

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY BANCORP INC
Form 10-K
March 30, 2010

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-K

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009

OR

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number: 0-51852

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY BANCORP, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

UNITED STATES
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

06-1786701
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

325 Hamilton Avenue, White Plains, New York
(Address of principal executive offices)

10601
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (914) 684-2500

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

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	Nasdaq Global Market

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

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

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

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

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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 Web site, 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 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 the 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, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "accelerated filer," "large accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/> (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates as of June 30, 2009 was approximately \$47.7 million.

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's common stock as of March 9, 2010 was 13,225,000.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Proxy Statement for the 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K.

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This report contains certain “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the federal securities laws. These statements are not historical facts; rather, they are statements based on Northeast Community Bancorp, Inc.’s current expectations regarding its business strategies, intended results and future performance. Forward-looking statements are preceded by terms such as “expects,” “believes,” “anticipates,” “intends” and similar expressions.

Management’s ability to predict results or the effect of future plans or strategies is inherently uncertain. Factors which could affect actual results include interest rate trends, the general economic climate in the market area in which Northeast Community Bancorp, Inc. operates, as well as nationwide, Northeast Community Bancorp, Inc.’s ability to control costs and expenses, competitive products and pricing, loan delinquency rates, demand for loans and deposits, changes in quality or composition of our loan portfolio and changes in federal and state legislation and regulation. For further discussion of factors that may affect our results, see “Item 1A. Risk Factors” in this Annual Report on Form 10-K (“Form 10-K”). These factors should be considered in evaluating the forward-looking statements and undue reliance should not be placed on such statements. Northeast Community Bancorp, Inc. assumes no obligation to update any forward-looking statements.

PART I

Item 1. BUSINESS

General

Northeast Community Bancorp, Inc. (“Northeast Community Bancorp” or the “Company”) is a federally chartered stock holding company established on July 5, 2006 to be the holding company for Northeast Community Bank (the “Bank”). Northeast Community Bancorp’s business activity is the ownership of the outstanding capital stock of the Bank. Northeast Community Bancorp does not own or lease any property but instead uses the premises, equipment and other property of the Bank with the payment of appropriate rental fees, as required by applicable law and regulations, under the terms of an expense allocation agreement.

Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC (the “MHC”) is the Company’s federally chartered mutual holding company parent. As a mutual holding company, the MHC is a non-stock company that has as its members the depositors of Northeast Community Bank. The MHC does not engage in any business activity other than owning a majority of the common stock of Northeast Community Bancorp. So long as we remain in the mutual holding company form of organization, the MHC will own a majority of the outstanding shares of Northeast Community Bancorp.

Northeast Community Bank was originally chartered in 1934. In 2006, Northeast Community Bank changed its name from “Fourth Federal Savings Bank” to “Northeast Community Bank.”

We operate as a community-oriented financial institution offering traditional financial services to consumers and businesses in our market area and our lending territory. We attract deposits from the general public and use those funds to originate multi-family residential, mixed-use and non-residential real estate and consumer loans, which we hold for investment. We have been originating multi-family and mixed-use real estate loans for over half a century. In 2007, we established a new commercial loan department and have increased this portfolio from no commercial loans at March 31, 2007 to \$23.9 million of commercial loans committed with \$10.4 million drawn at December 31, 2009. We do not offer one- to four-family residential loans.

In November 2007, we completed the acquisition of the operating assets of Hayden Financial Group, LLC, an investment advisory firm located in Westport, Connecticut. This acquisition gives us the ability to offer investment advisory and financial planning services under the name Hayden Wealth Management Group, a division of the Bank, through a networking arrangement with a registered broker-dealer and investment advisor.

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Available Information

Our website address is www.necommunitybank.com. Information on our website should not be considered a part of this Form 10-K.

Market Area

We are headquartered in White Plains, New York, which is located in Westchester County and we operate through our main office in White Plains, our five other full-service branch offices in the New York City boroughs of Manhattan (New York County), Brooklyn (Kings County) and Bronx (Bronx County) and our two full-service branch offices in Danvers and Plymouth, Massachusetts. Our two Massachusetts branches were opened in the second quarter of 2009. We generate deposits through our main office and seven branch offices. We conduct lending activities throughout the Northeastern United States, including New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.

Our primary market area includes a population base with a broad cross section of wealth, employment and ethnicity. We operate in markets that generally have experienced relatively slow demographic growth, a characteristic typical of mature urban markets located throughout the Northeast region. New York County is a relatively affluent market, reflecting the influence of Wall Street along with the presence of a broad spectrum of Fortune 500 companies. Comparatively, Kings County and Bronx County are home to a broad socioeconomic spectrum, with a significant portion of the respective populations employed in relatively low wage blue collar jobs. Westchester County is also an affluent market, serving as a desired suburban location for commuting into New York City as well as reflecting growth of higher paying jobs in the county, particularly in White Plains. The counties in which the Danvers and Plymouth retail branches currently operate include a mixture of rural, suburban and urban markets. The economies of these areas were historically based on manufacturing, but, similar to many areas of the country, the underpinnings of these economies are now more service oriented, with employment spread across many economic sectors including service, finance, health-care, technology, real estate and government.

While each of the states in our lending area has different economic characteristics, our customer base in these states tends to be similar to our customer base in New York and is comprised mostly of owners of low to moderate income apartment buildings or non-residential real estate in low to moderate income areas. Outside the State of New York, our largest concentration of real estate loans is in Massachusetts.

Competition

We face significant competition for the attraction of deposits. The New York and Boston metropolitan areas have a significant concentration of financial institutions, including large money center and regional banks, community banks and credit unions. Over the past 10 years, consolidation of the banking industry in the New York and Boston metropolitan areas has continued, resulting in larger and increasingly efficient competitors. We also face competition for depositors' funds from money market funds, mutual funds and other corporate and government securities. At June 30, 2009, which is the most recent date for which data is available from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, we held 0.09% or less of the deposits in Kings and New York counties, New York, approximately 0.64% and 0.17% of the deposits in Bronx and Westchester Counties, New York, respectively, and 0.24% and 0.29% of the deposits in Essex and Plymouth Counties, Massachusetts, respectively.

We also face significant competition for the origination of loans. Our competition for loans comes primarily from financial institutions in our lending territory, and, to a lesser extent, from other financial service providers such as insurance companies, hedge funds and mortgage companies. As our lending territory is based around densely

populated areas surrounding urban centers, we face significant competition from regional banks, savings banks and commercial banks in the New York and Boston metropolitan areas as well as in the other states that we designate as our lending territory. The competition for loans that we encounter, as well as the types of institutions with which we compete, varies from time to time depending upon certain factors, including the general

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availability of lendable funds and credit, general and local economic conditions, current interest rate levels, volatility in the mortgage markets and other factors which are not readily predictable.

We expect competition to increase in the future as a result of legislative, regulatory and technological changes and the continuing trend of consolidation in the financial services industry. Technological advances, for example, have lowered the barriers to market entry, allowed banks and other lenders to expand their geographic reach by providing services over the Internet and made it possible for non-depository institutions to offer products and services that traditionally have been provided by banks. Changes in federal law permit affiliation among banks, securities firms and insurance companies, which promotes a competitive environment in the financial services industry. Competition for deposits and the origination of loans could limit our future growth.

Lending Activities

General. We originate loans primarily for investment purposes. The largest segment of our loan portfolio is multi-family residential real estate loans. We also originate mixed-use real estate loans and non-residential real estate loans, and in 2007 we began originating commercial loans. To a limited degree, we make consumer loans and purchase participation interests in construction loans. We currently do not originate one- to four-family residential loans and have no present intention to do so in the future. We consider our lending territory to be the Northeastern United States, including New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. We do not originate or purchase subprime loans.

Multi-family and Mixed-use Real Estate Loans. We offer adjustable rate mortgage loans secured by multi-family and mixed-use real estate. These loans are comprised primarily of loans on low to moderate income apartment buildings located in our lending territory and include, to a limited degree, loans on cooperative apartment buildings (in the New York area), loans for Section 8 multi-family housing and loans for single room occupancy (“SRO”) multi-family housing properties. In New York, most of the apartment buildings that we lend on are rent-stabilized. Mixed-use real estate loans are secured by properties that are intended for both residential and business use. Until 2004, our policy had been to originate multi-family and mixed-use real estate loans primarily in the New York metropolitan area. In January 2004, we opened our first location outside of New York and now originate multi-family and mixed-use real estate loans in several northeastern states.

For the year ended December 31, 2009, originations of multi-family real estate loans in states other than New York and Massachusetts represented 37.3% of our total multi-family mortgage loan originations, and originations of mixed-use real estate loans in states other than New York and Massachusetts represented 4.7% of our total mixed-use mortgage loan originations. For the year ended December 31, 2008, originations of multi-family real estate loans in states other than New York and Massachusetts represented 41.8% of our total multi-family mortgage loan originations, and originations of mixed-use real estate loans in New York and Massachusetts represented 100.0% of our total mixed-use mortgage loan originations. We intend to continue our originations of multi-family and mixed-use real estate loans in the several states in which we are currently lending.

We originate a variety of adjustable-rate and balloon multi-family and mixed-use real estate loans. The adjustable-rate loans have fixed rates for a period of up to five years and then adjust every three to five years thereafter, based on the terms of the loan. Maturities on these loans can be up to 15 years, and typically they amortize over a 20 to 30-year period. Interest rates on our adjustable-rate loans are adjusted to a rate that equals the applicable three-year or five-year constant maturity treasury index plus a margin. The balloon loans have a maximum maturity of five years. The lifetime interest rate cap is five percentage points over the initial interest rate of the loan (four percentage points for loans with three-year terms). For a mixed-use property with commercial space accounting for over 30% of the gross operating income of the building, competition permitting, the rate offered is generally based on the rate we offer for non-residential real estate loans. Due to the nature of our borrowers and our lending niche, the

typical multi-family or mixed-use real estate loan refinances within the first five-year period and, in doing so, generates prepayment penalties ranging from five points to one point of the outstanding loan balance. Under our loan-refinancing program, borrowers who are current under the terms and conditions of their contractual obligations can apply to refinance their existing loans to the rates and terms then offered on new loans after the payment of their contractual prepayment penalties.

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In making multi-family and mixed-use real estate loans, we primarily consider the net operating income generated by the real estate to support the debt service, the financial resources, income level and managerial expertise of the borrower, the marketability of the property and our lending experience with the borrower. We do not typically require a personal guarantee of the borrower, but may do so depending on the location, building condition or credit profile. We rate the property underlying the loan as Class A, B or C. Our current policy is to require a minimum debt service coverage ratio (the ratio of earnings after subtracting all operating expenses to debt service payments) of 1.20% to 1.50% depending on the rating of the underlying property. On multi-family and mixed-use real estate loans, our current policy is to finance up to 75% of the lesser of the appraised value or purchase price of the property securing the loan on purchases and refinances of Class A and B properties and up to 65% of the lesser of the appraised value or purchase price for properties that are rated Class C. Properties securing multi-family and mixed-use real estate loans are appraised by independent appraisers, inspected by us and generally require Phase 1 environmental surveys.

We have been originating multi-family and mixed-use real estate loans in the New York market area for more than 75 years. In the New York market area, our ability to continue to grow our portfolio is dependent on the continuation of our relationships with mortgage brokers, as the multi-family and mixed-use real estate loan market is primarily broker driven. We have longstanding relationships with mortgage brokers in the New York market area, who are familiar with our lending practices and our underwriting standards. During the past five years we have developed similar relationships with mortgage brokers in the other states within our lending territory, in particular Massachusetts, and will continue to do so in order to grow our loan portfolio.

The majority of the multi-family real estate loans in our portfolio are secured by twenty unit to one hundred unit apartment buildings. At December 31, 2009, the majority of our mixed-use real estate loans are secured by properties that are at least 70% residential, but contain some non-residential space.

On December 31, 2009, the largest outstanding multi-family real estate loan had a balance of \$8.6 million and is performing according to its terms at December 31, 2009. This loan is secured by a 216 unit apartment complex located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The largest mixed-use real estate loan had a balance of \$4.0 million and is performing according to its terms at December 31, 2009. This loan is secured by a mixed-use building with 10 apartment units and 5 commercial units located in Jamaica, New York. As of December 31, 2009, the average loan balance in our multi-family and mixed-use portfolio was approximately \$667,000.

Non-residential Real Estate Loans. Due to current market conditions, we discontinued offering new non-residential real estate loans effective the first quarter of 2009. We will continue to monitor market conditions to determine whether we will resume offering such loans at a future date. Our non-residential real estate loans are generally secured by office buildings, medical facilities and retail shopping centers that are primarily located in moderate income areas within our lending territory.

Our non-residential real estate loans are structured in a manner similar to our multi-family and mixed-use real estate loans, typically at a fixed rate of interest for three to five years and then a rate that adjusts every three to five years over the term of the loan, which is typically 15 years. Interest rates and payments on these loans generally are based on the three-year or five-year constant maturity treasury index plus a margin. The lifetime interest rate cap is five percentage points over the initial interest rate of the loan (four percentage points for loans with three-year terms). Loans are secured by first mortgages that generally do not exceed 75% of the property's appraised value. Properties securing non-residential real estate loans are appraised by independent appraisers and inspected by us.

We also charge prepayment penalties, with five points of the outstanding loan balance generally being charged on loans that refinance in the first year of the mortgage, scaling down to one point on loans that refinance in year

five. These loans are typically repaid or the term extended before maturity, in which case a new rate is negotiated to meet market conditions and an extension of the loan is executed for a new term with a new amortization schedule. Our non-residential real estate loans tend to refinance within the first five-year period.

Our assessment of credit risk and our underwriting standards and procedures for non-residential real estate loans are similar to those applicable to our multi-family and mixed-use real estate loans. In reaching a decision on whether to make a non-residential real estate loan, we consider the net operating income of the property, the borrower's expertise, credit history and profitability and the value of the underlying property. In addition, with respect to rental properties, we will also consider the term of the lease and the credit quality of the tenants. We have generally required that the properties securing non-residential real estate loans have debt service coverage ratios (the ratio of earnings after subtracting all operating expenses to debt service payments) of at least 1.30%. Phase 1 environmental surveys and property inspections are required for all loans.

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At December 31, 2009, we had \$105.2 million in non-residential real estate loans outstanding, or 26.8% of total loans. Originations in states other than New York and Massachusetts represented 17.3% of our total originations of non-residential real estate loans for the year ended December 31, 2009 and 14.4% for the year ended December 31, 2008.

At December 31, 2009, the largest outstanding non-residential real estate loan had an outstanding balance of \$4.5 million. This loan is secured by a multi-tenant office building located in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and was performing according to its terms at December 31, 2009. At December 31, 2009, the largest outstanding non-residential real estate loan relationship with one borrower was comprised of six loans totaling \$12.6 million secured by six office buildings located in the Syracuse, New York area. These six loans were performing according to their terms at December 31, 2009. As of December 31, 2009, the average balance of loans in our non-residential loan portfolio was \$1.2 million.

In addition, at December 31, 2009, we had one note, which is treated as a loan in our non-residential loan portfolio with a net present value of \$10.9 million that we received in connection with the sale of our First Avenue branch office building. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Sale of New York City Branch Office."

Equity Lines of Credit on Real Estate Loans. Northeast Community Bank offers equity lines of credit on multi-family, mixed-use and non-residential real estate properties on which it holds the first mortgage.

For existing borrowers only, we offer an equity line of credit program secured by a second mortgage on the borrower's multi-family, mixed-use or non-residential property. All lines of credit are underwritten separately from the first mortgage and support debt service ratios and loan-to-value ratios that when combined with the first mortgage meet or exceed our current underwriting standards for multi-family, mixed-use and non-residential real estate loans. Borrowers typically hold these lines in reserve and use them for ongoing property improvements or to purchase additional properties when the opportunity arises.

Our equity lines of credit are typically interest only for the first five years and then the remaining term of the line of credit is tied to the remaining term on the first mortgage on the multi-family, mixed-use or non-residential property. After the first five years, a payment of both principal and interest is required. Interest rates and payments on our equity lines of credit are indexed to the prime rate as published in The Wall Street Journal and adjusted as the prime rate changes. Interest rate adjustments on equity lines of credit are limited to a specified maximum percentage over the initial interest rate.

Commercial Loans. Continuing our plan to diversify our portfolio, both geographically and by product type, in March 2007 we hired two individuals with significant commercial bank lending experience, a senior lending officer and a commercial underwriter, for our new commercial lending department. Interest rates and payments on our commercial loans are typically indexed to the prime rate as published in the Wall Street Journal and adjusted as the prime rate changes. Our commercial loan portfolio increased from \$22.8 million of commercial loans committed with \$7.6 million drawn at December 31, 2008 to \$23.9 million of commercial loans committed with \$10.4 million drawn at December 31, 2009.

At December 31, 2009, the largest commercial loan and the largest outstanding commercial loan was a line of credit totaling \$4.0 million, with a \$2.0 million outstanding balance and a remaining available line of credit of \$2.0 million. This loan is secured by the assets of a construction business located in Pleasantville, New York.

At December 31, 2009, the largest outstanding commercial loan and mortgage loan relationship with one borrower was comprised of three loans totaling \$2.5 million, consisting of two commercial loans totaling \$2.4 million and a first

mortgage loan with an outstanding balance of \$165,000. The two commercial loans consisted of a line of credit of \$3.3 million, with an outstanding balance totaling \$1.9 million and a remaining available line of credit of \$1.4 million, and a term loan with an outstanding balance of \$480,000. The line of credit is secured by the assets of a construction business located in Mineola, New York and the term loan is secured by the cash value of a whole life insurance policy on the owner of the business. The first mortgage loan is secured by the nonresidential property occupied by the business.

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All the aforementioned commercial loans were performing according to their terms at December 31, 2009.

Construction Loans. Historically, we have purchased participation interests in loans to finance the construction of multi-family, mixed-use and non-residential buildings. We perform our own underwriting analysis on each of our participation interests before purchasing such loans. Construction loans are typically for twelve to twenty-four month terms and pay interest only during that period. All construction loans are underwritten as if they will be rental properties and must meet our normal debt service and loan to value ratio requirements on an as completed basis. The outstanding balance of construction loan participation interests purchased totaled \$15.1 million at December 31, 2009. Due to current market conditions, we discontinued purchasing participation interests in construction loans effective the first quarter of 2009.

At December 31, 2009, the largest outstanding construction loan participation consisted of four loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$7.5 million (net of loans in process of \$78,000) for a total potential exposure of \$7.6 million. This balance represents our 25% participation ownership of the loans. These loans are secured by a building undergoing renovation to become a 151 room hotel located in Long Beach, New York, and were performing according to their terms at December 31, 2009.

Consumer Loans. We offer loans secured by savings accounts or certificates of deposit (share loans) and overdraft protection for checking accounts which is linked to statement savings accounts and has the ability to transfer funds from the statement savings account to the checking account when needed to cover overdrafts. At December 31, 2009, our portfolio of consumer loans was \$150,000, or 0.04% of total loans.

Loan Underwriting Risks

Adjustable-Rate Loans. While we anticipate that adjustable-rate loans will better offset the adverse effects of an increase in interest rates as compared to fixed-rate loans, the increased payments required of adjustable-rate loan borrowers in a rising interest rate environment could cause an increase in delinquencies and defaults. The marketability of the underlying property also may be adversely affected in a high interest rate environment. In addition, although adjustable-rate loans help make our loan portfolio more responsive to changes in interest rates, the extent of this interest sensitivity is limited by the lifetime interest rate adjustment limits.

Multi-family, Mixed-use and Non-residential Real Estate Loans. Loans secured by multi-family, mixed-use and non-residential real estate generally have larger balances and involve a greater degree of risk than one- to four-family residential mortgage loans. Of primary concern in multi-family, mixed-use and non-residential real estate lending is the borrower's creditworthiness and the feasibility and cash flow potential of the project. Payments on loans secured by income properties often depend on successful operation and management of the properties. As a result, repayment of such loans may be subject to a greater extent than residential real estate loans to adverse conditions in the real estate market or the economy. To monitor cash flows on income producing properties, we require borrowers to provide annual financial statements for all multi-family, mixed-use and non-residential real estate loans. In reaching a decision on whether to make a multi-family, mixed-use or non-residential real estate loan, we consider the net operating income of the property, the borrower's expertise, credit history and profitability and the value of the underlying property. In addition, with respect to non-residential real estate properties, we also consider the term of the lease and the quality of the tenants. An appraisal of the real estate used as collateral for the real estate loan is also obtained as part of the underwriting process. We have generally required that the properties securing these real estate loans have debt service coverage ratios (the ratio of earnings after subtracting all operating expenses to debt service payments) of at least 1.25%. In underwriting these loans, we take into account projected increases in interest rates in determining whether a loan meets our debt service coverage ratios at the higher interest rate under the adjustable rate mortgage. Environmental surveys and property inspections are utilized for all loans.

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Commercial Loans. Unlike residential mortgage loans, which are generally made on the basis of a borrower's ability to make repayment from his or her employment or other income and are secured by real property whose value tends to be more ascertainable, commercial loans are of higher risk and tend to be made on the basis of a borrower's ability to make repayment from the cash flow of the borrower's business. As a result, the availability of funds for the repayment of commercial loans may depend substantially on the success of the business itself. Further, any collateral securing such loans may depreciate over time, may be difficult to appraise and may fluctuate in value.

Construction Loans. We have purchased participation interests in loans to finance the construction of multi-family, mixed-use and non-residential buildings. Construction financing affords the Bank the opportunity to achieve higher interest rates and fees with shorter terms to maturity than do residential mortgage loans. However, construction financing is generally considered to involve a higher degree of risk of loss than long-term financing on improved, occupied real estate due to (1) the increased difficulty at the time the loan is made of estimating the building costs and the selling price of the property to be built; (2) the increased difficulty and costs of monitoring the loan; (3) the higher degree of sensitivity to increases in market rates of interest; and (4) the increased difficulty of working out loan problems. The Bank has sought to minimize this risk by limiting the amount of construction loan participation interests outstanding at any time and by spreading the participations among multi-family, mixed-use and non-residential projects. We perform our own underwriting analysis on each of our construction loan participation interests before purchasing such loans and therefore believe there is no greater risk of default on these obligations than on a construction loan originated by the Bank. See "Mortgage and Construction Loan Originations and Participations" below.

Consumer Loans. Because the only consumer loans we offer are secured by passbook savings accounts, certificates of deposit accounts or statement savings accounts, we do not believe these loans represent a risk of loss to the Bank.

Mortgage and Construction Loan Originations and Participations. Our mortgage loan originations come from a number of sources. The primary source of mortgage loan originations are referrals from brokers, existing customers, advertising and personal contacts by our loan officers. Over the years, we have developed working relationships with many mortgage brokers in our lending territory. Under the terms of the agreements with such brokers, the brokers refer potential loans to us. The loans are underwritten and approved by us utilizing our underwriting policies and standards. The mortgage brokers typically receive a fee from the borrower upon the funding of the loans by us. Historically, mortgage brokers have been the source of the majority of the multi-family, mixed-use and non-residential real estate loans originated by us. We generally retain for our portfolio all of the loans that we originate.

During 2009, we continued our policy of purchasing participation interests in loans to finance the construction of multi-family, mixed-use and non-residential properties. The outstanding balance of the construction loan participation interests purchased totaled \$15.1 million at December 31, 2009. We perform our own underwriting analysis on each of our participation interests before purchasing such loans and therefore believe there is no greater risk of default on these obligations. However, in a purchased participation loan, we do not service the loan and thus are subject to the policies and practices of the lead lender with regard to monitoring delinquencies, pursuing collections and instituting foreclosure proceedings, all of which are reviewed and approved in advance of any participation transaction. We review all of the documentation relating to any loan in which we participate, including annual financial statements provided by a borrower. Additionally, we receive monthly statements on the loan from the lead lender.

Commercial Loan Originations. We originate commercial loans from contacts made by our commercial loan officer. Our commercial lending department does not utilize the services of loan brokers.

The Bank will consider granting credit to commercial and industrial businesses located within our lending area, which is defined as the Northeastern United States. The Bank will consider the credit needs of businesses located in our

lending area if we can effectively service the credit and if the customer has a strong financial position.

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We will consider loans to small businesses with revenues normally not to exceed \$65.0 million. The small business may be one that manufactures wholesale or retail products and/or services. Generally, we will consider loans to small businesses such as: retail sales and services, such as grocery, restaurants, clothing, furniture, appliances, hardware, automotive parts, automobiles and trucks; wholesale businesses, such as automotive parts and industrial parts and equipment; manufacturing businesses, such as tool and die shops and commercial manufacturers and contractors with strong financials and well-known principals.

Mortgage and Construction Loan Approval Procedures and Authority. Our lending activities follow written, non-discriminatory, underwriting standards and loan origination procedures established by our board of directors and management. The board has granted the Mortgage Loan Origination Group (which is comprised of our chief mortgage officer, all our loan officers and our staff attorney) with loan approval authority for mortgage loans on income producing property and construction loans in amounts of up to \$1.0 million.

Mortgage loans in amounts between \$1.0 million and \$2.0 million, in addition to being approved by the Loan Origination Group, must be approved by the president and chief operating officer. Mortgage loans in amounts greater than \$2.0 million, in addition to being approved by the Loan Origination Group, must be approved by the president, the chief operating officer and a majority of the non-employee directors. At each monthly meeting of the board of directors, the board ratifies all commitments issued, regardless of size.

Commercial Loan Approval Procedures and Authority. Our commercial lending activities follow written, non-discriminatory, underwriting standards and loan origination procedures established by our board of directors and management. The board has granted the Commercial Loan Origination Group (which is comprised of our commercial loan officer, our commercial loan underwriter, our chief financial officer and our president) with loan approval authority for commercial loans up to \$2.0 million.

Loans in amounts greater than \$2.0 million, in addition to being approved by the Commercial Loan Origination Group, must be approved by a majority of the non-employee directors. At each monthly meeting of the board of directors, the board ratifies all commitments issued, regardless of size.

Loan Commitments. We issue commitments for adjustable-rate loans conditioned upon the occurrence of certain events. Commitments to originate adjustable-rate loans are legally binding agreements to lend to our customers. Generally, our adjustable-rate loan commitments expire after 60 days.

Investment Activities

We have legal authority to invest in various types of liquid assets, including U.S. Treasury obligations, securities of various federal agencies and municipal governments, deposits at the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York and certificates of deposit of federally insured institutions. Within certain regulatory limits, we also may invest a portion of our assets in mutual funds. While we have the authority under applicable law to invest in derivative securities, we had no investments in derivative securities at December 31, 2009.

At December 31, 2009, our securities and short-term investments totaled \$108.3 million and consisted primarily of \$85.3 million in interest earning deposits in other financial institutions, including \$74.6 million with the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, \$12.0 million in mortgage-backed securities issued primarily by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and Ginnie Mae, \$8.7 million in short-term certificates of deposits at other financial institutions, and \$2.3 million in Federal Home Loan Bank of New York stock. At December 31, 2009, we had no investments in callable securities.

Our securities and short-term investments are primarily viewed as a source of liquidity. Our investment management policy is designed to provide adequate liquidity to meet any reasonable decline in deposits and any anticipated

increase in the loan portfolio through conversion of secondary reserves to cash and to provide safety of principal and interest through investment in securities under limitations and restrictions prescribed in banking regulations. Consistent with liquidity and safety requirements, our policy is designed to generate a significant amount of stable income and to provide collateral for advances and repurchase agreements.

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The policy is also designed to serve as a counter-cyclical balance to earnings in that the investment portfolio will absorb funds when loan demand is low and will infuse funds when loan demand is high.

Deposit Activities and Other Sources of Funds

General. Deposits, borrowings and loan repayments are the major sources of our funds for lending and other investment purposes. Loan repayments are a relatively stable source of funds, while deposit inflows and outflows and loan prepayments are significantly influenced by general interest rates and money market conditions.

Deposit Accounts. Except for certificates of deposit obtained through two nationwide listing services, as described below, substantially all of our depositors are residents of the States of New York and Massachusetts. We offer a variety of deposit accounts with a range of interest rates and terms. Our deposits principally consist of interest-bearing demand accounts (such as NOW and money market accounts), regular savings accounts, noninterest-bearing demand accounts (such as checking accounts) and certificates of deposit. At December 31, 2009, we did not utilize brokered deposits. Deposit account terms vary according to the minimum balance required, the time periods the funds must remain on deposit and the interest rate, among other factors. In determining the terms of our deposit accounts, we consider the rates offered by our competition, our liquidity needs, profitability to us, maturity matching deposit and loan products, and customer preferences and concerns. We generally review our deposit mix and pricing weekly. Our current strategy is to offer competitive rates and to be in the lower to middle of the market for rates on all types of deposit products.

Our deposits are typically obtained from customers residing in or working in the communities in which our branch offices are located, and we rely on our long-standing relationships with our customers and competitive interest rates to retain these deposits. In the future, as we open new branches in other states, we expect our deposits will also be obtained from those states. We may also, in the future, utilize our website to attract deposits.

During 2009, we discontinued our policy of offering non-brokered certificates of deposit through two nationwide certificate of deposit listing services. Prior to that time, certificates of deposit under these listing services were accepted from banks, credit unions, non-profit organizations and certain corporations in amounts greater than \$75,000 and less than \$100,000.

Borrowings. We may utilize advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York to supplement our supply of investable funds. The Federal Home Loan Bank functions as a central reserve bank providing credit for its member financial institutions. As a member, we are required to own capital stock in the Federal Home Loan Bank and are authorized to apply for advances on the security of such stock and certain of our whole first mortgage loans and other assets (principally securities which are obligations of, or guaranteed by, the United States), provided certain standards related to creditworthiness have been met. Advances are made under several different programs, each having its own interest rate and range of maturities. Depending on the program, limitations on the amount of advances are based either on a fixed percentage of an institution's net worth or on the Federal Home Loan Bank's assessment of the institution's creditworthiness.

Investment Advisory and Financial Planning Activities

In November 2007, Northeast Community Bank purchased for \$2.0 million the operating assets of Hayden Financial Group, LLC. The Bank formed a Division within the Bank known as Hayden Wealth Management Group, and the Division offers investment advisory and financial planning services through a networking arrangement with a registered broker-dealer and investment advisor.

Hayden Wealth Management Group performs a wide range of financial planning and investment advisory services based on the needs of a diversified client base including, but not limited to: wealth management based on a clients' time dimension, risk aversion/tolerance, value system and specific purposes of a portfolio; transition planning from one career to another, especially the transition to retirement; conducting risk assessment and management on issues related to various kinds of insurance covered contingencies; and providing assistance relating to the ultimate disposition of assets. In this capacity, Hayden Wealth Management Group coordinates with estate planning attorneys as needed.

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Personnel

As of December 31, 2009, we had 98 full-time employees and 4 part-time employees, none of whom is represented by a collective bargaining unit. We believe our relationship with our employees is good.

Legal Proceedings

From time to time, we may be party to various legal proceedings incident to our business. At December 31, 2009, we were not a party to any pending legal proceedings that we believe would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

Subsidiaries

Northeast Community Bancorp's only subsidiary is Northeast Community Bank. The Bank has one wholly owned subsidiary, New England Commercial Properties LLC, a New York limited liability company. New England Commercial Properties was formed in October 2007 to facilitate the purchase or lease of real property by the Bank and to hold real estate owned acquired by the Bank through foreclosure or deed-in-lieu of foreclosure. As of December 31, 2009, New England Commercial Properties, LLC had \$807,000 in assets, including \$636,000 related to a foreclosed multi-family property located in Newark, New Jersey.

REGULATION AND SUPERVISION

General

Northeast Community Bank, as an insured federal savings association, is subject to extensive regulation, examination and supervision by the Office of Thrift Supervision, as its primary federal regulator, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, as its deposits insurer. Northeast Community Bank is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank System and its deposit accounts are insured up to applicable limits by the Deposit Insurance Fund managed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Northeast Community Bank must file reports with the Office of Thrift Supervision and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation concerning its activities and financial condition in addition to obtaining regulatory approvals prior to entering into certain transactions such as mergers with, or acquisitions of, other financial institutions. There are periodic examinations by the Office of Thrift Supervision and, under certain circumstances, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to evaluate Northeast Community Bank's safety and soundness and compliance with various regulatory requirements. This regulation and supervision establishes a comprehensive framework of activities in which an institution can engage and is intended primarily for the protection of the insurance fund and depositors. The regulatory structure also gives the regulatory authorities extensive discretion in connection with their supervisory and enforcement activities and examination policies, including policies with respect to the classification of assets and the establishment of adequate loan loss reserves for regulatory purposes. Any change in such policies, whether by the Office of Thrift Supervision, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or Congress, could have a material adverse impact on Northeast Community Bancorp, Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC and Northeast Community Bank and their operations.

Northeast Community Bancorp and Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC, as savings and loan holding companies, are required to file certain reports with, are subject to examination by, and otherwise must comply with the rules and regulations of the Office of Thrift Supervision. Northeast Community Bancorp also is subject to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission under the federal securities laws.

Certain of the regulatory requirements that are applicable to Northeast Community Bank, Northeast Community Bancorp and Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC are described below. This description of statutes and regulations

is not intended to be a complete explanation of such statutes and regulations and their effects on Northeast Community Bank, Northeast Community Bancorp and Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the actual statutes and regulations.

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Regulation of Federal Savings Associations

Business Activities. Federal law and regulations govern the activities of federal savings banks, such as Northeast Community Bank. These laws and regulations delineate the nature and extent of the business activities in which federal savings banks may engage. In particular, certain lending authority for federal savings banks, e.g., commercial, non-residential real property loans and consumer loans, is limited to a specified percentage of the institution's capital or assets.

Capital Requirements. The Office of Thrift Supervision's capital regulations require federal savings institutions to meet three minimum capital standards: a 1.5% tangible capital to total assets ratio, a 4% leverage ratio (3% for institutions receiving the highest rating on the CAMELS examination rating system) and an 8% risk-based capital ratio. In addition, the prompt corrective action standards discussed below also establish, in effect, a minimum 2% tangible capital standard, a 4% leverage ratio (3% for institutions receiving the highest rating on the CAMELS system) and, together with the risk-based capital standard itself, a 4% Tier 1 risk-based capital standard. The Office of Thrift Supervision regulations also require that, in meeting the tangible, leverage and risk-based capital standards, institutions must generally deduct investments in and loans to subsidiaries engaged in activities as principal that are not permissible for a national bank.

The risk-based capital standard requires federal savings institutions to maintain Tier 1 (core) and total capital (which is defined as core capital and supplementary capital, less certain specified deductions from total capital such as reciprocal holdings of depository institution capital, instruments and equity investments) to risk-weighted assets of at least 4% and 8%, respectively. In determining the amount of risk-weighted assets, all assets, including certain off-balance sheet assets, recourse obligations, residual interests and direct credit substitutes, are multiplied by a risk-weight factor of 0% to 100%, assigned by the Office of Thrift Supervision capital regulation based on the risks believed inherent in the type of asset. Core (Tier 1) capital is generally defined as common stockholders' equity (including retained earnings), certain noncumulative perpetual preferred stock and related surplus and minority interests in equity accounts of consolidated subsidiaries, less intangibles other than certain mortgage servicing rights and credit card relationships. The components of supplementary (Tier 2) capital currently include cumulative preferred stock, long-term perpetual preferred stock, mandatory convertible securities, subordinated debt and intermediate preferred stock, the allowance for loan and lease losses limited to a maximum of 1.25% of risk-weighted assets and up to 45% of unrealized gains on available-for-sale equity securities with readily determinable fair market values. Overall, the amount of supplementary capital included as part of total capital cannot exceed 100% of core capital.

The Office of Thrift Supervision also has authority to establish individual minimum capital requirements in appropriate cases upon a determination that an institution's capital level is or may become inadequate in light of the particular circumstances. At December 31, 2009, Northeast Community Bank exceeded each of these capital requirements.

Prompt Corrective Regulatory Action. The Office of Thrift Supervision is required to take certain supervisory actions against undercapitalized institutions, the severity of which depends upon the institution's degree of undercapitalization. Generally, a savings institution that has a ratio of total capital to risk weighted assets of less than 8%, a ratio of Tier 1 (core) capital to risk-weighted assets of less than 4% or a ratio of core capital to total assets of less than 4% (3% or less for institutions with the highest examination rating) is considered to be "undercapitalized." A savings institution that has a total risk-based capital ratio less than 6%, a Tier 1 capital ratio of less than 3% or a leverage ratio that is less than 3% is considered to be "significantly undercapitalized" and a savings institution that has a tangible capital to assets ratio equal to or less than 2% is deemed to be "critically undercapitalized." Subject to a narrow exception, the Office of Thrift Supervision is required to appoint a receiver or conservator within specified time frames for an institution that is "critically undercapitalized." An institution must file a capital restoration plan with the

Office of Thrift Supervision within 45 days of the date it receives notice that it is “undercapitalized,” “significantly undercapitalized” or “critically undercapitalized.” Compliance with the plan must be guaranteed by any parent holding company. In addition, numerous mandatory supervisory actions become immediately applicable to an undercapitalized institution, including, but not limited to, increased monitoring by regulators and restrictions on growth, capital distributions and expansion. “Significantly undercapitalized” and “critically undercapitalized” institutions are subject to more extensive mandatory regulatory actions.

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The Office of Thrift Supervision could also take any one of a number of discretionary supervisory actions, including the issuance of a capital directive and the replacement of senior executive officers and directors.

At December 31, 2009, the Bank met the criteria for being considered “well-capitalized.”

Community Reinvestment Act and Fair Lending Laws. All savings associations have a responsibility under the Community Reinvestment Act and related regulations of the Office of Thrift Supervision to help meet the credit needs of their communities, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. In connection with its examination of a federal savings association, the Office of Thrift Supervision is required to assess the association’s record of compliance with the Community Reinvestment Act. In addition, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Fair Housing Act prohibit lenders from discriminating in their lending practices on the basis of characteristics specified in those statutes. An association’s failure to comply with the provisions of the Community Reinvestment Act could result in denial of certain corporate applications, such as branches or mergers, or restrictions on its activities. The failure to comply with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Fair Housing Act could result in enforcement actions by the Office of Thrift Supervision, as well as other Federal regulatory agencies and the Department of Justice. The Bank received an “Outstanding” Community Reinvestment Act rating in its most recent Federal examination.

Loans to One Borrower. Federal law provides that savings institutions are generally subject to the limits on loans to one borrower applicable to national banks. Generally, subject to certain exceptions, savings institution may not make a loan or extend credit to a single or related group of borrowers in excess of 15% of its unimpaired capital and surplus. An additional amount may be lent, equal to 10% of unimpaired capital and surplus, if secured by specified readily-marketable collateral.

Standards for Safety and Soundness. The federal banking agencies have adopted Interagency Guidelines prescribing Standards for Safety and Soundness in various areas such as internal controls and information systems, internal audit, loan documentation and credit underwriting, interest rate exposure, asset growth and quality, earnings and compensation, fees and benefits. The guidelines set forth the safety and soundness standards that the federal banking agencies use to identify and address problems at insured depository institutions before capital becomes impaired. If the Office of Thrift Supervision determines that a savings institution fails to meet any standard prescribed by the guidelines, the Office of Thrift Supervision may require the institution to submit an acceptable plan to achieve compliance with the standard.

Limitation on Capital Distributions. Office of Thrift Supervision regulations impose limitations upon all capital distributions by a savings institution, including cash dividends, payments to repurchase its shares and payments to stockholders of another institution in a cash-out merger. Under the regulations, an application to and the prior approval of the Office of Thrift Supervision is required before any capital distribution if the institution does not meet the criteria for “expedited treatment” of applications under Office of Thrift Supervision regulations (i.e., generally, examination and Community Reinvestment Act ratings in the two top categories), the total capital distributions for the calendar year exceed net income for that year plus the amount of retained net income for the preceding two years, the institution would be undercapitalized following the distribution or the distribution would otherwise be contrary to a statute, regulation or agreement with the Office of Thrift Supervision. If an application is not required, the institution must still provide prior notice to the Office of Thrift Supervision of the capital distribution if, like Northeast Community Bank, it is a subsidiary of a holding company. If Northeast Community Bank’s capital were ever to fall below its regulatory requirements or the Office of Thrift Supervision notified it that it was in need of increased supervision, its ability to make capital distributions could be restricted. In addition, the Office of Thrift Supervision could prohibit a proposed capital distribution that would otherwise be permitted by the regulation, if the agency determines that such distribution would constitute an unsafe or unsound practice.

Qualified Thrift Lender Test. Federal law requires savings institutions to meet a qualified thrift lender test. Under the test, a savings association is required to either qualify as a “domestic building and loan association” under the Internal Revenue Code or maintain at least 65% of its “portfolio assets” (total assets less: (i) specified liquid assets up to 20% of total assets; (ii) intangibles, including goodwill; and (iii) the value of property used to conduct business) in certain “qualified thrift investments” (primarily multi-family residential mortgages and related investments, including certain mortgage-backed securities but also including education, credit card and small business loans) in at least 9 months out of each 12 month period.

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A savings institution that fails the qualified thrift lender test is subject to certain operating restrictions and may be required to convert to a bank charter. As of December 31, 2009, Northeast Community Bank maintained 94.0% of its portfolio assets in qualified thrift investments and, therefore, met the qualified thrift lender test.

Transactions with Related Parties. Federal law permits Northeast Community Bank to lend to, and engage in certain other transactions with (collectively, "covered transactions"), "affiliates" (i.e., generally, any company that controls or is under common control with an institution), including Northeast Community Bancorp and Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC and their other subsidiaries. The aggregate amount of covered transactions with any individual affiliate is limited to 10% of the capital and surplus of the savings institution. The aggregate amount of covered transactions with all affiliates is limited to 20% of the savings institution's capital and surplus. Loans and other specified transactions with affiliates are required to be secured by collateral in an amount and of a type described in federal law. The purchase of low quality assets from affiliates is generally prohibited. Transactions with affiliates must be on terms and under circumstances that are at least as favorable to the institution as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with non-affiliated companies. In addition, savings institutions are prohibited from lending to any affiliate that is engaged in activities that are not permissible for bank holding companies and no savings institution may purchase the securities of any affiliate other than a subsidiary.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act generally prohibits loans by Northeast Community Bancorp to its executive officers and directors. However, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act contains a specific exemption from such prohibition for loans by Northeast Community Bank to its executive officers and directors in compliance with federal banking regulations. Federal regulations require that all loans or extensions of credit to executive officers and directors of insured institutions must be made on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with other persons and must not involve more than the normal risk of repayment or present other unfavorable features. Northeast Community Bank is therefore prohibited from making any new loans or extensions of credit to executive officers and directors at different rates or terms than those offered to the general public. Notwithstanding this rule, federal regulations permit Northeast Community Bank to make loans to executive officers and directors at reduced interest rates if the loan is made under a benefit program generally available to all other employees and does not give preference to any executive officer or director over any other employee. Loans to executive officers are subject to additional limitations based on the type of loan involved.

In addition, loans made to a director or executive officer in an amount that, when aggregated with the amount of all other loans to the person and his or her related interests, are in excess of the greater of \$25,000 or 5% of Northeast Community Bank's capital and surplus, up to a maximum of \$500,000, must be approved in advance by a majority of the disinterested members of the board of directors.

Enforcement. The Office of Thrift Supervision has primary enforcement responsibility over federal savings institutions and has the authority to bring actions against the institution and all institution-affiliated parties, including stockholders, and any attorneys, appraisers and accountants who knowingly or recklessly participate in wrongful action likely to have an adverse effect on an insured institution. Formal enforcement action may range from the issuance of a capital directive or cease and desist order to removal of officers and/or directors to institution of receivership, conservatorship or termination of deposit insurance. Civil penalties cover a wide range of violations and can amount to \$25,000 per day, or even \$1 million per day in especially egregious cases. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has authority to recommend to the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision that enforcement action be taken with respect to a particular savings institution. If action is not taken by the Director, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has authority to take such action under certain circumstances. Federal law also establishes criminal penalties for certain violations.

Office of Thrift Supervision Assessments. Federal savings banks are required to pay assessments to the Office of Thrift Supervision to fund its operations. The general assessments, paid on a semi-annual basis, are based upon the savings institution's total assets, including consolidated subsidiaries, financial condition and complexity of its portfolio. The Office of Thrift Supervision assessments paid by Northeast Community Bank for the year ended December 31, 2009 totaled \$109,000.

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Insurance of Deposit Accounts. Northeast Community Bank's deposits are insured up to applicable limits, which have generally been increased to \$250,000 per depositor until January 1, 2014, by the Deposit Insurance Fund of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The Deposit Insurance Fund is the successor to the Bank Insurance Fund and the Savings Association Insurance Fund, which were merged in 2006. Under the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's risk-based assessment system, insured institutions are assigned to one of four risk categories based on supervisory evaluations, regulatory capital levels and certain other factors, with less risky institutions paying lower assessments. An institution's assessment rate depends upon the category to which it is assigned. For calendar 2008, assessments ranged from five to forty-three basis points of each institution's deposit assessment base. Due to losses incurred by the Deposit Insurance Fund in 2008 from failed institutions, and anticipated future losses, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation adopted, pursuant to a Restoration Plan to replenish the fund, an across the board seven basis point increase in the assessment range for the first quarter of 2009. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation made further refinements to its risk-based assessment that were effective April 1, 2009 and that effectively made the range seven to 77 1/2 basis points. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation may adjust the scale uniformly from one quarter to the next, except that no adjustment can deviate more than three basis points from the base scale without notice and comment rulemaking. No institution may pay a dividend if in default of the federal deposit insurance assessment.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation imposed on all insured institutions a special emergency assessment of five basis points of total assets minus tier 1 capital, as of June 30, 2009 (capped at ten basis points of an institution's deposit assessment base), in order to cover losses to the Deposit Insurance Fund. That special assessment of \$205,000 was collected on September 30, 2009. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation provided for similar assessments during the final two quarters of 2009, if deemed necessary. However, in lieu of further special assessments, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation subsequently required insured institutions to prepay estimated quarterly risk-based assessments for the fourth quarter of 2009 through the fourth quarter of 2012. The Bank's estimated assessments, which include an assumed annual assessment base increase of 5%, totaled \$1.6 million, of which \$1.5 million was recorded as a prepaid expense asset as of December 31, 2009. As of December 31, 2009, and each quarter thereafter, a charge to earnings will be recorded for each regular assessment with an offsetting credit to the prepaid asset.

Federal law also provided for a one-time credit for eligible institutions based on their assessment base as of December 31, 1996. Subject to certain limitations, credits could be used beginning in 2007 to offset assessments until exhausted. Northeast Community Bank's one-time credit approximated \$308,000, all of which was used to offset assessments in 2007, 2008 and 2009. The Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Act of 2005 also provided for the possibility that the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation may pay dividends to insured institutions once the Deposit Insurance fund reserve ratio equals or exceeds 1.35% of estimated insured deposits.

In addition to the assessment for deposit insurance, institutions are required to make payments on bonds issued in the late 1980s by the Financing Corporation to recapitalize a predecessor deposit insurance fund. That payment is established quarterly and during the calendar year ending December 31, 2009 averaged 1.06 basis points of assessable deposits.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has authority to increase insurance assessments. A significant increase in insurance premiums would likely have an adverse effect on the operating expenses and results of operations of Northeast Community Bank. Management cannot predict what insurance assessment rates will be in the future.

Insurance of deposits may be terminated by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation upon a finding that the institution has engaged in unsafe or unsound practices, is in an unsafe or unsound condition to continue operations or has violated any applicable law, regulation, rule, order or condition imposed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Office of Thrift Supervision. The management of Northeast Community Bank does not know of any practice, condition or violation that might lead to termination of deposit insurance.

Federal Home Loan Bank System. Northeast Community Bank is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank System, which consists of 12 regional Federal Home Loan Banks. The Federal Home Loan Bank provides a central credit facility primarily for member institutions. Northeast Community Bank, as a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, is required to acquire and hold shares of capital stock in that Federal Home Loan Bank. Northeast Community Bank was in compliance with this requirement with an investment in Federal Home Loan Bank stock at December 31, 2009 of \$2.3 million. Federal Home Loan Bank advances must be secured by specified types of collateral.

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The Federal Home Loan Banks are required to provide funds for the resolution of insolvent thrifts in the late 1980s and to contribute funds for affordable housing programs. These requirements could reduce the amount of dividends that the Federal Home Loan Banks pay to their members and could also result in the Federal Home Loan Banks imposing a higher rate of interest on advances to their members. If dividends were reduced, or interest on future Federal Home Loan Bank advances increased, our net interest income would likely also be reduced.

Federal Reserve System. The Federal Reserve Board regulations require savings institutions to maintain non-interest earning reserves against their transaction accounts (primarily Negotiable Order of Withdrawal (NOW) and regular checking accounts). For 2009, the regulations generally provided that reserves be maintained against aggregate transaction accounts as follows: a 3% reserve ratio is assessed on net transaction accounts up to and including \$44.4 million; a 10% reserve ratio is applied above \$44.4 million. The first \$10.3 million of otherwise reservable balances are exempted from the reserve requirements. The amounts are adjusted annually and, for 2010, require a 3% ratio for up to \$55.2 million and an exception of \$10.7 million. Northeast Community Bank complies with the foregoing requirements.

Recent Legislation

Troubled Asset Relief Program. On October 3, 2008, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (“EESA”) was enacted establishing the Troubled Asset Relief Program (“TARP”). On October 14, 2008, Treasury announced its intention to inject capital into U.S. financial institutions under the TARP Capital Purchase Program (“CPP”) and since has injected capital into many financial institutions. The Board of Directors of the Company determined not to participate in the CPP.

Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program. On November 21, 2008, the Board of Directors of the FDIC adopted a final rule relating to the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program (“TLG Program”). The TLG Program was announced by the FDIC on October 14, 2008, preceded by the determination of systemic risk by Treasury, as an initiative to counter the system-wide crisis in the nation’s financial sector. Under the TLG Program the FDIC (i) guaranteed, through the earlier of maturity or June 30, 2012, certain newly issued senior unsecured debt issued by participating institutions and (ii) provided full FDIC deposit insurance coverage for non-interest bearing transaction deposit accounts, Negotiable Order of Withdrawal accounts paying less than 0.5% interest per annum and Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts held at participating FDIC-insured institutions through December 31, 2009, later extended until June 30, 2010. Coverage under the TLG Program was available for the first 30 days without charge. The fee assessment for coverage of senior unsecured debt ranged from 50 basis points to 100 basis points per annum, depending on the initial maturity of the debt. The fee assessment for deposit insurance coverage was 10 basis points per quarter on amounts in covered accounts exceeding \$250,000. The Bank elected to participate in the unlimited non-interest bearing transaction account coverage and the Bank and its holding companies elected to not participate in the unsecured debt guarantee program. The Bank also will participate in the six month extension of the unlimited deposit insurance, to June 30, 2010, at a slightly greater cost.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. On February 17, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (“ARRA”) was enacted. The ARRA, commonly known as the economic stimulus or economic recovery package, includes a wide variety of programs intended to stimulate the economy and provide for extensive infrastructure, energy, health, and education needs. In addition, ARRA imposes certain new executive compensation and corporate expenditure limits on all current and future TARP recipients until the institution has repaid Treasury, which is now permitted under ARRA without penalty and without the need to raise new capital, subject to Treasury’s consultation with the recipient’s appropriate regulatory agency.

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Regulatory Restructuring Legislation. The Obama Administration has proposed, and the House of Representatives and Senate are currently considering, legislation that would restructure the regulation of depository institutions. Proposals range from the merger of the Office of Thrift Supervision with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, which regulates national banks, to the creation of an independent federal agency that would assume the regulatory responsibilities of the Office of Thrift Supervision, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and Federal Reserve Board. The federal savings association charter would be eliminated and federal associations required to become banks under some proposals, although others would grandfather existing charters such as that of the Bank. Existing savings and loan holding companies would become subject to regulation as bank holding companies under certain proposals. Also proposed is the creation of a new federal agency to administer and enforce consumer and fair lending laws, a function that is now performed by the depository institution regulators. The federal preemption of state laws currently accorded federally chartered depository institutions would be reduced under certain proposals as well.

Enactment of any of these proposals would revise the regulatory structure imposed on the Bank, which could result in more stringent regulation. At this time, management has no way of predicting the contents of any final legislation, or whether any legislation will be enacted at all.

Future Legislation. Various legislation affecting financial institutions and the financial industry is from time to time introduced in Congress. Such legislation may change banking statutes and the operating environment of the Company and its subsidiaries in substantial and unpredictable ways, and could increase or decrease the cost of doing business, limit or expand permissible activities or affect the competitive balance depending upon whether any of this potential legislation will be enacted, and if enacted, the effect that it or any implementing regulations, would have on the financial condition or results of operations of the Company or any of its subsidiaries. With the recent enactments of EESA and ARRA, the nature and extent of future legislative and regulatory changes affecting financial institutions is very unpredictable at this time.

Holding Company Regulation

General. Northeast Community Bancorp and Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC are savings and loan holding companies within the meaning of federal law. As such, they are registered with the Office of Thrift Supervision and are subject to Office of Thrift Supervision regulations, examinations, supervision, reporting requirements and regulations concerning corporate governance and activities. In addition, the Office of Thrift Supervision has enforcement authority over Northeast Community Bancorp and Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC and their non-savings institution subsidiaries. Among other things, this authority permits the Office of Thrift Supervision to restrict or prohibit activities that are determined to be a serious risk to Northeast Community Bank.

Restrictions Applicable to Mutual Holding Companies. According to federal law and Office of Thrift Supervision regulations, a mutual holding company, such as Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC, may generally engage in the following activities: (1) investing in the stock of a bank; (2) acquiring a mutual association through the merger of such association into a bank subsidiary of such holding company or an interim bank subsidiary of such holding company; (3) merging with or acquiring another holding company, one of whose subsidiaries is a bank; and (4) any activity approved by the Federal Reserve Board for a bank holding company or financial holding company or previously approved by Office of Thrift Supervision for multiple savings and loan holding companies. In addition, mutual holding companies may engage in activities permitted for financial holding companies. Financial holding companies may engage in a broad array of financial service activities including insurance and securities.

Federal law prohibits a savings and loan holding company, including a federal mutual holding company, from directly or indirectly, or through one or more subsidiaries, acquiring more than 5% of the voting stock of another savings association, or its holding company, without prior written approval of the Office of Thrift Supervision. Federal law

also prohibits a savings and loan holding company from acquiring more than 5% of a company engaged in activities other than those authorized for savings and loan holding companies by federal law, or acquiring or retaining control of a depository institution that is not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. In evaluating applications by holding companies to acquire savings associations, the Office of Thrift Supervision must consider the financial and managerial resources and future prospects of the company and institution involved, the effect of the acquisition on the risk to the insurance funds, the convenience and needs of the community and competitive factors.

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The Office of Thrift Supervision is prohibited from approving any acquisition that would result in a multiple savings and loan holding company controlling savings associations in more than one state, except: (1) the approval of interstate supervisory acquisitions by savings and loan holding companies, and (2) the acquisition of a savings association in another state if the laws of the state of the target savings institution specifically permit such acquisitions. The states vary in the extent to which they permit interstate savings and loan holding company acquisitions.

Stock Holding Company Subsidiary Regulation. The Office of Thrift Supervision has adopted regulations governing the two-tier mutual holding company form of organization and subsidiary stock holding companies that are controlled by mutual holding companies. Northeast Community Bancorp is the stock holding company subsidiary of Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC. Northeast Community Bancorp is permitted to engage in activities that are permitted for Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC subject to the same restrictions and conditions.

Waivers of Dividends by Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC. Office of Thrift Supervision regulations require Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC to notify the Office of Thrift Supervision if it proposes to waive receipt of dividends from Northeast Community Bancorp. The Office of Thrift Supervision reviews dividend waiver notices on a case-by-case basis, and, in general, does not object to any such waiver if: (i) the waiver would not be detrimental to the safe and sound operation of the savings association; and (ii) the mutual holding company's board of directors determines that such waiver is consistent with such directors' fiduciary duties to the mutual holding company's members. Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC has waived receipt of all dividends from Northeast Community Bancorp in prior years and in 2009.

Conversion of Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC to Stock Form. Office of Thrift Supervision regulations permit Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC to convert from the mutual form of organization to the capital stock form of organization. There can be no assurance when, if ever, a conversion transaction will occur, and the board of directors has no current intention or plan to undertake a conversion transaction. In a conversion transaction, a new holding company would be formed as the successor to Northeast Community Bancorp, Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC's corporate existence would end, and certain depositors of Northeast Community Bank would receive the right to subscribe for additional shares of the new holding company. In a conversion transaction, each share of common stock held by stockholders other than Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC would be automatically converted into a number of shares of common stock of the new holding company based on an exchange ratio designed to ensure that stockholders other than Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC own the same percentage of common stock in the new holding company as they owned in Northeast Community Bancorp immediately before conversion. The total number of shares held by stockholders other than Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC after a conversion transaction would be increased by any purchases by such stockholders in the stock offering conducted as part of the conversion transaction.

Acquisition of Control. Under the federal Change in Bank Control Act, a notice must be submitted to the Office of Thrift Supervision if any person (including a company), or group acting in concert, seeks to acquire direct or indirect "control" of a savings and loan holding company or savings association. An acquisition of "control" can occur upon the acquisition of 10% or more of the voting stock of a savings and loan holding company or savings institution or as otherwise defined by the Office of Thrift Supervision. Under the Change in Bank Control Act, the Office of Thrift Supervision has 60 days from the filing of a complete notice to act, taking into consideration certain factors, including the financial and managerial resources of the acquirer and the anti-trust effects of the acquisition. Any company that so acquires control would then be subject to regulation as a savings and loan holding company.

Federal Securities Laws

Northeast Community Bancorp's common stock is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Northeast Community Bancorp is subject to the information, proxy solicitation, insider trading restrictions and other requirements under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT

The Board of Directors annually elects the executive officers of Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC, Northeast Community Bancorp and Northeast Community Bank, who serve at the Board's discretion. Our executive officers are:

Name	Position
Kenneth A. Martinek	President and Chief Executive Officer of the MHC, the Company and the Bank
Salvatore Randazzo	Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the MHC, the Company and the Bank
Susan Barile	Executive Vice President and Chief Mortgage Officer of the Bank

Below is information regarding our executive officer who is not also a director. Age presented is as of December 31, 2009.

Susan Barile has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Mortgage Officer of the Bank since October 2006. Prior to serving in this position, Ms. Barile spent 11 years as a multi-family, mixed-use and non-residential loan officer at the Bank. Age 44.

ITEM 1A.

RISK FACTORS

Changes in interest rates may hurt our earnings and asset value.

Our net interest income is the interest we earn on loans and investment less the interest we pay on our deposits and borrowings. Our net interest margin is the difference between the yield we earn on our assets and the interest rate we pay for deposits and our other sources of funding. Changes in interest rates—up or down—could adversely affect our net interest margin and, as a result, our net interest income. Although the yield we earn on our assets and our funding costs tend to move in the same direction in response to changes in interest rates, one can rise or fall faster than the other, causing our net interest margin to expand or contract. Our liabilities tend to be shorter in duration than our assets, so they may adjust faster in response to changes in interest rates. As a result, when interest rates rise, our funding costs may rise faster than the yield we earn on our assets, causing our net interest margin to contract until the yield catches up. Changes in the slope of the “yield curve”—or the spread between short-term and long-term interest rates—could also reduce our net interest margin. Normally, the yield curve is upward sloping, meaning short-term rates are lower than long-term rates. Because our liabilities tend to be shorter in duration than our assets, when the yield curve flattens or even inverts, we could experience pressure on our net interest margin as our cost of funds increases relative to the yield we can earn on our assets. See “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Risk Management—Interest Rate Risk Management.”

Our recent emphasis on multi-family residential, mixed-use and non-residential real estate lending and our recent expansion into commercial lending and participation in construction loans could expose us to increased lending risks.

Our primary business strategy centers on continuing our emphasis on multi-family and mixed-use real estate loans. We have grown our loan portfolio in recent years with respect to these types of loans and intend to continue to emphasize these types of lending. At December 31, 2009, \$366.0 million, or 93.4%, of our loan portfolio consisted of multi-family residential, mixed-use and non-residential real estate loans. As a result, our credit risk profile will be higher than traditional thrift institutions that have higher concentrations of one- to four-family residential loans.

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Loans secured by multi-family, mixed-use and non-residential real estate generally expose a lender to greater risk of non-payment and loss than one- to four-family residential mortgage loans because repayment of the loans often depends on the successful operation of the property and the income stream of the underlying property. Such loans typically involve larger loan balances to single borrowers or groups of related borrowers compared to one- to four-family residential mortgage loans. Accordingly, an adverse development with respect to one loan or one credit relationship can expose us to greater risk of loss compared to an adverse development with respect to a one- to four-family residential mortgage loan. We seek to minimize these risks through our underwriting policies, which require such loans to be qualified on the basis of the property's net income and debt service ratio; however, there is no assurance that our underwriting policies will protect us from credit-related losses.

As with loans secured by multi-family, mixed-use and non-residential real estate, commercial loans tend to be of higher risk than one- to-four family residential mortgage loans. We seek to minimize the risks involved in commercial lending by underwriting such loans on the basis of the cash flows produced by the business; by requiring that such loans be collateralized by various business assets, including inventory, equipment, and accounts receivable, among others; and by requiring personal guarantees, whenever possible. However, the capacity of a borrower to repay a commercial loan is substantially dependent on the degree to which his or her business is successful. In addition, the collateral underlying such loans may depreciate over time, may not be conducive to appraisal, or may fluctuate in value, based upon the business' results. At December 31, 2009, \$10.4 million, or 2.7%, of our loan portfolio consisted of commercial loans.

Our participation interests in construction loans present a greater level of risk than loans secured by improved, occupied real estate due to: (1) the increased difficulty at the time the loan is made of estimating the building costs and the selling price of the property to be built; (2) the increased difficulty and costs of monitoring the loan; (3) the higher degree of sensitivity to increases in market rates of interest; and (4) the increased difficulty of working out loan problems. We have sought to minimize this risk by limiting the amount of construction loan participation interests outstanding at any time and spreading the participations between multi-family, mixed-use and non-residential projects. At December 31, 2009, the outstanding balance of our construction loan participation interests totaled \$15.1 million, or 3.9% of our total loan portfolio. We currently do not participate in construction loans.

Our expanded lending territory could expose us to increased lending risks.

Our lending territory includes New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. Our Wellesley, Massachusetts loan production office was relocated to Danvers, Massachusetts in March 2009. We opened a full service branch at this location and another full service branch in Plymouth, Massachusetts during the second quarter of 2009. In 2009, approximately 43.4% of our total loan originations were outside the state of New York. While we have over seventy five years of experience in multi-family and mixed-use real estate lending in the New York metropolitan area and have significant expertise in non-residential real estate lending, our experience in our expanded lending territory is more limited. We have experienced loan officers throughout our lending area and we apply the same underwriting standards to all of our loans, regardless of their location. However, there is no assurance that our loss experience in the New York metropolitan area will be the same in our expanded lending territory. Because we only recently increased the number of out-of-state real estate loans in our portfolio, the lack of delinquencies and defaults in our loan portfolio over the past five years might not be representative of the level of delinquencies and defaults that could occur as we continue to expand our real estate loan originations outside of the New York metropolitan area.

We may not be able to successfully implement our plans for growth.

In 2004, we began to implement a growth strategy that expands our presence in other select markets in the Northeastern United States. In 2004, we opened a loan production office in Wellesley, Massachusetts. We relocated

this loan production office to Danvers, Massachusetts in March 2009 and opened a full service branch at this location. We opened another full service branch in Plymouth, Massachusetts during the second quarter of 2009.

When opportunities arise, we may continue to pursue opportunities to expand our branch network and our lending operations.

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If we do not achieve profitability on new branches, the new branches may hurt our earnings.

There is no assurance that our expansion strategy will be accretive to our earnings. Numerous factors will affect our expansion strategy, such as our ability to select suitable locations for branches and loan production offices, real estate acquisition costs, competition, interest rates, managerial resources, our ability to hire and retain qualified personnel, the effectiveness of our marketing strategy and our ability to attract deposits. We can provide no assurance that we will be successful in increasing the volume of our loans and deposits by expanding our branch and lending network. Building and staffing new branch offices and loan production offices will increase our operating expenses. We can provide no assurance that we will be able to manage the costs and implementation risks associated with this strategy so that expansion of our branch and lending network will be profitable.

Our allowance for loan losses may be inadequate, which could hurt our earnings.

When borrowers default and do not repay the loans that we make to them, we may lose money. The allowance for loan losses is the amount estimated by management as necessary to cover probable losses in the loan portfolio at the statement of financial condition date. The allowance is established through the provision for loan losses, which is charged to income. Determining the amount of the allowance for loan losses necessarily involves a high degree of judgment. Among the material estimates required to establish the allowance are: loss exposure at default; the amount and timing of future cash flows on impacted loans; value of collateral; and determination of loss factors to be applied to the various elements of the portfolio. If our estimates and judgments regarding such matters prove to be incorrect, our allowance for loan losses might not be sufficient, and additional loan loss provisions might need to be made. Depending on the amount of such loan loss provisions, the adverse impact on our earnings could be material. Our allowance for loan losses amounted to 1.7% of total loans outstanding and 33.4% of nonperforming loans at December 31, 2009. Our allowance for loan losses at December 31, 2009 may not be sufficient to cover future loan losses. A large loss could deplete the allowance and require increased provisions to replenish the allowance, which would negatively affect earnings.

In addition, bank regulators may require us to make a provision for loan losses or otherwise recognize further loan charge-offs following their periodic review of our loan portfolio, our underwriting procedures, and our loan loss allowance. Any increase in our allowance for loan losses or loan charge-offs as required by such regulatory authorities could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Please see "Allowance for Loan Losses" under "Critical Accounting Policies" in Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," for a discussion of the procedures we follow in establishing our loan loss allowance.

Strong competition within our primary market area and our lending territory could hurt our profits and slow growth.

We face intense competition both in making loans in our lending territory and attracting deposits in our primary market area. This competition has made it more difficult for us to make new loans and at times has forced us to offer higher deposit rates. Price competition for loans and deposits might result in us earning less on our loans and paying more on our deposits, which would reduce net interest income. Competition also makes it more difficult to grow loans and deposits. As of June 30, 2009, the most recent date for which information is available from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, we held less than 0.09% of the deposits in Kings and New York counties, New York, approximately 0.64% and 0.17% of the deposits in Bronx and Westchester Counties, New York, respectively, and 0.24% and 0.29% of the deposits in Essex and Plymouth Counties, Massachusetts, respectively. Competition also makes it more difficult to hire and retain experienced employees. Some of the institutions with which we compete have substantially greater resources and lending limits than we have and may offer services that we do not provide. We expect competition to increase in the future as a result of legislative, regulatory and technological changes and the continuing trend of consolidation in the financial services industry. Our profitability depends upon

our continued ability to compete successfully in our primary market area and our lending territory.

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Changes in economic conditions could cause an increase in delinquencies and non-performing assets, including loan charge-offs, which could hurt our income and growth.

Our loan portfolio includes primarily real estate secured loans, demand for which may decrease during economic downturns as a result of, among other things, an increase in unemployment, a decrease in real estate values or increases in interest rates. These factors could depress our earnings and consequently our financial condition because customers may not want or need our products and services; borrowers may not be able to repay their loans; the value of the collateral securing our loans to borrowers may decline; and the quality of our loan portfolio may decline. Any of the latter three scenarios could cause an increase in delinquencies and non-performing assets or require us to “charge-off” a percentage of our loans and/or increase our provisions for loan losses, which would reduce our earnings. We have recently experienced an increase in non-performing and classified assets. For more information, see Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Risk Management.”

The market price of our common stock may be materially adversely affected by market volatility.

Many publicly traded financial services companies have recently experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance or prospects of such companies. We may experience market fluctuations that are not directly related to our operating performance but are influenced by the market’s perception of the state of the financial services industry in general and, in particular, the market’s assessment of general credit quality conditions, including default and foreclosure rates in the industry.

Increased and/or special FDIC assessments will hurt our earnings.

The recent economic recession has caused a high level of bank failures, which has dramatically increased FDIC resolution costs and led to a significant reduction in the balance of the Deposit Insurance Fund. As a result, the FDIC has significantly increased the initial base assessment rates paid by financial institutions for deposit insurance. Increases in the base assessment rate have increased our deposit insurance costs and negatively impacted our earnings. In addition, in May 2009, the FDIC imposed a special assessment on all insured institutions. Our special assessment, which was reflected in earnings for the quarter ended June 30, 2009, was \$205,000. In lieu of imposing an additional special assessment, the FDIC required all institutions to prepay their assessments for all of 2010, 2011 and 2012, which for us totaled \$1.5 million. Additional increases in the base assessment rate or additional special assessments would negatively impact our earnings.

Turmoil in the financial markets could have an adverse effect on our financial position or results of operations.

Beginning in 2008, United States and global financial markets experienced severe disruption and volatility, and general economic conditions have declined significantly. Adverse developments in credit quality, asset values and revenue opportunities throughout the financial services industry, as well as general uncertainty regarding the economic, industry and regulatory environment, have had a negative impact on the industry. The United States and the governments of other countries have taken steps to try to stabilize the financial system, including investing in financial institutions, and have implemented programs intended to improve general economic conditions. The U.S. Department of the Treasury created the Capital Purchase Program under the Troubled Asset Relief Program, pursuant to which the Treasury Department provided additional capital to participating financial institutions through the purchase of preferred stock or other securities. Other measures include homeowner relief that encourages loan restructuring and modification; the establishment of significant liquidity and credit facilities for financial institutions and investment money market funds; the establishment of a commercial paper funding facility to provide back-stop liquidity to commercial paper issuers; and coordinated international efforts to address illiquidity and other weaknesses in the banking sector. Notwithstanding the actions of the United States and other governments, there can be no

assurances that these efforts will be successful in restoring industry, economic or market conditions to their previous levels and that they will not result in adverse unintended consequences. Factors that could continue to pressure financial services companies, including Northeast Community Bancorp, Inc., are numerous and include (1) worsening credit quality, leading among other things to increases in loan losses and reserves, (2) continued or worsening disruption and volatility in financial markets, leading among other things to continuing reductions in asset values, (3) capital and liquidity concerns regarding financial institutions generally, (4) limitations resulting from or imposed in connection with governmental actions intended to stabilize or provide additional regulation of the financial system, or (5) recessionary conditions that are deeper or last longer than currently anticipated.

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We operate in a highly regulated environment and we may be adversely affected by changes in laws and regulations.

We are subject to extensive regulation, supervision and examination by the Office of Thrift Supervision, our primary federal regulator, and by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, as insurer of our deposits. Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC, Northeast Community Bancorp and Northeast Community Bank are all subject to regulation and supervision by the Office of Thrift Supervision. Such regulation and supervision governs the activities in which an institution and its holding company may engage, and are intended primarily for the protection of the insurance fund and the depositors and borrowers of Northeast Community Bank rather than for holders of Northeast Community Bancorp common stock. Regulatory authorities have extensive discretion in their supervisory and enforcement activities, including the imposition of restrictions on our operations, the classification of our assets and determination of the level of our allowance for loan losses. Any change in such regulation and oversight, whether in the form of regulatory policy, regulations, legislation or supervisory action, may have a material impact on our operations.

Proposed regulatory reform may have a material impact on our operations.

The regulatory environment for banks, savings associations and other financial institutions is under scrutiny from Congress at this time. New legislation may lead to significant changes in our regulatory environment.

The current administration has published a comprehensive regulatory reform plan that is intended to modernize and protect the integrity of the United States financial system and has offered proposed legislation to accomplish these reforms. The President's plan contains several elements that would have a direct effect on Northeast Community Bancorp and Northeast Community Bank. Under the initial proposed legislation, the federal thrift charter and the Office of Thrift Supervision would have been eliminated and all companies that control an insured depository institution would be required to register as a bank holding company. The House Financial Services Committee, in cooperation with the Treasury Department, has prepared alternative legislation that would preserve the thrift charter as well as federal mutual holding companies. Under this legislation, the Office of Thrift Supervision would be merged into the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and a division within that agency would regulate federal thrifts. All holding companies of thrifts would be bank holding companies regulated by the Federal Reserve.

Registration as a bank holding company would represent a significant change, as there currently exist significant differences between savings and loan holding company and bank holding company supervision and regulation. For example, the Federal Reserve imposes leverage and risk-based capital requirements on bank holding companies whereas the Office of Thrift Supervision does not impose any capital requirements on savings and loan holding companies. Additionally, Office of Thrift Supervision regulations permit mutual holding company parents, such as Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC, to waive the receipt of dividends paid by their mutual holding company subsidiaries. Mutual holding companies in the bank holding company structure have generally not been permitted to waive dividends. Accordingly, if Northeast Community Bancorp were required to register as a bank holding company, Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC may not be able to waive the receipt of dividends paid by Northeast Community Bancorp. If it could not waive the receipt of dividends, Northeast Community Bancorp may have to reduce the rate of the dividends it pays to its shareholders.

The Administration has also proposed the creation of a new federal agency, the Consumer Financial Protection Agency, that would be dedicated to protecting consumers in the financial products and services market. The creation of this agency could result in new regulatory requirements and raise the cost of regulatory compliance. In addition, legislation stemming from the reform plan could require changes in regulatory capital requirements, loan loss provisioning practices, and compensation practices. If implemented, the foregoing regulatory reforms may have a material impact on our operations. However, because the final legislation may differ significantly from the reform

plan proposed by the President or from what is currently being discussed by Congress, we cannot determine the specific impact of regulatory reform at this time.

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Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC's majority control of our common stock will enable it to exercise voting control over most matters put to a vote of stockholders and will prevent stockholders from forcing a sale or a second-step conversion transaction you may like.

Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC, owns a majority of Northeast Community Bancorp's common stock and, through its board of directors, will be able to exercise voting control over most matters put to a vote of stockholders. The same directors and officers who manage Northeast Community Bancorp and Northeast Community Bank also manage Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC. As a federally chartered mutual holding company, the board of directors of Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC must ensure that the interests of depositors of Northeast Community Bank are represented and considered in matters put to a vote of stockholders of Northeast Community Bancorp. Therefore, the votes cast by Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC may not be in your personal best interests as a stockholder. For example, Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC may exercise its voting control to defeat a stockholder nominee for election to the board of directors of Northeast Community Bancorp. In addition, stockholders will not be able to force a merger or second-step conversion transaction without the consent of Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC. Some stockholders may desire a sale or merger transaction, since stockholders typically receive a premium for their shares, or a second-step conversion transaction, since fully converted institutions tend to trade at higher multiples than mutual holding companies.

The Office of Thrift Supervision policy on remutualization transactions could prohibit acquisition of Northeast Community Bancorp, which may adversely affect our stock price.

Current Office of Thrift Supervision regulations permit a mutual holding company to be acquired by a mutual institution in a remutualization transaction. However, the Office of Thrift Supervision has issued a policy statement indicating that it views remutualization transactions as raising significant issues concerning disparate treatment of minority stockholders and mutual members of the target entity and raising issues concerning the effect on the mutual members of the acquiring entity. Under certain circumstances, the Office of Thrift Supervision intends to give these issues special scrutiny and reject applications providing for the remutualization of a mutual holding company unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate that the Office of Thrift Supervision's concerns are not warranted in the particular case. Should the Office of Thrift Supervision prohibit or otherwise restrict these transactions in the future, our per share stock price may be adversely affected.

ITEM 1B.

UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

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ITEM 2.

PROPERTIES

We conduct our business through our main office and seven other full-service branch offices. The following table sets forth certain information relating to these facilities as of December 31, 2009.

Location	Year Opened	Date of Lease Expiration (Dollars in thousands)	Owned/ Leased	Net Book Value
Corporate Headquarters and Main Office:				
325 Hamilton Avenue White Plains, New York 10601	1994	N/A	Owned	\$ 1,146
Branch Offices:				
1470 First Avenue New York, NY 10021(1)	2006	04/30/2011	Leased	91
590 East 187th Street Bronx, New York 10458	1972	N/A	Owned	594
2047 86th Street Brooklyn, New York 11214	1988	N/A	Owned	825
242 West 23rd Street (2) New York, NY 10011	1996	N/A	Owned/Leased	917
1751 Second Avenue New York, NY 10128	1978	09/30/2015	Leased	28
87 Elm Street Danvers, MA 01923	2009	N/A	Owned	1,415
8 No. Park Avenue Plymouth, MA 02360	2009	N/A	Owned	1,870
Other Properties:				
1353-55 First Avenue New York, NY 10021(3)	1946	2109	Leased	-
830 Post Road East Westport, Connecticut 06880	2007	4/30/2010	Leased	-

(1) The Bank has temporarily relocated its branch office at 1353-55 First Avenue to this property due to the sale and renovation of the building located at 1353-55 First Avenue. See footnote 3 below.

(2) This property is owned by us, but is subject to a 99 year ground lease, the term of which expires in 2084.

(3)

In June 2007, the Bank sold this building and temporarily relocated its branch office located at 1353-55 First Avenue to 1470 First Avenue, New York, New York, while 1353-55 First Avenue is being renovated. On June 30, 2007, the Bank entered into a 99 year lease agreement for office space on the first floor of the building at 1353-55 First Avenue so that the Bank may continue to operate a branch office at this location after the building has been renovated. The lease will commence upon completion of construction at 1353-55 First Avenue.

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ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Legal Proceedings

From time to time, we may be party to various legal proceedings incident to our business. At December 31, 2009, we were not a party to any pending legal proceedings that we believe would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

ITEM 4. [RESERVED AND REMOVED]

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

The Company's common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Market ("NASDAQ") under the trading symbol "NECB." The following table sets forth the high and low sales prices of the common stock, as reported by NASDAQ, and the dividends declared by the Company during each quarter of the two most recent fiscal years. See Item 1, "Business—Regulation and Supervision—Regulation of Federal Savings Institutions—Limitation on Capital Distributions" and Note 2 in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for more information relating to restrictions on dividends.

	Dividends	High	Low
2009:			
First Quarter	\$ 0.03	\$ 8.14	\$ 6.85
Second Quarter	0.03	9.49	7.05
Third Quarter	0.03	9.00	6.60
Fourth Quarter	0.03	7.52	6.10
2008:			
First Quarter	\$ 0.03	\$ 12.50	\$ 11.40
Second Quarter	0.03	11.98	11.24
Third Quarter	0.03	11.47	8.00
Fourth Quarter	0.03	9.51	6.00

Northeast Community Bancorp, MHC, the Company's majority stockholder, has waived receipt of all dividends declared by the Company. During 2009, the aggregate amount of dividends waived was \$873,000. On a cumulative basis, \$2,182,000 of such dividends have been waived through December 31, 2009.

As of March 3, 2010, there were approximately 288 holders of record of the Company's common stock.

The Company did not repurchase any of its common stock during the fourth quarter of 2009 and, at December 31, 2009, we had no publicly announced repurchase plans or programs.

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ITEM 6.

SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

	At or For the Years Ended December 31,				
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)				
Financial Condition Data:					
Total assets	\$527,276	\$424,228	\$343,895	\$288,417	\$238,821
Cash and cash equivalents	88,718	36,534	39,146	36,749	27,389
Securities held to maturity	11,845	2,078	2,875	27,455	12,228
Securities available for sale	176	182	320	355	362
Loans receivable, net	386,266	363,616	283,133	201,306	190,896
Bank owned life insurance	10,522	8,902	8,515	8,154	–
Deposits	379,518	261,430	225,978	188,592	193,314
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	35,000	40,000	–	–	–
Total stockholders' equity	107,448	110,502	108,829	96,751	43,120
Operating Data:					
Interest income	\$24,373	\$21,947	\$17,602	\$15,348	\$13,652
Interest expense	10,092	8,550	5,918	4,493	3,110
Net interest income	14,281	13,397	11,684	10,855	10,542
Provision for loan losses	7,314	411	338	–	–
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	6,967	12,986	11,346	10,855	10,542
Gain (loss) on sale of premises and equipment	–	–	18,962	(5)	(19)
Noninterest income	1,498	1,794	805	624	553
Noninterest expenses	13,893	11,500	9,826	8,870	7,515
Income (loss) before provision for income taxes	(5,428)	3,280	21,287	2,604	3,561
Provision for income taxes (benefit)	(2,812)	1,178	9,150	1,046	1,571
Net income (loss)	\$(2,616)	\$2,102	\$12,137	\$1,558	\$1,990
Net income (loss) per share – basic and diluted					
(1)	\$(0.20)	\$0.16	\$0.95	\$0.06	N/A
Dividends declared per share	\$0.12	\$0.12	\$0.06	\$–	\$–

(1) The Company completed its initial public stock offering on July 5, 2006.

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	At or For the Years Ended December 31,									
	2009		2008		2007		2006		2005	
Performance Ratios:										
Return on average assets (1)	(0.54)%	0.54	%	3.94	%	0.57	%	0.83	%
Return on average equity (1)	(2.37)	1.91		11.70		2.24		4.69	
Interest rate spread (2)	2.49		2.73		3.13		3.65		4.27	
Net interest margin (3)	3.08		3.63		4.09		4.24		4.55	
Noninterest expense to average assets	2.86		2.96		3.19		3.26		3.13	
Efficiency ratio (1) (4)	88.05		75.70		31.24		77.31		67.85	
Average interest-earning assets to average interest-bearing liabilities	127.33		138.82		146.61		133.99		120.33	
Average equity to average assets	22.77		28.35		33.67		25.57		17.65	
Capital Ratios - Bank:										
Tangible capital	15.66		19.45		24.18		25.46		17.92	
Core capital	15.66		19.45		24.18		25.46		17.92	
Total risk-based capital	27.01		30.65		37.50		44.58		33.08	
Asset Quality Ratios:										
Allowance for loan losses as a percent of total loans	1.72		0.51		0.53		0.60		0.63	
Allowance for loan losses as a percent of nonperforming loans	33.41		57.92		65.48		N/M		N/M	