



# NEWS

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Metropolitan National Bank Announces Third Quarter 2009 Results**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (October 30, 2009) – Metropolitan National Bank today announced its financial results for the quarter ending September 30, 2009.

Metropolitan posted a quarterly loss of \$13.7 million for the third quarter of 2009, compared to the net income figure of \$1.1 million for the third quarter of 2008. The loss is attributable to the ongoing challenges commercial real estate loan customers are facing during this economic recession. The bank continues to build significant loan loss reserves for possible future losses in the commercial real estate sector and has aggressively addressed the decline of commercial real estate values.

“While this year has been particularly tough for many financial institutions including Metropolitan, we have been fortunate to have the capital to cover these losses,” said Lunsford W. Bridges, President and CEO of Metropolitan. “Although we are by no means satisfied with our results for the third quarter, we have made an improvement over our second quarter numbers. In addition, we anticipate that the bank will return to profitability in 2010 and beyond,” Bridges added.

Metropolitan National Bank’s Tier 1 Capital Ratio, as of September 30, is 6.67 percent and the Risk Based Capital Ratio stands at 10.36 percent. While these levels of capital are below the limits prescribed in the OCC Formal Agreement, the bank has sufficient time to improve these ratios.

Metropolitan National Bank continues to show strong deposit growth in both central and northwest Arkansas, due in large part to the confidence our customers have in us. The bank has maintained its commitment to our communities and the organizations that it serves.

“Metropolitan National Bank will be able to weather this economic recession due to our loyal customers and dedicated staff,” said President and CEO, Lunsford W. Bridges.

### **About Metropolitan National Bank**

Metropolitan National Bank is one of Arkansas’ largest banks, offering a comprehensive line of banking, mortgage and wealth management services for individuals, businesses and the public sector. Founded in 1970, the bank currently has assets of \$1.5 billion. Additional information about Metropolitan National Bank can be found at [metbank.com](http://metbank.com).

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