

NBT Bancorp Announces Annual Earnings of \$52.4 Million and Stock Buyback; Declares Cash Dividend

January 23, 2006

NORWICH, NY, Jan 23, 2006 (MARKET WIRE via COMTEX News Network) -- NBT Bancorp Inc. (NBT) (NASDAQ: NBTB) reported today that net income for the year ended December 31, 2005, was \$52.4 million, or \$1.60 per diluted share, up 6% on a diluted per share basis compared with \$50.0 million or \$1.51 per diluted share for the same period in 2004. The increase in net income for the year ended December 31, 2005, was primarily the result of increases in net interest income of \$7.6 million and noninterest income of \$1.6 million partially offset by a \$5.5 million increase in noninterest expense. Return on average assets and return on average equity were 1.21% and 15.86%, respectively, for the year ended December 31, 2005, compared with 1.21% and 15.69%, respectively, for the same period in 2004.

Net income for the quarter ended December 31, 2005, was \$13.0 million, or \$0.40 per diluted share, up 5% on a per diluted share basis from \$12.5 million, or \$0.38 per diluted share for the same period a year ago. The increase in net income for the quarter ended December 31, 2005, was primarily the result of an increase in net interest income of \$1.4 million offset by an increase in income tax expense of \$1.3 million. Annualized return on average assets and return on average equity were 1.17% and 15.47%, respectively, for the quarter ended December 31, 2005, compared with 1.18% and 15.08%, respectively, for the same period in 2004.

NBT CEO and President Martin A. Dietrich stated, "I am pleased to see the improvement in earnings over the same periods in 2004. Solid loan growth, supported by strong asset quality, has enabled us to achieve another solid year of results. During 2004 and 2005, we made several investments to expand our presence in the Albany, Binghamton and northeastern Pennsylvania markets. We are pleased with the loan and deposit growth we have experienced in these newer markets. We anticipate that the acquisition of City National Bank and Trust Company will close in the first quarter of 2006. This acquisition coupled with our branch expansion program is an important component for our plan of continued growth. Our team remains committed to increasing our market share through quality growth while focusing on our ultimate goals: to be the premier provider of community banking services in the markets we serve and to enhance our shareholders' value."

Loan and Lease Quality and Provision for Loan and Lease Losses

Nonperforming loans at December 31, 2005 were \$14.3 million or 0.47% of total loans and leases compared with \$16.2 million or 0.56% of total loans and leases at December 31, 2004. The Company's allowance for loan and lease losses was 1.57% of total loans and leases at December 31, 2005 and 2004. The ratio of the allowance for loan and lease losses to nonperforming loans was 331.92% at December 31, 2005 compared with 277.75% at December 31, 2004. Net charge-offs to average loans and leases for the year ended December 31, 2005, was 0.23% compared with 0.27% for the same period in 2004. For the year and quarter ended December 31, 2005, the provision for loan and lease losses totaled \$9.5 million and \$2.6 million, respectively, compared with the \$9.6 million and \$2.8 million for the same periods in 2004.

Net Interest Income

Net interest income for the year ended December 31, 2005 increased 5% to \$158.1 million from \$150.5 million in the same period for 2004. The Company's net interest margin was 4.01% for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared with 4.03% in 2004. Net interest income was up 4% to \$40.0 million for the quarter ended December 31, 2005, compared with \$38.7 million for the same period a year ago. The increase in net interest income was due primarily to a 5% increase in average earning assets offset by a slight decline in the Company's net interest margin, which was 3.97% for the quarter ended December 31, 2005, down from 4.03% for the same period in 2004. The increase in average earning assets was due primarily to loan growth, since average loans were up 6% for the quarter ended December 31, 2005, compared with the same period in 2004. The decrease in net interest margin is primarily attributable to the flattening yield curve, resulting in relatively flat reinvestment rates on investment securities and loans and increasing short-term borrowing and deposit costs. Dietrich added "Our expectation going forward is that our net interest margin will continue to decline given the flat yield curve and pressure on deposit pricing. Continuing the trend in loan growth we've experienced the last four years will be a key factor in overcoming this challenge."

Noninterest Income

Noninterest income for the year ended December 31, 2005, was \$42.5 million, up \$1.6 million from \$40.9 million for the same period in 2004. Excluding net securities losses of \$1.2 million for 2005, total noninterest income increased \$2.9 million or 7% from the same period in 2004. Net securities losses of \$1.2 million resulted from the sale of \$47.8 million in securities available for sale to improve investment portfolio yield going forward. Retirement plan administration fees were \$4.4 million. This is a new service from the acquisition of EPIC Advisors, Inc. in January 2005. ATM and debit card fees increased \$0.6 million compared with the same period a year ago, due to growth from transaction deposit accounts, which has led to an increase in the Company's debit card base. Other income increased \$0.9 million from increases in consumer banking fees, mortgage banking income and title insurance revenue. Offsetting these increases was a \$3.6 million decrease in broker/dealer and insurance revenue due to the sale of the Company's broker/dealer subsidiary, M. Griffith, Inc. in March 2005.

Noninterest income for the quarter ended December 31, 2005, was \$10.4 million, up \$0.1 million from \$10.3 million for the same period in 2004. Excluding net securities losses of \$0.5 million during the quarter ended December 31, 2005, total noninterest income increased \$0.6 million or 6% from the same period in 2004. Net securities losses of \$0.5 million resulted from the previously mentioned sale of certain securities available for sale, which totaled \$22.8 million for the quarter to improve investment portfolio yield going forward. Retirement plan administration fees totaled \$1.2 million, from the previously mentioned acquisition of EPIC Advisors, Inc. in January 2005. Offsetting this increase was a \$1.0 million decrease in broker/dealer and insurance revenue due to the previously mentioned sale of the Company's broker/dealer subsidiary, M. Griffith, Inc. in March 2005.

Noninterest Expense

Noninterest expense for the year ended December 31, 2005, was \$115.3 million, up \$5.5 million or 5% from \$109.8 million for the same period in 2004. The increase in noninterest expense was due largely to increases in salaries and employee benefits and other expense. Also, 2004 included a \$2.0 million goodwill impairment charge. Salaries and employee benefits increased \$4.8 million primarily from increases in full-time-equivalent employees and merit increases as well as an increase in retirement costs and incentive compensation. Other operating expense increased \$2.1 million, principally from the reversal of a previously accrued \$1.4 million liability that was determined in the fourth quarter of 2004 to no longer be required. The \$2.0 million goodwill impairment charge in 2004 resulted from the expected sale of the Company's broker/dealer subsidiary, M Griffith, Inc. in the first quarter of 2005.

Noninterest expense for the quarter ended December 31, 2005, was \$29.1 million, down \$0.3 million from \$29.4 million for the same period in 2004. The decrease in noninterest expense resulted principally from the previously mentioned \$2.0 million goodwill impairment charge in 2004 charge offset by a \$1.9 million increase in other operating expense in 2005. The increase in other operating expense resulted from the previously mentioned reversal of a previously accrued \$1.4 million liability in 2004 that was determined to no longer be required.

Income Taxes

Income tax expense for the quarter ended December 31, 2005, was \$5.7 million, up \$1.3 million from the \$4.4 million recorded during the same period in 2004. The effective rate for the quarter ended December 31, 2005, was 30.5%, compared with 25.8% for the same period in 2004. The increase in tax expense and the effective tax rate for the quarter ended December 31, 2005, compared with the same period in 2004, was due to the reversal of a previously accrued \$0.8 million liability that was determined to no longer be required for the quarter ended December 31, 2004.

Balance Sheet

Total assets were \$4.4 billion at December 31, 2005 up \$0.2 billion from \$4.2 billion at December 31, 2004. Loans and leases increased \$0.1 billion or 5% from \$2.9 billion at December 31, 2004, to \$3.0 billion at December 31, 2005. Loan growth was driven predominantly by consumer loans and commercial loans. Total deposits were \$3.2 billion at December 31, 2005, up \$0.1 billion from \$3.1 billion at December 31, 2004. Stockholders' equity was \$333.9 million, representing a total-equity-to-total-assets ratio of 7.54% at December 31, 2005 compared with \$332.2 million or a total-equity-to-total-assets ratio of 7.89% at December 31, 2004.

Stock Buyback

NBT announced today that the NBT Board of Directors authorized a new repurchase program whereby NBT intends to repurchase up to an additional 1,000,000 shares (approximately 3%) of its outstanding common stock from time to time as market conditions warrant in open market and privately negotiated transactions. Currently, there are 503,151 shares remaining under a previous authorization that will be combined with the new authorization, increasing the total shares available for repurchase to 1,503,151. Under the program no shares will knowingly be repurchased from officers and directors of NBT or from persons who hold in excess of five percent of its outstanding shares of common stock. The Company acquired 1,008,114 shares of its common stock at an average price of \$22.97 per share, totaling \$23.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2005.

Dividend Declared

The NBT Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.19 per share at a meeting held today. The dividend will be paid on March 15, 2006, to shareholders of record as of March 1, 2006.

Corporate Overview

NBT is a financial holding company headquartered in Norwich, NY, with total assets of \$4.4 billion at December 31, 2005. 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 113 locations, including 74 NBT Bank offices in upstate New York and 39 Pennstar Bank offices in northeastern Pennsylvania. EPIC Advisors, Inc., based in Rochester, NY, is a full-service 401(k) plan recordkeeping firm. In June 2005, NBT announced that it had agreed to acquire CNB Bancorp, Inc. (CNB), which has total assets of approximately \$400 million and is headquartered in Gloversville, NY. The merger is subject to CNB shareholder approval and is expected to close in the first quarter of 2006. More information about NBT and its divisions can be found on the Internet at www.nbtbancorp.com, www.nbtbank.com, www.pennstarbank.com and www.epic1st.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; (7) the costs that will be incurred from the CNB acquisition and the risk of not obtaining CNB shareholder approval; and (8) 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 2005 2004 Change Change ----

		Silai	.e uata)			
Three Months Ended December	31,	+10 005	4.7	0 401	+ =0.4	4.0
Net Income Diluted Farmings Der Chare				2,491		
Diluted Earnings Per Share Weighted Average Diluted		\$0.40		\$0.38	\$ 0.02	56
	3′	2 556 147	7 22 1	55 085	(508 03	8) -2%
Common Shares Outstanding Return on Average Assets	52	1.17) }	1.18%	-0.01	% -1%
Return on Average Equity		15.47	9	15.08%	0.39	% 3%
Net Interest Margin				4.03%		
3						
Twelve Months Ended December	31,					
Net Income		\$52,438	\$5	0,047	\$2,391	5%
Diluted Earnings Per Share		\$1.60		\$1.51	\$0.09	
Weighted Average Diluted						
Common Shares Outstanding	32					
Return on Average Assets				1.21%		
Return on Average Equity				15.69%		
Net Interest Margin		4.018	5	4.03%	-0.02	8 08
Asset Quality			ner 31	December		
indes gaarray		200		2004	31,	
			-			
Nonaccrual Loans		\$13,	,419	\$14,99	1	
90 Days Past Due and Still Ad	ccruing		\$878	\$ 1,18	36	
Total Nonperforming Loans		\$14	,297	\$16,17 \$42	77	
Other Real Estate Owned (OREC))	1	\$265	\$42	18	
Total Nonperforming Assets				\$16,60		
Allowance for Loan and Lease						
Year-to-Date (YTD) Net Charge						
Allowance to Loans and Leases			1.57%	1.5	0'/%	
Total Nonperforming Loans to		0	170	0.56	- o.	
Loans and Leases Total Nonperforming Assets to	n Agget		0.33%			
Allowance to Nonperforming Lo				277.		
Net Charge-Offs to	Janib	33	11.720	277.	750	
YTD Average Loans and Lease	es		0.23%	0.2	17%	
Capital						
Equity to Assets		7	.54%	7.89	98	
Book Value Per Share				\$ 10.1		
Tangible Book Value Per Share	2			\$ 8.6		
Tier 1 Leverage Ratio			7.16%	7.1		
Tier 1 Capital Ratio			0.80%	9.78		
Total Risk-Based Capital Rational	LO		1.05%	11.0)4%	
Overstander Common Charle Draige	2	005			2	002
Quarterly Common Stock Price Quarter End	∠ High	Low	Zi High	Low	∠ Hiqh	003 Low
Quarter End						
March 31				\$21.21		\$16.76
	24.15			19.92		
				21.02		
				21.94		
	N	IBT Banco	rp Inc.			
SE	LECTED	FINANCIA	AL HIGHL	IGHTS		

(unaudited)

Net Percent
2005 2004 Change Change

December 31,									
Loans	\$	3,022,657	\$	2,86	69,92	L \$	152,73	6	5%
Earning Assets	\$	4,129,350	\$	3,9	40,56	5 \$	188,78	35	5%
Total Assets		4,426,773							
Deposits		3,160,196							
Stockholders' Equity	\$	333,943	\$	3	32,23	3 \$	1,71	LO	1%
Average Balances									
Quarter Ended December 31,									
Loans	\$	3,012,561	\$	2,84	43,84	L \$	168,72	0	6%
Securities AFS (excluding									
unrealized gains or losses)	\$	965,742	2 \$	9	956,18	3 \$	9,5	59	1%
Securities HTM		92,054	\$		81,15	2 \$	10,90	2	13%
Regulatory Equity Investment Short-Term Interest	\$	39,27	/ \$		34,92	20 Ş	4,3	5'/	12%
Bearing Accounts	Ś	7,676	Ġ		7.419) \$	25	7	3%
Total Earning Assets		4,117,310							
Total Assets		4,393,140							4%
		2,602,14							
Non-Interest Bearing Deposits									
Short-Term Borrowings		396,077	-				-		
Long-Term Borrowings	\$	439,798	\$ \$	4	13,25	5 \$	26,54	13	6%
Total Interest Bearing	4	2 420 000		2 2	06 00	1 4	121 00		4.0
Liabilities Stockholders' Equity		3,438,020							4% 1%
Scocmoracis Equity			, y 			э ү 	٠,٠٠	, , 	
Average Balances									
Twelve Months Ended									
December 31,									
Loans	\$	2,959,256	\$	2,74	43,75	3 \$	215,50	3	8%
Securities AFS									
(excluding unrealized gains		054 461	4	0.1	70 00	4 4	/15 56	2.	0.0
or losses) Securities HTM		954,461 88,244							
Regulatory Equity Investment									
Short-Term Interest	Ų	37,00	, γ		34,01	.J Y	4,7	7 1	0 8
Bearing Accounts	\$	7,298	\$		7,583	3 \$	(28	5)	-4%
_		4,046,866							
Total Assets		4,326,155		•	•				5%
Interest Bearing Deposits									2%
Non-Interest Bearing Deposits									
Short-Term Borrowings		353,644	1 \$	3	302,27	6 \$	51,30	58	17%
Long-Term Borrowings	Ş	430,487	Ş	4	00,05	3 Ş	30,43	34	8%
Total Interest Bearing Liabilities	ė	3,399,964	Ġ	2 2	57 71	3 ¢	1/12 25	: 1	119
Stockholders' Equity		330,676							
becommorately Equity									
NBT Bancorp Inc. and Subsidiar	rie	S			Decen	ıber	31,	Dec	cember 31,
Consolidated Balance Sheets (u	ınaı	udited)			2	005			2004
(in thousands)									
ASSETS					, ,	2.4	F 0 1	Ċ	00 427
Cash and due from banks Short term interest bearing ac	1001	nt c			۶ -		987	Ş	98,437 8,286
Securities available for sale,			lue			954	,474		952,542
Securities held to maturity (:						,,,	, - , -		7527512
of \$93,701 and \$82,712 at Dec			009	5 an	d				
December 31, 2004, respective	ely)					93,	709		81,782
Federal Reserve and Federal Ho	ome	Loan Banl	ζ 8	stock			-		36,842
Loans and leases					3,0	22,	657	2	,869,921
Less allowance for loan and le	ease	e losses				47	, 455		44,932
2.7									
Net loans and leases									2,824,989
Premises and equipment, net						-	693 44		63,743
Goodwill						1 / , 3	1 1		45,570

Intangible assets, net Bank owned life insurance Other assets		33, 71,9		2,013 32,302 65,798
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 4,426,	773	\$ 4,212,304 ======
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUIT Deposits: Demand (noninterest bearing) Savings, NOW, and money market Time		\$ 593 1,325	,422 ,166	\$ 520,218 1,435,561 1,118,059
Total deposits Short-term borrowings Long-term debt Trust preferred debentures Other liabilities		3,160, 444, 414,	 196 977 330 875	3,073,838 338,823 394,523
Total liabilities Total stockholders' equity		4,092, 333,	830 .943	3,880,071 332,233
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS'	EQUITY	\$ 4,426	5,773	
NBT Bancorp Inc. and Subsidiaries Consolidated Statements of Income (unaudited)	Three months Decembe	ended T r 31,	welve mo Dece	onths ended mber 31,
(in thousands, except per share data Interest, fee and dividend income: Loans and leases Securities available for sale Securities held to maturity Other	\$ 50,726 \$ 10,544 913	10,398 761	41,1	14 \$ 163,795 20 42,264 7 3,044 1,076
Total interest, fee and dividend income	62,758	54,421	236,36	57 210,179
Interest expense: Deposits Short-term borrowings Long-term debt Trust preferred debentures	3,911 4,098 375	1,307 3,919 235	10,98 16,11 1,22	2 39,761 34 4,086 4 15,022 6 823
Total interest expense	22,736	15,760	78,25	56 59,692
Net interest income Provision for loan and lease losses	40,022	38,661 2,750	158,11 9,4	150,487 64 9,615
Net interest income after provision for loan and lease losses	37,426			47 140,872
Noninterest income: Trust Service charges on deposit accounts ATM and debit card fees Broker/dealer and insurance revenue Net securities (losses) gains Bank owned life insurance income Retirement plan administration fees Other	1,234 4,340 1,587 527 (546) 342 1,212 1,736	1,174 4,184 1,402 1,572 160 345 - 1,503	5,029 16,8 6,16 3,1 (1,23 1,34 4,42	2 5,530 86 6,782 86) 216 47 1,487 26 - 5,799
	10,432	10,340	42,54	
Noninterest expense: Salaries and employee benefits	13,863	14,308	60,0	05 55,204

Office supplies and postage Occupancy Equipment Professional fees and outside servi Data processing and communications Amortization of intangible assets Loan collection and other real estations owned Goodwill impairment Other operating	ate	1,58 2,54 142 278	4 8 2	1 2 4 1,9	,583 ,740 71 :31 950	3) 1	10,349 544 ,002	6,175 10,972 284 1,241 1,950
Total noninterest expense							 15,305	
Total monimiterest expense								
Income before income taxes Income taxes		5,714		4,	353	2	75,891 3,453 	21,937
Net income	\$	12,995	5 \$	12,	491 	\$ 5	2,438 \$	50,047
Earnings Per Share:	4	.	ــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ	_	2.0	4	1 60 5	1 50
Basic Diluted	\$	0.40	\$	0.	.38	\$	1.62 \$ 1.60 \$	1.51
NBT Bancorp Inc. and Subsidiaries Quarterly Consolidated Statements of Income (unaudited)								
(in thousands, except per share dat Interest, fee and dividend income: Loans Securities available for sale Securities held to maturity Other	\$5 1	913	10	,103 860	1	0,226 831	\$43,944 10,247 803 467	10,398 761
Total interest, fee and dividend income	62	 2,758	60,	282	 57	,866	55,461	54,421
Interest expense: Deposits Short-term borrowings Long-term debt	1	4,352 3,911	12,	842	12 2	,018	10,720 1,861 3,808	10,299 1,307
Trust preferred debentures		375		308		285	258	235
Total interest expense	2	2,736	20	,331	18	3,542	16,647	15,760
Net interest income Provision for loan and lease losses	1	2,596	2	,752	:	2,320		2,750
Net interest income after provision for loan and lease losses	n 3	7,426	37	,199	37	7,004	37,018	35,911
Noninterest income: Trust							1,252	
Service charges on deposit accounts	\$	4,340	4	,314		4,311	3,929	4,184
ATM and debit card fees		1,587	1,	631	1	,544	1,400	1,402
Broker/dealer and insurance fees Net securities (losses) gains		527 (546)	,	5/1 727\	1	/36 51	1,352 (4)	1,572 160
Net securities (losses) gains Bank owned life insurance income Retirement plan administration fees		342	(339	'	333	333	345
Retirement plan administration fees		1,212	1	,195	1	L,156	863	-
Other	1	,736	1,	746	1,	673	1,586	1,503
Total noninterest income	1	.0,432	10	,351	11	L,055	10,711	10,340
Noninterest expense: Salaries and employee benefits Office supplies and postage	1	13,863 1,222	15 1	,438 ,135	1	5,253 .,121	15,451 1,150	14,308
Occupancy							2,788	

Equipment	2,120	1,971	1,931	2,096	1,998
Professional fees and outside					
services	1,584	1,447	1,381	1,675	1,583
Data processing and communications	2,548	2,613	2,530	2,658	2,740
Amortization of intangible assets	142	142	142	118	71
Loan collection and other real					
estate owned	278	115	208	401	431
Goodwill impairment	_	-	-	-	1,950
Other operating	4,703	3,293	3,580	2,544	2,792
Total noninterest expense	29,149	28,579	28,696	28,881	29,407
Income before income taxes	18,709	18,971	19,363	18,848	16,844
Income taxes	5,714	5,445	6,235	6,059	4,353
Net income	\$12,995	\$13,526	\$13,128	\$12,789	\$12,491
	=======================================	====== =	========	===== =	=====
Earnings per share:					
Basic	\$ 0.40 \$	0.42 \$	0.41 \$	0.39 \$	0.38
Diluted	\$ 0.40 \$	0.41 \$	0.40 \$	0.39 \$	0.38
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