HANMI FINANCIAL CORP
Form 10-K
March 01, 2019

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-K
x ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2018
or
¨ TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the Transition Period From To
Commission File Number: 000-30421
HANMI FINANCIAL CORPORATION
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware	95-4788120
(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
3660 Wilshire Boulevard, Penthouse Suite A Los Angeles, California	90010
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)	(Zip Code)

(213) 382-2200
(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)
Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Common Stock, $0.001 Par Value	Nasdaq Global Select Market

Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:
None
(Title of Class)
Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes x No ¨
Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes ¨ No x
Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes x No ¨
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes x No ¨
Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of Registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. ¨
Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large Accelerated Filer	x	Accelerated Filer	¨
Non-Accelerated Filer	¨	Smaller Reporting Company	¨

Emerging Growth Company ¨
If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ¨
Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act).
Yes ¨ No x
As of June 30, 2018, the aggregate market value of the common stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant was approximately $897,084,000. For purposes of the foregoing calculation only, in addition to affiliated companies, all directors and officers of the Registrant have been deemed affiliates.
Number of shares of common stock of the Registrant outstanding as of February 26, 2019 was 30,922,849 shares.
Documents Incorporated By Reference Herein: Sections of the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement for its 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which will be filed within 120 days of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this report (or information will be provided by amendment to this Form 10-K), as noted therein.

Hanmi Financial Corporation
Annual Report on Form 10-K for the Fiscal Year ended December 31, 2018
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Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Some of the statements contained in this Annual Report on Form 10-K (this “Report”) are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). All statements in this Report other than statements of historical fact are “forward–looking statements” for purposes of federal and state securities laws, including, but not limited to, statements about anticipated future operating and financial performance, financial position and liquidity, business strategies, regulatory and competitive outlook, investment and expenditure plans, capital and financing needs, plans and objectives of management for future operations, and other similar forecasts and statements of expectation and statements of assumption underlying any of the foregoing. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “could,” “expects,” “plans,” “intends,” “anticipate “believes,” “estimates,” “predicts,” “potential,” or “continue,” or the negative of such terms and other comparable terminology Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. These statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance, strategies, outlook, needs, plans, objectives or achievements to differ from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statement. These factors include the following: failure to maintain adequate levels of capital and liquidity to support our operations; the effect of potential future supervisory action against us or Hanmi Bank; general economic and business conditions internationally, nationally and in those areas in which we operate; volatility and deterioration in the credit and equity markets; changes in consumer spending, borrowing and savings habits; availability of capital from private and government sources; demographic changes; competition for loans and deposits and failure to attract or retain loans and deposits; fluctuations in interest rates and a decline in the level of our interest rate spread; risks of natural disasters related to our real estate portfolio; risks associated with Small Business Administration loans; failure to attract or retain key employees; our ability to access cost-effective funding; fluctuations in real estate values; changes in accounting policies and practices; the imposition of tariffs or other domestic or international governmental policies impacting the value of the products of our borrowers; changes in governmental regulation, including, but not limited to, any increase in Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insurance premiums; ability of Hanmi Bank to make distributions to Hanmi Financial Corporation, which is restricted by certain factors, including Hanmi Bank’s retained earnings, net income, prior distributions made, and certain other financial tests; ability to identify a suitable strategic partner or to consummate a strategic transaction; adequacy of our allowance for loan and lease losses; credit quality and the effect of credit quality on our provision for loan and lease losses and allowance for loan and lease losses; changes in the financial performance and/or condition of our borrowers and the ability of our borrowers to perform under the terms of their loans and other terms of credit agreements; our ability to control expenses; and changes in securities markets. For additional information concerning risks we face, see “Item 1A. Risk Factors” in Part I of this Report. We undertake no obligation to update these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that occur after the date on which such statements were made, except as required by law.

Part I

Item 1. Business

General

Hanmi Financial Corporation ("Hanmi Financial," the "Company," "we," "us" or "our") is a Delaware corporation incorporated on March 14, 2000 to be the holding company for Hanmi Bank (the "Bank") and is subject to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended ("BHCA"). Hanmi Financial also elected financial holding company status under the BHCA in 2000. Our principal office is located at 3660 Wilshire Boulevard, Penthouse Suite A, Los Angeles, California 90010, and our telephone number is (213) 382-2200.

Hanmi Bank, the primary subsidiary of Hanmi Financial, is a state chartered bank incorporated under the laws of the State of California on August 24, 1981, and licensed pursuant to the California Financial Code ("California Financial Code") on December 15, 1982. The Bank's deposit accounts are insured under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act ("FDIA") up to applicable limits thereof. Effective July 19, 2016, the Bank converted from a state member bank to a state nonmember bank and, as a result, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") is its primary federal bank regulator. The California Department of Business Oversight ("DBO") remains the Bank's primary state bank regulator. The Bank's headquarters is located at 3660 Wilshire Boulevard, Penthouse Suite A, Los Angeles, California 90010.

The Bank is a community bank conducting general business banking, with its primary market encompassing the Korean-American community as well as other ethnic communities across California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Virginia and Washington. The Bank's full-service offices are located in markets where many of the businesses are run by immigrants and other minority groups. The Bank's client base reflects the multi-ethnic composition of these communities.

On October 27, 2016, the Bank acquired certain leases of Irvine, California-based Banc of California ("Banc"). The acquisition included the purchase of equipment leases diversified across the U.S. with concentrations in California, Georgia and Texas. The Bank retained most of Banc's former Commercial Specialty Finance employees and the unit operates from a location in Irvine, California, as the Company's Commercial Equipment Leasing Division. This transaction was considered a purchase of a business in accordance with current accounting guidance and accordingly the Bank applied the acquisition method of accounting to the transaction. Cash consideration paid was $240.8 million and the net estimated fair value of the equipment lease portfolio was $228.2 million as of the acquisition date. In addition to the leases, the Bank recorded other tangible and intangible assets of $12.6 million. The intangible assets included an identifiable intangible asset representing the estimated fair value of third-party originators of $483,000 and goodwill of $11.0 million.

On August 31, 2014, Hanmi Financial completed its acquisition of Central Bancorp Inc. (the "CBI Acquisition"), a Texas corporation ("CBI"), the parent company of United Central Bank. In the merger with CBI, each share of CBI common stock was exchanged for $17.64 per share or $50 million in the aggregate. In addition, Hanmi Financial paid $28.7 million to redeem CBI preferred stock immediately prior to the consummation of the merger. The merger consideration was funded from consolidated cash of Hanmi Financial. At August 31, 2014, CBI had total assets, liabilities and equity of $1.27 billion, $1.17 billion and $93.3 million, respectively. Total loans and deposits were $297.3 million and $1.10 billion, respectively, at August 31, 2014. The Company recorded a $14.6 million bargain purchase gain related to this transaction.

Hanmi Financial sold its insurance subsidiaries, Chun-Ha Insurance Services, Inc. ("Chun-Ha") and All World Insurance Services, Inc. ("All World"), to Chunha Holding Corporation on June 30, 2014. Total assets and net asset of Chun-Ha and All World were $5.6 million and $3.3 million, respectively. The total sales price was $3.5 million, of which $2.0 million was paid upon signing.

The Bank's revenues are derived primarily from interest and fees on loans and leases, interest and dividends on securities portfolio, and service charges on deposit accounts.

A summary of revenues for the periods indicated follows:

	Year Ended December 31,								
	2018			2017			2016		
	(dollars in thousands)								
Interest and fees on loans and leases	$219,590	84.8	%	$195,790	80.7	%	$164,642	77.9	%
Interest and dividends on securities	14,230	5.5	%	13,082	5.4	%	13,621	6.4	%
Other interest income	577	0.2	%	449	0.2	%	208	0.1	%
Service charges, fees and other income	19,907	7.7	%	22,933	9.4	%	26,995	12.7	%
Gain on sale of SBA loans	4,954	1.9	%	8,734	3.6	%	6,034	2.9	%
Subtotal	259,258	100.1	%	240,988	99.3	%	211,500	100.0	%
Net (loss) gain on sale of securities	(341)	(0.1	)%	1,748	0.7	%	46	—	%
Total revenues	$258,917	100.0	%	$242,736	100.0	%	$211,546	100.0	%

Market Area

The Bank historically has provided its banking services through its branch network to a wide variety of small- to medium-sized businesses. Throughout the Bank's service areas, competition is intense for both loans and deposits. While the market for banking services is dominated by a few nationwide banks with many offices operating over wide geographic areas, the Bank's primary competitors are relatively larger and smaller community banks that focus their marketing efforts on Korean-American and other Asian-American businesses in the Bank's service areas.

Lending Activities

The Bank originates loans and leases for its own portfolio and for sale in the secondary market. Lending activities include real estate loans (commercial property, construction and residential property), commercial and industrial loans (commercial term, commercial lines of credit and international), equipment lease financing, consumer loans and Small Business Administration ("SBA") loans.

Real Estate Loans

Real estate lending involves risks associated with the potential decline in the value of the underlying real estate collateral and the cash flows from income-producing properties. Declines in real estate values and cash flows can be caused by a number of factors, including adversity in general economic conditions, rising interest rates, changes in tax and other laws and regulations affecting the holding of real estate, environmental conditions, governmental and other use restrictions, development of competitive properties and increasing vacancy rates. When real estate values decline, the Bank's real estate dependence increases the risk of loss both in the Bank's loan portfolio and the Bank's holdings of other real estate owned ("OREO"), which are the result of foreclosures on real property due to default by borrowers who use the property as collateral for loans. OREO properties are categorized as real property that is owned by the Bank but which is not directly related to the Bank's business.

Commercial Property

The Bank offers commercial real estate loans, which are usually collateralized by first deeds of trust. The Bank generally obtains formal appraisals in accordance with applicable regulations to support the value of the real estate collateral. All appraisal reports on commercial mortgage loans are reviewed by an appraisal review officer. The review generally covers an examination of the appraiser's assumptions and methods that were used to derive a value for the property, as well as compliance with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (the "USPAP"). The Bank determines creditworthiness of a borrower by evaluating cash flow ability, asset and debt structure, as well as credit history. The purpose of the loan is also an important consideration that dictates loan structure and the credit decision.

The Bank's commercial real estate loans are principally secured by investor-owned or owner-occupied commercial and industrial buildings. Generally, these types of loans are made with a maturity date of up to seven years, based on longer amortization periods. Typically, the Bank's commercial real estate loans have a debt-coverage ratio at time of origination of 1.25 or more and a loan-to-value ratio of 70 percent or less. The Bank offers fixed-rate commercial real estate loans, including hybrid-fixed rate loans that are fixed for one to five years and then convert to adjustable rate loans for the remaining term. In addition, the Bank seeks an adjustable rate of interest indexed to the prime rate appearing in The Wall Street Journal ("WSJ Prime Rate") or the Bank's prime rate ("Bank Prime Rate"), as adjusted from time to time. Amortization schedules for commercial real estate loans generally do not exceed 25 years.

Payments on loans secured by investor-owned and owner-occupied properties are often dependent upon successful operation or management of the properties. Repayment of such loans may be subject to the risk from adverse conditions in the real estate market or the economy. The Bank seeks to minimize these risks in a variety of ways, including limiting the size of such loans in relation to the market value of the property and strictly scrutinizing the property securing the loan. At the time of loan origination a sensitivity analysis is performed for potential increases to vacancy and interest rates. Additionally, a quarterly risk assessment is also performed for the commercial real estate secured loan portfolio, which involves evaluating recent industry trends. When possible, the Bank also obtains corporate or individual guarantees. Representatives of the Bank conduct site visits of most commercial properties securing the Bank's real estate loans before the loans are approved.

The Bank generally requires the borrower to provide, at least annually, current cash flow information in order for the Bank to re-assess the debt-coverage ratio. In addition, the Bank requires title insurance to insure the status of its lien on real estate secured loans when a trust deed on the real estate is taken as collateral. The Bank also requires the borrower to maintain fire insurance, extended coverage casualty insurance and, if the property is in a flood zone, flood insurance, in an amount equal to the outstanding loan balance, subject to applicable laws that may limit the amount of hazard insurance a lender can require to replace such improvements. We cannot assure that these procedures will protect against losses on loans secured by real property.

Construction

The Bank finances a small construction portfolio for multifamily, low-income housing and commercial and industrial properties within its market area. The future condition of the local economy could negatively affect the collateral values of such loans. The Bank's construction loans typically have the following structure:

- maturities of two years or less;
- a floating rate of interest based on the Bank Prime Rate or the WSJ Prime Rate;
- minimum cash equity consistent with high volatility commercial real estate guidelines;
- a reserve of anticipated interest costs during construction or an advance of fees;
- a first lien position on the underlying real estate;
- loan-to-value ratios at time of origination that do not exceed 75 percent; and
- recourse against the borrower or a guarantor in the event of default.

On a case-by-case basis, the Bank does commit to making permanent loans on the property under loan conditions that require strong project stability and debt service coverage. Construction loans involve additional risks compared to loans secured by existing improved real property. Such risks include:

- the uncertain value of the project prior to completion;
- the inherent uncertainty in estimating construction costs, which are often beyond the borrower's control;
- construction delays and cost overruns;
- possible difficulties encountered in connection with municipal, state or other governmental ordinances or regulations during construction; and
- the difficulty in accurately evaluating the market value of the completed project.

Because of these uncertainties, construction lending often involves the disbursement of substantial funds where repayment of the loan is dependent, in part, on the success of the final project rather than the ability of the borrower or guarantor to repay principal and interest on the loan. If the Bank is forced to foreclose on a construction project prior to or at completion due to a default under the terms of a loan, there can be no assurance that the Bank will be able to recover all of the unpaid balance of, or accrued interest on, the loan as well as the related foreclosure and holding costs. In addition, the Bank may be required to fund additional amounts in order to complete a pending construction project and may have to hold the property for an indeterminable period of time. The Bank has underwriting procedures designed to identify factors that it believes to maintain acceptable levels of risk in construction lending, including, among other procedures, engaging qualified and bonded third parties to provide progress reports and recommendations for construction loan disbursements. No assurance can be given that these procedures will prevent losses arising from the risks associated with construction loans described above.

Residential Property

The Bank purchases and originates fixed-rate and variable-rate mortgage loans secured by one- to four-family properties with amortization schedules of 15 to 30 years and maturity schedules of up to 30 years. The loan fees, interest rates and other provisions of the Bank's residential loans are determined by an analysis of the Bank's cost of funds, cost of origination, cost of servicing, risk factors and portfolio needs.

Commercial and Industrial Loans

The Bank offers commercial loans for intermediate and short-term credit. Commercial loans may be unsecured, partially secured or fully secured. The majority of the commercial loans that the Bank originates are for businesses located primarily in California, Illinois and Texas, and the maturity schedules range from 12 to 60 months. The Bank finances primarily small- and middle-market businesses in a wide spectrum of industries. Commercial and industrial loans consist of credit lines for operating needs, loans for equipment purchases and working capital, and various other business purposes. The Bank requires credit underwriting before considering any extension of credit.

Commercial lending entails significant risks. Commercial lending loans typically involve larger loan balances, are generally dependent on the cash flows of the business and may be subject to adverse conditions in the general economy or in a specific industry. Short-term business loans are customarily intended to finance current operations and typically provide for principal payment at maturity, with interest payable monthly. Term loans typically provide for floating interest rates, with monthly payments of both principal and interest.

In general, it is the intent of the Bank to take collateral whenever possible, regardless of the loan purpose(s). Collateral may include, but is not limited to, liens on inventory, accounts receivable, fixtures and equipment, leasehold improvements and real estate. Where real estate is the primary collateral, the Bank obtains formal appraisals in accordance with applicable regulations to support the value of the real estate collateral. Typically, the Bank requires all principals of a business to be co-obligors on all loan instruments and all significant stockholders of corporations to execute a specific debt guaranty. All borrowers must demonstrate the ability to service and repay not only their obligations to the Bank, but also any and all outstanding business debt, without liquidating the collateral, based on historical earnings or reliable projections.

Commercial Term

The Bank offers term loans for a variety of needs, including loans for working capital, purchases of equipment, machinery or inventory, business acquisitions, renovation of facilities, and refinancing of existing business-related debts. These loans have repayment terms of up to seven years.

Commercial Lines of Credit

The Bank offers lines of credit for a variety of short-term needs, including lines of credit for working capital, accounts receivable and inventory financing, and other purposes related to business operations. Commercial lines of credit usually have a term of 12 months or less.

International

The Bank offers a variety of international finance and trade services and products, including letters of credit, import financing (trust receipt financing and bankers' acceptances) and export financing. Although most of our trade finance activities are related to trade with Asian countries, all of our loans are made to companies domiciled in the United States, and a substantial portion of those borrowers are California-based businesses engaged in import and export activities.

Leases Receivable

Equipment finance agreements have terms ranging from 1 to 7 years. Commercial equipment leases are secured by the business assets being financed. The Bank also obtains a commercial guaranty of the business and generally a personal guaranty of the owner(s) of the business. Equipment leases are similar to commercial business loans in that the leases are typically made on the basis of the borrower's ability to make repayment from the cash flows of the borrower's business. As a result, the availability of funds for the repayment of commercial equipment leases may be substantially dependent on the success of the business itself, which in turn, is often dependent in part upon general economic conditions.

Consumer Loans

Consumer loans are extended for a variety of purposes, including automobile loans, secured and unsecured personal loans, home improvement loans, home equity lines of credit, unsecured lines of credit and credit cards. Management assesses the borrower's creditworthiness and ability to repay the debt through a review of credit history and ratings, verification of employment and other income, review of debt-to-income ratios and other measures of repayment ability. Although creditworthiness of the applicant is of primary importance, the underwriting process also includes a comparison of the value of

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the collateral, if any, to the proposed loan amount. Most of the Bank's loans to individual consumers are repayable on an installment basis.

SBA Loans

The Bank originates loans that are guaranteed by the SBA, an independent agency of the federal government. SBA loans are offered for business purposes such as owner-occupied commercial real estate, business acquisitions, start-ups, franchise financing, working capital, improvements and renovations, inventory and equipment and debt-refinancing. SBA loans offer lower down payments and longer term financing which helps small business that are starting out, or about to expand. The guarantees on SBA loans currently range from 75 percent to 85 percent of the principal amount of the loan. The Bank typically requires that SBA loans be secured by business assets and by a first or second deed of trust on any available real property. When the SBA loan is secured by a first deed of trust on real property, the Bank generally obtains appraisals in accordance with applicable regulations. SBA loans have terms ranging from 5 to 25 years depending on the use of the proceeds. To qualify for a SBA loan, a borrower must demonstrate the capacity to service and repay the loan, without liquidating the collateral, based on historical earnings or reliable projections.

The Bank normally sells to unrelated third parties a substantial amount of the guaranteed portion of the SBA loans that it originates. When the Bank sells a SBA loan, it has an option to repurchase the loan if the loan defaults. If the Bank repurchases a loan, the Bank will make a demand for the guaranteed portion of purchase to the SBA. Even after the sale of an SBA loan, the Bank retains the right to service the SBA loan and to receive servicing fees. The unsold portions of the SBA loans that remain owned by the Bank are included in loans receivable on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. As of December 31, 2018, the Bank had $9.4 million of SBA loans held for sale, $194.1 million of SBA loans in its loan portfolio, and was servicing $448.6 million of SBA loans sold to investors.

Off-Balance Sheet Commitments

As part of the suite of services available to its small- to medium-sized business customers, the Bank from time to time issues formal commitments and lines of credit. These commitments can be either secured or unsecured. They may be revolving lines of credit for seasonal working capital needs or commercial letters of credit or standby letters of credit. Commercial letters of credit facilitate import trade. Standby letters of credit are conditional commitments issued by the Bank to guarantee the performance of a customer to a third party.

Lending Procedures and Lending Limits

Individual lending authority is granted to the Chief Credit Administration Officer and certain additional designated officers. Loans and leases for which direct and indirect borrower liability exceeds an individual's lending authority are referred to the Bank's Management Credit Committee.

Legal lending limits are calculated in conformance with the California Financial Code, which prohibits a bank from lending to any one individual or entity or its related interests on an unsecured basis any amount that exceeds 15 percent of the sum of such bank's stockholders' equity plus the allowance for loan and lease losses, capital notes and any debentures, or 25 percent on a secured and unsecured basis. At December 31, 2018, the Bank's authorized legal lending limits for loans to one borrower was $102.6 million for unsecured loans and an additional $68.4 million for secured and unsecured loans combined.

The Bank seeks to mitigate the risks inherent in its loan and lease portfolio by adhering to certain underwriting practices. The review of each loan and lease application includes analysis of the applicant's business and experience, prior credit history, income level, cash flows, financial condition, tax returns, cash flow projections, and the value of any collateral to secure the loan, based upon reports of independent appraisers and/or audits of accounts receivable or inventory pledged as security. In the case of real estate loans over a specified threshold, the review of collateral value includes an appraisal report prepared by an independent Bank-approved appraiser. All appraisal reports on commercial real property secured loans are reviewed by an appraisal review officer. The review generally covers an examination of the appraiser's assumptions and methods that were used to derive a value for the property, as well as compliance with the USPAP.

Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses, Allowance for Off-Balance Sheet Items and Provision for Loan and Lease Losses

The Bank maintains an allowance for loan and lease losses at an appropriate level considered by management to be adequate to cover the inherent risks of loss associated with its loan and lease portfolio under prevailing economic conditions. In addition, the Bank maintains an allowance for off-balance sheet items associated with unfunded commitments and letters of credit, which is included in other liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

The Bank assesses its allowance for loan and lease losses for adequacy on a quarterly basis. The DBO and the FDIC may require the Bank to recognize additions to the allowance for loan and lease losses through a provision for loan and lease losses based upon their assessment of the information available to them at the time of their examinations.

Deposits

The Bank offers a traditional array of deposit products, including noninterest-bearing checking accounts, interest-bearing checking and savings accounts, negotiable order of withdrawal ("NOW") accounts, money market accounts and certificates of deposit. These accounts, except for noninterest-bearing checking accounts, earn interest at rates established by management based on competitive market factors and management's desire to increase certain types or maturities of deposit liabilities. Our approach is to tailor products and bundle those that meet the customer's needs. This approach is designed to add value for the customer, increase products per household and produce higher service fee income.

Available Information

We file reports with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), including our Proxy Statements, Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and any amendments thereto. These reports and other information on file can be inspected and copied at the public reference facilities of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington D.C. 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains a website at www.sec.gov, which contains the reports, proxy and information statements and other information we file with the SEC.

We also maintain an Internet website at www.hanmi.com. We make available free of charge through our website our Proxy Statements, Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and any amendments thereto, as soon as reasonably practicable after we file such reports with the SEC. We make our website content available for information purposes only. It should not be relied upon for investment purposes. None of the information contained in or hyperlinked from our website is incorporated into this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Employees

As of December 31, 2018, the Bank had 635 full-time equivalent employees. None of the employees are represented by a union or covered by a collective bargaining agreement. The management of the Bank believes that its employee relations are good.

Insurance

We maintain directors and officers, financial institution bond and commercial insurance at levels deemed adequate by management to protect Hanmi Financial from certain litigation and other losses.

Competition

The banking and financial services industry in each state we are located generally, and in the Bank's market areas specifically, are highly competitive. The increasingly competitive environment faced by banks is primarily the result of changes in laws and regulation, changes in technology and product delivery systems, new competitors in the market, and the accelerating pace of consolidation among financial service providers. We compete for loans and leases, deposits and customers with other commercial banks, savings institutions, securities and brokerage companies, mortgage companies, real estate investment trusts, insurance companies, finance companies, money market funds, credit unions, financial technology companies and other non-bank financial service providers. Some of these competitors are larger in total assets and capitalization, have greater access to capital markets, including foreign-ownership, and/or offer a broader range of financial services.

Many of our competitors are larger financial institutions that offer some services, such as more extensive and established branch networks and trust services, which the Bank does not provide.

Other institutions, including brokerage firms, credit card companies and retail establishments, offer banking services and products to consumers that are in direct competition with the Bank, including money market funds with check access and cash advances on credit card accounts. In addition, many non-bank competitors are not subject to the same extensive federal or state regulations that govern bank holding companies and federally insured banks.

The Bank's direct competitors are community banks that focus their marketing efforts on Korean-American, Asian-American and immigrant-owned businesses, while offering the same or similar services and products as those offered by the

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Bank. These banks compete for loans and deposits primarily through the interest rates and fees they charge and the convenience and quality of service they provide to customers.

Economic, Legislative and Regulatory Developments

Future profitability, like that of most financial institutions, is primarily dependent on interest rate differentials and credit quality. In general, the difference between the interest rates paid by us on interest-bearing liabilities, such as deposits and other borrowings, and the interest rates received by us on our interest-earning assets, such as loans and leases extended to our customers and securities held in our investment portfolio, will comprise the major portion of our earnings. These rates are highly sensitive to many factors that are beyond our control, such as inflation, recession and unemployment, and the impact that future changes in domestic and foreign economic conditions might have on us.

Our business is also influenced by the monetary and fiscal policies of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the "Federal Reserve"), the federal government, and the policies of regulatory agencies, particularly the FDIC. The Federal Reserve implements national monetary policies (with objectives such as curbing inflation and combating recession) through its open-market operations in U.S. government securities, by adjusting the required level of reserves for depository institutions subject to its reserve requirements, and by varying the target federal funds and discount rates applicable to borrowings by depository institutions. The actions of the Federal Reserve in these areas influence the growth of bank loans and leases, investments and deposits, and affect interest earned on interest-earning assets and interest paid on interest-bearing liabilities. The nature and impact on us of any future changes in monetary and fiscal policies cannot be predicted.

From time to time, federal and state legislation is enacted that may have the effect of materially increasing the cost of doing business, limiting or expanding permissible activities, or affecting the competitive balance between banks and other financial services providers, such as federal legislation permitting affiliations among commercial banks, insurance companies and securities firms. We cannot predict whether or when any potential legislation will be enacted, and if enacted, the effect that it, or any implementing regulations, would have on our financial condition or results of operations. In addition, the outcome of any investigations initiated by state authorities or litigation raising issues may result in necessary changes in our operations, additional regulation and increased compliance costs.

Regulation and Supervision

(a) General

The Company, which is a bank holding company and a financial holding company, and the Bank, which is a California-chartered state nonmember bank, are subject to significant regulation and restrictions by federal and state laws and regulatory agencies. The applicable statutes and regulations, among other things, restrict activities and investments in which we may engage and our conduct of them, impose capital requirements with which we must comply, impose various reporting and information collecting obligations upon us, and subject us to comprehensive supervision and regulation by regulatory agencies. The federal and state banking statutes and regulations and the supervision, regulation and examination of banks and their parent companies by the regulatory agencies are intended primarily for the maintenance of the safety and soundness of banks and their depositors, the Deposit Insurance Fund ("DIF") of the FDIC, and the financial system as a whole, rather than for the protection of stockholders or creditors of banks or their parent companies. The following discussion of statutes and regulations is a summary and does not purport to be complete nor does it address all applicable statutes and regulations. This discussion is qualified in its entirety by reference to the statutes and regulations referred to in this discussion. Banking statutes, regulations and policies are continuously under review by federal and state legislatures and regulatory agencies, and a change in them could have a material adverse effect on our business, such as materially increasing the cost of doing business, limiting or expanding permissible activities, or affecting the competitive balance between banks and other financial services providers.

We cannot predict whether or when other legislation or new regulations may be enacted, and if enacted, the effect that new legislation or any implemented regulations and supervisory policies would have on our financial condition and results of operations. Such developments may further alter the structure, regulation, and competitive relationship among financial institutions, and may subject us to increased regulation, disclosure, and reporting requirements.

(b) Legislation and Regulatory Developments

We anticipate new legislative and regulatory initiatives over the next several years. Legislative and regulatory developments to date, as well as those that come in the future, have had and are likely to continue to have an impact on the conduct of our business. Additional legislation, changes in rules promulgated by federal and state bank regulators, or changes in the interpretation, implementation, or enforcement of existing laws and regulations, may directly affect the method of operation and profitability of our business. The profitability of our business may also be affected by laws and regulations that impact the business and financial sectors in general.

Regulations and regulatory oversight have increased significantly since 2008, primarily as a result of the passage of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (“Dodd-Frank” or “Dodd-Frank Act”), which was signed into law on July 21, 2010. The Dodd-Frank Act comprehensively reformed the regulation of financial institutions, products, and services, including revising the deposit insurance assessment base for FDIC insurance and increasing coverage to $250,000; revising the permissibility of paying interest on business checking accounts; removing barriers to interstate branching; requiring disclosure and shareholder advisory votes on executive compensation; imposing limitations on certain short-term proprietary trading and investments in and relationships with certain private investment funds; amending the Truth in Lending Act with respect to mortgage originations; creating the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (“CFPB”); and providing for new capital standards. The full impact of Dodd-Frank on our business may not be known for months or years.

In the exercise of their supervisory and examination authority, the regulatory agencies have emphasized corporate governance, stress testing, enterprise risk management and other board responsibilities; anti-money laundering compliance and enhanced high risk customer due diligence; vendor management; cyber security and fair lending and other consumer compliance obligations.

On February 3, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order calling for the Secretary of the Treasury to consult with other Financial Stability Oversight Council (“FSOC”) member agencies, which includes the Federal Reserve, to report on the extent which existing U.S. financial laws, regulations, guidance and other authorities are consistent with a set of “core principles” of financial policy. The core financial principles identified in the executive order include: empowering Americans to make independent financial decisions and informed choices in the marketplace, save for retirement, and build individual wealth; preventing taxpayer-funded bailouts; fostering economic growth and vibrant financial markets through more rigorous regulatory impact analysis that addresses systemic risk and market failures, such as moral hazard and information asymmetry; enabling American companies to be competitive with foreign firms in domestic and foreign markets; advancing American interests in international financial regulatory negotiations and meetings; making regulation efficient, effective, and appropriately tailored; and restoring public accountability within Federal financial regulatory agencies and rationalizing the Federal financial regulatory framework. Although the order does not specifically identify any existing laws, regulations, guidance or other authorities that the administration considers to be inconsistent with the core principles, areas that the mandated agency report may ultimately identify for reform include the Volcker Rule; and the powers, structure and funding arrangements of the FSOC, the Office of Financial Research, the prudential bank regulators, the SEC, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and CFPB.

(c) Capital Adequacy Requirements

Bank holding companies and banks are subject to various regulatory capital requirements administered by state and federal banking regulators. In July 2013, the bank regulators approved enhanced regulatory capital rules (the “New Capital Rules”), which substantially revised the risk-based capital requirements applicable to banks and their parent companies. The New Capital Rules became effective as applied to the Company and the Bank on January 1, 2015, subject to a multi-year phase in period. Among other things, the New Capital Rules established a new capital measure “Common Equity Tier 1”; narrowed the definition of regulatory capital; revised the capital levels at which banks and their parent companies would be subject to prompt corrective action; expanded the scope of the deductions or adjustments from capital; excluded from Tier 1 capital non-exempt trust preferred securities and cumulative perpetual preferred stock; imposed additional constraints on the inclusion in Tier 1 capital (and stricter risk-weights for) mortgage servicing rights, certain deferred tax assets, and minority interests; and imposed stricter risk-weights for certain assets, including for high volatility commercial real estate acquisition, development and construction loans, certain past due non-residential mortgage loans and certain mortgage-backed and other securities exposures. Under the New Capital Rules, the Company and the Bank made a one-time election to remove certain components of accumulated other comprehensive income from the computation of common equity regulatory capital.

The New Capital Rules require banking organizations to maintain: (i) a minimum capital ratio of Common Equity Tier 1 to risk-weighted assets of 4.5%; (ii) a minimum capital ratio of Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets of 6.0%; (iii) a minimum capital ratio of total capital to risk-weighted assets of 8.0%; and (iv) a minimum leverage ratio of Tier 1 capital to adjusted average consolidated assets of 4.0%. In addition, as fully-phased in on January 1, 2019, the New

Capital Rules require a capital conservation buffer of 2.5% above the minimum capital ratios. Banking organizations with capital ratios above the minimum capital ratio but below the capital conservation buffer will face limitation on the payment of dividends, common stock repurchases and discretionary cash payments to executive officers.
Capital adequacy requirements and, additionally for banks, prompt corrective action regulations (See "Prompt Corrective Action Provisions" below), involve quantitative measures of assets, liabilities, and certain off-balance sheet items calculated under regulatory accounting practices. Capital amounts and classifications are also subject to qualitative judgments by regulators about components, risk weighting, and other factors. The risk-based capital requirements for banking organizations

require capital ratios that vary based on the perceived degree of risk associated with an organization's operations for both transactions reported on the balance sheet as assets, such as loans and leases, and those recorded as off-balance sheet items, such as commitments, letters of credit and recourse arrangements. The risk-based capital ratio is determined by classifying assets and certain off-balance sheet financial instruments into weighted categories, with higher levels of capital being required for those categories perceived as representing greater risks and dividing its qualifying capital by its total risk-adjusted assets and off-balance sheet items. Banking organizations engaged in significant trading activity may also be subject to the market risk capital guidelines and be required to incorporate additional market and interest rate risk components into their risk-based capital standards. To the extent that the new rules are not fully phased in, the prior capital rules continue to apply.

At December 31, 2018, the Company and the Bank's total risk-based capital ratios were 14.54% and 14.19%, respectively; Tier 1 risk-based capital ratios were 11.74% and 13.47%, respectively; Common Equity Tier 1 capital ratios were 11.32% and 13.47%, respectively, and the Company's and Bank's Tier 1 leverage capital ratios were 10.18% and 11.67%, respectively, all of which ratios exceeded the minimum percentage requirements for the Bank to be deemed "well-capitalized" and for the Company to meet and exceed all applicable capital ratio requirements for regulatory purposes. The Bank's capital conservation buffer was 6.19% and 7.20% and the Company's capital conservation buffer was 5.74% and 6.55% as of December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations-Capital Resources." The federal banking regulators may require banks and bank holding companies subject to enforcement actions to maintain capital ratios in excess of the minimum ratios otherwise required to be deemed well capitalized, in which case institutions may no longer be deemed to be well capitalized and may therefore be subject to restrictions on taking brokered deposits.

Legislation enacted in 2018 requires the federal banking agencies, including the Federal Reserve, to establish a "community bank leverage ratio" of between 8% to 10% of average total consolidated assets for qualifying institutions and holding companies with less than $10 billion of assets. Banks meeting the specified requirement and electing to follow the alternative framework would be deemed to comply with the regulatory capital requirements, including the risk-based requirements. The federal agencies issued a proposed rule in November 2018 that would set the community bank leverage ratio at 9%.

While the New Capital Rules set higher regulatory capital requirements for the Company and the Bank, bank regulators may also continue their past policies of expecting banks to maintain additional capital beyond the new minimum requirements. The implementation of the New Capital Rules or more stringent requirements to maintain higher levels of capital or to maintain higher levels of liquid assets could adversely impact the Company's net income and return on equity, restrict the ability to pay dividends or executive bonuses and require the raising of additional capital.

Management believes that, as of December 31, 2018, the Company and the Bank would meet all applicable capital requirements under the New Capital Rules on a fully phased-in basis if such requirements were currently in effect.

(d) Final Volcker Rule

Under the Volcker Rule, and subject to certain exceptions, banking entities, including the Company and the Bank, are restricted in their ability to engage in activities that are considered short-term proprietary trading and their ability to invest in and have relationships with certain private investment funds, including hedge or private equity funds that are considered "covered funds." The regulation implementing these restrictions became effective on April 1, 2014, although the Federal Reserve extended the compliance period generally until July 2015. In addition, the compliance period for certain investments in and relationships with certain covered funds was extended by the Federal Reserve to July 2017. The Company and the Bank held no investment positions at December 31, 2018 and 2017 that were subject to the Volcker Rule. Therefore, while the Volcker Rule, including its implementing regulations, requires us to conduct certain internal analysis and reporting, it did not require any material changes in our operations or business. Legislation enacted in 2018 exempts bank holding companies with less than $10 billion in consolidated assets if its total trading assets or liabilities do not exceed 5% of total consolidated assets.

(e) Bank Holding Company Regulation

The Company is a bank holding company and a financial holding company that is subject to comprehensive supervision, regulation, examination and enforcement by the Federal Reserve.

Bank holding companies and their subsidiaries are subject to significant regulation and restrictions by Federal and State laws and regulatory agencies, which may affect the cost of doing business, and may limit permissible activities and expansion or impact the competitive balance between banks and other financial services providers. Federal and state banking laws and regulations, among other things:

- Require periodic reports and such additional reports of information as the Federal Reserve may require;

- Limit the scope of bank holding companies' activities and investments;
- Require bank holding companies to meet or exceed certain levels of capital (See "Capital Adequacy Requirements" above);
- Require that bank holding companies serve as a source of financial and managerial strength to subsidiary banks and commit resources as necessary to support each subsidiary bank.
- Limit dividends payable to shareholders and restricts the ability of bank holding companies to obtain dividends or other distributions from their subsidiary banks. The Company's ability to pay dividends on both its common and preferred stock is subject to legal and regulatory restrictions. Substantially all of the Company's funds to pay dividends or to pay principal and interest on our debt obligations are derived from dividends paid by the Bank;
- Require a bank holding company to terminate an activity or terminate control of or liquidate or divest certain subsidiaries, affiliates or investments if the Federal Reserve believes the activity or the control of the subsidiary or affiliate constitutes a significant risk to the financial safety, soundness or stability of any bank subsidiary;
- Require the prior approval of senior executive officer or director changes and prohibit golden parachute payments, including change in control agreements, or new employment agreements with such payment terms, which are contingent upon termination if an institution is in "troubled condition";
- Regulate provisions of certain bank holding company debt, including the authority to impose interest ceilings and reserve requirements on such debt and require prior approval to purchase or redeem securities; and
- Require prior Federal Reserve approval to acquire substantially all the assets of a bank, to acquire more than 5% of a class of voting shares of a bank, or to merge with another bank holding company and consider certain competitive, management, financial, anti-money-laundering compliance, potential impact on U.S. financial stability or other factors in granting these approvals, in addition to similar California or other state banking agency approvals which may also be required.

A bank holding company is subject to supervision and examination by the Federal Reserve. Examinations are designed to inform the Federal Reserve of the financial condition and nature of the operations of the bank holding company and its subsidiaries and to monitor compliance with the BHCA and other laws affecting the operations of bank holding companies. To determine whether potential weaknesses in the condition or operations of bank holding companies might pose a risk to the safety and soundness of their subsidiary banks, examinations focus on whether a bank holding company has adequate systems and internal controls in place to manage the risks inherent in its business, including credit risk, interest rate risk, market risk, liquidity risk, operational risk, legal risk and reputation risk. Bank holding companies may be subject to potential enforcement actions by the Federal Reserve for unsafe or unsound practices in conducting their businesses or for violations of any law, rule, regulation or any condition imposed in writing by the Federal Reserve. Enforcement actions may include the issuance of cease and desist orders, the imposition of civil money penalties, the requirement to meet and maintain specific capital levels for any capital measure, the issuance of directives to increase capital, formal and informal agreements, or removal and prohibition orders against officers or directors and other institution-affiliated parties.

(f) Other Restrictions on the Company's Activities

The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999 (the "GLBA") permits a qualifying bank holding company to elect "financial holding company" and thereby engage in a broader range of activities than would otherwise be permissible for a bank holding company. These broader activities include securities underwriting and dealing, insurance underwriting and brokerage, merchant banking and other activities that are determined to be "financial in nature" or are incidental or complementary to activities that are financial in nature. In addition, a financial holding company is permitted to conduct new permissible financial activities or acquire permissible non-bank financial companies with after-the-fact notice to the Federal Reserve. In order to elect financial holding company status, a bank holding company and all depository institution subsidiaries of the bank holding company must be considered well capitalized and well managed, and, except in limited circumstances, depository subsidiaries must receive at least a "Satisfactory" rating under the Community Reinvestment Act (the "CRA"). Failure to sustain compliance with these requirements or correct any non-compliance within a fixed time period could result in material restrictions on the activities of the financial holding company, may adversely affect the financial holding company's ability to enter into certain transactions or obtain necessary approvals in connection therewith, may lead to divestiture of subsidiary banks, may require all activities to be conformed to those otherwise permissible for a bank holding company, or may result in the loss of financial holding company status. If restrictions are imposed on the activities of a financial holding company, such information may not necessarily be available to the public. The Company elected financial holding company status in 2000. Neither the Company nor the Bank engages in any activities that are permissible only for a financial holding company. The Bank was rated “Satisfactory” in meeting community credit needs under the CRA at its most recent examination for CRA performance.

The Company is also a bank holding company within the meaning of Section 3700 of the California Financial Code. Therefore, the Company and any of its subsidiaries are subject to examination by, and may be required to file reports with, the DBO. The DBO approvals may also be required for certain mergers and acquisitions.

(g) Bank Regulation

The Bank is a California state-chartered commercial bank whose deposits are insured by the FDIC. Effective July 19, 2016, the Bank converted from a state member bank to a state nonmember bank and, as a result, the FDIC is its primary federal bank regulator. The DBO remains the Bank's primary state bank regulator. The Bank is subject to comprehensive supervision, regulation, examination and enforcement by the FDIC and the DBO. Specific federal and state laws and regulations which are applicable to banks regulate, among other things, the scope of their business, their investments, their reserves against deposits, the timing of the availability of deposited funds, their activities relating to dividends, investments, loans, the nature and amount of and collateral for certain loans, servicing and foreclosing on loans, borrowings, capital requirements, certain check-clearing activities, branching and mergers and acquisitions.

Banks are also subject to restrictions on their ability to conduct transactions with affiliates and other related parties. The Federal Reserve Regulation O imposes limitations on loans or extensions of credit to "insiders", including officers, directors, and principal shareholders. The Federal Reserve Act Section 23A and Regulation W impose quantitative limits, qualitative requirements, and collateral requirements on certain transactions with, or for the benefit of, its affiliates. Transactions covered generally include loans, extensions of credit, investments in securities issued by an affiliate, and acquisitions of assets from an affiliate. Section 23B of the Federal Reserve Act and Regulation W require that most types of transactions by a bank with, or for the benefit of, an affiliate be on terms and conditions at least as favorable to the bank as those prevailing for comparable transactions with unaffiliated parties. Dodd-Frank expanded definitions and restrictions on transactions with affiliates and insiders under Sections 23A and 23B and also lending limits for derivative transactions, repurchase agreements and securities lending and borrowing transactions.

Pursuant to the Federal Deposit Insurance Act ("FDI Act") and the California Financial Code, California state chartered commercial banks may generally engage in any activity permissible for national banks. Therefore, the Bank may form subsidiaries to engage in the activities commonly conducted by national banks in operating subsidiaries. Further, the Bank may conduct certain "financial" activities permitted under GLBA in a "financial subsidiary" to the same extent as may a national bank, provided the Bank is and remains "well-capitalized," "well-managed" and in satisfactory compliance with the CRA. The Bank currently has no financial subsidiaries.

(h) Enforcement Authority

The federal and California regulatory structure gives the bank regulatory agencies extensive discretion in connection with their supervisory and enforcement activities and examination policies, including policies with respect to the classification of assets and the establishment of appropriate loan and lease loss reserves for regulatory purposes. The regulatory agencies have adopted guidelines to assist in identifying and addressing potential safety and soundness concerns before an institution's capital becomes impaired. The guidelines establish operational and managerial standards generally relating to: (1) internal controls, information systems and security, and internal audit systems; (2) loan and lease documentation; (3) credit underwriting; (4) interest-rate exposure; (5) asset growth and asset quality; and (6) compensation, fees, and benefits. Further, the regulatory agencies have adopted safety and soundness guidelines for asset quality and for evaluating and monitoring earnings to ensure that earnings are sufficient for the maintenance of adequate capital and reserves. If, as a result of an examination, the DBO or FDIC, as applicable, determines that the financial condition, capital resources, asset quality, earnings prospects, management, liquidity, or other aspects of the Bank's operations are unsatisfactory or that the Bank or its management is violating or has violated any law or regulation, the DBO and the FDIC have residual authority to:

- Require affirmative action to correct any conditions resulting from any violation or practice;
- Direct an increase in capital and the maintenance of higher specific minimum capital ratios, which could preclude the Bank from being deemed well capitalized and restrict its ability to accept certain brokered deposits;
- Restrict the Bank's growth geographically, by products and services, or by mergers and acquisitions, including bidding in FDIC receiverships for failed banks;
- Enter into or issue informal or formal enforcement actions, including required Board resolutions, Matters Requiring Board Attention, written agreements and consent or cease and desist orders or prompt corrective action orders to take

corrective action and cease unsafe and unsound practices;
- Require the sale of subsidiaries or assets;
- Limit dividend and distributions;

- Require prior approval of senior executive officer or director changes; remove officers and directors and assess civil monetary penalties; and
- Terminate FDIC insurance, revoke the charter and/or take possession of and close and liquidate the Bank or appoint the FDIC as receiver.

(i) Deposit Insurance

The FDIC is an independent federal agency that insures deposits, up to prescribed statutory limits, of federally insured banks and savings institutions and safeguards the safety and soundness of the banking and savings industries. The FDIC insures our customer deposits through the DIF up to prescribed limits for each depositor. As a general matter, the maximum deposit insurance amount is $250,000 per depositor, per FDIC-insured bank, per ownership category. The amount of FDIC assessments paid by each DIF member institution is based on its relative risk of default as measured by FDIC modeling based on regulatory capital and other financial ratios as well as supervisory factors. The FDIC may terminate a depository institution's deposit insurance upon a finding that the institution's financial condition is unsafe or unsound or that the institution has engaged in unsafe or unsound practices that pose a risk to the DIF or that may prejudice the interest of the bank's depositors. The termination of deposit insurance for a bank would also result in the revocation of the bank's charter by the DBO.

We are generally unable to control the amount of premiums that we are required to pay for FDIC insurance, which can be affected by the cost of bank failures to the FDIC among other factors. Any future increases in FDIC insurance premiums may have a material and adverse effect on our earnings and could have a material adverse effect on the value of, or market for, our common stock.

(j) Prompt Corrective Action Provisions

The FDI Act requires the federal bank regulatory agencies to take "prompt corrective action" with respect to a depository institution if that institution does not meet certain capital adequacy requirements, including requiring the prompt submission of an acceptable capital restoration plan. Depending on the bank's capital ratios, the agencies' regulations define five categories in which an insured depository institution will be placed: well-capitalized, adequately capitalized, undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized and critically undercapitalized. At each successive lower capital category, an insured bank is subject to more restrictions, including restrictions on the bank's activities, operational practices or the ability to pay dividends. Based upon its capital levels, a bank that is classified as well-capitalized, adequately capitalized or undercapitalized may be treated as though it were in the next lower capital category if the appropriate federal banking agency, after notice and opportunity for hearing, determines that an unsafe or unsound condition, or an unsafe or unsound practice, warrants such treatment.

The prompt corrective action standards were changed when the New Capital Rule ratios became effective. In order to be considered well-capitalized under the prompt corrective action standards, the Bank is required to meet the new Common Equity Tier 1 ratio of 6.5%, a Tier 1 capital ratio of 8% (increased from 6%), a total capital ratio of 10% (unchanged) and a Tier 1 leverage ratio of 5% (unchanged).

(k) Dividends

The Company depends in part upon dividends received from the Bank to fund its activities, including the payment of dividends. The Company and the Bank are subject to various federal and state restrictions on their ability to pay dividends. It is the Federal Reserve's policy that bank holding companies should generally pay dividends on common stock only out of income available over the past year, and only if prospective earnings retention is consistent with the organization's expected future needs and financial condition. It is also the Federal Reserve's policy that bank holding companies should not maintain dividend levels that undermine their ability to be a source of strength to its banking subsidiaries. The Federal Reserve also discourages dividend payment ratios that are at maximum allowable levels unless both asset quality and capital are very strong. In addition, the federal bank regulators are authorized to prohibit a bank or bank holding company from engaging in unsafe or unsound banking practices and, depending upon the circumstances, could find that paying a dividend or making a capital distribution would constitute an unsafe or unsound banking practice.

The Bank is a legal entity that is separate and distinct from its holding company. The Company is dependent on the performance of the Bank for funds which may be received as dividends from the Bank for use in the operation of the Company and the ability of the Company to pay dividends to shareholders. Future cash dividends by the Bank will also depend upon management’s assessment of future capital requirements, contractual restrictions, and other factors. The New Capital rules may restrict dividends by the Bank if the additional capital conservation buffer is not achieved. The power of the board of directors of the Bank to declare a cash dividend to the Company is subject to California law, which restricts the amount available for cash dividends to the lesser of a bank’s retained earnings or net income for its last three fiscal years (less any distributions to shareholders made during such period). Where the above test is not met, cash dividends may still be paid, with the prior approval of the DBO, in an amount not exceeding the greatest of (1) retained earnings of the bank; (2) the net income of the bank for its last fiscal year; or (3) the net income of the bank for its current fiscal year.

(l) Operations and Consumer Compliance Laws

The Bank must comply with numerous federal and state anti-money laundering and consumer protection statutes and implementing regulations, including the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, the Bank Secrecy Act, the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, the CRA, the Fair Credit Reporting Act, as amended by the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Truth in Lending Act, the Fair Housing Act, the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, the National Flood Insurance Act, the California Homeowner Bill of Rights and various federal and state privacy protection laws. Noncompliance with any of these laws could subject the Bank to compliance enforcement actions as well as lawsuits and could also result in administrative penalties, including, fines and reimbursements. The Bank and the Company are also subject to federal and state laws prohibiting unfair or fraudulent business practices, untrue or misleading advertising and unfair competition.

These laws and regulations mandate certain disclosure and reporting requirements and regulate the manner in which financial institutions must deal with customers when taking deposits, making loans and leases, servicing, collecting and foreclosure of loans, and providing other services. Failure to comply with these laws and regulations can subject the Bank to various penalties, including but not limited to enforcement actions, injunctions, fines or criminal penalties, punitive damages to consumers, and the loss of certain contractual rights. The CRA is intended to encourage banks to help meet the credit needs of the communities in which they operate, including low and moderate-income neighborhoods, consistent with safe and sound operations. The bank regulators examine and assign each bank a public CRA rating. The CRA requires the bank regulators to take into account the bank’s record in meeting the needs of its communities when considering an application by a bank to establish or relocate a branch or to conduct certain mergers or acquisitions, or an application by the parent holding company to merge with another bank holding company or acquire a banking organization. An unsatisfactory CRA record could substantially delay approval or result in denial of an application. The Bank was rated “Satisfactory” in meeting community credit needs under the CRA at its most recent examination for CRA performance.

Dodd-Frank provided for the creation of the CFPB, which has broad rulemaking, supervisory and enforcement authority over consumer financial products and services, including deposit products, residential mortgages, home-equity loans and credit cards. The CFPB's functions include investigating consumer complaints, conducting market research, rulemaking, supervising and examining bank consumer transactions, and enforcing rules related to consumer financial products and services. CFPB regulations and guidance apply to banks, and banks with $10 billion or more in assets are subject to examination by the CFPB. Banks with less than $10 billion in assets, including the Bank, continue to be examined for compliance by their primary federal banking agency.

(m) Federal Home Loan Bank System

The Bank is a member and holder of the capital stock of the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco (“FHLBSF”). There are a total of eleven Federal Home Loan Banks (each, an “FHLB”) across the U.S. owned by their members who are more than 7,300 community financial institutions of all sizes and types. Each FHLB serves as a reserve or central bank for its members within its assigned region and makes available loans or advances to its members. Each FHLB is financed primarily from the sale of consolidated obligations of the FHLB system. Each FHLB makes available loans or advances to its members in compliance with the policies and procedures established by the Board of Directors of the individual FHLB. Each member of FHLBSF is currently required to own stock in an amount equal to the greater of (i) a membership stock requirement of 1.0 percent of an institution’s “membership asset value” which is determined by multiplying the amount of the member’s membership assets by the applicable membership asset factors and is capped at $15 million, or (ii) an activity based stock requirement (2.7% of the member’s outstanding advances). At December 31, 2018, the Bank was in compliance with the FHLBSF’s stock ownership requirement, and our investment in FHLBSF capital stock was $16.4 million. The total borrowing capacity available based on pledged collateral and the remaining available borrowing capacity as of December 31, 2018 were $924.4 million and $729.4 million,

respectively.
(n) Impact of Monetary Policies
The earnings and growth of the Bank are largely dependent on its ability to maintain a favorable differential or spread between the yield on its interest-earning assets and the rates paid on its deposits and other interest-bearing liabilities. As a result, the Bank’s performance is influenced by general economic conditions, both domestic and foreign, the monetary and fiscal policies of the federal government, and the policies of the regulatory agencies. The Federal Reserve implements national monetary policies (such as seeking to curb inflation and combat recession) by its open-market operations in U.S. government

securities, by adjusting the required level of reserves for financial institutions subject to its reserve requirements, and by varying the discount rate applicable to borrowings by banks from the Federal Reserve Banks. The actions of the Federal Reserve in these areas influence the growth of bank loans and leases, investments, and deposits, and also affect interest rates charged on loans and leases, and deposits. The nature and impact of any future changes in monetary policies cannot be predicted.

(o) Regulation of Non-Bank Subsidiaries

Non-bank subsidiaries are subject to additional or separate regulation and supervision by other state, federal and self-regulatory bodies. Additionally, any foreign-based subsidiaries would also be subject to foreign laws and regulations.

(p) Federal Securities Law

The Company’s common stock is registered with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). The Company is subject to the information and proxy solicitation requirements, insider trading restrictions and other requirements under the Exchange Act.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

You should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described below, together with the information included elsewhere in this Report and other documents we file with the SEC. The following risks and uncertainties described below are those that we have identified as material. Events or circumstances arising from one or more of these risks could adversely affect our business, financial condition, operating results and prospects and the value and price of our common stock could decline. The risks identified below are not intended to be a comprehensive list of all risks we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us, or that we may currently view as not material, may also adversely impact our financial condition, business operations and results of operations.

Risks Relating to our Business

Difficult business and economic conditions can adversely affect our industry and business. Our financial performance generally, and the ability of borrowers to pay interest on and repay the principal of outstanding loans and leases and the value of the collateral securing those loans and leases, is highly dependent upon the business and economic conditions in the markets in which we operate and in the United States as a whole. While the U.S. economy has been expanding, there can be no assurance that it will continue to grow. In addition, rising geopolitical risks nationally and abroad may adversely impact the economy and financial markets in the United States. These economic pressures may adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and stock price. In particular, we may face the following risks in connection with deterioration in economic conditions:

- We face increased regulation of our industry, including changes by Congress or federal regulatory agencies to the banking and financial institutions regulatory regime, changes in accounting policies and practices and heightened legal standards and regulatory requirements that may be adopted in the future. Compliance with such regulation may increase our costs and limit our ability to pursue business opportunities.
- The process we use to estimate losses inherent in our credit exposure requires difficult, subjective, and complex judgments, including forecasts of economic conditions and how these economic conditions might impair the ability of our borrowers to repay their loans and leases. The level of uncertainty concerning economic conditions may adversely affect the accuracy of our estimates which may, in turn, impact the reliability of the process.
- If economic conditions deteriorate, it may exacerbate the following consequences:

problem assets and foreclosures may increase;
demand for our products and services may decline;
low cost or noninterest-bearing deposits may decrease; and
collateral for loans and leases made by us, especially real estate, may decline in value.

Our banking operations are concentrated primarily in California, Texas and Illinois. Adverse economic conditions in these regions in particular could impair borrowers’ ability to repay their loans and leases, decrease the level and duration of deposits by customers, and erode the value of loan and lease collateral. These conditions can potentially cause the general decline in real estate sales and prices in many markets across the United States, the recurrence of an economic recession, and higher rates of unemployment. These conditions could increase the amount of our non-performing assets and have an adverse effect on our efforts to collect our non-performing loans and leases or otherwise liquidate our non-performing assets (including other real estate owned) on terms favorable to us, if at all, and could also cause a decline in demand for our products and services, or a lack of growth or a decrease in deposits, any of which may cause us to incur losses, adversely affect our capital, and hurt our business.

Our Southern California concentration means economic conditions in Southern California could adversely affect our operations. Though the Bank's operations have expanded outside of our original Southern California focus, the majority of our loan and deposit concentration is still primarily in Los Angeles County and Orange County in Southern California. Because of this geographic concentration, our results depend largely upon economic conditions in these areas. A deterioration in the economic conditions or a significant natural or man-made disaster in these market areas, could have a material adverse effect on the quality of the Bank's loan and lease portfolio, the demand for its products and services, and on its overall financial condition and results of operations.

Our concentrations of loans and leases in certain industries could have adverse effects on credit quality. As of December 31, 2018, the Bank's loan and lease portfolio included loans to: (i) lessors of non-residential buildings of $1.38 billion, or 29.9 percent of total loans and leases; and (ii) borrowers in the hospitality industry of $849.3 million, or 18.5 percent of total gross loans and leases. Because of these concentrations of loans in specific industries, a deterioration within these industries, could affect the ability of borrowers, guarantors and related parties to perform in accordance with the terms of their loans and leases, which could have material and adverse consequences for the Bank.

Our focus on lending to small to mid-sized community-based businesses may increase our credit risk. Most of our commercial business and commercial real estate loans are made to small or middle market businesses. These businesses generally have fewer financial resources in terms of capital or borrowing capacity than larger entities and have a heightened vulnerability to economic conditions. If general economic conditions in the markets in which we operate negatively impact this important customer sector, our results of operations and financial condition and the value of our common stock may be adversely affected. Moreover, a portion of these loans have been made by us in recent years and the borrowers may not have experienced a complete business or economic cycle and therefore does not provide us with a significant payment history from which to judge future collectibility. As a result, it may be difficult to predict the future performance of this part of our loan portfolio. These loans may have delinquency or charge-off levels above our historical experience, which could adversely affect our future performance. Furthermore, the deterioration of our borrowers' businesses may hinder their ability to repay their loans and leases with us, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows.

Our use of appraisals in deciding whether to make loans secured by real property does not ensure that the value of the real property collateral will be sufficient to repay our loans. In considering whether to make a loan secured by real property, we require an appraisal of the property. However, an appraisal is only an estimate of the value of the property at the time the appraisal is made and requires the exercise of a considerable degree of judgment and adherence to professional standards. If the appraisal does not reflect the amount that may be obtained upon sale or foreclosure of the property, whether due to declines in property values after the date of the original appraisal or defective preparation, we may not realize an amount equal to the indebtedness secured by the property and may suffer losses.

If a significant number of borrowers, guarantors or related parties fail to perform as required by the terms of their loans and leases, we could sustain losses. A significant source of risk arises from the possibility that losses will be sustained because borrowers, guarantors or related parties may fail to perform in accordance with the terms of their loans and leases. We have adopted underwriting and credit monitoring procedures and credit policies, including the establishment and review of the allowance for loan and lease losses, that management believe are appropriate to limit this risk by assessing the likelihood of non-performance, tracking loan and lease performance and diversifying our credit portfolio.

Our loan and lease portfolio is predominantly secured by real estate and thus we have a higher degree of risk from a downturn in our real estate markets, especially a downturn in the Southern California real estate market. A downturn in the real estate markets could hurt our business because many of our loans are secured by real estate. Real estate values and real estate markets are generally affected by changes in national, regional or local economic conditions, fluctuations in interest rates and the availability of loans to potential purchasers, changes in tax laws and other governmental statutes, regulations and policies, and acts of nature, such as earthquakes and national disasters particular to California. Predominantly all of our real estate collateral is located in California. If real estate values decline, the value of real estate collateral securing our loans could be significantly reduced. Our ability to recover on defaulted loans by foreclosing and selling the real estate collateral would then be diminished, and we would be more likely to suffer material losses on defaulted loans.

We are exposed to risk of environmental liabilities with respect to properties to which we take title. In the course of our business, we may foreclose and take title to real estate, and could be subject to environmental liabilities with respect to these properties. We may be held liable to a governmental entity or to third parties for property damage, personal injury, investigation and clean-up costs incurred by these parties in connection with environmental contamination, or may be required to investigate or clean up hazardous or toxic substances, or chemical releases at a property. The costs associated with investigation or remediation activities could be substantial. In addition, if we are the owner or former owner of a contaminated site, we may be subject to common law claims by third parties based on damages and costs resulting from environmental contamination emanating from the property. If we become subject to significant environmental liabilities, our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects could be materially and adversely affected.

Our allowance for loan and lease losses may not be adequate to cover actual losses. A significant source of risk arises from the possibility that we could sustain losses because borrowers, guarantors and related parties may fail to perform in accordance with the terms of their loans and leases. The underwriting and credit monitoring policies and procedures that we have adopted to address this risk may not prevent unexpected losses that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. We maintain an allowance for loan and lease losses to provide for loan and lease defaults and non-performance. The allowance is also increased for new loan and lease growth. While we believe that our allowance for loan and lease losses is adequate to cover inherent losses, we cannot assure you that we will not increase the allowance for loan and lease losses further or that our regulators will not require us to increase this allowance. Additionally, if our assumptions in establishing the allowance for loan and lease losses are incorrect, the allowance for loan and lease losses may be insufficient to cover losses, requiring additional provisions for loan losses, which would negatively impact our financial operating results.

We are required to adopt a new accounting standard which requires measurement of certain financial assets (including loans and certain investments) using the current expected credit losses ("CECL") beginning in calendar year 2020. Current GAAP requires an incurred loss methodology for recognizing credit losses that delays recognition until it is probable a loss has been incurred. The Financial Accounting Standards Board's amendment replaces the current incurred loss methodology with a methodology that reflects expected credit losses and requires consideration of a broader range of reasonableness and supportable information to inform credit loss estimates. We are in the process of evaluating the impact of the adoption of this guidance on our financial statements; however, it is anticipated that the allowance will increase upon the adoption of CECL and that the increased allowance level will decrease shareholders' equity and the Company’s and Bank's regulatory capital ratios.

Our earnings are affected by changing interest rates. Our profitability is dependent to a large extent on our net interest income. Like most financial institutions, we are affected by changes in general interest rate levels and by other economic factors beyond our control. Although we believe we have implemented strategies to reduce the potential effects of changes in interest rates on our results of operations, any substantial and prolonged change in market interest rates could adversely affect our operating results.

Net interest income may decline in a particular period if:

- in a declining interest rate environment, more interest-earning assets than interest-bearing liabilities re-price or mature, or
- in a rising interest rate environment, more interest-bearing liabilities than interest-earning assets re-price or mature.

Our net interest income may decline based on our exposure to a difference in short-term and long-term interest rates. If the difference between the short-term and long-term interest rates shrinks or disappears, the difference between rates paid on deposits and received on loans could narrow significantly resulting in a decrease in net interest income. In addition to these factors, if market interest rates rise rapidly, interest rate adjustment caps may limit increases in the interest rates on adjustable rate loans, thus reducing our net interest income. Also, certain adjustable rate loans re-price based on lagging interest rate indices. This lagging effect may also negatively impact our net interest income when general interest rates continue to rise periodically. Increasing interest rates may also reduce the fair value of our fixed rate available-for-sale investment securities negatively impacting shareholders' equity.

Liquidity risk could impair our ability to fund operations and jeopardize our financial condition. Liquidity is essential to our business. An inability to raise funds through deposits, including brokered deposits, borrowings, the sale of loans and leases and other sources could have a material adverse effect on our liquidity. Our access to funding sources in amounts adequate to finance our activities could be impaired by factors that affect us specifically or the financial services industry in general. Factors that could detrimentally impact our access to liquidity sources include a decrease in the level of our business

activity due to a market downturn or adverse regulatory action against us. Furthermore, if certain funding sources become unavailable, we may need to seek alternatives at higher costs, which would negatively impact our results of operations.
Our ability to acquire deposits or borrow could also be impaired by factors that are not specific to us, such as a severe disruption of the financial markets or negative views and expectations about the prospects for the financial services industry as a whole.
We are subject to government regulations that could limit or restrict our activities, which in turn could adversely affect our operations. The financial services industry is subject to extensive federal and state supervision and regulation. Changes or repeals of existing laws may cause our results to differ materially from historical and projected performance. Further, federal monetary policy, particularly as implemented through the Federal Reserve, significantly affects credit conditions, and a material change in these conditions could have a material adverse impact on our financial condition and results of operations.
Additional requirements imposed by Dodd-Frank and other regulations could adversely affect us. Dodd-Frank and related regulations subject us and other financial institutions to more restrictions, oversight, reporting obligations and costs. In addition, this increased regulation of the financial services industry restricts the ability of institutions within the industry to conduct business consistent with historical practices, including aspects such as compensation practices, interest rates for customers and new and inconsistent consumer protection regulations and mortgage regulation, among others. Federal and state regulatory agencies also frequently adopt changes to their regulations or change the manner in which existing regulations are applied.
Current and future legal and regulatory requirements, restrictions and regulations, including those imposed under Dodd-Frank, may adversely impact our business, financial condition, and results of operations, may require us to invest significant management attention and resources to evaluate and make any changes required by the legislation and accompanying rules.
Additional requirements imposed by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau could adversely affect us.
Dodd-Frank created the CFPB, which is tasked with establishing and implementing rules and regulations under certain federal consumer protection laws with respect to the conduct of providers of certain consumer financial products and services. The CFPB has rulemaking authority over many of the statutes governing products and services offered to bank consumers. In addition, Dodd-Frank permits states to adopt consumer protection laws and regulations that are more stringent than those regulations promulgated by the CFPB, and state attorneys general are permitted to enforce consumer protection rules adopted by the CFPB against state-chartered institutions, including the Bank. To the extent the CFPB has authority over us, if we fail to comply with the rules and regulations promulgated by the CFPB, we may be subject to adverse enforcement actions, fines or penalties against us.
We face a risk of noncompliance and enforcement action with the Bank Secrecy Act and other anti-money laundering statutes and regulations. The Bank Secrecy Act, the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, and other laws and regulations require financial institutions, among other duties, to institute and maintain an effective anti-money laundering program and file suspicious activity and currency transaction reports as appropriate. The federal Financial Crimes Enforcement Network is authorized to impose significant civil money penalties for violations of those requirements and has engaged in coordinated enforcement efforts with the individual federal banking regulators, as well as the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Internal Revenue Service. We are also subject to increased scrutiny of compliance with the rules enforced by the Office of Foreign Assets Control and compliance with the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. If our policies, procedures and systems are deemed deficient, we would be subject to liability, including fines and regulatory actions, which may include restrictions on our ability to pay dividends and the necessity to obtain regulatory approvals to proceed with certain aspects of our business plan. Failure to maintain and implement adequate programs to combat money laundering and terrorist financing could also have serious reputational consequences for us. Any of these results could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.
Future changes to the FDIC assessment rate could adversely affect our earnings. The amount of premiums that we are required to pay for FDIC insurance is generally beyond our control. If there are additional bank or financial institution failures, if our risk classification changes, or the method for calculating premiums change, this may impact assessment

rates which may have a material and adverse effect on our earnings and could have a material adverse effect on the value of, or market for, our common stock.

The impact of the Basel III capital standards imposed enhanced capital adequacy standards on us. In June 2013, federal banking regulators jointly issued rules that impose new capital requirements. The new rules became effective for the Company and Bank on January 1, 2015, and are subject to a multi-year phase in. Among other things, the rules require that we maintain a Common Equity Tier 1 capital ratio of 4.5%, a Tier 1 capital ratio of 6%, a total capital ratio of 8%, and a Tier 1

leverage ratio of 4%. In addition, as of January 1, 2019, we have to maintain an additional capital conservation buffer of 2.5% of total risk weighted assets or be subject to limitations on dividends and other capital distributions, as well as limiting discretionary bonus payments to executive officers. Therefore, the minimum capital plus capital conservation buffer ratio is a Common Equity Tier 1 capital ratio of 7.0%, Tier 1 capital ratio of 8.5%, and total capital ratio of 10.5%. The rules also restrict grandfathered trust preferred securities from comprising more than 25% of Tier 1 capital. If an institution grows above $15 billion as a result of an acquisition, or organically grows above $15 billion and then makes an acquisition, the combined trust preferred issuances would be eliminated from Tier 1 capital. The application of more stringent capital requirements could, among other things, result in lower returns on invested capital and result in regulatory actions if we were to be unable to comply with such requirements. In addition, more stringent capital requirements could require us to raise additional capital on terms which may not be favorable.
Competition may adversely affect our performance. The banking and financial services businesses in our market areas are highly competitive. We face competition in attracting deposits, making loans and leases, and attracting and retaining employees, particularly in the Korean-American community. The increasingly competitive environment is a result of changes in regulation, changes in technology and product delivery systems, new competitors in the market, and the pace of consolidation among financial services providers. Our results in the future may be materially and adversely impacted depending upon the nature and level of competition.
The soundness of other financial institutions could adversely affect us. Financial services institutions are interrelated as a result of trading, clearing, counterparty or other relationships. We have exposure to many different industries and counterparties, and we routinely execute transactions with counterparties in the financial industry, including brokers and dealers, commercial banks, investment banks, mutual and hedge funds, and other institutional clients. Many of these transactions expose us to credit risk in the event of default of our counterparty or client. In addition, our credit risk may be exacerbated when the collateral held by us cannot be realized upon or is liquidated at prices not sufficient to recover the full amount of the financial instrument exposure due us. Any such losses could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.
A failure in or breach of our operational or security systems or infrastructure, including as a result of cyber attacks, could disrupt our businesses, result in the disclosure or misuse of confidential or proprietary information, damage our reputation, increase our costs and cause losses. As a financial institution, we depend on our ability to process, record and monitor a large number of customer transactions on a continuous basis. As our customer base and locations have expanded throughout the U.S. and as customer, public, legislative and regulatory expectations regarding operational and information security have increased, our operational systems and infrastructure must continue to be safeguarded and monitored for potential failures, disruptions and breakdowns.
Our business, financial, accounting, data processing systems or other operating systems and facilities may stop operating properly or become disabled or damaged as a result of a number of factors including events that are wholly or partially beyond our control. For example, there could be sudden increases in customer transaction volume; electrical or telecommunications outages; degradation or loss of public internet domain; climate change related impacts and natural disasters such as earthquakes, tornados, and hurricanes; disease pandemics; events arising from local or larger scale political or social matters, including terrorist acts, building emergencies such as water leakage, fires and structural issues, and cyber attacks. Although we have business continuity plans and other safeguards in place, our business operations may be adversely affected by significant and widespread disruption to our physical infrastructure or operating systems that support our businesses and customers.
The occurrence of breaches or failures of our information security controls or cybersecurity-related incidents could also have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. As a financial institution, we are susceptible to information security breaches and cybersecurity-related incidents that may be committed against us or our clients, which may result in financial losses or increased costs to us or our clients, disclosure or misuse of our information or our client information, misappropriation of assets, privacy breaches against our clients, litigation, or damage to our reputation. Information security breaches and cybersecurity-related incidents may include fraudulent or unauthorized access to systems used by us or our clients, denial or degradation of service attacks, and malware or other cyber attacks.

Our business relies on our digital technologies, computer and email systems, software, and networks to conduct its operations. In addition, to access our products and services, our customers may use personal smart-phones, tablet PC's, and other mobile devices that are beyond our control systems. Although we believe we have strong information security procedures and controls, our technologies, systems, networks, and our customers' devices may become the target of cyber attacks or information security breaches that could result in the unauthorized release, gathering, monitoring, misuse, loss or destruction of Bank's or our customers' confidential, proprietary and other information, or otherwise disrupt Bank's or its customers' or other third parties' business operations.

To date we have not experienced any material losses relating to cyber attacks or other information security breaches, but there can be no assurance that we will not suffer such losses in the future. Our risk and exposure to these matters remains heightened because of, among other things, the evolving nature of these threats, our plans to continue to enhance our internet banking and mobile banking channel strategies to serve our customers when and how they want to be served, and our expanded geographic footprint. There continues to be a rise in security breaches and cyber attacks within the financial services industry, especially in the commercial banking sector. For example, financial institutions continue to be the target of various evolving and adaptive cyber attacks, including malware, ransomware and denial-of-service, as part of an effort to disrupt the operations of financial institutions, potentially test their cybersecurity capabilities, or obtain confidential, proprietary or other information. Consistent with industry trends, we have also experienced an increase in attempted security breaches and cybersecurity-related incidents in recent periods. Moreover, in recent periods, several large corporations, including financial institutions and retail companies, have suffered major data breaches, in some cases exposing not only confidential and proprietary corporate information, but also sensitive financial and other personal information of their customers and employees and subjecting them to potential fraudulent activity. Some of our clients may have been affected by these breaches, which increase their risks of identity theft, credit card fraud and other fraudulent activity that could involve their accounts with us. As cyber threats continue to evolve, we may be required to expend significant additional resources to continue to modify or enhance our protective measures or to investigate and remediate any information security vulnerabilities.

Disruptions or failures in the physical infrastructure or operating systems that support our businesses and customers, or cyber attacks or security breaches of the networks, systems or devices that our customers use to access our products and services could result in customer attrition, financial losses, the inability of our customers to transact business with us, violations of applicable privacy and other laws, regulatory fines, penalties or intervention, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs, and/or additional compliance costs, any of which could materially adversely affect our results of operations or financial condition.

The failure to maintain current technologies and the costs to update technology could negatively impact the Corporation's business and financial results. Our future success depends, in part, on our ability to effectively embrace technology to better serve customers and reduce costs. The Corporation may be required to expand additional resources to employ this technology. Failure to keep pace with technological change could potentially have an adverse effect on our business operations and financial condition and results of operations.

We may not be able to successfully implement future information technology system enhancements, which could adversely affect our business operations and profitability. We invest significant resources in information technology system enhancements in order to provide functionality and security at an appropriate level. We may not be able to successfully implement and integrate future system enhancements, which could adversely impact the ability to provide timely and accurate financial information in compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, which could result in sanctions from regulatory authorities. Such sanctions could include fines and suspension of trading in our stock, among others. In addition, future system enhancements could have higher than expected costs and/or result in operating inefficiencies, which could increase the costs associated with the implementation as well as ongoing operations.

Failure to properly utilize system enhancements that are implemented in the future could result in impairment charges that adversely impact our financial condition and results of operations and could result in significant costs to remediate or replace the defective components. In addition, we may incur significant training, licensing, maintenance, consulting and amortization expenses during and after systems implementations, and any such costs may continue for an extended period of time.

We rely on third party vendors and other service providers, which could expose us to additional risk. We face additional risk of failure in or breach of operational or security systems or infrastructure related to our reliance on third party vendors and other service providers. Third parties with which we do business or that facilitate our business activities or vendors that provide services or security solutions for our operations, particularly those that are cloud-based, could be sources of operational and information security risk to us, including from breakdowns or failures of their own systems or capacity constraints. We are subject to operational risks relating to such third parties' technology and information systems. The continued efficacy of our technology and information systems, related operational infrastructure and relationships with third party vendors in our ongoing operations is integral to our performance. Failure of any of these resources, including but not limited to operational or systems failures, interruptions of client service operations and ineffectiveness of or interruption in third party data processing or other vendor support, may cause material disruptions in our business, impairment of customer relations and exposure to liability for our customers, as well as action by bank regulatory authorities. In addition, a number of our vendors are large national entities, and their services could prove difficult to replace in a timely manner if a failure or other service interruption were to occur. Failures of certain vendors to provide contracted services could adversely affect our ability to deliver products and services to our customers and cause us to incur significant expense.

Fraudulent activity could damage our reputation, disrupt our businesses, increase our costs and cause losses. We are susceptible to fraudulent activity that may be committed against us or our clients, which may result in damage to our reputation, financial losses or increased costs to us or our clients, disclosure or misuse of our information or our client information, misappropriation of assets, privacy breaches against our clients, litigation, or damage to our reputation. Such fraudu