

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE CO HOLDINGS LTD

Form 10-Q

November 10, 2008

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

**Form 10-Q**

(Mark One)

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

**For the quarterly period ended: September 30, 2008**

**OR**

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

**For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

**Commission file number: 001-32938**

**ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, LTD**

*(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)*

**Bermuda**

*(State or Other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or Organization)*

**98-0481737**

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

**27 Richmond Road, Pembroke HM 08, Bermuda**

*(Address of Principal Executive Offices and Zip Code)*

**(441) 278-5400**

*(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)*

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

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

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Smaller Reporting Company

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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

The number of outstanding common shares, par value \$0.03 per share, of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd as of November 3, 2008 was 49,022,495.

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**PART I**  
**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**Item 1. Financial Statements.**

**ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, LTD**  
**UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

as of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share and per share amounts)

|   | As of<br>September<br>30,<br>2008 | As of<br>December<br>31,<br>2007 |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>ASSETS:</b>  |                                   |                                  |
| Fixed maturity investments available for sale, at fair value (amortized cost: 2008: \$5,440,019; 2007: \$5,595,943) | \$ 5,433,260                      | \$ 5,707,143                     |
| Other invested assets available for sale, at fair value (cost: 2008: \$81,262; 2007: \$291,458)                     | 71,528                            | 322,144                          |
| Other invested assets, at fair value  | 167,674                           |                                  |
| <b>Total investments</b>  | <b>5,672,462</b>                  | <b>6,029,287</b>                 |
| Cash and cash equivalents   | 744,245                           | 202,582                          |
| Restricted cash   | 47,689                            | 67,886                           |
| Securities lending collateral   | 48,815                            | 147,241                          |
| Insurance balances receivable   | 359,921                           | 304,499                          |
| Prepaid reinsurance   | 166,161                           | 163,836                          |
| Reinsurance recoverable   | 777,283                           | 682,765                          |
| Accrued investment income   | 49,641                            | 55,763                           |
| Deferred acquisition costs  | 117,348                           | 108,295                          |
| Goodwill and other intangible assets  | 19,837                            | 3,920                            |
| Balances receivable on sale of investments  | 36,264                            | 84,998                           |
| Net deferred tax assets   | 10,198                            | 4,881                            |
| Other assets  | 52,387                            | 43,155                           |
| <b>Total assets</b>   | <b>\$ 8,102,251</b>               | <b>\$ 7,899,108</b>              |
| <b>LIABILITIES:</b>   |                                   |                                  |
| Reserve for losses and loss expenses  | \$ 4,198,761                      | \$ 3,919,772                     |
| Unearned premiums   | 880,211                           | 811,083                          |
| Unearned ceding commissions   | 28,172                            | 28,831                           |
| Reinsurance balances payable  | 79,592                            | 67,175                           |
| Securities lending payable  | 48,815                            | 147,241                          |
| Balances due on purchase of investments   | 68,681                            | 141,462                          |
| Senior notes  | 498,767                           | 498,682                          |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities  | 26,424                            | 45,020                           |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>  | <b>\$ 5,829,423</b>               | <b>\$ 5,659,266</b>              |
| <b>SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY:</b>   |                                   |                                  |
|   | 1,471                             | 1,462                            |

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Common shares, par value \$0.03 per share, issued and outstanding 2008:

49,022,495 shares and 2007: 48,741,927 shares

|  |              |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Additional paid-in capital   | 1,307,185    | 1,281,832    |
| Retained earnings  | 983,947      | 820,334      |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income: net unrealized (losses) gains on investments, net of tax | (19,775)     | 136,214      |
| Total shareholders' equity   | 2,272,828    | 2,239,842    |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity   | \$ 8,102,251 | \$ 7,899,108 |

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

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**ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, LTD**  
**UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**  
**AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007  
(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars, except share and per share amounts)

|   | <b>Three Months Ended</b> |                   | <b>Nine Months Ended</b> |                   |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
|   | <b>September 30,</b>      |                   | <b>September 30,</b>     |                   |
|   | <b>2008</b>               | <b>2007</b>       | <b>2008</b>              | <b>2007</b>       |
| <b>REVENUES:</b>  |                           |                   |                          |                   |
| Gross premiums written  | \$ 290,981                | \$ 276,253        | \$ 1,134,638             | \$ 1,245,208      |
| Premiums ceded  | (57,078)                  | (56,956)          | (253,913)                | (281,480)         |
| Net premiums written  | 233,903                   | 219,297           | 880,725                  | 963,728           |
| Change in unearned premiums   | 38,070                    | 64,362            | (66,804)                 | (90,384)          |
| Net premiums earned   | 271,973                   | 283,659           | 813,921                  | 873,344           |
| Net investment income   | 76,916                    | 76,133            | 226,192                  | 222,718           |
| Net realized investment losses  | (151,876)                 | (4,196)           | (152,804)                | (12,161)          |
|   | 197,013                   | 355,596           | 887,309                  | 1,083,901         |
| <b>EXPENSES:</b>  |                           |                   |                          |                   |
| Net losses and loss expenses  | 176,010                   | 173,246           | 497,591                  | 515,466           |
| Acquisition costs   | 28,615                    | 29,198            | 81,720                   | 90,266            |
| General and administrative expenses   | 40,794                    | 36,050            | 130,445                  | 103,685           |
| Interest expense  | 9,515                     | 9,481             | 28,538                   | 28,337            |
| Foreign exchange gain   | (2,728)                   | (976)             | (2,651)                  | (412)             |
|   | 252,206                   | 246,999           | 735,643                  | 737,342           |
| (Loss) income before income taxes   | (55,193)                  | 108,597           | 151,666                  | 346,559           |
| Income tax (recovery) expense   | (8,826)                   | (362)             | (12,117)                 | 392               |
| <b>NET (LOSS) INCOME</b>  | <b>(46,367)</b>           | <b>108,959</b>    | <b>163,783</b>           | <b>346,167</b>    |
| Other comprehensive (loss) gain   |                           |                   |                          |                   |
| Unrealized (losses) gains on investments arising during the period net of applicable deferred income tax recovery (expense) for three months 2008: \$2,359; 2007: (\$2,637); and nine months 2008: \$2,601; 2007: (\$4,929) | (183,081)                 | 84,384            | (243,047)                | 44,292            |
| Reclassification adjustment for net realized losses included in net (loss) income   | 124,258                   | 4,196             | 113,320                  | 12,161            |
| Other comprehensive (loss) gain   | (58,823)                  | 88,580            | (129,727)                | 56,453            |
| <b>COMPREHENSIVE (LOSS) INCOME</b>  | <b>\$ (105,190)</b>       | <b>\$ 197,539</b> | <b>\$ 34,056</b>         | <b>\$ 402,620</b> |

PER SHARE DATA

|   |            |            |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Basic (loss) earnings per share   | \$ (0.95)  | \$ 1.80    | \$ 3.37    | \$ 5.73    |
| Diluted (loss) earnings per share                                       | \$ (0.95)  | \$ 1.72    | \$ 3.22    | \$ 5.51    |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding                              | 49,007,389 | 60,413,019 | 48,547,839 | 60,381,867 |
| Weighted average common shares and common share equivalents outstanding | 49,007,389 | 63,250,024 | 50,869,098 | 62,808,186 |
| Dividends declared per share  | \$ 0.18    | \$ 0.15    | \$ 0.54    | \$ 0.45    |

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

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**ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, LTD**  
**UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY**

for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars)

|   | <b>Share<br/>Capital</b> | <b>Additional<br/>Paid-in<br/>Capital</b> | <b>Accumulated<br/>Other<br/>Comprehensive<br/>Income<br/>(Loss)</b> | <b>Retained<br/>Earnings</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---|--------------------------|---|--|------------------------------|--------------|
| December 31, 2007                                     | \$ 1,462                 | \$ 1,281,832                              | \$ 136,214   | \$ 820,334                   | \$ 2,239,842 |
| Cumulative effect adjustment upon adoption of FAS 159 |                          |   | (26,262)   | 26,262                       |              |
| Net income  |                          |   |  | 163,783                      | 163,783      |
| Dividends   |                          |   |  | (26,432)                     | (26,432)     |
| Other comprehensive loss                              |                          |   | (129,727)  |                              | (129,727)    |
| Stock compensation                                    | 9                        | 25,353                                    |  |                              | 25,362       |
| September 30, 2008                                    | \$ 1,471                 | \$ 1,307,185                              | \$ (19,775)  | \$ 983,947                   | \$ 2,272,828 |

|                            | <b>Share<br/>Capital</b> | <b>Additional<br/>Paid-in<br/>Capital</b> | <b>Accumulated<br/>Other<br/>Comprehensive<br/>Income</b> | <b>Retained<br/>Earnings</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|--------------|
| December 31, 2006          | \$ 1,809                 | \$ 1,822,607                              | \$ 6,464  | \$ 389,204                   | \$ 2,220,084 |
| Net income                 |                          |   |   | 346,167                      | 346,167      |
| Dividends                  |                          |   |   | (27,174)                     | (27,174)     |
| Other comprehensive income |                          |   | 56,453  |                              | 56,453       |
| Stock compensation         | 3                        | 17,242                                    |   |                              | 17,245       |
| September 30, 2007         | \$ 1,812                 | \$ 1,839,849                              | \$ 62,917   | \$ 708,197                   | \$ 2,612,775 |

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.



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**ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, LTD**  
**UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007

(Expressed in thousands of United States dollars)

|   | <b>Nine Months Ended</b> |                    |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------|
|   | <b>September 30,</b>     |                    |
|   | <b>2008</b>              | <b>2007</b>        |
| <b>CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>                           |                          |                    |
| Net income  | \$ 163,783               | \$ 346,167         |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to cash provided by operating activities: |                          |                    |
| Net realized losses (gains) on sales of investments                           | 1,016                    | (25,544)           |
| Impairment charges for other-than-temporary impairments on investments        | 112,304                  | 37,705             |
| Change in fair value of hedge fund investments                                | 39,484                   |                    |
| Amortization of premiums net of accrual of discounts on fixed maturities      | (9,917)                  | (3,072)            |
| Amortization and depreciation of fixed assets                                 | 6,957                    | 6,335              |
| Amortization of discount and expenses on senior notes                         | 341                      | 316                |
| Stock compensation expense  | 20,980                   | 17,333             |
| Insurance balances receivable   | (55,422)                 | (15,809)           |
| Prepaid reinsurance   | (2,325)                  | (19,232)           |
| Reinsurance recoverable   | (94,518)                 | 14,707             |
| Accrued investment income   | 6,122                    | 6,889              |
| Deferred acquisition costs  | (9,053)                  | (23,606)           |
| Net deferred tax assets   | (2,716)                  | 1,433              |
| Other assets  | (8,442)                  | (1,965)            |
| Reserve for losses and loss expenses  | 278,989                  | 194,965            |
| Unearned premiums   | 69,128                   | 109,616            |
| Unearned ceding commissions   | (659)                    | 6,908              |
| Reinsurance balances payable  | 12,417                   | (24,218)           |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities                                      | (18,595)                 | (10,117)           |
| <b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>                              | <b>509,874</b>           | <b>618,811</b>     |
| <b>CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>                 |                          |                    |
| Purchases of fixed maturity investments                                       | (3,544,183)              | (3,244,366)        |
| Purchases of other invested assets  | (39,855)                 | (124,828)          |
| Sales of fixed maturity investments   | 3,593,861                | 2,584,697          |
| Sales of other invested assets  | 76,574                   | 69,836             |
| Net cash used for acquisition   | (44,052)                 |                    |
| Changes in securities lending collateral received                             | 98,426                   | (490,744)          |
| Purchase of fixed assets  | (6,333)                  | (7,066)            |
| Change in restricted cash   | 20,197                   | 91,320             |
| <b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>                    | <b>154,635</b>           | <b>(1,120,611)</b> |
| <b>CASH FLOWS (USED IN) PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>                 |                          |                    |
| Dividends paid  | (26,432)                 | (27,174)           |
| Proceeds from the exercise of stock options                                   | 3,765                    | 580                |
| Changes in securities lending collateral                                      | (98,426)                 | 490,744            |

|  |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|
| Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities      | (121,093)  | 464,150    |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on foreign currency cash | (1,753)    | 695        |
| NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS     | 541,663    | (36,955)   |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF PERIOD           | 202,582    | 366,817    |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF PERIOD                 | \$ 744,245 | \$ 329,862 |
| Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:        |            |            |
| Cash paid for income taxes                               | \$ 6,162   | \$ 2,824   |
| Cash paid for interest expense                           | 37,500     | 38,021     |
| Supplemental disclosure of non-cash flow information:    |            |            |
| Change in balance receivable on sale of investments      | 48,734     | 8,594      |
| Change in balance payable on purchase of investments     | (72,781)   | 123,482    |

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

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### **1. GENERAL**

Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd ( Holdings ) was incorporated in Bermuda on November 13, 2001. Holdings, through its wholly-owned subsidiaries (collectively, the Company ), provides property and casualty insurance and reinsurance on a worldwide basis through operations in Bermuda, the United States, Ireland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

### **2. BASIS OF PREPARATION AND CONSOLIDATION**

These unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Holdings and its subsidiaries and have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ( U.S. GAAP ) for interim financial information and with Article 10 of Regulation S-X as promulgated by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ). Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by U.S. GAAP for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, these unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments that are normal and recurring in nature and necessary for a fair presentation of financial position and results of operations as of the end of and for the periods presented. The results of operations for any interim period are not necessarily indicative of the results for a full year.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. 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. The significant estimates reflected in the Company s financial statements include, but are not limited to:

The premium estimates for certain reinsurance agreements,

Recoverability of deferred acquisition costs,

The reserve for losses and loss expenses,

Valuation of ceded reinsurance recoverables,

Valuation of financial instruments, and

Determination of other-than-temporary impairment of investments.

Intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated on consolidation, and all entities meeting consolidation requirements have been included in the consolidation. Certain immaterial reclassifications in the unaudited condensed consolidated statements of cash flows have been made to the prior period s amounts to conform to the current period s presentation.

These unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements, including these notes, should be read in conjunction with the Company s audited consolidated financials statements, and related notes thereto, included in the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007.

### **3. NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS**

In February 2007, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ( FAS ) No. 159 The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities Including an amendment of FASB Statement No. 115 ( FAS 159 ). FAS 159 permits entities to choose to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value. The objective is to improve financial reporting by providing entities with the opportunity to mitigate volatility in reported earnings caused by measuring related assets and liabilities differently without having to apply complex hedge accounting provisions. This statement is expected to expand the use of fair value measurement, which is consistent with the FASB s long-term measurement objectives for accounting for financial instruments. The fair value option permits all entities to choose to measure eligible items at fair value at specified election dates. An entity shall record unrealized gains and losses on items for which the fair value option has been elected through net income in the statement of operations at each subsequent reporting date. The Company adopted FAS 159 as of January 1, 2008. See Note 7 Fair Value of Financial Instruments regarding the Company s

adoption of FAS 159.

In September 2006, the FASB issued FAS No. 157 Fair Value Measurements ( FAS 157 ). This statement defines fair value,

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establishes a framework for measuring fair value under U.S. GAAP and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. FAS 157 applies under other accounting pronouncements that require or permit fair value measurements. FAS 157 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007, and interim periods within those fiscal years. In October 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position 157-3

Determining the Fair Value of a Financial Asset When the Market for That Asset Is Not Active ( FSP 157-3 ). FSP 157-3 clarifies the application of FAS 157 in a market that is not active. The determination of whether a market is not active requires significant judgment including whether individual transactions are forced liquidations or distressed sales, whether observable inputs require significant adjustment based on unobservable data and whether broker or pricing service quotes are determinative of fair value. FSP 157-3 was effective upon issuance and is applicable to the unaudited condensed consolidated balance sheet as of September 30, 2008. The Company adopted FAS 157 as of January 1, 2008. See Note 7 Fair Value of Financial Instruments regarding the Company's adoption of FAS 157.

In December 2007, the FASB issued FAS No. 141(R) Business Combinations ( FAS 141(R) ). FAS 141(R) replaces FAS No. 141 Business Combinations ( FAS 141 ), but retains the fundamental requirements in FAS 141 that the acquisition method of accounting be used for all business combinations and for an acquirer to be identified for each business combination. FAS 141(R) requires an acquirer to recognize the assets acquired, the liabilities assumed, and any noncontrolling interest in the acquiree at the acquisition date, measured at their fair values as of that date. FAS 141(R) also requires acquisition-related costs to be recognized separately from the acquisition, requires assets acquired and liabilities assumed arising from contractual contingencies to be recognized at their acquisition-date fair values and requires goodwill to be recognized as the excess of the consideration transferred plus the fair value of any noncontrolling interest in the acquiree at the acquisition date over the fair values of the identifiable net assets acquired. FAS 141(R) applies prospectively to business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the beginning of the first annual reporting period beginning on or after December 15, 2008 (January 1, 2009 for calendar year-end companies).

In December 2007, the FASB issued FAS No. 160 Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements an amendment of ARB No. 51 ( FAS 160 ). FAS 160 amends ARB No. 51 to establish accounting and reporting standards for the noncontrolling interest in a subsidiary and for the deconsolidation of a subsidiary. FAS 160 clarifies that a noncontrolling interest in a subsidiary is an ownership interest in the consolidated entity that should be reported as equity in the consolidated financial statements. FAS 160 requires consolidated net income to be reported at the amounts that include the amounts attributable to both the parent and the noncontrolling interest. This statement also establishes a method of accounting for changes in a parent's ownership interest in a subsidiary that do not result in deconsolidation and for changes in a parent's ownership interest in a subsidiary that does result in deconsolidation. FAS 160 is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning on or after December 15, 2008 (January 1, 2009 for calendar year-end companies). The presentation and disclosure requirements of FAS 160 shall be applied retrospectively for all periods presented.

In March 2008, the FASB issued FAS No. 161 Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133 ( FAS 161 ). FAS 161 requires enhanced interim and annual disclosures about an entity's derivative and hedging activities including how and why the entity uses derivative instruments, how the entity accounts for its derivatives under FAS Statement No. 133 ( Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities ), and how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect the entity's financial position, financial performance and cash flows. FAS 161 is effective for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008 (January 1, 2009 for calendar year-end companies). The Company is currently evaluating the provisions of FAS 161 and its potential impact on future financial statements.

In May 2008, the FASB issued FAS No. 162 The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ( FAS 162 ). FAS 162 identifies the sources of accounting principles and the framework for selecting principles to be used in the preparation of financial statements of entities that are presented in conformity with U.S. GAAP. The current U.S. GAAP hierarchy is found in auditing literature and is focused on the auditor rather than the entity. FAS 162 shall be effective 60 days after the SEC's approval of the Public Accounting Oversight Board amendments to AU Section 411 *The Meaning of Present Fairly in Conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*. The Company does not anticipate any impact on future financial statements due to the adoption of FAS 162.

In May 2008, the FASB issued FAS No. 163 Accounting for Financial Guarantee Insurance Contracts an Interpretation of FASB Statement No. 60 ( FAS 163 ). FAS 163 clarifies how FAS 60 Accounting and Reporting by Insurance Enterprises applies to financial guarantee insurance contracts, including the recognition and measurement of premium revenue and claim liabilities. FAS 163 also requires expanded disclosures about financial guarantee insurance contracts. FAS 163 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008 (January 1, 2009 for calendar year-end companies), and interim periods within those fiscal years. The Company currently does not provide financial guarantee insurance, and as such does not anticipate any impact on future financial statements due to the adoption of FAS 163.

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In November 2007, Allied World Assurance Holdings (U.S.) Inc. entered into an agreement to purchase all of the outstanding stock of Finial Insurance Company (formerly known as Converium Insurance (North America) Inc.) from Finial Reinsurance Company, an affiliate of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Finial Insurance Company was renamed Allied World Reinsurance Company, is currently licensed to write insurance and reinsurance in 50 states and the District of Columbia and has been used to launch the Company's reinsurance operations in the United States. This transaction closed on February 29, 2008 for a purchase price of \$12,000, the Finial Insurance Company's policyholders' surplus of \$47,082, an adjustment for the difference between the fair values of investments acquired under U.S. GAAP and statutory reporting of \$300 and direct expenses of \$387. The total purchase price of \$59,769 was paid in cash with available capital. As a part of the acquisition, the Company recorded \$12,000 of intangible assets with indefinite lives for the value of the insurance and reinsurance licenses acquired. The remaining assets and liabilities acquired were principally comprised of bonds, at fair value, of \$31,690, cash of \$15,330, other assets of \$1,176, deferred tax liabilities of \$4,344 and a reserve for losses and loss expenses of \$104,914, of which 100% were recorded as reinsurance recoverable as the entire reserve for losses and loss expenses is ceded to National Indemnity Company, an affiliate of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. The Company also recognized goodwill of \$3,917 related to this acquisition, which is included in goodwill and other intangible assets in the unaudited condensed consolidated balance sheets.

For additional acquisition information, please refer to Note 13 regarding the acquisition of Darwin Professional Underwriters, Inc.

**5. INVESTMENTS**

The amortized cost, gross unrealized gains, gross unrealized losses and fair value of total investments by category as of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007 are as follows:

|  | <b>Cost</b>  | <b>Gross<br/>Unrealized<br/>Gains</b> | <b>Gross<br/>Unrealized<br/>Losses</b> | <b>Fair Value</b> |
|--|--------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| September 30, 2008                                   |              |                                       |  |                   |
| U.S. government and government agencies              | \$ 1,778,853 | \$ 44,029                             | \$ (366)                               | \$ 1,822,516      |
| Non-U.S. government and government agencies          | 121,001      | 7,389                                 | (9)                                    | 128,381           |
| Corporate  | 1,260,158    | 4,712                                 | (16,146)                               | 1,248,724         |
| States, municipalities and political subdivisions    | 56,903       | 61                                    |  | 56,964            |
| Mortgage backed                                      | 2,115,265    | 12,601                                | (58,793)                               | 2,069,073         |
| Asset backed   | 107,839      | 18                                    | (255)                                  | 107,602           |
| Total fixed maturity investments, available for sale | 5,440,019    | 68,810                                | (75,569)                               | 5,433,260         |
| Hedge funds  | 167,674      |                                       |  | 167,674           |
| Global high-yield bond fund                          | 81,262       |                                       | (9,734)                                | 71,528            |
|  | \$ 5,688,955 | \$ 68,810                             | \$ (85,303)                            | \$ 5,672,462      |
| December 31, 2007                                    |              |                                       |  |                   |
| U.S. government and government agencies              | \$ 1,987,577 | \$ 65,653                             | \$ (6)                                 | \$ 2,053,224      |
| Non-U.S. government and government agencies          | 100,440      | 18,694                                | (291)                                  | 118,843           |
| Corporate  | 1,248,338    | 10,114                                | (5,835)                                | 1,252,617         |
| Mortgage backed                                      | 2,095,561    | 22,880                                | (902)                                  | 2,117,539         |
| Asset backed   | 164,027      | 897                                   | (4)                                    | 164,920           |
|  | 5,595,943    | 118,238                               | (7,038)                                | 5,707,143         |

Total fixed maturity investments, available for sale

|                             |              |            |            |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Hedge funds                 | 215,173      | 27,250     | (988)      | 241,435      |
| Global high-yield bond fund | 75,125       | 4,424      |            | 79,549       |
| Other invested asset        | 1,160        |            |            | 1,160        |
|                             | \$ 5,887,401 | \$ 149,912 | \$ (8,026) | \$ 6,029,287 |

Due to the adoption of FAS 159 as of January 1, 2008, the Company's investment in hedge funds is included in other invested assets, at fair value on the unaudited condensed consolidated balance sheet. As of September 30, 2008, the Company's investment in the global high-yield bond fund is included in other invested assets available for sale, at fair value on the unaudited condensed consolidated balance sheet. As of December 31, 2007, the Company's investment in hedge funds, the global high-yield bond fund and other invested assets were included in other invested assets available for sale, at fair value on the unaudited condensed consolidated balance sheet.

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On a quarterly basis, the Company reviews the carrying value of its investments to determine if a decline in value is considered to be other than temporary. This review involves consideration of several factors including: (i) the significance of the decline in value and the resulting unrealized loss position; (ii) the time period for which there has been a significant decline in value; (iii) an analysis of the issuer of the investment, including its liquidity, business prospects and overall financial position; and (iv) the Company's intent and ability to hold the investment for a sufficient period of time for the value to recover. For certain investments, the Company's investment advisers have the discretion to sell those investments at any time. As such, the Company recognizes an other-than-temporary charge for those securities in an unrealized loss position each quarter as the Company cannot assert it has the intent to hold those investments until anticipated recovery. The identification of potentially impaired investments involves significant management judgment that includes the determination of their fair value and the assessment of whether any decline in value is other than temporary. If the decline in value is determined to be other than temporary, then the Company records a realized loss in the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income in the period that it is determined.

The following table summarizes the market value of those investments in an unrealized loss position for periods less than or greater than 12 months:

|   | <b>September 30, 2008</b>   |                              | <b>December 31, 2007</b>        |                              |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
|   | <b>Gross<br/>Fair Value</b> | <b>Unrealized<br/>Losses</b> | <b>Gross<br/>Fair<br/>Value</b> | <b>Unrealized<br/>Losses</b> |
| Less than 12 months                               |                             |                              |                                 |                              |
| U.S. Government and Government agencies           | \$ 7,071                    | \$ (366)                     | \$                              | \$                           |
| Non U.S. Government and Government agencies       |                             |                              |                                 |                              |
| Corporate   | 354,019                     | (14,724)                     | 359,880                         | (5,734)                      |
| States, municipalities and political subdivisions |                             |                              |                                 |                              |
| Mortgage backed                                   | 658,245                     | (58,567)                     | 172,673                         | (835)                        |
| Asset backed                                      | 15,955                      | (254)                        | 11,536                          | (4)                          |
| Hedge funds                                       |                             |                              | 51,512                          | (988)                        |
| Global high-yield bond fund                       | 71,528                      | (9,734)                      |                                 |                              |
|   | \$ 1,106,818                | \$ (83,645)                  | \$ 595,601                      | \$ (7,561)                   |
| More than 12 months                               |                             |                              |                                 |                              |
| U.S. Government and Government agencies           | \$                          | \$                           | \$ 71,404                       | \$ (6)                       |
| Non U.S. Government and Government agencies       | 2,752                       | (9)                          | 33,227                          | (291)                        |
| Corporate   | 9,100                       | (1,423)                      | 22,544                          | (101)                        |
| States, municipalities and political subdivisions |                             |                              |                                 |                              |
| Mortgage backed                                   | 2,429                       | (226)                        | 13,805                          | (67)                         |
| Asset backed                                      |                             |                              |                                 |                              |
|   | \$ 14,281                   | \$ (1,658)                   | \$ 140,980                      | \$ (465)                     |
|   | \$ 1,121,099                | \$ (85,303)                  | \$ 736,581                      | \$ (8,026)                   |

As of September 30, 2008, the Company's investment portfolio had gross unrealized losses of \$85,303, that were primarily the result of increases in market interest rates during 2008 that caused the market price of our fixed maturity investments to decrease, as well as widening credit spreads related to increases in market risk premium and reduced market liquidity. Following the Company's review of the securities in its investment portfolio, 181 and 388 securities

were considered to be other-than-temporarily impaired for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively. Consequently, the Company recorded an other-than-temporary-impairment charge of \$75,028 and \$112,304 within net realized investment losses on the unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively. An other-than-temporary charge was recognized for those securities in an unrealized loss position that the Company's investment advisers had the discretion to sell. The following shows the other-than-temporary charges for fixed maturity investments by category for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008:

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|   | <b>Other-than-temporary-<br/>impairment charges</b>                          |   |
|---|--|---|
|   | <b>For the<br/>three<br/>months<br/>ended<br/>September<br/>30,<br/>2008</b> | <b>For the nine<br/>months ended<br/>September<br/>30,<br/>2008</b> |
| U.S. government and government agencies           | \$ 10,293  | \$ 15,493   |
| Non-U.S. government and government agencies       | 233  | 684   |
| Corporate   | 44,293   | 51,761  |
| States, municipalities and political subdivisions | 260  | 813   |
| Mortgage backed                                   | 18,213   | 39,818  |
| Asset backed                                      | 1,736  | 3,735   |
| <b>Total other-than-temporary charges</b>         | <b>\$ 75,028</b>   | <b>\$ 112,304</b>   |

The Company recorded other-than-temporary-impairment charges, within net realized investment losses on the unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income, of \$25,382 and \$37,705 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively. Included in the other-than-temporary-impairment charges for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007 was a charge of \$23,915 for the Company's investment in the Goldman Sachs Global Alpha Hedge Fund PLC. As of September 30, 2007, the Company's basis in the fund was \$57,495 and the fair value was \$33,580, resulting in a loss of \$23,915. The Company reviewed its carrying value of this investment in light of the significant changes in economic conditions that occurred during the third quarter of 2007, which included subprime mortgage exposure, tightening of credit spreads and overall market volatility. These economic conditions caused the fair value of this investment to decline. On December 31, 2007, the Company sold its investment in this fund. The remaining other-than-temporary-impairment charges were solely due to changes in interest rates.

During 2007, the Company submitted a redemption notice to sell its shares in the Goldman Sachs Global Equity Opportunities Fund, plc. The Company sold its shares on February 29, 2008 and recognized a loss on the sale of \$278, which is included in net realized investment losses in the unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income for the nine months ended September 30, 2008.

On June 30, 2007, the Company sold its shares in the Goldman Sachs Liquid Trading Opportunities Fund Offshore, Ltd. The gain on the sale amounted to \$484, which has been included in net realized investment losses in the unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income for the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

**6. DEBT AND FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS**

On July 21, 2006, the Company issued \$500,000 aggregate principal amount of 7.50% Senior Notes due August 1, 2016 (Senior Notes), with interest on the Senior Notes payable on August 1 and February 1 of each year, commencing on February 1, 2007. The Senior Notes were offered by the underwriters at a price of 99.71% of their principal amount, providing an effective yield to investors of 7.54%. The Company used a portion of the proceeds from the Senior Notes to repay the outstanding amount of its then existing credit agreement as well as to provide additional capital to its subsidiaries and for other general corporate purposes.

The Senior Notes can be redeemed by the Company prior to maturity subject to payment of a make-whole premium. The Company has no current expectations of calling the Senior Notes prior to maturity. The Senior Notes contain certain covenants that include: (i) limitations on liens on stock of designated subsidiaries; (ii) limitation as to the disposition of stock of designated subsidiaries; and (iii) limitations on mergers, amalgamations, consolidations or

sale of assets. The Company was in compliance with all covenants related to its Senior Notes as of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007.

Events of default include: (i) the default in the payment of any interest or principal on any outstanding notes, and the continuance of such default for a period of 30 days; (ii) the default in the performance, or breach, of any of the covenants in the indenture (other than a covenant added solely for the benefit of another series of debt securities) and continuance of such default or breach for a period of 60 days after the Company has received written notice specifying such default or breach; and (iii) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization. Where an event of default occurs and is continuing, either the trustee of the Senior Notes or the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the Senior Notes may have the right to declare that all unpaid principal amounts and accrued interest then outstanding be due and payable immediately.

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In March 2007, the Company entered into a collateralized \$750,000 amended letter of credit facility (the Credit Facility ) with Citibank Europe plc. The Credit Facility will be used to issue standby letters of credit.

In November 2007, the Company entered into a \$800,000 five-year senior credit facility (the Facility ) with a syndication of lenders. The Facility consists of a \$400,000 secured letter of credit facility for the issuance of standby letters of credit (the Secured Facility ) and a \$400,000 unsecured facility for the making of revolving loans and for the issuance of standby letters of credit (the Unsecured Facility ). Both the Secured Facility and the Unsecured Facility have options to increase the aggregate commitments by up to \$200,000, subject to approval of the lenders. The Facility will be used for general corporate purposes and to issue standby letters of credit. The Facility contains representations, warranties and covenants customary for similar bank loan facilities, including a covenant to maintain a ratio of consolidated indebtedness to total capitalization as of the last day of each fiscal quarter or fiscal year of not greater than 0.35 to 1.0 and a covenant under the Unsecured Facility to maintain a certain consolidated net worth. In addition, each material insurance subsidiary must maintain a financial strength rating from A.M. Best Company of at least A- under the Unsecured Facility and of at least B++ under the Secured Facility. The Company is in compliance with all covenants under the Facility as of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007.

There are a total of 13 lenders who make up the Facility syndication and have varying commitments ranging from \$20,000 to \$87,500. Of the 13 lenders, four have commitments of \$87,500 each, four have commitments of \$62,500 each, four have commitments of \$45,000 each and one has a commitment of \$20,000. One of the lenders in the Facility with a \$20,000 commitment has declared bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. The Company does not expect this lender to be able to meet its commitment under the Facility.

The Company currently has access to up to \$1,550,000 in letters of credit under the two letter of credit facilities described above. These facilities are used to provide security to reinsureds and are collateralized by the Company, at least to the extent of letters of credit outstanding at any given time. As of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, there were outstanding letters of credit totaling \$908,033 and \$922,206, respectively, under the two facilities. Collateral committed to support the letter of credit facilities was \$1,090,982 as of September 30, 2008, compared to \$1,170,731 as of December 31, 2007.

At this time, the Company uses trust accounts primarily to meet security requirements for inter-company and certain related-party reinsurance transactions. The Company also has cash and cash equivalents and investments on deposit with various state or government insurance departments or pledged in favor of ceding companies in order to comply with relevant insurance regulations. As of September 30, 2008, total trust account deposits were \$698,354 compared to \$802,737 as of December 31, 2007.

**7. FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

The Company adopted FAS 159 as of January 1, 2008, and has elected the fair value option for its hedge fund investments, which are classified as other invested assets, at fair value in the unaudited condensed consolidated balance sheets. At the time of adoption, the fair value and carrying value of the hedge fund investments were \$241,435 and the net unrealized gain was \$26,262. The Company has elected the fair value option for its hedge fund investments as the Company believes that recognizing changes in the fair value of the hedge funds in the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income each period better reflects the results of the Company's investment in the hedge funds rather than recognizing changes in fair value in accumulated other comprehensive income.

Upon adoption of FAS 159, the Company reclassified the net unrealized gain related to the hedge funds of \$26,262 from accumulated other comprehensive income and recorded a cumulative-effect adjustment in retained earnings. There was no net deferred tax liability associated with the net unrealized gain as the hedge fund investments are held by a Bermuda insurance subsidiary that pays no income tax. Any subsequent change in unrealized gain or loss of other invested assets, at fair value will be recognized in the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income and included in net realized investment gains or losses. Prior to the adoption of FAS 159 any change in unrealized gain or loss was included in accumulated other comprehensive income in the unaudited condensed consolidated balance sheet. The net loss recognized for the change in fair value of the hedge fund investments in the unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 was \$27,617 and \$39,484, respectively.

The Company adopted FAS 157 as of January 1, 2008. This statement defines fair value and establishes a framework for measuring fair value under U.S. GAAP. FAS 157 defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. FAS 157 also established a three-level valuation hierarchy for disclosure of fair value measurements. The valuation hierarchy is based upon whether the inputs to the

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valuation of an asset or liability are observable or unobservable in the market at the measurement date, with quoted market prices being the highest level (Level 1) and unobservable inputs being the lowest level (Level 3). A fair value measurement will fall within the level of the hierarchy based on the input that is significant to determining such measurement. The three levels are defined as follows:

**Level 1:** Observable inputs to the valuation methodology that are quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.

**Level 2:** Observable inputs to the valuation methodology other than quoted market prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets. Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical assets in markets that are not active and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

**Level 3:** Inputs to the valuation methodology that are unobservable for the asset or liability.

The following table shows the fair value of the Company's financial instruments and where in the FAS 157 fair value hierarchy the fair value measurements are included as of September 30, 2008.

|  | Carrying amount | Total fair value | Fair value measurement using:                                  |   |   |
|--|-----------------|------------------|--|---|---|
|  |                 |                  | Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1) | Significant other observable inputs (Level 2) | Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) |
| U.S. government and government agencies              | \$ 1,822,516    | \$ 1,822,516     | \$ 922,117   | \$ 900,399                                    | \$  |
| Non-U.S. government and government agencies          | 128,381         | 128,381          |  | 128,381                                       |   |
| Corporate  | 1,248,724       | 1,248,724        |  | 1,248,724                                     |   |
| States, municipalities and political subdivisions    | 56,964          | 56,964           |  | 56,964  |   |
| Mortgage backed                                      | 2,069,073       | 2,069,073        |  | 2,069,073                                     |   |
| Asset backed   | 107,602         | 107,602          |  | 107,602                                       |   |
| Total fixed maturity investments, available for sale | 5,433,260       | 5,433,260        |  |   |   |
| Total other invested assets, fair value              | 167,674         | 167,674          |  |   | 167,674                                   |
| Total other invested assets, available for sale      | 71,528          | 71,528           |  | 71,528  |   |
| Total investments                                    | 5,672,462       | 5,672,462        |  |   |   |
| Senior notes   | 498,767         | 442,300          |  | 442,300                                       |   |

The following describes the valuation techniques used by the Company to determine the fair value of financial instruments held as of September 30, 2008.

**U.S. government and U.S. government agencies:** Comprised primarily of bonds issued by the U.S. Treasury, the Federal Home Loan Bank, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation and the Federal National Mortgage Association. The fair values of the Company's U.S. government securities are based on quoted market prices in active markets, and are included in the Level 1 fair value hierarchy. The Company believes the market for U.S. Treasury securities is an actively traded market given the high level of daily trading volume. The fair values of U.S. government agency securities are priced using the spread above the risk-free yield curve. As the yields for the risk-free yield curve are observable market inputs, the fair values of U.S. government agency securities are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

**Non-U.S. government and government agencies:** Comprised of fixed income obligations of non-U.S. governmental entities. The fair values of these securities are based on prices obtained from broker/dealers and international indices, and are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

**Corporate:** Comprised of bonds issued by corporations that on acquisition are rated BBB-/Baa3 or higher provided that, in aggregate, corporate bonds with ratings of BBB-/Baa3 do not constitute more than 5% of the market value of the Company's fixed income securities and are diversified across a wide range of issuers and industries. The fair values of corporate bonds that are short-



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term are priced using spread above the London Interbank Offering Rate yield curve, and the fair value of corporate bonds that are long-term are priced using the spread above the risk-free yield curve. The spreads are sourced from broker/dealers, trade prices and the new issue market. As the significant inputs used to price corporate bonds are observable market inputs, the fair values of corporate bonds are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

**States, municipalities and political subdivisions:** Comprised of fixed income obligations of U.S. domiciled state and municipality entities. The fair values of these securities are based on prices obtained from broker/dealers and the new issue market, and are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

**Mortgage-backed:** Principally comprised of AAA-rated pools of residential and commercial mortgages originated by both agency (such as the Federal National Mortgage Association) and non-agency originators. The fair values of mortgage-backed securities originated by U.S. government agencies and non-U.S. government agencies are based on a pricing model that incorporates prepayment speeds and spreads to determine appropriate average life of mortgage-backed securities. The spreads are sourced from broker/dealers, trade prices and the new issue market. As the significant inputs used to price the mortgage-backed securities are observable market inputs, the fair values of these securities are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

**Asset-backed:** Comprised of primarily AAA-rated bonds backed by pools of automobile loan receivables, home equity loans and credit card receivables originated by a variety of financial institutions. The fair values of asset-backed securities are priced using prepayment speed and spread inputs that are sourced from the new issue market. As the significant inputs used to price the asset-backed securities are observable market inputs, the fair values of these securities are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

**Other invested assets, at fair value:** Comprised of four hedge funds invested in a range of diversified strategies. The fair values of the hedge funds are based on the net asset value of the funds as reported by the fund manager less a liquidity discount where hedge fund investments contain lock-up provisions that prevent immediate dissolution. The Company considers these lock-up provisions to be obligations that market participants would assign a value to in determining the price of these hedge funds, and as such have considered these obligations in determining the fair value measurement of the related hedge funds. The liquidity discount was estimated by calculating the value of a protective put over the lock-up period. The protective put measures the risk of holding a restricted asset over a certain time period. The Company used the Black-Scholes option-pricing model to estimate the value of the protective put for each hedge fund. The aggregate liquidity discount recognized during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 was \$(33) and \$237, respectively. The net asset value and the liquidity discount are significant unobservable inputs, and as such the fair values of the Company's hedge funds are included in the Level 3 fair value hierarchy.

**Other invested assets available for sale:** Comprised of an open-end global high-yield bond fund that invests in non-investment grade bonds issued by various issuers and industries. The fair value of the global high-yield bond fund is based on the net asset value as reported by the fund manager. The net asset value is an observable input as it is quoted on a market exchange on a daily basis. The fair value of the global high-yield bond fund is included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

**Senior notes:** The fair value of the senior notes is based on the price as published by Bloomberg, which was 88.46% of their principal amount, providing an effective yield of 9.63% as of September 30, 2008. The fair value of the senior notes is included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

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The following is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending balance of financial instruments using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008.

|  | <b>Fair value measurement using<br/>significant<br/>unobservable inputs (Level 3):<br/>hedge funds</b> |   |
|--|--|---|
|  | <b>Three<br/>months<br/>ended<br/>September<br/>30, 2008</b>   | <b>Nine months<br/>ended<br/>September 30,<br/>2008</b> |
| Opening balance                                | \$ 192,661   | \$ 241,435  |
| Total gains or losses included in earnings:    |  |   |
| Realized gains                                 | 2,449  | 8,562   |
| Change in fair value of hedge fund investments | (27,617)   | (39,484)  |
| Purchases or sales                             | 181  | (42,839)  |
| Transfers in and/or out of Level 3             |  |   |
| Ending balance, September 30, 2008             | \$ 167,674   | \$ 167,674  |

**8. INCOME TAXES**

Certain subsidiaries of Holdings file U.S. federal income tax returns and various U.S. state income tax returns, as well as income tax returns in the U.K. and Ireland. The tax years open to examination by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for the U.S. subsidiaries are the fiscal years from 2004 to the present. The tax years open to examination by the Inland Revenue for the U.K. branches are fiscal years from 2004 to the present. The tax years open to examination by Irish Revenue Commissioners for the Irish subsidiaries are the fiscal years from 2003 to the present. To the best of the Company's knowledge, there are no examinations pending by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, the Inland Revenue or the Irish Revenue Commissioners.

Management has deemed all material tax positions to have a greater than 50% likelihood of being sustained based on technical merits if challenged. The Company has not recorded any interest or penalties during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007 and has not accrued any payment of interest or penalties as of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007.

The Company does not expect any material unrecognized tax benefits within 12 months of January 1, 2008.

**9. SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY****a) Authorized shares**

The authorized share capital of Holdings as of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007 was \$10,000.

The issued share capital consists of the following:

|   | <b>September 30,<br/>2008</b> | <b>December 31,<br/>2007</b> |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Common shares issued and fully paid, par value \$0.03 per share | 49,022,495                    | 48,741,927                   |
| Share capital at end of period                                  | \$ 1,471                      | \$ 1,462                     |

As of September 30, 2008, there were outstanding 35,412,797 voting common shares and 13,609,698 non-voting common shares.

**b) Dividends**

In 2008, the Company has paid quarterly dividends of \$0.18 per common share on April 3, 2008, June 12, 2008 and September 11, 2008, payable to shareholders of record on March 18, 2008, May 27, 2008 and August 26, 2008, respectively. The total dividends paid amounted to \$26,432.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2007, the Company paid quarterly dividends of \$0.15 per common share on April 5, 2007, June 14, 2007 and September 13, 2007, payable to shareholders of record on March 20, 2007, May 29, 2007 and August 28, 2007, respectively. The total dividends paid amounted to \$27,174.

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**Table of Contents****10. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS****a) Employee option plan**

In 2001, the Company implemented the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Second Amended and Restated 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan (the Plan). Under the Plan, up to 4,000,000 common shares of Holdings may be issued. Holdings has filed a registration statement on Form S-8 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, to register common shares issued or reserved for issuance under the Plan. These options are exercisable in certain limited conditions, expire after 10 years, and generally vest pro-rata over four years from the date of grant. The exercise price of options issued are determined by the compensation committee of the Board of Directors but shall not be less than 100% of the fair market value of the common shares of Holdings on the date the option award is granted.

|                                    | <b>Nine months ended September 30,<br/>2008</b> |  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
|                                    | <b>Options</b>                                  | <b>Weighted<br/>Average<br/>Exercise Price</b> |
| Outstanding at beginning of period | 1,223,875                                       | \$ 31.03                                       |
| Granted                            | 294,300   | 42.75  |
| Exercised                          | (138,615)                                       | 27.31  |
| Forfeited                          | (14,209)  | 37.26  |
| Outstanding at end of period       | 1,365,351                                       | \$ 33.87                                       |

Assumptions used in the option-pricing model for the options granted during the nine months ended September 30, 2008:

|   | <b>Options granted during<br/>the nine months ended<br/>September 30, 2008</b> |
|---|--|
| Expected term of option                   | 6.25 years   |
| Weighted average risk-free interest rate  | 2.58%  |
| Expected volatility                       | 23.57%   |
| Dividend yield                            | 1.66%  |
| Weighted average fair value on grant date | \$9.77   |

There is limited historical data available for the Company to base the expected term of the options. As these options are considered to have standard characteristics, the Company has used the simplified method to determine the expected life as set forth in the SEC's Staff Accounting Bulletins 107 and 110. Likewise, as the Company became a public company in July 2006, there is limited historical data available on which to base the volatility of its common shares. As such, the Company used the average of five volatility statistics from comparable companies, as well as the Company's volatility, in order to derive the volatility value above. The Company has assumed a forfeiture rate of 4.91% in determining the compensation expense over the service period.

Compensation expense of \$614 and \$620 relating to the options has been recognized in general and administrative expenses in the Company's unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income for the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Compensation expense of \$1,794 and \$1,936 relating to the options has been recognized in general and administrative expenses in the Company's unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively. As of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, the Company recorded in additional paid-in capital on the unaudited condensed consolidated balance sheets amounts of \$17,438 and \$11,840, respectively, in connection with all options granted.



**Table of Contents****b) Stock incentive plan**

In 2004, the Company implemented the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Second Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan (the Stock Incentive Plan). The Stock Incentive Plan provides for grants of restricted stock, restricted stock units (RSUs), dividend equivalent rights and other equity-based awards. A total of 2,000,000 common shares may be issued under the Stock Incentive Plan. To date only RSUs have been granted. These RSUs generally vest pro-rata over four years from the date of grant or in the fourth or fifth year from the original grant date.

|   | <b>Nine months ended September 30,<br/>2008</b> |   |
|---|---|---|
|   | <b>RSUs</b>                                     | <b>Weighted<br/>Average<br/>Grant Date Fair<br/>Value</b> |
| Outstanding RSUs at beginning of period | 820,890   | \$ 36.09  |
| RSUs granted                            | 262,061   | 42.87   |
| RSUs fully vested                       | (140,620)                                       | 37.25   |
| RSUs forfeited                          | (36,710)  | 36.29   |
| Outstanding RSUs at end of period       | 905,621   | \$ 37.86  |

Compensation expense of \$2,178 and \$1,990 relating to the issuance of the RSUs has been recognized in general and administrative expenses in the Company's unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income for the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Compensation expense of \$5,930 and \$5,836 relating to the issuance of the RSUs has been recognized in general and administrative expenses in the Company's unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The compensation expense for the RSUs is based on the fair market value of Holdings' common shares at the time of grant. The Company has assumed a forfeiture rate of 4.30% in determining the compensation expense over the service period. As of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, the Company has recorded \$18,189 and \$12,337, respectively, in additional paid-in capital on the unaudited condensed consolidated balance sheets in connection with the RSUs awarded.

**c) Long-term incentive plan**

In 2006, the Company implemented the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Long-Term Incentive Plan (LTIP), which provides for performance based equity awards to key employees in order to promote the long-term growth and profitability of the Company. Each award represents the right to receive a number of common shares in the future, based upon the achievement of established performance criteria during the applicable performance period. A total of 2,000,000 common shares may be issued under the LTIP. The awards granted in 2008 will generally vest after the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010, or in the fourth or fifth year from the original grant date, subject to the achievement of the performance conditions and terms of the LTIP.

|  | <b>Nine months ended September 30,<br/>2008</b> |   |
|--|---|---|
|  | <b>LTIP</b>                                     | <b>Weighted<br/>Average<br/>Grant Date Fair<br/>Value</b> |
| Outstanding LTIP awards at beginning of period | 590,834   | \$ 40.09  |
| LTIP awards granted                            | 507,152   | 43.27   |
| LTIP awards subjected to accelerated vesting   | (11,667)  | 34.00   |

|  |           |          |
|--|-----------|----------|
| LTIP awards forfeited                    | (20,000)  | 43.40    |
| Outstanding LTIP awards at end of period | 1,066,319 | \$ 41.61 |

Compensation expense of \$4,563 and \$2,960 relating to the LTIP has been recognized in general and administrative expenses in the Company's unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income for the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Compensation expense of \$13,256 and \$9,561 relating to the LTIP has been recognized in general and administrative expenses in the Company's unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The compensation expense for the LTIP is based on the fair market value of Holdings' common shares at the time of grant. As of September 30, 2008 and December 31,

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2007, the Company has recorded \$29,643 and \$16,403, respectively, in additional paid-in capital on the unaudited condensed consolidated balance sheets in connection with the LTIP awards.

In calculating the compensation expense, and in the determination of share equivalents for the purpose of calculating diluted earnings per share, it is estimated for the LTIP awards granted in 2006 and 2007 that the maximum performance goals as set by the LTIP are likely to be achieved over the performance period. For the LTIP awards granted in 2008 it is estimated that the target performance goals as set by the LTIP are likely to be achieved over the performance period. Based on the target performance goals, the LTIP awards granted in 2008 are expensed at 100% of the fair market value of Holdings common shares on the date of grant. The expense is recognized over the performance period.

The following table shows the stock compensation expense relating to the stock options, RSUs and LTIP awards for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007.

|                                  | <b>Three Months Ended<br/>September 30,</b> |             | <b>Nine Months Ended<br/>September 30,</b> |             |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------|--|-------------|
|                                  | <b>2008</b>                                 | <b>2007</b> | <b>2008</b>                                | <b>2007</b> |
| Stock options                    | \$ 614                                      | \$ 620      | \$ 1,794                                   | \$ 1,936    |
| RSUs                             | 2,178                                       | 1,990       | 5,930                                      | 5,836       |
| LTIP                             | 4,563                                       | 2,960       | 13,256                                     | 9,561       |
| Total stock compensation expense | \$ 7,355                                    | \$ 5,570    | \$ 20,980                                  | \$ 17,333   |

**11. EARNINGS PER SHARE**

The following table sets forth the comparison of basic and diluted earnings per share:

|   | <b>Three Months Ended<br/>September 30,</b> |             | <b>Nine Months Ended<br/>September 30,</b> |             |
|---|---|-------------|--|-------------|
|   | <b>2008</b>                                 | <b>2007</b> | <b>2008</b>                                | <b>2007</b> |
| Basic earnings per share                      |   |             |  |             |
| Net (loss) income                             | \$ (46,367)                                 | \$ 108,959  | \$ 163,783                                 | \$ 346,167  |
| Weighted average common shares<br>outstanding | 49,007,389                                  | 60,413,019  | 48,547,839                                 | 60,381,867  |
| Basic (loss) earnings per share               | \$ (0.95)                                   | \$ 1.80     | \$ 3.37                                    | \$ 5.73     |

|  | <b>Three Months Ended<br/>September 30,</b> |             | <b>Nine Months Ended<br/>September 30,</b> |             |
|--|---|-------------|--|-------------|
|  | <b>2008</b>                                 | <b>2007</b> | <b>2008</b>                                | <b>2007</b> |
| Diluted earnings per share   |   |             |  |             |
| Net (loss) income  | \$ (46,367)                                 | \$ 108,959  | \$ 163,783                                 | \$ 346,167  |
| Weighted average common shares<br>outstanding                              | 49,007,389                                  | 60,413,019  | 48,547,839                                 | 60,381,867  |
| Share equivalents:   |   |             |  |             |
| Warrants and options   |   | 2,053,905   | 1,233,430                                  | 1,776,360   |
| Restricted stock units   |   | 391,907     | 405,064                                    | 370,878     |
| LTIP awards  |   | 391,193     | 682,765                                    | 279,081     |
| Weighted average common shares and<br>common share equivalents outstanding | 49,007,389                                  | 63,250,024  | 50,869,098                                 | 62,808,186  |



diluted

|                                   |    |        |    |      |    |      |    |      |
|-----------------------------------|----|--------|----|------|----|------|----|------|
| Diluted (loss) earnings per share | \$ | (0.95) | \$ | 1.72 | \$ | 3.22 | \$ | 5.51 |
|-----------------------------------|----|--------|----|------|----|------|----|------|

For the three-month period ended September 30, 2008, no common share equivalents were included in calculating diluted earnings per share as there was a net loss, and any additional shares would be antidilutive. As a result, a total of 5,500,000 warrants, 1,365,351 employee stock options, 905,621 RSUs and 1,066,319 LTIP awards have been excluded from this calculation. For the nine-month period ended September 30, 2008, a weighted average of 419,439 employee stock options were antidilutive and were therefore excluded from the calculation of the diluted earnings per share.

For the three-month period ended September 30, 2007, all common share equivalents were considered dilutive and have been included in the calculation of the diluted earnings per share. For the nine-month period ended September 30, 2007, a weighted average of 7,778 employee stock options were antidilutive and were therefore excluded from the calculation of the diluted earnings per share.

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**Table of Contents****12. SEGMENT INFORMATION**

The determination of reportable segments is based on how senior management monitors the Company's underwriting operations. The Company measures the results of its underwriting operations under three major business categories, namely property insurance, casualty insurance and reinsurance. All product lines fall within these classifications.

The property segment provides direct coverage of physical property and energy-related risks. These risks generally relate to tangible assets and are considered short-tail in that the time from a claim being advised to the date when the claim is settled is relatively short. The casualty segment provides direct coverage of general liability risks, professional liability risks and healthcare risks. Such risks are long-tail in nature since the emergence and settlement of a claim can take place many years after the policy period has expired. The reinsurance segment includes any reinsurance of other companies in the insurance and reinsurance industries. The Company writes reinsurance on both a treaty and facultative basis.

Responsibility and accountability for the results of underwriting operations are assigned by major line of business on a worldwide basis. Because the Company does not manage its assets by segment, investment income, interest expense and total assets are not allocated to individual reportable segments.

Management measures results for each segment on the basis of the loss and loss expense ratio, acquisition cost ratio, general and administrative expense ratio and the combined ratio. The loss and loss expense ratio is derived by dividing net losses and loss expenses by net premiums earned. The acquisition cost ratio is derived by dividing acquisition costs by net premiums earned. The general and administrative expense ratio is derived by dividing general and administrative expenses by net premiums earned. The combined ratio is the sum of the loss and loss expense ratio, the acquisition cost ratio and the general and administrative expense ratio.

The following table provides a summary of the segment results for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007.

| <b>Three Months Ended September 30, 2008</b> | <b>Property</b> | <b>Casualty</b> | <b>Reinsurance</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Gross premiums written                       | \$ 57,437       | \$ 140,003      | \$ 93,541          | \$ 290,981   |
| Net premiums written                         | 35,460          | 106,157         | 92,286             | 233,903      |
| Net premiums earned                          | 42,919          | 105,492         | 123,562            | 271,973      |
| Net losses and loss expenses                 | (71,243)        | (46,813)        | (57,954)           | (176,010)    |
| Acquisition costs                            | (2,434)         | (2,212)         | (23,969)           | (28,615)     |
| General and administrative expenses          | (9,240)         | (19,852)        | (11,702)           | (40,794)     |
| Underwriting (loss) income                   | (39,998)        | 36,615          | 29,937             | 26,554       |
| Net investment income                        |                 |                 |                    | 76,916       |
| Net realized investment losses               |                 |                 |                    | (151,876)    |
| Interest expense                             |                 |                 |                    | (9,515)      |
| Foreign exchange gain                        |                 |                 |                    | 2,728        |
| Loss before income taxes                     |                 |                 |                    | \$ (55,193)  |
| Loss and loss expense ratio                  | 166.0%          | 44.4%           | 46.9%              | 64.7%        |
| Acquisition cost ratio                       | 5.7%            | 2.1%            | 19.4%              | 10.5%        |
| General and administrative expense ratio     | 21.5%           | 18.8%           | 9.5%               | 15.0%        |
| Combined ratio                               | 193.2%          | 65.3%           | 75.8%              | 90.2%        |

| <b>Three Months Ended September 30, 2007</b> | <b>Property</b> | <b>Casualty</b> | <b>Reinsurance</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|

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|  |           |            |           |            |
|--|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Gross premiums written                   | \$ 60,192 | \$ 122,212 | \$ 93,849 | \$ 276,253 |
| Net premiums written                     | 32,400    | 92,917     | 93,980    | 219,297    |
| Net premiums earned                      | 44,246    | 114,977    | 124,436   | 283,659    |
| Net losses and loss expenses             | (29,271)  | (71,369)   | (72,606)  | (173,246)  |
| Acquisition costs                        | 811       | (2,927)    | (27,082)  | (29,198)   |
| General and administrative expenses      | (8,421)   | (17,876)   | (9,753)   | (36,050)   |
| Underwriting income                      | 7,365     | 22,805     | 14,995    | 45,165     |
| Net investment income                    |           |            |           | 76,133     |
| Net realized investment losses           |           |            |           | (4,196)    |
| Interest expense                         |           |            |           | (9,481)    |
| Foreign exchange gain                    |           |            |           | 976        |
| Income before income taxes               |           |            |           | \$ 108,597 |
| Loss and loss expense ratio              | 66.2%     | 62.1%      | 58.4%     | 61.1%      |
| Acquisition cost ratio                   | (1.8)%    | 2.5%       | 21.8%     | 10.3%      |
| General and administrative expense ratio | 19.0%     | 15.6%      | 7.8%      | 12.7%      |
| Combined ratio                           | 83.4%     | 80.2%      | 88.0%     | 84.1%      |

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| <b>Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008</b> | <b>Property</b> | <b>Casualty</b> | <b>Reinsurance</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Gross premiums written                      | \$ 275,470      | \$ 439,277      | \$ 419,891         | \$ 1,134,638 |
| Net premiums written                        | 136,346         | 326,127         | 418,252            | 880,725      |
| Net premiums earned                         | 130,664         | 320,210         | 363,047            | 813,921      |
| Net losses and loss expenses                | (148,583)       | (161,692)       | (187,316)          | (497,591)    |
| Acquisition costs                           | (7)             | (10,711)        | (71,002)           | (81,720)     |
| General and administrative expenses         | (30,697)        | (67,846)        | (31,902)           | (130,445)    |
| Underwriting (loss) income                  | (48,623)        | 79,961          | 72,827             | 104,165      |
| Net investment income                       |                 |                 |                    | 226,192      |
| Net realized investment losses              |                 |                 |                    | (152,804)    |
| Interest expense                            |                 |                 |                    | (28,538)     |
| Foreign exchange gain                       |                 |                 |                    | 2,651        |
| Income before income taxes                  |                 |                 |                    | \$ 151,666   |
| Loss and loss expense ratio                 | 113.7%          | 50.5%           | 51.6%              | 61.1%        |
| Acquisition cost ratio                      | 0.0%            | 3.3%            | 19.6%              | 10.0%        |
| General and administrative expense ratio    | 23.5%           | 21.2%           | 8.8%               | 16.0%        |
| Combined ratio                              | 137.2%          | 75.0%           | 80.0%              | 87.1%        |
| <br>  |                 |                 |                    |              |
| <b>Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007</b> | <b>Property</b> | <b>Casualty</b> | <b>Reinsurance</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| Gross premiums written                      | \$ 318,520      | \$ 435,492      | \$ 491,196         | \$ 1,245,208 |
| Net premiums written                        | 137,479         | 335,182         | 491,067            | 963,728      |
| Net premiums earned                         | 137,055         | 363,101         | 373,188            | 873,344      |
| Net losses and loss expenses                | (70,285)        | (222,644)       | (222,537)          | (515,466)    |
| Acquisition costs                           | 374             | (13,998)        | (76,642)           | (90,266)     |
| General and administrative expenses         | (24,341)        | (49,894)        | (29,450)           | (103,685)    |
| Underwriting income                         | 42,803          | 76,565          | 44,559             | 163,927      |
| Net investment income                       |                 |                 |                    | 222,718      |
| Net realized investment losses              |                 |                 |                    | (12,161)     |
| Interest expense                            |                 |                 |                    | (28,337)     |
| Foreign exchange gain                       |                 |                 |                    | 412          |
| Income before income taxes                  |                 |                 |                    | \$ 346,559   |
| Loss and loss expense ratio                 | 51.3%           | 61.3%           | 59.6%              | 59.0%        |
| Acquisition cost ratio                      | (0.3)%          | 3.9%            | 20.5%              | 10.3%        |
| General and administrative expense ratio    | 17.8%           | 13.7%           | 7.9%               | 11.9%        |
| Combined ratio                              | 68.8%           | 78.9%           | 88.0%              | 81.2%        |



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The following table shows an analysis of the Company's net premiums written by geographic location of the Company's subsidiaries for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007.

|                            | <b>Three Months Ended<br/>September 30,</b> |             | <b>Nine Months Ended<br/>September 30,</b> |             |
|----------------------------|---|-------------|--|-------------|
|                            | <b>2008</b>                                 | <b>2007</b> | <b>2008</b>                                | <b>2007</b> |
| Bermuda                    | \$ 113,301                                  | \$ 156,166  | \$ 567,865                                 | \$ 749,248  |
| United States              | 87,432                                      | 34,529      | 189,790                                    | 91,642      |
| Europe                     | 33,170                                      | 28,602      | 123,070                                    | 122,838     |
| Total net premiums written | \$ 233,903                                  | \$ 219,297  | \$ 880,725                                 | \$ 963,728  |

**13. COMMITMENTS AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

On November 6, 2008, the Company declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.18 per common share, payable on December 11, 2008 to shareholders of record on November 25, 2008.

Holdings entered into a definitive agreement and plan of merger (the "Merger Agreement") on June 27, 2008 with Allied World Merger Company, a newly formed Delaware corporation and an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company ("Merger Sub"), and Darwin Professional Underwriters, Inc., a Delaware corporation ("Darwin"). The Merger Agreement provided for the merger of Merger Sub with and into Darwin, with Darwin continuing as the surviving corporation and an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Holdings. Darwin is a holding company whose subsidiaries are engaged in the executive and professional liability insurance business with an emphasis on coverage for the healthcare industry. The transaction was completed on October 20, 2008 and has been accounted for as a purchase. Under the purchase method of accounting for a business combination, the assets and liabilities of Darwin will be recorded at their fair values on the acquisition date.

Pursuant to the terms of the Merger Agreement, stockholders of Darwin received \$32.00 in cash for each share of Darwin common stock in exchange for 100% of their interests in Darwin. Also, each outstanding Darwin stock option became fully vested and was converted into an amount in cash equal to (i) the excess, if any, of \$32.00 over the exercise price per share of the stock option, multiplied by (ii) the total number of shares of Darwin common stock subject to the stock option. In addition, each outstanding Darwin restricted share became fully vested and was converted into the right to receive \$32.00 in cash per restricted share, and each outstanding director share unit was converted into the right to receive \$32.00 in cash per share unit. The total cash consideration paid by the Company was \$550,122, excluding direct costs of the acquisition, and was paid with available capital.

The following table shows Darwin's unaudited selected financial data for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008.

|  | <b>Three<br/>months<br/>ended<br/>September<br/>30,<br/>2008</b> | <b>Nine months<br/>ended<br/>September<br/>30,<br/>2008</b> |
|--|--|---|
| Gross premiums written   | \$ 71,453  | \$ 215,489  |
| Net premiums written   | 56,383   | 165,510   |
| Net premiums earned  | 54,454   | 161,365   |
| Net investment income  | 6,272  | 18,271  |
| Net realized investment losses   | 2,714  | 3,329   |
| Net losses and loss expenses   | 23,535   | 64,152  |
| Acquisition costs and general and administrative expenses <sup>(1)</sup> | 24,240   | 54,516  |
| Net income <sup>(1)</sup>  | 5,532  | 33,855  |

- (1) Included in Darwin's acquisition costs and general and administrative expenses for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 was \$8,470 and \$9,663, respectively, of costs incurred by Darwin for external advisory and other fees directly related to the acquisition.

During September 2008, the Company submitted redemption requests for its hedge fund investments in Goldman Sachs Multi-Strategy VI, Ltd (the Portfolio VI Fund ) and AIG Select Hedge Ltd. (the AIG Select Fund ). The Company is the sole investor in the Portfolio VI Fund and the market value of this fund was \$65,501 as of September 30, 2008. The market value of the AIG Select Fund was \$62,595 as of September 30, 2008.

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**Table of Contents****Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.**

*The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our condensed consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this Form 10-Q. References in this Form 10-Q to the terms we, us, our, the company or other similar terms mean the consolidated operations of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd and its subsidiaries, unless the context requires otherwise. References in this Form 10-Q to the term Holdings means Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd only.*

**Note on Forward-Looking Statement**

This Form 10-Q and other publicly available documents may include, and our officers and representatives may from time to time make, projections concerning financial information and statements concerning future economic performance and events, plans and objectives relating to management, operations, products and services, and assumptions underlying these projections and statements. These projections and statements are forward-looking statements within the meaning of The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and are not historical facts but instead represent only our belief regarding future events, many of which, by their nature, are inherently uncertain and outside our control. These projections and statements may address, among other things, our strategy for growth, product development, financial results and reserves. Actual results and financial condition may differ, possibly materially, from these projections and statements and therefore you should not place undue reliance on them. Factors that could cause our actual results to differ, possibly materially, from those in the specific projections and statements are discussed throughout this Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and in Risk Factors in Item 1A of Part I of our 2007 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on February 29, 2008. We are under no obligation (and expressly disclaim any such obligation) to update or revise any forward-looking statement that may be made from time to time, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

**Overview****Our Business**

We write a diversified portfolio of property and casualty insurance and reinsurance lines of business internationally through our subsidiaries or branches based in Bermuda, the United States, Ireland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. We manage our business through three operating segments: property, casualty and reinsurance. As of September 30, 2008, we had \$8.1 billion of total assets, \$2.3 billion of shareholders' equity and \$2.8 billion of total capital, which includes shareholders' equity and senior notes.

During the year ended December 31, 2007, we experienced rate declines from increased competition across all of our operating segments. This trend of increased competition and decreasing rates has continued during the nine months ended September 30, 2008, and we expect this trend to continue during the remainder of 2008. Given this trend, we continue to be selective in the policies and reinsurance contracts we underwrite. Our consolidated gross premiums written increased \$14.7 million, or 5.3%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007. Our consolidated gross premiums decreased \$110.6 million, or 8.9%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. Our net income for the three months ended September 30, 2008 decreased \$155.4 million, or 142.6%, to a net loss of \$46.4 million compared to net income of \$109.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2007. During the three months ended September 30, 2008, we were negatively impacted by net losses and loss expenses recognized of \$71.6 million related to Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, as well as realized investment losses, including other-than-temporary charges, of \$151.9 million. Our net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 decreased \$182.4 million, or 52.7%, to \$163.8 million compared to \$346.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

**Recent Developments**

On June 27, 2008, we entered into a definitive merger agreement to acquire Darwin Professional Underwriters, Inc. (Darwin). Darwin is a holding company whose subsidiaries are engaged in the executive and professional liability insurance business with an emphasis on coverage for the healthcare industry. The transaction was completed on October 20, 2008 and has been accounted for as a purchase. Under the purchase method of accounting for a business combination, the assets and liabilities of Darwin were recorded at their fair values on the acquisition date. Under the



terms of the merger agreement, stockholders of Darwin received \$32.00 per share in cash for each share of Darwin common stock in exchange for 100% of their interests in Darwin. Also, each outstanding Darwin stock option became fully vested and was

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converted into an amount in cash equal to (i) the excess, if any, of \$32.00 over the exercise price per share of the stock option, multiplied by (ii) the total number of shares of Darwin common stock subject to the stock option. In addition, each outstanding Darwin restricted share became fully vested and was converted into the right to receive \$32.00 in cash per restricted share, and each outstanding director share unit was converted to receive \$32.00 in cash per share unit. The total cash consideration paid was \$550.1 million, excluding direct costs of the acquisition, and was paid with available capital.

During the past several months, there has been significant turmoil in the U.S. and international financial markets. The ability to borrow funds has become limited as there has been a general lock-up of liquidity. The recent events have impacted us in two significant ways. The first is the lack of liquidity, which has reduced the fair value of our overall investment portfolio since June 30, 2008. The market for certain securities has become inactive, which has made pricing certain securities difficult and which has had the effect of lowering the fair value of our investment portfolio. Approximately 99% of our fixed income investments (which included individually held securities and securities held in a global high-yield bond fund) consisted of investment grade securities, whose average credit rating is AA+ as rated by Standard & Poor's. Our investment portfolio does not include any real estate, collateralized debt obligations, collateralized loan obligations, direct investment in common equities or other complex financial structures. Our investment portfolio has no transactions that require the posting of collateral. While we have taken significant net realized losses of \$151.9 million from the sale of fixed income securities, mark-to-market adjustments on our hedge fund investments and other-than-temporary impairment charges during the three months ended September 30, 2008, we believe that our investment portfolio remains well diversified, conservative and of high quality. The second significant impact that the recent events have had on us, as well as others in the industry, is the ability to raise additional capital if necessary given the current market conditions. However, we have a credit facility with a syndication of 13 lenders that is comprised of a secured credit facility and an unsecured credit facility. We currently have the ability to draw up to \$400 million from our unsecured credit facility. For more information on our credit facility, please see [Liquidity and Capital Resources](#) [Restrictions and Specific Requirements](#) .

**Relevant Factors****Revenues**

We derive our revenues primarily from premiums on our insurance policies and reinsurance contracts, net of any reinsurance or retrocessional coverage purchased. Insurance and reinsurance premiums are a function of the amounts and types of policies and contracts we write, as well as prevailing market prices. Our prices are determined before our ultimate costs, which may extend far into the future, are known. In addition, our revenues include income generated from our investment portfolio, consisting of net investment income and net realized gains or losses. Investment income is principally derived from interest and dividends earned on investments, partially offset by investment management fees and fees paid to our custodian bank. Net realized gains or losses include (1) net realized investment gains or losses from the sale of investments, (2) write-downs related to declines in the market value of securities on our available for sale portfolio that were considered to be other than temporary and (3) the change in the fair value of investments that we mark-to-market in the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income.

**Expenses**

Our expenses consist largely of net losses and loss expenses, acquisition costs and general and administrative expenses. Net losses and loss expenses incurred are comprised of three main components:

- losses paid, which are actual cash payments to insureds or losses payable to insureds, net of recoveries from reinsurers;

- outstanding loss or case reserves, which represent management's best estimate of the likely settlement amount for known claims, less the portion that can be recovered from reinsurers; and

- reserves for losses incurred but not reported, or IBNR, which are reserves established by us for claims that are not yet reported but can reasonably be expected to have occurred based on industry information, management's experience and/or actuarial evaluation. The portion recoverable from reinsurers is deducted from the gross estimated loss.

Acquisition costs are comprised of commissions, brokerage fees and insurance taxes. Commissions and brokerage fees are usually calculated as a percentage of premiums and depend on the market and line of business. Acquisition costs are reported after (1) deducting commissions received on ceded reinsurance, (2) deducting the part of acquisition costs relating to unearned premiums and (3) including the amortization of previously deferred acquisition costs.

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General and administrative expenses include personnel expenses including stock-based compensation charges, rent expense, professional fees, information technology costs and other general operating expenses. We are experiencing increases in general and administrative expenses resulting from additional staff, increased stock-based compensation expense, increased rent expense for our U.S. offices, increased professional fees and additional amortization expense for building-related and infrastructure expenditures. We believe this trend will continue during the remainder of 2008 as we continue to hire additional staff and build our infrastructure.

**Ratios**

Management measures results for each segment on the basis of the loss and loss expense ratio, acquisition cost ratio, general and administrative expense ratio, expense ratio and the combined ratio. Because we do not manage our assets by segment, investment income, interest expense and total assets are not allocated to individual reportable segments. General and administrative expenses are allocated to segments based on various factors, including staff count and each segment's proportional share of gross premiums written. The loss and loss expense ratio is derived by dividing net losses and loss expenses by net premiums earned. The acquisition cost ratio is derived by dividing acquisition costs by net premiums earned. The general and administrative expense ratio is derived by dividing general and administrative expenses by net premiums earned. The expense ratio is the sum of the acquisition cost ratio and the general and administrative expense ratio. The combined ratio is the sum of the loss and loss expense ratio, the acquisition cost ratio and the general and administrative expense ratio.

**Critical Accounting Policies**

It is important to understand our accounting policies in order to understand our financial position and results of operations. Our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements reflect determinations that are inherently subjective in nature and require management to make assumptions and best estimates to determine the reported values. If events or other factors cause actual results to differ materially from management's underlying assumptions or estimates, there could be a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations. We believe that some of the more critical judgments in the areas of accounting estimates and assumptions that affect our financial condition and results of operations are related to reserves for losses and loss expenses, reinsurance recoverables, premiums and acquisition costs, valuation of financial instruments and other-than-temporary impairment of investments. For a detailed discussion of our critical accounting policies please refer to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 filed with the SEC. There were no material changes in the application of our critical accounting estimates subsequent to that report, except as discussed below related to the valuation of financial instruments.

**Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

Under existing accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ( U.S. GAAP ), we are required to recognize certain assets at their fair value in our condensed consolidated balance sheets. This includes our fixed maturity investments, global high-yield bond fund and hedge funds. Fair value, as defined in Financial Accounting Standard No. 157 Fair Value Measurements ( FAS 157 ), is 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. FAS 157 also established a three-level valuation hierarchy for disclosure of fair value measurements. The valuation hierarchy is based upon whether the inputs to the valuation of an asset or liability are observable or unobservable in the market at the measurement date, with quoted market prices being the highest level (Level 1) and unobservable inputs being the lowest level (Level 3). A fair value measurement will fall within the level of the hierarchy based on the input that is significant to determining such measurement. The three levels are defined as follows:

**Level 1:** Observable inputs to the valuation methodology that are quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.

**Level 2:** Observable inputs to the valuation methodology other than quoted market prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets. Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical assets in markets that are not active and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

**Level 3:** Inputs to the valuation methodology that are unobservable for the asset or liability.

At each measurement date, we estimate the fair value of the financial instruments using various valuation techniques. We utilize, to the extent available, quoted market prices in active markets or observable market inputs in estimating the fair value of our financial instruments. When quoted market prices or observable market inputs are not available, we utilize valuation techniques that rely on unobservable inputs to estimate the fair value of financial instruments. The following describes the valuation techniques we used to

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determine the fair value of financial instruments held as of September 30, 2008 and what level within the FAS 157 fair value hierarchy the valuation technique resides.

**U.S. government and U.S. government agencies:** Comprised primarily of bonds issued by the U.S. Treasury, the Federal Home Loan Bank, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation and the Federal National Mortgage Association. The fair values of U.S. government securities are based on quoted market prices in active markets, and are included in the Level 1 fair value hierarchy. We believe the market for U.S. Treasury securities is an actively traded market given the high level of daily trading volume. The fair values of U.S. government agency securities are priced using the spread above the risk-free yield curve. As the yields for the risk-free yield curve are observable market inputs, the fair values of U.S. government agency securities are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

**Non-U.S. government and government agencies:** Comprised of fixed income obligations of non-U.S. governmental entities. The fair values of these securities are based on prices obtained from broker/dealers and international indices, and are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

**Corporate:** Comprised of bonds issued by corporations that on acquisition are rated BBB-/Baa3 or higher provided that, in aggregate, corporate bonds with ratings of BBB-/Baa3 do not constitute more than 5% of the market value of our fixed income securities, and are diversified across a wide range of issuers and industries. The fair values of corporate bonds that are short-term are priced using the spread above the London Interbank Offering Rate yield curve, and the fair value of corporate bonds that are long-term are priced using the spread above the risk-free yield curve. The spreads are sourced from broker/dealers, trade prices and the new issue market. As the significant inputs used to price corporate bonds are observable market inputs, the fair values of corporate bonds are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

**States, municipalities and political subdivisions:** Comprised of fixed income obligations of U.S. domiciled state and municipality entities. The fair values of these securities are based on prices obtained from broker/dealers and the new issue market, and are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

**Mortgage-backed:** Principally comprised of AAA-rated pools of residential and commercial mortgages originated by both agency (such as the Federal National Mortgage Association) and non-agency originators. The fair values of mortgage-backed securities originated by U.S. government agencies and non-U.S. government agencies are based on a pricing model that incorporates prepayment speeds and spreads to determine appropriate average life of mortgage-backed securities. The spreads are sourced from broker/dealers trade prices and the new issue market. As the significant inputs used to price the mortgage-backed securities are observable market inputs, the fair values of these securities are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

**Asset-backed:** Comprised of primarily AAA-rated bonds backed by pools of automobile loan receivables, home equity loans and credit card receivables originated by a variety of financial institutions. The fair values of asset-backed securities are priced using prepayment speed and spread inputs that are sourced from the new issue market. As the significant inputs used to price the asset-backed securities are observable market inputs, the fair values of these securities are included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

**Other invested assets available for sale:** Comprised of an open-end global high-yield bond fund that invests in non-investment grade bonds issued by various issuers and industries. The fair value of the global high-yield bond fund is based on the net asset value as reported by the fund manager. The net asset value is an observable input as it is quoted on a market exchange on a daily basis. The fair value of the global high-yield bond fund is included in the Level 2 fair value hierarchy.

**Other invested assets, at fair value:** Comprised of four hedge funds invested in a range of diversified strategies. The fair values of the hedge funds are based on the net asset value of the funds as reported by the fund manager less a liquidity discount where hedge fund investments contain lock-up provisions that prevent immediate dissolution. We consider these lock-up provisions to be obligations that market participants would assign a value to in determining the price of these hedge funds, and as such have considered these obligations in determining the fair value measurement of the related hedge funds. The liquidity discount was estimated by calculating the value of a protective put over the lock-up period. The protective put measures the risk of holding a restricted asset over a certain time period. We used the Black-Scholes option-pricing model to estimate the value of the protective put for each hedge fund. The aggregate liquidity discount recorded during the three months ended September 30, 2008 was not significant and \$0.2 million for

the nine months ended September 30, 2008. The net asset value and the liquidity discount are significant unobservable inputs, and as such the fair values of the hedge funds are included in the Level 3 fair value hierarchy. Our hedge funds are the only assets that have significant Level 3 inputs in determining fair value and represent 3.0% of our total investments.

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The following table shows the pricing sources of our fixed maturity investments held as of September 30, 2008:

| <b>Pricing Sources</b>           | <b>Fair Value of<br/>Fixed Maturity<br/>Investments as<br/>of<br/>September 30,<br/>2008</b> | <b>Percentage<br/>of<br/>Total Fixed<br/>Maturity<br/>Investments</b> | <b>SFAS 157<br/>Fair<br/>Value<br/>Hierarchy<br/>Level</b> |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Lehman Brothers Index            | \$ 3,869.3   | 71.2%   | 1 and 2  |
| Interactive Data Pricing         | 665.0  | 12.2  | 2  |
| Reuters pricing service          | 552.0  | 10.2  | 2  |
| International indices            | 84.8   | 1.6   | 2  |
| Other (including broker/dealers) | 262.2  | 4.8   | 2  |
|                                  | <b>\$ 5,433.3</b>  | <b>100.0%</b>   |  |

**Lehman Brothers Index:** We use the Lehman Brothers Index to price our U.S. government, U.S. government agencies, corporate, agency and non-agency mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities. There are several observable inputs that the Lehman Brothers Index uses in determining its prices, which include among others, treasury yields, new issuance and secondary trades, information provided by broker/dealers, security cash flows and structures, sector and issuer level spreads, credit rating, underlying collateral and prepayment speeds. For U.S. government securities, traders that act as market makers are the primary source of pricing. As such, for U.S. government securities we believe the Lehman Brothers Index reflects quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical securities in active markets.

**Interactive Data Pricing:** We use Interactive Data Pricing to price our U.S. government agencies, municipalities, non-agency mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities. There are several observable inputs that Interactive Data Pricing uses in determining its prices, which include among others, benchmark yields, reported trades and issuer spreads.

**Reuters pricing service:** We use the Reuters pricing service to price our U.S. government agencies, corporate, agency and non-agency mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities. There are several observable inputs that the Reuters pricing service uses in determining its prices, which include among others, option-adjusted spreads, treasury yields, new issuance and secondary trades, sector and issuer level spreads, underlying collateral and prepayment speeds.

**International indices:** We use international indices, which include the FTSE, Deutche Teleborse and the Scotia Index, to price our non-U.S. government and government agencies securities. The observable inputs used by international indices to determine its prices are based on new issuance and secondary trades and information provided by broker/dealers.

**Other (including broker/dealers):** We also utilize, to a lesser extent, other pricing services including broker/dealers to price our U.S. government agencies, corporate, municipalities, agency and non-agency mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities. The pricing sources include JP Morgan Securities Inc., Merrill Lynch & Co. and other broker/dealers and Standards & Poor's.

To validate the prices obtained from the above pricing sources, which are our primary sources of prices, we also obtain prices from our investment portfolio managers, and compare the prices obtained from the above pricing sources to those obtained from our investment portfolio managers. We investigate any differences between the two sources and determine which price best reflects the fair value of the individual security. There were no material differences between the prices from the above sources and the prices obtained from our investment portfolio managers as of September 30, 2008. In addition, all the pricing sources that we utilize have their own due-diligence procedures to ensure the price used for a particular security is based on observable inputs and reflects the best available information.

There have been no material changes to any of our valuation techniques from those used as of December 31, 2007. We have still been able to obtain observable market inputs for our investments, despite the market conditions that



existed as of September 30, 2008. Based on all reasonably available information received, we believe the prices that were obtained from inactive markets were orderly transactions, and therefore, reflected the current price a market participant would pay for the asset. We based our determination of whether a market is active or inactive based on the spread between what a seller is asking for a security and what a buyer is bidding for that security. Spreads that are significantly above historical spreads are considered inactive markets. We also consider the volume of trading activity in our determination of whether a market is active or inactive. Since fair valuing a financial instrument is an estimate of what a willing buyer would pay for our asset if we sold it, we will not know the ultimate value of our financial instruments

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until they are sold. We believe the valuation techniques utilized provide us with the best estimate of the price that would be received to sell our assets in an orderly transaction between participants at the measurement date.

**Results of Operations**

The following table sets forth our selected consolidated statement of operations data for each of the periods indicated.

|                                     | <b>Three Months Ended</b> |             | <b>Nine Months Ended</b> |             |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|
|                                     | <b>September 30,</b>      |             | <b>September 30,</b>     |             |
|                                     | <b>2008</b>               | <b>2007</b> | <b>2008</b>              | <b>2007</b> |
|                                     | (\$ in millions)          |             |                          |             |
| Gross premiums written              | \$ 291.0                  | \$ 276.3    | \$ 1,134.6               | \$ 1,245.2  |
| Net premiums written                | \$ 233.9                  | \$ 219.3    | \$ 880.7                 | \$ 963.7    |
| Net premiums earned                 | 272.0                     | 283.7       | 813.9                    | 873.3       |
| Net investment income               | 76.9                      | 76.1        | 226.2                    | 222.7       |
| Net realized investment losses      | (151.9)                   | (4.2)       | (152.8)                  | (12.1)      |
|                                     | \$ 197.0                  | \$ 355.6    | \$ 887.3                 | \$ 1,083.9  |
| Net losses and loss expenses        | \$ 176.0                  | \$ 173.2    | \$ 497.6                 | \$ 515.5    |
| Acquisition costs                   | 28.6                      | 29.2        | 81.7                     | 90.2        |
| General and administrative expenses | 40.8                      | 36.1        | 130.5                    | 103.7       |
| Interest expense                    | 9.5                       | 9.5         | 28.5                     | 28.3        |
| Foreign exchange gain               | (2.7)                     | (1.0)       | (2.7)                    | (0.4)       |
|                                     | \$ 252.2                  | \$ 247.0    | \$ 735.6                 | \$ 737.3    |
| (Loss) income before income taxes   | \$ (55.2)                 | \$ 108.6    | \$ 151.7                 | \$ 346.6    |
| Income tax (recovery) expense       | (8.8)                     | (0.4)       | (12.1)                   | 0.4         |
| Net (loss) income                   | \$ (46.4)                 | \$ 109.0    | \$ 163.8                 | \$ 346.2    |

**Ratios**

|  |       |       |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Loss and loss expense ratio              | 64.7% | 61.1% | 61.1% | 59.0% |
| Acquisition cost ratio                   | 10.5  | 10.3  | 10.0  | 10.3  |
| General and administrative expense ratio | 15.0  | 12.7  | 16.0  | 11.9  |
| Expense ratio                            | 25.5  | 23.0  | 26.0  | 22.2  |
| Combined ratio                           | 90.2  | 84.1  | 87.1  | 81.2  |

**Comparison of Three Months Ended September 30, 2008 and 2007****Premiums**

Gross premiums written increased by \$14.7 million, or 5.3%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007. The increase in gross premiums written was primarily the result of the following:

In our casualty segment, our gross premiums written increased by \$17.8 million, primarily due to increased gross premiums written by our U.S. offices. Gross premiums written by our U.S. offices increased by \$12.4 million, or 32.1%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007.

In our reinsurance segment, adjustments on estimated premiums were higher by \$1.7 million during the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007. We recognized net upward adjustments of \$2.8 million during the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to net upward adjustments of \$1.1 million during the three months ended September 30, 2007. We also recognized \$2.7 million in reinstatement premiums related to Hurricane Ike during the three months ended September 30, 2008.

Offsetting the increased gross premiums written in our casualty segment was the continued trend of the non-renewal of business that did not meet our underwriting requirements (which included inadequate pricing and/or policy or contract terms and conditions), increased competition and inadequate pricing for new business in each of our operating segments. This included our reducing the amount of gross premiums written in our energy line of business within our property segment by \$8.0 million, or 44.4%, and reducing the amount of gross premiums written for certain energy classes of business within our casualty segment by \$1.6 million in response to deteriorating market conditions.

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The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by geographic locations for the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007.

|               | <b>Three Months<br/>Ended</b> |             | <b>Dollar<br/>Change</b> | <b>Percentage<br/>Change</b> |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
|               | <b>September 30,<br/>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |                          |                              |
|               | (\$ in millions)              |             |                          |                              |
| Bermuda       | \$ 137.6                      | \$ 181.2    | \$ (43.6)                | (24.1)%                      |
| United States | 106.6                         | 51.9        | 54.7                     | 105.4                        |
| Europe        | 46.8                          | 43.2        | 3.6                      | 8.3                          |
|               | \$ 291.0                      | \$ 276.3    | \$ 14.7                  | 5.3%                         |

The decrease in gross premiums written for our Bermuda operations, in addition to the continued trend of the non-renewal of business that did not meet our underwriting requirements (which included inadequate pricing and/or policy or contract terms and conditions), increased competition and inadequate pricing for new business was due to the fact that certain policies and treaties that were previously written in Bermuda during the three months ended September 30, 2007 were renewed in one of our U.S. companies during the three months ended September 30, 2008. Our U.S. reinsurance company commenced operations in April 2008 and renewed treaties previously written in Bermuda of \$17.6 million during the three months ended September 30, 2008.

Net premiums written increased by \$14.6 million, or 6.7%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007. The difference between gross and net premiums written is the cost to us of purchasing reinsurance, both on a proportional and a non-proportional basis, including the cost of property catastrophe reinsurance coverage. We ceded 19.6% of gross premiums written for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to 20.6% for the same period in 2007. The decrease in the percentage of premiums ceded was caused by a reduction in the cession percentage on our general property quota share reinsurance treaty from 55% to 40%, partially offset by the purchase of an additional property catastrophe excess-of-loss reinsurance treaty for our general property business with a limit of \$75 million excess of \$50 million, of which 25% was placed with external reinsurers and the remainder was retained by us. This excess-of-loss reinsurance treaty covers property damage within the United States and Canada caused by a named windstorm and has a term from July 1, 2008 to November 30, 2008. The total ceded premiums written for this excess-of-loss treaty were \$2.5 million. There was no such additional property catastrophe excess-of-loss treaty in place during the three months ended September 30, 2007.

Net premiums earned decreased by \$11.7 million, or 4.1%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007 due to the continued earning of lower net premiums that were written prior to the three months ended September 30, 2008.

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We evaluate our business by segment, distinguishing between property insurance, casualty insurance and reinsurance. The following chart illustrates the mix of our business on both a gross premiums written and net premiums earned basis.

|             | <b>Gross<br/>Premiums<br/>Written</b>   |             | <b>Net<br/>Premiums<br/>Earned</b> |             |
|-------------|---|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
|             | <b>Three Months Ended September 30,</b> |             |                                    |             |
|             | <b>2008</b>                             | <b>2007</b> | <b>2008</b>                        | <b>2007</b> |
| Property    | 19.7%                                   | 21.8%       | 15.8%                              | 15.6%       |
| Casualty    | 48.1                                    | 44.2        | 38.8                               | 40.5        |
| Reinsurance | 32.2                                    | 34.0        | 45.4                               | 43.9        |

The increase in the percentage of casualty gross premiums written reflects the continued growth of our U.S. operations discussed above.

**Net Investment Income and Realized Investment Losses**

Net investment income increased by \$0.8 million, or 1.1%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007. The increase was primarily the result of a dividend received from one of our hedge funds. The annualized period book yield of the investment portfolio for both the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007 was 4.7%. Investment management fees of \$1.8 million and \$1.6 million were incurred during the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

As of September 30, 2008, approximately 99% of our fixed income investments (which included individually held securities and securities held in a global high-yield bond fund) consisted of investment grade securities. The average credit rating of our fixed income portfolio was AA+ as rated by Standard & Poor's and Aa1 as rated by Moody's Investors Service, with an average duration of approximately 3.4 years as of September 30, 2008.

Net realized investment losses increased by \$147.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007. Net realized investment losses of \$151.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2008 were comprised of the following:

A write-down of approximately \$75.0 million related to declines in the market value of securities in our available for sale portfolio that were considered to be other than temporary. The declines in the market value of these securities were primarily due to the write-down of residential and commercial mortgage-backed securities and corporate bonds due to the widening of credit spreads caused by the continued decline in the U.S. housing market and the current turmoil in the financial markets. An other-than-temporary charge was recognized for those securities in an unrealized loss position that our investment advisers had the discretion to sell. The following shows the other-than-temporary charge for our fixed maturity investments by category:

|   | <b>Other-than-temporary<br/>charges<br/>for the three months<br/>ended<br/>September 30, 2008<br/>(\$ in millions)</b> |      |
|---|--|------|
| U.S. government and government agencies           | \$   | 10.3 |
| Non-U.S. government and government agencies       |  | 0.2  |
| Corporate   |  | 44.3 |
| States, municipalities and political subdivisions |  | 0.3  |
| Mortgage backed                                   |  | 18.2 |
| Asset backed                                      |  | 1.7  |
| Total other-than-temporary-impairment charges     | \$   | 75.0 |

Net realized investment losses of \$27.6 million related to the mark-to-market of our hedge fund investments. The net realized losses were due to the overall volatility of the financial markets. On January 1, 2008, we adopted Statement of

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Financial Accounting Standards No. 159 The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities Including an amendment of FASB Statement No. 115 ( FAS 159 ) and elected to fair value our hedge fund investments. As a result, any change in the fair value of our hedge fund investments is recognized as realized investment gains or losses in the condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income at each reporting period. As we adopted FAS 159 in 2008, there were no realized investment gains or losses recognized from our hedge fund investments in the unaudited condensed consolidated statement of operations and comprehensive income during the three months ended September 30, 2007 as the change in fair value was included in accumulated other comprehensive income in the unaudited condensed consolidated balance sheet.

Net realized investment losses of \$49.2 million from the sale of securities. These investment losses included realized losses from the sale of our investments in Lehman Brothers Holding Ltd bonds of \$45.0 million, Morgan Stanley bonds of \$15.0 million and Washington Mutual, Inc. bonds of \$1.7 million, in addition to realized gains from the sale of other securities.

During the three months ended September 30, 2007, we recognized \$4.2 million in net realized losses on investments, which included (i) a write-down of approximately \$25.4 million related to declines in the market value of securities in our available for sale portfolio that were considered to be other than temporary and (ii) net realized gains from the sale of securities of \$21.2 million. Included in the other-than-temporary-impairment charge for the three months ended September 30, 2007 was a charge of \$23.9 million for our investment in the Goldman Sachs Global Alpha Hedge Fund PLC. As of September 30, 2007, our basis in the fund was \$57.5 million and the fair value was \$33.6 million, resulting in a loss of \$23.9 million. We reviewed our carrying value of the investment in light of the significant changes in economic conditions that occurred during the third quarter of 2007, which included subprime mortgage exposure, tightening of credit spreads and overall market volatility. These economic conditions caused the fair value of our investment to decline. The remaining write-downs of \$1.5 million were solely due to changes in interest rates.

***Net Losses and Loss Expenses***

Net losses and loss expenses increased by \$2.8 million, or 1.6%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007. The increase in net losses and loss expenses was due to higher than expected loss activity in the current period, which included net losses and loss expenses incurred from Hurricanes Ike and Gustav of \$62.0 million and \$9.6 million, respectively. Of the total net losses and loss expenses incurred for Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, \$49.3 million was recognized in our property segment and \$22.3 million was recognized in our reinsurance segment. Our loss estimate is derived from preliminary claims information obtained from clients and brokers, a review of the terms of in-force policies and contracts and catastrophe modeling analysis. Our actual losses from these events may vary materially from the current estimate due to inherent uncertainties resulting from several factors, including the preliminary nature of available information, potential inaccuracies and inadequacies in the data provided by clients and brokers, potential catastrophe modeling inaccuracies, the contingent nature of business interruption exposures, the effects of any resultant demand surge on claims activity and attendant coverage issues. The increased loss activity in the current period was partially offset by net favorable prior year loss development during the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007.

We recorded net favorable reserve development related to prior years of approximately \$96.9 million and \$28.5 million during the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The following is a breakdown of the major factors contributing to the net favorable reserve development for the three months ended September 30, 2008:

Net favorable reserve development of \$24.7 million was recognized by our property segment, which consisted of \$6.7 million of net favorable reserve development for the 2004 and 2005 windstorms and \$18.0 million of net favorable reserve development due to actual loss emergence being lower than the initial expected loss emergence for the 2003 through 2005 and 2007 loss years for our general property line of business.

Net favorable reserve development of \$32.8 million was recognized by our casualty segment primarily as a result of general casualty, professional liability and healthcare lines of business actual loss emergence being lower than the initial expected loss emergence for the 2002 through 2004 loss years. During the three months ended September 30, 2008, we adjusted our weighting on actuarial methods utilized for these lines of business and loss years by increasing the weight given to the Bornhuetter-Ferguson reported loss method than the previous blend of the Bornhuetter-Ferguson reported loss method and the expected loss ratio method. Placing greater reliance on more responsive actuarial methods for certain lines of business and loss years within our casualty segment is a natural progression as we mature as a company and gain sufficient historical experience of our own that allows us to further refine our estimate of the reserve for losses and loss expenses.

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Net favorable reserve development of \$39.4 million was recognized by our reinsurance segment, which consisted of net favorable reserve development of \$14.7 million for our professional liability reinsurance, general casualty reinsurance, accident and health reinsurance and facultative reinsurance lines of business and \$24.7 million of net favorable reserve development for our property reinsurance and international reinsurance lines of business. The net favorable reserve development for our professional liability reinsurance, general casualty reinsurance, accident and health reinsurance and facultative reinsurance lines of business was primarily the result of actual loss emergence being lower than the initial expected loss emergence for the 2003 through 2005 loss years. During the three months ended September 30, 2008, we began to adjust our weighting on actuarial methods utilized for the professional liability reinsurance, general casualty reinsurance and facultative reinsurance lines of business and loss years from using the expected loss ratio method to a blend of the Bornhuetter-Ferguson reported loss method and the expected loss ratio method. The net favorable reserve development for our property reinsurance and international reinsurance lines of business was primarily the result of actual loss emergence being lower than the initial expected loss emergence for the 2002 through 2007 loss years. The net favorable reserve development for the property reinsurance and international reinsurance lines of business included \$6.5 million of unfavorable reserve development related to the 2004 and 2005 windstorms due to recent loss activity.

The following is a breakdown of the major factors contributing to the net favorable reserve development for the three months ended September 30, 2007:

We recognized net favorable reserve development of \$22.5 million related to the 2005 windstorms and net favorable reserve development of \$1.3 million related to the 2004 windstorms due to lower than anticipated reported loss activity over the past 12 months.

Net favorable reserve development of \$12.4 million in our casualty segment, which primarily related to our general casualty line of business for the 2004 and 2005 loss years as a result of lower than anticipated reported loss activity.

Net unfavorable reserve development of \$7.7 million, excluding the 2004 and 2005 windstorms, in our property segment, which was primarily the result of higher than anticipated reported loss activity in our general property line of business for loss years 2004 and 2005.

The loss and loss expense ratio for the three months ended September 30, 2008 was 64.7%, compared to 61.1% for the three months ended September 30, 2007. Net favorable reserve development recognized in the three months ended September 30, 2008 reduced the loss and loss expense ratio by 35.6 percentage points. Thus, the loss and loss expense ratio related to the current period's business was 100.3%. Net favorable reserve development recognized in the three months ended September 30, 2007 reduced the loss and loss expense ratio by 10.1 percentage points. Thus, the loss and loss expense ratio related to that period's business was 71.2%. The increase in the current year's loss and loss expense ratio for the current period was primarily due to net incurred losses and loss expenses related to Hurricanes Ike and Gustav of \$71.6 million, as well as \$19.2 million due to increased loss activity in our general property and energy lines of business for the 2008 loss year.

We continue to review the impact of the subprime and credit related downturn on professional liability insurance policies and reinsurance contracts we write. We have high attachment points for our professional liability policies and contracts, which makes estimating whether losses will exceed our attachment point more difficult. An attachment point is the loss point at which an insurance policy or reinsurance contract becomes operative and below which any losses are retained by either the insured or other insurers or reinsurers. Based on claims information received to date and our analysis, the average attachment point for our professional liability policies with potential subprime and credit related exposure is approximately \$144 million with an average limit of \$14 million (gross of reinsurance). The limit is the maximum amount we will insure or reinsure for a specified risk or portfolio of risks. Our direct insurance policies with subprime and credit related loss notices may have the benefit of facultative reinsurance, treaty reinsurance or a combination of both. For our professional liability reinsurance contracts with potential subprime and credit related exposure, the average attachment point is approximately \$101 million with an average limit of

\$1.7 million. At this time we believe, based on the claims information received to date, that our current IBNR is adequate to meet any potential subprime and credit related losses. We will continue to monitor our reserve for losses and loss expenses for any new claims information and adjust our reserve for losses and loss expenses accordingly.

The following table shows the components of the increase in net losses and loss expenses of \$2.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007.

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|                                      | <b>Three Months Ended<br/>September 30,</b> |             | <b>Dollar<br/>Change</b> |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|--------------------------|
|                                      | <b>2008</b>                                 | <b>2007</b> |                          |
|                                      | <b>(\$ in millions)</b>                     |             |                          |
| Net losses paid                      | \$ 132.6                                    | \$ 82.7     | \$ 49.9                  |
| Net change in reported case reserves | (8.8)                                       | 57.2        | (66.0)                   |
| Net change in IBNR                   | 52.2  | 33.3        | 18.9                     |
| Net losses and loss expenses         | \$ 176.0                                    | \$ 173.2    | \$ 2.8                   |

Net losses paid have increased \$49.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2008 primarily due to higher paid losses in our casualty segment partially offset by lower claim payments relating to the 2004 and 2005 windstorms than the amount paid during the three months ended September 30, 2007. During the three months ended September 30, 2008, \$11.6 million of net losses were paid in relation to the 2004 and 2005 windstorms compared to \$15.5 million during the three months ended September 30, 2007. During the three months ended September 30, 2008, we recovered \$1.1 million on our property catastrophe reinsurance protection in relation to losses paid as a result of the 2004 and 2005 windstorms compared to \$7.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2007. The decrease in reported case reserves was due to lower case reserves for our casualty segment. The increase in IBNR was primarily due to increased reserves for losses and loss expenses for our current period's business partially offset by higher net favorable loss reserve development.

The table below is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending reserves for losses and loss expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007. Losses incurred and paid are reflected net of reinsurance recoverables.

|  | <b>Three Months Ended<br/>September 30,</b> |             |
|--|---|-------------|
|  | <b>2008</b>                                 | <b>2007</b> |
|  | <b>(\$ in millions)</b>                     |             |
| Net reserves for losses and loss expenses, July 1      | \$ 3,385.6                                  | \$ 3,064.5  |
| Incurred related to:                                   |   |             |
| Current period non-catastrophe                         | 201.5                                       | 201.7       |
| Current period property catastrophe                    | 71.6  |             |
| Prior period non-catastrophe                           | (96.9)                                      | (4.7)       |
| Prior period property catastrophe                      | (0.2)                                       | (23.8)      |
| Total incurred   | \$ 176.0                                    | \$ 173.2    |
| Paid related to:                                       |   |             |
| Current period non-catastrophe                         | 11.5  | 7.7         |
| Current period property catastrophe                    |   |             |
| Prior period non-catastrophe                           | 109.5                                       | 59.5        |
| Prior period property catastrophe                      | 11.6  | 15.5        |
| Total paid   | \$ 132.6                                    | \$ 82.7     |
| Foreign exchange revaluation                           | (7.5)                                       | 2.6         |
| Net reserve for losses and loss expenses, September 30 | 3,421.5                                     | 3,157.6     |
| Losses and loss expenses recoverable                   | 777.3                                       | 674.4       |
| Reserve for losses and loss expenses, September 30     | \$ 4,198.8                                  | \$ 3,832.0  |

***Acquisition Costs***

Acquisition costs decreased by \$0.6 million, or 2.1%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007. Acquisition costs as a percentage of net premiums earned were 10.5% for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to 10.3% for the same period in 2007.

***General and Administrative Expenses***

General and administrative expenses increased by \$4.7 million, or 13.0%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. The increase in general and administrative expenses is primarily due to increased salary and employee welfare costs, including stock-based compensation costs of \$1.8 million, as well as increased rent and related costs of approximately \$1.1 million primarily due to additional office space in New York and Chicago and increased amortization of furniture and fixtures. The increase in salary and employee welfare costs was due to our staff count increasing to 351 as of September 30, 2008

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from 284 as of September 30, 2007 as a result of the significant expansion of our U.S. operations as part of our ongoing U.S. strategic initiatives.

Our general and administrative expense ratio was 15.0% for the three months ended September 30, 2008, which was higher than the 12.7% for the three months ended September 30, 2007. The increase was primarily due to the factors discussed above, while net premiums earned declined.

Our expense ratio was 25.5% for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to 23.0% for the three months ended September 30, 2007.

***Interest Expense***

During both the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, interest expense incurred of \$9.5 million represented one quarter of the annual interest expense on the senior notes, which bear interest at an annual rate of 7.50%.

***Net Income***

Net loss for the three months ended September 30, 2008 was \$46.4 million compared to net income of \$109.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2007. The decrease was primarily the result of higher net realized investment losses, net losses and loss expenses for Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, lower net premiums earned and increased general and administrative expenses. Net loss for the three months ended September 30, 2008 included a net foreign exchange gain of \$2.7 million and an income tax recovery \$8.8 million. Net income for the three months ended September 30, 2007 included a net foreign exchange gain of \$1.0 million and an income tax recovery of \$0.4 million.

**Comparison of Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008 and 2007**

***Premiums***

Gross premiums written decreased by \$110.6 million, or 8.9%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The decrease in gross premiums written was primarily the result of the following:

The non-renewal of business that did not meet our underwriting requirements (which included inadequate pricing and/or policy or contract terms and conditions), increased competition and inadequate pricing for new business in each of our operating segments. This included reducing the amount of gross premiums written in our energy line of business within our property segment by \$25.5 million, or 35.8%, and reducing the amount of gross premiums written for certain energy classes of business within our casualty segment by \$8.2 million in response to deteriorating market conditions.

In our reinsurance segment, adjustments on estimated premiums were lower by \$16.3 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. We recognized net downward adjustments of \$5.2 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to net upward adjustments of \$11.1 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2007. Gross premiums written also decreased in our reinsurance segment by approximately \$12.0 million because some cedents purchased less reinsurance.

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The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by geographic locations for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007.

|               | <b>Nine Months Ended</b>      |             | <b>Dollar<br/>Change</b> | <b>Percentage<br/>Change</b> |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
|               | <b>September 30,<br/>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |                          |                              |
|               | (\$ in millions)              |             |                          |                              |
| Bermuda       | \$ 693.6                      | \$ 907.7    | \$ (214.1)               | (23.6)%                      |
| United States | 251.7                         | 141.0       | 110.7                    | 78.5                         |
| Europe        | 189.3                         | 196.5       | (7.2)                    | (3.7)                        |
|               | \$ 1,134.6                    | \$ 1,245.2  | \$ (110.6)               | (8.9)%                       |

The decrease in gross premiums written for our Bermuda operations, in addition to the factors discussed above, was due to the fact that certain policies and treaties that were previously written in Bermuda during the nine months ended September 30, 2007 were renewed in our U.S. companies during the nine months ended September 30, 2008. Our new U.S. reinsurance company commenced operations in April 2008 and renewed treaties previously written in Bermuda of \$52.5 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2008.

Net premiums written decreased by \$83.0 million, or 8.6%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. We ceded 22.4% of gross premiums written for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to 22.6% for the same period in 2007.

Net premiums earned decreased by \$59.4 million, or 6.8%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007 as a result of lower net premiums written.

We evaluate our business by segment, distinguishing between property insurance, casualty insurance and reinsurance. The following chart illustrates the mix of our business on both a gross premiums written and net premiums earned basis.

|             | <b>Gross<br/>Premiums<br/>Written</b>  |             | <b>Net<br/>Premiums<br/>Earned</b> |             |
|-------------|--|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
|             | <b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b> |             |                                    |             |
|             | <b>2008</b>                            | <b>2007</b> | <b>2008</b>                        | <b>2007</b> |
| Property    | 24.3%                                  | 25.6%       | 16.1%                              | 15.7%       |
| Casualty    | 38.7                                   | 35.0        | 39.3                               | 41.6        |
| Reinsurance | 37.0                                   | 39.4        | 44.6                               | 42.7        |

The increase in the percentage of casualty gross premiums written reflects the continued growth of our U.S. operations, where casualty gross premiums written increased by \$27.7 million, or 30.1%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

**Net Investment Income and Realized Investment Losses**

Net investment income increased by \$3.5 million, or 1.6%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The increase was primarily the result of an increase in the dividend received from our global high-yield bond fund of \$4.0 million. The dividend from the global high-yield bond fund increased from \$2.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 to \$6.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008. Investment management fees of \$4.8 million and \$4.6 million were incurred during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, the annualized period book yield of the investment portfolio was 4.8% and 4.7%, respectively. As of September 30, 2008, approximately 99% of our fixed income investments (which included individually held securities and securities held in a global high-yield bond fund) consisted of investment grade securities. The average credit rating of our fixed income portfolio was AA+ as rated by Standard & Poor's and Aa1 as rated by Moody's Investors Service, with an average duration of approximately 3.4 years

as of September 30, 2008.

Net realized investment losses increased by \$140.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. Net realized investment losses of \$152.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 were comprised of the following:

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A write-down of approximately \$112.3 million related to declines in the market value of securities in our available for sale portfolio that were considered to be other than temporary. The declines in the market value of these securities were primarily due to the write-down of residential and commercial mortgage-backed securities and corporate bonds due to the widening of credit spreads caused by the continued decline in the U.S. housing market and the current turmoil in the financial markets. An other-than-temporary charge was recognized for those securities in an unrealized loss position that our investment advisers had the discretion to sell. The following shows the other-than-temporary charge for our fixed maturity investments by category:

|   | <b>Other-than-temporary charges<br/>For the nine months<br/>ended September 30,<br/>2008<br/>(\$ in millions)</b> |
|---|---|
| U.S. government and government agencies           | \$ 15.5   |
| Non-U.S. government and government agencies       | 0.7   |
| Corporate   | 51.8  |
| States, municipalities and political subdivisions | 0.8   |
| Mortgage backed                                   | 39.8  |
| Asset backed                                      | 3.7   |
| Total other-than-temporary-impairment charges     | \$ 112.3  |

Net realized investment losses of \$39.5 million related to the mark-to-market of our hedge fund investments. The net realized losses were due to the overall volatility of the capital markets. There were no realized investment gains or losses recognized from our hedge fund investments during the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

Net realized investment losses of \$1.0 million from the sale of securities. We sold a number of securities during the first half of 2008 to capitalize the operations of our U.S. reinsurance platform and to fund the increased capitalization of our direct U.S. operations and our European operations. We recognized a net gain on the sale of those securities of \$48.2 million, which was later offset by \$49.2 million in net realized investment losses during the three months ended September 30, 2008.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2007, we recognized \$12.1 million in net realized losses on investments, which included (i) a write-down of approximately \$37.7 million related to declines in market value of securities in our available for sale portfolio that were considered to be other than temporary and (ii) net realized gains from the sale of securities of \$25.6 million. Included in the \$37.7 million in write-downs was an other-than-temporary impairment of \$23.9 million related to our investment in the Goldman Sachs Global Alpha Hedge Fund PLC. The remaining write-downs of \$13.8 million were solely due to changes in interest rates.

***Net Losses and Loss Expenses***

Net losses and loss expenses decreased by \$17.9 million, or 3.5%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The primary reason for the reduction in these expenses was net favorable prior year reserve development during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007, partially offset by higher than expected loss activity for the current period's business, including net losses and loss expenses of \$71.6 million related to Hurricanes Ike and Gustav.

We recorded net favorable reserve development related to prior years of approximately \$189.8 million and \$87.1 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The following is a



breakdown of the major factors contributing to the net favorable reserve development for the nine months ended September 30, 2008:

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We recognized net favorable reserve development of \$33.4 million related to the 2005 windstorms, of which \$17.2 million was recognized by our property segment and \$16.2 million was recognized by our reinsurance segment. We recognized the net favorable reserve development for the 2005 windstorms due to less than anticipated reported loss activity over the past several quarters. Accordingly, as of September 30, 2008, we estimated our net losses related to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma to be \$387.1 million, which was a reduction from our original estimate of \$456.0 million.

Net favorable reserve development of \$80.0 million was recognized by our casualty segment primarily as a result of general casualty, professional liability and healthcare lines of business actual loss emergence being lower than the initial expected loss emergence for the 2002 through 2004 loss years.

Net favorable reserve development of \$28.4 million, excluding the 2005 windstorms, was recognized by our property segment primarily as a result of general property line of business actual loss emergence being lower than the initial expected loss emergence for the 2003 through 2007 loss years.

Net favorable reserve development of \$48.0 million, excluding the 2005 windstorms, was recognized by our reinsurance segment which consisted of net favorable reserve development of \$14.7 million for our professional liability reinsurance, general casualty reinsurance, accident and health reinsurance and facultative reinsurance lines of business, and \$33.3 million of net favorable reserve development for our property reinsurance and international reinsurance lines of business. The net favorable reserve development for our professional liability reinsurance, general casualty reinsurance, accident and health reinsurance and facultative reinsurance lines of business was primarily as a result of actual loss emergence being lower than the initial expected loss emergence for the 2003 through 2005 loss years. The net favorable reserve development for our property reinsurance and international reinsurance lines of business was primarily the result of actual loss emergence being lower than the initial expected loss emergence for the 2002 through 2007 loss years.

The following is a breakdown of the major factors contributing to the net favorable reserve development for the nine months ended September 30, 2007:

Net favorable reserve development of \$42.2 million for our casualty segment, which consisted of \$126.5 million of favorable reserve development primarily related to low loss emergence in our professional liability and healthcare lines of business for the 2003, 2004 and 2006 loss years and low loss emergence in our general casualty business for the 2004 loss year. These favorable reserve developments were partially offset by \$84.3 million of unfavorable reserve development due to higher than anticipated loss emergence in our general casualty line of business for the 2003 and 2005 loss years and our professional liability line of business for the 2002 loss year.

We recognized net favorable reserve development of \$35.0 million related to the 2005 windstorms and net favorable reserve development of \$4.0 million related to the 2004 windstorms. We recognized the net favorable reserve development for the 2004 and 2005 windstorms due to less than anticipated reported loss activity.

Net favorable reserve development of \$2.6 million, excluding the 2004 and 2005 windstorms, for our property segment which consisted of \$28.4 million in favorable reserve development that was primarily the result of general property business actual loss emergence being lower than the initial expected loss emergence for the 2003 and 2006 loss years, partially offset by unfavorable reserve development of \$25.8 million that was primarily the result of increased loss activity for our general property business for the 2004 and 2005 loss years and our energy business for the 2006 loss year.

Net favorable reserve development of \$3.3 million, excluding the 2004 and 2005 windstorms, for our reinsurance segment related to low loss emergence in our property reinsurance lines of business

for the 2004 and 2005 loss years and low loss emergence in our accident and health reinsurance line of business for the 2004 and 2005 loss years.

The loss and loss expense ratio for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 was 61.1%, compared to 59.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. Net favorable reserve development recognized in the nine months ended September 30, 2008 reduced the loss and loss expense ratio by 23.3 percentage points. Thus, the loss and loss expense ratio related to the current period's business was 84.4%. Net favorable reserve development recognized in the nine months ended September 30, 2007 reduced the loss and loss expense ratio by 10.0 percentage points. Thus, the loss and loss expense ratio related to that period's business was 69.0%. The increase in the current year's loss and loss expense ratio for the current period was due to higher than normal reported loss

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activity and lower rates on new and renewal business for each of our operating segments. During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, we had exposure to a number of property losses, which included fires, tornadoes, hail storms and floods in various regions of the United States and in other parts of the world, a gas pipeline explosion in Australia and Hurricanes Ike and Gustav.

The following table shows the components of the decrease in net losses and loss expenses of \$17.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

|                                      | <b>Nine Months Ended</b>     |                              | <b>Dollar<br/>Change</b> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                      | <b>September 30<br/>2008</b> | <b>September 30<br/>2007</b> |                          |
|                                      | <b>(\$ in millions)</b>      |                              |                          |
| Net losses paid                      | \$ 308.0                     | \$ 309.8                     | \$ (1.8)                 |
| Net change in reported case reserves | 28.1                         | 54.8                         | (26.7)                   |
| Net change in IBNR                   | 161.5                        | 150.9                        | 10.6                     |
| Net losses and loss expenses         | \$ 497.6                     | \$ 515.5                     | \$ (17.9)                |

Net losses paid have decreased \$1.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 primarily due to lower claim payments relating to the 2004 and 2005 windstorms than the amount paid during the nine months ended September 30, 2007 partially offset by higher claim payments for our casualty segment. During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, \$37.9 million of net losses were paid in relation to the 2004 and 2005 windstorms compared to \$74.5 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2007. During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, we recovered \$9.4 million on our property catastrophe reinsurance protection in relation to losses paid as a result of the 2004 and 2005 windstorms compared to \$25.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The decrease in reported case reserves is due to lower case reserves in our casualty segment partially offset by increased case reserves for our property and reinsurance segments due to the increased loss activity during the current period. The increase in IBNR was primarily due to increased reserves for losses and loss expenses for our current period business partially offset by higher net favorable loss reserve development.

The table below is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending reserves for losses and loss expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007. Losses incurred and paid are reflected net of reinsurance recoverables.

|  | <b>Nine Months Ended</b>      |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|  | <b>September 30,<br/>2008</b> | <b>September 30,<br/>2007</b> |
|  | <b>(\$ in millions)</b>       |                               |
| Net reserves for losses and loss expenses, January 1 | \$ 3,237.0                    | \$ 2,947.9                    |
| Incurring related to:                                |                               |                               |
| Current period non-catastrophe                       | 574.8                         | 602.6                         |
| Current period property catastrophe                  | 112.6                         |                               |
| Prior period non-catastrophe                         | (156.4)                       | (48.1)                        |
| Prior period property catastrophe                    | (33.4)                        | (39.0)                        |
| Total incurred                                       | \$ 497.6                      | \$ 515.5                      |
| Paid related to:                                     |                               |                               |
| Current period non-catastrophe                       | 21.7                          | 11.0                          |
| Current period property catastrophe                  |                               |                               |
| Prior period non-catastrophe                         | 248.4                         | 224.3                         |
| Prior period property catastrophe                    | 37.9                          | 74.5                          |

|  |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|
| Total paid   | \$ 308.0   | \$ 309.8   |
| Foreign exchange revaluation                           | (5.1)      | 4.0        |
| Net reserve for losses and loss expenses, September 30 | 3,421.5    | 3,157.6    |
| Losses and loss expenses recoverable                   | 777.3      | 674.4      |
| Reserve for losses and loss expenses, September 30     | \$ 4,198.8 | \$ 3,832.0 |

***Acquisition Costs***

Acquisition costs decreased by \$8.5 million, or 9.4%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. Acquisition costs as a percentage of net premiums earned were 10.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to 10.3% for the same period in 2007.

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### ***General and Administrative Expenses***

General and administrative expenses increased by \$26.8 million, or 25.8%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. The following is a breakdown of the major factors contributing to the increase:

Salary and employee welfare costs increased by \$18.1 million due to our staff count increasing to 351 as of September 30, 2008 from 284 as of September 30, 2007. This also included a one-time expense of \$4.0 million for the reimbursement of forfeited stock compensation and signing bonuses for new executives hired as a result of the continued expansion of our U.S. operations and increased stock-based compensation costs of \$3.6 million.

Information technology costs increased by approximately \$3.7 million due to consulting costs required as part of the development of our technological infrastructure as well as an increase in the cost of hardware and software.

Rent and related costs increased by approximately \$2.9 million due to additional office space in New York and Chicago and increased amortization of furniture and fixtures. There was a gain of \$0.6 million on the sale of fixed assets from our previous office space in Bermuda during the nine months ended September 30, 2007. No such gain on fixed assets occurred during the nine months ended September 30, 2008.

Professional fees increased by approximately \$1.2 million.

Our general and administrative expense ratio was 16.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, which was higher than the 11.9% for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The increase was primarily due to the factors discussed above, while net premiums earned declined.

Our expense ratio was 26.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to 22.2% for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The increase resulted from increased general and administrative expenses.

### ***Interest Expense***

Interest expense increased by \$0.2 million, or 0.7%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. Interest expense incurred during both the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007 represented three-quarters of the annual interest expense on the senior notes, which bear interest at an annual rate of 7.50%.

### ***Net Income***

Net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 was \$163.8 million compared to net income of \$346.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The decrease was primarily the result of higher net realized investment losses, net losses and loss expenses for Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, lower net premiums earned and increased general and administrative expenses. Net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 included a net foreign exchange gain of \$2.7 million and an income tax recovery of \$12.1 million. Net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 included a net foreign exchange gain of \$0.4 million and an income tax expense of \$0.4 million.

### **Underwriting Results by Operating Segments**

Our company is organized into three operating segments:

*Property Segment.* Our property segment provides direct coverage of physical property and business interruption coverage for commercial property and energy-related risks. We write solely commercial coverages and focus on the insurance of primary risk layers. This means that we are typically part of the first group of insurers that cover a loss up to a specified limit.

*Casualty Segment.* Our casualty segment provides direct coverage for general and product liability, professional liability and healthcare liability risks. We focus primarily on insurance of excess layers, where we insure the second and/or subsequent layers of a policy above the primary layer. Our direct casualty underwriters provide a variety of specialty insurance casualty products to large and complex organizations around the world.



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*Reinsurance Segment.* Our reinsurance segment includes the reinsurance of property, general casualty, professional liability, specialty lines and property catastrophe coverages written by other insurance companies. We presently write reinsurance on both a treaty and a facultative basis, targeting several niche reinsurance markets including professional liability lines, specialty casualty, property for U.S. regional insurers, accident and health and to a lesser extent marine and aviation lines.

**Property Segment**

The following table summarizes the underwriting results and associated ratios for the property segment for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007.

|  | <b>Three Months Ended<br/>September 30,</b> |             | <b>Nine Months Ended<br/>September 30,</b> |             |
|--|---|-------------|--|-------------|
|  | <b>2008</b>                                 | <b>2007</b> | <b>2008</b>                                | <b>2007</b> |
|  | (\$ in millions)                            |             |  |             |
| <b>Revenues</b>                          |   |             |  |             |
| Gross premiums written                   | \$ 57.4                                     | \$60.2      | \$275.5                                    | \$318.5     |
| Net premiums written                     | 35.5  | 32.4        | 136.3                                      | 137.5       |
| Net premiums earned                      | 42.9  | 44.2        | 130.7                                      | 137.0       |
| <b>Expenses</b>                          |   |             |  |             |
| Net losses and loss expenses             | \$ 71.2                                     | \$29.3      | \$148.6                                    | \$ 70.3     |
| Acquisition costs                        | 2.4   | (0.8)       | 0.0  | (0.4)       |
| General and administrative expenses      | 9.3   | 8.4         | 30.7                                       | 24.3        |
| <b>Underwriting (loss) income</b>        | (40.0)                                      | 7.3         | (48.6)                                     | 42.8        |
| <b>Ratios</b>                            |   |             |  |             |
| Loss and loss expense ratio              | 166.0%                                      | 66.2%       | 113.7%                                     | 51.3%       |
| Acquisition cost ratio                   | 5.7   | (1.8)       | 0.0  | (0.3)       |
| General and administrative expense ratio | 21.5  | 19.0        | 23.5                                       | 17.8        |
| Expense ratio                            | 27.2  | 17.2        | 23.5                                       | 17.5        |
| Combined ratio                           | 193.2                                       | 83.4        | 137.2                                      | 68.8        |

**Comparison of Three Months Ended September 30, 2008 and 2007**

*Premiums.* Gross premiums written decreased \$2.8 million, or 4.7%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. This decrease was primarily due to the non-renewal of business that did not meet our underwriting requirements (which included inadequate pricing and/or policy terms and conditions), increased competition and inadequate pricing for new business. In addition, we continued to reduce the amount of gross premiums written in our energy line of business by \$8.0 million, or 44.4%, in response to deteriorating market conditions. We expect the trend of reducing our energy line of business to continue during the remainder of the year.



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The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by line of business for the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007.

|                  | <b>Three Months<br/>Ended</b> |             | <b>Dollar<br/>Change</b> | <b>Percentage<br/>Change</b> |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
|                  | <b>September 30,<br/>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |                          |                              |
|                  | (\$ in millions)              |             |                          |                              |
| General property | \$ 47.4                       | \$ 41.7     | \$ 5.7                   | 13.7%                        |
| Energy           | 10.0                          | 18.0        | (8.0)                    | (44.4)                       |
| Other            | 0.0                           | 0.5         | (0.5)                    | (100.0)                      |
|                  | \$ 57.4                       | \$ 60.2     | \$ (2.8)                 | (4.7)%                       |

Net premiums written increased by \$3.1 million, or 9.6%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007. Overall, we ceded 38.3% of gross premiums written for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to 46.2% for the three months ended September 30, 2007. The decrease in the percentage of premiums ceded was caused by a reduction in the cession percentage on our general property quota share reinsurance treaty from 55% to 40% partially offset by the purchase of a property catastrophe excess-of-loss reinsurance treaty for our general property business with a limit of \$75 million excess of \$50 million, of which 25% was placed with external reinsurers and the remainder of which was retained by us. This excess-of-loss reinsurance treaty covers property damage within the U.S. and Canada caused by a named windstorm. The excess-of-loss reinsurance treaty has a term from July 1, 2008 to November 30, 2008. There was no property catastrophe excess-of-loss treaty in place during the three months ended September 30, 2007.

Net premiums earned decreased \$1.3 million, or 2.9%, primarily due to the continued earning of lower net premiums that were written prior to the three months ended September 30, 2008.

*Net losses and loss expenses.* Net losses and loss expenses increased by \$41.9 million, or 143.0%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007. During the three months ended September 30, 2008 our property segment recognized losses and loss expenses of \$42.2 million and \$7.1 million related to Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, respectively. We were not impacted by any significant catastrophes during the three months ended September 30, 2007.

Overall, our property segment recorded net favorable reserve development of \$24.7 million during the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to net favorable reserve development of \$12.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2007.

The \$24.7 million of net favorable reserve development during the three months ended September 30, 2008 included the following:

Net favorable reserve development of \$18.0 million, excluding the 2004 and 2005 windstorms, was primarily due to actual loss emergence being lower than the initial expected loss emergence for the 2003 through 2005 and 2007 loss years for our general property line of business.

We recognized net favorable reserve development of \$5.9 million related to the 2005 windstorms and net favorable reserve development of \$0.8 million related to the 2004 windstorms. We recognized net favorable reserve development for the 2004 and 2005 windstorms due to lower than anticipated loss activity over the past several months.

The \$12.9 million of net favorable reserve development during the three months ended September 30, 2007 included the following:

We recognized net favorable reserve development of \$21.7 million related to the 2005 windstorms and net unfavorable reserve development of \$1.1 million related to the 2004 windstorms. We recognized the net favorable reserve development for the 2005 windstorms due to less than anticipated reported loss activity. The

unfavorable reserve development recognized related to the 2004 windstorms was due to changes to our reinsurance recoverables as more losses were fully retained by us than originally estimated.

Net unfavorable reserve development of \$7.7 million, excluding the 2004 and 2005 windstorms, was primarily related to higher than anticipated loss activity in our general property line of business for the 2004 and 2005 loss years.

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The loss and loss expense ratio for the three months ended September 30, 2008 was 166.0% compared to 66.2% for the three months ended September 30, 2007. Net favorable reserve development recognized in the three months ended September 30, 2008 decreased the loss and loss expense ratio by 57.6 percentage points. Thus, the loss and loss expense ratio for this period's business was 223.6%. In comparison, net favorable reserve development recognized in the three months ended September 30, 2007 decreased the loss and loss expense ratio by 29.2 percentage points. Thus, the loss and loss expense ratio for that period's business was 95.4%. The increase in the loss and loss expense ratio for the current period's business was due to net losses and loss expenses recognized of \$49.3 million related to Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, as well as \$19.2 million due to increased loss activity in our general property and energy lines of business for the 2008 loss year.

Net paid losses for the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007 were \$31.6 million and \$32.5 million, respectively. The decrease in paid losses was due to lower net paid losses related to the 2004 and 2005 windstorms. During the three months ended September 30, 2008, approximately \$4.5 million of net losses were paid in relation to the 2004 and 2005 windstorms compared to approximately \$11.4 million during the three months ended September 30, 2007.

The table below is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending reserves for losses and loss expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007. Losses incurred and paid are reflected net of reinsurance recoverables.

|  | <b>Three Months Ended<br/>September 30,<br/>2008                  2007</b> |          |
|--|--|----------|
|  | <b>(\$ in millions)</b>  |          |
| Net reserves for losses and loss expenses, July 1      | \$ 358.1   | \$ 375.9 |
| Incurred related to:                                   |  |          |
| Current period non-catastrophe                         | 46.6   | 42.2     |
| Current period property catastrophe                    | 49.3   |          |
| Prior period non-catastrophe                           | (18.0)   | 7.7      |
| Prior period property catastrophe                      | (6.7)  | (20.6)   |
| Total incurred   | \$ 71.2  | \$ 29.3  |
| Paid related to:                                       |  |          |
| Current period non-catastrophe                         | 8.4  | 6.0      |
| Current period property catastrophe                    |  |          |
| Prior period non-catastrophe                           | 18.7   | 15.1     |
| Prior period property catastrophe                      | 4.5  | 11.4     |
| Total paid   | \$ 31.6  | \$ 32.5  |
| Foreign exchange revaluation                           | (7.5)  | 2.6      |
| Net reserve for losses and loss expenses, September 30 | 390.2  | 375.3    |
| Losses and loss expenses recoverable                   | 346.9  | 416.9    |
| Reserve for losses and loss expenses, September 30     | \$ 737.1   | \$ 792.2 |

*Acquisition costs.* Acquisition costs increased by \$3.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007. The increase was primarily caused by less ceding commission income as a result of our lowering the cession percentage on our general property quota share treaty. The acquisition cost ratio increased to 5.7% for the three months ended September 30, 2008 from negative 1.8% for the same period in 2007. The factors that will determine the amount of acquisition costs going forward are the amount of brokerage fees and commissions incurred on policies we write less ceding commissions earned on reinsurance we purchase. We normally negotiate our reinsurance treaties on an annual basis, so the ceding commission rates and

amounts ceded will vary from renewal period to renewal period.

*General and administrative expenses.* General and administrative expenses increased by \$0.9 million, or 10.7%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007. The increase in general and administrative expenses was attributable to increased salary and employee welfare costs, increased building-related costs, increased professional fees and higher costs associated with information technology. The increase in the general and administrative expense ratio from 19.0% for the three months ended September 30, 2007 to 21.5% for the same period in 2008 was the result of the factors discussed above, while net premiums earned declined.

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**Table of Contents****Comparison of Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008 and 2007**

*Premiums.* Gross premiums written decreased by \$43.0 million, or 13.5%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. This decrease was primarily due to the non-renewal of business that did not meet our underwriting requirements (which included inadequate pricing and/or policy terms and conditions), increased competition and inadequate pricing for new business. In addition, we reduced the amount of gross premiums written in our energy line of business by \$25.5 million, or 35.8%, in response to deteriorating market conditions. We expect the trend of reducing our energy line of business to continue during the remainder of the year.

The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by line of business for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007.

|                  | <b>Nine Months<br/>Ended</b>  |             | <b>Dollar<br/>Change</b> | <b>Percentage<br/>Change</b> |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
|                  | <b>September 30,<br/>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |                          |                              |
|                  | (\$ in millions)              |             |                          |                              |
| General property | \$ 229.5                      | \$ 246.1    | \$ (16.6)                | (6.7)%                       |
| Energy           | 45.7                          | 71.2        | (25.5)                   | (35.8)                       |
| Other            | 0.3                           | 1.2         | (0.9)                    | (75.0)                       |
|                  | \$ 275.5                      | \$ 318.5    | \$ (43.0)                | (13.5)%                      |

Net premiums written decreased by \$1.2 million, or 0.9%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. Overall, we ceded 50.5% of gross premiums written for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to 56.8% for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The following were changes made to our reinsurance program during the nine months ended September 30, 2008:

Reduction in the cession percentage on our general property quota share reinsurance treaty from 55% to 40%.

Renewed our property catastrophe reinsurance treaty, which resulted in ceded written premiums of \$26.1 million. The cost of the property catastrophe reinsurance treaty was higher than the expiring treaty by approximately \$7.0 million. The increased cost of the property catastrophe reinsurance treaty is principally due to the new treaty expanding earthquake coverage in the United States and increased exposure due to changes in our general property quota share reinsurance treaty.

Our international property catastrophe treaty was cancelled and rewritten effective May 1, 2008. This treaty covers worldwide losses, excluding the United States and Canada. The total ceded premiums written for the international property catastrophe treaty was \$2.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to \$1.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

Purchased an excess-of-loss reinsurance treaty for our general property treaty with a limit of \$15 million excess of \$10 million or 10 million excess of 10 million. The total ceded premiums written for the excess-of-loss treaty was \$3.4 million. There was no excess-of-loss treaty in place during the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

Net premiums earned decreased \$6.3 million, or 4.6%, primarily due the continued earning of lower net premiums that were written prior to the nine months ended September 30, 2008.

*Net losses and loss expenses.* Net losses and loss expenses increased by \$78.3 million, or 111.4%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The increase in net losses and loss expenses was primarily the result of higher than expected loss activity for the current period's business partially offset by higher net favorable reserve development. Loss activity in the current period's business included losses and loss expenses of \$6.0 million for flooding in the U.S. Midwest, \$30.0 million for the gas pipeline explosion

in Australia, \$42.2 million for Hurricane Ike and \$7.1 million for Hurricane Gustav.

Overall, our property segment recorded net favorable reserve development of \$45.6 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to net favorable reserve development of \$37.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

The \$45.6 million of net favorable reserve development during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 included the following:

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Net favorable reserve development of \$28.4 million, excluding the 2005 windstorms, was recognized primarily as a result of general property line of business actual loss emergence being lower than the initial expected loss emergence for the 2003 through 2007 loss years.

We recognized net favorable reserve development of \$16.4 million related to the 2005 windstorms and net favorable reserve development of \$0.8 million related to the 2004 windstorms. We recognized net favorable reserve development for the 2004 and 2005 windstorms due to lower than anticipated loss activity over the past several quarters.

The \$37.3 million of net favorable reserve development during the nine months ended September 30, 2007 included the following:

We recognized net favorable reserve development of \$30.4 million related to the 2005 windstorms and net favorable reserve development of \$4.3 million related to the 2004 windstorms. We recognized the net favorable reserve development for the 2004 and 2005 windstorms due to less than anticipated reported loss activity.

Net favorable reserve development of \$2.6 million, excluding the 2004 and 2005 windstorms, which consisted of \$28.4 million in favorable reserve development that was primarily the result of general property business actual loss emergence being lower than the initial expected loss emergence for the 2003 and 2006 loss years, partially offset by unfavorable reserve development of \$25.8 million that was primarily the result of increased loss activity for our general property business for the 2004 and 2005 loss years and our energy business for the 2006 loss year.

The loss and loss expense ratio for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 was 113.7% compared to 51.3% for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. Net favorable reserve development recognized in the nine months ended September 30, 2008 reduced the loss and loss expense ratio by 34.9 percentage points. Thus, the loss and loss expense ratio related to the current period's business was 148.6%. In comparison, net favorable reserve development recognized in the nine months ended September 30, 2007 decreased the loss and loss expense ratio by 27.2 percentage points. Thus, the loss and loss expense ratio for that period's business was 78.5%. The increase in the loss and loss expense ratio for the current period's business was due to higher than expected reported loss activity in the current period as well as lower rates on new and renewal business. During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, we had exposure to a number of property losses, which included fires, tornadoes, hail storms and floods in various regions of the United States and in other parts of the world, the gas pipeline explosion in Australia, Hurricanes Ike and Gustav as well as increased loss activity in our general property and energy lines of business for the 2008 loss year.

Net paid losses for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007 were \$113.9 million and \$122.9 million, respectively. The decrease in paid losses was due to lower net paid losses related to the 2004 and 2005 windstorms. During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, approximately \$15.7 million of net losses were paid in relation to the 2004 and 2005 windstorms compared to approximately \$49.9 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

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The table below is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending reserves for losses and loss expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007. Losses incurred and paid are reflected net of reinsurance recoverables.

|  | <b>Nine Months<br/>Ended September 30,</b> |             |
|--|--|-------------|
|  | <b>2008</b>                                | <b>2007</b> |
|  | <b>(\$ in millions)</b>                    |             |
| Net reserves for losses and loss expenses, January 1   | \$ 360.6                                   | \$ 423.9    |
| Incurred related to:                                   |  |             |
| Current period non-catastrophe                         | 108.9                                      | 107.6       |
| Current period property catastrophe                    | 85.3                                       |             |
| Prior period non-catastrophe                           | (28.4)                                     | (2.6)       |
| Prior period property catastrophe                      | (17.2)                                     | (34.7)      |
| Total incurred   | \$ 148.6                                   | \$ 70.3     |
| Paid related to:                                       |  |             |
| Current period non-catastrophe                         | 12.9                                       | 9.1         |
| Current period property catastrophe                    |  |             |
| Prior period non-catastrophe                           | 85.3                                       | 63.9        |
| Prior period property catastrophe                      | 15.7                                       | 49.9        |
| Total paid   | \$ 113.9                                   | \$ 122.9    |
| Foreign exchange revaluation                           | (5.1)                                      | 4.0         |
| Net reserve for losses and loss expenses, September 30 | 390.2                                      | 375.3       |
| Losses and loss expenses recoverable                   | 346.9                                      | 416.9       |
| Reserve for losses and loss expenses, September 30     | \$ 737.1                                   | \$ 792.2    |

*Acquisition costs.* Acquisition costs increased by \$0.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The increase was primarily caused by less ceding commission income as a result of lowering the cession percentage on our general property quota share treaty. The acquisition cost ratio increased to 0.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 from negative 0.3% for the same period in 2007.

*General and administrative expenses.* General and administrative expenses increased by \$6.4 million, or 26.3%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The increase in general and administrative expenses was attributable to increased salary and employee welfare costs including a one-time expense of \$0.5 million for the reimbursement of forfeited stock compensation and signing bonuses for new executives hired as a result of the continued expansion of our U.S. operations, increased building-related costs, increased professional fees and higher costs associated with information technology. The increase in the general and administrative expense ratio from 17.8% for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 to 23.5% for the same period in 2008 was the result of the factors discussed above, while net premiums earned declined.



**Table of Contents****Casualty Segment**

The following table summarizes the underwriting results and associated ratios for the casualty segment for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007.

|  | <b>Three Months</b>                 |             | <b>Nine Months</b>                  |             |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
|  | <b>Ended September 30,<br/>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> | <b>Ended September 30,<br/>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |
|  | (\$ in millions)                    |             |                                     |             |
| <b>Revenues</b>                          |                                     |             |                                     |             |
| Gross premiums written                   | \$ 140.0                            | \$ 122.2    | \$ 439.3                            | \$ 435.5    |
| Net premiums written                     | 106.2                               | 92.9        | 326.1                               | 335.2       |
| Net premiums earned                      | 105.5                               | 115.0       | 320.2                               | 363.1       |
| <b>Expenses</b>                          |                                     |             |                                     |             |
| Net losses and loss expenses             | \$ 46.8                             | \$ 71.4     | \$ 161.7                            | \$ 222.6    |
| Acquisition costs                        | 2.2                                 | 2.9         | 10.7                                | 14.0        |
| General and administrative expenses      | 19.9                                | 17.9        | 67.8                                | 49.9        |
| <b>Underwriting income</b>               | <b>36.6</b>                         | <b>22.8</b> | <b>80.0</b>                         | <b>76.6</b> |
| <b>Ratios</b>                            |                                     |             |                                     |             |
| Loss and loss expense ratio              | 44.4%                               | 62.1%       | 50.5%                               | 61.3%       |
| Acquisition cost ratio                   | 2.1                                 | 2.5         | 3.3                                 | 3.9         |
| General and administrative expense ratio | 18.8                                | 15.6        | 21.2                                | 13.7        |
| Expense ratio                            | 20.9                                | 18.1        | 24.5                                | 17.6        |
| Combined ratio                           | 65.3                                | 80.2        | 75.0                                | 78.9        |

**Comparison of Three Months Ended September 30, 2008 and 2007**

*Premiums.* Gross premiums written increased \$17.8 million, or 14.6%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. This increase was primarily due to increased gross premiums written by our U.S. offices, which had increased gross premiums written of \$12.4 million, or 32.1%. Despite the continued growth of our U.S. platform, we still experienced the non-renewal of business that did not meet our underwriting requirements (which included inadequate pricing and/or policy terms and conditions), increased competition and inadequate pricing for new business. We also reduced the amount of gross premiums written for certain energy classes of business by \$1.6 million in response to deteriorating market conditions.

The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by line of business for the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007.

|                        | <b>Three Months</b>                     |             | <b>Dollar<br/>Change</b> | <b>Percentage<br/>Change</b> |
|------------------------|---|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
|                        | <b>Ended September<br/>30,<br/>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |                          |                              |
|                        | (\$ in millions)                        |             |                          |                              |
| Professional liability | \$ 64.6                                 | \$ 53.3     | \$ 11.3                  | 21.2%                        |
| General casualty       | 49.9                                    | 48.0        | 1.9                      | 4.0                          |
| Healthcare             | 17.4                                    | 14.5        | 2.9                      | 20.0                         |
| Other                  | 8.1                                     | 6.4         | 1.7                      | 26.6                         |
|                        | \$ 140.0                                | \$ 122.2    | \$ 17.8                  | 14.6%                        |

Net premiums written increased \$13.3 million, or 14.3%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007. The increase in net premiums written was due to the increase in gross premiums written. We ceded 24.2% of gross premiums written for the three months ended

September 30, 2008 compared to 24.0% for the three months ended September 30, 2007. Net premiums earned decreased \$9.5 million, or 8.3%, due to the continued earning of lower net premiums that were written prior to the three months ended September 30, 2008.

*Net losses and loss expenses.* Net losses and loss expenses decreased by \$24.6 million, or 34.5%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007. The decrease in net losses and loss expenses was primarily due to higher net favorable reserve development. Overall, our casualty segment recorded net favorable reserve development of \$32.8 million during the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to net favorable reserve development of \$12.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2007.

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Net favorable reserve development of \$32.8 million recognized during the three months ended September 30, 2008 was primarily as a result of general casualty, professional liability and healthcare lines of business actual loss emergence being lower than the initial expected loss emergence for the 2002 through 2004 loss years. During the three months ended September 30, 2008, we adjusted our weighting on actuarial methods utilized for these lines of business and loss years by increasing the weight given to the Bornhuetter-Ferguson reported loss method than in the previous blend of the Bornhuetter-Ferguson reported loss method and the expected loss ratio method. Placing greater reliance on more responsive actuarial methods for certain lines of business and loss years within our casualty segment is a natural progression as we mature as a company and gain sufficient historical experience of our own that allows us to further refine our estimate of the reserve for losses and loss expenses.

The net favorable reserve development of \$12.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2007 included the following:

Favorable reserve development of \$8.8 million in our general casualty line of business primarily for the 2004 and 2005 loss years due to lower than anticipated loss activity.

Favorable reserve development of \$2.8 million in our professional liability line of business for the 2003 loss year due to lower than anticipated loss activity.

Favorable reserve development of \$0.8 million in our healthcare line of business for the 2002 and 2003 loss years.

The loss and loss expense ratio for the three months ended September 30, 2008 was 44.4%, compared to 62.1% for the three months ended September 30, 2007. The net favorable reserve development recognized during the three months ended September 30, 2008 decreased the loss and loss expense ratio by 31.1 percentage points. Thus, the loss and loss expense ratio related to the current period's business was 75.5%. Comparatively, the net favorable reserve development recognized during the three months ended September 30, 2007 decreased the loss and loss expense ratio by 10.8 percentage points. Thus, the loss and loss expense ratio related to that period's business was 72.9%. The increase in the loss and loss expense ratio for the current period's business was due to lower rates on new and renewal policies.

We continue to review the impact of the subprime and credit related downturn on professional liability insurance policies we write. We have high attachment points for our professional liability policies, which makes estimating whether losses will exceed our attachment point more difficult. Based on claims information received to date and our analysis, the average attachment point for our professional liability policies with potential subprime and credit related exposure is approximately \$144 million with an average limit of \$14 million (gross of reinsurance). Our direct insurance policies with subprime and credit related loss notices may have the benefit of facultative reinsurance, treaty reinsurance or a combination of both. At this time we believe, based on the claims information received to date, that our current IBNR is adequate to meet any potential subprime and credit related losses. We will continue to monitor our reserve for losses and loss expenses for any new claims information and adjust our reserve for losses and loss expenses accordingly.

Net paid losses were \$56.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to \$21.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2007.

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The table below is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending reserves for losses and loss expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007. Losses incurred and paid are reflected net of reinsurance recoverables.

|  | <b>Three Months<br/>Ended September 30,<br/>2008                      2007<br/>(\$ in millions)</b> |            |
|--|---|------------|
| Net reserves for losses and loss expenses, July 1      | \$ 1,959.6  | \$ 1,782.2 |
| Incurred related to:                                   |   |            |
| Current period non-catastrophe                         | 79.6  | 83.8       |
| Current period catastrophe                             |   |            |
| Prior period non-catastrophe                           | (32.8)  | (12.4)     |
| Prior period catastrophe                               |   |            |
| Total incurred   | \$ 46.8   | \$ 71.4    |
| Paid related to:                                       |   |            |
| Current period non-catastrophe                         | 0.9   |            |
| Current period catastrophe                             |   |            |
| Prior period non-catastrophe                           | 55.7  | 21.7       |
| Prior period catastrophe                               |   |            |
| Total paid   | \$ 56.6   | \$ 21.7    |
| Foreign exchange revaluation                           |   |            |
| Net reserve for losses and loss expenses, September 30 | 1,949.8   | 1,831.9    |
| Losses and loss expenses recoverable                   | 425.4   | 235.9      |
| Reserve for losses and loss expenses, September 30     | \$ 2,375.2  | \$ 2,067.8 |

*Acquisition costs.* Acquisition costs decreased \$0.7 million, or 24.1%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007. The decrease was primarily related to an increase in ceding commission income partially offset by increased premium taxes and broker commissions. The decrease in the acquisition cost ratio from 2.5% for the three months ended September 30, 2007 to 2.1% for the three months ended September 30, 2008 was due to the factors discussed above.

*General and administrative expenses.* General and administrative expenses increased \$2.0 million, or 11.2%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007. The increase in general and administrative expenses was attributable to increased salary and related costs, primarily due to the continue build out of our U.S. operations, increased building-related costs, increased professional fees and higher costs associated with information technology. The 3.2 percentage point increase in the general and administrative expense ratio from 15.6% for the three months ended September 30, 2007 to 18.8% for the same period in 2008 was primarily a result of the factors discussed above, while net premiums earned declined.

**Comparison of Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008 and 2007**

*Premiums.* Gross premiums written increased \$3.8 million, or 0.9%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. This increase was primarily due to increased gross premiums written by our U.S. offices, which had increased gross premiums written of \$27.7 million, or 30.1%. This was partially offset by the non-renewal of business that did not meet our underwriting requirements (which included inadequate pricing and/or policy terms and conditions), increased competition and inadequate pricing for new business. This was most noticeable for our Bermuda operations where gross premiums written decreased \$23.3 million, or 9.0%. We also reduced the amount of gross premiums written for certain energy classes of business by \$8.2 million in response to

deteriorating market conditions.

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The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by line of business for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007.

|                        | <b>Nine Months Ended</b>      |             | <b>Dollar<br/>Change</b> | <b>Percentage<br/>Change</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
|                        | <b>September 30,<br/>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |                          |                              |
|                        |                               |             | (\$ in millions)         |                              |
| Professional liability | \$ 205.1                      | \$ 198.6    | \$ 6.5                   | 3.3%                         |
| General casualty       | 157.8                         | 182.2       | (24.4)                   | (13.4)                       |
| Healthcare             | 57.4                          | 44.8        | 12.6                     | 28.1                         |
| Other                  | 19.0                          | 9.9         | 9.1                      | 91.9                         |
|                        | \$ 439.3                      | \$ 435.5    | \$ 3.8                   | 0.9%                         |

Net premiums written decreased \$9.1 million, or 2.7%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. We ceded 25.8% of gross premiums written for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to 23.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The percentage of premiums ceded were higher for each of our lines of business during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. Net premiums earned decreased \$42.9 million, or 11.8%, due to the continued earning of lower net premiums that were written prior to the nine months ended September 30, 2008.

*Net losses and loss expenses.* Net losses and loss expenses decreased by \$60.9 million, or 27.4%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The decrease in net losses and loss expenses was primarily due to higher net favorable reserve development. Overall, our casualty segment recorded net favorable reserve development of \$80.0 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to net favorable reserve development of \$42.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

The net favorable reserve development of \$80.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 included the following:

Favorable reserve development of \$87.1 million related to low loss emergence primarily in our general casualty and healthcare lines of business for the 2002 through 2004 loss years and our professional liability line of business for the 2003 and 2004 loss years.

Unfavorable reserve development of \$7.1 million due to higher than anticipated loss emergence in our professional liability line of business for the 2002 loss year and our general casualty line of business for the 2006 and 2007 loss years.

The net favorable reserve development of \$42.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 included the following:

Favorable reserve development of \$126.5 million related to low loss emergence primarily in our professional liability and healthcare lines of business for the 2003, 2004 and 2006 loss years and general casualty line of business for the 2004 loss year.

Unfavorable reserve development of \$84.3 million due to higher than anticipated loss emergence in our general casualty line of business for the 2003 and 2005 loss years and in our professional liability line for the 2002 loss year.

The loss and loss expense ratio for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 was 50.5%, compared to 61.3% for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The net favorable reserve development recognized during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 decreased the loss and loss expense ratio by 25.0 percentage points. Thus, the loss and loss expense ratio related to the current period's business was 75.5%. Comparatively, the net favorable reserve development recognized during the nine months ended September 30, 2007 decreased the loss and loss expense ratio by 11.6 percentage points. Thus, the loss and loss expense ratio related to that period's business was 72.9%. The

increase in the loss and loss expense ratio for the current period s business was due to lower rates on new and renewal policies.

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Net paid losses were \$90.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to \$81.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

The table below is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending reserves for losses and loss expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007. Losses incurred and paid are reflected net of reinsurance recoverables.

|   | <b>Nine Months<br/>Ended September 30,<br/>2008                      2007<br/>(\$ in millions)</b> |                   |
|---|--|-------------------|
| Net reserves for losses and loss expenses, January 1      | \$ 1,878.2   | \$ 1,691.2        |
| Incurred related to:                                      |  |                   |
| Current period non-catastrophe                            | 241.7  | 264.8             |
| Current period catastrophe                                |  |                   |
| Prior period non-catastrophe                              | (80.0)   | (42.2)            |
| Prior period catastrophe                                  |  |                   |
| <b>Total incurred</b>                                     | <b>\$ 161.7</b>  | <b>\$ 222.6</b>   |
| Paid related to:  |  |                   |
| Current period non-catastrophe                            | 0.9  |                   |
| Current period catastrophe                                |  |                   |
| Prior period non-catastrophe                              | 89.2   | 81.9              |
| Prior period catastrophe                                  |  |                   |
| <b>Total paid</b>   | <b>\$ 90.1</b>   | <b>\$ 81.9</b>    |
| Foreign exchange revaluation                              |  |                   |
| Net reserve for losses and loss expenses, September 30    | 1,949.8  | 1,831.9           |
| Losses and loss expenses recoverable                      | 425.4  | 235.9             |
| <b>Reserve for losses and loss expenses, September 30</b> | <b>\$ 2,375.2</b>  | <b>\$ 2,067.8</b> |

*Acquisition costs.* Acquisition costs decreased \$3.3 million, or 23.6%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The decrease was primarily related to an increase in ceding commission income with the increase in reinsurance we purchased. The decrease in the acquisition cost ratio from 3.9% for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 to 3.3% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 was due to the increase in ceding commission received partially offset by increased premium taxes and broker commissions.

*General and administrative expenses.* General and administrative expenses increased \$17.9 million, or 35.9%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The increase in general and administrative expenses was attributable to increased salary and related costs including a one-time expense of \$2.3 million for the reimbursement of forfeited stock compensation and signing bonuses for new executives hired as a result of the continued expansion of our U.S. operations, increased building-related costs, increased professional fees and higher costs associated with information technology. The 7.5 percentage point increase in the general and administrative expense ratio from 13.7% for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 to 21.2% for the same period in 2008 was primarily a result of the factors discussed above, while net premiums earned declined.



**Table of Contents****Reinsurance Segment**

The following table summarizes the underwriting results and associated ratios for the reinsurance segment for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007.

|  | Three Months                |         | Nine Months                 |         |
|--|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
|  | Ended September 30,<br>2008 | 2007    | Ended September 30,<br>2008 | 2007    |
|  | (\$ in millions)            |         |                             |         |
| <b>Revenues</b>                          |                             |         |                             |         |
| Gross premiums written                   | \$ 93.5                     | \$ 93.8 | \$419.9                     | \$491.2 |
| Net premiums written                     | 92.3                        | 94.0    | 418.3                       | 491.1   |
| Net premiums earned                      | 123.6                       | 124.4   | 363.0                       | 373.2   |
| <b>Expenses</b>                          |                             |         |                             |         |
| Net losses and loss expenses             | \$ 58.0                     | \$ 72.6 | \$187.3                     | \$222.5 |
| Acquisition costs                        | 24.0                        | 27.1    | 71.0                        | 76.6    |
| General and administrative expenses      | 11.7                        | 9.7     | 31.9                        | 29.5    |
| <b>Underwriting income</b>               | 29.9                        | 15.0    | 72.8                        | 44.6    |
| <b>Ratios</b>                            |                             |         |                             |         |
| Loss and loss expense ratio              | 46.9%                       | 58.4%   | 51.6%                       | 59.6%   |
| Acquisition cost ratio                   | 19.4                        | 21.8    | 19.6                        | 20.5    |
| General and administrative expense ratio | 9.5                         | 7.8     | 8.8                         | 7.9     |
| Expense ratio                            | 28.9                        | 29.6    | 28.4                        | 28.4    |
| Combined ratio                           | 75.8                        | 88.0    | 80.0                        | 88.0    |

**Comparison of Three Months Ended September 30, 2008 and 2007**

*Premiums.* Gross premiums written decreased \$0.3 million, or 0.3%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. The decrease in gross premiums written was primarily the result of the non-renewal of business, particularly in the professional liability reinsurance line of business, that did not meet our underwriting requirements (which included inadequate pricing and/or contract terms and conditions), increased competition and inadequate pricing for new business. This was partially offset by higher adjustments on estimated premiums of \$1.7 million during the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007, and \$2.7 million in reinstatement premiums related to Hurricane Ike. We recognized net upward adjustments of \$2.8 million during the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to net upward adjustments of \$1.1 million during the three months ended September 30, 2007.

During the three months ended September 30, 2008, our Bermuda and U.S. reinsurance operations wrote gross premiums written of \$51.8 million and \$41.7 million, respectively. The gross premiums written by our U.S. reinsurance operations, which commenced business in April 2008, included the renewal of certain treaties previously written in Bermuda of \$17.6 million as well as new business, particularly in the general casualty line of business.

The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by line of business for the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007.

|                                    | Three Months                   |         | Dollar<br>Change | Percentage<br>Change |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|------------------|----------------------|
|                                    | Ended<br>September 30,<br>2008 | 2007    |                  |                      |
|                                    | (\$ in millions)               |         |                  |                      |
| General casualty reinsurance       | \$ 33.5                        | \$ 16.0 | \$ 17.5          | 109.4%               |
| Property reinsurance               | 22.5                           | 18.9    | 3.6              | 19.0                 |
| Professional liability reinsurance | 21.6                           | 45.3    | (23.7)           | (52.3)               |
| Facultative reinsurance            | 9.7                            | 9.8     | (0.1)            | (1.0)                |

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|                           |         |         |          |        |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|----------|--------|
| International reinsurance | 5.0     | 3.5     | 1.5      | 42.9   |
| Other                     | 1.2     | 0.3     | 0.9      | 300.0  |
|                           | \$ 93.5 | \$ 93.8 | \$ (0.3) | (0.3)% |

Net premiums written decreased by \$1.7 million, or 1.8%, which is consistent with the decrease in gross premiums written. Net

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premiums earned decreased \$0.8 million, or 0.6%, primarily as a result of lower net premiums written. Premiums related to our reinsurance business earn at a slower rate than those related to our direct insurance business. Direct insurance premiums typically earn ratably over the term of a policy. Reinsurance premiums under a proportional contract are typically earned over the same period as the underlying policies, or risks, covered by the contract. As a result, the earning pattern of a proportional contract may extend up to 24 months, reflecting the inception dates of the underlying policies. Property catastrophe premiums and premiums for other treaties written on a losses occurring basis earn ratably over the term of the reinsurance contract.

*Net losses and loss expenses.* Net losses and loss expenses decreased by \$14.6 million, or 20.1%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007. The decrease in net losses and loss expenses was primarily due to higher net favorable reserve development recognized during the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007, partially offset by losses and loss expenses of \$19.8 million and \$2.5 million related to Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, respectively. We were not impacted by any significant catastrophes during the three months ended September 30, 2007. Overall, our reinsurance segment recorded net favorable reserve development of \$39.4 million during the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to net favorable reserve development of \$3.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2007.

The net favorable reserve development of \$39.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2008 included the following:

Net favorable reserve development of \$14.7 million for our professional liability reinsurance, general casualty reinsurance, accident and health reinsurance and facultative reinsurance lines of business. The net favorable reserve development for these lines of business was primarily the result of actual loss emergence being lower than the initial expected loss emergence for the 2003 through 2005 loss years. During the three months ended September 30, 2008, we began to adjust our weighting on actuarial methods utilized for the professional liability reinsurance, general casualty reinsurance and facultative reinsurance lines of business and loss years from using the expected loss ratio method to a blend of the Bornhuetter-Ferguson reported loss method and the expected loss ratio method.

Net favorable reserve development of \$24.7 million for our property reinsurance and international reinsurance lines of business was primarily the result of actual loss emergence being lower than the initial expected loss emergence for the 2002 through 2007 loss years. The net favorable reserve development for the property reinsurance and international reinsurance lines of business included \$6.5 million of unfavorable reserve development related to the 2004 and 2005 windstorms due to recent loss activity.

The net favorable reserve development of \$3.2 million during the three months ended September 30, 2007 was related to the 2004 and 2005 windstorms. We recognized favorable reserve development of \$2.4 million related to the 2004 windstorms and favorable reserve development of \$0.8 million related to the 2005 windstorms.

The loss and loss expense ratio for the three months ended September 30, 2008 was 46.9%, compared to 58.4% for the three months ended September 30, 2007. Net favorable reserve development recognized during the three months ended September 30, 2008 reduced the loss and loss expense ratio by 31.9 percentage points. Thus, the loss and loss expense ratio related to the current period's business was 78.8%. In comparison, net favorable reserve development recognized in the three months ended September 30, 2007 reduced the loss and loss expense ratio by 2.6 percentage points. Thus, the loss and loss expense ratio related to that period's business was 61.0%. Included in the current period's business were net incurred losses and loss expenses of \$22.3 million related to Hurricanes Ike and Gustav.

We continue to review the impact of the subprime and credit related downturn on professional liability reinsurance contracts we write. We have high attachment points for our professional liability contracts, which makes estimating whether losses will exceed our attachment point more difficult. Based on claims information received to date and our analysis, the average attachment point for our professional liability reinsurance contracts with potential subprime and credit related exposure is approximately \$101 million with an average limit of \$1.7 million. At this time we believe, based on the claims information received to date, that our current IBNR is adequate to meet any potential subprime and credit related losses. We will continue to monitor our reserve for losses and loss expenses for any new claims information and adjust our reserve for losses and loss expenses accordingly.

Net paid losses were \$44.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to \$28.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2007. The increase in paid losses was due to higher net paid losses related to the 2004 and 2005 windstorms and higher paid losses in our professional liability reinsurance line of business. During the three months ended September 30, 2008, approximately \$7.1 million of net losses were paid in relation to the 2004 and 2005 windstorms compared to approximately \$4.1 million during the three months ended September 30, 2007.

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The table below is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending reserves for losses and loss expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007. Losses incurred and paid are reflected net of reinsurance recoverables.

|  | <b>Three Months Ended<br/>September 30,<br/>2008                  2007<br/>(\$ in millions)</b> |          |
|--|---|----------|
| Net reserves for losses and loss expenses, July 1      | \$ 1,067.9  | \$ 906.4 |
| Incurred related to:                                   |   |          |
| Current period non-catastrophe                         | 75.1  | 75.8     |
| Current period property catastrophe                    | 22.3  |          |
| Prior period non-catastrophe                           | (45.9)  |          |
| Prior period property catastrophe                      | 6.5   | (3.2)    |
| Total incurred   | \$ 58.0   | \$ 72.6  |
| Paid related to:                                       |   |          |
| Current period non-catastrophe                         | 2.2   | 1.7      |
| Current period property catastrophe                    |   |          |
| Prior period non-catastrophe                           | 35.1  | 22.8     |
| Prior period property catastrophe                      | 7.1   | 4.1      |
| Total paid   | \$ 44.4   | \$ 28.6  |
| Foreign exchange revaluation                           |   |          |
| Net reserve for losses and loss expenses, September 30 | 1,081.5   | 950.4    |
| Losses and loss expenses recoverable                   | 4.9   | 21.6     |
| Reserve for losses and loss expenses, September 30     | \$ 1,086.4  | \$ 972.0 |

*Acquisition costs.* Acquisition costs decreased by \$3.1 million, or 11.4%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007 primarily as a result of the related decrease in net premiums earned. The acquisition cost ratio decreased to 19.4% for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to 21.8% for the three months ended September 30, 2007 primarily due to lower estimated acquisition costs for certain international reinsurance treaties.

*General and administrative expenses.* General and administrative expenses increased \$2.0 million, or 20.6%, for the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007. The increase in general and administrative expenses was attributable to increased salary and related costs, increased building-related costs, increased professional fees and higher costs associated with information technology. The 1.7 percentage point increase in the general and administrative expense ratio from 7.8% for the three months ended September 30, 2007 to 9.5% for the three months ended September 30, 2008 was primarily a result of the factors discussed above, while net premiums earned declined.

**Comparison of Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008 and 2007**

*Premiums.* Gross premiums written decreased \$71.3 million, or 14.5%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. The decrease in gross premiums written was primarily due to non-renewal of business that did not meet our underwriting requirements (which included inadequate pricing and/or contract terms and conditions), increased competition and inadequate pricing for new business, net downward adjustments on estimated premiums and some cedents purchasing less reinsurance. Adjustments on estimated premiums were lower by approximately \$16.3 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. We recognized net downward adjustments of \$5.2 million during the nine months ended

September 30, 2008 compared to net upward adjustments of \$11.1 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The impact of some cedents purchasing less reinsurance resulted in lower gross premiums written of approximately \$12.0 million.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, our Bermuda and U.S. reinsurance operations wrote gross premiums written of \$334.5 million and \$85.4 million, respectively. The gross premiums written by our U.S. reinsurance operations, which commenced business in April 2008, included the renewal of certain treaties previously written in Bermuda of \$52.5 million.

The table below illustrates our gross premiums written by line of business for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007.

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|                                    | <b>Nine Months<br/>Ended</b>  |             | <b>Dollar<br/>Change</b> | <b>Percentage<br/>Change</b> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
|                                    | <b>September 30,<br/>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |                          |                              |
|                                    | (\$ in millions)              |             |                          |                              |
| Professional liability reinsurance | \$ 129.7                      | \$ 192.0    | \$ (62.3)                | (32.4)%                      |
| General casualty reinsurance       | 104.7                         | 112.8       | (8.1)                    | (7.2)                        |
| Property reinsurance               | 77.6                          | 82.5        | (4.9)                    | (5.9)                        |
| International reinsurance          | 76.1                          | 69.7        | 6.4                      | 9.2                          |
| Facultative reinsurance            | 20.6                          | 26.1        | (5.5)                    | (21.1)                       |
| Other                              | 11.2                          | 8.1         | 3.1                      | 38.3                         |
|                                    | \$ 419.9                      | \$ 491.2    | \$ (71.3)                | (14.5)%                      |

Net premiums written decreased by \$72.8 million, or 14.8%, which was consistent with the decrease in gross premiums written. Net premiums earned decreased \$10.2 million, or 2.7%, as a result of lower net premiums written.

*Net losses and loss expenses.* Net losses and loss expenses decreased by \$35.2 million, or 15.8%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The decrease in net losses and loss expenses was primarily due to higher net favorable reserve development recognized during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007, partially offset by loss and loss expenses incurred of \$22.3 million related to Hurricanes Ike and Gustav and \$5.0 million related to the flooding in the U.S. Midwest. Overall, our reinsurance segment recorded net favorable reserve development of \$64.2 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to net favorable reserve development of \$7.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

The net favorable reserve development of \$64.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 included the following:

Net favorable reserve development of \$14.7 million for our professional liability reinsurance, general casualty reinsurance, accident and health reinsurance and facultative reinsurance lines of business. The net favorable reserve development for these lines of business was primarily the result of actual loss emergence being lower than the initial expected loss emergence for the 2003 through 2005 loss years.

Net favorable reserve development of \$33.3 million, excluding the 2004 and 2005 windstorms, for our property reinsurance and international reinsurance lines of business was primarily the result of actual loss emergence being lower than the initial expected loss emergence for the 2002 through 2007 loss years.

We recognized net favorable development of \$17.0 million related to the 2005 windstorms and net unfavorable reserve development of \$0.8 million related to the 2004 windstorms. We recognized net favorable reserve development for the 2005 windstorms due to lower than anticipated loss activity over the past several months.

The net favorable reserve development of \$7.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 was comprised of the following:

Net favorable reserve development of \$4.4 million related to the 2004 and 2005 windstorms. We recognized favorable reserve development of \$4.7 million related to the 2005 windstorms and unfavorable reserve development of \$0.3 million related to the 2004 windstorms.

Net favorable reserve development of \$1.6 million related to low loss emergence in our property reinsurance lines of business for the 2004 and 2005 loss years.

Net favorable reserve development of \$1.7 million related to low loss emergence in our accident and health reinsurance line of business for the 2004 and 2005 loss years.

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The loss and loss expense ratio for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 was 51.6% compared to 59.6% for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. Net favorable reserve development recognized during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 reduced the loss and loss expense ratio by 17.7 percentage points. Thus, the loss and loss expense ratio related to the current period's business was 69.3%. In comparison, net favorable reserve development recognized in the nine months ended September 30, 2007 reduced the loss and loss expense ratio by 2.0 percentage points. Thus, the loss and loss expense ratio related to that period's business was 61.6%. The increase in the loss and loss expense ratio for the current period's business was due to lower rates on new and renewal contracts, and higher than expected reported loss activity including net losses and loss expenses recognized of \$5.0 million for the floods in the U.S. Midwest and \$22.3 million for Hurricanes Ike and Gustav.

Net paid losses were \$104.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to \$104.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

The table below is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending reserves for losses and loss expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007. Losses incurred and paid are reflected net of reinsurance recoverables.

|  | <b>Nine Months Ended<br/>September 30,<br/>2008                  2007<br/>(\$ in millions)</b> |          |
|--|--|----------|
| Net reserves for losses and loss expenses, January 1   | \$ 998.2   | \$ 832.8 |
| Incurred related to:                                   |  |          |
| Current period non-catastrophe                         | 224.2  | 230.2    |
| Current period property catastrophe                    | 27.3   |          |
| Prior period non-catastrophe                           | (48.0)   | (3.3)    |
| Prior period property catastrophe                      | (16.2)   | (4.4)    |
| Total incurred   | \$ 187.3   | \$ 222.5 |
| Paid related to:                                       |  |          |
| Current period non-catastrophe                         | 8.0  | 1.8      |
| Current period property catastrophe                    |  |          |
| Prior period non-catastrophe                           | 73.8   | 78.6     |
| Prior period property catastrophe                      | 22.2   | 24.5     |
| Total paid   | \$ 104.0   | \$ 104.9 |
| Foreign exchange revaluation                           |  |          |
| Net reserve for losses and loss expenses, September 30 | 1,081.5  | 950.4    |
| Losses and loss expenses recoverable                   | 4.9  | 21.6     |
| Reserve for losses and loss expenses, September 30     | \$ 1,086.4   | \$ 972.0 |

*Acquisition costs.* Acquisition costs decreased by \$5.6 million, or 7.3%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007 primarily as a result of the related decrease in net premiums earned. The acquisition cost ratio of 19.6% for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2008 was in line with the 20.5% acquisition cost ratio for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2007.

*General and administrative expenses.* General and administrative expenses increased \$2.4 million, or 8.1%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The increase was primarily the result of a one-time expense of \$1.2 million for the reimbursement of forfeited stock compensation and signing bonuses for new executives hired as a result of the continued expansion of our U.S. operations and increased building-related costs, increased professional fees and higher costs associated with information technology partially offset by lower salary and related costs. The 0.9 percentage point increase in the general and administrative expense

ratio from 7.9% for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 to 8.8% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 was primarily a result of the factors discussed above, while net premiums earned decreased.

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**Table of Contents****Reserves for Losses and Loss Expenses**

Reserves for losses and loss expenses as of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007 were comprised of the following:

|  | Property         |               | Casualty      |               | Reinsurance   |               | Total         |               |
|--|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|  | Sep. 30, 2008    | Dec. 31, 2007 | Sep. 30, 2008 | Dec. 31, 2007 | Sep. 30, 2008 | Dec. 31, 2007 | Sep. 30, 2008 | Dec. 31, 2007 |
|  | (\$ in millions) |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| Case reserves                            | \$ 462.1         | \$ 480.0      | \$ 296.6      | \$ 270.7      | \$ 248.1      | \$ 212.7      | \$ 1,006.9    | \$ 963.4      |
| IBNR                                     | 275.0            | 280.7         | 2,078.6       | 1,872.0       | 838.3         | 803.7         | 3,191.9       | 2,956.4       |
| Reserve for losses and loss expenses     | 737.1            | 760.7         | 2,375.2       | 2,142.7       | 1,086.4       | 1,016.4       | 4,198.8       | 3,919.8       |
| Reinsurance recoverables                 | (346.9)          | (400.1)       | (425.4)       | (264.5)       | (4.9)         | (18.2)        | (777.3)       | (682.8)       |
| Net reserve for losses and loss expenses | \$ 390.2         | \$ 360.6      | \$ 1,949.8    | \$ 1,878.2    | \$ 1,081.5    | \$ 998.2      | \$ 3,421.5    | \$ 3,237.0    |

Included in the increase in reserves for losses and loss expenses for the casualty segment from December 31, 2007 to September 30, 2008 was the reserves for losses and loss expenses assumed in connection with the acquisition of Fial Insurance Company, now known as Allied World Reinsurance Company. As a part of the acquisition, we assumed case reserves of \$56.4 million and IBNR of \$48.5 million. The case reserves and IBNR assumed were 100% ceded to National Indemnity Company, an affiliate of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., resulting in an increase of \$104.9 million in reinsurance recoverables. Please refer to Note 4 of the notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements for additional information regarding the acquisition of Fial Insurance Company. As of September 30, 2008, the case reserves and IBNR assumed from Fial Insurance Company were \$49.6 million and \$44.2 million, respectively.

We participate in certain lines of business where claims may not be reported for many years. Accordingly, management does not solely rely upon reported claims on these lines for estimating ultimate liabilities, but also uses statistical and actuarial methods to estimate expected ultimate losses and loss expenses. Loss reserves do not represent an exact calculation of liability. Rather, loss reserves are estimates of what we expect the ultimate resolution and administration of claims will cost. These estimates are based on various factors including underwriters' expectations about loss experience, actuarial analysis, comparisons with the results of industry benchmarks and loss experience to date. Loss reserve estimates are refined as experience develops and as claims are reported and resolved. Establishing an appropriate level of loss reserves is an inherently uncertain process. Ultimate losses and loss expenses may differ from our reserves, possibly by material amounts.

The following tables provide our ranges of loss and loss expense reserve estimates by business segment as of September 30, 2008:

|          | Reserve for Losses and Loss Expenses<br>Gross of Reinsurance Recoverable(1) |                                  |               |
|----------|---|----------------------------------|---------------|
|          | Carried Reserves  | Low Estimate<br>(\$ in millions) | High Estimate |
| Property | \$ 737.1  | \$ 605.6                         | \$ 998.4      |
| Casualty | 2,375.2   | 1,734.9                          | 2,670.9       |

|             |   |  |                          |
|-------------|---|--|--------------------------|
| Reinsurance | 1,086.4   | 764.2  | 1,337.6                  |
|             | <b>Reserve for Losses and Loss Expenses<br/>Net of Reinsurance Recoverable(1)</b> |  |                          |
|             | <b>Carried<br/>Reserves</b>   | <b>Low<br/>Estimate<br/>(\$ in millions)</b> | <b>High<br/>Estimate</b> |
| Property    | \$ 390.2  | \$ 327.7                                     | \$ 543.4                 |
| Casualty    | 1,949.8   | 1,396.7                                      | 2,201.9                  |
| Reinsurance | 1,081.5   | 760.0  | 1,332.8                  |

(1) For statistical reasons, it is not appropriate to add together the ranges of each business segment in an effort to determine the low and high range around the consolidated loss reserves.

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Our range for each business segment was determined by utilizing multiple actuarial loss reserving methods along with various assumptions of reporting patterns and expected loss ratios by loss year. The various outcomes of these techniques were combined to determine a reasonable range of required loss and loss expense reserves.

Our selection of the actual carried reserves has typically been above the midpoint of the range. We believe that we should be conservative in our reserving practices due to the lengthy reporting patterns and relatively large limits of net liability for any one risk of our direct excess casualty business and of our casualty reinsurance business. Thus, due to this uncertainty regarding estimates for reserve for losses and loss expenses, we have historically carried our consolidated reserve for losses and loss expenses, net of reinsurance recoverable, above the midpoint of the low and high estimates for the consolidated net losses and loss expenses. These long-tail lines of business include our entire casualty segment, as well as the general casualty, professional liability, facultative casualty and the international casualty components of our reinsurance segment. We believe that relying on the more conservative actuarial indications is prudent for these lines of business. For a discussion of loss and loss expense reserve estimate, please see Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Critical Accounting Policies Reserve for Losses and Loss Expenses in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on February 29, 2008.

**Reinsurance Recoverable**

The following table illustrates our reinsurance recoverable as of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007:

|                         | <b>Reinsurance<br/>Recoverable</b> |                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                         | <b>As of<br/>Sep. 30,<br/>2008</b> | <b>As of<br/>Dec. 31,<br/>2007</b> |
|                         | (\$ in millions)                   |                                    |
| Ceded case reserves     | \$ 309.7                           | \$ 289.2                           |
| Ceded IBNR reserves     | 467.6                              | 393.6                              |
| Reinsurance recoverable | \$ 777.3                           | \$ 682.8                           |

Included in the increase in ceded case reserves and ceded IBNR from December 31, 2007 to September 30, 2008 was the reinsurance recoverable recorded for the reserves assumed as a part of the acquisition of Finial Insurance Company. As a part of the acquisition, we assumed case reserves of \$56.4 million and IBNR of \$48.5 million. The case reserves and IBNR assumed were 100% ceded to National Indemnity Company, resulting in additional reinsurance recoverables of \$104.9 million. Please refer to Note 4 of the notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements for additional information regarding the acquisition of Finial Insurance Company. As of September 30, 2008, the reinsurance recoverables from National Indemnity Company were \$93.8 million. We remain obligated for amounts ceded in the event our reinsurers do not meet their obligations. Accordingly, we have evaluated the reinsurers that are providing reinsurance protection to us and will continue to monitor their credit ratings and financial stability. We generally have the right to terminate our treaty reinsurance contracts at any time, upon prior written notice to the reinsurer, under specified circumstances, including the assignment to the reinsurer by A.M. Best of a financial strength rating of less than A-. Approximately 98% of ceded case reserves as of September 30, 2008 were recoverable from reinsurers who had an A.M. Best rating of A- or higher. Included in these amounts were \$8.4 million of recoverables on ceded case reserves from affiliates of American International Group, Inc.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources****General**

As of September 30, 2008, our shareholders' equity was \$2.3 billion, a 1.5% increase compared to \$2.2 billion as of December 31, 2007. The increase was primarily the result of net income for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2008 of \$163.8 million partially offset by unrealized losses of \$129.7 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2008. On January 1, 2008, we adopted FAS 159 and elected the fair value option for our hedge

fund investments. Upon adoption of FAS 159, we reclassified the net unrealized gain related to the hedge funds of \$26.3 million from accumulated other comprehensive income and recorded a cumulative-effect adjustment in retained earnings. Any subsequent change in the fair value of our hedge fund investments will be recognized in the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income and included in net realized investment gains (losses). Please refer to Note 7 of the notes to our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements regarding our adoption of FAS 159.

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Holdings is a holding company and transacts no business of its own. Cash flows to Holdings may comprise dividends, advances and loans from its subsidiary companies. Holdings is therefore reliant on receiving dividends and other permitted distributions from its subsidiaries to make principal, interest and/or dividend payments on its senior notes and common shares.

**Restrictions and Specific Requirements**

The jurisdictions in which our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries are licensed to write business impose regulations requiring companies to maintain or meet various defined statutory ratios, including solvency and liquidity requirements. Some jurisdictions also place restrictions on the declaration and payment of dividends and other distributions.

The payment of dividends from Holdings Bermuda domiciled insurance subsidiary is, under certain circumstances, limited under Bermuda law, which requires our Bermuda insurance subsidiary to maintain certain measures of solvency and liquidity. Holdings U.S. domiciled subsidiaries are subject to significant regulatory restrictions limiting their ability to declare and pay dividends. In particular, payments of dividends by Allied World Assurance Company (U.S.) Inc., Allied World National Assurance Company and Allied World Reinsurance Company are subject to restrictions on statutory surplus pursuant to Delaware law, New Hampshire law and New Jersey law, respectively. Each state requires prior regulatory approval of any payment of extraordinary dividends. In addition, Allied World Assurance Company (Europe) Limited and Allied World Assurance Company (Reinsurance) Limited are subject to significant regulatory restrictions limiting their ability to declare and pay any dividends without the consent of the Irish Financial Services Regulatory Authority. We also have insurance subsidiaries that are the parent company for other insurance subsidiaries, which means that dividends and other distributions will be subject to multiple layers of regulations as funds are pushed up to Holdings. The inability of the subsidiaries of Holdings to pay dividends and other permitted distributions could have a material adverse effect on Holdings cash requirements and ability to make principal, interest and dividend payments on its senior notes and common shares.

Holdings insurance subsidiary in Bermuda, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, is neither licensed nor admitted as an insurer, nor is it accredited as a reinsurer, in any jurisdiction in the United States. As a result, it is required to post collateral security with respect to any reinsurance liabilities it assumes from ceding insurers domiciled in the United States in order for U.S. ceding companies to obtain credit on their U.S. statutory financial statements with respect to insurance liabilities ceded to them. Under applicable statutory provisions, the security arrangements may be in the form of letters of credit, reinsurance trusts maintained by trustees or funds-withheld arrangements where assets are held by the ceding company.

At this time, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd uses trust accounts primarily to meet security requirements for inter-company and certain related-party reinsurance transactions. We also have cash and cash equivalents and investments on deposit with various state or government insurance departments or pledged in favor of ceding companies in order to comply with relevant insurance regulations. As of September 30, 2008, total trust account deposits were \$698.3 million compared to \$802.7 million as of December 31, 2007. In addition, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd currently has access to up to \$1.55 billion in letters of credit under two letter of credit facilities, one with Citibank Europe plc and one with a syndication of lenders described below. These facilities are used to provide security to reinsureds and are collateralized by us, at least to the extent of letters of credit outstanding at any given time. As of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, there were outstanding letters of credit totaling \$908.0 million and \$922.2 million, respectively, under the two facilities. Collateral committed to support the letter of credit facilities was \$1,091.0 million as of September 30, 2008, compared to \$1,170.7 million as of December 31, 2007.

In November 2007, we entered into an \$800 million five-year senior credit facility (the Facility) with a syndication of lenders. The Facility consists of a \$400 million secured letter of credit facility for the issuance of standby letters of credit (the Secured Facility) and a \$400 million unsecured facility for the making of revolving loans and for the issuance of standby letters of credit (the Unsecured Facility). Both the Secured Facility and the Unsecured Facility have options to increase the aggregate commitments by up to \$200 million, subject to approval of the lenders. The Facility will be used for general corporate purposes and to issue standby letters of credit. The Facility contains representations, warranties and covenants customary for similar bank loan facilities, including a covenant to maintain

a ratio of consolidated indebtedness to total capitalization as of the last day of each fiscal quarter or fiscal year of not greater than 0.35 to 1.0 and a covenant under the Unsecured Facility to maintain a certain consolidated net worth. In addition, each material insurance subsidiary must maintain a financial strength rating from A.M. Best Company of at least A- under the Unsecured Facility and of at least B++ under the Secured Facility. Concurrent with this new Facility, we terminated the Letter of Credit Facility with Barclays Bank PLC and all outstanding letters of credit issued thereunder were transferred to the Secured Facility. We were in compliance with all covenants under the Facility as of September 30, 2008.

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There are a total of 13 lenders who make up the Facility syndication and have varying commitments ranging from \$20.0 million to \$87.5 million. Of the 13 lenders, four have commitments of \$87.5 million each, four have commitments of \$62.5 million each, four have commitments of \$45.0 million each and one has a commitment of \$20.0 million. One of the lenders in the Facility with a \$20.0 million commitment has declared bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. We do not expect this lender to be able to meet its commitment under the Facility.

Security arrangements with ceding insurers may subject our assets to security interests or require that a portion of our assets be pledged to, or otherwise held by, third parties. Both of our letter of credit facilities are fully collateralized by assets held in custodial accounts at the Bank of New York Mellon held for the benefit of the banks. Although the investment income derived from our assets while held in trust accrues to our benefit, the investment of these assets is governed by the terms of the letter of credit facilities or the investment regulations of the state or territory of domicile of the ceding insurer, which may be more restrictive than the investment regulations applicable to us under Bermuda law. The restrictions may result in lower investment yields on these assets, which may adversely affect our profitability.

We participate in a securities lending program whereby the securities we own that are included in fixed maturity investments available for sale are loaned to third parties, primarily brokerage firms, for a short period of time through a lending agent. We maintain control over the securities we lend and can recall them at any time for any reason. We receive amounts equal to all interest and dividends associated with the loaned securities and receive a fee from the borrower for the temporary use of the securities. Collateral in the form of cash is required initially at a minimum rate of 102% of the market value of the loaned securities and may not decrease below 100% of the market value of the loaned securities before additional collateral is required. We had \$48.6 million and \$144.6 million in securities on loan as of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, respectively, with collateral held against such loaned securities amounting to \$48.8 million and \$147.2 million, respectively.

We do not currently anticipate that the restrictions on liquidity resulting from restrictions on the payments of dividends by our subsidiary companies or from assets committed in trust accounts or to collateralize the letter of credit facilities or by our securities lending program will have a material impact on our ability to carry out our normal business activities, including interest and dividend payments, respectively, on our senior notes and common shares.

Despite the recent turmoil in the financial and credit markets, we believe our company's capital position continues to remain well within the range needed for our business requirements and we have sufficient liquidity to fund our ongoing operations.

### **Sources and Uses of Funds**

Our sources of funds primarily consist of premium receipts net of commissions, investment income, net proceeds from capital raising activities that may include the issuance of common shares, senior notes and other debt or equity issuances, and proceeds from sales and redemption of investments. Cash is used primarily to pay losses and loss expenses, purchase reinsurance, pay general and administrative expenses and taxes, and pay dividends and interest, with the remainder made available to our investment portfolio managers for investment in accordance with our investment policy.

On December 31, 2007, we filed a shelf-registration statement on Form S-3 (No. 333-148409) with the SEC in which we may offer from time to time common shares, preference shares, depository shares representing common shares or preference shares, senior or subordinated debt securities, warrants to purchase common shares, preference shares and debt securities, share purchase contracts, share purchase units and units which may consist of any combination of the securities listed above. The proceeds from any issuance may be used for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and other general corporate purposes. To the extent additional capital is necessary, the current conditions in the financial markets may prevent us from raising capital or from raising capital at reasonable prices.

Cash flows from operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 were \$509.9 million compared to \$618.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The decrease in cash flows from operations was primarily due to lower net premiums written.

Cash flows from investing activities consist primarily of proceeds on the sale of investments and payments for investments acquired. We had cash flows provided by investing activities of \$154.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to cash flows used in investing activities of \$1,120.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The increase in investing cash flows was due to higher proceeds on the sale of fixed maturity securities caused by selling securities to fund the payment of our acquisition of Darwin. The transaction to acquire Darwin was completed in October 2008 and the total amount paid was \$550.1 million, excluding direct costs of the acquisition. Also included in the cash flows used in investing activities was the net

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cash paid for Finial Insurance Company of \$44.1 million. Please refer to Note 4 of our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements regarding our acquisition of Finial Insurance Company.

Cash flows used in financing activities consist primarily of the payment of dividends and any capital raising activities, which would include the issuance of common shares or debt. During the nine months ended September 30, 2008 we paid dividends of \$26.4 million compared to \$27.2 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2007.

On November 6, 2008, our board of directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.18 per share, or approximately \$8.8 million in aggregate, payable on December 11, 2008 to the shareholders of record as of November 25, 2008. We expect our operating cash flows, together with our existing capital base, to be sufficient to meet these requirements and to operate our business. Our funds are primarily invested in liquid, high-grade fixed income securities. As of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, including a global high-yield bond fund, 99% of our fixed income portfolio consisted of investment grade securities. As of September 30, 2008, net accumulated unrealized losses, net of income taxes, were \$19.8 million and as of December 31, 2007, net accumulated unrealized gains, net of income taxes, were \$136.2 million. The change in unrealized gains or losses during 2008 reflected movements in interest rates and credit spread widening partially offset by the recognition of approximately \$112.3 million of realized losses on securities that were considered to be impaired on an other-than-temporary basis. The maturity distribution of our fixed income portfolio (on a market value basis) as of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007 was as follows:

|  | <b>September<br/>30,<br/>2008</b> | <b>December 31,<br/>2007</b> |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
|  | (\$ in millions)                  |                              |
| Due in one year or less                | \$ 310.7                          | \$ 474.1                     |
| Due after one year through five years. | 1,474.4                           | 1,982.1                      |
| Due after five years through ten years | 1,087.9                           | 869.0                        |
| Due after ten years                    | 383.6                             | 99.5                         |
| Mortgage-backed                        | 2,069.1                           | 2,117.5                      |
| Asset-backed                           | 107.6                             | 164.9                        |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>\$ 5,433.3</b>                 | <b>\$ 5,707.1</b>            |

We have investments in various hedge funds, the market value of which was \$167.7 million as of September 30, 2008. Each of the hedge funds has redemption notice requirements. For those hedge funds that are in the form of limited partnerships, liquidity is allowed after the term of the partnership and could be extended at the option of the general partner. As of September 30, 2008, we had two hedge funds that were in the form of limited partnerships, which allow for liquidity in 2010 unless extended by the general partners. Our other hedge funds typically allow liquidity an average of three months after we give notice of redemption. During September 2008, we submitted redemption requests for our investments in the Goldman Sachs Multi-Strategy VI, Ltd fund (the Portfolio VI Fund ) and AIG Select Hedge Ltd. fund (the AIG Select Fund ). We are the sole investors in the Portfolio VI Fund and the market value of this fund was \$65.5 million as of September 30, 2008. The market value of the AIG Select Fund was \$62.6 million as of September 30, 2008. Given current market conditions, we may not realize the full value of these investments at final redemption.

We do not believe that inflation has had a material effect on our consolidated results of operations. The potential exists, after a catastrophe loss, for the development of inflationary pressures in a local economy. The effects of inflation are considered implicitly in pricing. Loss reserves are established to recognize likely loss settlements at the date payment is made. Those reserves inherently recognize the effects of inflation. The actual effects of inflation on our results cannot be accurately known, however, until claims are ultimately resolved.

**Financial Strength Ratings**

Financial strength ratings and senior unsecured debt ratings represent the opinions of rating agencies on our capacity to meet our obligations. Some of our reinsurance treaties contain special funding and termination clauses that are triggered in the event that we or one of our subsidiaries is downgraded by one of the major rating agencies to levels specified in the treaties, or our capital is significantly reduced. If such an event were to happen, we would be required, in certain instances, to post collateral in the form of letters of credit and/or trust accounts against existing outstanding losses, if any, related to the treaty. In a limited number of instances, the subject treaties could be cancelled retroactively or commuted by the cedent and might affect our ability to write business.

The following were our financial strength ratings as of November 3, 2008:

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|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| A.M. Best           | A/stable    |
| Moody s*            | A2/negative |
| Standard & Poor s** | A-/stable   |

\* Moody s financial strength ratings are for the company s Bermuda and U.S. insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries, other than those U.S. subsidiaries the company acquired from Darwin.

\*\* The U.S. subsidiaries the company acquired from Darwin are not rated by Standard & Poor s.

The following were our senior unsecured debt ratings as of November 3, 2008:

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| A.M. Best         | bbb/stable    |
| Moody s           | Baa1/negative |
| Standard & Poor s | BBB/stable    |

**Long-Term Debt**

On July 21, 2006, we issued \$500.0 million aggregate principal amount of 7.50% senior notes due August 1, 2016, with interest payable August 1 and February 1 each year, commencing February 1, 2007. We can redeem the senior notes prior to maturity, subject to payment of a make-whole premium, however, we currently have no intention of redeeming the notes. The senior notes include certain covenants that include:

Limitation on liens on stock of designated subsidiaries;

Limitation as to the disposition of stock of designated subsidiaries; and

Limitations on mergers, amalgamations, consolidations or sale of assets.

We were in compliance with all covenants related to our senior notes as of September 30, 2008.

**Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

As of September 30, 2008, we did not have any off-balance sheet arrangements.

**Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.**

We believe that we are principally exposed to three types of market risk: interest rate risk, credit risk and currency risk.

The fixed income securities in our investment portfolio are subject to interest rate risk. Any change in interest rates has a direct effect on the market values of fixed income securities. As interest rates rise, the market values fall, and vice versa. The change in market value is determined by calculating hypothetical September 30, 2008 ending prices based on yields adjusted to reflect the hypothetical changes in interest rates, comparing such hypothetical ending prices to actual ending prices, and multiplying the difference by the principal amount of the security. The sensitivity analysis is based on estimates. The estimated changes of our fixed maturity investments and cash and cash equivalents presented below and actual changes for interest rate shifts could differ significantly.

|  | <b>Interest Rate Shift in Basis Points</b> |             |            |           |            |             |             |
|--|--|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | <b>-200</b>                                | <b>-100</b> | <b>-50</b> | <b>0</b>  | <b>+50</b> | <b>+100</b> | <b>+200</b> |
|  | <b>(\$ in millions)</b>                    |             |            |           |            |             |             |
| Total market value                               | \$6,642.7                                  | \$6,432.2   | \$6,328.3  | \$6,225.2 | \$6,123.0  | \$6,021.7   | \$5,821.7   |
| Market value change from base                    | 417.5                                      | 207.0       | 103.1      | 0         | (102.2)    | (203.5)     | (403.5)     |
| Change in unrealized appreciation/(depreciation) | 6.7%                                       | 3.3%        | 1.7%       | 0.0%      | (1.6)%     | (3.3)%      | (6.5)%      |

As a holder of fixed income securities, we also have exposure to credit risk. In an effort to minimize this risk, our investment guidelines have been defined to ensure that the assets held are well diversified and are primarily high-quality securities. As of

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September 30, 2008, approximately 99% of our fixed income investments (which includes individually held securities and securities held in a global high-yield bond fund) consisted of investment grade securities. As of September 30, 2008, we held \$910.7 million, or 14.1%, of our aggregate invested assets in corporate bonds that were issued by entities within the financial services industry. These corporate bonds had an average credit rating of AA-.

As of September 30, 2008, we held \$2,069.1 million, or 32.0%, of our aggregate invested assets in mortgage-backed securities, which included agency pass-through mortgage backed securities, non-agency mortgage-backed securities and commercial mortgage-backed securities. The agency pass-through mortgage backed securities, non-agency mortgage-backed securities and commercial mortgage-backed securities represented 19.8%, 4.2% and 8.0%, respectively, of our aggregate invested assets. These assets are exposed to prepayment risk, which occurs when holders of individual mortgages increase the frequency with which they prepay the outstanding principal before the maturity date to refinance at a lower interest rate cost. Given the proportion that these securities comprise of the overall portfolio, and the current interest rate environment, prepayment risk is not considered significant at this time. In addition, nearly all of our investments in mortgage-backed securities were rated Aaa by Moody's and AAA by Standard & Poor's as of September 30, 2008. As of September 30, 2008, our mortgage-backed securities that have exposure to subprime mortgages was limited to \$2.3 million, or 0.04%, of our fixed maturity investments.

As of September 30, 2008, we held investments in four hedge funds with a market value of \$167.7 million. Investments in hedge funds involve certain risks related to, among other things, the illiquid nature of the fund shares, the limited operating history of the fund, as well as risks associated with the strategies employed by the managers of the funds.

Given the current turmoil in the financial markets, we believe that there is potential for significant write-downs of our, and other insurers', invested assets in future periods if the current economic environment were to persist for an extended period of time.

The U.S. dollar is our reporting currency and the functional currency of all of our operating subsidiaries. We enter into insurance and reinsurance contracts where the premiums receivable and losses payable are denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. In addition, we maintain a portion of our investments and liabilities in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, primarily Euro, British Sterling and the Canadian dollar. Assets in non-U.S. currencies are generally converted into U.S. dollars at the time of receipt. When we incur a liability in a non-U.S. currency, we carry such liability on our books in the original currency. These liabilities are converted from the non-U.S. currency to U.S. dollars at the time of payment. As a result, we have an exposure to foreign currency risk resulting from fluctuations in exchange rates.

As of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, 2.3% of our aggregate invested assets were denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. Of our business written in the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, approximately 16% and 14% was written in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, respectively. Of our business written in the year ended December 31, 2007, approximately 14% was written in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. We utilize a hedging strategy whose objective is to minimize the potential loss of value caused by currency fluctuations by using foreign currency forward contract derivatives that expire in 90 days.

Our foreign exchange gain for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007 and the year ended December 31, 2007 are set forth in the chart below.

|                                 | <b>Nine Months<br/>Ended<br/>September 30,<br/>2008</b> |        | <b>Year<br/>Ended<br/>December 31<br/>2007</b> |       |
|---------------------------------|---|--------|--|-------|
|                                 | 2008  |        | 2007   |       |
|                                 | (\$ in millions)  |        |  |       |
| Realized exchange (loss) gain   | \$ (1.9)  | \$ 0.6 | \$   | 1.6   |
| Unrealized exchange gain (loss) | 4.6   | (0.2)  |  | (0.8) |
| Foreign exchange gain           | \$ 2.7  | \$ 0.4 | \$   | 0.8   |

**Item 4. Controls and Procedures.**

In connection with the preparation of this quarterly report, our management has performed an evaluation, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in

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Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act ) as of September 30, 2008. Disclosure controls and procedures are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified by SEC rules and forms and that such information is accumulated and communicated to management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, to allow for timely decisions regarding required disclosures. Based on their evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of September 30, 2008, our company s disclosure controls and procedures were effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed in our reports filed under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified by SEC rules and forms and accumulated and communicated to management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow for timely decisions regarding required disclosures.

Our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, does not expect that our disclosure controls and procedures or our internal control over financial reporting will prevent all error and all 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 an absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within our company have been detected.

No changes were made in our internal controls over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f), during the quarter ended September 30, 2008 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

**PART II  
OTHER INFORMATION**

**Item 1. Legal Proceedings.**

We are and in the future may become involved in various claims and legal proceedings that arise in the normal course of our business. While any claim or legal proceeding contains an element of uncertainty, we do not currently believe that any claim or legal proceeding to which we are presently a party to is likely to have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

**Item 1A. Risk Factors.**

Our business is subject to a number of risks, including those identified in Item 1A of Part I of our 2007 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC, that could have a material effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and/or liquidity and that could cause our operating results to vary significantly from period to period. The risks described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K are not the only risks we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also could have a material effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and/or liquidity.

On October 20, 2008, we completed the acquisition of Darwin, and Darwin is now an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of ours. As with any acquisition, there are risks for the combined entity going forward, including those risks set forth in the risk factor below.

***The anticipated benefits of the Darwin acquisition may not be realized fully or at all or may take longer to realize than expected.***

The acquisition involves the integration of two companies that have previously operated independently. The two companies have and will continue to devote significant management attention and resources to integrating the two companies. Delays in this process could adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition and share price. Achieving the anticipated benefits of the acquisition is subject to a number of uncertainties, including whether Darwin s and our businesses are integrated in an efficient and effective manner, and general competitive factors in the marketplace. We may experience unanticipated difficulties or expenses in connection with integrating these businesses, including:

- retaining existing employees, clients, brokers, agents and program administrators of Darwin,

- retaining and integrating management and other key employees of Darwin and

potential charges to earnings resulting from the application of purchase accounting to the transaction.

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Even if the business operations are integrated successfully, there can be no assurance that we will realize the full benefits of synergies, cost savings and operating efficiencies that we currently expect from this integration or that these benefits will be achieved within the anticipated time frame. Failure to achieve these anticipated benefits could result in increased costs, decreases in the amount of expected revenues and diversion of management's time and energy and could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

**Item 2. *Unregistered Sale of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.***

None.

**Item 3. *Defaults Upon Senior Securities.***

None.

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

None.

**Item 5. *Other Information.***

None.

**Item 6. *Exhibits.***

**Exhibit**

**Number**

**Description**

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 10.1(1) | Form of Indemnification Agreement.  |
| 31.1    | Certification by Chief Executive Officer, as required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 31.2    | Certification by Chief Financial Officer, as required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.1*   | Certification by Chief Executive Officer, as required by Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.2*   | Certification by Chief Financial Officer, as required by Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |

(1) Incorporated by reference to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd, filed with the SEC on August 7, 2006. Other than with respect to matters such as his name and address, the indemnification agreement for Mr. Patrick de Saint-Aignan is identical to the form filed as Exhibit 10.1.

\* These certifications are being furnished solely pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (subsections (a) and (b) of Section 1350, chapter 63 of title 18 United States Code) and are not being filed as part of this report.

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements 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.

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY  
HOLDINGS, LTD

Dated: November 7, 2008

By: /s/ Scott A. Carmilani  
Name:

Title: Scott A. Carmilani  
President and Chief Executive  
Officer

Dated: November 7, 2008

By: /s/ Joan H. Dillard  
Name:

Title: Joan H. Dillard  
Senior Vice President and Chief  
Financial Officer

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

| <b>Exhibit<br/>Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|---------------------------|---|
| 10.1(1)                   | Form of Indemnification Agreement.  |
| 31.1                      | Certification by Chief Executive Officer, as required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 31.2                      | Certification by Chief Financial Officer, as required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.1*                     | Certification by Chief Executive Officer, as required by Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.2*                     | Certification by Chief Financial Officer, as required by Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |

(1) Incorporated by reference to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd, filed with the SEC on August 7, 2006. Other than with respect to matters such as his name and address, the indemnification agreement for Mr. Patrick de Saint-Aignan is identical to the form filed as Exhibit 10.1.

\* These certifications are being furnished solely pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (subsections (a) and (b) of Section 1350,

chapter 63 of  
title 18 United  
States Code)  
and are not  
being filed as  
part of this  
report.

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