

NBT Bancorp Announces Quarterly Earnings of \$12.6 Million; Declares Cash Dividend

July 26, 2004

NORWICH, N.Y.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--July 26, 2004--NBT Bancorp Inc. (NBT) (NASDAQ: NBTB) reported today that net income for the quarter ended June 30, 2004, was \$12.6 million, or \$0.38 per diluted share, up 6% from \$11.8 million, or \$0.36 per diluted share for the same period a year ago. Return on average assets and return on average equity were 1.24% and 16.05%, respectively, for the quarter ended June 30, 2004, compared with 1.25% and 16.07%, respectively, for the same period in 2003. The increase in net income for the quarter ended June 30, 2004, was primarily the result of a \$1.2 million increase in net interest income and a \$1.1 million increase in noninterest income that was partially offset by a \$1.0 million increase in the provision for loan and lease losses.

Net income for the six months ended June 30, 2004, was \$24.9 million, or \$0.75 per diluted share, up 6% compared with \$23.4 million or \$0.71 per diluted share for the first six months of 2003. Return on average assets and return on average equity were 1.24% and 15.89%, respectively, for the six months ended June 30, 2004, compared with 1.26% and 16.08%, respectively, for the same period in 2003. The increase in net income for the six months ended June 30, 2004, was primarily the result of a \$2.8 million increase in noninterest income and a \$2.3 million increase in net interest income that was partially offset by increases in the provision for loan and lease losses of \$1.2 million and noninterest expense of \$1.3 million.

NBT Chairman and CEO Daryl R. Forsythe stated, "I am pleased to report solid results for the second quarter of 2004. Key areas that continue to drive our performance include solid loan growth, higher revenues from noninterest income sources, strong credit quality, and good expense control. With the competitive landscape changing as a result of merger activity, we remain focused on our growth strategy and are taking advantage of the resulting organic growth opportunities in the Albany and Binghamton markets. Recently, NBT Bank announced the opening of its 72nd location in downtown Binghamton in July and relocated a branch in Albany to a new regional financial services center in May."

Loan and Lease Quality and Provision for Loan and Lease Losses

Nonperforming loans at June 30, 2004 were \$13.8 million or 0.50% of total loans and leases compared with \$16.8 million or 0.67% of total loans and leases at June 30, 2003 and \$14.8 million or 0.56% of total loans and leases at December 31, 2003. The Company's allowance for loan and lease losses was 1.58% of loans and leases at June 30, 2004 compared to 1.64% at June 30, 2003 and 1.62% at December 31, 2003. The ratio of the allowance for loan and lease losses to nonperforming loans improved to 315.52% at June 30, 2004 from 242.58% at June 30, 2003 and 287.62% at December 31, 2003. Annualized net charge-offs to average loans and leases for the six months ended June 30, 2004, were 0.28%, up slightly from the 0.23% annualized ratio for the six months ended June 30, 2003, and the ratio for the year ended December 31, 2003 of 0.27%.

For the quarter and six months ended June 30, 2004, the provision for loan and lease losses totaled \$2.4 million and \$4.6 million, respectively, compared with the \$1.4 million and \$3.4 million for the same periods in 2003. The increase in the provision for loan and lease losses was due primarily to loan and lease growth as well as an increase in net charge-offs. Loans and leases at June 30, 2004 increased 10% when compared to loans and leases at June 30, 2003 and grew at a 9% annualized rate when compared to loans and leases at December 31, 2003. Net charge-offs for the quarter ended June 30, 2004 were up \$0.6 million to \$2.2 million from \$1.7 million for the same period in 2003. The provision for loan and lease losses represents the charge against current earnings that is determined by management, through a disciplined credit review process, as the amount needed to maintain an allowance that is sufficient to absorb loan and lease losses inherent in the Company's current loan and lease portfolio.

Net Interest Income

Net interest income was up 3% to \$36.7 million for the quarter ended June 30, 2004, compared to \$35.5 million for the same period a year ago. The increase in net interest income was attributable to 8% growth in average earning assets for the period offset by a decline in the Company's net interest margin, which was 3.99% for the quarter ended June 30, 2004, down from the 4.18% for the same period in 2003. Net interest income for the six months ended June 30, 2004 increased 3% as well to \$73.8 million from \$71.5 million in the same period for 2003. The increase in net interest income was attributable to 9% growth in average earning assets for the period offset by a decline in the Company's net interest margin, which was 4.04% for the six months ended June 30, 2004, down from the 4.29% for the same period in 2003. The compression of net interest margin during the six months and quarter ended June 30, 2004 compared to the same periods last year resulted from earning assets repricing down at a faster rate than interest-bearing liabilities due primarily to the continued low rate environment prevalent throughout the period.

Noninterest Income

Noninterest income for the quarter ended June 30, 2004 was \$10.0 million, up \$1.1 million or 12% from \$8.9 million for the same period in 2003. Service charges on deposit accounts for the quarter ended June 30, 2004 increased \$0.3 million or 9% over the same period in 2003. The increase in service charges on deposit accounts resulted primarily from higher overdraft fees from pricing adjustments implemented during the second half of 2003. Income from bank owned life insurance (BOLI) increased \$0.4 million for the quarter ended June 30, 2004 over the same period in the prior year resulting from the purchase of \$30 million of BOLI in June 2003.

Noninterest income for the six months ended June 30, 2004 was \$20.4 million, up \$2.8 million or 16% from \$17.7 million for the same period in 2003. Service charges on deposit accounts for the six months ended June 30, 2004 increased \$0.8 million or 10% over the same period in 2003. As mentioned previously, the increase in service charges on deposit accounts resulted primarily from higher revenue collected for overdraft fees from pricing adjustments implemented during the second half of 2003. Other income for the six months ended June 30, 2004 increased \$0.6 million or 12% over the same period in 2003. The increase in other income was driven primarily by an increase in credit-group-life insurance fees totaling \$0.4 million. Broker/dealer and insurance revenue increased \$0.4 million or 12%, due primarily to the initiative to sell financial service products throughout the Bank's 112-branch network beginning in 2003. Income from BOLI increased \$0.8 million for the six months ended June 30, 2004 over the same period in the prior year resulting from the previously mentioned purchase of \$30 million of BOLI in June 2003.

Noninterest Expense

Noninterest expense for the quarter ended June 30, 2004 was \$25.9 million, up slightly from \$25.8 million for the same period in 2003. Salaries and employee benefits for the quarter ended June 30, 2004 increased \$0.5 million or 4% over the same period in 2003 mainly from higher salaries from merit increases and higher employee medical insurance costs. Occupancy expense for the quarter ended June 30, 2004 increased \$0.3 million or 12% over the same period in 2003 primarily from branch expansion in the Albany market. Offsetting these increases were decreases in loan collection and other real estate owned ("OREO") costs and other operating expenses. Loan collection and OREO costs for the quarter ended June 30, 2004 decreased \$0.4 million when compared to the same period in 2003 mainly from a \$0.3 million gain from the sale of OREO during the current quarter. Other operating expense for the quarter ended June 30, 2004 decreased \$0.4 million when compared to the same period in 2003 mainly from a \$0.6 million charge for the writedown of a nonmarketable security in 2003.

Noninterest expense for the six months ended June 30, 2004 was \$53.1 million, up \$1.3 million or 3% from \$51.7 million for the same period in 2003. The increase in noninterest expense was due primarily to increases in salaries and employee benefits and professional fees and outside services partially offset by decreases in loan collection and OREO costs and other operating expense. Salaries and employee benefits increased \$1.9 million, mainly from a \$1.1 million increase in salary expense from merit increases and an increase in employee medical costs of \$0.5 million. Professional fees and outside services increased \$0.5 million mainly from increased courier, legal and audit costs. Loan collection and OREO costs decreased \$0.3 million from a decrease in OREO expenses resulting from a decline in the number of OREO properties under management as OREO totaled \$0.4 million at June 30, 2004 compared to \$2.3 million at June 30, 2003. Other operating expense decreased \$0.7 million mainly from the previously mentioned \$0.6 million charge for the writedown of a nonmarketable security in 2003.

Balance Sheet

Total assets were \$4.1 billion at June 30, 2004 up \$0.2 billion from \$3.9 billion at June 30, 2003. Loans and leases increased \$0.3 billion or 10% from \$2.5 billion at June 30, 2003 to \$2.8 billion at June 30, 2004. Loan growth was fueled by solid production from consumer, commercial and residential real estate loan products. Total deposits were \$3.0 billion at June 30, 2004 and 2003. Core deposits, which include checking, savings and money market accounts increased \$0.2 billion or 12% from \$1.8 billion at June 30, 2003 to \$2.0 billion at June 30, 2004 offset by a \$0.1 billion decrease in time deposits during the same period. Stockholders' equity was \$307.7 million representing a Tier 1 leverage ratio of 6.90% at June 30, 2004 compared with \$297.9 million or a Tier 1 leverage ratio of 6.72% at June 30, 2003. Under a previously announced stock repurchase plan, the Company acquired 351,331 shares of its common stock at an average price of \$21.51 per share totaling \$7.6 million for the six months ended June 30, 2004.

Dividend Declared

The NBT Board of Directors declared a third quarter cash dividend of \$0.19 per share at a meeting held today. The dividend will be paid on September 15, 2004 to shareholders of record as of September 1, 2004.

Corporate Overview

NBT is a financial services holding company headquartered in Norwich, NY, with total assets of \$4.1 billion at June 30, 2004. Mr. Forsythe commented "I am pleased to announce that on July 19, 2004, the Company successfully completed the integration of the Central National Bank division into the NBT Bank division. We now have a single brand in New York and will continue to be the same community bank staffed by local decision makers who provide quality service and competitive products." The Company primarily operates through NBT Bank, N.A., a full-service community bank with two divisions and through a financial services company. NBT Bank, N.A. has 112 locations, including 72 NBT Bank offices in upstate New York and 40 Pennstar Bank offices in northeastern Pennsylvania. NBT also provides financial services products through M. Griffith, Inc. More information about NBT and its banking divisions can be found on the Internet at www.nbtbancorp.com, www.nbtbank.com, and www.pennstarbank.com.

Forward-Looking Statements

This news release contains forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and are based on the beliefs and assumptions of the management of NBT Bancorp and its subsidiaries and on the information available to management at the time that these statements were made. There are a number of factors, many of which are beyond NBT's control, that could cause actual conditions, events or results to differ significantly from those described in the forward-looking statements. Factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by such forward-looking statements include, among others, the following possibilities: (1) competitive pressures among depository and other financial institutions may increase significantly; (2) revenues may be lower than expected; (3) changes in the interest rate environment may reduce interest margins; (4) general economic conditions, either nationally or regionally, may be less favorable than expected, resulting in, among other things, a deterioration in credit quality and/or a reduced demand for credit; (5) legislative or regulatory changes, including changes in accounting standards and tax laws, may adversely affect the businesses in which NBT is engaged; (6) competitors may have greater financial resources and develop products that enable such competitors to compete more successfully than NBT; and (7) adverse changes may occur in the securities markets or with respect to inflation. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made. Except as required by law, NBT does not undertake to update forward-looking statements to reflect subsequent circumstances or events.

NBT Bancorp Inc.
SELECTED FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
(unaudited)

Net Percent
2004 2003 Change Change
-----(dollars in thousands, except share and per share data)

Net Income	\$12,568	\$11,808	\$760	6%
Diluted Earnings Per Share Weighted Average Diluted	\$0.38	\$0.36	\$0.02	6%
Common Shares	33,084,126	32,652,900	431,226	1%
Assets Return on Average	1.24%	1.25%	-0.01%	-1%
Equity	16.05%	16.07%	-0.02%	0%
Net Interest Margin	3.99%	4.18%	-0.19%	-5%
Six Months Ended June	•	ċ?? 27 <i>1</i>	č1 EGE	7%
Net Income Diluted Earnings Per		\$23,374	\$1,505	16
Share	\$0.75	\$0.71	\$0.04	6%
Weighted Average Dilu	•	¥0.7±	Q0.01	0 0
Common Shares				
Outstanding	33,128,783	32,717,725	411,058	1%
Return on Average				
Assets	1.24%	1.26%	-0.02%	-2%
Return on Average	15.000	16.000	0.100	1.0
Equity		16.08%		
Net Interest Margin	4.04% 	4.29% 	-U.256	-6%
Asset Quality		December 31,		,
_	2004	2003	2003	
Nonaccrual Loans	\$13,240	\$13,861	\$15,906	
90 Days Past Due and		40.50		
Still Accruing Troubled Debt	\$541	\$968	\$642	
Restructuring Loans	\$0	\$0	\$295	
Total Nonperforming				
Loans	\$13,781	\$14,829	\$16,843	
Other Real Estate				
Owned (OREO)	\$365	\$1,157	\$2,280	
Total Nonperforming Loans and OREO	\$14,146	\$15,986	\$19,123	
Nonperforming	Q14,140	Ų13,700	Ų1 <i>)</i> ,123	
Securities	\$52	\$395	\$735	
Total Nonperforming	·		·	
Assets	\$14,198	\$16,381	\$19,858	
Allowance for Loan				
and Lease Losses	\$43,482	\$42,651	\$40,858	
Year-to-Date (YTD) Net Charge-Offs	\$3,720	\$6,627	\$2,662	
Allowance to Loans	\$3,720	Ş0,02 <i>1</i>	\$2,002	
and Leases	1.58%	1.62%	1.64%	
Total Nonperforming				
Loans to Loans and				
Leases	0.50%	0.56%	0.67%	
Total Nonperforming	0.010	0.400	0	
Assets to Assets	0.34%	0.40%	0.51%	
Allowance to Nonperforming Loans	315.52%	287.62%	242.58%	
Annualized Net	313.52%	201.028	444.506	
Charge-Offs to				
YTD Average				
Loans and				
Leases	0.28%	0.27%	0.23%	

Capital				
Equity to Assets	7.46%	7.66%	7.60%	
Book Value Per Share	\$9.43	\$9.46	\$9.19	
Tangible Book Value				
Per Share	\$7.91	\$7.94	\$7.64	
Tier 1 Leverage Ratio	6.90%	6.76%	6.72%	
Tier 1 Capital Ratio	9.74%	9.96%	9.44%	
Total Risk-Based				
Capital Ratio	11.00%	11.21%	10.70%	

Quarterly Common Stock Price

Balance Sheet as of June 30,

	2004		2003	2002
Quarter End	High	Low	High Low	High Low
March 31 June 30 September 30 December 31	•	•	\$18.60 \$16.7 19.94 17.3 21.76 19.24 22.78 19.50	18.50 16.36

NBT Bancorp Inc. SELECTED FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (unaudited)

2004	2003	Change	Change
		Net	Percent

(dollars in thousands, except share and per share data)

Loans	\$2,753,625 \$2,496,385 \$257,240	10%
Earning Assets	\$3,860,751 \$3,584,137 \$276,614	8%
Total Assets	\$4,125,374 \$3,917,457 \$207,917	5%
Deposits	\$3,040,609 \$2,965,196 \$75,413	3%
Stockholders' Equity	\$307,675 \$297,850 \$9,825	3%
Average Balances		
Quarter Ended June 30,		
Loans	\$2,698,654 \$2,417,364 \$281,290	12%
Securities AFS (excluding	Ψ2,000,004 Ψ2,417,304 Ψ201,200	120
unrealized gains or losses)	\$974,046 \$975,929 (\$1,883)	0%
Securities HTM	\$87,802 \$86,400 \$1,402	
	\$33,301 \$23,987 \$9,314	
Short-Term Interest Bearing	ψ33/301 ψ23/30/ ψ3/311	370
Accounts	\$7,282 \$4,331 \$2,951	68%
Total Earning Assets	\$3,801,085 \$3,508,011 \$293,074	
Total Assets	\$4,073,144 \$3,773,460 \$299,684	
Interest Bearing Deposits		
Non-Interest Bearing Deposits	\$483,650 \$448,597 \$35,053	
Short-Term Borrowings	\$283,701 \$122,794 \$160,907	
Long-Term Borrowings	\$388,331 \$358,119 \$30,212	
Total Interest Bearing		
Liabilities	\$3,227,622 \$2,960,549 \$267,073	9%
Stockholders' Equity	\$314,980 \$294,659 \$20,321	7%

Average Balances Year Ended June 30, Loans

\$2,672,384 \$2,386,173 \$286,211 12%

unrealized gains or losses) Securities HTM Regulatory Equity Investment	\$969,347 \$976,909 (\$7,562) -15 \$91,878 \$83,388 \$8,490 10% \$33,648 \$23,736 \$9,912 428	
Short-Term Interest Bearing Accounts Total Earning Assets Total Assets Interest Bearing Deposits Non-Interest Bearing Deposits Short-Term Borrowings Long-Term Borrowings Total Interest Bearing	\$7,761 \$4,756 \$3,005 63% \$3,775,018 \$3,474,962 \$300,056 98 \$4,052,714 \$3,735,711 \$317,003 88 \$2,538,519 \$2,477,483 \$61,036 29 \$476,186 \$439,398 \$36,788 89 \$286,658 \$110,713 \$175,945 1598 \$387,519 \$351,931 \$35,588 10%	00 00 00
Liabilities Stockholders' Equity	\$3,212,696 \$2,940,127 \$272,569 98 \$315,522 \$293,607 \$21,915 78	
NBT Bancorp Inc. and Subsidiari		
Consolidated Balance Sheets	June 30, December 31, June 30, 2004 2003 2003	
(in thousands)	(Unaudited) (Unaudited)	
ASSETS Cash and due from banks Short term interest bearing acc Securities available for sale, fair value		
Securities held to maturity (far value of \$80,390, \$98,576, and \$94,339, at June 30, 2004, Dece 31, 2003 and June 30, 2003, respectively) Federal Reserve and Federal Hom	79,766 97,204 92,452 mber loan	
Bank stock Loans and leases	35,994 34,043 29,175 2,753,625 2,639,976 2,496,385	
Less allowance for loan and lea	.se 43,482 42,651 40,858	
Net loans and leases Premises and equipment, net Goodwill Intangible assets, net Bank owned life insurance Other assets	2,710,143 2,597,325 2,455,527 62,008 62,443 61,332 47,521 47,521 47,558 2,189 2,331 2,606 31,609 30,815 30,014 66,102 66,150 64,186	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,125,374 \$4,046,885 \$3,917,457	
LIABILITIES, GUARANTEED PREFERE BENEFICIAL INTERESTS IN COMPANY SUBORDINATE DEBENTURES AND CAPI Deposits: Demand (noninterest bearing) Savings, NOW, and money market	T'S JUNIOR TAL \$490,573 \$500,303 \$470,422 1,494,278 1,401,825 1,304,304	
Time	1,055,758 1,099,223 1,190,470 	
Total deposits Short-term borrowings Long-term debt Trust preferred debentures Other liabilities	3,040,609 3,001,351 2,965,196 349,144 302,931 211,981 369,567 369,700 370,129 18,720 39,659 45,869 55,301	
Total liabilities	3,817,699 3,719,851 3,602,607	

- 17,000 17,000

Total stockholders' equity	307,67	75 310	,034	297,850
TOTAL LIABILITIES, GUARANTEED PREFERRED BENEFICIAL INTERESTS IN JUNIOR SUBORDINATE DEBENTURES AND CAPITAL	COMPANY'S \$4,125,37	4 \$4,046	,885 \$3,	917,457
Th NBT Bancorp Inc. and Subsidiaries Consolidated Statements of Income			Jur	ne 30,
(in thousands, except per share data))		
Interest, fee and dividend income: Loans and leases Securities available for sale Securities held to maturity Other	\$39,635	\$39,540 10,864 857 332		22,669
Total interest, fee and dividend income	50,938	51,593 1	.02,665	L04,228
Interest expense: Deposits Short-term borrowings Long-term debt Trust preferred debentures	794	12,040 370 3,691	1,587	659
Total interest expense	14,258	16,101	28,891	32,707
Net interest income Provision for loan and lease losses	36,680 2,428	35,492 1,413	73,774 4,552	
Net interest income after provision for loan losses		34,079	69,222	68,168
Noninterest income: Trust Service charges on deposit accounts		1,116 3,764		
Broker/dealer and insurance revenue Net securities gains (losses) Bank owned life insurance income Other	1,783 29 409 2,536	1,750 38 14 2,257	3,514 38 794	3,142 65 14
Total noninterest income	9,989	8,939	20,432	17,681
Noninterest expense: Salaries and employee benefits Office supplies and postage Occupancy Equipment Professional fees and outside services	12,542 1,143 2,446 1,781	12,060 1,011 2,182 1,944	2,174 5,044 3,634 3,056	2,084 4,708 3,710 2,542
Data processing and communications Capital securities		2,720 179		

Amortization of intangible as Loan collection and other rea		71	155	142	317
estate owned	a⊥		476		
Other operating		3,505	3,881	0,345	
Total noninterest expense		25,863	25,848	53,065	51,740
Income before income taxes Income taxes			17,170 5,362		
Net (loss) income		\$12,568	\$11,808	\$24,939	\$23,374
Earnings Per Share:					
Basic			\$0.36		
Diluted		\$0.38 	\$0.36 	\$0.75 	\$0.71
NBT Bancorp Inc. and					
Subsidiaries	0.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	0.0
Quarterly Consolidated Statements of Income	2Q 2004		4Q 2003		
Statements of Income	2004	2004			2003
(in thousands, except per share data)			(Unaudi	ted)	
Interest, fee and dividend					
income:					
Loans Securities available for	\$39,635	\$39,894	\$40,082	\$39,881	\$39,540
sale	10,313	10,769	11,311	9.871	10.864
Securities held to maturity	755				857
Other	235	267	84	196	332
Total interest, fee and dividend income	50,938	51,727	52,282	50,788	51,593
Interest expense:					
Deposits	9,674	10,045	10,369	10,920	12,040
Short-term borrowings	794	793	808	704	370
Long-term debt	3,627		3,780	3,586	3,691
Trust preferred debentures	163	180	-	_	-
Total interest expense	14,258	14,633	14,957	15,210	16,101
Net interest income	36,680	37,094	37,325	35,578	35,492
Provision for loan and lease losses	2,428	2,124	3,322	2,436	1,413
Net interest income after provision for loan losses		34,970	34,003	33,142	34,079
Noninterest income:					
Trust	1,142	1,107	1,075	958	1,116
Service charges on deposit accounts	4,090	4,037	4,302	4,164	3,764
Broker/dealer and insurance fees	1,783	1,731	1,964	1,763	1,750
Net securities (losses) gains	29				38
Bank owned life insurance	49	9	54	Τ0	20
income	409	385	403	398	14
Other	2,536	3,174	2,288	2,672	2,257
Total noninterest income	9,989	10,443	10,124	9,973	8,939

Salaries and employee					
benefits	12,542	14,113	12,355	12,486	12,060
Office supplies and postage	1,143	1,031	1,028	1,104	1,011
Occupancy	2,446	2,598	2,477	2,143	2,182
Equipment	1,781	1,853	2,008	1,909	1,944
Professional fees and					
outside services	1,424	1,632	1,470	1,421	1,240
Data processing and					
communications	2,852	2,692	2,671	2,640	2,720
Capital securities	-	-	181	181	179
Amortization of intangible					
assets	71	71	145	158	155
Loan collection and other					
real estate owned	99	372	636	448	476
Other operating	3,505	2,840	3,823	3,493	3,881
Total noninterest expense	25,863	27,202	26,794	25,983	25,848
Income (loss) before income					
taxes	18,378	18,211	17,333	17,132	17,170
Income taxes				5,284	
Net income (loss)	\$12,568	\$12,371	\$11,882	\$11,848	\$11,808
Earnings per share:					
Basic	\$0.38	\$0.38	\$0.36	\$0.36	\$0.36
Diluted	•	\$0.37			•

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SOURCE: NBT Bancorp Inc.