HANOVER INSURANCE GROUP, INC. Form 10-K February 26, 2013 Table of Contents

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

# **FORM 10-K**

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012

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: 1-13754

# THE HANOVER INSURANCE GROUP, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) 04-3263626 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

440 Lincoln Street, Worcester, Massachusetts

01653

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code Registrant s telephone number, including area code: (508) 855-1000

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

Title of each class Common Stock, \$.01 par value  $7^{5/8}$ % Senior Debentures due 2025

Name of each exchange on which registered New York Stock Exchange New York Stock Exchange

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

#### **NONE**

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

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 x No "

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months. Yes x 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 the 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. x

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 accelerated filer, a large accelerated filer, and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer x Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer " (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes " No x

Based on the closing sales price of June 29, 2012, the aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was \$1,710,334,422.

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant s common stock, \$0.01 par value, was 44,645,707 shares as of February 20, 2013.

# DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of The Hanover Insurance Group, Inc. s Proxy Statement relating to the 2013 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held May 14, 2013 to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A are incorporated by reference in Part III.

# THE HANOVER INSURANCE GROUP, INC.

# ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K

# FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Item	Description	Page
Part I		
1	<u>Business</u>	3
1A.	Risk Factors	21
1B.	Unresolved Staff Comments	37
2	<u>Properties</u>	37
3	<u>Legal Proceedings</u>	37
4	Mine Safety Disclosures	37
<u>Part II</u>		
5	Market for Registrant s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities	38
6	Selected Financial Data	39
7	Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	40
7A.	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	82
8	Financial Statements and Supplementary Data	83
9	Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	129
9A.	Controls and Procedures	129
9B.	Other Information	129
<u>Part III</u>		
10	Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance	130
11	Executive Compensation	131
12	Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters	132
13	Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence	132
14	Principal Accounting Fees and Services	132
Part IV		
15	Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules	133
	Exhibits Index	134
	<u>Signatures</u>	139

2

# **PART I**

# ITEM 1 BUSINESS ORGANIZATION

The Hanover Insurance Group, Inc. ( THG ) is a holding company organized as a Delaware corporation in 1995 and traces its roots to as early as 1852, when the Hanover Fire Insurance Company was founded. Our primary business operations are property and casualty insurance products and services marketed through independent agents and brokers in the United States ( U.S. ). We also conduct business internationally through a wholly-owned subsidiary, Chaucer Holdings plc ( Chaucer ), which operates through the Society and Corporation of Lloyd s ( Lloyd s ) and is domiciled in the United Kingdom ( U.K. ). Our consolidated financial statements include the accounts of THG; The Hanover Insurance Company ( Hanover Insurance ) and Citizens Insurance Company of America ( Citizens ), which are our principal U.S. domiciled property and casualty subsidiaries; Chaucer, which we acquired on July 1, 2011, and certain other insurance and non-insurance subsidiaries. Our results of operations also included the results of our discontinued operations, consisting primarily of our former life insurance businesses, our accident and health business and a third party administration business.

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT OPERATING SEGMENTS

We conduct our business operations through four operating segments. These segments are Commercial Lines, Personal Lines, Chaucer and Other Property and Casualty. We report interest expense related to our corporate debt separately from the earnings of our operating segments.

Information with respect to each of our segments is included in Segment Results in Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and in Note 13 Segment Information in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in Financial Statements and Supplementary Data of this Form 10-K.

Information with respect to geographic concentrations is included in the Description of Business by Segment in Part 1 Item 1 and in Note 13 Segment Information in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in Financial Statements and Supplementary Data of this Form 10-K.

# DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS BY SEGMENT

Following is a discussion of each of our operating segments.

# **GENERAL**

We manage our operations principally through four segments, including three in which we provide insurance products and services: Commercial Lines, Personal Lines, and Chaucer. We underwrite commercial and personal property and casualty insurance through Hanover Insurance, Citizens and other THG subsidiaries, through an independent agent and broker network concentrated in the Northeast, Midwest and Southeast U.S. We also continue to actively grow our Commercial Lines presence in the Western region of the U.S. Our Chaucer segment is a specialist insurance underwriting group which operates through Lloyd s and writes business internationally. Our fourth segment, Other Property and Casualty, consists of: Opus Investment Management, Inc. (Opus), which provides investment management services to institutions, pension funds and other organizations; earnings on holding company assets; and a run-off voluntary pools business.

Our business strategy focuses on providing our agents and customers stability and financial strength, while prudently growing and diversifying our product and geographical business mix. We conduct our business with an emphasis on agency relationships and active agency management, disciplined underwriting, pricing, quality claim handling, and customer service. On an annualized basis, we write approximately \$4 billion in written premium. Based on direct U.S. premiums written, we rank among the top 25 property and casualty insurers in the United States.

RISKS

The industry s profitability and cash flow can be, and historically has been, significantly affected by numerous factors, including price; competition; volatile and unpredictable developments such as extreme weather conditions, catastrophes and other disasters; legal and regulatory developments affecting pricing, underwriting, policy coverage and other aspects of doing business, as well as insurer and insureds—liability; extra-contractual liability; size of jury awards; acts of terrorism; fluctuations in interest and currency rates or the value of investments; and other general economic conditions and trends, such as inflationary pressure or unemployment, that may affect the adequacy of reserves or the demand for insurance products. Our investment portfolio and its future returns may be further impacted by the capital markets and current economic conditions, which could affect our liquidity, the amount of

realized losses and impairments that will be recognized, credit default levels, our ability to hold such investments until recovery and other factors. Additionally, the economic conditions in geographic locations where we conduct business, especially those locations where our business is concentrated, may affect the growth and profitability of our business. The regulatory environments in those locations, including any pricing, underwriting or product controls, shared market mechanisms or mandatory pooling arrangements, and other conditions, such as our agency relationships, affect the growth and profitability of our business. In addition, our loss and loss adjustment expense (LAE) reserves are based on our estimates, principally involving actuarial projections, at a given time, of what we expect the ultimate settlement and administration of claims will cost based on facts and circumstances then known, predictions of future events, estimates of future trends in claims frequency and severity and judicial theories of liability, costs of repairs and replacement, legislative activity and other factors. We expect to regularly reassess our estimate of loss reserves and LAE, both for current and past years, and any resulting changes will affect our reported profitability and financial position.

Reference is also made to Risk Factors in Part 1 Item 1A of this Form 10-K.

# LINES OF BUSINESS

We underwrite commercial and personal property and casualty insurance coverage through our Commercial Lines, Personal Lines and Chaucer operating segments.

# **Commercial Lines**

Our Commercial Lines segment generated \$2.0 billion, or 43.0%, of consolidated segment revenues and \$1.9 billion, or 43.5%, of net written premiums, for the year ended December 31, 2012.

The following table provides net written premiums by line of business for our Commercial Lines segment.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012	Ne	t Premiums Written	% of Total
(in millions, except ratios) Commercial multiple peril	\$	612.9	32.2%
Commercial automobile	Ψ	276.5	32.2 % 14.5
Workers compensation		201.4	10.6
Other commercial lines:			
AIX program business		277.0	14.6
Inland marine		183.4	9.7
Surety		71.0	3.7
Other		279.8	14.7
Total	\$	1,902.0	100.0%

Our Commercial Lines product suite provides agents and customers with products designed for small, middle and specialized markets.

# Commercial Lines coverages include:

Commercial multiple peril coverage insures businesses against third party general liability from accidents occurring on their premises or arising out of their operations, such as injuries sustained from products sold. It also insures business property for damage, such as that caused by fire, wind, hail, water damage (which may exclude flood), theft and vandalism.

Commercial automobile coverage insures businesses against losses incurred from personal bodily injury, bodily injury to third parties, property damage to an insured s vehicle and property damage to other vehicles and property.

Workers compensation coverage insures employers against employee medical and indemnity claims resulting from injuries related to work. Workers compensation policies are often written in conjunction with other commercial policies.

Other commercial lines is comprised of:

AIX program business provides coverage to under-served markets where there are specialty coverage or risk management needs, including commercial multiple peril, workers compensation, commercial automobile, general liability and other commercial coverages; inland marine coverage insures businesses against physical losses to property, such as contractor s equipment, builders risk and goods in transit, and also covers jewelers block, fine art and other valuables;

surety provides businesses with contract surety coverage in the event of performance or non-payment claims, and commercial surety coverage related to fiduciary or regulatory obligations; and

other commercial lines coverages include management and professional liability, specialty property, healthcare, umbrella and monoline general liability and fire.

Our strategy in Commercial Lines focuses on building deep relationships with partner agents through differentiated product offerings, industry segmentation, and franchise value through limited distribution. We have made a number of enhancements to our products and technology platforms that are intended to drive more total account placements in our small commercial and middle market business, while delivering enhanced margins in our specialty businesses. This aligns with our focus of improving and expanding our partnerships with a limited number of agents.

Our small commercial, middle market and specialty businesses, constitute approximately 30%, 33% and 37% of our total Commercial Lines business, respectively. Small commercial offerings, which generally includes premiums of \$50,000 or less, deliver value through product expertise, local presence, and ease of doing business. Middle market accounts require greater claim and underwriting expertise, as well as a focus on industry segments where we can deliver differentiation in the market and value to agents and customers. Small and middle market accounts comprise \$1.2 billion of the Commercial Lines. Our strategy is to continue to grow these businesses over time, even as we seek to reduce property exposures in certain geographic areas and manage our mix of business in the short term.

In our small commercial and middle market businesses, we have developed several niche insurance programs, including for schools, human services organizations, such as non-profit youth and community service organizations, and religious institutions. We have added additional segmentation to our core middle market commercial products, including real estate, hospitality and wholesale distributors and introduced products focused on management liability, specifically non-profit directors and officers liability and employment practices liability, and coverage for private company directors and officers liability.

Part of our strategy is to grow specialty lines in order to provide our agents and policyholders with a broader product portfolio. In addition, over time specialty lines have historically generated higher margins within the property and casualty industry. Net written premiums in our specialty lines grew by approximately \$106 million in 2012 and accounts for approximately one-third of our Commercial Lines net premiums written. Growth in our specialty lines continues to be a significant part of our strategy.

As part of our strategy, we have acquired various specialized businesses aimed at further diversifying and growing our specialty lines. We used these acquisitions as platforms to expand our product offerings and grow through our existing agency and broker distribution network. AIX focuses on underwriting and managing program business. We built our product portfolio in our Hanover Professionals business through the acquisitions of a professional liability insurance carrier for small to medium-sized legal practices and a provider of insurance solutions to the design professionals industry, including architects and engineers. Additionally, we developed a Hanover Specialty Industrial business through the acquisition of a property insurer of small and medium-sized industrial risks, including chemical, paint, solvent and other manufacturing and distribution companies. To establish our Hanover Healthcare operations, we acquired a provider of insurance solutions for selected portions of the healthcare industry, including durable medical equipment suppliers, behavioral health specialists, eldercare providers and podiatrists. Finally, we geographically expanded and built our surety capabilities in our Western expansion states through various renewal rights transactions. Collectively, these acquisitions have enabled us to provide new product offerings to our partner agents and policyholders, and to enter new geographical markets.

We believe our small commercial capabilities, distinctiveness in the middle market, and continued development of specialty business provides us with a more diversified portfolio of products and enables us to deliver significant value to our agents and policyholders. We believe these efforts will enable us to continue to improve the overall mix of our business and ultimately our underwriting profitability.

# Personal Lines

Our Personal Lines segment generated \$1.6 billion, or 34.1%, of consolidated segment revenues and \$1.5 billion, or 33.8%, of net written premiums, for the year ended December 31, 2012.

The following table provides net written premiums by line of business for our Personal Lines segment.

	Net	
	Premiums	
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012	Written	% of Total
(in millions, except ratios)		
Personal automobile	\$ 922.7	62.5%
Homeowners	510.2	34.6
Other	42.7	2.9
Total	\$ 1,475.6	100.0%

Personal Lines coverages include:

*Personal automobile* coverage insures individuals against losses incurred from personal bodily injury, bodily injury to third parties, property damage to an insured s vehicle, and property damage to other vehicles and other property.

*Homeowners* coverage insures individuals for losses to their residences and personal property, such as those caused by fire, wind, hail, water damage (except for flood), theft and vandalism, and against third party liability claims.

Other personal lines are comprised of personal inland marine (jewelry, art, etc.), umbrella, fire, personal watercraft, earthquake and other miscellaneous coverages.

5

Our strategy in Personal Lines is to build our account oriented business through our partner agencies, with a focus on greater geographic diversification. The market for our Personal Lines business continues to be very competitive, with continued pressure on agents from direct writers, as well as from the increased usage of real time comparative rating tools and increasingly sophisticated rating and pricing tools. We maintain our focus on partnering with high quality, value added agencies that stress the importance of account rounding (the conversion of single policy customers to accounts with multiple policies and/or additional coverages) and consultative selling. We are focused on making investments that are intended to help us maintain profitability, build a distinctive position in the market, and provide us with profitable growth opportunities. We continue to refine our products and to work closely with these high potential agents to increase the percentage of business they place with us and to ensure that it is consistent with our preferred mix of business. Additionally, we remain focused on further diversifying our state mix beyond our historical core states of Michigan, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey, and on reducing our property exposures in concentrated areas or where we have experienced persistent weather-related losses. We expect these efforts to decrease our risk concentrations and our dependency on these four states, as well as to contribute to improved profitability over time.

#### Chaucer

Our Chaucer segment generated \$1.0 billion, or 22.5%, of consolidated segment revenues and \$1.0 billion, or 22.7%, of net written premiums, for the year ended December 31, 2012.

The following table provides net written premiums by line of business for our Chaucer segment.

	Net	
	Premiums	
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012	Written	% of Total
(in millions, except ratios)		
U.K. motor	\$ 259.8	26.2%
Marine and aviation	234.3	23.7
Energy	195.1	19.7
Property	161.3	16.3
Casualty and other	140.0	14.1
Total	\$ 990.5	100.0%

The Chaucer segment is comprised of international business written through Lloyd s, and includes:

Marine and aviation includes worldwide direct, facultative and treaty business. The marine account provides cover for hull, liability, war, terrorism, cargo, political risk, specie, fine art and satellite. The aviation account insures airline hull and liability, general aviation, refuellers and aviation products.

*Energy* encompasses exploration and production, construction, downstream, operational power and renewables, insuring against physical damage, business interruption, control of well, seepage and pollution and liabilities. Energy also includes a nuclear account, which provides coverage across the nuclear fuel cycle from raw uranium and nuclear fuel to the shipment and storage of waste, with the majority of the exposure relating to power generation at nuclear power stations. In addition to providing coverage for physical damage to civil nuclear power stations, nuclear also provides limited liability coverage.

*Property* includes treaty business, as well as direct and facultative coverage for commercial and industrial risks against physical damage and business interruption. The treaty account covers cedants on a global basis, predominantly on an excess of loss basis for both per risk and catastrophe coverage, with a limited amount of proportional treaty and reinsurance assumed business.

*U.K. motor* provides primary insurance coverage to U.K. motor policyholders. Chaucer writes personal automobile, commercial and fleet polices, as well as specialist classes, including motorcycles, motor trade, and classic and specialist vehicles. In addition, the U.K. motor line includes a small amount of commercial property damage and liability polices protecting small/medium-sized enterprises.

Casualty and other provides liability coverage for professional and commercial risks on a direct and treaty basis, crime and professional liability coverage for financial institutions, medical malpractice and excess workers—compensation. Other lines also encompass liabilities arising from previous participations on third party Lloyd—s syndicates, principally from Syndicate 4000, which provides liability coverage to financial institutions.

Chaucer is a specialist insurance underwriting group that participates in the Lloyd s market through the provision of capital to support the underwriting activities of syndicates at Lloyd s and the ownership of Chaucer Syndicates Limited (CSL), a managing agent. CSL manages two syndicates currently underwriting at Lloyd s.

Chaucer provides capital to Syndicate 1084, which underwrites a range of property, marine, aviation, casualty and energy products for commercial clients worldwide and motor business for personal and commercial clients in the

6

U.K.; and Syndicate 1176, which primarily provides protection against physical damage and liability exposures from power generation at nuclear power stations. The energy line of business includes approximately \$22 million of net written premiums from Syndicate 1176.

Our economic interest in Syndicate 1084 is 98% for 2013, increasing from 84% in 2012, primarily due to our decision not to renew a capital provision reinsurance treaty with Flagstone Re that provided additional gross underwriting capacity for both 2011 and 2012 of \$160 million. Our economic interest on Syndicate 1176 has increased slightly to 56% in 2013 from 55% in 2012.

Chaucer also provides fee-based managing agent and other business services to Syndicates 1301 and 4242. These syndicates will be transferred to new managing agencies in 2013.

Previously, Chaucer managed and participated in Syndicate 4000, which continues to have exposure to potential claims arising from difficulties within the financial and professional liability markets, primarily during 2007 and 2008. Chaucer sold its right to participate in Syndicate 4000 for the 2009 year of account and after.

Chaucer has broad underwriting expertise to support its diversified underwriting portfolio that, we believe, provides many benefits, including capital diversification, volatility management and long-term protection of our underwriting capabilities. We actively manage our portfolio, transferring underwriting capital to increase premium volumes during periods of increased rates, while remaining selective or reducing our capital and premium volumes in those lines where rates are under pressure.

Overall, we believe that the strength and depth of our underwriting teams, together with the broad diversity of our underwriting portfolio and our membership of the Lloyd s market, underpin our ability to manage both the scale and composition of our business. Moreover, these strengths, combined with our continued active management of our portfolio and the underwriting opportunities available, provide a sound basis for the profitable development of the Chaucer business.

# Other Property and Casualty

The Other Property and Casualty segment consists of: Opus, which provides investment advisory services to affiliates and also manages approximately \$1.4 billion of assets for unaffiliated institutions such as insurance companies, retirement plans and foundations; earnings on holding company assets; and voluntary pools business which is in run-off.

# MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION

We are a diverse property and casualty insurance company serving a variety of standard, specialty and niche markets. Consistent with our objective to diversify our underwriting risks on a geographic and line of business basis, we currently have a distribution split of approximately one-third each of domestic standard Commercial Lines, international and domestic specialty lines, and domestic standard Personal Lines. Our Commercial and Personal Lines segments, comprising our principal domestic U.S. subsidiaries, distribute our products primarily through an independent agent network. Our Chaucer segment, comprising our international business, distributes primarily through insurance brokers in the Lloyd s market, as well as through comparative website aggregators with respect to the U.K. motor business.

# **Commercial and Personal Lines**

Our Commercial and Personal Lines agency distribution strategy and field structure allow us to maintain a strong focus on local markets and the flexibility to respond to specific market conditions. During 2012, we wrote 22.6% of our Commercial and Personal Lines business in Michigan and 9.6% in Massachusetts. Our structure is a key factor in the establishment and maintenance of productive, long-term relationships with mid-sized, well-established independent agencies. We maintain thirty-three local branch sales and underwriting offices and maintain a presence in twenty-nine states. The majority of processing support for these locations is provided from Worcester, Massachusetts; Howell, Michigan; Salem, Virginia; and Buffalo, New York.

Independent agents account for substantially all of the sales of our Commercial and Personal Lines property and casualty products. Agencies are appointed based on profitability, track record, financial stability, professionalism, and business strategy. Once appointed, we monitor their performance and, subject to legal and regulatory requirements, may take actions as necessary to change these business relationships, such as

discontinuing the authority of the agent to underwrite certain products or revising commissions or bonus opportunities. We compensate agents primarily through base commissions and bonus plans that are tied to an agency s written premium, growth and profitability.

We are licensed to sell property and casualty insurance in all fifty states in the U.S., as well as in the District of Columbia. We actively market Commercial Lines policies throughout the U.S. and Personal Lines policies in eighteen states.

7

The following table provides our top commercial and personal geographical markets based on total net written premium in the state in 2012.

	Comme Net	rcial Lines	Pers Net	onal Lines	Total Comm Pers Net	nercial and onal Lines
	Premiums	% of	Premiums	% of	Premiums	% of
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012	Written	Total	Written	Total	Written	Total
(in millions, except ratios)						
Michigan	\$ 137.0	7.2%	\$ 624.9	42.3%	\$ 761.9	22.6%
Massachusetts	142.8	7.5	181.5	12.3	324.3	9.6
New York	197.3	10.4	81.3	5.5	278.6	8.2
California	226.3	11.9			226.3	6.7
New Jersey	106.3	5.6	73.4	5.0	179.7	5.3
Illinois	83.7	4.4	62.7	4.2	146.4	4.3
Texas	119.5	6.3			119.5	3.5
Florida	89.0	4.7	17.7	1.2	106.7	3.2
Connecticut	47.6	2.5	50.0	3.4	97.6	2.9
Virginia	55.7	2.9	34.5	2.3	90.2	2.7
Maine	57.0	3.0	31.6	2.1	88.6	2.6
Georgia	48.2	2.5	38.8	2.6	87.0	2.6
Indiana	35.3	1.9	39.2	2.7	74.5	2.2
New Hampshire	37.4	2.0	36.5	2.5	73.9	2.2
Louisiana	32.5	1.7	38.0	2.6	70.5	2.1
Tennessee	31.2	1.6	34.2	2.3	65.4	1.9
Oklahoma	31.1	1.6	32.8	2.2	63.9	1.9
Ohio	23.7	1.2	37.3	2.5	61.0	1.8
Wisconsin	26.7	1.4	23.0	1.6	49.7	1.5
Other	373.7	19.7	38.2	2.7	411.9	12.2
Total	\$ 1,902.0	100.0%	\$ 1,475.6	100.0%	\$ 3,377.6	100.0%

We manage our Commercial Lines portfolio, which includes our core and specialty businesses, with a focus on growth from the most profitable industry segments within our underwriting expertise. Our core business is generally comprised of several coordinated commercial lines of business, including small and middle market accounts, which

include segmented businesses and niches. Core Commercial Lines direct written premium is comprised of small and mid-sized accounts; such business is split between small accounts generally having less than \$50,000 in premium and middle market accounts, those with premium over \$50,000, with most accounts having less than \$250,000 of premium. Additionally, we have multiple specialty lines of business, which consist of program business, inland marine, management and professional liability, surety, specialty property and healthcare. The Commercial Lines segment seeks to maintain strong agency relationships as a strategy to secure and retain our agents best business. The quality of business written is monitored through an ongoing quality review program, accountability for which is shared at the local, regional and corporate levels.

We manage Personal Lines business with a focus on acquiring and retaining quality accounts. More than 54% of our Personal Lines net written premium is generated in the combined states of Michigan and Massachusetts. In Michigan, based upon direct written premium for 2011, we underwrite approximately 8% of the state s total market.

Approximately 64% of our Michigan Personal Lines business is in the personal automobile line and 35% is in the homeowners line. Michigan business represents approximately 43% of both our total personal automobile and our total homeowners net written premium. In Michigan, we are a principal market for many of our appointed agencies, averaging over \$1.4 million of total direct written premium per agency in 2012.

Approximately 70% of our Massachusetts Personal Lines business is in the personal automobile line and 26% is in the homeowners line. Massachusetts business represents approximately 14% of our total personal automobile net written premium and approximately 9% of our total homeowners net written premium.

We sponsor local and national agent advisory councils to gain the benefit of our agents insight and enhance our relationships. These councils provide feedback, input on the development of products and services, guidance on marketing efforts, support for our strategies, and assist us in enhancing our local market presence.

8

#### Chaucer

Chaucer underwrites business from two main sources: approximately 78% from Lloyd s brokers and underwriting agencies, placed in the open market, and 22% from retail brokers and comparative website aggregators for U.K. motor business. We primarily compensate brokers, underwriting agencies and aggregators through commission payments.

In the Lloyd s open market, brokers approach Chaucer with individual insurance and reinsurance risk opportunities for underwriter consideration. Brokers also gain access to Chaucer s products through selected underwriting agencies (coverholders), to which Chaucer has granted limited authority to make underwriting decisions on individual risks. In general, risks written through underwriting agencies are smaller in terms of both exposure and premium. Risks are placed in Lloyd s through a subscription placement process whereby generally several syndicates take a share of a contract rather than one insurer taking 100% on a direct basis. This facilitates the spreading of large and complex risks across a number of insurers, while limiting the counterparty risk of each insurer.

We have an international network of offices to improve our access to high quality risks worldwide. This is expected to improve the diversification of our underwriting and our ability to manage our portfolio. We have offices in Singapore; Copenhagen, Denmark; and Buenos Aires, Argentina to capitalize upon specific class of business opportunities in these regions. We also have offices in Houston, Texas, to extend our energy network to North America, and Oslo. Norway, to provide access to the Norwegian and regional North Sea energy sector.

The following table provides a geographical breakdown of Chaucer s total gross written premiums ( GWP ) based on the location of risk:

	% of Total GWP
	in Chaucer
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012	Segment
United Kingdom <sup>(1)</sup>	23.1%
United States	12.4
Americas, excluding the United States	8.6
Asia Pacific	6.2
Middle East and Africa	4.9
Europe	3.7
Worldwide and other <sup>(2)</sup>	41.1
Total	100.0%

(1) Primarily U.K. motor.

(2) Worldwide and other comprises insured risks that move across multiple geographic areas due to their mobile nature or insured risks that are fixed in locations that span more than one geographic area. These contracts include, for example, marine and aviation hull, satellite and offshore energy exploration and production risks that can move across multiple geographic areas and assumed risks where the cedant insures risks in two or more geographic zones.

#### **Other Property and Casualty**

With respect to our Other Property and Casualty segment business, we market our investment advisory services directly through Opus.

# PRICING AND COMPETITION

We seek to achieve targeted combined ratios in each of our product lines. Our targets vary by product and geography and change with market conditions. The targeted combined ratios reflect competitive market conditions, investment yield expectations, our loss payout patterns, and target returns on equity. This strategy is intended to enable us to achieve measured growth and consistent profitability.

For all major product lines, we employ pricing teams which produce exposure and experience-based rating models to support underwriting decisions. In addition, in our Commercial and Personal Lines segments, we seek to utilize our knowledge of local markets to achieve superior underwriting results. We rely on market information provided by our local agents and on the knowledge of our staff in the local branch offices. Since we maintain a strong regional focus and a significant market share in a number of states, we can apply our knowledge and experience in making underwriting and rate setting decisions. Also, we seek to gather objective and verifiable information at a policy level during the underwriting process, such as past driving records and, where permitted, credit histories.

The property and casualty industry is a very competitive market. Our competitors include national, international, regional and local companies that sell insurance through various distribution channels, including independent agencies, captive agency forces, brokers and direct to consumers through the internet or otherwise. They also include mutual insurance companies, reciprocals and exchanges. In our Commercial and Personal Lines segments, we market through independent agents and brokers and compete for business on the basis of product, price, agency and customer service, local relationships and ratings, and effective claims handling, among other things. We believe that our emphasis on maintaining strong agency relationships and a local presence in our markets, coupled with investments in products, operating efficiency, technology and effective claims handling, will enable us to compete effectively. Our broad product offerings in Commercial Lines and total account strategy in Personal Lines are instrumental to our strategy to capitalize on these relationships and improve our profitability.

Our Commercial and Personal Lines segments are not dependent on a single customer or even a few customers, for which the loss of any one or more would have an adverse effect upon the insurance operations for these segments.

9

Although we conduct some business on a direct basis through our Chaucer segment, we market the majority of our Chaucer product offerings through insurance brokers in the Lloyd's specialty and the U.K. motor markets, which provide access to business from clients and coverholders. We are able to attract business through our recognized capability to serve as the lead underwriter in most classes we write, particularly in classes where such lead ability is sought by clients and recognized by following markets. This requires significant underwriting and claims handling expertise in very specialized lines of business. Our competitors include large international insurance companies and other Lloyd's managing underwriters. In the U.K. motor lines, our competitors include large U.K. personal lines insurers. Broker relationships that are ten percent or more of total Chaucer 2012 gross written premiums are with Marsh & McLennan Companies (15%) and Aon Benfield (13%).

#### CLAIMS MANAGEMENT

Claims management includes the receipt of initial loss notifications, generation of appropriate responses to claim reports, loss appraisals, identification and handling of coverage issues, determination of whether further investigation is required, retention of legal representation where appropriate, establishment of case reserves, approval of loss payments and notification to reinsurers. Effective claims management is important since claim payments and LAE are our single largest expenditures and quick and fair claim settlements are important to customer and agent relations.

#### **Commercial and Personal Lines**

We utilize experienced claims adjusters, appraisers, medical specialists, managers and attorneys to manage our claims. Our U.S. property and casualty operations have field claims adjusters strategically located throughout the states in which we do business. Claims staff members work closely with the independent agents who bound the policies under which coverage is claimed.

Claims office adjusting staff is supported by general adjusters for large property and large casualty losses, by automobile and heavy equipment damage appraisers for automobile material damage losses, and by medical specialists whose principal concentration is on workers—compensation and automobile injury cases. In addition, the claims offices are supported by staff attorneys who specialize in litigation defense and claim settlements. We have a catastrophe response team to assist policyholders impacted by severe weather events. This team mobilizes quickly to impacted regions, often in advance for a large tracked storm, to support our local claims adjusters and facilitate a timely response to resulting claims. We also maintain a special investigative unit that investigates suspected insurance fraud and abuse. We utilize claims processing technology which allows most of the smaller and more routine Personal Lines claims to be processed at centralized locations.

# Chaucer

For international risks, the Chaucer claims team generally is responsible for establishing case reserves, loss and LAE cost management, exposure mitigation and litigation management. Chaucer has engaged a third party administrator to handle aviation claims and authorizes selected agencies to manage claims under risks which they have bound on Chaucer s behalf.

For claims under our direct claims team management, where Chaucer is the lead syndicate or designated claims manager, our appointed claims adjusters work with the broker representing the insured. This may involve appointing attorneys, loss adjusters or other third party experts. Where Chaucer is not the lead underwriter or designated claims manager, the lead underwriter and designated claims manager together establish case reserves in conjunction with professional third party adjusters, and then advise all other syndicates participating on the risk of the loss reserve requirements. In such cases, the Chaucer claims team review material claims and developments. Chaucer also engages automobile body and repair shops to assist in managing claims for its U.K. motor business.

# **CATASTROPHES**

We are subject to claims arising out of catastrophes, which historically have had a significant impact on our results of operations and financial condition. Coverage for such events is a core part of our business and we expect to experience catastrophe losses in the future, which could have a material adverse impact on us. Catastrophes can be caused by various events, including snow, ice storm, hurricane, earthquake, tornado, wind, hail, flood, drought, terrorism, fire, explosion, or other extraordinary events. The incidence and severity of catastrophes are inherently unpredictable.

# **Commercial and Personal Lines**

We endeavor to manage our catastrophe risks through underwriting procedures, including the use of deductibles and specific exclusions for floods and earthquakes, subject to regulatory restrictions, and through geographic exposure management and reinsurance. The catastrophe reinsurance program is structured to protect us on a per-occurrence basis. We monitor geographic location and coverage concentrations in order to manage corporate exposure to

10

catastrophic events. Although catastrophes can cause losses in a variety of property and casualty lines, commercial multiple peril and homeowners property coverages have, in the past, generated the majority of catastrophe-related claims.

#### Chaucer

Individual commercial and industrial risks within our property, marine and aviation, and energy lines include protection against natural or man-made catastrophes worldwide. We accept these risks on direct, facultative and proportional and excess of loss treaty bases. Such risks are managed through limiting the proportion of any individual risk or class of risk we assume, managing geographic concentration and through the purchase of reinsurance.

We purchase reinsurance to limit our exposure to individual risks and catastrophic events. This includes facultative reinsurance, to limit the exposure on a specified risk; specific excess and proportional treaty, to limit exposure to individual contracts or risks within specified classes of business; and catastrophe excess of loss reinsurance, to limit exposure to any one event that might affect more than one individual contract.

The level of reinsurance that Chaucer purchases is dependent on a number of factors, including our underwriting risk appetite for catastrophe risk, the specific risks inherent in each line or class of business risk written and the pricing, coverage and terms and conditions available from the reinsurance market.

# **TERRORISM**

Private sector catastrophe reinsurance is limited and generally unavailable for losses attributed to acts of terrorism, particularly those involving nuclear, biological, chemical and/or radiological events. As a result, our primary reinsurance protection against large-scale terrorist attacks in the U.S. is presently provided through a Federal program that provides compensation for insured losses resulting from acts of terrorism. Additionally, certain terrorism-related risks embedded in our Commercial and Personal Lines are covered under the existing Catastrophe, Property per Risk and Casualty Excess of Loss corporate reinsurance treaties (see Reinsurance for additional information).

The Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 established the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program (the U.S. Program ). Coverage under the U.S. Program applies to workers compensation, commercial multiple peril and certain other Commercial Lines policies for U.S. direct written policies. The Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007 (TRIPRA) extended the U.S. Program through December 31, 2014.

As required by the current U.S. Program, we offer policyholders in specific lines of insurance the option to elect terrorism coverage. In order for a loss to be covered under the U.S. Program, the loss must meet aggregate industry loss minimums and must be the result of an act of terrorism as certified by the Secretary of the Treasury. The current U.S. Program requires us to retain 15% of any claims from a certified terrorist event in excess of our federally mandated deductible. Our deductible represents 20% of direct earned premium for the covered lines of business of the prior year. In 2012, the deductible was \$273.9 million, which represents 17.3% of year-end 2011 statutory policyholder surplus of our U.S. domestic insurers, and is estimated to be \$322.7 million in 2013, representing 21.2% of 2012 year-end statutory policyholder surplus. Under applicable regulations, we are permitted to reinsure our retention and deductible under the U.S Program, although at this time, we have not purchased additional specific terrorism-only reinsurance coverage.

Given the unpredictable nature of the frequency and severity of terrorism losses, future losses from acts of terrorism could be material to our operating results, financial position, and/or liquidity. We attempt to manage our exposures on an individual line of business basis and in the aggregate by zip code.

Our Chaucer segment s direct written U.S. policies are also covered under the provisions of TRIPRA, where the deductible is estimated to be \$0.5 million and \$0.4 million in 2012 and 2013, respectively. For our nuclear energy business, most of our liability coverage sub-limits do not exclude strict liability under the nuclear conventions for terrorism. Where our policies protect nuclear properties from terrorism, we restrict the coverage provided to a maximum of 50% of full policy limits.

REGULATION

# **Commercial and Personal Lines**

Our U.S. property and casualty insurance subsidiaries are subject to extensive regulation in the various states in which they transact business and are supervised by the individual state insurance departments. Numerous aspects of our business are subject to regulation, including premium rates, mandatory covered risks, limitations on the ability to non-renew or reject business, prohibited exclusions, licensing of agents, investments, restrictions on the size of risks that may be insured under a single policy, reserves and provisions for unearned premiums, losses and other obligations, deposits of securities for the benefit of policyholders, investments and capital, policy forms and coverages, advertising, and other conduct, including restrictions on the use of credit information and other factors in underwriting, as

11

well as other underwriting and claims practices. States also regulate various aspects of the contractual relationships between insurers and independent agents.

Such laws, rules and regulations are usually overseen and enforced by the various state insurance departments, as well as through private rights of action and increasingly, by state attorneys general. Such regulations or enforcement actions are often responsive to current consumer and political sensitivities such as automobile and homeowners insurance rates and coverage forms, or which may arise after a major event such as Superstorm Sandy. Such rules and regulations may result in rate suppression, and limit our ability to manage our exposure to unprofitable or volatile risks or other adverse consequences. The federal government also may regulate aspects of our businesses such as the use of insurance (credit) scores in underwriting and the protection of confidential information.

In addition, as a condition to writing business in certain states, insurers are required to participate in various pools or risk sharing mechanisms or to accept certain classes of risk, regardless of whether such risks meet its underwriting requirements for voluntary business. Some states also limit or impose restrictions on the ability of an insurer to withdraw from certain classes of business. For example, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and California each impose material restrictions on a company s ability to materially reduce its exposures or to withdraw from certain lines of business in their respective states. The state insurance departments can impose significant charges on an insurer in connection with a market withdrawal or refuse to approve withdrawal plans on the grounds that they could lead to market disruption. Laws and regulations that limit cancellation and non-renewal of policies or that subject withdrawal plans to prior approval requirements may significantly restrict our ability to exit unprofitable markets.

Over the past several years, other state-sponsored insurers, reinsurers or involuntary pools have increased, particularly those states which have Atlantic or Gulf Coast storm exposures. As a result, the potential assessment exposure of insurers doing business in such states and the attendant collection risks have increased. Such actions and related regulatory restrictions may limit our ability to reduce our potential exposure to hurricane-related losses.

The insurance laws of many states subject property and casualty insurers doing business in those states to statutory property and casualty guaranty fund assessments. The purpose of a guaranty fund is to protect policyholders by requiring that solvent property and casualty insurers pay insurance claims of insolvent insurers. These guaranty associations generally pay these claims by assessing solvent insurers proportionately based on the insurer s share of voluntary written premium in the state. While most guaranty associations provide for recovery of assessments through subsequent rate increases, surcharges or premium tax credits, there is no assurance that insurers will ultimately recover these assessments, which could be material, particularly following a large catastrophe or in markets which become disrupted.

We are subject to periodic financial and market conduct examinations conducted by state insurance departments. We are also required to file annual and other reports with state insurance departments relating to the financial condition of our insurance subsidiaries and other matters.

From time to time, proposals have been made to establish a federal based insurance regulatory system and to allow insurers to elect either federal or state-based regulation (optional federal chartering). In light of the recent economic crisis, the focus on increased regulatory controls and the creation of a Federal Insurance Office, there has been renewed interest in such proposals.

#### Chaucer

Our Chaucer segment is regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA), which has responsibility for the financial services industry, including insurers, insurance intermediaries and Lloyds in the U.K., and is also supervised by the Council of Lloyds, which is the franchisor for all Lloyds operations.

The FSA is an independent non-governmental body, given statutory powers by the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA). The FSA has wide ranging powers in relation to rule-making, investigation and enforcement to enable it to meet its statutory objectives of promoting financial stability, efficient, orderly and fair markets and fair treatment of retail consumers.

In 2013, and following amendments to the FSMA, the Prudential Regulation Authority ( PRA ) and the Financial Conduct Authority ( FCA ) will replace the FSA. The PRA will be responsible for the prudential supervision of, among other financial institutions, insurers, with a particular focus on financial stability. The FCA will focus on conduct of business issues, with a particular focus on consumer protection. The respective roles of the PRA, FCA, and Lloyd s remain to be determined under the new regulatory regime.

The FSA and Council of Lloyd s have common objectives in ensuring the appropriate regulation of the Lloyd s market and, to minimize duplication, the FSA has arrangements with Lloyd s for co-operation on supervision and enforcement. The Council of Lloyd s, which has FSA author-

12

ization, has responsibility under the Lloyd s Act 1982 (the Lloyd s Act ) for the implementation of certain FSA prescribed rules relating to the operation of the Lloyd s market. Lloyd s prescribes, in respect of its managing agents and corporate members, certain minimum standards relating to their management and control, solvency and various other requirements. The FSA directly monitors the compliance of Lloyd s managing agents with the systems and controls that Lloyd s prescribes.

The Council of Lloyd s has wide discretionary powers to regulate Lloyd s underwriting. For example, it may change the basis of allocation for syndicate expenses or the capital requirements for syndicate participations. Exercising any of these powers might affect the return on an investment of the corporate member in a given underwriting year. In addition, the annual business plans of each syndicate are subject to the review and approval of the Lloyd s Franchise Board, which is responsible for business planning and monitoring for all syndicates.

We participate in the Lloyd s market through our ownership of CSL, a managing agent with responsibility for the management of Syndicates 1084 and 1176, for which we provide capital to support their underwriting activities. Our membership in Lloyd s requires us to comply with its bylaws and regulations, the Lloyd s Act and the applicable provisions of the Financial Services and Markets Act. These include the requirement to provide capital (referred to as Funds at Lloyd s) in the form of cash, securities or letters of credit in an amount agreed with by Lloyd s under the capital setting regime of the FSA. The completion of an annual capital adequacy exercise enables each corporate member to calculate the capital required. These requirements allow Lloyd s to evaluate whether each corporate member has sufficient assets to meet its underwriting liabilities plus a required solvency margin.

If a corporate member of Lloyd s is unable to meets its policyholder obligations, such obligations may be payable by the Lloyd s Central Fund, which acts similar to a state guaranty fund in the U.S. If Lloyd s determines that the Central Fund needs to be increased, it has the power to assess premium levies on all current Lloyd s members. The Council of Lloyd s has discretion to call or assess up to 3% of a member s underwriting capacity in 2013 as a Central Fund contribution.

# Solvency II

In 2009, the European Union ( E.U. ) adopted a directive covering capital requirements, risk management and regulatory reporting for insurance organizations. The directive, known as Solvency II, imposes economic risk-based solvency requirements across all E.U. member states that comprise three pillars. First, there are quantitative capital requirements, based on a valuation of the entire balance sheet of an insurance organization. Second, Solvency II requires insurance organizations to undertake a qualitative regulatory review, including governance, internal controls, enterprise risk management and the supervisory review process. Third, to enhance market discipline, insurance organizations must report their financial conditions to regulators. Final E.U. approval of Solvency II is currently due in the first half of 2013, with an anticipated commencement date for the new regulatory regime of January 1, 2015 at the earliest.

Chaucer continues to work to ensure compliance with the requirements in accordance with the timetable set out by Lloyd s, including certain FSA agreed transition arrangements, which were effective for the Lloyd s capital setting process in November 2012.

#### Other

In addition to the U.K. and European regulations, our Chaucer segment is subject to regulation in the U.S through the Lloyd s market. The Lloyd s market has licenses to engage in insurance business in Illinois, Kentucky and the U.S. Virgin Islands and operates as an eligible excess and surplus lines insurer in all other states and territories. Lloyd s is also an accredited reinsurer in all states and territories. Lloyd s maintains various trust funds in the state of New York to protect its U.S. business and is subject to regulation by the New York Insurance Department, which acts as the domiciliary department for Lloyd s U.S. trust funds. There are also deposit trust funds in other U.S. states to support Lloyd s excess and surplus lines insurance and reinsurance business.

See also to Note 17 Commitments and Contingencies in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Financial Statements and Supplementary Data of this Form 10-K.

INVOLUNTARY RESIDUAL MARKETS

As a condition of our license to write business in various domestic states and international jurisdictions, we are required to participate in mandatory property and casualty residual market mechanisms which provide various insurance coverages where such coverage may not otherwise be available at rates deemed reasonable. Such mechanisms provide coverage primarily for personal and commercial property, personal and commercial automobile, and workers compensation, and include assigned risk plans, reinsurance facilities and involuntary pools, joint underwriting associations, fair access to insurance requirements (FAIR) plans, and commercial automobile insurance plans.

13

For example, since most states compel the purchase of a minimal level of automobile liability insurance, states have developed shared market mechanisms to provide the required coverages and in many cases, optional coverages, to those drivers who, because of their driving records or other factors, cannot find insurers who will insure them voluntarily. Also, FAIR plans and other similar property insurance shared market mechanisms increase the availability of property insurance in circumstances where homeowners are unable to obtain insurance at rates deemed reasonable, such as in coastal areas or in areas subject to other hazards. Licensed insurers writing business in such states are often required to pay assessments to cover reserve deficiencies generated by such plans.

With respect to FAIR plans and other similar property insurance shared market mechanisms that have significant exposures, it is difficult to accurately estimate our potential financial exposure for future events. Assessments following a large coastal event, particularly affecting Massachusetts, Florida, New York or New Jersey, could be material to our results of operations. Our participation in such shared markets or pooling mechanisms is generally proportional to our direct writings for the type of coverage written by the specific pooling mechanism in the applicable state or other jurisdiction. For example, we are subject to mandatory participation in the Michigan Assigned Claims (MAC) facility. MAC is an assigned claim plan covering people injured in uninsured motor vehicle accidents. Our participation in the MAC facility is based on our share of personal and commercial automobile direct written premium in the state and resulted in underwriting losses of \$15.0 million, \$11.1 million and \$10.1 million in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Additionally, Chaucer s U.K. motor line is subject to similar mandatory assessments from the U.K. Motor Insurance Bureau (MIB) and these assessments were not significant to our results of operations in 2012 and 2011. Included in other expenses in 2011 was a \$4.3 million charge related to a write-off of our equity interest in the accumulated surplus of the North Carolina Beach Plan (NCBP), a mandatory reinsurance facility, as a result of state legislation intended to reform the funding mechanism of the NCBP. There were no other mandatory residual market mechanisms that were significant to our 2012, 2011 or 2010 results of operations.

# RESERVE FOR UNPAID LOSSES AND LOSS ADJUSTMENT EXPENSES

Reference is made to Segment Results Reserve for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses of Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of this Form 10-K.

The following table reconciles reserves determined in accordance with accounting principles and practices prescribed or permitted by U.S. insurance statutory authorities (U.S. Statutory) and the U.K. financial services regulatory authority (U.K. Statutory) for our domestic and Chaucer operations, respectively, to reserves determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP). The primary difference between the U.S. Statutory reserves and our U.S. GAAP reserves is the requirement, on a U.S. GAAP basis, to present reinsurance recoverables as an asset, whereas U.S. Statutory guidance provides that reserves are reflected net of the corresponding reinsurance recoverables. There are no significant differences between U.K. Statutory reserves and our U.S. GAAP reserves. We do not use discounting techniques in establishing U.S. GAAP reserves for losses and LAE, nor have we participated in any loss portfolio transfers or other similar transactions.

DECEMBER 31 (in millions)	2012	2011	2010
U.S. Statutory reserve for losses and LAE	\$ 2,646.7	\$ 2,350.7	\$ 2,285.3
U.K. Statutory reserve for losses and LAE	2,397.7	2,319.8	
Total Statutory reserve for losses and LAE	5,044.4	4,670.5	2,285.3
U.S. GAAP adjustments:			
Reinsurance recoverables on unpaid losses of our U.S. insurance subsidiaries	1,265.0	1,198.5	1,115.5
Reserves for discontinued operations	(126.8)	(124.6)	(125.1)
Other	14.4	15.9	2.0
U.S. GAAP reserve for losses and LAE	\$ 6,197.0	\$ 5,760.3	\$ 3,277.7

Reserves for discontinued operations of our U.S. insurance subsidiaries are included in liabilities of discontinued operations for U.S. GAAP and loss and loss adjustment expenses for Statutory reporting.

# ANALYSIS OF LOSS AND LOSS ADJUSTMENT EXPENSE RESERVE DEVELOPMENT

The following table sets forth the development of our U.S. GAAP reserves (net of reinsurance recoverables) for unpaid losses and LAE from 2002 through 2012. This table includes our Chaucer segment U.S. GAAP reserves beginning December 31, 2011. Conditions and trends that have affected reserve development in the past will not necessarily recur in the future. It is not appropriate to extrapolate future favorable or unfavorable development based on amounts experienced in prior periods.

DECEMBER 31 (in millions)	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Net reserve for losses and											
LAE(1)	\$4,122.7	\$ 3,828.5	\$ 2,162.2	\$ 2,093.7	\$ 2,214.9	\$ 2,227.2	\$ 2,276.5	\$ 2,354.1	\$ 2,166.3	\$ 2,087.0	\$ 2,093.8
Cumulative amount paid as of: <sup>(2)</sup>											
One year later		1,396.5	840.7	738.6	788.5	711.1	689.9	729.5	622.0	658.3	784.5
Two years later			1,277.9	1,120.3	1,126.8	1,050.5	1,061.8	1,121.9	967.0	995.4	1,131.7
Three years later				1,355.8	1,362.8	1,222.7	1,268.4	1,368.3	1,175.4	1,217.1	1,339.5
Four years later					1,500.5	1,346.8	1,364.7	1,499.6	1,312.9	1,351.6	1,478.9
Five years later						1,426.6	1,438.8	1,555.7	1,384.4	1,436.5	1,566.8
Six years later							1,493.9	1,606.3	1,416.2	1,486.5	1,629.3
Seven years later								1,647.8	1,456.3	1,508.9	1,668.9
Eight years later									1,489.9	1,544.4	1,685.7
Nine years later										1,575.5	1,717.4
Ten years later											1,744.5
Net reserve re-estimated as of: <sup>(3)</sup>											
End of year	4,122.7	3,828.5	2,162.2	2,093.7	2,214.9	2,227.2	2,276.5	2,354.1	2,166.3	2,087.0	2,093.8
One year later		3,841.6	2,094.4	1,982.6	2,059.6	2,075.6	2,140.1	2,274.1	2,086.8	2,072.5	2,134.2
Two years later			2,090.5	1,916.4	1,973.3	1,865.7	2,011.0	2,158.8	1,994.4	2,025.5	2,125.3
Three years later				1,902.7	1,930.8	1,793.7	1,852.7	2,075.0	1,904.4	1,979.6	2,103.9
Four years later					1,922.6	1,770.6	1,810.9	1,965.3	1,858.0	1,925.4	2,084.0
Five years later						1,773.2	1,793.9	1,936.4	1,780.8	1,904.2	2,051.6
Six years later							1,798.0	1,922.4	1,761.2	1,836.2	2,044.9
Seven years later								1,924.6	1,749.0	1,823.3	1,988.9
Eight years later									1,749.0	1,809.9	1,978.0
Nine years later										1,812.3	1,964.9
Ten years later											1,966.7
Cumulative net redundancy											
(deficiency) <sup>(4)</sup>	\$	\$ (13.1)	\$ 71.7	\$ 191.0	\$ 292.3	\$ 454.0	\$ 478.5	\$ 429.5	\$ 417.3	\$ 274.7	\$ 127.1
Adjustment for foreign											
currency exchange <sup>(3)</sup>		28.9									
Cumulative net redundancy											
(deficiency) excluding											
foreign currency exchange(3)	\$	\$ 15.8	\$ 71.7	\$ 191.0	\$ 292.3	\$ 454.0	\$ 478.5	\$ 429.5	\$ 417.3	\$ 274.7	\$ 127.1
Gross reserve for losses and											
LAE	\$ 6,197.0	\$ 5,760.3	\$ 3,277.7	\$ 3,153.9	\$ 3,203.1	\$ 3,167.7	\$ 3,166.0	\$ 3,461.7	\$ 3,073.4	\$ 3,027.0	\$ 2,971.7
Reinsurance recoverables	2,074.3	1,931.8	1,115.5	1,060.2	988.2	940.5	889.5	1,107.6	907.1	940.0	877.9
Net liability	4,122.7	3,828.5	2,162.2	2,093.7	2,214.9	2,227.2	2,276.5	2,354.1	2,166.3	2,087.0	2,093.8
Re-estimated gross reserve											
for losses and LAE		5,798.8	3,311.1	3,147.7	3,149.1	2,989.3	2,995.2	3,380.3	3,006.8	3,071.5	3,298.1
Re-estimated reinsurance						,					,
recoverables		1,957.2	1,220.6	1,245.0	1,226.5	1,216.1	1,197.2	1,455.7	1,257.8	1,259.2	1,331.4
Re-estimated net liability		3,841.6	2,090.5	1,902.7	1,922.6	1,773.2	1,798.0	1,924.6	1,749.0	1,812.3	1,966.7
Cumulative gross											
redundancy (deficiency)(4)	\$	\$ (38.5)	\$ (33.4)	\$ 6.2	\$ 54.0	\$ 178.4	\$ 170.8	\$ 81.4	\$ 66.6	\$ (44.5)	\$ (326.4)

15

- (1) Sets forth the estimated net liability for unpaid losses and LAE recorded at the balance sheet date at the end of each of the indicated years; represents the estimated amount of net losses and LAE for claims arising in the current and all prior years that are unpaid at the balance sheet date, including incurred but not reported ( IBNR ) reserves.
- (2) Cumulative loss and LAE payments made in succeeding years for losses incurred prior to the balance sheet date. Chaucer claims payments denominated in foreign currencies are converted to U.S. dollars at the average foreign exchange rates during the year of payment and are not revalued at the current year foreign exchange rates. Because claims paid in prior years are not revalued at the current year s foreign exchange rates, the difference between the cumulative claims paid at the end of any given year and the immediately previous year represents the claims paid during the year.
- (3) Re-estimated amount of the previously recorded liability based on experience for each succeeding year; increased or decreased as payments are made and more information becomes known about the severity of remaining unpaid claims. Chaucer unpaid losses and LAE denominated in foreign currencies are re-estimated using the foreign exchange rates in effect as of December 31, 2012 and the resulting cumulative foreign exchange translation effect is shown as an adjustment to the cumulative net redundancy (deficiency).
- (4) Cumulative redundancy or deficiency at December 31, 2012 of the net and gross reserve amounts shown in the corresponding column. A redundancy in reserves means the reserves established in prior years exceeded actual losses and LAE or were re-evaluated at less than the original reserved amount. A deficiency in reserves means the reserves established in prior years were less than actual losses and LAE or were re-evaluated at more than the original reserved amount.

# REINSURANCE

# **Reinsurance Program Overview**

We maintain ceded reinsurance programs designed to protect against large or unusual loss and LAE activity. We utilize a variety of reinsurance agreements, which are intended to control our individual policy and aggregate exposure to large property and casualty losses, stabilize earnings and protect capital resources. These programs include facultative reinsurance (to limit exposure on a specified policy); specific excess and proportional treaty reinsurance (to limit exposure on individual policies or risks within specified classes of business); and catastrophe excess of loss reinsurance (to limit exposure to any one event that might impact more than one individual contract). Catastrophe reinsurance protects us, as the ceding insurer, from significant losses arising from a single event such as snow, ice storm, hurricane, earthquake, tornado, wind, hail, terrorism, fire, explosion or other extraordinary events. We determine the appropriate amount of reinsurance based upon our evaluation of the risks insured, exposure analyses prepared by consultants, our risk appetite and on market conditions, including the availability and pricing of reinsurance.

We cede to reinsurers a portion of our risk based upon insurance policies subject to such reinsurance. Reinsurance contracts do not relieve us from our obligations to policyholders. Failure of reinsurers to honor their obligations could result in losses to us. We believe that the terms of our reinsurance contracts are consistent with industry practice in that they contain standard terms with respect to lines of business covered, limit and retention, arbitration and occurrence. We believe our reinsurers are financially sound, based upon our ongoing review of their financial statements, financial strength ratings assigned to them by rating agencies, their reputations in the reinsurance marketplace, our collections history, advice from third parties, and the analysis and guidance of our reinsurance advisors.

Although we exclude coverage of nuclear, chemical or biological events from the Personal Lines and Commercial Lines policies we write in the U.S., we are statutorily required to provide this coverage in our workers—compensation policies. We have workers—compensation reinsurance coverage under our casualty reinsurance treaty of approximately \$10 million for losses that result from nuclear, chemical or biological events and approximately \$45 million for terrorism losses excluding those that result from nuclear, chemical or biological events. All other U.S.—based exposure or treaties exclude such coverage. Further, under TRIPRA, our retention of U.S. domestic losses in 2013 from such events, if deemed certified terrorist events, is limited to 15% of losses in excess of an approximate \$323 million deductible, up to a combined annual aggregate

limit for the federal government and all insurers of \$100 billion. Such events could be material to our financial position or results of operations. See Terrorism for additional information.

Reference is made to Note 15 Reinsurance in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Financial Statements and Supplementary Data of this Form 10-K. Reference is also made to Involuntary Residual Markets .

# **Commercial and Personal Lines**

Our 2013 reinsurance program for our Commercial Lines and Personal Lines segments is substantially consistent with our 2012 program. The following discussion summarizes both our 2012 and 2013 reinsurance programs for our Commercial Lines and Personal Lines segments (excluding coverage available under the U.S. federal terrorism program which is described under Terrorism ), but does not purport to be a complete description of the program or the various restrictions or limitations which may apply:

Our Commercial Lines and Personal Lines segments were primarily protected by a property catastrophe occurrence treaty, a property per risk excess of loss treaty, as well as a casualty excess of loss treaty, with retentions of \$200 million, \$2 million, and \$2 million, respectively.

16

The property catastrophe occurrence treaty provides coverage, on an occurrence basis, up to \$700 million (up to \$1.1 billion in the Northeast), less a \$200 million retention, with no co-participation, for all defined perils. For 2012 and 2013, the property per risk excess of loss treaty provides coverage, on a per risk basis, up to \$100 million, less a \$2 million retention, with co-participations for 2012 and 2013 ranging from 6% to 28.5% for reinsurance placed in the \$2 million to \$10 million layer.

The casualty excess of loss treaty provides coverage, on a per occurrence basis for each loss, up to \$50 million less a \$2 million retention, with co-participation of 25% in the \$2 million to \$5 million layer. For both years, umbrella lines share coverage with casualty lines at the \$2 million to \$10 million layer, with the maximum umbrella limit of \$5 million subject to the casualty treaty. There is also separate umbrella only coverage that provides protection in 2012 for the \$5 million to \$20 million layer and in 2013 for the \$5 million to \$25 million layer.

For 2012 only, Commercial Lines segments are further protected by excess of loss treaty agreements for specific lines of business such as surety and fidelity bond liability, professional liability, management liability and healthcare liability. Surety and fidelity bond excess of loss treaty provides coverage, on a per principal basis, up to \$35 million, less a \$5 million retention, with co-participations ranging from 5% to 15% for individual layers placed within the treaty. Professional liability and management liability risks are covered in a common treaty up to \$10 million, less a \$1 million retention, with a 10% co-participation in 2012 and no co-participation in 2013. In addition to certain layers of coverage from our Commercial and Personal Lines segment reinsurance program as described above, the Commercial Lines AIX program business also includes surplus share, quota share, excess of loss, facultative and other forms of reinsurance that cover the writings from AIX specialty and proprietary programs. There are approximately 40 different AIX programs and the reinsurance structure is customized to fit the exposure profile for each program.

Our intention is to renew the surety and fidelity bond treaty, property per risk excess of loss treaty, and the \$700 million to \$1.1 billion layer of the Northeast property catastrophe occurrence treaty in July 2013 with the same or similar terms and conditions, but there can be no assurance that we will be able to maintain our current levels of reinsurance, pricing and terms and conditions. For our 2013 reinsurance program, all other treaties described above were effective January 1, 2013 for a twelve month period.

#### Chaucer

For our Chaucer segment, the 2012 and 2013 reinsurance programs contains a combination of reinsurance treaties that either provide coverage across several lines or are specific to individual lines of business or classes of business within certain lines. Generally, for each line or class of Chaucer s business, there are a variety of proportional, excess of loss, facultative and other treaty forms, which work in conjunction to provide coverage limits.

The Chaucer programs described below are substantially in place as of February 1, 2013 and we expect to implement throughout the year any remaining parts of the program as described; however, there can be no assurances that we will be successful in placing reinsurance for each line as planned. The following discussion summarizes both our 2012 and 2013 reinsurance programs for our Chaucer segment, but does not purport to be a complete description of the program or the various restrictions or limitations which may apply.

For 2013, Chaucer will retain its excess of loss reinsurance treaty and will increase net retentions for certain major lines. Together, the retentions form a diversified portfolio that aims to increase Chaucer s profitability in alignment with its risk appetite established for 2013.

We purchase proportional and non-proportional reinsurance which is intended to provide sufficient underwriting capacity to effectively conduct business in the Lloyd s market and to protect against frequency and severity of losses.

# For the property lines:

Our direct property catastrophe occurrence reinsurance for selected international territories provides coverage up to approximately \$64 million and \$46 million, less retentions of approximately \$13 million and \$15 million, respectively.

The assumed property catastrophe occurrence reinsurance for selected international territories provides coverage up to approximately \$102 million and \$93 million, less retentions of approximately \$17 million and \$20 million, respectively. Additionally, the assumed property catastrophe occurrence reinsurance for the United States and the Caribbean provides coverage up to approximately \$119 million and \$112 million, less retentions of approximately \$25 million and \$29 million, respectively.

The direct property per risk excess of loss reinsurance provides coverage up to approximately \$17 million for both years, less retentions of approximately \$4 million and \$6 million, respectively. Additionally, for 2012, there was an annual aggregate deductible of approximately \$4 million.

17

For the energy, marine and aviation lines:

The nuclear energy lines occurrence reinsurance provides coverage up to approximately \$155 million and \$163 million, less retentions of approximately \$52 million and \$54 million, respectively.

The non-nuclear energy lines occurrence reinsurance provides coverage up to approximately \$118 million and \$158 million, respectively, less retentions of approximately \$12 million and \$17 million, respectively.

The marine lines excess of loss reinsurance provides coverage, on a per occurrence basis, up to approximately \$50 million and \$56 million, respectively, less a retention of approximately \$4 million and \$5 million, respectively.

The aviation lines reinsurance provides coverage, on a per occurrence basis, up to approximately \$42 million and \$51 million respectively, less a retention of approximately \$2 million for both years.

The U.K. motor line has protection from a reinsurance program placed on a losses occurring basis, which is unlimited in excess of \$1.6 million, both in terms of the amount and the number of losses sustained. For 2011, 2012 and 2013, there is co-participation on the \$1.6 million in excess of \$1.6 million layer of 50%, 30% and 30% for each year, respectively.

Our Chaucer segment had a capital provision reinsurance treaty with Flagstone Re to provide additional gross underwriting capacity to Syndicate 1084 for both 2011 and 2012 of \$160 million. The terms of the agreement provided for fixed cessions of the overall account written by Syndicate 1084. The treaty has not been renewed for the 2013 treaty year. Flagstone Re s share of Syndicate 1084 for the 2012, 2011 and 2010 treaty years were 12.0%, 12.0% and 11.6%, respectively.

#### **Reinsurance Recoverables**

Other than our investment portfolio, our single largest asset class is our reinsurance receivables, which consist of our estimate of amounts recoverable from reinsurers with respect to losses incurred to date (including losses incurred but not reported) and unearned premiums, net of amounts estimated to be uncollectible. Our estimate depends upon a number of factors, including our estimate of the amount of reserves attributable to business written in various lines and in various years. This estimate is expected to be revised at each reporting period and such revisions, which could be material, affect our results of operations and financial position. Reinsurance recoverables include amounts due from both United States and state mandatory reinsurance or other risk sharing mechanisms, and private reinsurers to whom we have voluntarily ceded business.

We are subject to concentration of risk with respect to reinsurance ceded to various mandatory residual markets, facilities and pooling mechanisms. As a condition to conduct business in various states, we are required to participate in residual market mechanisms, facilities and pooling arrangements which usually are designed to provide insurance coverages to individuals or other entities that are otherwise unable to purchase such coverage voluntarily or at rates deemed reasonable. These market mechanisms, facilities and pooling arrangements comprise \$886.0 million of our total reinsurance recoverables on paid and unpaid losses and unearned premiums at December 31, 2012 and include, among others, the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association (MCCA).

The MCCA is a mandatory reinsurance association which reinsures claims under Michigan s unlimited personal injury protection coverage which is required under all Michigan automobile insurance policies. The MCCA reinsures all such claims in excess of a statutorily-established company retention, currently \$500,000. Funding for MCCA comes from assessments against automobile insurers based upon their share of insured automobiles in the state. Insurers are allowed to pass along this cost to Michigan automobile policyholders. This recoverable accounted for 61% and 60% of our total personal automobile gross reserves at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Reinsurance recoverables related to MCCA were \$856.3 million and \$816.7 million at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Because the MCCA is supported by assessments permitted by statute, and there have been no significant uncollectible balances from MCCA identified during the three years ending December 31, 2012, we believe that we have no significant exposure to uncollectible reinsurance balances from this entity.

In addition to the reinsurance ceded to various residual market mechanisms, facilities and pooling arrangements and the former capital provision reinsurance treaty with Flagstone Re, as described below, we have \$1,372.7 million of reinsurance assets due from traditional reinsurers. These amounts are due principally from highly-rated reinsurers, defined as rated A or higher by A.M. Best Rating Agency or other equivalent rating. The following table displays balances recoverable from our ten largest reinsurance groups at December 31, 2012, along with the group s rating from the indicated rating agency. The contractual obligations under reinsurance agreements are typically with individual subsidiaries of the group or syndicates at Lloyd s and are not typically guaranteed by other group members or syndicates at Lloyd s. Reinsurance recoverables are comprised of paid losses recoverable, outstanding losses recoverable, incurred but not reported losses recoverable, and ceded unearned premium.

18

REINSURERS	A.M. Best Rating	Reinsurance Recoverable	
(in millions)			
Lloyd s Syndicates	A	\$	239.3
Munich Reinsurance Companies	A+		154.3
HDI Group	A		118.8
Partner Re Ltd. Companies	A+		108.5
Alleghany Corporation	A		64.3
XL Group PLC	A		52.0
Swiss Re Ltd.	A+		51.0
Toa Reinsurance Company Ltd.	A+		39.5
Axis Capital Holdings Ltd.	A		32.1
Aspen Insurance Company Ltd.	A		31.7
Subtotal			891.5
All other reinsurers			481.2
Residual markets, facilities and pooling arrangements			886.0
Flagstone Re (capital provision reinsurance)			221.0
Total		\$	2,479.7

Reinsurance recoverable balances in the table above are shown before consideration of balances owed to reinsurers and any potential rights of offset, including collateral held by us and, are net of an allowance for uncollectible recoverables. Reinsurance treaties are generally purchased on an annual basis. Treaties typically contain provisions that allow us to demand that a reinsurer post letters of credit or assets as security if a reinsurer is an unauthorized reinsurer under applicable regulations or if its rating falls below a predetermined contractual level. In regards to reinsurance recoverables due from Lloyd s Syndicates, as part of the Lloyd s chain of security afforded to all of its policyholders, recourse is available to the Lloyd s Central Fund in the event of the failure of an individual syndicate and its capital providers. In accordance with the terms of the capital provision reinsurance treaty, which was in place for underwriting years 2009 through 2012, Flagstone Re is obligated to provide Funds at Lloyd s and is subject to offsetting funds withheld balances with Chaucer. As a result, in the event of a default, we have access to collateral to pay losses reinsured by Flagstone Re on policies written through the end of 2012.

Although reinsurance makes the reinsurer liable to us to the extent the risk is transferred or ceded to the reinsurer, ceded reinsurance arrangements do not eliminate our obligation to pay claims to our policyholders. Accordingly, we bear credit risk with respect to our reinsurers. Specifically, our reinsurers may not pay claims made by us on a timely basis, or they may not pay some or all of these claims. In addition, from time to time insurers and reinsurers may disagree on the scope of the reinsurance or on the underlying insured risks. Any of these events would increase our costs and could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We have established a reserve for uncollectible reinsurance of \$16.9 million and \$16.4 million, as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, which was determined by considering reinsurer specific default risk on paid and unpaid recoverables as indicated by their financial strength ratings, any current risk of dispute on paid recoverables, our collection experience and the development of our ceded loss reserves. There have been no significant balances determined to be uncollectible, and thus no significant charges recorded during 2012 and 2011 for uncollectible reinsurance recoverables.

Our exposure to credit risk from any one reinsurer is managed through diversification by reinsuring with a number of different reinsurers, principally in the United States and European reinsurance markets. When reinsurance for our Commercial and Personal Lines segments is placed, our standards of acceptability generally require that a reinsurer must have a minimum policyholder surplus of \$500 million, a rating from A.M. Best and/or S&P of A or better, or an equivalent financial strength if not rated. Similarly, our Chaucer segment generally requires all reinsurers to have a rating from S&P of A- or better and minimum net assets of \$500 million. In addition, for lower rated reinsurers, certain reinsurers for our United States insurance operations that have not been granted authorized status by an insurance company s state of domicile, and in certain other circumstances deemed appropriate by the Company s security committee, reinsurers must generally provide collateral equal to 100% of estimated reinsurance recoverables. The collateral can serve to mitigate credit risk.

#### DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS

Discontinued operations include our Discontinued Accident and Health Business and in 2012, the disposal of our third party administration business.

Our Discontinued Accident and Health Business includes interests in approximately 25 accident and health reinsurance pools and arrangements that were retained in the sale of First Allmerica Financial Life Insurance Company (FAFLIC) and assumed by Hanover Insurance. We ceased writing new premiums in this business in 1999, subject to certain contractual obligations. The reinsurance pool business consists primarily of the medical and disability portions of workers compensation risks, long-term care, assumed personal accident, individual medical, long-term disability, and special risk business. This business includes residual health insurance policies. Our total reserves for the assumed accident and health business were \$127.2 million at December 31, 2012. The total amount recoverable from third party reinsurers was \$3.9 million at

19

December 31, 2012. Total net reserves were \$123.3 million at December 31, 2012. We will continue to account for this business as discontinued operations. Assets and liabilities related to our Discontinued Accident and Health Business are reflected as assets and liabilities of discontinued operations.

Loss estimates associated with substantially all of the Discontinued Accident and Health Business are provided by managers of each pool. We adopt reserve estimates for this business that considers this information, expected returns on assets assigned to this business and other facts. We update these reserves as new information becomes available and further events occur that may affect the ultimate resolution of unsettled claims. We believe that the reserves recorded related to this business are adequate. However, since reserve and loss cost estimates related to our Discontinued Accident and Health Business are dependent on several assumptions, including, but not limited to, future health care costs, persistency of medical care inflation, investment performance, claims, particularly in the long-term care business, morbidity and mortality assumptions, and these assumptions can be impacted by technical developments and advancements in the medical field and other factors, there can be no assurance that the reserves established for this business will prove sufficient. Revisions to these reserves could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations for a particular quarterly or annual period or on our financial position.

Our discontinued operations, in total, generated a net gain of \$9.8 million during 2012. Reference is made to Discontinued Operations in Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of this Form 10-K.

#### INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

We held \$8.0 billion of investment assets, including cash and cash equivalents, at December 31, 2012. Approximately 87% of our investment assets are comprised of fixed maturities, which includes both investment grade and below investment grade public and private debt securities. An additional 7% of our investment assets are comprised of cash and cash equivalents, while the remaining 6% consists of equity securities and other investments. These investments are generally of high quality and our fixed maturities are broadly diversified across sectors of the fixed income market.

Our overall investment strategy is intended to balance investment income with credit and duration risk, while maintaining sufficient liquidity and the opportunity for capital growth. The asset allocation process takes into consideration the types of business written and the level of surplus required to support our different businesses and the risk return profiles of the underlying asset classes. We look to balance the goals of capital preservation, net investment income stability, liquidity and total return.

We employ two external asset managers with international market expertise to manage our U.K. Pounds Sterling and Euro denominated fixed maturity portfolios, totaling approximately \$890 million. We select and monitor managers based on investment style, performance and corporate governance.

The majority of our assets are invested in the fixed income markets. Through fundamental research and credit analysis, with a focus on value investing, our investment professionals seek to identify a portfolio of stable income-producing higher quality U.S. government, foreign government, municipal, corporate, residential and commercial mortgage-backed securities and asset-backed securities. We have a general policy of diversifying investments both within and across major investment and industry sectors to mitigate credit and interest rate risk. We monitor the credit quality of our investments and our exposure to individual markets, borrowers, industries, sectors and, in the case of direct commercial mortgages and commercial mortgage-backed securities, property types and geographic locations.

Investments held by our insurance subsidiaries are subject to diversification requirements under state insurance laws and other regulatory requirements. The investment portfolio duration is approximately 4.1 years and is generally maintained in the range of 1 to 3 times the duration of our insurance liabilities. We seek to maintain sufficient liquidity to support our cash flow requirements by monitoring the cash requirements associated with our insurance and corporate liabilities, laddering the maturities within the portfolio, closely monitoring our investment durations, holding high quality liquid public securities and managing the purchases and sales of assets.

Reference is made to Investments in Management s Discussion and Analysis of the Financial Condition and Results of Operation of this Form 10-K.

#### **RATING AGENCIES**

Insurance companies are rated by rating agencies to provide both industry participants and insurance consumers information on specific insurance companies. Higher ratings generally indicate the rating agencies opinion regarding financial stability and a stronger ability to pay claims.

We believe that strong ratings are important factors in marketing our products to our agents and customers, since rating information is broadly disseminated and generally used throughout the industry. We believe that a rating of A- or higher from A.M. Best Co. is particularly important for our business. Insurance company financial strength

20

ratings are assigned to an insurer based upon factors deemed by the rating agencies to be relevant to policyholders and are not directed toward protection of investors. Such ratings are neither a rating of securities nor a recommendation to buy, hold or sell any security.

#### **EMPLOYEES**

As of December 31, 2012, we have approximately 5,100 employees, with approximately 4,300 located in the United States, and 800 internationally, almost all of whom are located in the United Kingdom. We believe our relations with employees are good.

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT

Reference is made to Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant in Part III Item 10 of this Form 10-K.

#### AVAILABLE INFORMATION

We file our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, periodic information on Form 8-K, our proxy statement, and other required information with the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC). Shareholders may read and copy any materials on file with the SEC at the SEC s Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549. Shareholders may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the SEC maintains an Internet website, http://www.sec.gov, which contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information with respect to our filings.

Our website address is http://www.hanover.com. We make available free of charge on or through our website, our annual report 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 Sections 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. Additionally, our Code of Conduct is available, free of charge, on our website. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines and the charters of our Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, Committee of Independent Directors and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, are available on our website. All documents are also available in print to any shareholder who requests them.

# ITEM 1A RISK FACTORS RISK FACTORS AND FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

We wish to caution readers that the following important factors, among others, in some cases have affected, and in the future could affect, our actual results and could cause our actual results to differ materially from historical results and from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made from time to time by us on the basis of our then-current expectations. When used in this Form 10-K, the words believes, anticipates, expects, projections, outlook, should, could, plan, guidance, likely, on track to, targeted and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Our businesses are in rapidly changing and competitive markets and involve a high degree of risk and unpredictability. Forward-looking projections are subject to these risks and unpredictability.

Our results may fluctuate as a result of cyclical or non-cyclical changes in the property and casualty insurance industry.

The property and casualty insurance industry historically has been subject to significant fluctuations and uncertainties. Our profitability is affected significantly by the following items:

increases in costs, particularly those occurring after the time our insurance products are priced and including construction, automobile repair, and medical and rehabilitation costs. This includes cost shifting from health insurers to casualty and liability insurers (whether as a result of an increasing number of injured parties without health insurance, coverage changes in health policies to make such coverage secondary to casualty policies, the implementation of national healthcare legislation, lower reimbursement rates for the same procedure by health insurers or government-sponsored insurance, or the implementation of the Medicare Secondary Payer Act which requires reporting and imposes other requirements with respect to medical and related claims paid with respect to Medicare eligible individuals).

As it relates to construction, there are often temporary increases in the cost of building supplies and construction labor after a significant event (for example, so called demand surge that causes the cost of labor, construction materials and other items to increase in a geographic area affected by a catastrophe). In addition, we are limited in our ability to negotiate and manage reimbursable expenses incurred by our policyholders;

competitive and regulatory pressures, which affect the prices of our products and the nature of the risks covered; volatile and unpredictable developments, including severe weather, catastrophes and terrorist actions;

21

legal, regulatory and socio-economic developments, such as new theories of insured and insurer liability and related claims and extra-contractual awards such as punitive damages, and increases in the size of jury awards or changes in applicable laws and regulations (such as changes in the thresholds affecting no fault liability or when non-economic damages are recoverable for bodily injury claims or coverage requirements):

fluctuations in interest rates, inflationary pressures, default rates and other factors that affect investment returns; and other general economic conditions and trends that may affect the adequacy of reserves.

The demand for property and casualty insurance can also vary significantly based on general economic conditions (either nationally or regionally and, with respect to our Chaucer segment, internationally), rising as the overall level of economic activity increases and falling as such activity decreases. Loss patterns also tend to vary inversely with local economic conditions, increasing during difficult economic times and moderating during economic upswings or periods of stability. The fluctuations in demand and competition could produce unpredictable underwriting results.

Actual losses from claims against our property and casualty insurance subsidiaries may exceed their reserves for claims.

Our property and casualty insurance subsidiaries maintain reserves to cover their estimated ultimate liability for losses and loss adjustment expenses with respect to reported and unreported claims incurred as of the end of each accounting period. Reserves do not represent an exact calculation of liability. Rather, reserves represent estimates, involving actuarial projections and judgments at a given time, of what we expect the ultimate settlement and administration of incurred claims will cost based on facts and circumstances then known, predictions of future events, estimates of future trends in claims frequency and severity and judicial theories of liability, costs of repair and replacement, legislative activity and myriad other factors.

The inherent uncertainties of estimating reserves are greater for certain types of property and casualty insurance lines. These include automobile bodily injury, personal automobile personal injury protection, and workers compensation, where a longer period of time may elapse before a definitive determination of ultimate liability may be made, environmental liability, where the technological, judicial and political climates involving these types of claims are continuously evolving, and casualty coverages such as professional liability. There is also greater uncertainty in establishing reserves with respect to new business, particularly new business that is generated with respect to newly introduced product lines, such as our professional liability and healthcare lines, by newly appointed agents or in geographies where we have less experience in conducting business. In these cases, there is less historical experience or knowledge and less data upon which the actuaries can rely.

Additionally, the introduction of new Commercial Lines products, including through several acquired subsidiaries, the development of new niche and specialty lines and the introduction of new lines of business at Chaucer, present new risks. Certain new specialty products, such as the human services program, non-profit directors and officers liability and employment practices liability policies, lawyers and other professional liability policies, healthcare lines and private company directors and officers coverage may also require a longer period of time (the so-called tail ) to determine the ultimate liability associated with the claims and may produce more volatility in our results and less certainty in our accident year reserves. Some lines of business, such as commercial surety, are less susceptible to establishing reserves based on actuarial or historical experience and losses may be episodic, depending on economic and other factors.

We regularly review our reserving techniques, reinsurance and the overall adequacy of our reserves based upon, among other things:

our review of historical data, legislative enactments, judicial decisions, legal developments in imposition of damages, changes in political attitudes and trends in general economic conditions;

our review of per claim information;

historical loss experience of our property and casualty insurance subsidiaries and the industry as a whole; and the terms of our property and casualty insurance policies.

Underwriting results and segment income could be adversely affected by further changes in our net loss and LAE estimates related to significant events or emerging risks, such as risks related to breaches of computer network systems ( cyber-risks ), privacy regulations or disruptions caused by solar flares.

Estimating losses following any major catastrophe or with respect to emerging issues is an inherently uncertain process. Factors that add to the complexity in these events include the legal and regulatory uncertainty, the complexity of factors contributing to the losses, delays in claim reporting and with respect to areas with significant property damage, the impact of demand surge and a slower pace of recovery resulting from the extent of damage sustained in the affected areas due, in part, to the availability and cost of resources to effect repairs. Emerging issues may

involve complex coverage, liability and other costs which could significantly affect LAE. As a result, there can be no assurance that our ultimate costs associated with these events or issues will not be substantially different from current estimates (for example, actual losses arising from Superstorm

22

Sandy may vary widely depending on the interpretation of various policy provisions). Investors should consider the risks and uncertainties in our business that may affect net loss and LAE reserve estimates and future performance, including the difficulties in arriving at such estimates.

Anticipated losses associated with business interruption exposure, the impact of wind versus water as the cause of loss, supplemental payments on previously closed claims caused by the development of latent damages or new theories of liability and inflationary pressures could have a negative impact on future loss reserve development.

Because of the inherent uncertainties involved in setting reserves and establishing current and prior-year loss picks , including those related to catastrophes, we cannot provide assurance that the existing reserves or future reserves established by our property and casualty insurance subsidiaries will prove adequate in light of subsequent events. Our results of operations and financial condition could therefore be materially affected by adverse loss development for events that we insured in prior periods.

Due to geographical concentration in our U.S. property and casualty business, changes in economic, regulatory and other conditions in the regions where we operate could have a significant negative impact on our business as a whole. Geographic concentrations also expose us to potentially greater losses in the event of natural or other catastrophes.

We generate a significant portion of our U.S. property and casualty insurance net premiums written and earnings in Michigan, Massachusetts and other states in the Northeast, including New Jersey and New York. For the year ended December 31, 2012, approximately 23% and 10% of our net written premium in our U.S. property and casualty business was generated in the states of Michigan and Massachusetts, respectively. Many states in which we do business impose significant rate control and residual market charges, and restrict an insurer s ability to exit such markets. The revenues and profitability of our property and casualty insurance subsidiaries are subject to prevailing economic, regulatory, demographic and other conditions, including adverse weather in Michigan and the Northeast. Because of our geographic concentration in certain regions, our business as a whole could be significantly affected by changes in the economic, regulatory and other conditions in such areas.

Further, certain new catastrophe models assume an increase in frequency and severity of certain weather events, whether as a result of potential global climate change or otherwise. Financial strength rating agencies are placing increased emphasis on capital and reinsurance adequacy for insurers with certain geographic concentrations of risk which may be subject to disproportionate risk of loss. These factors also may result in insurers seeking to diversify their geographic exposure, which could result in increased regulatory restrictions in those markets where insurers seek to exit or reduce coverage, as well as an increase in competitive pressures in less weather-exposed markets.

Limitations on our ability to predict the potential impact of weather events and catastrophes may impact our future profits and cash flows.

Our business is subject to claims arising out of catastrophes that may have a significant impact on our results of operations and financial condition. We may experience catastrophe losses, which could have a material adverse impact on our business. Catastrophes can be caused by various events, including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, wind, hail, fires, severe winter weather, sabotage, terrorist actions, explosions, nuclear accidents, and power outages. The frequency and severity of catastrophes are inherently unpredictable.

The extent of gross losses from a catastrophe is a function of the total amount of insured exposure in the area affected by the event and the severity of the event. The extent of net losses depends on the amount and collectability of reinsurance.

Although catastrophes can cause losses in a variety of property and casualty lines, homeowners and commercial multiple peril property insurance have, in the past, generated the vast majority of our catastrophe-related claims. Our catastrophe losses have historically been principally weather-related, particularly hurricanes, as well as snow and ice damage from winter storms. However, with the acquisition of Chaucer, we are subject to greater diversity in the types and geographic distribution of potential catastrophe losses. For example, Chaucer incurred catastrophe losses in 2012 from the earthquake in Italy and the drought and Superstorm Sandy in the U.S. while catastrophe losses in 2011 resulted from the earthquake and ensuing tsunami in Japan, the earthquakes in New Zealand, and flooding in Australia and Thailand.

Although the insurance industry, rating agencies and regulators have developed various models intended to help predict potential insured losses under thousands of scenarios, there is no reliable way of predicting such losses before a specific event occurs. We utilize various models and other techniques in an attempt to measure and manage potential catastrophe losses within various income and capital risk appetites. However, such models and techniques have many limitations. In addition, due to historical concentrations of business, regulatory restrictions and other factors, particularly in the Northeast and in the state of Michigan, our ability to measure, monitor and manage such concentrations is limited.

We purchase catastrophe reinsurance as protection against catastrophe losses. Based upon an ongoing review of our reinsurers financial statements, financial strength

23

ratings assigned to them by rating agencies, their reputations in the reinsurance marketplace, our collections history with them and the analysis and guidance of our reinsurance advisors, we believe that the financial condition of our reinsurers is sound. However, reinsurance is subject to credit risks, including those resulting from over-concentration of exposures within the industry. In setting our retention levels and coverage limits, we also consider our level of surplus and exposures, as well as the current reinsurance pricing environment. There can be no assurance that our reinsurance program will provide adequate coverage levels should we experience losses from one significant or several large catastrophes.

We cannot guarantee the adequacy of or ability to maintain our current level of reinsurance coverage.

Similar to insurance companies, reinsurance companies can also be adversely impacted when catastrophes occur. There can be no assurance that we will be able to maintain our current levels of reinsurance coverage. In particular, and as discussed under Reinsurance Program Overview of this Form 10-K, not all of our 2013 reinsurance programs for the Commercial and Personal Lines and Chaucer business are fully placed. Future catastrophic events and other changes in the reinsurance marketplace, including as a result of investment losses or disruptions due to challenges in the financial markets that have occurred or could occur in the future, may adversely affect our ability to obtain such coverages, as well as adversely affect the cost of obtaining that coverage.

Additionally, the availability, scope of coverage, cost, and creditworthiness of reinsurance could continue to be adversely affected as a result of not only new catastrophes, but also terrorist attacks and the perceived risks associated with future terrorist activities, global conflicts, and the changing legal and regulatory environment (including changes which could create new insured risks).

Federal terrorism coverage under TRIPRA is due to expire by its terms on December 31, 2014, and from time to time there have been proposals to scale back coverage under TRIPRA. We are unable to predict the likelihood that TRIPRA will be extended or of adoption of any proposals to reduce coverage, however, failure to timely reauthorize TRIPRA or a reduction in TRIPRA coverage could have an adverse effect on our results of operations and financial position.

Although we monitor their financial soundness, we cannot be sure that our reinsurers will pay in a timely fashion, if at all.

We purchase reinsurance by transferring part of the risk that we have assumed (known as ceding) to reinsurance companies in exchange for part of the premium we receive in connection with the risk. As of December 31, 2012, our reinsurance receivable (including from the MCCA) amounted to approximately \$2.5 billion. Although reinsurance makes the reinsurer liable to us to the extent the risk is transferred or ceded to the reinsurer, it does not relieve us (the reinsured) of our liability to our policyholders or, in cases where we are a reinsurer, to our reinsureds. Accordingly, we bear credit risk with respect to our reinsurers. Although we monitor the credit quality of our reinsurers, we cannot be sure that they will pay the reinsurance recoverables owed to us currently or in the future or that they will pay such recoverables on a timely basis.

Climate change may adversely impact our results of operations.

There are concerns that the higher level of weather-related catastrophes and other losses incurred by the industry in recent years is indicative of changing weather patterns, whether as a result of changing climate ( global climate change ) or otherwise, which could cause such events to persist. This would lead to higher overall losses which we may not be able to recoup, particularly in the current economic and competitive environment, and higher reinsurance costs. As noted above, certain catastrophe models assume an increase in frequency and severity of certain weather events which could result in a disproportionate impact on insurers with certain geographic concentrations of risk. This would also likely increase the risks of writing property insurance in coastal areas, particularly in jurisdictions which restrict pricing and underwriting flexibility.

In addition, global climate change could have an impact on issuers in which we invest, resulting in realized and unrealized losses in future periods which could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations and/or financial position. It is not possible to foresee which, if any, issuers, industries or markets will be materially and adversely affected, nor is it possible to foresee the magnitude of such effect.

We may incur financial losses resulting from our participation in shared market mechanisms, mandatory reinsurance programs and mandatory and voluntary pooling arrangements.

In most of the jurisdictions in which we operate, our property and casualty insurance subsidiaries are required to participate in mandatory property and casualty shared market mechanisms, government-sponsored reinsurance programs or pooling arrangements. These arrangements are designed to provide various insurance coverages to individuals or other entities that otherwise are unable to purchase such coverage or to support the costs of uninsured motorist claims in a particular state or region. We cannot predict whether our participation in these shared market mechanisms or pooling arrangements will provide underwriting

profits or losses to us. For the year ended December 31, 2012, we experienced an underwriting loss of \$15.3 million from participation in these mechanisms and pooling arrangements, compared to underwriting losses of \$13.1 million and \$12.9 million in 2011 and 2010, respectively. We may face similar or even more dramatic earnings fluctuations in the future.

Additionally, increases in the number of participants or insureds in state-sponsored reinsurance pools, FAIR Plans or other residual market mechanisms, particularly in the states of Louisiana, Massachusetts and Florida, combined with regulatory restrictions on the ability to adequately price, underwrite, or non-renew business, as well as new legislation, or changes in existing case law, could expose us to significant exposures and risks of increased assessments from these residual market mechanisms. There could also be significant adverse impact as a result of losses incurred in those states due to hurricane exposure, as well as the declining number of carriers providing coverage in those regions. We are unable to predict the likelihood or impact of such potential assessments or other actions.

We also have credit risk associated with certain mandatory reinsurance programs such as the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association. The MCCA was created to fund Michigan s unique unlimited personal injury protection benefit. As of December 31, 2012, our estimated reinsurance recoverable from the MCCA was \$856.3 million. The MCCA operates with a deficit which may fluctuate significantly based on investment returns, discount rates, incurred claims, annual assessments and other factors.

In addition, we may be adversely affected by liabilities resulting from our previous participation in certain voluntary property and casualty assumed reinsurance pools. We have terminated participation in virtually all property and casualty voluntary pools, but remain subject to claims related to periods in which we participated. The property and casualty assumed reinsurance businesses have suffered substantial losses during the past several years, particularly related to environmental and asbestos exposure for property and casualty coverages, in some cases resulting from incidents alleged to have occurred decades ago. Due to the inherent volatility in these businesses, possible issues related to the enforceability of reinsurance treaties in the industry and the recent history of increased losses, we cannot provide assurance that our current reserves are adequate or that we will not incur losses in the future. Although we have discontinued participation in these reinsurance pools, we are subject to claims related to prior years or from pools we could not exit entirely. Our operating results and financial position may be adversely affected by liabilities resulting from any such claims in excess of our loss estimates. As of December 31, 2012, our reserves for these pools totaled \$37.6 million.

Our businesses are heavily regulated and changes in regulation may reduce our profitability.

Our U.S. insurance businesses are subject to supervision and regulation by the state insurance authority in each state in which we transact business. This system of supervision and regulation relates to numerous aspects of an insurance company s business and financial condition, including limitations on the authorization of lines of business, underwriting limitations, the ability to utilize credit-based insurance scores in underwriting, the ability to terminate agents, supervisory and liability responsibilities for agents, the setting of premium rates, the requirement to write certain classes of business which we might otherwise avoid or charge different premium rates, restrictions on the ability to withdraw from certain lines of business, the establishment of standards of solvency, the licensing of insurers and agents, compensation of agents, concentration of investments, levels of reserves, the payment of dividends, transactions with affiliates, changes of control, protection of private information of our agents, policyholders, claimants and others (which may include highly sensitive financial or medical information or other private information such as social security numbers, driving records, drivers license numbers, etc.) and the approval of policy forms. From time to time, various states and Congress have proposed to prohibit or otherwise restrict the use of credit-based insurance scores in underwriting or rating our Personal Lines business. The elimination of the use of credit-based insurance scores could cause significant disruption to our business and our confidence in our pricing and underwriting. Most insurance regulations are designed to protect the interests of policyholders rather than stockholders and other investors.

Legislative and regulatory restrictions are constantly evolving and are subject to then current political pressures. For example, following Superstorm Sandy, the states of New Jersey and New York are considering proposals such as homeowners Bill of Rights , restrictions on storm deductibles and additional mandatory claim handling guidelines. Such actions also occur at the federal level, such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development s proposal that may increase the legal risk of providing homeowners and commercial residential property insurance by imposing liability for discrimination on the basis of a disparate-impact theory even without any evidence of discriminatory intent. Some states are also considering mandating owners of firearms to purchase liability insurance.

In addition, in July 2010, in response to the global financial crisis, The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act were signed into U.S. law. This legislation provides for enhanced regulation for the financial services industry through initiatives including, but not

limited to, the creation of a Federal Insurance Office and

25

several federal oversight agencies, the requiring of more transparency, accountability and focus in protecting investors and businesses, input of shareholders regarding executive compensation, and enhanced empowerment of regulators to pursue those who engage in financial fraud and unethical business practices. The Securities and Exchange Commission adopted regulations designed to encourage, reward, and protect whistleblowers, whether or not they first report the potential infraction to the company for correction or remedial action.

Also, beginning in 2011, the federal Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Extension Act mandates reporting and other requirements applicable to property and casualty insurance companies which make payments to or on behalf of claimants who are eligible for Medicare benefits. These requirements have made bodily injury claim resolutions more difficult, particularly for complex matters or for injuries requiring treatment over an extended period, and impose significant penalties for non-compliance and reporting errors. These new requirements also have increased the circumstances under which the federal government may seek to recover from insurers amounts paid to claimants in circumstances where the government had previously paid benefits. In January 2013, the Strengthening Medicare and Repaying Taxpayers Act was signed into law. We are not yet certain of the effect of this law on our ability to settle cases or exposure to federal recoupment claims.

With respect to our U.S. insurance business, state regulatory oversight and various proposals at the federal level may in the future adversely affect our ability to sustain adequate returns in certain lines of business or in some cases, operate the line profitably. In recent years, the state insurance regulatory framework has come under increased federal scrutiny, and certain state legislatures have considered or enacted laws that alter and, in many cases, increase state authority to regulate insurance companies and insurance holding company systems.

Our business could be negatively impacted by adverse state, federal and foreign legislation or regulation, including those resulting in:

decreases in rates;

limitations on premium levels;

coverage and benefit mandates;

limitations on the ability to manage care and utilization or other claim costs;

requirements to write certain classes of business or in certain geographies;

restrictions on underwriting, on methods of compensating independent producers, or on our ability to cancel or renew certain business (which negatively affects our ability to reduce concentrations of property risks);

higher liability exposures for our insureds;

increased assessments or higher premium or other taxes; and

enhanced ability to pierce no fault thresholds or recover non-economic damages (such as pain and suffering ).

These regulations serve to protect the customers and other third parties who deal with us and are heavily influenced by the then current political environment. If we are found to have violated an applicable regulation, administrative or judicial proceedings may be initiated against us which could result in censures, fines, civil penalties (including punitive damages), the issuance of cease-and-desist orders, premium refunds or the reopening of closed claim files, among other consequences. These actions could have a material adverse effect on our financial position and results of operations.

Congress, as well as national, state and local governments, also considers from time to time legislation that could increase our tax costs. If such legislation is adopted, our consolidated net income could decline.

With respect to our U.K. insurance business, Chaucer s regulated subsidiaries are subject to the U.K. Financial Services Authority (FSA) Regulations and are subject to limitations and approval requirements with respect to payment of dividends, return of capital and becoming a borrower, guarantor or provider of security interest on any financial obligations and other aspects of its operations.

The FSA has substantial powers of intervention in relation to the Lloyd s managing agents, such as Chaucer, which it regulates, including the power to remove their authorization to manage Lloyd s syndicates. In addition, each year the FSA requires Lloyd s to satisfy an annual solvency test that measures whether Lloyd s has sufficient assets in the aggregate to meet all outstanding liabilities of its members, both current and run-off. If Lloyd s fails this test, the FSA may require Lloyd s to cease trading and/or its members to cease or reduce underwriting. Future regulatory changes or rulings by the FSA could interfere with our business strategy or financial assumptions, possibly resulting in a material adverse effect on our profitability.

Additionally, Lloyd s worldwide insurance and reinsurance business is subject to various regulations, laws, treaties and other applicable policies of the European Union, as well as each nation, state and locality in which it operates. Material changes in governmental requirements and laws

could have an adverse affect on Lloyd s and its member companies, including Chaucer.

The European Union ( E.U. ) is phasing in a new composite E.U. directive (known as Solvency II) covering the prudential supervision of all insurance and reinsurance companies that is being developed to replace the existing life, non-life insurance and reinsurance directives that gov-

26

ern the insurance business in the U.K. (among various other obligations, Solvency II will impose new capital requirements on Chaucer). It is anticipated that the implementation of Solvency II will take effect on January 1, 2015, but it is possible some rules will come into force earlier. We could be impacted by the implementation of Solvency II, depending on the costs associated with implementation by each E.U. country, any increased capital requirements applicable to us, and any costs associated with adjustments to our operations. We are also subject to risks and uncertainties relating to changes to the regulatory framework in the U.K. with the introduction of the Prudential Regulatory Authority and the Financial Conduct Authority, which focuses on consumer protection, to replace the Financial Services Authority. We do not yet know what the impact of this legislation and related regulations will be on Chaucer's business operations or the U.K insurance industry.

From time to time, we are also involved in investigations and proceedings by U.S., U.K., state and other governmental and self-regulatory agencies. We cannot provide assurance that these investigations, proceedings and inquiries will not result in actions that would adversely affect our results of operations or financial condition.

As a specialist in Lloyd s insurance group, Chaucer is subject to a number of risks which could materially and adversely affect us.

As a specialist in Lloyd s insurance group, Chaucer is subject to a number of specific risk factors and uncertainties, including without limitation:

its reliance on insurance and reinsurance brokers and distribution channels to distribute and market its products (so called coverholders); its obligations to maintain funds at Lloyd s to support its underwriting activities; its risk-based capital requirement being assessed periodically by Lloyd s and being subject to variation;

its reliance on ongoing approvals from Lloyd s, the Financial Services Authority and other regulators to conduct its business, including a requirement that its Annual Business Plan be approved by Lloyd s before the start of underwriting for each account year;

its obligations to contribute to the Lloyd  $\,$  s New Central Fund and pay levies to Lloyd  $\,$  s;

its financial strength rating is derived from the rating assigned to Lloyd s, and Chaucer has very limited ability to directly affect the overall Lloyd s rating;

its ongoing ability to utilize Lloyd s trading licenses in order to underwrite business outside the United Kingdom;

its ongoing exposure to levies and charges in order to underwrite at Lloyd s; and

the requirement to maintain deposits in the United States for U.S. site risks it underwrites.

Whenever a member of Lloyd s is unable to pay its policyholder obligations, such obligations may be payable by the Lloyd s Central Fund. If Lloyd s determines that the Central Fund needs to be increased, it has the power to assess premium levies on current Lloyd s members up to 3% of a member s underwriting capacity in any one year. We do not believe that any assessment is likely in the foreseeable future and have not provided allowance for such an assessment. However, based on our 2013 estimated underwriting capacity at Lloyd s of £769.7 million, the December 31, 2012 exchange rate of 1.63 dollars per GBP and assuming the maximum 3% assessment, we could be assessed up to approximately \$37.6 million in 2013.

We are subject to the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, the U.K. Bribery Act and similar worldwide anti-bribery laws, which impose restrictions and may carry substantial penalties. Violations of these laws or allegations of such violations could cause a material adverse effect on our business, financial position and results of operations.

The U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and anti-bribery laws in other jurisdictions, including anti-bribery legislation in the U.K. that took effect in 2011, generally prohibit companies and their intermediaries from making improper payments for the purpose of obtaining or retaining business or other commercial advantage. Our policies mandate compliance with these anti-bribery laws, which often carry substantial penalties. We cannot assure you that our internal control policies and procedures always will protect us from reckless or other inappropriate acts committed by our affiliates, employees, agents or coverholders. Violations of these laws, or allegations of such violations, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position and results of operations.

We are subject to litigation risks, including risks relating to the application and interpretation of contracts, and adverse outcomes in litigation and legal proceedings could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

We are subject to litigation risks, including risks relating to the application and interpretation of insurance and reinsurance contracts, and are routinely involved in litigation that challenges specific terms and language incorporated into property and casualty contracts, such as claims reimbursements, covered perils and exclusion clauses, among others, or the interpretation or administration of such contracts. We are also involved in legal actions that do not arise in the ordinary course of business, some of which assert claims for substantial amounts. Adverse

outcomes, including with respect to the matter captioned Durand Litigation under Commitments and Contingencies Legal Proceedings in Note 17 in the Notes to the Con-

27

solidated Financial Statements included in Financial Statements and Supplementary Data of this Form 10-K, could materially affect our results of operations and financial condition.

We are subject to mandatory assessments by state guaranty funds; an increase in these assessments could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

All fifty states of the United States and the District of Columbia have insurance guaranty fund laws requiring property and casualty insurance companies doing business within the state to participate in guaranty associations. These associations are organized to pay contractual obligations under insurance policies issued by impaired or insolvent insurance companies. The associations levy assessments, up to prescribed limits, on all member insurers in a particular state on the basis of the proportionate share of the premiums written by member insurers in the lines of business in which the impaired or insolvent insurer is engaged. Although mandatory assessments by state guaranty funds that are used to cover losses to policyholders of insolvent or rehabilitated companies can be substantially recovered through policyholder surcharges or a reduction in future premium taxes in many states (provided the collecting insurer continues to write business in such state), there can be no assurance that all funds will be recoupable in the future. During 2012, we had a total assessment of \$5.5 million levied against us, with refunds of \$0.1 million received in 2012 for a total net assessment of \$5.4 million. As of December 31, 2012, we have \$0.7 million of reserves related to guaranty fund assessments. In the future, these assessments may increase above levels experienced in the current and prior years. Future increases in these assessments depend upon the rate of insolvencies of insurance companies. An increase in assessments could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

If we are unable to attract and retain qualified personnel, or if we experience the loss or retirement of key executives or other key employees, we may not be able to compete effectively and our operations could be impacted significantly.

Our future success will be affected by our continued ability to attract and retain qualified executives and other key employees, particularly those experienced in the property and casualty industry and the Lloyd s market.

Our profitability could be adversely affected by periodic changes to our relationships with our agencies.

We periodically review agencies, including managing general agencies, with which we do business to identify those that do not meet our profitability standards or are not strategically aligned with our business. Following these periodic reviews, we may restrict such agencies access to certain types of policies or terminate our relationship with them, subject to applicable contractual and regulatory requirements which limit our ability to terminate agents or which require us to renew policies. We may not achieve the desired results from these measures, and our failure to do so could negatively affect our operating results and financial position.

We may be affected by disruptions caused by the introduction of new products in Commercial Lines, Personal Lines and Chaucer businesses and related technology changes, new operating models in Commercial Lines, Personal Lines and Chaucer businesses and recent or future acquisitions, and expansion into new geographic areas. We could also be affected by an inability to retain profitable policies in force and attract profitable policies in our Commercial Lines, Personal Lines and Chaucer segments, particularly in light of a competitive product pricing environment and the adoption by competitors of strategies to increase agency appointments and commissions and increased advertising.

There are increased underwriting risks associated with premium growth and the introduction of new products or programs in our Commercial Lines, Personal Lines and Chaucer businesses. Additionally, we have increased underwriting risks associated with the appointment of new agencies and managing general agencies and with the expansion into new geographical areas, including international expansion.

The introduction of new Commercial Lines products, including through our acquired subsidiaries and the development of new niche and specialty lines, presents new risks. Certain new specialty products may present longer tail risks and increased volatility in profitability. Our expansion into new western states, including California, presents additional underwriting risks since the regulatory, geographic, natural risk, legal environment, demographic, business, economic and other characteristics of these states present challenges different from those in the states in which we historically have conducted business.

Our Personal Lines production and earnings may be unfavorably affected by the continued introduction of new products and our focus on account business (i.e., policyholders who have both automobile and homeowner insurance with us) which we believe, despite pricing discounts, will ultimately be more profitable business. We may also experience adverse selection, which occurs when insureds with larger risks purchase

our products because of favorable pricing, under-pricing, operational difficulties or implementation impediments with independent agents or the inability to grow new markets after the introduction of new products or the appointment of new agents.

There can be no assurance that as we enter new states or regions or grow business in our identified growth states, we won t experience higher loss trends than anticipated.

28

Integration of acquired businesses involves a number of risks and there can be no assurance that we will be successful integrating recent and future acquisitions.

There can be no assurance that we will be able to successfully integrate recent and any future acquisitions or that we will not assume unknown liabilities and reserve deficiencies in connection with such acquisitions. If we are unable to successfully integrate new businesses, then we could be impeded from realizing the benefits of an acquisition. The integration process could disrupt our business and a failure to successfully integrate newer businesses could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. The difficulties of integrating an acquisition and risks to our business include, among others:

unanticipated issues in integrating information, communications and other systems;

unanticipated incompatibility of logistics, marketing and administration methods;

maintaining employee morale and retaining key employees;

integrating the business cultures of different companies;

preserving important strategic, reinsurance and other relationships;

integrating legal and financial controls in multiple jurisdictions;

consolidating corporate and administrative infrastructures and eliminating duplicative operations;

the diversion of management s attention from ongoing business concerns;

integrating geographically separate organizations;

unexpected or overlapping concentrations of risk where one event or series of events can affect many insured parties;

significant transaction costs, including the effect of exchange rate fluctuations;

risks and uncertainties in our ability to increase the investment yield on the investment portfolio;

uncertainties in our ability to decrease leverage as a result of adding future earnings to our capital base;

risks and uncertainties regarding the volatility of underwriting results in a combined entity;

an ability to more efficiently manage capital;

an ability to improve renewal rates and increase new property and casualty policy counts;

an ability to increase or maintain certain property and casualty insurance rates;

complying with laws, rules and regulations in multiple jurisdictions, including new and multiple employment regulations, regulations relating to the conduct of business activities such as the U.K. Bribery Act, sanctions imposed by the U.S. or U.K. on doing business with certain foreign countries or other persons, privacy, information security, and environmental-related laws; and

the impact of new product or line of business introductions and our ability to meet projected return on capital targets.

In addition, even if we are able to integrate successfully recent and future acquisitions, we may not realize the full benefits of such acquisitions, including the synergies, cost savings or underwriting or growth opportunities that we expect. It is possible that these benefits may not be achieved within the anticipated time frame, or at all.

Our international operations expose us to additional risks which could cause a material adverse effect on our business, financial position and results of operations.

Our operations extend to countries outside the U.S. and operating globally increases the scope of our risks and exposes us to certain additional risks including but not limited to:

an expansion in the scope of the risks to which our U.S. operations are subject as an insurance company, such as risk of adverse loss development, litigation, investment risks and the possibility of significant catastrophe losses (as a result of natural disasters, nuclear accidents, severe weather and terrorism) occurring outside the U.S.;

compliance with a variety of national and local laws, regulations and practices of the countries in which we do business and adherence to any changes in such laws, regulations and practices affecting the insurance industry in such countries;

adverse changes in the economies in which we operate; and

requirements, such as those enforced by Her Majesty s Treasury, Asset Freezing Unit (U.K.) and the U.S. Treasury s Office of Foreign Asset Controls, to comply with various U.K., U.S., E.U. or other sanctions imposed on doing business with, or affecting, certain countries, their citizens, specially designated nationals or other persons doing business with any such countries or persons. In this respect, the following disclosure is provided pursuant to Section 13(r) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, subsection (1)(D)(iii):

On July 1, 2011, the Company acquired Chaucer Holdings PLC, which at that time was a U.K. publicly traded company. Chaucer is the U.K.-based parent of an insurance group trading through the Lloyd s of London insurance market.

In October 2007, prior to the Company s acquisition of Chaucer, Syndicate 1084, which is managed by Chaucer, entered into a Master Slip (the Master Slip ) pursuant to which it and several other Lloyd s syndicates agreed to provide specified reinsurance to Dana Insurance Company ( Dana Insurance ). The underlying insureds were Iran Power Plant Project, Management Company ( MAPNA ) and Iran Power Development Company ( IPDC ).

The Master Slip, which was governed by the law of England and Wales, provided Dana Insurance with reinsurance of physical damage and third party liability coverages relating to the construction or adaptation of gas turbine power plants and steam generating units at various locations in Iran. The Master Policy provided for reinsurance coverage for designated projects that commenced between August 1, 2007 and July 31, 2009. Contracts with respect to each individual project were endorsed and designated as subject to the Master Slip during this same time period. The coverage periods extended from 33 to 36 month time periods from commencement of each designated project, and a twelve month extended maintenance period. Syndicate 1084, which was not the lead syndicate, accepted a 13.5% interest in the aggregate interests of the Master Slip.

Pursuant to these arrangements, Contract Endorsements relating to three separate projects expired in January, February and July of 2012, respectively. Chaucer, on behalf of Syndicate 1084, issued a unilateral termination notice dated December 27, 2012, with respect to a fourth Contract Endorsement which otherwise would have expired by its terms on March 10, 2013.

Prior to the acquisition of Chaucer on July 1, 2011, the Company notified the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control on June 29, 2011 that Syndicate 1084 was subject to certain pre-existing insurance obligations involving Iran. After the acquisition on July 1, 2011 and during 2012, neither Chaucer nor Syndicate 1084 entered into any new arrangement with Iran, paid any claims or received any premiums with respect to any interests in the Master Slip. Any payments or other transactions relating to the Master Slip would have been in any case subject to various laws and regulations of the United Kingdom and the European Union implemented pursuant to requirements under EU Counsel Regulation 961/2010 dated October 25, 2010. In addition, at no time in calendar years 2011 or 2012 did Chaucer and Syndicate 1084 enter into any new coverage, amendments, waivers, endorsements or other transactions affecting obligations under the Master Slip, other than issuing the notice of termination referenced above with respect to the only Contract Endorsement which was extant at the time that the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 was signed into law on August 10, 2012.

The Company is unable to ascertain with certainty the ownership of Dana Insurance, MAPNA or IPDC, but it believes that the Government of Iran, or an agency or instrumentality thereof, may directly or indirectly own substantial or controlling interests in some or all of these three entities. The Company has not identified any of these entities as having been designated by the United States as Specially Designated Nationals; engaged in any activities described in subsection (a) or (b) of section 5 of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, subsections (c)(2) of section 104 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 or a transaction described in subsection (d)(1) of that section or section 105A(b)(2) of that Act; or subject to the blocking provisions of Executive Order Nos. 13224 or 13382.

The gross revenues attributable to the four Contract Endorsements extant in 2012 equaled \$131,768, or approximately 0.003% of the Company s total revenues; we are unable to calculate the net profits attributable to such policies in 2012, but, if any, they would be de minimus. By the end of 2012, all of the arrangements described above were in run-off and terminated by their respective terms or the subject of a notice of termination issued by Chaucer. The Company has no plans to continue such activities. No claims with respect to these Contract Endorsements or other policies previously issued and expired will be paid unless and until applicable sanctions or other restrictions imposed by the United States, United Kingdom and the European Union have been lifted, or licenses or other authorizations granted.

Intense competition could negatively affect our ability to maintain or increase our profitability.

We compete, and will continue to compete, with a large number of companies, including international, national and regional insurers, mutual companies, specialty insurance companies, so called off-shore companies which enjoy certain tax advantages, underwriting agencies and financial services institutions. We also compete with mutual insurance companies, reciprocal and exchange companies which may not have shareholders and may have different

30

profitability targets than publicly or privately-owned companies. Chaucer competes with numerous other Lloyd s syndicates and managing agents, domestic and international insurers and government or government-sponsored insuring or reinsuring mechanisms. In recent years, there has been substantial consolidation and convergence among companies in the financial services industry, resulting in increased competition from large, well-capitalized financial services firms. Many of our competitors have greater financial, technical and operating resources than we do and may be able to offer a wider range of, or more sophisticated, commercial and personal line products. Some companies are seeking to protect new products with patents or other legal protections, which may create new legal exposures or limit our ability to develop competing products. In addition, competition in the U.S. and international property and casualty insurance markets has intensified over the past several years. This competition has had and may continue to have an adverse impact on our revenues and profitability.

A number of new, proposed or potential legislative or industry developments could further increase competition in our industry. These developments include:

the implementation of commercial lines deregulation in several states;

programs in which state-sponsored entities provide property insurance in catastrophe-prone areas or other alternative markets types of coverage;

changes in, or restrictions on, the way independent agents may be compensated by insurance companies;

increased competition from off-shore tax advantaged insurance companies; and

changing practices caused by the internet and the increased usage of real time comparative rating tools, which have led to greater competition in the insurance business in general, particularly on the basis of price.

In addition, we could face heightened competition resulting from the entry of new competitors and the introduction of new products by new and existing competitors. Increased competition could make it difficult for us to obtain new customers, retain existing customers or maintain policies in force by existing customers. It could also result in increasing our service, administrative, policy acquisition or general expense due to the need for additional advertising and marketing of our products. In addition, our administrative, technology and management information systems expenditures could increase substantially as we try to maintain or improve our competitive position. We cannot provide assurance that we will be able to maintain a competitive position in the markets in which we operate, or that we will be able to expand our operations into new markets. If we fail to do so, our business could be materially adversely affected.

We are rated by several rating agencies, and changes to our ratings could adversely affect our operations.

Our ratings are important in establishing our competitive position and marketing the products of our insurance companies to our agents and customers, since rating information is broadly disseminated and generally used throughout the industry.

Our insurance company subsidiaries are rated by A.M. Best, Moody s, Fitch, and Standard & Poor s. These ratings reflect a rating agency s opinion of our insurance subsidiaries financial strength, operating performance, strategic position and ability to meet their obligations to policyholders. These ratings are not evaluations directed to investors, and are not recommendations to buy, sell or hold our securities. Our ratings are subject to periodic review by the rating agencies and we cannot guarantee the continued retention or improvement of our current ratings. This is particularly true in the current economic environment where rating agencies may increase their capital requirements or other criteria for various rating levels. In addition, Chaucer s rating is derived from the rating assigned to Lloyd s, and Chaucer has very limited ability to directly affect the overall Lloyd s rating.

A downgrade in one or more of our or any of our subsidiaries claims-paying ratings could negatively impact our business and competitive position, particularly in lines where customers require us to maintain minimum ratings. Additionally, a downgrade in one or more of our debt ratings could adversely impact our ability to access the capital markets and other sources of funds, increase the cost of current credit facilities, and/or adversely affect pricing of new debt sought in the capital markets in the future.

Negative changes in our level of statutory surplus could adversely affect our ratings and profitability.

The capacity for U.S. insurance company s growth in premiums is in part a function of its statutory surplus. Maintaining appropriate levels of statutory surplus, as measured by state insurance regulators, is considered important by state insurance regulatory authorities and the private agencies that rate insurers claims-paying abilities and financial strength. Regulators may require that additional capital be contributed to increase the level of statutory surplus. Failure to maintain certain levels of statutory surplus could result in increased regulatory scrutiny, action by state regulatory authorities or a downgrade by private rating agencies. Our surplus is affected by, among other things, results of operations and

investment gains, losses, impairments, and dividends from the insurance operating company to its parent company.

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners, or NAIC, uses a system for assessing the adequacy of statutory capital for U.S. property and casualty insurers. The system, known as risk-based capital, is in addition to the

31

states fixed dollar minimum capital and other requirements. The system is based on risk-based formulas that apply prescribed factors to the various risk elements in an insurer s business and investments to report a minimum capital requirement proportional to the amount of risk assumed by the insurer. We believe that any failure to maintain appropriate levels of statutory surplus would have an adverse impact on our ability to grow our business profitably.

We may not be able to grow as quickly or as profitably as we intend, which is important to our current strategy.

Over the past several years, we have made and our current plans are to continue to make, significant investments in our Commercial and Personal Lines of business, and we have increased expenses and made acquisitions in order to, among other things, strengthen our product offerings and service capabilities, expand into new geographic areas, improve technology and our operating models, build expertise in our personnel, and expand our distribution capabilities, with the ultimate goal of achieving significant, sustained growth. The ability to achieve significant profitable premium growth in order to earn adequate returns on such investments and expenses, and to grow further without proportionate increases in expenses, is an important part of our current strategy. There can be no assurance that we will be successful at profitably growing our business, or that we will not alter our current strategy due to changes in our markets or an inability to successfully maintain acceptable margins on new business or for other reasons, in which case written and earned premium, segment income and net book value could be adversely affected.

An impairment in the carrying value of goodwill and intangible assets could negatively impact our consolidated results of operations and shareholders equity.

Upon an acquisition of a business, we record goodwill and intangible assets at fair value. Goodwill and intangible assets determined to have indefinite useful lives are not amortized, while other intangible assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives. Goodwill and intangible assets that are not amortized are reviewed for impairment at least annually. Evaluating the recoverability of such assets requires us to rely on estimates and assumptions related to return on equity, margin, growth rates, discount rates, and other data. There are inherent uncertainties related to these factors and significant judgment is required in applying these factors. Goodwill and intangible asset impairment charges can result from declines in operating results, divestitures or sustained market declines and other factors. As of December 31, 2012, goodwill and intangible assets represented 12.4% of shareholders—equity. Although we believe these assets are recoverable, we cannot provide assurance that future market or business conditions would not result in the impairment of a portion of these assets. Impairment charges could materially affect our financial position and our financial results in the quarter or annual period in which they are recognized.

We could be subject to additional losses related to the sale of our Discontinued FAFLIC and variable life insurance and annuity businesses.

On January 2, 2009, we sold our remaining life insurance subsidiary, FAFLIC, to Commonwealth Annuity and Life Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Goldman Sachs. Coincident with the sale transaction, Hanover Insurance and FAFLIC entered into a reinsurance contract whereby Hanover Insurance assumed FAFLIC s discontinued accident and health insurance business. Goldman Sachs previously purchased, in 2005, our variable life insurance and annuity business.

In connection with these transactions, we have agreed to indemnify Commonwealth Annuity and Goldman Sachs for certain contingent liabilities, including litigation and other regulatory matters. We have established a reserve related to these contractual indemnifications. Although we believe that this reserve is adequate, we cannot provide assurance that costs related to these indemnifications when they ultimately settle, will not exceed our current reserve.

We may incur financial losses related to our discontinued assumed accident and health reinsurance pools and arrangements.

We previously participated, through FAFLIC, in approximately 40 assumed accident and health reinsurance pools and arrangements. The business was retained in the sale of FAFLIC and assumed by Hanover Insurance through a reinsurance agreement. During 1999, we ceased writing new premiums in this business, subject to certain contractual obligations. The reinsurance pool business consisted primarily of the medical and disability portions of workers compensation risks, long-term care pools, assumed personal accident, individual medical, long-term disability and special risk business. We are currently monitoring and managing the run-off of our related participation in the 25 pools with remaining liabilities.

Under these arrangements, we variously acted as a reinsurer, a reinsured or both. In some instances, we ceded significant exposures to other reinsurers in the marketplace. The potential risk to us as a participant in these pools is primarily that other companies that reinsured this business from us may seek to avoid or fail to timely pay their reinsurance obligations (especially in light of the fact that historically these pools sometimes involved multiple layers of overlapping reinsurers, or so-called spirals ) or may become insolvent. Thus, we are exposed to both assumed

32

losses and to credit risk related to these pools. We are not currently engaged in any significant disputes in respect to this business. At this time, we do not anticipate that any significant portion of recorded reinsurance recoverables will be uncollectible. However, we cannot provide assurance that all recoverables are collectible and should these recoverables prove to be uncollectible, our results of operations and financial position may be negatively affected.

We believe our reserves for the accident and health assumed and ceded reinsurance business appropriately reflect current claims, unreported losses and likely investment returns on related assets supporting these reserves. However, due to the inherent volatility in this business and the reporting lag of losses that tend to develop over time and which ultimately affect excess covers, there can be no assurance that current reserves are adequate or that we will not have additional losses in the future. Although we have discontinued participation in these reinsurance arrangements, unreported claims related to the years in which we were a participant may be reported and previously reported claims may develop unfavorably. If any such unreported claims or unfavorable development is reported to us, our results of operations and financial position may be negatively impacted. In addition, at this time it is unclear what impact the Federal Healthcare Act has on our obligations under the residual healthcare policies which are outstanding, but we may be required to significantly expand benefits without a commensurate ability to increase premiums.

Other market fluctuations and general economic, market and political conditions may also negatively affect our business, profitability and investment portfolio.

It is difficult to predict the impact of the challenging economic environment on our business. In Commercial Lines, the difficult economy has resulted in reductions in demand for insurance products and services as more companies cease to do business and there are fewer business start-ups, particularly as small businesses are affected by a decline in overall consumer and business spending. Additionally, claims frequency could increase as policyholders submit and pursue claims more aggressively than in the past, fraud incidences may increase, or we may experience higher incidents of abandoned properties or poorer maintenance, which may also result in more claims activity. We have experienced higher workers—compensation claims as injured employees take longer to return to work, increased surety losses as construction companies experience financial pressures and higher retroactive premium returns as audit results reflect lower payrolls. Our business could also be affected by an ensuing consolidation of independent insurance agencies. Our ability to increase pricing has been impacted as agents and policyholders have been more price sensitive, customers shop for policies more frequently or aggressively, utilize comparative rating models or, in Personal Lines in particular, turn to direct sales channels rather than independent agents. We have also experienced decreased new business premium levels, retention and renewal rates, and renewal premiums. Specifically in Personal Lines, policyholders may reduce coverages or change deductibles to reduce premiums, experience declining home values, or be subject to increased foreclosures, and policyholders may retain older or less expensive automobiles and purchase or insure fewer ancillary items such as boats, trailers and motor homes for which we provide coverages. Additionally, if as a result of the difficult economic environment, drivers continue to eliminate automobile insurance coverage or to reduce their bodily injury limit, we may be exposed to more uninsured and underin

Chaucer s business is similarly subject to risks related to the economy, both in its traditional Lloyd s business, and its U.K. motor business. In addition to the risks noted above, adverse economic conditions could negatively affect our ability to obtain letters of credit utilized by Chaucer to underwrite business through Lloyd s.

At December 31, 2012, we held approximately \$8 billion of investment assets in categories such as fixed maturities, cash and short-term investments, equity securities, and other long-term investments. Our investments are primarily concentrated in the U.S. domestic market; however, we have exposure to international markets as well, with approximately 29% of our cash and investment assets invested in foreign markets. Our investment returns, and thus our profitability, surplus and shareholders—equity, may be adversely affected from time to time by conditions affecting our specific investments and, more generally, by bond, stock, real estate and other market fluctuations and general economic, market and political conditions, including concerns regarding sub-prime and prime mortgages, as well as residential and commercial mortgage-backed or other debt securities, increasing concerns relating to the municipal bond markets and European sovereign debt, and developments that negatively impact our investment in real estate such as increased development costs. Our ability to make a profit on insurance products depends in part on the returns on investments supporting our obligations under these products, and the value of specific investments may fluctuate substantially depending on the foregoing conditions. We may use a variety of strategies to hedge our exposure to interest and currency rates and other market risks. However, hedging strategies are not always available and carry certain credit risks, and our hedging could be ineffective.

Debt securities comprise a material portion of our investment portfolio. The issuers of those securities, as well as borrowers under the loans we make, customers, trading

counterparties, counterparties under swaps and other derivative contracts, banks which have commitments under our various borrowing arrangements, and reinsurers, may be affected by declining market conditions or credit weaknesses. These parties may default on their obligations to us due to lack of liquidity, downturns in the economy or real estate values, operational failure, bankruptcy or other reasons. Future increases in interest rates from current near-historic lows could result in increased defaults as borrowers are unable to pay the additional borrowing costs on variable rate securities or obtain refinancing. We cannot assure you that further impairment charges will not be necessary in the future. In addition, evaluation of available-for-sale securities for other-than-temporary impairment includes inherent uncertainty and subjective determinations. We cannot be certain that such impairments are adequate as of any stated date. Our ability to fulfill our debt and other obligations could be adversely affected by the default of third parties on their obligations owed to us.

Deterioration in the global financial markets may adversely affect our investment portfolio and have a related impact on our other comprehensive income, shareholders—equity and overall investment performance. In recent years, global financial markets experienced unprecedented and challenging conditions, including a tightening in the availability of credit, the failure of several large financial institutions and concerns about the creditworthiness of the sovereign debt of several European and other countries. As a result, certain government bodies and central banks worldwide, including the U.S. Treasury Department and the U.S. Federal Reserve, provided for unprecedented intervention programs, the efficacy of which remain uncertain.

In addition, our current borrowings from the FHLBB are secured by collateral. If the fair value of pledged collateral falls below specific levels, we would be required to pledge additional collateral or repay any outstanding FHLBB borrowings.

Market conditions also affect the value of assets under our employee pension plans, including our U.S. Cash Balance Plan and Chaucer pension plan. The expense or benefit related to our employee pension plans results from several factors, including changes in the market value of plan assets, interest rates, regulatory requirements or judicial interpretation of benefits. For the year ended December 31, 2012, we recognized net expenses of \$11.0 million related to our employee pension plans. At December 31, 2012, our U.S. plan assets included approximately 84% of fixed maturities and 16% of equity securities and other assets. At December 31, 2012, our Chaucer pension plan assets included approximately 77% of equities, 14% of fixed maturities, and 9% of real estate funds. The Chaucer pension plan is approximately \$26 million underfunded as of December 31, 2012. Declines in the market value of plan assets and interest rates from levels at December 31, 2012, among other factors, could impact our funding estimates and negatively affect our results of operations. At December 31, 2012, our net liabilities exceed assets by approximately \$41 million and \$15 million for our U.S. non-qualified and U.S. qualified pension plans, respectively. Shareholders equity was negatively impacted by a pre-tax adjustment of approximately \$16 million primarily due to lower discount rates at December 31, 2012 that more than offset investment returns. Deterioration in market conditions and differences between our assumptions and actual occurrences, and behaviors, including judicial determinations of ultimate benefit obligations pursuant to the <u>Durand</u> case discussed elsewhere, or otherwise, could result in a need to fund more into the qualified plan to maintain an appropriate funding level.

We may experience unrealized losses on our investments, especially during a period of heightened volatility, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

Our investment portfolio and shareholders equity can be and in the past have been significantly impacted by the changes in the market values of our securities. U.S. and global financial markets and economies remain uncertain. This could result in unrealized and realized losses in future periods, and adversely affect the liquidity of our investments, which could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations and our financial position. At December 31, 2012, our financial position is benefited by \$439.5 million as a result of unrealized gains, largely driven by the low interest rate environment. Information with respect to interest rate sensitivity is included in Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures in Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of this Form 10-K. Valuation of financial instruments (i.e. Level 1, 2, or 3) include methodologies, estimates, assumptions and judgments that are subject to different interpretations and could result in changes to investment valuations or the ability to receive such valuations on sale.

If, following such declines, we are unable to hold our investment assets until they recover in value or if such asset value never recovers, we would incur other-than-temporary impairments which would be recognized as realized losses in our results of operations, reduce net income and earnings per share and adversely affect our liquidity. Temporary declines in market value are recorded as unrealized losses, which do not affect net income and earnings per share, but reduce other comprehensive income, which is reflected on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. We cannot provide

34

assurance that we will not have additional other-than-temporary impairments and/or unrealized investment losses in the future. Likewise, there can be no assurance that our investment portfolio will retain the net unrealized gains reflected on the balance sheet as of December 31, 2012, since such gains are dependent on prevailing interest rates, credit ratings and creditworthiness and general economic and other factors.

We invest a portion of our portfolio in common stock or preferred stocks. The value of these assets fluctuates with the equity markets. Particularly in times of economic weakness, the market value and liquidity of these assets may decline, and may impact net income, capital and cash flows.

We are exposed to significant capital market risks related to changes in interest rates, credit spreads, equity prices and foreign exchange rates which may adversely affect our results of operations, financial position or cash flows.

We are exposed to significant capital markets risk related to changes in interest rates, credit spreads, equity prices and foreign currency exchange rates. If significant, declines in equity prices, changes in interest rates, changes in credit spreads and the strengthening or weakening of foreign currencies against the U.S. dollar could have a material adverse effect on our results, financial position or cash flows. Our exposure to interest rate risk relates primarily to the market price and cash flow variability associated with changes in interest rates. Our investment portfolio contains interest rate sensitive instruments, such as fixed income securities, which may be adversely affected by changes in interest rates from governmental monetary policies, domestic and international economic and political conditions and other factors beyond our control. A rise in interest rates would reduce the fair value of our investment portfolio, but provide the opportunity to earn higher rates of return on funds reinvested. A further decline in interest rates, on the other hand, would increase the fair value of our investment portfolio, but we would earn lower rates of return on reinvested assets. We may be forced to liquidate investments prior to maturity at a loss in order to cover liabilities and such liquidation could be accelerated in the event of significant loss events, such as catastrophes. Although we take measures to manage the economic risks of investing in a changing interest rate environment, we may not be able to mitigate the interest rate risk of our assets relative to our liabilities.

Our fixed income portfolio is invested primarily in high quality, investment-grade securities. However, we also invest in alternative investments such as non-investment-grade high yield fixed income securities. These securities, which pay a higher rate of interest, also have a higher degree of credit or default risk. These securities may also be less liquid in times of economic weakness or market disruptions. While we have procedures to monitor the credit risk and liquidity of our invested assets, we expect from time to time, and particularly in periods of economic weakness, to experience default losses in our portfolio. This would result in a corresponding reduction of net income, capital and cash flows.

Inflationary pressures may negatively impact expenses, reserves and the value of investments.

Inflationary pressures in the geographies in which we operate may negatively impact reserves and the value of investments. In particular, inflationary pressures in the U.S. with respect to medical and health care, automobile repair and construction costs, all of which are significant components of our indemnity liabilities under policies we issue to our customers, and which could also impact the adequacy of reserves we have set aside for prior accident years, may have a negative effect on our results of operations. Inflationary pressures also cause or contribute to, or are the result of, increases in interest rates, which would reduce the fair value of our investment portfolio.

Our operations may be adversely impacted by foreign currency fluctuations.

Our reporting currency is the U.S. dollar. The functional currencies of our Chaucer segment are the U.S. dollar, U.K. pound sterling and the Canadian dollar. Exchange rate fluctuations relative to the functional currencies may materially impact our financial position. Further, our Chaucer segment maintains assets and liabilities in currencies different than its functional currency, which exposes us to changes in currency exchange rates. In addition, locally required capital levels are invested in local currencies in order to satisfy regulatory requirements and to support local insurance operations regardless of currency fluctuations. We attempt to manage our foreign currency exposure through matching of assets and liabilities, as well as through the use of derivatives. Despite our mitigation efforts, exposure to foreign exchange loss could have a material adverse effect on our reported earnings and book value.

We are a holding company and rely on our insurance company subsidiaries for cash flow; we may not be able to receive dividends from our subsidiaries in needed amounts and may be required to provide capital to support their operations.

We are a holding company for a diversified group of insurance companies and our principal assets are the shares of capital stock of these subsidiaries. Our ability to make required debt service payments, as well as our ability to pay operating expenses and pay dividends to shareholders depends upon the receipt of sufficient funds from our subsidiaries. The payment of dividends by our insurance company subsidiaries is subject to regulatory restrictions and

35

will depend on the surplus and future earnings of these subsidiaries, as well as these regulatory restrictions. We are required to notify insurance regulators prior to paying any dividends from our U.S. insurance subsidiaries and pre-approval is required with respect to extraordinary dividends, and distributions from Chaucer are subject to various requirements imposed by Lloyd s and the FSA (or its successor regulator).

Because of the regulatory limitations on the payment of dividends from our insurance company subsidiaries, we may not always be able to receive dividends from these subsidiaries at times and in amounts necessary to meet our debt and other obligations. The inability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends to us in an amount sufficient to meet our debt service and funding obligations would have a material adverse effect on us. These regulatory dividend restrictions also impede our ability to transfer cash and other capital resources among our subsidiaries.

Similarly, our insurance subsidiaries may require capital from the holding company to support their operations. For example, our holding company has provided a guaranty for the benefit of our Chaucer segment to support the letter of credit agreement supplied to support Chaucer segment at Lloyd s requirements. We do not currently expect to receive, in the near future, distributions from our Chaucer segment.

Our dependence on our insurance subsidiaries for cash flow, and their potential need for capital support, exposes us to the risk of changes in their ability to generate sufficient cash inflows from new or existing customers or from increased cash outflows. Cash outflows may result from claims activity, expense payments or investment losses. Because of the nature of our business, claims activity can arise suddenly and in amounts which could outstrip our capital or liquidity resources. Reductions in cash flow or capital demands from our subsidiaries could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

We may require additional capital or credit in the future, which may not be available or only available on unfavorable terms.

We monitor our capital adequacy on a regular basis. Our future capital and liquidity requirements depend on many factors, including our premiums written, loss reserves and claim payments, investment portfolio composition and risk exposures, the availability of letters and lines of credit, as well as regulatory and rating agency capital requirements. In addition, our capital strength can affect our ratings, and therefore is important to our ability to underwrite. The quality of our claims paying and financial strength ratings are evaluated by independent rating agencies. Such ratings affect our ability to write quality business, our borrowing expenses and our ability to raise capital.

Our Chaucer business is required to satisfy Lloyd s minimum capital standards. We satisfy Lloyd s member deposit funds requirement (referred to as Funds at Lloyd s or FAL), in part, through a standby letter of credit. If the letters of credit were drawn, we would expect to use a syndicated credit facility to pay such obligation, which would increase our debt borrowings. If the syndicated credit facility was not available to repay this letter of credit facility, we would need to obtain capital elsewhere, and face the risk that alternative financing, such as through cash or other borrowings, would not be available at acceptable terms, if at all. In addition, no assurance can be given as to how much business Lloyd s will permit Chaucer to underwrite in any single year nor as to the viability and cost of the capital structure we may use as a substitute for the external capital and reinsurance currently used by Chaucer.

To the extent that our existing capital is insufficient to fund our future operating requirements and/or cover claim losses, we may need to raise additional funds through financings or limit our growth. Any equity or debt financing, if available, may be on terms that are unfavorable to us. In the case of equity financings, dilution to our shareholders could result and, in any case, such securities may have rights, preferences, and privileges that are senior to our common stock. If we are not able to obtain additional capital as necessary, our business, results of operations and financial condition could be adversely affected.

Errors or omissions in connection with the administration of any of our products may cause our business and profitability to be negatively impacted.

We are responsible to our policyholders for administering their policies, premiums and claims and ensuring that appropriate records are maintained which reflect their transactions. We are subject to risks that errors or omissions of information occurred with respect to the administration of our products. As a result, we are subject to risks of liabilities associated with bad faith , unfair claims practices, unfair trade practices or similar allegations. Such risks may stem from allegations of agents, vendors, policyholders, claimants, members of Lloyd syndicates, reinsurers, regulators, states attorneys general, Lloyd s, the FSA or other international regulators, or others. We may incur charges associated with any errors and omissions previously made or which are made in future periods. These charges may result from our obligation to policyholders to correct any errors or omissions or refund premiums, non-compliance with regulatory requirements, from fines imposed by regulatory authorities, or from other items, which may affect our financial position or results of operations.

We may experience difficulties with technology, data security and/or outsourcing relationships, which could have a negative impact on our ability to conduct our business.

We use computer systems to store, retrieve, evaluate and utilize customer and company data and information. Our computer, information technology and telecommunications systems, in turn, interface with and rely upon third-party systems. Our business is highly dependent on our ability, and the ability of certain third parties, to access these systems to perform necessary business functions, including, without limitation, providing insurance quotes, processing premium payments, making changes to existing policies, filing and paying claims, providing customer support and managing our investment portfolios. Systems failures or outages could compromise our ability to perform these functions in a timely manner, which could harm our ability to conduct business and hurt our relationships with our business partners and customers. In the event of a disaster such as a natural catastrophe, an industrial accident, a blackout, a computer virus, a terrorist attack or war, or interference from solar flares, our systems may be inaccessible to our employees, customers or business partners for an extended period of time. Even if our employees are able to report to work, they may be unable to perform their duties for an extended period of time if our data or systems are disabled or destroyed. This could result in a materially adverse effect on our business results and liquidity.

Our systems, like others in the financial services industry, are potentially vulnerable to cyber security risks and we are subject to potential disruption caused by such activities. Large corporations such as ours are subject to near daily attacks on their systems. Such attacks may have various goals, from seeking confidential information to causing operational disruption. Although to date such activities have not resulted in material disruptions to our operations or, to our knowledge, breach of any security or confidential information, no assurance can be provided that such disruptions or breach will not occur in the future.

Additionally, we could be subject to liability if confidential customer information is misappropriated from our computer systems, those of our vendors or others with whom we do business, or otherwise. Despite whatever security measures may be in place, any such systems may be vulnerable to physical break-ins, computer viruses, programming errors, attacks by third parties or similar disruptive problems. Any well-publicized compromise of security could deter people from entering into transactions that involve transmitting confidential information, which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We outsource certain technology and business process functions to third parties and may do so increasingly in the future. If we do not effectively develop, implement and monitor our outsourcing strategy, third party providers do not perform as anticipated or we experience technological or other problems with a transition, we may not realize productivity improvements or cost efficiencies and may experience operational difficulties, increased costs and a loss of business. Our outsourcing of certain technology and business process functions to third parties may expose us to enhanced risk related to data security, which could result in monetary and reputational damages. In addition, our ability to receive services from third party providers outside of the United States might be impacted by cultural differences, political instability, unanticipated regulatory requirements or policies inside or outside of the United States. As a result, our ability to conduct our business might be adversely affected.

# ITEM 1B UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

### ITEM 2 PROPERTIES

We own our headquarters, located at 440 Lincoln Street, Worcester, Massachusetts, with approximately 919,000 square feet.

We also own office space located at 645 W. Grand River, Howell, Michigan, with approximately 108,000 square feet, a three-building complex located at 808 North Highlander Way, Howell, Michigan, with approximately 176,000 square feet, where various business operations are conducted, and office space located at Thanet Way, Whitstable, United Kingdom, with approximately 40,000 square feet, where we operate our U.K. motor line of business.

We lease office space located at 30 Fenchurch Street, London, United Kingdom. We also lease offices throughout the United States and in select locations worldwide for branch sales, underwriting and claims processing functions, and the operations of acquired subsidiaries.

We believe that our facilities are adequate for our present needs in all material respects. Certain of our properties have been leased to unrelated third parties or are available for lease.

# ITEM 3 LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Reference is made to the litigation matter captioned Durand Litigation under Commitments and Contingencies Legal Proceedings in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Financial Statements and Supplementary Data of this Form 10-K.

# ITEM 4 MINE SAFTEY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

37

# ITEM 5 MARKET FOR REGISTRANT S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

### COMMON STOCK AND STOCKHOLDER OWNERSHIP

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol THG. On February 20, 2013, we had approximately 23,059 shareholders of record and 44,645,707 shares outstanding. On the same date, the trading price of our common stock was \$42.19 per share.

#### COMMON STOCK PRICES

	1	High <sup>(1)</sup>	I	Low <sup>(1)</sup>
2012				
First Quarter	\$	41.52	\$	34.27
Second Quarter	\$	41.04	\$	37.17
Third Quarter	\$	39.69	\$	33.99
Fourth Quarter	\$	39.51	\$	34.58
2011				
First Quarter	\$	48.82	\$	45.08
Second Quarter	\$	46.15	\$	36.18
Third Quarter	\$	37.97	\$	31.22
Fourth Quarter	\$	39.23	\$	33.26

(1) Common stock prices were obtained from a third party service provider.

The Board of Directors declared dividends in 2012 and 2011 as follows:

PER SHARE AMOUNT	2012	2011
First Quarter	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.275
Second Quarter	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.275
Third Quarter	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.275
Fourth Quarter	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.300

We currently expect that comparable cash dividends will be paid in the future; however, the payment of future dividends on our common stock will be determined by the Board of Directors from time to time based upon cash available at our holding company, our results of operations and financial condition and such other factors as the Board of Directors considers relevant.

Dividends to shareholders may be funded from dividends paid to us from our subsidiaries. Dividends from insurance subsidiaries are subject to restrictions imposed by state insurance laws and regulations and for our foreign subsidiaries, to restrictions imposed by the FSA (or its successor regulator) and Lloyd s. See Liquidity and Capital Resources in Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Note 12 Dividend Restrictions in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Financial Statements and Supplementary Data of this Form 10-K.

### ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

The Board of Directors has authorized a stock repurchase program which provides for aggregate repurchases of up to \$500 million. Under the repurchase authorizations, we may repurchase our common stock from time to time, in amounts and prices and at such times as deemed appropriate, subject to market conditions and other considerations. Our repurchases may be executed using open market purchases, privately negotiated transactions, accelerated repurchase programs or other transactions. We are not required to purchase any specific number of shares or to make purchases by any certain date under this program. Total repurchases under this program as of December 31, 2012 were 9.1 million shares at a cost of \$384.8 million.

Shares purchased in the fourth quarter of 2012 are as follows:

#### Total Number of Shares

			Purchased as Part of	Approximate Dollar Value
			Publicly	of Shares That May
			Announced	Yet
	Total Number of	Average Price	Plans or	be Purchased Under the
PERIOD	Shares Purchased	Paid per Share	Programs	Plans or Programs
October 1 31, 2012	847	\$ 38.60		\$ 115,200,000
November 1 30, 2012	242	34.88		115,200,000
December 1 31, 2012	4,584	38.28		115,200,000
Total	5,673	\$ 38.18		\$ 115,200,000

The total number of shares purchased reflects shares withheld to satisfy tax withholding amounts due from employees related to the receipt of stock which resulted from the exercise or vesting of equity awards.

38

# **PART II**

# ITEM 6 SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

Five Year Summary Of Selected Financial  $Highlights^{(1)}$ 

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31 (in millions, except per share data)		2012		2011		2010		2009		2008
Statements of Income										
Revenues										
Premiums	\$ 4	4,239,1	\$ 1	3,598.6	\$ 2	2.841.0	\$ 2	2,546.4	\$ 2	2,484.9
Net investment income	Ψ	276.6	Ψ.	258.2	Ψ-	247.2	Ψ-	252.1	Ψ-	258.7
Net realized investment gains (losses)		23.6		28.1		29.7		1.4		(97.8)
Fees and other income		51.4		46.7		34.3		34.2		34.6
Total revenues	4	4,590.7	3	3,931.6	3	3,152.2	2	2,834.1	2	2,680.4
Losses and Expenses										
Losses and loss adjustment expenses		2,974.4	1	2,550.8	1	,856.3	1	,639.2	1	,626.2
Policy acquisition expenses	•	938.1		778.9	•	600.8		524.3	•	499.9
Net loss (gain) from retirement of debt		5.1		2.3		2.0		(34.5)		
Other operating expenses		644.4		578.0		487.5		439.8		387.4
Total losses and expenses	4	4,562.0	3	3,910.0	2	,946.6	2	2,568.8	2	2,513.5
Income before income taxes		28.7		21.6		205.6		265.3		166.9
Income tax expense (benefit)		(17.4)		(9.9)		56.0		81.2		80.8
Income from continuing operations		46.1		31.5		149.6		184.1		86.1
Discontinued operations (net of taxes):										
Gain (loss) from discontinued FAFLIC business		(0.1)		2.9		0.5		7.1		(84.8)
Other discontinued operations		9.9		2.3		1.1		2.3		20.9
Income (loss) from discontinued operations		9.8		5.2		1.6		9.4		(63.9)
Net income	\$	55.9	\$	36.7	\$	151.2	\$	193.5	\$	22.2
Net income per common share (diluted)	\$	1.23	\$	0.80	\$	3.27	\$	3.79	\$	0.43
Dividends declared per common share	\$	1.23	\$	1.13	\$	1.00	\$	0.75	\$	0.45
Balance Sheets (at December 31)										
Total assets	\$ 13	3,484.9	\$ 12	2,598.6	\$ 8	3,546.8	\$ 8	3,023.2	\$ 9	,214.4
Debt		849.4		911.1		605.9		433.9		531.4
Total liabilities	10	0,889.5	10	0,114.6	6	,109.4	5	5,684.1	7	,343.0
Shareholders equity	2	2,595.4	2	2,484.0	2	,437.4	2	2,339.1	1	,871.4

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes results of Chaucer Holdings plc since the July 1, 2011 acquisition date.

# ITEM 7

MANAGEMENT S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF

# FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Introduction</u>	41
Executive Overview	41
Description of Operating Segments	42
Results of Operations Net Income	43
Segment Results	44
<u>investments</u>	60
Other Items	66
Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk	67
Discontinued Operations	68
income Taxes	69
Critical Accounting Estimates	71
Statutory Surplus of U.S. Insurance Subsidiaries	75
Lloyd s Capital Requirement	75
Liquidity and Capital Resources	76
Off Balance Sheet Arrangements	79
Contingencies and Regulatory Matters	79
Rating Agencies	79
Risks and Forward Looking Statements	80
Glossary of Selected Insurance Terms	80

40

### INTRODUCTION

The following Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations is intended to assist readers in understanding the consolidated results of operations and financial condition of The Hanover Insurance Group, Inc. and subsidiaries ( THG ). Consolidated results of operations and financial condition are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America ( U.S. GAAP ). This discussion should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and related footnotes included elsewhere herein.

Results of operations include the accounts of The Hanover Insurance Company ( Hanover Insurance ) and Citizens Insurance Company of America ( Citizens ), our principal U.S. domiciled property and casualty companies; Chaucer Holdings plc ( Chaucer ), and certain other insurance and non-insurance subsidiaries. Effective July 1, 2011, we acquired Chaucer, a specialist insurance underwriting group which operates through the Society and Corporation of Lloyd s ( Lloyds ) and is domiciled in the United Kingdom ( U.K. ). Results of operations include Chaucer s results in periods subsequent to July 1, 2011. Accordingly, our results for the year ended December 31, 2010 do not include any results from Chaucer and our results for the year ended December 31, 2011 include Chaucer s results for only the period from July 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. Results of operations for the year ended December 31, 2012 include results from all of our business segments. Additionally, results of operations include our discontinued operations, consisting primarily of our former life insurance businesses, accident and health business and third party administration business.

#### EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

Business operations consist of four operating segments: Commercial Lines, Personal Lines, Chaucer and Other Property and Casualty.

Segment income excluding income taxes and interest was \$75.1 million in 2012 compared to \$71.8 million in 2011. The increase in our pre-tax segment income in 2012 was primarily due to a \$103.9 million increase in Chaucer segment income, reflecting a full year of results from operations for Chaucer compared to only six months of results in 2011, and to lower loss activity in most Chaucer product classes. The increase from our Chaucer segment was partially offset by a \$96.6 million decrease in Commercial Lines segment income, which was primarily due to unfavorable development on prior years loss and loss adjustment expense (LAE) reserves and from increased catastrophe losses in 2012, primarily as a result of Superstorm Sandy. For all segments combined, pre-tax catastrophe losses, although relatively flat year over year, were at elevated levels, with catastrophe losses of \$369.9 million during 2012, compared to \$361.6 million for 2011. Catastrophe losses in 2012 were primarily the result of \$198.1 million of pre-tax losses related to Superstorm Sandy during the fourth quarter, and from several tornadoes during the first six months of the year. Our 2011 catastrophe losses resulted principally from winter storms, tornado, hail and windstorm activity in the first half of the year, and from Hurricane Irene and floods in Thailand and Denmark during the second half of the year. During 2012, \$72.6 million of favorable development related to our Chaucer segment was partially offset by \$56.8 million of unfavorable development related to our domestic operations. During 2011, \$67.8 million of favorable development was related to our domestic operations and \$35.5 million related to our Chaucer segment.

In several recent years, weather-related catastrophe and non-catastrophe losses have been in excess of longer term averages. Pricing in our Commercial and Personal Lines continues to improve as the industry responds to these increased weather-related losses, as well as to the earnings impact of reduced investment income as a result of low interest rates, and other factors. We are continuing efforts to improve our underwriting results in both our Commercial and Personal Lines, including through rate increases and improvements to our mix of business.

### **Commercial Lines**

We believe our unique approach to the small commercial market, distinctiveness in the middle market, and continued development of specialty lines provides us with a diversified portfolio of products and delivers significant value to agents and policyholders. The small commercial and middle market businesses are expected to contribute to premium growth in Commercial Lines over the next several years as we continue to pursue our core strategy of developing strong partnerships with agents, distinctive products, franchise value through limited distribution, and industry segmentation. Growth in our specialty lines continues to be an important part of our strategy, with the expansion of our product offerings in these lines supported by several acquisitions of specialized business.

We believe these efforts have driven, and will continue to drive, improvement in our overall mix of business and ultimately our underwriting profitability. Commercial Lines net written premium grew by 11.7% in 2012, driven by both our core commercial businesses and specialty

businesses. This growth is primarily due to rate increases, strong retention and targeted new business expansion. Losses and LAE expenses were higher in 2012 as compared to the prior year, primarily due to unfavorable development on prior

41

years loss reserves and increased catastrophe losses related to Superstorm Sandy. Unfavorable development of prior years loss reserves during 2012 was \$29.0 million compared to favorable development of \$34.7 million during 2011. Notwithstanding the increase in losses and LAE, there was a modest increase in current accident year underwriting profit primarily due to the growth in earned premium and changes to our mix of business.

The competitive nature of the Commercial Lines market requires us to be highly disciplined in our underwriting process to ensure that we write business at acceptable margins. Also, we continue to seek rate increases across our lines of business. Rate actions in our commercial automobile and workers compensation lines, and our property coverages in our commercial multiple peril line have been supported by industry wide loss trends and severity. In our surety business, we continue to shift the business mix toward commercial surety from contract surety, and to enhance the underwriting tools and standards that we employ.

### **Personal Lines**

In our Personal Lines business, we focus on partnering with high quality, value-added agencies that deliver consultative selling and stress the importance of account rounding (the conversion of single policy customers to accounts with multiple policies and additional coverages). Approximately 70% of our policies in force are account business. We are focused on making investments that help maintain profitability, build a distinctive position in the market, help diversify us geographically from our historical core states of Michigan, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey, and provide us with profitable growth opportunities.

Written premium in Personal Lines increased slightly during 2012. Underwriting results improved modestly in 2012, as compared to 2011, primarily due to decreased catastrophe and non-catastrophe weather-related losses, partially offset by unfavorable development on prior years loss reserves. Unfavorable development on prior years loss reserves during 2012 was \$26.5 million, compared to favorable development of \$33.0 million during 2011. Similar to our strategy in Commercial Lines, we continue to seek additional rate increases, subject to regulatory considerations, in our personal automobile line, particularly as a result of recent trends of higher loss severity in bodily injury and personal injury protection claims and homeowners lines as a result of the catastrophe and non-catastrophe weather-related losses that the industry experienced in recent years.

### Chaucer

In our Chaucer business, we deploy specialist underwriters in over 30 major insurance and reinsurance classes, including energy, marine and aviation, U.K. motor, property, and casualty and other coverages. We obtain business through Lloyd s, the leading international insurance and reinsurance market, which provides us with access to specialist business in over 200 countries and territories worldwide through its international licenses, brand reputation and strong security rating. Together, our underwriting strength, diverse portfolio and Lloyd s membership underpin our ability to actively manage the scale, composition and profitable development of this business.

In 2012, our Chaucer segment net written premiums were \$990.5 million and net earned premiums were \$966.8 million. We benefited from rate increases for several lines, particularly property, energy and marine, following recent high levels of insured market losses. Overall, 2012 underwriting results were favorable, generating \$20.9 million of underwriting income, excluding prior years favorable loss reserve development, benefitting from lower loss activity in most lines and a relatively low level of man-made and natural catastrophe losses.

After an encouraging year in our international insurance business, we expect moderating rate increases in 2013, with emerging underwriting opportunities limited to those marine and property markets most affected by Superstorm Sandy. U.K. motor rates decreased in 2012 and we expect this trend to continue in 2013 following significant increases in 2010 and 2011. There can be no assurance that we will be able to maintain or increase our rates in light of economic and regulatory conditions in our markets.

The focus of our capital and underwriting capabilities remains in those areas where we expect rates to be more favorable, in particular, for catastrophe-exposed marine and energy risks, with emphasis away from business where rates are currently under pressure, notably casualty and aviation.

### DESCRIPTION OF OPERATING SEGMENTS

Primary business operations include insurance products and services currently provided through four operating segments. These operating segments are Commercial Lines, Personal Lines, Chaucer and Other Property and Casualty. Commercial Lines includes commercial multiple peril, commercial automobile, workers compensation and other commercial coverages, such as specialty program business, inland marine, management and professional liability and surety. Personal Lines includes personal automobile, homeowners and other personal coverages. Chaucer includes marine and aviation, energy, property, U.K. motor, and casualty and other coverages (which includes interna-

tional liability, specialist coverages, and syndicate participations). The Other Property and Casualty segment consists of Opus Investment Management, Inc., which markets investment management services to institutions, pension funds and other organizations; earnings on holding company assets; and, a voluntary pools business which is in run-off. We present the separate financial information of each segment consistent with the manner in which our chief operating decision maker evaluates results in deciding how to allocate resources and in assessing performance.

We report interest expense related to our debt separately from the earnings of our operating segments. This consists of interest on our senior debentures, junior debentures, subordinated notes, collateralized borrowings with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston (FHLBB), and letter of credit facility.

### RESULTS OF OPERATIONS NET INCOME

Consolidated net income includes the results of our four operating segments (segment income), which we evaluate on a pre-tax basis and we exclude interest expense on debt. Segment income excludes certain other items which we

believe are not indicative of our core operations, such as income taxes and net realized investment gains and losses, including net gains and losses on certain derivative instruments. Such gains and losses are excluded since they are determined by interest rates, financial markets and the timing of sales. Also, segment income excludes net gains and losses on disposals of businesses, discontinued operations, costs to acquire businesses, restructuring costs, extraordinary items, the cumulative effect of accounting changes and certain other items. Although the items excluded from segment income may be significant components in understanding and assessing our financial performance, we believe a discussion of segment income enhances an investor s understanding of our results of operations by segregating income attributable to the core operations of the business. However, segment income should not be construed as a substitute for net income.

Catastrophe losses and prior years reserve development are significant components in understanding and assessing the financial performance of our business. Management reviews and evaluates catastrophes and prior years reserve development separately from the other components of earnings. Catastrophes and prior years reserve development are not predictable as to timing or the amount that will affect the results of our operations and have affected our results in the past few years. Management believes that providing certain financial metrics and trends excluding the effects of catastrophes and prior years reserve development helps investors to understand the variability in periodic earnings and to evaluate the underlying performance of our operations.

### 2012 COMPARED TO 2011

Consolidated net income was \$55.9 million in 2012, compared to \$36.7 million in 2011. The \$19.2 million increase is primarily due to income from our Chaucer segment and lower costs in 2012 related to the Chaucer acquisition. Additionally, we recognized a \$10.8 million gain from the sale of our third party administrator, Citizens Management, Inc. ( CMI ), which was completed on April 30, 2012 (see also Discontinued Operations ). These increases were partially offset by a decrease in segment results in our domestic operations.

### 2011 COMPARED TO 2010

Consolidated net income was \$36.7 million in 2011, compared to \$151.2 million in 2010. The \$114.5 million decrease is primarily driven by a decrease in segment results in our domestic operations, partially offset by income from our Chaucer segment. Additionally, in the year ended December 31, 2011, advisory, legal, and accounting costs associated with the acquisition of Chaucer and other acquisition expenses totaled \$16.4 million. We also recorded an \$11.3 million loss in connection with a foreign exchange contract entered into in connection with the acquisition of Chaucer, which was partially offset by net foreign exchange gains of \$6.7 million.

The following table reflects segment income and a reconciliation of total segment income to consolidated net income.

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FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31	2012	2011	2010
(in millions)			
Segment income (loss) before income taxes:			
Commercial Lines	\$ (80.3)	\$ 16.3	\$ 106.4
Personal Lines	25.5	23.1	112.3
Chaucer	136.8	32.9	
Other Property and Casualty	(6.9)	(0.5)	3.5
Total	75.1	71.8	222.2
Interest expense on debt	(61.9)	(55.0)	(44.3)
Total segment income before income taxes	13.2	16.8	177.9
Income tax benefit (expense) on segment income	1.9	(2.6)	(59.3)
Net realized investment gains	23.6	28.1	29.7
Net loss from retirement of debt	(5.1)	(2.3)	(2.0)
Net costs related to acquired businesses	(2.6)	(16.4)	
Loss on derivative instruments		(11.3)	
Net foreign exchange gains (losses)	(0.4)	6.7	
Income tax benefit on non-segment items	15.5	12.5	3.3
Income from continuing operations, net of taxes	46.1	31.5	149.6
Net gain from discontinued operations, net of taxes	9.8	5.2	1.6
Net income	\$ 55.9	\$ 36.7	\$ 151.2

#### SEGMENT RESULTS

The following is our discussion and analysis of the results of operations by business segment. The segment results are presented before interest expense, taxes and other items which management believes are not indicative of our core operations, including realized gains and losses.

The following table summarizes the results of operations for the periods indicated:

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31 (in millions)	2012	2011	2010
Segment revenues			
Net premiums written	\$ 4,368.4	\$ 3,593.4	\$ 3,048.0
Net premiums earned	4,239.1	3,598.6	2,841.0
Net investment income	276.3	258.2	247.2
Other income	58.2	51.9	38.9
Total segment revenues	4,573.6	3,908.7	3,127.1
Losses and operating expenses			
Losses and LAE	2,974.4	2,550.8	1,856.3
Policy acquisition expenses	938.1	778.9	600.8
Other operating expenses	586.0	507.2	447.8
Total losses and operating expenses	4,498.5	3,836.9	2,904.9
Segment income before interest expense and income taxes	\$ 75.1	\$ 71.8	\$ 222.2
2012 Compared to 2011			

Segment income was \$75.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2012, compared to \$71.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, an increase in earnings of \$3.3 million. This increase is primarily due to a \$103.9 million increase in Chaucer segment income, reflecting a full year of earnings for Chaucer compared to only six months in 2011 and lower loss activity in most Chaucer product classes, partially offset by a \$96.6 million decrease in Commercial Lines earnings. The Commercial Lines earnings decrease was primarily due to unfavorable development on prior years loss and loss adjustment expense (LAE) reserves (prior years loss reserves) and increased catastrophe losses.

Our consolidated catastrophe related activity for the year ended December 31, 2012 was \$369.9 million, compared to \$361.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, an increase of \$8.3 million. Both our 2012 and 2011 results reflected significantly elevated levels of catastrophe losses compared to our historical averages. Catastrophe losses in 2012 were primarily the result of \$198.1 million of pre-tax losses related to Superstorm Sandy during the fourth quarter, and from several tornadoes during the first six months of the year. Our 2011 catastrophe losses resulted principally from winter storms, tornado, hail and windstorm activity in the first half of the year, and from Hurricane Irene and floods in Thailand and Denmark during the second half of the year.

Favorable development on prior years loss reserves was \$15.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2012, compared to \$103.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, a decrease of \$87.5 million. For 2012, \$72.6 million of favorable development related to our Chaucer segment was partially offset by \$56.8 million of unfavorable development related to our domestic operations. For the year ended December 31, 2011, \$67.8 million of favorable development was related to our domestic operations and \$35.5 million was related to our Chaucer segment.

Net premiums written grew by \$775.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2012, compared to the year ended December 31, 2011, and net premiums earned grew by \$640.5 million, in each case primarily as a result of including a full year of Chaucer's net premiums in 2012 compared to only six months in 2011. Chaucer accounted for \$561.7 million of the net premiums written increase and \$460.5 million of the net premiums earned increase. The balance of the growth is primarily attributable to Commercial Lines, resulting from rate increases, strong retention and targeted new business expansion.

2011 Compared to 2010

Segment income was \$71.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, compared to \$222.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2010, a decrease of \$150.4 million. Chaucer s results in the second half of 2011 following its acquisition accounted for \$32.9 million of segment income for the year ended December 31, 2011. Catastrophe related losses for our Commercial and Personal Lines businesses were \$312.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, compared to \$160.3 million for the same period in 2010, an increase of \$151.8 million. Excluding the impact of catastrophes, earnings for our Commercial and Personal Lines businesses would have decreased by \$31.5 million. This decrease was primarily due to higher non-catastrophe weather-related losses and LAE and lower favorable development on prior years loss and LAE reserves, partially offset by growth in earned premium and the resulting positive effect on our expense ratio and what we believe is an underlying improvement in our mix of business. Favorable development on prior years loss and LAE reserves for the year ended December 31, 2011 was \$67.8 million compared to \$111.1 million in the prior year, a decrease of \$43.3 million.

Net premiums written grew by \$545.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, compared to the year ended December 31, 2010, and net premiums earned grew

44

by \$757.6 million. Chaucer accounted for \$428.8 million of net premiums written and \$506.3 million of net premiums earned for the year ended December 31, 2011. The balance of the growth in net premiums written is attributable to Commercial Lines. A significant portion of the increase in net premiums earned in Commercial Lines is a result of the growth in net premiums written in 2010 following the OneBeacon renewal rights transaction, as well as growth in our AIX program business and in various niche and segmented businesses.

### PRODUCTION AND UNDERWRITING RESULTS

The following table summarizes net premiums written and loss, LAE, expense and combined ratios for the Commercial Lines, Personal Lines and Chaucer segments. Results for Chaucer Holdings plc include activity since the July 1, 2011 acquisition date. Loss and LAE, catastrophe loss and combined ratios include prior year reserve development. These items are not meaningful for our Other Property and Casualty segment.

	Gross	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012						
	Written							
		Net Written	Net Earned	Catastropha	Loss & LAE	Expense	Combined	
(dollars in millions)	Premium	Premium	Premium	Loss Ratios	Ratios	Ratios	Ratios	
Commercial Lines	\$ 2,182.4	\$ 1,902.0	\$ 1,811.5	10.7	74.5	37.7	112.2	
Personal Lines	1,611.7	1,475.6	1.459.9	9.2	76.5	27.3	103.8	
Chaucer	1,409.8	990.5	966.8	4.3	52.4	37.9	90.3	
Total	\$ 5,203.9	\$ 4,368.1	\$ 4,238.2	8.7	70.2	34.2	104.4	
Total	\$ 5,203.9	<b>\$ 4,306.1</b>	\$ 4,230.2	0.7	70.2	34.2	104.4	
	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011 Gross							
	Written							
		Net Written	Net Earned	Catastrophe	Loss & LAE	Expense	Combined	
(dollars in millions)	Premium	Premium	Premium	Loss Ratios	Ratios	Ratios	Ratios	
Commercial Lines	\$ 1,938.0	\$ 1,703.1	\$ 1,641.7	9.0	68.2	39.0	107.2	
Personal Lines	1,561.3	1,461.2	1,450.5	11.3	77.1	27.1	104.2	
Chaucer	559.6	428.8	506.3	9.8	61.9	35.7	97.6	
Total	\$4,058.9	\$ 3,593.1	\$ 3,598.5	10.0	70.8	33.9	104.7	
1000	ψ.,σσσιν	Ψ 0,0>0.1	Ψ 2,830.8	10.0	, 0.0	00.7	10	
	Gross	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010 Gross						
	Written							
		Net Written	Net Earned	Catastropho	Loss & LAE	Expense	Combined	
		INCL VVIIICH	incl particu	Catastrophe	LUSS & LAE	LADCHSC	Communea	
(dollars in millions)	Dramium							
(dollars in millions)	Premium	Premium	Premium	Loss Ratios	Ratios	Ratios	Ratios	
Commercial Lines	\$ 1,798.5	Premium \$ 1,584.8	Premium \$ 1,373.4	Loss Ratios 4.5	Ratios 59.1	Ratios 42.5	Ratios 101.6	
· ·		Premium	Premium	Loss Ratios	Ratios	Ratios	Ratios	

45

Commercial automobile

Workers compensation

**Total Commercial Lines** 

Other commercial

Personal automobile

Total Personal Lines

Personal Lines:

Homeowners

Other personal

The following table summarizes net premiums written, and loss and LAE and catastrophe loss ratios by line of business for the Commercial Lines and Personal Lines segments. Loss and LAE and catastrophe loss ratios include prior year reserve development.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

59.0

60.6

56.2

59.1

72.1

72.3

42.3

71.3

65.3

0.3

2.9

4.5

1.0

18.4

3.3

6.7

5.6

	Premiums	Loss & LAE	Catastrophe
(dollars in millions)	Written	Ratios	Loss Ratios
Commercial Lines:			
Commercial multiple peril	\$ 612.9	72.9	19.2
Commercial automobile	276.5	79.0	3.7
Workers compensation	201.4	69.9	
Other commercial	811.2	75.2	9.3
Total Commercial Lines	1,902.0	74.5	10.7
Personal Lines:			
Personal automobile	922.7	79.6	2.3
Homeowners	510.2	73.3	21.8
Other personal	42.7	48.4	7.7
Total Personal Lines	1,475.6	76.5	9.2
Total	\$ 3,377.6	75.4	10.0
		E YEAR ENDED DECEMBE	,
	Net Premiums	Loss & LAE	Catastrophe
(dollars in millions)	Written	Ratios	Loss Ratios
Commercial Lines:			
Commercial multiple peril	\$ 569.5	74.6	19.3
Commercial automobile	248.9	65.1	1.0
Workers compensation	174.5	65.9	
Other commercial	710.2	64.4	5.7
Total Commercial Lines	1,703.1	68.2	9.0
Personal Lines:			
Personal automobile	910.5	72.5	1.3
Homeowners	507.2	88.1	30.0
Other personal	43.5	50.2	7.9
Total Personal Lines	1,461.2	77.1	11.3
Total	\$ 3,164.3	72.4	10.1
	FOR THE Net	E YEAR ENDED DECEMBE	ER 31, 2010
	Premiums	Loss & LAE	Catastrophe
(dollars in millions)	Written	Ratios	Loss Ratios
Commercial Lines:	***************************************	Tatio	Loss Ratios
Commercial multiple peril	\$ 559.8	61.9	9.7

The following table summarizes premiums written on a gross and net basis and net premiums earned by line of business for the Chaucer segment.

Table of Contents 89

246.1

161.3 617.6

1,584.8

935.1

485.5

42.3

1,462.9

\$ 3,047.7

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

	Gross		
	Written	Net Written	Net Earned
(in millions)	Premium	Premium	Premium
Chaucer:			
Marine and aviation	\$ 338.9	\$ 234.3	\$ 227.2
U.K. motor	311.6	259.8	247.0
Energy	303.8	195.1	181.8
Property	248.6	161.3	180.9
Casualty and other	206.9	140.0	129.9
Total Chaucer	\$ 1,409.8	\$ 990.5	\$ 966.8

### FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2011

(DATE OF ACQUISITION) TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

	GIOSS		
	Written	Net Written	Net Earned
(in millions)	Premium	Premium	Premium
Chaucer:			
Marine and aviation	\$ 140.0	\$ 107.4	\$ 119.0
U.K. motor	139.8	121.8	124.4
Energy	97.2	66.7	82.6
Property	94.8	72.8	121.7
Casualty and other	87.8	60.1	58.6
Total Chaucer	\$ 559.6	\$ 428.8	\$ 506.3

46

The following table summarizes GAAP underwriting results for the Commercial Lines, Personal Lines, Chaucer and Other Property and Casualty segments and reconciles it to segment income. December 2011 results for Chaucer reflect the period from July 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011.

	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012						
	Commercial	Personal					
(in millions)	Lines	Lines	Chaucer	and Casualty	Total		
GAAP underwriting profit (loss), excluding prior year reserve							
development and catastrophes	\$ (1.8)	\$ 94.0	\$ 62.6	\$ (2.2)	\$ 152.6		
Prior year favorable loss and LAE reserve development	(29.0)	(26.5)	72.6	(1.3)	15.8		
Pre-tax catastrophe effect	(193.4)	(134.8)	(41.7)		(369.9)		
GAAP underwriting profit (loss)	(224.2)	(67.3)	93.5	(3.5)	(201.5)		
Net investment income	142.4	86.5	40.2	7.2	276.3		
Fees and other income	12.3	13.6	23.0	9.3	58.2		
Other operating expenses	(10.8)	(7.3)	(19.9)	(19.9)	(57.9)		
Segment income (loss) before income taxes	\$ (80.3)	\$ 25.5	\$ 136.8	\$ (6.9)	\$ 75.1		

		FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011				
	Commercial	Personal		Other Property		
(in millions)	Lines	Lines	Chaucer	and Casualty	Total	
GAAP underwriting profit (loss), excluding prior year reserve						
development and catastrophes	\$ (9.3)	\$ 58.1	\$ 25.9	\$ (0.4)	\$ 74.3	
Prior year favorable loss and LAE reserve development	34.7	33.0	35.5	0.1	103.3	
Pre-tax catastrophe effect	(148.4)	(163.7)	(49.5)		(361.6)	
GAAP underwriting profit (loss)	(123.0)	(72.6)	11.9	(0.3)	(184.0)	
Net investment income	136.5	92.1	16.9	12.7	258.2	
Fees and other income	20.7	13.3	10.9	7.0	51.9	
Other operating expenses	(17.9)	(9.7)	(6.8)	(19.9)	(54.3)	
Segment income (loss) before income taxes	\$ 16.3	\$ 23.1	\$ 32.9	\$ (0.5)	\$ 71.8	

	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010					
	Commercial	Personal	Other Property			
(in millions)	Lines	Lines	and Casualty	Total		
GAAP underwriting profit (loss), excluding prior year reserve						
development and catastrophes	\$ (25.3)	\$ 50.8	\$	\$ 25.5		
Prior year favorable loss and LAE reserve development	61.5	48.8	0.8	111.1		
Pre-tax catastrophe effect	(61.6)	(98.7)		(160.3)		
GAAP underwriting profit (loss)	(25.4)	0.9	0.8	(23.7)		
Net investment income	129.9	102.9	14.4	247.2		
Fees and other income	19.0	13.6	6.3	38.9		
Other operating expenses	(17.1)	(5.1)	(18.0)	(40.2)		
Segment income before income taxes	\$ 106.4	\$ 112.3	\$ 3.5	\$ 222.2		

2012 Compared to 2011

### **Commercial Lines**

Commercial Lines net premiums written was \$1,902.0 million in the year ended December 31, 2012, compared to \$1,703.1 million in the year ended December 31, 2011. This \$198.9 million increase was primarily driven by rate increases, strong retention, and targeted new business expansion, including growth in the AIX program business, which grew by approximately \$69 million. These factors were partially offset by the effects of exposure management actions and business mix improvement initiatives.

Commercial Lines underwriting loss for the year ended December 31, 2012 was \$224.2 million, compared to \$123.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, or \$101.2 million of increased losses. This was primarily due to unfavorable development on prior years loss reserves and increased catastrophe related activity. Unfavorable development on prior years loss reserves for the year ended December 31, 2012 was \$29.0 million, compared to favorable development of \$34.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, a change of \$63.7 million. Included in these amounts are \$26.5 million and \$9.2 million, respectively, of unfavorable development in our surety line in 2012 and 2011. Catastrophe related activity for the year ended December 31, 2012 was \$193.4 million, compared to \$148.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, an increase of \$45.0 million. The impact of Superstorm Sandy was \$124.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2012.

Commercial Lines current accident year underwriting loss, excluding catastrophes, was \$1.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2012, compared to \$9.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2011. This \$7.5 million improvement was primarily due to growth in earned premium and the resulting positive effect on our expense ratio, partially offset by higher current accident year losses. There were higher non-catastrophe losses in our commercial automobile lines, including automobile coverages in our AIX program business, partially offset by lower non-catastrophe losses in our commercial multiple peril and inland marine lines.

Pricing in Commercial Lines continues to improve. We believe that industry pricing is increasing due to recent weather-related losses, as well as to reduced investment income as a result of low interest rates, and other factors. We are continuing efforts to improve our underwriting results, including through increased rates; however, our ability to increase Commercial Lines net premiums written while maintaining or improving underwriting results may be affected by price competition and the current challenging economic environment. We also expect to continue our efforts to reduce our property exposures in certain geographic areas and classes of business, with a goal of improving our longer-term profitability and reducing earnings volatility. Also, in recent years, weather-related catastrophe and non-catastrophe losses have been in excess of longer term averages. We monitor these trends and consider them in our rate actions.

### **Personal Lines**

Personal Lines net premiums written was \$1,475.6 million in the year ended December 31, 2012, compared to \$1,461.2 million in the year ended December 31, 2011, an increase of \$14.4 million. The factors contributing to this modest increase were higher rates in both our homeowners and personal automobile lines. These increases were partially offset by our continued property-focused exposure management actions. Our actions to reduce homeowners policy exposures, including increases in rate, have resulted in an increase in policy attrition.

Net premiums written in the personal automobile line of business for the year ended December 31, 2012 were \$922.7 million comparable to \$910.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2011. Growth in premiums resulting primarily from rate increases were partially offset by a decline in policies in force of 2.2%, primarily as a result of fewer policies in force in Michigan, Florida, New York, Connecticut and Oklahoma. Net premiums written in the homeowners line of business increased 0.6%, resulting primarily from rate increases, partially offset by a 3.7% decline in policies in force primarily attributable to fewer policies in force in Michigan, New York and New Jersey. These declines in both our personal automobile and homeowners lines are attributed to more selective portfolio management, including attrition resulting from rate increases we have implemented despite the competitive pricing environment.

Personal Lines underwriting loss for the year ended December 31, 2012 was \$67.3 million, compared to \$72.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, an improvement of \$5.3 million. This was primarily due to decreased catastrophe related activity and non-catastrophe weather-related losses, partially offset by unfavorable development on prior years loss reserves. Catastrophe related activity for the year ended December 31, 2012 was \$134.8 million, including Superstorm Sandy of \$45.2 million, compared to \$163.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, a decrease of \$28.9 million. Unfavorable development on prior years loss reserves for the year ended December 31, 2012 was \$26.5 million, compared to favorable development of \$33.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, a change of \$59.5 million. The

unfavorable development was primarily in the personal automobile bodily injury and personal injury protection coverages as we and the industry have experienced higher loss severity.

48

Personal Lines current accident year underwriting profit, excluding catastrophes, was \$94.0 million in the year ended December 31, 2012, compared to \$58.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2011. This \$35.9 million increase was primarily due to lower non-catastrophe weather-related losses in our homeowners line, partially offset by the aforementioned increase in liability and personal injury protection losses in the automobile line.

Although we have been able to obtain rate increases in our Personal Lines markets and believe that our ability to obtain these increases will continue, our ability to maintain Personal Lines net written premium and to maintain and improve underwriting results may be affected by price competition, recent weather-related losses, our exposure management actions, recent loss trends in bodily injury and personal injury protection claims, and regulatory and legal developments. In several recent years, weather-related catastrophe and non-catastrophe losses have been in excess of longer term averages. We monitor these trends and consider them in our rate actions. Our rate and exposure management actions could adversely affect our ability to increase our policies in force and new business. There is no assurance that we will be able to maintain our current level of production or maintain or increase rates.

#### Chaucer

Chaucer s net premiums written was \$990.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2012. By line of business, Chaucer s net premiums written were comprised of 26.2% U.K. motor, 23.7% marine and aviation, 19.7% energy, 16.3% property, and 14.1% casualty and other lines. This mix of business was driven and supported by our specialist underwriting strategy which is focused on actively managing the premium portfolio and risk exposures. Additionally, net written premiums for Chaucer are expected to increase significantly in 2013 due to the non-renewal of the capital provision reinsurance treaty with Flagstone Re. During 2012, 12% of Syndicate 1084 s gross written premium was ceded to Flagstone Re. See Reinsurance in Item 1 Business of this Form 10-K for additional information.

Chaucer s underwriting profit for the year ended December 31, 2012 was \$93.5 million, \$72.6 million of which is attributable to favorable development on prior years loss reserves. Catastrophe losses for the year ended December 31, 2012 were \$41.7 million, principally due to Superstorm Sandy and the U.S. drought.

Chaucer s underwriting profit, excluding prior year loss development and catastrophes, was \$62.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2012. Underwriting expenses of \$366.1 million represented 37.9% of earned premium.

After a profitable year in our international insurance business, we expect moderating rate increases in 2013. Opportunities for rate increases will likely be limited to those marine and property markets most affected by Superstorm Sandy. Current pricing conditions for energy are flat, while aviation and liability markets continue to be affected by the challenging economic environment and over capacity. U.K. motor rates decreased modestly in 2012 and are expected to continue to decline in 2013, following significant increases in 2010 and 2011. There can be no assurance that we will be able to maintain or increase our rates in light of economic and regulatory conditions in our markets.

### Other Property and Casualty

Other Property and Casualty segment loss was \$6.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2012, compared to \$0.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2011. The \$6.4 million increased loss is primarily due to lower net investment income in our holding company.

2011 Compared to 2010

### **Commercial Lines**

Commercial Lines net premiums written was \$1,703.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, compared to \$1,584.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2010. This \$118.3 million increase was primarily driven by growth in our specialty businesses, particularly in our AIX program business, which accounted for \$57.1 million of this growth. Also benefiting the overall growth comparison in net premiums written were modest rate increases.

Commercial Lines underwriting loss for the year ended December 31, 2011 was \$123.0 million, compared to \$25.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2010, an increase in losses of \$97.6 million. This was due to higher weather-related losses and LAE, including catastrophes, and

decreased favorable development on prior years loss and LAE reserves, partially offset by growth in earned premium and the resulting positive effect on our expense ratio. Catastrophe losses for the year ended December 31, 2011 were \$148.4 million, primarily due to Hurricane Irene during the third quarter, significant tornado, hail and windstorm activity in the second quarter and winter storms in the first quarter, compared to \$61.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2010, an increase of \$86.8 million. Favorable development on prior years loss and LAE reserves for the year ended December 31, 2011 was \$34.7 million, compared to \$61.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2010, a decrease of \$26.8 million. Included in 2010 results was \$7.5 million of favorable LAE development, principally related to a change in the cost factors used for establishing unallocated LAE reserves.

Commercial Lines underwriting loss, excluding catastrophe and prior year loss and LAE reserve development, for the year ended December 31, 2011, was \$9.3 million, compared to \$25.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2010. This \$16.0 million improvement resulted from growth in earned premium and the resulting positive effect on our expense ratio, and from what we

49

believe to be an improved mix of business. Partially offsetting the effect of this growth were higher non-catastrophe weather-related losses and LAE, and higher losses in our surety business. The higher level of earned premiums primarily resulted from our 2010 OneBeacon transaction, from growth in our AIX program business, and from other growth initiatives.

### **Personal Lines**

Personal Lines net premiums written for the year ended December 31, 2011 was \$1,461.2 million, compared to \$1,462.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2010, a decrease of \$1.7 million. The most significant factors contributing to this small decrease were actions we have taken to reduce our market concentration in Louisiana, and our continued focus on driving profit improvement in our core states through both rate increases and more selective portfolio management, resulting in lower new business activity. These decreases were partially offset by higher rates in both our personal automobile and homeowners lines, and by a net premiums written increase of 7.1% in our target growth states. Continued increases in premium are expected in our target growth states as we seek to improve profitability in those states and diversify from our core states.

Net premiums written in the personal automobile line of business declined 2.6%, primarily as a result of fewer policies in force in Michigan, Massachusetts, New York and Florida. We attribute the decrease in policies in force to more selective portfolio management, and to rate increases we have implemented despite the competitive pricing environment. Net premiums written in the homeowners line of business increased 4.5%, resulting primarily from rate increases.

Personal Lines underwriting loss for the year ended December 31, 2011 was \$72.6 million, compared to a profit of \$0.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2010. This increase in losses of \$73.5 million is due to higher weather-related losses and LAE, including catastrophes, and to decreased favorable development on prior years loss and LAE reserves, partially offset by lower operating expenses. Catastrophe losses were \$163.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, including significant winter storms, tornado, hail and windstorm activity in the first half of the year and Hurricane Irene during the third quarter, compared to \$98.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2010, an increase of \$65.0 million. Favorable development on prior years loss and LAE reserves was \$33.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, compared to \$48.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2010, a decrease of \$15.8 million. Included in 2010 results was \$2.3 million of favorable LAE development, principally related to a change in the cost factors used for establishing unallocated LAE reserves.

Personal Lines underwriting profit, excluding prior year loss and LAE reserve development and catastrophes, was \$58.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, compared to \$50.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2010, an increase of \$7.3 million. This increase in non-catastrophe current accident year results was primarily due to lower operating expenses and what we believe is an improved mix of business, partially offset by non-catastrophe weather-related losses.

### Chaucer

Chaucer s net premiums written was \$428.8 million for the six months ended December 31, 2011. By line of business, Chaucer s net premiums written were comprised of 28.4% U.K. motor, 25.0% marine and aviation, 17.0% property, 15.6% energy and 14.0% casualty and other lines. This business mix reflects our specialist underwriting strategy and active management of our portfolio.

Chaucer s underwriting profit for the six months ended December 31, 2011 was \$11.9 million. Catastrophe losses for the six months ended December 31, 2011 were \$49.5 million, principally due to floods in Thailand and Denmark. Favorable development on prior years loss and LAE reserves for the six months ended December 31, 2011 was \$35.5 million.

Chaucer s underwriting profit, excluding prior year loss and LAE development and catastrophes, was \$25.9 million in the six months ended December 31, 2011. Underwriting expenses of \$181.2 million represented 35.7% of earned premium.

### **Other Property and Casualty**

Other Property and Casualty segment loss for the year ended December 31, 2011 was \$0.5 million, compared to a profit of \$3.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2010. The \$4.0 million decrease is primarily due to lower net investment income and less favorable development in our run-off voluntary pools.

### RESERVE FOR LOSSES AND LOSS ADJUSTMENT EXPENSES

### **Overview of Loss Reserve Estimation Process**

We maintain reserves for our property and casualty products to provide for our ultimate liability for losses and loss adjustment expenses (our loss reserves ) with respect to reported and unreported claims incurred as of the end of each accounting period. These reserves are estimates, taking into account past loss experience, modified for current trends, as well as prevailing economic, legal and social conditions. Loss reserves represent our largest liability.

Management s process for establishing loss reserves is a comprehensive process that involves input from multiple functions throughout our organization, including finance, actuarial, claims, legal, underwriting, distribution and busi-

50

ness operations management. The process incorporates facts currently known and the current, and in some cases, the anticipated, state of the law and coverage litigation. Based on information currently available, we believe that the aggregate loss reserves at December 31, 2012 were adequate to cover claims for losses that had occurred as of that date, including both those known to us and those yet to be reported. However, as described below, there are significant uncertainties inherent in the loss reserving process. Our estimate of the ultimate liability for losses that had occurred as of December 31, 2012 is expected to change in future periods as we obtain further information, and such changes could have a material effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Our loss reserves include case estimates for claims that have been reported and estimates for claims that have been incurred but not reported ( IBNR ) at the balance sheet date. They also include estimates of the expenses associated with processing and settling all reported and unreported claims, less estimates of anticipated salvage and subrogation recoveries. Our property and casualty loss reserves are not discounted to present value.

Case reserves are established by our claim personnel individually on a claim by claim basis and based on information specific to the occurrence and terms of the underlying policy. For some classes of business, average case reserves are used initially. Case reserves are periodically reviewed and modified based on new or additional information pertaining to the claim.

IBNR reserves are estimated by management and our reserving actuaries on an aggregate basis for each line of business or coverage for loss and loss expense liabilities not reflected within the case reserves. The sum of the case reserves and the IBNR reserves represents our estimate of total unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses.

We regularly review our loss reserves using a variety of industry accepted analytical techniques. We update the loss reserves as historical loss experience develops, additional claims are reported and resolved and new information becomes available. Net changes in loss reserves are reflected in operating results in the period in which the reserves are changed.

The IBNR reserve includes a provision for claims that have occurred but have not yet been reported to us, some of which may not yet be known to the insured, as well as a provision for future development on reported claims. IBNR represents a significant proportion of our total net loss reserves, particularly for long-tail liability classes. In fact, approximately 43% of our aggregate net loss reserves at December 31, 2012 were for IBNR losses and loss expenses.

### Critical Judgments and Kev Assumptions

We determine the amount of our loss reserves based on an estimation process that is very complex and uses information from both company specific and industry data, as well as general economic and other information. The estimation process is a combination of objective and subjective information, the blending of which requires significant professional judgment. There are various assumptions required, including future trends in frequency and severity of claims, operational changes in claim handling, and trends related to general economic and social conditions. Informed subjective estimates and judgments as to our ultimate exposure to losses are an integral component of our loss reserve estimation process.

Given the inherent complexity of our loss reserve estimation process and the potential variability of the assumptions used, the actual emergence of losses will vary, perhaps substantially, from the estimate of losses included in our financial statements, particularly in those instances where settlements or other claim resolutions do not occur until well into the future. Our net loss reserves at December 31, 2012 were \$4.1 billion. Therefore, a relatively small percentage change in the estimate of net loss reserves would have a material effect on our results of operations.

There is greater inherent uncertainty in estimating insurance reserves for certain types of property and casualty insurance lines, particularly liability lines, where a longer period of time may elapse before a definitive determination of ultimate liability and losses may be made. In addition, the technological, judicial, regulatory and political climates involving these types of claims are continuously evolving. There is also greater uncertainty in establishing reserves with respect to business that is new to us, particularly new business which is generated with respect to newly introduced product lines, by newly appointed agents or in geographies in which we have less experience in conducting business, such as the program business written by our AIX subsidiary, Chaucer s international liability lines, our professional liability specialty lines, and business written in the western part of the United States. In some of these cases, there is less historical experience or knowledge and less data upon which we can rely. A combination of business that is both new to us and has longer development periods, provides even greater uncertainty in estimating insurance reserves. Historically, we have limited the issuance of long-tailed other liability policies, including directors and officers

( D&O ) liability, errors and omissions ( E&O ) liability and medical professional liability. With the acquisition of Hanover Professionals in 2007, which writes lawyers professional E&O coverage, the acquisition of Campania in

51

2010, which writes medical professional liability and product liability coverages, and the introduction of new specialty coverages, such as our other professional management liability products, we are increasing, and expect to continue to increase, our exposure to longer-tailed liability lines, including D&O coverages. The Chaucer business acquired in 2011 contains several international and U.S. liability lines, of which financial institution and professional liability, international liability and energy liability, contribute the most uncertainty.

We regularly update our reserve estimates as new information becomes available and additional events occur which may impact the resolution of unsettled claims. Reserve adjustments are reflected in the results of operations as adjustments to losses and LAE. Often, these adjustments are recognized in periods subsequent to the period in which the underlying policy was written and the loss event occurred. When these types of subsequent adjustments affect prior years, they are described separately as prior year reserve development. Such development can be either favorable or unfavorable to our financial results and may vary by line of business. As discussed below, estimated loss and LAE reserves for claims occurring in prior years developed favorably by \$15.8 million, \$103.3 million, and \$111.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011, and 2010, respectively. However, we have experienced unfavorable development in prior years and there can be no assurance that current loss and LAE reserves will be sufficient.

We regularly review our reserving techniques, our overall reserving position and our reinsurance. Based on (i) our review of historical data, legislative enactments, judicial decisions, legal developments in impositions of damages and policy coverage, political attitudes and trends in general economic conditions, (ii) our review of per claim information, (iii) our historical loss experience and that of the industry, (iv) the nature of policies written by us, and (v) our internal estimates of required reserves, we believe that adequate provision has been made for loss reserves. However, establishment of appropriate reserves is an inherently uncertain process and there can be no certainty that current established reserves will prove adequate in light of subsequent actual experience. A significant change to the estimated reserves could have a material impact on our results of operations and financial position. An increase or decrease in reserve estimates would result in a corresponding decrease or increase in financial results. For example, each one percentage point change in the aggregate loss and LAE ratio resulting from a change in reserve estimation is currently projected to have an approximate \$42 million impact on segment income, based on 2012 full year premiums.

The major causes of material uncertainty relating to ultimate losses and loss adjustment expenses ( risk factors ) generally vary for each line of business, as well as for each separately analyzed component of the line of business. In some cases, such risk factors are explicit assumptions of the estimation method and in others, they are implicit. For example, a method may explicitly assume that a certain percentage of claims will close each year, but will implicitly assume that the legal interpretation of existing contract language will remain unchanged. Actual results will likely vary from expectations for each of these assumptions, resulting in an ultimate claim liability that is different from that being estimated currently.

Some risk factors affect multiple lines of business. Examples include changes in claim department practices, changes in settlement patterns, regulatory and legislative actions, court actions, timeliness of claim reporting, state mix of claimants, and degree of claimant fraud. Additionally, there is also a higher degree of uncertainty due to growth in our newly acquired businesses, with respect to which we have less familiarity and, in some cases, limited historical claims experience. The extent of the impact of a risk factor will also vary by components within a line of business. Individual risk factors are subject to interactions with other risk factors within line of business components. Thus, risk factors can have offsetting or compounding effects on required reserves.

Inflation generally increases the cost of losses covered by insurance contracts. The effect of inflation varies by product. Our property and casualty insurance premiums are established before the amount of losses and LAE and the extent to which inflation may affect such expenses are known. Consequently, we attempt, in establishing rates and reserves, to anticipate the potential impact of inflation in the projection of ultimate costs. For example, we have experienced increasing medical and attendant care costs, including those associated with automobile personal injury protection claims, particularly in Michigan, as well as in our workers—compensation line in most states. Also, the U.K. motor business written by Chaucer recently has experienced high levels of claims inflation and increases in potential fraud-type claims. These increases are reflected in our current reserve estimates, but continued increases could contribute to increased losses and LAE in the future.

We are also defendants in various litigation matters, including putative class actions, which may claim punitive damages, bad faith or extra-contractual damages, legal fees and interest, or claim a broader scope of policy coverage or settlement and payment obligations than our interpretation. Resolution of these cases are often highly unpredictable and could involve material unanticipated damage awards.

52

### Loss and LAE Reserves by Line of Business

Reserving Process Overview

Our loss reserves include amounts related to short-tail and long-tail classes of business. Tail refers to the time period between the occurrence of a loss and the final settlement of the claim. The longer the time span between the incidence of a loss and the settlement of the claim (i.e. a longer tail), the more the ultimate settlement amount is likely to vary from our original estimate.

Short-tail classes consist principally of automobile physical damage, homeowners property, commercial property and marine business. The Chaucer business, while having a longer-tail on average than our traditional U.S. business, contains a substantial book of U.K. motor property damage, worldwide property insurance and reinsurance business, including certain high excess property layers, marine property, aviation property and energy property business which has relatively short development patterns. For these property coverages, claims are generally reported and settled shortly after the loss occurs because the claims relate to tangible property and are more likely to be discovered shortly after the loss occurs, and property losses are often more easily valued. Consequently, the estimation of loss reserves for these classes is generally less complex. However, this is less true for our Chaucer reinsurance business and high excess property layers where there is often a longer period of time between the date a claim is incurred and the date the claim is reported compared with our direct insurance operations. Therefore, the risk of delayed recognition of loss reserve development is higher for our assumed reinsurance and high excess property layers than for our direct insurance lines.

While we estimate that a majority of our written premium is in what we would characterize as shorter-tailed classes of business, most of our loss reserves relate to longer-tail liability classes of business. Long-tailed classes include commercial liability, automobile liability, workers compensation and other types of third party coverage. Chaucer business longer-tailed lines include aviation liability, marine liability, energy liability, nuclear liability, U.K. motor medical and liability, international liability, specialist liability, and financial institutions and professional liability. For many liability claims, significant periods of time, ranging up to several years or more, may elapse between the occurrence of the loss, the discovery and reporting of the loss to us and the settlement of the claim. As a result, loss experience in the more recent accident years for long-tailed liability coverage has limited statistical credibility because a relatively small proportion of losses in these accident years (the calendar years in which losses are incurred) are reported claims and an even smaller proportion are paid losses. Liability claims are also more susceptible to litigation and can be significantly affected by changing contract interpretations, the legal environment and the risk and expense of protracted litigation. Consequently, the estimation of loss reserves for these coverages is more complex and typically subject to a higher degree of variability and uncertainty compared to short-tailed coverages.

Most of our indirect business from voluntary and involuntary pools is long-tailed casualty reinsurance. Reserve estimates for this business are therefore subject to the variability caused by extended loss emergence periods. The estimation of loss reserves for this business is further complicated by delays between the time the claim is reported to the ceding insurer and when it is reported by the ceding insurer to the pool manager and then to us, and by our dependence on the quality and consistency of the loss reporting by the ceding company and actuarial estimates by the pool manager.

A comprehensive review of loss reserves for each of the classes of business which we write is conducted regularly, generally quarterly. This review process takes into consideration a variety of trends that impact the ultimate settlement of claims. Where appropriate, the review includes a review of overall payment patterns and the emergence of paid and reported losses relative to expectations.

The loss reserve estimation process relies on the basic assumption that past experience, adjusted for the effects of current developments and likely trends, is an appropriate basis for predicting future outcomes. As part of this process, we use a variety of analytical methods that consider experience, trends and other relevant factors. IBNR reserves are generally calculated by first projecting the ultimate cost of all claims that have been reported or expected to be reported in the future and then subtracting reported losses and loss expenses. Reported losses include cumulative paid losses and loss expenses plus case reserves. Within the comprehensive loss reserving process, standard actuarial methods which include: (1) loss development factor methods; (2) expected loss methods (Bornheutter-Ferguson); and (3) adjusted loss methods (Berquist-Sherman), are given due consideration. These methods are described below:

Loss development factor methods generally assume that the losses yet to emerge for an accident year are proportional to the paid or reported loss amount observed to date. Historical patterns of the development of paid and reported losses by accident year can be predictive of the expected future patterns that are applied to current paid and reported losses to generate estimated ultimate losses by

accident year.

53

Bornheutter-Ferguson methods utilize the product of the expected ultimate losses times the proportion of ultimate losses estimated to be unreported or unpaid to calculate IBNR. The expected ultimate losses are based upon current estimates of ultimate losses from prior accident years, adjusted to reflect expected earned premium, current rating, claims cost levels and changes in business mix. The expected losses, and corresponding loss ratios, are a critical component of Bornheutter-Ferguson methodologies and provide a general reasonability guide.

Berquist-Sherman methods are used for estimating reserves in business lines where historical development patterns may be deemed less reliable for more recent accident years—ultimate losses. Under these methods, patterns of historical paid or reported losses are first adjusted to reflect current payment settlement patterns and case reserve adequacy and then evaluated in the same manner as the loss development factor methods described above. When the adequacy of case reserves change, the Berquist-Sherman incurred method may be deemed more reliable than the reported loss development factor method. Likewise, when the settlement patterns change, the Berquist-Sherman paid method may be deemed more reliable than the paid loss development factor method.

In addition to the methods described above, various tailored reserving methodologies are used for certain businesses. For example, for some low volume and high volatility classes of business, special reserving techniques are utilized that estimate IBNR by selecting the loss ratio that balances actual reported losses to expected reported losses as defined by the estimated underlying reporting pattern. Also, for some classes with long exposure periods (e.g. energy construction, engineering and political risks), earnings patterns plus an estimated reporting lag applied to the Bornheutter-Ferguson initial expected loss ratio are used to estimate IBNR. This is done in order to reflect the changing average exposure periods by policy year (and consequently accident year).

In completing the loss reserve analysis, a variety of assumptions must be made for each line of business, coverage and accident year. Each estimation method has its own pattern, parameter and/or judgmental dependencies, with no estimation method being better than the others in all situations. The relative strengths and weaknesses of the various estimation methods, when applied to a particular class of business, can also change over time, depending on the underlying circumstances. In many cases, multiple estimation methods will be valid for the particular facts and circumstances of the relevant class of business. The manner of application and the degree of reliance on a given method will vary by line of business and coverage, and by accident year based on an evaluation of the above dependencies and the potential volatility of the loss frequency and severity patterns. The estimation methods selected or given weight at a particular valuation date are those that are believed to produce the most reliable indication for the loss reserves being evaluated. Selections incorporate input from claims personnel, pricing actuaries, and underwriting management on loss cost trends and other factors that could affect ultimate losses.

For most classes of shorter-tailed business in our Commercial and Personal Lines segments, the emergence of paid and incurred losses generally exhibits a relatively stable pattern of loss development from one accident year to the next. Thus, for these classes, the loss development factor method is generally appropriate. For many of the classes of shorter-tailed business in our Chaucer segment, the emergence of paid and incurred losses may exhibit a relatively volatile pattern of loss development from one accident year to the next. In certain cases where there is a relatively low level of reliability placed on the available paid and incurred loss data, expected loss methods or adjusted loss methods are considered appropriate for the most recent accident year.

For longer-tailed lines of business, applying the loss development factor method often requires even more judgment in selecting development factors, as well as more significant extrapolation. For those long-tailed lines of business with high frequency and relatively low per-loss severity (e.g., personal automobile liability), volatility will often be sufficiently modest for the loss development factor method to be given significant weight, even in the most recent accident years, but expected loss methods and adjusted loss methods are always considered and frequently utilized in the selection process. For those long-tailed lines of business with low frequency and high loss potential (e.g., commercial liability), anticipated loss experience is less predictable because of the small number of claims and erratic claim severity patterns. In these situations, the loss development factor methods may not produce a reliable estimate of ultimate losses in the most recent accident years since many claims either have not yet been reported or are only in the early stages of the settlement process. Therefore, the loss reserve estimates for these accident years are based on methods less reliant on extrapolation, such as Bornheutter-Ferguson. Over time, as a greater number of claims are reported and the statistical credibility of loss experience increases, loss development factor methods or adjusted loss methods are given increasing weight.

Management endeavors to apply as much available data as practicable to estimate the loss reserve amount for each line of business, coverage and accident year, utilizing varying assumptions, projections and methods. The ultimate outcome is likely to fall within a range of potential outcomes around this loss reserve estimated amount.

Our carried reserves for each line of business and coverage are determined based on this quarterly loss reserving process. In making the determination, we consider numerous quantitative and qualitative factors. Quantitative factors include changes in reserve estimates in the period, the maturity of the accident year, trends observed over the recent past, the level of volatility within a particular class of business, the estimated effects of reinsurance, including reinstatement premiums, general economic trends, and other factors. Qualitative factors may include legal and regulatory developments, changes in claim handling, recent entry into new markets or products, changes in underwriting practices, concerns that we do not have sufficient or quality historical reported and paid loss and LAE information with respect to a particular line or segment of our business, effects of the economy and political outlook, perceived anomalies in the historical results, evolving trends or other factors. In doing so, we must evaluate whether a change in the data represents credible actionable information or an anomaly. Such an assessment requires considerable judgment. Even if a change is determined to be apparent, it is not always possible to determine the extent of the change. As a result, there can be a time lag between the emergence of a change and a determination that the change should be partially or fully reflected in the carried loss reserves. In general, changes are made more quickly to reserves for more mature accident years and less volatile classes of business.

### Reserving Process Uncertainties

As stated above, numerous factors (both internal and external) contribute to the inherent uncertainty in the process of establishing loss reserves, including changes in the rate of inflation for goods and services related to insured damages (e.g., medical care, home repairs, etc.), changes in the judicial interpretation of policy provisions, and settlement obligations, changes in the general attitude of juries in determining damage awards, legislative actions, changes in the extent of insured injuries, changes in the trend of expected frequency and/or severity of claims, changes in our book of business (e.g., change in mix due to new product offerings, new geographic areas, etc.), changes in our underwriting practices, and changes in claim handling procedures and/or systems. Regarding our indirect business from voluntary and involuntary pools, we are provided loss estimates by managers of each pool. We adopt reserve estimates for the pools that consider this information and other facts.

In addition, we must consider the uncertain effects of emerging or potential claims and coverage issues that arise as legal, judicial, social conditions, political risks, and economic conditions change. For example, claims which we consider closed may be re-opened as additional damages surface or new liability or damage theories are presented. These and other issues could have a negative effect on our loss reserves by either extending coverage beyond the original underwriting intent or by increasing the number or size of claims. As a result, the uncertainties inherent in estimating ultimate claim costs on the basis of past experience further complicate the already complex loss reserving process.

As part of our loss reserving analysis, we consider the various factors that contribute to the uncertainty in the loss reserving process. Those factors that could materially affect our loss reserve estimates include loss development patterns and loss cost trends, reporting lags, rate and exposure level changes, the effects of changes in coverage and policy limits, business mix shifts, the effects of regulatory and legislative developments, the effects of changes in judicial interpretations, the effects of emerging claims and coverage issues and the effects of changes in claim handling practices. In making estimates of reserves, however, we do not necessarily make an explicit assumption for each of these factors. Moreover, all estimation methods do not utilize the same assumptions and typically no single method is determinative in the reserve analysis for a line of business and coverage. Consequently, changes in our loss reserve estimates generally are not the result of changes in any one assumption. Instead, the variability will be affected by the interplay of changes in numerous assumptions, many of which are implicit to the approaches used.

For each line of business and coverage, we regularly adjust the assumptions and methods used in the estimation of loss reserves in response to our actual loss experience, as well as our judgments regarding changes in trends and/or emerging patterns. In those instances where we primarily utilize analyses of historical patterns of the development of paid and reported losses, this may be reflected, for example, in the selection of revised loss development factors. In longer-tailed classes of business and for which loss experience is less predictable due to potential changes in judicial interpretations, potential legislative actions, the cost of litigation or determining liability and the ultimate loss, inflation and potential claims issues, this may be reflected in a judgmental change in our estimate of ultimate losses for particular accident years.

The Chaucer segment contains run-off business comprised of liability lines, notably financial institutions and professional liability business written by Lloyd s Syndicate 4000. There is particular uncertainty around the reserve estimates in respect of business written in 2007 and 2008 which have been subject to claims arising out of the financial turmoil in that time period, particularly in the financial institutions book. These claims are unlikely to be settled for some time since they contain numerous coverage issues and in many cases involve class action lawsuits that are likely to take several years to resolve. We have utilized substantially all of our available reinsurance with respect to losses and LAE related to Syndicate 4000 business written in 2008.

The future impact of the various factors that contribute to the uncertainty in the loss reserving process is impossible to predict. There is potential for significant variation in the development of loss reserves, particularly for long-tailed classes of business and classes of business that are more vulnerable to economic or political risks. We do not derive statistical loss distributions or confidence levels around our loss reserve estimate, and as a result, we do not establish reserve range estimates.

### Reserving Process for Catastrophe Events

The estimation of claims and claims expense reserves for catastrophes also comprises estimates of losses from reported claims and IBNR, primarily for damage to property. In general, our estimates for catastrophe reserves are determined on an event basis by considering various sources of available information, including specific loss estimates reported to us based on claim adjuster inspections, overall industry loss estimates, and our internal data regarding exposures related to the geographical location of the event. However, depending on the nature of the catastrophe, the estimation process can be further complicated by other impediments. For example, for hurricanes and other severe wind storms, complications often include the inability of insureds to promptly report losses, delays in the ability of claims adjusting staff to inspect losses, difficulties in determining whether losses are covered by our homeowners policy (generally for damage caused by wind or wind driven rain) or are specifically excluded from coverage caused by flood, and challenges in estimating additional living expenses, assessing the impact of demand surge, exposure to mold damage, and the effects of numerous other considerations. Another example is the complication of estimating the cost of business interruption coverage on commercial lines policies. Estimates for catastrophes which occur at or near the end of a financial reporting period may be even less reliable since we will have less claims data available and little time to complete our estimation process. In such situations, we may adapt our practices to accommodate the circumstances.

For events designated as catastrophes which affect our Commercial and Personal Lines business segments, we generally calculate IBNR reserves directly as a result of an estimated IBNR claim count and an estimated average claim amount for each event. Such an assessment involves a comprehensive analysis of the nature of the event, of policyholder exposures within the affected geographic area and of available claims intelligence. Depending on the nature of the event, available claims intelligence could include surveys of field claims associates within the affected geographic area, feedback from a catastrophe claims team sent into the area, as well as data on claims reported as of the financial statement date. In addition, loss emergence from similar historical events is compared to the estimated IBNR for our current catastrophe events to help assess the reasonableness of our estimates.

For events designated as catastrophes which affect our Chaucer business segment, we initially calculate IBNR reserves using a ground up exposure by exposure analysis based on each cedant or insured. These are supported by broker supplied information, catastrophe modeling and industry event estimates. As more specific claim level data becomes available over time for each catastrophe event, these initial estimates are revised and updated by claim frequency and severity modeling as described above, as appropriate for each event.

### Reserving Sensitivity Analysis

The following discussion presents disclosure related to possible variation in reserve estimates due to changes in key assumptions. This information is provided for illustrative purposes only. Many other assumptions may also lead to material reserve adjustments. If any such variations do occur, they would likely occur over a period of several years and therefore their impact on our results of operations would be recognized during the same period. It is important to note, however, that there is the potential for future variations greater than the amounts described below and for any such variations to be recognized in a single quarterly or annual period. No consideration has been given to potential correlation or lack of correlation among key assumptions or among lines of business and coverage as described below. As a result and because there are so many other factors which affect our reserve estimate, it would be inappropriate to take the amounts described below and add them together in an attempt to estimate volatility in total. While we believe these are reasonably likely scenarios, the reader should not consider the following sensitivity analysis as illustrative of a reserve range.

Personal and Commercial Automobile Bodily Injury reserves recorded for bodily injury on U.S. voluntary business were \$469.8 million as of December 31, 2012. A key assumption for bodily injury is the inflation rate underlying the estimated reserve. A five point change (e.g. 4% changed to 9% or 1%) in the imbedded inflation would have changed estimated IBNR by approximately \$51 million, either positive or negative, respectively, at December 31, 2012.

Personal Automobile Personal Injury Protection Medical Payment reserves recorded for personal injury protection medical payment on U.S. voluntary business were \$174.4 million as of December 31, 2012. A key assumption for this coverage is the inflation rate underlying the estimated reserve. Given the long reporting pattern for this line of business, an additional key assumption is the amount of additional development required to reach full maturity, thereby reflecting ultimate costs, as represented by the tail factor. A five point change in the imbedded inflation and a one point change to the tail factor assumption (e.g. 1.02 changed to 1.01 or 1.03) would have changed estimated IBNR by approximately \$27 million, either positive or negative, at December 31, 2012.

Workers Compensation reserves recorded for workers compensation on U.S. voluntary business were \$327.1 million as of December 31, 2012. A key assumption for workers compensation is the inflation rate underlying the estimated reserve. Given the long reporting pattern for this line of business, an additional key assumption is the amount of additional development required to reach full maturity, thereby reflecting ultimate costs, as represented by the tail factor. A five point change in the imbedded inflation and a one point change to the tail factor assumption would have changed estimated IBNR by approximately \$39 million, either positive or negative, at December 31, 2012. Monoline and Multi-Peril General Liability reserves recorded for general liability on U.S. voluntary business were \$344.2 million as of December 31, 2012. A key assumption for general liability is the implied adequacy of the underlying case reserves. A ten point change in case adequacy (e.g. 10% deficiency changed to 0% or 20% deficiency) would have changed estimated IBNR by approximately \$23 million, either positive or negative, at December 31, 2012.

Specialty Programs reserves recorded (including allocated LAE) for the AIX Companies were \$239.1 million as of December 31, 2012. A key assumption for specialty programs is the expected loss and allocated LAE ratio (ELR) underlying the actuarial reserve analysis. A ten point change to the ELR on AIX would have changed estimated IBNR by approximately \$11 million at December 31, 2012. New classes of business reserves recorded for new classes of Chaucer business (primarily within energy, engineering and international liability lines) were \$246.6 million as of December 31, 2012. An increase in the ultimate loss by 5%, 10%, and 15% in the 2010 and prior, 2011, and 2012 years of account, respectively, on these classes would have increased estimated IBNR by approximately \$57 million at December 31, 2012.

Syndicate 4000 reserves recorded for Syndicate 4000 were \$272.4 million as of December 31, 2012. An increase in ultimate gross claims of 20% across all Chaucer Syndicate 4000 product classes, primarily crime and professional liability coverage for financial institutions, for year of accounts 2007 and 2008 and doubling the probabilities of a total indemnity loss for each and every assured with potential exposure (or claims notified) to the fraud relating to Bernard L. Madoff, would have increased estimated net IBNR by approximately \$52 million at December 31, 2012.

Catastrophe events a 20% increase in estimated gross ultimate claim deterioration for the 2011 Japan and New Zealand earthquakes and Thailand floods, would have reduced underwriting income by approximately \$25 million, including reinstatement premiums. For Superstorm Sandy, a 20% increase on the gross incurred claims for Chaucer and an additional 20% lag in expected reporting patterns on the U.S. direct business, would have reduced underwriting income by \$10 million including reinstatement premiums.

57

### **Carried Reserves and Reserve Rollforward**

The following table provides a reconciliation of the gross beginning and ending reserve for unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses (results for Chaucer for the year ended December 31, 2011 reflect the period from July 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011).

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31	2012	2011	2010
(in millions)			
Gross loss and LAE reserves, beginning of year	\$ 5,760.3	\$ 3,277.7	\$ 3,153.9
Reinsurance recoverable on unpaid losses	1,931.8	1,115.5	1,060.2
Net loss and LAE reserves, beginning of year	3,828.5	2,162.2	2,093.7
Net incurred losses and LAE in respect of losses occurring in:			
Current year	2,990.2	2,654.1	1,967.4
Prior years	(15.8)	(103.3)	(111.1)
Total incurred losses and LAE	2,974.4	2,550.8	1,856.3
Net payments of losses and LAE in respect of losses occurring in:			
Current year	1,317.6	1,482.4	1,078.7
Prior years	1,396.5	1,010.3	738.6
Total payments	2,714.1	2,492.7	1,817.3
Purchase of Chaucer, net of reinsurance recoverable on unpaid losses of \$669.6		1,631.0	
Purchase of Campania			29.5
Effect of foreign exchange rate changes	33.9	(22.8)	
Net reserve for losses and LAE, end of year	4,122.7	3,828.5	2,162.2
Reinsurance recoverable on unpaid losses	2,074.3	1,931.8	1,115.5
Gross reserve for losses and LAE, end of year	\$ 6,197.0	\$ 5,760.3	\$ 3,277.7

The table below summarizes the gross reserve for losses and LAE by line of business.

DECEMBER 31 (in millions)	2012	2011	2010
Commercial multiple peril	\$ 629.7	\$ 550.0	\$ 470.4
Workers compensation	571.8	544.7	529.0
Commercial automobile	269.7	234.9	224.5
AIX	321.6	239.6	211.9
Other commercial	454.2	360.1	347.2
Total Commercial	2,247.0	1,929.3	1,783.0
Personal automobile	1,400.7	1,366.3	1,358.4
Homeowners and other	141.3	131.9	136.3
Total Personal	1,542.0	1,498.2	1,494.7
Total Chaucer	2,408.0	2,332.8	
Total loss and LAE reserves	\$ 6,197.0	\$ 5,760.3	\$ 3,277.7

Other commercial lines are primarily comprised of our monoline general liability, umbrella, marine, professional liability, and healthcare lines. Included in the above table, in the Chaucer segment, are \$272.4 million and \$302.8 million of reserves related to Chaucer s liabilities in Syndicate 4000, consisting of financial and professional liability lines written in 2008 and prior, as of December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively. Also included in the above table, primarily in other commercial lines, are \$60.5 million, \$59.8 million and \$63.9 million of asbestos and environmental reserves as of December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

### **Prior Year Development**

Loss and LAE reserves for claims occurring in prior years developed favorably by \$15.8 million, \$103.3 million and \$111.1 million during the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. The 2012 activity by segment includes favorable development of \$72.6 million for Chaucer, partially offset by unfavorable development of \$56.8 million in other segments, consisting of \$29.0 million, \$26.5 million and \$1.3 million for Commercial Lines, Personal Lines and Other Property and Casualty, respectively. The 2011 activity by segment consists of favorable

development of \$34.7 million, \$33.0 million, and \$0.1 million, for the full year for Commercial Lines, Personal Lines, and Other Property and Casualty, respectively, and \$35.5 million for Chaucer for the six months ended December 31, 2011. The primary drivers of reserve development for the year ended December 31, 2012 were as follows:

Favorable development of previously established reserves in Chaucer s lines of business as follows:

energy line, primarily in the 2008 through 2011 accident years,

marine and aviation lines, primarily in the 2007 through 2011 accident years,

within casualty lines, primarily in the 2010 and 2011 accident years, and

property line, primarily in the 2009 through 2011 accident years.

Favorable development within Commercial Lines was due to lower than expected losses within our commercial multiple peril line related to the 2008 through 2011 accident years.

Within other commercial lines, higher than expected losses in our contract surety line due to the ongoing challenging macroeconomic environment for contractors, and to a lesser extent, our AIX program business primarily related to unexpected severity in commercial automobile liability, commercial multiple peril and general liability in a limited number of programs.

58

Within Personal Lines, higher than expected losses within our personal automobile line, primarily related to bodily injury severity in the 2010 and 2011 accident years, and higher than expected homeowners property losses from non-catastrophe weather related activity in the 2011 accident year.

Higher than expected large losses within our commercial automobile line, primarily related to liability coverage in the 2011 accident year.

The primary drivers for reserve development during the year ended December 31, 2011 were as follows:

Lower than expected losses within our personal automobile line, primarily related to bodily injury coverage in the 2008 through 2010 accident years.

Lower than expected losses within our commercial multiple peril line related to the 2007 through 2010 accident years.

Lower than expected losses within our workers compensation line related to the 2007 through 2010 accident years.

Lower than expected losses in Chaucer's energy, property and U.K. motor lines, primarily related to the 2009 and 2010 accident years. Additionally, within other commercial lines, unfavorable development in our professional liability and surety lines were partially offset by favorable development in our healthcare and other commercial property lines.

The primary drivers for reserve development during the year ended December 31, 2010 were as follows:

Lower than expected losses within our personal automobile line across all coverages, primarily related to the 2009 accident year. Lower than expected losses within the workers—compensation line, primarily related to the 2008 and 2009 accident years. Lower than expected losses within the commercial multiple peril line in liability coverages, primarily related to the 2007 through 2009 accident years.

Within our other commercial lines, our commercial umbrella line related to the 2007 through 2009 accident years contributed to the favorable development, partially offset by unfavorable development in our surety line, primarily related to the 2009 accident year. In addition, the 2010 amount includes \$9.8 million of favorable development resulting from a change in the cost factors used for establishing unallocated loss adjustment expense reserves.

It is not possible to know whether the factors that affected loss reserves in the year ended December 31, 2012 will also occur in future periods. As discussed in detail in this Form 10-K, there are inherent uncertainties in estimating reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses and we encourage you to read this Form 10-K for more information about our reserving process and the judgments, uncertainties and risks associated therewith.

### **Asbestos and Environmental Reserves**

Although we attempt to limit our exposures to asbestos and environmental damage liability through specific policy exclusions, we have been and may continue to be subject to claims related to these exposures. Ending loss and LAE reserves for all direct business written by our property and casualty companies related to asbestos and environmental damage liability were \$9.8 million, \$10.0 million and \$10.1 million, net of reinsurance of \$20.4 million, \$18.7 million, and \$19.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Activity for our asbestos and environmental reserves was not significant to our 2012, 2011 or 2010 financial results. In recent years, average asbestos and environmental payments have declined modestly. As a result of our historical direct underwriting mix of Commercial Lines policies toward smaller and middle market risks, past asbestos and environmental damage liability loss experience has remained minimal in relation to our total loss and LAE incurred experience.

In addition, we have established gross loss and LAE reserves for assumed reinsurance pool business with asbestos and environmental damage liability of \$30.3 million, \$31.1 million and \$33.9 million at December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. These reserves relate to pools in which we have terminated our participation; however, we continue to be subject to claims related to years in which we were a participant. Results of operations from these pools are included in our Other Property and Casualty segment. A significant part of our pool reserves relates to our participation in the Excess and Casualty Reinsurance Association ( ECRA ) voluntary pool from 1950 to 1982. In 1982, the pool was dissolved and since that time, the business has been in run-off. Our percentage of the total pool liabilities varied from 1% to 6% during these years. Our participation in this pool has resulted in average paid losses of approximately \$2 million annually over the past ten years.

We estimate our ultimate liability for asbestos, environmental and toxic tort liability claims, whether resulting from direct business, assumed reinsurance or pool business, based upon currently known facts, reasonable assumptions where the facts are not known, current law and methodologies currently available. Although these outstanding claims are not significant, their existence gives rise to uncertainty and are

discussed because of the possibility that they may become significant. We believe that, notwithstanding the evolution of case law expanding

59

liability in asbestos and environmental claims, recorded reserves related to these claims are adequate. Nevertheless, the asbestos, environmental and toxic tort liability reserves could be revised, and any such revisions could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations for a particular quarterly or annual period or on our financial position.

### REINSURANCE

We maintain a reinsurance program designed to protect against large or unusual losses and LAE activity. We utilize a variety of reinsurance agreements that are intended to control our exposure to large property and casualty losses, stabilize earnings and protect capital resources, including facultative reinsurance, excess of loss reinsurance and catastrophe reinsurance. We determine the appropriate amount of reinsurance based upon our evaluation of the risks insured, exposure analyses prepared by consultants, our capital allocation models and on market conditions, including the availability and pricing of reinsurance. Reinsurance contracts do not relieve us from our primary obligations to policyholders. Failure of reinsurers to honor their obligations could result in losses to us. We believe that the terms of our reinsurance contracts are consistent with industry practice in that they contain standard terms and conditions with respect to lines of business covered, limit and retention, arbitration and occurrence. Based on an ongoing review of our reinsurers financial statements, reported financial strength ratings from rating agencies, and the analysis and guidance of our reinsurance advisors, we believe that our reinsurers are financially sound.

Catastrophe reinsurance serves to protect us, as the ceding insurer, from significant losses arising from a single event such as snow, ice storm, windstorm, hail, hurricane, tornado, riot or other extraordinary events. Although we believe our catastrophe reinsurance program, including our retention and co-participation amounts for 2013, are appropriate given our surplus level and the current reinsurance pricing environment, there can be no assurance that our reinsurance program will provide coverage levels that will prove adequate should we experience losses from one significant or several large catastrophes during 2013. Additionally, as a result of the current economic environment, as well as, losses incurred by reinsurers in recent years, the availability and pricing of appropriate reinsurance programs may be adversely affected in future renewal periods. We may not be able to pass these costs on to policyholders in the form of higher premiums or assessments.

See Reinsurance in Item 1 Business of this Form 10-K for further information on our reinsurance programs.

### **INVESTMENTS**

### INVESTMENT RESULTS

Net investment income before taxes was \$276.6 million, \$258.2 million and \$247.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. The increase in net investment income in 2012 compared to 2011 was primarily due to the acquisition of Chaucer on July 1, 2011 and its related assets and investment income. Also, the increase resulted from our investments in dividend-yielding equity securities, various higher yielding investment grade fixed maturities and the investment of cash balances into fixed maturities, partially offset by the impact of lower new money yields. The increase in net investment income in 2011 compared to 2010 was due to the acquisition of Chaucer and its related investment income, partially offset by the impact of lower new money yields on fixed maturities. Higher dividend income from equity securities and lower investment expenses also contributed to the increase in net investment income. Average pre-tax earned yields on fixed maturities were 4.26%, 4.84% and 5.46% for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. We expect average investment yields to continue to decline as new money rates remain at near-historic lows.

### INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

We held cash and investment assets diversified across several asset classes, as follows:

DECEMBER 31		2012		2011
	Carrying	% of Total	Carrying	% of Total
(dollars in millions)	Value	Carrying Value	Value	Carrying Value
Fixed maturities, at fair value	\$ 6,952.2	86.5%	\$ 6,284.7	83.3%
Equity securities, at fair value	315.8	3.9	246.4	3.3
Cash and cash equivalents	564.8	7.0	820.4	10.9

Other investments	210.3	2.6	190.2	2.5
Total cash and investments	\$ 8,043.1	100.0%	\$ 7,541.7	100.0%

CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Total cash and investments increased \$501.4 million, or 6.6%, for the year ended December 31, 2012, of which fixed maturities increased \$667.5 million, equities increased \$69.4 million, other investments increased \$20.1 million and cash and cash equivalents decreased \$255.6 million. Fixed maturities increased and cash and cash equivalents decreased primarily due to the investment of a substantial portion of Chaucer s cash into fixed maturities.

We also invested cash generated from operations into fixed maturities. Equity securities increased primarily from additional purchases of exchange traded funds and mutual funds. Additionally, the value of fixed maturities and equi-ties increased as a result of market value appreciation.

Our fixed maturity portfolio is comprised of corporate securities, taxable and tax-exempt municipal securities, residential mortgage-backed securities, commercial mortgage-backed securities, foreign government securities, U.S. government securities and asset-backed securities. Equity securities primarily consist of common stocks, exchange traded funds, mutual funds and non-redeemable preferred stocks.

The following table provides information about the investment types of our fixed maturities portfolio:

DECEMBER 31			2012		
(in millions)					
			Net	Char	nge in Net
	Amortized	Fair	Unrealized	Unre	ealized for
Investment Type	Cost	Value	Gain		the Year
U.S. Treasury and government agencies	\$ 317.2	\$ 325.6	\$ 8.4	\$	0.8
Foreign government	348.5	352.9	4.4		4.5
Municipals:					
Taxable	853.9	933.0	79.1		20.7
Tax exempt	156.3	163.3	7.0		1.9
Corporate	3,512.8	3,773.4	260.6		103.2
Asset-backed:					
Residential mortgage-backed	769.0	805.2	36.2		3.7
Commercial mortgage-backed	373.3	396.2	22.9		8.9
Asset-backed	198.5	202.6	4.1		3.0
Total fixed maturities	\$ 6,529.5	\$ 6,952.2	\$ 422.7	\$	146.7

During 2012, our net unrealized gains on fixed maturities increased \$146.7 million, or 53.2%, to a net unrealized gain of \$422.7 million at December 31, 2012, compared to \$276.0 million at December 31, 2011.

Amortized cost and fair value by rating category were as follows:

DECEMBER 31			2012			2011	
(dollars in millions)							
	Rating Agency	Amortized	Fair	% of Total	Amortized	Fair	% of Total
NAIC Designation	Equivalent Designation	Cost	Value	Fair Value	Cost	Value	Fair Value
1	Aaa/Aa/A	\$ 4,744.0	\$ 5,017.9	72.2%	\$ 4,325.1	\$ 4,510.7	71.8%
2	Baa	1,443.5	1,569.3	22.6	1,338.7	1,419.7	22.6
3	Ba	143.1	156.2	2.2	151.2	160.0	2.5
4	В	135.1	143.5	2.1	134.5	136.4	2.2
5	Caa and lower	50.1	50.7	0.7	47.1	44.7	0.7
6	In or near default	13.7	14.6	0.2	12.1	13.2	0.2
Total fixed maturities		\$ 6,529.5	\$ 6,952.2	100.0%	\$ 6,008.7	\$ 6,284.7	100.0%

Based on ratings by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), approximately 95% of the fixed maturity portfolio consisted of investment grade securities at December 31, 2012, compared to 94% at December 31, 2011. The quality of our fixed maturity portfolio remains strong based on ratings, capital structure position, support through guarantees, underlying security, issuer diversification and yield curve position.

We deposit funds with various state and governmental authorities as well as with Lloyd s. See Note 3 Investments in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Financial Statements and Supplementary Data of this Form 10-K for additional information.

Our fixed maturity and equity securities are classified as available-for-sale and are carried at fair value. Financial instruments whose value was determined using significant management judgment or estimation constituted less than 2% of the total assets we measured at fair value. (See also Note 5 Fair Value in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Financial Statements and Supplementary Data of this Form 10-K).

Other investments consisted primarily of overseas deposits, which are U.S. dollar and foreign denominated investments maintained in overseas funds and managed exclusively by Lloyd s. These funds are required in order to protect policyholders in overseas markets and enable our Chaucer segment to operate in those markets. Access to those funds is restricted and we have no control over the investment strategy. Also included in other investments were investments in limited partnerships, which were accounted for under the equity method of accounting or at cost.

61

Although we expect to invest new funds primarily in investment grade fixed maturities, we have invested, and expect to continue to invest, a portion of funds in common equity securities and below investment grade fixed maturities and other assets.

## Municipal bond exposure

Our municipal bond portfolio constituted approximately 14% of invested assets at December 31, 2012 and was 99% investment grade, without regard to insurance enhancements, which affected approximately 26% of the municipal bond portfolio. The portfolio was well diversified by geography, sector and source of payment, and consisted primarily of taxable securities. Approximately 61% of the portfolio was invested in revenue bonds and 39% in general obligation bonds. Revenue bonds are backed by the revenue stream generated by the services provided by the issuer, while general obligation bonds are backed by the authority that issued the debt and are secured by the taxing powers of those authorities.

### European sovereign and non-sovereign debt exposure

Our European fixed maturity credit exposure at December 31, 2012 was as follows:

					Non-So	vereign				
(in millions)	Sove	reign	Foreign	Agency	Fina	ncial	Non-Fi	nancial	To	tal
	Amortized	Fair A	Amortized	Fair A	Amortized	Fair A	Amortized	Fair	Amortized	Fair
Country:	Cost	Value	Cost	Value	Cost	Value	Cost	Value	Cost	Value
United Kingdom	\$ 111.4	\$ 111.9	\$	\$	\$ 284.8	\$ 290.9	\$ 242.4	\$ 256.5	\$ 638.6	\$ 659.3
Germany			63.1	64.0			74.5	79.1	137.6	143.1
Switzerland					20.4	21.0	79.4	86.3	99.8	107.3
The Netherlands			22.8	23.2	33.5	34.5	24.3	26.2	80.6	83.9
Supranationals			80.2	82.2					80.2	82.2
France			4.8	5.0	10.1	9.6	57.5	61.9	72.4	76.5
Sweden					23.9	25.0	13.0	13.4	36.9	38.4
Spain					9.5	9.8	17.9	19.2	27.4	29.0
Ireland							15.5	17.1	15.5	17.1
Belgium							16.1	16.8	16.1	16.8
Italy							16.3	16.7	16.3	16.7
Norway			3.4	3.5	2.7	2.7	5.4	5.5	11.5	11.7
Luxembourg							7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6
Portugal							4.2	4.4	4.2	4.4
Jersey							2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Denmark							2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2
Total fixed maturities	\$ 111.4	\$ 111.9	\$ 174.3	\$ 177.9	\$ 384.9	\$ 393.5	\$ 578.6	\$ 615.3	\$ 1,249.2	\$ 1,298.6

Our sovereign debt totaled \$111.9 million, or 1.4% of investment assets as of December 31, 2012, and was limited to the highly rated country of the U.K. We had no sovereign debt of lower rated countries such as Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain. In addition, our supranational and foreign agency exposure totaled \$177.9 million, or 2.2% of investment assets, and primarily consisted of debt securities from the highly rated countries of Germany and the Netherlands. Exposure to European banks, excluding those that are based in the U.K., totaled \$102.6 million, or 1.3% of invest

ment assets. Also, we held money market funds totaling \$163.0 million, or 2.0% of investment assets, which were comprised of a well-diversified portfolio of short-term debt securities of predominately large financial institutions domiciled in highly rated countries. The remainder of our European non-sovereign debt exposure, excluding the U.K., was \$358.8 million, which represented 4.5% of investment assets. Generally, these securities were high quality, large cap multi-national companies that were well diversified by sector, country and issuer. Included in our non-financial exposure were credits domiciled in Spain, Ireland, Italy and Portugal totaling \$57.4 million, or 0.7% of investment assets. These consisted of large market capitalization issuers that provide essential products and/or services.

The previous table represents all European countries in which we had exposure. We determined country exposures based on the country of domicile for the ultimate parent company of the various issuers we held as of December 31, 2012; however, in light of the economic and financial inter-relatedness and dependencies that exist among European countries and related financial systems, economic turmoil in one country could trigger a contagion effect on other countries. We believe the quality of our European credit exposure remains sound based on ratings and issuer strength, position in the capital structure, support through guarantees and partial government ownership by highly rated countries, diversity and quality of non-financial issuers and blend of industry exposures, and yield curve position. We believe that we do not have meaningful indirect exposures in our portfolio and we do not invest in credit derivatives.

We manage our country exposure using fundamental analysis coupled with relative value considerations. Investment decisions are based on the combination of a top-down macroeconomic perspective and bottom-up credit security analysis. We monitor political and economic developments; progress toward attainment of growth and budget targets; developments related to policy, reform and regulatory initiatives from European officials; progress toward funding objectives, including the availability and cost of funding; outlook for credit ratings; ability of banks to meet increased regulatory capital standards, operate in a weakened macroeconomic environment, and maintain adequate liquidity and sufficient access to capital to meet funding requirements; and contagion throughout the financial system as evidenced by increased costs for interbank funding, lower prices for stocks and corporate bonds, as well as the availability of capital.

We actively manage our credit exposure and seek securities with the best combination of credit strength and valuation. As we invest new capital, we consider expectations for the strength and duration of economic recovery, risks associated with the European debt crisis and the possibility of additional volatility based on these challenges. Accordingly, we focus on providers of essential services or products best positioned to navigate the period of weak growth; industrials with greater international exposure, either locally or via exports, particularly to the developing world, which we view more favorably based on higher growth assumptions for emerging market economies; and financial institutions best positioned regarding asset quality, liquidity and capital adequacy.

Overall economic growth remains weak throughout Europe. Volatility, while currently suppressed, could increase suddenly as officials in Europe attempt to engineer a lasting solution to the debt crisis or find a way to address the twin objectives of stimulating economic growth while balancing fiscal budgets. We believe that leaders remain committed to protecting the currency union and improving financial stability. Although the timing and degree of success toward achieving sustained improvement regarding the European crisis remains highly uncertain, we do not anticipate that future developments related to our European sovereign and non-sovereign debt exposure will have a material effect on our financial condition, results of operation or liquidity.

### OTHER-THAN-TEMPORARY IMPAIRMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2012, we recognized in earnings \$7.8 million of other-than-temporary impairments (OTTI), of which \$6.6 million related to fixed maturities and \$1.2 million related to equity securities. OTTI on debt securities consisted of \$4.6 million of below investment grade corporate bonds in the utilities and industrial sectors that we intended to sell and \$2.0 million related to estimated credit losses, consisting of \$0.9 million on municipal bonds, \$0.7 million on residential mortgage-backed securities and \$0.4 million on corporate bonds. For the year ended December 31, 2011, we recognized in earnings \$6.9 million of OTTI on fixed maturity and equity securities. OTTI on debt securities was \$5.5 million, primarily on below investment grade corporate and municipal bonds that we intended to sell. Additionally, we recognized OTTI of \$0.9 million related to estimated credit losses on residential mortgage-backed securities. We also recognized OTTI on a common stock of \$1.4 million. For the year ended December 31, 2010, we recognized \$13.9 million of OTTI on fixed maturities, certain low-income housing tax credit limited partnerships (LIHTC) and equity securities in earnings, of which \$4.4 million related to LIHTC partnerships, \$4.3 million was estimated credit losses on debt securities, \$3.3 million related to debt securities classified as intend to sell and \$1.9 million related to common stocks.

63

#### **UNREALIZED LOSSES**

The following table provides information about our fixed maturities and equity securities that were in an unrealized loss position. (See also Note

Investments in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Financial Statements and Supplementary Data of this Form 10-K).

DECEMBER 31	20	012	2	2011
	Gross		Gross	
	Unrealized	FairU	nrealized	Fair
(in millions)	Losses	Value	Losses	Value
Fixed maturities:				
Investment grade:				
12 months or less	\$ 3.4	\$ 546.0	\$ 27.1	\$ 1,175.5
Greater than 12 months	9.5	106.5	14.3	108.9
Total investment grade fixed maturities	12.9	652.5	41.4	1,284.4
Below investment grade:				
12 months or less	1.2	28.2	9.9	126.9
Greater than 12 months	5.9	55.1	3.7	14.7
Total below investment grade fixed maturities	7.1	83.3	13.6	141.6
Equity securities:				
12 months or less	4.8	74.4	8.8	87.2
Total equity securities	4.8	74.4	8.8	87.2
Total	\$ 24.8	\$ 810.2	\$ 63.8	\$ 1,513.2

Gross unrealized losses on fixed maturities and equity securities decreased \$39.0 million, or 61.1%, which was primarily attributable to lower interest rates and tightening of credit and liquidity spreads across all sectors. At December 31, 2012, gross unrealized losses consist primarily of \$14.8 million of corporate fixed maturities, \$4.8 million of equity securities, \$3.5 million of mortgage-backed securities and \$1.1 million in municipal securities.

We view the gross unrealized losses on fixed maturities and equity securities as being temporary since it is our assessment that these securities will recover in the near term, allowing us to realize their anticipated long-term economic value. With respect to gross unrealized losses on fixed maturities, we do not intend to sell, nor is it more likely than not we will be required to sell, such debt securities before this expected recovery of amortized cost (See also Liquidity and Capital Resources in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of this Form 10-K). With respect to equity securities, we have the intent and ability to retain such investments for the period of time anticipated to allow for this expected recovery in fair value. The risks inherent in our assessment methodology include the risk that, subsequent to the balance sheet date, market factors may differ from our expectations; the global economic recovery is less robust than we expect or reverts to recessionary trends; we may decide to subsequently sell a security for unforeseen business needs; or changes in the credit assessment or equity characteristics from our original assessment may lead us to determine that a sale at the current value would maximize recovery on such investments. To the extent that there are such adverse changes, an OTTI would be recognized as a realized loss. Although unrealized losses are not reflected in the results of financial operations until they are realized or deemed other-than-temporary, the fair value of the underlying investment, which does reflect the unrealized loss, is reflected in our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

The following table sets forth gross unrealized losses for fixed maturities by maturity period and for equity securities at December 31, 2012 and 2011. Actual maturities may differ from contractual maturities because borrowers may have the right to call or prepay obligations, with or without call or prepayment penalties, or we may have the right to put or sell the obligations back to the issuers.

DECEMBER 31	2012	2011
(in millions)		
Due in one year or less	\$ 0.5	\$ 1.9

Due after one year through five years	4.7	18.9
Due after five years through ten years	2.5	11.2
Due after ten years	8.8	12.9
	16.5	44.9
Mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities	3.5	10.1
Total fixed maturities	20.0	55.0
Equity securities	4.8	8.8
Total fixed maturities and equity securities	\$ 24.8	\$ 63.8

The carrying values of defaulted fixed maturity securities on non-accrual status at December 31, 2012 and 2011 were not material. The effects of non-accruals compared with amounts that would have been recognized in accordance with the original terms of the fixed maturities, were reductions in net investment income of \$2.5 million and \$2.3 million for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Any defaults in the fixed maturities portfolio in future periods may negatively affect investment income.

Our investment portfolio and shareholders equity can be significantly impacted by changes in market values of our securities. As the U.S. and global financial markets and economies have not fully stabilized, market volatility could increase and defaults on fixed income securities could occur. As a result, we could incur additional realized and unrealized losses in future periods, which could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations and/or financial position.

Monetary policies in the developed economies, particularly in the U.S. and Europe, are supportive of moderate economic growth, while fiscal policies are more divergent and subject to change. The removal or modification of these policies could have an adverse effect on issuers level of business activity or liquidity, increasing the probability of future defaults. While we may experience defaults on fixed income securities, particularly with respect to non-investment grade securities, it is difficult to foresee which issuers, industries or markets will be affected. As a result, the value of our fixed maturity portfolio could change rapidly in ways we cannot currently anticipate and we could incur additional realized and unrealized losses in future periods.

#### DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS

We maintain an overall risk management strategy that incorporates the use of derivative instruments, as necessary, to manage significant unplanned fluctuations in earnings caused by foreign currency and interest rate volatility.

In 2012, we realized a loss of \$5.1 million on futures contracts relating to the release of tax capital loss carryforwards. Additionally, we recognized a gain of \$0.7 million on a foreign currency forward used to mitigate changes in fair value caused by foreign currency fluctuation in converting U.K. pound sterling (GBP) denominated securities into their U.S. dollar denominated equivalent.

In April 2011, we entered into a foreign currency forward contract to hedge the foreign currency exchange risk embedded in the purchase price of Chaucer, which was denominated in GBP. This contract had a notional amount of £297.9 million and was settled on July 14, 2011, resulting in the recognition of a loss of \$11.3 million in income from continuing operations. The loss on the contract was due to a decrease in the exchange rate between the GBP and the U.S. dollar, but was more than offset by the lower U.S. dollars required to meet the GBP-based purchase price. See Note 2 Acquisitions and Discontinued Operations in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Financial Statements and Supplementary Data of this Form 10-K for additional information.

In May 2011, we entered into a treasury lock forward agreement to hedge the interest rate risk associated with our planned issuance of senior debt, which was completed on June 17, 2011. This hedge matured in June 2011 and resulted in a loss of \$1.9 million, which was recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income and will be recognized in earnings over the term of the senior notes.

Additionally in 2011, Chaucer held foreign currency forward contracts utilized to mitigate changes in fair value caused by foreign currency fluctuation in converting the fair value of GBP and Euro denominated investment portfolios into their U.S. dollar denominated equivalent. These portfolios supported U.S. dollar denominated claim reserve liabilities. For the year ended December 31, 2011, we recognized a gain of \$6.1 million related to these instruments, which were terminated in October 2011.

65

### **OTHER ITEMS**

Net income also included the following items:

							ъ	Other				
	Comr	nercial	Per	sonal			Pr	operty and	Discontinu	ed		
(in millions)		Lines		Lines	Cha	aucer	Ca	asualty	Operation	ns		Total
<u>2012</u>												
Net realized investment gains	\$	12.5	\$	7.1	\$	1.5	\$	2.5	\$		\$	23.6
Net loss from retirement of debt						(5.1)						(5.1)
Net costs related to acquired businesses								(2.6)				(2.6)
Net foreign exchange losses								(0.4)				(0.4)
Discontinued operations, net of taxes									9	<b>9.8</b>		9.8
<u>2011</u>												
Net realized investment gains	\$	4.7	\$	4.0	\$	6.7	\$	12.7	\$		\$	28.1
Net gain (loss) from retirement of debt		0.3						(2.6)				(2.3)
Net costs related to acquired businesses								(16.4)			(	16.4)
Loss on derivative instruments								(11.3)			(	11.3)
Net foreign exchange gains								6.7				6.7
Discontinued operations, net of taxes									4	5.2		5.2
<u>2010</u>												
Net realized investment gains (losses)	\$	13.3	\$	17.8	\$		\$	(1.4)	\$		\$	29.7
Loss from retirement of debt								(2.0)				(2.0)
Discontinued operations, net of taxes									1	1.6		1.6

We manage investment assets for our Commercial Lines, Personal Lines, and Other Property and Casualty segments based on the requirements of our U.S. combined property and casualty companies. We allocate the investment income, expenses and realized gains and losses to our Commercial Lines, Personal Lines and Other Property and Casualty segments based on actuarial information related to the underlying businesses. We manage investment assets separately for our Chaucer segment.

Net realized gains on investments were \$23.6 million, \$28.1 million, and \$29.7 million for 2012, 2011, and 2010, respectively. Net realized gains in 2012 were primarily due to \$31.8 million of gains recognized from the sale of equities and fixed maturities, partially offset by \$7.8 million of other-than-temporary impairments. Net realized gains in 2011 were primarily due to \$27.7 million of gains recognized from the sale of fixed maturities and equity securities and \$6.1 million of gains on foreign currency hedges, partially offset by \$6.9 million of other-than-temporary impairments. Net realized gains in 2010 were due to \$43.6 million of gains recognized, primarily from the sale of fixed maturities and equity securities, partially offset by \$13.9 million of other-than-temporary impairments.

In 2012, we repurchased \$65.4 million of our subordinated unsecured notes related to Chaucer at a par value. These notes had a carrying value of \$60.3 million, resulting in a net loss of \$5.1 million on the repurchases. In addition, we repurchased \$7.0 million of capital securities related to AIX Holdings, Inc. (AIX) at par value. In 2011, we repurchased in several transactions, \$69.5 million of our Series B 8.207% Subordinated Deferrable Interest Debentures (Junior Debentures) at a cost of \$72.1 million, resulting in a net loss of \$2.6 million on the repurchases. In addition, we repurchased \$8.0 million of capital securities related to AIX at a cost of \$7.7 million, resulting in a gain of \$0.3 million. The net loss on all debt repurchases in 2011 was \$2.3 million. In 2010, we repurchased \$36.5 million of these Junior Debentures at a cost of \$38.5 million, resulting in a loss of \$2.0 million on the repurchase.

Acquisition costs were \$2.6 million and \$16.4 million for 2012 and 2011, respectively, and primarily consist of advisory, legal, and accounting costs associated with the acquisition of Chaucer on July 1, 2011. See Note 2 — Acquisitions and Discontinued Operations — of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Financial Statements and Supplementary Data of this Form 10-K.

66

### QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

### INTEREST RATE SENSITIVITY

Operations are subject to risk resulting from interest rate fluctuations which may adversely impact the valuation of the investment portfolio. In a rising interest rate environment, the value of the fixed income sector, which comprises 87% of our investment portfolio, may decline as a result of decreases in the fair value of the securities. Our intent is to hold securities to maturity and recover the decline in valuation as prices accrete to par. However, our intent may change prior to maturity due to changes in the financial markets, our analysis of an issuer s credit metrics and prospects, or as a result of changes in cash flow needs. Interest rate fluctuations may also reduce net investment income and as a result, profitability. The portfolio may realize lower yields and therefore lower net investment income on securities because the securities with prepayment and call features may prepay at a different rate than originally projected. In a declining interest rate environment, prepayments and calls may increase as issuers exercise their option to refinance at lower rates. The resulting funds would be reinvested at lower yields. In a rising interest rate environment, funds may not be available to invest at higher interest rates.

The following table illustrates the estimated impact on the fair value of our investment portfolio at December 31, 2012 of hypothetical changes in prevailing interest rates, defined as changes in interest rates on U.S. Treasury debt. It does not reflect changes in credit spreads, liquidity spreads and other factors that affect the value of securities. Since changes in prevailing interest rates are often accompanied by changes in these other factors, the reader should not assume that an actual change in interest rates would result in the values illustrated.

INVESTMENT TYPE	+300bp	+200bp	+100bp	0	-100bp	-200bp	-300bp
(Dollars in millions)							
Residential mortgage-backed securities	\$ 730	\$ 755	\$ 780	\$ 805	\$ 820	\$ 825	\$ 825
Municipal securities	900	955	1,025	1,095	1,165	1,215	1,230
All other fixed income securities	4,515	4,685	4,865	5,050	5,195	5,245	5,255
Total	\$ 6,145	\$ 6,395	\$ 6,670	\$ 6,950	\$ 7,180	\$ 7,285	\$ 7,310

Our overall investment strategy is intended to balance investment income with credit and duration risk while maintaining sufficient liquidity and the opportunity for capital growth. The asset allocation process takes into consideration the types of business written, the level of surplus required to support our different businesses and the risk return profiles of the underlying asset classes. We look to balance the goals of capital preservation, net investment income stability, liquidity and total return.

The majority of our assets are invested in the fixed income markets. Through fundamental research and credit analysis with a focus on value investing, our investment professionals seek to identify a portfolio of stable income-producing higher quality U.S. government, foreign government, municipal, corporate, residential and commercial mortgage-backed securities, and asset-backed securities. We have a general policy of diversifying investments both within and across major investment and industrial sectors to mitigate credit and interest rate risk. We monitor the credit quality of our investments and our exposure to individual markets, borrowers, industries, sectors and, in the case of commercial mortgage-backed securities, property types and geographic locations. In addition, we currently carry debt which is subject to interest rate risk, which was issued at fixed interest rates between 5.50% and 8.207%. Current market conditions do not allow for us to invest assets at similar rates of return; therefore, earnings on a similar level of assets are not sufficient to cover current debt interest costs.

The following tables for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011 provide information about financial instruments that are sensitive to changes in interest rates. The tables present principal cash flows and related weighted-average interest rates by expected maturities. Expected maturities may differ from contractual maturities because borrowers may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties, or we may have the right to put or sell the obligations back to the issuers. Mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities are included in the category representing their expected maturity. Available-for-sale securities include both U.S. and foreign-denominated fixed maturities. Additionally, we have assumed available-for-sale securities are similar enough to aggregate those securities for presentation purposes. Specifically, variable rate available-for-sale securities comprise an immaterial portion of the portfolio and do not have a significant impact on weighted-average interest rates. Therefore, the variable rate investments are not presented separately; instead they are included in the tables at their current interest rate. Debt is presented at contractual maturities, except for the FHLBB community development advances (CDAs)

which were repaid in January 2013.

								Fair Value
								varue
DECEMBER 31, 2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Thereafter	Total	12/31/12
(Dollars in millions)								
Rate Sensitive Assets:								
Available-for-sale securities	\$ 644.5	\$ 726.1	\$ 756.0	\$ 711.5	\$ 588.5	\$ 2,785.2	\$ 6,211.8	\$ 6,952.2
Average interest rate	3.98%	4.14%	4.00%	4.65%	4.16%	4.45%	4.31%	
Rate Sensitive Liabilities:								
Debt	\$ 46.3	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 803.1	\$ 849.4	\$ 995.2
Average interest rate	3.88%					6.84%	6.68%	
DECEMBED 21, 2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Thereafter	Total	Fair Value 12/31/11
DECEMBER 31, 2011 (Dollars in millions)	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Thereafter	Total	12/31/11
Rate Sensitive Assets:								
Available-for-sale securities	\$ 560.9	\$ 623.1	\$ 608.7	\$ 534.0	\$ 588.6	\$ 2,873.3	\$ 5,788.6	\$ 6,285.1
Average interest rate	3.82%	4.20%	4.35%	4.71%	4.96%	5.11%	4.75%	
Rate Sensitive Liabilities:								
Debt	\$ 6.9	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 904.2	\$ 911.1	\$ 1,014.9
Average interest rate	7.12%					6.53%	6.53%	

# **EQUITY PRICE RISK**

Our equity securities portfolio is exposed to equity price risk arising from potential volatility in equity market prices. Portfolio characteristics are analyzed regularly and price risk is actively managed through a variety of techniques. A hypothetical increase or decrease of 10% in the market price of our equity securities would have resulted in an increase or decrease in the fair value of the equity securities portfolio of approximately \$32 million at December 31, 2012 and approximately \$25 million at December 31, 2011.

### FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE RISK

Our Chaucer segment has exposure to foreign currency risk, most notably in its insurance contracts and its invested assets. Some of its insurance contracts provide that ultimate losses may be payable in foreign currencies depending on the country of original loss. Foreign currency exchange rate risk exists to the extent that there is an increase in the exchange rate of the foreign currency in which losses are ultimately owed. Thus, our Chaucer segment attempts to manage its foreign currency risk by seeking to match its liabilities under insurance and reinsurance policies that are payable in foreign currencies with cash and investments that are denominated in such currencies. We may also utilize foreign currency forward contracts as part of our investment strategy. The principal currency creating foreign exchange risk for us is the U.K. pound sterling, and to a lesser extent, the Euro and the Canadian dollar. A hypothetical 10% reduction in the value of foreign denominated investments would be expected to produce a loss in fair value of approximately \$124 million and \$128 million at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

### DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS

Discontinued operations primarily consist of our Discontinued Accident and Health Business and our Discontinued Third Party Administration Business, CMI.

The Discontinued Accident and Health Business had no significant financial results that impacted 2012, 2011 or 2010.

Discontinued operations for the year ended December 31, 2012 primarily include the net gain on the sale of our third party administration subsidiary, CMI, which was completed on April 30, 2012. CMI provided third party workers—compensation and disability program administration services (such as claims administration, loss prevention and medical cost containment and in-house excess workers—compensation coverage) to public entities, self—insured employers and group programs. CMI generated total revenues of \$4.4 million during the four months ended April 30, 2012 and \$12.5 million and \$12.0 million during the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Income before taxes totaled \$0.7 million during the first four months of 2012, while contributing \$2.0 million and \$2.1 million during 2011 and 2010, respectively. Assets and shareholder—s equity transferred as part of this sale totaled \$10.9 million and \$0.6 million, respectively. This sale resulted in a net gain of \$10.8 million after taxes and is included in discontinued operations for the year ended December 31, 2012.

68

### INCOME TAXES

We are subject to the tax laws and regulations of the U.S. and foreign countries in which we operate. We file a consolidated U.S. federal income tax return that includes the holding company and its U.S. subsidiaries. Generally, taxes are accrued at the U.S. statutory tax rate of 35% for income from the U.S. operations. Our primary non-U.S. jurisdiction is the U.K. In July 2012, the U.K. statutory rate decreased from 26% to 24% effective April 1, 2012 and from 24% to 23% effective April 1, 2013. We accrue taxes on certain non-U.S. income that is subject to U.S. tax as a result of being owned by a U.S. shareholder at the U.S. tax rate. Foreign tax credits, where available, are utilized to offset U.S. tax as permitted. Certain of our non-U.S. income is not subject to U.S. tax until repatriated. Foreign taxes on this non-U.S. income are accrued at the local foreign rate and do not have an accrual for U.S. deferred taxes since these earnings are intended to be permanently reinvested overseas.

The benefit for income taxes from continuing operations was \$17.4 million in 2012, compared to a benefit of \$9.9 million and an expense of \$56.0 million in 2011 and 2010, respectively. These amounts resulted in consolidated effective federal tax rates of (60.6)%, (45.8)%, and 27.2% on pre-tax income for 2012, 2011, and 2010, respectively. These provisions reflect the decreases in our valuation allowance related to capital loss carryforwards of \$7.7 million, \$7.5 million, and \$9.7 million in 2012, 2011, and 2010, respectively. In addition, these provisions reflect benefits related to tax planning strategies implemented in prior years of \$14.3 million, \$9.7 million and \$3.2 million in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Absent these benefits, the provision for income taxes for 2012, 2011, and 2010 would have been \$4.6 million or 16.0%, \$7.3 million or 33.8%, and \$68.9 million or 33.5%, respectively. The decrease in 2012 effective tax rate is primarily due to higher income from foreign operations not subject to U.S. tax.

Our income tax provision on segment income was a benefit of \$1.9 million for 2012, compared to an expense of \$2.6 million for 2011 and an expense of \$59.3 million in 2010. These provisions resulted in effective tax rates for segment income of (14.4)%, 15.5% and 33.3% in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. The tax benefit in 2012 is primarily due to income from foreign operations not subject to U.S. tax and lower segment income. The decrease in expense for 2011 is primarily due to lower segment income.

Included in our deferred tax net asset as of December 31, 2012 is an asset of \$58.4 million related to U.S. net operating loss carryforwards and a deferred tax asset of \$16.7 million related to foreign net operating loss carryforwards. Our pre-tax U.S. operating loss carryforward of \$166.8 million will expire beginning in 2031. Our pre-tax foreign operating loss carryforwards of \$70.7 million were generated in the U.K. and have no expiration date. It is our opinion that there will be sufficient future U.S. and U.K. taxable income to utilize these loss carryforwards. Our estimate of the gross amount and likely realization of loss carryforwards may change over time.

Included in our deferred tax net asset as of December 31, 2012 are assets of \$112.2 million related to alternative minimum tax ( AMT ) credit carryforwards and \$14.6 million related to foreign tax credit carryforwards. We may utilize these credits to offset future taxable income. The result of their utilization will be a lower current tax rate offset by a higher deferred tax provision, and also lower cash expenditures for federal income taxes during the utilization period. There is no expiration on AMT credit carryforwards and our foreign tax credit carryforwards will expire beginning in 2021. It is our opinion that there will be sufficient future U.S. and U.K. taxable income to utilize these tax credit carryforwards. Our estimate of the gross amount and likely realization of tax credit carryforwards may change over time.

In June 2012, we completed a transaction which resulted in the realization, for tax purposes only, of unrealized gains in our investment portfolio of \$69.6 million. This transaction enabled us to realize capital loss carryforwards to offset this gain, and resulted in the release of \$24.4 million of the valuation allowance we held against the deferred tax asset related to these capital loss carryforwards. Of the total \$24.4 million release, \$0.3 million was recorded as an increase in continuing operations and \$24.1 million is reflected as a benefit in accumulated other comprehensive income. This \$24.1 million will be released into income from continuing operations, related to non-segment income, in future years, as the investment securities subject to these transactions are sold or mature.

During 2012, we released \$35.9 million of our valuation allowance related to our deferred tax asset held at the beginning of the year. The release of this valuation allowance resulted from the aforementioned transaction which utilized our capital loss carryforwards, unrealized appreciation in our investment portfolio, and net realized capital gains in our Consolidated Statements of Income. Accordingly, we recorded decreases in our valuation allowance of \$25.3 million as an adjustment to accumulated other comprehensive income, \$7.7 million as an adjustment to income tax expense from continuing operations, and \$2.9 million in discontinued operations.

In September 2011, we completed a transaction which resulted in the realization, for tax purposes only, of unrealized gains in our investment portfolio of \$98.4 million. This transaction enabled us to realize capital loss carryforwards

69

to offset this gain, and resulted in the release of \$29.0 million of the valuation allowance we held against the deferred tax asset related to these capital loss carryforwards. A release of \$0.2 million was reflected in income from continuing operations and the remaining amount of \$28.8 million was reflected as a benefit in accumulated other comprehensive income. During 2012, we recognized \$1.4 million of the \$28.8 million in income from continuing operations, related to non-segment income. The remaining amount will be released into income from continuing operations in future years, as the investment securities subject to these transactions are sold or mature.

During 2011, we reduced the valuation allowance related to our deferred tax asset by \$55.6 million, from \$91.5 million to \$35.9 million. There were four principal components to this reduction. First, we decreased the valuation allowance by \$29.0 million as a result of the transactions described above which utilized our capital loss carryforwards. Second, we decreased the valuation allowance by \$21.9 million on certain unrealized losses as a result of unrealized appreciation in our investment portfolio. This decrease was reflected as an increase in accumulated other comprehensive income. Third, as a result of \$28.1 million in net realized gains during 2011, we decreased the valuation allowance by \$7.5 million as an increase to income from continuing operations, since these gains utilized our capital loss carryforwards. Fourth, in the 2010 U.S. federal income tax return, we were able to utilize an additional \$7.6 million of capital loss carryforwards that expired in 2010. As such, we increased the valuation allowance by \$2.6 million with an equal and offsetting increase to the related deferred tax asset. The remaining increase of \$0.2 million was attributable to other items reflected as expense from discontinued operations.

In November 2011, we reached an agreement with the IRS on our 2005 to 2006 audit cycle, resulting in a tax benefit of \$2.1 million recognized as income related to our discontinued operations. The benefit is primarily due to the concession of our separate account dividends received deduction issue by the IRS Appeals Division, which resulted in the reduction of our liability for this uncertain tax position. See Note 7 — Income Taxes — in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Financial Statements and Supplementary Data of this Form 10-K for additional information. Also in April 2011, we received notification that an interest refund claim filed with the Internal Revenue Service in 2009 had been accepted, resulting in a tax benefit of \$0.6 million recognized in discontinued operations.

In January, July, September, and December 2010, we completed transactions which resulted in the realization, for tax purposes only, of unrealized gains in our investment portfolio of \$98.4 million, \$37.1 million, \$31.1 million, and \$120.8 million, respectively. These transactions enabled us to realize capital loss carryforwards to offset these gains, and resulted in the release of \$66.2 million and \$34.4 million in 2010 and 2009, respectively, of the valuation allowance we held against the deferred tax asset related to these capital loss carryforwards. The total release of \$100.6 million was accounted for as an increase in income from continuing operations of \$3.2 million and \$6.0 million in 2010 and 2009, respectively, with the remaining \$91.4 million reflected as a benefit in accumulated and other comprehensive income at December 31, 2010. During 2012 and 2011, we recognized \$12.6 million and \$9.5 million, respectively, of the \$91.4 million in income from continuing operations, related to non-segment income. The remaining amount will be released into income from continuing operations in future years, as the investment securities subject to these transactions are sold or mature.

In 2010, we reduced the valuation allowance related to our deferred tax asset by a total of \$104.1 million, from \$195.6 million to \$91.5 million. There were four principal components to this reduction. First, we reduced the valuation allowance by \$66.2 million as a result of the aforementioned transactions which utilized our capital loss carryforwards. Second, we increased the valuation allowance by \$20.3 million for certain tax basis unrealized losses which we did not believe we could utilize. This increase was reflected as a decrease in accumulated other comprehensive income. Third, \$135.5 million of our capital loss carryforwards expired in 2010. As a result, we released the \$47.4 million of the valuation allowance attributable to these expirations with an equal and offsetting reduction in the related deferred tax asset. Fourth, as a result of \$29.7 million in net realized capital gains, we decreased our valuation allowance by \$9.7 million as an increase to income from continuing operations since these gains utilized our capital loss carryforwards. The remaining \$1.1 million decrease was attributable to other items reflected as income from discontinued operations.

In January 2010, we made a \$100.0 million pension contribution, which resulted in both a current deduction of \$35.0 million and the utilization (reduction) of a deferred tax asset of the same amount. This contribution is the most significant reason the current tax expense is \$5.7 million in 2010, representing only approximately 10% of the total provision for federal income taxes from continuing operations.

70

### CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

The discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based upon the consolidated financial statements. These statements have been prepared in accordance with GAAP, which requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The following critical accounting estimates are those which we believe affect the more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our financial statements. Additional information about our other significant accounting policies and estimates may be found in Note 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Financial Statements and Supplementary Data of this Form 10-K.

### RESERVE FOR LOSSES AND LOSS EXPENSES

See Segment Results Reserves for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses in Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of this Form 10-K for a discussion of our critical accounting estimates for loss reserves.

### REINSURANCE RECOVERABLE BALANCES

We share a significant amount of insurance risk of the primary underlying contracts with various insurance entities through the use of reinsurance contracts. As a result, when we experience loss events that are subject to a reinsurance contract, reinsurance recoveries are recorded. The amount of the reinsurance recoverable can vary based on the size of the individual loss or the aggregate amount of all losses in a particular line, book of business or an aggregate amount associated with a particular accident year. The valuation of losses recoverable depends on whether the underlying loss is a reported loss, or an incurred but not reported losses, we value reinsurance recoverables at the time the underlying loss is recognized, in accordance with contract terms. For incurred but not reported losses, we estimate the amount of reinsurance recoverable based on the terms of the reinsurance contracts and historical reinsurance recovery information and apply that information to the gross loss reserve estimates. The most significant assumption we use is the average size of the individual losses for those claims that have occurred but have not yet been recorded by us. The reinsurance recoverable is based on what we believe are reasonable estimates and is disclosed separately on the financial statements. However, the ultimate amount of the reinsurance recoverable is not known until all losses are settled.

Reinsurance recoverables recorded on insurance losses ceded under reinsurance contracts are subject to judgments and uncertainties similar to those involved in estimating gross loss reserves, as disclosed above. In addition to these uncertainties, our reinsurance recoverables may prove uncollectible if the reinsurers are unable or unwilling to perform under the reinsurance contracts. In establishing our reinsurance allowance for amounts deemed uncollectible, we evaluate the financial condition of our reinsurers and monitor concentration of credit risk arising from our exposure to individual reinsurers. To determine if an allowance is necessary, we consider, among other factors, published financial information, reports from rating agencies, payment history, collateral held and our legal right to offset balances recoverable against balances we may owe. Our reinsurance allowance for doubtful accounts is subject to uncertainty and volatility due to the time lag involved in collecting amounts recoverable from reinsurers. Over the period of time that losses occur, reinsurers are billed and amounts are ultimately collected, economic conditions, as well as the operational and financial performance of particular reinsurers, may change and these changes may affect the reinsurers willingness and ability to meet their contractual obligation to us. It is also difficult to fully evaluate the impact of major catastrophic events on the financial stability of reinsurers, as well as the access to capital that reinsurers may have when such events occur. The ceding of insurance does not legally discharge us from our primary liability for the full amount of the policies, and we will be required to pay the loss and bear collection risk even if the reinsurers fail to meet their obligations under the reinsurance contracts.

## PENSION BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

### General

We currently have a U.S. qualified defined benefit plan, a defined benefit pension plan for our international subsidiary, Chaucer, and several smaller qualified and non qualified benefit plans. In order to measure the liabilities and expense associated with these plans, we must make various estimates and key assumptions, including discount rates used to value liabilities, assumed rates of return on plan assets, employee turnover rates and anticipated mortality rates. Additionally, our Chaucer pension plan also must take into consideration inflation rates, specifically related to participant salary increases. These estimates and assumptions are reviewed at least annually and are based on our historical

experience, as well as current facts and circumstances. In addition, we use outside actuaries to assist in measuring the expenses and liabilities associated with our defined benefit pension plans.

71

Two significant assumptions used in the determination of benefit plan obligations and expenses that are dependent on market factors, which have been subject to a greater level of volatility over the past few years, are the discount rate and the return on plan asset assumptions. The discount rate enables us to state expected future cash flows as a present value on the measurement date. We also use this discount rate in the determination of our pre-tax pension expense or benefit. A lower discount rate increases the present value of benefit obligations and increases pension expense. To determine the expected long-term return on plan assets, we generally consider historical mean returns by asset class for passive indexed strategies, as well as current and expected asset allocations, and adjust for certain factors that we believe will have an impact on future returns. Actual returns on plan assets in any given year seldom result in the achievement of the expected rate of return on assets. Actual returns on plan assets in excess of these expected returns will generally reduce our net actuarial losses (or increase actuarial gains) that are reflected in our accumulated other comprehensive income balance in shareholders—equity, whereas actual returns on plan assets which are less than expected returns will generally increase our net actuarial losses (or decrease actuarial gains) that are reflected in accumulated other comprehensive income. These gains or losses are amortized into expense in future years.

Expenses related to these plans are generally calculated based upon information available at the beginning of the plan year. Our pre-tax expense related to our defined benefit plans was \$11.0 million and \$13.0 million for 2012 and 2011, respectively. Expenses in 2012 include \$1.8 million related to the Chaucer pension plan and expenses in 2011 include \$0.4 million related to the Chaucer pension plan for the period of July 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011.

## U.S. Qualified Defined Benefit Plan

Prior to 2005, we provided pension retirement benefits to substantially all of our U.S. employees based on a defined benefit cash balance formula. In addition to the cash balance allocation, certain transition group employees, who had met specified age and service requirements as of December 31, 1994, were eligible for a grandfathered benefit based primarily on the employees—years of service and compensation during their highest five consecutive plan years of employment. As of January 1, 2005, the defined benefit pension plans were frozen.

As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, we determined our discount rate utilizing an independent yield curve which provides for a portfolio of high quality bonds that are expected to match the cash flows of our pension plan. Bond information used in the yield curve included only those rated Aa or better as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, and had been rated by at least two well-known rating agencies. At December 31, 2012, based upon our qualified plan liabilities and cash flows in relation to this discount curve, we decreased our discount rate to 4.25%, from 5.125% at December 31, 2011.

For the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, the expected rate of return on our qualified plan assets was 6.0% and 6.50%, respectively. The decrease reflects our strategy to shift investment assets from equity securities to fixed maturity investments over several years resulting in our composition of 84% fixed maturities and 16% equities at December 31, 2012, as well as declines in the fixed maturities markets in general. Actual returns of the plan investments generated approximately \$57 million and \$58 million of gains during 2012 and 2011, respectively, as compared to expected returns of approximately \$33 million and \$34 million, respectively.

In 2012, actuarial losses of approximately \$48 million primarily resulting from the decrease in the discount rate from the prior year were partially offset by the benefit from investment gains of approximately \$24 million. The benefit from the investment gains experienced in 2011 was essentially offset by a decrease in the discount rate from the prior year. These net losses resulted in adjustments to our accumulated net actuarial losses in 2012 and 2011 of \$23.7 million and \$0.4 million, respectively, which are reflected as decreases to our accumulated other comprehensive income. The change in these actuarial gains and losses is amortized into earnings in future years. The adjustments to accumulated other comprehensive income from these actuarial losses occurring in 2012 and 2011 were offset by the amortization of actuarial losses from prior years of \$10.8 million and \$14.0 million in 2012 and 2011, respectively. Given the effect of our actual investment experience in 2012, and taking into consideration the decrease in discount rates in 2013, U.S. pension related expenses in 2013 are expected to increase slightly from 2012. Accordingly, we expect our pre-tax pension expense for the U.S. qualified defined benefit pension plan to increase from approximately \$6 million in 2012 to approximately \$7 million in 2013.

Holding all other assumptions constant, sensitivity to changes in our key assumptions related to our U.S. qualified defined benefit pension plan are as follows:

Discount Rate A 25 basis point increase in the discount rate would decrease our pension expense in 2013 by \$1.8 million and decrease our projected benefit obligation by \$14.3 million. A 25 basis point reduction in the discount rate would increase our pension expense by \$1.8 million

and increase our projected benefit obligation by \$14.9 million.

72

Expected Return on Plan Assets A 25 basis point increase or decrease in the expected return on plan assets would decrease or increase our pension expense in 2013 by \$1.4 million.

### Chaucer Pension Plan

Prior to 2002, our Chaucer segment provided defined benefit pension retirement benefits to certain of its employees. As of December 31, 2001, the defined benefit section of the pension plan was closed to new members. The defined benefit obligation for this plan is based on the employees—years of service and final pensionable salary.

As of December 31, 2012, we determined our discount rate utilizing an independent yield curve which provides for a portfolio of high quality bonds that are expected to match the cash flows of our Chaucer plan due to the longer duration of the plan liabilities. As of December 31, 2011, we determined our discount rate utilizing a 15 Year AA corporate bond index. At December 31, 2012, based upon our Chaucer plan liabilities and cash flows in relation to these yield curves, we decreased our discount rate to 4.80% from 4.90% at December 31, 2011.

For the year ended December 31, 2012 and the six months ended December 31, 2011, the expected rate of return on plan assets was 7.50% and 7.40%, respectively. The composition of our Chaucer plan assets are 77% equities, 14% fixed maturities, and 9% real estate funds at December 31, 2012. Actual returns of the plan investments generated approximately \$10 million of gains and \$5 million of losses during the year ended December 31, 2012 and the six months ended December 31, 2011, respectively as compared to expected returns of approximately \$6 million and \$3 million, respectively.

The benefit from the investment gains experienced in 2012 was partially offset by a decrease in the discount rate from the prior year, resulting in net actuarial gains for the Chaucer plan of approximately \$2.5 million. Investment losses experienced in 2011, combined with the decrease in the discount rate, partially offset by a decrease in the inflation rate and changes in other assumptions, resulted in net actuarial losses for the Chaucer plan of \$14.1 million. These gains and losses are reflected as increases and decreases to our accumulated other comprehensive income, respectively. This balance is amortized into earnings in future periods. Given the effect of our actual investment experience in 2012, expected rates of return on investments in 2013 and taking into consideration the slight decrease in discount rates, pension related expenses for the Chaucer plan are expected to decrease in 2013 from \$1.8 million to approximately \$1.3 million (using the December 31, 2012 GBP to U.S. dollar conversion rate of 1.63).

Holding all other assumptions constant (using the December 31, 2012 GBP to U.S. dollar conversion rate of 1.63), sensitivity to changes in our key assumptions related to our Chaucer pension plan are as follows:

Discount Rate A 25 basis point increase in the discount rate would decrease our pension expense in 2013 by \$0.2 million and decrease our projected benefit obligation by \$7.3 million. A 25 basis point reduction in the discount rate would increase our pension expense by \$1.5 million and increase our projected benefit obligation by \$7.8 million.

Expected Return on Plan Assets A 25 basis point increase or decrease in the expected return on plan assets would decrease or increase our pension expense in 2013 by \$0.2 million.

### OTHER-THAN-TEMPORARY IMPAIRMENTS

We employ a systematic methodology to evaluate declines in fair values below amortized cost for all fixed maturity and equity security investments. The methodology utilizes a quantitative and qualitative process which seeks to ensure that available evidence concerning the declines in fair value below amortized cost is evaluated in a disciplined manner. In determining whether a decline in fair value below amortized cost is other-than-temporary, we evaluate several factors and circumstances, including the issuer s overall financial condition; the issuer s credit and financial strength ratings; the issuer s financial performance, including earnings trends, dividend payments and asset quality; any specific events which may influence the operations of the issuer; the general outlook for market conditions in the industry or geographic region in which the issuer operates; and the length of time and the degree to which the fair value of an issuer s securities remains below our cost. With respect to fixed maturity investments, we consider factors that might raise doubt about the issuer s ability to make contractual payments as they become due and whether we expect to recover the entire amortized cost basis of the security. With respect to equity securities, we consider our ability and intent to hold the investment for a period of time to allow for a recovery in value.

We monitor corporate fixed maturity securities with unrealized losses on a quarterly basis and more frequently when necessary to identify potential credit deterioration as evidenced by ratings downgrades, unexpected price variances, and/or company or industry specific concerns. We apply consistent standards of credit analysis which includes determining whether the issuer is current on its contractual payments and we consider past events, current conditions and reasonable forecasts to evaluate whether we expect to recover the entire amortized cost basis of the security. We utilize valuation declines as a potential indicator of credit deterioration and apply additional levels of scrutiny in our

73

analysis as the severity of the decline increases or duration persists.

For our impairment review of asset-backed fixed maturity securities, we forecast our best estimate of the prospective future cash flows of the security to determine if we expect to recover the entire amortized cost basis of the security. Our analysis includes estimates of underlying collateral default rates based on historical and projected delinquency rates and estimates of the amount and timing of potential recovery. We consider available information relevant to the collectability of cash flows, including information about the payment terms of the security, prepayment speeds, the financial condition of the underlying borrowers, collateral trustee reports, credit ratings analysis and other market data when developing our estimate of the expected cash flows.

When an OTTI of a debt security occurs, and we intend to sell or more likely than not will be required to sell the investment before recovery of its amortized cost basis, the amortized cost of the security is reduced to its fair value, with a corresponding charge to earnings, which reduces net income and earnings per share. If we do not intend to sell the fixed maturity investment or more likely than not will not be required to sell it, we separate the OTTI into the amount we estimate represents the credit loss and the amount related to all other factors. The amount of the estimated loss attributable to credit is recognized in earnings, which reduces net income and earnings per share. The amount of the estimated OTTI that is non-credit related is recognized in other comprehensive income, net of applicable taxes.

We estimate the amount of the OTTI that relates to credit by comparing the amortized cost of the debt security with the net present value of the debt security s projected future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate implicit in the investment prior to impairment. The non-credit portion of the impairment is equal to the difference between the fair value and the net present value of the debt security at the impairment measurement date.

OTTIs of equity securities are recorded as realized losses, which reduce net income and earnings per share. The new cost basis of an impaired security is not adjusted for subsequent increases in estimated fair value.

For equity method investments, we recognize an impairment when evidence demonstrates that a loss in value that is other-than-temporary has occurred. Evidence of a loss in value that is other-than-temporary may include the absence of an ability to recover the carrying amount of the investment or the inability of the investee to sustain a level of earnings that would justify the carrying amount of the investment. During each period, we evaluate whether an impairment indicator has occurred that may have a significant adverse affect on the carrying value of the investment. Impairment indicators may include: lower expectations of residual value from a limited partnership, reduced valuations of the investments held by limited partnerships, actual recent cash flows that are significantly less than expected cash flows or any other adverse events since the last financial statements received that might affect the value of the investee s capital. OTTIs of equity method investments are recorded as realized losses, which reduce net income and earnings per share.

Temporary declines in market value are recorded as unrealized losses, which do not affect net income and earnings per share, but reduce accumulated other comprehensive income, which is reflected in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. We cannot provide assurance that the OTTIs will be adequate to cover future losses or that we will not have substantial additional impairments in the future. (See Investments in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of this Form 10-K for further discussion regarding OTTIs and securities in an unrealized loss position).

### DEFERRED TAX ASSETS

Our deferred tax assets and liabilities primarily result from temporary differences between the amounts recorded in our consolidated financial statements and the tax basis of our assets and liabilities and loss and tax credit carryforwards. These temporary differences are measured at the balance sheet date using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years the temporary differences are expected to reverse.

The realization of deferred tax assets depends upon the existence of sufficient taxable income within the carryback or carryforward periods under the tax law in the applicable tax jurisdiction. Consideration is given to available positive and negative evidence, including reversals of deferred tax liabilities, projected future taxable income in each tax jurisdiction, tax planning strategies and recent financial operations. Valuation allowances are established if, based on the weight of available information, it is more likely than not that all or some portion of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The determination of the valuation allowance for our deferred tax assets requires management to make certain judgments and assumptions. Our judgments and assumptions are subject to change given the inherent uncertainty in predicting future performance and specific industry and investment market conditions. Changes in valuation allowances are generally reflected in federal income

tax expense or as an adjustment to other comprehensive income (loss) depending on the nature of the item for which the valuation allowance is being recorded.

74

The following are the components of our deferred tax assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2012. There is no valuation allowance associated with our deferred tax assets as of December 31, 2012.

	Gross
DEFERRED TAX ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	Amount
(in millions)	
Tax attributes	
Tax credit carryforwards	\$ 126.8
Operating loss carryforwards	75.1
	201.9
Other	
Loss, LAE and unearned premium reserves, net	190.6
Deferred policy acquisition costs	(115.8)
Employee benefit plans	56.4
Investments, net	(43.3)
Software capitalization	(31.4)
Deferred Lloyd s underwriting losses	13.5
Deferred foreign sourced income	(8.0)
Other, net	3.7
	65.7
Total	\$ 267.6

We have \$112.2 million of alternative minimum tax credit carryforwards and \$14.6 million of foreign tax credit carryforwards. The alternative minimum tax credit carryforwards have no expiration date and may be used to offset regular federal income t