

News Release

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For Immediate Release

BND CONTINUES RECORD PERFORMANCE TREND

BISMARCK -- The Bank of North Dakota (BND) continued its trend of record growth and profitability in 2000, with a net income for the year exceeding \$32.6 million, an increase of 6.9% from \$30.5 million in 1999. Total assets grew 7.1% to a record \$1.81 billion.

According to Gov. Hoeven, BND will fulfill its \$50 million commitment to the state's general fund for the 1999-2001 biennium. "Bank of North Dakota's strong financial performance positions the Bank as the fifth largest source of revenue for the state," said Gov. Hoeven. "The Bank's performance and loan programs are key components in promoting economic development and job creation throughout North Dakota."

"BND's profitability can be attributed to steady loan growth and the Bank's attention to asset quality," according to Eric Hardmeyer, Interim President. "BND's total loan portfolio at year end was more than \$1.16 billion, twice the size it was five years ago."

"Loan growth occurred in all major lending categories for BND which included student, commercial, agriculture, and residential loans," stated Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. "In addition, a new e-commerce initiative has been launched in which technology was implemented to service customers, strengthen partnerships with business and higher education, and allow the Bank to remain competitive."

"The Bank of North Dakota continues to expand new funding sources, drawing millions of dollars into North Dakota for the benefit of the people of North Dakota--our farmers, ranchers, business owners, students, and citizens," stated Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson. "Additional resources dedicated to the Ag PACE program have been instrumental in providing opportunities that generate additional wealth for North Dakota farmers and ranchers."

As the only state-owned bank in the nation, the Bank of North Dakota is overseen by the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Gov. John Hoeven as Chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, and Commissioner of Agriculture Roger Johnson.

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FURTHER INFORMATION: Eric Hardmeyer, Interim President (701) 328-5674