

FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES INC  
Form 10QSB  
May 16, 2005  
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# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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## FORM 10-QSB

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(Mark One)

**QUARTERLY REPORT UNDER SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the Quarterly Period Ended March 31, 2005

OR

**TRANSITION REPORT UNDER SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the Transition Period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number 000-49757

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# FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.

(Exact name of small business issuer as specified in its charter)

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**South Carolina**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**80-0030931**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**2170 West Palmetto Street**  
**Florence, South Carolina 29501**  
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

**(843) 656-5000**  
(Issuer's telephone number, including area code)

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State the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common equity as of the latest practicable date:

**3,229,369 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, as of April 30, 2005**

Transitional Small Business Disclosure Format (Check one): Yes  No

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**Table of Contents****FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.****Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets**

	<b>March 31,</b>	<b>December 31,</b>
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
	<b>(Unaudited)</b>	<b>(Audited)</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents:		
Cash and due from banks	\$ 5,972,453	\$ 3,803,535
Federal funds sold	7,595,000	1,042,000
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>13,567,453</b>	<b>4,845,535</b>
Securities available-for-sale	28,142,501	28,567,666
Nonmarketable equity securities	2,469,600	1,714,700
<b>Total investment securities</b>	<b>30,612,101</b>	<b>30,282,366</b>
Loans held for sale	1,331,952	1,332,890
Loans receivable	275,681,928	238,362,092
Less allowance for loan losses	(2,954,120)	(2,758,225)
<b>Loans, net</b>	<b>272,727,808</b>	<b>235,603,867</b>
Premises and equipment, net	7,159,172	5,891,402
Accrued interest receivable	1,500,645	1,458,673
Other real estate owned	342,509	320,598
Cash surrender value life insurance	3,451,582	3,415,582
Other assets	1,877,637	1,819,970
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 332,570,859</b>	<b>\$ 284,970,883</b>
<b>Liabilities and Shareholders Equity</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Deposits</b>		
Noninterest-bearing transaction accounts	\$ 31,877,012	\$ 27,560,581
Interest-bearing transaction accounts	17,380,363	15,525,590
Savings	64,522,914	46,299,198
Time deposits \$100,000 and over	96,003,028	93,975,912
Other time deposits	51,299,038	42,132,546
<b>Total deposits</b>	<b>261,082,355</b>	<b>225,493,827</b>
Securities sold under agreement to repurchase	3,195,332	3,061,903
Advances from Federal Home Loan Bank	39,000,000	27,900,000
Accrued interest payable	689,868	742,017
Other liabilities	993,355	414,487

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Total liabilities	304,960,910	257,612,234
<b>Shareholders Equity</b>		
Common stock, \$0.01 par value; 20,000,000 shares authorized, 3,229,369 and 3,203,942 shares issued and outstanding at March 31, 2005 and December 31, 2004, respectively	32,294	32,039
Capital surplus	23,597,787	23,428,034
Treasury stock	(9,896)	(7,396)
Retained earnings	4,049,900	3,664,301
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	(60,136)	241,671
Total shareholders equity	27,609,949	27,358,649
Total liabilities and shareholders equity	<b>\$ 332,570,859</b>	<b>\$ 284,970,883</b>

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents****FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.****Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income****(Unaudited)**

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>	
	<b>March 31,</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Interest income</b>		
Loans, including fees	\$ 4,305,702	\$ 2,356,597
Investment securities		
Taxable	194,124	190,413
Nontaxable	125,971	101,147
Federal funds sold and other	7,713	1,395
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,632,970</b>	<b>2,649,552</b>
<b>Interest expense</b>		
Deposits	1,337,825	651,697
Advances from Federal Home Loan Bank	239,502	117,958
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	15,135	5,188
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,592,462</b>	<b>774,843</b>
<b>Net interest income</b>	<b>3,040,508</b>	<b>1,874,709</b>
Provision for loan losses	172,552	109,928
<b>Net interest income after provision for loan losses</b>	<b>2,867,956</b>	<b>1,764,781</b>
<b>Noninterest income</b>		
Residential mortgage origination fees	152,774	99,005
Service charges on deposit accounts	328,605	248,387
Brokerage fees	31,002	30,297
Gain (loss) on sale of other real estate	(30,025)	
Credit life insurance commissions	7,661	22,879
Other charges, commissions and fees	115,493	90,374
<b>Total</b>	<b>605,510</b>	<b>490,942</b>
<b>Noninterest expenses</b>		
Salaries and benefits	1,706,080	1,071,596
Occupancy expense	158,395	76,857
Furniture and equipment expense	174,218	143,488
Other operating expenses	876,265	503,361

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Total	2,914,958	1,795,302
<b>Income before taxes</b>	<b>558,508</b>	<b>460,421</b>
Income tax provision	172,909	139,247
<b>Net income</b>	<b>\$ 385,599</b>	<b>\$ 321,174</b>
Basic earnings per share	\$ .12	\$ .13
Diluted earnings per share	\$ .11	\$ .13

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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## FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.

## Condensed Consolidated Statements of Shareholders Equity and Comprehensive Income

For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2005 and 2004

(Unaudited)

	Common Stock		Capital surplus	Treasury stock	Retained earnings	Accumulated	Total
	Shares	Amount				other comprehensive income	
<b>Balance, December 31, 2003</b>	2,466,660	\$ 24,667	\$ 15,106,070	\$	\$ 2,325,602	\$ 246,300	\$ 17,702,639
Net income					321,174		321,174
Other comprehensive income, net of tax expense of \$93,926						182,329	182,329
Comprehensive income							503,503
Issuance of stock	27,900	279	265,607				265,886
<b>Balance, March 31, 2004</b>	<b>\$ 2,494,560</b>	<b>\$ 24,946</b>	<b>\$ 15,371,677</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 2,646,776</b>	<b>\$ 428,629</b>	<b>\$ 18,472,028</b>
<b>Balance, December 31, 2004</b>	\$ 3,203,942	\$ 32,039	\$ 23,428,034	\$ (7,396)	\$ 3,664,301	\$ 241,671	\$ 27,358,649
Net income					385,599		385,599
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax benefit of (\$155,474)						(301,807)	(301,807)
Comprehensive income							83,792
Issuance of shares to ESOP	5,427	55	69,953				70,008
Treasury Stock				(2,500)			(2,500)
Exercise of stock options	20,000	200	99,800				100,000
<b>Balance, March 31, 2005</b>	<b>3,229,369</b>	<b>\$ 32,294</b>	<b>\$ 23,597,787</b>	<b>\$ (9,896)</b>	<b>\$ 4,049,900</b>	<b>\$ (60,136)</b>	<b>\$ 27,609,949</b>

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.



**Table of Contents****FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.****Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows****(Unaudited)**

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>	
	<b>March 31,</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net income	\$ 385,599	\$ 321,174
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Provision for loan losses	172,552	(49,908)
Depreciation and amortization expense	152,225	130,460
Writedown of other real estate owned	51,787	
Discount accretion and premium amortization	21,491	27,314
Deferred income tax benefit	(5,087)	(205,772)
Decrease in interest receivable	(41,972)	117,420
Increase in interest payable	(52,149)	88,587
Disbursements for loans held for sale	(8,137,389)	(5,076,584)
Proceeds from loans held for sale	8,138,327	4,313,967
Decrease (increase) in other assets	66,896	(2,961,810)
Increase (decrease) in other liabilities	578,868	88,515
<b>Net cash provided(used) by operating activities</b>	<b>1,309,657</b>	<b>(3,206,637)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Purchases of securities available-for-sale	(1,188,954)	
Net increase in loans receivable	(37,415,565)	(11,783,481)
Maturities of securities available-for-sale	1,135,345	1,379,505
Sales of other real estate owned	45,374	
Purchase of Federal Home Loan Bank stock	(754,900)	(65,000)
Proceeds from disposal of premises, furniture, and equipment	17,595	
Purchases of premises and equipment	(1,398,504)	(122,359)
<b>Net cash used by investing activities</b>	<b>(39,577,204)</b>	<b>(10,591,335)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>		
Net increase in demand deposits, interest-bearing transaction accounts and savings accounts	24,394,920	2,992,970
Net increase (decrease) in certificates of deposit and other time deposits	11,193,608	10,073,242
Net increase (decrease) in securities sold under agreements to repurchase	133,429	(118,810)
Advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank	11,100,000	1,300,000
Proceeds from issuance of shares to ESOP	70,008	
Purchase of treasury stock	(2,500)	
Federal funds purchased		(1,043,000)
Proceeds from the exercise of stock options	100,000	
Proceeds from issuance of stock		265,886

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Net cash provided by financing activities	46,989,465	13,470,288
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	8,721,918	(327,684)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, beginning</b>	4,845,535	4,793,102
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end</b>	<b>\$ 13,567,453</b>	<b>\$ 4,465,418</b>
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Cash paid during the period for:		
Income taxes	\$ 155,476	\$ 90,136
Interest	\$ 1,644,611	\$ 686,256

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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**FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.**

**Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements**

**Note 1 - Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements for interim financial statements and, accordingly, they are condensed and omit certain disclosures, which would appear in audited annual financial statements. The financial statements as of March 31, 2005 and for the interim periods ended March 31, 2005 and 2004 are unaudited and, in the opinion of management, include all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring accruals) considered necessary for a fair presentation. The financial information as of December 31, 2004 has been derived from the audited financial statements as of that date. For further information, refer to the financial statements and the notes included in First Reliance Bancshares, Inc.'s 2004 audited financial statements in Form 10-KSB.

**Note 2 - Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements**

The following is a summary of recent authoritative pronouncements that affect accounting, reporting, and disclosure of financial information by the Company:

In December 2004, the FASB issued SFAS No. 123 (revised 2004), *Share-Based Payment* (SFAS No. 123(R)). SFAS No. 123(R) will require companies to measure all employee stock-based compensation awards using a fair value method and record such expense in its financial statements. In addition, the adoption of SFAS No. 123(R) requires additional accounting and disclosure related to the income tax and cash flow effects resulting from share-based payment arrangements. SFAS No. 123(R) is effective beginning as of the first annual reporting period beginning after December 15, 2005. The Company is currently evaluating the impact that the adoption of SFAS No. 123(R) will have on its financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

In April 2005, the Securities and Exchange Commission's Office of the Chief Accountant and its Division of Corporation Finance has released Staff Accounting Bulletin (SAB) No. 107 to provide guidance regarding the application of FASB Statement No. 123 (revised 2004), *Share-Based Payment*. Statement No. 123(R) covers a wide range of share-based compensation arrangements including share options, restricted share plans, performance-based awards, share appreciation rights, and employee share purchase plans. SAB 107 provides interpretive guidance related to the interaction between Statement No. 123R and certain SEC rules and regulations, as well as the staff's views regarding the valuation of share-based payment arrangements for public companies. SAB 107 also reminds public companies of the importance of including disclosures within filings made with the SEC relating to the accounting for share-based payment transactions, particularly during the transition to Statement No. 123R.

In December 2003, the FASB issued FIN No. 46 (revised), *Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities* (FIN No. 46(R)), which addresses consolidation by business enterprises of variable interest entities. FIN No. 46(R) requires a variable interest entity to be consolidated by a company if that company is subject to a majority of the risk of loss from the variable interest entity's activities or entitled to receive a majority of the entity's residual returns, or both. FIN No. 46(R) also requires disclosures about variable interest entities that a company is not required to consolidate, but in which it has a significant variable interest. FIN No. 46(R) provides guidance for determining whether an entity qualifies as a variable interest entity by considering, among other considerations, whether the entity lacks sufficient equity or its equity holders lack adequate decision-making ability. The consolidation requirements of FIN No. 46(R) applied immediately to variable interest entities created after January

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31, 2003. The consolidation requirements applied to the Company's existing variable interest entities in the first reporting period ending after December 15, 2004. Certain of the disclosure requirements applied to all financial statements issued after December 31, 2003, regardless of when the variable interest entity was established. The adoption of FIN No. 46(R) did not have any impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

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**Table of Contents****FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements****Note 2 - Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements**, *continued*

In November 2003, the Emerging Issues Task Force ( EITF ) reached a consensus that certain quantitative and qualitative disclosures should be required for debt and marketable equity securities classified as available for sale or held to maturity under SFAS No. 115 and SFAS No. 124 that are impaired at the balance sheet date but for which other-than-temporary impairment has not been recognized. Accordingly the EITF issued EITF No. 03-1, *The Meaning of Other-Than-Temporary Impairment and Its Application to Certain Investments*. This issue addresses the meaning of other-than-temporary impairment and its application to investments classified as either available for sale or held to maturity under SFAS No. 115 and provides guidance on quantitative and qualitative disclosures. The disclosure requirements of EITF No. 03-1 are effective for annual financial statements for fiscal years ending after June 15, 2004. The effective date for the measurement and recognition guidance of EITF No. 03-1 has been delayed. The FASB staff has issued a proposed Board-directed FASB Staff Position ( FSP ), FSP EITF 03-1-a, *Implementation Guidance for the Application of Paragraph 16 of Issue No. 03-1*. The proposed FSP would provide implementation guidance with respect to debt securities that are impaired solely due to interest rates and/or sector spreads and analyzed for other-than-temporary impairment under the measurement and recognition requirements of EITF No. 03-1. The delay of the effective date for the measurement and recognition requirements of EITF No. 03-1 will be superseded concurrent with the final issuance of FSP EITF 03-1-a. Adopting the disclosure provisions of EITF No. 03-1 did not have any impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

Other accounting standards that have been issued or proposed by the FASB or other standards-setting bodies that do not require adoption until a future date are not expected to have a material impact on the consolidated financial statements upon adoption.

**Note 3 - Stock-Based Compensation**

The Company has a stock-based employee compensation plan which is accounted for under the recognition and measurement principles of Accounting Principles Board ( APB ) Opinion No. 25, *Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees*, and related Interpretations. No stock-based employee compensation cost is reflected in net income, as all stock options granted under these plans had an exercise price equal to the market value of the underlying common stock on the date of grant. The following table illustrates the effect on net income and earnings per share as if we had applied the fair value recognition provisions of Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) SFAS No. 123, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation*, to stock-based employee compensation.

	<b>Three Months Ended March 31,</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Net income, as reported	\$ 385,599	\$ 321,174
Deduct: Total stock-based employee compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards, net of related tax effects	366,619	48,263
Pro forma net income	<b>\$ 18,980</b>	<b>\$ 272,911</b>

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Earnings per share:		
Basic - as reported	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.13
Basic - pro forma	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.10
Diluted - as reported	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.13
Diluted - pro forma	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.10

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**FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.**

**Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements**

**Note 4 - Earnings Per Share**

A reconciliation of the numerators and denominators used to calculate basic and diluted earnings per share for the three month periods ended March 31, 2005 and 2004 are as follows:

	<u>Three Months Ended March 31, 2005</u>		
	<u>Income</u> <u>(Numerator)</u>	<u>Shares</u> <u>(Denominator)</u>	<u>Per Share</u> <u>Amount</u>
<b>Basic earnings per share</b>			
Income available to common shareholders	\$ 385,599	3,221,202	<b>\$ 0.12</b>
<b>Effect of dilutive securities</b>			
Stock options		271,873	
<b>Diluted earnings per share</b>			
Income available to common shareholders plus assumed conversions	<b>\$ 385,599</b>	<b>3,493,075</b>	<b>\$ 0.11</b>

	<u>Three Months Ended March 31, 2004</u>		
	<u>Income</u> <u>(Numerator)</u>	<u>Shares</u> <u>(Denominator)</u>	<u>Per Share</u> <u>Amount</u>
<b>Basic earnings per share</b>			
Income available to common shareholders	\$ 321,174	2,470,646	<b>\$ 0.13</b>
<b>Effect of dilutive securities</b>			
Stock options		33,370	
<b>Diluted earnings per share</b>			
Income available to common shareholders plus assumed conversions	<b>\$ 321,174</b>	<b>2,504,016</b>	<b>\$ 0.13</b>

**Note 5 - Comprehensive Income**

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Comprehensive income includes net income and other comprehensive income, which is defined as nonowner related transactions in equity. The following table sets forth the amounts of other comprehensive income included in equity along with the related tax effect.

	<b>Pre-tax Amount</b>	<b>(Expense) Benefit</b>	<b>Net-of-tax Amount</b>
<b>For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2005</b>			
Unrealized gains (losses) on securities available-for-sale:			
Unrealized holding gains (losses) arising during the period	\$ 457,283	\$ (155,476)	\$ (301,807)
Plus - reclassification adjustment for (gains) losses realized in net income			
Net unrealized gains (losses) on securities	457,283	(155,476)	(301,807)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	<b>\$ 457,283</b>	<b>\$ (155,476)</b>	<b>\$ (301,807)</b>



**Table of Contents****FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements****Note 5 - Comprehensive Income**, *continued*

	<u>Pre-tax Amount</u>	<u>(Expense) Benefit</u>	<u>Net-of-tax Amount</u>
<b>For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2004</b>			
Unrealized gains (losses) on securities available-for-sale:			
Unrealized holding gains (losses) arising during the period	\$ 276,255	\$ (93,926)	\$ 182,329
Plus - reclassification adjustment for (gains) losses realized in net income			
	<u>276,255</u>	<u>(93,926)</u>	<u>182,329</u>
Net unrealized gains (losses) on securities	276,255	(93,926)	182,329
	<u>276,255</u>	<u>(93,926)</u>	<u>182,329</u>
Other comprehensive income (loss)	<u>\$ 276,255</u>	<u>\$ (93,926)</u>	<u>\$ 182,329</u>

Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) consists solely of the unrealized gain (loss) on securities available-for-sale, net of the deferred tax effects.

**Note 6 - Advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank**

Advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta were \$39,000,000 as of March 31, 2005. Of this amount, the following have scheduled maturities greater than one year:

<u>Maturing on</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Principal</u>
04/10/06	2.60%	\$ 1,000,000
04/09/07	3.130	1,000,000
04/08/08	3.460	1,000,000
12/19/06	2.870	1,500,000
12/19/07	3.440	1,500,000
07/02/07	3.560	500,000
01/12/07	3.720	2,000,000
07/05/12	4.080	1,000,000
03/12/12	3.440	6,000,000
03/19/09	2.480	3,000,000
12/10/09	2.560	4,000,000

**\$ 22,500,000**

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**FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.**

**Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis or Plan of Operation**

The following discussion of financial condition as of March 31, 2005 compared to December 31, 2004, and the results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2005 compared to the three months ended March 31, 2004 should be read in conjunction with the condensed financial statements and accompanying footnotes appearing in this report.

**Advisory Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

The statements contained in this report on Form 10-QSB that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements subject to the safe harbor created by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. We caution readers of this report that such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of us to be materially different from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Although we believe that our expectations of future performance is based on reasonable assumptions within the bounds of our knowledge of our business and operations, there can be no assurance that actual results will not differ materially from our expectations.

Factors which could cause actual results to differ from expectations include, among other things:

the challenges, costs and complications associated with the continued development of our branches;

the potential that loan charge-offs may exceed the allowance for loan losses or that such allowance will be increased as a result of factors beyond the control of us;

our dependence on senior management;

competition from existing financial institutions operating in our market areas as well as the entry into such areas of new competitors with greater resources, broader branch networks and more comprehensive services;

adverse conditions in the stock market, the public debt market, and other capital markets (including changes in interest rate conditions);

changes in deposit rates, the net interest margin, and funding sources;

inflation, interest rate, market, and monetary fluctuations;

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risks inherent in making loans including repayment risks and value of collateral;

the strength of the United States economy in general and the strength of the local economies in which we conduct operations may be different than expected resulting in, among other things, a deterioration in credit quality or a reduced demand for credit, including the resultant effect on our loan portfolio and allowance for loan losses;

fluctuations in consumer spending and saving habits;

the demand for our products and services;

technological changes;

the challenges and uncertainties in the implementation of our expansion and development strategies;

the ability to increase market share;

the adequacy of expense projections and estimates of impairment loss;

the impact of changes in accounting policies by the Securities and Exchange Commission;

unanticipated regulatory or judicial proceedings;

the potential negative effects of future legislation affecting financial institutions (including without limitation laws concerning taxes, banking, securities, and insurance);

the effects of, and changes in, trade, monetary and fiscal policies and laws, including interest rate policies of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System;

the timely development and acceptance of products and services, including products and services offered through alternative delivery channels such as the Internet;

the impact on our business, as well as on the risks set forth above, of various domestic or international military or terrorist activities or conflicts;

other factors described in this report and in other reports we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission; and

our success at managing the risks involved in the foregoing.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which they are made. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which the statement is made to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.



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**FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.**

**Critical Accounting Policies**

We have adopted various accounting policies which govern the application of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States in the preparation of our financial statements. Our significant accounting policies are described in the notes to the consolidated financial statements at December 31, 2004 as filed on our annual report on Form 10-KSB. Certain accounting policies involve significant judgments and assumptions by us which have a material impact on the carrying value of certain assets and liabilities. We consider these accounting policies to be critical accounting policies. The judgments and assumptions we use are based on the historical experience and other factors, which we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. Because of the nature of the judgments and assumptions we make, actual results could differ from these judgments and estimates which could have a major impact on our carrying values of assets and liabilities and our results of operations.

We believe the allowance for loan losses is a critical accounting policy that requires the most significant judgments and estimates used in preparation of our consolidated financial statements. Refer to the portion of this discussion that addresses our allowance for loan losses for description of our processes and methodology for determining our allowance for loan losses.

**Regulatory Matters**

We are not aware of any current recommendations by regulatory authorities which, if they were to be implemented, would have a material effect on liquidity, capital resources or operations.

**Results of Operations**

**Net Interest Income**

For the three months ended March 31, 2005, net interest income was \$3,040,508, which is an increase of \$1,165,799, or 62.19%, over the same period in 2004. Interest income from loans, including fees, increased \$1,949,105, or 82.71%, from the three months ended March 31, 2004 to the comparable period in 2005 and is primarily due to an increase in our loan portfolio. Interest expense for the three months ended March 31, 2005 was \$1,592,462 compared to \$774,843 for the same period in 2004. The increase is primarily attributable to an increase in interest-bearing deposits. The net interest margin realized on earning assets was 4.17% for the three months ended March 31, 2005, as compared to 4.13% for the three months ended March 31, 2004. The interest rate spread was 3.84% for the three months ended March 31, 2005 as compared to 3.71% for the three months ended March 31, 2004. The margin and spread increases were due to the increase in rates on interest earning assets outpacing the increase in rates on interest paying liabilities.

**Provision and Allowance for Loan Losses**

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The provision for loan losses is the charge to operating earnings that we feel is necessary to maintain the allowance for loan losses at an adequate level. For the three months ended March 31, 2005, the provision for loan losses was \$172,552. For the three months ended March 31, 2004, the provision for loan losses was \$109,928. Based on present information, we believe the allowance for loan losses was adequate at March 31, 2005 to meet presently known and inherent risks in the loan portfolio. The allowance for loan losses was 1.07% and 1.18% of total loans at March 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively. There are risks inherent in making all loans, including risks with respect to the period of time over which loans may be repaid, risks resulting from changes in economic and industry conditions, risks inherent in dealing with individual borrowers, and, in the case of a collateralized loan, risks resulting from uncertainties about the future value of the collateral. We maintain an allowance for loan losses based on, among other things, historical experience, an evaluation of economic conditions, and regular reviews of delinquencies and loan portfolio quality. The allowance is based upon a number of assumptions about future events, which management believes to be reasonable, but which may not prove to be accurate. Thus, there is a risk that charge-offs in future periods could exceed the allowance for loan losses or that substantial additional increases in the allowance for loan losses could be required. Additions to the allowance for loan losses would result in a decrease in net income and, possibly, in capital.

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**FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.**

**Noninterest Income**

Noninterest income during the three months ended March 31, 2005 was \$605,510, an increase of \$114,568, or 23.34%, from the comparable period in 2004. The increase is primarily a result of an increase in service charges on deposit accounts from \$248,387 for the three months ended March 31, 2004 to \$328,605 for the three months ended March 31, 2005. Residential mortgage origination fees increased \$53,769, or 54.31%, to \$152,774 for the three months ended March 31, 2005, as compared to the same period in 2004. This was the result of increased deposits between the two periods.

**Noninterest Expense**

Total noninterest expense for the three months ended March 31, 2005 was \$2,914,958, or 62.37% over the three months ended March 31, 2004. The primary reason was the \$634,484 increase in salaries and employee benefits over the two periods as we continued to hire employees as we expand into the Charleston, South Carolina market. In addition, furniture and equipment expense increased \$30,730, or 21.42%, for the three months ending March 31, 2005 as compared to the three months ending March 31, 2004. This increase is also primarily a result of additional expenses associated with the growth of the Bank through its expansion into the Charleston market. We opened a new branch in Charleston on March 15, 2005.

**Income Taxes**

The income tax provision for the three months ended March 31, 2005 and for the three months ended March 31, 2004 was \$172,909 and \$139,247, respectively. The provision was based on an effective tax rate of 31% and 30% for the three months ended March 31, 2005 and for the three months ended March 31, 2004, respectively.

**Net Income**

The combination of the above factors resulted in net income, after income tax provisions, for the three months ended March 31, 2005 and for the three months ended March 31, 2004 of \$385,599 and \$321,174, respectively. Net income before taxes for the two periods was \$558,508 and \$460,421, respectively. The net income results for both periods are primarily due to significant increases in loan volume during each respective period.

**Assets and Liabilities**



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During the first three months of 2005, total assets increased \$47,599,976, or 16.70%, when compared to December 31, 2004. The primary source of growth in assets was the increase in loans receivable. Net loans increased by \$37,123,491, or 15.76%, during the first three months of 2005, from \$235,603,867 at December 31, 2004 to \$272,727,808 at March 31, 2005. Total deposits increased \$35,588,528, or 15.78%, over total deposits at December 31, 2004 to \$261,082,355 at March 31, 2005. The largest increase in deposits was in savings accounts, which increased \$18,253,716, or 39.43%, to \$64,522,914 at March 31, 2005. The primary reasons for increases in our net loans and deposits are provided below.

### **Investment Securities**

Investment securities classified as available for sale totaled \$28,142,501 at March 31, 2005. This total represents a decrease of \$425,165, or 1.49%, since December 31, 2004. We also purchased an additional \$754,900 of Federal Home Loan Bank stock during the quarter that brought the balance of nonmarketable equity securities to \$2,469,600 at March 31, 2005.

**Table of Contents****FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.****Loans**

Net loans increased \$37,123,941, or 15.76%, during the three months ended March 31, 2005. The primary reason for the significant growth is a result of our ability to compete favorably with other financial institutions in our market areas. Balances within the major loans receivable categories as of March 31, 2005 and December 31, 2004 are as follows:

	<b>March 31,</b>	<b>December 31,</b>
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Mortgage loans on real estate		
Residential 1-4 family	\$ 59,172,917	\$ 50,429,754
Multifamily	4,722,068	2,786,453
Commercial	82,866,278	63,188,726
Construction	44,264,486	39,023,385
Second mortgages	5,370,386	5,311,537
Equity lines of credit	17,667,844	14,179,437
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Total mortgage loans	214,063,979	174,919,292
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Commercial and industrial	48,186,307	47,890,104
Consumer	14,116,844	13,931,133
Other, net	2,314,798	1,621,563
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Total gross loans	<b>\$ 278,681,928</b>	<b>\$ 238,362,092</b>
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>

**Risk Elements in the Loan Portfolio**

The following is a summary of risk elements in the loan portfolio:

	<b>March 31,</b>	<b>December 31,</b>
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Loans		
Nonaccrual loans	\$ 825,009	\$ 1,025,687
Accruing loans more than 90 days past due	144,308	59,147
Loans identified by the internal review mechanism:		
Criticized	5,511,261	2,105,345

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Classified

2,096,394

2,153,221

Activity in the Allowance for Loan Losses is as follows:

	March 31,	
	2005	2004
Balance, January 1,	\$ 2,758,340	\$ 1,752,282
Provision for loan losses for the period	172,552	109,928
Net loans (charged-off) recovered for the period	23,343	(80,406)
Balance, end of period	<b>\$ 2,954,120</b>	<b>\$ 1,781,804</b>
Gross loans outstanding, end of period	<b>\$ 275,681,928</b>	<b>\$ 151,165,366</b>
Allowance for loan losses to loans outstanding	1.07%	1.18%

**Table of Contents****FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.****Deposits**

Total deposits increased \$35,588,528, or 15.78%, from December 31, 2004. Time deposits \$100,000 and over comprised the largest category of deposits, totaling \$96,003,028 at March 31, 2005. Expressed in percentages, noninterest-bearing deposits increased 15.66% and all other interest-bearing deposits increased 15.80%.

Balances within the major deposit categories as of March 31, 2005 and December 31, 2004 are as follows:

	<b>March 31,</b>	<b>December 31,</b>
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Noninterest-bearing transaction accounts	\$ 31,877,012	\$ 27,560,581
Interest-bearing demand deposits	17,380,363	15,525,590
Savings deposits	64,522,914	46,299,198
Time deposits \$100,000 and over	96,003,028	93,975,912
Other time deposits	51,299,038	42,132,546
<b>Total deposits</b>	<b>\$ 261,082,355</b>	<b>\$ 225,493,827</b>

**Advances from Federal Home Loan Bank**

Advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta totaled \$39,000,000 as of March 31, 2005. The following schedule summarizes the maturities

<b><u>Maturing on</u></b>	<b><u>Interest Rate</u></b>	<b><u>Principal</u></b>
Daily Rate Credit	Variable	\$ 3,000,000
07/01/05	4.120%	500,000
04/08/05	2.040	1,000,000
07/26/05	3.130	4,000,000
02/03/06	3.400	5,000,000
05/25/05	3.090	3,000,000
04/10/06	2.600	1,000,000
04/09/07	3.130	1,000,000
04/08/08	3.460	1,000,000
12/19/06	2.870	1,500,000
12/19/07	3.440	1,500,000
07/02/07	3.560	500,000

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01/12/07	3.720	2,000,000
07/05/12	4.080	1,000,000
03/12/12	3.440	6,000,000
03/19/09	2.480	3,000,000
12/10/09	2.560	4,000,000
		<b>\$ 39,000,000</b>

**Liquidity**

Liquidity needs are met through scheduled maturities of loans and investments on the asset side and through pricing policies on the liability side for interest-bearing deposit accounts and advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank. The level of liquidity is measured by the loan-to-total funds ratio, which was at 102% at March 31, 2005 and 104% at December 31, 2004.

Securities available-for-sale, which totaled \$28,142,501 at March 31, 2005, serve as a ready source of liquidity. We also have lines of credit available with correspondent banks to purchase federal funds for periods from one to fourteen days. At March 31, 2005, unused lines of credit totaled \$29,490,226. Based on qualifying collateral reports filed on a quarterly basis with the Federal Home Loan Bank, we also have a line of credit to borrow funds from the Federal Home Loan Bank up to \$66,472,713 as of March 31, 2005. As of March 31, 2005, we had borrowed \$39,000,000 on this line.

Table of Contents**FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.**Capital Resources

Total shareholders' equity increased \$251,300 from December 31, 2004 to \$27,609,949 at March 31, 2005. The main reason for this increase was net income generated by the Bank's operations, which totaled \$385,599 for the three months ended March 31, 2005.

We are subject to various regulatory capital requirements administered by the federal banking agencies. Quantitative measures established by regulation to ensure capital adequacy require us to maintain minimum ratios of Tier 1 and total capital as a percentage of assets and off-balance-sheet exposures, adjusted for risk weights ranging from 0% to 100%. Our Tier 1 capital consists of common stockholders' equity, excluding the unrealized gain or loss on securities available-for-sale, minus certain intangible assets. Our Tier 2 capital consists of the allowance for loan losses subject to certain limitations. Total capital for purposes of computing the capital ratios consists of the sum of Tier 1 and Tier 2 capital. The regulatory minimum requirements are 4% for Tier 1 and 8% for total risk-based capital.

We are also required to maintain capital at a minimum level based on adjusted quarterly average assets, which is known as the leverage ratio. Only the strongest banks are allowed to maintain capital at the minimum requirement of 3%. All others are subject to maintaining ratios 1% to 2% above the minimum.

The following summarizes the Company and Bank's risk-based capital at March 31, 2005:

	<u>Company</u>	<u>Bank</u>
Shareholders' equity	\$ 27,609,949	\$ 26,942,286
Add: unrealized loss on available-for-sale securities	60,136	60,136
<b>Tier 1 capital</b>	<b>27,670,085</b>	<b>27,002,422</b>
Plus: allowance for loan losses <sup>(1)</sup>	2,954,120	2,954,120
<b>Total capital</b>	<b>\$ 30,624,205</b>	<b>\$ 29,956,542</b>
<b>Risk-weighted assets</b>	<b>\$ 276,405,000</b>	<b>\$ 276,075,000</b>
<b>Average total assets</b>	<b>\$ 307,408,000</b>	<b>\$ 307,408,000</b>
<b>Risk-based capital ratios</b>		
Tier 1 capital (to risk-weighted assets)	10.01%	9.78%
Total capital (to risk-weighted assets)	11.08%	10.85%
Leverage or Tier 1 capital (to total average assets)	9.00%	8.78%

<sup>(1)</sup> Limited to 1.25% of gross risk-weighted assets



**Table of Contents****FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.****Off-Balance Sheet Risk**

Through its operations, the Bank has made contractual commitments to extend credit in the ordinary course of its business activities. These commitments are legally binding agreements to lend money to the Bank's customers at predetermined interest rates for a specified period of time. At March 31, 2005 the Bank had issued commitments to extend credit of \$34,657,185 and standby letters of credit of \$810,739 through various types of commercial lending arrangements. Approximately \$30,231,068 of these commitments to extend credit had variable rates.

The following table sets forth the length of time until maturity for unused commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit at March 31, 2005:

	After One		After Three		Greater Than		Total
	Through	Through	Through	Through	Through		
	Month	Months	Months	Year	One Year		
<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>							
Unused commitments to extend credit	\$ 1,975	\$ 1,506	\$ 12,723	\$ 16,204	\$ 18,453	\$ 34,657	
Standby letters of credit	92	92	519	703	108	811	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 2,067</b>	<b>\$ 1,598</b>	<b>\$ 13,242</b>	<b>\$ 16,907</b>	<b>\$ 18,561</b>	<b>\$ 35,468</b>	

The Bank evaluates each customer's credit worthiness on a case-by-case basis. The amount of collateral obtained, if deemed necessary by the Bank upon extension of credit, is based on its credit evaluation of the borrower. Collateral varies but may include accounts receivable, inventory, property, plant and equipment, commercial and residential real estate.

**Item 3. Controls and Procedures**

As of the end of the period covered by this report, our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, reviewed and evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-15. Based upon that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective in timely alerting them to material information relating to the Company (including its consolidated subsidiary) that is required to be included in our periodic filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. There have been no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting during the three-months ended March 31, 2005 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.





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**FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.**

**Part II - Other Information**

**Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

There are no material, pending legal proceedings to which the Company or its subsidiary is a party or of which any of their property is the subject.

**Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds**

(a) Not applicable

(b) Not applicable

(c) Not applicable

The information required for limitations upon payment of dividends is incorporated herein by reference to the Company's annual report on Form 10-KSB, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the year ended December 31, 2004.

**Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities**

Not applicable.

**Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Securities**

None.

**Item 5. Other Information**

None.

**Table of Contents****FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.****Item 6. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K**

## (a) Exhibits

**Exhibit****Number****Exhibit**

- | <u>Number</u> | <u>Exhibit</u>   |
|---------------|--|
| 2.1           | Plan of Reorganization and Exchange between First Reliance Bancshares, Inc. and First Reliance Bank (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K dated April 1, 2002).                            |
| 3.1           | Articles of Incorporation (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K dated April 1, 2002).  |
| 3.2           | Bylaws (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K dated April 1, 2002).   |
| 4.1           | See Articles of Incorporation at Exhibit 3.1 hereto and Bylaws at Exhibit 3.2 hereto.  |
| 10.1(a)       | Executive Employment Agreement dated August 21, 2001 - F. R. Saunders, Jr. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's quarterly report on Form 10-QSB for the quarter ended March 31, 2002).               |
| 10.1(b)       | Amendment 1 to Executive Employment Agreement dated June 1, 2002 - F. R. Saunders, Jr. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5(b) to the Registrant's quarterly report On Form 10-QSB for the quarter ended June 30, 2002). |
| 10.2(a)       | Executive Employment Agreement dated August 21, 2001 - A. Dale Porter (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's quarterly report on Form 10-QSB for the quarter ended March 31, 2002).                    |
| 10.2(b)       | Amendment 1 to Executive Employment Agreement dated June 1, 2002 - A. Dale Porter (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6(b) to the Registrant's quarterly report On Form 10-QSB for the quarter ended June 30, 2002).      |
| 10.3(a)       | Executive Employment Agreement dated August 21, 2001 - Paul C. Saunders (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the Registrant's quarterly report on Form 10-QSB for the quarter ended March 31, 2002).                  |
| 10.3(b)       | Amendment 1 to Executive Employment Agreement dated June 1, 2002 - Paul C. Saunders (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7(b) to the Registrant's quarterly report On Form 10-QSB for the quarter ended June 30, 2002).    |
| 10.4(a)       | 1999 First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Option Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's quarterly report on Form 10-QSB for the quarter ended March 31, 2002).                                      |
| 10.4(b)       | Amendment No. 1 to 1999 First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Option Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's quarterly report on Form 10-QSB for the quarter ended March 31, 2002).                   |
| 10.4(c)       | Amendment No. 2 to 1999 First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Option Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's quarterly report on Form 10-QSB for the quarter ended June 30, 2002).                    |
| 10.5          | Employment Agreement dated September 27, 2002 - Jeffrey A. Paolucci (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's quarterly report on Form 10-KSB for the year ended December 31, 2002).                      |
| 31.1          | Certification pursuant to Rule 13a-15 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (CEO).   |
| 31.2          | Certification pursuant to Rule 13a-15 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (CFO).   |
| 32.1          | Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.  |

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**FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.**

**Item 6. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K** - *continued*

(b) Reports on Form 8-K. The following reports were filed on Form 8-K during the quarter ended March 31, 2005.

The Company filed a report on Form 8-K on January 20, 2005 to announce earnings for the year ended December 31, 2004.

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**FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.**

**SIGNATURE**

In accordance with the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

**FIRST RELIANCE BANCSHARES, INC.**

By: /s/ F.R. SAUNDERS, JR.

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F. R. Saunders, Jr.  
President & Chief Executive Officer

Date: May 13, 2005

By: /s/ JEFFERY A. PAOLUCCI

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Jeffery A. Paolucci  
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer