



First Busey Corporation Earnings Release for Quarter Ending December 31, 2005

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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

In reviewing the financial results of First Busey Corporation (Nasdaq: BUSE), it is important that we keep in mind two transactions which have had considerable impact. On June 1, 2004, First Busey Corporation acquired First Capital Bank, of Peoria, Illinois. At acquisition First Capital had \$241 million in total assets, \$152 million in loans and \$147 million in deposits. On July 29, 2005, First Busey acquired Tarpon Coast Bancorp, Inc., of Port Charlotte, Florida, and its subsidiary bank, Tarpon Coast National Bank. At acquisition, Tarpon Coast National Bank had \$153 million in total assets, \$116 million in loans, and \$140 million in deposits. Earnings of these two banks have been included in First Busey results since their respective dates of acquisition.

Net income increased \$794,000 or 13.8% to \$6,563,000 for the quarter ended December 31, 2005, as compared to \$5,769,000 for the comparable period in 2004. For the quarter ended December 31, 2005, earnings per share on a fully-diluted basis were \$0.31, an increase of \$0.03 or 10.7% from \$0.28 for the comparable period in 2004. On a year-to-date basis, net income increased \$4,480,000 or 20.0% to \$26,934,000, as compared to \$22,454,000 for the 2004. First Busey Corporation completed the acquisition of First Capital Bank on June 1, 2004. Subsequent to acquisition First Capital contributed \$1,170,000 in net income to First Busey earnings during 2004. On July 29, 2005, First Busey acquired Tarpon Coast Bancorp, Inc. and its subsidiary bank, Tarpon Coast National Bank. Subsequent to its acquisition Tarpon Coast National Bank contributed \$469,000 to First Busey earnings. For the year ended December 31, 2005, earnings per share on a fully-diluted basis were \$1.29, an increase of \$0.20 or 18.3% from \$1.09 for 2004.

Net interest margin for the fourth quarter of 2005 was 3.72%, compared to 3.37% during the fourth quarter of 2004. Net interest income increased \$3,700,000 or 24.1% to \$19,078,000 in the fourth quarter of 2005 compared to \$15,378,000 in the comparable quarter in 2004. Interest income increased \$8,341,000 to \$32,811,000 during the fourth quarter of 2005 compared to \$24,470,000 in the same period in 2004 due primarily to loan growth and higher yields on outstanding loans. Interest expense increased \$4,641,000 or 51.0% to \$13,733,000 during the fourth quarter of 2005 compared to the same period in 2004 due primarily to increased deposit and borrowing costs combined with growth in deposits and long-term debt. The increase in long-term debt is associated with the July, 2005, acquisition of Tarpon Coast.

Provision for loan losses was \$725,000 during the fourth quarter of 2005 compared to \$585,000 during the comparable period in 2004. The increase in the provision for loan losses is related primarily to an increase in the balance of non-accrual loans, which grew from \$1,523,000 at the end of 2004 to \$4,483,000 as of December 31, 2005. Of the increase in non-accrual loans, \$1,920,000 is related to two credits which had previously been identified as potential problems. The allowance for loan losses expressed as a percentage of total loans was 1.33% and 1.30% as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively.

Non-interest income was \$5,900,000 during the fourth quarter of 2005, which represents a decrease of \$141,000 from non-interest income of \$6,041,000 during the fourth quarter of 2004. The Corporation recognized net losses of \$360,000 during the fourth quarter of 2005 from the sale of securities compared to a net gain of \$283,000 during the comparable period in 2004 in order to reposition the investment portfolio for better performance under current interest-rate conditions and to restructure maturities of certain securities to better meet the organization's liquidity needs.

Non-interest expense increased \$2,279,000 or 18.6% to \$14,551,000 during the fourth quarter of 2005, compared to \$12,272,000 during the comparable period in 2004 due primarily to increased operating costs associated with the addition of Tarpon Coast National Bank.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Twelve Months Ended December 31,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
(in thousands, except per share data)				
Earnings & Per Share Data				
Net income	\$6,563	\$5,769	\$26,934	\$22,454
Basic earnings per share	0.31	0.28	1.29	1.10
Fully diluted earnings per share	0.31	0.28	1.29	1.09
Dividends per share	0.14	0.13	0.56	0.51
Average Balances				
Assets	\$2,265,002	\$1,986,325	\$2,096,435	\$1,756,846
Investment securities	346,343	345,444	324,981	265,514
Loans	1,721,236	1,459,995	1,604,198	1,355,487
Earning assets	2,089,633	1,850,868	1,946,213	1,640,204

Deposits	1,806,500	1,575,532	1,670,463	1,403,848
Stockholders' equity	166,205	136,062	149,860	130,356
Performance Ratios				
Return on average assets	1.15%	1.15%	1.28%	1.28%
Return on average equity	15.67%	16.82%	17.97%	17.23%
Net interest margin	3.72%	3.37%	3.73%	3.49%
Efficiency ratio	54.87%	56.20%	52.00%	53.33%
Loan Performance				
Net credit losses	\$155	\$71	\$725	\$1,985
Accruing loans 90+ days past due	1,420	2,141	1,420	2,141
Non-accrual loans	4,483	1,523	4,483	1,523
Foreclosed assets	237	4,235	237	4,235

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(unaudited) □

	December 31,	
	2005	2004
	(in thousands except per share data)	
Assets □		
Cash and due from banks	\$60,957	\$47,991
Federal funds sold	2,300	3,100
Investment securities	331,237	352,256
Loans	1,749,162	1,475,900
Less allowance for loan losses	(23,190)	(19,217)
Net loans	\$1,725,972	\$1,456,683
Premises and equipment, net	37,815	26,295
Goodwill and other intangibles	59,224	35,637
Other assets	45,917	42,479
Total assets	\$2,263,422	\$1,964,441
Liabilities & Stockholders' Equity		
Non-interest bearing deposits	\$265,170	\$213,921
Interest-bearing deposits	1,544,229	1,344,901
Total deposits	\$1,809,399	\$1,558,822
Federal funds purchased & securities sold under agreements to repurchase	50,113	41,558
Short-term borrowings	-	11,250
Long-term debt	169,883	165,374
Junior subordinated debt owed to unconsolidated trusts	50,000	40,000
Other liabilities	14,313	8,565
Total liabilities	\$2,093,708	\$1,825,569
Common stock	\$22	\$6,291
Common stock to be issued	408	-
Surplus	44,812	21,696
Retained earnings	129,729	114,359
Other comprehensive income	7,282	9,170
Treasury stock	(10,477)	(10,173)
Unearned ESOP shares	(2,058)	(2,456)
Deferred compensation for stock grants	(4)	(15)
Total stockholders' equity	\$169,714	\$138,872
Total liabilities & stockholders' equity	\$2,263,422	\$1,964,441

Per Share Data

Book value per share	\$7.89	\$6.74
Tangible book value per share	\$5.13	\$5.01
Ending number of shares outstanding	21,504,082	20,608,151

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS
OF INCOME (unaudited)

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Twelve Months Ended December 31,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	(in thousands, except common share data)			
Interest and fees				
on loans	\$29,518	\$21,695	\$104,971	\$77,499
Interest on investment securities	3,087	2,596	10,769	8,148
Other interest income	206	179	564	272
Total interest income	\$32,811	\$24,470	\$116,304	\$85,919
Interest on deposits	\$10,563	\$6,578	\$33,938	\$21,436
Interest on short-term borrowings	374	205	1,279	557
Interest on long-term debt	1,833	1,569	6,670	5,372
Junior subordinated debt owed to unconsolidated trusts	963	740	3,455	2,676
Total interest expense	\$13,733	\$9,092	\$45,342	\$30,041
Net interest income	\$19,078	\$15,378	\$70,962	\$55,878
Provision for loans losses	725	585	3,490	2,905
Net interest income after provision	\$18,353	\$14,793	\$67,472	\$52,973
Trust fees	\$1,475	\$1,337	\$5,752	\$5,339
Commissions and brokers' fees	648	561	2,327	2,335
Fees for customer services	2,677	2,523	10,213	9,876
Gain on sale of loans	639	705	2,571	2,689
Net security (losses) gains	(360)	283	(54)	1,373
Other	821	632	2,728	2,178
Total non-interest income	\$5,900	\$6,041	\$23,537	\$23,790
Salaries and wages	\$6,520	\$5,176	\$23,217	\$19,529
Employee benefits	1,560	1,137	5,271	4,297
Net occupancy expense	1,253	1,023	4,576	3,921
Furniture and equipment expense	821	612	3,099	2,384
Data processing expense	466	498	1,962	1,915
Amortization expense	377	196	1,101	631
Other operating expenses	3,554	3,630	11,889	10,408
Total non-interest expense	\$14,551	\$12,272	\$51,115	\$43,085
Income before income taxes	\$9,702	\$8,562	\$39,894	\$33,678
Income taxes	3,139	2,793	12,960	11,224
Net Income	\$6,563	\$5,769	\$26,934	\$22,454

Common Share Data

Basic earnings				
per share	\$0.31	\$0.28	\$1.29	\$1.10
Fully-diluted earnings				
per share	\$0.31	\$0.28	\$1.29	\$1.09
Average shares				
outstanding	21,434,594	20,564,049	20,918,879	20,511,423

CORPORATE PROFILE

First Busey Corporation is a financial holding company headquartered in Urbana, Illinois. First Busey Corporation has three wholly-owned banking subsidiaries with locations in three states. Busey Bank is headquartered in Urbana, Illinois and has twenty-one banking centers serving Champaign, McLean, Ford, Peoria and Tazewell Counties in Illinois. Busey Bank also has a banking center in Indianapolis, Indiana and a loan production office in Ft. Myers, Florida. As of December 31, 2005, Busey Bank had total assets of \$1.8 billion. Busey Bank Florida is a federal thrift headquartered in Ft. Myers, Florida with two additional banking centers in Cape Coral, Florida. Busey Bank Florida had total assets of \$246 million as of December 31, 2005. On July 29, 2005, First Busey Corporation acquired Tarpon Coast Bancorp, Inc. and its primary subsidiary, Tarpon Coast National Bank, Port Charlotte, Florida. Tarpon Coast National Bank has four banking centers located in Charlotte and Sarasota Counties. Tarpon Coast National Bank had total assets of \$177 million as of December 31, 2005. Busey Bank Florida and Tarpon Coast National Bank will merge at the close of business on February 17, 2006, and the resultant bank will be Busey Bank, N.A. headquartered in Port Charlotte, Florida. Busey also provides electronic delivery of financial services through Busey e- bank, <http://www.busey.com>.

Busey Investment Group is a wholly-owned subsidiary of First Busey Corporation and owns three subsidiaries. First Busey Trust & Investment Co. specializes in asset management and trust services. First Busey Securities, Inc. (member NASD/SIPC) is a full-service broker/dealer subsidiary. Busey Insurance Services, Inc. is a provider of personal insurance products. Busey Investment Group has approximately \$2.2 billion in assets under care.

First Busey Corporation's common stock is traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol "BUSE." First Busey Corporation has a repurchase program in effect under which it is authorized to purchase up to 750,000 shares of stock.

SOURCE First Busey Corporation

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/Web site: <http://www.busey.com> /
(BUSE) □

CO: First Busey Corporation

ST: Illinois

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