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NEWS RELEASE

Comptroller of the Currency Administrator of National Banks

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(202) 874-5770

OCC Publishes Annual Report

WASHINGTON -- The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) today published its 2003 Annual Report.

"I am pleased to report that FY 2003 was a year of growth and success for the national banking system," said Comptroller of the Currency John D. Hawke, Jr. in the report. "Continued record earnings were used in part to strengthen bank capital, which was already at record levels."

It was also a year in which the OCC strengthened its fiscal and organizational health. "Revenue growth was strong, reflecting large increases in national bank assets and net additions to the system through merger, conversion, and de novo charters," he said.

The Annual Report sets forth OCC accomplishments in supervision, regulation, risk analysis and chartering. It also describes management initiatives, financial management results and OCC partnerships and outreach to industry, community and consumer organizations.

The Report is available on the Internet at www.occ.treas.gov. Paper copies of the report will be available in December for \$45 each and can be obtained by filling out the order form at: www.occ.treas.gov/publsta.htm.

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The OCC charters, regulates and examines approximately 2,100 national banks and 52 federal branches and agencies of foreign banks in the United States, accounting for 55 percent of the nation's banking assets. Its mission is to ensure a safe, sound and competitive national banking system that supports the citizens, communities and economy of the United States.