## BancorpSouth, Inc. Announces Financial Results For The Second Quarter And First Six Months of 2003

## PRNewswire-FirstCall

TUPELO, Miss.
BancorpSouth, Inc. today announced that net income for the second quarter of 2003 was $\$ 29.2$ million, a 5.5 percent decrease from $\$ 30.9$ million for the second quarter of 2002. Net income per basic share for the second quarter of 2003 was even with the second quarter of 2002, at $\$ 0.38$ for both quarters, while net income per diluted share was $\$ 0.37$, 2.6 percent below the $\$ 0.38$ earned for the second quarter of 2002.

Net income increased 13.4 percent for the first six months of 2003 , to $\$ 68.4$ million from $\$ 60.3$ million for the first half of 2002. Net income per basic and diluted share rose 18.9 percent for the first six months of 2003 to $\$ 0.88$ from $\$ 0.74$ for the comparable period in 2002.

Aubrey Patterson, BancorpSouth's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, commented, "BancorpSouth's second quarter results clearly demonstrate the strategic importance of its successful multi-year effort to build its non- interest revenue streams. Strong growth in mortgage lending fees for the quarter combined with substantial increases in service charges, insurance commissions and other fee income to drive a 30.8 percent increase in non- interest revenue, essentially offsetting the effect of an anticipated decline in net interest revenue that resulted from lower interest rates and reduced loan activity in a difficult economic environment. Our commitment to this strategy to diversify our revenue streams was again evident in the second quarter with the announcement of our acquisition of Wright \& Percy Insurance of Baton Rouge, Louisiana's oldest and largest independent insurance agency, which is our fourth insurance-company acquisition in four years. Earlier this week, on July 14, we reinforced our commitment to this strategy with the announcement of our agreement to merge with Ramsey, Krug, Farrell \& Lensing, Inc. of Little Rock, Arkansas, one of Arkansas' leading insurance agencies. The continued implementation of this strategy has not only reduced the impact of interest rate volatility on BancorpSouth's financial results, but it has also enabled the Company to develop a much more comprehensive array of financial services with which to serve its growing retail and small-to-mid- sized business customer base.

[^0]diluted share after tax, and net securities gains of $\$ 2.9$ million, or $\$ 0.02$ per diluted share after tax."

## Net Interest Revenue

Interest revenue was $\$ 133.2$ million for the second quarter of 2003 , down 10.5 percent from $\$ 148.8$ million for the second quarter of 2002 and 3.3 percent from $\$ 137.7$ million for the first quarter of 2003. Interest expense declined 15.7 percent to $\$ 46.1$ million for the second quarter from $\$ 54.7$ million for the second quarter last year and 3.0 percent from $\$ 47.5$ million for the first quarter of 2003.

The average taxable equivalent yield on earning assets for the second quarter of 2003 decreased to 5.68 percent from 6.63 percent for the comparable quarter in 2002 and 6.00 percent for the first quarter of 2003. The average rate paid on interest-bearing liabilities for the second quarter of 2003 fell to 2.26 percent from 2.80 percent for the second quarter of 2002 and 2.36 percent for the first quarter of 2003.

Net interest revenue was $\$ 87.1$ million for the second quarter of 2003, a decrease of 7.5 percent from $\$ 94.1$ million for the second quarter of 2002 and 3.4 percent from $\$ 90.1$ million for the first quarter of 2003. Net interest margin was 3.75 percent for the second quarter of 2003 , compared with 4.24 percent for the second quarter of 2002 and 3.97 percent for the first quarter of the current year.

Patterson added, "Declining interest rates in the second quarter continued to contribute to the reduction of BancorpSouth's net interest margin. In addition, as discussed in our first-quarter earnings release, the securities sale undertaken in the first quarter to narrow the interest sensitivity gap between maturing assets and liabilities also produced pressure on the net interest margin, as anticipated in a declining rate environment. While we constantly manage our assets and liabilities to limit our exposure to changing interest rates, we have actively sought to better position the Company to take advantage of rising interest rates when they occur, in spite of the short-term impact on the net interest margin. Having experienced the impact of many interest rate cycles, we stand by this more conservative posture, which we believe is consistent with our goals for long-term growth in shareholder value."

## Deposit and Loan Activity

Total assets at June 30, 2003 increased 6.6 percent to $\$ 10.6$ billion from $\$ 9.9$ billion at June $30,2002$. Total deposits were $\$ 8.7$ billion at June 30, 2003, a 5.6 percent increase from $\$ 8.3$ billion at the end of the second quarter of 2002. Total loans of $\$ 6.3$ billion at June 30,2003 fell 0.7 percent from $\$ 6.3$ billion at June 30, 2002.
"Like the banking industry as a whole, our loan activity for the second quarter reflects the continued listless economic environment in both our regional and the national markets," said Patterson. "Because of the geographic and business mix diversification we enjoy throughout our six-state market, we are confident that we remain well positioned to participate in improved loan activity that we would expect to accompany an improvement in the economic environment. We also continue to be encouraged by the
growth in market share evidenced by the 5.6 percent expansion of our total deposits. Within this total, non-interest bearing deposits grew 17.5 percent for the second quarter, which represents the second consecutive quarter of double-digit percentage growth for this low-cost source of funds."

Provision for Credit Losses and Allowance for Credit Losses
The provision for credit losses for the second quarter of 2003 declined on both a comparable-quarter and sequential-quarter basis for the second consecutive quarter. For the latest quarter, the provision of $\$ 6.5$ million fell 10.3 percent from $\$ 7.2$ million for the second quarter of 2002 and 0.8 percent from $\$ 6.5$ million for the first quarter of 2003. Annualized net charge-offs were 0.31 percent of average loans for the latest quarter, versus 0.39 percent for the comparable quarter in 2002 and 0.30 percent for the first quarter of 2003.

Non-performing loans at June 30, 2003 totaled $\$ 45.2$ million, or 0.72 percent of loans, compared with $\$ 40.9$ million, or 0.65 percent of loans, at June 30,2002 , and $\$ 40.2$ million, or 0.64 percent of loans at the end of the first quarter of 2003. The allowance for credit losses at June 30, 2003, was 1.45 percent of loans, up from 1.36 percent at June 30, 2002 and 1.43 percent at March 31, 2003.

Patterson stated, "We remain pleased with BancorpSouth's credit quality as we enter the second half of 2003. As expected, the lack of material growth in the economy is a significant factor in the increase in our non-performing loans during the second quarter. However, through diligent efforts to salvage these assets, we reduced annualized charge-offs for the quarter compared with the second quarter of last year. This reduction, in turn, strengthened our allowance for credit losses compared with both the second quarter of 2002 and the first quarter of 2003, even as we reduced our provision for credit losses for the third consecutive quarter.
"We attribute BancorpSouth's strong credit quality to a conservative lending and credit philosophy that is an essential part of the foundation of this organization. Because the traditional banking industry is affected so directly by the economic cycle, we firmly believe that a key to long-term prosperity is a fully engaged loan review function that implements this conservative philosophy aggressively. While confident that adherence to this policy costs us some incremental business in the stronger part of the economic cycle, we are equally confident that, after two years of economic softness, it is accountable for our continued strong credit quality."

## Non-Interest Revenue

Non-interest revenue increased 30.8 percent to $\$ 42.9$ million for the second quarter of 2003 from $\$ 32.8$ million for the second quarter of 2002 and decreased 22.0 percent from $\$ 55.0$ million for the first quarter of 2003. In addition to the net securities gains and impairment provisions discussed above for the second quarter of 2003 and 2002, these results include net securities gains for the first quarter of 2003 of $\$ 13.6$ million, as well as a reversal of previously recorded impairment charges for the first

The strong growth in revenue from mortgage loan originations for the second quarter of 2003 resulted from the continued low mortgage interest rates during the quarter. Because of this environment, BancorpSouth's mortgage loan originations for the second quarter of 2003 grew 120.8 percent to $\$ 392.8$ million from $\$ 177.9$ million for the second quarter of 2002, and its mortgage servicing portfolio expanded to $\$ 2.8$ billion at June 30, 2003, from $\$ 2.6$ billion at June $30,2002$.

Non-interest revenue for the second quarter of 2003 also reflected 28.9 percent growth in service charges, to $\$ 16.2$ million for the latest quarter from $\$ 12.6$ million for the second quarter last year, as well as 41.2 percent growth in insurance commissions, to $\$ 8.3$ million from $\$ 5.9$ million, and 40.3 percent growth in other non-interest revenue, to $\$ 11.0$ million from $\$ 7.8$ million.
"The growth in non-interest revenue to nearly half the size of net interest revenue for the second quarter of 2003, up from 34.9 percent of net interest revenue for the second quarter of 2002, has contributed substantially to the profitability of BancorpSouth," continued Patterson. "We expect the expansion of our mortgage servicing portfolio at historically low interest rates will create future benefits as well, not only through the reduction of pre-payment risk for mortgages within the portfolio, but also through the new and expanded customer relationships the growth in mortgage originations has produced. We intend to market a full array of traditional banking products to these customers, as well as our growing portfolio of non-interest revenue products, such as deposit, insurance, cash management and investment brokerage products and services."

## Non-Interest Expense

Non-interest expense increased 9.1 percent for the second quarter of 2003 to $\$ 81.3$ million from $\$ 74.6$ million for the second quarter of 2002. The substantial majority of this increase occurred in salaries and employee benefits, primarily due to commissions related to increased mortgage loan originations. Equipment, telecommunications and other expenses declined on a comparable-quarter and sequentialquarter basis with the completion of initiatives to improve operating efficiency.

## Capital Management

During the second quarter of 2003, BancorpSouth did not repurchase any shares of its common stock under any of its stock repurchase plans. At the end of the second quarter of 2003, approximately 231,000 shares of common stock remained available for repurchase under the plan authorized in February 2002 for the repurchase of up to 4.1 million shares. Additionally, in April 2003, the Company's Board of Directors authorized a new plan, under which the Company may repurchase up to an additional 3.9 million shares. No shares have been repurchased under this recently adopted plan. Combined with the shares repurchased under a separate 4.2 million share plan authorized in March 2001 that was completed in 2002, the Company has repurchased approximately 8.1 million shares of its common stock
as of June 30,2003 , or 9.6 percent of its outstanding shares at March 31, 2001. BancorpSouth will continue to evaluate additional share repurchases under the February 2002 and April 2003 plans, which authorize these repurchases during an eighteen-month and two-year period, respectively.

## Summary

Mr. Patterson concluded, "The latest stock repurchase plan authorized by the Board of Directors is a clear indication of its confidence in the growth potential of BancorpSouth. This confidence is based on the continuing efforts of a highly experienced management team and employees throughout BancorpSouth, who have demonstrated their ability to produce long-term growth in shareholder value. Through these efforts, BancorpSouth occupies a unique competitive position in its six-state market, which is based on its commitment to provide "community bank" customer service supported by the product and systems sophistication of one of the country's 50 largest banking organizations. In addition to traditional banking services, we have decisively positioned BancorpSouth to pursue a growing noninterest revenue opportunity, and we have enhanced our ability to scale our operations profitably through a substantial level of back office centralization. We have consistently proven our ability to expand market share through both internal growth and accretive acquisitions, even as we maintain a conservative lending posture and strong credit quality. As a result, we believe BancorpSouth is well positioned to weather the current economic uncertainty and, through the consistent implementation of its long-term growth strategies, produce further gains in shareholder value."

## Conference Call

BancorpSouth will conduct a conference call with analysts at 2:30 p.m. (Central Time) on July 17, 2003. Investors may listen via the Internet by accessing BancorpSouth's website at http://www.bancorpsouth.com/ . A replay of the conference call will be available at BancorpSouth's website for a least two weeks following the call.

BancorpSouth, Inc. is a bank holding company headquartered in Tupelo, Mississippi with approximately $\$ 10.6$ billion in assets. BancorpSouth operates approximately 250 commercial banking, insurance, trust, broker/dealer and consumer finance locations in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas.

## Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements contained in this news release may not be based on historical facts and are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. These forward-looking statements may be identified by their reference to a future period or periods or by the use of forwardlooking terminology such as "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "expect," "may," "might," "will," "would," "could" or "intend." These forward-looking statements include, without limitation, those relating to the
acquisition of Ramsey, Krug, Farrell \& Lensing, interest rates, loan volume, credit quality, expansion of mortgage servicing portfolio and resulting benefits, net interest margin, non-interest revenue, ability to scale operations profitably through back office centralization, market share, expansion and prospects of products and services, internal growth and acquisitions, common stock repurchase plan, shareholder value and BancorpSouth's future growth and profitability.

We caution you not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements contained in this news release in that actual results could differ materially from those indicated in such forward-looking statements, due to a variety of factors. Those factors include, but are not limited to, the inability to complete the acquisition of Ramsey, Krug, Farrell \& Lensing, changes in economic conditions and government fiscal and monetary policies, fluctuations in prevailing interest rates, the ability to maintain credit quality, the ability of BancorpSouth to reduce interest rates paid on deposits as interest rates decline or stabilize, changes in laws and regulations affecting financial institutions in general, possible adverse rulings, judgments, settlements and other outcomes of pending litigation, the ability of BancorpSouth to compete with other financial services companies, the ability of BancorpSouth to provide competitive services and products, changes in BancorpSouth's operating or expansion strategy, geographic concentration of BancorpSouth's assets, availability of and costs associated with obtaining adequate and timely sources of liquidity, the ability of BancorpSouth to attract, train and retain qualified personnel, the ability of BancorpSouth to effectively market its services and products, the ability of BancorpSouth to repurchase its common stock on favorable terms, the ability of BancorpSouth to identify potential acquisitions, changes in consumer preferences, other factors generally understood to affect the financial results of financial services companies, and other factors described from time to time in BancorpSouth's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We undertake no obligation to update these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that occur after the date on which such statements were made.

Selected Financial Data


Total earning assets 9,763,679 9,257,974
Loans and lease
receivables, net of unearned discount Allowance for credit losses
Total deposits
Common shareholders' equity
Book value per share

```
91,210 86,276
    6,301,110 6,344,219
91,210 86,276
    8,714,072 8,255,559
857,868 830,801
    11.00 10.28
```

Average balance sheet
data:
Total assets $\quad \$ 10,287,130$ \$9,818,001 \$10,239,601 \$9,706,035
Total earning assets $\quad 9,592,723 \quad 9,187,581 \quad 9,543,975 \quad 9,078,189$
Loans and lease
receivables, net of
unearned discount $\quad 6,289,079 \quad 6,276,605 \quad 6,318,286 \quad 6,209,820$
Total deposits $\quad 8,628,134 \quad 8,165,640 \quad 8,594,256 \quad 8,083,731$
Common shareholders'
equity $\quad 832,443 \quad 819,941 \quad 824,221 \quad 813,484$
Non-performing assets at
June 30:

| Non-accrual loans | $\$ 18,230$ | $\$ 12,166$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Loans $90+$ days past due | 26,954 | 28,755 |
| Restructured loans | 14 | 22 |
| Other real estate owned | 15,065 | 18,798 |

Net charge-offs as a
percentage
of average loans
(annualized) $\quad 0.31 \% \quad 0.39 \% \quad 0.31 \% \quad 0.39 \%$
Performance ratios
(annualized)

| Return on average assets | $1.14 \%$ | $1.26 \%$ | $1.35 \%$ | $1.25 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Return on common equity | $14.09 \%$ | $15.13 \%$ | $16.73 \%$ | $14.95 \%$ |

Net interest margin $\quad 3.75 \% \quad 4.24 \% \quad 3.86 \% \quad 4.27 \%$
Average shares
outstanding-diluted 78,013,329 81,498,916 77,935,346 81,589,600

BancorpSouth, Inc. Consolidated Balance Sheets (dollars in thousands) (Unaudited)
June 30, June 30,
2003 \% Chg

Assets
Cash \& due from banks $\quad \$ 393,390 \quad \$ 303,599 \quad 29.6 \%$
Interest bearing deposits with
other banks
Held-to-maturity securities

$$
5,059 \quad 12,108 \quad(58.2 \%)
$$

$$
1,552,070 \quad 1,223,435 \quad 26.9 \%
$$

Available-for-sale securities 1,723,766 1,115,762 54.5\%
Federal funds sold and securities
purchased under agreement
to resell
Loans \& leases
Allowance for credit losses
Net loans \& leases
Mortgages held for sale
Bank premises \& equipment
Accrued interest receivable Other real estate owned Other assets Total assets

```
            94,999 518,727 (81.7%)
                        6,301,110 6,344,219 (0.7%)
                            (91,210) (86,276) 5.7%
                                6,209,900 6,257,943 (0.8%)
            86,676 43,723 98.2%
            209,746 211,451 (0.8%)
            76,015 79,524 (4.4%)
            15,065 18,295 (17.7%)
        209,767 138,958 51.0%
            $10,576,453 $9,923,525 6.6%
```

Liabilities
Demand deposits:


> Consolidated Statements of Income
> (amounts in thousands, except per share data)
(Unaudited)

> | Quarter Ended |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Jun-03 | Mar-03 | Dec-02 | Sep-02 Jun-02 |  |

Interest Revenue:
Loans, including fees \$103,146 \$105,252 \$110,129 \$113,922 \$113,735
Held-to-maturity

$\begin{array}{llllll}\text { Net interest revenue } & 87,069 & 90,144 & 92,394 & 92,622 & 94,083\end{array}$
Provision for credit
losses $\quad 6,472 \quad 6,522 \quad 7,228 \quad 8,208 \quad 7,215$

Net interest
revenue,
after credit loss
provision $\quad 80,597 \quad 83,622 \quad 85,166 \quad 84,414 \quad 86,868$
Other Revenue:
$\begin{array}{lccccc}\text { Mortgage lending } & 4,667 & 7,561 & 6,069 & (2,595) & 900 \\ \text { Service charges } & 16,232 & 13,654 & 13,557 & 12,888 & 12,595 \\ \text { Life insurance premiums } & 876 & 961 & 1,031 & 1,091 & 1,091\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llllllll}\text { Life insurance premiums } & 876 & 961 & 1,031 & 1,091 & 1,091 \\ \text { Trust income } & 1,684 & 1,486 & 1,767 & 1,693 & 1,644\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llllll}\text { Securities gains, net } & 180 & 13,556 & 170 & 2,453 & 2,888\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llllll}\text { Insurance commissions } & 8,314 & 6,387 & 5,927 & 6,123 & 5,887\end{array}$
Other $\quad 10,962 \quad 11,411 \quad 6,661 \quad 7,654 \quad 7,813$
$\begin{array}{llllll}\text { Total other revenue } & 42,915 & 55,016 & 35,182 & 29,307 & 32,818\end{array}$
Other Expense:
Salaries and employee

| benefits | 48,007 | 45,461 | 45,985 | 42,301 | 40,226 |  |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :--- |
| Occupancy | 5,609 | 5,580 | 5,497 | 5,485 | 5,422 |  |
| Equipment | 5,776 | 6,003 | 6,093 | 6,070 | 6,264 |  |
| Telecommunications | 1,828 |  | 1,860 | 1,948 | 1,922 | 2,032 |
| Other | 20,113 | 20,719 | 25,356 | 19,995 | 20,630 |  |
| Total other expense | 81,333 | 79,623 | 84,879 | 75,773 | 74,574 |  |
| Income before |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| income taxes | 42,179 | 59,015 | 35,469 | 37,948 | 45,112 |  |
| Income tax expense | 12,938 | 19,867 | 9,848 | 11,876 | 14,185 |  |
| Net Income | $\$ 29,241$ | $\$ 39,148$ | $\$ 25,621$ | $\$ 26,072$ | $\$ 30,927$ |  |
| Net Income Per Share: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Basic | $\$ 0.38$ | $\$ 0.51$ | $\$ 0.33$ | $\$ 0.33$ | $\$ 0.38$ |  |
| Diluted | $\$ 0.37$ | $\$ 0.50$ | $\$ 0.33$ | $\$ 0.33$ | $\$ 0.38$ |  |

Consolidated Statements of Income (amounts in thousands, except per share data)
(Unaudited)

(dollars in thousands)
(Unaudited)
Quarter Ended
June 30, 2003
Average Yield/


Net interest tax equivalent adjustment $\$ 2,567$

BancorpSouth, Inc.
Average Balances, Interest Income and Expense, and Average Yields and Rates (dollars in thousands)
(Unaudited)
Quarter Ended
June 30, 2002
Average Yield/
(Taxable equivalent basis) Balance Interest Rate
ASSETS

| Loans net of Unearned Income | $\$ 6,323,983$ | $\$ 114,202$ | $7.24 \%$ |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Held-to-maturity securities: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Taxable | 954,261 | 13,643 | $5.73 \%$ |  |  |
| Non Taxable | 196,409 | 3,769 | $7.70 \%$ |  |  |
| Available-for-sale securities: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Taxable | $1,091,573$ | 13,417 | $4.93 \%$ |  |  |
| Non Taxable | 197,212 | 3,314 | $6.74 \%$ |  |  |
| Short term investments | 424,143 | 3,427 | $3.24 \%$ |  |  |
| Total interest earning |  |  |  |  |  |
| assets and revenue | $9,187,581$ | 151,772 | $6.63 \%$ |  |  |



Net interest revenue Net interest margin Net interest rate spread Interest bearing liabilities to interest earning assets
\$182,508
3.86\%
3.52\%
85.57\%

Net interest tax equivalent adjustment

BancorpSouth, Inc.
Average Balances, Interest Income and Expense,
and Average Yields and Rates
(dollars in thousands)
(Unaudited)
Year to Date
June 30, 2002
Average Yield/
(Taxable equivalent basis) Balance Interest Rate
ASSETS


LIABILITIES AND
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY
Deposits:

| Demand - interest bearing | $\$ 2,290,828$ | $\$ 18,129$ | $1.60 \%$ |  |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Savings | 878,716 | 6,984 | $1.60 \%$ |  |
| Time | $3,873,088$ | 71,623 | $3.73 \%$ |  |

Short-term borrowings $\quad 452,543 \quad 6,616 \quad 2.95 \%$

Junior subordinated debt 104,282 4,330
Long-term debt
$140,160 \quad 4,181 \quad 6.02 \%$
Total interest bearing
liabilities and expense $\quad 7,739,617 \quad 111,863 \quad 2.91 \%$

Demand deposits -
non-interest bearing
1,041,099
Other liabilities
Total liabilities
111,834
8,892,550
Shareholders' equity 813,484
Total
\$9,706,035
Net interest revenue
Net interest margin
\$192,434
4.27\%

Net interest rate spread 3.84\%

Interest bearing liabilities to interest earning assets
85.26\%

Net interest tax equivalent adjustment \$5,924

SOURCE: BancorpSouth, Inc.

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## BancorpSouth Bank

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[^0]:    "As in previous quarters, our non-interest revenue results reflect the impact of interest rate movements on our mortgage servicing asset. For the second quarter of 2003, our results include a provision for the impairment of the mortgage servicing asset, which is a non-cash charge related to the decline in mortgage interest rates, of $\$ 4.7$ million, or $\$ 0.04$ per diluted share after tax. Net securities gains for the second quarter of 2003 totaled $\$ 180,000$. For the second quarter of 2002, the results include a provision for the impairment of the mortgage servicing asset of $\$ 4.2$ million, or $\$ 0.03$ per

