



State of Wisconsin
Department of Financial Institutions

Scott Walker, **Governor**

Peter Bildsten, **Secretary**

May 25, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Wisconsin banks' capital levels
stand at 10-year high**

MADISON – Continued improvements in loan quality helped Wisconsin's 202 state-chartered banks reach first-quarter capital levels that are the highest in more than a decade, according to data released this week by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Capital levels hit 11.10% as of March 31, up from 10.54% for all of 2011 and 10.21% for the first quarter of 2011.

"The continued growth in capital levels confirms that the Wisconsin banking industry is getting stronger," said Peter Bildsten, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, the agency that oversees state-chartered banks. "This bodes well for the industry, the state's economy and Wisconsin's consumers."

Net charge-offs for loans dropped to 0.72%, nearly half of the 1.40% for 2011 and down significantly from 1.65% for the first quarter of 2011. In addition, the number of non-current loans fell to 3.26% in the first quarter, down from 3.41% in all of 2011 and 3.58% in the first quarter of 2011.

"We are encouraged by the decreasing levels of delinquent loans and reduced levels of charge-offs," said Mike Mach, Administrator of DFI's Division of Banking. "Improved asset quality is clearly driving both earnings and capital growth."

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