

PRESS RELEASE

FROM:

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Hingham Institution for Savings

Hingham, MA (Nasdaq - HIFS)

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19% INCREASE IN QUARTERLY EARNINGS

HINGHAM INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS (NASDAQ – HIFS), Hingham, Massachusetts, announced a 19% increase in second quarter earnings as compared to those of the same quarter last year. The second quarter results also demonstrate continued growth in the overall balance sheet.

President Robert H. Gaughen, Jr. announced "Our earnings for the second quarter again increased by a very strong 19% over those of the second quarter last year. This increase is primarily attributable to the expansion of our balance sheet. Consumers and small business customers are seeking alternatives to the service levels of the larger regional banks. Our local market presents an ongoing opportunity for an effective community bank."

The net income of \$1,229,000, or \$0.60 per share (\$0.59 diluted), for the second quarter represents a 19% increase over the \$1,032,000, or \$0.51 per share (\$0.50 diluted), for the second quarter of 2000. The Bank's total assets as of June 30, 2001 of \$359,783,000 represent a 12% increase over the total of \$322,618,000 on June 30, 2000. Total loan originations of \$50,365,000 during the first six months of 2001 contributed strongly to the 11% increase in the size of the Bank's loan portfolio during the past year. The asset growth was funded by a 9% increase in deposit balances amounting to \$18,766,000 and a \$14,940,000 increase in Federal Home Loan Bank advances over the past year.

Asset quality continued to remain strong. At the end of the first half of 2001, the Bank had no foreclosed properties and again reported no loans more than 60 days in arrears. Despite some slowing of the general economy, asset quality levels remain the best in the Bank's history.

The annualized Return on Average Assets and Return on Average Equity for the first half of 2001 were 1.44% and 16% respectively. Book value per share was \$15.45 as of June 30, 2001, and the Bank continued to merit the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's highest capital rating with a tier one capital ratio of 8.97%.

Hingham Institution for Savings is a Massachusetts-chartered savings bank. Incorporated in 1834, it is the oldest financial institution headquartered in Hingham and one of the oldest in Massachusetts. The Bank's main offices are located on Main Street, Hingham, Massachusetts 02043, phone (781) 749-2200. The Bank also maintains branch offices in South Hingham and the neighboring towns of Cohasset, Hull, Scituate, and Weymouth.

The Bank's shares of common stock are listed and traded on The Nasdaq Stock Market under the symbol HIFS.

HINGHAM INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS

Consolidated Balance Sheets

	June 30, 2001	June 30, 2000		
(Unaudited)	(\$ in thousands except per share amounts)			
ASSETS				
Cash and due from banks	\$ 8,357	\$	7,070	
Interest-bearing deposits	20,542		16,332	
Cash and cash equivalents	28,899	3	23,402	
Securities available for sale, at fair value	41,139		37,332	
Loans, net of allowance for loan losses of				
\$2,392,000 in 2001 and \$2,122,000 in 2000	278,808		251,494	
Banking premises and equipment, net	3,055		3,273	
Accrued interest receivable	2,098		1,902	
Deferred income tax asset, net	912		1,148	
Federal Home Loan Bank stock, at cost	4,343		3,646	
Other assets	529		421	
Total assets	\$359,783	\$	322,618	
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY				
Deposits	\$ 236,438	\$	217,672	
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	86,857		71,917	
Other borrowed funds	207		229	
Mortgagors' escrow accounts	1,001		926	
Accrued interest payable	394		356	
Other liabilities	3,291	(<u></u>	3,894	
Total liabilities	328,188	_	294,994	
Commitments and contingencies				
Stockholders' equity:				
Preferred stock, \$1.00 par value,				
2,500,000 shares authorized; none issued	=		-	
Common stock, \$1.00 par value, 5,000,000 shares				
authorized; shares issued and outstanding: 2,045,			1000 10000000000	
at June 30, 2001 and 2,040,750 at June 30, 2000	2,045		2,041	
Additional paid-in capital	8,857		8,809	
Undivided profits	20,252		17,045	
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	441	-	(271)	
Total stockholders' equity	31,595	-	27,624	
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$359,783_	\$_	322,618	
Book value per share	\$15.45	\$ =	13.54	
Return on average equity	16.00 %	=	14.91 %	

HINGHAM INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS

Consolidated Statements of Income

		Three Months Ended June 30,			Six Months Ended June 30,		
(In Thousands, Except for Per Share Amounts)		2001	2000	72	2001	2	000
(Unaudited)							
Interest and dividend income:							
Loans	\$	5,685 \$	5,064	\$	196000		9,908
Investment securities		630	660		1,291		1,282
Interest-bearing deposits		175	137		322		248
Total interest and dividend income	3	6,490	5,861	10	12,961	_1	1,438
Interest expense:							
Deposits		2,084	1,873		4,259		3,622
Borrowed funds		1,117	1,044		2,254		2,046
Total interest expense		3,201	2,917	23	6,513		5,668
Net interest income		3,289	2,944		6,448		5,770
Provision for loan losses	19	60	80	714	120	_	134
Net interest income after provision for loan losses		3,229	2,864	174	6,328		5,636
Other income:		2 122					
Customer service fees on deposits		177	172		356		328
Gain on sale of loans and securities available for sale		2			136		
Other		93	41	8	155		95
Total other income		272	213		647		423
Operating expenses:		10000-W-196					
Salaries and employee benefits		924	832		1,835		1,685
Data processing		131	114		269		225
Occupancy and equipment		187	184		366		372
Legal		6	8		10		14
Other		393	367		757		700
Total operating expenses		1,641	1,505		3,237		2,996
Income before income taxes		1,860	1,572		3,738		3,063
Income tax provision		631	540	- 0	1,266		1,047
Net income	\$	1,229 \$	1,032	\$		\$_	2,016
Cash dividends declared per common share	\$	0.15 \$	0.13	\$	0.30	\$	0.26
Weighted average shares outstanding:							
Basic		2,045	2,041		2,045	_	2,041
Diluted		2,069	2,052		2,067	=	2,053
Earnings per share:	1000					Φ.	0.00
Basic	\$		0.51	\$		\$	0.99
Diluted	\$	0.59 \$	0.50	\$	1.20	\$_	0.98