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LABRANCHE & CO INC
Form 10-Q
May 15, 2001

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2001

OR

Transition Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934
For the transition period from _____ to _____

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 001-15251

LABRANCHE & CO INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE 13-4064735

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

ONE EXCHANGE PLAZA, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10006

(Address of principal executive offices)

(212) 425-1144

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

NOT APPLICABLE

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year,
if changed since last report)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports
required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of
1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the
registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such
filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes No

The number of shares of the registrant's common stock outstanding as of May 14,
2001 was 57,363,060.

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PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

LABRANCHE & CO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
 (UNAUDITED)
 (000'S OMITTED EXCEPT PER SHARE DATA)

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2001	2000
	-----	-----
REVENUES:		
Net gain on principal transactions	\$ 81,460	\$ 65,39
Commissions	11,820	9,18
Other	4,480	4,11
	-----	-----
Total revenues	97,760	78,69
	-----	-----

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EXPENSES:

Employee compensation and related benefits	24,592	22,78
Interest	12,145	6,44
Depreciation and amortization of intangibles	6,133	2,75
Lease of exchange memberships	3,855	2,55
Exchange, clearing and brokerage fees	3,037	1,03
Other	3,314	2,68
	-----	-----
Total expenses	53,076	38,25
	-----	-----
Income before provision for income taxes	44,684	40,43
PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES	23,760	19,87
	-----	-----
Net income	\$ 20,924	\$ 20,55
Weighted-average shares outstanding:		
Basic	50,266	46,55
Diluted	51,177	46,64
Earnings per share		
Basic	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.4
Diluted	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.4

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated statements.

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LABRANCHE & CO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
 (000'S OMITTED, EXCEPT SHARE DATA)

ASSETS	As of	
	MARCH 31, 2001	DEC
	-----	---
	(unaudited)	
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 174,551	
CASH SEGREGATED UNDER FEDERAL REGULATIONS	91,554	
SECURITIES PURCHASED UNDER AGREEMENTS TO RESELL	101,793	
RECEIVABLE FROM BROKERS, DEALERS AND CLEARING ORGANIZATIONS	214,222	

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RECEIVABLE FROM CUSTOMERS	11,401
SECURITIES OWNED, at market value:	
Corporate equities	102,297
Other	6,511
EXCHANGE MEMBERSHIPS CONTRIBUTED FOR USE, at market value	28,000
EXCHANGE MEMBERSHIPS OWNED, at cost (market value of \$76,000 and \$52,000)	75,315
OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, at cost, less accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$3,265 and \$2,622, respectively	5,683
INTANGIBLE ASSETS, net of accumulated amortization	
Specialist Stock List	364,593
Trade Name	25,510
Goodwill	448,744
OTHER ASSETS	72,787

Total assets	\$1,722,961
	=====

LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

LIABILITIES:	
Payable to brokers and dealers	\$ 16,162
Payable to customers	83,073
Securities sold, but not yet purchased, at market value	70,288
Accounts payable and other accrued expenses	83,330
Income taxes payable	--

	252,853

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DEFERRED TAX LIABILITIES	172

LONG TERM DEBT	370

SUBORDINATED LIABILITIES	
Exchange memberships, at market value	28
Other subordinated indebtedness	50

	78

PREFERRED STOCK, at carrying value, liquidation value of \$1,000 per share; 10,000,000 shares authorized; 100,000 and 0 shares issued and outstanding as of March 31, 2001 and December 31, 2000 respectively	93
COMMON STOCK, \$.01 par value, 200,000,000 shares authorized; 57,363,060 and 49,069,521 shares issued and outstanding as of March 31, 2001 and December 31, 2000 respectively	

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OPTIONS ON COMMON STOCK	51
ADDITIONAL PAID-IN-CAPITAL	586
RETAINED EARNINGS	125
UNEARNED COMPENSATION	(9,
	848
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 1,722

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated statements.

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LABRANCHE & CO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN
 STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2001
 (UNAUDITED)
 (000'S OMITTED)

	Common Stock		Preferred Stock
	Shares	Amount	
Balance at December 31, 2000	49,070	\$ 491	\$ --
Net income	--	--	--
Grant of stock options to former RPM option holders	--	--	--
Issuance of stock for option exercises by former RPM option holders	1,145	11	--
Issuance of stock to former RPM stockholders	6,924	69	--
Issuance of preferred stock for RPM acquisition	--	--	93,481
Recognition of a tax benefit related to employee option exercises	--	--	--
Issuance of restricted stock, shares for option exercises and related compensation	225	3	--
Balance at March 31, 2001	57,363	\$ 574	93,481

Options On Common Stock Retained Earnings Unearned Compensation

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	-----	-----	-----
Balance at December 31, 2000	--	\$ 104,665	\$ (7,602)
Net income	--	20,924	--
Grant of stock options to former RPM option holders	89,623	--	--
Issuance of stock for option exercises by former RPM option holders	(37,811)	--	--
Issuance of stock to former RPM stockholders	--	--	--
Issuance of preferred stock for RPM acquisition	--	(388)	--
Recognition of a tax benefit related to employee option exercises	--	--	--
Issuance of restricted stock, shares for option exercises and related compensation	--	--	(1,719)
	-----	-----	-----
Balance at March 31, 2001	\$ 51,812	\$ 125,201	\$ (9,321)
	=====	=====	=====

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated statements.

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LABRANCHE & CO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
 (UNAUDITED)
 (000'S OMITTED)

	-----	-----
	-----	-----
	-----	-----
		Thru
		March 31, 20

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net income		\$ 20,
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash used in operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization of intangibles		6,
Amortization of debt issuance costs and bond discount		
Compensation expense related to stock-based compensation		2,
Deferred tax provision		1,
Tax benefit related to employee stock transactions		17,
Change in assets and liabilities:		
Cash segregated under federal regulations		(12,
Securities purchased under agreements to resell		32,
Receivable from brokers, dealers and clearing organizations		(120,
Receivable from customers		9,
Corporate equities		47,
United States Government obligations		
Other securities owned		6,
Other assets		2,
Payable to brokers and dealers		(19,
Payable to customers		(8,
Securities sold, but not yet purchased		1,

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Accounts payable and other accrued expenses	(12,
Taxes payable	(10,

Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(36,

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:	
Net cash received from (paid for) acquisitions	52,
Payment for purchase of an exchange seat	(2,
Payments for office equipment and leasehold improvements	(

Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	50,

CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:	
Net cash received from issuance of senior subordinated debt	
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	8,

Net cash provided by financing activities	8,

Increase/(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	22,

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CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of period	152,220	83,774
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of the period	\$174,551	\$ 87,553
	-----	-----
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF CASH PAID FOR:		
Interest	\$ 20,961	\$ 5,493
Income taxes	13,900	13,000
SUPPLEMENTAL NON-CASH FINANCING AND INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Acquisitions:		
Intangibles assets		
Fair value of tangible assets acquired, other than cash	\$452,488	\$171,936
Deferred tax liabilities related to intangible assets	71,555	33,863
Other liabilities	95,995	61,774
Common stock issuance	38,950	--
Exercise of options granted to former RPM stockholders	260,463	32,313
	37,811	--

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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated statements.

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LABRANCHE & CO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

1. ORGANIZATION AND DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS

The condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of LaBranche & Co Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Holding Company"), and its subsidiaries, LaBranche & Co. LLC, a New York limited liability company ("LaBranche"), Henderson Brothers, Inc., a Delaware corporation ("Henderson Brothers"), Robb Peck McCooley Clearing Corporation, a New York corporation ("RPM Clearing Corporation"), and Internet Trading Technologies, Inc., a Delaware corporation ("ITTI" and, collectively with the Holding Company, LaBranche, Henderson Brothers and RPM Clearing Corporation the "Company"). The Holding Company is the sole member of LaBranche and 100% stockholder of Henderson Brothers, RPM Clearing Corporation and ITTI. LaBranche is a registered broker-dealer and operates primarily as a specialist in equity securities listed on the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. (the "NYSE") and as a specialist in options on the American Stock Exchange (the "AMEX"). Henderson Brothers is also a registered broker-dealer and a member of the NYSE and primarily provides clearance services to customers of several introducing brokers and provides direct access floor brokerage to institutional customers. RPM Clearing Corporation is a registered broker-dealer, and a member of the NYSE and other exchanges and provides clearing, prime brokerage and execution services. ITTI provides front-end order execution, analysis and reporting solutions for the wholesale securities dealer market.

2. INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The unaudited interim condensed consolidated financial information as of March 31, 2001 and for the three months ended March 31, 2001 and 2000 are presented in the accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements. The unaudited interim condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial information. The unaudited interim condensed consolidated financial information reflects all adjustments, which are, in the opinion of management, necessary for a fair presentation of the results for such periods. This interim condensed consolidated financial information as of March 31, 2001 should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto as of December 31, 2000 included in the Company's Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on March 30, 2001. Results of the interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results to be obtained for a full fiscal year.

3. INCOME TAXES

The Company accounts for taxes in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 109, "Accounting for Income Taxes," which

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requires the recognition of

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tax benefits or expenses on temporary differences between the financial reporting and tax bases of its assets and liabilities. Deferred tax assets and liabilities relate to stock-based compensation, amortization periods of certain intangibles and differences between the financial and tax basis of assets acquired. The Company's effective tax rate differs from the federal statutory rate primarily due to its non-deductible amortization of intangible assets in 2000 and 2001. The components of provision for income taxes reflected on the condensed consolidated statements of operations are set forth below (000's omitted):

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2001 -----	Three Months Ended March 31, 2000 -----
Current federal, state and local taxes	\$21,957	\$18,634
Deferred tax provision	1,803	144
Unincorporated business tax	--	1,100
	-----	-----
Total provision for income taxes	\$23,760 =====	\$19,878 =====

4. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

LaBranche, a specialist and member of the NYSE is subject to SEC Rule 15c3-1 adopted and administered by the NYSE. LaBranche is required to maintain minimum net capital, as defined, equivalent to the greater of \$100,000 or 1/15 of aggregate indebtedness, as defined.

As of March 31, 2001 and as of December 31, 2000, LaBranche's net capital, as defined under SEC Rule 15c3-1, was \$430.9 million and \$293.4 million, respectively. As of those dates LaBranche exceeded the minimum requirements by \$429.5 million and \$290.3 million, respectively. LaBranche's aggregate indebtedness to net capital ratio on those dates was .05 to 1 and .16 to 1, respectively.

The NYSE generally requires members registered as specialists to maintain a minimum dollar regulatory capital amount in order to establish that they can meet, with their own net liquid assets, their position requirement.

As of March 31, 2001 and as of December 31, 2000, LaBranche's NYSE minimum required dollar amount of net liquid assets, as defined, was \$405.0 million and \$284.3 million, respectively, compared to actual net liquid assets, as defined, of \$442.0 million and \$305.0 million, respectively.

As registered broker-dealers and NYSE member firms Henderson Brothers and RPM Clearing Corporation are also subject to SEC Rule 15c3-1 as adopted and administered by the NYSE. Under the alternative method permitted by the rule, the minimum required net capital for each of such subsidiaries is equal to the greater of \$250,000 or 2% of aggregate debit items as defined.

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As of March 31, 2001 Henderson Brothers' and RPM Clearing Corporation's combined net capital as defined under SEC Rule 15c3-1 was \$21.1 million and exceeded minimum requirements by \$20.4 million.

5. ACQUISITIONS DURING FIRST QUARTER 2001

On March 15, 2001, the Company acquired, through a merger, ROBB PECK McCOOEY Financial Services, Inc. ("RPM") for an aggregate of approximately 6.9 million shares of the Company's common stock and shares of the Company's nonconvertible preferred stock having an aggregate face and liquidation value of approximately \$100.0 million and a fair value of approximately \$93.4 million. Each share of the Series A preferred stock entitles the holder thereof to cumulative preferred cash dividends at an annual rate of 8% for the first four years, 10% for the fifth year and 10.8% thereafter, certain voting rights and preferred distributions upon liquidation. In addition, the Company assumed RPM's obligations under RPM's outstanding option agreements with its employees. Thus, each option to purchase RPM common stock was converted into a vested option to purchase 98.778 shares of the Company's common stock. The acquisition was accounted for under the purchase method and the results of RPM's operations have been included in the Company's consolidated financial statements since March 16, 2001 and does not expect any significant adjustment to the allocation of purchase price. The Company intends to finalize its purchase accounting during the second quarter of 2001. The excess of purchase price over fair value of tangible assets of approximately \$452.5 million was allocated to intangible assets with corresponding respective lives as follows:

	ORIGINAL AMOUNT -----	LIFE -----
Specialist Stock List	\$ 180.0 million	40 years
Goodwill	272.5 million	15 years

	\$ 452.5 million	
	=====	

The allocation of purchase price and determination of useful lives for the acquisition was based upon an independent appraisal as of a preliminary date. The useful life of the specialist stock list was determined based upon analysis of historical turnover characteristics of the specialist stocks.

Effective March 13, 2001, the Company acquired all the outstanding capital stock of ITTI, a company that provides front-end order execution, analysis and reporting solutions for the wholesale securities dealer market. ITTI is operated by the Company as a separate subsidiary. The excess of purchase price over fair value of net tangible assets of approximately \$4.3 million was allocated to goodwill.

6. COMMITMENTS

During January 2001, LaBranche extended its \$200 million committed line of credit with a U.S. commercial bank through February 1, 2002.

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Minimum rental commitments under existing non-cancelable leases for office space and equipment are as follows:

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31:	

2001	2,044,917
2002	1,835,813
2003	1,586,569
2004	1,272,125
2005	1,238,650
Thereafter	2,648,488

These leases contain escalation clauses providing for increased rentals based upon maintenance and tax increases.

7. EARNINGS PER SHARE

Earnings per share ("EPS") are computed in accordance with SFAS No. 128, "Earnings Per Share". Basic EPS is calculated by dividing net income available to common shareholders by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding. Diluted EPS includes the determinants of basic EPS and, in addition, gives effect to dilutive potential common shares.

The computations of basic and diluted EPS are set forth below (000's omitted, except per share data):

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2001	Three Months Ended March 31, 2000
	-----	-----
Net income	\$ 20,924	\$ 20,555
Less preferred dividends	388	--
	-----	-----
Numerator for basic and diluted earnings per common share - net income	\$ 20,536	\$ 20,555
Denominator for basic earnings per share - weighted-average number of common shares	50,240	46,552
Dilutive Shares		
Stock options	509	--
Restricted stock	80	--
Restricted stock units	348	88
	-----	-----
Denominator for diluted earnings per share - weighted-average number of common shares	51,177	46,640
Basic earnings per share	\$0.41	\$0.44
Diluted earnings per share	\$0.40	\$0.44

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8. EMPLOYEE INCENTIVE AWARDS

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On March 13, 2001 the Company issued to certain newly hired employees an aggregate of 60,000 shares of restricted stock with an issue cost of \$.01 and a fair market value of \$38.87 per share. The restricted stock, which is subject to continuing service with the Company, will vest in three annual installments on each anniversary of the grant date. For purposes of determining compensation expense, the total expense of approximately \$2.3 million is being recognized over the three-year vesting period on a straight-line basis.

On January 19, 2001 options to purchase an aggregate of 250,000 shares of common stock were granted to employees of the Company at market value. On March 12, 2001 options to purchase an aggregate of 12,500 shares of common stock were granted to an employee of the Company at market value. All of these options, which are subject to continuing service with the Company and other restrictions, will become exercisable in three equal annual installments commencing on the first anniversary of the date of grant. These options will generally expire ten years from the date of grant, unless sooner terminated or exercised. Pursuant to APB No. 25, no compensation expense was recognized since, on the date of grant, these options had no intrinsic value.

As part of the acquisition of RPM, the Company assumed RPM's obligations under the outstanding option agreements with RPM's employees. Thus, each option to purchase RPM common stock was replaced with a vested option to purchase 98.778 shares of the Company's common stock. After the initial grant certain option holders exercised their options as follows:

	As of March 31, 2001
	(Shares)

Initial grant of stock options on the Company's common stock to former RPM employees	2,775,662
Exercise of options on March 19, 2001	1,144,658

Remaining options issued from the RPM acquisition	1,631,004
	=====

The tax benefit associated with the exercise of replacement options has been recorded as an adjustment to goodwill, resulting in a decrease in the amount of \$15.0 million.

9. PROMISSORY NOTES PAYABLE

In connection with the acquisition of RPM, the Company assumed promissory notes payable to former RPM employees totaling approximately \$17.4 million. Interest is paid quarterly at various annual rates. Three notes representing \$3.3 million are payable upon maturity, with dates ranging from the first half of 2002 through the first half of 2006. One of these agreements, representing \$295,000, has an automatic rollover provision that extends the maturity for an additional year, unless the lender provides notice at least 30 days prior to maturity. Ten additional notes representing \$11.4 million are payable in equal annual installments on the anniversaries of issuance, with maturity dates ranging from the second half of 2002 through the second half of 2005. One note representing \$2.0 million is payable in three

annual installments on the anniversary of issuance and matures in December 2003.

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Another note representing approximately \$664,000 is payable in equal annual installments on the anniversary of the closing date and matures in 2005.

LaBranche also assumed two subordinated demand notes for \$1.0 million and \$8.0 million with maturity dates of October and December 2001, respectively, as a result of the RPM acquisition. Interest is payable monthly at adjusting variable rates. These agreements have automatic rollover provisions, and the scheduled maturity date will be extended an additional six months, unless the lender gives LaBranche six months' advance notice that the maturity date will not be extended.

10. PRO FORMA FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following 2000 pro forma consolidated results give effect to the Company's acquisition of all the outstanding capital stock of Henderson Brothers, the acquisition of Webco Securities, Inc. ("Webco") and the issuance of \$250.0 million of Senior Subordinated Notes as if they occurred on January 1, 2000. In addition, the 2000 pro forma consolidated results give effect to the acquisition of RPM, including the issuance of common stock, the issuance of preferred stock, the assumption of all obligations under RPM's option agreements and the reversal of the historical results of operations for certain business lines (the "Acquisition Transactions"), as if they occurred on January 1, 2000. The 2001 pro forma consolidated results give effect to the March 2001 Acquisition Transactions as if they all occurred on January 1, 2001. The pro forma impact on revenues, pre-tax income and earnings are as follows (000's omitted, except per share data):

	PERIODS ENDED MARCH 31,	
	2001	2000
	-----	-----
	(PRO-FORMA)	(PRO-FORMA)
Revenues	\$ 124,558	\$134,551
Pre-Tax Income	25,835	50,247
Net Income	9,953	23,036
EPS	\$ 0.13	\$ 0.37

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ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS.

UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES, THE "COMPANY," "LABRANCHE" OR "WE" SHALL MEAN LABRANCHE & CO INC. AND ITS WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARIES.

LABRANCHE'S QUARTERLY AND ANNUAL OPERATING RESULTS ARE AFFECTED BY A WIDE VARIETY OF FACTORS THAT COULD MATERIALLY AND ADVERSELY AFFECT ACTUAL RESULTS, INCLUDING: A DECREASE IN TRADING VOLUME ON THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE, VOLATILITY IN THE EQUITY SECURITIES MARKET AND CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF OUR SECURITIES POSITIONS. AS A RESULT OF THESE AND OTHER FACTORS, LABRANCHE MAY EXPERIENCE MATERIAL FLUCTUATIONS IN FUTURE OPERATING RESULTS ON A QUARTERLY OR ANNUAL BASIS, WHICH COULD MATERIALLY AND ADVERSELY AFFECT ITS BUSINESS, FINANCIAL CONDITION, OPERATING RESULTS, AND STOCK PRICE. AN INVESTMENT IN LABRANCHE INVOLVES VARIOUS RISKS, INCLUDING THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE AND THOSE THAT ARE DETAILED FROM TIME TO TIME IN LABRANCHE'S SEC FILINGS.

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CERTAIN STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, STATEMENTS CONTAINING THE WORDS "BELIEVES", "INTENDS", "EXPECTS", "ANTICIPATES" AND WORDS OF SIMILAR IMPORT, CONSTITUTE "FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS" WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995. READERS ARE CAUTIONED THAT ANY SUCH FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS ARE NOT GUARANTEES OF FUTURE PERFORMANCE, AND SINCE SUCH STATEMENTS INVOLVE RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES, THE ACTUAL RESULTS AND PERFORMANCE OF LABRANCHE AND THE SPECIALIST INDUSTRY MAY TURN OUT TO BE MATERIALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE RESULTS EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED BY SUCH FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS. GIVEN THESE UNCERTAINTIES, READERS ARE CAUTIONED NOT TO PLACE UNDUE RELIANCE ON SUCH FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS. LABRANCHE ALSO DISCLAIMS ANY OBLIGATION TO UPDATE ITS VIEW OF ANY SUCH RISKS OR UNCERTAINTIES OR TO PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE THE RESULT OF ANY REVISIONS TO THE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS MADE IN THIS REPORT.

THIS DISCUSSION SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH LABRANCHE'S CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND THE NOTES THERETO CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT.

REVENUES

Our revenues consist primarily of net gain earned from principal transactions in securities for which we act as specialist, and commissions revenue earned from specialist activities. Net gain on principal transactions represents trading gains net of trading losses and transaction fees, and are earned by us when we act as principal buying and selling our specialist stocks and options. Commissions revenue primarily consists of commissions we earn when acting as agent to match buyers and sellers for limit orders executed by us on behalf of brokers after a specified period of time; we do not earn commissions when we match market orders. Other revenue consists of proprietary trading revenue, fees from clearance operations, an investment in a hedge fund and interest income. For the three months ended March 31, 2001, net gain on principal transactions represented 83.3% of our total revenues, commissions revenue represented 12.1% of our total revenues, and other revenues represented 4.6% of our total revenues.

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EXPENSES

Our largest operating expense is employee compensation and related benefits, which primarily consist of salaries and wages and profitability-based compensation. Profitability-based compensation includes compensation and benefits paid to managing directors, trading professionals and other employees based on our profitability and each employee's overall performance.

ACQUISITIONS DURING THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2001

On March 13, 2001, we acquired all the outstanding capital stock of Internet Trading Technologies, Inc. ("ITTI"), a company that provides front-end order execution, analysis and reporting solutions for the wholesale securities dealer market. We operate ITTI as a separate subsidiary. The excess of purchase price over fair value of tangible assets of approximately \$4.3 million was allocated to goodwill.

On March 15, 2001, we acquired ROBB PECK McCOOEY Financial Services, Inc. ("RPM") for an aggregate of approximately 6.9 million shares of our common stock and shares of nonconvertible preferred stock having an aggregate face and liquidation value of approximately \$100.0 million and a fair value of

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approximately \$93.4 million. In addition, we assumed all obligations under RPM's outstanding option agreements with its employees, with each option to purchase RPM common stock having been converted into an immediately exercisable option to purchase 98.778 shares of our common stock. The excess of purchase price over fair value of net tangible assets of approximately \$452.5 million was allocated to intangible assets. The results of the operations of RPM have been included in our financial statements beginning on the date after completion of its acquisition. As a result of the exercise of replacement options granted to former RPM employees, we recorded a tax benefit not reflected through the results of operations of \$15.0 million.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2001 COMPARED TO THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2000

REVENUES

Total revenues increased 24.3% to \$97.8 million for the three months ended March 31, 2001, from \$78.7 million for the same period in 2000, principally due to the increase in revenue from net gain on principal transactions. Net gain on principal transactions increased 24.6% to \$81.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2001, from \$65.4 million for the same period in 2000. This increase was primarily due to an increase in share volume of our specialist stocks traded on the NYSE. In addition, this increase was due to the RPM acquisition, which we consummated on March 15, 2001, as well as a full quarter of revenues from the Henderson Brothers and Webco acquisitions on March 2, 2000 and March 9, 2000, respectively. As a result of the RPM acquisition we became the specialist for 129 additional common stock listings. Our

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share volume as principal increased 35.7% to 5.7 billion shares for the three months ended March 31, 2001, from 4.2 billion shares for the same period in 2000.

Commissions revenue increased 28.3% to \$11.8 million for the three months ended March 31, 2001, from \$9.2 million for the same period in 2000. This increase was primarily due to an increase in share volume in which we acted as agent. In addition, this increase was due to the increase in the number of our common stock listings as a result of the RPM, acquisition on March 15, 2001, a full quarter of commissions revenue from the Henderson Brothers and Webco acquisitions, as well as the commissions earned by our clearing subsidiaries for execution services. The share volume executed by us as agent in our specialist stocks increased 45.5% to 1.6 billion shares for the three months ended March 31, 2001, from 1.1 billion shares for the same period in 2000.

Other revenue increased 9.8% to \$4.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2001, from \$4.1 million for the same period in 2000. This increase was primarily due to an increase in our fees from clearance activities and short-term interest income, which was offset by a decrease in our proprietary trading revenues and other investments.

EXPENSES

Total expenses before provision for income taxes increased 38.6% to \$53.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2001 from \$38.3 million for the same period in 2000.

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Employee compensation and related benefits increased 7.9% to \$24.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2001, from \$22.8 million for the same period in 2000. The increase was due to the consummation of the RPM acquisition that resulted in our employment of 215 additional individuals on March 15, 2001. A full quarter of employee compensation and related benefits expense as a result of the acquisitions of Henderson Brothers and Webco, which resulted in our employment of 97 additional individuals, also contributed to the increase. As a percentage of total revenues, employee compensation decreased to 25.2% of total revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2001, from 29.0% of total revenues for the same period in 2000.

Interest expense increased 89.1% to \$12.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2001, from \$6.4 million for the same period in 2000. The increase was due to a full quarter of interest expense on \$250.0 million of senior subordinated indebtedness, incurred in connection with the Henderson Brothers and Webco acquisitions. As a percentage of total revenues, interest expense increased to 12.4% for the three months ended March 31, 2001, from 8.2% for the same period in 2000.

Depreciation and amortization of intangibles expense increased 117.9% to \$6.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2001, from \$2.8 million for the same period in 2000. The increase was due to the full quarter of amortization on the \$233.7 million of intangible assets recorded as a result of our acquisitions of Henderson Brothers and Webco. In addition, the increase was due to the \$452.5 million of intangible assets recorded as a result of our acquisition of RPM on March 15, 2001. As a percentage of total revenues, depreciation and amortization of

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intangibles expense increased to 6.3% for the three months ended March 31, 2001, from 3.5% for the same period in 2000.

Lease of exchange memberships expense increased 50.0% to \$3.9 million for the three months ended March 31, 2001, from \$2.6 million for the same period in 2000. This increase was due to the increase in the number of leased memberships from 46 to 64, and was also due to an increase in the average annual leasing cost of the memberships from approximately \$276,000 to \$312,000 per membership. As a percentage of total revenues, lease of exchange memberships expense increased to 3.9% for the three months ended March 31, 2001, from 3.2% for the same period in 2000.

Exchange, clearing and brokerage fees consist primarily of fees paid by us as a specialist to the NYSE and to clearing houses. Fees paid by us to the NYSE primarily include fees based on the volume of transactions executed as principal and as agent, as well as a flat annual fee. Exchange, clearing and brokerage fees expense increased 200.0% or \$3.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2001, from \$1.0 million for the same period in 2000. This increase was due to an increase in fees charged by the NYSE for new listing allocations and fees based upon exchange seat use. Increased trading volumes as a result of the RPM acquisition and a full quarter of increased volume from the Henderson Brothers and Webco acquisitions also contributed to the increase.

Other expenses increased 22.2% to \$3.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2001, from \$2.7 million for the same period in 2000. This increase was primarily the result of additional data retrieval and informational services, an increase in advertising and promotional costs and legal and professional fees associated with the expansion of our business.

INCOME BEFORE PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES

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Income before provision for income taxes increased 10.6% to \$44.7 million for the three months ended March 31, 2001, from \$40.4 million for the same period in 2000. This increase was primarily due to the increase in our total revenues which is offset by the increase in interest, depreciation and amortization of intangibles and exchange clearing and brokerage fees as the result of our acquisition of RPM and the effect of a full quarter of the Henderson Brothers and Webco acquisitions.

INCOME TAXES

Provision for income taxes increased 19.6% to \$23.8 million for the three months ended March 31, 2001, from \$19.9 million for the same period in 2000, as a result of the increase in nondeductible amortization of intangible expense as result of our acquisitions and our increased profitability.

LIQUIDITY

As of March 31, 2001, we had \$1,723.0 million in assets, of which \$266.1 million consisted of cash and short-term investments, which primarily consist of commercial paper maturing within 180 days.

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In January 2001, we extended our \$200 million line-of-credit with a U.S. commercial bank until February 1, 2002. Amounts outstanding under the U.S. commercial bank credit facility are secured by our inventory of specialist stocks and bear interest at U.S. commercial banks' broker loan rate. To date, we have not utilized this facility.

As of March 31, 2001, the subordinated debt of LaBranche & Co. LLC totaled \$50.9 million (excluding subordinated liabilities related to contributed exchange memberships). Of this amount, \$35.0 million represented senior subordinated debt privately placed pursuant to several note purchase agreements. Of this \$35.0 million, \$20.0 million matures on September 15, 2002 and bears interest at an annual rate of 8.17%, payable on a quarterly basis, and \$15.0 million matures on June 3, 2008 and bears interest at an annual rate of 7.69%, payable on a quarterly basis. These notes are senior to all other subordinated notes of LaBranche & Co. LLC. As of March 31, 2001 subordinated debt totaling \$6.9 million represented junior subordinated debt of LaBranche & Co. LLC placed with former limited partners, their family members and our employees. This debt has maturities ranging from the second half of 2001 through the second half of 2002, and bears interest at an annual rate between 8.0% and 10.0%, payable on a quarterly basis. The agreements relating to the junior subordinated debt generally have automatic rollover provisions that extend the maturities for an additional year, unless the lender provides notice at least seven months prior to maturity.

As a result of our acquisition of RPM, LaBranche & Co. LLC acquired subordinated demand notes for \$1.0 million and \$8.0 million with maturity dates of October and December 2001 respectively. Interest is payable monthly at adjusting variable rates. These agreements have automatic rollover provisions, and the scheduled maturity date will be extended an additional six months, unless the lender gives LaBranche & Co. LLC six months' advance notice that the maturity date will not be extended.

As of March 31, 2001 the Company also assumed \$17.4 million of promissory notes payable as a result of the RPM acquisition. Three of these notes, representing approximately \$3.3 million, are subordinated debt placed with

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family members of former employees of RPM. This debt has maturities ranging from the first half of 2002 through the first half of 2006, and bears interest at an annual rate between 9.0% and 12.5%, payable on a quarterly basis. One of these agreements, representing \$295,000, has an automatic rollover provision that extends the maturity for an additional year, unless the lender provides notice at least 30 days prior to maturity. Ten additional notes representing \$11.4 million, are promissory notes placed with former RPM employees and their family members. These notes are payable in equal annual installments on the anniversaries of issuance, with maturity dates ranging from the second half of 2002 through the second half of 2005, and bear interest at annual rates ranging from 9.5% to 10.0%, payable on a quarterly basis. Another promissory note, representing \$2.0 million, is payable in three annual installments on the anniversary of issuance, matures in December 2003 and bears interest at an annual rate of 12.0%, payable on a quarterly basis. One promissory note, representing approximately \$664,000 is payable in equal annual installments on the anniversary of the closing date, matures in May 2005 and bears interest at an annual rate of 7.0%, payable on a quarterly basis commencing in May 2001.

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As a result of our acquisition of RPM, we issued 100,000 shares of our Series A preferred stock. Each outstanding share of our Series A preferred stock entitles the holder thereof to cumulative preferred cash dividends at an annual rate of 8% of the liquidation preference per share until the fourth anniversary of the closing of the merger, 10% until the fifth anniversary of the closing, and 10.8% thereafter. Dividends are payable on the first day of January and the first day of July of each year (or if such date is not a regular business day, then the next business day thereafter), commencing on July 1, 2001. Dividends on the issued and outstanding shares of Series A preferred stock will be preferred and cumulative and accrue from day to day from the date on which they are originally issued.

On March 2, 2000, we issued \$250.0 million aggregate principal amount of Senior Subordinated Notes. These Senior Subordinated Notes bear interest at a rate of 12.0% annually and mature in March 2007. The indenture covering these notes includes certain covenants that, among other things, limit our ability to borrow money, pay dividends or purchase our stock, make investments, engage in transactions with stockholders and affiliates, create liens on our assets, and sell assets or engage in mergers and consolidations, except in accordance with certain specified conditions.

The Senior Subordinated Notes also require the Company, within 150 days after the end of each fiscal year, to offer to redeem from all holders of the Notes a principal amount equal to the Excess Cash Flow for such fiscal year at a price equal to 103% of the principal amount being offered for purchase plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of redemption. Each holder is entitled to be offered his pro rata share based upon his ownership percentage of the outstanding Notes. Excess Cash Flow is defined for this purpose as 40% of the amount by which our consolidated EBITDA exceeds the sum of our interest expense, tax expense, increase in net capital or net liquid asset requirements, capital expenditures, any cash amounts related to acquisitions of NYSE specialists or any cash payments related to our payment at maturity of the principal amount of our existing or certain other indebtedness.

In connection with the Webco acquisition, we issued unsecured senior promissory notes in the aggregate principal amount of \$3.0 million to the stockholders of Webco. These notes bear interest at an annual rate of 10.0%. Of the aggregate principal amount, \$500,000 has already been paid. The remaining \$2.5 million is due September 9, 2001 and is subject to set-off for any amounts

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for which the former stockholders of Webco may be obligated to indemnify us for any breaches of their or Webco's representations, warranties and covenants under the Webco acquisition agreement.

As a broker-dealer, LaBranche & Co. LLC is subject to regulatory requirements intended to ensure the general financial soundness and liquidity of broker-dealers and requiring the maintenance of minimum levels of net capital, as defined in SEC Rule 15c3-1. LaBranche & Co. LLC is required to maintain minimum net capital, as defined, equivalent to the greater of \$100,000 or 1/15 of aggregate indebtedness, as defined. NYSE Rule 326(c) also prohibits a broker-dealer from repaying subordinated borrowings, paying cash dividends, making loans to any parent, affiliates or employees, or otherwise entering into transactions which would result in a reduction of its total net capital to less than 150% of its required minimum capital.

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At March 31, 2001, LaBranche & Co. LLC had net capital of \$430.9 million, which was \$429.5 million in excess of its required net capital of \$1.4 million.

As clearing brokers, pursuant to SEC Rule 15c3-1, our Henderson Brothers and RPM subsidiaries are required to maintain a minimum net capital of \$250,000. As of March 31, 2001, the combined net capital of these subsidiaries was \$21.1 million and exceeded requirements by \$20.4 million.

The NYSE generally requires members registered as specialists to maintain a minimum dollar regulatory capital amount in order to establish that they can meet, with their own net liquid assets, their position requirement. After our acquisition of RPM, our net liquid asset requirement is \$405.0 million, which represents the previous combined net liquid assets of the two firms as separate entities. As of March 31, 2001, our actual net liquid assets were approximately \$442.0 million.

Failure to maintain the required net capital and net liquid assets may subject us to suspension or revocation of SEC registration or suspension or expulsion by the NYSE.

We currently anticipate that our available cash resources and credit facilities will be sufficient to meet our anticipated working capital, regulatory capital and capital expenditure requirements through the end of 2001.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK.

A majority of our specialist related revenues are derived from trading as principal. We also operate a proprietary trading desk separately from our NYSE and American Stock Exchange ("AMEX") specialist operations, which represented (0.6)% of our total revenues in the three months ended March 31, 2001 and 1.8% of our total revenues in the same period in 2000. We may incur trading losses as a result of these trading activities. These activities involve primarily the purchase, sale or short sale of securities for our own account. These activities are subject to a number of risks, including risks of price fluctuations and rapid changes in the liquidity of markets. In any period, we may incur trading losses in our specialist stocks for a variety of reasons, including price fluctuations of our specialist stocks, lack of trading volume in our specialist stocks and the performance of our specialist obligations. From time to time, we have large position concentrations in securities of a single issuer or issuers engaged in a specific industry. In general, because our inventory of securities is marked to market on a daily basis, any downward price movement in these

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securities will result in a reduction of our revenues and operating profits.

We have developed a risk management process, which is intended to balance our ability to profit from our specialist activities with our exposure to potential losses. In addition, we have trading limits relating to our proprietary trading activities.

Although we have adopted risk management policies, we cannot be sure that these policies have been formulated properly to identify or limit our risks. Even if these policies are

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formulated properly, we cannot be sure that we will successfully implement these policies. As a result, we may not be able to manage our risks successfully or avoid trading losses.

Henderson Brothers' and RPMs' clearance activities involve settlement and financing of various customer securities transactions on a cash or margin basis. These activities may expose Henderson Brothers and RPM to off-balance sheet risk in the event the customer or other broker is unable to fulfill its contractual obligations and Henderson Brothers and RPM has to purchase or sell securities at a loss. For margin transactions, Henderson Brothers and RPM may be exposed to significant off-balance sheet risk in the event margin requirements are not sufficient to fully cover losses that customers may incur in their accounts.

Henderson Brothers and RPM seek to control the risks associated with customer activities by requiring customers to maintain margin collateral in compliance with various regulatory and internal guidelines. Henderson Brothers and RPM monitor margin levels daily and pursuant to such guidelines, requires customers to deposit additional collateral or to reduce positions when necessary.

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PART II OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K.

(a) EXHIBITS.

- 10.1 Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of January 18, 2001, by and between the Company and ROBB PECK McCOOEY Financial Services, Inc. (1)
- 10.2 Amendment to Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of February 15, 2001, by and between the Company and ROBB PECK McCOOEY Financial Services, Inc. (1)
- 27 Financial Data Schedule.

(b) REPORTS ON FORM 8-K.

- (i) On January 19, 2001, we filed a Form 8-K, dated January 18, 2001, with respect to the execution of the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated January 18, 2001, by and between LaBranche & Co Inc. and ROBB

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PECK McCOOEY Financial Services, Inc., under Item 5 of Form 8-K.

- (ii) On March 22, 2001, we filed a Form 8-K, dated March 15, 2001, with respect to our acquisition of ROBB PECK McCOOEY Financial Services, Inc., under Item 2 of Form 8-K.

All other items of this report are inapplicable.

- (1) Previously filed as an exhibit to the company's Report on Form 8-K dated March 15, 2001.

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SIGNATURES

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

May 15, 2001

LABRANCHE & CO INC.

By: /s/ Harvey S. Traison

Name: Harvey S. Traison
Title: Chief Financial Officer

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