

POPULAR INC  
Form 10-K  
March 01, 2007

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**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
FORM 10-K**

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2006**

**OR**

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

**Commission File No. 0-13818  
POPULAR, INC.**

Incorporated in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico  
IRS Employer Identification No. 66-0667416  
Principal Executive Offices:  
209 Muñoz Rivera Avenue  
Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00918  
Telephone Number: (787) 765-9800

**SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OF THE ACT:**

<b>Title of Each Class</b>	<b>Name of Each Exchange on which Registered</b>
Common Stock (\$6.00 par value)	Nasdaq Stock Market
Series A Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock Purchase Rights	Nasdaq Stock Market
6.375% Noncumulative Monthly Income Preferred Stock, 2003 Series A	Nasdaq Stock Market
6.70% Cumulative Monthly Income Trust Preferred Securities	Nasdaq Stock Market
6.125% Cumulative Monthly Income Trust Preferred Securities	Nasdaq Stock Market

**SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(g) OF THE ACT: NONE**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.  
Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer.

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes  No   
As of June 30, 2006, the aggregate market value of the common stock held by non-affiliates of the Corporation was \$5,343,236,000 based upon the reported closing price of \$19.20 on the NASDAQ National Market System on that

date.

As of February 26, 2007, there were 279,092,835 shares of the Corporation's common stock outstanding.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

(1) Portions of the Corporation's Annual Report to Stockholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006 (the Annual Report) are incorporated herein by reference in response to Item 1 of Part I, Items 5 through 8 of Part II and Item 15 (a)(1) of Part IV.

(2) Portions of the Corporation's definitive proxy statement relating to the 2007 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Corporation (the Proxy Statement) are incorporated herein by reference in response to Items 10 through 14 of Part III. The Proxy Statement will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) on or about March 13, 2007.

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**Forward-Looking Statements**

Certain statements in this report are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements may relate to the Corporation's financial condition, results of operations, plans, objectives, future performance and business, including, but not limited to, statements with respect to the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses, market risk and the impact of interest rate changes, capital adequacy and liquidity, and the effect of legal proceedings and new accounting standards on the Corporation's financial condition and results of operations. All statements contained herein that are not clearly historical in nature are forward-looking, and the words anticipate, believe, continues, expect, estimate, intend, and similar expressions and future or conditional verbs such as will, would, should, could, might, can, may, expressions are generally intended to identify forward-looking statements.

These forward-looking statements involve certain risks, uncertainties, estimates and assumptions by management. Various factors, some of which are beyond the Corporation's control, could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by such forward-looking statements. Factors that might cause such a difference include, but are not limited to:

the rate of growth in the economy, as well as general business and economic conditions;

changes in interest rates, as well as the magnitude of such changes;

the fiscal and monetary policies of the federal government and its agencies;

the relative strength or weakness of the consumer and commercial credit sectors and of the real estate markets;

the performance of the stock and bond markets;

competition in the financial services industry;

possible legislative or regulatory changes; and

difficulties in combining the operations of acquired entities.

Moreover, the outcome of legal proceedings, as discussed in Part I, Item 3. Legal Proceedings, is inherently uncertain and depends on judicial interpretations of law and the findings of regulators, judges and juries.

All forward-looking statements included in this document are based upon information available to the Corporation as of the date of this document, and we assume no obligation to update or revise any such forward-looking statements.

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**PART I**  
**POPULAR, INC.**

**ITEM 1. BUSINESS**

**GENERAL**

Popular, Inc. (the Corporation) is a diversified, publicly owned bank holding company, registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the BHC Act) and, accordingly, subject to the supervision and regulation of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the Federal Reserve Board). The Corporation was incorporated in 1984 under the laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and is the largest financial institution based in Puerto Rico, with consolidated assets of \$47.4 billion, total deposits of \$24.4 billion and stockholders' equity of \$3.6 billion at December 31, 2006. At December 31, 2006, the Corporation ranked 24 in assets and 33 in market value of its common stock among U.S. bank holding companies based on public information gathered and published by SNL Securities.

The Corporation's principal bank subsidiary, Banco Popular de Puerto Rico (Banco Popular or the Bank), was organized in 1893 and is Puerto Rico's largest bank with consolidated total assets of \$25.0 billion, deposits of \$14.7 billion and stockholders' equity of \$1.7 billion at December 31, 2006. The Bank accounted for 53% of the total consolidated assets of the Corporation at December 31, 2006. Banco Popular has the largest retail franchise in Puerto Rico, with 191 branches and over 590 automated teller machines. The Bank has the largest trust operation in Puerto Rico. The Bank also operates seven branches in the U.S. Virgin Islands, one branch in the British Virgin Islands and one branch in New York. Banco Popular's deposits are insured under the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the FDIC). Banco Popular has three subsidiaries, Popular Auto, Inc., Puerto Rico's largest vehicle financing, leasing and daily rental company, Popular Finance, Inc., a small personal loan and mortgage company with 45 offices and seven mortgage centers in Puerto Rico, and Popular Mortgage, Inc., a mortgage loan company with 32 offices in Puerto Rico.

The Corporation has three other principal subsidiaries: Popular Securities, Inc., Popular International Bank, Inc. (PIB) and EVERTEC, Inc. Popular Securities, Inc. is a securities broker-dealer with operations in Puerto Rico and in the mainland United States. Popular Securities, Inc. offers financial advisory, investment and security brokerage services for institutional and retail customers. EVERTEC, Inc. provides electronic data processing and consulting services, sale and rental of electronic data processing equipment, and sale and maintenance of computer software to clients in the United States, the Caribbean and Latin America through offices in Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Miami and the Dominican Republic. At December 31, 2006, EVERTEC, Inc. had total assets of \$178.1 million.

PIB is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Corporation organized in 1992 that operates as an international banking entity under the International Banking Center Regulatory Act of Puerto Rico (the IBC Act). PIB is a registered bank holding company under the BHC Act and is principally engaged in providing managerial services to its subsidiaries.

PIB owns the outstanding stock of Popular North America, Inc. (PNA), ATH Costa Rica, CreST, S.A, Popular Insurance V.I., Inc., an insurance agency, and T.I.I. Smart Solutions Inc. a technology company acquired in the third quarter of 2006, based in Costa Rica, that develops financial processing software applications and sells hardware products (ATM, POS and communication products). ATH Costa Rica and CreST, S.A. provide ATM switching and driving services in San José, Costa Rica. In addition, PIB has equity investments in Consorcio de Tarjetas Dominicanas (CONTADO), the largest payment network in the Dominican Republic, in Banco Hipotecario Dominicano (BHD) also in the Dominican Republic and in Servicios Financieros, S.A. (Serfinsa), the largest ATM network in El Salvador.

In addition, the Corporation has three other subsidiaries, Popular Life RE, a reinsurance company, Popular Capital Trust I and Popular Capital Trust II, statutory business trusts.

PNA, a wholly owned subsidiary of PIB and an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of the Corporation, was organized in 1991 under the laws of the State of Delaware and is a registered bank holding company under the BHC Act. PNA functions as a holding company for the Corporation's mainland U.S. operations. As of December 31, 2006, PNA had six direct subsidiaries, all of which were wholly-

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owned: Banco Popular North America ( BPNA ), a full service commercial bank incorporated in the state of New York; Popular Financial Holdings, Inc., a diversified consumer finance company; BanPonce Trust I and Popular North America Capital Trust I, statutory business trusts; EVERTEC USA, Inc., a recently organized company to offer financial transaction processing and information technology solutions in the U.S. mainland and Banco Popular, National Association ( Banco Popular, N.A. ), a federally chartered national bank with its main office in Orlando, Florida, which as of December 31, 2006, operated one branch, with assets of \$30.5 million and deposits of \$15.4 million. Popular Insurance, Inc., a wholly-owned non-bank subsidiary of Banco Popular, N.A. and an indirect subsidiary of PNA, is a general insurance agency that offers insurance products in Puerto Rico. As of December 31, 2006, its assets amounted to \$53.1 million.

The banking operations of BPNA in the mainland United States are based in six states. In New York, BPNA operates 32 branches, which accounted for aggregate assets of \$3.0 billion and total deposits of \$3.1 billion at December 31, 2006. BPNA also operates 20 branches in Illinois and 50 in California with total assets of \$1.9 billion and \$3.2 billion, respectively, and deposits of \$1.8 billion and \$2.2 billion, respectively. In addition, BPNA has 14 branches in New Jersey with total assets of \$875.1 million and deposits of \$1.0 billion as of December 31, 2006, and 19 branches in Florida with total assets of \$1.9 billion and deposits of \$1.5 billion. In Texas, BPNA operates seven branches with aggregate assets of \$1.4 billion and total deposits of \$195.1 million at the same date. The deposits of BPNA are insured under the DIF by the FDIC.

In addition, BPNA owns all of the outstanding stock of Popular Leasing, USA, a non-banking subsidiary that offers small ticket equipment leasing with 11 offices in 11 states and total assets of \$330.6 million as of December 31, 2006. Popular FS, LLC, also a wholly owned subsidiary of BPNA, is engaged in the business of purchasing mortgage loans and its assets totaled \$52.2 million at December 31, 2006. Popular Insurance Agency USA, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of BPNA, acts as an agent or broker for issuing insurance with total assets of \$2.6 million as of December 31, 2006.

Popular Financial Holdings, Inc. ( PFH ) has four direct subsidiaries: Equity One, Inc., E-LOAN, Inc., Popular Housing Services, Inc. and Popular Mortgage Servicing, Inc., a loan servicing company. Equity One, Inc. is engaged in the business of granting personal and mortgage loans and providing dealer financing through 159 offices in 24 states. E- LOAN, Inc., ( E-LOAN ) provides online consumer direct lending to obtain mortgage, auto and home equity loans, while Popular Housing Servicing, Inc. originates and funds new and used manufactured housing loans through a network of licensed and approved unaffiliated dealers. PFH had total assets of \$9.3 billion as of December 31, 2006. See the Recent Developments Section of this business review to obtain additional information about the recently announced Restructuring and Integration Plan of PFH.

**Recent Developments****REORGANIZATION OF U.S. MAINLAND OPERATIONS**

Effective January 31, 2007, E-LOAN, as well as all of its direct and indirect subsidiaries, with the exception of E-LOAN Insurance Services, Inc. and E-LOAN International, Inc., became operating subsidiaries of BPNA. Prior to the consummation of this corporate reorganization, E-LOAN was a direct wholly-owned subsidiary of PFH. E-LOAN continues to offer its full range of products and conduct its direct activities through its online platform.

The corporate reorganization integrates a significant portion of Popular's U.S. mainland lending operations into BPNA with the goal of centralizing similar business lines and facilities. This integration will benefit BPNA and E-LOAN and the direct and indirect subsidiaries of each by combining the knowledge and experience of the two entities in the lending business. E-LOAN will also benefit from lower cost of funding. BPNA expects to strengthen the services it provides to customers and expand its operations.



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The reorganization did not cause any disruption or interruption in the delivery of services and products offered by the Corporation's banking and non-banking subsidiaries to existing and potential customers in each of the markets served.

On January 9, 2007, Popular, Inc. announced the Restructuring and Integration Plan (the Plan) for PFH, including E-LOAN, Inc. The Plan calls for PFH to exit the wholesale nonprime mortgage origination business, focus on existing profitable businesses, and consolidate support functions with its sister U.S. banking entity BPNA, creating a single integrated North American financial services unit.

In connection with the Plan, the Corporation also announced that effective January 9, 2007, the U.S. mainland operations of Popular North America, Inc. (BPNA, PFH and their subsidiaries including E-LOAN, Inc.) will report to Roberto R. Herencia, currently president of BPNA. Cameron E. Williams, who served as President of PFH has retired from the Company effective January 9, 2007. Mr. Williams is assisting Mr. Herencia on transitional matters.

The Corporation's business is described in more detail on pages 1 through 26 of the Business Review Section of the Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2006, which is incorporated herein by reference.

**REGULATION AND SUPERVISION**

Described below are the material elements of selected laws and regulations applicable to the Corporation, PIB, PNA and their respective subsidiaries. The descriptions are not intended to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the full text of the statutes and regulations described. Changes in applicable law or regulation, and in their application by regulatory agencies, cannot be predicted, but they may have a material effect on the business and results of the Corporation, PIB, PNA and their respective subsidiaries.

**General**

The Corporation, PIB and PNA are bank holding companies subject to supervision and regulation by the Federal Reserve Board under the BHC Act. Under the BHC Act, prior to the adoption of the Gramm Leach Bliley Act in 1999, the activities of bank holding companies and their banking and non-banking subsidiaries were limited to the business of banking and activities closely related to banking, and no bank holding company could directly or indirectly acquire ownership or control of more than 5% of any class of voting shares or substantially all of the assets of any company in the United States, including a bank, without the prior approval of the Federal Reserve Board. In addition, bank holding companies generally have been prohibited under the BHC Act from engaging in non-banking activities, unless they were found by the Federal Reserve Board to be closely related to banking. The Gramm Leach Bliley Act authorized bank holding companies that qualify as financial holding companies to engage in a substantially broader range of non-banking activities, subject to certain conditions. Effective April 30, 2002, the Corporation elected to be treated as a financial holding company under the provisions of the Gramm Leach Bliley Act. See Financial Services Modernization below for information regarding changes to these rules.

Banco Popular, BPNA and Banco Popular, N.A. are subject to supervision and examination by applicable federal and state banking agencies including, in the case of Banco Popular, the Federal Reserve Board and the Office of the Commissioner of Financial Institutions of Puerto Rico, in the case of BPNA, the Federal Reserve Board and the New York State Banking Department and in the case of Banco Popular, N.A., the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and the Commissioner of Financial Institutions of Puerto Rico. Banco Popular, BPNA and Banco Popular, N.A. are subject to requirements and restrictions under federal and state law, including requirements to maintain reserves against deposits, restrictions on the types and amounts of loans that may be granted and the interest that may be charged thereon, and limitations on the other types of investments that may be made and the types of services that may be offered. Various consumer laws and regulations also affect the operations of Banco Popular, BPNA and Banco Popular, N.A. See Financial Services Modernization below for information about changes made to these rules. In addition, to the impact of regulations, commercial banks are affected significantly by the actions of the Federal Reserve Board as it attempts to control the money supply and credit availability in order to influence the economy.

**Table of Contents****Prompt Corrective Action**

The Federal Deposit Insurance Act (the FDIA ) requires, among other things, the federal banking agencies to take prompt corrective action in respect of depository institutions that do not meet minimum capital requirements. The FDIA establishes five capital tiers: well capitalized , adequately capitalized , undercapitalized , significantly undercapitalized , and critically undercapitalized . The relevant capital measures are the total risk-based capital ratio, the Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio and the leverage ratio.

Rules adopted by the federal banking agencies provide that a depository institution will be deemed to be (1) well capitalized if it maintains a leverage ratio of at least 5%, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of at least 6% and a total risk-based capital ratio of at least 10% and is not subject to any written agreement or directive to meet a specific capital level; (2) adequately capitalized, if it is not well capitalized, but maintains a leverage ratio of at least 4% (or at least 3% if given the highest regulatory rating in its most recent report of examination and not experiencing or anticipating significant growth), a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of at least 4% and a total risk-based capital ratio of at least 8%; (3) undercapitalized if it fails to meet the standards for adequately capitalized institutions (unless it is deemed significantly or critically undercapitalized); (4) significantly undercapitalized if it has a leverage ratio of less than 3%, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of less than 3% or a total risk-based capital ratio of less than 6%; and (5) critically undercapitalized if it has tangible equity equal to 2% or less of total assets.

At December 31, 2006, Banco Popular, BPNA and Banco Popular, N.A. were all well capitalized. An institution s capital category, as determined by applying the prompt corrective action provisions of law, may not constitute an accurate representation of the overall financial condition or prospects of the institution, and the capital condition of the Corporation s banking subsidiaries should be considered in conjunction with other available information regarding the Corporation s financial condition and results of operations.

The appropriate federal banking agency may, under certain circumstances, reclassify a well capitalized insured depository institution as adequately capitalized. The appropriate agency is also permitted to require an adequately capitalized or undercapitalized institution to comply with the supervisory provisions as if the institution were in the next lower category (but not treat a significantly undercapitalized institution as critically undercapitalized) based on supervisory information other than the capital levels of the institution.

The FDIA provides that an institution may be reclassified if the appropriate federal banking agency determines (after notice and opportunity for hearing) that the institution is in an unsafe or unsound condition or deems the institution to be engaging in an unsafe or unsound practice.

The FDIA generally prohibits a depository institution from making any capital distribution (including payment of a dividend) or paying any management fee to its holding company if the depository institution would thereafter be undercapitalized. Undercapitalized depository institutions are subject to restrictions on borrowing from the Federal Reserve System. In addition, undercapitalized depository institutions are subject to growth limitations and are required to submit capital restoration plans. A depository institution s holding company must guarantee the capital plan, up to an amount equal to the lesser of 5% of the depository institution s assets at the time it becomes undercapitalized or the amount of the capital deficiency when the institution fails to comply with the plan. The federal banking agencies may not accept a capital plan without determining, among other things, that the plan is based on realistic assumptions and is likely to succeed in restoring the depository institution s capital. If a depository institution fails to submit an acceptable plan, it is treated as if it is significantly undercapitalized. Significantly undercapitalized depository institutions may be subject to a number of requirements and restrictions, including orders to sell sufficient voting stock to become adequately capitalized, requirements to reduce total assets and cessation of receipt of deposits from correspondent banks. Critically undercapitalized depository institutions are subject to appointment of a receiver or conservator.

The capital-based prompt corrective action provisions of the FDIA apply to FDIC-insured depository institutions such as Banco Popular, BPNA and Banco Popular, N.A., but they are not directly

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applicable to holding companies such as the Corporation, PIB and PNA, which control such institutions. However, the federal banking agencies have indicated that, in regulating holding companies, they may take appropriate action at the holding company level based on their assessment of the effectiveness of supervisory actions imposed upon subsidiary insured depository institutions pursuant to such provisions and regulations.

**Holding Company Structure**

Banco Popular, BPNA and Banco Popular, N.A. are subject to restrictions under federal law that limit the transfer of funds by any of them to the Corporation, PIB, PNA, or any of the Corporation's other non-banking subsidiaries, whether in the form of loans, other extensions of credit, investments or asset purchases. Such transfers by Banco Popular, BPNA and Banco Popular, N.A. to any of the Corporation, PIB, PNA, or any of the Corporation's other non-banking subsidiaries are limited in amount to 10% of the transferring institution's capital stock and surplus and, with respect to the Corporation and all of its non-banking subsidiaries, to an aggregate of 20% of the transferring institution's capital stock and surplus. For these purposes an institution's capital stock and surplus includes its total risk-based capital plus (1) the balance of its allowance for loan losses not included therein and (2) the amount of certain investments made by the institution in financial subsidiaries that is required to be deducted from the institution's capital for regulatory capital purposes. Furthermore, any such loans and extensions of credit are required to be secured in specified amounts. In addition, federal law requires that any transaction between Banco Popular, BPNA or Banco Popular, N.A., on the one hand, and the Corporation, PIB, PNA or any of the Corporation's other non-banking subsidiaries, on the other hand, be carried out on an arm's length basis.

Under the Federal Reserve Board policy, a bank holding company such as the Corporation, PIB or PNA is expected to act as a source of financial strength to each of its subsidiary banks and to commit resources to support each subsidiary bank. This support may be required at times when, absent such policy, the bank holding company might not otherwise provide such support. In addition, any capital loans by a bank holding company to any of its subsidiary depository institutions are subordinated in right of payment to deposits and to certain other indebtedness of such subsidiary depository institution. In the event of a bank holding company's bankruptcy, any commitment by the bank holding company to a federal banking agency to maintain the capital of a subsidiary depository institution will be assumed by the bankruptcy trustee and entitled to a priority of payment. Banco Popular, BPNA and Banco Popular, N.A. are currently the only depository institution subsidiaries of the Corporation, PIB and PNA.

Because the Corporation, PIB and PNA are holding companies, their right to participate in the assets of any subsidiary upon the latter's liquidation or reorganization will be subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary's creditors (including depositors in the case of subsidiary depository institutions) except to the extent that the Corporation, PIB or PNA, as the case may be, may itself be a creditor with recognized claims against the subsidiary.

Under the FDIA, a depository institution, the deposits of which are insured by the FDIC, can be held liable for any loss incurred by, or reasonably expected to be incurred by, the FDIC in connection with (i) the default of a commonly controlled FDIC-insured depository institution or (ii) any assistance provided by the FDIC to any commonly controlled FDIC-insured depository institution in danger of default. Default is defined generally as the appointment of a conservator or a receiver, and in danger of default is defined generally as the existence of certain conditions indicating that a default is likely to occur in the absence of regulatory assistance. Banco Popular, BPNA and Banco Popular, N.A. are currently FDIC-insured depository institution subsidiaries of the Corporation and are subject to this cross-guarantee liability. In some circumstances (depending upon the amount of the loss or anticipated loss suffered by the FDIC), cross-guarantee liability may result in the ultimate failure or insolvency of one or more insured depository institutions in a holding company structure. Any obligation or liability owed by a subsidiary depository institution to its parent company is subordinated to the subsidiary depository institution's cross-guarantee liability with respect to commonly controlled FDIC-insured depository institutions.

**Table of Contents****Dividend Restrictions**

The principal source of cash flow for the Corporation is dividends from Banco Popular. Various statutory provisions limit the amount of dividends Banco Popular may pay to the Corporation without regulatory approval. As a member bank subject to the regulation of the Federal Reserve Board, Banco Popular must obtain the approval of the Federal Reserve Board for any dividend, if the total of all dividends declared by the member bank during the calendar year would exceed the total of its net income (as reportable in its Report of Condition and Income) for that year, combined with its retained net income (as defined by regulation) for the preceding two years, less any required transfers to surplus or to a fund for the retirement of any preferred stock. In addition, a member bank may not declare or pay a dividend in an amount greater than its undivided profits as reported in its Report of Condition and Income, unless the member bank has received the approval of the Federal Reserve Board. A member bank also may not permit any portion of its permanent capital to be withdrawn unless the withdrawal has been approved by the Federal Reserve Board. For this purpose, permanent capital means the total of the bank's perpetual preferred stock and related surplus, common stock and surplus and minority interests in consolidated subsidiaries, as reportable in the Report of Condition and Income. At December 31, 2006, Banco Popular and BPNA could have declared a dividend of approximately \$208 million and \$246 million, respectively, without the approval of the Federal Reserve Board. However, the Corporation has never received any dividend payments from its U.S. subsidiaries and it believes that the likelihood of receiving dividend payments from any of its U.S. subsidiaries in the foreseeable future is remote based on the growth it is undertaking on the U.S. mainland.

The payment of dividends by Banco Popular, BPNA and Banco Popular, N.A. may also be affected by other regulatory requirements and policies, such as the maintenance of adequate capital. If, in the opinion of the applicable regulatory authority, a depository institution under its jurisdiction is engaged in, or is about to engage in, an unsafe or unsound practice (that, depending on the financial condition of the depository institution, could include the payment of dividends), such authority may require, after notice and hearing, that such depository institution cease and desist from such practice. The OCC and FDIC have indicated that the payment of dividends would constitute an unsafe and unsound practice if the payment would deplete a depository institution's capital base to an inadequate level. Under the FDIA, an insured institution may not pay any dividend if payment would cause it to become undercapitalized or if it already is undercapitalized. See [Prompt Corrective Action](#) above. Moreover, the Federal Reserve Board, and the FDIC have issued policy statements stating that the bank holding companies and insured banks should generally pay dividends only out of current operating earnings.

On October 22, 2004, the President signed into law the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, which lowers the withholding tax rate imposed on distributions of U.S. sourced dividends to a corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico from 30% to 10%. The Corporation's U.S. mainland subsidiaries earnings are considered permanently invested. Accordingly, the new law which lowered the withholding tax rate to 10% is not expected to have a material impact on the Corporation in the foreseeable future.

See [Puerto Rico Regulation-General](#) below for a description of certain restrictions on Banco Popular's ability to pay dividends under Puerto Rico law.

**FDIC Insurance Assessments**

Banco Popular, BPNA and Banco Popular, N.A. are subject to FDIC deposit insurance assessments. On February 8, 2006 the President signed the Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Act of 2005 (the [Reform Act](#)). The Reform Act provides for the merger of the Bank Insurance Fund ( [BIF](#) ) and Savings Association Insurance Fund ( [SAIF](#) ) into a single Deposit Insurance Fund, an increase the maximum amount of the insurance coverage for certain retirement accounts, and possible inflation adjustments in the maximum amount of coverage available with respect to other insured accounts. In addition, it granted a one-time initial assessment credit (of approximately \$4.7 billion) to recognize institutions' past contributions to the fund.

The deposits of Banco Popular, BPNA and Banco Popular, N.A. are insured up to the applicable limits by the Deposit Insurance Fund ( [DIF](#) ) of the FDIC and are subject to deposit insurance assessments to maintain the DIF. For 2006 the FDIC utilized a risk based assessment system that imposed insurance premiums based upon a matrix that took into account a bank's capital level and supervisory rating. Premiums under that assessment system ranged from 0 cents for each \$100 of domestic deposits for well-capitalized and well managed banks to 27 cents for each \$100 of

domestic deposits for the weakest institutions. Our bank subsidiaries were not required to pay insurance premiums to the FDIC during 2006.

Under the Reform Act, the FDIC made significant changes to its risk-based assessment system so that effective Jan. 1, 2007 the FDIC imposes insurance premiums based upon a matrix that is designed to more closely tie what banks pay for deposit insurance to the risks they pose. The new FDIC risk-based assessment system imposes premiums based upon factors that vary depending upon the size of the bank. These factors are: for banks with less than \$10 billion in assets capital level, supervisory rating, and certain financial ratios; for banks with \$10 billion up to \$30 billion in assets capital level, supervisory rating, certain financial ratios and (if at least one is available) debt issuer ratings, and additional risk information; and for banks with over \$30 billion in assets capital level, supervisory rating, debt issuer ratings (unless none are available in which case certain financial ratios are used), and additional risk information. The FDIC has adopted a new base schedule of rates that the FDIC can adjust up or down, depending on the revenue needs of the DIF, and has set initial premiums for 2007 that range from 5 cents per \$100 of domestic deposits for the banks in the lowest risk category to 43 cents per \$100 of domestic deposits for banks in the highest risk category. The new assessment system is expected to result in increased annual assessments on the deposits of our bank subsidiaries of 5 to 7 basis points per \$100 of deposits. Our bank subsidiaries have available an FDIC credit to offset future assessments. Significant increases in the insurance assessments of our bank subsidiaries will increase our costs once the credit is fully utilized.

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The Deposit Insurance Funds Act of 1996 separated the Financing Corporation ( FICO ) assessment to service the interest on its bond obligations from the DIF assessment. The amount assessed on individual institutions by the FICO is in addition to the amount, if any, paid for deposit insurance according to the FDIC's risk-related assessment rate schedules. The current FICO annual assessment is 1.22 cents per \$100 of deposits. As of December 31, 2006, the Corporation had a DIF deposit assessment base of approximately \$23.6 billion.

**Brokered Deposits**

FDIC regulations adopted under FDIA govern the receipt of brokered deposits. Under these regulations, a bank cannot accept, roll over or renew brokered deposits (which term is defined also to include any deposit with an interest rate more than 75 basis points above prevailing rates) unless it is (i) well capitalized or (ii) adequately capitalized and receives a waiver from the FDIC. A bank that is adequately capitalized may not pay an interest rate on any deposits in excess of 75 basis points over certain prevailing market rates specified by regulation. There are no such restrictions on a bank that is well capitalized. The Corporation does not believe the brokered deposits regulation has had or will have a material effect on the funding or liquidity of Banco Popular, BPNA or Banco Popular, N.A.

**Capital Adequacy**

Information about the capital composition of the Corporation as of December 31, 2006 and for the four previous years is presented in Table I Capital Adequacy Data on page 33 in the Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations ( MD&A ).

Under the Federal Reserve Board's risk-based capital guidelines for bank holding companies and member banks, the minimum ratio of qualifying total capital ( Total Capital ) to risk-weighted assets (including certain off-balance sheet items, such as standby letters of credit) is 8%. Under the capital

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guidelines, a banking organization's Total Capital is divided into tiers. Tier 1 Capital consists of common equity, retained earnings, minority interest in equity accounts of consolidated subsidiaries, qualifying non-cumulative perpetual preferred stock and a limited amount of cumulative perpetual preferred stock less goodwill and certain other intangible assets. Not more than 25% of qualifying Tier 1 Capital may consist of noncumulative perpetual preferred stock, trust preferred securities or other so-called restricted core capital elements. Tier 2 Capital consists of, among other things, a limited amount of subordinated debt, other preferred stock, certain other instruments and a limited amount of loan and lease loss reserves. Tier 3 Capital consists of qualifying unsecured subordinated debt. The sum of Tier 2 and Tier 3 Capital may not exceed the amount of Tier 1 Capital.

In addition, the Federal Reserve Board has established minimum leverage ratio guidelines for bank holding companies and member banks. These guidelines provide for a minimum ratio of Tier 1 Capital to total assets, less goodwill and certain other intangible assets discussed below (the leverage ratio) of 3% for bank holding companies and member banks that have the highest regulatory rating or have implemented the Federal Reserve Board's market risk capital measure. All other bank holding companies and member banks are required to maintain a minimum leverage ratio of 4%. The guidelines also provide that banking organizations experiencing internal growth or making acquisitions are expected to maintain strong capital positions substantially above the minimum supervisory levels, without significant reliance on intangible assets. Furthermore, the guidelines indicate that the Federal Reserve Board will continue to consider a tangible Tier 1 leverage ratio and other indicia of capital strength in evaluating proposals for expansion or new activities. The tangible Tier 1 leverage ratio is the ratio of a banking organization's Tier 1 Capital less all intangibles, to total assets less all intangibles.

Banco Popular and BPNA are subject to the risk-based and leverage capital requirements adopted by the Federal Reserve Board. Banco Popular, N.A. is subject to substantially similar requirements of the OCC. See Consolidated Financial Statements, Note 19 Regulatory Capital Requirements on page 97 and 98 for the capital ratios of the Corporation, Banco Popular and BPNA. Failure to meet capital guidelines could subject the Corporation and its depository institution subsidiaries to a variety of enforcement remedies, including the termination of deposit insurance by the FDIC and to certain restrictions on its business. See - Prompt Corrective Action .

Currently, the U.S. federal bank regulatory agencies' risk-capital guidelines are based upon the 1988 capital accord of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision ( BSC ). The BSC is comprised by the central bank of governors and bank supervising authorities of the Group of Ten countries (G10). The BSC is also responsible for developing broad policy guidelines used by each country's supervisor in determining its supervisory guidelines.

On January 2001, the BSC released a proposal to replace the 1988 capital accord with a new set of guidelines. The new Basel Capital Accord (Basel II) would set, for the first time, capital requirements for operational risk, defined as the risk of direct or indirect loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems, or external events. It also refines the existing capital requirements for credit risk and market risk exposures.

The federal regulatory agencies released the latest Notice on Proposed Rulemaking (NPR) on September 2006. The NPR details the current Basel II regulatory mindset on capital requirements, and establishes January 2008 as the first possible period for banks to adopt the proposed rule. A second NPR, concerning details for Basel IA, was released on December 26, 2006. Basel IA, originally proposed on 2005 by federal regulatory agencies, promotes revisions to the existing risk-based capital framework that would enhance its risk sensitivity without unduly increasing regulatory burden. This proposal intends to correct the differences between financial institutions adopting Basel II and those institutions remaining under the current regulatory capital regime.

Basel IA and Basel II are still under revision in response to industry, national, and regulatory commentary, as the official response period for both proposals is set to March 2007. The Corporation expects that a new capital accord will eventually be adopted by the BSC and enforced by the federal banking agencies. In the meantime, the Corporation continues to work towards the adoption of the new

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framework and compliance of requirements set by federal regulatory services. At this time, it cannot determined whether the capital requirements that may arise out of a new Basel Accord will increase or decrease minimum capital requirements applicable to the Corporation and its subsidiaries.

In January 2003, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the FASB ) issued FASB Interpretation No. 46, Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities ( FIN 46 ), which addresses the consolidation rules to be applied to variable interest entities as defined in FIN 46. In December 2003 the FASB amended FIN 46 in FASB interpretation No. 46 (revised December 2003) ( FIN 46R ). FIN 46R, applies to certain variable interest entities by no later than March 15, 2004. Under FIN 46R issuer trusts may constitute variable interest entities.

Historically, issuer trusts that issued trust preferred securities have been consolidated by their parent companies and the accounts of such issuer trusts have been included in the consolidated financial statements of such parent companies. In addition, trust preferred securities have been treated as eligible for Tier 1 capital treatment by bank holding companies under Federal Reserve rules and regulations relating to minority interests in equity accounts of consolidated subsidiaries. As of December 31, 2006, \$824,000,000 in trust preferred securities that the Corporation treated as Tier 1 capital under existing Federal Reserve Board guidelines were outstanding. The Corporation has determined that the issuer trusts for its trust preferred securities transactions are variable interest entities. The variable interest entities were deconsolidated commencing with the Corporation's December 31, 2003 financial statements.

On March 1, 2005, the Federal Reserve Board adopted a final rule that allows the continued limited inclusion of trust preferred securities in the Tier 1 capital of bank holding companies (BHCs). Under the final rule, trust preferred securities and other restricted core capital elements will be subject to stricter quantitative limits.

The Federal Reserve Board's final rule limits restricted core capital elements to 25 percent of all core capital elements, net of goodwill less any associated deferred tax liability. Internationally active BHCs, defined as those with consolidated assets greater than \$250 billion or on-balance-sheet foreign exposure greater than \$10 billion, will be subject to a 15 percent limit. They may, however, include qualifying mandatory convertible preferred securities up to the generally applicable 25 percent limit. Amounts of restricted core capital elements in excess of these limits generally may be included in Tier 2 capital. The final rule provides a five-year transition period, ending March 31, 2009, for application of the quantitative limits.

### **Interstate Banking Legislation**

The Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act of 1994 amended the FDIA to permit a bank holding company, with Federal Reserve Board approval, to acquire banks located in states other than the holding company's home state without regard to whether the transaction is prohibited under state law. In addition, national and state banks with different home states are permitted to merge across state lines, with approval of the appropriate federal banking agency. States are also allowed to permit de novo interstate branching. Once a bank has established branches in a state through an interstate merger transaction, the bank may establish or acquire additional branches at any location in the state where any bank involved in the interstate merger transaction could have established or acquired branches under applicable federal or state law. A bank that has established a branch in a state through de novo branching (if permitted under state laws) may establish and acquire additional branches in such state in the same manner and to the same extent as a bank having a branch in such state as a result of an interstate merger. If a state opted out of interstate branching within the specified time period, no bank in any other state may establish a



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branch in the state that has opted out, whether through an acquisition or de novo. For purposes of the Riegle-Neal Act amendments to the FDIA, Banco Popular is treated as a state bank and is subject to the same restrictions on interstate branching as other state banks. However, for purposes of the International Banking Act (the "IBA"), Banco Popular is considered to be a foreign bank and may branch interstate by merger or de novo to the same extent as a domestic bank in Banco Popular's home state, which is New York for purposes of the IBA. The Corporation has not yet determined how these statutes will be harmonized, with respect either to which federal agency will approve interstate transactions or with respect to which home state determination rules will apply.

**Financial Services Modernization**

The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act was enacted on November 12, 1999. Among other things, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act: (i) allows bank holding companies whose subsidiary depository institutions meet management, capital and Community Reinvestment Act standards to engage in a substantially broader range of nonbanking activities than was previously permissible, including insurance underwriting and making merchant banking investments in commercial and financial companies; (ii) allows insurers and other financial services companies to acquire banks; (iii) removes various restrictions that previously applied to bank holding company ownership of securities firms and mutual fund advisory companies; and (iv) establishes the overall regulatory structure applicable to bank holding companies that also engage in insurance and securities operations.

In order for a bank holding company to engage in the broader range of activities that are permitted by the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (i) all of its depository institution subsidiaries must be well capitalized (as described above) and well managed and (ii) it must file a declaration with the Federal Reserve that it elects to be a financial holding company. The Corporation, PIB and PNA have elected to be treated as financial holding companies. A depository institution is deemed to be well managed if at its most recent inspection, examination or subsequent review by the appropriate federal banking agency (or the appropriate state banking agency), the depository institution received at least a satisfactory composite rating and at least a satisfactory rating for management. In addition, to commence any new activity permitted by the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and to acquire any company engaged in any new activities permitted by the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, each insured depository institution subsidiary of the financial holding company must have received at least a satisfactory rating in its most recent examination under the Community Reinvestment Act. There are no conditions or events since December 31, 2006 that management believes have changed the Corporation, PIB and PNA financial holding companies status.

The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act also modified other laws, including laws related to financial privacy and community reinvestment. The new financial privacy provisions generally prohibit financial institutions, including the Corporation's bank subsidiaries, from disclosing nonpublic personal financial information to third parties unless customers have the opportunity to opt out of the disclosure.

**Anti-Money Laundering Initiative and the USA PATRIOT Act**

On October 26, 2001, the President signed into law comprehensive anti-terrorism legislation known as the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 (the "USA PATRIOT Act"). Title III of the USA PATRIOT Act substantially broadened the scope of U.S. anti-money laundering laws and regulations by imposing significant new compliance and due diligence obligations, creating new crimes and penalties and expanding the extra-territorial jurisdiction of the United States.

The U.S. Treasury Department (the "Treasury") has issued and, in some cases proposed, a number of regulations implementing the USA PATRIOT Act that apply certain of its requirements to financial institutions, including the Corporation's bank subsidiaries. The regulations impose new obligations on financial institutions to maintain appropriate policies, procedures and controls to detect, prevent and report money laundering and terrorist financing and to verify the identity of customers. Certain of those regulations impose specific due diligence requirements on financial institutions that maintain correspondent or private banking relationships with non-U.S. financial institutions or persons.

Failure of a financial institution to comply with the USA PATRIOT Act's requirements could have serious legal and reputational consequences for the institution. The Corporation believes that the cost of compliance with Title III of the USA PATRIOT Act is not likely to be material to the Corporation.

**Table of Contents****Community Reinvestment Act**

The Community Reinvestment Act requires banks to help serve the credit needs of their communities, including credit to low and moderate income individuals and geographies. Should the Corporation or its bank subsidiaries fail to serve adequately the community, potential penalties may include regulatory denials of applications to expand branches, relocate, add subsidiaries and affiliates, expand into new financial activities and merge with or purchase other financial institutions.

**Office of Foreign Assets Control Regulation**

The United States has imposed economic sanctions that affect transactions with designated foreign countries, nationals and others. These are typically known as the OFAC rules based on their administration by the U.S. Treasury Department Office of Foreign Assets Control ( OFAC ). The OFAC-administered sanctions targeting countries take many different forms. Generally, however, they contain one or more of the following elements: (i) restrictions on trade with or investment in a sanctioned country, including prohibitions against direct or indirect imports from and exports to a sanctioned country and prohibitions on U.S. persons engaging in financial transactions relating to making investments in, or providing investment-related advice or assistance to, a sanctioned country; and (ii) a blocking of assets in which the government or specially designated nationals of the sanctioned country have an interest, by prohibiting transfers of property subject to U.S. jurisdiction (including property in the possession or control of U.S. persons). Blocked assets (e.g., property and bank deposits) cannot be paid out, withdrawn, set off or transferred in any manner without a license from OFAC. Failure to comply with these sanctions could have serious legal and reputational consequences.

**Legislative Initiatives**

Various other legislative proposals, including proposals to limit the investments that a depository institution may make with FDIC insured funds, are from time to time introduced in Congress. The Corporation cannot determine the ultimate effect that such potential legislation, if enacted, or implementing regulations would have upon its financial condition or results of operations.

**Puerto Rico Regulation**

**General.** As a commercial bank organized under the laws of Puerto Rico, Banco Popular is subject to supervision, examination and regulation by the Office of the Commissioner of Financial Institutions of Puerto Rico (the Office of the Commissioner ), pursuant to the Puerto Rico Banking Act of 1933, as amended (the Banking Law ).

Section 27 of the Banking Law requires that at least ten percent (10%) of the yearly net income of Banco Popular be credited annually to a reserve fund. This apportionment must be done every year until the reserve fund is equal to the total of paid-in capital on common and preferred stock. During 2006 Banco Popular transferred \$30 million to the reserve fund in order to comply with this requirement.

Section 27 of the Banking Law also provides that when the expenditures of a bank are greater than its receipts, the excess of the former over the latter must be charged against the undistributed profits of the bank, and the balance, if any, must be charged against the reserve fund. If the reserve fund is not sufficient to cover such balance in whole or in part, the outstanding amount must be charged against the capital account and no dividend may be declared until capital has been restored to its original amount and the reserve fund to 20% of the original capital.

Section 16 of the Banking Law requires every bank to maintain a legal reserve that, except as otherwise provided by the Office of the Commissioner, may not be less than 20% of its demand liabilities, excluding government deposits (federal, state and municipal) which are secured by collateral. If a bank is authorized to establish one or more bank branches in a state of the United States or in a foreign country, where such branches are subject to the reserve requirements of that state or country, the Office of the Commissioner may exempt said branch or branches from the reserve requirements of Section 16. Pursuant to an order of the Federal Reserve Board dated November 24, 1982, Banco Popular has been exempted from the reserve requirements of the Federal Reserve System with respect to deposits payable in Puerto Rico. Accordingly, Banco Popular is subject to the reserve requirements prescribed by the Banking Law.

Section 17 of the Banking Law permits a bank to make loans to any one person, firm, partnership or corporation, up to an aggregate amount of fifteen percent (15%) of the paid-in capital and reserve fund of the bank. As of December 31, 2006, the legal lending limit for the Bank under this provision was



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approximately \$115.2 million. The above limitations do not apply to loans which are secured by collateral worth at least 25% more than the amount of the loan up to a maximum aggregate amount of one third of the paid-in capital of the bank, plus its reserve fund. If the institution is well capitalized and had been rated 1 in the last examination performed by the Office of the Commissioner or any regulatory agency, its legal lending limit shall also include 15% of 50% of its undivided profits and for loans secured by collateral worth at least 25% more than the amount of the loan, the capital of the bank shall also include 33 1/3% of 50% of its undivided profits. Institutions rated 2 in their last regulatory examination may include this additional component in their legal lending limit only with the previous authorization of the Office of the Commissioner. There are no restrictions under Section 17 on the amount of loans that are wholly secured by bonds, securities and other evidence of indebtedness of the Government of the United States or Puerto Rico, or by current debt bonds, not in default, of municipalities or instrumentalities of Puerto Rico.

Section 14 of the Banking Law authorizes a bank to conduct certain financial and related activities directly or through subsidiaries, including finance leasing of personal property, originating and servicing mortgage loans and operating a small loan company. Banco Popular engages in these activities through its wholly-owned subsidiaries, Popular Auto, Inc., Popular Mortgage, Inc. and Popular Finance, Inc., respectively, all of which are organized and operate in Puerto Rico.

The Finance Board, which includes as its members the Commissioner of Financial Institutions, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Consumer Affairs, the President of the Planning Board, and the President of the Government Development Bank for Puerto Rico, has the authority to regulate the maximum interest rates and finance charges that may be charged on loans to individuals and unincorporated businesses in Puerto Rico. The current regulations of the Finance Board provide that the applicable interest rate on loans to individuals and unincorporated businesses (including real estate development loans but excluding certain other personal and commercial loans secured by mortgages on real estate properties and finance charges on retail installment sales and for credit card purchases) is to be determined by free competition.

**IBC Act.** Under the IBC Act, without the prior approval of the Office of the Commissioner, PIB may not amend its articles of incorporation or issue additional shares of capital stock or other securities convertible into additional shares of capital stock unless such shares are issued directly to the shareholders of PIB previously identified in the application to organize the international banking entity, in which case notification to the Office of the Commissioner must be given within ten business days following the date of the issue. Pursuant to the IBC Act, without the prior approval of the Office of the Commissioner, PIB may not initiate the sale, encumbrance, assignment, merger or other transfer of shares if by such transaction a person or persons acting in concert could acquire direct or indirect control of 10% or more of any class of PIB's stock. Such authorization must be requested at least 30 days prior to the transaction.

PIB must submit to the Office of the Commissioner a report of its condition and results of operation on a quarterly basis and its annual audited financial statements at the close of its fiscal year. Under the IBC Act, PIB may not deal with domestic persons as such term is defined in the IBC Act. Also, it may only engage in those activities authorized in the IBC Act, the regulations adopted thereunder and its license.

The IBC Act empowers the Office of the Commissioner to revoke or suspend, after a hearing, the license of an international banking entity ( IBE ) if, among other things, it fails to comply with the IBC Act, regulations issued by the Office of the Commissioner or the terms of its license or if the Office of the Commissioner finds that the business of the IBE is conducted in a manner not consistent with the public interest.

In January 2004, the Government of Puerto Rico approved a legislation that partially eliminates the tax exempt status of an IBE that operates as a division or branch of a bank in Puerto Rico. In order to be subject to tax, the IBE's net taxable income must exceed 40% in 2004, 30% in 2005, and 20% in 2006 and thereafter, of the net taxable income of the bank as a whole. Once these thresholds are exceeded, the IBE will be taxed at regular tax rates on its net taxable income that exceeds the applicable threshold. Currently, management of the Corporation does not expect any financial impact from this law because the net

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taxable income of Banco Popular's IBE has not exceeded and is not expected to exceed 20% of Banco Popular's net taxable income.

In August 2005, the Government of Puerto Rico approved an increase in the maximum statutory tax rate from 39.0% to 41.5% to corporations and partnerships for a two-year period. The tax rate was applied retroactively effective January 1, 2005 to all of the Corporation's subsidiaries doing business in Puerto Rico with fiscal years ended December 31, 2005. In addition, in May 2006, the Government of Puerto Rico approved an additional transitory tax applicable only to the banking industry that raised the maximum statutory tax rate to 43.5% for taxable years commenced during calendar year 2006. For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006, the maximum statutory tax rate will be 39%.

**Employees**

At December 31, 2006, the Corporation employed directly 12,508 persons. None of its employees are represented by a collective bargaining group.

**Segment Disclosure**

Note 30 to the Financial Statements, Segment Reporting on pages 116 through 119 of the Annual Report is incorporated by reference herein.

In connection with the reorganization of the Corporation's corporate structure during 2004, the corporation realigned its business segments to reflect its new business structure, referred to by management as business circles. There is one circle for each of the Corporation's four principal businesses: Banco Popular Puerto Rico, Banco Popular North America, Popular Financial Holdings and EVERTEC. Each business circle has been identified as a reportable segment. Also, a corporate circle has been defined to support the business circles.

Management determined the reportable segments based on the internal reporting used to evaluate performance and to assess where to allocate resources. The segments were determined based on the new organizational structure which focuses primarily towards products and services as well as on the markets the segments serve. Other factors, such as the credit risk characteristics of the loan products, distribution channels and clientele, were also considered in the determination of reportable segments.

The following table presents the Corporation's long-lived assets by geographical area, other than financial instruments, long-term customer relationships, mortgage and other servicing rights and deferred tax assets. Long-lived assets located in foreign countries represent the investments under the equity method in the Dominican Republic and El Salvador and other long-lived assets located in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

	2006	2005	2004
<b>Puerto Rico</b>			
Premises and equipment	\$473,335,423	\$472,386,760	\$419,934,475
Goodwill	96,942,455	94,650,541	89,821,933
Other intangible assets	6,617,436	9,694,734	8,975,334
Investments under the equity method	22,481,879	21,434,700	19,711,987
	\$599,377,193	\$598,166,735	\$538,443,729
<b>United States</b>			
Premises and equipment	\$116,202,309	\$119,529,381	\$121,121,536
Goodwill	568,648,617	557,070,780	319,223,720
Other intangible assets	93,279,395	100,513,344	29,458,696
Investments under the equity method	1,454,175	812,183	389,198
	\$779,584,496	\$777,925,688	\$470,193,150

**Foreign Countries**

Premises and equipment	\$ 5,601,939	\$ 4,655,313	\$ 4,625,313
Goodwill	2,262,444	2,262,444	2,262,444
Other intangible assets			
Investments under the equity method	42,857,928	40,497,852	36,895,084
	\$ 50,722,311	\$ 47,415,609	\$ 43,782,841

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**The Corporation is unable to predict what adverse consequences, if any, or other effects transactions with Doral Financial Corporation or R&G Financial Corporation, the civil litigation related to Doral or R&G matters or the related investigations could have on the Corporation.**

Doral Financial Corporation ( Doral ) has announced investigations by the SEC and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and R&G Financial Corporation ( R&G ) has announced an investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Corporation has had dealings with both Doral and R&G and has provided information in connection with, and is continuing to cooperate with, certain of the investigations of these matters. The Corporation is unable to predict what adverse consequences, if any, or other effects dealings with Doral or R&G, the civil litigation related to Doral or R&G matters or the related investigations could have on the Corporation.

**Availability on website**

We make available free of charge, through our investor relations section at our website, [www.popular.com](http://www.popular.com), our Form 10-K, Form 10-Q and Form 8-K reports and all amendments to those reports as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed with or furnished to the SEC.

The public may read and copy any materials the Corporation files with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. In addition, the public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC at its web site ([www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)).

**ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

**Financial results are constantly exposed to market risk.**

Market risk refers to the probability of variations in the net interest income or the market value of assets and liabilities due to interest rate volatility. Despite the varied nature of market risks, the primary source of this risk to the Corporation is the impact of changes in interest rates on net interest income.

Net interest income is the difference between the revenue generated on earning assets and the interest cost of funding those assets. Depending on the duration and repricing characteristics of the assets, liabilities and off-balance sheet items, changes in interest rates could either increase or decrease the level of net interest income. For any given period, the pricing structure of the assets and liabilities is matched when an equal amount of such assets and liabilities mature or reprice in that period. Any mismatch of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities is known as a gap position. A positive gap denotes asset sensitivity, which means that an increase in interest rates could have a positive effect on net interest income, while a decrease in interest rates could have a negative effect on net interest income.

The Corporation is subject to interest rate risk because of the following factors:

Assets and liabilities may mature or reprice at different times. For example, if assets reprice slower than liabilities and interest rates are generally rising, earnings may initially decline.

Assets and liabilities may reprice at the same time but by different amounts. For example, when the general level of interest rates is rising, we may increase rates charged on loans by an amount that is less than the general increase in market interest rates because of intense pricing competition. Also, basis risk occurs when assets and liabilities have similar repricing frequencies but are tied to different market interest rate indices.

Short-term and long-term market interest rates may change by different amounts, *i.e.*, the shape of the yield curve may affect new loan yields and funding costs differently.

The remaining maturity of various assets and liabilities may shorten or lengthen as interest rates change. For example, if long-term mortgage interest rates decline sharply, mortgage-backed securities held in the securities available-for-sale portfolio may prepay significantly earlier than anticipated, which could reduce portfolio income. If prepayment rates increase, the Corporation would be required to amortize net premiums into income over a shorter period of time, thereby

reducing the corresponding asset yield and net interest income. Prepayment risk also has a significant impact on mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations, since prepayments could shorten the weighted average life of these portfolios.

Interest rates may have an indirect impact on loan demand, credit losses, loan origination volume, the value of securities holdings, including interest-only strips, gains and losses on sales of securities and loans, the value of mortgage servicing rights and other sources of earnings.



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In limiting interest rate risk to an acceptable level, management may alter the mix of floating and fixed rate assets and liabilities, change pricing schedules, adjust maturities through sales and purchases of investment securities, and enter into derivative contracts, among other alternatives. The Corporation may suffer losses or experience lower spreads than anticipated in initial projections as management implement strategies to reduce future interest rate exposure.

### **The hedging transactions that the Corporation enters into may not be effective in managing the exposure to market risk, including interest rate risk.**

The Corporation uses derivatives, to a limited extent, to manage part of the exposure to market risk caused by changes in interest rates or basis risk. The derivative instruments that the Corporation may utilize also have their own risks, which include: (1) basis risk, which is the risk of loss associated with variations in the spread between the asset yield and funding and/or hedge cost; (2) credit or default risk, which is the risk of insolvency or other inability of the counterparty to a particular transaction to perform its obligations thereunder; and (3) legal risk, which is the risk that the Corporation is unable to enforce certain terms of such instruments. All or any of such risks could expose the Corporation to losses.

### **Reductions in the Corporation's credit ratings or those of any of its subsidiaries would increase the cost of borrowing funds and make the Corporation's ability to raise new funds or renew maturing debt more difficult.**

Credit ratings are an important component of the Corporation's liquidity profile. Among other factors, credit ratings are based on the financial strength, the credit quality of and concentrations in the Corporation's loan portfolio, the level and volatility of earnings, capital adequacy, the quality of management, the liquidity of the Corporation's balance sheet, the availability of a significant base of core retail and commercial deposits, and the ability to access a broad array of wholesale funding sources. Changes in the Corporation's credit ratings or the credit ratings of any of its subsidiaries to a level below investment grade would adversely affect the Corporation's ability to raise funds in the capital markets. The Corporation's counterparties are also sensitive to the risk of a ratings downgrade. In the event of a downgrade, the cost of borrowing funds would increase. In addition, the Corporation's ability to raise new funds in the capital markets or renew maturing debt may be more difficult.

The Corporation's ability to compete successfully in the marketplace for deposits depends on various factors, including service, convenience and financial stability as reflected by the operating results and credit ratings by nationally recognized credit agencies. A downgrade in credit ratings may impact the ability to raise deposits, but the Corporation believes that the impact should not be material. Deposits at all of its banking subsidiaries are federally insured (subject to limitations established by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation), which is expected to mitigate the effect of a downgrade in the credit ratings.

### **A failure to comply with financial covenants in contractual agreements could accelerate payments of related borrowings.**

In the course of borrowing from institutional lenders and other investors, the Corporation has entered into contractual agreements to maintain certain levels of debt, capital and asset quality, among other financial covenants. Failing to comply with those agreements may result in an event of default, which could accelerate the repayment of the related borrowings. An event of default would also affect the Corporation's ability to raise new funds or renew maturing debt.

### **The Corporation is subject to default risk in its loan portfolio.**

The Corporation is subject to the risk of loss from loan defaults and foreclosures with respect to the loans originated or acquired. The Corporation establishes provisions for loan losses, which lead to reductions in the income from operations, in order to maintain the allowance for future loan losses at a level which is deemed appropriate by management based upon an assessment of the quality of the loan portfolio in accordance with established procedures and guidelines. There can be no assurance that management has accurately estimated the level of future loan losses or that the Corporation will not have to increase the provision for loan losses in the future as a result of future increases in non-performing loans or for other reasons beyond its control.

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**A prolonged economic downturn or recession would likely result in an increase in delinquencies, defaults and foreclosures and in a reduction of the loan origination activity which would adversely affect the Corporation's financial results.**

A period of reduced economic growth or a recession has historically resulted in a reduction in lending activity and an increase in the rate of defaults in commercial loans, consumer loans and residential mortgages. A recession may have a significant adverse impact on the net interest income and fee income. The Corporation may also experience significant losses on the loan portfolio due to a higher level of defaults on commercial loans, consumer loans and residential mortgages.

**The Corporation operates in a highly regulated environment and may be adversely affected by changes in federal and local laws and regulations.**

The Corporation is subject to extensive regulation, supervision and examination by federal and Puerto Rico banking authorities. Any change in applicable federal or Puerto Rico laws or regulations could have a substantial impact on its operations. Additional laws and regulations may be enacted or adopted in the future that could significantly affect the Corporation's powers, authority and operations, which could have a material adverse effect on the Corporation's financial condition and results of operations. Further, regulators, in the performance of their supervisory and enforcement duties, have significant discretion and power to prevent or remedy unsafe and unsound practices or violations of laws by banks and bank holding companies. The exercise of this regulatory discretion and power may have a negative impact on the Corporation.

**Competition with other financial institutions could adversely affect the Corporation's profitability.**

The Corporation faces substantial competition in originating loans and in attracting deposits. The competition in originating loans comes principally from other U.S., Puerto Rico and foreign banks, mortgage banking companies, consumer finance companies, insurance companies and other institutional lenders and purchasers of loans. Certain of the Corporation's competitors are not subject to the same extensive regulation that governs the Corporation's business.

The Corporation anticipates that it will encounter greater competition with the expansion of its operations on the U.S. mainland. Many institutions with which the Corporation competes on the U.S. mainland have significantly greater assets, capital, name recognition, customer loyalty and other resources. As a result, certain of its competitors may have advantages in conducting certain businesses and providing certain services.

Increased competition could require that the Corporation increase the rates offered on deposits or lower the rates charged on loans, which could adversely affect its profitability.

**The Corporation is exposed to greater risk because a significant portion of the business is concentrated in Puerto Rico, which was experienced an economic slowdown.**

A significant portion of the Corporation's financial activities and credit exposure are concentrated in Puerto Rico. Consequently, the financial condition and results of operations are highly dependent on economic conditions in Puerto Rico. An extended economic slowdown in Puerto Rico, adverse political or economic developments in Puerto Rico or natural disasters, such as hurricanes, affecting Puerto Rico could result in a downturn in loan originations, an increase in the level of nonperforming assets, an increase in the rate of foreclosure loss on mortgage loans and a reduction in the value of the Corporation's loans and loan servicing portfolio, all of which would adversely affect the Corporation's profitability.

Although official statistics are not yet available, it is probable that the Puerto Rico economy ended 2006 in recession. It is estimated that the economy started contracting in the first quarter of 2006.

For the first time since 2002, manufacturing has shown an outright decline in overall activity up to 2006 as compared to the same period in 2005. The trend worsened somewhat as the semester progressed, but appeared to be leveling off towards the end.

Construction remained relatively weak during the first three quarters of 2006, as the combination of rising interest rates, the Commonwealth's fiscal situation and decreasing public investment in

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construction projects affected the sector. However, it did manage to expand very modestly vs. the prior-year period. The value of construction permits during the first three quarters of 2006 declined 9.4%, with most of the drop coming from the public sector. Retail sales during the same period also reflected the uncertainty prevalent at the time related to the Commonwealth's fiscal situation, as well as increased oil and utility prices. Sales registered a decline of 1.8% as compared to the same period in 2005, as the months surrounding a temporary government shutdown, due to budgetary deficits, were particularly affected. The unemployment rate, after spiking temporarily to almost 20% in May as a result of the shutdown, has declined to 9.7% as of September 2006.

Tourism is the one sector that has been resilient. Activity in the sector has expanded consistently since 2004, and in the year ending June 2006 it registered the strongest increase in four years. Factors that may be boosting the tourism sector are geo-political tensions throughout the world, a relative benign hurricane season for the past two years, and a relatively solid U.S. economy.

In general it is apparent that in 2006 the P.R. economy entered a recession, primarily due to weaker manufacturing, softer consumption and decreased government investment in construction.

The above economic concerns and uncertainty in the private and public sectors may also have an adverse effect in the credit quality of the Corporation's loan portfolios, as delinquency rates may increase in the short-term, until the economy stabilizes. Also, a potential reduction in consumer spending may also impact growth in other interest and non-interest revenue sources of the Corporation.

**The Corporation is unable to predict what adverse consequences, if any, or other effects transactions with Doral Financial Corporation or R&G Financial Corporation, the civil litigation related to Doral or R&G matters or the related investigations could have on the Corporation.**

As previously mentioned on page 17, under Item 1. Business, Doral Financial Corporation ( Doral ) has announced investigations by the SEC and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and R&G Financial Corporation ( R&G ) has announced an investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Corporation has had dealings with both Doral and R&G and has provided information in connection with, and is continuing to cooperate with, certain of the investigations of these matters. The Corporation is unable to predict what adverse consequences, if any, or other effects dealings with Doral or R&G, the civil litigation related to Doral or R&G matters or the related investigations could have on the Corporation.

**Certain of the provisions contained in the Corporation's Certificate of Incorporation have the effect of making it more difficult to change the Board of Directors, and may make the Board of Directors less responsive to stockholder control.**

The Corporation's certificate of incorporation provides that the members of the Board of Directors are divided into three classes as nearly equal as possible. At each annual meeting of stockholders, one-third of the members of the Board of Directors will be elected for a three-year term, and the other directors will remain in office until their three-year terms expire. Therefore, control of the Board of Directors cannot be changed in one year, and at least two annual meetings must be held before a majority of the members of the Board of Directors can be changed. The Corporation's certificate of incorporation also provides that a director, or the entire Board of Directors, may be removed by the stockholders only for cause by a vote of at least two-thirds of the combined voting power of the outstanding capital stock entitled to vote for the election of directors. These provisions have the effect of making it more difficult to change the Board of Directors, and may make the Board of Directors less responsive to stockholder control. These provisions also may tend to discourage attempts by third parties to acquire the Corporation because of the additional time and expense involved and a greater possibility of failure, and, as a result, may adversely affect the price that a potential purchaser would be willing to pay for the capital stock, thereby reducing the amount a stockholder might realize in, for example, a tender offer for the Corporation's capital stock.

**Preferred rights issued under the Corporation's Stockholder Protection Rights Agreement may have an anti-takeover effect.**

Holder of shares of our common stock are entitled to a preferred right to purchase the Corporation's Series A Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock in certain circumstances. Preferred rights become exercisable if a person or group has acquired 10% or more of the shares of common stock or a



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tender or exchange offer is commenced which, if consummated, would result in a person becoming the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the common stock. The preferred rights may be deemed to have an anti-takeover effect and generally may cause substantial dilution to a person or group that attempts to acquire the Corporation under circumstances not approved by the Board of Directors.

**Rating downgrades on the Government of Puerto Rico's debt obligations could affect the value of the Corporation's loans to the Government and its portfolio of Puerto Rico Government Securities.**

Even though Puerto Rico's economy is closely integrated to that of the U.S. mainland and its government and many of its instrumentalities are investment-grade rated borrowers in the U.S. capital markets, the current fiscal situation of the Government of Puerto Rico has led nationally recognized rating agencies to downgrade its debt obligations.

In May 2006, Moody's Investors Service downgraded the Government's general obligation bond rating to Baa3 from Baa2, and put the credit on watch list for possible further downgrades. The Commonwealth's appropriation bonds and some of the subordinated revenue bonds were also downgraded by one notch and are now rated just below investment grade at Ba1. Standard & Poor's Rating Services (S&P) still rates the Government's general obligations two notches above junk at BBB, and the Commonwealth's appropriation bonds and some of the subordinated revenue bonds BBB-, a category that continues to be investment-grade rated.

In July 2006, S&P and Moody's affirmed their credit ratings on the Commonwealth debt, and removed the debt from their respective watch lists, thus reducing the possibility of an immediate additional downgrade. These actions resulted after the Government approved the budget for the fiscal year 2007, which runs from July 2006 through June 2007, which included the adoption of a new sales tax. Revenues from the sales tax will be dedicated primarily to fund the government's operating expenses, and to a lesser extent, to repay government debt and fund local municipal governments.

Both rating agencies maintained the negative outlook for the Puerto Rico obligation bonds. Factors such as the government's ability to implement meaningful steps to curb operating expenditures, improve managerial and budgetary controls, and eliminate the government's reliance on operating budget loans from the Government Development Bank of Puerto Rico will be key determinants of future rating stability and restoration of a stable long-term outlook. Also, the inability to agree on future fiscal year Commonwealth budgets could result in ratings pressure from the rating agencies.

It is uncertain how the financial markets may react to any potential future ratings downgrade in Puerto Rico's debt obligations. However, the fallout from recent budgetary crisis and a possible ratings downgrade could adversely affect the value of Puerto Rico's Government obligations.

A substantial portion of the Corporation's credit exposure to the Government of Puerto Rico is either collateralized loans or obligations that have a specific source of income or revenues identified for their repayment. Some of these obligations consist of senior and subordinated loans to public corporations that obtain revenues from rates charged for services or products, such as water and electric power utilities. Public corporations have varying degrees of independence from the central Government and many receive appropriations or other payments from the central Government. The Corporation also has loans to various municipalities for which the good faith, credit and unlimited taxing power of the applicable municipality has been pledged to their repayment. These municipalities are required by law to levy special property taxes in such amounts as shall be required for the payment of all of its general obligation bonds and loans. Another portion of these loans consist of special obligations of various municipalities that are payable from the basic real and personal property taxes collected within such municipalities. The full good faith and credit obligations of the municipalities have a first lien on the basic property taxes.

At December 31, 2006, the Corporation had \$901 million of credit facilities granted to or guaranteed by the P.R. Government and its political subdivisions, of which \$50 million are uncommitted lines of credit. Of these total credit facilities granted, \$735 million in loans were outstanding at December 31, 2006. A substantial portion of the credit exposure to the Government of Puerto Rico has an identified repayment stream, which includes in some cases the good faith, credit and unlimited taxation power of certain municipalities and, an assignment of basic property taxes and other revenues.

Furthermore, as of December 31, 2006, the Corporation had outstanding \$187 million in Obligations of Puerto Rico, States and Political Subdivisions as part of its investment portfolio. Of that total, \$164 million is exposed to the

creditworthiness of the P.R. Government and its municipalities. Of that portfolio, \$58 million are in the form of Puerto Rico Commonwealth s Appropriation Bonds, which are

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currently rated Ba1, one notch below investment grade, by Moody's and BBB-, the lowest investment grade rating, by Standard & Poor's Rating Services (S&P), another nationally recognized credit rating agency. At December 31, 2006, the Appropriation Bonds indicated above represented approximately \$3.0 million in unrealized losses in the Corporation's portfolio of investment securities available-for-sale. The Corporation is closely monitoring the political and economic situation of the Island and evaluates the portfolio for any declines in value that management may consider being other-than-temporary. Management has the intent and ability to hold these investments for a reasonable period of time or up to maturity for a forecasted recovery of fair value up to (or beyond) the cost of these investments.

**A prolonged economic slowdown or a decline in the real estate market in the U.S mainland could harm the results of operations of one of the Corporation's business segments**

The residential mortgage loan origination business has historically been cyclical, enjoying periods of strong growth and profitability followed by periods of shrinking volumes and industry-wide losses. Any decline in residential mortgage loan originations in the market could also reduce the level of mortgage loans the Corporation may produce in the future and adversely impact its business. During periods of rising interest rates, refinancing originations for many mortgage products tend to decrease as the economic incentives for borrowers to refinance their existing mortgage loans are reduced. In addition, the residential mortgage loan origination business is impacted by home values. Over the past several years, residential real estate values in some areas of the U.S. mainland have increased greatly, which has contributed to the recent rapid growth in the residential mortgage industry, particularly with respect to refinancings. If residential real estate values decline, this could lead to lower volumes and higher losses across the industry, adversely impacting the Corporation's business.

Because the Corporation makes a substantial number of loans to credit-impaired borrowers through its subsidiary PFH, the actual rates of delinquencies, foreclosures and losses on these loans could be higher during economic slowdowns. Rising unemployment, higher interest rates or declines in housing prices tend to have a greater negative effect on the ability of such borrowers to repay their mortgage loans. As of December 31, 2006, approximately 71% of PFH's mortgage loan portfolio was non-prime, meaning that they have a credit score of 660 or below. This represented approximately 44% of the Corporation's mortgage loan portfolio as of such date. Any sustained period of increased delinquencies, foreclosures or losses could harm the Corporation's ability to sell loans, the prices it receives for its loans, the values of its mortgage loans held-for-sale or its residual interests in securitizations, which could harm the Corporation's financial condition and results of operations. In addition, any material decline in real estate values would weaken the Corporation's collateral loan-to-value ratios and increase the possibility of loss if a borrower defaults. In such event, the Corporation will be subject to the risk of loss on such mortgage assets arising from borrower defaults to the extent not covered by third-party credit enhancement.

For further information of other risks faced by the Corporation please refer to the MD&A section of the Annual Report.

**ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS**

None

**ITEM 2. PROPERTIES**

As of December 31, 2006, Banco Popular owned and wholly or partially occupied approximately 94 branch premises and other facilities throughout Puerto Rico. It also owned 5 parking garage buildings and approximately 35 lots held for future development or for parking facilities also in Puerto Rico, one building in the U.S. Virgin Islands and one in the British Virgin Islands. In addition, as of such date, Banco Popular leased properties mainly for branch operations in approximately 132 locations in Puerto Rico and 6 locations in the U.S. Virgin Islands. At December 31, 2006, BPNA had 174 offices (principally bank branches) of which 41 were owned and 133 were leased. These offices were located throughout New York, Illinois, New Jersey, California, Texas, Florida and Washington D.C. In addition, BPNA leased a six story office building in Rosemont, Illinois. This building houses the headquarters of BPNA. The Corporation's management believes that each of its facilities is well maintained and suitable for its purpose. The principal properties owned by the Corporation for banking operations and other services are described below:

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Popular Center, the San Juan metropolitan area headquarters, located at 209 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, a twenty-story office building. Approximately 45% of the office space is leased to outside tenants. In addition, it has an adjacent parking garage with capacity for approximately 1,095 cars. As of December 31, 2006, a major re-development at the ground and promenade levels was underway to establish retail businesses including sit-down restaurants and other food vendors.

Popular Center North Building, a five-story building whose construction was completed during 2006 on the same block as Popular Center. The new facilities are connected to the main building by the parking garage and to the Popular Street building by a pedestrian bridge. It provides additional office space and parking for 100 cars. It also houses six movie theatres with stadium type seating for approximately 600 persons.

Popular Street Building, a parking and office building located at Ponce de León Avenue and Popular St., Hato Rey, Puerto Rico. The building has approximately 102,000 rentable square feet occupied approximately 78% by Banco Popular units. Ground level areas available for retail use are currently being leased. It has parking facilities for 1,165 cars.

Cupey Center Complex, one building, three stories high, and three buildings, two stories high each, located in Cupey, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico. The computer center operations and other operational and support services are some of the main activities housed at these facilities. The facilities are almost fully occupied by EVERTEC's personnel. Banco Popular maintains a full service branch and some support services in these facilities. The Complex also includes a parking garage building with capacity for 1,000 cars and houses a recreational center for employees.

Stop 22 Building, a twelve story structure located in Santurce, Puerto Rico. A branch, the Accounting Department, the People Division and the Auditing Division are the main occupants of this facility, which is 82% occupied by Banco Popular personnel.

Centro Europa Building a seven-story office and retail building in Santurce, Puerto Rico. The Bank's training center occupies approximately 26% of this building. The remaining space is rented to outside tenants. The building also includes a parking garage with capacity for approximately 613 cars.

Old San Juan Building, a twelve-story structure located at Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. Banco Popular occupies approximately 25% of the building for a branch operation, an exhibition room and other facilities. The rest of the building is rented or available for rent to outside tenants.

Guaynabo Corporate Office Park Building, a two-story building located in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. Formerly occupied by the Bank's mortgage servicing division, as of December 31, 2006, it was undergoing remodeling for the future relocation of Popular Insurance, Inc.'s headquarters.

Altamira Building, a new nine-story office building located in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. A seven-level parking garage with capacity for approximately 550 cars is also part of this property that houses the centralized offices of Popular Mortgage, Inc. and Popular Auto, Inc. It also includes a full service branch and the mortgage servicing division of Banco Popular.

Banco Popular Virgin Islands Center, a three-story building housing a Banco Popular branch and centralized offices. The building is fully occupied by Banco Popular personnel.

Popular Center -Tortola, a four-story, 20,000 square feet building located in Tortola, British Virgin Islands. A Banco Popular branch is located in the first story while the commercial credit department occupies the second story. The third and fourth floors are available for outside tenants.

New York Building, a nine-story owned structure with two underground levels located at 7 West 51st Street, New York City. BPNA occupies approximately 40% of the office space. The remaining 60% of the building is leased.



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**ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

The Corporation and its subsidiaries are defendants in various lawsuits arising in the ordinary course of business. Management believes, based on the opinion of legal counsel, that the aggregate liabilities, if any, arising from such actions would not have a material adverse effect on the financial position and results of operations of the Corporation.

**ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS**

Not Applicable.

**PART II**

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

The Corporation's common stock (the Common Stock) is traded on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System (NASDAQ) National Market System under the symbol BPOP. Information concerning the range of high and low sales prices for the Corporation's common shares for each quarterly period during 2006 and the previous four years, as well as cash dividends declared is contained under Table J, Common Stock Performance, on page 34 and under the caption Stockholders' Equity on page 32 in the MD&A in the Annual Report, and is incorporated herein by reference.

As of February 26, 2007, the Corporation had 10,542 stockholders of record of its Common Stock, not including beneficial owners whose shares are held in record names of brokers or other nominees. The last sales price for the Corporation's Common Stock on such date, as quoted on the NASDAQ was \$18.03 per share.

On November 23, 2005, the Corporation announced a subscription offering of up to 10,500,000 shares of common stock to holders of record at the close of business on November 7, 2005, which was the record date for the subscription offering. Each holder of record was entitled to a basic subscription right to purchase one share of common stock for every 26 shares of common stock held by that holder as of the close of business on the record date at a price of \$21.00 per share. The subscription offering was signed up for the full 10,500,000 shares. This represented approximately \$216 million in additional capital, of which approximately \$175 million impacted stockholders' equity at December 31, 2005 upon the issuance of 8,614,620 shares of common stock and the remainder impacted the Corporation's financial condition in the first quarter of 2006 when 1,885,380 additional shares of common stock were issued.

Effective April 30, 2004, the Corporation's Restated Certificate of Incorporation was amended to increase the number of authorized shares of Common Stock from 180,000,000 to 470,000,000 and the number of authorized shares of Preferred Stock from 10,000,000 to 30,000,000 shares.

On February 26, 2003 and March 24, 2003, the Corporation issued 6,500,000 shares and 975,000 shares, respectively, of its 6.375% Noncumulative Monthly Income Preferred Stock, 2003 Series A (the Series A Preferred Stock) having a liquidation preference value of \$25 per share. The Series A Preferred Stock ranks senior to the Corporation's outstanding Series A Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock, with respect to dividend rights and rights on liquidation. The terms of the Series A Preferred Stock do not permit the Corporation to declare or pay any dividends on the Common Stock (1) unless all accrued and unpaid dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock for the 12 dividend periods preceding the dividend payment have been paid and the full dividend on the Series A Preferred Stock for the current monthly dividend period is contemporaneously declared and paid or set aside for payment or (2) if the Corporation

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has defaulted in the payment of the redemption price of any shares of Series A Preferred Stock called for redemption.

Additional information concerning legal or regulatory restrictions on the payment of dividends by the Corporation and Banco Popular is contained under the caption "Regulation and Supervision" in Item 1 herein.

The Puerto Rico Internal Revenue Code of 1994, as amended, generally imposes a withholding tax on the amount of any dividends paid by corporations to individuals, whether residents of Puerto Rico or not, trusts, estates and foreign corporations or partnerships not engaged in trade or business within Puerto Rico at a preferential 10% withholding tax rate. If the recipient is a foreign corporation or partnership engaged in trade or business within Puerto Rico or a domestic corporation the dividend will be taxed at regular rates but will be allowed an 85% dividend received deduction.

Prior to the first dividend distribution for the taxable year, individuals who are residents of Puerto Rico may elect to be taxed on the dividends at the regular rates, in which case the preferential 10% tax will not be withheld from such year's distributions.

A United States citizen who is a non-resident of Puerto Rico will not be subject to Puerto Rico tax on dividends if said individual's gross income from sources within Puerto Rico during the taxable year does not exceed \$1,300 if single, or \$3,000 if married, and Form AS 2732 of the Puerto Rico Treasury Department, "Withholding Tax Exemption Certificate for the Purpose of Section 1147", is filed with the withholding agent.

U.S. income tax law permits a credit against U.S. income tax liability, subject to certain limitations, for certain foreign income taxes (including income tax imposed by Puerto Rico) paid or deemed paid with respect to such dividends.

The information about the securities authorized for issuance under the Corporation's equity based plans see Part III, item 12 in the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10k.

The following table sets forth the details of purchases of Common Stock during the quarter ended December 31, 2006 by the Corporation in the open market to satisfy awards made under its 2004 Omnibus Incentive Plan.

**Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

Not in thousands

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs(a)
October 1 - October 31				8,590,072
November 1 - November 30	1,370	\$ 18.33	1,370	8,601,209
December 1 - December 31				8,601,209
<b>Total December 31, 2006</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>\$ 18.33</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>8,601,209</b>

(a) Includes shares forfeited.

**Stock Performance Graph (1)(2)**

The graph below compares the cumulative total stockholder return during the measurement period with the cumulative total return, assuming reinvestment of dividends, of the Nasdaq Bank Index and the Nasdaq Composite Index.

The cumulative total stockholder return was obtained by dividing (i) the cumulative amount of dividends per share, assuming dividend reinvestment since the measurement point, December 31, 2001,

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plus (ii) the change in the per share price since the measurement date, by the share price at the measurement date.

**Comparison of Five Year Cumulative Total Return  
Total Return as of December 31  
(December 31, 2001=100)**

- (1) Unless the Corporation specifically states otherwise, this Stock Performance Graph shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference and shall not constitute soliciting material or otherwise be considered filed under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
  
- (2) On prior years the Corporation used the Nasdaq National Market Composite Index ( NCMP ) to prepare the stock performance graph. However, such index was discontinued on July 3, 2006. For such reason the Corporation changed to use this year the Nasdaq Composite Index ( CCMP ) for the

preparation of  
the stock  
performance  
graph.

**ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA**

The information required by this item appears in Table C, Selected Financial Data , on pages 6 and 7 and the text under the caption Statement of Income Analysis on page 16 in the MD&A in the Annual Report, and is incorporated herein by reference.

The Corporation's ratio of earnings to fixed charges and of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends on a consolidated basis for each of the last five years is as follows:

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	Year ended December 31,				
	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges:					
Excluding Interest on Deposits	1.4	1.8	2.2	2.4	2.0
Including Interest on Deposits	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.5
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends:					
Excluding Interest on Deposits	1.4	1.8	2.1	2.3	2.0
Including Interest on Deposits	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.5

For purposes of computing these consolidated ratios, earnings represent income before income taxes, plus fixed charges. Fixed charges represent all interest expense (ratios are presented both excluding and including interest on deposits), the portion of net rental expense, which is deemed representative of the interest factor and the amortization of debt issuance expense. The interest expense includes changes in the fair value of the non-hedging derivatives.

The Corporation's long-term senior debt and preferred stock on a consolidated basis as of December 31 of each of the last five years is:

	Year ended December 31,				
(In thousands)	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Long-term obligations	\$8,737,246	\$9,893,577	\$10,305,710	\$7,117,025	\$4,567,853
Non-cumulative Preferred Stock of the Corporation	186,875	186,875	186,875	186,875	-0-

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

The information required by this item appears on page 3 through 59 under the caption MD&A, and is incorporated herein by reference.

Table L, Maturity Distribution of Earning Assets, on page 36 in the MD&A in the Annual Report, takes into consideration prepayment assumptions as determined by management based on the expected interest rate scenario. The Corporation does not have a policy with respect to rolling over maturing loans, but rolls over loans only on a case-by-case basis after review of such loans in accordance with the Corporation's lending criteria.

## **ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

The information regarding the market risk of the Corporation's investments appears on page 35 through 46 in the MD&A in the Annual Report, and is incorporated herein by reference.

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**ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA**

The information required by this item appears on pages 65 through 132, in the Annual Report and on page 64 under the caption Statistical Summary 2005-2006 Quarterly Financial Data in the Annual Report and is incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

Not Applicable.

**ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

**Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

The Corporation's management, with the participation of the Corporation's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of the Corporation's disclosure controls and procedures (as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on such evaluation, the Corporation's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that, as of the end of such period, the Corporation's disclosure controls and procedures were effective, at the reasonable assurance level, in recording, processing, summarizing and reporting, on a timely basis, information required to be disclosed by the Corporation in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act.

**Management's Assessment on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

Management's Assessment of Internal Control over Financial Reporting is on page 65 of the Corporation's Annual Report and is incorporated by reference herein.

**Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

There have been no changes in the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting (as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) that occurred during the quarter ended on December 31, 2006, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting.

**Remediation of Previously Disclosed Material Weakness**

The Corporation had previously concluded that a material weakness in the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting existed at December 31, 2005, as reported in the Corporation's 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K. Prior to filing the 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K, the Corporation remediated the design of the control associated with the presentation and classification of certain cash flows. The consolidated statement of cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2005 was fairly stated, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. During 2006, management assessed the operating effectiveness of such control and concluded that the controls put into place were adequately designed and were operating for a sufficient period of time for management to conclude that the material weakness had been remediated as of December 31, 2006.

**ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION**

Not Applicable.

**Table of Contents****PART III****ITEM 10. DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT**

The information contained under the captions Shares Beneficially Owned by Directors and Executive Officers of the Corporation, Section 16 (a) Beneficial Named Ownership Reporting Compliance, Board of Directors and Committees including the Nominees for Election as Class 2 Directors and Named Executive Officers in the Proxy Statement are incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

The information under the captions Compensation of Directors, Executive Compensation Program and Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation in the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDERS MATTERS**

The information under the captions Principal Stockholders and Shares Beneficially Owned by Directors and Executive Officers of the Corporation in the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

The following table set forth information as of December 31, 2006 regarding securities issued and issuable to directors and eligible employees under the Corporation's equity based compensation plans.

**Equity Compensation Plan Information**

<b>Plan Category</b>	<b>Plan</b>	<b>Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options</b>	<b>Weighted-Average Price of Outstanding Options</b>	<b>Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in the First Column)</b>
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	2001 Stock Option Plan 2004 Omnibus Incentive Plan	2,446,488 698,311	\$ 18.83 27.03	0 8,601,209
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holder				
Total		3,144,799	\$ 20.65	8,601,209

**ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

The information under the caption Family Relationships and Other Relationships, Transactions and Events in the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES**

Information regarding principal accounting fees and services is set forth under Disclosure of Auditors Fees in the Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by reference.





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**PART IV**

**ITEM 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES**

(a). The following financial statements and reports included on pages 65 through 132 of the financial review section of the Corporation's Annual Report to Shareholders are incorporated herein by reference:

(1) Financial Statements:

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Consolidated Statements of Condition as of December 31, 2006 and 2005

Consolidated Statements of Income for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2006

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2006

Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2006

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2006

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(2) Financial Statement Schedules: No schedules are presented because the information is not applicable or is included in the Consolidated Financial Statements described in (a).1 above or in the notes thereto.

(3) Exhibits

The exhibits listed on the Exhibits Index on page 31 of this report are filed herewith or are incorporated herein by reference.

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
3.1	Composite Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation, as currently in effect (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).
3.2	Bylaws of the Corporation, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the Corporation's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (No. 333-80169) filed with the SEC on June 8, 1999).
4.1	Form of Certificate representing the Corporation's common stock, par value \$6 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1998 (File No. 033-61601).
4.2	Stockholder Protection Rights Agreement, dated as of August 13, 1998, between the Corporation and Banco Popular de Puerto Rico as Rights Agent, including Form of Rights Certificate attached as Exhibit B thereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-13818), dated August 13, 1998 and filed on August 21, 1998).
4.3	Senior Indenture of the Corporation, dated as of February 15, 1995, as supplemented by the First Supplemental Indenture thereto, dated as of May 8, 1997, each between the Corporation and JP Morgan Chase Bank (formerly known as The First National Bank of Chicago), as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(d) to the Registration Statement No. 333-26941 of the Corporation, Popular International Bank, Inc, and Popular North America, Inc., as filed with the SEC on May 12, 1997).
4.4	Second Supplemental Indenture of the Corporation, dated as of August 5, 1999, between the Corporation and JP Morgan Chase Bank (formerly known as The First National Bank of Chicago), as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(e) to the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 002-96018), dated August 5, 1999, as filed with the SEC on August 17, 1999).
4.5	Subordinated Indenture of the Corporation dated as of November 30, 1995, between the Corporation and JP Morgan Chase Bank (formerly known as The First National Bank of Chicago), as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(e) of the Corporation's Registration Statement No. 333-26941, dated May 12, 1997).
4.6	Senior Indenture of Popular North America, Inc., dated as of October 1, 1991, as supplemented by the First Supplemental Indenture thereto, dated as of February 28, 1995, and the Second Supplemental Indenture thereto, dated as of May 8, 1997, each among Popular North America, Inc., the Corporation, as guarantor, and JP Morgan Chase Bank (formerly known as The First National Bank of Chicago), as trustee, (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(f) to the Registration Statement No. 333-26941 of the Corporation, Popular International Bank, Inc. and Popular North America, Inc., as filed with the SEC on May 12, 1997).
4.7	Third Supplemental Indenture of Popular North America, Inc., dated as of August 5, 1999, among Popular North America, Inc., the Corporation, as guarantor, and JP Morgan Chase Bank (formerly known as The First National Bank of Chicago), as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(h) to the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 002-96018), dated August 5, 1999, as filed with the SEC on August 17, 1999).

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- 4.8 Form of Fixed Rate Medium-Term Note, Series 4, of the Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(o) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 002-96018), dated August 5, 1999 and filed on August 17, 1999).
- 4.9 Form of Floating Rate Medium-Term Note, Series 4, of the Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit (4)(p) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 002-96018), dated August 5, 1999 and filed August 17, 1999).
- 4.10 Form of Fixed Rate Medium-Term Note, Series E, of Popular North America, Inc., endorsed with the guarantee of the Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(q) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 002-96018), dated August 5, 1999 and filed on August 17, 1999).
- 4.11 Form of Floating Rate Medium-Term Note, Series E, of Popular North America, Inc., endorsed with the guarantee of the Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(r) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 002-96018), dated August 5, 1999 and filed on August 17, 1999).

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<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
4.12	Administrative Procedures governing Medium-Term Notes, Series 4, of the Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(a) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 002-96018), dated August 5, 1999 and filed on August 17, 1999).
4.13	Administrative Procedures governing Medium-Term Notes, Series E, of Popular North America, Inc., guaranteed by the Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(b) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 002-96018), dated August 5, 1999 and filed on August 17, 1999).
4.14	Form of Fixed Rate Medium-Term Note, Series 5, of the Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(e) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-13818), dated June 23, 2004 and filed on July 2, 2004).
4.15	Form of Floating Rate Medium-Term Note, Series 5, of the Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(f) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-13818), dated June 23, 2004 and filed on July 2, 2004).
4.16	Form of Fixed Rate Medium-Term Note, Series F, of Popular North America, Inc., endorsed with the guarantee of the Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(g) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-13818), dated June 23, 2004 and filed on July 2, 2004).
4.17	Form of Floating Rate Medium-Term Note, Series F, of Popular North America, Inc., endorsed with the guarantee of the Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(h) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-13818), dated June 23, 2004 and filed on July 2, 2004).
4.18	Administrative Procedures governing Medium-Term Notes, Series 5, of the Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(a) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-13818), dated June 23, 2004 and filed on July 2, 2004).
4.19	Administrative Procedures governing Medium-Term Notes, Series F, of Popular North America, Inc., guaranteed by the Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(b) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-13818), dated June 23, 2004 and filed on July 2, 2004).
4.20	Junior Subordinated Indenture, among BanPonce Financial Corp., (Popular North America, Inc.) BanPonce Corporation (Popular, Inc.) and JP Morgan Chase Bank (formerly known as The First National Bank of Chicago), as Debenture Trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit (4)(a) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-13818), dated and filed on February 19, 1997).
4.21	Amended and Restated Trust Agreement of BanPonce Trust I, among BanPonce Financial Corp., (Popular North America, Inc.) as Depositor, BanPonce Corporation, (Popular, Inc.) as Guarantor, JP Morgan Chase Bank (formerly known as The First National Bank of Chicago), as Property Trustee, First Chicago Delaware, Inc., as Delaware Trustee, and the Administrative Trustee named therein (incorporated by reference to Exhibit (4)(f) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-13818) dated and filed on February 19, 1997).
4.22	Form of Capital Security Certificate for BanPonce Trust I (incorporated by reference to Exhibit (4)(g) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-13818), dated and filed on February 19,

1997).

- 4.23 Guarantee Agreement relating to BanPonce Trust I, by and among BanPonce Financial Corp., (Popular North America, Inc.) as Guarantor, BanPonce Corporation, (Popular, Inc.) as Additional Guarantor, and the First National Bank of Chicago, as Guarantee Trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit (4)(h) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-13818), dated and filed on February 19, 1997).
- 4.24 Form of Junior Subordinated Deferrable Interest Debenture for BanPonce Financial Corp. (Popular North America, Inc.) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit (4)(i) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-13818), dated and filed on February 19, 1997).
- 4.25 Form of Subordinated Note of the Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.10 of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999 (File No. 000-13818).
- 4.26 Form of Certificate representing the Corporation's 6.375% Non-Cumulative Monthly Income Preferred Stock, 2003 Series A. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated and filed on February 26, 2003).

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<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
4.27	Certificate of Designation, Preference and Rights of the Corporation's 6.375% Non-Cumulative Monthly Income Preferred Stock, 2003 Series A (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated and filed on February 26, 2003).
4.28	Form of Note Linked to the S&P 500® Index due September 30, 2008 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit (4)(e) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 30, 2003, as filed with the SEC on October 1, 2003).
4.29	Form of Certificate of Trust of each of Popular Capital Trust I, Popular Capital Trust II, Popular Capital Trust III, and Popular Capital Trust IV dated September 5, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration Nos. 333-108559 and 333-108559-04) filed with the SEC on September 5, 2003).
4.30	Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement of Popular Capital Trust I, dated as of October 31, 2003, among the Corporation, JP Morgan Chase Institutional Services (formerly Bank One Trust Company, N.A.), JP Morgan Chase Bank (formerly known as The First National Bank of Chicago), the Administrative Trustees named therein and the holders from time to time, of the undivided beneficial ownership interests in the assets of the Trust (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 31, 2003, as filed with the SEC on November 4, 2003).
4.31	Guarantee Agreement relating to Popular Capital Trust I, dated as of October 31, 2003, between the Corporation and JP Morgan Chase Institutional Services (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 31, 2003, as filed with the SEC on November 4, 2003).
4.32	Certificate of Junior Subordinated Debenture relating to the Corporation's 6.70% Junior Subordinated Debentures, Series A Due November 1, 2033 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.6 of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 31, 2003, as filed with the SEC on November 4, 2003).
4.33	Indenture dated as of October 31, 2003, between the Corporation and JP Morgan Chase Institutional Services (formerly Bank One Trust Company, N.A.) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 31, 2003, as filed with the SEC on November 4, 2003).
4.34	First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of October 31, 2003, between the Corporation and JP Morgan Chase Institutional Services (formerly Bank One Trust Company, N.A.) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 31, 2003, as filed with the SEC on November 4, 2003).
4.35	Global Capital Securities Certificate for Popular Capital Trust I (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.5 of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 31, 2003, as filed with the SEC on November 4, 2003).
4.36	Form of Junior Subordinated Indenture between Popular North America, Inc., the Corporation and J.P. Morgan Trust Company, National Association (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(a) to the

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Registration Statement on Form S-3/A (Registration No. 333-118197) filed with the SEC on September 9, 2004).

- 4.37 Certificate of Trust of Popular North America Capital Trust I (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(b) to the Registration Statement on Form S-3/A (Registration No. 333-118197) filed with the SEC on September 9, 2004).
- 4.38 Trust Agreement of Popular North America Capital Trust I (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(c) to the Registration Statement on Form S-3/A (Registration No. 333-118197) filed with the SEC on September 9, 2004).
- 4.39 Form of Amended and Restated Trust Agreement of Popular North America Capital Trust I (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(d) to the Registration Statement on Form S-3/A (Registration No. 333-118197) filed with the SEC on September 9, 2004).
- 4.40 Form of Capital Security Certificate for Popular North America Capital Trust I (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(e) to the Registration Statement on Form S-3/A (Registration No. 333-118197) filed with the SEC on September 9, 2004).
- 4.41 Form of Guarantee Agreement for Popular North America Capital Trust I (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(f) to the Registration Statement on Form S-3/A (Registration No. 333-118197) filed with the SEC on September 9, 2004).



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<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
4.42	Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement of Popular Capital Trust II, dated as of November 30, 2004, among the Corporation, JP Morgan Trust Company, National Association (formerly Bank One Trust Company, N.A.), Chase Manhattan Bank USA, National Association (as successor to Bank One Delaware, Inc.), the Administrative Trustees named therein and the holders from time to time, of the undivided beneficial ownership interests in the assets of the Trust (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 3, 2004, as filed with the SEC on December 3, 2004).
4.43	Form of Guarantee Agreement relating to Popular Capital Trust II (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.7 to the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 333-120340) filed with the SEC on November 10, 2004).
4.44	Certificate of Junior Subordinated Debenture relating to the Corporation's 6.125% Junior Subordinated Debentures, Series A Due December 1, 2034 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.6 of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 3, 2004, as filed with the SEC on December 3, 2004).
4.45	Second Supplemental Indenture, dated as of November 30, 2004, between the Corporation and JP Morgan Trust Company, National Association (formerly Bank One Trust Company, N.A.) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 3, 2004, as filed with the SEC on December 3, 2004).
4.46	Global Capital Securities Certificate for Popular Capital Trust I (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.5 of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 3, 2004, as filed with the SEC on December 3, 2004).
10.1	Amendment to Popular, Inc. Senior Executive Long-Term Incentive Plan, dated April 23, 1998 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.8.2. of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1998 (File No. 033-61601).
10.2	Popular, Inc. 2001 Stock Option Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 of the Corporation's Registration Statement on Form S-8, dated May 10, 2001).
10.3	Interest Calculation Agency Agreement, dated as of August 6, 1999, between the Corporation and JP Morgan Chase Bank (formerly known as The First National Bank of Chicago) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(c) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 002-96018), dated August 5, 1999 and filed on August 17, 1999).
10.4	Interest Calculation Agency Agreement, dated as of August 6, 1999, between Popular North America, Inc. and JP Morgan Chase Bank (formerly known as The First National Bank of Chicago) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(d) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 002-96018), dated August 5, 1999 and filed on August 17, 1999).
10.5	Distribution Agreement, dated March 21, 2003, among the Corporation, Credit Suisse First Boston LLC, J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Popular Securities, Inc. and UBS Warburg LLC, (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1(A) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-13818), dated March 21,

2003 and filed on March 26, 2003).

- 10.6 Distribution Agreement, dated March 21, 2003, among Popular North America, Inc., the Corporation, Credit Suisse First Boston LLC, J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Popular Securities, Inc. and UBS Warburg LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1(B) of the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-13818), dated March 21, 2003 and filed on March 26, 2003).
- 10.7 Banco Popular de Puerto Rico Employees' Stock Plan (Puerto Rico) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4(a) the Corporation's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (333-80169), dated June 8, 1999) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.15 of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000).
- 10.7(a) Certificate of Resolution of the Board of Directors of Banco Popular de Puerto Rico, authorizing Amendments to the Banco Popular de Puerto Rico Employees' Stock Plan (Puerto Rico) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.15a of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 (File No. 002-96018)).
- 10.8 Distribution Agreement of the Banco Popular de Puerto Rico Bank Notes, dated September 24, 1996, among Banco Popular de Puerto Rico, Merrill Lynch & Co., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Bear Stearns & Co. Inc. and Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.16 of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 (File No. 002-96018)).

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<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
10.9	Amendment, dated May 12, 2000, to The Distribution Agreement, dated September 24, 1996, among Banco Popular de Puerto Rico, Merrill Lynch & Co., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Bear Stearns & Co., Inc. and Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.17 of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 (File No. 002-96018)).
10.10	Issuing and Paying Agency Agreement of the Banco Popular de Puerto Rico Bank Notes, dated September 24, 1996, among Banco Popular de Puerto Rico and JP Morgan Chase Bank (formerly The Chase Manhattan Bank) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.18 of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 (File No. 002-96018)).
10.11	Amendment No. 1, dated May 12, 2000 to Issuing and Paying Agency Agreement, dated September 24, 1996, among Banco Popular de Puerto Rico and JP Morgan Chase Bank (formerly The Chase Manhattan Bank) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.19 of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 (File No. 002-96018)).
10.12	Interest Calculation Agreement of the Banco Popular de Puerto Rico Notes, dated September 24, 1996, among Banco Popular de Puerto Rico and JP Morgan Chase Bank (formerly The Chase Manhattan Bank) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.20 of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 (File No. 002-96018)).
10.13	Amendment No. 1, dated May 12, 2000 to the Interest Calculation Agreement, dated September 24, 1996, among Banco Popular de Puerto Rico and JP Morgan Chase Bank (formerly The Chase Manhattan Bank) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.21 of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 (File No. 002-96018)).
10.14	Amended Administrative Procedures for Fixed and Floating Rate Bank Notes, dated May 12, 2000 to Exhibit G of The Distribution Agreement, dated September 24, 1996, among Banco Popular de Puerto Rico, Merrill Lynch & Co., Merrill Lynch Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Bear Stearns & Co., Inc. and Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.22 of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 (File No. 002-96018)).
10.15	Form of Global Fixed and Floating Rate Bank Note of the Banco Popular de Puerto Rico Bank Notes, dated September 24, 1996 and amended through Administrative Procedures, dated May 12, 2000 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.23 of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 (File No. 002-96018)).
10.16	Equity One Inc. Savings and Retirement Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 of the Corporation's Registration Statement on Form S-8, dated November 1, 2002).
10.17	Popular, Inc. 2004 Omnibus Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.21 of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).
10.18	Form of Compensation Agreement for Directors Elected Chairman of a Committee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2004).

- 10.19 Form of Compensation Agreement for Directors not Elected Chairman of a Committee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2004).
- 10.20 Compensation Agreement for Federic V. Salerno as director of Popular, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of the Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2004).
- 10.21 Compensation Agreement for William J. Teuber as director of Popular, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of the Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the year ended September 30, 2004).
- 10.22 Amended and Restated Popular, Inc. 2005 Incentive Award and Agreement, dated as of February 22, 2005, between the Corporation and Richard L. Carrión (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.23 of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).

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<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
10.23	Amended and Restated Popular, Inc. 2005 Incentive Award and Agreement , dated as of February 22, 2005, between the Corporation and Jorge A. Junquera (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.24 of the Corporation s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).
10.24	Amended and Restated Popular, Inc. 2005 Incentive Award and Agreement , dated as of February 22, 2005, between the Corporation and David H. Chafey, Jr. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.25 of the Corporation s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).
10.25	Amended and Restated Popular, Inc. 2005 Incentive Award and Agreement , dated as February 22, 2005, between the Corporation and Brunilda Santos de Álvarez (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.26 of the Corporation s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).
10.26	Amended and Restated Popular, Inc. 2005 Incentive Award and Agreement , dated as of February 22, 2005, between the Corporation and Amílcar L. Jordán (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.27 of the Corporation s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).
10.27	Amended and Restated Popular, Inc. 2005 Incentive Award and Agreement , dated as of February 22, 2005, between the Corporation and Tere Loubriel (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.28 of the Corporation s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).
10.28	Amended and Restated Popular, Inc. 2005 Incentive Award and Agreement , dated as of February 22, 2005, between the Corporation and Roberto R. Herencia (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.29 of the Corporation s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).
10.29	Amended and Restated Popular, Inc. 2005 Incentive Award and Agreement , dated as of February 22, 2005, between the Corporation and Félix M. Villamil (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.30 of the Corporation s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).
10.30	Amended and Restated Popular, Inc. 2005 Incentive Award and Agreement , dated as of February 22, 2005, between the Corporation and Cameron E. Williams (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.31 of the Corporation s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).
10.31	Popular, Inc. 2006 Incentive Award and Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2006, between the Corporation and Richard L. Carrión (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.32 of the Corporation s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).
10.32	Popular, Inc. 2006 Incentive Award and Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2006, between the Corporation and Jorge A. Junquera (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.33 of the Corporation s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).
10.33	Popular, Inc. 2006 Incentive Award and Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2006, between the Corporation and David H. Chafey, Jr. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.34 of the Corporation s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).
10.34	Popular, Inc. 2006 Incentive Award and Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2006, between the Corporation and Brunilda Santos de Álvarez (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.35 of the

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Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).

- 10.35 Popular, Inc. 2006 Incentive Award and Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2006, between the Corporation and Amílcar L. Jordán (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.36 of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).
- 10.36 Popular, Inc. 2006 Incentive Award and Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2006, between the Corporation and Tere Loubriel (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.37 of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).
- 10.37 Popular, Inc. 2006 Incentive Award and Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2006, between the Corporation and Roberto R. Herencia (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.38 of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).
- 10.38 Popular, Inc. 2006 Incentive Award and Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2006, between the Corporation and Félix M. Villamil (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.39 of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005).

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<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
10.39	Popular, Inc. 2006 Incentive Award and Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2006, between the Corporation and Cameron E. Williams.
10.40	Resignation, Retirement and Transition Agreement between the Corporation and Cameron E. Williams (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 9, 2007).
10.41	Popular, Inc. 2007 Incentive Award and Agreement, dated as of January 25, 2007, between the Corporation and Richard L. Carrión.
10.42	Popular, Inc. 2007 Incentive Award and Agreement, dated as of January 25, 2007, between the Corporation and Jorge A. Junquera.
10.43	Popular, Inc. 2007 Incentive Award and Agreement, dated as of January 25, 2007, between the Corporation and David H. Chafey, Jr.
10.44	Popular, Inc. 2007 Incentive Award and Agreement, dated as of January 25, 2007, between the Corporation and Brunilda Santos de Álvarez.
10.45	Popular, Inc. 2007 Incentive Award and Agreement, dated as of January 25, 2007, between the Corporation and Amílcar L. Jordán.
10.46	Popular, Inc. 2007 Incentive Award and Agreement, dated as of January 25, 2007, between the Corporation and Tere Loubriel.
10.47	Popular, Inc. 2007 Incentive Award and Agreement, dated as of January 25, 2007, between the Corporation and Roberto R. Herencia.
10.48	Popular, Inc. 2007 Incentive Award and Agreement, dated as of January 25, 2007, between the Corporation and Félix M. Villamil.
12.1	The Corporation's Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.
13.1	The Corporation's Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2006.
14.1	Popular, Inc.'s Code of Ethics (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 14.1 to the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on September 21, 2006).
21.1	Schedule of Subsidiaries of the Corporation
23.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
31.1	Certification pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Certification pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1	

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Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

32.2 Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

Popular, Inc. has not filed as exhibits certain instruments defining the rights of holders of debt of Popular, Inc. not exceeding 10% of the total assets of Popular, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries. Popular, Inc. hereby agrees to furnish upon request to the Commission a copy of each instrument defining the rights of holders of senior and subordinated debt of Popular, Inc., or of any of its consolidated subsidiaries.



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**SIGNATURES**

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

POPULAR, INC.  
(Registrant)

By: S\RICHARD L. CARRIÓN  
Richard L. Carrión  
Chairman of the Board, President and  
Chief Executive Officer

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

S\RICHARD L. CARRIÓN	Chairman of the Board,	
Richard L. Carrión	President, Chief Executive Officer and Principal Executive Officer	02-28-07
S\JORGE A. JUNQUERA		
Jorge A. Junquera Senior Executive Vice President	Principal Financial Officer	02-28-07
S\ILEANA GONZÁLEZ		
Ileana González Senior Vice President	Principal Accounting Officer	02-28-07
S\JUAN J. BERMÚDEZ		
Juan J. Bermúdez	Director	02-28-07
S\JOSÉ B. CARRIÓN		
José B. Carrión Jr.	Director	02-28-07
S\MARÍA LUISA FERRÉ		
María Luisa Ferré	Director	02-28-07
S\MANUEL MORALES		
Manuel Morales Jr.	Director	02-28-07
S\MICHAEL MASIN		

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Michael Masin	Director	02-28-07
S\FRANCISCO M. REXACH		
Francisco M. Rexach Jr.	Director	02-28-07
S\FREDERIC V. SALERNO		
Frederic V. Salerno	Director	02-28-07
S\WILLIAM J. TEUBER		
William J. Teuber Jr.	Director	02-28-07
S\JOSÉ R. VIZCARRONDO		
José R. Vizcarrondo	Director	02-28-07