

Edgar Filing: FIRST MERCHANTS CORP - Form 10-K/A

FIRST MERCHANTS CORP  
Form 10-K/A  
October 15, 2008

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

FORM 10-K/A

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007

Commission file number 0-17071

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Indiana  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

35-1544218  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

200 East Jackson  
Muncie, Indiana  
(Address of principal executive offices)

47305-2814  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (765) 747-1500

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12 (b) of the Act: None

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

Common Stock, \$.125 stated value per share  
(Title of class)

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes [ ] No [X]

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

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

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. [ ]

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of "accelerated filer and large accelerated filer" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. Large accelerated filer [ ] Accelerated filer [X] Non-accelerated filer [ ]

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

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The aggregate market value (not necessarily a reliable indication of the price at which more than a limited number of shares would trade) of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was \$439,397,000 as of the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter (June 30, 2007).

As of February 20, 2008 there were 18,551,275 outstanding common shares, without par value, of the registrant.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Documents	Part of Form 10-K Into Which Incorporated
Portions of the Registrant's Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2007	Part I (Item 1) Part II (Items 5, 6, 7, 7A, and 8)

Source: FIRST MERCHANTS CORP, 10-K/A, October 15, 2008

Portions of the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement for Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held April 29, 2008	Part III (Items 10 through 14)
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FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION  
200 EAST JACKSON  
MUNCIE, INDIANA 47305-2814

The undersigned registrant hereby amends the following items, financial statements, exhibits or other portions of its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007:

Exhibits:

23 Consent of independent registered accounting firm

28 Annual report on Form 11-K for First Merchants Corporation Employee Stock Purchase Plan (1999) and report of Plan's independent public accountants with respect to the financial statements

The above amendments are being filed to include the information required by Form 11-K.

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION  
(Registrant)

By /s/ Michael C. Rechin

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael C. Rechin  
Chief Executive Officer

Date: October 15, 2007

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

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We consent to the incorporation by reference in the registration statement of First Merchants Corporation on Form S-8 (File No. 33-28900) of our report dated October 9, 2008, on our audits of the financial statements of First Merchants Corporation Employee Stock Purchase Plan (2004) as of June 30, 2008 and 2007, and for the years ended June 30, 2008, 2007 and 2006, which report is included in Exhibit 28.

BKD, LLP  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
October 9, 2008

EXHIBIT 28

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 11-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF  
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION  
EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN (2004)  
(Full title of the plan)

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION  
(Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan)

200 East Jackson Street  
Muncie, Indiana 47305  
(Address of principal executive office)

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Compensation Committee of the  
Board of Directors

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First Merchants Corporation  
Muncie, Indiana

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial condition of First Merchants Corporation Employee Stock Purchase Plan (2004) as of June 30, 2008 and 2007 and the related statements of income and changes in plan equity for each of the years in the three-year period ended June 30, 2008. The Plan's management is responsible for these financial statements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Our audits included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of First Merchants Corporation Employee Stock Purchase Plan (2004) as of June 30, 2008 and 2007, and the results of its operations for each of the three years in the period ended June 30, 2008, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

BKD, LLP  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
October 9, 2008

First Merchants Corporation  
Employee Stock Purchase Plan (2004)  
Statements of Financial Condition  
June 30, 2008 and 2007

Assets

	2008	2007
	-----	-----
Investments - interest-bearing deposits	\$ 779,965	\$ 794,006
	-----	-----
Plan Equity	\$ 779,965	\$ 794,006
	=====	=====

See Notes to Financial Statements

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First Merchants Corporation  
 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (2004)  
 Statements of Income and Changes in Plan Equity  
 Years Ended June 30, 2008, 2007 and 2006

	2008	2007	2006
Investment income - interest	\$ 8,976	\$ 11,054	\$ 11,795
Participant contributions	814,704	839,202	902,848
	-----	-----	-----
	823,680	850,256	914,643
	-----	-----	-----
Withdrawals and terminations paid in cash	50,584	65,949	54,747
Purchase and stock distribution of stock	787,137	855,138	913,187
	-----	-----	-----
	837,721	921,087	967,944
	-----	-----	-----
Income and changes in Plan equity for the year	(14,041)	(70,831)	(53,301)
Plan equity at beginning of year	794,006	864,837	918,138
	-----	-----	-----
Plan equity at end of year	\$ 779,965	\$ 794,006	\$ 864,837
	=====	=====	=====

See Notes to Financial Statements

First Merchants Corporation  
 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (2004)  
 Notes to Financial Statements  
 June 30, 2008 and 2007

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Organization - The Plan was originally adopted by the Board of Directors of First Merchants Corporation (Corporation) in February 1989, and commenced operations in July 1989. Effective July 1, 1994, the Plan was amended by the adoption of the 1994 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (1994 Plan), and effective July 1, 1999, amended again by the adoption of the 1999 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (1999 Plan). The 1999 Plan was adopted by the Board of Directors of the Corporation in February 1999 and approved by Corporation stockholders in April 1999. In December 2003, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors approved a new Plan that was approved by Corporation stockholders in April 2004 to be effective July 1, 2004. A total of 400,000 shares of the Corporation's common stock are to be reserved for issuance pursuant to the 2004 Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to provide eligible employees of the Corporation and participating subsidiaries the opportunity to purchase Corporation common stock through annual offerings financed by

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payroll deductions.

Investments, consisting of interest-bearing deposit accounts at a subsidiary of the Corporation, are carried at cost, which approximates current value.

### Note 2: General Information

The Plan provides for the purchase of up to 400,000 shares of the Corporation's common stock by eligible employees through a maximum of five offerings of twelve month durations. Prior to each offering period, eligible employees elect to have up to 20 percent of their compensation deducted from their pay and accumulated with interest until the end of that offering period, but not to exceed \$25,000 per offering period.

At the end of each offering period, the balance of each participant's payroll deduction account is applied to the purchase of the largest number of full shares of the Corporation's common stock possible. The price at which the shares are deemed to have been purchased is determined by the Compensation Committee of the Corporation and is equal to 85 percent of the lesser of the fair market value of the Corporation's common stock at the beginning or at the end of that offering period. Shares to be purchased under the Plan may be obtained by the Corporation from its authorized but previously unissued shares, from open market transactions or from private sources.

In July 2008 and 2007, the Corporation issued 50,119 and 38,537 shares of its common stock for the offering period ended June 30, 2008 and 2007, at \$15.43 and \$20.43 per share.

At June 30, 2008 and 2007, the Plan had 391 and 408 participants.

First Merchants Corporation  
Employee Stock Purchase Plan (2004)  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2008 and 2007

### Note 3: Income Tax Status

The Plan is not and will not be qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (Code). The Plan is intended to qualify as an employee stock purchase plan under Section 423 of the Code. Consequently, the difference between the purchase price and the fair market value of the stock purchased under the Plan is not includable in the participant's gross income for federal income tax purposes, unless a disqualifying distribution occurs.

### Note 4: Related Party

Plan assets are held in interest-bearing accounts maintained by the Plan Sponsor with interest paid quarterly at the prevailing rates.