

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark one)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2023

or

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number: 001-38456

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation or organization)

**22-3504946**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No)

**19-01 Route 208 North, Fair Lawn, New Jersey**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**07410**  
(Zip Code)

**(800) 522-4167**  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

**Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:**

Title of each class	Trading symbol(s)	Name of exchange on which registered
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share	CLBK	The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC

**Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None.**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.  Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.  Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.  Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files):  Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, smaller reporting company or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of, "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller Reporting Company	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emerging growth company	<input type="checkbox"/>		

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed a report on and attestation to its management's assessment of the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting under Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (15 U.S.C. 7262(b)) by the registered public accounting firm that prepared or issued its audit report.

If securities are registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act, indicate by check mark whether the financial statements of the registrant included in the filing reflect the correction of an error to previously issued financial statements.

Indicate by check mark whether any of those error corrections are restatements that required a recovery analysis of incentive-based compensation received by any of the registrant's executive officers during the relevant recovery period pursuant to § 240.10D-1(b).

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).  Yes  No

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates as of June 30, 2023 was \$429.2 million. The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's common stock as of February 23, 2024 was 104,921,729 (including 76,016,524 shares held by Columbia Bank, MHC).

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the Registrant's Proxy Statement for the 2024 Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

# COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

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## CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements, which can be identified by the use of words such as “believes,” “expects,” “anticipates,” “estimates” or similar expressions. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to:

- statements of our goals, intentions and expectations;
- statements regarding our business plans, prospects, growth and operating strategies;
- statements regarding the quality of our loan and securities portfolios; and
- estimates of our risks and future costs and benefits.

These forward-looking statements are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements due to, among other things, the following factors:

- general economic conditions, either nationally or in our market area, that are worse than expected;
- changes in the interest rate environment that reduce our net interest margin, reduce the fair value of financial instruments or reduce the demand for our loan products;
- increased competitive pressures among financial services companies;
- changes in consumer spending, borrowing and savings habits;
- changes in the quality and composition of our loan or securities portfolios;
- changes in real estate market values in our market area;
- decreased demand for loan products, deposit flows, competition, or demand for financial services in our market area;
- major catastrophes such as earthquakes, floods or other natural or human disasters and pandemics and infectious disease outbreaks, the related disruption to local, regional and global economic activity and financial markets, and the impact that any of the foregoing may have on us and our customers and other constituencies;
- legislative or regulatory changes that adversely affect our business or changes in the monetary and fiscal policies of the U.S. government, including policies of the U.S. Treasury and the Federal Reserve Board;
- our ability to enter new markets successfully and capitalize on growth opportunities;
- our ability to grow our franchise through acquisitions and to successfully integrate any acquired entities;
- technological changes that may be more difficult or expensive than expected, and our inability to respond to emerging technological trends in a timely manner could have a negative impact on our revenue;
- success or consummation of new business initiatives may be more difficult or expensive than expected;
- adverse changes in the securities markets;
- cyber attacks, computer viruses and other technological risks that may breach the security of our systems and allow unauthorized access to confidential information;
- the inability of third party service providers to perform;
- the impact of legal, judicial and regulatory proceedings or investigations, and
- changes in accounting policies and practices, as may be adopted by bank regulatory agencies or the Financial Accounting Standards Board, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Any of the forward-looking statements that we make in this report and in other public statements we make may later prove incorrect because of inaccurate assumptions, the factors illustrated above or other factors that we cannot foresee. Consequently, no forward-looking statements can be guaranteed. Except as required by applicable law or regulation, we do not undertake, and we specifically disclaim any obligation, to release publicly the result of any revisions that may be made to any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of the statements or to reflect the occurrence of anticipated or unanticipated events.

Further information on other factors that could affect us are included in the section of this Annual Report on Form 10-K captioned “Item 1A: Risk Factors.”

## PART I

### Item I. Business

#### General

Columbia Financial, Inc. ("Columbia Financial" or the "Company") is a Delaware corporation that was organized in March 1997 in connection with the mutual holding company reorganization of Columbia Bank. Columbia Financial is the holding company of Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank, each of which is a federally chartered stock savings bank. Columbia Bank, MHC (the "MHC") was also organized in March 1997 under the laws of the United States. In connection with the reorganization, Columbia Financial became the wholly-owned subsidiary of Columbia Bank MHC.

Columbia Bank is a federally chartered savings bank founded in 1927. Columbia Bank has elected and has received regulatory approval to operate as a "covered savings association" pursuant to Section 5A of the Home Owners' Loan Act, as amended, and the regulations of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency promulgated thereunder. A covered savings association generally has the same rights and privileges as a national bank, and is subject to the same duties, restrictions, penalties, liabilities, conditions, and limitations that would apply to a national bank. Management believes that the key benefits of Columbia Bank's election to operate as a covered savings association include the elimination of the requirement to meet the qualified thrift lender test and that Columbia Bank is no longer subject to the limits on an aggregate amount of commercial loans that are applicable to savings associations.

Freehold Bank is a federally chartered savings bank founded in 1853. On September 28, 2018, Freehold Bank converted from a federal stock savings bank to a New Jersey chartered stock savings bank and on December 1, 2021, Freehold Bank converted from a New Jersey chartered stock savings bank to a federally chartered stock savings bank in connection with its acquisition by Columbia Financial. Freehold Bank is a community-oriented institution that serves the financial needs of its depositors and the local community through its two offices in Freehold, New Jersey. The Company intends that Freehold Bank will be merged into Columbia Bank at some time in the future.

Through Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank, we serve the financial needs of our depositors and the local community as community-minded, customer service-focused institutions. We offer traditional financial services to businesses and consumers in our market areas. We attract deposits from the general public and use those funds to originate a variety of loans, including multifamily and commercial real estate loans, commercial business loans, one-to-four family real estate loans, construction loans, home equity loans and advances, and other consumer loans. We offer title insurance through our wholly-owned subsidiary, First Jersey Title Services, Inc.. In addition, RSI Insurance Agency, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Columbia Bank, is a full-service insurance agency that offers a broad range of insurance products and investment solutions, including personal and business lines of insurance, to our customers and primarily in New Jersey residents. Wealth management services are offered through a third-party relationship.

Our executive offices are located at 19-01 Route 208 North, Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410 and our telephone number is (800) 522-4167. Our website address is [www.columbiabankonline.com](http://www.columbiabankonline.com). Information on our website should not be considered a part of this report.

Throughout this report, references to "we," "us" or "our" refer to the Company and its subsidiaries, Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank, collectively.

#### Acquisition History

**Atlantic Stewardship Bank.** On November 1, 2019, the Company completed its acquisition of Stewardship Financial Corporation ("Stewardship Financial") and Atlantic Stewardship Bank, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Stewardship Financial. At the effective time of the merger, Stewardship Financial merged with and into the Company in a series of transactions, with the Company as the surviving entity, and immediately thereafter, Atlantic Stewardship Bank merged with and into Columbia Bank, with Columbia Bank as the surviving institution. In addition, at the effective time of the merger, each outstanding share of Stewardship Financial common stock was converted into the right to receive from the Company a cash payment equal to \$15.75. The total consideration paid was \$136.3 million.

**Roselle Bank.** On April 1, 2020, the Company completed its acquisition of RSB Bancorp, MHC, RSB Bancorp, Inc. and Roselle Bank (collectively, the "Roselle Entities"). At the effective time of the merger, (i) RSB Bancorp, MHC merged with and into the MHC, with the MHC as the surviving entity, (ii) RSB Bancorp, Inc. merged with and into the Company, with the Company as the surviving entity; and (iii) Roselle Bank merged with and into Columbia Bank, with Columbia Bank as the surviving institution. In addition, at the effective time of the merger, depositors of Roselle Bank became depositors of Columbia Bank and were afforded the same rights and privileges in the MHC as if their accounts had been established at Columbia Bank on the date established at Roselle Bank. At the effective time of the merger, the Company also issued 4,759,048 additional shares of its common stock to the MHC, representing an amount equal to the fair value of the Roselle Entities, as determined by an independent appraiser.

**Freehold Bank.** On December 1, 2021, the Company completed its acquisition of Freehold Bancorp, MHC, Freehold Bancorp, Inc. and Freehold Bank (collectively, the "Freehold Entities" or "Freehold"). At the effective time of the merger, (i) Freehold Bancorp, MHC was merged with and into the MHC, with the MHC as the surviving entity, and (ii) Freehold Bancorp, Inc. was merged with and into the Company, with the Company as the surviving entity. To facilitate the transaction, Freehold Bank converted from a New Jersey chartered savings bank to a federally chartered savings bank. The Company intends that Freehold Bank will merge with and into Columbia Bank, but no date has been set for the merger. At the effective time of the merger, the Company also issued 2,591,007 additional shares of its common stock to the MHC, representing an amount equal to the fair value of the Freehold Entities, as determined by an independent appraiser.

**RSI Bank.** On May 1, 2022, the Company completed its acquisition of RSI Bancorp, M.H.C., RSI Bancorp, Inc. and RSI Bank (collectively, the "RSI Entities" or "RSI"). At the effective time of the merger, (i) RSI Bancorp, M.H.C. merged with and into the MHC, with the MHC as the surviving entity, (ii) RSI Bancorp, Inc. merged with and into the Company, with the Company as the surviving entity; and (iii) RSI Bank merged with and into Columbia Bank, with Columbia Bank as the surviving institution. In addition, at the effective time of the merger, depositors of RSI Bank became depositors of Columbia Bank and were afforded the same rights and privileges in the MHC as if their accounts had been established at Columbia Bank on the date established at RSI Bank. At the effective time of the merger, the Company also issued 6,086,314 shares of its common stock to the MHC, representing an amount equal to the discounted fair value of the RSI Entities as determined by an independent appraiser.

## Market Area

We are headquartered in Fair Lawn, New Jersey. As of December 31, 2023, (i) Columbia Bank operated 65 full-service banking offices in twelve of New Jersey's 21 counties, and (ii) Freehold Bank operated two branch offices in Freehold, New Jersey. In addition, (i) First Jersey Title Services, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Columbia Bank, operates in one of Columbia Bank's offices in Fair Lawn, New Jersey and (ii) RSI Insurance Agency, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Columbia Bank, operates in one of Columbia Bank's offices in Rahway, New Jersey. We periodically evaluate our network of banking offices to optimize the penetration in our market area. Our business strategy currently includes opening new branches in and around our market area, which may include neighboring states.

We consider our market area to be the State of New Jersey and the suburbs surrounding both the New York City and Philadelphia metropolitan areas. This area has historically benefited from having a large number of corporate headquarters and a concentration of financial services-related industries located within it. The area also benefits from having a well-educated employment base and a large number of diverse industrial, service, retail and high technology businesses. Other employment is provided by a variety of wholesale trade, manufacturing, federal, state and local governments, hospitals and utilities.

According to S&P Global projections based on 2020 U.S. Census Data, the population of our twelve county primary market area totaled approximately 6.7 million and the total population for the entire state of New Jersey was 9.3 million. The population in our twelve county market area has increased by 0.01% from 2010 to 2024. According to S&P Global, the weighted average projected median household income for 2024 for the twelve New Jersey counties that we operate in was \$105,598. By contrast, the national projected median household income for 2024 is \$75,874 and the State of New Jersey projected median income is \$96,278. The unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted, for the State of New Jersey was 6.3% in December 2021, 3.4% in December 2022, and 4.8% in December 2023, compared to the national unemployment rate of 3.9% in December 2021, 3.5% in December 2022, and 3.7% in December 2023.

## Competition

We face significant competition in attracting deposits. Many of the nation's largest financial institutions operate in our market area. Our most direct competition for deposits has historically come from the many banks, thrift institutions and credit unions operating in our market area and from other financial service companies such as brokerage firms and insurance companies. We also face competition for investors' funds from money market funds, mutual funds and other corporate and government securities.

Our competition for loans comes primarily from the competitors referenced above and from other financial service providers, such as mortgage companies and mortgage brokers. Competition for loans also comes from the increasing number of non-depository financial service companies participating in the mortgage market, such as insurance companies, securities companies, financial technology companies and specialty finance firms, along with federal agencies.

We expect competition to remain intense in the future as a result of legislative, regulatory and technological changes and the continuing trend of consolidation in the financial services industry. Technological advances, for example, have lowered barriers to entry, allowed banks to expand their geographic reach by providing services over the internet and made it possible for non-depository institutions, including financial technology companies, to offer products and services that traditionally have been provided by banks. Competition for deposits and the origination of loans could limit our growth in the future.

## Lending Activities

Through our banking subsidiaries, Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank, we offer a variety of loans, including commercial, residential and consumer loans. Our commercial loan portfolio includes multifamily and commercial real estate loans, commercial business loans and construction loans. Our residential loan portfolio includes one-to-four family residential real estate loans and one-to-four family residential construction loans. Our consumer loan portfolio primarily includes home equity loans and advances, and to a lesser extent automobile, personal, unsecured and overdraft lines of credit.

We intend to continue to emphasize commercial lending. In the past five years, we have completed our acquisitions of Stewardship Financial, Roselle Bank, Freehold Bank and RSI Bank, and we have continued to invest in our lending staff, technology and processes to position us for continued growth. Specifically, in the past three years, we have hired additional lenders with significant experience in our market area to expand our commercial real estate and commercial business lending efforts. In addition, we will continue to offer competitive pricing for our one-to-four family loan products and continue to invest in lending staff to market these products in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

**Multifamily and Commercial Real Estate Loans.** We originate mortgage loans for the acquisition and refinancing of multifamily properties and nonresidential real estate. At December 31, 2023, multifamily and commercial real estate loans totaled \$3.8 billion, or 48.5% of our total loan portfolio. Of this amount, \$3.1 billion of loans were used for the purchase, financing and/or refinancing of commercial real estate and the financing of income-producing real estate. These loans are generally non-owner-occupied properties in which 50% or more of the primary source of repayment is derived from rental income from unaffiliated third parties. Our multifamily loans include loans primarily to finance apartment buildings located in the State of New Jersey, and to a lesser extent, in New York and Pennsylvania. Our commercial real estate loans include loans secured by non-medical office buildings, retail shopping centers, medical office buildings, industrial, warehouses, hotels, assisted-living facilities and similar commercial properties.

We offer both fixed and adjustable rate multifamily and commercial real estate loans. We originate these loans generally for terms of up to ten years and with payments generally based on an amortization schedule of up to 30 years for multifamily and industrial commercial real estate properties, and up to 25 years for commercial properties. Our adjustable rate loans are typically fixed from three to ten years.

When making multifamily and commercial real estate loans, we consider the financial statements and tax returns of the borrower, the borrower's payment history of its debt, the debt service capabilities of the borrower, the projected cash flows of the real estate, leases for any of the tenants located at the collateral property and the value of the collateral and the strength of the guarantors, if any.

As of December 31, 2023, the average outstanding loan balance within our multifamily loan portfolio was \$3.2 million, and the average loan balance within our commercial real estate loan portfolio totaled \$1.5 million. At December 31, 2023, our largest multifamily loan was a \$48.7 million loan made by Columbia Bank and was secured by three garden style apartment buildings located in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. The loan is well-collateralized and was performing in accordance with its original terms at December 31, 2023. As of December 31, 2023, our largest commercial real estate loan was a \$27.7 million participation loan made to fund a warehouse which consists of 50 condominium units of industrial/flex office space in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Columbia Bank is the lead lender and services this loan. The loan is well-collateralized and was performing in accordance with its original terms at December 31, 2023.

**One-to-Four Family Residential Loans.** We offer fixed-rate and adjustable-rate residential mortgage loans. Our fixed-rate mortgage loans have terms of up to 30 years. At December 31, 2023, one-to-four family residential loans totaled \$2.8 billion, or 35.6% of our total loan portfolio. We also offer adjustable-rate mortgage loans with interest rates and payments that adjust annually after an initial fixed period of up to seven years. Interest rates and payments on our adjustable-rate loans generally are adjusted to a rate equal to a spread above the U.S. Treasury security index. Our adjustable-rate single-family residential real estate loans generally have a cap of 2% on any increase or decrease in the interest rate at any adjustment date, and a maximum adjustment limit of 5% on any such increase or decrease over the life of the loan. To increase the originations of adjustable-rate loans, we have been originating loans that bear a fixed interest rate for a period of up to seven years (but historically as long as ten years) after which they convert to one-year adjustable-rate loans. Our adjustable-rate loans require that any payment adjustment resulting from a change in the interest rate be sufficient to result in full amortization of the loan by the end of the loan term and, thus, do not permit any of the increased payment to be added to the principal amount of the loan, creating negative amortization. Although we offer adjustable-rate loans with initial rates below the fully indexed rate, loans tied to the one-year constant maturity treasury are underwritten using methods approved by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("Freddie Mac") or the Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae"). We do not offer loans with negative amortization, and we do not currently offer interest-only residential mortgage loans.

Borrower demand for adjustable-rate loans compared to fixed-rate loans is a function of the level of interest rates, the expectations of changes in the level of interest rates, and the difference between the interest rates and loan fees offered for fixed-rate mortgage loans as compared to the interest rates and loan fees for adjustable-rate loans. At December 31, 2023, fixed-rate mortgage loans totaled approximately \$2.5 billion and adjustable-rate mortgage loans totaled approximately \$313.8 million. The loan fees,

interest rates and other provisions of mortgage loans are determined by us on the basis of our own pricing criteria and competitive market conditions.

While one-to-four family residential real estate loans are normally originated with up to 30-year terms, such loans typically remain outstanding for substantially shorter periods because borrowers often prepay their loans in full either upon sale of the property pledged as security or upon refinancing the original loan. Therefore, average loan maturity is a function of, among other factors, the level of purchase and sale activity in the real estate market, prevailing interest rates and the interest rates payable on outstanding loans.

It is our general policy not to make high loan-to-value loans (defined as loans with a loan-to-value ratio of 80% or more) without private mortgage insurance. The maximum loan-to-value ratio we generally permit is 95% with private mortgage insurance, although occasionally we do originate loans with loan-to-value ratios as high as 97.0% under special loan programs, including our first-time homeowner loan program. We require all properties securing mortgage loans to be appraised by an independent appraiser approved by our board of directors. We require title insurance on all purchase money and refinance mortgage loans. Borrowers must obtain hazard insurance, and flood insurance is required for loans on properties located in a flood zone.

As of December 31, 2023, the average outstanding loan balance within our one-to-four family residential real estate loan portfolio was \$291,000. As of December 31, 2023, our largest one-to-four family residential real estate loan was a \$4.8 million loan made by Columbia Bank and secured by a residential property located in Bergen County, New Jersey. The loan is well-collateralized and was performing in accordance with its original terms at December 31, 2023.

**Commercial Business Loans.** We make commercial business loans in our market area to a variety of professionals, sole proprietorships, partnerships and corporations. We offer a variety of commercial lending products such as secured and unsecured loans that include term loans for equipment financing and for business acquisitions, working capital loans, inventory financing and revolving lines of credit. In most cases, fixed-rate loans have terms up to ten years and are fully amortizing. Revolving lines of credit generally will have adjustable rates of interest and will be extended for periods of up to 24 months to support inventory and accounts receivable fluctuations and are subject to periodic review and renewal. Business loans with variable rates of interest adjust on a daily basis and are generally indexed to the prime rate as published in The Wall Street Journal. Unsecured commercial business lending is generally considered to involve a higher degree of risk than secured lending. Risk of loss on an unsecured commercial business loan is dependent largely on the borrower's ability to remain financially able to repay the loan out of ongoing operations. If our estimate of the borrower's financial ability is inaccurate, we may be confronted with a loss of principal on the loan.

In making commercial business loans, we consider a number of factors, including the financial condition of the borrower, the nature of the borrower's business, economic conditions affecting the borrower, our market area, the management experience of the borrower, the debt service capabilities of the borrower, the projected cash flows of the business and the collateral. Commercial loans are generally secured by a variety of collateral, including equipment, machinery, inventory and accounts receivable, and may be supported by personal guarantees.

We also originate commercial business and real estate loans under the Small Business Administration ("SBA"). Loans originated under this program are partially guaranteed by the SBA and are underwritten within the guidelines set forth by the SBA. As of December 31, 2023, the outstanding balance of our SBA loans was \$35.3 million, which is included in secured and unsecured commercial business loan amounts. On March 27, 2020 the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act") was signed into law and included the creation of the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program ("PPP"). The CARES Act authorized the SBA to temporarily guarantee loans under a new loan program under which the SBA will guarantee 100% of the PPP loans made to eligible borrowers. As qualified SBA lenders, Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank were authorized to originate these loans. As of December 31, 2023, PPP loans totaling \$809,000 are included in commercial business loans.

As of December 31, 2023, the average outstanding loan balance within our commercial business loan portfolio (excluding lines of credit with no outstanding balances and PPP loans) was \$521,000. As of December 31, 2023, the average outstanding PPP loan balance was \$162,000. At December 31, 2023, our largest commercial business loan was a \$14.9 million loan made by Columbia Bank to a real estate development company located in Middlesex County, New Jersey, and was secured by real estate in Florida.

**Construction Loans.** We originate commercial construction loans primarily to professional builders for the construction and acquisition of personal residences, apartment buildings, retail, industrial, warehouse, office buildings and special purpose facilities. We will originate construction loans on unimproved land in amounts typically up to 65% of the lower of the appraised value or the cost of the land. We also originate loans for site improvements and construction costs in amounts generally up to 75% of as completed and stabilized appraised value. Our construction loans generally provide for the payment of interest only during the construction phase, which is usually six to 36 months. Many of our commercial construction loans are structured to convert to permanent financing upon completion and stabilization. Commercial real estate construction loans are typically based upon the prime rate as published in The Wall Street Journal. At December 31, 2023, we had an outstanding balance of \$443.1 million in construction loans for commercial development.

Before making a commitment to fund a construction loan, we require an appraisal of the property by a licensed appraiser. We also review and inspect each property before disbursement of funds during the term of the construction loan. Loan proceeds are disbursed after inspections based on the work completed.

Construction lending generally involves a higher degree of risk than permanent mortgage lending because funds are advanced upon the security of the project under construction prior to its completion. As a result, construction lending often involves the disbursement of substantial funds with repayment dependent on the success of the ultimate project and the ability of the borrower or guarantor to repay the loan. Because of these factors, the analysis of prospective construction loan projects requires an expertise that is different in significant respects from that which is required for other types of lending. We have addressed these risks through our underwriting procedures. Additionally, we have attempted to minimize the foregoing risks by, among other things, limiting our construction lending to experienced developers, by limiting the amount of speculative construction projects and requiring executed agreements of sales as conditions for draws of the commercial construction loans. When making commercial construction loans, we consider the financial statements of the borrower, the borrower's payment history, the projected cash flows from the proposed real estate collateral, and the value of the collateral. In general, our real estate construction loans are typically guaranteed by the principals of the borrowers. We consider the financial statements and tax returns of the guarantors, along with the guarantors' payment history, when underwriting a commercial construction loan.

As of December 31, 2023, the average outstanding loan balance within our commercial construction loan portfolio was \$3.0 million. At December 31, 2023, our largest commercial construction loan exposure had an outstanding balance of \$26.2 million and was made by Columbia Bank to finance an independent living facility for senior citizens located in Medford, New Jersey. The loan payments are current and have been made in accordance with the loan terms at December 31, 2023.

We also originate residential construction loans primarily on a construction-to-permanent basis with such loans converting to an amortizing loan following the completion of the construction phase. Most of our residential construction loans are made to individuals building a personal residence. At December 31, 2023, residential construction loans totaled \$17.1 million, or 0.2%, of total loans outstanding. Construction lending, by its nature, entails additional risks compared to one-to-four family mortgage lending, attributable primarily to the fact that funds are advanced based upon a security interest in a project which is not yet complete. We address these risks through our established underwriting policies and procedures performed by our experienced staff.

**Home Equity Loans and Advances.** We offer consumer home equity loans and advances that are secured by one-to-four family residential real estate, where we may be in a first or second lien position. Historically, we offered home equity loans and advances with a lien junior to second position and some of these junior liens still reside in the loan portfolio at December 31, 2023. In addition, in prior years we also offered adjustable-rate home equity loans with fixed terms, although we no longer offer these loans. We generally offer home equity loans and advances with a maximum combined loan-to-value ratio of 80%. At December 31, 2023, home equity loans and advances totaled \$266.8 million, or 3.4%, of our total loan portfolio. Home equity loans have fixed rates of interest and are currently offered with terms of up to 20 years. Home equity advances have adjustable rates and are based upon the prime rate as published in The Wall Street Journal. Home equity advances can have repayment schedules of both principal and interest or interest only paid monthly. We held a first mortgage position on approximately 48.2% of the homes that secured our home equity loans and advances at December 31, 2023.

The procedures for underwriting consumer home equity loans and advances include an assessment of the applicant's payment history on other debts and ability to meet existing obligations and payments on the proposed loan. Although the applicant's creditworthiness is a primary consideration, the underwriting process also includes a comparison of the value of the collateral to the proposed loan amount.

**Other Consumer Loans.** We offer a variety of other consumer loans, including loans for automobiles, personal loans, unsecured lines of credit, and overdraft lines of credit. Our unsecured lines of credit bear a substantially higher interest rate than our secured loans and lines of credit. At December 31, 2023, other consumer loans totaled \$2.8 million.

For more information on our loan commitments, see "*Item 7: Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations-Liquidity Management.*"

## Credit Risks

**Multifamily and Commercial Real Estate Loans.** Loans secured by multifamily and commercial real estate loans generally have larger balances and involve a greater degree of risk than one-to-four family residential mortgage loans. Our primary concern in multifamily and commercial real estate lending is the borrower's creditworthiness and the feasibility and cash flow potential of the property that secures the loan. Additional considerations include: location, market and geographic concentrations, loan-to-value ratio, strength of guarantors and quality of tenants. Payments on loans secured by income properties often depend on successful operation and management of the properties. As a result, repayment of such loans may be subject to a greater extent than residential real estate loans to adverse conditions in the real estate market or the economy. To monitor cash flows on income properties, we require borrowers and loan guarantors, if any, to provide annual financial statements and rent rolls where applicable. In reaching a decision on whether to make a commercial real estate loan, we usually consider and review a global cash flow analysis of the borrower, when applicable, and consider the net operating income of the property, the borrower's expertise, credit history, and profitability and the value of the underlying property. The global analysis is more typically performed when lending to real estate development and management companies that own multiple properties with financing from other creditors. The analysis takes into consideration all rental income and expenses from the borrower's real estate investments to determine if any other real estate holdings in the portfolio do not provide income levels to support the expenses of each property and debt service requirements for any third party financing



secured by the properties held in the portfolio. We have generally required that the properties securing these real estate loans have debt service coverage ratios (the ratio of earnings before debt service to debt service) of at least 1.2x and a loan-to-value no greater than 75% for commercial properties and no greater than 80% for multifamily properties. An environmental report is obtained when the possibility exists that hazardous materials may have existed on the site, or the site may have been impacted by adjoining properties with known environmental concerns.

**One-to-Four Family Real Estate Loans.** While we anticipate that adjustable-rate loans will better offset the adverse effects of an increase in interest rates as compared to fixed-rate mortgages, the increased mortgage payments required of adjustable-rate loan borrowers in a rising interest rate environment could cause an increase in delinquencies and defaults. The marketability of the underlying property also may be adversely affected in a high interest rate environment. In addition, although adjustable-rate mortgage loans help make our asset base more responsive to changes in interest rates, the extent of this interest sensitivity is limited by the annual and lifetime interest rate adjustment limits on such loans.

**Commercial Business Loans.** Unlike residential mortgage loans, which generally are made on the basis of the borrower's ability to make repayment from his or her employment or other income, and which are secured by real property, the value of which tends to be more easily ascertainable, commercial business loans are of higher risk and typically are made on the basis of the borrower's ability to make repayment from the cash flow of the borrower's business. As a result, the availability of funds for the repayment of commercial business loans may depend substantially on the success of the business itself and guarantors, if any. Therefore, we usually consider and review a global cash flow analysis of the borrower and guarantors, when applicable. Further, any collateral securing such loans may depreciate over time, may be difficult to appraise, may fluctuate in value and may depend on the borrower's ability to collect receivables.

**Construction Loans.** Loans made to facilitate construction are primarily short-term loans used to finance the construction of an owner-occupied residence or income producing assets. Generally, upon stabilization or upon completion and issuance of a certificate of occupancy, these loans often convert to permanent loans with long-term amortization. Payments during construction consist of an interest-only period funded generally by borrower or guarantor equity. As these loans represent higher risk, each project is monitored for progress throughout the life of the loan, and loan funding occurs through borrower draw requests. These requests are compared to project milestones and progress is verified by independent inspectors engaged by us.

Construction financing is generally considered to involve a higher degree of risk of loss than long-term financing on improved, occupied real estate. Risk of loss on a construction loan is dependent largely upon the accuracy of the initial estimate of the property's value at completion of construction or development and the estimated cost (including interest) of construction. During the construction phase, a number of factors could result in delays and cost overruns. If the estimate of construction costs proves to be inaccurate, business conditions may dictate that the borrower or guarantors, when applicable, contribute additional equity or we advance funds beyond the amount originally committed to permit completion of the project. If the estimate of value proves to be inaccurate, we may be confronted, at or before the maturity of the loan, with a project having a value which is insufficient to assure full repayment.

**Home Equity Loans and Advances.** Consumer home equity loans and advances are loans secured by one-to-four family residential real estate, where we may be in a first or junior lien position. In each instance, the value of the property is determined and the loan is made against identified equity in the market value of the property. When a residential mortgage is not present on the property, a first lien position is secured against the property. In cases where a mortgage is present on the property, a junior lien position is established, subordinated to the first mortgage. As these subordinated liens represent higher risk, loan collection becomes more influenced by various factors, including job loss, divorce, illness or personal bankruptcy. Furthermore, the application of various federal and state laws, including federal and state bankruptcy and insolvency laws, may limit the amount that can be recovered on such loans.

**Other Consumer Loans.** Unlike consumer home equity loans, these loans are either unsecured or secured by rapidly depreciating assets such as autos. In such cases, repossessed collateral for a defaulted consumer loan may not provide an adequate source of repayment for the outstanding loan and a small remaining deficiency often does not warrant further substantial collection efforts against the borrower. Consumer loan collections depend on the borrower's continuing financial stability, and, therefore, are likely to be adversely affected by various factors, including job loss, divorce, illness or personal bankruptcy. Furthermore, the application of various federal and state laws, including federal and state bankruptcy and insolvency laws, may limit the amount that can be recovered on such loans.

**Loan Originations and Purchases.** Loan originations come from a number of sources. The primary sources of loan originations are existing customers, online channels, walk-in traffic, advertising and referrals from customers and other business contacts, including attorneys, accountants and other professionals. Residential mortgage loans are also sourced through mortgage brokers, although such loans are underwritten by us in accordance with our underwriting standards.

We purchase and have acquired participation interests in loans to supplement our lending portfolio. Loan participations purchased totaled \$91.0 million at December 31, 2023 and were comprised of 52 commercial real estate loans. Loan participations are subject to the same credit analysis and loan approvals as loans which we originate. We review all of the documentation relating to any

loan in which we participate. However, for participation loans, we do not service the loan and, thus, are subject to the policies and practices of the lead lender with regard to monitoring delinquencies, pursuing collections and instituting foreclosure proceedings.

**Loan Commitments.** We issue commitments for fixed and adjustable-rate mortgage loans conditioned upon the occurrence of certain events. Commitments to originate mortgage loans are legally binding agreements to lend to our customers. Generally, our loan commitments expire after 60 days.

**Delinquent Loans.** We identify loans that may need to be charged-off as a loss by reviewing all delinquent loans, classified loans and other loans that management may have concerns about collectability. For individually reviewed loans, the borrower's inability to make payments under the terms of the loan as well as a shortfall in collateral value may result in a write-down to management's estimate of net realizable value. The collateral or cash flow shortfall on all secured loans is charged-off when the loan becomes 90 days delinquent or earlier where management determines that the collection of loan principal is unlikely. In the case of unsecured consumer loans, the entire balance deemed uncollectable is charged-off when the loan becomes 90 days delinquent. For more information on how we address credit risk, see "*Item 7: Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations-Risk Management.*"

## Securities Activities

We maintain a securities portfolio that consists of U.S. Government and agency obligations, mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations ("CMOs"), municipal obligations, corporate debt securities, equity securities, and trust preferred securities. We classify our securities as either held to maturity or available for sale. Management determines the appropriate classification of securities at the time of purchase. If we have the intent and the ability to hold the securities until maturity, they are classified as held to maturity. These securities are stated at amortized cost and adjusted for accretion of discounts over the estimated lives of the securities using the level-yield method. Premiums are amortized to the first (or earliest) call date instead of as an adjustment to the yield over the contractual life. Securities in the available for sale category are those for which we do not have the intent at purchase to hold to maturity. These securities are reported at fair value with any unrealized appreciation or depreciation, net of tax effects, reported as a separate component of accumulated other comprehensive income.

Mortgage-backed securities are a type of asset-backed security that is secured by a mortgage, or a collection of mortgages. These securities usually pay periodic payments that are similar to coupon payments. The contractual cash flows of securities in government sponsored enterprises' mortgage-backed securities are debt obligations of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, both of which are currently under the conservatorship of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. The contractual cash flows related to Government National Mortgage Association ("Ginnie Mae") securities are direct obligations of the U.S. Government. Mortgage-backed securities are also known as mortgage pass-throughs. CMOs are structured as pool mortgage-backed securities and redistribute principal and interest payments to predetermined groups (classes) of investors. The repayments from the pool of pass-through securities are used to retire the bonds in the order specified by the bonds' prospectuses.

At December 31, 2023, 79.3% of the available for sale portfolio was comprised of mortgage-backed securities and CMOs issued by Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae and Ginnie Mae. These securities are guaranteed by the issuing agency and backed by residential and multifamily mortgages. These securities are comprised of fixed rate, adjustable-rate and hybrid securities that bear a fixed rate for a specific term and, thereafter, to the extent they are not prepaid, adjust periodically. At December 31, 2023, U.S. government and agency obligations comprised the next largest segment of the available for sale portfolio, totaling 13.3% of the portfolio. At December 31, 2023, the remainder of our available for sale securities portfolio consisted of corporate debt securities and municipal obligations which comprised 7.1% and 0.3%, respectively, of the portfolio.

At December 31, 2023, 87.6% of the held to maturity securities portfolio was comprised of mortgage-backed securities and CMOs issued by Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae and Ginnie Mae. These securities are guaranteed by the issuing agency and backed by residential and multifamily mortgages. These securities are comprised of fixed rate, adjustable-rate and hybrid securities that bear a fixed rate for a specific term and thereafter, to the extent they are not prepaid, adjust periodically. At December 31, 2023, the remainder of our held to maturity securities portfolio consisted of U.S. government and agency obligations which comprised 12.4% of the portfolio.

At December 31, 2023, we held \$4.1 million of securities in our equity portfolio comprised of Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("FHLMC") and Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA") preferred stock, stock in other financial institutions, and a Community Reinvestment Act qualifying bond fund. In addition, the equity portfolio includes Atlantic Community Bankers Bank ("ACBB") stock, which is based on redemption at par value and can only be sold to the issuing ACBB or another institution that holds ACBB stock. Some of these securities receive dividends and all are carried at fair value.

To mitigate the credit risk related to our securities portfolio, we primarily invest in agency and highly-rated securities. As of December 31, 2023, approximately 94.2% of the total portfolio consisted of direct government obligations or government sponsored enterprise obligations, approximately 5.5% of the remaining portfolio was rated at least investment grade and approximately 0.3% of the remaining portfolio was not rated. Securities not rated consist primarily of private placement municipal notes issued and/or guaranteed by local municipal authorities and equity securities.

## Deposit Activities and Other Sources of Funds

**General.** Deposits, borrowings and loan and securities repayments are the major sources of our funds for lending and other investment purposes. Scheduled loan and securities repayments are a relatively stable source of funds, while deposit inflows and outflows and loan prepayments are significantly influenced by general interest rates and market conditions.

**Deposit Accounts.** Deposits are primarily attracted from within our market area through the offering of a broad selection of deposit products, including non-interest-bearing demand deposits (such as checking accounts to individuals and commercial checking accounts), interest-bearing demand accounts (such as interest-earning checking account products and most municipal accounts), savings and club deposits, money market accounts and certificates of deposit. In 2023, we began utilizing deposit placement service companies, but have not historically utilized brokered deposits.

Our three primary categories of deposit customers consist of retail or individual customers, businesses and municipalities. Our business banking deposit products include a commercial checking account, a checking account specifically designed for small businesses and a money market product. Additionally, we offer cash management services, including remote deposit, lockbox service, sweep accounts, and escrow services.

Deposit account terms vary according to the minimum balance required, the time periods the funds must remain on deposit and the interest rate, among other factors. In determining the terms of our deposit accounts, we consider the rates offered by our competition, the rates on borrowings, our liquidity needs, profitability to us, and customer preferences and concerns. We generally review our deposit mix and pricing weekly. Our deposit pricing strategy has traditionally been to offer competitive rates on all types of deposit products, and to periodically offer special rates in order to attract deposits. Current strategies include changing the deposit mix to include more core deposits.

**Borrowings.** We have the ability to utilize advances and overnight lines of credit from the FHLB to supplement our liquidity. As member banks, we are required to own capital stock in the FHLB and are authorized to apply for advances on the security of such stock and certain mortgage loans and other assets, provided certain standards related to creditworthiness have been met. Advances are made under several different programs, each having its own interest rate and range of maturities. We can also utilize securities sold under agreements to repurchase to provide funding. We maintain access to the Federal Reserve Bank's Term Funding Program, discount window and federal funds lines with correspondent banks to supplement our supply of investable funds and to meet deposit withdrawal and contingency funding requirements. The Company has not utilized the Federal Reserve's Bank Term Funding Program and had no outstanding borrowings from the Federal Reserve Discount Window. To secure our borrowings, we generally pledge securities and/or loans. The types of securities pledged for borrowings include, but are not limited to, government-sponsored enterprises ("GSE") including notes and government agency mortgage-backed securities and CMOs. The types of loans pledged for borrowings include, but are not limited to, one-to-four family real estate mortgage loans, home equity loans and multifamily and commercial real estate loans. At December 31, 2023, we had additional borrowing capacity from the FHLB and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York based on our ability to collateralize such borrowings. Members in good standing with the FHLB can borrow up to 50% of their asset size as long as they have qualifying collateral to support the advance and purchase of FHLB capital.

During 2021, the Company entered into a \$30.0 million unsecured term note with a third party at a fixed interest rate of 3.35% and a maturity date of December 21, 2024. During the fourth quarter of 2023, this note was paid in full. In conjunction with the term note, the Company also established a \$30.0 million unsecured revolving credit facility with a third party at a variable rate indexed to the prime rate as published by The Wall Street Journal. During the fourth quarter of 2023, this credit facility was terminated. The Company drew and repaid \$1.5 million on this facility during 2023.

## Regulation and Supervision

### *General*

As federal savings banks, Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank are subject to examination, supervision and regulation, primarily by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and, secondarily, by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") as deposit insurer. Columbia Bank has elected and has received regulatory approval to operate as a "covered savings association" pursuant to Section 5A of the Home Owners' Loan Act, as amended, and the regulations of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency promulgated thereunder. A covered savings association generally has the same rights and privileges as a national bank, and is subject to the same duties, restrictions, penalties, liabilities, conditions, and limitations that would apply to a national bank.

Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank are also regulated by the Federal Reserve Board, which governs the reserves to be maintained against deposits and other matters. In addition, each of Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank is a member of and owns stock in the FHLB of New York, which is one of the 11 regional banks in the Federal Home Loan Bank System. Columbia Bank's and Freehold Bank's relationships with depositors and borrowers also are regulated to a great extent by federal law and, to a lesser extent, state law, including in matters concerning the ownership of deposit accounts and other contractual arrangements.

As savings and loan holding companies in the mutual holding company structure, the Company and the MHC are subject to examination and supervision by, and are required to file certain reports with the Federal Reserve Board and are treated by the Federal

Reserve Board as bank holding companies, for certain regulatory purposes, as a result of Columbia Bank's election to operate as a "covered savings association." The Company is also subject to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") under the federal securities laws.

Set forth below are certain material regulatory requirements that are applicable to Columbia Bank, Freehold Bank and the Company. This description of statutes and regulations is not intended to be a complete description of such statutes and regulations and their effects on Columbia Bank, Freehold Bank and the Company. Any change in these laws or regulations, whether by Congress or the applicable regulatory agencies, could have a material adverse impact on the Company, Columbia Bank, Freehold Bank and their operations.

#### **Federal Banking Regulations**

*Business Activities.* A federal savings bank derives its lending and investment powers from the Home Owners' Loan Act, as amended, and applicable federal regulations. However, as a covered savings association, Columbia Bank generally has the same rights and privileges as a national bank, and is subject to the same duties, restrictions, penalties, liabilities, conditions, and limitations that would apply to a national bank.

*Examinations and Assessments.* Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank are primarily supervised by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank is required to file reports with and is subject to periodic examination by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and are also required to pay assessments to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency to fund the agency's operations.

*Capital Requirements.* Federal regulations require FDIC-insured depository institutions, including federal savings banks, to meet several minimum capital standards: a common equity Tier 1 capital to risk-based assets ratio, a Tier 1 capital to risk-based assets ratio, a total capital to risk-based assets and a Tier 1 capital to total assets leverage ratio.

The capital standards require the maintenance of common equity Tier 1 capital, Tier 1 capital and Total capital to risk-weighted assets of at least 4.5%, 6.0% and 8.0%, respectively. The regulations also establish a minimum required leverage ratio of at least 4.0% of Tier 1 capital. Common equity Tier 1 capital is generally defined as common stockholders' equity and retained earnings. Tier 1 capital is generally defined as common equity Tier 1 capital plus additional Tier 1 capital. Additional Tier 1 capital generally includes certain noncumulative perpetual preferred stock and related surplus and minority interests in equity accounts of consolidated subsidiaries. Total capital includes Tier 1 capital (common equity Tier 1 capital plus additional Tier 1 capital) and Tier 2 capital. Tier 2 capital is comprised of capital instruments and related surplus meeting specified requirements and may include cumulative preferred stock and long-term perpetual preferred stock, mandatory convertible securities, intermediate preferred stock and subordinated debt. Also included in Tier 2 capital is the allowance for loan losses limited to a maximum of 1.25% of risk-weighted assets and, for institutions that have exercised an opt-out election regarding the treatment of accumulated other comprehensive income such as Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank, up to 45% of net unrealized gains on available for sale equity securities with readily determinable fair market values. Institutions that have not exercised the accumulated other comprehensive income opt-out have accumulated other comprehensive income incorporated into common equity Tier 1 capital (including unrealized gains and losses on available for sale securities). Calculation of all types of regulatory capital is subject to deductions and adjustments specified in the regulations.

In determining the amount of risk-weighted assets for purposes of calculating risk-based capital ratios, an institution's assets, including certain off-balance sheet assets (e.g., recourse obligations, direct credit substitutes, residual interests), are multiplied by a risk weight factor assigned by the regulations based on the risk deemed inherent in the type of asset. Higher levels of capital are required for asset categories believed to present greater risk. For example, a risk weight of 0% is assigned to cash and U.S. government securities, a risk weight of 50% is generally assigned to prudently underwritten first lien one-to-four family residential mortgages, a risk weight of 100% is assigned to commercial and consumer loans, a risk weight of 150% is assigned to certain past due loans and a risk weight of between 0% to 600% is assigned to permissible equity interests, depending on certain specified factors.

In addition to establishing the minimum regulatory capital requirements, the regulations limit capital distributions and certain discretionary bonus payments to management if the institution does not hold a "capital conservation buffer" consisting of 2.5% of common equity Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets above the amount necessary to meet its minimum risk-based capital requirements.

At December 31, 2023, Columbia Bank's and Freehold Bank's capital each exceeded all applicable requirements.

*Loans-to-One Borrower.* Generally, a federal savings bank or national bank may not make a loan or extend credit to a single or related group of borrowers in excess of 15% of unimpaired capital and surplus. An additional amount may be lent, equal to 10% of unimpaired capital and surplus, if secured by "readily marketable collateral," which generally includes certain financial instruments (but not real estate). As of December 31, 2023, both Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank were in compliance with the loans-to-one borrower limitations.

*Standards for Safety and Soundness.* Federal law requires each federal banking agency to prescribe certain standards for all insured depository institutions. These standards relate to, among other things, internal controls, information systems and audit systems,

loan documentation, credit underwriting, interest rate risk exposure, asset growth, compensation and other operational and managerial standards as the agency deems appropriate. Interagency guidelines set forth the safety and soundness standards that the federal banking agencies use to identify and address problems at insured depository institutions before capital becomes impaired. If the appropriate federal banking agency determines that an institution fails to meet any standard prescribed by the guidelines, the agency may require the institution to submit to the agency an acceptable plan to achieve compliance with the standard. Failure to implement such a plan can result in further enforcement action, including the issuance of a cease and desist order or the imposition of civil money penalties.

*Prompt Corrective Action.* Under the federal prompt corrective action statute, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency is required to take supervisory actions against undercapitalized institutions under its jurisdiction, the severity of which depends upon the institution's level of capital. An institution that has a total risk-based capital ratio of less than 8.0%, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of less than 6.0%, a common equity Tier 1 ratio of less than 4.5% or a leverage ratio of less than 4.0% is considered to be "undercapitalized". An institution that has total risk-based capital of less than 6.0%, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of less than 4.0%, a common equity Tier 1 ratio of less than 3.0% or a leverage ratio that is less than 3.0% is considered to be "significantly undercapitalized". An institution that has a tangible capital to assets ratio equal to or less than 2.0% is deemed to be "critically undercapitalized".

Generally, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency is required to appoint a receiver or conservator for a federal savings bank or national bank that becomes "critically undercapitalized" within specific time frames. The regulations also provide that a capital restoration plan must be filed with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency within 45 days of the date that a federal savings association is deemed to have received notice that it is "undercapitalized," "significantly undercapitalized" or "critically undercapitalized". Any holding company of a federal savings association that is required to submit a capital restoration plan must guarantee performance under the plan in an amount of up to the lesser of 5.0% of the savings association's assets at the time it was deemed to be undercapitalized by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency or the amount necessary to restore the savings association to adequately capitalized status. This guarantee remains in place until the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency notifies the institution that it has maintained adequately capitalized status for each of four consecutive calendar quarters. Institutions that are undercapitalized become subject to certain mandatory measures such as restrictions on capital distributions and asset growth. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency may also take any one of a number of discretionary supervisory actions against undercapitalized federal savings associations, including the issuance of a capital directive and the replacement of senior executive officers and directors.

At December 31, 2023, each of Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank met the criteria for being considered "well capitalized," which means that its total risk-based capital ratio exceeded 10.0%, its Tier 1 risk-based ratio exceeded 8.0%, its common equity Tier 1 ratio exceeded 6.5% and its leverage ratio exceeded 5.0%.

*Capital Distributions.* Federal regulations govern capital distributions by a federal savings bank, including a covered savings association, which include cash dividends, stock repurchases and other transactions charged to the institution's capital account. A federal savings bank, including a covered savings association, must file an application with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency for approval of a capital distribution if (i) the total capital distributions for the applicable calendar year exceed the sum of the institution's net income for that year to date plus the institution's retained net income for the preceding two years; (ii) the institution would not be at least adequately capitalized following the distribution; (iii) the distribution would violate an applicable statute, regulation, agreement or regulatory condition; or (iv) the institution is not eligible for expedited treatment of its filings. Even if an application is not otherwise required, every savings association that is a subsidiary of a savings and loan holding company must file a notice with the Federal Reserve Board at least 30 days before the board of directors declares a dividend. An application or notice related to a capital distribution may be disapproved if (i) the federal savings association would be undercapitalized following the distribution; (ii) the proposed capital distribution raises safety and soundness concerns or (iii) the capital distribution would violate a prohibition contained in any statute, regulation or agreement.

In addition, the Federal Deposit Insurance Act provides that an insured depository institution shall not make any capital distribution if, after making such distribution, the institution would fail to meet any applicable regulatory capital requirement.

*Community Reinvestment Act and Fair Lending Laws.* All financial institution banks have a responsibility under the Community Reinvestment Act and related regulations to help meet the credit needs of their communities, including low and moderate-income borrowers. In connection with its examination of a federal savings bank, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency is required to assess the federal savings bank's record of compliance with the Community Reinvestment Act. A savings bank's failure to comply with the provisions of the Community Reinvestment Act could, at a minimum, result in denial of certain corporate applications such as branches or mergers, or in restrictions on its activities. In addition, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Fair Housing Act prohibit lenders from discriminating in their lending practices on the basis of characteristics specified in those statutes. The failure to comply with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Fair Housing Act could result in enforcement actions by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, as well as other federal regulatory agencies and the Department of Justice.

The Community Reinvestment Act requires all institutions insured by the FDIC to publicly disclose their rating. Both Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank received a "satisfactory" Community Reinvestment Act rating in its most recent federal examination.

*Transactions with Related Parties.* A federal savings bank's authority to engage in transactions with its affiliates is limited by Sections 23A and 23B of the Federal Reserve Act and federal regulation. An affiliate is generally any company that controls or is under common control with an insured depository institution such as Columbia Bank or Freehold Bank. The Company and the MHC are affiliates of Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank because of their direct and indirect control of Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank. In general, transactions between an insured depository institution and its affiliates are subject to certain quantitative limits and collateral requirements. In addition, federal regulations prohibit a savings association from lending to any of its affiliates that are engaged in activities that are not permissible for bank holding companies and from purchasing the securities of any affiliate, other than a subsidiary. Finally, transactions with affiliates must be consistent with safe and sound banking practices, not involve the purchase of low-quality assets and be on terms that are as favorable to the institution as comparable transactions with non-affiliates.

The authority of Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank to extend credit to their directors, executive officers and 10% stockholders, as well as to entities controlled by such persons, is currently governed by the requirements of Sections 22(g) and 22(h) of the Federal Reserve Act and Regulation O of the Federal Reserve Board. Among other things, these provisions generally require that extensions of credit to insiders:

- be made on terms that are substantially the same as, and follow credit underwriting procedures that are not less stringent than, those prevailing for comparable transactions with unaffiliated persons and that do not involve more than the normal risk of repayment or present other unfavorable features; and
- not exceed certain limitations on the amount of credit extended to such persons, individually and in the aggregate, which limits are based, in part, on the amount of the institution's capital.

In addition, extensions of credit in excess of certain limits must be approved by the respective board of directors of Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank. Extensions of credit to executive officers are subject to additional limits based on the type of extension involved.

*Enforcement.* The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency has primary enforcement responsibility over federal savings banks and has authority to bring enforcement action against all "institution-affiliated parties," including directors, officers, stockholders, attorneys, appraisers and accountants who knowingly or recklessly participate in wrongful action likely to have an adverse effect on a federal savings association. Formal enforcement action by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency may range from the issuance of a capital directive or cease and desist order to removal of officers and/or directors of the institution to the appointment of a receiver or conservator. Civil penalties cover a wide range of violations and actions, and range up to \$25,000 per day, unless a finding of reckless disregard is made, in which case penalties may be as high as \$1.0 million per day. The FDIC also has the authority to terminate deposit insurance or recommend to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency that enforcement action be taken with respect to a particular savings association. If such action is not taken, the FDIC has authority to take the action under specified circumstances.

*Insurance of Deposit Accounts.* The Deposit Insurance Fund of the FDIC insures deposits at FDIC-insured financial institutions such as Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank. Deposit accounts in Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank are insured by the FDIC generally up to a maximum of \$250,000 per separately insured depositor and up to a maximum of \$250,000 for self-directed retirement accounts.

The FDIC assesses insured depository institutions premiums to maintain the Deposit Insurance Fund. Assessments for most institutions are now based on financial measures and supervisory ratings derived from statistical modeling estimating the probability of failure within three years. Previously, the assessment range (inclusive of possible adjustments) for most banks and savings associations ranged from 1.5 basis points to 30 basis points. The FDIC has the authority to increase insurance assessments and adopted a final rule in October 2022 to increase initial base deposit insurance assessment rates by 2 basis points beginning with the first quarterly assessment period of 2023. As a result, effective January 1, 2023, the Bank's assessment rates increased, and for most banks and savings associations the assessment ranges from 2.5 basis points to 42 basis points.

The FDIC has authority to further increase insurance assessments. Any significant increases would have an adverse effect on the operating expenses and results of operations of Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank. We cannot predict what assessment rates will be in the future.

Insurance of deposits may be terminated by the FDIC upon a finding that an institution has engaged in unsafe or unsound practices, is in an unsafe or unsound condition to continue operations or has violated any applicable law, regulation, rule, order or condition imposed by the FDIC. We do not currently know of any practice, condition or violation that may lead to termination of our deposit insurance.

On November 16, 2023, the FDIC published in the Federal Register its final rule that imposes special assessments to recover the loss to the Deposit Insurance Fund arising from the protection of uninsured depositors in connection with the systemic risk determination announced on March 12, 2023, following the closures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank. The assessment base for the special assessments is equal to an insured depository institution's ("IDI") estimated uninsured deposits, reported as of December 31, 2022, adjusted to exclude the first \$5 billion in estimated uninsured deposits from the IDI, or for IDIs that are part of a

holding company with one or more subsidiary IDIs, at the banking organization level. The final rule calls for the FDIC to collect special assessments at an annual rate of approximately 13.4 basis points, over eight quarterly assessment periods. Because the estimated loss pursuant to the systemic risk determination will be periodically adjusted, the FDIC retains the ability to cease collection early, extend the special assessment collection period one or more quarters beyond the initial eight-quarter collection period to collect the difference between actual or estimated losses and the amounts collected, and impose a final shortfall special assessment on a one-time basis after the receiverships for Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank terminate. The final rule set an effective date of April 1, 2024, with special assessments collected beginning with the first quarterly assessment period of 2024 (i.e., January 1 through March 31, 2024, with an invoice payment date of June 28, 2024).

In February 2024, we received notification from the FDIC that the estimated loss attributable to the protection of uninsured depositors at Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank is \$20.4 billion, an increase of approximately \$4.1 billion from the estimate of \$16.3 billion described in the final rule. The FDIC plans to provide institutions subject to the special assessment an updated estimate of each institution's quarterly and total special assessment expense with its first quarter 2024 special assessment invoice, to be released in June 2024. The Company cannot reasonably estimate the additional assessment amount at this time.

*Federal Home Loan Bank System.* Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank are both members of the Federal Home Loan Bank System, which consists of 11 regional Federal Home Loan Banks. The Federal Home Loan Bank System provides a central credit facility primarily for member institutions as well as other entities involved in home mortgage lending. As members of the FHLB of New York, Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank are required to purchase and hold shares of capital stock in the FHLB of New York. As of December 31, 2023, both Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank were in compliance with this requirement. The FHLB imposes various limitations on advances such as limiting the amount of certain types of real estate related collateral and limiting total advances to a member.

*Other Regulations.* Interest and other charges collected or contracted for by Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank are subject to state usury laws and federal laws concerning interest rates. The operations of Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank are also subject to federal laws applicable to credit transactions, such as the:

- Truth-In-Lending Act, governing disclosures of credit terms to consumer borrowers;
- Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, requiring financial institutions to provide information to enable the public and public officials to determine whether a financial institution is fulfilling its obligation to help meet the housing needs of the community it serves;
- Equal Credit Opportunity Act, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, creed or other prohibited factors in extending credit;
- Fair Credit Reporting Act, governing the use and provision of information to credit reporting agencies;
- Fair Debt Collection Act, governing the manner in which consumer debts may be collected by collection agencies;
- Truth in Savings Act, prescribing disclosure and advertising requirements with respect to deposit accounts; and
- Rules and regulations of the various federal agencies charged with the responsibility of implementing such federal laws.

The operations of Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank also are subject to the:

- Right to Financial Privacy Act, which imposes a duty to maintain confidentiality of consumer financial records and prescribes procedures for complying with administrative subpoenas of financial records;
- Electronic Funds Transfer Act and Regulation E promulgated thereunder, which govern automatic deposits to and withdrawals from deposit accounts and customers' rights and liabilities arising from the use of automated teller machines and other electronic banking services;
- Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act (also known as "Check 21"), which gives "substitute checks," such as digital check images and copies made from that image, the same legal standing as the original paper check;
- The USA PATRIOT Act, which requires savings associations to, among other things, establish broadened anti-money laundering compliance programs, and due diligence policies and controls to ensure the detection and reporting of money laundering. Such required compliance programs are intended to supplement existing compliance requirements that also apply to financial institutions under the Bank Secrecy Act and the Office of Foreign Assets Control regulations; and
- The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, which places limitations on the sharing of consumer financial information by financial institutions with unaffiliated third parties. Specifically, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act requires all financial institutions offering financial products or services to retail customers to provide such customers with the financial institution's privacy

policy and provide such customers the opportunity to “opt out” of the sharing of certain personal financial information with unaffiliated third parties.

### ***Holding Company Regulation***

*General.* The Company and the MHC are non-diversified savings and loan holding companies within the meaning of the Home Owners’ Loan Act. As such, the Company and the MHC are registered with the Federal Reserve Board and are subject to the regulation, examination, supervision and reporting requirements applicable to savings and loan holding companies and mutual holding companies. As a result of Columbia Bank’s election to be treated as a covered savings association, the Federal Reserve Board will generally treat the Company and the MHC as bank holding companies even though they remain savings and loan holding companies under existing law. In addition, the Federal Reserve Board has enforcement authority over the Company, the MHC and their non-savings institution subsidiaries. Among other things, this authority permits the Federal Reserve Board to restrict or prohibit activities that are determined to be a serious risk to the subsidiary savings bank.

*Permissible Activities.* Due to Columbia Bank’s status as a covered savings association, the activities of the Company and the MHC are generally limited to activities permissible for bank holding companies under Section 4(c)(8) of the Bank Holding Company Act, subject to regulatory approval, and certain additional activities authorized by federal regulations. Federal law prohibits a holding company, including the Company and the MHC, directly or indirectly, or through one or more subsidiaries, from acquiring control of more than 5% of another financial institution or financial institution holding company, without prior Federal Reserve Board approval. In evaluating applications by holding companies to acquire other financial institutions, the Federal Reserve Board considers factors such as the financial and managerial resources, future prospects of the company and institution involved, the effect of the acquisition on the risk to the federal deposit insurance fund, the convenience and needs of the community and competitive factors.

*Capital.* The Company is subject to consolidated regulatory capital requirements that are similar to those that apply to Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank. The Company was in compliance with these requirements as of December 31, 2023.

*Source of Strength.* The Dodd-Frank Act extended the “source of strength” doctrine to savings and loan holding companies. The Federal Reserve Board has issued regulations requiring that all savings and loan holding companies serve as a source of strength to their subsidiary depository institutions.

*Dividends and Stock Repurchases.* The Federal Reserve Board has issued a policy statement regarding the payment of dividends by holding companies. In general, the policy provides that dividends should be paid only out of current earnings and only if the prospective rate of earnings retention by the holding company appears consistent with the organization’s capital needs, asset quality and overall supervisory financial condition. Separate regulatory guidance provides for prior consultation with Federal Reserve Bank staff concerning dividends in certain circumstances such as where the company’s net income for the past four quarters, net of dividends previously paid over that period, is insufficient to fully fund the dividend or the company’s overall rate or earnings retention is inconsistent with the company’s capital needs and overall financial condition. The ability of a savings and loan holding company to pay dividends may be restricted if a subsidiary savings association becomes undercapitalized. The regulatory guidance also states that a savings and loan holding company should inform Federal Reserve Bank supervisory staff prior to redeeming or repurchasing common stock or perpetual preferred stock if the savings and loan holding company is experiencing financial weaknesses or the repurchase or redemption would result in a net reduction, at the end of a quarter, in the amount of such equity instruments outstanding compared with the beginning of the quarter in which the redemption or repurchase occurred. The Federal Reserve requires the Company to file to provide notification to the Federal Reserve prior to implementing any repurchase plan. These regulatory policies may affect the ability of the Company to pay dividends, repurchase shares of common stock or otherwise engage in capital distributions.

*Waivers of Dividends by Columbia Bank MHC.* The Company may pay dividends on its common stock to public stockholders. If it does, it is also required to pay dividends to the MHC, unless the MHC elects to waive the receipt of dividends. Under the Dodd-Frank Act, the MHC must receive the approval of the Federal Reserve Board before it may waive the receipt of any dividends from the Company. The Federal Reserve Board issued an interim final rule providing that it will not object to dividend waivers under certain circumstances, including circumstances where the waiver is not detrimental to the safe and sound operation of the savings association and a majority of the mutual holding company’s members have approved the waiver of dividends by the mutual holding company within the previous twelve months. In addition, for a “non-grandfathered” mutual holding company such as the MHC, each of our officers and directors, and any tax-qualified stock benefit plan or non-tax-qualified stock benefit plan in which such individual participates that holds any shares of stock to which the waiver would apply, must waive the right to receive any such dividend declared. The Federal Reserve Board’s current position is to not permit a non-grandfathered savings and loan or bank holding company to waive dividends declared by its subsidiary. In addition, any dividends waived by the MHC must be considered in determining an appropriate exchange ratio in the event of a second step conversion of the mutual holding company to stock form.

*Conversion of Columbia Bank MHC to Stock Form.* Federal Reserve Board regulations permit the MHC to convert from the mutual form of organization to the capital stock form of organization (a “Conversion Transaction”). There can be no assurance when, if ever, a Conversion Transaction will occur, and the board of directors has no current intention or plan to undertake a Conversion Transaction. In a Conversion Transaction, a new stock holding company would be formed as the successor to the Company (the “New Holding Company”), the MHC’s corporate existence would end, and certain depositors and borrowers of Columbia Bank and Freehold



Bank would receive the right to subscribe for shares of the New Holding Company. In a Conversion Transaction, each share of common stock held by stockholders other than the MHC (“Minority Stockholders”) would be automatically converted into a number of shares of common stock of the New Holding Company determined pursuant to an exchange ratio that ensures that Minority Stockholders own the same percentage of common stock in the New Holding Company as they owned in the Company immediately prior to the Conversion Transaction. Any Conversion Transaction would be subject to approvals by Minority Stockholders and members of the MHC. Minority Stockholders will not be able to force a Conversion Transaction without the consent of the MHC since such transaction also requires, under federal corporate law, the approval of a majority of all of the outstanding voting stock, which can only be achieved if the MHC voted to approve such transaction.

*Acquisition.* Under the Federal Change in Bank Control Act, a notice must be submitted to the Federal Reserve Board if any person (including a company), or group acting in concert, seeks to acquire direct or indirect “control” of a savings and loan holding company. Under certain circumstances, a change of control may occur, and prior notice is required, upon the acquisition of 10% or more of the company’s outstanding voting stock, unless the Federal Reserve Board has found that the acquisition will not result in control of the company. A change in control definitively occurs upon the acquisition of 25% or more of the company’s outstanding voting stock. Under the Change in Bank Control Act, the Federal Reserve Board generally has 60 days from the filing of a complete notice to act, taking into consideration certain factors, including the financial and managerial resources of the acquirer and the competitive effects of the acquisition.

#### ***Federal Securities Laws***

The Company’s common stock is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Company is therefore subject to the information, proxy solicitation, insider trading restrictions and other requirements under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

#### **Personnel**

As of December 31, 2023, we had 720 full-time employees and 54 part-time employees, none of whom is represented by a collective bargaining unit. We believe that our relationship with our employees is good.

#### **Human Capital Management**

We consider our employees to be our most valuable asset and we promote an environment that is both rewarding and challenging. We offer many different programs and initiatives to develop our workforce and to ensure the work culture matches our mission of offering a challenging and rewarding work environment for employees while promoting programs that support wellness and the quality of employees’ lives. We encourage our employees to get involved with their communities and through “Team Columbia” our employees participate in many outreach programs and volunteer events. In addition, we host various employee events such as the Annual Service Awards Dinner, Community Service Dinner and holiday events to further promote our culture and to provide opportunities for employee engagement.

At December 31, 2023, we employed 774 full and part time employees throughout the State of New Jersey. During the year ended December 31, 2023, we hired 150 employees. Our voluntary turnover rate was 17.04% and the involuntary turnover rate was 8.19% in 2023. Although there were increased efforts to engage employees and increase compensation in 2023, the voluntary turnover rate reflected the competitive market for employees and especially branch staff.

#### ***Retention***

In order to retain our talented workforce, we provide a competitive compensation and benefits program to help meet the needs of our employees. We monitor salaries on a regular basis participating in various external salary surveys and analyzing internal reports to ensure market competitiveness and internal equity. We also offer annual incentive programs to further reward our employees based on their performance.

#### ***Benefits***

In addition to competitive salaries, we offer comprehensive benefit programs which include equity awards, an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (“ESOP”) and a deferred compensation plan (401k) with an employer matching contribution, healthcare and life insurance benefits, health savings accounts, flexible spending accounts, paid time off, family leaves of absence, tuition reimbursement, student loan repayments, good grade awards and an employee assistance program. In 2023, 45 employees received good grade awards totaling approximately \$160,000 due to the accomplishments of their children and we assisted 70 employees with approximately \$80,000 of repayments to their student loans through our repayment program.

#### ***Employee Wellness***

The Human Resources Department continues to enhance our wellness programs to establish an environment that promotes a holistic approach to well-being that includes: healthy lifestyles, financial stability, mental well-being, and decreases the risk of disease,

and improves the quality of employee life. These programs enhance our employee experience by giving our employees the tools necessary to create a healthier lifestyle through the promotion of healthy diets, workplace activities, exercise programs, opportunity to participate in individualized wellness coaching, and wellness seminars. Active participants in wellness programs enjoy health insurance cost advantages, and in 2023 we paid out over \$210,000 in incentives to approximately 60% of the workforce under this program. We have also created wellness and quiet rooms in the Company's corporate headquarters for people to be able to take breaks or attend to personal matters. All of these programs are intended to make us an employer of choice.

### ***Learning and Development***

We invest in the growth and development of our employees by providing a multi-dimensional approach to learning that empowers, intellectually grows, and professionally develops our colleagues. Our employees receive continuing education courses that are relevant to the banking industry and their job function within the Company. We have developed succession programs that help us to create a pipeline for leadership. Our core curriculum is offered to all employees and helps to build upon the competencies and skills of which we are assessed during the performance management process.

We offer robust training programs on the topics of customer service, sales, change management, digital banking and various other products and services. This initiative resulted in extensive digital systems training curriculum.

To support our communication and training initiatives, we implemented a learning management system, a new virtual classroom and an eLearning authoring tool that allows all job functional and soft skills training to be offered at a distance. We also provide training on the collaboration tools that are rolled out by our Information Technology Department.

### ***Talent Management***

Our Human Resources and Learning and Development Departments have action plans designed specifically to facilitate the screening, acquisition, development, and performance management of a talent pool that aligns with the initiatives of the Company, including promoting quality customer service and enhancing the client experience throughout Columbia Bank. We have funded significant technological investments, including the upgrade of our core banking platform, loan origination systems, document imaging systems, and business intelligence reporting. While these new systems provide enhanced features for customers and automation of routine tasks for staff, they require specialized technical skills to operate and administer. Based on our strategic objectives, acquiring and developing a talent pool of well-educated and technically skilled professionals is essential to support our growth plans over the next decade.

### ***Diversity, Equity and Inclusion***

Our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion ("DEI") strategy focuses on increasing representation, education, teamwork and collaboration. We have a DEI task force made up of employees across the Company to support additional events that support the diverse employees and clients we support. We use equity recruiting practices to find top diverse talent and onboard them into the Company. In addition, we include DEI perspectives in our social media, marketing and branding strategy. We believe that as our footprint grows our brand will expand to reflect the diverse range of clients and communities we support. In connection with our Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") program, we have an established ESG Committee and a Diversity Officer, both of which are supported by various cross functional members of the Company. To ensure proper tracking and communication of ESG initiatives, a consultant was engaged to quantify the actions the Company takes to serve as a responsible corporate citizen. We also have eight Employee Resource Groups to further promote an inclusive work environment.

At the Company, we believe that diversity is a core tenet of our future success. A diverse Board of Directors and workforce increase our creativity and innovation, promote higher quality decisions, enhance economic growth, and represent the stockholders and customers we serve.

Our organization and our Board of Directors are deeply committed to cultivating an inclusive culture where all backgrounds, experiences and perspectives are welcome; where individuals are comfortable being who they are and are encouraged to celebrate their diversity; and where all have opportunities to realize their full personal and professional potential. As of December 31, 2023, approximately 61% of employees were women. An important component of our comprehensive strategy is to support, promote, and accelerate diversity and inclusion throughout the Company. As of December 31, 2023, approximately 37% of employees were minorities.

We look to develop a diverse employee base to better reflect our customer base and local community. We are working towards impactful recruitment via social media, sharing employee experiences and insights, corporate brand ambassadors, community ambassadors and social and civic organizations. In addition, we enhanced our employee referral program to further assist in our hiring efforts.

Our mission is to ensure that we are diverse across all levels of the organization and that our policies, practices, and actions promote inclusion and continue to strengthen our ability to attract, develop and retain the best talent, while accelerating business growth, increasing shareholder value and supporting our local communities.

Our Board of Directors, executive management, and leadership teams are committed to working together to implement a comprehensive strategy to support, promote, and accelerate diversity and inclusion across the organization with a focus on achieving sustained results, value and impact.

#### ***Succession Planning***

Succession planning is a critical driver of our transformation. Succession planning efforts are helping our organization become what it needs to be, rather than simply recreating the existing organization. We have programs in place to support these initiatives: Associate Development Program, Career Development Program, Leadership Development Program, Stonier/Wharton School Program, and new ones are being rolled out. We have active support of top leadership and have linked succession to strategic planning. We implemented a new online interactive performance management system. There is emphasis on developmental assignments in addition to formal training. Along the way, we are addressing specific human capital challenges, such as diversity, leadership capacity, and retention.

#### ***Workplace Safety***

We have policies and programs in place that protect our employees and invest in their well-being.

We continue to provide our employees various outlets to gain emotional assistance through our Employee Assistance Program and webinars provided by our healthcare provider. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we provided employees a safe workplace, both in the branches and back office departments, and implemented technologies for a remote work environment and to accommodate remote workers. We established service level agreements for the work from home environment communicating expectations to employees and receiving employee agreement to the execution of these expectations. These agreements are monitored on a regular basis. The pandemic required us to modify our facilities to provide additional precautions to ensure the safety of our staff and customers, and these regiments continued in 2023. We have recently completed a renovation of our corporate headquarters facility that will allow for the envisioned growth of existing department staff and operations consistent with our strategic growth objectives.

#### **Subsidiaries**

Columbia Financials' sole banking subsidiaries are Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank. Columbia Financial also maintains a Delaware trust subsidiary, Stewardship Statutory Trust I, that was formed in connection with the prior issuance of trust preferred securities. Stewardship Statutory Trust I was acquired by the Company as a result of its acquisition of Stewardship in November 2019.

Columbia Bank's active subsidiaries are as follows:

*First Jersey Title Services, Inc.*, a title insurance agency that we acquired in 2002. At December 31, 2023, total assets were approximately \$13.6 million. For the year ended December 31, 2023, First Jersey Title Services, Inc. had a net loss of approximately \$332,000.

*1901 Commercial Management Co. LLC*, which was established in 2009 to hold commercial other real estate owned, and *1901 Residential Management Co. LLC*, which was established in 2009 to hold residential other real estate owned. At December 31, 2023, these subsidiaries held approximately \$139,000 and \$125,000, respectively, in total assets.

*2500 Broadway Corp.* is a passive investment company that holds an investment in CSB Realty Corp. At December 31, 2023, total assets were approximately \$4.4 billion. In February 2024, the Board of Directors approved the dissolution of this entity, pending approval from the State of New Jersey.

*CSB Realty Corp.*, which is a majority owned subsidiary of 2500 Broadway Corp. CSB Realty Corp. is a real estate investment trust which holds commercial real estate, mortgage and home equity loans for investment. At December 31, 2023, total assets were approximately \$3.9 billion. In February 2024, the Board of Directors approved the dissolution of this entity, pending approval from the State of New Jersey.

*Stewardship Realty LLC*, which was formed in 2005 and acquired by the Company as a result of its acquisition of Stewardship Financial in November 2019 is a New Jersey limited liability company. At December 31, 2023, total assets were approximately \$2.2 million.

*RSI Insurance Agency, Inc.*, which was formed in 2009 and acquired by the Company as a result of its acquisition of RSI Bank in May 2022, is a full-service insurance agency and whose primary business is to offer a broad range of insurance products and investment solutions, including personal and business lines of insurance, to Columbia Bank customers and primarily New Jersey residents. At December 31, 2023, total assets were approximately \$549,000. For the year ended December 31, 2023, RSI Insurance Agency, Inc. had a net loss of approximately \$438,000.

## Information About Our Executive Officers

Our executive officers are elected annually by the board of directors and serve at the board's discretion. The following individuals currently serve as executive officers:

Name	Position
Thomas J. Kemly	President and Chief Executive Officer
E. Thomas Allen, Jr.	Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Dennis E. Gibney, CFA	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
W. Justin Jennings	Executive Vice President and Operations Officer
John Klimowich	Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Officer
Oliver E. Lewis, Jr.	Executive Vice President and Head of Commercial Banking
Manesh Prabhu	Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer
Mayra L. Rinaldi	Executive Vice President, Corporate Governance and Culture
Allyson Schlesinger	Executive Vice President and Head of Consumer Banking
Jenifer W. Walden	Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer

Below is information regarding our executive officers who are not also directors. Each executive officer has held his or her current position for the period indicated below. Ages presented are as of December 31, 2023.

E. Thomas Allen, Jr. was appointed Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer of Columbia Bank on December 24, 2014. Mr. Allen began his career with Columbia Bank on October 17, 1994 and held various positions in the finance department. He was promoted to Treasurer in 1996, appointed Vice President, Treasurer in 1998, and named Senior Vice President, Treasurer in 2001. In 2002, Mr. Allen was promoted to Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and served in that capacity until his appointment to Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Allen holds a BS/BA in Banking & Finance from the University of Missouri and an MBA in Financial Management from Pace University. Age 66.

Dennis E. Gibney, CFA was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Columbia Bank in 2014. Prior to joining Columbia Bank, Mr. Gibney worked for FinPro, Inc. a bank consulting firm, and its wholly-owned investment banking subsidiary, FinPro Capital Advisors, Inc., for 17 years. While at FinPro, Mr. Gibney worked on mergers and acquisitions, mutual-to-stock conversions, corporate valuations, strategic planning and interest rate risk management engagements for community banks. Mr. Gibney graduated Magna Cum Laude from Babson College with a triple major in Finance, Investments and Economics. He is a CFA Charterholder and a member of the New York Society of Security Analysts. Age 50.

W. Justin Jennings was appointed Executive Vice President, Operations Officer of Columbia Bank in January 2022. Prior to joining Columbia Bank, Mr. Jennings served in various positions with JP Morgan Chase & Co. since 2004. Most recently, Mr. Jennings served as Executive Director, Head of Treasury Services – Community Development Banking at JP Morgan Chase & Co. from 2020 to January 2022, served as Executive Director, Client Service Director – Commercial Real Estate at JP Morgan Chase & Co. from 2015 to 2020 and served as Executive Director, Senior Business Manager – Commercial Banking Client Services at JP Morgan Chase & Co. from 2013 to 2015. Mr. Jennings holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from The Ohio State University and received an MBA from the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza School of Business. Age 42.

John Klimowich was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Officer of Columbia Bank on October 5, 2013. Mr. Klimowich began working for Columbia Bank in November 1985 and held various positions in the accounting department. Mr. Klimowich was promoted to Senior Vice President, Controller in March 2002 and served Columbia Bank in that capacity until his appointment as Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Officer in 2013. Mr. Klimowich holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from William Paterson University and an MBA in Accounting from Seton Hall University. Age 60.

Oliver E. Lewis, Jr. was appointed Executive Vice President and Head of Commercial Banking of Columbia Bank in January 2021. Mr. Lewis began working for Columbia Bank in May 2019 and served as Senior Vice President, Commercial Banking Market Manager until his appointment as Executive Vice President and Head of Commercial Banking. In this role, Mr. Lewis is responsible for the commercial banking division consisting of Columbia Bank's commercial & industrial, SBA, middle market, commercial real estate and construction lending activities, treasury management sales and the business development department. Prior to joining Columbia Bank, Mr. Lewis served as a Market Executive at JP Morgan Chase and Treasury Services, Regional Sales Executive. Mr. Lewis holds a Bachelor's degree in Aviation Administration from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and received an MBA from Rutgers University. Age 59.

Manesh Prabhu was appointed Executive Vice President, Chief Information Officer of Columbia Bank in October 2022. In this role, Mr. Prabhu is responsible for Columbia Bank's information systems and digital banking. Mr. Prabhu has over 20 years of experience at leading institutions including People's United Bank N.A. Most recently, he held the title of Chief Technology Officer

where he led the IT strategy and technology transformation for People's United. Through his nearly 20-year tenure and senior leadership roles at People's United, Mr. Prabhu led enterprise architecture, data architecture, IT governance, business intelligence, marketing analytics, and data quality with a heavy focus on digital transformation. Mr. Prabhu holds an MBA from Thiagarajar School of Management (TSM) – Madurai Kamaraj University in India and a Bachelor of Technology in Electrical & Electronics Engineering from Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Technology (RIT) - Mahatma Gandhi University in India. Age 49.

Mayra L. Rinaldi was appointed Executive Vice President, Corporate Governance and Culture of Columbia Financial, Inc. and Columbia Bank in December 2022. In this role, Mrs. Rinaldi is responsible for overseeing the Corporate Governance, Executive Administration, Community Development and Corporate Facilities departments of the Company and the Bank. She is also responsible for the Company's and the Bank's regulatory and SEC compliance requirements, ESG strategy, which includes monitoring the effectiveness of the Bank's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives, as well as community support initiatives consisting of Team Columbia, Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) outreach and the Columbia Bank Foundation. Mrs. Rinaldi is also responsible for providing executive oversight and monitoring of the Company's and the Bank's culture to ensure that it remains aligned with Columbia's Creed of Shared Values, which is designed to ensure that all policies, products, and services, and actions throughout the Company and Bank allow team members to always act in the best interests of customers, coworkers, communities and shareholders. Mrs. Rinaldi has over 20 years of experience at the Bank, having joined the Bank in 2000 and serving in various roles since that time. Most recently, Mrs. Rinaldi has served as the Bank's Senior Vice President, Corporate Governance since 2014. Mrs. Rinaldi holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Kean University and is a graduate of the Stonier School of Banking. Age 40.

Allyson Schlesinger was appointed Executive Vice President and Head of Consumer Banking of Columbia Bank in September 2018. In this role, Ms. Schlesinger is responsible for the retail banking, retail lending, wealth management and marketing divisions of Columbia Bank. Ms. Schlesinger was previously with Citigroup, Inc. for 25 years, most recently as its Managing Director, U.S. Retail and Division Manager for Citigroup, Inc. in the New York City and New Jersey markets. Ms. Schlesinger holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. Age 52.

Jenifer W. Walden was appointed Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer of the Company and the Bank effective as of September 2022. Prior to joining the Company and the Bank, Ms. Walden spent more than two decades at Fortune 50 financial services institutions, and more recently, three smaller entities including a mid-cap bank, a technology start-up, and a global manufacturing company. From 2021 until June 2022, Ms. Walden served as the Global Director of Talent Management, Human Resources, at Nice-Pak Products. Prior to that time, Ms. Walden was Senior Vice President, Human Resources, at USEReady from 2020 to 2021 and was Director of Talent, First Senior Vice President at Valley Bank from 2018 to 2020. Ms. Walden also served as Senior HR Business Partner and IT Recruitment Leader (Prudential Insurance & Annuities) for Prudential Financial from 2013 to 2018, and as Director of Human Resources (Prudential Real Estate Investors, PGIM) for Prudential Financial from 2010 to 2013. Prior to that, Ms. Walden served in various positions with Ernst & Young LLP from 1994 to 2010. Ms. Walden is a doctoral candidate in strategic leadership at Liberty University and holds a Master's degree in Organizational Development & Leadership from St. Joseph's University and a Bachelor's degree from St. Lawrence University. Age 56.

## **Item 1A. Risk Factors**

*Investing in the Company's common stock involves risks. The investor should carefully consider the following risk factors before deciding to make an investment decision regarding the Company's stock. The risk factors may cause future earnings to be lower or the financial condition to be less favorable than expected. In addition, other risks that the Company is not aware of, or which are not believed to be material, may cause earnings to be lower, or may deteriorate the financial condition of the Company. Consideration should also be given to the other information in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, as well as in the documents incorporated by reference into this Form 10-K.*

### **Risks Related to Our Lending Activities**

#### ***Our multifamily and commercial real estate lending practices expose us to increased lending risks and related loan losses.***

At December 31, 2023, our multifamily and commercial real estate loan portfolios totaled \$3.8 billion, or 48.5% of our total loan portfolio. Our current business strategy is to continue our originations of multifamily and commercial real estate loans. These loans generally expose a lender to greater risk of non-payment and loss than one-to-four family residential mortgage loans because repayment of the loans often depends on the successful operation of the properties and the income stream of the borrowers. These loans involve larger loan balances to single borrowers or groups of related borrowers compared to one-to-four family residential mortgage loans. Further, we may increase our loans to individual borrowers, which would result in larger loan balances. To the extent that borrowers have more than one multifamily or commercial real estate loan outstanding, an adverse development with respect to one loan or one credit relationship could expose us to a significantly greater risk of loss compared to an adverse development with respect to a one-to-four family residential real estate loan. Moreover, if loans that are collateralized by multifamily or commercial real estate properties become troubled and the value of the real estate has been significantly impaired, then we may not be able to recover the full contractual amount of principal and interest that we anticipated at the time we originated the loan, which could cause us to increase our provision for credit losses and adversely affect our earnings and financial condition.

#### ***Imposition of limits by the bank regulators on commercial and multifamily real estate lending activities could curtail our growth and adversely affect our earnings.***

In 2006, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (collectively, the "Agencies") issued joint guidance entitled "Concentrations in Commercial Real Estate Lending, Sound Risk Management Practices" (the "CRE Guidance"). Although the CRE Guidance did not establish specific lending limits, it provides that a bank's commercial real estate lending exposure could receive increased supervisory scrutiny where total non-owner-occupied commercial real estate loans, including loans secured by apartment buildings, investor commercial real estate, and construction and land loans, represent 300% or more of an institution's total risk-based capital, and the outstanding balance of the commercial real estate loan portfolio has increased by approximately 50% during the preceding 36 months. The balance of these real estate loans represented 315.2% of Columbia Bank's total risk-based capital at December 31, 2023, and our commercial real estate loan portfolio increased by 17.4% during the preceding 36 months.

In December 2015, the Agencies released a new statement on prudent risk management for commercial real estate lending (the "2015 Statement"). In the 2015 Statement, the Agencies, among other things, indicate the intent to continue "to pay special attention" to commercial real estate lending activities and concentrations going forward. If the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, our primary federal regulator, were to impose restrictions on the amount of commercial real estate loans we can hold in our portfolio, for reasons noted above or otherwise, our earnings would be adversely affected.

#### ***Our origination of construction loans exposes us to increased lending risks.***

We originate commercial construction loans, including speculative construction loans, primarily to professional builders for the construction and acquisition of personal residences, apartment buildings, retail, industrial/warehouse, office buildings and special purpose facilities. Speculative construction loans are loans made to builders who have not identified a buyer for the completed property at the time of loan origination. At December 31, 2023, \$443.1 million, or 5.7%, of our loan portfolio, consisted of construction loans, of which \$296.2 million, or 66.9% consisted of speculative construction loans. In addition, we originate residential construction loans primarily on a construction-to-permanent basis with such loans converting to an amortizing loan following the completion of the construction phase. Our construction loans present a greater level of risk than loans secured by improved, occupied real estate due to: (1) the increased difficulty at the time the loan is made of estimating the building costs and the selling price of the property to be built; (2) the increased difficulty and costs of monitoring the loan; (3) the higher degree of sensitivity to increases in market rates of interest; and (4) the increased difficulty of working out loan problems. In addition, with respect to speculative construction loans, repayment often depends on the successful construction or development and ultimate sale of the property and, possibly, unrelated cash needs of the borrowers. Further, construction costs may exceed original estimates as a result of increased materials, labor or other costs. Construction loans also often involve the disbursement of funds with repayment dependent, in part, on the success of the project and the ability of the borrower to sell or lease the property or refinance the indebtedness.

***Our concentration of residential mortgage loans exposes us to increased lending risks.***

At December 31, 2023, \$2.8 billion or 35.6% of our loan portfolio was secured by one-to-four family real estate, a significant majority of which is located in the State of New Jersey, and to a lesser extent New York and Pennsylvania, and we intend to continue this type of lending in the foreseeable future. One-to-four family residential mortgage lending is generally sensitive to regional and local economic conditions that significantly impact the ability of borrowers to meet their loan payment obligations, making loss levels difficult to predict. A decline in residential real estate values as a result of a downturn in the local housing market or in the markets in neighboring states in which we originate residential mortgage loans could reduce the value of the real estate collateral securing these types of loans. Declines in real estate values could cause some of our residential mortgages to be inadequately collateralized, which would expose us to a greater risk of loss if we seek to recover on defaulted loans by selling the real estate collateral.

***Our commercial business lending activities exposes us to additional lending risks.***

We make commercial business loans in our market area to a variety of professionals, sole proprietorships, partnerships and corporations. Unlike residential mortgage loans, which generally are made on the basis of the borrower's ability to make repayment from his or her employment or other income, and which are secured by real property, the value of which tends to be more easily ascertainable, commercial business loans are of higher risk and typically are made on the basis of the borrower's ability to make repayment from the cash flow of the borrower's business. As a result, the availability of funds for the repayment of commercial business loans may depend substantially on the success of the business itself. Further, any collateral securing such loans may depreciate over time, may be difficult to appraise, may fluctuate in value and may depend on the borrower's ability to collect receivables. We have increased our focus on commercial business lending in recent years and intend to continue to focus on this type of lending in the future.

***If our allowance for credit losses is not sufficient to cover actual loan losses, our results of operations would be negatively affected.***

In determining the amount of the allowance for credit losses, we evaluate loans individually and establish credit loss allowances for specifically identified impairments. For loans not individually analyzed, we estimate losses and establish reserves based on reasonable and supportable forecasts and adjustments for qualitative factors. If the assumptions used in our calculated methodology are inaccurate, our allowance of credit losses may not be sufficient to cover losses inherent in our loan portfolio, which may require additions to our allowance and may decrease our net income. Our emphasis on loan growth and on increasing our portfolio, as well as any future credit deterioration, will require us to increase our allowance further in the future.

In addition, our banking regulators periodically review our allowance for credit losses and may require us to increase our provision for credit losses. Any increase in our allowance for credit losses or loan charge-offs as required by regulatory authorities may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

***The geographic concentration of our loan portfolio and lending activities makes us vulnerable to a downturn in the New Jersey and metropolitan New York and Philadelphia economies.***

While there is not a single employer or industry in our market area on which a significant number of our customers are dependent, a substantial portion of our loan portfolio is comprised of loans secured by property located in northern New Jersey and in metropolitan New York and Philadelphia. This makes us vulnerable to a downturn in the local economy and real estate markets. Adverse conditions in the local economy such as unemployment, recession, a catastrophic event or other factors beyond our control could impact the ability of our borrowers to repay their loans, which could impact our net interest income. Decreases in local real estate values caused by economic conditions, recent changes in tax laws or other events could adversely affect the value of the property used as collateral for our loans, which could cause us to realize a loss in the event of a foreclosure. Further, deterioration in local economic conditions could drive the level of loan losses beyond the level we have provided for in our allowance for loan losses, which in turn could necessitate an increase in our provision for credit losses and a resulting reduction to our earnings and capital.

***Economic conditions could result in increases in our level of non-performing loans and/or reduce demand for our products and services, which could have an adverse effect on our results of operations.***

Prolonged deteriorating economic conditions could significantly affect the markets in which we do business, the value of our loans and securities, and our ongoing operations, costs and profitability. Further, declines in real estate values and sales volumes and elevated unemployment levels may result in higher loan delinquencies, increases in our non-performing and classified assets and a decline in demand for our products and services. These events may cause us to incur losses and may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. Reduction in problem assets can be slow, and the process can be exacerbated by the condition of the properties securing non-performing loans and the lengthy foreclosure process in New Jersey. To the extent that we must work through the resolution of assets, economic problems may cause us to incur losses and adversely affect our capital, liquidity, and financial condition.

## Risks Related to Our Growth Strategies

*Our business strategy includes growth, and our financial condition and results of operations could be negatively affected if we fail to grow or fail to manage our growth effectively. Growing our operations could also cause our expenses to increase faster than our revenues.*

Our business strategy includes growth in assets and deposits and the scale of our operations. Achieving such growth will require us to attract customers that currently bank at other financial institutions in our market area. Our ability to successfully grow will depend on a variety of factors, including our ability to attract and retain experienced bankers, the continued availability of desirable business opportunities, competition from other financial institutions in our market area and our ability to manage our growth. Growth opportunities may not be available or we may not be able to manage our growth successfully. If we do not manage our growth effectively, our financial condition and operating results could be negatively affected. Furthermore, there can be considerable costs involved in expanding deposit and lending capacity that generally require a period of time to generate the necessary revenues to offset their costs, especially in areas in which we do not have an established presence and that require alternative delivery methods. Accordingly, any such business expansion can be expected to negatively impact our earnings for some period of time until certain economies of scale are reached. Our expenses could be further increased if we encounter delays in modernizing existing facilities, opening new branches or deploying new services.

*We are subject to certain risks in connection with our strategy of growing through mergers and acquisitions.*

Mergers and acquisitions are currently a component of our business model and growth strategy. Since November 2019, we have acquired Atlantic Stewardship Bank, Roselle Bank, Freehold Bank and RSI Bank. It is possible that we could acquire other banking institutions, other financial services companies or branches of banks in the future. Acquisitions typically involve the payment of a premium over book and trading values and, therefore, may result in the dilution of our tangible book value per share. Our ability to engage in future mergers and acquisitions depends on various factors, including: (1) our ability to identify suitable merger partners and acquisition opportunities; (2) our ability to finance and complete transactions on acceptable terms and at acceptable prices; and (3) our ability to receive the necessary regulatory and, when required, stockholder approvals. Our inability to engage in an acquisition or merger for any of these reasons could have an adverse impact on the implementation of our business strategies. Furthermore, mergers and acquisitions involve a number of risks and challenges, including (1) our ability to achieve planned synergies and to integrate the branches and operations we acquire, and the internal controls and regulatory functions into our current operations; (2) the integration process could adversely affect our ability to maintain relationships with existing customers; (3) the diversion of management's attention from existing operations, which may adversely affect our ability to successfully conduct our business and negatively impact our financial results and (4) our ability to identify potential asset quality issues or contingent liabilities during the due diligence process.

*Our consolidated assets now exceed \$10 billion, which will result in increased regulation and supervision for the Bank and may also result in increased costs and/or reduced revenues.*

As of December 31, 2023, the Company had on a consolidated basis, total assets of \$10.6 billion. Accordingly, we are subject to certain regulations that apply only to depository institution holding companies or depository institutions with total consolidated assets of \$10 billion or more, and the regulatory costs resulting from the Company having total consolidated assets of \$10 billion or more may negatively impact the Company's revenue and earnings.

Debit card interchange fee restrictions set forth in Section 1075 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which is known as the Durbin Amendment, as implemented by regulations of the Federal Reserve, cap the maximum debit interchange fee that a debit card issuer may receive per transaction at the sum of \$0.21 plus five basis points. A debit card issuer that adopts certain fraud prevention procedures may charge an additional \$0.01 per transaction. Debit card issuers with total consolidated assets of less than \$10 billion are exempt from these interchange fee restrictions. The exemption for small issuers ceases to apply as of July 1st of the year following the calendar year in which the debit card issuer has total consolidated assets of \$10 billion or more at calendar year-end. As a result, we became subject to the interchange restrictions of the Durbin Amendment beginning July 1, 2023.

In addition, an insured depository institution with total assets of \$10 billion or more is subject to supervision, examination, and enforcement with respect to consumer protection laws by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, or the CFPB. Under its current policies, the CFPB will assert jurisdiction in the first quarter after the call reports of a depository institution show total consolidated assets of \$10 billion or more for four consecutive quarters. As a result, if our total consolidated assets continued to exceed \$10 billion through the quarter ending September 30, 2024, we will become subject to CFPB supervision, examination and enforcement at the beginning of the quarter ending December 31, 2024.

There are other regulatory requirements that apply to insured depository institution holding companies and insured depository institutions with total consolidated assets of \$10 billion or more. These include, but are not limited to, (i) the establishment by publicly traded depository institution holding companies with \$10 billion or more in assets of a risk committee responsible for oversight of enterprise-wide risk management practices that are commensurate with the entity's structure, risk profile, complexity, activities and size and (ii) an institution with total consolidated assets of \$10 billion or more no longer being entitled to benefit from the FDIC's



offset of the effect of the increase in the statutory minimum Deposit Insurance Fund reserve ratio to 1.35% from the former statutory minimum of 1.15% that is required for institutions with assets of less than \$10 billion by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

In addition, Congress and/or regulatory agencies may impose new requirements or surcharges on these institutions in the future. The Economic Growth, Regulatory Reform, and Consumer Protection Act, which was enacted on May 24, 2018, includes provisions that, as they are implemented, relieve banking organizations with total consolidated assets of less than \$10 billion (and that satisfy certain other conditions) from risk-based capital requirements, restrictions on proprietary trading and investment and sponsorship in hedge funds and private equity funds known as the Volcker Rule, and certain other regulatory requirements. Because our total consolidated assets are now in excess of \$10 billion, we no longer qualify for any of the foregoing relief.

The increased regulatory costs resulting from the Company having total consolidated assets of \$10 billion or more may negatively impact the Company's revenue and earnings.

#### **Risks Related to Our Business and Industry Generally**

##### ***Ineffective liquidity management could adversely affect our financial results and condition.***

Effective liquidity management is essential for the operation of our business. We require sufficient liquidity to meet customer loan requests, customer deposit maturities/withdrawals, payments on our debt obligations as they come due and other cash commitments under both normal operating conditions and other unpredictable circumstances causing industry or general financial market stress. Our access to funding sources in amounts adequate to finance our activities on terms that are acceptable to us could be impaired by factors that affect us specifically or the financial services industry or economy generally. Factors that could detrimentally impact our access to liquidity sources include a downturn in the geographic markets in which our loans and operations are concentrated or difficult credit markets. Our access to deposits may also be affected by the liquidity needs of our depositors. In particular, a majority of our liabilities are checking accounts and other liquid deposits, which are payable on demand or upon several days' notice, while by comparison, a substantial majority of our assets are loans, which cannot be called or sold in the same time frame. Although we have historically been able to replace maturing deposits and advances as necessary, we might not be able to replace such funds in the future, especially if a large number of our depositors seek to withdraw their accounts, regardless of the reason. A failure to maintain adequate liquidity could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations or financial condition.

##### ***Changes in interest rates or the shape of the yield curve may hurt our profits and asset values and our strategies for managing interest rate risk may not be effective.***

We are subject to significant interest rate risk as a financial institution with a high percentage of fixed rate loans and certificates of deposit on our balance sheet. Our interest-bearing liabilities reprice or mature more quickly than our interest-earning assets. Changes in the general level of interest rates can affect our net interest income by affecting the difference between the weighted-average yield earned on our interest-earning assets and the weighted-average rate paid on our interest-bearing liabilities, or interest rate spread, and the average life of our interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities. Changes in interest rates also can affect: (1) our ability to originate loans; (2) the value of our interest-earning assets and our ability to realize gains from the sale of such assets; (3) our ability to obtain and retain deposits in competition with other available investment alternatives; and (4) the ability of our borrowers to repay their loans, particularly adjustable or variable rate loans. Interest rates are highly sensitive to many factors, including government monetary policies, domestic and international economic and political conditions and other factors beyond our control.

##### ***Financial challenges at other banking institutions could lead to depositor concerns that spread within the banking industry causing disruptive and destabilizing deposit outflows.***

In March 2023, Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank experienced large deposit outflows coupled with insufficient liquidity to meet withdrawal demands, resulting in the institutions being placed into FDIC receivership. Additionally, in May 2023, First Republic Bank experienced similar circumstances which resulted in the institution being placed in FDIC receivership. In the aftermath of these events, there has been substantial market disruption and concerns that diminished depositor confidence could spread across the banking industry, leading to deposit outflows that could destabilize other institutions. To strengthen public confidence in the banking system, the FDIC took action to protect funds held in uninsured deposit accounts at Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank following the placement of those institutions into receivership. However, the FDIC has not committed to protecting uninsured deposits in other institutions that experience outsized withdrawal demands. To further bolster the banking system, the Federal Reserve Board created a new Bank Term Funding Program to provide an additional source of liquidity. At December 31, 2023, we had approximately \$3.4 billion in available liquidity, including \$423.2 million in cash and cash equivalents, which was sufficient to cover our uninsured deposits. Notwithstanding our significant liquidity, large deposit outflows could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations and could result in the closure of the Bank. Furthermore, the recent bank failures may result in strengthening of capital and liquidity rules which, if the revised rules apply to us, could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

***Municipal deposits are an important source of funds for us and a reduced level of such deposits may hurt our profits.***

Municipal deposits are an important source of funds for our lending and investment activities. At December 31, 2023, \$861.8 million, or 11.0%, of our total deposits were comprised of municipal deposits, including public funds deposits from local government entities primarily domiciled in the State of New Jersey. Given our use of these high-average balance municipal deposits as a source of funds, our inability to retain such funds could have an adverse effect on our liquidity. In addition, our municipal deposits are primarily demand deposit accounts or short-term deposits and therefore are more sensitive to changes in interest rates. If we are forced to pay higher rates on our municipal deposits to retain those funds, or if we are unable to retain those funds and we are forced to turn to borrowing sources for our lending and investment activities, the interest expense associated with such borrowings may be higher than the rates we are paying on our municipal deposits, which could adversely affect our net income.

***We are dependent on our information technology and telecommunications systems and third-party service providers; systems failures, interruptions and cybersecurity breaches could have a material adverse effect on us.***

Our business is dependent on the successful and uninterrupted functioning of our information technology and telecommunications systems and third-party service providers. The failure of these systems, or the termination of a third-party software license or service agreement on which any of these systems is based, could interrupt our operations. Because our information technology and telecommunications systems interface with and depend on third-party systems, we could experience service denials if demand for such services exceeds capacity or such third-party systems fail or experience interruptions. If significant, sustained or repeated, a system failure or service denial could compromise our ability to operate effectively, damage our reputation, result in a loss of customer business, and/or subject us to additional regulatory scrutiny and possible financial liability, any of which could have a material adverse effect on us.

Our third-party service providers may be vulnerable to unauthorized access, computer viruses, phishing schemes and other security breaches. We likely will expend additional resources to protect against the threat of such security breaches and computer viruses, or to alleviate problems caused by such security breaches or viruses. To the extent that the activities of our third-party service providers or the activities of our customers involve the storage and transmission of confidential information, security breaches and viruses could expose us to claims, regulatory scrutiny, litigation costs and other possible liabilities.

***Security breaches and cybersecurity threats could compromise our information and expose us to liability, which would cause our business and reputation to suffer.***

In the ordinary course of our business, we collect and store sensitive data, including our proprietary business information and that of our customers, suppliers and business partners, as well as personally identifiable information about our customers and employees. The secure processing, maintenance and transmission of this information is critical to our operations and business strategy. We, our customers, and other financial institutions with which we interact, are subject to ongoing, continuous attempts to penetrate key systems by individual hackers, organized criminals, and in some cases, state-sponsored organizations.

While we have established policies and procedures to prevent or limit the impact of cyber attacks, there can be no assurance that such events will not occur or will be adequately addressed if they do. In addition, we also outsource certain cybersecurity functions, such as penetration testing to third party service providers, and the failure of these service providers to adequately perform such functions could increase our exposure to security breaches and cybersecurity threats. Despite our security measures, our information technology and infrastructure may be vulnerable to attacks by hackers or breached due to employee error, malfeasance or other malicious code and cyber attacks that could have an impact on information security. Any such breach or attacks could compromise our networks and the information stored could be accessed, publicly disclosed, lost or stolen. Any such unauthorized access, disclosure or other loss of information could result in legal claims or proceedings, liability under laws that protect the privacy of personal information, and regulatory penalties; disrupt our operations and the services we provide to customers; damage our reputation; and cause a loss of confidence in our products and services, all of which could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

***We must keep pace with technological change to remain competitive.***

Financial products and services have become increasingly technology driven. Our ability to meet the needs of our customers competitively, and in a cost-efficient manner, is dependent on the ability to keep pace with technological advances and to invest in new technology as it becomes available, as well as related essential personnel. In addition, technology has lowered barriers to entry into the financial services market and made it possible for financial technology companies and other non-bank entities to offer financial products and services traditionally provided by banks. The ability to keep pace with technological change is important, and the failure to do so, due to cost, proficiency or otherwise, could have a material adverse impact on our business and therefore on our financial condition and results of operations.

***Because the nature of the financial services business involves a high volume of transactions, we face significant operational risks.***

We operate in diverse markets and rely on the ability of our employees and systems to process a high number of transactions. Operational risk is the risk of loss resulting from our operations, including but not limited to, the risk of fraud by employees or outside persons, the execution of unauthorized transactions by employees, errors relating to transaction processing and technology, breaches of our internal control system and compliance requirements, and business continuation and disaster recovery. Insurance coverage may not be available for such losses, or where available, such losses may exceed insurance limits. This risk of loss also includes the potential legal actions that could arise as a result of an operational deficiency or as a result of noncompliance with applicable regulations, adverse business decisions or their implementation, and customer attrition due to potential negative publicity. Although our control testing has not identified any significant deficiencies in our internal control system, a breakdown in our internal control system, improper operation of our systems or improper employee actions could result in material financial loss to us, the imposition of regulatory action, and damage to our reputation.

***The building of market share through our branch office strategy, and our ability to achieve profitability on new branch offices, may increase our expenses and negatively affect our earnings.***

We believe there are branch expansion opportunities within our market area and adjacent markets, including other states, and will seek to grow our deposit base by adding branches to our existing branch network. There are considerable costs involved in opening branch offices, especially in light of the capabilities needed to compete in today's environment. Moreover, new branch offices generally require a period of time to generate sufficient revenues to offset their costs, especially in areas in which we do not have an established presence. Accordingly, new branch offices could negatively impact our earnings and may do so for some period of time. Our investments in products and services, and the related personnel required to implement new policies and procedures, take time to earn returns and can be expected to negatively impact our earnings for the foreseeable future. The profitability of our expansion strategy will depend on whether the income that we generate from the new branch offices will offset the increased expenses resulting from operating these branch offices.

***Strong competition within our market area could hurt our profits and slow growth.***

Our profitability depends upon our continued ability to compete successfully in our market area. We face intense competition both in making loans and attracting deposits. We continue to face stiff competition for one-to-four family residential loans from other financial service providers, including large national residential lenders and local community banks. Other competitors for one-to-four family residential loans include credit unions and mortgage brokers which keep overhead costs and mortgage rates down by selling loans and not holding or servicing them. Our competitors for commercial real estate and multifamily loans include other community banks, commercial lenders and insurance companies, some of which are larger than us and have greater resources and lending limits than we have and offer services that we do not provide, along with government agencies such as Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae and Ginnie Mae. Price competition for loans and deposits might result in us earning less on our loans and paying more on our deposits, which reduces net interest income. We expect competition to remain strong in the future.

***Inflationary pressures and rising prices may impact our results of operations and financial condition.***

Inflation continued to rise in 2023 and may remain elevated in 2024. Smaller businesses may be impacted more during periods of high inflation, as they are not able to leverage economies of scale to mitigate cost pressures compared to larger businesses. Consequently, the ability of some of our business customers to repay their loans may deteriorate, and a prolonged period of inflation could cause wages and other costs to the Company to increase, which could adversely impact our results of operations and financial condition.

***Acts of terrorism and other external events could impact our ability to conduct business.***

Financial institutions have been and continue to be targets of terrorist threats aimed at compromising operating and communication systems. Additionally, the metropolitan New York area and northern New Jersey remain central targets for potential acts of terrorism. Such events could cause significant damage, impact the stability of our facilities and result in additional expenses, impair the ability of our borrowers to repay their loans, reduce the value of collateral securing repayment of our loans, and result in the loss of revenue. The occurrence of any such event could have a material adverse effect on our business, operations and financial condition.

***Climate change, severe weather, global pandemics, natural disasters, and other external events could significantly impact our business.***

Natural disasters, including severe weather events, global pandemics, and other adverse external events could have a significant impact on our ability to conduct business or upon third parties who perform operational services for us. Such events could affect the stability of our deposit base, impair the ability of borrowers to repay outstanding loans, impair the value of collateral securing loans, cause significant property damage, result in lost revenue, or cause us to incur additional expenses.

***Economic, social and political conditions or civil unrest in the United States, may affect the markets in which we operate, our customers, our ability to provide customer service, and could have a material adverse impact on our business, results of operations, or financial condition.***

Our business may be adversely affected by instability, disruption or destruction in the markets in which we operate, regardless of cause, including war, terrorism, riot, civil insurrection or social unrest, and natural or man-made disasters, including storm or other events beyond our control. Such events can increase levels of political and economic unpredictability, result in property damage and business closures within in our markets and increase the volatility of the financial markets. Any of these effects could have a material and adverse impact on our business and results of operations. These events also pose significant risks to the Company's personnel and to physical facilities, transportation and operations, which could materially adversely affect the Company's financial results.

***Regulation of the financial services industry is intense, and we may be adversely affected by changes in laws and regulations.***

We are subject to extensive government regulation, supervision and examination. Such regulation, supervision and examination govern the activities in which we may engage and are intended primarily for the protection of the federal deposit insurance fund and Columbia Bank's depositors. Any future legislative or regulatory changes could have a material impact on our profitability, the value of assets held for investment or the value of collateral for loans. Future legislative changes could also require changes to business practices and potentially expose us to additional costs, liabilities, enforcement action and reputational risk. Federal regulatory agencies also have the ability to take strong supervisory actions against financial institutions that have experienced increased loan production and losses and other underwriting weaknesses or have compliance weaknesses. These actions include entering into formal or informal written agreements and cease and desist orders that place certain limitations on their operations, and/or they can impose fines. If we were to become subject to a regulatory action, such action could negatively impact our ability to execute our business plan, and result in operational restrictions, as well as our ability to grow, pay dividends, repurchase stock or engage in mergers and acquisitions. See "Item 1: Business—Regulation and Supervision-Federal Banking Regulations-Capital Requirements" for a discussion of regulatory capital requirements.

***We face significant legal risks, both from regulatory investigations and proceedings, and from private actions brought against us.***

As a financial services company, many aspects of our business involve substantial risk of legal liability. From time to time, customers and others make claims and take legal action pertaining to the performance of our responsibilities. Whether customer claims and legal action related to the performance of our responsibilities are founded or unfounded, if such claims and legal actions are not resolved in a manner favorable to us, they may result in significant expenses, attention from management and financial liability. Any financial liability or reputational damage could have a material adverse effect on our business, which, in turn, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. There is no assurance that litigation with private parties will not increase in the future. In addition, regulatory actions or investigations may result in judgments, settlements, fines, penalties or other results adverse to us, which could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations, or cause reputational harm to us.

***Increasing scrutiny and evolving expectations from customers, regulators, investors, and other stockholders with respect to our ESG practices may impose additional costs on us or expose us to new or additional risks.***

Companies are facing increasing scrutiny from customers, regulators, investors, and other stockholders related to their ESG practices and disclosure. Investor advocacy groups, investment funds and influential investors are also increasingly focused on these practices, especially as they relate to the environment, health and safety, diversity, labor conditions and human rights. Increased ESG related compliance costs could result in increases to our overall operational costs. Failure to adapt to or comply with regulatory requirements or investor or shareholder expectations and standards could negatively impact our reputation, ability to do business with certain partners, and our stock price. New government regulations could also result in new or more stringent forms of ESG oversight and expanding mandatory and voluntary reporting, diligence, and disclosure.

**Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments**

None.

**Item 1C. Cybersecurity**

The Company's information security program is managed through an effective enterprise-wide cybersecurity strategy, policies, standards, architecture, and processes. The Company is committed to compliance with the International Organization for Standardization's recognized cyber incident and cyber risk management frameworks. We are dedicated to cybersecurity and maintaining the trust and confidence of our customers and stockholders.

The Company recognizes the increasing threats posed by cyber incidents and is dedicated to implementing robust cybersecurity practices. We have a comprehensive cybersecurity program designed to protect sensitive information, ensure the integrity of financial transactions, and maintain the confidentiality of our customers' data.

We have established procedures for timely reporting of significant cybersecurity incidents; our commitment involves promptly notifying regulatory authorities, customers, and other stakeholders in the event of any material cyber incidents that may impact our operations or the security of sensitive information. In particular, we have enhanced disclosure controls and procedures to meet the requirement to report material cybersecurity incidents on Form 8-K within four business days after we determine that an incident is material.

Additionally, we maintain a proactive cyber risk management framework to identify, assess, and mitigate potential risks. Our cybersecurity policies and practices are regularly reviewed and updated to address emerging threats. We work closely with industry experts and third-party vendors and leverage advanced technologies to enhance our effort to continually provide adequate cyber defenses.

The Company uses a multiple lines of defense management approach to managing cybersecurity. The Company's cybersecurity operations function is headed by the Vice President Information Security Officer ("ISO") who is responsible for managing information security risks by developing and implementing information security strategies, architecture, and procedures and acts as the first line of defense. The ISO leads a team of security professionals in safeguarding the Company's critical data, systems, and assets against threats, breaches, and attacks. The ISO is responsible for ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information assets.

The information security program, policies, and standards are managed by the Vice President of Enterprise Technology Risk Management ("ETRM"), who leads the Company's enterprise-wide technology risk management function. The ETRM function acts as the second line of defense and provides independent risk oversight for the Company's technology operating infrastructure and Operations. The ETRM function manages testing of technology controls, technology risk assessments, risk reporting, information security third-party due diligence, monitoring the implementation of risk mitigation actions, and tracking their effectiveness over time. The Company's internal audit department acts as the third line of defense, providing the independent assurance function.

Concerning governance, oversight, and compliance, the Board of Directors plays an active role in overseeing our cybersecurity program. Regular briefings on cyber risk management and incident response activities are conducted, ensuring a high level of governance and accountability in addressing cybersecurity concerns. The Bank provides periodic reports to our Technology Committee and our Board of Directors, as well as to our senior management team as appropriate. These reports include updates on the Company's cyber risks and threats, the status of projects to strengthen our information security systems, assessments of the information security program, and the emerging threat landscape.

We are firm in our commitment to collaborate with regulatory authorities to enhance industry-wide cybersecurity standards. Given the continuously evolving cyber threat landscape, we are committed to continuous improvement in our cybersecurity practices. Regular assessments, testing, audits, and training are conducted to adapt to emerging threats and enhance our ability to safeguard the interests of our customers.

The Company remains dedicated in its commitment to cybersecurity and compliance cyber risk management and will continue to invest in and prioritize cybersecurity to protect all critical information.

**Item 2. Properties**

We conduct our business through (i) Columbia Bank's main office and 65 branch offices located in Bergen, Passaic, Morris, Essex, Union, Middlesex, Monmouth, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Somerset and Hunterdon Counties in New Jersey and (ii) Freehold Bank's two branch offices in Monmouth County, New Jersey. We own 31 properties and lease the other 34 properties. First Jersey Title Services, Inc. and RSI Insurance Agency, Inc. operate within two of Columbia Bank's branch facilities.

**Item 3. Legal Proceedings**

From time to time, we are involved in routine legal proceedings in the ordinary course of business. Such routine legal proceedings, in the aggregate, are believed by management to be immaterial to our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

**Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures**

None.

## PART II

### Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

#### Stock Listing and Holders

The Company's common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market ("Nasdaq") under the trading symbol "CLBK." As of February 23, 2024 the Company had approximately 3,360 holders of record of common stock.

#### Dividends

The Company has not declared any dividends to holders of its common stock., and we do not currently anticipate paying dividends on our common stock. Our board of directors has the authority to declare dividends on our shares of common stock, and may determine to pay dividends in the future, subject to statutory and regulatory requirements and other considerations such as the ability of Columbia Bank MHC to receive permission to waive receipt of any dividends we may determine to declare in the future.

A policy statement issued by the Federal Reserve Board provides that dividends should be paid only out of current earnings and only if our prospective rate of earnings retention is consistent with our capital needs, asset quality and overall financial condition. Regulatory guidance also provides for prior regulatory consultation with respect to capital distributions in certain circumstances, such as where a holding company's net income for the past four quarters, net of dividends previously paid over that period, is insufficient to fully fund the dividend or a holding company's overall rate of earnings retention is inconsistent with its capital needs and overall financial condition. In determining whether to pay a cash dividend in the future and the amount of any cash dividend, the board of directors is expected to take into account a number of factors, including regulatory capital requirements, our financial condition and results of operations, other uses of funds for the long-term value of stockholders, tax considerations, statutory and regulatory limitations and general economic conditions.

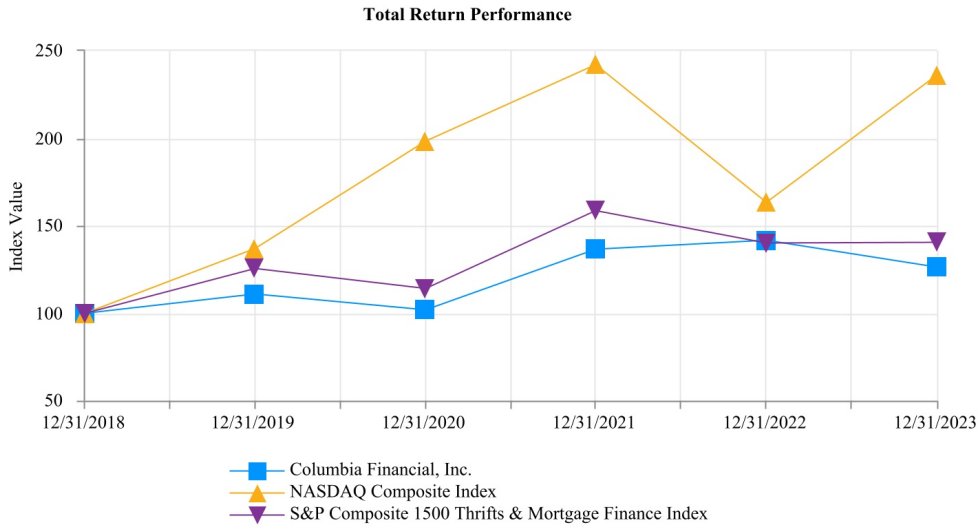
If Columbia Financial pays dividends to its stockholders, it also will be required to pay dividends to Columbia Bank MHC, unless Columbia Bank MHC is permitted by the Federal Reserve to waive the receipt of dividends. The Federal Reserve Board's current position is to not permit a "non-grandfathered" mutual holding company, such as Columbia Bank MHC, to waive dividends declared by its subsidiary. Columbia Bank MHC may determine to apply to the Federal Reserve Board for approval to waive dividends if we determine to pay dividends to our stockholders without dilution of minority stockholders in the event of a second-step conversion to stock form. Given the Federal Reserve Board's current position on this issue, there is no assurance that any request by Columbia Bank MHC to waive dividends from Columbia Financial would be permitted. The denial by the Federal Reserve Board of any such dividend waiver request, if sought, could significantly affect any determination by Columbia Financial to pay dividends or the amount of any dividend it might determine to pay in the future, if any.

Dividends we can declare and pay will depend, in part, upon receipt of dividends from Columbia Bank and, to a lesser extent, Freehold Bank. Regulations of the Federal Reserve Board and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency impose limitations on "capital distributions" by savings institutions. See "*Item 1: Business-Regulation and Supervision—Federal Banking Regulations—Capital Distributions.*"

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**Stock Performance Graph**

The following graph provided by S&P Global Market Intelligence compares the cumulative total return of the Company’s common stock with the cumulative total return of the Nasdaq Composite Index, and S&P Composite 1500 Thrifts & Mortgage Finance Index. The graph assumes \$100 was invested on December 31, 2018. Cumulative total return assumes reinvestment of all dividends. The performance graph is being furnished solely to accompany this report pursuant to Item 201(e) of Regulation S-K, and is not being filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and is not to be incorporated by reference into any filing of the Company, whether made before or after the date hereof, regardless of any general incorporation language in such filing.



Index	Period Ending					
	12/31/2018	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023
Columbia Financial, Inc.	100.00	110.79	101.77	136.43	141.40	126.10
NASDAQ Composite Index	100.00	136.69	198.10	242.03	163.28	236.17
S&P Composite 1500 Thrifts & Mortgage Finance Index	100.00	125.46	113.94	158.62	139.85	140.55

Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence

### Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table sets forth information about the Company's common stock that may be issued upon the exercise of stock options, warrants and rights under all of the Company's equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2023:

Plan Category	(A) Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding options	(B) Weighted Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options	(C) Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column (A))
<b>Equity compensation plans approved by stockholders:</b>			
2019 Equity Incentive Plan	3,584,069	\$ 16.20	2,284,621
<b>Equity compensation plans not yet approved by stockholders:</b>			
None.	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	3,584,069	\$ 16.20	2,284,621

### Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The following table reports information regarding repurchases of the Company's common stock during the quarter ended December 31, 2023:

Period	Total Number of Shares <sup>(2)</sup>	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs <sup>(1)</sup>	Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
October 1 - 31, 2023	127,487	\$ 15.83	124,420	1,121,041
November 1 - 30, 2023	14,000	16.38	14,000	1,107,041
December 1 - 31, 2023	6,826	19.18	200	1,106,841
<b>Total</b>	148,313	\$ 16.04	138,620	

(1) On May 25, 2023, the Company announced that its Board of Directors authorized the Company's sixth stock repurchase program to acquire up to 2,000,000 shares, or approximately 1.9% of the Company's then issued and outstanding common stock.

(2) During the three months ended December 31, 2023, 1,943 shares were repurchased pursuant to forfeitures and 7,750 shares were repurchased for taxes related to the 2019 Equity Incentive Plan and not as part of a share repurchase program.





## PART II

### Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The objective of this section is to help potential investors understand our views on our results of operations and financial condition. You should read this discussion in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes to the consolidated financial statements that appear at the end of this report.

#### Executive Summary

Our primary source of pre-tax income is net interest income. Net interest income is the difference between the interest we earn on our loans and securities and the interest we pay on our deposits and borrowings. Changes in levels of interest rates as well as the balances of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities affect our net interest income.

A secondary source of income is non-interest income, which is revenue we receive from providing products and services. Traditionally, the majority of our non-interest income has come from service charges, loan fees, interchange income, gains on sales of loans and securities, revenue from mortgage servicing, income from bank-owned life insurance and fee income from title insurance, insurance agency and wealth management businesses.

The non-interest expense we incur in operating our business consists of salaries and employee benefits expenses, occupancy expenses, depreciation, amortization and maintenance expenses, data processing and software expenses and other miscellaneous expenses, such as loan expenses, advertising, insurance, professional services and federal deposit insurance premiums. Our largest non-interest expense is salaries and employee benefits, which consist primarily of salaries and wages paid to our employees, payroll taxes, and expenses for health insurance, retirement plans and other employee benefits.

Our business results are impacted by the pace of economic growth and the level of market interest rates, and the difference between short-term and long-term rates. Competition among banks to secure new customers, loans and deposits has remained fierce, and interest rate spreads have again declined over the last few years. We continue to adhere to our prudent underwriting standards and are committed to originating quality loans. Additionally, we have maintained relatively low levels of non-performing assets, past due loans and charge-offs, through all economic environments.

#### Business Strategy

Our business strategy is to continue to operate and grow Columbia Bank as a profitable community-oriented financial institution and to continue to shift our focus to more business-oriented commercial banking. We plan to achieve this by:

##### *Increasing earnings through the growth of our balance sheet.*

We intend to continue to grow our balance sheet through organic growth of loans and securities, funded by growth of deposits and borrowings. We expect that this growth will increase revenue faster than the growth of expenses, resulting in increased earnings over time.

As part of our growth strategy, we will seek to grow our loan portfolio and deposit base at consistent rates of growth. We have a diversified loan portfolio, which includes multifamily and commercial real estate loans, residential mortgage loans, residential and commercial construction loans, commercial business loans and consumer loans (primarily home equity loans and advances). While we intend to continue our focus on originations of one-to-four family residential mortgage loans as we grow our loan portfolio, we expect to continue to shift the mix of our loans over time, from residential mortgage loans, toward commercial loans and, correspondingly, shift our deposit mix toward commercial deposits, particularly non-interest-bearing checking accounts. These strategies along with continued deposit pricing discipline are expected to enhance our net interest margin.

##### *Expanding our commercial business relationships.*

Historically, our commercial loan products have consisted primarily of loans secured by multifamily and commercial real estate and construction loans. As part of our growth strategy, we intend to continue our increased focus on commercial business lending, which offers shorter terms and variable rates, helps to manage interest rate risk exposure, and provides us with an opportunity to offer a full range of our products and services, including cash management, and deposit products to commercial customers. In 2023, most of our commercial banking customers had deposit accounts with us.

In 2023, our commercial business loans increased 7.2% from the year ended December 31, 2022 which was primarily due to a stable volume of originations coupled with a decrease in repayment activity on these loans. Historically, we have focused on commercial business lending in New Jersey with only a minimal volume from neighboring states, but anticipate that we will increase the amount of loans originated in Pennsylvania and New York, as we continue to grow our commercial loan business. We anticipate that any such expansion of our commercial lending to market areas outside New Jersey will increase lending and deposit opportunities in those areas and provide geographic diversification within our portfolio.

***Continuing to emphasize the origination of one-to-four family residential mortgage loans.***

At December 31, 2023, \$2.8 billion or 35.6%, of our total loan portfolio consisted of one-to-four family residential mortgage loans. Although we expect to shift the mix of our loans over time, from residential mortgage loans, toward commercial loans, we intend to continue to emphasize the origination of one-to-four family residential mortgage loans in the future. We believe there are opportunities to maintain and increase our residential mortgage lending in our market area, and we have made efforts to take advantage of these opportunities by increasing our origination channels. In recent years, we implemented a new digital mortgage system which greatly expedites the processing of mortgage, home equity and HELOC applications.

We originate one-to-four family residential mortgage loans for our own portfolio but periodically Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank sell loans to third-party investors with servicing retained. We offer fixed-rate and adjustable-rate residential mortgage loans, which totaled \$2.5 billion and \$314.0 million, respectively, at December 31, 2023. To increase the origination of adjustable-rate loans, we intend to continue originating loans that bear a fixed interest rate for a period of up to seven years after which they convert to one-year adjustable-rate loans.

***Increasing fee income through continued growth of fee-based activities.***

We intend to focus on growing our existing title insurance business, our existing insurance agency business and expanding the scope of the wealth management services we provide and increasing our revenues from loan servicing activities to increase the amount of fees earned from our fee-based businesses. Presently, the majority of our revenue comes from interest income and less than 7% from other sources, including title insurance fees, loan and deposit fees, bank-owned life insurance, insurance agency income and gains and losses on the sales of securities and loans. We expect to increase fee income from enhancing interchange services, generating additional commercial loan swap fee income and expanding treasury services.

We currently offer title insurance services through our title insurance agency, offer wealth management services through a third-party networking arrangement, and offer life and health, and property and casualty insurance to our customers through our insurance agency. In order to expand our services and grow our business, we have considered the acquisition of title insurance agencies and wealth management businesses in recent years and expect to actively pursue the acquisition of such fee-based businesses, as well as considering the acquisition of other fee-based businesses such as other insurance agencies and specialty lending companies. We continue to consider acquisition opportunities of fee-based businesses, but we currently have no understandings or agreements with respect to any such acquisitions.

We also intend to grow our servicing revenue by continuing to periodically sell one-to-four family residential mortgage loans that we originate to third-party investors, including other financial institutions, while retaining the servicing of such loans.

***Expanding our franchise through de novo branching, branch acquisitions and the possible acquisition of other financial institutions and/or financial services companies.***

We believe there are branch expansion opportunities within our market area and adjacent markets, including other states, and will seek to grow our deposit base by adding branches to our existing branch network. In addition to deposit generation, our branch network also generates one-to-four family loans, home equity loans and advances and other consumer loans. While we are aware of the industry branch consolidation trends, we believe that in order to attract new customers, we need to selectively expand our network to fill in gaps in the existing footprint and into adjacent markets. We believe that new smaller branch designs, which are more cost-efficient, are more appropriately sized and staffed for the expected transaction volumes.

Our growth strategy also includes the acquisition of other financial institutions within our market area as well as in neighboring states. Since November 2019, we have acquired Atlantic Stewardship Bank, Roselle Bank, Freehold Bank and RSI Bank. We intend to continue to pursue the acquisition of banks and thrifts, including thrifts in the mutual and mutual holding company structure. In the past, we have relied upon organic growth rather than acquisitions to grow our franchise, and there is no guarantee that we will be successful in pursuing our acquisition strategy.

***Maintaining asset quality through the application of a prudent, disciplined approach to credit risk as part of an overall risk management program.***

We employ a conservative, analytical approach to the assets we acquire that we have tested over many different business and interest rate cycles. This applies to our securities portfolio, which is comprised primarily of liquid, low credit-risk, government agency-backed securities, as well as, our loan portfolio. Residential loans are underwritten to secondary market standards and our commercial lending policies are designed to be consistent with industry best practices. We subject our loan portfolio to independent internal and external reviews to validate conformance to policies and stress tests to identify areas of potential risk. We have management information systems that provide regular insight into the quantity and direction of credit risk in our loan portfolio segments, including borrower and industry-specific concentrations. We employ limits on concentration risks, including the ratios of commercial real estate and construction loan portfolios to capital. We have developed reporting, analytics and stress testing that we believe provide effective oversight of these portfolios at higher concentration levels.

We employ tools to ensure we are being appropriately compensated for the risks inherent in the lending products we offer, and in the specific transactions. Our commercial loan pricing model quantifies the credit and interest rate risk embedded in our new loan originations and provides a target return hurdle.

We operate with Risk Committees, at both the management and board levels, that review changes in the quantity and direction of risk. These committees review our key risk indicators, loan portfolio and liquidity stress tests and operational and cyber risk assessments, which draw from our Asset/Liability Committee data, our loan portfolio credit metrics and treasury risk (investment/funding) metrics.

***Enhancing our technology infrastructure to broaden our product capabilities and improve product delivery and efficiency.***

We have embraced the latest technological developments in the banking industry, which we believe allows us to better leverage our employees by enabling them focus on developing customer relationships, generate retail deposits in an efficient manner, expand the suite of products that we can offer to customers and allow us to compete more efficiently and effectively as we grow. Our commercial loan underwriting and relationship monitoring system enables us to better support and manage our commercial customer base. In recent years, we have released several digital banking and other Fintech solutions to support our customers, which included a new digital mortgage system which greatly expedited the handling of mortgage, home equity and HELOC applications. We have also introduced a digital small business lending solution, online chat and appointment scheduling and a credit card platform. We expect to continue to enhance our digital technology platforms to provide more appealing products and services to our customers and support our sales, marketing initiatives, and call center. We are continuously upgrading our company-wide technology infrastructure to support both organic and inorganic growth.

***Focusing on an enhanced customer experience and continued customer satisfaction.***

We believe that customer satisfaction is a key to generating sustainable growth and profitability. While continually striving to ensure that our products and services meet our customers' needs, we also encourage our officers and employees to focus on providing personal service and attentiveness to our customers in a proactive manner.

Our strategy continues to be focused on providing quality customer service through our convenient branch network, supported by our Call Center, where customers can speak with a representative to answer questions and resolve issues during business and extended hours. We believe that our ability to close transactions and deliver our services in a timely manner is attractive to our customers and distinguishes us from other financial institutions that operate in our marketplace. Our customers enjoy access to senior executives and decision makers and the value it brings to their businesses. We also offer convenient online and mobile banking tools for customers to transact business anytime and anywhere.

We believe that many opportunities remain to deliver what our customers want in the form of exceptional service and convenience and we intend to continue to focus our operating strategy on taking advantage of these opportunities.

***Employing a stockholder-focused management of capital.***

We intend to manage our capital position through the growth of assets, as well as the utilization of appropriate capital management tools, consistent with applicable regulations and policies, and subject to market conditions. Under Federal Reserve Board regulations, we were prohibited from repurchasing shares of our common stock for one year following our minority public offering that was completed in April 2018. Since June 2019, we have announced six stock repurchase programs under which we have repurchased an aggregated of 25,893,159 shares of common stock as of December 31, 2023.

Our Board of Directors has the authority to declare dividends on our shares of common stock, and may determine to pay dividends in the future, subject to statutory and regulatory requirements and other considerations such as the ability of Columbia Bank MHC to receive permission from the Federal Reserve Board to waive receipt of any dividends we may determine to declare in the future. If Columbia Financial pays dividends to its stockholders, it also will be required to pay dividends to Columbia Bank MHC, unless Columbia Bank MHC is permitted by the Federal Reserve Board to waive the receipt of dividends. The Federal Reserve Board's current position is to not permit a "non-grandfathered" mutual holding company to waive dividends declared by its subsidiary. Columbia Bank MHC may determine to apply to the Federal Reserve Board for approval to waive dividends if we determine to pay dividends to our stockholders. Given the Federal Reserve Board's current position on this issue, there is no assurance that any request by Columbia Bank MHC to waive dividends from Columbia Financial would be permitted. The denial by the Federal Reserve Board of any such dividend waiver request, if sought, could determine whether the board of directors of Columbia Financial determines to declare a dividend, or if so declared, could significantly limit the amount of dividends Columbia Financial would pay in the future, if any.

## Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

In the preparation of our consolidated financial statements, we have adopted various accounting policies that govern the application of U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) and general practices within the banking industry. Our significant accounting policies are described in note 2 to the consolidated financial statements.

Certain accounting policies involve significant judgments and assumptions by us that have a material impact on the carrying value of certain assets and liabilities. We consider these accounting policies, which are discussed below, to be critical accounting policies. These assumptions, estimates and judgments we use can be influenced by a number of factors, including the general economic environment. Actual results could differ from these judgments and estimates under different conditions, resulting in a change that could have a material impact on the carrying values of our assets and liabilities and our results of operations.

**Allowance for Credit Losses.** The Company adopted ASU 2016-13 on January 1, 2022 for all financial assets measured at amortized cost and off-balance-sheet credit exposures. Results for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 are presented under Accounting Standards Codification 326, *Financial Instruments - Credit Losses*, while prior period amounts continue to be reported with previously applicable GAAP and have not been restated. See note 2 in the notes to our consolidated financial statements for a detailed discussion of our accounting policies and methodologies for establishing the allowance for credit losses.

Additional information about our allowance for credit losses is presented in note 7 to the audited consolidated financial statements.

The determination of our allowance for credit losses (“ACL”) on loans is considered a critical accounting estimate by management because of the high degree of judgment involved in determining qualitative loss factors, the subjectivity of the assumptions used, and the potential for changes in the forecasted economic environment. Although we believe we have established and maintained the ACL at appropriate levels, changes in reserves may be necessary if actual economic and other conditions differ substantially from the forecast used in estimating the ACL.

Our ACL totaled \$55.1 million and \$52.8 million at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. The increase in the reserve was primarily attributable to an increase in the outstanding balance of loans and an increase in qualitative factors, partially offset by a decrease in loan loss rates. The ACL reserve components related to collectively evaluated loans and individually analyzed loan reserves was \$54.3 million and \$52.4 million, respectively and \$787,000 and \$422,000, respectively, at December 31, 2023 and 2022, under the CECL methodology.

At December 31, 2023, management performed a hypothetical sensitivity analysis to understand the impact of a change in a key input on our ACL. If the U.S. unemployment rate had been increased from an average range of approximately 4.3% to 6.0% for the forecast period, and U.S. Gross Domestic Product (“GDP”) decreased from an average range of approximately 1.4% to 1.0% for the forecast period, our ACL reserves would have been approximately \$4.5 million higher. This sensitivity analysis includes the impact of quantitative components of our ACL. Changes in quantitative inputs and qualitative loss factors may not occur in the same direction or magnitude across all segments of our loan portfolio and deterioration in some quantitative inputs and qualitative loss factors may offset improvement in others. This sensitivity analysis does not represent a change to our expectations of the economic environment but provides a hypothetical result to assess the sensitivity of the ACL to a change in a key input. This sensitivity analysis does not incorporate changes to management’s judgment of qualitative loss factors.

If the four-quarter U.S. unemployment rate forecast had been 9% rather than an average of approximately 4.3%, our ACL would have been approximately \$18.4 million higher. This sensitivity analysis includes the impact to the quantitative components of our ACL. Changes in quantitative inputs and qualitative loss factors may not occur in the same direction or magnitude across all segments of our loan portfolio and deterioration in some quantitative inputs and qualitative loss factors may offset improvement in others. This sensitivity analysis does not represent a change to our expectations of the economic environment but provides a hypothetical result to assess the sensitivity of the ACL to a change in a key input. This sensitivity analysis does not incorporate changes to management’s judgment of qualitative loss factors.

Going forward, the impact of utilizing the CECL approach to calculate the allowance for credit losses will be significantly influenced by the composition, characteristics, and quality of our loan portfolio, as well as the prevailing economic conditions and forecasts utilized. Material changes to these and other relevant factors may result in greater volatility to the allowance for credit losses, and, therefore, greater volatility to our reported earnings.

Most of our non-performing assets are collateral dependent loans which are written down to the fair value of the collateral less estimated costs to sell. We continue to assess the collateral of these loans and update our appraisals on these loans on an annual basis. To the extent the property values decline, there could be additional losses on these non-performing assets, which may be material. Management considered these market conditions in deriving the estimated ACL. Should economic difficulties occur, the ultimate amount of loss could vary from our current estimate. For additional discussion related to the determination of the allowance for credit losses, see “Risk Management-Analysis and Determination of the Allowance for Credit Losses” and the notes to the consolidated financial statements.

**Income Taxes.** We are subject to the income tax laws of the various jurisdictions where we conduct business and estimate income tax expense based on amounts expected to be owed to these various tax jurisdictions. The estimated income tax expense (benefit) is reported in the Consolidated Statements of Income. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. We exercise significant judgment in evaluating the amount and timing of recognition of the resulting tax assets and liabilities. These judgments require us to make projections of future taxable income. The judgments and estimates we make in determining our deferred tax assets are inherently subjective and are reviewed on a continual basis as regulatory and business factors change.

Accrued or prepaid taxes represent the net estimated amount due to or to be received from tax jurisdictions either currently or in the future and are reported in other assets or other liabilities in our consolidated financial statements. We assess the appropriate tax treatment of transactions and filing positions after considering statutes, regulations, judicial precedent and other pertinent information and maintain tax accruals consistent with our evaluation. Changes in the estimate of accrued taxes occur periodically due to changes in tax rates, interpretations of tax laws, status of examinations by the tax authorities and newly enacted statutory, judicial and regulatory guidance that could impact the relative merits of tax positions. These changes, when they occur, impact accrued taxes and can materially affect our operating results. The Company identified no significant income tax uncertainties through the evaluation of its income tax positions as of December 31, 2023 and 2022. Therefore, the Company has no unrecognized income tax benefits as of those dates.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, we had a net deferred tax assets totaling \$25.5 million and \$36.9 million, respectively. In accordance with Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) Topic 740 “Income Taxes,” we use the asset and liability method of accounting for income taxes. Under this method, deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases. A valuation allowance is established when management is unable to conclude that it is more likely than not that it will realize deferred tax assets based on the nature and timing of these items. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income tax expense in the period enacted. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. We exercise significant judgment in evaluating the amount and timing of recognition of the resulting tax assets and liabilities. These judgments require us to make projections of future taxable income. The judgments and estimates we make in determining our deferred tax assets are inherently subjective and are reviewed on a regular basis as regulatory or business factors change. Any reduction in estimated future taxable income may require us to record a valuation allowance against our deferred tax assets. A valuation allowance that results in additional income tax expense in the period in which it is recognized would negatively affect earnings. Management believes, based on current facts, that it is more likely than not that there will be sufficient taxable income in future years to realize federal deferred tax assets and that it is more likely than not that the benefits from certain state temporary differences will not be realized. In recognition of this risk, we have provided a valuation allowance of \$26,000 and \$2.0 million, respectively, as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, on the deferred tax assets related to state net operating losses.

**Post-retirement Benefits.** We provide certain health care and life insurance benefits, along with split-dollar BOLI death benefits, to eligible retired employees. The cost of retiree health care and other benefits during the employees’ period of active service are accrued monthly. We account for benefits in accordance with ASC Topic 715 “Pension and Other Post-retirement Benefits.” The guidance requires an employer to: (a) recognize in the statement of financial position the over funded or underfunded status of a defined benefit post-retirement plan measured as the difference between the fair value of plan assets and the benefit obligations; (b) measure a plan’s assets and its obligations that determine its funded status as of the end of the Company’s fiscal year (with limited exceptions); and (c) recognize as a component of other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax, the actuarial gain and losses and the prior service costs and credits that arise during the period. These assets and liabilities and expenses are based upon actuarial assumptions including interest rates, rates of increase in compensation, expected rate of return on plan assets and the length of time we will have to provide those benefits. Actual results may differ from these assumptions. These assumptions are reviewed and updated at least annually and management believes the estimates are reasonable.

#### **Pending Accounting Pronouncements**

In November 2023, the FASB issued ASU 2023-07, *Segment Reporting (Topic 280): Improvements to Reportable Segment Disclosures*. The amendments improve reportable segment disclosure requirements, primarily through enhanced disclosures about significant segment expenses. In addition, the amendments enhance interim disclosure requirements, clarify circumstances in which an entity can disclose multiple segment measures of profit or loss, provide new segment disclosure requirements for entities with a single reportable segment, and contain other disclosure requirements. The purpose of the amendments is to enable investors to better understand an entity’s overall performance and assess potential future cash flows. The ASU applies to all public entities that are required to report segment information in accordance with ASC 280.4 The amendments in ASU 2023-07 are effective for all public entities for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023, and interim periods within fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2024. Early adoption is permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the adoption of the ASU on its consolidated financial statements, but as it is only disclosure related, does not expect it to have an impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In December 2023, the FASB has issued ASU 2023-09, *Improvements to Income Tax Disclosures*. Under the ASU, public business entities (“PBEs”) must annually (1) disclose specific categories in the rate reconciliation and (2) provide additional information for reconciling items that meet a quantitative threshold (if the effect of those reconciling items is equal to or greater than five percent of the amount computed by multiplying pretax income [or loss] by the applicable statutory income tax rate). The Board is

releasing the ASU in response to stakeholder feedback indicating that the existing income tax disclosures should be enhanced to provide information to better assess how an entity's operations and related tax risks and tax planning and operational opportunities affect its tax rate and prospects for future cash flows. The ASU's amendments are effective for PBEs for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2024. For entities other than PBEs, the amendments are effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2025. Entities are permitted to early adopt the standard for annual financial statements that have not yet been issued or made available for issuance. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the adoption of the ASU on its consolidated financial statements, but as it is only disclosure related, does not expect it to have an impact on its consolidated financial statements.

## Comparison of Financial Condition at December 31, 2023 and 2022

### General

Total assets increased \$237.4 million, or 2.3%, to \$10.6 billion at December 31, 2023 from \$10.4 billion at December 31, 2022. The increase in total assets was primarily attributable to increases in cash and cash equivalents of \$244.0 million, loans receivable, net of \$194.7 million, Federal Home Loan Bank stock of \$22.9 million and other assets of \$23.7 million, partially offset by decreases in debt securities available for sale of \$235.1 million and debt securities held to maturity of \$20.4 million. The increase in cash and cash equivalents was primarily attributable to \$277.0 million in proceeds from the sale of debt securities available for sale, and an increase in borrowings of \$401.6 million, or 35.6%, partially offset by purchases of debt securities available for sale of \$124.6 million, a decrease in total deposits of \$154.6 million and \$80.5 million in repurchases of common stock under our stock repurchase program. The increase in loan receivable, net, was primarily attributable to increases in multifamily real estate loans, construction loans, and commercial business loans of \$170.0 million, \$106.5 million, and \$35.6 million, respectively, partially offset by decreases in one-to-four family real estate loans, commercial real estate loans and home equity loans and advances of \$67.4 million, \$36.3 million and \$7.7 million, respectively. The allowance for credit losses for loans increased \$2.3 million to \$55.1 million at December 31, 2023 from \$52.8 million at December 31, 2022. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the increase in the allowance for credit losses for loans was primarily due to an increase in the outstanding balance of loans and an increase in qualitative factors, partially offset by a decrease in loan loss rates. The increase in Federal Home Loan Bank Stock was due to the purchase of stock required upon acquiring new FHLB borrowings. The increase in other assets was primarily attributable to a \$15.1 million increase in the Company's pension plan balance, as the return on plan assets outpaced the growth in the plan's obligations, and a \$10.0 million increase in a low income housing tax credit asset. The decrease in debt securities available for sale was primarily attributable to sales of securities of \$277.0 million which resulted in a realized loss of \$10.8 million, and repayments on securities of \$100.9 million, which was partially offset by purchases of U.S. government obligations of \$124.6 million and a decrease in the gross unrealized loss on securities of \$30.3 million. The Bank sold U.S. government obligations at a weighted average rate of 2.36%, and mortgage-backed securities at a weighted average rate of 3.12% during the year ended December 31, 2023. The decrease in debt securities held to maturity was due to repayments.

Total liabilities increased \$250.7 million, or 2.7%, to \$9.6 billion at December 31, 2023 from \$9.4 billion at December 31, 2022. The increase was primarily attributable to increases in borrowings of \$401.6 million, or 35.6%, partially offset by a decrease in total deposits of \$154.6 million, or 1.9%. The \$401.6 million increase in borrowings was primarily driven by a net increase in long-term borrowings of \$494.5 million, partially offset by a decrease in short-term borrowings of \$93.2 million. The decrease in total deposits consisted of decreases in non-interest-bearing demand deposits of \$368.8 million, interest-bearing demand deposits of \$626.4 million, and savings and club deposits of \$213.4 million, partially offset by increases in money market accounts of \$537.0 million, and certificates of deposit accounts of \$517.0 million.

Total stockholders' equity decreased \$13.3 million, or 1.3%, to \$1.0 billion at December 31, 2023 from \$1.1 billion at December 31, 2022. The decrease in equity was primarily attributable to the repurchase of 4,242,693 shares of common stock at a cost of approximately \$80.5 million under our stock repurchase program, partially offset by net income of \$36.1 million, and a \$21.8 million decrease in unrealized losses on debt securities available for sale, net of taxes, included in other comprehensive income.

### Securities

Debt securities available for sale and held to maturity decreased \$255.4 million, or 14.6%, to \$1.5 billion at December 31, 2023 from \$1.8 billion at December 31, 2022. The decrease in securities during 2023 was primarily attributable to sales of securities of \$277.0 million which resulted in a realized loss of \$10.8 million, and repayments on securities of \$116.8 million, which was partially offset by purchases of U.S. government obligations of \$124.6 million and a decrease in unrealized losses on securities of \$30.3 million. We continue to focus on maintaining a high quality securities portfolio that provides consistent cash flows in changing interest rate environments. At December 31, 2023, our total securities portfolio, which includes equity securities, was 14.1% of total assets, as compared to 16.8% at December 31, 2022.

At December 31, 2023, 79.3% of the debt securities available for sale portfolio was comprised of mortgage-backed securities and CMOs issued by Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae and Ginnie Mae. These securities are guaranteed by the issuing agency and backed by residential and multifamily mortgages. These securities are comprised of fixed rate, adjustable-rate and hybrid securities that bear a fixed rate for a specific term and thereafter, to the extent they are not prepaid, adjust periodically. At December 31, 2023, U.S. government and agency obligations comprised the next largest segment of the available for sale portfolio, totaling 13.3%. At

December 31, 2023, the remainder of our available for sale securities portfolio consisted of corporate debt securities and municipal obligations which comprised 7.1% and 0.3%, respectively.

At December 31, 2023, 87.6% of the debt securities held to maturity portfolio was comprised of mortgage-backed securities and CMOs issued by Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae and Ginnie Mae. These securities are guaranteed by the issuing agency and backed by residential and multifamily mortgages. These securities are comprised of fixed rate, adjustable-rate and hybrid securities that bear a fixed rate for a specific term and thereafter, to the extent they are not prepaid, adjust periodically. At December 31, 2023, the remaining 12.4% of our held to maturity securities portfolio consisted of U.S. government and agency obligations.

To mitigate the credit risk related to our securities portfolio, we primarily invest in agency and highly-rated securities. As of December 31, 2023, approximately 94.2% of the total portfolio consisted of direct government obligations or government sponsored enterprise obligations, approximately 5.5% of the remaining portfolio was rated at least investment grade and approximately 0.3% of the remaining portfolio was not rated. Securities not rated consist primarily of private placement municipal notes issued and/or guaranteed by local municipal authorities and equity securities.

The following table sets forth the amortized cost and fair value of securities at December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021:

	At December 31,					
	2023		2022		2021	
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
	(In thousands)					
Debt securities available for sale:						
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$ 146,387	\$ 145,501	\$ 67,771	\$ 63,566	\$ 34,711	\$ 34,879
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations	1,009,508	867,585	1,351,929	1,181,727	1,553,491	1,554,359
Municipal obligations	2,770	2,702	3,697	3,575	4,159	4,179
Corporate debt securities	92,565	77,769	92,544	79,766	109,018	110,430
Total securities available for sale	\$ 1,251,230	\$ 1,093,557	\$ 1,515,941	\$ 1,328,634	\$ 1,701,379	\$ 1,703,847
Debt securities held to maturity:						
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$ 49,871	\$ 43,969	\$ 49,871	\$ 42,567	\$ 44,870	\$ 44,111
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations	351,283	313,208	371,652	327,824	384,864	390,678
Total debt securities held to maturity	\$ 401,154	\$ 357,177	\$ 421,523	\$ 370,391	\$ 429,734	\$ 434,789
Equity securities	\$ 3,943	\$ 4,079	\$ 3,943	\$ 3,384	\$ 2,870	\$ 2,710
Total securities	\$ 1,656,327	\$ 1,454,813	\$ 1,941,407	\$ 1,702,409	\$ 2,133,983	\$ 2,141,346

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, securities with carrying values of \$1.3 billion and \$1.7 billion, respectively, were in net unrealized loss positions that totaled \$202.6 million and \$238.6 million, respectively. The decrease in unrealized losses on securities in 2023 was primarily due to the sales of \$277.0 million in predominantly fixed rate lower yielding securities and the purchase of higher yielding securities in 2023.

For available for sale securities, the Company assesses whether a loss is from credit or other factors and considers the extent to which fair value is less than amortized cost, any changes to the rating of the security by a rating agency and adverse conditions related to the security, among other factors. If this assessment indicates that a credit loss exists, the present value of cash flows expected to be collected from the security are compared to the amortized cost basis of the security. If the present value of cash flows is less than the amortized cost, a credit loss would be recorded through an allowance for credit losses, limited by the amount that the fair value is less than the amortized cost basis. We believe that unrealized and unrecognized losses on securities at December 31, 2023 are a function of changes in market interest rates and credit spreads, not changes in credit quality. Therefore, no allowance for credit losses was recorded at December 31, 2023.

For held to maturity securities, management measures expected credit losses on a collective basis by major security type. All of the mortgage-backed securities are issued by U.S. government agencies and are either explicitly or implicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government, are highly rated by major rating agencies and have a long history of no credit losses and, therefore, the expectation of non-payment is zero and the Company is not required to estimate an allowance for credit losses on these securities under the CECL standard. All these securities reflect a credit quality rating of AAA by Moody's Investors Service.

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, we had no securities in a single company or entity (other than United States Government and United States GSE securities) that had an aggregate book value in excess of 5% of our equity.



The following tables set forth the stated maturities and weighted average yields of securities at December 31, 2023. Certain securities have adjustable interest rates and will reprice monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually within the various maturity ranges. Weighted average yields for tax-exempt securities totaling \$2.8 million with a weighted average rate of 1.21%, are presented on a tax equivalent basis using a federal marginal tax rate of 21%.

Equity securities are not included in the table based on lack of a maturity date. The tables present contractual final maturities for mortgage-backed securities and does not reflect repricing or the effect of prepayments.

At December 31, 2023										
One Year or Less		More Than One Year to Five Years		More Than Five Years to Ten Years		After Ten Years		Total		
Carrying Value	Weighted Average Yield	Carrying Value	Weighted Average Yield	Carrying Value	Weighted Average Yield	Carrying Value	Weighted Average Yield	Carrying Value	Weighted Average Yield	
(Dollars in thousands)										
Debt securities available for sale:										
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$ 49,552	3.72 %	\$ 85,056	4.19 %	\$ 10,893	3.57 %	\$ —	— %	\$ 145,501	3.98 %
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations	244	0.45	28,010	5.42	205,257	3.25	634,074	3.57	867,585	3.55
Municipal obligations	1,372	1.43	898	0.78	432	3.30	—	—	2,702	1.51
Corporate debt securities	—	—	33,602	4.37	44,167	3.22	—	—	77,769	3.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 51,168</b>	<b>3.64 %</b>	<b>\$ 147,566</b>	<b>4.46 %</b>	<b>\$ 260,749</b>	<b>3.26 %</b>	<b>\$ 634,074</b>	<b>3.57 %</b>	<b>\$ 1,093,557</b>	<b>3.61 %</b>

At December 31, 2023										
One Year or Less		More Than One Year to Five Years		More Than Five Years to Ten Years		After Ten Years		Total		
Carrying Value	Weighted Average Yield	Carrying Value	Weighted Average Yield	Carrying Value	Weighted Average Yield	Carrying Value	Weighted Average Yield	Carrying Value	Weighted Average Yield	
(Dollars in thousands)										
Debt securities held to maturity:										
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$ —	— %	\$ 29,875	1.82 %	\$ 9,996	0.76 %	\$ 10,000	2.30 %	\$ 49,871	1.70 %
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations	36,157	2.86	67,610	3.55	135,050	3.40	112,466	7.03	351,283	4.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 36,157</b>	<b>2.86 %</b>	<b>\$ 97,485</b>	<b>3.02 %</b>	<b>\$ 145,046</b>	<b>3.22 %</b>	<b>\$ 122,466</b>	<b>6.64 %</b>	<b>\$ 401,154</b>	<b>4.18 %</b>

### Loans Receivable

Total gross loans increased \$200.1 million, or 2.6%, to \$7.8 billion at December 31, 2023 from \$7.6 billion at December 31, 2022. One-to-four family real estate loans decreased \$67.4 million, or 2.4%, to \$2.8 billion at December 31, 2023 from \$2.9 billion at December 31, 2022. Multifamily loans increased \$170.0 million, or 13.7%, to \$1.4 billion at December 31, 2023 from \$1.2 billion at December 31, 2022. Commercial real estate loans decreased \$36.3 million, or 1.5%, to \$2.38 billion at December 31, 2023 from \$2.41 billion at December 31, 2022. Construction loans increased \$106.5 million, or 31.7%, to \$443.1 million at December 31, 2023 from \$336.6 million at December 31, 2022. Commercial business loans increased \$35.6 million, or 7.2%, to \$533.0 million at December 31, 2023 from \$497.5 million at December 31, 2022. Home Equity loans and advances decreased \$7.7 million, or 2.8%, to \$266.6 million at December 31, 2023 from \$274.3 million at December 31, 2022. We had a slowdown in originations and prepayments in several categories of loans in 2023. Our consumer loan products have had weak demand over the last few years and will continue to be negatively impacted by the rise in interest rates.

The following tables present the loan portfolio for the periods indicated:

	At December 31,			
	2023		2022	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
	(Dollars in thousands)			
Real estate loans:				
One-to-four family	\$ 2,792,833	35.7 %	\$ 2,860,184	37.5 %
Multifamily	1,409,187	18.0	1,239,207	16.2
Commercial real estate	2,377,077	30.4	2,413,394	31.7
Construction	443,094	5.7	336,553	4.4
Total real estate loans	7,022,191	89.7	6,849,338	89.8
Commercial business loans	533,041	6.8	497,469	6.5
Consumer loans:				
Home equity loans and advances	266,632	3.4	274,302	3.6
Other consumer loans	2,801	—	3,425	—
Total consumer loans	269,433	3.4	277,727	3.6
Total gross loans	7,824,665	100.0 %	7,624,534	100.0 %
Purchased credit-deteriorated loans ("PCD")	15,089		17,059	
Net deferred loan costs, fees and purchased premiums and discounts	34,783		35,971	
Allowance for credit losses	(55,096)		(52,803)	
Loans receivable, net	\$ 7,819,441		\$ 7,624,761	

### Loan Maturity

The following table sets forth certain information at December 31, 2023 regarding the dollar amount of loan principal repayments becoming due during the periods indicated. The table does not include any estimate of prepayments that significantly shorten the average life of all loans and may cause our actual repayment experience to differ from that shown below. The table reflects final maturities for construction loans that convert to permanent loans and includes PCD loans. Demand loans having no stated schedule of repayments or maturity are reported as due in one year or less.

**December 31, 2023**

<b>Real Estate</b>									
	<b>One-to-four Family</b>	<b>Multifamily</b>	<b>Commercial Real Estate</b>	<b>Construction</b>	<b>Commercial Business</b>	<b>Home Equity Loans and Advances</b>	<b>Other Consumer Loans</b>	<b>Total</b>	
(In thousands)									
Amounts due in:									
One year or less	\$ 543	\$ 93,242	\$ 148,608	\$ 204,675	\$ 246,755	\$ 606	\$ 2,455	\$ 696,884	
More than one year to five years	55,009	478,316	679,241	200,021	158,061	19,157	337	1,590,142	
More than five years to fifteen years	498,238	747,208	1,295,779	21,271	120,866	116,112	9	2,799,483	
More than fifteen years	2,240,936	90,421	266,138	17,127	7,728	130,895	—	2,753,245	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,794,726</b>	<b>\$ 1,409,187</b>	<b>\$ 2,389,766</b>	<b>\$ 443,094</b>	<b>\$ 533,410</b>	<b>\$ 266,770</b>	<b>\$ 2,801</b>	<b>\$ 7,839,754</b>	

The following table sets forth all loans at December 31, 2023 that are due after December 31, 2024 and have either fixed interest rates or floating or adjustable interest rates:

	<b>Due After December 31, 2024</b>		
	<b>Fixed Rates</b>	<b>Floating or Adjustable Rates</b>	<b>Total</b>
	(In thousands)		
Real estate loans:			
One-to-four family	\$ 2,480,455	\$ 313,728	\$ 2,794,183
Multifamily	559,324	756,621	1,315,945
Commercial real estate	894,596	1,346,562	2,241,158
Construction	62,743	175,676	238,419
Commercial business loans	161,455	125,200	286,655
Consumer loans:			
Home equity loans and advances	163,637	102,527	266,164
Other consumer loans	346	—	346
<b>Total loans</b>	<b>\$ 4,322,556</b>	<b>\$ 2,820,314</b>	<b>\$ 7,142,870</b>

### Loan Originations and Sales

The following table shows loans originated, purchased, sold and other reductions in loans during the periods indicated:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
	(In thousands)		
Total loans at beginning of period	\$ 7,677,564	\$ 6,360,601	\$ 6,181,770
Originations:			
Real estate loans:			
One-to-four family	215,266	869,716	865,837
Multifamily	124,660	265,629	271,298
Commercial real estate	146,303	399,562	225,189
Construction	335,749	444,027	233,561
Total real estate loans	821,978	1,978,934	1,595,885
Commercial business loans	209,003	201,876	375,822
Consumer loans:			
Home equity loans and advances	80,396	112,008	64,903
Other consumer loans	182	320	145
Total consumer loans	80,578	112,328	65,048
Total loans originated	1,111,559	2,293,138	2,036,755
Purchases	14,729	8,315	85,382
Loans acquired	—	335,501	158,912
Less:			
Principal payments, repayments, and other items, net	(686,988)	(1,300,891)	(1,411,214)
Loan sales	(121,372)	(9,639)	(302,039)
Securitization of loans	—	—	(99,603)
Transfer of loans receivable to loans held-for-sale	(120,955)	(9,461)	(289,362)
Total loans receivable at end of period	\$ 7,874,537	\$ 7,677,564	\$ 6,360,601

### Deposits

Our primary source of funds is our deposits, which are comprised of non-interest-bearing and interest-bearing transaction accounts, money market deposit accounts, savings and club deposits and certificates of deposit.

Deposits decreased \$154.6 million, or 1.9%, to \$7.8 billion at December 31, 2023 from \$8.0 billion at December 31, 2022. The decrease in balances of non-interest-bearing demand, interest-bearing demand, and savings and club deposits was heavily attributed to a shift in balances to money market and certificates of deposit. The Bank has priced select money market and certificates of deposit accounts very competitively to the market, but there continues to be strong competition for funds from other banks and non-bank investment products. Municipal deposits totaled \$861.8 million at December 31, 2023 compared to \$850.1 million at December 31, 2022. We continue our efforts to emphasize deposit taking through various channels.

During 2023, non-interest-bearing demand accounts decreased \$368.8 million, or 20.4%, interest-bearing demand accounts decreased \$626.4 million, or 24.2%, and savings and club deposits decreased \$213.4 million, or 23.4%. Money market accounts increased \$537.0 million, or 74.7%, and certificates of deposits increased \$517.0 million, or 26.2%. We have focused on obtaining deposit products by offering attractive pricing and promotions and by deepening our existing customer relationships.

The following table sets forth the deposit balances as of the periods indicated:

	At December 31,					
	2023		2022		2021	
	Amount	Percent of Total Deposits	Amount	Percent of Total Deposits	Amount	Percent of Total Deposits
	(Dollars in thousands)					
Non-interest-bearing demand	\$ 1,437,361	18.3 %	\$ 1,806,152	22.6 %	\$ 1,712,061	22.6 %
Interest-bearing demand	1,966,463	25.1	2,592,884	32.4	2,599,987	34.3
Money market accounts	1,255,528	16.0	718,524	9.0	657,156	8.7
Savings and club deposits	700,348	8.9	913,738	11.4	822,933	10.9
Certificates of deposit	2,486,856	31.7	1,969,861	24.6	1,778,179	23.5
Total deposits	<u>\$ 7,846,556</u>	<u>100.0 %</u>	<u>\$ 8,001,159</u>	<u>100.0 %</u>	<u>\$ 7,570,316</u>	<u>100.0 %</u>

We are required to pledge securities or other financial instruments to secure municipal deposits. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, we had pledged securities totaling \$240.8 million and \$781.7 million, respectively, and FHLB irrevocable standby letters of credits totaling \$575.6 million and \$600,000 respectively, collateralizing public funds on deposit.

The following table sets forth the deposit activity for the periods indicated:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
	(In thousands)		
Beginning balance	\$ 8,001,159	\$ 7,570,216	\$ 6,778,624
Increase before interest credited	(279,765)	403,065	762,483
Interest credited	125,162	27,878	29,109
Net (decrease) increase in deposits	(154,603)	430,943	791,592
Ending balance	<u>\$ 7,846,556</u>	<u>\$ 8,001,159</u>	<u>\$ 7,570,216</u>

At December 31, 2023, the aggregate amount of uninsured deposits (deposits in amounts greater than or equal to \$250,000, which is the maximum amount for federal deposit insurance) was \$6.1 billion. This amount included municipal deposits of \$825.9 million, which are collateralized, and intercompany deposits of \$3.5 billion. Excluding these amounts, uninsured deposits totaled \$1.8 billion.

The maturities of uninsured amounts included in time deposits are as follows:

	Balance
	(In thousands)
<b>Maturity Period:</b>	
Three months or less	\$ 122,054
Over three through six months	105,460
Over six through twelve months	284,085
Over twelve months	54,226
Total	<u>\$ 565,825</u>

The following table sets forth all of our certificates of deposit classified by interest rate as of the dates indicated:

	At December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
	(In thousands)		
Less than 0.50%	\$ 81,654	\$ 594,280	\$ 1,014,820
0.50% to 0.99%	135,402	402,691	466,787
1.00% to 1.49%	74,502	129,892	53,799
1.50% to 1.99%	71,178	136,444	69,706
2.00% to 2.49%	69,973	205,575	40,719
2.50% to 2.99%	143,095	113,226	124,223
3.00% to 3.49%	62,272	224,223	8,125
3.50% to 3.99%	318,582	108,342	—
4.00% to 4.49%	431,891	25,188	—
4.50% to 4.99%	572,736	30,000	—
5.00% and greater	525,571	—	—
Total	<u>\$ 2,486,856</u>	<u>\$ 1,969,861</u>	<u>\$ 1,778,179</u>

The following table sets forth the amount and maturities of our certificates of deposit by interest rate at December 31, 2023:

	Period to Maturity						Total	Percentage of Certificate Accounts
	One Year or Less	More Than One Year to Two Years	More Than Two Years to Three Years	More Than Three Years to Four Years	More Than Four Years			
	(Dollars in thousands)							
Less than 0.50%	\$ 64,050	\$ 12,416	\$ 5,173	\$ 15	\$ —	\$ 81,654	3.3 %	
0.50% to 0.99%	86,971	19,688	22,104	3,874	2,765	135,402	5.4	
1.00% to 1.49%	41,469	23,727	1,504	4,630	3,172	74,502	3.0	
1.50% to 1.99%	51,893	11,565	3,650	3,256	814	71,178	2.9	
2.00% to 2.49%	65,322	1,821	1,775	50	1,005	69,973	2.8	
2.50% to 2.99%	112,582	24,510	4,127	438	1,438	143,095	5.8	
3.00% to 3.49%	39,133	10,005	4,705	1,164	7,265	62,272	2.5	
3.50% to 3.99%	308,236	2,928	7,418	—	—	318,582	12.8	
4.00% to 4.49%	414,736	15,982	1,173	—	—	431,891	17.4	
4.50% to 4.99%	396,420	175,194	1,122	—	—	572,736	23.0	
5.00% and greater	497,051	23,435	5,085	—	—	525,571	21.1	
Total	<u>\$ 2,077,863</u>	<u>\$ 321,271</u>	<u>\$ 57,836</u>	<u>\$ 13,427</u>	<u>\$ 16,459</u>	<u>\$ 2,486,856</u>	<u>100.0 %</u>	

The following tables set forth the average balances and weighted average rates of our deposit products at the dates indicated:

	For the Years Ended December 31,					
	2023			2022		
	Average Balance	Percent	Weighted Average Rate	Average Balance	Percent	Weighted Average Rate
	(Dollars in thousands)					
Non-interest-bearing demand	\$ 1,539,354	20.00 %	— %	\$ 1,742,607	22.11 %	— %
Interest-bearing demand	2,183,333	28.37	1.73	2,685,675	34.07	0.42
Money market accounts	951,174	12.36	2.55	695,849	8.83	0.37
Savings and club deposits	793,303	10.31	0.28	922,916	11.71	0.05
Certificates of deposit	2,229,042	28.96	2.73	1,834,876	23.28	0.74
Total	<u>\$ 7,696,206</u>	<u>100.00 %</u>	1.63 %	<u>\$ 7,881,923</u>	<u>100.00 %</u>	0.35 %

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2021		
	Average Balance	Percent	Weighted Average Rate
	(Dollars in thousands)		
Non-interest-bearing demand	\$ 1,522,322	21.32 %	— %
Interest-bearing demand	2,395,493	33.56	0.34
Money market accounts	632,011	8.85	0.30
Savings and club deposits	752,983	10.55	0.10
Certificates of deposit	1,835,866	25.72	1.00
Total	<u>\$ 7,138,675</u>	<u>100.00 %</u>	0.41 %

#### ***Borrowings***

We have the ability to utilize advances and overnight lines of credit from the FHLB to supplement our liquidity. As member banks, we are required to own capital stock in the FHLB and are authorized to apply for advances on the security of such stock and certain mortgage loans and other assets, provided certain standards related to creditworthiness have been met. Advances are made under several different programs, each having its own interest rate and range of maturities. We can also utilize securities sold under agreements to repurchase to provide funding. We maintain access to the Federal Reserve Bank's Term Funding Program, discount window and federal funds lines with correspondent banks for additional contingency funding. To secure our borrowings, we generally pledge securities and/or loans. The types of securities pledged for borrowings include, but are not limited to, government-sponsored enterprises ("GSE") including notes and government agency mortgage-backed securities and CMOs. The types of loans pledged for borrowings include, but are not limited to, one-to-four family real estate loans home equity loans and multifamily and commercial real estate loans.

The following table sets forth the outstanding borrowings and weighted averages at the dates or for the periods indicated:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
	(Dollars in thousands)		
Maximum amount outstanding at any month-end during the year:			
Lines of credit	\$ 168,800	\$ 174,000	\$ 36,000
FHLB advances	1,659,706	1,090,159	729,261
Notes payable	29,934	36,368	29,841
Junior subordinated debentures	6,962	6,994	7,198
Average outstanding balance during the year:			
Lines of credit	\$ 18,036	\$ 75,197	\$ 2,276
FHLB advances	1,297,365	471,961	722,514
Notes payable	22,780	30,084	740
Junior subordinated debentures	7,054	6,984	7,448
Other borrowings	—	55	—
Weighted average interest rate during the year:			
Lines of credit	9.26 %	2.58 %	0.35 %
FHLB advances	4.68	2.44	1.06
Notes payable	4.03	3.97	3.38
Junior subordinated debentures	8.85	5.30	3.29
Other borrowings	—	3.64	—
Balance outstanding at end of the year:			
Lines of credit	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
FHLB advances	1,521,733	1,090,159	340,495
Notes payable	—	29,894	29,841
Junior subordinated debentures	6,962	6,994	6,973
Weighted average interest rate at end of year:			
Lines of credit	— %	— %	— %
FHLB advances	4.92 %	4.37 %	1.17 %
Notes payable	—	3.35	3.35
Junior subordinated debentures	8.59	7.69	3.07

#### Comparison of Financial Condition at December 31, 2022 and 2021

For a comparison of the Company's financial condition at December 31, 2022 and 2021, please see the section captioned "Comparison of Financial Condition at December 31, 2022 and 2021" in Item 7 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2022.



## Results of Operations for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

### *Financial Highlights*

Net income was \$36.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2023 as compared to \$86.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2022, a decrease of \$50.1 million, or 58.1%. The decrease was attributable to a decrease in net interest income of \$60.9 million, or 22.8%, a decrease in non-interest income of \$3.0 million, or 9.9%, and an increase in non-interest expense of \$7.6 million, or 4.3%, partially offset by a decrease in provision for credit losses of \$698,000 or 12.7%, and a decrease in income tax expense of \$20.7 million, or 67.5%. In 2023, the decrease in net interest income was primarily attributable to a \$146.2 million increase in interest expense on deposits and borrowings, partially offset by a \$85.3 million increase in interest income. The increase in interest income was primarily due to an increase in the average balance of total interest-earning assets coupled with an increase in average yields due to market interest rate increases in 2022 and 2023. The increase in interest expense on deposits and borrowings was driven by these same rate increases coupled with intense competition for deposits in the market and the repricing of existing deposits into higher cost products. The increase in interest expense on borrowings was also impacted by the significant increase in interest rates for new borrowings since interest rates began rising in March 2022, along with an increase in the average balance of borrowings.

The provision for credit losses of \$4.8 million recorded for the year ended December 31, 2023 as compared to \$5.5 million recorded for the year ended December 31, 2022, was primarily attributable to a decrease in loan loss rates, partially offset by an increase in the outstanding balance of loans.

The decrease in non-interest income was primarily attributable to an increase in the loss on securities transactions of \$11.1 million, partially offset by an increase in bank-owned life insurance income of \$2.7 million due to death benefit claims, an increase in the change in fair value of equity securities of \$1.1 million, an increase in the gain on sale of loans of \$1.0 million and an increase in other non-interest income of \$3.8 million, primarily related to swap income.

The increase in non-interest expense was primarily attributable to an increase in compensation and employee benefits expense of \$3.9 million, an increase in federal deposit insurance premiums of \$6.0 million, and a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$300,000, resulting from the prepayment of a term note. These increases were partially offset by a decrease in merger-related expenses of \$2.2 million and a decrease in other non-interest expense of \$4.1 million. The increase in compensation and employee benefits expense for the 2023 period was due to normal annual increases in employee related compensation, increased staff levels due to the May 2022 merger with RSI Bank, and severance expense recorded in June 2023 as a result of a workforce reduction. The federal deposit insurance premium expense increased due to the one-time Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation special assessment recorded in December 2023, and an increase in the assessment rate imposed by the FDIC effective January 1, 2023. The decrease in other non-interest expense was primarily related to non-recurring litigation settlements included in the 2022 period and the decrease in expenses related to swap transactions.

Income tax expense was \$10.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2023, a decrease of \$20.7 million, or 67.5%, as compared to \$30.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2022, was mainly due to a decrease in pre-tax income, and to a lesser extent, a decrease in the Company's effective tax rate. The Company's effective tax rate was 21.6% and 26.3% for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. The effective tax rate for the 2023 period was primarily impacted by lower net interest income and the loss on the sale of securities, and higher tax-exempt income.

### Summary Income Statements

The following table sets forth the income summary for the periods indicated:

	Years Ended December 31,			
	2023	2022	Change 2023/2022	
			\$	%
	(Dollars in thousands)			
Net interest income	\$ 205,876	\$ 266,777	\$ (60,901)	(22.8)%
Provision for credit losses	4,787	5,485	(698)	(12.7)
Non-interest income	27,379	30,400	(3,021)	(9.9)
Non-interest expense	182,417	174,816	7,601	4.3
Income tax expense	9,965	30,703	(20,738)	(67.5)
Net income	\$ 36,086	\$ 86,173	\$ (50,087)	(58.1)%
Return on average assets	0.35 %	0.88 %		
Return on average equity	3.29 %	8.09 %		

### Net Interest Income

For the year ended December 31, 2023, net interest income decreased \$60.9 million, or 22.8%, to \$205.9 million from \$266.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. For the year ended December 31, 2023, total interest income increased \$85.3 million, or 27.5%, to \$395.0 million, from \$309.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. The increase in total interest income was primarily attributable to an increase in the average balances of loans and other interest-earning assets, coupled with increases in yields on all interest-earning assets, due to rising rates, partially offset by a decrease in the average balance of securities. The yield on the loan portfolio for the year ended December 31, 2023 increased 64 basis points compared to the year ended December 31, 2022, while the yield on the securities portfolio for the year ended December 31, 2023 increased 20 basis points compared to the year ended December 31, 2022. The average yield on other interest-earning assets for the year ended December 31, 2023 increased 267 basis points compared to the year ended December 31, 2022. Increases in average yields on these portfolios for the year ended December 31, 2023 were influenced by the rise in interest rates in 2023.

The average cost of our interest-bearing liabilities increased 188 basis points to 2.52% for the year ended December 31, 2023, from 0.64% for the year ended December 31, 2022, primarily as a result of an increase in the average cost of interest-bearing deposits and borrowings and an increase in the average balances of interest-bearing deposits and borrowings. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the average cost of interest-bearing deposits increased 158 basis points. For the year ended December 31, 2023, total interest expense increased \$146.2 million, or 340.9%, to \$189.1 million from \$42.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. During 2023, the average cost of borrowings increased 218 basis points, and there was a significant increase in the average balance of borrowings. The higher interest rate environment coupled with the higher cost of repricing deposits caused the overall increase in interest expense.

A provision for credit losses of \$4.8 million was recorded for the year ended December 31, 2023 as compared to \$5.5 million recorded for the year ended December 31, 2022. The decrease in provision for credit losses during the 2023 year was primarily attributable to a decrease in loan loss rates, partially offset by an increase in the outstanding balance of loans. Net charge-offs totaled \$2.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2023, as compared to \$45,000 for the year ended December 31, 2022. We charge-off any collateral or cash flow deficiency on all classified loans once they are 90 days delinquent or earlier where management determines that the collection of loan principal and interest is unlikely. The provision for credit losses was determined by management to be an amount necessary to maintain a balance of allowance for credit losses at a level that uses relevant and reliable information from internal and external sources, related past events, current conditions, and a reasonable and supportable forecast. Changes in the provision were based on management's analysis of various factors within the qualitative and quantitative components of the allowance for credit losses calculation. At December 31, 2023, the allowance for credit losses totaled \$55.1 million, or 0.70% of total gross loans outstanding, compared to \$52.8 million, or 0.69% of total gross loans outstanding, as of December 31, 2022. An analysis of the changes in the allowance for credit losses is presented under "Risk Management-Analysis and Determination of the Allowance for Credit Losses" below.

### *Non-Interest Income*

The following table sets forth a summary of non-interest income for the periods indicated:

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2023	2022
	(In thousands)	
Demand deposit account fees	\$ 5,145	\$ 5,293
Bank-owned life insurance	10,126	7,393
Title insurance fees	2,400	3,423
Loan fees and service charges	4,510	3,924
(Loss) gain on securities transactions	(10,847)	210
Change in fair value of equity securities	695	(401)
Gain on sale of loans	1,214	178
Other non-interest income	14,136	10,380
Total	<u>\$ 27,379</u>	<u>\$ 30,400</u>

For the year ended December 31, 2023, non-interest income decreased \$3.0 million, or 9.9%, to \$27.4 million from \$30.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. In 2023, the decrease was primarily attributable to an increase in the loss on securities transactions of \$11.1 million, partially offset by an increase in bank-owned life insurance income of \$2.7 million due to death benefit claims, an increase in the change in fair value of equity securities of \$1.1 million, an increase in the gain on sale of loans of \$1.0 million and an increase in other non-interest income of \$3.8 million, primarily related to swap income.

### *Non-Interest Expense*

The following table sets forth an analysis of non-interest expense for the periods indicated:

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2023	2022
	(In thousands)	
Compensation and employee benefits	\$ 120,846	\$ 116,926
Occupancy	22,927	22,589
Federal deposit insurance premiums	8,639	2,591
Advertising	2,805	2,865
Professional fees	9,824	8,158
Data processing and software expenses	15,039	13,362
Merger-related expenses	606	2,810
Loss on extinguishment of debt	300	—
Other non-interest expense	1,431	5,515
Total	<u>\$ 182,417</u>	<u>\$ 174,816</u>

For the year ended December 31, 2023, non-interest expense increased \$7.6 million, or 4.3%, to \$182.4 million from \$174.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. The increase was primarily attributable to an increase in compensation and employee benefits expense of \$3.9 million, an increase in federal deposit insurance premiums of \$6.0 million, and a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$300,000, resulting from the prepayment of a term note. These increases were partially offset by a decrease in merger-related expenses of \$2.2 million and a decrease in other non-interest expense of \$4.1 million. The increase in compensation and employee benefits expense for the 2023 period was due to normal annual increases in employee related compensation, increased staff levels due to the May 2022 merger with RSI Bank, and severance expense recorded in June 2023 as a result of a workforce reduction. The federal deposit insurance premium expense increased due to the one-time Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation special assessment recorded in December 2023, and an increase in the assessment rate imposed by the FDIC effective January 1, 2023. The decrease in other non-interest expense was primarily related to non-recurring litigation settlements included in the 2022 period and the decrease in expenses related to swap transactions.

### *Income Tax Expense*

We recorded income tax expense of \$10.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2023, reflecting an effective tax rate of 21.6%, compared to income tax expense of \$30.7 million for 2022, reflecting an effective tax rate of 26.3%.

As of December 31, 2023, we had a net deferred tax asset totaling \$25.5 million. We regularly evaluate the realizability of deferred tax asset positions. In determining whether a valuation allowance is necessary, we consider the level of taxable income in prior years to the extent that carrybacks are permitted under current tax laws, as well as estimates of future pre-tax and taxable income and tax planning strategies that would, if necessary, be implemented. We have provided a valuation allowance of \$26,000 as of December 31, 2023 on the deferred tax assets related to the Bank's state net operating losses.

### **Results of Operations for the Year Ended December 31, 2022**

#### *Financial Highlights*

Net income was \$86.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2022 as compared to \$92.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2021, a decrease of \$5.9 million, or 6.4%. The decrease was attributable to an increase in our provision for credit losses of \$15.4 million, or 155.1%, a decrease in non-interest income of \$8.4 million, or 21.7%, and an increase in non-interest expense of \$19.1 million, or 12.3%, partially offset by an increase in net interest income of \$33.6 million, or 14.4%, and a decrease in income tax expense of \$3.4 million, or 10.0%. In 2022, the increase in net interest income was primarily attributable to a \$39.5 million increase in interest income, partially offset by an increase of \$5.9 million in interest expense. The increase in interest income for the year ended December 31, 2022 was primarily due to an increase in the average balances of interest-earning assets coupled with an increase in average yields due to the rise in interest rates in 2022. The increase in interest expense on deposits was driven by an increase in the average balance of deposits coupled with the repricing of existing deposits at higher rates, and the increase in interest expense on borrowings was due to the rise in interest rates. The Federal Reserve raised interest rates 25 basis points in March 2022, and again approved five additional rate increases between May 2022 and December 2022, ranging from 50 to 75 basis points. The rise in interest rates initially had a more immediate impact on interest income from loans, securities and other interest-earning assets than interest expense on deposits, as the repricing on deposit products lags in relation to increases in market interest rates.

The provision for credit losses of \$5.5 million recorded for the year ended December 31, 2022, as compared to a reversal of \$10.0 million of provision for credit losses recorded for the year ended December 31, 2021, was primarily attributable to an increase in the balance of loans and the consideration of current and projected economic conditions. Net charge-offs totaled \$45,000 for the year ended December 31, 2022, as compared to \$2.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2021.

The decrease in non-interest income was primarily attributable to a decrease in income from the gain on the sale of loans of \$10.6 million, a decrease in income from title insurance fees of \$2.7 million, and a decrease in gain on securities transactions of \$1.8 million, partially offset by an increase in demand deposit account fees of \$1.5 million, an increase in bank-owned life insurance income of \$1.4 million due to death benefit claims, an increase in the change in fair value of equity securities of \$1.4 million, and an increase in other non-interest income of \$1.4 million, primarily due to an insurance settlement. The gain on sale of loans for the year ended December 31, 2021 included a \$7.7 million gain on the sale of commercial business loans granted as part of the Small Business Administration PPP.

The increase in non-interest expense was primarily attributable to an increase in compensation and employee benefits expense of \$17.4 million, an increase in occupancy expense of \$2.5 million, and an increase in merger-related expenses of \$2.0 million, partially offset by a decrease in loss on the extinguishment of debt of \$2.9 million. The increase in compensation and employee benefits expense was due to an increase in the number of employees as a result of recent mergers, along with normal annual increase in salaries and bonuses and related personnel benefit costs. There was an increase of 90 full time equivalent employees from December 31, 2021 compared to December 31, 2022. The increase in occupancy expense primarily related to additional costs incurred with respect to locations acquired in connection with recent mergers. The merger-related expenses for the year ended December 31, 2022 was mainly related to the acquisition of RSI Bank, while merger expenses for the year ended December 31, 2021 were mainly related to the completed acquisition of Freehold Bank. During the year ended December 31, 2021, the Company utilized excess liquidity to prepay borrowings and also terminated related derivative contracts, which resulted in a \$2.9 million loss on early extinguishment of debt.

The overall decrease in our pre-tax income was mostly attributable to an increase in the provision for credit losses, decrease in non-interest income and increase in non-interest expense, partially offset by an increase in net interest income and a decrease in income tax expense. Income tax expense was \$30.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2022, a decrease of \$3.4 million, or 10.0%, as compared to \$34.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2021, mainly due to a decrease in pre-tax income, and to a lesser extent, a decrease in the Company's effective tax rate. The Company's effective tax rate was 26.3% and 27.1% for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

### Summary Income Statements

The following table sets forth the income summary for the periods indicated:

	Years Ended December 31,						
	2022		2021		Change 2022/2021		
					\$	%	
	(Dollars in thousands)						
Net interest income	\$	266,777	\$	233,134	\$	33,643	14.4 %
Provision for (reversal of) credit losses		5,485		(9,953)		15,438	(155.1)
Non-interest income		30,400		38,831		(8,431)	(21.7)
Non-interest expense		174,816		155,737		19,079	12.3
Income tax expense		30,703		34,132		(3,429)	(10.0)
Net income	\$	86,173	\$	92,049	\$	(5,876)	(6.4)%
Return on average assets		0.88 %		1.01 %			
Return on average equity		8.09 %		8.98 %			

### Net Interest Income

For the year ended December 31, 2022, net interest income increased \$33.6 million, or 14.4%, to \$266.8 million from \$233.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2021. For the year ended December 31, 2022, total interest income increased \$39.5 million, or 14.6%, to \$309.7 million, from \$270.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2021. The increase in interest income was primarily attributable to an increase in the average balances of loans coupled with increases in yields on all interest-earning assets, due to rising rates, partially offset by a decrease in the average balances of securities and other interest-earning assets. The yield on the loan portfolio for the year ended December 31, 2022 was 7 basis points higher than the yield for the year ended December 31, 2021, while the yield on the securities portfolio was 28 basis points higher for the 2022 period. The average yield on other interest-earning assets for the year ended December 31, 2022 increased 217 basis points compared to the year ended December 31, 2021. Increases in average yields on these portfolios for the year ended December 31, 2022 were influenced by the rise in interest rates in 2022.

The average cost of our interest-bearing liabilities increased to 0.64% for the year ended December 31, 2022, from 0.58% for the year ended December 31, 2021, primarily as a result of an increase in the average balance of interest-bearing deposits coupled with an increase in the average cost of borrowings. For the year ended December 31, 2022, the average cost of interest-bearing deposits decreased 7 basis points. The repricing of interest-bearing deposits lags in relation to other interest-bearing liabilities in a rising rate environment. For the year ended December 31, 2022, total interest expense increased \$5.9 million, or 15.9%, to \$42.9 million from \$37.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2021. During 2022, the average cost of borrowings increased 149 basis points, partially offset by a decrease in the average balance of borrowings. The higher interest rate environment coupled with the higher cost of repricing deposits caused the overall increase in interest expense.

A provision for credit losses of \$5.5 million was recorded for the year ended December 31, 2022 compared to a reversal of provision for credit losses of \$10.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2021. The increase in provision for credit losses during the year was primarily attributable to an increase in the balances of loans and the consideration of current and projected economic conditions. Net charge-offs totaled \$45,000 for the year ended December 31, 2022, as compared to \$2.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2021. We charge-off any collateral or cash flow deficiency on all classified loans once they are 90 days delinquent or earlier where management determines that the collection of loan principal and interest is unlikely. The provision for credit losses was determined by management to be an amount necessary to maintain a balance of allowance for credit losses at a level that uses relevant and reliable information from internal and external sources, related past events, current conditions, and a reasonable and supportable forecast. Changes in the provision were based on management's analysis of various factors within the qualitative and quantitative components of the allowance for credit losses calculation. At December 31, 2022, the allowance for credit losses totaled \$52.8 million, or 0.69% of total gross loans outstanding, compared to \$62.7 million, or 0.99% of total gross loans outstanding, as of December 31, 2021. An analysis of the changes in the allowance for credit losses is presented under "Risk Management-Analysis and Determination of the Allowance for Credit Losses" below.

### Non-Interest Income

The following table sets forth a summary of non-interest income for the periods indicated:

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2022	2021
	(In thousands)	
Demand deposit account fees	\$ 5,293	\$ 3,803
Bank-owned life insurance	7,393	5,994
Title insurance fees	3,423	6,088
Loan fees and service charges	3,924	2,983
Gain on securities transactions	210	2,025
Change in fair value of equity securities	(401)	(1,792)
Gain on sale of loans	178	10,790
Other non-interest income	10,380	8,940
Total	<u>\$ 30,400</u>	<u>\$ 38,831</u>

For the year ended December 31, 2022, non-interest income decreased \$8.4 million, or 21.7%, to \$30.4 million from \$38.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2021. In 2022, the decrease was primarily attributable to a decrease in income from the gain on the sale of loans of \$10.6 million, a decrease in income from title insurance fees of \$2.7 million, and a decrease in gain on securities transactions of \$1.8 million, partially offset by an increase in demand deposit account fees of \$1.5 million, an increase in bank-owned life insurance income of \$1.4 million due to death benefit claims, an increase in the change in fair value of equity securities of \$1.4 million, and an increase in other non-interest income of \$1.4 million, primarily due to an insurance settlement. The gain on sale of loans for the year ended December 31, 2021 included a \$7.7 million gain on the sale of commercial business loans granted as part of the Small Business Administration PPP.

### Non-Interest Expense

The following table sets forth an analysis of non-interest expense for the periods indicated:

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2022	2021
	(In thousands)	
Compensation and employee benefits	\$ 116,926	\$ 99,534
Occupancy	22,589	20,071
Federal deposit insurance premiums	2,591	2,374
Advertising	2,865	2,358
Professional fees	8,158	7,363
Data processing and software expenses	13,362	11,497
Merger-related expenses	2,810	822
Loss on extinguishment of debt	—	2,851
Other non-interest expense	5,515	8,867
Total	<u>\$ 174,816</u>	<u>\$ 155,737</u>

For the year ended December 31, 2022, non-interest expense increased \$19.1 million, or 12.3%, to \$174.8 million from \$155.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2021. The increase was primarily attributable to an increase in compensation and employee benefits expense of \$17.4 million, an increase in occupancy expense of \$2.5 million, and an increase in merger-related expenses of \$2.0 million, partially offset by a decrease in loss on the extinguishment of debt of \$2.9 million. The increase in compensation and employee benefits expense was due to an increase in the number of employees as a result of recent mergers, along with normal annual increase in salaries and bonuses and related personnel benefit costs. There was an increase of 90 full time equivalent employees from December 31, 2021 compared to December 31, 2022. The increase in occupancy expense primarily related to additional costs incurred with respect to locations acquired in connection with recent mergers. The increase in merger-related expenses was mainly related to the acquisition of RSI Bank. During the year ended December 31, 2021, the Company utilized excess liquidity to prepay borrowings and also terminated related derivative contracts, which resulted in a \$2.9 million loss on early extinguishment of debt.

### ***Income Tax Expense***

We recorded income tax expense of \$30.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2022, reflecting an effective tax rate of 26.3%, compared to income tax expense of \$34.1 million for 2021, reflecting an effective tax rate of 27.1%.

As of December 31, 2022, we had a net deferred tax asset totaling \$36.9 million. We regularly evaluate the realizability of deferred tax asset positions. In determining whether a valuation allowance is necessary, we consider the level of taxable income in prior years to the extent that carrybacks are permitted under current tax laws, as well as estimates of future pre-tax and taxable income and tax planning strategies that would, if necessary, be implemented. We have provided a valuation allowance of \$2.0 million as of December 31, 2022 on the deferred tax assets related to the Bank's state net operating losses.

### **Results of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2021**

For a comparison of the Company's results of operations for the year ended December 31, 2021, please see the section captioned "*Results of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2021*" in Item 7 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2022.

### **Average Balances and Yields**

The following tables present information regarding average balances of assets and liabilities, as well as the total dollar amounts of interest income and dividends from average interest-earning assets, and interest expense on average interest-bearing liabilities, and the resulting annualized average yields and costs. The yields and costs for the periods indicated are derived by dividing income or expense by the average daily balances of assets or liabilities, respectively, for the periods presented. Loan (fees) costs, including prepayment fees, are included in interest income on loans and are not material. Non-accrual loans and PCD loans are included in the average balances and are not material. Yields are not presented on a tax-equivalent basis. Any adjustments necessary to present yields on a tax-equivalent basis are insignificant.

**Years Ended December 31,**

	2023			2022		
	Average Balance	Interest	Yield / Cost	Average Balance	Interest	Yield / Cost
(Dollars in thousands)						
<b>Interest earning assets:</b>						
Loans (1)	\$ 7,748,096	\$ 343,770	4.44 %	\$ 6,939,419	\$ 263,559	3.80 %
Securities (2)	1,540,726	37,828	2.46 %	1,943,459	43,915	2.26 %
Other interest-earning assets	241,520	13,380	5.54 %	76,500	2,196	2.87 %
Total interest-earning assets	9,530,342	\$ 394,978	4.14 %	8,959,378	\$ 309,670	3.46 %
Non-interest-earning assets	840,215			782,444		
Total assets	\$ 10,370,557			\$ 9,741,822		
<b>Interest-bearing liabilities:</b>						
Interest-bearing demand	\$ 2,183,333	\$ 37,774	1.73 %	\$ 2,685,675	\$ 11,307	0.42 %
Money market accounts	951,174	24,296	2.55 %	695,849	2,593	0.37 %
Savings and club deposits	793,303	2,231	0.28 %	922,916	466	0.05 %
Certificates of deposit	2,229,042	60,861	2.73 %	1,834,876	13,512	0.74 %
Total interest-bearing deposits	6,156,852	125,162	2.03 %	6,139,316	27,878	0.45 %
FHLB advances	1,315,401	62,398	4.74 %	547,158	13,449	2.46 %
Notes payable	22,780	918	4.03 %	30,084	1,194	3.97 %
Junior subordinated debentures	7,054	624	8.85 %	6,984	370	5.30 %
Other borrowings	—	—	— %	55	2	3.64 %
Total borrowings	1,345,235	63,940	4.75 %	584,281	15,015	2.57 %
Total interest-bearing liabilities	7,502,087	\$ 189,102	2.52 %	6,723,597	\$ 42,893	0.64 %
<b>Non-interest-bearing liabilities:</b>						
Non-interest-bearing deposits	1,539,354			1,742,607		
Other non-interest-bearing liabilities	231,018			210,280		
Total liabilities	9,272,459			8,676,484		
Total stockholders' equity	1,098,098			1,065,338		
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 10,370,557			\$ 9,741,822		

Net interest income		\$ 205,876			\$ 266,777	
Interest rate spread (3)			1.62 %			2.82 %
Net interest-earning assets (4)	\$ 2,028,255			\$ 2,235,781		
Net interest margin (5)			2.16 %			2.98 %
Ratio of interest-earning assets to interest-bearing liabilities	127.04 %			133.25 %		

(1) Includes loans held-for-sale, non-accrual and PCD loan balances.

(2) Includes debt securities available for sale, debt securities held to maturity and equity securities.

(3) Interest rate spread represents the difference between the yield on average interest-earning assets and the cost of average interest-bearing liabilities.

(4) Net interest-earning assets represent total interest-earning assets less total interest-bearing liabilities.

(5) Net interest margin represents net interest income divided by average total interest-earning assets.



	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021		
	Average Balance	Interest	Yield / Cost
	(Dollars in thousands)		
Interest earning assets:			
Loans (1)	\$ 6,139,290	\$ 228,841	3.73 %
Securities (2)	1,965,901	38,843	1.98 %
Other interest-earning assets	350,162	2,466	0.70 %
Total interest-earning assets	8,455,353	\$ 270,150	3.20 %
Non-interest-earning assets	647,650		
Total assets	<u>\$ 9,103,003</u>		
Interest-bearing liabilities:			
Interest-bearing demand	\$ 2,395,493	\$ 8,177	0.34 %
Money market accounts	632,011	1,900	0.30 %
Savings and club deposits	752,983	731	0.10 %
Certificates of deposit	1,835,866	18,301	1.00 %
Total interest-bearing deposits	5,616,353	29,109	0.52 %
FHLB advances	724,790	7,637	1.05 %
Notes payable	740	25	3.38 %
Junior subordinated debentures	7,448	245	3.29 %
Total borrowings	732,978	7,907	1.08 %
Total interest-bearing liabilities	6,349,331	\$ 37,016	0.58 %
Non-interest-bearing liabilities:			
Non-interest-bearing deposits	1,522,322		
Other non-interest-bearing liabilities	206,436		
Total liabilities	8,078,089		
Total stockholders' equity	1,024,914		
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	<u>\$ 9,103,003</u>		
Net interest income		\$ 233,134	
Interest rate spread (3)			2.62 %
Net interest-earning assets (4)	\$ 2,106,022		
Net interest margin (5)			2.76 %
Ratio of interest-earning assets to interest-bearing liabilities		133.17 %	

(1) Includes loans held-for-sale, non-accrual and PCD loan balances.

(2) Includes debt securities available for sale, debt securities held to maturity and equity securities.

(3) Interest rate spread represents the difference between the yield on average interest-earning assets and the cost of average interest-bearing liabilities.

(4) Net interest-earning assets represent total interest-earning assets less total interest-bearing liabilities.

(5) Net interest margin represents net interest income divided by average total interest-earning assets.

## Rate/Volume Analysis

The following table sets forth the effects of changing rates and volumes on our net interest income. The rate column shows the effects attributable to changes in rate (changes in rate multiplied by prior volume). The volume column shows the effects attributable to changes in volume (changes in volume multiplied by prior rate). The total column represents the sum of the prior columns.

	Year Ended 12/31/2023 Compared to Year Ended 12/31/2022			Year Ended 12/31/2022 Compared to Year Ended 12/31/2021		
	Increase (Decrease) Due to			Increase (Decrease) Due to		
	Volume	Rate	Total	Volume	Rate	Total
(In thousands)						
<b>Interest income:</b>						
Loans	\$ 30,714	\$ 49,497	\$ 80,211	\$ 29,825	\$ 4,893	\$ 34,718
Securities	(9,100)	3,013	(6,087)	(443)	5,515	5,072
Other interest-earning assets	4,737	6,447	11,184	(1,927)	1,657	(270)
Total interest-earning assets	\$ 26,351	\$ 58,957	\$ 85,308	\$ 27,455	\$ 12,065	\$ 39,520
<b>Interest expense:</b>						
Interest-bearing demand	\$ (2,115)	\$ 28,582	\$ 26,467	\$ 991	\$ 2,139	\$ 3,130
Money market accounts	951	20,752	21,703	192	501	693
Savings and club deposits	(65)	1,830	1,765	165	(430)	(265)
Certificates of deposit	2,903	44,446	47,349	(10)	(4,779)	(4,789)
Total interest-bearing deposits	1,674	95,610	97,284	1,338	(2,569)	(1,231)
FHLB advances	18,920	30,029	48,949	(1,878)	7,690	5,812
Notes payable	(290)	14	(276)	991	178	1,169
Junior subordinated debentures	(27)	281	254	5	120	125
Other borrowings	(2)	—	(2)	—	2	2
Total interest-bearing liabilities	\$ 20,275	\$ 125,934	\$ 146,209	\$ 456	\$ 5,421	\$ 5,877
Net change in net interest income	\$ 6,076	\$ (66,977)	\$ (60,901)	\$ 26,999	\$ 6,644	\$ 33,643

## Risk Management

**Overview.** Managing risk is an essential part of successfully managing a financial institution. Our most prominent risk exposures are credit risk, interest rate risk, liquidity risk, and market risk. Credit risk is the risk of not collecting the interest and/or the principal balance of a loan or investment when it is due. Interest rate risk is the potential reduction of interest income as a result of changes in interest rates. Liquidity risk is the possible inability to fund obligations to depositors, lenders or borrowers. Market risk arises from fluctuations in interest rates that may result in changes in the values of financial instruments, such as available for sale securities that are accounted for at fair value. Other risks that we face are operational risk, liquidity risk and reputation risk. Operational risk includes risks related to fraud, regulatory compliance, processing errors, cyber attacks, and disaster recovery. Liquidity risk is the possible inability to fund obligations to depositors, lenders or borrowers. Reputation risk is the risk that negative publicity or press, whether true or not, could cause a decline in our customer base or revenue.

We maintain a Risk Management Division comprised of our Risk Management, Compliance, Credit Risk Review, Collateral Risk, and Security Departments. Our Risk Management Division is led by our Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Officer, who reports quarterly to Columbia Bank's Risk Committee, which is comprised of the full board of directors. The current structure of our Risk Management Division is designed to monitor and address, among other things, financial, credit, collateral, consumer compliance, operational, Bank Secrecy Act, fraud, cyber security, vendor and insurable risks. The Risk Management Division utilizes a number of enterprise risk assessment tools, including stress testing, credit concentration reviews, peer analyses, industry considerations and individual risk assessments, to identify and report potential risks that we face in connection with our business operations.

**Credit Risk Management.** The objective of our credit risk management strategy is to quantify and manage credit risk and to limit the risk of loss resulting from an individual customer default. Our credit risk management strategy focuses on conservatism, diversification within the loan portfolio and monitoring. Our lending practices include conservative exposure limits and underwriting, documentation and collection standards. Our credit risk management strategy also emphasizes diversification on an industry and customer level as well as regular credit examinations and monthly management reviews of large credit exposures and loans experiencing deterioration in credit quality. Our credit risk review function provides objective assessments of the quality of underwriting and documentation, the accuracy of risk ratings and the charge-off, non-accrual and impact on the reserve analysis

process. Our credit review process and overall assessment of credit defaults and charge-offs on our allowance for credit losses is analyzed quarterly or as necessary. We use these assessments to identify potential problem loans within the portfolio, maintain an adequate reserve and take any necessary charge-offs when deemed appropriate.

When a borrower fails to make a required payment, we take a number of steps to have the borrower cure the delinquency and restore the loan to current status. Generally, our collection department follows the guidelines for servicing loans as prescribed by applicable law or the appropriate investor. Collection activities include, but are not limited to, phone calls to borrowers and collection letters, which include a late charge notice based on the contractual requirements of the specific loan. Additional calls and notices are mailed in compliance with state and federal regulations including, but not limited to, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. After the 90th day of delinquency for a residential mortgage or consumer loan, or on a different date as allowable by law or contract, the collection department will forward the account to counsel and begin the collection litigation which typically includes foreclosure proceedings, or we may periodically sell a delinquent loan to a third-party. If a foreclosure action is instituted and the loan is not in at least the early stages of a workout by the scheduled sale date, the real property securing the loan generally is sold at a sheriff sale. If we determine that there is a possibility of a settlement, pay-off or reinstatement, the sheriff sale may be postponed.

We charge off the collateral or cash flow deficiency on all consumer loans once they become 180 days delinquent and all commercial loans once they become 90 days delinquent or earlier if management believes the collectability of the loan is unlikely. In addition to the individual review of larger commercial loans that exhibit probable or observed credit weaknesses, the commercial credit review process includes the use of an enhanced risk rating system. Historical portfolio performance metrics, current economic conditions and delinquency monitoring are factors used to assess the credit risk in our homogeneous commercial, residential and consumer loan portfolios.

**Analysis of Non-Performing, Modification of Loans and Classified Assets.** We consider repossessed assets and loans to be non-performing assets if they are 90 days or more past due or earlier if management believes the collectability of the loan is unlikely. Generally, all loans are placed on non-accrual status when the payment of interest is 90 days or more in arrears of its contractual due date, at which time the accrual of interest ceases. Typically, payments received on a non-accrual loan are applied to the outstanding principal balance of the loan.

Real estate that we acquire through foreclosure or by deed in lieu of foreclosure is classified as real estate owned until it is sold. When an asset is acquired, the excess of the loan balance over fair value less estimated selling costs is charged to the allowance for loan losses. Operating results from real estate owned, including rental income, operating expenses, and gains and losses realized from the sales of real estate owned are recorded as incurred.

Modifications made to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty may include principal or interest forgiveness, forbearance, interest rate reductions, term extensions, or a combination of these events intended to minimize economic loss and to avoid foreclosure or repossession of collateral.

Modified loans that were accruing prior to their modification where income was reasonably assured subsequent to the modification, maintain their accrual status. Modified loans for which collectability was not reasonably assured, are placed on non-accrual status, interest accruals cease, and uncollected accrued interest is reversed and charged against current income. Non-accruing modified loans may be returned to accrual status when there is a sustained period of repayment performance (generally six consecutive months of payments), and both principal and interest are deemed collectible.

On January 1, 2023, the Company adopted ASU 2022-02, *Financial Instruments-Credit Losses (Topic 326), Troubled Debt Restructurings and Vintage Disclosures*, which eliminated the accounting guidance for troubled debt restructurings ("TDRs") while enhancing disclosure requirements for certain loan refinancing and restructurings by creditors when a borrower is experiencing financial difficulty. See note 7 to our consolidated financial statements for further information on modification of loans.

The following table sets forth information with respect to our non-performing assets at the dates indicated, excluding PCD loans. We did not have any accruing loans past due 90 days or more at any of the dates indicated.

	At December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
	(Dollars in thousands)		
Non-accrual loans:			
Real estate loans:			
One-to-four family	\$ 3,139	\$ 2,730	\$ 1,416
Commercial real estate	2,740	2,892	1,561
Total real estate loans	5,879	5,622	2,977
Commercial business loans	6,518	801	761
Consumer loans:			
Home equity loans and advances	221	286	201
Other consumer loans	—	12	—
Total consumer loans	221	298	201
Total non-accrual loans (1)	12,618	6,721	3,939
Total non-performing loans	12,618	6,721	3,939
Real estate owned	—	—	—
Total non-performing assets	\$ 12,618	\$ 6,721	\$ 3,939
Total non-performing loans to total loans	0.16 %	0.09 %	0.06 %
Total non-performing assets total assets	0.12 %	0.06 %	0.04 %

(1) Includes \$237,000 of loan modifications on non-accrual status as of December 31, 2023, and \$23,000 and \$383,000 of TDR's on non-accrual status as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

Non-performing assets increased \$5.9 million to \$12.6 million, or 0.12% of total assets, at December 31, 2023 from \$6.7 million, or 0.06% of total assets, at December 31, 2022. The \$5.9 million increase in non-performing loans was primarily attributable to an increase in non-performing commercial business loans of \$5.7 million and an increase in nonperforming one-to-four family real estate loans of \$410,000. The increase in non-performing commercial business loans was due to an increase in the number of loans from three non-performing loans at December 31, 2022 to ten loans at December 31, 2023, including a \$3.7 million loan to a technology company. The increase in non-performing one-to-four family real estate loans was due to an increase in the number of loans from 12 non-performing loans at December 31, 2022 to 17 loans at December 31, 2023. Non-performing assets as a percentage of total assets totaled 0.12% at December 31, 2023 as compared to 0.06% at December 31, 2022. We charge-off the collateral or cash flow deficiency on all loans meeting our definition of an impaired loan, which we define as a loan for which it is probable, based on current information, that we will not collect all amounts due under the contractual terms of the loan agreement. We consider the population of loans in our impairment analysis to include all multifamily and commercial real estate, construction, and commercial business loans with outstanding balances greater than \$500,000 and not accruing interest, loans modified in a troubled debt restructuring, and other loans if there is specific information of a collateral shortfall. We continue to rigorously review our loan portfolio to ensure that the collateral values remain sufficient to support the outstanding balances.

Non-performing assets increased \$2.8 million to \$6.7 million, or 0.06% of total assets, at December 31, 2022 from \$3.9 million, or 0.04% of total assets, at December 31, 2021. The \$2.8 million increase in non-performing loans was primarily attributable to increases of \$1.3 million in non-performing one-to-four family real estate loans, \$1.3 million in non-performing commercial real estate loans, \$40,000 in non-performing commercial business loans, and \$85,000 in non-performing home equity loans and advances. The increase in non-performing one-to-four family real estate loans was due to an increase in the number of loans from seven non-performing loans at December 31, 2021 to 12 loans at December 31, 2022. The increase in non-performing commercial real estate loans was due to an increase in the number of loans from one non-performing loan at December 31, 2021 to two non-performing loans at December 31, 2022. The decrease in non-performing commercial business loans was due to charge-offs totaling \$2.0 million. The increase in non-performing home equity loans and advances was due to an increase in the number of loans from four non-performing loans at December 31, 2021 to six non-performing loans at December 31, 2022. We charge-off the collateral or cash flow deficiency on all loans meeting our definition of an impaired loan, which we define as a loan for which it is probable, based on current information, that we will not collect all amounts due under the contractual terms of the loan agreement. We consider the population of loans in our impairment analysis to include all multifamily and commercial real estate, construction, and commercial business loans with outstanding balances greater than \$500,000 and not accruing interest, loans modified in a troubled debt restructuring, and other

loans if there is specific information of a collateral shortfall. We continue to rigorously review our loan portfolio to ensure that the collateral values remain sufficient to support the outstanding balances.

Federal regulations require us to review and classify our assets on a regular basis. In addition, our banking regulators have the authority to identify problem assets and, if appropriate, require them to be classified. Our credit review process includes a risk classification of all commercial and residential loans that includes four levels of pass, special mention, substandard, doubtful and loss. A loan is classified as pass when payments are current and it is performing under the original contractual terms. A loan is classified as special mention when the borrower exhibits potential credit weakness or a downward trend which, if not checked or corrected, will weaken the asset or inadequately protect our position. While potentially weak, the borrower is currently marginally acceptable; no loss of principal or interest is envisioned. A loan is classified as substandard when the borrower has a well-defined weakness or weaknesses that jeopardize the orderly liquidation of the debt. A substandard loan is inadequately protected by the current net worth and paying capacity of the obligor, normal repayment from this borrower is in jeopardy, and there is a distinct possibility that a partial loss of interest and/or principal will occur if the deficiencies are not corrected. A loan is classified as doubtful when a borrower has all weaknesses inherent in a substandard loan with the added provision that: (1) the weaknesses make collection of debt in full on the basis of currently existing facts, conditions and values highly questionable and improbable; (2) serious problems exist to the point where a partial loss of principal is likely; and (3) the possibility of loss is extremely high, but because of certain important, reasonably specific pending factors that may work to the advantage and strengthening of the assets, its classification as an estimated loss is deferred until its more exact status may be determined. Pending factors include proposed merger, acquisition, or liquidation procedures, capital injection, perfecting liens and additional refinancing plans. A loan is classified as loss when all or a portion of the loan is considered uncollectible and of such little value that its continuance on our books without establishment of a specific valuation allowance or charge off is not warranted. This classification does not necessarily mean that the loan has no recovery or salvage value. Rather, it indicates that there is significant doubt about whether, how much or when recovery will occur.

A loan is considered delinquent when we have not received a payment within 30 days of its contractual due date. Generally, a loan is designated as a non-accrual loan when the payment of interest is 90 days or more in arrears of its contractual due date. At December 31, 2023, there were no loans past due 90 or more still accruing interest. In accordance with the CARES Act, these loans are not included in the aging of loans receivable by portfolio segment in the table below, and the Bank continues to accrue interest income during the forbearance or deferral period. If adverse information indicating that the borrower's capability of repaying all amounts due is unlikely, the interest accrual will cease. The following tables summarize the aging of loans receivable by portfolio segment at the dates indicated:

	At December 31,								
	2023			2022			2021		
	30-59 Days	60-89 Days	90 Days or More	30-59 Days	60-89 Days	90 Days or More	30-59 Days	60-89 Days	90 Days or More
	(In thousands)								
Real estate loans:									
One-to-four family	\$ 11,079	\$ 4,254	\$ 1,558	\$ 4,063	\$ 1,149	\$ 1,808	\$ 3,131	\$ 1,976	\$ 373
Commercial real estate	1,711	2,472	2,740	—	853	2,892	2,189	—	1,561
Construction	—	—	—	5,218	—	—	—	—	—
Commercial business loans	1,727	4,917	6,518	220	—	474	412	—	203
Consumer loans:									
Home equity loans and advances	779	14	170	465	33	286	108	53	81
Other consumer loans	1	—	—	3	1	12	—	4	—
Total	\$ 15,297	\$ 11,657	\$ 10,986	\$ 9,969	\$ 2,036	\$ 5,472	\$ 5,840	\$ 2,033	\$ 2,218

The following tables present criticized and classified assets by credit quality risk indicator at the dates indicated:

	At December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
	(In thousands)		
Classified loans:			
Substandard	\$ 47,604	\$ 27,656	\$ 42,379
Doubtful	—	—	—
Total classified loans	47,604	27,656	42,379
Special mention	36,778	57,327	61,070
Total criticized loans	\$ 84,382	\$ 84,983	\$ 103,449

All impaired loans classified as substandard and doubtful are written down to the fair value of their underlying collateral if the loan is collateral dependent.

#### *Analysis and Determination of the Allowance for Credit Losses*

The allowance for credit losses on loans is a valuation account that reflects management's evaluation of estimated losses in the current loan portfolio. We evaluate the need to establish allowances against losses on loans on a quarterly basis. When additional allowances are necessary, a provision for credit losses is charged to earnings. The ACL is maintained at a level management considers adequate to provide for estimated losses and impairment based upon an evaluation of known and inherent risk in the loan portfolio. The ACL consists of two elements: (1) identification of loans that must be individually analyzed for impairment and (2) establishment of an ACL for loans collectively analyzed.

**Individually Analyzed Loans.** Management regularly monitors the condition of borrowers and assesses both internal and external factors in determining whether any relationships have deteriorated, considering factors such as historical loss experience, trends in delinquency and non-performing loans, changes in risk composition and underwriting standards, and regional and national economic conditions and trends.

Our loan officers and loan servicing staff identify and manage potential problem loans within our commercial loan portfolio. Non-performing assets within the commercial loan portfolio are transferred to the Special Assets Department for workout or litigation. The Special Assets Department reports directly to the Chief Credit Officer. Changes in management, financial or operating performance, company behavior, industry factors and external events and circumstances are evaluated on an ongoing basis to determine whether potential impairment is evident and additional analysis is needed. For our commercial loan portfolio, risk ratings are assigned to each individual loan to differentiate risk within the portfolio and are reviewed on an ongoing basis by credit management and the Credit Risk Review Department and revised, if needed, to reflect the borrower's current risk profiles and the related collateral positions.

The risk ratings consider factors such as financial condition, debt capacity and coverage ratios, market presence and quality of management. When a credit's risk rating is downgraded to a certain level, the relationship must be reviewed and detailed reports completed that document risk management strategies for the credit going forward, and the appropriate accounting actions to take in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States. When credits are downgraded beyond a certain level, our Special Assets and Loan Servicing Departments become responsible for managing the credit risk.

The Asset Classification Committee reviews risk rating actions (specifically downgrades or upgrades between pass and the criticized and classified categories) recommended by Lending, Loan Servicing, Commercial Credit, Credit Risk Review and/or Special Assets Departments on a quarterly basis. Our Commercial Credit, Credit Risk Review, Lending, and Loan Servicing Departments monitor our commercial, residential and consumer loan portfolios for credit risk and deterioration considering factors such as delinquency, loan to value ratios and credit scores.

When problem loans are identified that are secured with collateral, management examines the loan files to evaluate the nature and type of collateral supporting the loans. Management documents the collateral type, date of the most recent valuation, and whether any liens exist, to determine the value to compare against the committed loan amount. If a loan is identified as impaired and is collateral dependent, an updated appraisal is obtained to provide a baseline in determining the property's fair value. A collateral dependent impaired loan is written down to its appraised value and a specific allowance is established to cover potential selling costs. If the collateral value is subject to significant volatility (due to location of asset, obsolescence, etc.) an appraisal is obtained more frequently. In-house revaluations are typically performed on a quarterly basis and updated appraisals are obtained annually, if determined necessary.

When we determine that the value of an impaired loan is less than its carrying amount, we recognize impairment through a charge-off to the allowance for credit losses. We perform these assessments on an ongoing basis. For commercial loans, a charge-off is

recorded when management determines we will not collect 100% of a loan based on the fair value of the collateral or the net present value of expected future cash flows. The collateral deficiency on consumer loans and residential loans are generally charged-off when deemed to be uncollectible or delinquent 180 days, whichever comes first, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that repayment will occur regardless of the delinquency status. Examples that would demonstrate repayment include a loan that is secured by adequate collateral and is in the process of collection, a loan supported by a valid guarantee or insurance, or a loan supported by a valid claim against a solvent estate.

**Collectively Analyzed Loans.** Additionally, we reserve for certain inherent, but undetected, losses that are probable within the loan portfolio. This is due to several factors, such as, but not limited to, inherent delays in obtaining information regarding a customer's financial condition or changes in their unique business conditions and the interpretation of economic trends. While this analysis is conducted at least quarterly, we have the ability to revise the allowance factors whenever necessary to address improving or deteriorating credit quality trends or specific risks associated with a given loan pool classification.

A comprehensive analysis of the allowance for credit losses on loans is performed on a quarterly basis. The entire allowance for credit losses on loans is available to absorb losses in the loan portfolio irrespective of the amount of each separate element of the ACL. Our principal focus, therefore, is on the adequacy of the total allowance for credit losses.

Although we believe we have established and maintained the ACL on loans at appropriate levels, changes in reserves may be necessary if actual economic and other conditions differ substantially from the forecast used in estimating the ACL. See note 2 to our consolidated financial statements for a detailed discussion of our accounting policies and methodologies for establishing the ACL.

The allowance for credit losses is subject to review by our banking regulators. On an annual basis our primary bank regulator conducts an examination of the allowance for credit losses and makes an assessment regarding its adequacy and the methodology employed in its determination.

	At December 31,								
	2023			2022			2021		
	Amount	% of Allowance to Total Allowance	% of Allowance to Loans in Category	Amount	% of Allowance to Total Allowance	% of Allowance to Loans in Category	Amount	% of Allowance to Total Allowance	% of Allowance to Loans in Category
	(Dollars in thousands)								
Real estate loans:									
One-to-four family	\$ 13,017	23.6 %	0.5 %	\$ 11,802	22.3 %	0.4 %	\$ 8,798	14.1 %	0.4 %
Multifamily	8,742	15.9	0.6	7,877	14.9	0.6	7,741	12.3	0.7
Commercial real estate	15,757	28.6	0.7	18,111	34.3	0.7	16,114	25.7	0.7
Construction	7,758	14.1	1.8	6,425	12.2	1.9	8,943	14.3	3.0
Commercial business	7,923	14.4	1.5	6,897	13.1	1.4	20,214	32.2	4.5
Consumer loans:									
Home equity loans and advances	1,892	3.4	0.7	1,681	3.2	0.6	873	1.4	0.3
Other consumer loans	7	—	0.2	10	—	0.3	6	—	0.4
Total allowance for credit losses	\$ 55,096	100.0 %	0.7 %	\$ 52,803	100.0 %	0.7 %	\$ 62,689	100.0 %	1.0 %

**Total Loans.** During the year ended December 31, 2023, the balance of the allowance for credit losses increased by \$2.3 million to \$55.1 million, or 0.70% of total gross loans at December 31, 2023, from \$52.8 million, or 0.69% of total gross loans at December 31, 2022. The increase in the total loan coverage ratio for the year ended December 31, 2023 was primarily attributable to an increase in the outstanding balance of loans and an increase in qualitative factors, partially offset by a decrease in loan loss rates.

**One-to-Four Family Loan Portfolio.** The portion of the allowance for credit losses related to the one-to-four family real estate loan portfolio totaled \$13.0 million, or 0.5%, of one-to-four family loans at December 31, 2023, as compared to \$11.8 million, or 0.4%, of one-to-four family real estate loans at December 31, 2022. Our one-to-four family non-accrual loans increased \$409,000,

or 15.0%, to \$3.1 million at December 31, 2023 from \$2.7 million at December 31, 2022. Net charge-offs were \$568,000 for the year ended December 31, 2023 compared to \$44,000 for the year ended December 31, 2022. We believe the one-to-four family real estate loan reserve ratio was appropriate given the continued low levels of charge-offs.

**Multifamily Loan Portfolio.** The portion of the allowance for credit losses related to the multifamily real estate loan portfolio totaled \$8.7 million, or 0.6%, of multifamily loans at December 31, 2023, as compared to \$7.9 million, or 0.6%, of multifamily loans at December 31, 2022. There were no multifamily non-accrual loans at December 31, 2023 and 2022. There were no charge-offs or recoveries for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. We believe the multifamily loan reserve ratio was appropriate given the low levels of charge-offs.

**Commercial Real Estate Loan Portfolio.** The portion of the allowance for credit losses related to the commercial real estate loan portfolio totaled \$15.8 million, or 0.7%, of commercial real estate loans at December 31, 2023, as compared to \$18.1 million, or 0.7%, of commercial real estate loans at December 31, 2022. Commercial real estate non-accrual loans decreased to \$2.7 million at December 31, 2023, from \$2.9 million at December 31, 2022. Net charge-offs were \$129,000 for the year ended December 31, 2023. There were no charge-offs or recoveries for the year ended December 31, 2022. We believe the commercial real estate loan reserve ratio was appropriate given the continued low balance of non-accrual loans along with low levels of charge-offs.

**Construction Loan Portfolio.** The portion of the allowance for credit losses related to the construction loan portfolio totaled \$7.8 million, or 1.8%, of construction loans at December 31, 2023, as compared to \$6.4 million, or 1.9%, of construction loans at December 31, 2022. At both December 31, 2023 and 2022, we had no criticized, classified or non-accrual construction loans. There were no charge-offs or recoveries for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. We believe the construction loan reserve ratio was appropriate as there were no non-accrual loans or charge-offs, considering the inherent credit risk associated with this portfolio.

**Commercial Business Loan Portfolio.** The portion of the allowance for credit losses related to the commercial business loan portfolio totaled \$7.9 million, or 1.5%, of commercial business loans at December 31, 2023, as compared to \$6.9 million, or 1.4%, of commercial business loans at December 31, 2022. Commercial business non-accrual loans increased to \$6.5 million at December 31, 2023, from \$801,000 at December 31, 2022. Net charge-offs were \$1.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2023 compared to net recoveries of \$18,000 for the year ended December 31, 2022. We continue to charge-off any collateral deficiency for non-performing loans once a loan is 90 days past due. We believe the commercial business loan reserve ratio was appropriate given the inherent credit risk of commercial business loans.

**Home Equity Loans and Advances.** The portion of the allowance for credit losses related to the home equity loan portfolio totaled \$1.9 million, or 0.7%, of home equity loans at December 31, 2023, as compared to \$1.7 million, or 0.6%, of home equity loans at December 31, 2022. Home equity non-accrual loans decreased to \$221,000 at December 31, 2023, from \$286,000 at December 31, 2022. Net recoveries were \$51,000 for the year ending December 31, 2023 and \$12,000 for the year ending December 31, 2022. We believe the home equity loan reserve was appropriate based upon the insignificant amount of delinquencies, non-accrual loans and charge-offs.



The following table sets forth an analysis of the activity in the allowance for credit losses for the periods indicated:

	<b>At or For the Years Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	(Dollars in thousands)		
Allowance at beginning of period	\$ 52,803	\$ 62,689	\$ 74,676
Effect of the adopting ASU No. 2016-13 ("CECL")	—	(16,443)	—
Initial allowance related to PCD loans	—	633	—
Provision for credit losses	4,787	5,969	(9,953)
Charge-offs:			
Real estate loans:			
One-to-four family	(585)	(382)	(773)
Multifamily	—	—	(296)
Commercial real estate	(150)	—	(407)
Total real estate loans	<u>(735)</u>	<u>(382)</u>	<u>(1,476)</u>
Commercial business loans	(2,618)	(190)	(1,773)
Consumer loans:			
Home equity loans and advances	(26)	(33)	(308)
Other consumer loans	(115)	(33)	(7)
Total consumer loans	<u>(141)</u>	<u>(66)</u>	<u>(315)</u>
Total charge-offs	<u>(3,494)</u>	<u>(638)</u>	<u>(3,564)</u>
Recoveries:			
Real estate loans:			
One-to-four family	17	338	22
Multifamily	—	—	216
Commercial real estate	21	—	1,015
Construction	—	—	2
Total real estate loans	<u>38</u>	<u>338</u>	<u>1,255</u>
Commercial business loans	879	208	219
Consumer loans:			
Home equity loans and advances	77	45	56
Other consumer loans	6	2	—
Total consumer loans	<u>83</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>56</u>
Total recoveries	<u>1,000</u>	<u>593</u>	<u>1,530</u>
Net charge-offs	<u>(2,494)</u>	<u>(45)</u>	<u>(2,034)</u>
Allowance at end of period:	<u>\$ 55,096</u>	<u>\$ 52,803</u>	<u>\$ 62,689</u>
Total gross loans outstanding	\$ 7,824,665	\$ 7,624,534	\$ 6,328,931
Average gross loans outstanding	\$ 7,748,096	\$ 6,939,419	\$ 6,139,290
ACL to total non-performing loans	436.65 %	785.64 %	1,591.50 %
ACL to total gross loans at end of period	0.70 %	0.69 %	0.99 %
Net charge-offs to average outstanding loans	0.03 %	— %	0.03 %

The following table sets forth the ratio of net charge-offs (recoveries) to average loans outstanding by segment for the periods indicated:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
Real estate loans:			
One-to-four family	0.02 %	— %	0.04 %
Commercial real estate	0.01	—	(0.02)
Commercial business loans	0.34	—	0.25
Consumer loans:			
Home equity loans and advances	(0.02)	—	0.09
Other consumer	4.07	1.45	0.39
Total loans	0.03 %	— %	0.03 %

### Interest Rate Risk Management

Interest rate risk is defined as the exposure of a Company's current and future earnings and capital arising from movements in market interest rates. Depending on a bank's asset/liability structure, adverse movements in interest rates could be either rising or falling interest rates. For example, a bank with predominantly long-term fixed-rate assets and short-term liabilities could have an adverse earnings exposure to a rising rate environment. Conversely, a short-term or variable-rate asset base funded by longer-term liabilities could be negatively affected by falling rates. This is referred to as re-pricing or maturity mismatch risk.

Interest rate risk also arises from changes in the slope of the yield curve (yield curve risk), from imperfect correlations in the adjustment of rates earned and paid on different instruments with otherwise similar re-pricing characteristics (basis risk), and from interest rate related options embedded in our assets and liabilities (option risk).

Our objective is to manage our interest rate risk by determining whether a given movement in interest rates affects our net interest income and the market value of our portfolio equity in a positive or negative way and to execute strategies to maintain interest rate risk within established limits. The results at December 31, 2023 indicate a level of risk within the parameters of our model. Our management believes that the December 31, 2023 results indicate a profile that reflects an acceptable level of interest rate risk exposures in both rising and declining rate environments for both net interest income and economic value.

**Model Simulation Analysis.** We view interest rate risk from two different perspectives. The traditional accounting perspective, which defines and measures interest rate risk as the change in net interest income and earnings caused by a change in interest rates, provides the best view of short-term interest rate risk exposure. We also view interest rate risk from an economic perspective, which defines and measures interest rate risk as the change in the market value of portfolio equity caused by changes in the values of assets and liabilities, which fluctuate due to changes in interest rates. The market value of portfolio equity, also referred to as the economic value of equity, is defined as the present value of future cash flows from existing assets, minus the present value of future cash flows from existing liabilities.

These two perspectives give rise to income simulation and economic value simulation, each of which presents a unique picture of our risk of any movement in interest rates. Income simulation identifies the timing and magnitude of changes in income resulting from changes in prevailing interest rates over a short-term time horizon (usually one or two years). Economic value simulation reflects the interest rate sensitivity of assets and liabilities in a more comprehensive fashion, reflecting all future time periods. It can identify the quantity of interest rate risk as a function of the changes in the economic values of assets and liabilities, and the corresponding change in the economic value of equity of Columbia Bank. Both types of simulation assist in identifying, measuring, monitoring and managing interest rate risk and are employed by management to ensure that variations in interest rate risk exposure will be maintained within policy guidelines.

We produce these simulation reports and review them regularly with our management, Asset/Liability Committee and Board Risk Committee. The simulation reports compare baseline (no interest rate change) to the results of an interest rate shock, to illustrate the specific impact of the interest rate scenario tested on income and equity. The model, which incorporates all asset and liability rate information, simulates the effect of various interest rate movements on income and equity value. The reports identify and measure our interest rate risk exposure present in our current asset/liability structure. Management considers both a static (current position) and dynamic (forecast changes in volume) analysis as well as non-parallel and gradual changes in interest rates and the yield curve in assessing interest rate exposures.

If the results produce quantifiable interest rate risk exposure beyond our limits, then the testing will have served as a monitoring mechanism to allow us to initiate asset/liability strategies designed to reduce and therefore mitigate interest rate risk.

Certain shortcomings are inherent in the methodologies used in the interest rate risk measurements. Modeling changes in net interest income requires the use of certain assumptions regarding prepayment and deposit repricing, which may or may not reflect the manner in which actual yields and costs respond to changes in market interest rates. While management believes such assumptions are reasonable, there can be no assurance that assumed prepayment rates and repricing rates will approximate actual future asset prepayment and liability repricing activity.

The table below sets forth an approximation of our interest rate exposure. Net interest income assumes that the composition of interest sensitive assets and liabilities existing at the beginning of a period remains constant over the period being measured and also assumes that a particular change in interest rates is reflected uniformly across the yield curve regardless of the duration to maturity or repricing of specific assets and liabilities. Accordingly, although the net interest income table provides an indication of our interest rate risk exposure at a particular point in time, such measurement is not intended to and does not provide a precise forecast of the effect of changes in market interest rates on our net interest income and will differ from actual.

The table below sets forth, as of December 31, 2023, the net portfolio value, the estimated changes in the net portfolio value, and the net interest income that would result from the designated instantaneous parallel changes in market interest rates. This data is for Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank and its subsidiaries only and does not include any assets of the Company.

Change in Interest Rates (Basis Points)	Twelve Months Net Interest Income			Net Portfolio Value ("NPV")		
	Amount	Dollar Change	Percent of Change	Estimated NPV	Present Value Ratio	Percent Change
				(Dollars in thousands)		
+400	\$ 180,516	\$ (17,630)	(8.90)%	\$ 755,514	8.43 %	(36.97)%
+300	185,334	(12,812)	(6.47)	865,334	9.41	(27.80)
+200	190,006	(8,140)	(4.11)	979,384	10.36	(18.29)
+100	194,332	(3,814)	(1.92)	1,090,550	11.21	(9.01)
Base	198,146	—	—	1,198,593	11.98	—
-100	201,778	3,632	1.83	1,302,826	12.66	8.70
-200	204,327	6,181	3.12	1,389,505	13.12	15.93
-300	206,964	8,818	4.45	1,459,142	13.39	21.74
-400	204,590	6,444	3.25	1,475,180	13.17	23.08

As of December 31, 2023, based on the scenarios above, net interest income would decrease by approximately 4.11% if rates were to rise 200 basis points, and would increase by 3.12% if rates were to decrease 200 basis points over a one-year time horizon.

Another measure of interest rate sensitivity is to model changes in the net portfolio value through the use of immediate and sustained interest rate shocks. As of December 31, 2023, based on the scenarios above, in the event of an immediate and sustained 200 basis point increase in interest rates, the NPV is projected to decrease 18.29%. If rates were to decrease 200 basis points, the model forecasts a 15.93% increase in the NPV.

Overall, our December 31, 2023 results indicate that we are adequately positioned with an acceptable net interest income and economic value at risk in all scenarios and that all interest rate risk results continue to be within our policy guidelines.

#### Liquidity Management

Liquidity risk is the risk of being unable to meet future financial obligations as they come due at a reasonable funding cost. We mitigate this risk by attempting to structure our balance sheet prudently and by maintaining diverse borrowing resources to fund potential cash needs. For example, we structure our balance sheet so that we fund less liquid assets, such as loans, with stable funding sources, such as retail deposits, long-term debt, wholesale borrowings, and capital. We assess liquidity needs arising from asset growth, maturing obligations, and deposit withdrawals, taking into account operations in both the normal course of business and times of unusual events. In addition, we consider our off-balance sheet arrangements and commitments that may impact liquidity in certain business environments.

Our Asset/Liability Committee measures liquidity risks, sets policies to manage these risks, and reviews adherence to those policies at its quarterly meetings. For example, we manage the use of short-term unsecured borrowings as well as total wholesale

funding through policies established and reviewed by our Asset/Liability Committee. In addition, the Risk Committee of our Board of Directors reviews liquidity limits and reviews current and forecasted liquidity positions at each of its regularly scheduled meetings.

We have contingency funding plans that assess liquidity needs that may arise from certain stress events such as rapid asset growth or financial market disruptions. Our contingency plans also provide for continuous monitoring of net borrowed funds and dependence and available sources of contingent liquidity. These sources of contingent liquidity include cash and cash equivalents, capacity to borrow at the Federal Reserve discount window and through their Bank Term Funding Program and through the FHLB system, fed funds purchased from other banks and the ability to sell, pledge or borrow against unencumbered securities in our securities portfolio. As of December 31, 2023, the potential liquidity from these sources is an amount we believe currently exceeds any contingent liquidity need.

**Uses of Funds.** Our primary uses of funds include the extension of loans and credit, the purchase of securities, working capital, and debt and capital management. In addition, contingent uses of funds may arise from events such as financial market disruptions.

We regularly adjust our investments in liquid assets based upon our assessment of: (1) expected loan demand, (2) expected deposit flows, (3) yields available on interest-earning deposits and securities, (4) repayment of borrowings, and (5) the objectives of our asset/liability management program. Excess liquid assets are generally invested in fed funds.

**Sources of Funds.** Our most liquid assets are cash and cash equivalents. The levels of these assets are dependent on our operating, investing and financing activities during any given period. At December 31, 2023, total cash and cash equivalents totaled \$423.2 million. Debt securities classified as available for sale, and equity securities, which provide additional sources of liquidity, totaled \$1.1 billion, and \$4.1 million, respectively, at December 31, 2023. At December 31, 2023, we had \$1.5 billion in Federal Home Loan Bank fixed rate advances. In addition, if Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank require funds beyond their ability to generate them internally, they can each borrow additional funds under an overnight advance program up to their maximum borrowing capacity based on their ability to collateralize such borrowings.

Our primary sources of funds include a large, stable deposit base. Core deposits (consisting of demand, money market and savings and club deposits), primarily generated from our retail branch network, are our largest and most cost-effective source of funding. Core deposits totaled \$5.4 billion at December 31, 2023, representing a decrease of \$671.6 million, from \$6.0 billion at December 31, 2022. The decrease in core deposits was primarily driven by a \$368.8 million decrease in non-interest-bearing demand accounts, a \$626.4 million decrease in interest-bearing demand deposits, and a \$213.4 million decrease in savings and club deposits. We also maintain access to a diversified base of wholesale funding sources. These uncommitted sources include federal funds purchased from other banks, securities sold under agreements to repurchase, and FHLB advances. Aggregate wholesale funding totaled \$1.5 billion at December 31, 2023, compared to \$1.1 billion as of December 31, 2022. In addition, at December 31, 2023, we had availability to borrow additional funds, subject to our ability to collateralize such borrowings from the FHLB of New York and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

A significant use of our liquidity is the funding of loan originations. At December 31, 2023, the Company had \$102.1 million in loan commitments outstanding, which primarily consisted of commitments to fund loans of \$12.3 million, \$7.2 million, \$23.2 million, \$54.1 million, and \$5.3 million, in one-to-four family real estate, commercial real estate, commercial business, construction, and home equity loans and advances, respectively. There was also \$1.3 billion in unused commercial business, construction and consumer lines of credit, and \$33.1 million in letters of credit. Since these commitments may expire without being drawn upon, and may have conditions, the total commitment amounts do not necessarily represent future cash requirements. The amount of collateral obtained, if deemed necessary by the Company upon extension of credit, is based on management's credit evaluation of the borrower. Another significant use of liquidity is the funding of deposit withdrawals. Certificates of deposit due within one year of December 31, 2023 totaled \$2.1 billion, or 83.6% of total certificates of deposit. The large percentage of certificates of deposit that mature within one year reflects customers' hesitancy to invest their funds for long periods. Management believes, however, based on past experience, that a significant portion of our certificates of deposit will be renewed. If these maturing deposits do not remain with us, we will be required to seek other sources of funds, including other certificates of deposit and borrowings. Depending on market conditions, we may be required to pay higher rates on such deposits and borrowings than we currently pay on the certificates of deposit due on or before December 31, 2023. We have the ability to attract and retain deposits by adjusting the interest rates offered.

Our primary investing activities are the origination of loans and the purchase of securities. Our primary financing activities consist of activity in deposit accounts, borrowings and treasury stock. Deposit flows are affected by the overall level of market interest rates, the interest rates and products offered by us, local competitors and other factors. We generally manage the pricing of our deposits to be competitive. Occasionally, we offer promotional rates on certain deposit products to attract deposits.

Columbia Financial is a separate legal entity from Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank and must provide for its own liquidity in addition to its operating expenses. Columbia Financial's primary source of income is dividends received from Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank. The amount of dividends the Banks may declare and pay to Columbia Financial is generally restricted under federal regulations to the retained earnings of each Bank. At December 31, 2023, on a stand-alone basis, Columbia Financial had liquid assets of \$8.8 million.

**Capital Management.** We are subject to various regulatory capital requirements administered by our federal banking regulators, including a risk-based capital measure. The Federal Reserve establishes capital requirements, including well capitalized standards, for our consolidated financial holding company, and the OCC has similar requirements for our Company's subsidiary banks. The risk-based capital guidelines include both a definition of capital and a framework for calculating risk-weighted assets by assigning balance sheet assets and off-balance sheet items to broad risk categories. At December 31, 2023, we exceeded all of our regulatory capital requirements. We are considered "well capitalized" under regulatory guidelines. See "Item 1: Business - Regulation and Supervision - Federal Banking Regulations - Capital Requirements" and note 13 in the notes to the consolidated financial statements included in this report.

**Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements.** In the normal course of operations, we engage in a variety of financial transactions that, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, are not recorded in the consolidated financial statements. These transactions involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit, interest rate and liquidity risk. Such transactions are used primarily to manage customers' requests for funding and take the form of loan commitments and lines of credit. For information about our loan commitments, see note 16 in the notes to the consolidated financial statements included in this report.

For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, we did not engage in any off-balance sheet transactions reasonably likely to have a material effect on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

**Derivative Financial Instruments.** Columbia Bank executes interest rate swaps with third parties in order to hedge the interest expense of short-term FHLB advances. Those interest rate swaps are simultaneous with entering into the short-term borrowings with the FHLB. These derivatives are designated as cash flow hedges and are not speculative. As these interest rate swaps meet the hedge accounting requirements, the effective portion of changes in the fair value are recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income. As of December 31, 2023, Columbia Bank had 30 interest rate swaps with notional amounts of \$380.0 million hedging certain FHLB advances.

Columbia Bank presently offers interest rate swaps to commercial banking customers to manage their risk of exposure and risk management strategies. Those interest rate swaps are simultaneously hedged by offsetting interest rate swaps that Columbia Bank executes with a third-party, such that Columbia Bank would minimize its net risk exposure resulting from such transactions. These derivatives are not designated as hedges and are not speculative. Rather, these derivatives result from a service Columbia Bank offers to certain customers. As the interest rate swaps would not meet the hedge accounting requirements, changes in the fair value of both the customer swaps and the offsetting third-party swap contracts are recognized directly in earnings. At December 31, 2023, we had interest rate swaps in place with 80 commercial banking customers executed by offsetting interest rate swaps with third parties, with aggregated notional amounts of \$277.8 million.

Columbia Bank offers currency forward contracts to certain commercial banking customers to facilitate international trade. Those forward contracts are simultaneously hedged by offsetting forward contracts that Columbia Bank would execute with a third-party, such that Columbia Bank would minimize its net risk exposure resulting from such transactions. These derivatives are not designated as hedges and are not speculative. Rather, these derivatives result from a service Columbia Bank offers to certain commercial customers. As the currency forward contract does not meet the hedge accounting requirements, changes in the fair value of both the customer forward contract and the offsetting forward contract is recognized directly in earnings. At December 31, 2023, Columbia Bank had no currency forward contracts in place with commercial banking customers.

Columbia also has interest rate swaps designated as cash flow hedges which involve the receipt of variable amounts from a counter-party in exchange for the Company making fixed-rate payments over the life of the agreements without the exchange of the underlying notional amount. These swaps meet the cash flow hedge accounting requirements. At December 31, 2023, the Company had two interest rate swaps hedged against pools of floating rate commercial loans with notional amounts totaling \$100.0 million.

Columbia also uses interest rate swaps to manage its exposure to changes in fair value of certain of its fixed-rate pools of assets attributable to changes in the designated benchmark interest rate of SOFR. At December 31, 2023, the Company had eight interest rate fair value swaps with notional amounts totaling \$700.0 million.

#### **Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

For a discussion of the impact of recent accounting pronouncements, see note 2 in the notes to the consolidated financial statements included in this report.

#### **Effect of Inflation and Changing Prices**

The consolidated financial statements and related consolidated financial data presented in this report have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, which require the measurement of financial position and operating results in terms of historical dollars without considering changes in the relative purchasing power of money over time due to inflation. The primary impact of inflation on our operations is reflected in increased operating costs. Unlike most industrial companies, virtually all the assets and liabilities of a financial institution are monetary in nature. As a result, interest rates generally have a more significant impact on a financial institution's performance than do general levels of inflation. Interest rates do

not necessarily move in the same direction or to the same extent as the prices of goods and services because such prices are affected by inflation to a larger extent than interest rates.

**Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

The information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to the section captioned “*Item 7: Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.*”

**Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data**

The information required by this item is included beginning on page 75 of this report.

The following are included in this item:

- (A) Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm (PCAOB ID: 185)
- (B) Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting
- (C) Consolidated Financial Statements:
  - (1) Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition as of December 31, 2023 and 2022
  - (2) Consolidated Statements of Income for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022
  - (3) Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021
  - (4) Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders’ Equity for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021
  - (5) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021
  - (6) Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements
- (D) Columbia Financial, Inc. Condensed Financial Statements
  - (1) Statements of Financial Condition as of December 31, 2023 and 2022
  - (2) Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income (Loss) for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021
  - (3) Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021

**Item 9. Change in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure**

None.

**Item 9A. Controls and Procedures**

**Conclusion Regarding the Effectiveness of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

An evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of the Company’s management, including the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company’s disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) promulgated under the Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) as of December 31, 2023. In designing and evaluating the Company’s disclosure controls and procedures, the Company and its management recognize that any controls and procedures, no matter how well-designed and operated, can provide only a reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives, and management necessarily was required to apply its judgment in evaluating and implementing possible controls and procedures. Based on that evaluation, the Company’s management, including the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, concluded that the Company’s disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in the reports it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported as of the end of the period covered by this annual report.

**Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

There were no changes in the Company’s internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the quarter ended December 31, 2023 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

**Management’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

The management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. The Company’s internal control system is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance to the Company’s management and board of directors regarding the preparation and fair presentation of published financial statements.

The Company’s internal control over financial reporting includes policies and procedures that pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect transactions and dispositions of assets; provide reasonable assurances that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted

accounting principles; and provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the Company's assets that could have a material effect on its financial statements.

All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those system determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness of future periods are subject to the risk that controls may be inadequate due to changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with policies and procedures may deteriorate.

As part of the Company's program to comply with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, our management assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023 (the "Assessment"). In making this Assessment, management used the control criteria framework of the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations ("COSO") of the Treadway Commission published in its report entitled *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013)*. Management's Assessment included an evaluation of the design of the Company's internal control over financial reporting and testing of the operational effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting. Based on this assessment, the Company's management concluded that the Company's internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2023.

#### **Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The attestation report by the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, KPMG LLP, on the Company's internal control over financial reporting is included with the audited consolidated financial statements of the Company beginning on page 78 of this report.

#### **Item 9B. Other Information**

During the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2023, none of the Company's directors or officers informed the Company of the adoption or termination of a "Rule 10b5-1 trading arrangement or "non-Rule 10b5-1 trading arrangement," as those terms are defined in Item 408 of Regulation S-K.

#### **Item 9C. Disclosure Regarding Foreign Jurisdictions that Prevent Inspections**

Not applicable.

### **PART III**

#### **Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance**

##### **Board of Directors**

For information relating to the directors of the Company, the section captioned "*Proposal 1—Election of Directors*" in the Company's Proxy Statement for the 2024 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is incorporated herein by reference.

##### **Executive Officers**

For information relating to officers of the Company, see Part I, Item 1, "*Business—Information About Our Executive Officers*" to this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

##### **Compliance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

For information regarding compliance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the cover page to this Annual Report on Form 10-K and the section captioned "*Stock Ownership*" in the Company's Proxy Statement for the 2024 Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated herein by reference.

##### **Disclosure of Code of Ethics**

For information concerning the Company's Code of Ethics, the information contained under the section captioned "*Corporate Governance—Code of Ethics and Business Conduct*" in the Company's Proxy Statement for the 2024 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is incorporated by reference. A copy of the Code of Ethics and Business Conduct is available to stockholders on the Company's website at [www.columbiabankonline.com](http://www.columbiabankonline.com).



## **Corporate Governance**

For information regarding the Audit Committee and its composition and the audit committee financial expert, the section captioned “*Corporate Governance—Meetings and Committees of the Board of Directors-Audit Committee*” in the Company’s Proxy Statement for the 2024 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is incorporated herein by reference.

### **Item 11. Executive Compensation**

#### **Executive Compensation**

For information regarding executive compensation, the sections captioned “*Executive Compensation*,” “*Compensation Discussion & Analysis*” and “*Director Compensation*” in the Company’s Proxy Statement for the 2024 Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated herein by reference.

### **Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters**

Information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to the section captioned “*Stock Ownership*” in the Company’s Proxy Statement for the 2024 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

### **Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions and Director Independence**

#### **Certain Relationships and Related Transactions**

For information regarding certain relationships and related transactions, the section captioned “*Other Information—Transactions with Related Persons*” in the Company’s Proxy Statement for the 2024 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is incorporated herein by reference.

## **Corporate Governance**

For information regarding director independence, the section captioned “*Proposal 1—Election of Directors*” in the Company’s Proxy Statement for the 2024 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is incorporated herein by reference.

### **Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services**

For information regarding the principal accountant fees and expenses, the section captioned “*Proposal 2—Ratification of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm*” in the Company’s Proxy Statement for the 2024 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is incorporated herein by reference.

## PART IV

### 000Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules

- (1) The financial statements required in response to this item are incorporated herein by reference from Item 8 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.
- (2) All financial statement schedules are omitted because they are not required or applicable, or the required information is shown in the consolidated financial statements or the notes thereto.
- (3) Exhibits

<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>
3.1	Second Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Columbia Financial, Inc.	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-221912), initially filed on December 5, 2017
3.2	Amended Bylaws of Columbia Financial, Inc.	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-221912), initially filed on December 5, 2017
4.0	Specimen Stock Certificate of Columbia Financial, Inc.	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.0 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-221912), initially filed on December 5, 2017
4.1	Description of Columbia Financial, Inc.'s Common Stock Registered Under Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.0 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-221912), initially filed on December 5, 2017
10.1	Employment Agreement between Columbia Financial, Inc., Columbia Bank and Thomas J. Kemly+	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-221912), initially filed on December 5, 2017
10.2	Employment Agreement between Columbia Financial, Inc., Columbia Bank and Dennis E. Gibney+	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-221912), initially filed on December 5, 2017
10.3	Employment Agreement between Columbia Financial, Inc., Columbia Bank and Thomas Allen, Jr.+	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-221912), initially filed on December 5, 2017
10.4	Employment Agreement between Columbia Financial, Inc., Columbia Bank and John Klimowich+	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-221912), initially filed on December 5, 2017
10.5	Employment Agreement between Columbia Financial, Inc., Columbia Bank and Allyson Schlesinger+	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.8 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-38456), for the Year Ended December 31, 2018, filed on March 29, 2019

10.6	Employment Agreement between Columbia Financial, Inc., Columbia Bank and Oliver Lewis+	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-38456), for the Year Ended December 31, 2020, filed on March 1, 2021
10.7	Employment Agreement between Columbia Financial, Inc., Columbia Bank and W. Justin Jennings+	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-38456), for the Year Ended December 31, 2021, filed on March 1, 2022
10.8	Reserved	
10.9	Employment Agreement between Columbia Financial, Inc., Columbia Bank and Jenifer W. Walden+	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-38456), for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2022 filed on August 9, 2022
10.10	Form of Columbia Bank Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan+	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-221912), initially filed on December 5, 2017
10.11	Columbia Bank Stock-Based Deferral Plan+	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-221912), initially filed on December 5, 2017
10.12	Columbia Bank Director Deferred Compensation Plan, as amended+	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-221912), initially filed on December 5, 2017
10.13	Columbia Bank Retirement Income Maintenance Plan+	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-221912), initially filed on December 5, 2017
10.14	Columbia Bank Non-Qualified Savings Income Maintenance Plan, as amended+	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-221912), initially filed on December 5, 2017
10.15	Columbia Financial, Inc. 2019 Equity Incentive Plan	Incorporated by reference to Annex 1 to the Company's Definitive Proxy Materials on Schedule 14A (File No. 001-38456), filed on April 22, 2019
21.0	Subsidiaries	<a href="#">Filed herewith</a>
23.1	Consent of KPMG LLP	<a href="#">Filed herewith</a>
31.1	Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Chief Executive Officer	<a href="#">Filed herewith</a>
31.2	Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Chief Financial Officer	<a href="#">Filed herewith</a>

32	Section 1350 Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer	<a href="#">Filed herewith</a>
97	Columbia Financial, Inc. Incentive-Compensation Recoupment Policy	<a href="#">Filed herewith</a>
101.0	The following materials from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023, formatted in inline XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language): (i) the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition, (ii) the Consolidated Statements of Income, (iii) the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss), (iv) the Consolidated Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity, (v) the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows and (vi) the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.	Filed herewith
101.INS	The instance document does not appear in the interactive data file because its XBRL tags are embedded within the Inline XBRL document	
101.SCH	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document	
101.CAL	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document	
101.DEF	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document	
101.LAB	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document	
101.PRE	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document	
104	Cover page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)	

+ Management contract or compensatory plan, contract or arrangement.

**Item 16. Form 10-K Summary**

Not applicable.

## Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Stockholders and Board of  
Directors Columbia Financial, Inc:

### *Opinion on the Consolidated Financial Statements*

We have audited the accompanying consolidated statements of financial condition of Columbia Financial, Inc and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income (loss), changes in stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes (collectively, the consolidated financial statements). In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2023, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023, based on criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission, and our report dated February 29, 2024 expressed an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

### *Basis for Opinion*

These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

### *Critical Audit Matter*

The critical audit matter communicated below is a matter arising from the current period audit of the consolidated financial statements that was communicated or required to be communicated to the audit committee and that: (1) relates to accounts or disclosures that are material to the consolidated financial statements and (2) involved our especially challenging, subjective, or complex judgments. The communication of a critical audit matter does not alter in any way our opinion on the consolidated financial statements, taken as a whole, and we are not, by communicating the critical audit matter below, providing a separate opinion on the critical audit matter or on the accounts or disclosures to which it relates.

### *Allowance for Credit Losses - Loans evaluated on a Collective Basis*

As discussed in Note 2 and Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company's allowance for credit losses on loans evaluated on a collective basis (the collective ACL) was \$54.5 million out of a total allowance for credit losses on loans of \$55.1 million as of December 31, 2023. The ACL quantitative allowance for each segment is measured using a discounted cash flow methodology incorporating an econometric probability of default ("PD"), and loss given default ("LGD") with distinct, segment-specific multi-variate regression models applied. Expected credit losses are estimated over the life of the loans by measuring the difference between the net present value of modeled cash flows and amortized cost basis. Contractual cash flows over the contractual life of the loans are the basis for modeled cash flows, adjusted for modeled defaults and expected prepayments and discounted at the loan-level effective interest rate. Historical credit loss experience over a defined period for both the Company and its segment-specific peers provide the basis for the estimate of expected credit losses. Such credit losses are converted to PD rate curves through the use of segment-specific LGD risk factors that convert default rates to loss severity based on industry-level, observed relationships between the two variables for each segment, primarily due to the nature of the underlying collateral. The historical PD curves, together with

corresponding economic conditions, establish a quantitative relationship between economic conditions and loan performance through an economic cycle. Using the historical relationship between economic conditions and loan performance, management's expectation of future loan performance is incorporated using an economic forecast of macroeconomic variables. This forecast is applied over a period that management has determined to be reasonable and supportable. The model reverts to long-term average historical loss rates using a straight-line methodology. The Company's current forecast period is six quarters, with a four-quarter reversion period to long-term average historical loss rates. After quantitative considerations, management applies additional qualitative adjustments that consider the expected impact of certain factors not fully captured in the quantitative allowance.

We identified the assessment of the collective ACL as a critical audit matter. A high degree of audit effort, including specialized skills and knowledge, and subjective and complex auditor judgment was involved in the assessment of the collective ACL due to significant measurement uncertainty. Specifically, the assessment encompassed the evaluation of the collective ACL methodology, including the DCF methodology and PD and LGD models used to estimate the expected credit losses and their significant assumptions. Such significant assumptions included (1) expected prepayments, (2) macroeconomic variables, (3) reasonable and supportable forecast period, (4) composition of the peer group, (5) period of historical credit loss experience and (6) the qualitative adjustments, including the significant assumptions used in the measurement of the qualitative adjustments. The assessment also included an evaluation of the conceptual soundness of the DCF methodology and PD and LGD models. In addition, auditor judgment was required to evaluate the sufficiency of audit evidence obtained.

The following are the primary procedures we performed to address this critical audit matter. We evaluated the design and tested the operating effectiveness of certain internal controls related to the measurement of the collective ACL estimate, including controls over the:

- evaluation of the collective ACL methodology
- performance monitoring of the DCF methodology, and PD and LGD models
- identification and determination of the significant assumptions used in the DCF methodology, and PD and LGD models
- development of the qualitative adjustments, including the significant assumptions used in the measurement of the qualitative adjustments and
- analysis of the collective ACL results, trends, and ratios.

We evaluated the Company's process to develop the collective ACL estimates by testing certain sources of data and assumptions that the Company used and considered the relevance and reliability of such data and assumptions. In addition, we involved credit risk professionals with specialized skills and knowledge, who assisted in:

- evaluating the Company's collective ACL methodology for compliance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles
- assessing the conceptual soundness of the DCF methodology, and PD and LGD models by inspecting the model documentation to determine whether the models are suitable for their intended use
- evaluating judgments made by the Company relative to the performance monitoring of the DCF methodology, and PD and LGD models by comparing them to relevant Company-specific metrics and trends and the applicable industry and regulatory practices
- evaluating the macroeconomic variables used by comparing them to the Company's business environment and relevant industry practices
- evaluating the length of the period from which historical credit loss experience was used and the reasonable and supportable forecast by comparing to specific portfolio risk characteristics and trends
- evaluating judgments made by management in developing the estimated prepayments assumption by comparing to specific portfolio risk characteristics and trends
- assessing the composition of the peer group by comparing to Company and specific portfolio risk characteristics and
- evaluating the methodology used to develop the qualitative adjustments and the effect of those adjustments on the collective ACL compared with relevant credit risk factors and consistency with credit trends and the identified limitations of the underlying PD and LGD models.

We also evaluated the cumulative results of the procedures performed to assess the sufficiency of the audit evidence obtained related to the December 31, 2023, collective ACL estimates by evaluating the:

- cumulative results of the audit procedures
- qualitative aspects of the Company's accounting practices and
- potential bias in the accounting estimate.

/s/ KPMG LLP

We have not been able to determine the specific year that we began serving as the Company's auditor; however, we are aware that we have served as the Company's auditor since at least 1972.

Short Hills, New Jersey  
February 29, 2024

## Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Stockholders and Board of Directors  
Columbia Financial, Inc.:

### *Opinion on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting*

We have audited Columbia Financial, Inc. and subsidiaries' (the Company) internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023, based on criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023, based on criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB), the consolidated statements of financial condition of the Company as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income (loss), changes in stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes (collectively, the consolidated financial statements), and our report dated February 29, 2024 expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements.

### *Basis for Opinion*

The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management's Report of Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audit also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

### *Definition and Limitations of Internal Control Over Financial Reporting*

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Short Hills, New Jersey  
February 29, 2024



## COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition  
(In thousands, except share and per share data)

Assets	December 31,	
	2023	2022
Cash and due from banks	\$ 423,140	\$ 179,097
Short-term investments	109	131
Total cash and cash equivalents	423,249	179,228
Debt securities available for sale, at fair value	1,093,557	1,328,634
Debt securities held to maturity, at amortized cost (fair value of \$357,177 and \$370,391 at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively)	401,154	421,523
Equity securities, at fair value	4,079	3,384
Federal Home Loan Bank stock	81,022	58,114
Loans receivable	7,874,537	7,677,564
Less: allowance for credit losses	55,096	52,803
Loans receivable, net	7,819,441	7,624,761
Accrued interest receivable	39,345	33,898
Office properties and equipment, net	83,577	83,877
Bank-owned life insurance ("BOLI")	268,362	264,854
Goodwill and intangible assets	123,350	125,142
Other assets	308,432	284,754
Total assets	\$ 10,645,568	\$ 10,408,169
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>		
Liabilities:		
Deposits	\$ 7,846,556	\$ 8,001,159
Borrowings	1,528,695	1,127,047
Advance payments by borrowers for taxes and insurance	43,509	45,460
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	186,473	180,908
Total liabilities	9,605,233	9,354,574
Stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value. 10,000,000 shares authorized; none issued and outstanding at December 31, 2023 and 2022	—	—
Common stock, \$0.01 par value. 500,000,000 shares authorized; 131,155,268 shares issued and 104,918,905 shares outstanding at December 31, 2023, and 130,900,673 shares issued and 108,970,476 shares outstanding at December 31, 2022	1,312	1,309
Additional paid-in capital	791,450	781,165
Retained earnings	893,604	857,518
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(158,735)	(179,296)
Treasury stock, at cost; 26,236,363 shares at December 31, 2023 and 21,930,197 shares at December 31, 2022	(454,128)	(371,708)
Common stock held by the Employee Stock Ownership Plan	(32,478)	(34,750)
Stock held by Rabbi Trust	(2,955)	(3,149)
Deferred compensation obligations	2,265	2,506
Total stockholders' equity	1,040,335	1,053,595
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 10,645,568	\$ 10,408,169

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

## COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

### Consolidated Statements of Income (In thousands, except share and per share data)

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
<b>Interest income:</b>			
Loans receivable	\$ 343,770	\$ 263,559	\$ 228,841
Debt securities available for sale and equity securities	28,120	34,221	30,211
Debt securities held to maturity	9,708	9,694	8,632
Federal funds and interest-earning deposits	8,188	474	430
Federal Home Loan Bank stock dividends	5,192	1,722	2,036
Total interest income	<u>394,978</u>	<u>309,670</u>	<u>270,150</u>
<b>Interest expense:</b>			
Deposits	125,162	27,878	29,109
Borrowings	63,940	15,015	7,907
Total interest expense	<u>189,102</u>	<u>42,893</u>	<u>37,016</u>
Net interest income	205,876	266,777	233,134
Provision for (reversal of) credit losses <sup>(1)</sup>	4,787	5,485	(9,953)
Net interest income after provision for (reversal of) credit losses	<u>201,089</u>	<u>261,292</u>	<u>243,087</u>
<b>Non-interest income:</b>			
Demand deposit account fees	5,145	5,293	3,803
Bank-owned life insurance	10,126	7,393	5,994
Title insurance fees	2,400	3,423	6,088
Loan fees and service charges	4,510	3,924	2,983
(Loss) gain on securities transactions	(10,847)	210	2,025
Change in fair value of equity securities	695	(401)	(1,792)
Gain on sale of loans	1,214	178	10,790
Other non-interest income	14,136	10,380	8,940
Total non-interest income	<u>27,379</u>	<u>30,400</u>	<u>38,831</u>
<b>Non-interest expense:</b>			
Compensation and employee benefits	120,846	116,926	99,534
Occupancy	22,927	22,589	20,071
Federal deposit insurance premiums	8,639	2,591	2,374
Advertising	2,805	2,865	2,358
Professional fees	9,824	8,158	7,363
Data processing and software expenses	15,039	13,362	11,497
Merger-related expenses	606	2,810	822
Loss on extinguishment of debt	300	—	2,851
Other non-interest expense	1,431	5,515	8,867
Total non-interest expense	<u>182,417</u>	<u>174,816</u>	<u>155,737</u>
Income before income tax expense	46,051	116,876	126,181
Income tax expense	9,965	30,703	34,132
Net income	<u>\$ 36,086</u>	<u>\$ 86,173</u>	<u>\$ 92,049</u>
Earnings per share - basic	\$ 0.35	\$ 0.82	\$ 0.88
Earnings per share - diluted	\$ 0.35	\$ 0.81	\$ 0.88
Weighted average shares outstanding - basic	102,656,388	105,580,823	104,156,112
Weighted average shares outstanding - diluted	102,894,969	106,193,161	104,156,112

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

<sup>(1)</sup> The Company adopted ASU 2016-13 as of January 1, 2022. Prior year period has not been restated.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)

(In thousands)

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
Net income	\$ 36,086	\$ 86,173	\$ 92,049
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax:			
Unrealized gain (loss) on debt securities available for sale	29,637	(137,255)	(30,979)
Accretion of unrealized loss on debt securities reclassified as held to maturity	(10)	(22)	(3)
Reclassification adjustment for (loss) gain included in net income	(7,794)	151	1,598
	<u>21,833</u>	<u>(137,126)</u>	<u>(29,384)</u>
Derivatives, net of tax:			
Unrealized (loss) gain on swap contracts accounted for as cash flow hedges	(918)	5,421	11,939
	<u>(918)</u>	<u>5,421</u>	<u>11,939</u>
Employee benefit plans, net of tax:			
Amortization of prior service cost included in net income	(40)	(41)	(39)
Reclassification adjustment of actuarial net (loss) included in net income	(558)	(1,928)	(2,915)
Change in funded status of retirement obligations	244	297	44,105
	<u>(354)</u>	<u>(1,672)</u>	<u>41,151</u>
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	<u>20,561</u>	<u>(133,377)</u>	<u>23,706</u>
Total comprehensive income (loss), net of tax	<u>\$ 56,647</u>	<u>\$ (47,204)</u>	<u>\$ 115,755</u>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

## COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

### Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity (In thousands)

	Common Stock	Additional Paid- in-Capital	Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss)	Treasury Stock	Common Stock Held by the Employee Stock Ownership Plan	Stock Held by Rabbi Trust	Deferred Compensation Obligations	Total Stockholders' Equity
Balance at December 31, 2022	\$ 1,309	\$ 781,165	\$ 857,518	\$ (179,296)	\$ (371,708)	\$ (34,750)	\$ (3,149)	\$ 2,506	\$ 1,053,595
Net income	—	—	36,086	—	—	—	—	—	36,086
Other comprehensive (loss)	—	—	—	20,561	—	—	—	—	20,561
Issuance of common stock allocated to restricted stock award grants (247,646 shares)	3	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Stock based compensation	—	7,979	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,979
Purchase of treasury stock (4,242,693 shares)	—	—	—	—	(80,497)	—	—	—	(80,497)
Exercise of stock options (44,117 shares)	—	(24)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(24)
Restricted stock forfeitures (29,806 shares)	—	500	—	—	(500)	—	—	—	—
Repurchase shares for taxes (33,667 shares)	—	—	—	—	(623)	—	—	—	(623)
Excise tax on net stock repurchases	—	—	—	—	(800)	—	—	—	(800)
Employee Stock Ownership Plan shares committed to be released	—	1,823	—	—	—	2,272	—	—	4,095
Funding of deferred compensation obligations	—	—	—	—	—	—	194	(241)	(47)
Balance at December 31, 2023	\$ 1,312	\$ 791,450	\$ 893,604	\$ (158,735)	\$ (454,128)	\$ (32,478)	\$ (2,955)	\$ 2,265	\$ 1,040,335

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

## COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

### Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity (continued)

(In thousands)

	Common Stock	Additional Paid- in-Capital	Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss)	Treasury Stock	Common Stock Held by the Employee Stock Ownership Plan	Stock Held by Rabbi Trust	Deferred Compensation Obligations	Total Stockholders' Equity
Balance at December 31, 2021	\$ 1,246	\$ 667,906	\$ 765,133	\$ (45,919)	\$ (271,647)	\$ (37,026)	\$ (2,425)	\$ 1,813	\$ 1,079,081
Effect of the adopting ASU No. 2016-13 ("CECL")	—	—	6,212	—	—	—	—	—	6,212
Balance at January 1, 2022	1,246	667,906	771,345	(45,919)	(271,647)	(37,026)	(2,425)	1,813	1,085,293
Net income	—	—	86,173	—	—	—	—	—	86,173
Other comprehensive (loss)	—	—	—	(133,377)	—	—	—	—	(133,377)
Issuance of common stock to Columbia Bank, MHC (6,086,314 shares)	61	102,189	—	—	—	—	—	—	102,250
Issuance of common stock allocated to restricted stock award grants (51,746 shares)	2	(2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stock based compensation	—	7,440	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,440
Purchase of treasury stock (4,464,405 shares)	—	—	—	—	(93,996)	—	—	—	(93,996)
Exercise of stock options (315,703 shares)	—	(393)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(393)
Restricted stock forfeitures (68,677 shares)	—	1,451	—	—	(1,451)	—	—	—	—
Repurchase shares for taxes (208,830 shares)	—	—	—	—	(4,614)	—	—	—	(4,614)
Employee Stock Ownership Plan shares committed to be released	—	2,574	—	—	—	2,276	—	—	4,850
Funding of deferred compensation obligations	—	—	—	—	—	—	(724)	693	(31)
Balance at December 31, 2022	\$ 1,309	\$ 781,165	\$ 857,518	\$ (179,296)	\$ (371,708)	\$ (34,750)	\$ (3,149)	\$ 2,506	\$ 1,053,595

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity (continued)

(In thousands)

	Common Stock	Additional Paid- in-Capital	Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss)	Treasury Stock	Common Stock Held by the Employee Stock Ownership Plan	Stock Held by Rabbi Trust	Deferred Compensation Obligations	Total Stockholders' Equity
Balance at December 31, 2020	\$ 1,220	\$ 609,531	\$ 673,084	\$ (69,625)	\$ (163,015)	\$ (39,293)	\$ (1,875)	\$ 1,260	\$ 1,011,287
Net income	—	—	92,049	—	—	—	—	—	92,049
Other comprehensive income	—	—	—	23,706	—	—	—	—	23,706
Issuance of common stock to Columbia Bank, MHC (2,591,007 shares)	26	47,234	—	—	—	—	—	—	47,260
Treasury stock allocated to restricted stock award grants	—	(733)	—	—	733	—	—	—	—
Stock based compensation	—	8,880	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,880
Purchase of treasury stock (6,055,119 shares)	—	—	—	—	(107,774)	—	—	—	(107,774)
Exercise of stock options (28,522 shares)	—	(25)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(25)
Restricted stock forfeitures (65,509 shares)	—	1,234	—	—	(1,234)	—	—	—	—
Repurchase shares for taxes (19,820 shares)	—	—	—	—	(357)	—	—	—	(357)
Employee Stock Ownership Plan shares committed to be released	—	1,785	—	—	—	2,267	—	—	4,052
Funding of deferred compensation obligations	—	—	—	—	—	—	(550)	553	3
Balance at December 31, 2021	\$ 1,246	\$ 667,906	\$ 765,133	\$ (45,919)	\$ (271,647)	\$ (37,026)	\$ (2,425)	\$ 1,813	\$ 1,079,081

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

## COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

### Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(In thousands)

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income	\$ 36,086	\$ 86,173	\$ 92,049
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Amortization of deferred loan costs, fees and purchased premiums and discounts	5,606	6,063	2,121
Net amortization of premiums and discounts on securities	1,440	2,771	4,482
Net amortization of mortgage servicing rights	239	233	266
Amortization of intangible assets	2,350	1,980	1,025
Depreciation and amortization of office properties and equipment	7,767	7,317	6,718
Amortization of operating lease right-of-use assets	3,916	3,821	3,633
Loss on extinguishment of debt	300	—	2,851
Provision for (reversal of) credit losses	4,787	5,485	(9,953)
Net loss (gain) on securities transactions	10,847	(210)	(2,025)
Change in fair value of equity securities	(695)	401	1,792
Gain on securitizations	—	—	(2,259)
Gain on sale of loans, net	(1,214)	(178)	(8,531)
Net loss on disposal of office properties and equipment	168	242	95
Deferred tax (benefit) expense	3,375	12,769	17,709
(Increase) decrease in accrued interest receivable	(5,447)	(4,689)	2,023
(Increase) in other assets	(33,992)	(9,884)	(22,159)
Increase in accrued expenses and other liabilities	3,282	24,998	1,926
Income on bank-owned life insurance	(10,126)	(7,393)	(5,994)
Employee stock ownership plan expense	4,095	4,850	4,052
Stock based compensation	7,979	7,440	8,880
(Decrease) increase in deferred compensation obligations under Rabbi Trust	(47)	(31)	3
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 40,716	\$ 142,158	\$ 98,704
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Proceeds from sales of debt securities available for sale	\$ 277,022	\$ 126,772	\$ 90,339
Proceeds from sales of equity securities	—	—	1,390
Proceeds from paydown/maturities/calls of debt securities available for sale	100,855	281,959	368,249
Proceeds from paydown/maturities/calls of debt securities held to maturity	20,221	31,151	36,103
Purchases of debt securities available for sale	(124,618)	(147,181)	(667,015)
Purchases of debt securities held to maturity	—	(23,298)	(203,779)
Purchases of equity securities	—	—	(91)
Proceeds from sales of loans held-for-sale	121,372	9,639	302,039
Purchases of loans receivable	(14,729)	(8,315)	(85,382)
Net increase in loans receivable	(311,299)	(987,753)	(325,917)

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

## COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

### Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (continued)

(In thousands)

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
Proceeds from bank-owned life insurance death benefits	1,364	1,031	5
Proceeds from redemptions of Federal Home Loan Bank stock	91,132	77,362	28,448
Purchases of Federal Home Loan Bank stock	(114,040)	(111,429)	(4,798)
Proceeds from sales of office properties and equipment	—	1,772	1,879
Additions to office properties and equipment	(7,635)	(7,204)	(5,492)
Net cash acquired in acquisitions	—	140,769	20,417
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	\$ 39,645	\$ (614,725)	\$ (443,605)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>			
Net (decrease) increase in deposits	\$ (154,603)	\$ (71,789)	\$ 581,475
Proceeds from long-term borrowings	536,113	335,893	37,120
Payments on long-term borrowings	(11,300)	(38,725)	(306,752)
Net (decrease) increase in short-term borrowings	(93,165)	446,808	(244,027)
Proceeds from term note	—	—	29,841
Repayment of term note	(30,300)	—	—
(Decrease) increase in advance payments by borrowers for taxes and insurance	(1,951)	7,648	3,406
Issuance of common stock for restricted stock awards	10	—	—
Purchase of treasury stock	(80,497)	(93,996)	(107,774)
Exercise of stock options	(24)	(393)	(25)
Repurchase of shares for taxes	(623)	(4,614)	(357)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	\$ 163,660	\$ 580,832	\$ (7,093)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	\$ 244,021	\$ 108,265	\$ (351,994)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	179,228	70,963	422,957
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 423,249	\$ 179,228	\$ 70,963
<b>Cash paid during the period for:</b>			
Interest on deposits and borrowings	\$ 183,568	\$ 41,077	\$ 37,906
Income tax payments, net of refunds	\$ 9,253	\$ 15,729	\$ 16,262
<b>Non-cash investing and financing activities:</b>			
Transfer of loans receivable to loans held-for-sale	\$ 120,955	\$ 9,461	\$ 289,362
Securitization of loans	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 99,603
Excise tax on net stock repurchases	\$ 800	\$ —	\$ —

See notes to consolidated financial statements.



## COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

### Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (continued)

(In thousands)

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
<b>Acquisitions:</b>			
Non-cash assets acquired:			
Debt securities available for sale	\$ —	\$ 79,024	\$ 118,017
Equity securities	—	1,075	—
Federal Home Loan Bank stock	—	906	3,032
Loans receivable	—	335,501	158,912
Accrued interest receivable	—	910	867
Office properties and equipment, net	—	7,296	5,934
Bank-owned life insurance	—	13,033	8,661
Core deposit intangibles	—	9,780	42
Other assets	—	6,356	616
Total non-cash assets acquired	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 453,881</u>	<u>\$ 296,081</u>
Liabilities assumed:			
Deposits	\$ —	\$ 502,732	\$ 210,117
Borrowings	—	5,762	59,908
Advance payments by borrowers for taxes and insurance	—	1,341	495
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	—	10,568	4,822
Total liabilities assumed	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 520,403</u>	<u>\$ 275,342</u>
Net non-cash (liabilities assumed) assets acquired	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ (66,522)</u>	<u>\$ 20,739</u>
Net cash and cash equivalents acquired in acquisitions	\$ —	\$ 140,769	\$ 20,417

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(1) Business**

On December 1, 2021, the Company completed its acquisition of Freehold Bancorp, MHC, Freehold Bancorp, Inc. and Freehold Bank (collectively, the "Freehold Entities" or "Freehold"). Pursuant to the terms of the Merger Agreement, Freehold Bancorp, MHC merged with and into the MHC, with the MHC as the surviving entity; and Freehold Bancorp, Inc. merged with and into Columbia Financial, with Columbia Financial as the surviving entity. In connection with the merger, Freehold Bank converted to a federal savings bank and operates as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Columbia Financial. The Company intends to merge Freehold Bank into Columbia Bank at a future date that has not yet been determined. Under the terms of the merger agreement, upon the subsequent merger of the two banks, depositors of Freehold Bank will become depositors of Columbia Bank and will have the same rights and privileges in the MHC as if their accounts had been established at Columbia Bank on the date established at Freehold Bank. The Company issued 2,591,007 shares of its common stock to the MHC, representing an amount equal to the fair value of the Freehold Entities as determined by an independent appraiser, at the effective time of the holding company mergers.

On May 1, 2022, the Company completed its acquisition of RSI Bancorp, M.H.C., RSI Bancorp, Inc. and RSI Bank (collectively, the "RSI Entities" or "RSI"). Pursuant to the terms of the merger agreement, RSI Bancorp, M.H.C. merged with and into the MHC, with the MHC as the surviving entity; RSI Bancorp, Inc. merged with and into Columbia Financial, with Columbia Financial as the surviving entity; and RSI Bank merged with and into Columbia Bank, with Columbia Bank as the surviving institution. Under the terms of the merger agreement, depositors of RSI Bank became depositors of Columbia Bank and have the same rights and privileges in the MHC as if their accounts had been established at Columbia Bank on the date established at RSI Bank. The Company issued 6,086,314 shares of its common stock to the MHC, representing an amount equal to the discounted fair value of the RSI Entities as determined by an independent appraiser, at the effective time of the merger.

**(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

*Principles of Consolidation*

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Columbia Financial, Inc., its wholly-owned subsidiaries, Columbia Bank ("Columbia"), Freehold Bank ("Freehold"), and Columbia's wholly-owned subsidiaries, Columbia Investment Services, Inc., 2500 Broadway Corp., 1901 Residential Management Co. LLC, First Jersey Title Services, Inc., 1901 Commercial Management Co. LLC, Stewardship Realty LLC, CSB Realty Corp., and RSI Insurance Agency, Inc., (collectively, the "Company"). The accounts of the MHC are not consolidated in the consolidated financial statements of the Company. In consolidation, all intercompany accounts and transactions are eliminated. Certain reclassifications have been made in the consolidated financial statements to conform with current year classifications.

The Company also owns 100% of the common stock of Stewardship Statutory Trust I, which is a trust incorporated in Delaware which was also acquired in the Company's merger with Stewardship in November 2019. In accordance with ASC Topic 810, Consolidation, this Trust was classified as a variable interest entity and did not satisfy the conditions for consolidation. Accordingly, this Trust, which owns \$7.0 million of trust preferred securities, which represents 100% of the assets, is treated as an unconsolidated subsidiary.

*Basis of Financial Statement Presentation*

The consolidated financial statements of the Company have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"), including the elimination of all significant intercompany accounts and transactions during consolidation. In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is required to make estimates, significant judgments and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities as of the dates of the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition and Consolidated Statements of Income for the periods presented. Actual results could differ from these judgments and estimates under different conditions, resulting in a change that could have a material impact on the carrying values of our assets and liabilities and our results of operations. Material estimates that involve significant judgements and assumptions that are particularly susceptible to change are the determination of the adequacy of the allowance for credit losses, evaluation of goodwill for impairment, evaluation of other-than-temporary impairment on securities, evaluation of the need for valuation allowances on deferred tax assets, and determination of liabilities related to retirement and other post-retirement benefits. These estimates, significant judgements and assumptions are evaluated on an ongoing basis and are adjusted when facts and circumstances dictate. Illiquid credit markets, volatile securities markets, and declines in the housing market and the economy generally have combined to increase the uncertainty inherent in such estimates and assumptions. Changes in estimates resulting from continuing changes in the economic environment will be reflected in the consolidated financial statements in future periods.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

***Cash and Cash Equivalents***

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, amounts due from banks, interest-bearing deposits at other financial institutions and short-term investments.

***Securities***

Securities are classified as available for sale and held to maturity. Management determines the appropriate classification of securities at the time of purchase. Securities that management has the positive intent and ability to hold to maturity are classified as held to maturity and reported at amortized cost. Securities not classified as held to maturity are classified as available for sale and carried at estimated fair value, with unrealized holding gains or losses, net of taxes, reported as a separate component of accumulated other comprehensive income or loss ("OCI") included in stockholders' equity.

Effective January 1, 2022, the Company adopted the provisions of ASC 326 and modified its accounting policy for the assessment of available for sale securities for impairment. Under ASC 326 for available for sale securities, the Company first assesses whether a loss is from credit or other factors and considers the extent to which fair value is less than amortized cost, any changes to the rating of the security by a rating agency and adverse conditions related to the security, among other factors. If this assessment indicates that a credit loss exists, the present value of cash flows expected to be collected from the security are compared to the amortized cost basis of the security. If the present value of cash flows is less than the amortized cost, a credit loss would be recorded through an allowance for credit losses, limited by the amount that the fair value is less than the amortized cost basis.

The fair values of these securities are based on market quotations or matrix pricing as discussed in note 17. The Company evaluates securities for other-than-temporary impairment at each reporting period and more frequently when economic or market conditions warrant such evaluation. In this evaluation, if such declines were deemed other-than temporary, management would measure the total credit-related component of the unrealized loss and recognize that portion of the loss as a charge to current period earnings. The remaining portion of the unrealized loss would be recognized as an adjustment to OCI. The fair value of the securities portfolio is significantly affected by changes in interest rates. In general, as interest rates rise, the fair value of fixed-rate securities decreases and as interest rates fall, the fair value of fixed-rate securities increases. The Company determines if it has the intent to sell securities or if it more likely than not that the Company would be required to sell the securities before the anticipated recovery. If either exists, the decline in value is considered other-than-temporary and would be recognized in current period earnings.

Premiums and discounts on securities are generally amortized and accreted to income over the contractual lives of the securities using the level-yield method. Premiums on callable securities are amortized to the earliest call date. Dividend and interest income are recognized when earned. Realized gains and losses are recognized when securities are sold or called based on the specific identification method.

In the ordinary course of business, securities are pledged as collateral in conjunction with the Company's borrowings, lines of credit, and public funds on deposit.

***Federal Home Loan Bank Stock***

The Banks, as members of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York (the "FHLB"), are required to hold shares of capital stock of the FHLB based on its activities, primarily its outstanding borrowings. The investment is carried at cost, or par value, which approximates fair value. Cash dividends are reported as income.

***Loans Held-for-Sale***

Loans held-for-sale consists of loans intended for sale in the secondary market. These loans are carried at the lower of cost or estimated fair value, less costs to sell, as determined on an individual loan basis. Net unrealized losses, if any, are recognized in a valuation allowance through a charge to earnings. Origination fees and costs on loans held-for-sale are deferred and recognized on settlement dates as a component of the gain or loss on sale. Loans held-for-sale are generally sold with loan servicing rights retained by Columbia Bank.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

***Loans Receivable***

Loans receivable are carried at unpaid principal balances adjusted by unamortized premiums and unearned discounts, net deferred origination fees and costs, purchase accounting fair value adjustments and the allowance for credit losses. The Company defers loan origination fees and certain direct loan origination costs and accretes such amounts as an adjustment to the yield over the expected lives of the related loans using the level-yield method. Interest income on loans is accrued on unpaid principal balances and credited to income as earned. Premiums and discounts on loans purchased are amortized or accreted as an adjustment to yield over the contractual lives of the related loans using methodologies which approximate the level-yield method.

A loan is considered delinquent when payment has not been received within 30 days of its contractual due date. Generally, a loan is designated as a non-accrual loan when the payment of interest is 90 days or more in arrears of its contractual due date. When a loan is placed on non-accrual status, any interest accrued but not received is reversed against interest income. Payments received on a non-accrual loan are either applied to the outstanding principal balance or recorded as interest income, depending on an assessment of the ability to collect the loan. Non-accruing loans are returned to accrual status after there has been a sustained period of repayment performance (generally six consecutive months of payments) and both principal and interest are deemed collectible. The Company identifies loans that may need to be charged-off as a loss, by reviewing all delinquent loans, classified loans and other loans that management may have concerns about collectability.

On a case-by-case basis, the Company may evaluate individual loans for which it is probable, based on current information, that the Company will not collect all amounts due under the contractual terms of the loan agreement. The Company considers the population of loans in its analysis to include all multifamily and commercial real estate, construction, and commercial business loans with an outstanding balance greater than \$500,000 and not accruing interest, and loan modifications. The Company also considers residential real estate, and home equity loans and advances that are not accruing or modified. Other loans may be included in the population of loans to be evaluated if management has specific information of a collateral shortfall. Loans individually analyzed are measured based on the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate or, as a practical expedient, at the loan's observable market price or the fair value of the collateral if the loan is collateral dependent. Payments received on individually analyzed loans are recognized on a cash basis.

***Purchased Credit-Deteriorated ("PCD") Loans***

Loans acquired in a business combination that have experienced more-than-insignificant deterioration in credit quality since origination are considered purchased with credit deterioration ("PCD") loans. The Company evaluated acquired loans for deterioration in credit quality based on any of, but not limited to, the following: (1) non-accrual status; (2) previously a troubled debt restructured designation; (3) risk ratings of special mention, substandard or doubtful; and (4) delinquency status. At the acquisition date, an estimate of expected credit losses was made for groups of PCD loans with similar risk characteristics and individual PCD loans without similar risk characteristics. This initial allowance for credit losses is allocated to individual PCD loans and added to the purchase price or acquisition date fair values to establish the initial amortized cost basis of the PCD loans. As the initial allowance for credit losses is added to the purchase price, there is no credit loss expense recognized upon acquisition of a PCD loan. Any difference between the unpaid principal balance of PCD loans and the amortized cost basis is considered to relate to noncredit factors and results in a discount or premium.

Discounts and premiums are recognized through interest income on a level-yield method over the life of the loans. For acquired loans not deemed PCD at acquisition, the differences between the initial fair value and the unpaid principal balance are recognized as interest income on a level-yield basis over the lives of the related loans. At the acquisition date, an initial allowance for expected credit losses is estimated and recorded as credit loss expense.

**(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

*Allowance for Credit Losses on Loans Receivable*

The determination of the allowance for credit losses (“ACL”) on loans is considered a critical accounting estimate by management because of the high degree of judgment involved in determining qualitative loss factors, the subjectivity of the assumptions used, and the potential for changes in the forecasted economic environment. The ACL is maintained at a level management considers adequate to provide for estimated losses and impairment based upon an evaluation of known and inherent risk in the loan portfolio. The ACL consists of two elements: (1) identification of loans that must be individually analyzed for impairment and (2) establishment of an ACL for loans collectively analyzed.

Management estimates the ACL using relevant and reliable information from internal and external sources, related to past events, current conditions, and a reasonable and supportable forecast. Historical credit loss experience for both the Company and its segment-specific peers provides the basis for the estimate of expected credit losses. Credit losses over a defined period are converted to PD rate curves through the use of segment-specific LGD risk factors that convert default rates to loss severity based on industry-level, observed relationships between the two variables for each segment, primarily due to the nature of the underlying collateral. These risk factors were assessed for reasonableness against the Company’s own loss experience and adjusted in certain cases when the relationship between the Company’s historical default and loss severity deviate from that of the wider industry. The historical PD curves, together with corresponding economic conditions, establish a quantitative relationship between economic conditions and loan performance through an economic cycle.

Portfolio segments are defined as the level at which an entity develops and documents a systematic methodology to determine its allowance for credit losses. Management developed segments for estimating losses based on the type of borrower and collateral which is generally based upon federal call report segmentation. The segments have been combined or sub-segments have been added as needed to ensure loans of similar risk profiles are appropriately pooled.

We maintain a loan review system that provides a periodic review of the loan portfolio and the identification of individually analyzed loans. The ACL for individually analyzed loans is based on the fair value of collateral or cash flows. While management uses the best information available to make such evaluations, future adjustments to the allowance may be necessary if economic conditions differ substantially from the assumptions used in making the evaluations.

The ACL quantitative allowance for each segment is measured using a discounted cash flow methodology incorporating an econometric, probability of default (“PD”) and loss given default (“LGD”) with distinct segment-specific multi-variate regression models applied. Expected credit losses are estimated over the life of the loans by measuring the difference between the net present value of modeled cash flows and amortized cost basis. Contractual cash flows over the contractual life of the loans are the basis for the modeled cash flows, adjusted for model defaults and expected prepayments and discounted at the loan-level effective interest rate. The contractual term excludes expected extensions, renewals, and modifications.

Management estimates the ACL using relevant and reliable information from internal and external sources, related to past events, current conditions, and a reasonable and supportable forecast. Historical credit loss experience for both the Company and its segment-specific peers provides the basis for the estimate of expected credit losses. Credit losses over a defined period are converted to PD rate curves through the use of segment-specific LGD risk factors that convert default rates to loss severity based on industry-level, observed relationships between the two variables for each segment, primarily due to the nature of the underlying collateral. These risk factors were assessed for reasonableness against the Company’s own loss experience and adjusted in certain cases when the relationship between the Company’s historical default and loss severity deviate from that of the wider industry. The historical PD curves, together with corresponding economic conditions, establish a quantitative relationship between economic conditions and loan performance through an economic cycle.

Using the historical relationship between economic conditions and loan performance, management’s expectation of future loan performance is incorporated using a single economic forecast of macroeconomic variables (i.e., unemployment, gross domestic product, vacancy, and home price index). This forecast is applied over a period that management has determined to be reasonable and supportable. Beyond the period over which management can develop or source a reasonable and supportable forecast, the model reverts to long-term average historical loss rates using a straight-line, time-based methodology. The Company’s current forecast period is six quarters, with a four-quarter reversion period to long-term average historical loss rates.

After quantitative considerations, management applies additional qualitative adjustments that consider the expected impact of certain factors not fully captured in the quantitative reserve. Qualitative adjustments include but are not limited to concentrations of large loan balances, delinquency trends, change in collateral values within segments, and other considerations.

**(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

*Allowance for Credit Losses on Loans Receivable (continued)*

The ACL is established through the provision for credit losses that are charged to income, which is based upon an evaluation of estimated losses in the current loan portfolio, including the evaluation of individually analyzed loans. Charge-offs against the ACL are taken on loans where management determines that the collection of loan principal and interest is unlikely. Recoveries made on loans that have been charged-off are credited to the ACL. Although we believe we have established and maintained the ACL on loans at appropriate levels, changes in reserves may be necessary if actual economic and other conditions differ substantially from the forecast used in estimating the ACL.

Our financial results are affected by the changes in and the level of the ACL. This process involves our analysis of internal and external variables, and it requires that we exercise judgment to estimate an appropriate ACL. As a result of the uncertainty associated with this subjectivity, we cannot assure the precision of the amount reserved, should we experience sizable loan losses in any particular period and/or significant changes in assumptions or economic condition. We believe the primary risks inherent in the portfolio are a general decline in the economy, a decline in real estate market values, rising unemployment, increasing vacancy rates, and increases in interest rates in the absence of economic improvement or any other such factors. Any one or a combination of these events may adversely affect a borrower's ability to repay its loan, resulting in increased delinquencies and loan losses. Accordingly, we have recorded loan credit losses at a level which is estimated to represent the current risk in its loan portfolio.

Most of our non-performing assets are collateral dependent loans which are written down to the fair value of the collateral less estimated costs to sell. We continue to assess the collateral of these loans and update our appraisals on these loans on an annual basis. To the extent the property values decline, there could be additional losses on these non-performing assets, which may be material. Management considered these market conditions in deriving the estimated ACL. Should economic difficulties occur, the ultimate amount of loss could vary from our current estimate.

*Allowance for Credit Losses on Unfunded Commitments*

The Company is required to include unfunded commitments that are expected to be funded in the future within the allowance for credit loss calculation, other than those that are unconditionally cancellable. To arrive at that reserve, the reserve percentage for each applicable segment is applied to the unused portion of the expected commitment balance and is multiplied by the expected funding rate. To determine the expected funding rate, the Company uses a historical utilization rate for each segment. The allowance for credit losses for off-balance-sheet exposures is reported in other liabilities in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition. The liability represents an estimate of expected credit losses arising from off-balance-sheet exposures such as unfunded commitments.

*Modification of Loans ("Modifications")*

On January 1, 2023, the Company adopted ASU 2022-02, Financial Instruments - Credit Losses (Topic 326): *Troubled Debt Restructurings and Vintage Disclosures* which eliminated the accounting guidance for troubled debt restructurings ("TDR's") while enhancing disclosure requirements for certain loan refinancing and restructuring by creditors when a borrower is experiencing financial difficulty. This guidance was applied on a prospective basis.

Modifications made to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty may include principal or interest forgiveness, forbearance, interest rate reductions, term extensions, or a combination of these events intended to minimize economic loss and avoid foreclosure or repossession of collateral.

The Company evaluates whether the modifications represent a new loan or a continuation of an existing loan. A modification or refinancing results in a new loan if the terms of the new loan are at least favorable to the Company and customers with similar collection risks who are not refinancing or restructuring their loan, and the modification to the terms of the loan are deemed to be more than minor. A modification is considered to be more than minor if the difference between the present value of the cash flows of the new obligation and the remaining cash flows of the original obligation, both discounted using the effective interest rate of the original debt, is 10% or greater.

If a modification does not meet the definition of a new loan, the modified loan will be treated as a continuation of the existing loan and all unamortized net fees and/or costs, and any prepayment penalties will be carried forward as part of the net new loan balance.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

***Modification of Loans ("Modifications") (Continued)***

Modified loans that were accruing prior to their modification where income was reasonably assured subsequent to the modification, maintain their accrual status. Modified loans for which collectability was not reasonably assured, are placed on non-accrual status, interest accruals cease, and uncollected accrued interest is reversed and charged against current income. Non-accruing modified loans may be returned to accrual status when there is a sustained period of repayment performance (generally six consecutive months of payments), and both principal and interest are deemed collectible.

***Loans Sold and Serviced***

The Company has entered into guarantor swaps with Freddie Mac which results in improved liquidity. In these types of transactions, the Company sells mortgage loans in exchange for Freddie Mac Mortgage Participation Certificates backed exclusively by the loans sold. The Company retains the servicing of these loans. The Company also periodically sells loans to investors and continues to service such loans for a fee. Gains or losses on the sale of loans are recorded on trade date using the specific-identification method.

***Office Properties and Equipment***

Land is carried at cost. Office properties, land and building improvements, furniture and equipment, and leasehold improvements are carried at cost, less accumulated depreciation and amortization. Depreciation and amortization of office properties and equipment is computed on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives (generally 40 years for buildings, 10 years to 20 years for land and building improvements, 3 years to 10 years for furniture and equipment). Leasehold improvements, carried at cost, net of accumulated depreciation, are amortized over the terms of the related leases or the estimated useful lives of the assets, whichever is shorter. Major improvements are capitalized, while repairs and maintenance costs are charged to expense as incurred. Upon retirement or sale, any gain or loss is recognized as incurred.

***Bank-owned Life Insurance ("BOLI")***

Bank-owned life insurance is accounted for using the cash surrender value method and is recorded at its net realizable value. The change in the net asset value is recorded as a component of non-interest income. A deferred liability has been recorded for the estimated cost of post-retirement life insurance benefits accruing to applicable employees and directors covered by an endorsement split-dollar life insurance arrangement.

***Goodwill and Intangible Assets***

Intangible assets of the Company consist of goodwill, core deposit intangibles and mortgage servicing rights. Goodwill represents the excess of the purchase price over the fair value of net assets acquired in purchase acquisitions. In accordance with GAAP, goodwill with an indefinite useful life is not amortized, but is evaluated for impairment on an annual basis, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate potential impairment between annual measurement dates. As permitted by GAAP, the Company prepares a qualitative assessment in determining whether goodwill may be impaired. The factors considered in the assessment include macroeconomic conditions, industry and market conditions and overall financial performance of the Company, among others. The Company completed its annual goodwill impairment test as of December 31, 2023, based upon its qualitative assessment of goodwill and concluded that goodwill was not impaired and no further quantitative analysis was warranted.

Core deposit intangibles represent the intangible value of depositor relationships acquired by the Company through purchase acquisitions of Stewardship, Freehold and RSI. The premiums ascribed to these deposits are amortized over their estimated useful lives.

Mortgage servicing rights are recorded when purchased or when originated mortgage loans are sold, with servicing rights retained. Mortgage servicing rights are amortized on an accelerated method based upon the estimated lives of the related loans, and generally adjusted for prepayments. Mortgage servicing rights are carried at the lower of amortized cost or fair value.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

*Leases*

The Company determines if an arrangement is a lease at inception. The Company's leases primarily relate to real estate property for branches and office space. All the Company's leases are classified as operating leases and the related right-of-use asset ("ROU") and lease liability are included in other assets and other liabilities, respectively on the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition.

ROU assets represent the Company's right to use an underlying asset for the lease term, and lease liabilities represent the Company's obligation to make lease payments arising from the lease arrangements. The calculated amounts of the ROU asset and lease liabilities are impacted by the length of the lease term and the discount rate used to calculate the present value of minimum lease payments. As the Company's leases do not provide an implicit rate, the discount rate used in determining the lease liability for each individual lease is the Company's incremental borrowing rate. The present value of the lease liability may include the impact of options to extend or terminate the lease when it is reasonably certain that the Company will exercise such options provided in the lease terms. Lease expense is recognized on a straight-line basis over the expected lease term, while variable lease payments are recognized as incurred. Lease agreements that include lease and non-lease components, such as common area maintenance charges, are accounted for separately.

*Post-retirement Benefits*

The Company provides certain health care and life insurance benefits to eligible retired employees under a Post-retirement Plan. The Company accrues the cost of retiree health care and other benefits during the employee's period of active service. Effective January 1, 2019, the Post-retirement Plan has been closed to new hires.

Through the acquisition of the RSI Entities, the Company acquired a non-funded Post-retirement plan. This defined benefit post-retirement healthcare plan covers substantially all retirees and employees.

*Employee Benefit Plans*

The Company maintains a single employer, tax-qualified defined benefit pension plan (the "Pension Plan") which covers full-time employees that satisfy the Pension Plan's eligibility requirements. The benefits are based on years of service and the employee's average compensation for the highest five consecutive years of employment. Effective October 1, 2018, newly hired employees are not eligible to participate in the Pension Plan as the Pension Plan has been closed to new employees as of that date.

The policy is to fund at least the minimum contribution required by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. GAAP requires an employer to: (a) recognize in its statement of financial position the over-funded or under-funded status of a defined benefit post-retirement plan measured as the difference between the fair value of plan assets and the benefit obligation; (b) measure a plan's assets and its obligations that determine its funded status at the end of the employer's fiscal year (with limited exceptions); and (c) recognize as a component of other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax, the actuarial gains and losses and the prior service costs and credits that arise during the period. The assets of the plan are primarily invested in fixed income and equity funds.

Through the acquisition of the RSI Entities on May 1, 2022, the Company acquired a funded pension plan. The benefits are based on years of service and the employee's compensation, as defined. The Plan was amended effective March 31, 2011, to freeze the Plan so that no employee shall commence or recommence participation in the Plan, that there shall be no further benefit accruals under the Plan, and that compensation received after the effective date shall not be recognized for any purpose under the Plan. Effective September 30, 2023, the RSI Pension Plan was merged into the Columbia Bank Pension Plan.

The Company also maintains a Retirement Income Maintenance Plan (the "RIM Plan") which is a non-qualified defined benefit plan which provides benefits to all employees of the Company if their benefits under the Pension Plan are limited by Internal Revenue Code Sections 415 and 401(a)(17).

Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank each have a 401(k) plan covering substantially all employees. Columbia Bank may match a percentage of the first 3.00% to 4.50% contributed by participants. Columbia's matching contribution, if any, is determined by their Board of Directors in its sole discretion. Freehold does not presently match any portion of employee contribution but may provide an annual match determined by their Board of Directors in its sole discretion.



**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

*Employee Benefit Plans (continued)*

Columbia Bank has an Employee Stock Ownership Plan ("ESOP"). The funds borrowed by the ESOP from the Company to purchase the Company's common stock are being repaid from Columbia Bank's contributions over a period of 20 years. The Company's common stock not allocated to participants is recorded as a reduction of stockholders' equity at cost. Compensation expense for the ESOP is based on the average price of the Company's stock and the amount of shares committed to be allocated during each period.

Columbia Bank has a Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan ("SERP"). The SERP is a non-qualified plan which provides supplemental retirement benefits to eligible officers (those designated by the Board of Directors) of the Company who are prevented from receiving the full benefits contemplated by the ESOP's benefit formulas under tax law limits for tax-qualified plans. In addition, the Company maintains a stock based deferral plan (the "Stock Based Deferral Plan") for certain executives and directors. The Company records a deferred compensation equity account and corresponding contra-equity account for the cost of the shares held by the Stock Based Deferral and SERP Plans.

Columbia Bank also maintains a non-qualified savings income maintenance deferred compensation plan (the "SIM Plan") that provides supplemental benefits to certain executives who are prevented from receiving the full benefits contemplated by the 401(k) Plan under tax law limits for tax-qualified plans, and a Deferred Compensation Plan for directors.

Freehold Bank also sponsors a directors retirement plan, a director and executive deferred compensation plan, and a supplemental executive retirement plan for certain current and former directors and officers of the Bank.

Through the acquisition of the RSI Entities, the Company also acquired an executive incentive retirement plan, a board of director and executive deferred compensation plan, a supplemental executive retirement plan, a key life insurance plan and a split-dollar life insurance plan for certain current and former directors and officers of the Bank.

*Derivatives*

The Company uses derivative financial instruments as components of its market risk management, principally to manage interest rate risk. Certain derivatives are entered into in connection with transactions with commercial customers. Derivatives are not used for speculative purposes. All derivatives are recognized as either assets or liabilities in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition, reported at fair value and presented on a gross basis. Until a derivative is settled, a favorable change in fair value results in an unrealized gain that is recognized as an asset, while an unfavorable change in fair value results in an unrealized loss that is recognized as a liability.

The Company generally applies hedge accounting to its derivatives used for market risk management purposes. Hedge accounting is permitted only if specific criteria are met, including a requirement that a highly effective relationship exists between the derivative instrument and the hedged item, both at inception of the hedge and on an ongoing basis. Changes in the fair value of effective fair value hedges are recognized in current earnings (with the change in fair value of the hedged asset or liability also recognized in earnings). Changes in the fair value of effective cash flow hedges are recognized in other comprehensive income (loss) until earnings are affected by the variability in cash flows of the designated hedged item. Ineffective portions of hedge results are recognized in current earnings. Changes in the fair value of derivatives for which hedge accounting is not applied are recognized in current earnings.

The Company formally documents at inception all relationships between the derivative instruments and the hedged items, as well as its risk management objectives and strategies for undertaking the hedge transactions. This process includes linking all derivatives that are designated as hedges to specific assets and liabilities, or to specific firm commitments. The Company also formally assesses, both at inception of the hedge and on an ongoing basis, whether the derivatives that are used in hedging transactions are highly effective in offsetting changes in the fair values or cash flows of the hedged items. If it is determined that a derivative is not highly effective or has ceased to be a highly effective hedge, the Company would discontinue hedge accounting prospectively. Gains or losses resulting from the termination of a derivative accounted for as a cash flow hedge remain in other comprehensive income (loss) and is (accrued) amortized to earnings over the remaining period of the former hedging relationship.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

***Derivatives (continued)***

Certain derivative financial instruments are offered to certain commercial banking customers to manage their risk of exposure and risk management strategies. These derivative instruments consist primarily of currency forward contracts and interest rate swap contracts. The risks associated with these transactions is mitigated by simultaneously entering into similar transactions having essentially offsetting terms with a third-party. In addition, the Company executes interest rate swaps with third parties in order to hedge the interest rate risk of short-term FHLB advances.

***Income Taxes***

The Company and its subsidiaries file consolidated federal income tax returns. Federal income taxes are allocated to each entity based on their respective contributions to taxable income of the consolidated income tax returns. Separate state income taxes are filed for the Company and its subsidiaries on either a consolidated or unconsolidated basis as required by each jurisdiction.

The Company records income taxes in accordance with ASC Topic 740, *Income Taxes*, using the asset and liability method. Federal and state income taxes have been provided on the basis of the Company's income or loss as reported in accordance with GAAP. The amounts reflected on the Company's federal and state income tax returns differ from these provisions due principally to temporary differences in the reporting of certain items for consolidated financial statement reporting and income tax reporting purposes. Accordingly, deferred tax assets and liabilities: (i) are recognized for the estimated future tax consequences of events that have been recognized in the financial statements or tax returns; (ii) are attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases; and (iii) are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. Where applicable, deferred tax assets are reduced by a valuation allowance for any portions determined not likely to be realized based on the nature and timing of these items. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income tax expense in the period that includes the enactment date. The valuation allowance is adjusted, by a charge or credit to income tax expense, as changes in facts and circumstances warrant.

The Company did not have any liabilities for uncertain tax positions or any known unrecognized tax benefits at December 31, 2023 and 2022. The Company policy is to recognize interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits in income tax expense in the Consolidated Statements of Income. The Company did not recognize any interest and penalties during the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021.

On July 1, 2018, New Jersey enacted legislation which adds to the state's 9.0% Corporation Business Tax rate (i) a 2.5% surtax for periods beginning in 2018 and 2019 and (ii) a 1.5% surtax for periods beginning in 2020 and 2021. Subsequently, on September 12, 2020, New Jersey enacted legislation that restored and extended the 2.5% Corporation Business Tax surcharge to apply retroactively from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2023. These surtaxes apply to corporations with more than \$1.0 million of net income allocated to New Jersey.

***Comprehensive Income (Loss)***

Comprehensive income (loss) consists of net income and other comprehensive income (loss). Other comprehensive income (loss) includes items recorded in equity, such as unrealized gains and losses on debt securities available for sale, the noncredit component of other than temporary impairment losses on debt securities, unrealized gains and losses on derivatives, and the unfunded status and reclassification of actuarial net (loss) gain associated with the Company's benefit plans. Comprehensive income is presented in a separate Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income (Loss).

***Segment Reporting***

The Company's operations are substantially in the financial services industry and include providing traditional banking and other financial services to its customers. The Company operates primarily in New Jersey. Management makes operating decisions and assesses performance based on an ongoing review of the Company's consolidated financial results. Therefore, the Company has a single operating segment for financial reporting purposes.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

***Earnings Per Share ("EPS")***

Basic EPS is computed by dividing net income available to common shareholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. For purposes of calculating basic EPS, weighted average common shares outstanding excludes treasury stock, unallocated employee stock ownership plan shares that have not been committed for release and deferred compensation obligations required to be settled in shares of Company stock.

Diluted EPS is computed using the same method as basic EPS and reflects the potential dilution which could occur if stock options and unvested shares were exercised and converted into common stock. The potentially diluted shares would then be included in the weighted average number of shares outstanding for the period using the treasury stock method. Shares issued and reacquired during any period are weighted for the portion of the period that they were outstanding.

***Stock Compensation Plans***

Compensation expense related to stock options and non-vested restricted stock awards is based on the fair value of the award on the measurement date with expense recognized on a straight line basis over the requisite performance or service period. The fair value of stock options is estimated utilizing the Black-Scholes option pricing model. The fair value of non-vested restricted stock awards is generally the closing market price of the Company's common stock on the date of grant. The Company accounts for forfeitures as they occur.

***Accounting Pronouncements Adopted***

In March 2022, the FASB issued ASU 2022-01, *Derivatives and Hedging (Topic 815): Fair Value Hedging – Portfolio Layer Method*. The purpose of this updated guidance is to further align risk management objectives with hedge accounting results on the application of the last-of-layer method, which was first introduced in ASU 2017-12, *Derivatives and Hedging (Topic 815): Targeted Improvements to Accounting for Hedging Activities*. ASU 2022-01 is effective for public business entities for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2022, with early adoption in the interim period, permitted. For entities who have already adopted ASU 2017-12, immediate adoption is allowed. ASU 2022-01 requires a modified retrospective transition method for basis adjustments in which the entity will recognize the cumulative effect of the change on the opening balance of each affected component of equity in the statement of financial position as of the date of adoption. The Company adopted this ASU on January 1, 2023 on a prospective basis; therefore, there was no impact to the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In March 2022, the FASB issued ASU 2022-02, *Financial Instruments-Credit Losses (Topic 326), Troubled Debt Restructurings and Vintage Disclosures*. ASU 2022-02 addresses areas identified by the FASB as part of its post-implementation review of the credit losses standard (ASU 2016-13) that introduced the CECL model. The amendments eliminated the accounting guidance for troubled debt restructurings by creditors that have adopted the CECL model and enhanced the disclosure requirements for loan refinancing and restructurings made with borrowers experiencing financial difficulty. In addition, the amendments require a public business entity to disclose current period gross write-offs for financing receivables and net investment in leases by year of origination in the vintage disclosures. For entities that have adopted ASU 2016-13, this ASU is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2022, including interim periods within those fiscal years. The Company adopted this pronouncement effective January 1, 2023. The update was applied on a prospective basis to disclosures and did not have a significant impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In June 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-13, *Financial Instruments- Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments ("CECL")*, further amended by ASU 2019-04, *Codification Improvements to Topic 326, Financial Instruments-Credit Losses, Topic 815, Derivatives and Hedging, and Topic 825, Financial Instruments*. Topic 326 pertains to the measurement of credit losses on financial instruments. This update requires the measurement of all expected credit losses for financial instruments held at the reporting date based on historical experience, current conditions, and reasonable and supportable forecasts. Financial institutions and other organizations will now use forward-looking information to better determine their credit loss estimates. This update is intended to improve financial reporting by requiring timelier recording of credit losses on loans and other financial instruments held by financial institutions and other organizations. This update was effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2019.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

*Accounting Pronouncements Adopted (continued)*

The Company elected to defer the adoption of the CECL methodology until December 31, 2020 as permitted by the enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"). In late December 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 was enacted, and extended certain provisions of the CARES Act, which allowed the Company to extend the adoption of CECL until January 1, 2022. The Company elected to extend its adoption of CECL in accordance with this legislation, and adopted the above mentioned ASUs related to *Financial Instruments - Credit Losses (Topic 326)* using a modified retrospective approach.

The Company adopted ASU 2016-13 on January 1, 2022 for all financial assets measured at amortized cost and off-balance-sheet credit exposures. Results for the year ended December 31, 2023 are presented under Accounting Standards Codification 326, *Financial Instruments - Credit Losses*, while prior period amounts continue to be reported with previously applicable GAAP and have not been restated. Effective January 1, 2022, the Company recorded a \$12.1 million decrease in the allowance for credit losses on loans (previously allowance for loan losses), established a \$353,000 allowance for credit losses on debt securities available for sale, and recorded a \$5.5 million increase in the liability for off-balance-sheet credit exposures, which resulted in a total cumulative effect adjustment of \$6.2 million, net of tax, and an increase to retained earnings.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(3) Acquisitions**

**Freehold Bank**

On December 1, 2021, the Company completed its acquisition of Freehold Bancorp, MHC, Freehold Bancorp, Inc. and Freehold Bank (collectively, the "Freehold Entities" or "Freehold"). Pursuant to the terms of the Merger Agreement, Freehold Bancorp, MHC merged with and into the MHC, with the MHC as the surviving entity; and Freehold Bancorp, Inc. merged with and into Columbia Financial, with Columbia Financial as the surviving entity. In connection with the merger, Freehold Bank converted to a federal savings bank and operates as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Columbia Financial. The Company intends to merge Freehold Bank into Columbia Bank at a future date that has not yet been determined. Under the terms of the merger agreement, upon the subsequent merger of the two banks, depositors of Freehold Bank will become depositors of Columbia Bank and will have the same rights and privileges in the MHC as if their accounts had been established at Columbia Bank on the date established at Freehold Bank. The Company issued 2,591,007 shares of its common stock to the MHC, representing an amount equal to the fair value of the Freehold Entities as determined by an independent appraiser, at the effective time of the holding company mergers.

Merger-related expenses are recorded in the Consolidated Statements of Income and are expensed as incurred. Direct acquisition and other charges incurred in connection with the acquisition of the Freehold Entities totaled \$413,000, \$11,000, and \$350,000 for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, respectively.

The following table sets forth assets acquired, and liabilities assumed in the acquisition of Freehold Entities, at their estimated fair values as of the closing date of the transaction:

	<b>December 1, 2021</b>	
	(In thousands)	
<b>Assets acquired:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	20,417
Debt securities available for sale		118,017
Federal Home Loan Bank stock		3,032
Loans receivable		158,912
Accrued interest receivable		867
Office properties and equipment, net		5,934
Bank-owned life insurance		8,661
Deferred tax assets, net		454
Core deposit intangibles		42
Other assets		162
Total assets acquired	\$	316,498
<b>Liabilities assumed:</b>		
Deposits	\$	210,117
Borrowings		59,908
Advance payments by borrowers for taxes and insurance		495
Accrued expenses and other liabilities		4,822
Total liabilities assumed	\$	275,342
Net assets acquired	\$	41,156
Fair market value of stock issued to Columbia Bank MHC for purchase		47,260
Goodwill recorded at merger	\$	6,104

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(3) Acquisitions (continued)**

**Freehold Bank (continued)**

The assets acquired and liabilities assumed have been accounted for under the acquisition method of accounting. The assets and liabilities were recorded at their fair values as of December 1, 2021, and resulted in the recognition of goodwill of \$6.1 million. The determination of the fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed required management to make estimates about discount rates, future expected cash flows, market conditions, and other future events that are highly subjective in nature and subject to change. During the third quarter of 2022, the Company completed all tax returns related to the operations of Freehold Bank and its impact on the Company's income taxes, which resulted in an adjustment of \$82,000 to deferred income taxes, net, and a corresponding decrease in goodwill. At both December 31, 2023 and 2022, goodwill related to the Freehold acquisition totaled \$6.0 million.

**RSI Bank**

On May 1, 2022, the Company completed its acquisition of RSI Bancorp, M.H.C., RSI Bancorp, Inc. and RSI Bank (collectively, the "RSI Entities" or "RSI"). Pursuant to the terms of the merger agreement, RSI Bancorp, M.H.C. merged with and into the MHC, with the MHC as the surviving entity; RSI Bancorp, Inc. merged with and into Columbia Financial, with Columbia Financial as the surviving entity; and RSI Bank merged with and into Columbia Bank, with Columbia Bank as the surviving institution. Under the terms of the merger agreement, depositors of RSI Bank became depositors of Columbia Bank and have the same rights and privileges in the MHC as if their accounts had been established at Columbia Bank on the date established at RSI Bank. The Company issued 6,086,314 shares of its common stock to the MHC, representing an amount equal to the discounted fair value of the RSI Entities as determined by an independent appraiser, at the effective time of the merger.

Merger-related expenses are recorded in the Consolidated Statements of Income and are expensed as incurred. Direct acquisition and other charges incurred in connection with the acquisition of the RSI Entities totaled \$193,000, \$2.8 million and \$196,000 for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, respectively.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(3) Acquisitions (continued)**

**RSI Bank (continued)**

The following table sets forth assets acquired, and liabilities assumed in the acquisition of the RSI Entities, at their estimated fair values as of the closing date of the transaction:

	<b>May 1, 2022</b>	
	(In thousands)	
<b>Assets acquired:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	140,769
Debt securities available for sale		79,024
Equity securities		1,075
Federal Home Loan Bank stock		906
Loans receivable		335,501
Accrued interest receivable		910
Office properties and equipment, net		7,296
Bank-owned life insurance		13,033
Deferred tax assets, net		3,633
Core deposit intangibles		10,271
Other assets		2,723
Total assets acquired	\$	595,141
<b>Liabilities assumed:</b>		
Deposits	\$	502,732
Borrowings		5,762
Advance payments by borrowers for taxes and insurance		1,341
Accrued expenses and other liabilities		10,568
Total liabilities assumed	\$	520,403
Net assets acquired	\$	74,738
Fair market value of stock issued to Columbia Bank MHC for purchase		102,741
Goodwill recorded at merger	\$	28,003

The assets acquired and liabilities assumed have been accounted for under the acquisition method of accounting. The assets and liabilities were recorded at their fair values as of May 1, 2022, and resulted in the recognition of goodwill of \$28.0 million. The determination of the fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed required management to make estimates about discount rates, future expected cash flows, market conditions, and other future events that are highly subjective in nature and subject to change. During the third quarter of 2022, the Company completed all tax returns related to the operation of RSI Bank and its impact on the Company's income taxes, which resulted in a \$2.0 million adjustment to deferred income taxes, net, and a corresponding decrease in goodwill. During the fourth quarter of, 2022, the Company recorded an adjustment of \$490,922 to the original discounted fair value, which resulted in a decrease in additional paid-in-capital, and a corresponding decrease in goodwill. At both December 31, 2023 and 2022, goodwill related to the acquisition of the RSI Entities totaled \$25.5 million.

## COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

### Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

#### (3) Acquisitions (continued)

##### Fair Value Measurement of Assets Acquired and Liabilities Assumed

Described below are the methods used to determine the fair values of the significant assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the Freehold and RSI acquisitions:

**Cash and cash equivalents.** The estimated fair values of cash and cash equivalents approximate their stated face amounts, as these financial instruments are either due on demand or have short-term maturities.

**Debt securities available for sale.** The estimated fair values of the debt securities were calculated utilizing Level 2 inputs. The majority of the acquired securities were fixed income instruments that are not quoted on an exchange but are traded in active markets. The prices for these instruments are obtained through an independent pricing service when available, or dealer market participants with whom the Company has historically transacted with for both purchases and sales of securities. The prices are derived from market quotations and matrix pricing. The fair value measurements consider observable data that may include dealer quotes, market spreads, cash flows, the U.S. Treasury yield curve, and the bond's terms and conditions, among other things. Management reviewed the data and assumptions used in pricing securities by its third-party provider to ensure the highest level of significant inputs are derived from market observable data.

**Loans receivable.** The acquired loan portfolio was segregated into pools for valuation purposes primarily based on loan type, non-accrual status, and credit risk rating. The estimated fair values were computed by discounting the expected cash flows from the respective pools. Cash flows were estimated by using valuation models that incorporated estimates of current key assumptions such as prepayment speeds, default rates, and loss severity rates. The process included: (1) projecting monthly principal and/or interest cash flows based on the contractual terms of the loans, including both maturity and contractual amortization; (2) adjusting projected cash flows for expected losses and prepayments, where appropriate; (3) developing a discount rate based on the relative risk of the cash flows, considering the loan type, liquidity risk, the maturity of the loans, servicing costs, and a required return on capital; and (4) discounting the projected cash flows to a present value, to arrive at the calculated value of the loans.

The methods used to estimate the fair values of loans are extremely sensitive to the assumptions and estimates used. While management attempted to use assumptions and estimates that best reflected the acquired loan portfolios and current market conditions, a greater degree of subjectivity is inherent in the values than in those determined in active markets.

**Office properties and equipment, net.** The fair value of land and buildings was estimated using current appraisals. Acquired equipment was not material. Buildings are amortized over their estimated useful lives. Equipment is amortized or depreciated over their estimated useful lives usually ranging from three to fifteen years.

**Bank-owned life insurance.** Bank-owned life insurance is accounted for using the cash surrender value method and is recorded at its net realizable value.

**Goodwill.** Goodwill is not amortized for book purposes; however, it is reviewed at least annually for impairment and is not deductible for tax purposes.

**Core deposit intangibles.** Core deposit intangibles ("CDI") are the measure of the value of non-maturity deposits in a business combination. The fair value of the CDI was calculated utilizing the cost savings approach, the expected cost savings attributable to the core deposits funding relative to an alternative source of funding, using a discounted cash flow present value methodology. Key inputs and assumptions utilized in the discounted cash flow present value methodology include core deposit balances and rates paid, the cost of an additional funding source, the aggregate life of deposits and truncation points, non-interest deposit costs, and the immediate deposit outflow assumption.

**Deposits.** The fair values of deposit liabilities with no stated maturity (i.e., non-interest-bearing and interest-bearing demand deposit accounts, money market and savings and club deposits) are equal to the carrying amounts payable on demand. The fair value of certificates of deposit represents contractual cash flows, discounted to present value using interest rates currently offered on deposits with similar characteristics and remaining maturities.

**Borrowings.** The fair values of borrowings consisting of FHLB advances were estimated by discounting future cash flows using market discount rates for borrowings with similar characteristics, terms and remaining maturities.



**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(4) Debt Securities Available for Sale**

Debt securities available for sale at December 31, 2023 and 2022 are summarized as follows:

	<b>December 31, 2023</b>			
	<b>Amortized Cost</b>	<b>Gross Unrealized Gains</b>	<b>Gross Unrealized (Losses)</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>
	(In thousands)			
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$ 146,387	\$ 924	\$ (1,810)	\$ 145,501
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations	1,009,508	20	(141,943)	867,585
Municipal obligations	2,770	—	(68)	2,702
Corporate debt securities	92,565	2	(14,798)	77,769
	<u>\$ 1,251,230</u>	<u>\$ 946</u>	<u>\$ (158,619)</u>	<u>\$ 1,093,557</u>

	<b>December 31, 2022</b>			
	<b>Amortized Cost</b>	<b>Gross Unrealized Gains</b>	<b>Gross Unrealized (Losses)</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>
	(In thousands)			
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$ 67,771	\$ —	\$ (4,205)	\$ 63,566
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations	1,351,929	135	(170,337)	1,181,727
Municipal obligations	3,697	—	(122)	3,575
Corporate debt securities	92,544	6	(12,784)	79,766
	<u>\$ 1,515,941</u>	<u>\$ 141</u>	<u>\$ (187,448)</u>	<u>\$ 1,328,634</u>

The amortized cost and fair value of debt securities available for sale at December 31, 2023, by contractual final maturity, is shown below. Expected maturities may differ from contractual maturities due to prepayment or early call options exercised by the issuer.

	<b>December 31, 2023</b>	
	<b>Amortized Cost</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>
	(In thousands)	
One year or less	\$ 50,854	\$ 50,924
More than one year to five years	122,038	119,556
More than five years to ten years	68,830	55,492
	<u>\$ 241,722</u>	<u>\$ 225,972</u>
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations	1,009,508	867,585
	<u>\$ 1,251,230</u>	<u>\$ 1,093,557</u>

Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations totaling \$1.0 billion at amortized cost and \$867.6 million at fair value, are not classified by maturity in the table above as their expected lives are likely to be shorter than the contractual maturity date due to principal prepayments.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(4) Debt Securities Available for Sale (continued)**

During the year ended December 31, 2023, proceeds from the sale of debt securities available for sale totaled \$277.0 million, resulting in no gross gains and \$10.8 million of gross losses. There were no calls and \$4,000 in maturities of debt securities available for sale during the year ended December 31, 2023.

During the year ended December 31, 2022, proceeds from the sale of debt securities available for sale totaled \$126.8 million, resulting in gross gains of \$710,000 and \$500,000 of gross losses. There were no calls and \$915,000 in maturities of debt securities available for sale during the year ended December 31, 2022.

During the year ended December 31, 2021, proceeds from the sale of debt securities available for sale totaled \$90.3 million, resulting in gross gains of \$2.1 million and gross losses \$439,000. Proceeds from called debt securities available for sale totaled \$14.0 million resulting in no gross gains or losses. Proceeds from matured debt securities available for sale totaled \$210,000.

Debt securities available for sale having a carrying value of \$211.5 million and \$724.0 million, at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, were pledged as security for public funds on deposit at Columbia Bank as required and permitted by law, pledged for outstanding borrowings at the Federal Home Loan Bank, and pledged for potential borrowings at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Debt securities available for sale having a carrying value of \$75.1 million and \$28.3 million, at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, were pledged by Freehold Bank for outstanding borrowings at the Federal Home Loan Bank, and for potential borrowings at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

The following tables summarize the fair value and gross unrealized losses of those securities that reported an unrealized loss at December 31, 2023 and 2022 and if the unrealized loss position was continuous for the twelve months prior to those respective dates:

	December 31, 2023					
	Less Than 12 Months		12 Months or Longer		Total	
	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized (Losses)	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized (Losses)	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized (Losses)
	(In thousands)					
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 21,344	\$ (1,810)	\$ 21,344	\$ (1,810)
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations	54	(4)	863,026	(141,939)	863,080	(141,943)
Municipal obligations	—	—	2,702	(68)	2,702	(68)
Corporate debt securities	—	—	75,765	(14,798)	75,765	(14,798)
	<u>\$ 54</u>	<u>\$ (4)</u>	<u>\$ 962,837</u>	<u>\$ (158,615)</u>	<u>\$ 962,891</u>	<u>\$ (158,619)</u>

	December 31, 2022					
	Less Than 12 Months		12 Months or Longer		Total	
	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized (Losses)	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized (Losses)	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized (Losses)
	(In thousands)					
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$ 47,956	\$ (2,359)	\$ 15,610	\$ (1,846)	\$ 63,566	\$ (4,205)
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations	424,328	(29,013)	741,515	(141,324)	1,165,843	(170,337)
Municipal obligations	3,574	(122)	—	—	3,574	(122)
Corporate debt securities	46,751	(5,792)	31,008	(6,992)	77,759	(12,784)
	<u>\$ 522,609</u>	<u>\$ (37,286)</u>	<u>\$ 788,133</u>	<u>\$ (150,162)</u>	<u>\$ 1,310,742</u>	<u>\$ (187,448)</u>

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(4) Debt Securities Available for Sale (continued)**

The number of securities in an unrealized loss position at December 31, 2023 totaled 329, compared with 455 at December 31, 2022. All temporarily impaired securities were investment grade as of December 31, 2023, except two corporate debt security positions totaling \$8.1 million which are rated BB+. All temporarily impaired securities were investment grade at December 31, 2022.

For available for sale securities, the Company assesses whether a loss is from credit or other factors and considers the extent to which fair value is less than amortized cost, any changes to the rating of the security by a rating agency and adverse conditions related to the security, among other factors. If this assessment indicates that a credit loss exists, the present value of cash flows expected to be collected from the security are compared to the amortized cost basis of the security. If the present value of cash flows is less than the amortized cost, a credit loss would be recorded through an allowance for credit losses, limited by the amount that the fair value is less than the amortized cost basis.

The following table presents the activity in the allowance for credit losses on debt securities available for sale for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
	(In thousands)	
Allowance for Credit Losses:		
Beginning balance	\$ —	\$ —
Impact of adopting ASU 2016-13 (CECL) effective January 1, 2022	—	490
(Reversal of) credit losses	—	(490)
Ending balance	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

The Company made an accounting policy election to exclude accrued interest receivable from the amortized cost basis of debt securities available for sale. Accrued interest receivable on debt securities available for sale is reported as a component of accrued interest receivable in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition, which totaled \$3.7 million and \$3.2 million at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, and is excluded from the estimate of credit losses.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(5) Debt Securities Held to Maturity**

Debt securities held to maturity at December 31, 2023 and 2022 are summarized as follows:

	December 31, 2023				
	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized (Losses)	Allowance for Credit Losses	Fair Value
	(In thousands)				
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$ 49,871	\$ —	\$ (5,902)	\$ —	\$ 43,969
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations	351,283	—	(38,075)	—	313,208
	<u>\$ 401,154</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ (43,977)</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 357,177</u>

	December 31, 2022				
	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized (Losses)	Allowance for Credit Losses	Fair Value
	(In thousands)				
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$ 49,871	\$ —	\$ (7,304)	\$ —	\$ 42,567
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations	371,652	—	(43,828)	—	327,824
	<u>\$ 421,523</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ (51,132)</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 370,391</u>

The amortized cost and fair value of debt securities held to maturity at December 31, 2023, by contractual final maturity, is shown below. Expected maturities may differ from contractual maturities due to prepayment or early call options exercised by the issuer.

	December 31, 2023	
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
	(In thousands)	
More than one year to five years	\$ 29,875	\$ 27,723
More than five years to ten years	9,996	8,661
More than ten years	10,000	7,585
	49,871	43,969
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations	351,283	313,208
	<u>\$ 401,154</u>	<u>\$ 357,177</u>

Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations totaling \$351.3 million at amortized cost, and \$313.2 million at fair value at December 31, 2023, are not classified by maturity in the table above as their expected lives are likely to be shorter than the contractual maturity date due to principal prepayments.

During the year ended December 31, 2023, there were no sales or calls of debt securities held to maturity. During the year ended December 31, 2023, proceeds from matured debt securities held to maturity totaled \$4.3 million.

During the year ended December 31, 2022, there were no sales, calls or maturities of debt securities held to maturity.

During the year ended December 31, 2021, there were no sales of debt securities held to maturity. During the year ended December 31, 2021, proceeds from called debt securities held to maturity totaled \$5.1 million, resulting in no gross gains or losses.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(5) Debt Securities Held to Maturity (continued)**

Debt securities held to maturity having a carrying value of \$202.9 million and \$228.8 million, at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, were pledged as security for public funds on deposit at Columbia Bank as required and permitted by law, pledged for outstanding borrowings at the Federal Home Loan Bank, and pledged for potential borrowings at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

The following tables summarize the fair value and gross unrealized losses of those securities that reported an unrealized loss at December 31, 2023 and 2022 and if the unrealized loss position was continuous for the twelve months prior to those respective dates:

	December 31, 2023					
	Less Than 12 Months		12 Months or Longer		Total	
	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized (Losses)	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized (Losses)	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized (Losses)
	(In thousands)					
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 43,969	\$ (5,902)	\$ 43,969	\$ (5,902)
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations	—	—	313,208	(38,075)	313,208	(38,075)
	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 357,177</u>	<u>\$ (43,977)</u>	<u>\$ 357,177</u>	<u>\$ (43,977)</u>

	December 31, 2022					
	Less than 12 months		12 months or longer		Total	
	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized (Losses)	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized (Losses)	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized (Losses)
	(In thousands)					
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$ 4,956	\$ (44)	\$ 37,611	\$ (7,260)	\$ 42,567	\$ (7,304)
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations	275,107	(33,000)	52,717	(10,828)	327,824	(43,828)
	<u>\$ 280,063</u>	<u>\$ (33,044)</u>	<u>\$ 90,328</u>	<u>\$ (18,088)</u>	<u>\$ 370,391</u>	<u>\$ (51,132)</u>

The number of securities in an unrealized loss position at December 31, 2023 totaled 108, compared with 116 at December 31, 2022. All temporarily impaired securities were investment grade as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

For held to maturity securities, management measures expected credit losses on a collective basis by major security type. All of the mortgage-backed securities are issued by U.S. government agencies and are either explicitly or implicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government, are highly rated by major rating agencies and have a long history of no credit losses and, therefore, the expectation of non-payment is zero and the Company is not required to estimate an allowance for credit losses on these securities under the CECL standard. All these securities reflect a credit quality rating of AAA by Moody's Investors Service.

The Company made an accounting policy election to exclude accrued interest receivable from the amortized cost basis of debt securities held to maturity. Accrued interest receivable on debt securities held to maturity is reported as a component of accrued interest receivable in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition, which totaled \$997,000 and \$1.0 million at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, and is excluded from the estimate of credit losses.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(6) Equity Securities at Fair Value**

The Company has an equity securities portfolio which consists of stock in other financial institutions, a payment technology company, a community bank correspondent services company, preferred stock in U.S. Government agencies, and a Community Reinvestment Act qualifying bond fund which are reported at fair value on the Company's Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition. The fair value of the equities portfolio at December 31, 2023 and 2022 was \$4.1 million and \$3.4 million, respectively.

The Company recorded a net increase (decrease) in the fair value of equity securities of \$695,000 and \$(401,000) during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, as a component of non-interest income.

During the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, there were no sales of equity securities. During the year ended December 31, 2021, sales of equity securities totaled \$1.4 million sales resulting in gross gains of \$383,000 and no gross losses.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(7) Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses**

Loans receivable at December 31, 2023 and 2022 are summarized as follows:

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
	(In thousands)	
Real estate loans:		
One-to-four family	\$ 2,792,833	\$ 2,860,184
Multifamily	1,409,187	1,239,207
Commercial real estate	2,377,077	2,413,394
Construction	443,094	336,553
Commercial business loans	533,041	497,469
Consumer loans:		
Home equity loans and advances	266,632	274,302
Other consumer loans	2,801	3,425
Total gross loans	<u>7,824,665</u>	<u>7,624,534</u>
Purchased credit-deteriorated loans	15,089	17,059
Net deferred loan costs, fees and purchased premiums and discounts	34,783	35,971
Loans receivable	<u>\$ 7,874,537</u>	<u>\$ 7,677,564</u>

The Company had no loans held-for-sale at December 31, 2023 and 2022. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Company sold \$73.4 million, \$21.4 million, \$8.1 million, and \$18.4 million of one-to-four family real estate loans and home equity loans, commercial real estate loans, construction loans, and SBA loans included in commercial business loans held-for sale, respectively, resulting in gross gains of \$2.3 million and gross losses of \$1.0 million. During the year ended December 31, 2022, the Company sold \$2.7 million, \$2.8 million, and \$4.1 million of one-to-four family real estate loans, SBA loans included in commercial business loans, and construction loans held-for sale, respectively, resulting in gross gains of \$242,000 and gross losses of \$64,000. During the year ended December 31, 2021, the Company sold \$18.5 million, \$19.1 million, \$6.4 million, and \$258.1 million of one-to-four family real estate loans and home equity loans, commercial real estate loans, construction loans, and commercial business and SBA loans held-for-sale, respectively, resulting in gross gains of \$8.6 million and gross losses of \$24,000.

During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Company purchased a \$14.7 million commercial real estate participation loan from a third-party financial institution. During the year ended December 31, 2022 the Company purchased \$8.3 million of one-to-four family real estate loans from third parties. During the year ended December 31, 2021 the Company purchased \$11.8 million of one-to-four family real estate loans and \$73.6 million of commercial real estate loans from third parties.

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, commercial business loans included \$809,000, and \$1.6 million, respectively, in SBA Payroll Protection Program ("PPP") loans and net deferred fees related to these loans totaling \$0 and \$13,000, respectively.

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the carrying value of loans serviced by the Company for investors was \$551.0 million and \$497.1 million, respectively. These loans are not included in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition. Servicing income totaled \$1.4 million, \$1.3 million, and \$1.5 million for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021.

The Company has entered into guarantor swaps with Freddie Mac which results in improved liquidity. During the year ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, no loans were exchanged for Freddie Mac mortgage participation certificates. During the year ended December 31, 2021, the Company exchanged \$99.6 million of loans for Freddie Mac mortgage participation certificates, resulting in gross gains of \$2.3 million gross gains and no gross losses. The Company retained servicing of these loans.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(7) Loans Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses (continued)**

The Company has granted loans to certain officers and directors of the Company and its subsidiaries and to their associates. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, such loans totaled approximately \$9.1 million and \$9.3 million, respectively. During the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021 Columbia Bank granted one new loan to a related party for \$100,000, two new loans to a related party totaling \$751,000, and one new loan to a related party for \$522,700, respectively. These loans are performing in accordance with their original terms.

The following tables summarize the aging of loans receivable by portfolio segment, including non-accrual loans and excluding PCD loans, at December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	December 31, 2023						
	30-59 Days	60-89 Days	90 Days or More	Total Past Due	Non-accrual	Current	Total
	(In thousands)						
Real estate loans:							
One-to-four family	\$ 11,079	\$ 4,254	\$ 1,558	\$ 16,891	\$ 3,139	\$ 2,775,942	\$ 2,792,833
Multifamily	—	—	—	—	—	1,409,187	1,409,187
Commercial real estate	1,711	2,472	2,740	6,923	2,740	2,370,154	2,377,077
Construction	—	—	—	—	—	443,094	443,094
Commercial business loans	1,727	4,917	6,518	13,162	6,518	519,879	533,041
Consumer loans:							
Home equity loans and advances	779	14	170	963	221	265,669	266,632
Other consumer loans	1	—	—	1	—	2,800	2,801
<b>Total loans</b>	<b>\$ 15,297</b>	<b>\$ 11,657</b>	<b>\$ 10,986</b>	<b>\$ 37,940</b>	<b>\$ 12,618</b>	<b>\$ 7,786,725</b>	<b>\$ 7,824,665</b>

	December 31, 2022						
	30-59 Days	60-89 Days	90 Days or More	Total Past Due	Non-accrual	Current	Total
	(In thousands)						
Real estate loans:							
One-to-four family	\$ 4,063	\$ 1,149	\$ 1,808	\$ 7,020	\$ 2,730	\$ 2,853,164	\$ 2,860,184
Multifamily	—	—	—	—	—	1,239,207	1,239,207
Commercial real estate	—	853	2,892	3,745	2,892	2,409,649	2,413,394
Construction	5,218	—	—	5,218	—	331,335	336,553
Commercial business loans	220	—	474	694	801	496,775	497,469
Consumer loans:							
Home equity loans and advances	465	33	286	784	286	273,518	274,302
Other consumer loans	3	1	12	16	12	3,409	3,425
<b>Total loans</b>	<b>\$ 9,969</b>	<b>\$ 2,036</b>	<b>\$ 5,472</b>	<b>\$ 17,477</b>	<b>\$ 6,721</b>	<b>\$ 7,607,057</b>	<b>\$ 7,624,534</b>

The Company considers a loan to be delinquent when we have not received a payment within 30 days of its contractual due date. Generally, a loan is designated as a non-accrual loan when the payment of interest is 90 days or more in arrears of its contractual due date. Non-accruing loans are returned to an accrual status after there has been a sustained period of repayment performance (generally six consecutive months of payments) and both principal and interest are deemed collectible. The Company identifies loans that may need to be charged-off as a loss, by reviewing all delinquent loans, classified loans and other loans that management may have concerns about collectability. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, non-accrual loans totaled \$12.6 million and \$6.7 million, respectively. Included in non-accrual loans at December 31, 2023 and 2022, are 10 and 7 loans totaling \$1.6 million and \$1.2 million which are less than 90 days in arrears.



**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(7) Loans Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses (continued)**

If non-accrual loans had performed in accordance with their original terms, interest income would have increased by \$909,000, \$392,000, and \$190,000 for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively. The amount of cash basis interest income that was recognized on these loans during the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, was \$358,000, \$161,000, and \$242,000, respectively.

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, there were no loans past due 90 or more still accruing interest.

Purchased credit impaired loans ("PCI") were loans acquired at a discount primarily due to deteriorated credit quality. These loans were initially recorded at fair value at acquisition, based upon the present value of expected future cash flows, with no related allowance for credit losses. In connection with the adoption of CECL on January 1, 2022, all loans considered PCI loans prior to that date were converted to purchase credit-deteriorated ("PCD") loans. Loans acquired in a business combination after January 1, 2022 are recorded in accordance with ASC Topic 326, which requires loans as of the acquisition date, that have experienced a more than insignificant deterioration in credit quality since origination to be classified as PCD loans.

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, PCD loans acquired in the Stewardship Financial Corporation acquisition totaled \$1.7 million and \$2.0 million, respectively, PCD loans acquired in the Roselle Bank acquisition totaled \$0 and \$184,000, respectively, PCD loans acquired in the Freehold Bank acquisition totaled \$2.8 million and \$3.7 million, respectively, and PCD loans acquired in the RSI Bank acquisition totaled \$10.6 million and \$11.3 million, respectively. An initial allowance for credit losses of \$633,000 was recorded through a gross-up adjustment to fair values of PCD loans related to the loans acquired in connection with the RSI Bank acquisition.

We may obtain physical possession of real estate collateralizing a residential mortgage loan via foreclosure or through an in-substance repossession. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company had no real estate owned. At December 31, 2023, we had one residential mortgage loan and one home equity loan with carrying values of \$576,000 and \$93,000, respectively, collateralized by residential real estate which were in the process of foreclosure. At December 31, 2022 we had two home equity loans with a total carrying value of \$81,000, collateralized by residential real estate which were in the process of foreclosure.

On January 1, 2022, the Company adopted CECL (ASC Topic 326), which replaced the historical incurred loss methodology with an expected loss methodology. The loan portfolio segmentation was expanded to seven portfolio segments taking into consideration common loan attributes and risk characteristics, as well as historical reporting metrics and data availability. The Company made an accounting policy election to exclude accrued interest receivable from the amortized cost basis of loans receivable. Accrued interest receivable on loans receivable is reported as a component of accrued interest receivable in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition, which totaled \$32.9 million and \$29.4 million at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively and is excluded from the estimate of credit losses. Refer to note 2, Summary of Significant Accounting Policies for additional information on the adoption of Topic 326 and CECL methodology.

The allowance for credit losses on loans ("ACL") is established through the provision for credit losses that are charged to income, which is based upon an evaluation of estimated losses in the current loan portfolio, including the evaluation of individually analyzed loans. Charge-offs against the ACL are taken on loans where management determines that the collection of loan principal and interest is unlikely. Recoveries made on loans that have been charged-off are credited to the ACL. Although we believe we have established and maintained the ACL on loans at appropriate levels, changes in reserves may be necessary if actual economic and other conditions differ substantially from the forecast used in estimating the ACL.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(7) Loans Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses (continued)**

The following tables summarize loans receivable (including PCD loans) and allowance for credit losses by portfolio segment and impairment method at December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	<b>December 31, 2023</b>							
	<b>One-to-Four Family</b>	<b>Multifamily</b>	<b>Commercial Real Estate</b>	<b>Construction</b>	<b>Commercial Business</b>	<b>Home Equity Loans and Advances</b>	<b>Other Consumer Loans</b>	<b>Total</b>
	(In thousands)							
Allowance for credit losses:								
Individually analyzed loans	\$ 186	\$ 7	\$ 237	\$ —	\$ 154	\$ 30	\$ —	\$ 614
Collectively analyzed loans	12,827	8,735	15,378	7,758	7,742	1,862	7	54,309
Loans acquired with deteriorated credit quality	4	—	142	—	27	—	—	173
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 13,017</b>	<b>\$ 8,742</b>	<b>\$ 15,757</b>	<b>\$ 7,758</b>	<b>\$ 7,923</b>	<b>\$ 1,892</b>	<b>\$ 7</b>	<b>\$ 55,096</b>
Total loans:								
Individually analyzed loans	\$ 4,063	\$ 382	\$ 15,360	\$ —	\$ 11,550	\$ 601	\$ —	\$ 31,956
Collectively analyzed loans	2,788,770	1,408,805	2,361,717	443,094	521,491	266,031	2,801	7,792,709
Loans acquired with deteriorated credit quality	1,893	—	12,689	—	369	138	—	15,089
<b>Total loans</b>	<b>\$ 2,794,726</b>	<b>\$ 1,409,187</b>	<b>\$ 2,389,766</b>	<b>\$ 443,094</b>	<b>\$ 533,410</b>	<b>\$ 266,770</b>	<b>\$ 2,801</b>	<b>\$ 7,839,754</b>

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(7) Loans Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses (continued)**

December 31, 2022								
	One-to-Four Family	Multifamily	Commercial Real Estate	Construction	Commercial Business	Home Equity Loans and Advances	Other Consumer Loans	Total
(In thousands)								
Allowance for credit losses:								
Individually analyzed loans	\$ 201	\$ 3	\$ 99	\$ —	\$ 10	\$ 26	\$ —	\$ 339
Collectively analyzed loans	11,591	7,874	17,961	6,415	6,876	1,654	10	52,381
Loans acquired with deteriorated credit quality	10	—	51	10	11	1	—	83
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,802</b>	<b>\$ 7,877</b>	<b>\$ 18,111</b>	<b>\$ 6,425</b>	<b>\$ 6,897</b>	<b>\$ 1,681</b>	<b>\$ 10</b>	<b>\$ 52,803</b>
Total loans:								
Individually analyzed loans	\$ 4,164	\$ 457	\$ 16,729	\$ —	\$ 1,173	\$ 697	\$ —	\$ 23,220
Collectively analyzed loans	2,856,020	1,238,750	2,396,665	336,553	496,296	273,605	3,425	7,601,314
Loans acquired with deteriorated credit quality	2,158	—	13,116	1,040	496	249	—	17,059
<b>Total loans</b>	<b>\$ 2,862,342</b>	<b>\$ 1,239,207</b>	<b>\$ 2,426,510</b>	<b>\$ 337,593</b>	<b>\$ 497,965</b>	<b>\$ 274,551</b>	<b>\$ 3,425</b>	<b>\$ 7,641,593</b>

On January 1, 2023, the Company adopted ASU 2022-02, *Financial Instruments-Credit Losses (Topic 326), Troubled Debt Restructurings and Vintage Disclosures*, which eliminated the accounting guidance for troubled debt restructurings (“TDRs”) while enhancing disclosure requirements for certain loan refinancing and restructurings by creditors when a borrower is experiencing financial difficulty. This guidance was applied on a prospective basis. Modifications made to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty may include principal or interest forgiveness, forbearance, interest rate reductions, term extensions, or a combination of these events intended to minimize economic loss and to avoid foreclosure or repossession of collateral.

The following tables presents the modifications of loans to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty that were modified during the year ended December 31, 2023:

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2023			
	Amortized Cost	Term Extension	Combination of Term Extension, Interest Rate Reduction, and Principal Forgiveness	% of Total Class of Loans Receivable
	(In thousands)			
Commercial real estate	\$ 1,038	\$ 1,038	\$ —	— %
Construction	2,317	2,317	—	0.5
Commercial business	5,240	240	5,000	1.0
<b>Total loans</b>	<b>\$ 8,595</b>	<b>\$ 3,595</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>0.1 %</b>

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(7) Loans Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses (continued)**

The following tables describes the types of modifications of loans to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty during the year ended December 31, 2023:

**For the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

	Type of Modifications
Commercial real estate	12 month term extension
Construction	12 month term extension
Commercial business	12 month term extension, interest rate reduction, and/or principal forgiveness

The Company closely monitors the performance of modifications of loans to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty to understand the effectiveness of these modification efforts. The Company did not extend any commitments to lend additional funds to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty whose loans had been modified during the year ended December 31, 2023:

The following tables presents the aging analysis of modifications of loans to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty at December 31, 2023:

	December 31, 2023					Total
	Current	30-59 Days	60-89 Days	90 Days or More	Non-accrual	
	(In thousands)					
Commercial real estate	\$ 1,035	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 1,035
Construction	2,317	—	—	—	—	2,317
Commercial business	—	—	4,917	—	237	5,154
Total loans	<u>\$ 3,352</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 4,917</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 237</u>	<u>\$ 8,506</u>

The activity in the allowance for credit losses on loans for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021 are as follows:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
	(In thousands)		
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 52,803	\$ 62,689	\$ 74,676
Impact of Adopting ASU No. 2016-13 ("CECL") effective January 1, 2022	—	(16,443)	—
Initial allowance related to PCD loans	—	633	—
Provision for (reversal of) credit losses	4,787	5,969	(9,953)
Recoveries	1,000	593	1,530
Charge-offs	(3,494)	(638)	(3,564)
Balance at end of period	<u>\$ 55,096</u>	<u>\$ 52,803</u>	<u>\$ 62,689</u>

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(7) Loans Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses (continued)**

The activity in the allowance for credit losses by portfolio segment for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, are as follows:

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023									
	One-to-Four Family	Multifamily	Commercial Real Estate	Construction	Commercial Business	Home Equity Loans and Advances	Other Consumer Loans	Total	
(In thousands)									
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 11,802	\$ 7,877	\$ 18,111	\$ 6,425	\$ 6,897	\$ 1,681	\$ 10	\$ 52,803	
Provision for (reversal of) credit losses	1,783	865	(2,225)	1,333	2,765	160	106	4,787	
Recoveries	17	—	21	—	879	77	6	1,000	
Charge-offs	(585)	—	(150)	—	(2,618)	(26)	(115)	(3,494)	
Balance at end of period	<u>\$ 13,017</u>	<u>\$ 8,742</u>	<u>\$ 15,757</u>	<u>\$ 7,758</u>	<u>\$ 7,923</u>	<u>\$ 1,892</u>	<u>\$ 7</u>	<u>\$ 55,096</u>	
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022									
	One-to-Four Family	Multifamily	Commercial Real Estate	Construction	Commercial Business	Home Equity Loans and Advances	Other Consumer Loans	Total	
(In thousands)									
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 8,798	\$ 7,741	\$ 16,114	\$ 8,943	\$ 20,214	\$ 873	\$ 6	\$ 62,689	
Impact of adopting ASU No. 2016-13	(2,308)	(2,030)	(4,227)	(2,346)	(5,302)	(229)	(1)	(16,443)	
Initial allowance related to PCD loans	131	—	474	3	19	6	—	633	
Provision for (reversal of) credit losses	5,225	2,166	5,750	(175)	(8,052)	1,019	36	5,969	
Recoveries	338	—	—	—	208	45	2	593	
Charge-offs	(382)	—	—	—	(190)	(33)	(33)	(638)	
Balance at end of period	<u>\$ 11,802</u>	<u>\$ 7,877</u>	<u>\$ 18,111</u>	<u>\$ 6,425</u>	<u>\$ 6,897</u>	<u>\$ 1,681</u>	<u>\$ 10</u>	<u>\$ 52,803</u>	

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(7) Loans Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses (continued)

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021									
	One-to-Four Family	Multifamily	Commercial Real Estate	Construction	Commercial Business	Home Equity Loans and Advances	Other Consumer Loans	Total	
(In thousands)									
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 13,586	\$ 8,799	\$ 21,882	\$ 11,271	\$ 17,384	\$ 1,748	\$ 6	\$	\$ 74,676
Provision for (reversal of) credit losses	(4,037)	(978)	(6,376)	(2,330)	4,384	(623)	7	—	(9,953)
Recoveries	22	216	1,015	2	219	56	—	—	1,530
Charge-offs	(773)	(296)	(407)	—	(1,773)	(308)	(7)	—	(3,564)
Balance at end of period	<u>\$ 8,798</u>	<u>\$ 7,741</u>	<u>\$ 16,114</u>	<u>\$ 8,943</u>	<u>\$ 20,214</u>	<u>\$ 873</u>	<u>\$ 6</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 62,689</u>

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(7) Loans Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses (continued)**

The following tables present individually analyzed loans by segment, excluding PCD loans, at December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	<b>At December 31, 2023</b>		
	<b>Recorded Investment</b>	<b>Unpaid Principal Balance</b>	<b>Specific Allowance</b>
	(In thousands)		
With no allowance recorded:			
Real estate loans:			
One-to-four family	\$ 1,170	\$ 1,519	\$ —
Multifamily	49	52	—
Commercial real estate	12,741	14,364	—
Commercial business loans	5,814	6,764	—
Consumer loans:			
Home equity loans and advances	145	163	—
	<u>19,919</u>	<u>22,862</u>	<u>—</u>
With a specific allowance recorded:			
Real estate loans:			
One-to-four family	2,893	2,911	186
Multifamily	333	333	7
Commercial real estate	2,619	2,622	237
Commercial business loans	5,736	5,736	154
Consumer loans:			
Home equity loans and advances	456	456	30
	<u>12,037</u>	<u>12,058</u>	<u>614</u>
Total:			
Real estate loans:			
One-to-four family	4,063	4,430	186
Multifamily	382	385	7
Commercial real estate	15,360	16,986	237
Commercial business loans	11,550	12,500	154
Consumer loans:			
Home equity loans and advances	601	619	30
Total loans	<u>\$ 31,956</u>	<u>\$ 34,920</u>	<u>\$ 614</u>

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(7) Loans Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses (continued)**

	At December 31, 2022		
	Recorded Investment	Unpaid Principal Balance	Specific Allowance
	(In thousands)		
With no allowance recorded:			
Real estate loans:			
One-to-four family	\$ 1,296	\$ 1,644	\$ —
Multifamily	59	63	—
Commercial real estate	14,836	15,699	—
Commercial business loans	143	400	—
Consumer loans:			
Home equity loans and advances	223	315	—
	<u>16,557</u>	<u>18,121</u>	<u>—</u>
With a specific allowance recorded:			
Real estate loans:			
One-to-four family	2,868	2,887	201
Multifamily	398	397	3
Commercial real estate	1,893	1,896	99
Commercial business loans	1,030	1,030	10
Consumer loans:			
Home equity loans and advances	474	474	26
	<u>6,663</u>	<u>6,684</u>	<u>339</u>
Total:			
Real estate loans:			
One-to-four family	4,164	4,531	201
Multifamily	457	460	3
Commercial real estate	16,729	17,595	99
Commercial business loans	1,173	1,430	10
Consumer loans:			
Home equity loans and advances	697	789	26
Total loans	<u>\$ 23,220</u>	<u>\$ 24,805</u>	<u>\$ 339</u>

Specific allocations of the allowance for credit losses attributable to individually analyzed loans totaled \$614,000 and \$339,000 at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, impaired loans for which there was no related allowance for credit losses totaled \$19.9 million and \$16.6 million, respectively.



**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(7) Loans Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses (continued)**

The following table presents interest income recognized for individually analyzed loans by loan segment, excluding PCD loans, for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021:

	<b>For the Years Ended December 31,</b>					
	<b>2023</b>		<b>2022</b>		<b>2021</b>	
	<b>Average Recorded Investment</b>	<b>Interest Income Recognized</b>	<b>Average Recorded Investment</b>	<b>Interest Income Recognized</b>	<b>Average Recorded Investment</b>	<b>Interest Income Recognized</b>
	(In thousands)					
Real estate loans:						
One-to-four family	\$ 4,328	\$ 196	\$ 4,385	\$ 203	\$ 5,738	\$ 285
Multifamily	420	19	598	28	8,420	371
Commercial real estate	16,234	694	16,479	733	16,913	467
Commercial business loans	6,134	331	1,289	88	2,121	139
Consumer loans:						
Home equity loans and advances	646	42	785	39	1,119	43
Totals	<u>\$ 27,762</u>	<u>\$ 1,282</u>	<u>\$ 23,536</u>	<u>\$ 1,091</u>	<u>\$ 34,311</u>	<u>\$ 1,305</u>

Management prepares an analysis each quarter that categorizes the entire loan portfolio by certain risk characteristics such as loan type (residential mortgage, commercial mortgage, construction, commercial business, etc.) and loan risk rating. The categorization of loans into risk categories is based upon relevant information about the borrower's ability to service their debt.

The Company utilizes an eight-point risk rating system to summarize its loan portfolio into categories with similar risk characteristics. Loans deemed to be "acceptable quality" are rated 1 through 4 (Pass), with a rating of 1 established for loans with minimal risk. Loans that are deemed to be of "questionable quality" are rated 5 (Special Mention) or 6 (Substandard). Loans with adverse classifications are rated 7 (Doubtful) or 8 (Loss). The risk ratings are also confirmed through periodic loan review examinations which are currently performed by both an independent third-party and the Company's credit risk review department. The Company requires an annual review be performed above certain dollar thresholds, depending on loan type, to help determine the appropriate risk ratings. Results from examinations are presented to the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(7) Loans Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses (continued)**

The following table summarizes the Company's loans by year of origination and internally assigned credit risk rating, excluding PCD loans, at December 31, 2023 and 2022:

<b>Loans by Year of Origination at December 31, 2023</b>									
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	Prior	Revolving Loans	Revolving Loans to Term Loans	Total
(In thousands)									
<b>One-to-Four Family</b>									
Pass	\$ 156,279	\$ 786,735	\$ 793,074	\$ 272,215	\$ 165,337	\$ 614,351	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2,787,991
Special mention	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Substandard	—	1,176	769	283	629	1,985	—	—	4,842
Total One-to-Four Family	<u>156,279</u>	<u>787,911</u>	<u>793,843</u>	<u>272,498</u>	<u>165,966</u>	<u>616,336</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>2,792,833</u>
Gross charge-offs	<u>—</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>197</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>151</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>585</u>
<b>Multifamily</b>									
Pass	111,612	317,277	359,983	157,294	202,923	255,578	—	—	1,404,667
Special mention	—	—	—	—	—	4,520	—	—	4,520
Substandard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Multifamily	<u>111,612</u>	<u>317,277</u>	<u>359,983</u>	<u>157,294</u>	<u>202,923</u>	<u>260,098</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,409,187</u>
Gross charge-offs	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<b>Commercial Real Estate</b>									
Pass	191,030	422,058	371,578	174,705	236,263	930,740	—	—	2,326,374
Special mention	—	—	465	—	871	24,405	—	—	25,741
Substandard	—	5,743	905	1,799	—	16,515	—	—	24,962
Total Commercial Real Estate	<u>191,030</u>	<u>427,801</u>	<u>372,948</u>	<u>176,504</u>	<u>237,134</u>	<u>971,660</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>2,377,077</u>
Gross charge-offs	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>150</u>
<b>Construction</b>									
Pass	99,634	270,397	65,374	4,933	439	2,317	—	—	443,094
Special mention	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Substandard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Construction	<u>99,634</u>	<u>270,397</u>	<u>65,374</u>	<u>4,933</u>	<u>439</u>	<u>2,317</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>443,094</u>
Gross charge-offs	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(7) Loans Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses (continued)

Loans by Year of Origination at December 31, 2023									
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	Prior	Revolving Loans	Revolving Loans to Term Loans	Total
(In thousands)									
<b>Commercial Business</b>									
Pass	\$ 67,529	\$ 58,118	\$ 28,989	\$ 27,194	\$ 15,499	\$ 38,954	\$ 272,698	\$ —	\$ 508,981
Special mention	127	303	—	97	14	1,389	4,587	—	6,517
Substandard	—	76	88	6	1,081	6,150	10,142	—	17,543
<b>Total Commercial Business</b>	<b>67,656</b>	<b>58,497</b>	<b>29,077</b>	<b>27,297</b>	<b>16,594</b>	<b>46,493</b>	<b>287,427</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>533,041</b>
Gross charge-offs	—	—	31	34	2,249	304	—	—	2,618
<b>Home Equity Loans and Advances</b>									
Pass	20,198	20,713	18,139	11,368	9,877	84,261	37,261	64,558	266,375
Special mention	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Substandard	—	—	—	—	—	257	—	—	257
<b>Total Home Equity Loans and Advances</b>	<b>20,198</b>	<b>20,713</b>	<b>18,139</b>	<b>11,368</b>	<b>9,877</b>	<b>84,518</b>	<b>37,261</b>	<b>64,558</b>	<b>266,632</b>
Gross charge-offs	—	—	—	—	—	26	—	—	26
<b>Other Consumer Loans</b>									
Pass	2,199	151	38	6	18	68	321	—	2,801
Special mention	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Substandard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Other Consumer Loans</b>	<b>2,199</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,801</b>
Gross charge-offs	—	61.0	52.0	—	—	2.0	—	—	115.0
<b>Total Loans</b>	<b>648,608</b>	<b>1,882,747</b>	<b>1,639,402</b>	<b>649,900</b>	<b>632,951</b>	<b>1,981,490</b>	<b>325,009</b>	<b>64,558</b>	<b>7,824,665</b>
<b>Total gross charge-offs</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 269</b>	<b>\$ 280</b>	<b>\$ 34</b>	<b>\$ 2,342</b>	<b>\$ 569</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 3,494</b>

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(7) Loans Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses (continued)

Loans by Year of Origination at December 31, 2022									
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	Prior	Revolving Loans	Revolving Loans to Term Loans	Total
(In thousands)									
<b>One-to-Four Family</b>									
Pass	\$ 829,363	\$ 836,355	\$ 294,721	\$ 177,114	\$ 125,057	\$ 595,097	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2,857,707
Special mention	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Substandard	—	641	—	681	320	835	—	—	2,477
Total One-to-Four family	829,363	836,996	294,721	177,795	125,377	595,932	—	—	2,860,184
Gross charge-offs	—	—	50	—	122	210	—	—	382
<b>Multifamily</b>									
Pass	315,157	309,611	167,955	205,608	38,849	197,489	—	—	1,234,669
Special mention	—	—	—	—	—	4,538	—	—	4,538
Substandard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Multifamily	315,157	309,611	167,955	205,608	38,849	202,027	—	—	1,239,207
Gross charge-offs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Commercial Real Estate</b>									
Pass	448,313	392,689	170,125	260,268	231,868	852,104	—	—	2,355,367
Special mention	—	478	1,843	892	15,498	20,939	—	—	39,650
Substandard	—	—	1,286	1,607	—	15,484	—	—	18,377
Total Commercial Real Estate	448,313	393,167	173,254	262,767	247,366	888,527	—	—	2,413,394
Gross charge-offs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Construction</b>									
Pass	159,751	104,339	28,058	14,216	870	29,319	—	—	336,553
Special mention	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Substandard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Construction	159,751	104,339	28,058	14,216	870	29,319	—	—	336,553
Gross charge-offs	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(7) Loans Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses (continued)**

Loans by Year of Origination at December 31, 2022										
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	Prior	Revolving Loans	Revolving Loans to Term Loans	Total	
(In thousands)										
<b>Commercial Business</b>										
Pass	\$ 58,631	\$ 32,880	\$ 32,788	\$ 20,705	\$ 24,634	\$ 27,277	\$ 280,857	\$ —	\$ 477,772	
Special mention	—	110	63	1,137	1,030	38	10,761	—	13,139	
Substandard	—	224	60	—	2,085	315	3,874	—	6,558	
Total Commercial Business	58,631	33,214	32,911	21,842	27,749	27,630	295,492	—	497,469	
Gross charge-offs	—	—	—	143	29	18	—	—	190	
<b>Home Equity Loans and Advances</b>										
Pass	22,903	20,476	13,770	12,070	11,126	88,251	105,005	457	274,058	
Special mention	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Substandard	—	—	—	—	—	188	56	—	244	
Total Home Equity Loans and Advances	22,903	20,476	13,770	12,070	11,126	88,439	105,061	457	274,302	
Gross charge-offs	—	—	—	—	—	33	—	—	33	
<b>Other Consumer Loans</b>										
Pass	2,669	87	100	102	30	96	341	—	3,425	
Special mention	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Substandard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total Other Consumer Loans	2,669	87	100	102	30	96	341	—	3,425	
Gross charge-offs	10	18	—	—	—	5	—	—	33	
Total Loans	1,836,787	1,697,890	710,769	694,400	451,367	1,831,970	400,894	457	7,624,534	
Gross charge-offs	\$ 10	\$ 18	\$ 50	\$ 143	\$ 151	\$ 266	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 638	

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(8) Office Properties and Equipment, net**

Office properties and equipment less accumulated depreciation at December 31, 2023 and 2022 are summarized as follows:

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
	(In thousands)	
Land	\$ 14,623	\$ 16,534
Buildings	37,383	39,097
Land and building improvements	45,272	40,501
Leasehold improvements	26,021	23,555
Furniture and equipment	36,785	34,747
	160,084	154,434
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(76,507)	(70,557)
Total office properties and equipment, net	\$ 83,577	\$ 83,877

Land and building improvements at December 31, 2023 and 2022 included \$1.6 million and \$4.5 million, respectively, in construction in progress for the renovation of various office facilities. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Bank classified a building as held-for-sale totaling \$1.0 million, which is included in buildings. During the year ended December 31, 2022, the Bank acquired and sold \$1.7 million included in buildings classified as held-for-sale.

Depreciation and amortization expense for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, amounted to \$7.8 million, \$7.3 million, \$6.7 million, respectively.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(9) Leases**

The Company leases real estate property for branches and office space. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, all of the Company's leases are classified as operating leases.

The Company determines if an arrangement is a lease at inception. Topic 842 requires lessees to recognize a right-of-use asset and a lease liability, measured at the present value of the future minimum lease payments, at the lease commencement date. The calculated amount of the right-of-use asset and lease liabilities are impacted by the length of the lease term and the discount rate used to calculate the present value of minimum lease payments.

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the weighted average remaining lease term for operating leases was 5.9 years and 6.5 years, respectively, and the weighted average discount rate used in the measurement of operating lease liabilities was 2.70% and 2.35%, respectively.

The Company elected to account for the lease and non-lease components separately since such amounts are readily determinable under the Company's lease contracts. Operating lease expense is recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term, while variable lease payments are recognized as incurred. Variable lease payments include common area maintenance charges, real estate taxes, repairs and maintenance costs and utilities. Operating and variable lease expenses are recorded in occupancy expense in the Consolidated Statements of Income. During both the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, operating and variable lease expenses totaled approximately \$2.7 million.

There were no sale and leaseback transactions, leveraged leases or lease transactions with related parties during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. At December 31, 2023, the Company had no leases which had not yet commenced.

The following table summarizes lease payment obligations for each of the next five years and thereafter as follows:

	<b>Lease Payment Obligations at December 31,</b>	
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	(In thousands)	
One year or less	\$ 4,204	\$ 4,290
After one year to two years	3,536	3,745
After two years to three years	3,154	3,075
After three years to four years	2,271	2,773
After four years to five years	1,807	2,000
Thereafter	2,974	4,345
Total undiscounted cash flows	17,946	20,228
Discount on cash flows	(1,411)	(1,613)
Total lease liability	\$ 16,535	\$ 18,615

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(10) Goodwill and Intangible Assets**

Intangible assets at December 31, 2023 and 2022 are summarized as follows:

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	(In thousands)	
Goodwill	\$ 110,715	\$ 110,715
Core deposit intangibles	11,155	13,505
Mortgage servicing rights	1,480	922
	\$ 123,350	\$ 125,142

Mortgage servicing rights' amortization expense for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 amounted to \$239,000, \$233,000, and \$266,000, respectively. Core deposit intangible amortization expense for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 amounted to \$2.4 million, \$2.0 million, and \$1.0 million, respectively.

Scheduled amortization of core deposit intangibles for each of the next five years and thereafter is as follows:

<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>	<b>Core Deposit Intangible Amortization</b>	
	(In thousands)	
2024	\$	2,191
2025		2,018
2026		1,829
2027		1,615
2028		1,361
Thereafter		2,141
Total	\$	11,155



**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(11) Deposits**

Deposits at December 31, 2023 and 2022 are summarized as follows:

	December 31,			
	2023		2022	
	Balance	Weighted Average Rate	Balance	Weighted Average Rate
	(Dollars in thousands)			
Non-interest-bearing demand	\$ 1,437,361	— %	\$ 1,806,152	— %
Interest-bearing demand	1,966,463	2.07	2,592,884	0.75
Money market accounts	1,255,528	3.28	718,524	0.93
Savings and club deposits	700,348	0.48	913,738	0.06
Certificates of deposit	2,486,856	3.91	1,969,861	2.16
Total deposits	<u>\$ 7,846,556</u>	2.31 %	<u>\$ 8,001,159</u>	0.86 %

The aggregate amount of certificates of deposit that meet or exceed \$100,000 totaled approximately \$1.5 billion and \$1.1 billion at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Scheduled maturities of certificates of deposit accounts at December 31, 2023 and 2022 are summarized as follows:

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
	(In thousands)	
One year or less	\$ 2,077,863	\$ 1,189,826
After one year to two years	321,271	610,965
After two years to three years	57,836	92,120
After three years to four years	13,427	48,981
After four years	16,459	27,969
	<u>\$ 2,486,856</u>	<u>\$ 1,969,861</u>

Interest expense on deposits for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 are summarized as follows:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
	(In thousands)		
Demand (including money market accounts)	\$ 62,070	\$ 13,900	\$ 10,077
Savings and club deposits	2,231	466	731
Certificates of deposit	60,861	13,512	18,301
	<u>\$ 125,162</u>	<u>\$ 27,878</u>	<u>\$ 29,109</u>

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(12) Borrowings**

Borrowings at December 31, 2023 and 2022 are summarized as follows:

	December 31,			
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	Balance		Weighted Average Interest Rate	
	(In thousands)			
FHLB advances	\$ 1,521,733	\$ 1,090,159	4.92 %	4.37 %
Notes payable	—	29,894	—	3.35
Junior subordinated debentures	6,962	6,994	8.59	7.69
	<u>\$ 1,528,695</u>	<u>\$ 1,127,047</u>	4.94 %	4.36 %

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company had no outstanding overnight lines of credit with the FHLB. Interest expense on overnight advances for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, were \$923,000, \$1.9 million, and \$7,000, respectively.

At December 31, 2023, each of the Banks could borrow funds from the FHLB under an overnight advance program up to the Bank's maximum borrowing capacities based on their ability to collateralize such borrowings. Members in good standing can borrow up to 50% of their asset size as long as they have qualifying collateral to support the advance and purchase of FHLB capital. Additionally, at both December 31, 2023 and 2022, Columbia Bank had unused correspondent bank lines of credit with an aggregate overnight borrowing capacity of \$339.0 million.

At December 31, 2023, FHLB advances were at fixed rates with maturities between January 2024 and September 2028 and at December 31, 2022, FHLB advances were at fixed rates with maturities between January 2023 and August 2027. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, FHLB advances were collateralized by FHLB capital stock owned by each of the banks, and Columbia Bank loans with carrying values totaling \$3.6 billion and \$1.6 billion, respectively. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, FHLB advances were collateralized with Freehold loans with carrying values totaling \$29.1 million and \$35.0 million, respectively. Loans securing advances consists of one-to-four family, multifamily and commercial and home equity real estate loans. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, FHLB advances were also collateralized by Columbia securities with carrying values totaling \$16.4 million and \$87.7 million, respectively. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, FHLB advances were also collateralized by Freehold securities with carrying values totaling \$43.1 million and \$27.6 million, respectively. Interest expense on fixed rate FHLB advances for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, were \$61.5 million, \$11.5 million, and \$7.6 million, respectively.

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, short-term FHLB advances totaling \$380.0 million and \$290.0 million, respectively, were designated as hedged items as part of a cash flow hedging program. See note 21 for information regarding these transactions.

Scheduled maturities of FHLB advances at December 31, 2023 are summarized as follows:

	Year Ended December 31, 2023
	(In thousands)
One year or less	\$ 906,995
After one year to two years	142,438
After two years to three years	187,102
After three years to four years	124,648
After four years	160,550
Total FHLB advances	<u>\$ 1,521,733</u>

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(12) Borrowings (continued)**

During 2021, the Company entered into a \$30.0 million unsecured term note with a third party at a fixed interest rate of 3.35% and a maturity date of December 21, 2024. During the fourth quarter of 2023, this note was paid in full. At December 31, 2022 the carrying value of the term note was \$29.9 million. Interest expense on the term note, for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 was \$823,000 and \$1.1 million, respectively.

During 2021, the Company also established a \$30.0 million unsecured revolving credit facility with a third party at a variable rate indexed to the prime rate as published by the Wall Street Journal. During 2023, the Company utilized \$1.5 million of the credit line and repaid it in full as of December 31, 2023. During the fourth quarter of 2023, this credit facility was terminated. Interest expense on the revolving credit facility for the year ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 was \$95,000 and \$122,000, respectively. The Company utilized \$6.5 million of the credit line and repaid it in full as of December 31, 2022.

At both December 31, 2023 and 2022, the carrying value of junior subordinated debt balances was \$7.0 million. The balance outstanding at December 31, 2023 and 2022 represents debentures issued in 2003 by Stewardship Statutory Trust (the "Trust"), a statutory business trust that was acquired in the Stewardship merger. These floating rate debentures mature on September 17, 2033 and adjust quarterly at a rate of three month Secured Overnight Financing Rate ("SOFR") plus 2.95%. At December 31, 2023 and 2022 the rate of interest was 8.59% and 7.69%, respectively. Interest expense for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 were \$624,000, \$370,000, \$245,000, respectively.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(13) Stockholders' Equity**

**Regulatory Capital**

The Company and its subsidiary banks (Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank) are subject to various regulatory capital requirements administered by the federal banking regulators, including a risk-based capital measure. The Federal Reserve establishes capital requirements, including well capitalized standards, for the consolidated financial holding company, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (the "OCC") has similar requirements for the Company's subsidiary banks. Failure to meet minimum capital requirements can initiate certain mandatory and possibly additional discretionary actions by regulators that, if undertaken, could have a direct material effect on the Company's Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition.

Federal regulators require federally insured depository institutions to meet several minimum capital standards: (1) total capital to risk-weighted assets of 8.0%; (2) tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets of 6.0%; (3) common equity tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets of 4.5%; and (4) tier 1 capital to adjusted total assets of 4.0%. In addition to establishing the minimum regulatory capital requirements, the regulations limit capital distributions and certain discretionary bonus payments to management if the institution does not hold a "capital conservation buffer" consisting of 2.5% of common equity tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets above the amount necessary to meet its minimum risk-based capital requirements. The regulators established a framework for the classification of savings institutions into five categories: well capitalized, adequately capitalized, undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized, and critically undercapitalized. Generally, an institution is considered well capitalized if it has: a total capital to risk-weighted assets ratio of at least 10.0%, a tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets ratio of at least 8.0%, a common tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets ratio of at least 6.5%, and a tier 1 capital to adjusted total assets ratio of at least 5.0%. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, each of the Company and the Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank exceeded all capital adequacy requirements to which it is subject.

Based upon most recent notification from federal banking regulators, the banks were categorized as well capitalized under the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action. There are no conditions existing or events which have occurred since notification that management believes have changed the Bank's category.

The following tables presents the Company's, Columbia Bank's and Freehold Bank's actual capital amounts and ratios at December 31, 2023 and 2022 compared to the Federal Reserve Bank minimum capital adequacy requirements and the Federal Reserve Bank requirements for classification as a well-capitalized institution:

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(13) Stockholders' Equity (continued)**

**Regulatory Capital (continued)**

Company	Actual		Minimum Capital Adequacy Requirements		Minimum Capital Adequacy Requirements With Capital Conservation Buffer		To Be Well Capitalized Under Prompt Corrective Action Provisions	
	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio
(In thousands, except ratio data)								
<b>Company</b>								
At December 31, 2023:								
Total capital (to risk-weighted assets) \$	1,120,849	14.08 %	\$ 636,767	8.00 %	\$ 835,757	10.50 %	N/A	N/A
Tier 1 capital (to risk-weighted assets)	1,060,490	13.32	477,575	6.00	676,565	8.50	N/A	N/A
Common equity tier 1 capital (to risk-weighted assets)	1,053,273	13.23	358,182	4.50	557,171	7.00	N/A	N/A
Tier 1 capital (to adjusted total assets)	1,060,490	10.04	422,441	4.00	422,441	4.00	N/A	N/A
At December 31, 2022:								
Total capital (to risk-weighted assets) \$	1,145,331	15.39 %	\$ 595,313	8.00 %	\$ 781,348	10.50 %	N/A	N/A
Tier 1 capital (to risk-weighted assets)	1,085,665	14.59	446,484	6.00	632,520	8.50	N/A	N/A
Common equity tier 1 capital (to risk-weighted assets)	1,078,448	14.49	334,863	4.50	520,899	7.00	N/A	N/A
Tier 1 capital (to adjusted total assets)	1,085,665	10.68	406,643	4.00	406,643	4.00	N/A	N/A
<b>Columbia Bank</b>								
At December 31, 2023:								
Total capital (to risk-weighted assets) \$	1,033,138	14.02 %	\$ 589,622	8.00 %	\$ 773,879	10.50 %	\$ 737,028	10.00 %
Tier 1 capital (to risk-weighted assets)	974,127	13.22	442,217	6.00	626,474	8.50	589,622	8.00
Common equity tier 1 capital (to risk-weighted assets)	974,127	13.22	331,663	4.50	515,920	7.00	479,068	6.50
Tier 1 capital (to adjusted total assets)	974,127	9.48	411,126	4.00	411,126	4.00	513,908	5.00
At December 31, 2022:								
Total capital (to risk-weighted assets) \$	1,019,850	14.12 %	\$ 577,656	8.00 %	\$ 758,173	10.50 %	\$ 722,070	10.00 %
Tier 1 capital (to risk-weighted assets)	961,613	13.32	433,242	6.00	613,759	8.50	577,656	8.00
Common equity tier 1 capital (to risk-weighted assets)	961,613	13.32	324,931	4.50	505,449	7.00	469,345	6.50
Tier 1 capital (to adjusted total assets)	961,613	9.74	394,968	4.00	394,968	4.00	493,711	5.00

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(13) Stockholders' Equity (continued)**

**Regulatory Capital (continued)**

	Actual		Minimum Capital Adequacy Requirements		Minimum Capital Adequacy Requirements With Capital Conservation Buffer		To Be Well Capitalized Under Prompt Corrective Action Provisions	
	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio
(In thousands, except ratio data)								
<b>Freehold Bank</b>								
At December 31, 2023:								
Total capital (to risk-weighted assets) \$	45,417	22.50 %	\$ 16,152	8.00 %	\$ 21,199	10.50 %	\$ 20,189	10.00 %
Tier 1 capital (to risk-weighted assets)	44,045	21.82	12,114	6.00	17,161	8.50	16,152	8.00
Common equity tier 1 capital (to risk-weighted assets)	44,045	21.82	9,085	4.50	14,133	7.00	13,123	6.50
Tier 1 capital (to adjusted total assets)	44,045	15.27	11,539	4.00	11,539	4.00	14,424	5.00
At December 31, 2022:								
Total capital (to risk-weighted assets) \$	44,725	22.92 %	\$ 15,609	8.00 %	\$ 20,486	10.50 %	\$ 19,511	10.00 %
Tier 1 capital (to risk-weighted assets)	43,298	22.19	11,706	6.00	16,584	8.50	15,609	8.00
Common equity tier 1 capital (to risk-weighted assets)	43,298	22.19	8,780	4.50	13,657	7.00	12,682	6.50
Tier 1 capital (to adjusted total assets)	43,298	15.19	11,399	4.00	11,399	4.00	14,249	5.00

**Stock Repurchase Program**

On December 6, 2021, the Company announced that its Board of Directors authorized the Company's fourth stock repurchase program to acquire up to 5,000,000 shares, or approximately 4.6% of the Company's then issued and outstanding common stock, commencing upon the completion of the Company's third stock repurchase program. On January 30, 2023, the Company completed the repurchases under the third stock repurchase program.

On December 14, 2022 the Company announced that its Board of Directors authorized the Company's fifth stock repurchase program to acquire up to 3,000,000 shares, or approximately 2.7% of the Company's then issued and outstanding common stock, commencing upon the completion of the Company's fourth stock repurchase program. On April 25, 2023, the Company completed the repurchases under the fourth stock repurchase program.

On May 25, 2023, the Company announced that its Board of Directors authorized the Company's sixth stock repurchase program to acquire up to 2,000,000 shares, or approximately 1.9% of the Company's then issued and outstanding common stock. As of December 31, 2023, there were 1,106,841 shares authorized and remaining to be purchased under this program.

During the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 the Company repurchased 4,242,693 shares at a cost of approximately \$80.5 million, or \$18.97 per share, and 4,464,405 shares at a cost of approximately \$94.0 million, or \$21.05 per share, and 6,055,119 shares at a cost of approximately \$107.8 million, or \$17.80 respectively, under these programs. Repurchased shares are held as treasury stock and are available for general corporate purposes.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(14) Employee Benefit Plans**

*Pension Plan, Retirement Income Maintenance Plan (the "RIM Plan"), Post-retirement Plan, Split-Dollar Life Insurance Plans*

The Company maintains a single employer, tax-qualified defined benefit pension plan (the "Pension Plan") which covers full-time employees that satisfy the Pension Plan's eligibility requirements. The benefits are based on years of service and the employee's average compensation for the highest five consecutive years of employment. Effective October 1, 2018, newly hired employees are not eligible to participate in Columbia Bank's Pension Plan as the plan has been closed to new employees as of that date.

The Company's policy is to fund at least the minimum contribution required by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. GAAP requires an employer to: (a) recognize in its statement of financial position the over-funded or under-funded status of a defined benefit post-retirement plan measured as the difference between the fair value of plan assets and the benefit obligation; (b) measure a plan's assets and its obligations that determine its funded status at the end of the employer's fiscal year (with limited exceptions); and (c) recognize as a component of other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax, the actuarial gains and losses and the prior service costs and credits that arise during the period. The assets of the plan are primarily invested in fixed income and equity funds.

The Company also maintains a Retirement Income Maintenance Plan (the "RIM" Plan), which is a non-qualified defined benefit plan which provides benefits to all employees of the Company if their benefits under the Pension Plan are limited by Internal Revenue Code 415 and 401(a)(17).

In addition, the Company provides certain health care and life insurance benefits to eligible retired employees under a Post-retirement Plan. The Company accrues the cost of retiree health care and other benefits during the employees' period of active service. Effective January 1, 2019, the Post-retirement Plan has been closed to new hires.

The Company also provides life insurance benefits to eligible employees under an endorsement split-dollar life insurance program. The Company recognizes a liability for future benefits applicable to endorsement split-dollar life insurance arrangements that provide death benefits post-retirement. Through its mergers, the Company recognized additional liability for future benefits applicable to endorsement split-dollar life insurance arrangements that provide death benefits post-retirement under those respective Bank's program.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(14) Employee Benefit Plans (continued)**

*Pension Plan, Retirement Income Maintenance Plan (the "RIM Plan") Post-retirement Plan, Split-Dollar Life Insurance Plans (cont'd)*

The following table sets forth information regarding the Pension Plan, RIM, Post-retirement Plan and Split-Dollar Life Insurance Plans at December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	At December 31,							
	2023		2022		2023		2022	
	Pension Plan		RIM Plan		Post-retirement Plan		Split-Dollar Life Insurance	
	(In thousands)							
Change in benefit obligation:								
Benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$ 222,132	\$ 310,416	\$ 12,610	\$ 15,650	\$ 19,783	\$ 26,335	\$ 15,977	\$ 20,140
Acquired	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,503
Service cost	4,679	6,466	277	372	215	346	277	511
Interest cost	11,637	9,510	632	389	970	600	818	612
Actuarial loss (gain)	22,535	(88,943)	377	(3,505)	947	(6,849)	81	(6,534)
Benefits paid	(10,866)	(15,317)	(346)	(296)	(767)	(649)	(196)	(255)
Impact of plan merger <sup>1</sup>	5,751	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benefit obligation at end of year	<u>255,868</u>	<u>222,132</u>	<u>13,550</u>	<u>12,610</u>	<u>21,148</u>	<u>19,783</u>	<u>16,957</u>	<u>15,977</u>
Change in plan assets:								
Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year	403,752	492,132	—	—	—	—	—	—
Actuarial return (loss) on plan assets	53,391	(83,063)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Employer contributions	—	10,000	346	296	767	649	196	255
Benefits paid	(10,866)	(15,317)	(346)	(296)	(767)	(649)	(196)	(255)
Impact of plan merger <sup>1</sup>	7,282	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fair value of plan assets at end of year	<u>453,559</u>	<u>403,752</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Funded status at end of year	<u>\$ 197,691</u>	<u>\$ 181,620</u>	<u>\$ (13,550)</u>	<u>\$ (12,610)</u>	<u>\$ (21,148)</u>	<u>\$ (19,783)</u>	<u>\$ (16,957)</u>	<u>\$ (15,977)</u>

<sup>1</sup> During 2023, the RSI Pension Plan assumed as part of the 2022 RSI acquisition, was merged into the Columbia Bank Pension Plan.

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the unfunded liability for the RIM Plan and Post-retirement Plan of \$13.6 million and \$21.1 million, and \$12.6 million and \$19.8 million, respectively, were included in other liabilities in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition, and the over-funded pension benefits associated with the Pension Plan totaling \$197.7 million and \$181.6 million respectively, were included in other assets in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition.

The actuarial losses related to the change in benefit obligations for the year ended December 31, 2023 resulted from a decrease in the discount rates and the update of census data, while the significant increase in actuarial gains related to the change in benefit obligations for the year ended December 31, 2022 resulted from a substantial increase in the discount rates.



**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(14) Employee Benefit Plans (continued)**

*Pension Plan, Retirement Income Maintenance Plan (the "RIM Plan") Post-retirement Plan, Split-Dollar Life Insurance Plans (cont'd)*

The components of accumulated other comprehensive income related to the Pension Plan, RIM Plan, and Post-retirement Plan and Split-Dollar Life Insurance Plan on a pre-tax basis, at December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, are summarized in the following table:

	At December 31,							
	2023				2022			
	Pension Plan	RIM Plan	Post-retirement Plan	Split-Dollar Life Insurance	Pension Plan	RIM Plan	Post-retirement Plan	Split-Dollar Life Insurance
	(In thousands)							
Unrecognized prior service costs	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 238	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 294
Unrecognized net actuarial loss (income)	59,463	2,102	787	16	60,970	1,781	(161)	(65)
Total accumulated other comprehensive loss (income)	<u>\$ 59,463</u>	<u>\$ 2,102</u>	<u>\$ 787</u>	<u>\$ 254</u>	<u>\$ 60,970</u>	<u>\$ 1,781</u>	<u>\$ (161)</u>	<u>\$ 229</u>

	At December 31, 2021			
	Pension Plan	RIM Plan	Post-retirement Plan	Split-Dollar Life Insurance
	(In thousands)			
Unrecognized prior service costs	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 350
Unrecognized net actuarial loss	38,909	5,730	6,999	7,071
Total accumulated other comprehensive loss	<u>\$ 38,909</u>	<u>\$ 5,730</u>	<u>\$ 6,999</u>	<u>\$ 7,421</u>

Net periodic (income) benefit cost for the Pension Plan, RIM Plan, Post-retirement Plan and Split-Dollar Life Insurance plan benefits for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and 2021, includes the following components:

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2023				Affected Line Item in the Consolidated Statements of Income
	Pension Plan	RIM Plan	Post-retirement Plan	Split-Dollar Life Insurance	
	(In thousands)				
Service cost	\$ 4,679	\$ 277	\$ 215	\$ 277	Compensation and employee benefits
Interest cost	11,637	632	970	818	Other non-interest expense
Expected return on plan assets	(30,771)	—	—	—	Other non-interest expense
Amortization:					
Prior service cost	—	—	—	56	Other non-interest expense
Net loss	796	57	—	—	Other non-interest expense
Net periodic (income) benefit cost	<u>\$ (13,659)</u>	<u>\$ 966</u>	<u>\$ 1,185</u>	<u>\$ 1,151</u>	

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(14) Employee Benefit Plans (continued)**

*Pension Plan, Retirement Income Maintenance Plan (the "RIM Plan") Post-retirement Plan, Split-Dollar Life Insurance Plans (cont'd)*

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022					
Pension Plan	RIM Plan	Post-retirement Plan	Split-Dollar Life Insurance	Affected Line Item in the Consolidated Statements of Income	
(In thousands)					
Service cost	\$ 6,466	\$ 372	\$ 346	\$ 511	Compensation and employee benefits
Interest cost	9,510	389	600	612	Other non-interest expense
Expected return on plan assets	(29,262)	—	—	—	Other non-interest expense
Amortization:					
Prior service cost	—	—	—	56	Other non-interest expense
Net loss	1,320	444	311	602	Other non-interest expense
Net periodic (income) benefit cost	\$ (11,966)	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,257	\$ 1,781	

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021					
Pension Plan	RIM Plan	Post-retirement Plan	Split-Dollar Life Insurance	Affected Line Item in the Consolidated Statements of Income	
(In thousands)					
Service cost	\$ 8,044	\$ 398	\$ 520	\$ 562	Compensation and employee benefits
Interest cost	7,317	343	562	500	Other non-interest expense
Expected return on plan assets	(26,833)	—	—	—	Other non-interest expense
Amortization:					
Prior service cost	—	—	—	56	Other non-interest expense
Net loss	2,001	664	613	765	Other non-interest expense
Net periodic (income) benefit cost	\$ (9,471)	\$ 1,405	\$ 1,695	\$ 1,883	

There are no contributions expected to be made to the Pension Plan during the year ended December 31, 2024.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(14) Employee Benefit Plans (continued)**

*Pension Plan, Retirement Income Maintenance Plan (the "RIM Plan") Post-retirement Plan, Split-Dollar Life Insurance Plans (cont'd)*

The weighted average actuarial assumptions used in the plan determinations at and for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 were as follows:

	At and For the Year Ended December 31, 2023			
	Pension Plan	RIM Plan	Post-retirement Plan	Split-Dollar Life Insurance
Weighted average assumptions used to determine benefit obligation:				
Discount rate	5.07 %	5.01 %	4.96 %	5.11 %
Rate of compensation increase	4.50	4.50	N/A	4.50
Weighted average assumptions used to determine net periodic benefit cost:				
Discount Rates:				
Benefit obligation	5.26 %	5.21 %	5.18 %	5.31 %
Remeasurement rate	5.19	N/A	N/A	N/A
Service cost	5.36	5.28	5.30	5.41
Remeasurement rate	5.26	N/A	N/A	N/A
Interest cost	5.14	5.10	5.07	5.19
Remeasurement rate	5.16	N/A	N/A	N/A
Expected rate of return on plan assets	7.50	N/A	N/A	N/A
Remeasurement rate	7.50	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rate of compensation increase	4.50	3.75	N/A	3.75

	At and For the Year Ended December 31, 2022			
	Pension Plan	RIM Plan	Post-retirement Plan	Split-Dollar Life Insurance
Weighted average assumptions used to determine benefit obligation:				
Discount rate	5.26 %	5.21 %	5.18 %	5.31 %
Rate of compensation increase	3.75	3.75	N/A	3.75
Weighted average assumptions used to determine net periodic benefit cost:				
Discount Rates:				
Benefit obligation	3.14 %	2.97 %	2.90 %	3.30 %
Remeasurement rate	4.86	N/A	N/A	N/A
Service cost	3.32	3.16	3.19	3.49
Remeasurement rate	4.95	N/A	N/A	N/A
Interest cost	2.66	2.52	2.34	2.95
Remeasurement rate	4.58	N/A	N/A	N/A
Expected rate of return on plan assets	6.20	N/A	N/A	N/A
Remeasurement rate	7.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rate of compensation increase	3.75	3.75	N/A	3.75

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(14) Employee Benefit Plans (continued)**

*Pension Plan, Retirement Income Maintenance Plan (the "RIM Plan") Post-retirement Plan, Split-Dollar Life Insurance Plans (cont'd)*

	At and For the Year Ended December 31, 2021			
	Pension Plan	RIM Plan	Post-retirement Plan	Split-Dollar Life Insurance
Weighted average assumptions used to determine benefit obligation:				
Discount rate	3.14 %	2.97 %	2.90 %	3.22 %
Rate of compensation increase	3.75	3.75	N/A	3.75
Weighted average assumptions used to determine net periodic benefit cost:				
Discount Rates:				
Benefit obligation	2.92 %	2.67 %	2.59 %	3.01 %
Remeasurement rate	3.20	N/A	N/A	N/A
Service cost	3.21	2.93	2.96	3.26
Remeasurement rate	3.46	N/A	N/A	N/A
Interest cost	2.28	2.10	1.88	2.53
Remeasurement rate	2.55	N/A	N/A	N/A
Expected rate of return on plan assets	6.20	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rate of compensation increase	3.75	3.75	N/A	3.75

For measurement purposes in the Post-retirement Plan, the fiscal year 2023 weighted average health care cost trend rate assumption was 7.60% for pre-65 year olds and 7.85% for post-65 year olds in 2023, decreasing ratably to 4.50% through 2033.

The Company provides its actuaries with certain rate assumptions used in measuring the respective benefit obligations. The most significant of these is the discount rate used to calculate the period-end present value of the benefit obligations, and the expense to be included in the following year's consolidated financial statements. A lower discount rate will result in a higher benefit obligation and expense, while a higher discount rate will result in a lower benefit obligation and expense. The discount rate assumption was determined based on a cash flow-yield curve model specific to the Company's pension and post-retirement plans.

The Company compares this rate to certain market indices, such as long-term treasury bonds, or pension liability indices, for reasonableness. The Company's expected return on plan assets assumption is based on historical investment return rate experience, evaluation of input from the trustee managing the pension plan's assets and Columbia Bank's Pension Committee which has responsibility for managing these assets. The expected return on pension plan assets is also impacted by the target allocation of assets, which is based on the Company's goal of earning the highest rate of return while maintaining risk at acceptable levels.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(14) Employee Benefit Plans (continued)**

*Pension Plan, Retirement Income Maintenance Plan (the "RIM Plan") Post-retirement Plan, Split-Dollar Life Insurance Plans (cont'd)*

Estimated future benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate for the next five years and thereafter are as follows:

For the Year Ended December 31,	Pension Plan	RIM Plan	Post-retirement Plan	Split-Dollar Life Insurance
	(In thousands)			
2024	\$ 11,392	\$ 595	\$ 1,489	\$ 475
2025	12,463	878	1,628	535
2026	13,481	924	1,760	597
2027	14,473	952	1,828	656
2028	15,390	974	1,833	719
2029 - 2033	85,990	5,018	8,240	4,544

The weighted average asset allocation of pension assets at December 31, 2023 and 2022 were as follows:

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
Domestic equities	31.2 %	38.4 %
Foreign equities	10.9	11.1
Fixed income	55.5	49.0
Cash	2.4	1.5
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %

Management, under the direction of Columbia Bank's Pension Committee, strives to have pension assets sufficiently diversified so that adverse or unexpected results from one security class will not have a significant detrimental impact on the entire portfolio. The 2023 target allocation of assets and acceptable ranges around the targets are as follows:

	Allowable Range
Equities	30-60%
Fixed income	40-70%
Real estate	0-10%
Cash	0-10%

Columbia Bank's Pension Committee engages an investment management advisory firm to regularly monitor the performance of the asset managers and ensure they are within compliance with policy. The maximum and minimum of the range for each class is based on the fair value of the assets in the fund. If changes in fair value should lead to allocations outside these boundaries, management shall adjust exposure back to the established guidelines within 90 days or reevaluate the guidelines.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(14) Employee Benefit Plans (continued)**

*Pension Plan, Retirement Income Maintenance Plan (the "RIM Plan") Post-retirement Plan, Split-Dollar Life Insurance Plans (cont'd)*

The following tables present the assets that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis by level within the U.S. GAAP fair value hierarchy as reported on the Statements of Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy's is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

	December 31, 2023			
	Fair Value	Fair Value Measurements		
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
	(In thousands)			
Money market mutual funds	\$ 10,711	\$ 10,711	\$ —	\$ —
Mutual funds - value stock fund	18,132	18,132	—	—
Mutual funds - fixed income	251,889	251,889	—	—
Mutual funds - international stock	49,260	49,260	—	—
Mutual funds - institutional stock index	123,567	123,567	—	—
	<u>\$ 453,559</u>	<u>\$ 453,559</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

	December 31, 2022			
	Fair value	Fair Value Measurements		
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
	(In thousands)			
Money market mutual funds	\$ 6,247	\$ 6,247	\$ —	\$ —
Mutual funds - value stock fund	32,764	32,764	—	—
Mutual funds - fixed income	197,680	197,680	—	—
Mutual funds - international stock	44,833	44,833	—	—
Mutual funds - institutional stock index	122,228	122,228	—	—
	<u>\$ 403,752</u>	<u>\$ 403,752</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

Money market and other mutual funds are reported at fair value in the tables above utilizing exchange quoted prices in active markets for identical instruments (Level 1 inputs).

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(14) Employee Benefit Plans (continued)**

*Pension Plan and Post-retirement Plan Acquired-RSI*

Through the acquisition of the RSI Entities on May 1, 2022, the Company acquired a funded pension plan and a non-funded post-retirement plan. The benefits are based on years of service and the employee's compensation, as defined. The Plan was amended effective March 31, 2011, to freeze the Plan so that no employee shall commence or recommence participation in the Plan, that there shall be no further benefit accruals under the Plan, and that compensation received after the effective date shall not be recognized for any purpose under the Plan. Effective September 30, 2023, the RSI Bank Retirement Plan was merged, and all assets were transferred into the Columbia Bank Pension Plan. The defined benefit post-retirement healthcare plan covers substantially all retirees and employees.

The following table sets forth information regarding the Pension Plan and Post-retirement Plan at December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	At December 31,			
	2023		2022	
	Pension Plan	Post-retirement Plan	Pension Plan	Post-retirement Plan
	(In thousands)		(In thousands)	
Change in benefit obligation:				
Benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$ 6,057	\$ 2,047	\$ —	\$ —
Acquired	—	—	7,202	3,163
Service cost	—	67	—	93
Interest cost	305	107	198	93
Actuarial (gain) loss	(416)	313	(1,009)	(1,298)
Benefits paid	(195)	(31)	(129)	(4)
Settlements	—	—	(205)	—
Impact of plan merger <sup>1</sup>	(5,751)	—	—	—
Benefit obligation at end of year	—	2,503	6,057	2,047
Change in plan assets:				
Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year	7,061	—	—	—
Acquired	—	—	7,819	—
Actuarial return on plan assets	416	—	(424)	—
Employer contributions	—	31	—	4
Benefits paid	(195)	(31)	(129)	(4)
Settlements	—	—	(205)	—
Impact of plan merger <sup>1</sup>	(7,282)	—	—	—
Fair value of plan assets at end of year	—	—	7,061	—
Funded status at end of year	\$ —	\$ (2,503)	\$ 1,004	\$ (2,047)

<sup>1</sup> During 2023, the RSI Pension Plan assumed as part of the 2022 RSI acquisition, was merged into the Columbia Bank Pension Plan.

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the unfunded liability for the Post-retirement Plan of \$2.5 million and \$2.0 million, respectively, was included in other liabilities in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition, and the over-funded pension benefits associated with the Pension Plan at December 31, 2022, totaling \$1.0 million, was included in other assets in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(14) Employee Benefit Plans (continued)**

*Pension Plan and Post-retirement Plan Acquired-RSI (continued)*

The components of accumulated other comprehensive income related to the Pension Plan and Post-retirement Plan on a pre-tax basis, at December 31, 2023 and 2022 are summarized in the following table:

	At December 31,			
	2023		2022	
	Pension Plan	Post-retirement Plan	Pension Plan	Post-retirement Plan
	(In thousands)		(In thousands)	
Unrecognized prior service costs	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Unrecognized net actuarial (income)	—	(493)	(281)	(868)
<b>Total accumulated other comprehensive (income)</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ (493)</b>	<b>\$ (281)</b>	<b>\$ (868)</b>

Net periodic (income) benefit cost for the Pension Plan and Post-retirement Plan for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 includes the following components:

	For the Year Ended		Affected Line Item in the Consolidated Statements of Income
	December 31, 2023		
	Pension Plan	Post-retirement Plan	
	(In thousands)		
Service cost	\$ —	\$ 67	Compensation and employee benefits
Interest cost	305	107	Other non-interest expense
Expected return on plan assets	(487)	—	Other non-interest expense
Amortization:			
Net loss	—	(61)	Other non-interest expense
<b>Net periodic (income) benefit cost</b>	<b>\$ (182)</b>	<b>\$ 113</b>	

	For the Year Ended		Affected Line Item in the Consolidated Statements of Income
	December 31, 2022		
	Pension Plan	Post-retirement Plan	
	(In thousands)		
Service cost	\$ —	\$ 93	Compensation and employee benefits
Interest cost	198	93	Other non-interest expense
Expected return on plan assets	(295)	—	Other non-interest expense
Settlements/curtailments	(10)	(430)	Other non-interest expense
<b>Net periodic (income) benefit cost</b>	<b>\$ (107)</b>	<b>\$ (244)</b>	



**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(14) Employee Benefit Plans (continued)**

*Pension Plan and Post-retirement Plan Acquired-RSI (continued)*

The weighted average actuarial assumptions used in the assumed determinations at and for the year ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 were as follows:

	At or For the Years Ended December 31,			
	2023		2022	
	Pension Plan	Post-retirement Plan	Pension Plan	Post-retirement Plan
Weighted average assumptions used to determine benefit obligation:				
Discount rate	N/A	5.16 %	5.24 %	5.36 %
Rate of compensation increase	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Weighted average assumptions used to determine net periodic benefit cost:				
Discount Rates:				
Benefit obligation	5.24 %	5.16 %	4.21 %	4.58 %
Expected rate of return on plan assets	7.00 %	N/A	5.75 %	N/A

Estimated future benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate for the next five years and thereafter are as follows:

For the Year Ended December 31,	Post-retirement Plan
2024	\$ 45
2025	52
2026	66
2027	81
2028	92
2029 - 2033	576

The weighted average asset allocation of pension assets at December 31, 2022 were as follows:

	December 31, 2022
Equities	66.8 %
Fixed income	32.2
Cash	1.0
Total	100.0 %

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(14) Employee Benefit Plans (continued)**

*Pension Plan and Post-retirement Plan Acquired-RSI (continued)*

The following tables present the assets that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis by level within the U.S. GAAP fair value hierarchy as reported on the Statements of Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits at December 31, 2022. A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy's is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

	December 31, 2022			
	Fair Value	Fair Value Measurements		
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
(In thousands)				
Money market mutual fund	\$ 70	\$ 70	\$ —	\$ —
Equities - long term growth	4,720	—	4,720	—
Fixed income - long duration	2,271	—	2,271	—
	\$ 7,061	\$ 70	\$ 6,991	\$ —

Money market funds are reported at fair value in the table above utilizing exchange quoted prices in active markets for identical instruments (Level 1 inputs). The other investments are reported at their respective net asset values (Level 2 inputs).

*Bank-owned life insurance ("BOLI")*

The Company has BOLI which is a tax-advantaged transaction that is used to partially fund obligations associated with employee compensation and benefit programs. Policies are purchased insuring officers of the Company using a single premium method of payment. BOLI is accounted for using the cash surrender value and the increase in cash surrender value is included in non-interest income in the Consolidated Statements of Income. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company had \$268.4 million and \$264.9 million, respectively, in BOLI. BOLI income for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 was \$10.1 million, \$7.4 million, and \$6.0 million, respectively.

*Savings Income Maintenance Deferred Compensation Plan (the "SIM Plan")*

Columbia Bank also maintains a non-qualified defined contribution plan that provides supplemental benefits to certain executives who are prevented from receiving the full benefits contemplated by the 401(k) Plan under tax law limits for tax-qualified plans. The contribution expense for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 was approximately \$40,000, \$73,000, and \$12,000, respectively.

*401(k) Plans*

Columbia Bank and Freehold Bank each have a 401(k) plan covering substantially all employees of each Bank. Columbia Bank may match a percentage of the first 3.00% to 4.50% contributed by participants. Columbia's matching contribution, if any, is determined by the Board of Directors in its sole discretion. Freehold does not presently match a certain percentage on contributions made by participants, but provides an annual match, as determined by their Board Directors, of \$245,000, \$204,000, and \$213,000 for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, 2021, respectively. The Company expense for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 was approximately \$2.8 million, \$2.4 million, and \$2.1 million, respectively.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(14) Employee Benefit Plans (continued)**

**Employee Stock Ownership Plan ("ESOP")**

Effective upon the consummation of the Company's reorganization in April 2018, an ESOP was established for all eligible employees. The ESOP used \$45.4 million in proceeds from a 20 years term loan obtained from the Company to purchase 4,542,855 shares of Company common stock. The term loan principal is payable in installments through April 2038. Interest on the term loan is fixed at a rate of 4.75%.

Each year, Columbia Bank makes discretionary contributions to the ESOP, which are equal to principal and interest payments required on the term loan. Shares purchased with the loan proceeds were initially pledged as collateral for the term loan and is held in a suspense account for future allocation among participants. Contributions to the ESOP and shares released from the suspense account are allocated among the participants on the basis of compensation, as described by the ESOP in the year of allocation.

The ESOP shares pledged as collateral are reported as unearned ESOP shares in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition. As shares are committed to be released from collateral, the Company reports compensation expense equal to the average market price of the shares during the year, and the shares become outstanding for basic net income per common share computations. ESOP compensation expense for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 was \$4.1 million, \$4.9 million and \$4.1 million, respectively.

The ESOP shares were as follows:

	At December 31,	
	2023	2022
	(In thousands)	
Allocated shares	1,190	1,005
Unearned shares	3,248	3,475
Total ESOP shares	4,438	4,480
Fair value of unearned ESOP shares	\$ 62,618	\$ 75,129

**SERP Plans**

Columbia Bank has a SERP, which is a non-qualified plan which provides supplemental retirement benefits to eligible officers (those designated by the Board of Directors) of the Company who are prevented from receiving the full benefits contemplated by the ESOP's benefit formulas under tax law limits for tax-qualified plans. SERP compensation (benefit) expense for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 was \$(32,000), \$455,000, and \$348,000, respectively.

Through the acquisition of Roselle, the Company acquired a non-contributory defined benefit supplemental executive retirement plan with the only participant being the former president of Roselle Bank. For the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 the Company recorded a net periodic benefit cost of \$20,000, \$12,000, and \$9,000, respectively, in connection with this plan.

Freehold Bank has a non-contributory defined benefit supplemental executive plan with the only participant being the former president of Freehold Bank. For the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 the Company recorded a net periodic benefit cost of \$2,000, \$8,000, and \$1,000 respectively, in connection with this plan.

Through the acquisition of RSI Bank, the Company acquired a non-contributory defined benefit supplemental executive retirement plan with the only participant being the former president of RSI Bank. The plan was settled in 2022. For the year ended December 31, 2022, the Company recorded a net periodic benefit cost of \$38,000.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(14) Employee Benefit Plans (continued)**

***Director Retirement Income Plan***

Freehold Bank maintains a Director Retirement Income Plan, which provides directors a benefit equal to \$12,000 per annum, payable in equal installments over 120 months when the director reaches Emeritus Age as defined by the plan. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company had an accrued liability of \$387,000 and \$390,000, respectively, related to this plan. For the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 the net periodic benefit (income) cost recorded in connection with this plan was \$(24,000), \$9,000 and \$1,000, respectively.

***Director Deferred Retirement Plan***

Freehold Bank maintains a Director Deferred Retirement Plan, which provides directors a portion of their deferred director fees and a 10% return on all deferrals, payable in monthly installments over 120 months, when the director reaches benefit eligibility age as defined by the plan. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company had an accrued liability of \$66,000 and \$399,000, respectively, related to this plan. For the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, there was no expense recorded under this plan.

***Executive Incentive Retirement Plan***

Through the acquisition of RSI, the Company acquired an executive incentive retirement plan. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company had an accrued liability of \$262,000 and \$257,000 respectively, related to this plan. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, the expense recorded in connection with this plan was \$11,000 and \$7,000, respectively.

***Board of Directors and Executive Deferred Compensation Plan and Key Life Insurance Plan***

Through the acquisition of RSI, the Company acquired a deferred compensation plan for the former Board of Directors and executives. Under the terms of the plan, for directors who elected not to receive directors' fees for a period of five years, their fees were used to purchase key insurance on the life of each director in the amount calculated to meet the Company's obligations under the plan. Benefits payable under the plan, which accrue in accordance with a ten year schedule, consist of monthly payments commencing at age 65 or five years from the date the plan was implemented for those participants who already reached age 65. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company had an accrued liability of \$290,000 and \$351,000, respectively, related to this plan. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, the expense recorded in connection with this plan was \$11,000 and \$8,000.

***Stock Based Deferral Plan and Directors Deferred Compensation Plan***

In addition, Columbia Bank maintains a stock based deferral plan for certain executives and directors, and a cash based deferred compensation plan for directors. The Company records a deferred compensation equity account and corresponding contra-equity account for the cost of the shares held by the Stock Based Deferral Plan. Periodic adjustments to market are not required as participants do not have the option to take the distribution in cash. The Company records a liability for the amount deferred under the Directors Deferred Compensation Plan. There were no expenses recorded under these plans.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(14) Employee Benefit Plans (continued)**

**Stock Based Compensation**

At the Company's annual meeting of stockholders held on June 6, 2019, stockholders approved the Columbia Financial, Inc. 2019 Equity Incentive Plan ("2019 Plan") which provides for the issuance of up to 7,949,996 shares (2,271,427 restricted stock awards and 5,678,569 stock options) of common stock.

On March 2, 2022, 51,746 shares of restricted stock were awarded, with a grant date fair value of \$21.79 per share. To fund the grant of restricted common stock, the Company issued shares from authorized unissued shares.

On October 31, 2022, 38,730 shares of restricted stock were awarded, with a grant date fair value of \$20.54 per share. To fund the grant of restricted common stock, the Company issued shares from authorized unissued shares.

On November 21, 2022, 13,722 shares of restricted stock were awarded, with a grant date fair value of \$21.86 per share. To fund the grant of restricted common stock, the Company issued shares from authorized unissued shares.

On December 19, 2022, 18,984 shares of restricted stock were awarded, with a grant date fair value of \$21.07 per share. To fund the grant of restricted common stock, the Company issued shares from authorized unissued shares.

On May 1, 2023, 201,887 shares of restricted stock were awarded, with a grant date fair value of \$15.94 per share. To fund the grant of restricted common stock, the Company issued shares from authorized unissued shares.

On June 20, 2023, 24,687 shares of restricted stock were awarded, with a grant date fair value of \$18.23 per share. To fund the grant of restricted common stock, the Company issued shares from authorized unissued shares.

At December 31, 2023, there were 578,463 shares remaining available for future restricted stock awards, and 1,706,158 shares remaining available for future stock option grants under the plan.

Restricted shares granted under the 2019 Plan generally vest in equal installments, over the performance or service periods ranging from 1 year to 5 years, beginning 1 year from the date of grant. A portion of restricted shares awarded are performance awards, which vest upon the satisfactory attainment of certain corporate financial targets. Management recognizes compensation expense for the fair value of restricted shares on a straight-line basis over the requisite performance or service period. During the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, approximately \$4.1 million, \$4.3 million, and \$5.7 million, respectively, in expense was recognized in regard to these awards. The expected future compensation expense related to the 435,541 non-vested restricted shares outstanding at December 31, 2023 is approximately \$5.0 million over a weighted average period of 1.5 years.

The following is a summary of the Company's restricted stock activity during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	<u>Number of Restricted Shares</u>	<u>Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value</u>
Non-vested at January 1, 2022	1,054,335	\$ 15.78
Grants	123,182	21.29
Vested	(677,886)	15.73
Forfeited	(68,677)	16.54
Non-vested at December 31, 2022	<u>430,954</u>	<u>\$ 17.31</u>
Grants	247,646	16.43
Vested	(213,253)	17.29
Forfeited	(29,806)	17.96
Non-vested at December 31, 2023	<u><u>435,541</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 16.77</u></u>

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(14) Employee Benefit Plans (continued)**

*Stock Based Compensation (continued)*

On March 21, 2022, options to purchase 130,951 shares of Company common stock were awarded with a grant date fair value of \$6.51 per option. Stock options granted under the 2019 Plan vest in equal installments over the service period of three years beginning one year from the date of grant. These stock options were granted at an exercise price of \$21.79, which represents the fair value of the Company's common stock price on the grant date based on the closing market price and have an expiration period of 10 years. The fair value of stock options granted was estimated utilizing the Black-Scholes option pricing model using the following assumptions: expected life of 6 years, risk-free rate of return of 2.34%, volatility of 25.31%, and a dividend yield of 0.00%.

On October 31, 2022, options to purchase 173,766 shares of Company common stock were awarded with a grant date fair value of \$7.22 per option. Stock options granted under the 2019 Plan vest in equal installments over the service period of three years beginning one year from the date of grant. These stock options were granted at an exercise price of \$20.54, which represents the fair value of the Company's common stock price on the grant date based on the closing market price and have an expiration period of 10 years. The fair value of stock options granted was estimated utilizing the Black-Scholes option pricing model using the following assumptions: expected life of 6 years, risk-free rate of return of 4.19%, volatility of 26.25%, and a dividend yield of 0.00%.

On December 19, 2022, options to purchase 58,912 shares of Company common stock were awarded with a grant date fair value of \$6.79 per option. Stock options granted under the 2019 Plan generally vest in equal installments over the service period of one year beginning one year from the date of grant. These stock options were granted at an exercise price of \$21.07, which represents the fair value of the Company's common stock price on the grant date based on the closing market price and have an expiration period of approximately 10 years. The fair value of stock options granted was estimated utilizing the Black-Scholes option pricing model using the following assumptions: expected life of 5.5 years, risk-free rate of return of 3.71%, volatility of 26.11%, and a dividend yield of 0.00%.

On May 1, 2023, options to purchase 286,016 shares of Company common stock were awarded with a grant date fair value of \$5.48 per option. Stock options granted under the 2019 Plan generally vest in equal installments over the service period of three years beginning one year from the date of grant. These stock options were granted at an exercise price of \$15.94, which represents the fair value of the Company's common stock price on the grant date based on the closing market price and have an expiration period of approximately 10 years. The fair value of stock options granted was estimated utilizing the Black-Scholes option pricing model using the following assumptions: expected life of 6 years risk-free rate of return of 3.60%, volatility of 27.07%, and a dividend yield of 0.00%.

The expected life of the options represents the period of time that stock options are expected to be outstanding and is estimated using the simplified approach, which assumes that all outstanding options will be exercised at the midpoint of the vesting date and full contractual term. The risk-free rate of return is based on the rates on the grant date of a U.S. Treasury Note with a term equal to the expected option life. Since the Company recently converted to a public company and does not have sufficient historical price data, the expected volatility is based on the historical daily stock prices of Company stock plus a peer group of similar entities based on factors such as industry, stage of life cycle, size and financial leverage. The Company has not paid any cash dividends on its common stock.

Management recognizes expense for the fair value of these awards on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period. During the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, approximately \$3.9 million, \$3.2 million, and \$3.2 million, respectively, in expense was recognized in regard to these awards. The expected future compensation expense related to the 1,056,804 non-vested options outstanding at December 31, 2023 is \$3.5 million over a weighted average period of 1.5 years.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(14) Employee Benefit Plans (continued)**

*Stock Based Compensation (continued)*

The following is a summary of the Company's option activity during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	<u>Number of Stock Options</u>		<u>Weighted Average Exercise Price</u>		<u>Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term (in years)</u>		<u>Aggregate Intrinsic Value</u>
Outstanding, January 1, 2022	3,637,542	\$	15.78		7.6	\$	18,654,905
Granted	363,629		21.08		—		—
Exercised	(315,703)		15.76		—		—
Expired	(10,116)		15.60		—		—
Forfeited	(238,483)		16.20		—		—
Outstanding, December 31, 2022	<u>3,436,869</u>	\$	16.26		6.9	\$	18,435,239
Granted	286,016		15.94		—		—
Exercised	(44,117)		15.60		—		—
Expired	(8,281)		17.12		—		—
Forfeited	(86,418)		18.04		—		—
Outstanding, December 31, 2023	<u>3,584,069</u>	\$	16.20		6.1	\$	—
Options exercisable at December 31, 2023	<u>2,527,265</u>	\$	16.01		5.7	\$	8,527,928

The aggregate intrinsic value in the table above represents the total pre-tax intrinsic value, the difference between the Company's closing stock price on the last trading day of the period and the exercise price, multiplied by the number of in-the-money options.

During the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, the aggregate intrinsic value of options exercised was approximately \$154,000, \$1.8 million, and \$60,000, respectively.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(15) Income Taxes**

The components of income tax expense for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 are as follows:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
	(In thousands)		
Current:			
Federal	\$ 3,488	\$ 13,253	\$ 12,443
State	3,102	4,681	3,980
Total current	6,590	17,934	16,423
Deferred:			
Federal	6,615	9,222	12,594
State	(3,240)	3,547	5,115
Total deferred	3,375	12,769	17,709
Total income tax expense	<u>\$ 9,965</u>	<u>\$ 30,703</u>	<u>\$ 34,132</u>

The Company reported deferred tax (benefit) expense of \$(11.5) million, \$53.4 million, and \$8.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, respectively, related to the unrealized gains (losses) on securities available for sale, which is reported in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax. Additionally, the Company recorded a deferred tax (benefit) expense of \$218,000, \$749,000, and \$1.1 million, respectively, related to the reclassification adjustment of actuarial net (loss) gain on employee benefit obligations, which is reported in accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax. Deferred tax assets and/or liabilities for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, also includes \$9.6 million, and \$1.5 million respectively, recorded as a result of purchase accounting related to the RSI and Freehold acquisitions, respectively. Deferred tax assets for the year ended December 31, 2022 also includes \$2.4 million related to the adoption of CECL on January 1, 2022.

A reconciliation between the amount of reported total income tax expense and the amount computed by multiplying the applicable statutory federal income tax rate of 21% is as follows:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
	(In thousands)		
Tax expense at applicable statutory rate	\$ 9,670	\$ 24,544	\$ 26,498
Increase (decrease) in taxes resulting from:			
State tax, net of federal income tax benefit	(103)	6,449	7,185
ESOP fair market value adjustment	383	540	375
Tax exempt interest income	(22)	(31)	(15)
162(m)	549	—	—
Income from Bank-owned life insurance	(1,865)	(1,179)	(863)
Dividend received deduction	—	(10)	(14)
Non-deductible merger-related expenses	—	40	53
Expired charitable contributions carryforward	1,368	—	—
Other, net	(15)	350	913
Total income tax expense	<u>\$ 9,965</u>	<u>\$ 30,703</u>	<u>\$ 34,132</u>



**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(15) Income Taxes (continued)**

The net deferred tax asset/liability is included in other assets/liabilities in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition. The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to significant portions of the deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities at December 31, 2023 and 2022 are as follows:

	At December 31,	
	2023	2022
	(In thousands)	
Deferred tax assets:		
Allowance for credit losses	\$ 15,507	\$ 14,990
Post-retirement benefits	6,602	6,002
Deferred compensation	2,122	3,619
Retirement Income Maintenance plan	3,222	3,062
ESOP	1,131	990
Stock-based compensation	2,968	2,386
Reserve for uncollected interest	213	35
Net unrealized losses on debt securities and defined benefit plans	62,070	70,060
Federal and State NOLs	14,607	13,333
Alternative minimum assessment carryforwards	2,156	2,156
Charitable contribution carryforward	—	3,514
Purchase accounting	1,428	2,805
Lease liability	4,654	5,264
Other items	4,744	7,002
Gross deferred tax assets	121,424	135,218
Valuation allowance	(26)	(1,965)
	121,398	133,253
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Pension expense	72,307	68,825
Depreciation	2,996	5,945
Deferred loan costs	14,006	14,724
Intangible assets	1,609	1,616
Lease right-of-use asset	4,371	4,958
Other items	618	286
Total gross deferred tax liabilities	95,907	96,354
Net deferred tax asset (liability)	\$ 25,491	\$ 36,899

Retained earnings at December 31, 2023 and 2022 includes approximately \$21.5 million for which no provision for income tax has been made. This amount represents an allocation of income to bad debt deductions for tax purposes only. Events that would result in taxation of these reserves include the failure to qualify as a bank for tax purposes, distributions in complete or partial liquidation, stock redemptions and excess distributions to stockholders.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(15) Income Taxes (continued)**

Management believes that not all existing net deductible temporary differences that comprise the net deferred tax asset will reverse during periods in which the Company generates sufficient net taxable income. Accordingly, management has established a valuation allowance. Significant changes in the Company's operations and or economic conditions could affect the benefits of the recognized net deferred tax assets.

Management believes, based on current facts, that it is more likely than not that there will be sufficient taxable income in future years to realize federal deferred tax assets. Historically, the Company believed that it was more likely than not that the benefits from certain New Jersey net operating loss carryforwards and tax credits would not be realized, and therefore, a valuation allowance was established for the portion of the state tax benefit that would not be realized. On July 3, 2023, the State of New Jersey enacted comprehensive tax legislation which changed net operating loss conversion carryovers, allowing members of a unitary group to utilize pre-conversion state net operating losses. As a result of this legislation, management believes substantially all New Jersey net operating losses will be available to offset future taxable income, and therefore, the Company reduced its valuation allowance related to these state attributes during the year ended December 31, 2023. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company's valuation allowance totaled \$26,000 and \$2.0 million, respectively. Based upon projections of future taxable income, management believes it is more likely than not the Company will realize the remaining deferred tax assets.

The Company had federal net operating losses from the acquisition of Roselle of approximately \$5.6 million and \$7.8 million at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. Roselle net operating losses are subject to a 20 year carryforward. The Company also had federal net operating losses from the acquisition of RSI of approximately \$5.2 million and \$8.6 million at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. RSI net operating losses have an indefinite carryover subject to an 80% taxable income utilization and are subject to an annual limitation under Code Section 382. The Roselle net operating losses are subject to an annual limitation under Code Section 382 and will begin to expire in 2036 if not used.

The Company had New Jersey net operating loss carryforwards of \$186.0 million and \$147.0 million, respectively, at December 31, 2023 and 2022. If not utilized, these carryforwards will expire periodically through 2042. At both December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company had approximately \$2.2 million of New Jersey AMA Tax Credits. These credits do not expire.

The Company files income tax returns in the United States federal jurisdiction and in the states of New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. At December 31, 2023, the Company is no longer subject to federal income tax examination for the years prior to 2020. Columbia Bank MHC and its subsidiaries' New York City returns are currently under audit for the tax years 2016 and 2017. The Company is open for examination by the State of New Jersey for years after 2019 and by the State of Pennsylvania for years after 2020.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(16) Financial Transactions with Off-Balance-Sheet Risk and Concentrations of Credit Risk**

The Company is a party to financial instruments with off-balance-sheet risk in the normal course of business in order to meet the financing needs of its customers. These financial instruments consist of commitments to extend credit and involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit and interest rate risk in excess of the amounts recognized in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition.

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the following commitments existed which are not reflected in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition:

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
	(In thousands)	
Loan commitments:		
Residential real estate	\$ 12,298	\$ 55,852
Multifamily real estate	—	50,175
Commercial real estate	7,203	17,621
Commercial business	23,217	24,846
Construction	54,082	100,430
Consumer including home equity loans and advances	5,317	5,477
<b>Total loan commitments</b>	<b>\$ 102,117</b>	<b>\$ 254,401</b>

Unused lines of credit consisting of home equity lines, and undisbursed business and construction lines totaled approximately \$1.3 billion and \$1.2 billion as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. Amounts drawn on the unused lines of credit are predominantly assessed interest at rates that fluctuate with the base rate.

The Company uses the same credit policies and collateral requirements in making commitments and conditional obligations as it does for on-balance-sheet loans. Commitments to extend credit are agreements to lend to customers as long as there is no violation of any condition established in the contract. Commitments generally have fixed expiration dates or other termination clauses and may require payment of a fee. Since the commitments may expire without being drawn upon, the total commitment amounts do not necessarily represent future cash requirements. The Company evaluates each customer's creditworthiness on a case-by-case basis. The amount of collateral obtained, if deemed necessary by the Company upon extension of credit, is based on management's credit evaluation of the borrower.

The Company principally grants residential real estate loans, multifamily real estate loans, commercial real estate loans, construction loans, commercial business loans, home equity loans and advances and other consumer loans to borrowers primarily throughout New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, and to a much lesser extent in a few other east coast states. Its borrowers' abilities to repay their obligations are dependent upon various factors, including the borrowers' income and net worth, cash flows generated by the underlying collateral, if any, or from business operations, value of the underlying collateral and priority of the Company's lien on the property. These factors are dependent on various economic conditions and circumstances beyond the Company's control, and as a result, the Company is subject to the risk of loss. The Company believes that its lending policies and procedures adequately minimize the potential exposure to such risks and adequate provisions for loan losses are provided for all probable and estimable losses. In the normal course of business, the Company sells residential real estate loans to third parties. These loan sales are subject to customary representations and warranties. In the event that the Company is found to be in breach of these representations and warranties, it may be obligated to repurchase certain of these loans.

The Company has entered into derivative financial instruments to manage exposures that arise from business activities that result in the receipt or payment of future known and uncertain cash amounts, the value of which are determined by interest rates. The Company's derivative financial instruments are used to manage differences in the amount, timing, and duration of the Company's known or expected cash receipts and its known or expected cash payments principally related to the Company's borrowings. These derivatives were used to hedge the variability in cash flows associated with certain short-term funding transactions. The fair value of the derivatives as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 was a net liability of \$6.1 million and \$684,000, respectively, net of accrued interest and variation margin posted in accordance with the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(16) Financial Transactions with Off-Balance-Sheet Risk and Concentrations of Credit Risk (continued)**

In connection with its mortgage banking activities, at December 31, 2023 and 2022 the Company had no commitments to sell loans, and no commitments classified as held-for-sale.

The Company is also a party to standby letters of credit, which are conditional commitments issued to guarantee the performance of a customer to a third party. These guarantees generally extend for a term of up to one year and may be secured or unsecured. The balance of standby letters of credit totaled \$33.1 million and \$20.4 million at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

The FHLB has issued irrevocable standby letters of credits totaling \$575.0 million at December 31, 2023 for purposes of collateralizing Columbia Bank's New Jersey public funds on deposit. These letters are renewable on an annual basis and are securitized by loans and securities. The FHLB also has issued an irrevocable standby letter of credit totaling \$600,000 at both December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, for the purposes of collateralizing Freehold Bank's retention of New Jersey public funds on deposit as required by the New Jersey Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act. This letter is renewable on an annual basis and is securitized by Freehold Bank's available borrowing line at the FHLB.

The Company and its subsidiaries are also party to litigation which arises primarily in the ordinary course of business. In the opinion of management, these legal actions and claims are not expected to have a material adverse impact on the consolidated financial position of the Company.

The Company is required to include unfunded commitments that are expected to be funded in the future within the allowance calculation, other than those that are unconditionally cancellable. To arrive at that reserve, the reserve percentage for each applicable segment is applied to the unused portion of the expected commitment balance and is multiplied by the expected funding rate. To determine the expected funding rate, the Company uses a historical utilization rate for each segment. The allowance for credit losses on off-balance-sheet exposures is reported in other liabilities in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition. The liability represents an estimate of expected credit losses arising from off-balance-sheet exposures such as unfunded commitments. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the balance of the allowance for credit losses on unfunded commitments, included in other liabilities, totaled \$5.5 million and \$7.0 million, respectively. The Company recorded a reversal of provision for credit losses on unfunded commitments, included in other non-interest expense in the Consolidated Statements of Income, of \$1.5 million and \$1.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

The following table presents the activity in the allowance for credit losses on off-balance-sheet exposures for years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
	(In thousands)	(In thousands)
Allowance for Credit Losses:		
Beginning balance	\$ 6,970	\$ 524
Impact of adopting ASU 2016-13 ("CECL") effective January 1, 2022	—	7,674
(Reversal of) provision for credit losses	(1,486)	(1,228)
Balance at end of period	\$ 5,484	\$ 6,970

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(17) Fair Value Measurements**

The Company utilizes fair value measurements to record fair value adjustments to certain assets and liabilities and to determine fair value disclosures. The determination of fair values of financial instruments often requires the use of estimates. Where quoted market values in an active market are not readily available, the Company utilizes various valuation techniques to estimate fair value.

Fair value is the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. There are three levels of inputs that may be used to measure the fair values:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Company has the ability to access on the measurement date.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. These might include quoted prices for similar instruments in markets that are active or not active, or inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3: Prices or valuation techniques that require unobservable inputs that are both significant to the fair value measurement and unobservable (i.e., supported by minimal or no market activity). Valuation techniques include the use of option pricing models, discounted cash flow models and similar techniques.

A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

***Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis***

The methods described below were used to measure fair value of financial instruments as reflected in the tables below on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

***Debt Securities Available for Sale, at Fair Value***

For debt securities available for sale, fair value was estimated using a market approach. The majority of these securities are fixed income instruments that are not quoted on an exchange but are traded in active markets. Prices for these instruments are obtained through third-party data service providers or dealer market participants with which the Company has historically transacted both purchases and sales of securities. Prices obtained from these sources include market quotations, matrix pricing and discounted cash flow pricing. Matrix pricing, a Level 2 input, is a mathematical technique used principally to value certain securities to a benchmark or to comparable securities. The Company evaluates the quality of Level 2 matrix pricing through comparison to similar assets with greater liquidity and evaluation of projected cash flows. Discounted cash flows, a Level 3 input, is estimated by discounting the expected future cash flows using the current rates for securities with similar credit ratings and similar remaining maturities. As the Company is responsible for the determination of fair value, it performs quarterly analysis on the prices received from the pricing service to determine whether the prices are reasonable estimates of fair value. Specifically, the Company compares the prices received from the pricing service to a secondary pricing source. Additionally, the Company compares changes in the reported market values and returns to relevant market indices to assess the reasonableness of the reported prices. The Company's internal price verification procedures and review of fair value methodology documentation provided by independent pricing services has not historically resulted in an adjustment in the prices obtained from the pricing service. The Company may hold debt instruments issued by the U.S. government and U.S. government-sponsored agencies that are traded in active markets with readily accessible quoted market prices that are considered Level 1 inputs. The Company classifies the estimated fair value of its loan portfolio as Level 3.

***Equity Securities, at Fair Value***

The Company holds equity securities that are traded in active markets with readily accessible quoted market prices that are considered Level 1 inputs. A trust preferred security that is not traded in an active market and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("FHLMC") and Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA") preferred stock, are considered Level 2 instruments. In addition, Level 2 instruments include Atlantic Community Bankers Bank ("ACBB") stock, which is based on redemption at par value and can only be sold to the issuing ACBB or another institution that holds ACBB stock.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(17) Fair Value Measurements (continued)**

*Derivatives*

The Company records all derivatives included in other assets and liabilities in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition at fair value. The accounting for changes in the fair value of derivatives depends on the intended use of the derivative, whether the Company has elected to designate a derivative in a hedging relationship and apply hedge accounting, and whether the hedging relationship has satisfied the criteria necessary to apply hedge accounting. See note 21 for disclosures related to the accounting treatment for derivatives.

The fair value of the Company's derivatives is determined using discounted cash flow analysis using observable market-based inputs, which are considered Level 2 inputs.

The following tables present the assets and liabilities reported in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition at their fair values as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, by level within the fair value hierarchy:

	<b>December 31, 2023</b>			
	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Fair Value Measurements</b>		
		<b>Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)</b>	<b>Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)</b>	<b>Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)</b>
	(In thousands)			
Debt securities available for sale:				
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$ 145,501	\$ 137,800	\$ 7,701	\$ —
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations	867,585	—	867,585	—
Municipal obligations	2,702	—	892	1,810
Corporate debt securities	77,769	—	69,842	7,927
Total debt securities available for sale	<u>1,093,557</u>	<u>137,800</u>	<u>946,020</u>	<u>9,737</u>
Equity securities	4,079	3,758	321	—
Derivative assets	18,898	—	18,898	—
	<u>\$ 1,116,534</u>	<u>\$ 141,558</u>	<u>\$ 965,239</u>	<u>\$ 9,737</u>
Derivative liabilities	\$ 25,025	\$ —	\$ 25,025	\$ —

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(17) Fair Value Measurements (continued)**

	December 31, 2022			
	Fair Value	Fair Value Measurements		
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
	(In thousands)			
Debt securities available for sale:				
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$ 63,566	\$ 55,178	\$ 8,388	\$ —
Mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations	1,181,727	—	1,181,727	—
Municipal obligations	3,575	—	897	2,678
Corporate debt securities	79,766	—	70,321	9,445
Total debt securities available for sale	<u>1,328,634</u>	<u>55,178</u>	<u>1,261,333</u>	<u>12,123</u>
Equity securities	3,384	3,053	331	—
Derivative assets	19,756	—	19,756	—
	<u>\$ 1,351,774</u>	<u>\$ 58,231</u>	<u>\$ 1,281,420</u>	<u>\$ 12,123</u>
Derivative liabilities	\$ 19,072	\$ —	\$ 19,072	\$ —

The table below provides activity of assets reported as Level 3 for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
	(In thousands)
Debt securities available for sale:	
Balance of recurring Level 3 assets - January 1, 2022	\$ —
Transfers into Level 3 assets	13,539
Maturity of Level 3 asset	(914)
Change in fair value of Level 3 assets	(502)
Balance of recurring Level 3 assets - December 31, 2022	<u>12,123</u>
Maturity of Level 3 asset	(918)
Change in fair value of Level 3 assets	(1,468)
Balance of recurring Level 3 assets - December 31, 2023	<u>\$ 9,737</u>

The fair value of investments placed in Level 3 is estimated by discounting the expected future cash flows using reasonably available current rates for comparable new issue securities with similar structure, including original maturity, call date, and assumptions about risk. Discounted cash flow estimated valuations are subsequently validated against comparable structures as an approximation of value.

Expected cash flows were projected based on contractual cash flows. There were no transfers to Level 3 assets during the year ended December 31, 2023. Two private placement corporate debt securities classified as available for sale and four private placement municipal obligations classified as available for sale were transferred from Level 2 to Level 3 during the year ended December 31, 2022.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(17) Fair Value Measurements (continued)**

Private placement debt security cash flows were discounted to a market yield of 12.00% (weighted average is 12.00%), and the cash flows for private placement municipal obligations were discounted to a market yield ranging from 3.40% to 3.99% (weighted average is 3.69%).

The period end valuations were support by an analysis prepared by an independent third party market participant and approved by management.

**Assets Measured at Fair Value on a Non-Recurring Basis**

The valuation techniques described below were used to estimate fair value of financial instruments measured on a non-recurring basis as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

**Individually Analyzed Collateral Dependent Loans/Impaired Loans**

The fair value of collateral dependent loans that are individually analyzed or were previously deemed impaired is measured based on the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate or, as a practical expedient, at the loan's observable market price or the fair value of the collateral if the loan is collateral dependent. For individually analyzed loans measured for impairment based on the fair value of the underlying collateral, fair value was estimated using a market approach. The Company measures the fair value of collateral underlying impaired loans primarily through obtaining independent appraisals that rely upon quoted market prices for similar assets in active markets. These appraisals include adjustments, on an individual case-by-case basis, to comparable assets based on the appraisers' market knowledge and experience, as well as adjustments for estimated costs to sell between 6% and 8%. For non-collateral dependent loans, management estimates fair value using discounted cash flows based on inputs that are largely unobservable. The Company classifies these loans as Level 3 within the fair value hierarchy.

**Mortgage Servicing Rights, Net ("MSR"s")**

Mortgage servicing rights are carried at the lower of cost or estimated fair value. The estimated fair value of MSRs is obtained through an analysis of future cash flows, incorporating assumptions that market participants would use in determining fair value including market discount rates, prepayments speeds, servicing income, servicing costs, default rates and other market driven data, including the market's perception of future interest rate movements. The prepayment speed and the discount rate are considered two of the most significant inputs in the model. A significant degree of judgment is involved in valuing the mortgage servicing rights using Level 3 inputs. The use of different assumptions could have a significant effect on this fair value estimate.

The following tables present the assets and liabilities reported in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition at their fair values on a non-recurring basis at December 31, 2023 and 2022, by level within the fair value hierarchy:

	December 31, 2023			
	Fair Value	Fair Value Measurements		
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
	(In thousands)			
Impaired loans	\$ 5,000	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 5,000
Mortgage servicing rights	\$ 2,908	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2,908
	<u>\$ 7,908</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 7,908</u>



**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(17) Fair Value Measurements (continued)**

	December 31, 2022			
	Fair Value	Fair Value Measurements		
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
		(In thousands)		
Mortgage servicing rights	\$ 2,107	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2,107
	\$ 2,107	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2,107

The following table presents information for Level 3 assets measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis at December 31, 2023 and 2022:

December 31, 2023					
Fair Value	Valuation Methodology	Unobservable Inputs	Range of Inputs	Weighted Average	
(Dollars in thousands)					
Impaired loans	\$ 5,000 Other	Contracted modification agreement	— %	— %	
Mortgage servicing rights	\$ 2,908 Discounted cash flow	Prepayment speeds and discount rates <sup>(1)</sup>	4.3% - 27.2%	8.1 %	
December 31, 2022					
Fair Value	Valuation Methodology	Unobservable Inputs	Range of Inputs	Weighted Average	
(Dollars in thousands)					
Mortgage servicing rights	\$ 2,107 Discounted cash flow	Prepayment speeds and discount rates <sup>(2)</sup>	5.5% - 27.1%	8.6 %	

(1) Value of SBA servicing rights based on a discount rate of 15.50%.

(2) Value of SBA servicing rights based on a discount rate of 14.50%.

**Other Fair Value Disclosures**

The Company is required to disclose estimated fair value of financial instruments, both assets and liabilities on and off the balance sheet, for which it is practicable to estimate fair value. A description of the valuation methodologies used for those assets and liabilities not recorded at fair value on a recurring or non-recurring basis are set forth below.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

For cash and due from banks, federal funds sold and short-term investments, the carrying amount approximates fair value due to their nature and short-term maturities.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(17) Fair Value Measurements (continued)**

**Debt Securities Held to Maturity**

For debt securities held to maturity, fair value was estimated using a market approach. The majority of the Company's securities are fixed income instruments that are not quoted on an exchange but are traded in active markets. Prices for these instruments are obtained through third-party data service providers or dealer market participants with which the Company has historically transacted both purchases and sales of securities. Prices obtained from these sources include market quotations and matrix pricing. Matrix pricing, a Level 2 input, is a mathematical technique used principally to value certain securities to benchmark or to compare securities. The Company evaluates the quality of Level 2 matrix pricing through comparison to similar assets with greater liquidity and evaluation of projected cash flows. As the Company is responsible for the determination of fair value, it performs quarterly analysis on the prices received from the pricing service to determine whether the prices are reasonable estimates of fair value. Specifically, the Company compares the prices received from the pricing service to a secondary pricing source. Additionally, the Company compares changes in the reported market values and returns to relevant market indices to assess the reasonableness of the reported prices. The Company's internal price verification procedures and review of fair value methodology documentation provided by independent pricing services has not historically resulted in an adjustment in the prices obtained from the pricing service. The Company also holds debt instruments issued by the U.S. government and U.S. government sponsored agencies that are traded in active markets with readily accessible quoted market prices that are considered Level 1 inputs within the fair value hierarchy.

**Federal Home Loan Bank Stock ("FHLB")**

The fair value of FHLB stock is based on redemption at par value and can only be sold to the issuing FHLB, to other FHLBs, or to other member banks. As such, the Company's FHLB stock is recorded at cost, or par value, and is evaluated for impairment each reporting period by considering the ultimate recoverability of the investment rather than temporary declines in value. The Company classifies the estimated fair value as Level 2 within the fair value hierarchy.

**Loans Receivable**

Fair values are estimated for portfolios of loans with similar financial characteristics. Loans are segregated by type such as commercial mortgage, residential mortgage, commercial, construction, and consumer and other. Each loan category is further segmented into fixed and adjustable rate interest terms and into performing and non-performing categories.

The fair value of performing loans was estimated using a combination of techniques, including a discounted cash flow model that utilizes a discount rate that reflects the Company's current pricing for loans with similar characteristics and remaining maturity, adjusted by an amount for estimated credit losses inherent in the portfolio at the balance sheet date. The rates take into account the expected yield curve, as well as an adjustment for prepayment risk, when applicable. The Company classifies the estimated fair value of its loan portfolio as Level 3.

The fair value for significant non-performing loans was based on recent external appraisals of collateral securing such loans, adjusted for the timing of anticipated cash flows. The Company classifies the estimated fair value of its non-performing loan portfolio as Level 3.

**Deposits**

The fair value of deposits with no stated maturity, such as demand, money market, and savings and club deposits are payable on demand at each reporting date and classified as Level 2. The estimated fair value of certificates of deposit was based on the discounted value of contractual cash flows. The discount rate was estimated using the Company's current rates offered for deposits with similar remaining maturities. The Company classifies the estimated fair value of its certificates of deposit portfolio as Level 2.

**Borrowings**

The fair value of borrowings was estimated by discounting future cash flows using rates available for debt with similar terms and maturities and is classified by the Company as Level 2 within the fair value hierarchy.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(17) Fair Value Measurements (continued)**

**Commitments to Extend Credit and Letters of Credit**

The fair value of commitments to extend credit and letters of credit was estimated using the fees currently charged to enter into similar agreements, taking into account the remaining terms of the agreements and the present creditworthiness of the counter-parties. For fixed rate loan commitments, fair value also considers the difference between current levels of interest rates and the committed rates. The fair value estimates of commitments to extend credit and letters of credit are deemed immaterial.

The following tables present the assets and liabilities reported in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition at their fair values as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	December 31, 2023				
	Carrying Value	Total Fair Value	Fair Value Measurements		
			Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
(In thousands)					
<b>Financial assets:</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 423,249	\$ 423,249	\$ 423,249	\$ —	\$ —
Debt securities available for sale	1,093,557	1,093,557	137,800	946,020	9,737
Debt securities held to maturity	401,154	357,177	—	357,177	—
Equity securities	4,079	4,079	3,758	321	—
Federal Home Loan Bank stock	81,022	81,022	—	81,022	—
Loans receivable, net	7,819,441	7,366,184	—	—	7,366,184
Derivative assets	18,898	18,898	—	18,898	—
<b>Financial liabilities:</b>					
Deposits	\$ 7,846,556	\$ 7,828,259	\$ —	\$ 7,828,259	\$ —
Borrowings	1,528,695	1,531,179	—	1,531,179	—
Derivative liabilities	25,025	25,025	—	25,025	—

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(17) Fair Value Measurements (continued)**

		December 31, 2022				
		Fair Value Measurements				
Carrying Value	Total Fair Value	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)		
(In thousands)						
<b>Financial assets:</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 179,228	\$ 179,228	\$ 179,228	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Debt securities available for sale	1,328,634	1,328,634	55,178	1,261,333	12,123	—
Debt securities held to maturity	421,523	370,391	—	370,391	—	—
Equity securities	3,384	3,384	3,053	331	—	—
Federal Home Loan Bank stock	58,114	58,114	—	58,114	—	—
Loans receivable, net	7,624,761	6,771,095	—	—	6,771,095	—
Derivative assets	19,756	19,756	—	19,756	—	—
<b>Financial liabilities:</b>						
Deposits	\$ 8,001,159	\$ 7,942,782	\$ —	\$ 7,942,782	\$ —	\$ —
Borrowings	1,127,047	1,146,265	—	1,146,265	—	—
Derivative liabilities	19,072	19,072	—	19,072	—	—

**Limitations**

Fair value estimates are made at a specific point in time, based on relevant market information and information about the financial instrument. These estimates do not reflect any premium or discount that could result from offering for sale at one time the Company's entire holdings of a particular financial instrument. Because limited markets exist for a significant portion of the Company's financial instruments, fair value estimates are based on judgments regarding future expected loss experience, current economic conditions, risk characteristics of various financial instruments, and other factors. These estimates are subjective in nature and involve uncertainties and matters of significant judgment and, therefore, cannot be determined with precision. Changes in assumptions could significantly affect the estimates.

Fair value estimates are based on existing on and off-balance-sheet financial instruments without attempting to estimate the value of anticipated future business and the value of assets and liabilities that are not considered financial instruments. Other significant assets and liabilities that are not considered financial assets or liabilities include goodwill and intangible assets, deferred tax assets and liabilities, office properties and equipment, and bank-owned life insurance.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(18) Earnings per Share**

Basic earnings per share ("EPS") is computed by dividing net income available to common shareholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. For purposes of calculating basic EPS, weighted average common shares outstanding excludes treasury stock, unallocated employee stock ownership plan shares that have not been committed for release and deferred compensation obligations required to be settled in shares of Company stock.

Diluted EPS is computed using the same method as basic EPS and reflects the potential dilution which could occur if stock options and unvested shares were exercised and converted into common stock. The potentially diluted shares would then be included in the weighted average number of shares outstanding for the period using the treasury stock method.

The following is a reconciliation of the numerators and denominators of the basic and diluted earnings per share calculations for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021:

	<b>December 31,</b>		
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	(In thousands, except per share data)		
Net income	\$ 36,086	\$ 86,173	\$ 92,049
<b>Shares:</b>			
Weighted average shares outstanding - basic	102,656,388	105,580,823	104,156,112
Weighted average diluted shares outstanding	238,581	612,338	—
Weighted average shares outstanding - diluted	102,894,969	106,193,161	104,156,112
<b>Earnings per share:</b>			
Basic	\$ 0.35	\$ 0.82	\$ 0.88
Diluted	\$ 0.35	\$ 0.81	\$ 0.88

For the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, the average number of stock options which could potentially dilute basic earnings per share in the future that were not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share because to do so would have been anti-dilutive totaled 704,526, 129,049, and 3,726,249 respectively.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(19) Parent-only Financial Information**

The condensed financial statements of Columbia Financial, Inc. (parent company) are presented below:

**Statements of Financial Condition**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	(In thousands)	
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and due from banks	\$ 8,644	\$ 59,754
Short-term investments	108	131
Total cash and cash equivalents	8,752	59,885
Equity securities, at fair value	191	201
Investment in subsidiaries	1,000,185	979,841
Loan receivable from Columbia Bank	36,432	38,187
Other assets	2,918	13,760
Total assets	\$ 1,048,478	\$ 1,091,874
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>		
Liabilities:		
Borrowings	\$ 6,962	\$ 36,888
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	1,181	1,391
Total liabilities	8,143	38,279
Stockholders' equity	1,040,335	1,053,595
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 1,048,478	\$ 1,091,874

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(19) Parent-only Financial Information (continued)**

**Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income**

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
	(In thousands)		
Dividends from subsidiary	\$ 45,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 65,000
<b>Interest income:</b>			
Loans receivable	1,814	1,893	1,969
Debt securities available for sale and equity securities	18	10	43
Interest-earning deposits	8	7	—
Total interest income	<u>46,840</u>	<u>81,910</u>	<u>67,012</u>
Interest expense on borrowings	1,339	1,600	427
Net interest income	<u>45,501</u>	<u>80,310</u>	<u>66,585</u>
Equity earnings (loss) income in subsidiaries	(8,432)	9,132	27,652
<b>Non-interest income:</b>			
Gain on securities transactions	—	—	383
Change in fair value of equity securities	(10)	(15)	(35)
Other non-interest income	—	650	—
Total non-interest income (loss)	<u>(10)</u>	<u>635</u>	<u>348</u>
<b>Non-interest expense:</b>			
Merger-related expenses	41	522	546
Loss on extinguishment of debt	300	—	—
Other non-interest expense	1,502	2,861	2,203
Total non-interest expense	<u>1,843</u>	<u>3,383</u>	<u>2,749</u>
Income before income tax (benefit) expense	35,216	86,694	91,836
Income tax (benefit) expense	(870)	521	(213)
Net income	<u>36,086</u>	<u>86,173</u>	<u>92,049</u>
Other comprehensive income (loss)	20,561	(133,377)	23,706
Comprehensive income (loss)	<u>\$ 56,647</u>	<u>\$ (47,204)</u>	<u>\$ 115,755</u>

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(19) Parent-only Financial Information (continued)**

**Statements of Cash Flows**

	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	(In thousands)		
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Net income	\$ 36,086	\$ 86,173	\$ 92,049
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Amortization of intangible assets	74	73	21
Gain on securities transactions	—	—	(383)
Change in fair value of equity securities	10	15	35
Loss on extinguishment of debt	300	—	—
Deferred tax expense	2,019	2,463	1,830
Decrease (increase) in other assets	8,894	(642)	(7,721)
(Decrease) increase in accrued expenses and other liabilities	(890)	(997)	691
Equity in undistributed (earnings) of subsidiaries	8,432	(9,132)	(27,652)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>\$ 54,925</u>	<u>\$ 77,953</u>	<u>\$ 58,870</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Proceeds from sales of equity securities	—	—	1,390
Purchases of equity securities	—	—	(91)
Repayment of loan receivable from Columbia Bank	1,755	1,675	1,599
Net cash acquired in acquisition	—	31	—
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>\$ 1,755</u>	<u>\$ 1,706</u>	<u>\$ 2,898</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>			
Repayment of term note	\$ (30,300)	\$ —	\$ —
Net proceeds from term note	—	—	29,841
Purchase of treasury stock	(80,497)	(93,996)	(107,774)
Exercise of options	42	325	(25)
Issuance of common stock allocated to restricted stock award grants	4,066	2,624	—
Restricted stock forfeitures	(501)	(1,451)	(1,234)
Repurchase of shares for taxes	(623)	(4,614)	(357)
Issuance of treasury stock allocated to restricted stock award grants	—	—	896
Net cash (used in) financing activities	<u>\$ (107,813)</u>	<u>\$ (97,112)</u>	<u>\$ (78,653)</u>



**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(19) Parent-only Financial Information (continued)**

Statements of Cash Flows

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
	(In thousands)		
Net (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	\$ (51,133)	\$ (17,453)	\$ (16,885)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	59,885	77,338	94,223
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u>\$ 8,752</u>	<u>\$ 59,885</u>	<u>\$ 77,338</u>
<b>Non-cash investing and financing activities:</b>			
Excise tax on net stock repurchases	\$ 800	\$ —	\$ —
<b>Acquisition:</b>			
Net cash and cash equivalents acquired in acquisition	\$ —	\$ 31	\$ —

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(20) Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)**

The following tables present the components of other comprehensive income (loss), both gross and net of tax, for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021:

	<b>For the Years Ended December 31,</b>					
	<b>2023</b>			<b>2022</b>		
	<b>Before Tax</b>	<b>Tax Effect</b>	<b>After Tax</b>	<b>Before Tax</b>	<b>Tax Effect</b>	<b>After Tax</b>
	(In thousands)					
Components of other comprehensive income (loss):						
Unrealized gain (loss) on debt securities available for sale:	\$ 41,181	\$ (11,544)	\$ 29,637	\$ (190,682)	\$ 53,427	\$ (137,255)
Accretion of unrealized (loss) on debt securities reclassified as held to maturity	(14)	4	(10)	(31)	9	(22)
Reclassification adjustment for (loss) gain included in net income	(10,847)	3,053	(7,794)	210	(59)	151
	<u>30,320</u>	<u>(8,487)</u>	<u>21,833</u>	<u>(190,503)</u>	<u>53,377</u>	<u>(137,126)</u>
Derivatives:						
Unrealized (loss) gain on swap contracts accounted for as cash flow hedges	(1,274)	356	(918)	7,524	(2,103)	5,421
Employee benefit plans:						
Amortization of prior service cost included in net income	(56)	16	(40)	(56)	15	(41)
Reclassification adjustment of actuarial net (loss) included in net income	(776)	218	(558)	(2,677)	749	(1,928)
Change in funded status of retirement obligations	340	(96)	244	345	(48)	297
	<u>(492)</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>(354)</u>	<u>(2,388)</u>	<u>716</u>	<u>(1,672)</u>
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	<u>\$ 28,554</u>	<u>\$ (7,993)</u>	<u>\$ 20,561</u>	<u>\$ (185,367)</u>	<u>\$ 51,990</u>	<u>\$ (133,377)</u>

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(20) Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) (continued)**

	<u>For the Year Ended December 31,</u>		
	<u>2021</u>		
	<u>Before Tax</u>	<u>Tax Effect</u>	<u>After Tax</u>
	(In thousands)		
Components of other comprehensive income (loss):			
Unrealized (loss) on debt securities available for sale:	\$ (39,000)	\$ 8,021	\$ (30,979)
Accretion of unrealized (loss) on debt securities reclassified as held to maturity	(28)	25	(3)
Reclassification adjustment for gain included in net income	2,025	(427)	1,598
	<u>(37,003)</u>	<u>7,619</u>	<u>(29,384)</u>
Derivatives:			
Unrealized gain on swap contracts accounted for as cash flow hedges	<u>14,514</u>	<u>(2,575)</u>	<u>11,939</u>
Employee benefit plans:			
Amortization of prior service cost included in net income	(55)	16	(39)
Reclassification adjustment of actuarial net (loss) included in net income	(4,044)	1,129	(2,915)
Change in funded status of retirement obligations	50,999	(6,894)	44,105
	<u>46,900</u>	<u>(5,749)</u>	<u>41,151</u>
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	<u>\$ 24,411</u>	<u>\$ (705)</u>	<u>\$ 23,706</u>

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(20) Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) (continued)**

The following tables present the changes in the components of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax, for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021:

	For the Years Ended December 31,							
	2023				2022			
	Unrealized (Losses) on Debt Securities Available for Sale	Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Swaps	Employee Benefit Plans	Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss)	Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Debt Securities Available for Sale	Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Swaps	Employee Benefit Plans	Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss)
	(In thousands)							
Balance at beginning of period	\$ (135,482)	\$ 504	\$ (44,318)	\$ (179,296)	\$ 1,644	\$ (4,917)	\$ (42,646)	\$ (45,919)
Current period changes in other comprehensive income (loss)	21,833	(918)	(354)	20,561	(137,126)	5,421	(1,672)	(133,377)
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	<u>\$ (113,649)</u>	<u>\$ (414)</u>	<u>\$ (44,672)</u>	<u>\$ (158,735)</u>	<u>\$ (135,482)</u>	<u>\$ 504</u>	<u>\$ (44,318)</u>	<u>\$ (179,296)</u>

	For the Year Ended December 31,			
	2021			
	Unrealized Gains on Debt Securities Available for Sale	Unrealized (Losses) on Swaps	Employee Benefit Plans	Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss)
	(In thousands)			
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 31,028	\$ (16,856)	\$ (83,797)	\$ (69,625)
Current period changes in other comprehensive income (loss)	(29,384)	11,939	41,151	23,706
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	<u>\$ 1,644</u>	<u>\$ (4,917)</u>	<u>\$ (42,646)</u>	<u>\$ (45,919)</u>

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(20) Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) (continued)**

The following tables reflect amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) in the Consolidated Statements of Income and the affected line item in the statement where net income is presented for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021:

	<b>Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) Components</b>			<b>Affected Line Items in the Consolidated Statements of Income</b>
	<b>For the Years Ended December 31,</b>			
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	
	(In thousands)			
Reclassification adjustment for (loss) gain included in net income	\$ (10,847)	\$ 210	\$ 2,025	(Loss)gain on securities transactions
Reclassification adjustment of actuarial net (loss) included in net income	(776)	(2,677)	(4,044)	Other non-interest expense
Total before tax	(11,623)	(2,467)	(2,019)	
Income tax benefit	3,271	690	702	
Net of tax	<u>\$ (8,352)</u>	<u>\$ (1,777)</u>	<u>\$ (1,317)</u>	

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(21) Derivatives and Hedging Activities**

The Company uses derivative financial instruments as components of its market risk management, principally to manage interest rate risk. Certain derivatives are entered into in connection with transactions with commercial customers. Derivatives are not used for speculative purposes. All derivatives are recognized as either assets or liabilities in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition, reported at fair value and presented on a gross basis. Until a derivative is settled, a favorable change in fair value results in an unrealized gain that is recognized as an asset, while an unfavorable change in fair value results in an unrealized loss that is recognized as a liability.

The Company generally applies hedge accounting to its derivatives used for market risk management purposes. Hedge accounting is permitted only if specific criteria are met, including a requirement that a highly effective relationship exists between the derivative instrument and the hedged item, both at inception of the hedge and on an ongoing basis. Changes in the fair value of effective fair value hedges are recognized in current earnings (with the change in fair value of the hedged asset or liability also recognized in earnings). Changes in the fair value of effective cash flow hedges are recognized in other comprehensive income (loss) until earnings are affected by the variability in cash flows of the designated hedged item. Ineffective portions of hedge results are recognized in current earnings. Changes in the fair value of derivatives for which hedge accounting is not applied are recognized in current earnings.

The Company formally documents at inception all relationships between the derivative instruments and the hedged items, as well as its risk management objectives and strategies for undertaking the hedge transactions. This process includes linking all derivatives that are designated as hedges to specific assets and liabilities, or to specific firm commitments. The Company also formally assesses, both at inception of the hedge and on an ongoing basis, whether the derivatives that are used in hedging transactions are highly effective in offsetting changes in the fair values or cash flows of the hedged items. If it is determined that a derivative is not highly effective or has ceased to be a highly effective hedge, the Company would discontinue hedge accounting prospectively. Gains or losses resulting from the termination of a derivative accounted for as a cash flow hedge remain in other comprehensive income (loss) and is (accrued) amortized to earnings over the remaining period of the former hedging relationship.

Certain derivative financial instruments are offered to certain commercial banking customers to manage their risk of exposure and risk management strategies. These derivative instruments consist primarily of currency forward contracts and interest rate swap contracts. The risks associated with these transactions is mitigated by simultaneously entering into similar transactions having essentially offsetting terms with a third party. In addition, the Company executes interest rate swaps with third parties in order to hedge the interest rate risk of short-term FHLB advances.

**Currency Forward Contracts.** At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company had no currency forward contracts in place with commercial banking customers.

**Interest Rate Swaps.** At December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022, the Company had 80 and 54 interest rate swaps in place with commercial banking customers executed by offsetting interest rate swaps with third parties, with aggregated notional amounts of \$277.8 million and \$205.0 million, respectively. These derivatives are not designated as hedges and are not speculative. These interest rate swaps do not meet hedge accounting requirements.

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company had 30 and 20 interest rate swaps with notional amounts of \$380.0 million and \$290.0 million, respectively, hedging certain FHLB advances. These interest rate swaps meet the cash flow hedge accounting requirements. Interest rate swaps designated as cash flow hedges involve the receipt of variable amounts from a counter-party in exchange for the Company making fixed-rate payments over the life of the agreements without the exchanges of the underlying notional amount.

At December 31, 2023, and 2022, the Company had two interest rate swaps hedged against pools of floating rate commercial loans with notional amounts totaling \$100.0 million. These swaps meet the cash flow hedge accounting requirements. Interest rate swaps designated as cash flow hedges involve the receipt of variable amounts from a counter-party in exchange for the Company making fixed-rate payments over the life of the agreements without the exchange of the underlying notional amount.

At December 31, 2023, the Company had eight interest rate fair value swaps with notional amounts totaling \$700.0 million. The Company is exposed to changes in the fair value of certain of its fixed-rate pools of assets due to changes in benchmark interest rates. The Company uses interest rate swaps to manage its exposure to changes in fair value on these instruments attributable to changes in the designated benchmark interest rate of SOFR. At December 31, 2022, the Company did not have any fair value swaps.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**(21) Derivatives and Hedging Activities (continued)**

Interest rate swaps designated as fair value hedges involve the payment of fixed-rate amounts to a counterparty in exchange for the Company receiving variable-rate payments over the life of the agreements without the exchange of the underlying notional amount.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Company recorded hedge ineffectiveness associated with these contracts totaling approximately \$47,000. For the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, the Company did not record any hedge ineffectiveness associated with these contracts.

The tables below present the fair value of the Company's derivative financial instruments as well as their classification in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition at December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	December 31, 2023			
	Asset Derivative		Liability Derivative	
	Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition	Fair Value	Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition	Fair Value
	(In thousands)			
Derivatives:				
Interest rate products - designated hedges	Other Assets	\$ 5,394	Other Liabilities	\$ 11,530
Interest rate products - non-designated hedges	Other Assets	13,504	Other Liabilities	13,495
<b>Total derivative instruments</b>		<b>\$ 18,898</b>		<b>\$ 25,025</b>

	December 31, 2022			
	Asset Derivative		Liability Derivative	
	Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition	Fair Value	Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition	Fair Value
	(In thousands)			
Derivatives:				
Interest rate products - designated hedges	Other Assets	\$ 4,290	Other Liabilities	\$ 3,918
Interest rate products - non-designated hedges	Other Assets	15,466	Other Liabilities	15,154
<b>Total derivative instruments</b>		<b>\$ 19,756</b>		<b>\$ 19,072</b>

For the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021 gains (losses) of \$(302,000), \$489,000, and \$115,000 respectively, were recorded for changes in fair value of interest rate swaps with third parties.

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, accrued interest was \$1.2 million and \$22,000.

The Company has agreements with counterparties that contain a provision that if the Company defaults on any of its indebtedness, including default where repayment of the indebtedness has not been accelerated by the lender, then the Company could also be declared in default of its derivative obligations.

At December 31, 2023, the termination value of derivatives in a net liability position, which includes accrued interest, was \$6.1 million. The Company has collateral posting thresholds with certain of its derivative counterparties and has posted collateral of \$2.4 million against its obligations under these agreements.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(21) Derivatives and Hedging Activities (continued)**

**Fair Value Hedges of Interest Rate Risk.** The Company is exposed to changes in the fair value of certain of its fixed-rate pools of assets due to changes in benchmark interest rates. The Company uses interest rate swaps to manage its exposure to changes in fair value on these instruments attributable to changes in the designated benchmark interest rate, SOFR. Interest rate swaps designated as fair value hedges involve the payment of fixed-rate amounts to a counterparty in exchange for the Company receiving variable-rate payments over the life of the agreements without the exchange of the underlying notional amount.

For derivatives designated and that qualify as fair value hedges, the gain or loss on the derivative as well as the offsetting gain or loss on the hedged item attributable to the hedged risk are recognized in interest income.

At December 31, 2023, the following amounts were recorded on the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition related to cumulative basis adjustment for fair value hedges:

	<b>Carrying Amount of Hedged Assets/(Liabilities)</b>	<b>Cumulative Amount of Fair Value Hedging Adjustment included in the Carrying Amount of Hedged Assets/(Liabilities)</b>
	<b>At December 31, 2023</b>	
	(In thousands)	
Fair value interest rate products	\$ 706,412	\$ 6,412

At December 31, 2022, the Company had no fair value hedges.



## COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

### Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

#### (22) Revenue Recognition

The Company's revenue includes net interest income on financial instruments and non-interest income. Most of the Company's revenue is not within the scope of Accounting Standards Codification Topic 606 which does not apply to revenue associated with financial instruments, including interest income on loans and securities, which comprise the majority of the Company's revenue. Revenue-generating activities that are within the scope of this guidance are components of non-interest income. These revenue streams can generally be classified as demand deposit account fees, title insurance fees, insurance agency income and other fees.

The following table presents non-interest income, segregated by revenue streams in-scope and out-of-scope of Topic 606, for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021.

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2023	2022	2021
	(In thousands)		
Non-interest income			
In-scope of Topic 606:			
Demand deposit account fees	\$ 5,145	\$ 5,293	\$ 3,803
Title insurance fees	2,400	3,423	6,088
Insurance agency income	188	141	—
Other non-interest income	7,991	8,666	7,600
Total in-scope non-interest income	15,724	17,523	17,491
Total out-of-scope non-interest income	11,655	12,877	21,340
Total non-interest income	\$ 27,379	\$ 30,400	\$ 38,831

Demand deposit account fees include monthly maintenance fees and service charges. These fees are generally derived as a result of either transaction-based or serviced-based services. The Company's performance obligation for these services is generally satisfied, and revenue recognized, at the time the transaction is completed, or the service rendered. Fees for these services are generally received from the customer either at the time of the transaction or monthly.

Title insurance fees are generally recognized at the time the transaction closes or when the service is rendered.

RSI Insurance Agency, Inc. performs the function of an insurance intermediary, by introducing the policyholder and insurer for life and health, and property and casualty insurance, and is compensated by a commission fee for placement of an insurance policy. Commission and fees are generally recognized as of the effective date of the insurance policy. Commission revenues related to installment billings are recognized on the invoice date. Subsequent commission adjustments are recognized upon the receipt of notification from insurance companies concerning matters necessitating such adjustments.

Other non-interest income includes check printing fees, traveler's check fees, gift card fees, branch service fees, overdraft fees, account analysis fees, other deposit related fees, wealth management related fee income which includes annuity fees, brokerage commissions, and asset management fees. Wealth management related fee income represent fees earned from customers as consideration for asset management and investment advisory services provided by a third party. The Company's performance obligation is generally satisfied monthly, and the resulting fees are recognized monthly based upon the month-end market value of the assets under management and the applicable fee rate. The Company does not earn performance-based incentives. The Company's performance obligation for these transaction-based services are generally satisfied, and related revenue recognized, at the time the transaction closes or when the service is rendered or a point in time when the service is completed.

Also included in other fees are debit card and ATM fees which are transaction-based. Debit card revenue is primarily comprised of interchange fees earned when a customer's Company card is processed through a card payment network. ATM fees are largely generated when a Company cardholder uses a non-Company ATM, or a non-Company cardholder uses a Company ATM. The Company's performance obligation for these services is satisfied when the service is rendered. Payment is generally received at time of transaction or monthly.

Out-of-scope non-interest income primarily consists of income from bank-owned life insurance, loan prepayment and servicing fees, net fees on loan level swaps, gains and losses on the sale of loans and securities, credit card interchange income, changes in the fair value of equity securities, and proceeds from an insurance settlement. None of these revenue streams are subject to the requirements of Topic 606.

**COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**(23) Subsequent Events**

The Company has evaluated events subsequent to December 31, 2023 and through the financial statement issuance date of February 29, 2024.

In February 2024, we received notification from the FDIC that the estimated loss attributable to the protection of uninsured depositors at Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank is \$20.4 billion, an increase of approximately \$4.1 billion from the estimate of \$16.3 billion described in the final rule. (See Regulation/Supervision - "Insurance of Deposit Accounts" for additional information.) The FDIC plans to provide institutions subject to the special assessment an updated estimate of each institution's quarterly and total special assessment expense with its first quarter 2024 special assessment invoice, to be released in June 2024. The Company cannot reasonably estimate the additional assessment amount at this time.



**EX-21.0****Subsidiaries of the Registrant**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Percent Ownership</u>	<u>State of Incorporation</u>
Columbia Bank	100%	United States of America*
Freehold Bank	100%	United States of America*
First Jersey Title Services, Inc.	100%	New Jersey**
1901 Commercial Management Company LLC	100%	New Jersey**
1901 Residential Management Company LLC	100%	New Jersey**
Columbia Investment Services, Inc.	100%	New Jersey**
2500 Broadway Corporation	100%	Delaware**
CSB Realty Corporation	100%	Delaware***
Stewardship Realty LLC	100%	New Jersey**
Stewardship Statutory Trust I	100%	Delaware****
RSI Insurance Agency, Inc.	100%	New Jersey**

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\* Subsidiary of Columbia Financial, Inc.

\*\* Subsidiary of Columbia Bank

\*\*\* Subsidiary of 2500 Broadway Corporation

\*\*\*\* Unconsolidated subsidiary of Columbia Financial, Inc.

**EX-23.1**

**Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the registration statements (No. 333-221912) on Form S-1 and (Nos. 333-226465, 333-226466 and 333-232766) on Form S-8 of our reports dated February 29, 2024, with respect to the consolidated financial statements of Columbia Financial, Inc. and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Short Hills, New Jersey  
February 29, 2024

**EX-31.1**

**Certification Pursuant to**

**Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a)**

Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

I, Thomas J. Kemly, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this report on Form 10-K of Columbia Financial, Inc.
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officers and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a. designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b. designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c. evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d. disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal year that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officers and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors:
  - a. all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b. any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 29, 2024

/s/Thomas J. Kemly  
Thomas J. Kemly  
President and Chief Executive Officer

**EX-31.2**

**Certification Pursuant to**

**Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a)**

Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

I, Dennis E. Gibney, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this report on Form 10-K of Columbia Financial, Inc.
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officers and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a. designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b. designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c. evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d. disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal year that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and

The registrant's other certifying officers and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors:

- a. all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
- b. any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 29, 2024

/s/Dennis E. Gibney  
Dennis E. Gibney  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

**Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350,  
as adopted pursuant to Section 906  
of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**

Thomas J. Kemly, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Dennis E. Gibney, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Columbia Financial Inc. (the "Company"), each certify in his capacity as an officer of the Company that he has reviewed the annual report of the Company on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023 and that to the best of his knowledge:

- (1) the report fully complies with the requirements of Sections 13(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) the information contained in the report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: February 29, 2024

/s/Thomas J. Kemly  
Thomas J. Kemly  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: February 29, 2024

/s/Dennis E. Gibney  
Dennis E. Gibney  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to the Company and will be retained by the Company and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.



COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC.  
INCENTIVE-COMPENSATION RECOUPMENT POLICY

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 24, 2023

1. Policy Purpose; Effective Date and Retroactive Application. The purpose of Columbia Financial, Inc.'s (the "Company") Incentive-Compensation Recoupment Policy (the "Policy") is to enable the Company to recoup Erroneously Awarded Compensation in the event that the Company is required to prepare an Accounting Restatement. This Policy is designed to comply with, and shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with, Section 10D of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), Rule 10D-1 under the Exchange Act and Rule 5608 of the Nasdaq Listing Rules (the "Listing Rule"). The Policy shall apply to any Incentive-Based Compensation that is received by an Executive Officer on or after the Effective Date, even if such Incentive-Based Compensation was approved, awarded, granted or paid to an Executive Officer prior to the Effective Date, and, subject to the terms stated in this Policy, the Committee may affect recoupment under this Policy from any amount of compensation approved, awarded, granted, payable or paid to the Covered Executive prior to, on or after the Effective Date. Unless otherwise defined in this Policy, capitalized terms shall have the meaning set forth in Section 7.
  2. Policy Administration. This Policy shall be administered by the Compensation Committee of the Board (the "Committee"), unless otherwise determined by the Board. The Committee shall have full and final authority to make all determinations under this Policy, in each case to the extent permitted under the Listing Rule and in compliance with Section 409A of the Code. All determinations and decisions made by the Committee pursuant to the provisions of this Policy shall be final, conclusive and binding on all persons, including the Company, its affiliates, its stockholders and Executive Officers. Any action or inaction by the Committee with respect to an Executive Officer under this Policy shall not limit the Committee's actions or decisions not to act with respect to any other Executive Officer under this Policy or under any similar policy, agreement or arrangement, nor shall any such action or inaction serve as a waiver of any rights the Company may have against any Executive Officer other than as set forth in this Policy.
  3. Policy Application. This Policy shall apply to all Incentive-Based Compensation received by a person: (a) after beginning service as an Executive Officer; (b) who served as an Executive Officer at any time during the performance period for such Incentive-Based Compensation; (c) while the Company had a class of securities listed on a national securities exchange or a national securities association; and (d) during the three completed fiscal years immediately preceding the Accounting Restatement Date. In addition to such last three completed fiscal years, the immediately preceding clause (d) includes any transition period that results from a change in the Company's fiscal year within or immediately following such three completed fiscal years; provided, however, that a transition period between the last day of the Company's previous fiscal year end and the first day of its new fiscal year that comprises a period of nine to twelve months shall be deemed a completed fiscal year. For purposes of this Section 3, Incentive-Based Compensation is deemed received in the Company's fiscal period during which the Financial Reporting Measure specified in the Incentive-Based Compensation award is attained, even if the payment or grant of the Incentive-Based Compensation occurs after the end of such period. For the avoidance of doubt, (i) Incentive-Based Compensation that is subject to both a Financial Reporting Measure vesting condition and a service-based vesting condition shall be considered received when the relevant Financial Reporting Measure is achieved, even if the Incentive-Based Compensation continues to be subject to the service-based vesting condition and (ii) compensatory awards that vest solely by reference to the completion of a
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service period, that are discretionary or that are based on the attainment of goals unrelated to Financial Reporting Measures are not Incentive-Based Compensation for purposes of this Policy.

4. Recoupment Requirement. In the event of an Accounting Restatement, the Company must recoup, reasonably promptly, Erroneously Awarded Compensation, in amounts determined pursuant to this Policy. The Company's obligation to recoup Erroneously Awarded Compensation is not dependent on if or when the Company files restated financial statements. Recoupment under this Policy with respect to an Executive Officer shall not require the finding of any misconduct by such Executive Officer or a finding that such Executive Officer is responsible for the accounting error leading to an Accounting Restatement. In the event of an Accounting Restatement, the Company shall satisfy the Company's obligations under this Policy to recoup any amount owed from any applicable Executive Officer by exercising its sole and absolute discretion in how to accomplish such recoupment, to the extent permitted under the Listing Rule and in compliance with (or pursuant to an exemption from the application of) Section 409A of the Code. By way of example, the method of recoupment may include, without limitation, any of the following: (i) seeking reimbursement of all or part of any cash or equity-based award; (ii) cancelling prior cash or equity-based awards, whether vested or unvested or paid or unpaid; (iii) cancelling or offsetting against any planned future cash or equity-based awards; (iv) forfeiture of deferred compensation, subject to compliance with Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations thereunder; and (v) any other method authorized by applicable law or contract. For the avoidance of doubt, subject to compliance with applicable law, the Committee may affect recoupment under this Policy from any amount otherwise payable to an Executive Officer, including, without limitation, base salary, bonuses or commissions and compensation previously deferred by the Executive Officer.

The Company's recoupment obligation pursuant to this Section 4 shall not apply to the extent that the Committee, or in the absence of the Committee, a majority of the independent directors serving on the Board, determines that and one of the following conditions is satisfied and, therefore, recoupment would be impracticable:

- i. The direct expense paid to a third party to assist in enforcing this Policy would exceed the amount to be recouped. Before concluding that it would be impracticable to recoup any amount of Erroneously Awarded Compensation based on expense of enforcement, the Company must make a reasonable attempt to recoup such Erroneously Awarded Compensation, document such reasonable attempt(s) to recoup, and provide that documentation to the Stock Exchange; or
    - ii. Recoupment would likely cause an otherwise tax-qualified retirement plan, under which benefits are broadly available to employees of the registrant, to fail to meet the requirements of Section 401(a)(13) or Section 411(a) of the Code.
  5. Prohibition on Indemnification and Insurance Reimbursement. The Company is prohibited from indemnifying any Executive Officer or former Executive Officer against the loss of Erroneously Awarded Compensation. Further, the Company is prohibited from paying or reimbursing an Executive Officer for purchasing insurance to cover any such loss.
  6. Required Filings. The Company shall file all disclosures with respect to this Policy and actions taken pursuant to this Policy in accordance with the requirements of the federal securities laws, including disclosures required by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Stock Exchange. A copy of this Policy and any amendments hereto shall be posted on the Company's website and filed as an exhibit to the Company's annual report on Form 10-K.
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## 7. Definitions.

*“Accounting Restatement”* means an accounting restatement due to the material noncompliance of the Company with any financial reporting requirement under the securities laws, including any required accounting restatement to correct an error in previously issued financial statements that is material to the previously issued financial statements, or that would result in a material misstatement if the error were corrected in the current period or left uncorrected in the current period.

*“Accounting Restatement Date”* means the earlier to occur of: (i) the date the Board, a committee of the Board, or the officer or officers of the Company authorized to take such action if Board action is not required, concludes, or reasonably should have concluded, that the Company is required to prepare an Accounting Restatement or (ii) the date a court, regulatory agency, or other legally authorized body directs the Company to prepare an Accounting Restatement.

*“Board”* means the board of directors of the Company.

*“Code”* means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and any regulations promulgated under the Code.

*“Erroneously Awarded Compensation”* means, in the event of an Accounting Restatement, the amount of Incentive-Based Compensation previously received that exceeds the amount of Incentive-Based Compensation that otherwise would have been received had it been determined based on the restated amounts in such Accounting Restatement. The amount of Erroneously Awarded Compensation shall be determined on a gross basis without regard to any taxes paid by the relevant Executive Officer; provided, however, that for Incentive-Based Compensation based on the Company’s stock price or total shareholder return, where the amount of Erroneously Awarded Compensation is not subject to mathematical recalculation directly from the information in an Accounting Restatement: (i) the amount of Erroneously Awarded Compensation shall be based on a reasonable estimate of the effect of the Accounting Restatement on the stock price or total shareholder return upon which the Incentive-Based Compensation was received, and (ii) the Company must maintain documentation of the determination of such reasonable estimate and provide such documentation to the Stock Exchange. In the case of Incentive-Based Compensation credited or contributed to a notional account balance, Erroneously Awarded Compensation shall be the amount subject to recoupment and any earnings accrued on such amount through the date of recoupment.

*“Executive Officer”* means the Company’s president, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer (or if there is no such accounting officer, the controller), any vice-president of the Company in charge of a principal business unit, division, or function, any other officer who performs a policy-making function, or any other person who performs similar policy-making functions for the Company. An executive officer of the Company’s parent or subsidiary is deemed an “Executive Officer” if the executive officer performs policy making functions for the Company.

*“Financial Reporting Measure”* means any measure that is determined and presented in accordance with the accounting principles used in preparing the Company’s financial statements, and any measure that is derived wholly or in part from such measure; provided, however, that a Financial Reporting Measure is not required to be presented within the Company’s financial statements or included in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission to qualify as a Financial Reporting Measure. Financial Reporting Measures include but are not limited to the following (and any measures derived from the following): Company stock price; total shareholder return; revenues; net income; operating income; profitability of one or more reportable segments; financial ratios (e.g., accounts receivable turnover and inventory turnover rates); earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization; funds from

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operations and adjusted funds from operations; liquidity measures (e.g., working capital, operating cash flow); return measures (e.g., return on invested capital, return on assets); earnings measures (e.g., earnings per share); and any of such financial reporting measures relative to a peer group, where the Company's financial reporting measure is subject to an Accounting Restatement. A Financial Reporting Measure need not be presented within the Company's financial statements or included in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

*"Incentive-Based Compensation"* means any compensation that is granted, earned, or vested based wholly or in part upon the attainment of a Financial Reporting Measure.

*"Stock Exchange"* means the national stock exchange on which the Company's common stock is listed.

8. **Acknowledgement.** Each Executive Officer shall sign and return to the Company, within 30 calendar days following the later of (i) the effective date of this Policy first set forth above, or (ii) the date the individual becomes an Executive Officer, the Acknowledgement Form attached hereto as Exhibit A, pursuant to which the Executive Officer agrees to be bound by, and to comply with, the terms and conditions of this Policy.
  9. **Severability.** To the extent that any provision of this Policy is found to be unenforceable or invalid under any applicable law, such provision shall be applied to the maximum extent permitted and shall automatically be deemed amended in a manner consistent with its objectives to the extent necessary to conform to any limitations required under applicable law.
  10. **Amendment; Termination.** The Board may amend this Policy from time to time in its sole and absolute discretion and may amend this Policy as it deems necessary to comply with the Listing Rule or to comply with (or maintain an exemption from the application of) Section 409A of the Code. The Board may terminate this Policy at any time; provided that the termination of this Policy would not cause the Company to violate the federal securities laws, or the rules promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission or the Listing Rule.
  11. **Other Recoupment Obligations; General Rights.** To the extent that the application of this Policy would provide for recoupment of Incentive-Based Compensation that is also subject to recoupment under Section 304 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the amount the Executive Officer has already reimbursed the Company will be credited to the required recoupment under this Policy. This Policy shall not limit the rights of the Company to take any other actions or pursue other remedies that the Company may deem appropriate under the circumstances and under applicable law, in each case to the extent permitted under the Listing Rule and in compliance with (or pursuant to an exemption from the application of) Section 409A of the Code. Nothing contained in this Policy shall limit the Company's ability to seek recoupment, in appropriate circumstances (including circumstances beyond the scope of this Policy) and as permitted by applicable law, of any amounts from any individual, in each case to the extent permitted under the Listing Rule and in compliance with (or pursuant to an exemption from the application of) Section 409A of the Code.
  12. **Effective Date; Applicability.** The effective date of this Policy is October 24, 2023. This Policy replaces the Clawback Policy adopted by the Board on January 24, 2023. Any applicable award agreement or other document setting forth the terms and conditions of any compensation covered by this policy shall be deemed to include the restrictions imposed herein and incorporate this policy by reference and, in the event of any inconsistency, the terms of this policy will govern.
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13. Successors. This Policy is binding and enforceable against all Executive Officers and their beneficiaries, heirs, executors, administrators or other legal representatives.
  14. Governing Law. This Policy and all rights and obligations hereunder are governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey, excluding any choice of law rules or principles that may direct the application of the laws of another jurisdiction.
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Exhibit A

COLUMBIA FINANCIAL, INC.  
INCENTIVE-BASED COMPENSATION RECOUPMENT POLICY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

By signing below, the undersigned acknowledges and confirms that the undersigned has received and reviewed a copy of the Columbia Financial, Inc. (the "Company") Incentive-Based Compensation Recoupment Policy (the "Policy").

By signing this Acknowledgement, the undersigned acknowledges and agrees that the undersigned is and will continue to be subject to the Policy and that the Policy will apply both during and after the undersigned's employment with the Company. Further, by signing below, the undersigned agrees to abide by the terms of the Policy, including, without limitation, by returning any Erroneously Awarded Compensation (as defined in the Policy) to the Company to the extent required by, and in a manner consistent with, the Policy.

Executive Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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