

Mergent Bank & Finance Manual and News Reports:

The Mergent Bank & Finance Manual (“MB&F”) provides significant financial information about American banks and certain other financial institutions including investment companies, real estate investment trusts, unit investment trusts and federal agencies. This information includes the institution’s history (significant events that have occurred since incorporation.) MB&F also provides detailed narratives on the institution’s business and products, its properties and subsidiaries as well as listing the directors and officers of the institution. For many of the institutions, MB& F uses the Moody’s grading system as to the financial viability of the institution’s bonds and preferred stock from Aaa (most solid) to C (near default.)

Mergent offers the companies it profiles various levels of exposure in the MB&F if they are of significant size and pay Mergent a fee. These are Corporate Visibility-Basic, Corporate Visibility-Select and Corporate Visibility-Plus. These three levels of exposure provide a progressively more detailed description of the operations and finances of the institutions profiled (in alphabetical order within each level.) In Volume 1 of MB&F (banks and related institutions), the institutions receiving this greater level of exposure are found in pages 1 through 222. “Standard Coverage” is afforded the greater number of institutions from pages 301 to 1109 (again, the institutions are organized alphabetically.) Volume 2 covers financial companies, investment companies, real estate companies, real estate investment trusts and insurance companies and utilizes the same ratings system and enhanced visibility methods. Volume 3 addresses certain Unit Investment Trusts (see the discussion below for the Unit Investment Trusts Annual Payment Record.)

MB&F provides information about the institution’s long-term debt and capital stock as well as income statements, balance sheets and statements of cash flow and notes to financial statements. The MB&F listing also lists the auditors, general counsel and any stock exchange the institution belongs to along with its symbol.

The MB&F is a useful substitute to investors who would otherwise have to review the lengthy Security and Exchange Commission and other required filings that many of the profiled institutions must make. The MB&F makes the corporate history and financial information of any profiled institution accessible to both professionals and laymen who might be interested in investing in a particular institution. Note that the financial information is abridged and that banks and corporations cooperate in providing the information to Mergent. The MB&F warns that its information is not definitive. The MB&F is available at **Donnell Reference** and may also be found in the **Job Information Center of the Mid-Manhattan Library** at 5th Avenue and 40th Street and the **Fordham Library** in the Bronx. Current and back issues are available at the **Science, Business and Industry Library** at 34th Street and Madison Avenue.