

Ameris Bancorp
Form 10-Q
November 07, 2014
Table of Contents

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

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2014

OR

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

Commission File Number: 001-13901

AMERIS BANCORP

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

GEORGIA **58-1456434**
(State of incorporation) **(IRS Employer ID No.)**
310 FIRST STREET, S.E., MOULTRIE, GA 31768

(Address of principal executive offices)

(229) 890-1111

(Registrant's telephone number)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

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

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer

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

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

There were 28,160,598 shares of Common Stock outstanding as of October 31, 2014.

Table of Contents

AMERIS BANCORP

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
Item 1. Financial Statements.	
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013</u>	1
<u>Consolidated Statements of Earnings and Comprehensive Income for the Three and Nine Month Periods Ended September 30, 2014 and 2013</u>	2
<u>Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014 and 2013</u>	3
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014 and 2013</u>	4
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	5
Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.	45
Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.	70
Item 4. Controls and Procedures.	70
PART II OTHER INFORMATION	
Item 1. Legal Proceedings.	71
Item 1A. Risk Factors.	71
Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.	71
Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities.	71
Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures.	71
Item 5. Other Information.	71
Item 6. Exhibits.	71
<u>Signatures</u>	72

Table of Contents**Item 1. Financial Statements.****AMERIS BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

(amounts in thousands, except per share data)

	September 30, 2014 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013 (Unaudited)
Assets			
Cash and due from banks	\$ 69,421	\$ 62,955	\$ 53,516
Federal funds sold and interest-bearing accounts	40,165	204,984	73,899
Investment securities available for sale, at fair value	529,509	486,235	312,248
Other investments	12,687	16,828	7,764
Mortgage loans held for sale	110,059	67,278	69,634
Loans, net of unearned income	1,848,759	1,618,454	1,589,267
Purchased loans not covered by FDIC loss share agreements (purchased non-covered loans)	673,724	448,753	
Purchased loans covered by FDIC loss share agreements (covered loans)	313,589	390,237	417,649
Less: allowance for loan losses	(22,212)	(22,377)	(23,854)
Loans, net	2,813,860	2,435,067	1,983,062
Other real estate owned, net	35,320	33,351	37,978
Purchased, non-covered other real estate owned, net	13,660	4,276	
Covered other real estate owned, net	28,883	45,893	52,552
Total other real estate owned, net	77,863	83,520	90,530
Premises and equipment, net	98,752	103,188	65,661
FDIC loss-share receivable	38,233	65,441	81,763
Other intangible assets, net	9,114	6,009	1,972
Goodwill	58,879	35,049	956
Cash value of bank owned life insurance	58,217	49,432	49,095
Other assets	82,649	51,663	28,402
Total assets	\$ 3,999,408	\$ 3,667,649	\$ 2,818,502
Liabilities and Stockholders Equity			
Liabilities			
Deposits:			
Noninterest-bearing	\$ 816,517	\$ 668,531	\$ 475,505
Interest-bearing	2,556,602	2,330,700	1,967,916

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Total deposits	3,373,119	2,999,231	2,443,421
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	32,351	83,516	20,255
Other borrowings	147,409	194,572	5,000
Other liabilities	27,615	18,165	17,201
Subordinated deferrable interest debentures	65,084	55,466	42,269
Total liabilities	3,645,578	3,350,950	2,528,146

Stockholders Equity

Preferred stock, stated value \$1,000; 5,000,000 shares authorized; 0, 28,000 and 28,000 shares issued and outstanding		28,000	27,938
Common stock, par value \$1; 100,000,000 shares authorized; 28,157,898; 26,461,769 and 25,270,851 issued	28,158	26,462	25,271
Capital surplus	224,142	189,722	165,835
Retained earnings	109,170	83,991	83,025
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	3,974	(294)	(531)
Treasury stock, at cost, 1,383,496; 1,363,342 and 1,363,342 shares	(11,614)	(11,182)	(11,182)
Total stockholders equity	353,830	316,699	290,356
Total liabilities and stockholders equity	\$ 3,999,408	\$ 3,667,649	\$ 2,818,502

See notes to unaudited consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**AMERIS BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EARNINGS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

(amounts in thousands, except per share data)

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Interest income				
Interest and fees on loans	\$ 39,610	\$ 29,633	\$ 109,376	\$ 88,208
Interest on taxable securities	3,034	1,720	8,972	5,136
Interest on nontaxable securities	496	352	1,143	1,071
Interest on deposits in other banks and federal funds sold	46	44	175	158
Total interest income	43,186	31,749	119,666	94,573
Interest expense				
Interest on deposits	2,540	2,025	6,928	6,334
Interest on other borrowings	1,514	404	3,858	1,105
Total interest expense	4,054	2,429	10,786	7,439
Net interest income	39,132	29,320	108,880	87,134
Provision for loan losses	1,669	2,920	4,760	10,008
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	37,463	26,400	104,120	77,126
Noninterest income				
Service charges on deposit accounts	6,659	4,948	18,092	14,480
Mortgage banking activity	7,498	5,232	19,510	14,697
Other service charges, commissions and fees	690	593	2,004	1,539
Gain (loss) on sale of securities	132		138	171
Other noninterest income	2,922	1,515	6,730	4,145
Total noninterest income	17,901	12,288	46,474	35,032
Noninterest expense				
Salaries and employee benefits	20,226	14,412	54,562	41,599
Occupancy and equipment	4,669	3,149	12,804	9,058
Advertising and marketing expenses	594	434	2,022	1,016
Amortization of intangible assets	698	346	1,668	1,068
Data processing and telecommunications expenses	3,928	3,072	11,322	8,478

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Credit resolution related expenses	3,186	2,971	8,216	10,164
Merger and conversion charges	551	512	3,873	512
Other noninterest expenses	4,727	3,853	14,669	12,426
Total noninterest expense	38,579	28,749	109,136	84,321
Income before income tax expense	16,785	9,939	41,458	27,837
Income tax expense	5,122	3,262	13,315	9,197
Net income	11,663	6,677	28,143	18,640
Less preferred stock dividends and discount accretion		443	286	1,326
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 11,663	\$ 6,234	\$ 27,857	\$ 17,314
Other comprehensive income (loss)				
Unrealized holding gain (loss) arising during period on investment securities available for sale, net of tax of \$114, \$2,158, (\$2,610) and \$4,375	(211)	(4,007)	4,847	(8,125)
Reclassification adjustment for losses (gains) included in earnings, net of tax of \$46, \$0, \$48 and \$60	(86)		(90)	(111)
Unrealized gain (loss) on cash flow hedges arising during period, net of tax of (\$80), \$57, \$264 and (\$591)	149	(106)	(489)	1,098
Other comprehensive income (loss)	(148)	(4,113)	4,268	(7,138)
Total comprehensive income	\$ 11,515	\$ 2,564	\$ 32,411	\$ 11,502
Basic earnings per common share	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.26	\$ 1.08	\$ 0.72
Diluted earnings per common share	\$ 0.43	\$ 0.26	\$ 1.07	\$ 0.71
Dividends declared per common share	\$ 0.05	\$	\$ 0.10	\$
Weighted average common shares outstanding				
Basic	26,773	23,901	25,705	23,883
Diluted	27,161	24,316	26,099	24,298

See notes to unaudited consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

AMERIS BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY

(amounts in thousands, except per share data)

(Unaudited)

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2013	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
PREFERRED STOCK				
Issued at beginning of period	28,000	\$ 28,000	28,000	\$ 27,662
Repurchase of preferred stock	(28,000)	(28,000)		
Accretion of fair value of warrant				276
<i>Issued at end of period</i>		\$	28,000	\$ 27,938
COMMON STOCK				
Issued at beginning of period	26,461,769	\$ 26,462	25,154,818	\$ 25,155
Issuance of restricted shares	68,047	68	83,400	83
Issuance of common stock	1,598,998	1,599		
Cancellation of restricted shares			(1,000)	(1)
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	29,084	29	33,633	34
<i>Issued at end of period</i>	28,157,898	\$ 28,158	25,270,851	\$ 25,271
CAPITAL SURPLUS				
Balance at beginning of period		\$ 189,722		\$ 164,949
Stock-based compensation		1,230		592
Issuance of common stock		32,875		
Proceeds from exercise of stock options		383		376
Issuance of restricted shares		(68)		(83)
Cancellation of restricted shares				1
<i>Balance at end of period</i>		\$ 224,142		\$ 165,835
RETAINED EARNINGS				
Balance at beginning of period		\$ 83,991		\$ 65,710
Net income		28,143		18,640
Cash dividends declared, \$0.10 per share		(2,678)		
Dividends on preferred shares		(286)		(1,050)
Accretion of fair value of warrant				(275)
<i>Balance at end of period</i>		\$ 109,170		\$ 83,025
ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME, NET OF TAX				
Unrealized gains on securities and derivatives:				
Balance at beginning of period		\$ (294)		\$ 6,607

Other comprehensive income (loss)		4,268		(7,138)
<i>Balance at end of period</i>		\$ 3,974		\$ (531)
TREASURY STOCK				
Balance at beginning of period	(1,363,342)	\$ (11,182)	(1,355,050)	\$ (11,066)
Purchase of treasury shares	(20,154)	(432)	(8,292)	(116)
<i>Balance at end of period</i>	(1,383,496)	\$ (11,614)	(1,363,342)	\$ (11,182)
<i>TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY</i>		\$ 353,830		\$ 290,356

See notes to unaudited consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

AMERIS BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(dollars in thousands)

(Unaudited)

	Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,	
	2014	2013
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 28,143	\$ 18,640
Adjustments reconciling net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	5,850	3,683
Stock based compensation expense	1,230	592
Net gains on sale or disposal of premises and equipment	(615)	(61)
Net losses or write-downs on sale of other real estate owned	2,344	5,646
Provision for loan losses	4,760	10,008
Accretion of discount on covered loans	(20,822)	(36,552)
Accretion of discount on purchased non-covered loans	(5,840)	
Accretion of FDIC loss-share receivable, net of amortization of FDIC clawback payable	8,699	19,721
Increase in cash surrender value of BOLI	(973)	(898)
Amortization of intangible assets	1,668	1,068
Net amortization of investment securities available for sale	2,609	2,531
Originations of mortgage loans held for sale	(504,164)	(399,606)
Proceeds from sales of mortgage loans held for sale	468,671	378,758
Net gains on securities available for sale	(138)	(171)
Change attributable to other operating activities	3,685	15,843
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(4,893)	19,202
Cash flows from investing activities, net of effect of business combinations:		
Net decrease in federal funds sold and interest-bearing deposits	180,742	119,778
Proceeds from maturities of securities available for sale	37,706	43,474
Purchase of securities available for sale	(102,340)	(61,445)
Proceeds from sales of securities available for sale	92,975	36,669
Purchase of bank owned life insurance		(30,000)
Net increase in loans, excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans	(243,809)	(155,447)
Payments received on purchased non-covered loans	58,350	
Payments received on covered loans	85,946	96,629
Payments received from FDIC under loss share agreements	18,509	58,240
Proceeds from sales of other real estate owned	31,913	55,270
Decrease in restricted equity securities, net	5,116	
Proceeds from sales of premises and equipment	1,213	1,889

Purchases of premises and equipment	(3,779)	(4,136)
Net cash proceeds received from acquisitions	1,099	
Net cash provided by investing activities	163,641	160,921
Cash flows from financing activities, net of effect of business combinations:		
Net increase/(decrease) in deposits	4,864	(181,242)
Net decrease in securities sold under agreements to repurchase	(56,593)	(29,865)
Repayment of other borrowings	(187,032)	
Proceeds from other borrowings	117,463	5,000
Redemption of preferred stock	(28,000)	
Dividends paid preferred stock	(286)	(1,050)
Dividends paid common stock	(2,678)	
Purchase of treasury shares	(432)	(116)
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	412	410
Net cash used in financing activities	(152,282)	(206,863)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and due from banks	6,466	(26,740)
Cash and due from banks at beginning of period	62,955	80,256
Cash and due from banks at end of period	\$ 69,421	\$ 53,516

SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION

Cash paid/(received) during the period for:

Interest	\$ 10,773	\$ 7,840
Income taxes	\$ 15,008	\$ 11,304
Loans (excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans) transferred to other real estate owned	\$ 9,268	\$ 8,329
Purchased non-covered loans transferred to other real estate owned	\$ 1,955	\$
Covered loans transferred to other real estate owned	\$ 10,840	\$ 28,725
Issuance of common stock in acquisitions	\$ 34,474	\$

See notes to unaudited consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

AMERIS BANCORP AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

(Unaudited)

NOTE 1 BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Ameris Bancorp (the Company or Ameris) is a financial holding company headquartered in Moultrie, Georgia. Ameris conducts substantially all of its operations through its wholly-owned banking subsidiary, Ameris Bank (the Bank). At September 30, 2014, the Bank operated 74 retail branches and 11 mortgage offices in select markets in Georgia, Alabama, Florida and South Carolina. Our business model capitalizes on the efficiencies of a large financial services company while still providing the community with the personalized banking service expected by our customers. We manage our Bank through a balance of decentralized management responsibilities and efficient centralized operating systems, products and loan underwriting standards. The Company's Board of Directors and senior managers establish corporate policy, strategy and administrative policies. Within the Company's established guidelines and policies, the banker closest to the customer responds to the differing needs and demands of their market.

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements for Ameris have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for interim financial information and Regulation S-X. Accordingly, the financial statements do not include all of the information and footnotes required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for complete financial statement presentation. The interim consolidated financial statements included herein are unaudited, but reflect all adjustments which, in the opinion of management, are necessary for a fair presentation of the consolidated financial position and results of operations for the interim periods presented. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. The results of operations for the period ended September 30, 2014 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year. These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto and the report of our registered independent public accounting firm included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

Newly Issued Accounting Pronouncements

ASU 2014-09 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (ASU 2014-09). ASU 2014-09 provides guidance that an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. ASU 2014-09 is effective prospectively, for annual and interim periods, beginning after December 15, 2016. The Company is currently evaluating the impact this standard will have on the Company's results of operations, financial position or disclosures.

ASU 2014-04 *Receivables - Troubled Debt Restructurings by Creditors* (ASU 2014-04). ASU 2014-04 clarifies when a creditor should reclassify mortgage loans collateralized by residential real estate from loans to other real estate owned. It defines when an in-substance repossession or foreclosure has occurred and when a creditor is considered to have received physical possession of residential real estate collateralizing a mortgage loan. ASU 2014-04 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 31, 2014, and early adoption is permitted. It can be applied either prospectively or using a modified retrospective transition method. The Company is evaluating the impact this standard

may have on the Company's results of operations, financial position or disclosures.

ASU 2013-11 *Presentation of an Unrecognized Tax Benefit When a Net Operating Loss Carryforward, a Similar Tax Loss, or a Tax Credit Carryforward Exists* (ASU 2013-11). ASU 2013-11 requires that an unrecognized tax benefit, or a portion of an unrecognized tax benefit, be presented in the financial statements as a reduction to a deferred tax asset for a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss or a tax credit carryforward. However, if a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss or a tax credit carryforward is not available at the reporting date under the tax law of the applicable jurisdiction to settle any additional income taxes that would result from the disallowance of a tax position or the tax law of the applicable jurisdiction does not require the entity to use, and the entity does not intend to use, the deferred tax asset for such purpose, the unrecognized tax benefit should be presented in the financial statements as a liability and should not be combined with deferred tax assets. ASU 2013-11 is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2013. The adoption of these revisions did not have a material impact on the Company's results of operations, financial position or disclosures.

Table of Contents**NOTE 2 BUSINESS COMBINATIONS***Coastal Bankshares, Inc.*

On June 30, 2014, the Company completed its acquisition of The Coastal Bankshares, Inc. (Coastal), a bank holding company headquartered in Savannah, Georgia. Upon consummation of the acquisition, Coastal was merged with and into the Company, with Ameris as the surviving entity in the merger. At that time, Coastal's wholly owned banking subsidiary, The Coastal Bank (Coastal Bank), was also merged with and into the Bank. The acquisition grew the Company's existing market presence, as Coastal Bank had a total of six banking locations in Chatham, Liberty and Effingham Counties, Georgia. Coastal's common shareholders received 0.4671 of a share of the Company's common stock in exchange for each share of Coastal's common stock. As a result, the Company issued 1,598,998 common shares at a fair value of \$34.5 million and paid \$2.8 million cash in exchange for outstanding warrants.

The acquisition of Coastal was accounted for using the purchase method of accounting in accordance with FASB ASC 805, *Business Combinations*. Assets acquired, liabilities assumed and consideration exchanged were recorded at their respective acquisition date fair values. Determining the fair value of assets and liabilities is a complicated process involving significant judgment regarding methods and assumptions used to calculate estimated fair values. Fair values are preliminary and subject to refinement for up to one year after the closing date of the acquisition as additional information regarding the closing date fair values becomes available. During the third quarter of 2014, management revised its initial estimates regarding the valuation of other real estate owned. In addition, during the third quarter of 2014, management completed its assessment and recorded the deferred tax assets resulting from differences in the carrying values of acquired assets and assumed liabilities for financial reporting purposes and their basis for income tax purposes. This estimate also reflects acquired net operating loss carryforwards and other acquired assets with built-in losses that are expected to be settled or otherwise recovered in future periods where the realization of such benefits would be subject to applicable limitations under Sections 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

The following table presents the assets acquired and liabilities of Coastal assumed as of June 30, 2014 and their fair value estimates:

(Dollars in Thousands)	As Recorded by Coastal	Initial Fair Value Adjustments	Subsequent Fair Value Adjustments	As Recorded by Ameris
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,895	\$	\$	\$ 3,895
Federal funds sold and interest-bearing balances	15,923			15,923
Investment securities	67,266	(500)(a)		66,766
Other investments	975			975
Mortgage loans held for sale	7,288			7,288
Loans	296,141	(16,700)(b)		279,441
Less allowance for loan losses	(3,218)	3,218(c)		
Loans, net	292,923	(13,482)		279,441
Other real estate owned	14,992	(3,528)(d)	(2,600)(g)	8,864

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Premises and equipment	11,882			11,882
Intangible assets	507	4,266(e)		4,773
Other assets	22,710		2,624(h)	25,334
Total assets	\$ 438,361	\$ (13,244)	\$ 24	\$ 425,141
Liabilities				
Deposits:				
Noninterest-bearing	\$ 80,012	\$	\$	\$ 80,012
Interest-bearing	289,012			289,012
Total deposits	369,024			369,024
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	5,428			5,428
Other borrowings	22,005			22,005
Other liabilities	6,192			6,192
Subordinated deferrable interest debentures	15,465	(6,413)(f)		9,052
Total liabilities	418,114	(6,413)		411,701
Net identifiable assets acquired over (under) liabilities assumed	20,247	(6,831)		13,440
Goodwill		23,854	24	23,830
Net assets acquired over (under) liabilities assumed	\$ 20,247	\$ 17,023	\$	\$ 37,270
Consideration:				
Ameris Bancorp common shares issued	1,598,998			
Purchase price per share of the Company's common stock	\$ 21.56			
Company common stock issued	34,474			
Cash exchanged for shares	2,796			
Fair value of total consideration transferred	\$ 37,270			

Explanation of fair value adjustments

- (a) Adjustment reflects the fair value adjustments of the available for sale portfolio as of the acquisition date.

Table of Contents

- (b) Adjustment reflects the fair value adjustments based on the Company's evaluation of the acquired loan portfolio.
- (c) Adjustment reflects the elimination of Coastal's allowance for loan losses.
- (d) Adjustment reflects the fair value adjustment based on the Company's evaluation of the acquired OREO portfolio.
- (e) Adjustment reflects the recording of core deposit intangible on the acquired core deposit accounts.
- (f) Adjustment reflects the fair value adjustment to the subordinated deferrable interest debentures at the acquisition date.
- (g) Adjustment reflects the additional fair value adjustment based on the Company's evaluation of the acquired OREO portfolio.
- (h) Adjustment reflects the deferred taxes on the differences in the carrying values of acquired assets and assumed liabilities for financial reporting purposes and their basis for federal income tax purposes. Goodwill of \$23.8 million, which is the excess of the merger consideration over the fair value of net assets acquired, was recorded in the Coastal acquisition and is the result of expected operational synergies and other factors. This goodwill is not expected to be deductible for tax purposes.

The results of operations of Coastal subsequent to the acquisition date are included in the Company's consolidated statements of operations. The following unaudited pro forma information reflects the Company's estimated consolidated results of operations as if the acquisition had occurred on January 1, 2013, unadjusted for potential cost savings (in thousands).

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2013	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014		2013
Net interest income and noninterest income	\$ 46,373	\$ 165,913	\$ 137,590	
Net income	\$ 6,680	\$ 26,275	\$ 19,733	
Net income available to common stockholders	\$ 6,237	\$ 25,989	\$ 18,407	
Income per common share available to common stockholders - basic	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.95	\$ 0.72	
Income per common share available to common stockholders - diluted	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.94	\$ 0.71	
Average number of shares outstanding, basic	25,500	27,304	25,482	

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Average number of shares outstanding, diluted	25,915	27,698	25,897
-----------------------------------------------	--------	--------	--------

In the acquisition, the Company purchased \$279.4 million of loans at fair value, net of \$16.7 million, or 5.64%, estimated discount to the outstanding principal balance. Of the total loans acquired, management identified \$29.3 million that were considered to be credit impaired and are accounted for under ASC Topic 310-30. The table below summarizes the total contractually required principal and interest cash payment, management's estimate of expected total cash payments and fair value of the loans as of acquisition date for purchased credit impaired loans.

Contractually required principal and interest payment have been adjusted for estimated prepayments.

Contractually required principal and interest	\$ 38,194
Non-accretable difference	(5,632)
Cash flows expected to be collected	32,562
Accretable yield	(3,282)
Total purchased credit-impaired loans acquired	\$ 29,280

Table of Contents*Prosperity Banking Company*

On December 23, 2013, the Company completed its acquisition of The Prosperity Banking Company (Prosperity), a bank holding company headquartered in Saint Augustine, Florida. Upon consummation of the acquisition, Prosperity was merged with and into the Company, with Ameris as the surviving entity in the merger. At that time, Prosperity's wholly owned banking subsidiary, Prosperity Bank, was also merged with and into the Bank. Prosperity Bank had a total of 12 banking locations, with the majority of the franchise concentrated in northeast Florida. Prosperity's common shareholders were entitled to elect to receive either 3.125 shares of the Company's common stock or \$41.50 in cash in exchange for each share of Prosperity's voting common stock. As a result of Prosperity shareholders' elections, the Company issued 1,168,918 common shares at a fair value of \$24.6 million.

The acquisition of Prosperity was accounted for using the purchase method of accounting in accordance with FASB ASC 805, *Business Combinations*. Assets acquired, liabilities assumed and consideration exchanged were recorded at their respective acquisition date fair values. Determining the fair value of assets and liabilities is a complicated process involving significant judgment regarding methods and assumptions used to calculate estimated fair values. Fair values are preliminary and subject to refinement for up to one year after the closing date of the acquisition as additional information regarding the closing date fair values becomes available.

The following table presents the assets acquired and liabilities of Prosperity assumed as of December 23, 2013 and their initial fair value estimates:

(Dollars in Thousands)	As Recorded by Prosperity	Fair Value Adjustments	As Recorded by Ameris
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,285	\$	\$ 4,285
Federal funds sold and interest-bearing balances	21,687		21,687
Investment securities	151,863	411(a)	152,274
Other investments	8,727		8,727
Loans	487,358	(37,662)(b)	449,696
Less allowance for loan losses	(6,811)	6,811(c)	
Loans, net	480,547	(30,851)	449,696
Other real estate owned	6,883	(1,260)(d)	5,623
Premises and equipment	36,293		36,293
Intangible assets	174	4,383(e)	4,557
Other assets	26,600	1,192(f)	27,792
Total assets	\$ 737,059	\$ (26,125)	\$ 710,934
Liabilities			
Deposits:			
Noninterest-bearing	\$ 149,242	\$	\$ 149,242
Interest-bearing	324,441		324,441
Total deposits	473,683		473,683

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	21,530		21,530
Other borrowings	185,000	12,313(g)	197,313
Other liabilities	14,058	455(h)	14,513
Subordinated deferrable interest debentures	29,500	(16,303)(i)	13,197
Total liabilities	723,771	(3,535)	720,236
Net identifiable assets acquired over (under) liabilities assumed	13,288	(22,590)	(9,302)
Goodwill		34,093	34,093
Net assets acquired over (under) liabilities assumed	\$ 13,288	\$ 11,503	\$ 24,791
Consideration:			
Ameris Bancorp common shares issued	1,168,918		
Purchase price per share of the Company's common stock	\$ 21.07		
Company common stock issued	24,629		
Cash exchanged for shares	162		
Fair value of total consideration transferred	\$ 24,791		

Explanation of fair value adjustments

- (a) Adjustment reflects the fair value adjustments of the available for sale portfolio as of the acquisition date.
- (b) Adjustment reflects the fair value adjustments based on the Company's evaluation of the acquired loan portfolio.
- (c) Adjustment reflects the elimination of Prosperity's allowance for loan losses.

Table of Contents

- (d) Adjustment reflects the fair value adjustment based on the Company's evaluation of the acquired OREO portfolio.
- (e) Adjustment reflects the recording of core deposit intangible on the acquired core deposit accounts.
- (f) Adjustment reflects the adjustment to write-off the non-realizable portion of Prosperity's deferred tax asset of (\$6.644 million), to record the deferred tax asset generated by purchase accounting adjustments of \$8.435 million and to record the fair value adjustment of other assets of (\$0.599 million) at the acquisition date.
- (g) Adjustment reflects the fair value adjustment (premium) to the FHLB borrowings of \$12.741 million and the fair value adjustment to the subordinated debt of \$0.428 million.
- (h) Adjustment reflects the fair value adjustment of other liabilities at the acquisition date.
- (i) Adjustment reflects the fair value adjustment to the subordinated deferrable interest debentures at the acquisition date.

Goodwill of \$34.1 million, which is the excess of the merger consideration over the fair value of net assets acquired, was recorded in the Prosperity acquisition and is the result of expected operational synergies and other factors. This goodwill is not expected to be deductible for tax purposes.

The results of operations of Prosperity subsequent to the acquisition date are included in the Company's consolidated statements of operations. The following unaudited pro forma information reflects the Company's estimated consolidated results of operations as if the acquisition had occurred on January 1, 2013, unadjusted for potential cost savings (in thousands).

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2013	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2013
Net interest income and noninterest income	\$ 48,541	\$ 142,390
Net income	\$ 7,214	\$ 18,729
Net income available to common stockholders	\$ 6,771	\$ 17,403
Income per common share available to common stockholders basic	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.69
Income per common share available to common stockholders diluted	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.68
Average number of shares outstanding, basic	25,070	25,052
Average number of shares outstanding, diluted	25,485	25,467

In the acquisition, the Company purchased \$449.7 million of loans at fair value, net of \$37.7 million, or 7.73%, estimated discount to the outstanding principal balance. Of the total loans acquired, management identified \$67.2 million that were considered to be credit impaired and are accounted for under ASC Topic 310-30. The table below

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

summarizes the total contractually required principal and interest cash payment, management's estimate of expected total cash payments and fair value of the loans as of acquisition date for purchased credit impaired loans. Contractually required principal and interest payment have been adjusted for estimated prepayments.

Contractually required principal and interest	\$ 92,461
Non-accretable difference	(14,311)
Cash flows expected to be collected	78,150
Accretable yield	(10,985)
Total purchased credit-impaired loans acquired	\$ 67,165

Table of Contents

On the dates of acquisition, the Company estimated the future cash flows on each individual loan and made the necessary adjustments to reflect the asset at fair value. At each quarter end subsequent to the acquisition dates, the Company revises the estimates of future cash flows based on current information and makes the necessary adjustments to carrying value. The adjustments are performed on a loan-by-loan basis and have resulted in the Company recording a \$4,000 provision for loan loss expense during the three month period ended September 30, 2014. There were no adjustments needed during the twelve months ended December 31, 2013 and the nine months ended September 30, 2013.

A rollforward of purchased non-covered loans with deterioration of credit quality for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, the year ended December 31, 2013 and the nine months ended September 30, 2013 is shown below:

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Balance, January 1	\$ 67,165	\$	\$
Charge-offs, net of recoveries	(4)		
Additions due to acquisitions	29,280	67,165	
Other (loan payments, transfers, etc.)	(4,440)		
Ending balance	\$ 92,001	\$ 67,165	\$

A rollforward of purchased non-covered loans without deterioration of credit quality for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, the year ended December 31, 2013 and the nine months ended September 30, 2013 is shown below:

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Balance, January 1	\$ 381,588	\$	\$
Additions due to acquisitions	250,161	382,531	
Loan payments, transfers, etc.	(50,026)	(943)	
Ending balance	\$ 581,723	\$ 381,588	\$

The following is a summary of changes in the accretable discounts of purchased non-covered loans during the nine months ended September 30, 2014, the year ended December 31, 2013 and the nine months ended September 30, 2013:

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Balance, January 1	\$ 26,189	\$	\$
Additions due to acquisitions	7,799	26,189	
Accretion	(5,840)		

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Other activity, net

916

Ending balance

\$ 29,064

\$ 26,189

\$

10

Table of Contents**NOTE 3 INVESTMENT SECURITIES**

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

The amortized cost and estimated fair value of investment securities available for sale at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013 are presented below:

	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
(Dollars in Thousands)				
September 30, 2014:				
U. S. government agencies	\$ 14,951	\$	\$ (491)	\$ 14,460
State, county and municipal securities	134,641	3,708	(714)	137,635
Corporate debt securities	10,801	237	(73)	10,965
Mortgage-backed securities	364,399	4,493	(2,443)	366,449
Total securities	\$ 524,792	\$ 8,438	\$ (3,721)	\$ 529,509
December 31, 2013:				
U. S. government agencies	\$ 14,947	\$	\$ (1,021)	\$ 13,926
State, county and municipal securities	112,659	2,269	(2,174)	112,754
Corporate debt securities	10,311	275	(261)	10,325
Collateralized debt obligations	1,480			1,480
Mortgage-backed securities	349,441	2,347	(4,038)	347,750
Total securities	\$ 488,838	\$ 4,891	\$ (7,494)	\$ 486,235
September 30, 2013:				
U. S. government agencies	\$ 14,945	\$	\$ (1,028)	\$ 13,917
State, county and municipal securities	112,643	2,331	(2,035)	112,939
Corporate debt securities	10,314	280	(856)	9,738
Mortgage-backed securities	176,818	2,714	(3,878)	175,654
Total securities	\$ 314,720	\$ 5,325	\$ (7,797)	\$ 312,248

The amortized cost and fair value of available-for-sale securities at September 30, 2014 by contractual maturity are summarized in the table below. Expected maturities for mortgage-backed securities may differ from contractual maturities because in certain cases borrowers can prepay obligations without prepayment penalties. The weighted average life of these securities is less than 4.5 years and modeled not to extend beyond 6 years in an increasing rate

scenario. Therefore, these securities are not included in the following maturity summary:

	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
	(Dollars in Thousands)	
Due in one year or less	\$ 10,647	\$ 10,844
Due from one year to five years	35,432	36,856
Due from five to ten years	66,554	67,094
Due after ten years	47,760	48,266
Mortgage-backed securities	364,399	366,449
	\$ 524,792	\$ 529,509

Securities with a carrying value of approximately \$265.9 million serve as collateral to secure public deposits and for other purposes required or permitted by law at September 30, 2014, compared to \$399.0 million and \$217.3 million at December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013, respectively.

Table of Contents

The following table details the gross unrealized losses and fair value of securities aggregated by category and duration of continuous unrealized loss position at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013.

Description of Securities	Less Than 12 Months		12 Months or More		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
(Dollars in Thousands)						
September 30, 2014:						
U. S. government agencies	\$	\$	\$ 14,460	\$ (491)	\$ 14,460	\$ (491)
State, county and municipal securities	10,296	(98)	22,696	(616)	32,992	(714)
Corporate debt securities			4,997	(73)	4,997	(73)
Mortgage-backed securities	71,050	(416)	51,314	(2,027)	122,364	(2,443)
Total temporarily impaired securities	\$ 81,346	\$ (514)	\$ 93,467	\$ (3,207)	\$ 174,813	\$ (3,721)
December 31, 2013:						
U. S. government agencies	\$ 13,926	\$ (1,021)	\$	\$	\$ 13,926	\$ (1,021)
State, county and municipal securities	47,401	(1,882)	3,794	(292)	51,195	(2,174)
Corporate debt securities			4,826	(261)	4,826	(261)
Collateralized debt obligations						
Mortgage-backed securities	94,989	(2,493)	23,388	(1,545)	118,377	(4,038)
Total temporarily impaired securities	\$ 156,316	\$ (5,396)	\$ 32,008	\$ (2,098)	\$ 188,324	\$ (7,494)
September 30, 2013:						
U. S. government agencies	\$ 13,917	\$ (1,028)	\$	\$	\$ 13,917	\$ (1,028)
State, county and municipal securities	46,516	(1,735)	3,807	(300)	50,323	(2,035)
Corporate debt securities			4,235	(856)	4,235	(856)
Mortgage-backed securities	90,639	(3,878)			90,639	(3,878)
Total temporarily impaired securities	\$ 151,072	\$ (6,641)	\$ 8,042	\$ (1,156)	\$ 159,114	\$ (7,797)

Management and the Company's Asset and Liability Committee (the ALCO Committee) evaluate securities for other-than-temporary impairment at least on a quarterly basis, and more frequently when economic or market concerns warrant such evaluation. While the majority of the unrealized losses on debt securities relate to changes in interest rates, corporate debt securities have also been affected by reduced levels of liquidity and higher risk premiums. Occasionally, management engages independent third parties to evaluate the Company's position in certain corporate debt securities to aid management and the ALCO Committee in its determination regarding the status of impairment. The Company believes that each investment poses minimal credit risk and further, that the Company does not intend to sell these investment securities at an unrealized loss position at September 30, 2014, and it is more likely than not that the Company will not be required to sell these securities prior to recovery or maturity. Therefore, at September 30, 2014, these investments are not considered impaired on an other-than-temporary basis.

At September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013, all of the Company's mortgage-backed securities were obligations of government-sponsored agencies.

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

The following table is a summary of sales activities in the Company's investment securities available for sale for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, year ended December 31, 2013 and nine months ended September 30, 2013:

	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
	(Dollars in Thousands)		
Gross gains on sales of securities	\$ 141	\$ 353	\$ 353
Gross losses on sales of securities	(3)	(182)	(182)
Net realized gains on sales of securities available for sale	\$ 138	\$ 171	\$ 171
Sales proceeds	\$92,975	\$ 36,669	\$ 36,669

Table of Contents**NOTE 4 LOANS**

The Company engages in a full complement of lending activities, including real estate-related loans, agriculture-related loans, commercial and financial loans and consumer installment loans within select markets in Georgia, Alabama, Florida and South Carolina. Ameris concentrates the majority of its lending activities in real estate loans. While risk of loss in the Company's portfolio is primarily tied to the credit quality of the various borrowers, risk of loss may increase due to factors beyond the Company's control, such as local, regional and/or national economic downturns. General conditions in the real estate market may also impact the relative risk in the real estate portfolio.

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

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

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

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

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Commercial, financial and agricultural	\$ 334,783	\$ 244,373	\$ 244,991
Real estate construction and development	154,315	146,371	132,277
Real estate commercial and farmland	882,160	808,323	799,149
Real estate residential	436,515	366,882	355,920
Consumer installment	31,403	34,249	36,303
Other	9,583	18,256	20,627
	\$ 1,848,759	\$ 1,618,454	\$ 1,589,267

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Purchased non-covered loans are defined as loans that were acquired in bank acquisitions that are not covered by a loss-sharing agreement with the FDIC. Purchased non-covered loans totaling \$673.7 million and \$448.8 million at September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively, are not included in the above schedule. There were no purchased non-covered loans at September 30, 2013.

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

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Commercial, financial and agricultural	\$ 38,077	\$ 32,141	\$
Real estate construction and development	60,262	31,176	
Real estate commercial and farmland	296,790	179,898	
Real estate residential	273,347	200,851	
Consumer installment	5,248	4,687	
	\$ 673,724	\$ 448,753	\$

Table of Contents

Covered loans are defined as loans that were acquired in FDIC-assisted transactions that are covered by a loss-sharing agreement with the FDIC. Covered loans totaling \$313.6 million, \$390.2 million and \$417.6 million at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013, respectively, are not included in the above schedule.

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

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Commercial, financial and agricultural	\$ 22,545	\$ 26,550	\$ 27,768
Real estate construction and development	27,756	43,179	50,702
Real estate commercial and farmland	180,566	224,451	237,086
Real estate residential	82,445	95,173	101,146
Consumer installment	277	884	947
	\$ 313,589	\$ 390,237	\$ 417,649

Nonaccrual and Past Due Loans

A loan is placed on nonaccrual status when, in management's judgment, the collection of the interest income appears doubtful. Interest receivable that has been accrued and is subsequently determined to have doubtful collectability is charged against interest income. Interest payments on nonaccrual loans are typically applied to principal unless collectability of the principal amount is reasonably assured, in which case interest is recognized on a cash basis. Loans are returned to accrual status when all the principal and interest amounts contractually due are brought current and future payments are reasonably assured. Nonaccrual loans are loans whose principal or interest is past due 90 days or more. In some cases, where borrowers are experiencing financial difficulties, loans may be restructured to provide terms significantly different from the original contractual terms.

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

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Commercial, financial and agricultural	\$ 2,695	\$ 4,103	\$ 4,198
Real estate construction and development	3,037	3,971	4,229
Real estate commercial and farmland	8,983	8,566	9,548
Real estate residential	7,608	12,152	13,303
Consumer installment	487	411	442
	\$ 22,810	\$ 29,203	\$ 31,720

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

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Commercial, financial and agricultural	\$ 54	\$ 11	\$
Real estate construction and development	1,969	325	
Real estate commercial and farmland	8,776	1,653	
Real estate residential	6,132	4,658	
Consumer installment	76	12	
	\$ 17,007	\$ 6,659	\$

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

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Commercial, financial and agricultural	\$ 8,441	\$ 7,257	\$ 7,872
Real estate construction and development	8,896	14,781	16,582
Real estate commercial and farmland	14,617	33,495	37,079
Real estate residential	7,227	13,278	13,028
Consumer installment	102	341	350
	\$ 39,283	\$ 69,152	\$ 74,911

Table of Contents

The following table presents an aging analysis of loans, excluding purchased non-covered and covered past due loans as of September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013:

	Loans 30-59 Days Past Due	Loans 60-89 Days Past Due	Loans 90 or More Days Past Due	Total Loans Past Due	Current Loans	Total Loans	Loans 90 Days or More Past Due and Still Accruing
(Dollars in Thousands)							
As of September 30, 2014:							
Commercial, financial & agricultural	\$ 271	\$ 400	\$ 2,483	\$ 3,154	\$ 331,629	\$ 334,783	\$
Real estate construction & development	1,232	285	2,899	4,416	149,899	154,315	
Real estate commercial & farmland	3,025	484	8,918	12,427	869,733	882,160	
Real estate residential	4,416	2,085	7,303	13,804	422,711	436,515	
Consumer installment loans	333	113	396	842	30,561	31,403	
Other					9,583	9,583	
Total	\$ 9,277	\$ 3,367	\$ 21,999	\$ 34,643	\$ 1,814,116	\$ 1,848,759	\$

	Loans 30-59 Days Past Due	Loans 60-89 Days Past Due	Loans 90 or More Days Past Due	Total Loans Past Due	Current Loans	Total Loans	Loans 90 Days or More Past Due and Still Accruing
(Dollars in Thousands)							
As of December 31, 2013:							
Commercial, financial & agricultural	\$ 10,893	\$ 272	\$ 4,081	\$ 15,246	\$ 229,127	\$ 244,373	\$
Real estate construction & development	1,026	69	3,935	5,030	141,341	146,371	
Real estate commercial & farmland	3,981	1,388	7,751	13,120	795,203	808,323	
Real estate residential	5,422	1,735	11,587	18,744	348,138	366,882	
Consumer installment loans	568	197	305	1,070	33,179	34,249	
Other					18,256	18,256	
Total	\$ 21,890	\$ 3,661	\$ 27,659	\$ 53,210	\$ 1,565,244	\$ 1,618,454	\$

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Loans 30-59 Days Past Due	Loans 60-89 Days Past Due	Loans 90 or More Days Past Due	Total Loans Past Due	Current Loans	Total Loans	Loans 90 Days or More Past Due and Still Accruing
------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------	----------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------

(Dollars in Thousands)

As of September 30, 2013:

Commercial, financial & agricultural	\$ 623	\$ 297	\$ 4,107	\$ 5,027	\$ 239,964	\$ 244,991	\$
Real estate construction & development	1,200	794	4,229	6,223	126,054	132,277	
Real estate commercial & farmland	3,883	2,458	9,523	15,864	783,285	799,149	
Real estate residential	5,515	3,531	11,818	20,864	335,056	355,920	
Consumer installment loans	497	255	327	1,079	35,224	36,303	
Other					20,627	20,627	
Total	\$ 11,718	\$ 7,335	\$ 30,004	\$ 49,057	\$ 1,540,210	\$ 1,589,267	\$

Table of Contents

The following table presents an aging analysis of purchased non-covered past due loans based on the recorded basis as of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013. There were no purchased non-covered loans as of September 30, 2013:

	Loans 30-59 Days Past Due	Loans 60-89 Days Past Due	Loans 90 or More Days Past Due	Total Loans Past Due	Current Loans	Total Loans	Loans 90 Days or More Past Due and Still Accruing
(Dollars in Thousands)							
As of September 30, 2014:							
Commercial, financial & agricultural	\$ 33	\$ 46	\$ 55	\$ 134	\$ 37,943	\$ 38,077	\$
Real estate construction & development	520	135	3,069	3,724	56,538	60,262	1,100
Real estate commercial & farmland	3,497	1,227	8,266	12,990	283,800	296,790	258
Real estate residential	3,915	1,440	5,929	11,284	262,063	273,347	
Consumer installment loans	36	5	76	117	5,131	5,248	
Total	\$ 8,001	\$ 2,853	\$ 17,395	\$ 28,249	\$ 645,475	\$ 673,724	\$ 1,358

	Loans 30-59 Days Past Due	Loans 60-89 Days Past Due	Loans 90 or More Days Past Due	Total Loans Past Due	Current Loans	Total Loans	Loans 90 Days or More Past Due and Still Accruing
(Dollars in Thousands)							
As of December 31, 2013:							
Commercial, financial & agricultural	\$ 370	\$ 70	\$ 11	\$ 451	\$ 31,690	\$ 32,141	\$
Real estate construction & development	1,008	89	325	1,422	29,754	31,176	
Real estate commercial & farmland	6,851	2,064	1,516	10,431	169,467	179,898	
Real estate residential	4,667	1,074	3,428	9,169	191,682	200,851	
Consumer installment loans	7	17	9	33	4,654	4,687	
Total	\$ 12,903	\$ 3,314	\$ 5,289	\$ 21,506	\$ 427,247	\$ 448,753	\$

Table of Contents

The following table presents an aging analysis of covered loans as of September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013:

	Loans 30-59 Days Past Due	Loans 60-89 Days Past Due	Loans 90 or More Days Past Due	Total Loans Past Due	Current Loans	Total Loans	Loans 90 Days or More Past Due and Still Accruing
(Dollars in Thousands)							
As of September 30, 2014:							
Commercial, financial & agricultural	\$ 568	\$ 188	\$ 1,978	\$ 2,734	\$ 19,811	\$ 22,545	\$
Real estate construction & development	632	72	8,659	9,363	18,393	27,756	
Real estate commercial & farmland	7,100	322	8,930	16,352	164,214	180,566	305
Real estate residential	2,694	1,473	5,563	9,730	72,715	82,445	65
Consumer installment loans	2	7	101	110	167	277	
Total	\$ 10,996	\$ 2,062	\$ 25,231	\$ 38,289	\$ 275,300	\$ 313,589	\$ 370

	Loans 30-59 Days Past Due	Loans 60-89 Days Past Due	Loans 90 or More Days Past Due	Total Loans Past Due	Current Loans	Total Loans	Loans 90 Days or More Past Due and Still Accruing
(Dollars in Thousands)							
As of December 31, 2013:							
Commercial, financial & agricultural	\$ 3,966	\$ 12	\$ 6,165	\$ 10,143	\$ 16,407	\$ 26,550	\$
Real estate construction & development	843	144	14,055	15,042	28,137	43,179	
Real estate commercial & farmland	8,482	4,350	26,428	39,260	185,191	224,451	346
Real estate residential	7,648	1,914	10,244	19,806	75,367	95,173	
Consumer installment loans	51	14	305	370	514	884	
Total	\$ 20,990	\$ 6,434	\$ 57,197	\$ 84,621	\$ 305,616	\$ 390,237	\$ 346

	Loans 30-59 Days Past	Loans 60-89 Days	Loans 90 or More	Total Loans Past	Current Loans	Total Loans	Loans 90 Days or More
--	-----------------------------	------------------------	------------------------	------------------------	------------------	----------------	-----------------------------

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

	Due	Past Due	Days Past Due	Due			Past Due and Still Accruing
(Dollars in Thousands)							
As of September 30, 2013:							
Commercial, financial & agricultural	\$ 319	\$ 50	\$ 6,695	\$ 7,064	\$ 20,704	\$ 27,768	\$
Real estate construction & development	2,831	658	15,781	19,270	31,432	50,702	266
Real estate commercial & farmland	7,365	5,350	30,503	43,218	193,868	237,086	568
Real estate residential	2,980	1,727	11,078	15,785	85,361	101,146	823
Consumer installment loans	49		311	360	587	947	
Total	\$ 13,544	\$ 7,785	\$ 64,368	\$ 85,697	\$ 331,952	\$ 417,649	\$ 1,657

Table of Contents**Impaired Loans**

Loans are considered impaired when, based on current information and events, it is probable the Company will be unable to collect all amounts due in accordance with the original contractual terms of the loan agreements. When determining if the Company will be unable to collect all principal and interest payments due in accordance with the contractual terms of the loan agreement, the Company considers the borrower's capacity to pay, which includes such factors as the borrower's current financial statements, an analysis of global cash flow sufficient to pay all debt obligations and an evaluation of secondary sources of repayment, such as guarantor support and collateral value. Impaired loans include loans on nonaccrual status and troubled debt restructurings. The Company individually assesses for impairment all nonaccrual loans greater than \$200,000 and rated substandard or worse and all troubled debt restructurings greater than \$100,000. If a loan is deemed impaired, a specific valuation allowance is allocated, if necessary, so that the loan is reported net, at the present value of estimated future cash flows using the loan's existing rate or at the fair value of collateral if repayment is expected solely from the collateral. Interest payments on impaired loans are typically applied to principal unless collectability of the principal amount is reasonably assured, in which case interest is recognized on a cash basis.

The following is a summary of information pertaining to impaired loans, excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans:

	As of and For the Period Ended		
	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
	(Dollars in Thousands)		
Nonaccrual loans	\$ 22,810	\$ 29,203	\$ 31,720
Troubled debt restructurings not included above	17,261	17,214	17,024
Total impaired loans	\$ 40,071	\$ 46,417	\$ 48,744
Quarter-to-date interest income recognized on impaired loans	\$ 117	\$ 54	\$ 17
Year-to-date interest income recognized on impaired loans	\$ 799	\$ 522	\$ 468
Quarter-to-date foregone interest income on impaired loans	\$ 138	\$ 30	\$ 216
Year-to-date foregone interest income on impaired loans	\$ 161	\$ 418	\$ 388

The following table presents an analysis of information pertaining to impaired loans, excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans as of September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013.

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

	Unpaid Contractual Principal Balance	Recorded Investment With No Allowance	Recorded Investment With Allowance	Total Recorded Investment	Related Allowance	Three Month Average Recorded Investment	Nine Month Average Recorded Investment
(Dollars in Thousands)							
As of September 30, 2014:							
Commercial, financial & agricultural	\$ 4,445	\$ 8	\$ 2,943	\$ 2,951	\$ 631	\$ 2,402	\$ 3,285
Real estate construction & development	8,824	211	4,743	4,954	612	5,243	5,596
Real estate commercial & farmland	18,955	7,311	8,753	16,064	1,698	16,242	16,312
Real estate residential	18,251	5,635	9,946	15,581	1,286	15,356	17,169
Consumer installment loans	606		521	521	10	517	516
Total	\$ 51,081	\$ 13,165	\$ 26,906	\$ 40,071	\$ 4,237	\$ 39,760	\$ 42,878

	Unpaid Contractual Principal Balance	Recorded Investment With No Allowance	Recorded Investment With Allowance	Total Recorded Investment	Related Allowance	Three Month Average Recorded Investment	Twelve Month Average Recorded Investment
(Dollars in Thousands)							
As of December 31, 2013:							
Commercial, financial & agricultural	\$ 6,240	\$	\$ 4,618	\$ 4,618	\$ 435	\$ 4,669	\$ 4,844
Real estate construction & development	11,363		5,867	5,867	512	6,011	8,341
Real estate commercial & farmland	18,456		15,479	15,479	1,443	15,860	17,559
Real estate residential	24,342		19,970	19,970	1,472	20,571	20,335
Consumer installment loans	623		483	483	9	469	642
Total	\$ 61,024	\$	\$ 46,417	\$ 46,417	\$ 3,871	\$ 47,580	\$ 51,721

Table of Contents

	Recorded		Investment Recorded Total Recorded Investment	Related Allowance	Three Month	Twelve Month
	Unpaid Contractual Principal Balance	With No Allowance			Average Recorded Investment	Average Recorded Investment
As of September 30, 2013:						
Commercial, financial & agricultural	\$ 7,401	\$	\$ 4,719	\$ 820	\$ 5,052	\$ 4,900
Real estate construction & development	14,299		6,155	821	6,775	8,960
Real estate commercial & farmland	18,628		16,241	1,999	16,366	18,079
Real estate residential	24,701		21,174	1,530	20,533	20,427
Consumer installment loans	565		455	10	559	681
Total	\$ 65,594	\$	\$ 48,744	\$ 5,180	\$ 49,285	\$ 53,047

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

	As of and For the Period Ended		
	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
(Dollars in Thousands)			
Nonaccrual loans	\$ 17,007	\$ 6,659	\$
Troubled debt restructurings not included above	583		
Total impaired loans	\$ 17,590	\$ 6,659	\$
Quarter-to-date interest income recognized on impaired loans	\$ 19	\$	\$
Year-to-date interest income recognized on impaired loans	\$ 35	\$	\$
Quarter-to-date foregone interest income on impaired loans	\$ 18	\$	\$
Year-to-date foregone interest income on impaired loans	\$ 176	\$	\$

The following table presents an analysis of information pertaining to impaired purchased non-covered loans as of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013. There were no purchased non-covered loans as of September 30, 2013:

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

	Unpaid Contractual Principal Balance	Recorded Investment With No Allowance	Recorded Investment With Allowance	Total Recorded Investment	Related Allowance	Three Month Average Recorded Investment	Nine Month Average Recorded Investment
(Dollars in Thousands)							
As of September 30, 2014:							
Commercial, financial & agricultural	\$ 438	\$ 54	\$	\$ 54	\$	\$ 98	\$ 81
Real estate construction & development	3,794	2,274		2,274		2,273	1,501
Real estate commercial & farmland	12,354	8,776		8,776		7,712	5,976
Real estate residential	9,610	6,407		6,407		6,533	6,233
Consumer installment loans	184	79		79		64	43
Total	\$ 26,380	\$ 17,590	\$	\$ 17,590	\$	\$ 16,680	\$ 13,834

	Unpaid Contractual Principal Balance	Recorded Investment With No Allowance	Recorded Investment With Allowance	Total Recorded Investment	Related Allowance	Three Month Average Recorded Investment	Twelve Month Average Recorded Investment
(Dollars in Thousands)							
As of December 31, 2013:							
Commercial, financial & agricultural	\$ 19	\$ 11	\$	\$ 11	\$	\$ 1	\$
Real estate construction & development	542	325		325		25	6
Real estate commercial & farmland	2,673	1,653		1,653		126	32
Real estate residential	7,712	4,658		4,658		354	90
Consumer installment loans	20	12		12		1	
Total	\$ 10,996	\$ 6,659	\$	\$ 6,659	\$	\$ 507	\$ 128

Table of Contents

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

	As of and For the Period Ended		
	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
(Dollars in Thousands)			
Nonaccrual loans	\$ 39,283	\$ 69,152	\$ 74,911
Troubled debt restructurings not included above	22,757	22,243	21,184
Total impaired loans	\$ 62,040	\$ 91,395	\$ 96,095
Quarter-to-date interest income recognized on impaired loans	\$ 176	\$ 175	\$ 9
Year-to-date interest income recognized on impaired loans	\$ 1,115	\$ 968	\$ 793
Quarter-to-date foregone interest income on impaired loans	\$	\$ 44	\$ 44
Year-to-date foregone interest income on impaired loans	\$ 94	\$ 330	\$ 286

The following table presents an analysis of information pertaining to impaired covered loans as of September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013:

	Unpaid Contractual Principal Balance	Recorded Investment With No Allowance	Recorded Investment With Allowance	Total Recorded Investment	Three Month Average Recorded Investment	Nine Month Average Recorded Investment
(Dollars in Thousands)						
As of September 30, 2014:						
Commercial, financial & agricultural	\$ 11,356	\$ 8,467	\$	\$ 8,467	\$ 10,367	\$ 9,511
Real estate construction & development	13,268	11,920		11,920	11,484	14,760
Real estate commercial & farmland	26,624	23,118		23,118	23,562	29,904
Real estate residential	20,331	18,430		18,430	19,112	21,456
Consumer installment loans	134	105		105	116	177
Total	\$ 71,713	\$ 62,040	\$	\$ 62,040	\$ 64,641	\$ 75,808

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

	Unpaid Contractual Principal Balance	Recorded Investment With No Allowance	Recorded Investment With Allowance	Total Recorded Investment	Related Allowance	Three Month Average Recorded Investment	Twelve Month Average Recorded Investment
(Dollars in Thousands)							
As of December 31, 2013:							
Commercial, financial & agricultural	\$ 9,680	\$ 7,270	\$	\$ 7,270	\$	\$ 7,577	\$ 8,696
Real estate construction & development	20,915	18,037		18,037		19,464	21,794
Real estate commercial & farmland	46,612	40,749		40,749		42,014	51,584
Real estate residential	29,089	24,998		24,998		24,345	28,452
Consumer installment loans	394	341		341		346	304
Total	\$ 106,690	\$ 91,395	\$	\$ 91,395	\$	\$ 93,745	\$ 110,830

	Unpaid Contractual Principal Balance	Recorded Investment With No Allowance	Recorded Investment With Allowance	Total Recorded Investment	Related Allowance	Three Month Average Recorded Investment	Nine Month Average Recorded Investment
(Dollars in Thousands)							
As of September 30, 2013:							
Commercial, financial & agricultural	\$ 10,645	\$ 7,884	\$	\$ 7,884	\$	\$ 8,327	\$ 9,052
Real estate construction & development	25,401	20,890		20,890		21,860	22,734
Real estate commercial & farmland	51,105	43,279		43,279		48,558	54,292
Real estate residential	28,078	23,692		23,692		24,810	29,316
Consumer installment loans	404	350		350		318	295
Total	\$ 115,633	\$ 96,095	\$	\$ 96,095	\$	\$ 103,872	\$ 115,689

Table of Contents
Credit Quality Indicators

The Company uses a nine category risk grading system to assign a risk grade to each loan in the portfolio. Every loan is assigned a risk rating, with the exception of credit card receivables and overdraft protection loans which are treated as pools and assigned a risk rating. All relationships greater than \$1.0 million and the majority of relationships greater than \$250,000 are reviewed annually by the Bank's independent internal loan review department or an independent third party loan review. The following is a description of the general characteristics of the grades:

Grade 10 Prime Credit This grade represents loans to the Company's most creditworthy borrowers or loans that are secured by cash or cash equivalents.

Grade 15 Good Credit This grade includes loans that exhibit one or more characteristics better than that of a *Satisfactory Credit*. Generally, the debt service coverage and borrower's liquidity is materially better than required by the Company's loan policy.

Grade 20 Satisfactory Credit This grade is assigned to loans of borrowers who exhibit satisfactory credit histories, contain acceptable loan structures and demonstrate the ability to repay.

Grade 23 Performing, Under-Collateralized Credit This grade is assigned to loans that are currently performing and supported by adequate financial information that reflects repayment capacity but exhibit a loan-to-value ratio greater than 110%, based on a documented collateral valuation.

Grade 25 Minimum Acceptable Credit This grade includes loans which exhibit all the characteristics of a *Satisfactory Credit*, but warrant more than a normal level of banker supervision due to (i) circumstances which elevate the risks of performance (such as start-up operations, untested management, heavy leverage and interim losses); (ii) adverse, extraordinary events that have affected, or could affect, the borrower's cash flow, financial condition, ability to continue operating profitability or refinancing (such as death of principal, fire and divorce); (iii) loans that require more than the normal servicing requirements (such as any type of construction financing, acquisition and development loans, accounts receivable or inventory loans and floor plan loans); (iv) existing technical exceptions which raise some doubts about the Bank's perfection in its collateral position or the continued financial capacity of the borrower; or (v) improvements in formerly criticized borrowers, which may warrant banker supervision.

Grade 30 Other Asset Especially Mentioned This grade includes loans that exhibit potential weaknesses that deserve management's close attention. If left uncorrected, these weaknesses may result in deterioration of the repayment prospects for the asset or in the Company's credit position at some future date.

Grade 40 Substandard This grade represents loans which are inadequately protected by the current sound worth and paying capacity of the borrower or of the collateral pledged, if any. These assets exhibit a well-defined weakness or are characterized by the distinct possibility that the Bank will sustain some loss if the deficiencies are not corrected. These weaknesses may be characterized by past due performance, operating losses or questionable collateral values.

Grade 50 Doubtful This grade includes loans which exhibit all of the characteristics of a substandard loan with the added provision that the weaknesses make collection or liquidation in full, on the basis of currently existing facts, conditions and values, highly questionable or improbable.

Grade 60 Loss This grade is assigned to loans which are considered uncollectible and of such little value that their continuance as active assets of the Bank is not warranted. This classification does not mean that the loss has absolutely no recovery or salvage value, but rather it is not practical or desirable to defer writing it off.

Table of Contents

The following table presents the loan portfolio, excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans, by risk grade as of September 30, 2014.

Risk Grade	Commercial, financial & agricultural	Real estate - construction development	Real estate - commercial & farmland	Real estate - residential	Consumer installment loans	Other	Total
(Dollars in Thousands)							
10	\$ 114,298	\$ 171	\$ 251	\$ 479	\$ 6,287	\$	\$ 121,486
15	29,665	4,114	136,303	51,508	1,124		222,714
20	110,337	50,427	478,551	241,457	17,700	9,583	908,055
23	186	9,292	9,574	9,469	305		28,826
25	73,251	83,245	217,226	105,635	4,842		484,199
30	3,438	1,781	16,217	10,060	254		31,750
40	3,608	5,285	23,950	17,907	890		51,640
50			88				88
60					1		1
Total	\$ 334,783	\$ 154,315	\$ 882,160	\$ 436,515	\$ 31,403	\$ 9,583	\$ 1,848,759

The following table presents the loan portfolio, excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans, by risk grade as of December 31, 2013.

Risk Grade	Commercial, financial & agricultural	Real estate - construction development	Real estate - commercial & farmland	Real estate - residential	Consumer installment loans	Other	Total
(Dollars in Thousands)							
10	\$ 66,983	\$	\$ 265	\$ 419	\$ 6,714	\$	\$ 74,381
15	24,789	4,655	147,157	52,335	1,276		230,212
20	93,852	45,195	431,790	165,339	18,619	18,256	773,051
23	127	8,343	10,219	12,641	274		31,604
25	50,373	78,736	181,645	103,427	6,310		420,491
30	2,111	2,876	11,849	13,558	197		30,591
40	6,011	6,566	25,398	19,153	859		57,987
50	127			10			137
60							
Total	\$ 244,373	\$ 146,371	\$ 808,323	\$ 366,882	\$ 34,249	\$ 18,256	\$ 1,618,454

The following table presents the loan portfolio, excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans, by risk grade as of September 30, 2013:

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Risk Grade	Commercial, financial & agricultural	Real estate - construction & development	Real estate - commercial & farmland	Real estate - residential	Consumer installment loans	Other	Total
	(Dollars in Thousands)						
10	\$ 65,033	\$	\$ 278	\$ 420	\$ 7,028	\$	\$ 72,759
15	20,668	5,080	147,355	56,464	1,243		230,810
20	89,216	37,765	421,669	142,186	19,691	20,627	731,154
23	97	7,085	10,054	13,275	218		30,729
25	60,407	72,942	183,371	109,604	7,034		433,358
30	3,019	2,264	12,089	11,427	153		28,952
40	6,326	7,141	24,333	22,534	936		61,270
50	225			10			235
60							
Total	\$ 244,991	\$ 132,277	\$ 799,149	\$ 355,920	\$ 36,303	\$ 20,627	\$ 1,589,267

Table of Contents

The following table presents the purchased non-covered loan portfolio by risk grade as of September 30, 2014:

Risk Grade	Commercial, financial & agricultural	Real estate - construction development	Real estate - farmland	Real estate - commercial & residential	Real estate - installment loans	Consumer loans	Other	Total
(Dollars in Thousands)								
10	\$ 3,187	\$	\$	\$ 292	\$ 486	\$	\$	\$ 3,965
15	5,023	447	14,136	15,336	519			35,461
20	11,230	12,345	90,915	64,178	2,034			180,702
23	8			1,208				1,216
25	16,467	38,426	167,458	175,313	2,065			399,729
30	1,494	2,164	9,300	7,071	19			20,048
40	668	6,880	14,981	9,915	121			32,565
50				34	4			38
60								
Total	\$ 38,077	\$ 60,262	\$ 296,790	\$ 273,347	\$ 5,248	\$	\$	\$ 673,724

The following table presents the purchased non-covered loan portfolio by risk grade as of December 31, 2013:

Risk Grade	Commercial, financial & agricultural	Real estate - construction development	Real estate - farmland	Real estate - commercial & residential	Real estate - installment loans	Consumer loans	Other	Total
(Dollars in Thousands)								
10	\$ 1,865	\$	\$	\$ 289	\$ 451	\$	\$	\$ 2,605
15	4,606	7	12,998	16,160	703			34,474
20	5,172	3,960	43,802	34,576	1,383			88,893
23								
25	19,638	20,733	102,260	129,923	1,888			274,442
30	576	1,760	9,554	10,878	194			22,962
40	284	4,716	11,284	9,025	68			25,377
50								
60								
Total	\$ 32,141	\$ 31,176	\$ 179,898	\$ 200,851	\$ 4,687	\$	\$	\$ 448,753

There were no purchased non-covered loans as of September 30, 2013.

Table of Contents

The following table presents the covered loan portfolio by risk grade as of September 30, 2014:

Risk Grade	Commercial, financial & agricultural	Real estate - construction & development	Real estate - commercial & farmland	Real estate - residential	Consumer installment loans	Other	Total
(Dollars in Thousands)							
10	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
15		2	795	531			1,328
20	1,302	3,380	33,200	15,957	71		53,910
23	145	547	14,640	5,815			21,147
25	5,687	11,725	89,201	35,344	41		141,998
30	4,827	3,006	8,808	8,649	43		25,333
40	10,584	9,096	33,922	16,149	122		69,873
50							
60							
Total	\$ 22,545	\$ 27,756	\$ 180,566	\$ 82,445	\$ 277	\$	\$ 313,589

The following table presents the covered loan portfolio by risk grade as of December 31, 2013:

Risk Grade	Commercial, financial & agricultural	Real estate - construction & development	Real estate - commercial & farmland	Real estate - residential	Consumer installment loans	Other	Total
(Dollars in Thousands)							
10	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
15		16	1,048	638			1,702
20	2,184	8,549	34,674	21,363	193		66,963
23	134	1,085	17,037	4,748	51		23,055
25	7,508	9,611	101,657	38,427	235		157,438
30	5,125	2,006	21,297	6,979	17		35,424
40	11,599	21,912	48,738	23,018	388		105,655
50							
60							
Total	\$ 26,550	\$ 43,179	\$ 224,451	\$ 95,173	\$ 884	\$	\$ 390,237

The following table presents the covered loan portfolio by risk grade as of September 30, 2013:

Risk Grade	Commercial, financial &	Real estate - construction &	Real estate - commercial & farmland	Real estate - residential	Consumer installment loans	Other	Total
------------	-------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------------	-------	-------

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

agricultural development

(Dollars in Thousands)

	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
10							
15		22	1,098	641			1,761
20	2,697	11,347	34,252	22,545	208		71,049
23	135	1,080	16,708	2,902	51		20,876
25	7,609	7,360	108,886	39,632	250		163,737
30	1,485	5,505	24,790	9,196	14		40,990
40	15,842	25,388	51,352	26,230	424		119,236
50							
60							
Total	\$ 27,768	\$ 50,702	\$ 237,086	\$ 101,146	\$ 947	\$	\$ 417,649

Table of Contents

Troubled Debt Restructurings

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

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

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

In the normal course of business, the Company renews loans with a modification of the interest rate or terms that are not deemed as troubled debt restructurings because the borrower is not experiencing financial difficulty. The Company modified loans in the first nine months of 2014 and 2013 totaling \$8.0 million and \$17.0 million, respectively, under such parameters. In addition, the Company offers consumer loan customers an annual skip-a-pay program that is based on certain qualifying parameters and not based on financial difficulties. The Company does not treat these as troubled debt restructurings.

As of September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013, the Company had a balance of \$20.5 million, \$20.9 million and \$20.2 million, respectively, in troubled debt restructurings, excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans. The Company has recorded \$4.4 million, \$2.1 million and \$2.1 million in previous charge-offs on such loans at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013, respectively. The Company's balance in the allowance for loan losses allocated to such troubled debt restructurings was \$2.2 million, \$2.1 million and \$1.7 million at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013, respectively. At September 30, 2014, the Company did not have any commitments to lend additional funds to debtors whose terms have been modified in troubled restructurings.

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

During the three and nine month periods ending September 30, 2014, the Company modified loans as troubled debt restructurings with principal balances of \$763,000 and \$2.4 million, respectively. These modifications impacted the Company's allowance for loan losses by \$49,000 and \$203,000, respectively, for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2014. Troubled debt restructurings with an outstanding balance of \$528,000 at June 30, 2014 defaulted during the three months ended September 30, 2014 and these defaults did not have a material impact on the Company's allowance for loan loss. Troubled debt restructurings with an outstanding balance of \$1.3 million at December 31, 2013 defaulted during the first nine months of 2014 and these defaults did not have a material impact on the Company's allowance for loan loss.

Table of Contents

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings by loan class, excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans, classified separately as accrual and non-accrual at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013:

<i>As of September 30, 2014</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Loan class:				
Commercial, financial & agricultural	4	\$ 257	4	\$ 507
Real estate construction & development	11	1,917	4	196
Real estate commercial & farmland	21	7,080	2	1,672
Real estate residential	43	7,973	10	759
Consumer installment	9	34	12	93
Total	88	\$ 17,261	32	\$ 3,227

<i>As of December 31, 2013</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Loan class:				
Commercial, financial & agricultural	4	\$ 515	3	\$ 525
Real estate construction & development	8	1,896	2	32
Real estate commercial & farmland	17	6,913	4	2,273
Real estate residential	37	7,818	8	834
Consumer installment	6	72	3	19
Total	72	\$ 17,214	20	\$ 3,683

<i>As of September 30, 2013</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Loan class:				
Commercial, financial & agricultural	4	\$ 521	3	\$ 533
Real estate construction & development	8	1,926	1	29
Real estate commercial & farmland	16	6,693	3	1,858
Real estate residential	35	7,871	7	704
Consumer installment	1	13	2	26
Total	64	\$ 17,024	16	\$ 3,150

As of September 30, 2014, the Company had a balance of \$583,000 in troubled debt restructurings included in purchased non-covered loans. The Company did not have any troubled debt restructurings included in purchased non-covered loans as of December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013. The Company has not recorded any previous charge-offs on such loans at September 30, 2014. At September 30, 2014, the Company did not have any commitments to lend additional funds to debtors whose terms have been modified in troubled restructurings.

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings by loan class of purchased non-covered loans, classified separately as accrual and non-accrual at September 30, 2014:

<i>As of September 30, 2014</i>		Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
		#	Balance	#	Balance
Loan class:			(in thousands)		(in thousands)
Commercial, financial & agricultural			\$		\$
Real estate	construction & development	1	305		
Real estate	commercial & farmland				
Real estate	residential	4	275	2	247
Consumer installment		1	3		
Total		6	\$ 583	2	\$ 247

Table of Contents

As of September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013, the Company had a balance of \$25.0 million, \$27.3 million and \$28.4 million, respectively, in troubled debt restructurings included in covered loans. The Company has recorded \$2.1 million, \$1.6 million and \$3.7 million in previous charge-offs on such loans at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013, respectively. At September 30, 2014, the Company did not have any commitments to lend additional funds to debtors whose terms have been modified in troubled restructurings.

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings by loan class of covered loans, classified separately as accrual and non-accrual at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013:

<i>As of September 30, 2014</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Loan class:				
Commercial, financial & agricultural	1	\$ 26	1	\$ 3
Real estate construction & development	3	3,024	3	56
Real estate commercial & farmland	15	8,501	6	1,225
Real estate residential	94	11,202	13	965
Consumer installment	1	4		
Total	114	\$ 22,757	23	\$ 2,249

<i>As of December 31, 2013</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Loan class:				
Commercial, financial & agricultural	1	\$ 13	5	\$ 71
Real estate construction & development	3	3,256	4	52
Real estate commercial & farmland	13	7,255	5	3,946
Real estate residential	83	11,719	8	942
Consumer installment			2	10
Total	100	\$ 22,243	24	\$ 5,021

<i>As of September 30, 2013</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Loan class:				
Commercial, financial & agricultural	1	\$ 12	3	\$ 40
Real estate construction & development	5	4,308	4	690
Real estate commercial & farmland	11	6,200	7	4,805
Real estate residential	79	10,461	11	1,874
Consumer installment			1	5
Total	96	\$ 20,981	26	\$ 7,414

Table of Contents**Allowance for Loan Losses**

The allowance for loan losses represents an allowance for probable incurred losses in the loan portfolio. The adequacy of the allowance for loan losses is evaluated periodically based on a review of all significant loans, with a particular emphasis on non-accruing, past due and other loans that management believes might be potentially impaired or warrant additional attention. The Company segregates the loan portfolio by type of loan and utilizes this segregation in evaluating exposure to risks within the portfolio. In addition, based on internal reviews and external reviews performed by independent auditors and regulatory authorities, the Company further segregates the loan portfolio by loan grades based on an assessment of risk for a particular loan or group of loans. Certain reviewed loans are assigned specific allowances when a review of relevant data determines that a general allocation is not sufficient or when the review affords management the opportunity to adjust the amount of exposure in a given credit. In establishing allowances, management considers historical loan loss experience but adjusts this data with a significant emphasis on current loan quality trends, current economic conditions and other factors in the markets where the Company operates. Factors considered include, among others, current valuations of real estate in the Company's markets, unemployment rates, the effect of weather conditions on agricultural related entities and other significant local economic events.

The Company has developed a methodology for determining the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses which is monitored by the Company's Chief Credit Officer. Procedures provide for the assignment of a risk rating for every loan included in the total loan portfolio, with the exception of certain mortgage loans serviced at a third party, mortgage warehouse lines and overdraft protection loans which are treated as pools for risk rating purposes. The risk rating schedule provides nine ratings of which five ratings are classified as pass ratings and four ratings are classified as criticized ratings. Each risk rating is assigned a percentage factor to be applied to the loan balance to determine the adequate amount of reserve. All relationships greater than \$1.0 million and the majority of relationships greater than \$250,000 are reviewed annually by the Bank's independent internal loan review department or an independent third party loan review firm. As a result of these loan reviews, certain loans may be identified as having deteriorating credit quality. Other loans that surface as problem loans may also be assigned specific reserves. Past due loans are assigned risk ratings based on the number of days past due. The calculation of the allowance for loan losses, including underlying data and assumptions, is reviewed regularly by the Company's Chief Financial Officer and the independent internal loan review department.

Loan losses are charged against the allowance when management believes the collection of a loan's principal is unlikely. Subsequent recoveries are credited to the allowance. Consumer loans are charged-off in accordance with the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council's (FFIEC) Uniform Retail Credit Classification and Account Management Policy. Commercial loans are charged-off when they are deemed uncollectible, which usually involves a triggering event within the collection effort. If the loan is collateral dependent, the loss is more easily identified and is charged-off when it is identified, usually based upon receipt of an appraisal. However, when a loan has guarantor support, the Company may carry the estimated loss as a reserve against the loan while collection efforts with the guarantor are pursued. If, after collection efforts with the guarantor are complete, the deficiency is still considered uncollectible, the loss is charged-off and any further collections are treated as recoveries. In all situations, when a loan is downgraded to an Asset Quality Rating of 60 (Loss per the regulatory guidance), the uncollectible portion is charged-off.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2014, the year ended December 31, 2013 and the nine months ended September 30, 2013, the Company recorded provision for loan loss expense of \$685,000, \$1.5 million and \$1.3 million, respectively, to account for losses where the initial estimate of cash flows was found to be excessive on loans acquired in FDIC-assisted transactions. During the nine months ended September 30, 2014, the Company recorded provision for loan loss expense of \$4,000 to account for losses where the initial estimate of cash flows was found to be excessive on purchased, non-covered loans. Charge-offs on purchased loans, both covered and non-covered, are

recorded when impairment is recorded. Provision expense for covered loans is recorded net of the indemnification by the FDIC loss-share agreements.

Table of Contents

The following table details activity in the allowance for loan losses by portfolio segment for the periods indicated. Allocation of a portion of the allowance to one category of loans does not preclude its availability to absorb losses in other categories.

	Commercial, financial & agricultural	Real estate construction development	Real estate commercial & farmland	Real estate residential	Consumer installment loans and Other	Purchased non-covered loans	Covered loans	Total
(Dollars in Thousands)								
Three months ended September 30, 2014:								
Balance, June 30, 2014	\$ 2,185	\$ 5,431	\$ 8,317	\$ 5,166	\$ 1,155	\$	\$	\$ 22,254
Provision for loan losses	540	63	1,237	595	(862)	4	92	1,669
Loans charged off	(191)	(296)	(953)	(406)	(129)	(4)	(376)	(2,355)
Recoveries of loans previously charged off	47	96	31	52	134		284	644
Balance, September 30, 2014	\$ 2,581	\$ 5,294	\$ 8,632	\$ 5,407	\$ 298	\$	\$	\$ 22,212
Nine months ended September 30, 2014:								
Balance, January 1, 2014	\$ 1,823	\$ 5,538	\$ 8,393	\$ 6,034	\$ 589	\$	\$	\$ 22,377
Provision for loan losses	1,627	(26)	2,311	529	(370)	4	685	4,760
Loans charged off	(1,099)	(518)	(2,255)	(1,339)	(343)	(4)	(1,514)	(7,072)
Recoveries of loans previously charged off	230	300	183	183	422		829	2,147
Balance, September 30, 2014	\$ 2,581	\$ 5,294	\$ 8,632	\$ 5,407	\$ 298	\$	\$	\$ 22,212
Period-end amount allocated to:								
Loans individually evaluated for impairment	\$ 611	\$ 540	\$ 1,682	\$ 1,272	\$	\$	\$	\$ 4,105

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Loans collectively evaluated for impairment	1,970	4,754	6,950	4,135	298			18,107
Ending balance	\$ 2,581	\$ 5,294	\$ 8,632	\$ 5,407	\$ 298	\$	\$	\$ 22,212
Loans:								
Individually evaluated for impairment	\$ 1,549	\$ 3,078	\$ 17,129	\$ 11,860	\$	\$	\$	\$ 33,616
Collectively evaluated for impairment	333,234	151,237	865,031	424,655	40,986	581,723	142,128	2,538,994
Acquired with deteriorated credit quality						92,001	171,461	263,462
Ending balance	\$ 334,783	\$ 154,315	\$ 882,160	\$ 436,515	\$ 40,986	\$ 673,724	\$ 313,589	\$ 2,836,072

Table of Contents

	Commercial, financial & agricultural	Real estate & construction development	Real estate commercial & farmland	Real estate & residential	Consumer installment loans and Other	Purchased non-covered loans	Covered loans	Total
(Dollars in Thousands)								
Twelve months ended December 31, 2013:								
Balance, January 1, 2013	\$ 2,439	\$ 5,343	\$ 9,157	\$ 5,898	\$ 756	\$	\$	\$ 23,593
Provision for loan losses	711	1,742	2,777	4,463	254		1,539	11,486
Loans charged off	(1,759)	(2,020)	(3,571)	(5,215)	(719)		(1,539)	(14,823)
Recoveries of loans previously charged off	432	473	30	888	298			2,121
Balance, December 31, 2013	\$ 1,823	\$ 5,538	\$ 8,393	\$ 6,034	\$ 589	\$	\$	\$ 22,377
Period-end amount allocated to:								
Loans individually evaluated for impairment	\$ 356	\$ 407	\$ 1,427	\$ 1,395	\$	\$	\$	\$ 3,585
Loans collectively evaluated for impairment	1,467	5,131	6,966	4,639	589			18,792
Ending balance	\$ 1,823	\$ 5,538	\$ 8,393	\$ 6,034	\$ 589	\$	\$	\$ 22,377
Loans:								
Individually evaluated for impairment	\$ 3,457	\$ 3,581	\$ 15,240	\$ 16,925	\$	\$	\$	\$ 39,203
Collectively evaluated for impairment	240,916	142,790	793,083	349,957	52,505	381,588	173,190	2,134,029
Acquired with deteriorated credit quality						67,165	217,047	284,212
Ending balance	\$ 244,373	\$ 146,371	\$ 808,323	\$ 366,882	\$ 52,505	\$ 448,753	\$ 390,237	\$ 2,457,444

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

	Commercial, financial & agricultural	Real estate & construction development	Real estate & commercial farmland	Real estate & residential	Consumer installments and Other	Purchased non- covered loans	Covered loans	Total
(Dollars in Thousands)								
Three months ended September 30, 2013:								
Balance, June 30, 2013	\$ 2,951	\$ 5,642	\$ 8,797	\$ 6,360	\$ 467	\$	\$	\$ 24,217
Provision for loan losses	(107)	601	1,212	626	117		471	2,920
Loans charged off	(482)	(367)	(1,080)	(1,323)	(205)		(471)	(3,928)
Recoveries of loans previously charged off	212	84	5	291	53			645
Balance, September 30, 2013	\$ 2,574	\$ 5,960	\$ 8,934	\$ 5,954	\$ 432	\$	\$	\$ 23,854
Nine months ended September 30, 2013:								
Balance, January 1, 2013	\$ 2,439	\$ 5,343	\$ 9,157	\$ 5,898	\$ 756	\$	\$	\$ 23,593
Provision for loan losses	1,011	2,127	2,632	2,966	11		1,261	10,008
Loans charged off	(1,216)	(1,598)	(2,873)	(3,430)	(576)		(1,261)	(10,954)
Recoveries of loans previously charged off	340	88	18	520	241			1,207
Balance, September 30, 2013	\$ 2,574	\$ 5,960	\$ 8,934	\$ 5,954	\$ 432	\$	\$	\$ 23,854
Period-end amount allocated to:								
Loans individually evaluated for impairment	\$ 741	\$ 682	\$ 1,997	\$ 1,429	\$	\$	\$	\$ 4,849
Loans collectively evaluated for impairment	1,833	5,278	6,937	4,525	432			19,005
Ending balance	\$ 2,574	\$ 5,960	\$ 8,934	\$ 5,954	\$ 432	\$	\$	\$ 23,854
Loans:								
Individually evaluated for impairment	\$ 3,657	\$ 3,524	\$ 14,605	\$ 16,919	\$	\$	\$	\$ 38,705
Collectively evaluated for impairment	241,334	128,753	784,544	339,001	56,930		186,060	1,736,622

Acquired with deteriorated credit quality							231,589	231,589
Ending balance	\$ 244,991	\$ 132,277	\$ 799,149	\$ 355,920	\$ 56,930	\$	\$ 417,649	\$ 2,006,916

Table of Contents**NOTE 5 ASSETS ACQUIRED IN FDIC-ASSISTED ACQUISITIONS**

From October 2009 through July 2012, the Company participated in ten FDIC-assisted acquisitions whereby the Company purchased certain failed institutions out of the FDIC's receivership. These institutions include the following:

Bank Acquired	Location:	Branches:	Date Acquired
American United Bank (AUB)	Lawrenceville, Ga.	1	October 23, 2009
United Security Bank (USB)	Sparta, Ga.	2	November 6, 2009
Satilla Community Bank (SCB)	St. Marys, Ga.	1	May 14, 2010
First Bank of Jacksonville (FBJ)	Jacksonville, Fl.	2	October 22, 2010
Tifton Banking Company (TBC)	Tifton, Ga.	1	November 12, 2010
Darby Bank & Trust (DBT)	Vidalia, Ga.	7	November 12, 2010
High Trust Bank (HTB)	Stockbridge, Ga.	2	July 15, 2011
One Georgia Bank (OGB)	Midtown Atlanta, Ga.	1	July 15, 2011
Central Bank of Georgia (CBG)	Ellaville, Ga.	5	February 24, 2012
Montgomery Bank & Trust (MBT)	Ailey, Ga.	2	July 6, 2012

The determination of the initial fair values of loans at the acquisition date and the initial fair values of the related FDIC indemnification assets involves a high degree of judgment and complexity. The carrying values of the acquired loans and the FDIC indemnification assets reflect management's best estimate of the fair value of each of these assets as of the date of acquisition. However, the amount that the Company realizes on these assets could differ materially from the carrying values reflected in the financial statements included in this report, based upon the timing and amount of collections on the acquired loans in future periods. Because of the loss-sharing agreements with the FDIC on these assets, the Company does not expect to incur any significant losses. To the extent the actual values realized for the acquired loans are different from the estimates, the indemnification assets will generally be affected in an offsetting manner due to the loss-sharing support from the FDIC.

FASB ASC 310-30, *Loans and Debt Securities Acquired with Deteriorated Credit Quality* (ASC 310), applies to a loan with evidence of deterioration of credit quality since origination, acquired by completion of a transfer for which it is probable, at acquisition, that the investor will be unable to collect all contractually required payments receivable. ASC 310 prohibits carrying over or creating an allowance for loan losses upon initial recognition for loans which fall under the scope of this statement. At the acquisition dates, a majority of these loans were valued based on the liquidation value of the underlying collateral because the future cash flows are primarily based on the liquidation of underlying collateral. There was no allowance for credit losses established related to these ASC 310 loans at the acquisition dates, based on the provisions of this statement. Over the life of the acquired loans, the Company continues to estimate cash flows expected to be collected. If the expected cash flows expected to be collected increases, then the Company adjusts the amount of accretable discount recognized on a prospective basis over the loan's remaining life. If the expected cash flows expected to be collected decreases, then the Company records a provision for loan loss in its consolidated statement of operations.

At September 30, 2014, the Company's FDIC loss-sharing receivable totaled \$38.2 million, which is comprised of \$21.5 million in indemnification asset (for reimbursements associated with anticipated losses in future quarters) and \$16.7 million in current charge-offs and expenses already incurred but not yet submitted for reimbursement.

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes components of all covered assets at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013 and their origin:

	Less: Fair value Covered loan adjustments		Total covered loans	OREO	Less: Fair value adjustments		Total covered OREO	Total covered assets	FDIC loss-share receivable
As of September 30, 2014:									
AUB	\$ 8,902	\$	\$ 8,902	\$ 666	\$	\$ 666	\$ 9,568	\$ 882	
USB	13,576	351	13,225	2,134	48	2,086	15,311	(439)	
SCB	28,534	789	27,745	2,665	308	2,357	30,102	1,855	
FBJ	22,421	2,346	20,075	1,578	90	1,488	21,563	2,138	
DBT	75,683	8,531	67,152	9,804	1,024	8,780	75,932	9,337	
TBC	25,577	1,465	24,112	3,552	394	3,158	27,270	2,542	
HTB	54,317	5,761	48,556	3,477	1,239	2,238	50,794	7,152	
OGB	48,889	4,160	44,729	2,244	39	2,205	46,934	5,803	
CBG	67,273	8,180	59,093	7,195	1,290	5,905	64,998	8,963	
Total	\$ 345,172	\$ 31,583	\$ 313,589	\$ 33,315	\$ 4,432	\$ 28,883	\$ 342,472	\$ 38,233	

	Less: Fair value Covered loan adjustments		Total covered loans	OREO	Less: Fair value adjustments		Total covered OREO	Total covered assets	FDIC loss-share receivable
As of December 31, 2013:									
AUB	\$ 15,787	\$ 231	\$ 15,556	\$ 4,264	\$	\$ 4,264	\$ 19,820	\$ 1,452	
USB	18,504	1,427	17,077	2,865	141	2,724	19,801	889	
SCB	34,637	1,483	33,154	3,461	303	3,158	36,312	3,175	
FBJ	25,891	3,730	22,161	1,880	242	1,638	23,799	3,689	
DBT	105,157	17,819	87,338	17,023	1,282	15,741	103,079	18,724	
TBC	32,590	2,354	30,236	4,844	745	4,099	34,335	3,721	
HTB	67,126	7,359	59,767	6,374	2,304	4,070	63,837	9,325	
OGB	58,512	5,067	53,445	7,506	2,984	4,522	57,967	9,645	
CBG	85,118	13,615	71,503	7,610	1,933	5,677	77,180	14,821	
Total	\$ 443,322	\$ 53,085	\$ 390,237	\$ 55,827	\$ 9,934	\$ 45,893	\$ 436,130	\$ 65,441	

Table of Contents

		Less:			Less:				
	Covered loans	value	adjustments	Total covered loans	OREO	value	adjustments	Total covered OREO	Total covered FDIC loss-share assets
As of									
September 30,									
2013:									
AUB	\$ 19,336	\$ 915	\$ 18,421	\$ 3,338	\$ 3	\$ 3,335	\$ 21,756	\$ 3,704	
USB	21,168	1,665	19,503	3,066	139	2,927	22,430	2,796	
SCB	35,555	1,902	33,653	5,348	429	4,919	38,572	4,020	
FBJ	27,222	3,965	23,257	1,582	170	1,412	24,669	4,990	
DBT	116,685	21,739	94,946	19,720	1,639	18,081	113,027	23,955	
TBC	35,588	2,573	33,015	5,912	843	5,069	38,084	4,315	
HTB	70,156	8,273	61,883	6,998	2,445	4,553	66,436	11,065	
OGB	63,794	6,766	57,028	9,921	3,918	6,003	63,031	9,458	
CBG	92,755	16,812	75,943	8,299	2,046	6,253	82,196	17,460	
Total	\$ 482,259	\$ 64,610	\$ 417,649	\$ 64,184	\$ 11,632	\$ 52,552	\$ 470,201	\$ 81,763	

On the dates of acquisition, the Company estimated the future cash flows on each individual loan and made the necessary adjustments to reflect the asset at fair value. At each quarter end subsequent to the acquisition dates, the Company revises the estimates of future cash flows based on current information and makes the necessary adjustments to carrying value. Amounts reflected in the Company's statement of earnings are net of indemnification provided under loss share agreements with the FDIC. The adjustments are performed on a loan-by-loan basis and have resulted in the following adjustments for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, the year ended December 31, 2013 and the nine months ended September 30, 2013:

Total Amounts	September 2014	December 2013	September 30, 2013
	(Dollars in Thousands)		
Adjustments needed where the Company's initial estimate of cash flows were underestimated: (recorded with a reclassification from non-accretable difference to accretable discount to be accreted into income over remaining term of the loan)	\$ 16,070	\$ 51,003	\$ 50,703
Adjustments needed where the Company's initial estimate of cash flows were overstated: (recorded through a provision for loan losses)	3,425	7,695	6,305
	(Dollars in Thousands)		
Amounts reflected in the Company's Statement of Operations	September 2014	December 2013	September 30, 2013
	(Dollars in Thousands)		
Adjustments needed where the Company's initial estimate of cash flows were underestimated: (recorded with a reclassification from non-accretable difference to accretable discount to be accreted into income over remaining term of the loan)	\$ 3,214	\$ 10,201	\$ 10,141
	685	1,539	1,261

Adjustments needed where the Company's initial estimate of cash flows were overstated: (recorded through a provision for loan losses)

Table of Contents

A rollforward of covered loans with deterioration of credit quality for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, the year ended December 31, 2013 and the nine months ended September 30, 2013 is shown below:

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Balance, January 1	\$ 217,047	\$ 282,737	\$ 282,737
Charge-offs, net of recoveries	(8,099)	(35,306)	(30,371)
Additions due to acquisitions			
Other (loan payments, transfers, etc.)	(37,487)	(30,384)	(20,777)
Ending balance	\$ 171,461	\$ 217,047	\$ 231,589

A rollforward of covered loans without deterioration of credit quality for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, the year ended December 31, 2013 and the nine months ended September 30, 2013 is shown below:

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Balance, January 1	\$ 173,190	\$ 228,602	\$ 228,602
Additions due to acquisitions			
Loan payments, transfers, etc.	(31,062)	(55,412)	(42,316)
Ending balance	\$ 142,128	\$ 173,190	\$ 186,286

The following is a summary of changes in the accretable discounts of covered loans during the nine months ended September 30, 2014, the year ended December 31, 2013 and the nine months ended September 30, 2013:

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Balance, January 1	\$ 25,493	\$ 16,698	\$ 16,698
Additions due to acquisitions			
Accretion	(20,822)	(42,208)	(36,552)
Other activity, net	16,070	51,003	50,703
Ending balance	\$ 20,741	\$ 25,493	\$ 30,849

The shared-loss agreements are subject to the servicing procedures as specified in the agreement with the FDIC. The expected reimbursements under the shared-loss agreements were recorded as an indemnification asset at their estimated fair values on the acquisition dates. As of September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013, the Company has recorded a clawback liability of \$5.9 million, \$5.0 million and \$5.0 million, respectively, which represents the obligation of the Company to reimburse the FDIC should actual losses be less than certain thresholds established in each loss share agreement. Changes in the FDIC shared-loss receivable for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, for the year ended December 31, 2013 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 are as

follows:

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Balance, January 1	\$ 65,441	\$ 159,724	\$ 159,724
Indemnification asset recorded in acquisitions			
Payments received from FDIC	(18,509)	(68,822)	(58,240)
Effect of change in expected cash flows on covered assets	(8,699)	(25,461)	(19,721)
Ending balance	\$ 38,233	\$ 65,441	\$ 81,763

Table of Contents**NOTE 6 WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING**

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

	For the Three Months Ended September 30,		For the Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
	(Share Data in Thousands)		(Share Data in Thousands)	
Basic shares outstanding	26,773	23,901	25,705	23,883
Plus: Dilutive effect of ISOs	111	62	116	62
Plus: Dilutive effect of Restricted grants	277	353	278	353
Diluted shares outstanding	27,161	24,316	26,099	24,298

For the three month periods ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, the Company has excluded 112,000 and 289,000, respectively, potential common shares with strike prices that would cause them to be anti-dilutive. For the nine month periods ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, the Company has excluded 110,000 and 341,000, respectively, potential common shares with strike prices that would cause them to be anti-dilutive.

NOTE 7 OTHER BORROWINGS

The Company has, from time to time, utilized certain borrowing arrangements with various financial institutions to fund growth in earning assets or provide additional liquidity when appropriate spreads can be realized. At September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2014, there were \$147.4 million, \$194.6 million and \$5.0 million, respectively, outstanding borrowings with the Company's correspondent banks.

Details of other borrowings, including contractual interest rates and maturity dates are included in the following table:

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Daily Rate Credit from Federal Home Loan Bank with a fixed interest rate of 0.36%	\$ 75,000	\$	\$
Advance from Federal Home Loan Bank with a fixed interest rate of 0.16%, due October 24, 2014	25,000		
Advance from Federal Home Loan Bank with a fixed interest rate of 0.17%, due January 24, 2014		165,000	
Advances under revolving credit agreement with a regional bank with interest at 90-day LIBOR plus 3.50% (3.73% at September 30, 2014) due in August 2016, secured by subsidiary bank stock	22,500		
Advances under revolving credit agreement with a regional bank with interest at 90-day LIBOR plus 4.00% (4.24% and		10,000	5,000

4.27% at December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013) due in August 2016, secured by subsidiary bank stock			
Advance from correspondent bank with a fixed interest rate of 4.50%, due November 27, 2017, secured by subsidiary bank loan receivable	4,909		
Subordinated debt issued by Prosperity Bank due June 2016 with an interest rate of 90-day LIBOR plus 1.60% (1.83% and 1.84% at September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013)	5,000	5,000	
Subordinated debt issued by The Prosperity Banking Company due September 2016 with an interest rate of 90-day LIBOR plus 1.75% (1.98% and 1.99% at September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013)	15,000	14,572	
Total	\$ 147,409	\$ 194,572	\$ 5,000

The advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) are collateralized by a blanket lien on all first mortgage loans and other specific loans in addition to FHLB stock. At September 30, 2014, \$320.8 million was available for borrowing on lines with the FHLB.

As of September 30, 2014, the Company maintained credit arrangements with various financial institutions to purchase federal funds up to \$60 million.

The Company also participates in the Federal Reserve discount window borrowings. At September 30, 2014, the Company had \$584.1 million of loans pledged at the Federal Reserve discount window and had \$425.1 million available for borrowing.

Table of Contents**NOTE 8 COMMITMENTS**

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

The contract amounts of those instruments reflect the extent of involvement the Company has in particular classes of financial instruments. The Company uses the same credit policies in making commitments and conditional obligations as are used for on-balance-sheet instruments.

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 issues standby letters of credit, which are conditional commitments issued to guarantee the performance of a customer to a third party. Those guarantees are primarily issued to support public and private borrowing arrangements and expire in decreasing amounts with varying terms. The credit risk involved in issuing letters of credit is essentially the same as that involved in extending loan facilities to customers. The Company holds various assets as collateral supporting those commitments for which collateral is deemed necessary.

The Company evaluates each customer's creditworthiness on a case-by-case basis. The amount of collateral obtained, if deemed necessary by the Company upon extension of credit, is based on management's credit evaluation of the borrower. Collateral held may include accounts receivable, inventory, property, plant and equipment, residential real estate and income-producing commercial properties.

The Company's commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit are presented in the following table:

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Commitments to extend credit	\$ 332,808	\$ 257,195	\$ 208,303
Standby letters of credit	\$ 9,168	\$ 7,665	\$ 6,954
Mortgage interest rate lock commitments	\$ 2,295	\$ 1,180	\$ 2,506

NOTE 9 ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Accumulated other comprehensive income for the Company consists of changes in net unrealized gains and losses on investment securities available for sale and interest rate swap derivatives. The following tables present a summary of the accumulated other comprehensive income balances, net of tax, as of September 30, 2014 and 2013:

(Dollars in Thousands)	Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Derivatives	Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Securities	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)
Balance, January 1, 2014	\$ 1,397	\$ (1,691)	\$ (294)

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Reclassification for gains included in net income		(90)	(90)
Current year changes	(489)	4,847	4,358
Balance, September 30, 2014	\$ 908	\$ 3,066	\$ 3,974

(Dollars in Thousands)	Unrealized Gain (Loss)		Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)
	on Derivatives	Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Securities	
Balance, January 1, 2013	\$ (23)	\$ 6,630	\$ 6,607
Reclassification for gains included in net income		(111)	(111)
Current year changes	1,098	(8,125)	(7,027)
Balance, September 30, 2013	\$ 1,075	\$ (1,606)	\$ (531)

Table of Contents**NOTE 10 FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

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

The Company has elected to record mortgage loans held-for-sale at fair value in order to eliminate the complexities and inherent difficulties of achieving hedge accounting and to better align reported results with the underlying economic changes in value of the loans and related hedge instruments. This election impacts the timing and recognition of origination fees and costs, as well as servicing value, which are now recognized in earnings at the time of origination. Interest income on mortgage loans held-for-sale is recorded on an accrual basis in the consolidated statement of earnings and comprehensive income under the heading Interest income interest and fees on loans. The servicing value is included in the fair value of the Interest Rate Lock Commitments (IRLCs) with borrowers. The mark to market adjustments related to loans held-for-sale and the associated economic hedges are captured in mortgage banking activities. Net gains of \$1.1 million and \$2.1 million resulting from fair value changes of these mortgage loans were recorded in income during the three and nine month periods ending September 30, 2014, respectively. The amount does not reflect changes in fair values of related derivative instruments used to hedge exposure to market-related risks associated with these mortgage loans. The change in fair value of both mortgage loans held for sale and the related derivative instruments are recorded in Mortgage banking activity in the Consolidated Statements of Earnings and Comprehensive Income. The Company's valuation of mortgage loans held for sale incorporates an assumption for credit risk; however, given the short-term period that the Company holds these loans, valuation adjustments attributable to instrument-specific credit risk is nominal. Interest income on mortgage loans held for sale measured at fair value is accrued as it is earned based on contractual rates and is reflected in loan interest income on the Consolidated Statements of Earnings and Comprehensive Income.

The following table summarizes the difference between the fair value and the principal balance for mortgage loans held for sale measured at fair value as of September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013:

	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
	(Dollars in Thousands)		
Aggregate Fair Value of Mortgage Loans held for sale	\$ 110,059	\$ 67,278	\$ 69,634
Aggregate Unpaid Principal Balance	\$ 105,882	\$ 65,522	\$ 67,406
Past due loans of 90 days or more	\$	\$	\$
Nonaccrual loans	\$	\$	\$

The fair value hierarchy describes three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value:

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

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

Other Investments: Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) stock is included in other investments at its original cost basis. It is not practical to determine the fair value of FHLB stock due to restrictions placed on its transferability.

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

Loans: The carrying amount of variable-rate loans that reprice frequently and have no significant change in credit risk approximates fair value. The fair value of fixed-rate loans is estimated based on discounted contractual cash flows, using interest rates currently being offered for loans with similar terms to borrowers with similar credit quality. The fair value of impaired loans is estimated based on discounted expected future cash flows or underlying collateral values, where applicable. A loan is determined to be impaired if the Company believes it is probable that all principal and interest amounts due according to the terms of the loan will not be collected as scheduled. The fair value of impaired loans is determined in accordance with accounting standards and generally results in a specific reserve established through a charge to the provision for loan losses. Losses on impaired loans are charged to the allowance when management believes the uncollectability of a loan is confirmed. Management has determined that the majority of impaired loans are Level 3 assets due to the extensive use of market appraisals.

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

Covered Assets: Covered assets include loans and other real estate owned on which the majority of losses would be covered by loss-sharing agreements with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the FDIC). Management initially valued these assets at fair value using mostly unobservable inputs and, as such, has classified these assets as Level 3.

FDIC Loss-Share Receivable: The fair value of the FDIC loss-share receivable is based on the net present value of projected future cash flows expected to be received from the FDIC under the provision of the loss-share agreements using a discount rate that is based on current market rates.

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

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

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

Subordinated Deferrable Interest Debentures: The fair value of the Company's variable rate trust preferred securities is based primarily upon discounted cash flows using rates for securities with similar terms and remaining maturities.

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

Table of Contents

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

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

Although the Company has determined that the majority of the inputs used to value its derivatives fall within Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy, the credit valuation adjustments associated with its derivatives utilize Level 3 inputs, such as estimates of current credit spreads to evaluate the likelihood of default by itself or the counterparty. However, as of September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013, the Company has assessed the significance of the impact of the credit valuation adjustments on the overall valuation of its derivative positions and has determined that the credit valuation adjustment is not significant to the overall valuation of its derivatives. As a result, the Company has determined that its derivative valuation in its entirety is classified in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

The carrying amount and estimated fair value of the Company's financial instruments, not shown elsewhere in these financial statements, were as follows:

	Carrying Amount	Fair Value Measurements at September 30, 2014 Using:			Total
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
(Dollars in Thousands)					
Financial assets:					
Cash and due from banks	\$ 69,421	\$ 69,421	\$	\$	\$ 69,421
Federal funds sold and interest-bearing accounts	\$ 40,165	\$ 40,165	\$	\$	\$ 40,165
Loans, net	\$ 2,778,026	\$	\$	\$ 2,773,291	\$ 2,773,291
FDIC loss-share receivable	\$ 38,233	\$	\$	\$ 21,397	\$ 21,397
Accrued interest receivable	\$ 17,171	\$ 17,171	\$	\$	\$ 17,171
Financial liabilities:					
Deposits	3,373,119		3,374,055		3,374,055
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	32,351	32,351			32,351
Other borrowings	147,409		147,409		147,409
Accrued interest payable	1,444	1,444			1,444
Subordinated deferrable interest debentures	65,084		46,214		46,214

Table of Contents**Fair Value Measurements at December 31, 2013**

Using:

	Carrying Amount	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
		(Dollars in Thousands)			
Financial assets:					
Cash and due from banks	\$ 62,955	\$ 62,955	\$	\$	\$ 62,995
Federal funds sold and interest-bearing accounts	\$ 204,984	\$ 204,984	\$	\$	\$ 204,984
Loans, net	\$ 2,392,521	\$	\$	\$ 2,404,909	\$ 2,404,909
FDIC loss-share receivable	\$ 65,441	\$	\$	\$ 61,317	\$ 61,317
Accrued interest receivable	\$ 15,071	\$ 15,071	\$	\$	\$ 15,071
Financial liabilities:					
Deposits	2,999,231		3,000,061		3,000,061
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	83,516	83,516			83,516
Other borrowings	194,572		194,572		194,572
Accrued interest payable	1,431	1,431			1,431
Subordinated deferrable interest debentures	55,466		36,277		36,277

Fair Value Measurements at September 30, 2013

Using:

	Carrying Amount	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
		(Dollars in Thousands)			
Financial assets:					
Cash and due from banks	\$ 53,516	\$ 53,516	\$	\$	\$ 53,516
Federal funds sold and interest-bearing accounts	\$ 73,899	\$ 73,899	\$	\$	\$ 73,899
Loans, net	\$ 1,939,498	\$	\$	\$ 1,912,634	\$ 1,912,634
FDIC loss-share receivable	\$ 81,763	\$	\$	\$ 76,346	\$ 76,346
Accrued interest receivable	\$ 13,030	\$ 13,030	\$	\$	\$ 13,030
Financial liabilities:					
Deposits	2,443,421		2,444,244		2,444,244
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	20,255	20,255			20,255
Accrued interest payable	831	831			831
Subordinated Deferrable Interest Debentures	42,269		23,331		23,331

Table of Contents

The following table presents the fair value measurements of assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis and the level within the fair value hierarchy in which the fair value measurements fall as of September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013 (dollars in thousands):

Fair Value Measurements on a Recurring Basis				
As of September 30, 2014				
	Fair Value	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
U.S. government agencies	\$ 14,460	\$	\$ 14,460	\$
State, county and municipal securities	137,635		137,635	
Corporate debt securities	10,965		8,465	2,500
Mortgage-backed securities	366,449	10,273	356,176	
Mortgage loans held for sale	110,059		110,059	
IRLCs and forward contracts	2,295		2,295	
Total recurring assets at fair value	\$ 641,863	\$ 10,273	\$ 629,090	\$ 2,500
Derivative financial instruments	\$ 807	\$	\$ 807	\$
Total recurring liabilities at fair value	\$ 807	\$	\$ 807	\$

Fair Value Measurements on a Recurring Basis				
As of December 31, 2013				
	Fair Value	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
U.S. government agencies	\$ 13,926	\$	\$ 13,926	\$
State, county and municipal securities	112,754		112,754	
Collateralized debt obligations	1,480	1,480		
Corporate debt securities	10,325		8,325	2,000
Mortgage-backed securities	347,750	182,461	165,289	
Mortgage loans held for sale	67,278		67,278	
IRLCs and forward contracts	1,180		1,180	
Total recurring assets at fair value	\$ 554,693	\$ 183,941	\$ 368,752	\$ 2,000
Derivative financial instruments	\$ 370	\$	\$ 370	\$

Total recurring liabilities at fair value \$ 370 \$ \$ 370 \$

Fair Value Measurements on a Recurring Basis

As of September 30, 2013

	Fair Value	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
U.S. government agencies	\$ 13,917	\$	\$ 13,917	\$
State, county and municipal securities	112,939	4,460	108,479	
Corporate debt securities	9,738		7,738	2,000
Mortgage-backed securities	175,654	9,375	166,279	
Mortgage loans held for sale	69,634		69,634	
IRLCs and forward contracts	2,506		2,506	
Total recurring assets at fair value	\$ 384,388	\$ 13,835	\$ 368,553	\$ 2,000
Derivative financial instruments	\$ 972	\$	\$ 972	\$
Total recurring liabilities at fair value	\$ 972	\$	\$ 972	\$

Table of Contents

The following table is a presentation of the valuation methodologies used for instruments measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis, as well as the general classification of such instruments pursuant to the valuation hierarchy as of September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013 (dollars in thousands):

**Fair Value Measurements on a Nonrecurring Basis
As of September 30, 2014**

	Fair Value	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Impaired loans carried at fair value	\$ 35,834	\$	\$	\$ 35,834
Other real estate owned	35,320			35,320
Purchased, non-covered other real estate owned	13,660			13,660
Covered other real estate owned	28,883			28,883
Total nonrecurring assets at fair value	\$ 113,697	\$	\$	\$ 113,697

**Fair Value Measurements on a Nonrecurring Basis
As of December 31, 2013**

	Fair Value	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Impaired loans carried at fair value	\$ 42,546	\$	\$	\$ 42,546
Other real estate owned	33,351			33,351
Purchased, non-covered other real estate owned	4,276			4,276
Covered other real estate owned	45,893			45,893
Total nonrecurring assets at fair value	\$ 126,066	\$	\$	\$ 126,066

Fair Value Measurements on a Nonrecurring Basis

As of September 30, 2013

	Fair Value	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Impaired loans carried at fair value	\$ 43,564	\$	\$	\$ 43,564
Other real estate owned	39,978			39,978
Covered other real estate owned	52,552			52,552
Total nonrecurring assets at fair value	\$ 136,094	\$	\$	\$ 136,094

Table of Contents

The inputs used to determine estimated fair value of impaired loans include market conditions, loan terms, underlying collateral characteristics and discount rates. The inputs used to determine fair value of other real estate owned, purchased non-covered other real estate owned and covered other real estate owned include market conditions, estimated marketing period or holding period, underlying collateral characteristics and discount rates.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, there was not a change in the methods and significant assumptions used to estimate fair value.

The following table shows significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement of Level 3 assets and liabilities as of September 30, 2014.

Measurements	Fair Value at September 30, 2014	Valuation Technique	Unobservable Inputs	Range
	(Dollars in Thousands)			
Nonrecurring:				
Impaired loans	\$ 35,834	Third party appraisals and discounted cash flows	Collateral discounts and discount rates	4.00% - 90.00%
Other real estate owned	\$ 35,320	Third party appraisals	Collateral discounts and estimated costs to sell	10.00% - 90.00%
Purchased non-covered other real estate owned	\$ 13,660	Third party appraisals	Collateral discounts and estimated costs to sell	22.00% - 94.00%
Covered real estate owned	\$ 28,883	Third party appraisals	Collateral discounts and estimated costs to sell	10.00% - 90.00%
Recurring:				
Investment securities available for sale	\$ 2,500	Discounted par values	Credit quality of underlying issuer	0.00%

The following table shows significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement of Level 3 assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2013.

Measurements	Fair Value at December 31, 2013	Valuation Technique	Unobservable Inputs	Range
	(Dollars in Thousands)			
Nonrecurring:				
Impaired loans	\$ 42,546	Third party appraisals and discounted cash flows	Collateral discounts and discount rates	4.00% - 75.00%
Other real estate owned	\$ 33,351	Third party appraisals	Collateral discounts and estimated costs to sell	10.00% - 74.00%
Purchased, non-covered loans	\$ 448,753	Third party appraisals and discounted cash flows	Collateral discounts and discount rates	1.00% - 40.00%
Purchased non-covered other real estate owned	\$ 4,276	Third party appraisals	Collateral discounts and estimated costs to sell	15.00% - 63.00%

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Covered loans		Third party appraisals and discounted cash flows	Collateral discounts	
	\$ 390,237		Discount rate	1.75% - 75.00%
Covered real estate owned		Third party appraisals	Collateral discounts and estimated costs to sell	10.00% - 86.00%
	\$ 45,893			
Recurring:				
Investment securities available for sale	\$ 2,000	Discounted par values	Credit quality of underlying issuer	0.00%

Table of Contents**NOTE 11 SEGMENT REPORTING**

The following tables present selected financial information with respect to the Company's reportable business segments for the three- month periods ended September 30, 2014 and 2013:

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2014			Three Months Ended September 30, 2013		
	Retail Banking	Mortgage Banking	Total	Retail Banking	Mortgage Banking	Total
	(Dollars in Thousands)					
Net interest income	\$ 36,785	\$ 2,347	\$ 39,132	\$ 28,089	\$ 1,231	\$ 29,320
Provision for loan losses	994	675	1,669	2,920		2,920
Noninterest income	10,766	7,135	17,901	7,054	5,234	12,288
Noninterest expense:						
Salaries and employee benefits	15,817	4,409	20,226	10,799	3,613	14,412
Equipment and occupancy expenses	4,301	368	4,669	3,029	120	3,149
Data processing and telecommunications expenses	3,622	306	3,928	2,908	164	30,72
Other expenses	8,887	869	9,756	7,473	643	8,116
Total noninterest expense	32,627	5,952	38,579	24,209	4,540	28,749
Income before income tax expense	13,930	2,855	16,785	8,014	1,925	9,939
Income tax expense	4,123	999	5,122	2,588	674	3,262
Net income	9,807	1,856	11,663	5,426	1,251	6,677
Less preferred stock dividends				443		443
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 9,807	\$ 1,856	\$ 11,663	\$ 4,983	\$ 1,251	\$ 6,234
Total assets	\$ 3,772,050	\$ 227,358	\$ 3,999,408	\$ 2,707,200	\$ 111,302	\$ 2,818,502
Stockholders' equity	309,904	43,926	353,830	250,863	39,493	290,356

The following tables present selected financial information with respect to the Company's reportable business segments for the nine- month periods ended September 30, 2014 and 2013:

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014			Nine Months Ended September 30, 2013		
	Retail Banking	Mortgage Banking	Total	Retail Banking	Mortgage Banking	Total
	(Dollars in Thousands)					
Net interest income	\$ 104,094	\$ 4,786	\$ 108,880	\$ 84,372	\$ 2,762	\$ 87,134

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Provision for loan losses	4,085	675	4,760	10,008		10,008
Noninterest income	27,173	19,301	46,474	20,333	14,699	35,032
Noninterest expense:						
Salaries and employee benefits	42,648	11,914	54,562	32,314	9,285	41,599
Equipment and occupancy expenses	11,834	970	12,804	8,575	483	9,058
Data processing and telecommunications expenses	10,551	771	11,322	8,013	465	8,478
Other expenses	27,452	2,996	30,448	22,807	2,379	25,186
Total noninterest expense	92,485	16,651	109,136	71,709	12,612	84,321
Income before income tax expense	34,697	6,761	41,458	22,988	4,849	27,837
Income tax expense	10,949	2,366	13,315	7,500	1,697	9,197
Net income	23,748	4,395	28,143	15,488	3,152	18,640
Less preferred stock dividends	286		286	1,326		1,326
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 23,462	\$ 4,395	\$ 27,857	\$ 14,162	\$ 3,152	\$ 17,314

Table of Contents

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

Cautionary Note Regarding Any Forward-Looking Statements

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

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

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

Overview

The following is management's discussion and analysis of certain significant factors which have affected the financial condition and results of operations of the Company as reflected in the unaudited consolidated balance sheet as of September 30, 2014 as compared to December 31, 2013 and operating results for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2014 and 2013. These comments should be read in conjunction with the Company's unaudited consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes appearing elsewhere herein.

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

Table of Contents

<i>(in thousands, except share data, and per share data)</i>	Third Quarter 2014	Second Quarter 2014	First Quarter 2014	Fourth Quarter 2013	Third Quarter 2013	For Nine Months End September 30, 2014	For Nine Months End September 30, 2013
Income Statement:							
Interest income	\$ 39,132	\$ 35,264	\$ 34,484	\$ 29,051	\$ 29,320	\$ 108,880	\$ 87,715
Interest income (tax equivalent)	39,608	35,626	34,808	29,325	29,542	110,042	87,715
Provision for loan losses	1,669	1,365	1,726	1,478	2,920	4,760	10,300
Interest expense	17,901	15,819	12,754	11,517	12,288	46,474	35,250
Interest expense	38,579	37,318	33,239	37,624	28,749	109,136	84,800
Tax expense	5,122	4,270	3,923	88	3,262	13,315	9,900
Preferred stock dividends			286	412	443	286	1,131
Income available to common shareholders	11,663	8,130	8,064	966	6,234	27,857	17,335
Balance Sheet:							
Large loans held for sale	\$ 83,751	\$ 54,517	\$ 49,397	\$ 65,683	\$ 61,249	\$ 62,506	\$ 107,450
Net of unearned income	1,795,059	1,706,564	1,639,672	1,602,942	1,564,311	1,697,559	1,458,300
Small non-covered loans	688,452	433,249	441,138	43,900		538,802	
Small loans	324,498	354,766	379,460	401,045	427,482	352,707	454,000
Investment securities	525,739	468,129	462,343	327,993	312,541	485,636	325,000
Other assets	3,489,563	3,075,204	3,091,546	2,625,178	2,439,771	3,219,288	2,422,000
Other assets	3,969,893	3,494,466	3,521,588	2,937,434	2,806,799	3,663,696	2,837,000
Other assets	3,382,810	3,010,142	2,975,305	2,552,819	2,439,150	3,124,245	2,466,000
Common shareholders' equity	350,733	309,696	290,462	248,429	246,489	319,435	249,000
End Balances:							
Large loans held for sale	\$ 110,059	\$ 81,491	\$ 51,693	\$ 67,278	\$ 69,634	\$ 110,059	\$ 69,634
Net of unearned income	1,848,759	1,770,059	1,695,382	1,618,454	1,589,267	1,848,759	1,589,267
Small non-covered loans	673,724	702,131	437,269	448,753		673,724	
Small loans	313,589	331,250	372,694	390,237	417,649	313,589	417,649
Investment securities	3,515,805	3,465,361	3,062,428	3,215,941	2,462,697	3,515,805	2,462,697
Other assets	3,999,408	3,973,135	3,487,984	3,667,649	2,818,502	3,999,408	2,818,502
Other assets	3,373,119	3,389,035	3,010,647	2,999,231	2,443,421	3,373,119	2,443,421
Common shareholders' equity	353,830	343,399	300,030	288,699	262,418	353,830	262,418
Common Share Data:							
Earnings per share - basic	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.32	\$ 0.32	\$ 0.04	\$ 0.26	\$ 1.08	\$ 0.69
Earnings per share - diluted	0.43	0.32	0.32	0.04	0.26	1.07	0.69
Book value per share	13.22	12.83	11.93	11.50	10.98	13.22	11.93
Period shares outstanding	26,774,402	26,771,821	25,159,073	25,098,427	23,907,509	26,774,402	23,907,509
Weighted average shares outstanding	26,773,033	25,180,665	25,144,342	24,021,447	23,900,665	25,705,313	23,882,000
Weighted average shares outstanding	27,160,886	25,572,405	25,573,320	24,450,619	24,315,821	26,099,413	24,297,000
Market Price:							
Closing price	\$ 24.04	\$ 23.90	\$ 24.00	\$ 21.42	\$ 19.79	\$ 24.04	\$ 19.79
Opening price	21.00	19.73	19.86	17.69	17.35	19.73	17.35
Average price for quarter	21.95	21.56	23.30	21.11	18.38	21.95	18.38
Daily trading volume	79,377	79,038	103,279	94,636	75,545	87,019	60,000
Price to book value	1.66	1.68	1.95	1.84	1.67	1.66	1.66

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Financial Ratios:

Return on average assets	1.17%	0.93%	0.96%	0.19%	0.94%	1.01%
Return on average common equity	13.19%	10.53%	11.66%	2.20%	10.75%	10.73%
Loans to average assets	85.48%	84.68%	84.35%	82.79%	84.17%	84.87%
Equity to average assets	8.83%	8.86%	9.04%	9.41%	9.78%	8.94%
Interest margin (tax equivalent)	4.50%	4.65%	4.57%	4.43%	4.80%	4.57%
Asset coverage ratio (tax equivalent)	67.64%	73.05%	70.36%	92.74%	69.09%	70.25%

Table of Contents**Results of Operations for the Three Months Ended September 30, 2014 and 2013****Consolidated Earnings and Profitability**

Ameris reported net income available to common shareholders of \$11.7 million, or \$0.43 per diluted share, for the quarter ended September 30, 2014, compared to \$6.2 million, or \$0.26 per diluted share, for the same period in 2013. The Company's return on average assets and average shareholders' equity of 1.17% and 13.19%, respectively, in the third quarter of 2014, compared to 0.94% and 10.75%, respectively, in the third quarter of 2013. The Company's mortgage banking activities have had a significant impact on the overall financial results of the Company. Below is a more detailed analysis of the retail banking activities and mortgage banking activities of the Company during the third quarter of 2014 and 2013, respectively:

	Retail Banking	Mortgage Banking	Total
	<i>(in thousands)</i>		
For the three months ended September 30, 2014:			
Net interest income	\$ 36,785	\$ 2,347	\$ 39,132
Provision for loan losses	994	675	1,669
Non-interest income	10,766	7,135	17,901
Non-interest expense			
Salaries and employee benefits	15,817	4,409	20,226
Occupancy	4,301	368	4,669
Data processing	3,622	306	3,928
Other expenses	8,887	869	9,756
Total non-interest expense	32,627	5,952	38,579
Income before income taxes	13,930	2,855	16,785
Income tax expense	4,123	999	5,122
Net income	9,807	1,856	11,663
Preferred stock dividends			
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 9,807	\$ 1,856	\$ 11,663

	Retail Banking	Mortgage Banking	Total
	<i>(in thousands)</i>		
For the three months ended September 30, 2013:			
Net interest income	\$ 28,089	\$ 1,231	\$ 29,320
Provision for loan losses	2,920		2,920
Non-interest income	7,054	5,234	12,288
Non-interest expense			
Salaries and employee benefits	10,799	3,613	14,412

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Occupancy	3,029	120	3,149
Data processing	2,908	164	3,072
Other expenses	7,473	643	8,116
Total non-interest expense	24,209	4,540	28,749
Income before income taxes	8,014	1,925	9,939
Income tax expense	2,588	674	3,262
Net income	5,426	1,251	6,677
Preferred stock dividends	443		443
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 4,983	\$ 1,251	\$ 6,234

Table of Contents**Net Interest Income and Margins**

The following tables set forth the amount of our interest income or interest expense for each category of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities and the average interest rate for total interest-earning assets and total interest-bearing liabilities, net interest spread and net interest margin on average interest-earning assets. Federally tax-exempt income is presented on a taxable-equivalent basis assuming a 35% federal tax rate.

	Quarter Ended September 30,					
	Average Balance	2014 Interest Income/ Expense	Average Yield/ Rate Paid	Average Balance	2013 Interest Income/ Expense	Average Yield/ Rate Paid
<i>(in Thousands)</i>						
ASSETS						
Interest-earning assets:						
Loans	\$ 2,891,760	\$ 39,912	5.48%	\$ 2,053,042	\$ 29,733	5.75%
Investment securities	533,948	3,704	2.75	320,305	2,195	2.72
Short-term assets	63,855	47	0.29	66,424	44	0.26
Total interest-earning assets	3,489,563	43,663	4.96	2,439,771	31,972	5.20
Noninterest-earning assets	480,330			367,028		
Total assets	\$ 3,969,893			\$ 2,806,799		
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY						
Interest-bearing liabilities:						
Savings and interest-bearing demand deposits	\$ 1,760,108	\$ 1,148	0.26%	\$ 1,316,890	\$ 883	0.27%
Time deposits	815,286	1,392	0.68	653,672	1,142	0.69
Other borrowings	47,346	558	4.68	1,739	20	4.56
FHLB advances	55,435	51	0.36			
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	44,316	39	0.35	18,446	26	0.56
Subordinated deferrable interest debentures	64,953	866	5.29	42,269	358	3.36
Total interest-bearing liabilities	2,787,444	4,054	0.58	2,033,016	2,429	0.47
Demand deposits	807,416			468,588		
Other liabilities	24,300			15,939		
Stockholders equity	350,733			289,256		
Total liabilities and stockholders equity	\$ 3,969,893			\$ 2,806,799		

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Interest rate spread	4.39%	4.73%
Net interest income	\$ 39,609	\$ 29,543
Net interest margin	4.50%	4.80%

On a tax equivalent basis, net interest income for the third quarter of 2014 was \$39.6 million, an increase of \$10.1 million compared to \$29.5 million reported in the same quarter in 2013. The higher net interest income is a result of the acquisition of Prosperity Bank during the fourth quarter of 2013 and the acquisition of Coastal Bank in the second quarter of 2014, along with steady yields on the loan portfolio and continued low rates in the Company's cost of funds. The Company's net interest margin decreased during the third quarter of 2014 to 4.50%, compared to 4.65% during the second quarter of 2014 and 4.80% reported in the third quarter of 2013.

Table of Contents

Total interest income, on a tax equivalent basis, during the third quarter of 2014 was \$43.7 million compared to \$32.0 million in the same quarter of 2013. Yields on earning assets fell slightly to 4.96%, compared to 5.20% reported in the third quarter of 2013. During the third quarter of 2014, loans comprised 82.9% of earning assets, compared to 84.1% in the same quarter of 2013. Increased lending activities have provided opportunities to grow the legacy loan portfolio. Yields on legacy loans decreased to 4.82% in the third quarter of 2014, compared to 5.36% in the same period of 2013. Covered loan yields declined from 7.65% in the third quarter of 2013 to 5.78% in the third quarter of 2014. The yield on purchased non-covered loans was 7.27% for the third quarter of 2014. Management anticipates improving economic conditions and increased loan demand will provide consistent interest income.

Total funding costs increased slightly to 0.45% in the third quarter of 2014, compared to 0.39% during the third quarter of 2013. The increase was driven by the increased cost of subordinated debentures acquired in the Prosperity and Coastal acquisitions. The average cost of subordinated debentures was 5.29% in the third quarter of 2014, compared to 3.37% in the third quarter of 2013. The subordinated debentures that are assumed in the acquisitions are recorded at fair value, which carries a current market rate higher than the Company's previous subordinated debentures.

Deposit costs decreased from 0.33% in the third quarter of 2013 to 0.30% in the third quarter of 2014, while non-deposit funding costs increased from 2.57% in the third quarter of 2013 to 2.83% in the third quarter of 2014. Continued shifts in the funding mix toward noninterest-bearing demand and other lower cost deposit categories were the primary reason for the decline in deposit costs. Ongoing efforts to maintain the percentage of funding from transaction deposits have succeeded such that non-CD deposits averaged 76.0% of total deposits in the third quarter of 2014, compared to 73.2% during the third quarter of 2013. Lower costs on deposits were realized due mostly to the lower rate environment and the Company's ability to rely less on higher priced CDs due to its larger than normal position in short-term assets. Further opportunity to realize savings on deposits exists but may be limited due to current costs. Average balances of interest bearing deposits and their respective costs for the third quarter of 2014 and 2013 are shown below:

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014		September 30, 2013	
	Average Balance	Average Cost	Average Balance	Average Cost
NOW	\$ 743,352	0.17%	\$ 573,088	0.17%
MMDA	861,197	0.36%	639,304	0.38%
Savings	155,559	0.11%	104,498	0.11%
Retail CDs < \$100,000	439,150	0.54%	290,771	0.55%
Retail CDs > \$100,000	370,166	0.80%	349,931	0.72%
Brokered CDs	5,970	3.12%	12,970	3.09%
Interest-bearing deposits	\$ 2,575,394	0.39%	\$ 1,970,562	0.41%

Provision for Loan Losses and Credit Quality

The Company's provision for loan losses during the third quarter of 2014 amounted to \$1.7 million, compared to \$1.4 million in the second quarter of 2014 and \$2.9 million in the third quarter of 2013. Although the Company has experienced improving trends in criticized and classified assets for several quarters, provision for loan losses continues to be required to account for loan growth and continued devaluation of real estate collateral. At September 30, 2014, classified loans still accruing totaled \$43.5 million, compared to \$31.3 million at September 30,

2013. This increase is predominately due to the addition of classified loans in the Prosperity Bank and Coastal Bank acquisitions. Non-accrual loans, excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans, totaled \$22.8 million at September 30, 2014, a 28.1% decrease from \$31.7 million reported at the end of the third quarter of 2013. Nonaccrual purchased non-covered loans totaled \$17.0 million at September 30, 2014. There were no nonaccrual purchased non-covered loans at the end of the third quarter of 2013.

At September 30, 2014, other real estate owned (excluding purchased non-covered and covered OREO) totaled \$35.3 million, compared to \$35.4 million at June 30, 2014 and \$38.0 million at September 30, 2013. Management regularly assesses the valuation of OREO through periodic reappraisal and through inquiries received in the marketing process. The Company has found that with a marketing window of six to twelve months, the liquidation of properties occurs between 85% and 100% of current book value. Certain properties, mostly raw land and subdivision lots, have extended marketing periods because of excessive inventory and record low home building activity. At the end of the third quarter of 2014, total non-performing assets were 2.22% of total assets, compared to 2.00% at December 31, 2013 and 2.47% at September 30, 2013. This increase is due to the Prosperity Bank and Coastal Bank acquisitions completed in the fourth quarter of 2013 and second quarter of 2014, respectively. Management continues to aggressively identify and resolve problem assets while seeking quality credits to grow the loan portfolio.

Table of Contents

Net charge-offs on loans during the third quarter of 2014 were \$1.6 million, or 0.35% of loans on an annualized basis, compared to \$2.8 million, or 0.70% of loans, in the third quarter of 2013. The Company's allowance for loan losses at September 30, 2014 was \$22.2 million, or 1.20% of loans (excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans), compared to \$23.9 million, or 1.50% of loans (excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans), at September 30, 2013.

Noninterest Income

Total non-interest income for the third quarter of 2014 was \$17.9 million, compared to \$12.3 million in the third quarter of 2013. Income from mortgage related activities continued to increase as a result of the Company's increased number of mortgage bankers and higher levels of production. Service charges on deposit accounts in the third quarter of 2014 increased to \$6.7 million, compared to \$4.9 million in the third quarter of 2013. This increase was driven by the growth of core accounts through the acquisition of Prosperity Bank during the fourth quarter of 2013 and Coastal Bank during the second quarter of 2014, along with higher balances in accounts subject to service charges.

Noninterest Expense

Total non-interest expenses for the third quarter of 2014 increased to \$38.6 million, compared to \$28.7 million in the same quarter in 2013. Increases in noninterest expenses were primarily the result of the acquisition of Prosperity Bank during the fourth quarter of 2013, the acquisition of Coastal Bank in the second quarter of 2014 and additional expenses related to increases in mortgage volume. Salaries and benefits increased \$5.8 million when compared to the third quarter of 2013. Occupancy and equipment expense increased during the quarter from \$3.1 million in the third quarter of 2013 to \$4.7 million in the third quarter of 2014. Data processing and telecommunications expenses increased to \$3.9 million for the third quarter of 2014 from \$3.1 million for the same period in 2013. Credit resolution related expenses, including problem loan and OREO expense and OREO write-downs and losses, increased to \$3.2 million in the third quarter of 2014, compared to \$3.0 million in the third quarter of 2013.

Income Taxes

Income tax expense is influenced by the amount of taxable income, the amount of tax-exempt income and the amount of non-deductible expenses. For the third quarter of 2014, the Company reported income tax expense of \$5.1 million, compared to \$3.3 million in the same period of 2013. The Company's effective tax rate for the three months ending September 30, 2014 and 2013 was 30.5% and 32.8%, respectively.

Table of Contents**Results of Operations for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014 and 2013**

Ameris reported net income available to common shareholders of \$27.9 million, or \$1.07 per diluted share, for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, compared to \$17.3 million, or \$0.71 per diluted share, for the same period in 2013. The Company's mortgage banking activities have had a significant impact on the overall financial results of the Company. Below is a more detailed analysis of the retail banking activities and mortgage banking activities of the Company during the first nine months of 2014 and 2013, respectively:

	Retail Banking	Mortgage Banking	Total
	<i>(in thousands)</i>		
For the nine months ended September 30, 2014:			
Net interest income	\$ 104,094	\$ 4,786	\$ 108,880
Provision for loan losses	4,085	675	4,760
Non-interest income	27,173	19,301	46,474
Non-interest expense			
Salaries and employee benefits	42,648	11,914	54,562
Occupancy	11,834	970	12,804
Data processing	10,551	771	11,322
Other expenses	27,452	2,996	30,448
Total non-interest expense	92,485	16,651	109,136
Income before income taxes	34,697	6,761	41,458
Income tax expense	10,949	2,366	13,315
Net income	23,748	4,395	28,143
Preferred stock dividends	286		286
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 23,462	\$ 4,395	\$ 27,857

	Retail Banking	Mortgage Banking	Total
	<i>(in thousands)</i>		
For the nine months ended September 30, 2013:			
Net interest income	\$ 84,372	\$ 2,762	\$ 87,134
Provision for loan losses	10,008		10,008
Non-interest income	20,333	14,699	35,032
Non-interest expense			
Salaries and employee benefits	32,314	9,285	41,599
Occupancy	8,575	483	9,058
Data processing	8,013	465	8,478
Other expenses	22,807	2,379	25,186

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Total non-interest expense	71,709	12,612	84,321
Income before income taxes	22,988	4,849	27,837
Income tax expense	7,500	1,697	9,197
Net income	15,488	3,152	18,640
Preferred stock dividends	1,326		1,326
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 14,162	\$ 3,152	\$ 17,314

Interest Income

Interest income, on a tax equivalent basis, for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 was \$120.8 million, an increase of \$25.5 million when compared to \$95.3 million for the same period in 2013. Average earning assets for the nine-month period increased \$796.5 million to \$3.22 billion as of September 30, 2014, compared to \$2.42 billion as of September 30, 2013. The increase in average earning assets is due to the Prosperity Bank acquisition completed in December 2013 and the Coastal Bank acquisition completed in June 2014. Yield on average earning assets was 5.02% for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, compared to 5.26% in the first nine months of 2013.

Interest Expense

Total interest expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 amounted to \$10.8 million, reflecting a \$3.4 million increase from the \$7.4 million expense recorded in the same period of 2013. During the nine-month period ended September 30, 2014, the Company's funding costs increased slightly to 0.43% from 0.39% reported in 2013. Deposit costs decreased to 0.30% during the nine month period ended September 30, 2014, compared to 0.34% during the same period in 2013. Total non-deposit funding costs increased from 2.28% during the first nine months of 2013 to 2.66% during the first nine months of 2014.

Table of Contents**Net Interest Income**

The following tables set forth the amount of our interest income or interest expense for each category of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities and the average interest rate for total interest-earning assets and total interest-bearing liabilities, net interest spread and net interest margin on average interest-earning assets. Federally tax-exempt income is presented on a taxable-equivalent basis assuming a 35% federal tax rate.

	Nine Months Ended September 30,					
	Average Balance	2014 Interest Income/ Expense	Average Yield/ Rate Paid	Average Balance	2013 Interest Income/ Expense	Average Yield/ Rate Paid
<i>(in Thousands)</i>						
ASSETS						
Interest-earning assets:						
Loans	\$ 2,651,574	\$ 110,138	5.55%	\$ 2,017,007	\$ 88,602	5.87%
Investment securities	493,736	10,515	2.85	332,585	6,582	2.65
Short-term assets	73,978	176	0.32	73,194	158	0.29
Total interest-earning assets	3,219,288	120,829	5.02	2,422,786	95,342	5.26
Noninterest-earning assets	444,408			414,972		
Total assets	\$ 3,663,696			\$ 2,837,758		
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY						
Interest-bearing liabilities:						
Savings and interest-bearing demand deposits	\$ 1,645,535	\$ 3,208	0.26%	\$ 1,313,569	\$ 2,570	0.26%
Time deposits	760,203	3,720	0.65	676,025	3,764	0.74
Other borrowings	37,607	1,381	4.91	586	20	4.56
FHLB advances	50,751	114	0.30			
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	47,099	123	0.35	22,024	94	0.57
Subordinated deferrable interest debentures	58,647	2,240	5.11	42,269	991	3.13
Total interest-bearing liabilities	2,599,842	10,786	0.55	2,054,473	7,439	0.48
Demand deposits	718,505			476,419		
Other liabilities	17,812			19,762		
Stockholders equity	327,537			287,104		
Total liabilities and stockholders equity	\$ 3,663,696			\$ 2,837,758		

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Interest rate spread	4.46%	4.78%
Net interest income	\$ 110,043	\$ 87,903
Net interest margin	4.57%	4.85%

For the year-to-date period ending September 30, 2014, the Company reported \$110.1 million of net interest income on a tax equivalent basis, compared to \$87.96 million of net interest income for the same period in 2013. The average balance of earning assets increased 32.9%, from \$2.4 billion during the first nine months of 2013 to \$3.2 billion during the first nine months of 2014. The Company's net interest margin decreased to 4.57% in the nine month period ending September 30, 2014, compared to 4.85% in the same period in 2013.

Table of Contents***Provision for Loan Losses***

The provision for loan losses decreased to \$4.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, compared to \$10.0 million in the same period in 2013. Non-performing assets (excluding covered assets) totaled \$88.8 million at September 30, 2014, compared to \$69.7 million at September 30, 2013. The majority of the increase is due to the Prosperity acquisition in the fourth quarter of 2013. Non-performing assets as a percent of total assets decreased from 2.47% at September 30, 2013 to 2.22% at September 30, 2014. For the nine-month period ended September 30, 2014, the Company had net charge-offs totaling \$4.2 million, compared to \$8.5 million for the same period in 2013. Annualized net charge-offs as a percentage of loans (excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans) decreased to 0.31% during the first nine months of 2014, compared to 0.71% during the first nine months of 2013.

Noninterest Income

Non-interest income for the first nine months of 2014 was \$46.5 million, compared to \$35.0 million in the same period in 2013. Service charges on deposit accounts increased approximately \$3.6 million to \$18.1 million in the first nine months of 2014, compared to \$14.5 million in the same period in 2013. This increase was driven by the growth of core accounts through the acquisition of Prosperity Bank during the fourth quarter of 2013 and Coastal Bank during the second quarter of 2014, along with higher balances in accounts subject to service charges. Income from mortgage banking activity increased from \$14.7 million in the first nine months of 2013 to \$19.5 million in the first nine months of 2014, due to an increased number of mortgage bankers and higher levels of production.

Noninterest Expense

Total operating expenses for the first nine months of 2014 increased to \$109.1 million, compared to \$84.3 million in the same period in 2013. During the first nine months of 2014, the Company recorded \$3.3 million of merger charges related to the Coastal acquisition. Other increases in noninterest expenses were primarily the result of the acquisition of Prosperity Bank during the fourth quarter of 2013, the acquisition of Coastal Bank during the second quarter of 2014 and additional expenses related to increases in mortgage volume. Salaries and benefits increased \$13.0 million when compared to the first nine months of 2013. Occupancy and equipment expenses for the first nine months of 2014 amounted to \$12.8 million, representing an increase of \$3.7 million from the same period in 2013. Data processing and telecommunications expenses increased from \$8.5 million in the first nine months of 2013 to \$11.3 million in the first nine months of 2014. Credit resolution related expenses, including problem loan and OREO expense and OREO write-downs and losses, decreased to \$8.2 million in the first nine months of 2014, compared to \$10.2 million in the first nine months of 2013.

Income Taxes

In the first nine months of 2014, the Company recorded income tax expense of \$13.3 million, compared to \$9.2 million in the same period of 2013. The Company's effective tax rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013 was 32.1% and 33.0%, respectively.

Financial Condition as of September 30, 2014**Securities**

Debt securities with readily determinable fair values are classified as available for sale and recorded at fair value with unrealized gains and losses excluded from earnings and reported in accumulated other comprehensive income, net of the related deferred tax effect. Equity securities, including restricted equity securities, are classified as other

investments and are recorded at cost.

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

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

Management evaluates securities for other-than-temporary impairment at least quarterly, and more frequently when economic or market concerns warrant such evaluation. Substantially all of the unrealized losses on debt securities are related to changes in interest rates and do not affect the expected cash flows of the issuer or underlying collateral. All unrealized losses are considered temporary because each security carries an acceptable investment grade and the Company does not intend to sell these investment securities at an unrealized loss position at September 30, 2014, and it is more likely than not that the Company will not be required to sell these securities prior to recovery or maturity. Therefore, at September 30, 2014, these investments are not considered impaired on an other-than temporary basis.

Table of Contents

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

	Book Value	Fair Value	Yield	Modified Duration	Estimated Cash Flows 12 months
	Dollars in Thousands				
September 30, 2014:					
U.S. government agencies	\$ 14,951	\$ 14,460	1.85%	5.22	\$
State and municipal securities	134,641	137,635	4.05%	6.11	5,892
Corporate debt securities	10,801	10,965	6.401%	7.38	1,250
Mortgage-backed securities	364,399	366,449	2.47%	3.95	60,567
Total debt securities	\$ 524,792	\$ 529,509	2.94%	4.61	\$ 67,709
September 30, 2013:					
U.S. government agencies	\$ 14,945	\$ 13,917	1.85%	5.91	\$
State and municipal securities	112,643	112,939	3.62%	5.58	5,104
Corporate debt securities	10,314	9,738	6.51%	7.14	
Mortgage-backed securities	176,818	175,654	2.67%	4.05	27,818
Total debt securities	\$ 314,720	\$ 312,248	3.11%	4.79	\$ 32,922

Loans and Allowance for Loan Losses

At September 30, 2014, gross loans outstanding (including mortgage loans held for sale and purchased non-covered and covered loans) were \$2.95 billion, an increase from \$2.52 billion reported at December 31, 2013 and \$2.08 billion reported at September 30, 2013. Legacy loans (excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans) increased \$230.3 million, from \$1.62 billion at December 31, 2013 to \$1.85 billion at September 30, 2014. Purchased non-covered loans increased \$225.0 million, from \$448.8 million at December 31, 2013 to \$673.7 million at September 30, 2014. Covered loans decreased \$76.6 million, from \$390.2 million at December 31, 2013 to \$313.6 million at September 30, 2014.

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

The Company's risk management processes include a loan review program designed to evaluate the credit risk in the loan portfolio and ensure credit grade accuracy. Through the loan review process, the Company conducts (1) a loan portfolio summary analysis, (2) charge-off and recovery analysis, (3) trends in accruing problem loan analysis, and (4) problem and past due loan analysis. This analysis process serves as a tool to assist management in assessing the overall quality of the loan portfolio and the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses. Loans classified as substandard

are loans which are inadequately protected by the current sound worth and paying capacity of the borrower or of the collateral pledged. These assets exhibit a well-defined weakness or are characterized by the distinct possibility that the Company will sustain some loss if the deficiencies are not corrected. These weaknesses may be characterized by past due performance, operating losses and/or questionable collateral values. Loans classified as doubtful are those loans that have characteristics similar to substandard loans but have an increased risk of loss. Loans classified as loss are those loans which are considered uncollectible and are in the process of being charged-off.

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

Table of Contents

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

For the nine-month period ended September 30, 2014, the Company recorded net charge-offs totaling \$4.2 million, compared to \$8.5 million for the period ended September 30, 2013. The provision for loan losses for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 decreased to \$4.8 million, compared to \$10.0 million during the nine-month period ended September 30, 2013. At the end of the third quarter of 2014, the allowance for loan losses totaled \$22.2 million, or 1.20% of total legacy loans, compared to \$22.4 million, or 1.38% of total legacy loans, at December 31, 2013 and \$23.9 million, or 1.50% of total legacy loans, at September 30, 2013. The decrease in the allowance for loan losses as a percentage of non-covered loans reflects the improving credit quality trends in the loan portfolio and the reduced annualized charge-offs as a percentage of average loans ratio.

The following table presents an analysis of the allowance for loan losses for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013:

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	September 30, 2013
Balance of allowance for loan losses at beginning of period	\$ 22,377	\$ 23,593
Provision charged to operating expense	4,071	8,747
Charge-offs:		
Commercial, financial and agricultural	1,099	1,216
Real estate residential	1,339	3,430
Real estate commercial and farmland	2,255	2,873
Real estate construction and development	518	1,598
Consumer installment	343	576
Other		
Total charge-offs	5,554	9,693
Recoveries:		
Commercial, financial and agricultural	230	340
Real estate residential	183	520
Real estate commercial and farmland	183	18
Real estate construction and development	300	88
Consumer installment	422	241
Other		
Total recoveries	1,318	1,207

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Net charge-offs	4,236	8,486
Balance of allowance for loan losses at end of period	\$ 22,212	\$ 23,854
Net annualized charge-offs as a percentage of average loans	0.31%	0.71%
Allowance for loan losses as a percentage of period end loans net of purchased loans	1.20%	1.50%

Assets Covered by Loss-Sharing Agreements with the FDIC

Loans that were acquired in FDIC-assisted transactions that are covered by the loss-sharing agreements with the FDIC (covered loans) totaled \$313.6 million, \$390.2 million and \$417.6 million at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013, respectively. OREO that is covered by the loss-sharing agreements with the FDIC totaled \$28.9 million, \$45.9 million and \$52.6 million at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013, respectively. The loss-sharing agreements are subject to the servicing procedures as specified in the agreements with the FDIC. The expected reimbursements under the loss-sharing agreements were recorded as an indemnification asset at their estimated fair value on the acquisition dates. The FDIC loss-share receivable reported at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013 was \$38.2 million, \$65.4 million and \$81.8 million, respectively. Of the \$38.2 million FDIC loss-sharing receivable at September 30, 2014, \$21.5 million is in indemnification asset (for reimbursements associated with anticipated losses in future quarters) and \$16.7 million is current charge-offs and expenses already incurred but not yet submitted for reimbursement.

Table of Contents

The Bank initially recorded the loans at their fair values, taking into consideration certain credit quality, risk and liquidity marks. The Company believes its estimation of credit risk and its adjustments to the carrying balances of the acquired loans is adequate. If the Company determines that a loan or group of loans has deteriorated from its initial assessment of fair value, a reserve for loan losses will be established to account for that difference. During the nine months ended September 30, 2014, the year ended December 31, 2013 and the nine months ended September 30, 2013, the Company recorded provision for loan loss expense of \$685,000, \$1.5 million and \$1.3 million, respectively, net of the FDIC loss share receivable, to account for losses where the initial estimate of cash flows was found to be excessive on loans acquired in FDIC-assisted transactions. If the Company determines that a loan or group of loans has improved from its initial assessment of fair value, then the increase in cash flows over those expected at the acquisition date is recognized as interest income prospectively, with an associated write off of the remaining indemnification asset over the shorter of the life of the loan or the loss share agreement.

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

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Commercial, financial and agricultural	\$ 22,545	\$ 26,550	\$ 27,768
Real estate construction and development	27,756	43,179	50,702
Real estate commercial and farmland	180,566	224,451	237,086
Real estate residential	82,445	95,173	101,146
Consumer installment	277	884	947
	\$ 313,589	\$ 390,237	\$ 417,649

Purchased Non-Covered Assets

Loans that were acquired in transactions that are not covered by the loss-sharing agreements with the FDIC (purchased non-covered loans) totaled \$673.7 million and \$448.8 million at September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively. The Company did not have any purchased non-covered loans at September 30, 2013. OREO that was acquired in transactions and are not covered by the loss-sharing agreements with the FDIC totaled \$13.7 million and \$4.3 million at September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively. The Company did not have any purchased non-covered OREO at September 30, 2013.

The Bank initially recorded the loans at their fair values, taking into consideration certain credit quality, risk and liquidity marks. The Company believes its estimation of credit risk and its adjustments to the carrying balances of the acquired loans is adequate. If the Company determines that a loan or group of loans has deteriorated from its initial assessment of fair value, a reserve for loan losses will be established to account for that difference. During the nine months ended September 30, 2014, the Company recorded provision for loan loss expense of \$4,000 to account for losses where the initial estimate of cash flows was found to be excessive on purchased non-covered loans. The Company did not have any provision for loan loss expense during the twelve months ended December 31, 2013 related to purchased non-covered loans. If the Company determines that a loan or group of loans has improved from its initial assessment of fair value, then the increase in cash flows over those expected at the acquisition date is recognized as interest income prospectively.

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

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Commercial, financial and agricultural	\$ 38,077	\$ 32,141	\$
Real estate construction and development	60,262	31,176	
Real estate commercial and farmland	296,790	179,898	
Real estate residential	273,347	200,851	
Consumer installment	5,248	4,687	
	\$ 673,724	\$ 448,753	\$

Table of Contents**Non-Performing Assets**

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

As of September 30, 2014, nonaccrual loans (excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans) totaled \$22.8 million, a decrease of approximately \$6.4 million since December 31, 2013. The decrease in nonaccrual loans is due to the success in the foreclosure and resolution process and a significant slowdown in the formation of new problem credits. Nonaccrual purchased non-covered loans totaled \$17.0 million, an increase of approximately \$10.3 million since December 31, 2013 due to the Coastal acquisition. Total non-performing assets as a percentage of total assets were 2.22%, 2.00% and 2.47% at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013, respectively.

Non-performing assets at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013 were as follows:

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Total nonaccrual loans (excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans)	\$ 22,810	\$ 29,203	\$ 31,720
Nonaccrual purchased non-covered loans	17,007	6,659	
Accruing loans delinquent 90 days or more			
Foreclosed assets (excluding purchased assets)	35,320	33,351	37,978
Purchased, non-covered other real estate owned	13,660	4,276	
Total non-performing assets	\$ 88,797	\$ 73,489	\$ 69,698

Table of Contents**Troubled Debt Restructurings**

The restructuring of a loan is considered a troubled debt restructuring if both (i) the borrower is experiencing financial difficulties and (ii) the Company has granted a concession. The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings by loan class, excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans, classified separately as accrual and non-accrual at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013:

<i>As of September 30, 2014</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Loan class:				
Commercial, financial & agricultural	4	\$ 257	4	\$ 507
Real estate construction & development	11	1,917	4	196
Real estate commercial & farmland	21	7,080	2	1,672
Real estate residential	43	7,973	10	759
Consumer installment	9	34	12	93
Total	88	\$ 17,261	32	\$ 3,227

<i>As of December 31, 2013</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Loan class:				
Commercial, financial & agricultural	4	\$ 515	3	\$ 525
Real estate construction & development	8	1,896	2	32
Real estate commercial & farmland	17	6,913	4	2,273
Real estate residential	37	7,818	8	834
Consumer installment	6	72	3	19
Total	72	\$ 17,214	20	\$ 3,683

<i>As of September 30, 2013</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Loan class:				
Commercial, financial & agricultural	4	\$ 521	3	\$ 533
Real estate construction & development	8	1,926	1	29
Real estate commercial & farmland	16	6,693	3	1,858
Real estate residential	35	7,871	7	704
Consumer installment	1	13	2	26
Total	64	\$ 17,024	16	\$ 3,150

Table of Contents

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings by loan class, excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans, classified separately as those currently paying under restructured terms and those that have defaulted (defined as 30 days past due) under restructured terms at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013:

<i>As of September 30, 2014</i>	Loans Currently Paying Under Restructured Terms			Loans that have Defaulted Under Restructured Terms		
	#	Balance		#	Balance	
		<i>(in thousands)</i>			<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Loan class:						
Commercial, financial & agricultural	6	\$	271	2	\$	493
Real estate construction & development	9		1,881	6		232
Real estate commercial & farmland	19		6,811	4		1,941
Real estate residential	37		6,919	16		1,813
Consumer installment	7		29	14		98
Total	78	\$	15,911	42	\$	4,577

<i>As of December 31, 2013</i>	Loans Currently Paying Under Restructured Terms			Loans that have Defaulted Under Restructured Terms		
	#	Balance		#	Balance	
		<i>(in thousands)</i>			<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Loan class:						
Commercial, financial & agricultural	4	\$	515	3	\$	525
Real estate construction & development	8		1,896	2		32
Real estate commercial & farmland	16		6,396	5		2,789
Real estate residential	32		6,699	13		1,953
Consumer installment	7		90	2		2
Total	67	\$	15,596	25	\$	5,301

<i>As of September 30, 2013</i>	Loans Currently Paying Under Restructured Terms			Loans that have Defaulted Under Restructured Terms		
	#	Balance		#	Balance	
		<i>(in thousands)</i>			<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Loan class:						
Commercial, financial & agricultural	3	\$	508	4	\$	546
Real estate construction & development	6		1,881	3		74
Real estate commercial & farmland	14		6,550	5		2,001

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Real estate residential	31	7,282	11	1,293
Consumer installment	2	37	1	2
Total	56	\$ 16,258	24	\$ 3,916

Table of Contents

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings, excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans, by types of concessions made, classified separately as accrual and non-accrual at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013:

<i>As of September 30, 2014</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Type of concession:				
Forbearance of interest	13	\$ 2,197	1	\$ 31
Forgiveness of principal	6	2,426		
Rate reduction only	17	7,350	4	509
Rate reduction, forbearance of interest	35	3,390	23	2,619
Rate reduction, forbearance of principal	17	1,898	3	39
Rate reduction, payment modification			1	29
Total	88	\$ 17,261	32	\$ 3,227

<i>As of December 31, 2013</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Type of concession:				
Forbearance of interest	10	\$ 2,170	2	\$ 97
Forgiveness of principal	3	1,467	1	145
Payment modification only	1	280	1	88
Rate reduction only	14	7,069	3	913
Rate reduction, forbearance of interest	26	3,252	12	2,411
Rate reduction, forbearance of principal	18	2,976		
Rate reduction, payment modification			1	29
Total	72	\$ 17,214	20	\$ 3,683

<i>As of September 30, 2013</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Type of concession:				
Forbearance of interest	9	\$ 2,135	2	\$ 101
Forgiveness of principal	3	1,479	1	145
Payment modification only	2	370		
Rate reduction only	14	7,146	2	496
Rate reduction, forbearance of interest	18	2,878	10	2,379
Rate reduction, forbearance of principal	18	3,016		
Rate reduction, payment modification			1	29
Total	64	\$ 17,024	16	\$ 3,150

Table of Contents

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings, excluding purchased non-covered and covered loans, by collateral types, classified separately as accrual and non-accrual at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013:

<i>As of September 30, 2014</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Collateral type:				
Warehouse	6	\$ 944		\$
Raw land	5	1,258	1	29
Agricultural land	2	373		
Hotel & motel	3	2,062		
Office	4	1,639		
Retail, including strip centers	5	1,700	2	1,672
1-4 family residential	50	8,638	14	943
Church	1	362		
Automobile/equipment/inventory	11	47	14	540
Unsecured	1	238	1	43
Total	88	\$ 17,261	32	\$ 3,227

<i>As of December 31, 2013</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Collateral type:				
Warehouse	4	\$ 1,346	2	\$ 592
Raw land	11	2,345	2	32
Hotel & motel	3	2,185		
Office	4	1,909		
Retail, including strip centers	4	1,095	2	1,680
1-4 family residential	36	7,747	9	852
Life insurance policy	1	250		
Automobile/equipment/inventory	8	92	4	479
Unsecured	1	245	1	48
Total	72	\$ 17,214	20	\$ 3,683

<i>As of September 30, 2013</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Collateral type:				
Warehouse	3	\$ 1,065	1	\$ 176
Raw land	3	1,337	1	29
Agricultural land	2	380		
Hotel & motel	3	2,219		

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Office	4	1,924		
Retail, including strip centers	4	1,105	2	1,682
1-4 family residential	40	8,460	7	704
Life insurance policy	1	250		
Automobile/equipment/inventory	3	36	4	509
Unsecured	1	248	1	50
Total	64	\$ 17,024	16	\$ 3,150

Table of Contents

As of September 30, 2014, the Company had a balance of \$583,000 in troubled debt restructurings included in purchased non-covered loans. The Company did not have any troubled debt restructurings included in purchased non-covered loans as of December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013. The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings by loan class of purchased non-covered loans, classified separately as accrual and non-accrual at September 30, 2014:

<i>As of September 30, 2014</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
		Balance		Balance
Loan class:	#	(in thousands)	#	(in thousands)
Commercial, financial & agricultural		\$		\$
Real estate construction & development	1	305		
Real estate commercial & farmland				
Real estate residential	4	275	2	247
Consumer installment	1	3		
Total	6	\$ 583	2	\$ 247

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings by loan class of purchased non-covered loans, classified separately as those currently paying under restructured terms and those that have defaulted (defined as 30 days past due) under restructured terms at September 30, 2014:

<i>As of September 30, 2014</i>	Loans Currently Paying Under Restructured Terms		Loans that have Defaulted Under Restructured Terms	
		Balance		Balance
Loan class:	#	(in thousands)	#	(in thousands)
Commercial, financial & agricultural		\$		\$
Real estate construction & development	1	305		
Real estate commercial & farmland				
Real estate residential	4	275	2	247
Consumer installment	1	3		
Total	6	\$ 583	2	\$ 247

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings included in purchased non-covered loans, by types of concessions made, classified separately as accrual and non-accrual at September 30, 2014:

<i>As of September 30, 2014</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
		Balance		Balance
Type of Concession:	#	(in thousands)	#	(in thousands)
Forbearance of Interest	2	\$ 67		\$

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Rate Reduction Only	2	361	1	26
Rate Reduction, Forbearance of Interest	2	155	1	221
Total	6	\$ 583	2	\$ 247

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings included in covered loans, by collateral types, classified separately as accrual and non-accrual at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013:

<i>As of September 30, 2014</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Collateral type:				
1-4 Family Residential	5	\$ 580	2	\$ 247
Automobile/Equipment/Inventory	1	3		
Total	6	\$ 583	2	\$ 247

Table of Contents

As of September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013, the Company had a balance of \$25.0 million, \$9.1 million and \$28.4 million, respectively, in troubled debt restructurings included in covered loans. The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings by loan class of covered loans, classified separately as accrual and non-accrual at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013:

<i>As of September 30, 2014</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Loan class:				
Commercial, financial & agricultural	1	\$ 26	1	\$ 3
Real estate construction & development	3	3,024	3	56
Real estate commercial & farmland	15	8,501	6	1,225
Real estate residential	94	11,202	13	965
Consumer installment	1	4		
Total	114	\$ 22,757	23	\$ 2,249

<i>As of December 31, 2013</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Loan class:				
Commercial, financial & agricultural		\$	2	\$ 67
Real estate construction & development			1	16
Real estate commercial & farmland	4	579	1	134
Real estate residential	72	7,830	6	464
Consumer installment			1	5
Total	76	\$ 8,409	11	\$ 686

<i>As of September 30, 2013</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Loan class:				
Commercial, financial & agricultural	1	\$ 12	3	\$ 40
Real estate construction & development	5	4,308	4	690
Real estate commercial & farmland	11	6,200	7	4,805
Real estate residential	79	10,461	11	1,874
Consumer installment			1	5
Total	96	\$ 20,981	26	\$ 7,414

Table of Contents

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings by loan class of covered loans, classified separately as those currently paying under restructured terms and those that have defaulted under restructured terms at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013:

<i>As of September 30, 2014</i>	Loans Currently Paying Under Restructured Terms		Loans that have Defaulted Under Restructured Terms	
	#	Balance	#	Balance
		(in thousands)		(in thousands)
Loan class:				
Commercial, financial & agricultural	2	\$ 29		\$
Real estate construction & development	4	3,050	2	29
Real estate commercial & farmland	18	9,279	3	447
Real estate residential	86	10,168	21	2,000
Consumer installment	1	4		
Total	111	\$ 22,530	26	\$ 2,476

<i>As of December 31, 2013</i>	Loans Currently Paying Under Restructured Terms		Loans that have Defaulted Under Restructured Terms	
	#	Balance	#	Balance
		(in thousands)		(in thousands)
Loan class:				
Commercial, financial & agricultural	1	\$ 27	1	\$ 40
Real estate construction & development	1	16		
Real estate commercial & farmland	5	713		
Real estate residential	58	5,830	20	2,463
Consumer installment	1	6		
Total	66	\$ 6,592	21	\$ 2,503

<i>As of September 30, 2013</i>	Loans Currently Paying Under Restructured Terms		Loans that have Defaulted Under Restructured Terms	
	#	Balance	#	Balance
		(in thousands)		(in thousands)
Loan class:				
Commercial, financial & agricultural	2	\$ 12	2	\$ 40
Real estate construction & development	7	4,331	2	667
Real estate commercial & farmland	14	6,419	4	4,586
Real estate residential	72	10,042	18	2,293
Consumer installment	1	5		

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Total	96	\$	20,809	26	\$	7,586
-------	----	----	--------	----	----	-------

64

Table of Contents

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings included in covered loans, by types of concessions made, classified separately as accrual and non-accrual at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013:

<i>As of September 30, 2014</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Type of Concession:				
Forbearance of Interest	2	\$ 1,548	4	\$ 116
Forbearance of Principal			8	228
Rate Reduction Only	97	17,404	5	760
Rate Reduction, Forbearance of Interest	6	490	4	241
Rate Reduction, Forbearance of Principal	9	3,315	1	89
Rate Reduction, payment modification			1	815
Total	114	\$ 22,757	23	\$ 2,249

<i>As of December 31, 2013</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Type of Concession:				
Rate Reduction Only	68	\$ 7,510	6	\$ 457
Rate Reduction, Forbearance of Interest	3	88	4	96
Rate Reduction, Forbearance of Principal	5	811	1	133
Total	76	\$ 8,409	11	\$ 686

<i>As of September 30, 2013</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Type of Concession:				
Forbearance of Interest	1	\$ 24	6	\$ 1,189
Rate Reduction Only	84	17,409	10	1,463
Rate Reduction, Forbearance of Interest	3	89	6	1,299
Rate Reduction, Forbearance of Principal	7	2,605	4	3,463
Rate reduction, payment modification	1	854		
Total	96	\$ 20,981	26	\$ 7,414

Table of Contents

The following table presents the amount of troubled debt restructurings included in covered loans, by collateral types, classified separately as accrual and non-accrual at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013:

<i>As of September 30, 2014</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Collateral type:				
Warehouse	2	\$ 1,548	2	\$ 309
Raw Land	1	376	3	63
Hotel & Motel	6	4,635		
Office	1	480	2	883
Retail, including Strip Centers	7	4,332	1	10
1-4 Family Residential	96	11,361	14	981
Automobile/Equipment/Inventory			1	3
Unsecured	1	25		
Total	114	\$ 22,757	23	\$ 2,249

<i>As of December 31, 2013</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Collateral type:				
Raw Land		\$	1	\$ 16
Hotel & Motel	1	172		
Retail, including Strip Centers	2	283	1	134
1-4 Family Residential	73	7,954	7	469
Automobile/Equipment/Inventory			2	67
Total	76	\$ 8,409	11	\$ 686

<i>As of September 30, 2013</i>	Accruing Loans		Non-Accruing Loans	
	#	Balance (in thousands)	#	Balance (in thousands)
Collateral type:				
Warehouse		\$	1	\$ 377
Raw Land	1	357	2	672
Hotel & Motel	6	5,104	1	159
Office	1	855	1	82
Retail, including Strip Centers	6	3,882	3	4,147
1-4 Family Residential	81	10,771	15	1,937
Automobile/Equipment/Inventory			3	40
Unsecured	1	12		
Total	96	\$ 20,981	26	\$ 7,414

Table of Contents

Commercial Lending Practices

On December 12, 2006, the Federal Bank Regulatory Agencies released guidance on *Concentration in Commercial Real Estate Lending*. This guidance defines commercial real estate (CRE) loans as loans secured by raw land, land development and construction (including 1-4 family residential construction), multi-family property and non-farm nonresidential property where the primary or a significant source of repayment is derived from rental income associated with the property, excluding owner occupied properties (loans for which 50% or more of the source of repayment is derived from the ongoing operations and activities conducted by the party, or affiliate of the party, who owns the property) or the proceeds of the sale, refinancing or permanent financing of the property. Loans for owner occupied CRE are generally excluded from the CRE guidance.

The CRE guidance is applicable when either:

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

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

As of September 30, 2014, the Company exhibited a concentration in the CRE loan category based on Federal Reserve Call codes. The primary risks of CRE lending are:

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

The following table outlines CRE loan categories and CRE loans as a percentage of total loans as of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013. The loan categories and concentrations below are based on Federal Reserve Call codes and include purchased on-covered and covered loans:

(Dollars in Thousands)	September 30, 2014		December 31, 2013	
	Balance	% of Total Loans	Balance	% of Total Loans
Construction and development loans	\$ 242,333	9%	\$ 220,726	9%
Multi-family loans	70,868	3%	67,607	3%
Nonfarm non-residential loans	1,288,648	45%	1,145,065	46%
Total CRE Loans	1,601,849	57%	1,433,398	58%
All other loan types	1,234,223	43%	1,024,046	42%
Total Loans	\$ 2,836,072	100%	\$ 2,457,444	100%

The following table outlines the percentage of total CRE loans, net owner occupied loans to total risk-based capital, and the Company's internal concentration limits as of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013:

	Internal	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013
	Limit	Actual	Actual
Construction and development	100%	69%	70%
Commercial real estate	300%	236%	232%

Short-Term Investments

The Company's short-term investments are comprised of federal funds sold and interest-bearing balances. At September 30, 2014, the Company's short-term investments were \$40.2 million, compared to \$205.0 million and \$73.9 million at December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013, respectively. The decrease in short-term investments during the first nine months of 2014 is mostly due to the Company's repayment of other borrowings that were recorded in the Prosperity acquisition. At September 30, 2014, \$39.7 million of the balance was comprised of interest-bearing balances, the majority of which were at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

Table of Contents**Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities**

The Company had a cash flow hedge that matures September 15, 2020 with a notional amount of \$37.1 million at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013 for the purpose of converting the variable rate on the junior subordinated debentures to a fixed rate of 4.11%. The fair value of these instruments amounted to a liability of approximately \$807,000, \$370,000 and \$972,000 at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013, respectively. The Company also had forward contracts and IRLCs to hedge changes in the value of the mortgage inventory due to changes in market interest rates. The fair value of these instruments amounted to an asset with a fair value of approximately \$2.3 million, \$1.2 million and \$2.5 million at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013, respectively. No material hedge ineffectiveness from cash flow hedges was recognized in the statement of earnings. All components of each derivative's gain or loss are included in the assessment of hedge effectiveness.

Capital

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

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

- a) The Leverage Ratio is defined as Tier 1 capital to average assets. To be considered adequately capitalized under this measurement, a bank must maintain a leverage ratio greater than or equal to 4.00%. For a bank to be considered well capitalized, it must maintain a leverage ratio greater than or equal to 5.00%.
- b) The Core Capital Ratio is defined as Tier 1 capital to total risk weighted assets. To be considered adequately capitalized under this measurement, a bank must maintain a core capital ratio greater than or equal to 4.00%. For a bank to be considered well capitalized, it must maintain a core capital ratio greater than or equal to 6.00%.
- c) The Total Capital Ratio is defined as total capital to total risk weighted assets. To be considered adequately capitalized under this measurement, a bank must maintain a total capital ratio greater than or equal to 8.00%. For a bank to be considered well capitalized, it must maintain a total capital ratio greater than or equal to 10.00%.

As of September 30, 2014, under the regulatory capital standards, the Bank was considered well capitalized under all capital measurements. On July 2, 2013, the FRB adopted a new regulatory capital framework as a part of the Basel III regulatory capital reforms. Management currently believes that Ameris will be in compliance with the revised capital requirements when they become applicable to the Company on January 1, 2015. The following table sets forth the

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

regulatory capital ratios of Ameris at September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013:

	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Leverage Ratio (tier 1 capital to average assets)			
Consolidated	8.83%	11.33%	11.73%
Ameris Bank	9.67	11.93	11.65
Core Capital Ratio (tier 1 capital to risk weighted assets)			
Consolidated	12.47	14.35	18.25
Ameris Bank	13.66	15.06	18.13
Total Capital Ratio (total capital to risk weighted assets)			
Consolidated	13.27	15.32	19.50
Ameris Bank	14.46	16.03	19.38

Table of Contents

Capital Purchase Program

On November 21, 2008, the Company, pursuant to the Capital Purchase Program established in connection with the Troubled Asset Relief Program, issued and sold to the U.S. Treasury, for an aggregate cash purchase price of \$52 million, (i) 52,000 shares (the Preferred Shares) of the Company's Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, having a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share, and (ii) a ten-year warrant (the Warrant) to purchase up to 679,443 shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$11.48 per share. On June 14, 2012, the Preferred Shares were sold by the Treasury through a registered public offering. On August 22, 2012, the Company repurchased the Warrant from the Treasury for \$2.67 million. In December 2012, the Company repurchased 24,000 outstanding Preferred Shares, and in March 2014, the Company redeemed the remaining 28,000 outstanding Preferred Shares.

Interest Rate Sensitivity and Liquidity

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

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

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

The Company uses a simulation modeling process to measure interest rate risk and evaluate potential strategies. Interest rate scenario models are prepared using software created and licensed from an outside vendor. The Company's simulation includes all financial assets and liabilities. Simulation results quantify interest rate risk under various interest rate scenarios. Management then develops and implements appropriate strategies. The ALCO Committee has determined that an acceptable level of interest rate risk would be for net interest income to decrease no more than 5.00% given a change in selected interest rates of 200 basis points over any 24-month period.

Liquidity management involves the matching of the cash flow requirements of customers, who may be either depositors desiring to withdraw funds or borrowers needing assurance that sufficient funds will be available to meet their credit needs, and the ability of the Company to manage those requirements. The Company strives to maintain an

adequate liquidity position by managing the balances and maturities of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities so that the balance it has in short-term investments at any given time will adequately cover any reasonably anticipated immediate need for funds. Additionally, the Bank maintains relationships with correspondent banks, which could provide funds on short notice, if needed. The Company has invested in FHLB stock for the purpose of establishing credit lines with the FHLB. The credit availability to the Bank is equal to 20% of the Bank's total assets as reported on the most recent quarterly financial information submitted to the regulators subject to the pledging of sufficient collateral. At September 30, 2014, December 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013, there were \$147.4 million, \$194.6 million and \$5.0 million, respectively, outstanding borrowings with the Company's correspondent banks.

Table of Contents

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

	September 30, 2014	June 30, 2014	March 31, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013
Investment securities available for sale to total deposits	15.70%	15.80%	15.17%	16.21%	12.78%
Loans (net of unearned income) to total deposits	84.08%	82.72%	83.22%	81.94%	82.14%
Interest-earning assets to total assets	87.91%	87.22%	87.80%	87.68%	87.38%
Interest-bearing deposits to total deposits	75.79%	76.67%	76.79%	77.71%	80.54%

The liquidity resources of the Company are monitored continuously by the ALCO Committee and on a periodic basis by state and federal regulatory authorities. As determined under guidelines established by these regulatory authorities, the Company's and the Bank's liquidity ratios at September 30, 2014 were considered satisfactory. The Company is aware of no events or trends likely to result in a material change in liquidity.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

The Company is exposed only to U.S. dollar interest rate changes, and, accordingly, the Company manages exposure by considering the possible changes in the net interest margin. The Company does not have any trading instruments nor does it classify any portion of the investment portfolio as held for trading. The Company's hedging activities are part of the Company's program to manage interest rate sensitivity. At September 30, 2014, the Company had one effective LIBOR rate swap with a notional amount of \$37.1 million. The LIBOR rate swap exchanges fixed rate payments of 4.15% for floating rate payments based on the three month LIBOR and matures December 2018. The Company also had forward contracts with a fair value of approximately \$2.3 million at September 30, 2014 to hedge changes in the value of the mortgage inventory due to changes in market interest rates. Finally, the Company has no exposure to foreign currency exchange rate risk, commodity price risk and other market risks.

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

The Company uses simulation analysis to monitor changes in net interest income due to changes in market interest rates. The simulation of rising, declining and flat interest rate scenarios allows management to monitor and adjust interest rate sensitivity to minimize the impact of market interest rate swings. The analysis of the impact on net interest income over a twelve-month period is subjected to a gradual and shock 200 basis point increase or decrease in market rates on net interest income and is monitored on a quarterly basis.

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

Item 4. Controls and Procedures.

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

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

Act. Based on such evaluation, such officers have concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this report, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

During the quarter ended September 30, 2014, there were no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting identified in connection with the evaluation required by paragraph (d) of Rules 13a-15 or 15d-15 of the Exchange Act that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Table of Contents

PART II OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings.

Nothing to report with respect to the period covered by this report.

Item 1A. Risk Factors.

There have been no material changes to the risk factors disclosed in Item 1A. of Part I of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

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

None.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities.

None.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Other Information.

None.

Item 6. Exhibits.

The exhibits required to be furnished with this report are listed on the exhibit index attached hereto.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURE

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

Date: November 7, 2014

AMERIS BANCORP

/s/ Dennis J. Zember Jr.
Dennis J. Zember Jr., Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer (duly authorized signatory
and principal accounting and financial officer)

Table of Contents**EXHIBIT INDEX**

Exhibit No.	Description
3.1	Articles of Incorporation of Ameris Bancorp, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to Ameris Bancorp's Regulation A Offering Statement on Form 1-A filed with the Commission on August 14, 1987).
3.2	Amendment to Amended Articles of Incorporation of Ameris Bancorp (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1.1 to Ameris Bancorp's Form 10-K filed with the Commission on March 28, 1996).
3.3	Amendment to Amended Articles of Incorporation of Ameris Bancorp (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to Ameris Bancorp's Registration Statement on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on July 17, 1996).
3.4	Articles of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of Ameris Bancorp (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.5 to Ameris Bancorp's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Commission on March 25, 1998).
3.5	Articles of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of Ameris Bancorp (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.7 to Ameris Bancorp's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Commission on March 26, 1999).
3.6	Articles of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of Ameris Bancorp (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.9 to Ameris Bancorp's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Commission on March 31, 2003).
3.7	Articles of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of Ameris Bancorp (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Ameris Bancorp's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on December 1, 2005).
3.8	Articles of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of Ameris Bancorp (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Ameris Bancorp's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on November 21, 2008).
3.9	Articles of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of Ameris Bancorp (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Ameris Bancorp's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on June 1, 2011).
3.10	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Ameris Bancorp (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Ameris Bancorp's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on March 14, 2005).
10.1	First Amendment to Loan Agreement dated as of September 26, 2014 by and between Ameris Bancorp and NexBank SSB (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Ameris Bancorp's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on September 29, 2014).
10.2	Amended and Restated Revolving Promissory Note dated as of September 26, 2014 issued by Ameris Bancorp to NexBank SSB (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Ameris Bancorp's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on September 29, 2014).
31.1	Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification by the Company's Chief Executive Officer.

Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 10-Q

- 31.2 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification by the Company's Chief Financial Officer.
- 32.1 Section 1350 Certification by the Company's Chief Executive Officer.
- 32.2 Section 1350 Certification by the Company's Chief Financial Officer.
- 101 The following financial statements from Ameris Bancorp's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2014, formatted as interactive data files in XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Consolidated Balance Sheets; (ii) Consolidated Statements of Earnings and Comprehensive Income; (iii) Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity; (iv) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows; and (v) Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.