

ALLEGHANY CORP /DE
Form 10-K
February 26, 2010

Table of Contents

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

Form 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009

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 1-9371

ALLEGHANY CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

51-0283071

(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

7 Times Square Tower,
New York, New York

(Address of principal executive offices)

10036

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

212-752-1356

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Common Stock, \$1.00 par value	New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

Not applicable

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

Yes No

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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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (Section 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company.

Yes No

As of June 30, 2009, the aggregate market value (based upon the closing price of these shares on the New York Stock Exchange) of the shares of Common Stock of Alleghany Corporation held by non-affiliates was \$1,944,982,718.

As of February 20, 2010, 8,860,073 shares of Common Stock were outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Proxy Statement relating to the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Alleghany Corporation to be held on April 23, 2010 are incorporated into Part III of this Form 10-K Report.

ALLEGHANY CORPORATION

**Form 10-K Report
for the year ended December 31, 2009**

Table of Contents

Description

Page

PART I

<u>Items 1 and 2.</u>	<u>Business and Properties</u>	14
<u>Item 1A.</u>	<u>Risk Factors</u>	25
<u>Item 1B.</u>	<u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	31
<u>Item 3.</u>	<u>Legal Proceedings</u>	31
<u>Item 4.</u>	<u>Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders</u>	31

PART II

<u>Item 5.</u>	<u>Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	32
<u>Item 6.</u>	<u>Selected Financial Data</u>	34
<u>Item 7.</u>	<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	35
<u>Item 7A.</u>	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	62
<u>Item 8.</u>	<u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	64
<u>Item 9.</u>	<u>Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	111
<u>Item 9A.</u>	<u>Controls and Procedures</u>	111
<u>Item 9B.</u>	<u>Other Information</u>	111

PART III

<u>Item 10.</u>	<u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	112
<u>Item 11.</u>	<u>Executive Compensation</u>	112
<u>Item 12.</u>	<u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	112
<u>Item 13.</u>	<u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	112
<u>Item 14.</u>	<u>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	112

PART IV

<u>Item 15.</u>	<u>Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u>	113
<u>Signatures</u>		114
<u>Index to Financial Statement Schedules</u>		116
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>		117
<u>Financial Statement Schedules</u>		118
<u>Index to Exhibits</u>		127

EX-21

EX-23

EX-31.1

EX-31.2

EX-32.1

EX-32.2

Table of Contents

PART I

References in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year-ended December 31, 2009, or the Form 10-K Report, to the Company, Alleghany, we, us and our refer to Alleghany Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless context otherwise requires. In addition, unless the context otherwise requires, references to

AIHL are to our insurance holding company subsidiary Alleghany Insurance Holdings LLC,

RSUI are to our subsidiary RSUI Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries,

CATA are to our subsidiary Capitol Transamerica Corporation and its subsidiaries, and also includes the operations and results of Platte River Insurance Company, or Platte River, unless the context otherwise requires,

EDC are to our subsidiary Employers Direct Corporation and its subsidiaries,

AIHL Re are to our subsidiary AIHL Re LLC, and

Alleghany Properties are to our subsidiary Alleghany Properties Holdings LLC and its subsidiaries.

Items 1 and 2. Business and Properties.

Business Overview

We are a Delaware-incorporated company engaged, through AIHL and its subsidiaries RSUI, CATA and EDC, in the property and casualty and surety insurance business. AIHL acquired EDC on July 18, 2007 for a purchase price of approximately \$198.1 million, including approximately \$5.6 million of incurred acquisition costs. CATA has been a subsidiary of AIHL since January 2002, and RSUI has been a subsidiary of AIHL since July 2003. In June 2006, AIHL Re was established as a captive reinsurance subsidiary of AIHL, and AIHL Re has, in the past, provided reinsurance to our insurance operating units and affiliates.

We also own and manage properties in Sacramento, California through our subsidiary Alleghany Properties, and we also own an approximately 38 percent ownership stake in ORX Exploration, Inc., or ORX, a regional oil and gas exploration and production company. In addition, we own an approximately 33 percent stake in Homesite Group Incorporated, or Homesite, a national, full-service, mono-line provider of homeowners insurance. We acquired our stake in ORX on July 18, 2008 through a purchase of participating preferred stock for cash consideration of \$50.0 million. We acquired our shares of Homesite common stock on December 29, 2006 for a purchase price of approximately \$120.0 million.

We owned approximately 55 percent of Darwin Professional Underwriters, Inc., or Darwin, a specialty property and casualty insurer until October 20, 2008, when it was merged with a subsidiary of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd, or AWAC. We were engaged in the industrial minerals business through World Minerals, Inc. and its subsidiaries, or World Minerals, until July 14, 2005, when we sold that business to Imerys USA, Inc. As a result of our disposition of Darwin and World Minerals, these businesses have been classified as discontinued operations in this Form 10-K Report, and we no longer have any foreign operations.

In 2009, we studied a number of potential acquisitions. We intend to continue to expand our operations through internal growth at our subsidiaries, as well as through possible operating company acquisitions and investments.

At December 31, 2009, we had 768 employees, with 754 at our subsidiaries and 14 at the parent level. Our principal executive offices are located in leased office space of approximately 14,200 square feet at 7 Times Square Tower, New York, New York 10036, and our telephone number is (212) 752-1356.

Our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, are available, free of charge, on our website at www.alleghany.com, as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file or furnish this material to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC. Our Financial Personnel Code of Ethics, Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, Corporate Governance Guidelines and the charters for our Audit, Compensation and Nominating and

Table of Contents

Governance Committees are also available on our website. In addition, interested parties may obtain, free of charge, copies of any of the above reports or documents upon request to the Secretary of Alleghany.

We refer you to Items 7 and 8 of this Form 10-K Report for further information about our business in 2009. Our consolidated financial statements are set forth in Item 8 of this Form 10-K Report and include our accounts and the accounts of our subsidiaries for all periods presented.

Property and Casualty and Surety Insurance Businesses

General Description of Business

AIHL is our holding company for our property and casualty and surety insurance operations. Property and casualty operations are conducted through RSUI, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia; CATA, headquartered in Middleton, Wisconsin; and EDC, headquartered in Agoura Hills, California. Surety operations are conducted through CATA. AIHL Re, our Vermont-domiciled captive reinsurance company, has, in the past, provided reinsurance to our insurance operating units and affiliates. Unless we state otherwise, references to AIHL include the operations of RSUI, CATA, EDC and AIHL Re. We also own an approximately 33 percent stake in Homesite, a national, full-service, mono-line provider of homeowners insurance.

In general, property insurance protects an insured against financial loss arising out of loss of property or its use caused by an insured peril. Casualty insurance protects the insured against financial loss arising out of the insured's obligation to others for loss or damage to property or persons, including, with respect to workers' compensation insurance, persons who are employees. In 2009, property insurance accounted for approximately 44.0 percent and casualty insurance accounted for approximately 52.3 percent of AIHL's gross premiums written. Surety bonds, both commercial and contract, are three-party agreements in which the issuer of the bond (the surety) joins with a second party (the principal) in guaranteeing to a third party (the obligee) the fulfillment of some obligation on the part of the principal to the obligee. In 2009, surety bonds accounted for approximately 3.7 percent of AIHL's gross premiums written.

RSUI

General. RSUI, which includes the operations of its operating subsidiaries RSUI Indemnity Company, or RIC, Landmark American Insurance Company, or Landmark, and Covington Specialty Insurance Company, or Covington, underwrites specialty insurance coverages in the property, umbrella/excess, general liability, directors and officers, or D&O, liability and professional liability lines of business. RSUI writes business on an admitted basis primarily through RIC in the 50 states and the District of Columbia where RIC is licensed and subject to form and rate regulations. RSUI writes business on an approved, non-admitted basis primarily through Landmark, which, as a non-admitted company, is not subject to state form and rate regulations and thus has more flexibility in its rates and coverages for specialized or hard-to-place risks. As of December 31, 2009, Landmark was approved to write business on a non-admitted basis in 49 states and on an admitted basis in Oklahoma. Covington, a New Hampshire domiciled insurer, was formed in September 2007 to, among other things, support non-admitted business written primarily by RSUI's binding authority department, which writes small, specialized coverages pursuant to underwriting authority arrangements with managing general agents.

Pursuant to quota share arrangements effective as of January 1, 2009, Landmark and Covington cede 90 percent of all their respective premiums and losses, gross of third party reinsurance, to RIC. As of December 31, 2009, the statutory surplus of RIC was approximately \$1.1 billion, the statutory surplus of Landmark was approximately \$152.0 million, and the statutory surplus of Covington was approximately \$26.2 million. RIC is rated A (Excellent) by A.M. Best Company, Inc., or A.M. Best, an independent organization that analyzes the insurance industry. Landmark is rated A

(Excellent) on a reinsured basis by A.M. Best, and Covington is rated A (Excellent) on a group basis by A.M. Best. RSUI leases approximately 133,000 square feet of office space in Atlanta, Georgia for its headquarters and approximately 34,000 square feet of office space in Sherman Oaks, California.

Distribution. At December 31, 2009, RSUI conducted its insurance business through approximately 162 independent wholesale insurance brokers located throughout the United States and 32 managing general agents.

Table of Contents

RSUI's wholesale brokers are appointed on an individual basis based on management's appraisal of expertise and experience, and only specific locations of a wholesale broker's operations may be appointed to distribute RSUI's products. Producer agreements which stipulate premium collection, payment terms and commission arrangements are in place with each wholesale broker. No wholesale broker holds underwriting, claims or reinsurance authority. RSUI has entered into underwriting authority arrangements with 24 managing general agents for small, specialized coverages. RSUI's top five producing wholesale brokers accounted for approximately 58 percent of gross premiums written by RSUI in 2009. RSUI's top two producing wholesale brokers, Swett & Crawford Group and AmWINS Group, Inc. accounted for, in the aggregate, approximately 31 percent of AIHL's gross premiums written in 2009.

Underwriting. RSUI's underwriting philosophy is based on handling only product lines in which its underwriters have underwriting expertise. RSUI generally focuses on higher severity, lower frequency specialty risks that can be effectively desk underwritten without the need for inspection or engineering reviews. RSUI tracks underwriting results for each of its underwriters and believes that the underwriting systems and applications it has in place facilitate efficient underwriting and high productivity levels. Underwriting authority is delegated on a top-down basis ultimately to individual underwriters based on experience and expertise. This authority is in writing and addresses maximum limits, excluded classes and coverages and premium size referral. Referral to a product line manager is required for risks exceeding an underwriter's authority.

CATA

General. CATA, primarily through its wholly-owned subsidiaries Capitol Indemnity Corporation, or Capitol Indemnity, and Capitol Specialty Insurance Corporation, or CSIC, operates in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Capitol Indemnity conducts its property and casualty insurance business on an admitted basis, with a geographic concentration in the Midwestern and Plains states. Capitol Indemnity also writes surety products such as commercial surety bonds and contract surety bonds on a national basis. Commercial surety bonds include all surety bonds other than contract surety bonds and cover obligations typically required by law or regulation, such as license and permit coverage. Capitol Indemnity offers contract surety bonds in the non-construction segment of the market which secure performance under supply, service and maintenance contracts, and developer subdivision bonds. CSIC conducts substantially all of its business on an approved, non-admitted basis on a national basis and writes primarily specialty lines of property and casualty insurance. Platte River is licensed in 50 states and the District of Columbia and operates in conjunction with Capitol Indemnity primarily by providing surety products and offering pricing flexibility in those jurisdictions where both Capitol Indemnity and Platte River are licensed. The property and casualty business of CATA accounted for approximately 73.0 percent of its gross premiums written in 2009, while the surety business accounted for the remainder.

As of December 31, 2009, the statutory surplus of Capitol Indemnity was approximately \$182.2 million, including the statutory surplus of CSIC of \$32.1 million. As of December 31, 2009, the statutory surplus of Platte River was approximately \$36.7 million. Capitol Indemnity, CSIC and Platte River are rated A (Excellent) on a reinsured basis by A.M. Best. CATA leases approximately 55,000 square feet of office space in Middleton, Wisconsin for its and Platte River's headquarters.

Distribution. CATA conducts its insurance business through independent and general insurance agents located throughout the United States, with a concentration in the Midwestern and Plains states. At December 31, 2009, CATA had approximately 254 independent agents and 65 general agents licensed to write property and casualty and surety coverages, approximately 240 agents specializing in professional liability and approximately 284 independent agents licensed only to write surety coverages. The general agents write very little surety business and have full quoting and binding authority within the parameters of their agency contracts with respect to the property and casualty business that they write. Certain independent agents have binding authority for specific business owner policy products, including property and liability coverages and non-contract surety products. No agent of CATA had writings in

excess of 10 percent of AIHL's gross premiums written in 2009.

Underwriting. Elements of CATA's underwriting process include prudent risk selection, appropriate pricing and coverage customization. All accounts are reviewed on an individual basis to determine underwriting acceptability. CATA is a subscriber to the Insurance Service Organization, or ISO, and the Surety and Fidelity Association of America, or SFAA, insurance reference resources recognized by the insurance

Table of Contents

industry. Underwriting procedures, rates and contractual coverage obligations are based on procedures and data developed by the ISO for property and casualty lines and by the SFAA for surety lines. Underwriting acceptability is determined by type of business, claims experience, length of time in business and business experience, age and condition of premises occupied, and financial stability. Information is obtained from, among other sources, agent applications, financial reports and on-site loss control surveys. If an account does not meet pre-determined acceptability parameters, coverage is declined. If an in-force policy becomes unprofitable due to extraordinary claims activity or inadequate premium levels, a non-renewal notice is issued in accordance with individual state statutes and rules.

Employers Direct Corporation

General. EDC was granted its Certificate of Authority by the California Department of Insurance and began writing workers compensation insurance on January 1, 2003 through its wholly-owned subsidiary Employers Direct Insurance Company, or EDIC. EDIC is currently licensed in California and seven additional states. Workers compensation insurance provides coverage for the statutorily prescribed benefits that employers are obligated to provide for their employees who are injured in the course of employment. EDC leases approximately 66,000 square feet of office space in Agoura Hills, California.

In June 2009, EDC determined that it was unable to write business at rates it deemed adequate due to the current state of the California workers compensation market. As a result, EDC ceased soliciting new or renewal business on a direct basis commencing August 1, 2009 and took corresponding expense reduction steps, including staff reductions, in light of such determination. As a result of EDC's determination to cease writing business on a direct basis and certain other factors, on June 30, 2009, A.M. Best downgraded its rating of EDIC from A- (Excellent), with a negative outlook, to B++ (Good), with a stable outlook. During the 2009 third quarter, EDC sold the renewal rights of its directly placed workers compensation insurance policies and certain other assets and rights to an independent insurance brokerage.

As of December 31, 2009, the statutory surplus of EDIC was approximately \$106.9 million.

AIHL Re LLC

AIHL Re was formed in June 2006 as a captive reinsurance subsidiary of AIHL to provide catastrophe reinsurance coverage for RSUI. AIHL Re and RSUI entered into a reinsurance agreement, effective July 1, 2006, whereby AIHL Re, in exchange for market-based premiums, took that portion of RSUI's catastrophe reinsurance program not covered by third-party reinsurers. This reinsurance coverage expired on April 30, 2007, and AIHL Re has not participated in RSUI's catastrophe reinsurance programs since that date. AIHL Re and Homesite entered into a reinsurance agreement, effective April 1, 2007, whereby AIHL Re, in exchange for annual premium of approximately \$2.0 million, provided \$20.0 million of excess-of-loss reinsurance coverage to Homesite under its catastrophe reinsurance program which is concentrated in the Northeast region of the United States. This reinsurance coverage expired on March 31, 2008, and AIHL Re has not participated in Homesite's catastrophe reinsurance programs since that date.

AIHL Re had no employees at December 31, 2009.

Changes in Historical Net Loss and Loss Adjustment Expense Reserves

The following table shows changes in historical net loss and loss adjustment expense, or LAE, reserves for AIHL for each year since 2002. The first line of the upper portion of the table shows the net reserves at December 31 of each of the indicated years, representing the estimated amounts of net outstanding losses and LAE for claims arising during

that year and in all prior years that are unpaid, including losses that have been incurred but not yet reported, or IBNR, to AIHL's insurance operating units. The upper (paid) portion of the table shows the cumulative net amounts paid as of December 31 of successive years with respect to the net reserve liability for each year. The lower portion of the table shows the re-estimated amount of the previously recorded net reserves for each year based on experience as of the end of each succeeding year. The estimate changes as more information becomes known about claims for individual years. In evaluating the information in the table, it should be noted that a reserve amount reported in any period includes the effect of any subsequent change in such reserve amount. For example, if

Table of Contents

a loss was first reserved in 2002 at \$100,000 and was determined in 2003 to be \$150,000, the \$50,000 deficiency would be included in the Cumulative (Deficiency) Redundancy row shown below for each of the years 2002 through 2009.

Conditions and trends that have affected the development of the net reserve liability in the past may not necessarily occur in the future. Accordingly, it is not appropriate to extrapolate future redundancies or deficiencies based on this table.

Changes in Historical Net Reserves for Losses and LAE

	Years Ended December 31							
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
	(in millions)							
Net liability as of the end of year	\$ 113.3	\$ 276.0	\$ 639.0	\$ 952.9	\$ 1,127.5	\$ 1,412.9	\$ 1,570.3	\$ 1,573.3
Cumulative amount of net liability paid as of:								
One year later	47.4	72.6	239.4	172.7	243.3	296.1	355.6	
Two years later	80.6	116.8	310.8	356.1	421.7	515.0		
Three years later	100.1	149.6	365.2	493.2	529.6			
Four years later	110.1	173.7	413.6	572.2				
Five years later	115.8	191.7	446.9					
Six years later	121.7	208.0						
Seven years later	124.0							
Net liability re-estimated as of:								
One year later	134.0	268.7	631.8	943.2	1,115.4	1,370.0	1,552.4	
Two years later	147.7	264.6	620.1	941.2	1,047.9	1,341.9		
Three years later	149.0	268.1	593.3	899.7	1,012.5			
Four years later	150.7	263.8	584.1	873.0				
Five years later	153.5	262.0	566.7					
Six years later	151.7	256.1						
Seven years later	148.4							
Cumulative (Deficiency) Redundancy	\$ (35.1)	\$ 19.9	\$ 72.3	\$ 79.9	\$ 115.0	\$ 71.0	\$ 17.9	
Gross Liability-End of Year	\$ 258.1	\$ 438.0	\$ 1,246.4	\$ 2,571.9	\$ 2,228.9	\$ 2,379.7	\$ 2,578.6	\$ 2,521.0
Less: Reinsurance Recoverable	144.8	162.0	607.4	1,619.0	1,101.4	966.8	1,008.3	947.7
Net Liability-End of Year	\$ 113.3	\$ 276.0	\$ 639.0	\$ 952.9	\$ 1,127.5	\$ 1,412.9	\$ 1,570.3	\$ 1,573.3
Gross Re-estimated Liability-Latest	\$ 285.6	\$ 430.2	\$ 1,156.8	\$ 2,372.8	\$ 1,979.5	\$ 2,223.2	\$ 2,500.0	\$ 2,521.0
Re-estimated Recoverable-Latest	137.2	174.1	590.1	1,499.8	966.9	881.3	947.6	947.7
Net Re-estimated Liability-Latest	\$ 148.4	\$ 256.1	\$ 566.7	\$ 873.0	\$ 1,012.6	\$ 1,341.9	\$ 1,552.4	\$ 1,573.3
Gross Cumulative (Deficiency) Redundancy	\$ (27.5)	\$ 7.8	\$ 89.6	\$ 199.1	\$ 249.5	\$ 156.5	\$ 78.6	\$

The net cumulative redundancies since 2003 primarily reflect casualty net reserve releases by RSUI and casualty and surety net reserve releases by CATA, partially offset by catastrophe-related net reserve increases by RSUI in 2006 and 2007, as well as reserve increases at EDC in 2008 and 2009. Prior year reserve adjustments are discussed on pages 38 and 39 and pages 50 through 52 of this Form 10-K Report.

The reconciliation between the aggregate net loss and LAE reserves of AIHL reported in the annual statements filed with state insurance departments prepared in accordance with statutory accounting practices, or SAP, and those reported in AIHL's consolidated financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted

Table of Contents

accounting principles in the United States of America, or GAAP, for the last three years is shown below (in millions):

Reconciliation of Reserves for Losses and LAE from SAP Basis to GAAP Basis

	2009	2008	2007
Statutory reserves	\$ 1,574.9	\$ 1,573.1	\$ 1,417.4
Reinsurance recoverables*	947.7	1,008.3	966.8
Purchase accounting adjustment	(1.6)	(2.8)	(4.5)
GAAP reserves	\$ 2,521.0	\$ 2,578.6	\$ 2,379.7

* Reinsurance recoverables in this table include only ceded loss reserves. Amounts reflected under the caption Reinsurance recoverables on our consolidated balance sheets set forth in Item 8 of this Form 10-K Report also include paid loss recoverables.

The reconciliation of beginning and ending aggregate reserves for unpaid losses and LAE of AIHL for the last three years is shown below (in millions):

Reconciliation of Reserves for Losses and LAE

	2009	2008	2007
Reserves as of January 1	\$ 2,578.6	\$ 2,379.7	\$ 2,228.9
Reserves acquired			165.0
Less: reinsurance recoverables	1,008.3	966.8	1,101.4
Net reserves	1,570.3	1,412.9	1,292.5
Incurred loss, net of reinsurance, related to:			
Current year	460.0	612.8	480.1
Prior years	(17.9)	(42.8)	(31.1)
Total incurred loss, net of reinsurance	442.1	570.0	449.0
Paid loss, net of reinsurance, related to:			
Current year	83.5	116.4	71.7
Prior years	355.6	296.2	256.9
Total paid loss, net of reinsurance	439.1	412.6	328.6
Reserves, net of reinsurance recoverables, as of December 31	1,573.3	1,570.3	1,412.9
Reinsurance recoverables as of December 31*	947.7	1,008.3	966.8
Reserves, gross of reinsurance recoverables, as of December 31	\$ 2,521.0	\$ 2,578.6	\$ 2,379.7

* Reinsurance recoverables in this table include only ceded loss reserves. Amounts reflected under the caption Reinsurance recoverables on our consolidated balance sheets set forth in Item 8 of this Form 10-K Report also include paid loss recoverables.

Asbestos and Environmental Impairment Reserves

AIHL's reserves for losses and LAE include amounts for various liability coverages related to asbestos and environmental impairment claims that arose from reinsurance of certain general liability and commercial multiple peril coverages assumed by Capitol Indemnity between 1969 and 1976. Capitol Indemnity exited this business in 1976. As of December 31, 2009, reserves of CATA totaled approximately \$15.1 million for asbestos liabilities and approximately \$3.8 million for environmental liabilities, resulting in aggregate asbestos and environmental reserves of \$18.9 million. As of December 31, 2008, reserves for asbestos liabilities totaled approximately \$14.9 million and

Table of Contents

reserves for environmental liabilities totaled \$5.5 million, resulting in aggregate asbestos and environmental reserves of \$20.4 million. At December 31, 2009, the reserves for asbestos liabilities were approximately 18 times the average paid claims for the prior three year period, compared with 11 times at December 31, 2008. The reserves for environmental impairment liabilities were approximately five times the average paid claims for the prior three year period, compared with twelve times at December 31, 2008. The significant changes in these metrics from December 31, 2008 to December 31, 2009 primarily reflect fluctuations in the amount and timing in recent years of commutations, which affect paid losses and loss exposure. Additional information regarding the policies that CATA uses to set reserves for these asbestos and environmental impairment claims is set forth on pages 39 and 40 of this Form 10-K Report.

The reconciliation of the beginning and ending aggregate reserves for unpaid losses and LAE related to asbestos and environmental impairment claims of AIHL for the years 2007 through 2009 is shown below (in millions):

Reconciliation of Asbestos-Related Claims Reserves for Losses and LAE

	2009	2008	2007
Reserves as of January 1	\$ 14.9	\$ 16.7	\$ 17.4
Losses and LAE incurred	0.5	(0.3)	0.1
Paid losses*	(0.3)	(1.5)	(0.8)
Reserves as of December 31	\$ 15.1	\$ 14.9	\$ 16.7
Type of reserves			
Case	\$ 1.9	\$ 2.5	\$ 3.7
IBNR	13.2	12.4	13.0
Total	\$ 15.1	\$ 14.9	\$ 16.7

* Paid losses include commutations and legal settlements as well as regular paid losses.

Reconciliation of Environmental Impairment Claims Reserves for Losses and LAE

	2009	2008	2007
Reserves as of January 1	\$ 5.5	\$ 6.2	\$ 6.4
Losses and LAE incurred	(0.4)	0.3	(0.1)
Paid losses*	(1.3)	(1.0)	(0.1)
Reserves as of December 31	\$ 3.8	\$ 5.5	\$ 6.2
Type of reserves			
Case	\$ 0.5	\$ 0.9	\$ 1.4
IBNR	3.3	4.6	4.8

Total	\$ 3.8	\$ 5.5	\$ 6.2
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* Paid losses include commutations and legal settlements as well as regular paid losses.

Catastrophe Risk Management

AIHL's insurance operating units, particularly RSUI, expose AIHL to losses on claims arising out of natural or human-made catastrophes, including hurricanes, other windstorms, earthquakes and floods, as well as terrorist activities. The incidence and severity of catastrophes in any short period of time are inherently unpredictable. The extent of gross losses from a catastrophe is a function of both the total amount of insured exposure in the area affected by the event and the severity of the event. Most catastrophes are restricted to small geographic areas;

Table of Contents

however, hurricanes, other windstorms, earthquakes and floods may produce significant damage when those areas are heavily populated. The geographic distribution of AIHL's insurance operating units subjects them to catastrophe exposure in the United States from hurricanes in the Gulf coast regions, Florida, the Mid-Atlantic, and the Northeast, from other windstorms in the Midwest and Southern regions, and earthquakes in California, the Pacific Northwest region and along the New Madrid fault line in the Midwest region.

AIHL's insurance operating units use underwriting controls and systems, including third-party catastrophe modeling software, to help evaluate potential losses. The operating units use modeled loss scenarios to set risk retention levels and help structure their reinsurance programs in an effort to ensure that the aggregate amount of catastrophe exposures conform to established risk tolerances and fit within the existing exposure portfolio. RSUI also relies on reinsurance to limit its exposure to catastrophes, which is discussed in more detail under *Reinsurance* below. Additional information regarding the risks faced by AIHL's insurance operating units, particularly RSUI, with respect to managing their catastrophe exposure risk can be found on pages 27 and 28 of this Form 10-K Report.

With respect to terrorism, to the extent that reinsurers have excluded coverage for terrorist acts or have priced this coverage at rates that are not practical, our insurance operating units do not have reinsurance protection and are exposed to potential losses as a result of any terrorist acts. To the extent an act of terrorism is certified by the U.S. Secretary of Treasury, we may be covered under the Terrorism Act as described below under *Reinsurance*. Information regarding our insurance operating units' coverage for terrorism and the impact of the Terrorism Act on our insurance operating units can be found on pages 22 and 23 of this Form 10-K Report.

Reinsurance

AIHL's insurance operating units reinsure a significant portion of the risks they underwrite in order to mitigate their exposure to losses, manage capacity, and protect capital resources. In general, the insurance operating units obtain reinsurance on a treaty and facultative basis. Treaty reinsurance is based on a contract between a primary insurer or cedent and a reinsurer and covers certain classes of risk specified in the treaty. Under most treaties, the cedent is obligated to offer, and the reinsurer is obligated to accept, a specified portion of a class of risk underwritten by the cedent. Alternatively, facultative reinsurance is the reinsurance of individual risks, whereby a reinsurer separately rates and underwrites each risk and is free to accept or reject each risk offered by the cedent. Facultative reinsurance is normally purchased for risks not otherwise covered or covered only in part by reinsurance treaties, and for unusual or large risks. Treaty and facultative reinsurance can be written on a quota share, surplus share, or excess of loss basis. Under a quota share reinsurance treaty, the cedent and reinsurer share the premiums as well as the losses and expenses of any single risk, or an entire group of risks. Under a surplus share reinsurance treaty, the cedent may transfer, and the reinsurer is required to accept, the part of every risk that exceeds a predetermined amount (commonly referred to as the cedent's retention), with the reinsurer sharing premiums and losses in the same proportion as it shares in the total policy limits of the risk written by the cedent. Under an excess of loss reinsurance treaty, a reinsurer, in exchange for a premium, agrees to reimburse the cedent for all or part of any losses in excess of the cedent's retention, generally up to a predetermined limit, at which point the risk of loss is assumed by another reinsurer or reverts to the cedent.

In 2009, RSUI ceded 40 percent of its gross premiums written to reinsurers. Although the net amount of loss exposure retained by RSUI varies by line of business, in general, as of December 31, 2009, RSUI retained a maximum net exposure for any single property risk of \$10.0 million and any single casualty risk of \$9.75 million, with the exception of losses arising from acts of foreign terrorism.

RSUI reinsures its property lines of business through a program consisting of surplus share treaties, facultative placements, per risk, and catastrophe excess of loss treaties. Under its surplus share treaties, which generally provide coverage on a risk attaching basis (the treaties cover policies which become effective during the treaty coverage period) from January 1 to December 31, RSUI is indemnified on a *pro rata* basis against covered property losses. The

amount indemnified is based on the proportionate share of risk ceded after consideration of a stipulated dollar amount of line for RSUI to retain in relation to the entire limit written. RSUI ceded approximately 29 percent of its property gross premiums written in 2009 under these surplus share treaties. Under RSUI's 2009-2010 per risk reinsurance program, which generally provides coverage on an annual basis for losses occurring

Table of Contents

from May 1 to the following April 30, RSUI is reinsured for \$90.0 million in excess of a \$10.0 million net retention per risk after the application of the surplus share treaties and facultative reinsurance.

RSUI's catastrophe reinsurance program (which covers catastrophe risks including, among others, windstorms and earthquakes) and per risk reinsurance program run on an annual basis from May 1 to the following April 30. The 2009-2010 program provides coverage in two layers for \$400.0 million of losses in excess of a \$100.0 million net retention after application of the surplus share treaties, facultative reinsurance, and per risk covers. The first layer provides coverage for \$100.0 million of losses, before a 33.15 percent co-participation by RSUI, in excess of the \$100.0 million net retention, and the second layer provides coverage for \$300.0 million of losses, before a 5 percent co-participation by RSUI, in excess of \$200.0 million. In addition, RSUI's property per risk reinsurance program for the 2009-2010 period provides RSUI with coverage for \$90.0 million of losses in excess of a \$10.0 million net retention per risk after application of the surplus share treaties and reinsurance.

RSUI reinsures its other lines of business through quota share treaties, except for professional liability and binding authority lines where RSUI retains all of such business. RSUI's quota share reinsurance treaty for umbrella/excess lines for the period June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010 provides coverage for policies with limits up to \$30.0 million, with RSUI ceding 35 percent of the premium and loss for policies with limits up to \$15.0 million and ceding 67.5 percent of the premium and loss for policies with limits in excess of \$15.0 million up to \$30.0 million. RSUI's quote share primary casualty lines treaty for the period April 15, 2009 to April 14, 2010 provides coverage for policies with limits up to \$2.0 million, with RSUI ceding 25 percent of the premium. RSUI's D&O liability line quota share reinsurance treaty for the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 provides coverage for policies with limits up to \$20.0 million, with RSUI ceding 35 percent of the premium and loss for all policies with limits up to \$10.0 million and ceding 60 percent of the premium and loss for policies with limits in excess of \$10.0 million up to \$20.0 million.

With respect to potential losses at RSUI arising from acts of terrorism, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, as extended and amended by the Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005 and the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007, which we collectively refer to as the Terrorism Act, established a program under which the Federal Government will reimburse insurers for losses arising from certain acts of terrorism. The Terrorism Act is administered by the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and is effective through December 31, 2014, at which time it will automatically expire. The intent of the Terrorism Act is to provide federal assistance to the insurance industry in order to meet the needs of commercial insurance policyholders with potential exposure for losses due to acts of terrorism. The Terrorism Act applies to U.S. risks only, whether it be foreign or domestic terrorism on U.S. soil or on certain U.S. interests abroad. In return for requiring insurers writing certain lines of property and casualty insurance to offer coverage against certain acts of terrorism, the law requires the Federal Government to indemnify such insurers for 85 percent of insured losses during a program year resulting from covered acts of terrorism above certain premium-based deductibles. AIHL's deductible under the Terrorism Act in 2010 will be 20 percent of its direct premiums earned in 2009, or approximately \$255.8 million. In addition, federal compensation will only be paid under the Terrorism Act if the aggregate industry insured losses resulting from the covered act of terrorism exceed \$100.0 million for insured losses occurring in 2010 but no payment shall be made for any portion of aggregate industry insured losses that exceed \$100.0 billion in 2010.

AIHL's terrorism exposure is substantially attributable to RSUI and, as described below, EDC. In general, RSUI's casualty reinsurance programs provide coverage for domestic and foreign acts of terrorism, while RSUI's property reinsurance programs provide coverage only for domestic acts of terrorism. The cost of property reinsurance in the marketplace has increased significantly in recent years, and reinsurance capacity for terrorism exposures is limited and expensive. As a result, RSUI would be liable for these exposures on a net basis, subject to the Terrorism Act coverage, for property policies containing foreign terrorism coverage. Approximately 4.8 percent of all policies and approximately 16.3 percent of all property policies, written by RSUI in 2009 contained coverage for domestic and foreign acts of terrorism. RSUI uses various underwriting strategies to mitigate its exposure to terrorism losses.

CATA uses reinsurance to protect against severity losses. In 2009, CATA reinsured with various reinsurers individual property and casualty and contract surety risks in excess of \$1.5 million. As of December 1, 2009, the commercial surety line was reinsured for individual losses above \$1.5 million. In addition, CATA purchases

Table of Contents

facultative reinsurance coverage for risks in excess of \$6.0 million on property and casualty and \$15.0 million on commercial surety.

EDC uses reinsurance to protect against catastrophe losses. As of December 31, 2009, EDC retained the first \$1.0 million of loss per occurrence and purchased reinsurance with various reinsurers for \$19.0 million above that level. Any loss above \$20.0 million would be the sole responsibility of EDC. EDC uses various catastrophe models to assist it in determining the amount of reinsurance to purchase. All of EDC's current reinsurance includes foreign and domestic terrorism coverage, although nuclear, chemical, biological and radiological events are excluded. Under the Terrorism Act, EDC cannot exclude any form of terrorism from its workers' compensation policies.

At December 31, 2009, AIHL had total reinsurance recoverables of \$976.2 million, consisting of \$947.7 million of ceded outstanding losses and LAE and \$28.5 million of recoverables on paid losses. The reinsurance purchased by AIHL's insurance operating units does not relieve them from their obligations to their policyholders, and therefore, the financial strength of their reinsurers is important. Approximately 93.1 percent of AIHL's reinsurance recoverables balance at December 31, 2009 was due from reinsurers having an A.M. Best financial strength rating of A (Excellent) or higher. AIHL had no allowance for uncollectible reinsurance as of December 31, 2009. Additional information regarding the risks faced by AIHL's insurance operating units with respect to their use of reinsurance can be found on page 28 of this Form 10-K Report.

AIHL's Reinsurance Security Committee, which includes certain of our officers and the chief financial officers of each of AIHL's operating units, meets to track, analyze and manage the use of reinsurance by AIHL's insurance operating units. The Reinsurance Security Committee considers the limits on the maximum amount of unsecured reinsurance recoverables that should be outstanding from any particular reinsurer, the lines of business that should be ceded to a particular reinsurer and, where applicable, the types of collateral that should be posted by reinsurers. Information related to concentration of reinsurance recoverables can be found in Note 5(a) to the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in Item 8 of this Form 10-K Report.

Investments

The investment portfolios of RSUI, CATA, and EDC are managed under the direction of AIHL. For a discussion of AIHL investment results, please see pages 48 and 49 and pages 55 through 59 of this Form 10-K Report.

Competition

The property and casualty businesses of RSUI, as well as the surety and non-admitted specialty businesses of CATA, compete on a national basis. CATA's admitted property and casualty businesses compete on a regional basis with a primary focus on the Midwestern and Plains states. EDC competes primarily in California. Our insurance operating units compete with a large number of other companies in their selected lines of business. They compete, and will continue to compete, with major U.S. and non-U.S. insurers, other regional companies, mutual companies, specialty insurance companies, underwriting agencies, state funds, and diversified financial services companies. Many competitors have considerably greater financial resources and greater experience in the insurance industry and offer a broader line of insurance products than do AIHL's insurance operating units. Except for regulatory considerations, there are virtually no barriers to entry into the insurance industry. Competition may be domestic or foreign, and competitors are not necessarily required to be licensed by various state insurance departments. Competition in the businesses of our insurance operating units is based on many factors, including the perceived financial strength of the company, premium charges, other terms and conditions offered, services provided, commissions paid to producers, ratings assigned by independent rating agencies, speed of claims payment, and reputation and experience in the lines to be written.

Historically, insurers have experienced significant fluctuations in operating results due to competition, frequency or severity of catastrophic and other loss events, levels of capacity, general economic and social conditions, and other factors. The supply of insurance is related to prevailing prices in relation to emerging loss experience, the level of insured losses and the level of industry capital which, in turn, may fluctuate in response to changes in rates of return on investments being earned in the insurance industry. As a result, the insurance business historically has been a cyclical business characterized by periods of intense price competition due to excessive

Table of Contents

underwriting capacity as well as periods when shortages of capacity permitted favorable price levels. A discussion of the risks faced by our insurance operating units due to competition within, and the cyclicity of, the insurance business can be found on pages 26 and 27 of this Form 10-K Report.

Regulation

AIHL is subject to the insurance holding company laws of several states. In addition, dividends and distributions by an insurance subsidiary are subject to approval by the insurance regulators of the domiciliary state of a subsidiary. Other significant transactions between an insurance subsidiary and its holding company or other subsidiaries of the holding company may require approval by insurance regulators in the domiciliary state of each of the insurance subsidiaries participating in these transactions. AIHL's insurance operating units are subject to regulation in their domiciliary states as well as in the other states in which they do business. This regulation pertains to matters such as approving policy forms and various premium rates, licensing agents, granting and revoking licenses to transact business, and regulating trade practices. In addition, some of AIHL's insurance operating units are in states requiring prior approval by regulators before proposed rates for property or casualty or surety insurance policies may be implemented. Insurance regulatory authorities perform periodic examinations of an insurer's market conduct and other affairs.

Insurance companies are required to report their financial condition and results of operations in accordance with statutory accounting principles prescribed or permitted by state insurance regulators in conjunction with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, or NAIC. State insurance regulators also prescribe the form and content of statutory financial statements, perform periodic financial examinations of insurers, set minimum reserve and loss ratio requirements, establish standards for permissible types and amounts of investments, and require minimum capital and surplus levels. These statutory capital and surplus requirements include risk-based capital, or RBC, rules promulgated by the NAIC. These RBC standards are intended to assess the level of risk inherent in an insurance company's business and consider items such as asset risk, credit risk, underwriting risk and other business risks relevant to its operations. In accordance with RBC formulas, a company's RBC requirements are calculated and compared with its total adjusted capital to determine whether regulatory intervention is warranted. At December 31, 2009, the total adjusted capital of each of AIHL's insurance subsidiaries exceeded the minimum levels required under RBC rules, and each had excess capacity to write additional premiums in relation to these requirements.

The NAIC annually calculates certain statutory financial ratios for most insurance companies in the United States. These calculations are known as the Insurance Regulatory Information System, or IRIS, ratios. There presently are thirteen IRIS ratios, with each ratio having an established usual range of results. The IRIS ratios assist state insurance departments in executing their statutory mandate to oversee the financial condition of insurance companies. A ratio falling outside the usual range is not considered a failing result; rather, unusual values are viewed as part of the regulatory early monitoring system. Furthermore, in some years, it may not be unusual for financially sound companies to have several ratios with results outside the usual ranges. The NAIC reports the ratios to state insurance departments who may then contact a company if four or more of its ratios fall outside the NAIC's usual ranges. Based upon calculations as of December 31, 2009, EDIC had six of its ratios falling outside the NAIC's usual ranges, with three falling outside the usual ranges due to EDIC's underwriting loss in 2009, one falling outside the usual range due to adverse reserve development, one falling outside the usual range due to a decline in gross premiums written by EDIC in 2009, and one falling outside the usual range due to a decline in investment yields.

Certain of AIHL's insurance operating units are required under the guaranty fund laws of most states in which they transact business to pay assessments up to prescribed limits to fund policyholder losses or liabilities of insolvent insurance companies. AIHL's insurance operating units also are required to participate in various involuntary pools, principally involving workers' compensation and windstorms. In most states, the involuntary pool participation of AIHL's insurance operating units is in proportion to their voluntary writings of related lines of business in such states.

In addition to the regulatory requirements described above, a number of legislative and regulatory initiatives under consideration may significantly affect the insurance business in a variety of ways. These measures include,

Table of Contents

among other things, tort reform, consumer privacy requirements, and proposals for the establishment of state or federal catastrophe funds. It is also possible that the structure of insurance regulation may be impacted by the broader financial regulation reform that Congress continues to pursue at the federal level in the wake of the recent financial crisis.

Employees

AIHL's insurance operating units employed 748 persons as of December 31, 2009, 353 of whom were at RSUI and its subsidiaries, 235 of whom were at CATA and its subsidiaries, and 160 of whom were at EDC and its subsidiaries. AIHL's investment management subsidiary, Alleghany Capital Partners LLC, employed 3 people at December 31, 2009.

Corporate Activities

Real Estate Business

Headquartered in Sacramento, California, Alleghany Properties owns and manages properties in Sacramento, California. These properties include primarily improved and unimproved commercial land, as well as residential lots. The majority of these properties are located in the City of Sacramento in the planned community of North Natomas. A considerable amount of development activity has occurred in the North Natomas area since 1998, including the construction of more than 13,500 single family homes, 4,000 apartment units, 1.1 million square feet of office buildings and 2.3 million square feet of retail space. Participating in this growth, Alleghany Properties sold over 387 acres of residential land, and 92 acres of commercial property through December 31, 2008, when development activity within North Natomas was temporarily halted. The temporary halt in development activity was a result of new Federal Emergency Management Agency flood insurance maps for the area which revoked the area's previously certified 100-year flood protection. This action will limit development activity until late 2011 when it is anticipated that sufficient progress on the levee improvements will have occurred to restore 100-year flood protection. At December 31, 2009, Alleghany Properties owned approximately 320 acres of property in various land use categories ranging from multi-family residential to commercial. Alleghany Properties had three employees at December 31, 2009.

Parent Company Operations

At the parent level, we seek out attractive investment opportunities, including strategic investments in operating companies, delegate responsibilities to competent and motivated managers at the operating business level, define risk parameters, set management goals for our operating businesses, ensure that operating business managers are provided with incentives to meet these goals, and monitor their progress. Strategic investments currently include an approximately 33 percent stake in Homesite and an approximately 38 percent stake in ORX.

At December 31, 2009, we had 14 employees at the parent level.

Item 1A. Risk Factors.

We face risks from our property and casualty and surety insurance businesses and our investments in debt and equity securities. Discussed below are significant risks that our business faces. If any of the events or circumstances described as risks below actually occurs, our business, results of operations or financial condition could be materially and adversely affected. Our businesses may also be adversely affected by risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently consider immaterial.

Risk Factors Relating to our Operating Units

The reserves for losses and LAE of our insurance operating units are estimates and may not be adequate, which would require our insurance operating units to establish additional reserves. Gross reserves for losses and LAE reported on our balance sheet as of December 31, 2009 were approximately \$2.5 billion. These loss and LAE reserves reflect our best estimates of the cost of settling all claims and related expenses with respect to insured events that have occurred. Reserves do not represent an exact calculation of liability, but rather an estimate of what

Table of Contents

management expects the ultimate settlement and claims administration will cost for claims that have occurred, whether known or unknown. These reserve estimates, which generally involve actuarial projections, are based on management's assessment of facts and circumstances currently known and assumptions about anticipated loss emergence patterns, including expected future trends in claims severity and frequency, inflation, judicial theories of liability, reinsurance coverage, legislative changes, and other factors.

The inherent uncertainties of estimating reserves are greater for certain types of liabilities, where long periods of time elapse before a definitive determination of liability is made and settlement is reached. Our liabilities for losses and LAE can generally be categorized into two distinct groups, short-tail business and long-tail business. Short-tail business refers to lines of business, such as property, for which losses are usually known and paid shortly after the loss actually occurs. Long-tail business describes lines of business for which specific losses may not be known and reported for some period and losses take much longer to emerge. Given the time frame over which long-tail exposures are ultimately settled, there is greater uncertainty and volatility in these lines than in short-tail lines of business. Our long-tail coverages consist of most casualty lines including professional liability, D&O liability, general liability, umbrella/excess and certain workers' compensation exposures. Some factors that contribute to the uncertainty and volatility of long-tail casualty programs, and thus require a significant degree of judgment in the reserving process, include the inherent uncertainty as to the length of reporting and payment development patterns, the possibility of judicial interpretations or legislative changes that might impact future loss experience relative to prior loss experience, and the potential lack of comparability of the underlying data used in performing loss reserve analyses.

In periods with increased economic volatility, such as under the current financial market conditions, it becomes more difficult to accurately predict claim costs. It is especially difficult to estimate the impact of inflation on loss reserves given the current economic environment and related regulatory and government actions. Reserve estimates are continually refined in an ongoing process as experience develops and further claims are reported and settled. Adjustments to reserves are reflected in the results of the periods in which the adjustments are made. Because setting reserves is inherently uncertain, we cannot assure you that our current reserves will prove adequate in light of subsequent events. Should our insurance operating units need to increase their reserves, our pre-tax income for the period would decrease by a corresponding amount. Although current reserves reflect our best estimate of the costs of settling claims, we cannot assure you that our reserve estimates will not need to be increased in the future.

Significant competitive pressures may prevent our insurance operating units from retaining existing business or writing new business at adequate rates. Our insurance operating units compete with a large number of other companies in their selected lines of business. They compete, and will continue to compete, with major U.S. and non-U.S. insurers, other regional companies, mutual companies, specialty insurance companies, underwriting agencies, state funds, and diversified financial services companies. Many competitors have considerably greater financial resources and greater experience in the insurance industry and offer a broader line of insurance products than do AIHL's insurance operating units. Except for regulatory considerations, there are virtually no barriers to entry into the insurance industry. Competition may be domestic or foreign, and competitors are not necessarily required to be licensed by various state insurance departments. Competition in the businesses of our insurance operating units is based on many factors, including the perceived financial strength of the company, premium charges, other terms and conditions offered, services provided, commissions paid to producers, ratings assigned by independent rating agencies, speed of claims payment, and reputation and experience in the lines to be written. Such competition could cause the supply and/or demand for insurance to change, which could affect the ability of our insurance operating units to price their products at adequate rates. If our insurance operating units are unable to retain existing business or write new business at adequate rates, our results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.

In the past few years, our insurance operating units have faced increasing competition as a result of an increased flow of capital into the insurance industry, with both new entrants and existing insurers seeking to gain market share. This has resulted in decreased premium rates and less favorable contract terms and conditions. In particular, RSUI and

CATA's specialty lines of business increasingly encounter competition from admitted companies seeking to increase market share. We expect to continue to face strong competition in these and the other lines of business of our insurance operating units, and our insurance operating units may continue to experience decreases in premium rates and/or premium volume and less favorable contract terms and conditions.

Table of Contents

Our results may fluctuate as a result of many factors, including cyclical changes in the insurance industry. Historically, the financial performance of the property and casualty insurance industry has tended to fluctuate in cyclical periods of price competition and excess underwriting capacity, followed by periods of high premium rates and shortages of underwriting capacity. Although an individual insurance company's financial performance is dependent on its own specific business characteristics, the profitability of most property and casualty insurance companies tends to follow this cyclical market pattern. Further, this cyclical market pattern can be more pronounced in the excess and surplus market, in which RSUI primarily competes, than in the admitted insurance market. When premium rates are high and there is a shortage of capacity in the admitted insurance market, the same factors are present in the excess and surplus market, and growth in the excess and surplus market can be significantly more rapid than growth in the standard insurance market. Similarly, when there is price competition and excess underwriting capacity in the admitted insurance market, many customers that were previously driven into the excess and surplus market may return to the admitted insurance market, exacerbating the effects of price competition. Since cyclicality is due in large part to the actions of our insurance operating units' competitors and general economic factors, we cannot predict the timing or duration of changes in the market cycle. These cyclical patterns cause our revenues and net earnings to fluctuate.

Because our insurance operating units are property and casualty insurers, we face losses from natural and human-made catastrophes. Property and casualty insurers are subject to claims arising out of catastrophes that may have a significant effect on their results of operations, liquidity and financial condition. Catastrophe losses, or the absence thereof, have had a significant impact on our results. For example, pre-tax catastrophe losses, net of reinsurance, at RSUI were minimal in 2009, compared with \$97.9 million in 2008 (primarily reflecting 2008 third quarter hurricane net catastrophe losses for Hurricanes Ike, Gustav and Dolly) and \$47.1 million in 2007. Several states, or underwriting organizations of which our insurance operating units are required to be members, may increase their mandatory assessments as a result of catastrophes and other events, and we may not be able to fully recoup these increased costs.

Natural or human-made catastrophes can be caused by various events, including hurricanes, other windstorms, earthquakes and floods, as well as terrorist activities. The incidence and severity of catastrophes in any short period of time are inherently unpredictable. The extent of gross losses from a catastrophe is a function of both the total amount of insured exposure in the area affected by the event and the severity of the event. Most catastrophes are restricted to small geographic areas; however, hurricanes, other windstorms, earthquakes and floods may produce significant damage when those areas are heavily populated. The geographic distribution of AIHL's insurance operating units subjects them to catastrophe exposure in the United States from hurricanes in the Gulf coast regions, Florida, the Mid-Atlantic, and the Northeast, from other windstorms in the Midwest and Southern regions, and earthquakes in California, the Pacific Northwest region and along the New Madrid fault line in the Midwest region. Catastrophes can cause losses in a variety of our property and casualty lines, and most of our past catastrophe-related claims have resulted from severe hurricanes. It is therefore possible that a catastrophic event or multiple catastrophic events could produce significant losses and have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

In addition, longer-term natural catastrophe trends may be changing due to climate change, a phenomenon that has been associated with extreme weather events linked to rising temperatures, and includes effects on global weather patterns, greenhouse gases, sea, land and air temperatures, sea levels, rain and snow. Climate change, to the extent it produces rising temperatures and changes in weather patterns, could impact the frequency or severity of weather events such as hurricanes. To the extent climate change increases the frequency and severity of such weather events, our insurance operating units, particularly RSUI, may face increased claims, particularly with respect to properties located in coastal areas. Our insurance operating units take certain measures to mitigate against the frequency and severity of such events by giving consideration to these risks in their underwriting and pricing decisions and through the purchase of reinsurance. To the extent broad environmental factors, exacerbated by climate change or otherwise, lead to increases in insured losses, particularly if those losses exceed the expectations, including reinsurance coverage, of our insurance operating units, our financial condition and results of operations could be materially, adversely

affected.

With respect to terrorism, to the extent that reinsurers have excluded coverage for certain terrorist acts or have priced this coverage at rates that are not practical, our insurance operating units, particularly RSUI, would not have

Table of Contents

reinsurance protection and would be exposed to potential losses as a result of any terrorist acts. To the extent an act of terrorism is certified by the U.S. Secretary of Treasury, we may be covered under the Terrorism Act. Information regarding the Terrorism Act and its impact on our insurance operating units can be found on pages 22 and 23 of this Form 10-K Report.

We cannot guarantee that the reinsurers used by our insurance operating units will pay in a timely fashion, if at all, and, as a result, we could experience losses even if reinsured. Our insurance operating units purchase reinsurance by transferring, or ceding, part of the risk that they have underwritten to a reinsurance company in exchange for part of the premium received by our insurance operating units in connection with that risk. Although reinsurance makes the reinsurer liable to our insurance operating units to the extent the risk is transferred or ceded to the reinsurer, it does not relieve our insurance operating units of their liability to their policyholders. Reinsurers may not pay the reinsurance recoverables that they owe to our insurance operating units or they may not pay these recoverables on a timely basis. This risk may increase significantly if these reinsurers experience financial difficulties as a result of catastrophes and other events. Underwriting results and investment returns of some of the reinsurers used by our insurance operating units may affect their future ability to pay claims. Accordingly, we bear credit risk with respect to our insurance operating units' reinsurers, and if they fail to pay, our financial results would be adversely affected. As of December 31, 2009, the amount due from reinsurers reported on our balance sheet was \$1.0 billion, with approximately \$0.8 billion attributable to RSUI's reinsurers.

If market conditions cause reinsurance to be more costly or unavailable, our insurance operating units may be required to bear increased risks or reduce the level of their underwriting commitments. As part of our overall risk and capacity management strategy, our insurance operating units purchase reinsurance for certain amounts of risk underwritten by them, especially catastrophe risks. The reinsurance programs purchased by our insurance operating units are generally subject to annual renewal. Market conditions beyond their control determine the availability and cost of the reinsurance protection they purchase, which may affect the level of their business written and thus their profitability. If our insurance operating units are unable to renew their expiring facilities or to obtain new reinsurance facilities, either their net exposures would increase, which could increase the volatility of their results or, if they are unwilling to bear an increase in net exposures, they would have to reduce the level of their underwriting commitments, especially catastrophe-exposed risks, which may reduce their revenues and net earnings. Generally, under reinsurance contracts, an insured, to the extent it exhausts its original coverage under a reinsurance contract during a single coverage period (typically a single twelve-month period), can pay a reinsurance reinstatement premium to restore coverage during such coverage period. If our insurance operating units exhaust their original and reinstated coverage under their third-party catastrophic reinsurance contracts during a single coverage period, they will not have any reinsurance coverage available for losses incurred as a result of additional catastrophic events during that coverage period.

RSUI attempts to manage its exposure to catastrophe risk partially through the use of catastrophe modeling software. The failure of this software to accurately gauge the catastrophe-exposed risks RSUI writes could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. As part of its approach to managing catastrophe risk, RSUI has historically used a number of tools, including third-party catastrophe modeling software, to help evaluate potential losses. RSUI has used modeled loss scenarios to set its level of risk retention and help structure its reinsurance programs. Modeled loss estimates, however, have not always accurately predicted RSUI's ultimate losses with respect to hurricane activity. Accordingly, in an effort to better manage its accumulations of risk such that its loss exposure conforms to its established risk tolerances and fits within its reinsurance programs, RSUI periodically reviews its catastrophe exposure management approach, which may result in the implementation of new monitoring tools and a revision of its underwriting guidelines and procedures. However, these efforts may not be successful in sufficiently mitigating risk exposures and losses resulting from future catastrophes.

Our insurance operating units are rated by A.M. Best and a decline in these ratings could affect the standing of our insurance operating units in the insurance industry and cause their premium volume and earnings to decrease. Ratings have become an increasingly important factor in establishing the competitive position of insurance companies. Some of our insurance operating unit companies are rated by A.M. Best, an independent organization that analyzes the insurance industry. A.M. Best's ratings reflect its opinion of an insurance company's financial strength, operating performance, strategic position, and ability to meet its

Table of Contents

obligations to policyholders. These ratings are subject to periodic review, and we cannot assure you that any of our insurance operating unit companies will be able to retain those ratings. In this regard, as a result of EDC's determination in June 2009 to cease writing business on a direct basis and certain other factors, A.M. Best downgraded its rating of EDIC from A- (Excellent), with a negative outlook, to B++ (Good), with a stable outlook on June 30, 2009. If the ratings of our insurance operating unit companies are reduced, or in the case of EDIC, further reduced, from their current levels by A.M. Best, their competitive positions in the insurance industry could suffer and it would be more difficult for them to market their products. A significant downgrade could result in a substantial loss of business as policyholders move to other companies with higher claims-paying and financial strength ratings.

The businesses of our insurance operating units are heavily regulated, and changes in regulation may reduce their profitability and limit their growth. Our insurance operating units are subject to extensive regulation and supervision in the jurisdictions in which they conduct business. This regulation is generally designed to protect the interests of policyholders, and not necessarily the interests of insurers, their stockholders, or other investors. The regulation relates to authorization for lines of business, capital and surplus requirements, investment limitations, underwriting limitations, transactions with affiliates, dividend limitations, changes in control, premium rates, and a variety of other financial and nonfinancial components of an insurance company's business.

Virtually all states in which our insurance operating units conduct their business require them, together with other insurers licensed to do business in that state, to bear a portion of the loss suffered by some insureds as the result of impaired or insolvent insurance companies. In addition, in various states, our insurance operating units must participate in mandatory arrangements to provide various types of insurance coverage to individuals or other entities that otherwise are unable to purchase that coverage from private insurers. A few states require our insurance operating units to purchase reinsurance from a mandatory reinsurance fund. Such reinsurance funds can create a credit risk for insurers if not adequately funded by the state and, in some cases, the existence of a reinsurance fund could affect the prices charged for the policies issued by our insurance operating units. The effect of these and similar arrangements could reduce the profitability of our insurance operating units in any given period or limit the ability of our insurance operating units to grow their business.

In recent years, the state insurance regulatory framework has come under increased scrutiny, and some state legislatures have considered or enacted laws that may alter or increase state authority to regulate insurance companies and insurance holding companies. Further, the NAIC and state insurance regulators are continually reexamining existing laws and regulations, specifically focusing on modifications to statutory accounting principles, interpretations of existing laws and the development of new laws and regulations. It is also possible that the structure of insurance regulation may be impacted by the broader financial regulatory reform that Congress continues to pursue in the wake of the recent financial crisis. Any proposed or future state or federal legislation or NAIC initiatives, if adopted, may be more restrictive on the ability of our insurance operating units to conduct business than current regulatory requirements or may result in higher costs.

Risk Factors Relating to our Investments and Assets

A substantial amount of our assets is invested in debt securities and is subject to market fluctuations. A substantial portion of our investment portfolio consists of debt securities. As of December 31, 2009, our investment in debt securities was approximately \$3.3 billion, or 74.5 percent of our total investment portfolio. The fair market value of these assets and the investment income from these assets fluctuate depending on general economic and market conditions. A rise in interest rates would increase the net unrealized loss position of our investment portfolio, offset by our ability to earn higher rates of return on funds reinvested. Conversely, a decline in interest rates would decrease the net unrealized loss position of our investment portfolio, offset by lower rates of return on funds reinvested. In addition, some debt securities, such as mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities, carry prepayment risk, or the risk that principal will be returned more rapidly or slowly than expected, as a result of interest rate fluctuations.

Based upon the composition and duration of our investment portfolio at December 31, 2009, a 100 basis point increase in interest rates would result in a decrease in the fair value of our debt security investments of approximately \$116.7 million.

Table of Contents

Defaults, downgrades or other events impairing the value of our debt securities portfolio may reduce our earnings. We are subject to the risk that the issuers, or guarantors, of debt securities we own may default on principal and interest payments they owe us. The occurrence of a major economic downturn, such as the current downturn in the economy, acts of corporate malfeasance, widening risk spreads, or other events that adversely affect the issuers or guarantors of these debt securities could cause the value of our debt securities portfolio and our net earnings to decline and the default rate of the debt securities in our investment portfolio to increase. In addition, with economic uncertainty, the credit quality of issuers or guarantors could be adversely affected and a ratings downgrade of the issuers or guarantors of the debt securities we own could also cause the value of our debt securities portfolio and our net earnings to decrease. For example, rating agency downgrades of mono-line insurance companies during 2008 contributed to a decline in the carrying value and liquidity of our municipal bond investment portfolio. Any event reducing the value of these securities other than on a temporary basis could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, and financial condition. We continually monitor the difference between cost and the estimated fair value of our investments in debt securities. If a decline in the value of a particular debt security is deemed to be temporary, we record the decline as an unrealized loss in stockholders' equity. If the decline is deemed to be other than temporary, we write it down to the carrying value of the investment and record an other-than-temporary impairment loss on our statement of earnings, which may be material to our operating results.

Investment returns are currently, and will likely continue to remain, under pressure due to the significant volatility and disruption experienced in the financial markets and the current and continuing economic uncertainty. As a result, our exposure to the risks described above could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

We invest some of our assets in equity securities, which are subject to fluctuations in market value. We invest a portion of our investment portfolio in equity securities which are subject to fluctuations in market value. As of December 31, 2009, our investments in equity securities had a fair market value of approximately \$624.5 million, which represented 14.1 percent of our investment portfolio. We hold our equity securities as available for sale, and any changes in the fair value of these securities, net of tax, would be reflected in our accumulated other comprehensive income as a component of stockholders' equity. If a decline in the value of a particular equity security is deemed to be temporary, we record the decline as an unrealized loss in stockholders' equity. If the decline is deemed to be other than temporary, we write it down to the carrying value of the investment and record an other-than-temporary impairment loss on our statement of earnings, which may be material to our operating results, regardless of whether we continue to hold the equity security. A severe and/or prolonged downturn in equity markets could give rise to significant impairment charges.

In 2009, we recorded \$74.1 million of other-than-temporary impairment losses on equity securities, which were primarily based on the severity of the declines in fair value of such securities relative to their cost as of the balance sheet date. Such severe declines are primarily related to a significant deterioration of U.S. equity market conditions during the latter part of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009, which abated somewhat during the remainder of 2009. If U.S. equity market conditions deteriorate in 2010, we may be required to record additional other-than-temporary impairment losses, which could have a material and adverse impact on our results of operations.

As of December 31, 2009, our energy sector equity holdings had an aggregate fair market value of \$399.2 million, which represented 63.9 percent of our equity portfolio. This investment concentration may lead to higher levels of short-term price volatility and variability in the level of unrealized investment gains or losses.

If our business does not perform well, we may be required to recognize an impairment of our goodwill or other long-lived assets or to establish a valuation allowance against the deferred income tax asset, which could adversely affect our results of operations or financial condition. Goodwill represents the excess of the amount we paid to acquire subsidiaries and other businesses over the fair value of their net assets at the date of acquisition. We test goodwill at least annually for impairment. Impairment testing is performed based upon estimates of the fair value

of the operating unit to which the goodwill relates. The fair value of the operating unit is impacted by the performance of the business. The performance of our businesses may be adversely impacted by

Table of Contents

prolonged market declines. If it is determined that the goodwill has been impaired, we must write down the goodwill by the amount of the impairment, with a corresponding charge to net earnings. Such write-downs could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial position. For example, in connection with impairment testing of goodwill and other intangible assets as of December 31, 2008, we determined that the \$48.7 million of goodwill associated with our acquisition of EDC was impaired. As a result, as of December 31, 2008, we recorded a non-cash charge of \$48.7 million, representing the entire EDC goodwill balance at such date. EDC also recorded a pre-tax, non-cash impairment charge of \$11.2 million in the 2009 second quarter, representing the entire carrying value of EDC's trade names (originally determined to have indefinite useful lives), renewal rights, distribution rights, and database development, net of accumulated amortization. Further or continued deterioration of financial market conditions could result in a decrease in the expected future earnings of our operating units, which could lead to an impairment of some or all of the goodwill associated with them in future periods.

Deferred income tax represents the tax effect of the differences between the book and tax basis of assets and liabilities. Deferred tax assets are assessed periodically by management to determine if they are recoverable. Factors in management's determination include the performance of the business including the ability to generate capital gains. If it is more likely than not that the deferred income tax asset will not be realized based on available information then a valuation allowance must be established with a corresponding charge to net earnings. Such charges could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial position. Additional deterioration of financial market conditions could also result in the impairment of long-lived assets and the establishment of a valuation allowance on our deferred income tax assets.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments.

There are no unresolved written comments that were received from the SEC staff 180 days or more before the end of our fiscal year relating to our periodic or current reports under the Exchange Act.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings.

Our subsidiaries are parties to pending litigation and claims in connection with the ordinary course of their businesses. Each subsidiary makes provision on its books, in accordance with GAAP, for estimated losses to be incurred in connection with such litigation and claims, including legal costs. In the opinion of management, this provision is adequate under GAAP as of December 31, 2009.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.

We did not submit any matter to a vote of security holders during the quarter ended December 31, 2009.

Table of Contents**PART II****Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities.****Market Information, Holders and Dividends**

As of December 31, 2009, there were 1,020 holders of record of our common stock. The following table indicates quarterly high and low prices of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange in 2009 and 2008. Our ticker symbol is Y.

Quarter Ended	2009		2008	
	High	Low	High	Low
March 31	\$ 301.47	\$ 234.83	\$ 396.00	\$ 317.23
June 30	277.50	221.74	372.39	324.32
September 30	288.73	250.58	411.76	279.41
December 31	276.52	247.01	362.75	177.74

In 2009 and 2008, our Board of Directors declared, as our dividend on our common stock for each such year, a stock dividend consisting of one share of our common stock for every fifty shares outstanding.

Purchases of Equity Securities by Us

The following table summarizes our common stock repurchases for the quarter ended December 31, 2009:

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs(1)	Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
October 1 to October 31	55,774	\$ 259.11	55,774	
November 1 to November 30	749	\$ 264.90	749	
December 1 to December 31	29,629	\$ 269.66	29,269	
Total	86,152	\$ 262.76	85,792	\$ 81,718,365

- (1) All shares represent shares repurchased pursuant to an authorization of the Board of Directors, announced in February 2008, to repurchase shares of our common stock, at such times and at prices as management may determine advisable, up to an aggregate of \$300.0 million.

Table of Contents**PERFORMANCE GRAPH**

The following graph compares for the years 2005 through 2009 the cumulative total stockholder return on our common stock, the cumulative total return on the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index (the S&P 500), and the cumulative total return on the Standard & Poor's 500 Property and Casualty Insurance Index (the P&C Index). The graph shows the value at the end of each such year of \$100 invested as of January 1, 2005 in our common stock, the S&P 500 and the P&C Index.

Company/Index	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Alleghany	101.55	132.62	149.55	107.01	106.83
= S&P 500	104.91	121.48	128.16	80.74	102.11
S&P 500 P&C Index	115.11	129.93	111.79	78.91	88.65

This performance graph is based on the following assumptions: (i) cash dividends are reinvested on the ex-dividend date in respect of such dividend; and (ii) the two-percent stock dividends we have paid in each of the years 2005 through 2009 are included in the cumulative total stockholder return on our common stock.

Table of Contents**Item 6. Selected Financial Data.***Alleghany Corporation and Subsidiaries**

	Years Ended December 31,				
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	(in millions, except for per share and share amounts)				
Operating Data					
Revenues from continuing operations	\$ 1,184.4	\$ 989.1	\$ 1,228.6	\$ 1,060.3	\$ 1,062.7
Earnings from continuing operations	\$ 271.0	\$ 40.6	\$ 287.6	\$ 240.9	\$ 43.9
Earnings from discontinued operations		107.4	11.5	7.0	8.4
Net earnings	\$ 271.0	\$ 148.0	\$ 299.1	\$ 247.9	\$ 52.3
Basic earnings per share of common stock**					
Continuing operations	\$ 30.43	\$ 2.75	\$ 31.89	\$ 27.40	\$ 5.15
Discontinued operations		12.67	1.36	0.83	0.98
Net earnings	\$ 30.43	\$ 15.42	\$ 33.25	\$ 28.23	\$ 6.13
Average number of shares of common stock**	8,704,268	8,479,863	8,476,152	8,465,844	8,536,073

	Years Ended December 31,				
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Balance Sheet					
Total assets	\$ 6,192.8	\$ 6,181.8	\$ 6,942.1	\$ 6,178.7	\$ 5,822.3
Debt	\$	\$	\$	\$ 80.0	\$ 80.0
Common stockholders equity	\$ 2,717.5	\$ 2,347.3	\$ 2,484.8	\$ 2,146.4	\$ 1,894.4
Common stockholders equity per share of common stock**	\$ 306.71	\$ 278.17	\$ 292.73	\$ 254.12	\$ 221.40

* We sold World Minerals on July 14, 2005. World Minerals has been classified as discontinued operations for the year ended 2005. On July 18, 2007, AIHL acquired EDC. We sold Darwin on October 20, 2008. Darwin has been

classified as discontinued operations for the four years ended 2008 and discontinued operations, net of minority interest expense, includes the gain on disposition in 2008.

** Amounts have been adjusted for subsequent common stock dividends.

Table of Contents

Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk contain disclosures which are forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements include all statements that do not relate solely to historical or current facts, and can be identified by the use of words such as may, will, expect, project, estimate, anticipate, plan, believe, potential, should, continue or the negative versions of those words or other comparable words. These forward-looking statements are based upon our current plans or expectations and are subject to a number of uncertainties and risks that could significantly affect current plans, anticipated actions and our future financial condition and results. These statements are not guarantees of future performance, and we have no specific intention to update these statements. The uncertainties and risks include, but are not limited to,

significant weather-related or other natural or human-made catastrophes and disasters;

the cyclical nature of the property and casualty insurance industry;

changes in market prices of our equity investments and changes in value of our debt portfolio;

adverse loss development for events insured by our insurance operating units in either the current year or prior year;

the long-tail and potentially volatile nature of certain casualty lines of business written by our insurance operating units;

the cost and availability of reinsurance;

exposure to terrorist acts;

the willingness and ability of our insurance operating units' reinsurers to pay reinsurance recoverables owed to our insurance operating units;

changes in the ratings assigned to our insurance operating units;

claims development and the process of estimating reserves;

legal and regulatory changes;

the uncertain nature of damage theories and loss amounts; and

increases in the levels of risk retention by our insurance operating units.

Additional risks and uncertainties include general economic and political conditions, including the effects of a prolonged U.S. or global economic downturn or recession; changes in costs; variations in political, economic or other factors; risks relating to conducting operations in a competitive environment; effects of acquisition and disposition activities, inflation rates, or recessionary or expansive trends; changes in interest rates; extended labor disruptions, civil unrest, or other external factors over which we have no control; and changes in our plans, strategies, objectives, expectations, or intentions, which may happen at any time at our discretion. As a consequence, current plans, anticipated actions, and future financial condition and results may differ from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made by us or on our behalf.

Critical Accounting Estimates

Losses and LAE

Overview. Each of our insurance operating units establishes reserves on its balance sheet for unpaid losses and LAE related to its property and casualty insurance and surety contracts. As of any balance sheet date, historically there have been claims that have not yet been reported, and some claims may not be reported for many years after the date a loss occurs. As a result of this historical pattern, the liability for unpaid losses and LAE includes significant estimates for IBNR. Additionally, reported claims are in various stages of the settlement process. Each claim is settled individually based upon its merits, and certain claims may take years to settle,

Table of Contents

especially if legal action is involved. As a result, the liabilities for unpaid losses and LAE include significant judgments, assumptions and estimates made by management relating to the actual ultimate losses that will arise from the claims. Due to the inherent uncertainties in the process of establishing these liabilities, the actual ultimate loss from a claim is likely to differ, perhaps materially, from the liability initially recorded and could be material to the results of our operations. The accounting policies that our insurance operating units use in connection with the establishment of these liabilities include critical accounting estimates.

As noted above, as of any balance sheet date, not all claims that have occurred have been reported to our insurance operating units, and if reported may not have been settled. The time period between the occurrence of a loss and the time it is settled by the insurer is referred to as the claim tail. Property claims usually have a fairly short claim tail and, absent claim litigation, are reported and settled within no more than a few years of the date they occur. For short-tail lines, loss reserves consist primarily of reserves for reported claims. The process of recording quarterly and annual liabilities for unpaid losses and LAE for short-tail lines is primarily focused on maintaining an appropriate reserve level for reported claims and IBNR, rather than determining an expected loss ratio for the current business. Specifically, we assess the reserve adequacy of IBNR in light of such factors as the current levels of reserves for reported claims and expectations with respect to reporting lags, historical data, legal developments, and economic conditions, including the effects of inflation. At December 31, 2009, the amount of IBNR for short-tail claims represented approximately 1.1 percent, or \$28.6 million, of our total gross loss and LAE liabilities of \$2.5 billion. In conformity with GAAP, our insurance operating units are not permitted to establish IBNR reserves for catastrophe losses that have not occurred. Therefore, losses related to a significant catastrophe, or accumulation of catastrophes, in any reporting period could have a material, negative impact on our results during that period.

Our insurance operating units provide coverage on both a claims-made and occurrence basis. Claims-made policies generally require that claims occur and be reported during the coverage period of the policy. Occurrence policies allow claims which occur during a policy's coverage period to be reported after the coverage period, and as a result, these claims can have a very long claim tail, occasionally extending for decades. Casualty claims can have a very long claim tail, in certain situations extending for many years. In addition, casualty claims are more susceptible to litigation and the legal environment and can be significantly affected by changing contract interpretations, all of which contribute to extending the claim tail. For long-tail casualty lines of business, estimation of ultimate liabilities for unpaid losses and LAE is a more complex process and depends on a number of factors, including the line and volume of the business involved. For these reasons, AIHL's insurance operating units will generally use actuarial projections in setting reserves for all casualty lines of business.

Although we are unable at this time to determine whether additional reserves, which could have a material impact upon our financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows, may be necessary in the future, we believe that the reserves for unpaid losses and LAE established by our insurance operating units are adequate as of December 31, 2009.

Methodologies and Assumptions. Our insurance operating units use a variety of techniques that employ significant judgments and assumptions to establish the liabilities for unpaid losses and LAE recorded at the balance sheet date. These techniques include detailed statistical analyses of past claim reporting, settlement activity, claim frequency, internal loss experience, changes in pricing or coverages, and severity data when sufficient information exists to lend statistical credibility to the analyses. More subjective techniques are used when statistical data is insufficient or unavailable. These liabilities also reflect implicit or explicit assumptions regarding the potential effects of future inflation, judicial decisions, changes in laws and recent trends in such factors, as well as a number of actuarial assumptions that vary across our insurance operating units and across lines of business. This data is analyzed by line of business, coverage, and accident year, as appropriate.

Our loss reserve review processes use actuarial methods that vary by insurance operating unit and line of business and produce point estimates for each class of business. The actuarial methods used by our insurance operating units include the following methods:

Reported Loss Development Method: a reported loss development pattern is calculated based on historical data, and this pattern is then used to project the latest evaluation of cumulative reported losses for each accident year to ultimate levels;

Table of Contents

Paid Development Method: a paid loss development pattern is calculated based on historical development data, and this pattern is then used to project the latest evaluation of cumulative paid losses for each accident year to ultimate levels;

Expected Loss Ratio Method: expected loss ratios are applied to premiums earned, based on historical company experience, or historical insurance industry results when company experience is deemed not to be sufficient; and

Bornhuetter-Ferguson Method: the results from the Expected Loss Ratio Method are essentially blended with either the Reported Loss Development Method or the Paid Development Method.

The primary assumptions used by our insurance operating units include the following:

Expected loss ratios represent management's expectation of losses, in relation to earned premium, at the time business is written, before any actual claims experience has emerged. This expectation is a significant determinant of the estimate of loss reserves for recently written business where there is little paid or incurred loss data to consider. Expected loss ratios are generally derived from historical loss ratios adjusted for the impact of rate changes, loss cost trends, and known changes in the type of risks underwritten.

Rate of loss cost inflation (or deflation) represents management's expectation of the inflation associated with the costs we may incur in the future to settle claims. Expected loss cost inflation is particularly important for claims with a substantial medical component, such as workers' compensation.

Reported and paid loss emergence patterns represent management's expectation of how losses will be reported and ultimately paid in the future based on the historical emergence patterns of reported and paid losses and are derived from past experience of our insurance operating units, modified for current trends. These emergence patterns are used to project current reported or paid loss amounts to their ultimate settlement value.

Each of the above actuarial assumptions may also incorporate data from the insurance industry as a whole, or peer companies writing substantially similar insurance coverages, in the absence of sufficiently credible internally-derived historical information. Data from external sources may be used to set expectations, as well as assumptions regarding loss frequency or severity relative to an exposure unit or claim, among other actuarial parameters. Assumptions regarding the application or composition of peer group or industry reserving parameters require substantial judgment. The use of data from external sources was most significant for EDC as of December 31, 2009.

Sensitivity. Loss frequency and severity are measures of loss activity that are considered in determining the key assumptions described above. Loss frequency is a measure of the number of claims per unit of insured exposure, and loss severity is a measure of the average size of claims. Factors affecting loss frequency include the effectiveness of loss controls and safety programs and changes in economic conditions or weather patterns. Factors affecting loss severity include changes in policy limits, retentions, rate of inflation, and judicial interpretations. Another factor affecting estimates of loss frequency and severity is the loss reporting lag, which is the period of time between the occurrence of a loss and the date the loss is reported to our insurance operating units. The length of the loss reporting lag affects our ability to accurately predict loss frequency (loss frequencies are more predictable for lines with short reporting lags), as well as the amount of reserves needed for IBNR. If the actual level of loss frequency and severity is higher or lower than expected, the ultimate losses will be different than management's estimates. A small percentage change in an estimate can result in a material effect on our reported earnings. The following table reflects the impact of changes, which could be favorable or unfavorable, in frequency and severity on our loss estimates for claims occurring in 2009 (dollars in millions):

Severity	Frequency		
	1.0%	5.0%	10.0%
1.0%	\$ 8.7	\$ 26.3	\$ 48.3
5.0%	\$ 26.3	\$ 44.6	\$ 67.4
10.0%	\$ 48.3	\$ 67.4	\$ 91.3

Our net reserves for losses and LAE of \$1.6 billion as of December 31, 2009 relate to multiple accident years. Therefore, the impact of changes in frequency or severity for more than one accident year could be higher or lower

Table of Contents

than the amounts reflected above. We believe the above analysis provides a reasonable benchmark for sensitivity as we believe it is within historical variation for our reserves. Currently, none of the scenarios is believed to be more likely than the other.

Prior Year Development. Our insurance operating units continually evaluate the potential for changes, both positive and negative, in their estimates of their loss and LAE liabilities and use the results of these evaluations to adjust both recorded liabilities and underwriting criteria. With respect to liabilities for unpaid losses and LAE established in prior years, these liabilities are periodically analyzed and their expected ultimate cost adjusted, where necessary, to reflect positive or negative development in loss experience and new information, including, for certain catastrophic events, revised industry estimates of the magnitude of a catastrophe. Adjustments to previously recorded liabilities for unpaid losses and LAE, both positive and negative, are reflected in our financial results in the periods in which these adjustments are made and are referred to as prior year reserve development. Each of RSUI, CATA, and EDC adjusted its prior year loss and LAE reserve estimate during 2009 and 2008 based on current information that differed from previous assumptions made at the time such loss and LAE reserves were previously estimated. These reserve increases/(decreases) to prior year net reserves are summarized as follows (in millions):

	2009	2008
RSUI:		
Net casualty reserve releases	\$ (38.4)	\$ (43.7)
Reserve release for third quarter 2008 hurricanes	(9.9)	
Non-catastrophe property case reserve re-estimation	11.5	(6.2)
All other, net	1.6	(4.8)
	\$ (35.2)	\$ (54.7)
CATA:		
Net insurance reserve releases	\$ (10.7)	\$ (11.8)
EDC:		
Net workers compensation increase	\$ 26.5	\$ 25.4
All other, net	1.5	(1.7)
	\$ 28.0	\$ 23.7
Total incurred related to prior years	\$ (17.9)	\$ (42.8)

The more significant prior year adjustments affecting 2009 and 2008 are summarized as follows:

For RSUI, loss and LAE for 2009 reflect a net \$38.4 million release of prior accident year casualty loss reserves, compared with a net \$43.7 million release of prior accident year casualty loss reserves during 2008. Both amounts relate primarily to D&O liability, professional liability, and general liability lines of business for the 2003 through 2007 accident years and reflect favorable loss emergence, compared with loss emergence patterns assumed in earlier periods for such lines of business. Specifically, cumulative losses for such lines of business, which include both loss payments and case reserves, in respect of prior accident years were expected to be higher through December 31, 2009 than the actual cumulative losses through that date. This amount of lower cumulative losses, expressed as a percentage of carried loss and LAE reserves at the beginning of the year, was 2.9 percent. Such reduction did not impact the assumptions used in estimating RSUI's loss and LAE

liabilities for business earned in 2009. For RSUI, loss and LAE for 2009 also reflect a net \$9.9 million release of prior accident year loss reserves related to 2008 third quarter Hurricanes Ike, Gustav, and Dolly.

For CATA, loss and LAE for 2009 reflect a net \$10.7 million release of prior accident year loss reserves, compared with a net \$11.8 million release of prior accident year loss reserves during 2008. Both amounts relate primarily to favorable loss emergence in the casualty and surety lines of business, compared with loss emergence patterns assumed in earlier periods for such lines of business. Specifically, cumulative losses for such lines of business, which include both loss payments and case reserves, in respect of prior accident years

Table of Contents

were expected to be higher through December 31, 2009 than the actual cumulative losses through that date. This amount of lower cumulative losses, expressed as a percentage of carried loss and LAE reserves at the beginning of the year, was 2.6 percent. Such reduction did not impact the assumptions used in estimating CATA's loss and LAE liabilities for business earned in 2009.

For EDC, workers' compensation loss and LAE for 2009 reflect a \$26.5 million increase of prior accident year workers' compensation loss reserves, compared with a \$25.4 million increase of prior accident year workers' compensation loss reserves during 2008. Both such reserve increases primarily reflect a significant acceleration in claims emergence and higher than anticipated increases in industry-wide severity. In addition, the \$26.5 million increase in 2009 also reflects the estimated impact of judicial decisions by the Workers Compensation Appeals Board, or WCAB. Such WCAB decisions related to permanent disability determinations that have materially weakened prior workers' compensation reforms instrumental in reducing medical and disability costs in earlier years. These decisions are in the process of being appealed to the California appellate courts but will continue in effect during the appeals process. With respect to the \$26.5 million increase for prior accident years, \$17.7 million primarily reflected higher than expected paid losses and \$8.8 million reflected the estimated impact of the WCAB decisions. Cumulative paid losses in respect of prior accident years were expected to be lower through June 30, 2009 (the date of the reserve increase) than the actual cumulative paid losses through that date. This amount of higher cumulative paid losses, expressed as a percentage of carried loss and LAE reserves at the beginning of the year, was 1.5 percent. Such increases impacted the assumptions used in estimating EDC's loss and LAE liabilities for business earned in 2009 and 2008, causing an increase of current accident year reserves of \$8.0 million and \$10.5 million, respectively. Of the \$8.0 million, \$6.2 million primarily reflected higher than expected paid losses and the remainder reflected the estimated impact of the WCAB decisions. Although EDC believes its reserves, including the provision for the WCAB decisions, were adequate as of December 31, 2009, the WCAB decisions could materially adversely affect the number and amount of EDC's permanent disability payments, including those on its open claims, and the related loss and LAE reserves.

Asbestos & Environmental. Our reserve for unpaid losses and LAE includes \$18.9 million and \$18.8 million of gross and net reserves, respectively, at December 31, 2009, for various liability coverages related to asbestos and environmental impairment claims that arose from reinsurance of certain general liability and commercial multiple peril coverages assumed by Capitol Indemnity between 1969 and 1976. Capitol Indemnity exited this business in 1976. Reserves for asbestos and environmental impairment claims cannot be estimated with traditional loss reserving techniques because of uncertainties that are greater than those associated with other types of claims. Factors contributing to these uncertainties include a lack of historical data, the significant periods of time that often elapse between the occurrence of an insured loss and the reporting of that loss to the ceding company and the reinsurer, uncertainty as to the number and identity of insureds with potential exposure to these risks, unresolved legal issues regarding policy coverage, and the extent and timing of any such contractual liability. Loss reserve estimates for these environmental impairment and asbestos exposures include case reserves, which also reflect reserves for legal and other LAE and IBNR reserves. IBNR reserves are determined based upon CATA's historic general liability exposure base and policy language, previous environmental impairment loss experience, and the assessment of current trends of environmental law, environmental cleanup costs, asbestos liability law, and judicial settlements of asbestos liabilities.

For both asbestos and environmental impairment reinsurance claims, CATA establishes case reserves by receiving case reserve amounts from its ceding companies and verifies these amounts against reinsurance contract terms, analyzing from the first dollar of loss incurred by the primary insurer. In establishing the liability for asbestos and environmental impairment claims, CATA considers facts currently known and the current state of the law and coverage litigation. Additionally, ceding companies often report potential losses on a precautionary basis to protect their rights under the reinsurance arrangement, which generally calls for prompt notice to the reinsurer. Ceding companies, at the time they report potential losses, advise CATA of the ceding companies' current estimate of the

extent of the loss. CATA's claims department reviews each of the precautionary claims notices and, based upon current information, assesses the likelihood of loss to CATA. This assessment is one of the factors used in determining the adequacy of the recorded asbestos and environmental impairment reserves. Although we are unable at this time to determine whether additional reserves, which could have a material impact upon our results of

Table of Contents

operations, may be necessary in the future, we believe that CATA's asbestos and environmental impairment reserves are adequate as of December 31, 2009. Additional information regarding asbestos and environmental impairment claims can be found on pages 19 and 20 of this Form 10-K Report.

Reinsurance. Receivables recorded with respect to claims ceded by our insurance operating units to reinsurers under reinsurance contracts are predicated in large part on the estimates for unpaid losses and, therefore, are also subject to a significant degree of uncertainty. In addition to the factors cited above, reinsurance receivables may prove uncollectible if the reinsurer is unable to perform under the contract. Reinsurance contracts purchased by our insurance operating units do not relieve them of their obligations to their own policyholders. Additional information regarding the use of, and risks related to, the use of reinsurance by our insurance operating units can be found on page 28 of this Form 10-K Report.

Investments Impairment

We hold our equity and debt securities as available for sale, and as such, these securities are recorded at fair value. We continually monitor the difference between cost and the estimated fair value of our investments, which involves uncertainty as to whether declines in value are temporary in nature. If a decline in the value of a particular investment is deemed temporary, we record the decline as an unrealized loss in stockholders' equity. If the decline is deemed to be other than temporary, we write it down to the carrying value of the investment and record an other-than-temporary impairment loss on our statement of earnings, regardless of whether we continue to hold the applicable security. In addition, under GAAP, any portion of such decline that relates to debt securities that is believed to arise from factors other than credit is recorded as a component of other comprehensive income.

Management's assessment of a decline in value includes, among other things,

the duration of time and the relative magnitude to which fair value of the investment has been below cost;

the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer of the investment;

extraordinary events, including negative news releases and rating agency downgrades, with respect to the issuer of the investment; and

our ability and intent to hold the investment for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery.

A debt security is deemed impaired if it is probable that we will not be able to collect all amounts due under the security's contractual terms. An equity security is deemed impaired if, among other things, its decline in estimated fair value has existed for twelve months or more or if its decline in estimated fair value from its cost is greater than 50 percent, absent compelling evidence to the contrary. Further, for securities expected to be sold, an other-than-temporary impairment loss is recognized if we do not expect the fair value of a security to recover its cost prior to the expected date of sale. If that judgment changes in the future, we may ultimately record a realized loss after having originally concluded that the decline in value was temporary. Risks and uncertainties are inherent in the methodology we use to assess other-than-temporary declines in value. Risks and uncertainties could include, but are not limited to, incorrect assumptions about financial condition, liquidity or future prospects, inadequacy of any underlying collateral, and unfavorable changes in economic or social conditions, interest rates or credit ratings.

See Note 3 to the Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in Item 8 of this Form 10-K Report for additional information on our investments and investment impairments.

Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

Our consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2009 includes goodwill and other intangible assets, net of amortization, of approximately \$145.7 million. This amount has been recorded as a result of business acquisitions. Other intangible assets that are not deemed to have an indefinite useful life are amortized over their estimated useful lives. Goodwill and other intangible assets deemed to have an indefinite useful life are tested annually in the fourth quarter of every calendar year for impairment and at such other times upon the occurrence of certain events. We also evaluate goodwill and other intangible assets whenever events and changes in circumstances suggest that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. A significant amount of judgment is required in performing goodwill and

Table of Contents

other intangible asset impairment tests. These tests include estimating the fair value of our operating units and other intangible assets. With respect to goodwill, as required by GAAP, we compare the estimated fair value of our operating units with their respective carrying amounts including goodwill. Under GAAP, fair value refers to the amount for which the entire operating unit may be bought or sold. Our methods for estimating operating unit values include asset and liability fair values and other valuation techniques, such as discounted cash flows and multiples of earnings or revenues. All of these methods involve significant estimates and assumptions.

In connection with impairment testing of our goodwill and other intangible assets in the fourth quarter of 2008, we determined that the \$48.7 million of goodwill associated with our acquisition of EDC was impaired in its entirety. As a result, at December 31, 2008, we recorded a non-cash charge of \$48.7 million, which is classified as a net realized capital loss in our consolidated statement of earnings for the year ended December 31, 2008 and represents the entire EDC goodwill balance at such date. Our estimation of EDC's fair value was based primarily on observing the stock market-based valuations of other publicly-traded insurance carriers. The factors that contributed to our determination that the EDC goodwill was impaired included unfavorable conditions in the U.S. economy and California workers compensation insurance market, combined with EDC's poor results during 2008. There was no resulting impact to our tax balances as a result of this charge.

In addition, we also recorded a pre-tax, non-cash impairment charge of \$11.2 million in 2009, which is classified as a net realized capital loss on our consolidated statement of earnings for the year ended December 31, 2009. The \$11.2 million pre-tax, non-cash impairment charge represents the entire carrying value of EDC's trade names, originally determined to have indefinite useful lives, renewal rights, distribution rights, and database development, net of accumulated amortization. The impairment charge was due primarily to EDC's determination in June 2009 that it was unable to write business at rates it deemed adequate due to the current state of the California workers compensation market. As a result, EDC ceased soliciting new or renewal business on a direct basis commencing August 1, 2009 and took corresponding expense reduction steps, including staff reductions, in light of such determination. In addition, immaterial accruals were established related to terminated employee severance payments and other charges.

See Note 4 to the Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in Item 8 of this Form 10-K Report for additional information on our goodwill and other intangible assets.

Deferred Taxes

We file a consolidated federal income tax return with our subsidiaries. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amount of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases and operating loss and tax credit carry forwards. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date. At December 31, 2009, a net deferred tax asset of \$124.3 million was recorded, which included a valuation allowance of \$14.6 million for certain deferred state tax assets which we believe may not be realized. A valuation allowance is provided when it is more likely than not that some portion of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. This determination is based upon a review of anticipated future earnings as well as all available evidence, both positive and negative.

See Note 8 to the Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in Item 8 of this Form 10-K Report for additional information on our deferred taxes.

In addition to the policies described above which contain critical accounting estimates, our other accounting policies are described in Note 1 to the Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in Item 8 of this Form 10-K Report. The accounting policies described in Note 1 require us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities but do not meet the level of materiality required for a determination that the accounting policy includes critical accounting estimates. On an ongoing basis, we evaluate our estimates, including those related to the value of long-lived assets, deferred acquisition costs, incentive compensation, pension benefits, and contingencies and litigation. Our estimates are based on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be

Table of Contents

reasonable under the circumstances. Our actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

Consolidated Results of Operations

Overview

We are engaged, through AIHL and its subsidiaries, primarily in the property and casualty and surety insurance business. We also own and manage properties in the Sacramento, California region through our subsidiary Alleghany Properties and seek out strategic investments and conduct other activities at the parent level. Strategic investments currently include an approximately 33 percent stake in Homesite, a national, full-service, mono-line provider of homeowners insurance and an approximately 38 percent stake in ORX, a regional gas and oil exploration and production company. Our primary sources of revenues and earnings are our insurance operations and investments.

The profitability of our insurance operating units, and as a result, our profitability, is primarily impacted by the adequacy of premium rates, level of catastrophe losses, investment returns, intensity of competition, and the cost of reinsurance. The ultimate adequacy of premium rates is not known with certainty at the time property and casualty insurance policies are issued because premiums are determined before claims are reported. The adequacy of premium rates is affected mainly by the severity and frequency of claims, which are influenced by many factors, including natural disasters, regulatory measures and court decisions that define and expand the extent of coverage, and the effects of economic inflation on the amount of compensation due for injuries or losses.

Catastrophe losses, or the absence thereof, can have a significant impact on our results. For example, RSUI's pre-tax catastrophe losses, net of reinsurance, were minimal in 2009, compared with \$97.9 million in 2008 (primarily reflecting net losses from 2008 third quarter Hurricanes Ike, Gustav and Dolly) and catastrophe losses of \$47.1 million in 2007. The incidence and severity of catastrophes in any short period of time are inherently unpredictable. Catastrophes can cause losses in a variety of our property and casualty lines of business, and most of our past catastrophe-related claims have resulted from severe hurricanes. Longer-term natural catastrophe trends may be changing due to climate change, a phenomenon that has been associated with extreme weather events linked to rising temperatures, and includes effects on global weather patterns, greenhouse gases, sea, land and air temperatures, sea levels, rain and snow. Climate change, to the extent it produces rising temperatures and changes in weather patterns, could impact the frequency or severity of weather events such as hurricanes. To the extent climate change increases the frequency and severity of such weather events, our insurance operating units, particularly RSUI, may face increased claims, particularly with respect to properties located in coastal areas. Our insurance operating units take certain measures to mitigate against the frequency and severity of such events by giving consideration to these risks in their underwriting and pricing decisions and through the purchase of reinsurance.

At December 31, 2009, we had consolidated total investments of approximately \$4.4 billion, of which approximately \$3.3 billion was invested in debt securities and approximately \$624.5 million was invested in equity securities. Net realized capital gains, other-than-temporary impairment losses and net investment income related to such investment assets are subject to market conditions and management investment decisions and as a result can have a significant impact on our profitability. In 2009, net realized capital gains were \$320.4 million, compared with \$151.8 million in 2008, and other-than-temporary impairment losses were \$85.9 million in 2009, compared with \$244.0 million in 2008.

The profitability of our insurance operating units is also impacted by competition generally and price competition in particular. Historically, the financial performance of the property and casualty insurance industry has tended to fluctuate in cyclical periods of price competition and excess underwriting capacity followed by periods of high premium rates and shortages of underwriting capacity. Although an individual insurance company's financial performance is dependent on its own specific business characteristics, the profitability of most property and casualty

insurance companies tends to follow this cyclical market pattern. In the past few years, our insurance operating units have faced increasing competition as a result of an increased flow of capital into the insurance industry, with both new entrants and existing insurers seeking to gain market share. This has resulted in decreased premium rates and less favorable contract terms and conditions. In particular, RSUI and CATA's specialty lines of business increasingly encounter competition from admitted companies seeking to increase market share. We expect

Table of Contents

to continue to face strong competition in these and the other lines of business of our insurance operating units, and our insurance operating units may continue to experience decreases in premium rates and/or premium volume and less favorable contract terms and conditions.

As part of their overall risk and capacity management strategy, our insurance operating units purchase reinsurance for certain amounts of risk underwritten by them, especially catastrophe risks. The reinsurance programs purchased by our insurance operating units are generally subject to annual renewal. Market conditions beyond the control of our insurance operating units determine the availability and cost of the reinsurance protection they purchase, which may affect the level of business written and thus their profitability.

The following table summarizes our consolidated revenues, costs and expenses and earnings.

	2009	2008	2007
	(in millions)		
Revenues			
Net premiums earned	\$ 845.0	\$ 948.7	\$ 974.3
Net investment income	101.9	130.2	146.1
Net realized capital gains	320.4	151.8	100.5
Other than temporary impairment losses	(85.9)	(244.0)	(7.7)
Other income	3.0	2.4	15.4
Total revenues	\$ 1,184.4	\$ 989.1	\$ 1,228.6
Costs and expenses			
Loss and loss adjustment expenses	\$ 442.1	\$ 570.0	\$ 449.0
Commissions, brokerage and other underwriting expenses	273.7	286.6	257.2
Other operating expenses	45.6	34.9	55.6
Corporate administration	26.9	35.9	33.0
Interest expense	0.7	0.7	1.5
Total costs and expenses	\$ 789.0	\$ 928.1	\$ 796.3
Earnings from continuing operations, before income taxes	\$ 395.4	\$ 61.0	\$ 432.3
Income taxes	124.4	20.4	144.7
Earnings from continuing operations	\$ 271.0	\$ 40.6	\$ 287.6
Earnings from discontinued operations, net of tax*		107.4	11.5
Net earnings	\$ 271.0	\$ 148.0	\$ 299.1
Revenues:			
AIHL	\$ 996.9	\$ 813.6	\$ 1,137.8
Corporate activities**	187.5	175.5	90.8
Earnings (loss) from continuing operations, before income taxes:			
AIHL	\$ 237.6	\$ (75.1)	\$ 378.8
Corporate activities**	157.8	136.1	53.5

- * Discontinued operations consist of the operations of Darwin, net of minority interest expense and the gain on disposition in 2008. Additional information regarding the results of discontinued operations can be found in Note 2 to the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in Item 8 of this 10-K Report.
- ** Corporate activities consist of Alleghany Properties, our investments in Homesite and ORX and corporate activities at the parent level.

Our earnings from continuing operations before income taxes in 2009 increased substantially from 2008, primarily reflecting higher net realized capital gains, lower other-than-temporary impairment losses and a decrease in loss and LAE, partially offset by lower net premiums earned. The increase in net realized capital gains was due

Table of Contents

primarily to larger gains on the sales of equity securities, including our holdings of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation, or Burlington Northern, as well as certain holdings within our energy portfolio. In addition, 2009 net realized capital gains include a non-cash charge of \$11.2 million related to an impairment of assets associated with our acquisition of EDC, compared with \$48.7 million of such non-cash charges in 2008. The decrease in other-than-temporary impairment losses was due in part to comparatively improved equity market conditions in 2009 compared with 2008. The decrease in loss and LAE primarily reflects minimal catastrophe losses at RSUI in 2009, compared with approximately \$97.9 million of net catastrophe losses at RSUI in 2008 related in large part to Hurricanes Ike, Gustav and Dolly. The significant decrease in net premiums earned primarily reflects the impact of continuing competition at our insurance operating units.

Our earnings from continuing operations before income taxes in 2008 decreased substantially from 2007, primarily reflecting a substantial increase in other-than-temporary impairment losses and loss and LAE in 2008. In 2008, our substantial other-than-temporary impairment losses were primarily related to a significant deterioration of U.S. equity market conditions during the latter part of 2008. The substantial increase in loss and LAE primarily reflects the inclusion of a full year of EDC's results in 2008, including a \$35.9 million reserve increase in 2008 for current and prior accident years, as well as net catastrophe losses at RSUI of \$97.9 million in 2008, partially offset by an aggregate \$43.7 million of prior accident year loss reserve releases by RSUI.

The effective tax rate on earnings from continuing operations before income taxes was 31.5 percent in 2009, 33.6 percent in 2008, and 33.5 percent in 2007. The lower effective tax rate in 2009 primarily reflects the absence of certain permanent tax differences, partially offset by the lower impact of tax-exempt income on our increased earnings in the 2009 period over the 2008 period. The effective tax rate in 2008, and to a lesser extent 2007, reflects certain permanent tax differences that had the effect of increasing the effective tax rates for those years. For 2008, such permanent tax differences related to a \$48.7 million non-deductible goodwill impairment charge incurred. For 2007, a net tax adjustment of \$5.2 million was incurred, resulting primarily from the reduction of estimated deferred tax assets related to unused foreign tax credits.

Our earnings from discontinued operations consist of the operations of Darwin prior to its disposition in October 2008, net of minority interest expense, and include an after-tax gain upon disposition of approximately \$92.1 million in the 2008 fourth quarter, including approximately \$9.5 million of gain deferred at the time of Darwin's initial public offering in May 2006. See Note 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in Item 8 to this Form 10-K Report for additional information on discontinued operations.

Table of Contents*AIHL Operating Results***AIHL Operating Unit Pre-Tax Results**

	RSUI	AIHL Re	CATA	EDC(1)	AIHL
	(in millions, except ratios)				
2009					
Gross premiums written	\$ 1,033.4	\$	\$ 174.6	\$ 51.1	\$ 1,259.1
Net premiums written	621.1		165.3	44.4	830.8
Net premiums earned (2)	\$ 633.4	\$	\$ 166.7	\$ 44.9	\$ 845.0
Loss and loss adjustment expenses	274.3		81.6	86.2	442.1
Commission, brokerage and other underwriting expenses (3)	169.3		75.0	29.4	273.7
Underwriting profit (loss) (4)	\$ 189.8	\$	\$ 10.1	\$ (70.7)	\$ 129.2
Net investment income (2)					116.7
Net realized capital gains (2)					119.8
Other than temporary impairment losses (2)					(85.9)
Other income (2)					1.3
Other expenses (3)					43.5
Earnings from continuing operations, before income taxes					\$ 237.6
Loss ratio (5)	43.3%		48.9%	192.2%	52.3%
Expense ratio (6)	26.7%		45.0%	65.4%	32.4%
Combined ratio (7)	70.0%		93.9%	257.6%	84.7%
2008					
Gross premiums written	\$ 1,055.4	\$ 0.4	\$ 207.9	\$ 77.0	\$ 1,340.7
Net premiums written	650.9	0.1	177.4	69.8	898.2
Net premiums earned (2)	\$ 689.6	\$ 0.2	\$ 186.9	\$ 72.0	\$ 948.7
Loss and loss adjustment expenses	376.3		90.9	102.8	570.0
Commission, brokerage and other underwriting expenses (3)	175.7		80.8	30.1	286.6
Underwriting profit (loss) (4)	\$ 137.6	\$ 0.2	\$ 15.2	\$ (60.9)	\$ 92.1
Net investment income (2)					112.6
Net realized capital losses (2)					(4.4)
Other than temporary impairment losses (2)					(244.0)
Other income (2)					0.7
Other expenses (3)					32.1
					\$ (75.1)

Losses from continuing operations, before
income taxes

Loss ratio (5)	54.6%		48.6%	142.8%	60.1%
Expense ratio (6)	25.5%	22.8%	43.2%	41.8%	30.2%
Combined ratio (7)	80.1%	22.8%	91.8%	184.6%	90.3%

2007

Gross premiums written	\$ 1,206.6	\$ 1.1	\$ 250.1	\$ 49.0	\$ 1,506.8
Net premiums written	716.1	2.2	199.1	45.1	962.5
Net premiums earned (2)	\$ 707.5	\$ 24.5	\$ 198.0	\$ 44.3	\$ 974.3
Loss and loss adjustment expenses	324.3		95.8	28.9	449.0
Commission, brokerage and other underwriting expenses (3)	163.3	0.1	82.8	11.0	257.2

Underwriting profit (4)	\$ 219.9	\$ 24.4	\$ 19.4	\$ 4.4	\$ 268.1
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Net investment income (2)					126.5
Net realized capital gains (2)					44.2
Other than temporary impairment losses (2)					(7.7)
Other income (2)					0.5
Other expenses (3)					52.8

Earnings from continuing operations, before
income taxes

\$ 378.8

Loss ratio (5)	45.8%		48.4%	65.1%	46.1%
Expense ratio (6)	23.1%	0.7%	41.8%	24.8%	26.4%
Combined ratio (7)	68.9%	0.7%	90.2%	89.9%	72.5%

(1) Includes the results of EDC, net of purchase accounting adjustments, commencing July 18, 2007. (See Note 4(a) to the Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in Item 8 of this Form 10-K Report).

(2) Represent components of total revenues.

Table of Contents

- (3) Commission, brokerage and other underwriting expenses represent commission and brokerage expenses and that portion of salaries, administration and other operating expenses attributable primarily to underwriting activities, whereas the remainder constitutes other expenses.
- (4) Represents net premiums earned less loss and LAE and commission, brokerage and other underwriting expenses, all as determined in accordance with GAAP, and does not include net investment income and other income or net realized capital gains and other-than-temporary impairment losses. Underwriting profit does not replace net earnings determined in accordance with GAAP as a measure of profitability; rather, we believe that underwriting profit, which does not include net investment income and other income or net realized capital gains and other-than-temporary impairment losses, enhances the understanding of AIHL's insurance operating units operating results by highlighting net earnings attributable to their underwriting performance. With the addition of net investment income, net realized capital gains, other-than-temporary impairment losses, other income and other expenses, reported pre-tax net earnings (a GAAP measure) may show a profit despite an underlying underwriting loss. Where underwriting losses persist over extended periods, an insurance company's ability to continue as an ongoing concern may be at risk. Therefore, we view underwriting profit as an important measure in the overall evaluation of performance.
- (5) Loss and LAE divided by net premiums earned, all as determined in accordance with GAAP.
- (6) Commission, brokerage and other underwriting expenses divided by net premiums earned, all as determined in accordance with GAAP.
- (7) The sum of the loss ratio and expense ratio, all as determined in accordance with GAAP, representing the percentage of each premium dollar an insurance company has to spend on losses (including LAE) and commission, brokerage and other underwriting expenses.

Discussion of individual AIHL operating unit results follows, and AIHL investment results are discussed below under AIHL Investment Results.

RSUI

The modest decrease in gross premiums written by RSUI in 2009 from 2008 primarily reflects the impact of continuing and increasing competition, particularly in RSUI's general liability and umbrella/excess lines of business, partially offset by growth in RSUI's binding authority business. RSUI's net premiums earned decreased in 2009 from 2008 primarily due to the decline in gross premiums written and an increase in ceded premiums written associated with RSUI's property line of business.

The decrease in gross premiums written by RSUI in 2008 from 2007 primarily reflects continuing and increasing price competition, particularly in RSUI's general liability and property lines of business. RSUI's net premiums earned decreased in 2008 from 2007 due to a decrease in the property line of business, partially offset by a modest increase in the casualty lines of business. The decrease in property premiums earned is due to substantially lower premium writings, partially offset by reduced reinsurance limits being purchased and reduced rates paid for catastrophe and per risk reinsurance coverage renewed at May 1, 2008. The modest increase in casualty premiums earned primarily reflects the growth of RSUI's binding authority line of business and the non-renewal at April 1, 2007 of a professional liability quota share reinsurance treaty, partially offset by substantially lower premium writings in the general liability line of business.

The decrease in loss and LAE in 2009 from 2008 primarily reflects lower catastrophe losses, the impact of lower net premiums earned, and lower net releases of prior accident year loss reserves. Net catastrophe losses were minimal in 2009, compared with approximately \$97.9 million of net catastrophe losses at RSUI in 2008, primarily related to 2008 third quarter Hurricanes Ike, Gustav and Dolly. Loss and LAE for 2009 also reflect a net \$48.3 million release of prior accident year loss reserves, compared with a net \$43.7 million release of prior accident year loss reserves during the corresponding 2008 period. Of the \$48.3 million, \$38.4 million relates primarily to D&O liability, professional liability, and general liability lines of business for the 2003 through 2007 accident years and reflects favorable loss emergence, compared with loss emergence patterns assumed in earlier periods for such lines of business. The remaining \$9.9 million of the 2009 net reserve release relates to a release of prior accident year reserves for 2008 Hurricanes Ike, Gustav and Dolly.

Table of Contents

The increase in loss and LAE in 2008 from 2007 primarily reflects 2008 net catastrophe losses of \$97.9 million, partially offset by a net \$43.7 million of prior accident year loss reserve releases, compared with minimal net catastrophe losses (excluding an increase in Hurricane Katrina reserves) and a net \$8.5 million increase of prior accident year loss reserves (including an increase in Hurricane Katrina reserves) during 2007.

The decrease in commissions, brokerage and other underwriting expenses in 2009 compared with 2008 primarily reflects the net effect of lower premium volume in the more recent period. The increase in commissions, brokerage and other underwriting expenses in 2008 from 2007 primarily reflects lower ceding commissions primarily resulting from the non-renewal of RSUI's professional liability quota share reinsurance treaty which expired in April 2007, as well as lower ceding commissions on RSUI's reinsurance arrangements for other casualty lines of business due to a reduction in premiums written in such lines.

The decrease in loss and LAE, partially offset by a decrease in net premiums earned, was the primary cause for the increase in RSUI's underwriting profit in 2009 from 2008. The increase in loss and LAE described above was the primary cause for the decrease in RSUI's underwriting profit in 2008 from 2007.

Additional information regarding RSUI's use of reinsurance and risks related to reinsurance recoverables can be found on pages 21 through 23 and page 28 of this Form 10-K Report. Additional information regarding RSUI's prior year reserve adjustments and releases can be found on pages 38 and 39 of this Form 10-K Report.

In general, rates at RSUI in 2009 compared with 2008, as well as in 2008 compared with 2007, reflect overall industry trends of downward pricing as a result of increased competition.

CATA

CATA's gross premiums written and net premiums earned in 2009 decreased from 2008, primarily reflecting continuing price competition in CATA's property and casualty (including in excess and surplus markets) and commercial surety lines of business, partially offset by gross premiums written and net premiums earned in CATA's recently established specialty markets division. CATA's gross premiums written and net premiums earned in 2008 decreased from 2007 for similar reasons.

The decrease in loss and LAE in 2009 from 2008 primarily reflects the impact of lower net premiums earned in 2009, partially offset by a lower amount of prior year reserve releases. During 2009, CATA had net prior year reserve releases of \$10.7 million, primarily reflecting favorable loss emergence in casualty and surety lines of business, compared with loss emergence patterns assumed in earlier periods for such lines of business. Loss and LAE decreased in 2008 from 2007, primarily reflecting the impact of lower net premiums earned in 2008 compared with 2007, partially offset by a lower amount of prior year reserve releases of \$11.8 million in 2008, compared with \$14.4 million in 2007. The 2008 and 2007 prior year reserve releases primarily reflect favorable loss emergence in the casualty and surety lines of business, compared with loss emergence patterns assumed in earlier periods for such lines of business.

The decrease in net premiums earned, partially offset by the decrease in loss and LAE described above, was the primary cause for the decrease in CATA's underwriting profit in 2009 from 2008 and in 2008 from 2007.

Additional information regarding CATA's prior year reserve releases can be found on pages 38 and 39 of this Form 10-K Report.

EDC

EDC reported an underwriting loss of \$70.7 million for 2009, primarily reflecting a substantial decrease in net premiums earned from 2008 as a result of EDC's determination to cease soliciting new and renewal business on a direct basis in June 2009 and a \$34.5 million reserve increase recorded in the 2009 second quarter. In addition, EDC also recorded a pre-tax, non-cash impairment charge of \$11.2 million in the 2009 second quarter, which is classified as a net realized capital loss in our consolidated statement of earnings. The \$11.2 million pre-tax, non-cash impairment charge as of June 30, 2009 represents the entire carrying value of EDC's trade names (originally determined to have indefinite useful lives), renewal rights, distribution rights and database development, net of

Table of Contents

accumulated amortization. In addition, immaterial accruals were established related to terminated employee severance payments and other charges.

EDC's decision to cease soliciting new and renewal business on a direct basis was due to its determination that it was unable to write business at rates it deemed adequate due to the current state of the California workers' compensation market. EDC ceased soliciting new or renewal business on a direct basis commencing August 1, 2009 and took corresponding expense reduction steps, including staff reductions, in light of such determination. As a result of EDC's determination to cease writing business on a direct basis and certain other factors, on June 30, 2009, A.M. Best downgraded its rating of EDIC from A- (Excellent), with a negative outlook, to B++ (Good), with a stable outlook. During the 2009 third quarter, EDC sold the renewal rights of its directly placed workers' compensation insurance policies and certain other assets and rights to an independent insurance brokerage.

EDC's net premiums earned in 2008 decreased from 2007, primarily reflecting increased competition, decreased rates, reduction of exposure as measured by insured payroll, and declining renewal retention rates. Loss and LAE in 2009, 2008 and 2007 reflect the exposure of EDC's underlying book of business. In addition, loss and LAE in 2009 and 2008 reflect the trend of increasing loss costs, as well as reserve increases. A reserve increase of \$34.5 million was recorded in the 2009 second quarter, consisting of \$26.5 million related to prior accident years and \$8.0 million related to the 2009 accident year. A reserve increase of \$35.9 million was recorded in 2008, consisting of \$25.4 million related to prior accident years and \$10.5 million related to the 2008 accident year. Both reserve increases primarily reflected higher than expected paid losses and, with respect to the 2009 increases, the estimated impact of judicial decisions by the WCAB.

In connection with impairment testing of goodwill and other intangible assets as of December 31, 2008, we determined that the \$48.7 million of goodwill associated with our acquisition of EDC was impaired. As a result, as of December 31, 2008, we recorded a non-cash charge of \$48.7 million, which is classified as a net realized capital loss in our consolidated statement of earnings for the year ended December 31, 2008 and represents the entire EDC goodwill balance at such date. The estimation of EDC's fair value was based primarily on observing the stock market-based valuations of other publicly-traded insurance carriers. The factors that contributed to our determination that the EDC goodwill was impaired include the recent unfavorable conditions in the U.S. economy and California workers' compensation insurance market, combined with EDC's poor results during 2008. There was no resulting impact to our tax balances as a result of this charge.

Additional information regarding EDC's reserve increases can be found on pages 38 and 39 of this Form 10-K Report.

AIHL Investment Results

Following is information relating to AIHL's investment results.

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
	(in millions)		
Net investment income	\$ 116.7	\$ 112.6	\$ 126.5
Net realized capital gains	\$ 132.1*	\$ 44.3*	\$ 44.2
Other than temporary impairment losses	\$ (85.9)	\$ (244.0)	\$ (7.7)

*

Excludes non-cash impairment charges in 2009 and 2008 related to the intangible assets associated with our acquisition of EDC which were classified as a net realized capital loss in our consolidated statements of earnings (see Note 4(a) to the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in Item 8 of this Form 10-K Report).

Net Investment Income. The increase in AIHL's net investment income in 2009 from 2008 is due principally to poor results from partnership investments in 2008 and positive underwriting cash flow at RSUI in 2009, partially offset by lower average investment yields during 2009. The decrease in AIHL's net investment income in 2008 from 2007 is due principally to lower average investment yields in 2008 and poor results from partnership investments in 2008, partially offset by the net positive effect from the acquisition of EDC, as invested assets acquired were greater than our purchase price, and positive underwriting cash flow at RSUI.

Table of Contents

Approximate yields of AIHL's debt securities for 2009, 2008 and 2007 are as follows (in millions, except for percentages):

Year	Average Investments (1)	Pre-Tax Net Investment Income (2)	After-Tax Net Investment Income (3)	Effective Yield(4)	After-Tax Yield(5)
2009	\$ 2,858.4	\$ 104.7	\$ 83.9	3.7%	2.9%
2008	\$ 2,564.5	\$ 112.0	\$ 86.3	4.4%	3.4%
2007	\$ 2,293.0	\$ 119.1	\$ 90.8	5.2%	4.0%

- (1) Average of amortized cost of debt securities portfolio at beginning and end of period.
- (2) After investment expenses, excluding net realized gains and other-than-temporary impairment losses.
- (3) Pre-tax net investment income less income taxes.
- (4) Pre-tax net investment income for the period divided by average investments for the same period.
- (5) After-tax net investment income for the period divided by average investments for the same period.

Net Realized Capital Gains. Net realized capital gains in 2009, 2008 and 2007 relate primarily to sales of equity securities in the energy sector, some of which had their cost basis reduced in earlier periods for the recognition of unrealized losses through other-than-temporary impairment losses, particularly in 2009.

Other-Than-Temporary Impairment Losses. Other-than-temporary impairment losses reflect impairment charges related to unrealized losses that were deemed to be other than temporary and, as such, are required to be charged against earnings. Of the \$85.9 million in 2009, \$57.6 million related to equity holdings in the energy sector, \$16.5 million related to equity holdings in various other sectors, and \$11.8 million related to debt security holdings (all of which were deemed to be credit-related). Of the \$244.0 million in 2008, \$144.8 million related to equity holdings in the energy sector, \$96.0 million related to equity holdings in various other sectors, and \$3.2 million related to debt security holdings (all of which were deemed to be credit-related). The determination that unrealized losses on such securities were other than temporary in 2009 and 2008 was primarily based on the severity of the declines in fair value of such securities relative to cost as of the balance sheet date. Such severe declines are primarily related to a significant deterioration of U.S. equity market conditions during the latter part of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009, which abated somewhat in the remainder of 2009.

After adjusting the cost basis of securities for the recognition of other-than-temporary impairment losses, no equity security was in a continuous unrealized loss position for twelve months or more as of December 31, 2009. See Note 3 to the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in Item 8 of this Form 10-K Report for further details concerning gross unrealized investment losses for debt and equity securities at December 31, 2009.

Corporate Activities Operating Results

The following table summarizes corporate activities' results for 2009, 2008 and 2007 (in millions):

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
Net investment income	\$ (14.8)	\$ 17.6	\$ 19.6
Net realized capital gains	200.6	156.2	56.2
Other than temporary impairment losses			
Other income	1.7	1.7	15.0
Total revenues	\$ 187.5	\$ 175.5	\$ 90.8
Corporate administration and other expenses	29.1	38.7	35.9
Interest expense	0.6	0.7	1.4
Earnings from continuing operations, before income taxes	\$ 157.8	\$ 136.1	\$ 53.5

Table of Contents

Corporate activities earnings from continuing operations before income taxes increased in 2009 from 2008, primarily reflecting an increase in net realized capital gains, partially offset by a decrease in net investment income. Net realized capital gains for both the 2009 and 2008 periods resulted primarily from parent-level sales of shares of Burlington Northern common stock. Net investment income in 2009 primarily reflects \$21.9 million of losses, net of purchase accounting adjustments, related to our investment in ORX and \$1.1 million of losses, net of purchase accounting adjustments, related to our investment in Homesite. The ORX losses were due primarily to asset impairment charges incurred as of December 31, 2008, but finalized in the 2009 third quarter, arising from relatively low energy prices as of December 31, 2008. Homesite losses primarily reflect the impact of increased homeowners insurance claims from severe weather and ongoing purchase accounting adjustments in 2009 compared with 2008.

Earnings from continuing operations before income taxes in 2007 primarily reflect net realized capital gains resulting in large part from parent-level sales of shares of Burlington Northern common stock and the positive impact on other income from gains on sales by Alleghany Properties of real property of \$14.7 million.

Reserve Review Process

AIHL's insurance operating units periodically analyze, at least quarterly, liabilities for unpaid losses and LAE established in prior years and adjust their expected ultimate cost, where necessary, to reflect positive or negative development in loss experience and new information, including, for certain catastrophic events, revised industry estimates of the magnitude of a catastrophe. Adjustments to previously recorded liabilities for unpaid losses and LAE, both positive and negative, are reflected in our financial results in the periods in which these adjustments are made and are referred to as prior year reserve development. The following table presents the reserves established in connection with the losses and LAE of AIHL's insurance operating units on a gross and net basis by line of business. These reserve amounts represent the accumulation of estimates of ultimate losses (including for IBNR) and LAE.

	Property	Casualty(1)	CMP(2)	Surety	Workers Comp(3)	All Other(4)	Total
	(dollars in millions)						
2009							
Gross loss and LAE reserves	\$ 249.1	\$ 1,902.4	\$ 63.6	\$ 18.0	\$ 245.9	\$ 42.0	\$ 2,521.0
Reinsurance recoverables on unpaid losses	(104.5)	(799.5)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(20.2)	(23.2)	(947.7)
Net loss and LAE reserves	\$ 144.6	\$ 1,102.9	\$ 63.4	\$ 17.9	\$ 225.7	\$ 18.8	\$ 1,573.3
2008							
Gross loss and LAE reserves	\$ 365.9	\$ 1,836.6	\$ 75.8	\$ 21.5	\$ 227.4	\$ 51.4	\$ 2,578.6
Reinsurance recoverables on unpaid losses	(153.5)	(811.6)	(0.3)	(0.2)	(12.2)	(30.5)	(1,008.3)
	\$ 212.4	\$ 1,025.0	\$ 75.5	\$ 21.3	\$ 215.2	\$ 20.9	\$ 1,570.3

Net loss and LAE
reserves

2007

Gross loss and LAE reserves	\$ 332.1	\$ 1,683.2	\$ 85.0	\$ 20.6	\$ 187.4	\$ 71.4	\$ 2,379.7
Reinsurance recoverables on unpaid losses	(126.4)	(783.8)	(1.1)	(0.3)	(8.8)	(46.4)	(966.8)
Net loss and LAE reserves	\$ 205.7	\$ 899.4	\$ 83.9	\$ 20.3	\$ 178.6	\$ 25.0	\$ 1,412.9

- (1) Primarily consists of umbrella/excess, D&O liability, professional liability, and general liability.
- (2) Commercial multiple peril.
- (3) Workers compensation amounts include EDC, net of purchase accounting adjustments (see Note 4(a) to the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in Item 8 of this Form 10-K Report). Such adjustments

Table of Contents

include a minor reduction of gross and net loss and LAE for acquisition date discounting, as required under purchase accounting. Workers' compensation amounts also include minor balances from CATA.

- (4) Primarily consists of loss and LAE reserves for terminated lines of business and loss reserves acquired in connection with prior acquisitions for which the sellers provided loss reserve guarantees. The loss and LAE reserves are ceded 100 percent to the sellers. Additional information regarding the loss reserve guarantees can be found in Note 5(b) to the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in Item 8 of this 10-K Report.

Changes in Loss and LAE Reserves between December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008

Gross Reserves. Gross loss and LAE reserves at December 31, 2009 decreased slightly from December 31, 2008, due to reserve decreases in property and certain other lines of business, largely offset by increases in casualty and, to a lesser extent, workers' compensation lines of business. The decrease in property gross loss and LAE reserves is mainly due to loss payments made by RSUI on hurricane related losses incurred in prior years. The increase in casualty gross loss and LAE reserves primarily reflects anticipated loss reserves on current accident year gross premiums earned and limited gross paid loss activity for the current and prior accident years at RSUI, partially offset by RSUI's release of prior accident year reserves for D&O liability, professional liability, and general liability lines of business. The increase in workers' compensation gross loss and LAE reserves primarily reflects an increase by EDC of current and prior accident year reserves during 2009, partially offset by the impact of EDC's decision to cease soliciting new or renewal business on a direct basis commencing August 1, 2009.

Net Reserves. Net loss and LAE reserves at December 31, 2009 were essentially unchanged from December 31, 2008, due to reserve decreases in property and certain other lines of business, offset by increases in casualty and, to a lesser extent, workers' compensation lines of business. The decrease in property net loss and LAE reserves is mainly due to loss payments made by RSUI on hurricane related losses incurred in prior years, substantially offset by corresponding decreases in reinsurance recoverables on unpaid losses. The increase in casualty gross loss and LAE reserves primarily reflects anticipated loss reserves on current accident year net premiums earned and limited net paid loss activity for the current and prior accident years at RSUI, partially offset by RSUI's release of prior accident year reserves for D&O liability, professional liability, and general liability lines of business. The increase in workers' compensation net loss and LAE reserves primarily reflects an increase by EDC of current and prior accident year reserves during 2009, partially offset by the impact of EDC's decision to cease soliciting new or renewal business on a direct basis commencing August 1, 2009.

Changes in Loss and LAE Reserves between December 31, 2008 and December 31, 2007

Gross Reserves. The increase in gross loss and LAE reserves at December 31, 2008 from December 31, 2007 primarily reflects increases in casualty and to a lesser extent, workers' compensation and property gross loss and LAE reserves, partially offset by modest decreases in other gross loss and LAE reserves. The increase in casualty gross loss and LAE reserves primarily reflects anticipated loss reserves on current accident year gross premiums earned and limited gross paid loss activity for the current and prior accident years at RSUI. Such increases for RSUI were partially offset by net releases of prior accident year reserves. The increase in workers' compensation gross loss and LAE reserves primarily relates to increases to both current and prior accident year reserves by EDC. The increase in property gross loss and LAE reserves primarily reflects significant catastrophe losses incurred by RSUI during 2008 from Hurricanes Ike, Gustav and Dolly. The decrease in other reserves is due primarily to a reduction in loss and LAE reserves acquired in connection with prior acquisitions which are ceded 100 percent to the sellers.

Net Reserves. The increase in net loss and LAE reserves at December 31, 2008 from December 31, 2007 primarily reflects increases in casualty and, to a lesser extent, workers' compensation net loss and LAE reserves. The increase in casualty net loss and LAE reserves primarily reflects anticipated loss reserves on current accident year premiums

earned and limited net paid loss activity for the current and prior accident years at RSUI. Such increases for RSUI were partially offset by net releases of prior accident year reserves. The increase in workers' compensation net loss and LAE reserves is primarily due to increases by EDC to both its current and prior accident year reserves.

Table of Contents

Additional information regarding RSUI's net prior year reserve releases and EDC's current and prior year reserve increases in 2009 and 2008 can be found on pages 38 and 39 of this Form 10-K Report.

Reinsurance Recoverables

At December 31, 2009, AIHL had total reinsurance recoverables of \$976.2 million, consisting of \$947.7 million of ceded outstanding losses and LAE and \$28.5 million of recoverables on paid losses. RSUI's reinsurance recoverables totaled approximately \$815.9 million of AIHL's \$976.2 million. Approximately 93.1 percent of AIHL's reinsurance recoverables balance at December 31, 2009 was due from reinsurers having an A.M. Best financial strength rating of A (Excellent) or higher. AIHL's Reinsurance Security Committee, which includes certain of our officers and the chief financial officer of each of AIHL's operating units and which manages the use of reinsurance by such operating units, have determined that reinsurers with a rating of A (Excellent) or higher have an ability to meet their ongoing obligations at a level that is acceptable to us. In February 2009, A.M. Best downgraded the financial strength rating for Swiss Reinsurance Company, or Swiss Re, our largest reinsurer, from A+ (Superior) to A (Excellent). As a financial strength rating of A (Excellent) is within the parameters determined to be acceptable by the Reinsurance Security Committee, the downgrade of Swiss Re's financial strength rating did not require the taking of any action with respect to Swiss Re by the Reinsurance Security Committee and did not have any adverse effect on our financial position and results of operations in 2009.

Information regarding concentration of AIHL's reinsurance recoverables at December 31, 2009 is as follows (dollars in millions):

Reinsurer(1)	Rating(2)	Dollar Amount	Percentage
Swiss Re	A (Excellent)	\$ 174.3	17.9%
The Chubb Corporation	A++ (Superior)	105.8	10.8%
Platinum Underwriters Holdings, Ltd.	A (Excellent)	97.1	9.9%
All other reinsurers		599.0	61.4%
Total		\$ 976.2	100.0%

(1) Reinsurance recoverables reflect amounts due from one or more reinsurance subsidiaries of the listed reinsurer.

(2) Represents the A.M. Best rating for the applicable reinsurance subsidiary or subsidiaries from which the reinsurance recoverable is due.

At December 31, 2009, AIHL also had fully collateralized reinsurance recoverables of \$120.3 million due from Darwin, now a subsidiary of AWAC. The A.M. Best financial strength rating of Darwin was A (Excellent) at December 31, 2009. AIHL had no allowance for uncollectible reinsurance as of December 31, 2009.

Financial Condition*Parent Level*

General. In general, we follow a policy of maintaining a relatively liquid financial condition at the parent company in the form of cash, marketable securities, available credit lines, and minimal amounts of debt. This policy has permitted us to expand our operations through internal growth at our subsidiaries and through acquisitions of, or substantial investments in, operating companies. At December 31, 2009, we held approximately \$287.4 million of marketable securities and cash at the parent company and \$537.8 million of marketable securities and cash at AIHL, which totaled \$825.2 million of marketable securities and cash. We believe that we have and will have adequate internally generated funds and cash resources to provide for the currently foreseeable needs of our business, and we had no material commitments for capital expenditures at December 31, 2009.

Stockholders' equity increased to approximately \$2.7 billion as of December 31, 2009, compared with approximately \$2.6 billion as of December 31, 2008, representing an increase of 2.7 percent. The increase in stockholders' equity reflects net earnings in 2009 and a net increase in net unrealized appreciation in our investment portfolio during 2009, partially offset by the repurchase of shares of our 5.75% Mandatory Convertible Preferred Stock, or the Preferred Stock, and to a lesser extent, our common stock.

Table of Contents

On June 23, 2006, we completed an offering of 1,132,000 shares of Preferred Stock at a public offering price of \$264.60 per share, resulting in net proceeds of \$290.4 million. On June 15, 2009, all outstanding shares of Preferred Stock were mandatorily converted into shares of our common stock. Each outstanding share of Preferred Stock was automatically converted into 1.0139 shares of our common stock based on the arithmetic average of the daily volume-weighted average price per share of our common stock for each of the 20 consecutive trading days ending on June 10, 2009, or \$260.9733 per share. We issued approximately 698,009 shares of our common stock for the 688,621 shares of Preferred Stock that were outstanding at the date of the mandatory conversion.

\$80.0 million of floating rate notes due 2007 of Alleghany Funding Corporation, or Alleghany Funding, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Alleghany, which were secured by a \$91.5 million installment note receivable, matured in January 2007. In conjunction with the issuance of the notes, Alleghany Funding entered into a related interest rate swap agreement with a notional amount of \$86.2 million for the purpose of matching interest expense with interest income. The interest rate swap also matured in January 2007, without gain or loss to us.

Dividends. We have declared stock dividends in lieu of cash dividends every year since 1987 except 1998 when Chicago Title Corporation was spun off to our stockholders. These stock dividends have helped to conserve our financial strength and, in particular, the liquid assets available to finance internal growth and operating company acquisitions and investments. On April 23, 2010, as our dividend on our common stock for 2010, we will pay to stockholders of record on April 1, 2010 a dividend of one share of our common stock for every 50 shares outstanding.

Credit Agreement. Until October 23, 2009, we were party to a three-year unsecured credit agreement, or the Credit Agreement with a bank syndicate, which provided commitments for revolving credit loans in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$200.0 million. The Credit Agreement expired on October 23, 2009 with no amounts outstanding thereunder. There were no borrowings under the Credit Agreement in 2009. Given our strong cash position, the expiration of the Credit Agreement did not have a material adverse affect on our financial condition or results of operations.

Capital Contributions. From time to time, we make capital contributions to our subsidiaries when third-party financing may not be attractive or available. In 2007, we made a capital contribution of \$50.0 million to AIHL to provide additional capital support to EDC in connection with AIHL's acquisition of EDC. We expect that we will continue to make capital contributions to our subsidiaries from time to time in the future for similar or other purposes.

Common Stock and Preferred Stock Purchases. In February 2008, we announced that our Board of Directors had authorized the repurchase of shares of our common stock, at such times and at prices as management may determine advisable, up to an aggregate of \$300.0 million. In November 2008, the authorization to repurchase our common stock was expanded to include repurchases of Preferred Stock. During 2009, we repurchased an aggregate of 295,463 shares of our common stock in the open market for approximately \$75.9 million, at an average price per share of \$256.73. Prior to the mandatory conversion date of June 15, 2009, we repurchased an aggregate of 442,998 shares of Preferred Stock in the open market for approximately \$117.4 million, at an average price per share of \$264.92. During 2008, we repurchased an aggregate of 78,817 shares of our common stock in the open market for approximately \$25.1 million, at an average price per share of \$318.05 (not adjusted for the subsequent stock dividend). In 2007, we did not purchase any shares of our common stock. As of December 31, 2009, we had 8,860,354 shares of our common stock outstanding, adjusted to reflect the common stock dividend declared in February 2009 and paid in April 2009.

Dividends from Subsidiaries. At December 31, 2009, approximately \$759.1 million of the equity of all of our subsidiaries was available for dividends or advances to us at the parent level. AIHL's insurance operating units are subject to various regulatory restrictions that limit the maximum amount of dividends available to be paid by them without prior approval of insurance regulatory authorities. Of the aggregate total equity of our insurance operating units at December 31, 2009 of \$1.7 billion, a maximum of \$155.1 million was available for dividends without prior

approval of the applicable insurance regulatory authorities. These limitations have not affected our ability to meet our obligations. In 2009, RSUI paid AIHL a cash dividend of \$150.0 million and CATA paid AIHL a cash dividend of \$15.0 million. In 2008, CATA paid AIHL a cash dividend of \$3.0 million, AIHL Re paid AIHL a dividend of \$21.4 million, and Alleghany Properties paid us a cash dividend of \$3.0 million. RSUI did not pay a dividend in

Table of Contents

2008. In 2007, RSUI paid AIHL a cash dividend of \$75.0 million, CATA paid AIHL a cash dividend of \$12.0 million, AIHL Re paid AIHL a dividend of \$70.0 million, and Alleghany Properties paid us a cash dividend of \$12.0 million.

Contractual Obligations. We have certain obligations to make future payments under contracts and credit-related financial instruments and commitments. At December 31, 2009, certain long-term aggregate contractual obligations and credit-related financial commitments were as follows (in millions):

Contractual Obligations	Total	Within 1 Year	More than 1 Year but Within 3 Years	More than 3 Years but Within 5 Years	More than 5 Years
Operating lease obligations	\$ 88.5	\$ 9.4	\$ 19.0	\$ 19.5	\$ 40.6
Investments	2.6	2.6			
Other long-term liabilities reflected on our consolidated balance sheet under GAAP*	116.1	20.3	25.7	50.1	20.0
Losses and LAE	2,521.0	634.1	876.9	480.3	529.7
Total	\$ 2,728.2	\$ 666.4	\$ 921.6	\$ 549.9	\$ 590.3

* Other long-term liabilities primarily reflect employee pension obligations, certain retired executive pension obligations, and obligations under certain incentive compensation plans.

Our insurance operating units have obligations to make certain payments for losses and LAE pursuant to insurance policies they issue. These future payments are reflected as reserves on our consolidated financial statements. With respect to losses and LAE, there is typically no minimum contractual commitment associated with insurance contracts, and the timing and ultimate amount of actual claims related to these reserves is uncertain. Additional information regarding reserves for losses and LAE, including information regarding the timing of payments of these expenses, can be found on pages 17 through 20, pages 25 and 26, pages 35 through 40 and pages 50 through 52 of this Form 10-K Report.

Material Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements. We did not have any off-balance sheet arrangements outstanding at December 31, 2009, 2008 or 2007, nor did we enter into any off-balance sheet arrangements during 2009, 2008 or 2007.

Subsidiaries

Financial strength is also a high priority of our subsidiaries, whose assets stand behind their financial commitments to their customers and vendors. We believe that our subsidiaries have and will have adequate internally generated funds, cash resources, and unused credit facilities to provide for the currently foreseeable needs of their businesses. Our subsidiaries have no material commitments for capital expenditures.

AIHL. The obligations and cash outflow of AIHL's insurance operating units include claim settlements, administrative expenses, and purchases of investments. In addition to premium collections, cash inflow is obtained from interest and

dividend income and maturities and sales of investments. Because cash inflow from premiums is received in advance of cash outflow required to settle claims, AIHL's insurance operating units accumulate funds which they invest pending the need for liquidity. As an insurance company's cash needs can be unpredictable due to the uncertainty of the claims settlement process, AIHL's portfolio, which includes those of its insurance operating units, is composed primarily of debt securities and short-term investments to ensure the availability of funds and maintain a sufficient amount of liquid securities. As of December 31, 2009, investments and cash represented 69.2 percent of the assets of AIHL and its insurance operating units.

At December 31, 2009, AIHL had total unpaid losses and LAE of approximately \$2.5 billion and total reinsurance recoverables of approximately \$976.2 million, consisting of \$947.7 million of ceded outstanding losses and LAE and \$28.5 million of recoverables on paid losses. As of December 31, 2009, AIHL's investment securities portfolio had a fair market value of approximately \$3.9 billion and consisted primarily of high quality debt

Table of Contents

securities. Additional information regarding AIHL's investment portfolio and the credit quality of AIHL's debt securities portfolio can be found on pages 55 through 59 of this Form 10-K Report.

On July 18, 2007, AIHL acquired the outstanding shares of common stock of EDC for \$198.1 million. AIHL made a capital contribution of \$50.0 million to EDC in connection with the acquisition.

Alleghany Properties. As of December 31, 2009, Alleghany Properties held properties having a total book value of \$19.8 million, compared with \$19.5 million as of December 31, 2008 and \$20.1 million as of December 31, 2007. These properties and loans had a total book value of approximately \$90.1 million as of October 31, 1994, the date Alleghany Properties purchased the assets. The capital needs of Alleghany Properties consist primarily of various development costs relating to its owned properties and corporate administration. Adequate funds to provide for the currently foreseeable needs of its business are expected to be generated by sales and, if needed, capital contributions by us.

Consolidated Investment Holdings

Investment Strategy. Our investment strategy seeks to preserve principal and maintain liquidity while trying to maximize our risk-adjusted, after-tax rate of return. Investment decisions are guided mainly by the nature and timing of expected liability payouts, management's forecast of cash flows and the possibility of unexpected cash demands, for example, to satisfy claims due to catastrophic losses. Our consolidated investment portfolio currently consists mainly of highly rated and liquid debt securities and equity securities listed on national securities exchanges. The overall debt securities portfolio credit quality is measured using the lower of either Standard & Poor's or Moody's rating. In this regard, the weighted average rating at December 31, 2009 was AA+, with 63.2 percent of our consolidated debt securities portfolio invested in securities with the highest rating (Aaa / AAA), 23.0 percent invested in securities with the second highest rating (Aa/AA), and only 1.0 percent had either no rating or a rating below investment grade (below Baa3 / BBB-). Our debt securities portfolio has been designed to enable management to react to investment opportunities created by changing interest rates, prepayments, tax and credit considerations or other factors, or to circumstances that could result in a mismatch between the desired duration of portfolio assets and the duration of liabilities, and, as such, is classified as available for sale.

We produced positive cash flow in the three-year period ending December 31, 2009. Our positive cash flow from continuing operations reduces the need to liquidate portions of our debt securities portfolio to pay for current claims of our insurance operating units. This positive cash flow also permits us, as attractive investment opportunities arise, to make investments in debt securities that have a longer duration than our liabilities. When attractive investment opportunities do not arise, we may maintain higher proportions of shorter duration debt securities to preserve our capital resources. Effective duration measures a portfolio's sensitivity to change in interest rates; a change within a range of plus or minus 1 percent in interest rates would be expected to result in an inverse change of approximately 3.5 percent in the fair market value of our portfolio. In this regard, as of December 31, 2009, our portfolio had an effective duration of approximately 3.5 years, with approximately \$1.4 billion, or 41.1 percent, of our debt securities portfolio in securities with maturities of five years or less and approximately \$262.9 million of short-term investments. See Note 3 to the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in Item 8 of this Form 10-K Report for further details concerning the contractual maturities of our consolidated investment portfolio. We may modestly increase the proportion of our debt securities portfolio held in securities with maturities of more than five years should the yields of these securities provide, in our judgment, sufficient compensation for their increased risk. We do not believe that this strategy would reduce our ability, as necessary, to meet ongoing claim payments or to respond to significant catastrophe losses.

In the event paid losses accelerate beyond the ability of our insurance operating units to fund these paid losses from current cash balances, current operating cash flow, coupon receipts and security maturities, we would need to liquidate

a portion of our investment portfolio, make capital contributions to our insurance operating units, and/or arrange for financing. Strains on liquidity could result from:

the occurrence of several significant catastrophic events in a relatively short period of time;

the sale of investments into a depressed marketplace to fund these paid losses;

Table of Contents

the uncollectibility of reinsurance recoverables on these paid losses;

the significant decrease in the value of collateral supporting reinsurance recoverables; or

a significant reduction in our net premium collections.

We may, from time to time, make significant investments in the common stock of a public company, subject to limitations imposed by applicable regulations. Although the vast majority of our investment holdings are denominated in U.S. dollars, investments may be made in other currency denominations depending upon investment opportunities in those currencies, or as may be required by regulation or law.

Fair Value. The estimated carrying values and fair values of our consolidated financial instruments as of December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008 were as follows (in millions):

	December 31, 2009		December 31, 2008	
	Carrying Value	Fair Value	Carrying Value	Fair Value
Assets				
Investments (excluding equity method investments)*	\$ 4,211.6	\$ 4,211.6	\$ 4,057.7	\$ 4,057.7

* For purposes of this table, investments include available-for-sale securities as well as investments in partnerships carried at fair value that are included in other invested assets. Investments exclude our investments in Homesite, ORX and partnerships that are accounted for under the equity method which are included in other invested assets. The fair value of short-term investments approximates amortized cost. The fair value of all other categories of investments is discussed below.

GAAP defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value measurements are not adjusted for transaction costs. In addition, GAAP establishes a three-tiered hierarchy for inputs used in management's determination of fair value of financial instruments that emphasizes the use of observable inputs over the use of unobservable inputs by requiring that the observable inputs be used when available. Observable inputs are market participant assumptions based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity. Unobservable inputs are the reporting entity's own assumptions about market participant assumptions based on the best information available under the circumstances. In assessing the appropriateness of using observable inputs in making our fair value determinations, we consider whether the market for a particular security is active or not based on all the relevant facts and circumstances. For example, we may consider a market to be inactive if there are relatively few recent transactions or if there is a significant decrease in market volume. Furthermore, we consider whether observable transactions are orderly or not. We do not consider a transaction to be orderly if there is evidence of a forced liquidation or other distressed condition, and as such, little or no weight is given to that transaction as an indicator of fair value.

The hierarchy is broken down into three levels based on the reliability of inputs as follows:

Level 1 Valuations are based on unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical, unrestricted assets. Since valuations are based on quoted prices that are readily and regularly available in an active market, valuation of these assets does not involve any meaningful degree of judgment. An active market is defined as a market where transactions for the financial instrument occur with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis. Our Level 1 assets generally include publicly traded common stocks and debt securities issued directly by the U.S. Government, where our valuations are based on quoted market prices.

Level 2 Valuations are based on quoted market prices where such markets are not deemed to be sufficiently active. In such circumstances, additional valuation metrics will be used which involve direct or indirect observable market inputs. Our Level 2 assets generally include preferred stocks and debt securities other than debt issued directly by the U.S. Government. Substantially all of the determinations of value in this category are based on a single quote from third-party dealers and pricing services. As we generally do not make any adjustments thereto, such quote typically constitutes the sole input in our determination of the fair value of these types of securities. In developing a quote, such third parties will use the terms of the

Table of Contents

security and market-based inputs. Terms of the security include coupon, maturity date, and any special provisions that may, for example, enable the investor, at its election, to redeem the security prior to its scheduled maturity date. Market-based inputs include the level of interest rates applicable to comparable securities in the market place and current credit rating(s) of the security. Such quotes are generally non-binding.

Level 3 Valuations are based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement. Valuation under Level 3 generally involves a significant degree of judgment on our part. Our Level 3 assets are primarily limited to partnership investments. Net asset value quotes from the third-party general partner of the entity in which such investment is held, which will often be based on unobservable market inputs, constitute the primary input in our determination of the fair value of such assets.

We validate the reasonableness of our fair value determinations for Level 2 securities by testing the methodology of the relevant third-party dealer or pricing service that provides the quotes upon which the fair value determinations are made. We test the methodology by comparing such quotes with prices from executed market trades when such trades occur. We discuss with the relevant third-party dealer or pricing service any identified material discrepancy between the quote derived from its methodology and the executed market trade in order to resolve the discrepancy. We use the quote from the third-party dealer or pricing service unless we determine that the methodology used to produce such quote is not in compliance with GAAP. In addition to such procedures, we also compare the aggregate amount of the fair value for such Level 2 securities with the aggregate fair value provided by a third-party financial institution. Furthermore, we review the reasonableness of its classification of securities within the three-tiered hierarchy to ensure that the classification is consistent with GAAP.

The estimated carrying values of our investments as of December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008 allocated among the three levels set forth above were as follows (in millions):

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
As of December 31, 2009				
Equity securities:				
Common stock	\$ 624.5	\$	\$	\$ 624.5
Preferred stock				
Debt securities:				
U.S. Government obligations	638.4			638.4
Mortgage and asset-backed securities*		958.8		958.8
States, municipalities, political subdivisions bonds		1,234.0		1,234.0
Foreign bonds		144.3		144.3
Corporate bonds and other		313.5		313.5
	638.4	2,650.6		3,289.0
Short-term investments	75.2	187.7		262.9
Other invested assets**			35.2	35.2
Investments (excluding equity method investments)	\$ 1,338.1	\$ 2,838.3	\$ 35.2	\$ 4,211.6

Table of Contents

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
As of December 31, 2008				
Equity securities:				
Common stock	\$ 619.8	\$	\$	\$ 619.8
Preferred stock		9.7		9.7
Debt securities:				
U.S. Government obligations	266.3	20.3		286.6
Mortgage and asset-backed securities*		653.8	0.7	654.5
States, municipalities, political subdivisions bonds		1,434.1		1,434.1
Foreign bonds		177.3		177.3
Corporate bonds and other		207.5		207.5
	266.3	2,493.0	0.7	2,760.0
Short-term investments	175.9	460.3		636.2
Other invested assets**			32.0	32.0
Investments (excluding equity method investments)	\$ 1,062.0	\$ 2,963.0	\$ 32.7	\$ 4,057.7

* Consists primarily of residential mortgage-backed securities.

** The carrying value of partnership investments of \$35.2 million increased by \$3.2 million from the December 31, 2008 carrying value of \$32.0 million, due primarily to an increase in estimated fair value during the period.

Mortgage- and Asset-Backed Securities. At December 31, 2009, our mortgage- and asset-backed securities portfolio, which primarily includes residential mortgage-backed securities, or RMBS, and constitutes \$958.8 million of our debt securities portfolio, was backed by the following types of underlying collateral (in millions):

Type of Underlying Collateral	Fair Value	Average Rating
RMBS: guaranteed by FNMA or FHLMC (1)	\$ 89.2	Aaa / AAA
RMBS: guaranteed by GNMA (2)	520.3	Aaa / AAA
RMBS: Alt A (3)	20.5	A1 / A+
RMBS: Sub-prime (3)	2.9	Aaa/AAA
RMBS: Prime (3) and other non-RMBS (4)	325.9	Aaa/AAA
Total	\$ 958.8	Aaa / AAA

(1) FNMA refers to the Federal National Mortgage Association, and FHLMC refers to the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.

(2) GNMA refers to the Government National Mortgage Association.

(3) As defined by Standard & Poor's.

(4) In addition to RMBS Prime, includes commercial mortgage-backed securities and other asset-backed securities.

All of our mortgage- and asset-backed securities are current as to principal and interest. Additional information regarding AIHL's holdings of securities backed by sub-prime and Alt-A collateral at December 31, 2009 is as follows (in millions):

Type of Underlying Collateral	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Weighted Average Life
Alt-A	\$ 0.1	\$ 1.3	4.5 years
Sub-prime	\$	\$ 0.5	4.2 years

Table of Contents

Financial Guaranty Insurance and Municipal Bonds. Approximately 22.4 percent (or approximately \$736.6 million) of debt securities, predominantly municipal bonds, contained in our debt securities portfolio is insured by financial guaranty insurance companies. The purpose of this insurance is to increase the credit quality of the debt securities and their credit ratings discussed above. If the obligations of these financial guarantors ceased to be valuable, either through a credit rating downgrade or default, these debt securities would likely receive lower credit ratings by the rating agencies that would reflect the creditworthiness of the various obligors as if the debt securities were uninsured. The primary financial guaranty insurance companies currently providing insurance coverage to our debt security portfolio include Ambac Financial Inc., MBIA Inc., Assured Guaranty Inc. and Financial Guaranty Insurance Company.

The following table summarizes the credit quality of our portfolio as rated, and as rated if the debt securities were uninsured, as of December 31, 2009:

	% of Debt Securities Portfolio	
	As rated	As rated if uninsured
Aaa /AAA	63.2%	63.4%
Aa / AA	23.0%	20.7%
A / A	10.3%	12.4%
Baa / BBB	2.5%	2.4%
Below Baa / BBB	1.0%	1.0%
Not rated	%	0.1%
	100.0%	100.0%

The following table details the top five state exposures of our municipal bond portfolio (in millions):

	General Obligation	Special Revenue	Total Fair Value
Texas	\$ 72.8	\$ 16.1	\$ 88.9
Massachusetts	8.8	58.4	67.2
Illinois	43.5	17.1	60.6
New York	4.3	51.6	55.9
Washington	44.2	11.0	55.2
All other	353.1	317.3	670.4
	\$ 526.7	\$ 471.5	\$ 998.2
Advance refunded / escrowed to maturity bonds			235.8
Total municipal bond portfolio			\$ 1,234.0

Recent Accounting Standards

Recently Adopted

In June 2009, Financial Accounting Standards Board or FASB, Statement No. 168, The FASB Accounting Standards Codification and the Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, a replacement of FASB Statement No. 162 or SFAS 168, was issued. SFAS 168 establishes the FASB Accounting Standards Codification, or FASB ASC, as the single source of authoritative accounting principles in the preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP. SFAS 168, which is referenced within the FASB ASC in Topic 105-10, or FASB ASC 105-10, is effective for interim and annual periods ending after September 15, 2009. We have adopted SFAS 168 in the 2009 third quarter, and the implementation did not have any impact on our results of operations and financial condition. All of our public filings will now include references, wherever appropriate, to the FASB ASC as the sole source of authoritative literature.

In December 2007, FASB Statements No. 141 (revised 2007), Business Combinations or SFAS 141R [FASB ASC 805-10], and No. 160, Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements or SFAS 160

Table of Contents

[FASB ASC 810-10], were issued. SFAS 141R replaces FASB Statement No. 141, Business Combinations. SFAS 141R requires the acquiring entity in a business combination to recognize all (and only) the assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the transaction; establishes the acquisition date fair value as the measurement objective for all assets acquired and liabilities assumed; and requires the acquirer to disclose additional information regarding the nature and financial effect of the business combination. SFAS 160 requires all entities to report noncontrolling (minority) interests in subsidiaries in the same way as equity in the consolidated financial statements. SFAS 160 also requires disclosure, on the face of the consolidated statement of income, of the amounts of consolidated net earnings attributable to the parent and to the noncontrolling interest. We have adopted SFAS 141R and SFAS 160 for all business combinations initiated after December 31, 2008, and the implementation did not have a material impact on our results of operations and financial condition.

In September 2006, FASB Statement No. 157, Fair Value Measurements or SFAS 157 [FASB ASC 820-10], was issued. SFAS 157 provides guidance for using fair value to measure assets and liabilities. SFAS 157 does not expand the use of fair value to any new circumstances. SFAS 157 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007 and interim periods within those fiscal years. We have adopted the provisions of SFAS 157 as of January 1, 2008, and the implementation did not have a material impact on our results of operations and financial condition.

In October 2008, FASB Staff Position No. 157-3 or FSP FAS 157-3 [FASB ASC 820-10] was issued. FSP FAS 157-3 clarifies the application of SFAS 157 in an inactive market. If a market becomes inactive, then the fair value determination for securities in that market may be based on inputs that are unobservable in the market, rather than being based on either unadjusted quoted prices or observable market inputs. FSP FAS 157-3 is effective upon issuance, including periods for which financial statements have not been issued. We have adopted the provisions of FSP FAS 157-3 as of September 30, 2008, and the implementation did not have a material impact on our results of operations and financial condition.

In April 2009, FASB Staff Position No. 157-4 or FSP FAS 157-4 [FASB ASC 820-10-65] was issued. FSP FAS 157-4 provides guidelines for making fair value measurements more consistent with the principles presented in SFAS 157 regarding the determination of when a market is not considered to be active and when a transaction is not considered to be distressed. The determination of whether a market is not considered to be active is based on an evaluation of a number of factors. If such factors indicate that a market is not active, it must then be determined whether a quoted price from that market is associated with a distressed transaction based on the facts and circumstances. FSP FAS 157-4 also provides for additional financial statement disclosure. FSP FAS 157-4 is effective for periods ending after June 15, 2009, with early adoption permitted for periods ending after March 15, 2009. We have adopted the provisions of FSP FAS 157-4 in the second quarter of 2009, and the implementation did not have a material impact on our results of operations and financial condition.

In April 2009, FASB Staff Position No. 115-2 and 124-2 or FSP FAS 115-2 and 124-2 [FASB ASC 320-10-65], was issued. FSP FAS 115-2 and 124-2 provides additional guidance in accounting for and presenting impairment losses on debt securities. If a decline in fair value below the amortized cost exists at the balance sheet date for a debt security, and the entity intends to sell the security or it is more likely than not that the entity will sell the debt security before recovery of its cost basis, an other-than-temporary impairment exists. Furthermore, the amount of the impairment related to the credit losses must be recognized in earnings, whereas the amount of the impairment related to other factors must be recognized in other comprehensive income. FSP FAS 115-2 and 124-2 also provides for additional financial statement disclosure. FSP FAS 115-2 and 124-2 is effective for periods ending after June 15, 2009, with early adoption permitted for periods ending after March 15, 2009. We have adopted the provisions of FSP FAS 115-2 and 124-2 in the second quarter of 2009, and the implementation did not have a material impact on our results of operations and financial condition. As part of our implementation, we have determined that current and prior period other-than-temporary impairment losses on debt securities were credit-related.

In April 2009, FASB Staff Position No. 107-1 and APB28-1 or FSP FAS 107-1 and APB28-1 [FASB ASC 825-10-65], was issued. FSP FAS 107-1 and APB28-1 amend existing fair value disclosure requirements for financial instruments by requiring that such disclosures be made in interim financial statements. FSP FAS 107-1 and APB28-1 is effective for periods ending after June 15, 2009, with early adoption permitted for periods ending after

Table of Contents

March 15, 2009. We have adopted the provisions of FSP FAS 107-1 and APB28-1 in the second quarter of 2009, and the implementation did not have a material impact on our results of operations and financial condition.

In May 2009, FASB Statements No. 165, Subsequent Events or SFAS 165 [FASB ASC 855-10], was issued. SFAS 165 establishes general standards related to events that occur after the balance sheet date but before financial statements are issued. SFAS 165 describes the circumstances where events or transactions occurring after the balance sheet date should be recognized in the financial statements and provides for additional financial statement disclosure. SFAS 165 is effective for interim and annual periods ending after June 15, 2009. We have adopted SFAS 165 in the 2009 second quarter, and the implementation did not have a material impact on our results of operations and financial condition. We have evaluated subsequent events through February 24, 2010.

In September 2009, FASB Accounting Standards Update No. 2009-12 or ASU2009-12 [FASB ASC 820], was issued. ASU2009-12 allows investors to use net asset value as a practical expedient to estimate fair value of investments in investment companies (and like entities) that do not have readily determinable fair values. ASU2009-12 does not apply to investments accounted for on the equity method. ASU2009-12 is effective for interim and annual periods ending after December 15, 2009, with early application permitted. We have adopted ASU2009-12 in the fourth quarter of 2009, and the implementation did not have any impact on our results of operations and financial condition. Our partnership investments accounted for as available-for-sale are subject to ASU2009-12. Net asset value quotes from the third-party general partner of the entity in which such investment is held, which will often be based on unobservable market inputs, constitute the primary input in our determination of the fair value. The fair value of our available-for-sale partnership investments was \$35.2 million at December 31, 2009 and \$32.0 million at December 31, 2008.

Future Application of Accounting Standards

In June 2009, FASB Statements No. 166, Accounting for Transfers of Financial Assets or SFAS 166, and No. 167, Amendments to FASB Interpretation No. 46(R) or SFAS 167, were issued [FASB ASC 860-10 and 810-10]. SFAS 166 and SFAS 167 change the way entities account for securitizations and special-purpose entities. SFAS 166 is a revision to Statement No. 140, Accounting for Transfers and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishments of Liabilities, and, among other things, will eliminate the concept of a qualifying special-purpose entity, change the requirements for derecognizing financial assets, and require additional disclosure about transfers of financial assets, including securitization transactions and an entity's continuing exposure to the risks related to transferred financial assets. SFAS 167 is a revision to FASB Interpretation No. 46(R), Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities, and will change how a company determines when an entity that is insufficiently capitalized or is not controlled through voting rights (or similar rights) should be consolidated. The determination of whether a company is required to consolidate an entity is based on, among other things, an entity's purpose and design and a company's ability to direct the activities of the entity that most significantly impact the entity's economic performance. SFAS 166 and SFAS 167 are generally effective for periods beginning in 2010. We will adopt SFAS 166 and SFAS 167 in the 2010 first quarter, and we do not believe the implementation will have a material impact on our results of operations and financial condition. We did not have any off-balance sheet arrangements outstanding at December 31, 2009 or December 31, 2008, including those that may involve the types of entities contemplated in SFAS 166 and SFAS 167.

In January 2010, FASB Accounting Standards Update No. 2010-06 or ASU2010-06 [FASB ASC 820], was issued. ASU2010-06 provides for additional financial statement disclosure on fair value measurements, including how fair values are measured. ASU2010-06 is effective for interim and annual periods ending after December 15, 2009. We will adopt ASU2010-06 in the first quarter of 2010, and we do not believe the implementation will have a material impact on our results of operations and financial condition.

Table of Contents**Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk.**

Market risk is the risk of loss from adverse changes in market prices and rates, such as interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, and commodity prices. The primary market risk related to our non-trading financial instruments is the risk of loss associated with adverse changes in interest rates. We invest in equity securities which are subject to fluctuations in market value. We also purchase debt securities with fixed maturities that expose us to risk related to adverse changes in interest rates. We hold our equity securities and debt securities as available for sale. Any changes in the fair value in these securities, net of tax, would be reflected in our accumulated other comprehensive income as a component of stockholders' equity. However, if a decline in fair value relative to cost is believed to be other than temporary, a loss is generally recorded on our statement of earnings.

Equity Securities

The table below summarizes our equity price risk and shows the effect of a hypothetical increase or decrease in market prices as of December 31, 2009 and 2008 on the estimated fair value of our consolidated equity portfolio. The selected hypothetical changes do not indicate what could be the potential best or worst case scenarios (dollars in millions):

As of December 31,	Estimated Fair Value	Hypothetical Price Change	Estimated Fair Value after Hypothetical Change in Prices	Hypothetical Percentage Increase (Decrease) in Stockholders' Equity
2009	\$ 624.5	20% Increase	\$ 749.4	2.9%
		20% decrease	\$ 499.6	(2.9)%
2008	\$ 629.5	20% Increase	\$ 755.4	2.9%
		20% decrease	\$ 503.6	(2.9)%

Debt Securities

The primary market risk for our and our subsidiaries' debt is interest rate risk at the time of refinancing. We monitor the interest rate environment to evaluate refinancing opportunities. We currently do not use derivatives to manage market and interest rate risks. One interest rate swap that we had matured in January 2007 at no gain or loss to us. The tables below present sensitivity analyses of our consolidated debt securities as of December 31, 2009 and 2008 that are sensitive to changes in interest rates. Sensitivity analysis is defined as the measurement of potential change in future earnings, fair values, or cash flows of market sensitive instruments resulting from one or more selected hypothetical changes in interest rates over a selected time. In the sensitivity analysis model below, we use a +/- 300 basis point range of change in interest rates to measure the hypothetical change in fair value of the financial instruments included in the analysis. The change in fair value is determined by calculating hypothetical December 31, 2009 and 2008 ending prices based on yields adjusted to reflect a +/- 300 basis point range of change in interest rates, comparing these hypothetical ending prices to actual ending prices, and multiplying the difference by the par outstanding.

At December 31, 2009 (dollars in millions)

Interest rate shifts	-300	-200	-100	0	100	200	300
Debt securities, fair value	\$3,605.7	\$3,499.8	\$3,398.2	\$3,289.0	\$3,172.3	\$3,057.1	\$2,947.6

Estimated change in fair value	\$316.7	\$210.8	\$109.2		\$(116.7)	\$(231.9)	\$(341.4)
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At December 31, 2008 *(dollars in millions)*

Interest rate shifts	-300	-200	-100	0	100	200	300
Debt securities, fair value	\$3,036.6	\$2,954.3	\$2,861.0	\$2,760.0	\$2,659.6	\$2,561.8	\$2,466.9
Estimated change in fair value	\$276.6	\$194.3	\$101.0		\$(100.4)	\$(198.2)	\$(293.1)

These sensitivity analyses provide only a limited, point-in-time view of the market risk of the financial instruments discussed above. The actual impact of changes in equity prices and market interest rates on the financial

Table of Contents

instruments may differ significantly from those shown in the above sensitivity analyses. The sensitivity analyses are further limited because they do not consider any actions we could take in response to actual and/or anticipated changes in equity prices and in interest rates.

Partnership Investments. In addition to debt and equity securities, we invest in several partnerships which are subject to fluctuations in market value. Partnership investments are included in other invested assets and are accounted for as either available-for-sale or an equity method investment. The carrying value of available-for-sale partnership investments was \$35.2 million at December 31, 2009 and \$32.0 million at December 31, 2008. The carrying value of equity method partnership investments was \$47.7 million at December 31, 2009 and \$45.3 million at December 31, 2008.

Table of Contents

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

Index to Consolidated Financial Statements

Alleghany Corporation and Subsidiaries

Description	Page
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets</u>	65
<u>Consolidated Statements of Earnings and Comprehensive Income</u>	66
<u>Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity</u>	67
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows</u>	68
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	69
<u>Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	109

Table of Contents
ALLEGHANY CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
Consolidated Balance Sheets

	December 31,	
	2009	2008
	(in thousands, except share amounts)	
Assets		
Investments		
Available-for-sale securities at fair value:		
Equity securities (cost: 2009 \$530,945; 2008 \$463,207)	\$ 624,546	\$ 629,518
Debt securities (amortized cost: 2009 \$3,235,595; 2008 \$2,781,829)	3,289,013	2,760,019
Short-term investments	262,903	636,197
	4,176,462	4,025,734
Other invested assets	238,227	250,407
Total investments	4,414,689	4,276,141
Cash	32,526	18,125
Premium balances receivable	145,992	154,022
Reinsurance recoverables	976,172	1,056,438
Ceded unearned premium reserves	160,713	185,402
Deferred acquisition costs	71,098	71,753
Property and equipment at cost, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization	20,097	23,310
Goodwill and other intangibles, net of amortization	145,667	151,223
Current taxes receivable		14,338
Net deferred tax assets	124,266	130,293
Other assets	101,550	100,783
	\$ 6,192,770	\$ 6,181,828
Liabilities and Stockholders Equity		
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	\$ 2,520,979	\$ 2,578,590
Unearned premiums	573,906	614,067
Reinsurance payable	51,795	53,541
Current taxes payable	3,827	
Other liabilities	324,742	288,941
Total liabilities	3,475,249	3,535,139
Preferred stock		
(shares authorized: 2009 none; 2008 1,132,000; shares issued and outstanding: 2009 none; 2008 1,131,619)		299,429

Common stock (shares authorized: 2009 and 2008 22,000,000; issued and outstanding 2009 9,118,367; 2008 8,516,270)	9,118	8,349
Contributed capital	921,225	742,863
Accumulated other comprehensive income	94,045	87,249
Treasury stock, at cost (2009 258,013 shares; 2008 76,513 shares)	(66,325)	(24,290)
Retained earnings	1,759,458	1,533,089
 Total stockholders equity	 2,717,521	 2,646,689
	\$ 6,192,770	\$ 6,181,828

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents
ALLEGHANY CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
Consolidated Statements of Earnings and Comprehensive Income

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
	(in thousands, except per share amounts)		
Revenues			
Net premiums earned	\$ 845,015	\$ 948,652	\$ 974,321
Net investment income	101,949	130,184	146,082
Net realized capital gains	320,389	151,713	100,425
Other than temporary impairment losses	(85,916)	(243,881)	(7,659)
Other income	2,955	2,432	15,427
Total revenues	1,184,392	989,100	1,228,596
Costs and expenses			
Loss and loss adjustment expenses	442,104	570,019	449,052
Commissions, brokerage and other underwriting expenses	273,722	286,573	257,198
Other operating expenses	45,615	34,861	55,604
Corporate administration	26,938	35,895	32,987
Interest expense	633	700	1,476
Total costs and expenses	789,012	928,048	796,317
Earnings from continuing operations, before income taxes	395,380	61,052	432,279
Income taxes	124,381	20,485	144,737
Earnings from continuing operations	270,999	40,567	287,542
Discontinued operations			
Operations (including a gain on disposal of \$141,688 in 2008)		164,193	24,976
Income taxes (including tax on the gain on disposal of \$49,591 in 2008)		56,789	13,448
Earnings from discontinued operations, net of tax		107,404	11,528
Net earnings	\$ 270,999	\$ 147,971	\$ 299,070
Changes in other comprehensive income			
Change in unrealized (losses) gains, net of deferred taxes of \$90,590, \$(145,368), and \$60,778 for 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively	\$ 168,239	\$ (269,969)	\$ 112,874
Less: reclassification for net realized capital gains and other than temporary impairment losses, net of taxes of \$86,386, \$(15,198) and \$32,458 for 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively	(160,432)	28,225	(60,280)

Other	(1,011)	361	167
Comprehensive income	\$ 277,795	\$ (93,412)	\$ 351,831
Net earnings	\$ 270,999	\$ 147,971	\$ 299,070
Preferred dividends	6,158	17,218	17,223
Net earnings available to common stockholders	\$ 264,841	\$ 130,753	\$ 281,847
Basic earnings per share of common stock: *			
Continuing operations	\$ 30.43	\$ 2.75	\$ 31.89
Discontinued operations		12.67	1.36
Basic earning per share	\$ 30.43	\$ 15.42	\$ 33.25
Diluted earnings per share of common stock: *			
Continuing operations	\$ 29.66	\$ 2.75	\$ 30.25
Discontinued operations		12.67	1.20
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 29.66	\$ 15.42	\$ 31.45

* Amounts reflect subsequent common stock dividends.

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents
ALLEGHANY CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity

	Three Years Ended December 31, 2009						
	Accumulated						
	Preferred	Common	Contributed	Other	Treasury	Retained	Total
	Stock	Stock	Capital	Comprehensive	Stock	Earnings	Stockholders
				Income			Equity
	(in thousands, except share amounts)						
Balance at							
December 31, 2006							
(8,446,465* shares of common stock issued; none in treasury)	\$ 299,527	\$ 7,959	\$ 627,215	\$ 275,871	\$	\$ 1,235,392	\$ 2,445,964
Add (deduct):							
Net earnings						299,070	299,070
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax:							
Retirement plans				167			167
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments, net				52,594			52,594
Comprehensive income				52,761		299,070	351,831
Dividends paid		159	58,315			(75,840)	(17,366)
Stock based compensation			1,144				1,144
Other, net	(47)	41	2,761			(1)	2,754
Balance at							
December 31, 2007							
(8,488,795* shares of common stock issued; none in treasury)	299,480	8,159	689,435	328,632		1,458,621	2,784,327
Add (deduct):							
Net earnings						147,971	147,971
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax:							
Retirement plans				361			361
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments, net				(241,744)			(241,744)
Comprehensive income				(241,383)		147,971	(93,412)

Dividends paid	163	55,988			(73,501)	(17,350)
Stock based compensation		2,941				2,941
Treasury stock purchase				(24,290)		(24,290)
Adjust gain on sale of subsidiary stock		(9,473)				(9,473)
Other, net	(51)	27	3,972		(2)	3,946

Balance at**December 31, 2008**

(8,516,270* shares of common stock issued;

76,513 in treasury)	299,429	8,349	742,863	87,249	(24,290)	1,533,089	2,646,689
Add (deduct):							
Net earnings						270,999	270,999
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax:							
Retirement plans				(1,011)			(1,011)
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments, net				7,807			7,807
Comprehensive income				6,796		270,999	277,795

Dividends paid	72	11,246			26,629	(44,630)	(6,683)
Stock based compensation		1,186					1,186
Treasury stock purchase					(75,856)		(75,856)
Preferred stock repurchase	(117,218)						(117,218)
Conversion of preferred stock	(182,211)	698	181,513				
Other, net		(1)	(15,583)		7,192		(8,392)

Balance at**December 31, 2009**

(9,118,367 shares of common stock issued;

258,013 in treasury)	\$	\$ 9,118	\$ 921,225	\$ 94,045	\$ (66,325)	\$ 1,759,458	\$ 2,717,521
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* Amounts reflect subsequent common stock dividends.

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents
ALLEGHANY CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2009	2008	2007
	(in thousands)		
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net earnings	\$ 270,999	\$ 147,971	\$ 299,070
Earnings from discontinued operations, net		107,404	11,528
Earnings from continuing operations	270,999	40,567	287,542
Adjustments to reconcile earnings from continuing operations to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	32,358	25,674	16,275
Net realized capital (gains) losses	(320,389)	(151,713)	(100,425)
Other than temporary impairment losses	85,916	243,881	7,659
(Increase) decrease in other assets	1,255	(37,117)	(2,515)
(Increase) decrease in reinsurance receivable, net of reinsurance payable	78,520	(41,604)	116,257
(Increase) decrease in premium balances receivable	8,030	17,671	27,318
(Increase) decrease in ceded unearned premium reserves	24,689	35,801	90,098
(Increase) decrease in deferred acquisition costs	655	3,870	(8,286)
Increase (decrease) in other liabilities and current taxes	59,164	(24,928)	46,224
Increase (decrease) in unearned premiums	(40,161)	(86,955)	(102,873)
Increase (decrease) in losses and loss adjustment expenses	(57,611)	198,889	(25,469)
Net adjustments	(127,574)	183,469	64,263
Net cash provided by operating activities from continuing operations	143,425	224,036	351,805
Net cash provided by operating activities from discontinued operations		106,510	127,355
Net cash provided by operating activities	143,425	330,546	479,160
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of investments	(2,332,932)	(1,564,024)	(1,336,433)
Sales of investments	1,725,742	1,149,434	824,305
Maturities of investments	311,868	325,970	284,666
Purchases of property and equipment	(5,539)	(9,760)	(4,884)
Net change in short-term investments	373,442	(320,111)	79,974
Other, net	(913)	3,700	4,640
		(50,816)	(186,743)

Acquisition of majority- and minority-owned companies, net of cash acquired

Net cash provided by investing activities from continuing operations	71,668	(465,607)	(334,475)
Net cash provided by investing activities from discontinued operations		151,607	(152,076)
Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities	71,668	(314,000)	(486,551)

Cash flows from financing activities

Treasury stock acquisitions	(75,856)	(25,068)	
Convertible preferred stock acquisition	(117,358)		
Principal payments on long-term debt			(80,000)
Proceeds from repayment of note receivable			91,536
Convertible preferred stock dividends paid	(7,456)	(17,350)	(17,367)
Tax benefit on stock based compensation	312	2,330	1,063
Other, net	(334)	2,133	3,626

Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities from continuing operations	(200,692)	(37,955)	(1,142)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities from discontinued operations		(5,000)	5,316
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(200,692)	(42,955)	4,174

Cash flows of discontinued operations

Operating activities		(106,510)	(127,355)
Investing activities		88,398	152,076
Financing activities		5,000	(5,316)

Net cash provided by (used in) discontinued operations (13,112) 19,405

Net cash provided by (used in) continuing operations 14,401 (39,521) 16,188
Cash at beginning of period 18,125 57,646 41,458

Cash at end of period \$ 32,526 \$ 18,125 \$ 57,646

Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information

Cash paid during the period for:

Interest	\$		\$ 200	\$ 505
Income taxes paid (refunds received)	\$	105,478	\$ 179,984	\$ 191,680

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents

ALLEGHANY CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Principles*****(a) Principles of Financial Statement Presentation***

Alleghany Corporation, a Delaware corporation, which together with its subsidiaries is referred to as Alleghany unless the context otherwise requires, is engaged in the property and casualty and surety insurance business through its wholly-owned subsidiary Alleghany Insurance Holdings LLC (AIHL). AIHL s insurance business is conducted through its wholly-owned subsidiaries RSUI Group, Inc. (RSUI), Capitol Transamerica Corporation, Platte River Insurance Company (collectively CATA) and Employers Direct Corporation (EDC). AIHL Re LLC (AIHL Re), a captive reinsurance subsidiary of AIHL, has in the past provided reinsurance to Alleghany operating units and affiliates. In addition, Alleghany owns approximately 33 percent of the outstanding shares of common stock of Homesite Group Incorporated (Homesite), a national, full-service, mono-line provider of homeowners insurance and approximately 38 percent of ORX Exploration, Inc. (ORX), a regional oil and gas exploration and production company. These investments are reflected in Alleghany s financial statements in other invested assets. Alleghany also owns and manages properties in the Sacramento, California region through its subsidiary Alleghany Properties Holdings LLC (Alleghany Properties) and makes strategic investments in operating companies and conducts other activities at the parent level. Alleghany also owned approximately 55 percent of Darwin Professional Underwriters, Inc. (Darwin) until its disposition on October 20, 2008. Accordingly, the operations of Darwin have been reclassified as discontinued operations for all periods presented. See Note 2.

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the results of Alleghany and its wholly-owned and majority-owned subsidiaries, and have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). All significant inter-company balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, as well as the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those reported results to the extent that those estimates and assumptions prove to be inaccurate.

(b) Investments

Investments consist of equity securities, debt securities, short-term investments, and other invested assets. Alleghany classifies its equity securities, debt securities, and short-term investments as available for sale. Debt securities consist of securities with an initial fixed maturity of more than one year. Short-term investments include commercial paper, certificates of deposit, money market instruments, and any fixed maturity with an initial maturity of one year or less.

At December 31, 2009 and 2008, available-for-sale securities are recorded at fair value. Unrealized gains and losses during the year, net of the related tax effect applicable to available-for-sale securities, are excluded from earnings and reflected in comprehensive income and the cumulative effect is reported as a separate component of stockholders equity until realized. If the decline in fair value is deemed to be other than temporary, it is written down to the carrying value of the investment and recorded as an other-than-temporary impairment loss on the statement of earnings. In addition, any portion of such decline that relates to debt securities that is believed to arise from factors

other than credit is to be recorded as a component of other comprehensive income.

Net realized gains and losses on investments are determined in accordance with the specific identification method.

Other invested assets include strategic equity investments in operating companies which are accounted for under the equity method and partnership investments which are accounted for as either available-for-sale or as an equity method investment.

Table of Contents**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued****1. Summary of Significant Accounting Principles, continued**

Premiums and discounts arising from the purchase of certain debt securities are treated as a yield adjustment over the estimated useful life of the securities, adjusted for anticipated prepayments using the retrospective interest method. Under this method, the effective yield on a security is estimated. Such estimates are based on the prepayment terms of the security, past actual cash flows and assumptions as to future expected cash flow. The future cash flow assumptions consider various prepayment assumptions based on historical experience, as well as current market conditions. Periodically, the effective yield is re-estimated to reflect actual prepayments and updated future cash flow assumptions. Upon a re-estimation, the security's book value is restated at the most recently calculated effective yield, assuming that yield had been in effect since the security was purchased. This treatment results in an increase or decrease to net investment income (amortization of premium or discount) at the new measurement date.

See Notes 3, 14 and 16(b) for further information regarding investments.

(c) Derivative Financial Instruments

Alleghany entered into an interest rate swap in 1997 for purposes of matching interest expense with interest income. The interest rate swap was accounted for as a hedge of the obligation. Interest expense was recorded using the revised interest rate. The interest rate swap matured in January 2007, at no gain or loss to Alleghany.

(d) Cash

For purposes of the consolidated statements of cash flows and consolidated balance sheets, cash includes all deposit balances with a bank that are available for immediate withdrawal, whether interest-bearing or non-interest bearing.

(e) Premiums and Unearned Premiums

Premiums are recognized as revenue on a pro-rata basis over the term of an insurance policy. This recognition method is based on the short term (twelve months or less) nature of the lines of business written by AIHL's insurance operating units, which consist of property and casualty and surety lines. Unearned premiums represent the portion of premiums written which are applicable to the unexpired terms of insurance policies in force.

Premium balances receivable are reported net of an allowance for estimated uncollectible premium amounts. Ceded premiums are charged to income over the applicable terms of the various reinsurance contracts with third-party reinsurers. See Note 5.

(f) Reinsurance Recoverables

AIHL's insurance operating units reinsure a significant portion of the risks they underwrite in order to mitigate their exposure to losses, manage capacity, and protect capital resources. Reinsuring loss exposures does not relieve AIHL's insurance operating units from their obligations to policyholders. AIHL's insurance operating units remain liable to their policyholders for the portion reinsured to the extent that any reinsurer does not meet the obligations assumed under the reinsurance agreements. To minimize their exposure to losses from a reinsurer's inability to pay, AIHL's insurance operating units evaluate the financial condition of their reinsurers upon placement of the reinsurance and periodically thereafter.

Reinsurance recoverables (including amounts related to claims incurred but not reported (IBNR) and prepaid reinsurance premiums) are reported as assets. Amounts recoverable from reinsurers are estimated in a manner consistent with the claim liability associated with the reinsured business. Ceded premiums are charged to income over the applicable terms of the various reinsurance contracts with third-party reinsurers.

Reinsurance contracts that do not result in a reasonable possibility that the reinsurer may realize a significant loss from the insurance risk assumed and that do not provide for the transfer of significant insurance risk generally

Table of Contents**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued****1. Summary of Significant Accounting Principles, continued**

do not meet the conditions for reinsurance accounting and are accounted for as deposits. Alleghany currently does not have any reinsurance contracts that qualify for deposit accounting. See Note 5.

(g) Deferred Acquisition Costs

Acquisition costs related to unearned premiums that vary with, and are directly related to, the production of such premiums (principally commissions, premium taxes, compensation and certain other underwriting expenses) are deferred. Deferred acquisition costs are amortized to expense as the related premiums are earned. See Note 16(d).

Deferred acquisition costs are periodically reviewed to determine their recoverability from future income, including investment income, and if any such costs are determined to be not recoverable they are charged to expense. During 2008, EDC wrote-off its deferred acquisition cost asset of \$2.1 million, primarily reflecting a significant acceleration in claims emergence and higher than anticipated increases in industry-wide severity.

(h) Property and Equipment

Property and equipment is recorded at cost, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization. Depreciation of buildings and equipment is principally calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of the respective assets. Estimated useful lives for such assets range from 3 to 20 years. Amortization of leasehold improvements is principally calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of the leasehold improvement or the life of the lease, whichever is less. Rental expense on operating leases is recorded on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease, regardless of the timing of actual lease payments. See Note 16(c).

(i) Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

Goodwill and other intangible assets, net of amortization, is recorded as a result of business acquisitions. Other intangible assets that are not deemed to have an indefinite useful life are amortized over their estimated useful lives. Goodwill and other intangible assets deemed to have an indefinite useful life are tested annually in the fourth quarter of every year for impairment. Goodwill and other intangible assets are also tested whenever events and changes in circumstances suggest that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. A significant amount of judgment is required in performing goodwill and other intangible assets impairment tests. These tests include estimating the fair value of Alleghany's operating units and other intangible assets. With respect to goodwill, as required by GAAP, a comparison is made between the estimated fair values of Alleghany's operating units with their respective carrying amounts including goodwill. Under GAAP, fair value refers to the amount for which the entire operating unit may be bought or sold. The methods for estimating operating unit values include asset and liability fair values and other valuation techniques, such as discounted cash flows and multiples of earnings or revenues. All of these methods involve significant estimates and assumptions. If the carrying value exceeds estimated fair value, there is an indication of potential impairment, and a second step is performed to measure the amount of impairment. The second step involves calculating an implied fair value of goodwill by measuring the excess of the estimated fair value of Alleghany's operating units over the aggregate estimated fair values of the individual assets less liabilities. If the carrying value of goodwill exceeds the implied fair value of goodwill, an impairment charge is recorded for the excess. Subsequent reversal of any goodwill impairment charge is not permitted.

In connection with impairment testing of goodwill and other intangible assets as of December 31, 2008, Alleghany determined that the \$48.7 million of goodwill associated with Alleghany's acquisition of EDC was impaired in its entirety. As a result, at December 31, 2008, Alleghany recorded a non-cash charge of \$48.7 million, which is classified as a net realized capital loss in Alleghany's consolidated statement of earnings and represents the entire EDC goodwill balance at such date. EDC also recorded a pre-tax, non-cash impairment charge of \$11.2 million in the 2009 second quarter, representing the entire carrying value of EDC's trade names (originally determined to have indefinite useful lives), renewal rights, distribution rights and database

Table of Contents**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued****1. Summary of Significant Accounting Principles, continued**

development, net of accumulated amortization. See Note 4 for further information on this impairment as well as information on goodwill and other intangible assets.

(j) Income Taxes

Alleghany files a consolidated federal income tax return with its subsidiaries. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amount of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases and operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date. See Note 8.

(k) Loss Reserves

The reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses represent management's best estimate of the ultimate cost of all reported and unreported losses incurred through the balance sheet date and include, but are not limited to: (i) the accumulation of individual estimates for claims reported on direct business prior to the close of an accounting period; (ii) estimates received from reinsurers with respect to reported claims which have been reinsured; (iii) estimates for IBNR based on past experience modified for current trends and industry data; and (iv) estimates of expenses for investigating and settling claims based on past experience. The reserves recorded are based on estimates resulting from the review process, and differences between estimates and ultimate payments are reflected as an expense in the statement of earnings in the period in which the estimates are revised. See Note 6.

(l) Revenue Recognition for Land Sales

Revenue and profits from land sales are recognized using the full accrual method when title has passed to the buyer, the collectibility of the sales price is reasonably assured, the required minimum cash down payment has been received, and Alleghany has no continuing involvement with the property. Alleghany records land sales under the full accrual method as all requirements have been met.

(m) Earnings Per Share of Common Stock

Basic earnings per share of common stock are based on the average number of shares of common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, of Alleghany (Common Stock) outstanding during the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively, retroactively adjusted for stock dividends. Diluted earnings per share of Common Stock are based on those shares used to calculate basic earnings per share of Common Stock. Diluted earnings per share of Common Stock also include the dilutive effect of stock-based compensation awards, retroactively adjusted for stock dividends. See Note 12.

(n) Stock-Based Compensation Plans

GAAP requires that the cost resulting from all stock-based compensation transactions be recognized in the financial statements, establishes fair value as the measurement objective in accounting for stock-based compensation

arrangements and requires the application of the fair value based measurement method in accounting for stock-based compensation transactions with employees. Effective January 1, 2003, Alleghany adopted the fair value based method of accounting under GAAP, using the prospective transition method for awards granted after January 1, 2003. GAAP treats non-employee directors as employees for accounting purposes.

With respect to stock option grants, the fair value of each option award is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model that uses the assumptions noted in the following table. Expected volatilities are based on historical volatility of the Common Stock. Alleghany uses historical data to estimate option exercise and employee termination within the valuation model. The expected term of options granted is derived from the

Table of Contents**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued****1. Summary of Significant Accounting Principles, continued**

output of the option valuation model and represents the period of time that options granted are expected to be outstanding. The risk-free rate for periods within the contractual life of the option is based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the time of the grant.

	2009	2008	2007
Expected volatility	23%	19%	18%
Expected dividends			
Expected term (in years)	9	10	8-10
Risk-free rate	3.2%	3.8%	5.2%

See Note 10 for further information on stock option grants as well as information on all other types of stock-based compensation awards.

(o) Reclassification

Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform to the 2009 presentation.

(p) Recent Accounting Standards***Recently Adopted***

In June 2009, Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Statement No. 168, The FASB Accounting Standards Codification and the Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, a replacement of FASB Statement No. 162 (SFAS 168), was issued. SFAS 168 establishes the FASB Accounting Standards Codification (FASB ASC) as the single source of authoritative accounting principles in the preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP. SFAS 168, which is referenced within the FASB ASC in Topic 105-10, or FASB ASC 105-10, is effective for interim and annual periods ending after September 15, 2009. Alleghany adopted SFAS 168 in the 2009 third quarter, and the implementation did not have any impact on its results of operations and financial condition. All public filings of Alleghany will now include references, wherever appropriate, to the FASB ASC as the sole source of authoritative literature.

In December 2007, FASB Statements No. 141 (revised 2007), Business Combinations (SFAS 141R) [FASB ASC 805-10], and No. 160, Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements (SFAS 160) [FASB ASC 810-10], were issued. SFAS 141R replaces FASB Statement No. 141, Business Combinations. SFAS 141R requires the acquiring entity in a business combination to recognize all (and only) the assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the transaction; establishes the acquisition date fair value as the measurement objective for all assets acquired and liabilities assumed; and requires the acquirer to disclose additional information regarding the nature and financial effect of the business combination. SFAS 160 requires all entities to report noncontrolling (minority) interests in subsidiaries in the same way as equity in the consolidated financial statements. SFAS 160 also requires disclosure, on the face of the consolidated statement of income, of the amounts of consolidated net earnings attributable to the parent and to the noncontrolling interest. Alleghany adopted SFAS 141R and SFAS 160 for all business combinations initiated after December 31, 2008, and the implementation did not have a material impact on its results of operations

and financial condition.

In September 2006, FASB Statement No. 157, Fair Value Measurements (SFAS 157) [FASB ASC 820-10], was issued. SFAS 157 provides guidance for using fair value to measure assets and liabilities. SFAS 157 does not expand the use of fair value to any new circumstances. SFAS 157 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007 and interim periods within those fiscal years. Alleghany adopted the provisions of SFAS 157 as of January 1, 2008, and the implementation did not have a material impact on its results of operations and financial condition. See Note 14.

In October 2008, FASB Staff Position No. 157-3 (FSP FAS 157-3) [FASB ASC 820-10] was issued. FSP FAS 157-3 clarifies the application of SFAS 157 in an inactive market. If a market becomes inactive, then the fair

Table of Contents**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued****1. Summary of Significant Accounting Principles, continued**

value determination for securities in that market may be based on inputs that are unobservable in the market, rather than being based on either unadjusted quoted prices or observable market inputs. FSP FAS 157-3 is effective upon issuance, including periods for which financial statements have not been issued. Alleghany adopted the provisions of FSP FAS 157-3 as of September 30, 2008, and the implementation did not have a material impact on its results of operations and financial condition. See Note 14.

In April 2009, FASB Staff Position No. 157-4 (FSP FAS 157-4) [FASB ASC 820-10-65] was issued. FSP FAS 157-4 provides guidelines for making fair value measurements more consistent with the principles presented in SFAS 157 regarding the determination of when a market is not considered to be active and when a transaction is not considered to be distressed. The determination of whether a market is not considered to be active is based on an evaluation of a number of factors. If such factors indicate that a market is not active, it must then be determined whether a quoted price from that market is associated with a distressed transaction based on the facts and circumstances. FSP FAS 157-4 also provides for additional financial statement disclosure. FSP FAS 157-4 is effective for periods ending after June 15, 2009, with early adoption permitted for periods ending after March 15, 2009. Alleghany adopted the provisions of FSP FAS 157-4 in the second quarter of 2009, and the implementation did not have a material impact on its results of operations and financial condition. See Note 14.

In April 2009, FASB Staff Position No. 115-2 and 124-2 (FSP FAS 115-2 and 124-2) [FASB ASC 320-10-65], was issued. FSP FAS 115-2 and 124-2 provides additional guidance in accounting for and presenting impairment losses on debt securities. If a decline in fair value below the amortized cost exists at the balance sheet date for a debt security, and the entity intends to sell the security or it is more likely than not that the entity will sell the debt security before recovery of its cost basis, an other-than-temporary impairment exists. Furthermore, the amount of the impairment related to the credit losses must be recognized in earnings, whereas the amount of the impairment related to other factors must be recognized in other comprehensive income. FSP FAS 115-2 and 124-2 also provides for additional financial statement disclosure. FSP FAS 115-2 and 124-2 is effective for periods ending after June 15, 2009, with early adoption permitted for periods ending after March 15, 2009. Alleghany adopted the provisions of FSP FAS 115-2 and 124-2 in the second quarter of 2009, and the implementation did not have a material impact on its results of operations and financial condition. As part of its implementation, Alleghany has determined that current and prior period other-than-temporary impairment losses on debt securities were credit-related. See Note 14.

In April 2009, FASB Staff Position No. 107-1 and APB28-1 (FSP FAS 107-1 and APB28-1) [FASB ASC 825-10-65], was issued. FSP FAS 107-1 and APB28-1 amend existing fair value disclosure requirements for financial instruments by requiring that such disclosures be made in interim financial statements. FSP FAS 107-1 and APB28-1 is effective for periods ending after June 15, 2009, with early adoption permitted for periods ending after March 15, 2009. Alleghany adopted the provisions of FSP FAS 107-1 and APB28-1 in the second quarter of 2009, and the implementation did not have a material impact on its results of operations and financial condition. See Note 14.

In May 2009, FASB Statements No. 165, Subsequent Events (SFAS 165) [FASB ASC 855-10], was issued. SFAS 165 establishes general standards related to events that occur after the balance sheet date but before financial statements are issued. SFAS 165 describes the circumstances where events or transactions occurring after the balance sheet date should be recognized in the financial statements and provides for additional financial statement disclosure. SFAS 165 is effective for interim and annual periods ending after June 15, 2009. Alleghany adopted SFAS 165 in the 2009 second quarter, and the implementation did not have a material impact on its results of operations and financial condition. Alleghany has evaluated subsequent events through February 24, 2010.

In September 2009, FASB Accounting Standards Update No. 2009-12 (ASU2009-12) [FASB ASC 820], was issued. ASU2009-12 allows investors to use net asset value as a practical expedient to estimate fair value of investments in investment companies (and like entities) that do not have readily determinable fair values. ASU2009-12 does not apply to investments accounted for on the equity method. ASU2009-12 is effective for interim and annual periods ending after December 15, 2009, with early application permitted. Alleghany has

Table of Contents**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued****1. Summary of Significant Accounting Principles, continued**

adopted ASU2009-12 in the fourth quarter of 2009, and the implementation did not have any impact on its results of operations and financial condition. Alleghany's partnership investments accounted for as available-for-sale are subject to ASU2009-12. Net asset value quotes from the third-party general partner of the entity in which such investment is held, which will often be based on unobservable market inputs, constitute the primary input in Alleghany's determination of the fair value. The fair value of Alleghany's available-for-sale partnership investments was \$35.2 million at December 31, 2009 and \$32.0 million at December 31, 2008.

Future Application of Accounting Standards

In June 2009, FASB Statements No. 166, Accounting for Transfers of Financial Assets (SFAS 166) and No. 167, Amendments to FASB Interpretation No. 46(R) (SFAS 167) were issued [FASB ASC 860-10 and 810-10]. SFAS 166 and SFAS 167 change the way entities account for securitizations and special-purpose entities. SFAS 166 is a revision to Statement No. 140, Accounting for Transfers and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishments of Liabilities, and, among other things, will eliminate the concept of a qualifying special-purpose entity, change the requirements for derecognizing financial assets, and require additional disclosure about transfers of financial assets, including securitization transactions and an entity's continuing exposure to the risks related to transferred financial assets. SFAS 167 is a revision to FASB Interpretation No. 46(R), Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities, and will change how a company determines when an entity that is insufficiently capitalized or is not controlled through voting rights (or similar rights) should be consolidated. The determination of whether a company is required to consolidate an entity is based on, among other things, an entity's purpose and design and a company's ability to direct the activities of the entity that most significantly impact the entity's economic performance. SFAS 166 and SFAS 167 are generally effective for periods beginning in 2010. Alleghany will adopt SFAS 166 and SFAS 167 in the 2010 first quarter, and Alleghany does not believe the implementation will have a material impact on its results of operations and financial condition. Alleghany did not have any off-balance sheet arrangements outstanding at December 31, 2009 or December 31, 2008, including those that may involve the types of entities contemplated in SFAS 166 and SFAS 167.

In January 2010, FASB Accounting Standards Update No. 2010-06 (ASU2010-06) [FASB ASC 820], was issued. ASU2010-06 provides for additional financial statement disclosure on fair value measurements, including how fair values are measured. ASU2010-06 is effective for interim and annual periods ending after December 15, 2009. Alleghany will adopt ASU2010-06 in the first quarter of 2010, and Alleghany does not believe the implementation will have a material impact on its results of operations and financial condition.

(q) Statutory Accounting Practices

Alleghany's insurance operating units, domiciled principally in the States of California, New Hampshire, Delaware, Wisconsin and Nebraska, prepare statutory financial statements in accordance with the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the insurance departments of the states of domicile. Prescribed statutory accounting practices are those practices that are incorporated directly or by reference in state laws, regulations and general administrative rules applicable to all insurance enterprises domiciled in a particular state. Permitted statutory accounting practices include practices not prescribed by the domiciliary state, but allowed by the domiciliary state regulatory authority. The impact of any permitted accounting practices on statutory surplus of Alleghany is not material. See Note 9(c).

2. Discontinued Operations

On October 20, 2008, Darwin, of which AIHL owned approximately 55 percent, merged with Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd. (AWAC) whereby AWAC acquired all of the issued and outstanding shares of Darwin common stock for cash consideration of \$32.00 per share (the Transaction). At that time, Alleghany received aggregate proceeds of approximately \$300 million in cash for AIHL s 9,371,096 shares of Darwin common stock. Alleghany recorded an after-tax gain from the Transaction of approximately \$92.1 million in the

Table of Contents**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued****2. Discontinued Operations, continued**

2008 fourth quarter, including approximately \$9.5 million of gain deferred at the time of Darwin's initial public offering in May 2006.

Alleghany has classified the operations of Darwin as discontinued operations in its consolidated financial statements for all periods presented.

Historical information related to the results of operations of the discontinued operations of Darwin, as included in Alleghany's consolidated financial statements, is set forth in the following table (in millions):

	January 1, 2008 Through October 19, 2008	Year Ended December 31, 2007
Revenues		
Net premiums earned	\$ 170.9	\$ 180.9
Investment and all other income	20.7	22.6
	191.6	203.5
Costs and expenses		
Loss and loss adjustment expenses	67.6	101.3
Commissions, brokerage and other underwriting expenses	65.2	50.9
All other operating expenses	17.9	5.9
	150.7	158.1
Earnings before income taxes and minority interest	40.9	45.4
Income taxes	11.0	13.2
Earnings before minority interest	29.9	32.2
Minority interest*	14.6	20.7
Net earnings	\$ 15.3	\$ 11.5

* Represents the portion of Darwin's earnings that is attributable to common stockholders other than Alleghany, as well as parent capital gains taxes incurred. These expense accruals were made at the AIHL level.

Earnings before income taxes and minority interest during the 2008 period include a \$32.5 million release of prior accident year loss reserves (\$21.1 million after tax and before minority interest), reflecting favorable loss emergence.

Net earnings during the 2008 period exclude the gain recorded associated with the Transaction of approximately \$92.1 million in the 2008 fourth quarter, including approximately \$9.5 million of gain deferred at the time of Darwin's initial public offering in May 2006.

Table of Contents**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued****3. Investments**

Available-for-sale securities at December 31, 2009 and 2008 are summarized as follows (in millions):

	Amortized Cost or Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
2009				
Consolidated				
Equity securities:				
Common stock	\$ 530.9	\$ 99.4	\$ (5.8)	\$ 624.5
Preferred stock				
Debt securities:				
U.S. Government obligations	634.8	5.1	(1.5)	638.4
Mortgage and asset-backed securities*	955.8	16.5	(13.5)	958.8
States, municipalities, political subdivisions	1,202.2	35.0	(3.2)	1,234.0
Foreign bonds	137.8	6.5		144.3
Corporate bonds and other	305.0	8.9	(0.4)	313.5
	3,235.6	72.0	(18.6)	3,289.0
Short-term investments	262.9			262.9
	\$ 4,029.4	\$ 171.4	\$ (24.4)	\$ 4,176.4
Industry Segment				
AIHL insurance group	\$ 3,744.7	\$ 167.0	\$ (23.3)	\$ 3,888.4
Corporate activities	284.7	4.4	(1.1)	288.0
	\$ 4,029.4	\$ 171.4	\$ (24.4)	\$ 4,176.4

Table of Contents**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued****3. Investments, continued**

	Amortized Cost or Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
2008				
<i>Consolidated</i>				
Equity securities:				
Common stock	\$ 453.5	\$ 215.0	\$ (48.7)	\$ 619.8
Preferred stock	9.7			9.7
Debt securities:				
U.S. Government obligations	274.7	11.9		286.6
Mortgage and asset-backed securities*	707.7	10.1	(63.3)	654.5
States, municipalities, political subdivisions	1,421.8	23.4	(11.1)	1,434.1
Foreign bonds	172.5	6.6	(1.8)	177.3
Corporate bonds and other	205.1	4.1	(1.7)	207.5
	2,781.8	56.1	(77.9)	2,760.0
Short-term investments	636.2			636.2
	\$ 3,881.2	\$ 271.1	\$ (126.6)	\$ 4,025.7
<i>Industry Segment</i>				
AIHL insurance group	\$ 3,624.0	\$ 79.2	\$ (125.9)	\$ 3,577.3
Corporate activities	257.2	191.9	(0.7)	448.4
	3,881.2	\$ 271.1	\$ (126.6)	\$ 4,025.7

* Consists primarily of residential mortgage-backed securities.

The amortized cost and estimated fair value of debt securities at December 31, 2009 by contractual maturity are shown below (in millions). Expected maturities will differ from contractual maturities because borrowers may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties.

	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Short-term investments due in one year or less	\$ 262.9	\$ 262.9
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	955.8	958.8

Debt securities		
One year or less	285.7	288.8
Over one through five years	1,039.7	1,062.6
Over five through ten years	448.8	464.1
Over ten years	505.6	514.7
Equity securities	530.9	624.5
	\$ 4,029.4	\$ 4,176.4

The proceeds from sales of available-for-sale securities were \$1.7 billion, \$1.1 billion, and \$0.8 billion, in 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The amounts of gross realized gains and gross realized losses of available-for-sale securities were, respectively, \$338.5 million and \$5.8 million in 2009, \$259.9 million and \$59.4 million in 2008 and \$103.1 million and \$2.6 million in 2007. The gross loss amounts exclude

Table of Contents**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued****3. Investments, continued**

other-than-temporary impairment losses, as discussed below, and goodwill and related impairment losses. See Note 4(a).

Alleghany holds its equity and debt securities as available for sale, and as such, these securities are recorded at fair value. Alleghany continually monitors the difference between cost and the estimated fair value of its investments, which involves uncertainty as to whether declines in value are temporary in nature. If Alleghany believes a decline in the value of a particular investment is temporary, Alleghany records the decline as an unrealized loss in stockholders equity. If the decline is deemed to be other than temporary, Alleghany writes it down to the carrying value of the investment and records an other-than-temporary impairment loss on its statement of earnings. In addition, under GAAP, any portion of such decline that relates to debt securities that is believed to arise from factors other than credit is to be recorded as a component of other comprehensive income.

Management's assessment of a decline in value includes, among other things: (i) the duration of time and the relative magnitude to which fair value of the investment has been below cost; (ii) the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer of the investment; (iii) extraordinary events, including negative news releases and rating agency downgrades, with respect to the issuer of the investment; (iv) Alleghany's ability and intent to hold an equity security for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery; and (v) whether it is more likely than not that Alleghany will sell a debt security before recovery of its amortized cost basis. A debt security is deemed impaired if it is probable that Alleghany will not be able to collect all amounts due under the security's contractual terms. An equity security is deemed impaired if, among other things, its decline in estimated fair value has existed for twelve months or more or if its decline in estimated fair value from its cost is greater than 50 percent, absent compelling evidence to the contrary. Further, for securities expected to be sold, an other-than-temporary impairment loss is recognized if Alleghany does not expect the fair value of a security to recover its cost prior to the expected date of sale. If that judgment changes in the future, Alleghany may ultimately record a realized loss after having originally concluded that the decline in value was temporary. Risks and uncertainties are inherent in the methodology Alleghany uses to assess other-than-temporary declines in value. Risks and uncertainties could include, but are not limited to, incorrect assumptions about financial condition, liquidity or future prospects, inadequacy of any underlying collateral, and unfavorable changes in economic or social conditions, interest rates or credit ratings.

Other-than-temporary impairment losses in 2009 reflect \$85.9 million of unrealized losses that were deemed to be other than temporary and, as such, are required to be charged against earnings. Of the \$85.9 million, \$57.6 million related to equity holdings in the energy sector, \$16.5 million related to equity holdings in various other sectors, and \$11.8 million related to debt security holdings (all of which were deemed to be credit-related). The determination that unrealized losses on such securities were other than temporary was primarily based on the severity of the declines in fair value of such securities relative to their cost as of the balance sheet date. Such severe declines are primarily related to a significant deterioration of U.S. equity market conditions during the latter part of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009, which abated somewhat in the remainder of 2009. Other-than-temporary impairment losses in 2008 reflect \$244.0 million related to unrealized losses that were deemed to be other than temporary and, as such, are required to be charged against earnings. Of the \$244.0 million of other-than-temporary impairment losses, \$144.8 million related to equity holdings in the energy sector, \$96.0 million related to equity holdings in various other sectors, and \$3.2 million related to debt security holdings (all of which were deemed to be credit-related). Such severe declines are primarily related to a significant deterioration of U.S. equity market conditions during the latter part of 2008. Other-than-temporary impairment losses in 2007 reflect \$7.7 million related to unrealized losses that were deemed to be other than temporary and, as such, are required to be charged against earnings.

Table of Contents**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued****3. Investments, continued**

After adjusting the cost basis of securities for the recognition of unrealized losses through other-than-temporary impairment losses, the gross unrealized investment losses and related fair value for debt securities and equity securities at December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008 were as follows (in millions):

	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses
2009		
<i>Debt securities</i>		
U.S. Government obligations		
Less than 12 months	\$ 225.5	\$ 1.5
More than 12 months		
Mortgage & asset-backed securities		
Less than 12 months	18.6	0.7
More than 12 months	149.2	12.8
States, municipalities & political subdivisions bonds		
Less than 12 months	98.1	2.5
More than 12 months	16.1	0.7
Foreign bonds		
Less than 12 months	1.0	
More than 12 months		
Corporate bonds and other		
Less than 12 months	50.7	0.4
More than 12 months	1.8	
Total debt securities		
Less than 12 months	393.9	5.1
More than 12 months	167.1	13.5
Equity securities – Common Stock		
Less than 12 months	105.0	5.8
More than 12 months		
Equity securi		