BancorpSouth, Inc. Reports 10.3% Increase In Earnings Per Share

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BancorpSouth, Inc., today reported that net income for the quarter ended June 30, 2000 amounted to \$17,921,000 compared to \$16,450,000 for the same period of 1999, an 8.9% increase. On a diluted per share basis, net income for the second quarter of 2000 was \$0.32 compared to \$0.29 for the second quarter of 1999, a 10.3% increase. Net income for the six months ended June 30, 2000 totaled \$36.1 million compared to \$33.3 million for the same period in 1999, an 8.3% increase. On a diluted per share basis, net income for the six months ended June 30, 2000 was \$0.64 compared to \$0.58 for the same period in 1999, a 10.3% increase.

Aubrey B. Patterson, Chairman and CEO of BancorpSouth said, "Our Company continues to experience good loan growth in both the consumer and business banking areas. The Company also continues to demonstrate its ability to maintain and grow deposits in an extremely competitive environment. BusinessCorp, the Company's small business initiative, continues its contribution to our loan and deposit growth as well as providing significant contributions to our non-traditional banking divisions. These divisions, BancorpSouth Insurance and BancorpSouth Investments, continue their positive impact on earnings."

Patterson went on to say, "As we anticipate the consummation of our pending merger with First United Bancshares of El Dorado, Arkansas, we look forward to building a banking company with a six-state regional platform in the Mid-South."

At June 30, 2000, total deposits were \$5.1 billion, an increase of 8.6% when compared to the same period of 1999. Total assets were \$6.0 billion, up 7.7% compared with the same period of 1999. Total net loans and leases were \$4.3 billion, an increase of 12.1%. Shareholders' equity totaled \$492.2 million, which represented book value of \$8.84 per share.

BancorpSouth previously announced its plans to merge with First United Bancshares of El Dorado, AR. First United operates eleven banks in Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana with assets totaling approximately \$2.7 billion. The merger is expected to close in the third quarter of 2000.

BancorpSouth provides retail and commercial banking services through 171 locations in Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama. The company also provides investment services through its subsidiary, BancorpSouth Investment Services, Inc., and insurance services through its subsidiary BancorpSouth Insurance Services. BancorpSouth's common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol BXS.

Three Months Ended Six Months Ended June 30, June 30. 2000 1999 2000 (Dollars in thousands except per share amounts)

Earnings summary:

Net interest revenue \$57,018 \$53,668 \$112,745 \$106,083

Provision for

credit losses 8,449 6,670 5,136 3,607 Noninterest revenue 19,989 19,307 41,481 42,295 Noninterest expense 45,310 45,070 91,869 93,970

Income before

income taxes 26,561 24,298 53,908 47,738 Income tax provision 8,640 7,848 17,833 14,423 Net income \$17,921 \$16,450 \$36,075 \$33,315

Earnings per share:

Basic \$0.32 \$0.29 \$0.64 \$0.58 Diluted \$0.32 \$0.29 \$0.58 \$0.64

Balance sheet data at June 30:

Total assets \$6,037,496 \$5,603,996 Total earning assets 5,625,746 5,231,773

Loans and lease receivables,

net of unearned discount 4,253,631 3,793,009 Allowance for credit losses 58,504 54,004 Total deposits 5,107,093 4,700,628 Common shareholders' equity 492,224 479,806

Book value per share 8.84 8.38

Average balance sheet data:

Total assets \$5,878,439 \$5,477,882 \$5,846,637 \$5,444,118 Total earning assets 5,496,620 5,127,771 5,464,259 5,091,744

Loans and lease receivables, net of

unearned discount 4,176,253 3,721,920 4,124,538 3,675,447

Total deposits 4,971,747 4,649,730 4,923,200 4,633,298

Common shareholders'

equity 493,190 475,052 494,490 471,303

Non-performing assets at June 30:

Non-accrual loans \$6.863 \$4.361 Loans 90+ days past due 14,645 9,231 Restructured loans 67 103 Other real estate owned 7,587 7,508

Net charge-off as a

percentage of average

loans (annualized) 0.33% 0.19% 0.27% 0.20%

Performance ratios (annualized):

Return on

average assets 1.22% 1.20% 1.23% 1.22% Return on common equity 14.54% 13.85% 14.59% 14.14%

Net interest margin 4.32% 4.35% 4.30% 4.36%

Average shares

outstanding

56,382,772 57,534,886 56,794,771 57,529,282 -diluted

SOURCE: Bancorp South, Inc.

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