



# **Associated Banc-Corp 4Q 2011 Earnings Presentation**

January 19, 2012

# Forward-Looking Statements

## Important note regarding forward-looking statements:

Statements made in this presentation which are not purely historical are forward-looking statements, as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. This includes any statements regarding management's plans, objectives, or goals for future operations, products or services, and forecasts of its revenues, earnings, or other measures of performance. Forward-looking statements are based on current management expectations and, by their nature, are subject to risks and uncertainties. These statements may be identified by the use of words such as "believe", "expect", "anticipate", "plan", "estimate", "should", "will", "intend", "outlook", or similar expressions. Outcomes related to such statements are subject to numerous risk factors and uncertainties including those listed in the company's most recent Form 10-K and any subsequent Form 10-Q.

# Fourth Quarter 2011 Highlights

- Net income available to common shareholders of \$40 million or \$0.23 per share
  - Improved 17%, or \$6 million from the prior quarter
- Total loans of \$14.0 billion were up 4% from the end of the third quarter
  - Commercial and business lending grew by a net \$386 million
  - Commercial real estate lending increased by a net \$112 million
  - Residential mortgages grew by a net \$111 million
- Continued improvement in key credit metrics
  - Nonaccrual loans declined 12% from the prior quarter and 38% on a year-over-year basis to \$357 million, the lowest level in eight quarters
  - Provision for loan losses of \$1 million was down significantly from the prior quarter
  - Net charge offs of \$23 million were down 25% from \$30 million for the third quarter
- Capital ratios remain very strong with a Tier 1 common ratio of 12.24% and total capital ratio of 15.53%

# 2011 Recap

## A Year of Transition; Executing on Strategic Plan

### TARP / MOU

- Completed the repurchase of TARP funds in September
  - No incremental common equity raised
- OCC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) terminated in September

### Loan Growth

- Grew loans and gained market share
  - Total loans grew 11% YoY; commercial and business loans grew 17% YoY

### Net Interest Margin

- Defended the margin despite interest rate headwinds
  - NIM increased 6 bps from FY 2010 to FY 2011; up 8bps 4Q11 vs. 4Q10

### Credit

- Credit quality continues to improve at a steady pace
  - Nonaccruals down 38% YoY; net charge offs down 69% YoY

### Earnings

- FY 2011 earnings of \$115 million compared to a net loss in 2010
- Increased earnings per share in each of the four quarters
  - EPS improved \$0.84 per share from FY 2010; EPS improved \$0.19 per share from 4Q10 to 4Q11

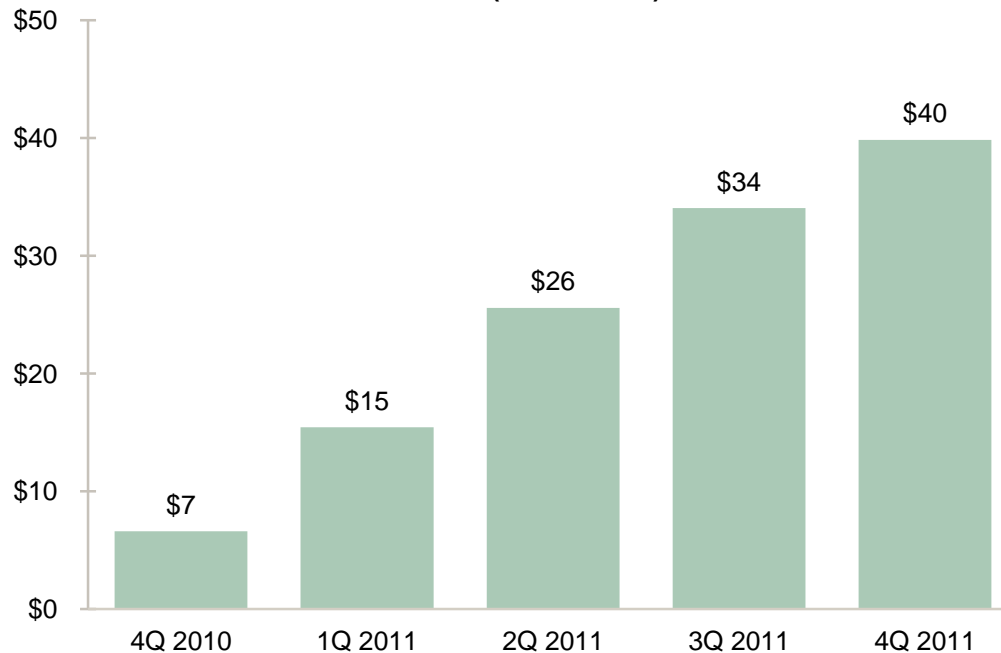
# Improving Earnings Profile

## Quarterly Results Reflect Positive Trends

- Net income available to common shareholders improved 17%, or \$6 million, from the prior quarter, and improved \$33 million from a year ago
- Full-year 2011 EPS of \$0.66 per share

## Net Income Available to Common

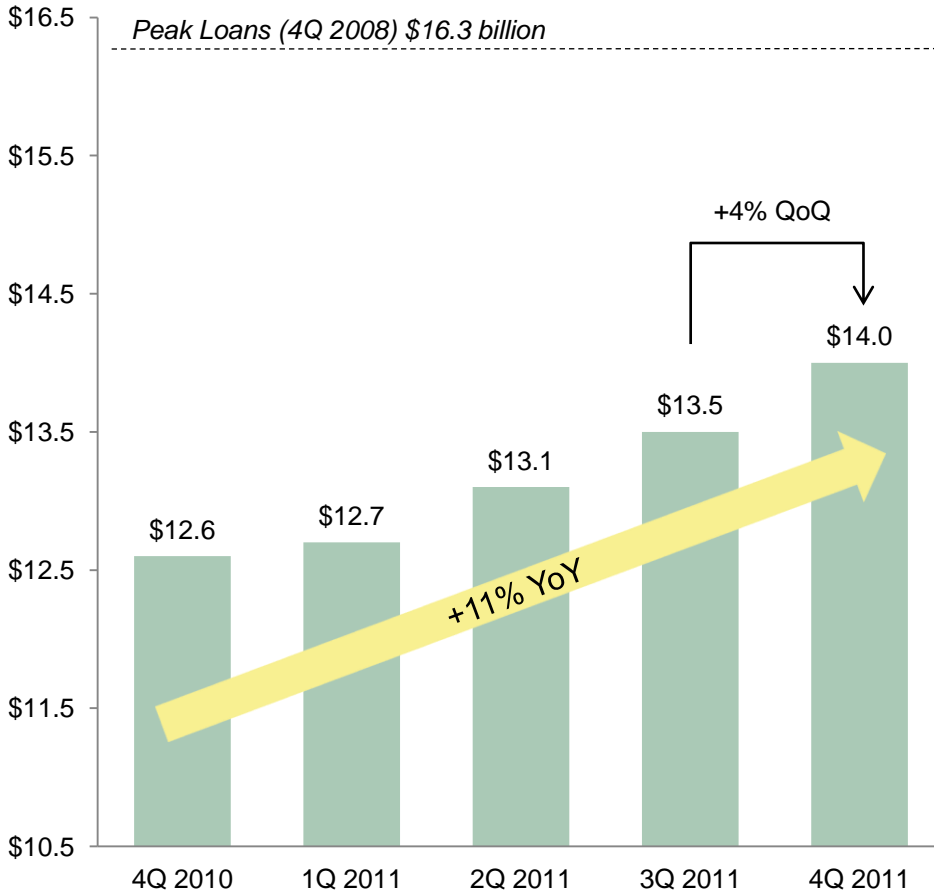
(\$ in millions)



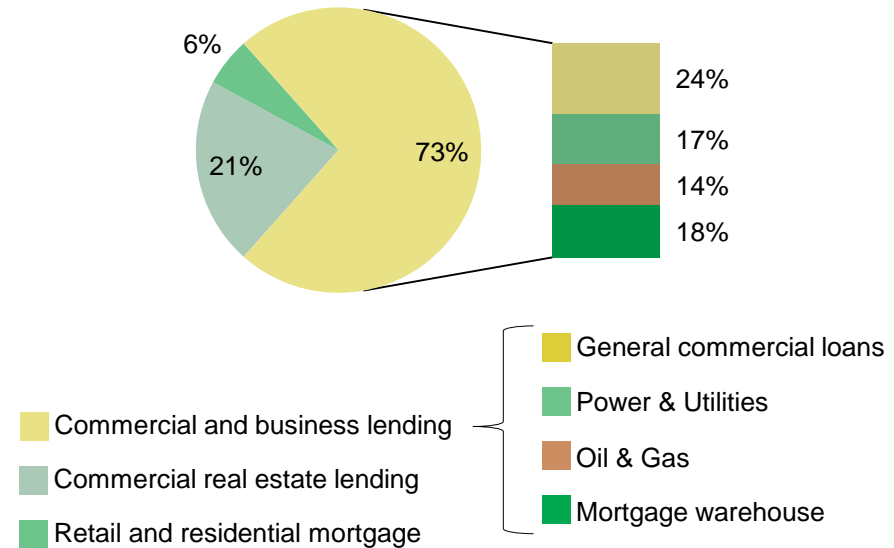
# Loan Portfolio Growth and Composition

Total Loans of \$14.0 billion at December 31, 2011

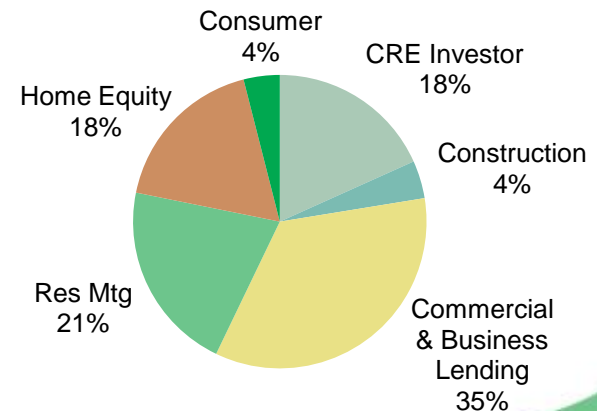
## Total Loans (\$ in billions)



## 4Q 2011 Net Loan Growth of \$528 million



## Loan Mix – 4Q 2011



# Loan Growth Trends

(\$ in thousands)

## Period End Loan Composition

|   | Sep 30, 2011         | Dec 31, 2011         | Sep 11 vs Dec 11  |             |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|
|   |                      |                      | \$ Change         | % Change    |
| Commercial and industrial               | \$ 3,360,502         | \$ 3,724,736         | \$ 364,234        | 10.8%       |
| Lease financing                         | 54,849               | 58,194               | 3,345             | 6.1%        |
| Commercial real estate - owner occupied | 1,068,616            | 1,086,829            | 18,213            | 1.7%        |
| Commerical and business lending         | 4,483,967            | 4,869,759            | 385,792           | 8.6%        |
| Commercial real estate - investor       | 2,481,411            | 2,563,767            | 82,356            | 3.3%        |
| Real estate - construction              | 554,024              | 584,046              | 30,022            | 5.4%        |
| Commercial real estate lending          | 3,035,435            | 3,147,813            | 112,378           | 3.7%        |
| Total commercial                        | 7,519,402            | 8,017,572            | 498,170           | 6.6%        |
| Home equity                             | 2,571,404            | 2,504,704            | (66,700)          | -2.6%       |
| Installment                             | 572,243              | 557,782              | (14,461)          | -2.5%       |
| Total retail                            | 3,143,647            | 3,062,486            | (81,161)          | -2.6%       |
| Residential mortgage                    | 2,840,458            | 2,951,013            | 110,555           | 3.9%        |
| <b>Total Loans</b>                      | <b>\$ 13,503,507</b> | <b>\$ 14,031,071</b> | <b>\$ 527,564</b> | <b>3.9%</b> |

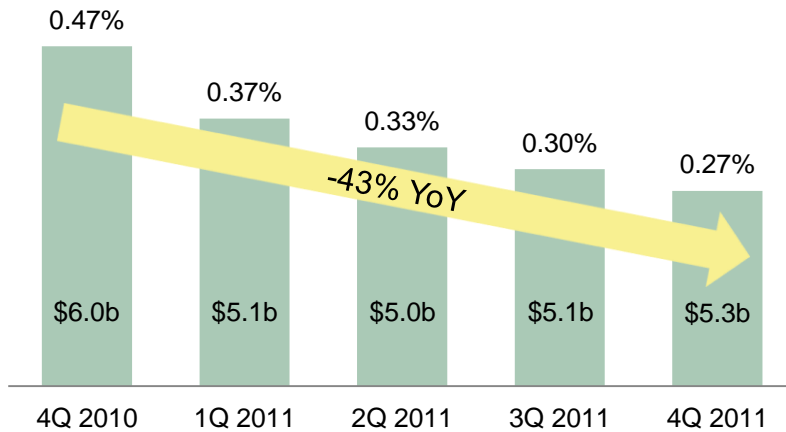
## Mortgage Origination Activities

|                                    |            |            |            |        |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------|
| Mortgage loans originated for sale | \$ 470,530 | \$ 843,614 | \$ 373,084 | 79.3%  |
| Net mortgage banking income        | 4,521      | 9,677      | 5,156      | 114.0% |
| Mortgage loans sold from portfolio | N/A        | \$ 93,953  | \$ 93,953  | N/A    |

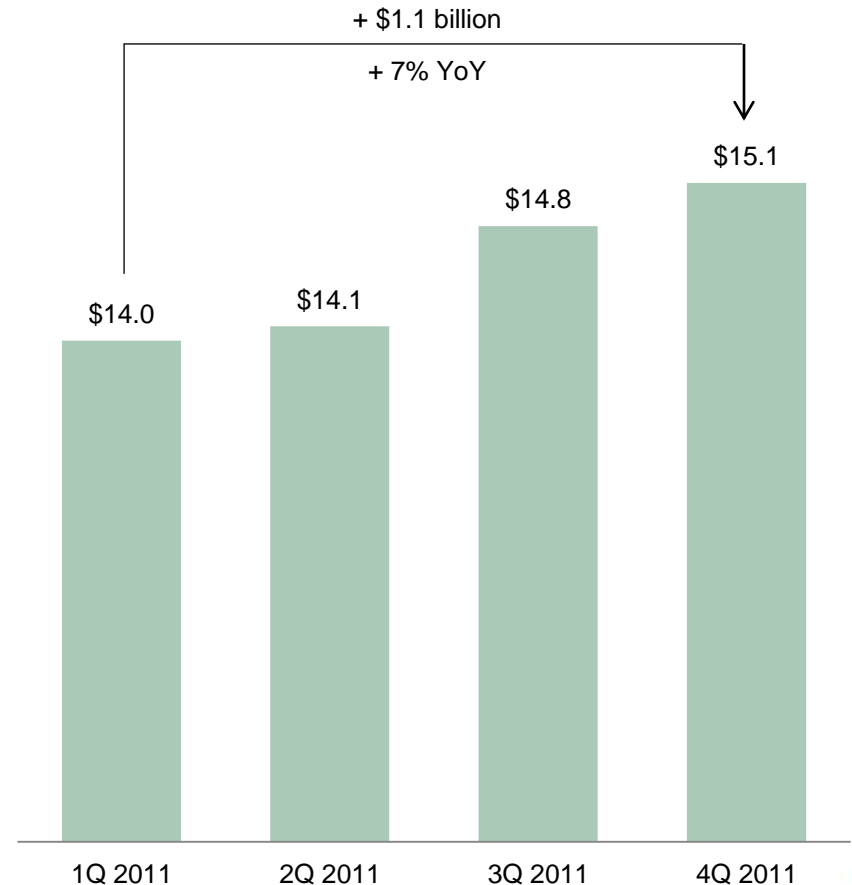
# Managing the Cost of Funds and Deposit Levels

Total Deposits of \$15.1 billion at December 31, 2011

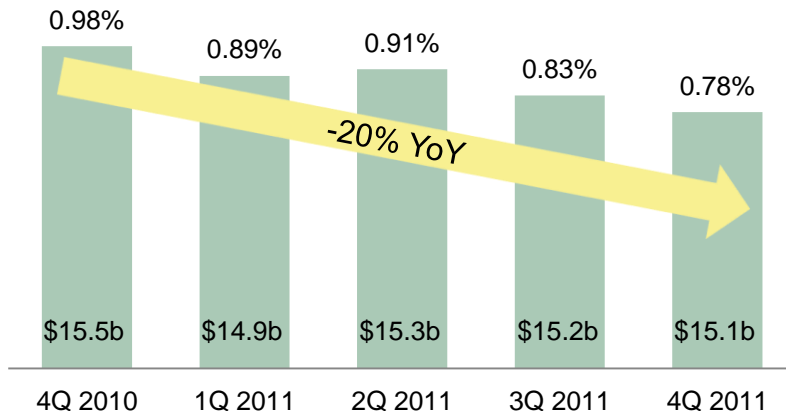
## Cost of Money Market Deposits



## Total Deposits (\$ in billions)



## Cost of Interest-Bearing Liabilities





# Funding the Balance Sheet

## Assets (\$ in millions)

Q4 2011

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Net loan growth        | + 528        |
| Net securities run-off | - <u>516</u> |

Securities Run-off Largely  
Funded Loan Growth

More Attractive Asset Mix

2012 Outlook

- Continued securities run-off over first half of year
- Continued loan growth throughout the year

## Liabilities (\$ in millions)

Q4 2011

|                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Net deposit growth              | + 308        |
| Net short and long-term funding | - <u>318</u> |

Deposit Growth Allowed for  
Comparable Funding Paydowns

Lower Average Cost Liability Mix

2012 Outlook

- Continued run-off of high cost and brokered CDs
- Growing commercial and business deposit balances throughout the year

# Significant Improvements in Credit Quality Indicators

(\$ in millions)

|                                  | 4Q 2010  | 1Q 2011  | 2Q 2011  | 3Q 2011  | 4Q 2011  |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <i>Provision for loan losses</i> | \$ 63.0  | \$ 31.0  | \$ 16.0  | \$ 4.0   | \$ 1.0   |
| <i>Net charge offs</i>           | \$ 108.2 | \$ 53.4  | \$ 44.5  | \$ 30.2  | \$ 22.6  |
| <i>Potential problem loans</i>   | \$ 963.7 | \$ 911.5 | \$ 699.4 | \$ 659.5 | \$ 566.4 |
| <i>Nonaccruals</i>               | \$ 574.4 | \$ 488.3 | \$ 467.6 | \$ 403.4 | \$ 356.8 |
| <i>ALLL/Total loans</i>          | 3.78%    | 3.59%    | 3.25%    | 2.96%    | 2.70%    |
| <i>ALLL/Nonaccruals</i>          | 83.02%   | 93.07%   | 91.09%   | 99.09%   | 105.99%  |
| <i>NPA/Assets</i>                | 2.84%    | 2.50%    | 2.33%    | 2.03%    | 1.82%    |
| <i>Nonaccruals/Loans</i>         | 4.55%    | 3.86%    | 3.57%    | 2.99%    | 2.54%    |
| <i>NCOs / Avg Loans</i>          | 3.41%    | 1.71%    | 1.37%    | 0.90%    | 0.64%    |

# Maintaining a Strong Capital Profile

| <u><i>ASBC Capital Ratios</i></u>                  | 4Q 2010 | 1Q 2011 | 2Q 2011 | 3Q 2011 | 4Q 2011 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <i>Stockholders' equity / assets</i>               | 14.50%  | 14.88%  | 13.60%  | 13.01%  | 13.07%  |
| <i>Tangible common equity / tangible assets</i>    | 8.12%   | 8.42%   | 8.49%   | 8.77%   | 8.84%   |
| <i>Tangible equity / tangible assets</i>           | 10.59%  | 10.93%  | 9.71%   | 9.07%   | 9.14%   |
| <i>Tier 1 common equity / risk-weighted assets</i> | 12.26%  | 12.65%  | 12.61%  | 12.44%  | 12.24%  |
| <i>Tier 1 leverage ratio</i>                       | 11.19%  | 11.65%  | 10.46%  | 9.62%   | 9.81%   |
| <i>Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio</i>             | 17.58%  | 18.08%  | 16.03%  | 14.35%  | 14.08%  |
| <i>Total risk-based capital ratio</i>              | 19.05%  | 19.56%  | 17.50%  | 15.81%  | 15.53%  |

# 2012 Outlook

## Positioned for Growth; Creating Long-Term Shareholder Value

### Loan Growth

- ~3% quarterly growth

### Expenses

- Low single-digit YoY growth

### Deposit Growth

- Continued run-off of high cost CDs & disciplined deposit pricing
- Sustained focus on treasury management solutions to drive growth in commercial deposits

### Footprint

- Net consolidation in branch network while remodeling and renovations continue

### NIM

- Relatively stable

### Credit

- Continuing improvement in credit trends
- Very modest provision outlook

### Fee Income

- Modest improvement despite considerable headwinds

### Capital

- Increased dividends in 2012; subject to Fed approval

# Summary

## 4Q 2011

- Solid fourth quarter results; EPS of \$0.23 per common share
- Loan portfolio grew 4% from the third quarter to \$14.0 billion
- Credit continues to improve
- Increasing net income to common shareholders

## 2011 – A Year of Transition

- Repaid TARP
- OCC MOU has been terminated
- Executed on our strategic initiatives for growth
  - Loans +11% YoY
  - Improving retail footprint
  - Investing in Treasury Management

## 2012 – Positioned for Growth

- Customer centric investments will provide attractive returns
- Focusing on levers for earnings expansion
- Loan growth and stable NIM, coupled with controlled expense growth, will deliver value to shareholders