

HARTFORD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP INC/DE
Form 424B2
March 19, 2010

Table of Contents

Title of each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee(1)
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	60,090,089	\$27.75	1,667,499,969	\$118,892.75

(1) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Filed pursuant to Rule 424b2
Registration No. 333-142044

Prospectus Supplement to Prospectus dated April 11, 2007.

52,252,252 Shares

The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.

Common Stock

We are offering 52,252,252 shares of our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the common stock) to be sold in this offering. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, or the NYSE, under the symbol **HIG**. On March 17, 2010, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the NYSE was \$28.58 per share.

Concurrently with this offering of common stock, we are offering 20,000,000 depositary shares (23,000,000 shares if the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional depositary shares in full), each representing a 1/40th interest in a share of our 7.25% mandatory convertible preferred stock (the depositary shares). The depositary shares will be offered pursuant to a separate prospectus supplement (the depositary shares offering).

Shortly after the date hereof, we also plan to offer, by means of a separate prospectus supplement, \$1.1 billion of our senior debt securities in one or more series (the planned debt offering). None of these offerings is conditioned upon the successful completion of any of the other offerings.

Investing in our common stock involves substantial risks. You should carefully consider the risks described under the Risk Factors section of this prospectus supplement beginning on page S-3 and similar sections in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission incorporated by reference herein before buying any of our shares of common stock offered hereby.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying

prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	Per Share	Total
Public offering price	\$ 27.75	\$ 1,450,000,000
Underwriting discount	\$ 0.888	\$ 46,400,000
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	\$ 26.862	\$ 1,403,600,000

To the extent that the underwriters sell more than 52,252,252 shares of our common stock, the underwriters have the option to purchase up to an additional 7,837,837 shares of our common stock from us at the public offering price less the underwriting discount.

The underwriters expect to deliver the shares of our common stock to purchasers in book-entry form only, through The Depository Trust Company, on or about March 23, 2010 in New York, New York, against payment therefor in immediately available funds.

Joint Book-Running Managers

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

J.P. Morgan

Joint Lead Managers

Citi

Wells Fargo Securities

Senior Co-Managers

BofA Merrill Lynch

Credit Suisse

Morgan Stanley

Junior Co-Managers

**Barclays Capital
Piper Jaffray & Co.**

**BNY Mellon Capital Markets,
LLC
SunTrust Robinson Humphrey**

**Deutsche Bank Securities
UBS Investment Bank**

Prospectus Supplement dated March 17, 2010.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

<u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u>	S-ii
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	S-ii
<u>Information Incorporated by Reference</u>	S-ii
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-iv
<u>Prospectus Supplement Summary</u>	S-1
<u>The Offering</u>	S-2
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-3
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-23
<u>Price Range of Our Common Stock</u>	S-24
<u>Dividend Policy</u>	S-24
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-25
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	S-27
<u>Certain U.S. Federal Tax Considerations</u>	S-34
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-36
<u>Validity of Common Stock</u>	S-41
<u>Experts</u>	S-41

Prospectus

About This Prospectus	1
Forward-Looking Statements and Certain Risk Factors	1
The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.	2
The Hartford Capital Trusts	3
Use of Proceeds	5
Description of the Debt Securities	5
Description of Junior Subordinated Debentures	18
Description of Capital Stock of The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.	30
Description of Depositary Shares	34
Description of Warrants	36
Description of Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units	38
Description of Trust Preferred Securities	38
Description of Guarantee	50
Description of Corresponding Junior Subordinated Debentures	53
Relationship Among the Preferred Securities, the Corresponding Junior Subordinated Debentures and the Guarantees	55
Plan of Distribution	57
Legal Opinions	59
Experts	59
Where You Can Find More Information	59
Incorporation by Reference	60

We are responsible for the information contained and incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and in any free writing prospectus with respect to this offering filed by us with the

Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC. We have not authorized anyone to give you any other information, and we take no responsibility for any other information that others may give you. You should assume

S-i

Table of Contents

that the information contained and incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any free writing prospectus with respect to this offering filed by us with the SEC is only accurate as of the respective dates of such documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates. We are offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, the shares of our common stock offered hereby only in jurisdictions where such offers and sales are permitted.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering of our common stock and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The second part, the accompanying prospectus, gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering of our common stock.

If the description of this offering of our common stock in the accompanying prospectus is different from the description in this prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information contained in this prospectus supplement.

You should read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the additional information described under **Where You Can Find More Information** and **Information Incorporated by Reference** in this prospectus supplement before deciding whether to invest in the shares of our common stock offered by this prospectus supplement.

Unless we have indicated otherwise, or the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to **The Hartford**, **we**, **us** and **our** or similar terms are to The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. and not to any of its subsidiaries, and references in this prospectus supplement to **the Company** are to The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries, collectively.

You should not consider any information in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus to be investment, legal or tax advice. You should consult your own counsel, accountants and other advisers for legal, tax, business, financial and related advice regarding the purchase of any of the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus supplement.

Currency amounts in this prospectus supplement are stated in U.S. dollars.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

This prospectus supplement is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC. The registration statement, including the attached exhibits, contains additional relevant information about us. The rules of the SEC allow us to omit from this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus some of the information included in the registration statement. This information may be read and copied at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of these public reference facilities. The SEC maintains an Internet site, <http://www.sec.gov>, which contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that are subject to the SEC's reporting requirements.

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. We fulfill our obligations with respect to such requirements by filing periodic reports and other information with the SEC. These reports and other information are available as provided above and may also be inspected at the offices of The New York Stock Exchange at 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The rules of the SEC allow us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus supplement. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus supplement, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. This prospectus supplement incorporates by reference the documents listed below:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009;

our Definitive Proxy Statement filed on April 13, 2009 (other than information in the Definitive Proxy Statement that is not specifically incorporated by reference in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008);

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 7, 2010, February 16, 2010, February 24, 2010, March 9, 2010, March 16, 2010 (Items 1.01 and 8.01) and March 17, 2010;

the description of our common stock set forth in our registration statement on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC on September 18, 1995, including any amendments or reports filed for the purposes of updating such description; and

all documents filed by us pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act, after the date of this prospectus supplement and prior to the termination of this offering (other than information in the documents that is deemed not to be filed and that is not specifically incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement).

Any statement made in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or in a document incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus supplement to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus supplement or in any other subsequently filed document that is also incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement modifies or supersedes that statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus supplement.

You can obtain any of the filings incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement through us or from the SEC through the SEC's Internet site or at the address listed above. We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a copy of this prospectus supplement is delivered, upon written or oral request of such person, a copy of any or all of the documents referred to above which have been or may be incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. You should direct requests for those documents to The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc., One Hartford Plaza, Hartford, Connecticut 06155, Attention: Investor Relations (telephone: (860) 547-5000).

S-iii

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain of the statements contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements can be identified by words such as anticipates, intends, plans, seeks, believes, estimates, expects, projects, and similar references to future periods.

Forward-looking statements are based on our current expectations and assumptions regarding economic, competitive and legislative developments. Because forward-looking statements relate to the future, they are subject to inherent uncertainties, risks and changes in circumstances that are difficult to predict. They have been made based upon management's expectations and beliefs concerning future developments and their potential effect upon us. Future developments may not be in line with management's expectations or have unanticipated effects. Actual results could differ materially from expectations, depending on the evolution of various factors, including, but not limited to, those set forth in this prospectus supplement and those set forth in Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 (as updated from time to time). These important risks and uncertainties include:

significant risks and uncertainties related to our current operating environment, which reflects continued volatility in financial markets, constrained capital and credit markets and uncertainty about the timing and strength of an economic recovery and the impact of governmental budgetary and regulatory initiatives and whether management's initiatives to address these risks will be effective;

the risk that our actual sources and uses of capital in a stress scenario may vary materially and adversely from our modeled projected sources and uses of capital that we disclosed in connection with our planned repurchase of the Series E Preferred Stock, whether as a result of one or more assumptions proving to be materially inaccurate or as a result of the Company's exposure to other risks during stressed economic conditions that were not taken into account in preparing such modeled projections;

risks associated with our continued execution of steps to realign our business and reposition our investment portfolio, including the potential need to adjust our plans to take other restructuring actions, such as divestitures;

market risks associated with our business, including changes in interest rates, credit spreads, equity prices, foreign exchange rates, as well as challenging or deteriorating conditions in key sectors such as the commercial real estate market, that have pressured our results and are expected to continue to do so in 2010;

volatility in our earnings resulting from our recent adjustment of our risk management program to emphasize protection of statutory surplus;

the impact on our statutory capital of various factors, including many that are outside our control, which can in turn affect our credit and financial strength ratings, cost of capital, regulatory compliance and other aspects of our business and results;

risks to our business, financial position, prospects and results associated with negative rating actions or downgrades in our financial strength and credit ratings or negative rating actions or downgrades relating to our investments;

the potential for differing interpretations of the methodologies, estimations and assumptions that underlie the valuation of our financial instruments that could result in changes to investment valuations;

the subjective determinations that underlie our evaluation of other-than-temporary impairments on available-for-sale securities;

losses due to nonperformance or defaults by others;

the potential for further acceleration of deferred policy acquisition cost amortization;

the potential for further impairments of our goodwill or the potential for establishing valuation allowances against deferred tax assets;

S-iv

Table of Contents

the possible occurrence of terrorist attacks and our ability to contain our exposure, including the effect of the absence or insufficiency of applicable terrorism legislation on coverage;

the difficulty in predicting our potential exposure for asbestos and environmental claims;

the possibility of a pandemic or other man-made disaster that may adversely affect our businesses and cost and availability of reinsurance;

weather and other natural physical events, including the severity and frequency of storms, hail, snowfall and other winter conditions, natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes, as well as climate change, including effects on weather patterns, greenhouse gases, sea, land and air temperatures, sea levels, rain and snow;

the response of reinsurance companies under reinsurance contracts and the availability, pricing and adequacy of reinsurance to protect us against losses;

the possibility of unfavorable loss development;

actions by our competitors, many of which are larger or have greater financial resources than we do;

the restrictions, oversight, costs and other consequences of being a savings and loan holding company, including from the supervision, regulation and examination by the Office of Thrift Supervision, or the OTS, and arising from our participation in the Capital Purchase Program, or the CPP, under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, certain elements of which will continue to apply to us for so long as the U.S. Department of the Treasury, or the Treasury Department, holds the warrant or shares of our common stock received on exercise of the warrant that we issued to the Treasury Department as part of our participation in the CPP, even after we repurchase the preferred stock issued in connection therewith;

unfavorable judicial or legislative developments;

the potential effect of domestic and foreign regulatory developments, including those that could adversely impact the demand for our products, operating costs and required capital levels, including changes to statutory reserves and/or risk-based capital requirements related to secondary guarantees under universal life and variable annuity products;

our ability to distribute our products through distribution channels, both current and future;

the uncertain effects of emerging claim and coverage issues;

the ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends to us;

our ability to effectively price our property and casualty policies, including our ability to obtain regulatory consents to pricing actions or to non-renewal or withdrawal of certain product lines;

our ability to maintain the availability of our systems and safeguard the security of our data in the event of a disaster or other unanticipated events;

the potential for difficulties arising from outsourcing relationships;

the impact of potential changes in federal or state tax laws, including changes affecting the availability of the separate account dividend received deduction;

the impact of potential changes in accounting principles and related financial reporting requirements;

our ability to protect our intellectual property and defend against claims of infringement; and

other factors described in such forward-looking statements.

Any forward-looking statement made by us in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, any document incorporated by reference herein or therein or any free writing prospectus with respect to this offering filed by us with the SEC speaks only as of the date on which it is made. Factors or events that could cause our actual results to differ may emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict all of them. We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

S-v

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

The following summary is qualified in its entirety by the more detailed information included elsewhere or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Because this is a summary, it may not contain all of the information that is important to you. You should read the entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the section entitled "Risk Factors" and the documents incorporated by reference before making an investment decision.

The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.

The Hartford is an insurance and financial services holding company. We are among the largest providers of investment products, individual life, group life and disability insurance products, and property and casualty insurance products in the United States. Hartford Fire Insurance Company, or Hartford Fire, founded in 1810, is the oldest of our subsidiaries. At December 31, 2009, our total assets were \$307.7 billion and our total stockholders' equity was \$17.9 billion.

Our principal executive offices are located at One Hartford Plaza, Hartford, Connecticut 06155, and our telephone number is (860) 547-5000.

Repurchase of Our Series E Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock

In June 2009, we issued 3,400,000 shares of our Series E Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, or the Series E Preferred Stock, to the Treasury Department in connection with our participation in the Treasury Department's CPP. The Treasury Department also received a warrant to purchase 52,093,973 shares of our common stock at an initial per share exercise price of \$9.79, subject to adjustment, which expires ten years from the issuance date. The Series E Preferred Stock and the warrant were issued pursuant to a Letter Agreement dated June 26, 2009 and the Securities Purchase Agreement—Standard Terms attached thereto, which we collectively refer to as the CPP Agreement, for an aggregate purchase price of \$3.4 billion. We provided the Treasury Department with registration rights covering the Series E Preferred Stock, the warrant and the underlying shares of common stock.

Following completion of this offering, the depositary shares offering and the planned debt offering, and subject to the approval of the Treasury Department, we will repurchase all 3,400,000 shares of the Series E Preferred Stock. There can be no assurance, however, that the Treasury Department will approve the repurchase of the Series E Preferred Stock. We do not intend to repurchase the warrant. See "Use of Proceeds" in this prospectus supplement.

The repurchase of the Series E Preferred Stock will result in a charge to income available to common shareholders of approximately \$440 million, representing the accretion of the discount on the Series E Preferred Stock at December 31, 2009. In addition, upon the repurchase of the Series E Preferred Stock, the annual dividends of \$170 million payable on the Series E Preferred Stock will be eliminated. The Company will incur dividend payments related to the issuance of the 7.25% mandatory convertible preferred stock, with a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share (equivalent to a \$25 liquidation preference per depositary share) (the Series F Preferred Stock) in the depositary shares offering and additional interest expense related to the issuance of one or more series of the senior notes in the planned debt offering.

Concurrent Offering of Depositary Shares

Concurrently with this offering of common stock, we are offering 20,000,000 depositary shares (23,000,000 shares if the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional depositary shares in full), each representing a 1/40th interest in a share of Series F Preferred Stock. The depositary shares will be offered pursuant to a separate prospectus supplement. Each depositary share, evidenced by a depositary receipt, entitles the holder, through the depositary, to a proportional fractional interest in all rights and preferences of the Series F Preferred Stock (including conversion, dividend, voting and liquidation rights). This common stock offering is not contingent on the successful completion of the depositary shares offering.

Debt Offering

In addition to this offering of our common stock and the depositary shares offering, we also plan to offer in one or more series \$1.1 billion of senior debt to fund, in part, our proposed repurchase of our Series E Preferred Stock,

S-1

Table of Contents

subject to the approval of the Treasury Department, and, together with available funds, to pre-fund the maturity of our \$275 million principal amount 7.9% Senior Notes due June 15, 2010 and our \$400 million principal amount 5.25% Senior Notes due October 15, 2011. The planned debt offering is not contingent on the successful completion of this offering or the depositary shares offering.

THE OFFERING

Common stock we are offering:	52,252,252 shares.
Option to purchase additional shares of our common stock:	We have granted the underwriters an option to purchase up to an additional 7,837,837 shares of our common stock.
Common stock to be outstanding after this offering:	436,380,790 shares.(1)(2)
Use of proceeds after expenses:	We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering of our common stock, together with estimated net proceeds of \$484 million from the depositary shares offering, estimated net proceeds of \$425 million from our planned debt offering and available funds to repurchase in full, once we have received approval to do so, the Series E Preferred Stock held by the Treasury Department pursuant to our participation in the CPP. Pending such use we will invest the proceeds in high grade investments. We intend to use the remaining net proceeds from the planned debt offering, together with available funds, to pre-fund the maturity of our \$275 million principal amount 7.9% Senior Notes due June 15, 2010 and our \$400 million principal amount 5.25% Senior Notes due October 15, 2011. If the Treasury Department does not approve our request to repurchase the Series E Preferred Stock, or if we do not complete either the depositary shares offering or the planned debt offering, we will use the net proceeds of this offering for general corporate purposes.
New York Stock Exchange symbol for common stock:	HIG.
Risk factors:	An investment in shares of our common stock is subject to risks. Please refer to the section entitled Risk Factors and other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of factors you should carefully consider before investing in shares of our common stock.

- (1) The number of shares of our common stock to be outstanding immediately after the closing of this offering is based on 384,128,538 shares of our common stock outstanding as of February 15, 2010.
- (2) Unless otherwise indicated, the number of shares of our common stock presented in this prospectus supplement excludes, as of December 31, 2009, a total of 503,099,394 shares, including 6,468,866 shares reserved for issuance upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights under our stock compensation plans, 11,858,943 shares reserved for future issuance under our stock compensation plans, an additional 11,362,625 shares that will be reserved for issuance under our stock compensation plan subject to the approval of

our shareholders, which we will seek at our next annual meeting, 65,000,000 shares reserved for issuance in connection with our contingent capital facility, 287,000,000 shares reserved for issuance in connection with certain of our 2008 debt instrument issuances, 52,093,973 shares reserved for issuance in connection with the conversion of outstanding warrant issued to the Treasury Department and 69,314,987 shares reserved for issuance in connection with the conversion of outstanding warrants issued to Allianz SE (assuming receipt of certain regulatory approvals), and further, excludes any anti-dilution adjustments that may arise from this offering and the depositary shares offering. For more information on the conversion of the warrants issued to Allianz SE and the related anti-dilution adjustments, see Description of Capital Stock Allianz s Investment.

S-2

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in shares of our common stock is subject to certain risks. The trading price of our shares of common stock could decline due to any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment. Before you decide to invest in the shares of our common stock, you should consider the risk factors below relating to our business and this offering, as well as other trends, risks and uncertainties identified in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 and in the other documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

Risks Related to Our Business

Our operating environment remains challenging in light of uncertainty about the timing and strength of an economic recovery and the impact of governmental budgetary and regulatory initiatives. The steps we have taken to realign our businesses and strengthen our capital position may not be adequate to mitigate the financial, competitive and other risks associated with our operating environment, particularly if economic conditions deteriorate from their current levels or regulatory requirements change significantly, and we may be required to or we may seek to raise additional capital or take other strategic or financial actions that could adversely affect our business and results or trading prices for our common stock.

Persistent volatility in financial markets and uncertainty about the timing and strength of a recovery in the global economy adversely affected our business and results in 2009, and we believe that these conditions may continue to affect our operating environment in 2010. High unemployment, lower family income, lower business investment and lower consumer spending in most geographic markets we serve have adversely affected the demand for financial and insurance products, as well as their profitability in some cases. Our results, financial condition and statutory capital remain sensitive to equity and credit market performance, and we expect that market volatility will continue to pressure returns in our life and property and casualty investment portfolios and that our hedging costs will remain high. Until economic conditions become more stable and improve, we also expect to experience realized and unrealized investment losses, particularly in the commercial real estate sector where significant market illiquidity and risk premiums exist that reflect the current uncertainty in the real estate market. Deterioration or negative rating agency actions with respect to our investments could also indirectly adversely affect our statutory capital and risk-based capital (RBC) ratios, which could in turn have other negative consequences for our business and results.

The steps we have taken to realign our businesses and strengthen our capital position may not be adequate if economic conditions do not stabilize in line with our forecasts or if they experience a significant deterioration. These steps include ongoing initiatives, particularly the execution risk relating to the repositioning of our investment portfolios. In addition, we have modified our variable annuity product offerings and, in October 2009, launched a new variable annuity product. However, the future success of this new variable annuity product will be dependent on market acceptance. The level of market acceptance of this new product will directly affect the level of variable annuity sales of the Company in the future. If our actions are not adequate, our ability to support the scale of our business and to absorb operating losses and liabilities under our customer contracts could be impaired, which would in turn adversely affect our overall competitiveness. We could be required to raise additional capital or consider other actions to manage our capital position and liquidity or further reduce our exposure to market and financial risks. We may also be forced to sell assets on unfavorable terms that could cause us to incur charges or lose the potential for market upside on those assets in a market recovery. We could also face other pressures, such as employee recruitment and retention issues and potential loss of distributors for our products. Finally, trading prices for our common stock could decline as a result or in anticipation of sales of our common stock or equity-linked instruments.

Even if the measures we have taken (or take in the future) are effective to mitigate the risks associated with our current operating environment, they may have unintended consequences. For example, rebalancing our hedging program may better protect our statutory surplus, but also result in greater U.S. GAAP earnings volatility. Actions we take may also entail impairment or other charges or adversely affect our ability to compete successfully in an increasingly difficult consumer market.

S-3

Table of Contents

Regulatory developments relating to the recent financial crisis may also significantly affect our operations and prospects in ways that we cannot predict. U.S. and overseas governmental and regulatory authorities, including the SEC, the OTS, NYSE or the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority are considering enhanced or new regulatory requirements intended to prevent future crises or otherwise stabilize the institutions under their supervision. The reforms being discussed include several that contemplate comprehensive restructuring of the regulation of the financial services industry, including possibly the merger of the OTS with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. Enactment of such measures likely would lead to stricter regulation of financial institutions generally, and heightened prudential requirements for systemically important firms in particular. Such measures could include taxation of financial transactions, liabilities and employee compensation.

Other changes under discussion in the U.S. include: breaking up firms that are considered too big to fail or mandating certain barriers between their activities in order to allow for an orderly resolution of failing financial institutions; establishing a Federal Insurance Office within the Treasury Department to, among other things, conduct a study of how to improve insurance regulation in the United States; providing regulators with new means of limiting activities of financial firms; regulating compensation in the financial services industry; enhancing corporate governance, especially regarding risk management; and creating a new agency, the Consumer Financial Protection Agency, to protect U.S. consumers who buy financial products. A substantial number of the financial reforms currently discussed in the U.S. and globally may become law, although it is difficult to predict which will become law, how such reforms will be implemented or the exact impact they will have on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows for a particular future period. If adopted, these changes will require regulatory implementation, the full impact of which will not be known until later.

New regulations will likely affect critical matters, including capital requirements, and published proposals by insurance regulatory authorities that have reduced or could reduce the pressure on our capital position may not be adopted, may be adopted in a form that does not afford as much capital relief as anticipated or may be subsequently reversed in the future. If we fail to manage the impact of these developments effectively, our prospects, results and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

The stress scenario modeled projections and the related assumptions that we have disclosed in connection with our planned repurchase of the Series E Preferred Stock have been prepared for purposes of planning the public offerings discussed herein. Actual sources and uses of capital under stressed economic conditions may vary significantly, as the stress scenario does not incorporate all risks to which the Company would be exposed under stressed economic conditions and the models used may, in any event, produce inaccurate projections. Investors are cautioned that the stress scenario modeled projections and related assumptions are therefore of limited value in assessing the Company's future prospects.

In connection with determining the structure and size of our capital raise for the planned repurchase of the Series E Preferred Stock held by the Treasury Department, we have utilized stressed model projections that depend on a variety of factors and assumptions each of which is subject to business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies that are inherently unpredictable. Using these stress model projections, we have also illustrated the potential sources and uses of capital during 2010 and 2011. We have created these hypothetical stress-scenario models on the basis of fundamental assumptions about the performance of key variables, including, among others, stressed equity market levels and losses in the residential and commercial real estate markets. The stress-scenario models resulting from these assumptions not only illustrate hypothetical sources and uses of capital, but also produce assumed stress-scenario values for a variety of other variables that can independently significantly affect surplus. Although our modeled stress-scenario projections reflect assumptions about the adverse performance of these other variables, they do not reflect further impacts on surplus that could arise from additional, discrete adverse performance of these other variables. The actual performance of these other variables, which include but are not limited to interest rates, Yen/U.S. dollar, Yen/Euro and other foreign exchange rates, market volatility, catastrophe loss experience and

policyholder behavior, may differ materially from the assumptions included in the projections and may, as a result, cause actual results in a stress scenario to differ materially from those that were projected. Moreover, our assumptions do not reflect all risks to which the Company would be exposed under stressed economic conditions. As a result, actual results may differ, and in the past have differed, materially from projected

S-4

Table of Contents

results. Investors are cautioned that the stress scenario modeled projections and related assumptions are therefore of limited value in assessing our future prospects.

No outside party has approved or provided any other form of assurance with respect to these projections, and these projections have not been examined by any independent expert. Projections are also necessarily speculative in nature and the risk that our modeled projections will be wrong is increased as a result of the number and nature of the variables underlying the assumptions on which they are based and the fact that they do not reflect other important risks that would be present in a severely constrained operating environment as described above. Many of these variables are also beyond our control and influenced by a variety of factors, and it can be expected that one or more of our assumptions will prove to be incorrect, possibly in material ways, especially in a stress scenario. Moreover, the reliability of forecasted information diminishes the farther in the future that data is projected. Our actual sources and uses of capital in a stress scenario may vary significantly and adversely from those we have projected. Investors are accordingly cautioned not to place undue reliance on information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement relating to our projected capital position in these stress scenarios, and investors should also understand that these projections are of limited value in assessing the Company's prospects in an environment that is not subject to stress assumptions. Because we have prepared this information for purposes of determining the structure and size of our capital raise for the planned repurchase of the Series E Preferred Stock, we do not undertake to update this information.

We are exposed to significant financial and capital markets risk, including changes in interest rates, credit spreads, equity prices, foreign exchange rates and global real estate market deterioration which may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition and liquidity.

We are exposed to significant financial and capital markets risk, including changes in interest rates, credit spreads, equity prices, foreign currency exchange rates and global real estate market deterioration.

One important exposure to equity risk relates to the potential for lower earnings associated with certain of our Life businesses, such as variable annuities, where fee income is earned based upon the fair value of the assets under management. The decline in equity markets over the last two years has significantly reduced assets under management and related fee income during that period. In addition, certain of our Life products offer guaranteed benefits which increase our potential obligation and statutory capital exposure should equity markets decline. Due to declines in equity markets, our liability for these guaranteed benefits has significantly increased and our statutory capital position has decreased. Further sustained declines in equity markets may result in the need to devote significant additional capital to support these products. We are also exposed to interest rate and equity risk based upon the discount rate and expected long-term rate of return assumptions associated with our pension and other post-retirement benefit obligations. Sustained declines in long-term interest rates or equity returns are likely to have a negative effect on the funded status of these plans.

Our exposure to interest rate risk relates primarily to the market price and cash flow variability associated with changes in interest rates. A rise in interest rates, in the absence of other countervailing changes, will increase the net unrealized loss position of our investment portfolio and, if long-term interest rates rise dramatically within a six-to-twelve month time period, certain of our Life businesses may be exposed to disintermediation risk. Disintermediation risk refers to the risk that our policyholders may surrender their contracts in a rising interest rate environment, requiring us to liquidate assets in an unrealized loss position. An increase in interest rates can also impact our tax planning strategies and in particular our ability to utilize tax benefits to offset certain previously recognized realized capital losses. Due to the long-term nature of the liabilities associated with certain of our Life businesses, such as structured settlements and guaranteed benefits on variable annuities, sustained declines in long-term interest rates may subject us to reinvestment risks and increased hedging costs. In other situations, declines in interest rates or changes in credit spreads may result in reducing the duration of certain Life liabilities, creating

asset liability duration mismatches and lower spread income.

Our exposure to credit spreads primarily relates to market price and cash flow variability associated with changes in credit spreads. If issuer credit spreads widen significantly or retain historically wide levels over an extended period of time, additional other-than-temporary impairments and increases in the net unrealized loss position of our investment portfolio will likely result. In addition, losses have also occurred due to the volatility in

S-5

Table of Contents

credit spreads. When credit spreads widen, we incur losses associated with the credit derivatives where the Company assumes exposure. When credit spreads tighten, we incur losses associated with derivatives where the Company has purchased credit protection. If credit spreads tighten significantly, the Company's net investment income associated with new purchases of fixed maturities may be reduced. In addition, a reduction in market liquidity can make it difficult to value certain of our securities when trading becomes less frequent. As such, valuations may include assumptions or estimates that may be more susceptible to significant period-to-period changes which could have a material adverse effect on our consolidated results of operations or financial condition.

Our statutory surplus is also affected by widening credit spreads as a result of the accounting for the assets and liabilities on our fixed market value adjusted, or MVA, annuities. Statutory separate account assets supporting the fixed MVA annuities are recorded at fair value. In determining the statutory reserve for the fixed MVA annuities we are required to use current crediting rates in the U.S. and Japanese LIBOR in Japan. In many capital market scenarios, current crediting rates in the U.S. are highly correlated with market rates implicit in the fair value of statutory separate account assets. As a result, the change in the statutory reserve from period to period will likely substantially offset the change in the fair value of the statutory separate account assets. However, in periods of volatile credit markets, actual credit spreads on investment assets may increase sharply for certain sub-sectors of the overall credit market, resulting in statutory separate account asset market value losses. As actual credit spreads are not fully reflected in current crediting rates in the U.S. or Japanese LIBOR in Japan, the calculation of statutory reserves will not substantially offset the change in fair value of the statutory separate account assets resulting in reductions in statutory surplus. This has resulted and may continue to result in the need to devote significant additional capital to support the product.

Our primary foreign currency exchange risks are related to net income from foreign operations, non-U.S. dollar denominated investments, investments in foreign subsidiaries, our yen-denominated individual fixed annuity product, and certain guaranteed benefits associated with the Japan and U.K. variable annuities. These risks relate to potential decreases in value and income resulting from a strengthening or weakening in foreign exchange rates versus the U.S. dollar. In general, the weakening of foreign currencies versus the U.S. dollar will unfavorably affect net income from foreign operations, the value of non-U.S. dollar denominated investments, investments in foreign subsidiaries and realized gains or losses on the yen denominated individual fixed annuity product. In comparison, certain of our Life products offer guaranteed benefits which could substantially increase our potential obligation and statutory capital exposure should the yen strengthen versus other currencies. Correspondingly, a strengthening of the U.S. dollar compared to other currencies will increase our exposure to the U.S. variable annuity guarantee benefits where policyholders have elected to invest in international funds.

Our real estate market exposure includes investments in commercial mortgage-backed securities, residential mortgage-backed securities, commercial real estate collateralized debt obligations, mortgage and real estate partnerships, and mortgage loans. The recent deterioration in the global real estate market, as evidenced by increases in property vacancy rates, delinquencies and foreclosures, has negatively impacted property values and sources of refinancing resulting in market illiquidity and risk premiums that reflect the current uncertainty in the real estate market. Should these trends continue, further reductions in net investment income associated with real estate partnerships, impairments of real estate backed securities and increases in our valuation allowance for mortgage loans may result.

If significant, further declines in equity prices, changes in U.S. interest rates, changes in credit spreads, the strengthening or weakening of foreign currencies against the U.S. dollar, and global real estate market deterioration, individually or in combination, could continue to have a material adverse effect on our consolidated results of operations, financial condition and liquidity both directly and indirectly by creating competitive and other pressures including, but not limited to, employee retention issues and the potential loss of distributors for our products. In addition, in the conduct of our business, there could be scenarios where in order to reduce risks, fulfill our obligations or to raise incremental liquidity, we would sell assets at a loss.

Declines in equity markets, changes in interest rates and credit spreads and global real estate market deterioration can also negatively impact the fair values of each of our segments. If a significant decline in the fair value of a segment occurred and this resulted in an excess of that segment's book value over fair value, the

S-6

Table of Contents

goodwill assigned to that segment might be impaired and could cause the Company to record a charge to impair a part or all of the related goodwill assets.

Our adjustment of our risk management program relating to products we offer with guaranteed benefits to emphasize protection of statutory surplus will likely result in greater U.S. GAAP volatility in our earnings and potentially material charges to net income in periods of rising equity market pricing levels.

Some of the products offered by our life businesses, especially variable annuities, offer certain guaranteed benefits which, in the event of a decline in equity markets, would not only result in lower earnings, but will also increase our exposure to liability for benefit claims. We are also subject to equity market volatility related to these benefits, especially the guaranteed minimum withdrawal benefit (GMWB), guaranteed minimum accumulation benefit (GMAB), guaranteed minimum death benefit (GMDB) and guaranteed minimum income benefit (GMIB) offered with variable annuity products. As of December 31, 2009, the net liability for GMWB and GMAB was \$2.0 billion. At that date, the liability for GMIB and GMDB was a combined \$989 million, net of reinsurance. We use reinsurance structures and have modified benefit features to mitigate the exposure associated with GMDB. We also use reinsurance in combination with a modification of benefit features and derivative instruments to attempt to minimize the claim exposure and to reduce the volatility of net income associated with the GMWB liability. However, due to the severe economic conditions in the fourth quarter of 2008, we adjusted our risk management program to place greater relative emphasis on the protection of statutory surplus. This shift in relative emphasis has resulted in greater U.S. GAAP earnings volatility in 2009 and, based upon the types of hedging instruments used, can result in potentially material charges to net income in periods of rising equity market pricing levels. While we believe that these actions have improved the efficiency of our risk management related to these benefits, we remain liable for the guaranteed benefits in the event that reinsurers or derivative counterparties are unable or unwilling to pay. We are also subject to the risk that other management procedures prove ineffective or that unanticipated policyholder behavior, combined with adverse market events, produces economic losses beyond the scope of the risk management techniques employed, which individually or collectively may have a material adverse effect on our consolidated results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

The amount of statutory capital that we have and the amount of statutory capital that we must hold to maintain our financial strength and credit ratings and meet other requirements can vary significantly from time to time and is sensitive to a number of factors outside of our control, including equity market, credit market, interest rate and foreign currency conditions, changes in policyholder behavior and changes in rating agency models.

We conduct the vast majority of our business through licensed insurance company subsidiaries. Accounting standards and statutory capital and reserve requirements for these entities are prescribed by the applicable insurance regulators and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, or the NAIC. Insurance regulators have established regulations that provide minimum capitalization requirements based on RBC formulas for both life and property and casualty companies. The RBC formula for life companies establishes capital requirements relating to insurance, business, asset and interest rate risks, including equity, interest rate and expense recovery risks associated with variable annuities and group annuities that contain death benefits or certain living benefits. The RBC formula for property and casualty companies adjusts statutory surplus levels for certain underwriting, asset, credit and off-balance sheet risks.

In any particular year, statutory surplus amounts and RBC ratios may increase or decrease depending on a variety of factors – the amount of statutory income or losses generated by our insurance subsidiaries (which itself is sensitive to equity market and credit market conditions), the amount of additional capital our insurance subsidiaries must hold to support business growth, changes in equity market levels, the value of certain fixed-income and equity securities in our investment portfolio, the value of certain derivative instruments, changes in interest rates and foreign currency exchange rates, as well as changes to the NAIC RBC formulas. Most of these factors are outside of the Company's

control. The Company's financial strength and credit ratings are significantly influenced by the statutory surplus amounts and RBC ratios of our insurance company subsidiaries. In addition, rating agencies may implement changes to their internal models that have the effect of increasing the amount of statutory capital we must hold in order to maintain our current ratings. Also, in extreme scenarios of equity market

S-7

Table of Contents

declines, the amount of additional statutory reserves that we are required to hold for our variable annuity guarantees increases at a greater than linear rate. This reduces the statutory surplus used in calculating our RBC ratios. When equity markets increase, surplus levels and RBC ratios will generally increase, however, as a result of a number of factors and market conditions, including the level of hedging costs and other risk transfer activities, reserve requirements for death and living benefit guarantees and RBC requirements could increase resulting in lower RBC ratios. Due to all of these factors, projecting statutory capital and the related RBC ratios is complex. In 2009, our financial strength and credit ratings were downgraded by multiple rating agencies. If our statutory capital resources are insufficient to maintain a particular rating by one or more rating agencies, we may seek to raise additional capital through public or private equity or debt financing. If we were not to raise additional capital, either at our discretion or because we were unable to do so, our financial strength and credit ratings might be further downgraded by one or more rating agencies.

We have experienced and may experience additional future downgrades in our financial strength or credit ratings, which may make our products less attractive, increase our cost of capital and inhibit our ability to refinance our debt, which would have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and liquidity.

Financial strength and credit ratings, including commercial paper ratings, are an important factor in establishing the competitive position of insurance companies. In 2009, our financial strength and credit ratings were downgraded by multiple rating agencies. Rating agencies assign ratings based upon several factors. While most of the factors relate to the rated company, some of the factors relate to the views of the rating agency, general economic conditions, and circumstances outside the rated company's control. In addition, rating agencies may employ different models and formulas to assess the financial strength of a rated company, and from time to time rating agencies have, at their discretion, altered these models. Changes to the models, general economic conditions, or circumstances outside our control could impact a rating agency's judgment of its rating and the rating it assigns us. We cannot predict what actions rating agencies may take, or what actions we may take in response to the actions of rating agencies, which may adversely affect us.

Our financial strength ratings, which are intended to measure our ability to meet policyholder obligations, are an important factor affecting public confidence in most of our products and, as a result, our competitiveness. A downgrade or an announced potential further downgrade in the rating of our financial strength or of one of our principal insurance subsidiaries could affect our competitive position and reduce future sales of our products.

Our credit ratings also affect our cost of capital. A downgrade or an announced potential downgrade of our credit