

SYNOVUS FINANCIAL CORP

Form 424B5

April 27, 2010

Table of Contents

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement is not an offer to sell nor does it seek an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

**Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-166300**

Subject to completion, dated April 26, 2010.

(To prospectus dated April 26, 2010)

\$400,000,000

SYNOVUS FINANCIAL CORP.

Common stock

We are offering _____ shares of our common stock, par value \$1.00 per share. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol SNV. On April 23, 2010, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$3.54 per share.

	Per share	Total
Public offering price	\$	\$
Underwriting discounts and commissions	\$	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	\$	\$

We have granted the underwriters an option for a period of 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement to purchase up to _____ additional shares of our common stock at the public offering price less the underwriting discounts and commissions to cover over-allotments.

Investing in our common stock involves risks. See **Risk factors beginning on page S-16 of this prospectus supplement to read about some of the factors that you should consider before buying our common stock.**

Our common stock is not a savings account, deposit or other obligation of any of our bank or nonbank subsidiaries. The common stock is not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which we refer to as the FDIC, or any other governmental agency.

Concurrently with this offering, we are offering \$200 million aggregate stated amount of our Tangible Equity Units, or tMEDS (or \$230 million if the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional tMEDS in full). The tMEDS are being offered by means of a separate prospectus supplement and not by means of this prospectus supplement. The tMEDS offering is not contingent upon the completion of this offering, and this offering is not contingent upon the completion of the tMEDS offering. In addition, on April 26, 2010 we announced an offer to exchange up to 97 million shares of our common stock for any and all of our outstanding 5.125% Subordinated Notes due 2017, or 2017 notes, which we originally issued in 2005 in aggregate principal amount of \$450 million. We refer to the tMEDS offering and the exchange offer for our 2017 notes collectively as the Concurrent Transactions. See Summary Concurrent Transactions.

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the FDIC, nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined that this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The underwriters expect to deliver the common stock in book-entry form only, through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company, against payment on or about May , 2010.

J.P. Morgan

Sole Book-Running Manager

April , 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Prospectus Supplement	
<u>About this prospectus supplement</u>	S-1
<u>Where you can find more information</u>	S-1
<u>Forward-looking statements</u>	S-3
<u>Summary</u>	S-6
<u>Risk factors</u>	S-17
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-38
<u>Use of proceeds</u>	S-40
<u>Price range of common stock</u>	S-41
<u>Dividend policy</u>	S-42
<u>Material United States federal tax consequences for non-U.S. holders</u>	S-45
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-48
<u>Validity of securities</u>	S-54
<u>Experts</u>	S-54
Page	
Prospectus	
<u>About this prospectus</u>	2
<u>Where you can find more information</u>	2
<u>Use of proceeds</u>	3
<u>Ratio of earnings</u>	3
<u>Description of securities</u>	4
<u>Description of capital stock</u>	4
<u>Description of warrants</u>	9
<u>Description of debt securities</u>	9
<u>Description of purchase contracts</u>	9
<u>Description of units</u>	10
<u>Forms of securities</u>	10
<u>Plan of distribution</u>	11
<u>Legal opinions</u>	13
<u>Experts</u>	13

Table of Contents

About this prospectus supplement

This document is comprised of two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this common stock offering and certain other matters relating to us and our financial condition, and it adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, dated April 26, 2010, which provides more general information about the securities that we may offer from time to time, some of which may not apply to this offering. You should read carefully both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in their entirety, together with additional information described under the heading "Where you can find more information" before investing in our common stock.

Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to Synovus, we, us, our or similar references mean Synovus Financial Corp. together with its subsidiaries.

If the information set forth in this prospectus supplement differs in any way from the information set forth in the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information set forth in this prospectus supplement. If the information conflicts with any statement in a document that we have incorporated by reference, then you should consider only the statement in the more recent document.

We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference into those documents is accurate as of any date other than the date of the applicable document. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date. Neither this prospectus supplement nor the accompanying prospectus constitutes an offer, or an invitation on our behalf or on behalf of the underwriters, to subscribe for and purchase, any of the securities and may not be used for or in connection with an offer or solicitation by anyone, in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or solicitation is not authorized or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such an offer or solicitation.

Where you can find more information

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any document we file with the SEC at its public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange. For further information on obtaining copies of our public filings at the New York Stock Exchange, you should call 212-656-5060.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus supplement the information in other documents we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. Information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus supplement. The following documents

Table of Contents

filed with the SEC are incorporated by reference (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules):

our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, as amended by amendment no. 1 to our annual report on Form 10-K/A filed on April 26, 2010, or our 2009 10-K;

those portions of our definitive proxy statement filed on March 12, 2010 in connection with our 2010 annual meeting of shareholders that are incorporated by reference into our 2009 10-K;

our current reports on Form 8-K filed on January 29, 2010 (second filing only), February 24, 2010 and April 26, 2010; and

the description of our common stock set forth in the registration statement on Form 8-A/A filed with the SEC on December 17, 2008, including any amendment or report filed with the SEC for the purpose of updating this description.

All future filings that we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, prior to the termination of our common stock offering are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement (other than information in such future filings deemed, under SEC rules or otherwise, not to have been filed with the SEC). Information filed with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement will automatically update and supersede information contained in or previously incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement.

You may request a copy of these filings at no cost, by writing to or telephoning us at the following address:

Director of Investor Relations
Synovus Financial Corp.
1111 Bay Avenue, Suite 501
Columbus, Georgia 31901
(706) 644-1930

We also have filed a registration statement (No. 333-166300) with the SEC relating to the common stock offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are part of that registration statement. You may obtain from the SEC a copy of the registration statement and the related exhibits that we filed with the SEC when we registered the common stock. The registration statement may contain additional information that may be important to you.

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference into or provided in this prospectus supplement, any pricing supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information.

Table of Contents

Forward-looking statements

Certain statements made or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus which are not statements of historical fact constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of, and subject to the protections of, Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. Forward-looking statements include statements with respect to Synovus' beliefs, plans, objectives, goals, targets, expectations, anticipations, assumptions, estimates, intentions and future performance and involve known and unknown risks, many of which are beyond Synovus' control and which may cause Synovus' actual results, performance or achievements or the commercial banking industry or economy generally, to be materially different from future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements.

All statements other than statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements. You can identify these forward-looking statements through Synovus' use of words such as believes, anticipates, expects, may, will, a should, predicts, could, should, would, intends, targets, estimates, projects, plans, potential and and expressions of the future or otherwise regarding the outlook for Synovus' future business and financial performance and/or the performance of the commercial banking industry and economy in general. Forward-looking statements are based on the current beliefs and expectations of Synovus' management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from those contemplated by such forward-looking statements. A number of factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements in this document. Many of these factors are beyond Synovus' ability to control or predict. These factors include, but are not limited to:

- (1) competitive pressures arising from aggressive competition from other financial service providers;
- (2) further deteriorations in credit quality, particularly in residential construction and commercial development real estate loans, may continue to result in increased non-performing assets and credit losses, which could adversely impact our earnings and capital;
- (3) declining values of residential and commercial real estate may result in further write-downs of assets and realized losses on disposition of non-performing assets, which may increase our credit losses and negatively affect our financial results;
- (4) continuing weakness in the residential real estate environment, which may negatively impact our ability to liquidate non-performing assets;
- (5) the impact on our borrowing costs, capital costs and our liquidity due to further adverse changes in our credit ratings;
- (6) the risk that our allowance for loan losses may prove to be inadequate or may be negatively affected by credit risk exposures;
- (7) our ability to manage fluctuations in the value of our assets and liabilities to maintain sufficient capital and liquidity to support our operations;
- (8) the concentration of Synovus' non-performing assets by loan type, in certain geographic regions and with affiliated borrowing groups;

Table of Contents

- (9) the risk of additional future losses if the proceeds we receive upon the liquidation of assets are less than the carrying value of such assets;
- (10) changes in the interest rate environment which may increase funding costs or reduce earning assets yields, thus reducing margins;
- (11) restrictions or limitations on access to funds from subsidiaries and potential obligations to contribute additional capital to our subsidiaries, which may restrict Synovus' ability to make payments on its obligations or dividend payments;
- (12) the availability and cost of capital and liquidity on favorable terms, if at all;
- (13) changes in accounting standards or applications and determinations made thereunder;
- (14) slower than anticipated rates of growth in non-interest income and increased non-interest expense;
- (15) changes in the cost and availability of funding due to changes in the deposit market and credit market, or the way in which Synovus is perceived in such markets, including a further reduction in our debt ratings;
- (16) the risk that the recoverability of the deferred tax asset balance may extend beyond 2010;
- (17) the strength of the U.S. economy in general and the strength of the local economies and financial markets in which operations are conducted may be different than expected;
- (18) the effects of and changes in trade, monetary and fiscal policies, and laws, including interest rate policies of the Federal Reserve Board;
- (19) inflation, interest rate, market and monetary fluctuations;
- (20) the impact of proposed financial reform legislation and other recent and proposed changes in governmental policy, laws and regulations, including proposed and recently enacted changes in the regulation of banks and financial institutions, or the interpretation or application thereof, including restrictions, increased capital requirements, limitations and/or penalties arising from banking, securities and insurance laws, regulations and examinations;
- (21) the risk that we will not be able to complete the proposed consolidation of our subsidiary banks or, if completed, realize the anticipated benefits of the proposed consolidation;
- (22) the impact on Synovus' financial results, reputation and business if Synovus is unable to comply with all applicable federal and state regulations and applicable memoranda of understanding, other supervisory actions and any necessary capital initiatives;
- (23) the costs and effects of litigation, investigations, inquiries or similar matters, or adverse facts and developments related thereto;
- (24) the volatility of our stock price;
- (25) the impact on the valuation of our investments due to market volatility or counterparty payment risk;

(26) the risks that we may be required to seek additional capital to satisfy applicable regulatory capital standards and pressures or supervisory actions in addition to the capital realized through the execution of Synovus' capital plan described in this document;

S-4

Table of Contents

(27) the risk that, if economic conditions worsen or regulatory capital requirements for our subsidiary banks are modified, we may be required to seek additional liquidity at the holding company from external sources;

(28) the costs of services and products to us by third parties, whether as a result of our financial condition, credit ratings, the way we are perceived by such parties, the economy or otherwise;

(29) the risk that we could have an ownership change under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code, which could impair our ability to timely and fully utilize our net operating losses and built-in losses that may exist when such ownership change occurs; and

(30) other factors and other information contained in this document and in other reports and filings that Synovus makes with the SEC under the Exchange Act, including, without limitation, under the caption Risk factors.

For a discussion of these and other risks that may cause actual results to differ from expectations, you should refer to the risk factors and other information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and our other periodic filings, including our 2009 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K, that we file from time to time with the SEC. All written or oral forward-looking statements that are made by or are attributable to Synovus are expressly qualified by this cautionary notice. You should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, since those statements speak only as of the date on which the statements are made. Synovus undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which the statement is made to reflect the occurrence of new information or unanticipated events, except as may otherwise be required by law.

Table of Contents

Summary

*This summary highlights selected information contained elsewhere in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus supplement and may not contain all of the information that you should consider in making your investment decision. You should carefully read this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as well as the information to which we refer you and the information incorporated by reference herein, before deciding whether to invest in our common stock. You should pay special attention to the information contained under the caption entitled *Risk factors* in this prospectus supplement and *Risk Factors* in our 2009 10-K to determine whether an investment in our common stock is appropriate for you.*

Synovus Financial Corp.

Our business

Synovus Financial Corp. is a diversified financial services company and a registered bank holding company based in Columbus, Georgia. We provide integrated financial services including commercial and retail banking, financial management, insurance and mortgage services to our customers through 30 wholly owned subsidiary banks and other offices in Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, Florida and Tennessee. As of December 31, 2009, we had approximately \$32.8 billion in assets, \$27.4 billion in total deposits and \$2.9 billion in shareholders' equity, and our banks ranged in size from \$221.5 million to \$7.2 billion in total assets. As of March 31, 2010, based on our preliminary unaudited financial statements we had approximately \$32.4 billion in assets, \$27.2 billion in total deposits and \$2.6 billion in shareholders' equity, and our banks ranged in size from \$244.6 million to \$7.8 billion in total assets.

We were incorporated under the laws of the State of Georgia in 1972. Our principal executive offices are located at 1111 Bay Avenue, Suite 500, Columbus, Georgia 31901 and our telephone number at that address is (706) 644-1930. Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol SNV.

Strategic highlights

During 2009 and the first quarter of 2010, we have taken a number of steps in an effort to position our company to emerge from the current economic crisis as a stronger organization:

Capital position We announced and executed a number of capital initiatives to bolster our capital position against further credit deterioration and to provide additional capital as we pursued our aggressive asset disposition strategy. Through a combination of a public equity offering, liability management and strategic dispositions, we added approximately \$644 million of Tier 1 capital during 2009. We also announced on April 20, 2010 that we were continuing to identify, consider, and pursue additional capital management strategies to bolster our capital position. Currently, this strategy is reflected in the capital actions described in this document, including this offering and the Concurrent Transactions described below under Concurrent Transactions.

Risk management We completed the centralization of a number of key functions, including credit and loan review, deposit operations, loan operations, procurement and facilities management. These changes emphasize a one-company view of our operating structure and reduce the risks of managing these complex internal functions.

Table of Contents

Aggressive management of credit issues We announced and executed an aggressive strategy to dispose of non-performing assets and manage our credit quality. In 2009, we disposed of an aggregate of \$1.18 billion of non-performing assets. In the first quarter of 2010, we disposed of an additional \$271 million of non-performing assets.

Deposit growth We believe that our deposits remain a strength of our business. As of March 31, 2010, our total deposits were \$27.2 billion. We continue to focus on improving the mix of our deposits. As of March 31, 2010, our non-interest-bearing deposits, or DDAs, were \$4.4 billion, a 15.0% increase compared to March 31, 2009. In addition, our non-CD deposits, excluding national market brokered money market accounts, as of March 31, 2010 were \$15.2 billion, an increase of 7.8% compared to March 31, 2009.

Focus on expense control We have controlled our expenses and reduced our fundamental non-interest expense by over \$50 million during 2009. We continually review our company's operations to identify ways to enhance efficiency and create an enhanced banking experience for our customers. Total non-interest expenses for 2009 were \$1.22 billion compared to \$1.46 billion for 2008. Excluding discontinued operations, other credit costs, FDIC insurance expense, restructuring charges, net litigation contingency expense, and goodwill impairment expense, our non-interest expenses for 2009 were \$743.7 million compared to \$794.9 million for 2008. The total number of employees at December 31, 2009 was 6,385 compared to 6,876 at December 31, 2008.

Relationship banking Our relationship-based approach to banking is built on creating long-term relationships with our customers. We utilize a decentralized customer delivery model and a commitment to being a great place to work to provide what we believe to be a superior customer experience. This relationship banking approach allows our bankers to serve their customers' individual needs and demonstrates our commitment to the communities in which we operate.

We believe that these steps, together with our strong franchise in attractive Southeastern markets, position us to emerge from the current economic crisis as a stronger organization.

Capital Plan

We are pursuing a variety of strategic initiatives, which we refer to as our Capital Plan, to improve our capital position in response to, among other factors, regulatory expectations, peer firms' capital ratios, and a challenging economic environment. We have already taken a significant step to implement and are executing the Capital Plan through the sale of our merchant services business. Other elements of our Capital Plan include this securities offering and the Concurrent Transactions; a possible exchange with the U.S. Treasury of our Fixed-Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, or our Series A Preferred Stock, for a like amount of Trust Preferred securities; and other balance sheet initiatives.

On March 31, 2010, our affiliate, Columbus Bank and Trust Company (CB&T), completed the sale of CB&T's merchant services business to Merchant e-Solutions, Inc. (MeS) for \$70.5 million in cash. Synovus also anticipates receipt of future revenue as a result of a referral agreement with MeS.

This offering and the Concurrent Transactions, if successful, would result in approximately \$630 million dollars of additional Tier 1 common equity, and would constitute a significant step toward solidifying our capital position. See **Risk factors** Offering risks Sales of a significant number of shares of our common stock in the public markets, and other transactions that we

Table of Contents

pursue in connection with our Capital Plan, could depress the market price of our common stock.

On April 22, 2010, we formally requested the United States Treasury to consider the exchange of \$967,870,000 in aggregate principal amount of Series A Preferred Stock for a like amount of Trust Preferred securities. The Trust Preferred securities:

would be issued through our wholly owned unconsolidated subsidiary trust, Synovus Capital Trust I, whose sole asset would be a like amount of related subordinated debentures ranking senior to the Series A Preferred Stock,

would pay distributions and become redeemable on the same dates and in the same amounts as the Series A Preferred Stock, and

would be perpetual, having no stated maturity.

Upon completion of any exchange, and in accordance with GAAP, we intend to cancel the Series A Preferred Stock, and record the new Trust Preferred securities at their approximated fair market value of \$625 million. Warrants to purchase shares of our common stock will remain outstanding. The exchange of Series A Preferred Stock for Trust Preferred securities, if successful, would result in an estimated increase of \$300 million in our tangible equity, and would complement our efforts to raise capital. We cannot assure you that we will be able to successfully complete the exchange of our Series A Preferred Stock for Trust Preferred Securities on a timely basis, on favorable terms, or at all. Although we have formally initiated the process for exchanging Series A Preferred Stock for Trust Preferred securities, there is no guarantee that Treasury will approve the exchange. See Risk factors We presently are subject to, and in the future may become subject to, additional supervisory actions and/or enhanced regulation that could have a material negative effect on our business, operating flexibility, financial condition and the value of our common stock.

As we have continued to carefully monitor the dramatically evolving financial services landscape in general, and our position in that landscape compared to our peers in particular, we have considered a number of factors, including, but not limited to, the following:

in light of our concentration in commercial real estate, construction and land development, as well as several quarters of deteriorating asset quality, our regulators have urged us and our board to bolster our capital position promptly and have stated that additional capital is needed; and

a number of our peers have determined to consider and pursue strategies including equity capital raising and asset and liability management designed to improve their capital position to levels above those that previously have been considered appropriate and, given the public capital market's recent patterns, this window of opportunity may be closed in the near future.

We believe that upon completion of these initiatives, we will:

possess a capital structure, and related regulatory capital ratios, that will better align with evolving industry and regulatory standards;

possess a capital cushion that will improve our ability to absorb additional losses that we could face under worsening economic conditions;

Table of Contents

enjoy greater operational and strategic flexibility, which could, among other things, better position us to take advantage of potential opportunities to improve and grow our business over time; and

be better positioned to possibly repay TARP as credit metrics improve.

We will seek to execute this offering and the remainder of our Capital Plan during the course of fiscal 2010. We cannot assure you that we will be able to successfully complete all elements of our Capital Plan on a timely basis, on favorable terms, or at all, that we will realize the anticipated benefits of our Capital Plan if it were to be achieved or that our bank regulators will be satisfied with such plan and will not require us to take further action. See Risk factors.

Charter Consolidation

In January 2010, we announced our intention to transition from 30 subsidiary banks with 30 individual charters to a single subsidiary bank structure, pending receipt of all required regulatory approvals. We believe that this legal change in our charter structure will:

simplify regulatory oversight;

improve capital efficiency;

enhance risk management;

increase opportunities for efficiency; and

better position Synovus to emerge stronger from the current economic downturn.

The announced Charter Consolidation is only a change in the legal structure of our organization and does not change our relationship-banking business model. We presently expect to complete the consolidation of our bank charters into a single charter by mid-2010, subject to receipt of the required regulatory approvals. Among other things, we believe that we will need to complete this offering and the Concurrent Transactions and may be required to complete other elements of our Capital Plan, in order to receive such approvals. See Risk factors We may be unable to successfully implement the Charter Consolidation and we may not realize the expected benefits from the Charter Consolidation.

Concurrent Transactions

Concurrently with this offering, we are offering 8,000,000 tMEDS (or 9,200,000 tMEDS if the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional tMEDS in full). Each tMEDS is a unit comprised of a prepaid stock purchase contract and a subordinated amortizing note due May 15, 2013 issued by Synovus, which has an initial principal amount of \$ per amortizing note and a scheduled final installment payment date of May 15, 2013. The tMEDS are being offered by means of a separate prospectus supplement and not by means of this prospectus supplement. The tMEDS offering is not contingent upon the completion of this offering, and this offering is not contingent upon the completion of the tMEDS offering. In addition, on April 26, 2010 we announced an offer to exchange up to 97 million shares of our common stock for any and all of our outstanding 5.125% Subordinated Notes due 2017, or 2017 notes, which we originally issued in 2005 in aggregate principal amount of \$450 million.

Table of Contents

Adoption of Rights Plan

We have adopted a stockholder rights plan, or Rights Plan, which provides an economic disincentive for any one person or group to become an owner, for relevant tax purposes, of 5 percent or more of our stock and thereby become a Threshold Holder, and for any existing Threshold Holder to acquire any additional shares of common stock, subject to certain exceptions. In connection with the Rights Plan, we will issue rights on each share of our common stock outstanding on a specified record date and will issue additional rights on each share of our common stock issued after that record date. The rights will be exercisable by each relevant holder upon certain triggering events, such as any person becoming a Threshold Holder. Upon the occurrence of a triggering event, holders of rights (other than the Threshold Holder and certain of its affiliates and their transferees) will receive fractional shares of our preferred stock upon exercise or if our board of directors decides to exchange the rights.

Recent developments

On April 20, 2010, we announced our results of operations for the first quarter of 2010. Our net loss for the first quarter of 2010 was \$215.7 million, or \$0.47 per common share, including a \$43 million after-tax gain from the sale of our merchant services business, compared to a net loss of \$268.6 million, or \$0.58 per common share, for the fourth quarter of 2009.

Our total credit costs for the first quarter were \$394.5 million, compared to \$427.8 million in the fourth quarter of 2009. Our credit costs primarily included provision expense of \$341.0 million and foreclosed real estate costs of \$45.5 million. Allowances and cumulative write-downs on all remaining non-performing assets were approximately 49% of unpaid principal balances, compared to 45% in the fourth quarter of 2009. Our net charge-offs decreased by \$45.9 million versus the previous quarter, while non-performing assets were up slightly by \$11.5 million, from the fourth quarter of 2009. Non-performing asset inflows totaled \$531 million for the quarter, down from \$661 million in the fourth quarter. Our problem asset disposition strategy remains on track with \$271 million in sales for the first quarter.

Our allowance for loan losses increased 25 basis points, or \$25 million, to 3.97% of total loans, and total loans past due and still accruing remained low at 1.21% of total loans. Our net interest margin was 3.39%, up 14 basis points from the fourth quarter of 2009. Excluding the negative impact of non-performing assets, the net interest margin was 3.77% for the first quarter.

Our core deposits grew slightly compared to the fourth quarter of 2009. The mix of core deposits continued to improve with non-interest bearing demand deposits and money market accounts replacing higher priced time deposits. Salaries and other personnel expenses were \$104.0 million for the quarter, down \$7.1 million, or 6.4% from the first quarter of 2009. As of March 31, 2010, our tangible common equity to tangible assets ratio was 5.08%, our Tier 1 Capital Ratio was 9.69%, our Tier 1 common equity was 6.04%, and our total risk-based capital ratio was 13.04%.

Non-GAAP financial measures

The measures entitled pre-tax, pre-credit costs income; fundamental non-interest expense; net interest margin excluding the negative impact of non-performing assets; the tangible common equity to tangible assets ratio; and the tangible common equity to risk-weighted assets are not measures recognized under generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP, and therefore

Table of Contents

are considered non-GAAP financial measures. The most comparable GAAP measures are income (loss) before income taxes, total non-interest expense, net interest margin, and the ratio of total common shareholders' equity to total assets, respectively.

Management uses these non-GAAP financial measures to assess the performance of Synovus' core business and the strength of its capital position. Synovus believes that these non-GAAP financial measures provide meaningful additional information about Synovus to assist investors in evaluating Synovus' operating results, financial strength, and capitalization. These non-GAAP financial measures should not be considered as a substitute for operating results determined in accordance with GAAP and may not be comparable to other similarly titled measures at other companies. Pre-tax, pre-credit costs income is a measure used by management to evaluate core operating results exclusive of credit costs as well as certain non-core expenses such as goodwill impairment charges, restructuring charges, and Visa litigation expense (recovery). Fundamental non-interest expense is a measure used by management to evaluate core non-interest expense exclusive of other credit costs, FDIC insurance expense, restructuring charges, Visa litigation expense (recovery), and goodwill impairment charges. Net interest margin excluding the impact of non-performing assets is a measure used by management to measure the net interest margin exclusive of the impact of non-performing assets and associated net interest charge-offs on the net interest margin. Total risk-weighted assets is a required measure used by banks and financial institutions in reporting regulatory capital and regulatory capital ratios to federal and state regulatory agencies. The tangible common equity to tangible assets ratio and the tangible common equity to risk-weighted assets ratio are used by management and investment analysts to assess the strength of Synovus' capital position.

The computations of pre-tax, pre-credit costs income; fundamental non-interest expense; net interest margin excluding the impact of non-performing assets; the tangible common equity to tangible assets ratio; and the tangible common equity to risk-weighted assets, and the reconciliation of these measures to income (loss) before income taxes, total non-interest expense, net interest margin, total deposits, and the ratio of total common shareholders' equity to total assets are set forth in the tables below:

Reconciliation of non-GAAP financial measures

(Dollars in thousands)	2010	March 31, 2009	2009	2008	2007	2006	December 31, 2005
Tangible Common Equity Ratios:							
Total risk-weighted assets	\$ 25,751,586	31,236,550	26,781,973	32,106,501	31,505,022	29,930,284	26,008,790
Total assets	\$ 32,439,438	34,547,432	32,831,418	35,786,269	33,064,481	30,496,950	26,401,120
Goodwill	(24,431)	(39,521)	(24,431)	(39,521)	(519,138)	(515,719)	(338,640)
Other intangible assets,							
	(15,556)	(20,064)	(16,649)	(21,266)	(28,007)	(35,693)	(29,260)
Tangible assets	\$ 32,399,451	34,487,847	32,790,338	35,725,482	32,517,336	29,945,538	26,033,210
	\$ 2,616,743	3,637,979	2,851,041	3,787,158	3,441,590	3,708,650	2,949,320

al shareholders							
ity							
odwill	(24,431)	(39,521)	(24,431)	(39,521)	(519,138)	(515,719)	(338,64)
er intangible assets,							
	(15,556)	(20,064)	(16,649)	(21,266)	(28,007)	(35,693)	(29,20)
ulative perpetual							
ferred stock	(930,433)	(921,728)	(928,207)	(919,635)			

S-11

Table of Contents

(dollars in thousands)	2010	March 31, 2009	2009	2008	2007	2006	December 31, 2005
Tangible common equity	\$ 1,646,323	2,656,666	1,881,754	2,806,736	2,894,445	3,157,238	2,581,417
Total common shareholders' equity to total assets(1)	5.20%	7.86	5.86%	8.01	10.41	12.16	11.17
Tangible common equity to tangible assets	5.08%	7.70	5.74%	7.86	8.90	10.54	9.92
Tangible common equity to risk-weighted assets	6.39%	8.50	7.03%	8.74	9.19	10.55	9.93
Net Interest Margin Excluding the Negative Impact of Non-performing Assets:							
Average earning assets(2)	\$ 29,816,791	32,425,793	31,873,119	31,232,188			
Net interest income (taxable equivalent)	249,978	244,420	1,015,156	1,082,802			
Add: Negative impact of non-performing assets on net interest income(3)	27,863	26,371	119,163	74,506			
Net interest income excluding the negative impact of non-performing assets	\$ 277,841	270,791	1,134,319	1,157,308			
Net interest margin	3.39%	3.05	3.19%	3.47			
Add: Negative impact of non-performing assets on net interest margin	0.38%	0.33	0.37	0.24			
	3.77%	3.38	3.56%	3.71			

Net interest margin
excluding the negative
impact of
non-performing assets

- (1) Total shareholders' equity less preferred stock divided by total assets.
- (2) Quarterly average balance for periods ended March 31, 2010 and 2009.
- (3) Represents pro forma interest income on non-performing loans at current commercial loan portfolio yield, carrying cost of ORE, and net interest charge-offs on loans recognized during the quarter.

(dollars in thousands)	Three months ended March 31,		2009	2008	Years ended December 31,		
	2010	2009			2007	2006	2005
Pre-Tax Pre-Credit Costs Income:							
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes	\$ (275,180)	(223,852)	(1,605,908)	(660,805)	520,035	638,335	559,425
Add: Provision for losses on loans	340,948	290,437	1,805,599	699,883	170,208	75,148	82,532
Add: Other credit costs ⁽⁴⁾	53,562	54,277	380,984	162,786	22,355	7,724	7,102
Add: Goodwill impairment			15,090	479,617			
Add: Restructuring costs		6,358	5,995	16,125			
Add: (Subtract) Net litigation contingency expense (recovery)			4,059	(17,473)	36,800		
Less: Gain on sale/redemption of Visa shares			(51,900)	(38,542)			
Pre-tax pre-credit costs income	\$ 119,330	127,220	553,919	641,591	749,398	721,207	649,059
Fundamental Non-Interest Expense:							
Total non-interest expense	\$ 252,797	261,039	1,221,289	1,456,056	830,343	756,747	642,521
	(53,562)	(54,277)	(380,984)	(162,786)	(22,355)	(7,724)	(7,102)

Less: Other credit costs ⁽⁴⁾							
Less: FDIC insurance expense	(16,555)	(11,671)	(71,452)	(20,068)	(4,322)	(2,709)	(2,519)
Less: Restructuring charges		(6,358)	(5,995)	(16,125)			
Less: Net litigation contingency (expense) recovery			(4,059)	17,473	(36,800)		
Less: Goodwill impairment expense			(15,090)	(479,617)			
Fundamental non-interest expense	\$ 182,680	188,733	743,709	794,933	766,866	746,314	632,900

(4) Other credit costs consist primarily of losses on ORE, reserve for unfunded commitments, and charges related to impaired loans held for sale.

S-12

Table of Contents

The offering

Issuer	Synovus Financial Corp.
Securities offered	shares of our common stock, par value \$1.00 per share.
Over-allotment option	The underwriters may purchase up to an additional shares of our common stock within 30 days of the date of this prospectus supplement to cover over-allotments, if any.
Shares of common stock outstanding after this offering	shares of our common stock outstanding after this offering (or shares of our common stock if the underwriters exercise in full their over-allotment option).
Use of proceeds	<p>We estimate that the net proceeds from the sale of our common stock in this offering, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and the estimated expenses of this offering payable by us, will be approximately \$ (or approximately \$ if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full).</p> <p>We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering for working capital and general corporate purposes. See Use of proceeds.</p>
Dividend policy	<p>The payment of future cash dividends is at the discretion of our board of directors, subject to a number of restrictions, including, but not limited to, limits imposed on us by various regulatory agencies, TARP related limits and our ability to receive dividends and distributions from our banking and non-banking subsidiaries. See Dividend policy.</p>
Concurrent Transactions	<p>Concurrently with this offering, we are offering 8,000,000 tMEDS (or 9,200,000 tMEDS if the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional tMEDS in full). The tMEDS are being offered by means of a separate prospectus supplement and not by means of this prospectus supplement. The tMEDS offering is not contingent upon the completion of this offering, and this offering is not contingent upon the completion of the tMEDS offering. In addition, on April 26, 2010 we announced an offer to exchange up to 97 million shares of our common stock for any and all of our outstanding 5.125% Subordinated Notes due 2017, or 2017 notes, which we originally issued in 2005 in aggregate principal amount of \$450 million. See Summary Concurrent Transactions.</p>
New York Stock Exchange symbol	SNV
Risk factors	<p>An investment in our common stock involves risks. You should carefully consider the information contained under Risk factors in this prospectus supplement and in our 2009 10-K, as well as other information included or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including our financial statements and the notes thereto, before making an investment decision.</p>

The number of shares of common stock outstanding immediately after the closing of this offering is based on 489,843,709 shares of common stock outstanding as of March 31, 2010. Unless otherwise indicated, the number of shares of common stock presented in this prospectus supplement excludes shares issuable pursuant to the exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares, 28,845,385 shares of common stock issuable under our stock

Table of Contents

compensation plans, 892,179 restricted share units and 15,510,737 shares of our common stock represented by the Warrant, as described under "Description of capital stock" in the accompanying prospectus, and any shares of our common stock issued in the Concurrent Transactions described above.

S-14

Table of Contents**Summary consolidated financial and other data**

The following table sets forth summary consolidated financial and other data of Synovus. The financial data as of and for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005 have been derived from our audited financial statements contained in our Annual Reports on Form 10-K or Form 10-K/A filed with the SEC, except for fundamental non-interest expense, pre-tax pre-credit costs income, tangible common equity to risk weighted assets ratio and tangible common equity to tangible assets ratio, which are reconciled above under Reconciliation of non-GAAP financial measures. The financial data as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2010 have been derived from our preliminary unaudited financial statements. The financial data as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2009 have been derived from our unaudited financial statements contained in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC, except for the non-GAAP measures noted above which are reconciled as provided above. The summary consolidated financial results are not indicative of our expected future operating results. The following summary consolidated financial information should be read together with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the historical financial statements and notes thereto incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

Items, except per share data)	At or for three months ended March 31,				At or for years ended Dec	
	2010	2009	2009	2008	2007	2006
Statement:						
Revenues(a)	\$ 319,013	327,624	1,406,913	1,495,089	1,519,606	1,472,347
Net income	248,867	243,239	1,010,310	1,077,893	1,148,948	1,125,789
Provision for losses on loans	340,948	290,437	1,805,599	699,883	170,208	75,148
Net interest income	69,698	84,385	410,670	417,241	371,638	344,440
Net interest expense	252,797	261,039	1,221,289	1,456,057	830,343	756,746
Income from continuing operations						
Net of income taxes	(258,843)	(137,944)	(1,433,931)	(580,376)	337,969	410,431
Income from discontinued operations, net of income taxes and minority interest	43,161	1,215	4,590	5,650	188,336	206,486
Net income attributable to continuing operations	(215,682)	(136,729)	(1,429,341)	(574,726)	526,305	616,917
Net interest (loss) attributable to continuing operations	(209)	(57)	2,364	7,712		
Net interest income and accretion of discount on held stock	(215,473)	(136,672)	(1,431,705)	(582,438)	526,305	616,917
Net income available to common shareholders	14,325	14,192	56,966	2,057		
	(229,798)	(150,864)	(1,488,671)	(584,495)	526,305	616,917
Per share data:						
Earnings (loss) per common share: Income from continuing operations	\$ (0.56)	(0.46)	(4.00)	(1.79)	1.03	1.28
Net income	(0.47)	(0.46)	(3.99)	(1.77)	1.61	1.92

arnings (loss) per common

ome from continuing

	(0.56)	(0.46)	(4.00)	(1.79)	1.02	1.27
--	--------	--------	--------	--------	------	------

ncome

	(0.47)	(0.46)	(3.99)	(1.77)	1.60	1.90
--	--------	--------	--------	--------	------	------

nds declared on common

	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.46	0.82	0.78
--	------	------	------	------	------	------

per common share(e)

	3.44	8.22	3.93	8.68	10.43	11.39
--	------	------	------	------	-------	-------

heet:

securities	\$ 3,237,519	3,778,473	3,188,735	3,770,022	3,554,878	3,263,483
------------	--------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

of unearned income

	24,417,164	27,730,272	25,383,068	27,920,177	26,498,585	24,654,552
--	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

	27,180,048	27,947,986	27,433,534	28,617,179	24,959,816	24,528,463
--	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

debt

	1,868,343	1,869,884	1,751,592	2,107,173	1,890,235	1,343,358
--	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

rs equity

	2,616,743	3,637,979	2,851,041	3,787,158	3,441,590	3,708,650
--	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

al shareholders equity

	2,802,623	3,681,189	3,285,014	3,435,574	3,935,910	3,369,954
--	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

al assets

	32,540,190	35,165,675	34,423,617	34,051,637	32,895,295	29,831,172
--	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

S-15

Table of Contents

(thousands, except per share data)	At or for three months ended March 31,				At or for years ended December 31,		
	2010	2009	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Performance ratios and other data:							
Return on average assets from continuing operations	(3.23)%	(1.59)	(4.17)	(1.70)	1.03	1.39	1.33
Return on average assets	(2.69)	(1.58)	(4.16)	(1.72)	1.60	2.07	1.93
Return on average equity from continuing operations	(37.46)	(15.20)	(43.65)	(16.89)	8.59	12.24	12.83
Return on average equity	(31.21)	(15.06)	(43.58)	(16.95)	13.37	18.19	18.43
Net interest margin	3.39	3.05	3.19	3.47	3.97	4.27	4.13
Dividend payout ratio(c)	nm	nm	nm	nm	51.25	40.99	44.53
Return on shareholders' equity to average assets	8.61	10.47	9.54	10.09	11.96	11.30	10.63
Return on tangible common equity to risk-adjusted assets(d)	6.39	8.50	7.03	8.74	9.19	10.55	9.93
Return on tangible common equity to tangible assets	5.08	7.70	5.74	7.86	8.90	10.54	9.93
Interest coverage ratio	(1.87)x	(0.54)x	(2.17)x	0.16x	1.47x	1.71x	2.03x
Average common shares outstanding, diluted	489,607	329,785	372,943	329,319	326,849	321,241	311,493
Average common shares outstanding, undiluted	489,607	329,785	372,943	329,319	329,863	324,232	314,813

- (a) Consists of net interest income and non-interest income, excluding securities gains (losses).
- (b) On December 31, 2007, Synovus completed the tax-free spin-off of its shares of TSYS common stock to Synovus shareholders. In accordance with the provisions of ASC 360-10-35, Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets, and ASC 420-10-50, Exit or Disposal Cost Obligations, the historical consolidated results of operations and financial position of TSYS, as well as all costs recorded by Synovus associated with the spin-off of TSYS, are now presented as discontinued operations. Additionally, discontinued operations for the year ended December 31, 2007 include a \$4.2 million after-tax gain related to the transfer of Synovus' proprietary mutual funds to a non-affiliated third party. During 2009, Synovus committed to a plan to sell its merchant services business. As of December 31, 2009, the proposed sale transaction met the held for sale criteria under ASC 360-10-15-49, and accordingly, the revenues and expenses of the merchant services business have been reported as a component of discontinued operations.
- (c) Determined by dividing cash dividends declared per common share by diluted net income per share.
- (d) The tangible common equity to risk-weighted assets ratio is a non-GAAP measure which is calculated as follows: (total shareholders' equity minus preferred stock minus goodwill minus other intangible assets) divided by total risk-adjusted assets (see Reconciliation of non-GAAP financial measures).
- (e) Total shareholders' equity less cumulative perpetual preferred stock, divided by common stock outstanding.
- (nm) Not meaningful.

Table of Contents

Risk factors

An investment in our common stock involves a number of risks. You should carefully consider the risks described below and the risk factors concerning our business included in our 2009 10-K, in addition to the other information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including our other filings, which are incorporated into this prospectus supplement by reference, before deciding whether an investment in our common stock is suitable for you.

Business risks

The current and further deterioration in the residential construction and commercial development real estate markets may lead to increased non-performing assets in our loan portfolio and increased provision expense for losses on loans, which could have a material adverse effect on our capital, financial condition and results of operations.

Since the third quarter of 2007, the residential construction and commercial development real estate markets have experienced a variety of difficulties and challenging economic conditions. Our non-performing assets were \$1.83 billion at December 31, 2009, compared to \$1.17 billion at December 31, 2008. If market conditions remain poor or further deteriorate, they may lead to additional valuation adjustments on our loan portfolios and real estate owned as we continue to reassess the fair value of our non-performing assets, the loss severities of loans in default, and the fair value of real estate owned. We also may realize additional losses in connection with our disposition of non-performing assets. Poor economic conditions could result in decreased demand for residential housing, which, in turn, could adversely affect the development and construction efforts of residential real estate developers. Consequently, such economic downturns could adversely affect the ability of such residential real estate developer borrowers to repay these loans and the value of property used as collateral for such loans. A sustained weak economy could also result in higher levels of non-performing loans in other categories, such as commercial and industrial loans, which may result in additional losses. Management continually monitors market conditions and economic factors throughout our footprint for indications of change in other markets. If these economic conditions and market factors negatively and/or disproportionately affect some of our larger loans, then we could see a sharp increase in our total net-charge offs and also be required to significantly increase our allowance for loan losses. Any further increase in our non-performing assets and related increases in our provision expense for losses on loans could negatively affect our business and could have a material adverse effect on our capital, financial condition and results of operations.

We may experience increased delinquencies and credit losses, which could have a material adverse effect on our capital, financial condition and results of operations.

Like other lenders, we face the risk that our customers will not repay their loans. A customer's failure to repay us is preceded generally by missed payments. In some instances, a customer may declare bankruptcy prior to missing payments, although this is not generally the case. Customers who declare bankruptcy frequently do not repay their loans. Where our loans are secured by collateral, we may attempt to seize the collateral when and if customers default on their loans. The value of the collateral may not equal the amount of the unpaid loan, and we may be unsuccessful in recovering the remaining balance from our customers. Rising delinquencies and

Table of Contents

rising rates of bankruptcy are often precursors of future charge-offs and may require us to increase our allowance for loan losses.

Higher charge-off rates and an increase in our allowance for loan losses may hurt our overall financial performance if we are unable to raise revenue to compensate for these losses and may increase our cost of funds.

Our allowance for loan losses may not be adequate to cover actual losses, and we may be required to materially increase our allowance, which may adversely affect our capital, financial condition and results of operations.

We maintain an allowance for loan losses, which is a reserve established through a provision for loan losses charged to expenses, which represents management's best estimate of probable credit losses that have been incurred within the existing portfolio of loans, all as described under Note 7 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in our 2009 10-K and under Critical Accounting Policies Allowance for Loan Losses under Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our 2009 10-K. The allowance, in the judgment of management, is established to reserve for estimated loan losses and risks inherent in the loan portfolio. The determination of the appropriate level of the allowance for loan losses inherently involves a high degree of subjectivity and requires us to make significant estimates of current credit risks using existing qualitative and quantitative information, all of which may undergo material changes. Changes in economic conditions affecting borrowers, new information regarding existing loans, identification of additional problem loans, and other factors, both within and outside of our control, may require an increase in the allowance for loan losses.

We also apply a comprehensive loan classification methodology across each of our 30 bank subsidiaries. Using this methodology, each of our subsidiary banks makes objective and subjective determinations in concluding what they believe to be the appropriate classification of each of their outstanding loans. We carefully monitor, on a bank-by-bank basis, the volume of loans that migrate through each of the various levels of classification. During each quarter, we review a pool of what we believe to be a representative sample of loans from each of our subsidiary banks in an effort to monitor the level of reserves that are maintained in respect of those loans, and to work towards a uniform application of allowance principles across our enterprise.

Because the initial classification of the loans is inherently subjective and subject to evolving local market conditions and other changing factors, it can be difficult for us to predict the effects that those factors will have on the classifications assigned to the loan portfolio of any of our banks, and thus difficult to anticipate the velocity or volume of the migration of loans through the classification process and effect on the level of the allowance for loan losses. Accordingly, we monitor our credit quality and our reserves on a consolidated basis, and use that as a basis for capital planning and other purposes. See Liquidity and Capital Resources under Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our 2009 10-K.

In addition, bank regulatory agencies periodically review our allowance for loan losses and may require an increase in the provision for loan losses or the recognition of additional loan charge offs, based on judgments different than those of management. An increase in the allowance for loan losses results in a decrease in net income and capital, and may have a material adverse effect on our capital, financial condition and results of operations.

Table of Contents

In light of current market conditions, we regularly reassess the creditworthiness of our borrowers and the sufficiency of our allowance for loan losses. Our allowance for loan losses increased from 2.14% of total loans at December 31, 2008 to 3.72% at December 31, 2009. We made a provision for loan losses during the year ended December 31, 2009 of approximately \$1.81 billion, which was significantly higher than in previous periods. We also charged-off approximately \$1.46 billion in loans, net of recoveries, during the year ended December 31, 2009, which was significantly higher than in previous periods.

We will likely experience additional classified loans and non-performing assets in the foreseeable future as the deterioration in the credit and real estate markets causes borrowers to default. Further, the value of the collateral underlying a given loan, and the realizable value of such collateral in a foreclosure sale, likely will be negatively affected by the recent downturn in the real estate market, and therefore may result in an inability to realize a full recovery in the event that a borrower defaults on a loan. Any additional non-performing assets, loan charge-offs, increases in the provision for loan losses or the continuation of aggressive charge-off policies or any inability by us to realize the full value of underlying collateral in the event of a loan default, could negatively affect our business, financial condition, and results of operations and the price of our securities.

We will realize additional future losses if the proceeds we receive upon liquidation of assets are less than the carrying value of such assets.

We have announced a strategy to aggressively dispose of non-performing assets. For a significant portion of our non-performing assets, we have determined the asset categories to be disposed of but have not identified specific assets within those categories. Non-performing assets are recorded on our financial statements at the estimated fair value, which considers management's plans for disposition. We may also sell assets in the future that are not currently identified as non-performing assets. We will realize additional future losses if the proceeds we receive upon dispositions of assets are less than the recorded carrying value of such assets. Furthermore, if market conditions continue to decline the magnitude of losses we may realize upon the disposition of assets may increase, which will materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Turmoil in the real estate markets and the tightening of credit have adversely affected the financial services industry and may continue to adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Turmoil in the housing and real estate markets, including falling real estate prices, increasing foreclosures, and rising unemployment, have negatively affected the credit performance of loans secured by real estate and resulted in significant write-downs of asset values by banks and other financial institutions. Over the last few years, these write-downs caused many banks and financial institutions to seek additional capital, to reduce or eliminate dividends, to merge with other financial institutions and, in some cases, to fail. As a result, many lenders and institutional investors reduced or ceased providing credit to borrowers, including other financial institutions, which, in turn, led to the global credit crisis.

This market turmoil and credit crisis have resulted in an increased level of commercial and consumer delinquencies, lack of consumer confidence, increased market volatility and widespread reduction of business activity generally. While some areas of the United States have experienced a modest recovery, not all areas of our geographic footprint have improved, and

Table of Contents

most areas remain challenged. The degree and timing of economic recovery (or further recovery) remain uncertain. The resulting economic pressure on consumers and businesses and lack of confidence in the financial markets have adversely affected our business, financial condition and results of operations and may continue to result in credit losses and write-downs in the future.

We may be unable to successfully implement the Charter Consolidation and we may not realize the expected benefits from the Charter Consolidation.

In January 2010, we announced our intention to change our legal structure by consolidating our 30 separately chartered banks into a single bank subsidiary (the Charter Consolidation). We believe that the Charter Consolidation will result in a number of benefits, including simplified regulatory oversight, improved capital efficiency and enhanced risk management. However, there is no guarantee that we will be able to successfully execute on all or any components of the Charter Consolidation or realize any of the expected benefits of the Charter Consolidation. The Charter Consolidation is subject to federal and state regulatory approval and there is no guarantee that we will be able to obtain such approval. Among other things, we believe that we will need to complete this offering and the Concurrent Transactions and may be required to complete other elements of our Capital Plan, in order to receive such approvals. Even if approved, federal and state regulatory agencies may impose conditions on our ability to implement the Charter Consolidation, including imposing operational restrictions on us or our subsidiary banks or requiring us to raise additional capital, which could prevent the successful implementation of, or reduce the benefits we realize from, the Charter Consolidation. In addition, we may be unable to successfully consolidate all of the regulatory initiatives our subsidiary banks are currently subject to into a global regulatory order applicable to the resulting bank(s) in the Charter Consolidation and such resulting bank(s) may be required to comply with all regulatory initiatives to which our subsidiary banks are currently subject. If we are not able to successfully complete the Charter Consolidation, we could be adversely impacted by negative perceptions regarding our inability to move to a more centralized structure.

Even if we are successful in implementing the Charter Consolidation, we may not realize the expected benefits from the Charter Consolidation. Furthermore, the Charter Consolidation could have an adverse impact on our business and results of operations if our customers and employees perceive the Charter Consolidation as a loss of our traditional community banking culture, which may result in higher than expected loss of deposits (particularly with respect to our Synovus® Shared Deposit products), disruption of our business and adverse affects on our ability to maintain relationships with our customers and employees. We rely on the current officers of our subsidiary banks to manage our subsidiary banks in their respective market areas and we could be materially adversely affected if these officers depart as a result of the Charter Consolidation. Difficulty in consolidating our subsidiary banks could lead to higher than expected integration costs and could delay the timing of the Charter Consolidation.

If we are not able to execute on our Capital Plan in full, or even if we are, or if economic conditions worsen or regulatory capital rules are modified, we may be required to undertake one or more strategic initiatives to improve our capital position.

During 2009, Synovus announced and executed a number of strategic capital initiatives to bolster our capital position against credit deterioration and to provide additional capital as Synovus pursued its aggressive asset disposition strategy. As of December 31, 2009, Synovus Tier 1 capital ratio was 10.16%, and Synovus and each of its banking subsidiaries is considered

Table of Contents

well capitalized under current regulatory standards. See Item 1 Business, Supervision, Regulation and Other Factors Prompt Corrective Action in our 2009 10-K for a discussion of the definition of well capitalized. Nonetheless, our management presently believes that, based upon an internal analysis of our capital position, we will need to execute on our Capital Plan in full in order to maintain sufficient capital to continue over time to satisfy our regulatory capital needs. Synovus continues to monitor economic conditions, actual performance against forecasted credit losses, peer capital levels, and regulatory capital standards and pressures. If economic conditions or other factors worsen to a materially greater degree than the assumptions underlying management's internal assessment of our capital position or if minimum regulatory capital requirements for us or our subsidiary banks increase as the result of legislative changes or informal or formal regulatory directives, then we would be required to pursue one or more additional capital improvement strategies, including, among others, balance sheet optimization strategies, asset sales, and/or the sale of securities to one or more third parties. Given the current economic and market conditions and our recent financial performance and related credit ratings, there can be no assurance that any such transactions will be available to us on favorable terms, if at all, or that we would be able to realize the anticipated benefits of such transactions.

The regulators of our individual banks may require our individual banks to maintain a higher level of capital than we currently anticipate, which could adversely affect our liquidity at the holding company and require us to raise additional capital.

While we consider our capital position on a consolidated basis, the regulators of each of our individual banks may require that those individual banks maintain a higher level of capital than we currently anticipate, which would require that we maintain a consolidated capital position that is well beyond what we presently anticipate and could be in excess of the levels of capital used in the assumptions underlying our internal capital analysis. Several of our subsidiary banks are required to maintain regulatory capital levels in excess of minimum well-capitalized requirements primarily as a result of non-performing assets. Further, as a holding company with obligations and expenses separate from our bank subsidiaries, and because many of our banks will be unable to make dividend payments to us, we must maintain a level of liquidity at our holding company that is sufficient to address those obligations and expenses. The maintenance of adequate liquidity at our holding company may limit our ability to make further capital investments in our bank subsidiaries, which could adversely impact us and require us to raise additional capital. Even if we are successful in implementing the Charter Consolidation, there can be no guarantee that the resulting bank(s) would not be required by the regulators to have a higher level of capital than we may anticipate.

Issuance of additional shares of our common stock in the public markets and other capital management or business strategies that we may pursue could depress the market price of our common stock and result in the dilution of our existing shareholders.

Generally we are not restricted from issuing additional equity securities, including our common stock. Synovus may choose or be required in the future to identify, consider and pursue additional capital management strategies to bolster its capital position. Future issuances of our equity securities, including common stock, in any transaction that we may pursue may dilute the interests of our existing shareholders and cause the market price of our common stock to decline. We may issue equity securities (including convertible securities, preferred securities, and options and warrants on our common or preferred stock) in the future for a number of reasons, including to finance our operations and business strategy, to adjust our ratios of debt to equity,

Table of Contents

to address regulatory capital concerns, to restructure currently outstanding debt or equity securities or to satisfy our obligations upon the exercise of outstanding options or warrants. In addition to the transactions contemplated in the Capital Plan, we may issue equity securities in transactions that generate cash proceeds, transactions that free up regulatory capital but do not immediately generate or preserve substantial amounts of cash, and transactions that generate regulatory or balance sheet capital only and do not generate or preserve cash. We cannot predict the effect that these transactions would have on the market price of our common stock. In addition, if we issue additional equity securities, including options, warrants, preferred stock or convertible securities, such newly issued securities could cause significant dilution to the holders of our common stock.

Further adverse changes in our credit rating could increase the cost of our funding from the capital markets.

During the second quarter of 2009, Moody's Investors Service, Standard and Poor's Ratings Services and Fitch Ratings downgraded our long term debt to below investment grade. On April 23, 2010, Moody's Investor Service issued a further downgrade and placed us on watch for further downgrade. The ratings agencies regularly evaluate us and certain of our subsidiary banks, and their ratings of our long-term debt are based on a number of factors, including our financial strength as well as factors not entirely within our control, including conditions affecting the financial services industry generally. In light of the continuing difficulties in the financial services industry and the housing and financial markets, there can be no assurance that we will not receive additional adverse changes in our ratings, which could adversely affect the cost and other terms upon which we are able to obtain funding and the way in which we are perceived in the capital markets.

Our net interest income could be negatively affected by the lower level of short-term interest rates, recent developments in the credit and real estate markets and competition in our primary market area.

Net interest income, which is the difference between the interest income that we earn on interest-earning assets and the interest expense that we pay on interest-bearing liabilities, is a major component of our income. Our net interest income is our primary source of funding for our operations, including extending credit and reserving for loan losses. The Federal Reserve reduced interest rates on three occasions in 2007 by a total of 100 basis points, to 4.25%, and by another 400 basis points, to a range of 0% to 0.25%, during 2008. Interest rates during 2009 have remained at the range of 0% to 0.25% as set by the Federal Reserve during 2008. A significant portion of our loans, including residential construction and development loans and other commercial loans, bear interest at variable rates. The interest rates on a significant portion of these loans decrease when the Federal Reserve reduces interest rates, which may reduce our net interest income. In addition, in order to compete for deposits in our primary market areas, we may offer more attractive interest rates to depositors, and we may increasingly rely upon out-of-market or brokered deposits as a source of liquidity.

A decrease in loans outstanding, increased non-performing loans and the decrease in interest rates reduced our net interest income during the year ended December 31, 2009 and could cause additional pressure on net interest income in future periods. This reduction in net interest income also may be exacerbated by the high level of competition that we face in our primary market area. Any significant reduction in our net interest income could negatively affect our

Table of Contents

business and could have a material adverse impact on our capital, financial condition and results of operations.

Diminished access to alternative sources of liquidity could adversely affect our net income, net interest margin and our overall liquidity.

We have historically had access to a number of alternative sources of liquidity, but given the recent and dramatic downturn in the credit and liquidity markets, there is no assurance that we will be able to obtain such liquidity on terms that are favorable to us, or at all. For example, the cost of out-of-market deposits could exceed the cost of deposits of similar maturity in our local market area, making them unattractive sources of funding; financial institutions may be unwilling to extend credit to banks because of concerns about the banking industry and the economy generally; and, given recent downturns in the economy, there may not be a viable market for raising equity capital. In addition, our planned Charter Consolidation may result in higher than expected loss of deposits (particularly with respect to our Synovus® Shared Deposit products). If our access to these sources of liquidity is diminished, or only available on unfavorable terms, or if we experience higher than expected deposit losses following our planned Charter Consolidation, then our income, net interest margin and our overall liquidity likely would be adversely affected.

Recent levels of market volatility are unprecedented, and may result in disruptions in our ability to access sources of funds, which may negatively affect our capital resources and liquidity.

In managing our consolidated balance sheet, we depend on access to a variety of sources of funding to provide us with sufficient capital resources and liquidity to meet our commitments and business needs, and to accommodate the transaction and cash management needs of our customers. Sources of funding available to us, and upon which we rely as regular components of our liquidity and funding management strategy, include borrowings from the Federal Home Loan Bank and brokered deposits. See Liquidity and Capital Resources under Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our 2009 10-K. We also have historically enjoyed a solid reputation in the capital markets and have been able to raise funds in the form of either short- or long-term borrowings or equity issuances. Recently, the volatility and disruption in the capital and credit markets has reached unprecedented levels. In some cases, the markets have produced downward pressure on stock prices and credit availability for certain issuers without regard to those issuers' underlying financial strength. If current levels of market disruption and volatility continue or worsen, our ability to access certain of our sources of funding may be disrupted.

Changes in the cost and availability of funding due to changes in the deposit market and credit market, or the way in which we are perceived in such markets, may adversely affect financial results.

In general, the amount, type and cost of our funding, including from other financial institutions, the capital markets and deposits, directly impacts our costs in operating our business and growing our assets and therefore, can positively or negatively affect our financial results. A number of factors could make funding more difficult, more expensive or unavailable on any terms, including, but not limited to, further reductions in our debt ratings, financial results and losses, changes within our organization, specific events that adversely impact our reputation, disruptions in the capital markets, specific events that adversely impact the financial

Table of Contents

services industry, counterparty availability, changes affecting our assets, the corporate and regulatory structure, interest rate fluctuations, general economic conditions and the legal, regulatory, accounting and tax environments governing our funding transactions. Also, we compete for funding with other banks and similar companies, many of which are substantially larger, and have more capital and other resources than we do. In addition, as some of these competitors consolidate with other financial institutions, these advantages may increase. Competition from these institutions may increase the cost of funds.

As a financial services company, adverse changes in general business or economic conditions could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Sustained weakness in business and economic conditions generally or specifically in the principal markets in which we do business could have one or more of the following adverse impacts on our business:

a decrease in the demand for loans and other products and services offered by us;

a decrease in the fair value of non-performing assets or other assets secured by consumer or commercial real estate;

an increase or decrease in the usage of unfunded commitments; or

an increase in the number of clients and counterparties who become delinquent, file for protection under bankruptcy laws or default on their loans or other obligations to us.

Any such increase in the number of delinquencies, bankruptcies or defaults could result in a higher level of non-performing assets, net charge-offs, provision for loan losses, and valuation adjustments on loans.

Future losses will result in an additional valuation allowance to our deferred tax assets and impair our ability to recover our deferred tax asset during 2010.

During the quarter ended June 30, 2009, Synovus reached a three-year pre-tax loss position. See Note 23 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in our 2009 10-K. Under GAAP, a cumulative loss position is considered significant negative evidence which makes it very difficult for the company to rely on future earnings as a reliable source of future taxable income to realize deferred tax assets. Synovus incurred additional pre-tax losses in the quarters ended September 30, 2009 and December 31, 2009. Accordingly, Synovus was required to increase the valuation allowance against its deferred tax assets by approximately \$173 million, \$155 million and \$110 million during the quarters ended June 30, 2009, September 30, 2009 and December 31, 2009, which adversely impacted Synovus' results of operations for these periods.

In addition, while there are many factors that could impact the actual effective tax rate, a significant factor is management's projection of pre-tax loss for the year. If the projected pre-tax losses vary significantly from current estimates, the actual effective tax rate could vary significantly.

Under GAAP, once a company that has recorded a valuation allowance against a deferred tax asset returns to profitability, it is possible to reduce or reverse the valuation allowance with a corresponding tax benefit recognized through current earnings. However, reductions in the valuation allowance are subject to considerable judgment and uncertainty. While Synovus expects to reverse the majority of the valuation allowance once it has demonstrated a consistent

Table of Contents

return to profitability, realizing additional operating losses will increase the valuation allowance. There can be no assurance that Synovus will be able to fully reverse the valuation allowance against its deferred tax assets during 2010, which may negatively impact Synovus' capital ratios and require Synovus to raise additional capital.

Issuances or sales of common stock or other equity securities could result in an ownership change as defined for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In the event an ownership change were to occur, our ability to fully utilize a significant portion of our U.S. federal and state tax net operating losses and certain built-in losses that have not been recognized for tax purposes could be impaired as a result of the operation of Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Our ability to use certain realized net operating losses and unrealized built-in losses to offset future taxable income may be significantly limited if we experience an ownership change as defined by Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code). An ownership change under Section 382 generally occurs when a change in the aggregate percentage ownership of the stock of the corporation held by five percent shareholders increases by more than fifty percentage points over a rolling three year period. A corporation experiencing an ownership change generally is subject to an annual limitation on its utilization of pre-change losses and certain post-change recognized built-in losses equal to the value of the stock of the corporation immediately before the ownership change, multiplied by the long-term tax-exempt rate (subject to certain adjustments). The annual limitation is increased each year to the extent that there is an unused limitation in a prior year. Since U.S. federal net operating losses generally may be carried forward for up to 20 years, the annual limitation also effectively provides a cap on the cumulative amount of pre-change losses and certain post-change recognized built-in losses that may be utilized. Pre-change losses and certain post-change recognized built in losses in excess of the cap are effectively unable to be used to reduce future taxable income. In some circumstances, issuances or sales of our stock (including any common stock or other equity issuances or debt-for-equity exchanges and certain transactions involving our stock that are outside of our control) could result in an ownership change under Section 382.

While we have adopted the Rights Plan (see Summary Adoption of Rights Plan) to reduce the likelihood that future transactions in our stock will result in an ownership change, there can be no assurance that the Rights Plan will be effective to deter a stockholder from increasing its ownership interests beyond the limits set by the Rights Plan or that an ownership change will not occur in the future. If an ownership change under Section 382 were to occur, the value of our net operating losses and a portion of the net unrealized built-in losses will be impaired. Because a valuation allowance currently exists for substantially the full amount of our deferred tax assets, no additional charge to earnings would result. However, an ownership change, as defined above, could adversely impact our ability to recognize Tier 1 capital from the potential future release of our valuation allowance.

We face intense competition from other financial service providers.

We operate in a highly competitive environment in respect of the products and services we offer and the markets in which we serve. The competition among financial services providers to attract and retain customers is intense. Customer loyalty can be easily influenced by a competitor's new products, especially offerings that could provide cost savings or additional interest income to the customer. Some of our competitors may be better able to provide a wider range of products and services over a greater geographic area. Moreover, this highly

Table of Contents

competitive industry could become even more competitive as a result of legislative, regulatory and technological changes and continued consolidation. Banks, securities firms and insurance companies can merge by creating a financial holding company, which can offer virtually any type of financial service, including banking, securities underwriting, insurance (both agency and underwriting) and merchant banking. Also, a number of foreign banks have acquired financial services companies in the U.S., further increasing competition in the U.S. market. In addition, technology has lowered barriers to entry and made it possible for nonbanks to offer products and services traditionally provided by banks, such as automatic transfer and automatic payment systems. Many of our competitors have fewer regulatory constraints and some have lower cost structures. We expect the consolidation of the banking and financial services industry to result in larger, better-capitalized companies offering a wide array of financial services and products.

Our financial condition and outlook may be adversely affected by damage to our reputation.

Our financial condition and outlook is highly dependent upon perceptions of our business practices and reputation. Our ability to attract and retain customers and employees could be adversely affected to the extent our reputation is damaged. Negative public opinion could result from our actual or alleged conduct in any number of activities, including lending practices, corporate governance, regulatory compliance, mergers and acquisitions, disclosure, existing litigation, sharing or inadequate protection of customer information and from actions taken by government regulators and community organizations in response to that conduct. Damage to our reputation could give rise to legal risks, which, in turn, could increase the size and number of litigation claims and damages asserted or subject us to enforcement actions, fines and penalties and cause us to incur related costs and expenses.

Maintaining or increasing market share depends on the timely development of and acceptance of new products and services and perceived overall value of these products and services by users.

Our success depends, in part, on our ability to adapt our products and services to evolving industry standards. We provide these products and services to our consumer and corporate customers through a decentralized network of banks and other of our businesses that operate autonomously within their respective communities. While our operating model provides us with a competitive advantage in maintaining a community focus and in providing customer service, our model is, in many respects, less efficient to operate. Moreover, there is increasing pressure to provide products and services at lower prices, which is difficult to do across a network like ours. This can reduce our overall net interest margin and revenues from our fee-based products and services. In addition, our success depends, in part, on our ability to generate significant levels of new business in our existing markets and in identifying and penetrating new markets. Further, the widespread adoption of new technologies, including internet services, could require us to make substantial expenditures to modify or adapt our existing products and services. We may not be successful in introducing new products and services, achieving market acceptance of products and services or developing and maintaining loyal customers and/or breaking into targeted markets.

The trade, monetary and fiscal policies and laws of the federal government and its agencies, including interest rate policies of the Federal Reserve Board, significantly affect our earnings.

The Federal Reserve Board regulates the supply of money and credit in the U.S. Its policies determine in large part our cost of funds for lending and investing and the return we earn on

Table of Contents

those loans and investments, both of which affect our net interest margin. They can also materially affect the value of financial instruments we hold, such as debt securities. For example, decreases in interest rates could reduce our net interest income or cause additional pressure on net interest income in future periods. Alternatively, higher interest rates could cause our funding costs to increase more than our asset yields. Changes in Federal Reserve Board policies and laws are beyond our control and hard to predict. Its policies also can affect our borrowers, potentially increasing the risk that they may fail to repay their loans.

We are heavily regulated by federal and state agencies; changes in laws and regulations or failures to comply with such laws and regulations may adversely affect our operations and our financial results.

Synovus and our subsidiary banks, and many of our nonbank subsidiaries, are heavily regulated at the federal and state levels. This regulation is designed primarily to protect depositors, federal deposit insurance funds and the banking system as a whole, but not shareholders. Congress and state legislatures and federal and state regulatory agencies continually review banking laws, regulations and policies for possible changes. Changes to statutes, regulations or regulatory policies, including interpretation and implementation of statutes, regulations or policies, including currently proposed regulation in both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives, could affect us in substantial and unpredictable ways, including limiting the types of financial services and products we may offer and/or increasing the ability of nonbanks to offer competing financial services and products. Additionally, proposed legislation affecting the regulation of banking institutions may be enacted during 2010 and beyond, but the specific terms of such legislation are difficult to foresee. While we cannot predict the regulatory changes that may be borne out of the current financial and economic environment, and we cannot predict whether we will become subject to increased regulatory scrutiny by any of these regulatory agencies, any regulatory changes or scrutiny could be expensive for us to address and/or could result in our changing the way that we do business due to increased regulatory compliance burdens.

Furthermore, various federal and state bodies regulate and supervise our nonbank subsidiaries, including our brokerage, investment advisory, insurance agency and processing operations. These include, but are not limited to, the SEC, FINRA, federal and state banking regulators and various state regulators of insurance and brokerage activities. Federal and state regulators have the ability to impose substantial sanctions, restrictions and requirements on our banking and nonbanking subsidiaries if they determine, upon examination or otherwise, violations of laws with which Synovus or its subsidiaries must comply, or weaknesses or failures with respect to general standards of safety and soundness. Such enforcement may be formal or informal and can include directors' resolutions, memoranda of understanding, consent orders, civil money penalties, termination of deposit insurance and bank closures. Enforcement actions may be taken regardless of the capital level of the institution. In particular, institutions that are not sufficiently capitalized in accordance with regulatory standards may also face capital directives or prompt corrective action. Enforcement actions may require certain corrective steps, impose limits on activities, prescribe lending parameters and require additional capital to be raised, any of which could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. The imposition of regulatory sanctions, including monetary penalties, may have a material impact on our financial condition and results of operations, and damage to our reputation, and loss of our financial services holding company status. In addition, compliance with any such action could distract management's attention from our operations, cause us to incur significant expenses, restrict us from engaging in potentially profitable activities, and limit our ability to raise capital.

Table of Contents

We presently are subject to, and in the future may become subject to, additional supervisory actions and/or enhanced regulation that could have a material negative effect on our business, operating flexibility, financial condition and the value of our common stock.

Under federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to the safety and soundness of insured depository institutions, various state regulators (for state chartered banks), the Federal Reserve (for bank holding companies), the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (for national banks) and separately the FDIC as the insurer of bank deposits, have the authority to compel or restrict certain actions on our part if they determine that we have insufficient capital or are otherwise operating in a manner that may be deemed to be inconsistent with safe and sound banking practices. Under this authority, our bank regulators can require us to enter into informal or formal enforcement orders, including board resolutions, memoranda of understanding, written agreements and consent or cease and desist orders, pursuant to which we would be required to take identified corrective actions to address cited concerns and to refrain from taking certain actions.

As a result of losses that we have incurred to date and our high level of classified assets, we entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and the Banking Commissioner of the State of Georgia, or the Georgia Commissioner, pursuant to which we agreed to implement plans that are intended to, among other things, minimize credit losses and reduce the amount of our non-performing loans, limit and manage our concentrations in commercial loans, improve our credit risk management and related policies and procedures, address liquidity management and current and future capital requirements, strengthen enterprise risk management practices, and provide for succession planning for key corporate and regional management positions. The memorandum of understanding also requires that we obtain the prior approval of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and the Georgia Commissioner prior to increasing the cash dividend on our common stock above \$0.01 per share.

In addition, many of our subsidiary banks presently are subject to memoranda of understanding and/or similar supervisory actions with the FDIC and/or their applicable state bank regulatory authorities and/or resolutions adopted by those banks' boards of directors at the direction of their appropriate bank regulator. These supervisory actions are similar in substance and scope to the memorandum of understanding described above. See Note 13 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in our 2009 10-K. In the future, all of our subsidiary banks may become subject to similar and/or heightened supervisory actions and enhanced regulation. Even if we are successful in implementing the Charter Consolidation, the resulting bank(s) may be required to comply with all memoranda of understanding and similar supervisory actions our subsidiary banks are currently subject to or may become subject to.

If we are unable to comply with the terms of our current regulatory orders, or if we are unable to comply with the terms of any future regulatory actions or orders to which we may become subject, or if we are unable to execute our capital plan (including this offering) or otherwise achieve and maintain capital levels that are satisfactory to our regulators, then we could become subject to additional, heightened supervisory actions and orders, possibly including consent orders, prompt corrective action restrictions and/or other regulatory actions, including prohibitions on the payment of common stock dividends. If our regulators were to take such additional supervisory actions, then we could, among other things, become subject to significant restrictions on our ability to develop any new business, as well as restrictions on our existing business, and we could be required to raise additional capital, dispose of certain assets and liabilities within a prescribed period of time, or both. The terms of any such supervisory action could have a material negative effect on our business, operating flexibility, financial

Table of Contents

condition and the value of our common stock. See Item 1 Business-Supervision, Regulation and Other Factors in our 2009 10-K.

Recent legislative and regulatory initiatives applicable to TARP recipients could adversely impact our ability to attract and retain key employees and pursue business opportunities and put us at a competitive disadvantage vis-à-vis our competitors.

Until we repay the TARP funds, we are subject to additional regulatory scrutiny and restrictions regarding the compensation of certain executives and associates as established under TARP guidelines. The increased scrutiny and restrictions related to our compensation practices may adversely impact our ability to recruit, retain and motivate key employees, which in turn may impact our ability to pursue business opportunities and could otherwise materially adversely affect our businesses and results of operations. These restrictions may put us at a competitive disadvantage vis-à-vis our competitors that have repaid all TARP funds or did not receive TARP funds and may prove costly for us to comply with. See Item 1 Business-Supervision, Regulation and Other Factors in our 2009 10-K.

As a result of our participation in the Capital Purchase Program and the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program, we may become subject to additional regulation, and we cannot predict the cost or effects of compliance at this time.

In connection with our participation in the Capital Purchase Program administered under the TARP, we may face additional regulations and/or reporting requirements, including, but not limited to, the following:

Section 5.3 of the standardized Securities Purchase Agreement that we entered into with the Treasury provides, in part, that the Treasury may unilaterally amend any provision of this Agreement to the extent required to comply with any changes after the Signing Date in applicable federal statutes. This provision could give Congress the ability to impose after-the-fact terms and conditions on participants in the Capital Purchase Program. As a participant in the Capital Purchase Program, we would be subject to any such retroactive legislation. We cannot predict whether or in what form any proposed regulation or statute will be adopted or the extent to which our business may be affected by any new regulation or statute.

Participation in the Capital Purchase Program will limit our ability to repurchase our common stock or to increase the dividend on our common stock above \$0.06 per share, or to repurchase, our common stock without the consent of the Treasury until the earlier of December 19, 2011 or until the Series A Preferred Stock has been redeemed in whole, or until the Treasury has transferred all of the Series A Preferred Stock to a third party.

The FDIC has requested that all state-chartered banks monitor and report how they have spent funds received from the Treasury in connection with TARP funds.

Our continued participation in the Transaction Account Guarantee portion of the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program will require the payment of additional insurance premiums to the FDIC.

As a result, we may face increased regulation, and compliance with such regulation may increase our costs and limit our ability to pursue certain business opportunities. We cannot predict the effect that participating in these programs may have on our business, financial

Table of Contents

condition, or results of operations in the future or what additional regulations and/or requirements we may become subject to as a result of our participation in these programs.

Regulation of the financial services industry is undergoing major changes, and future legislation could increase our cost of doing business or harm our competitive position.

In 2009, many emergency government programs enacted in 2008 in response to the financial crisis and the recession slowed or wound down, and global regulatory and legislative focus has generally moved to a second phase of broader reform and a restructuring of financial institution regulation. Legislators and regulators in the United States are currently considering a wide range of proposals that, if enacted, could result in major changes to the way banking operations are regulated. Some of these major changes may take effect as early as 2010, and could materially impact the profitability of our business, the value of assets we hold or the collateral available for our loans, require changes to business practices or force us to discontinue businesses and expose us to additional costs, taxes, liabilities, enforcement actions and reputational risk.

Certain reform proposals under consideration could result in Synovus becoming subject to stricter capital requirements and leverage limits, and could also affect the scope, coverage, or calculation of capital, all of which could require us to reduce business levels or to raise capital, including in ways that may adversely impact our shareholders or creditors. In addition, we anticipate the enactment of certain reform proposals under consideration that would introduce stricter substantive standards, oversight and enforcement of rules governing consumer financial products and services, with particular emphasis on retail extensions of credit and other consumer-directed financial products or services. We cannot predict whether new legislation will be enacted and, if enacted, the effect that it, or any regulations, would have on our business, financial condition, or results of operations.

We may be required to pay significantly higher FDIC premiums in the future.

The FDIC has recently been considering different methodologies by which it may increase premium amounts, because the costs associated with bank resolutions or failures have substantially depleted the Deposit Insurance Fund. In November 2009, the FDIC voted to require insured depository institutions to prepay slightly over three years of estimated insurance assessments. Additionally, the FDIC has proposed using executive compensation as a factor in assessing the premiums paid by insured depository institutions to the Deposit Insurance Fund.

We rely on our systems and employees, and any failures or departures could materially adversely affect our operations.

We are exposed to many types of operational risk, including the risk of fraud by employees and outsiders, clerical and record-keeping errors, and computer/telecommunications systems malfunctions. Our businesses are dependent on our ability to process a large number of increasingly complex transactions. If any of our financial, accounting, or other data processing systems fail or have other significant shortcomings, we could be materially adversely affected. We are similarly dependent on our employees. We could be materially adversely affected if one of our employees departs or causes a significant operational break-down or failure, either as a result of human error or where an individual purposefully sabotages or fraudulently manipulates our operations or systems. Third parties with which we do business also could be sources of operational risk to us, including relating to break-downs or failures of such parties own systems or employees. Any of these occurrences could result in a diminished ability of us to

Table of Contents

operate one or more of our businesses, potential liability to clients, reputational damage and regulatory intervention, which could materially adversely affect us.

We may also be subject to disruptions of our operating systems arising from events that are wholly or partially beyond our control, which may include, for example, computer viruses or electrical or telecommunications outages or natural disasters. Such disruptions may give rise to losses in service to customers and loss or liability to us. In addition, there is a risk that our business continuity and data security systems prove to be inadequate. Any such failure could affect our operations and could materially adversely affect our results of operations by requiring us to expend significant resources to correct the defect, as well as by exposing us to litigation or losses not covered by insurance.

We must respond to rapid technological changes, and these changes may be more difficult or expensive than anticipated.

If competitors introduce new products and services embodying new technologies, or if new industry standards and practices emerge, our existing product and service offerings, technology and systems may become obsolete. Further, if we fail to adopt or develop new technologies or to adapt our products and services to emerging industry standards, we may lose current and future customers, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. The financial services industry is changing rapidly and in order to remain competitive, we must continue to enhance and improve the functionality and features of our products, services and technologies. These changes may be more difficult or expensive than we anticipate.

Fluctuations in our expenses and other costs could adversely affect our financial results.

Our personnel, occupancy and other operating expenses directly affect our earnings results. In light of the extremely competitive environment in which we operate, and because the size and scale of many of our competitors provides them with increased operational efficiencies, it is important that we are able to successfully manage such expenses. We are aggressively managing our expenses in the current economic environment, but as our business develops, changes or expands, additional expenses can arise. Other factors that can affect the amount of our expenses include legal and administrative cases and proceedings, which can be expensive to pursue or defend. In addition, changes in accounting policies can significantly affect how we calculate expenses and earnings.

Increases in the costs of services and products provided to us by third parties could adversely affect our financial results.

The costs of services and products provided to us by third parties could increase in the future, whether as a result of our financial condition, credit ratings, the way we are perceived by such parties, the economy or otherwise. Such increases could have an adverse affect on our financial results.

Changes in accounting policies and practices, as may be adopted by the regulatory agencies, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or other authoritative bodies, could materially impact our financial statements.

Our accounting policies and methods are fundamental to how we record and report our financial condition and results of operations. From time to time, the regulatory agencies, the

Table of Contents

Financial Accounting Standards Board, and other authoritative bodies change the financial accounting and reporting standards that govern the preparation of our financial statements. These changes can be hard to predict and can materially impact how we record and report our financial condition and results of operations.

The costs and effects of litigation, investigations or similar matters, or adverse facts and developments related thereto, could materially affect our business, operating results and financial condition.

We may be involved from time to time in a variety of litigation, investigations, inquiries or similar matters arising out of our business. Our insurance may not cover all claims that may be asserted against it and indemnification rights to which we are entitled may not be honored, and any claims asserted against us, regardless of merit or eventual outcome, may harm our reputation. Should the ultimate judgments or settlements in any litigation or investigation significantly exceed our insurance coverage, they could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, premiums for insurance covering the financial and banking sectors are rising. We may not be able to obtain appropriate types or levels of insurance in the future, nor may we be able to obtain adequate replacement policies with acceptable terms or at historic rates, if at all. We have exposure to many different industries and counterparties, and we routinely execute transactions with a variety of counterparties in the financial services industry. As a result, defaults by, or even rumors or concerns about, one or more financial institutions with which we do business, or the financial services industry generally, have led to market-wide liquidity problems in the past and could do so in the future and could lead to losses or defaults by us or by other institutions. Many of these transactions expose us to credit risk in the event of default of our counterparty or client. In addition, our credit risk may be exacerbated when the collateral we hold cannot be sold at prices that are sufficient for us to recover the full amount of our exposure. Any such losses could materially and adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

We are named in a purported federal securities class action lawsuit and several related suits and inquiries, and if we are unable to resolve these matters favorably, then our business, operating results and financial condition would suffer.

On July 7, 2009, the City of Pompano Beach General Employees Retirement System filed suit in the United States District Court, Northern District of Georgia (the Securities Class Action) against us and certain current and former executive officers alleging, among other things, that we and the named defendants misrepresented or failed to disclose material facts, including purported exposure to our Sea Island lending relationship and the impact of real estate values as a threat to our credit, capital position, and business, and failed to adequately and timely record losses for impaired loans. The plaintiffs in the suit claim that the alleged misrepresentations or omissions artificially inflated our stock price in violation of the federal securities laws and seek damages in an unspecified amount.

On November 4, 2009, a shareholder filed a putative derivative action purportedly on behalf of Synovus in the United States District Court, Northern District of Georgia (the Federal Shareholder Derivative Lawsuit), against certain current and/or former directors and executive officers of the Company. The Federal Shareholder Derivative Lawsuit asserts that the individual defendants violated their fiduciary duties based upon substantially the same facts as alleged in the Securities Class Action described above. The plaintiff is seeking to recover damages in an unspecified amount and equitable and/or injunctive relief.

Table of Contents

On December 21, 2009, a shareholder filed a putative derivative action purportedly on behalf of Synovus in the Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia (the State Shareholder Derivative Lawsuit), against certain current and/or former directors and executive officers of the Company. The State Shareholder Derivative Lawsuit asserts that the individual defendants violated their fiduciary duties based upon substantially the same facts as alleged in the Federal Shareholder Derivative Lawsuit described above. The plaintiff is seeking to recover damages in an unspecified amount and equitable and/or injunctive relief.

Synovus received a letter from the SEC, Atlanta regional office, dated December 15, 2009, informing Synovus that it is conducting an informal inquiry to determine whether any person or entity has violated the federal securities laws. The SEC has not asserted that Synovus or any person or entity has committed any securities violations. The Company intends to cooperate fully with the SEC's informal inquiry.

We cannot at this time predict the outcome of these matters or reasonably determine the probability of a material adverse result or reasonably estimate range of potential exposure, if any, that these matters might have on us, our business, our financial condition or our results of operations, although such effects could be materially adverse. In addition, in the future, we may need to record litigation reserves with respect to these matters. Further, regardless of how these matters proceed, it could divert our management's attention and other resources away from our business.

The failure of other financial institutions could adversely affect us.

Our ability to engage in routine transactions, including, for example, funding transactions, could be adversely affected by the actions and potential failures of other financial institutions. Financial institutions are interrelated as a result of trading, clearing, counterparty and other relationships. We have exposure to many different industries and counterparties, and we routinely execute transactions with a variety of counterparties in the financial services industry. As a result, defaults by, or even rumors or concerns about, one or more financial institutions with which we do business, or the financial services industry generally, have led to market-wide liquidity problems in the past and could do so in the future and could lead to losses or defaults by us or by other institutions. Many of these transactions expose us to credit risk in the event of default of our counterparty or client. In addition, our credit risk may be exacerbated when the collateral we hold cannot be sold at prices that are sufficient for us to recover the full amount of our exposure. Any such losses could materially and adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Offering risks

The shares of common stock offered hereby are only entitled to one vote per share on each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of shareholders, whereas holders of a substantial amount of our common stock are entitled to ten votes on each such matter.

Although we only have one class of common stock, certain shares of our common stock are entitled to ten votes per share on each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of shareholders, including common stock that has been beneficially owned continuously by the same shareholder for a period of forty-eight consecutive months before the record date of any meeting of shareholders at which the share is eligible to be voted. See Description of Capital Stock Common Stock Voting Rights in the accompanying prospectus. Each share of common stock offered in this offering is only entitled to one vote per share on each matter submitted to

Table of Contents

a vote at a meeting of shareholders. Therefore, while a purchaser of common stock in this offering may have an economic interest in us that is identical to or even greater than another shareholder, that other shareholder may be entitled to ten times as many votes per share as such a purchaser. As a result, some groups of shareholders will be able to approve strategic transactions or increases in authorized capital stock, among other matters submitted to the shareholders, even over the objections of shareholders, including purchasers in this offering, who hold equivalent or greater economic stakes in our company.

Sales of a significant number of shares of our common stock in the public markets, and other transactions that we may pursue, could depress the market price of our common stock.

Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock in the public markets and the perception that those sales may occur could adversely affect the market price of our common stock. In addition, future issuances of equity securities, including pursuant to the Concurrent Transactions and other transactions that we may pursue, may dilute the interests of our existing shareholders, including you, and cause the market price of our common stock to decline. We may issue equity securities (including convertible securities, preferred securities, and options and warrants on our common or preferred stock) in the future for a number of reasons, including to finance our operations and business strategy, to adjust our ratio of debt to equity, to address regulatory capital concerns, or to satisfy our obligations upon the exercise of outstanding options or warrants. We may issue equity securities in transactions that generate cash proceeds, such as this offering, transactions that free up regulatory capital but do not immediately generate or preserve substantial amounts of cash, and transactions that generate regulatory or balance sheet capital only and do not generate or preserve cash. We cannot predict the effect that these transactions would have on the market price of our common stock.

Our stock price has been and is likely to be volatile and the value of your investment may decline.

The trading price of our common stock has been and is likely to be highly volatile and subject to wide fluctuations in price. The stock market in general, and the market for commercial banks and other financial services companies in particular, has experienced significant price and volume fluctuations that sometimes have been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of those companies. These broad market and industry factors may seriously harm the market price of our common stock, regardless of our operating performance. Furthermore, the value of your investment may decline, and you may be unable to sell your shares of our common stock at or above the offering price.

We may invest or spend the proceeds in this offering in ways with which you may not agree and in ways that may not earn a profit, including contributing capital to our subsidiary banks.

We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering for working capital and general corporate purposes. Therefore, we will retain broad discretion over the use of the proceeds from this offering and may use them for purposes other than those contemplated at the time of this offering. You may not agree with the ways we decide to use these proceeds, and our use of the proceeds may not yield any profits. Furthermore, it is the longstanding policy of the Federal Reserve Board, that a bank holding company is expected to act as a source of financial strength for its subsidiary banks and to commit resources to support these banks. As a result of this policy, we may be required to commit resources, including proceeds from this offering, to our subsidiary banks in circumstances where we might not otherwise choose to do so and that may not yield any profits.

Table of Contents

Our common stock is equity and is subordinate to our existing and future indebtedness and preferred stock.

Shares of common stock are equity interests in us and do not constitute indebtedness. As such, shares of common stock will rank junior to all of our indebtedness and to other non-equity claims against us and our assets available to satisfy claims against us, including in our liquidation. Additionally, holders of our common stock are subject to the prior dividend and liquidation rights of holders of our outstanding preferred stock. The issued and outstanding shares of our Series A Preferred Stock, all of which are held by the Treasury, have an aggregate liquidation preference of \$967,870,000. Our board of directors is authorized to issue additional classes or series of preferred stock without any action on the part of the holders of our common stock and we are permitted to incur additional debt. Upon liquidation, lenders and holders of our debt securities and preferred stock would receive distributions of our available assets prior to holders of our common stock.

We will issue up to million shares of our common stock if we complete the Concurrent Transactions, and may issue additional equity securities in connection with other transactions we may pursue, either of which will result in dilution to the holders of our common stock.

We could issue up to million shares of our common stock in the Concurrent Transactions, including up to million underlying shares in connection with the tMEDS offering, and up to 97,000,000 shares if all holders of our outstanding 2017 notes exercise their exchange option. The issuance or effective issuance of common stock in the Concurrent Transactions and the issuance of additional equity securities in connection with other transactions we may pursue could cause significant dilution to the holders of our common stock, including holders who purchase our common stock in this offering.

We may be unable to receive dividends from our subsidiary banks, and we may be required to contribute capital to those banks, which could adversely affect our liquidity and cause us to raise capital on terms that are unfavorable to us.

Our primary source of liquidity is dividends from our subsidiary banks, which are governed by certain rules and regulations of various state and federal banking regulatory agencies. Dividends from our subsidiaries in 2009 were significantly lower than those received in previous years and we expect dividends from our subsidiaries to continue to be lower than previous years in 2010. This may be the result of those banks financial condition and/or regulatory limitations they may face. During 2009, we have been required to provide capital to certain subsidiaries and expect to continue to do so in 2010. There is an increasing possibility that additional Synovus subsidiary banks may be directed by their regulators to increase their capital levels as a result of weakened financial condition, which may require that we contribute additional capital to these banks at a time when Synovus is not receiving a meaningful amount of dividend payments from its banks to offset those capital infusions. See Note 13 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in our 2009 10-K. This could require that Synovus maintain a consolidated capital position that is beyond what we presently anticipate and in excess of the levels of capital used in the assumptions underlying our internal capital analysis. Further, as a holding company with obligations and expenses separate from our bank subsidiaries, and because many of our banks will be unable to make dividend payments to us, we must maintain a level of liquidity at our holding company that is sufficient to address those obligations and expenses. The maintenance of adequate liquidity at our holding company could limit our ability to make further capital investments in our bank subsidiaries, and which could adversely impact us. Even

Table of Contents

if we are successful in implementing the Charter Consolidation, we may not receive dividends from the resulting bank(s) in 2010 and may be required to provide additional capital to the resulting bank(s).

Our access to funds from our subsidiaries may become limited, thereby restricting our ability to make payments on our obligations or dividend payments on our capital stock.

Synovus is a separate and distinct legal entity from our banking and nonbanking subsidiaries. We therefore depend on dividends, distributions and other payments from our banking and nonbanking subsidiaries to fund dividend payments on our common stock and to fund all payments on our other obligations, including debt obligations. Our banking subsidiaries and certain other of our subsidiaries are subject to laws that authorize regulatory bodies to block or reduce the flow of funds from those subsidiaries to us, and certain of our subsidiaries also are, or may become, subject to regulatory orders that would further limit their ability to pay dividends to us. See We are presently subject to, and in the future may become subject to additional, supervisory actions and/or enhanced regulation that could have a material adverse effect on our business, operations, flexibility, financial condition, and the value of our common stock. Regulations on bank and financial holding companies may also restrict our ability to pay dividends on our capital stock. Regulatory action of that kind could impede access to funds we need to make payments on our obligations or dividend payments.

We may be unable to pay dividends on our common stock and other securities.

Although we have historically paid a quarterly cash dividend to the holders of our common stock, we currently pay dividends of only \$0.01 per common share, and holders of our common stock are not legally entitled to receive dividends. The elimination of dividends paid on our common stock could adversely affect the market price of our common stock. In addition, as a result of the memorandum of understanding described above, we are required to inform the Federal Reserve in advance of declaring or paying any future dividends on any of our securities, including our common stock and the TARP preferred stock and the Federal Reserve could decide at any time that paying any such dividends could be an unsafe or unsound banking practice. Any of these decisions could adversely affect the market price of our common stock and have adverse impacts on our business, reputation and ability to access the capital markets in the future. For a discussion of current regulatory limits on our ability to pay dividends above \$0.01 per common share, see Part I Item 1 Business Supervision, Regulation and Other Factors Dividends and Risk Factors We are presently subject to, and in the future may become subject to additional, supervisory actions and/or enhanced regulation that could have a material negative effect on our business, operating flexibility, financial condition and the value of our common stock in our 2009 10-K and Dividends under Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our 2009 10-K.

Our articles of incorporation, our Rights Plan, and certain banking laws and regulations, may have an anti-takeover effect.

Provisions of our articles of incorporation, our Rights Plan and certain banking laws and regulations, including regulatory approval requirements, could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us, even if doing so would be perceived to be beneficial to our shareholders. The combination of these provisions may inhibit a non-negotiated merger or other business

Table of Contents

combination, which, in turn, could adversely affect the market price of our common stock. See Summary Adoption of Rights Plan.

S-37

Table of Contents

Capitalization

The following table sets forth our consolidated capitalization as of March 31, 2010:

on an actual basis;

on an adjusted basis to give effect to the sale of 112,994,350 shares of common stock at a price of \$3.54 per share (the last reported sale price of our common stock on the NYSE on April 23, 2010), for total net proceeds of approximately \$379.8 million after deducting underwriting commissions and expenses; and

on a further adjusted basis to give effect to the issuance of the maximum of \$200 million aggregate stated amount of tMEDS in the concurrent tMEDS offering, and to give effect to the issuance of 97 million shares of common stock at an effective price of \$3.54 per share in the exchange offer for our 2017 notes in each case after the payment of underwriting commissions and expenses. See Summary Concurrent Transactions.

These As adjusted and As further adjusted amounts do not reflect the use of proceeds contemplated hereby. See Use of proceeds. This information should be read together with the selected consolidated financial and other data in this prospectus supplement as well as the audited and unaudited consolidated financial statements and related notes and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Conditions and Results of Operations in our 2009 10-K, which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement.

The tMEDS offering is not contingent upon the completion of this offering, and this offering is not contingent upon the completion of the tMEDS offering, and there can be no assurance as to the actual number of shares of common stock that will be issued in this offering or as to the actual number of tMEDS that will be issued in the tMEDS offering or as to the actual number of shares of common stock to be issued in the exchange offer for our 2017 notes.

Table of Contents

(dollars in thousands)	Actual	As adjusted(1)	March 31, 2010 As further adjusted(2)
Federal funds purchased and other short-term borrowings	\$ 450,979	\$ 450,979	\$ 450,979
Long-term debt:			
4.875% subordinated notes, due 2013	\$ 206,750	\$ 206,750	\$ 206,750
5.125% subordinated notes, due 2017	450,000	450,000	88,547
tMEDS offered in the Concurrent Transactions			42,477
Libor + 1.80% debentures, due 2035	10,000	10,000	10,000
Hedge related basis adjustment	33,288	33,288	16,629
Various FHLB advances due through March 2018	1,162,130	1,162,130	1,162,130
Other	6,175	6,175	6,175
 Total long-term debt	 \$ 1,868,343	 \$ 1,868,343	 \$ 1,532,708
Shareholders equity:			
Cumulative perpetual preferred stock no par value. Authorized 100,000,000 shares; and outstanding 967,870 shares	\$ 930,433	\$ 930,433	\$ 930,433
Common stock \$1.00 par value. Authorized 600,000,000 shares, issued 495,536,131 shares, and outstanding 489,843,709 shares; authorized as adjusted 1,200,000,000 shares(4), issued as adjusted 608,530,481, and outstanding as adjusted 602,838,059 shares; and authorized as further adjusted 1,200,000,000 shares, issued as further adjusted 705,530,481, and outstanding as further adjusted 699,838,059 shares	495,536	608,530	705,530
Additional paid-in capital	1,607,140	1,873,896	2,268,175
Less treasury stock at cost 5,692,422 shares	(114,174)	(114,174)	(114,174)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	80,722	80,722	82,109
Accumulated (deficit) retained earnings	(382,914)	(382,914)	(349,569)
 Total shareholders equity	 2,616,743	 2,996,493	 3,522,504
 Total capitalization (including short-term borrowings)	 \$ 4,936,065	 \$ 5,315,815	 \$ 5,506,191
Capital ratios:			
Tier 1 capital	\$ 2,494,790	2,874,540	3,400,551

Edgar Filing: SYNOVUS FINANCIAL CORP - Form 424B5

Tier 1 common equity	1,554,357	1,934,107	2,460,118
Total risk-based capital	3,357,445	3,737,195	3,920,057
Tier 1 capital ratio	9.69%	11.16%	13.21%
Tier 1 common equity ratio	6.04%	7.51%	9.55%
Total risk-based capital to risk-weighted asset ratio	13.04%	14.51%	15.22%
Leverage ratio	7.68%	8.85%	10.47%
Common equity to assets ratio	5.20%	6.30%	7.85%
Tangible common equity to tangible assets ratio(3)	5.08%	6.18%	7.74%
Tangible common equity to risk-weighted assets ratio(3)	6.39%	7.87%	9.91%

- (1) The As adjusted amounts reflect common stock issuable pursuant to this prospectus supplement.
- (2) The As further adjusted amounts reflect the issuance of \$200 million aggregate amount of tMeds in connection with the concurrent tMEDS offering, and give effect to the issuance of 97 million shares of common stock at an effective price of \$3.54 per share in the exchange offer for our 2017 notes. See Summary Concurrent Transactions.
- (3) See Summary Reconciliation of non-GAAP financial measures .
- (4) On April 22, 2010, our shareholders approved an increase in our authorized shares of common stock to 1,200,000,000 shares.

S-39

Table of Contents

Use of proceeds

We estimate that the net proceeds of this offering, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and the estimated expenses of this offering payable by us, will be approximately \$ (or approximately \$ if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full). We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering for working capital and general corporate purposes.

S-40

Table of Contents**Price range of common stock**

Our common stock trades on the NYSE under the symbol SNV. On April 23, 2010, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the NYSE was \$3.54 per share. The following table provides the high and low closing sales price per share during the periods indicated, as reported on the NYSE.

	High	Low
2010		
First Quarter	\$ 3.75	\$ 2.10
Second Quarter (through April 23, 2010)	3.82	3.34
2009		
Fourth Quarter	\$ 3.85	\$ 1.58
Third Quarter	\$ 4.43	\$ 2.55
Second Quarter	\$ 5.24	\$ 2.90
First Quarter	\$ 8.52	\$ 2.30
2008		
Fourth Quarter	\$ 11.50	\$ 6.68
Third Quarter	\$ 11.60	\$ 7.56
Second Quarter	\$ 12.84	\$ 8.73
First Quarter	\$ 13.49	\$ 10.80

As of March 31, 2010, there were 489,843,709 shares of common stock issued and outstanding. As of March 31, 2010, there were approximately 22,251 shareholders of record.

Table of Contents**Dividend policy**

The table below presents information regarding dividends on Synovus common stock declared during the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 and the quarter ended March 31, 2010.

Date declared	Date paid	Per share amount
2010		
March 10, 2010	April 1, 2010	\$.0100
2009		
December 15, 2009	January 4, 2010	\$.0100
September 14, 2009	October 1, 2009	.0100
June 10, 2009	July 1, 2009	.0100
March 10, 2009	April 1, 2009	.0100
2008		
December 9, 2008	January 2, 2009	\$.0600
September 10, 2008	October 1, 2008	.0600
June 9, 2008	July 1, 2008	.1700
March 10, 2008	April 1, 2008	.1700

Under the laws of the State of Georgia, we, as a business corporation, may declare and pay dividends in cash or property unless the payment or declaration would be contrary to restrictions contained in our Articles of Incorporation, or unless, after payment of the dividend, we would not be able to pay our debts when they become due in the usual course of our business or our total assets would be less than the sum of our total liabilities. In addition, we are also subject to federal regulatory capital requirements that effectively limit the amount of cash dividends, if any that we may pay.

Under the Federal Reserve Board guidance reissued on February 24, 2009 the Federal Reserve may restrict our ability to pay dividends on any class of capital stock or any other Tier 1 capital instrument if we are not deemed to have a strong capital position. In addition, we may have to reduce or eliminate dividends if:

our net income available to shareholders for the past four quarters, net of dividends previously paid during that period, is not sufficient to fully fund the dividends;

our prospective rate of earnings retention is not consistent with the holding company's capital needs and overall current and prospective financial condition; or

we will not meet, or are in danger of not meeting, the minimum regulatory capital adequacy ratios.

As a result of the memorandum of understanding described in Part I Item 1A Risk Factors We are presently subject to, and in the future may become subject to additional, supervisory actions and/or enhanced regulation that could have a material negative effect on our business, operating flexibility, financial condition and the value of our common stock in our 2009 10-K, we are required to inform the Federal Reserve Board in advance of declaring or paying any future

dividends, and the Federal Reserve Board could decide at any time that paying any

S-42

Table of Contents

common stock dividends could be an unsafe or unsound banking practice. In the current financial and economic environment, the Federal Reserve Board has indicated that bank holding companies should carefully review their dividend policy and has in some cases discouraged payment unless both asset quality and capital are very strong.

Additionally, we are subject to contractual restrictions that limit our ability to pay dividends if there is an event of default under such contract. Finally, so long as any of our debt or equity securities issued to the Treasury under the TARP Capital Purchase Program are held by the Treasury, Synovus will not be permitted to increase the dividend rate on our common stock without approval from the Treasury.

The primary sources of funds for our payment of dividends to our shareholders are dividends and fees to us from our bank and nonbank affiliates. Various federal and state statutory provisions and regulations limit the amount of dividends that our subsidiary banks may pay. Under the regulations of the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance, a Georgia bank must have approval of the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance to pay cash dividends if, at the time of such payment:

the ratio of Tier 1 capital to adjusted total assets is less than 6 percent;

the aggregate amount of dividends to be declared or anticipated to be declared during the current calendar year exceeds 50 percent of its net after-tax profits for the previous calendar year; or

its total classified assets in its most recent regulatory examination exceeded 80 percent of its Tier 1 capital plus its allowance for loan losses, as reflected in the examination.

For those of our subsidiary banks chartered in Alabama, Florida or Tennessee, the approval of the appropriate state banking department is generally required if the total of all dividends declared in any year would exceed the total of its net income for that year combined with its retained net profits for the preceding two years less any required transfers to surplus. In addition, the approval of the OCC is required for a national bank to pay dividends in excess of the bank's retained net income for the current year plus retained net income for the preceding two years. The OCC and many other regulators have a policy, but not a requirement, that a dividend payment should not exceed net income to date in the current year.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act 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 institution would thereafter be undercapitalized. In addition, federal and state banking regulations applicable to us and our bank subsidiaries require minimum levels of capital that limit the amounts available for payment of dividends.

Synovus has historically paid a quarterly cash dividend to the holders of its common stock. Management closely monitors trends and developments in credit quality, liquidity, financial markets and other economic trends, as well as regulatory requirements regarding the payment of dividends, all of which impact our capital position, and will continue to periodically review dividend levels to determine if they are appropriate in light of these factors. In the current environment, regulatory restrictions may limit Synovus' ability to continue to pay dividends. Synovus must inform and consult with the Federal Reserve Board prior to declaring and paying

Table of Contents

any future dividends, and the Federal Reserve Board could decide at any time that paying any common stock dividends could be an unsafe or unsound banking practice. See Part I Business Supervision, Regulation and Other Factors Dividends and Part I Item 1A Risk Factors We presently are subject to, and in the future may become subject to additional, supervisory actions and/or enhanced regulation that could have a material negative effect on our business, operating flexibility, financial condition and the value of our common stock in our 2009 10-K.

Synovus ability to pay dividends is partially dependent upon dividends and distributions that it receives from its banking and non-banking subsidiaries, which are restricted by various regulations administered by federal and state bank regulatory authorities. Dividends from subsidiaries in 2009 were, and Synovus expects that dividends from subsidiaries in 2010 will be, significantly lower than those received in previous years.

In addition to dividends paid on Synovus common stock, Synovus paid dividends of \$43.8 million to the Treasury on its Series A Preferred Stock during 2009. There were no dividends paid during 2008 on the Series A Preferred Stock, which was issued on December 19, 2008.

Synovus participation in the Capital Purchase Program limits its ability to increase the dividend on Synovus common stock (without the consent of the Treasury) until the earlier of December 19, 2011 or until the Series A Preferred Stock has been redeemed in whole or until the Treasury has transferred all of the Series A Preferred Stock to a third party. In addition, Synovus must seek the Federal Reserve's permission to increase the quarterly dividend on its common stock above \$0.01 per common share. Synovus is presently subject to, and in the future may become subject to, additional supervisory actions and/or enhanced regulation that could have a material negative effect on business, operating flexibility, financial condition, and the value of Synovus common stock. See Part I Business Supervision, Regulation and Other Factors Dividends and Part I Item 1A Risk factors We presently are subject to, and in the future may become subject to, additional supervisory actions and/or enhanced regulation that could have a material negative effect on our business, operating flexibility, financial condition and the value of our common stock in our 2009 10-K.

Table of Contents

**Material United States federal
tax consequences for non-U.S. holders**

The following is a general discussion of the material U.S. federal income and estate tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our common stock by a beneficial owner that is a Non-U.S. Holder, other than a Non-U.S. Holder that owns, or has owned, actually or constructively, more than 5% of our common stock. A Non-U.S. Holder is a person or entity that, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is a:

nonresident alien individual, other than certain former citizens and residents of the United States subject to tax as expatriates;

foreign corporation; or

foreign estate or trust.

A Non-U.S. Holder does not include a nonresident alien individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of disposition. Such an individual is urged to consult his or her own tax adviser regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the sale, exchange or other disposition of our common stock.

If an entity or arrangement that is classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds our common stock, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partnerships holding our common stock and partners in such partnerships are urged to consult their tax advisers as to the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences of holding and disposing of our common stock.

This discussion is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), and administrative pronouncements, judicial decisions and final, temporary and proposed Treasury Regulations, changes to any of which subsequent to the date of this prospectus may affect the tax consequences described herein. This discussion does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be relevant to a Non-U.S. Holder in light of its particular circumstances and does not address any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or foreign jurisdiction. Prospective holders are urged to consult their tax advisers with respect to the particular tax consequences to them of owning and disposing of our common stock, including the consequences under the laws of any state, local or foreign jurisdiction.

Dividends

Dividends paid to a Non-U.S. Holder of our common stock generally will be subject to withholding tax at a 30% rate or a reduced rate specified by an applicable income tax treaty. In order to obtain a reduced rate of withholding, a Non-U.S. Holder will be required to provide an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN certifying its entitlement to benefits under a treaty.

If dividends paid to a Non-U.S. Holder are effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, are attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the Non-U.S. Holder in the United States), the Non-U.S. Holder, although exempt from the withholding tax discussed in the preceding paragraph, will generally be taxed in the same manner as a U.S. person, except that the Non-U.S. Holder will generally be required to provide a properly executed Internal Revenue

Table of Contents

Service Form W-8ECI in order to claim an exemption from withholding tax. A non-U.S. corporation receiving effectively connected dividends may also be subject to an additional branch profits tax imposed at a rate of 30% (or a lower treaty rate).

Gain on disposition of common stock

A Non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on gain realized on a sale or other disposition of our common stock unless:

the gain is effectively connected with a trade or business of the Non-U.S. Holder in the United States (subject to an applicable income tax treaty providing otherwise), or

we are or have been a United States real property holding corporation, as defined in the Code, at any time within the five-year period preceding the disposition or the Non-U.S. Holder's holding period, whichever period is shorter, and our common stock has ceased to be traded on an established securities market prior to the beginning of the calendar year in which the sale or disposition occurs.

We believe that we are not, and do not anticipate becoming, a United States real property holding corporation.

If a Non-U.S. Holder is engaged in a trade or business in the United States and gain recognized by the Non-U.S. Holder on a sale or other disposition of our common stock is effectively connected with a conduct of such trade or business, the Non-U.S. Holder will generally be taxed in the same manner as a U.S. person, subject to an applicable income tax treaty providing otherwise. Such Non-U.S. Holders are urged to consult their tax advisers with respect to the U.S. tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our common stock, including the possible imposition of a branch profits tax at a rate of 30% (or a lower treaty rate).

Information reporting requirements and backup withholding

Information returns will be filed with the Internal Revenue Service in connection with payments of dividends on our common stock. Unless the Non-U.S. Holder complies with certification procedures to establish that it is not a U.S. person, information returns may be filed with the Internal Revenue Service in connection with the proceeds from a sale or other disposition of our common stock and the Non-U.S. Holder may be subject to U.S. backup withholding on dividend payments on our common stock or on the proceeds from a sale or other disposition of our common stock. The certification procedures required to claim a reduced rate of withholding under a treaty described above under Dividends will satisfy the certification requirements necessary to avoid backup withholding as well. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to a Non-U.S. Holder will be allowed as a credit against such holder's U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle such holder to a refund, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

Recent legislation

Recent legislation generally imposes a withholding tax of 30% on payments to certain foreign entities, after December 31, 2012, of dividends on and the gross proceeds of dispositions of U.S. common stock, unless various U.S. information reporting and due diligence requirements that are different from, and in addition to, the beneficial owner certification requirements

Table of Contents

described above have been satisfied. Prospective investors are urged to consult their tax advisers regarding the possible implications of this legislation on their investment in our common stock.

Federal estate tax

Individual Non-U.S. Holders and entities the property of which is potentially includible in such an individual's gross estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes (for example, a trust funded by such an individual and with respect to which the individual has retained certain interests or powers), should note that, absent an applicable treaty benefit, our common stock will be treated as U.S. situs property subject to U.S. federal estate tax.

S-47

Table of Contents

Underwriting

We are offering the shares of common stock described in this prospectus supplement through a number of underwriters. J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. is acting as sole book-running manager of the offering and as representative of the underwriters. Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, we have agreed to sell to the underwriters, and each underwriter has severally agreed to purchase, at the public offering price less the underwriting discounts and commissions set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, the number of shares of common stock listed next to its name in the following table:

Underwriters	Number of shares
J.P. Morgan Securities Inc.	
Total	

The underwriters are committed to purchase all the shares of common stock offered by us if they purchase any shares. The underwriting agreement also provides that if an underwriter defaults, the purchase commitments of non-defaulting underwriters may also be increased or the offering may be terminated.

We have directed the underwriters to reserve up to 5% of the shares of our common stock to be issued in this offering for sale to our directors, officers and certain other persons at the public offering price through a directed share program. The number of shares of common stock available for sale to the general public in the public offering will be reduced to the extent these persons purchase any reserved shares. Any shares not so purchased will be offered by the underwriters to the general public on the same basis as other shares offered hereby.

The underwriters propose to offer the shares of common stock directly to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and to certain dealers at that price less a concession not in excess of \$ per share. After the public offering of the shares, the offering price and other selling terms may be changed by the underwriters.

The underwriters have an option to buy up to additional shares of common stock from us to cover sales of shares by the underwriters which exceed the number of shares specified in the table above. The underwriters have 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement to exercise this over-allotment option. If any shares are purchased with this over-allotment option, the underwriters will purchase shares in approximately the same proportion as shown in the table above. If any additional shares of common stock are purchased, the underwriters will offer the additional shares on the same terms as those on which the shares are being offered.

Table of Contents

The underwriting fee is equal to the public offering price per share of common stock less the amount paid by the underwriters to us per share of common stock. The underwriting fee is \$ per share. The following table shows the per share and total underwriting discounts and commissions to be paid to the underwriters, assuming both no exercise and full exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares.

	Without over-allotment exercise	With full over-allotment exercise
Per share	\$	\$
Total	\$	\$

We estimate that the total expenses of this offering, including registration, filing and listing fees, printing fees and legal and accounting expenses, but excluding the underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may be made available in electronic format on the web sites maintained by one or more underwriters, or selling group members, if any, participating in the offering. The underwriters may agree to allocate a number of shares to underwriters and selling group members for sale to their online brokerage account holders. Internet distributions will be allocated by the representatives to underwriters and selling group members that may make Internet distributions on the same basis as other allocations.

We have agreed that we will not (i) offer, pledge, announce the intention to sell, sell, contract to sell, sell any option or contract to purchase, purchase any option or contract to sell, grant any option, right or warrant to purchase or otherwise transfer or dispose of, directly or indirectly, or file with the SEC a registration statement under the Securities Act relating to, any shares of common stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock, or publicly disclose the intention to make any offer, sale, pledge, disposition or filing or (ii) enter into any swap or other agreement that transfers, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of the common stock or any such other securities, in each case without the prior written consent of J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. for a period of 90 days after the date of this prospectus supplement. The foregoing restrictions do not apply to:

the sale of shares of common stock to the underwriters;

any awards made and shares of our common stock issued upon the exercise or vesting of options and awards granted under our stock-based compensation plans; or

the issuance of shares of our common stock in connection with the Concurrent Transactions.

In addition, our directors and executive officers (or entities controlled by them) entered into lock up agreements with the underwriters prior to the commencement of this offering pursuant to which each of these persons (or entities), for a period of 90 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, may not, without the prior written consent of J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., (i) offer, pledge, announce the intention to sell, sell, contract to sell, sell any option or contract to purchase, purchase any option or contract to sell, grant any option, right or warrant to purchase, or otherwise transfer or dispose of, directly or indirectly, any shares of common stock or any securities convertible into

or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock (including without limitation, common stock or such other securities which may be deemed to be beneficially owned by such person (or entity) in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC and securities which may be issued upon exercise of a stock option or warrant),

S-49

Table of Contents

(ii) enter into any swap or other agreement that transfers, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of the common stock or such other securities, whether any such transaction described in clause (i) or (ii) above is to be settled by delivery of common stock or such other securities, in cash or otherwise or (iii) make any demand for or exercise any right with respect to the registration of any shares of common stock or any security convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, our directors and executive officers (or such entities) may transfer shares of our common stock (or, in the case of clause (6) below, warrants, options or other securities convertible or exchangeable for common stock):

(1) as a *bona fide* gift or gifts;

(2) by will or intestacy;

(3) to any trust, partnership or limited liability company for the direct or indirect benefit of the director or executive officer or the immediate family of the director or executive officer;

(4) (A) to a member of the director or executive officer's immediate family or (B) if such transfer occurs by operation of law, including without limitation, pursuant to a domestic relations order of a court of competent jurisdiction;

(5) to a nominee or custodian of a person or entity to whom a disposition or transfer would be permissible under clauses (1) through (4) above;

(6) to us in connection with the exercise of stock options or warrants or securities convertible into or exchangeable for common stock outstanding on the date hereof;

(7) to any limited partner, wholly-owned subsidiary or holder of equity interests or such entity; or

(8) to us in connection with the exchange or surrender of shares of common stock in satisfaction or payment of the exercise price of stock options, to satisfy any tax withholding obligations of the director or executive officer in respect of such option;

provided, however, that (A) in case of any such transfer, except for *bona fide* gifts to charitable organizations pursuant to clause (1) and transfers to us pursuant to clauses (6) and (8), it shall be a condition to the transfer that such donee or transferee execute an agreement stating that such donee or transferee is receiving and holding the common stock subject to the provisions of this agreement, and (B) any such transfer shall not involve a disposition for value (except for transfers to us pursuant to clauses (6) and (8)), and (C) no filing by any party (donor, donee, transferor or transferee) under the Exchange Act, or other public announcement shall be required or shall be made voluntarily in connection with such transfer or distribution (other than a filing on a Form 5 made after the expiration of the 90 day period referred to above). For this purpose, immediate family means the spouse, children, parents, grandchildren or grandparents of the director or executive officer.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

Our common stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol SNV.

In connection with this offering, the underwriters may engage in stabilizing transactions, which involves making bids for, purchasing and selling shares of common stock in the open market for

Table of Contents

the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common stock while this offering is in progress. These stabilizing transactions may include making short sales of the common stock, which involves the sale by the underwriters of a greater number of shares of common stock than they are required to purchase in this offering, and purchasing shares of common stock on the open market to cover positions created by short sales. Short sales may be covered shorts, which are short positions in an amount not greater than the underwriters' over-allotment option referred to above, or may be naked shorts, which are short positions in excess of that amount. The underwriters may close out any covered short position either by exercising their over-allotment option, in whole or in part, or by purchasing shares in the open market. In making this determination, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of shares available for purchase in the open market compared to the price at which the underwriters may purchase shares through the over-allotment option. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the common stock in the open market that could adversely affect investors who purchase in this offering. To the extent that the underwriters create a naked short position, they will purchase shares in the open market to cover the position.

The underwriters have advised us that, pursuant to Regulation M promulgated by the SEC, they may also engage in other activities that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the common stock, including the imposition of penalty bids. This means that if the representative of the underwriters purchases common stock in the open market in stabilizing transactions or to cover short sales, the representative can require the underwriters that sold those shares as part of this offering to repay the underwriting discount received by them.

These activities may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of the common stock or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common stock, and, as a result, the price of the common stock may be higher than the price that otherwise might exist in the open market. If the underwriters commence these activities, they may discontinue them at any time. The underwriters may carry out these transactions on the NYSE, in the over the counter market or otherwise.

In addition, in connection with this offering certain of the underwriters (and selling group members) may engage in passive market making transactions in our common stock in the over the counter market or otherwise prior to the pricing and completion of this offering. Passive market making consists of displaying bids no higher than the bid prices of independent market makers and making purchases at prices no higher than these independent bids and effected in response to order flow. Net purchases by a passive market maker on each day are generally limited to a specified percentage of the passive market maker's average daily trading volume in the common stock during a specified period and must be discontinued when such limit is reached. Passive market making may cause the price of our common stock to be higher than the price that otherwise would exist in the open market in the absence of these transactions. If passive market making is commenced, it may be discontinued at any time.

Other than in the United States, no action has been taken by us or the underwriters that would permit a public offering of the securities offered by this prospectus supplement in any jurisdiction where action for that purpose is required. The securities offered by this prospectus supplement may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, nor may this prospectus supplement or any other offering material or advertisements in connection with the offer and sale of any such securities be distributed or published in any jurisdiction, except under circumstances that will result in compliance with the applicable rules and regulations of that

Table of Contents

jurisdiction. Persons into whose possession this prospectus supplement comes are advised to inform themselves about and to observe any restrictions relating to the offering and the distribution of this prospectus supplement. This prospectus supplement does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities offered by this prospectus supplement in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or a solicitation is unlawful.

Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates have provided in the past to us and our affiliates and may provide from time to time in the future certain commercial banking, financial advisory, investment banking and other services for us and such affiliates in the ordinary course of their business, for which they have received and may continue to receive customary fees and commissions. In addition, from time to time, certain of the underwriters and their affiliates may effect transactions for their own account or the account of customers, and hold on behalf of themselves or their customers, long or short positions in our debt or equity securities or loans, and may do so in the future.

Selling restrictions

United Kingdom

This document is only being distributed to and is only directed at (i) persons who are outside the United Kingdom or (ii) to investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the Order) or (iii) high net worth entities, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling with Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as relevant persons). The securities are only available to, and any invitation, offer or agreement to subscribe, purchase or otherwise acquire such securities will be engaged in only with, relevant persons. Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), from and including the date on which the European Union Prospectus Directive (the EU Prospectus Directive) is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date) an offer of securities described in this prospectus may not be made to the public in that Relevant Member State prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the shares which has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant Member State, all in accordance with the EU Prospectus Directive, except that it may, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, make an offer of shares to the public in that Relevant Member State at any time:

to legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;

to any legal entity which has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than 43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts;

Table of Contents

to fewer than 100 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the EU Prospectus Directive) subject to obtaining the prior consent of the book-running manager for any such offer; or

in any other circumstances which do not require the publication by the Issuer of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of securities to the public in relation to any securities in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the securities to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the securities, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the EU Prospectus Directive in that Member State and the expression EU Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

S-53

Table of Contents

Validity of securities

The validity of the issuance of the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus supplement will be passed upon for us by Alana L. Griffin, our Deputy General Counsel. Certain other legal matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for us by Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, New York, New York and Alston & Bird LLP, Atlanta, Georgia. Certain legal matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for the underwriters by Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, New York, New York.

Experts

The consolidated financial statements of Synovus Financial Corp. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2009, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009 have been incorporated by reference herein to Synovus' Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2009 in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing. The audit report covering the December 31, 2009 consolidated financial statements refers to a change in the method of accounting for split-dollar life insurance arrangements and the election of the fair value option for mortgage loans held for sale and certain callable brokered certificates of deposit in 2008.

S-54

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS
COMMON STOCK
PREFERRED STOCK
PREFERRED STOCK PURCHASE RIGHTS
WARRANTS
DEBT SECURITIES
PURCHASE CONTRACTS
UNITS

The securities listed above may be offered and sold by us and/or may be offered and sold, from time to time, by one or more selling securityholders to be identified in the future. We will provide specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any supplement carefully before you invest in the securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by the applicable prospectus supplement.

Synovus Financial Corp.'s common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol SNV.

Any securities offered by this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement will be our equity securities or unsecured obligations and will not be savings accounts, deposits or other obligations of any banking or non-banking subsidiary of ours and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the bank insurance fund or any other governmental agency or instrumentality.

Investing in these securities involves certain risks. See **Risk Factors** beginning on page 16 of our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 which is incorporated by reference herein.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is April 26, 2010.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	2
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	2
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	3
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	3
<u>DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES</u>	3
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	3
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	10
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	10
<u>DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS</u>	10
<u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u>	11
<u>FORM OF SECURITIES</u>	11
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	12
<u>LEGAL OPINIONS</u>	13
<u>EXPERTS</u>	13

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) using a shelf registration process. Using this process, we may offer any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement and, if applicable, a pricing supplement that will describe the specific terms of the offering. The prospectus supplement and any pricing supplement may also add to, update or change the information contained in this prospectus. Please carefully read this prospectus, the prospectus supplement and any applicable pricing supplement, in addition to the information contained in the documents we refer to under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

Unless otherwise mentioned or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus to **Synovus**, **we**, **us**, **our**, or similar references mean Synovus Financial Corp. and its subsidiaries.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on their public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public at the SEC's web site (<http://www.sec.gov>).

You may also inspect the reports and other information that we file with the SEC at the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus the information we file with it. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings made with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act) until all the securities offered by this prospectus have been issued, as described in this prospectus; provided, however, that we are not incorporating by reference any information furnished (but not filed) under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K:

(a) Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, as amended by amendment no. 1 to Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2009 filed on April 26, 2010;

(b) Those portions of the Definitive Proxy Statement filed by Synovus on March 12, 2010 in connection with its 2010 Annual Meeting of Shareholders that are incorporated by reference into its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009;

(c) Current Reports on Form 8-K filed January 29, 2010, February 24, 2010 and April 26, 2010,

(d) The description of Synovus common stock, \$1.00 par value per share, set forth in the registration statement on Form 8-A/A filed with the SEC on December 17, 2008, including any amendment or report filed with the SEC for the purpose of updating this description; and

(e) The description of Synovus preferred stock purchase rights, set forth in the Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 26, 2010, including any amendment, report or registration statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC for the purpose of updating this description.

Table of Contents

You may request a copy of these filings at no cost, by writing to or telephoning us at the following address:

Director of Investor Relations
Synovus Financial Corp.
1111 Bay Avenue, Suite 501
Columbus, Georgia 31901
(706) 644-1930

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any pricing supplement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any pricing supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of the document and that any information we have incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date of the document incorporated by reference.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sales of the securities as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. We will not receive any proceeds from the sales of any securities by selling securityholders.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

		Year Ended December 31,				
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	
Including interest on deposits	(2.17x)	0.16x	1.47x	1.71x	2.04x	
Excluding interest on deposits	(30.72x)	(4.52x)	3.83x	5.28x	5.40x	

For the year ended December 31, 2009, earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges by \$1.6 billion (including and excluding interest on deposits). For the year ended December 31, 2008, earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges by \$661.0 million (including and excluding interest on deposits).

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

This prospectus contains a summary of the securities that Synovus or certain selling securityholders to be identified in a prospectus supplement may sell. These summaries are not meant to be a complete description of each security. However, this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement contain the material terms of the securities being offered.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following description summarizes the terms of our common stock and preferred stock but does not purport to be complete, and it is qualified in its entirety by reference to the applicable provisions of federal law governing bank holding companies, Georgia law and our articles of incorporation and bylaws. Our articles of incorporation and bylaws are incorporated by reference as exhibits to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 filed with the SEC. See the Incorporation of certain information by reference section of this prospectus supplement.

General

Our authorized capital stock consists of 1,200,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, and 100,000,000 shares of preferred stock, no par value. As of March 31, 2010, there were 489,843,709 shares of our common stock and 967,870 shares of our preferred stock issued and outstanding.

Table of Contents

All outstanding shares of our common stock and preferred stock are, and the shares to be sold under this prospectus supplement will be, when issued and paid for, fully paid and non-assessable.

Common Stock

Voting Rights

Although we only have one class of common stock, certain shares of our common stock are entitled to ten votes per share on each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of shareholders, including common stock held as described below. The common stock offered in this offering is only entitled to one vote per share on each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of shareholders. Holders of our common stock are entitled to ten votes on each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of shareholders for each share of our common stock that:

has had the same beneficial owner since April 24, 1986;

was acquired by reason of participation in a dividend reinvestment plan offered by us and is held by the same beneficial owner for whom it was acquired under such plan;

is held by the same beneficial owner to whom it was issued as a result of an acquisition of a company or business by us where the resolutions adopted by our board of directors approving such issuance specifically reference and grant such rights;

was acquired under any employee, officer and/or director benefit plan maintained for one or more of our and/or our subsidiaries employees, officers and/or directors, and is held by the same beneficial owner for whom it was acquired under such plan;

is held by the same beneficial owner to whom it was issued by us, or to whom it was transferred by us from treasury shares, and the resolutions adopted by our board of directors approving such issuance and/or transfer specifically reference and grant such rights;

has been beneficially owned continuously by the same shareholder for a period of forty-eight (48) consecutive months before the record date of any meeting of shareholders at which the share is eligible to be voted;

was acquired as a direct result of a stock split, stock dividend or other type of share distribution if the share as to which it was distributed has had the same beneficial owner for a period of forty-eight (48) consecutive months before the record date of any meeting of shareholders at which the share is eligible to be voted; or

is owned by a holder who, in addition to shares which are beneficially owned under any of the other requirements set forth above, is the beneficial owner of less than 1,139,063 shares of our common stock, which amount has been appropriately adjusted to reflect the stock splits which have occurred subsequent to April 24, 1986 and with such amount to be appropriately adjusted to properly reflect any other change in our common stock by means of a stock split, a stock dividend, a recapitalization or other similar action occurring after April 24, 1986.

Holders of shares of our common stock not described above are entitled to one vote per share for each such share. A shareholder may own both ten-vote shares and one-vote shares, in which case he or she will be entitled to ten votes for each ten-vote share and one vote for each one-vote share.

In connection with various meetings of our shareholders, shareholders are required to submit to our board of directors satisfactory proof necessary for the board of directors to determine whether such shareholders' shares of our common stock are ten-vote shares. If such information is not provided to our board of directors, shareholders who would, if they had provided such information, be entitled to ten votes per share, are entitled to only one vote per share.

Our common stock is registered with the SEC and is listed on the NYSE. Accordingly, our common stock is subject to a NYSE rule, which, in general, prohibits a company's common stock and equity securities from

Table of Contents

being listed on the NYSE if the company issues securities or takes other corporate action that would have the effect of nullifying, restricting or disparately reducing the voting rights of existing shareholders of the company. However, such rule contains a grandfather provision, under which voting rights for our common stock qualifies, which, in general, permits grandfathered disparate voting rights plans to continue to operate as adopted.

Except with respect to voting, ten-vote shares and one-vote shares are identical in all respects and constitute a single class of stock, i.e., our common stock. Neither the ten-vote shares nor the one-vote shares have a preference over the other with regard to dividends or distributions upon liquidation.

Preemptive Rights; Cumulative Voting; Liquidation

Our common stock does not carry any preemptive rights enabling a holder to subscribe for or receive shares of our common stock. In the event of liquidation, holders of our common stock are entitled to share in the distribution of assets remaining after payment of debts and expenses and after required payments to holders of our preferred stock. Holders of shares of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends when declared by the board of directors out of funds legally available therefor, subject to the rights of the holders of our preferred stock. The outstanding shares of our common stock are validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to our common stock.

Dividends

Under the laws of the State of Georgia, we, as a business corporation, may declare and pay dividends in cash or property unless the payment or declaration would be contrary to restrictions contained in our Articles of Incorporation, as amended, and unless, after payment of the dividend, we would not be able to pay our debts when they become due in the usual course of our business or our total assets would be less than the sum of our total liabilities. We are also subject to regulatory capital restrictions that limit the amount of cash dividends that we may pay. Additionally, we are subject to contractual restrictions that limit our ability to pay dividends if there is an event of default under such contract.

Our participation in the Capital Purchase Program limits our ability to increase our quarterly dividend on our common stock beyond \$0.06 without the consent of the Treasury until the earlier of December 19, 2011 or until the Series A Preferred Stock has been redeemed in whole or until the Treasury has transferred all of the Series A Preferred Stock to a third party.

The primary sources of funds for our payment of dividends to our shareholders are dividends and fees to us from our banking and nonbanking affiliates. Various federal and state statutory provisions and regulations limit the amount of dividends that our subsidiary banks may pay. Under the regulations of the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance, a Georgia bank must have approval of the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance to pay cash dividends if, at the time of such payment:

the ratio of Tier 1 capital to adjusted total assets is less than 6%;

the aggregate amount of dividends to be declared or anticipated to be declared during the current calendar year exceeds 50% of its net after-tax profits for the previous calendar year; or

its total classified assets in its most recent regulatory examination exceeded 80% of its Tier 1 capital plus its allowance for loan losses, as reflected in the examination.

For those of our subsidiary banks chartered in Alabama, Florida or Tennessee, the approval of the appropriate state banking department is generally required if the total of all dividends declared in any year would exceed the total of its net profits for that year combined with its retained net profits for the preceding two years less any required transfers to surplus. In addition, the approval of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency is required for a national bank to pay dividends in excess of the bank's retained net income for the current year plus retained net income for the preceding two years.

Table of Contents

The FDIC Improvement Act 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 institution would thereafter be undercapitalized. In addition, federal and state banking regulations applicable to us and our bank subsidiaries require minimum levels of capital which limit the amounts available for payment of dividends.

In addition, the Federal Reserve Board, through guidance reissued on February 24, 2009, and reissued March 27, 2009, also has supervisory policies and guidance that:

may restrict the ability of a bank or financial services holding company from paying dividends on any class of capital stock or any other Tier 1 capital instrument if the holding company is not deemed to have a strong capital position;

states that a holding company should reduce or eliminate dividends when:

the holding company's net income available to shareholders for the past four quarters, net of dividends previously paid during that period, is not sufficient to fully fund the dividends;

the holding company's prospective rate of earnings retention is not consistent with the holding company's capital needs and overall current and prospective financial condition; or

the holding company will not meet, or is in danger of not meeting, its minimum regulatory capital adequacy ratios; and

requires that a holding company must inform the Federal Reserve Board in advance of declaring or paying a dividend that exceeds earnings for the period (e.g., quarter) for which the dividend is being paid or that could result in a material adverse change to the organization's capital structure; declaring or paying a dividend in either circumstance could raise supervisory concerns.

In the current financial and economic environment, the Federal Reserve Board has indicated that bank holding companies should carefully review their dividend policy and has discouraged payment ratios that are at maximum allowable levels unless both asset quality and capital are very strong. In addition to the restrictions described above, and as a result of the memorandum of understanding we entered into with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and the Georgia Commissioner, we must seek the Federal Reserve's permission to increase our dividend above its current level of \$0.01 per quarter. Furthermore, some of our banking affiliates have in the past been, and are presently, required to secure prior regulatory approval for the payment of dividends to us in excess of regulatory limits. There is no assurance that any such regulatory approvals will be granted. For additional restrictions on our ability to pay dividends on our common stock, see the Dividends and Risk factors We presently are subject to, and in the future may become subject to additional, supervisory actions and/or enhanced regulation that could have a material negative effect on our business, operating flexibility, financial condition and the value of our common stock sections of this prospectus supplement.

Federal and state banking regulations applicable to us and our banking subsidiaries require minimum levels of capital which limit the amounts available for payment of dividends.

Preferred Stock and Warrants

On December 19, 2008, we issued to the Treasury 967,870 shares of our Series A Preferred Stock, having a liquidation amount per share equal to \$1,000, for a total liquidation preference of \$967,870,000. The Series A Preferred Stock pays cumulative dividends at a rate of 5% per year for the first five years and thereafter at a rate of 9%

per year. We may not redeem the Series A Preferred Stock before February 15, 2012 except with the proceeds from a qualified equity offering of not less than \$241,967,500. After February 15, 2012, we may, with the consent of the FDIC, redeem, in whole or in part, the Series A Preferred Stock at the liquidation amount per share plus accrued and unpaid dividends. The Series A Preferred Stock is generally non-voting. Until the earlier of December 19, 2011 or until we have redeemed the Series A Preferred Stock or until the Treasury has transferred the Series A Preferred Stock to a third party, the consent of the Treasury will be required for us to (1) declare or pay any dividend or make any distribution on common stock other than

Table of Contents

regular quarterly cash dividends of not more than \$0.06 per share, or (2) redeem, repurchase or acquire our common stock or other equity or capital securities, other than in connection with benefit plans consistent with past practice. A consequence of the Series A Preferred Stock purchase includes certain restrictions on executive compensation that could limit the tax deductibility of compensation that we pay to our executive management. The recently enacted ARRA and the Treasury's February 10, 2009, Financial Stability Plan and regulations issued on June 15, 2009 may retroactively affect us and modify the terms of the Series A Preferred Stock. In particular, the ARRA provides that the Series A Preferred Stock may now be redeemed at any time with the consent of the FDIC.

As part of our issuance of the Series A Preferred Stock, we also issued the Treasury a warrant to purchase up to 15,510,737 shares of our common stock, which we refer to as the Warrant, at an initial per share exercise price of \$9.36. The Warrant provides for the adjustment of the exercise price and the number of shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise pursuant to customary anti-dilution provisions, such as upon stock splits or distributions of securities or other assets to holders of our common stock, and upon certain issuances of our common stock at or below a specified price relative to the initial exercise price. Neither the issuance of the shares of common stock in this offering nor the Exchange Offer will trigger the anti-dilution provisions of the Warrant. The Warrant expires on December 19, 2018. Pursuant to the Securities Purchase Agreement, the Treasury has agreed not to exercise voting power with respect to any shares of common stock issued upon exercise of the Warrant.

Rights Plan

On April 26, 2010, our board of directors adopted a Shareholder Rights Plan (the Rights Plan). The purpose of the Rights Plan is to protect our ability to use certain tax assets, such as net operating loss carryforwards, capital loss carryforwards and certain built-in losses (the Tax Benefits), to offset future income. Our use of the Tax Benefits in the future would be substantially limited if we experience an ownership change for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In general, an ownership change will occur if there is a cumulative change in our ownership by 5-percent shareholders (as defined under U.S. income tax laws) that exceeds 50 percentage points over a rolling three-year period.

The Rights Plan is designed to reduce the likelihood that we will experience an ownership change by discouraging (i) any person or group from becoming (a) a beneficial owner of 5% or more of the then outstanding common stock of Synovus or (b) a 5-percent shareholder (as defined under the U.S. income tax laws) with respect to Synovus (in either case, a Threshold Holder) and (ii) any existing Threshold Holder from acquiring any additional stock of Synovus. There is no guarantee, however, that the Rights Plan will prevent us from experiencing an ownership change.

A corporation that experiences an ownership change will generally be subject to an annual limitation on certain of its pre-ownership change tax assets in an amount generally equal to the equity value of the corporation immediately before the ownership change, multiplied by the long-term tax-exempt rate (subject to certain adjustments).

After giving careful consideration to this issue, our board of directors has concluded that the Rights Plan is in the best interests of Synovus and its shareholders.

In connection with the adoption of the Rights Plan, on April 26, 2010, our board of directors declared a dividend of one preferred stock purchase right (a Right) for each share of common stock outstanding at the close of business on April 29, 2010 (the Record Date) and authorized the issuance of one Right (subject to adjustment) in respect of each share of common stock issued after the Record Date.

Each Right will initially represent the right to purchase, for \$12.00 (the Purchase Price), one one-millionth of a share of Series B Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock, no par value (the Preferred Stock). The terms and conditions of the Rights are set forth in the Rights Plan.

The Rights will not be exercisable until the earlier of (i) the close of business on the 10th business day after the date (the Stock Acquisition Date) of the announcement that a person has become an Acquiring Person (as defined below) and (ii) the close of business on the 10th business day (or such later day as may be

Table of Contents

designated prior to the Stock Acquisition Date by our board of directors) after the date of the commencement of a tender or exchange offer by any person that could, if consummated, result in such person becoming an Acquiring Person. The date that the Rights become exercisable is referred to as the Distribution Date.

After any person has become an Acquiring Person, each Right (other than Rights treated as beneficially owned under certain U.S. tax rules by the Acquiring Person and certain of its transferees) will generally entitle the holder to purchase for the Purchase Price a number of millionths of a share of the Preferred Stock having a market value of twice the Purchase Price.

An Acquiring Person means, in general, any Threshold Holder other than (A) Synovus or any subsidiary or employee benefit plan or compensation arrangement of Synovus; (B) the United States government; (C) certain Existing Holders (as defined in the Rights Plan) so long as each such holder does not acquire any additional stock of Synovus; (D) certain Strategic Investors (as defined in the Rights Plan) designated as such by our board of directors, so long as each such Strategic Investor satisfies the applicable requirements in the Rights Plan; (E) any person that our board of directors determines, in its sole discretion, has inadvertently become a Threshold Holder, so long as such person promptly divests sufficient shares so that such person is no longer a Threshold Holder; (F) any person that our board of directors determines, in its sole discretion, has not jeopardized or endangered, and likely will not jeopardize or endanger, our utilization of our Tax Benefits, so long as each such person does not acquire any additional stock of Synovus; and (G) any person that acquires at least a majority of our common stock through a Qualified Offer (as defined in the Rights Plan).

At any time on or after a Stock Acquisition Date, our board of directors may generally exchange all or part of the Rights (other than Rights treated as beneficially owned under certain U.S. tax rules by the Acquiring Person and certain of its transferees) for shares of Preferred Stock at an exchange ratio of one one-millionth of a share of Preferred Stock per Right.

The issuance of the Rights is not taxable to holders of our common stock for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Our board of directors may redeem all of the Rights at a price of \$0.000001 per Right at any time before a Distribution Date.

Prior to a Distribution Date, (i) the Rights will be attached to the shares of our common stock, (ii) in the case of certificated shares, the Rights will be evidenced by the certificates representing the shares, (iii) the Rights will be transferred with our common stock and (iv) the registered holders of our common stock will be deemed to be the registered holders of the Rights. After the Distribution Date, the Rights agent will mail separate certificates evidencing the Rights to each record holder of our common stock as of the close of business on the Distribution Date (other than common stock treated as beneficially owned under certain U.S. tax rules by the Acquiring Person and certain of its transferees), and thereafter the Rights will be transferable separately from our common stock. The Rights will expire on April 27, 2013, unless earlier exchanged or redeemed.

At any time prior to a Distribution Date, the Rights Plan may be amended in any respect. At any time after the occurrence of a Distribution Date, the Rights Plan may be amended in any respect that does not adversely affect Rights holders (other than any Acquiring Person or its affiliates).

A Rights holder has no rights as a shareholder of Synovus, including the right to vote and to receive dividends. The Rights Plan includes anti-dilution provisions designed to maintain the effectiveness of the Rights.

The above summary of the Rights Plan is qualified by the full text of the Rights Plan being filed as Exhibit 4.1 to Synovus Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 26, 2010, and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Table of Contents

Anti-Takeover Provisions

As described below, our Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rights Plan contain several provisions that may make us a less attractive target for an acquisition of control by an outsider who lacks the support of our board of directors.

Supermajority Approvals

Under our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, as currently in effect, the vote or action of shareholders possessing 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % of the votes entitled to be cast by the holders of all the issued and outstanding shares of our common stock is required to:

call a special meeting of our shareholders;

fix, from time to time, the number of members of our board of directors;

remove a member of our board of directors;

approve any merger or consolidation of our company with or into any other corporation, or the sale, lease, exchange or other disposition of all, or substantially all, of our assets to or with any other corporation, person or entity, with respect to which the approval of our shareholders is required by the provisions of the corporate laws of the State of Georgia; and

alter, delete or rescind any provision of our Articles of Incorporation.

This allows directors to be removed only by 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % of the votes entitled to be cast at a shareholders meeting called for that purpose. A potential acquiror with shares recently acquired, and not entitled to 10 votes per share, may be discouraged or prevented from soliciting proxies for the purpose of electing directors other than those nominated by current management for the purpose of changing our policies or control of our company.

Shareholder Action

The Bylaws allow action by the shareholders without a meeting only by unanimous written consent.

Advance Notice for Shareholder Proposals or Nominations at Meetings

In accordance with our Bylaws, shareholders may nominate persons for election to the board of directors or bring other business before a shareholders meeting only by delivering prior written notice to us and complying with certain other requirements. With respect to any annual meeting of shareholders, such notice must generally be received by our Corporate Secretary no later than the close of business on the 90th day nor earlier than the close of business on the 120th day prior to the first anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting. With respect to any special meeting of shareholders, such notice must generally be received by our Corporate Secretary no later than the close of business on the 90th day nor earlier than the close of business on the 120th day prior to date of the special meeting (or if the first public announcement of the date of the special meeting is less than 100 days prior to the date of such special meeting, the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such special meeting is made by us). Any notice provided by a shareholder under these provisions must include the information specified in the Bylaws.

Evaluation of Business Combinations

Our Articles of Incorporation also provide that in evaluating any business combination or other action, our board of directors may consider, in addition to the amount of consideration involved and the effects on us and our shareholders, (1) the interests of our employees, depositors and customers and our subsidiaries and the communities in which offices of the corporation or our subsidiaries are located (collectively, the Constituencies), (2) the reputation and business practices of the offeror and its management and affiliates as it may affect the Constituencies and the future value of our stock and (3) any other factors the board of directors deems pertinent.

Table of Contents

Rights Plan

Our board of directors adopted the Rights Plan (which is described in more detail in the section entitled "Description of Capital Stock - Rights Plan") on April 26, 2010. The Rights Plan was adopted in an effort to protect our ability to use certain Tax Benefits and is not designed as an anti-takeover plan (for example, it does not apply to acquisitions of at least a majority of our common stock made in connection with a qualified offer to acquire 100% of our common stock). The Rights Plan may, however, have an anti-takeover effect in that it will cause substantial dilution to any person or group who attempts to acquire a significant interest in Synovus without advance approval from our board of directors. As a result, one effect of the Rights Plan may be to render more difficult or discourage any attempt to acquire Synovus.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants to purchase our debt or equity securities or securities of third parties or other rights, including rights to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified commodities, currencies, securities or indices, or any combination of the foregoing. Warrants may be issued independently or together with any other securities and may be attached to, or separate from, such securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent. The terms of any warrants to be issued and a description of the material provisions of the applicable warrant agreement will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The debt securities will be our direct unsecured general obligations. The debt securities will be either senior debt securities, subordinated debt securities or junior subordinated debt securities. The debt securities will be issued under one or more separate indentures between us and a trustee to be named therein, as trustee. Senior debt securities will be issued under senior indentures. Subordinated debt securities will be issued under a subordinated indenture. Junior subordinated debt securities will be issued under a junior subordinated indenture. Each of the senior indentures, the subordinated indenture and the junior subordinated indenture is referred to as an indenture. The material terms of any indenture will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS

We may issue purchase contracts for the purchase or sale of:

debt or equity securities issued by us or securities of third parties, a basket of such securities, an index or indices of such securities or any combination of the above as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement;

currencies; or

commodities.

Each purchase contract will entitle the holder thereof to purchase or sell, and obligate us to sell or purchase, on specified dates, such securities, currencies or commodities at a specified purchase price, which may be based on a formula, all as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may, however, satisfy our obligations, if any, with respect to any purchase contract by delivering the cash value of such purchase contract or the cash value of the property otherwise deliverable or, in the case of purchase contracts on underlying currencies, by delivering the underlying currencies, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement will

also specify the methods by which the holders may purchase or sell such securities, currencies or commodities and any acceleration, cancellation or termination provisions or other provisions relating to the settlement of a purchase contract.

The purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders thereof or vice versa, which payments may be deferred to the extent set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, and those

Table of Contents

payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis. The purchase contracts may require the holders thereof to secure their obligations in a specified manner to be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Alternatively, purchase contracts may require holders to satisfy their obligations thereunder when the purchase contracts are issued. Our obligation to settle such pre-paid purchase contracts on the relevant settlement date may constitute indebtedness. Accordingly, pre-paid purchase contracts will be issued under either the senior indenture or the subordinated indenture.

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

As specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may issue units consisting of one or more purchase contracts, warrants, debt securities, shares of preferred stock, shares of common stock or any combination of such securities.

FORMS OF SECURITIES

Each debt security, warrant and unit will be represented either by a certificate issued in definitive form to a particular investor or by one or more global securities representing the entire issuance of securities. Certificated securities in definitive form and global securities will be issued in registered form. Definitive securities name you or your nominee as the owner of the security, and in order to transfer or exchange these securities or to receive payments other than interest or other interim payments, you or your nominee must physically deliver the securities to the trustee, registrar, paying agent or other agent, as applicable. Global securities name a depository or its nominee as the owner of the debt securities, warrants or units represented by these global securities. The depository maintains a computerized system that will reflect each investor's beneficial ownership of the securities through an account maintained by the investor with its broker/dealer, bank, trust company or other representative, as we explain more fully below.

Registered Global Securities

We may issue the registered debt securities, warrants and units in the form of one or more fully registered global securities that will be deposited with a depository or its nominee identified in the applicable prospectus supplement and registered in the name of that depository or nominee. In those cases, one or more registered global securities will be issued in a denomination or aggregate denominations equal to the portion of the aggregate principal or face amount of the securities to be represented by registered global securities. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole for securities in definitive registered form, a registered global security may not be transferred except as a whole by and among the depository for the registered global security, the nominees of the depository or any successors of the depository or those nominees.

If not described below, any specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to any securities to be represented by a registered global security will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to those securities. We anticipate that the following provisions will apply to all depository arrangements.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a registered global security will be limited to persons, called participants, that have accounts with the depository or persons that may hold interests through participants. Upon the issuance of a registered global security, the depository will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the participants accounts with the respective principal or face amounts of the securities beneficially owned by the participants. Any dealers, underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of the securities will designate the accounts to be credited. Ownership of beneficial interests in a registered global security will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the depository, with respect to interests of participants, and on the records of participants, with respect to interests of persons holding through participants. The laws of some states may require that some purchasers of securities take physical delivery of these securities in

definitive form. These laws may impair your ability to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in registered global securities.

So long as the depositary, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a registered global security, that depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the securities

Table of Contents

represented by the registered global security for all purposes under the applicable indenture, warrant agreement or unit agreement. Except as described below, owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security will not be entitled to have the securities represented by the registered global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of the securities in definitive form and will not be considered the owners or holders of the securities under the applicable indenture, warrant agreement or unit agreement. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a registered global security must rely on the procedures of the depositary for that registered global security and, if that person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which the person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the applicable indenture, warrant agreement or unit agreement.

We understand that under existing industry practices, if we request any action of holders or if an owner of a beneficial interest in a registered global security desires to give or take any action that a holder is entitled to give or take under the applicable indenture, warrant agreement or unit agreement, the depositary for the registered global security would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take that action, and the participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through them to give or take that action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners holding through them.

Principal, premium, if any, and interest payments on debt securities, and any payments to holders with respect to warrants or units, represented by a registered global security registered in the name of a depositary or its nominee will be made to the depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of the registered global security. None of Synovus, the trustees, the warrant agents, the unit agents or any other agent of Synovus, agent of the trustees or agent of the warrant agents or unit agents will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in the registered global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to those beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the depositary for any of the securities represented by a registered global security, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium, interest or other distribution of underlying securities or other property to holders on that registered global security, will immediately credit participants' accounts in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in that registered global security as shown on the records of the depositary. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security held through participants will be governed by standing customer instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of those participants.

If the depositary for any of these securities represented by a registered global security is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depositary or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act and a successor depositary registered as a clearing agency under the Exchange Act is not appointed by us within 90 days, we will issue securities in definitive form in exchange for the registered global security that had been held by the depositary. Any securities issued in definitive form in exchange for a registered global security will be registered in the name or names that the depositary gives to the relevant trustee, warrant agent, unit agent or other relevant agent of ours or theirs. It is expected that the depositary's instructions will be based upon directions received by the depositary from participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in the registered global security that had been held by the depositary.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

Synovus and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, may sell the securities in one or more of the following ways (or in any combination) from time to time:

through underwriters or dealers;

directly to a limited number of purchasers or to a single purchaser; or
through agents.

Table of Contents

The prospectus supplement will state the terms of the offering of the securities, including:

- the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents;
- the purchase price of such securities and the proceeds to be received by Synovus, if any;
- any underwriting discounts or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters or agents compensation;
- any initial public offering price;
- any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and
- any securities exchanges on which the securities may be listed.

Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

If we and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, use underwriters in the sale, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including:

- negotiated transactions,
- at a fixed public offering price or prices, which may be changed,
- at market prices prevailing at the time of sale,
- at prices related to prevailing market prices or
- at negotiated prices.

Unless otherwise stated in a prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase any securities will be conditioned on customary closing conditions and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of such series of securities, if any are purchased.

We and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, may sell the securities through agents from time to time. The prospectus supplement will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities and any commissions we pay to them. Generally, any agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

We and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, may authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers by certain purchasers to purchase the securities from Synovus at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts will be subject only to those conditions set forth in the prospectus supplement, and the prospectus supplement will set forth any commissions we pay for solicitation of these contracts.

Underwriters and agents may be entitled under agreements entered into with Synovus and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, to indemnification by Synovus and/or the selling securityholders, if applicable, against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, or to contribution with respect to payments which the underwriters or agents may be required to make. Underwriters and agents may be customers of,

engage in transactions with, or perform services for Synovus and its affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

Each series of securities will be a new issue of securities and will have no established trading market other than the common stock which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Any underwriters to whom securities are sold for public offering and sale may make a market in the securities, but such underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. The securities, other than the common stock, may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange.

Table of Contents

LEGAL OPINIONS

The validity of the securities will be passed upon by Alana L. Griffin, Deputy General Counsel of Synovus. Any underwriters will be represented by their own legal counsel.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Synovus Financial Corp. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2009, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009 have been incorporated by reference herein to Synovus' Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2009 in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing. The audit report covering the December 31, 2009 consolidated financial statements refers to a change in the method of accounting for split-dollar life insurance arrangements and the election of the fair value option for mortgage loans held for sale and certain callable brokered certificates of deposit in 2008.

Table of Contents

\$400,000,000

SYNOVUS FINANCIAL CORP.

Common stock

Prospectus supplement

J.P. Morgan

Sole Book-Running Manager

April , 2010

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, any pricing supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement. We are offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, shares of common stock only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The information contained or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus supplement or the date of the incorporated document, as applicable, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus supplement or of any sale of shares of common stock.

No action is being taken in any jurisdiction outside the United States to permit a public offering of the shares of common stock or possession or distribution of this prospectus supplement in that jurisdiction. Persons who come into possession of this prospectus supplement in jurisdictions outside the United States are required to inform themselves about and to observe any restrictions as to this offering and the distribution of this prospectus supplement applicable to that jurisdiction.