

WACHOVIA CORP NEW
Form S-4/A
September 24, 2004
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 24, 2004

Registration No. 333-117283

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

AMENDMENT NO. 4 TO FORM S-4 REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Under

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Wachovia Corporation

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

North Carolina
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

6711
(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)

56-0898180
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

One Wachovia Center
Charlotte, North Carolina 28288-0013

(704) 374-6565

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Mark C. Treanor, Esq.
Senior Executive Vice President,
General Counsel and Secretary
Wachovia Corporation
One Wachovia Center
Charlotte, North Carolina 28288-0013
(704) 374-6565

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies To:

| | | | |
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APPROXIMATE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF PROPOSED SALE OF THE SECURITIES TO THE PUBLIC:

As soon as practicable after this Registration Statement becomes effective.

If the securities being registered on this form are being offered in connection with the formation of a holding company and there is compliance with General Instruction G, check the following box: "

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering: "

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering: "

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act, or until this Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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The information in this joint proxy statement-prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This joint proxy statement-prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED SEPTEMBER 24, 2004

Our merger. Wachovia and SouthTrust are proposing a merger of SouthTrust into Wachovia. After the merger, we believe the combined Wachovia will be the pre-eminent retail banking franchise in the southeastern United States, and one of the nation's leading banking organizations in commercial banking, asset and wealth management, securities brokerage and investment banking.

Facts for SouthTrust shareholders:

In the merger, you will receive 0.89 Wachovia common shares for each SouthTrust common share you own.

Your board unanimously recommends the merger.

The combined company expects to continue Wachovia's dividend policy. Based on the current Wachovia quarterly dividend of \$0.40 per Wachovia common share and the 0.89 exchange ratio, this would equal \$0.356 per SouthTrust common share.

After the merger, former SouthTrust shareholders will own about 19% of the combined company.

Generally, the merger will be tax-free to you, other than with respect to any cash you receive for fractional shares.

SouthTrust needs your vote to complete the merger. SouthTrust plans to hold a special shareholders' meeting to vote on the merger on [•], 2004.

Facts for Wachovia shareholders:

In the merger, you will keep your Wachovia common shares.

Your board unanimously recommends the merger.

Your dividend rights will not be affected by the merger. The current Wachovia quarterly dividend is \$0.40 per common share.

After the merger, current Wachovia shareholders will own about 81% of the combined company.

The merger will be tax-free to you.

Wachovia needs your vote to complete the merger. Wachovia plans to hold a special shareholders' meeting to vote on the merger on [•], 2004.

Merger consideration. *The number of shares of Wachovia common stock that SouthTrust shareholders will receive in the merger is fixed. The dollar value of the stock consideration SouthTrust shareholders receive will change depending on changes in the market price of Wachovia common stock and will not be known at the time either company's shareholders vote on the merger.* For example,

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Closing Wachovia Share Price</u> | <u>Value per SouthTrust Share</u> |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| June 18, 2004, the last trading day before we announced our merger [•], 2004 | \$ 47.00 [•] | \$ 41.83 [•] |

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You should obtain current market quotations for both Wachovia and SouthTrust common shares. Wachovia is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **WB** and SouthTrust is listed on The Nasdaq Stock Market under the symbol **SOTR**.

Voting. Even if you plan to attend your company's meeting, please vote as soon as possible by completing and submitting the enclosed proxy card. Not voting at all will have the same effect as voting against the merger.

This document and risks. Please read this document carefully, because it contains important information about the merger. **Read carefully the risk factors relating to the merger beginning on page [•].**

None of the SEC, any state securities commission or the North Carolina Commissioner of Insurance has approved or disapproved the securities to be issued in the merger or determined if this document is accurate or adequate. It is illegal to tell you otherwise.

The securities to be issued in the merger are not savings or deposit accounts and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

Joint proxy statement-prospectus dated [•], 2004, and first mailed to shareholders on or about [•], 2004.

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References to Additional Information

This document incorporates important business and financial information about Wachovia and SouthTrust from other documents that are not included in or delivered with this document. This information is available to you without charge upon your written or oral request. You can obtain documents related to Wachovia and SouthTrust that are incorporated by reference in this document through the Securities and Exchange Commission web site at <http://www.sec.gov> or by requesting them in writing or by telephone from the appropriate company:

If you are a Wachovia shareholder:
Georgeson Shareholder Communications
17 State Street 10th Floor
New York, New York 10004
Telephone: (800) 255-8670

**If you would like to request documents,
please do so by [•], 2004
to receive them before
Wachovia's special meeting.**

If you are a SouthTrust shareholder:
Morrow & Co., Inc.
445 Park Ave. 5th Floor
New York, New York 10022-2606
Telephone: (877) 366-1576

**If you would like to request documents
please do so by [•], 2004
to receive them before
SouthTrust's special meeting.**

You also may obtain additional proxy cards and other information related to the proxy solicitation by contacting the appropriate proxy solicitation firm. You will not be charged for any of these documents that you request.

See Where You Can Find More Information on page [•].

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WACHOVIA CORPORATION
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
TO BE HELD ON [•], 2004

To the Shareholders

of Wachovia Corporation:

We will hold a special meeting of shareholders of Wachovia Corporation, a North Carolina corporation, on [•], 2004, at [•] a.m., local time, in [•], for the following purpose:

Approving the plan of merger contained in the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of June 20, 2004, between SouthTrust Corporation, a Delaware corporation, and Wachovia, pursuant to which SouthTrust will merge with and into Wachovia, as more fully described in the attached joint proxy statement-prospectus.

We have fixed the close of business on August 20, 2004, as the record date for determining those shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the special meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting. Only Wachovia shareholders of record at the close of business on that date are entitled to notice of the special meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting, and only Wachovia common shareholders of record at the close of business on that date are entitled to vote at the special meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting. In order for the proposal to approve the plan of merger to be adopted, the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Wachovia common stock entitled to vote must vote in favor of approval of the plan of merger. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have the same effect as votes against approval of the plan of merger. If you wish to attend the special meeting and your shares are held in the name of a broker, trust, bank or other nominee, you must bring with you a proxy or letter from the broker, trustee, bank or nominee to confirm your beneficial ownership of the shares.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Mark C. Treanor

Senior Executive Vice President,

General Counsel and Secretary

[•], 2004

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Whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting in person, please vote your proxy by telephone or through the Internet, as described on the enclosed proxy card, or complete, date, sign and return the enclosed proxy card in the enclosed envelope. The enclosed envelope requires no postage if mailed in the United States. If you attend the special meeting, you may vote in person if you wish, even if you have previously returned your proxy card or voted by telephone or through the Internet.

Wachovia's board of directors unanimously recommends that you vote **FOR** approval of the plan of merger.

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SOUTHTRUST CORPORATION
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
TO BE HELD ON [•], 2004

To the Shareholders of

SouthTrust Corporation:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of shareholders of SouthTrust Corporation, a Delaware corporation, will be held on [•], 2004, at [•] a.m., local time, in the auditorium on the eighth floor of the SouthTrust Tower, 420 North 20th Street, Birmingham, Alabama, for the following purpose:

Approving the plan of merger contained in the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of June 20, 2004, between Wachovia Corporation, a North Carolina corporation, and SouthTrust, pursuant to which SouthTrust will merge with and into Wachovia, as more fully described in the attached joint proxy statement-prospectus.

We have fixed the close of business on September 21, 2004, as the record date for determining those shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the special meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting. Only SouthTrust shareholders of record at the close of business on that date are entitled to notice of the special meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting, and only SouthTrust common shareholders of record at the close of business on that date are entitled to vote at the special meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting. In order for the proposal to approve the plan of merger to be adopted, the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of SouthTrust common stock entitled to vote must vote in favor of approval of the plan of merger. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have the same effect as votes against approval of the plan of merger. If you wish to attend the special meeting and your shares are held in the name of a broker, trust, bank or other nominee, you must bring with you a proxy or letter from the broker, trustee, bank or nominee to confirm your beneficial ownership of the shares.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Wallace D. Malone, Jr.

Chairman

[•], 2004

Whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting in person, please vote your proxy by telephone or through the Internet, as described on the enclosed proxy card, or complete, date, sign and return the enclosed proxy card in the enclosed envelope. The enclosed envelope requires no postage if mailed in the United States. If you attend the special meeting, you may vote in person if you wish, even if you have previously returned your proxy card or voted by telephone or through the Internet.

SouthTrust's board of directors unanimously recommends that you vote FOR approval of the plan of merger.

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SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information from this document. It may not contain all the information that is important to you. We urge you to read carefully this entire document and the other documents to which we refer you for a more complete understanding of the merger between Wachovia and SouthTrust. In addition, we incorporate by reference into this document important business and financial information about Wachovia and SouthTrust. You may obtain the information incorporated by reference in this document without charge by following the instructions in the section entitled **Where You Can Find More Information on page [•]. Each item in this summary includes a page reference directing you to a more complete description of that item.**

We Propose That Wachovia and SouthTrust Merge (Page •)

We propose that SouthTrust merge into Wachovia, with Wachovia as the surviving corporation. The combined company will be incorporated in North Carolina and its corporate headquarters will be in Charlotte, North Carolina. The combined company will be called Wachovia Corporation and its common stock will trade on the New York Stock Exchange, or the NYSE, under the symbol **WB**. We expect to complete the merger in the fourth quarter of 2004.

SouthTrust Shareholders Will Receive 0.89 of a Share of Wachovia Common Stock in the Merger For Each Share of SouthTrust Common Stock (Page •)

SouthTrust Shareholders. When the merger is completed, each SouthTrust shareholder will receive 0.89 of a share of Wachovia common stock for each share of SouthTrust common stock held. We sometimes refer to this 0.89 ratio as the exchange ratio.

Wachovia will not issue fractional shares in the merger. Instead, it will pay cash for fractional common shares based on the NYSE closing price per Wachovia share on the trading day before the merger is completed.

If you are a SouthTrust shareholder, you will need to surrender your SouthTrust common stock certificates to receive your shares of Wachovia common stock, your cash payment instead of fractional shares and any dividends paid by the combined company. Please do not surrender your certificates until you receive written instructions from the combined company after we have completed the merger.

Wachovia Shareholders. If you are a Wachovia shareholder, your shares of Wachovia common stock will be unchanged by the merger. You do not need to surrender your shares or your stock certificates.

Combined Company. After completion of the merger, former SouthTrust shareholders will own approximately 19% of the common stock of the combined company, and current Wachovia shareholders will own approximately 81% of the common stock of the combined company.

The Exchange Ratio is Fixed and the Value of the Shares to be Issued in the Merger Will Fluctuate with Market Prices (Page •)

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Upon completion of the merger, each share of SouthTrust common stock will be converted into 0.89 shares of Wachovia common stock. The exchange ratio will not be adjusted for changes in the market price of either Wachovia common stock or SouthTrust common stock. Accordingly, any change in the price of Wachovia common stock prior to the merger will affect the market value of Wachovia common stock that SouthTrust shareholders will receive on the date of the merger. Neither of us is permitted to terminate the merger agreement or resolicit the vote of our shareholders solely because of changes in the market prices of our common stocks.

You should obtain current stock price quotations for Wachovia common stock and SouthTrust common stock. Wachovia common shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbol `WB` and SouthTrust common shares are listed on The Nasdaq

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Stock Market, or Nasdaq, under the symbol SOTR . The following table shows the closing prices for Wachovia and SouthTrust common stock and the implied per share value in the merger to SouthTrust shareholders for the following dates and periods:

June 18, 2004, the last trading day before we announced the merger;

June 21, 2004, the day we announced the merger;

[●], 2004, shortly before we mailed this document; and

the high, low and average values for the period from June 18, 2004 through [●], 2004.

| | Closing | | Implied value |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Wachovia | Closing | per |
| | share | SouthTrust | SouthTrust |
| | price | share price | share |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| June 18, 2004 | \$ 47.00 | \$ 34.80 | \$ 41.83 |
| June 21, 2004 | 45.02 | 39.37 | 40.07 |
| [●], 2004 | | | |
| High (for period) | | | |
| Low (for period) | | | |
| Average (for period) | | | |

Our boards, in arriving at their determinations that a fixed exchange ratio is preferable and that the merger is in the best interests of our shareholders, each considered that:

a fixed exchange ratio is appropriate in view of the long-term strategic purposes of the merger because it captures the relative contribution of each company based on fundamental financial factors and avoids relative fluctuations between our stock prices caused by near-term volatility;

a fixed exchange ratio is customary for mergers of this type in the financial services industry;

an exchange ratio that does not fluctuate with the price of our common stocks provides substantial certainty about the number of shares that will be issued in the merger;

the nominal dollar value of the shares of the combined company to be received by SouthTrust shareholders in the merger would fluctuate with the market price of Wachovia common stock before the merger is completed and could be materially different from the market price prevailing when we signed the merger agreement; and

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an exchange ratio that does not fluctuate with the price of our common stocks focuses on the long-term value of the combined company rather than on short-term market fluctuations between the dates of signing the merger agreement and completing the merger.

Wachovia's Common Stock Dividend Policy Will Continue After the Merger; Coordination of Dividends (Page 2)

Wachovia's common stock dividend policy will continue after the merger, but this policy is subject to the determination of Wachovia's board of directors and may change at any time. In the second quarter of 2004, Wachovia paid a dividend of \$0.40 per share of Wachovia common stock and SouthTrust paid a dividend of \$0.24 per share of SouthTrust common stock. Based on the 0.89 exchange ratio and these dividend rates, following the merger, holders of SouthTrust common stock will receive an anticipated dividend rate increase of approximately 48% (from \$0.24 to \$0.356 quarterly dividend per share of SouthTrust common stock equivalent).

The merger agreement permits each of us to continue to pay regular quarterly cash dividends to our shareholders prior to completion of the merger. We have agreed in the merger agreement to coordinate dividend declarations and the related record dates and payment dates so that SouthTrust shareholders will not receive two dividends, or fail to receive one dividend, for any single quarter. Accordingly, prior to the merger, we may coordinate and alter our dividend record dates in order to effect this policy. In addition, the merger agreement provides that if the merger is not completed before the record date for the dividend on Wachovia common stock for the fourth quarter of 2004, which is expected to be November 30, 2004, SouthTrust may increase its quarterly cash dividend per share to the then-current Wachovia quarterly cash dividend per share, multiplied by the exchange ratio.

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The payment of dividends by Wachovia or SouthTrust on their common stock in the future, either before or after the merger is completed, is subject to the determination of our respective boards of directors and depends on cash requirements, our financial condition and earnings, legal and regulatory considerations and other factors.

The Merger Will Be Accounted for as a Purchase (Page •)

The merger will be treated as a purchase by Wachovia of SouthTrust under generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP.

The Merger Will Generally Be Tax-Free To Shareholders (Page •)

In the opinion of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP and Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP, for United States federal income tax purposes:

the merger will be treated as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and each of Wachovia and SouthTrust will be a party to the reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(b) of the Internal Revenue Code;

no gain or loss will be recognized by Wachovia or SouthTrust as a result of the merger;

no gain or loss will be recognized by the holders of SouthTrust common stock who receive Wachovia common stock in exchange for SouthTrust common stock pursuant to the merger, except with respect to cash received in lieu of fractional share interests.

The merger will not have any tax consequences for holders of Wachovia common stock. For a complete description of the material United States federal income tax consequences of the transaction, see [Material Federal Income Tax Consequences](#) on page [•].

The opinions of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP and Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP are based in part on customary assumptions and on factual representations that Wachovia and SouthTrust made to Sullivan & Cromwell LLP and Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP. These opinions are exhibits to the registration statement filed with the SEC in connection with this document.

Wachovia and SouthTrust will not be obligated to complete the merger unless Sullivan & Cromwell LLP and Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP issue additional opinion letters regarding the tax consequences of the merger on the closing date.

Merrill Lynch Provided an Opinion to SouthTrust's Board that the Exchange Ratio was Fair From a Financial Point of View to SouthTrust Shareholders (Page •)

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On June 19, 2004, the date the SouthTrust board approved the merger, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, SouthTrust's financial advisor, rendered an oral opinion to SouthTrust's board that, as of that date, the exchange ratio of 0.89 shares of Wachovia common stock for 1 share of SouthTrust common stock was fair from a financial point of view to the holders of SouthTrust common stock. Merrill Lynch confirmed its opinion by delivery of a written opinion dated June 20, 2004. The full text of Merrill Lynch's written opinion is attached to this joint proxy statement-prospectus as Appendix C. You should read this opinion completely to understand the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered and limitations of the review undertaken by Merrill Lynch. Merrill Lynch's opinion is directed to the SouthTrust board of directors and does not constitute a recommendation to any shareholder as to any matters relating to the merger. The opinion of Merrill Lynch will not reflect any developments that may occur or may have occurred after the date of the opinion and prior to the completion of the merger. SouthTrust does not currently expect to request an updated opinion from Merrill Lynch. Under the terms of its engagement, SouthTrust has agreed to pay Merrill Lynch an aggregate fee of \$17.5 million for its financial advisory services, including its opinion, in connection with the merger.

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UBS Provided an Opinion to Wachovia's Board as to the Fairness, From a Financial Point of View, of the Exchange Ratio to Wachovia (Page •)

In connection with the merger, Wachovia's board of directors received a written opinion from UBS Securities LLC, Wachovia's financial advisor, as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, to Wachovia of the exchange ratio provided for in the merger. The full text of UBS' written opinion, dated June 20, 2004, is attached to this joint proxy statement-prospectus as Appendix D. We encourage you to read this opinion carefully in its entirety for a description of the assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken. UBS' opinion was provided to Wachovia's board in its evaluation of the exchange ratio, does not address any other aspect of the merger and does not constitute a recommendation to any shareholder with respect to any matters relating to the proposed merger. UBS' opinion will not reflect any developments that may occur or may have occurred after the date of the opinion and prior to the completion of the merger. Wachovia does not currently expect to request an updated opinion from UBS. Under the terms of its engagement, Wachovia has agreed to pay UBS an aggregate fee of \$15 million for its financial advisory services, including its opinion, in connection with the merger.

SouthTrust's Directors and Executive Officers May Have Interests in the Merger that Differ from Your Interests (Page•)

Following the merger, three current members of SouthTrust's board of directors, including Wallace D. Malone, Jr., SouthTrust's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, will be appointed to Wachovia's board of directors. Other than Mr. Malone, these directors have not yet been determined. Mr. Malone also will serve as Wachovia's Vice Chairman following the merger. Wachovia's current Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, G. Kennedy Thompson, will continue to serve in those capacities following the merger.

In addition, some of SouthTrust's directors and executive officers have interests in the merger other than their interests as shareholders. The members of our boards of directors knew about these additional interests and considered them when they adopted the plan of merger.

The following provides more detail about the payments, benefits and other interests of certain SouthTrust directors and executive officers.

Mr. Malone's Employment Agreement. Mr. Malone currently has a five-year employment agreement with SouthTrust, which will be assumed by Wachovia in the merger. He is to be paid an annual salary of at least \$1 million and is eligible for an annual incentive payment. Mr. Malone also will receive cash termination payments and other payments and benefits if he terminates his employment under the circumstances described under *Interests of Certain Persons in the Merger* beginning on page [•]. We currently estimate that a cash termination payment of approximately \$30.3 million payable over a five-year period could be triggered if Mr. Malone terminated employment within the time frame covered under his agreement.

SouthTrust Change In Control Agreements. Change in control agreements between SouthTrust and 9 of its other executive officers provide those officers with cash termination payments and other payments and benefits if their employment with Wachovia terminates within 3 years following completion of the merger. We currently estimate that cash termination payments of up to \$27 million in the aggregate could be triggered if all such executives terminated employment within the time frames covered under the agreements.

Shareholders Do Not Have Appraisal Rights (Page •)

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Under Delaware law, SouthTrust shareholders are not entitled to appraisal rights in the merger. Under North Carolina law, Wachovia shareholders are not entitled to appraisal rights in the merger.

Our Boards Recommend That You Vote FOR the Plan of Merger (Pages and •)

Wachovia Shareholders. Wachovia's board of directors believes that the merger is in the best interests of Wachovia and its shareholders, and unanimously recommends that Wachovia shareholders vote FOR approval of the plan of merger.

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SouthTrust Shareholders. SouthTrust's board of directors believes that the merger is in the best interests of SouthTrust and its shareholders and that the exchange ratio is fair to SouthTrust shareholders, and unanimously recommends that SouthTrust shareholders vote FOR approval of the plan of merger.

Our Reasons for the Merger (Pages • and •)

Wachovia's Board of Directors. Wachovia's board of directors is proposing the merger because:

It believes that SouthTrust offers Wachovia a unique strategic fit because of the two organizations' geographic overlap in a number of key states with high growth rates, and because the merger would provide Wachovia accelerated entry into the Texas banking market and a substantial position in the Alabama banking market. As a result, Wachovia's board believes Wachovia will have a greater potential for growth following the merger. The merger would enable the combined company to have the highest deposit share in the southeastern United States.

It believes SouthTrust is a very high quality organization with a strong earnings record and strong credit quality and management.

It believes that the combined company will have increased economies of scale, significant annual expense savings and complementary customer bases and products following the merger, as well as the potential for revenue enhancement. The expense savings are described in more detail on page [•] under the heading Cost Savings .

It believes that SouthTrust's and Wachovia's management share a common business vision and commitment to their respective customers, shareholders, employees and other constituencies.

It believes that the merger is likely to provide an increase in shareholder value, including the benefits of a stronger strategic position. With respect to shareholder value, Wachovia believes that while the merger will be dilutive to Wachovia shareholders on an earnings per share basis calculated according to GAAP until 2007, the merger will be accretive to Wachovia shareholders on a cash earnings per share basis by 2006. Wachovia's estimation of earnings per share accretion/dilution for the fourth quarter of 2004 and each of the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 is as follows:

| | Q4 | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Pro forma GAAP EPS | \$ 0.92 | 4.09 | 4.66 | 5.22 |
| Wachovia estimated stand-alone GAAP EPS | 0.95 | 4.30 | 4.73 | 5.20 |
| Accretion/(Dilution) | (0.03) | (0.21) | (0.07) | 0.02 |
| Pro forma cash EPS | 1.02 | 4.31 | 4.80 | 5.29 |
| Wachovia estimated stand-alone cash EPS | 1.04 | 4.41 | 4.79 | 5.22 |
| Accretion/(Dilution) | \$ (0.02) | (0.10) | 0.01 | 0.07 |

Wachovia's estimated fourth quarter 2004 and full year 2005 stand-alone GAAP earnings per share are based on consensus earnings per share estimates as reported by First Call as of June 20, 2004, adjusted to include merger-related and restructuring expenses in the fourth quarter of 2004 (merger-related and restructuring expenses associated with transactions prior to the merger are expected to be immaterial in 2005).

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Wachovia's estimated stand-alone GAAP earnings per share for 2006 and 2007 are based on 2005 consensus earnings per share estimates plus the consensus 5-year earnings per share growth expectations of 10% per year (merger-related and restructuring expenses associated with transactions prior to the merger are expected to be immaterial in 2006 and 2007). Management believed that the First Call estimates for future earnings and growth provided a reasonable framework for illustrating the pro forma effects of the merger. Pro forma fourth quarter 2004 and full year 2005 earnings per share estimates assume consensus earnings per share estimates for SouthTrust as reported by First Call as of June 20, 2004 and pro forma 2006 and 2007 estimates assume consensus 5-year earnings per share growth expectations for SouthTrust of 11% per year. Pro forma earnings per share are also based on the annual expense savings discussed above and on the assumptions of Wachovia's management described in more detail on page [•] under the heading

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Recommendation of Wachovia's Board and Its Reasons for the Merger and on page [●] under the heading Opinion of Wachovia's Financial Advisor. Cash earnings per share is a non-GAAP financial measure that is calculated by adding after-tax restructuring and merger-related expenses and intangible amortization to income before cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle and dividing the result by average shares outstanding. Wachovia believes this measure provides information useful to investors in understanding our underlying operational performance, our business and performance trends, and facilitates comparison with the performance of others in the financial services industry.

Wachovia also currently intends to use up to \$1.7 billion of excess capital created as a result of the merger to repurchase shares of Wachovia common stock. Wachovia believes that in the current circumstances using such excess capital to repurchase shares is the preferable use of that excess capital versus other possible uses, including dividends, other acquisitions or other investments. Wachovia believes that share repurchases will tend to increase earnings per share, enhance the liquidity of Wachovia's common stock after the merger, provide a flexible alternative to return excess capital to shareholders and provide a flexible means of capital management.

Please see Additional Information Regarding Accretion/Dilution on page [●]. For further detail, attached to this joint proxy statement-prospectus as Appendix E are illustrative calculations of accretion/dilution for Wachovia common stock following consummation of the merger assuming, among other things, Wachovia common stock repurchases referred to above and also assuming no Wachovia common stock repurchases. Shareholders desiring further information regarding the accretion/dilution calculations and the assumptions underlying them are urged to review Appendix E.

In considering the merger, Wachovia's board of directors also considered the potential initial negative impact to the market price of Wachovia common stock following announcement of the merger. In addition, it considered the following potential adverse consequences of the merger:

The possibility that the merger and the related integration process could result in the loss of key employees, in the disruption of Wachovia's on-going business or in the loss of customers.

The possibility that the anticipated benefits of the merger may not be realized, including the expected cost savings.

The potential effect of the merger on SouthTrust's employee benefits under various agreements, plans and programs because the merger may constitute a change in control, which might encourage employees to leave and involve additional cost under such agreements, plans and programs.

The impact of divestitures likely to be required, which may result in lost customer relationships and reduce the amount of income the combined company could have realized without such divestitures.

The potential merger-related and restructuring charges.

The Wachovia board concluded, however, that the potential benefits of the merger substantially outweighed the risks.

SouthTrust's Board of Directors. SouthTrust's board of directors is proposing the merger because:

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It believes that the merger with Wachovia will allow SouthTrust shareholders to participate in a combined company that will have better future prospects than SouthTrust is likely to achieve on a stand-alone basis or through a combination with other potential merger partners.

The per share merger consideration for SouthTrust shareholders represented, on the date SouthTrust's board approved the merger, a premium of approximately 22% (based on the closing prices of Wachovia common stock and SouthTrust common stock for the five trading days prior to public announcement of the merger).

After completion of the merger, SouthTrust shareholders will receive a 48% higher common stock dividend than they currently

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receive from SouthTrust (\$0.356 per share on a pro forma basis, taking into account the exchange ratio, versus \$0.24 per share currently).

It believes that SouthTrust and Wachovia have businesses that complement each other in many ways, including geographic coverage and the compatibility of their respective managements, cultures and operating styles.

It believes that Wachovia's recent success in integrating banking and securities brokerage acquisitions and the planned fifteen-month integration period are good indicators of success in integrating the merger with SouthTrust.

In considering the merger, SouthTrust's board of directors also considered the following potential adverse consequences of the merger:

The risks of diverting management's attention from other strategic opportunities.

The potential impact of the costs that are expected to be incurred by the combined company in connection with completing the merger.

The potential challenges of integrating SouthTrust and Wachovia.

The risks associated with the fixed exchange ratio, which will not adjust upwards to compensate for declines in Wachovia's stock price.

The possibility that the interests of SouthTrust's directors and executive officers apart from their interests as SouthTrust shareholders might influence their decision with respect to the merger.

The impact of the terms of the merger agreement and stock option agreement that could have the effect of discouraging other parties from expressing interest in merging with or acquiring SouthTrust.

The risks associated with required regulatory approvals, including the impact of required divestitures on the combined company.
The risks of not achieving the expected cost savings and other benefits.

The SouthTrust board concluded, however, that the potential benefits of the merger substantially outweighed the risks.

Cost Savings and Accounting Charges. Although we can make no assurances, both SouthTrust and Wachovia believe that following the merger, the combined company can achieve cost savings of approximately 36% of SouthTrust's non-interest expense or 3% of combined non-interest expense (approximately \$255 million in after-tax annual expense reductions) by the end of 2006.

These cost savings are expected to be achieved partially in each year until 2006. Of the total \$255 million in after-tax annual expected cost savings:

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64% is expected from personnel reductions;

21% is expected from consolidating facilities and from eliminating duplicative technology and operations functions; and

15% is expected from other factors, including stronger purchasing power.

As part of these cost savings, we expect to reduce the combined company's job positions by about 4,300 over the fifteen-month integration period. We believe that between 25% to 35% of these reductions could occur through normal attrition. As part of the cost savings we have outlined, we expect to consolidate about 175 to 200 branch banking offices during the fifteen-month integration period. You can find more detail about our expected cost savings under the heading "Cost Savings" on page [●].

We expect to recognize an estimated \$156 million of after-tax merger-related and restructuring expenses and \$275 million of after-tax exit cost purchase accounting adjustments. We also expect to recognize \$42 million of after-tax fair value purchase accounting adjustments. A portion of these charges and adjustments will be recorded upon completion of the merger, with the remainder expected to be recorded in each year from the completion of the merger through 2006.

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Anticipated Excess Capital; Share Repurchases (Page •)

Following the merger, Wachovia expects that combining the two companies' balance sheets will result in a significant amount of excess capital. Wachovia currently intends for the combined company to maintain a leverage ratio of approximately 6% and a tangible capital to tangible asset ratio of 4.7% to 4.8%. Wachovia believes that, as a result of the merger, up to \$1.7 billion of capital in excess of such ratios will be available as excess capital, in addition to excess capital generated by Wachovia as a stand-alone entity. If such excess capital is available, Wachovia currently intends to use it to repurchase shares of Wachovia common stock. The actual amount of shares of Wachovia common stock repurchased will depend on various factors, including: market conditions; legal limitations and considerations affecting the amount and timing of repurchase activity; the combined company's capital position; internal capital generation; and alternative potential investment opportunities. Wachovia believes that in the current circumstances using such excess capital to repurchase shares is the preferable use of that excess capital versus other possible uses, including dividends, other acquisitions or other investments. Wachovia believes that share repurchases will tend to increase earnings per share, enhance the liquidity of Wachovia's common stock after the merger, provide a flexible alternative to return excess capital to shareholders and provide a flexible means of capital management. Federal law prohibits Wachovia and SouthTrust from purchasing shares of either company's common stock from the date this joint proxy statement-prospectus is first mailed to shareholders until completion of both special meetings of shareholders.

We Have Agreed When and How SouthTrust Can Consider Third Party Acquisition Proposals (Page •)

We have agreed that SouthTrust will not initiate or solicit proposals from third parties regarding acquiring SouthTrust or its businesses. In addition, we have agreed that SouthTrust will not engage in negotiations with or provide confidential information to a third party regarding acquiring SouthTrust or its businesses. However, if SouthTrust receives an acquisition proposal from a third party, SouthTrust can participate in negotiations with and provide confidential information to the third party if, among other steps, SouthTrust's board of directors concludes in good faith that the proposal is a proposal that is superior to our merger. SouthTrust's receipt of a superior proposal or participation in such negotiations does not give SouthTrust the right to terminate the merger agreement.

Merger Approval Requires a Majority Vote by Wachovia Shareholders and by SouthTrust Shareholders (Pages • And •)

Wachovia Shareholders. In order to approve the plan of merger, the holders of a majority of Wachovia's common shares outstanding as of August 20, 2004, must vote in favor of the plan of merger contained in the merger agreement. As of that date, Wachovia directors and executive officers beneficially owned about [•], or less than [•]%, of the shares entitled to vote at the Wachovia special meeting. SouthTrust and its directors and executive officers beneficially owned less than [•]% of the shares entitled to vote at the Wachovia meeting (other than shares held by SouthTrust in a fiduciary, custodial or agency capacity).

SouthTrust Shareholders. In order to approve the plan of merger, the holders of a majority of SouthTrust's common shares outstanding as of September 21, 2004, must vote in favor of the plan of merger contained in the merger agreement. As of that date, SouthTrust directors and executive officers beneficially owned about [•], or less than [•]%, of the shares entitled to vote at the SouthTrust special meeting. Wachovia and its directors and executive officers beneficially owned less than [•]% of the shares entitled to vote at the SouthTrust meeting (other than shares held by Wachovia in a fiduciary, custodial or agency capacity).

Treatment of SouthTrust Options (Pages • and •)

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In the merger, Wachovia will assume all SouthTrust employee and director stock options and those options will become options to purchase Wachovia common stock. Each converted option will vest at the time of the merger. The number of shares issuable under those options and the exercise prices

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will be adjusted to take into account the exchange ratio.

We Must Meet Several Conditions To Complete the Merger (Page •)

Our obligations to complete the merger depend on a number of conditions being met. These include:

the approval of the plan of merger by both Wachovia and SouthTrust shareholders;

the listing of the shares of Wachovia common stock to be issued in the merger on the NYSE (including shares to be issued following exercise of the SouthTrust employee and director stock options assumed by Wachovia);

receiving the required approvals of federal and state regulatory authorities;

the absence of any government action or other legal restraint or prohibition that would prohibit the merger or make it illegal;

receiving legal opinions that, for United States federal income tax purposes, the merger will be treated as a reorganization and no gain or loss will be recognized by SouthTrust shareholders who receive Wachovia common stock in exchange for all of their SouthTrust common stock, except with respect to any cash received for fractional interests. These opinions will be based on customary assumptions and on factual representations made by Wachovia and SouthTrust and will be subject to various limitations; and

the representations and warranties of the other party to the merger agreement being true and correct, except as would not have or would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect, and the other party to the merger agreement must have performed in all material respects all its obligations under the merger agreement.

Where the law permits, either of us could choose to waive a condition to our obligation to complete the merger even when that condition has not been satisfied. We cannot be certain when, or if, the conditions to the merger will be satisfied or waived, or that the merger will be completed. Although the merger agreement allows us to waive the tax opinion condition, we do not currently anticipate doing so. If either of us does waive the condition, we will inform you of this fact and ask you to vote on the merger taking this into consideration.

We Must Obtain Regulatory Approvals to Complete the Merger (Page •)

We cannot complete the merger unless it is approved by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Once the Federal Reserve Board approves the merger, we will have to wait from 15 to 30 days before we can complete it. During that time, the United States Department of Justice, or DOJ, can challenge the merger. We filed our merger application with the Federal Reserve Board on July 12, 2004. On September 10, 2004, the Federal Reserve Board informed Wachovia that the processing of the merger application would run past the date that is the 60th day after the date of its acceptance of the application, but that the time extension was not expected to exceed the schedule provided for in the Federal Reserve Board's regulations.

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In addition, certain aspects of the merger are subject to review by antitrust authorities under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, or HSR Act, and we filed notices with the Federal Trade Commission and the Antitrust Division of the DOJ. On August 6, 2004, those regulatory authorities confirmed that the waiting period for those aspects of the merger under the HSR Act has terminated.

The merger is also subject to receiving the approval of other regulatory authorities. We are in the process of filing all of the required applications and notices with regulatory authorities.

There can be no assurance as to whether these and other regulatory approvals will be received, the timing of those approvals, or whether any conditions will be imposed. On August 25, 2004, the DOJ advised Wachovia that Wachovia and SouthTrust should sell 18 SouthTrust branches having in the aggregate approximately \$590 million in deposits,

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along with related loans, to third parties in order to comply with the DOJ's antitrust requirements. The Federal Reserve Board will also make a determination of required divestitures and has not agreed to a divestiture requirement. Wachovia and SouthTrust have taken a divestiture requirement into account in planning for the merger, and we do not believe that it will have a material adverse effect on the combined company.

We May Terminate the Merger Agreement (Page •)

We can mutually agree at any time to terminate the merger agreement without completing the merger, even if our shareholders have approved the plan of merger. Also, either of us can decide, without the consent of the other, to terminate the merger agreement:

if there is a final denial of a required regulatory approval;

if the merger is not completed on or before March 31, 2005;

if there is a continuing breach of the merger agreement by the other party, after 60 days' written notice to the breaching party, as long as that breach would allow the non-breaching party not to complete the merger; or

if the other party's board of directors fails to recommend approval of the plan of merger to its shareholders, or withdraws or materially and adversely modifies its recommendation.

Also, Wachovia may terminate the merger agreement if SouthTrust's board recommends an acquisition proposal other than the merger, or if SouthTrust's board negotiates or authorizes negotiations with a third party regarding an acquisition proposal other than the merger and those negotiations continue for at least three business days. SouthTrust has no such termination right.

In addition, prior to the SouthTrust special shareholder meeting, SouthTrust may terminate the merger agreement during a period of 10 days after any public announcement that Wachovia has entered into or become the subject of an acquisition transaction that would result in a change of control of Wachovia.

The failure of either SouthTrust or Wachovia to obtain the shareholder vote required for the merger will not by itself give either company the right to terminate the merger agreement. As long as no other termination event has occurred, both companies would remain obligated to continue to use their reasonable best efforts to complete the merger until March 31, 2005, which, depending on the timing of the failed meeting, could include calling additional shareholder meetings. In addition, during this period SouthTrust cannot undertake any other mergers or business combination transactions without Wachovia's consent. Furthermore, any decision by the SouthTrust board of directors to withdraw or adversely modify its recommendation of the merger, or recommend an acquisition proposal other than the merger, or negotiate or authorize negotiations with a third party regarding an acquisition proposal other than the merger will not give SouthTrust the right to terminate the merger agreement.

The boards of directors of both companies considered and believed it was appropriate to make the foregoing commitments for the limited period of time involved, especially in light of the relatively short term of the commitments and the relatively lengthy regulatory and integration processes involved in transactions like these.

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Whether or not the merger is completed, we will each pay our own fees and expenses, except that we will evenly divide the costs and expenses that we incur in preparing, printing and mailing this document and filing fees paid in connection with the registration statement and all applications for government approvals, except fees paid to counsel, financial advisors and accountants. If SouthTrust elects to terminate the merger agreement because Wachovia enters into or becomes the subject of an acquisition transaction that would result in a change of control of Wachovia, Wachovia will pay SouthTrust a cash termination fee of \$100 million and reimburse SouthTrust for its reasonable expenses.

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We May Amend or Waive Merger Agreement Provisions (Page •)

We may jointly amend the merger agreement, and each of us may waive our right to require the other party to follow particular provisions of the merger agreement. However, we may not amend the merger agreement after our shareholders approve the plan of merger if the amendment would legally require the plan of merger to be resubmitted to SouthTrust shareholders or Wachovia shareholders or would violate Delaware or North Carolina law.

Wachovia may also change the structure of the merger, as long as any change does not change the amount or type of stock or other payment to be received by SouthTrust shareholders and the holders of options to purchase SouthTrust common stock, does not adversely affect the timing of completion of the merger, does not adversely affect the tax consequences of the merger to SouthTrust shareholders and does not cause any of the conditions to complete the merger to be incapable of being satisfied.

SouthTrust Has Granted a Stock Option to Wachovia (Page • and Appendix B)

SouthTrust and Wachovia entered into a stock option agreement that grants Wachovia an option to purchase up to 64,935,000 shares of SouthTrust common stock, or an equivalent number of shares of the stock of any company that acquires SouthTrust, under the circumstances and for the payments described in the option agreement.

Wachovia received the option in order to increase the likelihood that our merger would be completed. The option could discourage other companies from proposing a competing combination with SouthTrust before we complete the merger.

Wachovia cannot exercise the option unless:

a third party acquires 25% or more of SouthTrust's common stock;

SouthTrust agrees to, or recommends that its shareholders approve, a business combination or acquisition transaction (other than our proposed merger) with another party that would result in the acquisition of more than 25% of the voting power or business of SouthTrust or a significant subsidiary;

SouthTrust shareholders do not approve our merger after a third party has proposed an alternative acquisition transaction, or SouthTrust's board adversely changes its recommendation of our merger in anticipation of an alternative acquisition transaction;

A third party files a registration statement or tender offer materials or a preliminary proxy statement with the SEC or a notice or application with any bank or antitrust authority for a potential alternative acquisition transaction;

A third party publicly proposes, or announces an intention to propose, an alternative acquisition transaction and files a preliminary proxy statement with the SEC soliciting a vote against approval of our merger; or

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SouthTrust willfully breaches a provision in the merger agreement after a third party has proposed an alternative acquisition transaction and the breach entitles Wachovia to terminate the merger agreement and is not cured before Wachovia gives notice of exercise.

We do not know of any event that has occurred as of the date of this document that would allow Wachovia to exercise the option.

After completion of a business combination or acquisition transaction between SouthTrust and a third party involving 25% or more of the voting power or business of SouthTrust or a significant subsidiary, or if a person acquires 50% or more of SouthTrust's outstanding common shares, SouthTrust may be required to repurchase the option and any shares Wachovia may have purchased under it at a formula price, or the option holder may choose to surrender the option for a cash payment equal to \$430 million. The holder of the option may realize a maximum total profit under the terms of the option of \$555 million, unless a third party publicly proposes, or publicly

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announces its intention to propose, an alternative acquisition transaction with SouthTrust, and the per share value of the proposal is less than 10% greater than the per share value of our merger, in which case the total profit can be up to \$600 million.

The option generally expires if the merger agreement terminates. However, the option will continue for 12 months after the merger agreement terminates (subject to extension for up to 6 months if regulatory or legal impediments prevent exercise during that period) if:

before the merger agreement terminates, SouthTrust agrees to an acquisition transaction with a third party or a third party takes other specified steps toward an acquisition of SouthTrust;

Wachovia terminates the merger agreement due to a continuing breach by SouthTrust; or

Wachovia terminates the merger agreement because SouthTrust's board failed to recommend the merger to its shareholders or began and continued for three business days negotiations with a third party concerning an alternative acquisition proposal.

If Wachovia were able to, and did, exercise the option, it would own approximately 16% of the shares of SouthTrust common stock, after giving effect to the newly issued shares, and would generally have the ability to vote those shares in the future. Because North Carolina and Delaware law generally require a majority vote for merger proposals, Wachovia would not be able to force a merger or block future business combination transactions, based solely on the shares received upon exercise of the option.

The Rights of SouthTrust Shareholders Following the Merger Will be Different (Page •)

The rights of Wachovia shareholders are governed by North Carolina law and by Wachovia's articles of incorporation and by-laws. The rights of SouthTrust shareholders are governed by Delaware law, and by SouthTrust's certificate of incorporation and by-laws. Upon our completion of the merger, the rights of both shareholder groups will be governed by North Carolina law and Wachovia's articles of incorporation and by-laws.

Information About Wachovia and SouthTrust (Page •)

Wachovia Corporation

301 South College Street

Charlotte, NC 28288

(704) 374-6565

Wachovia is a financial holding company organized under the laws of North Carolina and registered under the federal Bank Holding Company Act. Wachovia has approximately 2,500 full-service financial centers, more than 700 retail brokerage offices and approximately 4,400 ATM locations. Wachovia offers a comprehensive line of consumer and commercial banking products and services, personal and commercial trust, investment advisory, insurance, securities brokerage, investment banking, mortgage, credit card, cash management, international banking and other financial services.

At June 30, 2004, Wachovia had consolidated total assets of approximately \$418 billion, consolidated total deposits of approximately \$243 billion and consolidated stockholders' equity of approximately \$33 billion. Based on total assets at June 30, 2004, Wachovia was the 5th largest bank holding company in the United States.

SouthTrust Corporation

420 North 20th Street

Birmingham, AL 35203

(205) 254-5000

SouthTrust is a Delaware corporation and a registered financial holding company, and one of its wholly owned subsidiaries is SouthTrust of Alabama, Inc., an Alabama corporation. SouthTrust of Alabama owns SouthTrust Bank, an Alabama banking corporation. SouthTrust, through its subsidiaries, engages in a full range of banking services from more than 710 banking locations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. At June 30, 2004, SouthTrust had consolidated total assets of approximately \$53 billion, which ranked it among the top 20 largest bank holding companies in the United States.

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Special Meeting of Wachovia (Page •)

Wachovia plans to hold its special meeting of shareholders on [•], 2004, at [•] a.m., local time, in [•]. At the meeting you will be asked to approve the plan of merger of SouthTrust into Wachovia.

You can vote at the Wachovia special meeting of shareholders if you owned Wachovia common stock at the close of business on August 20, 2004. As of that date, there were [•] shares of Wachovia common stock outstanding and entitled to vote. You can cast one vote for each share of Wachovia common stock that you owned on that date.

Special Meeting of SouthTrust (Page •)

SouthTrust plans to hold its special meeting of shareholders on [•], 2004, at [•] a.m., local time, in the auditorium on the eighth floor of the SouthTrust Tower, 420 North 20th Street, Birmingham, Alabama. At the meeting you will be asked to approve the plan of merger of SouthTrust into Wachovia.

You can vote at the SouthTrust special meeting of shareholders if you owned SouthTrust common stock at the close of business on September 21, 2004. As of that date, there were [•] shares of SouthTrust common stock outstanding and entitled to vote. You can cast one vote for each share of SouthTrust common stock that you owned on that date.

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Unaudited Comparative Per Share Data

The table on the following page shows historical information about our companies' respective earnings per share, dividends per share and book value per share, and similar information reflecting the merger, which we refer to as "pro forma" information, at or for the six months ended June 30, 2004, and at or for the year ended December 31, 2003. In presenting the comparative pro forma information for the periods shown we assumed that we had been combined throughout those periods.

We have assumed that the merger will be accounted for under an accounting method known as "purchase accounting". Under the purchase method of accounting, the assets and liabilities of the company not surviving a merger are, as of the completion date of the merger, recorded at their respective fair values and added to those of the surviving company. Financial statements of the surviving company issued after consummation of the merger reflect such values and are not restated retroactively to reflect the historical financial position or results of operations of the company not surviving.

The information listed as "equivalent pro forma" for SouthTrust was obtained by multiplying the pro forma amounts listed by Wachovia by the 0.89 exchange ratio. We present this information to reflect the fact that SouthTrust shareholders will receive 0.89 shares of Wachovia common stock for each share of their SouthTrust common stock exchanged in the merger.

The pro forma financial information includes estimated adjustments to record certain assets and liabilities of SouthTrust at their respective fair values and to record certain exit costs related to SouthTrust. The pro forma adjustments included herein are subject to updates as additional information becomes available and as additional analyses are performed. Certain other assets and liabilities of SouthTrust will also be subject to adjustment to their respective fair values. Pending more detailed analyses, no pro forma adjustments are included herein for these assets and liabilities, including additional intangible assets which may be identified. Any change in the fair value of the net assets of SouthTrust will change the amount of the purchase price allocable to goodwill. Additionally, changes to SouthTrust's stockholders' equity, including dividends and net income from July 1, 2004, through the date the merger is completed, will also change the amount of goodwill recorded. In addition, the final adjustments may be materially different from the unaudited pro forma adjustments presented herein.

We also anticipate that the merger will provide Wachovia with financial benefits that include increased revenue and reduced operating expenses, but these financial benefits are not reflected in the pro forma information. Accordingly, the pro forma information does not attempt to predict or suggest future results. It also does not necessarily reflect what the historical results of the combined company would have been had our companies been combined during the periods presented. See "Cost Savings" on page [●].

The information in the following tables is based on historical financial information and related notes that we have presented in our prior filings with the SEC. You should read all of the summary financial information we provide in the following tables together with this historical financial information and related notes. The historical financial information is also incorporated into this document by reference. See "Where You Can Find More Information" on page [●] for a description of where you can find this historical information.

Table of Contents**UNAUDITED COMPARATIVE PER COMMON SHARE DATA OF WACHOVIA AND SOUTHTRUST**

| | Six Months Ended June 30, 2004 | Year Ended December 31, 2003 |
|--|---|---|
| Wachovia | | |
| Basic earnings per common share | | |
| Income before change in accounting principle | | |
| Historical | \$1.92 | 3.20 |
| Pro forma | 1.78 | 3.01 |
| Diluted earnings per common share | | |
| Income before change in accounting principle | | |
| Historical | 1.89 | 3.17 |
| Pro forma | 1.75 | 2.98 |
| Dividends declared on common stock | | |
| Historical | 0.80 | 1.25 |
| Pro forma | 0.80 | 1.25 |
| Book value per common share | | |
| Historical | 24.93 | 24.71 |
| Pro forma | 28.82 | |
| SouthTrust | | |
| Basic earnings per common share | | |
| Historical | 1.14 | 2.08 |
| Equivalent pro forma | 1.58 | 2.68 |
| Diluted earnings per common share | | |
| Historical | 1.12 | 2.06 |
| Equivalent pro forma | 1.56 | 2.65 |
| Dividends declared on common stock | | |
| Historical | 0.48 | 0.84 |
| Equivalent pro forma | 0.71 | 1.11 |
| Book value per common share | | |
| Historical | 13.41 | 13.20 |
| Equivalent pro forma | \$25.65 | |

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Selected Financial Data

The following tables show summarized historical financial data for each of Wachovia and SouthTrust and also show similar pro forma information reflecting the merger. The historical financial data show the financial results actually achieved by Wachovia and SouthTrust for the periods indicated. The pro forma information reflects the pro forma effect of accounting for the merger under the purchase method of accounting. The pro forma income statement data for the six months ended June 30, 2004, assumes a merger completion date of January 1, 2004. The pro forma income statement data for the year ended December 31, 2003, assumes a merger completion date of January 1, 2003. The pro forma balance sheet data assumes a merger completion date of June 30, 2004.

The pro forma financial information includes estimated adjustments to record certain assets and liabilities of SouthTrust at their respective fair values and to record certain exit costs related to SouthTrust. The pro forma adjustments included herein are subject to updates as additional information becomes available and as additional analyses are performed. Certain other assets and liabilities of SouthTrust will also be subject to adjustment to their respective fair values, including additional intangible assets which may be identified. Pending more detailed analyses, no pro forma adjustments are included herein for these assets and liabilities. Any change in the fair value of the net assets of SouthTrust will change the amount of the purchase price allocable to goodwill. Additionally, changes to SouthTrust's stockholders' equity, including net income from July 1, 2004, through the date the merger is completed, will also change the amount of goodwill recorded. In addition, the final adjustments may be materially different from the unaudited pro forma adjustments presented herein.

The information in the tables on the following pages is based on historical financial information and related notes that we have presented in our prior filings with the SEC. You should read all of the summary financial information we provide in the following tables together with this historical financial information and related notes. The historical financial information is also incorporated into this document by reference. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) on page [•] for a description of where you can find this historical information.

We also anticipate that the merger will provide Wachovia with financial benefits that include increased revenue and reduced operating expenses, but these financial benefits are not reflected in the pro forma information. Accordingly, the pro forma information does not attempt to predict or suggest future results. It also does not necessarily reflect what the historical results of the combined company would have been had our companies been combined during the periods presented. See [Cost Savings](#) on page [•].

Since announcement of the merger, our merger integration teams have been developing plans to integrate the operations of SouthTrust into Wachovia so that we will continue to provide premier service to our customers while at the same time beginning to realize merger efficiencies. These plans will continue to be refined over the next several months and will address systems, facilities and equipment, personnel, contractual arrangements and other integration activities for both SouthTrust and Wachovia.

The costs associated with merger integration activities that impact certain SouthTrust systems, facilities and equipment, personnel and contractual arrangements will be recorded as purchase accounting adjustments as described above when the appropriate plans are in place with potential refinements up to one year after completion of the merger as additional information becomes available. We currently estimate that exit cost purchase accounting adjustments will amount to \$447 million pre-tax (\$275 million after-tax). The costs associated with integrating systems and operations will be recorded as merger-related expenses based on the nature and timing of the related expenses, but generally will be recorded as the expenses are incurred. Restructuring charges will be recorded based on the nature and timing of the expenses and generally will include merger integration activities that impact Wachovia systems, facilities and equipment, personnel and contractual arrangements. We expect merger-related and restructuring expenses will amount to \$156 million after-tax and will be incurred and reported through 2006.

Table of Contents**SELECTED CONSOLIDATED HISTORICAL FINANCIAL DATA OF WACHOVIA**

| | Six Months Ended | | Years Ended December 31, | | | | |
|--|------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | June 30, | | | | | | |
| (In millions, except per share data) | 2004 | 2003 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 | 1999 |
| Consolidated Summaries of Income | | | | | | | |
| Interest income | \$ 8,018 | 7,417 | 15,080 | 15,632 | 16,100 | 17,534 | 15,151 |
| Interest expense | 2,319 | 2,340 | 4,473 | 5,677 | 8,325 | 10,097 | 7,699 |
| Net interest income | 5,699 | 5,077 | 10,607 | 9,955 | 7,775 | 7,437 | 7,452 |
| Provision for credit losses | 105 | 419 | 586 | 1,479 | 1,947 | 1,736 | 692 |
| Net interest income after provision for credit losses | 5,594 | 4,658 | 10,021 | 8,476 | 5,828 | 5,701 | 6,760 |
| Securities gains (losses) | 38 | 47 | 45 | 169 | (67) | (1,125) | (63) |
| Fee and other income | 5,318 | 4,177 | 9,399 | 7,704 | 6,363 | 7,837 | 6,996 |
| Merger-related and restructuring expenses | 201 | 160 | 443 | 387 | 106 | 2,190 | 404 |
| Other noninterest expense | 6,942 | 5,746 | 12,799 | 11,289 | 9,724 | 9,520 | 8,449 |
| Minority interest in income of consolidated subsidiaries | 102 | 25 | 143 | 6 | 1 | | 9 |
| Income before income taxes and cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle | 3,705 | 2,951 | 6,080 | 4,667 | 2,293 | 703 | 4,831 |
| Income taxes | 1,202 | 892 | 1,833 | 1,088 | 674 | 565 | 1,608 |
| Income before cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle | 2,503 | 2,059 | 4,247 | 3,579 | 1,619 | 138 | 3,223 |
| Cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle, net of income taxes | | | 17 | | | (46) | |
| Net income | 2,503 | 2,059 | 4,264 | 3,579 | 1,619 | 92 | 3,223 |
| Dividends on preferred stock | | 5 | 5 | 19 | 6 | | |
| Net income available to common stockholders | \$ 2,503 | 2,054 | 4,259 | 3,560 | 1,613 | 92 | 3,223 |
| Per Common Share Data | | | | | | | |
| Basic | | | | | | | |
| Income before change in accounting principle | \$ 1.92 | 1.54 | 3.20 | 2.62 | 1.47 | 0.12 | 3.35 |
| Net income | 1.92 | 1.54 | 3.21 | 2.62 | 1.47 | 0.07 | 3.35 |
| Diluted | | | | | | | |
| Income before change in accounting principle | 1.89 | 1.53 | 3.17 | 2.60 | 1.45 | 0.12 | 3.33 |
| Net income | 1.89 | 1.53 | 3.18 | 2.60 | 1.45 | 0.07 | 3.33 |
| Cash dividends | 0.80 | 0.55 | 1.25 | 1.00 | 0.96 | 1.92 | 1.88 |
| Book value | 24.93 | 24.37 | 24.71 | 23.63 | 20.88 | 15.66 | 16.91 |
| Cash Dividends Paid on Common Stock | 1,049 | 740 | 1,665 | 1,366 | 1,032 | 1,888 | 1,817 |
| Consolidated Period-End Balance Sheet Items | | | | | | | |
| Assets | 418,441 | 364,479 | 401,188 | 342,033 | 330,634 | 254,272 | 253,126 |
| Loans, net of unearned income | 172,917 | 162,833 | 165,571 | 163,097 | 163,801 | 123,760 | 133,177 |
| Deposits | 243,380 | 201,292 | 221,225 | 191,518 | 187,453 | 142,668 | 141,047 |
| Long-term debt | 37,022 | 37,051 | 36,730 | 39,662 | 41,733 | 35,809 | 31,975 |
| Stockholders' equity | \$ 32,646 | 32,464 | 32,428 | 32,078 | 28,455 | 15,347 | 16,709 |
| Common shares outstanding | 1,309 | 1,332 | 1,312 | 1,357 | 1,362 | 980 | 988 |
| Consolidated Average Balance Sheet Items | | | | | | | |
| Assets | \$ 404,881 | 339,706 | 361,501 | 320,603 | 270,445 | 247,871 | 230,557 |
| Loans, net of unearned income | 161,412 | 157,849 | 158,327 | 154,452 | 133,848 | 126,888 | 129,791 |

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| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Deposits | 231,357 | 191,387 | 198,923 | 180,874 | 151,507 | 141,043 | 135,248 |
| Long-term debt | 37,555 | 37,240 | 36,676 | 38,902 | 38,538 | 34,279 | 28,738 |
| Stockholders' equity | \$ 32,616 | 32,208 | 32,135 | 30,392 | 20,221 | 15,541 | 15,932 |
| Common shares outstanding | | | | | | | |
| Basic | 1,301 | 1,334 | 1,325 | 1,356 | 1,096 | 971 | 959 |
| Diluted | 1,323 | 1,346 | 1,340 | 1,369 | 1,105 | 974 | 967 |
| Asset Quality | | | | | | | |
| Allowance for loan losses | \$ 2,331 | 2,510 | 2,348 | 2,604 | 2,813 | 1,620 | 1,655 |
| Nonperforming assets | 967 | 1,631 | 1,146 | 1,735 | 1,713 | 1,279 | 1,066 |
| Net charge-offs | \$ 120 | 364 | 652 | 1,122 | 937 | 751 | 688 |
| Consolidated Percentages | | | | | | | |
| Average assets to average stockholders' equity | 12.41x | 10.55 | 11.24 | 10.54 | 13.37 | 15.93 | 14.46 |
| Return on average assets | 1.24% (a) | 1.22(a) | 1.18 | 1.12 | 0.60 | 0.04 | 1.40 |
| Return on average stockholders' equity | 15.43(a) | 12.89(a) | 13.27 | 11.78 | 8.00 | 0.59 | 20.23 |
| Average stockholders' equity to average assets | 8.06 | 9.48 | 8.89 | 9.48 | 7.48 | 6.27 | 6.91 |
| Stockholders' equity to assets | 7.80 | 8.91 | 8.08 | 9.38 | 8.61 | 6.04 | 6.60 |
| Allowance for loan losses to | | | | | | | |
| Loans, net | 1.35 | 1.54 | 1.42 | 1.60 | 1.72 | 1.31 | 1.24 |
| Nonperforming assets | 241 | 154 | 205 | 150 | 164 | 127 | 155 |
| Net charge-offs to average loans, net | 0.15(a) | 0.46(a) | 0.41 | 0.73 | 0.70 | 0.59 | 0.53 |
| Nonperforming assets to loans, net, foreclosed properties and loans in other assets as held for sale | 0.55 | 1.04 | 0.69 | 1.11 | 1.13 | 1.22 | 0.78 |
| Capital ratios | | | | | | | |
| Tier I capital | 8.36 | 8.33 | 8.52 | 8.22 | 7.04 | 7.02 | 7.08 |
| Total capital | 11.32 | 11.92 | 11.82 | 12.01 | 11.08 | 11.19 | 10.87 |
| Leverage | 6.23 | 6.78 | 6.36 | 6.77 | 6.19 | 5.92 | 5.97 |
| Net interest margin | 3.46% (a) | 3.85(a) | 3.72 | 3.97 | 3.59 | 3.55 | 3.79 |

(a) Annualized.

Table of Contents**SELECTED CONSOLIDATED HISTORICAL FINANCIAL DATA OF SOUTHTRUST**

| | Six Months Ended | | Years Ended December 31, | | | | |
|---|------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | June 30, | | | | | | |
| (In millions, except per share data) | 2004 | 2003 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 | 1999 |
| Consolidated Summaries of Income | | | | | | | |
| Interest income | \$ 1,139 | 1,221 | 2,367 | 2,665 | 3,171 | 3,394 | 2,906 |
| Interest expense | 310 | 389 | 714 | 960 | 1,643 | 2,008 | 1,539 |
| Net interest income | 829 | 832 | 1,653 | 1,705 | 1,528 | 1,386 | 1,367 |
| Provision for credit losses | 56 | 60 | 124 | 127 | 118 | 93 | 141 |
| Net interest income after provision for credit losses | 773 | 772 | 1,529 | 1,578 | 1,410 | 1,293 | 1,226 |
| Securities gains (losses) | 9 | (2) | | 3 | 6 | (11) | (1) |
| Fee and other income | 400 | 343 | 680 | 614 | 526 | 491 | 414 |
| Noninterest expense | 635 | 604 | 1,180 | 1,232 | 1,115 | 1,062 | 980 |
| Income before income taxes | 547 | 509 | 1,029 | 963 | 827 | 711 | 659 |
| Income taxes | 169 | 163 | 324 | 313 | 273 | 229 | 216 |
| Net income available to common stockholders | \$ 378 | 346 | 705 | 650 | 554 | 482 | 443 |
| Per Common Share Data | | | | | | | |
| Basic earnings | \$ 1.14 | 1.01 | 2.08 | 1.87 | 1.62 | 1.43 | 1.32 |
| Diluted earnings | 1.12 | 1.00 | 2.06 | 1.85 | 1.61 | 1.43 | 1.31 |
| Cash dividends | 0.48 | 0.42 | 0.84 | 0.68 | 0.56 | 0.50 | 0.44 |
| Book value | 13.41 | 13.32 | 13.20 | 13.34 | 11.44 | 9.92 | 8.72 |
| Cash Dividends Paid on Common Stock | 158 | 144 | 285 | 236 | 192 | 168 | 147 |
| Consolidated Period-End Balance Sheet Items | | | | | | | |
| Assets | 52,910 | 51,708 | 51,925 | 50,571 | 48,754 | 45,146 | 43,262 |
| Loans, net of unearned income | 36,511 | 34,297 | 35,280 | 34,238 | 33,423 | 31,396 | 31,698 |
| Deposits | 36,800 | 34,369 | 34,747 | 32,945 | 32,634 | 30,702 | 27,739 |
| Long-term debt | 6,817 | 6,205 | 6,088 | 6,653 | 5,484 | 4,178 | 4,656 |
| Stockholders' equity | \$ 4,459 | 4,497 | 4,360 | 4,628 | 3,962 | 3,352 | 2,927 |
| Common shares outstanding | 332 | 338 | 330 | 347 | 346 | 338 | 336 |
| Consolidated Average Balance Sheet Items | | | | | | | |
| Assets | \$ 52,192 | 50,920 | 50,943 | 48,707 | 46,512 | 44,059 | 40,238 |
| Loans, net of unearned income | 35,940 | 34,400 | 34,524 | 33,386 | 32,251 | 32,023 | 29,308 |
| Deposits | 36,232 | 33,238 | 33,861 | 31,439 | 29,778 | 29,002 | 25,813 |
| Long-term debt | 6,438 | 6,593 | 6,366 | 6,198 | 5,241 | 4,173 | 4,165 |
| Stockholders' equity | \$ 4,426 | 4,550 | 4,443 | 4,299 | 3,673 | 3,069 | 2,814 |
| Common shares outstanding | | | | | | | |
| Basic | 332 | 343 | 338 | 347 | 341 | 336 | 335 |
| Diluted | 336 | 347 | 342 | 351 | 345 | 338 | 338 |
| Asset Quality | | | | | | | |
| Allowance for loan losses | \$ 510 | 501 | 501 | 499 | 483 | 450 | 442 |
| Nonperforming assets | 200 | 241 | 224 | 237 | 292 | 209 | 163 |
| Net charge-offs | \$ 56 | 59 | 123 | 114 | 112 | 93 | 86 |
| Consolidated Percentages | | | | | | | |
| Average assets to average stockholders' equity | 11.79x | 11.19 | 11.47 | 11.33 | 12.66 | 14.36 | 14.30 |
| Return on average assets | 1.46%(a) | 1.37(a) | 1.38 | 1.33 | 1.19 | 1.09 | 1.10 |
| Return on average stockholders' equity | 17.16(a) | 15.34(a) | 15.87 | 15.12 | 15.10 | 15.72 | 15.75 |
| Average stockholders' equity to average assets | 8.48 | 8.94 | 8.72 | 8.83 | 7.90 | 6.96 | 6.99 |
| Stockholders' equity to assets | 8.43 | 8.70 | 8.40 | 9.15 | 8.13 | 7.42 | 6.77 |
| Allowance for loan losses to | | | | | | | |
| Loans, net | 1.40 | 1.46 | 1.42 | 1.46 | 1.45 | 1.43 | 1.40 |

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| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Nonperforming assets | 307 | 258 | 282 | 284 | 222 | 277 | 395 |
| Net charge-offs to average loans, net | 0.31(a) | 0.34(a) | 0.36 | 0.34 | 0.35 | 0.29 | 0.29 |
| Nonperforming assets to loans, net, foreclosed properties and loans in other assets as held for sale | 0.55 | 0.70 | 0.63 | 0.69 | 0.87 | 0.66 | 0.51 |
| Capital ratios | | | | | | | |
| Tier I capital | 8.13 | 7.88 | 7.77 | 8.15 | 7.71 | 7.42 | 6.65 |
| Total capital | 11.92 | 11.05 | 10.68 | 11.09 | 10.97 | 10.98 | 10.41 |
| Leverage | 7.03 | 6.78 | 6.78 | 7.13 | 6.57 | 6.33 | 5.81 |
| Net interest margin | 3.50% (a) | 3.65(a) | 3.58 | 3.85 | 3.58 | 3.42 | 3.72 |

(a) Annualized.

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**SELECTED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED FINANCIAL DATA OF
WACHOVIA AND SOUTHTRUST(a)**

| <i>(In millions, except per share data)</i> | Six Months Ended June 30, 2004 | Year Ended December 31, 2003 |
|--|---|---|
| Consolidated Summaries of Income | | |
| Interest income | \$ 9,157 | 17,447 |
| Interest expense | 2,629 | 5,187 |
| Net interest income | 6,528 | 12,260 |
| Provision for credit losses | 161 | 710 |
| Net interest income after provision for credit losses | 6,367 | 11,550 |
| Securities gains | 47 | 45 |
| Fee and other income | 5,718 | 10,079 |
| Merger-related and restructuring expenses | 201 | 443 |
| Other noninterest expense | 7,625 | 14,074 |
| Minority interest in income of consolidated subsidiaries | 102 | 143 |
| Income before income taxes and cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle | 4,204 | 7,014 |
| Income taxes | 1,352 | 2,120 |
| Income before cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle | \$ 2,852 | 4,894 |
| Per Common Share Data(b) | | |
| Income before change in accounting principle | | |
| Basic | \$ 1.78 | 3.01 |
| Diluted | 1.75 | 2.98 |
| Dividends | 0.80 | 1.25 |
| Book value | 28.82 | |
| Consolidated Period-End Balance Sheet Items | | |
| Assets | 480,100 | |
| Loans, net of unearned income | 208,832 | |
| Deposits | 278,945 | |
| Long-term debt | 43,839 | |
| Stockholders' equity | \$ 46,491 | |
| Common shares outstanding | 1,613 | |
| Consolidated Percentages | | |
| Return on average assets | 1.25%(c) | |
| Return on average stockholders' equity | 15.48(c) | |
| Allowance for loan losses to | | |
| Loans, net | 1.36 | |
| Nonperforming assets | 243 | |
| Net charge-offs to average loans, net | 0.18(c) | |
| Nonperforming assets to loans, net, foreclosed properties and loans in other assets as held for sale | 0.52% | |

(a) Information related to the exchange of Wachovia common stock for each outstanding share of SouthTrust common stock, the purchase price for accounting purposes, certain preliminary purchase accounting adjustments, goodwill and deposit base intangible is presented on the

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following page. The pro forma condensed combined financial data reflects deposit divestitures of \$590 million, based on Federal Reserve Board decisions in other cases and published deposit amounts. Deposit divestiture amounts differ from the higher assumptions used by our financial advisors due to the receipt of additional information after the dates of the financial advisors' fairness opinions.

- (b) The basic and diluted per common share amounts were determined by dividing pro forma income before cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle by the sum of (i) Wachovia's respective historical average basic and diluted shares outstanding, and (ii) SouthTrust's respective historical average basic and diluted shares outstanding as adjusted by the 0.89 exchange ratio for each period presented. Dividends per share are the actual amounts per share paid by Wachovia for each period presented. The book value per common share amount was determined by dividing pro forma stockholders' equity by the sum of (i) Wachovia's common shares outstanding at June 30, 2004, and (ii) SouthTrust's net common shares outstanding at June 30, 2004, as adjusted by the 0.89 exchange ratio.
- (c) Annualized.

Table of Contents**WACHOVIA GOODWILL CALCULATION***(In millions, except per share data)***Actual Shares Outstanding**

| | | |
|---|-----------|---------------|
| SouthTrust net shares outstanding, June 30, 2004 | | 332 |
| Exchange ratio | | 0.89 |
| Total | | 295 |
| Purchase price per SouthTrust common share (a) | | \$ 45.86 |
| Total | | 13,551 |
| Fair value of outstanding employee and non-employee stock options (b) | | 294 |
| Total purchase price | | 13,845 |
| SouthTrust tangible stockholders' equity, June 30, 2004 | | (3,597) |
| Excess of purchase price over net assets acquired | | 10,248 |
| Estimated impact on goodwill of adjustments to reflect assets acquired and liabilities assumed at fair value | | |
| Loans | | 596 |
| Premises and equipment | | 100 |
| Deposits and short-term borrowings | | (730) |
| Pension (c) | | 102 |
| Total | | 68 |
| Deferred income taxes, net | | (26) |
| Net estimated impact on goodwill of adjustments to reflect assets acquired and liabilities assumed at fair value | | 42 |
| Estimated impact on goodwill of adjustments to reflect purchase accounting exit costs | | |
| Personnel | | 285 |
| Occupancy and equipment | | 94 |
| Other | | 68 |
| Total | | 447 |
| Deferred income taxes, net | | (172) |
| Net estimated impact on goodwill of adjustments to reflect purchase accounting exit costs | | 275 |
| Net impact on goodwill | | 317 |
| Deduct | | |
| Estimated deposit base intangible | | |
| SouthTrust deposits | \$ 36,800 | |
| Premium | 0.02 | (863) |
| Deferred income taxes | | 332 |

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| Goodwill | \$ 10,034 |
|----------|-----------|

- (a) The purchase price per SouthTrust common share for accounting purposes represents an average of the closing prices of Wachovia common stock for a period beginning two trading days before the announcement of the proposed merger and ending two trading days after the announcement of the proposed merger.
- (b) The fair value of 14 million Wachovia options to be issued in exchange for 16 million SouthTrust options was measured using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with market assumptions consistent with our most recent internal valuation. The exercise price per share used was the weighted average strike price for SouthTrust's outstanding options of \$19.47 adjusted for the exchange ratio, or \$21.88. The fair value per share of Wachovia common stock of \$45.86 used was determined as discussed in note (a) above. Other assumptions include a weighted average expected life of 6 years; volatility of 27%; a risk-free interest rate of 3.68%; and a dividend yield of 3.58%.
- (c) The additional pension liability is an estimate to adjust the carrying value of SouthTrust's pension obligation to an amount equal to the excess of the remeasured total benefit obligation over the estimate of the fair value of the plan assets.

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RISK FACTORS

*In addition to the other information contained in or incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement-prospectus, including the matters addressed under the heading *Forward-Looking Statements* beginning on page [●], you should carefully consider the following risk factors in deciding how to vote on the merger.*

Because the Market Price of Wachovia Common Stock May Fluctuate, You Cannot Be Sure of the Market Value of the Common Stock that SouthTrust Shareholders Will Receive in the Merger.

Upon completion of the merger, each share of SouthTrust common stock will be converted into 0.89 shares of Wachovia common stock. The exchange ratio will not be adjusted for changes in the market price of either Wachovia common stock or SouthTrust common stock. Accordingly, any change in the price of Wachovia common stock prior to the merger will affect the market value of Wachovia common stock that SouthTrust shareholders will receive on the date of the merger. Neither of us is permitted to terminate the merger agreement or resolicit the vote of our shareholders solely because of changes in the market price of our common stocks.

Stock price changes may result from a variety of factors, including general market and economic conditions, changes in our businesses, operations and prospects and regulatory considerations. Many of these factors are beyond our control. The prices of Wachovia common stock and SouthTrust common stock at the closing of the merger may vary from their respective prices on the date the merger agreement was executed, the date of this joint proxy statement-prospectus and the date of the meetings. As a result, the value represented by the exchange ratio also will vary. For example, based on the range of closing prices of Wachovia common stock during the period from June 18, 2004, the last trading day before public announcement of the merger, through [●], 2004, the exchange ratio represented a value ranging from a high of \$[●] to a low of \$[●] for each share of SouthTrust common stock. Because the date the merger is completed may be later than the dates of the meetings, at the time of your shareholders' meeting, you will not necessarily know the market value of Wachovia common stock that SouthTrust shareholders will receive upon completion of the merger.

We May Fail to Realize the Cost Savings We Estimate For the Merger.

The success of the merger will depend, in part, on our ability to realize the estimated cost savings from combining the businesses of Wachovia and SouthTrust. Our managements estimate that approximately \$414 million of annual pre-tax cost savings (or approximately \$255 million of annual after-tax cost savings) would be realized from the merger by December 31, 2006. While we continue to be comfortable with these estimates as of the date of this document, it is possible that our estimates of the potential cost savings could turn out to be incorrect. For example, our combined purchasing power may not be as strong as we expect, and therefore our cost savings could be reduced. In addition, unanticipated growth in Wachovia's business may require us to continue to operate or maintain some facilities or support functions that we currently expect to combine or reduce. Additional information about our cost savings estimates can be found on page [●] under *Cost Savings*. Our cost savings estimates also depend on our ability to combine the businesses of Wachovia and SouthTrust in a manner that permits those costs savings to be realized. If our estimates turn out to be incorrect or we are not able to combine successfully our two companies, the anticipated cost savings may not be fully realized or realized at all, or may take longer to realize than expected.

Combining Our Two Companies May Be More Difficult, Costly or Time-Consuming Than We Expect.

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Wachovia and SouthTrust have operated, and, until completion of the merger, will continue to operate, independently. It is possible that the integration process could result in the loss of key employees or disruption of each company's ongoing business or inconsistencies in standards, controls, procedures and policies that adversely affect our ability to maintain relationships with clients and employees or to achieve the anticipated benefits of the merger. As with any merger of banking institutions, there also may be business disruptions that cause us to lose customers or cause customers to take their deposits out of our banks.

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Regulatory Approvals May Not Be Received, May Take Longer than Expected or Impose Conditions, Including Deposit Divestitures, Which Are Not Presently Anticipated.

The merger must be approved by the Federal Reserve Board and will be reviewed by the DOJ. The Federal Reserve Board will consider, among other factors, the competitive impact of the merger, the financial and managerial resources of our companies and their subsidiary banks and the convenience and needs of the communities to be served. As part of that consideration, we expect that the Federal Reserve Board will review capital position, safety and soundness, and legal and regulatory compliance matters, including the SEC's investigations discussed under Recent Developments Certain Proceedings and Community Reinvestment Act matters.

There can be no assurance as to whether these and other regulatory approvals will be received, the timing of those approvals, or whether any conditions will be imposed.

On August 25, 2004, the DOJ advised Wachovia that Wachovia and SouthTrust should sell 18 SouthTrust branches having in the aggregate approximately \$590 million in deposits, and related loans in order to avoid a determination by the DOJ that the merger would have a significantly adverse effect on competition in the relevant markets. The Federal Reserve Board will also make a determination of required divestitures and has not agreed to a divestiture requirement. Although we believe that the divestitures and potential customer run-off will not have a material adverse effect on Wachovia's business following the merger, we cannot be sure.

Future Results of the Combined Company May Differ Materially from the Pro Forma Financial Information Presented in this Joint Proxy Statement Prospectus.

Wachovia's future results may be materially different from those shown in the pro forma financial information that only shows a combination of our historical results. We have estimated that Wachovia will record approximately \$156 million of aggregate after-tax merger-related and restructuring expenses, \$275 million of after-tax exit cost purchase accounting adjustments and \$42 million of fair value purchase accounting adjustments. The charges may be higher or lower than we have estimated, depending upon how costly or difficult it is to integrate our two companies. Furthermore, these charges may decrease Wachovia's capital that could be used for income-earning investments in the future.

The Merger May Be Dilutive to Wachovia's Earnings Per Share Until 2007 Even Assuming \$1.7 Billion in Share Repurchases.

In considering whether to approve the proposed merger, our boards of directors and our financial advisors considered various analyses of the potential impact of the merger on the financial performance of the combined company. These analyses assumed that Wachovia would maintain a leverage ratio of approximately 6% and a tangible capital to tangible asset ratio of 4.7% to 4.8% following the merger. These analyses assumed, as a result of the merger, up to \$1.7 billion of capital in excess of such ratios will be available as excess capital, in addition to excess capital generated by Wachovia as a stand-alone entity. In the event such excess capital exists, Wachovia currently intends to use such excess capital to repurchase shares of Wachovia common stock. To the extent the anticipated excess capital is not available, or, to the extent available and not used to repurchase shares of Wachovia common stock or otherwise reinvested in an accretive manner, the merger may be more dilutive or less accretive to earnings per share of the combined company. Wachovia does not have a legal obligation to repurchase \$1.7 billion worth of Wachovia common stock.

The Market Price of Wachovia Common Stock after the Merger May be Affected by Factors Different from Those Affecting SouthTrust Common Stock or Wachovia Common Stock Currently.

The businesses of Wachovia and SouthTrust differ in some respects and, accordingly, the results of operations of the combined company and the market price of the combined company's shares of common stock

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after the merger may be affected by factors different from those currently affecting the independent results of operations of each of Wachovia or SouthTrust. For a discussion of the businesses of Wachovia and SouthTrust and of certain factors to consider in connection with those businesses, see the documents incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement-prospectus and referred to under [Where You Can Find More Information](#) on page [●].

Unless the Merger Is Completed, There are Limits on Another Business Combination Until March 31, 2005.

The failure of either SouthTrust or Wachovia to obtain the shareholder vote required for the merger will not by itself give either company the right to terminate the merger agreement. As long as no other termination event has occurred, both companies would remain obligated to continue to use their reasonable best efforts to complete the merger until March 31, 2005, which, depending on the timing of the failed meeting, could include calling additional shareholder meetings.

During the period the merger agreement is in effect, SouthTrust cannot undertake any other mergers or business combination transactions without the consent of Wachovia. Furthermore, any decision by the SouthTrust board of directors to withdraw or adversely modify its recommendation of the merger, or recommend an acquisition proposal other than the merger, or negotiate or authorize negotiations with a third party regarding an acquisition proposal other than the merger will not give SouthTrust the right to terminate the merger agreement. The foregoing prohibitions could have the effect of delaying alternative strategic business combinations for a limited period. In addition, in certain circumstances, the option that SouthTrust granted Wachovia could survive for 12 months after the termination of the merger agreement (subject to a 6-month extension in limited situations).

The merger agreement permits Wachovia to make acquisitions and dispositions if such transactions do not present a material risk that the completion of the merger will be materially delayed or that any required regulatory approvals will be materially more difficult to obtain. However, SouthTrust may terminate the merger agreement during a period of 10 days (but expiring immediately after the SouthTrust special meeting of shareholders) after a public announcement that Wachovia has agreed to or become the subject of an acquisition transaction that would result in a change in control of Wachovia. If SouthTrust terminates the merger agreement pursuant to this termination right, Wachovia will reimburse SouthTrust for its expenses incurred in the merger and pay it a cash termination fee of \$100 million.

The Merger Agreement and Stock Option Agreement Limit SouthTrust's Ability to Pursue Alternatives to the Merger.

The merger agreement contains provisions that limit SouthTrust's ability to discuss competing third-party proposals to acquire all or a significant part of SouthTrust or any of its significant subsidiaries. In addition, SouthTrust has granted to Wachovia an option to acquire up to 64,935,000 shares of SouthTrust common stock, or an equivalent number of shares of the stock of any company that acquires SouthTrust, under the circumstances and for the payments described in the option agreement. These provisions might discourage a potential competing acquiror that might have an interest in acquiring all or a significant part of SouthTrust from considering or proposing that acquisition even if it were prepared to pay consideration with a higher per share market price than that proposed in the merger, or might result in a potential competing acquiror proposing to pay a lower per share price to acquire SouthTrust than it might otherwise have proposed to pay.

The Securities and Exchange Commission Is Investigating Our Relationship With Our Auditor, KPMG LLP.

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As reported in Wachovia's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003, the SEC has requested Wachovia to produce certain information concerning any agreements or understandings by which

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Wachovia referred clients to KPMG LLP during the period January 1, 1997 to November 2003 in connection with an inquiry regarding the independence of KPMG LLP as Wachovia's outside auditors during such period. Wachovia is continuing to cooperate with the SEC in its inquiry, which is being conducted pursuant to a formal order of investigation entered by the SEC on October 21, 2003. Wachovia believes the SEC's inquiry relates to certain tax services offered to Wachovia customers by KPMG LLP during the period from 1997 to early 2002, and whether these activities might have caused KPMG LLP not to be independent from Wachovia, as defined by applicable accounting and SEC regulations requiring auditors of an SEC-reporting company to be independent of the company. Those SEC regulations require that our annual reports, including the financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2002 incorporated by reference, contain financial statements that are accompanied by a report of independent accountants. Wachovia and/or KPMG LLP received fees in connection with a small number of personal financial consulting transactions related to these services. Although KPMG LLP has confirmed to Wachovia that during all periods covered by the SEC's inquiry, including the present, KPMG LLP was and is independent from Wachovia under applicable accounting and SEC regulations, Wachovia cannot give any assurances as to the outcome of the SEC's inquiry.

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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Second Quarter 2004 Results

Wachovia. On July 15, 2004, Wachovia announced its results of operations for the quarter ended June 30, 2004. Wachovia's earnings were \$1.3 billion in the second quarter of 2004 compared with earnings of \$1.0 billion in the second quarter of 2003. On a per share basis, earnings were \$0.95 compared with \$0.77 a year ago.

In the first six months of 2004, earnings were \$2.5 billion, or \$1.89 per share, compared with \$2.1 billion, or \$1.53 per share, in the first six months of 2003.

Tax-equivalent net interest income was \$2.9 billion in the second quarter of 2004 compared with \$2.6 billion in the second quarter of 2003. Fee and other income was \$2.6 billion in the second quarter of 2004 compared with \$2.2 billion in the second quarter of 2003.

Nonperforming assets were \$1.0 billion, or 0.56% of net loans and foreclosed properties, at June 30, 2004, compared with \$1.8 billion, or 1.00%, at June 30, 2003. Annualized net charge-offs as a percentage of average net loans were 0.17% in the second quarter of 2004 compared with 0.43% in the second quarter of 2003. The provision for credit losses was \$61 million in the second quarter of 2004 compared with \$195 million a year ago.

Net loans at June 30, 2004, were \$170.6 billion compared with \$160.3 billion a year ago. Total deposits were \$243.4 billion at June 30, 2004, compared with \$201.3 billion a year ago. Stockholders' equity was \$32.6 billion at June 30, 2004, compared with \$32.5 billion a year ago. At June 30, 2004, Wachovia had assets of \$418.4 billion.

SouthTrust. On July 21, 2004, SouthTrust announced its results of operations for the quarter ended June 30, 2004. SouthTrust's earnings were \$195 million in the second quarter of 2004 compared with earnings of \$175 million in the second quarter of 2003. On a per share basis, earnings were \$0.58 compared with \$0.51 a year ago.

In the first six months of 2004, earnings were \$378 million, or \$1.12 per share, compared with \$346 million, or \$1.00 per share, in the first six months of 2003.

Tax-equivalent net interest income was \$422 million in the second quarter of 2004 compared with \$420 million in the second quarter of 2003. Total fee and other income was \$242 million in the second quarter of 2004 compared with \$178 million in the second quarter of 2003.

Nonperforming assets were \$200 million, or 0.55% of net loans and foreclosed properties, at June 30, 2004, compared with \$241 million, or 0.70%, at June 30, 2003. Annualized net charge-offs as a percentage of average net loans were 0.32% in the second quarter of 2004 compared

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with 0.35% in the second quarter of 2003. The provision for credit losses was \$29 million in the second quarter of 2004 compared with \$30 million a year ago.

Net loans at June 30, 2004, were \$36.0 billion compared with \$33.8 billion a year ago. Total deposits were \$36.8 billion at June 30, 2004, compared with \$34.4 billion a year ago. Stockholders' equity was \$4.5 billion at June 30, 2004, compared with \$4.5 billion a year ago. At June 30, 2004, SouthTrust had assets of \$52.9 billion.

For additional information regarding Wachovia's and SouthTrust's second quarter 2004 results, please see "Where You Can Find More Information" on page [●].

Certain Proceedings

Wachovia's periodic reports filed with the SEC contain information regarding certain pending legal and regulatory proceedings involving Wachovia. As disclosed in Wachovia's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2004, on July 23, 2004, the SEC staff advised Wachovia that the staff is considering recommending to the SEC that it institute an enforcement action against Wachovia and certain former legacy

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Wachovia officers, some of whom remain with the combined company, relating to legacy Wachovia's purchases of legacy First Union common stock and the disclosures made by both legacy companies related to those purchases following the April 2001 announcement of the merger between First Union and legacy Wachovia. Wachovia has made a written Wells submission in response to the SEC staff setting forth the reasons why Wachovia believes the SEC should not commence any enforcement action. Wachovia believes all such stock purchases and disclosures complied with applicable law.

In addition, in connection with ongoing regulatory investigations of various practices in the securities and mutual fund industries, on July 28, 2004, the SEC staff advised Wachovia's investment advisory subsidiary that the staff is considering recommending to the SEC that it institute an enforcement action against the investment advisory subsidiary, Evergreen Investment Management Company, LLC, and other Evergreen entities. The SEC staff's proposed allegations relate to (i) an arrangement involving a former Evergreen employee and an individual broker pursuant to which the broker, on behalf of a client, made exchanges to and from a mutual fund during the period December 2000 through April 2003 in excess of the limitations set forth in the mutual fund prospectus, (ii) purchase and sale activity from September 2001 through January 2003 by a former Evergreen portfolio manager in the mutual fund he managed at the time, (iii) the sufficiency of systems for monitoring exchanges and enforcing exchange limitations stated in mutual fund prospectuses, and (iv) the adequacy of e-mail retention practices. In addition, on September 17, 2004, the SEC staff advised Wachovia's retail brokerage subsidiary, Wachovia Securities LLC, that the staff is considering recommending to the SEC that it institute an enforcement action against the brokerage subsidiary regarding the allegations described in (i) of the preceding sentence. Wachovia currently intends to make a written Wells submission explaining why Wachovia believes enforcement action should not be instituted.

In addition, as disclosed in Wachovia's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2004, on July 26, 2000, a jury in the Philadelphia County (PA) Court of Common Pleas returned a verdict in the case captioned *Pioneer Commercial Funding Corporation v. American Financial Mortgage Corporation, CoreStates Bank, N.A., et al.* The verdict against CoreStates Bank, N.A., a predecessor of Wachovia Bank, National Association, included consequential damages of \$13.5 million and punitive damages of \$337.5 million. The trial court had earlier directed a verdict against CoreStates for compensatory damages of \$1.7 million. Upon Wachovia's motion, the trial court reduced the amount of the punitive damages award to \$40.5 million in December 2000. In March 2002, the Pennsylvania Superior Court vacated the award of punitive damages, affirmed the awards of consequential and compensatory damages and remanded the case for a new trial on punitive damages. On August 19, 2004, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court reversed the Pennsylvania Superior Court's judgment and remanded the case to the trial court for an entry of judgment in favor of Wachovia on all counts.

Based on information currently available, advice of counsel, available insurance coverage and established reserves, Wachovia believes that the eventual outcome of the actions against Wachovia and/or its subsidiaries, including the matters described above, in Wachovia's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003, in Wachovia's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2004, and in Wachovia's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2004, will not, individually or in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on Wachovia's consolidated financial position or results of operations. However, in the event of unexpected future developments, it is possible that the ultimate resolution of those matters, if unfavorable, may be material to Wachovia's results of operations for any particular period.

See also "Certain Litigation" beginning on page 111.

Wachovia has been advised that the large accounting firms have recently discussed with the staff of the Financial Accounting Standards Board the accounting for leveraged leases used by public companies. If a change is made, it may result in a one-time charge to earnings and, thereafter, increased earnings in an approximate equal aggregate amount over the future life of the leases.

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WACHOVIA SPECIAL MEETING

This section contains information from Wachovia for Wachovia shareholders about the special shareholder meeting Wachovia has called to consider and approve the plan of merger contained in the merger agreement. We are mailing this joint proxy statement-prospectus to you, as a Wachovia shareholder, on or about [●], 2004. Together with this joint proxy statement-prospectus, we are also sending to you a notice of the Wachovia special meeting, and a form of proxy that our board of directors is soliciting for use at the special meeting and at any adjournments or postponements of the meeting. The special meeting will be held on [●], 2004 at [●] a.m., local time, in [●].

Matters To Be Considered

The only matter to be considered at the Wachovia special meeting is the approval of the plan of merger. You may also be asked to vote on a proposal to adjourn or postpone the special meeting. Wachovia could use any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting for the purpose, among others, of allowing more time to solicit votes to approve the plan of merger.

Proxies

You should complete and return the proxy card accompanying this document to ensure that your vote is counted at the special meeting, regardless of whether you plan to attend the special meeting. If you are a registered shareholder (that is, you hold stock directly registered in your own name, including through Wachovia's direct registration service), you may also vote by telephone or through the Internet by following the instructions described on your proxy card. If your shares are held in nominee or street name you will receive separate voting instructions from your broker or nominee, which will be included with your proxy materials. Most brokers and nominees offer telephone and Internet voting, but the availability of and procedures for these alternatives will depend on the arrangements established by each particular broker or nominee. If your shares are held in a Wachovia employee benefit plan that entitles you to direct how the shares allocated to your account are to be voted, you will receive separate voting instructions from the plan's trustee. Your shares in such plans that entitle you to direct how the shares are to be voted may be voted even if you do not instruct the trustee how to vote, as will be explained in a notice to you.

If you are a registered Wachovia shareholder, you can revoke your proxy at any time before the vote is taken at the special meeting by submitting to Wachovia's corporate secretary written notice of revocation or a properly executed proxy of a later date, or by attending the special meeting and voting in person. Attendance at the special meeting will not by itself constitute revocation of a proxy. Written notices of revocation and other communications about revoking Wachovia proxies should be addressed to:

Wachovia Corporation

301 South College Street

Charlotte, North Carolina 28288

Attention: Corporate Secretary

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If your shares are held in nominee or street name, you should contact your broker or other nominee regarding the revocation of proxies.

All shares of Wachovia common stock represented by valid proxies we receive through this solicitation, and not revoked before they are exercised, will be voted in the manner specified on the proxies. If you make no specification on your proxy card, your proxy will be voted FOR approval of the plan of merger. However, brokers that hold shares of Wachovia common stock in nominee or street name for customers who are the beneficial owners of those shares may not give a proxy to vote those shares on the plan of merger without specific instructions from those customers.

Wachovia's board is presently unaware of any other matters that may be presented for action at the special meeting. If other matters do properly come before the special meeting, however, Wachovia intends that shares

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represented by proxies in the form accompanying this joint proxy statement-prospectus will be voted by and at the discretion of the persons named as proxies on the proxy card. However, proxies that indicate a vote against approval of the plan of merger will not be voted in favor of any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting to solicit additional proxies to approve the plan of merger.

Approving the plan of merger requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Wachovia common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting.

Because approval of the plan of merger requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Wachovia common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting, abstentions and broker non-votes will have the same effect as votes against approval of the plan of merger. Therefore, Wachovia's board urges you to complete, date and sign the accompanying proxy and return it promptly in the enclosed, postage-paid envelope or, alternatively, to submit your proxy via the telephone or Internet procedures described under "Voting via Telephone, Internet or Mail" beginning on page [•].

Solicitation of Proxies

Wachovia will bear the entire cost of soliciting proxies from its shareholders, except that Wachovia and SouthTrust have agreed to each pay one-half of the costs and expenses of printing and mailing this joint proxy statement-prospectus and all filing and other fees relating to the merger paid to the SEC. In addition to soliciting proxies by mail, Wachovia will request banks, brokers and other record holders to send proxies and proxy material to the beneficial owners of Wachovia common stock and secure their voting instructions, if necessary. Wachovia will reimburse those banks, brokers and record holders for their reasonable fees and expenses in taking those actions. Wachovia also has made arrangements with Georgeson Shareholder Communications to assist in soliciting proxies for the merger and the special meeting and in communicating with shareholders and has agreed to pay Georgeson Shareholder Communications \$50,000 plus expenses for its services. If necessary, Wachovia also may use several of its regular employees, who will not be specially compensated, to solicit proxies from its shareholders, either personally or by telephone, the Internet, telegram, fax, letter or special delivery letter.

Record Date and Voting Rights

In accordance with North Carolina law, Wachovia's by-laws and the rules of the NYSE, Wachovia has fixed August 20, 2004 as the record date for determining the Wachovia shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the special meeting. Only Wachovia shareholders of record at the close of business on the record date are entitled to notice of the special meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting, and only Wachovia common shareholders of record at the close of business on the record date are entitled to vote at the special meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting. At the close of business on the record date, there were [•] shares of Wachovia common stock outstanding, held by approximately [•] holders of record. The presence in person or by proxy of a majority of common shares outstanding on the record date will constitute a quorum for purposes of conducting business at the special meeting. On each matter properly submitted for consideration at the special meeting, you are entitled to one vote for each outstanding share of Wachovia common stock you held as of the close of business on the record date.

If you have any shares in Wachovia's Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan, the enclosed proxy represents the number of shares you had in that plan on the record date for Wachovia's meeting, as well as the number of shares directly registered in your name on the record date.

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Shares of Wachovia common stock present in person at the special meeting but not voting, and shares of Wachovia common stock for which Wachovia has received proxies indicating that their holders have abstained, will be counted as present at the special meeting for purposes of determining whether there is a quorum for transacting business at the special meeting. Shares represented by proxies returned by a broker holding the shares in street name will be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum exists, even if those shares are not voted by their beneficial owners on matters where the broker cannot vote the shares in its discretion (so-called broker non-votes).

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As of the record date:

Wachovia's directors and executive officers beneficially owned approximately [●] shares of Wachovia common stock, representing less than [●]% of the shares entitled to vote at the special meeting. Wachovia currently expects that its directors and executive officers will vote the shares of Wachovia common stock they beneficially own FOR approval of the plan of merger;

subsidiaries of Wachovia, as fiduciaries, custodians or agents, held approximately [●] shares of Wachovia common stock, representing approximately [●]% of the shares entitled to vote at the special meeting, and maintained sole or shared voting power over approximately [●] of these shares;

SouthTrust and its directors and executive officers beneficially owned less than [●]% of the shares entitled to vote at the Wachovia special meeting (other than shares held as fiduciary, custodian or agent as described below); and

subsidiaries of SouthTrust, as fiduciaries, custodians or agents, held less than [●]% of the shares entitled to vote at the Wachovia special meeting, and maintained sole or shared voting power over approximately [●] of these shares.

Wachovia is not aware of any person who was the beneficial owner of more than 5% of the outstanding shares of Wachovia common stock on the record date.

Recommendation of Wachovia's Board

The Wachovia board has adopted the plan of merger. The Wachovia board believes that the plan of merger contained in the merger agreement and the transactions it contemplates are in the best interests of Wachovia and its shareholders, and unanimously recommends that Wachovia shareholders vote FOR approval of the plan of merger.

See Recommendation of Wachovia's Board and Its Reasons for the Merger beginning on page [●] for a more detailed discussion of the Wachovia board's recommendation with regard to the plan of merger.

Voting via Telephone, Internet or Mail

Wachovia offers registered shareholders three ways to vote your proxy:

Option 1 Vote By Telephone:

Call toll free (877) 816-0869 before [●] p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on [●], 2004 and follow the instructions on the enclosed proxy card.

Option 2 Vote On the Internet:

Access the proxy form at www.proxy.georgeson.com before [•] p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on [•], 2004. Follow the instructions for Internet voting found on that web site and on the enclosed proxy card. If you vote via the Internet, please be advised that there may be costs involved, including possibly access charges from Internet access providers and telephone companies. You will have to bear these costs.

If your shares are registered in the name of a brokerage, bank or other nominee, you may not be able to use telephone and Internet voting procedures. Please refer to the voting materials you receive from, or otherwise contact, your broker, bank or other nominee to determine your options.

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Option 3 Mail Your Proxy Card:

If you do not wish to vote by telephone or the Internet, please complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card as described under Proxies above.

In order to be effective, proxy instructions must be received before the times indicated above to allow for processing the results.

The voting procedures used by Wachovia's transfer agent, Wachovia Bank, National Association, are designed to authenticate properly shareholders' identities and to record accurately and count their proxies.

Delivery of Proxy Materials

To reduce the expenses of delivering duplicate proxy materials to Wachovia shareholders, Wachovia is relying upon SEC rules that permit us to deliver only one joint proxy statement-prospectus to multiple shareholders who share an address unless we receive contrary instructions from any shareholder at that address. If you share an address with another shareholder and have received only one joint proxy statement-prospectus, you may write or call us as specified below to request a separate copy of this document and we will promptly send it to you at no cost to you. For future Wachovia shareholder meetings, you may request separate copies of our proxy materials, or request that we send only one set of these materials to you if you are receiving multiple copies, by contacting us at: Investor Relations, Wachovia Corporation, 301 South College Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28288-0206, or by telephoning us at (704) 374-6782.

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SOUTHTRUST SPECIAL MEETING

This section contains information from SouthTrust for SouthTrust shareholders about the special shareholder meeting SouthTrust has called to consider and approve the plan of merger contained in the merger agreement. We are mailing this joint proxy statement-prospectus to you, as a SouthTrust shareholder, on or about [●], 2004. Together with this joint proxy statement-prospectus, we are also sending to you a notice of the SouthTrust special meeting, and a form of proxy that our board is soliciting for use at the special meeting and at any adjournments or postponements of the meeting. The special meeting will be held on [●], 2004, at [●] a.m., local time, in the auditorium on the eighth floor of the SouthTrust Tower, 420 North 20th Street, Birmingham, Alabama.

Matters To Be Considered

The only matter to be considered at the SouthTrust special meeting is the approval of the plan of merger. You may also be asked to vote upon a proposal to adjourn or postpone the special meeting. SouthTrust could use any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting for the purpose, among others, of allowing more time to solicit votes to approve the plan of merger.

Proxies

You should complete and return the proxy card accompanying this document to ensure that your vote is counted at the special meeting, regardless of whether you plan to attend the special meeting. If you are a registered shareholder (that is, you hold stock directly registered in your own name), you may also vote by telephone or through the Internet by following the instructions described on your proxy card. If your shares are held in nominee or street name you will receive separate voting instructions from your broker or nominee, which will be included with your proxy materials. Most brokers and nominees offer telephone and Internet voting, but the availability of and procedures for these alternatives will depend on the arrangements established by each particular broker or nominee. If your shares are held in a SouthTrust employee benefit plan that entitles you to direct how the shares allocated to your account are to be voted, you will receive separate voting instructions from the plan's trustee. Your shares in such plans that entitle you to direct how the shares are to be voted may be voted even if you do not instruct the trustee how to vote, as will be explained in a notice to you.

If you are a registered SouthTrust shareholder, you can revoke your proxy at any time before the vote is taken at the special meeting by submitting to SouthTrust's corporate secretary written notice of revocation or a properly executed proxy of a later date, or by attending the special meeting and voting in person. Attendance at the special meeting will not by itself constitute revocation of a proxy. Written notices of revocation and other communications about revoking SouthTrust proxies should be addressed to:

SouthTrust Corporation

420 North 20th Street

Birmingham, AL 35203

Attention: Corporate Secretary

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If your shares are held in nominee or street name, you should contact your broker or other nominee regarding the revocation of proxies.

All shares of SouthTrust common stock represented by valid proxies we receive through this solicitation, and not revoked before they are exercised, will be voted in the manner specified on the proxies. If you make no specification on your proxy card, your proxy will be voted FOR approval of the plan of merger. However, brokers that hold shares of SouthTrust common stock in nominee or street name for customers who are the beneficial owners of those shares may not give a proxy to vote those shares on the plan of merger without specific instructions from those customers.

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SouthTrust's board is presently unaware of any other matters that may be presented for action at the special meeting. If other matters do properly come before the special meeting, however, SouthTrust intends that shares represented by proxies in the form accompanying this joint proxy statement-prospectus will be voted by and at the discretion of the persons named as proxies on the proxy card. However, proxies that indicate a vote against approval of the plan of merger will not be voted in favor of any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting to solicit additional proxies to approve the plan of merger.

Approving the plan of merger requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of SouthTrust common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting.

Because approval of the plan of merger requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of SouthTrust common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting, abstentions and broker non-votes will have the same effect as votes against approval of the plan of merger. Therefore, SouthTrust's board urges you to complete, date and sign the accompanying proxy and return it promptly in the enclosed, postage-paid envelope or, alternatively, to submit your proxy via the telephone or Internet procedures described under Voting via Telephone, Internet or Mail beginning on page [•].

You should not send in any stock certificates with your proxy card. The exchange agent will mail a transmittal letter with instructions for the surrender of stock certificates to SouthTrust shareholders as soon as practicable after the completion of the merger.

Solicitation of Proxies

SouthTrust will bear the entire cost of soliciting proxies from its shareholders, except that SouthTrust and Wachovia have agreed to each pay one-half of the costs and expenses of printing and mailing this joint proxy statement-prospectus and all filing and other fees relating to the merger paid to the SEC. In addition to soliciting proxies by mail, SouthTrust will request banks, brokers and other record holders to send proxies and proxy material to the beneficial owners of SouthTrust common stock and secure their voting instructions, if necessary. SouthTrust will reimburse those banks, brokers and record holders for their reasonable fees and expenses in taking those actions. SouthTrust has also made arrangements with Morrow & Co., Inc. to help in soliciting proxies for the proposed merger and the special meeting and in communicating with shareholders. SouthTrust has agreed to pay Morrow & Co., Inc. approximately \$25,000 plus expenses for its services. If necessary, SouthTrust may also use several of its regular employees, who will not be specially compensated, to solicit proxies from its shareholders, either personally or by telephone, the Internet, telegram, fax, letter or special delivery letter.

Record Date and Voting Rights

In accordance with Delaware law, SouthTrust's by-laws and the rules of the Nasdaq, SouthTrust has fixed September 21, 2004, as the record date for determining the SouthTrust shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the special meeting. Only SouthTrust shareholders of record at the close of business on the record date are entitled to notice of the special meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting, and only SouthTrust common shareholders of record at the close of business on the record date are entitled to vote at the special meeting or any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting. At the close of business on the record date, there were [•] shares of SouthTrust common stock outstanding, held by approximately [•] holders of record. The presence in person or by proxy of a majority of common shares outstanding on the record date will constitute a quorum for purposes of conducting business at the special meeting. On each matter properly submitted for consideration at the special meeting, you are entitled to one vote for each outstanding share of SouthTrust common stock you held as of the close of business on the record date.

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If you have any shares in SouthTrust's Dividend Reinvestment and Common Stock Purchase Plan, the enclosed proxy represents the number of shares you had in that plan on the record date for SouthTrust's meeting, as well as the number of shares directly registered in your name on the record date.

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Shares of SouthTrust common stock present in person at the special meeting but not voting, and shares of SouthTrust common stock for which SouthTrust has received proxies indicating that their holders have abstained, will be counted as present at the special meeting for purposes of determining whether there is a quorum for transacting business at the special meeting. Shares represented by proxies returned by a broker holding the shares in street name will be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum exists, even if those shares are not voted by their beneficial owners on matters where the broker cannot vote the shares in its discretion (so-called broker non-votes).

As of the record date:

SouthTrust's directors and executive officers beneficially owned approximately [•] shares of SouthTrust common stock, representing approximately [•]% of the shares entitled to vote at the special meeting. SouthTrust currently expects that its directors and executive officers will vote the shares of SouthTrust common stock they beneficially own FOR approval of the plan of merger;

subsidaries of SouthTrust, as fiduciaries, custodians or agents, held approximately [•] shares of SouthTrust common stock, representing approximately [•]% of the shares entitled to vote at the special meeting, and maintained sole or shared voting power over approximately [•] of these shares;

Wachovia and its directors and executive officers beneficially owned less than [•]% of the shares entitled to vote at the SouthTrust special meeting (other than shares held as fiduciary, custodian or agent as described below); and

subsidaries of Wachovia, as fiduciaries, custodians or agents, held a total of approximately [•] shares of SouthTrust common stock, representing approximately [•]% of the shares entitled to vote at the special meeting, and maintained sole or shared voting power over approximately [•] of these shares.

SouthTrust is not aware of any person who was the beneficial owner of more than 5% of the outstanding shares of SouthTrust common stock on the record date.

Recommendation of SouthTrust's Board

The SouthTrust board has adopted the plan of merger. The SouthTrust board believes that the plan of merger contained in the merger agreement and the transactions it contemplates are in the best interests of SouthTrust and its shareholders and that the exchange ratio is fair to SouthTrust shareholders, and unanimously recommends that SouthTrust shareholders vote FOR approval of the plan of merger.

See Recommendation of SouthTrust's Board and Its Reasons for the Merger beginning on page [•] for a more detailed discussion of the SouthTrust board's recommendation with regard to the plan of merger.

Voting via Telephone, Internet or Mail

SouthTrust offers registered shareholders three ways to vote your proxy:

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Option 1 Vote by Telephone:

Call toll free (800) 690-6903 before [●] p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on [●], 2004 and follow the instructions on the enclosed proxy card.

Option 2 Vote on the Internet:

Access the proxy form at www.proxyvote.com before [●] p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on [●], 2004. Follow the instructions for Internet voting found there and on the enclosed proxy card. If you vote via the Internet, please be advised that there may be costs involved, including possibly access charges from Internet access providers and telephone companies. You will have to bear these costs.

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If your shares are registered in the name of a brokerage, bank or other nominee, you may not be able to use telephone and Internet voting procedures. Please refer to the voting materials you receive, or contact your broker, bank or other nominee, to determine your options.

Option 3 Mail your Proxy Card:

If you do not wish to vote by telephone or the Internet, please complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card as described under Proxies above.

In order to be effective, proxy instructions must be received before the times indicated above to allow for processing the results.

The voting procedures used by SouthTrust's transfer agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, are designed to properly authenticate shareholders' identities and to record accurately and count their proxies.

Delivery of Proxy Materials

To reduce the expenses of delivering duplicate proxy materials to SouthTrust shareholders, SouthTrust is relying upon SEC rules that permit us to deliver only one joint proxy statement-prospectus to multiple shareholders who share an address unless we receive contrary instructions from any shareholder at that address. If you share an address with another shareholder and have received only one joint proxy statement-prospectus, you may write or call us as specified below to request a separate copy of this document and we will promptly send it to you at no cost to you. For future SouthTrust shareholder meetings, if any, you may request separate copies of our proxy materials, or request that we send only one set of these materials to you if you are receiving multiple copies, by contacting us at: SouthTrust Corporation, P.O. Box 2554, Birmingham, Alabama 35290, or by telephoning us at (205) 254-5187.

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THE MERGER

The following discussion describes certain material information about the merger. We urge you to read carefully this entire document, including the merger agreement, the stock option agreement and the financial advisor opinions attached as Appendices to this document, for a more complete understanding of the merger.

Wachovia's and SouthTrust's boards of directors have adopted the merger agreement, including the plan of merger contained therein, and approved the stock option agreement. The merger agreement provides for combining our companies through the merger of SouthTrust into Wachovia, with Wachovia as the surviving corporation.

When the merger is completed, SouthTrust shareholders will receive 0.89 shares of Wachovia common stock for each share of SouthTrust common stock. We sometimes refer to this 0.89 ratio as the exchange ratio. Shares of Wachovia common stock issued and outstanding at the completion of the merger will remain outstanding and those stock certificates will be unaffected by the merger. Wachovia's common stock will continue to trade on the NYSE under the Wachovia Corporation name with the symbol **WB** following the merger.

Please see **The Merger Agreement** beginning on page [•] for additional and more detailed information regarding the legal documents that govern the merger, including information about the conditions to the merger and the provisions for terminating or amending the merger agreement.

Background of the Merger

SouthTrust historically has grown both organically, through internally generated growth from operations, and through strategic business combinations, intended to augment SouthTrust's operating footprint in high-growth markets in the southeastern United States and Texas. Senior management of SouthTrust and SouthTrust's board of directors regularly review and assess SouthTrust's competitive and strategic positions, and discuss and consider ways to enhance these positions, including through possible business combinations with other financial institutions. In view of the increasing competition and continuing consolidation in the financial services industry over the past several years, the management of SouthTrust regularly considers with SouthTrust's board the strategic options available to SouthTrust, including ways to expand its market presence and competitive position in the high-growth southeastern United States and Texas. These strategic discussions have included the possibility of business combinations involving SouthTrust and other financial institutions, as well as other possible alternatives and actions to maximize its performance as an independent company. From time to time in the past years, representatives of SouthTrust have had informal, preliminary discussions with representatives of other financial institutions concerning the possibility of a business combination transaction.

Wachovia's board of directors and senior management also regularly review the financial services industry and Wachovia's strategic and competitive position in the industry, particularly in light of the continuing long-term trend of consolidation in the financial services industry. Over the years, Wachovia has concentrated on building a large, diversified financial services organization and has focused its retail banking operations primarily in the eastern region of the United States. As part of its strategic review of its businesses, Wachovia's board and senior management have discussed ways to enhance Wachovia's retail and commercial banking market presence within its existing geographic markets, including in the high growth states of the southeastern United States, and to expand into new geographic markets such as attractive Texas banking markets. These discussions have included various strategic initiatives, such as Wachovia's recently announced plans to enter selected Texas markets *de novo*, as well as strategic business combinations with a variety of financial institutions.

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In late November 2003, Mr. G. Kennedy Thompson, Wachovia's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Mr. Wallace D. Malone, Jr., SouthTrust's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, began informal

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discussions regarding the merits of a possible business combination between SouthTrust and Wachovia. Mr. Malone notified each of the members of SouthTrust's board about these conversations, and the consensus among the directors was that Mr. Malone should continue discussions with Mr. Thompson for the purpose of exploring a possible strategic combination with Wachovia.

During ongoing discussions between Mr. Thompson and Mr. Malone in late November and into December 2003, it was agreed that they should meet in person to consider more seriously the merits of a business combination between SouthTrust and Wachovia. On December 10, 2003, Mr. Thompson traveled to Birmingham, Alabama to meet with Mr. Malone for further discussions.

On December 17, 2003, SouthTrust's board held its regularly scheduled meeting, at which time the board was updated by senior management on the status of discussions between Wachovia and SouthTrust. SouthTrust's board discussed with management a number of issues relating to the discussions with Wachovia, including:

the potential risks and benefits of the proposed combination as compared to the potential risks and benefits of remaining independent;

the potential risks and benefits of engaging in a combination with Wachovia as compared to the potential risks and benefits of a combination with other possible financial institutions;

whether a combination with Wachovia would be consistent with SouthTrust's long-term strategic plan; and

the financial and other terms and conditions of a combination with Wachovia that would be attractive to SouthTrust.

After careful consideration and discussions with senior management, SouthTrust's board endorsed continued discussions with Wachovia. Mr. Thompson also updated Wachovia's board at its regularly scheduled meeting in December 2003 about his discussions with Mr. Malone, and the board indicated its support of further discussions regarding a potential transaction involving SouthTrust.

In late December 2003 and early January 2004, Mr. Malone and Mr. Thompson met periodically, in some cases along with senior officers from their respective organizations, to further discuss the potential benefits of a strategic combination. Mr. Malone and Mr. Thompson also discussed some of the general terms of a proposed merger, including possible consideration to be offered to SouthTrust shareholders. On January 7, 2004, SouthTrust and Wachovia entered into a confidentiality agreement related to their preliminary discussions and the confidential exchange and review by both parties of operational and financial data and materials.

Thereafter, SouthTrust and Wachovia provided to each other various internal financial and operational data for each company, and on January 7, 2004, senior executives of Wachovia traveled to Birmingham, Alabama to meet with senior executives of SouthTrust. These meetings continued during January 7 and January 8, 2004. On January 9, 2004, senior executives of SouthTrust traveled to Charlotte, North Carolina to meet with senior executives of Wachovia. These meetings continued during January 9 and January 10, 2004. During these meetings, the parties reviewed and discussed the internal financial and operating data and materials provided to each other, their respective business operations, methodologies and philosophies, and their relative operating efficiencies and how a possible combination might affect their respective operations and efficiencies. In addition to the due diligence activities commenced and conducted during these meetings, the purposes of these meetings were to introduce the senior management teams to each other, share ideas with respect to how the management teams managed similar segments of their respective businesses and to gain a sense of the parties' compatibility in the event a strategic merger were to be pursued. During this period, Messrs. Malone and Thompson discussed possible transaction terms, but no agreements were concluded.

Shortly after these meetings, Mr. Malone and Mr. Thompson had further discussions regarding the proposed merger. As a result of these discussions, Mr. Malone and Mr. Thompson mutually determined not to proceed

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further with substantive discussions, and all discussions between the companies ceased. In accordance with the terms of the confidentiality agreement between the parties, each of Wachovia and SouthTrust destroyed or returned the confidential materials that had been exchanged during their discussions.

On January 21, 2004, SouthTrust's board held its regularly scheduled meeting at which time SouthTrust management reviewed the activities and discussions that had occurred with Wachovia's management. With the cessation of discussions with Wachovia, SouthTrust's board returned its attention to its ongoing review and assessment of the operations of SouthTrust and its strategic objectives, efforts to implement a succession plan for SouthTrust senior management, the continued consideration of transitioning certain SouthTrust operations to Atlanta, Georgia and other ongoing activities of the company.

On May 13, 2004, at the request of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, representatives from Merrill Lynch traveled to Birmingham, Alabama and met with Mr. Malone to discuss the current market environment for financial institutions, and in particular, opportunities for a strategic combination with other financial institutions which might be of interest to SouthTrust and that would be consistent with SouthTrust's long-term strategic goals and objectives. Following these discussions with Merrill Lynch, SouthTrust authorized Merrill Lynch to evaluate potential opportunities in the marketplace, including possible strategic combinations with other financial institutions, as part of SouthTrust's ongoing evaluation of its position in the financial services industry.

On May 26, 2004, representatives from Merrill Lynch again met with Mr. Malone in Birmingham, Alabama and reported on the general level of interest in the marketplace regarding SouthTrust, including several general inquiries from particular parties regarding a possible business combination with SouthTrust. In addition, they reported that Wachovia had expressed interest in initiating new discussions regarding a possible strategic combination with SouthTrust, and asked if SouthTrust would be interested in renewing discussions with Wachovia. SouthTrust indicated to Merrill Lynch that it would be willing to meet with Wachovia, and Merrill Lynch communicated this to Wachovia.

During the Memorial Day holiday weekend of May 29 through June 1, 2004, Mr. Malone and Mr. Thompson renewed their discussions of a possible merger between Wachovia and SouthTrust. Their conversations included a discussion of the proposed exchange ratio of 0.89 shares of Wachovia common stock for each share of SouthTrust common stock. These discussions also included the operational, management and efficiency items related to integration which had arisen during the parties' discussions in January 2004. Mr. Malone apprised each individual SouthTrust director of the substance of these conversations, and the consensus among the directors was that Mr. Malone and Mr. Thompson should meet to continue discussing a possible merger with Wachovia. On June 2, 2004, Mr. Thompson traveled to Birmingham, Alabama to meet with Mr. Malone, and further discussions were held regarding the general terms of the proposed transaction, including SouthTrust representation on Wachovia's board of directors and in senior management at Wachovia.

Following the meeting on June 2, 2004 between Mr. Thompson and Mr. Malone, members of senior management at SouthTrust and Wachovia renewed their internal due diligence reviews and assessments of the operating and financial results of Wachovia and SouthTrust, respectively, including, among other items, assessment of credit quality and consideration of operational efficiencies and compatibility. Between June 2, 2004 and June 10, 2004, Mr. Malone advised each SouthTrust board member in separate telephone conversations regarding the substance of the discussions between Mr. Thompson and Mr. Malone.

In early June 2004, Wachovia engaged UBS Securities LLC as its financial advisor in connection with a potential merger with SouthTrust. In addition, Mr. Thompson updated Wachovia directors on the status and progress of his discussions with SouthTrust.

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During the day of June 10, 2004, SouthTrust's board held a special meeting to discuss the process undertaken by SouthTrust with Merrill Lynch with respect to the general level of interest in the marketplace regarding SouthTrust, and to further evaluate the status of the discussions with Wachovia. At this meeting, SouthTrust's board listened to the views and opinions of SouthTrust's executive management team regarding the

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potential advantages and disadvantages of SouthTrust remaining independent as well as their views and opinions on prospective business combinations, including possible mergers with Wachovia and other financial institutions. Senior management also provided information regarding the progress and substance of the operational and financial due diligence review of Wachovia subsequent to the renewal of discussions between the parties. SouthTrust's board then engaged in a lengthy review with Merrill Lynch of the current market environment and potential partners in a strategic combination. The review included discussions of, and responses to, questions from the board regarding possible in-market strategic partners and out-of-market entities or combinations, as well as possible interest by or combinations with international entities. Following extensive discussions, SouthTrust's board determined that the general inquiries received from financial institutions other than Wachovia were not in the best interests of SouthTrust's shareholders both from a long-term strategic point of view and because, in the opinion of SouthTrust's board, they were not as advantageous to SouthTrust shareholders as the proposed transaction with Wachovia. SouthTrust's board then discussed with Merrill Lynch numerous issues concerning the current business environment for financial institutions, the advantages and disadvantages from a financial market perspective of pursuing a strategic combination at this time, and the financial analysis that Merrill Lynch had performed concerning the prospects for SouthTrust if it continued to remain independent. After an extensive discussion period between SouthTrust's board and Merrill Lynch, the board requested Merrill Lynch perform research on a number of key additional issues, including an in-depth analysis of Wachovia's current financial position, the financial prospects for the merged company in a merger between Wachovia and SouthTrust and the fairness of the exchange ratio that was proposed to be received by SouthTrust's shareholders in the proposed merger, and the financial prospects for SouthTrust if it were to remain independent. After further discussion, SouthTrust's board concurred that management should continue to proceed with negotiations with Wachovia.

Wachovia's and SouthTrust's legal advisors began discussing the terms of a proposed draft merger agreement and other related agreements for the transaction, including a draft stock option agreement proposed by Wachovia as a condition to entering into the merger agreement. The parties also began discussing various employment and benefit related issues involved in a potential transaction.

At Wachovia's regularly scheduled board meeting on June 15, 2004, Wachovia's board discussed the proposed merger with SouthTrust. At that meeting, Mr. Thompson and other members of senior management reviewed with Wachovia's board the business and financial issues involved in a merger with SouthTrust, and updated the board on the discussions and negotiations with SouthTrust to date. Wachovia's senior management discussed with Wachovia's board business and financial information regarding SouthTrust, as well as the strategic benefits and potential synergies relating to the geographic overlap of SouthTrust's operations in a number of key states in Wachovia's southeastern footprint and SouthTrust's operations in Texas. Representatives of UBS reviewed with Wachovia's board financial aspects of the potential merger. In addition, Mark C. Treanor, Wachovia's General Counsel, and Wachovia's outside legal advisor, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, reviewed the proposed terms of the merger, advised Wachovia's board of the legal standards applicable to a decision whether to enter into the transaction and responded to questions from the directors. Following a discussion, Wachovia's board unanimously indicated its support for pursuing the negotiation of a SouthTrust merger.

On June 18, 2004, SouthTrust's board again held a special meeting. At this meeting, the board was updated by senior management on the current status of discussions with Wachovia. SouthTrust's board reviewed with Merrill Lynch the additional research that the board had requested Merrill Lynch to conduct at its June 10, 2004 meeting. Following the review, there was an extensive discussion period between the board members, management and Merrill Lynch, with much of the discussion focusing on the relative merits of remaining independent compared with the proposed merger with Wachovia, the long-term benefits to SouthTrust's shareholders and the future prospects of the merged company. Following this discussion, the full board meeting was recessed and the non-management directors met in executive session to continue their discussions regarding the merits of the proposed merger and to review independently the structure, terms and conditions of the proposed transaction as well as the employment, compensation and severance arrangements for SouthTrust employees which would be applicable in the proposed merger. Following this lengthy executive session, the full

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board reconvened. After the full board had reconvened, legal counsel discussed with SouthTrust's board the legal standards applicable to its decisions and the responsibilities of SouthTrust's board with respect to its role in considering SouthTrust's strategic alternatives and the current proposal by Wachovia. During this discussion, which included a review of the status of the negotiations and the deliberation process to date, the board asked questions of senior management and legal counsel about the merger agreement, the stock option agreement and the status of various employment and employee benefit matters. SouthTrust's board then continued its discussion regarding the merits of a combination with Wachovia as well as the specific terms and conditions of the proposed merger.

On June 19, 2004, SouthTrust's board, except for one director who was absent because he was out of the country, met with SouthTrust's senior management and SouthTrust's legal and financial advisors. Mr. Malone reviewed with SouthTrust's board information regarding SouthTrust, Wachovia and the terms of the proposed transaction. Counsel then conducted an extensive review and discussion of the various transaction documents in connection with the proposed transaction and there was an extended question and answer period regarding specific legal and business terms of the proposed merger. Merrill Lynch then reviewed with SouthTrust's board a range of matters, including the structure of the merger, business and financial information regarding Wachovia and SouthTrust, historical stock price information, valuation methodologies and analyses and the other matters set forth in Opinion of SouthTrust's Financial Advisor. Merrill Lynch's review assumed that the merger consideration consisted of 0.89 shares of Wachovia's common stock for each share of SouthTrust's common stock, reflecting the terms of the proposed merger. After the discussion, Merrill Lynch rendered to SouthTrust's board its oral opinion, later confirmed in writing as of the date of the opinion, that, as of that date and based upon and subject to the considerations described to the board, the proposed exchange ratio was fair, from a financial point of view, to SouthTrust's shareholders. Legal advisors to SouthTrust again apprised SouthTrust's board of the legal standards applicable to its decisions and actions with respect to the proposed merger transaction. The meeting of the full board was then recessed and the non-management directors met in executive session to continue their deliberations. Following extensive discussions in executive session, the meeting of the full board was reconvened. After further deliberations by SouthTrust's board, the merger agreement and the plan of merger, the stock option agreement and the transactions contemplated by those agreements were adopted and approved by the unanimous vote of all directors attending the meeting, and by the same unanimous vote the board resolved to recommend that SouthTrust shareholders vote to approve the plan of merger contained in the merger agreement. The one director who was absent from this meeting later indicated his concurrence with the board's actions at the meeting.

On June 20, 2004, Wachovia's board, except for one director who was traveling out of the country, held a special meeting to consider the final terms of the proposed merger. At the meeting, Wachovia's board received a description of the final terms of the proposed merger agreement and related agreements and reviewed with management and its legal and financial advisors the due diligence investigation undertaken and the financial, business and legal issues related to the proposed merger. Also at this meeting, UBS reviewed with Wachovia's board its financial analysis of the exchange ratio and rendered to Wachovia's board an oral opinion, which opinion was confirmed by delivery of a written opinion dated June 20, 2004, to the effect that, as of that date and based on and subject to the matters described in its opinion, the exchange ratio was fair, from a financial point of view, to Wachovia. After deliberation, Wachovia's board, by a unanimous vote of the directors present, concluded that the merger was in the best interests of Wachovia and its shareholders and adopted and approved the merger agreement and the plan of merger, the stock option agreement and the transactions contemplated by those agreements, and resolved to recommend that its shareholders vote to approve the plan of merger contained in the merger agreement. The one director who was absent from this meeting later indicated his concurrence with the board's actions at the meeting.

The merger agreement between SouthTrust and Wachovia was executed by the parties later that evening on June 20, 2004.

The transaction was announced on Monday morning, June 21, 2004, by a joint press release issued by SouthTrust and Wachovia.

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Recommendation of Wachovia's Board and Its Reasons for the Merger

After careful consideration, at its meeting on June 20, 2004, Wachovia's board determined that the plan of merger contained in the merger agreement is in the best interests of Wachovia and its shareholders. Accordingly, Wachovia's board, by a unanimous vote of the directors present, adopted the merger agreement and the plan of merger contained in the merger agreement and unanimously recommends that Wachovia shareholders vote FOR approval of the plan of merger contained in the merger agreement. The one director who was absent from this meeting later indicated his concurrence with the board's actions at the meeting.

In reaching its decision to recommend this merger to Wachovia shareholders, Wachovia's board concluded that SouthTrust and Wachovia have a unique strategic fit and that the merger provides an opportunity for enhanced financial performance and shareholder value. SouthTrust and Wachovia share similar philosophies and approaches, as well as complementary strengths. Wachovia's board believes that the merger will solidify Wachovia's position as a major provider of a broad array of financial services in the fast growing southeastern United States.

Wachovia's board determined the merger would place Wachovia in an improved competitive position in the financial markets because it believes the merger combines two financially sound institutions with complementary businesses and business strategies, thereby creating a stronger combined institution with greater size, flexibility, breadth of services, efficiency, capital resources, profitability and potential for growth than either company possesses alone. Wachovia's board believes that each institution currently is well-managed and that each institution will contribute complementary business strengths resulting in a well-diversified combined company, with strong capitalization and diversification that will allow the combined company to take advantage of future opportunities for growth.

Wachovia's board determined that the merger would create an opportunity for enhancing shareholder value after considering, among other things, the strategic rationale, the financial implications and the risks associated with the transaction. In concluding that the merger is in the best interests of Wachovia and its shareholders, Wachovia's board considered, among other things, the following factors that supported the decision to approve the merger:

Wachovia's and SouthTrust's strategic business, operations, financial condition, asset quality, earnings and prospects. In reviewing these factors, Wachovia's board concluded that SouthTrust's business and operations complement those of Wachovia, that SouthTrust's financial condition and asset quality are of high quality and will further strengthen Wachovia's balance sheet, and that SouthTrust's earnings and prospects should result in Wachovia having superior future earnings and prospects compared to its earnings and prospects on a stand-alone basis. In particular, Wachovia's board considered the following:

The strong demographic conditions of markets in which SouthTrust primarily conducts its operations.

The combined company's position as the largest banking organization in the southeastern United States in terms of deposits and branches.

The strengthening of Wachovia's market position in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

The expansion of Wachovia's general banking operations to attractive markets in Alabama, Tennessee and Texas.

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The combined company's position as one of the largest banking organizations in the United States in terms of deposits, assets, assets under management, branches, mutual fund assets, on-line banking customers, registered representatives, ATMs, full service brokerage offices and Private Client offices.

The consistency of the merger with Wachovia's business strategy, including achieving strong earnings growth, improving customer attraction and retention, focusing on expense control, and gradually

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shifting Wachovia's business to higher growth, lower capital businesses. The board's analysis concluded that Wachovia and SouthTrust are a highly complementary fit because of:

SouthTrust's responsiveness to customer needs and demands, and SouthTrust's skill at anticipating those demands, which results in strong customer relationships.

SouthTrust's geographic coverage, which would strengthen Wachovia's already strong presence in the southeastern United States, as well as expand its presence to new markets in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas.

The complementary nature of the markets served and products offered by SouthTrust and Wachovia and the expectation that the merger would provide economies of scale, expanded product offerings, expanded opportunities for cross-selling, cost savings opportunities and enhanced opportunities for growth.

The anticipated enhancements to Wachovia's pro forma business mix by having more of Wachovia's expected earnings stream come from traditional banking and retail securities businesses, thus lessening earnings volatility.

The expectation of Wachovia's legal advisors that the merger will qualify as a transaction of a type that is generally tax-free for United States federal income tax purposes to Wachovia, SouthTrust and Wachovia's shareholders.

Wachovia's board's belief that the merger is likely to provide increases to shareholder value. In particular:

Wachovia believes that while the merger will be dilutive to Wachovia shareholders on an earnings per share basis calculated according to GAAP until 2007, the merger will be accretive to Wachovia shareholders on a cash earnings per share basis by 2006. Wachovia's estimation of earnings per share accretion/dilution for the fourth quarter of 2004 and for each of the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 is as follows:

| In millions, except per share data | Q4 | | | |
|---|-----------|--------|--------|-------|
| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| Pro forma GAAP earnings | \$ 1,372 | 6,331 | 7,027 | 7,673 |
| Pro forma average shares outstanding | 1,497 | 1,548 | 1,507 | 1,469 |
| Pro forma GAAP EPS | \$ 0.92 | 4.09 | 4.66 | 5.22 |
| Wachovia estimated stand-alone GAAP EPS | 0.95 | 4.30 | 4.73 | 5.20 |
| Accretion/(Dilution) | (0.03) | (0.21) | (0.07) | 0.02 |
| Pro forma cash earnings | \$ 1,527 | 6,665 | 7,231 | 7,770 |
| Pro forma cash EPS | 1.02 | 4.31 | 4.80 | 5.29 |
| Wachovia estimated stand-alone cash EPS | 1.04 | 4.41 | 4.79 | 5.22 |
| Accretion/(Dilution) | \$ (0.02) | (0.10) | 0.01 | 0.07 |

Wachovia estimated fourth quarter 2004 and full year 2005 stand-alone GAAP earnings per share are based on consensus earnings per share estimates as reported by First Call as of June 20, 2004, adjusted to include merger-related and restructuring expenses in the fourth quarter of 2004 (merger-related and restructuring expenses associated with transactions prior to the merger are expected to be immaterial in 2005).

Estimated stand-alone GAAP earnings per share for 2006 and 2007 are based on 2005 consensus earnings per share estimates plus the consensus 5-year earnings per share growth expectations of 10% per year (merger-related and restructuring expenses associated with transactions prior to the merger are expected to be immaterial in 2006 and 2007). Management believed that the First Call estimates for future earnings and growth provided a reasonable framework for illustrating the pro forma effects of the merger.

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Pro forma average shares outstanding assumes an average fully diluted share count for Wachovia on a stand-alone basis of 1,319 million shares in the fourth quarter of 2004, 1,286 million shares in 2005, 1,257 million shares in 2006 and 1,232 million shares in 2007 and for SouthTrust on a stand-alone basis of 340 million shares (or 303 million Wachovia shares based on the 0.89 exchange ratio). Average shares outstanding also assumes share repurchases following the merger in an

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aggregate amount equal to the sum of projected excess capital created through operations and the \$1.7 billion in excess capital described below and a Wachovia share price of \$47.89 for the fourth quarter of 2004 increasing by 10% in each of 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Pro forma 2004 and 2005 earnings per share estimates assume consensus earnings per share estimates for SouthTrust as reported by First Call as of June 20, 2004 and pro forma 2006 and 2007 estimates assume a consensus 5-year earnings per share growth expectation for SouthTrust of 11% per year.

Pro forma earnings are also based on the assumptions of Wachovia's management described below and on page [●] under the heading "Opinion of Wachovia's Financial Advisor". The assumptions of Wachovia's management include annual cost savings of approximately 36% of SouthTrust's non-interest expense, or approximately \$414 million pre-tax and approximately \$255 million after-tax, by the end of 2006, with lower amounts of cost savings to be realized prior to that time. The assumptions also give no credit for revenue enhancements and pro forma cash earnings exclude aggregate merger-related and restructuring expenses.

Cash earnings per share is a non-GAAP financial measure that is calculated by adding after-tax restructuring and merger-related expenses and intangible amortization to income before cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle and dividing the result by average shares outstanding. Wachovia believes this measure provides information useful to investors in understanding our underlying operational performance, our business and performance trends, and facilitates comparison with the performance of others in the financial services industry.

Please see "Additional Information Regarding Accretion/Dilution" on page [●]. For further detail, attached to this joint proxy statement-prospectus as Appendix E are illustrative calculations of accretion/dilution for Wachovia common stock following consummation of the merger assuming, among other things, Wachovia common stock repurchases referred to above and also assuming no Wachovia common stock repurchases. Shareholders desiring further information regarding the accretion/dilution calculations and the assumptions underlying them are urged to review Appendix E.

Following completion of the merger integration, Wachovia believes the earnings per share of Wachovia will grow at a faster rate compared to its growth on a stand-alone basis.

By maintaining a leverage ratio of approximately 6% and a tangible capital to tangible asset ratio of 4.7% to 4.8% following the merger, Wachovia expects to realize approximately \$1.7 billion of capital in excess of such ratios. In the event such excess capital exists, Wachovia currently intends to use such excess capital to repurchase shares of Wachovia common stock. Wachovia believes that in the current circumstances using such excess capital to repurchase shares is the preferable use of that excess capital versus other possible uses, including dividends, other acquisitions or other investments. Wachovia believes that share repurchases will tend to increase earnings per share, enhance the liquidity of Wachovia's common stock after the merger, provide a flexible alternative to return excess capital to shareholders and provide a flexible means of capital management.

Based on the assumptions described above, it is believed the merger will satisfy Wachovia's criteria for acquisitions by being accretive to cash earnings per share within two years and having an internal rate of return in excess of 15%.

Wachovia's board's belief that Wachovia and SouthTrust management share a common vision of commitment to their respective shareholders, employees, suppliers, creditors and customers.

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UBS financial presentation to Wachovia's board, including UBS opinion, dated June 20, 2004, to Wachovia's board as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the exchange ratio to Wachovia, as discussed in Opinion of Wachovia's Financial Advisor below beginning on page [•].

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The review by Wachovia's board with its legal advisor, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, of the provisions of the merger agreement and the stock option agreement. Some of the features of those agreements that the board considered are:

That three members of SouthTrust's board of directors would join Wachovia's board following merger completion, and the proposed arrangements with members of management, including that SouthTrust's Chief Executive Officer and other executive officers of SouthTrust would be retained in key leadership positions.

The provisions of the merger agreement and the stock option agreement designed to enhance the probability that the merger will be consummated.

Wachovia's board's review and discussions with Wachovia's management and outside advisors concerning the due diligence examination of operations, financial condition and prospects of SouthTrust.

Wachovia's expectation, after consulting with legal counsel, that the required regulatory approvals will be obtained.

Wachovia's board also considered the potential initial negative impact to the market price of Wachovia common stock following announcement of the merger. In addition, Wachovia's board considered the following factors that potentially created risks if the board decided to approve the merger:

The possibility that the merger and the related integration process could result in the loss of key employees, in the disruption of Wachovia's on-going business or in the loss of customers.

The possibility that the anticipated benefits of the merger may not be realized, including the expected cost savings.

The anticipated effect of the merger on SouthTrust's employee compensation, benefits and incentives under various employment-related agreements, plans and programs because the merger may constitute a change in control under such agreements, plans and programs, which might encourage employees to leave and involve additional cost.

The impact of divestitures of assets and deposit liabilities that regulatory authorities are likely to require in connection with the merger, which may result in lost customer relationships and reduce the amount of income the combined company could have realized without such divestitures.

The potential merger-related restructuring charges.

Wachovia's board concluded that the anticipated benefits of combining with SouthTrust were likely to substantially outweigh the preceding risks.

Although each member of Wachovia's board individually considered these and other factors, the board did not collectively assign any specific or relative weights to the factors considered and did not make any determination with respect to any individual factor. The board collectively made its determination with respect to the merger based on the conclusion reached by its members, in light of the factors that each of them considered appropriate, that the merger is in the best interests of Wachovia and its shareholders.

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Wachovia's board of directors realized there can be no assurance about future results, including results expected or considered in the factors listed above, such as assumptions regarding anticipated cost savings and earnings accretion. However, the board concluded the potential positive factors outweighed the potential risks of consummating the merger.

It should be noted that this explanation of the Wachovia board's reasoning and all other information presented in this section is forward-looking in nature and, therefore, should be read in light of the factors discussed under the heading "Forward-Looking Statements" on page [•].

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Recommendation of SouthTrust's Board and Its Reasons for the Merger

After careful consideration, at its meeting on June 19, 2004, SouthTrust's board determined that the plan of merger contained in the merger agreement is in the best interests of SouthTrust and its shareholders and that the exchange ratio is fair to the SouthTrust shareholders. Accordingly, SouthTrust's board, by a unanimous vote of the directors present, adopted the merger agreement and the plan of merger contained in the merger agreement and unanimously recommends that SouthTrust shareholders vote FOR approval of the plan of merger contained in the merger agreement. The one director who was absent from this meeting later indicated his concurrence with the board's actions at the meeting.

In reaching its conclusion to recommend the plan of merger, SouthTrust's board considered SouthTrust's history of profitable operations, including increased earnings in each of the last fifty-three consecutive quarters preceding the announcement of the merger, as well as the impact that the economic and demographic growth in the southeastern United States and Texas has had on SouthTrust's earnings growth. The board believes that it is in the best interests of SouthTrust's shareholders to expand its business in this region, either on a stand-alone basis or through one or more business combinations. After consulting with SouthTrust management as well as financial and legal advisors, the SouthTrust board concluded that the merger with Wachovia is in the best interests of SouthTrust shareholders because, among other reasons, the combined footprint of Wachovia and SouthTrust in the southeastern United States as well as the combined capital of the two entities will provide SouthTrust shareholders with a strong platform and presence to take advantage of opportunities for growth in this region and elsewhere in the United States.

In reaching its conclusion that the plan of merger is in the best interests of SouthTrust and its shareholders and that the exchange ratio is fair to the SouthTrust shareholders, the SouthTrust board considered the following factors:

Its understanding of SouthTrust's business, operations, financial condition, earnings and prospects, and of Wachovia's business, operations, financial condition, earnings and prospects, taking into account the results of SouthTrust's due diligence review of Wachovia.

Its understanding of the current environment in the financial services industry, including national and local economic conditions, the competitive landscape for financial institutions generally, the trend toward consolidation in the financial services industry, and the likely effect of these factors on SouthTrust in light of, and in the absence of, the proposed merger.

The ability of SouthTrust and Wachovia to create a \$464 billion asset institution that will have the highest market share of any financial institution in the highly attractive southeastern United States banking market, approximately 18%.

The complementary aspects of SouthTrust's and Wachovia's businesses, including geographic coverage and the compatibility of their respective managements, cultures and operating styles.

The presentation by SouthTrust management and its financial advisors concerning the operations, financial condition and prospects of SouthTrust and the expected financial impact of the merger on the combined company, including pro forma assets, earnings and deposits.

The potential cost savings opportunities, currently estimated to be approximately \$414 million pre-tax annually (or approximately \$255 million after-tax annually) when fully phased in, and the related potential impact on the combined company's earnings.

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Wachovia's recent success in integrating banking and securities brokerage acquisitions and the planned merger integration over a fifteen-month period.

The SouthTrust board's belief that the merger with Wachovia will allow SouthTrust shareholders to participate in a combined company that will have better future prospects than SouthTrust is likely to achieve on a stand-alone basis or through a combination with other potential merger partners. The

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SouthTrust board also believes it will enjoy a greater market penetration in and around its historical markets and will have a more diversified customer base, revenue sources and financial products.

The financial analysis presented by Merrill Lynch to the SouthTrust board and the oral opinion delivered to SouthTrust by Merrill Lynch on June 19, 2004, which was confirmed in a written opinion delivered to SouthTrust by Merrill Lynch on June 20, 2004, to the effect that, and based upon and subject to the assumptions made, matters considered and limitations set forth in the opinions, the exchange ratio specified in the merger agreement was fair from a financial point of view to the SouthTrust shareholders.

The fact that, based on the closing prices of Wachovia common stock on the NYSE and SouthTrust common stock on the Nasdaq for the five trading days prior to the public announcement of the merger and based upon the per share merger consideration of 0.89 shares of Wachovia common stock, the implied value of the merger consideration for SouthTrust shareholders represented a premium of approximately 22%.

The fact that the merger agreement permits SouthTrust to declare and pay its regular dividend to the SouthTrust shareholders through the completion of the merger and that the current dividend payable to Wachovia shareholders will represent a 48% increase in the amount of dividends payable to SouthTrust shareholders with respect to Wachovia common stock received in the merger (e.g., \$0.40 per share of Wachovia common stock, \$0.356 per share taking into account the exchange ratio, versus \$0.24 per share of SouthTrust common stock), and a 48% increase in the earnings per share on the shares to be received by SouthTrust shareholders in the merger relative to current SouthTrust shares.

The fact that the merger agreement permits SouthTrust to increase its quarterly cash dividend to the then-current Wachovia dividend level per share, taking into account the exchange ratio, if the merger has not occurred before the record date for the dividend on Wachovia common stock for the fourth quarter of 2004, which is expected to be November 30, 2004.

The corporate governance arrangements providing for three appointees from SouthTrust to serve on the Wachovia board of directors after the completion of the merger.

The review by the SouthTrust board of directors with SouthTrust's legal and financial advisors of the structure of the merger and the financial and other terms of the merger agreement, including the exchange ratio, and the stock option agreement, and the expectation of SouthTrust's legal advisors that the merger will qualify as a transaction of a type that is generally tax-free to SouthTrust shareholders for United States federal income tax purposes, and the fixed exchange ratio and other provisions of the merger agreement and stock option agreement that are designed to enhance the probability that the merger will be consummated.

The regulatory and other approvals required in connection with the merger and the likelihood that the approvals needed to complete the merger will be obtained without unacceptable conditions.

The SouthTrust board of directors also considered potential risks associated with the merger in connection with the decision to approve the plan of merger, including the following:

The potential risk of diverting management focus and resources from other strategic opportunities and from operational matters while working to implement the merger.

The after-tax merger-related and restructuring expenses of approximately \$156 million and after-tax exit cost purchase accounting adjustments of \$275 million that are expected to be incurred by the combined company in connection with completing the merger, reflecting a variety of costs and expenses expected to be incurred as a result of the transaction and the integration of the two companies.

The potential challenges of integrating the businesses, operations and workforce of SouthTrust and Wachovia, and the possibility of not achieving the expected cost savings.

The fixed exchange ratio, which will not adjust upwards to compensate for declines, or downwards to compensate for increases, in Wachovia's common stock price prior to the completion of the merger and

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the fact that the terms of the merger agreement do not include collar provisions or stock-price-based termination rights that might be triggered by a decrease in value of the merger consideration implied by the stock price of Wachovia's common stock.

The interests of SouthTrust's senior management and directors with respect to the merger apart from their interest as holders of SouthTrust common stock and the risks that these interests might influence their decision with respect to the merger, see [Interests of Certain Persons in the Merger](#) below beginning on page [●].

The risk that the terms of the merger agreement, including the provisions restricting SouthTrust from soliciting third party acquisition proposals and requiring SouthTrust to hold a special meeting of its shareholders to vote on approval of the plan of merger, and the terms of the stock option granted to Wachovia in connection with the merger agreement, which, while required by Wachovia as a condition to its willingness to enter into the merger agreement, could have the effect of discouraging other parties that might be interested in a transaction with SouthTrust from proposing such a transaction.

The risks associated with required regulatory approvals, including the impact of required divestitures.

The foregoing discussion of the factors considered by the SouthTrust board is not intended to be exhaustive, but is believed to include all material factors considered by the SouthTrust board. In view of the wide variety of the factors considered in connection with its evaluation of the merger and the complexity of these matters, the SouthTrust board did not find it useful and did not attempt, to quantify, rank or otherwise assign relative weights to these factors. In considering the factors described above, the individual members of the SouthTrust board may have given different weight to different factors. The SouthTrust board conducted an overall analysis of the factors described above including thorough discussions with, and questioning of, SouthTrust management and SouthTrust legal and financial advisors, and considered the factors overall to be favorable to, and to support its determination. The SouthTrust board also relied on the experience and expertise of Merrill Lynch, its financial advisor, for quantitative analyses of the financial terms of the merger. See [Opinion of SouthTrust's Financial Advisor](#) below beginning on page [●].

It should be noted that this explanation of the SouthTrust board's reasoning and all other information presented in this section is forward-looking in nature and, therefore, should be read in light of the factors discussed under the heading [Forward-Looking Statements](#) on page [●].

Cost Savings

A factor considered by both Wachovia's and SouthTrust's boards in deciding to enter into the merger agreement was Wachovia's and SouthTrust's assessment that the combined company following the merger is projected to save about \$414 million in pre-tax costs (or about \$255 million in after-tax costs) annually by the end of 2006 and beyond. These cost savings, which represent approximately 36% of SouthTrust's non-interest expense or 3% of the combined company's non-interest expense, primarily relate to overlapping or duplicative technology systems, personnel functions and real property facilities. The projected annual cost savings were determined by both Wachovia and SouthTrust management over the course of their due diligence review of each other's company. Senior management teams from functional business and staff units were matched with their counterparts and discussed strategy and similarities between the two organizations. From those discussions Wachovia management undertook a comprehensive analysis of the estimated resources required to combine the two companies, projected the resource requirements necessary to operate the combined company and determined the potential cost savings that could be generated after the merger. Wachovia management estimated potential cost savings relying upon extrapolations of its experience with the recent First Union-Wachovia merger as well as estimates based on the incremental resources required to operate the larger combined organization. Wachovia management reviewed, discussed and refined these estimates with SouthTrust management.

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The following chart illustrates an itemization of the combined company's projected annual cost savings after the fifteen-month merger integration is complete following the merger.

| | Annual Cost Savings (pre-tax) | Annual Cost Savings (after-tax) |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | (in millions) | (in millions) |
| Personnel reductions | \$ 265 | \$ 163 |
| Occupancy and Equipment | 86 | 53 |
| Other, including purchasing synergies | 63 | 39 |
| | \$ 414 | \$ 255 |

Wachovia believes that approximately 10% of the combined company's projected annual cost savings would be achieved in 2004, 60% achieved in 2005, and 100% achieved by year-end 2006.

The following discussion provides additional detail about the components of the projected cost savings illustrated in the preceding chart.

Personnel reductions. The projected annual cost savings from personnel reductions result from job position reductions in business units and administrative staff and corporate support functions where both SouthTrust and Wachovia maintain functions that will be duplicative for the combined company following the merger. The projected annual cost savings from personnel reductions are expected to total 4,300 job positions over the fifteen-month integration period following the merger. SouthTrust and Wachovia believe up to 25% to 35% of these work force reductions could occur through normal attrition during this fifteen-month period.

Occupancy and Equipment. The projected annual cost savings from occupancy and equipment result from:

reductions in duplicative support personnel required to maintain operations systems for the combined company following the merger;

reduced support needs for the decreased employee base and facilities;

cancellation of duplicative software and master licenses;

reduced planned expenditures for data storage and processing due to excess capacity created by combining the two companies technology and operations systems; and

reductions in the combined company's real estate occupancy needs, including branch banking facilities that are expected to be consolidated following the merger.

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We determined that there are many SouthTrust branch banking offices within 1 mile of a Wachovia branch banking office. The projected annual cost savings assume that, over the projected fifteen-month integration period, the business of approximately 175 to 200 of these branch banking offices will be combined with nearby branch banking offices. The surviving branch banking offices will be comprised of both SouthTrust and Wachovia branches (excluding those required to be divested). Neither Wachovia nor SouthTrust has yet determined which branches will be closed and which will be the surviving branches. Such determinations will take into account any commitments that Wachovia may make regarding branches located in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods served by our companies.

In addition to combining branch banking offices, other facilities housing operations and data centers which provide support to business units may be combined with facilities housing similar operations and data center functions. As of the date of this document, neither Wachovia nor SouthTrust has identified which of these facilities are to be closed and which are to be the surviving facilities.

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Other. The projected annual cost savings from other result from the combined company's stronger purchasing power and more favorable negotiated usage rates, as well as reduced advertising/marketing costs, reduced professional services, training and consulting fees, reduced employee benefit-related costs and reduced utilities costs.

The projected annual cost savings described in this document assume that the merger is completed in the fourth quarter of 2004, systems and technology conversions proceed in accordance with the projected merger integration plan over fifteen months, and external factors do not unreasonably delay the merger.

For more information about whether Wachovia can achieve these cost savings estimates, see **Risk Factors** beginning on page [•] and **Forward-Looking Statements** beginning on page [•].

Additional Information Regarding Accretion/Dilution

The earnings per share accretion/dilution estimates presented in **Recommendation of Wachovia's Board and Its Reasons for the Merger**, on page [•] assume share repurchases following the merger in an aggregate amount equal to the sum of projected excess capital created through ongoing operations and the \$1.7 billion in excess capital expected to be available as a result of the merger. We do not believe achieving these estimated earnings per share accretion/dilution amounts is contingent upon share repurchases. Assuming no share repurchases and investment of excess capital at a pre-tax spread on incremental net earning assets of 0.75% to 1.00%, the estimated GAAP and non-GAAP earnings per share accretion/dilution amounts are expected to be the same for each of the periods presented on page [•]. This calculation assumes pre-tax spreads of 0.94% for the fourth quarter of 2004, 0.78% for 2005, 0.86% for 2006 and 0.92% for 2007 and the incremental net earning assets are reinvested at merger consummation date in 2004 and evenly over the periods in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Applying these pre-tax spreads to the incremental net earning assets retained if share repurchases do not occur is expected to generate additional pre-tax income beyond the amounts assumed in the estimation of earnings assuming share repurchases. This additional income would be expected to offset the impact on estimated earnings per share of the increased level of shares outstanding if share repurchases do not occur. Additional assumptions included in the calculations in Appendix E are described below.

Wachovia estimated fourth quarter 2004 and full year 2005 stand-alone GAAP earnings per share are based on consensus earnings per share estimates as reported by First Call as of June 20, 2004, adjusted to include merger-related and restructuring expenses in the fourth quarter of 2004 (merger-related and restructuring expenses associated with transactions prior to the merger are expected to be immaterial in 2005). Estimated stand-alone GAAP earnings per share for 2006 and 2007 are based on 2005 consensus earnings per share estimates plus the consensus 5-year earnings per share growth expectations of 10% per year (merger-related and restructuring expenses associated with transactions prior to the merger are expected to be immaterial in 2006 and 2007). Management believed that the First Call estimates for future earnings and growth provided a reasonable framework for illustrating the pro forma effects of the merger.

Pro forma average shares outstanding assumes an average fully diluted share count for Wachovia on a stand-alone basis of 1,319 million shares in the fourth quarter of 2004, 1,286 million shares in 2005, 1,257 million shares in 2006 and 1,232 million shares in 2007 and for SouthTrust on a standalone basis of 340 million shares (or 303 million Wachovia shares based on the 0.89 exchange ratio). Average shares outstanding also assumes share repurchases following the merger in an aggregate amount equal to the sum of projected excess capital above a 6% leverage ratio created through operations and the \$1.7 billion in excess capital described below and a Wachovia share price of \$47.89 for the fourth quarter of 2004 increasing by approximately 10% in each of 2005, 2006 and 2007.

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Pro forma 2004 and 2005 earnings per share estimates assume consensus earnings per share estimates for SouthTrust as reported by First Call as of June 20, 2004 and pro forma 2006 and 2007 estimates assume a consensus 5-year earnings per share growth expectation for SouthTrust of 11% per year.

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Pro forma earnings are also based on the assumptions of Wachovia's management described below and on page [•] under the heading "Opinion of Wachovia's Financial Advisor". The assumptions of Wachovia's management include annual cost savings of approximately 36% of SouthTrust's noninterest expense, or approximately \$414 million pre-tax and approximately \$255 million after-tax, by the end of 2006, with lower amounts of cost savings to be realized prior to that time. The assumptions include the impact of estimated fair value purchase accounting adjustments for loans of \$596 million and for liabilities of \$730 million, reflected over the estimated lives using the effective interest method. New deposit base intangible amortization assumes a deposit base intangible equal to 2.35% of SouthTrust's \$36.8 billion deposit base amortized over 10 years using the sum-of-years' digit method. One time costs are assumed to be \$156 million after-tax and to be realized 10% in the fourth quarter of 2004, 60% in 2005 and 30% in 2006. The assumptions also give no credit for revenue enhancements and pro forma cash earnings exclude aggregate merger-related and restructuring expenses.

See Appendix E for calculations supporting the accretion/dilution analyses discussed above.

Shareholders desiring further information regarding the accretion/dilution calculations and the assumptions underlying them are urged to review Appendix E.

Nonpublic Financial Information Shared Between Wachovia and SouthTrust

As noted in "Background of the Merger" above, in connection with their consideration of the merger, Wachovia and SouthTrust conducted a due diligence review of each other. As part of this review, Wachovia and SouthTrust exchanged various internal financial and operating data and materials about each company. Some of the financial information that was shared between the two companies included the internal forecasts for Wachovia and SouthTrust summarized below. These forecasts were prepared before consideration of the merger by the respective managements of Wachovia and SouthTrust for internal use and for assistance in budgeting, planning, capital allocation and other management decisions. In particular, the forecasts provided below regarding Wachovia for the years 2004 through 2007 were originally prepared as part of a preliminary long-term planning process and reflect initial forecasts from business unit leaders on various aspects of their respective business plans based on information available at that time. The individual business unit leaders' expectations included in the forecasts provided below do not reflect a consistent application of Wachovia's overall corporate planning and forecasting.

The forecasts provided below were not prepared with a view to public disclosure or compliance with GAAP, the published guidelines of the SEC or the guidelines established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants regarding forecasts and projections. In addition, the forecasts are based on numerous assumptions, and those we believe to be material are summarized below. The forecasts and assumptions may not be realized and are subject to contingencies and uncertainties, many of which are beyond the control of Wachovia and SouthTrust. For example, Wachovia's and SouthTrust's businesses, and the basis for the preparation of their respective forecasts, depend on conditions in the financial markets, including the level of interest rates and the performance of the equity and debt markets. Accordingly, the inclusion of these forecasts should not be interpreted as an indication that Wachovia and SouthTrust consider this information a reliable prediction of future results, and this information should not be relied upon for this purpose. Actual results may differ materially from those set forth below, and for a discussion of some of the factors that could cause actual results to differ see "Forward-Looking Statements" on page [•]. Wachovia and SouthTrust do not intend to make publicly available any update or other revision to these forecasts. Wachovia and SouthTrust generally include various forward-looking information in their periodic reports filed with the SEC.

While we are providing these forecasts in this document because they were shared between the two companies, the forecasts were of limited usefulness to Wachovia and SouthTrust in their deliberations and negotiations regarding the merger. Wachovia's and SouthTrust's deliberations and negotiations focused far more on the prospects of combining the two companies, which could create various synergies and other benefits, than on comparing the results of two sets of forecasts prepared by each company separately, based on different

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approaches and varying assumptions. These forecasts do not take into account the merger or the efficiencies described under "Cost Savings" on page [●], and do not attempt to predict or suggest future results of the combined company.

In light of the foregoing, and considering that the Wachovia and SouthTrust special shareholder meetings will be held at least four months after the date that the latest forecasts included below were prepared, as well as the uncertainties inherent in any forecasted information, shareholders are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the forecasts.

| <i>In millions, except per share data</i> | Wachovia Information | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| Total revenue | \$ 22,596 | 23,469 | 24,904 | 26,601 |
| Provision for credit losses | 326 | 480 | 545 | 627 |
| Noninterest expense | 14,088 | 14,206 | 14,513 | 15,146 |
| Income before income taxes (Operating basis*) | 7,863 | 8,398 | 9,398 | 10,320 |
| Net income (Operating basis*) | \$ 5,144 | 5,538 | 6,198 | 6,806 |
| Diluted earnings per share | \$ 3.90 | 4.32 | 4.98 | 5.63 |

| <i>In millions, except per share data</i> | SouthTrust Information** | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2004 | 2005 |
| Total revenue | \$ 2,427 | 2,597 |
| Provision for credit losses | 132 | 162 |
| Noninterest expense | 1,191 | 1,233 |
| Income before income taxes (Operating basis*) | 1,104 | 1,202 |
| Net income (Operating basis*) | \$ 755 | 808 |

* Excludes merger-related and restructuring expenses.

** SouthTrust information provided did not include per share data.

The information shown above was prepared using assumptions considered to be representative of market conditions over the periods presented. The underlying interest rate assumptions were consistent with the implied forward short-term and long-term rate scenarios, and generally these scenarios reflected a rising rate environment. Growth in the economy and annual balance sheet growth were expected to be consistent with the long-term GDP growth rate for the United States and the business models of the respective companies. Growth in the equity markets was expected to be consistent with the long-term rate of return for the S&P 500 index.

Wachovia's provision for credit losses was expected to increase gradually from the abnormally low levels observed during the first half of 2004 to levels consistent with the expected loss assumptions underlying its economic profit calculations. Capital ratios for Wachovia were expected to remain consistent with 2004 second quarter levels with excess capital utilized to support dividend increases and share repurchases. No material acquisitions or divestitures were assumed. Wachovia's dividend payout ratio was expected to remain within its targeted range of 40% to 50% of cash earnings and with annual dividends growing at a rate consistent with earnings per share growth.

Opinion of Wachovia's Financial Advisor

On June 20, 2004, at a meeting of Wachovia's board of directors held to approve the proposed merger, UBS delivered to Wachovia's board an oral opinion, confirmed by delivery of a written opinion dated June 20, 2004, to the effect that, as of that date and based on and subject to various assumptions, procedures followed, matters considered and limitations described in its opinion, the exchange ratio provided for in the merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to Wachovia.

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The full text of UBS' opinion describes the assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken by UBS. This opinion is attached as Appendix D and is incorporated into this joint proxy statement-prospectus by reference. **UBS' opinion is directed only to the fairness, from a financial point of view, to Wachovia of the exchange ratio provided for in the merger and does not address any other aspect of the merger. The opinion does not address the relative merits of the merger as compared to other business strategies or transactions that might be available to Wachovia or the underlying business decision of Wachovia to effect the merger. The opinion does not constitute a recommendation to any shareholder as to how to vote or act with respect to any matters relating to the merger. Holders of Wachovia common stock are encouraged to read this opinion carefully in its entirety.** UBS' opinion does not speak as of any date other than the date of that opinion. UBS' opinion will not reflect any developments that may occur or may have occurred after the date of the opinion and prior to the completion of the merger, including changes in the operations and prospects of Wachovia or SouthTrust, general market and economic conditions and other factors that may influence the value of Wachovia or SouthTrust and/or their respective shares of common stock. Wachovia does not currently expect that it will request an updated opinion from UBS. The summary of UBS' opinion described below is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of its opinion.

In arriving at its opinion, UBS:

reviewed publicly available business and financial information relating to Wachovia and SouthTrust, including publicly available financial forecasts and estimates relating to Wachovia and SouthTrust that were reviewed and discussed with UBS by the managements of Wachovia and SouthTrust;

reviewed internal estimates as to potential cost savings and other synergies expected to result from the merger and other financial information and estimates that were prepared and provided to UBS by Wachovia's management and not publicly available;

conducted discussions with members of the senior managements of Wachovia and SouthTrust concerning the businesses and financial prospects of Wachovia and SouthTrust;

reviewed current and historical market prices of Wachovia common stock and SouthTrust common stock;

reviewed publicly available financial and stock market data with respect to companies in lines of business which UBS believed to be generally comparable to those of Wachovia and SouthTrust;

compared the financial terms of the merger with publicly available financial terms of other transactions which UBS believed to be generally relevant;

considered potential pro forma effects of the merger on Wachovia's financial statements after taking into account the availability to Wachovia of incremental capital resulting from the merger and related balance sheet restructuring expected by Wachovia's management at or following the closing of the merger;

reviewed the merger agreement; and

conducted other financial studies, analyses and investigations, and considered other information, as UBS deemed necessary or appropriate.

In connection with its review, with Wachovia's consent, UBS did not assume any responsibility for independent verification of any of the information that UBS reviewed for the purpose of its opinion and, with Wachovia's consent, UBS relied on that information being complete and

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accurate in all material respects. In addition, at Wachovia's direction, UBS did not make any independent evaluation or appraisal of any of the assets or liabilities, contingent or otherwise, of Wachovia or SouthTrust, and was not furnished with any evaluation or appraisal. With respect to the publicly available financial forecasts and estimates that it reviewed relating to Wachovia and SouthTrust, UBS was advised by the managements of Wachovia and SouthTrust that they

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represented reasonable estimates and judgments as to the future financial performance of Wachovia and SouthTrust. With respect to the pro forma effects, internal estimates as to potential cost savings and other synergies and other financial information and estimates provided to UBS, UBS assumed, at Wachovia's direction, that they were reasonably prepared on a basis reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments of Wachovia's management as to such matters. In addition, UBS assumed, at Wachovia's direction, that the future financial results and estimates reviewed by or provided to UBS would be achieved at the times and in the amounts projected. UBS' opinion was necessarily based on economic, monetary, market and other conditions as in effect on, and information made available to UBS as of, the date of its opinion.

UBS was not asked to, and it did not, offer any opinion as to the terms of the merger agreement or the form of the merger. UBS expressed no opinion as to what the value of Wachovia common stock will be when issued in the merger or the prices at which Wachovia common stock will trade at any time. In rendering its opinion, UBS assumed, with Wachovia's consent, that the merger will be treated as a tax-free reorganization for United States federal income tax purposes. UBS also assumed, with Wachovia's consent, that each of Wachovia and SouthTrust would comply with all material terms of the merger agreement and that the merger would be consummated in accordance with its terms without waiver, modification or amendment of any material term, condition or agreement. UBS further assumed, with Wachovia's consent, that all governmental, regulatory or other consents and approvals necessary for the consummation of the merger would be obtained without any adverse effect on Wachovia, SouthTrust or the merger. Except as described above, Wachovia imposed no other instructions or limitations on UBS with respect to the investigations made or the procedures followed by UBS in rendering its opinion.

In connection with rendering its opinion to Wachovia's board of directors, UBS performed a variety of financial and comparative analyses which are summarized below. The following summary is not a complete description of all analyses performed and factors considered by UBS in connection with its opinion. The preparation of a financial opinion is a complex process involving subjective judgments and is not necessarily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. With respect to the analyses of selected public companies and the analysis of selected precedent transactions summarized below, no company or transaction used as a comparison is either identical or directly comparable to Wachovia, SouthTrust or the merger. These analyses necessarily involve complex considerations and judgments concerning financial and operating characteristics and other factors that could affect the public trading or acquisition values of the companies concerned.

UBS believes that its analyses and the summary below must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of its analyses and factors or focusing on information presented in tabular format, without considering all analyses and factors or the narrative description of the analyses, could create a misleading or incomplete view of the processes underlying UBS' analyses and opinion. None of the analyses performed by UBS was assigned greater significance or reliance by UBS than any other. UBS arrived at its ultimate opinion based on the results of all analyses undertaken by it and assessed as a whole. UBS did not draw, in isolation, conclusions from or with regard to any one factor or method of analysis for purposes of its opinion.

The estimates of the future performance of Wachovia and SouthTrust in or underlying UBS' analyses are not necessarily indicative of future results or values, which may be significantly more or less favorable than those estimates. In performing its analyses, UBS considered industry performance, general business and economic conditions and other matters, many of which are beyond the control of Wachovia and SouthTrust. Estimates of the financial value of companies do not necessarily purport to be appraisals or reflect the prices at which companies actually may be sold.

The exchange ratio was determined through negotiation between Wachovia and SouthTrust and the decision to enter into the merger was solely that of Wachovia's board of directors. UBS' opinion and financial analyses were only one of many factors considered by Wachovia's board of directors in its evaluation of the merger and should not be viewed as determinative of the views of Wachovia's board of directors or management with respect to the merger or the exchange ratio provided for in the merger.

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The following is a brief summary of the material financial analyses performed by UBS and reviewed with Wachovia's board of directors in connection with its opinion relating to the proposed merger. **The financial analyses**

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summarized below include information presented in tabular format. In order to fully understand UBS financial analyses, the tables must be read together with the text of each summary. The tables alone do not constitute a complete description of the financial analyses. Considering the data below without considering the full narrative description of the financial analyses, including the methodologies and assumptions underlying the analyses, could create a misleading or incomplete view of UBS financial analyses.

Analyses of Selected Public Companies

SouthTrust. UBS compared selected financial and stock market data of SouthTrust with corresponding data of the following seven selected publicly held companies in the banking and financial services industry:

AmSouth Bancorporation

BB&T Corporation

Compass Bancshares, Inc.

First Horizon National Corporation

SunTrust Banks, Inc.

Synovus Financial Corp.

Regions Financial Corporation

UBS reviewed stock prices of the selected companies as a multiple of calendar years 2004 and 2005 estimated earnings per share both on a GAAP basis and cash basis, referred to below as GAAP EPS and cash EPS, and as a multiple of book value per share and tangible book value per share. Estimated GAAP EPS for the selected companies and SouthTrust was based on publicly available research analysts' estimates compiled by Institutional Brokers Estimate System, referred to below as I/B/E/S estimates. Estimated cash EPS was calculated as estimated GAAP EPS plus projected annualized amortization of intangible expenses per share, effected at a tax rate of 35%. UBS also reviewed five-year estimated cash EPS growth rates and long-term growth rates of the selected companies. UBS then compared data derived from the selected companies with corresponding data for SouthTrust, which in the case of GAAP EPS and cash EPS excluded merger and restructuring-related expenses, based on the closing price of SouthTrust common stock on June 15, 2004 (the trading day before market rumors speculating about the potential acquisition of SouthTrust) adjusted to reflect the median change in the prices of the common stock of the selected companies from June 15, 2004 through June 17, 2004, as well as the closing price of SouthTrust common stock on June 17, 2004. Financial data for the selected companies and SouthTrust were as of the quarter ended March 31, 2004, and stock market data for the selected companies and SouthTrust (except in the case of the adjustment described above) were as of June 17, 2004. This analysis indicated the following implied median multiples and growth-rate percentages for the selected companies, as compared to corresponding data implied for SouthTrust based on the adjusted closing price of SouthTrust common stock on June 15, 2004 and the closing price of SouthTrust common stock on June 17, 2004:

**Median Multiples
and Percentages for**

**Multiples and Percentages
for SouthTrust**

**Multiples and Percentages
for SouthTrust**

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| | <u>Selected Companies</u> | <u>Based on Adjusted Closing Stock Price on June 15, 2004</u> | <u>Based on Closing Stock Price on June 17, 2004</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| <u>Price as Multiples of:</u> | | | |
| GAAP EPS | | | |
| 2004 | 13.0x | 14.6x | 15.3x |
| 2005 | 11.9x | 13.2x | 13.8x |
| Cash EPS | | | |