

SVB FINANCIAL GROUP
Form 11-K
June 22, 2018

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

Form 11-K

(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____.

Commission file number 000 15637

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

SVB FINANCIAL GROUP 401(k) AND
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

SVB FINANCIAL GROUP

3003 Tasman Drive
Santa Clara, California 95054 1191

Financial Statements and Supplemental Information

SVB FINANCIAL GROUP 401(k) AND EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

As of December 31, 2017 and 2016 and for the
Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016

with Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Financial Statements and Supplemental Information
SVB FINANCIAL GROUP 401(k) AND EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
As of December 31, 2017 and 2016 and for the
Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016
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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Participants and
Plan Administrator of the
SVB Financial Group 401(k) and
Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of SVB Financial Group 401(k) and Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the “Plan”) as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the related Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the years then ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the “financial statements”). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the Net Assets Available for Benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the years then ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Plan’s financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (“PCAOB”) and are required to be independent with respect to the Plan in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Plan is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan’s internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures to respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Supplemental Information

The supplemental information included in Schedule H, line 4(a) - Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions for the year ended December 31, 2017 and Schedule H, line 4(i) - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2017 have been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of the Plan’s financial statements. The supplemental information is the responsibility of the Plan’s management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental information reconciles to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental information. In forming our opinion on the supplemental information in the accompanying schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental information, including its form

and content, is presented in conformity with DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. In our opinion, the supplemental information in the accompanying schedules is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

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/s/ MOSS ADAMS LLP

Campbell, California
June 22, 2018

We have served as the Plan's auditors since 2013.

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SVB FINANCIAL GROUP 401(k) AND EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

| | December 31, | |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | 2017 | 2016 |
| Assets: | | |
| Investments, at fair value | \$614,500,908 | \$483,379,987 |
| Receivables: | | |
| Discretionary Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Profit Sharing contributions | 4,373,916 | 3,484,704 |
| Notes receivable from participants | 6,547,400 | 6,599,394 |
| Employer matching contributions | 1,448,128 | 1,236,002 |
| Other receivables | 2,255 | — |
| Total receivables | 12,371,699 | 11,320,100 |
| Total assets | \$626,872,607 | \$494,700,087 |
| Liabilities: | | |
| Administrative fees payable | \$— | \$230,317 |
| Total liabilities | — | 230,317 |
| Net assets available for benefits | \$626,872,607 | \$494,469,770 |
| See accompanying notes to financial statements. | | |

SVB FINANCIAL GROUP 401(k) AND EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

| | Year ended December 31, | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|
| | 2017 | 2016 |
| Additions to net assets attributed to: | | |
| Investment and other income: | | |
| Dividends and interest on investments | \$11,116,765 | \$13,474,401 |
| Interest on notes receivable from participants | 285,708 | 266,705 |
| Net realized and unrealized increase in the fair value of investments | 94,486,406 | 49,417,082 |
| Total investment and other income | 105,888,879 | 63,158,188 |
| Contributions: | | |
| Participants | 24,656,579 | 22,070,658 |
| Discretionary Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Profit Sharing | 4,373,916 | 3,484,704 |
| Employer matching | 15,737,222 | 14,529,851 |
| Rollovers | 4,897,875 | 2,252,557 |
| Total contributions | 49,665,592 | 42,337,770 |
| Deductions from net assets attributed to: | | |
| Benefits paid to participants | 23,138,980 | 35,169,772 |
| Administrative fees and other | 12,654 | 437,521 |
| Total deductions | 23,151,634 | 35,607,293 |
| Net increase in net assets available for benefits | 132,402,837 | 69,888,665 |
| Net assets available for benefits: | | |
| Beginning of year | 494,469,770 | 424,581,105 |
| End of year | \$626,872,607 | \$494,469,770 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

SVB FINANCIAL GROUP 401(k) AND
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

1. Description of the Plan

The following description refers to the SVB Financial Group 401(k) and Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the “Plan”), as amended from time to time. This description provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document and the Summary Plan Description and Prospectus for the Plan to obtain a more complete description of the Plan’s provisions.

General

SVB Financial Group is a diversified financial services company, as well as a bank holding company and a financial holding company. SVB Financial Group was incorporated in the state of Delaware in March 1999. Through our various subsidiaries and divisions, we offer a diverse set of banking and financial products and services to clients across the United States, as well as in key international innovation markets. When we refer to “SVB Financial Group,” “SVBFG,” the “Company,” “we,” “our,” “us” or use similar words, we mean SVB Financial Group and all of its subsidiaries collectively, including Silicon Valley Bank (the “Bank”). Headquartered in Santa Clara, California, we operate in key innovation markets in the United States and around the world.

The Plan was originally established effective January 1, 1985. Effective March 1, 1995, the Silicon Valley Bancshares Employee Stock Ownership Plan was merged with and into the Plan. Effective January 1, 2003, the Silicon Valley Bank Money Purchase Pension Plan (“MPP”) was merged with and into the Plan and assets were transferred to individual participant account balances in the Plan and designated as a subaccount to the Plan. All assets in the MPP subaccount are fully vested and we no longer make contributions toward the MPP. The Plan was most recently amended and restated, in its entirety, effective January 1, 2014 (except as otherwise specified therein or as required by applicable law) (“2014 Amendment”). The amended and restated Plan was filed as an exhibit included in our 2014 Annual Report on Form 10-K. The Plan has been further amended since the 2014 Amendment however these amendments did not result in any material modification of the Plan that would require us to file an amended and restated Plan.

The Plan is intended to be a tax-qualified profit sharing plan with a related tax-exempt trust under Code Sections 401(a) and 501(a), respectively, and includes a tax-qualified cash or deferred arrangement under Code Section 401(k), a matching contribution arrangement under Code Section 401(m), and includes discretionary profit sharing contributions. The Plan also is intended to be an employee stock ownership plan (“ESOP”) under Code Section 4975(e)(7) and Code Section 409(l) and to provide participant-directed investments in accordance with ERISA Section 404(c).

Administration of Plan

Under ERISA, we are the designated administrator of the Plan. Overall management and administration of the Plan is the responsibility of a committee appointed by us. For the 2016 plan year, Fidelity Management Trust Company (“Fidelity”) acted as trustee and custodian of the Plan and Fidelity Institutional Retirement Services Company acted as day-to-day recordkeeper of the Plan. Effective January 1, 2017, we appointed Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company (“Vanguard”) to act as trustee and custodian to the Plan and the Vanguard Group, Inc. to act as day-to-day recordkeeper of the Plan.

Plan Year

The Plan year is the twelve-consecutive month period beginning each January 1 and ending each December 31.

Eligibility

Employees of the Company and its participating affiliates are eligible to become Plan participants on the first day of hire, or as soon as administratively practicable thereafter, so long as they meet certain eligibility requirements set forth in the Plan, including the minimum age of 18 years.

Contributions

Eligible employees may contribute up to 75% of their eligible compensation each pay period during a Plan year as employee pre-tax salary deferral contributions, Roth 401(k) contributions and after-tax deferrals. Pre-tax salary deferral and Roth 401(k) contributions are subject to applicable annual Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") contribution limits of \$18,000 for both 2017 and 2016. Eligible employees who are age 50 or will reach age 50 before the close of a Plan year may also contribute up to 75% of their eligible compensation each pay period during the Plan year as catch-up contributions, either in the form of pre-tax or Roth 401(k), subject to applicable annual IRC contribution limits of \$6,000 for both 2017 and 2016, respectively, as provided in IRC Section 414(v) and the Plan. Participants may also make rollover contributions of eligible amounts representing distributions from other eligible employer plans or eligible individual retirement accounts or annuities, as set forth in the Plan.

Employees who are newly hired or rehired as eligible employees automatically are enrolled in the Plan at a rate of 5% of their eligible pre-tax compensation unless they affirmatively elect to decline participation in the Plan or elect to participate at a different rate during the opt-out period specified by the Plan administrator.

We match 100% of employee salary deferral contributions up to the first 5% of eligible compensation or the Internal Revenue Section 401(a) compensation limit, whichever is less, on a pay period basis. Additionally, the Plan provides for a true-up matching contribution to be made at the end of the Plan year to ensure that eligible participants who elected to contribute 5% or greater of their eligible compensation throughout the Plan year receive the maximum matching contribution of 5% of eligible compensation determined as of the end of the Plan year. In order to receive a true-up matching contribution for any Plan year, a participant must meet certain eligibility requirements as set forth in the Plan. We may change the matching contribution rate at any time, subject to the limits of the Plan.

Any discretionary contributions made by us are allocated among the Plan participants based upon each participant's eligible compensation. Under the Plan, these discretionary contributions may be made by us in two forms: (1) profit sharing contributions in the form of cash, and/or (2) employee stock ownership plan contributions in the form of SVBFG common stock through the SVB Company Stock Fund. We refer to both of these discretionary contributions collectively as "ESOP/Profit Sharing contributions." ESOP/Profit Sharing contributions, which are determined based on our performance and the approval of the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors, may range between 0% to 10% of eligible compensation. These ESOP/Profit Sharing contributions are made to eligible participants who must meet eligibility requirements as set forth in the Plan. For the 2017 Plan year, we made a total discretionary ESOP/Profit Sharing contribution of 1.63% of each participant's eligible compensation. The contribution was comprised of \$2,576,911 of stock in the SVB Company Stock Fund and \$1,797,005 in cash, after the reduction from use of forfeitures of \$780,000. For the 2016 Plan year, we made a total discretionary ESOP/Profit Sharing contribution of 1.41% of each participant's eligible compensation. The contribution was comprised of \$2,094,335 of stock in the SVB Company Stock Fund and \$1,390,369 in cash, after the reduction from use of forfeitures of \$704,000.

Total eligible employee contributions from pre-tax salary deferrals, Roth 401(k), after-tax deferrals, employer matching and ESOP/Profit Sharing Contributions are limited by the maximum annual IRC contribution limits, as provided in section 401(a)(17), of \$54,000, or up to \$60,000 for eligible employees age 50 or older for 2017, and \$53,000, or up to \$59,000 for eligible employees age 50 or older for 2016.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's Plan account is credited with the participant's contributions, our contributions and any investment gains or losses. The allocation of our contributions is based on participant-directed investment allocations, as provided in the Plan. Certain fees may be charged to participant accounts, as provided in the Plan. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the vested portion of the participant's Plan account.

Vesting

Contributions made by Plan participants and our matching contributions plus actual earnings are immediately vested. Vesting in any discretionary ESOP/Profit Sharing Contributions made by us plus actual earnings is based on eligible participants' years of vesting service, as defined in the Plan, in accordance with the following schedule:

| Years of Vesting Service | Vested Percentage |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Less than 1 year | — % |
| 1 year but less than 2 years | 20 |
| 2 years but less than 3 years | 40 |
| 3 years but less than 4 years | 60 |
| 4 years but less than 5 years | 80 |
| 5 years or more | 100 |

In addition, a participant's Plan account becomes fully vested during any Plan year upon his or her attaining the Plan's normal retirement age of 62 while employed by us or any of our affiliates, or the termination of his or her employment with us and our affiliates due to death or a qualifying disability or in connection with a qualifying termination following a change in control event, as set forth in the Plan.

Forfeited Accounts

Forfeited balances of terminated participants' nonvested Plan accounts are used first to restore any previously forfeited amounts of rehired participants' accounts and are then used to pay for the Plan's administrative expenses or to reduce our future contributions to the Plan. The forfeiture balance at December 31, 2017 and 2016 was \$719,847 and \$688,071, respectively. For both 2017 and 2016, forfeitures were used to reduce our ESOP/Profit Sharing contributions to the Plan. No forfeitures were used to pay Plan administration expenses for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016.

Investment Options

All investment accounts are participant directed to either a) investments offered through the Plan or b) other permissible investments by way of a participant self-directed brokerage account ("SDBA"). Participants may elect to invest in any of the Plan's investment options or SDBA in increments of 1% of their total contribution amounts, except that any new contributions allocated to the SVB Company Stock Fund (a fund primarily of shares of SVBFG common stock) are limited to 10% of the amount available for each participant to direct. Additionally, if a Participant's account contains more than 35% of their total account value in the SVB Company Stock Fund, no additional exchanges or contributions to the SVB Company Stock Fund are allowed. Gains or losses on these investments are applied to participants' accounts as of the end of each trading day. Participants may change their investment elections under the Plan generally at any time, in accordance with the procedures established by the Plan administrator and the recordkeeper.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Eligible participants may borrow from the vested portion of their total account balance under the Plan, an amount equal to a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum generally equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of the participant's total vested account balance under the Plan. A participant may have two outstanding loans at a time. Note transactions are treated as transfers between the investment funds and the notes receivable. Note terms may be up to five years for personal notes or up to 15 years for the purchase of a primary residence. The notes are secured by the vested balance in the participant's account and bear fixed interest at a reasonable rate as determined by the Plan administrator, which is intended to provide a return commensurate with the prevailing interest rates charged by persons in the business of lending money for loans that would be made under similar circumstances. Interest rates for notes receivable ranged from 4.25% to 8.75% at both December 31, 2017 and 2016. Notes receivable at December 31, 2017 mature from January 12, 2018 to October 14, 2032. Principal and interest are generally paid ratably through semi-monthly payroll deductions.

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Delinquent notes are reclassified as distributions, upon the occurrence of a distributable event, based upon the terms of

the Plan document.

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Payment of Benefits

Upon a participant's termination of employment with us and all of our affiliates, the participant may elect to have his or her vested Plan account balance be paid, as provided under the Plan, either: (i) in a single lump sum, (ii) in a partial lump sum of any amount, or (iii) with respect to his or her Money Purchase Pension Plan subaccount balance, if any, in the form of an annuity specified in the Plan. Except as otherwise required by law and the Plan, if the terminated participant's vested account balance is more than \$5,000, the participant generally may leave the account balance in the Plan until he or she elects a form of Plan distribution. If the terminated participant's vested account balance is between \$1,000 and \$5,000, we will automatically rollover such amount to an individual retirement account on his or her behalf unless directed otherwise by the participant pursuant to the Plan's procedures, in compliance with applicable law. If the vested account balance is \$1,000 or less, a lump sum distribution payment automatically will be made to the terminated participant, unless directed otherwise by the participant pursuant to the Plan's procedures.

Subject to the limitations set forth in the Plan, a participant also may receive an in-service withdrawal from certain portions of his or her vested Plan account and from his or her rollover contributions subaccount, if any, upon a financial hardship or attainment of age 59½ years.

2. Summary of Accounting Policies

The accounting and reporting policies of the Plan conform with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP").

Basis of Financial Statement Presentation

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared using the accrual method of accounting.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, if any, at the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Administrative Expenses

Plan administrative expenses may be paid by the Plan or by us. For the year ended December 31, 2017, substantially all administrative expenses were paid by us. For the year ended December 31, 2016, substantially all administrative expenses were paid by the Plan.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

The Plan's investments are carried at fair value. When available, quoted market prices are used to value these investments. Shares of mutual funds are valued at the publicly quoted net asset value of shares held by the Plan at year-end. SVBFG common stock is valued based on its quoted closing market price. Money market funds are carried at cost, which approximates fair value.

Purchases and sales of investments are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on an accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. The net realized and unrealized increase or decrease in the fair value of investments includes gains and losses on investments held as well as bought and sold during the year and at year-end.

Payments of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Risks and Uncertainties

Participants may invest their Plan accounts in the investment options offered under the Plan consisting of various mutual funds and the SVB Company Stock Fund (which invests primarily in shares of SVBFG common stock). The mutual funds invest in stocks, bonds and other types of investment securities. SVBFG common stock and other investment securities are exposed to risks, such as those associated with interest rates, market conditions and credit worthiness of the securities' issuers. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the Plan's financial statements.

As noted above, the Plan holds investments in SVBFG common stock through the SVB Company Stock Fund and accordingly, Plan participants' accounts that hold interests in the SVB Company Stock Fund are exposed to market risk in the event of a significant decline in the value of such stock.

Reclassifications

Certain prior period amounts have been reclassified to conform to current period presentations.

3. Fair Value Measurements

We use fair value measurements to record fair value adjustments to certain financial instruments and to determine fair value disclosures. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability (the "exit price") in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value is a market-based measure considered from the perspective of a market participant who holds the assets or owes the liability rather than an entity-specific measure.

There is a three-level hierarchy for disclosure of assets and liabilities recorded at fair value. The classification of assets and liabilities within the hierarchy is based on whether the inputs to the valuation methodology used for measurement are observable or unobservable. Observable inputs reflect market-derived or market-based information obtained from independent sources, while unobservable inputs reflect our estimates about market data. The three levels for measuring fair value are based on the reliability of inputs and are as follows:

Level 1

Fair value measurements based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that we have the ability to access. Valuation adjustments and block discounts are not applied to instruments utilizing Level 1 inputs. Since valuations are based on quoted prices that are readily and regularly available in an active market, valuation of these instruments does not entail a significant degree of judgment. Assets utilizing Level 1 inputs include mutual funds, SVBFG common stock and money market funds. In addition, the Plan offers a self-directed brokerage option that holds primarily common stock, mutual funds and exchange traded funds which are traded on an exchange or listed market.

Level 2

Fair value measurements based on quoted prices in markets that are not active or for which all significant inputs are observable, directly or indirectly. As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the Plan did not hold any assets or liabilities utilizing Level 2 inputs.

Level 3

Fair value measurements derived from valuation techniques that use significant assumptions not observable in the market. These unobservable assumptions reflect our own estimates of assumptions we believe market participants would use in pricing the assets. As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the Plan did not hold any assets or liabilities utilizing Level 3 inputs.

There were no transfers between Levels 1, 2 or 3 during the 2017 and 2016 Plan years.

It is the Plan's policy to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when developing fair value measurements. When available, we use quoted market prices to measure fair value.

The Plan's investments are recorded at fair value on a recurring basis. The following fair value hierarchy tables present information about assets that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2017 and 2016:

| Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) | Balance as of December 31, 2017 |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| Mutual funds \$458,641,326 | \$ | —\$ | —\$458,641,326 |
| Common stock 115,623,109 | — | — | 115,623,109 |
| Money market funds 34,666,765 | — | — | 34,666,765 |
| Self-directed brokerage accounts 5,569,708 | — | — | 5,569,708 |
| Total investments \$614,500,908 | \$ | —\$ | —\$614,500,908 |

| Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) | Balance as of December 31, 2016 |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| Mutual funds \$352,524,148 | \$ | —\$ | —\$352,524,148 |
| Common stock 95,281,428 | — | — | 95,281,428 |
| Money market funds 35,574,411 | — | — | 35,574,411 |
| Total investments \$483,379,987 | \$ | —\$ | —\$483,379,987 |

4. Related Party Transactions

We are the Plan administrator (as designated under the Plan), and we believe that all SVBFG common stock transactions involving the Plan and investments managed by Vanguard, the Plan trustee, custodian and recordkeeper (as defined in the Plan) during 2017 and investments managed by Fidelity, the Plan trustee, custodian and recordkeeper during 2016, qualify as exempt party-in-interest transactions.

The Plan has an SVB Company Stock Fund, which consists of common stock issued by the Company and cash equivalents. The Plan's investment in the SVB Company Stock Fund was \$118.0 million and \$96.8 million, which includes cash equivalents of \$2.4 million and \$1.5 million, respectively, at December 31, 2017 and 2016. The SVB Company Stock Fund represents approximately 19% and 20% of the Plan's net assets available for benefits at December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

5. Plan Termination

Although we have not expressed any intent to do so, we have the right to terminate the Plan or discontinue contributions, in accordance with the Plan and consistent with the provisions of ERISA, at any time and for any reason. In the event of a Plan termination, participants will become fully vested in their Plan accounts (if not already vested).

6. Tax Status

The Plan received a favorable determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") on July 25, 2014, in which the IRS stated that the Plan, as then designed, was in compliance with applicable requirements of the IRC. The Plan administrator believes that the Plan, including amendments subsequent to the receipt of the favorable determination letter, continues to be designed and is currently being operated in material compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and that the trust, which is the legal entity in which the Plan assets are held, continues to be exempt from federal income and state franchise tax. Accordingly, no provision for income taxes is reflected in the accompanying financial statements.

GAAP requires management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. No uncertain positions have been identified that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements as of December 31, 2017. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

SVB FINANCIAL GROUP 401(k) AND EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
 Schedule H, line 4a - Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions
 EIN: 91-1962278, Plan # 001

For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

| Plan Year | Participant Contributions Transferred Late to Plan | Check Here if Late Participant Loan Repayments Included | Totals that Constitute Nonexempt Prohibited Transactions | | Total Fully Corrected |
|-----------|--|---|--|--|----------------------------|
| | | | Contributions Corrected Not Outside VFCP | Contributions Pending Correction in VFCP | Under VFCP and PTE 2002-51 |
| 2016 | \$ 560,555 | x | \$ 560,555 | \$ | —\$ — |
| 2017 | 1,428 | x | —1,428 | — | — |

SVB FINANCIAL GROUP 401(k) AND EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
 Schedule H, line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
 EIN: 91-1962278, Plan # 001

As of December 31, 2017

| Issuer | Description of Investment | Number of Shares | Current Value |
|---------------------------|--|------------------|---------------|
| | Registered investment companies: | | |
| Dimensional Fund Advisors | U.S. Small Cap Value Portfolio Institutional Class | 405,382 | \$15,372,083 |
| Boston Financial | Dodge & Cox Stock Fund | 132,199 | 26,917,062 |
| MetWest | Total Return Bond Fund | 2,273,094 | 24,231,178 |
| Oppenheimer | International Diversified Fund Class I | 1,631,098 | 30,191,629 |
| PRIMECAP | Odyssey Growth Fund | 1,409,691 | 52,511,008 |
| T. Rowe Price | New Horizons Fund | 369,483 | 19,445,891 |
| * Vanguard | Vanguard Total International Stock Index Fund Admiral Shares | 309,447 | 9,444,335 |
| * Vanguard | Vanguard Institutional Index Fund Institutional Shares | 286,500 | 69,751,330 |
| * Vanguard | Vanguard Extended Market Index Fund Institutional Shares | 562,804 | 47,697,608 |
| * Vanguard | Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund Institutional Shares | 955,122 | 10,267,559 |
| * Vanguard | Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2015 Fund | 67,432 | 1,482,840 |
| * Vanguard | Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2020 Fund | 680,805 | 15,338,547 |
| * Vanguard | Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2025 Fund | 665,569 | 15,214,911 |
| * Vanguard | Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2030 Fund | 918,934 | 21,245,758 |
| * Vanguard | Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2035 Fund | 713,560 | 16,675,908 |
| * Vanguard | Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2040 Fund | 1,003,211 | 23,695,849 |
| * Vanguard | Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2045 Fund | 889,759 | 21,176,261 |
| * Vanguard | Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2050 Fund | 944,829 | 22,505,823 |
| * Vanguard | Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2055 Fund | 341,253 | 8,142,293 |
| * Vanguard | Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2060 Fund | 49,988 | 1,192,706 |
| * Vanguard | Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2065 Fund | 7 | 148 |
| * Vanguard | Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement Income Fund | 285,609 | 6,140,599 |
| | Total registered investment companies | | 458,641,326 |
| | Common stock: | | |
| * SVB Financial Group | SVB Financial Group common stock | 494,602 | 115,623,109 |
| | Participant-directed brokerage accounts: | | |
| * Participant Accounts | Self-Directed Brokerage Accounts | — | 5,569,708 |
| | Money market funds: | | |
| * Vanguard | Vanguard Federal Money Market Fund | 34,666,765 | 34,666,765 |
| | Total investments | | 614,500,908 |
| | Notes receivable from participants: | | |
| * Participant Loans | 526 notes with interest rates ranging from 4.25% to 8.75% and maturity dates ranging from January 12, 2018 to October 14, 2032 | — | 6,547,400 |
| | Total | | \$621,048,308 |

* Denotes party-in-interest to the Plan.

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Index to Exhibits

| Exhibit No. | Description | Filed Herewith |
|-------------|---|----------------|
| <u>23.1</u> | <u>Consent of Moss Adams LLP, independent registered public accounting firm</u> | X |

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SIGNATURES

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

SVB FINANCIAL
GROUP
401(k) AND
EMPLOYEE
STOCK
OWNERSHIP
PLAN

SVB
By: Financial
Group,
as Plan
administrator

Date:
June
22,
2018
By: /s/ KAMRAN HUSAIN
Name: Kamran Husain
Chief Accounting
Officer and Principal
Title: Accounting Officer

Date:
June
22,
2018
By: /s/ CHRIS
EDMONDS-WATERS
Name: Chris Edmonds-Waters
Chief Human
Title: Resources Officer