

Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP  
Form 10-K  
October 14, 2004

=====

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549-1004

-----

FORM 10-K

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

For the fiscal year ended July 31, 2004

Commission file number 1-12006

FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORPORATION  
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada 88-0244792  
(State of incorporation) (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

733 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10017  
(Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (212) 599-8000

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Name of exchange on which registered
Common Stock, \$.50 par value	New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of Registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an accelerated filer as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Yes  No

The aggregate market value of the Common Stock of the Registrant held by non-affiliates of the Registrant on October 1, 2004 was \$602,341,379.84. The aggregate market value was computed by reference to the closing price of the Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange on the prior day (\$37.48 per share). For the purposes of this response, executive officers and directors are deemed to be the affiliates of the Registrant and the holding by non-affiliates was computed as 16,071,008 shares. The number of shares of Registrant's Common Stock outstanding as of October 1, 2004 was 17,319,978 shares.

# Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

## DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement for its Annual Meeting of Stockholders, to be held December 14, 2004, which will be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A within 120 days of the close of Registrant's 2004 fiscal year, are incorporated by reference in Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Except as expressly incorporated by reference, the Registrant's Proxy Statement shall not be deemed to be part of this report.

=====

## FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

Annual Report on Form 10-K  
for the year ended July 31, 2004

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### Part I

- Item 1. Business
- Item 2. Properties
- Item 3. Legal Proceedings
- Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders

#### Part II

- Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities
- Item 6. Selected Financial Data
- Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations
- Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk
- Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data
- Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure
- Item 9A. Controls and Procedures

#### Part III

- Item 10. Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant
- Item 11. Executive Compensation
- Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management
- Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services

Part IV

Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statements Schedules, and Reports on Form 8-K

Signatures

2

PART I

Item 1. BUSINESS

Financial Federal Corporation was incorporated under the laws of Nevada in 1989. We are an independent nationwide financial services company with \$1.5 billion of assets at July 31, 2004. We finance industrial and commercial equipment through installment sales and leasing programs for dealers, manufacturers and end users of such equipment. We also make capital loans to equipment users, secured by the same types of equipment and other collateral. We provide our services nationwide to middle-market businesses, generally with annual revenues of up to \$25 million, in the general construction, road and infrastructure construction and repair, road transportation, waste disposal and manufacturing industries. We focus on financing a wide range of new and used revenue-producing/essential-use equipment of major manufacturers that is movable, has an economic life longer than the term of the financing, is not subject to rapid technological obsolescence, has applications in multiple industries and has a relatively broad resale market. The equipment we finance includes air compressors, bulldozers, buses, cement mixers, compactors, crawler cranes, earth-movers, excavators, generators, hydraulic truck cranes, loaders, machine tools, motor graders, pavers, personnel and material lifts, recycling equipment, resurfacers, rough terrain cranes, sanitation trucks, scrapers, trucks, truck tractors and trailers. Virtually all of our finance receivables are secured by a first lien on such equipment collateral.

Available Information

Our website is <http://www.financialfederal.com>. We make the following filings available in the Investor Relations section of our website after they are electronically filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission: Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, Definitive Proxy Statement and any amendments to those reports. Also available on our website are our Corporate Governance Guidelines, Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, and the charters for our Audit Committee, Executive Compensation and Stock Option Committee, and Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. These filings and charters are also available in print from us free of charge to any stockholder who makes a request to Financial Federal Corporation, 733 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017, Attn: Corporate Secretary. The Registrant also intends to satisfy any disclosure obligations under Item 10 of Form 8-K regarding any amendment or waiver relating to its Code of Business Conduct and Ethics by posting such information on its website.

Marketing

We market our finance and leasing services through marketing personnel

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

based in more than twenty domestic locations, including five full service operations centers. We originate finance receivables through our relationships with equipment dealers and, to a lesser extent, manufacturers (collectively referred to as "vendors"). We also market our services directly to equipment users for the acquisition or use of equipment and for capital loans. We do not use brokers to generate business. Our marketing personnel are full-time employees who are salaried rather than commission-based and the majority participate in our stock plans.

Our marketing activities are relationship and service oriented. We focus on providing prompt, responsive and customized service to our customers and business prospects. Our marketing and managerial personnel have, on average, approximately twenty years of experience in the industries they serve. We believe that the experience, knowledge and relationships of our executives and marketing personnel, related to our customer and prospect base, equipment values, resale markets and local economic and industry conditions, enable us to compete on the basis of prompt, responsive and customized service. Our customer services include making prompt credit decisions, arranging financing structures meeting customers' needs and our underwriting criteria, providing direct contact between customers and our executives with decision-making authority, and providing prompt and knowledgeable responses to customers' inquiries and temporary issues encountered in the ordinary course of their business.

We obtain business in several ways. Vendors refer their customers (equipment users) to us, or such customers approach us directly to finance equipment purchases or to refinance existing debt. We also purchase installment sale contracts, leases and personal property security agreements from vendors who extend credit to purchasers of their equipment and we make capital loans to equipment users. Customers seek capital loans to consolidate debt, provide working capital, reduce monthly debt service, enhance bonding capacity (generally in the case of road contractors) and acquire additional equipment or other assets. In addition, we lease equipment to end users, generally under noncancelable full-payout leases.

We have relationships with more than 100 vendors that are generally mid-sized, since larger vendors typically generate concentrations of business greater than we presently service. We are not obligated to purchase any finance receivables from vendors nor are vendors obligated to sell any finance receivables to us. Our vendor relationships are nonexclusive and we

3

are not dependent on any single vendor. We independently approve the credit of prospective obligors for all vendor-generated business and we use our own documentation.

In order to expand our customer base and broaden our marketing coverage geographically, we have purchased portfolios of finance receivables from financial institutions, vendors and others generally in the range of \$5.0 million to \$15.0 million. These portfolios included finance receivables secured by a broader range of equipment than we typically finance directly.

### Originating, Structuring and Underwriting of Finance Receivables

We originate finance receivables in amounts generally ranging from \$50,000 to \$1.0 million with fixed or floating interest rates and terms of two to five years. Our finance receivables provide for monthly payments and may include prepayment premium provisions. The average transaction size of our finance receivables was \$183,000 in fiscal 2004, \$209,000 in fiscal 2003 and \$188,000 in fiscal 2002.

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

Our underwriting policies and procedures are designed to maximize yields and minimize delinquencies and charge-offs. Unlike many of our competitors, we do not use credit scoring models but instead rely upon the experience of our credit officers and management to assess creditworthiness and collateral. Each credit submission, regardless of size, requires the approval of at least two credit officers.

We structure transactions to meet the needs of our customers. Transactions include installment sales, leases or secured loans. Structuring transactions includes arranging terms and the repayment schedule, determining rate and other fees and charges, identifying the primary and any additional equipment collateral to be pledged, and evaluating the need for additional credit support such as liens on accounts receivable, inventory and/or real property, certificates of deposit, commercial paper, payment guarantees, security deposits, delayed funding and full or partial recourse to the vendor and/or the principals/affiliates of the obligor.

A vendor seeking to finance a sale of equipment through us or an equipment user seeking to obtain financing directly from us must submit a credit application. The credit application includes financial and other information of the obligor and any guarantors and a description of the collateral to be pledged or leased and its present or proposed use. Our credit personnel analyze the credit application, investigate the credit of the obligor and any guarantors, evaluate the primary collateral to be pledged, investigate financial, trade and industry references and review the obligor's payment history. We may also obtain reports from independent credit reporting agencies and conduct lien, UCC, litigation, judgement, bankruptcy and tax searches. If the credit application is approved on terms acceptable to the vendor and/or the obligor, we either purchase an installment sale contract or lease from the vendor or enter into a finance or lease transaction directly with the equipment user. We fund the transaction upon receiving all required documentation in form and substance satisfactory to us and our legal department. Under our documentation, the obligor/lessee is responsible for all applicable sales, use and property taxes.

We may obtain full or partial recourse on finance receivables assigned to us by vendors obligating them to pay us in the event of an obligor's default or a breach of warranty. We may also withhold an agreed upon amount from a vendor or obligor or obtain cash collateral as security.

The procedures used to purchase a portfolio of finance receivables include reviewing and analyzing the terms of the finance receivables, the credit of the related obligors, the documentation, the value of the related pledged collateral, the payment history of the obligors and the implicit yield to be earned.

### Collection and Servicing

Customer remittances of finance receivables are directed to bank lockboxes. Collection efforts for delinquent accounts are performed by collection personnel and managers in the respective operations centers in conjunction with senior management and, if necessary, the legal department. Senior management reviews all past due accounts at least monthly. Decisions regarding collateral repossession and the sale or other disposition of repossessed collateral are made by senior management and the legal department.

### Competition

Our business is highly competitive. We compete with banks, manufacturer-owned and other finance and leasing companies, and other financial

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

institutions including GE Capital Corp., CitiCapital, CIT and Wells Fargo. Some of our competitors may be better positioned to market their services and financing programs due to their ability to offer additional services and products and more favorable rates and terms. Many of these competitors are larger, have longer operating histories, possess greater financial and other resources and may have lower costs of funds, enabling them to provide financing at rates lower than we may be willing to provide. We compete by emphasizing a high level of equipment and financial expertise, customer

4

service, flexibility in structuring financing transactions, management involvement in customer relationships and by attracting and retaining the services of experienced managerial, marketing and administrative personnel. Our present strategy for attracting and retaining such personnel is to offer a competitive salary, an equity interest through participation in our stock plans and enhanced career opportunities.

### Employees

At July 31, 2004, we employed 216 people. All employees and officers are salaried. We offer group health and life insurance benefits, a qualified 401(k) plan and Section 125 cafeteria plans. We do not match employee contributions to the 401(k) plan. There are no collective bargaining, employment, pension or incentive compensation arrangements other than the following; deferred compensation agreements, stock option agreements, restricted stock agreements and the Chief Executive Officer's 2001 Management Incentive Plan and 2002 Supplemental Retirement Benefit. These agreements contain, without limitation, non-disclosure and non-solicitation provisions. We consider our relations with employees to be satisfactory.

### Regulation

Our commercial financing, lending and leasing activities are generally not subject to regulation, although certain states may regulate motor vehicle transactions, impose licensing, documentation and lien perfection requirements, and/or restrict the amount of interest or finance rates and other amounts that we may charge. Failure to comply with such regulations, requirements or restrictions could result in loss of principal and interest or finance charges, penalties and imposition of restrictions on future business activities.

### Executive Officers

Paul R. Sinsheimer, 57, has served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Company since December 2000, as President of the Company since September 1998, as an Executive Vice President of the Company from its inception in 1989 to September 1998 and as a director of the Company since its inception in 1989. From 1970 to 1989, Mr. Sinsheimer was employed by Commercial Alliance Corporation, where he served in several positions including Executive Vice President.

John V. Golio, 43, has served as an Executive Vice President of the Company since October 2001, as a Senior Vice President of the Company from 1997 through October 2001 and as a Vice President of the Company's major operating subsidiary and Branch Manager since joining the Company in January 1996. Before joining the Company, Mr. Golio was employed by Commercial Alliance Corporation and its successors in several capacities, including branch operations manager.

James H. Mayes, Jr., 35, has served as an Executive Vice President of

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

the Company since March 2004 and as a Vice President of the Company's major operating subsidiary and Branch Manager since 1999. Since joining the Company in 1992, Mr. Mayes held several positions including Regional Sales Manager through 1998.

William M. Gallagher, 55, has served as a Senior Vice President of the Company since 1990, as Chief Credit Officer since 2002 and as a Vice President of the Company from its inception in 1989 to 1990. From 1973 to 1989, Mr. Gallagher was employed by Commercial Alliance Corporation, where he held several positions including Vice President and Branch Manager.

Troy H. Geisser, 43, has served as a Senior Vice President and Secretary of the Company since February 1996 and as General Counsel from 1996 to 2000. From 1990 to 1996, Mr. Geisser held several positions, including Vice President of the Company's major operating subsidiary and Branch Manager. From 1986 to 1990, Mr. Geisser was employed by Commercial Alliance Corporation and its successors, where he held several positions including Northern Division Counsel.

Steven F. Groth, CFA, 52, has served as a Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since joining the Company in September 2000. Before joining the Company, Mr. Groth was Senior Banker and Managing Director of Specialty Finance and Transportation with Fleet Bank since 1997 and, from 1985 to 1996, he held several positions, including Division Head, with Fleet Bank and its predecessor, NatWest Bank.

Angelo G. Garubo, 44, has served as a Vice President and General Counsel of the Company since joining the Company in April 2000. From 1990 to 2000, Mr. Garubo was a partner in the law firm Danzig, Garubo & Kaye where he represented the Company in various matters.

David H. Hamm, CPA, 39, has served as a Vice President of the Company since October 2001, as Treasurer since March 2004 and as Controller since joining the Company in July 1996. From 1985 to 1996, Mr. Hamm was employed in the public accounting profession, including eight years as an audit manager.

5

### Item 2. PROPERTIES

Our executive offices are located at 733 Third Avenue, New York, New York and consist of approximately 6,500 square feet. At July 31, 2004, we had five full service operations centers (where credit analysis and approval, collection and marketing functions are performed) in Houston, Texas; Lisle (Chicago), Illinois; Teaneck (New York metropolitan area), New Jersey; Charlotte, North Carolina and Irvine (Los Angeles), California, consisting of approximately 4,000 to 16,000 square feet. We lease all of our office space. The leases terminate on various dates through fiscal 2011. We believe that our facilities are suitable and adequate for their present and proposed uses, and that suitable and adequate facilities should be available on reasonable terms for our future needs.

### Item 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

There are no material pending legal proceedings, other than ordinary routine litigation incidental to the business, to which we are a party or to which any of our property is subject.

### Item 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

No matters were submitted to a vote of security holders during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004.

### PART II

#### Item 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Our Common Stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "FIF." The quarterly high and low closing sales prices per share of the Common Stock as reported by the New York Stock Exchange follow:

	Price Range	
	High	Low
Fiscal Year 2004		
First Quarter ended October 31, 2003	\$34.15	\$29.70
Second Quarter ended January 31, 2004	\$35.00	\$29.22
Third Quarter ended April 30, 2004	\$34.91	\$31.30
Fourth Quarter ended July 31, 2004	\$35.29	\$29.60
Fiscal Year 2003		
First Quarter ended October 31, 2002	\$34.70	\$27.90
Second Quarter ended January 31, 2003	\$29.42	\$24.21
Third Quarter ended April 30, 2003	\$25.96	\$17.95
Fourth Quarter ended July 31, 2003	\$30.30	\$22.40

We have not paid or declared any cash dividends on our common stock. We may consider paying cash dividends on our common stock. Payment of cash dividends, if any, will depend upon our earnings, financial condition, capital requirements, cash flow, income tax laws and long-range plans and other factors deemed relevant by our Board of Directors.

We did not make any unregistered sales and we did not make any repurchases of our common stock during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004.

#### Number of Record Holders

There were 76 holders of record of our Common Stock at October 1, 2004. This amount includes nominees that hold our Common Stock on behalf of approximately 3,500 other persons and institutions in "Street Name."

#### Item 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The selected five-year financial data presented below should be read in conjunction with the information contained in Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, and our Consolidated Financial Statements and the Notes thereto contained in Item 8, Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.



## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

Years Ended July 31,	2004	2003	2002	2001
Finance Receivables, Net	\$1,436,828	\$1,391,735	\$1,412,298	\$1,289,866
Total Assets	1,463,918	1,426,082	1,447,846	1,313,666
Total Debt	1,093,700	1,042,276	1,030,396	931,599
Stockholders' Equity	303,890	316,396	248,569	206,411
Finance Income	118,305	130,247	138,777	138,277
Interest Expense	33,900	43,534	51,007	64,399
Net Interest Margin	84,405	86,713	87,770	73,888
Net Earnings	31,190	30,088	37,068	31,611
Earnings per Common Share, Diluted	1.72	1.65	1.99	1.77
Earnings per Common Share, Basic	1.75	1.67	2.23	1.99

In thousands, except per share amounts

### Item 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

#### OVERVIEW

Financial Federal Corporation is an independent financial services company operating through three wholly-owned subsidiaries. We do not have any unconsolidated subsidiaries, partnerships or joint ventures. We also do not have any off-balance sheet assets or liabilities and we are not involved in any income tax shelters. We have one fully consolidated special purpose entity that we established for our asset securitization facility.

We are engaged in one line of business; lending money in the form of secured loans and leases (collectively referred to as finance receivables) to small and medium sized businesses for their equipment financing needs. Our revenue is generated solely by interest and other fees/charges earned on our finance receivables. We need to borrow most of the money we lend; therefore liquidity is of paramount importance to us. Typically, we borrow from banks and insurance companies and issue commercial paper directly and indirectly to money market funds and other investors. At July 31, 2004, approximately 80% of our finance receivables are funded with debt and 20% with equity.

We earn interest income on our finance receivables and incur interest expense on our debt. We focus on maximizing the spread between the rates we earn on our receivables and the rates we incur on our debt while maintaining the credit quality of our receivables and managing our interest rate risk. Interest rates earned on our finance receivables are currently 95% fixed and 5% floating and interest rates incurred on our debt are currently 33% fixed and 67% floating. Therefore, our profitability can be affected significantly by changes in market interest rates. Our profitability can also be affected significantly by the credit quality of our finance receivables. Credit quality can affect revenue, provisions for credit losses and operating expenses through reclassifying receivables to/from non-accrual status, incurring charge-offs and incurring costs associated with handling non-performing assets. We employ various strategies to manage our interest rate risk and credit risk.

Our main areas of focus are asset quality, liquidity and interest rate risk. Each is discussed in detail in separate sections of this discussion. These areas are integral to our long-term profitability. Our key performance measures are net charge-offs, non-performing assets, delinquencies, receivables growth, leverage, available liquidity, net interest margin and

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

net interest spread.

### CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements and related disclosures in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires us to make judgments, assumptions, and estimates that affect the amounts reported in the Consolidated Financial Statements and accompanying notes. Note 1 to the Consolidated Financial Statements describes the significant accounting policies and methods used in the preparation of the Consolidated Financial Statements. Estimates are used for, but not limited to, the accounting for the allowance for credit losses on finance receivables, impaired finance

7

receivables, assets received to satisfy receivables and residual values on direct financing leases. The following critical accounting policies are impacted significantly by judgments, assumptions and estimates used in the preparation of the Consolidated Financial Statements.

The allowance for credit losses on finance receivables is an estimate of losses inherent in our finance receivables at the balance sheet date. The allowance is difficult to determine and requires a significant degree of judgment. The allowance is based on total finance receivables, charge-off experience, non-accrual/delinquent finance receivables and our current assessment of the risks inherent in our finance receivables from national and regional economic conditions, industry conditions, concentrations, the financial condition of counterparties (includes the obligor/lessee and other parties we may have recourse to such as equipment vendors/manufacturers and owners/affiliates of the obligor/lessee), equipment collateral values and other factors. The allowance level may have to be changed significantly due to unexpected changes in these factors. Increases in the allowance would reduce net earnings through higher provisions for credit losses. The allowance was \$24.1 million (1.65% of finance receivables) at July 31, 2004 which included \$0.7 million specifically allocated to impaired receivables.

The allowance includes amounts specifically allocated to impaired receivables and an unallocated general amount to provide for losses inherent in the remainder of the receivables portfolio. Upon evaluating the net realizable value of impaired receivables, we may record a write-down or establish a specific allowance based on the probability of loss. Write-downs are recorded based on the fair value of the underlying collateral. Specific allowances are established when the collection of all amounts due is not fully supported solely by the value of the underlying primary equipment collateral depending on the level and type of other items supporting collectibility. The general allowance is supported by an analysis of historical losses (charge-offs) covering a two-year period (in line with the average maturity of our receivables) from which percentage loss ranges are developed and applied to receivables based on their assigned risk profile. Risk profiles are assigned to receivables based on industry and past due status. The computed range of losses is adjusted for expected recoveries and differences between current and historical loss trends and other factors. The analysis is performed quarterly and is reviewed by senior management. At July 31, 2004, the computed range of losses was adjusted upward to account for the potential effects that the significant rise in oil prices could have on our customers' cash flows and ability to remit payments to us. Although our methodology is designed to compute probable losses, due to the significance of the estimates used the computed range of losses, as adjusted, may differ significantly from actual losses.

Impaired finance receivables are recorded at their current estimated net

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

realizable value (if less than their carrying amount). Assets received to satisfy receivables are recorded at their current estimated fair value less selling costs (if less than their carrying amount). These estimated values are based on our evaluation of the expected cash flows and market value/condition of the collateral/assets. Values are estimated by analyzing recent sales of similar equipment, used equipment publications, market knowledge and equipment vendor inquiries. Unexpected adverse changes in or incorrect conclusions regarding expected cash flows, market value/condition of collateral/assets or length of time needed to sell the equipment would require a write-down to be recorded. This would reduce net earnings. Impaired finance receivables and assets received to satisfy receivables totaled \$32.4 million (2.2% of finance receivables) at July 31, 2004.

Residual values are recorded on direct financing leases at the lowest of (i) any stated purchase option, (ii) the present value at the end of the initial lease term of rentals due under any renewal options or (iii) our projection of the equipment's fair value at the end of the lease. Residual values may not be fully realized due to subsequent unexpected adverse changes in equipment values. This would result in a write-down and reduce net earnings. Residual values were \$42.2 million (2.9% of finance receivables) at July 31, 2004. Historically, we have realized the recorded residual value upon disposition.

### SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

#### Credit Ratings

In July 2004, Fitch Ratings, Inc. ("Fitch", a Nationally Recognized Statistical Ratings Organization) raised its rating on our senior term debt to 'BBB+' from 'BBB' and revised its Rating Outlook to Stable from Positive. Fitch also affirmed its 'F2' rating on the commercial paper issued by our major operating subsidiary. The higher rating should broaden our ability to obtain term financing and may lower the cost of such financing. Asset quality, liquidity, funding source diversification, leverage, size, business model, growth prospects, conservatism and experience are among the factors considered in determining credit ratings.

#### Issuance of Senior Convertible Debentures

In April 2004, we issued \$175.0 million of senior convertible debentures and used the proceeds (net of \$4.4 million of issuance costs) to repay a \$65.0 million 7.05% term note that matured, to repurchase \$50.0 million of common

8

stock and to increase liquidity by repaying \$55.6 million of securitization and bank borrowings. The debentures also further diversified our funding sources and lengthened debt maturities. The debentures are currently rated 'BBB+' by Fitch with a stable outlook and do not contain any financial or other restrictive covenants. The senior debt of our subsidiaries is effectively senior to the debentures.

The debentures have a 2.0% fixed annual interest rate and interest is payable semi-annually. Commencing in April 2009, we may incur additional interest for a semi-annual interest period if the average market value of the debentures on the last five days of the prior interest period was at least 20% higher than their principal amount. Additional interest would be computed at the annual rate of 0.25% of the average market value of the debentures during the aforementioned five days.

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

The debentures are convertible into 4.0 million shares of our common stock at the conversion price of \$44.10 per share resulting in an initial conversion rate of 22.6778 shares per \$1,000 of principal. The conversion price was set at 32.5% over the April 5, 2004 closing price of \$33.28. The conversion rate would be adjusted if a specified corporate transaction occurs including dividend payments or stock splits. The debentures can be converted into common stock only under the following circumstances; (i) in any fiscal quarter if the closing price of our common stock was at least 30% higher than the conversion price for at least 20 of the last 30 trading days of the prior fiscal quarter (the "market price condition"), (ii) the debentures are rated 'BB' or lower by Fitch (three ratings levels lower than the initial rating), (iii) we call the debentures for redemption or (iv) a specified corporate transaction occurs. Currently, the market price condition would be met if the price of our common stock closed above \$57.33 for the required period. Our common stock closed at \$32.16 on July 30, 2004.

We can redeem the debentures for their principal amount anytime starting in April 2009 and debenture holders can require us to repurchase debentures at their principal amount on each five year anniversary of issuance or when a specified corporate transaction occurs. The debentures have a 30 year term. Upon conversion, we can deliver the value of convertible shares in any combination of cash and/or common stock. We may elect to irrevocably fix the payment of the principal amount of converted debentures in cash and any additional value in stock.

### Repurchase of Common Stock

In April 2004, we repurchased 1.5 million shares of our common stock with \$50.0 million of the convertible debentures proceeds. We paid \$33.28 (the April 5, 2004 closing price) per share. The shares repurchased represented 8% of shares outstanding. We repurchased the shares to offset the potential dilution of the 4.0 million shares issuable from the convertible debentures. Leverage increased to 3.7 from 3.0 on the date of the repurchase. The repurchase is accretive to basic and diluted earnings per share. At July 31, 2004, the 1.5 million shares were held in treasury.

## RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

### Comparison of Fiscal 2004 to Fiscal 2003

(\$ in millions, except per share amounts)	Fiscal 2004	Fiscal 2003	\$ Change	% Change
Finance income	\$ 118.3	\$ 130.2	\$ (11.9)	
Interest expense	33.9	43.5	(9.6)	
Net finance income before provision for credit losses	84.4	86.7	(2.3)	
Provision for credit losses	9.8	12.0	(2.2)	
Salaries and other expenses	23.5	23.4	0.1	
Loss on redemption of debt	--	1.7	(1.7)	
Provision for income taxes	19.9	19.5	0.4	
Net earnings	31.2	30.1	1.1	
Diluted earnings per share	1.72	1.65	0.07	
Basic earnings per share	1.75	1.67	0.08	

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

Net earnings increased by 4% to \$31.2 million in fiscal 2004 from \$30.1 million in fiscal 2003. Excluding a non-recurring \$1.7 million convertible debt redemption loss in fiscal 2003 (\$1.1 million after-tax), net earnings were the same in fiscal 2004 and 2003. The positive effects of fewer non-performing assets, the decrease in average debt exceeding the decrease in average finance receivables and, to a lesser extent, lower salary expense were offset by the effects of continued low market interest rates and, to a lesser extent, increased costs of being a public company (includes insurance, internal and external audit costs, legal fees and Sarbanes-Oxley compliance costs).

9

Finance income decreased by 9% to \$118.3 million in fiscal 2004 from \$130.2 million in fiscal 2003. The decrease resulted from the lower net yield of finance receivables. Continued low market interest rates have reduced the average net yield on finance receivables to 8.3% in fiscal 2004 from 9.1% in fiscal 2003. Average finance receivables decreased by less than 1% (\$3.0 million) to \$1.422 billion from \$1.425 billion.

Interest expense, incurred on borrowing used to fund finance receivables, decreased by 22% to \$33.9 million in fiscal 2004 from \$43.5 million in fiscal 2003. The decrease resulted from the lower weighted average cost of funds and, to a lesser extent, the 3% (\$27.0 million) decrease in average debt. Lower market interest rates, \$143.3 million of fixed rate term notes swapped to significantly lower floating rates and, to a lesser extent, the maturity of high fixed rate term notes reduced the weighted average cost of funds to 3.3% in fiscal 2004 from 4.1% in fiscal 2003.

Net finance income before provision for credit losses on finance receivables decreased by 3% to \$84.4 million in fiscal 2004 from \$86.7 million in fiscal 2003. Net interest margin (net finance income before provision for credit losses expressed as a percentage of average finance receivables outstanding) decreased to 5.9% in fiscal 2004 from 6.1% in fiscal 2003. The decrease resulted from the effects of continued low market interest rates.

The provision for credit losses on finance receivables decreased to \$9.8 million in fiscal 2004 from \$12.0 million in fiscal 2003 due to the decrease in net charge-offs. The provision for credit losses is the amount required to change the allowance for credit losses to the appropriate estimated level. Net charge-offs (write-downs of finance receivables less recoveries) decreased to \$9.5 million in fiscal 2004 from \$12.4 million in fiscal 2003. The loss ratio (net charge-offs expressed as an annual percentage of average finance receivables) decreased to 0.67% in fiscal 2004 from 0.87% in fiscal 2003. Net charge-offs decreased due to fewer non-accrual receivables and improved equipment resale values.

Salaries and other expenses increased by less than 1% to \$23.5 million in fiscal 2004 from \$23.4 million in fiscal 2003. The increase resulted from higher costs of being a public company offset by cost savings from the reduction in non-performing assets and, to a lesser extent, decreased salary expense due to the effect of work force reductions exceeding salary increases. The expense ratio (salaries and other expenses expressed as a percentage of average finance receivables outstanding) was 1.6% in fiscal 2004 and 2003.

The provision for income taxes increased to \$19.9 million in fiscal 2004 from \$19.5 million in fiscal 2003 resulting from the increase in earnings

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

before income taxes. Our effective tax rate was 39.0% in fiscal 2004 and 39.4% in fiscal 2003.

Diluted earnings per share increased by 4% to \$1.72 per share in fiscal 2004 from \$1.65 per share in fiscal 2003, and basic earnings per share increased by 5% to \$1.75 per share in fiscal 2004 from \$1.67 per share in fiscal 2003. Diluted and basic earnings per share for fiscal 2003 excluding the after-tax loss on redemption of convertible debt were \$1.71 and \$1.74, respectively.

The amounts of net earnings and diluted and basic earnings per share excluding the fiscal 2003 \$1.1 million after-tax convertible debt redemption loss are non-GAAP financial measures. We believe these amounts are useful to investors in comparing our fiscal 2004 and fiscal 2003 operating results. This non-recurring loss resulted from our redemption of 4.5% convertible subordinated notes. The notes were redeemed to eliminate their dilutive effect.

### Comparison of Fiscal 2003 to Fiscal 2002

(\$ in millions, except per share amounts)	Fiscal 2003	Fiscal 2002	\$ Change	% C
Finance income	\$ 130.2	\$ 138.8	\$ (8.6)	
Interest expense	43.5	51.0	(7.5)	
Net finance income before provision for credit losses	86.7	87.8	(1.1)	
Provision for credit losses	12.0	5.6	6.4	
Salaries and other expenses	23.4	21.0	2.4	
Loss on redemption of debt	1.7	--	1.7	
Provision for income taxes	19.5	24.1	(4.6)	
Net earnings	30.1	37.1	(7.0)	
Diluted earnings per share	1.65	1.99	(0.34)	
Basic earnings per share	1.67	2.23	(0.56)	

10

Net earnings decreased by 19% to \$30.1 million in fiscal 2003 from \$37.1 million in fiscal 2002. Excluding the \$1.7 million loss on the redemption of convertible debt in fiscal 2003 (\$1.1 million after-tax), net earnings decreased by 16% to \$31.2 million in fiscal 2003. The decrease was due to (i) a higher provision for losses on finance receivables, increased costs and reduced finance income resulting from a higher level of non-performing assets, (ii) the effects of continued low market interest rates and, to a lesser extent, (iii) increased costs of being a public company. These factors were partially offset by (i) the increase in average finance receivables outstanding, (ii) reduced interest expense from the conversion of \$35.0 million of debt into equity and, to a lesser extent, (iii) lower salary expense.

Finance income decreased by 6% to \$130.2 million in fiscal 2003 from \$138.8 million in fiscal 2002. The decrease resulted from the lower net yield of finance receivables from continued low market interest rates and, to a lesser extent, increased non-accrual finance receivables. These factors

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

were partially offset by the 4% (\$57.0 million) increase in average finance receivables outstanding to \$1.425 billion in fiscal 2003 from \$1.368 billion in fiscal 2002.

Interest expense decreased by 15% to \$43.5 million in fiscal 2003 from \$51.0 million in fiscal 2002. The decrease resulted from lower average market interest rates and the August 2002 debt conversion/redemption. These factors were partially offset by the 3% (\$32.0 million) increase in average debt outstanding (excluding the conversion of \$35.0 million of debt into equity).

Net finance income before provision for credit losses on finance receivables decreased by 1% to \$86.7 million in fiscal 2003 from \$87.8 million in fiscal 2002. Net interest margin decreased to 6.1% in fiscal 2003 from 6.3% in fiscal 2002. The decrease resulted from the effects of continued low market interest rates and the increase in non-accrual finance receivables. These factors were partially offset by the effect of the decrease in leverage.

The provision for credit losses on finance receivables increased to \$12.0 million in fiscal 2003 from \$5.6 million in fiscal 2002 due to increased net charge-offs. The increase in net charge-offs resulted from higher amounts of non-performing assets, declining equipment values, a weak resale market and general economic conditions. The loss ratio increased to 0.87% in fiscal 2003 from 0.24% in fiscal 2002.

Salaries and other expenses increased by 11% to \$23.4 million in fiscal 2003 from \$21.0 million in fiscal 2002. The increase resulted from increased costs associated with higher amounts of non-performing assets and, to a lesser extent, increased costs of being a public company. These factors were partially offset by decreased salary expense due to the effect of work force reductions exceeding salary increases. The expense ratio increased to 1.6% in fiscal 2003 from 1.5% in fiscal 2002. The increase resulted from the increase in expenses, partially offset by the increase in average finance receivables outstanding.

The provision for income taxes decreased to \$19.5 million in fiscal 2003 from \$24.1 million in fiscal 2002 resulting from the decrease in earnings before income taxes. Our effective tax rate was 39.4% in fiscal 2003 and 2002.

Diluted earnings per share decreased by 17% to \$1.65 per share in fiscal 2003 from \$1.99 per share in fiscal 2002, and basic earnings per share decreased by 25% to \$1.67 per share in fiscal 2003 from \$2.23 per share in fiscal 2002. The percentage decrease in diluted earnings per share was lower than the percentage decrease in net earnings primarily due to the decrease in the number of dilutive shares outstanding from the August 2002 redemption of convertible debt. The percentage decrease in basic earnings per share was higher than the percentage decrease in net earnings primarily due to the issuance of 1.16 million shares of common stock from the August 2002 conversion of \$35.0 million of debt. Diluted and basic earnings per share for fiscal 2003, excluding the after-tax loss on redemption of convertible debt, were \$1.71 and \$1.74, respectively.

### RECEIVABLE PORTFOLIO AND ASSET QUALITY

This section discusses trends and characteristics of our finance receivables and our approach to managing credit risk. A key part of this section is asset quality. Asset quality statistics measure our underwriting

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

standards, skills and policies/procedures and can indicate the direction and levels of future charge-offs.

(\$ in millions)	Fiscal 2004	Fiscal 2003	\$ Change	% Cha
Finance receivables	\$ 1,460.9	\$ 1,415.5	\$ 45.4	
Allowance for credit losses	24.1	23.8	0.3	
Net charge-offs	9.5	12.4	(2.9)	
Non-performing assets	32.4	62.6	(30.2)	
Delinquent finance receivables	15.0	22.2	(7.2)	
As a percentage of receivables:				
Allowance for credit losses	1.65%	1.68%		
Net charge-offs	0.67	0.87		
Non-performing assets	2.22	4.42		
Delinquent finance receivables	1.03	1.57		

Finance receivables outstanding increased by 3% (\$45.4 million) to \$1.461 billion at July 31, 2004 from \$1.415 billion at July 31, 2003. Finance receivables comprise installment sale agreements and secured loans (collectively referred to as "loans") and direct financing leases. At July 31, 2004, 86% (\$1,255.5 billion) of finance receivables were loans and 14% (\$205.4 million) were leases.

Finance receivables originated in fiscal 2004 and 2003 were \$791 million and \$696 million, respectively. Finance receivables collected in fiscal 2004 and 2003 were \$721 million and \$694 million, respectively. Originations increased due to greater demand for domestic equipment financing.

Maintaining the credit quality of our portfolio is our primary focus. We manage our credit risk by using disciplined and established underwriting policies and procedures, by closely monitoring our portfolio and by skillfully handling non-performing accounts. Our underwriting policies and procedures require obtaining a first lien on equipment financed or leased. We focus on financing equipment that has an economic life exceeding the term of the transaction, historically low levels of technological obsolescence, use in multiple industries, ease of access and transporting, and a broad, established resale market. Securing our receivables with such equipment can mitigate potential charge-offs. We may also obtain additional equipment or other collateral, third-party guarantees, advanced payments and/or hold back a portion of the amount financed. We do not finance/lease aircraft and railcars, computer related equipment, telecommunications equipment or equipment located outside the United States, and we do not lend to consumers.

The allowance for credit losses was \$24.1 million at July 31, 2004 and \$23.8 million at July 31, 2003. The allowance level was 1.65% and 1.68% of finance receivables at July 31, 2004 and at July 31, 2003, respectively. We periodically review the allowance to determine that its level is appropriate. The allowance level may decline further if our asset quality statistics continue to improve and remain at favorable levels.

Net charge-offs of finance receivables (write-downs less recoveries) decreased to \$9.5 million in fiscal 2004 from \$12.4 million in fiscal 2003 and the loss ratio decreased to 0.67% from 0.87%. Net charge-offs have been decreasing due to fewer non-performing assets and improved economic



## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

conditions and equipment resale values.

Non-performing assets comprise non-accrual finance receivables and repossessed equipment (assets received to satisfy receivables) as follows (in millions):

July 31,	2004	2003
Non-accrual finance receivables	\$ 29.2	\$ 42.9
Repossessed equipment	3.2	19.7
Total non-performing assets	\$ 32.4	\$ 62.6

Delinquent finance receivables (transactions with a contractual payment 60 or more days past due) were \$15.0 million (1.0% of total finance receivables) at July 31, 2004 compared to \$22.2 million (1.6% of total finance receivables) at July 31, 2003.

12

Our asset quality statistics improved markedly during fiscal 2004 due to improved conditions in the economy and the industries we finance. Repossessed equipment and delinquencies have fallen below expected levels. Therefore, further improvement in these measures is not expected. Non-accrual finance receivables may decline further due to better payment performance (decreases in non-accrual receivables typically trail decreases in delinquencies since several months of payment performance is required to reclassify a receivable to accrual status) and fewer bankruptcies. At July 31, 2004, approximately 70% of non-accrual finance receivables were not delinquent. The level of net charge-offs may also continue to improve because of fewer non-performing assets, improved equipment values and higher rates of recoveries. Reductions in net charge-offs and non-accrual receivables would have a positive effect on earnings through decreases in the provision for credit losses and by increasing finance income.

Although our asset quality statistics continue to improve, we are concerned about how the significant increases in oil prices and increases in interest rates will affect our portfolio. Gasoline and interest are significant expenses for a majority of our customers and the increases in these costs could significantly impact their operating cash flows and their ability to remit payments to us. In addition, we have several customers that owe us over \$5.0 million. If one or more of these customers' accounts become delinquent, impaired or repossessed, our asset quality statistics could worsen even though the overall trend for the portfolio may remain positive. These factors could reverse the current direction of our asset quality statistics.

Finance receivables reflect certain industry and geographic concentrations of credit risk. These concentrations arise from counterparties having similar economic characteristics that could cause their ability to meet their contractual obligations to be similarly affected by changes in economic or other conditions. At July 31, 2004, the major industry concentrations were construction related-41%, road transportation-36%, waste services-11% and manufacturing-6%. Manufacturing accounted for 11% of our finance receivables at July 31, 2003. In fiscal 2004, we significantly reduced our originations of manufacturing receivables based on their past performance. At July 31, 2004, the U.S. regional geographic concentrations were Southeast-29%, Southwest-24%, Northeast-19%, West-15% and

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

Central-13%.

Our underwriting policies limit our credit exposure with any single customer. At July 31, 2004, this limit was \$20.5 million. Our largest and ten largest customer(s) accounted for \$12.1 million (0.8%) and \$82.3 million (5.6%), respectively, of total finance receivables at July 31, 2004.

### LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

This section describes our needs for substantial amounts of capital (debt and equity), our approach to managing liquidity and our current funding sources. Key indicators are leverage, available ongoing liquidity and credit ratings. At July 31, 2004, our credit rating was raised and our leverage was low by finance company standards. We also had ample liquidity available and the maturities of our term debt were staggered and exceed the maturities of our finance receivables.

Liquidity and access to capital are vital to our operations and growth. We need continued availability of funds to originate or acquire finance receivables, to purchase portfolios of finance receivables and to repay maturing debt. To ensure that we have adequate liquidity; we periodically project our financing needs based on estimated receivables growth and maturing debt, we closely monitor capital markets and we diversify our funding sources. We may obtain funds from many sources, including operating cash flow, private and public issuances of term debt, conduit and term securitizations of finance receivables, committed unsecured revolving credit facilities, dealer placed and directly issued commercial paper and sales of common and preferred equity. We believe that our sources of liquidity are well diversified. We are not dependent on any funding source or on any credit provider.

At July 31, 2004, we had \$263.4 million of available funding sources; \$224.4 million of unused bank credit facilities (after taking commercial paper outstanding into account) and \$39.0 million of an unused securitization facility. We can also obtain an additional \$215.4 million of asset securitization financings. We believe, but cannot assure, that sufficient liquidity is available to us to support our future operations and growth.

Our term debt is rated 'BBB+' by Fitch and commercial paper issued by our major operating subsidiary (\$87.7 million at July 31, 2004) is rated 'F2' by Fitch. Our access to capital markets at competitive rates is partly dependent on these investment grade credit ratings.

The subsidiary's debt agreements contain restrictive covenants including limitations on indebtedness, encumbrances, investments, dividends and other distributions to us, sales of assets, mergers and other business combinations, capital expenditures, interest coverage and net worth. None of the agreements contain a material adverse change clause.

Total debt increased by 5% (\$51.4 million) to \$1.094 billion at July 31, 2004 from \$1.042 billion at July 31, 2003 and stockholders' equity decreased by 4% (\$12.5 million) to \$303.9 million at July 31, 2004 from \$316.4 million at July 31, 2003 due to the repurchase of \$50.0 million of common stock in April 2004. As a result, leverage (debt-to-equity ratio) increased to 3.6 at July 31, 2004 from 3.3 at July 31, 2003, but remains relatively low for a finance company. This allows for substantial asset growth because credit providers typically are more willing to lend to companies with low leverage.

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

Historically, our leverage has not exceeded 5.5.

Debt comprised the following (\$ in millions):

	July 31, 2004		
	Amount	Percent	Amount
Term notes	\$ 520.0	48%	\$ 597.0
Asset securitization financings	286.0	26	325.0
Convertible debentures	175.0	16	--
Commercial paper	103.6	9	111.6
Borrowings under bank credit facilities	12.0	1	11.4
Total principal	1,096.6	100%	1,045.0
Fair value adjustment of hedged debt	(2.9)		(2.7)
Total debt	\$ 1,093.7		\$ 1,042.3

### Term Notes

In August 2003 and April 2004, we repaid the following fixed rate term notes at maturity: \$17.0 million with an 8.89% rate and \$65.0 million with a 7.05% rate, respectively. In September 2003, we issued a \$5.0 million floating rate term note to a bank maturing in December 2004. In April 2004, we canceled our \$200.0 million medium term note program established in fiscal 2000 after the last outstanding note issued under the program was repaid. \$97.0 million of the program was left unused. At July 31, 2004, the \$520.0 million of term notes comprised \$475.0 million of private placements and medium term notes issued to insurance companies and \$45.0 million of bank term loans.

### Asset Securitization Financings

We have a \$325.0 million asset securitization facility. The facility has a one-year term and expires in April 2005 subject to renewal. The facility has been renewed three times since it was established in July 2001. Borrowings under the facility are limited to a minimum level of securitized receivables. If borrowings exceed the minimum level, we must repay the excess or securitize more receivables. We can securitize more receivables during the term of the facility. Upon expiration and non-renewal of the facility, we must repay borrowings outstanding or convert them into term debt. The term debt would be repaid monthly in amounts equal to collections of securitized receivables less interest incurred. Currently, we would exercise the conversion option upon non-renewal. Based on the contractual payments of the \$347.9 million of securitized receivables at July 31, 2004, the term debt would be fully repaid by September 2006.

The unsecured debt agreements of our major operating subsidiary allow 40% of its finance receivables outstanding to be securitized; approximately \$577.0 million at July 31, 2004. Therefore, we could securitize an additional \$229.1 million of finance receivables at July 31, 2004. Borrowings are limited to 94% of securitized receivables. In April 2004, we repaid \$39.0 million of securitization borrowings with proceeds from the convertible debentures.

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

### Commercial Paper

We issue commercial paper directly and through a \$350.0 million program. Commercial paper is unsecured and matures between 1 and 270 days. We have not obtained commitments from any purchaser of our commercial paper for additional or future purchases. Increases in commercial paper are generally offset by decreases in bank and other borrowings, and vice versa. We are required (as a condition of our credit rating) to maintain committed revolving credit facilities from banks so that the aggregate amount available thereunder exceeds commercial paper outstanding. Therefore, at July 31, 2004, the combined amount of commercial paper and bank borrowings outstanding was limited to \$340.0 million (\$115.6 was outstanding at July 31, 2004).

### Bank Credit Facilities

At July 31, 2004, we had \$340.0 million of committed unsecured revolving credit facilities from eight banks (a \$45.0 million decrease from July 31, 2003). This includes \$202.5 million of facilities with original terms ranging from two to five years and \$137.5 million of facilities with an original term of

14

one year. At July 31, 2004, \$12.0 million was outstanding, with a maturity of three days, under a multi-year facility. These facilities range from \$10.0 million to \$45.0 million. The multi-year facilities expire as follows (\$ in millions):

Fiscal:	2005	2006	2007
	\$10.0	\$75.0	\$117.5
	5%	37%	58%

These facilities provide us with a dependable, low-cost source of funds and support for our commercial paper program. We can borrow the full amount under each facility. None of the facilities are for commercial paper back-up only. These facilities may or may not be renewed upon expiration.

Bank credit facility activity follows (\$ in millions):

	Year Ended July 31, 2004		Year Ended July 31, 2003	
	Amount	# of Banks	Amount	# of Banks
Total at beginning of year	\$ 385.0	10	\$425.0	
New	70.0	2	50.0	
Expired not renewed	(135.0)	5	(90.0)	
Increases	20.0	2	--	
Total at end of year	\$ 340.0	8	\$385.0	
Renewed at expiration	\$ 135.0	4	\$150.0	

Information on the combined amounts of commercial paper and bank

Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

borrowings follows (in millions):

Fiscal:	2004	2003	2002
Maximum outstanding during the year	\$178.6	\$269.5	\$371.0
Average outstanding during the year	112.7	199.7	311.0
Outstanding at year end	115.6	123.0	291.0

Contractual Obligations

Our long-term contractual obligations and other pertinent information at July 31, 2004 are summarized as follows (\$ in millions):

	Payments Due by Period				
	Total	Less than 1 year	2-3 years	4-5 years	More than 5 years
Term notes	\$520.0	\$107.8	\$ 173.0	\$ 194.2	\$ 45.0
Convertible debentures	175.0	--	--	175.0	--
Operating leases	5.0	1.1	2.0	1.2	--
Other long-term liabilities reflected on the balance sheet under GAAP	2.2	0.5	1.2	0.5	--
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>\$702.2</b>	<b>\$109.4</b>	<b>\$ 176.2</b>	<b>\$ 370.9</b>	<b>\$ 45.0</b>
Percentage	100%	16%	25%	53%	
Other debt	\$401.6	\$401.6	--	--	--
Cumulative payments		\$511.0	\$ 687.2	\$1,058.1	\$1,103.1
Cumulative scheduled collections of finance receivables		\$556.8	\$1,251.7	\$1,441.0	\$1,466.0

The weighted average maturity of our term debt (term notes and convertible debentures) was 3.2 years at July 31, 2004 and 2003. Term notes and convertible debentures are discussed in Note 3 to the Consolidated Financial Statements and operating leases in Note 10. Other long-term liabilities represent deferred compensation. Other debt includes asset

securitization financings, commercial paper and bank borrowings that are due within one year. As shown above, on a cumulative basis for each period, scheduled collections of finance receivables exceed cumulative payments under contractual obligations.

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

### Stockholders' Equity

In fiscal 2004, we acquired 1.66 million shares of our common stock for \$55.5 million. We increased the amount available under our stock repurchase program by \$6.8 million in fiscal 2004 and amended the program to include repurchases of convertible debentures. At July 31, 2004, \$20.0 million was available under the program.

### MARKET INTEREST RATE RISK AND SENSITIVITY

This section discusses how changes in market interest rates can affect our profitability and discusses our approach to managing interest rate risk.

Our earnings are sensitive to fluctuations in market interest rates (includes LIBOR, rates on U.S. Treasury securities, money market rates and the prime rate). Changes in these rates affect our finance income and interest expense. Rate increases would reduce earnings and rate decreases would increase earnings because floating rate debt (includes short-term debt) significantly exceeds floating rate finance receivables. When market interest rates rise, the resulting increase in interest expense would significantly exceed the resulting increase in finance income. Conversely, when market interest rates decline, the resulting decrease in interest expense would significantly exceed the resulting decrease in finance income. These effects would diminish over time. In addition, since our interest earning assets exceed our interest bearing liabilities, eventually, lower market interest rates would reduce earnings (this is occurring currently) and higher rates would increase earnings. These broad statements do not take into account the effects of economic and other conditions that could accompany interest rate fluctuations.

Our earnings are subject to the risk of rising interest rates at July 31, 2004 because of our high ratios of fixed rate receivables and floating rate debt (floating rate debt exceeded floating rate receivables by \$664.0 million as shown in the table below). This risk is mitigated by the terms and prepayment experience of our receivables. Finance receivables provide for monthly payments over relatively short periods of two to five years and are accelerated by prepayments. At July 31, 2004, \$520.8 million (38%) of fixed rate finance receivables are scheduled to be collected within one year and the weighted average remaining maturity of fixed rate finance receivables is under two years. We do not match the maturities of our debt to our finance receivables.

(\$ in millions)	Fixed Rate		Floating Rate		Total
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	
Finance receivables	\$1,387.4	95%	\$ 73.5	5%	\$1,460.
Debt	\$ 356.2	33%	\$ 737.5	67%	\$1,093.
Stockholders' equity	303.9	100	--	--	303.
<b>Total debt and equity</b>	<b>\$ 660.1</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>\$ 737.5</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>\$1,397.</b>

At July 31, 2004, floating rate debt (asset securitization financings,

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

floating rate term notes, fixed rate term notes swapped to floating rates, commercial paper and bank borrowings) reprices (interest rate changes) as follows: \$388.9 million (53%) within one month; \$316.9 million (43%), within the following two months and the remainder, \$31.7 million (4%), within the following six months. The repricing periods of floating rate debt follow (\$ in millions):

	Balance at July 31, 2004	Repricing Frequency
Asset securitization financings	\$286.0	monthly
Floating rate notes	195.5	quarterly
Floating rate swaps of fixed rate notes	143.3	semi-annually
Commercial paper	103.6	1 to 270 days (23 day average)
Bank borrowings	12.0	generally daily

We quantify interest rate risk by calculating the effect on net earnings of a hypothetical, immediate 100 basis point (1.0%) rise in market interest rates. At July 31, 2004, such a hypothetical adverse change in rates would reduce annual net earnings by approximately \$2.2 million. We believe this is

16

an acceptable level of risk when compared to the lower interest costs of floating rate debt as opposed to fixed rate debt. In fiscal 2004, the weighted average rate of floating rate debt was 4.2% (420 basis points) lower than the weighted average rate of fixed rate debt. Actual future changes in market interest rates and the effect on net earnings may differ materially due to changes in finance receivable and debt repricing structures. In addition, other factors that may accompany an actual immediate 100 basis point increase in market interest rates were not considered in the calculation.

We monitor and manage our exposure to market interest rate fluctuations through risk management procedures that include using certain derivative financial instruments and changing the proportion of our fixed rate term debt versus our floating rate debt. We may use derivatives to hedge our exposure to interest rate risk on certain debt obligations. We do not speculate with nor trade derivatives.

In fiscal 2004, we entered into two interest rate swap agreements with a total notional amount of \$55.8 million. We designated them as fair value hedges of \$24.5 million of 4.37% fixed rate notes due in April 2008 and \$31.3 million of 6.23% fixed rate notes due in August 2007. The swaps expire on the notes' maturity dates. The swaps effectively converted the fixed rate notes to floating rates.

At July 31, 2004, fixed rate notes swapped to floating rates totaled \$143.3 million. Under the terms of the swaps, we receive fixed rates equal to the rates on the respective hedged notes and pay floating rates indexed to six-month LIBOR (2.0% at July 31, 2004). The swaps reduced interest expense by \$2.6 million in fiscal 2004. This amount is expected to be lower in fiscal 2005 due to increases in market interest rates. The weighted average receive rate (4.9%) exceeded the current weighted average pay rate (3.0%) by 190 basis points (1.9%) at July 31, 2004. Terms of the swaps follow (\$ in

Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

millions):

Issue Date	Expiration Date	Notional Amount	Receive Rate	July 31, 2004 Pay Rate	Repr
April 2003	April 2010	\$12.5	4.96%	2.49%	Octo
July 2003	April 2008	25.0	4.37	2.13	Octo
July 2003	June 2008	12.5	4.37	2.82	Octo
July 2003	June 2008	25.0	4.37	2.63	Octo
July 2003	June 2010	12.5	4.96	2.80	Octo
August 2003	April 2008	24.5	4.37	2.03	Octo
April 2004	August 2007	31.3	6.23	5.14	Janu

The net yield of finance receivables less the weighted average cost of borrowed funds represents the net interest spread, an important measure of a finance company's profitability.

Years Ended July 31,	2004	2003
Net yield of finance receivables	8.3%	9.1%
Weighted average cost of borrowed funds	3.3	4.1
Net interest spread	5.0%	5.0%

The net yield of finance receivables continued to decline during fiscal 2004 since yields obtained on new receivables were lower than yields on receivables collected. This was caused by the extended period of low interest rates. The net yield is expected to decline further in fiscal 2005 (but to a lesser extent) although yields obtained on new receivables improved for the first time in over three years at the end of fiscal 2004.

The decline in yield was offset by the decline in the average cost of funds in fiscal 2004. The average cost of funds declined due to (i) the effects of \$143.3 million of fixed rate notes swapped to significantly lower floating rates, (ii) \$295.0 million of term notes bearing high fixed interest rates repaid at maturity during the last two years and (iii) the reduction of short-term borrowing costs resulting from lower average market interest rates. Short-term market interest rates started to increase during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004. These and any future increases in short-term rates will increase our average cost of funds as our floating rate debt reprices. The full impact of recent rate increases will occur in the second quarter of fiscal 2005 after all of our floating rate debt and swaps have repriced.



## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

In December 2003, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Interpretation ("FIN") No. 46R, "Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities--an interpretation of ARB No. 51." FIN No. 46R replaced FIN No. 46 issued in January 2003. FIN No. 46R requires variable interest entities to be consolidated by the primary beneficiary (the entity at risk for a majority of the expected losses or receiving a majority of the expected residual returns of the variable interest entity). We adopted FIN No. 46R on January 31, 2004. Prior to the adoption of FIN No. 46R, we consolidated fully one variable interest entity (a special purpose entity we established for our asset securitization facility). The consolidation of this entity was not affected by the adoption of FIN No. 46R. The adoption of FIN No. 46R did not have a material impact on our results of operations or financial position.

On September 30, 2004, the Emerging Issues Task Force ("EITF") Issued EITF No. 04-8, "The Effect of Contingently Convertible Debt on Diluted Earnings per Share." EITF No. 04-8 eliminates the exclusion of convertible debentures with a contingent conversion feature from the computation of diluted earnings per share. Therefore, when effective, commencing with our fiscal quarter ending January 31, 2005, our convertible debentures would reduce diluted earnings per share as described in Note 7 to the Consolidated Financial Statements unless we elect to irrevocably fix the payment of the principal amount of converted debentures in cash. We will decide whether to make this election in our fiscal quarter ending January 31, 2005.

### FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements in this document may include the words or phrases "can be," "expects," "may," "may affect," "may depend," "believe," "estimate," "intend," "could," "should," "would," "if" and similar words and phrases that constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements are subject to various known and unknown risks and uncertainties and we caution you that any forward-looking information provided by or on our behalf is not a guarantee of future performance. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated by such forward-looking statements due to a number of factors, some of which are beyond our control, including, without limitation, (i) the ability to obtain funding on acceptable terms, (ii) changes in the risks inherent in finance receivables and the adequacy of the allowance for credit losses, (iii) changes in market interest rates, (iv) changes in economic, financial, and market conditions, (v) changes in competitive conditions and (vi) the loss of key executives or personnel. Forward-looking statements apply only as of the date made and we are not required to update forward-looking statements for subsequent or unanticipated events or circumstances.

### Item 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

See Item 7, Market Interest Rate Risk and Sensitivity.

18

### Item 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders  
Financial Federal Corporation:

Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Financial Federal Corporation and subsidiaries as of July 31, 2004 and 2003, and the related consolidated statements of income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended July 31, 2004. 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 conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Financial Federal Corporation and subsidiaries as of July 31, 2004 and 2003, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended July 31, 2004, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

/s/ KPMG LLP  
 -----  
 New York, New York  
 September 24, 2004

19

FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
(In thousands, except par value)

July 31,	2004
=====	
ASSETS	
Finance receivables	\$ 1,460,909
Allowance for credit losses	(24,081)
-----	
Finance receivables - net	1,436,828
Cash	6,981
Other assets	20,109
-----	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,463,918
=====	
LIABILITIES	
Debt:	
Long-term (\$6,100 at July 31, 2004 and \$9,080 at July 31, 2003 due to related parties)	\$ 826,650

Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

Short-term	267,050
Accrued interest, taxes and other liabilities	44,928
Deferred income taxes	21,400
-----	
Total liabilities	1,160,028
-----	
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	
Preferred stock - \$1 par value, authorized 5,000 shares	--
Common stock - \$.50 par value, authorized 100,000 shares, shares issued and outstanding: 17,269 (net of 1,672 treasury shares) at July 31, 2004 and 18,483 (net of 149 treasury shares) at July 31, 2003	8,634
Additional paid-in capital	101,920
Retained earnings	193,336
-----	
Total stockholders' equity	303,890
-----	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	\$ 1,463,918
=====	

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

20

FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENTS  
(In thousands, except per share amounts)

Years Ended July 31,	2004	2003	2002
=====			
Finance income	\$118,305	\$130,247	\$138,305
Interest expense	33,900	43,534	51,400
-----			
Net finance income before provision for credit losses on finance receivables	84,405	86,713	87,000
Provision for credit losses on finance receivables	9,800	11,950	5,000
-----			
Net finance income	74,605	74,763	82,000
Salaries and other expenses	23,458	23,391	21,000
Loss on redemption of convertible debt	--	1,737	--
-----			
Earnings before income taxes	51,147	49,635	61,000
Provision for income taxes	19,957	19,547	24,000
-----			
NET EARNINGS	\$ 31,190	\$ 30,088	\$ 37,000
=====			

EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE:

Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

Diluted	\$ 1.72	\$ 1.65	\$ 1
Basic	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.67	\$ 2

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

21

FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

(In thousands)

	Common Stock - \$.50 Par Value		
	Shares	Par Value	Additional Paid-in Capital
BALANCE AT JULY 31, 2001	16,540	\$ 8,270	\$ 62,921
Employee stock plans:			
Shares issued	832	416	2,809
Compensation recognized	--	--	1,473
Tax benefits	--	--	369
Other	--	--	23
Net earnings	--	--	--
BALANCE AT JULY 31, 2002	17,372	8,686	67,595
Conversion of subordinated debt	1,159	580	34,437
Repurchases of common stock (43 shares retired and 12 shares held in treasury)	(55)	(27)	(562)
Employee stock plans:			
Shares issued	140	70	1,249
Shares canceled	(133)	(67)	67
Compensation recognized	--	--	2,546
Tax benefits	--	--	132
Net earnings	--	--	--
BALANCE AT JULY 31, 2003	18,483	9,242	105,464
Repurchases of common stock (142 shares retired and 1,523 shares held in treasury)	(1,665)	(833)	(15,153)
Employee stock plans:			
Shares issued	451	225	7,399
Compensation recognized	--	--	2,447
Tax benefits	--	--	1,763
Net earnings	--	--	--
BALANCE AT JULY 31, 2004	17,269	\$ 8,634	\$ 101,920

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

## FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(In thousands)

Years Ended July 31,	2004
Cash flows from operating activities:	
Net earnings	\$ 31,190
Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Provision for credit losses on finance receivables	9,800
Depreciation and amortization	17,811
Loss on redemption of convertible debt	--
Deferred income taxes	(3,673)
Decrease (increase) in other assets	9,966
Increase (decrease) in accrued interest, taxes and other liabilities	2,420
Tax benefits from stock plans	1,763
Net cash provided by operating activities	69,277
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Finance receivables originated	(791,009)
Finance receivables collected	721,384
Net cash used in investing activities	(69,625)
Cash flows from financing activities:	
Commercial paper, net (decrease) increase	(7,960)
Bank borrowings, net increase (decrease)	555
Proceeds from convertible debentures	175,000
(Repayments of) proceeds from asset securitization financings	(39,000)
Proceeds from term notes	5,000
Repayments of term notes	(82,000)
Redemptions of subordinated debt	--
Deferred debt issuance costs	(4,375)
Repurchases of common stock	(51,591)
Proceeds from stock option exercises	3,685
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(686)
NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH	(1,034)
Cash - beginning of year	8,015
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 6,981
Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:	
Interest paid	\$ 35,598
Income taxes paid	\$ 32,643

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)

NOTE 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Description of Business

Financial Federal Corporation provides collateralized lending, financing and leasing services nationwide to middle-market businesses in the general construction, road and infrastructure construction and repair, road transportation, waste disposal and manufacturing industries. We lend against, finance and lease a wide range of new and used revenue-producing/essential-use equipment such as cranes, earth movers, machine tools, personnel lifts, trailers and trucks.

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) and pursuant to the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission. In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements include all adjustments necessary to present fairly our financial position and results of operations for the periods presented therein.

Principles of Consolidation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Financial Federal Corporation and its subsidiaries. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

Finance Receivables

Finance receivables comprise loans and other financings and noncancelable leases. All leases are accounted for as direct financing leases, where total lease payments, plus any residual values, less the cost of the leased equipment is recorded as unearned finance income. Residual values are recorded at the lowest of (i) any stated purchase option, (ii) the present value at the end of the initial lease term of rentals due under any renewal options or (iii) the estimated fair value of the equipment at the end of the lease.

Income Recognition

Finance income is recognized over the term of receivables using the interest method. Income recognition is suspended on finance receivables that we consider impaired (full collection of principal and interest being doubtful). This typically occurs when (i) a contractual payment is 90 days or more past due, (ii) the counterparty becomes the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding or (iii) the underlying collateral is being liquidated. Income recognition may be resumed when we believe that full collection of all amounts contractually due is probable. Any collections on impaired receivables are first applied to the recorded investment.

Allowance for Credit Losses

The allowance for credit losses on finance receivables is an estimate of

Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

losses inherent in our finance receivables. A general provision for credit losses on finance receivables is recorded in an amount to adjust the allowance for credit losses to a level that we consider appropriate. The allowance is a significant estimate that we determine based on total finance receivables, net charge-offs, non-accrual/delinquent finance receivables and our current assessments of the risks inherent in our finance receivables from national and regional economic conditions, industry conditions, concentrations, the financial condition of counterparties (includes the obligor/lessee and other parties we may have recourse to such as equipment vendors/manufacturers and owners/affiliates of the obligor/lessee), equipment collateral values and other factors. Changes in the allowance level may be necessary based on unexpected changes in these factors.

Impaired finance receivables are written-down by a charge to the allowance for credit losses when all amounts contractually due are not expected to be collected from the combination of the obligor/lessee and the liquidation of the underlying collateral. Write-downs subsequently recovered are credited to the allowance. Assets received to satisfy finance receivables are initially written-down to their current estimated fair value less selling costs by a charge to the allowance for credit losses and any subsequent write-downs and recoveries are reflected in operating income.

Stock-Based Compensation

We continue to apply Accounting Principles Board Opinion ("APB") No. 25, "Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees," and related Interpretations to account for our stock options. Under APB No. 25, we do not record compensation expense for our stock options. If we applied the expense recognition provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation," compensation expense would have been recorded for stock options based on their fair value computed with an option-pricing model. The effect on net earnings and earnings per share had we recorded compensation expense under SFAS No. 123 follows:

Years Ended July 31,	2004	2003
Net earnings, as reported	\$31,190	\$30,088
Add: Compensation expense recorded for stock awards (after-tax)	1,496	1,568
Deduct: Total stock-based compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards (after-tax)	(3,434)	(3,536)
Pro forma net earnings	\$29,252	\$28,120
Diluted earnings per common share:		
As reported	\$ 1.72	\$ 1.65
Pro forma	1.62	1.55
Basic earnings per common share:		
As reported	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.67
Pro forma	1.64	1.56

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

We estimated the following weighted average grant date fair values for options granted using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model based on the following assumptions:

Years Ended July 31,	2004	2003
Weighted average grant date fair value	\$ 11.08	\$ 7.02
Assumptions:		
Weighted average risk-free interest rate	2.5%	2.5%
Expected stock price volatility rate	37%	38%
Weighted average expected life of options granted (in years)	4.2	3.9

### Earnings Per Common Share

Basic earnings per share is net earnings divided by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share is net earnings plus the after-tax interest cost of dilutive convertible debt (if required), divided by the weighted average number of common shares plus potential common shares from the assumed conversion of dilutive securities outstanding during the period. Dilutive securities comprise stock options, restricted stock, stock units, and convertible notes/debentures.

### Income Taxes

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the estimated future tax effects of temporary differences between the financial statement and tax return bases of assets and liabilities using enacted tax rates. Deferred tax expense is the net change in deferred tax assets and liabilities during the year. We are not a party to any income tax shelters.

### Derivative Financial Instruments

We use derivative financial instruments to manage our exposure to the effects of changes in market interest rates on our debt. We do not speculate with nor trade derivatives. Derivatives are recorded as an asset or liability at their fair value. For derivatives that are designated as a fair value hedge, the hedged asset or liability is also recorded at its fair value (to the extent of the change in the fair value of the derivative) and any changes in the fair value of the derivative and the hedged asset or liability are recorded in earnings. The changes in the fair value of the derivative designated as a fair value hedge and the hedged asset or liability will offset in correlation to the effectiveness of the hedging relationship. If certain conditions are met, these changes will offset exactly.

Derivatives designated as a hedge must be linked to a specific asset, liability or firm commitment and the risk management objective and strategy must be documented at inception of the hedging relationship as well as the method to be used to determine the effectiveness/ineffectiveness of the



## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

hedging relationship.

### New Accounting Standards

In December 2003, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Interpretation ("FIN") No. 46R, "Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities--an interpretation of ARB No. 51." FIN No. 46R replaced FIN No. 46 issued in January 2003. FIN No. 46R requires variable interest entities to be consolidated by the primary beneficiary (the entity at risk for a majority of the expected losses or receiving a majority of the expected residual returns of the variable interest entity). We adopted FIN No. 46R on January 31, 2004. Prior to the adoption of FIN No. 46R, we consolidated fully one variable interest entity (a special purpose entity we established for our asset securitization facility). The consolidation of this entity was not affected by the adoption of FIN No. 46R. The adoption of FIN No. 46R did not have a material impact on our results of operations or financial position.

### Use of Estimates

The consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto require significant estimates and assumptions to be made by us affecting the amounts reported therein. Actual results could differ significantly from those estimates.

### NOTE 2 - FINANCE RECEIVABLES

Finance receivables comprise installment sale agreements and secured loans (including line of credit arrangements), collectively referred to as loans, with fixed or floating (indexed to the prime rate) interest rates, and direct financing leases as follows:

July 31,	2004	2003
Loans:		
Fixed rate	\$ 1,183,812	\$ 1,073,158
Floating rate	71,742	85,532
Total loans	1,255,554	1,158,690
Direct financing leases	205,355	256,799
Finance receivables	\$ 1,460,909	\$ 1,415,489

Direct financing leases comprised the following:

July 31,	2004	2003
Minimum lease payments receivable	\$ 191,281	\$ 247,856
Residual values	42,163	48,813
Unearned finance income	(28,089)	(39,870)
Direct financing leases	\$ 205,355	256,799

Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

Finance receivables generally provide for monthly installments of equal or varying amounts with terms ranging from two to five years. Annual contractual maturities of finance receivables at July 31, 2004 follow:

Fiscal Year Due:	Fixed Rate Loans	Floating Rate Loans	Direct Financing Leases
2005	\$ 440,027	\$ 34,165	\$ 83,064
2006	333,474	21,326	58,348
2007	228,975	12,000	33,938
2008	117,321	4,079	11,860
2009	45,322	172	3,514
Thereafter	18,693	--	557
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,183,812</b>	<b>\$ 71,742</b>	<b>\$191,281</b>

The weighted average interest rates on fixed rate loans were 8.0% and 8.8% at July 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

26

The allowance for credit losses activity is summarized as follows:

Years Ended July 31,	2004	2003	2002
Beginning balance	\$ 23,754	\$ 24,171	\$ 21,938
Provision	9,800	11,950	5,600
Write-downs	(11,731)	(13,876)	(6,546)
Recoveries	2,258	1,509	3,179
Ending balance	\$ 24,081	\$ 23,754	\$ 24,171
Percentage of finance receivables	1.65%	1.68%	1.68%
Net charge-offs *	\$ 9,473	\$ 12,367	\$ 3,367
Loss ratio **	0.67%	0.87%	0.24%

\* write-downs less recoveries

\*\* net charge-offs over average finance receivables

Non-performing assets comprise finance receivables classified as non-accrual (income recognition has been suspended) and assets received to satisfy finance receivables (repossessed equipment, included in other assets)

Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

as follows:

July 31,	2004	2003
Finance receivables classified as non-accrual	\$29,251	\$42,910
Assets received to satisfy finance receivables	3,177	19,666
Non-performing assets	\$32,428	\$62,576

Finance receivables classified as non-accrual included impaired loans (excludes direct financing leases) of \$20,205 at July 31, 2004 and \$33,745 at July 31, 2003. The average recorded investment in impaired loans was \$28,482 in fiscal 2004, \$31,429 in fiscal 2003 and \$20,471 in fiscal 2002. The allowance for credit losses included \$650 at July 31, 2004 and \$750 at July 31, 2003 specifically allocated to \$7,475 and \$6,222 respectively, of impaired finance receivables.

We also provide commitments to extend credit. These commitments contain off-balance sheet risk. We use the same credit policies and procedures in providing these commitments as we do for finance receivables. At July 31, 2004 and 2003, the unused portion of these commitments was \$10,421 and \$8,624, respectively.

We manage our exposure to the credit risk associated with our finance receivables through established credit policies and procedures that include obtaining a first lien on the primary equipment collateral. We focus on lending against, financing and leasing equipment that has an economic life exceeding the term of the receivable, is not subject to rapid technological obsolescence, has applications in multiple industries, is easily accessible and movable and has a broad, established resale market. We may also obtain additional equipment or other collateral, third-party guarantees, advanced payments and/or hold back a portion of the amount financed.

Our finance receivables have certain concentrations of credit risk. Concentrations of credit risk arise when counterparties have similar economic characteristics that would cause their ability to meet contractual obligations to be similarly affected by changes in economic or other conditions. We do not have a significant concentration of credit risk with any counterparty. The major concentrations of credit risk, grouped by the industries and U.S. geographic regions of counterparties, expressed as a percentage of finance receivables, follow:

July 31,	2004	2003	July 31,	2004	2003
Industry:			Geographic region:		
Construction related	41%	38%	Southeast		29%
Road transportation	36	32	Southwest		24
Waste services	11	14	Northeast		19
Manufacturing	6	11	West		15
			Central		13

## NOTE 3 - DEBT

Debt is summarized as follows:

July 31,	2004	2003
Fixed rate term notes*:		
5.48% - 5.92% due 2005 - 2006	\$ 50,000	\$ 74,500
6.23% - 6.98% due 2005 - 2008	81,250	177,500
8.62% due 2005	50,000	67,000
-----		
Total fixed rate term notes	181,250	319,000
Floating rate term notes due 2005 - 2010*	338,750	278,000
2.0% convertible debentures due 2034	175,000	--
-----		
Total term debt	695,000	597,000
Asset securitization financings	286,000	325,000
Commercial paper	103,600	111,561
Bank borrowings	12,000	11,445
-----		
Total principal	1,096,600	1,045,006
Fair value adjustment of hedged debt	(2,900)	(2,730)
-----		
Total debt	\$ 1,093,700	\$ 1,042,276

\* \$143,250 at July 31, 2004 and \$87,500 at July 31, 2003 of fixed rate term notes swapped to floating rates are classified as floating rate term notes

## Term Notes

In April 2003, we issued \$200,000 of unsecured term notes. The notes include \$112,000 of fixed rate notes and \$88,000 of floating rate notes. The notes are due at maturity as follows: \$155,000 in five years and \$45,000 in seven years from date of issuance. The floating rate notes cannot be prepaid until after June 2005 and thereafter can be prepaid without penalty. We swapped the fixed rate notes to floating rates (see Note 4).

In August 2002, we received the remaining \$100,000 of the July 2002 issuance of \$200,000 of unsecured term notes. The notes include \$112,500 of fixed rate notes and \$87,500 of floating rate notes. The notes are due at maturity as follows: \$55,500 in three years, \$76,000 in four years and \$68,500 in five years from date of issuance. The floating rate notes can be prepaid without penalty. We swapped \$31,250 of fixed rate notes to a floating rate in fiscal 2004.

Interest on fixed rate notes is generally payable semi-annually. Interest rates on floating rate notes are indexed to LIBOR and generally change every thirty to ninety days. Prepayments of fixed rate notes are subject to a premium based on yield maintenance formulas. The weighted average interest rates on fixed rate notes were 6.9% and 6.8% at July 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. The weighted average interest rates on floating rate notes were 2.8% and 2.4% at July 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

## Convertible Debentures

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

In April 2004, we issued \$175,000 of convertible debentures. The debentures do not contain any financial or other restrictive covenants. The senior debt of our subsidiaries is effectively senior to the debentures.

The debentures have a 2.0% fixed annual interest rate and interest is payable semi-annually. Commencing in April 2009, we may incur additional interest for a semi-annual interest period if the average market value of the debentures on the last five days of the prior interest period was at least 20% higher than their principal amount. Additional interest would be computed at the annual rate of 0.25% of the average market value of the debentures during the aforementioned five days.

The debentures are convertible into 3,969,000 shares of our common stock at the conversion price of \$44.10 per share resulting in an initial conversion rate of 22.6778 shares per one thousand dollars of principal. The conversion price was set at 32.5% over the April 5, 2004 closing price of \$33.28. The conversion rate would be adjusted if a specified corporate transaction occurs including dividend payments or stock splits. The debentures can be converted into common stock only under the following circumstances; (i) in any fiscal quarter if the closing price of our common stock was at least 30% higher than the conversion price for at least 20 of the last 30 trading days of the prior fiscal quarter (the "market price condition"), (ii) the debentures are rated `BB' or lower by Fitch Ratings, Inc. (three ratings levels lower than the initial rating), (iii) we call the debentures for redemption or (iv) a specified corporate transaction occurs. Currently, the market price condition would be met if the price of our common stock closed above \$57.33 for the required period. Our common stock closed at \$32.16 on July 30, 2004.

28

We can redeem the debentures for their principal amount anytime starting in April 2009 and debenture holders can require us to repurchase debentures at their principal amount on each five year anniversary of issuance or when a specified corporate transaction occurs. The debentures have a 30 year term. Upon conversion, we can deliver the value of convertible shares in any combination of cash and/or common stock (See Note 7).

### Asset Securitization Financings

We have a \$325,000 asset securitization facility. We structured the facility to account for securitization proceeds as secured borrowings on our consolidated balance sheets and not as sales of receivables. Therefore, no gains on sales of securitized receivables are recorded. The secured borrowings are without recourse to us.

The facility provides for committed revolving financing for one year. If the facility is not renewed prior to its current expiration date of April 29, 2005, we can convert borrowings outstanding into term debt. The term debt would be repaid monthly in amounts equal to the collections of securitized receivables less interest incurred. Currently, we would exercise the conversion option upon non-renewal. Based on the contractual payments of securitized receivables at July 31, 2004, the term debt would be fully repaid by September 2006.

The unsecured debt agreements of our major operating subsidiary allow 40% of its finance receivables outstanding to be securitized; \$577,000 at July 31, 2004. Therefore, we could securitize an additional \$229,100 of finance receivables at July 31, 2004. Borrowings are limited to 94% of

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

securitized receivables.

Finance receivables include \$347,900 and \$432,300 of securitized receivables at July 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. The weighted average interest rates on borrowings outstanding at July 31, 2004 and 2003 were 1.5% and 1.3%, respectively. The weighted average interest rates on borrowings outstanding during the years ended July 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002 were 1.3%, 1.6% and 2.2%, respectively. The interest rates change monthly.

### Commercial Paper

We issue commercial paper with a maximum term of 270 days. The weighted average interest rates on commercial paper outstanding at July 31, 2004 and 2003 were 1.6% and 1.5%, respectively. The weighted average interest rates on commercial paper outstanding during the years ended July 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002 were 1.4%, 1.9% and 2.7%, respectively.

### Bank Borrowings

We have \$340,000 of committed unsecured revolving credit facilities with various banks expiring as follows: \$147,500 within one year and \$192,500 on various dates from November 2005 through July 2007. We incur a fee on the unused portion of these facilities. Borrowings under these facilities generally mature between one and ninety days and bear interest based on domestic money market rates or LIBOR, at our option. The weighted average interest rates on borrowings outstanding at July 31, 2004 and 2003 were 2.0% and 1.6%, respectively. The weighted average interest rates on borrowings outstanding during the years ended July 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002 were 1.7%, 1.9% and 2.8%, respectively.

### Subordinated Debt

In July 2002, we called our 4.5% convertible subordinated notes due in May 2005 for redemption. The redemption was completed in August 2002; \$56,223 of the notes were redeemed for cash and \$34,965 of the notes were converted into 1,159,000 shares of our common stock at the stated conversion price of \$30.15625 per share. We paid a \$1,085 prepayment premium equal to 1.93% of the principal amount of the notes redeemed for cash. The premium, combined with the expensing of unamortized deferred debt issuance costs (which were being amortized over the term of the notes), resulted in a \$1,737 pre-tax loss.

In October 2002, we prepaid \$2,290 of 8.0% subordinated debentures due March 2003 for their principal amount.

### Other

The debt agreements of our major operating subsidiary contain restrictive covenants including limitations on the subsidiary's indebtedness, encumbrances, investments, dividends and other distributions to us, sales of assets, mergers and other business combinations, capital expenditures, interest coverage and net worth. None of the agreements contain a material adverse change clause. All of our debt is senior.

Long-term debt comprised the following:

Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

July 31,	2004	
Term notes	\$ 409,350	\$ 502
Convertible debentures	175,000	149
Asset securitization financings	126,700	123
Bank borrowings and commercial paper supported by bank credit facilities expiring after one year	115,600	775
<b>Total long-term debt</b>	<b>\$ 826,650</b>	<b>\$ 775</b>

Long-term debt at July 31, 2004 matures as follows:

Fiscal:	2006	2007	2008	2009	
	\$210,180	\$205,120	\$192,250	\$175,000	\$44

The fair value adjustment on hedged debt is the difference between the principal amount and fair value of the fixed rate term notes that were swapped to floating rates. The adjustment represents changes in the hedged debt's fair value from changes in the swap rate. The fair value adjustment was recorded as a reduction of long-term debt and equals the fair value of the interest rate swaps recorded as an other liability.

NOTE 4 - DERIVATIVES

In fiscal 2004, we entered into two interest rate swap agreements with a total notional amount of \$55,750. We designated them as fair value hedges of \$24,500 of 4.37% fixed rate term notes due in April 2008 and \$31,250 of 6.23% fixed rate term notes due in August 2007. At July 31, 2004 and 2003, the total notional amount of interest rate swaps was \$143,250 and \$87,500, respectively. All of the swaps have been designated as fair value hedges of fixed rate term notes. We receive fixed rates equal to the rates of the respective hedged notes and pay floating rates indexed to six-month LIBOR on the swaps' notional amounts. The swaps expire on the maturity dates of the respective notes. The swaps effectively converted the fixed rate notes to floating rates and were structured to allow the use of the "short-cut" method of measuring hedge effectiveness. As a result, there is no hedge ineffectiveness from the swaps. The fair value of the swaps was a liability of \$2,900 and \$2,730 at July 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

The terms of the swaps and related information at July 31, 2004 follow:

Issue Date	Expiration Date	Notional Amount	Receive Rate	Pay Rate	Fair
April 2003	April 2010	\$ 12,500	4.96%	2.49%	\$
July 2003	April 2008	25,000	4.37	2.13	

Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

July 2003	June 2008	12,500	4.37	2.82
July 2003	June 2008	25,000	4.37	2.63
July 2003	June 2010	12,500	4.96	2.80
August 2003	April 2008	24,500	4.37	2.03
April 2004	August 2007	31,250	6.23	5.14
-----				
Total		\$143,250		\$
=====				

NOTE 5 - STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

We established a common stock repurchase program in August 1996 and expanded the program to include repurchases of our convertible debt. Through July 31, 2004, we repurchased 640,000 shares of common stock at a total cost of \$13,445 and \$8,800 principal amount of convertible notes at a total cost of \$7,151 under the program. We increased the amount available under the program by \$6,805 in 2004 fiscal and \$13,383 in fiscal 2002. At July 31, 2004, \$20,000 was available under the program for future repurchases.

We repurchased 163,000 shares in fiscal 2004 and 55,000 shares in fiscal 2003 (no repurchases were made in fiscal 2002) under the program (details follow). In October 2003, we received 135,000 shares of common stock (at the market price of \$34.15 per share) in exchange for our CEO's exercise of 200,000 stock options and related minimum income taxes pursuant to the CEO's

30

October 1998 stock option agreement. We also received 7,000 shares at \$34.15 for other senior officers' exercise of 12,000 stock options and related taxes. We retired these 142,000 shares. In March 2004, we received 21,000 shares of common stock from certain officers at \$33.29 per share as payment of income taxes required to be withheld on the vesting of their restricted stock. These shares are held in treasury. In fiscal 2003, we repurchased 43,000 shares of common stock in the open market at an average price of \$24.44 per share and received 12,000 shares from certain officers (at an average price of \$18.71 per share) as payment of income taxes required to be withheld on the vesting of their restricted stock.

We also repurchased 1,502,000 shares of common stock in April 2004 at a cost of \$50,000. This repurchase was not part of the repurchase program. These shares are held in treasury.

NOTE 6 - STOCK PLANS

Our 1998 Stock Option/Restricted Stock Plan (the "1998 Plan") was approved by stockholders in December 1998. The 1998 Plan, as amended in February 2002 to include restricted stock grants, provides for 2,500,000 incentive or non-qualified stock options or shares of restricted stock to be granted to officers, other employees and directors. The 1998 Plan expires in September 2008. Our prior stock option plan expired in September 1999. Under the plans, the exercise price of an incentive stock option may not be less than the fair market value of the common stock on the date granted and the term of an incentive stock option is limited to ten years.

Options outstanding at July 31, 2004 were generally granted with terms of five or six years and generally vest (become exercisable) over periods of three to five years. At July 31, 2004, 567,000 shares of common stock were available for future grants of stock options and restricted stock.



## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

Stock option activity and related information is summarized as follows (options in thousands):

Years Ended July 31,	2004		2003		
	Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Options
Outstanding at beginning of year	1,386	\$22.81	1,752	\$22.49	1,558
Granted	424	33.69	94	21.85	517
Exercised	(391)	19.98	(116)	15.87	(242)
Canceled	(33)	25.31	(344)	23.24	(81)
Outstanding at end of year	1,386	\$26.88	1,386	\$22.81	1,752
Exercisable at end of year	368	\$23.03	504	\$20.34	352

The exercise prices of options outstanding at July 31, 2004 ranged from \$18.63 to \$33.95. Information by price range follows:

Price Range	Under \$23	\$23 - \$29
Outstanding:		
Number (in thousands)	177	788
Weighted average exercise price	\$ 19.22	\$ 24.95
Weighted average remaining contractual life (in years)	2.2	3.5
Exercisable:		
Number (in thousands)	106	262
Weighted average exercise price	\$ 19.15	\$ 24.61

In fiscal 2002, we established a Supplemental Retirement Benefit ("SERP") for our Chief Executive Officer ("CEO"). Under the SERP, the CEO was granted 100,000 stock units (representing an equivalent number of shares of common stock) that will vest evenly over eight years. Subject to certain forfeiture provisions, the CEO will receive shares of common stock equal to the number of vested stock units upon the CEO's termination of employment or upon a sale of the Company.

Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

stockholders in December 2001. Under the MIP, the CEO can be awarded shares of restricted stock, in addition to a cash bonus, if we achieve certain performance goals. The total number of shares of restricted stock that can be awarded under the MIP is 500,000. The CEO received 50,000 and 30,000 shares of restricted stock in fiscal 2002 and 2001, respectively. In fiscal 2002, the CEO was also awarded 50,000 shares of restricted stock subject to certain performance goals for fiscal 2003. Based on our operating results for fiscal 2003, the CEO received 34,000 of these shares in fiscal 2003 and 16,000 shares were forfeited. No shares were awarded to the CEO in fiscal 2004. In fiscal 2003, the CEO deferred receipt of 18,000 shares of vested restricted stock. As a result, these shares were converted into stock units. At July 31, 2004, 386,000 shares of restricted stock were available for future awards.

Restricted stock activity under the 1998 Plan and the MIP and related information follow (shares in thousands):

Years Ended July 31,	2004	2003	2002
Granted	65	40	545
Vesting period (in years)	8	8	8
Forfeited	--	114	2
Vested	70	78	14

The restricted stock agreements and the SERP provide for full acceleration of vesting upon the occurrence of certain events including a sale of the Company, the officer's death or disability and qualifying terminations of employment. These awards are expensed on a straight-line basis over their respective vesting periods based on the price of the common stock on the dates granted. Compensation expense recorded for these awards was \$2,447 in fiscal 2004, \$2,546 in fiscal 2003 and \$1,473 in fiscal 2002.

NOTE 7 - EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE

Earnings per common share ("EPS") was calculated as follows (in thousands, except per share amounts):

Years Ended July 31,	2004	2003	2002
Net earnings (used for basic EPS)	\$31,190	\$30,088	\$37,068
Effect of convertible securities	--	115	2,894
Adjusted net earnings (used for diluted EPS)	\$31,190	\$30,203	\$39,962
Weighted average common shares outstanding (used for basic EPS)	17,784	17,975	16,645
Effect of dilutive securities:			
Stock options *	256	224	424
Restricted stock/stock units	83	35	27
Convertible notes	--	124	3,024
Adjusted weighted average common shares and			

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

assumed conversions (used for diluted EPS)	18,123	18,358	20,120
=====			
Net earnings per common share:			
Diluted	\$ 1.72	\$ 1.65	\$ 1.99
=====			
Basic	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.67	\$ 2.23
=====			

\* excludes 155 and 370 stock options in fiscal 2004 and fiscal 2003, respectively, that were antidilutive (would have increased EPS because their exercise price exceeded the average price of the common stock)

None of the events that allow the \$175,000 of convertible debentures to be converted into common stock occurred as of July 31, 2004. Therefore, the debentures did not affect the fiscal 2004 computation of diluted EPS. If an event occurs that allows the debentures to be converted into common stock, the computation of diluted EPS would be adjusted by (i) removing the after-tax interest cost of the debentures from net earnings and (ii) treating the shares issuable upon conversion of the debentures as shares outstanding (referred to as the if-converted method). This would reduce diluted EPS. At July 31, 2004, the annual after-tax interest cost is approximately \$2,800 and 3,969,000 shares would be issuable upon conversion.

32

In July 2004, the Emerging Issues Task Force ("EITF") of the FASB announced a tentative conclusion on EITF No. 04-8, "The Effect of Contingently Convertible Debt on Diluted Earnings per Share" that convertible debentures with a contingent conversion feature could no longer be excluded from the computation of diluted EPS. Based on this tentative conclusion, our convertible debentures would reduce diluted EPS as described in the preceding paragraph. The EITF has proposed retroactive treatment that would require restatement of our fiscal 2004 diluted EPS. If restatement will be required, our fiscal 2004 diluted EPS would be reduced to \$1.66.

As explained in Note 3, upon conversion of the debentures, we have the ability to deliver the value of converted debentures in any combination of cash and/or common stock. Pursuant to the terms of the debenture, we can unilaterally elect to irrevocably fix the payment of the principal amount of converted debentures in cash and any additional value in stock. As a result, the 3,969,000 shares would no longer be issuable upon conversion of the debentures and EITF No. 04-8 as currently proposed would not affect the computation of diluted EPS (we also believe that restatement of fiscal 2004 diluted EPS would not be required). The debentures therefore would not affect the computation of diluted EPS until the price of our common stock exceeds the conversion price of \$44.10. In fiscal periods in which the average price of our common stock exceeds \$44.10, a percentage (equal to the excess of the average price above \$44.10, divided by the average price) of the number of shares required to deliver the value of the converted debentures over principal would be treated as shares outstanding in the computation of diluted EPS (referred to as the treasury stock method). We will decide whether to make this election in the second quarter of fiscal 2005.

### NOTE 8 - Income Taxes

The provision for income taxes comprised the following:

Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

Years Ended July 31,	2004	2003	2002
Currently payable:			
Federal	\$ 20,011	\$ 20,912	\$ 18,788
State	3,619	4,117	3,818
Total	23,630	25,029	22,606
Deferred	(3,673)	(5,482)	1,468
Provision for income taxes	\$ 19,957	\$ 19,547	\$ 24,074

Net tax benefits from stock options and restricted stock reduced taxes currently payable and increased additional paid-in capital by \$1,763 in fiscal 2004, \$132 in fiscal 2003 and \$369 in fiscal 2002.

Income taxes computed at statutory federal rates are reconciled to the provision for income taxes as follows:

Years Ended July 31,	2004	2003	2002
Federal at statutory rates	\$ 17,901	\$ 17,372	\$ 21,400
State (net of federal benefit)	2,056	2,015	2,674
Non-deductible interest accrued on debt converted to equity	--	160	--
Provision for income taxes	\$ 19,957	\$ 19,547	\$ 24,074

Deferred income taxes comprised the tax effect of the following temporary differences:

July 31,	2004	2003
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Leasing transactions	\$ 23,467	\$ 28,554
Finance income and other	9,002	7,304
Total	32,469	35,858
Deferred tax assets:		
Allowance for credit losses	(9,082)	(9,070)
Other	(1,987)	(1,715)
Total	(11,069)	(10,785)
Deferred income taxes	\$ 21,400	\$ 25,073

NOTE 9 - SALARIES AND OTHER EXPENSES

Salaries and other expenses comprised the following:

Years Ended July 31,	2004	2003	2002
Salaries and employee benefits	\$10,916	\$11,404	\$11,716
Other expenses	12,542	11,987	9,312
Total	\$23,458	\$23,391	\$21,028

NOTE 10 - LEASE COMMITMENTS

We occupy office space under leases expiring through 2011. At July 31, 2004, minimum future annual rentals due under these leases are \$1,136 in fiscal 2005, \$1,122 in fiscal 2006, \$878 in fiscal 2007, \$620 in fiscal 2008, \$625 in fiscal 2009 and \$659 thereafter. Office rent expense was \$1,556 in fiscal 2004, \$1,427 in fiscal 2003 and \$1,446 in fiscal 2002.

NOTE 11 - FAIR VALUES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Our financial instruments comprise cash, finance receivables (excluding leases), commitments to extend credit, debt and interest rate swaps. The following methods were used to estimate the fair value of these financial instruments.

The carrying values of cash, commercial paper, bank borrowings and asset securitization financings approximated their fair values based on their short-term maturities. Interest rate swaps are recorded at fair value based on market quotes obtained from the swap counterparties.

The fair value of the term notes was approximately \$523,000 at July 31, 2004 and \$609,000 at July 31, 2003, compared to their carrying amounts of \$520,000 at July 31, 2004 and \$597,000 at July 31, 2003. Fair value was computed based on the future cash flows of the notes discounted at current interest rates for debt with similar terms and maturities.

The fair value of the \$175,000 of 2.0% convertible debentures was \$172,000 at July 31, 2004 based on their quoted market price.

It is not practicable for us to estimate the fair value of our finance receivables and commitments to extend credit. These financial instruments comprise a substantial number of transactions with commercial obligors in numerous industries, are secured by liens on various types of equipment and may be guaranteed by third parties. Any difference between the carrying value and the fair value of each transaction would be affected by a potential buyer's assessment of the transaction's credit quality, collateral value, third-party guarantee(s), payment history, yield, maturity, documentation and

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

other legal matters, and many other subjective considerations of the buyer. In addition, the value received in a fair market sale of a transaction would be based on the terms of the sale, the documentation governing such sale, our and the buyer's views of general economic conditions, industry conditions, our and the buyer's tax considerations, and numerous other factors. Information pertinent to estimating the fair value of finance receivables is presented in Note 2.

### NOTE 12 - SELECTED QUARTERLY DATA (UNAUDITED)

	Revenues	Net Earnings	Earnings per Share	
			Diluted	Basic
Fiscal 2004, three months ended:				
October 31, 2003	\$30,232	\$7,152	\$0.39	\$0.39
January 31, 2004	29,579	7,791	0.42	0.43
April 30, 2004	29,029	8,036	0.44	0.45
July 31, 2004	29,465	8,211	0.48	0.49
Fiscal 2003, three months ended:				
October 31, 2002	\$34,971	\$8,273	\$0.45	\$0.47
January 31, 2003	33,278	8,320	0.46	0.46
April 30, 2003	30,692	6,585	0.36	0.36
July 31, 2003	31,306	6,910	0.38	0.38

34

### Item 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None

### Item 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

- a. Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures. Our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have conducted an evaluation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) as of the end of the period covered by this report and each has concluded that such disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of such date to ensure that information required to be disclosed in our reports filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in Securities and Exchange Commission rules and forms.
- b. Changes in internal controls. There were no changes in our internal controls over financial reporting that occurred during the fourth fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal controls over financial reporting.

PART III

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

### Item 10. DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT

The information required by Item 10 is incorporated by reference from information provided under the captions "Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance" and "Nominees for Election as Directors" in the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A for its Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held December 14, 2004, except as to biographical information on Executive Officers that is contained in Item 1 of this report.

We adopted a code of business conduct and ethics that applies to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer and persons performing similar functions. The code of business conduct and ethics is posted in the investor relations section of our website; <http://www.financialfederal.com>. We intend to satisfy the disclosure requirement under Item 10 of Form 8-K regarding an amendment to, or waiver from, a provision of this code of business conduct and ethics by posting such information on our website.

### Item 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information required by Item 11 is incorporated by reference from information provided under the caption "Executive Compensation" in the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A for its Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held December 14, 2004.

### Item 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

#### Equity Compensation Plan Information

Equity compensation plan category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options (a)	Weighted average exercise price of outstanding options (b)	Number remaining for future exercise of securities
Approved by security holders	1,386,272	\$26.88	
Not approved by security holders	--	--	
Total	1,386,272	\$26.88	

(1) Includes 567,370 stock options or shares of restricted stock available for future issuance under our Amended and Restated 1998 Stock Option/Restricted Stock Plan and 385,550 shares of restricted stock available for future issuance under our 2001 Management Incentive Plan.

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

Other information required by Item 12 is incorporated by reference from information provided under the caption "Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management" in the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A for its Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held December 14, 2004.

### Item 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

The information required by Item 13 is incorporated by reference from information provided under the caption "Certain Transactions" in the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A for its Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held December 14, 2004.

### Item 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

The information required by Item 14 is incorporated by reference from information provided under the caption "Principal Accountant and Fees" in the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A for its Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held December 14, 2004.

## PART IV

### Item 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES, AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K

(a) Documents filed as part of this report:

1. INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FILED AS PART OF THIS REPORT:

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm  
Consolidated Balance Sheets at July 31, 2004 and 2003  
Consolidated Income Statements for the fiscal years ended July 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002  
Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the fiscal years ended July 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002  
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the fiscal years ended July 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002  
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

2. FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

All schedules have been omitted because the required information is included in the Consolidated Financial Statements or the accompanying notes.

3. EXHIBITS

Exhibit No.		Description of Exhibit
3.1	(a)	Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant
3.4	(f)	Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation dated December 9, 1998
3.6	(g)	Restated By-laws of the Registrant as amended through March 7, 2000



## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

- 4.8 (c) Indenture dated January 14, 1998 for Financial Federal Credit Inc.'s ("Credit's") Rule 144A Medium Term Note Program
- 4.12 (d) Specimen Common Stock Certificate
- 4.14 (l) Purchase Agreement, dated April 5, 2004, between Registrant and Banc of America Securities LLC and J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. for Registrant's \$150 million 2.0% Convertible Senior Debentures due 2034
- 4.15 (l) Indenture, dated as of April 12, 2004, between Registrant and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas for Registrant's \$175 million 2.0% Convertible Senior Debentures due 2034
- 4.16 (l) Registration Rights Agreement, dated April 12, 2004, between Registrant and Banc of America Securities LLC and J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. for Registrant's \$150 million 2.0% Convertible Senior Debentures due 2034
- 4.17 (l) Specimen 2.0% Convertible Senior Debenture due 2034

36

- 10.8 (a) Form of Commercial Paper Note issued by the Registrant
- 10.9 (a) Form of Commercial Paper Note issued by Credit
- \*10.10 (a) Stock Option Plan of the Registrant and forms of related stock option agreements
- 10.21 (b) Form of Commercial Paper Dealer Agreement of Credit
- \*10.22 (b) Form of Deferred Compensation Agreement with certain officers as filed under the Top Hat Plan with the Department of Labor
- \*10.25 (e) Amended and Restated 1998 Stock Option/Restricted Stock Plan of the Registrant
- \*10.26 (g) Deferred Compensation Agreement dated March 7, 2000 between the Registrant and Clarence Y. Palitz, Jr.
- \*10.27 (h) 2001 Management Incentive Plan for the Chief Executive Officer("CEO") of the Registrant
- \*10.28 (h) Form of Restricted Stock Agreement dated February 27, 2001 between the Registrant and its CEO
- \*10.29 (h) Form of Restricted Stock Agreement dated February 27, 2001 between the Registrant and certain senior officers
- \*10.30 (i) Form of Restricted Stock Agreement dated March 1, 2002 between the Registrant and its CEO
- \*10.31 (i) Form of Restricted Stock Agreement between the Registrant and certain senior officers
- \*10.32 (j) Supplemental Retirement Benefit dated June 4, 2002 between the Registrant and its CEO
- \*10.33 (k) Agreement to Defer Restricted Stock dated February 26, 2004 between the Registrant and its CEO
- \*10.34 (k) Agreement to Defer Restricted Stock dated February 26, 2004 between the Registrant and its CEO
- \*10.35 \*\* Form of Incentive Stock Option Agreement (pursuant to the Registrant's Amended and Restated 1998 Stock Option/Restricted Stock Plan)
- \*10.36 \*\* Form of Non-Qualified Option Agreement (pursuant to the Registrant's Amended and Restated 1998 Stock Option/Restricted Stock Plan)
- 12.1 \*\* Computation of Debt-To-Equity Ratio
- 21.1 \*\* Subsidiaries of the Registrant
- 23.1 \*\* Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
- 31.1 \*\* Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Chief Executive Officer
- 31.2 \*\* Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Chief Financial Officer
- 32.1 \*\* Section 1350 Certification of Chief Executive Officer
- 32.2 \*\* Section 1350 Certification of Chief Financial Officer

## Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to our:

- (a) Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 33-46662) filed on May 28, 1992.
- (b) Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended July 31, 1996.
- (c) Form 10-Q for the quarter ended January 31, 1998.
- (d) Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 333-56651) filed on June 11, 1998.
- (e) Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Registration No. 333-50962) filed on November 28, 2000.
- (f) Form 10-Q for the quarter ended January 31, 1999.
- (g) Form 10-Q for the quarter ended January 31, 2000.
- (h) Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 30, 2001.
- (i) Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 30, 2002.
- (j) Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended July 31, 2002.
- (k) Form 10-Q for the quarter ended January 31, 2003.
- (l) Form 8-K dated April 19, 2004.

\* denotes management contract or compensatory plan  
\*\* filed herewith

### (b) Reports on Form 8-K

We filed a report on Form 8-K dated July 30, 2004 reporting, under Item 5, that Fitch Ratings ("Fitch", a Nationally Recognized Statistical Ratings Organization) raised its senior unsecured debt ratings of the Company and its major operating subsidiary to 'BBB+' from 'BBB' and revised its Rating Outlook to Stable from Positive. Fitch also affirmed its rating of the subsidiary's commercial paper at 'F2'. Approximately \$750 million of debt is affected by Fitch's action.

We filed a report on Form 8-K dated June 7, 2004 reporting, under Item 12, the announcement of earnings for the quarter ended April 30, 2004.

37

### SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORPORATION

-----  
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Paul R. Sinsheimer

-----  
Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive  
Officer and President (Principal  
Executive Officer)

October 4, 2004

-----  
Date

Edgar Filing: FINANCIAL FEDERAL CORP - Form 10-K

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

/s/ Lawrence B. Fisher

-----  
Director

/s/ William C. MacMillen, Jr.

-----  
Director

/s/ Michael C. Palitz

-----  
Director

/s/ Thomas F. Robards

-----  
Director

/s/ H. E. Timanus, Jr.

-----  
Director

/s/ Michael J. Zimmerman

-----  
Director

/s/ Steven F. Groth

-----  
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)

/s/ David H. Hamm

-----  
Vice President, Controller and Treasurer (Principal Accounting Officer)