

KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION INC
Form 10-K
February 27, 2009

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

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008

☐ 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: 0-24946

KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Arizona
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

86-0649974
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

5601 West Buckeye Road, Phoenix,
Arizona
(Address of principal executive offices)

85043
(Zip Code)

(602) 269-2000
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) Common Stock, \$0.01 par value
of the Act: New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) None
of the Act:

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities
Act. ☒ Yes ☐ No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the
Act. ☐ Yes ☒ No

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

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

Large accelerated filer ☒

Accelerated filer ☐

Non-accelerated filer ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act).

☐ Yes ☒ No

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2008, was approximately \$1.567 billion (based upon \$18.30 per share closing price on that date as reported by the New York Stock Exchange). In making this calculation the registrant has assumed, without admitting for any purpose, that all executive officers, directors, and no other persons, are affiliates.

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's common stock as of February 10, 2009 was 83,393,378.

Materials from the registrant's Notice and Proxy Statement relating to the 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 21, 2009 have been incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| Item 1. | Business | <u>1</u> |
| Item 1A. | Risk Factors | <u>2</u> |
| Item 1B. | Unresolved Staff Comments | <u>13</u> |
| Item 2. | Properties | <u>14</u> |
| Item 3. | Legal Proceedings | <u>14</u> |
| Item 4. | Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders | <u>14</u> |

PART II

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| Item 5. | Market for Company's Common Equity, Related Shareholder Matters, and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities | <u>15</u> |
| Item 6. | Selected Financial Data | <u>16</u> |
| Item 7. | Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation | <u>17</u> |
| Item 7A. | Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk | <u>26</u> |
| Item 8. | Financial Statements and Supplementary Data | <u>27</u> |
| Item 9. | Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure | <u>27</u> |
| Item 9A. | Controls and Procedures | <u>27</u> |
| Item 9B. | Other Information | <u>30</u> |

PART III

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| Item 10. | Directors, Executive Officers, and Corporate Governance | <u>30</u> |
| Item 11. | Executive Compensation | <u>30</u> |
| Item 12. | Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters | <u>30</u> |
| Item 13. | Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence | <u>30</u> |
| Item 14. | Principal Accounting Fees and Services | <u>31</u> |

PART IV

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| Item 15. | Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules | <u>31</u> |
| | | <u>33</u> |

SIGNATURES

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

| | |
|--|------------|
| Report of Deloitte & Touche LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm | <u>F-1</u> |
| Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2008 and 2007 | <u>F-2</u> |
| Consolidated Statements of Income for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 | <u>F-4</u> |
| Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 | <u>F-5</u> |
| Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 | <u>F-6</u> |
| Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements | <u>F-7</u> |

Table of Contents

PART I

Item 1. Business

This Annual Report contains certain statements that may be considered forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and such statements are subject to the safe harbor created by those sections. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, are statements that could be deemed forward-looking statements, including without limitation: any projections of earnings, revenues, or other financial items; any statement of plans, strategies, and objectives of management for future operations; any statements concerning proposed new services or developments; any statements regarding future economic conditions or performance; and any statements of belief and any statement of assumptions underlying any of the foregoing. Such statements may be identified by their use of terms or phrases such as "believe," "may," "could," "expects," "estimates," "projects," "anticipates," "intends," and similar terms and phrases. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, some of which cannot be predicted or quantified, which could cause future events and actual results to differ materially from those set forth in, contemplated by, or underlying the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, those discussed in the section entitled "Item 1A. Risk Factors," set forth below. Readers should review and consider the factors discussed in "Item 1A. Risk Factors," along with various disclosures in our press releases, stockholder reports, and other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

All such forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this Annual Report. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements. The Company expressly disclaims any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect any change in the Company's expectations with regard thereto or any change in the events, conditions, or circumstances on which any such statement is based.

References in this Annual Report to "we," "us," "our," "Knight," or the "Company" or similar terms refer to Knight Transportation, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries.

General

Our headquarters are located in Phoenix, Arizona. The transportation services we provide are primarily asset-based dry van truckload and temperature controlled truckload carrier services, along with non-asset-based brokerage services. Through our asset-based and non-asset-based capabilities we are able to transport, or can arrange for the transportation of, general commodities for customers throughout the United States. We generally focus our dry van operations on regional short-to-medium lengths of haul. Our temperature controlled centers operate in larger geographic areas with longer lengths of haul as compared to our dry van operations. As of December 31, 2008, we operated 35 asset-based service centers (consisting of 29 dry van and six temperature controlled service centers) and 12 non-asset-based brokerage branches. Our brokerage branches enable us to expand our customer service offerings by providing non-asset-based capability to manage our customers' freight when the shipments do not fit our asset-based model. The main factors that affect our results are the number of tractors we operate, our revenue per tractor (which includes primarily our revenue per total mile and our number of miles per tractor), and our ability to control our costs.

We have determined that we have two operating segments. Our operating segments consist of (i) our truckload transportation (asset-based) segment and (ii) our brokerage segment (non-asset-based). Our asset-based, truckload transportation segment includes our dry van, temperature controlled, and drayage operations with service centers located throughout the United States. Each of the asset-based service centers have similar economic characteristics, as they all provide truckload carrier services of general commodities to a similar class of customers. As a result, we have

determined that it is appropriate to aggregate these service centers into one reportable operating segment consistent with the guidance in SFAS No. 131, "Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information." Accordingly, we have not presented separate financial information for each of these service centers. We have also determined that our brokerage subsidiary qualifies as an operating segment under SFAS No. 131. However, because its results of operations are not material to our consolidated financial statements as a whole, we have not presented separate financial information for this segment. For the year ended December 31, 2008, the brokerage segment accounted for 5.3% of our consolidated revenue, 1.8% of our consolidated net income, and 1.0% of our consolidated assets. Revenue from our brokerage segment, including intercompany transactions and fuel surcharge, for the year ended December 31, 2008 was \$41.0 million, compared to \$29.0 million a year ago. Net income for our brokerage segment was approximately \$1.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, compared to \$0.6 million a year ago, and our brokerage segment had assets at December 31, 2008 of \$6.4 million, compared to \$4.6 million a year ago.

Table of Contents

Operations

Our operating strategy for our asset-based activities is to achieve a high level of asset utilization within a highly disciplined operating system while maintaining strict controls over our cost structure. To achieve these goals, we operate primarily in high-density, predictable freight lanes in select geographic regions, and attempt to develop and expand our customer base around each of our service centers. This operating strategy allows us to take advantage of the large amount of freight transported in regional markets. Our decentralized service centers enable us to better serve our customers and work more closely with our driving associates. We operate a modern fleet to appeal to drivers and customers, decrease maintenance expenses and downtime, and enhance our operating efficiencies. We employ technology in a cost-effective manner to assist us in controlling operating costs and enhancing revenue. Our operating strategy for our non-asset-based activities is to match quality capacity with the shipping needs of our customers. Our goal is to increase our market presence significantly, both in existing operating regions and in other areas where we believe the freight environment meets our operating strategy, while seeking to achieve industry-leading operating margins and returns on investment.

Our operating strategy includes the following important elements:

Operations. At December 31, 2008, we operated 29 asset-based dry van service centers, six asset-based temperature controlled service centers, and 12 non-asset-based brokerage branches. We concentrate our asset-based freight operations within an approximate 1,000 mile radius of our service centers, with an average length of haul in 2008 of approximately 518 miles. We believe that regional operations offer several advantages, including:

- obtaining greater freight volumes, because approximately 80% of all truckload freight moves in short-to-medium lengths of haul;
- achieving higher revenue per mile by focusing on high-density freight lanes to minimize non-revenue miles and offer our customers a high level of service and consistent capacity;
- enhancing safety and driver recruitment and retention by allowing our drivers to travel familiar routes and return home more frequently; and
- enhancing our ability to provide a high level of service to our customers.

Operating Efficiencies. Our company was founded on a philosophy of maintaining operating efficiencies and controlling costs. We maintain a simplified operation that focuses on operating in particular geographical markets. This approach allows us to concentrate our marketing efforts to achieve higher penetration of our targeted service areas. We maintain a modern tractor and trailer fleet in order to obtain operating efficiencies and attract and retain drivers. A generally compatible fleet of tractors and trailers simplifies our maintenance procedures and reduces parts supplies. We also regulate vehicle speed in order to maximize fuel efficiency, reduce wear and tear, and enhance safety.

Customer Service. We offer a high level of service to our customers, and we seek to establish ourselves as a preferred provider for many of our customers. For our asset-based services we allocate revenue equipment for customers in high-density lanes where we can provide them with a consistent supply of capacity as well as match our equipment to their needs. Our services include multiple stop pick-ups and deliveries, dedicated equipment and personnel, on-time pickups and deliveries within narrow time frames, specialized driver training, and other services. Brokerage services are tailored to meet our customers' needs. We price our services commensurately with the level of service our customers require and the conditions in market demand. By providing customers a high level of service, we believe we avoid competing solely on the basis of price.

Using Technology that Enhances Our Business. We purchase and deploy technology when we believe that it will allow us to operate more efficiently and the investment is cost-justified. We use a satellite-based tracking and communication system to communicate with our drivers, to obtain load position updates, to manage our fleets, and to provide our customers with freight visibility. We have installed Qualcomm's satellite-based tracking technology in substantially all of our tractors, which allows us to rapidly respond to customer needs and allows our drivers efficient communications with our service centers. The majority of our trailers are equipped with GE VeriWise (formerly known as Terion) trailer-tracking technology that allows us to more effectively manage our trailers. We have automated many of our back-office functions, and we continue to invest in technology where it allows us to better serve our customers and improve efficiency.

We were pleased that our refrigerated truckload business and our brokerage business (on highway and rail) continued to complement our core dry van truckload business, while standing on their own from the standpoint of profitability and returns. These businesses, established in 2004 and 2005, respectively, contributed meaningfully to our results and reflect our strategy to bring complementary services to our customers that also bring operational and economic benefits for us. We continue to explore additional opportunities to enhance our services to customers, including our recent drayage activities – the transportation of containerized cargo between ocean ports or rail ramps and shipping docks.

Table of Contents

Growth Strategy

Our growth strategy is focused on the following four key areas:

Opening service centers in new geographic regions and expanding existing service centers. Historically, a substantial portion of our revenue growth has been generated by our expansion into new geographic regions through the opening of additional service centers. We believe there will be significant opportunities to further increase our business in the short-to-medium haul market by opening additional service centers and branches, both asset-based and non-asset-based, while expanding our existing service centers and branches.

Strengthening our customer relationships. We market our services to both existing and new customers in freight lanes that complement our existing operations. We seek customers who will diversify our freight base. We market our dry van truckload, temperature-controlled truckload, and brokerage services to existing customers who may have need for, but do not currently use, multiple services from us.

Opportunities to make selected acquisitions. We are continuously evaluating acquisition opportunities. Since 1999, we have acquired four short-to-medium haul truckload carriers or have acquired substantially all of the trucking assets of such carriers, including: Phoenix, Arizona-based Roads West Transportation, Inc. acquired in 2006; Idaho Falls, Idaho-based Edwards Bros., Inc., acquired in 2005; Gulfport, Mississippi-based John Fayard Fast Freight, Inc., acquired in 2000; and Corsicana, Texas-based Action Delivery Service, Inc., acquired in 1999. Although most of our growth has been internal, we continue to evaluate acquisition opportunities.

Diversifying our service offerings. Our largest operation is in our historical base of regional, dry van truckload carriage. In 2004, we expanded our service offering to include temperature-controlled truckload services. In 2005, we expanded our service offering even further to include brokerage services. Our temperature-controlled truckload business and our brokerage business (on highway and rail) complement our core dry van truckload business, while standing on their own from the standpoint of profitability and returns. These businesses contribute meaningfully to our results and reflect our strategy to bring complementary services to our customers that also bring operational and economic benefits to us. In 2008, we began to explore the opportunity to enhance our services to customers, through drayage activities at the Southern California ports. Our brokerage services generated \$41.0 million in revenue (including intercompany transactions and fuel surcharge), with very little capital investment. We will continue to leverage our nationwide footprint and expertise of providing synergies and adding value to our customers through our service offerings.

We have established a geographically diverse network that can support a substantial increase in freight volumes, organic or acquired. Our network and our business lines provide us with the ability to provide many solutions to our customers. We maintain the flexibility within our decentralized network to adapt to market conditions. A foundation of our company since inception has been an extreme focus on cost per mile. It is part of our culture and operating philosophy, and should continue to serve us well during challenging times.

Marketing and Customers

Our sales and marketing functions are led by members of our senior management team, who are assisted by other sales professionals. Our sales team emphasizes our high level of service, our ability to accommodate a variety of customer needs, and our financial strengths. Our marketing efforts are designed to match the shipping needs of our current and potential customers with our capacity in markets throughout the country.

We try to maintain a diversified customer base. For the year ended December 31, 2008, our top 25 customers represented approximately 40% of revenue; our top 10 customers represented approximately 25% of revenue; and our

top 5 customers represented approximately 16% of revenue. No single customer represented more than 5% of revenue in 2008. Most of our truckload carriage contracts are cancelable on 30 days notice.

We seek to offer the service, value, and flexibility of a local provider, while possessing the capacity, strength, and dependability of a large company. As “Your Hometown National Carrier,” we strive to offer customers and drivers personal service and attention through each service center, while offering integrated freight transportation nationwide and beyond through the scale of one of North America’s largest trucking companies. We provide high service levels to a diversified base of full-truckload shippers across a broad range of industries and freight types. The short-to-medium haul segment of the truckload carrier market demands timely pickup and delivery and, in some cases, response on short notice. We try to obtain a competitive advantage by providing high quality services and consistent capacity to customers.

Table of Contents

To be responsive to customers' and drivers' needs, we often assign particular drivers and equipment to prescribed routes, providing better service to customers, while obtaining higher equipment utilization. Our dedicated fleet services also may provide a significant part of a customer's transportation requirements. Under a dedicated carriage service agreement, we can provide drivers, equipment and maintenance, and, in some instances, transportation management services that supplement the customer's in-house transportation department.

Each of our service centers is linked to our corporate computer system in our Phoenix headquarters. The capabilities of this system enhance our operating efficiency by providing cost effective access to detailed information concerning equipment, shipment status, and specific customer requirements. The system also enables us to respond promptly and accurately to customer requests and assists us in matching available equipment with customer loads. We also provide electronic data interchange ("EDI") services to shippers desiring such service.

Drivers, Other Employees, and Independent Contractors

As of December 31, 2008, we employed 4,713 persons, of which 3,976 were drivers. None of our employees are subject to a union contract. It is our policy to comply with applicable equal employment opportunity laws, and we periodically review our policies and practices for equal employment opportunity compliance.

We are particularly grateful to our employees during the recent times of unprecedented volatility and uncertainty in the trucking industry, specifically, and the economy, generally. Their attention to detail, entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to our customers enable us to effectively utilize our decentralized business model. We believe that the depth of our employee talent within our service center network is one of our competitive advantages. Our front-line employees bring the hometown carrier benefits to our customers and drivers, while leveraging the substantial resource of our national network.

The recruitment, training, and retention of safe and qualified drivers are essential to support our continued growth and to meet the service requirements of our customers. We hire drivers who meet our objective guidelines relating primarily to their safety history, road test evaluations, and other personal evaluations, including physical examinations and mandatory drug and alcohol testing. In order to attract and retain safe drivers who are committed to the highest level of customer service, we build our operations for drivers around a team environment. We provide attractive and comfortable equipment, direct communication with senior management, competitive wages and benefits, and other incentives designed to encourage driver safety, retention, and long-term employment. Drivers are recognized for providing superior service and developing good safety records.

During 2008, we launched a wholly-owned subsidiary, Squire Transportation, LLC. Squire is a training company focused on developing skilled, productive, and safe drivers. Squire's mission is to provide our drivers with the skills necessary to have a driving career with us. Our first Squire program is located in Indianapolis, Indiana. At some point in the future we expect that industry supply and demand fundamentals will come back into balance. As they do, we can expect to see renewed pressure to recruit and retain qualified drivers. We believe that Squire will be very beneficial to us in this regard.

Our drivers generally are compensated on the basis of miles driven and length of haul. Drivers also are compensated for additional flexible services provided to our customers. Drivers and other employees are invited to participate in our 401(k) program and in our company-sponsored health, life, and dental plans. Our drivers and other employees who meet eligibility criteria also participate in our stock option plan. We have a broad-based stock option program with more than 900 participants at December 31, 2008.

We also maintain an independent contractor program. Because independent contractors provide their own tractors, the independent contractor program provides us an alternate method of obtaining additional revenue equipment. We

intend to continue our use of independent contractors. As of December 31, 2008, we had agreements covering 185 tractors operated by independent contractors. Each independent contractor enters into a contract with us pursuant to which the independent contractor is required to furnish a tractor and a driver to load, transport, and unload goods we haul. We pay our independent contractors a fixed level of compensation based on the total of trip-loaded and empty miles. Independent contractors are obligated to maintain their own tractors and pay for their own fuel. We provide trailers for each independent contractor. We also provide maintenance services, for a charge, for our independent contractors who desire such services. In certain instances, we provide financing to independent contractors to assist them in acquiring revenue equipment. Our loans to independent contractors are secured by a lien on the independent contractor's revenue equipment. As of December 31, 2008, we had outstanding loans of \$833,728 (net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$92,636) to independent contractors.

Table of Contents

Revenue Equipment

As of December 31, 2008, we operated 3,514 company-owned tractors with an average age of 1.9 years. We also had under contract 185 tractors owned and operated by independent contractors. Our trailer fleet consisted of 9,155, 53-foot long, high cube trailers, including 620 temperature controlled trailers, with an average age of 4.4 years.

Growth of our tractor and trailer fleet is determined by market conditions and our experience and expectations regarding equipment utilization. In acquiring revenue equipment, we consider a number of factors, including economy, price, rate, environment, technology, warranty terms, manufacturer support, driver comfort, and resale value. We maintain strong relationships with our equipment vendors and the financial flexibility to react as market conditions dictate. In addition to being able to react to market conditions because of our financial flexibility, we believe we can react more fluidly to market conditions because our dry van and temperature controlled service centers function as smaller, decentralized operations.

We have adopted an equipment configuration that meets a wide variety of customer needs and facilitates customer shipping flexibility. We adhere to a comprehensive maintenance program that minimizes downtime and enhances the resale value of our equipment. We perform routine servicing and maintenance of our equipment at several of our service centers. Our current policy is to replace most of our tractors within 36 to 42 months after purchase and to replace our trailers over a five to ten year period. Changes in the current market for used tractors, regulatory changes, and difficult market conditions faced by tractor manufacturers, may result in price increases that may effect the period of time we operate our equipment.

In 2002, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") implemented regulations limiting exhaust emissions. Regulations further limiting exhaust emissions became effective January 1, 2007, and become progressively more restrictive in 2010. In part to offset the costs of compliance with these requirements, some manufacturers have significantly increased new equipment prices, and further increases may result in connection with the implementation of the 2010 requirements. If new equipment prices increase more than anticipated, we may be required to increase our financing costs and/or retain some of our equipment longer, with a resulting increase in maintenance expenses. To the extent we are unable to offset any such increases in expenses with rate increases or cost savings, our results of operations would be adversely affected. In addition to increases in equipment costs, new engines generally have resulted in lower fuel mileage compared with older models and compliance with the new standards could result in further declines in fuel economy. If we are unable to offset resulting increases in fuel expenses with higher rates or surcharge revenue, our results of operations would be adversely affected.

Safety and Risk Management

We are committed to ensuring the safety of our operations. We regularly communicate with drivers to promote safety and instill safe work habits through media and safety review sessions. We also regularly conduct safety training meetings for our drivers, independent contractors, and non-driving personnel. We dedicate personnel and resources to ensure safe operation and regulatory compliance. We employ safety personnel at every operating location who are responsible for administering our safety programs. We employ technology to assist us in managing risks associated with our business. In addition, we have an innovative recognition program for driver safety performance and emphasize safety through our equipment specifications and maintenance programs. Our Vice President of Safety and Risk Management is involved in the review of all accidents.

We require prospective drivers to meet higher qualification standards than those required by the United States Department of Transportation ("DOT"). The DOT requires drivers to obtain commercial drivers' licenses and also requires that we maintain a drug and alcohol testing program in accordance with DOT regulations. Our program includes pre-employment, random, and post-accident drug testing. We are authorized by the DOT to haul hazardous

materials. We require any driver who transports hazardous materials to have the proper endorsement and to be regularly trained as prescribed by DOT regulations. We also monitor our driver's compliance with the Department of Homeland Security's "Security Threat Assessment" regulation when applying for or renewing a hazardous material endorsement.

Table of Contents

Our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and Vice President of Safety and Risk Management are responsible for securing appropriate insurance coverage at competitive rates. The primary claims arising in our business consist of auto liability, including personal injury, property damage, physical damage, and cargo loss. We are insured against auto liability claims under a self-insured retention ("SIR") policy with retention ranging from \$1.0 million to \$1.5 million per occurrence. For the policy year from February 1, 2007 to January 31, 2008, our SIR was \$1.5 million, and we are also responsible for an additional \$1.5 million in "aggregate" losses for claims that exceed the \$1.5 million SIR. For the policy year from February 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009, our SIR and our responsibility for the additional "aggregate" losses was reduced to \$1.0 million. For the policy year from February 1, 2009 to January 31, 2010, our SIR was increased back to \$1.5 million, and we no longer have responsibility for the additional "aggregate" losses. We have secured excess liability coverage up to \$55.0 million per occurrence.

We are self-insured for workers' compensation claims up to a maximum limit of \$500,000 per occurrence. We also maintain primary and excess coverage for employee medical expenses and hospitalization, with self retention level of \$225,000 per claimant.

Competition

The trucking industry is highly competitive and fragmented. We compete primarily with other regional short-to-medium haul truckload carriers, logistics providers, and national carriers. Railroads and air freight also provide competition, but to a lesser degree. We also compete with other motor carriers for the services of drivers, independent contractors, and management employees. A number of our competitors have greater financial resources, own more equipment, and carry a larger volume of freight than we do. We believe that the principal competitive factors in our business are service, pricing (rates), and the availability and configuration of equipment that meets a variety of customers' needs.

The operating environment of the trucking industry in 2008 was challenging and reflected the broad-based economic weakness that is now widely known. Typical seasonal shipping patterns did not hold as volumes were uncharacteristically weak during the fourth quarter of 2008. 2008 marks the third consecutive year where a strong peak shipping season did not materialize. Price competition remained intense as carriers struggled to maintain equipment productivity.

Our industry is further challenged with lower demand and higher equipment availability as a result of many of our competitors pre-buying tractors before the more restrictive engine regulations took effect in 2007. We believe declining orders for new tractors and trailers, the exit of underperforming carriers from the market, and fleet downsizing by the larger truckload carriers will result in a more favorable balance of supply and demand in the future. While the timing and magnitude of improvements in the freight environment are difficult to predict, we believe that continuing to develop our service center network will position us favorably when the truckload freight market strengthens again.

Despite challenging freight conditions over the last three years, we are confident that we made the right strategic decision not to dramatically reduce our fleet size. Many large carriers have substantially reduced their fleets for either tactical or strategic reasons. Further, a substantial number of small and mid-sized carriers have been forced into bankruptcy due to tight credit, high and volatile fuel prices and challenging industry pricing. We believe that this dynamic could eventually set the stage for tighter industry capacity and more favorable rates, and we are optimistic about our competitive position and our ability to execute our model.

Regulation

Our operations are regulated and licensed by various government agencies. Our company drivers and independent contractors also must comply with the safety and fitness regulations of the United States Department of Transportation ("DOT"), including those relating to drug and alcohol testing and hours-of-service. Such matters as weight and equipment dimensions are also subject to government regulations. We also may become subject to new or more restrictive regulations relating to emissions, drivers' hours-of-service, ergonomics, or other matters affecting safety or operating methods. Other agencies, such as the EPA and the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"), also regulate our equipment, operations, and drivers.

The DOT, through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration ("FMCSA"), imposes safety and fitness regulations on us and our drivers. New rules that limit driver hours-of-service were adopted effective January 4, 2004, and then modified effective October 1, 2005 (the "2005 Rules"). In July 2007, a federal appeals court vacated portions of the 2005 Rules. Two of the key portions that were vacated include the expansion of the driving day from 10 hours to 11 hours, and the "34-hour restart," which allowed drivers to restart calculations of the weekly on-duty time limits after the driver had at least 34 consecutive hours off duty. The court indicated that, in addition to other reasons, it vacated these two portions of the 2005 Rules because FMCSA failed to provide adequate data supporting its decision to increase the driving day and provide for the 34-hour restart. In November 2008, following the submission of additional data by FMCSA and a series of appeals and related court rulings, FMCSA published its final rule, which retains the 11 hour driving day and the 34-hour restart. However, advocacy groups may continue to challenge the final rule. We are unable to predict how a court may rule on such challenges and to what extent the new presidential administration may become involved in this issue. On the whole, however, we believe a court's decision to strike down the final rule would decrease productivity and cause some loss of efficiency, as drivers and shippers may need to be retrained, computer programming may require modifications, additional drivers may need to be employed or engaged, additional equipment may need to be acquired, and some shipping lanes may need to be reconfigured. We are also unable to predict the effect of any new rules that might be proposed if the final rule is stricken by a court, but any such proposed rules could increase costs in our industry or decrease productivity.

Table of Contents

The Transportation Security Administration ("TSA") has adopted regulations that require determination by the TSA that each driver who applies for or renews his or her license for carrying hazardous materials is not a security threat. This could reduce the pool of qualified drivers, which could require us to increase driver compensation, limit our fleet growth, or let trucks sit idle. These regulations also could complicate the matching of available equipment with hazardous material shipments, thereby increasing our response time on customer orders and our non-revenue miles. As a result, it is possible we may fail to meet the needs of our customers or may incur increased expenses to do so.

Certain states and municipalities continue to restrict the locations and amount of time where diesel-powered tractors, such as ours, may idle, in order to reduce exhaust emissions. These restrictions could force us to alter our operations.

We are subject to various environmental laws and regulations dealing with the hauling and handling of hazardous materials, fuel storage tanks, emissions from our vehicles and facilities, engine idling, discharge and retention of storm water, and other environmental matters that import inherent environmental risks. We maintain bulk fuel storage and fuel islands at several of our service centers. Our operations involve the risks of fuel spillage or seepage, environmental damage, and hazardous waste disposal, among others. We have instituted programs to monitor and control environmental risks and assure compliance with applicable environmental laws. As part of our safety and risk management program, we periodically perform internal environmental reviews so we can achieve environmental compliance and avoid environmental risk. Our service centers and processes are designed to contain and properly dispose of hazardous substances and petroleum products which could be used or generated in connection with our business. We transport a small amount of environmentally hazardous materials and, to date, have experienced no significant claims for hazardous materials shipments. If we are found to be in violation of applicable laws or regulations, we could be subject to liabilities, including substantial fines or penalties or civil and criminal liability, any of which could have a materially adverse effect on our business and operating results.

Regulations further limiting exhaust emissions became effective both in 2002 and in 2007 and become progressively more restrictive in 2010. Compliance with such regulations has increased the cost of our new tractors and could impair equipment productivity, lower fuel mileage, and increase our operating expenses. These adverse effects, combined with the uncertainty as to the reliability of the newly designed diesel engines and the residual values of these vehicles, could materially increase our costs or otherwise adversely affect our business or operations.

In 2007, the Employee Free Choice Act of 2007: H.R. 800 ("EFCA") was passed in the U.S. House of Representatives. This bill, or a variation of it, could be enacted in the future and could have an adverse impact on our business. The EFCA aims to amend the National Labor Relations Act, by making it easier for workers to obtain union representation and increasing the penalties employers may incur if they engage in labor practices in violation of the National Labor Relations Act. The EFCA requires the National Labor Relations Board ("NLRB") to review petitions filed by employees for the purpose of creating a labor organization and to certify a bargaining representative without directing an election if a majority of the bargaining unit employees have authorized designation of the representative. The EFCA also requires the parties to begin bargaining within 10 days of the receipt of the petition, or longer time if mutually agreed upon. In addition, if the union and employer cannot agree upon the terms of a first collective bargaining agreement within 90 days, which can be extended by mutual agreement, either party can request federal mediation, which could lead to binding arbitration if an agreement still cannot be reached after an additional 30 days which can be extended by mutual agreement. EFCA would also require the NLRB to seek a federal injunction against an employer whenever there is reasonable cause to believe that the employer has discharged or discriminated against an employee to encourage or discourage membership in the labor organization, threatened to discharge or otherwise discriminate against an employee in order to interfere with, restrain, or coerce employees in the exercise of guaranteed collective bargaining rights, or engaged in any other related unfair labor practice that significantly interferes with, restrains, or coerces employees in the exercise of such guaranteed rights. The EFCA adds additional remedies for such violations, including back pay plus liquidated damages and civil penalties to be determined by the NLRB not to exceed \$20,000

per infraction. Although we have never entered into a collective bargaining agreement with our employees, any attempt to organize by our employees could result in increased legal and other associated costs.

Table of Contents

Seasonality

Results of operations in the transportation industry frequently show a seasonal pattern. Continued expansion of our operations throughout the United States could expose us to greater operating variances due to periodic seasonal weather in various regions, which variance could have a materially adverse effect on our operations.

Acquisitions, Investments, and Dispositions

We periodically examine investment opportunities in areas related to the transportation industry. Our investment strategy is to invest in industry related businesses that will strengthen our overall position in the transportation industry, minimize our exposure to start-up risk, and provide us with an opportunity to realize a substantial return on our investment. We are continuously evaluating acquisition opportunities. Since 1999, we have acquired four short-to-medium haul truckload carriers or have acquired substantially all of the trucking assets of such carriers, including: Phoenix, Arizona-based Roads West Transportation, Inc. ("Roads West") acquired in 2006; Idaho Falls, Idaho-based Edwards Bros., Inc., ("Edwards Bros.") acquired in 2005; Gulfport, Mississippi-based John Fayard Fast Freight, Inc., acquired in 2000; and Corsicana, Texas-based Action Delivery Service, Inc., acquired in 1999. Although most of our growth has been internal, we continue to evaluate acquisition opportunities.

As part of the Roads West acquisition, we purchased 133 tractors, 280 trailers, and certain miscellaneous other assets. We did not purchase cash or accounts receivable and did not assume any debts or liabilities of Roads West. The purchase price for the assets, including the full amount of the earn-out, was approximately \$15.8 million. The total purchase price has been allocated to tangible and intangible assets acquired based on their fair market values as of the acquisition date. The acquisition has been accounted for in our results of operations since the acquisition date. The pro forma effect of the acquisition on our results of operations is immaterial.

With respect to the Edwards Bros. acquisition, we acquired 100% of the stock of Edwards Bros. In addition to the purchase price, the purchase agreement set forth certain conditions upon which we would be required to pay certain earn-out adjustments. During 2006, we paid \$320,000 as an earn-out, which represented the final earn-out under the purchase agreement.

In 2003, we signed a partnership agreement with Transportation Resource Partners, LP ("TRP"), a company that makes privately negotiated equity investments. Per the original partnership agreement, we committed to pledge \$5.0 million out of approximately \$260.0 million. In early 2006, we increased the commitment amount to \$5.5 million. Our investment in TRP is accounted for using the cost method as our level of influence over the operations of TRP is minor. At December 31, 2008, the carrying book balance of our investment in TRP was \$3.7 million, and our ownership interest was approximately 2.3%. Our outstanding commitment to TRP was approximately \$1.0 million as of December 31, 2008.

During the fourth quarter of 2008, we formed Knight Capital Growth, LLC and committed \$15.0 million to invest in a new partnership managed and operated by the managers and principals of TRP. The new partnership, Transportation Resource Partners III, LP ("TRP III"), is focused on similar investment opportunities as TRP. As of December 31, 2008, we have contributed \$120,000 to TRP III. Our outstanding commitment to TRP III was approximately \$14.9 million as of December 31, 2008.

Other Information

We were incorporated in 1989 and our headquarters are located at 5601 West Buckeye Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85043. This Annual Report on Form 10-K, our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, our current reports on Form 8-K, and all other reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the

Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act") can be obtained free of charge by visiting our website at www.knighttrans.com. Information contained on our website is not incorporated into this Annual Report on Form 10-K, and you should not consider information contained on our website to be part of this report.

Additionally, you may read all of the materials that we file with the SEC by visiting the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. If you would like information about the operation of the Public Reference Room, you may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You may also visit the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. This site contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding our company and other companies that file electronically with the SEC.

Table of Contents

Item 1A. Risk Factors

Our future results may be affected by a number of factors over which we have little or no control. The following discussion of risk factors contains forward looking statements as discussed in Item 1 above. The following issues, uncertainties, and risks, among others, should be considered in evaluating our business and growth outlook.

Our business is subject to general economic and business factors that are largely out of our control.

Our business is dependent on a number of factors that may have a materially adverse effect on our results of operations, many of which are beyond our control. The most significant of these factors are recessionary economic cycles, changes in customers' inventory levels, excess tractor or trailer capacity in comparison with shipping demand, and downturns in customers' business cycles. Economic conditions, particularly in market segments and industries where we have a significant concentration of customers and in regions of the country where we have a significant amount of business, that decrease shipping demand or increase the supply of tractors and trailers can exert downward pressure on rates or equipment utilization, thereby decreasing asset productivity. Adverse economic conditions also may harm our customers and their ability to pay for our services. Customers encountering adverse economic conditions represent a greater potential for loss, and we may be required to increase our allowance for doubtful accounts.

We are also subject to increases in costs that are outside of our control that could materially reduce our profitability if we are unable to increase our rates sufficiently. Such cost increases include, but are not limited to, declines in the resale value of used equipment, increases in interest rates, fuel prices, taxes, tolls, license and registration fees, insurance, revenue equipment, and healthcare for our employees. We could be affected by strikes or other work stoppages at our service centers or at customer, port, border, or other shipping locations.

In addition, we cannot predict the effects on the economy or consumer confidence of actual or threatened armed conflicts or terrorist attacks, efforts to combat terrorism, military action against a foreign state or group located in a foreign state, or heightened security requirements. Enhanced security measures could impair our operating efficiency and productivity and result in higher operating costs.

Our growth may not continue at historical rates.

We have experienced significant and rapid growth in revenue and profits since the inception of our business in 1990, although growth has slowed the past two years. There can be no assurance that our business will return to its historical growth rate in the future or that we can effectively adapt our management, administrative, and operational systems to respond to any future growth. Further, there can be no assurance that our operating margins will not be adversely affected by future changes in and expansion of our business or by changes in economic conditions.

If the growth in our regional operations slows or stagnates, if we are unable to commit sufficient resources to our regional operations, or if we were to expand into a market with insufficient economic activity or human resources, our results of operations could be adversely affected.

In addition to our service centers in Phoenix, Arizona, we have established service centers throughout the United States in order to serve markets in these regions. These regional operations require the commitment of additional personnel and/or revenue equipment, as well as management resources, for future development. Should the growth in our regional operations slow or stagnate, the results of our operations could be adversely affected. As we continue to expand, it may become more difficult to identify large cities that can support a service center, and we may expand into smaller cities where there is less economic activity and room for growth and fewer driver and non-driver personnel to support the service center. We may encounter operating conditions in these new markets that differ substantially from

those previously experienced. We may not be able to duplicate our regional operating strategy successfully throughout the United States, or perhaps outside the United States, and it might take longer than expected or require a more substantial financial commitment than anticipated. In addition, the commencement of operations outside our existing lines of business is subject to the risks inherent in entering new lines of business, including, but not limited to: unfamiliarity with pricing, service, operational, and liability issues; the risk that customer relationships may be difficult to obtain or that we may have to reduce rates to gain customer relationships; the risk that the specialized equipment may not be adequately utilized; and the risk that claims may exceed our past experience.

Table of Contents

Ongoing insurance and claims expenses could significantly reduce our earnings.

Our future insurance and claims expense might exceed historical levels, which could reduce our earnings. We self-insure for a portion of our claims exposure resulting from workers' compensation, auto liability, general liability, cargo and property damage claims, as well as employees' health insurance. We also are responsible for our legal expenses relating to such claims. We reserve for anticipated losses and expenses. We periodically evaluate and adjust our claims reserves to reflect our experience. However, ultimate results may differ from our estimates, which could result in losses over our reserved amounts.

We maintain insurance above the amounts for which we self-insure with licensed insurance carriers. Although we believe the aggregate insurance limits should be sufficient to cover reasonably expected claims, it is possible that one or more claims could exceed our aggregate coverage limits. Insurance carriers have raised premiums for many businesses, including trucking companies. As a result, our insurance and claims expense could increase, or we could raise our self-insured retention when our policies are renewed. If these expenses increase, if we experience a claim in excess of our coverage limits, or if we experience a claim for which coverage is not provided, our results of operations and financial condition could be materially and adversely affected.

Increased prices and reduced efficiency relating to new revenue equipment may adversely affect our earnings and cash flows.

We are subject to risk with respect to higher prices for new tractors. Prices may increase, for among other reasons, due to government regulations applicable to newly manufactured tractors and diesel engines and due to the pricing power among equipment manufacturers. In addition, the engines used in our newer tractors are subject to emissions control regulations issued by the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"). The regulations require progressive reductions in exhaust emissions from diesel engines for 2007 through 2010. Compliance with such regulations has increased the cost of our new tractors and could impair equipment productivity, lower fuel mileage, and increase our operating expenses. These adverse effects, combined with the uncertainty as to the reliability of the vehicles equipped with the newly designed diesel engines and the residual values realized from the disposition of these vehicles, could increase our costs or otherwise adversely affect our business or operations as the regulations become effective. Over the past several years, some manufacturers have significantly increased new equipment prices, in part to meet new engine design requirements.

We have trade-in and/or repurchase commitments that specify, among other things, what our primary equipment vendors will pay us for disposal of a substantial portion of our revenue equipment. The prices we expect to receive under these arrangements may be higher than the prices we would receive in the open market. We may suffer a financial loss upon disposition of our equipment if these vendors refuse or are unable to meet their financial obligations under these agreements, if we fail to enter into definitive agreements that reflect the terms we expect, if we fail to enter into similar arrangements in the future, or if we do not purchase the required number of replacement units from the vendors.

If fuel prices increase significantly, our results of operations could be adversely affected.

We are subject to risk with respect to purchases of fuel. Prices and availability of petroleum products are subject to political, economic, weather related, and market factors that are generally outside our control and each of which may lead to an increase in the cost of fuel. Because our operations are dependent upon diesel fuel, significant increases in diesel fuel costs could materially and adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition if we are unable to pass increased costs on to customers through rate increases or fuel surcharges. Historically, we have sought to recover a portion of short-term increases in fuel prices from customers through fuel surcharges. Fuel surcharges that can be collected do not always fully offset the increase in the cost of diesel fuel. To the extent we are not successful

in these negotiations, our results of operations may be adversely affected.

Difficulty in driver and independent contractor recruitment and retention may have a materially adverse effect on our business.

Difficulty in attracting or retaining qualified drivers, including independent contractors, could have a materially adverse effect on our growth and profitability. Our independent contractors are responsible for paying for their own equipment, fuel, and other operating costs, and significant increases in these costs could cause them to seek higher compensation from us or seek other opportunities within or outside the trucking industry. Although competition for drivers, which in the past several years has been extremely intense, eased slightly at certain times during 2008, if a shortage of drivers were to occur, or if we were unable to continue to attract and contract with independent contractors, we could be forced to, among other things, limit our growth, increase the number of our tractors without drivers (which would lower our profitability), or further adjust our driver compensation package, which could adversely affect our profitability if not offset by a corresponding increase in rates.

Table of Contents

We operate in a highly regulated industry and changes in regulations or increased costs of compliance with, or liability for violation of, existing or future regulations could have a materially adverse effect on our business.

Our operations are regulated and licensed by various government agencies, including the Department of Transportation ("DOT"). The DOT, through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration ("FMCSA"), imposes safety and fitness regulations on us and our drivers. New rules that limit driver hours-of-service were adopted effective January 4, 2004, and then modified effective October 1, 2005 (the "2005 Rules"). In July 2007, a federal appeals court vacated portions of the 2005 Rules. Two of the key portions that were vacated include the expansion of the driving day from 10 hours to 11 hours, and the "34-hour restart," which allowed drivers to restart calculations of the weekly on-duty time limits after the driver had at least 34 consecutive hours off duty. The court indicated that, in addition to other reasons, it vacated these two portions of the 2005 Rules because FMCSA failed to provide adequate data supporting its decision to increase the driving day and provide for the 34-hour restart. In November 2008, following the submission of additional data by FMCSA and a series of appeals and related court rulings, FMCSA published its final rule, which retains the 11 hour driving day and the 34-hour restart. However, advocacy groups may continue to challenge the final rule. We are unable to predict how a court may rule on such challenges and to what extent the new presidential administration may become involved in this issue. On the whole, however, we believe a court's decision to strike down the final rule would decrease productivity and cause some loss of efficiency, as drivers and shippers may need to be retrained, computer programming may require modifications, additional drivers may need to be employed or engaged, additional equipment may need to be acquired, and some shipping lanes may need to be reconfigured. We are also unable to predict the effect of any new rules that might be proposed if the final rule is stricken by a court, but any such proposed rules could increase costs in our industry or decrease productivity.

On December 26, 2007, the FMCSA published a Notice of Proposed Rule Making in the Federal Register regarding minimum requirements for entry level driver training. Under the proposed rule, a commercial driver's license applicant would be required to present a valid driver training certificate obtained from an accredited institution or program. Entry-level drivers applying for a Class A commercial driver's license would be required to complete a minimum of 120 hours of training, consisting of 76 classroom hours and 44 driving hours. The current regulations do not require a minimum number of training hours and require only classroom education. Drivers who obtain their first commercial driver's license during the three-year period after the FMCSA issues a final rule would be exempt. The FMCSA has not established a deadline for issuing the final rule, but the comment period expired on May 23, 2008. If the rule is approved as written, this rule could materially affect the number of potential new drivers entering the industry and, accordingly, negatively affect our results of operations.

In general, the increasing burden of regulation raises our costs and lowers our efficiency. Future laws and regulations may be more stringent and require changes in our operating practices, influence the demand for transportation services, or require us to incur significant additional costs. Higher costs incurred by us or by our suppliers who pass the costs onto us through higher prices could adversely affect our results of operations.

Federal, state, and municipal authorities have implemented and continue to implement various security measures, including checkpoints and travel restrictions on large trucks. These regulations also could complicate the matching of available equipment with hazardous material shipments, thereby increasing our response time on customer orders and our non-revenue miles. As a result, it is possible we may fail to meet the needs of our customers or may incur increased expenses to do so. These security measures could negatively impact our operating results.

Our operations are subject to various environmental laws and regulations, the violation of which could result in substantial fines or penalties.

In addition to direct regulation by the DOT and other agencies, we are subject to various environmental laws and regulations dealing with the handling of hazardous materials, underground fuel storage tanks, and discharge and

retention of storm-water. We operate in industrial areas where truck terminals and other industrial facilities are located and where groundwater or other forms of environmental contamination have occurred. Our operations involve the risks of fuel spillage or seepage, environmental damage, and hazardous waste disposal, among others. Two of our service centers are located adjacent to environmental "superfund" sites. Although we have not been named as a potentially responsible party in either case, we are potentially exposed to claims that we may have contributed to environmental contamination in the areas in which we operate. We also maintain bulk fuel storage and fuel islands at several of our service centers.

Table of Contents

Our Phoenix service center is located on land identified as potentially having groundwater contamination resulting from the release of hazardous substances by persons who have operated in the general vicinity. The area has been classified as a state superfund site. We have been located at our Phoenix facility since 1990 and, during such time, have not been identified as a potentially responsible party with regard to the groundwater contamination, and we do not believe that our operations have been a source of groundwater contamination.

Our Indianapolis service center is located approximately one-tenth of a mile east of Reilly Tar and Chemical Corporation, a federal superfund site listed on the National Priorities List for clean-up. The Reilly site has known soil and groundwater contamination. There also are other sites in the general vicinity of our Indianapolis property that have known contamination. Environmental reports obtained by us have disclosed no evidence that activities on our Indianapolis property have caused or contributed to the area's contamination but it is possible that we could be responsible for clean up costs regardless.

If we are involved in a spill or other accident involving hazardous substances, or if we are found to be in violation of applicable laws or regulations, it could have a materially adverse effect on our business and operating results. If we should fail to comply with applicable environmental regulations, we could be subject to substantial fines or penalties and to civil and criminal liability.

We may not make acquisitions in the future, or if we do, we may not be successful in integrating the acquired company, either of which could have a materially adverse effect on our business.

Historically, acquisitions have been a part of our growth. There is no assurance that we will be successful in identifying, negotiating, or consummating any future acquisitions. If we fail to make any future acquisitions, our growth rate could be materially and adversely affected. Any acquisitions we undertake could involve the dilutive issuance of equity securities and/or incurring indebtedness. In addition, acquisitions involve numerous risks, including difficulties in assimilating the acquired company's operations, the diversion of our management's attention from other business concerns, risks of entering into markets in which we have had no or only limited direct experience, and the potential loss of customers, key employees, and drivers of the acquired company, all of which could have a materially adverse effect on our business and operating results. If we make acquisitions in the future, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to successfully integrate the acquired companies or assets into our business.

As we continue to expand into new regions, we may experience greater operating variances due to the seasonal pattern of the transportation industry, which may have a materially adverse effect on our operations.

Results of operations in the transportation industry frequently show a seasonal pattern, with lower revenue and higher operating expenses being common in the winter months. As we continue to expand our operations throughout the United States, we could experience greater operating variances due to periodic seasonal weather in other regions than we have previously experienced, which variance could have a materially adverse effect on our operations.

If we are unable to retain our key employees or find, develop, and retain service center managers, our business, financial condition, and results of operations could be adversely affected.

We are highly dependent upon the services of certain key employees, including, but not limited to: Kevin P. Knight, our Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer; Gary J. Knight, our Vice Chairman of the Board; Keith T. Knight, our Chief Operating Officer; Casey Comen, our Executive Vice President of Sales; Michael K. Liu, our President of Knight Transportation Dry Van; Erick Kutter, our President of Knight Refrigerated, LLC; Greg Ritter, our President of Knight Brokerage, LLC; Larry V. Knight, our President of Knight Intermodal, LLC; and David Jackson, our Chief Financial Officer and Secretary. We currently do not have employment agreements with any of

these key employees, and the loss of any of their services could negatively impact our operations and future profitability. Additionally, we must, because of our regional operating strategy, continue to find, develop, and retain service center managers if we are to realize our goal of expanding our operations and continuing our growth. Failing to find, develop, and retain a core group of service center managers could have a materially adverse effect on our business.

Table of Contents

We have several major customers, the loss of one or more of which could have a materially adverse effect on our business.

A significant portion of our revenue is generated from a number of major customers, the loss of one or more of which could have a materially adverse effect on our business. For the year ended December 31, 2008, our top 25 customers, based on revenue, accounted for approximately 40% of our revenue; our top 10 customers, approximately 25% of our revenue; and our top 5 customers, approximately 16% of our revenue. Generally, we do not have long term contractual relationships with our customers, and we cannot assure you that our customer relationships will continue as presently in effect. A reduction in or termination of our services by one or more of our major customers could have a materially adverse effect on our business and operating results.

If our investment in Transportation Resource Partners is not successful, we may be forced to write off part or all of our investment, which could have a materially adverse effect on our operating results.

We have invested, either directly or indirectly through one of our wholly owned subsidiaries, in Transportation Resource Partners and its related funds (together, "TRP"), which are companies that make privately negotiated equity investments. Due to portfolio losses in the past, we have recorded impairment charges in prior periods to reflect the other-than-temporary decrease in fair value of the portfolio. If TRP's financial position declines, we could be forced to write down all or part of our investment which could have a materially adverse effect on our operating results.

We are dependent on computer and communications systems, and a systems failure could cause a significant disruption to our business.

Our business depends on the efficient and uninterrupted operation of our computer and communications hardware systems and infrastructure. We currently maintain our computer system at our Phoenix, Arizona headquarters, along with computer equipment at each of our service centers. Our operations and those of our technology and communications service providers are vulnerable to interruption by fire, earthquake, power loss, telecommunications failure, terrorist attacks, internet failures, computer viruses, and other events beyond our control. In an attempt to reduce the risk of disruption to our business operations should a disaster occur, we have redundant computer systems and networks and deploy the backup systems from an alternative location. However, this alternative location may be subject to the same interruptions as may affect our Phoenix headquarters. In the event of a significant system failure, our business could experience significant disruption.

Efforts by labor unions could divert management attention and could have a materially adverse effect on our operating results.

Although we have never signed a collective bargaining agreement since our company was founded, we always face the risk that Congress or one or more states will approve legislation significantly affecting our businesses and our relationship with our employees, such as the proposed federal legislation referred to as the Employee Free Choice Act, which would substantially liberalize the procedures for union organization. Any attempt to organize by our employees could result in increased legal and other associated costs. In addition, if we were to enter into a collective bargaining agreement, the terms could negatively affect our costs, efficiency, and ability to generate acceptable returns on the affected operations.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

Not Applicable.

Table of Contents

Item 2. Properties

Our headquarters and principal place of business is located at 5601 West Buckeye Road, Phoenix, Arizona on approximately 75 acres. The following table provides information regarding the location of our service centers and/or offices as at December 31, 2008:

| Company Location | Office | Shop | Fuel | Owned or Leased |
|---------------------|--------|------|------|-----------------------|
| Atlanta, GA | Yes | Yes | No | Leased |
| Boise, ID | Yes | No | No | Leased |
| Carlisle, PA | Yes | Yes | Yes | Owned |
| Charlotte, NC | Yes | Yes | Yes | Owned |
| Chicago, IL | Yes | Yes | Yes | Owned |
| Columbus, OH | Yes | No | Yes | Owned |
| Dallas, TX | Yes | No | No | Owned |
| Denver, CO | Yes | No | No | Leased |
| El Paso, TX | Yes | No | No | Leased |
| Green Bay, WI | Yes | No | No | Leased |
| Gulfport, MS | Yes | Yes | Yes | Owned |
| Idaho Falls, ID | Yes | Yes | Yes | Owned |
| Indianapolis, IN | Yes | Yes | Yes | Owned |
| Kansas City, KS | Yes | Yes | Yes | Owned |
| Katy, TX | Yes | Yes | Yes | Owned |
| Lakeland, FL | Yes | No | No | Leased |
| Las Vegas, NV | Yes | No | No | Leased |
| Memphis, TN | Yes | Yes | Yes | Owned |
| Minneapolis, MN | Yes | No | No | Leased |
| Nashville, TN | Yes | No | No | Owned |
| Ontario, CA | Yes | No | No | Leased |
| Phoenix, AZ | Yes | Yes | Yes | Owned |
| Portland, OR | Yes | Yes | Yes | Owned |
| Reno, NV | Yes | No | No | Leased |
| Richmond, VA | Yes | No | No | Leased |
| | Yes | Yes | No | Owned |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|----|--------|
| Salt Lake City, UT | | | | |
| Seattle, WA | Yes | No | No | Leased |
| Syracuse, NY | Yes | No | No | Leased |
| Tulare, CA | Yes | Yes | No | Owned |
| Tulsa, OK | Yes | No | No | Owned |

We also own and lease space in various locations for temporary trailer storage. Management believes that replacement space comparable to these trailer storage facilities is readily obtainable, if necessary. We lease excess trailer drop space at several of our facilities to other carriers.

We believe that our service centers are suitable and adequate for our present needs. We periodically seek to improve our service centers or identify other favorable locations.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

We are a party to ordinary, routine litigation and administrative proceedings incidental to our business. These proceedings primarily involve claims for personal injury or property damage incurred in the transportation of freight and for personnel matters. We maintain insurance to cover liabilities arising from the transportation of freight in amounts in excess of self-insurance retentions.

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

We did not submit any matter to a vote of our security holders during the fourth quarter of 2008.

Table of Contents

PART II

Item 5. Market for Company's Common Equity, Related Shareholder Matters, and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

Our common stock is traded under the symbol KNX on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"). The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low closing prices per share of our common stock as reported by the NYSE.

| 2008 | High | Low |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| First Quarter | \$17.81 | \$14.46 |
| Second Quarter | \$18.68 | \$15.59 |
| Third Quarter | \$21.00 | \$16.96 |
| Fourth Quarter | \$17.04 | \$12.71 |

| 2007 | High | Low |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| First Quarter | \$20.23 | \$17.44 |
| Second Quarter | \$20.34 | \$17.78 |
| Third Quarter | \$20.00 | \$17.03 |
| Fourth Quarter | \$18.39 | \$14.53 |

As of February 1, 2009, we had 72 shareholders of record. However, we believe that many additional holders of our common stock are unidentified because a substantial number of shares are held by brokers or dealers for their customers in street names.

Starting in December 2004, and in each consecutive quarter since, we have paid a quarterly cash dividend. From December 2004, through the first quarter of 2007, we paid a quarterly dividend of \$.02 per share on our common stock. In the second quarter of 2007, we increased the quarterly cash dividend to \$.03 per share and paid a similar quarterly dividend through the first quarter of 2008. In the second quarter of 2008, we increased the quarterly cash dividend to \$0.04 per share and paid a similar dividend in the third and fourth quarter of 2008. Our most recent dividend, which was declared in February 2009, is scheduled to be paid in March 2009. We currently expect to continue to pay quarterly cash dividends in the future. Future payment of cash dividends, and the amount of any such dividends, will depend upon our financial condition, results of operations, cash requirements, tax treatment, and certain corporate law requirements, as well as other factors deemed relevant by our Board of Directors.

The following table sets forth information with respect to our repurchase of shares of our Common Stock during the fourth quarter of 2008.

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly | Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under |
|--------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
|--------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|

| | | | Announced Program | the Program |
|-----------|-----------|---------|----------------------|------------------|
| 10/1/08 - | | | | |
| 10/31/08 | 1,496,500 | \$15.24 | 1,496,500 | 80,000 |
| 11/1/08 - | | | | 2,569,200(1) (2) |
| 11/30/08 | 510,800 | \$13.93 | 510,800 | |
| 12/1/08 - | 159,244 | \$13.22 | 159,244 | 2,409,956 |
| 12/31/08 | | | | |
| Total | 2,166,544 | \$14.78 | 2,166,544 | 2,409,956 |

(1) On November 13, 2007, we announced that our Board of Directors unanimously authorized the repurchase of up to 3.0 million shares of our Common Stock. As of October 31, 2008, there were 80,000 shares still authorized for repurchase. The repurchase authorization was to remain in effect until the share limit was reached or the program was terminated. During the month of November, 2008, we repurchased 510,800 shares, 80,000 of which were repurchased under the November 8, 2007 authorization. This authorization expired upon these repurchases.

(2) On December 16, 2008, we announced that our Board of Directors unanimously authorized the repurchase of up to 3.0 million shares of our Common Stock. The repurchase authorization will continue in effect until the share limit is reached or we terminate the program. The repurchase authorization is intended to afford us the flexibility to acquire shares opportunistically in future periods and does not indicate an intention to repurchase any particular number of shares within a definite timeframe. Repurchase of shares will be effected based upon share price and market conditions. The authorization extends to purchases of shares to prevent dilution from equity compensation awards as well as open market and negotiated transactions. See Note 11 for additional information with respect to our share repurchase programs.

Table of Contents

See "Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans" under Item 12 in Part III of this Annual Report for certain information concerning shares of our common stock authorized for issuance under our equity compensation plans.

Item 6. Selected Financial Data

The selected consolidated financial data presented below as of the end of, and for, each of the years in the five-year period ended December 31, 2008, are derived from our consolidated financial statements. The information set forth below should be read in conjunction with "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," below, and the Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K.

For the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004
(Dollar amounts in thousands, except per share amounts and operating data)

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Statements of Income Data: | | | | | |
| Revenue, before fuel surcharge | \$ 595,563 | \$ 601,359 | \$ 568,408 | \$ 498,996 | \$ 411,717 |
| Fuel surcharge | 171,372 | 112,224 | 95,999 | 67,817 | 30,571 |
| Total revenue | 766,935 | 713,583 | 664,407 | 566,813 | 442,288 |
| Operating expenses | 674,277 | 611,141 | 544,915 | 465,118 | 362,926 |
| Income from operations | 92,658 | 102,442 | 119,492 | 101,695 | 79,362 |
| Other income (expense) | 1,430 | 1,983 | 353 | 1,019 | 398 |
| Income before income taxes | 94,088 | 104,425 | 119,845 | 102,714 | 79,760 |
| Net income | 56,261 | 63,123 | 72,966 | 61,714 | 47,860 |
| Diluted earnings per share (1) | .66 | .72 | .84 | .71 | .55 |
| Balance Sheet Data (at end of period): | | | | | |
| Working capital | \$ 123,231 | \$ 104,901 | \$ 59,389 | \$ 66,129 | \$ 63,327 |
| Total assets | 646,940 | 643,364 | 570,219 | 483,827 | 402,867 |
| Cash dividend per share on common stock | .15 | .11 | .08 | .08 | .02 |
| Shareholders' equity | 483,904 | 487,550 | 426,095 | 352,928 | 291,017 |
| Operating Data (Unaudited): | | | | | |
| Operating ratio (2) | 87.9% | 85.6% | 82.0% | 82.1% | 82.1% |
| Operating ratio, excluding fuel surcharge (3) | 84.4% | 83.0% | 79.0% | 79.6% | 80.7% |
| Average revenue per tractor (4) | \$ 150,543 | \$ 151,945 | \$ 160,891 | \$ 164,119 | \$ 157,563 |
| Average length of haul (miles) | 518 | 542 | 561 | 580 | 556 |
| Empty mile factor | 11.8% | 12.8% | 12.6% | 11.7% | 11.5% |
| Tractors operated at end of period (5) | 3,699 | 3,758 | 3,661 | 3,271 | 2,818 |
| Trailers operated at end of period | 9,155 | 8,809 | 8,761 | 7,885 | 7,126 |

(1) Diluted earnings per share for 2004 have been restated to reflect 3-for-2 stock splits on December 23, 2005.

(2) Operating expenses as a percentage of total revenue.

(3) Operating expenses, net of fuel surcharge, as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge. Management believes that eliminating the impact of this sometimes volatile source of revenue affords a more consistent basis for comparing our results of

operations from period to period.

- (4) Average revenue per tractor includes revenue for dry van and refrigerated only. It does not include brokerage revenue, fuel surcharge revenue, and other revenue.
- (5) Includes: (a) 185 independent contractor operated vehicles at December 31, 2008; (b) 231 independent contractor operated vehicles at December 31, 2007; (c) 249 independent contractor operated vehicles at December 31, 2006; (d) 237 independent contractor operated vehicles at December 31, 2005; and (e) 244 independent contractor operated vehicles at December 31, 2004.

Table of Contents

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

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Item 7 contains certain statements that may be considered forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and such statements are subject to the safe harbor created by those sections. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, are statements that could be deemed forward-looking statements, including without limitation: any projections of earnings, revenues, or other financial items; any statement of plans, strategies, and objectives of management for future operations; any statements concerning proposed new services or developments; any statements regarding future economic conditions or performance; and any statements of belief and any statement of assumptions underlying any of the foregoing. Such statements may be identified by their use of terms or phrases such as "believe," "may," "could," "expects," "estimates," "projects," "anticipates," "intends," and similar terms and phrases. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, some of which cannot be predicted or quantified, which could cause future events and actual results to differ materially from those set forth in, contemplated by, or underlying the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, those discussed in the section entitled "Item 1A. Risk Factors," set forth above. Readers should review and consider the factors discussed in "Item 1A. Risk Factors," along with various disclosures in our press releases, stockholder reports, and other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

All such forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this Annual Report. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements. The Company expressly disclaims any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect any change in the Company's expectations with regard thereto or any change in the events, conditions, or circumstances on which any such statement is based.

Introduction

Business Overview

We are a transportation services provider with headquarters in Phoenix, Arizona. We transport general commodities for customers throughout the United States, generally focusing our operations on a short-to-medium length of haul. We provide truckload carrier services from our asset-based dry van and temperature controlled service centers, as well as brokerage services from our brokerage branches. Our asset-based service centers and brokerage branches are successful, standalone businesses that complement one another to deliver solutions to our customers that otherwise wouldn't be possible. The results of our brokerage activities were relatively immaterial for 2008 and, therefore, a detailed discussion of the financial results of these operations will not be separately presented.

From 2003 to 2006, we achieved substantial revenue and income growth. In 2007 and 2008, our growth slowed as a result of economic conditions. Our revenue, before fuel surcharge, grew at a 12.8% compounded annual rate from \$326.9 million in 2003 to \$595.6 million in 2008, and our net income grew at a 9.8% compounded annual rate from \$35.5 million in 2003 to \$56.3 million in 2008.

During 2008, we opened two dry van and two temperature controlled service centers. As of December 31, 2008, we operated 35 asset-based dry van and temperature controlled service centers and 12 brokerage branches.

Our industry-leading operating margins and debt-free balance sheet have afforded us with substantial cash flows and financial flexibility. During times of more robust freight demand, we have been able to expand our fleet and terminal network internally and through acquisitions largely through internally generated cash. During times when fleet

growth is undesirable, such as 2008, we generate cash that can be used for stock repurchases, dividend payments, and as a source for future needs. During 2008, our cash and short-term investment balance increased \$22.6 million, after using \$66.3 million for dividend payments and stock repurchases.

During 2008, we were once again named to Forbes Magazine's list of the "200 Best Small Companies in America." We have been included on this list for 14 consecutive years.

Table of Contents

Operating and Growth Strategy

Our operating strategy is focused on the following core elements:

- Focusing on Regional Operations. We seek to operate primarily in high density, predictable freight lanes in selected geographic regions. We believe our regional operations allow us to obtain greater freight volumes and higher revenue per mile, and also enhance safety and driver recruitment and retention.
- Maintaining Operating Efficiencies and Controlling Costs. We focus on operating in distinct geographic markets in order to achieve increased penetration of targeted service areas. We actively seek to control costs by, among other things, operating modern equipment, maintaining a high driver to non-driver employee ratio, and minimizing empty miles.
- Providing a High Level of Customer Service. We seek to compete on the basis of service, in addition to price, and offer our customers a broad range of services to meet their specific needs, including multiple stop pick-ups and deliveries, on time pick-ups and deliveries within narrow time frames, dedicated fleet and personnel, and specialized driver training.
- Using Technology to Enhance Our Business. We use technology to help us be more efficient with our equipment and our headcount. We recognize the value technology brings as an accelerator in our operations.

The primary source of our revenue growth has been our ability to open and develop service centers and brokerage branches and the markets they serve in selected geographic areas and operate the service centers at or near our targeted margins within a relatively short period of time. The addition of our brokerage branches has enabled us to expand our customer service offerings by providing non-asset-based capabilities to our customers when the shipments do not fit our asset-based model. The development of our brokerage model strengthens our relationships with our customers because it provides our customers with more options and complements our existing dry van and temperature controlled truckload carrier services. Our brokerage model is also a less capital intensive way for us to grow our business. The expansion of our services represents our continued progression as we build our brand as the premier national carrier, providing local service to the markets we serve.

The freight environment over the last several years has been challenging. In 2008, we did not experience a seasonal peak during the second half of the year, and economic activities fell-off significantly in the fourth quarter. Price competition was tough, but the industry continued to rationalize. Many of the large fleets continued to downsize, and a good number of carriers closed their doors. Due to economic downturn, we reduced our fleet size modestly during the year to adapt to market conditions. We believe we are well positioned to grow when the market reverts to more of a supply and demand equilibrium.

Revenue and Expenses

We primarily generate revenue by transporting freight for our customers. Generally, we are paid a predetermined rate per mile or per load for our services. We enhance our revenue by charging for tractor and trailer detention, loading and unloading activities, and other specialized services, as well as through the collection of fuel surcharges to mitigate the impact of increases in the cost of fuel. The main factors that affect our revenue are the revenue per mile we receive from our customers, the percentage of miles for which we are compensated, and the number of miles we generate with our equipment. These factors relate, among other things, to the general level of economic activity in the United States, inventory levels, specific customer demand, the level of capacity in the trucking industry, and driver availability.

The most significant expenses in our business include fuel, driver-related expenses (such as wages, benefits, training, and recruitment), and independent contractor costs (which are recorded on the "Purchased Transportation" line of our consolidated statements of income). Expenses that have both fixed and variable components include maintenance and tire expense and our total cost of insurance and claims. These expenses generally vary with the miles we travel, but also have a controllable component based on safety, fleet age, efficiency, and other factors. Our main fixed costs are the acquisition and depreciation of long-term assets, such as revenue equipment and service centers and the compensation of non-driver personnel. Effectively controlling our expenses is an important element of assuring our profitability. The primary measure we use to evaluate our profitability is operating ratio, excluding the impact of fuel surcharge revenue (operating expenses, net of fuel surcharge, as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge).

Since our inception an important element of our asset-based operating model has been an extreme focus on our cost per mile. We intend to carry this focus with us as we add new service centers, grow existing service centers, and make selective acquisitions.

Table of Contents

Recent Results of Operations and Year-End Financial Condition

Our results of operations for the year ended December 31, 2008 compared to the year ended December 31, 2007 were as follows:

- Total revenue, including fuel surcharge, increased 7.5%, to \$766.9 million from \$713.6 million;
- Revenue, before fuel surcharge, decreased 1.0%, to \$595.6 million from \$601.4 million;
- Net income decreased 10.9%, to \$56.3 million from \$63.1 million; and
- Net income per diluted share decreased to \$0.66 from \$0.72.

2008 represented one of the most difficult operating environments for the execution of our business model based on leading growth and profitability. For the third consecutive year, a strong "peak" shipping season did not materialize. The industry-wide supply of truckload equipment continued to outpace the freight demand, which pressured pricing and resulted in lower equipment utilization. We operated an average of 10 fewer tractors in 2008 compared to 2007 and 59 less at year end. While revenue per total mile for 2008 improved as a result of a 4.4% decrease in average length of haul, tractor utilization was negative, with average miles per tractor down 3.3% for the year compared to a year ago. Our empty mileage factor for the year improved to 11.8% in 2008, from 12.8% in 2007. Our average length of haul decreased to 518 miles during 2008, from 542 miles in 2007. Both the difficult freight market and a softer market for used tractors and trailers contributed to a 10.9% decrease in profitability in 2008. Despite a year-over-year decline in our revenue, we were able to grow operating income by 20.7% and diluted earnings per share by 20.2% in the fourth quarter of 2008 compared to the same period a year ago. Profitability in the fourth quarter was helped by falling diesel prices, our ongoing internal initiatives to reduce costs, and the flexibility of our decentralized business model, which allows us to adjust and adapt to market conditions.

During 2008, our cash and short-term investment balance increased \$22.6 million, even after using \$66.3 million for stock repurchases and shareholder dividends. At December 31, 2008, our balance sheet reflected \$53.9 million in cash, cash equivalents and short term investments, no debt, and shareholders' equity of \$483.9 million. In 2008, we generated \$141.4 million in cash flow from operations and used \$79.8 million for net capital expenditures.

Our liquidity is not materially affected by off-balance sheet transactions. See Off-Balance Sheet Transactions below for a description of our off-balance sheet transactions.

Trends and Outlook

At year-end 2008, we had decreased our fleet by 59 tractors versus year-end 2007. In this challenging environment, we will manage our fleet size carefully and consider internal growth or contraction of our tractor fleet as events unfold. In the near term, we expect revenue growth to come primarily from our brokerage business. In addition, we have ramped up our efforts to identify acquisitions or other investment opportunities that may offer a strategic advantage. Over the long term, we are optimistic about our competitive position in the industry and expect that proper execution of our decentralized growth model will position us to emerge from the downturn with the ability to add more capacity and gain more market share. Further, because of our brokerage business, we are able to add customers without adding tractor capacity.

Beyond the immediate challenges that many carriers face, the issues of safety, security, and environmental restrictions are becoming increasingly stringent and costly. We think all of these factors set the stage for future growth opportunities for low cost, high quality carriers that can self-fund growth and serve customers on a national basis. We believe these factors resonate with customers and can help us differentiate ourselves from our competitors.

Since inception we have been profitable through multiple economic cycles. We view these cycles as opportunities to gain market share from other competitors that do not have the financial staying power to survive the cycles. These cycles also provide valuable experience to our managers that will help us develop the leaders to grow this business profitably.

We believe that our level of profitability, fleet renewal strategy, and use of owner-operators should enable us to internally finance attractive levels of fleet growth when demand conditions improve. Conversely, during times when we choose to maintain or trim our fleet levels, as we did during 2008, the business is capable of generating significant cash flow from operations in excess of net capital expenditures that can be used for stock repurchases, dividend payments, and as a source for future needs. In short, we believe we have significant financial flexibility to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead of us.

Table of Contents

Results of Operations

The following table sets forth the percentage relationships of our expense items to total revenue and revenue, before fuel surcharge, for each of the three fiscal years indicated below. Fuel expense as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, is calculated using fuel expense, net of surcharge. Management believes that eliminating the impact of this sometimes volatile source of revenue affords a more consistent basis for comparing our results of operations from period to period.

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Total revenue including fuel surcharge(1) | | | | Revenue, before fuel surcharge(1) | | | |
| Operating expenses: | | | | Operating expenses: | | | |
| Salaries, wages and benefits | 27.5 | 28.3 | 28.8 | Salaries, wages and benefits | 35.4 | 33.6 | 33.7 |
| Fuel (2) | 31.0 | 26.5 | 24.9 | Fuel (3) | 11.2 | 12.8 | 12.2 |
| Operations and maintenance | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.4 | Operations and maintenance | 7.1 | 6.4 | 6.3 |
| Insurance and claims | 3.4 | 4.5 | 3.9 | Insurance and claims | 4.4 | 5.4 | 4.6 |
| Operating taxes and licenses | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.0 | Operating taxes and licenses | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 |
| Communications | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | Communications | 1.0 | 0.9 | 1.0 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.1 | Depreciation and amortization | 11.7 | 10.9 | 10.6 |
| Lease expense – revenue equipment | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | Lease expense – revenue equipment | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Purchased transportation | 6.7 | 7.3 | 6.0 | Purchased transportation | 8.6 | 8.7 | 7.0 |
| Miscellaneous operating expenses | 2.0 | 1.4 | 0.9 | Miscellaneous operating expenses | 2.5 | 1.6 | 1.1 |
| Total operating expenses | 88.0 | 85.6 | 82.0 | Total operating expenses | 84.4 | 82.9 | 79.0 |
| Income from operations | 12.0 | 14.4 | 18.0 | Income from operations | 15.6 | 17.1 | 21.0 |
| Net interest and other income | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 | Net interest and other income | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| Income before income taxes | 12.2 | 14.6 | 18.1 | Income before income taxes | 15.8 | 17.4 | 21.0 |
| Income taxes | 4.9 | 5.8 | 7.1 | Income taxes | 6.4 | 6.9 | 8.2 |
| Net Income | 7.3% | 8.8% | 11.0% | Net Income | 9.4% | 10.5% | 12.8% |

(1) There are minor rounding differences in the table.

(2) Gross fuel expense without fuel surcharge.

(3) Net fuel expense including fuel surcharge.

A discussion of our results of operations for the periods 2008 to 2007 and 2007 to 2006 is set forth below.

Fiscal 2008 Compared to Fiscal 2007

Total revenue for 2008 increased 7.5% to \$766.9 million from \$713.6 million for 2007. Total revenue included \$171.4 million of fuel surcharge revenue in 2008 and \$112.2 million of fuel surcharge revenue in 2007. In discussing our results of operations we use revenue, before fuel surcharge (and fuel expense, net of surcharge), because management believes that eliminating the impact of this sometimes volatile source of revenue affords a more consistent basis for comparing our results of operations from period to period. We also discuss the changes in our expenses as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, rather than absolute dollar changes. We do this because we believe our relatively high variable costs as a percentage of revenue makes a comparison of changes in expenses as a percentage of revenue more meaningful than absolute dollar changes.

Revenue, before fuel surcharge, decreased 1.0% to \$595.6 million for 2008, from \$601.4 million in 2007. The operating environment in 2008 was challenging and reflected broad-based economic weakness across all industries. Price competition remained intense as carriers struggled to maintain equipment productivity. Typical seasonal shipping patterns did not hold as volumes were uncharacteristically weak toward the second half of the year. As a result of excess capacity, our average miles per tractor decreased 3.3% in 2008. Combined with a 2.4% improvement in average revenue per total mile, our average revenue per tractor per week decreased slightly to \$2,895 per tractor in 2008, from \$2,922 per tractor in 2007. Our non-paid empty mile percent improved 100 basis points, to 11.8% in 2008, from 12.8% in 2007. We ended 2008 with 3,699 tractors, a decrease of 59 tractors from a year ago.

Salaries, wages and benefits expense as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, increased to 35.4% in 2008 from 33.6% in 2007. The increase is due to the combination of higher workers compensation costs and an increase in the percentage of our company fleet being operated by company drivers, as opposed to independent contractors. At December 31, 2008, 95.0% of our fleet was operated by company drivers, compared to 93.9% at December 31, 2007. We record accruals for workers' compensation benefits as a component of our claims accrual, and the related expense is reflected in salaries, wages and benefits in our consolidated statements of income.

Table of Contents

Fuel expense, net of fuel surcharge, as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, decreased to 11.2% in 2008, from 12.8% in 2007. After reaching unprecedented record high fuel prices during most of 2008, the fourth quarter provided some relief with falling fuel prices. Our fuel costs in 2008 decreased 1.6% due to falling diesel prices combined with internal initiatives to improve fuel efficiency. These initiatives enabled us to reduce idle times, reduce non-revenue miles, improve driver fuel productivity, and control out-of route miles. We also maintain a fuel surcharge program to assist us in recovering a portion of increased fuel costs. For the year ended December 31, 2008, our fuel surcharge was \$171.4 million, compared to \$112.2 million for the same period in 2007.

Operations and maintenance expense increased as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, to 7.1% in 2008, from 6.4% in 2007. The increase is mainly attributable to the fact that a higher percentage of our fleet was operated by company drivers, as opposed to independent contractors, during the 2008 period. Independent contractors pay for the maintenance of their own vehicles.

Insurance and claims expense as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, decreased to 4.4% for 2008, compared to 5.4% for 2007. During the year we saw meaningful benefits from continued improvement in insurance and claims expense. Over the last 18 months we have implemented the Smith Systems training throughout our service centers. Smith Systems is the leader in professional driver training with hands-on, behind-the-wheel, instructional training. We believe such training and other management efforts have been instrumental factors in reducing the severity and frequency of accidents.

Operating taxes and license expense as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, remained constant at 2.5% for 2008 and 2007.

Communications expense as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, increased slightly to 1.0% in 2008, from 0.9% in 2007.

Depreciation and amortization expense, as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, increased to 11.7% for 2008, from 10.9% in 2007. The increase is due to a higher percentage of our fleet being operated by company drivers, as opposed to independent contractors, and a reduction in our leased revenue equipment in favor of owned revenue equipment.

Lease expense for revenue equipment was near zero in 2008, compared to 0.1% for the same periods in 2007. As of December 31, 2008, we did not have any equipment under operating leases.

Purchased transportation represents the amount that independent contractors, as well as contracted carriers for our brokerage division, are paid to haul freight for us on a mutually agreed upon per-mile or per-shipment basis. Purchased transportation expense as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, decreased to 8.6% for the year ended 2008, from 8.7% for the same period in 2007. The slight decrease is due to the combination of a decrease in the percentage of our company fleet being operated by independent contractors, and an off-setting increase in payments to outside carriers for transportation services arranged by our brokerage division, which has experienced considerable growth over the last year. At December 31, 2008, 5.0% of our fleet was operated by independent contractors, compared to 6.1% at December 31, 2007. Excluding purchased transportation activities from our brokerage division, this expense as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, would have decreased to 2.9% for the year ended December 31, 2008, compared to 4.8% for the same period in 2007.

Miscellaneous operating expenses as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, increased to 2.5% for 2008, compared to 1.6% for 2007. Gains from the sale of used equipment are included in miscellaneous operating expenses. Gains from sale of equipment decreased 64.1%, to \$1.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, compared to \$4.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2007. Excluding gains from sale of used equipment, miscellaneous

operating expenses as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, increased to 2.8% for the year ended December 31, 2008, compared to 2.5% in 2007. The increase in this category is mainly due to a \$1.7 million increase in bad debt expense in 2008.

As a result of the above factors, our operating ratio (operating expenses, net of fuel surcharge, expressed as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge) was 84.4% for 2008, compared to 82.9% for 2007.

Net interest and other income (expense) as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, decreased to 0.2% for 2008, compared to 0.3% for 2007. We had no outstanding debt at December 31, 2008 or 2007.

Table of Contents

Income taxes have been provided at the statutory federal and state rates, adjusted for certain permanent differences between financial statement income and income for tax reporting. Our effective tax rate was 40.2% for 2008 and 39.6% for 2007. The increase in our effective tax rate is mainly due to a reduction in excess tax benefits related to stock-based compensation.

As a result of the preceding changes, our net income, as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, was 9.4% for 2008, compared to 10.5% in 2007.

Fiscal 2007 Compared to Fiscal 2006

Total revenue for 2007 increased 7.4% to \$713.6 million from \$664.4 million for 2006. Total revenue included \$112.2 million of fuel surcharge revenue in 2007 and \$96.0 million of fuel surcharge revenue in 2006. In discussing our results of operations we use revenue, before fuel surcharge (and fuel expense, net of surcharge), because management believes that eliminating the impact of this sometimes volatile source of revenue affords a more consistent basis for comparing our results of operations from period to period. We also discuss the changes in our expenses as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, rather than absolute dollar changes. We do this because we believe the relatively high fuel cost variability makes a comparison of changes in expenses as a percentage of revenue more meaningful than absolute dollar changes.

Revenue, before fuel surcharge, increased 5.8% to \$601.4 million for 2007, up from \$568.4 million in 2006. The increase is primarily due to the opening of eight brokerage branches and four asset-based service centers in 2007. Our average tractor fleet increased 9.7% to 3,780 tractors in 2007, from 3,446 tractors in 2006. The industry wide supply of truckload equipment outpaced demand throughout 2007, and resulted in lower equipment utilization. Declines in both revenue per mile and miles per tractor contributed to a 5.6% decline in average freight revenue per tractor per week, to \$2,922 per tractor in 2007, from \$3,094 per tractor in 2006. In the fourth quarter of 2007, we reduced our tractor fleet by approximately 100 tractors from the third quarter of 2007. We ended 2007 with 3,758 tractors, an increase of 97 tractors from 2006.

Salaries, wages and benefits expense remained relatively constant as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, at 33.6% in 2007 compared to 33.7% in 2006. We record accruals for workers' compensation benefits as a component of our claims accrual, and the related expense is reflected in salaries, wages and benefits in our consolidated statements of income.

Fuel expense, net of fuel surcharge, as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, increased to 12.8% in 2007, from 12.2% in 2006. The increase in fuel expense is due to the combination of rising fuel costs and fuel mileage degradation caused by the use of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel. The U.S. National average of diesel fuel price increased approximately \$0.13 per gallon in 2007 from 2006. We maintain a fuel surcharge program to assist us in recovering a portion of increased fuel costs. We were able to off-set a portion of the rising fuel cost due to improvements in fuel surcharge revenue. For the year ended December 31, 2007, fuel surcharge was \$112.2 million, compared to \$96.0 million for the same period in 2006.

Operations and maintenance expense increased slightly as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, to 6.4% in 2007, from 6.3% in 2006. The increase is a result of lower revenue per mile. Independent contractors pay for the maintenance of their own vehicles.

Insurance and claims expense increased as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, to 5.4% for 2007, compared to 4.6% for 2006. The increase is mainly due to the settlement of certain claims for prior years in amounts greater than previously anticipated.

Operating taxes and license expense as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, increased slightly to 2.5% for 2007 from 2.4% for 2006. The increase is mainly due to lower revenue per mile.

Communications expense as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, decreased to 0.9% for 2007, compared to 1.0% for 2006. The reduction in communications expense is due to contractual rate changes.

Depreciation and amortization expense, as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, increased to 10.9% for 2007 from 10.6% in 2006. The increase is a result of lower revenue per mile and lower miles per tractor.

Lease expense for revenue equipment, as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, remained at 0.1% for both 2007 and 2006. As of December 31, 2007, we had 13 tractors under operating leases.

Table of Contents

Purchased transportation expense as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, increased to 8.7% for 2007, from 7.0% for 2006. The increase in this expense is primarily a result of the growth of our brokerage business. Excluding purchased transportation expense from our brokerage division, this expense as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, would have decreased to 4.6% in 2007, compared to 5.2% for 2006. As of December 31, 2007, our total fleet included 231 tractors owned and operated by independent contractors, compared to 249 tractors owned and operated by independent contractors at December 31, 2006. Purchased transportation represents the amount that independent contractors, as well as contracted carriers for our brokerage division, are paid to haul freight for us on a mutually agreed upon per-mile basis.

Miscellaneous operating expenses as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, increased to 1.6% for 2007, compared to 1.1% for 2006. Gains from sale of used equipment are included in miscellaneous operating expenses. Gains from sale of equipment decreased nearly 42.0%, to \$4.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2007, compared to \$8.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2006. Excluding gains from sale of used equipment, miscellaneous operating expenses as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, remained constant at 2.5% for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006.

As a result of the above factors, our operating ratio (operating expenses, net of fuel surcharge, expressed as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge) was 82.9% for 2007, compared to 79.0% for 2006.

Net interest and other income (expense) as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, increased to 0.3% for 2007, compared to less than 0.1% for 2006. In 2006 we recorded a \$713,000 impairment charge relating to our investment in Transportation Resource Partners, which reduced our net interest and other income to less than 0.1% for 2006. We had no outstanding debt at December 31, 2007 or 2006.

Income taxes have been provided at the statutory federal and state rates, adjusted for certain permanent differences between financial statement income and income for tax reporting. Our effective tax rate was 39.6% for 2007 and 39.1% for 2006.

As a result of the preceding changes, our net income, as a percentage of revenue, before fuel surcharge, was 10.5% for 2007, compared to 12.8% in 2006.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

The growth of our business has required, and will continue to require, a significant investment in new revenue equipment. Our primary sources of liquidity have been funds provided by operations, and to a lesser extent lease financing arrangements, issuances of our common stock, and borrowings under our line of credit.

Net cash provided by operating activities was approximately \$141.4 million, \$118.4 million, and \$133.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006, respectively. The increase for 2008 is mainly due to a decrease in accounts receivable and an increase in deferred income taxes.

Net cash used in investing activities was approximately \$79.6 million, \$92.0 million, and \$145.7 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006, respectively. The decrease is mainly due to a reduction in capital expenditures for revenue equipment in 2008. Capital expenditures for the purchase of revenue equipment, net of equipment sales and trade-ins, office equipment, and land and leasehold improvements, totaled \$79.8 million, \$91.9 million, and \$127.7 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006, respectively. In 2006, we spent approximately \$15.7 million relating to the acquisition of the Roads West equipment. Excluding any acquisitions, we currently anticipate capital expenditures, net of trade-ins, of approximately \$70.0 to \$85.5 million for 2009. We expect these capital expenditures will be used primarily to acquire new revenue equipment.

Net cash used in financing activities was approximately \$63.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, compared to cash used in financing activities of approximately \$4.3 million for the year ended 2006. The increase in cash used in financing activities is primarily due to \$53.6 million used to repurchase 3,590,044 shares of our common stock in 2008. Cash dividends paid in the current year also increased approximately \$3.3 million, due to an increase in dividends paid to common stock shareholders. We increased our quarterly cash dividend from \$0.03 per share to \$0.04 per share in the second quarter of 2008.

At December 31, 2008, we had no outstanding debt. We currently maintain a line of credit, which permits revolving borrowings and letters of credit up to an aggregate of \$50.0 million. At December 31, 2008, the line of credit consisted solely of issued but unused letters of credit totaling \$35.2 million. We are obligated to comply with certain financial covenants under our line of credit agreement and were in compliance with these covenants at December 31, 2008.

Table of Contents

As of December 31, 2008, our cash, cash equivalents, and short-term investments was \$53.9 million, compared to \$31.3 million as of December 31, 2007. Despite a difficult operating environment our cash flow from operations increased \$23.1 million in 2008, as compared to 2007. Historically, during encouraging freight markets we have self-funded our growth by purchasing equipment with the cash generated from our operations. More recently, during the less-encouraging freight market, we continued to generate a significant amount of cash which allowed us to repurchase shares, return capital to shareholders as a dividend, and position ourselves to fund possible strategic acquisitions.

We believe that we will be able to finance our near term needs for working capital over the next 12 months, as well as acquisitions of revenue equipment during such period, with cash flows from operations and borrowing available under our existing line of credit. We will continue to have significant capital requirements over the long-term, which may require us to incur debt or seek additional equity capital. The availability of additional capital will depend upon prevailing market conditions, the market price of our common stock, and several other factors over which we have limited control, as well as our financial condition and results of operations. Nevertheless, based on our recent operating results, anticipated future cash flows, and sources of available financing, we do not expect that we will experience any significant liquidity constraints in the foreseeable future.

Off-Balance Sheet Transactions

Our liquidity is not materially affected by off-balance sheet transactions. Like many other trucking companies, periodically we have utilized operating leases to finance a portion of our revenue equipment acquisitions. At December 31, 2008, we had zero tractors held under operating leases, compared to 13 tractors held under operating leases at December 31, 2007. Vehicles held under operating leases were not carried on our balance sheet, and lease payments with respect to such vehicles are reflected in our income statements in the line item "Lease expense – revenue equipment". Our rental expense related to revenue equipment leases was \$90,000, \$350,000, and \$431,000 for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006, respectively.

We also use operating leases to lease locations for certain of our service centers and for temporary trailer storage. These operating leases have termination dates ranging from January 2009 through 2014. Rental payments for such facilities and trailer storage are reflected in our Consolidated Statements of Income in the line item "Miscellaneous operating expenses." Rental payments for our facilities and trailer storage was \$1.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, and \$1.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006.

Tabular Disclosure of Contractual Obligations

The following table sets forth, as of December 31, 2008, our contractual obligations and payments due by corresponding period for our short and long term operating expenses and other commitments.

| Contractual Obligations | Total | Payments (in thousands) due by period | | | | | Other |
|--|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|------|-------|
| | | Less than 1 year | 1-3 years | 3-5 years | More than 5 years | | |
| Purchase obligations (revenue equipment) (1) | \$ 20,000 | \$ 20,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | |
| Investment in Transportation Resource Partners (TRP III) | \$ 14,880 | \$ 299 | \$ 6,355 | \$ 6,280 | \$ 1,946 | \$ - | |
| Investment in Transportation Resource | \$ 1,000 | \$ - | \$ 1,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|----|-------|----|-------|
| Partners (TRP) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Operating Leases – | | | | | | | | | | |
| Communication | | | | | | | | | | |
| Equipment | \$ | 2,623 | \$ | 105 | \$ | 2,518 | \$ | - | \$ | - |
| Operating Leases – | | | | | | | | | | |
| Buildings | \$ | 2,171 | \$ | 984 | \$ | 899 | \$ | 288 | \$ | - |
| FIN 48 Obligations, | | | | | | | | | | |
| including interest and | | | | | | | | | | |
| penalties (2) | \$ | 306 | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | 306 |
| Total | \$ | 40,980 | \$ | 21,388 | \$ | 10,772 | \$ | 6,568 | \$ | 1,946 |
| | | | | | | | | | \$ | 306 |

- (1) Our purchase commitments for revenue equipment are currently under negotiation. Upon execution of the purchase commitments, we anticipate that purchase commitments under contract will have a net purchase price of approximately \$20.0 million and will be paid throughout 2009.
- (2) FIN48 Obligations represent potential liabilities relating to uncertain tax positions, including accrued interest and penalty. We are uncertain when this liability will be settled.

Table of Contents

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") requires that management make a number of assumptions and estimates that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue, and expenses in our consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Management evaluates these estimates and assumptions on an ongoing basis, utilizing historical experience, consulting with experts, and using other methods considered reasonable in the particular circumstances. Nevertheless, actual results may differ significantly from our estimates and assumptions, and it is possible that materially different amounts would be reported using differing estimates or assumptions. We consider our critical accounting policies to be those that are both important to the portrayal of our financial condition and results of operations and that require significant judgment or use of complex estimates.

A summary of the significant accounting policies followed in preparation of the financial statements is contained in Note 1 to our consolidated financial statements attached hereto. The following discussion addresses our most critical accounting policies:

Property and Equipment. Property and equipment are stated at cost. Depreciation on property and equipment is calculated by the straight-line method over the estimated useful life, which ranges from two to 30 years, down to an estimated salvage value of the property and equipment, which ranges from 10% to 30% of the capitalized cost. We periodically review the reasonableness of our estimates regarding useful lives and salvage values of our revenue equipment and other long-lived assets based upon, among other things, our experience with similar assets, conditions in the used revenue equipment market, and prevailing industry practice. On October 1, 2006, we increased the estimated salvage value of our tractors and trailers from 20% to 25%. We both routinely and periodically review and make a determination whether the salvage value of our tractors and trailers is higher or lower than originally expected. This determination is based upon (i) market conditions in equipment sales, (ii) the guaranteed repurchase price with contracted dealerships, and (iii) the average miles driven on the equipment being sold. Future changes in our useful life or salvage value estimates, or fluctuation in market value that is not reflected in our estimates, could have a material effect in our results of operations. We continually monitor events and changes in circumstances that could indicate that the carrying amounts of our property and equipment may not be recoverable. When indicators of potential impairment are present that indicate that the carrying amounts may not be recoverable, we assess the recoverability of the assets by determining whether the carrying value of the assets will be recovered through the undiscounted future operating cash flows expected from the use of the assets and their eventual disposition. In the event that such expected undiscounted future cash flows do not exceed the carrying value, we will adjust the property and equipment to the fair value and recognize any impairment loss. Our assets classified as held for sale are carried at the lower of cost or net selling value.

Claims Accrual. Reserves and estimates for claims is another of our critical accounting policies. The primary claims arising for us consist of cargo liability, personal injury, property damage, collision and comprehensive, workers' compensation, and employee medical expenses. We maintain self-insurance levels for these various areas of risk and have established reserves to cover these self-insured liabilities. We also maintain insurance to cover liabilities in excess of the self-insurance amounts. The claims reserves are adjusted quarterly and represent accruals for the estimated self-insured portion of pending claims, including adverse development of known claims, as well as incurred but not reported claims. Our estimates require judgments concerning the nature and severity of the claim, historical trends, advice from third-party administrators and insurers, the specific facts of individual cases, the jurisdictions involved, estimates of future claims development, and the legal and other costs to settle or defend the claims. We have significant exposure to fluctuations in the number and severity of claims. If there is an increase in the frequency and severity of claims, or we are required to accrue or pay additional amounts if the claims prove to be more severe than originally assessed, or any of the claims would exceed the limits of our insurance coverage, our profitability would be adversely affected.

In addition to estimates within our self-insured retention, we also must make judgments concerning our coverage limits. If any claim was to exceed our coverage limits, we would have to accrue for the excess amount. Our critical estimates include evaluating whether a claim may exceed such limits and, if so, by how much. Currently, we are not aware of any such claims. If one or more claims were to exceed our effective coverage limits, our financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.

Accounting for Income Taxes. Income taxes are accounted for under the asset and liability method, in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 109, Accounting for Income Taxes (“SFAS109”), as amended. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases. Significant management judgment is required in determining our provision for income taxes and in determining whether deferred tax assets will be realized in full or in part. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. If it were ever estimated that it is more likely than not that all or some portion of specific deferred tax assets will not be realized, a valuation allowance must be established for the amount of the deferred tax assets that are determined not to be realizable. A valuation allowance for deferred tax assets has not been deemed necessary due to our profitable operations. Accordingly, if the facts or financial results were to change, thereby impacting the likelihood of realizing the deferred tax assets, judgment would have to be applied to determine the amount of valuation allowance required in any given period.

Table of Contents

Management judgment also is required regarding a variety of other factors, including, the appropriateness of tax strategies, expected future tax consequences based on our future performance, and to the extent tax strategies are challenged by taxing authorities, our likelihood of success. We utilize certain income tax planning strategies to reduce our overall cost of income taxes. It is possible that certain strategies might be disallowed, resulting in an increased liability for income taxes. Significant management judgments are involved in assessing the likelihood of sustaining the strategies and in determining the likely range of defense and settlement costs, and an ultimate result worse than our expectations could adversely affect our results of operations.

A tax benefit from an uncertain tax position may be recognized when it is more likely than not that the position will be sustained upon examination, including resolutions of any related appeals or litigation processes, based on the technical merits.

We adopted the provisions of FASB Interpretation No. 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes, on January 1, 2007. Further information related to the implementation is discussed in Note 3 to the consolidated financial statements.

Share-Based Payments. We have stock options outstanding under our stock compensation plan. Exercises are permitted in pre-determined installments based upon a vesting schedule established at the time of grant. Each stock option expires on a date determined at the time of the grant, but not to exceed ten years from the date of the grant.

The calculation of employee compensation expense involves estimates that require management judgments. These estimates include determining the value of each of our stock options on the date of grant using a Black-Scholes option-pricing model discussed in Note 8 to the consolidated financial statements. The fair value of our stock options is expensed on a straight-line basis over the vesting life of the options, which generally ranges between five to seven years. Expected volatility is based on historical volatility of our stock. The risk-free rate for periods within the contractual life of the stock option award is based on the rate of a zero-coupon Treasury bond on the date the stock option is granted with a maturity equal to the expected term of the stock option. Management judgment is required to estimate stock option exercises and forfeitures within our valuation model and management bases such decisions on historical data. The expected life of our stock option awards is derived from historical experience under our share-based payment plans and represents the period of time that we expect our stock options to be outstanding.

New Accounting Pronouncements

See Note 1 for discussion of new accounting pronouncements.

Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

We are exposed to market risk changes in interest rates on debt and from changes in commodity prices.

Under Financial Accounting Reporting Release Number 48 and SEC rules and regulations, we are required to disclose information concerning market risk with respect to foreign exchange rates, interest rates, and commodity prices. We have elected to make such disclosures, to the extent applicable, using a sensitivity analysis approach based on hypothetical changes in interest rates and commodity prices.

We do not currently use derivative financial instruments for risk management purposes and do not use them for either speculation or trading. Because our operations are confined mostly to the United States, we are not subject to a material foreign currency risk.

Table of Contents

Interest Rate Risk

We are subject to interest rate risk to the extent we borrow against our line of credit or incur debt. We attempt to manage our interest rate risk by managing the amount of debt we carry. At December 31, 2008, we did not have any outstanding borrowings. In the opinion of management, an increase in short-term interest rates could have a materially adverse effect on our financial condition only if we incur substantial indebtedness and the interest rate increases are not offset by freight rate increases or other items. Management does not foresee or expect in the near future any significant changes in our exposure to interest rate fluctuations or in how that exposure is managed by us.

Commodity Price Risk

We are subject to commodity price risk with respect to purchases of fuel. Historically, we have sought to recover a portion of our short-term fuel price increases from customers through fuel surcharges. Fuel surcharges that can be collected do not always fully offset an increase in the cost of diesel fuel. We believe that the majority of the fuel price increases are generally passed to our customers.

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

The consolidated balance sheets of Knight Transportation, Inc. and subsidiaries, as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the related consolidated balance sheets, statements of income, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2008, together with the related notes, the report of Deloitte & Touche LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006 are set forth beginning at page F-1 in this report.

Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure

Not Applicable.

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures

In accordance with the requirements of the Exchange Act and SEC rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, we have established and maintain disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting. Our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, does not expect that our disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting will prevent all error, misstatements, or fraud. A control system, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. Further, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within our company have been detected.

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We have established disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act) to ensure that material information relating to our company, including our consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to the officers who certify our financial reports and to other members of senior management and the Board of Directors. Our management, with the participation of our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures. Based on this evaluation, as of December 31, 2008, our principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that the information required to be disclosed by us

in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is (i) recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms, and (ii) accumulated and communicated to management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

No changes occurred in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) during the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2008, that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Table of Contents

Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. Internal control over financial reporting is defined in Rule 13a-15(f) and 15d-(f) promulgated under the Exchange Act as a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the principal executive and principal financial officers and effected by the board of directors, management and other personnel, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and includes those policies and procedures that:

- (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of our assets;
- (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that our receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of our management and directors; and
- (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of our assets that could have a material effect on our financial statements.

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the criteria set forth in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on our management's evaluation under the criteria set forth in Internal Control - Integrated Framework, management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2008. The effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008 has been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their attestation report, which is included herein.

Table of Contents

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of
Knight Transportation, Inc.
Phoenix, Arizona

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of Knight Transportation, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2008, based on criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the company's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by the company's board of directors, management, and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on the criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule as of and for the year ended December 31, 2008 of the Company and our report dated February 27, 2009 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial

statements and financial statement schedule and included an explanatory paragraph regarding the adoption of the provisions of the Financial Accounting Standards Board Interpretation No. 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes, in 2007.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP

Phoenix, Arizona
February 27, 2009

Table of Contents

Item 9B. Other Information

Not Applicable.

PART III

Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers, and Corporate Governance

We incorporate by reference the information contained under the headings "Proposal No. 1 - Election of Directors," "Continuing Directors," "Corporate Governance - Our Executive Officers and Certain Significant Employees," "Corporate Governance - The Board of Directors and Its Committees - Committees of the Board of Directors - The Audit Committee," "Corporate Governance - Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance," and "Corporate Governance - Code of Ethics," from our definitive Proxy Statement to be delivered to our shareholders in connection with the 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held May 21, 2009.

Item 11. Executive Compensation

We incorporate by reference the information contained under the headings "Executive Compensation," "Corporate Governance - The Board of Directors and Its Committees - Committees of the Board of Directors - The Compensation Committee - Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation," and "Corporate Governance - The Board of Directors and Its Committees - Committees of the Board of Directors - The Compensation Committee – Report of the Compensation Committee" from our definitive Proxy Statement to be delivered to our shareholders in connection with the 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held May 21, 2009.

Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters

Securities Authorized For Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans

The following table provides certain information, as of December 31, 2008, with respect to our compensation plans and other arrangements under which shares of our common stock are authorized for issuance.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

| Plan category | Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a) | Weighted average exercise price of outstanding options and rights (b) | Number of securities remaining eligible for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c) |
|---------------|--|--|---|
| | 4,993,691 | \$14.69 | 4,076,969 |

| | | | |
|--|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Equity compensation plans approved by security holders | | | |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders | - | - | - |
| Total | 4,993,691 | \$14.69 | 4,076,969 |

We incorporate by reference the information contained under the heading "Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management" from our definitive Proxy Statement to be delivered to our shareholders in connection with the 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held May 21, 2009.

Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence

We incorporate by reference the information contained under the headings "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions," and "Corporate Governance - The Board of Directors and Its Committees" from our definitive Proxy Statement to be delivered to our shareholders in connection with the 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held May 21, 2009.

Table of Contents

Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services

We incorporate by reference the information contained under the heading "Principal Accounting Fees and Services" from our definitive Proxy Statement to be delivered to our shareholders in connection with the 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held May 21, 2009.

PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules

(a) The following documents are filed as part of this report on Form 10-K beginning at page F-1, below.

1. Consolidated Financial Statements:

Knight Transportation, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Report of Deloitte & Touche LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2008 and 2007

Consolidated Statements of Income for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

2. Consolidated Financial Statement Schedules required to be filed by Item 8 and Paragraph (b) of Item 15:

Valuation and Qualifying Accounts and Reserves

Schedules not listed (i.e., schedules, other than Schedule II) have been omitted because of the absence of conditions under which they are required or because the required material information is included in the Consolidated Financial Statements or Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein.

3. Exhibits.

The Exhibits required by Item 601 of Regulation S-K are listed at paragraph (b), below, and at the Exhibit Index appearing at the end of this report.

(b) Exhibits:

The following exhibits are filed with this Form 10-K or incorporated herein by reference to the document set forth next to the exhibit listed below:

| Exhibit Number | Descriptions |
|-------------------|--------------|
|-------------------|--------------|

- 3.1 Second Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Company. (Incorporated by reference to Appendix A to the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed April 20, 2007.)
- 3.2 Sixth Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K dated December 18, 2007 and filed on December 19, 2007.)
- 4.1 Articles 4, 10, and 11 of the Second Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Company. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to this Report on Form 10-K.)
- 4.2 Sections 2 and 5 of the Sixth Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to this Report on Form 10-K.)
- 4.3 † Knight Transportation, Inc. Amended and Restated 2003 Stock Option Plan. (Incorporated by reference to the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed December 1, 2005.)

Table of Contents

- 10.1 † Form of Indemnity Agreement between Knight Transportation, Inc. and each director, first effective February 5, 1997. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2008.)
- 10.2 Master Equipment Lease Agreement dated as of January 1, 1996, between the Company and Quad-K Leasing, Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 to the Company's Report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 1995.)
- 10.3 † Knight Transportation, Inc. Amended and Restated 2003 Stock Option Plan. (Incorporated by reference to the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed December 1, 2005.)
- 10.3.1 Second Amendment to Knight Transportation, Inc. Amended and Restated 2003 † Stock Option Plan. (Incorporated by reference to the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed April 11, 2008.)
- 10.4 Credit Agreement between Knight Transportation, Inc. and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dated September 15, 2005. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2005.)
- 10.4.1 Modification Agreement to Credit Agreement between Knight Transportation, Inc. and Wells Fargo Bank, dated October 6, 2006. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2006.)
- 21.1 * Subsidiaries of the Company.
- 23.1 * Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP.
- 31.1 * Certification pursuant to Item 601(b)(31) of Regulation S-K, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, by Kevin P. Knight, the Company's Chief Executive Officer.
- 31.2 * Certification pursuant to Item 601(b)(31) of Regulation S-K, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, by David A. Jackson, the Company's Chief Financial Officer.
- 32.1 * Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, by Kevin P. Knight, the Company's Chief Executive Officer.
- 32.2 * Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, by David A. Jackson, the Company's Chief Financial Officer.

* Filed herewith.

† Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC.

By: /s/ Kevin P. Knight

Kevin P. Knight

Chief Executive Officer, in his capacity as
such

and on behalf of the registrant

Date: February 27, 2009

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| Signature and Title | Date |
|------------------------|------|
|------------------------|------|

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| /s/ Kevin P. Knight | February 27, 2009 |
|------------------------|----------------------|

Kevin P.
Knight,
Chairman of
the Board,
Chief
Executive
Officer, and
Director
(Principal
Executive
Officer)

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| /s/ David A. Jackson | February 27, 2009 |
|-------------------------|----------------------|

David A.
Jackson,
Chief
Financial
Officer
and
Secretary
(Principal
Financial
Officer)

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| /s/ Wayne Yu | February 27, 2009 |
|-----------------|----------------------|

Wayne Yu,
Chief
Accounting
Officer
(Principal
Accounting
Officer)

/s/ Gary J. February
Knight 27, 2009
Gary J.
Knight, Vice
Chairman
and Director

/s/ Randy February
Knight 27, 2009
Randy
Knight, Vice
Chairman
and Director

/s/ Donald February
A. Bliss 27, 2009
Donald A.
Bliss,
Director

/s/ G.D. February
Madden 27, 2009
G.D.
Madden,
Director

/s/ Kathryn February
Munro 27, 2009
Kathryn
Munro,
Director

/s/ Michael February
Garnreiter 27, 2009
Michael
Garnreiter,
Director

Richard
Lehmann,
Director

Table of Contents

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of
Knight Transportation, Inc.
Phoenix, Arizona

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Knight Transportation, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the related consolidated statements of income, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2008. Our audits also included the financial statement schedule listed in the Index at Item 15. These financial statements and financial statement schedule are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements and financial statement schedule based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Knight Transportation, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2008, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also, in our opinion, such financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein.

As discussed in Note 3 to the consolidated financial statements, as of January 1, 2007, the Company adopted the provisions of the Financial Accounting Standards Board Interpretation No. 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, based on the criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 27, 2009 expressed an unqualified opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP

Phoenix, Arizona
February 27, 2009

Table of Contents

KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Balance Sheets
December 31, 2008 and 2007
(In thousands)

| Assets | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|------------|------------|
| Current Assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 22,027 | \$ 23,688 |
| Short-term investments | 31,877 | 7,620 |
| Trade receivables, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$4,317 and \$2,429, respectively | 70,810 | 88,535 |
| Notes receivable, net of allowance for doubtful notes receivable of \$93 and \$79, respectively | 159 | 19 |
| Prepaid expenses | 7,108 | 8,776 |
| Other current assets | 13,258 | 24,994 |
| Income tax receivable | 774 | 3,558 |
| Current deferred tax assets | 6,480 | 10,157 |
| Total current assets | 152,493 | 167,347 |
| Property and Equipment: | | |
| Land and land improvements | 28,556 | 26,878 |
| Buildings and improvements | 58,365 | 46,685 |
| Furniture and fixtures | 7,472 | 6,910 |
| Shop and service equipment | 4,970 | 3,935 |
| Revenue equipment | 558,561 | 521,085 |
| Leasehold improvements | 1,185 | 776 |
| | 659,109 | 606,269 |
| Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization | (186,881) | (146,721) |
| Property and equipment, net | 472,228 | 459,548 |
| Notes receivable, net of current portion | 674 | 887 |
| Goodwill | 10,353 | 10,372 |
| Intangible assets, net | 176 | 238 |
| Long-term deferred tax assets | 5,877 | - |
| Other long-term assets & restricted cash | 5,139 | 4,972 |
| Total assets | \$ 646,940 | \$ 643,364 |

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

Table of Contents

KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Balance Sheets
December 31, 2008 and 2007
(In thousands, except par value)

| Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|------------|------------|
| Current Liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 6,195 | \$ 17,744 |
| Accrued payroll and purchased transportation | 7,432 | 7,992 |
| Accrued liabilities | 6,273 | 8,048 |
| Claims accrual – current portion | 15,239 | 28,662 |
| Total current liabilities | 35,139 | 62,446 |
| Long-term Liabilities: | | |
| Claims accrual – long-term portion | 15,236 | - |
| Deferred tax liabilities | 112,661 | 93,368 |
| Total long-term liabilities | 127,897 | 93,368 |
| Total liabilities | 163,036 | 155,814 |
| Commitments and Contingencies (Note 4) | | |
| Shareholders' Equity: | | |
| Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value; 50,000 shares authorized; none issued | - | - |
| Common stock, \$0.01 par value; 300,000 shares authorized; 83,383 and 86,697 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively | 834 | 867 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 108,885 | 102,450 |
| Retained earnings | 374,185 | 384,233 |
| Total shareholders' equity | 483,904 | 487,550 |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$ 646,940 | \$ 643,364 |

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

Table of Contents

KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Income

For the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

(In thousands, except per share data)

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| Revenue: | | | |
| Revenue, before fuel surcharge | \$ 595,563 | \$ 601,359 | \$ 568,408 |
| Fuel surcharge | 171,372 | 112,224 | 95,999 |
| Total revenue | 766,935 | 713,583 | 664,407 |
| Operating Expenses: | | | |
| Salaries, wages and benefits | 210,939 | 201,856 | 191,550 |
| Fuel | 237,893 | 189,055 | 165,594 |
| Operations and maintenance | 42,195 | 39,083 | 35,881 |
| Insurance and claims | 26,113 | 32,440 | 26,189 |
| Operating taxes and licenses | 14,941 | 14,754 | 13,507 |
| Communications | 5,873 | 5,539 | 5,649 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 69,821 | 65,688 | 60,387 |
| Lease expense - revenue equipment | 90 | 350 | 431 |
| Purchased transportation | 51,463 | 52,370 | 39,937 |
| Miscellaneous operating expenses | 14,949 | 10,006 | 5,790 |
| Total operating expenses | 674,277 | 611,141 | 544,915 |
| Income from operations | 92,658 | 102,442 | 119,492 |
| Other Income (expense): | | | |
| Interest income | 1,236 | 1,315 | 1,067 |
| Interest (expense) | - | - | (1) |
| Other income (expense) | 194 | 668 | (713) |
| Total other income | 1,430 | 1,983 | 353 |
| Income before income taxes | 94,088 | 104,425 | 119,845 |
| Income Taxes | (37,827) | (41,302) | (46,879) |
| Net income | \$ 56,261 | \$ 63,123 | \$ 72,966 |
| Basic Earnings Per Share | \$ 0.66 | \$ 0.73 | \$ 0.85 |
| Diluted Earnings Per Share | \$ 0.66 | \$ 0.72 | \$ 0.84 |
| Weighted Average Shares Outstanding - Basic | 85,342 | 86,391 | 85,802 |

| | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| Weighted Average Shares Outstanding - Diluted | 85,846 | 87,240 | 87,040 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|

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

F-4

Table of Contents

KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity
For the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006
(In thousands)

| | Common Stock | | Additional | | Retained | Total |
|---|------------------|--------|--------------------|------------|----------|----------|
| | Shares Issued | Amount | Paid-in Capital | Earnings | | |
| Balance, January 1, 2006 | 85,666 | \$ 857 | \$ 87,148 | \$ 264,923 | \$ | 352,928 |
| Exercise of stock options | 440 | 4 | 2,445 | - | | 2,449 |
| Issuance of common stock | 5 | - | 80 | - | | 80 |
| Tax benefit of stock option exercises | - | - | 1,542 | - | | 1,542 |
| Employee stock-based compensation expense | - | - | 3,005 | - | | 3,005 |
| Cash dividend | - | - | - | (6,875) | | (6,875) |
| Net income | - | - | - | 72,966 | | 72,966 |
| Balance, December 31, 2006 | 86,111 | \$ 861 | \$ 94,220 | \$ 331,014 | \$ | 426,095 |
| Exercise of stock options | 577 | 6 | 3,822 | - | | 3,828 |
| Issuance of common stock | 9 | - | 174 | - | | 174 |
| Excess tax benefit of stock option exercises | - | - | 1,604 | - | | 1,604 |
| Employee stock-based compensation expense | - | - | 2,630 | - | | 2,630 |
| FIN48 adoption | - | - | - | (394) | | (394) |
| Cash dividend | - | - | - | (9,510) | | (9,510) |
| Net income | - | - | - | 63,123 | | 63,123 |
| Balance, December 31, 2007 | 86,697 | \$ 867 | \$ 102,450 | \$ 384,233 | \$ | 487,550 |
| Exercise of stock options | 268 | 3 | 2,357 | - | | 2,360 |
| Issuance of common stock | 8 | - | 135 | - | | 135 |
| Stock repurchases | (3,590) | (36) | - | (53,539) | | (53,575) |
| Excess tax benefit of stock option exercises | - | - | 592 | - | | 592 |
| Employee stock-based compensation expense | - | - | 3,351 | - | | 3,351 |
| Cash dividend | - | - | - | (12,770) | | (12,770) |
| Net income | - | - | - | 56,261 | | 56,261 |
| Balance, December 31, 2008 | 83,383 | \$ 834 | \$ 108,885 | \$ 374,185 | \$ | 483,904 |

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

F-5

Table of Contents

KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

For the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

(In thousands)

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Cash Flows From Operating Activities: | | | |
| Net income | \$ 56,261 | \$ 63,123 | \$ 72,966 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 69,821 | 65,688 | 60,387 |
| Gain on sale of equipment | (1,770) | (4,927) | (8,461) |
| Earn-out on sold investment | (225) | (188) | - |
| Building impairment due to fire | - | 412 | - |
| Impairment of investment | - | - | 713 |
| Non-cash compensation expense for issuance of common stock to certain members of board of directors | 135 | 174 | 80 |
| Provision for allowance for doubtful accounts and notes receivable | 3,580 | 213 | 360 |
| Deferred income taxes | 17,093 | 9,604 | 5,423 |
| Excess tax benefits related to stock-based compensation | (517) | (1,431) | (1,542) |
| Stock option compensation expense | 3,351 | 2,630 | 3,005 |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: | | | |
| (Increase) decrease in short-term investments | (24,257) | (7,620) | 2,278 |
| Decrease (increase) in trade receivables | 14,159 | (3,460) | (5,980) |
| Decrease (increase) in inventories and supplies | 515 | 159 | (563) |
| Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses | 1,668 | (434) | (992) |
| Decrease (increase) in income tax receivable | 2,784 | (3,558) | - |
| Increase in other assets | (63) | (415) | (178) |
| (Decrease) increase in accounts payable | (1,167) | 1,161 | 596 |
| Increase (decrease) in accrued liabilities and claims accrual | 70 | (2,768) | 4,938 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 141,438 | 118,363 | 133,030 |
| Cash Flows From Investing Activities: | | | |
| Purchases of property and equipment | (117,504) | (135,219) | (175,221) |
| Proceeds from sale of equipment/assets held for sale | 36,222 | 43,355 | 47,496 |
| (Increase) decrease in notes receivable | 1,512 | (156) | 314 |
| Acquisition-related contingent payment | - | (135) | (320) |
| Payment made for acquisitions of businesses | - | - | (15,709) |
| Restricted cash | 25 | - | (384) |
| Investments in Transportation Resource Partners | (120) | (488) | (1,836) |
| Return of investment in Transportation Resource Partners | 10 | 449 | - |
| Proceeds/earn-out from sale of investment in Concentrek, Inc. | 225 | 188 | - |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (79,630) | (92,006) | (145,660) |
| Cash Flows From Financing Activities: | | | |
| Dividends paid | (12,770) | (9,510) | (8,588) |
| Payments to repurchase company stock | (53,576) | - | - |
| Advance on line of credit | - | - | 4,500 |
| Repayment on line of credit | - | - | (4,500) |

Edgar Filing: KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION INC - Form 10-K

| | | | |
|---|----------|---------|---------|
| Excess tax benefits related to stock-based compensation | 517 | 1,431 | 1,542 |
| Proceeds from exercise of stock options | 2,360 | 3,828 | 2,449 |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (63,469) | (4,251) | (4,597) |

| | | | |
|--|---------|-----------|----------|
| Net increase (decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents | (1,661) | 22,106 | (17,227) |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents, beginning of year | 23,688 | 1,582 | 18,809 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents, end of year | 22,027 | \$ 23,688 | \$ 1,582 |

Supplemental Disclosures:

Non-cash investing and financing transactions:

| | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Equipment acquired included in accounts payable | \$ 43 | \$ 10,424 | \$ 6,917 |
| FIN 48 adoption tax liability | \$ - | \$ 394 | \$ - |
| Retirement of company stock | \$ 53,575 | \$ - | \$ - |
| Transfer from property and equipment to assets held for Sale | \$ 14,863 | \$ 27,338 | \$ 16,143 |
| Financing provided to owner operators for equipment sold | \$ 1,452 | \$ 1,573 | \$ 681 |

Cash flow information:

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Income taxes paid | \$ 17,338 | \$ 38,330 | \$ 39,359 |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|

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

Table of Contents

KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

a. Nature of Business

Knight Transportation, Inc. (an Arizona corporation) and subsidiaries (the Company) is a short to medium-haul truckload carrier of general commodities headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona. The Company also has service centers located throughout the United States. The Company provides truckload carrier dry van, temperature controlled, and brokerage services. The Company is subject to regulation by the Department of Transportation and various state regulatory authorities.

b. Significant Accounting Policies

Principles of Consolidation - The accompanying consolidated financial statements include Knight Transportation, Inc., and its wholly owned subsidiaries (the Company). All material intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") requires management 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 amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents - Cash and cash equivalents are comprised of short-term, highly liquid instruments with insignificant interest rate risk and effective maturities of three months or less.

Short-term Investments - Short-term investments are comprised of trading marketable debt securities (which includes municipal securities) and variable rate demand notes with effective maturities of greater than three months and represent an investment of cash that is available for current operations. These debt securities are recorded at fair value with realized and unrealized gains and losses included in interest income on our consolidated statements of income. At December 31, 2008, our short term investments consisted of municipal securities only. Our short-term investments did not experience any significant unrealized gain or loss for the period.

Fair Value Measurements - In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, "Fair Value Measurements" ("SFAS 157"). SFAS 157 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in generally accepted accounting principles, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. SFAS 157 emphasizes that fair value is a market-based measurement, as opposed to a transaction-specific measurement. In February 2008, the FASB issued Staff Position No. SFAS 157-1, "Application of FASB Statement No. 157 to FASB Statement No. 13 and Other Accounting Pronouncements That Address Fair Value Measurements for Purposes of Lease Classification or Measurement under Statement 13" ("FSP 157-1"). FSP 157-1, which is effective upon the initial adoption of SFAS 157, excludes SFAS Statement No. 13, as well as other accounting pronouncements that address fair value measurements on lease classification or measurement under SFAS 13, from the scope of SFAS 157. In February 2008, the FASB issued Staff Position No. SFAS 157-2, "Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 157" ("FSP 157-2"), which delays the effective date of SFAS 157 for all nonrecurring nonfinancial assets and liabilities until fiscal years

beginning after November 15, 2008. Accordingly, FSP 157-2 will be effective for the Company beginning January 1, 2009, and all other aspects of SFAS 157 were effective for the Company on January 1, 2008. In October 2008, the FASB issued FSP No. FAS 157-3, which provides additional guidance regarding the determination of fair value under SFAS No. 157 in inactive markets. FSP No. FAS 157-3 became effective upon issuance. The adoption of FSP No. FAS 157-3 did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Fair value is defined by SFAS 157 as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Depending on the nature of the asset or liability, various techniques and assumptions can be used to estimate the fair value. Financial assets and liabilities are measured using inputs from three levels of the fair value hierarchy, as defined in SFAS 157. The three levels are as follows:

Level 1 – Inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Company has the ability to access at the measurement date. An active market is defined as a market in which transactions for the assets or liabilities occur with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis.

F-7

Table of Contents

Level 2 – Inputs include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active (markets with few transactions), inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability (i.e., interest rates, yield curves, etc.), and inputs that derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data correlation or other means (market corroborated inputs).

Level 3 – Unobservable inputs, only used to the extent that observable inputs are not available, reflect the Company's assumptions about the pricing of an asset or liability.

In accordance with the fair value hierarchy described above, the following table shows the fair value of the Company's financial assets and liabilities that are required to be measured at fair value as of December 31, 2008.

| | Balance at December 31, 2008 (In thousands) | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
|---------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Assets: | | | | |
| Money market funds | \$ 19,305 | \$ 19,305 | \$ - | \$ - |
| Short-term investments | \$ 31,877 | \$ - | \$ 31,877 | \$ - |

The Company did not have any variable rate demand notes as of December 31, 2008.

Notes Receivable - Included in notes receivable are amounts due from independent contractors under a program whereby the Company finances tractor purchases for its independent contractors. These notes receivable are collateralized by revenue equipment and are due in weekly installments, including principal and interest payments, from 9% to 14%, over periods generally ranging from six months to three years. We had 27 and 28 loans outstanding from independent contractors as of December 31, 2008, and 2007, respectively. Our notes receivable balances are classified separately between current and long-term on our balance sheet. The current and long-term balance of our notes receivable at December 31, 2008 and 2007 are as follows:

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|--------|-------|
| (In thousands) | | |
| Current portion of notes receivable | \$ 252 | \$ 98 |
| Allowance for doubtful notes receivable | (93) | (79) |
| Net current portion of notes receivable | 159 | 19 |
| Long-term portion | 674 | 887 |

Total notes
receivable
balance \$ 833 \$ 906

Other Current Assets - Other current assets are primarily comprised of assets held for sale, along with inventories and supplies consisting of tires and spare parts. The Company had \$10.0 million and \$21.2 million of revenue equipment that will not be utilized in continuing operations and is being held for sale as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Assets held for sale are no longer subject to depreciation, and are recorded at the lower of depreciated value or fair market value less selling costs. The Company periodically reviews the carrying value of these assets for possible impairment. No impairments were recorded in 2008. The Company expects to sell these assets and replace them with new assets within 12 months.

Property and Equipment - Property and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation on property and equipment are calculated by the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

| | Years |
|---------------|--------|
| Land | 5 - 10 |
| improvements | |
| Buildings and | 15 - |
| improvements | 30 |
| Furniture and | 3 - 5 |
| fixtures | |
| Shop and | 2 - 5 |
| service | |
| equipment | |
| Revenue | 5 - 10 |
| equipment | |
| Leasehold | 1 - 5 |
| improvements | |

Table of Contents

The Company expenses repairs and maintenance as incurred. For the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006, repairs and maintenance expense totaled approximately \$19.1 million, \$18.1 million, and \$17.6 million, respectively, and is included in operations and maintenance expense in the accompanying consolidated statements of income.

The Company periodically reviews the reasonableness of its estimates regarding useful lives and salvage values for revenue equipment and other long-lived assets based upon, among other things, the Company's experience with similar assets, conditions in the used revenue equipment market, and prevailing industry practice.

Tires on revenue equipment purchased are capitalized as a part of the equipment cost and depreciated over the life of the vehicle. Replacement tires and recapping costs are expensed when placed in service.

Restricted Cash - In connection with the Company's self-insured workers compensation program, \$570,000 and \$595,000 has been set aside in an escrow account to meet statutory requirements at December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. This cash is recorded under the line item "Other long-term assets & restricted cash" on the Company's consolidated balance sheets.

Other Long-term Assets & Restricted Cash include:

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|----------------|----------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| Investment in Transportation Resource Partners (TRP) | \$ 3,747 | \$ 3,757 |
| Investment in Transportation Resource Partners III (TRP III) | 120 | - |
| Restricted Cash | 570 | 595 |
| Other | 702 | 620 |
| | \$ 5,139 | \$ 4,972 |

In 2003, the Company signed a partnership agreement with Transportation Resource Partners, LP ("TRP"), a company that makes privately negotiated equity investments. Per the original partnership agreement, the Company committed to pledge \$5.0 million out of approximately \$260.0 million total, for a 1.9% ownership interest. In early 2006, the Company increased the commitment amount to \$5.5 million. Contributions to TRP are accounted for using the cost method as the level of influence over the operations of TRP is minor. In 2008, the Company received \$10,380 proceeds from TRP as a result of a recapitalization in one of the equity investments. The proceeds are treated as a return of investment. At December 31, 2008, the Company's ownership interest in TRP was about 2.3%, with a carrying book balance \$3.7 million. The outstanding commitment to TRP was approximately \$1.0 million as of December 31, 2008.

During the fourth quarter of 2008, the Company formed Knight Capital Growth, LLC and committed \$15.0 million to invest in a new partnership managed and operated by the managers and principals of TRP. The new partnership, Transportation Resource Partners III, LP ("TRP III"), is focused on similar investment opportunities as TRP. As of December 31, 2008, the Company has contributed \$120,000 to TRP III. The Company's outstanding commitment to TRP III was approximately \$14.9 million as of December 31, 2008.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets - Statement of Financial Accounting Standard ("SFAS") No. 144 Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets provides a single accounting model for the assessment of impairment of long-lived assets. In accordance with SFAS No. 144, long-lived assets, such as property and equipment, and purchased intangibles subject to amortization, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its estimated future cash flows, an impairment charge is recognized by the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset exceeds the fair value of the asset. Assets classified as held for sale are presented in the Company's consolidated balance sheets at the lower of the carrying amount or fair value less costs to sell, and are no longer depreciated. The revenue equipment classified as held for sale is presented in "other current assets" on the Company's consolidated balance sheets. Recoverability of long-lived assets is dependent upon, among other things, the Company's ability to continue to achieve profitability in order to meet its obligations when they become due. In the opinion of management, based upon current information, the carrying amount of long-lived assets will be recovered by future cash flows generated through the use of such assets over their respective estimated useful lives.

Table of Contents

Goodwill & Intangibles, net - Goodwill is not amortized but is reviewed for impairment at least annually (December 31), or more frequently should any of the circumstances as listed in Statement of Financial Accounting Standard ("SFAS") No. 142 Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets occur. SFAS No. 142 requires that goodwill be tested for impairment at the reporting unit level at least annually, utilizing a two-step methodology. The initial step requires the Company to determine the fair value of the reporting unit and compare it to the carrying value, including goodwill, of such unit. If the fair value exceeds the carrying value, no impairment loss would be recognized. However, if the carrying value of the reporting unit exceeds its fair value, the goodwill of the reporting unit may be impaired. The amount, if any, of the impairment would then be measured in the second step. The Company completed this annual test as of December 31, 2008, and no adjustment was determined to be necessary.

During fiscal year 2006, the Company recorded approximately \$1.8 million of goodwill and \$310,000 finite lived intangible assets in connection with the acquisition of most of the trucking assets of Roads West. In 2007, the Company paid Roads West \$135,000 for an earn-out, representing the final earn-out under the purchase agreement. The earn-out paid in 2007 was recorded as additional goodwill related to this acquisition. The basis of goodwill for tax purposes was determined to be in excess of the book basis of goodwill. Under this circumstance, SFAS No. 109 requires that the goodwill be separated into two components. The first component is equivalent to book goodwill and future tax amortization of this component is treated as a temporary difference, for which a deferred tax liability is established. The second component is the excess tax goodwill over the book goodwill, for which no deferred taxes are recognized. The tax benefit from the recognition on the tax return of the amortization of the second component is treated as a reduction in the book basis of goodwill. The finite lived intangible portion will be amortized using the straight-line method over a five year period.

The changes in the carrying amounts of goodwill were as follows:

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|----------------|-----------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| Goodwill at beginning of period | \$ 10,372 | \$ 10,256 |
| Additions/earn-out for Roads West | - | 135 |
| Amortization relating to deferred tax assets | (19) | (19) |
| Goodwill at end of period | \$ 10,353 | \$ 10,372 |

Intangible assets consist of the following:

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|----------------|--------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| Intangible assets at beginning of period | \$ 238 | \$ 300 |
| Amortization | (62) | (62) |
| Intangible assets at end of period | \$ 176 | \$ 238 |

Intangible assets are being amortized straight-line over a five year period. Annual amortization expense is expected to be \$62,000 for fiscal years 2009 to 2010 and \$52,000 for fiscal year 2011.

Claims Accrual - The claims reserves represent accruals for the estimated uninsured portion of pending claims, including adverse development of known claims, as well as incurred but not reported claims. These estimates are based on historical information, primarily the Company's claims experience and the experience of the Company's third party administrator, along with certain assumptions about future events. Changes in assumptions, as well as changes in actual experience, could cause these estimates to change in the near term. The significant level of the Company's self-insured retention for personal injury and property damage claims illustrates the importance and potential impact of these estimates.

Revenue Recognition - The Company recognizes revenues, for both asset-based and non-asset-based operations, when persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, delivery has occurred, the fee is fixed or determinable and collectibility is probable. These conditions are met upon delivery. EITF Issue No. 99-19, Reporting Revenue Gross as a Principal versus Net as an Agent, establishes the criteria for recognizing revenues on a gross or net basis. Pursuant to this guidance, revenue for both asset-based and non-asset-based operations is reported on a gross basis.

Income Taxes - The Company accounts for income taxes under the asset and liability method, which requires the recognition of deferred tax assets and liabilities for the expected future tax consequences of events that have been included in the financial statements. Under this method, deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on the differences between the financial statements and tax basis of assets and liabilities using enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which the differences are expected to reverse. The effect of a change in tax rates on deferred tax assets and liabilities is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date.

Table of Contents

The Company records net deferred tax assets to the extent it believes these assets will more likely than not be realized. In making such determination, the Company considers all available positive and negative evidence, including scheduled reversals of deferred tax liabilities, projected future taxable income, tax planning strategies and recent financial operations. A valuation allowance for deferred tax assets has not been deemed necessary due to the Company's profitable operations.

The Company recognizes a tax benefit from an uncertain tax position when it is more likely than not that the position will be sustained upon examination, including resolutions of any related appeals or litigation processes, based on the technical merits.

Financial Instruments - The Company's financial instruments include cash equivalents, short-term investments, trade receivables, notes receivable and accounts payable. Due to the short-term nature of cash equivalents, short-term investments, trade receivables and accounts payable, the fair value of these instruments approximates their recorded value. The fair value of notes receivable approximates market value. The Company does not have material financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk, with the exception of operating leases. See Note 4 for additional information.

Concentration of Credit Risk - Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to credit risk consist principally of trade receivables and notes receivable. The Company's three largest customers for each of the years 2008, 2007, and 2006, aggregated approximately 11%, 10%, and 10% of revenues, respectively. Balances due from the three largest customers account for approximately 7.0% of the total trade receivable balance as of December 31, 2008. Revenue from the Company's single largest customer represented approximately 4% of total revenues for each of the years 2006 to 2008. Balance due from the largest customer accounts for approximately 2.9% of the total trade receivable balance as of December 31, 2008.

Earnings Per Share - A reconciliation of the numerator (net income) and denominator (weighted average number of shares outstanding) of the basic and diluted earnings per share ("EPS") computations for 2008, 2007, and 2006 are as follows (in thousands, except per share data):

| | 2008 | | | 2007 | | | 2006 | | |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Net Income | Shares | Per Share | Net Income | Shares | Per Share | Net Income | Shares | Per Share |
| | (numerator) | (denominator) | Amount | (numerator) | (denominator) | Amount | (numerator) | (denominator) | Amount |
| Basic | | | | | | | | | |
| EPS | \$ 56,261 | 85,342 | \$ 0.66 | \$ 63,123 | 86,391 | \$ 0.73 | \$ 72,966 | 85,802 | \$ 0.85 |
| Effect of | | | | | | | | | |
| stock | | | | | | | | | |
| options | - | 504 | - | - | 849 | - | - | 1,238 | - |
| Diluted | | | | | | | | | |
| EPS | \$ 56,261 | 85,846 | \$ 0.66 | \$ 63,123 | 87,240 | \$ 0.72 | \$ 72,966 | 87,040 | \$ 0.84 |

Certain shares of common stock were excluded in the computation of diluted earnings per share because the options' exercise prices were greater than the average market price of the common shares, and therefore, the effect would be anti-dilutive. A summary of those options for the twelve months ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively, is as follows:

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Number of anti-dilutive shares | 1,660,035 | 1,253,415 | 34,750 |

Segment Information – The Company has determined that it has two operating segments. The Company's operating segments consist of (i) a truckload transportation (asset-based) segment and (ii) a brokerage segment (non-asset-based). The truckload transportation segment includes dry van and temperature controlled operations with service centers located throughout the United States. Each of the asset-based service centers have similar economic characteristics, as they all provide short-to-medium haul truckload carrier services of general commodities to a similar class of customers. As a result, the Company has determined that it is appropriate to aggregate these service centers into one reportable segment consistent with the guidance in SFAS No. 131, "Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information." Accordingly, the Company has not presented separate financial information for each of these service centers. The Company has determined that its brokerage subsidiary qualifies as an operating segment under SFAS No. 131. However, because its results of operations are not material to the Company's consolidated financial statements as a whole and it does not meet any of the quantitative tests for reportable segments set out in SFAS No. 131, the Company has not presented separate financial information for this segment. For the year ended December 31, 2008, the brokerage segment accounted for 5.3% of our consolidated revenue, 1.8% of our consolidated net income, and 1.0% of our consolidated assets. Revenue from our brokerage segment, including intercompany transactions and fuel surcharge, for the year ended December 31, 2008 was \$41.0 million, compared to \$29.0 million a year ago. Net income for our brokerage segment was approximately \$1.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, compared to \$0.6 million a year ago, and our brokerage segment had assets at December 31, 2008 of \$6.4 million, compared to \$4.6 million a year ago.

F-11

Table of Contents

New Accounting Pronouncements

In May 2008, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued SFAS No. 162, The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (“SFAS No. 162”). SFAS No. 162 identifies the source of accounting principles and the framework for selecting the principles used in the preparation of financial statements that are presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. This statement will be effective 60 days following the Securities and Exchange Commission’s approval of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board amendments to AU Section 411, “The Meaning of Present Fairly in Conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.” The Company does not expect the adoption of SFAS No. 162 to have a material impact on the Company’s financial condition, results of operations, and disclosures.

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities (“SFAS No. 161”). This standard revises the presentation of and requires additional disclosures to an entity’s derivative instruments, including how derivative instruments and related hedged items are accounted for under SFAS No. 133, Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities, and how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect its financial position, financial performance and cash flows. The provisions of SFAS No. 161 are effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of adopting of SFAS No. 161 on its consolidated financial statements.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 160, Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements – an Amendment of ARB 51 (“SFAS No. 160”). This statement amends ARB 51 and revises accounting and reporting requirements for noncontrolling interests (formerly minority interests) in a subsidiary and for the deconsolidation of a subsidiary. Upon the adoption of SFAS No. 160 on January 1, 2009, any noncontrolling interests will be classified as equity, and income attributed to the noncontrolling interest will be included in the Company’s income. The provisions of this standard are applied retrospectively upon adoption. The Company does not expect it to have an impact on its consolidated financial statements.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141 (revised 2007), Business Combinations, (“SFAS No. 141(R)”). SFAS No. 141(R) clarifies and amends the accounting guidance for how an acquirer in a business combination recognizes and measures the assets acquired, liabilities assumed, and any noncontrolling interest in the acquiree. The provisions of SFAS No. 141(R) are effective for the Company for any business combinations occurring on or after January 1, 2009.

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, Fair Value Measurements (“SFAS No. 157”). See fair value measurements above.

In December 2008, the FASB issued FSP No. FAS 140-4 and FIN 46(R)-8, which amends SFAS No. 140, to require additional disclosures about transfers of financial assets. The FSP also amended FASB Interpretation No. 46(R), to provide additional disclosures about entities’ involvement with variable interest entities. The FSP’s scope is limited to disclosure only and is not expected to have an impact on the Company’s consolidated financial position or results of operations.

2. Line of Credit and Long-Term Debt

The Company had no long-term debt at December 31, 2008. The Company maintains a revolving line of credit, with a maturity date of September 30, 2010, which permits revolving borrowings and letters of credit totaling \$50.0 million in the aggregate, with principal due at maturity and interest payable monthly at two options (prime or LIBOR plus 0.625%). At December 31, 2008, the line of credit consisted solely of issued but unused letters of credit totaling \$35.2 million, which leaves \$14.8 million for future borrowing under the line of credit.

Under the line of credit, the Company is required to maintain certain financial ratios and other certain covenants relating to corporate structure, ownership, and management. The Company was in compliance with its financial debt covenants at December 31, 2008.

F-12

Table of Contents

3. Income Taxes

Income tax expense consists of the following (in thousands):

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Current income taxes: | | | |
| Federal | \$ 16,554 | \$ 27,238 | \$ 36,358 |
| State | 4,180 | 4,460 | 5,098 |
| | 20,734 | 31,698 | 41,456 |
| Deferred income taxes: | | | |
| Federal | 14,410 | 7,712 | 4,479 |
| State | 2,683 | 1,892 | 944 |
| | 17,093 | 9,604 | 5,423 |
| | \$ 37,827 | \$ 41,302 | \$ 46,879 |

The effective income tax rate is different than the amount which would be computed by applying statutory corporate income tax rates to income before income taxes. The differences are summarized as follows (in thousands):

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Tax at the statutory rate (35%) | \$ 32,931 | \$ 36,549 | \$ 41,946 |
| State income taxes, net of federal benefit | 3,363 | 3,394 | 3,895 |
| Other, net | 1,533 | 1,359 | 1,038 |
| | \$ 37,827 | \$ 41,302 | \$ 46,879 |

The net effect of temporary differences that give rise to significant portions of the deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities at December 31, 2008 and 2007 are as follows (in thousands):

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|----------|-----------|
| Short-term deferred tax assets: | | |
| Claims accrual | \$ 5,878 | \$ 10,579 |
| Other | 2,431 | 2,177 |
| | \$ 8,309 | \$ 12,756 |
| Short-term deferred tax liabilities: | | |
| Prepaid expenses deducted for tax purposes | (1,829) | (2,599) |
| Short-term deferred tax assets, net | \$ 6,480 | \$ 10,157 |
| Long-term deferred tax assets: | | |

| | | | | |
|----------------|----|-------|----|---|
| Claims accrual | \$ | 5,877 | \$ | - |
|----------------|----|-------|----|---|

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| Long-term deferred tax liabilities: |
|-------------------------------------|

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|---------|----|--------|
| Property and equipment depreciation | \$ | 112,661 | \$ | 93,368 |
|-------------------------------------|----|---------|----|--------|

Included in the Company's consolidated balance sheets at December 31, 2008 is approximately \$774,000 for income tax receivable. In management's opinion, it is more likely than not that the Company will be able to utilize its deferred tax assets in future periods.

The Company adopted FASB Interpretation No. 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes ("FIN 48") effective January 1, 2007. This interpretation was issued to clarify accounting for income taxes recognized in financial statements by prescribing a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. The cumulative effect, if any, of applying FIN 48 is to be reported as an adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings in the year of adoption. As a result of FIN 48 implementation, at January 1, 2007, the Company recorded a \$394,000 net decrease in retained earnings. As of the date of adoption, and after accounting for the cumulative effect of the adjustment noted above, the Company's unrecognized tax benefits as of January 1, 2007, totaled approximately \$405,000. During the third quarter of 2007, the Company resolved certain tax positions relating to the 2006 tax year, leaving unrecognized tax benefits of approximately \$195,000 as of December 31, 2007. The balance remains unchanged at \$195,000 at December 31, 2008.

Table of Contents

A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 is as follows (in thousands):

| Unrecognized Tax Benefits: | 2008 (in thousands) | 2007 (in thousands) |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$ 195 | \$ 405 |
| Additions based on tax positions related to the current year | - | - |
| Additions for tax positions of prior years | - | - |
| Reductions for tax positions of prior years | - | (210) |
| Lapse of statute | - | - |
| Settlements | - | - |
| Ending Balance | \$ 195 | \$ 195 |

The total amount of unrecognized tax benefits that, if recognized, would favorably affect the effective tax rate in future periods was approximately \$126,000 as of December 31, 2008.

Potential interest and penalties accrual related to unrecognized tax benefits are recognized as a component of income tax expense. During both 2008 and 2007, the Company accrued \$16,000 for interest and nothing for penalties relating to unrecognized tax benefits. Accrued interest as of December 31, 2008 and 2007 were \$62,000 and \$47,000, respectively. Accrued penalties were \$49,000 as of December 31, 2008 and 2007.

The Company files U.S. and state income tax returns with varying statutes of limitations. The 2005 through 2008 tax years generally remain subject to examination by federal authority, and the 2004 through 2008 tax years generally remain subject to examination by state tax authorities. The Company does not believe the unrecognized tax benefits will change significantly over the next 12 months.

4. Commitments and Contingencies

a. Purchase Commitments

The Company's purchase commitments for revenue equipment are currently under negotiation. Upon execution of the purchase commitments, the Company anticipates that purchase commitments under contract will have a net purchase price of approximately \$20.0 million and will be paid throughout 2009.

b. Investment Commitments

In 2003, the Company signed a partnership agreement with Transportation Resource Partners (TRP), a company that makes privately negotiated equity investments. Per the original partnership agreement, the Company committed to pledge \$5.0 million to TRP. In 2006, the Company increased the commitment amount to \$5.5 million. At December 31, 2008, the Company's carrying book balance of its investment in TRP was \$3.7 million and its outstanding commitment to TRP was approximately \$1.0 million.

During the fourth quarter of 2008, the Company formed Knight Capital Growth, LLC and committed \$15.0 million to invest in a new partnership managed and operated by the managers and principals of TRP. The new partnership, Transportation Resource Partners III, LP ("TRP III"), is focused on similar investment opportunities as TRP. As of December 31, 2008, the Company has contributed \$120,000 to TRP III. The outstanding commitment to TRP III was approximately \$14.9 million as of December 31, 2008.

c. Operating Leases

The Company periodically leases certain service center building facilities under non-cancelable operating leases. Rental expense for these facilities is included as an operating expense under "Miscellaneous operating expenses" on the Company's consolidated statements of income. Building rental expense related to these lease agreements totaled approximately \$1.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, and \$1.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006.

The Company has signed certain communication equipment agreements under non-cancelable operating leases, to be effective in 2009. The lease terms will expire in 2011.

Table of Contents

Future service center building lease and communication equipment lease payments under non-cancelable operating leases are as follows:

| Year Ended December 31, | Amount (in thousands) |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2009 | \$ 1,089 |
| 2010 | 1,797 |
| 2011 | 1,620 |
| 2012 | 266 |
| 2013 | 22 |
| Total | \$ 4,794 |

The Company leases certain revenue equipment under non-cancelable operating leases. Rental expense for these leases is reflected as an operating expense under "Lease expense - revenue equipment" on the Company's consolidated statements of income. Rent expense related to these lease agreements totaled approximately \$90,000, \$350,000, and \$431,000 for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006, respectively. As of December 31, 2008 the Company did not have any leased revenue equipment.

d. Other

The Company is involved in certain legal proceedings arising in the normal course of business. In the opinion of management, the Company's potential exposure under any currently pending or threatened legal proceedings will not have a material adverse effect upon the Company's financial position or results of operations.

5. Claims Accrual

The primary claims arising for the Company consist of auto liability (personal injury and property damage), cargo liability, collision, comprehensive and workers' compensation. For the policy year from February 1, 2007 to January 31, 2008, the Company was self-insured for personal injury and property damage liability, cargo liability, collision and comprehensive, with a self-insured retention ("SIR") level of \$1.5 million per occurrence, and was also responsible for an additional \$1.5 million in "aggregate" losses for claims that exceed the \$1.5 million SIR. For the policy year from February 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009, the Company's SIR and its responsibility for the additional "aggregate" losses was reduced to \$1.0 million. For the policy year from February 1, 2009 to January 31, 2010, our SIR was increased back to \$1.5 million, and we no longer have responsibility for the additional "aggregate" losses. The Company is also self insured for worker's compensation, with self-retention level of \$500,000 per occurrence. The Company establishes reserves to cover these self-insured liabilities and maintains insurance to cover liabilities in excess of those amounts. The Company's insurance policies provided for excess personal injury and property damage liability up to a total of \$55.0 million per occurrence.

The Company also maintains excess coverage for employee medical expenses and hospitalization. The self retention amount for employee medical health was \$225,000 per claimant for 2008 and will remain at this amount for 2009.

6. Related Party Transactions

During 2007 and 2006, the Company paid approximately \$207,000 and \$163,000, respectively, for legal and consulting services to a law firm and consulting firm owned in part by a member of the Company's Board of Directors. This member resigned from the Company's Board of Directors in November 2007.

In September 2005, the Company sold 100% of its investment interest in Concentrek. In April 1999, the Company acquired a 17% interest in Concentrek and Randy, Kevin, Gary, and Keith Knight, and members of Concentrek's management, owned the remaining 83%. The Company made loans to Concentrek to fund start-up costs. The Company received proceeds from the sale that satisfied all outstanding loans and investments in Concentrek, resulting in a net gain of approximately \$600,000 in 2005. Subsequent to the sale of Concentrek in 2005, the Company received \$225,000 and \$188,000 from Concentrek as an earn-out in 2008 and 2007, respectively.

F-15

Table of Contents

7. Shareholders' Equity

During 2008, 2007, and 2006, certain non-employee Board of Director members received annual director fees through the issuance of common stock in equivalent shares. The table below reflects this activity for the years as presented.

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|--|------------|------------|-----------|
| Annual director fees paid through stock issuance | \$ 134,966 | \$ 173,914 | \$ 79,928 |
| Shares of Common stock issued | 7,806 | 9,416 | 4,453 |

8. Stock Based Compensation and Employee Benefit Plans

a. Stock-Based Compensation

Since 1994, the Company has maintained a stock option plan for the benefit of its officers, employees, and directors. At December 31, 2008, the Company had one stock-based employee compensation plan known as the Knight Transportation, Inc. 2003 Stock Option Plan (the "2003 Plan"). The Company's shareholders approved the 2003 Plan at the annual meeting of shareholders in May 2003. All issued and outstanding shares under the previous plan remain in effect, but no further shares will be granted under that plan.

The 2003 Plan is administered by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors (the "Compensation Committee"). The Compensation Committee has discretion to determine the number of shares subject to option and the terms and conditions of each option, subject to the general limitations of the 2003 Plan, but no single option may exceed 650,000 shares in any calendar year. The Compensation Committee may award incentive stock options, non-qualified stock options, and restricted stock grants to employees and officers. Incentive stock options are designed to comply with the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code) and are subject to restrictions within the Code. Vesting schedules for options are set by the Compensation Committee and the term of a stock option may not exceed ten years. Stock options must be issued at fair market value, which is equal to the closing price of the stock on the date the option is granted, as reported by the New York Stock Exchange. Stock options are subject to a vesting schedule that is set by the Compensation Committee and the schedule generally ranges from three to eight years based upon graded vesting and depending upon the recipient. Most stock options cannot be exercised until three years after the date of grant and are forfeited upon termination of employment for reasons other than death, disability, or retirement. The exercise price of stock options granted may not be modified without shareholder approval. The 2003 Plan originally reserved 1.5 million shares for the grant of options, as adjusted for stock splits. In 2005, the Board of Directors and shareholders authorized an increase in the number of shares reserved for the issuance of stock options to 6.0 million shares, as adjusted for stock splits. In 2008, the Board of Directors and shareholders authorized an increase in the number of shares reserved for the issuance of stock options to 9.0 million shares, of which 200,000 shares have been reserved for issuance to outside directors. The 2003 Plan will terminate on February 5, 2013.

From 2003 to 2006, independent directors received automatic grants of non-qualified stock options upon joining the Board of Directors and annually thereafter. In 2007, Company's Board of Directors adopted a new compensation structure for independent directors, whereby the practice of making automatic grants to independent directors was discontinued. Under the new structure, effective February 2007, independent directors receive annual compensation that is payable 50% in cash and 50% in Common Stock. Common Stock granted under the new structure is subject to certain holding restrictions.

On January 1, 2006 the Company adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 123 (revised 2004), "Share-Based Payment" ("SFAS 123R"), which requires the measurement and recognition of compensation expense for all share-based payment awards made to employees and directors, including employee stock options and employee stock purchases related to the 2003 Plan, to be based upon estimated fair values.

The adoption of SFAS 123R resulted in stock-based compensation charges of approximately \$3.4 million, \$2.6 million, and \$3.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006, respectively, which reduced income from operations accordingly. Stock-based compensation expense recognized is based on awards ultimately expected to vest and has been reduced for estimated forfeitures. SFAS 123R requires forfeitures to be estimated at the time of grant and revised, if necessary, in subsequent periods if actual forfeitures differ from those estimates.

The Company received \$2.4 million, \$3.8 million, and 2.4 million in cash from the exercise of stock options during the year ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The excess tax benefit realized for the tax deductions from the exercise of options of the share-based payment arrangements for the year ended December 31, 2008, was approximately \$0.5 million, compared to \$1.4 million for the same period in 2007. The actual tax benefit realized in 2008 also decreased cash provided by operating activities, and increased cash provided by financing activities by the same amount. Pursuant to SFAS 123R prior period amounts have not been restated.

Table of Contents

Prior to SFAS 123R, the Company applied the intrinsic-value-based method of accounting prescribed by Accounting Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 25, "Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees," and related interpretations, including Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Interpretation No. 44, "Accounting for Certain Transactions Involving Stock Compensation," an interpretation of APB Opinion No. 25," issued in March 2000, to account for the Company's fixed-plan stock options. Under this method, compensation expense was recorded on the date of grant only if the current market price of the underlying stock exceeded the exercise price. No stock-based employee compensation cost was reflected in net income, as all options granted under the plan had an exercise price equal to the market value of the underlying common stock on the date of the grant. SFAS No. 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation," as amended by SFAS No. 148, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation – Transition and Disclosure," established accounting and disclosure requirements using a fair-value-based method of accounting for stock-based employee compensation plans. As allowed by SFAS No. 123, during prior periods the Company elected to apply the intrinsic-value-based method of accounting described above, and adopted only the disclosure requirements of SFAS No. 123.

The fair value of each option grant is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option valuation model. Listed below are the weighted average assumptions used for the fair value computation:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
| Dividend yield (1) | 0.84% | 0.62% | 0.43% |
| Expected volatility (2) | 37.80% | 32.71% | 32.39% |
| Risk-free interest rate (3) | 3.10% | 4.99% | 5.06% |
| | 5.59 | 7.89 | 8.08 |
| Expected terms (4) | years | years | years |
| Weighted average fair value of options granted | \$ 5.53 | \$ 8.30 | \$ 8.62 |

- (1) The dividend yield is based on the Company's historical experience and future expectation of dividend payouts.
- (2) The Company analyzed the volatility of its stock using historical data from January 1, 2003 through the end of the most recent period to estimate the expected volatility.
- (3) The risk-free interest rate assumption is based on U.S. Treasury securities at a constant maturity with a maturity period that most closely resembles the expected term of the stock option award.
- (4) The expected terms of employee stock options represents the weighted-average period the stock options are expected to remain outstanding and has been determined based on an analysis of historical exercise behavior from January 1, 2003 through the end of the most recent period.

As of December 31, 2008, there was \$15.9 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to unvested share-based compensation awards granted under the 2003 Plan and our prior stock option plan. That cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 2.7 years, and a total period of seven years.

A summary of the award activity for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006 is presented below:

2008

2007

2006

Edgar Filing: KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION INC - Form 10-K

| | Options | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Options | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Options | Weighted Average Exercise Price |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| Outstanding at beginning of year | 4,182,780 | \$ 14.06 | 4,490,341 | \$ 12.57 | 4,562,511 | \$ 10.68 |
| Granted | 1,390,902 | 15.64 | 695,115 | 18.15 | 799,060 | 18.66 |
| Exercised | (268,211) | 8.80 | (576,801) | 6.64 | (437,932) | 5.59 |
| Forfeited and Expired | (311,780) | 15.49 | (425,875) | 14.98 | (433,298) | 10.68 |
| Outstanding at end of year | 4,993,691 | 14.69 | 4,182,780 | 14.06 | 4,490,341 | 12.57 |
| Exercisable at end of year | 1,860,183 | 12.85 | 1,714,396 | 11.96 | 1,842,396 | 10.43 |
| Weighted average fair value of options granted during the period | | \$ 5.53 | | \$ 8.30 | | \$ 8.62 |

F-17

Table of Contents

As of December 31, 2008, the number of options that were currently vested and expected to become vested was 4,744,849. These options have a weighted-average exercise price of \$14.65, a weighted-average contractual remaining term of 6.91 years, and an aggregate intrinsic value of \$10.2 million.

The following table summarizes information about stock options to purchase the Company's common stock at December 31, 2008:

| Range of Exercise Prices | Shares Outstanding | Weighted Avg. Contractual Years Remaining | Weighted Avg. Exercise Price Per Share | Number Vested and Exercisable | Weighted Avg. Exercise Price Per Share for Vested and Exercisable |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|--|--|
| 2.11 - 4.21 | 142,060 | 1.13 | \$ 3.06 | 142,060 | \$ 3.06 |
| 4.22 - 6.31 | 130,827 | 2.65 | \$ 4.84 | 130,827 | \$ 4.84 |
| 6.32 - 8.42 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 8.43 - 10.52 | 147,424 | 3.65 | \$ 8.77 | 137,704 | \$ 8.66 |
| 10.53 - 12.63 | 787,670 | 5.07 | \$ 11.17 | 369,535 | \$ 11.53 |
| 12.64 - 14.73 | 368,875 | 6.32 | \$ 14.48 | 54,295 | \$ 14.48 |
| 14.74 - 16.84 | 1,761,300 | 7.85 | \$ 15.26 | 830,071 | \$ 15.69 |
| 16.85 - 18.94 | 1,617,910 | 8.27 | \$ 18.07 | 183,266 | \$ 18.13 |
| 18.95 - 21.05 | 37,625 | 7.21 | \$ 20.01 | 12,425 | \$ 19.72 |
| Overall Total | 4,993,691 | 6.98 | \$ 14.69 | 1,860,183 | \$ 12.85 |

The total intrinsic value of options exercised during the twelve-month period was \$2.5 million, \$6.8 million, and \$5.8 million as of December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006, respectively. Based on the market price as of December 31, 2008, the total intrinsic value of options outstanding as of the end of the current reporting period is approximately \$7.1 million, and the total intrinsic value of options exercisable as of December 31, 2008, is approximately \$6.1 million. The weighted average remaining contracted life as of December 31, 2008 for vested and exercisable options is 5.51 years.

b. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan

The Company has a 401(k) profit sharing plan (the Plan) for all employees who are 19 years of age or older and have completed one year of service with the Company. The Plan provides for a mandatory matching contribution equal to 50% of the amount of the employee's salary deduction not to exceed \$850 annually per employee. The Plan also provides for a discretionary matching contribution. In 2008, 2007, and 2006, there were no discretionary

contributions. Employees' rights to employer contributions vest after five years from their date of employment. The Company's mandatory matching contribution was approximately, \$381,000, \$412,000, and \$402,000 in 2008, 2007, and 2006, respectively. The Company increased the mandatory matching contribution from \$625 to \$850 annually per employee on January 1, 2006.

9. Acquisitions

On October 23, 2006, the Company purchased most of the trucking assets of Roads West Transportation, Inc. ("Roads West"), an Arizona-based temperature controlled carrier. Under the asset purchase agreement, the Company purchased 133 tractors, 280 trailers, and certain miscellaneous other assets. The Company did not purchase cash or accounts receivable and did not assume any debts or liabilities of Roads West. The purchase price for the assets, including the full amount of the earn-out, was approximately \$15.8 million. The total purchase price has been allocated to tangible and intangible assets acquired based on their fair market values as of the acquisition date. The allocation of the fair value of the assets acquired, including the earn-out paid in 2007, resulted in approximately \$2.0 million of infinite lived goodwill and \$310,000 of finite lived intangible assets. The intangible assets, totaling \$310,000, are being amortized over a five year period. The acquisition has been accounted for in the Company's results of operations since the acquisition date. The pro forma effect of the acquisition on its results of operations is immaterial.

On August 12, 2005, the Company acquired 100% of the stock of Edwards Bros., Inc., an Idaho based temperature controlled truckload carrier. The acquisition included 140 tractors and 224 trailers. The total purchase price has been allocated to tangible and intangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed based on their fair market values as of the acquisition date in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board Statement Number 141 (SFAS No.141), "Business Combinations". Goodwill has been recorded on the Company's consolidated balance sheets for the amount which the purchase price exceeded the fair value of the assets and liabilities acquired. The acquisition has been accounted for in the Company's results of operations since the acquisition date. The pro forma effect of the acquisition on the Company's results of operations is immaterial.

Table of Contents

10. Quarterly Financial Data (unaudited)

The following table sets forth certain unaudited information about the Company's revenue and results of operations on a quarterly basis for 2008 and 2007 (amount in thousands, except per share data):

| | 2008 | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Mar 31 | June 30 | Sept 30 | Dec 31 |
| Revenue, before fuel surcharge | \$ 141,302 | \$ 154,833 | \$ 155,851 | \$ 143,576 |
| Income from operations | \$ 18,727 | \$ 20,723 | \$ 26,239 | \$ 26,969 |
| Net income | \$ 11,417 | \$ 12,692 | \$ 16,013 | \$ 16,139 |
| Earnings per common share: | | | | |
| Basic | \$ 0.13 | \$ 0.15 | \$ 0.19 | \$ 0.19 |
| Diluted | \$ 0.13 | \$ 0.15 | \$ 0.19 | \$ 0.19 |

| | 2007 | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Mar 31 | June 30 | Sept 30 | Dec 31 |
| Revenue, before fuel surcharge | \$ 144,825 | \$ 153,012 | \$ 151,661 | \$ 151,861 |
| Income from operations | \$ 27,254 | \$ 29,319 | \$ 23,523 | \$ 22,346 |
| Net income | \$ 16,619 | \$ 18,177 | \$ 14,509 | \$ 13,817 |
| Earnings per common share: | | | | |
| Basic | \$ 0.19 | \$ 0.21 | \$ 0.17 | \$ 0.16 |
| Diluted | \$ 0.19 | \$ 0.21 | \$ 0.17 | \$ 0.16 |

11. Company Share Repurchase Program

On November 8, 2007, the Company's Board of Directors unanimously authorized the repurchase of up to 3.0 million shares of the Company's Common Stock. The repurchase authorization was to remain in effect until the share limit was reached or the program was terminated. This authorization has expired as the Company reached the share limit in 2008. Under the Company's share repurchase program, repurchased shares are constructively retired and returned to unissued status.

On November 13, 2008, the Company's Board of Directors unanimously authorized an additional repurchase of up to 3.0 million shares of the Company's Common Stock. The repurchase authorization will remain in effect until the share limit is reached or the program is terminated. The repurchase authorization is intended to afford the Company the flexibility to acquire shares opportunistically in future periods and does not indicate an intention to repurchase any particular number of shares within a definite timeframe. Any repurchases would be effected based upon share price and market conditions.

In 2008, the Company repurchased a total of 3,590,044 shares under both plans for approximately \$53.6 million. The shares acquired have been retired and are available for future issuance. The purchases were made in accordance with Security and Exchange Commission Rule 10b-18, which limits the amount and timing of repurchases. As of December 31, 2008, there were 2,409,956 shares remaining for future purchases under the repurchase program that

was authorized in 2008.

F-19

Table of Contents

SCHEDULE II

KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Valuation and Qualifying Accounts and Reserves

For the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006

(In thousands)

| | Balance at Beginning of Period | Expense Recorded | Deductions | Other Adjustments | Balance at End of Period |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Allowance for doubtful trade receivables: | | | | | |
| Year ended December 31, 2008 | \$ 2,429 | \$ 3,403 | \$ (1,515) (1) | \$ - | \$ 4,317 |
| Year ended December 31, 2007 | \$ 2,154 | \$ 1,810 | \$ (1,535) (1) | \$ - | \$ 2,429 |
| Year ended December 31, 2006 | \$ 1,677 | \$ 2,187 | \$ (1,710) (1) | \$ - | \$ 2,154 |
| Allowance for doubtful notes receivable: | | | | | |
| Year ended December 31, 2008 | \$ 79 | \$ 177 | \$ (163) (1) | \$ - | \$ 93 |
| Year ended December 31, 2007 | \$ 140 | \$ 47 | \$ (108) (1) | \$ - | \$ 79 |
| Year ended December 31, 2006 | \$ 49 | \$ (5) | \$ (22) (1) | \$ 118 (2) | \$ 140 |

(1) Write-off of bad debts.

(2) Includes \$118,338 allowance associated with the acquisition of substantially all of the trucking assets of Roads West.

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit Number | Descriptions |
|-------------------|--|
| 3.1 | Second Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Company. (Incorporated by reference to Appendix A to the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed April 20, 2007.) |
| 3.2 | Sixth Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K dated December 18, 2007 and filed on December 19, 2007.) |
| 4.1 | Articles 4, 10, and 11 of the Second Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Company. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to this Report on Form 10-K.) |
| 4.2 | Sections 2 and 5 of the Sixth Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to this Report on Form 10-K.) |
| 4.3 † | Knight Transportation, Inc. Amended and Restated 2003 Stock Option Plan. (Incorporated by reference to the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed December 1, 2005.) |
| 10.1 † | Form of Indemnity Agreement between Knight Transportation, Inc. and each director, first effective February 5, 1997. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2008.) |
| 10.2 | Master Equipment Lease Agreement dated as of January 1, 1996, between the Company and Quad-K Leasing, Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 to the Company's Report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 1995.) |
| 10.3 † | Knight Transportation, Inc. Amended and Restated 2003 Stock Option Plan. (Incorporated by reference to the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed December 1, 2005.) |
| 10.3.1 † | Second Amendment to Knight Transportation, Inc. Amended and Restated 2003 Stock Option Plan. (Incorporated by reference to the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed April 11, 2008.) |
| 10.4 | Credit Agreement between Knight Transportation, Inc. and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dated September 15, 2005. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2005.) |
| 10.4.1 | Modification Agreement to Credit Agreement between Knight Transportation, Inc. and Wells Fargo Bank, dated October 6, 2006. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2006.) |
| <u>21.1</u> * | Subsidiaries of the Company. |
| <u>23.1</u> * | Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP. |
| <u>31.1</u> * | Certification pursuant to Item 601(b)(31) of Regulation S-K, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, by Kevin P. Knight, the Company's Chief Executive Officer. |
| <u>31.2</u> * | Certification pursuant to Item 601(b)(31) of Regulation S-K, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, by David A. Jackson, the Company's Chief Financial Officer. |
| <u>32.1</u> * | Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, by Kevin P. Knight, the Company's Chief |

Executive Officer.

32.2 * Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, by David A. Jackson, the Company's Chief Financial Officer.

* Filed herewith.

† Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.