



Southwest Bank of Texas Announces Prime Rate Increase

HOUSTON (Dec. 14, 2004)...Southwest Bank of Texas N.A., a wholly owned subsidiary of Southwest Bancorporation of Texas, Inc. (NASDAQ: SWBT), has raised its prime rate to 5.25 percent from 5.00 percent, effective today. This follows a similar increase by the Federal Reserve Bank of .25 percent in its target for federal funds rate.

Southwest Bancorporation of Texas, Inc., the parent company of Southwest Bank of Texas N.A., is the largest independent bank holding company headquartered in Houston, Texas. The Company focuses on commercial lending, treasury management and investment services for businesses, private financial management and trust services for families and individuals, and retail and mortgage banking services. The Company, with more than \$7 billion in assets, has 77 full-service branches located throughout the Houston and Dallas metropolitan areas.

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