# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

# FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): January 25, 2024

# **Investar Holding Corporation**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Louisiana
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

001-36522 (Commission File Number) 27-1560715 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

10500 Coursey Blvd.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (225) 227-2222

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following

provisio	ons:						
	Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Sec	curities Act (17 CFR 230.425)					
	Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)						
	Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))						
	Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))						
Securiti	es registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:						
	Title of each class Common stock, \$1.00 par value per share	Trading Symbol(s) ISTR	Name of each exchange on which registered The Nasdaq Global Market				
	by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of		05 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter)				
Emergi	ng growth company □						
	nerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the regis financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 1		extended transition period for complying with any new or				

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#### Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition

On January 25, 2024, Investar Holding Corporation (the "Company"), the holding company of Investar Bank, National Association (the "Bank"), issued a press release reporting fourth quarter 2023 results and posted on its website its fourth quarter 2023 earnings release and investor presentation. The materials contain forward-looking statements regarding the Company and include a cautionary note identifying important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated. Copies of the earnings release and investor presentation are furnished as Exhibit 99.1 and Exhibit 99.2 to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

The information contained in Item 2.02, including Exhibit 99.1 and Exhibit 99.2 of this Current Report, shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing.

#### Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit	
Number	Description of Exhibit
99.1	Earnings release of Investar Holding Corporation dated January 25, 2024 announcing financial results for the quarter ended December 31, 2023
99.2	<u>Investor presentation dated January 25, 2024</u>
104	The cover page of Investar Holding Corporation's Form 8-K is formatted in Inline XBRL
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## **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

#### INVESTAR HOLDING CORPORATION

By: /s/ John J. D'Angelo

John J. D'Angelo

President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: January 25, 2024

#### **Investar Holding Corporation Announces 2023 Fourth Quarter Results**

BATON ROUGE, LA / ACCESSWIRE / January 25, 2024 / Investar Holding Corporation ("Investar") (NASDAQ:ISTR), the holding company for Investar Bank, National Association (the "Bank"), today announced financial results for the quarter ended December 31, 2023. Investar reported net income of \$3.5 million, or \$0.36 per diluted common share, for the fourth quarter of 2023, compared to net income of \$2.8 million, or \$0.28 per diluted common share, for the quarter ended September 30, 2023, and net income of \$8.9 million, or \$0.88 per diluted common share, for the quarter ended December 31, 2022.

On a non-GAAP basis, core earnings per diluted common share for the fourth quarter of 2023 were \$0.39 compared to \$0.33 for the third quarter of 2023 and \$0.62 for the fourth quarter of 2022. Core earnings exclude certain non-operating items including, but not limited to, loss on call or sale of investment securities, net, loss on sale or disposition of fixed assets, net, income from insurance proceeds, severance, the Employee Retention Credit ("ERC"), and loan purchase expense (refer to the *Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Financial Measures* tables for a reconciliation of GAAP to non-GAAP metrics).

Investar's President and Chief Executive Officer John D'Angelo commented:

"During the fourth quarter, we made significant progress on our strategy of consistent, quality earnings through the optimization of our balance sheet.

We continued to originate high quality loans and allow higher risk credit relationships to run off. As a result, nonperforming loans improved to 0.26% of total loans. Additionally, we completed the purchase of the approximately \$127 million second tranche of the previously announced acquisition of revolving lines of credit. The transaction improved the composition of the loan portfolio to 27% floating rate while raising the yield. Additionally, due to our diligent workout process, we reached final resolution on a nonperforming oil and gas relationship and recognized an interest recovery of \$1.1 million in the fourth quarter, which was highly accretive to our core performance metrics.

We generated record high total revenues in the fourth quarter while continuing to closely monitor and control noninterest expense. Stockholders' equity increased by \$18.1 million, or 8.6%, compared September 30, 2023 due to net income for the quarter and an improvement of \$15.3 million in accumulated other comprehensive loss. Our digital transformation and optimization of our physical branch and ATM footprint progressed as we consolidated another branch in our Alabama market in January. We are actively evaluating potential opportunities to further optimize our asset mix to improve shareholder returns.

We anticipate a more favorable rate environment in 2024. Our liability sensitive balance sheet is well-positioned if interest rates do come down to benefit from the repricing of deposits and short-term borrowings. During the fourth quarter, we refinanced all of our borrowings under the Bank Term Funding Program at a lower rate.

As always, we remain focused on shareholder value and returning capital to shareholders. We repurchased 31,766 shares of our common stock during the fourth quarter at an average price of \$10.43 per share and 222,448 shares during 2023 at an average price of \$13.47."

### **Fourth Quarter Highlights**

- Credit quality continues to strengthen with nonperforming loans improving to 0.26% of total loans at December 31, 2023 compared to 0.27% at September 30, 2023.
- Variable-rate loans as a percentage of total loans was 27% at December 31, 2023 compared to 22% at September 30, 2023.
- Total revenues, or interest and noninterest income, for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 totaled \$38.4 million, an increase of \$3.6 million, or 10.4%, compared to the quarter ended September 30, 2023.
- Noninterest expense decreased \$0.4 million to \$15.4 million for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 compared to \$15.8 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2023. Core noninterest expense decreased \$0.2 million to \$15.4 million for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 compared to \$15.6 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2023.
- Book value per common share increased to \$23.26 at December 31, 2023, or 9.0%, compared to \$21.34 at September 30, 2023. Tangible book value per common share increased to \$18.92 at December 31, 2023, or 11.3%, compared to \$17.00 at September 30, 2023.
- Accumulated other comprehensive loss improved \$15.3 million, or 25.3%, to \$45.1 million at December 31, 2023 compared to \$60.5 million at September 30, 2023 due to an increase in the fair value of the Bank's available for sale securities portfolio.
- Investar recognized interest recoveries of approximately \$1.1 million during the quarter ended December 31, 2023, substantially all of which are attributable to one commercial and industrial oil and gas loan relationship.
- During the fourth quarter, Investar refinanced all of its borrowings under the Federal Reserve's Bank Term Funding Program ("BTFP"). The weighted average rate was 4.83% at December 31, 2023 compared to 5.11% at September 30, 2023.
- Total deposits increased \$46.3 million, or 2.1%, to \$2.26 billion at December 31, 2023 compared to \$2.21 billion at September 30, 2023.
- Investar repurchased 31,766 shares of its common stock through its stock repurchase program at an average price of \$10.43 during the quarter ended December 31, 2023, leaving 514,266 shares authorized for repurchase under the program at December 31, 2023. Investar repurchased 222,448 shares of

#### Loans

Total loans were \$2.21 billion at December 31, 2023, an increase of \$107.6 million, or 5.1%, compared to September 30, 2023, and an increase of \$105.9 million, or 5.0%, compared to December 31, 2022. Excluding the tranche of revolving lines of credit purchased in the fourth quarter of 2023, total loans decreased \$19.4 million, or 0.9%, to \$2.08 billion at December 31, 2023, compared to \$2.10 billion at September 30, 2023 consistent with our strategy to optimize the balance sheet.

The following table sets forth the composition of the total loan portfolio as of the dates indicated (dollars in thousands).

				Linked Qua	rter Change	Year/Year	r Change	Percentage of	f Total Loans
	12/31/2023	9/30/2023	12/31/2022	\$	%	\$	%	12/31/2023	12/31/2022
Mortgage loans on real									
estate									
Construction and									
development	\$ 190,371	\$ 211,390	\$ 201,633	\$ (21,019)	(9.9)%	\$ (11,262)	(5.6)%	8.6%	9.6%
1-4 Family	413,786	415,162	401,377	(1,376)	(0.3)	12,409	3.1	18.7	19.1
Multifamily	105,946	102,974	81,812	2,972	2.9	24,134	29.5	4.8	3.9
Farmland	7,651	8,259	12,877	(608)	(7.4)	(5,226)	(40.6)	0.4	0.6
Commercial real estate									
Owner-occupied	449,610	440,208	445,148	9,402	2.1	4,462	1.0	20.3	21.1
Nonowner-occupied	488,098	501,649	513,095	(13,551)	(2.7)	(24,997)	(4.9)	22.1	24.4
Commercial and industrial	543,421	411,290	435,093	132,131	32.1	108,328	24.9	24.6	20.7
Consumer	11,736	12,090	13,732	(354)	(2.9)	(1,996)	(14.5)	0.5	0.6
Total loans	\$2,210,619	\$2,103,022	\$2,104,767	\$ 107,597	5.1%	\$ 105,852	5.0%	100%	100%

At December 31, 2023, Investar's total business lending portfolio, which consists of loans secured by owner-occupied commercial real estate properties and commercial and industrial loans, was \$993.0 million, an increase of \$141.5 million, or 16.6%, compared to the business lending portfolio of \$851.5 million at September 30, 2023, and an increase of \$112.8 million, or 12.8%, compared to the business lending portfolio of \$880.2 million at December 31, 2022. The increase in the business lending portfolio compared to September 30, 2023 is primarily driven by the purchase of commercial and industrial revolving lines of credit and loan growth in owner-occupied commercial real estate as we remain focused on relationship banking and our strategy to optimize the mix of the portfolio. The increase in the business lending portfolio compared to December 31, 2022 is primarily driven by the purchase of commercial and industrial revolving lines of credit, partially offset by lower loan demand due to higher rates.

Nonowner-occupied loans totaled \$488.1 million at December 31, 2023, a decrease of \$13.6 million, or 2.7%, compared to \$501.6 million at September 30, 2023, and a decrease of \$25.0 million, or 4.9%, compared to \$513.1 million at December 31, 2022. The decrease in nonowner-occupied loans compared to September 30, 2023 and December 31, 2022 is due to loan amortization and aligns with our strategy to optimize the mix of the portfolio.

#### Credit Quality

Nonperforming loans were \$5.8 million, or 0.26% of total loans, at December 31, 2023, an increase of \$0.2 million compared to \$5.6 million, or 0.27% of total loans, at September 30, 2023, and a decrease of \$5.5 million compared to \$11.3 million, or 0.54% of total loans, at December 31, 2022. The increase in nonperforming loans compared to September 30, 2023 is mainly attributable to one 1-4 family loan relationship totaling \$1.4 million and one construction and development relationship totaling \$0.6 million, partially offset by paydowns on one commercial and industrial oil and gas loan relationship during the quarter ended December 31, 2023.

On January 1, 2023, Investar adopted FASB ASC Topic 326 "Financial Instruments – Credit Losses: Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments" Update No. 2016-13. The ASU, referred to as the Current Expected Credit Loss ("CECL") standard, requires the measurement of all expected credit losses for financial assets held at the reporting date based on historical experience, current conditions, and reasonable and supportable forecasts. Upon adoption, Investar recorded a one-time, cumulative effect adjustment to increase the allowance for credit losses by \$5.9 million and reduce retained earnings, net of tax, by \$4.3 million.

The allowance for credit losses was \$30.5 million, or 529.3% and 1.38% of nonperforming and total loans, respectively, at December 31, 2023, compared to \$29.8 million, or 534.1% and 1.42% of nonperforming and total loans, respectively, at September 30, 2023, and \$24.4 million, or 214.9% and 1.16% of nonperforming and total loans, respectively, at December 31, 2022.

The provision for credit losses was \$0.5 million for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 compared to a negative provision for credit losses of \$34,000 and a provision for credit losses of \$1.3 million for the quarters ended September 30, 2023 and December 31, 2022, respectively. The provision for credit losses in the quarter ended December 31, 2023 is primarily attributable to loan growth resulting from the purchase of commercial and industrial revolving lines of credit, partially offset by an improvement in the economic forecast. The negative provision for credit losses in the quarter ended September 30, 2023 was primarily due to net recoveries. The provision for credit losses for the quarter ended December 31, 2022 was due to organic loan growth.

#### **Deposits**

Total deposits at December 31, 2023 were \$2.26 billion, an increase of \$46.3 million, or 2.1%, compared to \$2.21 billion at September 30, 2023, and an increase of \$173.4 million, or 8.3%, compared to \$2.08 billion at December 31, 2022.

The following table sets forth the composition of deposits as of the dates indicated (dollars in thousands).

				Linked Quarter Change		Year/Yea	r Change	Percentag Dep	,
	12/31/2023	9/30/2023	12/31/2022	\$	%	\$	%	12/31/2023	12/31/2022
Noninterest-bearing									
demand deposits	\$ 448,752	\$ 459,519	\$ 580,741	\$ (10,767)	(2.3)%	\$ (131,989)	(22.7)%	19.9%	27.9%
Interest-bearing demand									
deposits	489,604	482,706	565,598	6,898	1.4	(75,994)	(13.4)	21.7	27.1
Money market deposit									
accounts	179,366	186,478	208,596	(7,112)	(3.8)	(29,230)	(14.0)	8.0	10.0
Savings accounts	137,606	131,743	155,176	5,863	4.5	(17,570)	(11.3)	6.1	7.5
Brokered time deposits	269,102	197,747	9,990	71,355	36.1	259,112	2,593.7	11.9	0.5
Time deposits	731,297	751,240	562,264	(19,943)	(2.7)	169,033	30.1	32.4	27.0
Total deposits	\$2,255,727	\$2,209,433	\$2,082,365	\$ 46,294	2.1%	\$ 173,362	8.3%	100%	100%

The decrease in noninterest-bearing demand deposits and money market deposit accounts at December 31, 2023 compared to September 30, 2023 is primarily due to customers drawing down on their existing deposit accounts. The increase in interest-bearing demand deposits and savings accounts at December 31, 2023 compared to September 30, 2023 is primarily due to organic growth resulting from a deposit campaign. The decrease in time deposits at December 31, 2023 compared to September 30, 2023 is primarily due to a reduced emphasis on time deposits. Time deposits and brokered time deposits increased, and other deposit categories decreased at December 31, 2023 compared to December 31, 2022 primarily due to shifts into interest-bearing deposit products as a result of rising interest rates. Brokered time deposits increased to \$269.1 million at December 31, 2023 from \$197.7 million and \$10.0 million at September 30, 2023 and December 31, 2022, respectively. Investar utilizes brokered time deposits, entirely in denominations of less than \$250,000, to secure fixed cost funding and reduce short-term borrowings. We utilized shorter term brokered time deposits, which were laddered to provide flexibility, to fund a portion of the purchase of commercial and industrial revolving lines of credit. At December 31, 2023, the balance of brokered time deposits remained below 10% of total assets, and the remaining weighted average duration is approximately 12 months with a weighted average rate of 5.18%.

#### Stockholders' Equity

Stockholders' equity was \$226.8 million at December 31, 2023, an increase of \$18.1 million, or 8.6%, compared to September 30, 2023, and an increase of \$11.0 million, or 5.1%, compared to December 31, 2022. The increase in stockholders' equity compared to September 30, 2023 is primarily attributable to the net income for the quarter and a decrease in accumulated other comprehensive loss due to an increase in the fair value of the Bank's available for sale securities portfolio. The increase in stockholders' equity compared to December 31, 2022 is primarily attributable to net income for the last 12 months and a decrease in accumulated other comprehensive loss due to an increase in the fair value of the Bank's available for sale securities portfolio, partially offset by the cumulative effect adjustment as a result of the adoption of the CECL standard, reflected in retained earnings.

#### **Net Interest Income**

Net interest income for the fourth quarter of 2023 totaled \$18.5 million, an increase of \$1.0 million, or 5.9%, compared to the third quarter of 2023, and a decrease of \$4.0 million, or 17.9%, compared to the fourth quarter of 2022. Included in net interest income for the quarters ended December 31, 2023, September 30, 2023 and December 31, 2022 is \$25,000, \$36,000, and \$66,000, respectively, of interest income accretion from the acquisition of loans. Also included in net interest income for the quarters ended December 31, 2023 and September 30, 2023 are interest recoveries of \$1.1 million and \$0.1 million, respectively. There were no interest recoveries for the quarter ended December 31, 2022.

Investar's net interest margin was 2.72% for the quarter ended December 31, 2023, compared to 2.66% for the quarter ended September 30, 2023 and 3.50% for the quarter ended December 31, 2022. The increase in net interest margin for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 compared to the quarter ended September 30, 2023 was driven by a 35 basis point increase in the yield on interest-earning assets, partially offset by a 33 basis point increase in the overall cost of funds. The decrease in net interest margin for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 compared to the quarter ended December 31, 2022 was driven by a 195 basis point increase in the overall cost of funds, partially offset by an 83 basis point increase in the yield on interest-earning assets.

The yield on interest-earning assets was 5.40% for the quarter ended December 31, 2023, compared to 5.05% for the quarter ended September 30, 2023 and 4.57% for the quarter ended December 31, 2022. The increase in the yield on interest-earning assets compared to the quarter ended September 30, 2023 was driven by a 40 basis point increase in the yield on our loan portfolio. The increase in the yield on interest-earning assets compared to the quarter ended December 31, 2022 was driven by an 86 basis point increase in the yield on our loan portfolio and a 22 basis point increase in the yield on the taxable securities portfolio.

Exclusive of the interest income accretion from the acquisition of loans and interest recoveries, discussed above, adjusted net interest margin decreased to 2.56% for the quarter ended December 31, 2023, compared to 2.64% for the quarter ended September 30, 2023 and 3.49% for the quarter ended December 31, 2022. The adjusted yield on interest-earning assets was 5.23% for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 compared to 5.03% and 4.56% for the quarters ended September 30, 2023 and December 31, 2022, respectively. Refer to the *Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Financial Measures* table for a reconciliation of GAAP to non-GAAP metrics.

The cost of deposits increased 44 basis points to 3.17% for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 compared to 2.73% for the quarter ended September 30, 2023 and increased 235 basis points compared to 0.82% for the quarter ended December 31, 2022. The increase in the cost of deposits compared to the quarter ended September 30, 2023 resulted from both a higher average balance and an increase in rates paid on brokered time deposits, an increase in rates paid on time deposits, and an increase in rates paid on interest-bearing demand deposits and savings deposits. The increase in the cost of deposits compared to the quarter ended December 31, 2022 resulted from both a higher average balance and an increase in rates paid on time deposits and brokered time deposits and an increase in rates paid on interest-bearing demand deposits and savings deposits, partially offset by a lower average balance of interest-bearing demand deposits and savings deposits.

The cost of short-term borrowings decreased 13 basis points to 4.84% for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 compared to 4.97% for the quarter ended September 30, 2023 and increased 95 basis points compared to 3.89% for the quarter ended December 31, 2022. Beginning in the second quarter of 2023, the Bank began utilizing the BTFP to secure fixed rate funding for up to a one-year term and reduce short-term Federal Home Loan Bank ("FHLB") advances, which are priced daily. The Bank utilized this source of funding due to its lower rate as compared to FHLB advances, the ability to prepay the obligations without penalty, and as a means to lock in funding. The decrease in the cost of short-term borrowings compared to the quarter ended September 30, 2023 resulted primarily from both a lower average balance and a decrease in the cost of short-term borrowings under the BTFP and the increased utilization of short-term repurchase agreements. The increase in the cost of short-term borrowings compared to the quarter ended December 31, 2022 resulted from an increase in the Federal Reserve's federal funds rate, which drives the costs of short-term borrowings under the BTFP and short-term advances from the FHLB.

The overall costs of funds for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 increased 33 basis points to 3.40% compared to 3.07% for the quarter ended September 30, 2023 and increased 195 basis points compared to 1.45% for the quarter ended December 31, 2022. The increase in the cost of funds for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 compared to the quarter ended September 30, 2023 resulted from both a higher average balance and an increase in the cost of deposits, partially offset by both a lower average balance and a decrease in the cost of short-term borrowings. The increase in the cost of funds for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 compared to the quarter ended December 31, 2022 resulted from both a higher average balance and an increase in the cost of deposits and an increase in the cost of short-term borrowings, partially offset by a lower average balance of short-term borrowings.

#### **Noninterest Income**

Noninterest income for the fourth quarter of 2023 totaled \$1.8 million, an increase of \$0.1 million, or 7.2%, compared to the third quarter of 2023 and a decrease of \$1.7 million, or 49.0%, compared to the fourth quarter of 2022.

The increase in noninterest income compared to the quarter ended September 30, 2023 is driven by a \$0.3 million decrease in loss on sale or disposition of fixed assets and a \$0.1 million increase in other operating income, partially offset by a \$0.3 million loss on call or sale of investment securities recorded in the fourth quarter of 2023. The increase in other operating income was primarily attributable to a \$0.1 million increase in the change in the net asset value of other investments.

The decrease in noninterest income compared to the quarter ended December 31, 2022 is primarily due to the \$1.4 million in nontaxable income from insurance proceeds recorded in the fourth quarter of 2022 related to an insurance policy for the former chief financial officer of the Company and the Bank and a \$0.3 million loss on call or sale of investment securities recorded in the fourth quarter of 2023.

#### **Noninterest Expense**

Noninterest expense for the fourth quarter of 2023 totaled \$15.4 million, a decrease of \$0.3 million, or 2.1%, compared to the third quarter of 2023, and an increase of \$1.5 million, or 11.0%, compared to the fourth quarter of 2022.

The decrease in noninterest expense for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 compared to the quarter ended September 30, 2023 was driven by a \$0.5 million decrease in salaries and employee benefits, partially offset by a \$0.1 million increase in occupancy expense and a \$0.1 million increase in other operating expenses. The decrease in salaries and employee benefits was primarily due to decreases in incentive-based compensation, severance, and health insurance claims. The increase in occupancy expense is primarily due to higher maintenance costs. Other operating expenses include, among other things, software expense, other real estate expense, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation assessments, bank security, and bank shares tax.

The increase in noninterest expense for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 compared to the quarter ended December 31, 2022 was driven by a \$1.5 million increase in salaries and employee benefits and a \$0.3 million increase in other operating expenses, partially offset by a \$0.2 million decrease in depreciation and amortization. The increase in salaries and employee benefits was primarily due to an employee retention credit, net of consulting fees, of \$2.3 million recorded in the fourth quarter of 2022, partially offset by \$0.6 million in severance recorded in the fourth quarter of 2022 pursuant to a separation agreement with the former chief financial officer of the Company and the Bank and a \$0.3 million decrease in incentive-based compensation. The increase in other operating expenses is primarily due to an increase in bank shares tax, partially offset by a decrease in collection and repossession expenses, the majority of which were related to one loan relationship impaired as a result of Hurricane Ida.

#### **Taxes**

Investar recorded income tax expense of \$0.8 million for the quarter ended December 31, 2023, which equates to an effective tax rate of 18.1%, an increase from the effective tax rates of 17.4% and 17.5% for the quarters ended September 30, 2023 and December 31, 2022, respectively.

#### **Basic and Diluted Earnings Per Common Share**

Investar reported basic and diluted earnings per common share of \$0.36 for the quarter ended December 31, 2023, compared to basic and diluted earnings per common share of \$0.28 for the quarter ended September 30, 2023, and basic and diluted earnings per common share of \$0.90 and \$0.88, respectively, for the quarter ended December 31, 2022.

#### **About Investar Holding Corporation**

Investar, headquartered in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, provides full banking services, excluding trust services, through its wholly-owned banking subsidiary, Investar Bank, National Association. The Bank currently operates 28 branch locations serving Louisiana, Texas, and Alabama. At December 31, 2023, the Bank had 326 full-time equivalent employees and total assets of \$2.8 billion.

#### **Non-GAAP Financial Measures**

This press release contains financial information determined by methods other than in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America, or GAAP. These measures and ratios include "tangible common equity," "tangible assets," "tangible equity to tangible assets," "core noninterest income," "core earnings before noninterest expense," "core noninterest expense," "core earnings before income tax expense," "core income tax expense," "core earnings," "core efficiency ratio," "core return on average assets," "core return on average equity," "core basic earnings per share," and "core diluted earnings per share." We also present certain average loan, yield, net interest income and net interest margin data adjusted to show the effects of excluding interest recoveries and interest income accretion from the acquisition of loans. Management believes these non-GAAP financial measures provide information useful to investors in understanding Investar's financial results, and Investar believes that its presentation, together with the accompanying reconciliations, provide a more complete understanding of factors and trends affecting Investar's business and allow investors to view performance in a manner similar to management, the entire financial services sector, bank stock analysts and bank regulators. These non-GAAP measures should not be considered a substitute for GAAP basis measures and results, and Investar strongly encourages investors to review its consolidated financial statements in their entirety and not to rely on any single financial measure. Because non-GAAP financial measures are not standardized, it may not be possible to compare these financial measures with other companies' non-GAAP financial measures is included at the end of the financial statement tables.

#### Forward-Looking and Cautionary Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that reflect Investar's current views with respect to, among other things, future events and financial performance. Investar generally identifies forward-looking statements by terminology such as "outlook," "believes," "expects," "potential," "continues," "may," "will," "could," "should," "seeks," "approximately," "predicts," "intends," "plans," "estimates," "anticipates," or the negative version of those words or other comparable words.

Any forward-looking statements contained in this press release are based on the historical performance of Investar and its subsidiaries or on Investar's current plans, estimates and expectations. The inclusion of this forward-looking information should not be regarded as a representation by Investar that the future plans, estimates or expectations by Investar will be achieved. Such forward-looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties and assumptions relating to Investar's operations, financial results, financial condition, business prospects, growth strategy and liquidity. If one or more of these or other risks or uncertainties materialize, or if Investar's underlying assumptions prove to be incorrect, Investar's actual results may vary materially from those indicated in these statements. Investar does not undertake any obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise. A number of important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by the forward-looking statements. These factors include, but are not limited to, the following, any one or more of which could materially affect the outcome of future events:

- the significant risks and uncertainties for our business, results of operations and financial condition, as well as our regulatory capital and liquidity ratios and other regulatory requirements caused by business and economic conditions generally and in the financial services industry in particular, whether nationally, regionally or in the markets in which we operate;
- · changes in inflation, interest rates, yield curves and interest rate spread relationships that affect our loan and deposit pricing;
- our ability to successfully execute our near-term strategy to pivot from primarily a growth strategy to a strategy primarily focused on consistent, quality earnings through the optimization of our balance sheet, and our ability to successfully execute a long-term growth strategy;
- our ability to achieve organic loan and deposit growth, and the composition of that growth;
- our ability to identify and enter into agreements to combine with attractive acquisition candidates, finance acquisitions, complete acquisitions after definitive agreements are entered into, and successfully integrate and grow acquired operations;
- our adoption on January 1, 2023 of ASU 2016-13, and inaccuracy of the assumptions and estimates we make in establishing reserves for credit losses and other estimates;
- changes in the quality or composition of our loan or investment portfolios, including adverse developments in borrower industries or in the repayment ability of individual borrowers;
- a reduction in liquidity, including as a result of a reduction in the amount of deposits we hold or other sources of liquidity, which may be caused by, among other things, disruptions in the banking industry similar to those that occurred in early 2023 that caused bank depositors to move uninsured deposits to other banks or alternative investments outside the banking industry;
- changes in the quality and composition of, and changes in unrealized losses in, our investment portfolio, including whether we may have to sell securities before their recovery of amortized cost basis and realize losses;
- the extent of continuing client demand for the high level of personalized service that is a key element of our banking approach as well as our ability to execute our strategy generally;
- · our dependence on our management team, and our ability to attract and retain qualified personnel;
- the concentration of our business within our geographic areas of operation in Louisiana, Texas and Alabama;
- increasing costs of complying with new and potential future regulations;
- · new or increasing geopolitical tensions, including resulting from wars in Ukraine and Israel and surrounding areas;
- the emergence or worsening of widespread public health challenges or pandemics including COVID-19;
- · concentration of credit exposure;
- · any deterioration in asset quality and higher loan charge-offs, and the time and effort necessary to resolve problem assets;
- fluctuations in the price of oil and natural gas;
- data processing system failures and errors;
- risks associated with our digital transformation process, including increased risks of cyberattacks and other security breaches and challenges associated with addressing the increased prevalence of artificial intelligence;

- risks of losses resulting from increased fraud attacks against us and others in the financial services industry;
- potential impairment of our goodwill and other intangible assets; and
- hurricanes, tropical storms, tropical depressions, floods, winter storms, droughts and other adverse weather events, all of which have affected Investar's market areas from time to time; other natural disasters; oil spills and other man-made disasters; acts of terrorism; other international or domestic calamities; acts of God; and other matters beyond our control.

These factors should not be construed as exhaustive. Additional information on these and other risk factors can be found in Part I Item 1A. "Risk Factors" and in the "Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" in Part II Item 7. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in Investar's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2022 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") and in Part II Item 1A. "Risk Factors" in Investar's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2023, June 30, 2023, and September 30, 2023 filed with the SEC.

For further information contact:

Investar Holding Corporation John Campbell Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (225) 227-2215 John.Campbell@investarbank.com

# INVESTAR HOLDING CORPORATION SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

(Amounts in thousands, except share data) (Unaudited)

	As of and for the three months ended							
							Linked	
		12/31/2023		9/30/2023		12/31/2022	Quarter	Year/Year
EARNINGS DATA								
Total interest income	\$	36,668	\$	33,160	\$	29,372	10.6%	24.8%
Total interest expense		18,177		15,691		6,853	15.8	165.2
Net interest income		18,491		17,469		22,519	5.9	(17.9)
Provision for credit losses		486		(34)		1,268	1,529.4	(61.7)
Total noninterest income		1,755		1,637		3,441	7.2	(49.0)
Total noninterest expense		15,440		15,774		13,913	(2.1)	11.0
Income before income tax expense		4,320		3,366		10,779	28.3	(59.9)
Income tax expense		782		585		1,881	33.7	(58.4)
Net income	\$	3,538	\$	2,781	\$	8,898	27.2	(60.2)
AVERAGE BALANCE SHEET DATA								
Total assets	\$	2,817,388	\$	2,736,358	\$	2,677,604	3.0%	5.2%
Total interest-earning assets	*	2,694,474	•	2,603,837	-	2,552,448	3.5	5.6
Total loans		2,214,916		2,072,617		2,033,117	6.9	8.9
Total interest-bearing deposits		1,824,318		1,707,848		1,482,268	6.8	23.1
Total interest-bearing liabilities		2,119,724		2,026,587		1,872,870	4.6	13.2
Total deposits		2,279,211		2,170,373		2,072,288	5.0	10.0
Total stockholders' equity		212,454		220,393		211,585	(3.6)	0.4
PER SHARE DATA								
Earnings:								
Basic earnings per common share	\$	0.36	\$	0.28	\$	0.90	28.6%	(60.0)%
Diluted earnings per common share		0.36		0.28		0.88	28.6	(59.1)
Core earnings(1):								
Core basic earnings per common share(1)		0.39		0.33		0.63	18.2	(38.1)
Core diluted earnings per common share(1)		0.39		0.33		0.62	18.2	(37.1)
Book value per common share		23.26		21.34		21.79	9.0	6.7
Tangible book value per common share(1)		18.92		17.00		17.43	11.3	8.5
Common shares outstanding		9,748,067		9,779,688		9,901,847	(0.3)	(1.6)
Weighted average common shares outstanding - basic		9,754,617		9,814,727		9,899,192	(0.6)	(1.5)
Weighted average common shares outstanding - diluted		9,763,296		9,817,607		10,032,446	(0.6)	(2.7)
PERFORMANCE RATIOS								
Return on average assets		0.50%	Ó	0.40%	)	1.32%	25.0%	(62.1)%
Core return on average assets(1)		0.54		0.47		0.92	14.9	(41.3)
Return on average equity		6.61		5.01		16.69	31.9	(60.4)
Core return on average equity(1)		7.16		5.87		11.66	22.0	(38.6)
Net interest margin		2.72		2.66		3.50	2.3	(22.3)
Net interest income to average assets		2.60		2.53		3.34	2.8	(22.2)
Noninterest expense to average assets		2.17		2.29		2.06	(5.2)	5.3
Efficiency ratio(2)		76.26		82.56		53.59	(7.6)	42.3
Core efficiency ratio(1)		74.85		79.98		63.35	(6.4)	18.1
Dividend payout ratio		27.78		35.71		10.56	(22.2)	163.1
Net charge-offs to average loans		_		(0.01)		_	100.0	_

<sup>(1)</sup> Non-GAAP financial measure. See reconciliation.

<sup>(2)</sup> Efficiency ratio represents noninterest expense divided by the sum of net interest income (before provision for credit losses) and noninterest income.

## INVESTAR HOLDING CORPORATION SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Unaudited)

Ac	of and	for the	thron	months	hoban
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Linked

	12/31/2023	9/30/2023	12/31/2022	Quarter	Year/Year
ASSET QUALITY RATIOS					
Nonperforming assets to total assets	0.36%	0.36%	0.44%	%	(18.2)%
Nonperforming loans to total loans	0.26	0.27	0.54	(3.7)	(51.9)
Allowance for credit losses to total loans	1.38	1.42	1.16	(2.8)	19.0
Allowance for credit losses to nonperforming loans	529.32	534.08	214.92	(0.9)	146.3
CAPITAL RATIOS					
Investar Holding Corporation:					
Total equity to total assets	8.06%	7.48%	7.84%	7.8%	2.8%
Tangible equity to tangible assets(1)	6.65	6.05	6.37	9.9	4.4
Tier 1 leverage capital	8.35	8.53	8.53	(2.1)	(2.1)
Common equity tier 1 capital(2)	9.51	9.40	9.79	1.2	(2.9)
Tier 1 capital(2)	9.90	9.79	10.21	1.1	(3.0)
Total capital(2)	12.99	12.87	13.25	0.9	(2.0)
Investar Bank:					
Tier 1 leverage capital	9.81	10.05	9.89	(2.4)	(0.8)
Common equity tier 1 capital(2)	11.64	11.53	11.83	1.0	(1.6)
Tier 1 capital(2)	11.64	11.53	11.83	1.0	(1.6)
Total capital(2)	12.89	12.78	12.92	0.9	(0.2)

<sup>(1)</sup> Non-GAAP financial measure. See reconciliation.

<sup>(2)</sup> Estimated for December 31, 2023.

## INVESTAR HOLDING CORPORATION CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (Amounts in thousands, except share data) (Unaudited)

	December 31, 2023	September 30, 2023	December 31, 2022
ASSETS			
Cash and due from banks	\$ 28,285	\$ 27,084	\$ 30,056
Interest-bearing balances due from other banks	3,724	36,584	10,010
Federal funds sold			193
Cash and cash equivalents	32,009	63,668	40,259
Available for sale securities at fair value (amortized cost of \$419,283, \$481,296, and			
\$467,316, respectively)	361,918	404,485	405,167
Held to maturity securities at amortized cost (estimated fair value of \$20,513, \$19,815,	,	,	,
and \$7,922, respectively)	20,472	20,044	8,305
Loans	2,210,619	2,103,022	2,104,767
Less: allowance for credit losses	(30,540)	(29,778)	(24,364)
Loans, net	2,180,079	2,073,244	2,080,403
Equity securities	14,597	13,334	27,254
Bank premises and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$19,476, \$21,646,		,	·
and \$22,025, respectively	44,183	44,764	49,587
Other real estate owned, net	4,438	4,438	682
Accrued interest receivable	14,366	13,633	12,749
Deferred tax asset	16,910	20,989	16,438
Goodwill and other intangible assets, net	42,320	42,496	43,147
Bank-owned life insurance	58,797	58,425	57,379
Other assets	25,066	30,013	12,437
Total assets	\$ 2,815,155	\$ 2,789,533	\$ 2,753,807
LIABILITIES			
Deposits			
Noninterest-bearing	\$ 448,752	\$ 459,519	\$ 580,741
Interest-bearing	1,806,975	1,749,914	1,501,624
Total deposits	2,255,727	2,209,433	2,082,365
Advances from Federal Home Loan Bank	23,500	23,500	387,000
Borrowings under Bank Term Funding Program	212,500	235,800	
Repurchase agreements	8,633	13,930	_
Subordinated debt, net of unamortized issuance costs	44,320	44,296	44,225
Junior subordinated debt	8,630	8,602	8,515
Accrued taxes and other liabilities	35,077	45,255	15,920
Total liabilities	2,588,387	2,580,816	2,538,025
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY			
Preferred stock, no par value per share; 5,000,000 shares authorized	<u>_</u>		
Common stock, \$1.00 par value per share; 40,000,000 shares authorized; 9,748,067,			
9,779,688, and 9,901,847 shares issued and outstanding, respectively	9,748	9,780	9,902
Surplus	145,456	145,241	146,587
Retained earnings	116,711	114,148	108,206
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(45,147)	(60,452)	(48,913)
Total stockholders' equity	226,768	208,717	215,782
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 2,815,155	\$ 2,789,533	\$ 2,753,807
rotal natimities and stockholders equity	2,013,133	<del>2,102,333</del>	2,733,007

# INVESTAR HOLDING CORPORATION CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

(Amounts in thousands, except share data) (Unaudited)

	F	or the three months	ended	ed For the twelve			
	December 31, 2023	September 30, 2023	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022		
INTEREST INCOME							
Interest and fees on loans	\$ 33,128	3 \$ 28,892	\$ 25,958	\$ 117,892	\$ 93,373		
Interest on investment securities							
Taxable	2,970	3,055	2,978	12,372	9,796		
Tax-exempt	253	3 216	108	693	482		
Other interest income	31′		328	2,244	918		
Total interest income	36,668	33,160	29,372	133,201	104,569		
INTEREST EXPENSE							
Interest on deposits	14,584			42,072	6,250		
Interest on borrowings	3,593		_	16,609	8,534		
Total interest expense	18,17			58,681	14,784		
Net interest income	18,49	17,469	22,519	74,520	89,785		
Provision for credit losses	480			(2,000)	2,922		
Net interest income after provision for credit losses	18,003	5 17,503	21,251	76,520	86,863		
NONINTEREST INCOME							
Service charges on deposit accounts	798	806	799	3,090	3,090		
(Loss) gain on call or sale of investment securities, net	(322	2) —	_	(323)	6		
Loss on sale or disposition of fixed assets, net	(39	(367)	(67)	(1,323)	(258)		
Gain (loss) on sale of other real estate owned, net	<del>-</del>	- 23	2	(114)	9		
Swap termination fee income	_	- —	_	_	8,077		
Gain on sale of loans	_		_	75	37		
Servicing fees and fee income on serviced loans	2	2 2	. 13	14	74		
Interchange fees	41′	7 399	492	1,697	2,036		
Income from bank owned life insurance	37	1 357	346	1,417	1,305		
Change in the fair value of equity securities	24	1 22		(65)	(90)		
Income from insurance proceeds	_	_	1,384	_	1,384		
Other operating income	504		_	2,070	2,680		
Total noninterest income	1,75	1,637	3,441	6,538	18,350		
Income before noninterest expense	19,760	19,140	24,692	83,058	105,213		
NONINTEREST EXPENSE							
Depreciation and amortization	909	900	1,071	3,780	4,435		
Salaries and employee benefits	9,003	9,463	7,545	37,143	34,974		
Occupancy	700	618	713	2,994	2,915		
Data processing	892	2 888	1,006	3,482	3,600		
Marketing	68	83	74	302	262		
Professional fees	46	516	436	1,933	1,774		
Loss on early extinguishment of subordinated debt	_		-	_	222		
Other operating expenses	3,40	3,306	3,068	12,996	12,683		
Total noninterest expense	15,440	15,774	13,913	62,630	60,865		
Income before income tax expense	4,320	3,366	10,779	20,428	44,348		
Income tax expense	782			3,750	8,639		
Net income	\$ 3,538	\$ 2,781	\$ 8,898	\$ 16,678	\$ 35,709		
EARNINGS PER SHARE							
Basic earnings per common share	\$ 0.30	5 \$ 0.28	\$ 0.90	\$ 1.69	\$ 3.54		
Diluted earnings per common share	0.30			1.69	3.50		
Cash dividends declared per common share	0.10			0.395	0.365		
Cash dividends declared per confinion share	0.10	0.10	0.093	0.393	0.303		

## INVESTAR HOLDING CORPORATION CONSOLIDATED AVERAGE BALANCE SHEET, INTEREST EARNED AND YIELD ANALYSIS

(Amounts in thousands) (Unaudited)

For the	three	mont	hs	ended	
Sent	embe	r 30	20	23	

Т								For the three months ended									
December 31, 2023					S	epter	nber 30, 20	123	December 31, 2022								
Interest				Interest			I	nterest									
Average	Ir	ncome/			Average	]	Income/		Average	I	ncome/						
Balance	E	xpense	Yield/ R	ate	Balance	1	Expense	Yield/ Rate	Balance	E	xpense	Yield/ Rate					
\$ 2,214,916	\$	33,128	5.9	93%	\$ 2,072,617	\$	28,892	5.53%	\$ 2,033,117	\$	25,958	5.07%					
427,746		2,970	2.	75	442,556		3,055	2.74	466,881		2,978	2.53					
28,807		253	3.:	50	25,493		216	3.35	16,958		108	2.52					
												3.67					
		36,668	5.4	40			33,160	5.05	2,552,448		29,372	4.57					
									33,363								
									43,262								
(30,161)					(29,916)				(23,441)								
\$ 2,817,388	8				\$ 2,736,358				\$ 2,677,604								
\$ 668,277	\$	2,873	1.	71%	\$ 668,732	\$	2,462	1.46%	\$ 822,871	\$	1,084	0.52%					
136,045		318	0.9	93	130,262		179	0.54	160,046		18	0.04					
275,552		3,590	5.	17	159,244		1,990	4.96	326		4	4.80					
		7,803	4.	16	749,610		7,102	3.76	499,025		1,946	1.55					
1.824.318		14.584	3.	17	1.707.848		11.733	2.73	1,482,268		3.052	0.82					
		2,672	4.3	84	242,363		3,039	4.97	284,384		2,785	3.89					
76,429		921	4.	78				4.77	106,218		1,016	3.79					
2,119,724		18,177	3.4	40	2,026,587		15,691	3.07	1,872,870		6,853	1.45					
454,893		,			462,525		ĺ		590,020								
30,317					26,853				3,129								
212,454					220,393				211,585								
\$ 2,817,388					\$ 2,736,358				\$ 2,677,604								
	\$	18,491	2.	72%		\$	17,469	2.66%		\$	22,519	3.50%					
	Average Balance  \$ 2,214,916  427,746 28,807  23,005 2,694,474 27,214 42,414 83,447 (30,161) \$ 2,817,388  \$ 668,277 136,045 275,552 744,444  1,824,318 218,977 76,429  2,119,724 454,893	\$ 2,214,916 \$ 427,746	Average Balance         Interest Income/Expense           \$ 2,214,916         \$ 33,128           427,746         2,970           28,807         253           23,005         317           2,694,474         36,668           27,214         42,414           83,447         (30,161)           \$ 2,817,388         318           275,552         3,590           744,444         7,803           1,824,318         14,584           218,977         2,672           76,429         921           2,119,724         454,893           30,317         212,454           \$ 2,817,388	Average Balance         Interest Income/Expense         Yield/R           \$ 2,214,916         \$ 33,128         5.4           427,746         2,970         2.5           28,807         253         3.5           2,694,474         36,668         5.6           27,214         42,414         83,447           (30,161)         \$ 2,817,388         3.8           0.275,552         3,590         5.7           744,444         7,803         4.           1,824,318         14,584         3.           218,977         2,672         4.           76,429         921         4.           2,119,724         18,177         3.           454,893         30,317         212,454           \$ 2,817,388         \$ 2,817,388	Average Balance         Interest Income/Expense         Yield/ Rate           \$ 2,214,916         \$ 33,128         5.93%           427,746         2,970         2.75           28,807         253         3.50           23,005         317         5.46           2,694,474         36,668         5.40           27,214         42,414           83,447         (30,161)           \$ 2,817,388         318         0.93           275,552         3,590         5.17           744,444         7,803         4.16           1,824,318         14,584         3.17           218,977         2,672         4.84           76,429         921         4.78           2,119,724         18,177         3.40           454,893         30,317         212,454           \$ 2,817,388         \$ 2,817,388	Average Balance         Interest Income/Expense         Yield/ Rate         Average Balance           \$ 2,214,916         \$ 33,128         5.93%         \$ 2,072,617           427,746         2,970         2.75         442,556           28,807         253         3.50         25,493           23,005         317         5.46         63,171           2,694,474         36,668         5.40         2,603,837           27,214         42,595         83,447         92,108           (30,161)         (29,916)         \$ 2,817,388         \$ 2,736,358           \$ 668,277         \$ 2,873         1.71%         \$ 668,732           136,045         318         0.93         130,262           275,552         3,590         5.17         159,244           744,444         7,803         4.16         749,610           1,824,318         14,584         3.17         1,707,848           218,977         2,672         4.84         242,363           76,429         921         4.78         76,376           2,119,724         18,177         3.40         2,026,587           454,893         462,525         30,317         26,853           212,4	Average Balance	Average Balance	Average Balance   Interest Income/ Expense   Yield/Rate   Average Balance   Expense   Yield/Rate   Expense   Yield/Rate   Expense   Yield/Rate	Netrage Balance   Sepanse   Vield/ Rate   Netrage Balance   Sepanse   Vield/ Rate   Sepanse   Sepanse   Vield/ Rate   Sepanse   Sepanse   Sepanse   Vield/ Rate   Sepanse   Sepanse   Vield/ Rate   Sepanse   Sepanse   Sepanse   Sepanse   Sepanse   Sepanse   Vield/ Rate   Sepanse   Sepa	New Parage Balance   New Par	Netrage Balance   Netrone   Netron					

# INVESTAR HOLDING CORPORATION CONSOLIDATED AVERAGE BALANCE SHEET, INTEREST EARNED AND YIELD ANALYSIS

(Amounts in thousands) (Unaudited)

**December 31, 2023** 

For the twelve	e months ended
----------------	----------------

December 31, 2022

				Interest					Interest	
		Average Balance		Income/ Expense	Yield/ Rate		Average Balance		Income/ Expense	Yield/ Rate
Assets										
Interest-earning assets:										
Loans	\$	2,123,234	\$	117,892	5.55%	\$	1,937,255	\$	93,373	4.82%
Securities:										
Taxable		447,442		12,372	2.76		442,767		9,796	2.21
Tax-exempt		22,051		693	3.14		18,746		482	2.57
Interest-bearing balances with banks		38,561		2,244	5.82		45,542		918	2.02
Total interest-earning assets		2,631,288		133,201	5.06		2,444,310		104,569	4.28
Cash and due from banks		29,142					34,327			
Intangible assets		42,695					43,588			
Other assets		86,712					103,711			
Allowance for credit losses		(30,242)					(22,093)			
Total assets	\$	2,759,595				\$	2,603,843			
Liabilities and stockholders' equity										
Interest-bearing liabilities:										
Deposits:										
Interest-bearing demand deposits	\$	688,786	\$	8,941	1.30%	\$	900,405	\$	2,411	0.27%
Brokered demand deposits		· —			_		1,773		7	0.42
Savings deposits		134,817		534	0.40		173,460		79	0.05
Brokered time deposits		163,873		8,224	5.02		82		4	4.80
Time deposits		699,648		24,373	3.48		427,416		3,749	0.88
Total interest-bearing deposits		1,687,124		42,072	2.49		1,503,136		6,250	0.42
Short-term borrowings		260,730		12,845	4.93		134,192		4,093	3.05
Long-term debt		82,844		3,764	4.54		127,288		4,441	3.49
Total interest-bearing liabilities	·	2,030,698		58,681	2.89	_	1,764,616		14,784	0.84
Noninterest-bearing deposits		489,175		,			600,286		,	
Other liabilities		21,220					10,425			
Stockholders' equity		218,502					228,516			
Total liability and stockholders'										
equity	\$	2,759,595				\$	2,603,843			
Net interest income/net interest margin			\$	74,520	2.83%			\$	89,785	3.67%
margin			_	7				_	/	

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# INVESTAR HOLDING CORPORATION RECONCILIATION OF NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES INTEREST EARNED AND YIELD ANALYSIS ADJUSTED FOR INTEREST RECOVERIES AND ACCRETION

(Amounts in thousands) (Unaudited)

$\mathbf{F}_{0}$	r t	hρ	throp	month	s ended

	I	<b>September 30, 2023</b>				December 31, 2022					
	Average	Interest Average Income/		Average	Interest Income/			Average	Interest Income/		
	Balance	Expense	Yield/ Rate	Balance	]	Expense	Yield/ Rate	Balance	Expense	Yield/ Rate	
Interest-earning assets:											
Loans	\$ 2,214,916	\$ 33,128	5.93%	\$ 2,072,617	\$	28,892	5.53%	\$ 2,033,117	\$ 25,958	5.07%	
Adjustments:											
Interest recoveries		1,105				118			_		
Accretion		25				36			66		
Adjusted loans	2,214,916	31,998	5.73	2,072,617		28,738	5.50	2,033,117	25,892	5.05	
Securities:											
Taxable	427,746	2,970	2.75	442,556		3,055	2.74	466,881	2,978	2.53	
Tax-exempt	28,807	253	3.50	25,493		216	3.35	16,958	108	2.52	
Interest-bearing balances with											
banks	23,005	317	5.46	63,171		997	6.26	35,492	328	3.67	
Adjusted interest-earning assets	2,694,474	35,538	5.23	2,603,837		33,006	5.03	2,552,448	29,306	4.56	
Total interest-bearing liabilities	2,119,724	18,177	3.40	2,026,587		15,691	3.07	1,872,870	6,853	1.45	
Adjusted net interest											
income/adjusted net											
interest margin		\$ 17,361	2.56%		\$	17,315	2.64%		\$ 22,453	3.49%	

# INVESTAR HOLDING CORPORATION RECONCILIATION OF NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES

(Amounts in thousands, except share data) (Unaudited)

		<b>December 31, 2023</b>	Se	eptember 30, 2023	De	ecember 31, 2022
Tangible common equity						
Total stockholders' equity		\$ 226,768	\$	208,717	\$	215,782
Adjustments:						
Goodwill		40,088		40,088		40,088
Core deposit intangible		2,132		2,308		2,959
Trademark intangible		100		100		100
Tangible common equity		\$ 184,448	\$	166,221	\$	172,635
Tangible assets						
Total assets		\$ 2,815,155	\$	2,789,533	\$	2,753,807
Adjustments:						
Goodwill		40,088		40,088		40,088
Core deposit intangible		2,132		2,308		2,959
Trademark intangible		100		100		100
Tangible assets		\$ 2,772,835	\$	2,747,037	\$	2,710,660
Common shares outstanding		9,748,067		9,779,688		9,901,847
Tangible equity to tangible assets		6.65%		6.05%		6.37%
Book value per common share		\$ 23.26	\$	21.34	\$	21.79
Tangible book value per common share		18.92		17.00		17.43
	16					

# INVESTAR HOLDING CORPORATION RECONCILIATION OF NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES

(Amounts in thousands, except share data) (Unaudited)

		For the three months ended					
	Dece	ember 31, 2023	<b>September 30, 2023</b>	December 31, 2022			
Net interest income	(a) \$	18,491	\$ 17,469	\$ 22,519			
Provision for credit losses		486	(34)	1,268			
Net interest income after provision for credit losses		18,005	17,503	21,251			
Noninterest income	(b)	1,755	1,637	3,441			
Loss on call or sale of investment securities, net		322	_				
Loss on sale or disposition of fixed assets, net		39	367	67			
Gain on sale of other real estate owned, net		_	(23)	(2)			
Change in the fair value of equity securities		(24)	(22)	(12)			
Income from insurance proceeds(1)		_	_	(1,384)			
Change in the net asset value of other investments(2)		(43)	105	44			
Core noninterest income	(d)	2,049	2,064	2,154			
Core earnings before noninterest expense		20,054	19,567	23,405			
Total noninterest expense	(c)	15,440	15,774	13,913			
Severance(3)	( )	_	(123)	(624)			
Employee Retention Credit, net of consulting fees <sup>(4)</sup>		_	_	2,342			
Loan purchase expense(5)		(66)	(29)				
Core noninterest expense	(f)	15,374	15,622	15,631			
Core earnings before income tax expense		4,680	3,945	7,774			
Core income tax expense(6)		847	686	1,555			
Core earnings	\$	3,833	\$ 3,259	\$ 6,219			
Core basic earnings per common share		0.39	0.33	0.63			
Core basic carnings per common snarc		0.39	0.55	0.03			
Diluted earnings per common share (GAAP)	\$	0.36	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.88			
Loss on call or sale of investment securities, net		0.03	_	_			
Loss on sale or disposition of fixed assets, net		_	0.03	0.01			
Gain on sale of other real estate owned, net		_	_	_			
Change in the fair value of equity securities			_	_			
Income from insurance proceeds(1)		_	_	(0.14)			
Change in the net asset value of other investments(2)			0.01	_			
Severance(3)		_	0.01	0.05			
Employee Retention Credit, net of consulting fees(4)		_	_	(0.18)			
Loan purchase expense(5)		_					
Core diluted earnings per common share	\$	0.39	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.62			
Efficiency ratio	(c) / (a+b)	76.26%		53.59%			
Core efficiency ratio	(f)/(a+d)	74.85	79.98	63.35			
Core return on average assets(7)		0.54	0.47	0.92			
Core return on average equity(7)		7.16	5.87	11.66			
Total average assets	\$	2,817,388	\$ 2,736,358	\$ 2,677,604			
Total average stockholders' equity		212,454	220,393	211,585			

<sup>(1)</sup>Income from insurance proceeds represents nontaxable income related to an insurance policy for a former chief financial officer of the Company and the

(5)Adjustments to noninterest expense directly attributable to the purchase of loans, consisting of professional fees for legal and consulting services.

<sup>(2)</sup> Change in net asset value of other investments represents unrealized gains or losses on Investar's investments in Small Business Investment Companies and other investment funds and is included in other operating income in the accompanying consolidated statements of income.

<sup>(3)</sup>Severance in the third quarter of 2023 is directly attributable to Investar's exit from its consumer mortgage origination business, consisting of salaries and employee benefits. Severance in the fourth quarter of 2022 represents a comprehensive severance package for a former chief financial officer of the Company and the Bank.

<sup>(4)</sup>ERC represents a broad-based refundable payroll tax credit that incentivized businesses to retain employees on the payroll during the COVID-19 pandemic and is reflected as a credit in salaries and employee benefits in the accompanying consolidated statements of income.

<sup>(6)</sup>Core income tax expense for the quarters ended December 31, 2023 and September 30, 2023 is calculated using effective tax rates of 18.1% and 17.4%, respectively. Core income tax expense for the quarter ended December 31, 2022 is calculated using an effective tax rate of 20.0%, which is adjusted to account for the exclusion of the income from insurance proceeds, which is nontaxable income, from the calculation of core earnings.

(7)Core earnings used in calculation. No adjustments were made to average assets or average equity.



# **INVESTAR**°

NASDAQ: ISTR

Q4 2023 Investor Presentation



INVESTAR'



This presentation contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that reflect Investar's current views with respect to, among other things, future events and financial performance. Investar generally identifies forward-looking statements by terminology such as "outlook," "believes," "expects," "potential," "continues," "may," "will," "could," "should," "seeks," "approximately," "predicts," "intends," "plans," "estimates," "anticipates," or the negative version of those words or other comparable words.

Any forward-looking statements contained in this presentation are based on the historical performance of Investar and its subsidiaries or on Investar's current plans, estimates and expectations. The inclusion of this forward-looking information should not be regarded as a representation by Investar that the future plans, estimates or expectations by Investar will be achieved. Such forward-looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties and assumptions relating to Investar's operations, financial condition, business prospects, growth strategy and liquidity. If one or more of these or other risks or uncertainties materialize, or if Investar's underlying assumptions prove to be incorrect, Investar's actual results may vary materially from those indicated in these statements. Investar does not undertake any obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

A number of important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by the forward-looking statements. These factors include, but are not limited to, the following, any one or more of which could materially affect the outcome of future events: (1) the significant risks and uncertainties for our business, results of operations and financial condition, as well as our regulatory capital and liquidity ratios and other regulatory requirements caused by business and economic conditions generally and in the financial services industry in particular, whether nationally, regionally or in the markets in which we operate; (2) changes in inflation, interest rates, yield curves and interest rate spread relationships that affect our loan and deposit pricing; (3) our ability to successfully execute our near-term strategy to pivot from primarily a growth strategy to a strategy primarily focused on consistent, quality earnings through the optimization of our balance sheet, and our ability to successfully execute a long-term growth strategy; (4) our ability to achieve organic loan and deposit growth, and the composition of that growth: (5) our ability to identify and enter into agreements to combine with attractive acquisition candidates, finance acquisitions, complete acquisitions, after definitive agreements are entered into, and successfully integrate and grow acquired operations; (6) our adoption on January 1, 2023 of ASU 2016-13, and inaccuracy of the assumptions and estimates we make in establishing reserves for credit losses and other estimates; (7) changes in the quality or composition of our loan or investment portfolios, including adverse developments in borrower industries or in the repayment ability of individual borrowers; (8) a reduction in liquidity, including as a result of a reduction in the amount of deposits we hold or other sources of liquidity, which may be caused by, among other things, disruptions in the banking industry similar to those that occurred in early 2023 that caused bank depositors to move uninsured deposits to other banks or alternative investments outside the banking industry; (9) changes in the quality and composition of, and changes in unrealized losses in, our investment portfolio, including whether we may have to sell securities before their recovery of amortized cost basis and realize losses; (10) the extent of continuing client demand for the high level of personalized service that is a key element of our banking approach as well as our ability to execute our strategy generally; (11) our dependence on our management team, and our ability to attract and retain qualified personnel; (12) the concentration of our business within our geographic areas of operation in Louisiana, Texas and Alabama; (13) increasing costs of complying with new and potential future regulations; (14) new or increasing geopolitical tensions, including resulting from wars in Ukraine and Israel and surrounding areas; (15) the emergence or worsening of widespread public health challenges or pandemics including COVID-19; (16) concentration of credit exposure; (17) any deterioration in asset quality and higher loan charge-offs, and the time and effort necessary to resolve problem assets; (18) fluctuations in the price of oil and natural gas; (19) data processing system failures and errors; (20) risks associated with our digital transformation process, including increased risks of cyberattacks and other security breaches and challenges associated with addressing the increased prevalence of artificial intelligence; (21) risks of losses resulting from increased fraud attacks against us and others in the financial services industry, (22) potential impairment of our goodwill and other intangible assets; and (23) hurricanes, tropical storms, tropical depressions, floods, winter storms, droughts and other adverse weather events, all of which have affected Investor's market areas from time to time; other natural disasters; oil spills and other man-made disasters; acts of terrorism; other international or domestic calamities; acts of God; and other matters beyond our control

These factors should not be construed as exhaustive. Additional information on these and other risk factors can be found in Part I Item 1A. "Risk Factors" and in the "Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" in Part II Item 7. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in Investar's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2022 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") and in Part II Item 1A. "Risk Factors" in Investar's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2023, June 30, 2023, and September 30, 2023 filed with the SEC.

#### Non-GAAP Financial Measures

This presentation contains financial information determined by methods other than in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America, or GAAP. These measures and ratios include "tangible common equity," "tangible assets," "tangible equity to tangible assets," "tangible book value per common share," "core noninterest income," "core earnings before noninterest expense," "core noninterest expense," "core earnings before income tax expense," "core income tax expense," "core earnings," "core earnings," "core earnings before income tax expense," and "core diluted earnings per share," and "core earnings per share," "core noninterest expense," "core earnings per share," core earnings per share," core earnings per share," core earnings per share, "core earnings per share," core earnings per share, "core earnings per share," core earnings per share," core earnings per share, "core earnings per share," core earnings per souls, "core earnings per share," core earnings per souls, "core earnings per souls, "core earnings per share," core earnings per souls, "core earnings per share," core earnings per souls, "core earnings per souls, "core earnings per

INVESTAR HOLDING CORPORATION

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# Investar Holding Corp. is the Bank Holding Company for Investar Bank



- Founded in 2006
- Full service, commercially-oriented community bank
- 28 branches across Alabama, Louisiana and Texas
- Initial public offering and Nasdaq listing in 2014
- Completed 7 whole bank acquisitions and 1 branch transaction
- 41 consecutive quarters of dividends paid; 9 consecutive years of dividend growth







# **Managing Through Volatility**

- After seven rate hikes during 2022, the Federal Reserve continued its tightening cycle with four additional rate hikes in 2023, raising the target rate to 5.25% to 5.50%. We have continued to remain focused on consistently optimizing loan, deposit and other funding options.
- In response to disruptions in the banking industry in the first quarter of 2023, we formed an internal task force that met frequently to review our liquidity position and sources and took steps to inform our customers about our financial position, liquidity and insured deposit products.

# **Controlling Non-Interest Expense**

- Exhibited our ability to control expenses and continued to make progress towards our strategic priorities including optimization of the branch network and digital initiatives.
- Significant efficiency initiatives executed in 2023:
  - Completed the sale of our two South Texas branches
  - Consolidated one branch in our Louisiana market
  - Ceased operation of 14 ATMs

## Capital

- Remained well-capitalized
- Stockholders' equity increased \$11.0 million, or 5.1%, to \$226.8 million at December 31, 2023 compared to December 31, 2022.



# **Balance Sheet Optimization**

- Pivoted from a growth strategy to a focus on consistent, quality earnings and disciplined capital allocation.
- Acquired variable-rate, commercial and industrial revolving lines of credit with an unpaid principal balance totaling \$163 million and commitments totaling \$238 million.
- Made the strategic decision to exit the consumer mortgage origination business to transition into shorter duration, higher risk-adjusted return asset classes.

# **Credit Quality**

- Increased focus on underwriting high quality credits that are less susceptible to
  effects from a potential economic downturn and continued to de-risk the
  portfolio by proactively exiting credit relationships that do not fit this strategy.
- Transitioned to CECL as of January 1, 2023; Robust ACL at 1.38% of total loans as of December 31, 2023.
- As a result of our diligent workout process, we reached resolution on two relationships, resulting in net recoveries of \$2.4 million during the second quarter of 2023 and interest recoveries of \$1.1 million during the fourth quarter of 2023.

## Shareholder Return

- We repurchased 222,448 shares of our common stock during 2023 at an average price of \$13.47 per share, which represents a discount to tangible book value of 29% as of December 31, 2023.
- In July 2023, the Board of Directors authorized an additional 350,000 shares for repurchase under our stock repurchase program.
- Increased dividends by 8% to \$0.395 per share for 2023 from \$0.365 per share for 2022.

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#### **Balance Sheet Optimization and Capital**

- As we look forward into 2024, we are continuing to focus on consistent, quality earnings through the optimization and right-sizing of the balance sheet. This will allow
  for repayment of higher cost borrowings with cash flows from loan and investment security maturities.
- During the 4th quarter, we completed the purchase of the approximately \$127 million second tranche of the previously announced acquisition of approximately \$163 million of revolving lines of credit. The loans are variable-rate and short-term in nature. The transaction is accretive to our core financial metrics, immediately increasing expected per share returns to our stockholders.
- Variable-rate loans as a percentage of total loans was 27% at December 31, 2023 compared to 22% at September 30, 2023.
- Remained focused on building capital levels through organic earnings coupled with strategic management of the balance sheet, including disciplined pace of share repurchases.

#### **Credit Quality and Resolution**

- During the 4th quarter, due to our diligent workout process, we reached final resolution on a nonperforming oil and gas relationship and recognized an interest recovery of \$1.1 million.
- Nonaccrual loans have declined by \$27.0 million to \$5.8 million since the 3rd quarter of 2021. Nonperforming assets to total assets remained strong at 0.36% at December 31, 2023 and September 30, 2023. The allowance for credit losses to nonperforming loans was 529.3% at December 31, 2023 compared to 534.1% at September 30, 2023.
- We continued to originate high quality loans and allow higher risk credit relationships to run off.

### **Expense Control and Efficiency**

- Despite inflationary pressures and growth in our total assets, we reduced 2023 year to date core noninterest expense by approximately \$0.6 million to \$61.8 million from \$62.4 million in 2022.1
- Our digital transformation and optimization of our physical branch and ATM footprint progressed as we consolidated another branch in our Alabama market in January 2024.



<sup>1</sup> Non-GAAP financial measure; please see appendix for additional details



# Financial Overview – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023

## **Highlights**

- Recorded quarterly net income of \$3.5 million in the 4th quarter.
- Total revenues, or interest and noninterest income, for the 4th quarter totaled \$38.4 million, an increase of \$3.6 million, or 10.4%, compared to the 3rd quarter.
- Repurchased 31,766 shares during the 4th quarter at an average price of \$10.43 and 222,448 shares during 2023 at an average price of \$13.47.

## Liquidity

- Total deposits increased \$46.3 million, or 2.1%, at December 31, 2023 to \$2.26 billion compared to \$2.21 billion at September 30, 2023.
- Utilized the Federal Reserve's Bank Term Funding Program ("BTFP") to secure fixed rate funding for up to a one-year term and reduced short-term FHLB advances, which are priced daily. The Bank utilized this source of funding due to its lower rate, the ability to prepay the obligations without penalty, and as a means to lock in funding.
- Refinanced all of our borrowings under the BTFP at a lower rate.

## Loans and Credit Quality

- Total loans increased \$107.6 million, or 5.1%, to \$2.21 billion at December 31, 2023 compared to \$2.10 billion at September 30, 2023.
- Completed the previously announced loan purchase agreement to acquire commercial and industrial revolving lines of credit with an unpaid principal balance of \$163 million in two tranches and closed the \$127 million second tranche in the 4th quarter.
- Excluding the tranche of revolving lines of credit purchased in the fourth quarter of 2023, total loans decreased \$19.4 million, or 0.9%, to \$2.08 billion at December 31, 2023, compared to \$2.10 billion at September 30, 2023 consistent with our strategy to optimize the balance sheet.
- Nonperforming loans were 0.26% of total loans at December 31, 2023 compared to 0.27% of total loans at September 30, 2023.

ioans at septer	HDEI 30, 2023.				
INVESTAR® HOLDING CORPORATION					
HOLDING CORPORATION	<sup>1</sup> Non-GAAP financial	measure; please	see appendix	for additional	details

4th Quarter Results	
Balance Sheet (in millions)	
Assets	\$ 2,815
Net Loans	\$ 2,180
Deposits	\$ 2,256
Equity	\$ 227
100100000000000000000000000000000000000	
Holding Company Capital	
TCE/TA <sup>1</sup>	6.65%
Tier 1 Leverage Capital	8.35%
Common Equity Tier 1 Capital	9.51%
Tier 1 Capital	9.90%
Total Capital	12.99%
Profitability (dollars in thousands)	
Net Interest Margin	2.72%
ROAA	0.50%
ROAE	6.61%
Net Income	\$ 3,538
Pre-Tax, Pre-Provision Income <sup>1</sup>	\$ 4,806
Per Share Information	
Tangible Book Value <sup>1</sup>	\$ 18.92
Earnings (Diluted)	\$ 0.36
Dividends	\$ 0.10





#### John J. D'Angelo, President and Chief Executive Officer

Mr. D'Angelo has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company since our organization as a bank holding company in 2013. He has also served as the Bank's President and Chief Executive Officer since its organization in 2006. Prior to Investar Bank's organization, Mr. D'Angelo was manager of the private banking, small business banking, construction lending, brokerage and trust areas of Hibernia National Bank (the predecessor to Capital One Bank, N.A.) for more than six years in the East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, market. From 1996 to 2005, Mr. D'Angelo was president and director of Aegis Lending Corporation, a company with lending operations in 46 states and the District of Columbia.



#### John R. Campbell, Executive VP and Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Campbell joined the Bank in January 2023 as the Chief Financial Officer. Prior to joining the Bank, he served as the Director of Accounting and Corporate Controller for Laitram LLC, a global manufacturing company. Prior to joining Laitram LLC in 2005, Mr. Campbell served in corporate treasury, accounting and financial reporting, portfolio management, and lending roles for Hibernia National Bank for over ten years. Mr. Campbell also spent four years as an auditor with Ernst & Young LLP serving both public and privately-held clients in a variety of industries, including financial services. He has a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Louisiana State University and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant.



#### Jeffrey W. Martin, Executive VP and Chief Credit Officer

Mr. Martin joined the Bank in April 2020 as the Business Banking Director. In October 2021, he assumed the role of Chief Credit Officer. Prior to joining the Bank, he served as a Commercial Banking Executive for Regions Bank. He has over 30 years of banking experience, including senior roles in credit risk management, special assets, business development strategy and commercial banking.



#### Linda M. Crochet, Executive VP and Chief Operating Officer

Ms. Crochet joined the Bank in January 2019 as the Greater Baton Rouge Loan Portfolio President. In October 2021, she assumed the role of Chief Operations Officer of the Company and the Bank. Prior to joining the Bank, Ms. Crochet served as Senior Director of Credit Process and Technology within the Credit Risk Management department of Capital One Bank from 2005 to 2018. Ms. Crochet also spent 21 years at Hibernia National Bank, which was acquired by Capital One Bank in 2005, in various roles that include credit underwriting, credit policy, lending, and investor relations.





# VALUES

Integrity
Neighborly
Visionary
Empowerment
Star Service
Team Focused
Accountable
Responsive



# MISSION

## INVESTAR IS

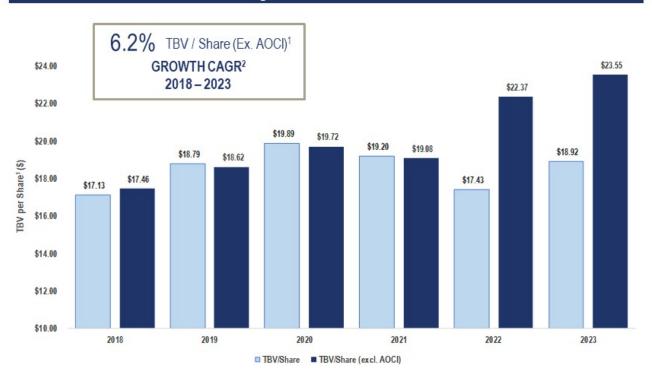
a dynamic full service community bank focused on relationships that create value and opportunities for our customers, employees, shareholders and the community served



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## Tangible Book Value Per Share<sup>1</sup>

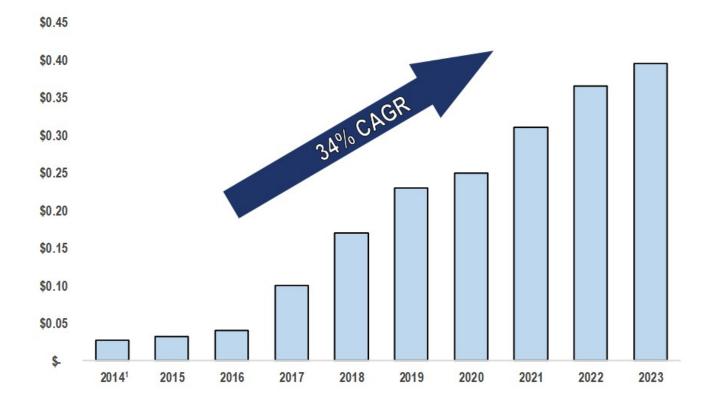




INVESTAR 1 Non-GAAP financial measure; please see appendix for additional details

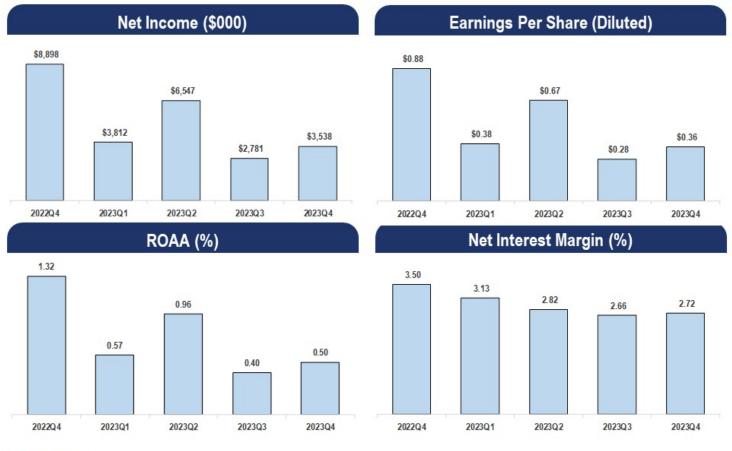
<sup>2</sup> Abbreviation for Compound Annual Growth Rate - for the period beginning December 31, 2018 and ending December 31, 2023





INVESTAR\* 1 Annualized based on 3rd quarter 2014 dividend of \$0.0068 plus 4th quarter 2014 dividend of \$0.007



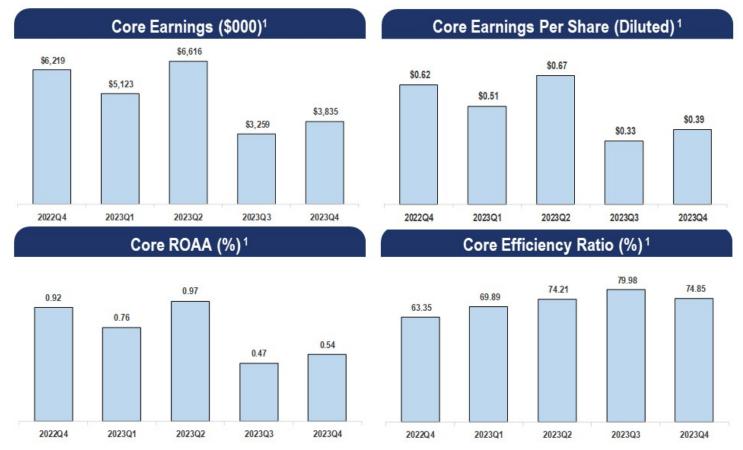


INVESTAR\*

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# **Recent Core Earnings Performance**

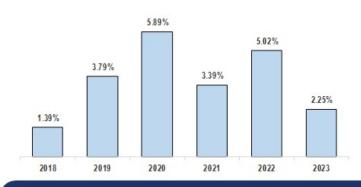




<sup>1</sup> Non-GAAP financial measure; please see the appendix for additional details



# Shares Repurchased (%)1



- In July 2023, the Board of Directors authorized an additional 350,000 shares for repurchase under our stock repurchase program.
- Repurchased 31,766 shares during the 4th quarter at an average price of \$10.43 and 222,448 shares year to date at an average price of \$13.47.
- QTD and YTD purchases represent discounts to tangible book value of 45% and 29%, respectively, as of December 31, 2023.

# **Dollars Returned to Shareholders (\$000)**



□ Cash Paid to Repurchase Shares □ Dividends Paid on Common Stock

- Since the inception of the stock repurchase program in 2015, the Company has paid \$47.7 million to repurchase 2,535,734 shares at an average price of \$18.82.
- The repurchase program is complemented by our ongoing quarterly shareholder dividend, which has increased at 34% per annum since our initial public offering to \$0.10 per share.

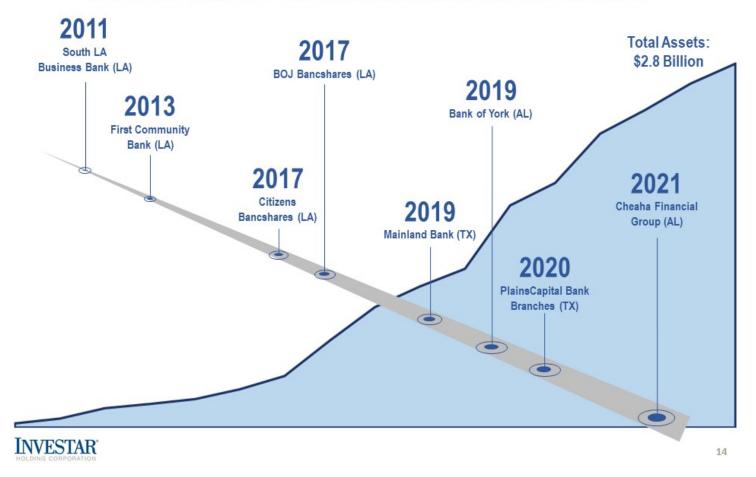


<sup>1</sup>Represents shares repurchased in period stated divided by common shares outstanding at prior period end.



## **Continued Execution of Acquisition Strategy**

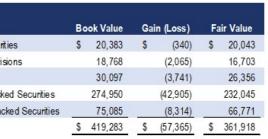
Investar Has Completed 7 Whole Bank Acquisitions and 1 Branch Transaction





# Investment Portfolio – 4th Quarter Update

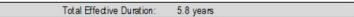
Available-for-Sale						
(Dollars in thousands)	В	ook Value	Ga	in (Loss)	F	air Value
U.S. Governmental Securities	S	20,383	S	(340)	S	20,043
State and Political Subdivisions		18,768		(2,065)		16,703
Corporate Bonds		30,097		(3,741)		26,356
Residential Mortgage-backed Securities		274,950		(42,905)		232,045
Commercial Mortgage-backed Securities		75,085		(8,314)		66,771
Total	\$	419,283	\$	(57,365)	\$	361,918

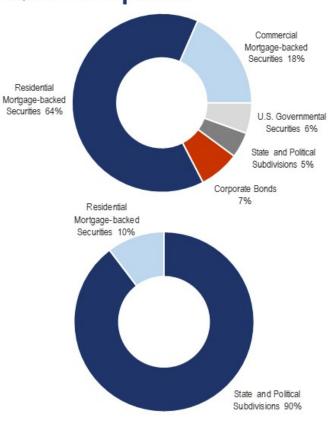


Available-for-Sale Portfolio Characteristics	
Weighted average modified duration	5.7 years
Current tax-equivalent yield	2.80%

Held-to-Maturity						
(Dollars in thousands)	Во	ok Value	Gair	ı (Loss)	Fa	ir Value
Residential Mortgage-backed Securities	S	2,309	S	(191)	\$	2,118
State and Political Subdivisions		18,163		232	08	18,395
Total	\$	20,472	S	41	\$	20,513

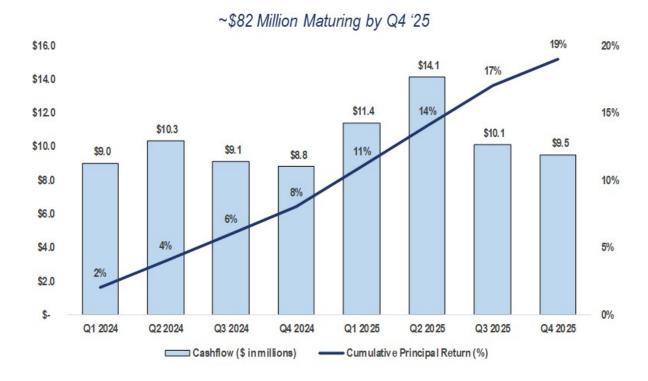
Held-to-Maturity Portfolio Chara	acteristics
Weighted average modified duration	7.1 years
Current tax-equivalent yield	5.09%









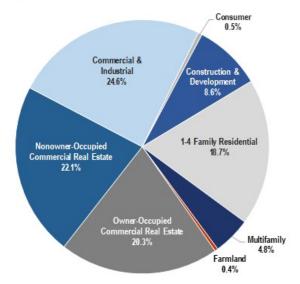






### Loan Portfolio – 4th Quarter Update

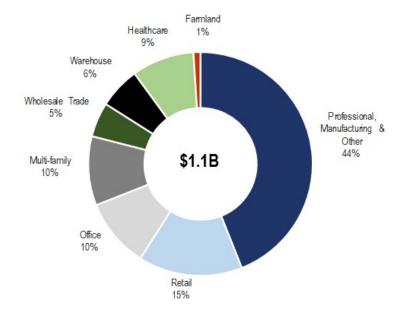
- Loan yield improved to 5.93% for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter compared to 5.53% for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
- Total loans increased \$107.6 million, or 5.1%, to \$2.21 billion at December 31, 2023, compared to \$2.10 billion at September 30, 2023.
- During the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, we entered into an agreement to acquire commercial and industrial loans with an unpaid principal balance of \$163 million.
  - The purchase of the first tranche of approximately \$36 million was completed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
  - The purchase of the second tranche of approximately \$127 million was completed in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.
- Increase in the business lending portfolio compared to September 30, 2023 is primarily driven by the purchase of commercial and industrial revolving lines of credit and loan growth in owner-occupied commercial real estate as we remain focused on relationship banking and our strategy to optimize the mix of the portfolio.



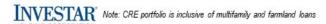
As of December 31, 2023

	Loan Portfolio Detail - Quarterly Lookback															
(Dollars in thousands)		3/31/2022		6/30/2022		9/30/2022		12/31/2022		3/31/2023		6/30/2023		9/30/2023		12/31/2023
Construction & Development	\$	201,221	S	214,543	\$	220,609	\$	201,633	S	210,274	\$	197,850	S	211,390	S	190,371
1-4 Family Residential		367,520		380,028		391,857		401,377		401,329		414,380		415,162		413,786
Multifamily		52,500		56,491		57,306		81,812		80,980		80,424		102,974		105,946
Farmland		18,296		15,676		14,202		12,877		10,731		8,434		8,259		7,651
Owner-Occupied Commercial Real Estate		436,763		440,714		445,671		445,148		433,585		441,393		440,208		449,610
Nonowner-Occupied Commercial Real Estate		471,447		451,108		464,520		513,095		533,572		530,820		501,649		488,098
Commercial & Industrial		314,093		343,355		397,759		435,093		425,093		399,488		411,290		543,421
Consumer	725	15,603	80	14,480	,0)	13,753	98.	13,732	225	13,480	300	12,074	3426	12,090		11,736
Total Loans	S	1,877,444	S	1,916,395	\$	2,005,677	\$	2,104,767	S	2,109,044	\$	2,084,863	\$	2,103,022	S	2,210,619

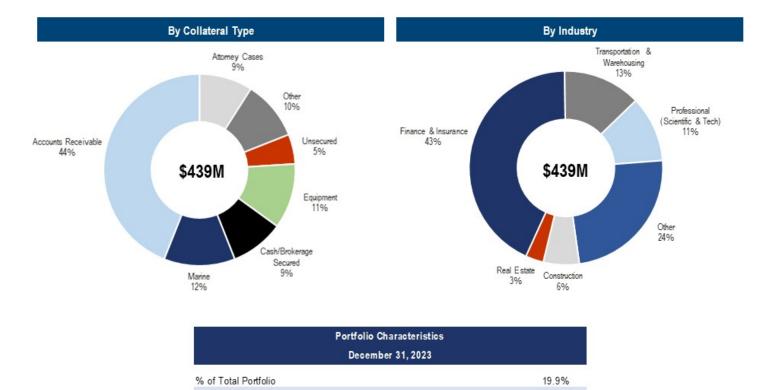




Portfolio Characteristics	
December 31, 2023	
% of Total Portfolio	47.6%
Owner-Occupied as % of CRE Portfolio	42.8%
Nonowner-Occupied Office as a % of Total Portfolio	4.7%
Average Loan Size	\$926K





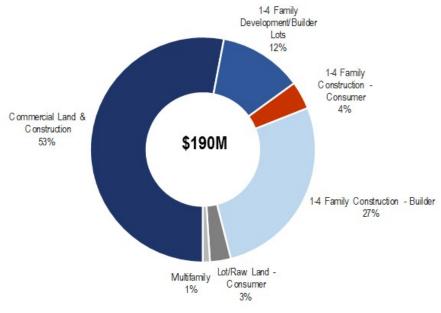




Average Loan Size

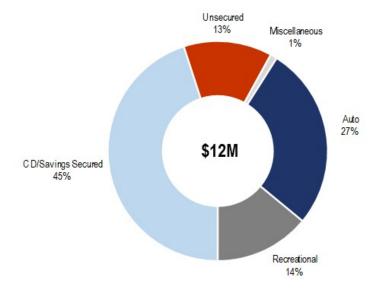
\$127K





Portfolio Charac	teristics
December 31	, 2023
% of Total Portfolio	8.6%
Average Loan Size	\$562K



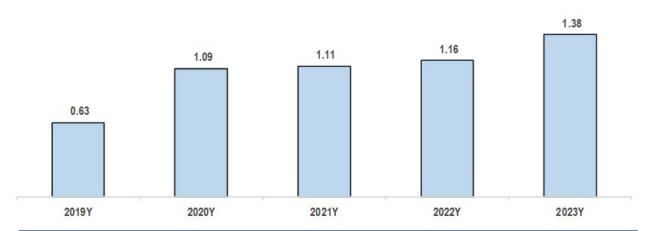


Portfolio Charact	eristics
December 31,	2023
% of Total Portfolio	0.5%
Av erage Loan Size	\$10K

INVESTAR\* Note: Since exiting the indirect auto loan origination business at the end of 2015, the Bank has experienced decreased loan sales and has ceased originations of consumer loans held for sale.



#### Allowance for Credit Losses / Total Loans (%)

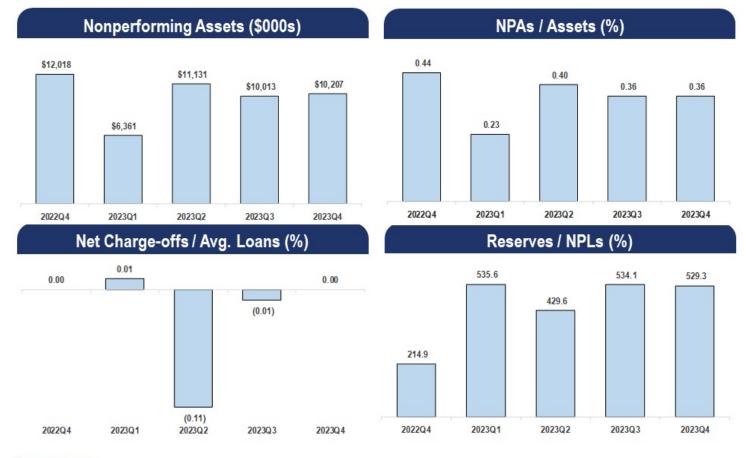


	For the Year Ended														
(Dollars in thousands)		12/31/2019		12/31/2020		12/31/2021		12/31/2022	12	31/2023					
Allowance for Credit Losses															
Allowance for Credit Losses - Beginning	\$	9,454	S	10,700	S	20,363	\$	20,859	\$	24,364					
ASC Topic 326 adoption impact <sup>1</sup>		-		-		-		-		5,865					
Provision for credit losses on loans		1,908		11,160		22,885		2,922		(1,964)					
Charge-offs & Adj.		(800)		(1,754)		(22,636)		(633)		(742)					
Recoveries		138	98	257	901	247		1,216	12	3,017					
Allowance for Credit Losses - Ending	S	10,700	\$	20,363	\$	20,859	S	24,364	\$	30,540					



INVESTAR\* Investar adopted the Current Expected Credit Loss accounting standard on January 1, 2023. Upon adoption, Investar recorded a one-time, cumulative effect adjustment to increase the allowance for credit losses by \$5.9 million and reduce retained earnings, net of tax, by \$4.3 million.



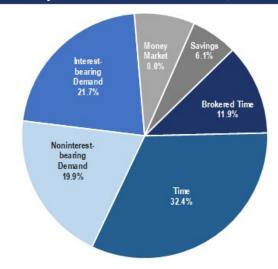


INVESTAR' HOLDING CORPORATION



- Total deposits increased \$46.3 million, or 2.1%, to \$2.26 billion at December 31, 2023, compared to \$2.21 billion at September 30, 2023.
- Beginning in the fourth quarter of 2022, management utilized brokered time deposits, entirely in denominations of less than \$250,000, to secure fixed cost funding and reduce shortterm borrowings. The remaining weighted average duration of brokered time deposits is approximately 12 months with a weighted average rate of 5.18%.
- We utilized shorter term brokered time deposits, which were laddered to provide flexibility, to fund a portion of the purchase of commercial and industrial revolving lines of credit.

#### Deposit Mix at December 31, 2023

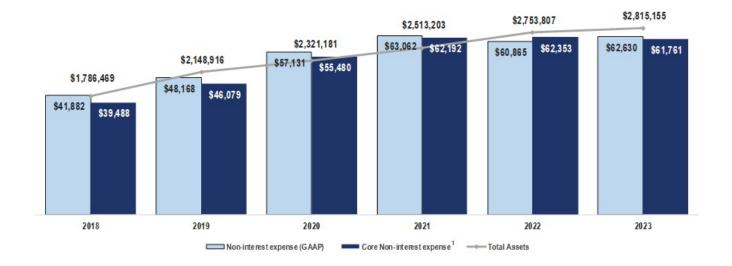


(Dollars in thousands)	-	Deposit Composition - Quarterly Lookback																
	12	12/31/2021		3/31/2022		6/30/2022		9/30/2022		12/31/2022		3/31/2023	- (	6/30/2023		9/30/2023	12/31/2023	
Noninterest-bearing Demand	\$	585,465	\$	614,416	S	615,779	\$	590,610	\$	580,741	\$	508,241	\$	488,311	\$	459,519	\$	448,752
Interest-bearing Demand		650,868		710,914		647,277		624,025		565,598		538,515		514,501		482,706		489,604
Money Market		255,501		276,112		243,795		251,213		208,596		180,402		158,984		186,478		179,366
Savings		180,837		182,532		176,760		167,131		155,176		137,336		125,442		131,743		137,606
Brokered Time		-		-		-		-		9,990		146,270		153,365		197,747		269,102
Time		447,595		402,030		379,059		419,704		562,264		634,883		740,250		751,240		731,297
Total Deposits	\$ :	2,120,266	\$	2,186,004	\$	2,062,670	\$	2,052,683	\$	2,082,365	\$	2,145,647	\$	2,180,853	\$	2,209,433	\$	2,255,727
Total Deposit Interest Rate <sup>1</sup>		0.22%		0.18%		0.17%		0.25%		0.58%		1.20%		1.78%		2.14%		2.54%



<sup>1</sup> Non-GAAP financial measure; please see appendix for additional details







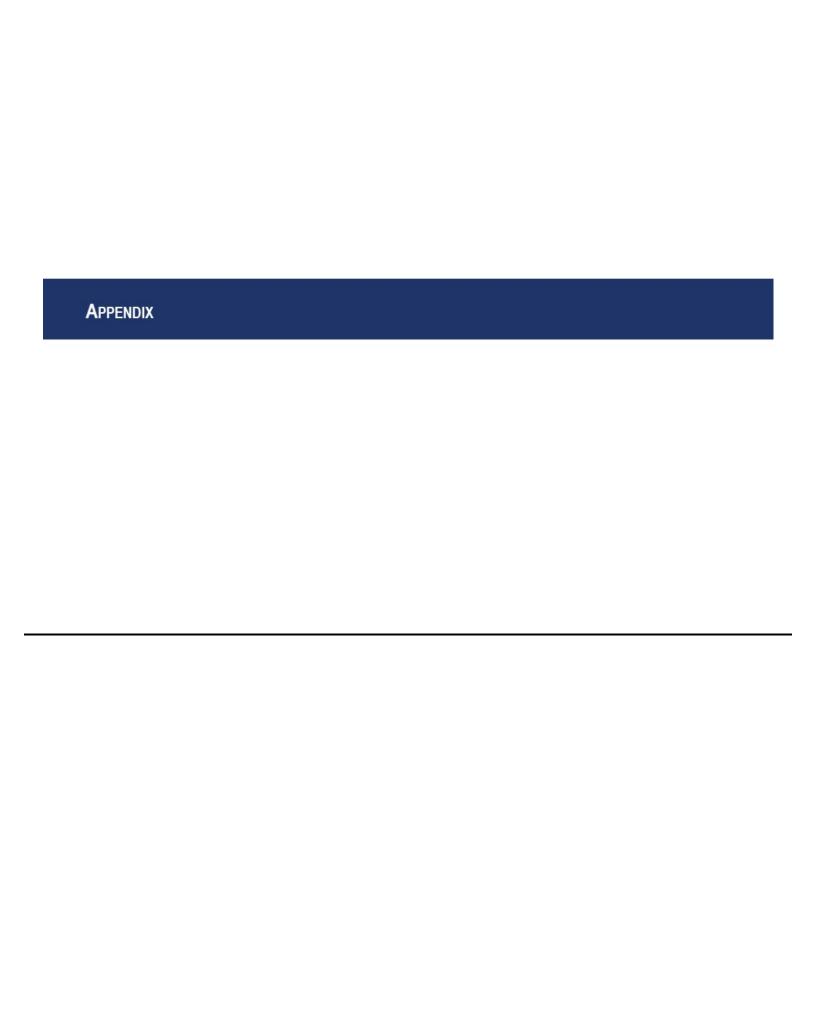
 ${\bf INVESTAR}^{\circ} \quad {}^{1}{\it Non-GAAP financial measure; please see appendix for additional details}$ 



1.00				As o	f December 31	1,				For the Three Months Ended									
(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)	201	9	2020		2021	202	22	11	2023	3/3	1/2023	6/3	0/2023	9/3	80/2023	12	31/2023		
Balance Sheet																			
Total Assets	\$ 2.148	8.916	\$ 2.321.18	1 5	2.513.203	\$ 2.75	3.807	\$ 2	2.815.155	\$ 2	751,669	\$ 2	753,674	\$ 2	789.533	\$ 2	.815,155		
Total Loans	\$ 1,691	1,975	\$ 1,860,31	3 \$	1,872,012	\$ 2,10	4,767	\$ 2	2,210,619	\$ 2	109,044	\$ 2	084,863	\$ 2	,103,022	\$ 2	210,619		
Total Deposits	\$ 1,707	7,706	\$ 1,887,82	1 \$	2,120,266	\$ 2,08	2,365	\$ 2	2,255,727	\$ 2	145,647	\$ 2	180,853		,209,433	\$ 2	255,727		
Lo ans/Deposits	99	.08%	98.54	%	88.29%	10	1.08%		98.00%		98.29%		95.60%		95.18%		98.00%		
Capital																			
TCA/TA <sup>1</sup>	9	96%	9.22	%	8.04%		6.37%		6.65%		6.48%		6.48%		6.05%		6.65%		
Total Capital	15	.02%	14.71	%	12.99%	1:	3.25%		12.99%		13.24%		13.49%		12.87%		12.99%		
Tier 1 Capital	12	2.03%	11.36	%	9.90%	1	0.21%		9.90%		10.06%		10.28%		9.79%		9.90%		
Tier 1 Leverage Capital	10	.45%	9.49	%	8.12%		8.53%		8.35%		8.30%		8.45%		8.53%		8.35%		
Profita bility Measures																			
Net Interest Margin	3	51%	3.49	%	3.53%		3.67%		2.83%		3.13%		2.82%		2.66%		2.72%		
Non Interest Income / Average Assets	0	31%	0.53	%	0.47%		0.70%		0.24%		0.16%		0.30%		0.24%		0.25%		
Non Interest Expense / Average Assets	2	.44%	2.51	%	2.45%		2.34%		2.27%		2.40%		222%		229%		2.17%		
Efficiency Ratio	67	.81%	66.72	%	65.79%	5	6.29%		77.26%		76.12%		74.50%		82.56%		76.26%		
ROAA	0	.85%	0.61	%	0.31%		1.37%		0.60%		0.57%		0.96%		0.40%		0.50%		
ROÆ	8	21%	5.77	%	3.22%	1	5.63%		7.63%		7.04%		11.85%		5.01%		6.61%		
Diluted Earnings Per Share	\$	1.66	\$ 1.2	7 \$	0.76	\$	3.50	\$	1.69	\$	0.38	\$	0.67	\$	0.28	\$	0.36		
Net Income	\$ 16	6,839	\$ 13,88	9 \$	8,000	\$ 3	5,709	\$	16,678	\$	3,812	\$	6,547	\$	2,781	\$	3,538		
Asset Quality																			
NPAs / Assets	0	30%	0.62	%	1.28%		0.44%		0.36%		0.23%		0.40%		0.36%		0.36%		
NCOs / Avg Loans	0	.04%	0.08	%	1.18%	-	0.03%		-0.11%		0.01%		-0.11%		-0.01%		0.00%		



INVESTAR HOLDING CORPORATION 1 Non-GAAP financial measure; please see appendix for additional details





distribution to the country	100		As	of	December 3	1.			For the Three Months Ended								
(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)		2019	2020		2021		2022	2023		3/31/2023	(	6/30/2023		9/30/2023	1	2/31/2023	
Tangible common equity:																	
Total stockholders' equity	\$	241,976	\$ 243,284	\$	242,598	\$	215,782	\$ 226,768	\$	218,458	\$	218,357	\$	208,717	\$	226,768	
Adjustments:																	
Goodwill		(26,132)	(28,144)		(40,088)		(40,088)	(40,088)		(40,088)		(40,088)		(40,088)		(40,088)	
Otherintangibles		(4,903)	(4,088)		(3,948)		(3,059)	(2,232)		(2,776)		(2,589)		(2,408)		(2,232)	
Tangible common equity	\$	210,941	\$ 211,052	\$	198,562	\$	172,635	\$ 184,448	\$	175,594	\$	175,680	\$	166,221	\$	184,448	
AOCI		1,891	1,805		1,163		(48,913)	(45,147)	_	(44,250)		(49,165)		(60,452)		(45, 147)	
Tangible common equity excluding AOCI	\$	209,050	\$ 209,247	\$	197,399	\$	221,548	\$ 229,595	\$	219,844	\$	224,845	\$	226,673	\$	229,595	
Common shares outstanding	1	11,228,775	10,608,829		10,343,494		9,901,847	9,748,067		9,900,648		9,831,145		9,779,688		9,748,067	
Book value percommon share	\$	21.55	\$ 22.93	\$	23.45	\$	21.79	\$ 23.26	\$	22.07	\$	22.20	\$	21.34	\$	23.26	
Tangible book value per common share	\$	18.79	\$ 19.89	\$	19.20	\$	17.43	\$ 18.92	\$	17.74	\$	17.87	\$	17.00	\$	18.92	
Tangible book value per common share excluding AOCI	\$	18.62	\$ 19.72	\$	19.08	\$	22.37	\$ 23.55	\$	22.21	\$	22.87	\$	23.18	\$	23.55	
Tangible assets:																	
Total assets	\$	2,148,916	\$ 2,321,181	\$	2,513,203	\$	2,753,807	\$ 2,815,155	\$	2,751,669	\$	2,753,674	\$	2,789,533	\$	2,815,155	
Adjustments:																	
Goodwill		(26,132)	(28,144)		(40,088)		(40,088)	(40,088)		(40,088)		(40,088)		(40,088)		(40,088)	
Otherintangibles		(4,903)	(4,088)		(3,948)		(3,059)	(2,232)		(2,776)		(2,589)		(2,408)		(2,232)	
Tangible assets	\$	2,117,881	\$ 2,288,949	\$	2,469,167	\$	2,710,660	\$ 2,772,835	\$	2,708,805	\$	2,710,997	\$	2,747,037	\$	2,772,835	
Total stockholders' equity to total assets ratio		11.26%	10.48%		9.65%		7.84%	8.06%		7.94%		7.93%		7.48%		8.06%	
Tangible common equity to tangible assets ratio		9.96%	9.22%		8.04%		6.37%	6.65%		6.48%		6.48%		6.05%		6.65%	





(Dollars in thousands)	For the Three Months Ended													
	6/30/2022		9/30/2022		12/31/2022		3/31/2023		6/30/2023		9/30/2023		12/31/2023	
Net Income	\$	9,404	\$	7,304	\$	8,898	\$	3,812	\$	6,547	\$	2,781	\$	3,538
Plus: Provision for Credit Losses		941		1,162		1,268		388		(2,840)		(34)		486
Plus: Income Tax Expense		2,459		1,699		1,881		874		1,509		585		782
Pre-Tax, Pre-Provision Net Income	\$	12,804	\$	10,165	\$	12.047	\$	5,074	s	5,216	s	3,332	s	4,806





(Dollars in thousands) Interest on Deposits						For	the Three Months	s Ended												
	12/31	12/31/2021 3/31/2022		6/30/2022	9/30/2022	12/31/2022	3/31/2023	6/30/2023	9/30/2023	12/31/2023										
	\$	1,217	\$ 97	6	\$ 907	\$ 1,315	\$ 3,052	\$ 6,221	\$ 9,534	\$ 11,733	\$ 14,584									
Average Interest-Bearing Deposits	1,5	97,556	1,576,64	3	1,498,354	1,456,826	1,482,268	1,557,665	1,655,506	1,707,848	1,824,318									
Average Non interest-Bearing Deposits	6	03,162	586,55	6	611,618	612,777	590,020	550,503	490,123	462,525	454,89									
Average Total Deposits	2,2	00,718	2,163,19	9	2,109,972	2,069,603	2,072,288	2,108,168	2,145,629	2,170,373	2,279,21									
Total Deposit Interest Rate		0.22%	0.18	1%	0.17%	0.25%	0.58%	120%	1.78%	2.14%	2.54%									





# Non-GAAP Reconciliation (continued)

	100			Fo	r the Th	ree Months Er	nded				
(Dollars in thousands)	12	/31/2022	3/	31/2023	6/	6/30/2023		9/30/2023		/31/2023	
Net interest income	\$	22,519	\$	20,173	\$	18,387	\$	17,469	\$	18,491	
Provision for credit losses		1,268		388		(2,840)		(34)		486	
Net interest income after provision for credit losses	\$	21,251	\$	19,785	\$	21,227	\$	17,503	\$	18,005	
Noninterest income		3,441		1,076		2,070		1,637		1,755	
Loss on call orsale of investment securities, net		-		1		-		-		322	
Loss on sale or disposition of fixed assets, net		67		859		58		367		39	
(Gain) loss on sale of other real estate owned, net		(2)		142		(5)		(23)		-	
Gain on sale of loans <sup>1</sup>		-		(75)		-		-		21	
Change in the fair value of equity securities		(12)		4		107		(22)		(24)	
Incom e from insurance proceeds <sup>2</sup>		(1,384)		-		-		-		-	
Change in the net asset value of other investments <sup>3</sup>	-	44		33	2	(78)		105	10	(43)	
Core noninterest income	\$	2,154	\$	2,040	\$	2,152	\$	2,064	\$	2,049	
Core earnings before non interest expense		23,405		21,825		23,379		19,567		20,054	
Total noninterest expense		13,913		16,175		15,241		15,774		15,440	
Se verance <sup>4</sup>		(624)		-		-		(123)		-	
Employee retention credit, net of consulting fees <sup>5</sup>		2,342		12		112		_		_	
Divestiture expense <sup>6</sup>		-		(651)		-		-		-	
Loan purchase expense <sup>7</sup>		1940		390				(29)		(66)	
Core noninterest expense	\$	15,631	\$	15,524	\$	15,241	\$	15,622	\$	15,374	
Core earnings before income tax expense	\$	7,774	\$	6,301	\$	8,138	\$	3,945	\$	4,680	
Core income tax expense <sup>8</sup>		1,555		1,178		1,522		686		847	
Core earnings	\$	6,219	\$	5,123	\$	6,616	\$	3,259	\$	3,833	





		For the Three Months Ended													
(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)  Core basic earnings per common share	1	2/31/2022		3/31/2023		6/30/2023	1111	9/30/2023	12/31/2023						
	\$	0.63	\$	0.52	\$	0.67	\$	0.33	\$	0.39					
Diluted earnings per common share (GAAP)		0.88		0.38		0.67		0.28		0.36					
Loss on call or sale of investment securities, net		2		2		(2)		-		0.03					
Loss on sale or disposition of fixed assets, net		0.01		0.07		-		0.03							
(Gain) loss on sale of other real estate owned, net		0		0.01		72		-		12					
Gain on sale of loans <sup>1</sup>		-		(0.01)		-		-		-					
Change in the fair value of equity securities		-		-		0.01		-		-					
In come fromin surance proceeds <sup>2</sup>		(0.14)		-		-		-		-					
Change in the net asset value of other investments <sup>3</sup>		-		-		(0.01)		0.01		-					
Severance <sup>4</sup>		0.05		2		-		0.01		-					
Employee retention credit, net of consulting fees <sup>5</sup>		(0.18)		U		721		-		2					
Divestiture expense <sup>6</sup>		-		0.06		-		-		-					
Loan purchase expense <sup>7</sup>		-		5		0.57		(5)		-					
Core diluted earnings per common share	\$	0.62	\$	0.51	\$	0.67	\$	0.33	\$	0.39					
Efficiency Ratio		53.59%		76.12%		74.50%		82.56%		76.26%					
Core Efficiency Ratio		63.35%		69.89%		74.21%		79.98%		74.85%					
Core return on average assets <sup>9</sup>		0.92%		0.76%		0.97%		0.47%		0.54%					
Total average assets	\$	2,677,604	\$	2,735,823	S	2,748,171	\$	2,736,358	S	2,817,388					





- 1 Adjustment to noninterest income recorded upon completion of the sale of the Alice and Victoria branches for remaining discount on loans sold.
- 2 Income from insurance proceeds represents nontaxable income related to an insurance policy for a former chief financial officer of the Company and the Bank.
- <sup>3</sup> Change in net asset value of other investments represents unrealized gains or losses on Investar's investments in Small Business Investment Companies and other investment funds and is included in other operating income in the accompanying consolidated statements of income.
- <sup>4</sup> Severance in the third quarter of 2023 is directly attributable to Investar's exit from its consumer mortgage origination business, consisting of salaries and employee benefits. Severance in the fourth quarter of 2022 represents a comprehensive severance package for a former chief financial officer of the Company and the Bank.
- <sup>5</sup> Employee retention credit represents a broad based refundable payroll tax credit that incentivized businesses to retain employees on the payroll during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- <sup>6</sup> Adjustments to noninterest expenses directly attributable to the sale of the Alice and Victoria, Texas branch locations, consisting of \$0.4 million of occupancy expense to terminate the remaining contractually obligated lease payments, \$0.1 million of salaries and employee benefits for severance, \$0.1 million of professional fees for legal and consulting services, and \$0.1 million of depreciation and amortization to accelerate the amortization of the remaining core deposit intangible.
- 7 Adjustments to noninterest expense directly attributable to the purchase of loans, consisting of professional fees for legal and consulting services.
- <sup>8</sup> Core income tax expense is calculated using the effective tax rates of 18.1%, 17.4%, 18.7%, and 18.7% for the quarters ended December 31, 2023, September 30, 2023, June 30, 2023, and March 31, 2023, respectively. Core income tax expense for the quarter ended December 31, 2022 is calculated using an effective tax rate of 20.0%, which is adjusted to account for the exclusion of the income from insurance proceeds, which is nontaxable income, from the calculation of core earnings.
- <sup>9</sup>Core earnings used in calculation. No adjustments were made to average assets.





(Dollars in thousands)	2018		2019			2020		2021		2022		2023	
Total noninterest expense	\$	41,882	\$	48,168	\$	57, 131	\$	63,062	\$	60,865	\$	62,630	
Severance		(293)		-		(289)		(181)		(632)		(123)	
Loan purchase expense		-		-		-		-		-		(95)	
Acquisition expense		(1,445)		(2,089)		(1,062)		(2,448)		-		-	
Employee retention credit, net of consulting fees		-		-				1,759		2,342			
Loss on early extinguishment of subordinated debt		-		-		-		-		(222)		-	
Divestiture expense		-		-		-		-		-		(651)	
PPP incentive		0.50		-		(200)		-		-		-	
Com m unity grant				-		(100)		-		-		-	
Write down of other real estate owned		(567)		-		-		1923		- 0		12	
Non-routine legal expense		(89)		-		-		-		-		-	
Core noninterest expense	S	39,488	S	46.079	S	55,480	S	62,192	S	62.353	S	61,761	



