

Edgar Filing: FIFTH THIRD BANCORP - Form 8-K

FIFTH THIRD BANCORP
Form 8-K
July 24, 2002

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15 (d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): July 23, 2002

FIFTH THIRD BANCORP

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Ohio	0-8076	31-0854434
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(IRS Employer Identification No.)

Fifth Third Center 38 Fountain Square Plaza, Cincinnati, Ohio (Address of principal executive offices)	45263 (Zip Code)
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Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (513) 534-5300

Not Applicable

(Former name or address, if changed since last report)

Item 5. Other Events and Regulation FD Disclosure

On July 23, 2002, Franklin Financial Corporation ("Franklin Financial"), Fifth Third Financial Corporation ("Fifth Third Financial") and Fifth Third Bancorp ("Fifth Third") entered into an Affiliation Agreement, pursuant to which Franklin Financial will be merged with and into Fifth Third's wholly owned subsidiary, Fifth Third Financial, with Fifth Third Financial as the surviving corporation (the "Merger").

As a result of the Merger, each issued and outstanding share of Franklin Financial (excluding treasury shares) will be exchanged, on a tax-free basis, for a fractional share of Fifth Third Bancorp common stock based on the Average Closing Price of Fifth Third Bancorp common stock as follows: .4039 shares of Fifth Third if the Average Closing Price is equal to or less than \$63.13; .3832 shares of Fifth Third if the Average Closing Price is equal to or greater than \$66.55; or a ratio that yields a fixed price of \$25.50 per share of

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Franklin Financial Corporation common stock if the Average Closing Price is between \$63.13 and \$66.55. The Average Closing Price is defined as the average of the closing prices for a share of Fifth Third Bancorp common stock on the Nasdaq National Market for the ten (10) consecutive trading days ending on the fifth (5th) trading day preceding the Effective Time (as defined in the Affiliation Agreement).

Consummation of the Merger will result in the Franklin Financial common stock ceasing to be listed on the Nasdaq National Market and the termination of the registration of such securities pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

The preceding summary of certain provisions of the Affiliation Agreement, a copy of which is filed as an exhibit hereto, is not intended to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the Affiliation Agreement.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENT DISCLOSURE

This document contains or may contain forward-looking statements about Fifth Third Bancorp, Franklin Financial Corporation and the combined company which we believe are within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The document contains certain forward looking statements with respect to the financial condition, results of operations, plans, objectives, future performance and business of Fifth Third Bancorp, Franklin Financial Corporation and/or the combined company including statements preceded by, followed by or that include the words "believes," "expects," "anticipates" or similar expressions. These forward-looking statements involve certain risks and uncertainties. There are a number of important factors that could cause future results to differ materially from historical performance and these forward-looking statements. Factors that might cause such a difference include, but are not limited to: (1) competitive pressures among depository institutions increase significantly; (2) changes in the interest rate environment reduce interest margins; (3) prepayment speeds, loan sale volumes, charge-offs and loan loss provisions; (4) general economic conditions, either national or in the states in which Fifth Third and Franklin Financial do business, are less favorable than expected; (5) legislative or regulatory changes adversely affect the businesses in

which Fifth Third and Franklin Financial are engaged; and (6) changes in the securities markets. Further information on other factors which could affect the financial results of Fifth Third after the merger are included in Fifth Third's and Franklin Financial's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These documents are available free of charge at the Commission's website at <http://www.sec.gov> and/or from Fifth Third or Franklin Financial.

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits

- (a) Financial statements of businesses acquired.

Not Applicable.

- (b) Pro forma financial information.

Not Applicable.

- (c) Exhibits.

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- 2.1 Affiliation Agreement dated as of July 23, 2002 by and among Fifth Third Bancorp, Fifth Third Financial Corporation and Franklin Financial Corporation (omitting schedules and exhibits)

- 99.1 Press Release dated July 24, 2002

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

FIFTH THIRD BANCORP
(Registrant)

Date: July 24, 2002

/S/ NEAL E. ARNOLD

Neal E. Arnold
Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer