

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP /OH/

Form 8-K

December 31, 2003

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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**

Date of Report: December 30, 2003

FIRST FINANCIAL BANCORP.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Ohio
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

0-12379
(Commission File
Number)

31-1042001
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

300 High Street
Hamilton, Ohio
(Address of principal
executive offices)

45011
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (513) 867-5240

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Item 5. Other Event and Regulation FD Disclosure.

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

SIGNATURES

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Exhibit 99.1

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First Financial Bancorp

Item 5. Other Event and Regulation FD Disclosure.

On December 30, 2003, First Financial Bancorp. issued a press release providing an update on recently completed initiatives, fourth quarter earnings, and the search for a new president and chief executive officer. A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1.

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First Financial Bancorp

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits:

99.1 First Financial Bancorp. Press Release dated December 30, 2003.

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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 BANCORP.

By: /s/ C. Douglas Lefferson

C. Douglas Lefferson
Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

Date: December 31, 2003

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<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	First Financial Bancorp. Press Release dated December 30, 2003.