

FIRST MERCHANTS CORP  
Form 4  
May 14, 2007

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**HARDWICK MARK K**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**FIRST MERCHANTS CORP  
[FRME]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
**200 EAST JACKSON ST**

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**05/10/2007**

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
**Executive Vice President / Chief Financial Officer**

(Street)  
**MUNCIE, IN 47305**

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)                | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
|  |                                      |  | Code                           | V Amount or (D) Price   |   |  |  |
| Common Stock <sup>(2)</sup> <sub>(3) (4)</sub> | 05/10/2007                           | 05/10/2007   | I                              | 1,321.5148 A \$ 24.24   | 1,326.7094 <sup>(1)</sup>   | I  | By 401K Plan                               |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

SEC 1474 (9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

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| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4.<br>Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 5. Number<br>of<br>Derivative<br>Securities<br>Acquired<br>(A) or<br>Disposed<br>of (D)<br>(Instr. 3,<br>4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Underlying<br>Securities<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Nu<br>Deriv<br>Secur<br>Bene<br>Own<br>Follo<br>Repor<br>Trans<br>(Instr |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|
|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|

| Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date | Title | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------|--|
|---------------------|--------------------|-------|--|

Code V (A) (D)

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                             | Relationships |           |                          |                         |
|--|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                  | Other                   |
| HARDWICK MARK K<br>200 EAST JACKSON ST<br>MUNCIE, IN 47305 |               |           | Executive Vice President | Chief Financial Officer |

## Signatures

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Larry R. Helms (Confirming Statement<br>on File) | 05/14/2007 |
| <u>        </u> Signature of Reporting Person    | Date       |

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Includes 5,1946 shares acquired under FMC's 401(K) plan since the date of the reporting person's last ownership report.
- (2) Deferred Stock Units Owned Directly: 459.96
- (3) Employee Stock Options (Right to Buy): 43,666
- (4) Shares Directly Owned by Reporting Person: 5,368

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.  
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