

Bank of North Dakota Reports Record Profits in 2004

BISMARCK - The Bank of North Dakota (BND) realized a record year for profitability in 2004, with net bank earnings of \$34.2 million, an increase of eight percent from \$31.7 million in 2003. Loans grew by \$65 million or 4.6 percent pushing total assets to \$2.01 billion.

“The Bank of North Dakota’s strong financial performance enables the Bank to play a significant role in the State’s economic development initiatives and help foster growth throughout the state,” Gov. John Hoeven said. “The Bank employees are to be commended for the great work they do in assisting all our citizens.”

BND’s performance was solid as the Bank experienced a return on average assets of 1.77 percent and return on equity of 22.1 percent, compared to 1.63 percent and 20.7 percent in 2003.

“The Bank’s total loan portfolio at year end was more than \$1.46 billion, compared to \$1.39 billion in 2003, with loan growth occurring in four major lending categories,” stated Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. “Many students, businesses, and other residents had their financing needs met by utilizing the services of the Bank of North Dakota.”

“BND continues its tradition of investing in the future of North Dakota’s agricultural industry by providing programs and stability to state residents,” said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson. “BND originated 510 Ag loans totaling \$89 million in 2004.”

“BND’s key to growth in 2004 and profitability can be attributed to our partnerships with financial institutions, community organizations and customers,” according to Eric Hardmeyer, BND President. “BND also remains focused on customer relationships by providing quality service and programs as we set the groundwork for major technological advances that will provide new services and easier access for our customers in the future.”

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 Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson.