation is generated from model-based techniques that use at least one significant assumption not observable in the market. These unobservable assumptions reflect estimates of assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Valuation techniques include use of option pricing models, discounted cash flow models, and similar techniques and include management judgment and estimation which may be significant.

Following is a description of valuation methodologies used for assets and liabilities recorded at fair value.
Investment Securities Available-for-Sale
Investment securities available-for-sale are recorded at fair value on a recurring basis. Fair value measurement is based upon quoted market prices, if available. If quoted market prices are not available, fair values are measured using independent pricing models or other model-based valuation techniques such as the present value of future cash flows, adjusted for the security's credit rating, prepayment assumptions, and other factors such as credit loss assumptions. Level 1 securities include those traded on an active exchange, such as the New York Stock Exchange, U.S. Treasury securities that are traded by dealers or brokers in active over-the-counter markets and money market funds. Level 2 securities include mortgage-backed securities issued by government sponsored entities, municipal bonds and corporate debt securities. Securities classified as Level 3 include asset-backed securities in less liquid markets.

Loans Held-for-Sale
Loans held-for-sale are carried at the lower of cost or fair value. The fair value of loans held-for-sale is based on what secondary markets are currently offering for portfolios with similar characteristics. As such, the Company classifies
loans subjected to non-recurring fair value adjustments as Level 2. At December 31, 2011 there were no loans held-for-sale that required a write-down.

## Impaired Loans

The Company does not record loans at fair value on a recurring basis. However, from time to time, a loan is considered impaired and an allowance for loan losses is established. Loans for which it is probable that payment of interest and principal will not be made in accordance with the contractual terms of the loan agreement are considered impaired. Once a loan is identified as individually impaired, the Company measures impairment. The fair value of impaired loans is estimated using one of several methods, including collateral value, market value of similar debt, enterprise value, liquidation value and discounted cash flows. Those impaired loans not requiring an allowance represent loans for which the fair value of the expected repayments or collateral exceed the recorded investments in such loans.

Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

At December 31, 2011, substantially all of the total impaired loans were evaluated based on the fair value of the underlying collateral securing the loan. Impaired loans where an allowance is established based on the fair value of collateral require classification in the fair value hierarchy. When a loan is evaluated based on the fair value of the underlying collateral securing the loan, the Company records the impaired loan as non-recurring Level 3.

Other Real Estate Owned

Other real estate assets ("OREO") acquired through, or in lieu of, foreclosure are held-for-sale and are initially recorded at the lower of cost or fair value, less selling costs. Any write-downs to fair value at the time of transfer to OREO are charged to the allowance for loan losses, subsequent to foreclosure. Appraisals or evaluations are then done periodically thereafter charging any additional write-downs or valuation allowances to the appropriate expense accounts. Values are derived from appraisals of underlying collateral and discounted cash flow analysis. OREO is classified within Level 3 of the hierarchy.

## Loan Servicing Rights

Loan servicing rights are subject to impairment testing. A valuation model, which utilizes a discounted cash flow analysis using interest rates and prepayment speed assumptions currently quoted for comparable instruments and a discount rate determined by management, is used in the completion of impairment testing. If the valuation model reflects a value less than the carrying value, loan servicing rights are adjusted to fair value through a valuation allowance as determined by the model. As such, the Company classifies loan servicing rights subjected to non-recurring fair value adjustments as Level 3.

Assets Recorded at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis
The tables below presents the recorded amount of assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2011 and 2010.

| December 31, 2011 | Total | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| U.S. Treasury securities | \$2,314 | \$2,314 | \$- | \$- |
| Securities of U.S. government |  |  |  |  |
| agencies and corporations | 37,014 | - | 37,014 | - |
| Obligations of states and |  |  |  |  |
| political subdivisions | 20,617 | - | 20,617 | - |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 100,296 | - | 100,296 | - |
| Total investments at fair value | \$ 160,241 | \$2,314 | \$ 157,927 | \$- |
| December 31, 2010 | Total | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| U.S. Treasury securities | \$4,226 | \$4,226 | \$- | \$- |
| Securities of U.S. government |  |  |  |  |
| agencies and corporations | 40,775 | - | 40,775 | - |
| Obligations of states and |  |  |  |  |
| political subdivisions | 20,045 | - | 20,045 | - |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 42,300 | - | 42,300 | - |
| Total investments at fair value | \$ 107,346 | \$4,266 | \$ 103,120 | \$- |

Assets Recorded at Fair Value on a Non-recurring Basis
The Company may be required, from time to time, to measure certain assets at fair value on a non-recurring basis in accordance with GAAP. These include assets that are measured at the lower of cost or market where fair value is below cost at the end of the period.

Assets measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis are included in the table below by level within the fair value hierarchy as of December 31, 2011 and 2010.

| December 31, 2011 | Total | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total gains/losses |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Impaired loans | \$4,008 | \$- | \$- | \$4,008 | \$ (4,713 |
| Other real estate owned | 1,001 | - | - | 1,001 | (1,264 |
| Loan servicing rights | 1,289 | - | - | 1,289 | (2 |
| Total assets at fair value | \$6,298 | \$- | \$- | \$6,298 | \$ $(5,979$ |


|  |  |  |  | Total <br> gains/losses |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| December 31, 2010 | Total | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | $\$(2,578)$ |
| Impaired loans | $\$ 7,807$ | $\$-$ | $\$-$ | $\$ 7,807$ | $(1,517$ |
| Other real estate owned | 1,517 | - | - | $(689)$ |  |
| Loan servicing rights | 1,367 | - | - | 1,367 | $(69)$ |
| Total assets at fair value | $\$ 10,691$ | $\$-$ | $\$-$ | $\$ 10,691$ | $\$(3,336)$ |

81

## EXECUTIVE SALARY CONTINUATION PLAN

## Pension Benefit Plans

The Company and the Bank maintain an unfunded non-contributory defined benefit pension plan ("Salary Continuation Plan") and related split dollar plan for a select group of highly compensated employees. The plan provides defined benefit levels between $\$ 50$ and $\$ 125$ depending on responsibilities at the Bank. The retirement benefits are paid for 10 years following retirement at age 65. Reduced retirement benefits are available after age 55 and 10 years of service.

Additionally, the Company and the Bank adopted a supplemental executive retirement plan ("SERP") in 2006. The SERP is intended to integrate the various forms of retirement payments offered to executives. There are currently three participants in the plan.

The plan benefit is calculated using 3 -year average salary plus 7 -year average bonus (average compensation). For each year of service the benefit formula credits $2 \%$ of average compensation ( $2.5 \%$ for the CEO) up to a maximum of $50 \%$. Therefore, for an executive serving 25 years ( 20 for the CEO), the target benefit is $50 \%$ of average compensation.

The target benefit is reduced for other forms of retirement income provided by the Bank. Reductions are made for $50 \%$ of the social security benefit expected at age 65 and for the accumulated value of contributions the Bank makes to the executive's profit sharing plan. For purposes of this reduction, contributions to the profit sharing plan are accumulated each year at a 3 -year average of the yields on 10 -year treasury securities. Retirement benefits are paid monthly for 120 months, plus 6 months for each full year of service over 10 years, up to a maximum of 180 months.

Reduced benefits are payable for retirement prior to age 65. Should retirement occur prior to age 65 , the benefit determined by the formula described above is reduced $5 \%$ for each year payments commence prior to age 65. Therefore, the new SERP benefit is reduced $50 \%$ for retirement at age 55 . No benefit is payable for voluntary terminations prior to age 55.

Eligibility to participate in the Salary Continuation Plan is limited to a select group of management or highly compensated employees of the Bank that are designated by the Board.

The Bank uses a December 31 measurement date for these plans.

|  | For the Year Ended December 31, |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Change in benefit obligation |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Benefit obligation at beginning of year | \$2,723 |  | \$2,177 |  | \$1,900 |  |
| Service cost | 132 |  | 111 |  | 72 |  |
| Interest cost | 138 |  | 122 |  | 110 |  |
| Amendments | - |  | 21 |  | - |  |
| Plan loss (gain) | 315 |  | 346 |  | 149 |  |
| Benefits Paid | (176 | ) | (54 |  | (54 | ) |
| Benefit obligation at end of year | 3,132 |  | 2,723 |  | 2,177 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Change in plan assets |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Employer Contribution | 176 |  | 54 |  | 54 |  |
| Benefits Paid | (176 | ) | (54 | ) | (54 | ) |
| Fair value of plan assets at end of year | \$- |  | \$- |  | \$- |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reconciliation of funded status |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Funded status | \$(3,132 | ) | \$(2,723 | ) | \$(2,177 | ) |
| Unrecognized net plan loss (gain) | 319 |  | 4 |  | (357 | ) |
| Unrecognized prior service cost | 517 |  | 605 |  | 671 |  |
| Net amount recognized | \$(2,296 | ) | \$(2,114 | ) | \$(1,863 | ) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amounts recognized in the consolidated balance sheets consist of: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Accrued benefit liability | \$(3,132 | ) | \$(2,723 | ) | \$ 2,177 | ) |
| Intangible asset | - |  | - |  | - |  |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income | 836 |  | 609 |  | 314 |  |
| Net amount recognized | \$(2,296 | ) | \$(2,114 | ) | \$(1,863 | ) |

83

|  | For the Year Ended December 31, |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Components of net periodic benefit cost |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Service cost | \$132 |  | \$ 111 |  | \$72 |  |
| Interest cost | 138 |  | 122 |  | 110 |  |
| Amortization of prior service cost | 88 |  | 87 |  | 87 |  |
| Net periodic benefit cost | 358 |  | 320 |  | 269 |  |
| Additional amounts recognized | - |  | (15 | ) | (31 | ) |
| Total benefit cost | \$358 |  | \$305 |  | \$238 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Additional Information |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Minimum benefit obligation at year end | \$3,132 |  | \$2,723 |  | \$2,177 |  |
| Increase in minimum liability included in other comprehensive income | \$227 |  | \$295 |  | \$92 |  |
| Assumptions used to determine benefit obligations at December 31 | 2011 |  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |
| Discount rate used to determine net periodic benefit cost for years ended December 31 | 5.00 | \% | 5.40 | \% | 5.60 | \% |
| Discount rate used to determine benefit obligations at December 31 | 3.90 | \% | 5.00 | \% | 5.40 | \% |
| Future salary increases | 4.00 | \% | 4.00 | \% | 4.00 | \% |

Plan Assets

The Bank informally funds the liabilities of the Salary Continuation Plan through life insurance purchased on the lives of plan participants. This informal funding does not meet the definition of plan assets within the meaning of pension accounting standards. Therefore, assets held for this purpose are not disclosed as part of the Salary Continuation Plan.

Cash Flows

## Contributions and Estimated Benefit Payments

For unfunded plans, contributions to the Salary Continuation Plan are the benefit payments made to participants. The Bank paid $\$ 176$ in benefit payments during fiscal 2011. The following benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, are expected to be paid in future fiscal years:

|  | Pension |
| :--- | :--- |
| Year ending December 31, | Benefits |


| 2012 | $\$ 176$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2013 | 176 |
| 2014 | 188 |
| 2015 | 226 |

Disclosure of settlements and curtailments:
There were no events during fiscal 2011 that would constitute a curtailment or settlement.

84

## DIRECTORS' RETIREMENT PLAN

## Pension Benefit Plans

On July 19, 2001, the Company and the Bank approved an unfunded non-contributory defined benefit pension plan ("Directors' Retirement Plan") and related split dollar plan for the directors of the Bank. The plan provides a retirement benefit equal to $\$ 1$ per year of service as a director, up to a maximum benefit amount of $\$ 15$. The retirement benefit is payable for 10 years following retirement at age 65 . Reduced retirement benefits are available after age 55 and 10 years of service.

The Bank uses a December 31 measurement date for the Directors' Retirement Plan.

|  | For the Year Ended December 31, 201120102009 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Change in benefit obligation |  |  |  |  |  |
| Benefit obligation at beginning of year | \$597 | \$597 |  | \$540 |  |
| Service cost | 23 | 35 |  | 44 |  |
| Interest cost | 30 | 33 |  | 32 |  |
| Plan loss (gain) | 66 | (53 |  | (4 | ) |
| Benefits paid | (15 | ) (15 | ) | (15 | ) |
| Benefit obligation at end of year | \$701 | \$597 |  | \$597 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Change in plan assets |  |  |  |  |  |
| Employer contribution | \$15 | \$15 |  | \$15 |  |
| Benefits paid | (15 | ) (15 | ) | (15 | ) |
| Fair value of plan assets at end of year | \$- | \$- |  | \$- |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reconciliation of funded status |  |  |  |  |  |
| Funded status | \$(701 | ) \$(597 | ) | \$(597 | ) |
| Unrecognized net plan loss | (11 | ) (79 | ) | (26 | ) |
| Net amount recognized | \$(712 | ) \$(676 | ) | \$(623 | ) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amounts recognized in the statement of financial position consist of: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Accrued benefit liability | \$(701 | ) \$(597 | ) | \$(597 | ) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income | (11 | ) (79 | ) | (26 | ) |
| Net amount recognized | \$(712 | ) \$(676 |  | \$(623 | ) |


|  | For the Year Ended December 31, |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Components of net periodic benefit cost |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Service cost | \$23 |  | \$35 |  | \$44 |  |
| Interest cost | 30 |  | 33 |  | 32 |  |
| Recognized actuarial (gain)loss | (3 |  | - |  | - |  |
| Net periodic benefit cost | 50 |  | 68 |  | 76 |  |
| Additional amounts recognized | - |  | - |  | - |  |
| Total benefit cost | \$50 |  | \$68 |  | \$76 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Additional Information |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Minimum benefit obligation at year end | \$701 |  | \$597 |  | \$597 |  |
| Increase (decrease) in minimum liability included in other comprehensive loss | \$68 |  | \$(53 | ) | \$(4 | ) |
| Assumptions used to determine benefit obligations at December 31 | 2011 |  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |
| Discount rate used to determine net periodic benefit cost for years ended December 31 | 4.90 | \% | 5.30 | \% | 5.50 | \% |
| Discount rate used to determine benefit obligations at December 31 | 3.80 |  | 4.90 |  | 5.30 | \% |

Plan Assets

The Bank informally funds the liabilities of the Directors' Retirement Plan through life insurance purchased on the lives of plan participants. This informal funding does not meet the definition of plan assets within the meaning of pension accounting standards. Therefore, assets held for this purpose are not disclosed as part of the Directors' Retirement Plan.

Cash Flows

Contributions and Estimated Benefit Payments

For unfunded plans, contributions to the Directors' Retirement Plan are the benefit payments made to participants. The Bank paid $\$ 15$ in benefit payments during fiscal 2011. The following benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, are expected to be paid in future fiscal years:

|  | Pension |
| :--- | :--- |
| Year ending December 31, | Benefits |


| 2012 | $\$ 8$ |
| :--- | :---: |
| 2013 | 16 |
| 2014 | 30 |
| 2015 | 44 |
| 2016 | 55 |
| $2017-2021$ | 366 |

Disclosure of settlements and curtailments:
There were no events during fiscal 2011 that would constitute a curtailment or settlement.

## EXECUTIVE ELECTIVE DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN - 2001 EXECUTIVE DEFERRAL PLAN.

On July 19, 2001, the Bank approved a revised Executive Elective Deferred Compensation Plan, ("2001 Executive Deferral Plan") for certain officers to provide them the ability to make elective deferrals of compensation due to tax law limitations on benefit levels under qualified plans. Deferred amounts earn interest at an annual rate determined by the Bank's Board. The plan is a non-qualified plan funded with Bank owned life insurance policies taken on the life of the officer. During the year ended December 31, 2001, the Bank purchased insurance making a single-premium payment aggregating $\$ 1,125$, which is reported in other assets. The Bank is the beneficiary and owner of the policies. The cash surrender value of the related insurance policies as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 totaled $\$ 2,097$ and $\$ 2,026$, respectively. The increase in accrued liability for the 2001 Executive Deferral Plan during the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 totaled $\$ 56$ and $\$ 58$, respectively. The expenses for the 2001 Executive Deferral Plan for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 totaled $\$ 56, \$ 58$, and $\$ 58$, respectively.

## DIRECTOR ELECTIVE DEFERRED FEE PLAN - 2001 DIRECTOR DEFERRAL PLAN.

On July 19, 2001, the Bank approved a Director Elective Deferred Fee Plan ("2001 Director Deferral Plan") for directors to provide them the ability to make elective deferrals of fees. Deferred amounts earn interest at an annual rate determined by the Bank's Board. The plan is a non-qualified plan funded with Bank owned life insurance policies taken on the life of the director. The Bank is the beneficiary and owner of the policies. The cash surrender value of the related insurance policies as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 totaled $\$ 112$ and $\$ 108$, respectively. The increase in accrued liability for the 2001 Director Deferral Plan during the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 totaled $\$ 1$ and $\$ 1$, respectively. The expenses for the 2001 Director Deferral Plan for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 totaled $\$ 1, \$ 1$ and $\$ 1$, respectively.

## Income Taxes

The provision (benefit) for income tax expense consists of the following for the years ended December 31:
$\left.\begin{array}{lcccc} & 2011 & 2010 & 2009 \\ \text { Current: } & \$ 210 & \$(60 & ) & \$(1,683\end{array}\right)$

The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to significant portions of the deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities at December 31, 2011 and 2010 consist of:

|  | 2011 | 2010 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Deferred tax assets: |  |  |
| Allowance for loan losses | \$4,610 | \$4,848 |
| Deferred compensation | 440 | 509 |
| Retirement compensation | 1,218 | 1,141 |
| Stock option compensation | 350 | 815 |
| Post retirement benefits | 330 | 212 |
| Current state franchise taxes | 1 | - |
| Non-accrual interest | 9 | 59 |
| Investment securities unrealized losses | - | 317 |
| Net operating loss | 734 | 734 |
| Tax credit carryovers | 2,751 | 2,859 |
| Other | 311 | 432 |
|  |  |  |
| Deferred tax assets | 10,754 | 11,926 |
|  |  |  |
| Deferred tax liabilities: |  |  |
| Fixed assets depreciation | 1,173 | 1,252 |
| FHLB dividends | 260 | 260 |
| Tax credit - loss on pass-through | 313 | 314 |
| Deferred loan costs | 525 | 476 |
| Investment securities unrealized gains | 505 | - |
| Current state franchise benefit | - | 9 |
| Other | - | 13 |
|  |  |  |
| Total deferred tax liabilities | 2,776 | 2,324 |
| Net deferred tax assets (see Note 6) | \$7,978 | \$9,602 |

Based upon the level of historical taxable income and projections for future taxable income over the periods during which the deferred tax assets are deductible, management believes it is more-likely-than-not the Company will realize the benefits of these deductible differences.

At December 31, 2011, the Company had approximately $\$ 10,300$ of state net operating loss carry forwards expiring on various dates ranging from 2028 through 2029 and $\$ 2,800$ of tax credit carry forwards expiring on various datesranging from 2027 through 2031.

A reconciliation of income taxes computed at the federal statutory rate of $34 \%$ and the provision for income taxes is as follows:

|  | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Income tax expense (benefit) at statutory rates | $\$ 1,290$ | $\$ 908$ | $\$(1,325$ | $(397$ |
| Reduction for tax exempt interest | $(173$ | $)$ | $(290$ | $)$ |
| State franchise tax, net of federal benefit | 213 | 102 | $(393$ | $(143)$ |
| Cash surrender value of life insurance | $(149$ | $)$ | $(139$ | $)$ |
| Solar credit amortization | $(323$ | $)$ | $(387$ | $)$ |
| Other | 274 | $(187$ | $(465)$ | $(121)$ |
|  | $\$ 1,132$ | $\$ 7$ | $\$(2,844)$ |  |

## Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes

During 2011 the Company recognized an increase for unrecognized tax benefits. A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits is as follows:
$\left.\begin{array}{lc}\text { Balance at January 1, } 2011 & \$ 123 \\ \text { Additions for tax positions taken in the current period } & - \\ \text { Reductions for tax positions taken in the current period } & - \\ \text { Additions for tax positions taken in prior years } & 67 \\ \text { Reductions for tax positions taken in prior years } & (15 \\ \text { Decreases related to settlements with taxing authorities } & (92\end{array}\right)$

Balance at December 31, 2011 $\$ 83$

The Company does not anticipate any significant increase or decrease in unrecognized tax benefits during 2012. If recognized, the entire amount of the unrecognized tax benefits would affect the effective tax rate.

The Company classifies interest and penalties as a component of the provision for income taxes. At December 31, 2011, unrecognized interest and penalties were \$17. The tax years ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 remain subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service. The tax years ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006 remain subject to examination by the California Franchise Tax Board. The deductibility of these tax positions will be determined through examination by the appropriate tax jurisdictions or the expiration of the tax statute of limitations.

All income per share amounts have been adjusted to give retroactive effect to stock dividends and stock splits, including the $1 \%$ stock dividend declared on January 26, 2012, payable March 30, 2012 to shareholders of record as of February 29, 2012.

Earnings (Loss) Per Share

|  | (in thousands, except per share amounts) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
| Basic earnings (loss)per share: |  |  |  |
| Net income (loss) | \$2,664 | \$2,665 | \$(1,054 ) |
| Preferred stock dividend and accretion | (1,399 | (992) | (792) |
| Net income (loss) available to common shareholders | \$ 1,265 | \$ 1,673 | \$(1,846 ) |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding | 9,158,982 | 9,107,990 | 9,064,402 |
| Basic earnings (loss) per share | \$0.14 | \$0.18 | \$(0.20 ) |
| Diluted earnings (loss) per share: |  |  |  |
| Net income (loss) | \$2,664 | \$2,665 | \$(1,054 ) |
| Preferred stock dividend and accretion | (1,399 | (992) | (792) |
| Net income (loss) available to common shareholders | \$ 1,265 | \$ 1,673 | \$(1,846 ) |
| Net (loss) income available to common shareholders |  |  |  |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding | 9,158,982 | 9,107,990 | 9,064,402 |
| Effect of dilutive options | 862 | 1,599 | - |
| Adjusted weighted average common shares outstanding | 9,159,844 | 9,109,589 | 9,064,402 |
| Diluted earnings (loss) per share | \$0.14 | \$0.18 | \$(0.20 ) |

Basic and diluted earnings (loss) per share for the years ended December 31, were computed as follows:

Options not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share because they would have had an anti-dilutive effect amounted to 409,747 shares, 497,314 shares and 429,204 shares for the year ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. Non-vested shares of restricted stock not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share because they would have had an anti-dilutive effect amounted to 45,045 shares, 46,096 shares and 35,817 shares for the year ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. In addition, 352,977 warrants issued to the U.S. Treasury were not used in the computation of diluted earnings per share for the year ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 because they would have had an anti-dilutive effect.

The Bank, in the ordinary course of business, has loan and deposit transactions with directors and executive officers. In management's opinion, these transactions were on substantially the same terms as comparable transactions with other customers of the Bank. The amount of such deposits totaled approximately $\$ 3,855, \$ 3,470$ and $\$ 4,398$ at December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

The following is an analysis of the activity of loans to executive officers and directors for the years ended December 31:
$\left.\begin{array}{lccc} & 2011 & 2010 & 2009 \\ & & & \\ & \$ 533 & \$ 526 & \$ 2,823 \\ \text { Outstanding balance, beginning of year } & 5,373 & 438 & 741 \\ \text { Credit granted } & (3,575 & ) & (431 \\ \text { Repayments / Reductions } & \$ 2,331 & \$ 533 & (3,038\end{array}\right)$

The Bank maintains a profit sharing plan for the benefit of its employees. Employees who have completed 12 months and 1,000 hours of service are eligible. Under the terms of this plan, a portion of the Bank's profits, as determined by the Board of Directors, will be set aside and maintained in a trust fund for the benefit of qualified employees. Contributions to the plan, included in salaries and employee benefits in the consolidated statements of operations, were $\$ 357$, $\$ 183$ and $\$-0$ - in 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

As of December 31, 2011, the Company has the following share-based compensation plans:
The Company has one fixed stock option plan. Under the 2006 Stock Incentive Plan, the Company may grant option grants, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, or stock units to an employee for an amount up to 25,000 total shares in any calendar year. With respect to awards granted to non-employee directors under the Plan, no outside director can receive option grants, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, or stock units in excess of 3,000 total shares in any calendar year. There are 890,699 shares authorized under the plan. The plan will terminate March 15, 2016. The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors is authorized to prescribe the terms and conditions of each option, including exercise price, vestings, or duration of the option. Generally, option grants vest at a rate of $25 \%$ per year after the first anniversary of the date of grant and restricted stock awards vest at a rate of $100 \%$ after four years. Options are granted with an exercise price of the fair value of the related common stock on the date of grant.

Stock option and restricted stock activity for the Company's Stock Incentive Plan during the years indicated is as follows:

\left.|  | Stock Options |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Weighted |  |  |
| average |  |  |
| exercise |  |  |
| price |  |  |$\right\}$

The 2006 Stock Incentive Plan permits stock-for-stock exercises of shares. During 2011, employees tendered no mature shares in stock-for-stock exercises. Matured shares are those held by employees longer than six months.

The following table presents information on stock options for the year ended December 31, 2011:

|  | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Aggregate Intrinsic Value | Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Options exercised | - | \$- | \$- |  |
| Stock options outstanding and expected to vest: |  |  |  |  |
|  | 417,544 | \$11.76 | \$7 | 3.09 |

Stock options vested and currently exercisable:

$$
\begin{array}{llll}
384,190 & \$ 12.33 & \$ 2 & 2.64
\end{array}
$$

The aggregate intrinsic value of options exercised in calendar year 2011, 2010, and 2009 was $\$-0-, \$-0-$, and $\$ 107$, respectively.

The weighted average fair value per share of options granted during the years ended December 31 was $\$ 2.18$ in 2011, $\$ 1.89$ in 2010, and $\$ 1.75$ in 2009.

At December 31, 2011, the range of exercise prices for all outstanding options ranged from $\$ 4.25$ to $\$ 23.75$.

92

As of December 31, 2011, there was $\$ 48$ of total unrecognized compensation related to non-vested stock options. This cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of approximately 2.6 years.

For the year ended December 31, 2011, there was $\$ 29$ of recognized compensation related to non-vested stock options.

The Company determines fair value at grant date using the Black-Scholes-Merton pricing model that takes into account the stock price at the grant date, the exercise price, the risk-free interest rate, the volatility of the underlying stock and the expected life of the option.

The weighted average assumptions used in the pricing model are noted in the following table. The expected term of options granted is derived from historical data on employee exercise and post-vesting employment termination behavior. The risk-free rate for periods within the contractual life of the option is based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the time of the grant. Expected volatility is based on both the implied volatilities from the traded option on the Company's stock and historical volatility on the Company's stock.

The Company expenses the fair value of the option on a straight line basis over the vesting period. The Company estimates forfeitures and only recognizes expense for those shares expected to vest.

The following table shows our weighted average assumptions used in valuing stock options granted for the years ended December 31:

|  | 2011 |  | 2010 |  | 2009 |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Risk-Free Interest Rate | 1.91 | $\%$ | 2.44 | $\%$ | 2.00 | $\%$ |
| Expected Dividend Yield | 0.00 | $\%$ | 0.00 | $\%$ | 0.00 | $\%$ |
| Expected Life in Years | 5.00 |  | 5.00 |  | 5.00 |  |
| Expected Price Volatility | 50.98 | $\%$ | 48.12 | $\%$ | 41.35 | $\%$ |

In addition to stock options, the Company also grants restricted stock awards to directors, certain officers and employees. The restricted shares awarded become fully vested after one to four years of continued employment or service from the date of grant. Restricted shares are forfeited if officers and employees terminate prior to the lapsing of restrictions.

The following table presents information about non-vested restricted stock awards outstanding for the year ended December 31, 2011:

|  | Restricted Stock Awards <br> Weighted <br> average <br> grant date <br> fair value |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Balance at December 31, 2010 | Number of <br> shares | 39,528 |
| Granted | 13,158 | $\$ 10.26$ |


| Vested | $(7,116$ | 19.47 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Cancelled | $(525$ | $)$ | 9.89 |
| Balance at December 31, 2011 | 45,045 | $\$ 7.20$ |  |

The aggregate intrinsic value of restricted stock awards vested in calendar year 2011, 2010, and 2009 was $\$ 32$, $\$ 9$, and $\$ 23$, respectively.

The weighted average fair value per share of restricted stock awards granted during the years ended December 31 was $\$ 4.75$ in 2011, $\$ 4.25$ in 2010, and $\$ 4.50$ in 2009.

As of December 31, 2011, there was $\$ 94$ of total unrecognized compensation related to non-vested restricted stock awards. This cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of approximately 2.5 years.

For the year ended December 31, 2011, there was $\$ 98$ of recognized compensation related to non-vested restricted stock awards.

## Employee Stock Purchase Plan

Under the First Northern Community Bancorp 2006 Amended Employee Stock Purchase Plan ("Plan"), the Company is authorized to issue to an eligible employee shares of common stock. There are 292,136 shares authorized under the Plan. The Plan will terminate March 15, 2016. The Plan is implemented by participation periods of not more than twenty-seven months each. The Board of Directors determines the commencement date and duration of each participation period. An eligible employee is one who has been continually employed for at least ninety (90) days prior to commencement of a participation period. Under the terms of the Plan, employees can choose to have up to 10 percent of their compensation withheld to purchase the Company's common stock each participation period. The purchase price of the stock is 85 percent of the lower of the fair market value on the last trading day before the Date of Participation or the fair market value on the last trading day during the participation period. Approximately 48 percent of eligible employees are participating in the Plan in the current participation period, which began November 24, 2011 and will end November 23, 2012.

Under the Plan, at the annual stock purchase date of November 23, 2011, there were $\$ 105$ in contributions, and 28,682 shares were purchased at an average price of $\$ 3.66$.

# Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K 

Short-Term and Long-Term Borrowings
Short-term borrowings at December 31, 2011 and 2010 consisted of secured borrowings from the U.S. Treasury in the amounts of $\$ 0$ and $\$ 1,529$, respectively. The funds are placed at the discretion of the U.S. Treasury and are callable on demand by the U.S. Treasury. At December 31, 2011, the Bank had no Federal Funds purchased.

Additional short-term borrowings available to the Company consist of a line of credit and advances with the Federal Home Loan Bank ("FHLB") secured under terms of a blanket collateral agreement by a pledge of FHLB stock and certain other qualifying collateral such as commercial and mortgage loans. At December 31, 2011, the Company had a current collateral borrowing capacity with the FHLB of $\$ 136,509$. The Company also has unsecured formal lines of credit totaling $\$ 36,000$ with correspondent banks.

Long-term borrowings consisted of FHLB advances, totaling \$7,000 and \$9,000, respectively, at December 31, 2011 and 2010. Such advances mature in 0.5 years at a weighted average interest rate of $4.13 \%$ at December 31, 2011. Maturity ranged from 0.5 years to 1.5 years at a weighted average interest rate of $4.06 \%$ at December 31, 2010. Average outstanding balances were $\$ 7,975$ and $\$ 9,975$, respectively, during 2011 and 2010. The weighted average interest rate paid was $4.09 \%$ in 2011 and $4.00 \%$ in 2010.

The Company is obligated for rental payments under certain operating lease agreements, some of which contain renewal options. Total rental expense for all leases included in net occupancy and equipment expense amounted to approximately $\$ 1,180, \$ 1,414$ and $\$ 1,750$ for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. At December 31, 2011, the future minimum payments under non-cancelable operating leases with initial or remaining terms in excess of one year were as follows:

| Year ending December 31: | $\$ 1,112$ |
| :--- | :---: |
| 2012 | 1,143 |
| 2013 | 834 |
| 2014 | 597 |
| 2015 | 251 |
| 2016 | 173 |

## \$4,110

At December 31, 2011, the aggregate maturities for time deposits were as follows:

| Year ending December 31: | $\$ 95,216$ |
| :--- | :---: |
| 2012 | 6,927 |
| 2013 | 2,015 |
| 2014 | 1,727 |
| 2015 | 399 |
| 2016 | - |

The Company is subject to various legal proceedings in the normal course of its business. In the opinion of management, after having consulted with legal counsel, the outcome of the legal proceedings should not have a material effect on the consolidated financial condition or results of operations of the Company.

# Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K 

Financial Instruments with Off-Balance Sheet Risk
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 in the form of loans or through standby letters of credit. These instruments involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit and interest rate risk in excess of the amounts recognized in the balance sheet. The contract amounts of those instruments reflect the extent of involvement the Company has in particular classes of financial instruments.

The Bank's exposure to credit loss in the event of non-performance by the other party to the financial instrument for commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit is represented by the contractual notional amount of those instruments. The Bank uses the same credit policies in making commitments and conditional obligations as it does for on-balance sheet instruments.

Financial instruments, whose contract amounts represent credit risk at December 31 of the indicated periods, were as follows:

|  | 2011 | 2010 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Undisbursed loan commitments | $\$ 146,778$ | 140,408 |
| Standby letters of credit | 1,872 | 3,739 |
| Commitments to sell loans | 7,530 | 1,826 |
|  | $\$ 156,180$ | 145,973 |

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. Commitments generally have fixed expiration dates 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 Bank evaluates each customer's creditworthiness on a case-by-case basis. The amount of collateral obtained, if deemed necessary by the Bank upon extension of credit, is based on management's credit evaluation. Collateral held varies but may include accounts receivable, inventory, property, plant and equipment, and income-producing commercial properties.

Standby letters of credit are conditional commitments issued by the Bank to guarantee the performance of a customer to a third party. The credit risk involved in issuing letters of credit is essentially the same as that involved in extending loan facilities to customers. The Bank issues both financial and performance standby letters of credit. The financial standby letters of credit are primarily to guarantee payment to third parties. At December 31, 2011, there were no financial standby letters of credit outstanding. The performance standby letters of credit are typically issued to municipalities as specific performance bonds. At December 31, 2011, there was $\$ 1,872$ issued in performance standby letters of credit and the Bank carried no liability. The terms of the guarantees will expire primarily in 2012. The Bank has experienced no draws on these letters of credit, and does not expect to in the future; however, should a triggering event occur, the Bank either has collateral in excess of the letter of credit or imbedded agreements of recourse from the customer. The Bank has set aside a reserve for unfunded commitments in the amount of \$793, which is recorded in "interest payable and other liabilities."

Commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit bear similar credit risk characteristics as outstanding loans. As of December 31, 2011, the Company has no off-balance sheet derivatives requiring additional disclosure.

Mortgage loans sold to investors may be sold with servicing rights retained, for which the Company makes only standard legal representations and warranties as to meeting certain underwriting and collateral documentation standards. In the past two years, the Company has had to repurchase no loans due to deficiencies in underwriting or loan documentation and has not realized significant losses related to these repurchases. Management believes that any liabilities that may result from such recourse provisions are not significant.

The Company is subject to various regulatory capital requirements administered by the federal banking agencies. Failure to meet minimum capital requirements can initiate mandatory and possibly additional discretionary actions by regulators that, if undertaken, could have a direct material effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements. Under capital adequacy guidelines and the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action, the Company must meet specific capital guidelines that involve quantitative measures of the Company's assets, liabilities, and certain off-balance-sheet items as calculated under regulatory accounting practices. The Company's capital amounts and classification are also subject to qualitative judgments by the regulators about components, risk-weightings, and other factors.

Quantitative measures established by regulation to ensure capital adequacy require the Bank to maintain minimum amounts and ratios (set forth in the table below).

First, a bank must meet a minimum Tier I Capital ratio (as defined in the regulations) ranging from 3\% to 5\% based upon the bank's CAMELS (capital adequacy, asset quality, management, earnings, liquidity and sensitivity to market risk) rating.

Second, a bank must meet minimum Total Risk-Based Capital to risk-weighted assets ratio of 8\%. Risk-based capital and asset guidelines vary from Tier I capital guidelines by redefining the components of capital, categorizing assets into different risk classes, and including certain off-balance sheet items in the calculation of the capital ratio. The effect of the risk-based capital guidelines is that banks with high risk exposure will be required to raise additional capital while institutions with low risk exposure could, with the concurrence of regulatory authorities, be permitted to operate with lower capital ratios. In addition, a bank must meet minimum Tier I Leverage Capital to average assets ratio.

Management believes, as of December 31, 2011, that the Bank meets all capital adequacy requirements to which it is subject. As of December 31, 2011, the most recent notification from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") categorized the Bank as "well capitalized" under the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action. To be categorized as well capitalized the Bank must meet the minimum ratios as set forth above. As of the date hereof, there have been no conditions or events since that notification that management believes have changed the institution's category.

The Company and the Bank had Tier I Leverage, Tier I risk-based and Total Risk-Based capital above the "well capitalized" levels at December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively, as set forth in the following tables:

|  | The Company |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2011 |  |  | 2010 |  | Adequately Capitalized Ratio |  |  |
|  | Capital | Ratio |  | Capital | Ratio |  |  |  |
| Tier 1 Leverage Capital (to Average Assets) | \$81,302 | 10.5 | \% | \$72,867 | 9.8 | \% | 4.0 | \% |
| Tier 1 Capital (to Risk-Weighted Assets) | 81,302 | 17.4 | \% | 72,867 | 15.4 | \% | 4.0 | \% |
| Total Risk-Based Capital (to Risk-Weighted Assets) | 87,221 | 18.6 | \% | 78,847 | 16.7 | \% | 8.0 | \% |

The Bank
Adequately Well

Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

|  | 2011 |  |  | 2010 |  | Capitalized Ratio |  |  | Capitalized Ratio |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Capital | Ratio |  | Capital | Ratio |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tier 1 Leverage Capital (to Average Assets) | \$75,952 | 9.8 | \% | \$71,843 | 9.7 | \% | 4.0 | \% | 5.0 | \% |
| Tier 1 Capital (to Risk-Weighted Assets) | 75,952 | 16.2 | \% | 71,843 | 15.2 | \% | 4.0 | \% | 6.0 | \% |
| Total Risk-Based Capital (to Risk-Weighted Assets) | 81,871 | 17.5 | \% | 77,823 | 16.5 | \% | 8.0 | \% | 10.0 | \% |

Cash dividends declared by the Bank are restricted under California State banking laws to the lesser of the Bank's retained earnings or the Bank's net income for the latest three fiscal years, less dividends previously declared during that period.

97

# Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K 

Fair Values of Financial Instruments

The following methods and assumptions were used by the Company in estimating its fair value disclosures for financial instruments:

## Cash and Cash Equivalents

The carrying amounts reported in the balance sheet for cash and short-term instruments are a reasonable estimate of fair value.

## Investment Securities

Fair values for investment securities are based on quoted market prices, where available. If quoted market prices are not available, fair values are based on quoted market prices of comparable instruments.

Other Equity Securities
The carrying amounts reported in the balance sheet approximate fair value.

## Loans Receivable

For variable-rate loans that reprice frequently and with no significant change in credit risk, fair values are based on carrying values. The fair values for other loans (e.g., commercial real estate and rental property mortgage loans, commercial and industrial loans, and agricultural loans) are estimated using discounted cash flow analyses, using interest rates currently being offered for loans with similar terms to borrowers of similar credit quality. The carrying amount of interest receivable approximates its fair value. The allowance for loan losses is considered to be a reasonable estimate of loan discount due to credit risks.

## Loans Held-for-sale

For loans held for sale, carrying value approximates fair value.

## Deposit Liabilities

The fair values disclosed for demand deposits (e.g., interest and non-interest checking, passbook savings, and money market accounts) are, by definition, equal to the amount payable on demand at the reporting date (i.e., their carrying amounts). The fair values for fixed-rate certificates of deposit are estimated using a discounted cash flow calculation that applies interest rates currently being offered on certificates to a schedule of aggregated expected monthly maturities on time deposits. The carrying amount of interest payable approximates its fair value.

## FHLB Advances and Other Borrowings

The fair values of borrowed funds were estimated by discounting future cash flows related to these financial instruments using current market rates for financial instruments with similar characteristics.

## Limitations

Fair value estimates are made at a specific point in time, based on relevant market information and information about the financial instrument. These estimates do not reflect any premium or discount that could result from offering for
sale at one time the Company's entire holdings of a particular financial instrument. Because no market exists for a significant portion of the Company's financial instruments, fair value estimates are based on judgments regarding future expected loss experience, current economic conditions, risk characteristics of various financial instruments, and other factors. These estimates are subjective in nature and involve uncertainties and matters of significant judgment and therefore cannot be determined with precision. Changes in assumptions could significantly affect the estimates.

Fair value estimates are based on existing on-and off-balance sheet financial instruments without attempting to estimate the value of anticipated future business and the value of assets and liabilities that are not considered financial instruments. Other significant assets and liabilities that are not considered financial assets or liabilities include deferred tax liabilities and premises and equipment. In addition, the tax ramifications related to the realization of the unrealized gains and losses can have a significant effect on fair value estimates and have not been considered in many of the estimates.

The estimated fair values of the Company's financial instruments for the years ended December 31 are approximately as follows:

|  | 2011 |  | 2010 |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Carrying <br> amount | Fair <br> value | Carrying <br> amount | Fair <br> value |
| Financial assets: |  |  |  |  |
| Cash and cash equivalents | $\$ 140,172$ | $\$ 140,172$ | $\$ 139,707$ | $\$ 139,707$ |
| Investment securities | 160,241 | 160,241 | 107,346 | 107,346 |
| Other equity securities | 3,075 | 3,075 | 2,823 | 2,823 |
| Loans receivable: | 432,789 | 430,071 | 442,015 | 439,274 |
| Net loans | 2,832 | 2,917 | 2,345 | 2,344 |
| Loans held-for-sale | 2,710 | 2,710 | 2,486 | 2,486 |
| Interest receivable |  |  |  |  |
| Financial liabilities: | 678,958 | 671,399 | 640,258 | 631,281 |
| Deposits | 7,000 | 7,070 | 10,529 | 10,775 |
| FHLB advances and other borrowings | 134 | 134 | 151 | 151 |
| Interest payable |  |  |  |  |

## (20) Preferred Stock and Common Stock Warrants

On September 15, 2011, the Company issued to the U.S. Treasury under the United States Department of Treasury Small Business Lending Fund (SBLF) 22,847 shares of the Company's Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A (SBLF Shares), having a liquidation preference per share equal to $\$ 1,000$, for an aggregate purchase price of \$22,847,000.

On September 15, 2011, the Company redeemed from the U.S. Treasury, using the partial proceeds from the issuance of the SBLF Shares, all 17,390 outstanding shares of its Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, liquidation amount $\$ 1,000$ per share, for a redemption price of $\$ 17,390,000$, plus accrued but unpaid dividends at the date of redemption. Also, on November 16, 2011 the Company repurchased from the U.S. Treasury a warrant to purchase 352,977 shares of the Company's common stock at an exercise price of $\$ 7.39$ per share (the "Warrant"), issued to the U.S. Treasury on March 13, 2009, in connection with the Company's participation in the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) Capital Purchase Program. The Company paid an aggregate purchase price of $\$ 375,000$ for the repurchase of the Warrant, which has been canceled. The repurchase price was based on the fair market value of the Warrant as agreed upon by the Company and U.S. Treasury. With the repurchase of the Warrant, the Company concluded its participation in the TARP Capital Purchase Program.

## Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

(21) Supplemental Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows Information

Supplemental disclosures to the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, are as follows:

$$
2011 \quad 2010 \quad 2009
$$

Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:
Cash paid during the year for:

| Interest | $\$ 2,493$ | $\$ 3,721$ | $\$ 5,007$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Income taxes | $\$ 1,389$ | $\$ 1,038$ | $\$ 481$ |

Supplemental disclosure of non-cash investing and financing activities:

| Stock dividend distributed | $\$-$ | $\$-$ | $\$ 2,249$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Preferred stock dividend payable and accretion | $\$ 1,399$ | $\$ 992$ | $\$ 792$ |
|  |  |  |  |
| Fair value adjustment of securities available for sale, net of tax | $\$ 1,233$ | $\$(565$ | $) \$(72$ |
| Loans held-for-investment transferred to other real estate owned | $\$ 3,197$ | $\$ 2,534$ | $\$ 3,803$ |

Parent Company Financial Information
This information should be read in conjunction with the other notes to the consolidated financial statements. The following presents summary balance sheets and summary statements of operations and cash flows information for the years ended December 31:

|  | Balance Sheets | 2011 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Assets |  | 2010 |
| Cash | $\$ 5,688$ | $\$ 1,132$ |
| Investment in wholly owned subsidiary | 82,352 | 78,572 |
| Other assets | 2 | 3 |
| Total assets | $\$ 88,042$ | $\$ 79,707$ |
| Liabilities and stockholders' equity | 340 | 111 |
| Other liabilities | 87,702 | 79,596 |
| Stockholders' equity | $\$ 88,042$ | $\$ 79,707$ |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity |  |  |


| Statements of Operations | 2011 |  |  | 2010 | 2009 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  | $\$-$ | $\$(16,000$ | $)$ |
| Dividends to subsidiary | $(101$ | $)$ | $(121$ | $)$ | $(138$ | $)$ |
| Other operating expenses | 41 | 50 | 57 |  |  |  |
| Income tax benefit | $(60$ | $)$ | $(71$ | $)$ | $(16,081$ | $)$ |

Edgar Filing: FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP - Form 10-K

| Equity in undistributed earnings of subsidiary | 2,724 | 2,736 | 15,027 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Net income (loss) | $\$ 2,664$ | $\$ 2,665$ | $\$(1,054)$ |

100


ITEM 9 - CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None.

ITEM 9A - (Removed and Reserved)

ITEM 9B - OTHER INFORMATION
None.

102

## PART III

## ITEM 10 - DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The information called for by this item with respect to director and executive officer information is incorporated by reference herein from the sections of the Company's proxy statement for the 2011 Annual Meeting of Shareholders entitled "Executive Officers," "Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management," "Executive Compensation" "Report of Audit Committee," "Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Compliance" and "Nomination and Election of Directors."

The Company has adopted a Code of Conduct, which complies with the Code of Ethics requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission. A copy of the Code of Conduct is posted on the "Investor Relations" page of the Company's website, or is available, without charge, upon the written request of any shareholder directed to Lynn Campbell, Corporate Secretary, First Northern Community Bancorp, 195 North First Street, Dixon, California 95620. The Company intends to disclose promptly any amendment to, or waiver from any provision of, the Code of Conduct applicable to senior financial officers, and any waiver from any provision of the Code of Conduct applicable to directors, on the "Investor Relations" page of its website.

The Company's website address is www.thatsmybank.com.

## ITEM 11 - EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information called for by this item is incorporated by reference herein from the sections of the Company's proxy statement for the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders entitled "Nomination and Election of Directors," "Transactions with Related Persons," "Director Compensation," and "Executive Compensation."

## ITEM 12 - SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

Information concerning ownership of the equity stock of the Company by certain beneficial owners and management is incorporated herein by reference from the sections of the Company's proxy statement for the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders entitled "Security Ownership of Management" and "Nomination and Election of Directors."

## Stock Purchase Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table shows the Company's equity compensation plans approved by security holders. The table also indicates the number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, non-vested restricted stock and the number of securities remaining available for future issuance under the Company's equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2011. The plans included in this table are the Company's 2000 Stock Option Plan and 2006 Stock Incentive. See "Stock Compensation Plans" Note 14 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (page 92) included in this report.

|  |  |  | Number of <br> securities <br> remaining |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| available for |  |  |  |

## ITEM 13 - CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The information called for by this item is incorporated herein by reference from the sections of the Company's proxy statement for the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders entitled "Director Independence" and "Transactions with Related Persons."

The information called for by this item is incorporated herein by reference from the section of the Company's proxy statement for the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders entitled "Audit and Non-Audit Fees."

104

## PART IV

## ITEM 15 - EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a)(1) Financial Statements:

Reference is made to the Index to Financial Statements under Item 8 in Part II of this Form 10-K.
(a)(2)Financial Statement Schedules:

All schedules to the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements are omitted because of the absence of the conditions under which they are required or because the required information is included in the Consolidated Financial Statements or accompanying notes.
(a)(3)Exhibits:

The following is a list of all exhibits filed as part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K:

Exhibit Number
\(\left.$$
\begin{array}{ll}3.1 & \begin{array}{l}\text { Amended Articles of Incorporation of First Northern } \\
\text { Community Bancorp ("Company") - incorporated herein by } \\
\text { reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Annual Report on } \\
\text { Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006 }\end{array} \\
3.2 & \begin{array}{l}\text { Certificate of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the } \\
\text { Company - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the } \\
\text { Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 9, 2009 }\end{array}
$$ <br>
Certificate of Determination of Fixed Rate Cumulative <br>
Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A of the Company - <br>
incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the <br>

Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 9, 2009\end{array}\right\}\)| Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company - incorporated |
| :--- |
| herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Current |
| Report on Form 8-K dated September 15, 2005 |

Treasury - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2009
4.2

Warrant to purchase 352,977 Shares of Common Stock (common shares) of the Company, issued to the United States Department of the Treasury on March 13, 2009 - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2009

First Northern Community Bancorp 2000 Stock Option Plan incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 dated May 25, 2000*

First Northern Community Bancorp Outside Directors 2000 Non-statutory Stock Option Plan - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.3 of the Company's Registration Statement dated Form S-8 on May 25, 2000*

Amended First Northern Community Bancorp Employee Stock Purchase Plan - incorporated herein by reference to Appendix B of the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A for its 2006 Annual Meeting of Shareholders
10.4 First Northern Community Bancorp 2000 Stock Option Plan Forms "Incentive Stock Option Agreement" and "Notice of Exercise of Stock Option" - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 dated May 25, 2000*
10.5 First Northern Community Bancorp 2000 Outside Directors 2000 Non-statutory Stock Option Plan Forms "Non-statutory Stock Option Agreement" and "Notice of Exercise of Stock Option" - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.4 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 dated May 25, 2000*
10.6 First Northern Community Bancorp 2000 Employee Stock Purchase Plan Forms "Participation Agreement" and "Notice of Withdrawal" - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.6 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 dated May 25, 2000*
10.7 Amended and Restated Employment Agreement entered into as of July 23, 2001 by and between First Northern Bank of Dixon and Don Fish - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2001*
10.8 Employment Agreement entered into as of July 23, 2001 by and between First Northern Bank of Dixon and Owen J. Onsum - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2001*
10.9 Employment Agreement entered into as of July 23, 2001 by and between First Northern Bank of Dixon and Louise Walker - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2001*
10.10 Employment Agreement entered into as of July 23, 2001 by and between First Northern Bank of Dixon and Robert Walker - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2001*
10.11 Form of Director Retirement and Split Dollar Agreements between First Northern Bank of Dixon and Lori J. Aldrete, Frank J. Andrews Jr., John M. Carbahal, Gregory DuPratt, John F. Hamel, Diane P. Hamlyn, Foy S. McNaughton, William Jones, Jr. and David Schulze - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001*
10.12 Form of Salary Continuation and Split Dollar Agreement between First Northern Bank of Dixon and Owen J. Onsum, Louise A. Walker, Don Fish, and Robert Walker - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001*

Amended Form of Director Retirement and Split Dollar Agreements between First Northern Bank of Dixon and Lori J. Aldrete, Frank J. Andrews Jr., John M. Carbahal, Gregory DuPratt, John F. Hamel, Diane P. Hamlyn, Foy S. McNaughton, William Jones, Jr. and David Schulze - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004*
10.14 Amended Form of Salary Continuation and Split Dollar Agreement between First Northern Bank of Dixon and Owen J. Onsum, Louise A. Walker, Don Fish, and Robert Walker - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004*
10.15 Form of Salary Continuation Agreement between Pat Day and First Northern Bank of Dixon - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006*
10.16 Form of Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan Agreement between First Northern Bank of Dixon and Owen J. Onsum and Louise A. Walker - provided herewith*
10.17 First Northern Bancorp 2006 Stock Incentive Plan - incorporated by reference to Appendix A of the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A for its 2006 Annual Meeting of Shareholders*
10.18 First Northern Bank Annual Incentive Compensation Plan - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.18 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006*
10.19 Form of Senior Executive Officer Waiver - incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2009

| 10.20 | First Northern Community Bancorp 2006 Stock Option Plan <br> Forms "Stock Option Agreement" and "Notice of Exercise of Stock <br> Option" incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.20 to the <br> Company's Annual Report for the year ended December 31, <br> 2009 * |
| :--- | :--- |
| 10.21 | First Northern Community Bancorp 2006 Stock Incentive Plan <br> "Restricted Stock Agreement incorporated by reference to <br> Exhibit 10.21 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K <br> for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 * |
| 11.1 | Statement of Computation of Per Share Earnings (See Page 65 <br> of this Form 10-K) |
| 21.1 | Subsidiaries of the Company - provided herewith |
| 31.1 | Consent of independent registered public accounting firm - <br> provided herewith |
| 31.2 | Rule 13(a) - 14(a) / 15(d) -14(a) Certification of the Company's <br> Chief Executive Officer - provided herewith |
| 32.1 | Rule 13(a) - 14(a) / 15(d) -14(a) Certification of the Company's <br> Chief Financial Officer - provided herewith |
| 32.2 | Section 1350 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer - <br> provided herewith |
| Section 1350 Certification of the Chief Financial Officer - |  |
| provided herewith |  |

[^1]
## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, on March 20, 2012.

## FIRST NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANCORP

By: /s/ Louise A. Walker
Louise A. Walker
President/Chief Executive Officer/Director (Principal Executive Officer)

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Name
/s/ Louise A. Walker
Louise A. Walker
/s/ Jeremiah Z. Smith
Jeremiah Z. Smith
/s/ Sheryl S. Bringas
Sheryl S. Bringas
/s/ LORI J. ALDRETE
Lori J. Aldrete
/s/ FRANK J. ANDREWS,
JR.
Frank J. Andrews, Jr.
/s/ JOHN M. CARBAHAL Director and Vice Chairman of the BoardMarch 20, 2012 John M. Carbahal
/s/ GREGORY DUPRATT
Gregory DuPratt
/s/ JOHN F. HAMEL
John F. Hamel
/s/ DIANE P. HAMLYN
Diane P. Hamlyn
/s/ RICHARD M.
MARTINEZ
Richard M. Martinez
/s/ FOY S. MCNAUGHTON
Director
March 20, 2012
Foy S. McNaughton
/s/ OWEN J. ONSUM
Director
Owen J. Onsum
/s/ DAVID W. SCHULZE
Director
March 20, 2012

David W. Schulze


[^0]:    "Well capitalized"
    Total risk-based capital of $10 \%$;
    Tier 1 risk-based capital of $6 \%$; and Leverage ratio of $5 \%$.
    "Adequately capitalized"
    Total risk-based capital of $8 \%$;
    Tier 1 risk-based capital of $4 \%$; and
    Leverage ratio of $4 \%$.

[^1]:    * Management contract or compensatory plan, contract or arrangement.

