

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D. C. 20549

**Form 8-K
Current Report**

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

February 2, 2004

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)

First Financial Holdings, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

Delaware

State or other jurisdiction of incorporation

0-17122

Commission File Number

57-0866076

I.R.S. Employer I.D. number

34 Broad Street, Charleston, South Carolina

(Address of principal executive offices)

29401

(Zip Code)

(843) 529-5933

Registrant's telephone number (including area code)

Item 9. Regulation FD Disclosure.

On February 2, 2004 First Financial Holdings, Inc. announced that its Board of Directors has declared a regular quarterly cash dividend. For more information regarding this matter, see the press attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

Exhibit Index.

Exhibit (99.1). Press release dated February 2, 2004.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

FIRST FINANCIAL HOLDINGS, INC

/s/ Susan E. Baham

Susan E. Baham

Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
and Principal Accounting Officer

Date: February 2, 2004

Exhibit 99.1

Press release dated February 2, 2004

FIRST FINANCIAL HOLDINGS, INC.

34 Broad Street • Charleston, S.C. 29401

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NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Contact: Dorothy B. Wright
Vice President
(843) 529-5601

FIRST FINANCIAL HOLDINGS, INC. ANNOUNCES DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS

Charleston, South Carolina (February 2, 2004) – First Financial Holdings, Inc. (NASDAQ: FFCH) today announced that its Board of Directors has declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of \$.22 per share. The dividend is payable February 27, 2004, to stockholders of record as of February 13, 2004.

A. Thomas Hood, President and Chief Executive Officer, stated, “We are very pleased to have our stockholders continue to benefit directly in the profitability of the Company through the payment of dividends. The Board of Directors and Management are committed to enhancing the value of our stockholders’ investment.”

First Financial is the thrift holding company of First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Charleston. The Association operates a total of 46 offices located in the Charleston Metropolitan area, Horry, Georgetown, Florence and Beaufort counties in South Carolina and Brunswick County in coastal North Carolina. The Company also provides insurance, brokerage and trust services through First Southeast Insurance Services, First Southeast Investor Services and First Southeast Fiduciary and Trust Services. For additional information about First Financial, please visit our web site at www.firstfinancialholdings.com.