

CHEVIOT FINANCIAL CORP  
Form 10-K  
March 17, 2010

---

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, 2009

OR

o Transition Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File No. 000-33405

Cheviot Financial Corp.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified  
in its charter)

Federal  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation or organization)

56-2423720  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)

3723 Glenmore Avenue, Cheviot,  
Ohio  
(Address of Principal Executive  
Offices)

45211  
Zip Code

(513) 661-0457

(Registrant's telephone number)

Securities Registered

Pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act: Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share

The Nasdaq Stock Market, LLC

(Title of Class)

(Name of Each Exchange  
on which Registered)

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

Title of each class

Name of each exchange on which registered

Common Stock, \$0.01 par value

The NASDAQ Stock Market, LLC

Edgar Filing: CHEVIOT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-K

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

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

YES  NO

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

YES  NO

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. YES  NO

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or such shorter period that the Registrant was required to submit and post such files). YES  NO

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) 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" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the Registrant, computed by reference to the last sale price on June 30, 2009, as reported by the Nasdaq Capital Market, was approximately \$22.6 million.

As of March 1, 2010, there was issued and outstanding 8,868,706 shares of the Registrant's Common Stock.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:

(1) Proxy Statement for the 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Registrant (Part III).

(2) Annual Report to Stockholder (Part II and IV).

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ITEM 1.</u>	<u>BUSINESS</u>	1
	<u>REGULATION</u>	20
	<u>TAXATION</u>	28
	<u>MANAGEMENT</u>	29
<u>ITEM 1A.</u>	<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	30
<u>ITEM 1B.</u>	<u>UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS</u>	31
<u>ITEM 2.</u>	<u>PROPERTIES</u>	32
<u>ITEM 3.</u>	<u>LEGAL PROCEEDINGS</u>	32
<u>ITEM 4.</u>	<u>SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS</u>	32
<u>ITEM 5.</u>	<u>MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES</u>	33
<u>ITEM 6.</u>	<u>SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA</u>	34
<u>ITEM 7.</u>	<u>MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS</u>	34
<u>ITEM 7A.</u>	<u>QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK</u>	34
<u>ITEM 8.</u>	<u>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA</u>	34
<u>ITEM 9.</u>	<u>CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE</u>	34
<u>ITEM 9A(T).</u>	<u>CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES</u>	34
<u>ITEM 9B.</u>	<u>OTHER INFORMATION</u>	35
<u>ITEM 10.</u>	<u>DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u>	36
<u>ITEM 11.</u>	<u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	36
<u>ITEM 12.</u>	<u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS</u>	36
<u>ITEM 13.</u>	<u>CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE</u>	36
<u>ITEM 14.</u>	<u>PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES</u>	36
<u>ITEM 15.</u>	<u>EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES</u>	36

---

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

Forward Looking Statements

This Annual Report contains certain “forward-looking statements” which may be identified by the use of words such as “believe,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “should,” “planned,” “estimated” and “potential.” Examples of forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, estimates with respect to our financial condition, results of operations and business that are subject to various factors which could cause actual results to differ materially from these estimates and most other statements that are not historical in nature. These factors include, but are not limited to, general and local economic conditions, changes in interest rates, deposit flows, demand for mortgage, commercial and other loans, real estate values, competition, changes in accounting principles, policies, or guidelines, changes in legislation or regulation, and other economic, competitive, governmental, regulatory, and technological factors affecting our operations, pricing products and services.

General

Cheviot Financial Corp.

Following completion of our mutual holding company reorganization and stock offering on January 5, 2004, Cheviot Financial Corp. (the “Company”) became the mid-tier stock holding company for Cheviot Savings Bank. The business of Cheviot Financial Corp. consists of holding all of the outstanding common stock of Cheviot Savings Bank. Cheviot Financial Corp. is chartered under Federal law. As part of our reorganization, we issued a total of 9,918,751 shares of common stock. Our mutual holding company parent, Cheviot Mutual Holding Company, received 5,455,313 of our common shares, and we sold 4,388,438 shares to our depositors and a newly formed Employee Stock Ownership Plan. In addition, 75,000 shares were issued to a charitable foundation formed by Cheviot Savings Bank. Under federal regulations, so long as Cheviot Mutual Holding Company exists, it will own at least 50.1% of the voting stock of Cheviot Financial Corp. At December 31, 2009, Cheviot Financial Corp. had total consolidated assets of \$341.9 million, total deposits of \$235.9 million, and stockholders’ equity of \$68.8 million. For the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007 we had net income of \$1.1 million, \$1.4 million and \$926,000, respectively. Our executive offices are located at 3723 Glenmore Avenue, Cheviot, Ohio 45211, and our telephone number is (513) 661-0457.

Cheviot Savings Bank

Cheviot Savings Bank (the “Bank”) was established in 1911 as an Ohio-chartered savings and loan association. Following our reorganization, we became an Ohio-chartered stock savings and loan. Our primary business activity is the origination of one- to four-family real estate loans. To a lesser extent, we originate construction, multi-family, commercial real estate and consumer loans. We also invest in securities, primarily United States Government Agency securities and mortgage-backed securities. At December 31, 2009, the Bank’s tangible core and risk-based capital ratios were 16.2%, 16.2% and 32.9%, levels well in excess of regulatory requirements.

Market Area

We conduct our operations from our executive office in Cheviot, Ohio and six full-service branches, all of which are located in the western section of Hamilton County, Ohio. Cheviot, Ohio is located in Hamilton County and is 10 miles west of downtown Cincinnati. Hamilton County, Ohio represents our primary geographic market area for loans and deposits with our remaining business operations conducted in the larger Cincinnati metropolitan area which includes Warren, Butler and Clermont Counties. We also conduct a moderate level of business in the southeastern Indiana

region, primarily in Dearborn, Ripley, Franklin and Ohio Counties. We also originate loans in the Northern Kentucky region secured by properties in Campbell, Kenton and Boone Counties. The local economy is diversified with services, trade and manufacturing employment remaining the most prominent employment sectors in Hamilton County. Hamilton County is primarily a developed and urban county. The employment base is well diversified and there is no dependence on one area of the economy for continued employment. Our future growth opportunities will be influenced by the growth and stability of the regional, state and national economies, other demographic trends and the competitive environment.

---

Hamilton County and Cincinnati have experienced a declining population since the 1990 census while the other counties in which we conduct business had population growth. The population decline in both Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati results from the other counties and Northern Kentucky being more successful in attracting new and existing businesses to locate within their areas through economic incentives, including less expensive real estate options for office facilities. Individuals are moving to these other areas to be closer to their place of employment, for newer, less expensive housing and more suburban neighborhoods. Median household and per capita income measures for Hamilton County are above comparable measures for both the United States and Ohio, which we believe indicates the relatively stable and diversified economy in the regional market served by Cheviot Savings Bank. Recent employment trends indicate lower levels of unemployment in Hamilton County compared to national and state-wide unemployment rates. During the current economic times our market area has experienced a decrease in property values and building development.

We believe that we have developed products and services that will meet the financial needs of our current and future customer base; however, we plan, and believe it is necessary, to expand the range of products and services that we offer to be more competitive in our market area. Marketing strategies focus on the strength of our knowledge of local consumer and small business markets, as well as expanding relationships with current customers and reaching out to develop new, profitable business relationships.

#### Competition.

We face significant competition within our market both in making loans and attracting deposits. Hamilton County has a high concentration of financial institutions including large money center and regional banks, community banks and credit unions. Some of our competitors offer products and services that we currently do not offer, such as trust services and private banking. Our competition for loans and deposits comes principally from commercial banks, savings institutions, mortgage banking firms, consumer finance companies and credit unions. We face additional competition for deposits from short-term money market funds, brokerage firms, mutual funds and insurance companies. Our primary focus is to build and develop profitable customer relationships across all lines of business while maintaining our position as a community bank.

#### Lending Activities.

General. Historically, our principal lending activity has been the origination, for retention in our portfolio, of fixed-rate and adjustable-rate mortgage loans collateralized by one- to four-family residential real estate located within our primary market area. We will sell a portion of our fixed-rate loans into the secondary market. We also originate commercial real estate loans, including multi-family residential real estate loans, construction loans, business lines of credit and consumer loans. During the past year our loan portfolio decreased to \$247.0 million at December 31, 2009 from \$268.5 million at December 31, 2008. The decrease in our loan portfolio reflects management's decision to take advantage of opportunities to obtain a higher rate of return by selling certain mortgage loans to the Federal Home Loan Bank.

Loan Portfolio Composition. Set forth below is selected information concerning the composition of our loan portfolio in dollar amounts and in percentages as of the dates indicated.

	2009		2008		2007		2006		2005	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
(Dollars in thousands)										
Real estate loans:										
One- to four-family residential(1)	\$220,714	88.05 %	\$234,822	86.38 %	\$216,958	84.39 %	\$209,996	84.06 %	\$195,059	84.97 %
Multi-family residential	9,114	3.64	9,385	3.45	10,638	4.14	11,250	4.50	11,144	4.86
Construction	4,868	1.94	11,646	4.28	19,421	7.55	19,022	7.61	12,360	5.38
Commercial(2)	15,925	6.35	15,942	5.87	10,018	3.90	9,466	3.80	10,883	4.74
Consumer(3)	51	0.02	48	0.02	66	0.02	82	0.03	110	0.05
Total loans	250,672	100.00 %	271,843	100.00 %	257,101	100.00 %	249,816	100.00 %	229,556	100.00 %
Less:										
Undisbursed portion of loans in process	2,696		2,623		6,585		7,646		5,849	
Deferred loan origination fees	(51 )		28		88		159		188	
Allowance for loan losses	1,025		709		596		833		808	
Total loans, net	\$247,002		\$268,483		\$249,832		\$241,178		\$222,711	

(1) Includes home equity lines of credit, loans purchased and loans held for sale.

(2) Includes land loans.

(3) Loans secured by deposit accounts.

Loan Maturity Schedule. The following table sets forth certain information as of December 31, 2009, regarding the amount of loans maturing in our portfolio. Demand loans and loans with no stated maturity are reported as due within one year.

	At December 31, 2009						Total
	Within One Year	One Through Three Years	Three Through Five Years	Five Through Ten Years	Ten Through Twenty Years	Beyond Twenty Years	
	(In thousands)						
Real estate loans:							
One- to four-family real estate	\$5,381	\$11,689	\$13,045	\$39,623	\$120,722	\$30,254	\$220,714
Multi-family residential	208	463	536	1,738	6,097	72	9,114
Construction	113	249	282	879	2,847	498	4,868
Commercial	363	810	937	3,036	10,654	125	15,925
Consumer	51	—	—	—	—	—	51
Total loans	\$6,116	\$13,211	\$14,800	\$45,276	\$140,320	\$30,949	\$250,672

Fixed and Adjustable-Rate Loan Schedule. The following table sets forth at December 31, 2009, the dollar amount of all fixed-rate and adjustable-rate mortgage loans and home equity lines of credit due after December 31, 2010.

	Due After December 31, 2010		
	Fixed	Floating or Adjustable	Total
	(In thousands)		
Real estate loans:			
One- to four-family real estate	\$175,496	\$39,837	\$215,333
Multi-family residential	7,258	1,648	8,906
Construction	4,755	—	4,755
Commercial	12,683	2,879	15,562
Consumer	—	—	—
Total loans	\$200,192	\$44,364	\$244,556

Residential Mortgage Loans. Cheviot Savings Bank originates mortgage loans secured by one- to four-family properties, most of which serve as the primary residence of the owner. As of December 31, 2009, one- to four-family residential mortgage loans totaled \$220.7 million, or 88.1% of our total loan portfolio. At December 31, 2009, our one- to four-family residential loan portfolio consisted of 18.5% in adjustable-rate loans and 81.5% in fixed-rate loans. Most of our loan originations result from relationships with existing or past customers, members of our local community and referrals from realtors, attorneys and builders.

Our mortgage loans generally have terms from 15 to 30 years and amortize on a monthly basis with principal and interest due each month. As of December 31, 2009, we offered the following residential mortgage loan products:

Fixed-rate loans of various terms;

Adjustable-rate loans;

Home equity lines of credit;



Loans tailored for first time home buyers;

Construction/permanent loans; and

Short-term (bridge) loans.

Residential real estate loans may remain outstanding for significantly shorter periods than their contractual terms as borrowers refinance or prepay loans at their option without penalty. Our residential mortgage loans customarily contain “due on sale” clauses which permit us to accelerate the indebtedness of the loan upon transfer of ownership in the mortgage property.

We currently sell a portion of our conforming fixed-rate loans in the secondary market and hold the remaining fixed-rate loans and adjustable-rate loans in our portfolio. During, 2009, we sold \$23.1 million in loans on a servicing retained basis. We lend up to a maximum loan-to-value ratio of 95% on mortgage loans secured by owner-occupied properties, with the condition that private mortgage insurance is required on first mortgage loans with a loan-to-value ratio in excess of 85%. The first time home buyer program allows 100% financing and does not require private mortgage insurance. During 2009, we originated \$987,000 in loans under this program. As of December 31, 2009, these loans were performing in accordance with the original terms. To a lesser extent, we originate non-conforming loans that are tailored to the needs of the local community.

Our adjustable-rate mortgage loans are originated with a maximum term of 30 years. Adjustable-rate loans include loans that provide for an interest rate based on the interest paid on U.S. Treasury Securities of corresponding terms, plus a margin. Our adjustable-rate mortgages include limits on the increase or decrease in the interest rate. The interest rate may increase or decrease by a maximum of 2.0% per adjustment with a ceiling rate over the life of the loan, which generally is 5.0%. For all adjustable-rate loans, borrowers are qualified at the initial rate and at 2.0% over the initial rate. We do not originate subprime, Alt-A or option arm loans.

The retention of adjustable-rate loans in our portfolio helps reduce exposure to changes in interest rates. However, there are credit risks resulting from potential increased costs to the borrower as a result of rising interest rates. During periods of rising interest rates, the risk of default on adjustable-rate mortgages may increase due to the upward adjustment of interest cost to the borrower. During periods of declining interest rates, our interest income from adjustable rate loans may be significantly decreased.

During the year ended December 31, 2009, we originated \$6.7 million in adjustable-rate loans and \$56.7 million in fixed-rate loans.

Home equity lines of credit are generally made for owner-occupied homes and are secured by first or second mortgages on residential properties. We are attempting to increase our originations of home equity lines of credit. We generally offer home equity lines of credit with a maximum loan to appraised value ratio of 85% including senior liens on the subject property and with a maximum loan to appraised value of ratio 80% when the senior lien is held elsewhere. We currently offer these loans for terms of up to 10 years, and with adjustable rates that are tied to the prime rate. At December 31, 2009, home equity lines of credit represented \$8.1 million of our one- to four-family residential loans.

Construction Loans. Cheviot Savings Bank originates construction loans for owner-occupied residential real estate, and, to a lesser extent, for commercial builders of residential real estate, improvement to existing structures, new construction for commercial purposes and residential land development.

At December 31, 2009, construction loans represented \$4.9 million, or 1.9%, of Cheviot Savings Bank’s total loans. At December 31, 2009, the unadvanced portion of these constructions loans totaled \$2.7 million.

Cheviot Savings Bank's construction loans generally provide for the payment of interest only during the construction phase (12 months for single family residential and varying terms for commercial property and land development). At the end of the construction phase, the loan converts to a permanent mortgage loan. Before making a commitment to fund a construction loan, Cheviot Savings Bank requires detailed cost estimates to complete the project and an appraisal of the property by an independent licensed appraiser. Cheviot Savings Bank also reviews and inspects each property before disbursement of funds during the term of the construction loan. Loan proceeds are disbursed after inspection based on the percentage of completion method.

Construction lending generally involves a greater degree of risk than other one- to four-family mortgage lending. The repayment of the construction loan is, to a great degree, dependent upon the successful and timely completion of construction. Various potential factors including construction delays or the financial viability of the builder may further impair the borrower's ability to repay the loan.

**Multi-Family Loans.** At December 31, 2009, \$9.1 million, or 3.6%, of our total loan portfolio consisted of loans secured by multi-family real estate. We originate fixed-rate and adjustable rate multi-family real estate loans with amortization schedules of up to 25 years. We generally lend up to 80% of the property's appraised value. Appraised values are determined by an outside independent appraiser that we designate. In deciding to originate a multi-family loan, we review the creditworthiness of the borrower, the expected cash flows from the property securing the loan, the cash flow requirements of the borrower, the value of the property and the quality of the management involved with the property. We generally obtain the personal guarantee of the principals when originating multi-family real estate loans.

Multi-family real estate lending is generally considered to involve a higher degree of credit risk than one-to four-family residential lending. Such lending may involve large loan balances concentrated on a single borrower or group of related borrowers. In addition, the payment experience on loans secured by income producing properties typically depends on the successful operation of the related real estate project. Consequently, the repayment of the loan may be subject to adverse conditions in the real estate market or the economy generally.

**Commercial Real Estate Loans.** We originate commercial real estate loans to finance the purchase of real property, which generally consists of land and/or developed real estate. In underwriting commercial real estate loans, consideration is given to the property's historic and projected cash flow, current and projected occupancy, location, physical condition and credit worthiness of the borrower. At December 31, 2009, our commercial real estate portfolio totaled \$15.9 million, or 6.4%, of total loans. A majority of our commercial real estate loans are secured by properties in Hamilton County. Our commercial real estate portfolio is diverse as to borrower and property type.

Commercial real estate lending involves additional risks compared to one- to four-family residential lending because payments on loans secured by commercial real estate properties are often dependent on the successful operation or management of the properties, and/or the collateral value of the commercial real estate securing the loan. Repayment of such loans may be subject, to a greater extent than residential loans, to adverse conditions in the real estate market or the economy. Also, commercial real estate loans typically involve large loan balances to single borrowers or groups of related borrowers. Our policies limit the amount of loans to a single borrower or group of related borrowers to reduce this risk.

Commercial real estate loans generally have a higher rate of interest and shorter term than residential mortgage loans because of increased risks associated with commercial real estate lending. Commercial real estate loans are generally offered at adjustable-rates and fixed-rates with a term generally not exceeding 25 years.

Consumer Loans. On a limited basis, we make loans secured by deposit accounts up to 90% of the amount of the depositor's collected deposit account balance. At December 31, 2009, these loans totaled \$51,000, or 0.02%, of total loans. Consumer loans are payable upon demand.

Loan Originations, Purchases, Sales and Servicing. While we originate both fixed-rate and adjustable-rate loans, our ability to generate each type of loan depends upon relative borrower demand and the pricing levels as set in the local marketplace by competing banks, thrifts, credit unions, and mortgage banking companies. Our volume of real estate loan originations is influenced significantly by market interest rates, and, accordingly, the volume of our real estate loan originations can vary from period to period. Our volume of commercial real estate lending has decreased in recent years due to our effort to improve asset quality and to emphasize relationship banking. Conversely during the past year, due to management's decision to sell certain mortgage loans to the Federal Home Loan Bank, our level of one- to four-family and construction loan originations decreased.

The following table sets forth the loan origination, sales and repayment activities of Cheviot Savings Bank for the periods indicated.

	2009	For the Year Ended December 31,			
		2008	2007	2006	2005
		(In thousands)			
Balance outstanding at beginning of period	\$268,483	\$249,832	\$241,178	\$222,711	\$203,842
Originations, including purchased loans					
Real estate loans:					
One- to four-family residential(1)	59,288	55,126	36,136	46,924	53,174
Multi-family residential	1,700	1,600	200	2,791	2,974
Construction	5,030	12,154	9,259	8,406	7,023
Commercial(2)	1,373	1,116	2,018	1,472	1,310
Consumer(3)	71	26	92	448	111
Total loan originations	67,462	70,022	47,705	60,041	64,592
Less:					
Principal repayments	63,429	45,625	34,565	39,175	43,884
Transfers to real estate acquired through foreclosure	1,574	1,294	773	—	201
Loans sold in the secondary market(4)	23,486	3,836	3,670	2,440	1,595
Other(5)	454	616	43	(41)	43
Total deductions	88,943	51,371	39,051	41,574	45,723
Balance outstanding at end of period	\$247,002	\$268,483	\$249,832	\$241,178	\$222,711

(1) Includes home equity lines of credit, loans purchased and loans held for sale.

(2) Includes land loans.

(3) Loans secured by deposit accounts.

(4) Loans sold to the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

(5) Other items consist of loans in process, deferred loan origination fees, unearned interest and the allowance for loan losses.

Loan Approval Procedures and Authority. The lending activities of Cheviot Savings Bank are subject to the written underwriting standards and loan origination procedures established by the board of directors and management. Loan

originations are obtained through a variety of sources, primarily consisting of existing customers and referrals from real estate brokers. Written loan applications are taken by one of Cheviot Savings Bank's loan officers. The loan officer also supervises the procurement of reports, appraisals and other documentation involved with a loan. Cheviot Savings Bank obtains property appraisals from independent appraisers on substantially all of its loans.

7

---

Cheviot Savings Bank's loan approval process is intended to provide direction to management on all phases of real estate lending activity since such real estate mortgage lending is the single most important revenue producing investment of Cheviot Savings Bank. Therefore, Cheviot Savings Bank believes that the underwriting of mortgage loans should be consistent with safe and sound practices to ensure the financial viability of the Bank. The loan underwriting policy is also established to provide appropriate limits and standards for all extensions of credit in real estate or for the purpose of financing the construction of a building or other improvement. Cheviot Savings Bank's loan committee has the authority to approve or deny loan applications on one- to four-family owner occupied properties up to \$750,000. This committee also has the authority for approving or denying loan applications on non-owner occupied properties up to \$500,000. The loan committee reviews all loan applications submitted to Cheviot Savings Bank and lists such applications on a review sheet that is submitted to the board of directors. The board of directors ratifies all loans approved by the loan committee and approves all other loans other than those specifically set forth above.

**Loans to One Borrower.** State savings and loan institutions are subject to the same loans to one borrower limits as those applicable to national banks, which under current regulations restrict loans to one borrower to an amount equal to 15% of unimpaired equity on an unsecured basis, and an additional amount equal to 10% of unimpaired equity if the loan is secured by readily marketable collateral (generally, financial instruments and bullion, but not real estate). Our loans to one borrower limit under this regulation at December 31, 2009 was \$8.2 million. Our policy generally provides that loans to one borrower (or related borrowers) should not exceed \$4.0 million (excluding the borrower's principal residence). However, the board of directors may approve loans in greater amounts and may amend this limitation annually based on the asset growth and capital position of Cheviot Savings Bank.

At December 31, 2009, the largest aggregate credit exposure to one borrower consisted of one loan totaling \$5.3 million. This loan was performing in accordance with contractual terms. There were thirteen additional credit relationships, including committed amounts, in excess of \$1.0 million at December 31, 2009. All of the loans extended under these credit relationships were performing as of December 31, 2009.

#### Asset Quality.

**General.** One of our key operating objectives has been, and continues to be, to maintain a high asset quality. Our high proportion of one- to four-family mortgage loans, our maintenance of sound credit standards for new loan originations and our loan administration procedures have resulted in our impaired and non-performing loans totaling to \$2.4 million, or 1.0% of net loans at December 31, 2009. During 2009, we addressed the consequences of a weakening national and local economy by adhering to our conservative underwriting standards and limiting our exposure on one-to four-family residential investment properties.

**Collection Procedures.** When a borrower fails to make required payments on a loan, we take a number of steps to induce the borrower to cure the delinquency and restore the loan to a current status. Cheviot Savings Bank has implemented certain loan tracking policies and collection procedures to ensure effective management of classified assets. Cheviot Savings Bank generally sends a written notice of non-payment to its borrower after a loan is first past due. If payment has not been received within a reasonable time period, personal contact efforts are attempted by telephone or by letter. If no payment is received the following month, a letter stating that the borrower is two months behind is mailed indicating that the borrower needs to contact our collections department, and make payment arrangements. If the borrower has missed two consecutive payments, a demand letter will be sent by certified mail. On all accounts that are not current ten days after the completion of the last step set forth above our collection manager or staff member contacts the borrower by phone at their home and if necessary, at their place of employment in order to establish communications with the borrower concerning the delinquency and to try to establish a meeting with the borrower to determine what steps are needed to bring the borrower to a current status. If contact with the borrower by telephone is unsuccessful and the loan becomes 60 days delinquent Cheviot Savings Bank sends a letter stating its intention to begin foreclosure procedures. If no satisfactory agreement has been reached with the borrower within 15

days after the foreclosure intention letter, the Board of Directors will consider the status of the delinquency and may authorize Cheviot Savings Bank's attorney to send a letter to the borrower advising the borrower that foreclosure proceedings will be initiated and setting forth the conditions which could forestall the foreclosure. In selected cases, Cheviot Savings Bank may make an economic decision to forego foreclosure and work with the borrower to bring the loan current. Repayment schedules may be entered into with chronically delinquent borrowers if management determines this resolution is more advantageous to Cheviot Savings Bank.

In connection with home equity lines of credit, when payment is first past due the collection manager or staff member attempts to contact the borrower by phone at their home. If phone contact is unsuccessful, the collection manager or staff member will mail a late notice to the borrower at the beginning of the following month indicating the need to contact the collections personnel and bring the loan current. If the preceding steps are unsuccessful then the collection manager will implement the steps described above leading to foreclosure.

Cheviot Savings Bank has implemented several credit risk measures in the loan origination process that have served to reduce potential losses. Cheviot Savings Bank also seeks to limit loan portfolio credit risk by originating in the local market generally one- to four-family permanent mortgage loans with a loan-to-value of 85% or less, and one and two family owner-occupied residential mortgage loans with a loan-to-value of 85%, with private mortgage insurance required on first mortgage loans with loan-to-value of greater than 85%. Cheviot Savings Bank consistently observed conservative loan underwriting guidelines and makes exceptions in originating such loans only if there are sound reasons for such exceptions.

Credit risk on commercial real estate loans is managed by generally limiting such lending to local markets and emphasizing sound underwriting and monitoring the financial status of the borrower. In originating such loans Cheviot Savings Bank seeks debt service coverage ratios in excess of 1.00x.

To limit the impact of loan losses in any given quarter, Cheviot Savings Bank seeks to maintain an adequate level of valuation allowances. Its management and board of directors review the level of general valuation allowances on a quarterly basis to ensure that adequate coverage against known and inherent losses is maintained, based on the level of non-performing and classified assets, our loss history and industry trends and economic trends.

Cheviot Savings Bank has established detailed asset review policies and procedures which are consistent with generally accepted accounting principles. Quarterly reviews of the valuation allowance are conducted by the board of directors. Pursuant to these procedures, when needed, additional valuation allowances are established to cover anticipated losses in the portfolio.

We hold foreclosed property as real estate acquired through foreclosure. We carry foreclosed real estate at lower of cost or fair value less estimated selling costs. If a foreclosure action is commenced and the loan is not brought current, paid in full, or refinanced before the foreclosure sale, we either sell the real property securing the loan at the foreclosure sale or sell the property as soon thereafter as practical.

Marketing real estate owned generally involves listing the property for sale. Cheviot Savings Bank maintains the real estate acquired through foreclosure in good condition to enhance its marketability. As of December 31, 2009, we held four properties classified as real estate owned totaling \$2.0 million. These properties are insured by the Bank. The Bank takes actions to ensure that the property does not deteriorate due to neglect while held as real estate owned. New appraisals are ordered at the time the Bank takes ownership of the property. We then work with preapproved real estate agents to sell the property.



Delinquent Loans and Non-performing Loans and Assets. Our policies require that the collection manager monitor the status of the loan portfolios and report to the Board on a monthly basis. These reports include information on delinquent loans, criticized and classified assets, foreclosed real estate and our plans to cure the delinquent status of the loans.

It is Cheviot Savings Bank's policy to underwrite single-family residential loans up to a 95% loan-to-value ratio and all other loans (multi-family, construction, commercial and consumer) on no more than an 80% loan-to-value ratio. It has been the Bank's experience that interest on delinquent loans is generally recovered in ultimate settlement of the loan due to this conservative underwriting policy. We generally stop accruing interest on our one-to four-family residential, construction and commercial loans when interest or principal payments are 90 days in arrears. Consumer loans are comprised exclusively of loans secured by deposits with Cheviot Savings Bank. Such loans are placed on non-accrual status should they become 90 days delinquent. The Bank will stop accruing interest earlier when the timely collectibility of such interest or principal is doubtful.

We designate loans on which we stop accruing interest as non-accrual loans and we reverse outstanding interest that we previously credited. We may recognize income in the period that we collect it, when the ultimate collectibility of principal is no longer in doubt. We return a non-accrual loan to accrual status when factors indicating doubtful collection no longer exist and the loan has been brought current. In accordance with industry standards and regulatory requirements, it is Cheviot Savings Bank's policy to charge-off a loan when it becomes apparent that recovery of amounts due is not probable, either from expected payments from the borrower or from settlement of the collateral.

The following table sets forth certain information regarding delinquencies in our loan portfolio as of December 31, 2009.

	At December 31, 2009					
	30-59		60-89		90 or More	
	Days Delinquent		Days Delinquent		Days Delinquent	
	Amount	Percent of Net Loans	Amount	Percent of Net Loans	Amount	Percent of Net Loans
	(Dollars in thousands)					
Real Estate Loans:						
One- to four-family residential(1)	\$995	0.40 %	\$879	0.36 %	\$2,229	0.90 %
Multi-family residential	—	—	—	—	—	—
Construction	—	—	—	—	—	—
Commercial(2)	47	0.02	—	—	217	0.09
Consumer(3)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total delinquent loans	\$1,042	0.42 %	\$879	0.36 %	\$2,446	0.99 %

	At December 31, 2008					
	30-59		60-89		90 or More	
	Days Delinquent		Days Delinquent		Days Delinquent	
	Amount	Percent of Net Loans	Amount	Percent of Net Loans	Amount	Percent of Net Loans
	(Dollars in thousands)					
Real Estate Loans:						
One- to four-family residential(1)	\$388	0.14 %	\$488	0.18 %	\$856	0.32 %
Multi-family residential	—	—	—	—	1,194	0.44
Construction	—	—	—	—	—	—

Edgar Filing: CHEVIOT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-K

Commercial(2)	—	—	436	0.15	—	—
Consumer(3)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total delinquent loans	\$388	0.14 %	\$924	0.33 %	\$2,050	0.76 %
(Footnotes on next page)						

10

---

Edgar Filing: CHEVIOT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-K

	At December 31, 2007					
	30-59		60-89		90 or More	
	Days Delinquent	Percent	Days Delinquent	Percent	Days Delinquent	Percent
	Amount	of Net Loans	Amount	of Net Loans	Amount	of Net Loans
	(Dollars in thousands)					
Real Estate Loans:						
One- to four-family residential(1)	\$ 171	0.07 %	\$ 130	0.05 %	\$ 1,601	0.64 %
Multi-family residential						
Construction						
Commercial(2)						
Consumer(3)						
Total delinquent loans	\$ 171	0.07 %	\$ 130	0.05 %	\$ 1,601	0.64 %

	At December 31, 2006					
	30-59		60-89		90 or More	
	Days Delinquent	Percent	Days Delinquent	Percent	Days Delinquent	Percent
	Amount	of Net Loans	Amount	of Net Loans	Amount	of Net Loans
	(Dollars in thousands)					
Real Estate Loans:						
One- to four-family residential(1)	\$ 506	0.21 %	\$ 265	0.11 %	\$ 468	0.19 %
Multi-family residential						
Construction						
Commercial(2)						
Consumer(3)						
Total delinquent loans	\$ 506	0.21 %	\$ 265	0.11 %	\$ 468	0.19 %

	At December 31, 2005					
	30-59		60-89		90 or More	
	Days Delinquent	Percent	Days Delinquent	Percent	Days Delinquent	Percent
	Amount	of Net Loans	Amount	of Net Loans	Amount	of Net Loans
	(Dollars in thousands)					
Real Estate Loans:						
One- to four-family residential(1)	\$ 367	0.16 %	\$ 299	0.13 %	\$ 15	0.01 %
Multi-family residential					134	0.06
Construction						
Commercial(2)						
Consumer(3)						
Total delinquent loans	\$ 367	0.16 %	\$ 299	0.13 %	\$ 149	0.07 %

(1) Includes home equity lines of credit, loans purchased and loans held for sale.

(2) Includes loans secured by land.

(3) Loans secured by deposit accounts.



The following table sets forth information regarding impaired and non-performing loans and assets.

	At December 31,				
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	(Dollars in thousands)				
Non-accrual real estate loans:					
One- to four-family residential(1)	\$ 2,229	\$ 652	\$ 660	\$ 269	\$ —
Multi-family residential	—	1,194	—	—	134
Construction	—	—	—	—	—
Commercial(2)	217	—	—	—	—
Consumer(3)	—	—	—	—	—
T o t a l n o n - a c c r u i n g					
loans(4)	2,446	1,846	660	269	134
Impaired loans	—	—	—	12	15
Accruing loans delinquent 90 days or					
more	—	204	—	—	—
Total non-performing loans	2,446	2,050	660	281	149
Real estate acquired through foreclosure	2,048	1,064	625	—	89
Total non-performing assets	\$ 4,494	\$ 3,114	\$ 1,285	\$ 281	\$ 238
Non-performing assets to total assets	1.31 %	0.94 %	0.40 %	0.09 %	0.08 %
Non-performing loans to net loans	0.99 %	0.75 %	0.26 %	0.12 %	0.07 %

(1) Includes home equity lines of credit, loans purchased and loans held for sale.

(2) Includes loans secured by land.

(3) Loans secured by deposit accounts.

(4) For the year ended December 31, 2009, gross interest income which would have been recorded had the non-accruing loans been current in accordance with their original terms amounted to \$92,000. \$92,000 in interest income was recorded on such loans during the year ended December 31, 2009.

Non-performing and impaired loans totaled \$2.4 million at December 31, 2009.

Our loan review procedures are performed quarterly. With respect to multi-family and commercial loans, we consider a loan impaired when, based on current information and events, it is probable that we will be unable to collect all amounts due according to the loan's contractual terms.

We review multi-family and commercial loans in amounts greater than \$250,000 for impairment. These loans are individually assessed to determine whether the loan's carrying value is in excess of the fair value of the collateral or the present value of the loan's expected cash flows. Smaller balance homogenous loans that are collectively evaluated for impairment, such as residential mortgage loans and consumer loans, are specifically excluded from individual impairment review.

During the year ended December 31, 2009, the Corporation had total troubled debt restructurings of \$3.7 million. These loans were modified due to short term concessions with no impairment as the Corporation expects to recognize the full amount of the commitment. The Corporation has no commitments to lend additional funds to these debtors owing receivables whose terms have been modified in troubled debt restructurings.

Classified Assets. Federal regulations require that each insured savings institution classify its assets on a regular basis. In addition, in connection with examinations of insured institutions, federal examiners have authority to identify

problem assets and, if appropriate, classify them. There are three classifications for problem assets: “substandard,” “doubtful” and “loss.” Substandard assets have one or more defined weaknesses and are characterized by the distinct possibility that the insured institution will sustain some loss if the deficiencies are not corrected. Doubtful assets have the weaknesses of substandard assets with the additional characteristic that the weaknesses make collection or liquidation in full on the basis of currently existing facts, conditions and values questionable, and there is a higher possibility of loss. An asset classified as a loss is considered uncollectible and of such little value that continuance as an asset of the institution is not warranted. Another category designated “special mention” also may be established and maintained for assets which do not currently expose an insured institution to a sufficient degree of risk to warrant classification as substandard, doubtful or loss. If a classified asset is deemed to be impaired with measurement of loss, Cheviot Savings Bank will establish a charge-off of the loan pursuant to SFAS No. 114. The following table sets forth information regarding classified assets as of December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007.

Classification of Assets:	2009	At December 31,	
		2008	2007
	(In thousands)		
Special Mention	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Substandard	4,487	3,281	1,964
Doubtful	—	—	—
Loss	—	—	—
Total	\$ 4,487	\$ 3,281	\$ 1,964

General loss allowances established to cover inherent, but unconfirmed losses in the portfolio may be included in determining an institution's regulatory capital. Federal examiners may disagree with an insured institution's classifications and amounts reserved.

**Allowance for Loan Losses.** We maintain the allowance through provisions for loan losses that we charge to income. We charge losses on loans against the allowance for loan losses when we believe the collection of loan principal is unlikely. Recoveries on loans charged-off are restored to the allowance for loan losses. The allowance for loan losses is maintained at a level believed, to the best of management's knowledge, to cover all known and inherent losses in the portfolio both probable and reasonable to estimate at each reporting date. The level of allowance for loan losses is based on management's periodic review of the collectibility of the loans principally in light of our historical experience, augmented by the nature and volume of the loan portfolio, adverse situations that may affect the borrower's ability to repay, estimated value of any underlying collateral and current and anticipated economic conditions in the primary lending area. We evaluate our allowance for loan losses quarterly. We have not made any changes to the external factors in the calculation during the year as we believe the local economy has stabilized. We will continue to monitor all items involved in the allowance calculation closely.

In addition, the regulatory agencies, as an integral part of their examination and review process, periodically review our loan portfolios and the related allowance for loan losses. Regulatory agencies may require us to increase the allowance for loan losses based on their judgments of information available to them at the time of their examination, thereby adversely affecting our results of operations.

At December 31, 2009 and 2008, our allowance for loan losses was \$1.0 million and \$709,000, respectively. Our ratio of the allowance for loan losses as a percentage of net loans receivable was 0.41% and 0.26% at December 31, 2009 and 2008.

The following table sets forth the analysis of the activity in the allowance for loan losses for the periods indicated:

	At or For the Year Ended December 31,									
	2009		2008		2007		2006		2005	
	(Dollars in thousands)									
Balance at beginning of year	\$709		\$596		\$833		\$808		\$732	
Charge offs:										
One- to four-family residential(1)	(537 )		(488 )		(353 )		—		(21 )	
Multi-family residential	—		—		—		—		—	
Construction	—		—		—		—		—	
Commercial(2)	—		(84 )		—		—		—	
Consumer(3)	—		—		—		—		—	
Total charge-offs	(537 )		(572 )		(353 )		—		(21 )	
Recoveries:										
One- to four-family residential(1)	—		17		—		—		—	
Multi-family residential	—		—		—		—		—	
Construction	—		—		—		—		—	
Commercial(2)	—		—		—		—		—	
Consumer(3)	—		—		—		—		—	
Total recoveries	—		17		—		—		—	
Net charge-offs	(537 )		(555 )		(353 )		—		(21 )	
Provision for losses on loans	853		668		116		25		97	
Balance at end of year	\$1,025		\$709		\$596		\$833		\$808	
Total loans receivable, net (1)	\$247,002		\$268,483		\$249,832		\$241,178		\$222,771	
Average loans receivable outstanding (1)	\$253,302		\$260,708		\$246,335		\$233,331		\$211,736	
Allowance for loan losses as a percent of net loans receivable	0.41	%	0.26	%	0.24	%	0.35	%	0.36	%
Net loans charged off as a percent of average loans outstanding	0.21	%	0.22	%	0.14	%	0.00	%	0.01	%

(1) Includes home equity lines of credit, loans purchased and loans held for sale.

(2) Includes loans secured by land.

(3) Loans secured by deposit.



The following table sets forth the allocation of the allowance for loan losses by loan category for the years indicated. This allocation is based on management's assessment, as of a given point in time, of the risk characteristics of each of the component parts of the total loan portfolio and is subject to changes as and when the risk factors of each such component part change. The allocation is neither indicative of the specific amounts or the loan categories in which future charge-offs may be taken nor is it an indicator of future loss trends. The allocation of the allowance to each category does not restrict the use of the allowance to absorb losses in any category.

Loan Category	At December 31,					
	2009	Percent of		2008	Percent of	
Allocated:	Allowance	Loan	Loans in	Allowance	Loan	Loans in
Real estate - mortgage	for Loan	Balances	Each	for	Balances	Each
One-to four-family	Losses	by	Category	Loan	by	Category
residential(1)		Category	to	Losses	Category	to
Multi-family residential			Total			Total
Construction			Loans			Loans
Commercial(2)			(Dollars in thousands)			
Consumer(3)						
Total	\$ 1,025	\$ 250,672	100.00 %	\$ 709	\$ 271,843	100.00 %

Loan Category	At December 31,					
	2007	Percent of		2006	Percent of	
Allocated:	Allowance	Loan	Loans in	Allowance	Loan	Loans in
Real estate - mortgage	for	Balances	Each	for	Balances	Each
One-to four-family	Loan	by	Category to	Loan	by	Category to
residential(1)	Losses	Category	Total	Losses	Category	Total
Multi-family residential			Loans			Loans
Construction			(Dollars in thousands)			
Commercial(2)						
Consumer(3)						
Total	\$ 596	\$ 257,101	100.00 %	\$ 833	\$ 249,816	100.00 %

	At December 31, 2005		
Loan Category	Allowance for Loan Losses	Loan Balances by Category (Dollars in thousands)	Percent of Loans in Each Category to Total Loans
Allocated:			
Real estate - mortgage			
One-to four-family residential(1)	\$ 200	\$ 195,059	84.97 %
M u l t i - f a m i l y residential	275	11,144	4.86
Construction	5	12,360	5.38
Commercial(2)	328	10,883	4.74
Consumer(3)	—	110	0.05
 Total	 \$ 808	 \$ 229,556	 100.00 %

---

(1) Includes home equity lines of credit, loans purchased and loans held for sale.

(2) Includes loans secured by land.

(3) Loans secured by deposit accounts.

## Securities Activities.

General. Our investment policy is established by the board of directors. This policy dictates that investment decisions will be made based on the safety of the investment, liquidity requirements, potential returns, cash flow targets, and consistency with our interest rate risk management. The board of directors, as a whole, acts in the capacity of an investment committee and is responsible for overseeing our investment program and evaluating on an ongoing basis our investment policy and objectives. Our president and chief financial officer have the authority to purchase securities within specific guidelines established by the investment policy. All transactions are reviewed by the board of directors at its regular meeting.

We account for investment and mortgage-backed securities in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 115 "Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities." SFAS No. 115 requires that investments be categorized as held-to maturity, trading, or available for sale. Securities classified as held to maturity are carried at cost only if we have the positive intent and ability to hold these securities to maturity. Trading securities and securities available for sale are carried at fair value with resulting unrealized gains or losses recorded to operations or shareholders' equity, respectively. During 2009, we purchased fifty-four investment securities that were designated as available for sale. During 2008, we purchased nine investment securities that were designated as available for sale. During 2007, we purchased six investment securities that were designated as available for sale. All other investment and mortgage-backed securities purchases have been designated as held-to-maturity. Realized gains or losses on sales of securities are recognized using the specific identification method.

Our current policies generally limit securities investments to U.S. Government, agency and sponsored entity securities and municipal bonds. The policy also permits investments in mortgage-backed securities guaranteed by the Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA), the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC) and the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA). Our investment in municipal obligations mature in more than five years. The majority of our investment in U.S. Government and agency obligations are scheduled to mature within fifteen years.

Our current investment strategy uses a risk management approach of diversified investing in fixed-rate securities with short- to intermediate-term maturities, as well as adjustable-rate securities, which may have a longer term to maturity. The emphasis of this approach is to increase overall securities yields while managing interest rate risk. To accomplish these objectives, we focus on investments in mortgage-backed securities with short term maturities, and U.S. government and agency obligations and municipal obligations with maturities in excess of 10 years. We monitor our investment portfolio for losses that may be considered other than temporary. At December 31, 2009, all unrealized losses on securities are viewed by management to be temporary. At December 31, 2009, the amortized cost of our investment and mortgage-backed securities portfolio was \$67.1 million, while the estimated fair value was \$66.6 million.

Amortized Cost and Estimated Fair Value of Securities. The following table sets forth certain information regarding the amortized cost and estimated fair values of our securities as of the dates indicated.

	2009		At December 31, 2008		2007	
	Amortized Cost	Estimated Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Estimated Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Estimated Fair Value
	(In thousands)					
Investment securities held to maturity:						
U.S. Government and agency securities	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,074	\$ 23,000	\$ 23,086
Municipal obligations	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total investment securities held to maturity	—	—	7,000	7,074	23,000	23,086
Mortgage-backed securities held to maturity:						
FHLMC	603	597	683	683	802	809
FNMA	640	642	757	752	930	934
GNMA	4,501	4,577	5,475	5,395	7,768	7,834
Total mortgage-backed securities held to maturity	5,744	5,816	6,915	6,830	9,500	9,577
Total investments and mortgage-backed securities held to maturity	5,744	5,816	13,915	13,904	32,500	32,663
Investment securities available for sale:						
U.S. Government and agency securities	\$ 54,915	\$ 54,455	\$ 21,995	\$ 22,012	\$ 10,001	\$ 10,088
Municipal obligations	1,545	1,396	2,110	1,897	2,110	2,090
Total investment securities available for sale	56,460	55,851	24,105	23,909	12,111	12,178
Mortgage-backed securities available for sale:						
FHLMC	829	830	—	—	—	—
FNMA	700	709	—	—	—	—
GNMA	3,358	3,381	666	648	811	814
Total mortgage-backed securities available for sale	4,887	4,920	666	648	811	814
Total investment and mortgage-backed securities available for sale	61,347	60,771	24,771	24,557	12,922	12,992
Total investment and mortgage-backed securities	\$ 67,091	\$ 66,587	\$ 38,686	\$ 38,461	\$ 45,422	\$ 45,655

Edgar Filing: CHEVIOT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-K

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the carrying value, weighted average yields and contractual maturities of our securities portfolio as of December 31, 2009. Adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities are included in the period in which interest rates are next scheduled to adjust.

	At December 31, 2009												
	One Year or Less Weighted Amortized Cost		More Than One Year through Five Years Weighted Amortized Cost		More Than Five Years through Ten Years Weighted Amortized Cost		More Than Ten Years Weighted Amortized Cost		Total Securities Estimated Fair Value		Weighted Average Yield		
	Cost	Yield	Cost	Yield	Cost	Yield	Cost	Yield	Cost	Value	Value	Yield	Yield
	(Dollars in thousands)												
Investment securities held to maturity:													
U.S. Government and agency obligations	\$—	— %	\$—	— %	\$—	— %	\$—	— %	\$—	\$—	\$—	— %	
M u n i c i p a l obligations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total investment securities held to maturity	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mortgage-backed securities held to maturity:													
FHLMC	—	—	361	3.04	242	2.89	—	—	603	597	597	2.98	
FNMA	—	—	597	2.96	43	3.82	—	—	640	642	642	3.02	
GNMA	—	—	2,447	3.89	1,580	4.08	474	3.94	4,501	4,577	4,577	3.96	
Total mortgage backed securities held to maturity	—	—	3,405	3.63	1,865	3.92	474	3.94	5,744	5,816	5,816	3.75	
Investment securities available for sale:													
U.S. Government and agency obligations	24,919	2.14	22,996	2.27	2,000	3.00	5,000	4.38	54,915	54,455	54,455	2.43	
M u n i c i p a l obligations	—	—	—	—	310	4.00	1,235	4.20	1,545	1,396	1,396	4.16	
Total investment securities available for sale	24,919	2.14	22,996	2.27	2,310	3.13	6,235	4.34	56,460	55,851	55,851	2.48	
Mortgage-backed securities available for sale:													

Edgar Filing: CHEVIOT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-K

FHLMC	—	—	829	3.25	—	—	—	—	829	830	3.25
FNMA	—	—	—	—	—	—	700	2.68	700	709	2.68
GNMA	—	—	3,002	3.34	356	3.53	—	—	3,358	3,381	3.36
Total mortgage backed securities available for sale			3,831	3.32	356	3.53	700	2.68	4,887	4,920	3.24
Total investment and mortgage-backed securities	\$24,919	2.14%	\$30,232	2.55%	\$4,531	3.49%	\$7,409	4.29%	\$67,091	\$66,587	2.64%

18

---

## Sources of Funds.

General. Deposits, FHLB advances, scheduled amortization and prepayments of loan principal, maturities and calls of securities and funds provided by operations are our primary sources of funds for use in lending, investing and for other general purposes.

Deposits. We offer deposit products having a range of interest rates and terms. We currently offer passbook and statement savings accounts, interest-bearing demand accounts, non-interest-bearing demand accounts, money market accounts and certificates of deposit.

Deposit flows are significantly influenced by general and local economic conditions, changes in prevailing interest rates, internal pricing decisions and competition. Our deposits are primarily obtained from areas surrounding our branch offices. In order to attract and retain deposits we rely on paying competitive interest rates and providing quality service.

Savings, NOW and money market rates are generally determined monthly by the board of directors. Certificates of deposit rates are generally determined weekly by the Savings Bank's President. When we determine our deposit rates, we consider liquidity needs, local competition, FHLB advance rates and rates charged on other sources of funds. Core deposits, defined as savings accounts, money market accounts and demand deposit accounts, represented 39.9% and 34.4% of total deposits at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. At December 31, 2009 and 2008, certificates of deposit with remaining terms to maturity of less than one year amounted to \$100.1 million and \$104.9 million, respectively.

The following tables set forth the various types of deposit accounts offered by us at the dates indicated.

	2009		At December 31,				2007		Weighted Average Rate	
	Amount	Percent	Weighted Average Rate	Amount	Percent	Weighted Average Rate	Amount	Percent		
	(Dollars in thousands)									
NOW accounts	\$ 24,426	10.36 %	0.29 %	\$ 18,940	8.77 %	0.49 %	\$ 15,830	7.21 %	0.67 %	
Passbook accounts	15,096	6.40	0.24	14,405	6.67	0.34	14,938	6.80	0.99	
Money market demand deposits	54,549	23.12	0.92	41,069	19.00	1.52	33,069	15.06	2.23	
Total demand, transaction and Passbook deposits	94,071	39.88	0.65	74,414	34.44	1.03	63,837	29.07	1.55	
Certificates of deposit Due within one year	100,050	42.41	1.97	104,868	48.54	2.82	128,962	58.75	4.72	

Edgar Filing: CHEVIOT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-K

Over 1 year through 3 years	30,770	13.04	2.83	23,193	10.74	3.53	26,559	12.10	4.81
Over 3 years	11,013	4.67	3.83	13,573	6.28	4.45	168	0.08	4.31
Total certificates of deposit	141,833	60.12	2.30	141,634	65.56	3.45	155,689	70.93	4.73
Total	\$ 235,904	100.00 %	1.60 %	\$ 216,048	100.00 %	2.62 %	\$ 219,526	100.00 %	3.81 %

The following table presents our deposit activity for the years indicated.

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2009	For the Year Ended December 31, 2008	For the Year Ended December 31, 2007
		(In thousands)	
N e t d e p o s i t s (withdrawals)	\$ 15,012	\$ (10,205 )	\$ 6,010
Interest credited on deposit account	4,844	6,727	8,066
Total increase (decrease) in deposit accounts	\$ 19,856	\$ (3,478 )	\$ 14,076



Maturities of Certificates of Deposit Accounts. The following table sets forth the amount and maturities of certificates of deposit accounts at the dates indicated.

	At December 31, 2009				Total	Percent of Total
	Less than Six Months	Six Months to One Year	Year to Three Years	Over Three Years		
	Over One					
	(Dollars in thousands)					
2 . 0 0 % a n d below	\$38,589	\$ 32,641	\$ 8,472	\$ —	\$79,702	56.20 %
2.01% to 3.00%	5,010	3,773	13,799	2,258	24,840	17.51
3.01% to 4.00%	10,990	4,854	627	5,000	21,471	15.14
4.01% to 5.00%	2,474	1,564	6,418	3,755	14,211	10.02
5.01% to 6.00%	81	74	1,454	—	1,609	1.13
Total	\$57,144	\$ 42,906	\$ 30,770	\$ 11,013	\$141,833	100.00 %

As of December 31, 2009, the aggregate amount of outstanding certificates of deposit at Cheviot Savings Bank in amounts greater than or equal to \$100,000, was approximately \$31.3 million. The following table presents the maturity of these certificates of deposit at such date.

Maturity Period	At December 31, 2009 Amount (In thousands)
L e s s t h a n t h r e e months	\$ 5,400
T h r e e t o s i x months	5,852
S i x m o n t h s t o o n e year	9,706
Over one year to three years	9,340
Over three years	1,019
Total	\$ 31,317

Borrowed Funds. As a member of the FHLB of Cincinnati, Cheviot Savings Bank is eligible to obtain advances upon the security of the FHLB common stock owned and certain residential mortgage loans, provided certain standards related to credit-worthiness have been met. FHLB advances are available pursuant to several credit programs, each of which has its own interest rate and range of maturities.

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2009	For the Year Ended December 31, 2008	For the Year Ended December 31, 2007
	(Dollars in thousands)		
FHLB Advances:			
Maximum month end-end balance	\$44,210	\$ 46,528	\$ 34,088

Edgar Filing: CHEVIOT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-K

Balance at the end of year	\$33,672	\$	44,604	\$	28,665	
Average balance	\$39,783	\$	39,257	\$	29,630	
Weighted average interest rate at the end of year	4.33	%	4.29	%	4.83	%
Weighted average interest rate during year	4.38	%	4.38	%	4.84	%

REGULATION

Regulation

Loans-to-One-Borrower. Federal savings banks generally may not make a loan or extend credit to a single or related group of borrowers in excess of 15% of unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus. An additional amount may be lent, equal to 10% of unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus, if the loan is secured by readily marketable collateral, which is defined to include certain securities and bullion, but generally does not include real estate. As of December 31, 2009, we were in compliance with our loans-to-one-borrower limitations.

**Qualified Thrift Lender Test.** As a federal savings bank, we are required to satisfy a qualified thrift lender test whereby we must maintain at least 65% of our “portfolio assets” in “qualified thrift investments.” These consist primarily of residential mortgages and related investments, including mortgage-backed and related securities. “Portfolio assets” generally means total assets less specified liquid assets up to 20% of total assets, goodwill and other intangible assets, and the value of property used to conduct business. A savings bank that fails the qualified thrift lender test must either convert to a commercial bank charter or operate under specified restrictions. As of December 31, 2009, we maintained 90.54% of our portfolio assets in qualified thrift investments and, therefore, we met the qualified thrift lender test.

**Capital Distributions.** Office of Thrift Supervision regulations govern capital distributions by savings institutions, which include cash dividends, stock repurchases and other transactions charged to the capital account of a savings institution. A savings institution must file an application for Office of Thrift Supervision approval of the capital distribution if either (1) the total capital distributions for the applicable calendar year exceed the sum of the institution’s net income for that year to date plus the institution’s retained net income for the preceding two years that is still available for dividend, (2) the institution would not be at least adequately capitalized following the distribution, (3) the distribution would violate any applicable statute, regulation, agreement or Office of Thrift Supervision-imposed condition, or (4) the institution is not eligible for expedited review of its filings. If an application is not required to be filed, savings institutions which are a subsidiary of a holding company, as well as certain other institutions, must file a notice with the Office of Thrift Supervision at least 30 days before the board of directors declares a dividend or approves a capital distribution.

Any additional capital distributions would require prior regulatory approval. In the event our capital falls below our adequately capitalized requirement or the Office of Thrift Supervision notifies us that we are in need of more than normal supervision, our ability to make capital distributions could be restricted. In addition, the Office of Thrift Supervision could prohibit a proposed capital distribution by any institution, which would otherwise be permitted by the regulation, if it determines that the distribution would constitute an unsafe or unsound practice.

**Community Reinvestment Act and Fair Lending Laws.** Savings banks have a responsibility under the Community Reinvestment Act and related regulations of the Office of Thrift Supervision to help meet the credit needs of their communities, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. In addition, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Fair Housing Act prohibit lenders from discriminating in their lending practices on the basis of characteristics specified in those statutes. An institution’s failure to comply with the provisions of the Community Reinvestment Act could, at a minimum, result in regulatory restrictions on its activities, and failure to comply with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Fair Housing Act could result in enforcement actions by the Office of Thrift Supervision, as well as other federal regulatory agencies and the Department of Justice. We received a “Satisfactory” Community Reinvestment Act rating in our most recent examination by the Office of Thrift Supervision.

**Transactions with Related Parties.** Our authority to engage in transactions with related parties or “affiliates” is limited by Sections 23A and 23B of the Federal Reserve Act and its implementing regulation, Regulation W. The term “affiliate” for these purposes generally means any company that controls or is under common control with an institution, including Cheviot Financial Corp. and its non-savings institution subsidiaries. Regulation W limits the aggregate amount of certain “covered” transactions with any individual affiliate to 10% of the capital and surplus of the savings institution and also limits the aggregate amount of covered transactions with all affiliates to 20% of the savings institution’s capital and surplus. Covered transactions with affiliates are required to be secured by collateral in an amount and of a type described in Regulation W, and purchasing low quality assets from affiliates is generally prohibited. Regulation W also provides that covered transactions with affiliates, including loans and asset purchases, must be on terms and under circumstances, including credit standards, that are substantially the same or at least as favorable to the institution as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with non-affiliated companies. In addition, savings institutions are prohibited by Office of Thrift Supervision regulations from lending to any affiliate that is engaged in activities that are not permissible for bank holding companies and no savings institution

may purchase the securities of any affiliate other than a subsidiary.

21

---

Our authority to extend credit to executive officers, directors and 10% or greater stockholders, as well as entities controlled by these persons, is governed by Sections 22(g) and 22(h) of the Federal Reserve Act and its implementing regulation, Regulation O. Among other things, these regulations generally require these loans to be made on terms substantially the same as those offered to unaffiliated individuals and do not involve more than the normal risk of repayment. However, executive officers and directors may receive beneficial treatment available on a bank-wide basis to all participating employees. Regulation O also places individual and aggregate limits on the amount of loans we may make to these persons based, in part, on our capital position, and requires that prior approval procedures be followed. At December 31, 2009, we were in compliance with these regulations.

**Enforcement.** The Office of Thrift Supervision has primary enforcement responsibility over savings institutions and has the authority to bring enforcement action against all “institution-related parties,” including stockholders, and attorneys, appraisers and accountants who knowingly or recklessly participate in wrongful action likely to have an adverse effect on an insured institution. Formal enforcement action may range from the issuance of a capital directive or cease and desist order to removal of officers and/or directors of the institution, receivership, conservatorship or the termination of deposit insurance. Civil penalties cover a wide range of violations and actions, and range up to \$25,000 per day, unless a finding of reckless disregard is made, in which case penalties may be as high as \$1.0 million per day. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation also has the authority to recommend to the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision that enforcement action be taken with respect to a particular savings institution. If action is not taken by the Director, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has authority to take action under specified circumstances.

**Standards for Safety and Soundness.** Federal law requires each federal banking agency to prescribe for all insured depository institutions standards relating to, among other things, internal controls, information systems and audit systems, loan documentation, credit underwriting, interest rate risk exposure, asset growth, compensation, and other operational and managerial standards as the agency deems appropriate. The federal banking agencies adopted Interagency Guidelines Prescribing Standards for Safety and Soundness to implement the safety and soundness standards required under the Federal law. The guidelines set forth the safety and soundness standards that the federal banking agencies use to identify and address problems at insured depository institutions before capital becomes impaired. The guidelines address internal controls and information systems; internal audit systems; credit underwriting; loan documentation; interest rate risk exposure; asset growth; and compensation, fees and benefits. If the appropriate federal banking agency determines that an institution fails to meet any standard prescribed by the guidelines, the agency may require the institution to submit to the agency an acceptable plan to achieve compliance with the standard. If an institution fails to meet these standards, the appropriate federal banking agency may require the institution to submit a compliance plan.

## Capital Requirements

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

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

The capital regulations also incorporate an interest rate risk component. Savings institutions with "above normal" interest rate risk exposure are subject to a deduction from total capital for purposes of calculating their risk-based capital requirements. For the present time, the Office of Thrift Supervision has deferred implementation of the interest rate risk capital charge. At December 31, 2009, Cheviot Savings Bank met each of its capital requirements.

## Prompt Corrective Regulatory Action

Under the Office of Thrift Supervision Prompt Corrective Action regulations, the Office of Thrift Supervision is required to take supervisory actions against undercapitalized institutions, the severity of which depends upon the institution's level of capital. Generally, a savings institution that has total risk-based capital of less than 8.0% or a leverage ratio or a Tier 1 core capital ratio that is less than 4.0% is considered to be undercapitalized. A savings institution that has total risk-based capital less than 6.0%, a Tier 1 core risk-based capital ratio of less than 3.0% or a leverage ratio that is less than 3.0% is considered to be "significantly undercapitalized." A savings institution that has a tangible capital to assets ratio equal to or less than 2.0% is deemed to be "critically undercapitalized." Generally, the banking regulator is required to appoint a receiver or conservator for an institution that is "critically undercapitalized." The regulation also provides that a capital restoration plan must be filed with the Office of Thrift Supervision within 45 days of the date an institution receives notice that it is "undercapitalized," "significantly undercapitalized" or "critically undercapitalized." In addition, numerous mandatory supervisory actions become immediately applicable to the institution, including, but not limited to, restrictions on growth, investment activities, capital distributions, and affiliate transactions. The Office of Thrift Supervision may also take any one of a number of discretionary supervisory actions against undercapitalized institutions, including the issuance of a capital directive and the replacement of senior executive officers and directors.

### Insurance of Deposit Accounts

We are a member of the Deposit Insurance Fund, which is administered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Our deposit accounts are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, generally up to a maximum of \$100,000 for each separately insured depositor and up to a maximum of \$250,000 for self-directed retirement accounts. However, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation increased the deposit insurance available on all deposit accounts to \$250,000, effective until December 31, 2013. In addition, certain noninterest-bearing transaction accounts maintained with financial institutions participating in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program are fully insured regardless of the dollar amount until June 30, 2010. We have opted not to participate in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation imposes an assessment against institutions for deposit insurance. This assessment is based on the risk category of the institution and, prior to 2009, ranged from 5 to 43 basis points of the institution's deposits. On December 22, 2008, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation published a final rule that raised the current deposit insurance assessment rates uniformly for all institutions by 7 basis points (to a range from 12 to 50 basis points) effective for the first quarter of 2009. On February 27, 2009, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation issued a final rule that will alter the way the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation calculates federal deposit insurance assessment rates beginning in the second quarter of 2009 and thereafter.

Under the rule, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation first establishes an institution's initial base assessment rate. This initial base assessment rate ranges, depending on the risk category of the institution, from 12 to 45 basis points. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation then adjusts the initial base assessment (higher or lower) to obtain the total base assessment rate. The adjustments to the initial base assessment rate are based upon an institution's levels of unsecured debt, secured liabilities, and brokered deposits. The total base assessment rate ranges from 7 to 77.5 basis points of the institution's deposits. Additionally, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation imposed a special 5 basis points assessment on each FDIC-insured depository institution's assets, minus its Tier 1 capital on June 30, 2009, which was collected on September 30, 2009. The special assessment was capped at 10 basis points of an institution's domestic deposits. Future special assessments could also be assessed. Our premium assessment for the second quarter of 2009 increased by approximately \$140,000 to reflect the special assessment, our total FDIC insurance expense totaled \$248,000 for the year ended December 31, 2009, and prepaid insurance totaled \$968,000 at December 31, 2009.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has required all depository institutions to prepay their estimated assessments for the fourth quarter of 2009, and for all of 2010, 2011 and 2012. Under the rule, this pre-payment was due on December 30, 2009. The assessment rate for the fourth quarter of 2009 and for 2010 was based on each institution's total base assessment rate for the third quarter of 2009, modified to assume that the assessment rate in effect on September 30, 2009 had been in effect for the entire third quarter, and the assessment rate for 2011 and 2012 will be equal to the modified third quarter assessment rate plus an additional 3 basis points. In addition, each institution's base assessment rate for each period was calculated using its third quarter assessment base, adjusted quarterly for an estimated 5% annual growth rate in the assessment base through the end of 2012. Our prepayment amount was approximately \$968,000.

Insurance of deposits may be terminated by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation upon a finding that an institution has engaged in unsafe or unsound practices, is in an unsafe or unsound condition to continue operations or has violated any applicable law, regulation, rule, order or condition imposed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. We do not currently know of any practice, condition or violation that may lead to termination of our deposit insurance.

In addition to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation assessments, the Financing Corporation (“FICO”) is authorized to impose and collect, with the approval of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, assessments for anticipated payments, issuance costs and custodial fees on bonds issued by the FICO in the 1980s to recapitalize the former Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. The bonds issued by the FICO are due to mature in 2017 through 2019. For the quarter ended December 31, 2009, the annualized FICO assessment was equal to 1.06 basis points for each \$100 in domestic deposits maintained at an institution.

#### Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program

On October 14, 2008, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation announced a new program – the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program, which guarantees newly issued senior unsecured debt of a participating organization, up to certain limits established for each institution, issued between October 14, 2008 and June 30, 2009. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation will pay the unpaid principal and interest on Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation-guaranteed debt instruments upon the uncured failure of the participating entity to make timely payments of principal or interest in accordance with the terms of the instrument. The guarantee will remain in effect until June 30, 2012. In return for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation’s guarantee, participating institutions will pay the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation a fee based on the amount and maturity of the debt. We opted not to participate in this part of the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program.

The other part of the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program provides full federal deposit insurance coverage for noninterest-bearing transaction deposit accounts, regardless of dollar amount, until December 31, 2009. An annualized 10 basis point assessment on balances in noninterest-bearing transaction accounts that exceed the existing deposit insurance limit of \$250,000 will be assessed on a quarterly basis to insured depository institutions that have not opted out of this component of the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program. We opted to not participate in this component of the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program. On August 26, 2009, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation extended the program until June 30, 2010. Institutions have until November 2, 2009 to decide whether they will opt out of the extension which takes effect on January 1, 2010. An annualized assessment rate between 15 and 25 basis points on balances in noninterest-bearing transaction accounts that exceed the existing deposit insurance limit of \$250,000 will be assessed depending on the institution’s risk category. We did not opt into the extension.

#### Federal Home Loan Bank System

We are a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank System, which consists of 12 regional Federal Home Loan Banks. The Federal Home Loan Bank System provides a central credit facility primarily for member institutions. As a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati we are required to acquire and hold shares of capital stock in the Federal Home Loan Bank in an amount equal to at least 1% of the aggregate principal amount of our unpaid residential mortgage loans and similar obligations at the beginning of each year, or 1/20 of our borrowings from the Federal Home Loan Bank, whichever is greater. As of December 31, 2009, we were in compliance with this requirement. The Federal Home Loan Banks are required to provide funds for the resolution of insolvent thrifts and to contribute funds for affordable housing programs. These requirements could reduce the amount of dividends that the Federal Home Loan Banks pay to their members and could also result in the Federal Home Loan Banks imposing a higher rate of interest on advances to their members.





## Ohio Savings and Loan Law

The Ohio Division of Financial Institutions is responsible for the regulation and supervision of Ohio savings institutions in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio. Ohio law prescribes the permissible investments and activities of Ohio savings and loan associations, including the types of lending that such associations may engage in and the investments in real estate, subsidiaries, and corporate or government securities that such associations may make.

The Ohio Division of Financial Institutions also has approval authority over the payment of dividends and any mergers involving or acquisitions of control of Ohio savings institutions. The Ohio Division of Financial Institutions may initiate certain supervisory measures or formal enforcement actions against Ohio associations. Ultimately, if the grounds provided by law exist, the Ohio Division of Financial Institutions may place an Ohio association in conservatorship or receivership.

The Ohio Division of Financial Institutions conducts regular examinations of Cheviot Savings Bank approximately once every eighteen months. Such examinations are usually conducted jointly with one or both federal regulators. The Ohio Division of Financial Institutions imposes assessments on Ohio associations based on their asset size to cover the cost of supervision and examination.

## Holding Company Regulation

**General.** Cheviot Mutual Holding Company and Cheviot Financial Corp. are nondiversified mutual savings and loan holding companies within the meaning of the Home Owners' Loan Act. As such, Cheviot Mutual Holding Company and Cheviot Financial Corp. are registered with the Office of Thrift Supervision and are subject to Office of Thrift Supervision regulations, examinations, supervision and reporting requirements. In addition, the Office of Thrift Supervision has enforcement authority over Cheviot Financial Corp. and Cheviot Mutual Holding Company and their subsidiaries. Among other things, this authority permits the Office of Thrift Supervision to restrict or prohibit activities that are determined to be a serious risk to the subsidiary savings institution. As federal corporations, Cheviot Financial Corp. and Cheviot Mutual Holding Company are generally not subject to state business organization laws.

**Permitted Activities.** Pursuant to Section 10(o) of the Home Owners' Loan Act and Office of Thrift Supervision regulations and policy, a mutual holding company, such as Cheviot Mutual Holding Company, and a federally chartered mid-tier holding company such as Cheviot Financial Corp. may engage in the following activities: (i) investing in the stock of a savings association; (ii) acquiring a mutual association through the merger of such association into a savings association subsidiary of such holding company or an interim savings association subsidiary of such holding company; (iii) merging with or acquiring another holding company, one of whose subsidiaries is a savings association; (iv) investing in a corporation, the capital stock of which is available for purchase by a savings association under federal law or under the law of any state where the subsidiary savings association or associations share their home offices; (v) furnishing or performing management services for a savings association subsidiary of such company; (vi) holding, managing or liquidating assets owned or acquired from a savings subsidiary of such company; (vii) holding or managing properties used or occupied by a savings association subsidiary of such company; (viii) acting as trustee under deeds of trust; (ix) any other activity (A) that the Federal Reserve Board, by regulation, has determined to be permissible for bank holding companies under Section 4(c) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, unless the Director, by regulation, prohibits or limits any such activity for savings and loan holding companies; or (B) in which multiple savings and loan holding companies were authorized (by regulation) to directly engage on March 5, 1987; (x) any activity permissible for financial holding companies under Section 4(k) of the Bank Holding Company Act, including securities and insurance underwriting; and (xi) purchasing, holding, or disposing of stock acquired in connection with a qualified stock issuance if the purchase of such stock by such savings and loan holding company is approved by the Director. If a mutual holding company acquires or merges with another holding

company, the holding company acquired or the holding company resulting from such merger or acquisition may only invest in assets and engage in activities listed in (i) through (xi) above, and has a period of two years to cease any nonconforming activities and divest of any nonconforming investments.

The Home Owners' Loan Act prohibits a savings and loan holding company, including Cheviot Financial Corp. and Cheviot Mutual Holding Company, directly or indirectly, or through one or more subsidiaries, from acquiring another savings institution or holding company thereof, without prior written approval of the Office of Thrift Supervision. It also prohibits the acquisition or retention of, with certain exceptions, more than 5% of a nonsubsidiary savings institution, a nonsubsidiary holding company, or a nonsubsidiary company engaged in activities other than those permitted by the Home Owners' Loan Act; or acquiring or retaining control of an institution that is not federally insured. In evaluating applications by holding companies to acquire savings institutions, the Office of Thrift Supervision must consider the financial and managerial resources, future prospects of the company and institution involved, the effect of the acquisition on the risk to the insurance fund, the convenience and needs of the community and competitive factors.

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

Waivers of Dividends by Cheviot Mutual Holding Company. Office of Thrift Supervision regulations require Cheviot Mutual Holding Company to notify the Office of Thrift Supervision of any proposed waiver of its receipt of dividends from Cheviot Financial Corp. The Office of Thrift Supervision reviews dividend waiver notices on a case-by-case basis, and, in general, does not object to any such waiver if: (i) the mutual holding company's board of directors determines that such waiver is consistent with such directors' fiduciary duties to the mutual holding company's members; (ii) for as long as the savings association subsidiary is controlled by the mutual holding company, the dollar amount of dividends waived by the mutual holding company are considered as a restriction on the retained earnings of the savings association, which restriction, if material, is disclosed in the public financial statements of the savings association as a note to the financial statements; (iii) the amount of any dividend waived by the mutual holding company is available for declaration as a dividend solely to the mutual holding company, and, in accordance with SFAS 5, where the savings association determines that the payment of such dividend to the mutual holding company is probable, an appropriate dollar amount is recorded as a liability; and (iv) the amount of any waived dividend is considered as having been paid by the savings association in evaluating any proposed dividend under Office of Thrift Supervision capital distribution regulations. Cheviot Mutual Holding Company may waive dividends paid by Cheviot Financial Corp. Under Office of Thrift Supervision regulations, our public stockholders would not be diluted because of any dividends waived by Cheviot Mutual Holding Company (and waived dividends would not be considered in determining an appropriate exchange ratio) in the event Cheviot Mutual Holding Company converts to stock form.

Conversion of Cheviot Mutual Holding Company to Stock Form. Office of Thrift Supervision regulations permit Cheviot Mutual Holding Company to convert from the mutual form of organization to the capital stock form of organization (a “Conversion Transaction”). There can be no assurance when, if ever, a Conversion Transaction will occur, and the Board of Directors has no current intention or plan to undertake a Conversion Transaction. In a Conversion Transaction a new holding company would be formed as the successor to Cheviot Financial Corp. (the “New Holding Company”), Cheviot Mutual Holding Company’s corporate existence would end, and certain depositors of Cheviot Savings Bank would receive the right to subscribe for additional shares of the New Holding Company. In a Conversion Transaction, each share of common stock held by stockholders other than Cheviot Mutual Holding Company (“Minority Stockholders”) would be automatically converted into a number of shares of common stock of the New Holding Company determined pursuant an exchange ratio that ensures that Minority Stockholders own the same percentage of common stock in the New Holding Company as they owned in Cheviot Financial Corp. immediately prior to the Conversion Transaction. Under Office of Thrift Supervision regulations, Minority Stockholders would not be diluted because of any dividends waived by Cheviot Mutual Holding Company (and waived dividends would not be considered in determining an appropriate exchange ratio), in the event Cheviot Mutual Holding Company converts to stock form. The total number of shares held by Minority Stockholders after a Conversion Transaction also would be increased by any purchases by Minority Stockholders in the stock offering conducted as part of the Conversion Transaction.

#### Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 was enacted in response to public concerns regarding corporate accountability in connection with a number of accounting scandals. The stated goals of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act were to increase corporate responsibility, to provide for enhanced penalties for accounting and auditing improprieties at publicly traded companies, and to protect investors by improving the accuracy and reliability of corporate disclosures pursuant to the securities laws. The Sarbanes-Oxley Act generally applies to all companies that file or are required to file periodic reports with the SEC, under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act includes very specific additional disclosure requirements and new corporate governance rules requiring the SEC and securities exchanges to adopt extensive additional disclosure, corporate governance and other related rules, and mandates further studies of certain issues by the SEC. The Sarbanes-Oxley Act represents significant federal involvement in matters traditionally left to state regulatory systems, such as the regulation of the accounting profession, and to state corporate law, such as the relationship between a board of directors and management and between a board of directors and its committees.

## TAXATION

#### Federal Taxation

For federal income tax purposes, Cheviot Financial Corp. and Cheviot Savings Bank file a consolidated federal income tax returns on a calendar year basis using the accrual method of accounting.

As a result of the enactment of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, all savings banks and savings associations may convert to a commercial bank charter, diversify their lending, or merge into a commercial bank without having to recapture any of their pre-1988 tax bad debt reserve accumulations. However, transactions which would require recapture of the pre-1988 tax bad debt reserve include redemption of Cheviot Savings Bank’s stock, payment of dividends or distributions in excess of earnings and profits, or failure by the institution to qualify as a bank for federal income tax purposes. At December 31, 2009, Cheviot Savings Bank had pre-1988 bad debt reserves totaling approximately \$3.0 million. A deferred tax liability has not been provided on this amount as management does not intend to make distributions, redeem stock or fail certain bank tests that would result in recapture of the reserve.



Deferred income taxes arise from the recognition of items of income and expense for tax purposes in years different from those in which they are recognized in the consolidated financial statements. Cheviot Financial Corp. will account for deferred income taxes by the asset and liability method, applying the enacted statutory rates in effect at the balance sheet date to differences between the book basis and the tax basis of assets and liabilities. The resulting deferred tax liabilities and assets will be adjusted to reflect changes in the tax laws.

Cheviot Financial Corp. is subject to the corporate alternative minimum tax to the extent it exceeds Cheviot Financial Corp.'s regular income tax for the year. The alternative minimum tax will be imposed at the rate of 20% of a specially computed tax base. Included in this base are a number of preference items, including interest on certain tax-exempt bonds issued after August 7, 1986, and an "adjusted current earnings" computation which is similar to a tax earnings and profits computation. In addition, for purposes of the alternative minimum tax, the amount of alternative minimum taxable income that may be offset by net operating losses is limited to 90% of alternative minimum taxable income.

Cheviot Savings Bank's income tax returns have not been audited by the Internal Revenue Service within the past five years.

#### State Taxation

Cheviot Financial Corp. and Cheviot Savings Bank are subject to Ohio taxation in the same general manner as other corporations. In particular, Cheviot Financial Corp. and Cheviot Savings Bank are subject to the Ohio corporation franchise tax, which is an excise tax imposed on corporations for the privilege of doing business in Ohio, owning capital or property in Ohio, holding a charter or certificate of compliance authorizing the corporation to do business in Ohio, or otherwise having nexus with Ohio during a calendar year. The franchise tax is imposed on the value of a corporation's issued and outstanding shares of stock. Financial institutions determine the value of their issued and outstanding shares based upon the net worth of the shares. For Ohio franchise tax purposes, savings institutions are currently taxed at a rate equal to 1.3% of taxable net worth. Cheviot Savings Bank is currently under audit with respect to its 2005 Ohio franchise tax returns.

#### MANAGEMENT

Executive Officers of Cheviot Financial Corp.

The following individuals hold the following executive officer positions with Cheviot Financial Corp.

Name	Age	Position
Thomas J. Linneman	56	President and Chief Executive Officer
Scott T. Smith	40	Chief Financial Officer

Availability of Annual Report on Form 10-K

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K may be accessed on our website at [www.cheviotsavings.com](http://www.cheviotsavings.com).

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Changing Interest Rates May Cause Net Earnings to Decline.

In the event that interest rates rise, our net interest margin and interest rate spread will be adversely affected by the high level of assets with fixed rates of interest which we retain in our portfolio. As market interest rates rise, we will have competitive pressures to increase the rates we pay on deposits, which will result in a decrease of our net interest income. Furthermore, the value of our loans will be less should we choose to sell such loans in the secondary market. Since, as a general matter, our interest-bearing liabilities reprice or mature more quickly than our interest-earning assets, an increase in interest rates generally would result in a decrease in our average interest rate spread and net interest income.

If Our Allowance for Loan Losses is Not Sufficient to Cover Actual Loan Losses, Our Earnings Could Decrease.

Our loan customers may not repay their loans according to their terms, and the collateral securing the payment of these loans may be insufficient to pay any remaining loan balance. We may experience significant loan losses, which could have a material adverse effect on our operating results. We make various assumptions and judgments about the collectibility of our portfolio, including the creditworthiness of our borrowers and the value of the real estate and other assets serving as collateral for the repayment of many of our loans.

In determining the amount of the allowance for loan losses, we review individual delinquent multi-family and commercial real estate loans for potential impairments in their carrying values. Additionally, we apply a factor to the loan portfolio principally based on historical loss experience as applied to the composition of the one- to-four family loan portfolio and integrated with our perception of risk in the economy related to past experience. Since we must use assumptions regarding individual loans and the economy, our current allowance for loan losses may not be sufficient to cover actual loan losses, and increases in the allowance may be necessary. Consequently, we may need to significantly increase our provision for losses on loans, particularly if one or more of our larger loans or credit relationships becomes delinquent or if we expand our non-residential, multi-family or commercial business lending. In addition, federal and state regulators periodically review our allowance for loan losses and may require us to increase our provision for loan losses or recognize loan charge-offs.

If Economic Conditions Deteriorate, Our Earnings Could be Adversely Impacted as Borrowers' Ability to Repay Loans Declines and the Value of the Collateral Securing Our Loans Decreases.

Our financial results may be adversely affected by changes in prevailing economic conditions, including decreases in real estate values, changes in interest rates which may cause a decrease in interest rate spreads, adverse employment conditions, the monetary and fiscal policies of the federal government and other significant external events. Since we have a significant amount of real estate loans, decreases in real estate values could adversely affect the value of property used as collateral. Advance changes in the economy may also have a negative effect on the ability of our borrowers to make timely repayments of their loans, which would have an adverse impact on our earnings.



In addition, substantially all of our loans are to individuals and businesses in Hamilton County, Ohio. Consequently, any decline in the economy of this market area could have an adverse impact on our earnings.

**Our Public Shareholders Do Not Exercise Voting Control Over Cheviot Financial Corp.**

A majority of the voting stock of Cheviot Financial Corp. is owned by Cheviot Mutual Holding Company. Cheviot Mutual Holding Company is controlled by its board of directors, who consist of those persons who are members of the board of directors of Cheviot Financial Corp. and Cheviot Savings Bank. Cheviot Mutual Holding Company elects all members of the board of directors of Cheviot Financial Corp., and, as a general matter, controls the outcome of all matters presented to the stockholders of Cheviot Financial Corp. for resolution by vote, except for matters that require a vote greater than a majority vote. Consequently, Cheviot Mutual Holding Company, acting through its board of directors, is able to control the business and operations of Cheviot Financial Corp. and may be able to prevent any challenge to the ownership or control of Cheviot Financial Corp. by stockholders other than Cheviot Mutual Holding Company. There is no assurance that Cheviot Mutual Holding Company will not take actions that the public stockholders believe are against their interests.

**We Operate in a Highly Regulated Environment and may be Adversely Affected by Changes in Laws and Regulations.**

We are subject to extensive regulation, supervision and examination by the Office of Thrift Supervision, our chartering authority, and by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, as insurer of deposits. As federally chartered holding companies, Cheviot Financial Corp. and Cheviot Mutual Holding Company also will be subject to regulation and oversight by the Office of Thrift Supervision. Such regulation and supervision govern the activities in which an institution and its holding companies may engage and are intended primarily for the protection of the insurance fund and depositors. Regulatory authorities have extensive discretion in connection with their supervisory and enforcement activities, including the imposition of restrictions on the operation of an institution, the classification of assets by the institution and the adequacy of an institution's allowance for loan losses. Any change in such regulation and oversight, whether in the form of regulatory policy, regulations, or legislation, including changes in the regulations governing mutual holding companies, could have a material impact on Cheviot Savings Bank, Cheviot Financial Corp., and our operations.

**ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS**

Not applicable.

## ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

We conduct our business through our main banking office located in Cheviot, Ohio, and other full-service branch offices located in Hamilton County, Ohio. The aggregate net book value of our premises and equipment was \$4.9 million at December 31, 2009. The following table sets forth certain information with respect to our offices at December 31, 2009.

Location	Leased or Owned	Year Opened/ Acquired	Net Book Value (In thousands)
Main Office 3723 Glenmore Avenue Cheviot, Ohio 45211	Owned	1912	\$ 786
Branches 5550 Cheviot Road Cincinnati, Ohio 45247	Owned	1982	367
6060 Bridgetown Road Cincinnati, Ohio 45248	Owned	1991	496
1194 Stone Road Harrison, Ohio 45030	Owned	1997	594
585 Anderson Ferry Road Cincinnati, Ohio 45238	Owned	2006	1,148
7072 Harrison Avenue Cincinnati, Ohio 45247	Owned	2006	1,495
Total Net Book Value			\$ 4,886

## ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

At December 31, 2009, Cheviot Savings Bank was not involved in any pending legal proceedings other than routine legal proceedings occurring in the ordinary course of business which, in the aggregate, involve amounts which are believed by management to be immaterial to its financial condition or results of operations.

## ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

None.

## PART II

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

The Company's common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol "CHEV".

The following table sets forth the range of the high and low sales prices of the Company's Common Stock for the prior eight calendar quarters and is based upon information provided by Nasdaq.

Calendar Quarter Ended	Prices of Common Stock		Dividends Paid
	High	Low	
	March 31, 2009	\$ 7.70	
June 30, 2009	9.80	6.65	0.10
September 30, 2009	9.00	7.09	0.10
December 31, 2009	8.77	7.00	0.10

Calendar Quarter Ended	Prices of Common Stock		Dividends Paid
	High	Low	
	March 31, 2008	\$ 10.55	
June 30, 2008	10.00	7.48	0.09
September 30, 2008	9.09	6.77	0.09
December 31, 2008	8.50	5.15	0.09

As of December 31, 2009, the Company had 800 stockholders of record. Please see "Item 1. Business—Regulation—Capital Distributions" for a discussion of restrictions on the ability of the Bank to pay the Company dividends.

Set forth below is information relating to the Company's common stock repurchase activity during the fourth quarter of 2009.

Month	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid per share	Total shares purchased as part of a publicly announced program or plan	Maximum number of shares that may yet be purchased under the program or plan
October	—	\$ —	82,968	364,616
November	—	—	82,968	364,616
December	—	—	82,968	364,616

Edgar Filing: CHEVIOT FINANCIAL CORP - Form 10-K

Set forth below is information as of December 31, 2009 regarding equity compensation plans. Other than the ESOP, the Company does not have any equity compensation plans that were not approved by its stockholders.

Plan	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options and rights	Weighted average exercise price	Number of securities remaining available for issuance under plan
Equity compensation plans approved by stockholders	680,426	\$11.11	100,531
Equity compensation plans not approved by stockholders	—	—	—
Total	680,426	\$11.11	100,531

33

---

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The Selected Financial Data is incorporated by reference to the Annual Report to Shareholders included as Exhibit 13 to this Form 10-K.

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Incorporated by reference to the Annual Report to Shareholders included as Exhibit 13 to the Form 10-K.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Incorporated by reference to the Annual Report to Shareholders included as Exhibit 13 to the Form 10-K.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

The financial statements identified in Item 15(a)(1) hereof are incorporated by reference to the Annual Report to Shareholders included as Exhibit 13 to the Form 10-K.

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None.

ITEM 9A(T). CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

(a) Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Under the supervision, and with the participation, of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, our management evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Rule 13a-15(b), as adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"). Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this annual report.

Disclosure controls and procedures are the controls and other procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that the Company files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that the Company files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

(b) Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. Our system of internal control is designed under the supervision of management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of our financial reporting and the preparation of the Company's financial statements for external reporting purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP").

Our internal control over financial reporting includes policies and procedures that pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect transactions and dispositions of assets; provide reasonable assurances that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and that receipts and expenditures are made only in accordance with the authorization of management and the Boards of Directors of the Company and provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the Company's assets that could have a material effect on our financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the degree of compliance with policies and procedures may deteriorate.

As of December 31, 2009, management assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting based upon the framework established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Based upon its assessment, management believes that the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009 is effective using these criteria.

This annual report does not include an attestation report of the Company's registered public accounting firm regarding internal control over financial reporting. Management's report was not subject to attestation by the Company's registered public accounting firm pursuant to temporary rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission that permit the Company to provide only management's report in this annual report.

(c) Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There have not been any changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting (as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) during the fiscal quarter to which this report relates that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

See the Certifications pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Information concerning Directors of the Company is incorporated herein by reference from the Company's definitive Proxy Statement (the "Proxy Statement"), specifically the section captioned "Proposal I—Election of Directors." In addition, see "Executive Officers of Cheviot Financial Corp." in Item 1 for information concerning the Company's executive officers. Information concerning corporate governance matters is incorporated by reference from the Company's Proxy Statement.

The Board of Directors has adopted a Code of Ethics, applicable to the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. The Code of Ethics may be accessed through our website at [www.cheviotsavings.com](http://www.cheviotsavings.com) and is filed as Exhibit 14 hereto.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Information concerning executive compensation is incorporated herein by reference from the Company's Proxy Statement, specifically the section captioned "Executive Compensation."

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

Information concerning security ownership of certain owners and management is incorporated herein by reference from the Company's Proxy Statement, specifically the section captioned "Voting Securities and Principal Holder Thereof."

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

Information concerning relationships and transactions, and director independence, is incorporated herein by reference from the Company's Proxy Statement, specifically the sections captioned "Transactions with Certain Related Persons" and "Proposal I-Election of Directors."

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

Information concerning principal accountant fees and services is incorporated herein by reference from the Company's Proxy Statement under the caption "Proposal II-Ratification of Independent Registered Public Accountants."

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

The exhibits and financial statement schedules filed as a part of this Form 10-K are as follows:

(a)(1) Financial Statements

- Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
- Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition at December 31, 2009 and 2008.
- Consolidated Statements of Earnings for the Years Ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007.
-

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the Years Ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007.

- Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the Years Ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007.



- Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007.
- Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

(a)(2) Financial Statement Schedules

No financial statement schedules are filed because the required information is not applicable or is included in the consolidated financial statements or related notes.

(a)(3) Exhibits

- 3.1 Charter of Cheviot Financial Corp.(1)
  - 3.2 Bylaws of Cheviot Financial Corp. (1)
  - 4 Stock Certificate of Cheviot Financial Corp. (2)
  - 10.1 Employment Agreement with Thomas J. Linneman(3)
  - 10.2 Change in Control Severance Agreement with Kevin Kappa(4)
  - 10.3 Change in Control Severance Agreement with Jeffrey Lenzer(5)
  - 10.4 Change in Control Severance Agreement with Scott Smith(6)
  - 10.5 Directors Deferred Compensation Plan(7)
  - 10.6 Tax Allocation Agreement(8)
  - 10.7 Expense Allocation Agreement(9)
  - 10.8 2005 Stock Based Incentive Plan(10)
  - 10.9 Supplemental Insurance Plan(11)
  - 13 Annual Report to Shareholders
  - 14 Code of Ethics(12)
  - 21 Subsidiaries of the Registrant(13)
  - 23.1 Consent of Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.
  - 31.1 Certification of President and Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
  - 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
  - 32 Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
- (1) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 30, 2003.
- (2) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4 of the Pre-Effective Amendment No.1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 2, 2003.
- (3) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Pre-Effective Amendment No.1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 2, 2003.

- (4) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Pre-Effective Amendment No.1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 2, 2003.
- (5) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of the Pre-Effective Amendment No.1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 2, 2003.
- (6) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of the Pre-Effective Amendment No.1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 2, 2003.
- (7) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of the Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 30, 2003.
- (8) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 of the Pre-Effective Amendment No.1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 2, 2003.
- (9) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 of the Pre-Effective Amendment No.1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 2, 2003.
- (10) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit A of the Definitive Proxy Statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 25, 2005.
- (11) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99 of the Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 7, 2005.
- (12) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 14 of the Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 25, 2004.
- (13) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 21 of the Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 30, 2007.

(b) The exhibits listed under (a)(3) above are filed herewith.

(c) Not applicable.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

CHEVIOT FINANCIAL CORP.

Date: March 17, 2010

By: /s/ Thomas J. Linneman  
Thomas J. Linneman,  
President and Chief Executive Officer and  
Director

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By: /s/ Thomas J. Linneman  
Thomas J. Linneman, President and Chief  
Executive Officer

By: /s/ Scott T. Smith  
Scott T. Smith, Chief Financial Officer  
  
(principal financial officer and principal accounting  
officer)

Date: March 17, 2010

Date: March 17, 2010

By: /s/ Edward L. Kleemeier  
Edward L. Kleemeier, Director

By: /s/ John T. Smith  
John T. Smith, Director

Date: March 17, 2010

Date: March 17, 2010

By: /s/ Robert L. Thomas  
Robert L. Thomas, Director

By: /s/ James E. Williamson  
James E. Williamson, Director

Date: March 17, 2010

Date: March 17, 2010

By: /s/ Steven R. Hausfeld  
Steven R. Hausfeld, Director

Date: March 17, 2010