

FIRST MERCHANTS CORP  
 Form 3  
 May 15, 2002

U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, DC 20549

FORM 3

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,  
 Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or  
 Section 30(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person\*

Jeffares	Robert	T.
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(Last)	(First)	(Middle)

531 Pawnee Circle

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 (Street)

West Lafayette, Indiana 47906

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(City)	(State)	(Zip)

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2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)

05/14/02

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3. IRS Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an Entity (Voluntary)

421-38-2833

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4. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

First Merchants Corporation (FRME)

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5. Relationship of Reporting Person to Issuer  
 (Check all applicable)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director	<input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner
<input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)

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6. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)

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7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check applicable line)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by One Reporting Person
<input type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person

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Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature (Instr.)
Common Stock	3,973	D	Jt. Sp
Common Stock	1,495	D	R.T. J U/A (0
Common Stock	2,519	I	Spouse
Common Stock	1,831*	I	Adult
Common Stock	1,831*	I	Adult

\* If the Form is filed by more than one Reporting Person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

(Print of Type Responses)

(Over)

FORM 3 (continued)

Table II -- Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	4. Conve sion Exerc Price Deriv Secur
	Date Exer- cisable	Expira- tion Date	Title Amount or Number of Shares	

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Explanation of Responses:

\* Reporting person disclaims beneficial interest in said securities.

/s/ Robert T. Jeffares

May 15, 2002

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\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

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Date

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations.

See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this form, one of which must be manually signed.  
If space provided is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

(Print of Type Responses)

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