



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BUSINESS BANCSHARES, INC. ANNOUNCES
THIRD QUARTER RESULTS**

St. Louis, Mo., November 6, 2008 – Business Bancshares, Inc., parent holding company for The Business Bank of St. Louis, announced third quarter 2008 financial results.

Total assets as of September 30, 2008 were \$527 million, an increase of \$32 million when compared to September 30, 2007. During the same twelve month period, loans grew by \$52 million. Shareholders’ equity is \$40 million, up \$2.4 million as compared to the same time last year. Capital ratios remain above the “well-capitalized” thresholds. Nonperforming assets as a percentage of total assets is 2.63%, up from 1.77%, twelve months earlier.

The Company earned \$461,000 during the third quarter of 2008. Return on average assets was 0.38% and return on average equity was 4.62%.

“Financial performance through the first nine months of 2008 has improved appreciably over the same time period last year. The Company’s overall performance continues to be hampered by the difficult economic environment. Management remains focused on actively addressing loan problems and positioning the Company for long-term success,” said Dave Mishler, Chief Executive Officer and Vice Chairman of Business Bancshares, Inc.

Business Bancshares, Inc. is a single bank holding company and parent of The Business Bank of St. Louis. The Business Bank was founded in 2002 and operates a full service banking facility from its one location at 8000 Maryland Avenue in Clayton, Missouri.

Financial Highlights

	9/30/08	9/30/07
Balance Sheet Data		
Total Assets	\$526,835,000	\$494,418,000
Net Loans	476,469,000	423,974,000
Total Deposits	418,815,000	435,758,000
Shareholders' Equity	40,127,000	37,741,000
Book Value Per Share	\$19.57	\$20.04
Shares Issued and Outstanding	2,050,392	1,883,092
Capital Ratios (The Business Bank of St. Louis)		
Tier 1 Risk-based Capital	9.69%	10.65%
Total Risk-based Capital	10.94%	12.33%
Leverage Ratio	9.94%	9.59%
Asset Quality		
Nonperforming Loans to Total Loans	2.46%	1.74%
Nonperforming Assets to Total Assets	2.63%	1.77%
	Quarter Ended	Nine Months Ended
	9/30/08	9/30/08
Net Earnings	\$461,000	\$1,504,000
Diluted Earnings Per Share (EPS)	\$0.21	\$0.71
Performance Ratios		
Return on Average Assets	0.38%	0.42%
Return on Average Equity	4.62%	5.22%
Net Interest Margin	2.88%	3.03%
Efficiency Ratio	66.31%	63.49%

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